

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2171-Based on what Keegan knew about Marshall, he wouldn't rush into any decisions in the near future. Even though Willow was his only family, he'd carefully weigh the options and act with caution for her sake.

Stella paused for a moment before suggesting, ' Maybe it's best for Coco to stay at the Royalpark Villa. Firstly, Grandma is getting old and genuinely doesn't have the energy to look after her. Secondly... from Marshall's point of view, Coco is the reminder of Willow's betrayal. I'm concerned he might take it out on Coco if he loses his temper.'

Initially, Keegan wanted to assure that Marshall wouldn't do such a thing; he knew him well. But the words got stuck in his throat. If he truly understood him, the kidnapping incident wouldn't have occurred.

After a brief silence, he nodded. "I'll go along with your suggestion." In reality, when Vermont hinted to Marshall about Coco's parentage, Keegan had another motive-to leverage the Moore family to investigate the true cause of Jayson's death. He never wanted to believe that the young man, with such cold demeanor and righteousness, could be capable of such things, otherwise, he wouldn't have been so careful in preserving that badge.

The next day, Stella went to Cordelia's home herself to pick up Coco.

Unexpectedly, she ran into an acquaintance.

Dahlia Crosby had been released from detention and came bearing gifts to visit the old lady, only to be turned away at the door. When Stella arrived, she witnessed Dahlia tearfully pleading with Baldwin Clint.

"Baldwin, please speak to my mother-in-law for me again. I have urgent matters to discuss. Can I please see her?"

Baldwin shook his head. "Madam, please go back. Madam Kane is tired and doesn't want visitors. Please don't make this difficult for US."

Despite her pleading, Baldwin remained firm.

Seeing her pleas were futile, Dahlia's expression turned to resentment as she finally dropped her facade.

"I raised children for the Kane family. Even if I have no merit, I have worked hard. Quentin left a will; if I stayed with the Kane family, they would protect me and my son for life; if I left, I would be entitled to half of his assets! She doesn't want me back, fine! I want the inheritance Quentin left behind, or else I'll sue Keegan for abandoning his birth mother!"

A chill ran down Stella's spine.

Dahlia was a lunatic! The ordeal of prison hadn't brought her an ounce of remorse. How could such a person be considered a mother?

Baldwin paused, his expression softening slightly. "Madam Stella."

Dahlia tensed up at the sight of Stella.

Her gaze toward Stella held fear, disgust, and above all, resentment.

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2172-Stella averted her gaze and addressed Baldwin, "Baldwin, I'm here to pick up Coco." Baldwin replied, "Coco is practicing the piano.

I'll take you to her." Stella nodded and was about to follow him when Dahlia stopped her, resentfully saying, Stella, you must be feeling so proud, kicking me out of the Kane family and separating me from my son.

" Stella paused, calmly looking at her.

"I guess.

Give it a little more time, and I might even be prouder." A hint of hatred flickered in Dahlia's eyes, but she quickly suppressed it.

She clenched her fists and whispered, "I want to talk to you." Stella smiled coldly, "Is there anything left to discuss between us?" She hadn't forgotten why Dahlia ended up there.

A woman who had tried to harm her baby wouldn't get a second chance from her.

She was puzzled, though.

Why would Dahlia suddenly demand a share of her late father-in-law's inheritance? Even though Dahlia had been kicked out of the Kane family and Keegan had cut her off, providing only a small amount of living expenses, barely enough to get by, Aurora Kane hadn't completely abandoned her.

She still had feelings for Dahlia.

Even though she had been so wronged by Dahlia, Dahlia had raised and loved her since she was a child.

She couldn't just turn a blind eye to her.

On the day Dahlia was released, Aurora went to see her and gave her some money.

When Keegan mentioned this to her, trying to gauge whether she would interfere with Aurora's decision, Stella glanced at the cunning man.

Did he really think he could hide his ulterior motives from her? Keegan wasn't allowing Aurora to help Dahlia out of kindness; he was afraid that if he stopped her, and something happened to Dahlia in the future because of money, Aurora would blame him and their sibling relationship would be strained.

But if he didn't stop her, he feared she might misunderstand and think he was showing mercy to Dahlia.

So he threw the problem to Stella, letting her decide.

Initially, Stella hadn't planned to stop Aurora.

Aurora had a rebellious streak, and sometimes, it was better to let things flow rather than stop them from happening.

Besides, Aurora had cut herself off from the family's finances when she tried to get into the company.

