# Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted by Eleven Jewell

# **Chapter 564-595**

## Chapter 564

The text was from Xavier. Jaylene paused for a while.

'What result?' She thought to herself.

Trevor only came back with Keegan about ten minutes later. He was not looking very happy as he started scolding Keegan as soon as he sat down, 'Keegan Kane, you're so useless. It's been over ten years, yet you still can't drink!"

He reached for his phone and unlocked it. He paused for a moment after looking at that text message. Then, he dialed Aider's number.

Jaylene spoke after he was done speaking to Aldor, "Bro, we can send Mr. Kane back home. There's no need to trouble his assistant so late at night."

"Why should we do that?" Trevor sipped on his alcohol. "He's a man who just got divorced, and you're an unmarried lady. Your reputation will be tarnished if anybody ever sees you two together.

Jaylene looked mad as she mumbled softly, "How close-minded!"

Aldor came after a while.

He thanked Trevor and Jaylene before taking Keegan away. Also, he took care of the bill before leaving. Trevor sighed. "Even though Keegan is a little dumb, he's pretty good at picking people to work for him."

'His assistant alone is so much sharper than Xavier. Why couldn't I find someone like Aldor?"

"How is Mr. Kane dumb?" Jaylene glowered at him. "You're just jealous of him because dad always praises him!"

Trevor was speechless.

Then, they went home. Jaylene was sitting beside her bed to dry her hair after showering. For some reason, she thought of the text message she had seen on Trevor's phone earlier. She pursed her lips and put the towel on her lap. Then she sent Xavier a WhatsApp text.

[Xavier, are you asleep?]

Xavier just got home and replied instantly after seeing Jaylene's message: [Hello, Jaylene. I'm awake. What's wrong?]

Xavier and Jaylene went to the same elementary school. He addressed her as Ms. Saun in public but sometimes called her by her name when they chatted privately. Jaylene suggested that because she said she felt weird when Xavier called her Ms. Saun.

Xavier saw how Jaylene was bullied back then, and he knew how weak her body was. So, he was always very compassionate toward her.

[It's nothing. Is my brother not feeling well these days?]

[I don't think so. He didn't tell me anything.]

Jaylene pursed her lips and typed: [I met a friend today, and she bumped into my brother when she went to the hospital a few days ago. Why would he be there if he's not feeling unwell?]

(Oh, so that's why you asked. Mr. Saun was not seeing a doctor. The company had a new artist. He went there with her to do the preemployment health check.] Actually, Trevor went to spy on Stella. But he would not tell Jaylene about that. [I haven't heard about any popular artists joining the company recently. Did he really have to go there personally?]

Xavier said to himself. 'How would he see Stella if he didn't go there personally?' However, he typed something different from what he thought: [Perhaps that artist, Ms. Jewell, once saved you. Mr. Saun cares a lot about her.]

Jaylene paused. 'It was Stella?'

She pursed her lips and replied: [I'm glad there's nothing wrong with my brother. You should get some sleep now.]

She closed her WhatsApp before standing up abruptly from the bed. Then, she threw her towel aside and went to Darcie's room.

Stella hurriedly went to the set to film her scenes right after meeting Karl.

After knowing she had won the lawsuit, Daniel was delighted, so he rewarded her with two extra work hours. She always had something else to do outside of work, so Daniel would take the chance and film more of her parts whenever she came to the set.

It was already late afternoon of the next day when they were done filming.

Stella fell right asleep after getting home and woke up around noontime the next day. Felicity had a day off, and she bought a lot of ingredients at the supermarket when Stella was sleeping. She wanted to cook something nice for Stella to nourish her health.

Compared to Stella's cooking skills which would never improve, Felicity got a lot better at cooking. Felicity was just very lazy, and she would cook just to fill her stomach. However, after living with Stella, she finally had a chance to enhance her cooking skills.

She would cook something nice for Stella once she had the time, and Stella would act as her assistant. Stella was mainly responsible for doing the dishes.

However, she slept in late today. Felicity was almost done cooking when she woke up.

#### Chapter 565

Felicity's phone rang when she was scooping the mashed potato. She picked her phone up when she went to the dining table and looked at it. Then, she cursed.

'That scumbag Keegan has a new girlfriend already!"

Stella paused without doing anything else.

Felicity placed her phone in front of Stella. "Look at this scumbag. He's hugging another woman right after the divorce!"

Even though Stella told herself to ignore it, she could not help but sweep her glance across it. Felicity was showing something that Vermont posted.

It was a photo of a woman holding Keegan's arm. It looked like it was taken in a pub or a bar.

Keegan's eyes looked red and squinty like he had too much to drink. However, the woman looked very sober, and she was frowning worriedly. The woman was not a stranger to her, but someone that she had met just not long ago, Jaylene Saun. Vermont posted that photo with the caption: [A perfect match.] i

Stella pursed her lips and picked up a piece of grilled eggplant with her fork, "Let's

eat. The food's getting cold."

Felicity was shocked. "Are you not mad?"

Stella said flatly, "Why should I be? He's not my husband anymore. So why would I be bothered about who he's with now?"

Felicity felt like she overreacted after hearing what Stella said. She threw her handphone aside and grabbed her fork. "Is Detective Karl credible?"

"I guess. He's very famous, after all." Stella took a bite of her food. Then, her phone vibrated. Karl sent her a photo.

Stella glanced at it and recognized that the person in that photo was Albert's old driver. He looked so much older now, but she was certain it was him because of that mole on his chin. Stella instantly replied: [Did you find anything?]

[Do you know this person?]

Stella replied: [Yes, he used to be a driver for the company.]

Karl did not respond.

Then, Stella asked him some questions again, but Karl stopped replying. So, Stella figured that he had gone back to work.

Stella could not sit still anymore. This driver was supposed to take her to school back then, but he had something else to do. That was why Stella sat in Rainee's car instead.

'Karl is onto him now. Does he know something that I don't?'

She wanted to ask Karl more questions, but she received another notification on her phone. Keegan updated his social media again.

### Chapter 566

'How could it be negative?'

He stared at the report for a while before he picked up his phone and called someone. Then, that person picked up.

"Yvette, is the result out yet?"

A woman's voice could be heard on the phone. "I was just done with a meeting. I'll go and ask about it for you. It's probably ready by now."

The lady paused and asked, "Trevor, do you have an illegitimate child?"

Trevor frowned. "Cut it out. Go on and send it to me if it's ready." "Okay."

After hanging up, Yvette sent him the test results about ten minutes later. Trevor looked at it and brought his brows even closer together. Both tests used the same sample, yet the two hospitals' results differed. He pursed his lips and picked his phone up again. "Yvette, is the result accurate?"

"Of course, it is. We're specialized in doing this. We should look for another job if something goes wrong with this."

Trevor personally gave her the sample to do the test. Nobody else other than the two of them knew about it. It just could not go wrong.

'What about... the one that Xavier gave me? Did the hospital make a mistake, or is somebody messing with me? I'm glad

I did the test in two hospitals just to be safe.'

The look on Trevor's face became serious as he said in a deep voice, "Yvette, would you run the test again in another hospital with the same sample?"

"Why? Do you not trust me?"

Trevor replied, "This is very important, and I must ensure nothing goes wrong. I want you to get it done personally. Don't ask anybody else to help you with it. Send me the results right away when it's ready."

Yvette started to take it seriously after hearing Trevor's tone. "Sure. I'll do that for you." "Can it be ready today?"

Yvette kept quiet.

"Trevor, do you think we're in a movie, and the result would be out just like that? They've got to purify the sample again to extract its chromosomes. It's got to take at least two to three days. Don't worry. I'll get it done as soon as possible."

"Okay then. Thank you so much."

Actually, Trevor could already guess which report was fake. However, he had always been a cautious person. So, he decided to run the test again to prove his assumption right.

Trevor's face looked very serious after hanging up. He wanted to ask Xavier to come inside but changed his mind.

He wanted to find out if the person who tweaked the report would do anything else. So, he kept the test result with an indifferent face and put it inside his drawer.

On the other side...

Daniel finally did something humane and gave Stella a half day off.

She had nothing to do in the late afternoon. Coincidentally, she had an appointment with the agent to sign the contract, so she packed her things and went out.

The house in Flourand Gardens was about a thousand and three hundred square feet. The agent made some negotiations, and the final price came down to six million and two hundred thousand dollars. However, the seller demanded fifty percent of the selling price as the down payment, equivalent to three million and one hundred thousand dollars. i

Three million dollars was more than half of her entire savings. Even though she was a little reluctant, the house was fully furnished. All she had to do was to buy a few other pieces of furniture before moving in.

So, Stella did not bargain further and agreed to sign the contract. She brought all of her documents and went out.

She was all set to register as a house owner. However, the Housing Authority told her she was not qualified to buy the house after signing all contracts. Stella was devastated as she asked the officer, "This can't be right. I don't own any properties."

#### Chapter 567

The officer said, "The system can't be wrong. It shows you have a mansion in Midvale Mountain and a four thousand square feet property in Clouditude International.

Therefore, following the relevant legislation, you cannot purchase another house."

Therefore, following the relevant legislation, you cannot purchase another house." Stella was confused.

Midvale Mountain was a very popular residential area in Rivera with many mansions. Royalpark Villa, where she used to live with Keegan, was located at Midvale Mountain. Stella had no idea if that officer was referring to that.

'What's happening? Also, Clouditude International? What's that about? I have no idea at all.'

Stella said in a low voice, "Could you check when my name was registered under these two properties?"

The officer did something on the computer and said, "It was March last year for the mansion in Midvale Mountain and September last year for the unit in Clouditude International."

The look on the seller's face turned angry after hearing what the officer said.

"Why would you waste my time if you're not qualified to purchase my house? What are you trying to do?"

Stella frowned and explained softly, "I didn't know I had properties."

"You can't be serious. Stop fooling me." The buyer took his documents back and told the agent off, "I spent so much money to hire you, yet you found me a buyer like this! This is ridiculous!"

The young lady got very awkward and immediately apologized to the seller. However, the seller did not hold back as he continued scolding the agent. Then, he left the office with all his documents.

Stella felt extremely sorry when she looked at how embarrassed the agent was and kept apologizing to her. She had no idea that she owned properties at all. Otherwise, she would not waste anybody's time. However, the agent was very positive about what happened and told Stella everything was fine.

Stella had the money ready, and the agent figured she would not have done that if she had known about it. Then, she said with a hint of envy, "Miss, your properties are fantastic. Why would you still want a house in Flourand Gardens?"

"They're not mine." Stella took her phone out. "Please give me a moment. I need to call someone."

She unlocked Keegan's number and called him.

Vermont went with Keegan for a massage at the hospital.

He had no idea how Keegan got all his bruises, and Keegan would not tell him even if he asked. He had nothing to do in the afternoon anyway, so he brought Keegan there for a massage.

The doctor massaged Keegan to increase his blood circulation, so his meridians could be cleared. He placed his phone on the table beside him, very close to where Vermont was sitting.

Vermont was about to fall asleep when the phone's ringing disrupted him. He took Keegan's phone and instantly woke up.

"It's your ex-wife!"

Keegan opened his eyes slowly and pursed his lips without saying anything. Vermont was confused. Keegan had always wanted Stella to unblock his number, yet that was his only reaction when it finally happened.

"I'm going to decline it if you don't answer it."

Keegan kept guiet. Vermont dared him again, "I'll really do it."

Keegan still kept his silence.

Vermont squinted. "Well, I'll decline it since you don't want to talk to her."

He slid his finger on the screen as he spoke, and the phone stopped ringing. Keegan immediately sat up. "Who told you to-"

"Keegan Kane, do you have time today?"

He heard Stella's voice from the phone before he could finish talking.

Keegan was very surprised and flattered by Stella's question. However, he felt very cheap for feeling that way after thinking about how Stella acted when he fell from the horse two days ago. 'I'm sure she didn't call because she worries about me.' But he did not feel like hanging up at all. So, he pursed his lips and pretended to speak nonchalantly, "Why?"

## Chapter 568

Ever since Stella discovered the dates her name was registered for those two properties, she felt uneasy. They were not transferred to her by Keegan after their divorce. Instead, it was transferred to her before their marriage fell apart.

The discovery left Stella with an indescribable feeling.

Unlike expensive bags or beautiful clothes, a house provides security. She used to browse forums and often came across posts similar to topics like these:

[I've been married for five years and have two kids, but my husband won't add my name to our property title. I'm starting to wonder if I should divorce him.]

[My fiance paid for the down payment on our new house, but he wants me to cover the renovation costs and split the mortgage with him. When I asked him to add my name to the property title, he said I shouldn't be so materialistic.

