

Second Chances Protecting Mrs. Hall by Colby Stanford

Chapter 61

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“Revealing my identity isn’t difficult, Emma thought. But after exposure, Liam will become suspicious, and it will bring a lot of trouble. But if I don’t save myself, with charges of cybercrime and selling student data, the minimum sentence for imprisonment is at least

three years.

Just as Emma was in a dilemma, someone knocked on the door of the interrogation room.

“Mr. Hayden, we’ve found new information regarding the student data case,” a police officer said.

Emma lifted her eyebrows.

The interrogator was also puzzled. “New information?” he said,

“Yeah,” the police officer said, “it’s them!”

As he spoke, he brought in two people.

Emma lifted her head and looked out of the door.

Kate gritted her teeth as she was brought in. She was followed closely by Vere, who had a calm expression.

“Vere?” Emma said, feeling somewhat surprised.

Vere’s usually arrogant and fierce face actually had a trace of guilt when facing Emma.

Emma immediately understood, thinking, 'This time, it's related to Vere.

Vere sat down and looked at Emma, saying, "Emma, I'm sorry. You once did me a **favor**, **but** I framed you for the sake of my own benefit. Now, I'm ready to come clean about everything"

"You," Kate said as she gritted her teeth.

She warned Vere with her gaze, but he acted as if he did not see it.

The police officer stared at Kate and said, "Everyone is equal before the law. Miss Johnson, don't even think about using force and oppression. It won't work! Vere, tell us everything you know. We will handle it fairly and justly according to the circumstances."

Vere recounted the whole story truthfully, detailing the events from the beginning to the end, including how he had hacked into the student database back then, the **process** of Kate threatening him, and how he **had** "framed" Emma by attributing all those activity traces to her

network address.

Throughout the period when Vere recounted the story, Emma crossed her arms and long legs, listening quietly with a remarkably calm expression.

Kate was worked up. She said, "Vere, you're falsely accusing me! How could I possibly threaten you? Sir, they both work together to frame me. Look, here's the evidence that they are both hackers. They are both hackers and classmates, while I'm just **a good** citizen. Besides, I'm not short of money, so why would I sell these things? **They're** working together to hurl mud at me!"

As Kate spoke, she took out the documents.

Emma was truly somewhat surprised. She thought, I didn't expect **that** a loophole from my browsing the internet in the countryside many years ago would be uncovered by Kate. Fortunately, I didn't do anything out of **line** back then. I just logged into the black market and browsed around **a** bit, not leaving any evidence of transactions. Otherwise, today's situation would have been really troublesome. It seems that I have to get Josiah to thoroughly screen everything **again** next time and wipe **out** all this information!

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The police took the documents and frowned.

They thought, "No matter what, ordinary people who have nothing better to do w

explicitly prohibited.”

Emma and Vere were both incredibly intelligent individuals.

The police were very wary of them.

At the same time, they maintained suspicion about their innocence.

Just then, Vere took out his phone and played a recording.

log into the black market. This is also something that is

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]

The recording of what Kate said was played. She widened her eyes.

She **said**, “This... you...”

“It never occurred to me that Vere would prepare to record from the beginning she thought.

‘He **never** intended to betray Emma right from the start. Instead, he played dumb to fool me, pretended to do as I said, made me lower my guard, and then turned the tables on me!’”

Kate's face turned pale.

The recording was very clear. After that, Vere's voice could be heard.

[But she has never done anything to harm others! You were the one who sold the data. You should be the one going **to** jail!]

Next, it was Kate's voice.

[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.]

Kate was completely flustered.

She said, “It's not like that... It's not like that... Sir, let me explain. You guys...”

She fought tooth and nail in trying to send Emma to jail.

She knew better than anyone the heavy price she would pay after Vere **turned** against her..

“Vere, how dare you trick me!” she said. “I’ll kill you... Ah!”

Kate lost her rationality. She picked up a fountain pen on the table and was about to stab Vere in the church.

The police officers’ expressions changed drastically.

But it was already too late by the time they fully registered what Kate would **do**.

All they saw was that the tip of Kate’s **pen** was just one-tenth of an inch from Vere’s church.

Just then, Emma, who had been sitting quietly beside Vere, acted in a somewhat spooky manner.

She grasped the tip of the pen in Kate’s hand.

Her movement was swift and ruthless. She twisted forcefully and **stopped** Kate from piercing Vere’s **head**.

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Kate, caught off guard, had her wrist twisted along with the pen.

shivers

A sharp “crack” that sent shivers down one’s spine could be heard.

Kate’s wrist bone **was** broken.

There was a shrill scream in the interrogation room. Kate’s tears flowed profusely. Her wrist was in so much pain that it was almost numb.

She was quickly pulled **away** by the police. The scene just now was truly frightening but ultimately without danger. Although the police were shocked by Emma’s unexpectedly swift actions, it seemed like there was nothing to find fault with.

After all, it was Kate who attempted murder first.

“Miss Wilson, it’s all thanks to your timely reaction just now,” a police officer said.

They were all top-notch police officers who were skilled and capable. It was just that Kate’s attempt to sta

b happened suddenly, and all the police officers were relatively far from Vere, so they could not stop Kate in time.

If it weren't for Emma, Vere would have been killed at the police station, and this would have been an irreversible accident for the entire police station.

Emma said indifferently, "It's nothing. It's just that this Kate has a habitual tendency to harm others. She also has a vengeful personality. I hope you can deal with her properly."

The police officer said, "Miss Wilson, rest assured that we'll report it immediately once we find her transaction records. As for Vere, you..."

Vere lowered his head and said, "I was the one who stole the data in the first **place**. I'm willing to accept any punishment."

Since he came here today, he was prepared to go to **jail**

The police officer noticed that he had a cooperative attitude. He said, "We're also doing things in accordance with the law. You can go back for now. We'll continue to investigate this matter thoroughly, and we will inform you further once we have any updates."

Vere **nodded**.

The interrogation came **to an** end.

Emma was,

of course, released without charges.

Vere waited for the outcome, while Kate was taken away immediately.

When they left the police station, it was **already** evening.

It was drizzling.

Emma walked leisurely under the drizzle as if nothing had happened.

Looking at her back, Vere hurriedly put up the umbrella and called out to her, "Emmal"

Emma stopped in her tracks but did not turn around.

Vere had intense emotional anguish at this moment. He walked forward while holding the umbrella. "Where do you live?" he said. "It's raining. Shall I send you back?"

Although he chose to help her in the end, it did not mean that he did not hesitate during this period.

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Sure enough, the girl under the umbrella turned around.

Emma, with her hands in her pockets, said calmly, "Vere, I **have** a question for you."

"Ask **away**," Vere said.

"What made you change your mind and turn yourself in to the police?" Emma asked.

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Emma's expression was so calm that she didn't look like someone her age.

Vere noticed that she said "change your mind."

He thought, 'So, she has long seen through me and realized that I really did want to fra me her previously.'

Vere's handsome face flushed slightly as he said, "Kate called me that night, I refused i nitially. I didn't sleep the whole night, but when dawn came, I still couldn't help but do th ose things that harmed you... It wasn't until I saw you being taken away by the police th at I regretted it! You helped me, yet I repay your kindness by harming you, I thought if I didn't do something to make things right, I'd **look** down on myself for

the rest of my life."

Emma pursed her lips and said, "Aren't you afraid of going to **jail** for turning yourself in?"

She thought. I'm used to being in dangerous situations. I've even been through death. This time, even if I end up in jail f

or real, I'll make a comeback. But things are different for Vere. He hasn't faced as many difficult experiences as I have. Going to jail would probably be a devastating blow for him."

Emma asking these questions was both an inquiry and a test.

Vere was silent for a moment before **saying**, "If I really do have to go to jail, I'll resign myself to fate. The data theft happened when I was little and foolish. I have to take responsibility for everything I've done."

When Emma heard this, she smiled.

That smile was radiant and captivating.

She said, "Good. Very good! Vere, I'm not lacking in geniuses around me, so I **never** considered recruiting you. But after going through this incident, I've witnessed your character and loyalty!"

With that said, Emma extended her right hand and added. "Would you... like to join us?"

Vere was momentarily stunned.

He lowered his head to look at her hand and saw a black card lying in the palm of her flawless and slender hand.

The classic icon

of Octagram on the card left him wide-eyed in disbelief, and he said, "This, this is..."

Vere then stared at Emma and said, "**You are...**"

He thought, 'It's Octagram that dominates the black market and has a fearsome reputation across the globe! Word has it that this organization **is** so powerful that it **can** influence powerful nations! **And** the only person with the authority to recruit for the organization is

Stox, the internationally renowned figure!"

Vere said, "Could, could it be i

that you

you are..

He couldn't believe it. He was incredulous.

He then saw Emma cast a mysterious and alluring smile that bewitched all, saying, "That's right. I am Stod!"

