

Second Chances Protecting Mrs. Hall by Colby Stanford

Chapter 51

Chapter 51

The next **day**, Emma received a call from Sebastian's mother, Yolanda Dow,

Yolanda mentioned that the Gomez family was facing trouble because of Aria, and since Mateo and Nora couldn't **help** her, she hoped Emma could step in.

Josiah was skeptical. "Miss Wilson, the Gomez family is under police investigation. They might be trying to drag you down. Maybe you shouldn't go."

Emma sneered. "They probably think the enemy of their enemy is their friend. But Sebastian's uncle nearly killed Uncle Sean. Do they really think they can get away with that?"

Josiah smirked. "You're right."

"So, in this game, it doesn't hurt to play along. Besides, I have my own plans." Emma **smiled**.

Emma arrived at the club Yolanda had specified. Security guards stood at the entrance to the private room.

Inside, an elegant middle-aged woman sat at a massive dining table, wearing an emerald necklace recently acquired at an auction, rumored

to be worth over 10 million dollars.

Yolanda, who had gained immense popularity for acquiring this emerald, had made international news, showcasing the Gomez family's wealth once again.

Today, she wore the emerald, clearly to assert her power and authority over Emma. A subtle form of intimidation.

Seeing Emma, Yolanda pointed to the seat in front of her. "Take a seat."

Emma pulled out a chair and sat down, her presence commanding attention.

Yolanda watched her **closely**. Emma, dressed in a sleek black dress and high heels, with long flowing hair and legs crossed, exuded a lazy confidence. Even with sunglasses perched on her nose, **there** was an undeniable arrogance about her.

This seemingly ordinary girl had somehow managed to trample on Yolanda's pride and dignity.

Yolanda broke the silence first. "You must be aware of your sister's disappearance."

She continued, "Here is the thing. Sebastian had a brief romantic interest in your sister, it wasn't serious enough to consider marriage, so he couldn't have kidnapped her. After she went missing, the police identified Sebastian as the prime suspect.

"I'm here to ask you to provide evidence that your sister suffered from depression. If you place these antidepressant pills and a suicide note in Aria's room, you'll be rewarded with 10 million dollars!

Emma raised an eyebrow at the amount, her lips curling into a mysterious smile. She understood Yolanda was trying to make it look like Aria had committed suicide due to depression, thus shifting suspicion away from her son.

"Is your Sebastian's life only worth 10 million dollars to you, Mrs. Dow?" Emma's tone was light, but it made Yolanda's eyebrows twitch.

Yolanda knew that Emma had recently fought with the Wilson family for **over 2** million dollars for her mother's sake. So, in her mind, this amount shouldn't be trivial for Emma. "If you think 10 million dollars is too little, we can negotiate."

Emma smiled, pushing the bottle of pills and the fake suicide note back across the table. "You can't **afford** what **I want**," she said coldly

83%

Chapter 51

Yolanda's forehead veins throbbed with anger. "If it weren't for my son, I wouldn't waste my time with this country bumpkin. 10 million dollars is more than enough for someone like her to live on! **How** dare she act so high and mighty? She's nothing but an uncouth peasant who doesn't know her place!!

The forced smile on Yolanda's face was almost painful to see. "Miss Wilson, maybe we can negotiate what you want. You should understand, that with the financial power of our Gomez family, apart from the Hall family, there are very few who can compare. What we can't afford, probably no one else can, right?"

Emma crossed her arms and chuckled mockingly. No wonder Sebastian was so useless and arrogant, she thought, with a mother like this, it made perfect sense.

Emma slowly removed her sunglasses, revealing a pair of beautiful eyes that seemed to smile but were as cold as ice. "I want your brother's life. Will you give it to me?"

Yolanda's face changed instantly. "What do you mean?"

"Exactly **what** I said," **Emma** replied. "Your brother, Parker, wants to kill my uncle. Hand him over to me. Let me cut off his hands and feet and throw him into a shark tank as feed. Agree to that, and I'll save your son."

"Yolanda's face twisted with rage. She and Parker had grown up together and were very close. The Gomez family's prosperity also relied heavily on Parker's support. Their families were inseparable, and if something happened to Parker, it would be a severe blow."

Yolanda glared at Emma, a murderous glint in her eyes. "Take her down!"

Yolanda had come prepared. If Emma agreed, she would pay her 10 million dollars to help her son take the blame. If Emma refused, then she would face the consequences.

Yolanda had come prepared. If Emma agreed, she would pay her 10 million **dollars** to help her son take the blame. If Emma refused, then she

would face the consequences.

Yolanda gave the order, and two bodyguards at the door immediately rushed in.

Emma noticed the glint of knives on their wrists, revealing their malicious intentions.

Her expression hardened. With a swift kick, she sent one of the knives flying. Using her strength, she quickly pinned the other man to the ground and snatched the knife from his hand.

Yolanda trembled as she saw the knife lodged in the chair's back, less than half a centimeter from her neck. Just a slight tilt and her throat would have been slit. A chill ran through her body as she stared at Emma in shock, her nerves on edge.

Emma dusted off her hands as if she had touched something dirty, her face icy. "Go back and tell Parker, if he dares to harm anyone from the **Rivera** family, he's digging his own grave."

"And about Sebastian," she **added**, "he's hurt quite a few young girls. The sooner he goes to jail, the better for everyone."

Yolanda gritted her teeth. “How dare you **speak** to me like this? Even Brad would show respect to the Gomez family. Who do you think you

The oppressive feeling of the knife near her neck made Yolanda tremble uncontrollably, clearly at her breaking point.

Emma remained calm. She leaned forward slightly, her long hair casting a shadow over her face, her lips curling into a dark smile. “I know one thing. Those who cross me don’t live long. **So**, you and your brother better watch out.”

With that, she flicked a steel ball from her fingertips. The knife lodged behind Yolanda fell, tearing through her chest clothing.

08:29 Mon, 8 Jul F WK.

Chapter 51

83%

“Ah!” Yolanda screamed in terror as her priceless emerald pendant was cut off by the blade, shattering as it hit the ground with a loud crash.

Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 52

Chapter 52

After leaving the club, Emma noticed a sleek black Ferrari parked right at the entrance. Oddly enough, a luxurious Maybach was parked next to it, **each** car worth around 2 million dollars.

Such extravagant vehicles at the entrance of a modest club certainly turned heads. The Ferrari was unmistakably Sean’s, while the **Maybach** belonged to Liam.

Sean was leaning casually against his Ferrari, sunglasses on and legs crossed, enhancing the scene with his presence.

As Emma approached, he quickly showed concern. “Emma, I heard the Gomez family summoned you urgently. Are you alright? Any injuries?”

“I’m fine, Uncle Sean. But- Emma started.

“What’s up?” Sean asked, noticing her hesitation.

Emma **nodded** toward the Ferrari. “Uncle Sean, **don’t** you think driving such a noticeable car might attract paparazzi?”

Sean, always fond of his luxury cars and accustomed to public attention, dismissed the concern with a wave of his hand. “Let’s not worry about that now, Emma. Come. I’ll take you for some cake,” he said, choosing to overlook the potential for unwanted attention.

Nearby, Emma noticed Liam’s quiet presence by the Maybach. She let go of Sean’s **hand** and approached Liam. “Mr. Hall, would you care to join us for some cake?”

Both Sean and Levi were taken aback by her gesture.

Sean, feeling a bit sidelined but determined, removed his sunglasses and fixed his gaze on Emma. “Emma, when I invite you for cake, there’s no need to ask anyone else,” he said, giving Liam a pointed look.

Liam, unfazed by Sean’s remark, took Emma’s hand firmly in his as if to make a statement. “Feeling tired?”

“Not really, just took a few hits and lost my knives,” Emma responded casually.

Levi felt a mix of admiration. “What exactly does **she do**? Always in the thick of action, from fights to defusing bombs. And she talks about it so nonchalantly! No wonder Mr. Hall was so taken with her.”

Liam reassured her, “It’s good that you’re not hurt. Let’s go home so you can rest. We have a well-trained pastry chef at home; you can have any dessert you fancy.”

