

My Mute Bride Chapter 41-50

My Mute Bride Chapter 41-“Rachel?” Tina frantically yelled out to her.

Instinctively, Rachel turned back. She was way more embarrassed to have encountered such a transgression.

“Y-You shouldn’t misunderstand...” Tina’s current expression was quite ugly.

Just then, Rachel didn’t understand why Tina was so anxious. Although this was an awkward situation, the latter was engaged to Noah anyway, so it was quite normal for them to be enamored with each other. Pleasure time with each other wasn’t exactly something to be ashamed of. However, a moment later, as soon as she saw the guy behind Tina, the reason finally dawned upon Rachel. The man wasn’t Noah at all.

I came to get a bottle of wine. Rachel tried to put on a calm front and held up the bottle of wine in her hands to show Tina.

In fact, she had never met Noah and she didn’t know what he looked like either, but she happened to have met the guy behind Tina yesterday at the Burtons’ summer villa located in the outskirts of town. If she wasn’t mistaken, this man was the driver for the Burtons.

“Rachel... I mean.... Rach,” At that moment, Tina was evidently at a loss for what to do and she stammered as well. “Things are not what it seems. We were just...”

“She saw everything.” A male voice rang out from behind Tina and the man spoke with a definite tone.

Upon hearing that, Rachel unconsciously shuddered.

Just then, Tina had also begun to calm down and her expression darkened as she stared at Rachel. “Did you see everything?”

Instantly, Rachel shook her head vigorously to deny it.

“Stop pretending. You’ve seen everything, right?” Tina glanced at the wine bottle in Rachel’s hands. “How long have you been here for?”

Meanwhile, Rachel took a step backward. She had an awkward look on her face and she couldn't quite find the words to explain herself.

"It doesn't matter even though you've seen us." Tina exhaled deeply and her expression was quite somber. "If you dare to reveal what you saw today, I swear you won't be able to live in peace in Riverdale."

Rachel held onto the wine bottle tightly. After a short pause, she nodded in response, as she did not want trouble either. It would not benefit her to reveal Tina's private matters.

Tina's fingers continued to tremble uncontrollably as she watched Rachel leave the cellar. Soon after that, the man behind her took her hands into his before he said in a low voice near her ears, "Can she be trusted?"

Tina's expression was solemn. "Even if she can't be trusted, there's nothing we can do about it. She's a mute and she already has trouble surviving in our family, so do you think she would have the guts to reveal anything? Besides, she doesn't have any proof at all."

Meanwhile, the man glowered.

On the other end, Rachel ran out of the cellar frantically. Finally, she managed to get to the upper floor and she ran toward an area with people around. Unfortunately, she ran straight into a waiter and fell to the ground.

"Miss, are you fine?"

Shocked, Rachel quickly shook her head and she slowly came to her senses.

She heard some music coming from the living room further ahead so she quickly handed over the bottle of wine in her hands to the waiter. Then, she gestured, Please help me pass this to Amber.

Earlier in the cellar, she had torn her dress. There was not much time left and she still had to complete the task assigned by Justin. It was quite likely she would be mocked by Amber if she went back into the living room.

The dinner hadn't officially started so Jefferey was still entertaining his guests in the reception area. Therefore, she would have to take this opportunity while he was still entertaining his guests to slip into his study room and look for the safe that Justin mentioned. The mansion was massive but fortunately for her,

Jefferey's bedroom and study room were located on the third floor of the function room tonight. In the end, Rachel succeeded in finding the exact location of the study room based on her memory.

She pushed the door open with a loud 'clack'. There was a smell of smoke that hit her as soon as she entered the room. It didn't smell like sandalwood but rather, it resembled the smell of incense that was usually burnt during prayers.

She scanned the surroundings and finally located the source of the smell. There was an extinguished incense burner located on the first row of the bookshelf and behind it was a statue of the Deity of Medications.

The Hudson Family came from a medical background so naturally, it was their tradition to pray to the Deity of Medications. Jefferey was quite particular about maintaining traditions so all of this seemed quite reasonable.

According to Justin, Jefferey's safe was located within the shelf to the right of his study table.

And so, Rachel swiftly made her way there and pulled open the shelf door.