She only had a meager salary every month, barely enough to support herself, let alone Dahlia.

But, even though Stella understood, the man's schemes still annoyed her a bit.

He really thought she was that petty! So she sent him to the study for two nights in a row, until finally, he came crawling back in the middle of the night, massaging her legs, apologizing pitifully.

It had been over a week since Dahlia was released.

Aurora should have given her the majority of her savings by now.

And with all the years Dahlia had spent using Keegan's money to buy luxury bags and jewelry, she should still have some left.

If she were to sell those things, she wouldn't be broke.

Baldwin didn't hear Dahlia's words.

"You're a woman with a criminal record.

If not, get out of the car." Dahlia's body stiffened for a moment.

She gritted her teeth and finally said after a long pause, "Give me a billion, or I'll sue Keegan for not supporting me."

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2173-Stella glanced at her. "Keegan deposits your living expenses into your account every month. He also has evidence of the money you've been withdrawing from the company's account over the years. Do you think you can win this case?"

Dahlia sneered, "Even if I can't win, do you think such a scandal would affect The Vinci Rivera Group's stocks or his election votes?"

Stella's smile faded gradually. She couldn't fathom how there could be such a shameless and despicable mother, selfish enough to ruin her own son's life.

Darcie Arnold and Hylda White were so malicious, yet they stood by their children. What was Dahlia?

Stella looked at her in silence for a moment, then spoke, "What do you need so much money for?"

Dahlia impatiently replied, "That's none of your business. Just transfer the money to me. I'll give you three days. If you don't, I'll sue Keegan immediately!"

Stella's expression turned serious. "If it weren't for a paternity test, I would seriously doubt if Keegan is your biological son! If you don't love him, why did you have him? And since you had him, why neglect him? He has finally achieved everything today, and you still want to ruin him. Are you even worthy of being called a mother?"

Gritting her teeth, Dahlia retorted, "The relationship between my son and me was fine until you, the troublemaker, came along. How could Keegan treat me like this if it weren't for you? He showed me no kindness first, so don't blame me for being heartless!" "Watching your own son drown for the sake of vanity and comparison, is that what you call a fine relationship?"

Somehow, this struck a chord with Dahlia. She became agitated. "You know nothing! If it weren't for my strictness, could he have achieved what he has today?"

Stella chuckled at this twisted logic.

Dahlia, tired of the talk, hardened her expression again. "Enough chatter.

Are you giving me the one billion or not?"

Stella stared at the face somewhat resembling Keegan's for a while before saying, "I can give it to you, but I need you to sign an agreement."

Frowning, Dahlia asked, "What agreement?"

Stella looked up. "An agreement to sever the mother-son relationship with Keegan."

Samuel Herston felt a jolt in his heart.

Dahlia was taken aback but remained silent for a few seconds, then pursed her lips. "If I sign, will you transfer the money immediately?"

Dahlia immediately agreed. "Tine."

She and Keegan were mother and son by blood; such an agreement would be meaningless. What a fool!

Stella double-checked the signature, carefully put the document away in her bag, then took her phone and transferred the money to Dahlia.

Soon the money was transferred, and Dahlia's face turned red. "I asked for one billion, but why is there only ten million? Stella, are you kidding me?"

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2174-"No way!" Dahlia exclaimed anxiously. "Two weeks is just too long! I'll give you a week at most!"

Stella furrowed her brow. "Ten days. I really can't gather it in a week."

Dahlia didn't buy it. "Do you think I'm clueless about how much money Keegan has?"

Stella's expression turned icy. "You expect me to ask Keegan for the money? Do you think he won't question such a large sum? Or do you want me to personally inform him that his own mother is pressuring me for money?"

Dahlia didn't care about Keegan, let alone his feelings.

She knew Keegan well enough to understand that if he found out about this, he wouldn't give her a penny. He wouldn't be swayed by her threats in the least.

Initially, Dahlia had wanted to find Stella, but Keegan had shielded her too effectively, leaving Dahlia with no opportunity to get close. So, she shifted her focus to her deceased husband's inheritance. Little did she know she would run into Stella herself.

After Stella's words, Dahlia calmed down slightly. She pondered for a moment before relenting, "Fine, I'll give you ten days. If I don't receive enough by then, all bets are off!" After Dahlia left, Stella calmly instructed Samuel, "Make a copy of the footage from the car for me."

Samuel snapped out of it and quickly began copying the video.

As he worked, Stella said, "Don't breathe a word of today to Keegan. If you can't handle it, you can leave now. I'll pay you two months' salary extra, and you can find another job."