Feeling targeted, Sean couldn’t hide his dismay. “Emma, are you really going to ditch me for a man?” It

was a **new and** unpleasant feeling for him, and he exaggerated his sadness for effect. “My heart is breaking here. I just found **you**, and now you’re leaving me....

Emma quickly tried to smooth things over. “Uncle Sean, I’m not leaving you. It’s just that I seem to be drawn to **Liam!**”

Sean was left speechless by her response.

Levi silently applauded her from the sidelines.

Sean, still trying to recover, frowned. "Emma, how can you say things like that?"

Emma bit her lip, unsure of what to say next.

Sean, now visibly frustrated, turned to Liam. "Emma is making sacrifices for you. Why can't you let her come with me for some cake?"

Liam's expression hardened. "She shouldn't have snacks before dinner; it's not good for her appetite..

您B3%薯

Chapter 52

Caught off guard by Liam's protective stance, Sean blurted out, "What's so important about dinner? Emma, do you want to have dinner with him or come with me for a cake?"

Emma

touched her nose, looking sheepish. "Dinner sounds good... But Uncle Sean, you're always watching your sugar intake, isn't it bad to have a cake?"

Sean **paused**, then relented with a smile. "Alright then, I'll follow your lead and skip the cake for dinner too."

Emma couldn't help but smile at Sean's sudden shift in demeanor.

Sean, aware of Liam's notorious past, was initially concerned for Emma. However, witnessing their affectionate interaction, he felt a mix of helplessness and reluctance to witness more of their intimate moments. Deciding to make a graceful exit, he quipped, "I better not stick around and be a third wheel.

I wouldn't want to keep you from missing Liam when I'm around."

Emma caught his playful tone and chuckled. "Uncle Sean, try to act normal, will you?"

Visibly irked, Sean

retorted, "**What** can I do if my precious niece doesn't need me anymore? Is it so wrong to be heartbroken?" He shot Liam a stern look and added, "Listen, treat Emma right. If you hurt her, I'll make **you** regret it!"

This **was** the second time Liam had been sternly warned by Emma's uncle. Despite knowing Sean was Emma's uncle, Liam's protective

instincts were unmistakable.

As Sean climbed into his car, he gave Emma a flirtatious wink. “Remember, Emma, if he ever treats you poorly, just come to me. I’ve got your

back!

Emma rolled her eyes. “Uncle Sean, please don’t say things that could be taken the wrong way!”

Sean replied with a smirk. With that, he roared off in his Ferrari.

Emma then joined Liam in his car, where he was busily adjusting his tie, clearly ruffled by Sean’s protective antics.

Trying to ease the tension, Emma said, “Feeling a bit jealous? My uncle is in showbiz; he tends to say things that sound more dramatic than

intended.”

Liam shot her a cool glance. “Are you implying I’m old-fashioned?”

Emma, her eyes widening, hastened to reassure him, “Not at all”

Liam, seeming to change the subject, remarked casually, “Just because your uncle left in a hurry doesn’t mean we can’t still have dinner. It’s perfect timing.”

Emma offered a slight smile.

After a long day, Emma returned home, washed up, and decided to relax **for** a bit.

Usually, Liam would retreat to his study around this time, but today, he surprised her by staying in the bedroom. “What’s going on?” Emma asked, her curiosity piqued.

As she settled onto the bed, Liam made it clear he wanted to join her, Emma assisted him onto the bed, but once he touched the sheets, Liam

took the lead

Emma’s heart fluttered as she **gazed** at his flawless features, memories of the first time she saw his strength and residence vividly coming back to her.

Liam recalled the day she had boldly declared, will be a great wife, smart and capable, and I’ll surely surprise **you** one day. If Emma had

色

Chapter 52

Mon

known how deeply those words would resonate with Liam, she might have hesitated.

83%

“Emma,” Liam whispered as he kissed her forehead tenderly. “Now it’s my turn to surprise you.” He then kissed her lips passionately, **his** hands skillfully removing her clothes. His touch was gentle yet insistent as his hand traveled down her body.

Caught in the moment, Emma felt a mix of emotions. Even though she had been swept off her feet before, she still felt a blush spread across her cheeks. “Please don’t...”

Liam reassured her softly, “Trust me, you’ll enjoy this.”

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 53

Chapter 53

Emma struggled to break free from Liam’s arms. She weakly reached out and grabbed Liam’s shoulder, causing him to wince slightly.

Emma remembered the man who had rescued her in the helicopter had a similar injury.

Just then, her phone suddenly buzzed with a message. (Emma, I’m so sorry!]

Liam’s **face** clouded over at the interruption.

Emma frowned as she asked: (What’s wrong?

You’re being attacked online!]

Emma met Liam's gaze and opened her phone. Twitter was awash with negative comments about her.

"Why is this woman trying to cozy up to Mr. Rivera, just because she has a front-row ticket? Disgusting!! one commented.

"She is so ugly! Mr. Rivera can't be with her!" another continued.

"I know her. Her name is Emma. From that international school in TroIn City. She's trying to use Mr. Rivera's fame to climb the social **ladder**." Negative reviews are filling up the entire webpage.

The comments continued, and Emma scrolled through more hurtful remarks. It appeared some of Sean's fans mistakenly thought she was romantically involved with him.

"Maybe I should just hack into the Twitter system. I've had enough of this drama," Emma said casually.

Liam remained silent.

"Just kidding," Emma added with a wry smile. She was capable enough but saw no need for retaliation.

Then, Emma stumbled upon a photo of herself that had been grotesquely edited to make her look unattractive. "Who would do this to me? It's horrible." In the doctored photo, her features were exaggerated, her face bloated, and her body distorted to appear much larger. This explained why she was being mocked online.

"Don't worry about it. I'll take care of this," Liam said, reaching for Emma's phone. But Emma noticed another notification. "Look, someone is standing up for me."

Amidst the flood of insults, someone had posted a genuine photo of Emma taken by a classmate at **Vark** College. She hadn't seen it before, but the photographer had captured her true beauty.

The individual who stood up for Emma quickly became the target of vicious online attacks. Internet trolls bombarded him with harsh

criticism.

Liam was suspicious of the person defending Emma. He clicked on the profile, which was nearly empty, and simply named **June**. "Who could

this be?"

"I'm not sure, maybe a classmate," Emma replied, her eyes still on her phone. Meanwhile, Liam had someone look into the identity of this mysterious supporter.

Elsewhere, Sean was blazed as he watched Emma being slandered online. He was so **upset** that he immediately composed a tweet in her defense. [She is the most important person to me. Anyone attacking her can back off.

His manager, upon seeing the tweet, was alarmed. "Mr. Rivera, that's too harsh!"

13

Chapter 53

Sean's expression darkened. "Why? We shouldn't let them bully Emma!"

"No, it's just that... this might make fans think she's your girlfriend, which could make things worse for her." His manager explained.

Paused for a while, Sean signed and asked. "Then how should I phrase it?"

After a thoughtful discussion, the manager helped Sean draft a more careful message.

Soon after, Emma noticed a new tweet from Sean trending. It read: [We are not romantically involved, but she is a cherished part of my family, more important than anyone, She's still at college and deserves to study without harassment. Please respect that and support me. Thank you for your understanding!]

With Sean's impactful statement, the tide of public opinion quickly turned.

"She's related to Mr. Rivera? We've been attacking the wrong person!" one **apologized**.

"The unflattering photos online are fake. Have you seen the ones @June posted? Both Mr. Rivera and His family member are good-looking" another commented.

"Could she possibly be his sister? I'm shocked!" Some are curious about Emma's identity.

As Sean defended Emma, Liam was busy safeguarding her personal information, effectively managing the crisis.

Positive chatter about Emma began to spread on the internet.

“She’s a student at Vark College and I know her. She’s an excellent student. She’s even more beautiful in person than in June’s photos. The hatred online is unjustified. How can people be so cruel?” This comment received the most likes.

There are replies below. “She came second in the Vark Invitational Mathematics Examination, right behind the nationally acclaimed tech prodigy, Vere. Rumor has it she preferred the second prize. (LOL)”

With support from June and Sean, Liam watched Emma’s reputation recover but felt a growing concern.

The storm online had calmed, but Vark College was buzzing with excitement. Now that everyone knew Sean was Emma’s uncle, they treated Emma with newfound respect and even asked for her autograph.