Indeed, Justin was right and there was a rectangular silver safe located within the shelf and it was built into the bookshelf. The safe was digitally locked and a password was required to unlock it. Without that, there was no chance of opening it. Moreover, it would be wishful to attempt to steal the safe as it was built into the bookshelf.

She took a few photos of the safe and sent them off to Justin.

'The safe is here, so can I go now?'

She waited and waited, but there was no reply from the other end.

Rachel felt quite anxious and just as she was about to leave, she heard voices coming from outside all of a sudden.

It looked like Jefferey was back.

She glanced to her left and right but then she realized that there was nowhere for her to hide.

"Umph—"

Suddenly, a hand reached out from behind her and clamped down on her mouth. Then, she was dragged toward the back.

After Rachel had come to her senses, she found that she was in a dark environment and there seemed to be a suffocating smell of incense that was quite offensive. She would have coughed out loud if her mouth wasn't currently covered.

"Don't make a sound." A low voice rang out by her ear.

Just then, Rachel's back stiffened.

It's Justin! He was here all this while!

It seemed like Jefferey had brought a guest into the room and their conversation from outside was clearly audible through the thin board of the bookshelf. It sounded like they were discussing the problems faced with the transport of medical equipment.

At that moment, Justin had a hand placed against the board of the bookshelf and he concentrated on the sounds outside for a short while. His sharp nose was illuminated by the rays of light that passed through the crevices and his expression looked quite cold.

As for Rachel, she slowly calmed down.

After Justin had ensured that they wouldn't be discovered for the time being, he released her from his tight grip and she could finally breathe in normally.

The secret room was completely dark and nothing could be seen in here. There was merely a flickering light source from behind and the whole place was quite eerie.

Rachel drew back and remained in a fixed position.

Her back remained tightly pressed against Justin's chest and their breaths were in sync just then. The tiny secret room was so quiet that their rapid heartbeats were clearly audible.

After quite some time, there was a burst of laughter from outside.

"Alright, Mr. Riley. I'll get Tomas to draft the agreement."

“Sure, no problem.”

Rachel finally heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing the door shut from outside.

Just then, Justin released her from his arms.

Somehow, he pressed on a button and the bookshelf gently twisted and it opened outward. Suddenly, the light flowed in from outside and illuminated more than half of the secret room.

“Everyone’s gone. Come on out.”

Rachel recollected her senses and nodded her head as she followed Justin out of the room.

How did you get here?

If he was able to come here in person then why did he force me to go through this frightful episode?

Justin shot her a cold and indifferent look. “If I wasn’t here, do you think you would be able to open the safe?”

Can you open it?

Shocked, Rachel stared at him but she quickly regained her composure.

Justin was a man of many talents so surely, there was nothing that could trouble him. Besides, this was merely a simple and tiny safe.

Meanwhile, he ignored her and glanced behind her thoughtfully. Then, he coldly exclaimed, “How many people do you think have lost their lives because of your family?! We’re already in the 21st century but you’re still worshipping such a thing?”

Worshipping such a thing?

Rachel’s expression went still and her eyes followed his gaze behind her. Just then, she saw the full view of the secret room. Inside the room, there was a mini-sized altar and the flickering light from earlier was in fact an incense burning in an incense holder.

She couldn't help moving closer to take a look, but her face paled immediately upon noticing the deities on the altar

My Mute Bride Chapter 42-The so-called Deities were in fact not deities but a piece of wooden plaque carved with the birthdate and time. The four edges had locks on it, which were spray-painted red and bolted tightly to the ground.

On the right side of the plaque, there was a framed piece of bright yellow talisman and the writing on it was messy and indecipherable.

Just then, Rachel's feet felt as if they were filled with lead. Her eyes were fixated upon the talisman and it felt as if she was about to bore a hole into it and find out what was beneath the frame.

Just then, Justin could sense that there was something wrong with her.
"What's wrong?"

However, it seemed that Rachel didn't hear his words at all and she reached out an arm toward the talisman.

"What are you doing?" Justin pulled her back.

They must not touch a single item here. Otherwise, if Jefferey came back and saw it, he would definitely realize that someone had broken into the place and therefore it would be harder for them to obtain the formula next time if they failed to get it this time.

However, Rachel's face was as pale as a sheet and she was still staring fixedly on the talisman with a dazed look on her.