Never in his wildest dreams did he think that the idol he **had** admired the most since he was a child would stand in front of him at this

moment

"Word has it that Stox has the most powerful brain in the world!" he thought. "I've put in so much effort just so that one day, I'll be able to see

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Stox in person.

Emma looked at the astonished Vere **and** said calmly, "No one in the country knows about this, so I hope you will keep your lips sealed."

"I will," Vere said. "I definitely will!"

Vere had been insufferably arrogant since childhood. He had never shown such a lack of composure in front of any one.

He looked at Emma, thinking, "She wears no makeup in the rain, yet she exudes a sense of elegance and grace that makes me infatuated! She is Stox, the person I worship immensely!"

"Buzz..."

Just then, two beams of white headlight illuminated the space between the two of them through the rain.

Emma turned around and saw the familiar license plate and Rolls-Royce.

A gentle and polite man in a black suit had already gotten off the car with an umbrella and walked respectfully to Emma's side.

"Mrs. Hall, Mr. Hall is waiting for you," the man said.

Vere was surprised again when he heard the man address Emma **as** "Mrs. Hall."

He said, "You, you and Liam have already..."

Emma and Liam had always hidden the fact that they had married. No one in the school knew about it.

Levi deliberately addressed Emma this way in front of Vere. He was acting under Liam's instructions. Liam wanted to assert that Emma

belonged to him.

Emma nodded and said, "Yeah. We are husband and wife. Remember what I've told you."

"I certainly will," Vere said.

Vere's expression was solemn. After he watched Emma get into the car, the black Rolls-Royce slowly moved **away** in the rain.

After Emma

er Emma got into the car and sat down, a black towel that felt exceptionally good to touch covered her vision.

Right after that, a man's deep and attractive **voice** could be heard.

"Are you cold?" Liam asked.

The warmth of his palm seeped through the towel to Emma's skin.

He instructed Levi to increase the temperature of the air conditioner in the car while carefully wiping her dry.

Emma held his hand and said, "I'm not cold. Seeing you come to look for me is more heartwarming than anything else."

Liam was initially a bit bothered by the sight of her sharing an umbrella with Vere, but now that she was speaking softly to him, his expression softened considerably.

As he wiped her dry, he said gently, "He shared an umbrella with you, yet he still let **you** get wet. He's really useless."

Emma was perceptive. She blinked her big eyes and looked at **him** sweetly. "Got it," she said. "His umbrella is not as big as yours. I won't share an umbrella with another guy again."

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Liam stopped wiping.

With no towel covering her eyes, Emma's eyes met his.

His gaze was very deep.

He looked at her intensely, then tapped her nose with the towel.

"Cheer me up," he said.

Grinning, she tossed his towel aside and wrapped her arms around his neck. "Are you feeling a bit happier now?" she asked.

"Not happy enough," Liam said.

Levi, who was driving ahead, instantly felt like he was being a third wheel....

He thought, 'I never realized before that Mr. Hall was so good at being coquettish....

Emma's beautiful eyes shifted, looking as though she was pondering.

She then lifted his chiseled jaw with both hands and gave him a quick kiss.

"Feeling even happier now, huh?" she asked.

Liam lowered his eyes to look at her and said, "Slightly happier."

Emma smiled again, dimples appearing at the corners of her mouth. She then gave him two more kisses on the lips.

"I promise you that I won't share an umbrella with another guy **again**," Emma said before scrutinizing Liam.

Liam looked at her with a deep gaze and asked, "What about now?"

He smiled.

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He was incomparably handsome in the first place. This smile mesmerized Emma, nearly making her lose her ability to think clearly. Taking advantage of the moment, he pulled her into his arms.

“**Don’t** let yourself get caught in the rain again,” he said.

“Okay,” Emma replied.

She leaned against Liam’s chest.

At Liam’s inquiry, she recounted the events of the day in detail.

She was talking the entire time, yet she was also exuding a sweet aura.

This made Levi, who was driving, can’t help but shed tears of envy.

After listening to Emma’s account, Liom said, “This guy still has some conscience. If he’s sentenced to jail this time and can’t find a job in the country due to his criminal record, I can consider arranging a position for him at the subsidiary in Rusbani after he graduates.”

“Rusbani?” Emma said. She could not help but chuckle when she heard that. She raised her head and pinched his nose, saying. “You’re so naughty!”

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Liam said proudly, “Of course I want to do that. Otherwise, should I let him see you often?”

‘She may not be able to see it, but as a man myself, I can’t possibly miss it,’ he thought. “When I was in the car earlier, I saw the way Vere **looked** at her. The intensity and adoration in his eyes far **surpassed** the ordinary appreciation between a man and a woman. My possessiveness is strong. Vere looking at Emma with that kind of gaze has undoubtedly offended me!’

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After arriving at Icovine Estate, Emma changed out of her wet clothes and took a hot shower.

While she was taking a shower, Liam sat in the study making a phone **call**.

“It’s about time,” he said.

After he gave the order, his subordinates immediately began to take action.

That night, a significant event impacted the upper–class society of TroIn City.

The Johnson family’s home, which was renowned in TroIn City, was sealed off by the police that night..

As soon **as**

the news came out, it shocked the entire city.

When Emma went to school the next day, she also heard that Kate had knelt in front of the Hall family’s villa in the heavy rain last night, begging Brad and Elsie to protect her. In the end, she was driven away by the butler. Brad and Elsie could not even be bothered to see her.

What was even more lamentable was that many disgraceful things that happened during the early days of the Johnson family’s rise to wealth were exposed overnight, even involving several homicide cases.

Overnight, the Johnson family’s home was sealed off. Everyone, from the master of the home to the servants, was brought to the police station for questioning.

And all of this was orchestrated by Liam...

In the classroom, Emma pondered carefully.

Over the years, the Johnson family relied on Brad. Kate had provoked Emma time and time again.

On the surface, Liam seemed to condone it, but he was actually enduring silently.

It was all for the sake of waiting for the right moment to cause the complete downfall of the former largest family of Troin City.

Liam was a ferocious beast that lay dormant in the middle of the night and could hide his true intentions and emotions.

He was silent and had long been staring at the enemies in the dark. When the crucial moment arrived, he dealt the enemies a fatal blow.

“Click!”

Emma **was** so engrossed in her thoughts that she was completely unaware that two girls were secretly taking photos of her by the classroom window.

“This one is clear!”

“When the time comes, we’ll photoshop it again and let everyone see her true colors. Mr. Rivera mustn’t be deceived by such a morally corrupt woman!”

Emma was lost in thought and didn’t realize what was happening

It wasn’t until she got to physical education class, when the situation on the Internet had intensified and her classmates came to remind her one after another, that she realized what was going on.

“Emma, the photos of you going to the police station yesterday have been posted online again. Netizens now think you’re a

bad

person who

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sells student data! Hurry up and post on Twitter to clarify things!”

Emma unlocked her phone. It was only then that she realized that she had been cyberbullied again.

From the photos shot when she was taken away by the police yesterday to the ones taken today when she returned to class, they were all shot from the same angle

Emma roughly visualized the angle in her mind and instantly pinpointed the person who had taken the photos in the classroom.

With a displeased expression, she strode toward a group of people in the field.

“Haha. Look. Sure enough, Mr. Rivera’s fans are cursing her! What are you doing?”

The two girls in the group with their backs to Emma were still discussing.

Suddenly, a basketball flew over and accurately hit the girls' phones.

The phones fell to the ground, and the two girls stomped their feet in anger.

"Emma, how dare you hit me?"

Emma looked at them with a sense of superiority and said, "Look carefully. I didn't hit you!"

Under Emma's control, the basketball indeed did not hit anyone. It merely smashed the phones of those two girls.

"People like you who enjoy taking sneaky photos probably have lots of disgusting stuff violating others' privacy hidden in your phones. It's fine if they are smashed."

"Your"

One of the girls was furious. "I'm going to post your bad behavior online and let all of Mr. **Rivera's fans** see **what** kind of person you are!"

Emily Torres was a fervent fan of Sean. She managed a fan group and was the leader among the fans.

Everyone said she should expand the group even more as she might be able to obtain Sean's attention and favor one day.

Emily was working hard, hoping that Sean would notice her one day.

But Emma's appearance made her extremely jealous.

Ever since Sean made a statement the other day, all the fans shifted their adoration to Emma.

Emily thought, "Everyone praises Emma for being beautiful and outstanding in the group chat, while I'm ignored. So, I must ruin Emma. Everyone's attention will then return to me, giving me a chance to get close to Mr. Rivera..."

Emma immediately understood most of the situation when she saw the badge on Emily's clothes with Sean's photo on it.

She thought, "She is a huge fan of Uncle Sean, and her targeting me like this is definitely out of jealousy."

“Do you know that secretly taking photos and spreading rumors is illegal?” Emma asked. “What’s the matter? Is idolizing celebrities more important than the **law** now? How many more pictures **have** you secretly taken of me? Come clean!”

