Marrying 271

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His tone left no room for any objections. Cherise accepted his decision with pursed lips.

Knowing full well that she could not change his mind, she decided to stop arguing.

After breakfast, they enter the silver Maybach together.

As soon as she got into the car, she asked, "What happened to the previous car?"

She was referring to the black Maserati that he was usually driven around.

Mr. Kolsen has disappeared, and the car is nowhere to be seen. What's going on?

"He drove it elsewhere."

"I see." Damien drove slower than Mr. Kolsen as he liked to chat with Cherise along the way.

She didn't feel the time passing by until they arrived at the university entrance. She suddenly returned to her senses when she saw a throng of people there.

Damn! There are only five minutes until the lecture starts!

Nevertheless, she couldn't bring herself to put the blame on Damien. After hastily bidding farewell to him, she ran into the campus.

Despite running at full speed, she was still a minute late.

The advanced mathematics lecturer gave her a disapproving look. "You've been away for so long. yet you still arrive late. Go find a seat quickly!"
"I'm so sorry."
After apologizing, she sprinted to her seat.
"See, since Mandy arrived, everyone in class adores her. You're not as popular as before anymore." Lucy pouted as she passed some tissues for Cherise to wipe her sweat. "What a vixen! I can't believe that she's the favorite of this lecturer!"
Cherise frowned, not understanding what Lucy meant.
Stretching her neck, she turned her head around to the other side. Right when she was going to ask for more elaboration, another girl in the front row turned around to look at her.
As their gaze met, Mandy gave her a brief smile before turning back to focus on the lecture.
"W-Why is she here?" Cherise's eyes widened in shock.
"She arrived a few days ago as a transfer student," Lucy explained in frustration, rolling her eyes
1/2
as she went. She will only be here for six months, but do you know what she told everyone? She said she enjoyed the hospitality very much and that she won't be able to bring herself to leave when the time comes. Everyone was so touched by her words, treating her as if she's a goddess."
Surprised to hear that. Cherise pursed her lips, "Perhaps she really feels that way, and everyone likes her

back."

"What bullsh*t," Lucy scoffed. "I think she has a hidden motive for doing this. She's not even studying medicine; why is she here? While you weren't around, she was trying her best to build connections with everyone, buying everyone dinner at fancy restaurants with different cuisines. every day!" Cherise patted Lucy's shoulders. "Alright, alright. If that's what she likes, it's none of our business." Finally, Lucy heaved a sigh and went back, focusing on the lecture. They had an impromptu test that day. Since Lucy had been away for almost two weeks, she lost. track of the topics and got two questions wrong. When it was over, everyone was asking around for the results. "Cherry, did you get full marks this time?" a girl came over and asked. "No. I got two questions wrong." Cherise shook her head honestly. 2/2 Chapter 272 The Prodigy's Downfall

"What? You got two questions wrong?" she exclaimed loudly. "I can't believe it! You've been getting fuil

"Jessie Reese, are you kidding us? She's in love and taking a break now. Do you think she's the same

Cherise as before? You must be crazy to check your answers with her," another girl retorted.

marks every time! Even I only got one question wrong!"

She caught everyone's attention.

sarcastically.

Jessie giggled. "You're right. I almost forgot that Cherise is not the top student anymore. I'll check with Mandy instead-I bet she got everything right."

With that, she flitted over to Mandy. "Wow, Mandy, you really got full marks! I'm so envious of you-you're pretty and intelligent, scoring full marks in every subject. You deserve to be a student ambassador, indeed!"

Cherise clenched her fists tightly upon hearing Jessie's plain adoration.

"Cherry, on the second day Mandy arrived, the entire cohort decided to hand over your student ambassador role to her. I tried to stop them, but I failed..." Lucy said in a small voice.

It was only at that moment Cherise noticed some scratch marks on Lucy's face. With a frown, she touched those scars lightly. "What-"

"I got into a fight with them, that's all." Lucy avoided her touch. "It's been a week since Mandy arrived. I kept it from you because I wanted you to have a good rest at home."