Suddenly, Emma’s phone rang. She excused herself to take the call

Returning composed, she approached Liam. “The police just informed me. Aria has been murdered.”

Liam **raised an** eyebrow, his expression unreadable.

Emma continued, “It was brutal—multiple stab wounds, signs of kidnapping, and she had been starved before her death.”

“Are the police involving you in the investigation?” Liam asked calmly

“No, they’ve already identified the suspect—Sebastian.” Emma answered.

Emma looked up at Liam, his features sharp and commanding. She stepped closer, wrapped her arms around his waist, and rested her head against him, feeling a sense of security. At that moment, she imagined a future where they both grew old together.

Despite not knowing if Aria’s death was connected to Liam, Emma didn’t want him entangled in her troubles. She resolved to handle her

adversaries on her own.

Liam noticed a shift in Emma’s mood and gently stroked her head. “It seems I haven’t **done** enough if you still have room for other thoughts.

08:29 Mon, 8 Jul F

Chapter 53

Three days later, Emma found herself alone at Aria's funeral.

Sebastian had once paid a large sum to bail out Aria, but his disturbing behavior eventually led him to her murder.

Despite the influence of the Gomez family, they could do nothing to escape the consequences of murder.

When Yolanda discovered Emma at her lowest, Emma's refusal to cooperate meant that Sebastian would face jail time.

With Sebastian now behind bars, the ties between Emma and the Gomez family were irrevocably cut.

83%

Emma felt little sorrow over Aria's death. In a previous life, Aria had been responsible for her painful death by fire—a memory that haunted Emma relentlessly.

In this life, though Emma hadn't been the one to end Aria's **life**, her actions had set the stage for her indirect revenge.

Today, attending the funeral, she needed to see for herself the closure of her past torment.

As she was lost in her reflections, the car pulled up to the cemetery.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 54

Chapter 54

Aria's funeral was a subdued affair. The Wilson family had seen better days, and the attendance was sparse, with few relatives or friends present. Zoe was confined to her bed, leaving only Nora and Mateo to attend the graveside service.

Tears streaked Nora's face as she watched a woman emerge from a black luxury car on the cemetery road. Her eyes, red and swollen from crying, widened in anger. "It's you! You're the reason Aria is gone! How dare you show up like this? I'll make you pay!" she shouted.

Emma's choice of attire was no **accident**. She often wore black and white, but today she had chosen a striking deep red dress, complemented by sunglasses and an unusual touch of red lipstick. Her outfit was more of a statement than an expression of grief.

"I dressed this way on purpose, but believe me; I had nothing to do with Aria's death. If you want someone to blame, go after Sebastian. Go ahead; kill him. Get your revenge, and see where that gets you." Emma replied, her voice icy.

"Enough, Emma!" Mateo interjected, raising his hand **as** if to strike Emma, but her bodyguards quickly stepped in to hold him back.

Emma's sneer was cutting. "We both are your daughters. When Aria was causing me trouble, where were you?"

Mateo's response was muted. He knew he had been unjust to Emma for various reasons, and his guilt made him avoid her. Even now, he favored Aria. "Aria was always with me. She was the closest to my heart. She was my daughter, not you," he said, his voice strained.

Hearing this confession, Emma felt a sharp pang in her heart, but she masked her pain with a colder, more mocking smile. "That's sad because Aria never really saw you **as** her father."

Her words became increasingly pointed. "You may have provided for her, but after she was released, she couldn't even be bothered to call you. But of course," Emma continued, her tone cold and detached with a hint of malice, "the dead are beyond our reproach. Arguing about it now is useless. She's gone, and she'll never have the chance to show you any gratitude."

Nora, driven to madness, lunged at Emma but was swiftly restrained by the bodyguards.

Emma stood calmly, arms crossed, a cold smirk playing across her lips. Hidden behind her sunglasses, her expression remained a mystery, but the curve of her red lips hinted **at** a chilling amusement.

She held her posture, tall and defiant. "Mateo, what a tragedy. Fate gave you two daughters, and yet you've lost them both. Now, you're left with nothing but this selfish, heartless woman by your side. You're going to **pay** for your fault with those final words, Emma turned and walked away.

Behind her, Mateo hurled insults at her retreating figure. “You and your mother are nothing but monsters! I regret ever having anything to do with her, just for the company, and having a daughter like you”

Nora’s laughter rang out, sharp, and unsettling, as she shifted from grief to venom. “Aria may be gone, but she knew our love for twenty years! Your mother, on the other hand, never saw a good day. Do you know how miserable she was? She suffered a thousand times more than Aria. I’ll tell you. I was the **one who** killed her! I knew about her depression, so I messed with her meds. I taunted her daily with massages and pushed her toward suicide. I watched her jump! That was real misery!”

A scream suddenly shattered the eerie laughter, Nora hadn’t anticipated the sharp pain that shot through her arm, the feeling of something

her flesh. “My arm, my hand... it hurts! Someone helps!”

At that moment, Emma seemed like a vengeful spirit from the depths of hell, her mind a blank slate overtaken by raw malice. It was **as** if she was on a battlefield, where everything was obliterated in a haze of **blood**.

The air in the cemetery was heavy with the scent of **blood**. Mateo stood frozen, overwhelmed by fear. “How dare your

“Since you’ve confessed to killing my mother, that’s **just** perfect, I won’t let you die quickly. I’ll tear **you** apart. **Today** it’s the arm, tomorrow it might be more. I’ll take you apart piece by piece!” Nora was in agony, her right arm a bloody mess, **blood** pouring out. It hurts someone

Chapter 54

helps!”

Emma looked on as the woman who had caused her so much pain now squirmed in agony, like an insect in its death throes. With a powerful kick, she sent the nearly Nora sprawling onto Aria’s grave.

Nora screamed as her back slammed into the ground, the shock knocking her unconscious. She slid off Aria’s tombstone, leaving a smear of blood across the grave.

Back at the Icovine Estate, Liam found the atmosphere oppressively heavy. He had offered to go with Emma to the cemetery, but she had insisted on facing it **alone**. Now, he sensed that something was terribly wrong.

In the wine cellar, Emma sat alone and slumped over, clutching a glass, half a bottle of whiskey already consumed. “Aren’t you happy?” Liam quietly approached.

“Yes, I am. Because **Aria** is dead,” Emma responded.

Liam looked at her; clearly, she was drunk, her cheeks flushed, a smile playing on her lips, but her eyes revealed a profound loneliness.

Compelled by her sadness, he reached out and **gently** stroked her head.

Emma held herself together until Liam’s hand touched her, then she broke down, tears streaming down her face. “Today, I found out that my mother had died because... Nora deliberately messed with her meds. Damn it! Why didn’t I realize sooner? I just can’t accept that!”

She now found a way to move on, but her mother would never return. Even if Aria and Nora suffered a hundred deaths, it wouldn’t bring her

mother back.

Liam cradled Emma in his arms, her body limp from the alcohol, her defenses completely down.

“Liam, I’m not a good person,” Emma confessed, staring blankly at the ceiling. “But I want to be a good daughter and **a good** wife.”

Her hands were stained, she knew that. If killing Nora could somehow bring her mother back, she wouldn’t hesitate. And even without the possibility of resurrection, she craved revenge enough to consider it.

Liam took her hand gently. “I don’t need **a** ‘good’ person or a ‘good’ wife. I just need you, Emma,” he **said**, pressing a kiss to her forehead. Emma closed her eyes, her senses dulled by alcohol.

As Liam carried her upstairs, Emma suddenly murmured, “Don’t worry about me. Go on ahead...”

Liam’s brow furrowed **as** he held her closer, thinking she might be caught in a nightmare about Stella, But her next words sent a chill through him. “I like you... I don’t deserve you... I’m not good enough for you,” she slurred, half-asleep,

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 55

Chapter 55

"I like you... I don't deserve you... I'm not good enough for you." Liam frowned at her words.

His concern deepened. "Is she dreaming about someone else?" He couldn't help but wonder.

"Who do you like?" he asked gently.

Emma's expression tightened. "Elijah."

'Elijah?' That name brought a surge of anger to Liam. The thought that she harbored feelings for that deceitful doctor was almost too much to bear.