Emily had long had a habit of secretly taking photos. Other than secretly taking photos of Emma, she would also secretly take photos of other girls and share them privately on a small scale.

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She showed no remorse at all. Instead, she cursed at Emma,

“I’m just taking photos,” she said. “What does it have to do with you? Is it illegal for me to take photos? I’m not like a certain someone who is so desperate for money that she sells students’ personal information and even gets taken to the police station!”

“I know, right?” Emily’s friend said. “You said we violated the right to privacy, but **you** violated the right to privacy of hundreds of thousands of students! If we’re breaking the law, then your offense is even more serious!”

The notice from the police station had not been released yet. Everyone still did not know that Emma was innocent.

The two of them scolded Emma and hurled insults at her with greater intensity.

The surrounding students also began to discuss.

“What’s the relationship between Emma and Mr. Rivera? He defended Emma that day. How come Emma is being criticized even more severely online this time compared to the backlash the other day? Why hasn’t Mr. Rivera expressed anything yet?”

“Could it be Emma is really hyping things up? Could it be that Mr. Rivera doesn’t know Emma at all?”

“I’ve long had doubts about the online rumors. Mr. Rivera is so classy, while Emma grew up in the countryside. They’re not from the same

world at all.”

“We’ve been misjudging Emma all along. She even sold student data for money, so she’s not a good person.”

“Bah! Such a person is worse than a beggar on the street!”

Those students readily believed that things were true based on limited signs. Usually annoyed by nuisance calls, they wished they could rush up and settle scores with Emma now.

Some people even took out their phones and took photos openly.

Emma could stop one person from taking photos, but there was no way she could stop **so** many people.

Immediately getting physical could trigger cyberbullying even more easily.

“Who dares to bully Emma?”

Just then, an angry and familiar voice came from outside the crowd.

Sean, wearing sunglasses and fashionable clothes, walked toward Emma with an entourage..

Beside him were reporters frantically snapping photos and five to six bodyguards escorting him.

The students looked at each other.

They thought, ‘He, **he’s**... the real Mr. **Rivera**? The real Mr. Rivera has actually come to our school!!

Before everyone could recover from their surprise, Sean was already standing beside Emma with his bodyguards and reporters.

He was more than a head taller than Emma and had a gentle expression that he had never displayed in public. He said softly to Emma, “**My** dear niece, I just finished shooting and didn’t check my phone. I didn’t expect you to be so harshly criticized online! Why didn’t you call me right away?”

The students thought, ‘Niece? The famous Mr. Rivera is actually Emma’s uncle?’

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Emily and the other girl were also dumbstruck.

Those few people who were just discussing how Emma had “fallen out of favor” and calling her a “country bumpkin” instantly had eggs on

their faces.

The media went crazy snapping photos. “Mr. Rivera, Is Emma really your ally your

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The media went crazy snapping photos. “Mr. Rivera, is Emma really your niece?”

“Do I need to show you a DNA test result?” Sean asked.

His eyes were sharp under his sunglasses. He firmly put his arm around Emma’s shoulder.

He had intentionally brought the reporters over.

He wanted them to report it and let the whole world see that Emma a was his most precious niece and that no one could bully her.

You

i can write a report, but remember to blur Emma’s face,” he said. “Also, help me include the following statements in the report. One photo of my niece is worth a **lot** of money! Whoever dares to secretly take photos and invade my niece’s **privacy** is going against me . I’ll teach

them a lesson!”

Since Sean had personally stepped forward **and** spoken up, his online fans no longer **dared** to act rashly.

“She is a perfectly fine niece, yet people created all sorts of rumors about her, he thought.

Netizens who had regained their rationality also began to trace **back** to the person who started the rumors in the first place.

Soon, they traced it back to Emily.

Not only did Emily lose all her supporters, but she was removed from the fan community. It could be said that this was **a** case of attempting to gain a small advantage but ending up with a greater loss.

At noon, something explosive happened at Vark College.

Emma was actually the niece of Sean the mega superstar, and he was currently in their student cafeteria, having lunch with Emma.

In the middle of the cafeteria, Sean’s bodyguards surrounded a small area, while other students **looked** on eagerly.

There were all kinds of delicious food on Emma’s table. They had been bought from various counters in the canteen. The food

sumptuous.

“Emma, the food in your school is not bad,” Sean said. “Be good and eat it, okay?”

Sean coming to her school and even having lunch with her made her classmates and some female teachers incredibly jealous.

was ver

very

They thought, ‘Mr. Rivera is particularly considerate. He didn’t go overboard with grand gestures that would make things difficult for Emma.’”

“Uncle Sean, what shoot were you rushing for this morning?” Emma asked.

“It’s an endorsement for a major international brand,” Sean said. “Oh, they will release their autumn and winter collection soon. I’ll bring them to you to take a look when they are out. Pick whichever clothes **you** like.”

“What brand is it?” Emma asked casually.

“Chapane,” Sean said.

Emma’s eyes instantly widened when she heard this brand.

I’ll send

She thought, “Chapanel That’s the most top-notch luxury clothing brand globally for centuries! It boasts the most exquisite fabrics in the world and top-notch sewing techniques. The production of its clothes is extremely low.”

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Emma had always wanted to buy a few pieces to study Chapane’s craftsmanship and stitching techniques firsthand, but unfortunately, she had never been able to buy them.

She happily and graciously **accepted**, saying, “Thank you, Uncle Sean!”

Sean said dotingly, “You don’t have to be polite with me. Eat more so you’ll have the energy to attend classes in the afternoon.”

“Alright!” Emma **said**.

She instantly found the food in her bowl even more delicious.

Vark College was, after all, an elite school. Its food was much better than ordinary schools. However, Sean, being a celebrity, had strict dietary preferences and didn’t eat much, mostly watching Emma eat.

After bidding farewell to Sean, Emma attended class seriously in the afternoon, even though online discussions about her had become

extremely intense.

Various keywords surged to the top of the trending list. Some of these keywords were “The universe owes me an uncle”, “Mr. Rivera’s niece”, and “Vark College’s cafeteria”.

Ten keywords surged to the trending list in one go. All of them were related to her.

Emma tried her best not to let her normal life be affected. However, at this moment, a push notification on her phone completely shocked

her.

[This afternoon, there **was a** luxury car collision in TroIn City. The owner of the black Rolls–Royce is still missing.]

Emma had a premonition when she saw then

news.

She immediately called Levi, and he picked up almost instantly. “Mrs. Hall,” he said, sounding flustered.

“Where’s Mr. Hall?” Emma asked, her voice trembling slightly.

Levi said, “Mr. Hall is currently in the hospital undergoing emergency treatment...”

Emma rushed to the hospital in a daze.

Along the way, her mind was like **a** kaleidoscope. Countless images flashed through her mind.

She thought of how he died saving her in her previous life....

Thinking of that scene, her mind went increasingly blank.

By the time she arrived at the hospital, the emergency lights had already gone out.

The doctor said that the situation at that time would not be so serious for ordinary people, but Liam’s legs had mobility issues in the first place, so he **ended up in a** serious condition.

The strong impact injured his spine, and the injuries were life–threatening.

It was very likely that he would not regain consciousness.

It was **a** bolt from the blue for Emma.

Standing at the side, Levi’s face was also filled with sorrow. He said, “Mrs. Hall...”

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Emma's face was completely pale. She pursed her lips tightly and leaned her back against the cold wall, as if she was seeking some strength

for herself in this way.

She regained her composure as quickly as she could.

"Who is the owner of the other car?" she **asked**, enunciating each word.

"The man drove against the traffic in the tunnel," Levi said. "He's suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol, and he's been taken away by the police. Apparently, he's a rich kid of a certain coal tycoon from the northern state capital."

"Does he know Mr. Hall?" Emma **asked**.

"Mr. Hall has never interacted with him," Levi said.

On the surface, it seemed like driving under the influence of alcohol, but that couldn't make Emma take things lightly.

Biting her lip hard, she leaned against the wall with both arms tightly wrapped around herself and her fingers pressed against her chin.

She would be like this when she was in deep thought.

The doctor said ordinary people could dodge the fatal impact, but Liam couldn't do so as his legs had mobility issues in the first place.

Emma thought, 'Others may not know, but I know very well that Liam's legs are not immobile. Besides, with his skills, he can react faster than ordinary people. However, he deliberately didn't dodge and deliberately endured this fatal blow. Why?'

Emma was deep in thought in the corridor.

Just then, a shrill sound came from outside the **corridor**.

"Sigh... Everything was fine. How come he got into a car accident? Levi How is Liam now? Is he out of critical condition?"

Levi looked at the people who came with a cold gaze.

As for Emma, she suddenly looked as if she **was** enlightened upon hearing this voice.

She looked at Elsie and Brad, her eyes suddenly bursting with menace.

