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Before April could finish speaking, the phone call was hung up. Jane stared at the ended call with a heavy heart.

No, she had to look for an answer.

Jane immediately tried calling April again, but this time her number cannot be reached and it was only worsening her mood.

She still could not get to

her despite calling several more times. Thinking about **how hesitant** April sou nded on the phone was making her more worried.

April would not be in trouble, would she?

Just thinking about it stressed her out.

While in the middle of a thought, her phone vibrated. She was expecting the c aller to be April; however, when she picked it up, it turned out to be Andrew.

Jane did not

think twice before hanging up, although the man on the other end kept calling her over and over again.

Jane got frustrated and rejected the call once more before turning her phone o ff.

Once she calmed down, Jane then headed towards Warner Corporation.

After dealing with the recent backlogs, she glanced at the time it was already have past one in the afternoon. She had not eaten for the entire morning, and as she was starving, she decided to go out and grab something to eat.

Stepping

out of the elevator, Jane looked up and saw a man dressed in a suit.

She stared at him, feeling a sense of familiarity. She did nor recognize him at t he time.

Just as she was about to walk away from the elevator, the man opened his m outh and called out to her.

"Miss Bentley!"

Jane turned back, her looking at the man cautiously.

"You called me?"

Charles stared back at her, conflicting emotions on his face along with a trace of nostalgia.

Jane did not understand why the man was staring at her, but after a few m oments she soon recognized who the man was.

In front of her was none other than Annie's father, Charles Carlton.

They both met once at the hospital. Jane did not pay much attention to hi m – Annie's mother, however, kept quite an impression.

"Yes, it's such a rare opportunity to meet you. I was wondering if I could treat you to a meal," Charles Carlton spoke humbly, without a tr ace of hypocrisy or insincerity that Annie carried.

Jane was nonetheless surprised. The two of them do not know each other that well, they could even be called strangers. Why would he invite her to go o utside?

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know this might be

all of a sudden for me to ask, but I want to talk to you about something an d I'd appreciate it if you could indulge me."

As Jane did not yet reply and instead was in deep thought, Charles Carlt on repeated it slowly.

Looking at those eyes Annie Carlton shares with, Jane saw that he did not have any ill intentions. She thought about it before nodding.

Afterwards, the **two** sat down at a restaurant not far away from Warner Corporations.

Since she was already hungry, she instantly picked up her fork after the food was served, not bothering to wait for the man sitting opposite her.

When she **was** almost full, she dropped **the** utensils and **faced** Charles who **h ad only** been watching

her.

He barely moved his fork as his **eyes** kept following Jane. Seeing her calm an d composed appearance, the nostalgia in him grew stronger.

"Mr. Carlton, what do wish to talk about?"

Jane spoke, which brought Charles **back** to the **present**.

Looking at the somewhat familiar **face** in front of him, **a** gentle smile appeared on his face.

"I don't know why, but seeing you always gives me a sense of deja vu. That is why I wanted to invite you to a meal."

Hearing this stunned Jane. She was not at all expecting that from him.

"Yes, but I still have a lot of things I need to attend to. I'm afraid I cannot stay with you for much longer," she said politely, subtly **meaning** to bid goodbye t o Charles.

Catching on to Jane's words, his face was full of mixed emotions.

"There **is** one more thing; **it's** about Mr. Warner. **Regarding** the situation betw een Mr. Warner and my daughter, I am deeply **sorry**. I'm here **to** express my sincere apologies to you."

Jane was once **again stunned**, not expecting Charles **to** apologize on behalf of Annie.

"My daughter doesn't know any better. I will make sure to give her strict dis cipline in the future. I will not let her interfere with your and Mr. Warner's rela tionship. For her sake, I ask you to not take it personally with her."

Listening to Charles Carlton apologizing for Annie, Jane could not help but t hink of her own father who would only threaten and oppress her. Comparing the two leaves a huge gap between them.

At

the very least, Annie Carlton had a sensible father. Unlike her situation, An drew Bentley would only think of her when something came up, never car ing about her as a daughter.

"As long as she behave well and does not provoke me, I won't hold anything against her," Jane replied.

As for Annie, it would be a lie to say that Jane did not loathe her, not to mention the things she has done in the past, but no w her demonic acts would be enough for Jane to deal with her unapologetically.

In front

of her father, Jane could not promise to let Annie get away with her action s.

However if Annie dares to provoke her again, she definitely won't just forgive and forget her for it.

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Charles Carlton is a smart person. He would naturally understand what Jan e meant.

The two of them peacefully finished their meal. Leaving the restaurant, J ane politely parted ways with the man and was about to return to the buil ding when he called out again.

*Miss Bentley!"

Jane turned around and looked at him, confused. Charles took a few steps forward and spoke to her with a smile.

"Can you give me your phone?"

Jane had no idea why but still handed it over. She then saw Charles enter a s tring of numbers in her phone and dialed it before his own phone rang.

Taking it out, he glanced **at the** number on the screen. He grinned and return ed Jane's phone.

"This is my number. If you need my help with **anything**, you can call me anyti me."

Jane froze, **but** still took her phone and hummed faintly.

After he left, only then did she return towards Warner Corporations. Just as s he reached the curb, a black car approached her.

Two big men dressed in black quickly got out of the car and spoke to Jane stiff ly.

"Miss Bentley, our boss gives you an invitation."

Jane's **eyes** narrowed upon hearing this. When the two men tried to take her by force, she **immediately m ade a** move to **resist**.

However, to her **surprise**, the men **were** both competent and she was no mat ch for them.

After being pulled into the car, Jane face paled.

She more or less guessed who sent the **two** men.

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Just **as Jane** thought, **she was taken to Andrew Bentley**. **Although this** tim e she was not **at the Bentley house** but **at** the **company**.

Besides Andrew, Amy was also present.

Jane's face turned impassive seeing the two and she walked straight to the s ofa and sat down, still maintaining a cold expression.

Seeing that, Amy scrunched up her face and started insulting her.

"**Ah**, it's so hard to get my **sister** to come over, she doesn't even answer **Dad** 's call. If Dad hadn't sent someone to bring you here, I doubt you'd even pay a ttention to the Bentley family."

Raising her head slightly, Jane gave her a hardened look. "I couldn't care less any about it. What does it matter **to you**?"

Jane's retort made Amy scrunch her face further, yet she could not utter back a word.

She was

no match for Jane, **not** to mention **Drake** Warner was on her side. She really cannot do **anything** to Jane.

