

# My mute bride

## Read Chapter 401

### Chapter 401

“Mommy! Mr. Wade is going to propose, right?” Charlotte was a child of great mischief, and she immediately voiced Rachel’s guess.

“Propose?” Rachel froze. When she looked back, she saw Gloria standing at the dining area door, wearing a pink nightdress and holding a cup in her hand. It seemed that she had woken up to drink water.

Rachel thought of getting away with it, but Gloria had already trotted in with her eyes shining. ‘Is he going to propose to me? Really? Here? When?’

Rachel coughed. “Gloria, you’ve misheard.” Since Victor didn’t tell them, it meant that he wanted to surprise Gloria. This was just great. Before he could surprise her, they had disrupted it.

“I heard it very clearly.” Gloria grabbed Justin. “You heard it too, didn’t you? Victor is going to propose to me!” Justin was helpless. “Yes, I heard it. Are you happy?”

“Meh, I’m okay. Not that happy.”

“Then, if he proposes, will you agree?”

“For someone like him, if it weren’t for me, he would never be able to get married, so I’ll reluctantly agree. I’ll be doing a good deed.” Gloria deliberately frowned, but there was irrepressible happiness in her eyes.

“Don’t worry. I didn’t hear anything. I don’t know what to prepare or how to prepare. I’ll go back and sleep first.”

“Hey!” Rachel called after her but didn’t manage to stop her. She turned around and asked Justin, “Is their information reliable? Why am I panicking?” “That guy has many ideas. He probably didn’t tell us because he was embarrassed.”

“That’s true.” Rachel nodded. “But, it’s amazing that the two actually got together. To be honest, the average girl won’t be able to stand Victor’s temper.”

“Gloria doesn’t have a good temper either.” “You’re oddly calm about this, and something. isn’t quite right here.” Rachel teased him and said, “Shouldn’t you feel the dissatisfaction of having your little sister being taken away by another man?”

“Gloria will have to marry someone eventually. Instead of marrying someone from nowhere, it’s better to marry someone from Riverdale. We all know history, and we all live close by. It’ll make things easier if anything needs to be taken care of too.”

“That’s true.” Rachel nodded in agreement. “Charlotte, Samuel, this matter must be kept secret.” Charlotte immediately covered her mouth and. said, “I definitely won’t say anything.”

She glanced at Samuel, and when she saw that he didn’t respond, she stretched out her hand. and covered his mouth too. “Samuel won’t say anything either.”

Samuel was eating, so when Charlotte covered his mouth, he could only stare at them with his eyes wide open, looking like a little frog. Due to the accident the night before, everyone slept until noon.

The homestay owner made lunch, all of which were the town’s specialties, and there were even exquisite pastries from Riverdale. “What are we doing this afternoon?”

“We’re going hiking,” Victor answered while eating. I’ve drafted the plan. The red maple up on Triburg Mountain looks the most beautiful this season, and the mountain isn’t too high. So, we’ll go after lunch and descend the mountain before dark.”

Jolly piped up, “I know that place. People often propose on Lover Vista. It’s the slope that’s on the top of the mountain.”

As soon as she said this, Rachel glanced at Gloria with a smile. Gloria froze for a moment, then suddenly blushed. After lunch, the group set off.

The mountain wasn’t high, and the red maples all over the mountain looked like fire clusters. It was extremely enchanting. Halfway through walking, Rachel suddenly felt a little uncomfortable. For some reason, she thought of the fire that happened more than 20 years ago.

“Are you tired? Drink some water.”

Justin’s concerned voice sounded from her side. She returned to her senses, then took a sip of water and forced a smile. “I’m okay. It’s just the lack of exercise that’s getting to me.” “Give me the bag.”

“It’s okay, I can carry it myself-”

Before she could finish speaking, he took the bag from her shoulder and carried it as he walked forward. She had mixed feelings in her heart when she looked at his back.

She seemed to have seen such a scene more than 20 years ago. At that time, she had helped him leave the mountain. Then, after preparing food and drinks for him, she watched as he hurried off with a bag on his back. If it weren't for the sudden fire in the mountains, perhaps everything that followed wouldn't have happened.

"What are you thinking about?"

Jolly suddenly patted her on the shoulder, bringing her back to reality.

"Nothing." "I think this mountain is higher than Victor claimed it to be, and the road isn't very easy to walk on either." Jolly leaned almost half of her body on Rachel, looking like she had jelly for bones.

Rachel tried to push her away as she was rather heavy. "You're so heavy. If you can't walk, ask Leroy to carry you. Why are you torturing me instead?"

"I have something to tell you."

"What? Are you going to scold me for treating a friend as a backup again? I won't take that lying down."

"Oh, why are you holding a grudge for that?"

Jolly held her arm and coaxed her. "I said that out of anger, didn't I? I'll apologize to you, okay? And when we go back to Riverdale, you can choose any of the bags in my house."

"Who cares about your bags?"

"You can't buy those with money!"

"Keep them for yourself."

Rachel rolled her eyes at Jolly before walking forward on her own. Jolly stuck to her like gum. "Chris, although I know there are certain things you may not like to hear, I think I still have to say them."

"What is it?"

"What are you planning to do with Julian and Justin?"

"This again? Can't I not want either of them?" "But, the problem now is that these two people are by your side. One is blatantly chasing you, and the other has a daughter

with you. Neither of them are people whom you can be just friends with just because you say so. Don't you think so too? If you have to choose one, which one will it be?"

Rachel frowned, "This question is just a bunch of red flags. I won't choose."

"Deep down, it's still Justin, right?" Jolly hit the nail on the head. "You don't need to explain the grudges between you and him. In fact, the more grudges are involved, the more difficult it is for you two to call it quits. You're just deceiving yourself by saying that you guys are even."

Rachel couldn't refute, but her frown deepened. She had to admit that she couldn't accept Julian or anyone else for this reason. She didn't know what kind of feelings she had for Justin.

But, after experiencing so many things, she couldn't accept Justin again like nothing had happened. Jolly said, "There's something I didn't want to tell you because I thought it had nothing to do with you, but now I think you have the right to know."

"What is it?"

"Justin has a marriage contract, which has been set since he was a child."

Rachel looked at Jolly in surprise. How's that possible? How could he marry her back then if he had a marriage contract? And how could he have remained engaged with Amber for five years?

Jolly was serious, a side of her that was rarely seen. "Frankie told me about it, and we all know her. She's our old boss, Christine, whose real name is Ginny Tuscan."

Rachel's brows shot up as she found it hard to believe.

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

## Chapter 402

When they climbed to the top of the mountain, it was already evening. Due to the constant stopping, the original plan to get to the top of the mountain in one hour turned into a strenuous three-hour hike, completely ruining Victor's plan..

"According to our current situation, we won't be able to get home before dark." Victor glanced at his watch. "Let's just take a walk, a group photo, then take a break before leaving."

Jolly sat on the stone pier while using her hands to fan herself and criticized Victor, "Why are you being such a tour guide, rushing us to look at attractions and take pictures? We're not here to be tourists, so what's the problem if we can't get back before dark?"

For a moment, Victor was taken aback too. He scratched his head. "Then, everyone's free to roam about. I'll check out the stalls to buy something to eat."

Jolly gave him a dismissive wave, appearing like a wealthy young lady commanding her servant. Leroy chuckled next to her, then used a newspaper to fan her. "If Gloria sees you commanding her boyfriend like this, she'll pick a fight with you."

"Do you think I'm afraid of her?"

"You're not, but we are." "Hey, where's Chris?" Jolly looked around. "Where did she go? Why are we the only ones here?" Leroy shook his head. "She was still here just now."

At this moment, Rachel had walked a little further away with the two children. There was a stream in the red maple forest, where the path was lined with gravel, and a clear mountain spring was in the middle. Charlotte and Samuel rushed over, took off their shoes, and started a water fight in the water.

It was late autumn, so the mountainside was extremely cold. Rachel was afraid that they would catch a cold. "You two, hurry back up after playing for a while. Be careful not to catch a cold," Justin happened to walk over. "It's fine. I'll watch them. Don't go over. The path below is dangerous," The path below was either covered in mud or water, so it was indeed hard to walk.

Rachel frowned and said nothing as she thought about what Jolly said when they walked up the mountain. There was still some distance between the hillside and the mountain stream where the children played in the water. Rachel sat down on the slope, surrounded by flaming red maple leaves. It looked like a carpet, and it was very soft to sit on.

Initially, when she was in Montenegro, Ginny was her boss, and she had made things quite difficult for her. Still, she never expected Ginny to be Justin's fiancée or his partner in a marriage contract since they were children.

Jolly said that the Tuscan Family had immigrated to a foreign country very early on. Still, the Tuscan Family and the Burton Family: were good friends, so the two old men made the marriage contract. Meanwhile, Ginny was a strong businesswoman who had not been married for more than 30 years...

It was no wonder. It was no wonder that Amber failed to become Mrs. Burton despite staying by Justin's side for five years.

On the one hand, perhaps Justin took into account Charlotte's preference; on the other hand, maybe Arthur wasn't satisfied with his marriage with Amber, as he still had the Tuscan Family in mind.

More importantly, Justin gave up the right to manage Burton Group so easily. It wasn't a logical act to begin with, but what if he was planning to leave Riverdale? Jolly's words echoed in Rachel's ears.

"The Tuscan Family is very influential abroad. I don't even need to tell you that. But, if I'm not mistaken, it appears as if Old Mr. Burton didn't leave any inheritance to Justin. In fact, he has a part of the Tuscan Family's shares. So, as long as he marries Ginny, he'll get half of the Tuscan Family's business and will be able to rise from the ashes."

This was one of the reasons why Jolly was so resistant toward Justin before this. Obviously, he was in a contract marriage, and he obviously had a way out, but he still refused to let go of Rachel.

But now, Jolly and Leroy owed him a life debt, so it wouldn't be good for her to say much. She could only tell Rachel what she knew and let her assess the situation by herself.

"Rach." Rachel froze, and she was brought back to reality by Julian's voice sounding from behind her. "Yes?" She recovered and stood up. "When did you arrive?"

"I just walked over. What are you thinking so intently about?" "It's nothing. Samuel and the two of them are playing in the water over there. I'll call them. Otherwise, their clothes will get wet."

"Wait." Julian suddenly grabbed her arm.

Rachel was caught by surprise. "What's the matter?"

"I have something to tell you."

"Hmm?" Julian suddenly took out a ring box, then opened it with a 'pop' before getting down on one knee in front of Rachel. The sky was full of red maple leaves rustling down with the wind, painting a beautiful autumn landscape.

She unconsciously took a step back, so surprised that she was at a loss for words. Wasn't it Victor who was going to propose?

Julian said, "I know this is very sudden and may scare you, but I've wanted to do this a long time ago, so no matter what your final decision is, can you let me finish first?"

She was anxious, and from the corners of her eyes, she caught a glimpse of the figure at the mountain stream in the distance and stopped stepping back.

Everyone knew how to find a way out for themselves, and Justin was no exception. Obviously, he had a great future, but he pretended to look desolate, which only made others want to sympathize with him. Rachel clenched her hands and stopped backing away.

Julian continued, "When I first saw you, I knew you must be a kind and simple girl. Although you couldn't speak, your eyes were pure, purer than anyone I've ever seen. For so many years, you've always said that I'm the one staying by your side and helping you. But, that's not the case. You're the one staying by my side. Life is so long and lonely. I seem to have many friends, but most of them are just casual friends. My family isn't perfect, and even my mother isn't a kind person.

You know all this. I long for a family, but the person whom I want to start a family with is you. I even thought that it was fine to just stay by your side all the time as a friend, but as I watch you get better, attracting more and more people-the good, the bad, the ones I can drive away, the ones I can't control... I'm starting to feel that I can't just wait like this. Maybe I should've done this a long time ago, but I delayed it until today. I hope you can give me a chance to take care of you and the children. Rach, will you marry me?"

Julian's words were sincere, and he looked at Rachel with sincerity. Yet, beneath his warm and genuine smile, there was a trace of uneasiness.

He didn't know if Rachel would agree. It was a big bet. At this moment, the two children were still playing in the water in the stream below, and no one saw what happened on the hillside.

There was only Justin, with his heart pounding in his chest, who watched frozen as everything unfolded before him. He wanted to stop it, but he felt that he didn't have the right to do so. The two people in the distance looked so perfect for each other that he couldn't even be jealous.

However, even if he couldn't do anything and knew that he had no right to interfere, his taut expression betrayed his thoughts as he stared into the distance, hoping for a miracle.

Julian said something, then Rachel suddenly took half a step toward him before stretching out her hand. The moment Julian placed the ring on Rachel's finger, the last glimmer of hope in Justin's heart was extinguished. He suddenly felt that the mountain and spring water under his feet were as cold as ice, and the red maple leaves in the sky were so blinding that he couldn't look directly at them.

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

## Chapter 403

"Where have you been? We've searched around for so long but couldn't find you guys." As soon as Rachel and Julian returned to the mountain, Jolly's questions rushed toward them. "We agreed to have fun together. So, what were you two doing?"

Julian took Rachel's hand in his, and although he didn't say anything, he finally caught Jolly's attention. Jolly stared at the two of them for a long time, then her eyes fell on Rachel's right hand, her face full of disbelief. "No way. What's going on?"

\*Jolly, what are you yelling for?" Gloria heard. the commotion and came over. She froze when she saw Julian and Rachel holding hands. Julian took Rachel's hand and announced to everyone with a slight smile, "I proposed to Rachel."

Gloria's expression changed, and she looked at Rachel. "Miss Rachel, did you agree?" "Of course, she agreed. Isn't she wearing the ring?" Behind her, Victor placed a hand on Gloria's shoulder and said proudly, "I helped Dr. Peters go to the jewelry store to pick up the ring."

"What?!" Gloria turned her head and was shocked once more. At this moment, no one noticed the difference between both of Gloria's shocked reactions.

Jolly had already rushed over and grabbed. Rachel's hand, her eyes glued to the ring. "Julian, did you spend a lot of money? This diamond ring isn't cheap!" Julian was helpless. 'Shouldn't you congratulate us first?"

"What kind of proposal was it? Where did you propose? What did you say?" Jolly was so excited that she was at a loss. She shot them so many questions that Rachel didn't even know where to begin answering her..

"I'll tell you everything when we get back." Jolly turned and glared at Julian. "Wow, Julian, you actually hid this from me. I've been helping you, but I didn't know anything."

Julian said, 'I'm sorry. Miss Carter, how about we treat you to dinner when we go back to Riverdale?" "Wow, you're using 'we' already. I think you two should just get married on the spot."

Rachel tugged on Jolly at once. "Can you take this a little more seriously?" "I'm not taking this seriously? You guys are the ones who aren't taking things seriously! You proposed just like that. Trying to be low-key, huh?"

Amidst Jolly's ridicule, a mellow, aggrieved voice suddenly sounded as someone rushed up and hugged Rachel. "Mommy! Are you really going to marry Uncle Julian?"



When Rachel saw Charlotte hugging her leg, she looked at Justin, who had just returned with Samuel, and the smile on her face suddenly stilled.

Their eyes met, and the air seemed to stagnate. They were merely a few steps apart, but it was like a chasm of time separated them by centuries, and there was no going back. Justin looked at Rachel like Charlotte was looking at her, waiting for the final answer.

"You all heard it, right?" Rachel didn't speak, but Jolly, heartless as she was, started yelling, directing her words at Justin. "This is such a joyous event. Let's add a dish tonight, President Burton!" Rachel was stunned, and she clenched her fists, waiting for Justin's reaction.

After a while, Justin gave an easy smile. "I'm afraid adding one dish isn't enough. Let's add two." For a moment, Rachel's heart sank, then she fiercely clenched her fists before slowly loosening them. Then, inwardly, she laughed mockingly at herself, no longer having any expectations.

"That's settled, then!" Jolly urged Rachel and the others, "Let's go. What are we still doing on the mountain? Let's go down to celebrate!" As they descended the mountain, Gloria's expression sank so much that it looked as though it was nearly collapsing to the ground.

Victor was extraordinarily dense and didn't sense anything wrong with her at all as he scurried alongside her, showing her the things he bought on the mountain. "Gloria, does this mask look good? I bought it for you."

"It's so ugly." "How is it ugly? It looks good. You should put it on."

"Take it away. I won't wear it."

"Come on. You should try it on. It really looks good. I just saw a girl wearing it." Gloria was furious, so she threw the mask onto the ground and yelled, "Then, you should get her to wear it! Don't follow me!"

After that, she left in a huff. Victor was frozen in place, completely bewildered. "What the hell is wrong with you?" Samuel squatted on the ground and picked up the mask. "Mr. Wade, did you make Aunt Gloria angry again?"

"Who made her angry? She gets angry whenever she has spare time. I should be the one getting angry."

Victor was young and vigorous, so he was unwilling to back down, and his face turned gloomy. "Samuel, let's go. Let's ignore her. She's crazy."

He held Samuel's hand as they walked down the mountain. Then, he deliberately sped up and left without looking at her when he passed by Gloria's side. Gloria was so angry that she stomped her feet in response.

Samuel helplessly looked up at Victor. "Mr. Wade, how did you even manage to find a girlfriend?" "What are you talking about? I'm a likable person. Many people like me."

"But, your temper is terrible." "That's because you haven't met anyone unreasonable. In the future, when you get into a relationship, you'll know how speechless women can leave you."

Samuel gave it some serious thought. "Then, I'd better not get into a relationship." The sky was completely dark. The homestay owner had prepared dinner, and Justin cooked another two more dishes, so the table was full. Today's proposal had fulfilled Jolly's life-long wish, so she was happier than the two people involved in said proposal.

"With this glass, I'd like to toast the two people involved in the proposal today-Julian and Chris. Thank you for taking care of me and accompanying me for so many years. One should keep the good stuff within the family. Both of you getting together makes me the happiest I've ever been. Cheers!"

Before Julian and Rachel had time to pick up their glasses, Jolly drank a whole glass of beer..

"Slow down." Leroy looked at her helplessly and placed some food on her plate.

"This second glass is a toast for Justin." Everyone was still smiling, but when they heard this, they were all startled. Leroy grabbed Jolly's shirt and tugged on it. "Jolly, have you had too much to drink?"

"No. That was only my first glass." Jolly looked solemn. I apologize for always being against you in the past. Thank you for rescuing Leroy yesterday. I used to be prejudiced toward you, but let's be friends in the future."

Everyone turned to look at Justin. After a long time, Justin got up with his glass, then downed a glass of wine without saying a word.

"Great!" Jolly was about to drink her glass too, but Leroy stopped her. "You shouldn't drink so much." "Today is a happy day. So let's raise our glasses together!"

"Come on! Let's toast!" Either being genuine or faking it, the adults appeared happy as they raised a glass to celebrate all sorts of things, even the tiniest details could be a reason to make a toast.

However, the children didn't understand any of this. Samuel took a piece of watermelon and walked around for a long time before finally finding Charlotte in the sheep pen in the backyard.

"Charlotte, what are you doing here?"

Charlotte lay on the fence of the sheep pen, staring at the lambs inside. Finally, she sighed like an adult lamenting. "Uncle Julian has become my stepfather. Do you think I'll be calling him 'Dad' in the future? Or will I be calling him 'Uncle Julian'?"

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

## Chapter 404

"Why are you puzzling over this? You can call him whatever you like." Samuel handed Charlotte a piece of watermelon. "Here. Have some watermelon." Charlotte shook her head. "I don't want it."

"What's the matter? Are you going on a hunger strike?"

"I have no appetite." "Actually, I think no matter who Mommy is with, she'll still be our mommy. No matter who your Daddy is with, he'll still be your daddy. So what's the use of us worrying so much?"

Charlotte sighed again. "I know, but I just wish they could be together." "But, you also saw how even after we thought of so many ways to get them together. In the end, it didn't work and even made things worse. I don't want that to happen again."

"But, will Mommy and Uncle Julian really be happier together?" Samuel hadn't thought about this question, so he paused. He thought solemnly for a while. "Why don't you ask Mommy yourself?"

Charlotte turned and leaned her back against the fence before stretching her hand out toward Samuel. "Give me the watermelon." As opposed to asking adults about such matters, it was better to eat watermelon!

They wouldn't tell the truth anyway since the adults always thought it was easy to lie to them just because they were kids. It was late at night, and everyone had gone back to their rooms to sleep after drinking. Jolly got up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom and was taken aback when she saw a shadow in the yard outside.

“Can’t sleep?” In the courtyard, under the grapevine trellis, Justin was sitting alone. A plate of peanuts and a bottle of wine were in front of him, and it was even white wine.

“Haven’t you drunk enough?” Jolly walked over and sat down opposite him. “What’s the matter? In a bad mood?” Justin’s expression was reserved. “Why would I be in a bad mood?”

“Don’t pretend. In fact, it’s not hard to understand. Chris is your ex-wife. You’ve pursued her with great effort last time, and now, all you can do is watch her marry your cousin. But, of course, no one will feel good about that.”

“You weren’t so understanding when you asked me to add an extra dish.” “I was helping you relieve the awkwardness, okay? Since you’re Leroy’s savior, I didn’t want to let you die of embarrassment on the spot.”

After Jolly rambled on, she picked up a peanut and stuffed it into her mouth.

Crunch. “This peanut is good. Do you have another glass? Give me one.” Justin glanced at her. “Can you still drink? Go back to sleep.”

“Who are you looking down on? I can drink glasses as tall as ten of you, and it won’t be an issue. So you won’t get it for me, huh? Fine, I’ll get it myself.”

With that, Jolly went into the kitchen and got herself a glass. The two sat opposite each other, a stack of peanuts and a bottle of white wine between them. Anyone inside who came out to see this scene would feel as if they had seen a ghost.

After three rounds of drinking, they were slightly tipsy. Jolly sniffled and looked at the man in front of her. “Hey, if you were like this before, maybe you would still have a chance.”

“What am I like now?” “Down to earth. The old you was high and mighty like a god. Besides those who had their eyes on your family fortune, who else would be willing to bother with you?”

After Jolly finished half a bottle of wine, her head was spinning, and Justin was rather drunk too. Those who shared a drink could share feelings most of the time, too. Even if they were passersby when the sun rose the next day, they

were genuine friends while drinking. Justin didn’t expect that there would be a day when he shared a drink with Jolly. “Do you think that if I found out earlier...”

“Why’d you stop talking?” Jolly squinted at him. “Found out about what earlier?”

“Nothing. Justin lowered his head and poured another glass of wine; his eyes were red-rimmed.

"That's annoying." Jolly curled her lips in disdain. "Do you know that your behavior of talking halfway and hiding everything inside is the most annoying ever? If you have something to say, just say it."

"Does Rachel feel that way too? Does Julian tell her everything?"

"Of course. There are no secrets between us."

"Julian must treat her really well, right?" "No." Jolly stared at Justin, then extended a finger before slowly shaking it from side to side. "You're wrong about that." She suddenly laughed. "Julian treats Chris extremely well!"

Justin's mood that was hopeful returned to its original bleak state. Jolly continued, "When they were in Montenegro, Julian took care of Chris while studying. At that time, Chris still couldn't speak, but he treated her little by little. Julian handled everything from what she ate and drank to trivial matters such as food and clothing. But, most importantly, Julian encouraged her to learn. Julian is the most selfless and kind man I've ever seen, and Chris is also the strongest woman I've ever seen."

Justin gave a firm nod and filled two glasses of wine. "Here. Let's toast the most selfless man and the strongest woman." "You're quite funny." Jolly picked up the wine glass and smiled before clinking it against Justin's glass. "You're not bad either."

"Don't you all hate me?" "That's all in the past. Don't mention it anymore. I'll be anxious if you mention it again. I'll punish myself with this glass. Here, allow me to apologize to you for everything that has happened in the past."

With that, Jolly chugged down the glass of wine. The full moon hung high, and the cold late autumn wind blew, keeping them sober.

Justin's tolerance to alcohol was low, but it seemed hard for him to get drunk tonight. Nevertheless, whether it was what he said or what Jolly said, were clearly engraved in his mind, lingering and echoing. "Rachel will definitely be happy in the future if she has Julian."

"No! Since you like her, you should go after her and get her back."