As people gathered around Mandy, Lucy said through gritted teeth, "F*ck!"

"It's been two weeks since you attended any lectures. It's already quite impressive to only get two questions wrong while they've been here the entire time. What's there to brag about?"

Cherise rubbed Lucy's hair soothingly, mimicking how Damien used to calm her down. "Come on, there's no need to hold grudges."

"But you were the student ambassador, and you used to be in the spotlight. Those fools!"

To Cherise, Lucy seemed to have cared too much. "I actually don't like being in the center of attention, and it feels pretty good without any other responsibilities," Cherise explained as she shot a glance at Mandy.

"Let's walk around the campus." With that, she pulled Lucy off her seat. Ever since she became the student ambassador, she was approached with various questions and had to help everyone. It had been a long time since she last walked around the campus leisurely. Lucy looked at her incredulously, "You don't mind this at all?" 1/2 "On the contrary, this is exactly what I'm hoping for." "Coffee on me?" Cherise took her purse out. "Double shot, please!" Lucy's eyes lit up. "No problem." Cherise replied with a smile. Both of them left with a wide smile on their faces. On the other hand, buried within the throngs of people asking her for help, Mandy clenched her pen tightly as she saw Cherise strutting away happily. Her plan was to take away everything Cherise owned on campus and deal a devastating blow that would break her apart. However, it was out of her expectations that they mattered so little to Cherise. In the afternoon, another lecturer asked Mandy to solve a physics problem in front of everyone. She gave a cold smile and said, "I think there are two ways to solve this problem."

Chapter 273 Replaced

"I'll show one of the solutions, but would you like to ask another person to demonstrate the second one?"

The physics lecturer was momentarily stunned before asking Cherise with a smile, "Why don't you show us, Cherise?"

Cherise glanced at the question as she stood up. "I'm sorry, sir. I haven't been around for two weeks, so I'm not sure about the other solution," she announced with a smile, honestly admitting her ignorance. There was no trace of shame even though she was once the student ambassador, and she was now showing her weakness to the newly appointed student ambassador.

Mandy gritted her teeth upon seeing her demeanor.

"Is that an excuse for not studying?" the physics lecturer demanded. "Mandy has only been here for a week, yet she has been able to pick up the materials over the past six months. What about you?"

Everyone started whispering among themselves.

"Cherise has changed to be so shameless."

"True. She acts as if she's not supposed to know this simply because of a two-week absence. But look at Mandy!"

"Mandy is better than her."

The physics lecturer glanced at Cherise in disappointment before smiling at Mandy. "I guess it's up to you to show us both solutions, then."

Mandy nodded in reply and wrote the answers on the board diligently.

Meanwhile, Lucy's fists were balled up in anger. "That b*tch!" She did this on purpose to humiliate Cherise, knowing that she was the lecturer's favorite!

"Go back to your seat."

The lecturer looked at Mandy's answer in approval and fixed a sharp glance at Cherise. "I can't believe it! Can you please learn from Mandy?"

Cherise nodded solemnly with a smile. "Of course. I'll take Mandy as my example," she replied earnestly, with no trace of anger or jealousy in her eyes.

Touched by her, the physics lecturer softened his tone. "I know that health is important, but you mustn't neglect your studies. Let's work hard together."

"Yes, sir." She gave another nod and sat down while Mandy clenched her fingers around the chalk she was holding.

1/2

What is going on? If I recall correctly. Cherise has been competitive since she was young. She has always been getting full marks and taking the top spot in the class. These accolades should be important to her, but

When the lecture ended, Lucy asked with a frown. "You really don't mind all of that, for real?"

As the day went on, everyone seemed to be subtly reminding Cherise that Mandy had replaced her position, she had lost her previous glamor and glory

Instead of feeling upset and jealous, she seemed as if a weight had been taken off her shoulders, leaving Lucy bewildered.