Andrew stared her down as he walked closer, his face livid.

"If you could not care less about the Bentley family, then return the shares."

Hearing this, Jane **scoffed**. **"I** took the share belonging to our mother, you ha ve no right to get it from me."

"Speaking of which, the year is ending. Isn't it time to pay the dividends?" J ane added frostily.

Before Amy went through all this trouble, Jane also considered coming to t hem to take her sum. As it turns out, they beat her to it and instead used this method to bring her in.

Andrew only glowered harder than before after hearing her talk **about** the company's dividends.

"You are not at all interested

in the Bentley company, nor did you contribute a single cent, and yet you're f antasizing about getting your own share."

"You were not even worth

a **penny before**. You **were** dependent on my mother's money and efforts to **g ive** the company the success it has **today**. Aren't **you** the one fantasizing?" Jane **boldly retorted**.

"You-" Andrew was infuriated, and **knowing that** he would not **win a** verbal fight **with her, he consorted** to **threatening** her **directly**.

"You want the money? Fine, figure out how to retrieve the funds I invested in Berlin and only then shall I give you your share of money."

"refuse!"

"Then you can never receive a penny. Don't blame me if something happ ens to you." Andrew said flatly.

Jane looked at him and noticed that as he said those words, his gaze was on the two men clad in black from earlier.

She knew what she meant with that glance; it was to threaten her with violence.

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Jane narrowed her eyes. She had tried fighting back and was clearly incapable of doing so, in this life and death struggle, she k new that the chances of her escaping would be slim.

At a time like this, she could not possibly count on Drake to rescue her.

Figuring it out, she **finally** thought of stalling Andrew and leaving the place.

"**Dad**, **why** would you even bother with her? Just let them ruin her and captur e it on video. Let's see if she will still **be** stubborn" Amy glanced at Jane with a look of resentment.

Hearing her, Jane's face turned grim.

Hah, still an ever-

loving father, even agreeing to such a vicious plan. As expected, he did not ca re **about** his daughter.

Once Andrew Bentley nodded, the two men started walking towards her, viole nce evident in their

eyes

Amy stood aside with her arms crossed and and faint grin on her lips, looking like she was about to

watch a show.

"If you dare do this, Drake will not let you get away."

Feeling helpless, Jane could only use

Drake's name to scare people, much to her chagrin. She blamed herself for n ot being strong enough; otherwise, there would be no need to use Drake as a

threat.

She must stay stronger.

As Andrew heard Drake's name, his eyes flashed with obvious fear.

In the boundaries of Silverbourne, anything related to Drake Warner had to be reconsidered.

After all, the Warner family **is** second to none in the entirety of Silverbourne, w ith Drake Warner

known as the Ruler of Hell.

"Dad, Warner Group is struggling to protect itself. The Berlin project is yet to b e found a solution. Don't let yourself be intimidated by her."

Amy fanned the flames as she **saw** Andrew's hesitation.

Andrew's eyes stopped wavering as she said those. Jane gave her a hard lo ok, and **Andrew** was about to respond **when** she spoke.

"I can help you with this."

With her words, Andrew's face **immediately** showed **a** pleasant expression. A nd **are** you telling **the truth?**"

Amy's face sank. Jane had him interested instead of continuing with their c urrent plan.

Jane took a deep breath and replied. "Yes, I can help you with this matter."

"Can you guarantee to take care of it?" Andrew asked skeptically.

"Of course," Jane nodded determinedly which satisfied him.

"Now this would have been better had you promised earlier. You had to wait for me to use this trick instead."

He said before letting a fake smile appear on his face.

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"My sweet Jane. I am your father after all, and the Bentley family is still your family. You know what they say, to help the family is to help oneself. Don't y ou agree?" Unless he had no other choice, Andrew did not want to entirely hurt Jane. Anyway, she was favored by Drake Warner; keeping her would be of great use in the future.

Looking at Andrew's insincerity, Jane did not feel like responding.

"But **Dad, she** cannot be trusted. If we let her go now, she might take it back and **tell** Drake Warner **about** this. **He won't just** put this aside," Amy did not want to let Jane go easily and kept planting doubts.

Andrew did hesitate and looked back at Jane, trying to come up with a decisi on.

"Hmph.

I'm **not** the kind **to** go back on my word," Jane thought about a plan to take ba ck the entire Bentley family, and frankly agreed **to** return the funds.

"Hm. I don't believe you. Unless...you take this," Amy took out a pill.

Staring at it with a frown, Jane was conflicted.

Amy started explaining what the pill is before Jane even had to ask.

"This is poisonous; however, it will only take effect after a month. If you ret urn the Bentley funds within one month, I won't give you the **antidote**."

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Looking

at the poison in Amy's hands, Jane's mind stoped for a moment, somewha t getting deja vu.

Where did she get that poison?

Wherever she got it from, she clearly will not tell Jane. She merely kept a s traight face and waited for Jane to take the poison.

Jane was **a** little reluctant, not to mention that Amy did not believe her and she also did not believe **that** Amy merely gave her a poisonous pill.

If, after a month, she got the funds back, she was sure Amy still would not han d the **antidote** *to* her.

Therefore, this pill...she should **not** take it no matter what.

Andrew **however**, **thought** that Amy's approach was quite good. Compared to violating Jane, giving her poison was much better.

After she agrees, they will give her the antidote, and it was done – they would not be violating Jane at

all.

"Janie, Amy is also right. You might as well take the pill." Andrew acted as a p eacemaker and persuaded her.

Jane looked at him **askance**, **her expression** blank, "I will **not** take that poiso n. If you don't trust me, you **can** go follow me to **see** Drake."

Amy laughed harshly **at** her **words** and **as** if she had **gotten** smarter, she sai d, "You think I'm stupid enough to trust **that I** will go **with** you to **see** Drake W arner and come back unharmed?"

Jane was indeed surprised that Amy thought of that. She did not expect her t o be wiser than when

she last **saw** her.

However surprised she was, she did not show it on her face.

"There is no way for me to take this pill. If you don't believe me, I don't beli eve you either. Who knows if you'll really give me the antidote after I actuall y help you bring back you money?"

"Don't threaten

me with poison ever again and make me return the company's shares to y ou."

Jane's cold **words** shocked Amy, but she did not voice it out.

Jane took a look at her, knowing that she was confused. Sure enough, she r ead her mind.

"Think about it clearly. The longer time you waste, the less likely it is for y ou to get your money back. Don't come to me

demanding the money when the project fails. You would just be aiming **a knif e at** my **neck and I would not be able to** do **anything about** it."