Should I still go ahead with the marriage?]

[I've been paying off the mortgage for our house for three years and just recently found out that the property title is under my mother-in-law's name. What should I do about this?]

She had read countless of them. Back then, Stella had considered asking Keegan to add her name to the property title. She even researched marriage law.

According to the law, the person who purchased a property before marriage is considered the rightful owner. However, if the owner is willing to add their spouse's name or gift the property to their spouse, that would be a different story.

After reading up on this, Stella could not bring herself to ask Keegan to add her name, given that she had not contributed a penny toward the purchase. It felt a bit shameless, so she ultimately abandoned the idea.

Stella had never thought that Keegan had put two properties under her name a long time ago. Regardless of what happened between them, these two properties were enough to ensure her a comfortable life in the future.

She wondered, 'If Keegan really considered my future, why did he let Dahlia poison me? He didn't want a child. Why didn't he discuss it with me instead of resorting to this?'

Stella could not comprehend why Keegan was hurting her while planning for her future at the same time. She felt like she was becoming more and more unable to understand Keegan.

Suppressing her turbulent emotions, Stella said in a low voice, "If you have time, come to the Housing Authority and transfer the properties under my name to yours." Upon hearing this, Keegan became a little angry. "Just for this?"

"This is a big deal for me," Stella pursed her lips. "Without transferring them, I won't be eligible to buy a house in Rivera right now."

Keegan frowned. "Why do you need to buy a house when you already have two?"

### Chapter 569

"Those houses are yours. The Housing Authority office close at five-thirty, so we should be able to make it. Hurry up and come over," said Stella.

Keegan felt that Stella did not want to dwell on when he transferred the properties to her name; she was more concerned with cutting ties with him. He clenched his fists and said coldly, "I'm busy."

Stella furrowed her brows and asked, "Then when are you free? I'm in a hurry to buy a house."

"If you hurry, go- Mhm..." Before Keegan could finish speaking, Vermont, who had just run over, covered his mouth and said, "Hey Stella, it's Vermont. Keegan and I are outside. We're about to kick off a new project, and Keegan's been joining me for onsite surveys lately. Unfortunately, I don't think he'd have much free time."

Keegan glared at Vermont, wanting to pry his hand off.

Pressing the phone tight, Vermont whispered to Keegan, "If you still want Stella as your wife, you better watch what comes out of your mouth."

Keegan's hand stopped, and he stared at Vermont with icy eyes but did not attempt to resist.

On the other end, Stella furrowed her brows and said, "It'll only take one or two hours. He can surely spare that time, right?"

"If he can't make it, why don't you forget about buying a house? Just pick one of the properties under your name to live in. After all, they're all yours. Why return them to him? Isn't your youth worth more than those houses?" Vermont's reasoning made sense.

If Felicity had said those words to Stella, she would have listened. After all, Felicity was her best friend. 'But Vermont is Keegan's buddy. Would he really speak for me?' With that in mind, Stella pursed her lips and said, "I don't want to owe Keegan anything. Could you ask him when he's available?"

"Uh, I can't say for sure," Vermont replied. "But if you need a place to stay, I have a house in Clouditude International. It's fully furnished and ready for you to move in. I won't charge you rent. Then, once things settle down with Keegan, you two can..." Vermont then repeatedly rubbed the phone with a tissue, and his voice started to break up. "...discuss...Stella...signal... poor...gotta hang up..."

With that, Vermont ended the call, leaving Keegan confused. Shiro

"Let her keep the houses," Vermont advised. "She'll come to you on her own now. Then you won't have to worry about her blocking you, right?"

Keegan was at a loss for words, but he could not help but think that Vermont's advice made sense, even if it was a little devious.

As Vermont settled back onto the bed, he continued, "When pursuing a girl, don't lay all your cards on the table at once.

Men and women, they're all the same. People don't cherish things that come too easily. And hey, you said Stella's a fickle, right?"

#### Chapter 570

Keegan frowned, "You sure know how to make words from a scumbag sound refreshing, huh?"

The corners of Vermont's eyes twitched. "Since when am I a scumbag? I am just gaining more experience for my future wife. The only way to know how girls are and what they like is to be with different types of girls, okay? I'm telling you, you're inexperienced. I mean, so many girls were chasing you back then. You should at least date two of them. That way, you won't be so helpless when facing Stella." Keegan did not like this theory at all. "You talk about experience, but I don't see any

girls you've dated here."

Those words stabbed through Vermont's heart. Every time he was in a relationship, it

never progressed further.

Whether it was him or the girls he's been with, most of their love and care were materialistic.

Stella was also one of them. She never went easy on spending Keegan's money, but she was kind to Keegan.

Keegan used to flaunt that Stella made his lunch boxes, and Vermont always said that he did not need someone to make him lunch. In reality, however, he secretly wanted someone to do the same for him. It was a sweet gesture that money could not buy. Vermont and Keegan were picky eaters and worked all year round. They often got tired of eating outside, so a home- cooked meal could satisfy their cravings. It did not matter if the food was good; it was nice to know that someone at home cared if they were eating well.

Many of Vermont's ex-girlfriends did not know how to cook. Even if they did, they would tell him they never wanted to step into the kitchen. Vermont thought they were not wifey material, at least not for him.

However, he found that there were other factors behind his inability to find a lifelong partner. The main one was that he and his ex-partners did not care enough to put each other first, as they only cared about themselves.

Stella was not good at cooking, but she cared for Keegan and was willing to learn. That alone was enough to keep Vermont hungry for a long time. So, when Stella stopped making lunch boxes for Keegan, he gloated for a long time.

"Why did you change the focus to me when we're talking about you? You have to listen to me if you want to get Stella back." After saying that, Vermont thought about something and continued, "I'll call Marshall. He's a man with great ideas. I'm sure he'll be able to give you good advice."

"Don't," Keegan frowned and said coldly.

Vermont was surprised. "Why? Did you guys fight?" he asked.

Keegan pursed his lips and stayed quiet.

Vermont was taken aback by how he was acting. Marshall's relationship with Keegan was stronger than theirs. Marshall and Keegan grew up together, while he only met Keegan when he was around ten. The status of the Snyder family was far lower than that of the Kane or Moore family.

Vermont was able to be riend Keegan simply because he had thick skin.

Unlike the Kane or Moore families, the Snyder family only made their fortune for twenty years.

Vermont's dad had three marriages, so he was the youngest and had many older siblings. Since there were many children in the family, the attention his parents could allocate to each child was limited. When Vermont was born, his parents worked hard

to provide for the family. They did not have time to care for him, so he was tossed to his grandfather before he weaned.

He grew up at his grandfather's place until he was eleven or twelve. Then, his parents only took him back when he was about to enter junior high.

At that time, the Snyder family's business was already looking good in Rivera. Most of Vermont's siblings married and had children, while the rest went to college. Since they did not raise Vermont for more than ten years, they did not show much affection for him. However, they gave him whatever they could and sent him to Rivera's best rich kids' high school.

## Chapter 571

The students in Vermont's class all came from upper-class families, and each was richer than the other. For example, Vermont's parents ran a seafood business and supplied half of the hotels in Rivera.

Some children at school whose families owned the hotels said he was a stinky fishmonger. They deliberately formed cliques to isolate him. But a few of them never joined in; one was Keegan, and the other was Marshall. The two were so close that it seemed like they wore the same pair of pants.

At first, Vermont did not want to associate with the two guys after being bullied by those so-called aristocrats. 'What a bunch of assholes. You're all just nepotism babies,' Vermont thought.

Once, a school bully from the next class maliciously shoved Keegan to the ground while they were on the basketball court. He broke his leg, and Marshall started to fight the kid on the spot.

The bully was tall and robust. Marshall had not hit puberty then, so he looked relatively thin and frail. He did not seem like a match for the bully, but he was ruthless; he grabbed a brick and smashed it into the kid's head. The kid immediately bled, and chaos erupted.

Keegan had no time to tend to his leg. Instead, he snatched the brick from Marshall's hand and quickly pulled him away.....

However, when they were caught, both said that they were the ones who smashed the kid's head. Several people at the scene had witnessed the incident, but no one dared to come forward and testify. In the end, the two of them got demerit.

Vermont's view toward kids from aristocratic families then changed after the incident. He realized that not all of them were assholes. Some, like Keegan and Marshall, were extremely loyal to each other.

So he took the initiative to talk to them and started following them daily. Vermont was a wild child who grew up in a small town and could always come up with fun things to play with.

Keegan was cold to him at first, but things quickly took a turn. The three of them became close after some time.

However, Vermont always felt that Keegan and Marshall's relationship was better than Keegan's and his.

So, it was strange to him that they fought.

"Aren't we all adults here? Tell Marshall to go to the bar later, and we'll have a drink or two. Remember that he was the one who helped settle things when the group of

people caused trouble at the hospital. He also helped out during your ex-mother-inlaw's funeral. He ran back and forth and even wrote the obituary. You, the husband, should have been the one to do all that, You have to thank him."

The more Vermont talked about it, the worse Keegan felt.

"Let's talk about this later," he said sullenly.

On the other hand, Stella could not buy the house without Keegan there. Feeling guilty, she gave the realtor 500 dollars to put the transaction on hold. Detective Karl, however, had made progress. He had found out and contacted the previous driver of the Jewell family.

Half a year after the car accident, the driver resigned and was unemployed in his hometown. But he has the money to renovate his house. Their family was quite wealthy in the local area. So despite having no job, he had money to spend; this alone was intriguing.

Detective Karl also investigated another taxi that had gotten into an accident that year. However, the findings were not satisfactory. After receiving the compensation, the driver and the passenger's family left Rivera. He tried many ways to contact them but failed to trace their whereabouts. It was like they had just vanished.

### Chapter 572

The accident caused two deaths and one injury, yet the victims only received one million dollars as compensation. It was strange that they did not press charges. Now with the Jewell family driver on the line, the passengers' side of the story was no longer highly important. As long as Detective Karl could get something out of the driver, he may be able to follow the clues and find the truth. Stella was satisfied with Karl's progress and continued to transfer the second payment to him.

When Stella was done with work in the afternoon, Cordelia called. "Stella, Baldwin made a heap of dried mangoes recently. I couldn't finish them, so I delivered some to you. Have you tasted them?"

Stella remembered the WhatsApp message from Felicity in the morning, saying that she had received a large box of dried mangoes. 'Oh... Cordelia sent them,' she thought. Her eyes softened as she said in a low voice, "I'm still outside right now, but I'm sure they taste great since Baldwin made them."

"That's true. Baldwin is good at his work," the old lady commented. "He even ordered a giant cake filled with a layer of mangoes for my birthday next Wednesday. I'll ask Keegan to bring you here so that you can taste it yourself."

Stella paused when she heard that and said, "I-I don't think that'll be appropriate, grandma."

"What nonsense are you talking about? Do you no longer see me as your grandma just because you divorced Keegan?"

"No, that's not what I meant. You'll always be my elder," Stella said in a low voice. "But... I'm scared that things will be awkward for Keegan if I'm there since we are divorced. How about I visit you the day before your birthday, and we'll have a small celebration."

Stella relentlessly threw the blame on Keegan after the divorce.

"Keegan will feel awkward? Fuck him. If he thinks it's awkward, then he can just leave. It's my birthday, and I want my favorite person to celebrate it with me." Cordelia then

sighed, "It's going to be my 80th birthday, probably the last birthday party I'll ever have. I just want everyone to be there. But if you find it difficult, it's fine. I'm already an old woman with less than a few years to live. Baldwin is right; I shouldn't always cause you kids trouble."

The corner of Baldwin's eyes twitched. 'Did I ever say that?'

When Stella heard what Cordelia had said, she gave in.

"The doctors said that you're healthy and you can live for years to come," Stella replied. She then paused and whispered, "Fine. I'll go. Just stop talking about death." Cordelia immediately beamed with joy when Stella agreed. She asked her about how she was doing recently and hung up.

At the same time, Marshall's case on the property division was in full swing. Albert was so angry that smoke was coming out of his ears when he received the court summons. First, it was Sophia's presentation; now, it was Stella's divorce. Both cost him a lot of money. He was so busy filling all the holes that he did not even have time to settle the matter with Stella. He could not believe that she had come to him first. Albert called Stella immediately. To no one's surprise, he was treated no better than Keegan. "Ungrateful bitch! Why did I raise such an ungrateful bitch?! I put a roof over her head, and this is how she repays me. How dare she!" He threw away his phone and cursed angrily.

Stella was not the one who had contacted him, but her lawyer. The lawyer's request was direct-if Albert wanted to settle things outside of court, he would have to give up all his shared assets.