Cherise grinned light-heartedly as she packed her bags. "I loved being on the top and winning prizes, not because I wanted to win or to be better than others, but because I want to give my best in everything I do. That's how I take responsibility for myself. She looked at the throngs of people surrounding Mandy. "To be honest, I don't really care what others think of me."

With that, she got up. "Now that I'm free from all the people seeking help from me, we can hanit out right after the lecture ends! Summer vacation starts in a month-have you already made plans for a part-time job?"

2/2

Chapter 274 Mandy's Boyfriend, Damien

Cherise held Lucy's hand. "Shall we go visit Jacob's clinic?"

Lucy became interested. "Sure!"

She found Cherise more charming, being her own happy self without vanity.

"Cherise Shaw." Just as Cherise and Lucy walked toward the door, Jessie stopped Cherise. "Mandy is buying the class a meal at Viopril Palace tonight. Hope you can join us."

"Viopril Palace? Haven't you had enough at that place last time?" Cherise curled her lips.

Last time, when Sunny organized for the whole class to eat at Viopril Palace and extorted money from Cherise, Jessie was also one of the organizers.

Jessie's face darkened. She blocked Cherise with her hand. "You're not the host today, so don't overthink. Mandy is treating us tonight. Her boyfriend, Damien, will be paying the bill. You're invited for a free meal. So, are you coming or not?"

Cherise arched her brow. "Mandy's boyfriend, Damien?"

Jessie nodded. "I bet you don't know yet. While you were resting at home, your husband became close with Mandy."

The incident with Ian caused a sensation in the city, so Cherise's classmates were aware of it, too.

They were jealous of Cherise's fortune and, at the same time, disdained her for marrying Damien for the sake of money.

Humans tend to choose to believe what they thought was true. So, even after witnessing lan behaving hysterically at the news press and Old Mr. Belcourt standing up to testify, Cherise's classmates, whom Jessie led, still believed there was some kind of entanglement between Cherise and Lennon.

As such, when Mandy hinted at her intimate relationship with Damien, they chose to believe it.

"Cherise, please don't blame Mandy. Any ordinary woman wouldn't turn down the pursuit of an outstanding man. Moreover, you and Damien have long parted ways, haven't you? You're seeing Lennon, so why can't Damien see Mandy?"

"Is that how Mandy brainwashed you guys?"

Lucy grabbed Jessie's collar indignantly. "Mind your tongue! The news stated clearly that there's nothing between Cherise and Lennon. What do you mean Cherise and Damien have parted ways? I think your parents are the ones who have parted ways!"

Before Cherise could stop Lucy, Mandy walked over, accompanied by her other classmates. "Jessie! What are you talking about?"

She turned to look at Cherise and said, "Cherise, please don't misunderstand. Jessie was overthinking."

Her tone was gentle, her attitude generous, and her smile was flawless, as if she had undergone professional training.

Then, she feigned an angry look and glanced at Jessie. "Please stop talking nonsense in front of Cherise. There's nothing between Dame and 1."

Jessie broke free from Lucy's grip on her collar. "Mandy, you're too kind. You always claim there's nothing between you and Damien, but you're already calling him Dame. He even allows you to use his driver and car. Isn't that obvious enough?"

Then, Jessie darted an arrogant glance at Cherise. "You were almost late this morning. I guess you must have come by public bus, right? The car that used to pick you up and the driver, Mr. Kolson, have been serving Mandy since last week."

2/2

Chapter 275 There's Really Nothing Between Us

Jessie remarked smugly. "He even lent Mandy his car and driver for as long as a week. That's enough to indicate their relationship, isn't it?"

Only then did Cherise realize why Damien had personally sent her to school this morning. It turned out the car and Mr. Kolson were now at Mandy's disposal.

She frowned. Despite feeling slightly uncomfortable about it, she could understand that it was necessary to establish a good relationship with Mandy to investigate her more deeply. Moreover, this arrangement was just temporary.