But then, in a barely audible whisper, Emma clutched at his shirt. "Elijah... if you killed Liam, I won't let you get away with it..."

With those words, Liam's heart, which had been lost in a **sea** of turmoil, found its way back. He looked down at Emma with a gaze filled with deep, unwavering love. "You are mine," he whispered.

In the stillness of the night, after ensuring Emma **was** resting comfortably, Liam retreated to his study to reflect on the **day's** grim events at the cemetery.

Meanwhile, news from the hospital confirmed that Nora had sustained permanent injuries, her arm irreparably damaged.

"This afternoon's events at the cemetery must remain confidential." Liam's voice carried a calm, authoritative tone as he addressed Levi in the dimly lit **room**.

Levi, his expression solemn, nodded in agreement. "Mr. Hall, rest assured, I've taken care of everything according to your instructions."

The next morning, Emma woke up with a lingering hangover, her memory of the previous night's confessions foggy.

Liam, maintaining his usual composure, suggested a day out. "**Today**, I'm taking you somewhere special."

"Where are we going?" Emma asked, puzzled.

“You’ll see when we get there,” Liam replied with a slight smile, gently taking her hand.

He brought her to TroIn City’s most upscale supermarket.

Liam, who usually avoided crowded **places** due to his limited mobility, seemed out of place in the bustling supermarket.

Emma, eyeing a box of exorbitantly priced mushrooms and various luxury health products, began to piece things together. “You’re not taking me to meet your family, are you?”

He picked up a box of supplements nonchalantly and added it to their cart. “Yeah.”

“But I thought you said that was happening later?” Emma responded, caught off guard.

“We might not have had our wedding yet, but we’re already officially registered,” Liam explained. “It’s time you got to **know** my family”

“But I’m not ready for **this**...” Emma’s hesitation was evident.

“Everything that needed preparation has been handled,” Liam **reassured** her, gesturing to the cart filled with thoughtful, high-end gifts.

plor 55

“I mean; I’m not even dressed properly, and I haven’t washed my hair...” Emma looked down at herself, feeling suddenly self-conscious.

Liam met her gaze, his expression softening. “No need to be formal.”

Emma and Liam arrived at the Hall family villa in the evening. The villa is nestled by the mountains and waters, boasting a rare scenic view of TroIn City.

As they pulled up, Emma noticed the courtyard **was** filled with cars. She had assumed they were attending a small family gathering and was surprised by the **crowd**.

“Is there a party today?” **she** asked Liam.

He replied calmly. “It’s my dad’s birthday.”

“You should’ve mentioned it before bringing me here,” Emma exclaimed, glancing down at her casual outfit of a white T-shirt and jeans, topped with sneakers. She felt underdressed compared to the expected attire of cocktail dresses and heels.

Emma quickly dug through Liam's trunk for her spare dress and high heels. After a rapid change, tying her hair into a sleek bun, she transformed her look. Rushing to catch up, she called out, "Liam, wait!"

Her swift change made her seem like a completely different person. Liam turned, a trace of annoyance in his eyes. "I told you that there's no need to overdress."

Emma grabbed his hand, her voice earnest. "It's not about showing off; it's about respecting your family."

Aware that the guests likely came from well-to-do families, Emma wanted to make sure she represented Liam. His initial annoyance softened as he squeezed her hand. "Alright, let's head in."

As they entered, they immediately drew all eyes. This was Liam's first time bringing a date to such an event, and Emma, in her elegant light purple chiffon gown, captivated the room with her grace and beauty, outshining the other attendees.

After a brief moment of admiration, the crowd began to greet Liam warmly. "Mr. Hall, long time no see."

Emma caught the mixed expressions on the faces around Liam—curiosity mixed with fear, and even some awkwardness and avoidance.

At today's party, several guests who had once **been** close to Liam now seemed to favor Brad, leading to their evasive glances. Emma tightened her grip on Liam's hand, silently affirming her unwavering support for him, regardless of anyone else's stance.

Feeling her resolve, Liam gently caressed her hand, a small but tender gesture that spoke volumes.

Just then, Brad approached, holding a champagne glass. "Long time no see, welcome to the Hall family," he said smoothly.

Emma raised an eyebrow. "Actually, Brad, it should be you welcoming your elder brother back," she corrected him sharply. Liam was, after all, the eldest son of the Hall family.

Brad chuckled, trying to diffuse the tension. "Just a turn of phrase, Emma. You really do pay attention to the details, don't you? It's almost as if you're looking for signs of a rift."

Liam's voice grew cooler. "Today we're here to celebrate Dad's birthday. Let's not stir up any trouble. And remember—my wife might **be** young, but she's not to be underestimated?"

Brad's smile faltered, and beside him, Elsie **Weeds**—**Brad's** biological mother, also showed her displeasure.

Chapter 55

Ignoring them, Liam led Emma to greet his father, Simon.

Simon, dressed sharply in a tuxedo, couldn't hear the exchange but noticed their arrival. "Dad, this is Emma. We're here to wish you a happy birthday," Liam announced,

Simon's response to Emma was polite yet distant, maintaining a neutral demeanor.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 56

Chapter 56

Emma knew **that** in the past, people used to address Liam **as** "Mr. Hall" with a sense of reverence.

But now, the "Mr. Hall who was addressed with a sense of reverence openly was Brad,

At the party today, there were **quite** a few people who used to be under Liam's wing but shifty gazes.

Emma tightened her grip on Liam's hand.

had now switched allegiance to Brad, hence their

It was as if she was telling him about her determination, that even if the entire world betrayed him, she would not abandon him.

Liam sensed her emotions. His rough thumb rubbed the space between her thumb and index finger, expressing his gentleness in this way.

"Liam..."

At this moment, a person walked over.

Looking dapper, Brad held a champagne glass. "Long time no see," he said. "Welcome to the Hall family's home."

Emma raised her eyebrows and said, "Mr. Brad, you got that wrong. You should say "welcome back to the Hall family's home."

She thought, 'Liam is the Hall family's eldest son. What is Brad getting at by saying "welcome to the Hall family's home"?'"

Brad chuckled and said, "It's just a **phrase**. Emma, your nitpicking over words makes it seem like there is a distance between Liam and **us**."

Liam said coldly, "Today is Dad's birthday. You had better not cause trouble. Also, my wife is young, and she's badass. If you pick a fight with her, be prepared to get schooled."

Sure enough, Brad's expression turned cold.

On the side, Brad's birth mother and Liam's stepmother, Elsie, also looked grim after hearing that.

After Liam finished speaking, he and Emma walked past them. They walked **up** to Liam's father, Simon.

The conversation just now was not loud. Only a few of them could hear it clearly.

Simon didn't hear it, and neither did the other guests. They all appeared to be enjoying themselves.

"Dad, this is Emma," Liam said. "We came together to wish **you a** happy birthday"

Dressed in a black tuxedo, Simon **nodded** in response and replied, "**Okay.**"

His attitude toward Emma was neither warm nor cold.

Today was Simon's 60th birthday. Although the Hall family was imposing, it was built up on the foundation laid by Liam's grandfather. In Simon's generation, he and his brothers had limited individual capabilities. In contrast, Liam and Brad were outstanding individuals, especially Liam, who had been called a prodigy since he was a child.

"It seems that your dad isn't very pleased with me, right?" Emma said.

After exchanging pleasantries with Simon, Emma and Liam left the main **stage**.

Liam carefully picked up a **plate** of desserts and gave it to Emma, saying, “Nope. He has always been like this.”

Chapter 56

“Tsk,” Emma replied.

“When I was three years old, he married Elsie and had Brad,” Liam said. “My mom died of stomach cancer. My father could be considered to have remarried.”

Emma knew that Liam was opening up **about** his family to her, so she listened attentively.

At this moment, an old friend came to have a small talk with Liam.

Emma took the initiative to walk elsewhere to avoid getting overly intimate with Liam, but Kate took the opportunity to come closer.

“I was wondering who’s this person that looked so familiar,” Kate said. “Turns out it’s you.”

Kate wore a white formal outfit today, which was a white sleeveless suit-style top paired with white trousers. She wore gold accessories around her neck and a pair of gold high heels. Instead of a fairy-like style, she clearly adopted a style that exuded authority and power.

