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Noticing that Zachary was still sisiggling with the situation, Nelle decided to lay it on him straight. "Zachary, it's not that I dislike Yvette. But Mr. Grillin is coming from Cloudity, and what if he sees something he doesn't like and changes his mind? Winona has worked so hard to get on his radar. I didn't want anything to mess that up because of Yvene"

Zachary paused to think and realized Nellie had a point. He held her hand and asked gently. "So, do you have any ideas? Tume is running out. If Yvette starts learning etiquette now, it may be too late.

Nellie had been waiting for him to ask that. After pretending to ponder for a moment, she suggested. Zachary, if you don't mind letting Wette experience a little tough love, I might have an idea. But I can't promise it will work.

Zachary replied urgently, "What's it? Just tell me."

"I have a cousin who's an etiquette teacher over at Argrol University. She specializes in training girls from wealthy families like Winona. I've heard she has a great reputation, and the ladies she's transformed have made real changes. If Yvette is willing. Id be happy to take her to meet my cousin. 1 believe shell give me some face.

Zachary was mainly worried about Yvette embarrassing him, and he was pleased with Nellie's suggestion. Even though there wasn't a deep bond between them-more of a partnership-she had helped him a lot over the years.

With Zachary's agreement, Nellie thought to herself triumphantly, 'So what if you're Lilian's daughter? You'll still be at my

Thercy. Yvette.

Unknown to Zachary, Nellie's cousin had a notorious reputation for harsh discipline. As she was from the Smith family, the lads from less prominent wealthy families didn't dare to resist her methods.

In the evening. Zeke and Winona finally showed up. They had spent the day playing golf with Victor and certainly, taken the chance to talk trash about Yvette.

Just then, Yvette came downstairs gracefully and bumped into the two.

All three looked quite different from Zachary-Yvette took after Lilian with her strikingly cool beauty, while Zeke and Winona shared some of Nellie's facial features.

Zeke was Nellie's pride and joy. Back then, Matthew allowed her to marry into the onceprestigious Chambers family mainly because she was pregnant with Zachary's child. From Zeke's birth, Nellie had doted on him endlessly, but he didn't turn out spoiled. Instead, he excelled, often ranking at the top of his class.

Zeke and Winona already knew about Yvette. They had considered ways to keep Yvette away from the Chambers family, but the people they sent over all vanished strangely. They hadn't seriously suspected Yvette, but they figured she didn't have the power to pull anything off

Growing up in high society, they knew that even if they wanted to target Yvette, they had to keep it under wraps, especially since their father felt so guilty toward her.

Having one more person in line for the inheritance was just one more threat. Zeke and Winona exchanged knowing glances. silently allying to handle Yvette behind the scenes.

Zeke acted surprised and quickly apologized to Yvette for being late. He happily welcomed her to the Chambers family. Winona played along, and together, they created quite a lively scene.

"You must be Yvette, right? I'm Zeke. If you need anything, just come to me. I'll take care of you," said Zeke warmly.

Winona watched Yvette's stunning features, and a wave of jealousy crashed over her. She considered herself one of the top beauties in their social circle, with no one daring to challenge her looks except for Rebecca, the eldest daughter of the Carter family. But Yvette was something else entirely... Winona had seen her photos, but they didn't do justice to how stunning she was in person.

Her biggest fear was that if Yyette caught Victor's eye, their engagement-which had originally belonged to Yvette-would be at risk. Panic began to swirl inside Winona,

Out of the corner of her eye, Winona spotted two figures. Since Yvette's back was turned to the stairs, she didn't see them coming. Seizing the opportunity, Winona stepped closer and whispered just loud enough for Yvette to hear, "Your mother is dead. Why even come back? This house has no place for you."

Winona had played this card over for years-provoking others and then showing her kindness and grace. It had worked like a charm every time, and she was sure Yvette would be no exception. Get angry, Yvette! Better make a scene so Dad can see just how trashy you are, she thought to herself.

Winona thought she had it all figured out, but she was about to meet her match. Yvette was a woman who could face the underworld without batting an eye-this little trick wouldn't faze her at all.