Elsie was stunned by her gaze. "Why are you looking at me like that?" she said. "It's not that I was the one who drove under the influence of alcohol."

Brad, on the other hand, was calm. Dressed neatly in a black suit, he walked over with a face full of concern.

"Emma, how is my brother doing now?" he asked.

"He's not **dead**," Emma said. "He'll regain consciousness soon."

Brad nodded and said, "Oh, that's good. Has the driver been caught?"—

Emma stared at his expression without missing a beat and said, "The police have already arrested him. Whether it's simply drunk driving or someone intentionally arranging it, the police will soon find out the truth of the accident."

Sure enough, Emma noticed something unusual on Brad's face.

Elsie frowned and exclaimed, "What are you getting at? It sounds like you are saying that we intentionally got someone to crash into his car, huh?"

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Elsie had been holding a grudge against Emma as Emma kicked her into the Hall family's man-made lake the other day. There was no way Elsie would be nice to her.

As for Emma, she did not bother to put on an act with her from the start. She sneered as she said, "I didn't say that, but you remind me that I can indeed suspect you."

"Damn!" Elsie said.

She was fuming with anger, but Brad grabbed hold of her.

Brad was unfazed. He was even cracking a smile.

me that i

“Liam had an accident, so it’s understandable that Emma is in a bad mood,” he said. “Since Liam hasn’t regained consciousness, let’s stay here to keep Emma company and wait for **Liam** to regain consciousness together.”

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Brad and Elsie stayed in the hospital.

They wanted to

ted to keep tabs on Liam’s latest condition and to prevent Emma from finding out the mastermind behind the car accident.

With Liam’s fate uncertain, Emma had to deal with these two people on his behalf.

“You don’t have to accompany me,” Emma said, her tone very calm. “If there’s any new update about him, I’ll inform you.”

But

Elsie said sarcastically, “**What** do you mean you will inform us? Liam is a member of our family, and Brad is his blood brother!”

“Emma, it happens that I’m not busy at the company today,” Brad said, “Let me **stay** here and keep Liam company

any too.”

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Emma thought, "With just a few words, they actually refuse to leave. Since they're not cooperating, I'll have to get to work."

She came up with an excuse and walked to the fire escape to make a call.

"Vere, your first task is here now," she said,

It had been a few days since Vere joined Emma's organization. In addition to preparing for his studies abroad, he had also gotten to know Josiah and other subordinates of Emma.

This phone call from Emma undoubtedly excited him greatly.

He was in a crowded environment, and he was eager to give it a try.

"What do you need me to do?" he asked.

Emma sneered and said, "The person you'll be dealing with today is Brad, the person who currently wields the most power in the Hall family. Do you dare to do it?"

Ten minutes later, when Emma returned from the fire escape, Brad and Elsie **were** still shamelessly guarding the entrance of Liam's **ward**.

When Emma was away earlier, Elsie tried to ask the doctor about Liam's condition. To her surprise, the doctor and Levi were Liam's lackeys. Not only did they not tell her, but they treated her very coldly

Elsie was sulking.

When she saw Emma, she spoke even more sarcastically.

"Humph, isn't a certain someone afraid that we may play tricks?" she said. "How come that person still has time to make calls? Why doesn't that person stand guard by the door of the ward 24/7?"

"Mom, don't talk to Emma like that," Brad persuaded politely.

In public, he often gave off a humble **and** polite vibe. Compared to Liam's decisive and forceful demeanor, many people thought Brad was the one more worth working for.

This was a person who was good at confusing others. It was as if he was really speaking up for Emma.

But Emma remained resolute, unmoved in the slightest,

“How much longer are you guys going to keep watch here?”
Emma said. “You want me to call Mr. Simon and ask him to send you back, huh?”

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Elsie smiled smugly and said, “Don’t think you can rely on a little cleverness to get Simon to back you up. He has never sided with anyone, especially not with an ambitious ingrate like Liam!”

“Oh, by the way.” Elsie continued as she looked at Emma, “Mr. Simon went to Ralbridge for a meeting yesterday. He’s probably too busy to take calls right now. Do you need me to call him for you?”

Ordinary people would have been furious when they heard this, but Emma was eerily calm.

Before long, Brad’s phone rang.

He picked up the phone. His long legs, wrapped in suit pants, moved a few steps into the distance.

“Hello?” he said. “What?”

Emma could sense the subtle change in Brad’s tone.

She thought, Though he is expressionless, he must be burning with anxiety right now!

After hanging up. Brad frowned and returned with an extremely grim expression.

“I **have** something urgent to attend to at the office,” he said. “Mom, you should go home earlier too

Elsie was shocked. “What could be so urgent that it’s more important than the current matter?” she asked.

Brad glanced at Emma, his expression incredibly complex

He did not say much, but he had already begun to call someone to send Elsie home.

“Brad, you have come to your senses and want to leave, huh? Emma said. “See, I **told** you. You should show some sincerity if you want to pray for your brother. Go to the church and earnestly pray for blessings. No one prays for blessings by facing a ward. If word gets out, won’t people laugh their heads off? Haha...”

Emma’s bright little face looked innocent and pure. She smiled without any reservation.

Levi, who was at the side, noticed that menace surged in Brad’s gaze as he looked at Emma.

He thought, ‘And she can actually laugh at him heartily! She’s simply fearless!’

Brad looked at Emma with a sinister expression and said, “Then you stay here and keep my brother company!”

Emma ignored the sense of warning in his words.

Brad thought, “If I can put Liam in deep shit and cause him to be severely injured, I can also send her to the grave with him.

Emma only smiled and waved at him, saying, “Thank **you**, I won’t wish for you to go to jail to keep Kate company. Drive safe as you head to the office.”

When Brad left, the veins on his forehead were bulging.

Levi could not help but give Emma a thumbs up.

He said, “Mrs. Hall, you’re really witty... I’ve never seen Mr. Brad lose his composure like this before!”

Emma sneered and said, “Everyone has their weaknesses. Those with weak character will reveal their true colors at the slightest pressure.”

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Levi **nodded** like a chick pecking at seeds.

He suddenly realized something. “Mrs. Hall’s face was still pale when she came to the hospital earlier, but when she saw Brad and his mom, she instantly changed her state, he thought. Her readiness for confrontation was exceptionally high. Later, she mocked Brad with an innocent expression. Now, she had a cold expression, like she’s strategizing behind the scenes... While Brad revealed his true colors under pressure, she seamlessly switched between these three states. How strong must her mental fortitude be?”

Just then, Emma said. "Levi, it's getting late. Go eat first, I'll take care of things here."

Levi said, "Um... Alright. Please wait for me for a while, Mrs. Hall. I'll be right back."

"Okay," Emma said.

After Levi left, Emma called Vere.

Vere reported, "Not only did I **cause** their company's system to collapse this time, but I also obtained a lot of evidence that can be used to control Brad. He will salvage the company's market value in the next few days, so he probably has no time to bother with his brother's

"Well done," Emma said.

Her expression and tone were very calm, as if Vere's success was already within her expectations.

At the other end of the line, Vere was silent for two seconds before continuing, "it's all thanks to your precise guidance... Otherwise, with the Halls Group's top-notch domestic corporate security systems, it would be very difficult for me to hack in,"

"No problem." Emma said. "You'll get used to it after doing it lots of times. The first mission is a success. Go collect your reward from the organization."

"Okay," Vere said.

He was filled with excitement.

In Stox's organization, which rooted out traitors and punished evildoers, many talented individuals kept appearing

The people who worked together in the organization were all top experts in the world.

Geniuses like Vere took pride in joining Stox.

The previous scholarship could only cover his tuition fees abroad in the coming years. Now that he worked for Emma, he would not have to worry about living expenses anymore.

Levi finished eating. Emma did not want to eat anything initially. She **just** wanted to keep watch over Liam.

However, Levi kept persuading Emma to eat. Annoyed, she had no choice but to go downstairs and walk around to deal with Levi's insistence.

As **soon** as she returned, she saw Levi pacing anxiously in the corridor.

“What happened?” Emma asked, frowning.

Levi was flustered. “**Mrs.** Hall, the doctor said Mr. Hall is missing!” he said.

“Missing?” Emma said.

Her expression changed drastically.

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She thought. “How could a living person who is fine just disappear?”

An intense sense of foreboding spread in Emma’s heart.

Levi said, “I’m contacting the hospital’s security control center to retrieve all the surveillance footage..

“It’s too late!” Emma said as she gritted her teeth. “Since the other party dared to make a move, they must have made thorough preparations. Levi, come with me now!”

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Chapter 66

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This time, Emma immediately rushed to the Hall family’s home.

Along the way, Josiah retrieved all the surveillance footage for her.

As expected, the hospital’s surveillance footage had all been tampered with, and nothing could be found.