“Kate, with everyone from the Hall family here today, you had better not provoke me,” Emma said, her slender fingers gripping the champagne glass. “Otherwise, be careful that you may end up doing more harm than **good**, making Brad hate you even more.”

Emma’s words undoubtedly hit Kate’s raw nerve.

Brad had indeed been very cold toward Kate lately. Even in bed, the experience **was** more **about** venting frustration and mistreatment than

the past pleasure and delight.

Kate’s expression

instantly turned grim. She gritted her teeth and said angrily, “Who do you think you are? Daring to warn me? The Hall family’s requirements for their future daughter-in-law have always been strict. Not only must she come from a noble background, but she also has to be well-educated. A mere countrywoman like you is not up to their standards. Didn’t you see how cold Liam’s father treated you earlier? They won’t take you seriously **at** all. Everyone in our upper-class circle won’t take you seriously either!”

Kate lashed out like nobody's business, but Emma just smiled faintly.

She picked up a small piece of the dessert that Liam had just given her and said coldly, "So what if they don't take me seriously? What does my marriage to Liam have to do with them? They don't take me seriously. Well, I may not necessarily find them worthy of my respect."

Kate could not tell that Emma would speak so arrogantly despite having a calm expression.

Her expression changed drastically, and she said, "You, you are a lunatic! You actually have the audacity to look down on the Hall family? Haha. Emma, I think you're just angry due to embarrassment. Going mad with rage, huh? What kind of power and influence does the Hall **family** have? You can't even reach one-tenth of it in your lifetime! And all of this will be mine and Brad's in the future!"

"Oh really?" Emma said.

She sneered, thinking, "Well, I truly have no idea why I can't reach one-tenth of the Hall family's power and influence in my lifetime given my significant status!"

"Just you wait and see," Kate said. "I'll surely ruin your reputation later!"

With that said, she left angrily.

Liam happened to return at that moment **as** well.

When he saw **Kate's** unpleasant expression he frowned and asked, "What did she come to talk to you about?"

Emma wiped her hands nonchalantly and said, "Well, the kind of nonsense she said is nothing more than you are not good enough for Liam and 'just you wait!'"

08:30 Mon, 8 Jul F W

Chapter 56

Liam's face was as cold as ice.

"Brad's abilities are lacking," **he** said. "I didn't expect his judgment to be that poor too. Emma, I'll help you let off steam."

"Forget it," Emma said lazily. "There's no need for that. Didn't she say that she would teach me a lesson later? Let's just play along with her game plan."

The party progressed to its midpoint, and people had almost done chatting **and** catching up.

Simon loved painting. As the conversation flowed, everyone started talking about the art of painting.

“Today, there are quite a few youngsters present who have been proficient in the art of painting since childhood. How about we have the servants bring the painting tools so that the youngsters can individually offer birthday wishes to Mr. Simon by creating a painting?”

The person who made the suggestion was Elsie..

She was currently the mistress of the Hall family. As soon as she said that, everyone naturally went with her suggestion.

Kate was the first to volunteer. “Elsie, since I’m already here, let me take the lead to do it,” she said.

As she spoke, a hint of coldness flashed across her eyes.

she had long

This was something she had long planned for today. She wanted Emma to make a fool of herself in public.

If Emma made a fool of herself, Liam would also make a fool of himself. Elsie was naturally happy to do something that benefited Brad.

“You go ahead?” Elsie said.

As Elsie spoke, the servants had already set up the painting tools.

Kate walked over confidently and picked up the brush.

Everyone started to discuss when they saw Kate begin painting.

“She is... the daughter of the Johnson family, huh? No wonder she has such a remarkable demeanor!”

“I heard that Kate has been studying art since she was a kid. Not only is she good at playing the piano, but she **also** paints very well”

“I’m afraid none of the youngsters here can compare to her...”

“Indeed, she paints so well. With her in the lead, no one will dare to paint anymore.”

As the group of people spoke, Kate put down her brush.

“I’m done with my painting,” she said. “Who’s next?”

As she spoke, she directed her gaze toward Emma with prior preparation and said, “How about you paint on behalf of Liam?”

Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 57

Chapter 57

Kate’s words not only mentioned Emma, but also Liam.

Kate and Elsie’s goal today was to deal a blow to Emma and Liam.

Therefore, the table that had just been moved over was high. One could only paint while standing.

Although Liam was tall, sitting in a wheelchair clearly meant he couldn’t paint using such a table.

Elsie, Brad, and the others wanted to humiliate Liam to the extreme in front of everyone.

This plan was not only vicious in humiliating Emma as an uncultured countrywoman, but also in humiliating Liam as a disabled person sitting in a wheelchair.

A few people who usually support Brad started to stir things up.

“Miss Johnson, aren’t you making things difficult for people?”

“One has had a life of luxury since he **was** a kid and came from an affluent background, while the other is a countrywoman who catches fish and farms. With an exceptional painting as a point of comparison, she won’t dare to come forward to paint.”

“That’s right. It’d be fine if Emma grew up in the Wilson family’s home. Despite being a modest family, they **could** afford education. But she was abandoned by them since childhood. She probably isn’t even as **good as** the late Aria.”

“Aria’s talent is just average. Emma is definitely even worse. For once, Mr. Hall returns to the Hall family’s home today, so let’s not cause trouble.”

A few people had some drinks, and as they talked, they became more and more offensive, **even** to the point of offending Liam.

Outwardly, Elsie didn’t express her stance, but the corners of her mouth curled into a smug smile.

“Since that’s the case, then let’s just skip over Emma,” she said.

She couldn’t help but feel smug. “Who’s next,” she said.

“You think you can skip over me just because you **say** so?”

Just then, a woman’s cold **voice** sounded quietly.

Emma crossed her arms and stared **at** Elsie.

Elsie frowned as she asked, “Are **you** going to paint?”

“Didn’t you guys specially set up these things just to make me paint?” Emma said with a smile as she tilted her head, stepping forward in her high heels.

Emma,” **Liam** said as **he** grabbed hold of her **hand**. “If you don’t want to paint, you don’t have to paint. No one can force you.”

Liam had long gotten used to these troublesome people. He had been enduring silently just so that one **day**, he could send them all to hell,

But Emma stepping forward truly surprised him.

Emma turned around and bent forward gently to look at him, saying, “No one can insult you in front of me, Liam I’ll show them that your woman will never make you lose face/

Chapter 57

Mon,

She became determined for **Liam's** sake, and as Liam looked at her resolute expression, he was touched once again.

With that said, Emma turned around and resolutely picked up the brush.

Emma's attitude caught people by surprise, but what **was** even more surprising was her performance next.

Emma chose a high-**grade** fine brush, boldly wielding it with grandeur, and her brushwork was ever-changing.

Several art patterns were created in one go, The brushstrokes were spontaneous, elegant, vigorous, and flexible. And just like that, a masterpiece was created.

Now, those who were waiting to see Emma make **a** fool of **herself** were all astonished.

These people thought, 'How is she a countrywoman who doesn't know painting? She's practically a pro at it!'

Even Simon, who had always been indifferent, could not help but frown when he saw Emma's painting.

"This painting... is gorgeous."

It wasn't until someone couldn't help but be the first to praise that discussions erupted.

"Without decades of profound practice, one can never paint such a magnificent piece!"

"This painting's brushwork is naturally elegant. It feels even better than Kate's painting just now!"

Just then, a gray-haired elder in a long robe walked forward, frowning. His voice trembled with excitement as he said, "There's harmony in motion. There's blending of intensity and subtlety. Miss Wilson, I never expected that you have such accomplishment in painting at such a young age! I'm thoroughly impressed!"

The person who spoke was Bernard Clinton, one of the most renowned painters in the world presently.

The Clinton family had been renowned for generations and had produced countless literary and artistic talents. Emma received such high praise from Bernard. This immediately stunned everyone present even more.

“Mr. Clinton said he was thoroughly impressed. Just how good must Emma’s painting be?”

Even those who did not know painting now sensed the depth of Emma’s talent.

On the main stage, Simon’s gaze toward Emma also underwent a subtle change.