Cherise never cared much about these things. In fact, she wouldn't mind taking the public bus as long as she could arrive at school on time. So, she wasn't bothered.

"Judging by your confused look, I bet you didn't know about the matter." Jessie continued to challenge Cherise.

Cherise nodded. "Yeah. I wasn't aware."

Jessie gloated. "See, Damien didn't even tell Cherise that he lent the car and the driver to Mandy. They don't seem like a normal couple at all. Why are you denying that you guys have parted ways, Cherise?"

Cherise found Jessie's assumption ridiculous. "Why does that imply we're not a normal couple?" She glanced at Jessie with a serious look. "If your dad wants to lend his car to someone else, will he ask for your mom's permission first?"

Instantly, Jessie's triumphant expression froze. Everyone in the class knew her family was poor and couldn't afford a car. Her father would ride a motorcycle to the school's parents' day.

The comment was an utter humiliation to Jessie!

The blood drained from Jessie's face.

After a moment of silence, Lucy burst out laughing. "Cherry, your question has really stumped Jessie. Her family doesn't own a car!"

Cherise was startled. "I see."

She smiled at Jessie. "Since such a situation never happened to your parents. Why would you think it would affect my relationship with Damien?"

Jessie was bereft of speech. "I"

"Jessie, you've crossed the line." Mandy patted Jessie's shoulder. "It's not up to us, outsiders, to comment about their relationship. Moreover, there's really nothing between Dame and 1"

Mandy's tone was extremely gentle. "It's just that when Dame knew my driver was unavailable.

1/2

and my brother took my car, he felt sorry for me for commuting by public transport every day. So, he lent the car and the driver to me. We're just normal friends. Please don't overthink."

Then, she turned to look at Cherise with a smile, "Cherise, I hope you won't overthink too. There's nothing between us."

Lucy was disgusted by Mandy's words. What a hypocritical b*tch! She pretended to clarify her relationship with Damien, but in fact, she was trying to emphasize how Damien felt sorry for her and couldn't bear to see her take public transport. She thought Cherise had to come to school by public bus because the driver was serving her. She just wanted to imply that, to Damien, she's more important than Cherise!

"Don't worry, I won't." Cherise smiled at Mandy. "Mr. Kolson drives quite fast. Hope you're getting used to his speed, Ms. Wool. I was too used to his speed, so...'

So, I found Damien's driving too slow!

Cherise thought it was unnecessary to say the second half of the sentence to her classmates. However, when the others heard her incomplete remark, they thought she was going to complain about how slow the public bus was.

2/2

Chapter 276 Why Should I Bluff Them



Crossing her arms, Jessie smirked at the other classmates. "Come, Let's go and check out how our class representative is going home!"

Damien's message mentioned he would arrive in ten minutes. When Cherise reached the gate, there were six more minutes, according to Damien's estimated arrival time.

Lucy furrowed her brows when she noticed Mandy and their classmates approaching them. "How annoying! Why are they following us?"

Cherise was calm. "It's normal for everyone to come to the school gate to wait for their transport."

Lucy pouted. She was rendered speechless by this slow-witted woman.

She clenched her teeth and held Cherise's hand. "You said you can give me a ride home. You're not bluffing them, are you?"

1/2

Previously. Mr. Koison would drive Cherise to and from school with the black Maserati. But now. both the driver and the car were lent to Mandy! So, Lucy thought Cherise must be taking the public bus now and purposely made that statement to save face.

Cherise glanced at her in perplexity. "Why should I bluff them? I can give you a ride home."

Since Damien had time to pick Cherise up from school, she reckoned he would agree to give Lucy a ride, too.

Frowning, Lucy drew close to Cherise and asked in a low voice, "Did Damien arrange for another car to pick you up?"

Cherise hesitated briefly and nodded. "I guess you can say so."