Jane spoke, shrugging.

Her words did have an effect; Andrew panicked.

"Then Janie, you must stay true to your word and get the funds back."

Seeing her father's cooperation, Jane was as little puzzled.

People lost their lives on the construction site, and it took a toll on the proje ct. In the future, the building would still be difficult to sell.

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Moreover, she needs to manage things without constantly relying on Drak e.

In the past, she did not understand. She only thought that doing a good job a s a gentle and merciful wife would keep a man.

Now, she was able to see things clearly. If she wanted to be with someone like Drake

Warner for a **long while, she needed to walk with** him side by side as an eq ual instead of purely depending on him.

Jane, who had now figured this out, then decided to investigate the Bentley C ompany all on her own.

If one were **to** investigate, they naturally had to start with the Bentley family. With that, Jane had someone follow Amy Bentley and secretly asked Andrew Bentley to meet her in private.

The man **was** still astonished to have Jane herself asking him to go outside to eat. Upon arrival, Jane had already ordered **a** table of food.

"Janie, you asked **for** me. Have you already taken the funds back**?**" Andrew a sked impatiently.

Jane shook her head, "**Not** so fast. I asked for you because I wanted to ask you something. Did something happen to the company?"

She did not bother beating around the bush and instead asked him at once.

Andrew hesitated for a moment, not opening his mouth, seemingly uncertain.

Seeing his hesitation, Jane whispered, "Although I promised to get your mone y back, I would not bet **able** to do my **best** if you **were to** hid something from me."

The man flustered at her words and although he was reluctant, he decided to tell Jane about the

company.

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Jane was taken back by what Andrew Bentley opened up to her.

Just **as** she had guessed, **something** had indeed happened to the Bentley co mpany: the **capital** chain **was broken. Now** a large sum of money was needed to fill that vacancy. Otherwise, the company will **face ban kruptcy**.

"How did that happen?" Jane asked stiffly, frowning.

In her

point of view, with Andrew Bentleys cautious nature, the company might not gr ow but it surely **would** not have been easily on the brink of bankruptcy. "It **was** not because of Charles Holbrook..." Andrew said regretfully.

After **that**, Jane found out about the situation. The Bentley Company had affairs with the Holbrook Corporation.

Under Charles Holbrook's proposal, most of the Bentley funds were invested i n a project.

Later on however, he was arrested. The reason why, Andrew did not know. Th e Holbrook Group now **had a** new CEO, but could not carry the company and the project was naturally ruined.

Hearing Andrew talk about how the current situation the Bentley Corporation was in was due to Charles Holbrook, Jane was still dazed.

Andrew had no **idea** why Charles was arrested, but Jane did. The reason was because he had her kidnapped, **and** was later sent in by Drake.

As for his follow-

up situation, **Jane** also **knew** about it. He is, after all, **a** Holbrook. Of course, t he Holbrooks cannot just let him stay locked up. They wasted a ton of effort to fish him out from the

inside.

As for his current whereabouts and affairs, she was not sure.

Now Jane understood **why** his father was so persistent in bringing **the** funds back after his expolanation.

"Alright, I see. I'll **head to** the company tomorrow." Jane nodded in understan ding.

However, **after** she spoke, Andrew hurriedly replied. "You don't need to go to t he company. If your **really care** about the Bentley Corporation, then just bring the **money** back as soon as possible. The **company has Amy, there** won't b e **any** problem for now.

"You handed the company over to her?" Jane could not believe what he ju st told her.

Seeing Jane's sharp eyes, Andrew shrunk back, but forced out, "Since the c ompany was in crisis, Amy and her mother have been supporting it with their

money. I **left** the company's affairs to Amy, **and** I **just handed** out the compa ny *to* her."

Although he said it like that, Jane felt that was not the case especially with Andrew's eyes avoiding hers. It made her even

more convinced that the company was now completely controlled by Amy.

"Hmph. Don't forget, despite her calling you her father she's not your biol ogical daughter," she could not help but taunt.

"What is wrong with that? In any case, we don't have a son in this life, and you are married. I do not count on Amy,

I count on you instead." Andrew muttered, feeling great resentment towar ds Jane.

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It seemed that she had to look further into the affairs of the Bentley family. She could not care less about her father, but she would nev er allow her mother's property to fall into the hands of the mother and dau ghter.

While the two were talking, Andrew's phone suddenly rang and Jane saw th e caller

ID at a glance – Dear Wife.

Jane averted her **gaze** as he accepted the call and spoke to Rosaline Kenne dy who was strangely cheerful.

"Hello, dear ... "

Jane could not hear Rosaline on the other side, but after hearing Andrew's wo rds did she realize something **was** wrong.

After he ended the call, Jane could not help but ask, "Are you sick?"

Yes. Thanks to Amy and her mother's care, I feel much better now. I just have to take my on time everyday," Andrew **replied**, unimpressed.

medication

As he talked

about his medication, Jane's eyes twitched. It seemed that she really had to c heck on the family.

Once they finished eating, Jane said her goodbyes to the man and returned to Maplewood Mansi on.

Zane is still yet to be found but she had to

take care of her two little ones; she absolutely refuse to let anything happen to them again.

But at that time, Courtney Philips was still at the mansion.

There were no news from Zane, and Courtney was also worried. She stayed with the two kids, hoping to find some comfort.

Knowing that Courtney was the one who **sent** her brother away, Zoe's attitude towards her was much colder. She did not want to be with Courtney at all.

Zachary was also mad at her. Never mind that she was his grandmother who lived **with** them, or who took **care** of him since he was younger; he could not just brush it off.

He also complained to Courtney about sending him away.

Seeing **that** *no* one understood her and her remaining grandchildren **were** no longer close **with** her, **Courtney felt miserable**.

Drowning **in sadness**, she **fell** asleep and encountered **a** terrible nightmare.

In her dream, *on* a burning vehicle, **seated a** teenager who looked **very** simila r **to** Drake. The young **man was about twelve or thirteen**, looking at her with **a** pained expression.

Seeing the teenager trapped inside and struggling to get out, Courtney's he ar was overcome with grief.

However

looking at the unconscious, blindfolded Drake beside who was oozing blo od from his stained gauze, she

chose to take him first to the hospital instead.

As she moved, the scene changed. Now she was in a dark area. A young man stood in front of her blocking her area, and Drake was no longer around.

The young man slowly turned around, his face almost burned beyond rec ognition, eyes resentful,

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staring at her firmly.