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schary and Nellie walked downstairs just in time to see Yvette slap Winona hard across the face.

Winona was stunned, her mouth hanging open in shock. She had never been hit like that before. All she wanted was to get a the out of Yvette, but she never expected her to actually fight back. The hatred in Winona's eyes was almost palpable, but she held it in. She would make Yvette pay for this slap.

Zeke watched the whole thing aside and was taken aback too.

The servants were too scared to say anything. Ms. Yvette Zeller is really ruthless. Just look at how swollen Winona's face has

become

Winona glanced and saw Zachary storming toward them. Gloating over her moment of "victory," she barely felt the sting on her cheek. What did I do wrong.. Yvette? Did I upset you? Why did you hit me?"

Though Winona's voice was small, Zeke heard every word clearly. He knew her temperament well yet didn't expect her to be so impatient. But considering Yvette's looks, it made sense that Winona felt threatened. 'Attacking Yvette on the very first day? What a malicious woman! he thought.

Zachary was furious. To him, it looked like Yvette had slapped Winona for no reason. "Stop it, you ungrateful girl!"

Ungrateful girl? What fresh words, Yvette sneered silently. She didn't want to be seen as anything like that. All she wanted was to be the one in control.

Nellie nearly lost it when she saw her daughter's swollen cheek. She knew that Winona must have been too anxious and provoked Yvette on purpose, but so what? She vowed to make Yvette pay for this-happened to coincide with Winona on this point.

Zachary rushed to comfort Winona. Nellie and Zeke closed in around her, leaving Yvette standing alone in awkward silence.

"Dad, please don't blame Yvette. We got back late, and she probably felt ignored. If she thinks hitting me will solve anything. then let it be "She turned to show Zachary the side of her face where Yvette had slapped her

Look, such a kind girl! Nellie watched Zachary's expression darken and felt a sense of satisfaction. She pretended to wipe away tears while saying, "Yvette, can't we talk about this? Why resort to violence? Winona has to attend Mr. Griffin's party next month. She can't be delayed"

Zachary felt a wave of anger as he listened to Nellic. He stepped forward, ready to slap Yvette. But she just shifted slightly, effortlessly blocking his raised hand in mid-air

"Want to hit me? You think you're worthy?" Yvette finally spoke up. Since this whole thing started, she had been silent with. her expression indifferent as if she were just a bystander.

Under her cold gaze, Zachary found himself stuck. If he hit her, he knew he'd definitely regret it. But if he didn't, what would everyone think of him as the head of the Chambers family? And oddly, he felt his hand heavy and weak,

The crowd noticed Zachary's awkward situation. While Yvette stood her ground without any effort, Zachary's face grew darker, the veins in his arm almost bulging.

Just when things seemed to freeze, Nellie sensed Zachary's embarrassment and stepped in. "Honey, it was just a heat-of-the- moment thing for Yvette to slap Winona. They're sisters, after all You can't be too hard on them."

Hearing Nellie's words, Zachary let out a sigh of relief and lowered his hand, though he stubbornly added, "Since you put it that way, I'll let it slide this time. But if it happens again, Yvette, Em not going to hold back. Now, hurry up and apologize to Winona

"Apologize? After that hard slap, Dad just let her say sorry? Hmph Mom is right. Dad does have a soft spot for that dead woman. Yvette is definitely going to be a pain, Winona thought in anger.

Even Zeke was a bit surprised by Zachary's unusual leniency toward Yvette. His expression darkened, a stark contrast to his earlier cheerful demeanor.

Everyone was focused on the chaos, so no one really noticed-except for Yvette. She had seen charming scoundrel guys like Zeke too often. The deceitful nature of him hid behind that innocent face. To understand his true intentions, one'd have to dig deeper.

"You want me to apologize?" Yvette asked casually.

Winona had far more in mind than just getting Yvette to say sorry; she wanted her to beg for mercy. But she couldn't voice iL She needed to keep up her image of being kind and gentle, so she had to swallow this slap.