Emma thought, “Brad is busy dealing with the attack on his company’s financial systems and Information infrastructure that Vere carried **out** during the day, leaving him no time to bother with Liam’s affairs. So, the most suspicious person is Elsie!!

Josiah had already found out that Elsie met with someone special after leaving the hospital.

The other party was a well known thug in the black market who often committed crimes in groups. It was no wonder that Levi was tricked.

In the car, Levi asked, “Mrs. Hall, are you sure it’s Mrs. Elsie? Otherwise, she’ll surely make a big deal out of it.”

Unknowingly, he had grown to trust Emma immensely.

Emma sped to the Hall family’s villa. Her voice was very **cold** as **she said**, “Wasn’t it said that Simon recently went to Ralbridge? If she dares to make a big deal out of things, we can also deal with her directly!”

With that said, Emma got out of the car and said, “Stay here and don’t go anywhere. I’ll be back once I get some information.”

“Got it,” Levi said.

Having witnessed Emma’s abilities, Levi fully cooperated with her.

As soon as Emma barged into the courtyard of the Hall family’s villa, many bodyguards blocked her,

Elsie’s bodyguards lacked fighting skills. They were all trained in large groups by a bodyguard company, looking impressive but lacking real combat skills. Emma quickly knocked all of them down and directly rushed upstairs.

Upstairs, Elsie was sitting in the bedroom, applying a facial mask while facing the mirror.

Suddenly, she saw an additional face in the mirror. She was so frightened that she cried out, “Ahhh!”

Emma walked silently like a ghost.

Elsie’s complexion was pale with fright. She **said**, “What are you doing? Someone... Ah!”

“Don’t bother shouting.” Emma said. “I’ve knocked down all the people in your home.”

Her attractive **eyes** were now bloodshot.

“I’ll only ask you once,” she said. “Where is Liam?”

“H–how would I know?” **Elsie** said. “Get out of here! Otherwise, I’ll call the police!”

Emma sneered.

She thought, ‘If my hiding the identity of Slox is for Liam’s sake, and now that Liam is missing, there’s no point in hiding anything anymore!’

“Go ahead and try calling the police,” she said.

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As Emma spoke, a cold blade extended from her palm, and she approached Elsie slowly.

Like a ghostly figure, she enunciated each word as she said, “I’ve cut off all the signals in the vicinity of your place. Trying to play tricks under my nose. Do you know who I am?”

“Get away from me, you lunatic,” Elsie said. “Hurry up and get away from me!”

Elsie had been cornered by the knife. She was completely flustered.

It was indeed her who hired someone to take Liam away.

But it did not occur to her that Emma would be so capable. Not only did Emma knock down all her bodyguards, but she also barged into her house.

Despite her thorough planning, Elsie didn’t anticipate that she **would** find herself in a situation where Emma had control over her.

She desperately made a call.

But no matter how many times she tried, the call couldn’t **be** connected.

“Wh–what are you trying to do?” she said. “I’m telling you. Don’t come over!”

Emma sneered as she held the knife. Her smile sent shivers down one’s spine, and it was extremely gloomy.

“I want to know where Liam is!” she said. “Otherwise, I’ll kill you right now!”

She thought, ‘Now that I was reborn, Liam is my only obsession! I’ve taken revenge against **Aria** and Elijah. Liam sacrificed his life to save me in my previous life. If anyone harms him in this life, I’ll protect him, even if it means sacrificing my life!’

“I don’t know,” Elsie said. “I don’t know. Please don’t... Ah!”

Elsie screamed, feeling a sharp pain in her mouth,

The taste of blood filled her mouth. Warm liquid trickled down from the corners of her lips.

“What’s the point of keeping a mouth that won’t speak the truth?” Emma said.

She stared at her with a sense of superiority. Elsie seemed unable to believe that Emma actually dared to **lay** hands on her.

“Mm, Emma, you’ll surely be dead meat,” she said.

“You harmed Liam’s legs,” Emma said, “It’s only right that I cut off your tongue.”

“No!” Elsie screamed in agony with a shrill voice.

She was completely terrified. “I’ll tell you,” she said. “I’ll tell you! Wat–Water...”

With the blade still in her mouth, Elsie muttered a **few** syllables **in** a daze. She then fainted from fright.

Emma frowned, withdrew the knife, and kicked her aside.

Although Elsie didn’t finish talking, Emma thought of a **place**.

It was Watery Garden.

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Emma **and Levi** sped all the way there. As they approached Watery Garden, they could already see towering flames.

Levi realized something was terribly wrong. “They want to burn Mr. Hall to death!” he said.

Emma floored the accelerator, her expression grave.

Watery Garden was a standalone villa on the mountain. There were very few residents around.

Therefore, even though the black smoke had reached the sky, no one had informed the fire department.

After getting out of the car, she saw traces of human activity on the ground.

Other than footprints, there were also fragments of hospital bandages.

“Liam is here!” she thought.

“Levi, take the hose,” she said. “I’ll go in and **save** him.”

Emma found the villa’s built-in firefighting equipment for Levi. As she spoke, she rushed in.

But just then, she sensed the person behind her trembling slightly.

“What’s wrong?” Emma asked sharply.

Levi said, “Mrs. Hall... there’s a **gas** leak, and there’s going to be an explosion soon...”

He was a capable person who worked for Liam, but he was more adept at using his intellect.

In life-and-death situations like this, it was usually members of Team Thunder who accompanied Liam into battles

Levi was not a professional. He did not have a strong mental fortitude.

Such a situation made him physically unable to overcome it.

But if he could not hold the hose well, Emma would die with Liam after she went in.

Emma said nothing. She held the fire hose and pulled Levi inside.

“Stand here and hold it steady!” she said. “This is a safe area! As long as you hold the hose steady, we won’t die.”

She could sense that Levi was still trembling.

The flames rose high into the sky, and waves of heat swept over them. It looked as though the villa could explode at any moment.

He tried his best to calm himself down, but his physical reaction betrayed his inner fear.

Emma pursed her **lips** and said, "I'm right in **front** of you. Even if it means dying, I'll die in front of you. What is there to be afraid of?"

"Alright," Levi said. "I'm not afraid..."

His eyes welled up with

tears.

Even though the fire was raging, the words that Emma spoke earlier significantly uplifted Levi.

He thought, 'What have I done to deserve such trust from Mrs. Hall... Not only does Mrs. Hall not blame me for my negligence, but she also

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trusts me this much... At this moment, even if I were to be blown up, I would willingly accept it'

Levi held the hose steady and immediately carved out a path through the sea of flames for Emma.

With a swift movement, Emma charged into the flames.

Watery Garden villa was huge.

There were a total of five floors and five to six rooms.

Emma had to search room by room to find Liam.

By the time she searched the third room, the fire was already unstoppable..

Black smoke could suffocate her at any moment. Once she collapsed, she and Liam would not survive.

Emma searched the second room and the third room but did not find Liam.

With each floor she ascended, the flames grew fiercer.

There were a few times when she was almost burned. Fortunately, Levi's hose cleared a **path** for her, allowing her to persevere.

Just then, she suddenly remembered the spot where she lay when she died in her previous life.

She suddenly remembered that she had overlooked a place

'The basement!' she thought.

Emma searched her way through according to her vague memory, Sure enough, the door of a locked room in the basement had fallen off. It was also the place where the flames were the most concentrated.

"Liam!" she called out.

She saw Liam lying quietly in the sea of fire.

Restraining the fear of fire that was ingrained in her from her previous life, she rushed toward him.

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Colby Chapter 67

Chapter 67

When Liam was ten years old, he was also locked in the basement by Elsie, waiting for his death in despair.

"I can't travel back in time to save him, E

Emma thought. "Today, I will never let him face it alone!

She said, "Liam, I'm coming."

Even though Emma was already weakened by the thick smoke, she still found him and used all her strength to carry him out of the room.

“I will save you,” she said. “In this lifetime, we’ll be fine.”

Emma, driven by her faith, carried Liam outside.

Just as they were about to leave the villa, a burnt main beam, engulfed in flames, came crashing down to ward them.

“Oh no,” Levi **said**. “Watch out, Mrs. Halli”

He **was** shocked and pale with fear.

In the nick of time, he reflexively lunged toward Emma with all his might.

Emma felt a tremendous force pushing her from behind.

She and Liam were pushed out of the villa.

The main beam collapsed with a bang and pressed onto Levi’s body....

Right after that, there was darkness.

Emma felt like she had a long dream.

In the dream, there w

was a burning maze, She desperately tried to escape, but no matter how hard she tried, she couldn’t get out.

She said, “No.. Liam, hurry up and leave. Don’t come to save me... Ah!”

Emma screamed.

Then, she suddenly opened **her eyes**, finally waking up.

She was surrounded by a familiar masculine—style master bedroom, upscale tables, chairs, sofas, and a dark green classic—style bed bench that exuded a sense of aristocracy. The classic elegance and luxury were unique to Icovine Estate. She had returned to Icovine Estate.