"Have you had too much to drink?"

"Who drank too much?" Jolly waved her hand, her cheeks slightly flushed. "What's all that with having to fulfill someone if you like them? It's all bullsh\*t. If you really like someone, you just have to believe that no one else in this world can give her true happiness except yourself. So, she has no choice but to be with you!"

Justin stared at Jolly. "You've really drunk too much."

“I didn’t! I didn’t drink too much!” Leroy had probably come out to find Jolly at this moment as he woke up in the middle of the night and didn’t see her. As soon as he came out, he saw Jolly gesturing toward Justin in the yard.

“Jolly?” As soon as he got closer, Leroy frowned. “Oh my God. Why did you two drink again? How much did you guys have to drink?” Justin appeared sober as he waved his hand. “She’s drunk. Take her back with you.”

“Who’s drunk?”

Jolly placed her arms around Leroy’s neck. “Do you think I look like a drunkard?”

“What do you think?”

Leroy was angry and speechless. No man would like to see his girlfriend drinking with other men in witching hours. “Come on. Come back to bed with me.”

“Wait!” Jolly grabbed Leroy and pointed at Justin’s nose again, her voice muffled. “Let me tell you. You have to fight for your own happiness! Don’t be a timid turtle! I support you! Get her back!”

Leroy immediately covered her mouth, then smiled awkwardly at Justin before carrying Jolly into the house. ‘Jolly, if you don’t shut up, you’ll definitely regret what you said tomorrow morning!’

What happened to giving Julian unwavering support?

Why did she defect after having only a few glasses of wine?

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

## Chapter 405

After Jolly left, Justin was left alone in the yard, and he had completely sobered up. The next day, everyone didn’t get up until noon because of the drinking. It was time to pack up and go back to Riverdale by then.

“I have a terrible headache. I must’ve drank some fake beer last night.” As soon as she woke up, Jolly complained, “Whoever bought the beer must’ve bought fake ones.”

Leroy was helpless. “You didn’t just drink beer. You drank white wine too.” “White wine?” Following Leroy’s gaze toward the yard, Jolly suddenly remembered something..

“Jolly, Leroy, come have breakfast.” Julian brought buns and fritters from the kitchen and waited for the others to join for breakfast. Jolly’s lips twitched awkwardly, and she felt somewhat guilty.

“Cough, cough.” She let out a couple of dry. coughs. “I’m coming. You guys start without me. I’ll wash up first.”

“Go ahead.” At this moment, Charlotte ran out of Justin’s room. “Why isn’t Daddy here?” “He’s not here?” Rachel glanced at Justin’s room. She saw that there was no one on the bed from the door, and even the sheets and bedding were neatly arranged.

Gloria said, “Oh, I forgot to tell you. He left earlier in the morning. No one was awake yet, so he didn’t want to bother anyone, but he sent me a message and asked me to tell everyone.”

Charlotte immediately pouted. “Why is Daddy like this?!” Gloria advised her, “Oh, Charlotte. You can see your daddy when you go back to Riverdale. So it’s understandable that he suddenly has something to go back to deal with, right?”

“It’s understandable.” Charlotte shot Rachel a glance. Her eyes were a little plaintive as she said in her babyish voice, “Daddy must be very sad.” Her voice wasn’t loud, but Rachel still heard it. She deliberately pretended not to hear it, lest the little girl had something to say about the topic again.

During the meal, Julian said, “After we’re done with this meal, we’ll go straight back to Riverdale. You guys can start thinking about seating arrangements.”

Jolly was the most careless as she still hadn’t noticed the tension between Gloria and Victor. “We can follow the same arrangement as when we came here. Chris and I will sit in your car, and we have to take Leroy too. Since the firefighters towed his car away.”

“No way!” Gloria’s face hardened. “I don’t want to be in the same car with him.” “Him?” Jolly was surprised and finally realized that she meant Victor and said, “Oh, why? What’s the matter?”

Rachel was very aware of what was going on and was about to advise them, but Victor’s temper flared again. “I won’t sit in the same car as you either. Do you think you’re the only one with a car? I’ll just sit in Dr. Peters’ car!”

Rachel felt helpless as she saw the beginnings of another fight between the two. “Why don’t we do this? Julian, you fetch Jolly, Leroy, and Victor. I’ll follow Gloria, and I can also bring the two children home.”

Julian hesitated for a moment, but now, it seemed that this was the only way. Jolly shook her head and looked at Gloria and Victor. “You guys are really something. Are you two primary school students in a relationship.. quarreling and creating trouble every



day whenever you're free? They've just started dating, yet you two are breaking them apart."

"That's enough." Leroy tugged on her under the table. Jolly's demeanor after imbibing in liquor was truly something else. She persuaded Justin to get Rachel back last night, but she didn't remember anything after sobering up, and now she was even taking jabs at Gloria.

After the meal, the two cars left the old town according to Rachel's arrangement. Gloria was driving fast along the mountain roads, and in the blink of an eye, she was far ahead of Julian's car.

"Slow down." Rachel grabbed the handle on the top of her head in anxiety. "Are you a racer?"

There are children present." Gloria slowly released the accelerator as she heard the reminder, but she still looked angry. Rachel said, "I know what you're angry about. I'm to blame for this. I didn't clarify matters, but you have to believe that the day will come for you and Victor."

"Come on. Do you think he has ever thought about having a future with me? But, even if he has, I won't be with him if he carries on with that stupid temper of his!"

"You're speaking out of anger again."

Rachel was finding this whole situation rather ridiculous. "Then, do you really want to break up with him?" "If we don't break up now, how long do I have to endure this? Wait until he angers me to my grave?"

This time, Gloria was indeed furious. But, this time, it was indeed a misunderstanding. No one expected that the ring in Victor's hand was for Julian, which made Rachel feel somewhat embarrassed.

In fact, Gloria wasn't only angry because of this mess up but also because Rachel agreed to Julian's proposal. When she thought of Justin's forced smile, her heart felt congested.

Halfway through the journey, they saw from the rearview mirror that the two children in the back seat were asleep from the rearview mirror. Gloria's mood had also stabilized a little. "Rachel, are you really going to marry Julian?"

"Isn't that good?" "Do you really like Julian? I mean romantically. The kind where you're in love."



Rachel leaned against the back of her chair. She had actually thought about Gloria's question before. "Gloria, have you ever thought about what's the ultimate relationship two people are in when they spend time with each other for a long time?"

"Do you mean familial love?" "Let's say it was something close to family. Just like Grandma and I, Hans and I, as well as Jolly and I. We're not related by blood, but we all know that we're vital to each other, and we can even give up our lives for each other when necessary." "Do you think you and Julian have such a relationship?"

"He saved me." Rachel turned and looked quietly at Gloria. "Not only did he allow me to live, but he also cured my muteness and allowed me to speak and be a normal person. I'm very grateful to him."

"But, that's gratitude, not love."

Rachel lowered her head and smiled. "Maybe in your world, gratitude and love can be clearly distinguished, but in my opinion, if you're really grateful, then you should provide the other party with whatever they want. Julian wants me to marry him. This is the only thing I can do to repay him. The most important point is that he knows very well that I may not love him or that I don't love him that much, but he still proposed, so I'm willing to agree."

Gloria frowned, but she couldn't refute Rachel's statements. They were more mature and experienced people than she was, and they had experienced all the ups and downs of life. As a result, they had a clearer sense of purpose and direction in life than she did. In contrast, her pursuit of the subject of love seemed a bit absurd and idealistic.

"Maybe." Gloria sighed softly. "Maybe you're right, but I can't wish you and Julian happiness." Rachel expressed her understanding. "It's okay. I know."

Gloria still felt sorry for Justin. Others could accuse him of inflicting this upon himself, but she couldn't do it. Everything she had now was given to her by that man.

When she looked at Rachel, she wanted to speak up for Justin to tell her that Justin was also a meticulous person. As long as it was someone he cared about, he would take care of them with everything he had, just as he had cared for her since she was a child.

But now, it seemed as if everything was settled. Everyone had their own destination, and nothing could go back to the way it was.

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

## Chapter 406

After they left the mountain, Gloria sent Rachel and the two children home. "Rachel, you can come to me anytime if you need anything." "Okay. Be careful, and let me know when you get home."

As Gloria's car left, Rachel held Charlotte in one hand and waved her other hand at Samuel. "Come on. Let's go home."

Samuel had been asleep, so he was rather out of it. Nevertheless, he staggered forward and took Rachel's hand as they entered the elevator together. As soon as she got home and put the two children to bed, Rachel received a call from Julian.

"Are you home yet?" "I'm home. Did you send them all back?" Rachel leaned on the marble table in the kitchen as she was going to drink some water. "Yeah, I just sent Victor home. By the way, why are Victor and Gloria arguing again?"

"This is a misunderstanding, and it's a long story."

"I'm driving back, so I have time to listen to you." Rachel smiled. "It's actually nothing, but remember the ring that was at Victor's place before? Charlotte and Samuel saw it, and when the two children came back and told us, Gloria heard it and misunderstood, thinking it was Victor who wanted to propose to her."

"So that's what happened. Then, I am also responsible for this matter." "How are you responsible for it? It's just a misunderstanding. The two of them are still young. They'll be mad at each other for two days before making up again."

"You make it sound like we're all getting old." "We're not too young either." Rachel sighed. "It's been so many years." "It's still early now. How about we grab dinner together?"

"I can't today. Both children are asleep. I don't feel comfortable leaving them at home by themselves." There was silence on the other end of the phone.

"Rach, am I putting too much pressure on you?" Julian said, "I know it'll be a while until you really accept me, but since you are willing to give me this opportunity, I will cherish it."

Rachel was slightly startled. "Don't overthink this. The two children are truly sleeping, so let's have dinner together tomorrow night, if you have the time?"

"That sounds good." After hanging up the phone, Rachel picked up the cup next to her. She had just picked it up before immediately putting it down, and she opened the refrigerator door and took out a can of beer.

Pssh... She opened the can, and white foam emerged. Rachel took a sip, feeling frustrated for no reason. At this time, Julian was driving. His slightly gloomy face was reflected in the rearview mirror of the car.

"Hello? It's me." A female voice came from the other end of the phone. "Are you all not back from Triburg Valley yet?" "We left in the afternoon and just arrived in Riverdale. Didn't he come back in the morning? Didn't you see him?"

"He didn't come back."

When he heard this, Julian frowned slightly. "Wait a little longer. He will have to go back eventually." "It's okay. I've been waiting for so many years. But what about you—is there any good news on your side?"

"Everything has gone accordingly."

"Really? Then I'll have to congratulate you."

"That's good news for you too."

"Of course." At this time, the other party in Julian's call was located at the Burton Family's summer villa. As night fell, the mist in the mountains gradually spread out, covering the entire summer villa.

Due to the approaching winter, the fog grew thicker as time passed by. The sound of a car engine sounded from outside. Ginny lifted the curtains, glanced into the distance, then said lowly, "That should be him coming back, so I'm ending the call."

She hung up the phone and straightened her clothes and hair in front of the mirror. She was dressed in a luxurious silk sleeveless dress, and she gracefully walked downstairs.

Justin got out of the car and walked into the house while buttoning up his suit. Just as he was about to enter the study, he heard a voice coming from upstairs.

"You're back." Justin frowned slightly. "You haven't left?"

"What's the matter? Can't I stay here for a few more days?" The woman was tall and had deep-set facial features. She did not have the appearance of a standard oriental woman, but was obviously of mixed blood. However, her appearance as she leaned on the stairs exuded charm, making it difficult for ordinary people to refuse her.

It was a pity that Justin didn't fall for it. "If you don't have another place to stay, I can't get you a hotel room." Ginny shrugged and immediately ceased to put on an act. Instead, she said helplessly, "Must you be so dense? We are childhood sweethearts, you know?"

"We only met once when we were ten years old, so we are not exactly that much of a childhood sweetheart."

"But we're engaged."

"That's only what Grandpa and the others say for fun, so don't take it seriously."

"Justin, do you still think I came back because this is a joke?" Ginny went downstairs while holding her skirt up and said as she walked, "No matter what you think of it, my grandfather's will has been shown to you. Furthermore, there is a marriage contract between us, in my grandfather's opinion. So, as long as you go back to Montenegro with me, half of the inheritance rights of the Tuscan Family will be yours."

"Sounds tempting, especially when I'm in such a rut."

"So why don't you just make up your mind already?"

"It's a pity; I don't believe in receiving something without having to work for it," Justin gave Ginny a sidelong glance. "And obviously, this is what this situation is. By the way, you can continue living here if you want to. The house is big enough for the two of us, but there is only one main rule-don't disturb me. If you need anything, just ask the butler."

After saying this, Justin walked straight toward the study.

As she looked at Justin's back, her voice rose slightly. "You can get a large inheritance without any effort, plus a wife like me. Isn't it the best of both worlds?"

Only the sound of the door closing answered her. Back in the study, Justin locked the door, and the weariness on his face gradually showed.

The full moon hung high outside the window, but it seemed particularly ironic at this point. The sound of a phone vibrating came from his pocket, and the caller ID was Gloria.

"Hey." "Where are you? Summer villa?"

"Yeah."

"Are you alright?"

“What’s the matter? You think I shouldn’t be fine?” “Well, I was just asking for the sake of asking, because how could you be fine? By the way, I have nothing to do with the orchestra these two days. So why don’t I go to the villa to stay with you for two days?”

‘No, you’re not a child anymore. You need to be careful to avoid gossip or slander against your reputation.” “Since when did you care about stuff like this?”

“Besides, you also have a boyfriend, so pay attention to your actions.” When he mentioned this, Gloria became angry. “What boyfriend? We broke up. I will never date ever again.”

“Are you acting in a fit of pique again?” “I’m not this time. I’m being serious, and that’s my decision. I’ll pack my things and live in the summer villa tomorrow. It’s useless for you to say anything otherwise.”

Justin was helpless. “Oh, fine. Come if you want to.” “That’s what I wanted to hear. See you tomorrow.” After he hung up the phone, his surroundings fell silent again.

There were too many worries in his heart. If it wasn’t for Gloria’s phone call, Justin would have almost forgotten that this girl and Victor were still arguing. If he guessed correctly, it should be because of the ring.

He held the phone for a moment before dialing a number.

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

## Chapter 407

After the morning meeting on Monday, Jolly followed Rachel around as she told Rachel her itinerary, “There is a charity donation ceremony in the afternoon. Hudson Pharmaceuticals has received an invitation letter, mainly to donate medical supplies in poor mountainous areas. How much do you think we should donate?”

Rachel glanced at the contents of the document. “Donate ten mobile medical vehicles first, and then supplement the funds according to the situation of the charitable foundation.” “Okay, but you have to go to the banquet in the afternoon.”

“Can I not go?” “You have to go. This is an important event for the company to gain favor. Don’t think of how utilitarian it is that charity is related to business. This is also a good time to carry forward the spirit of charity.”

"You said all that, but I didn't say I wasn't going." "I thought you seemed distracted early this morning, and you're so listless. What's going on? Shouldn't you be happy? You just got proposed to and received a big diamond ring." Jolly said and reflexively grabbed Rachel's hand but suddenly froze when she didn't see the ring in question. "Where's the ring?"

Rachel retracted her hand. "It was troublesome to wear, so I didn't wear it."

"Nonsense." Jolly frowned. The secretary behind her cast them a curious look. Jolly closed the office door and asked sternly, "What's the matter with you? Don't tell me you are already regretting it."

"No, you're letting your imaginations run wild again."

"Then why did you take the ring off?" Rachel was helpless. "It's really inconvenient to wear it, and you know that I don't like wearing things that are too valuable on my person. What if I lost it?"

"No, you have a problem." Jolly put down all the folders in her hand, and they landed heavily on the desk. She turned around and stared at Rachel. "Tell me honestly, what happened to you and Julian? Why did you suddenly agree to his proposal?"

Rachel, who was being stared at, felt guilty. She coughed lightly, tried to avoid Jolly's intense gaze, but was caught by her anyway. "Look at my eyes and answer me!"

She continued coughing. Rachel choked and said slowly. "Actually, I didn't agree to Julian's proposal."

"What?" "Don't get mad!" Rachel took a deep breath and exhaled slowly. "I refused at first. I am really grateful to Julian, but he should find a woman who loves him more wholeheartedly than me. But Julian said that he hoped I could give him a chance to give us a try."

"Try? How are you going to try?" Jolly's eyes narrowed. "Julian is also a showman. Does he want you to try what marriage is like with him?"

"That's not what he meant. He meant that he hoped that I could leave the relationship with him as a friend and view him as a potential partner romantically and try it out for a while."

"So you agreed?" "There may be some things that really need to be tried. If we try and find ourselves compatible, we will be together, and everyone will be happy. If not, then we'll separate as soon as possible, and we won't waste any more time on this pursuit."

Jolly let go of Rachel. "Why is Julian doing this? He clearly knows that you are grateful to him. Isn't this just him just pressuring you under the banner of trying?"

“Don’t say that. Julian is not that kind of person.” “Well, I’m just saying... You know... Jolly waved her hand. “The more I think about it, the less I can make sense of this. After Julian became the president of the Burton Family, I always felt that he was caught up in his own thoughts, and he wouldn’t hang out with us anymore. There’s just something different about him.”

“The Burton Group has much to worry about, and there are few people who support him, so it’s understandable why he acted that way.” “I hope it’s just that.”

Rachel glanced at the time. “It’s getting late, so I’ll go first.”

“Where are you going?” “We were just talking about it. Did you lose your memory? Don’t I have to go to the charity donation ceremony this afternoon? Shouldn’t I go home and change my clothes?”

Rachel side-eyed her in exasperation. “I’ll be going.” When Rachel left, Jolly scratched her head and wanted to say something but hesitated. Try? Is it possible to attempt to agree to a marriage proposal?

The charitable donation ceremony officially started at 2:00PM. Rachel went alone, and Julian was waiting for her by the entrance.

This was the first public appearance of the two groups. Rachel had a unique identity. She was married to Justin before, and now she was a ‘friend’ of Julian again. Many media reporters on the scene were waiting for the first shot of them.

“President Hudson, there are rumors that you and Present Peters are not friends but lovers. Is this true?” “Are President Peters and your ex-husband really cousins? Why does he have Burton Group’s equity?”

“Please respond.” “I’m sorry, we’re only here today for the charity donation ceremony. If you have any questions, we’ll have a separate interview later.” Julian’s assistant immediately went up and stopped the reporters.

Meanwhile, white noise filled Rachel’s mind. She rarely made public appearances, so she didn’t know that there was so much speculation about Julian in the industry, not to mention the speculation about her relationship with him.

“Are you okay? Did that scare you?”

Julian took her hand as they avoided the reporters and walked into the lobby. She shook her head. “I’m fine.” “Have reporters been following you since you took over Burton Group?”

"It's much better now. When I first took over, there were people at the door. They questioned my identity, my relationship with the Burton Family, my relationship with my cousin, and even made up the story between my mother and the Burtons..."

"I didn't know any of that." No wonder Julian was always busy before. Not only was he busy, but he also didn't want to implicate them, so he seldom came to visit.

Julian smiled slightly. "It's okay. It will pass. By the way, how much does Hudson Pharmaceuticals plan to donate this time?" Before Rachel could speak, a girl's voice suddenly came from a distance. "I want to see the president of Burton Group! Let me go. I want to see him!"

"Security, hurry up and stop her. What are you doing?" Rachel looked into the distance curiously, but the rushing security guards blocked her vision, and she couldn't see the troublemaker.

"What happened?" she asked. Julian took her hand. "Don't look. They are all reporters, trying to get interview material, take some photos, and come up with nothing more than something sensational."

Rachel nodded. "It's been hard on you."

"It's okay, let's go. The ceremony is about to start, so let's go in." "Okay." Before entering the banquet hall, Julian signaled at the assistant behind him. The assistant nodded in understanding. After Julian and Rachel entered, he strode toward where the commotion was coming from.

"What's going on? Why is it you again?" The assistant frowned at the person who had come. "Didn't I tell you last time? You need an appointment to see our boss. Do you have an appointment?"

The girl was still young. She looked like a high school student of 16 or 17 years old, with her ponytail crooked and a backpack on her back, but her temperament was strong. She shook off the security guards. "What appointment? Your president killed my brother! I'm going to ask him to find out what happened! He's a murderer!"

"What nonsense are you talking about? We can sue you for slander!" "My brother died here in Riverdale! Your president handled the funeral. They're not related, so if he didn't kill my brother, why would he help?"

The assistant was slightly taken aback and could not help but ask, "Who is your brother?"

"Hans Egerton!"



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

## Chapter 408

At the mention of the name, the pupils of the assistant, Rike Anderson, constricted slightly. Like Frankie, he worked in the Burton Group for many years. If Julian hadn't taken over the company, he would still be Frankie's assistant now, and he knew a lot about Hans's affairs back then.

Intuition told him that the arrival of this girl would complicate things. "Let go of her." The two security guards let the girl go..

Rike stepped forward. "What's your name?"

"Jessica Egerton." The girl's face was full of youthful vigor and stubbornness. Then, she growled out her name. in anger and asked, "Can you tell your president to see me now?"

"Why do you want to see him?"

"He's a murderer." "If he really is a murderer and hasn't been subdued so far, what do you think he will think. of you if you go to him and question a murderer face to face?"

Jessica said, unconvinced, "What am I afraid of? In broad daylight, can he kill me?"

"It's impossible in broad daylight, but your brother Hans didn't die in the daytime either. Jessica suddenly shuddered. Rike took out his mobile phone and handed it to Jessica. "Give me your contact information, and I will give you a call when today's charitable donation ceremony is over."

Jessica was suspicious. "Really?" "You have the option of being taken away by security, or you can trust me and walk free. You choose." After only half a second of hesitation, Jessica took Rike's phone and entered her own phone number. At this time, the charity donation ceremony in the banquet hall was in full swing.

All the major companies in Riverdale were present, and they took this opportunity to show their public awareness in front of the public. They were all very generous with their donations. "Mr. Howard, long time no see."

"Mr. Peters, you are here too. How much did the Burton Group donate this time?" They continued to exchange formal and polite conversations. Julian greeted his business partners. Rachel accompanied him politely for a while at first. Later, she became

disinterested, so she went to the snack table on the side to grab a drink and occasionally say hello to people she knew.

“President Hudson?” A familiar voice came from behind her. Rachel turned around with a surprised look. “Frankie? Long time no see. Where have you been recently?” “The headquarters sent me to other places, so I was not in Riverdale for a while. I just came back yesterday, and I happened to be here to do some errands.”

“Did you come here to work?” “In addition to the donation in the company’s name, this charity fundraising also includes donations in the name of individuals. For example, I’m representing President Burton, and he donated 20 medical vehicles.”

“He’s not here?” Rachel looked around but didn’t see Justin. “He is now locked in the summer villa. He no longer cares about Riverdale’s affairs. So how can he be here?”

When Rachel thought of him alone in the summer villa, she twitched the corners of her lips. “Being hidden in a golden house with a fair lady, seclusion must also be a pleasant experience.”

“What do you mean?” “Don’t hide it from me. I already know. Isn’t President Burton’s fiancée back?” Rachel took a sip of her drink and pretended to be calm.

Frankie gave her a surprised look, then he said, “Do you mean Miss Tuscan? That’s a misunderstanding. The summer villa is co- owned by the Tuscan Family. So, naturally, you don’t know about this.” “Co-owned?” Rachel was taken aback and shook her head in astonishment.

Frankie continued, “The villa was bought by the old masters of the two families together. As for the engagement, it did happen, but the Tuscan Family immigrated abroad early, and President Burton and Miss Tuscan were not familiar with each other, so I can’t, in good conscience, say they were childhood sweethearts. But they do own half of the property rights, and no one can stop them if they want to live there.”

Oh, is that so?

“Then he isn’t planning to go abroad with Ginny?” “How could he? The roots of the Burton Family are here. Even if President Burton is no longer the president of the Burton Group, he will not leave Riverdale easily. Besides, do you think he is someone who can live off a woman?”

Frankie sighed after saying that. “To be honest, I rather hope that he will stop being so stubborn and give in. Those senior executives who have left the Burton Group have come to the door several times, and he had not seen any of them. Even at this point, he doesn’t care how Dr. Peters has messed up the company.”