"Why...why did you abandon me...? I hate you...I hate you!" The young ma n's voice echoed in her ears again and again, making Courtney's heart bleed in pain.

She could only stare **at** the direction of the young man, tears uncontrollably pouring **down**. **She** knelt **down slowly and spoke in a** voice full of despair a nd regret.

"I'm **sorry**, Mommy is sorry... It's all Mommy's fault, but I had no choice, Mom must save your brother...he is the hope of the Warner family."

"I hate **you**. I will never forgive you!" The boys mouth opened to form a string of resentful curses, his

burnt face full of hatred.

Courtney **felt** pain from watching **the** scene. She awoke from her nightmare, s at up, panting heavily. Her body **was** covered in sweat and tears were flowing uncontrollably.

"Oh, Derek, it's **all Mommy's** fault..."Recalling the scene **in** her dream, Court ney Philips could not help but cover her face and weep.

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"Grandma, what happened to you?" As Courtney was

crying **bitterly**, Zachary heard **the voice** and pushed **the door** open. **He saw** his grandmother sitting **on** the **bed**, **covering** her face **while crying**.

Hearing Zachary's voice, Courtney slowly raised her head. Zachary walked to the bedside looking at her in worry.

"Grandma, what's the matter?" He asked again in concern.

Courtney **was** still immersed in grief. Hearing his grandson's concern, she hug ged Zachary with tears **streaming** down **her face**.

"Grandma is fine, she just thought of your little uncle."

"Little **uncle?**" Zachary was **taken** aback for a moment, then asked.

"Is he the one in the photo with Grandpa in the old house?"

Zachary grew up with Courtney when he was a child, and so he knew the old house very well. He had seen the photo of his little uncle according to Courtne y's words.

"Well, that was your little uncle," she nodded solemnly.

"Grandma, don't **be sad**. If he knows **that** you are crying because of him, uncl e will also be heartbroken."

Zachary softly comforted her.

After he **spoke**, she **sobbed** bitterly **and** said, "Your little uncle...probably wo n't forgive Grandma."

Hearing this, he looked puzzled. "Why?"

Meeting Zachary's innocent eyes, Courtney shook her **head**, unwilling to unv eil the hurt she felt.

It was she who wronged Derek, and when she goes to hell, she would apologize to him d irectly.

Once Jane was **back**, she saw Zoe alone in the room playing with her robot. She did not **see** Zachary, so she hurriedly asked Zoe.

"Zoe, where's Zachary?"

Hearing Jane's voice, Zoe looked up and replied, "He's in his room, with Gr andma."

Jane's face slightly darkened, but she did not say anything.

She was upset with Courtney and did not want to speak to her, but she ca n not stop Zachary. After all, she raised Zachary, and the kid's feelings tow ards her cannot be erased.

Afterwards, Jane did not leave the room either and called April while accompanying Zoe. She was hoping to learn about the Road to Rebirth.

As she called but could not get through him, Jane felt helpless.

It was already late when Drake returned. Jane had already taken Zoe and Zachary to bed.

He returned home exhausted, ate under the service of the many servants, and was about to go wash up and rest when Courtney walked in.

Sitting across Drake, she started speaking.

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"I'll ask your uncle Max to look into Zane's situation. You take care of the company."

She had no interest in the company's affairs. That did not mean that she had no idea about the

current situation, she was aware that it was in danger. Every move Drake contributed to the future of the company.

"You still want to send uncle Max to that place?" Hearing that Courtney w anted to find Max, Drake thought that she still refused to give up sending him to that place. "No. After finding Max, bring him back." Courtney's answer stunned him.

"Maybe it really is because i'm

a **monster**. But **what** if I **don't become** the richest **person** in Silverbourne? B eing together as **a** family will **be** unrivaled wealth."

"It's nice that you thought about it," Drake said softly.

"Drake, I dreamt about Derek today."

All of **a** sudden, Courtney's words silenced the room again.

Drake closed his eyes, a young mischievous face appearing in his mind. It was his younger brother. To him, his younger brother's image **was** tainted with bl ood because...he was injured and retired, he was sent to that special place and lost his **life**.

This is also the reason why Drake **was** unwilling to let his child go to that plac e.

He

could bear the future of the Warner family, and he did not want to lose any mo re of his loved ones.

Opening his eyes **again**, the pain in his eyes slowly left. "Mom, Derek had already left us. You should **stop** thinking too much."

"Tell me, will he blame me?"

Drake thought that Courtney was referring to having him sent away, so he hesitated for a while before comforting her.

"Mom, don't think too much about it. Derek won't blame you."

"I hope so."

Courtney sighed, her **heart** heavy. She still cannot tell the **truth** to Drake, so she could only **bear** the **painful** truth alone.

After she went back to her room, Drake also followed suit. Looking at the em pty bedroom, he turned around and went to Zoe's. Sure enough, he saw Ja ne and Zoe sleeping on the same bed.

He approached them and picked Jane up, ready to carry her to his room.

Jane did not sleep deeply and woke up with a start, looking at Drake with a look of astonishment on her face.

"Drake, what are you doing?"

"Hush!" he hissed softly, then looked at Zoe who was sleeping beside her

Jane also noticed this as she lowered her voice.

"What were you about to do?"

"Bring you back to warm my bed." He replied as a matter of course.

Jane pouted, resisting. "I don't want to..."

Drake did not listen and instead picked her up and took her back to his ro om.

Jane struggled the entire time, but as she was afraid Zoe would wake up, she did not dare make too

much noise.

After **being carried** out of **the** room, she **was worried** about disturbing **Courtney** upstairs, **so** she **did**

not speak either.

It was not until they reached his thrown and she was thrown into the bed that t she sat up and glared

at Drake.

"Drake, there is seriously something wrong with you..."

"It's getting cold. I need you *to* warm the bed," Drake pulled the quilt and **cove red** them.

Being pushed down forcibly, Jane could not get mad and instead punched an d kicked him under the quilt. She had limited movement and he naturally did n ot feel any pain when it hit him.

In turn, he grabbed her ankle and pulled her into his arms.

"Move your hands and feet again, I...won't be able to guarantee whatever hap pens next."

"Try doing whatever to me if you dare," Jane responded with a scoff.

As soon as the words fell, Drake kiss fell upon her, domineering and wild.

Jane was dazed by the kiss, secretly

annoyed that her resistance towards him was getting weaker and weaker as s he heard his deep and husky voice above her.