Is she possessed?

Meanwhile, Justin frowned and admonished, "Don't move."

He was never a believer of spiritual objects, so he reached out his arm and immediately removed the talisman to reveal the frame behind.

There was a black-and-white artistic photo in the frame and it was evidently taken from a studio. The photo looked like it had been taken in the last century.

The woman had on a traditional outfit and she looked very young. She had a demure smile on her face which somehow looked quite familiar to Justin. He seemed to have seen her from somewhere before.

“Boohoo—“

Suddenly, there was a sobbing sound that came from behind.

Justin was momentarily shocked and he looked back to see a face filled with tears.

Rachel’s hands gripped the bookshelf tightly and her eyes were red-rimmed. Although she tried hard to suppress her emotions, she couldn’t seem to control her immense sorrow and she sobbed in a hoarse voice.

Justin glanced at her face and suddenly, he seemed to comprehend the part of the situation.

The woman in this photo was...

At that moment, Rachel’s vision was blurry. The bright-red necklace, the clear birthdate and time, coupled with that exact same photo that she had as well... Each of them seemed to be a clear indication for her.

Just then, the sound of Justin’s phone vibrations rang out from his pocket. Frustrated, he glanced at the safe right in front of him and then he took a look at Rachel.

After quite some time, he put back the talisman and dragged Rachel out of the room.

“Umphhhh—” Rachel struggled to break free as she wanted to remain there.

“Don’t look at it!” Justin reprimanded her in a low voice. “Even if you continue staring at it, she won’t be able to come back from the dead.”

This woman’s such a bother. If I knew that there would be such an accident, I might as well not get her to come along.

At the lounge of the second floor, Frankie sent a paper bag containing a gown into the room before retreating and closing the door after him.

“Mr. Burton, how did Mrs. Burton end up like this?”

Justin frowned slightly in response and he remained lost in thought. “How did Rachel’s birth mother pass away?”

Previously, he had assigned Frankie to conduct the investigation when he knew that he was going to marry Jefferey’s daughter.

Frankie paused momentarily. “It was due to a car accident.”

“Is that confirmed?”

“This was what was recorded at the police station. Mrs. Burton’s birth mother didn’t have a stable job in the past and she usually went out to work at night. Once, she consumed too much alcohol and ended up losing control. That’s how she got into a car accident and passed away.”

“What did she work as?”

“Well...” Frankie hesitated.

Truth be told, Frankie had already reported this matter to Justin in the past and it wasn’t something that was hard to find out either. In the records, Rachel’s mother provided illicit services. Because of her great looks, she was considered to be a popular hostess at one of the high-end clubs at that time and Jefferey had been a regular customer there.

“After some time, she suddenly quit and left the industry. She disappeared for quite some time and after that, Jefferey received the news that she had passed away from a car accident, leaving a young daughter behind.”

Illicit services?

Justin recalled the photo he saw at the altar. Come to think of it, Rachel had a strong resemblance to the woman in the photo and both of them had a demure and docile look—there was a clean look in their eyes. Whatever it was, she didn’t seem like one who would resort to working in such an industry.

Just then, Frankie noticed Justin’s silence and he couldn’t help asking, “I thought you went to seek for the formula today? Why are you suddenly asking about this? Did something happen?”

Upon hearing that, Justin finally recollected his thoughts. “Let’s talk about the formula another time.”

As soon as he finished his words, he raised his arm to look at his watch. "Has the dinner party started?"

"It's started. Everyone's waiting for you to get there and they've asked after you quite a few times already."

"I'm leaving."

"What?" Frankie asked, revealing a surprised look.

Just then, Justin replied in a low voice, "Inform Jefferey that I've got something else on. I'll head back with Rachel."

His original plan was to get Rachel to look for the safe. Once her face was captured on the footage of the surveillance camera at the corridor, then even if he took the formula with him, she would be the suspect in Jefferey's mind.

However, he didn't expect that there were so many disruptions which had delayed his time.

Right now, it looked like Rachel wouldn't be able to continue attending the dinner party.

As soon as he finished his sentence, there came the sound of the door opening.

Rachel pulled open the door and stood at the entrance. Her new gown was quite figure-forming and the black-colored ruffled dress perfectly accentuated her neck and shoulders, putting her snowy-white neck on display.