Samuel hastily replied, “Stella, Mr. Kane made it clear when he hired me. I’m on your team. Unless it’s about your safety, I don’t need to report your personal matters to him.”

Stella stared at him for a moment before saying, “Head to the primary residence.”

Samuel nodded, returned the phone with the copied video, turned the car around, and headed for the Kane family’s primary residence.

Stella gently touched the agreement in her bag, her eyelids drooping slightly as she lost herself in her thoughts.

After a moment, Samuel whispered, “Stella, I have something else to mention.”

Stella nodded, signaling for him to continue.

Clearing his throat, Samuel said, “Stella, Mr. Kane and Ms. Crosby’s mother-son relationship is based on blood ties. Such natural bonds cannot be dissolved legally, so the agreement you have is invalid. Mr. Kane still has the obligation to support her.”

Stella didn’t respond, merely offering a faint smile as she said, “I understand, just drive safely.”

Samuel was taken aback. Stella’s reaction was unexpected, but he didn’t press further.

Of course, Stella knew the legal invalidity of the agreement, but in terms of public perception, it could hold weight.

If you want something to perish, let it go mad first.

Dahlia’s urgency for money likely had to do with trouble Blake Crosby and the Crosby family were in.

When she returned to the Kane family’s primary residence to pick up Coco, Cordelia was feeding Sevin by the pond with Coco.

Cordelia had finally caught the thief who stole the fish and had retrieved Sevin.

After a few months, Sevin seemed to have put on some weight, lazily swimming in the water.

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2175-She recalled the amusing scene from earlier and, now, observing the sluggish fish, couldn't resist kicking a pebble into the water. With a splash, the plump fish jerked in alarm, its tail nearly swatting the nearby small koi.

Cordelia's eyelid twitched. How much did this impulsive act resemble her mischievous grandson?

Stella realized the effect of her action and quickly withdrew her foot guiltily, mustering a smile as she called out, "Grandma."

Coco bounded over, clutching onto Stella's leg and chirping, "Stella, why did you take so long to come? I missed you~"

Stella tousled the little girl's soft hair and said gently, "I bought you some little gifts, which took a bit of time."

At the mention of gifts, Coco's eyes sparkled. She tugged at Stella's sleeve, eager to leave with her.

"Go with this big brother first. Great-Grandma and I need to talk for a bit."

Coco obediently nodded and was led away by Samuel.

Once the child was out of earshot, Cordelia inquired, "What did you two talk about?"

Stella recounted every detail to Cordelia.

The more Cordelia listened, the graver her expression became. After a long while, she asked, "What do you plan to do?"

Stella pursed her lips. "I won't let her ruin Keegan." A billion wasn't Dahlia's price for threatening her; it was the cost Stella was willing to pay to sever the bond between Dahlia and Keegan.

Of course, she wouldn't simply let that money fall into Dahlia's hands.

Cordelia closed her eyes, then reopened them, determination glinting in her murky gaze. ' Let it go. It's time to do some spring cleaning.'

She couldn't help but cough after speaking.

Stella hurried forward to pat Cordelia's back, waiting for the fit to subside before pouring tea into a pot and offering it to her. "Grandma, take care of yourself."

Cordelia took a sip of tea, her complexion improving slightly before she said, "I'm nearing the end of my days. Each day is worse than the last, and I don't know if I'll last until your baby is born."

When Keegan got into trouble, Cordelia had fallen ill as well, catching a cold on and off for a month, her spirits much diminished from before.

Since becoming pregnant, Stella had visited the primary residence infrequently, but every time they met, Cordelia would pull her aside for a long chat, mentioning her father-in-law and Mr. Kane Sr., expressing her longing for them yet always ending with concern for Keegan and his sister.

The doctor said she didn't have any fatal illnesses, just old age catching up with her, with declining bodily functions. If things went well, she might have another two or three years, but if not, maybe just one year.

Thinking of this, Stella couldn't help but feel upset.

Keegan quickly replied, sending several property agreements, all under her name.

Keegan: "A son's duty is to honor his mother. These are all yours. From now on, anyone who disrespects you will receive nothing."

Stella chuckled.

Dahlia's urgency for money was to bail out the Crosby family.

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2176-The Crosby family had been declining ever since Dahlia tied the knot. The Crosby siblings, all looks and no brains, would have disappeared from high society long ago if not for the support of the Kane family in recent years.