"If you don't sleep, I will keep you in bed for three days."

Hearing this, Jane turned red. If she had not known any better, she would not have believed what Drake

said. However she experience it herself and knew exactly that Drake had the ability to do just

that.

For a while, she did not dare move anymore.

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The **next day, Jane** received a call from Richard Jordan, who he **sent to follo w and investigate** Amy **Bentley**.

"Hello Miss Jane. The person you asked me to follow is now with someone you know."

"Someone I **know**?" Jane was puzzled.

"Yes, it appears to be that Mr. Charles Holbrook. He came to the studio to look for *you* before. I remember him," Richard Jordan said in a low voice.

Hearing that Amy and Holbrook met and thinking about the pill from **Amy** an d the **fact** that Holbrook had poisoned her **before**, realization finally dawned.

"Give me the location. I'll go there now."

Richard gave her the address and she **rushed** over at once.

When she arrived, she found out that it was a fancy and **quiet** coffee shop. Sh e met the assistant Richard Jordan at the door.

"What's the current situation?" She asked him immediately.

"**They** have been inside for a while, they haven't come out yet." He quickly rep lied.

Jane also peered inside the coffee shop, searching the **two** through **the** glass. She managed to find Amy **Bentley** with a serious expression.

Seeing Amy, Jane instantly went into hiding. She has not grasped the entirety of the situation; she should not get caught yet.

She looked into the coffee shop again, and at the corner **by** the window, saw Charles Holbrook also staring at her direction.

The two of them looked **at** each other, and Jane had **a** feeling that he already saw her first and was **just** sitting there, **as** if he **was** waiting for her.

"Jordan, follow Amy and pay attention to her actions."

She instructed him, looked back at Holbrook in the coffee shop, and decided to meet him in person.

After Jordan and Amy left, she walked inside the shop and headed directly to where Charles Holbrook was sitting.

Seeing Jane's figure, Holbrook was not at all surprised. Instead, he pushed an untouched cup of coffee across him.

Jane could not figure out why Holbrook was waiting for him.

Jane had no intentions of stalling and so she sat down and looked across a t him with mixed

emotions.

After what happened last time, she did not know how to approach him. In te rms of his kidnapping and poisoning, she was unable to forgive him, but t hinking about the reason why he did it...Jane did not know what to do.

Love really makes you blind and she had been so blinded before, so she really could not blame him.

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"What did you and Amy talk about?" She paused before asking him.

Holbrook lifted his head, **the same** look seen on **his face** making Jane's heart **hurt** for him.

"Will you still believe my words?" He asked without answering her question.

"As long as **you're telling the** truth, I will believe it." Jane replied, seeing how down Holbrook was.

He was **surprised** when he heard those words. He did not expect for Jane to still trust him.

Then, without hesitation, he explained the reason why he and Amy met. "I was the one who made an appointment to meet her, but there was no other purpo se. I just wanted to know a few things." "**Before I** went it, I invested in a pharmaceutical factory that was about to shut down. After I came out, the factory was sold. I inquired about it and learned th at the factory fell into her hands, and so. I came here to ask her myself."

"**However,** I did not ask anything!" Charles Holbrook said with a helpless shak e of his head.

Upon hearing this, Jane's eyes brightened. So that was it.

If she **was** still wondering about how Amy managed to grab ahold of poison a nd threatened her to **eat** it, then it is clear now.

It seems that she got a pharmaceutical factory and should have also gotten th e poison made from the same factory.

"I want to know more about this **factory**. Can you tell me?" Jane looked at hi m, speaking slowly.

However, the Holbrook was in a state of hesitation.

"It's alright if **you don't** feel comfortable talking about it." Although he kidnapp ed her, he did not owe **her anything**. Of course, she could not take it for grant ed that Holbrook told her what he knew.

He came to his sense and shook his head, "It's not inconvenient, it's just that my information is not

that clear."

"The pharmaceutical factory has shook hands with many, yet it has always be en in a state of loss- even in my hands. I have always thrown money and never got anything back. Their R&D team is also a mystery and they don't allo w to explore the R&D bases. I've invested quite the money and in the end, ap art from getting a batch of *poisons* and antidotes, nothing else was given to us ."

"I'm also very curious **about** the **factory**, and now knowing that it fell into Amy Bentley, I felt that **things** were not **that simple**. **That's the reason why** I **met with** her, although she did not say **anything**. **He sighed**, **feeling helple ss**. Ever since

he lost his **position as** the CEO of the Holbrook Corporation, he now felt **corn ered.** The Holbrook family refused to see him and he did not have much mone y, let alone start all over again.

Even if he **did** have the **courage**, **the** Holbrook family would not see him gro w strong again.

One could completely describe his situation to be difficult.

Jane also noticed his misery and wanted to say something to help but thou ght that she might not be able to do so..

Moreover, since she had no feelings for him, she really should not give him another chance.

"Thank you for telling me this. If you need help with anything, you can ask me," Jane said.

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Charles Holbrook did not expect to hear such words from Jane's mouth. A touch of remembrance fell upon his face.

"You still love helping others, as always. That has never changed."

If it was not **for her** complete sincerity that shone into his world like a beam of light, maybe **he wouldn** not **have** loved **her** so deeply.

Jane paused at his words and shook her head

"Maybe it hasn't changed. I just don't want to feel guilty"

Her change perhaps cannot be seen by other people but Charles Holbrook hi mself deeply felt it She has long since stopped being that naive and romantic young girl. Now she knew what to do with what she had. The only reason she promised Holbrook was because of the information he told her

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After leaving the coffee shop, Jane went to the studio. As soon as she arrive d, a staff member told her that a

big client came, wanting to talk in person. The other party had been waiting fo r almost an

hour.

Hearing the employee's words, she was stunned, as would anyone else.

When she arrived at the reception room, she saw Charles Carlton sitting there drinking tea leisurely. "Miss Bentley, you're here!" Seeing Jane, Charles Carlton stood up with a smiled cordially without any hint of insincerity.

Jane regained her sensed and managed to put on a smiling face, responding, "Mr. Carlton, **what** brings you here?"

"I know that Ms. Bentley works in a clothing studio, and they are all high fashio n. It just so happens that the company wants to customize a few suits, so I ca me to take care of business, "he said with a

smile

His answer was sensible, and he clearly stated that he was here to discuss bu siness. Jane couldn't push people away, so she took the design the employee handed over and walked across to Carlton, and passing it over.

Please take a look. This is the first design from our studio. If you like it, we can tailor it for you right away."