"Oh well, he hasn't lost his conscience." Lucy crossed her arms and inwardly forgave Damien.
"Woah! Is that the car Damien lent Mandy?"
"The Maserati looks so cool!"
"Oh my gosh! It's my first time seeing such an expensive car, and it's a limited edition!"
Suddenly, a few girls started exclaiming behind them. Lucy and Cherise instinctively looked back and saw the black Maserati, which used to pick up Cherise, stopped steadily in front of Mandy.
Mandy's cheeks flushed as the others gazed at her in envy. "You guys are exaggerating. Dame always has good taste."
"That's true!"
Jessie commented complacently, "Mr. Lenoir might be blinded sometimes, but his taste is still good when he regains his senses."
2/2
Chapter 277 How Kind Is She
Jessie's statement drew laughter from people around.
A girl gasped, "This car must be worth at least a few million. Damien treats Mandy really well. He's even willing to lend her such an expensive car."
"How lucky Mandy is! When will I get the attention of a rich guy.

"Tsk. At least, your social status must be compatible. Otherwise..." The girl talking signaled toward Cherise's direction. "You can only be sulky on your own."

Lucy clenched her fists tightly.

Mr. Kolson got out of the car and saw Cherise, who was waiting by the roadside. "Hi, Mrs. Lenoir." He smiled awkwardly at her. "You came back to school so soon. Why don't you rest for a few more days?"

Cherise wore a sweet smile, which could light up the space. "I've recovered now. It was boring to stay home, so I returned to school earlier."

Mr. Kolson smiled. "You're energetic as always."

Compared to Mandy, who always attempted to glean information about Damien's privacy from him, he preferred driving Cherise, but Damien said...

"It's rare for me to have a chance to drive her. Are you trying to steal my thunder?"

As such, Mr. Kolson could only serve someone he disliked. After all, he couldn't afford to offend his boss, who was madly in love.

Cherise praised, "You're handsome as always."

She had been staying home to rest and hadn't gone out for some time. So, she didn't know Mr. Kolson was assigned other tasks. In fact, it had been a while since they had met.

Mr. Kolson let out a cough. As he was about to say something, Jessie arched her brows and commented crabbily, "Sir, you should open the door for Mandy, not chat with her."

"I'm talking to Mrs. Lenoir. Who are you to interrupt?"

Jessie glared at Mr. Kolson furiously. "Y-You're just Mandy's driver. I'm her friend!" "Jessie." Once again, Mandy stopped Jessie gently. Normally, she wouldn't bother to make friends. with people like Jessie, but.... Jessie's recklessness happened to serve her purposes at certain times, so Mandy reluctantly befriended her. 1/2 "Please respect Dame's employee." Jessie shot a cold glance at Mr. Kolson. "Stop chatting, and come serve the person who deserves. your attention!" Mr. Kolson narrowed his eyes and wanted to say something, but Cherise smiled at him and said, "Go ahead. Dame instructed you to serve Ms. Wool; I'm sure he wouldn't want you to argue with her friends." Cherise's kindness moved Mr. Kolson. A few seconds later, he turned and reluctantly opened the door for Mandy. Mandy stood at the car door and looked at Cherise. "Cherise, waiting for a bus at this hour is hard. Since I'm quite close with Dame, do you need us to give you a ride?" Her expression and tone were gentle and warm. At once, Mandy's followers were stirred up. "Oh my gosh! Mandy is such a kind soul! She even offers to send Cherise home!" "After being involved in a scandal with Lennon, taking the bus is just what Cherise deserves!"