'Should I settle this in private?' thought Albert

## Chapter 573

'Of course not! I'm going to fight! She must be delusional to think that I would let her take away the company I worked so hard to build,' thought Albert.

Hylda picked the phone up and put it on the table. "Don't get mad, Albert. It's not good for your health.

"Take a look at this subpoena," Albert said while tossing her the document. "I was thinking about why she was so quiet after the divorce. This is why! She was planning this all along! Does she think she could win the case with the little evidence she has in her hands?"

Hylda pursed her lips and said, "Albert, the lawsuit is not the most important thing right now. Walter just called me."

"Who?" Albert was not paying much attention at that moment.

"Our previous driver," Hylda said in a low voice.

Albert frowned. "Why did he call?"

"Someone went to his town and looked for him."

Albert's face changed slightly. "Do you know who?"

"No. But think about it, who else would look into Walter?"

Albert's expression turned serious. "You mean... Stella?"

"She knows Rainee filed for divorce with you seven years ago. She even has the evidence that Rainee collected. I

doubt she'd overlook the car accident and the division of property. Stella may not succeed as long as we find a reliable lawyer. But if she finds something that she

shouldn't, we'll lose more than just a few dollars.

Albert turned slightly pale when he heard that. He tried his best to stay calm and said, "All the vehicles involved in the accident have been destroyed. The police have also closed the case. Even if she does find out more about the incident, there's no proof; what kind of trouble will we face? We can give her some money to settle the lawsuit. I mean, that is what she is after, right?"

Hylda was not so optimistic about the situation. "You're underestimating her, Albert. She divorced Keegan right after Rainee's death. It's clear that she's not in it for the money; she's in it for her mother."

"Just think about it. When you asked her to attend those banquets to marry her off, she agreed because of Rainee. Her mother raised her, and she respects her far more than she respects you. So if she finds a loose knot in Rainee's car accident, she'll never let it go. She'll even pull us down to hell with her."

Albert's hands unconsciously trembled when he heard the word "hell". The scene in which Rainee was thrown across the road, covered in blood with pale lips, appeared in his mind again.

"What do you suggest we do then? She's already started investigating. Won't she be even more suspicious of us if we take action now?"

Hylda smiled and said, "We'll accept the subpoena and go against her in court.

There's no guarantee that she will win yet. I'm sure she won't be in the mood to focus on the car accident once the lawsuit is over."

Albert was worried, but all he could do was trust Hylda. They were in the same boat; if one went down, the other will too.

Albert's lawyer quickly contacted Marshall about the property division case. After their discussion, the trial was brought forward to next Monday. Originally, the trial was supposed to happen one month later, but Albert had filed an appeal. So the two parties began negotiating and agreed to adjust the hearing.

Stella wondered what Albert was playing at since he was the type to delay a lawsuit and drag it as long as possible. Stella even thought he would not attend the hearing and let his attorney show up instead of him. 'I did not expect him to agree so easily. Does he think he would win this lawsuit?'

#### Chapter 574

Soon, Monday came. Marshall picked Stella up. Since Felicity had an off day from work, she also tagged along. Today's case differed from the previous personality rights case, involving influencers attracting public attention.

The property division case was relatively low-key. No one was at the gates waiting for them when they arrived at the court.

"Mr. Moore, are there any chances of us winning this lawsuit?" Felicity asked. While parking the car, Marshall said, "Yes. The chances of winning are high. Albert's previous method of division was problematic. When Jewell Group was founded, more than half of the start-up capital was provided by Ms. Spade. She also made a ton of contributions to the subsequent operation of the company. Though Albert had transferred her shares to himself, it is not fully protected by law since he did it when Ms. Spade was incapacitated."

Felicity was outraged when she heard that. "What a shameless piece of trash. You

have to get Stella more of the assets, Mr. Moore. I don't care if the money gets thrown away or donated to charity. We can't go easy on the Jewell family."

Marshall smiled and said, "Definitely. I will fight for Stella's best interest. After all, she's the boss." As Marshall uttered those words, he turned to look at Stella with a gentle gaze.

"Stop kidding. The legal fee I paid you isn't enough for your car's maintenance," Stella smiled softly.

Felicity's eyes wandered across the two of them. 'Mr. Moore seems to be interested in Stella. I mean, look at that gaze... Ugh! I hate this! Stella is such a dum-dum.'

When the three of them got out of the car, Trevor called. Stella wondered why he was calling her so early in the morning. She answered the call while she thought about it and said, "Mr. Saun. Is something the matter?"

Trevor stared at the DNA test results on the screen while his heart beat nonstop. "Where are you, Stella?"

Stella's eyebrows twitched. 'Did he eat something wrong? Why is he calling me by my first name? We're not that close, are we?'

Stella could not help but remember what Xavier had said and thought of how Trevor wanted to take advantage of her. She pursed her lips tightly and decided to wait and see what would happen.

"I'm at the courthouse. I have an ongoing lawsuit to attend to today. Is there anything I can do for you, Mr. Saun?"

"No..." Trevor paused for a moment before continuing, "Yes."

"Is it an emergency? I could only show up at the company in the afternoon."

Trevor pinched the middle of his brows and was excited to tell her about the news.

After trying to calm his emotions, he said, "What's the lawsuit about?"

"Oh, just some personal matters. It wouldn't affect the company in any way. Don't worry. Trust me."

"That's not what I'm worried about," Trevor pursed his lips and said. "Is there anything I can do to help?"

"No, it's fine. The lawyer I hired is very good at his job."

"Which court will the trial be held at? After you finish, I'll sit for the hearing and take you to meet the new director."

'Shouldn't my manager be the one who tells me these things? Oh, wait. I don't have a manager yet.'

Stella thought about it and said, "Okay. I'm at the XX Courthouse." Trevor wrote down the address and hung up.

"Trevor's coming?" Marshall asked after the call ended.

Stella nodded and said, "When this trial is over, Mr. Saun will take me to meet the new director." She smiled and joked," When I become popular in this industry, you can brag to your other clients that you've represented a big star like me."

#### Chapter 575

"You won't be charging me any advertising fees, would you?" Marshall raised his eyebrows and asked. "It'll be free publicity!"

Today's lawsuit was opened to the public, but the audience was much smaller than last time. There were also no reporters at the scene. Trevor arrived a few minutes

before the trial and sat where Keegan had sat previously. He looked like the plaintiffs family sitting there.

On the defendant's side were Hylda and Sophia. There was also a six to seven-yearold boy next to Hylda. He looked very similar to her, making it hard to like him. The kid was Albert and Hylda's son, Hugo.

'Sophia and Hugo.' If Stella had not opened Rainee's safe, she would not have known that her dear father had these two big surprises in store for her.

The three of them looked neatly dressed. Hylda no longer looked submissive as she curled her hair and portrayed a dominant style. She and Sophia were both dressed in luxurious clothes.

Stella looked coldly at the dock and saw Albert in a suit and leather shoes. He seemed to be living his best life and in good shape. Stella's heart sank when she remembered how her mother worked so hard to give these trashes a nice life. She clenched her fists tightly and told herself she must win this lawsuit.

Marshall lightly patted the back of her hand, and while sorting out the documents in front of him, he whispered," Relax."

Stella took a deep breath and lowered her gaze. The trial was about to begin soon. The lawyers from both sides confronted each other about the case and insisted that they were in the right with supporting evidence.

Albert was so fixated on Rainee's medical bills that he repeatedly emphasized how big the expenses were and how much it took for him to care for her after the accident. He even took advantage of Rainee's death and made up stories about how she knew about his affairs and agreed to raise the child with him. He also claimed that he got together with his current wife after Rainee's accident and that there was no property transfer.

Though they knew Albert's shamelessness, they were still shocked by his words. Fortunately, Marshall was fully prepared. The fact that he cheated on Rainee with Hylda and used his shared assets to buy Hylda a house during their marriage; and that he did not visit Rainee after the accident was enough to show that he did not care for her at all.

The doctor had asked Albert to go to the hospital to discuss other methods of helping Rainee, but he never showed up. The doctor testified to this statement, meaning he could not lie

Albert was gradually at a disadvantage throughout the trial.

After Marshall finished his speech, he presented the plaintiffs claim to the court. The defense attorney stayed quiet for a long time. Just when Stella thought they were sure to win the case, the defense lawyer suddenly said," Your honor, I have a question here to ask the plaintiff."

## Chapter 576

As the defense lawyer revealed that Stella was not Albert's biological daughter, he handed the report to the judge. "This is the. DNA test between my client and Ms. Jewell. It clearly shows that they are not related by blood. She was born out of Ms. Spade's affair. Thus, our client has no legal obligation to be supporting her financially. She also does not have the right to inherit my client's property. In other words, she has no right to be suing my client." i.

Stella was furious. "Nonsense! How dare you make up such a thing just to win this case? Did you forget how well my mother treated you? I swear to god, you are going to rot in hell."

Rainee was already buried in the ground, yet Albert still tried to dirty her image. 'Is he blind to how much mom cared about him? She tried so many ways to give Albert a son...

How could she have had an affair? What kind of fuckery is this?!'

"Order in the court!" the judge said solemnly. The judge then allowed the jury to check the authenticity of the evidence.

Marshall frowned, but he tried to comfort Stella. "Don't get too worked up. Let's wait and see what the test results say."

"They must've faked it! There's no way my mom cheated!" Stella gritted her teeth and said. Marshall pursed his lips but was not optimistic about the trial anymore. This kind of judicial test evidence can be easily verified. There was no

need for Albert to fake it. i

Sure enough, the jury quickly confirmed and approved the document's authenticity. The plaintiff could reapply for a judicial appraisal after the hearing if they have doubts. Stella was dumbfounded. 'How is this possible? I'm not Albert's biological daughter?' The quiet courtroom burst into a discussion as they were surprised to hear the news halfway through the hearing. Initially, the local media just wanted to get some gossip about the wealthy family because of how Albert was able to raise an illegitimate daughter without his wife knowing. The reporters were holding out to see if they could get some dirt now that his daughter was against him in the property division case. They did not expect to be fed such hot news.

The illegitimate daughter was now the real daughter, and the real daughter became the illegitimate daughter. This was even more exciting than television dramas. Felicity started to get impatient because Marshall did not speak up. The turn of events made Marshall feel a little lost. 1

Suddenly, Albert voiced out, "Your honor."

Everyone in the courtroom turned to look at him. His eyes looked sad, and he had a pitiful expression. "May I have a few words with my daughter?" "You may proceed."

Albert looked at Stella and said, "Stella, I did not anticipate we would be against each other at court. I know your mother's death has caused you great pain, and I feel the same. Initially, I planned to keep the fact that you are not my biological daughter a secret forever. I raised you all these years and have treated you like my own. Even with your mom's death, I still want us to maintain a good relationship. You divorced Keegan and lost everything. I understand you need the money, but you could've just told me about your financial struggles. I, as your dad, would have gladly given you the money. There was no need for you to bring this to court." 1

'And this is what they call blame-shifting, ladies and gentlemen,' Stella thought.

#### Chapter 577

Stella did not lack money since Keegan had transferred a huge sum into her card. Albert was deliberately trying to discredit and dirty her name.

First, he exposed that she was not his biological daughter and portrayed himself as a

loving husband who his wife cheated on. Then, he talked about how difficult it was for him to raise Stella, that she sued him for money, and added that he had to reveal the truth. He rambled on and on just to push her to the edge.

Stella's face was pale. She gritted her teeth and said, "You pig! Did you forget how the Spade family poured their money into supporting you? How dare you drag my mother through the mud now that you had your success?! N "Language, Ms. Jewell."

"Your honor, my client is unwell right now. May we postpone this hearing?"

"Are you new to this field, Mr. Moore?" The defense lawyer refused to comply. "Rivera does not postpone hearings. The trial must be done today, or the case will be withdrawn."

Marshall's eyes darkened.

The situation was unfavorable to them; Stella had lost her foot, and the results would be unsatisfactory if the trial continued. Moreover, the people were already focused on Stella being Albert's illegitimate daughter. The longer they were there, the more detrimental it was to Stella, i

Marshall pursed his lips and whispered, "Let's withdraw the case."

Stella was startled. "Do you think I'm an illegitimate daughter too, Mr. Moore?" She was seeking validation as she refused to believe that the test results Albert showed were true.

Marshall knew that Stella did not care about not being Albert's daughter. Instead, she was in disbelief that her mother would betray her marriage with Albert.

"It doesn't matter whose daughter you are. You will always be Stella to me.

Withdrawing from the case does not mean we're admitting defeat. We just need to find new evidence to ensure that nothing goes wrong," he said softly.