Throughout his life, Simon had received gifts from distinguished families. Very few things could touch him, yet today, Emma’s painting deeply surprised him.

It wasn’t just because of her painting skills, but also her choice of subject matter.

In the painting, a group of friends and family enjoyed a leisurely lunch.

It was a replica of Pierre–Auguste Renoir’s “Luncheon of the Boating Party”.

It had always been Simon’s character and aspiration to make quiet, subtle contributions and foster a harmonious family atmosphere:

Emma’s ability to choose such a painting showed her keen and perceptive mind.

Having spent many years with Simon, Elsie naturally noticed the unusual expression on his face.

Chapter 57

It had been more than ten years since she last saw Simon being so moved.

Elsie was so angry that the corners of her mouth twitched again and again, sensing a deep sense of crisis.

She then signaled to Kate with her eyes right away.

Kate’s face had contorted with jealousy long ago. She **said** sarcastically, “Emma, I used to be your teacher at school. When did you improve

so much? Could it be cheating?”

Right after Kate said that, some of the guests who didn’t understand suddenly realized something.

They thought, it seems like Kate is still the better painter. After all, she was Emma’s teacher!

But what Emma said next immediately left egg on Kate’s face.

“Miss Johnson, **you** were indeed an outsourcing teacher for Vark College, but it’s a pity that your level of skills is limited,” she said. “Not only are your professional abilities inferior to your students, but you also have poor judgment. You taught me for half a semester, yet you were still unaware of my true level of skills. No wonder **you** were fired after just two months of teaching. You are truly a ‘good’ teacher who **served** for the shortest period before getting fired in the history of Vark College.”

“You!” Kate said, her face contorting with anger.

She looked at Bernard with a sense of threat and said, “Mr. Clinton, tell me. Is today’s painting better done by me or by an unknown person from the countryside?”

Kate’s sense of threat was clear and to the point without any ambiguity.

She was the heiress of the Johnson family in Troln City who was supported by Brad.

As for Emma, she was **just a** female student, and she was supported by Liam, who had already lost his power and influence.

On the surface, it seemed to be a competition between the two women, but in reality, it was a competition between two heirs of the Hall family.

It was obvious **at** a glance who was more important.

Of course, Bernard was well aware of the underlying currents behind this, but even so, the artwork spoke for itself.

Kate’s painting, while beautiful, had an indescribable oddness to it.

Her painting looked like it was pieced together from here and there. It clearly had a perfect and beautiful appearance, yet it was lacking in strength and character.

It was as if it wasn’t painted by her at all.

Bernard frowned, and just as he was about to speak, someone spoke coldly with a deep voice.

“It’s already the 21st century. Still want to pla

A black wheelchair moved out automatically

the trick of twisting the truth, huh?”

Liam’s presence was strong. The moment he spoke, even **Kate** and Brad could not help but want to step back.

Liam looked at Kate coldly and added, “What’s more, you know very well whether or not you paint this yourself

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 58

Chapter 58

Even Emma could not help but lift her eyebrows.

She could tell that Kate’s brushstrokes were very odd, but she could not find any flaws for the time being. However, Liam could actually see through it so quickly.

Sure enough, Kate was flustered. “Wh— what do you mean?” she said. “How could this not be my painting? With so many people watching, how could I possibly fake it? Even if you want to defend Emma so badly, you shouldn’t hurl mud at me.”

Kate panicked and spoke without thinking.

Liam’s eyes were like stars on a winter night as he pulled the canvas under Kate’s artwork, which was painted on a gelatin sheet.

He took out a special light pen from his bag and shone it onto Kate’s canvas.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

“How... how come there is a painting on it?”

“This... Could it be...”

“Kate actually had someone pre-paint on the canvas, and she just copied it on the spot!”

This was a live painting competition.

She asked someone else to paint it in advance. When the gelatin sheet was laid onto the canvas, only Kate could see the painting on the canvas under a special lighting angle. All she had to do was trace the outline.

That was brazen cheating

Even Simon frowned in **displeasure**.

Bernard was even more disdainful. He said, “Miss Johnson, your conduct is so shameless, yet you still want to belittle Miss Wilson! You’re simply a disgrace to the cultural community!”

“I know, right? I didn’t expect that the prestigious Johnson family would raise such a daughter. It’s shocking!”

“In that case, Emma is much better than Kate. Not only is she beautiful, but she’s also really talented... The Hall family has two sons. Is there something wrong with Brad’s judgment of women?”

The guests’ discussions undoubtedly made Brad and Elsie look embarrassed **and** angry.

Elsie could only keep pacifying the guests and smiling to calm things down.

She also signaled to Kate using her **eyes**, urging Kate to leave quickly.

Of course, Kate was also deeply humiliated. She came up with an excuse and ran out crying.

As the party was coming to an end, **Brad** and Liam were both summoned to his study.

Liam was not around. Elsie seized the opportunity to take Emma to the backyard—alone.

After Emma left with Elsie, Levi texted Liam to inform him. He was worried that Elsie might do something harmful to Emma.

Chapter 58

Liam saw the message. Sure enough, he came up with an excuse to leave.

As soon as his wheelchair reached the garden, he saw Elsie sitting on a bench by the lake inside the gazebo.

Emma stood in the center of the gazebo, wearing a long dress with her back facing him.

Levi looked at Elsie resentfully and said, "Mr. Hall, she must be trying to brainwash your wife again, Should we go there now **and** stop her?"

During this period, he had personally witnessed the relationship between Liam and Emma.

He thought, 'Emma is truly a rare person who sincerely cares for Mr. Hall. She must stay true to her heart. After all, Mr. Hall has already suffered too much betrayal and cannot afford to lose his wife again...'

Liam said nothing, lurking silently behind the green trees. He stared at Emma with a deep gaze, thinking, 'Emma... will you trust me unconditionally?'

Not far away, Elsie took out a stack of documents and said, "I heard you married Liam shortly after coming to Troin City, so I'm sure there are lots of things you are unaware of. The person bitten to death in this photo is Clifford Lawrence. He was thrown into a Rottweiler base by Liam because he chose to work for Brad. A living person **was** bitten to death just like that. This family was driven to bankruptcy and desperation because of Liam's improper business competition. The husband committed suicide by jumping off a building. The wife went to jail. Their two children are now in an orphanage. One died of illness, and the other became mentally ill. This family was ruined. Numerous families have suffered similar harm from him. This photo was taken when Brad was abused by him back then. He didn't eat and drink for three days and nights, nearly starving to death."

Elsie showed Emma a pile of things about Liam's bloody and cruel "dirty past".

Then, she said, "Did you see that? This is the person you married. He's not a human **at** all. He's **a** demon!"

Emma looked at the photos calmly, not saying anything.

As she was silent, Elsie continued to speak with deeply moving emotions.

"Perhaps outsiders think that Brad and I are oppressing him, but you people have no idea how he used to abuse us" she said. "We've endured for so many years before we can live a normal life. If you want to survive, don't carry on siding with him."

in the darkness, where Emma couldn't see, Liam silently clenched his fists.

He stared at Emma, and each second felt like an eternity.

He thought, "Emma..."

Liam was about to clench his fists until his palms bled.

Just then, Emma spoke up.

“Are you suggesting that you want me to join you?” she asked.

Elsie frowned as she **said**, “After seeing these photos, do you still want to help such a dreadful person?”

Emma laughed.

If it weren't for the fact that she had some understanding of Liam's background in her previous life, she would have nearly believed what Elsie said today.

Liam had lost his mother when he was a child, and he had suffered a lot of abuse from Elsie since childhood.

UO–JU MUNI,

Chapter 58

Simon was busy with his career at that time. Elsie fed Liam leftovers and treated him worse than a dog.

Elsie **even** specifically hit Liam in places where the bruises wouldn't show, causing him to bleed profusely.

Simon couldn't see it, but he let Brad deliberately expose Liam's scars while they changed clothes during their physical education and horseback riding classes, crushing his self-esteem in front of all their classmates.

When Liam was ten years old, Elsie even deliberately set fire to the **Hall** family's old mansion.

She locked Liam in the basement, intending to burn him alive.

83%1

If it weren't for the servant who had raised Liam from a young age risking her life to save him back then, Liam would have died long ago.