“What happened to the Burton Group?”

"Don't you know? As soon as Dr. Peters took over the company, he dismissed many of the Burton Group's executives one after another. He used various means to acquire the shares of many veteran shareholders and acted arbitrarily. Now the entire company is panicking." "Julian isn't that kind of person. Could it be that these people disobey him and leave on their own?"

"The situation you're talking about exists, but it's definitely in the minority. Everyone is out here to work, so who would deliberately want to make things difficult at their jobs for no reason? They must have known what to do. when the situation has come down to it, right? What's more, if you insist that these people are all on President Burton's side, it's even more unreasonable. He doesn't care about anything now, and he only knows how to practice calligraphy at home. I don't even want to see him at the rate he's going."

Before that, Frankie had been angry with Justin for several days. "He practices calligraphy at home every day?" "Yes. He is practicing calligraphy, fishing, and gardening as if he has retired."

Rachel had mixed feelings in her heart as she heard about Justin. "What are you guys chatting about here?" Julian's voice came from behind Frankie. Frankie immediately closed his mouth and greeted him respectfully, 'Dr. Peters.'

Julian frowned and glanced at him. Frankie changed his words. "Sorry, President Peters. I'm used to calling you Dr. Peters." "It's okay," Julian said calmly, "What are you talking about that has both of you so worked up?"

Frankie gave her a glance. Rachel said, "It's nothing. I just saw Frankie here and asked him what he was doing. You came right after he answered me." Julian smiled slightly. "Really? Then my timing is rather poor."

"It's nothing. I'm just here to make a personal donation from President Burton, and I'll leave once I'm done." Frankie looked at Julian and said goodbye, "Well, I shall take my leave first, President Peters."

"Right. Go back and tell my cousin that he shouldn't always stay in the summer villa, and he should come to the city to hang out with us." "If you have such good intentions, you might as well invite him yourself."

Although Frankie smiled, there was a hidden barb in his words, as if he was insinuating something. Julian's eyes darkened at that. Then, as Frank SUCCESS Rachel's hand. "Do you not quite like this in of occasion? If you don't, I'll accompany you back to dinner earlier."

Rachel shook her head. "It's okay. I often attend such events. You can do your own thing, don't worry about me."

Julian glanced at the watch on his wrist. "It's almost over. We'll go to dinner together later, so why don't you accompany me to meet some friends first? I want to introduce you to them."

"Okay." Rachel followed Julian to see his friends, but she was a little uneasy. Many of Julian and Frankie's words didn't line up, and she told herself that she should trust Julian, but the current situation of the Burton Group was indeed contrary to what Julian had told her.

Julian seemed to have constantly been implying to her that Justin was behind the resignation of the executives.

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

## Chapter 409

"Rach, this is Mr. Leoric." Julian's voice brought Rachel back to her senses, and she immediately smiled and greeted the man in front of her. As night fell, Julian sent Rachel home.

"Thanks." Rachel unfastened her seat belt and was about to get out of the car but was grabbed by Julian. His hands were warm as usual, which made people feel safe and comforted as well. She looked at him curiously. "What's wrong?"

The moment she asked this, she suddenly realized something. Even if they were just giving this a try, they were still a couple, and it was evident what couples should do when they parted.

As she faced his burning gaze, she hesitated for a moment and closed her eyes. After waiting for a long time, Julian just kissed her on the forehead. "Have a good rest."

Rachel opened her eyes and was stunned by his actions. It was not until he saw her entering the unit building that his eyes gradually tightened. In his mind, just when he was about to kiss Rachel, she closed her eyes and was nervous but tried her best to force herself to relax.

This was not what he wanted. The car drove away from the community. After he dialed a number, the voice of assistant Rike came from the car speakers. "President Peters."

"Where is she?"

“Everything has been arranged at the Vines Hotel. I’ll send you the room number.”

“Alright. I’m going over now.” As soon as Rachel got home, she saw Jolly lying on the sofa with a face mask. The white face mask made her glow unnaturally under the dim light.

Even though this was a regular occurrence, Rachel was still scared silly and instantly woke up from her trance. “Can you turn on the lights in the whole house next time you put on a mask? It’s terrifying.”

Jolly sorted out her mask to fit on her face more comfortably and said, ‘Isn’t this what you asked me to do to save electricity? It’s really difficult to suit your needs. By the way, how did it go today?’

“It went well.” “That’s it?” Jolly got up from the sofa. “Why do I think you’ve been unhappy these two days- what are you thinking?” “Ginny Tuscan moved into the summer villa because she owns half of the property rights of that villa, and it wasn’t Justin who asked her to live there.”

This out-of-the-blue sentence stunned Jolly. “Huh?” After a while, she came back to her senses. “You mean, it’s all that woman’s wishful thinking, and Justin has no intention of going abroad? How is that possible? The Burton Group has no place for him. So why is he still staying in Riverdale?”

“Even so, he wouldn’t leave because of Charlotte.” Rachel suddenly realized something. Even if there were something extremely tempting abroad, no matter how big a benefit was given to him, Justin would not leave as long as Charlotte was still in the country. Jolly shrugged. “Well, even if he won’t leave. what does it have to do with us?”

Rachel was struck dumb. That’s right. What does this have to do with me?

But her heart was inexplicably anxious. Jolly stared at her for a long time. “Rachel, the reason why you suddenly agreed to Julian’s marriage proposal... Could it be because of what I told you? You thought Justin was going abroad with Ginny.”

Rachel was stunned for a moment and instantly denied, “No.”

“You answered too quickly-you’re lying.”

“I really am not.” “You don’t have to explain it to me, just yourself.” Jolly sat down again, waved her hand, and looked calm. “I’ve seen it all now. Things like feelings cannot be forced, and whoever you are with or not all depends on you. It’s your own choice. You chose the wrong person. No matter what, you will still separate in the end.”

Jolly’s words echoed in her ears, and Rachel kept thinking about what she said when she returned to her room. And thus, she had a sleepless night.

In the following week, Rachel was busy dealing with several lawsuits against Hudson Pharmaceuticals, and she was so busy she couldn't catch a break.

At noon on Friday, the front desk suddenly called. "Presiden Hudson, someone named Mr. Victor, is looking for you, but he didn't make an appointment and said he was your brother."

"He is my brother. Please show him up." Rachel was a little surprised. Why did Victor come at this time? After hanging up the phone, Rachel handed the signed documents to Jolly. "Victor came to find me. You should send these materials to the marketing department first."

Jolly was surprised too. "Why did he suddenly come here? It's school lunch break right now." "I guess there is something urgent."

Rachel went directly to the lounge to find Victor. When she arrived, Victor sat upright and looked awkward. In front of him was the tea the secretary poured for him. His lips were dry, and he was clearly parched, yet he didn't even take a sip. Instead, he looked uneasy and deep in thought.

"Victor." Rachel called him several times before he suddenly came back to his senses. "Rachel."

"What are you thinking so hard about? Did you lose your soul?" Rachel closed the door smoothly. "Your mouth is so dry. Drink some tea. It's not poisonous."

Victor squeezed out a smile, but his lips were so dry that they had a blister, so that action aggravated it more and caused it to ooze a little blood.

Rachel frowned. "What's the matter with you? Are you catching a cold? Why is there such a big blister on your mouth?" Victor grimaced. "Rachel, that's not important. I really didn't know what to do, so I came to you for help."

"What's going on?"

"Look." Victor took out a box from his pocket and put it on the table. "What?" Rachel glanced at it and was stunned for a moment after seeing the brand name on the box. She opened it immediately. "What are you-? Have you suddenly been enlightened?"

Inside the blue-green box was a diamond ring. Rachel's eyes lit up. "Are you finally going to propose to Gloria? This diamond ring costs you a lot of money. What else do you need? I'll help you set things up. Do you need money?"

Victor still had a bitter expression. "I didn't buy the diamond ring."

"You didn't buy it. Then who?"

“Justin Burton.” Rachel was astonished by his words. Victor took a deep breath and let it out slowly. “The night before yesterday, Mr. Beckham came to me. He gave this to me, told me why Gloria was angry with me, and asked me to propose to Gloria if I had those sort of plans for us.”

Rachel felt complicated as she looked at the diamond ring in front of her. She had to admit that Justin was really attentive. He knew that Victor couldn’t afford any custom-made large diamond rings with his meager salary. The diamond rings he bought for Victor were all ordinary ones. He was probably afraid that he would be under pressure and that Gloria would overthink.

Victor scratched his head, and his anxious eyes were red. “Rachel, please help me. I haven’t slept for two days. I really don’t know what to do.” “What can I do? Don’t you want to marry Gloria?”

“Of course, I want to! But now... I can’t even afford a house right now.” “Will Gloria marry you or marry your house?”

“That’s not what I meant. I just...”

When she saw Victor’s hesitant look, she immediately felt frustrated. “Her guardian has even prepared a diamond ring for you, so what else do you want?” Rachel picked up the magazine on the table and slapped Victor’s forehead. “Give me your debit card.”

He was stunned for a long time, then took out a card from his trouser pocket and handed it over. “What are you doing?” “Since it’s your proposal, you have to pay for the diamond ring and the venue yourself. Unfortunately, we can’t help you with this! How much money do you have in your card?”

“About one hundred thousand.”

“Okay, don’t worry about it. Leave the rest to me.”

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

## Chapter 410

With that declaration from Rachel, she took responsibility for preparing the proposal. Victor’s eyes were still bloodshot, and he still looked dazed. “Is one hundred thousand enough?”



"You're just proposing, not buying a house or a car. So why wouldn't it be enough? Do you think Gloria is interested in you because of how big a prestige you can give her?"

Victor regained his senses and whispered, "I'm afraid the proposal wouldn't be good enough for her." "I think you're rather pitiful because you don't even know how to coax others when you quarrel with them."

"I'm going to coax her now." "Wait for a few days." Rachel handed the diamond ring box to Victor. "Put this away. Although Gloria doesn't expect you to spend much money on her, she is also a young girl. Naturally, she hopes there will be surprises, so just wait while I arrange everything. Then, you'd better apologize to her nicely, and give her the best proposal you can give."

Victor's eyes turned teary. Rachel hated this sort of scene the most. "How did you come here?"

"I rode a bike." "Let's go. I'll take you back to school. There's still some time now, so go back and take a nap." As she spoke, she also opened the door and instructed the secretary to bring her the car keys to her car. Victor hurriedly said, "There's no need. I'll just go back by myself."

"It's on the way, and it just so happened that I'm going out." She held his debit card and thoughtfully said, "I want to think about how I can make this proposal beautiful for you guys." "Rachel, I have to give Justin the money back for the diamond ring."

"Don't worry, I will deduct it from here for you." Victor was still a little dazed by the series of events. After driving him back to school, Rachel turned around at the school gate and went directly to the summer villa.

It was already afternoon. The suburbs in late autumn were very bleak. All the trees along the way had lost their leaves, and they were about to officially enter winter.

The summer villa was no longer as glorious as when Arthur lived here, and it had only been a few months. Even the security guard at the gate was left alone. "Please open the gate for me."

Rachel rolled down the car window. The security guard in the guard room saw her and came out slowly. "Who are you looking for?" "I'm looking for Justin Burton."

"Who are you?"

Rachel glanced at the security guard. "Are you new here?" After all, the former security guard knew her. The security guard didn't answer her but asked, "What's your name? I'll call inside and ask."



"Then tell the Burtons' butler that my last name is Hudson." The security guard was stunned for a moment. Then, he entered the guard room and made a phone call. After a while, he returned. "I'm sorry. Please wait a moment."

"Wait a moment?"

Rachel frowned. Just let me in if I am allowed in and don't if I'm not. Why ask me to wait? After a while, a yellow sports car drove out of the villa but stopped inside the gate and did not come out. The security guard ran over immediately to the driver's seat.

She first saw a pair of high-heels through the windshield, followed by a smoky gray suit. The woman who came down was of European and American descent. She was tall and had sharp and piercing eyes-she looked completely different from Rachel. When she saw the person coming toward her, she understood what was going on and got out of the car.

"It's been a while, Chris." "It has been a long time, and I didn't expect to meet you again here," Rachel said lightly with her arms crossed. "I now understand why you made things so difficult for me in SG Pharma."

"I made things difficult for you? Didn't you also gain some useful experience while I was making things difficult? You should thank me."

"It wasn't your harassment that made me grow up. It was Hernandez's help. I never felt that the humiliation you gave me in my workplace at the time was a means of tempering. That was just plain humiliation and your personal revenge."

"Why would I take revenge on you?"

"Maybe it's because you already knew that I'm Justin's ex-wife." Rachel looked at her and said, "Just like right now. You blocked me from the gate and didn't let me in. Do you still want to tell me that you are helping me grow into a better person now?"

"Clever, still the same as when you were in SG Pharma. Who would have thought that you were mute before?" "Thank you for your reminder. I will always cherish the opportunity to speak like a normal person." Ginny's eyes narrowed slightly. "Enough of this. Tell me, what are you doing here?"

"Of course, it wasn't to meet you." "You and Justin have long since divorced, and the child was awarded to you. But, if I'm not mistaken, you and Dr. Peters are also an item. Does your current boyfriend know that you came here to find your ex-husband?"

"This has nothing to do with you, though?" Rachel really didn't want to talk to her. "Forget it. I'll call Justin directly."

"Are you sure he will answer it?" Rachel frowned. Ginny said, "How do you know that it was I who stopped you from entering and not him who asked me to come out here?"

"Justin wouldn't do that." "Maybe it really was impossible before. But don't forget that you are already with another man, and I am his fiancée. So if you don't believe me, by all means, call him." Rachel frowned and dialed Justin's cell phone number directly. "Sorry, the number you have dialed is unavailable..."

She looked at Ginny in surprise and dialed it at second time. "Sorry, the phone you have dialed has been. switched off." Someone had turned it off immediately. Was it really because she and Julian were together that Justin decided to avoid her in order to protect their reputations?

But she came to him for the sake of Victor and Gloria. "Can you leave?" Ginny gestured toward her. "Of course, as your old superior, I don't mind inviting you into my house for a cup of tea."

Rachel frowned and said coldly, "Thank you, but I'm afraid I must decline your kind offer." Since he didn't want to see her anymore, she just had to deal with Gloria and Victor's matters on her own. The car engine revved, and Rachel's car turned back from the summer villa.

As her car disappeared, the smugness in Ginny's eyes gradually disappeared too, and she turned back to the villa. Dennis handed over the phone to Ginny. "Miss Tuscan, according to your instructions, Young Master Justin's phone has been turned off. When do you plan to leave?" Ginny glanced upstairs. 'How long will the medicine last?"

"About three hours. He will wake up during dinner."

"Then give him another dose for dinner. No, make that two. Just put them in the soup." "Yes, I'll go prepare it now." When she heard Dennis' response, Ginny looked back at him and suddenly asked, "Mr. Jenkins, do you think I'm too unscrupulous?"

Dennis shook his head. "This is the only way to wake the young master. There is something suspicious about the cause of the master's death. The young master has clearly found out what happened, but he refuses to pursue it. It is all because of Rachel, so the young master must never be with her again. Perhaps she is the murderer."

"But if I do this, will he hate me?"

"Are you regretting it?" "Of course not. I, for one, like to force others to do things I don't like, so it's more challenging that way." Ginny's brows slightly raised into amusement, and she continued, "When he and I go abroad, we will get married smoothly and give birth to the best child with the best genetic combinations. After a while, he will no longer care about that woman. I will help him get everything he deserves then."

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

## Chapter 411

Rachel drove her car halfway up the mountain. However, the more she thought about it, the more off the whole conversation was.

She was just having fun with Justin at the Triburg Valley last weekend, and all of a sudden, he turned everyone away this week. Even if he really didn't want to see her, did he really have to get Ginny to convey his words? What if he wanted to see Charlotte in the future? Was he going to get Ginny to pick her up too?

How could she just hand over her daughter to a woman like Ginny? When she thought of this, her eyes narrowed slightly. She then stepped on the brakes, twisted the steering wheel, and turned back to the villa. She had to talk to him in person.

When she arrived, it was already nightfall. With the bleakness of late autumn and the quietness of the late night, the Burton Family's summer villa was exceptionally silent..

Since Arthur had passed away, Justin moved here and dismissed most of the servants in the villa. Except for the building where he stayed, all other buildings were closed, leaving only Dennis with him.

Even the old security guards at the gate were dismissed, but Ginny moved in out of the blue and brought another security guard. "Miss Tuscan, the soup is ready."

"It's getting late. You should rest early." "Will do. Mr. Jenkins, you should rest too." Ginny pushed open the master bedroom door while holding a bowl of soup in her hand.

Justin was sleeping soundly on the bed. A smoky gray sheet covered his body, and his stern face became colder and sharper when the moonlight from outside the window shone on him. It seemed that he was not sleeping very well, and his brows were furrowed.

Ginny sat down beside the bed, lifted him up with a hand, and propped him against her arm, looking at his eyebrows. "Since you haven't rested for so many years, you can finally get the rest you need."

Naturally, Justin didn't respond to her. Ginny's monologue reverberated in the room. If anyone saw this at this moment, they would be absolutely terrified.

“Justin, I know you think my behavior is grotesque, but I will prove that I am right. Only the combination of our genes can give birth to the best child. When the time comes, he will inherit the Tuscan Family and the Burton Family, and he will be ahead of everyone else when he is born. I haven’t gotten married even after so many years because I know you will be mine in the end. I couldn’t even bring myself to like other men at all...”

Behind the curtain, Rachel held her breath and tried her level best to stay absolutely still even though Ginny’s words made her tremble like a leaf.

Ginny must have some kind of mental illness... This was terrifying. She talked to herself for a long time and finally fed Justin the bowl of soup with unknown ingredients. After that, she left the master bedroom satisfied.

After the lights in the bedroom went out, Rachel finally breathed a sigh of relief and carefully opened the door from the balcony outside to walk in. Her footsteps were as light as a feather. The person on the bed didn’t respond at all. He’s not dead, is he?

Rachel hurried over and checked Justin’s breathing. “Hey...”

In the darkness, the man suddenly opened his eyes. Rachel was so frightened that she was about to scream in reflex, but Justin covered her mouth just in a nick of time and pulled her under the quilt.

“Don’t move.” His warm breath came from over her head. The sound of the door opening came from outside. Ginny hadn’t left yet and was looking in from the door.

She didn’t even dare to breathe. She only lay quietly and leaned tightly against him. After an unknown amount of time, he stood up, lifted the quilt, and said in a low voice, “She’s gone.”

Her forehead was covered in cold sweat, and she was lying on the bed like a koala. Then, finally, she regained her composure and cautiously climbed out of the bed after a while. “Is she really gone?” He teased her. “Why did you even sneak in here when you’re so cowardly?”

“I was looking for you, okay?”

“How did you know there was something wrong with me?”

“If there wasn’t, would you just disappear without answering the phone? It’s not like we are mortal enemies. Ginny underestimates us too much. Even if I didn’t come to see you, you’re supposed to pick Charlotte up on the weekend. Is she expecting herself to come instead of you?”

“She won’t wait till the weekend.”

Rachel was taken aback. "What do you mean?"

"She plans to get me out of Riverdale early tomorrow morning to Montenegro."

"What? Is she crazy? She would drug you just to take you away?"

"It's a long story. Let's get out of here first."

Justin glanced at the balcony and wondered. "How did you get in?"

She let out an awkward cough and pointed to the plane tree outside the window. 'I climbed that tree.'

He showed a look of astonishment and said in disbelief, "You know how to climb trees?"

"Don't you?"

She was a little embarrassed. Before she was taken back to Riverdale by Jeffrey, she had done almost everything in the mountains, be it climbing trees, diving, or catching fish from the river. She only had to stay put when she was staying at the Hudsons'. Under the sycamore tree, she waved at Justin, who was on the tree, and whispered sharply, "Come on!"

Justin could only sit on the tree branch, and it was a little shaky and looked very dangerous. Under the moonlight, his pale face looked even paler than before.

She stomped her feet in anxiety. "Hurry up!" He gritted his teeth, let go of the hand holding the tree branch tightly, and jumped down.

Actually, this distance was not too high, but for someone afraid of heights, it was enough to make him feel dizzy. So the moment he landed, he could not stand at all, and his legs went soft.

She knew that he was afraid of heights, so she tried to support him but underestimated his weight, and it ended up with both of them. falling into the dried Sycamore leaves. "Oof..."

"S-Sorry."

Suddenly, there was the sound of a door opening from the side of the villa-it was Dennis. He was holding a flashlight and was using it to check the grounds.

Rachel hugged Justin's waist tightly, preventing him from moving. Their breaths blended, and their bodies were covered by the scent of the dry smell of Sycamore leaves. Rachel was so nervous that she didn't notice the warmth in Justin's eyes.

When he looked at the woman under him, he saw that her slightly trembling eyes were the same as the first time they met at the Burton Residence, full of unease. However, now there was a spark of perseverance in her eyes after so many years.

They didn't know how long it took before Dennis finally put the flashlight away, went back into the house, and closed the door. She breathed a sigh of relief. "Okay. We're good to go."

He was still distracted by the memories, so she accidentally pressed her cheek against his beard, and it rubbed against his stubble when she turned her head. That instantly caused a numbing sensation in her body, and she trembled in response.

They stared into each other's eyes. She suddenly felt flustered, and her face flushed in accordance with her emotions. It was Justin who reacted first. He got up quickly and pulled Rachel up. "Let's go."

"Okay."

After the little episode from under the tree, they were unhindered all the way to her car. She had parked her car in the woods outside the villa. When the two of them got into the car, it was only then that they finally felt genuinely relieved.

The engine turned on, and the gate of the summer villa gradually turned into a tiny dot in the rearview mirror and slowly disappeared.

She looked at Justin, who was driving. "Now tell me, what the hell is going on? Why did Ginny drug you? And though you know she's drugged you, why did you still cooperate with her? Shouldn't you call the police?"

He tapped his slender fingers on the steering wheel and said calmly, "The Tuscan Family and the Burton Family are friends. Grandpa had a great relationship with Old Mr. Tuscan when he was alive."

"Even so, you can't condone her doing this kind of thing. It's a crime, and you know it."

"Don't worry. I have already thought of a solution."

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

## Chapter 412

Rachel frowned and turned to look out the window. The car suddenly fell silent, and Justin finally realized something and explained, "I am not condoning her, but there is a reason she turned out like this. Ginny was not such a person before."

"She changed? Not such a person before?" Rachel sternly said, "That means it took long enough for her to change this way. She was already so vicious when I was in SG Pharma, and it's been so many years."

When Rachel went to work in SG Pharma, Ginny often tried to secretly scheme against her. At that time, she didn't understand how she had offended this woman, but now she realized that everything was predestined. Ginny had long known about her relationship with him, and it was her taking revenge.

"Actually, she and I spent some time together in the summer villa when we were ten years old. At that time, her family was about to immigrate and live in a mountain villa, and I didn't have any friends in the Burton Family."

What kind of bad intentions could a ten-year-old child have? No matter how paranoid or even vicious of a person she turned into later when she said that she wanted to be his best friend at the age of ten, he assumed it was all sincerity.

"Maybe because her parents also passed away early, and it so happens that I share the same fate, we became fast friends. Later, she accidentally fell into the villa's pond, and I saved her. It was also because of this that Grandpa would make a marriage contract with Old Mr. Tuscan."

A childhood sweetheart, a life debt. Rachel's hand on her leg clenched slightly. "What about later?"

"Later, the Tuscan Family immigrated to Montenegro. For more than 20 years, anything was possible, and no one took the marriage contract seriously. At least, I think so. Otherwise, I would not have married."

"But didn't Ginny wait for you for many years?" "She's not waiting for me. She's just obeying the will of Old Mr. Tuscan, which is also pitiful." "What do you mean by that?"

"It's probably similar to Tina's situation. Do you still remember her?"

Rachel was slightly startled. How could she not remember Tina Burton?

At that time, she and Noah had a marriage contract, but she got together with the driver of the Burton Family in secrecy. As a result, the driver was sent by Jason Burton to an unknown place overseas. "Do you mean Ginny also..."