She forced a smile. "I know you don't mean that. But since you did hit me, even if I don't make you apologize, people will think Dad isn't teaching his daughter well. So, since it's out there I guess I have to accept your apology.

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In the living room, Winona and the others were waiting for Yvette to apologize. Just when Nellie was about to step in and smooth things over, Yvette suddenly smiled.

Winona couldn't help but admit that Yvette was truly stunning.

Zeke, even though he knew Yvette was his half-sister, felt his heart race. He had been living the playboy lifestyle since his teenage years. While he kept it under wraps for the sake of his reputation, he enjoyed the company of students, models, young stars, and even escorts in private. As long as they intrigued him, he could get them with enough money.

If... I could have Yvette. The thrill of a forbidden romance was enticing, and Zeke felt his desires bubbling to the surface. Seeing Yvette standing alone, looking vulnerable, he believed lite kindness from him would make her emotional and grateful

Confident that no matter how tough Yvette could be, she couldn't resist his charm, Zeke gazed at Yvette's profile. From this angle, he could see her slightly curled eyelashes, stirring a deeper longing in his heart.

Yvette's smile hinted that someone was about to pay the price, but the Chambers family was completely clueless. By the time they caught on, it would have been too late.

Yvette's eyes were calm, like the still water of a deep well, and in the next moment, she pulled out a small, old-fashioned. black phone from her pocket. The three couldn't catch the brand, but they figured it wouldn't cost much.

Suddenly, they heard Winona's malicious voice. "Your mother is dead. Why even come back? This house has no place for

you

The atmosphere in the living room shifted dramatically as the recording played.

Winona stood frozen, her mind going blank.

The servants were just as stunned, not expecting the usually gentle Winona to have such a dark side. The tone of that recording was chilling, and it seemed like she was setting Yvette up.

Is this really what Winona said? Such cruel words? Zachary looked at Winona in disbelief and was about to slap Winonal across the face. But before he could strike, someone moved faster

Still dazed, Winona received another smack and let out a piercing scream. What freaked her out even more was that the person who hit her was none other than her mother, Nellie.

The fury in Nellie's eyes, along with Zachary's rage, jolted Winona back to reality. What have I just done? I have been recorded!'

Nellie felt heartbroken for hitting Winona, but she knew if she hadn't acted, Winona wouldn't have walked away from this day unscathed.

Nellie's scheme worked. Seeing Winona get slapped cooled Zachary's anger considerably.

Nellie glared at Winona as she scolded her. "Winona, haven't I taught you better since you were little? I know you're scared that Yvette will come back and take your father's love away, but you've gone too far. Yvette is your sister, and she's been through so much just to be back in our lives. How can you let jealousy make you treat her like this?"

Nellie's words framed Winona's behavior as immature jealousy, and as soon as she said it, Zachary's expression softened with concern.

Nellie then walked over to Yvette quickly, her tone shifting to something more apologetic. "Yvette, please understand that Winona was just confused for a moment. You can punish her as will. I just hope you two don't let this dome between you. If anyone's to blame, it's me for not raising her better. I'm truly sorry. Can you accept my apology?"

Yvette lifted her gaze lazily, a hint of arrogance showing on her face. "You think I'm easy to push around?"

Nellie's expression fell, and she changed her tone. "Oh no, Yvette, that's not what I meant. If you're still upset, I promise I'll make it right.

With her teeth clenched, Nellie turned back to Winona, Winona, getting the hint, walked over, tears streaming down her cheeks, looking utterly pitiful. I'm so sorry, Yvette. Please forgive me. I shouldn't have let my jealousy get the best of me. I was just so scared you would take Dad's love away from me." As she spoke, she glanced nervously at Zachary,

Zachary couldn't stand to see his little girl like this. After all, she had grown up beside him. But if he stepped in-now he knew a bit about Yvette's fiery personality-it would probably just make things worse. Besides, Winona had messed up, and it was only fair for Yvette to give her a little lesson.

Seeing that Zachary didn't respond, Winona kept going. "Yvette, if you're still angry, I'll stand here until you forgive me."