After a long time, Stella clenched her fingers and said hoarsely, "Okay. Let's withdraw the case."

Hylda smiled when she heard that. This was the first time in more than 20 years. 'No one would dare to accuse my children as illegitimate in the future now!' i

Suddenly, Hylda felt someone staring at her. She frowned and turned to see a handsome young man sitting far away in the public gallery. The man smiled at her, and Hylda was confused. His gaze made her rather uncomfortable.

The plaintiff withdrew the lawsuit and ended without any major problems, but the repercussions it caused were not light. As soon as Stella exited the courthouse, a group of people surrounded her.

"Ms. Jewell, what do you think about the DNA test Mr. Jewell presented in court earlier?"

"Ms. Jewell, did you really lose everything after getting divorced from Mr. Kane?" "Who is your biological father, Ms. Jewell? Did you know that you were not Albert's blood daughter, or did you just find out about it today?"

Stella's face turned pale. "Excuse me," she said in a deep voice.

However, the people did not move. "Please answer our questions, Ms. Jewell."

Suddenly, a microphone hit Stella in the chin. She stretched out her hand and pushed the mic away without laying a finger on the other party, but the man staggered and fell.

"How could you push him?!"

The media was unhappy with her as they muttered, "You're nothing but an illegitimate child. How could she be so arrogant?"

Felicity had had enough of all the nonsense and said, "Are you guys blind? That person shoved the microphone in her face! Wouldn't you try to get away if it was you?"

"How would I have fallen if she didn't push me?" the man tried to argue with Felicity. Felicity rolled up her sleeves and was about to get into a fight when suddenly, a figure stood in front of her and Stella.

"Tangerine Media, right?" Trevor read the nametag on the other party's vest. He then looked at him and said, "Tell Mr. Gray that I accept the invitation for an interview at your company on the premise that you'll be fired."

## Chapter 578

The man was startled, and his face immediately turned grim. 'Who the hell is he? Why is his tone so rude?'

When the man's colleagues recognized Trevor, they whispered, "I think that's Mr. Saun from Wings Group."

The words thundered in the man's ears. The editor-in-chief of Tangerine Media had made countless appointments with Wings Group for an exclusive interview, but Trevor never responded. The man did not expect to bump into him today. What originally was supposed to be for show became the last sentence he would say before losing his career. The man's face turned pale. He looked suffocated and had an aggrieved expression. He was angry, but he did not dare to speak.

Trevor was impatient and said coldly, "Get out of the way!" The few reporters surrounding him finally cleared the way. Trevor turned around to look at Stella, and the coldness on his face instantly faded. "Let's get out of here," he said softly.

Stella finally recovered from what had happened in the courtroom. She collected herself, thanked the people, and left with Trevor and Felicity.

Marshall's car was at the gate when Trevor knocked on the window. "You can go first, Marshall. I have some work to discuss with Ms. Jewell. I'll send her back when we're done."

Marshall looked at Stella and asked, "Are you okay, Stella?"

Stella looked up at him; her face was a little pale but not too bad. She pursed her red lips slightly and said in a low voice, "I'm fine, Mr. Moore. Thank you for your hard work today. I'll treat you to dinner some other day. You should go back and get some rest." Marshall tightened the corners of his lips and said okay. He then turned to Trever and said, "Thanks, Mr. Saun."

Trevor paused. He looked at Marshall in shock and nodded, "No worries."

Stella and Felicity got into Trevor's car. He drove over to the courthouse by himself. The smell of the car was nice and calmed Stella's nerves.

Once the car started, Trevor was quiet. Felicity did not know him well, so she asked him a few simple questions and stopped talking. Then, she turned to Stella worriedly and asked, "Are you okay, Stella?"

Stella was not okay. Her father was no longer her biological father, and she became the illegitimate daughter of her mother's affair in a matter of minutes. However, Felicity

was relieved that that shitty jackass was not Stella's actual father. 'That piece of trash is not worthy of being a father!' she thought. 'Though... that mutt's a real fucker for revealing that secret, pushing Stella to her breaking point."

Stella shook her head and smiled, "I'm fine. It's just that I'm amazed that what I suspected since I was young was true."

When Stella was a child, she thought that she was not Albert's real daughter because of how well he favored Sophia. She used to complain that he was biased but did not expect it to come true someday.

Felicity racked her brains and asked, 'Do you think the doctors mixed up the sperm or something when your mom went for the test tube?"

"I'm not a test-tube baby, though. My mom gave birth to me, but Albert kept wanting a second child. So my mom got in touch with test-tube technology for the first time after that. But due to health reasons, she never succeeded."

Trevor pursed his lips and said, "Could it be possible that Ms. Spade is not your biological mother? Maybe you were adopted?"

## Chapter 579

"That's impossible," Stella immediately denied it. She continued, "If I were adopted, how could they shut everyone else's mouth when there's a child involved? Besides, Albert didn't have to wait till today to reveal the DNA results."

Trevor was silent for a few seconds, "Maybe they got the wrong baby at the hospital." "That's even more unlikely. When my mom was healthy, she took me for checkups annually. So why wouldn't she know if I weren't her child?

Besides, I've still got the ultrasound image from her maternity checkup when she was pregnant with me; I'm definitely her child."

Trevor fell silent.

'This is also what he I'm confused about. From Stella's blood type, it is obvious she is not Rainee and Albert's child, so how could Rainee not know? Since Stella has deep feelings for Rainee, bringing up her true identity at such a time might be counterproductive,' he thought.

"Mr. Saun," Stella spoke, interrupting Trevor's train of thought. She pursed her lips, "My true identity might end up as damaging information. If you think that it's risky, it's alright for us to terminate the contract. However, I might be unable to pay you the penalty fine in full."

Trevor smiled, "It's only damaging information if you've broken the law; what kind of damaging information is yours? Besides, you're not an influencer. After you sign the contract, you just need to focus on acting. You don't need to care about other things." He paused and asked, "By the way, have you bought a house yet?"

At the mention of this, Stella's head hurt, "Not yet. I don't have the right to buy any properties yet."

Trevor was surprised, "You haven't paid enough social security tax yet?"

Stella wanted to answer "yes," but Felicity cut in and said, "Her ex-husband registered two properties under her name before they got divorced."

Stella was at a loss for words. Trevor's hand on the steering wheel froze momentarily. "You two got back together?" he asked in a slightly low voice. "No."

Stella felt a little awkward talking to her boss about her personal affairs, so she gave him a perfunctory answer, "He's not thinking straight. You don't have to trouble yourself. I can just rent a place myself."

"It's no trouble. We've got the obligation to ensure the safety of our artists' accommodation within the contract period. We're also not letting you stay there for free; the rent will be deducted from your salary afterward. The environment of the company's apartment isn't bad. It's not mixed genders, and the size of the houses is pretty decent. You can even bring your friend along and stay together. You girls can look out for one another."

Felicity raised her hand, "Excuse me, I have a question. Where's your company's apartment?"

Trevor smiled.

"It's not far from where you two are currently staying-Clouditude International." Felicity widened her eyes. She frantically grabbed Stella's arm and signaled her to say yes with her eyes.

'The company's giving you free accommodation. What's more, it's an affluent neighborhood. You're an idiot if you don't accept it!' thought Felicity. Stella initially wanted to reject Trevor.

'In my current situation, I can't buy a house for now and still need to rent. So there's no need for me to be pretentious when Trevor's helping me

when I need it. After this. I'll just help him earn back the money by working hard during the shoot,' she thought.

At this thought, she agreed.

Trevor seemed really happy. He smiled and said, "After this, I'll send a few people from the company to help you guys move houses."

"There's no rush; we've got plenty of things to pack. Besides, our lease isn't due yet, so we need to talk to our landlord about ending the lease."

Trevor did not insist, "Just contact me when you all have things settled."

Trevor did not take Stella to meet some director. Instead, he took them for a meal. He said Stella was not in good condition today, so she was not fit to meet the director and that they would talk about it once she was in a better condition.

Felicity was jealous, seeing how humane Stella's boss was.

'They're both bosses, but why'd that mutt-Simon Hill-ask me to work overtime?' she thought.

## Chapter 580

"Mom, why are you only taking out such an important thing now?!"

Sophia had been a little resentful since she came out of the courtroom.

'All these years, I've always been hiding because of my identity. I've even lost my dream job because I'm an illegitimate daughter. In the end, I found out that Stella is the one who isn't Albert's biological daughter. If they had said this earlier, I wouldn't have lost my job! Stella had been occupying my position and even constantly bossed me around. How infuriating!' she thought.

"If we had taken this out sooner, how would we make use of her?" Hylda glared at Sophia in annoyance.

Whether or not Stella's an illegitimate daughter, Sophia's identity cannot be revealed.

However, exposing Stella's identity after Sophia's is advantageous to us. Everyone focuses on that divorcee-Stella's-true identity. Nobody will care about Sophia anymore. Besides, Stella will be busy for a while after this sudden expose. Be it the lawsuit or investigating the incident back then, she's now completely occupied. This can be described as killing multiple birds with one stone,' thought Hylda. However, Sophia still felt displeased.

'Back when I was revealed as an illegitimate daughter, the netizens verbally abused me. Why does Stella have it this easy?' she thought. She pursed her lips. Then, she took out her phone and opened Facebook.

"I can't open this," the little boy beside Hylda handed her the snack he was holding. Hylda pushed his hand away.

"Be good. Ask your sister to help you open it," she said.

Then, she said to Albert, "Albert, some of the press might come over to interview us in the next few days. So don't forget to say what you said in court when the time comes. Stella's the one who had wronged you, not the other way round."

Albert frowned, "Can't we just refuse to be interviewed?"

Hylda knew Albert was giving in again after hearing his words. She said lowly, "Albert, Stella didn't go easy on us when dealing with us. If you don't finish her off, we ll suffer once she recovers! She's not even your biological daughter; don't you feel aggrieved after all these years?"

Albert clenched his fists, "She and Keegan are already divorced, so she can't make any waves. If we go overboard, it'll disadvantage us if others hear about it." Hylda twitched the corner of her lips.

'Back when we tampered with the car, we only wanted to get rid of Rainee. Did he forget how he sent the driver away and made Stella enter that car? Why is he acting like a loving father right now?' she thought.

Hylda said patiently, "Albert, I know you're soft-hearted, but you can't be soft-hearted in this matter. We've still got the money we invested in Semiconductor Technology. Its gains today are really good. Let's seize the moment and sell off the rest. I've been feeling uneasy."

Semiconductor Technology launched last Friday and soared sixty points the day it launched. Albert earned 40 to 50 million dollars in a day, so he immediately dumped two-thirds of it.

He initially planned to dump all of it, but he heard too many positive things about Semiconductor Technology. The investment group chats he was in talked about it daily. Many people were kicking themselves for being unable to buy any. The trading veterans in the group chat that traded stocks all year round predicted Semiconductor Technology would rise at least ten times.

Albert was skeptical then, but its shares rose twenty points and limited up the moment it opened. He instantly regretted his actions. Now that he heard Hylda telling him to dump the shares he had, he immediately had a displeased expression.

'If it weren't for Hylda nagging at me every day, saying that Stella won't let me take advantage of her after she's divorced Keegan, causing me to sell off my stocks the moment it opened, my stocks could've risen another 20 million!' he thought.

"Albert, it's only tangible if you have the money in hand. Being greedy is risky…" "Alright," Albert cut her off and looked a little impatient.

He continued, "I know what I'm doing; you just need to take care of what's happening at home."

Just as Hylda wanted to continue talking, Albert said, "Stop at the junction ahead. Take the kids home; I'm going to the office."

Hylda said, "Let Sophia and Hugo take a cab home; I'll go to the office with you." a

## Chapter 581

"There's no need for that. In the upcoming days, stay home and take good care of Hugo. His teacher said that he's even making mistakes for addition and subtraction questions within twenty. So, stay home and help him catch up. He's about to enter third grade, yet he's still so bad at the basics?"

Hylda frowned. "Wouldn't getting a home tutor do?"

"We'll get a home tutor if you can't manage. Hugo's only in elementary school. Is there a need to spend money on this? Besides, you can bond with Hugo when you're teaching him. You sent Hugo to early education classes when he was only two, and now he isn't even willing to call you mom. Yet, you still have the guts to do such a thing? When Stella was a child, Rainee taught her every single one of her ABCs." Hylda immediately looked displeased.

Albert only noticed how inappropriate his words were after he said them. He cleared his throat and continued, "Anyway, spend more time with the kids. I'm working at the company, so you three will have enough money to spend."

Hylda was furious.