"I don't know the specific situation, but I did ask Frankie to check before. When she was in college, she had a boyfriend, and Old Mr. Tuscan was firmly against their



relationship. Then, six years ago, he passed away and left a will. I heard from my grandfather that there is one clause in the will saying that..."

"What is it?" "In short, Ginny has the right to inherit all the property of the Tuscan Family, but if she marries that man, then she will lose all the property inheritance rights, and those properties will fall into the hands of the woman that Old Mr. Tuscan married in Montenegro. She is younger than Ginny."

The relationships in rich and powerful families were always complicated. Rachel had no intention of asking any more questions, but she was a little surprised by this one fact. "So... Old Mr. Tuscan wouldn't let Ginny marry that man even until he dies and would rather give all his assets to his wife that he married later?"

"Well, when people are old, they tend to make bad decisions."

Members of the Tuscan Family had worked hard for the Tuscan Family's family business for several generations, and Ginny had also undoubtedly contributed a lot. Of course, she wouldn't agree if you were to ask her to give up on her inheritance and hand them over to someone unrelated to her.

What was more, she was no longer a naive 18 or 19-year-old girl. She had more things to consider, and it was impossible to immerse herself totally in the so-called love and put everything else behind. "So her solution was..."

She looked at him and suddenly understood what Ginny was planning. Ginny wanted to seal the mouth of the woman and the lawyer by marrying Justin to get the inheritance, and she knew that Justin didn't love her. This way, she could be with her lover again.

At this point, they had already arrived at the foot of the mountain and were driving on the round-the-city expressway. His calm gaze looked straight in front of the windshield, and his slender hands were resting- on the steering wheel as if he was just telling at story that was unrelated to him.

Rachel was puzzled. "Then what are you going to do? Are you planning to cooperate with her to leave Riverdale and get the inheritance?" "If I wanted to cooperate with her, why would I leave today?"

"Then what are you going to do?" "Ginny is too stubborn. She should have known that this is not the only way for her to get her inheritance." She still couldn't understand what he meant.

"If the woman Old Mr. Tuscan married in Montenegro is no longer Mrs. Tuscan, she will lose her inheritance rights. This means that even if Ginny goes against her grandfather's wishes and chooses to be together with her lover, she will only lose half of the inheritance. And the rest of the inheritance that was given to that woman will, of course, automatically go to her name."



"How could she not be Mrs. Tuscan? Didn't she register their marriage with Old Mr. Tuscan?" "Well, yes and no. The woman registered her marriage with Old Mr. Tuscan, but she also. registered with others."

Bigamy. Things seemed to clear up again. She was thoughtful. "If that's the case, why didn't you tell Ginny directly instead of allowing her to drug you?"

He was helpless. "I was going to tell her, but she didn't give me the chance to. Besides, do you think she wasn't wary of me? She might not believe what I said since the evidence is all with Frankie."

"Then what are you going to do now?" "Hide from her for a while and let her calm down." She suddenly let out a laugh. "The great Justin Buston is also afraid of some people, huh?"

Who would have thought that Justin would actually meet Ginny, that special someone that he would be unable to provoke and wanted to hide from. "Where do you live? I'll send you home."

He tightened his hand on the steering wheel when he heard her question, looking embarrassed. "My ID and passport are with Ginny. For the time being..."

She hesitated for a while after seeing his uneasiness, then said, "If you don't mind, you can live with me temporarily."

He shot her a surprised look. "... I don't want to bother you..."

"You're not. What? Are you planning to live at Frankie's? He's just your assistant, not your butler." After she said her piece, she avoided his gaze and turned her head to look at the night scene outside the window.

The atmosphere in the car turned quiet. However, Justin's eyes were warm, and he even smiled secretly. Late at night, the car drove into the community garage.

Rachel took him upstairs, tidied up the guest room for him to stay in temporarily, and said in a low voice, "Charlotte and the others are all asleep. Just stay here for the time being, and I will explain to them tomorrow morning."

"Sure. Thank you." "Don't stand on ceremony. No matter what, you are still Charlotte's father." She was about to leave when he suddenly stopped her. "By the way, why did you suddenly come to the villa to find me today?"

Only then did she remember the reason for her visit. "It's about Victor and Gloria. But let's talk about this later, and you can deal with your affairs first. We've gone through enough today, so you should go to bed earlier. Tomorrow..."

Her words trailed off as she suddenly noticed his attire. He was still wearing pajamas, and the tree's branches cut his top. All in all, he was looking rather haggard.

"First, let me get you some pajamas."

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

## Chapter 413

Early the next morning. Jolly woke up still feeling groggy, and when she opened her room door, she saw a shadow frying bacon in the kitchen. She yawned. "Chris, please make my omelet fully cooked. I've had an upset stomach for the past two days. I don't even know what I did."

As she said that, she sat down in front of the kitchen bar counter and took a sip of the squeezed juice. "This juice is tasty."

"Thanks." It was a male voice. In the next second, a bowl of mixed salad and a plate of bacon omelet were placed in front of her. Jolly thought she was hallucinating, so she looked up and suddenly saw Justin's face. "What in the-"

She screamed, and if it wasn't for Justin's quick-wit, the cup would have almost shattered on the floor. "What's wrong?"

Rachel heard the screams and ran out of the bedroom. As soon as she came out, she saw him in the kitchen. On the other side, Jolly stood by the bar with her hair disheveled like a ghost, and she looked so surprised that her eyes were about to fall out of the sockets.

When she saw Rachel coming out, Jolly confirmed that she was not dreaming. "Why is he here?"

"Well, that's a long story."

"Then, why is he wearing your pajamas?!" Rachel glanced at Justin and tried her best not to laugh. She had already given him her largest set of pajamas last night, but it still looked a little stretched on him.

At the moment, she coughed dryly. "This... is also a long story."

Ten minutes later, Jolly came out of the bathroom after washing up. At that point, she was more sober and calm. "Tell me. What's going on here?"

Now that she was alone, she was facing Justin on the opposite side and acted like a tribunal. "Tell me honestly and I'll go easy on you. How did you end up in my house?"

"He didn't come by himself; I brought him here."

"I didn't ask you." Jolly turned her head and glared at Rachel. "Just sit on the sofa and turn your head away. It's none of your business here."

Rachel didn't know what to do, so she casted an apologetic look at Justin before she sat down with her head turned away. Her ears still pricked up, listening to Jolly's questioning. He explained, "I don't have a place to live for the time being, so Rachel took me in for a while."

"Bullsh\*t! Your summer villa is bigger than the Olympic venues. It's pure bullsh\*t that you don't have a place to live." "Someone else took over the place."

"You mean Ginny Tuscan?" Jolly frowned. "Doesn't she own only half of the property?" "Half ownership doesn't mean that the land is divided into two where each person is living on their own. After all, it is not suitable for two opposite genders to live together for a long time."

"However, isn't she your fiancée?" "Have you ever seen an engaged couple who were engaged at the age of ten, but have not married yet at forty, and one of us even got married before?"

"Huh..." She nodded. "Wait, no!"

All of a sudden, she became serious. "Though what you said did make sense, you don't have to stay in my house! Can't you live in a hotel? What about the many properties that the Burton Family possesses? You can always stay in any one of them!"

Justin looked embarrassed. Rachel couldn't take it any longer. "His ID card and passport are with Ginny. He can't live or go anywhere. He's finally met his nemesis." Jolly's eyes widened. "Now, what exactly is the situation here?"

Rachel glanced at him. "Just like you and Ginny, Jolly owns half of this property too. So if you want to live here, we have to tell her what happened."

He didn't hesitate. "Go ahead, then."

She explained the purpose of Ginny's return to Riverdale including the fact that the woman drugged Justin. After Rachel explained everything, Jolly was nothing but shocked.

"How can she be so ruthless? Drugging him, too? You must be kidding me." "Why would I joke about something like this to you?" Rachel spread her hands helplessly.

“When I went to the summer villa yesterday evening to talk about Victor and Gloria, I happened to witness everything, so...”

If it wasn't for this incident, Justin would have never asked her for help. Jolly reluctantly believed it and asked Justin, “If the solution that you came up with doesn't work, and she still wants to stay in Riverdale, do you still not plan on calling the police?”

He responded lightly, “I can't answer this question for the time being, because I don't know how far she will go, but I believe she will leave as long as she gets the right of inheritance.”

“Ugh, so troublesome. Damn, why are you always finding yourself in so much sh\*t?”

Jolly walked around the room impatiently. All of a sudden, as if she had just thought of something, she stood still. “How about this? I'll solve this for you.”

“No need, I guess.” “Don't worry. You saved Leroy's life, so take this as me paying you back.” With that, she turned around and left without even eating her breakfast. Rachel called out to her, “Where are you going?”

“Getting a change of clothes to run some errands.” Jolly's flamboyant personality was just as always. Before the two children got up, Rachel and Justin were the only ones left in the living room.

She glanced at Justin's stretched clothes and pursed her lips, but couldn't hold back. “Just laugh if you want.” He was generous and calmly looked at his clothes. “It is a little small.”

“It's not just a little small. Your elbows are almost showing. I'll buy you some clothes later.” “Don't bother. I'll get Frankie to send some over.”

“Coming from someone who doesn't want to bother people, isn't that troubling him too?” Rachel rolled his eyes at him. “If I remember correctly, you got him pretty mad at you some time ago, yet you can ask him to run around like this?”

Justin was at a loss for words. After their meal, Rachel took the car key and went to work. He went to the room and woke the two children up for breakfast.

Charlotte was still groggy from her sleep, and when she opened her eyes and saw him, she immediately thought she was dreaming. “Daddy? Why are you here?”

“You lazy fellow, get up for breakfast.” She yawned, turned over and went back to sleep, muttering, “I must be dreaming.” When he saw her acting this way, Justin felt that he was almost melting from how cute she was.

For a long time, Justin only sat quietly beside the bed without disturbing her. After a while, Charlotte turned around out of the blue and stared at Justin with wide eyes. "Daddy! It's really you!"

"It's really me." At once, she got up and hugged Justin's neck. "I thought it was a dream! Daddy, why are you here?" Justin kissed her hair. "Because I miss you."

"I miss you a lot too!"

"Get up; I made you breakfast." "Wait a minute!" Charlotte blinked. "I'm going to wake Samuel up!" She left Justin behind, jumped out of bed. barefoot and ran to the next room. Samuel was sleeping soundly, but was woken up by Charlotte.

"Get up! Things have changed! My daddy has been saved again." He hugged the quilt and refused to let go while saying in a daze, "You must be dreaming. Go back and sleep more."

"It's true! Get up!" Samuel didn't believe it until a familiar male voice came from the door. "Samuel, come on, get up. Go wash up and have breakfast." When he heard the familiar voice, he was stunned for a moment and got up from the bed instantly to stare at the door. This is awesome!

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

## Chapter 414

At Hudson Pharmaceuticals, Rachel was having a morning meeting when a hurried Casey came in all of a sudden with a worried look. "President Hudson." "All of you, go on to discuss the plan first."

Rachel walked to the door. "What's the matter?"

"A Miss Tuscan came to look for you, and there was a commotion in the lobby downstairs. Our receptionist was afraid that the commotion would turn ugly and provoke criticism, so she arranged for Miss Tuscan to be in the lounge."

"Okay. Got it." After saying this, Rachel turned her head and wanted to return to the conference room without even looking anxious at all. "President Hudson." Casey stopped her and asked, "Aren't you going to meet her?" "Don't worry. I haven't finished the meeting yet, so let her wait."

"But she said... She said..."

“What did she say?” “She said you hid her fiancé, and if you don’t meet her, she will call the police.”

“Oh, is it so?”

“That is what she said. I told her not to talk nonsense, and that you will be there in a while.” “Then, should I praise you for handling it well?” Rachel’s eyes swept around Casey, causing her to shudder inexplicably.

Following that, Rachel added in a low voice, “Since you have so much free time and even did all the reception work at the front desk, why don’t you finish the job and accompany her to relieve her boredom now?”

She left with these words and entered the conference room without looking back to continue with the meeting. Casey froze at the door for a while. “Why are you still standing here?” to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

The female assistant at the door glanced at her. “Do you really think that President Hudson can’t see through your little thoughts? We are all working for her, and if you can’t figure out where you stand and keep thinking about crooked methods to promote yourself, do you think President Hudson will see you for what you are worth?”

“Stay on the side. Also, I advise you not to pry any more about Miss Tuscan.”

“Then, are we just going to let her wait there?”

“You don’t need to go. I’ll go.” Everyone in the president’s office knew that Rachel didn’t like Casey, and they also knew the reasons why. After all, Casey was merely working as a spy for Evan and had been telling him things that she shouldn’t-she was really too much.

Ginny waited in the lounge for an hour. “Wow, your President Hudson is really a big shot now, isn’t she? How long have I waited here? Well, if she doesn’t dare to face me and talk here, we’ll just meet at the police station.”

Samantha poured her a cup of tea as an apology. ‘Miss Tuscan, you have misunderstood President Hudson. She is in the morning meeting, and she really can’t leave. Please wait patiently.’

“Wait patiently? If your fiancé has been hidden by another woman, can you wait patiently?” “You’ve been talking about this for a long time, but I still don’t understand. Who exactly is your fiancé? President Hudson’s boyfriend is President Peters, the president of the Burton Group.”

"What a coincidence. My fiancé is Justin Burton, the former president of the Burton Group." "Ah?" Samantha was slightly taken aback. "Isn't that our president's ex-husband?"

When she heard Samantha, Ginny's face turned blue for a while. Samantha smiled slightly and explained properly, "Everyone in the company knows President Hudson well. If she really wanted to: be with President Burton, she would have been together with him long ago, so why would she hide him? No one will believe what you say."

"What do you mean? You must've been sent by Rachel, right?" "Miss Tuscan, this is Hudson Pharmaceuticals. Of course I was sent by President Hudson."

"You!" Ginny stood up suddenly in fury. "What are you doing here?" The door to the lounge opened and Rachel's voice rang from the door. "Ginny Tuscan, are you planning to do something toward my employees in my company?"

Ginny's raised hand clenched into a fist before she dropped it. While gritting her teeth, she said, "You are finally willing to show your face." Rachel glanced at Samantha and nodded at her.

Samantha naturally understood and closed the door after her when she went out. As she faced all the gossip heads at the door, Samantha only said coldly, "She is an old customer of President Hudson. She has a bad temper and is a little difficult to deal with. Don't look and go back to work."

At this time, in the lounge, Rachel made a gesture of invitation to Ginny. "No need to be so polite, please sit down." Ginny snorted coldly, "Oh, look who's acting like the host now. Look, I don't have time to talk nonsense with you. Where did you hide Justin?"

Justin? Rachel paused as she poured tea, pretending to be puzzled. "If I remember correctly, I went to the summer villa yesterday, but I didn't see anyone and couldn't get through. to him on the phone. I should be the one asking you this question instead, but why is it that you're looking for me now?" "Cut the crap. I have seen the surveillance video of the villa, and it was you who took him away."

She had expected that Ginny wouldn't come to her if she didn't have the proof, but she remained calm. "Since you have watched the surveillance, you should be able to see that I didn't tie him up, nor did I coerce him. He has hands, and he walked with me by himself. So what makes you think that I hid him?"

"Rachel, I don't have time to play word games with you here. Since you have divorced him, you have nothing to do with him now. Please don't interfere in my affairs with him." "What if I want to intervene no matter what?"

Ginny's eyes narrowed. "Then, don't blame me for being rude." She looked around. She looked through the shutters and her eyes fell onto the cubicles in the office outside. "For



such a small company like Hudson Pharmaceuticals, do you think I am capable of making it disappear from Riverdale overnight?”

“Oh, Miss Tuscan, of course you can, provided you have the right of inheritance.” Rachel snorted. “But it’s such a pity, isn’t it? I’m assuming you are in the middle of an inheritance lawsuit right now?”

“He even told you this?” “Do you think there will be any secrets between you and him?” Rachel pushed a document in front of Ginny. “This is what he asked me to pass on to you. You can’t take him with you, but he did his best to help you win the inheritance for the sake of your past friendship.”

Ginny opened the file and glanced at it before the light in her eyes flashed but disappeared quickly. “This is what he found out?” “Hernandez promised to help you with the lawsuit. If everything goes smoothly, at least half of the Tuscan Family’s property will belong to you. You can still be with your boyfriend, as long as you give up half your inheritance.”

Rachel didn’t really want to help Ginny, but it was really annoying to see her in Riverdale. It would be best to get rid of her as soon as possible.

“What if I’m not willing to give up the other half?” Rachel frowned and her eyes narrowed. In the eyes of the woman sitting on the opposite side of her, there was vigorous ambition, and it was far from being able to accommodate the so-called love. In other words, for the sake of this ambition, love could be easily sacrificed at any time.

In the end, Justin still underestimated Ginny. After all, she was not the ten-year-old little girl whom he knew. Ginny placed the document aside, though she did not even thank Rachel for it. Instead, she inched forward. “What will you do if I tell you that I want all of the Tuscan Family’s property, and I want Justin too?”

When Rachel heard that, her hand holding the teacup tightened its grip slightly. “Then, I’ll convey his message to you: don’t throw the helve after the hatchet.”

“Oh, is that so? We’ll see.”

Ginny stood up. Her eyes had long since lost the anger she had when she first came, and it even made people feel that her emotions were fake. She held up the document in her hand and snorted. “Do you really think that I wouldn’t find all these? But thank you, anyway.”

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

## Chapter 415

Ginny left, and for some reason, her back still looked particularly arrogant Rachel looked at the steaming tea in front of her and her brows gradually tightened.

Justin might have underestimated his childhood sweetheart's ambitions for wealth and power. For Ginny, all the property of the Tuscan Family had originally belonged to her, so in her current situation, she didn't consider the part where she gained. On the contrary, she was thinking about the half that she lost. "I think you should leave it alone."

On the other end of the video call was Hernandez, and it was already night time at his place. Outside the floor-to-ceiling windows was the night view of the city center of Montenegro, which was far more prosperous than Riverdale.

Hernandez was rarely serious. "Ginny is a devil. She is crazy when it comes to her career, haven't you seen it before? Why are you fighting against her?" "Hernandez, I didn't call you to hear you discourage me."

"I don't want to do this either, but the fact is that Ginny is a tough opponent. When she was still a partner in SG Pharma, I really didn't want to confront her. She would keep pestering you and breaking you down."

"This time is different because she's violating human rights." Hernandez spread his hands open. "I think it's more appropriate for you to call the police." "Justin still wants to leave some leeway for the sake of his dead grandfather. Ginny is the only daughter of the Tuscan Family after all."

"Then, my hands are tied." He was helpless as he was hoping that Rachel would finally understand where he was coming from. She sighed. "Forget it, let's not talk about this anymore. At least she can't locate Justin for the time being, so there's nothing for us to do just yet. It's getting late and you should rest early."

After hanging up the video call, Rachel faced her desktop and fell into deep thoughts. All of a sudden, a message popped up on her phone. 'Are you free tonight? Let's have dinner together.'

It was a message from Julian. Rachel hesitated for a while, then replied, 'Okay In the afternoon, she and Jolly went to the mall together. Jolly stood in front of the full-length mirror and turned around. "Does this look good on me?"

"Yes." "Is it suitable to wear this when meeting the elders?" "Elders?" Rachel was stunned for a moment and looked at her. "Leroy is finally going to bring you to meet his parents?"

“Not yet, but I think he will soon,” Jolly said proudly. “He’s on leave tomorrow, so I decided to go to him with the newly bought clothes and ask him along the lines of ‘How do you think I will look if I were to meet your parents wearing this’. I don’t believe he won’t understand my meaning.”

“Then, what if he plays dumb on purpose?” “Impossible. Leroy is not that kind of person. He is just too busy with work and he hasn’t thought of it for the time being, so he needs my gentle reminder.”

Rachel was helpless. It seemed Jolly was also a fool in love. However, Leroy didn’t seem like someone who played with women’s feelings. As for not mentioning that he would bring Jolly to see his parents, maybe it was just like what she said- he was too busy and didn’t think of it at all.

“I’ll change to another set. It’s good to have a few more options.” After Jolly entered the dressing room, Rachel rose from the sofa and walked to the men’s clothing area. “Miss Hudson, are you going to pick out some clothes for your boyfriend?”

“I’m just looking around.” “Miss Hudson, how about this one?” The shopping guide picked up a casual shirt. It was off-white, very fresh and clean. Julian was more suited for a refreshing style like this.

Rachel looked at it for a while and said, “Looks great. Just wrap it up for me.” Her fingers ran across the hanger and eventually stopped on a gray shirt. “This one too.”

And it went on for a while. Jolly came out after changing, handed a pile of clothes to the shopping guide and went to the cashier to check out. She shook her head and moved her neck. “Phew, I’m exhausted. Why don’t you try something too?”

Rachel waved her hand. “No need. I have clothes to wear.” “You mean your work clothes? Can you at least buy some outfits suitable for a date? I have to talk to Julian about you some day and tell him to take you out to buy some clothes.”

“Miss, your clothes are ready. We will deliver them to your door later.” “No need. It’s just a few pieces anyway. We’ll just bring them back by ourselves.” Jolly had just finished speaking when she saw the two shopping guides in front of them, each with several large bags in their hands, and a pile more behind them. “I didn’t buy that much…”

Right?” Rachel clarified, “I bought them.”

“You bought them?” Jolly looked as if she was haunted. “Since when did you buy so much? Did you try it? What did you buy?” As she was speaking, Jolly flipped through some of the paper bags. “Aren’t these all men’s clothing? Who did you buy them for?”

“Julian.” Rachel looked calm. “His birthday is around the corner, but I don’t know what to get him. I can’t go wrong buying a few clothes, right?” “You’re not just buying a few clothes. I think you’re planning to buy him all his winter clothes.”

“Nah. I don’t think so.”

Jolly shook her head again and again. “What a prodigal, spending all that money just like that. You have never been so generous even to me.” Night fell when Rachel and Jolly returned home with various bags of trophies’.

Rachel changed her shoes at the door while Jolly kicked off her high heels as soon as she walked in. After shouting that she was exhausted, she went into the room barefoot, plunged onto the couch, but raised her head to sniff the air, “What is it? It smells so good.”

When Jolly got up from the sofa, she saw that dinner was set on the dining table. At that moment, Justin also placed the washed fruit on the table. “Wash your hands and come have dinner.”

She was so shocked that she choked on her saliva because she almost forgot that there was a man at home, secretly doing all these for them. “This is amazing, Justin. I’m sure you’ll make a fortune if you open a restaurant with this level of skill.”

Jolly climbed off the sofa and sniffed the aroma of the food like a dog. She tried to eat the braised pork with her hands, but was slapped away by Rachel next to her. “Go and wash your hands.”

“Ouch!” Jolly clutched the back of her hand that was sore. “Did you have to slap me so hard?” “How are you going to set an example for the kids if you’re like this?”

“Fine. I’ll go and wash, okay?” Then, she went into the kitchen to wash her hands and while doing so, she shouted toward the bedroom. “Where are Charlotte and Samuel? Come out! We bought new clothes for you. Come out and try them!”

Charlotte and Samuel ran out immediately. “Mommy!” Charlotte first hugged Rachel and kissed her. “Why didn’t you take me and Samuel with you to buy new clothes?”

Rachel pinched Charlotte’s nose. “Because you lazy fellows were taking a nap at home and didn’t get up.” “I’m not a lazy fellow!” Charlotte’s attention was quickly attracted by the clothes. “Wow, this skirt is so beautiful

Samuel had no interest in clothes, so he climbed onto the chair with both hands and feet while shaking his head helplessly. “I can finally eat. Women are really troublesome.”

Jolly just came out of the kitchen, glanced at him, and taught her son with a straight face. "Wash your hands before eating." He calmly retorted, 'I've already washed them, and I've been waiting for you to come back for dinner.'

"Really?" Jolly was suspicious, but turned around and found a positive answer in Justin's eyes. She felt a little embarrassed at the moment. Her son was so self-disciplined that it made her feel ashamed as a mother.

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

## Chapter 416

"Let's eat and try it on later," Rachel said to Charlotte. "Okay." After putting the dress back into the bag, Charlotte looked into another package. "Mommy, why did you also buy men's clothes? Is it for Daddy?"