After Keegan cut ties with Dahlia, who was using Cordelia's name to manipulate and deceive for her brother's business, the already struggling company took a further nosedive.

But Blake's wife running off with the money? Stella wasn't buying it.

They hadn't even gotten a divorce, so where could she possibly run off to with two children in tow? If she was going to leave, why not do it when Blake had money? Without money, where could she possibly go?

And Keegan's aunt wasn't that naive.

Blake was a gambler, blowing through half of the Crosby family's fortune despite his good looks and respectable background. None of the well-mannered girls wanted to marry a gambler like him.

Blake's wife, Kanrara Kent, was introduced to him by someone from the Crosby family. She came from an average family, looked plain, and had a fiery temperament.

Blake didn't tie the knot until he was well into his thirties. At the time, Keegan was almost done with middle school, so he remembered the events vividly.

With Keegan's maternal grandfather already gone and his maternal grandmother not in great health, the responsibility of arranging the marriage fell on Dahlia's shoulders.

Dahlia strongly disliked Kanrara, finding her crude, uncultured, unattractive, and from an average background. Despite her objections, her mother was determined to have Kanrara.

Seeing that persuasion was futile, Dahlia decided to make a statement at the wedding by swapping Kanrara's red envelope, traditionally given to the bride, with one containing only a coin.

She thought this would put Kanrara in her place, but during the toasting ceremony, when Kanrara was chatting with Cordelia and Keegan nearby, the coin rolled out of the open envelope.

Everyone knew it was a red envelope from the Crosby family. Even if Dahlia wanted to assert authority over the new bride, humiliating her with a mere coin was too much.

Despite the Crosby family's decline, they couldn't afford such embarrassment.

Mrs. Crosby, Keegan's maternal grandmother, immediately claimed it was a mistake and gave Kanrara a substantial red envelope.

Keegan said the Crosby grandparents had no boundaries when it came to spoiling their children. Blake ended up a mess because of it. The only thing they got right was marrying Blake to Kanrara; otherwise, the siblings would have squandered the Crosby family's fortune.

By then, Dahlia was already a widow and couldn't bear to give up the prestige and wealth of the Kane family, so she had to relent.

Kanrara was tough. Every time Blake went gambling, she would drag him back home with a knife and lock him in his room without food. At first, Blake would argue and threaten divorce, but after a few days without food, he became compliant.

After a few such incidents, several underground gambling dens in Rivera blacklisted Blake, and he finally straightened up.

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2177-Dahlia quietly slipped money to Blake to get him on her side.

Quitting gambling was just like quitting drugs. You might manage to stay clean for a while, but one slip and it was tough to regain control.

Blake found himself drawn back to the casino, while Kanrara, juggling the care of two kids, had little energy left to oversee him or the company. Just as things were looking up for the company, it teetered on the edge of collapse.

Coincidentally, Keegan had already taken charge at the Vinci Rivera Group, and Dahlia began leveraging the Kane family's name to collaborate with Blake.

Kanrara shifted her focus to the kids' education, neglecting company matters.

Blake gambled recklessly. Even though Kanrara held the purse strings, the money he squandered was all supplied by Dahlia.

Recently, Marshall mentioned their impending divorce, apparently triggered by Blake's affair and asset transfers.

Later, Stella discussed this with Keegan. He opined that since Kanrara managed the finances, Blake wouldn't dare to keep a mistress. Any cash he had would go straight to the casino. Why would any woman be foolish enough to be his mistress? Was she after his wealth or his gambling habit?

The more Stella thought about it, the odder it seemed. So she told Trevor,

Trevor, let's track Kanrara's movements and look into her financial dealings."

The next day, Trevor brought news again: Kanrara had taken the kids to Bostown, with eight million deposited into her account from Blake.

Meanwhile, Blake received ten million from Dahlia, money she had gotten from Stella.

After a spat between Dahlia and Kanrara months ago, Dahlia became the company's legal representative. While the company was indeed in dire straits financially, Blake's supposed efforts to raise funds were a sham.

The couple plotted to swindle Dahlia's money. With Dahlia now the company's legal rep, she couldn't shirk responsibility. If the company went under, she'd be left holding the bag.

No wonder she demanded a billion from Stella.

Stella curled her lips coldly. Dahlia too deserved to experience betrayal from her loved ones.

During afternoon tea, when Dahlia called to pester her, Stella transferred another ten million.

Then, she made a call to Vermont Snyder, saying with a smile, "Vermont, let's hit up an underground casino."