Cherise rechecked the time. "By right, he should be here by now."
Why would Damien be late!
"Are you running out of excuses, so you're going to say your ride is late?"
Jessie grabbed the chance and continued mocking Cherise. "Mark my words. If someone does. come to pick you up. I'll"
Before she could finish her sentence, a gust of wind whooshed by. Following that, a gray-silver limited-edition Maybach stopped before Cherise and Lucy.
Jessie was utterly dumbfounded. This car seems twice as expensive as the car used to pick Mandy up.
hose car is this?
Mandy narrowed her eyes when she saw the limited-edition Maybach, while Jessie was engulfed by jealousy.
Whose car could be more expensive than Damien's? Is it Lennon's?
Just then, the car door opened. A pair of handcrafted leather shoes stepped onto the ground.
Everyone's attention was gathered on the man.
Damien had just finished a business meeting and wore a formal, dark blue suit. His long legs accentuated his tall figure, and he emanated an aura of arrogance and elegance. His chiseled face was so handsome that one could not take their eyes off him.
The man's deep-set eyes were locked onto Cherise's small face. "Sorry for being late."

He closed the car door and smiled affectionately at Cherise, extending his arms.

"Not at all. You're right on time." Cherise habitually ran up to him and hugged his sturdy waist.

She lifted her black, clear eyes and gazed at Damien. "But you're seldom late. Is it because you're too busy? You don't have to come and pick me up if you are. I can take the public bus."

Damien smiled when he heard the girl's peasant voice. He rubbed her cheeks and said, "It was hard to get rid of Mr. Kolson, so I could be your driver. How could I easily give it up?"

He lowered his head and gently kissed her cheek. "I'm sorry, Honey. I won't be late in the future."

A pin-drop silence filled the air. Only Damien and Cherise's voices could be vaguely heard as the atmosphere grew awkward.

Lucy could imagine how embarrassed Jessie was. She smugly turned to look at the ashen-faced Jessic.

Who said that Cherise didn't have a ride? Who said that Cherise and Damien have parted ways? Who said Damien lent his car to Mandy because he liked her? It turns out that he lent the car to Mandy, so he has a chance to give his wife a ride with a better car!

The scene left Jessie with an egg on her face. On the other hand, Mandy, too, felt defeated.

"Just now..." Before Jessie could slip away, Lucy crossed her arms and glanced at her disdainfully. "Ms. Reese, you were so confident that no one would pick Cherise up."

Chapter 279 Back at You
"You were saying if someone picked her up, you would?"
Jessie's countenance turned gloomy. She was relieved she hadn't made a vow just now.
She let out a cough and said, "I was going to say, if someone picks Cherise up, I-I'll apologize to her."
Then, she quickly yielded. "Sorry, Cherise! I shouldn't have mocked you just now."
"Hmm?" Damien lifted his head to realize Mr. Kolson and Mandy were present. He glanced at Mandy coldly. "What a coincidence. Ms. Wool is here too."
Once again, the scene fell silent.
Because of Jessie's flattery, everyone thought Damien and Mandy were in a passionate relationship. However, it turned out that Damien personally drove to pick Cherise up. If Jessie had kept quiet, he wouldn't have noticed Mandy's presence.
He didn't appear to care for Mandy at all, let alone thoughtfully lending her the car and the

In contrast to the others who were astonished, Mandy was calmer, as she had expected this. outcome. She smiled at Damien courteously. "Yeah. Cherise and I were in the same class. So, we're waiting for our rides here after class."

"I see. You should go home soon."

driver.

Then, Damien glanced at Jessic. "Miss, did you say you mocked my wife just now?" His deep, magnetic voice was filled with threat.

Pressing her lips, Jessie was a bundle of nerves. "I-I'm just joking with Cherise."
Damien lowered his head to look at the harmless, innocent girl, knowing he couldn't get an answer from her. She was kind and forgiving.
So, he looked at Lucy and asked, "What happened just now?"
Lucy narrowed her eyes revengefully and told Damien what had happened.
"I see," Damien muttered in a low voice while Jessie nervously hid behind Mandy.
"Ms. Reese disrespected my wife and attempted to spread rumors about Ms. Wool and L." He glanced at Mr. Kolson nonchalantly. "How should I deal with her?"
Mr. Kolson nodded and approached Jessie.
"Ouch!"
1/2
Jessie's wail emerged in the air.
"Mr. Lenoir, her arms are dislocated, and her cheeks are swollen. She won't be able to speak coherently for the time being" Mr. Kolson reported.
Jessie's face was swollen after being beaten up, so she could hardly speak.
Damien nodded and glanced at Mandy aloofly. "Ms. Wool. I've shown her mercy since she's ve friend."