But it was also that fire that caused Liam to lose the person he trusted and was closest to

That was a painful past buried in his heart that couldn't be shared with other people. Emma only found out about it before she died in her

previous life.

So, he feared fire the most, yet in Emma's previous life, he was willing to die in the sea of fire to save her...

As for the person named Clifford, as far as she knew, he was not killed by Liam...

Elsie did not mention these truths at all. Instead, she created a bunch of distorted facts to hurl mud at Liam.

"This Elsie is indeed disgusting to the core!" Emma thought.

Elsie saw Emma's eyes turn bloodshot after listening to her words, thinking that Emma believed her words. Secretly feeling smug, she said, "Look carefully. He's such a person. He's not worthy of you staying by his side. Even more so, he's not worthy of you loving him!"

'Not worthy of being loved, Liam thought.

Right after Elsie said that, Liam's palms had already been squeezed until they bled profusely.

Elsie secretly saw **his** expression and smiled in enjoyment.

She enjoyed the feeling of crushing his heart time and time again.

Even more so, she enjoyed the feeling of him enduring betrayal over and over again.

Just as she was completely confident, waiting for Emma to once again inflict pain on Liam, Emma said softly, "Elsie, I'm puzzled. Where earth do you get the confidence, feeling certain that I would betray my husband to help you and Brad, a mistress and a bastard?"

There was dead silence in the atmosphere.

Elsie looked at Emma in shock, appearing as if she could not believe what she had just heard.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 59

Chapter 59

Elsie was initially shocked. Right after that, she felt angry, her face showing a mixture of paleness and fear,

Upon noticing that Levi and Liann's expressions had softened at this moment, she felt like she was about to have a heart attack.

"Do, do you know what you're talking about?" she asked.

Emma repeated with a sneer, "You are a mistress. Brad is a bastard. You people are just like Nora and Aria. You **are** all people with low character who are disgusting and will be despised by everyone for the rest of your lives!"

Elsie's eyes were already filled with a sense of menace at this moment. "You ignorant and insignificant youngster," she said. "Do you believe that I can get rid of you right away?"

In a place with no one around, Elsie lost her composure and revealed her **true** colors.

Emma smirked. Her red lips at midnight were charming. "Get rid of me?" she said. "Do it then. Let's see how capable you and Brad are. Let's see who will get rid of whom!"

The moment their eyes met, Elsie clearly saw the ruthlessness in her captivating **eyes**.

That powerful aura of devouring made her heart suddenly skip a beat.

She thought, "How could a young ordinary girl have such a terrifying gaze?"

Just as Elsie became suspicious, the sound of a wheelchair being dragged could be heard in the quiet garden.

Liam approached with a cold expression.

Elsie trembled with anger. "Just you wait," she said. "I won't let **you** off the hook! Sooner or later, you'll regret it, bitch!"

Elsie's fear of Liam was deeply ingrained.

Thanks to him, her past days with Brad were filled with misery.

She had always wanted to kill Liam. That plane crash only crippled his legs, making her grit her teeth in hatred.

She wanted to test if Liam's legs were truly crippled or if he was faking it.

When no one was paying attention, Elsie picked up a sharp object and pretended to be careless, wanting to move toward Liam's legs to stab

him.

But Emma was sharp-eyed and agile. She noticed Elsie's odd behavior and reflexively kicked her hard

Caught off guard, Elsie immediately fell into the man-made lake behind the gazebo with a splash.

"Help me," she said. "Help. Help me! Help"

Elsie couldn't swim and desperately cried for help.

Soon, the bodyguard of the Hall family's villa rushed over immediately and pulled out the soaked Elsie.

The others at the party heard the commotion and rushed over **as well**, including the grim-faced Brad **as well** as Simon.

Brad's tone was terrifying as he asked, "What's going on?"

83

Chapter 59

"It's her!" Elsie **said**.

At this point, her gown and hair were soaked. She pointed at Emma and said, "She kicked me into the lake! The surveillance footage and the people around can testify to it!"

Elsie had been doted on by Simon all these years, while Brad was the tacitly acknowledged heir of the Hall family.

The mother and son wielded a lot of influence. Soon, they gained the support of the guests.

"Emma actually laid a hand on her. Couldn't she just talk things out?"

“She really is a wild girl from the countryside. When I saw her painting just now, I thought she was different from what I expected. I almost misjudged her.”

“Bah!” Simon also looked displeased.

The favorable impression he had of her earlier was gone. He did not expect that Emma would be unable to grasp the broader implications of her actions.

“Emma, were you the one who kicked her into the lake?” he asked.

“Yes,” Emma **said**.

She admitted calmly before adding, “But...”

She deliberately paused and took out the “evidence” that she had quickly grabbed before kicking Elsie into the lake.

“If I hadn’t kicked her, this needle, which was over four inches long, would have pierced Liam’s legs,” she said. “I don’t have the ability to see through things, so I couldn’t be sure if there’s any deadly virus or poison on it. In a moment **of** desperation, I had no choice but to kick her into the **lake**.”

Emma spoke confidently, thinking that her action of kicking Elsie into the lake was well-justified. She then coldly asked Elsie a question. “Elsie, why don’t you explain why you would use this kind of thing to deal with Liam on an occasion like today’s?” she said.

“You, you’re talking nonsense!” Elsie said. “This needle isn’t mine at all!”

Emma saw it just now. To create a false appearance and **mislead others** about her actions, Elsie did not wear gloves.

“Whether or not it’s yours, won’t we know after doing a fingerprint test?” Emma said. “The Hall family is huge. It shouldn’t be difficult to get a fingerprint test done, right? It’s just right to test if your fingerprints are on it in front of so many people lest others say I falsely accuse you.”

Elsie initially thought that the needle should be with her, and once it fell into the lake, fingerprints wouldn’t be detectable.

Unexpectedly, Emma acted so quickly and grabbed the needle. Elsie was entirely at the mercy of the situation and had **no** control over it.

She panicked. “You framed me,” she said. “You deliberately **framed** me...”

“Enough!” Simon said as he looked at Elsie with a cold expression.

Given his status, he could of course tell what Elsie was thinking at a glance.

‘Instead of going to the hall to interact with the guests of the birthday party, you came to the edge of the lake,” he **said**. “No wonder you accidentally fell into the lake. Let’s dispel

Elsie’s expression was very grim.

83%

pter **59**

On the surface, Simon was giving everyone a way out, but his attitude was quite clear.

Everyone knew that it was Emma who kicked Elsie into the lake. Instead of blaming Emma, Simon reproached Elsie for coming to the edge of

the lake.

It was clear whom Simon was siding with now.

The gaze that Brad and Elsie directed at Emma at the moment was already filled with menace.

Emma was calm and composed. She held the needle and disdainfully tossed it into the trash can at the side.

“Tsk, if it weren’t for my quick reaction just now, Liam’s legs might have been pierced,” Emma said. “His legs have mobility issues in the first place. If his legs get pierced again, he may never be able to stand up again. What would we do then? One of you is Liam’s stepmother, and the other is his younger brother. You can’t really hope that at Liam will never be able to stand up for the rest of his life, right?”

Emma’s remark killed three birds with one stone.

Firstly, it hinted that Elsie and Brad had ulterior motives.

Secondly, it dispelled Brad and Elsie’s suspicion that Liam’s legs were not crippled.

Thirdly, it warned the other guests not to go too far.

Otherwise, if Liam were to make a comeback one day, they would be the first to suffer.

After Emma finished talking, she pushed Liam away and left pompously,

Beneath Liam's calm and serene expression, his feelings toward Emma were intense

He thought, 'My Emma... She always stands by my side in the most crucial moments! With her by my side in those dark moments, it's like having light. She is my redemption.'

After Emma left, Simon looked at their backs with a complex expression.

Elsie and Brad tactfully stood on the side, with only the butler standing beside Simon.

"Mr. Simon... what do you think of Miss Emma?" the butler asked.

This was the first time they met.

On the surface, it was a birthday party, but it was actually a test for Emma.

"She's really something." Simon said.

With

one remark, it **was** hard to tell if he was pleased or angry. He returned to his room right away.

When Emma returned to loovine Estate, she sapy Liam's hand. The blood had dried up, leaving dark red marks.