Frowning, he replied, "What underground casino? I have no idea what you're talking about."

He scoffed, "Only a fool like Keegan would buy that."

He fell silent for a moment before gritting his teeth, "You're conniving."

Aren't you afraid of reaping what you sow?"

She retorted, "Thanks for the concern. Having a plan is better than being naive."

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2178-Stella grinned, took a sip from her thermos, and remarked, "This is the last time.

Keegan's got big dreams, and I won't let Dahlia mess them up."

After passing through Blake's hands, ten million came up two million short.

There was only one explanation: this guy was still hitting the tables.

Stella's hunch was spot-on; Blake had indeed returned to his old gambling habits.

Blake was already a regular at the casino, despite being banned before. But in this world, rules and boundaries hardly mattered. If you had the cash, doors swung wide open.

Getting into an underground casino wasn't easy; usually, you needed an introduction from someone in the know and had to go through a few hoops blindfolded. But with Vermont leading the way, Stella, a newcomer, got in without a hitch.

Vermont was bold, ambitious, and loved a good gamble. In his younger days, he rubbed shoulders with all kinds of people and was introduced to the world of gambling by his pals.

There were no guaranteed winners in the casino. At his lowest, he couldn't even cover daily expenses and had to rely on Keegan for food and shelter.

Over time, he picked up some tricks, learned to quit while ahead, and made some modest profits. But it didn't last long before Keegan caught wind of it.

Keegan, who had never laid a finger on him before, showed up one afternoon and gave him a proper thrashing.

To this day, Vermont could still feel the tremble in his hand after Keegan's beating.

Vermont knew firsthand the toll gambling could take; his grandfather died enraged by Blake's addiction. He feared meeting the same fate. Once gripped by gambling, no amount of wealth could satisfy. He'd seen too many lives destroyed by it.

Yet, he was always certain he wouldn't fall into the same trap. Back then, he didn't realize his apparent control over the winnings was just a facade. But his arrogance and disdain when boasting about his wins with Keegan hinted at his downfall.

Thankfully, Keegan's wake-up call snapped him out of it. Since then, he had steered clear of such places, only occasionally visiting with clients for leisure.

He had connections and knew how to navigate both worlds.

So, when he told the casino boss he was bringing a friend to teach someone a lesson, permission was quickly granted.

As the blindfold came off, the bright light blinded them.

Vermont handed Stella a mask and whispered, "Put this on. No one shows their true face here, and no electronics allowed. They'll give you a bag later to seal your phone and hand it over."

Stella nodded and donned the mask.

Vermont cursed under his breath, "If Keegan finds out I brought you here, he'll kill me!"

Stella reassured him, "We won't breathe a word. He'll never know."

Vermont shot her a stern look. "Then you better keep quiet and not blab!"

Casino money isn't easy to come by. Don't be surprised if you walk out broke."

Vermont was speechless.

What a chatterbox this girl was! Spilling all the deets!

With their masks on, Stella linked arms with Vermont, and they made a grand entrance.

“Don’t gawk.”

Vermont warned, “Don’t let them see you’re new here; rookies like you are easy marks.”

Stella averted her gaze and quipped, “Can you guarantee a win rate?”

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2179-Stella furrowed her brow, “Weren’t you boasting about your dice-rolling skills?”

Vermont replied, “Yeah, but they don’t let you roll your own dice at the casino.”

Stella was speechless.

“It’s all mind games, plus…” Vermont lowered his voice, “a bit of cheating. You just have to play the part. Even a gambling pro would have problems if they depend on just gambling skills.”

He paused, then whispered, “Here he comes.”

Following his gaze, Stella spotted a man of average build with his hands behind his back, surveying each gambling table.

Vermont gestured for her to stay quiet and led her straight to the high-stakes game.

To lure Blake over, Vermont splurged. After losing three consecutive rounds, his one million chips quickly disappeared, drawing more onlookers. Eventually, Blake approached.

Stella felt a bit nervous, but Vermont remained composed. He adjusted his cufflinks, chuckled, and said, “Luck’s not on my side today.”

One of the onlookers chuckled, “Is this your first time here? I don’t think I’ve seen you around.”

Vermont replied, “I used to come here before the renovations. Haven’t had the chance in the past few months. You all seem unfamiliar to me too.” With a sigh, he flipped over his cards, shook his head, and tossed them on the table. Luck was still not on his side.

Sure enough, he lost again.

Vermont signaled, and soon two people arrived carrying two boxes, which they placed on the table. Opening them revealed stacks of cash.