Silence washed over the room when the words left her lips until Rachel responded with a soft. yeah'. Meeting Justin's surprised eyes, she explained helplessly, 'My pajamas are really unsuitable for you, so I bought you some clothes while I was shopping today. Go and change into them.' At the mention of this, Jolly giggled and teased Justin deliberately. "Why? You don't like it?"

Whatever it is, I think you look rather comfortable in Chris' pajamas." Chuckling along, Justin placed aside the things he was holding, wiped his hands and quickly went to change in the bedroom.

After he closed the door, his daughter's childish voice echoed from outside. "I see you're very concerned about Daddy, Mommy!" "That's not true, Charlotte, Jolly said. "That's how you should be to a guest. It's called courtesy."

"No, it's not. I've not seen any host buying clothes for their guests." "You have a sharp tongue for your age, little lass. Be careful that you can't get married in the future!"

"That's fine. As long as I can always be with Mommy and Daddy together, I don't want to get married at all!" Listening to the voices outside, he stared at the bag in his hands while a heartwarming look crept over his expressionless face.

In fact, things were already great as they were now; Rachel didn't regard him as her enemy and even cared for him kindly. He was already content and satisfied, and there was nothing else he would ask for. All he hoped was to be able to take care of them a little while he was staying here for the period to make up for his deeds in the past.

It was already late at night, and after Rachel tucked in the children, Jolly was still on the phone in a call. Without even the need to think, she knew who Jolly was on the phone with. "It's almost 11 p.m. You should let Leroy off," Rachel said, standing behind the bar counter and pouring a glass of water.

Since Jolly finished dinner, she had been on the phone with Leroy, but he was still working. Later, he needed to start filming, interview and do makeup. Yet, she refused to hang up and went on in a non-stop chatter. Taking a glance at the wall clock, she then exclaimed, "Gosh, it's already 11 p.m. You should go to bed, Leroy."

"No, you sleep first."

"You first!" A shiver ran down Rachel's spine and she felt goosebumps all over her skin. 'Jolly Carter!' Jolly stuck out her tongue at her, but finally, she returned to her room obediently after Rachel gave her a warning glare.

Just when Rachel was about to return to her room, her cell phone rang. "Hello?" Holding her phone, she paced to the balcony. "Are you finished with work?"

Julian's voice on the other end of the line sounded a little tired. "I just got home after a day of meetings." "Did you realize anything different at home?"

"Different?" he repeated in astonishment. "What's different?" Rachel chuckled. "Take a look in your closet." Sounds of footsteps echoed in the call, and after a while, he said, "All these clothes are..."

"Your present. Take them as your early birthday gift. "Is this considered cutting corners?" Despite what he said, he clearly sounded delighted. "You already prepared all the clothes for the entire winter, and they're all from the same brand."

"Why? You don't like it? If you don't, I can still return them to the store." "Of course I like them." A helpless Julian explained, "But it's just too much. I can't wear so many clothes."

"Back when you were a doctor, you wore the white robe the most, and now that you're no longer a doctor, you can wear these clothes at your own pace. Also, there will be plenty of occasions when you'll need these clothes." Rachel meticulously started checking the clothes she bought. "Basically, I've bought a little of both casual and formal wear. Try them on when you have the time. I think I remember your sizes correctly..."

Holding the glass of water in her hands on the balcony, she lost track of time while she was on the phone, and neither did she notice that there was a figure in the living room returning to his own room silently.

The door closed with a soft click and Justin leaned against it to face the full-length mirror in front of him as he stared at the clothes Rachel bought him.

A few hours ago, he was filled with happiness, but now, he couldn't help but feel upset. Initially, he went out wanting to thank her, but he ran into her on the phone with Julian instead.

So, it really turns out that she just bought me some clothes out of convenience. In the mirror, his aloof eyes were tinged with self-deprecation as he tried his best to suppress the disappointment in his heart. This is already great. I shouldn't ask for more. At the thought of this, he took a deep breath and walked toward the bathroom.

"So, that's all. See you tomorrow."

"Okay, see you." After hanging up, the water in Rachel's hands had already turned cold. Taking a sip, she felt the cold in her teeth and trembled. She was actually on the phone with Julian for an hour, which was record-breaking.

On the other side, Julian ran his fingertips over the clothes hangers in the closet after he hung up. Gazing at the clothes which were hanging neatly, he had a long-lost warmth in his eyes.

Even if it was a piece of ice, it would melt if it was held in the palms for a long time. Rachel would be together with him forever, for sure. Suddenly, his phone started ringing and he frowned when he saw who was calling. "Hello?"

"Are you surprised to receive my call?" "Yes, a little. Aren't you supposed to be busy preparing to leave Riverdale now?"

"Leave?" A snort echoed from the other end of the call. "Do you really not know? I have no idea where Justin is now. Am I going to leave by myself?"

"What do you mean?" "Two days ago, Chris took him away from the summer villa, and I'm a hundred percent sure she's hiding him at her place now."

"That's impossible." "Impossible? You sure trust her a lot, don't you? Do you really think that she'll be sincere with you wholeheartedly? If that's true, why did she come to the summer villa to spoil my plans?" Ginny sneered. "If you still don't believe me, I have a voice recording for you."

On the other end, she stopped speaking, and after a short moment of silence, the static sound of the recording started playing. The sound quality of Rachel's voice after it was recorded and played through the phone sounded a little hoarse, but Julian could still tell that it was her tone.

She said, 'I'll tell you on his behalf, then. Beware of losing everything.' Slowly, Julian's hand on the clothes hanger slid down until he grabbed a sleeve and gradually tightened his grip.



From the phone, Ginny's voice was laced with sarcasm as she said, 'You heard it, didn't you? She didn't try to deny that she was the one who took Justin away, and she's hiding her ex- husband at home while dating you. Is that reasonable? I think our collaboration isn't over and we have to continue working together. Are you listening?'

A long moment of silence passed by until he said indifferently, "You're right. We should continue."

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

## Chapter 417

"Listen to me and take Chris away. Leave Riverdale for a while using vacation as the excuse. As long as you guys are gone, I'll have a way to bring Justin away, Ginny said, sounding dominant as usual.

"No, Julian turned her down firmly and coldly. "Rachel will be suspicious." 'Julian, you're still worrying so much at a time. like this? Be careful, you might end up with nothing in the end."

"I have my plans, and you just need to cooperate with me. Stabilize the overseas market of Burton Group and weaken the voices against me in the company. That will be enough."

After hanging up, Julian checked the chat box on his phone screen where the chat records of his conversation with Rachel were left off in the afternoon. Jolly dragged me to go shopping with her. I'm afraid I can't have dinner with you tonight, she texted.

'That's alright. I have a meeting as well, and I was about to tell you.'" He stared at the neatly arranged winter clothes which Rachel instructed the housekeeper to prepare. Most of them were the styles which he usually wore, and he ran his palm over the row of clothes. Suddenly, he stopped at a gray casual shirt, he had never worn a color like that.

Swoosh! The shirt fell from the hanger before the hanger bounced back and slammed into the closet door loudly with a bang. Without the hanger. holding it up, all of the weight of the shirt was now hanging on Julian's hand as he held it and felt the weight.

All of a sudden, he released his hand and tossed the shirt on the floor before stepping over it. The next day at Burton Group, the receptionist who recognized Rachel was surprised to see her here and asked, "Why are you here, President Hudson?"

Showing the brown paper bag she had in her hand, she explained, "I happened to pass by and came to deliver breakfast for your boss. Being the role model worker that he is, he must have been here a long time ago, haven't he?" "Don't you know that President Peters is away on a business trip?"

"Business trip?" Rachel repeated, startled. "When did he leave?" "Just this morning, and he has probably already boarded the plane now. It was an ad-hoc trip. Didn't he tell you about it?"

Rachel came to her senses and suddenly recalled receiving a text before leaving the house this morning, but she didn't check it because she was in a rush to leave. When she opened the text in her phone now, she saw that it was really a text from Julian. I have an ad hoc meeting in Beigeburg and will be back in a couple of days' time. I can't have dinner with you again tonight."

"He told me, but I didn't see his text," she answered the receptionist in resignation. "Have you had breakfast yet?" Seeing the bread which the young lady had secretly stolen a bite from was now hidden behind her back, Rachel placed the coffee and sandwich in front of her. "If you don't mind, you can have this."

"Thank you, President Hudson."

"You're welcome." As Rachel turned around, she left Burton Group with a complicated feeling in her heart. Initially, she wanted to tell Julian about what happened between Justin and Ginny. After all, they were together and there were some things which they should be honest with each other. However, she wasn't expecting him to be gone, so she could only tell him after his return.

Leaving Burton Group, she drove into traffic and suddenly received a call from Janice. This was the first time in the past few months. that she received a call from her on her private phone. Did something happen?

"Hello?"

"Where are you now?"

"I'm on my way to the office. What's up?"

"Do you know that Hans has a younger sister?" She subconsciously tightened her grip on the steering wheel after being startled. Even after so long, the second she heard Hans' name, her heart would still wrench tightly and painfully, making it hard for her to breathe..

"I know." Her voice was so light that it echoed in the car. Only once outside the school gates had she met the said girl before. It was raining that day, and the little girl with bob hair looked like she was only three or four years old, calling out to Hans happily as she ran toward him and gave him a hug.

The butler of the Egerton Family was chasing after her with an umbrella in his hand, and many people at the school gates had seen it. Later, Hans told her that Jessica Egerton was actually his cousin, his aunt's daughter. His aunt had passed away due to complications during childbirth, and her husband remarried a pregnant woman soon afterward. Hans' mother was so furious and worried that Jessica would be abused while growing up in that family and decided to bring her over to the Egerton Family by adopting and changing the girl's family name to Egerton.

It was hard to imagine that the woman who warned her to leave Hans alone also had a side like this in private. "Rachel, are you listening?" Janice's voice from the phone jerked her back to her senses.

"Yeah, I'm listening," Rachel answered hurriedly. "I know, but that's his cousin named Jessica Egerton. Why?" "Mr. Egerton called me and said that he thinks Jessica is in Riverdale now."

"What?" "He said that he found out in her room that she's investigating Hans' case, and all the clues led to the Burton Group. Mr Egerton also said that she's a daring girl and refuses to listen to anything he says. Then, she ran away from home by herself."

"Is she really here in Riverdale?"

"That's a high possibility. Judging from the clues found in her room, Mr. Egerton reckoned that the final conclusion is pointed at Justin's picture and he's worried that something will happen." "Where is she now?"

"I've already asked people to keep a lookout, but there's no news yet so far." Thinking rapidly, Rachel said, "She was still young when she left the country and isn't familiar with Riverdale. If she doesn't read the financial news, she won't know about the changes happening with Burton Group. So, if she's looking for Justin, most probably she'll stay around the Burton Group. I'll check with the nearby hotels."

"It's not convenient for me to be involved in this matter." "I understand, so let me do it." After hanging up, Rachel sent a message to her secretary, asking her to make a list of the hotels nearby Burton Group.

Although the main culprits, Jason and Jefferey, had already received their sentences, Hans' cause of death had not been announced to the public because this was Janice's way to protect Rachel. Too many things were involved in between and she was worried that these implications would make Dillon's men suspect Rachel.

Therefore, even if Rachel saw Jessica now, she still couldn't tell Jessica the truth. While looking for Jessica at the nearby hotels, Rachel's mind was filled with the things that Hans said about Jessica back then.

"Rae, do you still remember my sister? She helped me to put in a word to my father this time when I wanted to come back. Can you imagine a young girl reasoning seriously with my father?"

'I'll show you her picture. She's adorable, isn't she?'

"If my sister gets married in the future, I'll most likely cry."

"Jess, this is Rachel Hudson. You can call her Rachel." When Hans was still alive, he had mentioned his sister many times like a controlling brother. Back then, Rachel even met Jessica once. through a video call. At that time, Jessica was only about twelve years old, and Rachel didn't imagine that it would be this situation when they would meet again.

"Hi, may I know if anyone by the name of Jessica Egerton checked into your hotel? She's from Panzonia and the younger sister of my good friend. As she's still underage and left home by herself, her family is very worried about her."

"Hang on, let me check. Did you say Jessica Egerton?"

"Yes."

"I found her."

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

## Chapter 418

"She's in Room 2161." "Thank you." Immediately after she found out Jessica's room number from the reception, Rachel stepped into the elevator. Even though she had only seen Jessica once through the video call on Hans' phone five years ago, she had heard no less from him about how stubborn Jessica's personality was, going through with anything she decided to.

Hence, if Jessica assumed that Justin was her brother's murderer, then she would go all out to investigate the Burton Group and try to approach Justin, and the results would be unthinkable should someone tried to make use of her. Finally, someone came to open the door after she pressed the doorbell a few times.

“Jess.” “Who are you?” Holding the door, Jessica kept the chain lock on and only showed half of her cautious face. “Don’t you remember me? I’m Rachel Hudson, a good friend of your brother.”

When she heard that, the look in her eyes. turned cold instantly. “What can I do for you?” “There’s something I have to tell you about your brother’s case.” After a short moment of hesitation, Jessica released the chain lock. “Come in.”

The hotel room wasn’t big, just a regular single room with a huge bed scattered with some stuff girls usually used and Rachel could tell that she had already been staying here for some time.

“When did you arrive in Riverdale?” “Cut the small chat and go straight to the point. How did you know that I’m here? Also, why did you come to look for me?” Leaning against the table, Jessica crossed her arms-it was a posture used to resist and guard. against an approaching person.

Rachel clenched her fingers a little at her sides; she always had a deep sense of guilt which couldn’t be erased toward Jessica or anyone else from the Egerton Family. “Jess, you’re here to investigate your brother’s death, right?”

“Yeah, so what? What does it have to do with you?” “Of course it does. Your brother is my best friend. He-“Best friend? Who would watch their best friend’s leg being broken by the husband?” Jessica sniggered. “If that’s the case, then being your friend requires one to give up their life.”

Her words stabbed mercilessly through Rachel’s chest, rendering her speechless and making it hard for her to breathe. “You definitely know how Hans died, don’t you?”

“L...” Holding her fists tightly, Rachel uttered, “I can’t tell you.”

“So, this is what you mean by being his so- called best friend?” “What I can tell you is that it has nothing to do with Justin Burton. The person who should pay for it has been punished by law, so you shouldn’t investigate anymore.”

“Why should I believe you? If this is really unrelated to Justin Burton, the truth will speak for itself. Why should you be afraid that I’m. investigating it?”

A seventeen year-old teenage girl was at her most stubborn and rebellious age. The more the adults didn’t want her to do something, the more she wanted to do it. Not daring to push her too much, Rachel tried to persuade her instead. “I’m not afraid of your investigations, but I’m afraid that you’ll be entangled in pointless conflicts. Do you know how many bad people out there are waiting to catch a hold on the Burton Group? You’ll be easily used by others if you act this way.”

“Is this what you came here to tell me?” Looking completely indifferent, Jessica had a dark look in her eyes. “I’m not an idiot. Not anyone can fool me. Please see yourself out,” she said, gesturing toward the door.

This was her eviction order and despite the many things Rachel wanted to say, judging from the situation, she knew that no matter what she said, this girl would heed nothing of it.

A few seconds later, Rachel left her own business card. “Jess, this is my contact, and you can look for me if you have any problems at all. I’ll visit you again tomorrow.”

An unimpressed Jessica didn’t take her card and Rachel could only place it on the table before leaving. The door closed behind her with a loud bang behind her and a small gust of wind rose up to ruffle her hair.

It was understandable that Jessica hated Rachel. Back then, she was a big reason why Hans wanted to come to Riverdale, and Jessica even helped to put in a good word to the Egertons. If Jessica had known that something would happen to Hans in Riverdale, she would have definitely stopped him from coming. The more persistence she showed in finding out the truth, the more remorse she had in her heart.

For the next consecutive days, Rachel would visit Jessica at the hotel everyday. Worried that Jessica couldn’t get used to the food at the hotel or have an upset tummy, she couldn’t wait to bring her food for every meal, carrying bags of different sizes with her.

“What’s happening? Are you seeing someone else?” Looking at Rachel going out with food in her hand again during working hours, Jolly stopped her and queried, “I heard from the secretary that you told her to line up to buy some snacks from a famous bakery early in the morning. You have the palmiers from an international hotel, and you even bought a roast duck! Who are you bringing these to? Out with it!” “No one.”

As Rachel wanted to take care of Jessica coming to Riverdale by herself, she didn’t want to tell Jolly for now. However, Jolly was not convinced. “No one? Are you buying these for ghosts, then? I won’t let you go unless you tell me.” “I’m really in a rush to go. It’s almost meal time!”

“Are you visiting a prison? Recently, you’re always going out with food and drinks during mealtime.” Suddenly, Rachel looked behind Jolly. “Leroy?”

Jolly’s eyes lit up and she turned around.

“Leroy?” There’s no one! By the time Jolly realized that she was fooled, Rachel had already passed by her hurriedly, leaving with the things in her hands. “Chris!” Standing on the spot, she stomped her feet and gritted her teeth. She can’t hide anything from

me! At the hotel, Rachel arrived with the food, but no matter how she pressed the doorbell, no one came to open the door.

At this moment, the cleaning lady happened to pass by with her cleaning cart. “Are you looking for the guest in Room 2162? She went out early in the morning today and didn’t come back yet. I just cleaned her room.”

A stunned Rachel had a bad premonition about this, Jessica went out? In the meantime, Justin had just emerged from the supermarket carrying bags of groceries after doing the shopping and placed it into the car trunk.

Jolly had completely regarded him as a live-in nanny, listing him with a long grocery list for the supermarket to the point of even writing tampons on the list. In the end, he paced around the shelves awkwardly for a long time while a group of middle-aged saleswomen tried to promote him their products.

When the car trunk came to a close, the corners of his eyes caught sight of a sneaky figure hiding behind a pillar from the reflector in the corner of the garage.

This isn’t the first time, Justin thought with furrowed brows. “Come out!” His cold voice echoed in the garage, sending chills down a person’s spine. “It’s fine even if you don’t want to show yourself. There’s surveillance in the garage. I’ll just call the police directly,” he said, taking out his cell phone.

“Hey, don’t call the police!” A girl’s voice sounded as a small figure trotted out from behind the pillar. Looking like a student with her hair tied up in a bun and carrying a backpack, she nervously glanced at Justin. “Why are you following me?’ His eyes were solemn as he scanned her from top to bottom.

“I’m not following you.” Pursing her lips, the girl appeared as if she had been wronged. “I haven’t eaten for days. Will you lend me a hundred bucks?”

Justin’s eyes swept past her shoes, which cost at least five figures, and opened the car door to ignore her. “Hang on!” She walked briskly to him and stopped him.

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

## Chapter 419



“What do you want, then?” “I told you that I have no money for food. Lend me a hundred bucks, only a hundred. I’ll definitely pay you back, but just give me your contact details.”

Holding the car door tightly and refusing to release it, the girl appeared as though she wouldn’t leave if Justin didn’t give her the money. On the other hand, Justin had seen at least a thousand, if not more, pick-up lines, but it was his first time encountering something like this..

He suddenly released his hand without the girl realizing and while she was still pulling the car door. Staggering backward, she then fell on her bum before she shrieked, “Ah, you!” Placing a hand on the top of the car, he said in an aloof manner, ‘I don’t care what you’re up to, but it’s not going to work with me. Go home quickly.”

After saying that, he pulled the car door close again as he got into the car without even glancing at her one more time. In the car, he sent a message to Rachel. ‘Are you coming home for dinner? There will be fish today!

He quickly received a reply. I’m not sure because I have some things to take care of Okay, take care of it, then!” Putting his phone away, he then started the car and slowly rolled the car out of the basement garage with his hands on the steering wheel.

Moments after he drove out of the garage and made a turn into the street, a figure dashed out. in front of him out of the blue and it caused him to react with lightning speed by immediately slamming the brakes.

The sharp screeching sounds of the brakes echoed through the street and the ground was smoking from the friction with the tires. However, before anything else could be done, the figure who dashed out fell down and he quickly got down to check the situation. Soon, people started to gather at the spot. “What happened?”

“Someone was knocked down by a car.”

“It’s a young girl.” “Quickly call the ambulance!” The moment he got out of the car, Justin saw a person lying in front of his car and it was the young girl who stopped him in the garage. She was now sprawled on the floor motionlessly, as though she was dead.

“Hey... Justin uttered, shaking her shoulder, but there was no response from her. “Get up quickly. I didn’t hit you at all.” When she didn’t move an inch, he said, “I’m leaving if you’re not getting up.”

Still, there was nothing from the girl, and the crowd was starting to build up. It was early winter and the ground was cold. This girl was only wearing a sweater and a skirt, baring her thighs. Even if she didn’t suffer any injuries from the hit, she would freeze if she continued to lay on the floor.

Any regular person would take pity on her, but he wasn't a regular person. Seeing that the girl was still pretending, he decided to get into the car. Without further ado, he started the car and reversed, leaving the ignorant people to point their fingers and criticize him. Criticisms?

He had never been afraid of criticisms. Hearing the sound of the engine dying away in the distance, the girl on the floor scrambled to her feet and gritted her teeth at the back of the car which had driven away. Shakily, she fished out her phone. 'Hello, is this the emergency rescue?'

Meanwhile, Justin drove straight home and picked up the children from school while he was on the way. During this period of time when he was living here, he had picked up the role of the nanny by himself.

"Daddy, what are we eating today?" A fully excited Charlotte hung around at the bar counter and watched as Justin prepared the ingredients.

Ever since Justin moved here, she looked forward to having dinner together as a family the most everyday. It was full of life and even Jolly was with them, making it more lively than living in the villa in the past.

"It's fish!" Poking the water through the transparent bag, Samuel watched the fish in the bag. "And it's still alive!" "Yes, we'll be having fish,' Justin answered.

Immediately, Samuel sulked. 'I don't like fish. There's too many bones and it will get stuck.' A baffled Charlotte gawked with rounded and curious eyes. "Why would fishes have bones?" "All fishes have bones! Jolly let me have fish once. My throat was bleeding because I choked on the bones and even went to the hospital."

"That's scary! But the fish I had didn't have bones!"

"That's impossible!"

"It's true! Ask Daddy if you don't believe me!" Simultaneously, the children turned to look at Justin. Helplessly, he explained in a serious manner, "All fishes have bones, but adults would usually pick them out and they will do the same when they give fish to the children."

Since young, Charlotte had many servants taking care of her and they wouldn't give her fish easily. If they do, they would only give her the part of the fish belly and check repeatedly for bones. Therefore, she had never seen a fish bone.

As for Samuel, careless and unexpected situations happened more than a couple of times when Jolly was taking care of him, and it seemed normal that he had choked while having fish.

If she didn't meet Rachel, could Jolly really have brought up Samuel abroad with the way that she was? While they were talking, Justin's phone suddenly rang. Seeing that it was a call from Rachel, he quickly wiped his hands and picked up the call. "Hello?"

"I can't make it back for dinner tonight." Rachel sounded hurried and breathless after he answered, as though she was running. "What happened? Did something happen?"

"My friend is hospitalized because of an accident and I'm going to check on her now."

"Really? Is it serious?" "I don't know because I haven't seen her yet. Please take care of the children. I'll probably be back very late today."

"No problem." Rachel hung up and stopped a nurse. "Hello, may I ask where Jessica Egerton is? She was just sent here by the ambulance." Jessica Egerton, right? She's inside."

"Thanks." "You're welcome." Then, Rachel hurried into the ward of the emergency unit. The moment she received the call, she had rushed over here immediately.

'Jess." Lying on the hospital bed, Jessica already had the wound on her knee bandaged and her face fell when she saw Rachel. "Why are you here?"

"The hotel called me," she said, holding Jessica's asthma medication in her hand. Half an hour ago, she received a call from the hotel saying that Jessica had called them to deliver her asthma medication to the hospital because she would be hospitalized for a few days.

Jessica would always bring the medication with her since she was born with asthma and Hans had also mentioned this to Rachel before, but Rachel's bigger worry was, how did Jessica end up hospitalized?

"What happened? Why are you hurt so badly?"