Charles Carlton quickly looked at the design sketches, carefully taking in each one. After reading **all** of them, he closed the sketchpad and turned to Jane, st ill smiling.

"It's not that they're

bad, but it feels like it's aimed towards younger people. I wonder if **you** can de sign a few sets for me alone?"

"Of course, but it will take a while. I don't know if you can wait."

"Hah, it's fine. I have plenty of time, Carlton replied with a smile.

After talking

business, he then ordered ten sets of clothing and paid all the money in one g o. Janes other assistant, Christine, **was** surprised.

After seeing him off, Christine came up to Jane and said with admiration, "Ma dam, you are doing so **well**. The person just ordered ten sets of custom— made clothes **at** once, and paid off **the** money. The income of the studio durin g this quarter has also increased compared to before."

Although her studio **was** already well–known, it is far from being as **well**– **known** as other **big** brands. However, her studio **was** going for a simple **yet** e legant route, and the materials **they used were** also the top best

Especially with individually designed and custom-

made clothing, **the** price would be even more **expensive** Charles Carlton orde red

so much at once **and paid** them all. Jane **could** not understand the purpose o f him doing so

"Okay, **don't think** too **much**. **Go to** the **design department and tell them** to meet with

No matter the purpose, Jane insists that good clothing must be the end res ult, and they were al cooperating with each other so there was nothing to be afraid of

After the meeting was over, Jane asked several designers to submit the de sign drawings as soon as

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possible, and then returned to his office.

She then took out his mobile phone and called April, praying that she might be able to get through. Unexpectedly, he got through this time. After the phone rang a few times, the call was connected.

Before she could ask about April on the other side of the phone, his soft and eager voice came from the other side.

"Dear, come save me!"

"April, what's wrong?" Hearing his cry for help, Jane stood up anxiously.

April did not have enough time to go into details, so he could only say, "That bastard Matthew is going to have me locked up. I've sneaked out and got information about that group form him. Come and pick me up now, we'll talk about the details when we meet."

"Okay. Where are **you?** Give me your location, I'll find you right away," Jane said instantly.

"I'm here at..."

As soon as she **got** the **location**, Jane immediately **left** the studio, bought a ti cket while rushing to the airport, thinking about flying straight **to** the country w here April was.

As was passing through security check upon arrival, Jane called Drake and ex plained her situation, asking him to take care of the children.

"Drake, I'll be back **soon**. When I get back **there** and something happened to **the** children, don't blame me for not talking to you ever again."

Because of Zane's **matter**, Jane was frightened that if she left something bad would happen to her **other** kids. She could **not** find anyone else reliable i n Silverbourne, **so she could** only depend on Drake

to watch over them both.

Knowing that Jane was going away in a hurry, Drake asked her what she was about to do. Thinking. of the situation between him and Matthew, she hesitated and did not talk about April.

"It's something important. Don't ask further and just take care of the kids. I'll be back soon."

Drake **still** wanted **to say** something but Jane **was** already boarding the plane, so he hung up the **phone**.

Jane

soon arrived at the **other country**. However, she **was stopped** as soon as s he got **off the** plane; it was none other than Matthew Hughes.

Looking at him coldly, he was in fact as good– looking as Drake, but he did not leave any good impression.

She did **not know** much **about their situation**, **but** she **can tell from April's words** that this **is a huge** and **complicated family**. **The same goes for** April **and Matthew's relationship**.

Looking at Jane, Matthew asked bluntly. "Where is he?"

Of course Jane knew he was talking about April. She was not stupid, of co urse she would not tell him anything that easily.

"I have no idea."

"You came

from Silverbourne to find her. How could you not know where she is?" Ma tthew **questioned**, anger evident in his tone.

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Jane, who was used to seeing Drake's cold face, was not afraid of Matthe w's and responded.

"I'm here to find April. However, I don't know where she is. Shouldn't I ask you that?" Jane stared angrily at the man in front of her.

Matthew's face darkened hearing her strong tone.

"Tell me where he is, and I'll tell you about the Road to Rebirth."

Hearing this made Jane freeze, but she quickly composed herself.

"I said, I don't know."

"Fine...fine, you're one stubborn person. Don't think I can't do anything to y ou if you refuse to speak."

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"Since you came to look for him, I will lock you up. I don't believe that he wo n't come out to look for you." Matthew ordered his subordinates with a cold face, and brought Jane to an old castle.

Looking at **the huge castle**, Jane was in awe. No wonder April wanted to esc ape from here.

Luxury belongs to luxury, and depression is really depression.

After being brought into this ancient castle, Jane did not try to resist, she simply let Matthew's men lock **her into** the room.

Of course, she **was** not helpless, but her goal was in this castle.

As it turns out, the disappeared April was still in this castle.

As Jane was locked up, Matthew spread the news. He thought that April woul d definitely show up when he heard that Jane **was** locked up by him. No, until she was locked up for two days, April still did not appear.

Matthew finally couldn't **bear** it any longer and came to see Jane again, his fa ce already souring.

"Where is he?"

Jane looked at the haggard but still capable– looking man in front of him, and for a moment, felt that he and Drake were so

mewhat alike.

"I said, I don't know. I came to look for her **too**, and that would be even more impossible since you keep me locked up like this."

"Hmph. Good, very good. Keep **your** pride. Come and take her away." **Matthe w** Hughes suppressed his anger and ordered his subordinates.

He **was** furious, but the Jane in front of him was his brother's woman, and he could not beat his brother's woman with his hands.

She **was** taken **away** from the castle, and was released. After being freed, sh e immediately got into a car and **headed** towards a certain place.

Not long after she left, a sleek black car followed, and the person sitting in the car was Matthew who was trying to hold back his anger.

He did not believe

for **a** second **that** she **came** all **the** way from Germany and would not **know** A pril's location.

The car followed Jane's *for* the entire day without stopping. Matthew then **noticed** that something was wrong.

The taxi stopped and Matthew quickly opened the door, intending to drag Jane out the car. It was then when he realized what was so wrong

The person sitting in the car was not Jane at all, but another woman wearin g her coat

Matthew kicked the car door, furious.

His men also took notice and questioned both the driver and the woman in the back seat, reported to Matthew afterwards.

It turned out **that** once **Jane was in the car**, she **told the driver** to **just keep on driving**. **As told**, the car

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did not stop. Jane got out and went to the bathroom while they were refuel ing at the gas station.

Matthew and his men simply watched as they evidently could not follow he r to the woman's bathroom.