The last image in her memory was the gas leak explosion and Levi rushing in at the critical moment to save her and Liam, As Levi did so, a huge beam collapsed onto his body

“You’re up?” A familiar voice instantly made Emma snap out of her thoughts.

“Li–Liam?” Emma said **as** she looked at him with joy. “You’re awake... That’s great!”

Emma looked at the neatly dressed man in the wheelchair, thinking, “He seems to be in a good state. The car accident seems to have only left some superficial wounds. There are some scars on his handsome face that will heal in a few days, yet these very scars make him look even more devilish and sexy.”

“How long was I asleep?” Emma asked.

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Liam said, “I regained consciousness the day before yesterday. The doctor said you were unconscious for five days.”

“Five days!” Emma thought, ‘I was actually unconscious for that long!

The impact of the fi

act of the fire was too much for Emma.

To save Liam immediately that day, she inhaled too much harmful gas and nearly couldn’t **be** saved.

Being able to wake up **was** already a blessing.

Liam bent down and gently rested on her, hugging her tightly.

“You made me very worried, Emma,” he said.

“She will never know how flustered I was in the few days when she was unconscious, he thought.

Fluster was a rare emotion that was seldom felt for a man like him.

But when she got into trouble this time, the dark emotions from when he was ten years old spread in his heart **again**.

In fact, he was **even** more helpless than before,

He was afraid that he would experience the pain of losing a loved one again.

Emma hugged him back, her slender hands gently patting his back.

She said, “It’s all right now. It’s all over. Everything’s sorted out. You’re awake, and so am I... By the way, where’s Levi?”

Liam's expression gradually turned serious, and he said, "He's badly injured."

Emma let out a sigh.

She thought, 'Liam's close call this time has to do with Levi's negligence in keeping watch over him. However, Levi still risked his life to save Liam in the end, redeeming himself. Levi is also a rare loyal assistant

"He was the one who pushed us out in the end," Emma said, her black **eyes** looking at Liam quietly. "Without him, we wouldn't have survived

this time."

He could instantly understand what she meant.

His handsome face gradually drew closer, his fingers caressing the corner of her lips.

"You almost lost your life, and you're still worrying about another man, huh?" he said.

"You're the one I'm most worried about," Emma said as she poked his cheek. "You have no idea that I went all out to **save** you, and you **are** now feeling jealous because I showed him concern."

She looked adorable when she expressed displeasure coquettishly, making Liam's heart melt instantly. "Okay," he said. "I won't be jealous. I apologize to you. Okay?"

A low voice sounded especially pleasant when it came from him.

In particular, when he said "apologize", Emma even thought she was hallucinating,

"This man actually apologized to me!" she thought.

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Chapter 67

Her face flushed for no reason.

Liam brushed away the strands of hair on her neck with his warm and rough fingers before kissing her gently on the lips.

It was a delicate and pure kiss that had no sense of lust, as if he was admiring the most precious treasure in the world.

They shared a series of intimate kisses.

Before she woke up, Liam had already understood the entire situation in the last two days.

He knew that when he was unconscious, Elsie and Brad had come to the hospital to cause trouble. At the critical moment, it was Emma who got Vere to cleverly resolve it.

Vere was so capable that he nearly caused a mishap for the Halls Group, which was such a huge company.

He also learned that Emma had barged into the Hall family's villa to save him.

She single-handedly knocked down all the bodyguards and even stabbed Elsie in the mouth.

He thought, 'Emma was able to scare such an arrogant woman out of her wits. This goes to show how powerful my wife is!'

Liam's kiss was dominant and passionate.

His lips grazed against her ear, making rustling sounds. She then heard him say in a soft voice, "Emma, after we're done with this..."

Emma was in a daze from his kiss, so she didn't **catch** the rest of his words.

"Huh?" she asked.

Liam did not answer. He was lost in the intimacy.

"Just now... mm, you said after we're done with what?" she asked.

Liam's warm breath brushed against the hair near her ear. He kissed her hair and said, "I said after we're done with this, I want to have a baby

with you."

Emma instantly blushed, thinking, 'Baby! I haven't thought about that before!'

As Liam saw her blushing adorably, he was even more unable to control himself. He then untied her nightgown...

Emma had just woken up, so Liam did not let her expend too much energy.

When their intimacy reached its peak, she tightly gripped his wrists and snuggled up to him, feeling a great sense of trust and security.

It was lingering and pleasurable.

After relaxing physically and mentally, the two of them hugged each other tightly and slept. It was the most peaceful sleep they had had in recent years.

The next day, Liam summoned several confidants from Team Thunder to his study and asked, "How's Elsie?"

"Her mouth is seriously **injured**. She doesn't dare to complain to Mr. Simon. The situation at Brad's company has just stabilized. He may lay a hand on you again next."

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"What about the police?" Liam asked.

Another person took out some documents and said, "The police still believe that this car accident is just an ordinary case of drunk driving. They've already arrested the perpetrator. But I noticed that recently, there's something suspicious in Elsie's private account. Please take a look, Mr. Hall."

"Okay," Liam said.

He thought. 'I knew right from the start that the sports car in the tunnel was coming for me. Just like the doctor said, I could have avoided it by survival instinct, but I intentionally chose not to. I knew Elsie wanted to test my legs, so I pretended to fall for her scheme, causing her to be fooled. I was prepared to take the risk of losing my life, but as long as I survive, it will be the end of Elsie and

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Chapter 68

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After Liam's trusted members of Team Thunder each went off to carry out their tasks, only one person stayed behind.

"I want to send you to investigate something." Liam said.

"Mr. Hall please give your orders."

After careful consideration, Liam said, "Emma has been talking in her sleep, saying strange things."

The words that Emma said in her **sleep** came to Liam's mind. 'Elijah, you killed Liam! I'm going to kill you! Liam, hurry up and leave... Liam, don't save me...'

These words were said unconsciously by Emma, leaving Liam very puzzled.

He was afraid that she still had some other painful experiences that he was unaware of.

"Help me find out what exactly Emma went through in the past," Liam said. "Also, **find** out what exactly that guy called Elijah was involved with me in the past."

"Got it, Mr. Hall"

After his subordinate left, Liam sat alone in the study, deep in thought.

"If it happened just once, maybe I'd think she was having a nightmare, he thought. 'But it happens multiple times, again and again. I have to suspect if there's something very important that I've overlooked"

When Emma woke up the next **day**, she was sticky all over. Even though she and Liam had yet to reach the stage where they got physical, this was already the second time they had been so intimate.

She was in the bathtub, applying a face mask and taking a bath, while learning about the latest developments regarding Elsie from Josiah.

"Miss Wilson, you weren't harsh enough the other day," Josiah said. "Her mouth is almost healed now, and she's about to hold a charity auction for the wealthy ladies of Troin City."

"An auction?" Emma asked.

Josiah replied, "Yeah."

"Liam has kept your whereabouts hidden from the outside," Josiah continued. "The fire department and the police are investigating the explosion, and they are already suspecting **Elsie**. Elsie doesn't know you two have woken up. She thinks you're both dead."

Emma leaned back against the bathtub, holding her phone, and closed her eyes to rest.

“This woman is really indifferent until she’s caught red-handed,” Josiah said. “The police have already suspected her, but she’s still hosting parties as if nothing has happened. Miss Wilson, is there anything we need to do next?”

“She’s so eager to get into deep shit,” Emma said. “It’s not my style if I don’t give her a ride!”

Emma smiled before adding coldly, “Send me the list of all the guests and the program for the day of the charity auction. I’ll make sure she never forgets that day for the rest of her life.”

Elsie’s charity auction was three **days** away.

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Chapter 68

There had been no news of Emma and Liam for a week, and Levi’s fate was uncertain.

The possibility of escaping from such an explosion and surviving was almost zero, especially considering that Liam had just been in a car

accident.

So, even if their bodies were not found, Elsie firmly believed that the two of them were dead.

Overjoyed, she immediately held Starry Night Charity Auction, which was the grandest event every year among the circle of wealthy ladies in TroIn City

Other than some wealthy women, top-tier celebrities in the entertainment Industry and socialites would also attend the event that night.

It would be a star-studded event.

The person who was in the position to host this event was a symbol of peak power.

Elsie wore a luxurious haute couture Chapane gown that day.

The moment she appeared, she attracted everyone’s attention.

“She truly lives up to the reputation as the mistress of the Hall family. I heard that Chapane gowns are as difficult to order as gowns by Youth”

“I won’t be able to order a Youth gown in my life, but if I can get sponsorship from Chapane for the red carpet event next year. I can wake up laughing even in my dreams,” another female celebrity said.

“Eh?” another female celebrity said. “Wasn’t it said that Mr. Rivera has recently signed a contract to endorse Chapane?” She looked around and continued, “Is Mr. Rivera coming today? If he is, let’s talk to him and see if he can give us two spots.”