'Does Albert think that I'm stupid like that woman, Rainee? Does he think that I'll get coaxed into being a full-time housewife after hearing his words? Rainee was nursing and had let go of her rights in the company when

Albert hooked up with me back then. I've learned from her mistakes, so I won't be that stupid!' she thought.

She lowered her gaze and said in a low voice, "I'm just worried that you'd be swamped with work if I'm not around."

Albert softened his expression. "I'll tell you if something happens at the company. What's important for you right now is taking good care of Hugo."
"Okay."

After Hugo got out of the car, Hylda instantly darkened her expression.

"Larson, did you send Mr. Jewell home right away after work yesterday?"

The driver was startled momentarily before he immediately answered, "Yes. N Hylda smiled faintly, "Then, why did I see you guys go to New Water Street and stop there for some time from the real-time footage of the dash camera?"

The driver's expression changed. He gripped the steering tightly and answered in a low voice, "We bumped into Ms. Canfield after work yesterday. She didn't manage to hail a cab, so Mr. Jewell gave her a ride."

Hylda's expression darkened.

'As expected, a leopard doesn't change its spots,' she thought, i

The driver felt uneasy after seeing her expression.

'Everyone in the company knows that Hylda's the one with the ruthless tactics compared to Albert,' he thought.

He was worried about his own job, so he said in a low voice, "Mrs. Jewell, Mr. Jewell

only sent her home. He didn't do anything out of line."

Hylda smiled. "I understand. Let's go home."

The driver answered her nervously and quickly drove toward the Jewell residence. At Green Hill Media, Vermont frowned as he read the discussion in the group chat. 'Stella isn't Albert's biological daughter? How did these people even get photos of the court proceedings? Stella looks really bewildered, so she must have also just found out about this,' he thought.

While Vermont was in deep thought, two WhatsApp messages popped up.

He opened the messages and saw that Keegan had sent him two photos; one was a white rose bouquet, while the other was a red rose bouquet. He asked Vermont which one looked better.

'This morning, the two of us had a chat. I suggested that Keegan should buy some flowers, and this happened in the afternoon. If Keegan sent

those flowers over, Stella would probably smash the bouquet into Keegan's face,' he thought.

## Chapter 582

'She's an illegitimate daughter. Are you going to send her flowers to celebrate that?' thought Vermont.

Vermont quickly called Keegan. "Forget about the flowers. Didn't you see the news? Something happened to your wife!"

Keegan was startled. His voice immediately turned nervous. "What happened?" Vermont told him what happened at the court proceedings.

"That mutt-Albert Jewell-is seriously so heartless. He kicked Stella aside right after you divorced her! He's leeched off your wife all these years, yet he didn't even think of their past relationship now that she's useless to him. You'd even have feelings for your pet if you've spent more than 20 years with it. He's trying to completely ruin your wife's reputation in Rivera's social circle! Did you know that your wife's eyes turned red after hearing the news at the court proceeding? She probably cried after the court proceeding ended."

Keegan asked with a dark, tense expression, "Where was the court proceeding?" "At XX Courthouse. It's her asset division case with Albert, and her lawyer is Marshall." Vermont paused for a moment. He continued, "Marshall didn't tell you?" Keegan did not answer. He said while grabbing his clothes, "I'm hanging up. Let's talk later."

"Wait!" Vermont stopped him. He continued, "Are you going to look for Stella? Bring me with you. I'm telling you, you won't even be able to enter the door if you don't bring me along."

Tve seen the prowess of that bandit woman before. She's Stella's protector. Keegan won't be able to see Stella with her around,' he thought.

20 minutes later, Aldor drove Keegan and Vermont to Felicity's apartment building. It was hard to find a parking spot in the area. Aldor could only wait in the car after finding a place so that he could readily drive the car to a different location when someone chased them away.

Meanwhile, Keegan and Vermont went up the apartment building together. When Vermont saw Keegan press the ninth floor, he was incredibly surprised.

"You know where your wife stays?"

Keegan did not answer.

'Stella only has this bestie who she's the closest to. Whenever we got into fights in the past, she would come here. One time, she got drunk at Felicity's place and called me. She told me to come and pick her up through slurred speech and told me the address herself. When I arrived, Felicity and another few girls had passed out, so none of them knew that I was here,' he thought.

Unit 912 on the ninth floor was located near the elevator, so it could be seen the moment one exited the elevator.

Vermont pressed the doorbell for a long time, but nobody opened the door.

He was a little skeptical. "Did you remember it wrong?"

Keegan pursed his lips.

"This is the place."

Vermont started pressing the doorbell again. This time, unit 912's door still did not open, but unit 914's door did. A girl stuck her head out and wanted to yell at them. However, she immediately lowered her voice slightly when she saw how big and scary the two looked.

"Unit 912 isn't home yet."

Vermont immediately put on his signature smile. "What time do they usually come home?"

The girl was stunned by his smile.

"Someone's usually home by eight or nine o'clock," she said softly.

Keegan glanced at the time, and it was currently only seven-ish o'clock.

Vermont thanked the girl and turned to Keegan. "Why don't we go downstairs and wait in the car?"

Keegan pursed his lips and said, "Go to the car. I'll wait here."

Vermont sighed, "Forget it. I'll wait here with you."

The apartment building had many residents per floor, so it was inappropriate for them to stand and wait in the hallway. The two then went to the stairwell.

They thought they would have to wait for quite a while, but they heard the bandit woman's voice after waiting for less than half an hour.

"Mr. Saun is so generous. After this, I'll jump ship and join Elegant Media too. I'm willing to work overtime with such benefits."

#### Chapter 583

Stella grabbed her keys and said, "If the benefits are good, they'll definitely have high requirements for our performance. Is there a capitalist who isn't a leech in this world?" Felicity gave it some thought before she said, "You're right. But, Mr. Saun is pretty handsome. I was shocked the first-time I saw him. He's handsome and familiarlooking. For some reason, I really like him. It's like I've seen him somewhere before." Stella opened the door. Then, she bent down and grabbed her slides.

"You have a new crush already? Don't you want Doctor Steven anymore?"

"Sigh! What I have for Mr. Saun is pure admiration. I don't have inappropriate thoughts of him. How can I be good enough for him when he comes from a family like that? Doctor Steven is still better. He's a doctor! Not only does he have a respectable occupation, but he and I are also considered to have the same family background."

Then, the door closed.

Keegan frowned and looked at the person grabbing his hand.

"Why did you stop me?" he asked with a dark expression.

Vermont said, "Stella's bestie is here. If you go over now, she definitely won't let you through the door as long as Stella doesn't want to see you. There are a lot of residents on this floor. If everyone came out to see after hearing all the noises and gossiped about it, Stella wouldn't want to see you even more."

'That does make some sense,' Keegan thought.

He frowned and felt a little anxious. "Then, what do you think I should do?" 'Let me show you how it's done,' thought Vermont.

Vermont took out his phone and called Aldor. After saying something in a low voice, he hung up. Then, he turned to Keegan. "Now, we wait."

Felicity had just changed into her pajamas. While she was soaking her feet to relieve her fatigue, her phone suddenly rang.

She grabbed her phone and looked at it. It was the management, so she quickly answered the call.

"Unit 912, 375568 is your scooter, right?"

"That's right. What's wrong?"

"Why did you park your scooter at someone else's parking spot? The owner has contacted us. Hurry downstairs and move your scooter."

"But, I'm not occupying someone else's parking spot?" Felicity frowned.

'I haven't even used my scooter for the past few days, so it's been parked at the parking lot. How could I possibly be occupying someone else's parking spot?' she wondered.

"How could it not be yours when the vehicle registration plate number is yours? Hurry up. If you don't come downstairs, we can't stop the owner from doing anything to it after this."

"No. Ask them to wait for a while. I'll go downstairs and move it immediately."

After Felicity hung up the phone, she yelled in the direction of the bathroom. "Stella, I'm going downstairs to move my scooter."

Stella answered. Then, Felicity grabbed her keys and went out.

Just as she got to the elevator, she saw Keegan and Vermont standing at the stairwell.

Felicity's heart trembled. She turned around and ran back.

However, Vermont quickly wrapped his arm around her waist and covered her mouth.

Then, he pulled her into the elevator and gave Keegan a thumbs- up. Meanwhile,

Keegan pressed a button, and the elevator made a sound and closed.

Felicity flapped around back and forth in Vermont's arms. Amidst her struggle,

Vermont slipped and fell onto Felicity's chest.

Felicity froze and bit his hand.

Vermont was in pain, but he did not let go.

"Do you still want to pursue Corbin Steven or not?!"

Felicity paused from biting and glared at him.

When Vermont saw that she had settled down, he continued, "I'll take you to go on a date with Corbin now. After this, if Stella calls you, you'll tell her that you'll be home late because you have something to do. Do you understand?"

Felicity shrugged her shoulders and gestured at him to let go.

Vermont was skeptical, but he let go anyway.

Felicity immediately lashed out at him. "You Stinky Cucumber! Where do you think you're touching?! Am I someone you can touch? Did you fucking catch the habit of taking advantage of me?"

## Chapter 584

She struggled as she scolded him, and Vermont could not contain her.

"You Jerk, do you think I'll neglect my friend for a guy? Let me tell you something, I won't go and meet Doctor Steven even if you remove all his clothes today. Ask Keegan to come out. If he dares to touch Stella, I'll make you both... Hmm..."

Before she could finish her sentence, the door of the elevator opened. Vermont just kissed her on the lips to make her swallow all the nasty words that she was going to say.

Coincidentally, a few of the property owners were waiting there to take the elevator. They looked a little awkward when they saw the scene.

All of them stepped aside. They watched Vermont carry her out of the elevator in his arms as he kissed her.

Vermont only stopped kissing her after he saw the people leave the area. He gasped for air. Then, he squinted as he said, "I wasn't discussing with you. You must go and meet him tonight whether you like it or not!"

Felicity was boiling with rage because she was forcibly kissed. Her hands were still tightly held behind her back by Vermont. She could not fight back even if she wanted to.

Vermont saw that Felicity was very quiet. He then pinched her face that had baby fat and said, "Be a good girl, and I'll make sure to help you win over Corbin."

'Her little, chubby face is soft. It's quite nice to pinch.'

Felicity tutted, "If that asshole Keegan hurt Stella today, I'll stab you before I stab him!" Vermont chuckled in his mind, 'She's bossy but loyal.'

"Don't worry about it. He can't bear to do that."

He loosened the hand that he used to constrain Felicity and grabbed her arm instead. "Let's go. I'll bring you to go on a date with Corbin."

Felicity pulled a long face, "I'm wearing my sleeping gown. How can I go dating?" Vermont's mood was inexplicably good. He was generous as he said, "I'll bring you to change your outfit. I promise you'll look great later."

He then grabbed her hand and brought her into a cab.

The doorbell rang not long after Felicity left.

Stella washed the foam on her face, and she loudly said, "You didn't bring your keys?" The combination lock on Felicity's door was not working. And, the landlord did not come to replace it. So, they always had to open the door with a key.

No one spoke outside.

Stella wiped her hand before she went to open the door.

When she opened the door, she saw Keegan standing in front of the door instead of Felicity.

Stella froze for a moment. She immediately closed the door, but Keegan used his hand to block the door. Then, the door crushed his hand.

She could hear a grunt from outside, and she felt that she crushed something. So, she panickily loosened her hand.

Keegan held the door with a single hand. He looked extremely pale. The hand on the door had a very deep imprint from the crush. The back of his hand was red, and it looked like it was going to bleed.

Stella frowned. "Are you dumb? Why did you stretch out your hand?!"

Keegan raised his eyes and replied, "Would you let me in if I didn't do that?"

Stella pursed her lips. "I won't let you in even if you did."

She closed the door as she said that.

Keegan was stunned. He pressed his lips as he looked at the imprint on the back of his hand.

Stella was very irritated and thought to herself, 'I was already very agitated today because of Albert's report. And now, Keegan came to cause trouble.

'Did he think that I won't get angry?

'And, he even stretched out his hand?

'His hand deserved to be crushed!'

She then drank a glass of water. After that, she applied a facial mask before she got up and paced back and forth in her room. A few minutes later, she walked to the door and looked outside through the peephole.

It was empty outside. It seemed as though Keegan had left.

She pursed her lips as she opened the door.

Outside the door, Keegan was squatting on the floor pondering about something. The back of his right hand was bleeding. It was red.

## Chapter 585

Keegan turned his head to look over when he heard the door opening sound. They then looked into each other's eyes. Stella could see a hint of grievance in his eyes.