"It's nothing. I was knocked down." "You were knocked down? Who did it? Where's that person?" "It's none of your business!" Just the sight of Rachel's face was frustrating to her. "You've brought me the medication, and I thank you for that. Can you please stop pestering me day and night?"

"Jess, you're alone in Riverdale and have no idea how worried your father is. I'll send your bag home after you recover."

"What does it have to do with you whether I return or not? Is this up to you?" Jessica snapped, trying to get out of bed. "Ah!" she yelped in surprise, and the nurse next to her quickly rushed forward to hold her.

“Don’t move around.” “Fine, stay still.” Rachel’s heart dropped as well. “Just lie down and I’ll leave.” Then, she followed the nurse out to check on Jessica’s situation. “How is she doing, miss?”

“Fracture in her calf bone. She needs to rest for a period of time.” So serious? Rachel thought and took a look around. “Miss, are there any more rooms in the wards?”

“It’s all occupied.”

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

## Chapter 420

“What about the VIP wards?”

“They’re reserved as well.” A frowning Rachel gave Julian a call. “Hi Julian, are you busy now?” “I’m still in a meeting. What’s wrong?” “My friend was in an accident and needs to be hospitalized, but the Tran-Q said that they have no more wards left. As a girl, it’s not so convenient for her to be in the emergency ward...”

“I see, that’s okay. I’ll call them to ask about it. Even though I have already resigned, the senior employees there would still show me some respect.”

“Sorry to trouble you then.” After slightly more than ten minutes after the conversation ended, a nurse came over and told her that they had arranged for a ward. Jessica clearly looked better after she changed words.

Rachel knew that Jessica had never been. through any hardships in her life. It was already. difficult for her to come to Riverdale alone, not to mention staying by herself in a place as busy and noisy as the emergency ward.

“You’re quite capable of being able to get a ward with just one call. I heard that it’s difficult to get a ward in the public hospitals here.” Rachel poured her a glass of water and placed it next to the bed. “It’s not as difficult as you think.”

“Things are so different now that you’ve transformed into a company president, huh?” Jessica sneered. “You must have forgotten it yourself how everyone has snubbed you in the past. If Hans knew you’re doing so well now, he would surely die in peace.”

At the mention of Hans, Rachel’s hands trembled. “I’m the one who let him down.” “What’s the point of saying that now? He’s already dead.”

Unwilling to speak more about Hans with her, Rachel suppressed her emotions. "Are you hungry? I'll buy you some food. Right after she said this, a knock came from the door.

"Come in." At first, Rachel thought it was the hospital staff coming in, but it was Justin instead. "Hi, Rae." Pushing the door open, he stood at the door and peered in.

"Why are you here?" "Didn't you say that your friend was in an accident? I came over to see if there's anything I can help with. By the way, I bought some food. Your friend-" He stopped himself mid-sentence when his gaze fell on the bed. "Why is it you?" he exclaimed with knitted brows.

Jessica gritted her teeth as well at the sight of Justin. "I wanted to ask you the same thing. Why is it you?" A puzzled Rachel asked, "Do you know each other?"

Pointing a finger at Justin, Jessica cried wolf first. "He's the one who knocked into me and didn't even send me to the hospital. It was a hit and run!" Rachel's expression changed and she stopped Justin. "What happened?"

Not knowing Jessica's real identity, Justin still thought that she was just someone faking an accident for benefit. "I can let it slide that you tried to fake an accident with me, but you found another one after that? Let's go, Rachel. She's a conman," he said, pulling her and trying to get her to leave.

Jerking her hand away, Rachel said with a frown, "What nonsense are you speaking about? What conman? Do you know who she is? She is Hans' younger sister."

When the name 'Hans' reached his ears, he froze for a moment and turned to the bed in stunned silence. In fact, Justin didn't have a deep impression of Hans. So many years had passed, and that man's face was already turning blurry, but he knew better than anyone how important Hans was to Rachel. "Is she Hans' sister?"

"Yeah," Rachel answered with a nod. 'Leave first. Thanks for the food.' "Wait a minute. Leave?" Jessica stopped them. "He knocked me down in a hit and run, and you're letting him go before I have even settled the score with him? Are you trying to cover up for him? I'm calling the police now."

"Jess!" Rachel quickly stopped her. 'Don't call the police.' "It's fine if you don't want me to call the police, but give me your contact details. Should anything happen to me, I'm looking for you for compensation."

Stretching out her hand with her palm upward at Justin, Jessica appeared very confident. On the other hand, Justin furrowed his brows as he judged the girl in front of him. His instincts told him that this girl's thoughts were not that simple.

The fact that she suddenly appeared in the garage, purposely let him hit her and even met him in the hospital now; all these seemingly coincidental but impossible coincidences were all very suspicious.

“What exactly do you want?” he asked Jessica, stepping in front of Rachel. While Rachel looked concerned, Jessica’s expression remained unchanged. “What do you mean by that? You’re the one who knocked into me!”

“I didn’t hit you at all.” “If you didn’t hit me, could I be the one who hit you?” Jessica asked as she pulled her sheets away to reveal her calf which was bandaged and fixed in position. “Could I have broken my own leg?”

Before Justin could say anything, Rachel interjected, “Why didn’t you call the ambulance. after knocking down someone? Instead, you drove away? What would you do if something bad had happened?”

“I...” All of a sudden, he couldn’t explain himself. He knew that Rachel would be in a fluster from concern and everything he said now would sound like an excuse. Hence, he decided not to explain anything. “I’m sorry. I didn’t see it carefully.”

“Forget it. Go home first. I’ll be staying here for the night.” Justin glanced at Jessica and narrowed his. eyes. “Okay, I’ll bring you breakfast tomorrow morning.”

“N-” Before she could even say ‘no’, Jessica suddenly changed her statement. “Sure, I want an English breakfast from that place on Langdon Street. I heard that it’s especially delicious.” Rachel knitted her brows. “I’ll get you what you want to eat.”

“No, I want him to buy it because he’s the one who knocked me.” “Do you know who he is?” This was the second time Rachel asked a question like this today. By right, Jessica shouldn’t have met Justin before because he rarely showed his face and any information on the Internet about him didn’t have any pictures of him.

From Jessica’s understanding, Justin was the suspect who killed her brother, and if she knew that he was the one who knocked into her, she wouldn’t have asked him to buy her breakfast. “Even if he’s the Prince of Wales, he still has to buy me breakfast. He’s obliged to since he’s the one who hit me.”

“He’s Justin Burton,” Rachel said. Sooner or later, Jessica would know about this. Rather than being worried that something would happen when she was in the dark, Rachel decided to clear up the air in front of Jessica’s eyes. Sure enough, Jessica looked shocked when she heard that. “What? You’re Justin Burton?”

The news sank in and she wanted to get out of bed agitatedly, but cried out in pain instead. With quick reflexes, Rachel held her. “Easy does it. I told you that it was a misunderstanding and he’s not related to your brother’s death.”

“How is he unrelated? He’s the one who broke Hans’ leg and now, he’s trying to break mine with a car! What feud does our family have with you?”

The girl’s reproach fell on Justin’s ears, and his hands balled up slightly. No matter what the reason was for Jessica to try to approach him, or the purpose she planned this play today, he really owed the Egerton Family.

Regardless, he was the one who broke Hans’ leg, and that indirectly caused him to be murdered after that. This point was undeniable. “I’m sorry. It’s true that I’m partly responsible for your brother’s death,” he admitted, his emotionless voice echoing in the room.

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

## Chapter 421

An astonished Rachel turned to Justin in surprise as she never thought that he would take the initiative to apologize for what happened back then. “I know I cannot make up for this. If there’s anything you need, I’ll do my best to get it done.”

“Really? Jessica cast him a stony look. “You’ll do anything I ask you to?”

“Yes.” “What if I ask you to pay with your life for my brother’s?” “Jess!” Rachel added in shock, “I told you that he didn’t cause Hans’ death, and the one who did it has received lawful judgment. Your brother’s death has been avenged.”

“Why are you getting so worked up? Aren’t you two already divorced? Didn’t you tell Hans that your marriage to him was unfortunate? Didn’t Hans die because he wanted to save you from hell?”

Like a knife, Jessica’s words stabbed through Rachel’s heart and Justin watched the scene with a wrenching heart, but was helpless against it. “I’m sorry, Jess.”

“You don’t have to apologize to me? Taking a deep breath, Jessica continued, “The dead can’t be brought back to life and I can stop pursuing. my brother’s death.”

Rachel’s eyes lit up. “Really?” “Yes, but didn’t you say that you’ll make up for it?” Fixing her eyes on Justin, Jessica stated, “From tomorrow onward, I want you to bring me food for every meal and not one less. You’ll have to buy anything that I want to eat.”

Rachel was stunned; she wasn’t sure if this was a good way to make up for things. Nonetheless, Justin was the one who broke Hans’ leg and he was the enemy in



Jessica's eyes. Was there really someone who would let their enemy in and out of their sight every day? Or, was she using this opportunity to take revenge on Justin?

"Jess, I'll buy you anything you want to eat." "What? If he can't even do something as simple as this, how could he say so loudly that he wants to make amendments?"

Even though she tried to incite Justin and this method was actually not working on him, he had other ideas in his mind. 'Okay, no problem. You want English breakfast tomorrow, right? I'll bring it here.' When Rachel wanted to stop him, he said instead, "I'm leaving now, then. See you tomorrow morning."

Jessica responded with a stiff smile plastered on her face, "See you." After Justin left the room, the more Rachel thought about it, the more concerned she became and she went after him. "Wait a minute, Justin."

In the corridor, she caught up with him. "I think you shouldn't come tomorrow morning. Jess is prejudiced against you, and it doesn't matter whether she really believes that you have nothing to do with Hans' death, there are some conflicts between the both of you. So, it's impossible for her to completely let go of her grudges. As you know, she's still a child and not an adult yet. She still carries the stubbornness of a girl with her and it's normal for her to do something in a fit of anger. You- "Are you worried that she'll make things difficult for me?"

One question from Justin and it was enough to render Rachel speechless. She was worried, and at the same time, she was afraid that the conflict would escalate. All she wanted was for Jessica to finish her recovery at the hospital peacefully. After that, she would think of a way to persuade Jessica to return to her country.

"I'm fine," Justin answered. "What kind of person I am if I can't even handle such a small thing? Don't worry; no matter what, I was at fault for what happened back then." Rachel's brows crinkled together as he went on to say, "I'm going first. You should rest early as well."

"Okay."

As she watched his back, all kinds of emotions swam around her heart. In the ward when it was close to midnight, she slept on the couch outside while the door to the bedroom was half-closed. She had left it open deliberately in case anything happened and she could hear Jessica if she called her.

In the middle of the night, Jessica tossed and turned in bed as she was unable to fall asleep. Hence, she felt for her phone from under the pillow and sent a text. 'He doesn't seem as aloof as I thought.'

After a while, Rachel's own phone lit up. 'The murderer wouldn't write that on their foreheads. Think of your brother and how pathetic his death was.'

Reading this, Jessica's expression changed and she clutched the phone tightly. The next day, Justin went to Langdon Street early in the morning to line up for the English breakfast, and he only managed to get it after staying in the line for an hour.

When he arrived at the ward with the breakfast,. Rachel had just washed up, and from the dark circles under her eyes, it was clear that she didn't sleep very well.

"You didn't sleep well?" Placing Jessica's breakfast on the table, he asked, "Or, are you feeling unwell?" Stretching her neck in different directions, Rachel waved her hand. "It's fine. I just have a stiff neck."

Glancing at the couch, Justin saw the pillow and blanket which wasn't kept away before he frowned. "Why weren't you sleeping in the room and having to take the couch?"

"I can be closer to Jess if I take the couch. I'm worried I can't hear it if there's something happening. "Just let the nurse do it."

"I'm worried; this child has a mind of her own." Her biggest concern was Jessica leaving the hospital without a word and she didn't know where Jessica would go at that time. Seeing how tired Rachel was, Justin was apologetic. "Have some breakfast first."

"It's alright. Pass it to Jessica first."

"Just eat yours." He held her by the wrist and said, "I'll pass hers to her." The warmth from his hand was higher than her own body temperature and she paused before drawing back her hand after a few seconds. Avoiding his gaze, she muttered, "Okay."

With the breakfast in his hand, he went into the bedroom. As the door was left open, it swung open by itself when he knocked twice. Jessica had just finished washing up and the caretaker was just helping her to take a seat on the bed.

"You're here?" Seeing Justin, Jessica greeted him casually. "Where's the breakfast I ordered?" Justin placed it directly on the table without saying a word.

"Do you think I can reach it when you place it that far?" Patting the bedside table, she gestured for him to bring it there. Her actions didn't make him mad, and he went over with the breakfast patiently before placing it on the bedside table..

After asking the caretaker to leave, there was only the both of them left in the room. In front of him, she opened up the box and started eating the breakfast. "It's true that the English breakfast from this place is amazing. It's my first time trying it after so long in Riverdale. Oh, there's also scrambled eggs? Let me give it a try. My brother used to always say that the scrambled eggs here are the best."

‘Jessica Egerton, you won’t simply let bygones be bygones by asking me to buy you a few meals, will you?’ Justin’s voice spoke suddenly and Jessica paused mid-air with the fork in the eggs.

Lifting her head, she met his handsome face. The man’s eyes were cold and sharp with such an icy look that it was as if he could see through all thoughts and render one defenseless. As she smirked, she giggled, but it sounded a little creepy. “What do you think?”

His temples twitched as he said, “Your brother’s death has nothing to do with Rachel at all. I understand that you have grudges, but come at me and don’t torture Rachel.”

“How touching is this? It’s completely different from what Hans said, that you don’t care about her.” Holding the scrambled eggs in a container, she pierced the fork into it slowly and sneered. “After losing his life, he ended up pairing up the both of you? Even if he was willing, I feel unjustified for him!” “What are you trying to do, really?”

“What do you think?” While he watched, she suddenly turned the eggs upside down.

Splat! The sheets were in a mess that came steaming from the heat of the food, and she screamed, “Ah!”

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

## Chapter 422

Upon hearing Jessica’s screams, Rachel ran in quickly, “What’s the matter?” As soon as she saw the mess on the bed, her expression suddenly changed and she immediately lifted the part of the sheet covered with steaming scrambled eggs and moved it aside. “Were you burned?”

Jessica nodded, her eyes red-rimmed as she complained, “He must’ve done it on purpose!” The veins on Justin’s temples jumped. He wanted to say something, but Rachel was completely unconcerned about him.

The hospital’s blanket wasn’t thick, so the liquid from the dish immediately penetrated through the thin layer. At this moment, Jessica’s hospital gown was wrapped around her leg like a hot towel.

Rachel dared not touch it, so she hurriedly pressed the bedside bell and called for the nurse to deal with it. Justin wanted to explain, ‘Rae.’ “You should leave first.”

She didn't even look at him, and her tone was cold. He clenched his fists, then shot Jessica a cold glance before leaving the ward. "Fortunately, there is a sheet in between, so there's only a slight burn. There aren't any injuries."

"Thank you, doctor." "Don't mention it, but you'll have to take the patient's fractured calf seriously. You have to always be careful. Otherwise, how can it possibly recover well?"

"We'll be more careful." After seeing the doctor off, Rachel's suspended heart finally felt at ease. She asked Jessica, "Does it still hurt?" Jessica's eyes were still red, but she was stubborn. "Of course it hurts. You can give it a try and see whether it hurts."

"You said earlier that Justin deliberately spilled the scrambled eggs. What do you mean?" At this moment, Justin was outside and he could clearly hear what they were saying.

Jessica deliberately looked understanding and generous. "I said that out of anger earlier. I don't think he did it on purpose. I wasn't careful. I didn't hold it properly."

Rachel frowned. "In the future, you'll eat breakfast at the table." "He asked me what my purpose was for coming to Riverdale, though. He looked very fierce and asked me not to make things difficult for you."

"He really said that?" "Why would I lie to you about this? Am I making things difficult for you? He was so fierce that it was as if he was going to eat me."

Her face sank slightly, then she set everything down before going out. Justin had been staying in the living room outside, listening to what Rachel was saying. Seeing Rachel coming out, he immediately explained, "Rachel, she deliberately knocked over the scrambled eggs."

He didn't believe that Rachel wouldn't be able to discern such a simple trick, but he was still afraid that she would be concerned to the point of confusion that it would cause an unnecessary misunderstanding between them.

She replied, "I know." He was taken aback, and before he could breathe a sigh of relief, he heard Rachel saying. "What did you say to her, though?" "What do you mean by that?"

"You told her not to make things difficult for me? Does it look like she's making things difficult for me?" Rachel clenched her fists, her expression sullen. "Jess came to Riverdale from abroad all alone. She's not familiar with this place, and after so long, she never approached me. I was the one who found her. Do you think she's making things difficult for me? Can you stop being so self-righteous?"

A stunned Justin stared at Rachel. "I was worried about you." "I don't need your worry. You're just being self-righteous. Jess is only seventeen years old. What can she do to

me? Even if she really has a grudge against both of us, it's only natural for her to feel that way!"

"It makes sense for her to hate me. After all, I did hurt her brother, but what did you do wrong?" "My biggest mistake was to involve Hans between us. My biggest mistake was marrying you back then!"

Justin's face paled and he couldn't say a word. On the hospital bed in the bedroom, Jessica quietly listened to the quarrel between the two people outside, and a cold gleam flashed across her eyes. After he left, it took a while before Rachel went into the room. "Jess, have some breakfast."

She adjusted the bedside table and placed the breakfast Justin brought on the table while using silence to conceal her bad mood. No one liked being in an argument, but there were some things she had to make clear to Justin.

In fact, she didn't want him to have any contact with Jessica at all due to her selfishness. Jessica studied her. "Actually, he didn't do it on purpose, but you didn't have to quarrel with him. because of me." Rachel didn't answer, but changed the topic instead. "What do you want to eat for lunch? I'll ask someone to send it over to you."

"It's fine. I'll just ask the nurse to grab something from the cafeteria. You don't have to worry about me in the afternoon." Rachel nodded. "Okay, I have a meeting at noon. I might be a bit busy lately, but if you need anything, call me anytime. I'll come to see you as soon as I have time." "Got it. Don't be so long-winded, okay?"

She couldn't help but stroke Jessica's head.

For a moment, Jessica was taken aback, but she didn't avoid Rachel's touch..

As soon as Rachel left, Jessica placed the fritters in her hand down and sent a text message. "I want to have pineapple rice and Langdon Lane's roasted duck for lunch!"

During noon at Hudson Pharmaceuticals, the secretary ordered a meal for everyone during the break in the middle of the meeting. Rachel brought her cup to the pantry to pour herself some tea. Jolly followed behind her. "Aren't you going to eat?"

"I'm not hungry."

"You seem lethargic all morning. What's the matter?" "It's nothing. I didn't sleep well last night, so I have a stiff neck." "Speaking of this, I was about to ask you something. Where did you sleep last night?"

Rachel paused slightly as she rubbed her neck. She hadn't told Jolly about Jessica's visit to Riverdale. "The hospital," she said while lowering her head as she figured she couldn't hide it anymore.

After all, Jessica was injured and would be staying in Riverdale for a period of time. “What were you doing at the hospital? Are you unwell?” “It’s not me. It’s Jessica.”

“Who’s Jessica?”

“Hans’ sister.” When she saw Jolly’s surprised gaze, Rachel told her everything. “Really? That girl came all the way to Riverdale to seek revenge? What century is this? What’s she playing at? Does she think she’s the main character in John Wick?”

“She’s young and ambitious, and she has always had a good relationship with her brother. After Hans passed away, she couldn’t accept the blow.”

“Then, what’s happening now? She believes that her brother wasn’t killed by Justin, right?” Jolly knew that Hans was killed because he caught Jefferey’s group smuggling goods, so she knew that she couldn’t tell Jessica about it because the matter was too extensive. Most importantly, the person who killed Hans was Jefferey-Rachel’s legal father.

Rachel nodded slightly. “I guess she believes it, but I can see that this girl still harbors resentment toward Justin.” “It’s normal to feel resentment. I used to resent him too.”

“Forget it. Let’s not talk about this anymore. The two of them won’t have much interaction, anyway. I’ll send her back home when she’s healed.”

While they were talking, Rachel’s cell phone suddenly rang. It was her secretary calling. “Hello?” Rachel’s expression hardened. “Are you sure you got a clear look?”

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

## Chapter 423

Something was said on the other end of the line that caused Rachel’s expression to turn weirder. After Rachel disconnected the line, Jolly asked, “What’s the matter?”

Rachel had a complicated look on her face. “I asked my secretary to bring Jess something to eat at the hospital. The secretary said that she saw Justin eating with Jess.”

“Aren’t the two of them as incompatible as fire and water?”

"I find it strange too." She was extremely puzzled. These two people were still fighting in the morning because of a bowl of scrambled eggs, and they couldn't get along at all. Why were they so harmonious now?

At this moment, inside the hospital ward, Jessica was taking a huge bite out of the pork ribs Justin bought. 'Not bad. It tastes quite delicious. Have you had lunch yet? Do you want some?'

"It's fine. You can finish it all." Justin sat on the sofa opposite the bed with his arms crossed over his chest. He was far away from Jessica and watching her vigilantly.

She shook her head and looked calm. "If you're still upset with me for what happened in the morning, I can apologize, but you're the one who provoked me first. Who asked you to warn me? I don't like it when people tell me what to do."

"Do you think you're intelligent? If you were really burned, you're the one who's going to suffer. What damage does it do to me?"

"Are you sure there's no damage? Do you think Rachel would still bother you if I was really injured?" Justin remained as motionless as a mountain. "Don't use your naive mindset to assess us."

"Pfft." Contempt appeared on Jessica's face as she pushed the bowl aside. "I'm done. I want to have corn and pork ribs stew in the evening." He didn't say anything as he cleaned up the table and left. to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Hey, where are you going?" "Going back to prepare the corn and pork ribs stew that you wanted." "It's still early. It's only 12.00PM." Jessica) glanced at her phone. "Play games with me."

Justin frowned. "If you don't play games with me, I'll call Rachel and ask her to spend time with me." She waved the game controller in her hand triumphantly at him. "What's your decision? Choose either option."

At night, after Jessica finished her meal, she picked up the game controller again. "Let's play some games. You beat me several times in the afternoon. I'm not satisfied. I want to get my victories back."

He glanced at the time. "It's getting late. I'm going back."

"It's only 8.00PM. How's that considered late? "I want to go back to spend time with my daughter." "What a good father." Jessica picked up the phone. "Then, I can only ask Rachel to come and accompany me."



Justin shot her a glance. "Rae's on a business trip and won't be back until a few days later." "Then, shall we try? I'll call her and see whether she'll come back." When she spoke, there was a slightly cold gleam in Jessica's eyes and she was obviously threatening him.

Justin had lived for so many years. Besides the time Samuel was kidnapped and he was threatened to kneel down, he had never been intimidated before. In just one day, Jessica had him in the palm of her hand and was throwing her weight around.

When Hudson Pharmaceuticals arrived in Rachel's hands, it was riddled with holes and she had to start everything all over again, which was difficult for her.

However, if Jessica made a phone call, Rachel would definitely let go of everything and rush over in order to make up for the favor she owed Hans, even if it would affect Hudson Pharmaceuticals' future.

Jessica took advantage of Rachel's kindness and the need to return what she owed and she took advantage of Justin's concern for Rachel as well.

Any discerning person would know what she was playing at, but he still jumped in without hesitation. "Okay, I'll play games with you. We can play as long as you want."

After saying that, Justin picked up the game controller and sat down on the couch. Fortunately, before he came, he had entrusted Gloria to take care of the two children.

Meanwhile, after Victor coaxed Charlotte to sleep, he quietly came out of the room and looked into another room before he smiled when he saw that Samuel was asleep.

Out of these two children, Charlotte was a little more finicky, as she had to listen to a bedtime story before going to sleep. On the other hand, Samuel was so self-disciplined that he didn't seem like a child of his age. When it was time, he would head to bed on his own without needing anyone to tell him to..

As soon as the door was closed, there was the sound of another door opening. Victor raised his head and looked at the door. After several seconds of silence, Gloria asked, "Why are you here?"