After a while, a woman wearing Jane's clothes got into the car and continue d with the driver on the

road.

Jane apparently gave them a hefty sum of money to perform as told.

Matthew's face distorted in anger, completely ruining his handsome features

On the other hand, Jane and April were on a plane and were already leaving the country.

April **stared at the view** of the blue sky outside the window, feeling very elate d.

"Now this is freedom!" April exclaimed.

"What **was** going on? Why was he keeping you locked up?" Jane spoke her th oughts to him.

Upon hearing her question, April hesitated before saying, "Things are a bit complicated. I can't explain it to you

right now, so I better tell you about this Road to Rebirth organization first."

"As far as I know, this group started in Eastern Europe. It should be the early i nvaders at the time. Their purpose was always clear: to invade the entire area . They were aggressive. They peaked during the recent war. After the war, the y

were greatly wounded and so began hiding in other countries and regions, sec retly strengthening themselves. They are a difficult organization to deal

with."

"Invaders?" Upon hearing the word, Jane was furious.

Born **as** a child of her country, how could one possibly not know the cruelty of the wartime? The days when

people **did** what they could to invade other people's country – burning, killing, looting.

What she did *not* **expect** was that there was an organization behind them that were secretly planning to the country.

It was no wonder **that** the **place** where Drake was from had to fight against **th is** organization to **destroy it**. If they **were** truly early **invaders**, it **was** indeed a death that should not **be spared**.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to wipe them out. If Zane really fell into their h ands, his life was in **grave** peril.

She thought of Zane with a heavy hear. What if he could not be saved?

Seeing Jane's ghostly face, April wasted no time in comforting her. "Don't worry, Janie. Zane is smart, he will be fine."

Jane prayed in her heart that he would be fine, but she could not stop worrying, waiting anxiously for the plane to land. She wanted to talk to Drak e as soon as possible.

Once **they** got off **the** plane, **she turned** her phone on. There were several mi ssed **calls**, **most of which** was **from** Drake, two **from** Zachary, **and one** from an unknown **caller**.

She called her son first to check up on her.

When Zachary received her call, he at once claimed, "Mommy, Zane called me."

Hearing his words, Jane was overwhelmed with surprise and immediately asked him about the details.

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Zachary thought for a while before telling her all about their conversation

"He said that he called you but you didn't answer, so he called me instead. H e told me that he is not in danger, that he eats and drinks well everyday, and that he's with an older man. But don't worry, he also said the man wouldn't l et him leave yet he also does not plan on harming him. He said he will find a way to escape"

Jane thought of the unknown caller and figured that it was probably from Zan e. Her phone was turned off the entire flight and so she missed it

She wept with joy Although her child has not been found yet, she was relieved to **know** that he was safe

She would definitely think of a plan to find him as soon as possible

After exchanging a few more words with Zachary, she soon hung up **the phon e**

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After hanging up. April stepped forward and spoke, "Honey, I won't be goi ng with you. I have to get another ticket to go somewhere else."

"You're not going back with me?" Jane looked back at him, surprised

"Well, I can't. We tricked Matthew into escaping, he won't just give up. He will **surely** come trouble you. If I go with you, you will be in danger I must get a tic ket and go somewhere **where he** can't find me Listening to April's narration, J ane paused and thought

"Why don't you stay at Silverbourne? The most dangerous place is where it's safest Matthew will definitely not even think that you're with me," she suggeste d

"Will that work?" April wavered

"I have experience. It's much safer for you to stay. I'll help you change **your** w hole identity I can guarantee Matthew won't recognize you, Jane claimed

He hesitated for a slight moment before accepting Jane's suggestion.

The two used his card to buy another ticket and finally returned

Jane placed April into the apartment she stayed at before and used her own di sguise to hide **April's** gorgeous features. She then went back to Maplewood Mansion with calmness in her heart

It was still very early in the morning, so she quietly discussed Zane's situation **with Zachary** She lear ned that Zane indeed sounded relaxed when he called, and it did not seem that **he** was

intimidated at all

Once Drake was home, Jane told her about Zane's call, hoping to ask him to t race **the** number

Before she was about to do just that, Drake looked at her with an unreadable expression. You took April Middiam" He spoke softly

Jane was startled, staring at him cautiously. "Why are you asking that all of a **sudden**?

Jane didn't answer his question, but he could already tell

"You shouldn't meddle in their affairs." Drake spoke helplessly

Jane started to **get annoyed** and glared at him April is my good friend. Should I **just** stand by **and**

watch him suffer?

"You men **are all** the **same, arrogant** and presumptuous. You only care about your opinion, and you don't care **what** others think if you can't get **what** you want you resort to violent methods. Threata intimidation, confinement. You ca n't think from our own perspective. Do we really want this **kind** of life? Jane w

as not only talking about Matthew and April's **situation**, but also the grievance s she suffered **when** she was with Drake

If he **had** not forced. Zane **would not** have been sent to **such a** dangerous pl ace. Now, she did not know **where** he was

Drake, who felt **like he had** been hit, was now rendered speechless and **did n ot dare** bring up Matthew **Hughes**

"Don't get mad,

I didn't **mean** it. I **promise** I won't ask that agan Drake raised his arms to sho w has

innocence

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Forget it. Brothers also hold a big deal, but offend the child's mother and th e consequences will be much worse.

Seeing that Drake was quick to admit his mistake, Jane calmed down.

"Hmph. I did take April. But you tell Matthew that I have no idea where he is. If he's capable enough, he can find April hims elf."

With a light scoff, Jane headed back to her room.

Drake did not tell Matthew. He could only

follow what Jane told him. Of course Matthew would not **believe** it, but **now** h e had no choice other than finding April by himself.

At nightfall, Drake walked slowly into Jane's room. She just took a shower and was sat on the bed, working on her studio's sketches.

He walked in and sat near Jane, eyes burning straight at her.

"Baby, it's late at night. Time to rest." This is the first time Drake has ever call ed her with such a doting name. Her heart wavered, but she kept her face stra ight and continued to work.

Seeing that Jane was unmoved, he continued to woo her. "Baby, I was wrong. Don't be angry, okay?"

Jane was stunned that he was still capable of doting on her like this. She was not mad anymore but she did not want to forgive him so easily, so she **kept** to herself.

"You said you were wrong, then tell me where exactly you went wrong."

Drake was taken aback. As a **very** straightforward man, he did not know wher e he was wrong.