“Let’s keep going. I’m not giving up yet.”

With Vermont’s rotten luck and these two hefty boxes of cash, several gamblers quickly wavered, and one by one, they started following suit.

After observing for a while, Blake couldn’t resist and took the bait.

Then Vermont began the setup. Blake kept winning hand after hand, and once Vermont figured he’d lost enough, his phone conveniently rang. With a last bit of trickery, he made his exit.

Sitting in the car, Stella glanced at the two empty boxes in the back, feeling her heart ache. “Is this plan reliable?”

Vermont chuckled as he drove, “You’re feeling sorry for losing this bit? If you don’t let him win more, how will he fall into the trap? Let him win first, only this much each time. Then, later on, we’ll switch up the game, increase the stakes, and start making him lose. When he’s blinded by anger, that’s when we’ll close the net.”

Stella calmed down. When it came to matters of expertise, it was best to leave them to the experts. Since she chose Vermont to help, she had to trust him.

Despite winning money, Blake didn’t use it to solve the company crisis.

Instead, he indulged himself outside, even tipping the servers with stacks of cash.

The next day, he returned to the casino to gamble once more.

After winning over two million for three consecutive days, Blake was practically floating on air. Meanwhile, Dahlia was being hounded by creditors and bombarded with calls.

Dahlia kept urging Stella for money, which she hesitated to provide until Blake began losing again. Then, she transferred five million to Dahlia.

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2180-When you think you're about to hit the jackpot at the casino, that's when you've already lost.

You might aim to profit, but there's always someone else aiming to profit off you.

Blake, a fixture at the casino for decades, had long been seduced by the promises of wealth and luxury. Yet, anyone with a sense to call it quits wouldn't still be gambling after so many years, ending up nothing but a gambler deep in debt.

In the end, he squandered all the money he had, owing the house over ten million, even resorting to mortgaging his sole villa to them.

With eyes burning red, Blake lunged forward, demanding Vermont to be held accountable, saying that he had set him up and cheated him off his money.

But claiming that Vermont had cheated would raise doubts about the casino's management, something they couldn't allow. So, with a sack over his head, they knocked him out and dumped him onto the street.

Stella and Vermont, an odd pair of unrelated siblings, swiftly split the ill-gotten gains on the spot. Then, blindfolded, they were escorted out in the casino's car.

Once the blindfolds were removed, silence fell between them.

Not far away, a Maybach awaited, with Keegan standing expressionless in front of them, dressed in a suit.

Stella nudged Vermont, urging him to say something, anything.

Vermont played his part, widening his eyes. "Stella, did the babies kick you?"

"Huh?" Stella was taken aback, then instinctively covered her stomach, "Oh, yes, quite a kick." Vermont supported her, giving her a meaningful glance. "Doesn't it hurt when the babies kick?" "It does," Stella pitifully glanced at Keegan, "Honey, your daughter and son are giving me a hard time."

Keegan didn't move forward, coldly observing the two lousy actors. After a while, he finally said, "Get in the car."

The two performers dropped their act, quietly opening the car door and slipping inside.

Only then did they realize another accomplice was seated in the back.

Felicity forced a smile, waving at them. "I'm not one to spill secrets, I'm just too honest. Lying weighs heavy on me. When your husband gives me that look, I just want to come clean."

Stella was speechless.

Vermont gave her a thumbs up, grinning. "Sweetheart, this is your payback, right? In the game, I betrayed you, and in real life, you betrayed me. We make quite the pair."

Felicity clenched her teeth, "Zip it!"

Thirty minutes later, at Suite 902 in Clouditude International.

Keegan sat on the sofa, the three culprits standing before him in a line.

He picked up his cup, taking a sip of tea, calmly saying, "Speak."

The trio started talking all at once, making a cacophony that grated on Keegan's ears.

Keegan frowned. "One at a time."

Stella raised her hand. "I'll go first."

Keegan glanced at her, then at the empty space on the sofa beside him.

Pregnant women should sit when speaking."

Vermont's eye twitched, thinking to himself, "Could you be any more biased?"

Vermont was confused.

"Are you pregnant too?"

Felicity answered, "I'm getting ready for it."

Vermont scooted over to sit down as well, shamelessly saying, “I’m preparing too.”

Everyone was speechless.

As long as you were thick-skinned, the ones who would feel awkward were others.

Keegan scanned the trio of crafty characters. “Who came up with this scheme?”

Stella gritted her teeth; these two traitors!