'Why didn't he have an expressive face like that when we divorced?' she thought. The sound of the elevator could be heard, and a few people came out of it. All of them looked at them when they saw an able-bodied man squatting in front of her door. Stella pursed her lips. She said in an unfriendly manner, "Get in here!"

Keegan immediately stood up. But, because he had been squatting for a long time, his legs felt a little numb. He even tottered.

Stella was frightened. She subconsciously reached out her hand. She could not help but feel annoyed when she saw him hold the door frame to steady himself.

Keegan was frustrated too. He thought, 'I shouldn't have held onto the door frame.' However, Stella did not bother Keegan. She turned her head and went inside her house.

Keegan then closed the door and followed Stella. Stella turned her head and noticed that Keegan did not take off his shoes. She suddenly could not control herself. "Are you treating this house like it's yours? Change your shoes!"

Keegan then walked back to the entrance to change his shoes. But, there were no men's slippers on the shoe rack. He suddenly felt at ease. He removed his shoes before he walked in with his socks on.

Felicity rented a one-bedroom apartment. There was only a four feet long single bed

in the bedroom. Stella slept on the couch when she stayed there.

Luckily, it was a foldable sofa. They used it as a couch during the day. And, they opened it to use it as a bed at night. She put the blanket and bedding at the end of the sofa.

'Including the living room and the dining area, the size of this house is only around two hundred square feet. It's even smaller than the toilet in our house.

'Stella is delicate. She didn't like it just because there was no bathtub in our guest bedroom. How can she live in a place like this?'

Stella took a small stool, stepped on it, and searched for the first aid kit in the cabinet above.

When she raised her arm, her t-shirt was lifted too. A small part of her white, soft skin was exposed.

Keegan was stunned for a moment.

Stella still could not reach it after trying for a long time.

'Felicity is shorter than me. How did she put it in such a high place?'

She then stood on tiptoe. Just when she touched the corner of the first aid kit, she heard a breaking sound. The leg of the stool broke. She shook and was going to fall from the chair. A hand suddenly grabbed around her waist from behind. She was then carried down from the chair.

At that moment, Keegan suddenly felt glad that the house was small. If this happened in his living room, Stella would have already got up from the fall by the time he ran to her.

After Stella stood firm on the ground, she immediately moved Keegan's hand away. When she squatted down to look, she saw that the leg of the plastic stool broke.

Stella was speechless.

Keegan clearly saw that, and he frowned. "Are you..."

"No!"

Stella stared at him and thought, 'If he dares to say the word "fat", I'll immediately kick him out!'

Keegan pursed his lips. He then raised his leg to stomp on the stool, and a cracking sound could be heard again. Then, all four legs of the chair were now broken.

He then said in a serious manner, "The quality of this chair is bad."

Stella was left speechless.

'My mood was bad the entire day. But, I feel a little better now because of what he just said. Why didn't I realize he was funny back then?'

"I'll get it." Keegan raised his head to look inside the cabinet. "The yellow color box?" Stella agreed with a grunt.

Keegan managed to take it very easily.

This was the advantage of being tall and having long limbs.

#### Chapter 586

Stella took the first aid kit from Keegan. She then looked for some useful items. However, she only found medical alcohol, plasters, and cotton swabs. There was no gauze or medical tape...

Felicity was used to enduring wounds. She bought this first aid kit from some group for only a dollar.

The medicines inside the first aid kit were left-over cold and fever medicines, which were all expired.

Keegan was lucky that there were plasters and medical alcohol inside the kit.

Stella grabbed the cotton swab and dipped it into the alcohol. She lowered her eyes and treated his wound.

Stella still had not removed the mask on her face. So, Keegan could not see her expression clearly. But just from how she lowered her eyes, it had melted Keegan's heart.

The cotton swabs in Felicity's first aid kit were not medical cotton swabs. They were small cotton swabs that were used for makeup. The cotton was small, and it felt hard and a little painful when it was used to rub the wound.

Keegan frowned right after Stella rubbed the cotton swab on his wound.

Stella glanced at him without speaking.

Keegan pursed his lips and said, "Do you have any soft cotton buds?"

Stella's eyelid twitched. "Master, do you think this is your house? And, you're even complaining now? It's considered kind that I allowed you to come in. If you feel uncomfortable, you can just go back to your house this instant!"

Keegan stopped talking.

After Stella disinfected the wound, she grabbed the plaster. She looked at the back of Keegan's hand as she pondered for a moment. She put two plasters horizontally on his metacarpal bones. She precisely covered the wound with the plasters.

Keegan frowned very tightly as he murmured, "The wound has been covered by the plasters."

"Oh." Stella closed the first aid kit as she emotionlessly said, "It's not my hand that got injured. Just put up with it."

Keegan choked.

Stella was very impatient with him.

After she packed the first aid kit, Keegan then took the initiative to grab the kit and put it back inside the cabinet above.

After he turned around, Stella had already gone to the washroom to remove her facial mask.

Keegan sat on the sofa and saw a book on the coffee table. He grabbed it and took a look.

It was The Little Prince.

It seemed as though the book had been flipped through many times. The pages were loose. The corners of the pages were slightly rolled. A bookmark was used to mark one page of the book. On that page, a sentence was marked with a highlighter. "Cherish the opportunity to watch the sunrise with your loved one now. Don't regret

missing out on it during your twilight years."

When Stella came out from the washroom, she saw Keegan holding the book and reading it.

She was holding a cup of water and standing at the entrance. "Why did you come here?"

Keegan closed the book and replied, "You went to the court with Albert today?" Stella stopped moving. She smiled and said, "The news spread so quickly. Are you glad that we're divorced? If this happens before our divorce, the Rivera headline

would probably be 'The grandson of the Kane family married a fake rich girl'. We both would be very embarrassed if that happens."

Keegan frowned. "Do you think I care about that?"

Stella nodded and said, "You don't. You don't even care about me. Why would you care about that?"

Keegan was furious when he heard that. His face was gloomy as he said," You say harsh words to me whenever I rush to you. If I don't care about you, why would I be reluctant to leave every time? Stella! Do you have a heart?!"

Stella's heart trembled, and she pursed her lips. She said after a while, "I didn't ask you to come."

Keegan looked cold. He threw the book on the coffee table, stood up, and coldly said, "I'm cheap."

He then headed outside with a chilly look. Stella leaned against the entranceway, lowering her eyes without moving.

Her eyelashes slightly shook when she heard the door behind her being opened. The next second, her hand that was not holding the cup was suddenly grabbed by Keegan. Her hand was being pressed above her head. Keegan was angry as he kissed her intensely and deeply. "I'm fucking cheap!"

## Chapter 587

Keegan was not good at flirting. Although he was not tender, he was not rough either. But, the kiss gave Stella the experience of being treated in a rough way.

He almost tore off her lips. After he initiated the kiss, he was extremely bossy and reckless.

Stella was almost instantly covered by his scent. She was surprised, ashamed, and angry at the same time. She opened her mouth and wanted to bite him.

Keegan was physically hurt by her many times, so he remembered her moves. When she showed her canine teeth, he immediately pinched her chin.

One of Stella's hands was shackled above her head. And, she was still holding a cup with another hand. She then poured the water on Keegan's face without hesitation. But, Keegan just stopped moving for a moment.

There was a drop of water on his eyelashes. He sharply raised his eyes slowly. The waterdrops then fell from the bridge of his nose to the end of his nose.

Keegan lowered his head to make the waterdrop on the end of his nose fall on Stella's lips. He then used his lips to wipe it.

It would be exceptionally romantic if he slowed down his movement.

Stella's cheeks were red. She clenched the cup staring at Keegan's head as she hesitated for a few seconds. In the end, she used it to hit his shoulder.

Keegan frowned as he loosened his lips.

He raised his hand to wipe the water droplets on her face. He whispered, 'When I married you, I didn't care which rich family you were from. I didn't care who were your parents. I didn't care about any of that."

Stella's chin was being pinched by him, so she could not speak.

She suppressed her anger and signaled him to loosen his hand.

Keegan hesitated for a moment before he loosened his hand.

Stella grabbed the feather duster at the entranceway and threw it at Keegan's body. "I

don't care whether you care about that or not! Did you even mean what you said? And, I didn't allow you to kiss me!"

Stella showed no mercy, but Keegan did not fight back. He just raised his arm to block it.

The feather duster hit his elbow, and Keegan grunted. His face turned pale instantly.

Stella stopped moving and clenched her teeth. "Stop pretending!"

Keegan pursed his lips, "I'm not. My shoulder hurts."

"If you're hurt, go home and lie down!" Stella opened the door and said," Leave!'

Keegan lowered his head to look at his shirt. "How can I leave looking like this?"

The cup of water made his chest wet. The white shirt became transparent when it got in contact with the water.

Stella glanced at it and said, "You're not a woman, yet you're afraid that your nipples can be seen?'

The corners of Keegan's eyes twitched. "I don't want to embarrass myself."

Stella secretly said to herself, 'Then, why didn't you feel embarrassed when you were in front of me?

'You always contradict yourself!'

She glanced at Keegan. His nipples could be seen clearly even with the shirt on. 'Is his shirt made of silk? He can just go and film a seduction scene with his wet body right now.

'I splashed water on all three of the Kane family members. Come to think of it, it kind of helped to work off my anger,' she thought.

Stella pressed her lips and said, "Ask Aldor to get you a shirt."

Keegan faintly said, "Aldor went on a date with his girlfriend. Moreover, it's outside of his working hours right now."

Stella inexplicably glanced at him and thought, 'Is he really such a kind boss?' Keegan saw that Stella remained silent. Then, he said, "Do you have a drying machine here?'

"No"

"Hairdryer?"

"No."

Keegan frowned. "Then, what do you have that I can use?"

Stella crossed her arms in front of her chest, as she took a look at him." Natural gas. Do you want it?"

Ten minutes later, Keegan was shirtless. He was holding his shirt with his hands and standing at the gas stove, drying his top.

It was a small apartment with an open kitchen. Stella was sitting in the living room, and she could see Keegan.

He was shirtless while wearing formal trousers. His back muscles moved up and down as he shook his shirt. It was exceptionally pleasing to the eyes.

#### Chapter 588

'Why is Felicity taking so long to move the scooter?' Stella thought.

She grabbed her phone and called Felicity. The phone call was connected very quickly.

"Felicity, what's taking you so long?"

But, the person who answered the call was Vermont. "Stella, Felicity is with me." Stella frowned. "She's with you?"

"Doctor Steven asked her out, but she was shy. So, she wanted me to accompany her."

Stella wondered, 'Since when did Felicity get so close to Vermont?

'Felicity went out in her sleeping gown just now. She probably won't wear that to go on a date, right?'

"Pass the phone to Felicity. I want to talk to her."

"Sure," Vermont answered. Thirty seconds later, Felicity's voice could be heard. "Stella, I'll be back late tonight."

Stella was surprised and asked, "Are you really going on a date with Doctor Steven?" Felicity vaguely murmured, "Don't worry. I'll go home when I'm done having fun." "Okay, then. Be back early."

"Okay."

After the call ended, Felicity's eyes were red as she covered her chest with her shirt. She clenched her teeth and said, "Was that okay, jerk?! Now, get out of the changing room!"

Vermont lifted the corners of his lips. He pinched her face and said, "Pick any clothes that you like. I'll buy you two extra sets of outfits. I promise you'll win over the person you like."

Felicity wanted to pounce at that jerk and bite his face! 'He's such an immoral person!' Right after Stella ended the call, she could then smell something burning.

She walked over to have a look, and she saw that Keegan burned a piece of fabric.

The corners of her eyes twitched. She switched off the gas and took the shirt from Keegan's hand.

After a while, Keegan saw Stella take out a small heater. She hung the shirt on the balcony. She used the heater to dry the shirt.

After that, Stella held her script as she sat cross-legged on the single couch at the side. She then looked through it.

Keegan sat next to her, and he asked, "Are you still coming to Grandma's birthday party?"

Stella turned the page and replied, "Why not?" i

Stella knew why he asked that. The news of her being the illegitimate daughter had been spread throughout their social circle. Many people would attend the birthday banquet the day after tomorrow. Inevitably, there would be people gossiping about her.

'My name isn't Stella if I'm afraid of that,' she thought.

"I'm going there to celebrate Grandma's birthday and not to tolerate other people's attitude. Since Grandma didn't stop me from going, I'll definitely attend."

Tve done nothing wrong. It'll seem guilty and timid if I don't go.

'Moreover, I still haven't taken my revenge. Why shouldn't I go?' Stella thought to herself.

Keegan looked slightly better, and he said, "I'll fetch you the day after tomorrow, then." Initially, Stella wanted to reject him. But, on second thought, she thought that it was a good idea. 'I want Dahlia to see how attached his son is to me. I want to drive her crazy.'