He came back to his senses. "Miss Rachel called me and said that there may be no one at home to take care of the two children these two days, so I came to help. Then, you're..."

"Same as you, but it was Justin who called me." After changing her shoes, she entered the house and went into the kitchen to pour herself a glass of water. "Where are Charlotte and Samuel?"

"Already asleep."

“So early?” Gloria glanced at the time. “It’s not 9.00PM yet.” “It was Sports’ Day at school today, so they played for a long time and were probably tired.” “If you’re taking care of them, who helped Charlotte to shower?” She stared at Victor.

“You?” But Charlotte’s a girl. He immediately waved his hands. “Of course not. I asked the female teacher at the school to help her take a shower before I brought them back.”

“Female teacher? Which female teacher? Miss Lily?” Miss Lily was the home room teacher of the class next to Victor and she was quite close with him. Every now and then, she would even give him desserts she made. Gloria saw it a few times and had been angry with Victor about it.

Victor nodded truthfully. Gloria was so furious that her face was flushed before she heavily set down the cup before saying enigmatically, “How amazing. It’s only been a while since you broke up with your girlfriend, yet you’ve already found someone new.”

“No! You’ve misunderstood.”

“What did I misunderstand? I don’t think there’s any misunderstanding. All right. I don’t want to talk about this anymore!” Seeing as Gloria was sullen and enraged, Victor stopped explaining.

Amidst the silence, she glared at him. “Do you know how many bacteria are collected on the way back? What’s the use of taking a shower at school? Won’t she be dirty when she comes back?”

He looked confused. “I can’t help Charlotte take a shower.” “I’ll do it. Justin handed the task of taking care of her to me anyway. Why did you snatch my job away?”

“Haven’t you been busy lately? You don’t live nearby either. Won’t it be troublesome to go back and forth?” Gloria said in a huff, “From today onward, until Miss Rachel and the others come back, I’ll stay here too!”

The fact that the word ‘too’ was used was intriguing. As soon as she entered the door, she saw Victor’s luggage. Rachel had asked him to help take care of the children, so naturally, she asked him to just stay here. He was their teacher too, so it would be convenient for him to commute to and from work.

Victor was stunned for a long while as he resembled a wooden figurine. Gloria shot him a glare. “Do you have an opinion about that?” He recovered and repeatedly waved his hands.

“No!” But... Did this count as cohabitation before marriage although it was only temporary? When he looked at the angry expression on her face, his face suddenly turned red.

In the hospital ward, the sound of the game console continued late into the night. Jessica yawned a few times, but saw that Justin was still expressionless, as if he didn't know what it meant to be tired.

"Sleepy?" He didn't even look at her as he moved the joystick on the game controller, causing the characters on the TV to immediately jump and rush forward with a flying kick. She forcibly denied, "No. I'm in good spirits. Let's carry on!"

"Okay. Carry on."

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

## Chapter 424

Rachel was away on business for several days. A nurse in the hospital sent a photo-Justin had brought her three meals a day to the hospital. He also played games with Jessica, and even pushed her downstairs for a stroll.

"They seem to be getting along pretty well, and they don't seem to be in a feud as what the others said before." Jolly saw Rachel's cell phone and came over to comment, "She's a little girl, anyway. How can she harbor so much hatred?"

"I'm sure there was conflict between them. According to the nurse, Jess picks on Justin every day, as if she's trying to be intimidating. Yet, he doesn't mind it at all." "Even if he couldn't deal with it, he has to. Who told you to treat her like your own sister?"

Rachel didn't say anything. She thought that Justin couldn't endure it for any longer, that the peace between the two was only superficial harmony. After all, the matter of human life was stuck between them, so how could it be possible for them to live in harmony?

However, a week later, she and Jolly came back from a business trip and they experienced it for real when they went to the hospital.

"Left, left, left!"

They were speechless. "Man, I already said that it's on the left side. If you don't defend well on the left, how can you defeat it?" "The left side is not the defense. It's the main offense, and it's you who should be defending."

“Obviously it’s you, okay?” They were at a loss for words. “Forget it. Let’s go for another round.” At the door of the ward, Rachel and Jolly looked at each other.

Jolly shrugged. “What did I say? Don’t worry, Justin is an adult and he knows how to deal with it.” In the ward, Justin raised his head when he heard the chatter at the door on the second floor.

As soon as he saw Rachel, his eyes brightened and he immediately placed the remote control aside and stood up. “Rachel, when did you come back? Didn’t you say you’d only be back next week?”

Rachel said, “I’m done with my work, so I came back earlier and gave the rest of the paperwork to the secretary. We both came directly from the airport.” “Why didn’t you tell me earlier? I would have picked you up at the airport.”

“Hey, hey, hey,” Jolly interjected between the two of them, folding her arms angrily. “Is she the only one here? Don’t you see a living person standing here who just came back from a business trip as well?”

Justin smiled. “Yes, but judging from the fact that the great Miss Jolly was traveling, I don’t think it shouldn’t be my turn to be concerned, right?” “Although that’s true, you still have to take care of me.”

“Fine, I’ve been taught a lesson.” It had become a habit for the two to meet and quarrel, but the atmosphere was obviously much better than before. After he rescued Leroy, Jolly’s attitude toward him took a 180-degree turn and they acted more familiar with each other.

Rachel didn’t have time to listen to them. She went straight into the ward and asked, “Jess, how are you doing recently?” Jessica stretched and leaned against the head of the bed with her hands on the back of her head and glanced at her plastered leg. “The doctor initially said that I would be discharged from the hospital this week, but Mr. Justin insisted on me staying until my plaster cast has been removed.”

Mr. Justin? Rachel and Jolly glanced at Justin at the same time. Jolly laughed and unceremoniously asked, “When did you join the generation of uncles? That sounds like you’re a generation away from us.”

Justin didn’t think there was anything wrong at first, but Rachel replied casually, “Jess is only seventeen years old, and the two are indeed quite different in age. It’s not an exaggeration to refer to him as an uncle.”

For a moment, his expression became stiff and he coughed, but he didn’t know what to say. Was he very old? “Since you can leave the hospital, let’s go out to eat at noon,” Jolly suggested. “Just tell the doctor first.”

Rachel said, "Sure we can! Jess, do you want to go out to eat?" Jessica held the gamepad and looked like an esports girl who was addicted to the game. She responded absently, 'No, I'll just stay here and not go anywhere.'

Who was Jolly, though?

When her decision was made, there was no one that could possibly reject her, so she immediately said, "There's a newly opened Korean restaurant nearby. The barbecue is fragrant, and if you get take-out instead, the taste of it will change. It must be grilled and eaten with perilla leaves, and Korean hot sauce..."

Jessica immediately put down the remotel control handle. "Let's go."

Jolly gave Rachel a smug look. Rachel was helpless. 'Then, I'll call Victor and Gloria too to bring the two children over. Recently, Victor has been helping me take care of the children at home.'

Jessica was busy getting out of bed and her leg was in a plaster cast, which was inconvenient. Justin seemed to be used to this, and he consciously stepped forward to help her to the wheelchair.

"Let's go!" Rachel looked around the ward and saw the snacks and drinks scattered all over the room, as well as the game controller on the table. At that time, she was truly relieved. Maybe as Jolly said, Jessica was a child after all and wouldn't hold grudges.

In the barbecue restaurant, Jolly had already reserved a large room. "Why do you want a private room?" Jessica leaned against her wheelchair. 'Aren't the big booths outside enough for the few of us? Korean barbecue is authentic only if we eat outside.' Jolly retorted, "How are you still complaining even when I've invited you to dinner? Don't mind me, I just like the box because it's quiet."

Jessica rolled her eyes. A helpless Rachel on the side explained, "Her boyfriend is a celebrity. It's inconvenient to eat out. He'll be here later, and you might know him." "I know him. Isn't he Leroy Bennett?"

"You know him?" Jessica looked as if this was to be expected as a matter of course. "There was huge news about him, wasn't there? He even revealed his girlfriend, held a press conference, etc., and lost hundreds of thousands of fans, so he's quite a man."

"That's right. Otherwise, could he still be my boyfriend? When Jolly mentioned Leroy, she was full of praise. She never chased after stars before, but now, she had become a die-hard fan of Leroy.

Rachel couldn't listen to any of Leroy's songs, and she didn't know how Jolly could be so dedicated that she could sing every song of his. "Would you like me to take a photo and have it autographed by my boyfriend?"

“This is the first time I’ve heard someone make such a cheeky request.” Jessica gave Jolly a disgusted look. “I finally know why Leroy’s fans hate you so much.”

Rachel asked, ‘Aren’t you a fan of Leroy?’

“How could I?” Jessica stared at her. “How could I betray my idol and become his fan?”

“Your idol?” Jolly suddenly became alert. Her eyes narrowed into two slits as she stared at Jessica vigilantly and looked at her for a long time. “Don’t tell me that you’re a fan of Christian Ziegler?”

Jessica was triumphant. “Christian is much. more handsome than Leroy.” “What? Someone like Christian can be considered handsome? I’m afraid you haven’t seen a handsome person before, have you?”

“Hey, don’t be so mean. Leroy is your boyfriend and you think he is handsome, but he’s nothing without a pretty face.” “What did you say?”

When she saw that the two were going to fight over idols, Rachel quickly held Jolly down. Gloria and Victor arrived just in time and the door opened from the outside. Unexpectedly, they arrived along with Leroy.

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

## Chapter 425

As soon as the door to the room opened, two little kids pounced into Rachel’s arms.

“Mommy!” Samuel and Charlotte had not seen Rachel for a week, so they both rushed up to her. “Mommy, I miss you!” Charlotte was the most clingy, grabbing Rachel’s arm and asking to hug. her.

Rachel kissed each of them on the face and winked at the side. “Did you two forget something? Someone is going to be jealous.” Samuel pretended not to understand while Charlotte hugged Jolly next to her with a smile. “Godmother, we miss you too.”

Jolly folded her arms and looked incredulous. “What are you missing me for? It’s enough for you to miss your mommy.” Charlotte immediately turned and pulled Samuel over. “Samuel said he missed you yesterday, right?”

Samuel was more like an adult in front of Jolly and had always been very cold to her. “I didn’t say that.” “You little ingrate.” At this time, Leroy came over and took Jolly’s hand. “It’s okay, I miss you.”

Everyone grimaced. Gloria covered her mouth with an exaggerated look. “I think we should leave the room to the two of you, and we’ll all go out.”

“Screw you!” Jolly glared at Gloria. “No good words are expected from a scoundrel. Why are you two reconciled again?” Gloria immediately retorted, “What? Reconcile? When were we on bad terms? We’ve always been fine.”

“Come on. Don’t you get angry frequently? Weren’t you the one who came back from Triburg Valley and said unequivocally that you would part ways this time?”

“No!” “You just don’t want to admit it!” Rachel was speechless as Jolly could really quarrel with anyone. She stopped quarreling with Jessica with great difficulty, but she had to start quarreling with Gloria again. Still, Leroy became a peacemaker and pulled Jolly away. “I thought you wouldn’t be able to make it since you have work to do.”

“I just finished filming the commercial, and it’s not far from here. So, Victor and the others picked me up.” “Let me introduce you, this is Jessica Egerton.” Rachel took the initiative to introduce Jessica. Jessica rarely cooperated and politely greeted everyone, “Hello everyone.”

Gloria answered, ‘I’m Gloria, this is my boyfriend Victor. By the way, Victor is a teacher at Samuel and Charlotte’s school.’ Jessica also greeted them one by one. “This one needs no introduction. This is our big star, Leroy.”

Leroy smiled at her. “Hello, little beauty.” Then, Jessica blushed suddenly before she lowered her head to drink some water and didn’t say a word. Jolly didn’t see this at first and asked, “What are you doing when someone has just greeted you?”

Jessica still didn’t look up, and she drank her water even more fiercely. “Hey!” Jolly suddenly saw something and teased, “Why do I suddenly see someone blushing?”

“Who’s blushing?!” Jessica immediately covered her face and raised her head with an angry look. An excited Jolly claimed, “Aw, your face and even your neck are red and you’re still holding on. Didn’t you say that you’re not a fan of Leroy?”

And that you’re a fan of Christian? What? Got caught in his handsomeness?” “You-” Jessica gritted her teeth and almost bit her lower lip to the point of bleeding, looking ashamed and angry at the same time. Rachel had never seen Jessica like this. This girl usually looked like a fearless tiger, so how could such a girl be so shy? It was unbelievable.



“Okay, Jolly, don’t cause trouble,” Leroy interrupted Jolly’s words gently. When he noticed that there was no water in Jessica’s cup, he took the initiative to take a kettle to pour water for her.

“Thanks.” It took Jessica a long time to say this sentence. Her voice was small and the way she lowered her head to avoid his gaze showed that she was obviously embarrassed.

“You’re welcome. Jolly is only playing with you. She is a child, so don’t mind her.”

“Okay.” This obedient and well-behaved appearance really surprised both Rachel and Jolly. Sure enough, being attractive was a source of justice these days.

If Rachel had known that Jessica could be handled by Leroy, then she would have entrusted Jessica with him. Seeing how Jessica had been this obedient to him, she might have returned to her country long ago, then what happened before wouldn’t have happened anymore. to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Jolly poured some beer and said, ‘Julian hasn’t come back yet; otherwise, it will be even more lively if we called him over.’” Gloria asked, “Hasn’t he been on a business trip for a while now?”

“Maybe things are more complicated than expected. I called him this morning, and he said he’s not coming back yet.” “Yeah, we haven’t seen him in a long time.”

Rachel glanced at Justin subconsciously and when she saw that his face had the usual expression, she felt relieved. Julian became the president of the Burton Group, which was something completely unexpected, and no one would feel good about this huge sense of disparity.

When she thought about how Justin’s life had been turned upside down during this period of time and how she had never seen Justin feeling sorry for himself, it showed that this man had a strong heart. In between the meal, Jessica glanced at her phone and suddenly said, “I’m going to the bathroom.”

“I’ll accompany you.” Rachel immediately put down her utensil..

“No, that’s fine. I can go by myself.” “Can you? Your legs?” “I can do it.” Jessica’s temper was a little weird, so Rachel didn’t say much about what she insisted on.

When Jessica went out, Rachel also pulled over a waiter and informed the person, “The child’s legs are not in the best condition, so please help me to take care of her.”

“No problem. We have waiters outside our bathrooms.” Jolly said, “Okay, now, can you eat your meat? She’s seventeen and not seven. You’ve never been so worried about Charlotte and Samuel going to the bathroom alone.”

Rachel also felt that she was taking things a bit too far and took a deep breath to adjust her mentality. Justin glanced at the door thoughtfully. He didn't know why, but the interactions over the past few days told him that Jessica wasn't someone that was scheming, but she always seemed to have something on her mind..

At this time, Jessica came out of the room, but did not go to the bathroom. Instead, she left the restaurant. Her wheelchair was a bit conspicuous and she pushed herself around the mall before turning. into the remote fire control corridor.

"Hello? I'm out." A man's voice came from the other end of the phone. "Is the barbecue delicious? To me, you seem like you get along very well with them."

"Are you spying on me?" "I'm not, but I have a good relationship with them, so there are videos in the group." "So what? Can't I come out for dinner? Among these people, only Justin is the murderer of my brother, and the others did nothing wrong."

"Why are you explaining this to me? Just remember it yourself."

"Then, why did you call me out?" "Remember, Justin won't stay in the country for too long. His fiancée is in Riverdale, and she will take him out of Riverdale after a while, and you will never find him again."

"What? Is he leaving?" Jessica's face changed. "Didn't he like Rachel? Since when did he have this fiancée?" "You have to remember that for a man, the most important thing is always his career. He lost the Burton Group, and this is the only way for him to go forward now. Have you gone soft?"

"How could I? He killed my brother!" She clenched her fists, her expression twisted. "Then, you don't have much time. If he leaves, you will never avenge your brother in this life."

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

## Chapter 426

After Jessica came back from the bathroom, she began to look preoccupied the entire time. Rachel served her vegetables. "Jess, what's the matter? Is the food not to your taste?"

"Jess?" Jessica came back to her senses. "No, it's delicious."

"What's wrong? Why the long face?"

"I'm just a little homesick."

Rachel was slightly startled. "Do you want to go home?" "Yeah, when my leg heals from the injury, I want to go back to Panzonia." This was the first time Jessica said she wanted to go back.

It felt like a weight had fallen off Rachel's heart, but she felt a little empty. "Don't be so anxious. When your leg is healed, have fun in Riverdale for a while, and I will send you back."

After she finished speaking, Rachel placed more food in Jessica's bowl again. "No need; I'll just go back by myself."

Jessica and Rachel were not close, and she had always been impatient with Rachel to the point where she did not even eat the food that was given by Rachel.

Justin, who was on the side, saw Jessica and placed a bowl of soup in front of her. She took it naturally and drank it in small sips. Rachel was secretly surprised.

Habits were a terrible thing. Justin brought her meals these days and played games with her, so Rachel was not entirely certain whether the conflict between them had been resolved, but they got along better than any one of them. It was true he was more familiar with this girl than the rest of them.

After dinner, Jessica had to go back to the hospital and everyone else went back to their homes. "Jess, I'll take you back in my car." "I don't need you to send me back."

Jessica still had an indifferent attitude toward Rachel. "Justin will send me off." Rachel wanted to say something, but was stopped by Justin. "It's okay, I'll send her back. You can head home first."

As he said that, he helped Jessica into the car and placed the wheelchair in the trunk. His actions were smooth and practiced, and Jolly couldn't help but admire him. "If I didn't know better, I would've thought he had been a careworker for half his life. He's so skilled at this, and he doesn't even look like the Young Master of the Burton Family."

Rachel heard these words and had mixed feelings. Then, she said, "He should have done a lot of hard work for Jess to let go of her hatred so quickly."

"I just can't see it. I don't know whether he worked hard or not, but with his face, he wins half the battle." Jolly raised her eyebrows. "This girl Jessica is a sucker for attractive faces, can't you tell?"

"What? No way, right?" "Look at how she said that my Leroy was not good looking before we started eating, but when she saw Leroy, she blushed." Jolly suddenly thought of something and said in a low voice, "Hey, you should probably prepare yourself

mentally. A 16 or 17-year-old young girl like Jessica is most likely to like a handsome and rich older man.”

“What do you mean?” “Look, there was a misunderstanding between the two at first. The little girl wanted to take revenge, but she later found out that the other party was actually a gentle and considerate handsome man. After spending so much time together, who knows-”

“Oh, shut up! Jess is only seventeen years old!” Rachel gave Jolly a blank look. “Can you be more serious?” “I’m being very serious.”

Rachel was too lazy to lecture her. “Stop talking nonsense. Let’s go quickly since your Leroy is still waiting for you.” “Fine, I’m done anyway. I’m leaving, then. You’re sleeping by yourself tonight, so don’t miss me too much.”

With these words, Jolly got into Leroy’s nanny car. After going back, Victor and Gloria had already packed their things and were going to live in their own home.

“Just stay for a few more days. Why are you in such a hurry? It’s already late.” Gloria said, “I’m going to Panzonio tomorrow morning. The global concert tour is about to start, so I have to prepare ahead of time.”

Victor answered immediately, “And I’m going to see her off in the morning.” If Gloria had not mentioned it, Rachel would have probably forgotten about it. “Oh yes, your tour is about to begin.” She was a little disappointed. “Then, I probably won’t be able to see you for a while.”

Gloria hugged Rachel with a smile. “All you have to do is wait for me to come back. The last stop of the tour will be in Riverdale.” Charlotte and Samuel lined up next to Rachel and consciously stretched out their arms to hug Gloria.

“Aunt Gloria, you’ll miss me, right?” Charlotte wrapped her arms around Gloria’s neck, and the smell of milk made Gloria want to kiss her several times. “You need to always listen to your mommy, okay?”

“Okay, I know.” “Okay, we’ll be going now. Rachel, don’t need to send us off.” At night, both children were asleep. Rachel looked at the clock on the wall-it was almost midnight and Justin had not come back.

She didn’t know why, but after returning from her business trip, her eyelids kept twitching and she had a persistent feeling that something was going to happen.

She took her coat and car keys and rushed to the hospital in unease. It was past midnight. In the ward, Jessica held the game controller and yawned.

After a few yawns, she leaned on the pillow and fell asleep. She had fallen asleep while playing a game. Justin took the game controller from her hand, adjusted the slope of the hospital bed, and then covered her with the quilt.

After doing all this, just as he was about to leave, his hand was suddenly pulled. Jessica grabbed Justin's little finger and murmured, "Don't go. Hans."

When he heard those words, Justin froze for a moment. "Are you dreaming?" She also opened her eyes. Although she was still a little confused, she also seemed to see clearly that the man in front of her was not Hans, but Justin, who had been under her command recently. Then, she nodded lightly.

He didn't ask any more questions, but he poured a cup of tea and placed it on the bedside table. "I'll come back tomorrow morning." When she saw that he was leaving, Jessica suddenly hugged the quilt and grabbed his sleeve.

Justin retracted his hand subconsciously, but he didn't expect that she was holding it so tightly. Her strength was mutually exclusive and she was a little persistent as she clung onto him.

"Don't go, okay? I can't sleep alone."

After taking care of her for so long, this was the first time he saw her showing any kind of weakness. She was usually like a thorny cactus, and never willing to concede to him.

Justin glanced at his watch; it was very late. "Alright. Go to sleep, I'll be by your side." As he said that, he glanced at his sleeve and gestured to Jessica. "I'm not leaving."

Jessica refused to release her grip and said sullenly, "I couldn't sleep when I was a child, and it was my brother who accompanied me. He would always tell me stories."

He stood by the bed for a while, and finally said, "What do you want to hear?" Her eyes warmed. "What do you usually tell your daughter?" "All kinds of stories. She has a lot of storybooks."

"Well, then I don't want to listen to anything found in storybooks. I'm tired of listening to stories about princesses. I want to listen to something new. "Once upon a time, there was a big forest, and the little white rabbit family lived in it..."

He went on and on. The lights in the ward were dim, and the voice of the storyteller was gentle, powerful and reassuring. No one noticed that there was a figure standing outside the door, which had been there for a while.

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

## Chapter 427

As her hand was still on the doorknob, Rachel's mind was buzzing. Her inner impulse made her want to push the door in to disrupt the pleasant harmony inside, but her rationality made her restrain herself from doing so

If it wasn't for Jolly's reminder, I would never have imagined what happened between a minor and Justin. However, there's clearly something wrong with what I had witnessed in front of me. Regardless of what Justin's thoughts are, it's obvious that there's something wrong with Jessica. I have to end this abnormal relationship.

Justin prepared breakfast as usual early the next morning. "You can send Charlotte and Samuel to school later. You don't have to go to the hospital," Rachel said while sitting at the dining table to peel eggs for the children.

When he heard that, he frowned slightly. "Why?" "No reason. Jess has nothing to do with you in the first place, so she shouldn't be taken care of by you. There are differences between men and women. Jess is 17 years old. She doesn't understand anything, but you, on the other hand, should watch yourself."

As a matter of fact, the focus of Rachel's words was on 'There are differences between men and women'.

Suddenly, the air surrounding them froze. The two children who were still playing around with the eggs a second ago did not dare to make trouble and cautiously looked at each other.

As the two made eye contact, Samuel made a silent gesture toward Charlotte. While blinking her eyes, Charlotte asked, "Why is Mommy angry again?"

Samuel raised his eyebrow toward the side. "It's obvious that your daddy did something wrong again." "But Daddy didn't do anything." "It's wrong for him to take care of other women."

"You mean the big sister who enjoyed a meal with us yesterday?"

"Yes." There was silence from Charlotte. Justin was also quiet for a moment. "Okay, I won't go, but there's one more thing I want to tell you." "What is it?" Rachel was still feeling angry. She felt an inexplicable rush of anger, so her demeanor was cold.

He added, "I wanted to talk about it yesterday, but I didn't have a chance to. Then, I came back late and you were already asleep. So, I'm just going to say it today. I'm moving out."

Rachel was startled. At the same time, Charlotte was also stunned. "Daddy, are you going to move out?" Gently pinching the flesh on Charlotte's cheek, he pretended to be relaxed. "Yeah, I have my own place to live. I can't always bother Mommy here all the time, right?"