As the two female celebrities chatted, the auction began on the other side.

Every year, Starry Night Charity Auction was the center of attention for people from all walks of life.

Everyone who attended went all out, not only in dressing their best but also in donating items, each more expensive than the last.

The one who took the lead was undoubtedly Elsie, who was the focus of the evening.

“Let’s invite tonight’s starry goddess, Mrs. Hall, to give the opening speech!”

Elsie walked up the steps, her voluminous golden silk gown instantly making a grand entrance.

With a 45-foot-long **train**, it was luxury at its finest.

She smiled smugly.

At the thought that she had already gotten rid of Liam and Emma, she smiled even more joyfully.

“Mrs. Hall is spirited tonight. She’s in such a good state.”

“That’s right. Previously, there were rumors that she was suppressed by the disabled eldest son of the Hall family... Now, it seems that the

rumors are all false.”

“That Liam is now a cripple,” a wealthy lady said. “Right now, the entire Hall family belongs to Elsie and **Brad.**”

“Elsie can afford to wear this outfit. This goes to show how powerful she is. In the future, we have to side with her and not waste effort on that

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cripple.”

Elsie stood under the spotlight, feeling more and more happy.

“Let us give thanks and appreciation for this wonderful evening!” she said.

“**Clap!**”

The applause was thunderous.

The emcee also clapped vigorously.

“Mrs. Hall is the first person in our country to wear a gown that was exclusively custom-made by Chapanel Tonight’s Starry Night Charity Gala will surely be a success!”

le stage.

Just then, a clear voice of someone talking indifferently could be heard coming from below the

“Exclusively custom-made by Chapane?”

Amidst the guests’ expressions of good wishes, there was suddenly a strange noise, causing everyone to involuntarily turn and look **at** him.

In the crowd, a man was seen with his long legs crossed. He was dressed in a luxurious high-end white suit, and his handsome face was adorned with black sunglasses. His nose bridge was high.

He got up and pointed at the woman on the stage.

“Her gown is a fake,” he said.

Right after he said that, the entire place was in an **uproar**.

Everyone looked at Elsie in shock, thinking. A fake? No **way!**”

Elsie’s expression gradually became strange. “Who are you?” she said. “My gown is genuine, and it was air-shipped from Antgem. What evidence do you have to say that my gown is fake?”

Even though she managed to maintain her composure, the fluster on her face could not be hidden.

Sean smiled as he took off his sunglasses.

During **the** instant he revealed his face, everyone widened their eyes,

Initially, he disdained attending an event organized by Elsie.

ly come **to** sabotage Elsie's event.

But today, he was entrusted by Emma to specifically

Sean devised a strategy to achieve his goal of sabotaging Elsie's event. He enunciated each word as he said, "I am the sole global spokesperson for Chapane. If what I say is false, then are you saying yours is true? Chapane has been affected by the economy and hasn't sold any clothes at all for nearly half a year. The first order they received was for my niece. Where did you buy this dress you're wearing?"

No one present had ever seen authentic Chapane clothes.

Initially, even if Elsie insisted that it was authentic, no one would doubt her words.

But unfortunately, Sean **was** currently the spokesperson for Chapane.

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His words represented authority.

Being exposed for wearing a counterfeit gown in such a situation was undoubtedly extremely embarrassing.

Elsie's expression alternated between anger and awkwardness.

She struggled desperately, saying, "Mere words are not sufficient proof. You are just a spokesperson. Can you speak on behalf of **the** entire Chapane brand?"

Sean was already prepared.

He immediately produced a pre-prepared video of Chapane director's personal clarification and projected it onto the large screen of the entire charity **gala**.

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The video was in high definition, and it was unedited.

Every word was enunciated. The clarification was clear **and** distinct.

The design director personally declared that Chapane had never sold this dress to Elsie .

The sound of discussion instantly turned

Elsie's face flushed immediately.

Into

an uproar The reporters' cameras snapped photos of this scene with flashes.

The situation became extremely awkward. A wealthy lady who was usually on good terms with Elsie was the first to speak up. "It's just at gown," she said. "Does it really matter if it's authentic or fake?"

"I know, right? As long as the gown looks good, isn't it all that matters? Why be unyielding just because you are in the right?"

A few people spoke up for Elsie, and the emcee immediately caught on.

"I reckon Mrs. Hall must be an unwitting victim too, but this doesn't affect our charity gala," the emcee said. "Why don't we let Mrs. Hall change into another gown and carry on with the charity gala?"

Elsie hurriedly left the stage and went backstage as if fleeing

Backstage, she was trembling with anger.

"This Sean is just a performer," she said. "How dare he go against me in public!"

The stylist beside Elsie advised her rationally, **saying**, "Mrs. Hall, the most important thing right now is to regain **the** face that has been lost. Don't we still have

a trump card? As long as you showcase our donation, everyone will see your capability.
”

Elsie tried her best to endure it, thinking, ‘Yes. I can’t give up. I have to
o turn the tables!’

She gritted her teeth and said, “You’re right! We still have Theo’s treasure tonight...

Theo Golden was currently the most famous artist both domestically and internationally.

A ceramic artwork from him was worth over 200 million dollars.

His artworks were hard to come by.

Those who could acquire his artworks were the top elites in the world.

Elsie had leveraged Simon’s name and pulled every trick in the book to obtain Theo’s a
uthorization.

A donation of this level could undoubtedly make Elsie famous overnight.

“Have the people bringing the item arrived yet?” Elsie asked through gritted teeth.

The stylist said, “They have arrived. They are right at the door.”

Elsie sneered and said, “Alright! Come with me. **Let’s** go up the stage now and showca
se that treasure!”

She immediately welcomed the people delivering the “treasure“.

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The ones in charge of delivering Theo’s artwork were several of his protégés.

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The person in the middle was holding a box made of high–grade rosewood. The
thing inside was the “trump card” that Elsie had put a lot of effort and attention to detail i
nto preparing for today’s charity gala.

After Elsie changed into her gown, she immediately took that group of people and returned to the stage.

Someone noticed the unusual attire of the group of people.

Everyone pointed at that group of people and spoke. "They are wearing vintage-style gray-green traditional jackets. How come this outfit looks somewhat familiar?"

"Could it be... Theo Garden?"

"It can't be him, right? Elsie is donating Theo's artwork? When did she become so loaded?"

Some of the women present had already gasped in astonishment.

They thought, "in the past, a total donation of 200 million dollars at this charity gala was considered very impressive. And this year, with Elsie as the host, she actually wants to donate Theo's artwork! And just one artwork from Theo is worth 200 million dollars! That means Elsie alone can donate 200 million dollars!!

Discussions filled with admiration continued without interruption.

These voices reached Elsie's **ears**, greatly compensating for the vanity she had just lost

Elsie regained her proud demeanor and **said** with cheerfulness, "Although there was a little hiccup earlier, it doesn't affect the joy I want to share with everyone today! That's right. What I'm donating this time is a priceless rare treasure. It's "Serenity, which is a notable work from Theo that represents his style."

"It's actually 'Serenity'!"

"This is Theo's proudest work!"

"Brad is indeed impressive! A mother's status is elevated by the accomplishments of her son. Elsie is truly awesome at his time!"

The people watching below the stage were ecstatic.

Any one of Theo's works could shock the world.

Amongst them, the porcelain vase, "Serenity", was the artwork he was most satisfied with. It was also the most expensive artwork that represented **his** style.

Everybody had been speculating about which country's **leader** owned this treasure. Unexpectedly, Elsie had acquired it.

Moreover, she was personally escorted by Theo's protégés this time, which made the vase undoubtedly authentic.

Sure enough, with the appearance of "Serenity", everyone immediately forgot about the **gown** incident, leaving only deep awe and

admiration for Elsie.

Elsie had hidden resentment. She stared at the man who had exposed her in the crowd just now, a sinister cold glint flashing across her eyes.

"Although I can't get my hands on Chapane gown, I'm willing to donate 'Serenity' to tonight's auction as an auction item," she said. "The focus today is on charity. Mr. Rivera, since you're here too, may I ask what you will donate?"

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Elsie anticipated that the value of the item Sean donated would be lower than hers.

She thought, "I've donated 200 million dollars! What else could be more valuable than 'Serenity' by Theo? Sean is just bringing shame upon

himself!!

The tide had now turned in favor of Elsie.

Everyone was touched by her generosity and selflessness. They

that Sean had been too overbearing earlier.

The reporters turned their cameras toward Sean and started snapping **away**.

Sean's agent started to get anxious. "She's the mistress of the Hall family," the agent said. "Why on earth did you provoke her for no reason?"

Sean looked disdainful. "What's so **great** about being the mistress of the Hall family?" he said. "Humph. Fret not. She will lose her status as the mistress of the Hall family soon."