Frowning. Mandy looked at Jessie, who was moaning in pain and smirked frigidly. "Mr. Lenoir, you're indeed ruthless."
"Back at you. Compared to what you've done half a month ago, this is nothing. Damien smiled at Mandy.
Mandy's eyes darkened; she knew he was referring to lan's incident.
"That wasn't my doing. You wouldn't think I'm interested in impersonating someone from your family, would you?" Immediately, she realized she had misspoken.
"Nonetheless, even if I did, it wasn't my intention. I never wanted to look like this."
Then, she turned and got into the car. "Get in. Jessie."
"Mr. Kolson, can you send my friend to the hospital?"
Chapter 280 Because She's Unworthy
It was only after getting Damien's approval that Mr. Kolson agreed. Then, he got into the car and
drove away.
After Mandy left, the onlookers dispersed. Cherise quickly pulled Lucy into the car while Damien. started the engine.

Sitting in the backseat, Lucy furrowed her brows. "Damien, I don't understand why you lent your car and driver to Mandy. None of this would have happened if it weren't for what you did. You have no idea how the others ridiculed Cherise just now!"

"I lent her my car and driver so she would owe me a favor. Moreover, I just wanted a reason to drive Cherise personally." Damien continued driving elegantly. "But I didn't expect you young girls to get jealous over this kind of thing"

On the other hand, Mandy returned home crabbily, She hurled her school bag onto the couch. and yelled, "I've had enough of this!"

Sitting on the couch, Clinton took a sip of tea and looked at her. "What happened?"

"That Damien Lenoir is like a stone!" Mandy drank some tea and gritted her teeth hatefully. "Cherise went back to school today. I spent a week trying to win people over, carefully laying out my plan to make her misunderstand, thinking she would believe I was better than her and that Damien liked me more. But it turned out Damien came and picked her up personally this. evening! All my efforts were in vain!"

She slammed the teacup on the table. A crisp sound emerged when the glass cup hit the glass surface.

"Keep it down!" Clinton reprimanded Mandy with a frown. "S is sleeping upstairs. You'll suffer if you wake her up!"

Mandy was exasperated. "Dad! I don't understand why you're so afraid of that ugly woman. She has been controlling us for almost thirteen years. Our business, our family... Everything about us!"

"And!" She pointed at her own face. "Is this even me? It's not! This is not how I look like!"

She had had enough of being manipulated day in and day out for over a decade.

Clinton sighed and mumbled meekly, "Stop complaining. If she hears you, you'll be locked up in the quiet room again tonight."

Seeing her father's cowardly look, Mandy was pulling her hair out. "I don't understand what the heck she's trying to do. I went through a dozen plastic surgeries to get this appearance. After changing my

face, I thought I would become invincible like Maeve Lenoir. But that ugly woman actually wanted me to seduce Damien with his sister's appearance?!"

Mandy became more annoyed as she complained. "Damien is not a fool; he certainly won't have

1/2

feelings for me. She wants me to seduce him with his sister's appearance so he'll marry a woman who looks like his sister. Is she crazy?!"

"Just take it as I am." A cold, hoarse woman's voice came forth from behind.

Mandy shivered and instinctively lifted her head to see a masked woman sitting in a wheelchair at the second floor's stairway.

The woman uttered in an eerie, gruff voice, "Go stay in the quiet room tonight and reflect on your mistakes."

"W-Why exactly do you insist me to sabotage Damien and Cherise's relationship?" Mandy asked. through clenched teeth.

"Because Cherise Shaw is unworthy." The woman's voice was tinged with anger and hatred. "She's unworthy to stay by my brother's side, let alone bearing children of the Lenoir family."