However for the sake of sleeping with the beauty in his arms, he racked his brains and stated a few **mistakes** of his **own**.

"I shouldn't have been arrogant, I should have considered your opinions, I sho uldn't make wild guesses about your best friend, I should have looked **at** thing s in women's perspective and thought of **them**."

Drake could only think so much, careful with his words in fear that Jane would be satisfied.

Jane had never seen such **a** look from his face. The anger in her heart fully dissipated, leaving her laughing.

Why should they be fighting? He was born a proud son surrounded by what he could even wish for, and he has gone through hardships *no* ordinary pers on had experienced before. His mindset was different from ordinary people, and it was truly rare to hear apologetic words from him.

Jane stopped antagonizing him and instead opened up to him about Zane.

"Zane called back earlier. He tried

calling me, but I did not answer. He called Zachary though, saying that he is not in any danger and is with a man. Let's not worry, he will try to escape."

Hearing the news, Drake shot up quickly.

"Whose phone did he call from?"

"I don't know, I wanted to ask you to track the number earlier. Who knew you'd ask me about

April as soon as you came home?" Jane could not help but give him a dry look.

Drake felt a little embarrassed.

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"Tasked Zachary, but Zane didn't say anything else. Probably because h e had no time, but he hung up

without **saying anything else**. I was **thinking** though, **who** could **be** the man **that he's talking about**?"

Drake was also lost in thought.

At that moment, Zane, who was also thinking of them, was dragged to a game – it was some brain–intensive game from abroad.

Zane was very immersed but still lost in the end.

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"You're so cool. I only look up to very few people and now you're one of th em," Zane said admiringly, looking at River opposite him.

Zane's sparkling **eyes** brought a sense **of** accomplishment to the older man, r eplying **with** a smile.

"That goes without saying. I'm proficient in all eighteen types of combat."

River's cocky look reminded Zane of Zachary who usually had the unbearabl e look of his own.

He did not expect River and him to look so similar and it made him speechless .

Although it was true that the man was quite powerful and intelligent, more tha n him in fact, what shocked **Zane** even more was when he found out that Rive r was ranked third on the hacker list – even more powerful than his father.

Just as Zane was ranting about River's smugness in his head, a figure slowly descended from the **stairs**, interrupting the two.

Seeing the man, the smile on River's face disappeared and he looked at the o ther in a hard to read

expression.

Zane also looked up at the man on the stairs.

If he did not know any better, he definitely would have thought that it was a wo man.

"You two get along well. You are, indeed, **a** family." The man's icy tone poured out of his mouth, sounding disapproving.

River took note of his voice and frowned slightly.

"I'm training him. It's not what you think."

His voice was equally cold and dull.

Zane listened at **the** strong words of both men, and the uneasiness in his heart intensified.

Having

stayed with the two of them, **he certainly sensed** tension between the two. H e could not tell **what was** wrong, **so** he could only get caught up in the strange atmosphere every day.

River's answer **did** not **satisfy** the man but he did not bother pushing him **mor e**. **He** huffed and sat on the sofa beside him. "I want to eat the noodles you made," The man said as he turned towards Ri ver.

Without **saying** anything, River got up and **headed towards** the kitchen.

Zane was left alone with the man in the room. **He had** picked up **the card ga me they** just **played on** the **table**, **glancing** at it casually, and throwing it bac k again.

"A boring game," The man claimed.

"How is it boring? Do you even know how to play it?' Zane could not help but talk back.

Hearing this, the man turned towards him, his eyes like razor sharp blades piercing through Zane as the kid looked b ack fearlessly.

"Boy, do you even know who you are talking to?" The man's voice was lo w and threatening.

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"I would also like to know who you are. Think you can tell me?" Zane ask ed calmly.

The man was astonished by the kid's words and could not think of a reply. Instead, he stared him

down.

Of **course he would not tell the** kid his identity, so he simply grunted and ign ored him.

After a while, river returned with three servings of noodles and placed them o n the **table**, **asking the** other two to eat. **Zane did** not need to think twice befo re eating.

Mommy's escape principle – eat enough to have the strength to run away.

Seeing Zane's attitude, **the** man glowered at him and sat down. He then looked **at** River.

"What are you planning to do?"

River, who was his eating noodles, stopped.

The man waited for his answer.

"Sir, you shouldn't talk while eating. Did no one tell **you**?" Zane said, turning t o the man.

The man looked **back at** him. "Insolent child. If you keep talking, I will throw you to the purgatory."

River paled. The **so**– called purgatory did not refer to hell; it was in face, much more terrifying than

that.

There lies all the top killers that were cultivated for the Road to Rebirth. It can be called a real purgatory on earth, it's level of horror beyond the imagination.

The man noticed River's expression.

"Why? Can you not bear to send him?"

"I intend to train him personally **to** be my pawn against those people," River said faintly **as** his heart thumped.

"Hmph." The man was clearly not satisfied of his answer and grunted.

Zane once again

listened to the conversation, knowing that they were discussing about him but acting like it wasn't, as his expression was so calm.

He began to plot about his way to escape. Although River treated him well and taught him a ton, he still had to go back to his Mommy.

After eating, he put dow his utensils and spoke. "I'm going back up to rest. You guys can continue."

Zane did not care about them both.

Jane, who had **spent the** entire night **worrying** for **Zane**, encountered Charle s **once again** at **the** studio the next **day**.

Furthermore, **Charles specifically requested to** meet **with** her, **leaving Jan e with a** restless heart as she obliged **to see Charles once again**.

"Mr. Carlton, the design also takes time. If you are in a rush, I suggest you go to a better store."

Jane was very confused with his attitude, her tone becoming a little impa tient.

"No, Miss Bentley, you misunderstand."

He quickly waved his hands to explain.

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I'm here today because of something else."

Hearing this, Jane remained calm. "Sir, please do tell."

"I came here to ask you something. Your mother's surname is Ford, and he r name is Clarissa." His voice trembled.

Jane was stunned and looked **at** him with impatient eyes.

"You know my mother?"

That solidified Carlton question. It seems Jane is in fact that woman's daught er.

His gaze towards her became softer and hazier.

Looking at the expression, Jane was very puzzled.

Charles **Carlton** was Annie's father, but he knew her mother and her surname.

In her memory, her mother seldom went out because of her ill health. How did this man come to

know her mother's name?

There is only one **possibility**. That is, **the** two of them had known **each** other a long time ago and they had not seen each other for many years now.

"Your mother...is

she okay?" Charles Carlton asked. There was a moment of silence.

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