She frowned as she asked, "How were you injured?"

Levi said, "When Elsie said those things to **you**, Mr. Hall."

"Levi, shut up," Liam said.

08:30 Mon, 8 Jul **W**

Chapter 59

He then nonchalantly looked at Emma and **said**, "It's nothing. I'll be fine by tomorrow."

"No," Emma said. "I'll get the first aid kit and bandage it for you."

With that said, she walked away hurriedly.

Looking at her back, Liam felt a complex array of emotions.

83%

He thought, "It turns out that there is someone who truly trusts me unconditionally, who will frown at a small injury of mine, who regards me **as** a treasure, and loves me as if I were her life.

Emma returned with the first aid kit.

Just as she squatted down and was about to bandage Liam, he suddenly pulled her into his arms with a burst of strength.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 60

Chapter 60

Liam could no longer suppress his overwhelming feelings. He kissed Emma deeply, longing for intimacy with her, wanting to get physical with her right now.

But there were still too many obstacles, causing him great anguish.

Liam's kiss had never been so dominant and intense, almost as if it were tinged with aggression.

After a long while, he let go, leaving Emma slightly breathless.

"Aren't you afraid of me after she told you those things?" he asked, his voice somewhat hoarse.

Emma looked at the expression of this proud man, who was careful for her sake, and bandaged his wounds with heartache.

"What's so scary about you?" she said. "All I know is that they treat you poorly. In the past, you didn't have me. Now you do, and all people who mistreat you, I'll repay them a thousandfold for what they do to you! Even if it's hell, I'll be there with you!"

She was slender, yet her eyes revealed utmost stubbornness,

That was the aura of dominance that belonged solely to her.

Liam held Emma's hand tightly. They were intimate.

At this moment, the last emotional barrier in his heart was broken. He thought, 'In this lifetime, Emma is my life!'

In the Hall family's villa, Elsie was sitting in the room.

Thinking of the humiliation she had suffered today, her face contorted.

She stared intently at the information on the computer and immediately called Kate.

"Kate, I'll give you one last chance!" she said. "If you still can't do it well, you can forget about marrying into the Hall family."

On the phone, Kate answered while crying softly with sniffles.

She wanted to cry but had no tears.

If it weren't for the fact that the Johnson family had focused all their attention on her younger brother over the years and that she was not valued at all, as a socialite, she would not **have** had to strive hard to cozy up to Elsie and Brad.

When Kate received an email from Elsie, her eyes were suddenly filled with menace.

She thought, "Emma it's all because of her! After experiencing so many failures, I understand Emma's point of weakness that can **be** exploited better than anyone. **Now**, with **the** secret weapon on Elsie gave me, Emma will surely be in deep shit this time!"

Liam's hand was not seriously injured. Emma bandaged it for him, The wound would recover in a few days.

When Emma went to school the next day, she noticed that it **was** surrounded by police officers.

After returning to class, Emma asked her classmates, "**What's** with those **police** officers standing at the school gate?"

83

Chapter 60

The classmate said, "I have no idea. I heard from others that the police received a report that someone in our school is involved in cybercrime."

“What kind of cybercrime?” Emma asked cautiously.

She thought, ‘My identity **as** Stox can’t be casually revealed.

The classmate replied, “I’m not sure about the details. Apparently, that student has stolen data about personal information from **places** like schools and hospitals. The teacher said those police officers will check every class one by one in a bit. We’ll **attend** classes as usual”

Emma nodded.

Soon afterward, while Emma was attentively listening in class, there was a commotion at the door.

“The address indicates that the criminal is in this class,” a police officer **said**

Right after the police officer said that, **several** teachers were also taken aback.

One of the teachers said incredulously, “It can’t be, right? This **class** consists of the top-performing students at Vark College. They can all achieve great things in the future.”

The police officer wore an expression of having a clear understanding of the harsh nature of the world and human society. “These days, many high-IQ criminals are academic achievers in school,” he said, “It’s a pity that she uses her intelligence to do something criminal. Everyone is equal before the law! Tell the students to ready up. The investigation will start right away.”

The class was temporarily stopped. Students stood up from their seats one by one to undergo the investigation.

Soon, it was Emma’s turn to be questioned.

Emma was calm, her expression indifferent

The police first asked her to show her ID. **They** then looked at the information in their hands, and they frowned.

“Your name is Emma?” one of them **asked**.

“Yes,” Emma replied.

“Did you steal the student **data** from Ritney High School?” the police officer **asked**.

“Nope,” Emma said.

Emma knew that some minor hackers in the country would steal some personal information and sell it for money, but those were all minor hackers who were willing to break the law and take risks to make money. She would never do such things.

However, the police did not become less suspicious of her.

“Come with us,” the **police** said. “The person in this information is you. Come out of the classroom.”

Emma frowned, thinking, “Who would stoop so **low** as to use such a lowdown act of stealing student data to hurl mud at me?”

But she could not directly expose that she was Stox, the genius whom the police from Rhines had been making a determined and persistent effort to search for. She had no choice but to endure for the time being and went along with them to the **police** station.

After Emma was taken away, both her classmates and teacher were very surprised.

83%1

The teacher also did not expect that the student who committed cybercrime was Emma.

After a brief commotion, the teacher immediately calmed the situation, saying, “Let’s resume with the class. Return to your seats **and** take out your textbooks.”

“I didn’t expect Emma would do such a thing.”

Someone whispered..

“Is she short of money? Why would she sell student data?”

“So, are the nuisance calls w

we usually receive caused by the leak of our personal information in such a way?”

Everyone discussed.

No one noticed that in the last row of the classroom, a boy sitting by the window was gritting his teeth.

y was **Vere**.

That boy

The other day, he had competed with Emma in Vark Invitational Mathematics Examination on a cruise ship.

At that time, Emma deliberately gave him the first prize and the scholarship, giving him a chance to study abroad.

Initially, he would have been able to go abroad this summer after this semester ended.

But yesterday, a phone call shattered everything....

Kate found his shameful past misdeed, which was stealing student data.

Back then, he did it purely because he was smart and thought it was fun to try. He did not sell it for money.

Unexpectedly, Kate exploited it with malicious intent. She sold it off for money, instantly landing him with a charge of cybercrime.

Kate threatened him to pull a trick and implicate Emma in the act of selling student data.

If he didn't do this, he would face imprisonment...

The death of his parents caused him to be deeply traumatized.

He was conflicted for the entire night. In the end, he **did as** Kate said.

Before hanging up, Kate said to him, "This is a world where the strong prey on the weak. If you don't frame Emma today, you'll be the one in jail tomorrow. Besides, Emma is a hacker to begin with. You're just playing a supporting role in helping to put her into jail"

Vere clenched his fists and said, "Even if she's a hacker, she has never done anything to harm others! You were the one who sold the data. You should be the one going to jail!"

Kate sneered and said, "Of course, I've dealt with everything I've done. The police will go to your school tomorrow. When the time comes, either you or she will face serious consequences"

While Emma was on the way to the police station, she thought about many things in the police car.

'Those opponents of mine in the black market should know my capabilities and won't resort to such low-level tactics, she thought. 'So, the person hurling the mud at me this time is surely not someone from the black market. That person is not a professional hacker, yet possessing hacking skills... It's either the Hall family or the

Gomez family. Someone from one of these two families must have sent someone to harm

08:37

Chapter 60

mel'

Mon, 8 Jul

As soon as Emma arrived at the interrogation room, she saw a few large stacks of documents on the table.

With just a glance, she could tell that the other party came prepared this time.

She thought, 'Those traces of activity... They've redirected all network addresses to be under my name using s guard!'

She gritted her teeth, thinking. 'There's only one way out now. If I want to prove my innocence, I have to reveal

08:31 Mon, 8 Jul

Chapter 60

mel

As soon as Emma arrived at the interrogation room, she saw a few large stacks of documents on the table.

With just a glance, she could tell that the other party came prepared this time.

3.83%

She thought, 'Those traces of activity... They've redirected all network addresses to be under my name using special means, catching me off

guard!'

She gritted her teeth, thinking, 'There's only one way out now. If I want to prove my innocence, I have to reveal my identity!'

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.