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Winona's eyes widened in disbelief. How dare she actually dental that? What a bitch!

Feeling a bit sorry for Winona, Zachary cleared his throat and rubbed his sore arim, saying, "Yvette, since Winona has apologized, can we just let it go? Keeping the peace in the family is important. I'll give you a villa in South Bay!"

Nellie felt upset. That villa, over seven thousand square feet, was Zachary's prized possession. He had promised it to Zeke as a burthday gift. Now he was talking about giving it to Yvette as compensation-did it really have to be that much?

Giving her a villa worth over 30 million dollars just like that? Winona's heart raced with anger. But since it all started because of her, she didn't dare say much more.

Zeke didn't expect that, by just watching the drama unfold, he'd end up losing a villa supposed to be his. Even though he wasn't short on cash, he knew that villa was his birthday gift and had been planning a party with the heirs from the four families. Now, that sure thing was slipping away. Zeke's face twisted as he bursed silently, 'Winona the useless troublemaker!"

Yvette merely glanced at Zachary, showing no surprise or delight. But the reactions of the other three hinted that the villa was valuable.

Zachary thought Yvette didn't realize the market value of the villa. But if he brought it up, it would be awkward, like he was trying to show off. Yet, after offering her something so big, he didn't even get a smile in return. It left him feeling unsettled.

The butler, Lucas, who had been quiet this whole time, noticed Zachary looking frustrated. He stepped forward and said. respectfully, "Ms. Zeller, this villa is one of Mr. Zachary Chambers' prized properties, worth over 30 million dollars.

Really, is this an attempt to buy me off? A 30-million-dollar villa? So pricey? Yvette felt amused. She raised an eyebrow, asking. "So what?"

How dare she act so haughty! She isn't just clueless. She's completely ungrateful! A rough country girl talking so big... Everyone else's faces turned dark with anger, except for Lucas, who was already familiar with Yvette's arrogance.

Nelle gritted her teeth and said, "Honey, since Yvette doesn't seem interested, let's not push her. She just got back, so it's better to stay at home. I've got a limited edition jewelry set that would be perfect for her. Consider it an apology

Lowering her voice so only Zachary could hear, she added, "Didn't you promise Zeke the villa? If you give it to Yvette now, Zeke will be really disappointed. Let's find another way to make it up to her.

Nellie thought she was being discreet, but Yvette read her lips perfectly-lip-reading was almost a required skill in her world.

Zachary temporarily forgot about his promise to Zeke, but it only worked before Yvette showed up. But now? He wanted to keep the villa for Yvette, For a moment, he felt trapped between a rock and a hard place.

Seeing Zachary hesitate, Nellie decided to play off Yvette's attitude. She said with a pretentious voice, "You might not realize this, but your dad already promised the villa to Zeke as a birthday gift. Since you don't want it anyway, how about I throw in a Porsche along with the jewelry? Sound good?

'Why's she so eager about the villa? Is it really just about the money? Yvette sensed that there was more to it. "When will the villa officially change hands? she asked.

Winona sighed in relief. Zeke's gift had nothing to do with her anyway, but if Yvette agreed, she could avoid making a public apology. Otherwise, once words got out, she'd become a laughingstock in high society. Apologizing to a country girl? Come on. Even if Yvette was her dad's daughter, to Winona, that made her just as lowly.

On second thought, Winona started to despise Yvette. Just a moment ago, she acted like money was beneath her, and now she's eager to seal the deal. Humph

"Changed your mind?" asked Yvette.

Zachary assured her quickly and told Lucas to handle the paperwork. But Nellie wasn't done. She shot a glance at Zeke for backup.

Zeke had some inappropriate thoughts about Yvette and wasn't about to stop this deal. He thought, 'Once I have her, who cares about the villa? Keeping a cool demeanor, he chimed in, "Since Dad promised it to her, it only makes sense for it to go to her."

Nellie was fuming. Even my obedient son is enchanted by Yvette. She's just as cunning as Lilian!