'The mistress of the Hall family should be Emma, my precious niece,' he thought.

Sean immediately called Emma. "Emma, I've done what you asked me to do," he said. "It's up to you and your husband to take action now."

In a dark corner at the charity gala that no one noticed, Emma picked up the phone. “Don’t worry, Uncle Sean,” she said. “She dared to speak to you sarcastically, I’ll be the first one to deal with her.”

With that said, Emma walked out of the shadows.

She was fully prepared. Even her voice had been altered.

She wore a hat and a mask today. She was

It was

all for the purpose of making Elsie meet her irreversible downfall.

She sneered and slowly walked through the crowd toward the stage.

“Ms. Weeds, you’ve declared your intention to donate ‘Serenity,’ but what evidence do you have to prove that “Serenity’ belongs to you?” she

asked.

Elsie stared at Emma. She found Emma familiar, yet she couldn’t recognize who she was.

“What nonsense are you spouting?” she said. “Master Theo sold ‘Serenity’ to me personally. His protégés can testify to Security, chase this troublemaking woman out!”

“Really?” Emma said, deliberately elongating her voice..

She sneered and jumped onto the stage.

“Master Theo cherishes original creations and detests piracy,” Emma said. “The first rule for everyone buying his works is that they have **never** copied someone else’s creative ideas and supported piracy by buying pirated goods. You wore a knockoff gown earlier, so how are you worthy of owning Master Theo’s work?”

Right after Emma said that, the protégés of Theo instantly seemed to be enlightened.

‘That’s right!’ they thought. “Our master’s teachings are deeply ingrained in us. Master Theo will never sell his works to anyone who has supported any knockoff products! It’s just that we have just arrived, so we’re unaware of the earlier incident with the knockoff gown.

Theo’s senior protégé immediately said with a serious expression, “Ms. Weeds, is **what** this lady said true? Did you wear a knockoff gown just

now?

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Elsie frowned as she said, "I didn't do it on purpose! Besides, your master has already sold it to me! Since it's sold, it's mine! No one can play tricks!"

All protégés of Theo now looked somewhat displeased.

They thought, 'She's clearly the one who violated the rules first. How come she's accusing us of playing tricks?'

Emma had anticipated that Elsie would throw a tantrum. She turned to one senior protégé and said, "Tell your master that I want this 'Serenity' today.

"What a joke," **Elsie** said. "This thing was clearly bought by me first!"

She was so angry that she laughed. "Besides, do you know how much **it's** worth?" she continued. "Can you afford to buy it just because you want it? It's simply laughable!"

The onlookers looked at Emma, dressed in a black t-shirt and black **pants**, and thought she didn't look like she could afford it. They immediately mocked her secretly.

"Haha. This woman is here to cause trouble, right?"

"Looking down—and—out yet talking big. Does she think she can become someone like Mr. Rivera **too**?"

"She can't even afford a gown at a banquet, and she wants to buy 'Serenity'?"

"She probably escaped from some mental hospital, right? How scary"

Even Theo's protégés frowned one after another.

'Our master's artworks are priceless, they thought. 'How can anyone buy it just because they want to?'

"Miss, it's true that our master's artworks can't be sold to people who have bought pirated or counterfeit products. However, this doesn't mean anyone can buy them."

Emma was expressionless, and her eyes **were** cold.

She thought, I know Theo's artworks have strict requirements for making a purchase, but **that's** for everyone else except me!"

She calmly took out a badge exclusive to her and spread out her palm to the leading senior protégé, asking "Not even me, huh?"

ong until he saw the octagram in

The senior protégé had been muttering about how this woman could not discern between right and wrong Emma's palm. Then, he **was** instantly dumbfounded.

"It's the silver badge of Octagram, he thought.

Everyone under Theo's tutelage knew about the exclusive symbol.

The senior protégé asked, "You, you are..."

Emma gestured for him to keep quiet.

She didn't want everyone to know her identity.

Her fingers were **slender**, and her eyes were cold.

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Wearing a mask and hat, her facial features could not be seen clearly.

However, her eyes were extremely beautiful.

Once, when she traveled the world as Stox, she saved Thea's life in Starham.

From then on, Theo had set another rule for all protégés. If they encountered Stox, no matter what request she made, they

with it,

hey had to compl

comply

Now that **they** saw the “proof of identity“, they were naturally shocked.

The senior protégé hadn’t recovered from his astonishment **yet**.

Emma said leisurely, “Now, can this thing be sold to me?”

“Of, of course! No. Master Theo said we can give it to you directly if you want it. There’s no need to purchase...”

Emma did not allow them to reveal her identity. Naturally, Theo’s protégés would not **da re** to say that the woman in front of them, who wore a black hat and a mask, was the world-famous Stox.

Elsie was puzzled.

Unable to accept this sudden change, she said angrily, “What do you mean by doing that? You’ve already taken my money. How can you sell

it to someone else?”

Emma said, “Elsie, you were the one who violated the rules first, and...”

She then took a step forward and removed her black mask.

Under the starry night, her smile was captivating

“Your mouth wasn’t injured enough that night,” she said. “If I **had** known, I would have made you unable to speak at all!”

When Elsie saw **Emma’s** face, she was so frightened that she immediately shouted. She even dropped the microphone.

The people below the stage saw Elsie retreating step by step, but because the microphone had fallen to the ground, they could not hear their

conversation.

Elsie asked, “You! Are you a human or a ghost?”

Emma spoke on stage with a voice that only she could hear. “Very surprised that I’m not dead, huh? Not only am I not dead, but Liam is not dead either! On the other hand, you ... Your good days have come to an end...”

Emma timed **it** accurately.

While she was standing in a quiet corner in the shadows earlier, she heard the sound of sirens outside the venue of the charity gala.

She and Liam coordinated their actions.

She came to humiliate Elsie, while Liam gathered evidence about Elsie harming people.

He had been lying low for many years. He had even taken the risk of getting hit by a car and not being able to survive.

It was all for this moment of taking down Elsie in one fell swoop.

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Just as Emma finished talking, the police happened to walk in.

The initially luxurious and glamorous charity banquet instantly became solemn.

The police controlled the entrances and exits.

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The first few uniformed police officers who were leading the group walked onto the stage and showed Elsie their police identification cards in front of everyone.

“We suspect you’re involved in a hit-and-run murder case and an arson attack,” a police officer said. “Please come with us.”

Elsie widened her **eyes** in disbelief.

She thought Emma and Liam were already dead.

Unexpectedly, they were just plotting in secret.

She thought, ‘They have long planned everything, deliberately making me lower my guard. Then, they wait for me to be arrested in **front** of so many people at the banquet today!’”

Elsie was really flustered this time.

“Sir, how could I possibly be involved?” she **said**. “I’m the mistress of the Hall family. My husband is still in Ralbridge. My son is **Brad**. I...”

“There’s no need to explain,” a police officer said. “Let’s talk at the police station!”

The police were impartial, completely disregarding whose wife or mother she was.

Emma and Liam had long prepared everything meticulously.

The Information that was sent over **was** irrefutable evidence.

If Liam **wasn’t** very certain, he wouldn’t have risked his life.

A pair of cold handcuffs was immediately placed on Elsie’s hands.

Amidst the shock of all the guests, **she** was taken away.

The atmosphere of the banquet instantly became extremely tense.

No one could have thought that the wife of the respectable Simon would be taken away by the police in front of everyone like **this**.

moments ago. Now, she is actually a murderer who has been taken away in

Everyone thought, ‘She was still the center of attention just no handcuffs! The higher one is raised, the harder one will fall!’

The scene erupted into commotion.

Everyone’s attention shifted naturally to Emma.

The people below the stage who had looked down on her earlier now had a hint of fear in their eyes as they looked at her.

They thought, ‘There are only a few people in TroIn City who can bring Elsie down. Who exactly is this woman?’

They saw Emma with her back facing the podium, putting on her mask and hat again.

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Emma thought, 'The fewer people know about my identity as Stox, the better. Theo's protégés won't tell anyone, but I don't want to show my face on today's occasion,'

After she was done putting on her mask and hat, she turned around and spoke into the microphone.

She said, "I will still donate 'Serenity. But this time, I will do it in the name of the only legal heir of the Hall family, which is Liam."

That announcement was both a warning and a declaration of hostility.

Everything that happened tonight was just the beginning.

Elsie's fate was witnessed by everyone today.

The next person Emma and Liam wanted to deal with was Brad.

The rich and famous people who were determined to join Brad's camp just now broke out in **cold** sweat, thinking, 'This woman wearing a black hat has a terrifyingly influential background. If we can't read the room and provoke her today, there's no telling how we may be humiliated.

When Brad got word of it, Elsie had already been taken away.

It was too late.

He **saw** the final shot of Emma, and his face got extremely gloomy.

"Emma," he thought. "Liam actually has such a woman by his side. I'll soon uncover her identity!"

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