So, she glanced at Keegan and said, "Is it convenient for you? If it's not, I can get a cab on my own. Or, I can get a ride from Mr. Moore."

It was not convenient to drive a car while wearing an evening dress.

When Keegan heard her mentioning Marshall, he suddenly clenched his teeth as he said, "It's very convenient!"

Stella raised her eyebrows and replied, "Thank you, Mr. Kane."

The atmosphere finally eased up. Stella was reading the script while Keegan watched her.

He had not looked at her like this after the divorce.

Stella was a little slimmer since the divorce. Her jawline was sharper than before.

Keegan pondered, 'She probably lost weight because she was too sad over Rainee's death. Our divorce has nothing to do with it.

'She even has a better life after she left me.'

"I'll get you a new lawyer for your lawsuit against Albert. You're entitled to inherit your mother's fortune whether you're related to Albert or not."

## Chapter 589

'There's no need forthat," Stella did not even open her eyelids. "I have already entrusted this case to Mr. Moore. What's the reason for switching to another lawyer halfway? If I switched lawyers, what would the others think? They would assume that I didn't trust his professionalism, so I changed to another lawyer. I can't tell him myself." Keegan replied, "I'll tell him. There is no need for you to say anything."

"Is the main issue really about whether you say it or I say it?" Stella angrily asked,

"I've already paid a portion of it, so I should demand it back from him?"

'What's wrong with demanding it back?" Keegan asked with furrowed brows. "Does he even need the money?"

"He doesn't need the money, but I can't embarrass him," Stella said while glaring at him. "Besides, this is my problem. You should stop meddling in it! •

Keegan scrunched his eyebrows from hearing it. Just as he was about to speak, Stella said, "If you nag on again, you can take your shirt and leave!"

Keegan then shut his mouth. After a long while, he said, "I told a well- known local obstetrician about your condition. He will be coming to Rivera to give a talk next month, and he said he could do a consultation in person, then."

Stella's finger suddenly gripped tightly. After a few minutes, Keegan was chased out of the apartment half-naked. Then, a shirt was thrown out with him. Keegan was at a loss for words.

'Doctor Steven," Felicity called out. She held onto her cheeks as her eyes turned into crescents while she was drunk. "What's your ideal type?"

Corbin sipped on his wine and chuckled while looking at her state. "I used to think about these restrictions in the past. But now, I feel that these things don't have any meaning. If I truly met someone I liked, those restrictions would be useless. The person I like would be the ideal type."

'Well said," Felicity said with a dumb smile. "My past ideal type was actually George Clooney. But, after meeting you, I think George Clooney seemed average." Corbin chuckled quietly. 'Although this girl is a little silly, she is quite interesting,' Corbin thought.

'Do you have a boyfriend?" Corbin asked.

Felicity shook her head. After taking a mouthful of wine, she said, "I've been single since birth 25 years ago. I was cheated on by a little punk neighbor when I was younger. He said he would get married to me when I grew up. In the end, he went missing before I graduated kindergarten. Isn't it horrible?"

Corbin laughed and said, "Words spoken by a kid don't count."

Felicity was a little fazed from drinking and said in a low tone, "Dr. Steven, when will the nodule in my breast fade?"

"In three to six months. It's uncertain, but keeping a good lifestyle and habits would probably make it heal faster."

Felicity then said groggily, "Really? Why do I always feel like the nodule seems to be growing bigger?"

"It shouldn't be. A benign nodule usually wouldn't grow. If you're worried, you can go to the hospital tomorrow, and I'll help you check again," Corbin replied.

Felicity furrowed her brows and said, "You can't check it now? Can't you diagnose it just by feeling it?"

Corbin's eyelids twitched violently. Just when he was suspecting whether the lady before him was really drunk or fake drunk, he saw her taking off her buttons. Vermont had just opened the door and saw the scene.

The corner of his lips twitched, and he swiftly went to Felicity and pulled her clothes up. "How did she get this drunk?"

Corbin replied, "She kept drinking, and I couldn't stop her." As he said that, he stood up. "Where is her house? I'll send her back."

Vermont did not even lift his head as he put a jacket over Felicity's body. He then held her up and said, "You don't need to. You can go home. I'll send her back in a moment."

The initially groggy and sleepy Felicity suddenly regained consciousness. "I don't want you to send me home. I want Dr. Steven to send me!"

Vermont furrowed his brows and asked, "Does he even know where your house is?" "My house is at Albright Street, mhmm....," Before she could finish, her mouth was already covered by Vermont.

He warned Felicity while squinting, "How could you tell your address willy- nilly? Aren't you afraid that someone else would sell you off?"

#### Chapter 590

Felicity struggled a bit and found that it was useless to struggle. She then leaned into Vermont's arms softly. Corbin looked at the scene and suddenly asked, "Is she really your relative?"

"Yeah," Vermont was already used to lying. "A second cousin."

Corbin chuckled. "She said she hasn't had a boyfriend before, so she should be quite pure."

Vermont's movements froze. As a man, he naturally knew the underlying meaning behind Corbin's words. Not having a boyfriend before meant that she was still a virgin. For people like Corbin, the more they fooled around, the more they cared whether a girl was a virgin. Vermont used to not feel anything about it, and it was the preference of others. He just listened to them just for the sake of listening.

However, when he heard it this time, he felt slightly upset. The bandit woman's firsttime was given to him. Although it was an accident, it did not mean that she was not clean.

Vermont glanced at him and said, "My cousin is a naive person. If you fool around with her, I won't forgive you."

Corbin chuckled lightly. "I have no interest in immature little girls like these. V Vermont did not reply. He bent down to hold Felicity then left the room. The following morning, Stella had woken up very early. Felicity was sent back by Vermont at one in the morning. She was still resting then, so Stella did not call for her. It was Cordelia's birthday banquet tomorrow, and she could not make a mistake when preparing the gift.

Very soon, the day of the birthday banquet arrived. The birthday banquet was held at night due to the fireworks program being suitable to be viewed at night. The birthday banquet was initially organized by Stella. But, before the day of Cordelia's birthday, she and Keegan had divorced.

Dahlia swiftly took over in the name of bearing the responsibility due to being in the line of the firstborn. Naturally, Cyrene did not relent on this opportunity. In the end, Dahlia set up the venue while Cyrene planned for the entertainment.

Since Cordelia did not declare who would be in charge of holding this banquet, everyone fought over it together. Ultimately, they all wanted a piece of the pie. Dahlia was crossed beyond compare but had no means to do anything. This was because Dahlia and Cyrene were not Cordelia's chosen candidates. They could only play to their strong points to organize this birthday banquet as beautifully as possible. When the time came, they would be able to be rewarded based on their merits.

"Dahlia, how is it? Do you like it?" Mrs. Chapman was by Dahlia's side, pointing at the garden full of peach blossoms while asking with a smile on her face.

Dahlia pulled her lips into a smile and replied, "How could I be worried about it with you handling this job?"

## Chapter 591

Dahlia's expression indeed did become much better. Her ideal daughter-in- law had to be a prestigious heiress such as the one in the Saun family, i

She initially had already looked down on Stella's background for coming from a commoner. Now that she knew Stella was actually the illegitimate daughter born from Rainee's disloyalty, she felt even more disgust for her deep down.

Thankfully, Keegan had finally divorced her. When the marriage union between him and Jaylene was successful, he would have the Saun family as his support. Then, he would eventually understand Dahlia's well intentions.

"Are the fireworks ready?" Dahlia asked.

Mrs. Chapman nodded and said, "The custom-made fireworks contain Cordelia's portrait and the birthday wishes. I can ensure that this will be the only one made especially for tonight and definitely please Madam Kane Sr."

"You do things so properly," Dahlia praised.

Mrs. Chapman said humbly, "You have helped me so many times, Dahlia. This is a given. About Erick's matter, could you…"

Dahlia paused and said, "Keegan had recently just divorced. There are some things I

cannot mention for now. You can still rest easy. After the moment passed, I will definitely resolve it for you."

The actual situation was that, besides Keegan stopping her from withdrawing money every month from her account, the production line of the Crosby family had encountered some issues. This led to the shrinkage of the dividend that she had. However, Dahlia thought that all of this would be temporary. Keegan was married to Stella for more than three years. One would develop feelings even when they kept a dog, so Keegan was expected to still have some anger. It would be fine after a while. She did not believe that a low-status woman could withstand their relationship as kin by blood.

Since Dahlia had said so, Mrs. Chapman's heart was slightly at ease.

"Aurora, have you gotten skinnier recently?" Someone asked.

Aurora wore a tiny red gown and made a princess braid. Due to being beaten to a pulp by Stella before this, she was unable to eat initially. She had to nurse her injuries for quite a long time. Now that her wounds were healed, her physique had significantly slimmed down.

Her face, which used to be chubby in the past, had slimmed down. And, it made her features much sharper. She seemed more and more similar to Dahlia. Dahlia used to be a beauty during her younger days, so Aurora's looks naturally would not be that terrible. It was Cordelia's birthday banquet today, so Aurora had dolled herself up because Marshall wanted to come.

Aurora rubbed her face and asked in a low tone, "Is it that obvious?"

"It's very obvious," Aurora's female friend answered. "You look even more gorgeous now. As long as Stella doesn't come, you would definitely outshine everyone." Aurora's smile immediately was about to fall. Stella was a true nightmare to the socialite's circle. If she did not come, the socialites would be able to show off during these types of occasions. When she did come, she was guaranteed to outshine everyone.

Regardless of her delicate features, her skin was also fair. Whoever stood next to her would become a foil to her and look darker, less fashionable, and lacking in grace. Someone spat out, "She would dare to come here? Doesn't she think it's embarrassing?"

"When she wasn't divorced, she would flaunt herself everywhere. When she participates in a banquet, she badly wants to hang every piece of jewelry in order to brag to no end. Now that she is divorced and is an illegitimate daughter, I'm afraid she wouldn't even have a suitable piece of jewelry to attend this banquet. Based on her love for boasting, she wouldn't have the dignity to show herself, right?" Another person ranted.

"The Jewell family is truly amazing. Both sides were cheating on each other and having an illegitimate daughter in the mix. They are truly a match made in heaven," Someone continued.

"Thankfully, your brother had the foresight to divorce her. It would be disgusting to be stuck with a wife like her," Aurora's close friend said.

Aurora's lips pulled into a smile while her gaze was filled with smugness." Then, you should put in some effort. The spot for my sister-in-law is still vacant."

Her female friends were filled with glee, and one of them replied, "Then, we will still

need you to pull some strings for us."

As they were speaking, Aurora saw Jaylene holding onto Trevor when they appeared at the scene. Trevor whispered a few words to Jaylene before taking a glass of alcohol and walking to the men's side.

Jaylene was in a light purple satin dress, and she stood majestically with her slim physique. A curtain of long black hair draped on her shoulders. Her gaze was clear and innocent while her dress was very simple and elegant.

### Chapter 592

Jaylene belonged to a specific group of beauties that required very light makeup. They were superior in terms of charisma. One could feel the nobility oozing from her bones when she stood there, even though she was not moving.

Aurora remembered the words Dahlia had told her and took the initiative to strike up a conversation. "Jaylene."

Jaylene turned around and saw Aurora bringing a group of her female friends. The corner of Jaylene's lips pulled into a light smile, "Aurora, long time no see."

"Jaylene, is your health still fine?" Aurora asked in a low tone. "About the incident last time, I am truly sorry."

Jaylene paused for a moment and thought for a while. It was most likely that Keegan had scolded her again when they went home. She smiled gently and said, "Keegan has already apologized on your behalf, and you didn't do it on purpose."

Aurora was shocked. 'My brother actually spoke on my behalf?' Aurora thought. Immediately her fondness for Jaylene doubled. Just based on this single point, she was more likable than that nasty bitch, Stella. Thinking that this person might be her future sister-in-law, Aurora could not help but warm up to her. "Jaylene, the dress on you is truly gorgeous. Which store is it from?"

"You're talking about this?" Jaylene's lips twitched upwards slightly. "I designed this myself."

Aurora had a surprised look on her face and praised her. "You have such clever hands, and it suits your style really well. It looked like it was tailored and made by a branded outlet."

Once Aurora spoke, the other female friends, too, followed up with compliments. After all, she was the Saun family heiress. Although she had just returned from overseas, she would be in the same social circle in the future. Hence, they had to give her the proper respect.

Jaylene was used to these occasions when she was overseas. Hence, she was able to handle these socialites with ease. She spoke appropriately, which neither intimated nor alienated them. Jaylene had the mannerism of an heiress born of nobility, yet constantly upheld the modesty required from a socialite.