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In the Chambers residence's living room, the atmosphere was tense after everything that had just happened. Nellie had gone all out preparing a lavish dinner, but with everyone finally seated, only Yvette was calmly enjoying her meal. The other three seemed to find even the best dishes unappealing now.

Zachary watched Yvette eating a lot of meat and began to feel concerned about her while imagining a dramatic bitter scene in his head.

In fact, Vette simply loved eating meal Concerns about body image didn't cross her mind. Some people can eat a ton and not gain a pound, and Yvette was one of them. Not only was she fit, but her figure was also the epitome of a perfect hourglass -just the right amount of curves, with no extra weight.

Is Yvette some kind of bottomless pir? Better eat more and let her gain some weight! Winona felt a twinge of jealousy. Growing up, she had to count every calorie before even considering a bite, let alone indulging like Yvette did. Unfortunately, she was someone who gained weight easily. For years, she had starved herself just to maintain a flawless image in front of others. Life just didn't seem fair

Zeke watched Yvette skillfully peeling shrimp, her hands moving gracefully, and some improper desire stirred inside him.

Nellie took a moment to steady her emotions, putting on her "kind" stepmother face again. "Yvette, eat more. If it's not enough, just let the chef know. Growing up in that village, there must be things you've never tried. Now that you're back, 1 want you to enjoy yourself. These dishes are pretty ordinary, and I wonder if you like black truffles, caviar, or foie gras

Nellie's words were clearly meant to belittle Yvette, and both Winona and Zeke understood that perfectly.

Winona felt a rush of satisfaction and momentarily forgot about the apology thing. "Mom, come on! How could she have eaten any of that? The most she probably had back in that village were chickens and ducks, which I can hardly get sometimes. I'm so jealous she got to eat such fresh food." She sneered and then covered her mouth and laughed, her mocking expression barely stayed hidden.

As for why the two women felt bold enough to taunt Yvette, Zachary had just stepped out for an overseas call so they didn't feel the need to hold back

Just as they were about to say more, Zachary walked back in. He took a seat with a warm smile and asked, "What's going on? Why are you laughing?"

Nellie jumped in first. "Honey, I noticed Yvette has a good appetite. I thought she might enjoy some black truffles and fancy stuff. We're getting some delivered tomorrow, so I figured I'd have the kitchen whip something up"

Zachary smiled, feeling good that Nellie was caring about Yvette.

"Mom, Dad, shouldn't you ask if Yvette even likes that kind of food? What if she doesn't? Winona pouted, turning to Yvette. "Do you like it?"

Zachary cut in, "Whether she likes it or not, we're making it. If she can't eat it, just toss it. Why bother asking?"

Winona was already embarrassed from the evening's events, and hearing Zachary scold her again pushed her over the edge If she had been fake crying earlier, now she genuinely felt hurt, her eyes turning red

Nellie couldn't stand seeing Zachary scold Winona over Yvette. But since she needed to keep her gentle demeanor, she had to pretend to scold Winona too

Zeke, who had a crush on Yvette, saw this as a chance to show off a bit. "Yvette, the black truffles, foie gras, and caviar Mom mentioned are top-notch. Black rutiles are from Frixyia and are rare, and the fresh ones are tough to find for regular folks. Our family has them flown in every month, prepared by a Frixyia chef. Honestly, after all these years of eating them, they've kind of lost their thrill. But if I ever get the chance to try black truffles made by Mr. Logan Brown, tharwould totally be worth the wait. Just really hard to get a reservation.

He then pretended to downplay it as he added, "Look at me, going on about all this to you." He eagerly awaited a look of awe from Yvette but... when he turned back, he saw her staring at him like he was a fool.

Yvette wiped her mouth and stood up casually. "The black truffle is also called Tuber melanosporum. It's a wild edible fungus that grows underground. They have rough skin, with colors ranging from deep brown to black, covered with little bumps and mixed with gray or light black and white markings. They mature from mid-December to mid-March and have a strong smell that can linger for days."

Yvette detailed the origins of the truffles effortlessly, leaving everyone shocked. But what surprised them even more was yet to come.