She wanted to say something, but Samuel pulled her clothes to stop her. All of a sudden, Rachel felt empty in her heart. The emptiness she currently felt was far greater than when Gloria and Victor left last night..

Rachel knew that this was just going to be a temporary stay from the first day Justin moved here. However, she was actually used to having him at home after so long. Although she was reluctant to and could not admit it, she had developed such a habit pretty quickly.

"Has Ginny left?"

"No." "She hasn't left yet, so where do you live?" "My documents have already been reissued, so I'll be staying at the hotel soon. Plus, the hotel has already contacted me." "Hotel? It's quite convenient to stay in a hotel too. Rachel nodded slightly, yet she had no idea what else to say.

On the other hand, Justin was extremely calm. "Don't worry. Although I'm staying in a hotel, I'm usually very free. Every morning, I'll come and pick Charlotte and Samuel up for school, and I'll bring them back at night. You can just be busy with your business."

"There's no need for that." Rachel lowered her head. Moving her fork around the plate, she added, "Their school isn't far from home, and the school originally has a school bus to pick them up and drop them off."

"Well then, you can find me at any time if anything happens." Touching Samuel's head, Justin said, "You have my phone number. Call me anytime."

Samuel shrugged his shoulders in agreement after hearing those words. Justin later moved out in the afternoon. Before Rachel could even head home, she received a call from the hospital caretaker in her office.

"Miss Hudson, Jessica refused to eat. She kept asking me why Mr. Burton did not come." "I got it. I'll come to the hospital later."

Hanging up the phone, she glanced at the time. It was already past six o'clock in the evening, so Rachel turned back to the conference room and tapped on the table. "Today's meeting shall end here, dismiss! Everyone, go back and rest."



Then, the crowd scattered. Only Jolly came over with the documents. "Why" are you not looking well?" "Nothing; I'm just tired." "Let's have dinner together this evening. A treat from the staff members of Leroy's studio."

"I'm not joining. I have to go to the hospital." "Very well then. I don't think even her parents care for her as much as you do. Are you raising another daughter? If so, I wish you good luck. Let's just hope she's not an ingrate." Jolly patted Rachel on the shoulder and left.

Later, Rachel drove to the hospital by herself. As soon as she arrived at the door of the ward, she heard Jessica's voice coming from inside. "I said I don't want to eat! Don't you understand English? What are these foods? I'm not eating!!!"

The lunch box was thrown out with a crash, and the food inside splattered on the floor. After that, the caretaker came out in dismay and ranted upon seeing Rachel, 'Miss Hudson, you're here! Look at this. I'm really out of ideas." While having a mild expression, Rachel said, "Clean up first."

"Yes, Miss Hudson." Next, she went directly into the ward and put the things in her hand down. "Apricot Danish pastry from Sweet Cheeks. You like them, don't you? So, I bought more."

"I'm not eating!" Jessica sat on the bed. The cast had been removed, but her legs still could not move. freely. "Why isn't Justin answering my call? Didn't I ask him to make me fish and chips? It was you who prohibited him from coming here, wasn't it?"

Rachel's facial expression remained unchanged as she said, "He has his own business to attend to. He's not your servant. If you want to order someone around, order me."

"You?" Jessica glanced at Rachel upon hearing that. "I won't even dare to. If I order you around, Hans will rise back from the dead to get even with me."

"Jessica! I dislike you making such a joke on Hans!" Taking a deep breath, Jessica clarified, "That's my brother! I can say whatever I want. What rights do you have to control me? Who do you think you are by having such a holier-than-thou manner?"

As she was not willing to argue further with Jessica, Rachel changed the topic. "I have already booked you a flight ticket. I'll send you back to the country after tomorrow."

"What did you say?" As if Jessica was in disbelief with what she had heard, she continued by saying, "Who are you to make decisions for me? It's none of your business to decide when I will go back."

"Didn't you say it yourself yesterday? You said that you're homesick." "That's none of your business!" An enraged Jessica bounced off the bed. Yet, she quickly fell down because one of her legs had not fully recovered.

Rachel acted swiftly, but she was pushed away by a backhand. She stumbled to the side of the bed from that push and gasped for air. Even so, Jessica did not care about Rachel at all. She went straight around her and picked up the phone behind her. Then, she dialed a set of numbers and made a call.

“What are you doing? Give me the phone!” “Didn’t you say he was busy? He’s not answering my phone, is he? I want to see what he is busy with.” The moment the voice fell, the phone was already connected.

A moment later, a strong and deep male voice came from the other end of the phone. “Hello? Rae?” At once, Rachel’s facial expression stiffened. It was too late for her to grab the phone back.

Gritting her teeth, Jessica answered, “It’s me! You said you wanted to deliver me some fish and chips! Where are you? Why didn’t you answer my call?!”

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

## Chapter 428

There was silence on the other end of the phone for a few seconds. Just when Jessica thought Justin had hung up, he said, I’ve been busy recently.”

“How busy can you get? I know you’re no longer the president of Burton Group. Was it Rachel who forbade you from coming?”

“No, it wasn’t.”

“If you don’t come, I won’t eat anything. See for yourself.” After saying this, she hung up the phone directly. In the meantime, Rachel had also gotten up from the ground and the spot where her back hit the chair was aching.

“Give me the phone.” Jessica was determined to ask Justin to come and accompany her. Without even looking at Rachel, she demanded, “Go out! I’m going to rest!”

Then, she immediately pulled the blanket up and lay down. Rachel did not manage to retrieve the phone. Looking at the lump on the bed, she eventually said nothing and went out. I had told Justin before that he should stop meddling with

Jessica’s affairs.

Even if Jessica confiscated Rachel's phone and intended to force Justin to comply through a hunger strike, he would not pay attention to her. I have to give her a hard knock. The caretaker was done cleaning up outside the ward. "Miss Hudson, the lady inside..."

"It's fine. Go and prepare some supper."

"Will she eat, though?"

"If she's hungry, she'll eat."

"Okay. Then, I shall go and prepare." After the caretaker left, Rachel sat alone on the couch in the living room and flipped open a magazine.

Half an hour later, there was a knock on the door. "Come in," Rachel answered. She thought it was the caretaker who brought the food over, but she saw Justin when she looked up.

"Why are you here?" Just as she finished asking, she saw the paper bag in Justin's hand before he was done speaking. She immediately stood up and her facial expression took a turn.

At this moment, Jessica's shout came from inside the ward. "Justin! You're here, aren't you? Where's my fish and chips? I can already smell it!"

"Follow me outside. Rachel walked straight past Justin's side. He followed her until they were outside the ward. Looking extremely awful, she questioned, "Why did you come here?"

Then, he answered, "Let her finish her meal early, and you can go back early too."  
"Does it never cross your mind the reason she insisted you come over?" Upon hearing that, Justin frowned as he was looking puzzled.

"Forget it. I don't want to tell you these. You can go now. No matter how she finds you or what she wants you to do in the future, pay no attention to it. As for her meal, you certainly don't have to send it."

Still, he wanted to say something. Yet, he bit back the words that came up to his lips. From childhood to adulthood, he was not used to explaining himself too much to others. Rachel was already the exception among the exceptions.

"Since I've bought it, you might as well bring it inside." Before leaving, Justin handed Rachel the paper bag. However, Rachel did not take it. "Take it away."

Don't send anything over in the future." After saying this, she turned around and entered the ward. The door closed with a sound of 'bang'. The sound was neither light nor heavy, but it happened to slam on Justin's heart.

As soon as Rachel returned to the ward, she saw Jessica walking out of the bedroom on crutches. "Jess, what are you doing? The doctor said you can't move."

"Where's Justin?" Jessica looked out impatiently. A frowning Rachel lowered her hand and was about to hold Jessica's hand. She said lightly, "Left." "Left? Why did he leave? Wasn't he here to bring me my meal?"

"He had something that he needed to attend to suddenly, so he left."

"How about my meal?"

Rachel maintained her expression as she replied, "I have asked the caretaker to prepare it for you. The caretaker will send it over later."

"You know that's not what I'm talking about! Where's the meal he brought me?"

At that moment, Jessica's face was sullen. As if she already understood what was going on, she demanded, "Rachel, who do you think you are to me? It was I who asked him to come, so why did you get to decide for me?"

"Because I'm Hans' friend, and I have the obligation to take care of you!" "This isn't taking care of me. You're restricting my freedom in making friends."

"Make friends? What's your relationship with him? You're making friends with him? Don't you ever forget that he was the one who indirectly killed Hans!" The moment these words escaped from Rachel's lips, she was shocked. What am I talking about?

Jessica suddenly sneered in the brief stagnation of air. "I remember when you first found me, you kept explaining to me that Hans' death had nothing to do with Justin. You even tried your best to testify for him at that time, letting me not be in animosity with him, but now?"

I'm not saying he killed Hans. I'm just implying Before Rachel could finish, Jessica interrupted. her. "Of course I know that's not what you meant. I also know why you don't want Justin to meet me again."

"Why?"

"Jealousy." As soon as she spat out the word, Jessica's eyes were full of contempt. Then, she emphasized her statement by saying, "You're jealous. That's why you won't let him meet me again."

“What nonsense are you spewing about?”

“Am I talking nonsense? Or are you diffident?” Jessica’s attitude was oppressing. “In order not to let me see Justin, you even used Hans’ story to remind me that I have a grudge against him. I truly felt bad for Hans for having a two-faced woman such as you as a friend!”

Gritting her teeth, Rachel forced herself to remain calm. “Jessica, if you really think you can ignore the past and forget about Hans’ leg that Justin broke, then I won’t stop you.”

“I won’t forget!”

Before she could react, Rachel heard Jessica say something again. ‘T’ll always remember Hans’ kindness toward me. Since Justin deprived me of such kindness, he should make up for it too. You have no right to interfere with my freedom of meeting him!”

“Think carefully!” “I have thought about it carefully!” Suddenly, Rachel felt suffocated. Staring at Jessica for a long time, she could not accept that the girl in front of her would depend on Justin.

After a long while, Rachel clenched her fists and finally said, “I think you need to see a psychiatrist.” There must be something wrong with Jessica’s mind.

Meanwhile, at the hospital parking lot on the other side, Justin was seated in his car. On the passenger seat was the bag of food that he just brought back. Besides fish and chips, there were also some pastries and snacks, all of which were Rachel’s usual favorites.

After staring for a while, he picked up an apricot Danish pastry and placed it in his mouth. The taste of the pastry was a bit sweet yet greasy. It’s not something I like, but Rachel likes it.

Justin still remembered what Gloria had told him. There are very few ladies who dislike sweets. If the lady is unhappy, one can buy her desserts, and she’ll definitely feel better. Rachel doesn’t seem to be feeling any better, though.

That night, Rachel came home late. When she came out of the shower, she saw Julian’s missed call. Hence, she immediately called back.. “Hello? I was in the shower a while ago and didn’t pick up the call.”

“It’s okay. I just finished my work too. How’s today?” “Not that good.” Rachel leaned against the head of the bed. Then, she freed one hand to pinch between her eyebrows. She was exhausted both physically and mentally.

“What’s the matter? Is Jessica’s condition not looking good? Do you want me to change doctors for her?”

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

## Chapter 429

“It’s unnecessary. The doctors and caretakers who took care of her are all excellent and she’s recovering well too. She just had her cast removed.” “That’s good. Let me know at any time if you need anything. I’ll be able to return home after I’m done with my work within these two days. By then, I’ll accompany you to the hospital.”

“Wonderful.” Rachel suddenly thought of something. Julian, I remember you once told me that there’s a kind of psychological disease that says it’s a sickness if someone loves and relies on the person whom they originally resented.”

“Stockholm Syndrome. It is generally a mental illness in which victims undergo psychological reversal under enormous emotional stress in order to adapt to the environment. Patients diagnosed with this illness will become dependent on the perpetrator. It is an illness that allows the victim to rationalize the facts of the perpetrator to achieve psychological balance.”

“Yes, that’s it!” Rachel straightened her body. ‘Do you know any psychiatrists?’ I think Jessica has this problem now. For several days in a row, she was in a lifeless state.

Placing the cup of coffee on the desk, Jolly explained, “I just bought it. For your refreshments.” “Thanks. Rachel yawned and the dark circle under her eyes was prominent. “Stayed up late again?”

“No.” “Then, it means you’re not sleeping well. Were you perhaps sleeping in the hospital again?” Jolly pulled out the chair and sat down. “You can’t go on like this. When Jessica has recovered and returned to her country, your body will be exhausted again. It’s not worth it!”

“I wasn’t sleeping in the hospital. Jess doesn’t really want to see me, so I’m a little worried.” “What’s there for you to be worried about? She’s 17 years old! Not 7, but 17. You had arranged 3 caretakers to take care of her 24 hours a day. Only a royal princess would be treated to this extent. What else does she want?”

“She’s blaming me.” Suddenly, Rachel blamed herself. Tell me: am I being too selfish? She does have her own freedom to befriend whoever she wants. Was I wrong for stopping her from meeting Justin?”

"I think you've been brainwashed by her. She doesn't need to go back to study. She can just be a direct sales promoter. Try asking yourself. Are you not letting her meet Justin for your own sake? No! It's for her sake!"

The more Jolly talked about it, the angrier she became. '17 years old. It's not adulthood, but it's certainly not childhood. She's at that age where it's the easiest for her to judge her feelings wrongly. She's also at that age where she can easily become dependent on a person and think that it is love. Didn't I have experienced it before? Will I turn out that way if someone stopped me at that time?"

At that time, Jolly also plunged into Ryan's embrace with enthusiasm and disregarded everything. If she had not woken up in time later, she would not have stumbled upon the happiness she felt now. Rachel was a little more awake. "Jolly, Jess thinks I stopped her from meeting Justin because I'm jealous of her."

"This ingrate. How can a good person like Hans have such a sister? Did you find her at psychiatrist and look at her problem?" Upon hearing that, Rachel shook her head.

It took them a lot of effort and time to finally find a psychiatrist. However, the psychiatrist was chased out by Jessica with her crutches before even stepping into the ward. And because of this, Jessica ignored Rachel for a few days. Furthermore, she did not even let Rachel go to the hospital.

"I admit that I ain't no saint. Supporting her forehead, Rachel felt a little uncomfortable. "Although Justin and I are divorced and not together, it's still difficult for me to bless him with other women even if we're unlikely to get back together in the future. Especially when that woman is Jess. I can't accept it!"

"Stop with the trouble. Whether it's acceptable to you or not, you may need to check whether it's merely Jessica's wishful thinking. If there's nothing wrong with Justin's mind, do you think he'll be with a minor? Furthermore, that minor is Hans' sister. I bet there's no way these two will end up together."

"It's hard to predict the events happening in the world." "Are you serious? You don't even believe this. now? Jessica is a minor! Is Justin still human if he gets together with her?"

Shaking her head repeatedly, Jolly commented, "I think one of you is crazier than the other. This. can't be done. I have to call Justin and tell him not to meet Jessica!"

Jolly's words suddenly reminded Rachel of something. In the afternoon, Rachel had been sitting by the window in the cafe for a while when Justin arrived in a hurry. This is the first time Rachel contacted me after the last time we had reached a deadlock in the hospital. "Rae, have you waited for a long time?"

"Nah, I have just arrived too." Then, she asked, "What would you like to drink?"



"I'm fine with anything."

"Well, Americano it is. You used to drink this before." After that, Rachel handed over the menu to the server. The tension on Justin's brows subconsciously softened. "You still remember?"

She smiled. "My memory isn't that bad. I can still remember the little things. By the way, have you eaten? Since I have called you out so suddenly, we can order something to eat if you haven't eaten."

"It's okay. I've eaten." "I heard from Frankie that Ginny often goes to look for you at the hotel." Justin was slightly startled. "Don't misunderstand me. She does come often, but I only meet her in the cafe downstairs. It's not, just her because our lawyers are also present.. She also promised me that if I can help her win the lawsuit, she will return to the country by herself and stop thinking about my engagement with her."

As if he was afraid that Rachel would misunderstand his relationship with Ginny, he explained hastily. However, Rachel did not care. "It's alright. You don't have to explain this to me."

At this moment, the server came over with their coffee. She added a lot of sugar to the coffee. Then, she absent-mindedly continued to stir the coffee with the spoon.

Seeing through Rachel's restlessness, Justin asked, "What's the matter? Did something happen?" With that, Rachel stopped stirring the coffee. "Actually, the Burton Group should have been yours. You're very talented and have your own ambitions. You shouldn't give up your career so early!"

"You don't have to worry about this. Even without Burton Group, I believe I can do other things. I won't let you and Charlotte down." "No, that's not what I mean. I just think that having a foundation gives you more room to display."

Justin did not understand the hidden message behind Rachel's words. Likewise, Rachel also hated to describe her words in such a way. Despite speaking in a roundabout way, she still could not make her realize her request. After a moment of silence, she placed her spoon down.

A brisk sound was heard when the stainless steel spoon touched the coffee cup, but it wasn't loud. Raising her head, she looked into his eyes. "Have you ever considered accepting the engagement with Ginny and returning to the country with her?"

"What did you say?" "By relying on the Tuscan Family's family business, you can make a comeback exceptionally fast. I even believe that you will make a bigger enterprise and accomplish better achievements than the current Burton Group."

Justin's eyes contracted slightly as the joy in his eyes had long since disappeared. "Rae, what are you trying to say?" "I wish for you to leave Riverdale."

The moment he heard this sentence, he only felt a tingling in his eardrums and a buzzing sound. "Why?" "Because Jess is still young, I don't want you to continue to meet her. I also don't want you to give her any more thoughts."

"You would rather have me marry Ginny and leave Riverdale just because of her?" A frowning Justin felt his temple throbbed. A huge suffocation stirred in his chest as he could not believe Rachel's words."

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

## Chapter 430

Rachel was clasping her hands together under the table. "I understand that I'm asking too much, but it will eventually be proven as a good decision for us. Besides, you don't have to worry about Charlotte. I'll be taking care of her. You can come back anytime to visit her, or I can bring her to you."

"You thought I didn't leave with Ginny because of Charlotte?" Justin's scorching eyes burned into Rachel's gaze. "I'm sorry. I can't make a promise on that. Ginny and I canceled the engagement a long time ago."

Justin was aware that he had failed Rachel, and nothing could ever compensate for her loss. He understood that she might not forgive him or could even seek revenge, and he would willingly accept it. But now, she was using something that never happened as an excuse to push him away. For that, he would not accept her decision. He continued, "However if my presence disturbs you, I can leave Riverdale for now."

Rachel lifted her head and stared at Justin in shock. She was surprised to see him taking the initiative to leave Riverdale, so she could only try to make up to him. "No worries, Jess won't stay long in Riverdale. You can come back anytime after she leaves. I-"

"You'll never see me again if that's what you're asking for." He spoke in an overly calm tone while his eyes betrayed no signs of emotion. "I've got work to do. Goodbye."

At that, he left immediately without waiting for her reply. Sitting in the chair alone, Rachel could feel her heart sinking and her fists tightening at the feeling.

Jessica's arrival in Riverdale was a mistake that both Rachel and Justin allowed to occur. Both of them were responsible for Hans' death, so they needed to do everything to compensate for Jessica's loss.

In Rachel's opinion, compensation wasn't necessary to meticulously look after Jessica with care because sometimes, providing her with some space would be more suitable.

"He is leaving for real?" Jolly asked in shock when Rachel told her the story in the office. "You only used a few words and managed to persuade him to leave Riverdale?"

Rachel corrected her, stating, "He's only leaving. for a while." "It's still considered leaving. Now, I feel sorry for Justin. Look, he'll do anything you ask, and now he is really leaving. What a pitiful man he is."

Rachel's mind was a mess, and Jolly's words didn't help her to feel better. Her irritation could be heard in the noises she made from flipping. through the contracts with force. Perceiving that Rachel was in a bad mood, Jolly cleared her throat. "Don't mind my words. I'm just saying that you don't need to do everything for Jessica. I kind of have an odd feeling about her."

"What do you mean?" "I don't know. It's just my gut feeling." "So, there's nothing wrong about her after all. You're only being judgemental."

"Sure thing." Jolly didn't try to contradict Rachel's words at all. "I don't like the way she uses Hans' death to take advantage of you. You! know what? I don't even think you are the one to be blamed for Hans' death. Even if you really need to take responsibility for Hans, you're not obliged to look after her."

In fact, Rachel had the freedom to look after Jessica for Hans' sake, but she wasn't obliged to take care of every aspect of Jessica's well- being. Jolly could see that Jessica was being unreasonable. "Speaking of which, what time is Justin leaving? Where's he going?"

"He's leaving tomorrow, but he didn't tell me his destination." "All right. I'll send him off tomorrow." Bringing at pile of signed contracts with her, Jolly intentionally asked, "Are you coming with me?"

Rachel scowled at her suggestion. "Count me out. Julian's coming back tomorrow. I'll pick him up at the airport." Julian's finally coming back?" Hearing the news, Jolly felt her eyes shine with excitement.

"Let's have a meal together."

"Sure, I'll ask him about his free time." Their conversation ended as Jolly had nothing. to say to that. The next morning, Rachel woke up early to pick Julian up from the airport. to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"You are heading out so early." Coming out of the bathroom, Jolly was rubbing her eyes with a hint of drowsiness while looking at Rachel heading out after fully preparing for the trip.

"He should be landing at about 8.00AM. I'm almost late. You can have breakfast by yourself. I'm leaving." "Don't worry about it. I'm seeing Justin later. He probably won't starve me, right?"

"Are you being serious?" Changing her shoes at the entrance, Rachel stopped at the mention of Justin's name with surprise. She thought it was only a joke all the time.

Jolly feigned seriousness. I'm doing this for you since things are awkward between the two of you. So, I'll do it. Besides, Leroy's staying in the same hotel for his ad shoot."

Grabbing the car keys, Rachel teased, "I can see who your main focus is." Jolly wasn't spared the time to respond as Rachel left promptly. Not wanting to cause any delay, she headed straight to the airport. While waiting for Julian's arrival at the arrivals hall, Rachel passed her time as she exchanged messages with Jolly..

"Rae." When she heard the familiar voice, she turned behind to greet the person. "You're here, Julian." Julian smiled at her gently. The cream-colored trench coat he was wearing reflected a soft aura from him. "Sorry to make you wait. I saw you standing here from a distance. Are you busy?"

"It's not about work. I'm just chatting with Jolly." Rachel returned the cell phone to her pocket. "Let's go. My car's outside."

When Rachel was driving on the highway from the airport, the phone in her pocket vibrated continuously with multiple incoming messages, and it wasn't giving her a break. Thinking that she had been chatting with Jolly not long ago, she didn't bother to check them.

Jolly was making a big deal out of seeing Justin alone. It was too much for Rachel to handle. To distract herself, she asked, "Everything went well?"

"It went smoothly. However, it seems like you have lost weight since I last saw you. You're probably worried about Jessica." "I'm fine. Jess is going to be discharged soon, and I will send her home after that."

The sound of the ringtone interrupted their conversation as the in-car display showed Jolly's caller-ID. Rachel hesitated for a second before she received the call. "Hello?"

As soon as she was on the call, she heard Jolly's hasty voice. 'Chris! Where are you? Something bad happened!"

“What happened?” “Come to the hotel now. The police are already here.” “Police?” Rachel hit the brake hard and fast. The wheels screeched as the car skidded across the road and almost slammed into the highway guardrail.

When they managed to stop the car in the emergency lane, Julian turned on the hazard lights instantly to warn other drivers.

He suggested, “I’ll drive.”

Fear lingered within Rachel as she exchanged seats with Julian in silence. When they were back on the road, she disabled the speaker mode and placed the phone next to her as she rejoined the call. “Tell me what happened.”

On the other hand, Jolly incoherently explained, “J-Jessica went to the hotel, and then something happened. The police are now involved and have taken Justin with them. What am I supposed to do now?”

“What happened exactly? Why was Jess at the hotel?” “I just got here, so I don’t know much about it either. You have to be here as soon as possible. The police arrested Justin for committing sexual assault against a minor.”

“W-What?” The blood drained from Rachel’s face as she listened to Jolly.

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