At the same time, Keegan was already waiting downstairs for Stella for up to an hour. He furrowed his brows and glanced at the time. He took his phone and wanted to make a call.

Vermont stopped him and said, "If you don't even have that bit of patience, how can you pursue your ex-wife?"

"She made me come here and fetch her at five. It's six o'clock now! Don't I have enough patience?" Keegan retorted.

"It's only been an hour. Did you forget that time when you used to get stumped while doing business, and you were ignored by others for days? If you can have so much patience when you're doing business, why do you have no patience when waiting for your ex-wife?" Vermont explained.

Vermont leaned onto the hood of the car. He raised his eyelids and said," For something that wouldn't be with you for the rest of your life, you would be willing to wait for it. What's the problem with waiting a few hours for someone who will be with you for the rest of your life? Besides, you should be glad that she would doll up for you. She would be too lazy to do her makeup if she didn't care about you." Keegan emphasized to Vermont, "She is dressing up for the birthday banquet!" When facing Keegan, she was too lazy to even tear off her facial mask.

"When she looks beautiful, it helps uphold your dignity. Think about it, once she arrives at the scene, others will be able to see that your ex-wife is beautiful with just a glance. Then, who would still dare to stuff any Tom, Dick, and Harry to you? At the same time, you can reject them. Maybe your ex-wife is dressing up with these intentions in mind."

Keegan was persuaded by his nonsense. When he thought about it, he actually felt that it made some sense. Thinking that Stella was doing this to provoke others so that others would not dare to push other women into his arms, he immediately felt that waiting for another moment was nothing compared to that.

At approximately ten past six, Stella finally walked out of the apartment. Her hair was set to the back of her head. Her makeup was delicate, and she wore a purple tarocolored dress that reached her ankles. Both her sleeves had a partially see-through design and had ruffles attached. A high slit was also on the side of the skirt. When she moved, her bright thighs would flicker in and out. The two words elegance and sexy could actually be found on her at the same time.

As she walked over, the bystanders surrounding them gave sidelong glances respectively.

#### Chapter 593

Keegan turned around to look at Vermont and said, "You should go and sit in the front seat."

Vermont makes a "tsk" sound. He then gave him a glance of disappointment and said, "You think I like to sit at the back because the back of the car is comfortable? If I didn't sit in the backseat, would you believe that the moment Stella got into the car, she would sit by the car window? She would hate not having millions of miles between the both of you!"

As he said that, he pulled Keegan to the side and whispered, "You should sit in the middle."

As he continued speaking, He stretched his hand to the back. He threw a bottle of water, cushions, and other messy stuff without any thought to the front passenger seat. He then said to Aldor, "Aldor, get down and open the door."

Aldor took the hint and unbuckled his seatbelt before exiting the car. Aldor had been by Keegan's side for many years. Every time he saw Stella's new outfits, he was still amazed.

She was truly suitable in any form of makeup. Aldor seemed to understand slightly

why Mr. Kane did not like to bring Stella to these large events. For a beautiful outfit, one might be eager to wear it and show it off everywhere. However, for rare treasures, one would just want to hide them and keep them for themselves. That way, they would then be only admired by the person. 1

When Stella had gotten closer, Aldor smiled and said, "Good evening, madam."

Stella smiled at him out of courtesy as Aldor opened the door in a gentlemanlike manner and beckoned her. 'Welcome, madam."

Stella raised the hems of her skirt before she entered. Just as she was about to enter, she saw Keegan and Vermont sitting side-by-side, and her movements froze. Vermont held his head awry while he bumped Keegan away with his shoulders. Vermont then waved his hand at her. "Hi, Stella."

The corner of Stella's lips tightened, and she turned her head and said," Aldor, let me sit in the front. It's a little crowded back here."

Keegan was at a loss for words. 'It's just like what the big mouth, Vermont, said,' Keegan thought.

Aldor replied apologetically, "Madam, there are a lot of items in the front passenger seat. There is even the gift for Madam Kane Sr. here. It's not suitable for people to sit in. Besides, the glare shield on the front passenger seat is broken. The sun has yet to set, and it would hurt your complexion."

Vermont avoided Stella's gaze and raised a thumb to Aldor. With a glance, Stella saw that the passenger seat was stuffed to the brim. Keegan took a phone from the seat and said in a deep voice, "Get in."

Stella saw that his expression was forthright and felt that any rants she had would be dissatisfying. Thinking of that, she raised the hems of her skirt and got in the car. Keegan originally wanted to help her put on her seatbelt like a gentleman. But, in the end, during the process of pulling the seatbelt out, Stella bent down to raise the hems of her skirt. Her action of bending down was fine. However, once she bent down,

Keegan discovered that the dress made her seem like a decent woman from the front. But, a slit with a deep V shape from the back made half of the rear naked.

Keegan furrowed his brows and asked, "What is this outfit you're wearing? Do you need two more pennies for more fabric to be added?"

Stella pressed the hems of the skirt onto her knees and glared at him." What I wear is none of your business. Remember your status, ex-husband!"

Keegan choked for a moment and could only squeeze out this response." Don't you feel cold?"

Stella replied nonchalantly, "You're old, so you can't withstand the cold, Mr. Kane. I'm still young, so my body warmth is sufficient."

Keegan was speechless from this.

"Pfft..." Vermont could not help but laugh out loud directly. He then stoked the flames further. "Older People don't know how to appreciate it. You still need people the same age as us to appreciate each other. I think Stella's outfit is quite gorgeous. Isn't the innocent yet provocative style quite popular these days? It's innocent in the front and provocative from the back."

Stella was at a loss for words.

'Could the innocent yet provocative style be explained this way? But...' Stella thought to herself.

"Are you the same age as me, Mr. Snyder?" Stella asked. 'Didn't he just celebrate his thirtieth birthday recently?' she remembered.

"Do I not look like it?" Vermont caressed his handsome face and said, "I just look more mature. I'm not that much older. If you don't believe me, you can ask Keegan." Keegan gave him a single glare and said, "Based on his intelligence, he shouldn't be that much older. At most, he should be three or five years old."

This time, Vermont was the one at a loss for words. With Vermont present, the atmosphere in the car was not boring at all. After about half an hour, the car arrived at Dragon Lagoon. Aldor parked the vehicle properly while Vermont got out of the car first to answer a call.

# Chapter 594

Keegan grabbed Stella's waist and stopped her from opening the car door.

"Wait," he said. Stella turned and saw Keegan pull out a very exquisite velvet box. Just as Stella was wondering what was in the box, Keegan opened it. Inside the box was a dazzling diamond necklace. The diamonds on the necklace were each at least the size of one karat and were tightly set together. The pendant was square, mounted with diamonds with a red square diamond in the center.

Stella was surprised by the necklace's grandeur and tackiness. "How could Grandma wear this at her age?" Stella asked.

Keegan narrowed his brows. "It's not for her. Did you forget that this was the present you wanted?"

Stella was confused. "When did I ask you for this? Besides, when did I ever have such a tacky taste?"

Keegan's face turned red. "Did a dog bite and damage your brain? How could you have such a bad memory?" He thought Stella would be so surprised and be touched by the necklace, but she was not. He never expected her to say that it was tacky. At that moment, Keegan really wanted to pry open her head to see how dumb she was. The corner of Stella's mouth twitched. A vague memory suddenly resurfaced in her mind when she was about to retort. She remembered she said, 'My requirements aren't that high. The necklace should have one hundred and eight red diamonds, each not less than one carat. Oh, and the chain should be platinum. The thicker, the better.' Stella was speechless. The necklace really seemed to have a hundred and eight diamonds. Keegan had really ordered a necklace based on her nonsense. Stella felt strange in her heart. She felt that Keegan was silly and thought to herself. 'Who would use so many diamonds for a necklace?'

Stella said lowly, "Even though I said that, you didn't actually have to do it. Let alone make it so tacky."

"You're the one who made it tacky." Keegan glared at her. He took out the necklace as he was talking and continued, "Turn around."

"I'm not wearing that." Stella refused. "It's so ugly. I'll be ridiculed if I wear it outside." Keegan replied, "Do you know how much this necklace cost?" Stella looked at him. Keegan coolly said, "It cost 47 million."

Stella was startled and turned around obediently. "Maybe I should wear it once." Keegan's eyes flashed with a hint of happiness as he took the necklace and draped it over her slender neck. On the other hand, Aldor was sighing in front of them. 'Only Mr.

Kane knew his wife best. He went for the most expensive option, not the best quality.' Many guests were arriving at the birthday banquet. Cyrene and Dahlia each handled one side to greet the guests. They were both well-liked and had many social connections in Rivera, but it was obvious that Dahlia was doing a better job today. This was because Keegan had just divorced, leaving a vacancy for the position of the Kane's family eldest grandson's wife. The wives with eligible daughters all went forward and seized the chance to get closer to her.

Regardless of what Dahlia was like as a person, that was another story. Keegan, a young man with little to no scandals, was absolutely the number one son-in-law choice for the wives.

Mrs. Wood said, "You look great today, Dahlia. You looked a little pale a few days ago."

Mrs. Chapman replied, "Dahlia was upset about Keegan's divorce."

#### Chapter 595

Most of the wives were discussing the divorce between Keegan and Stella in private. Even though not everyone was fond of Stella, they felt that Keegan did not handle things adequately. He divorced Stella as soon as she had just lost her mother. Dahlia had always portrayed herself as a good mother-in-law in public, but she did not seem concerned about her son's divorce. She even had the mood to compete with Chandler's family over the right to host this birthday banquet. The wives could not help, but they felt suspicious about this image of her which was out of character. "I've always advised Keegan that it's not easy to live as a couple, and whether they could stay together was all fate. But, that's just our thoughts as a parent. Young people are stubborn; it's hard to convince them otherwise once their minds are set on something. I could still get some sense into Keegan, but I have no way to do anything when Stella gets stubborn. I guess we're not fated to have a deep relationship as mother and daughter-in-law," Dahlia's statement deftly placed the blame on Stella. Dahlia implied that she did not intend for them to divorce. Stella cut off the strings, and she could do nothing to stop it.

One wife said, "The unfortunates are not worthy to enter a blessed family. In my opinion, it's good that the marriage ended. Although Stella looked pretty and decent, who knew she was a love child? Now ain't this a shame to the Kane family."

"Thank the Lord she has some self-awareness and chooses to end the marriage. It would have been troublesome if she clung onto Keegan."

"I know, right? Luckily they ended it quickly. With Keegan's background, I'm sure he could find a better fit."

"I heard someone saw Stella at The Deli. She like she was clinging to Keegan." "She must have regretted divorcing since she later found out that she was a love child."

Dahlia sighed, "It's not easy for a divorced woman. Please take care of her for my sake when you see her in the future."

Mrs. Chapman replied, "You're too kind to her, Dahlia."

The wives hurriedly changed the topic and continued, "That's a nice ring you have there, Dahlia!"

One of the ladies with keen eyesight noticed the diamond ring on Dahlia's index

finger. It was the same one they auctioned recently at Irene's jewel exhibition. Dahlia smiled lightly and said, "Keegan picked it. It's a heartfelt gift from him. I thought it was nice, so I'm wearing it for fun."

Dahlia was wearing a six to seven-million ring for fun. This realization made the wives feel the difference between different prestigious families. Dahlia was wearing more than ten million on her, but that was not even the most expensive thing she had in her closet. This was the difference between them.

When the wives were chatting, someone interrupted. "Why is Stella here?" Everyone was startled and turned to look. Stella dressed in a lavender gown and had her hair done in a French vintage style. On her slender and fair neck, she wore a dazzling diamond necklace that shone brightly under the lighting on the scene. Keegan stood beside her, holding a coat and putting it on her. Once he put it on, Stella would shake it off. Keegan tried to put it on again, but Stella would wave it off again. This process repeated several times.

The wives were all speechless at their behavior. 'Didn't the rumors say that it was Stella who was clinging onto Keegan? But, from the way it looks, Keegan seemed to be the one who was clinging onto Stella.'

Dahlia pulled a long face. 'I never expected Stella to have the audacity to come!' Dahlia took a deep breath, asserting her control, and called," Keegan."

Keegan paused, and Stella shook the coat off. Stella naturally heard Dahlia's voice.

She turned her head with a smirk and said, "Mrs. Kane, long time no see."

Dahlia's expression turned dark, but she still had a polite smile on her face. "Stella, what brings you here?"

Stella replied coolly, "Isn't Mrs. Kane in charge of the birthday banquet? How could you not know Grandma's guest?"