It was quite evident from her eyes that she had just cried as they were tinged red from earlier, but that just made her seem more delicate than ever.

I'm fine. I can attend the dinner party.

Justin was significantly stunned by her response.

Meanwhile, it was dark out and the ballroom was filled with people.

Amber was currently chatting with her friend. Mid-conversation, one of the waiters handed over a bottle of wine from the cellar to her. Subsequently, he leaned over to whisper something into her ear. Thereafter, she revealed a smug smile.

“What’s up, Amber? Why are you so happy about a bottle of wine?”

“What’s there to be happy about? It’s just wine,” Amber muttered as she raised her brows. “I’m happy because someone who’s overestimated herself has jumped into a trap herself without even taking a look.”

“What are you talking about?” Her friend couldn’t understand Amber’s words and surveyed the surroundings confusedly. “I thought Tina said she was coming? It’s quite late already, so why is she not here yet?”

“She left.”

“Left? When did that happen?”

Amber then mentioned with a meaningful tone, “Her well-kept secret was revealed so she’s busy sorting things out. I don’t think she will be in the mood to join the dinner party. If I were her, I would definitely be trying to figure out how to kill off the person who knows my secret.”

“Kill someone? What in the world is going on?” her friend questioned with a frown. “I really don’t know what you’re talking about anymore.”

As she said that, someone standing next to them suddenly said, “Justin’s here.”

Amber’s expression brightened upon hearing that and she stood up from the couch immediately. She hurriedly checked her hair and straightened her clothes. Then, she followed everyone’s gaze and glanced in that direction.

“Isn’t that your elder sister?”

In fact, Amber had already seen the duo as soon as her friend’s words hit her ears.

Standing at the staircase, Justin was dressed in a crisp, black tuxedo and his expression was as cold as before. The terrifying scar on his face did nothing to hide his good looks and right now, he was walking toward the middle of the ballroom.

Rachel was his partner and she had changed into a black-colored ball gown. At the moment, she held onto his arm and had an elegant and composed look

on her face. In truth, their arrival was quite harmonious and they looked the perfect match.

However, this scene was quite jarring to Amber.

All of a sudden, she clenched her fingers tightly and her newly manicured nails pierced into her palm, practically piercing through her flesh.

Rachel's able to attend tonight's dinner with Justin and she exhibits such composure too! Is she showing off in front of everyone and mocking me?

My Mute Bride Chapter 43-Justin very rarely appeared in public, but the guests present at the Hudson's dinner party could clearly identify him by the ugly scar on his face.

"Is this Justin Burton?"

"He doesn't look as terrifying as everyone mentioned."

"Exactly! And his relationship with Rachel seems quite good too."

Just then, the crowd whispered among themselves in the ballroom. Fortunately, there was background music to mask their voices and at the same time, someone had already approached Justin to greet him so the scene became quite lively all of a sudden.

Countless people came forward to hand Justin their name cards. Just then, Rachel instinctively wanted to withdraw her hand and walk off but Justin grabbed her hand tightly. She glanced sideways and met his calm, steady look.

All of a sudden, she was significantly shocked. After that, she stood there hearing the compliments from the crowd and once she looked up again, she had already revealed a graceful smile to the crowd around them.

Since young, she had practically never experienced such attention from anyone. In the past ten years, her life had been as quiet as her condition and there was not a single ripple in her uneventful life. She was always the non-existent person at every event of the Hudson Family.

However, her marriage to Justin seemed to be the turning point of her life.

"Amber, your sister and brother-in-law seem to have a good relationship."

Amber's friend's words hit her ears and the ugly look already present on Amber's face turned uglier. "It's all just for show. He can't possibly ignore her in front of so many people!"

As Amber said that, she left her friend and strode purposefully toward Justin.

"Justin."

Rachel was currently by Justin's side greeting the crowd when she was suddenly interrupted by Amber's voice.

"Justin, why did you arrive so late? Rachel came by herself earlier so I thought that you were not joining us tonight."

Amber behaved as if Rachel, who was currently standing by the side, was invisible. In short, the former focused only on talking to Justin.

Everyone present clearly caught her emphasized words that Rachel had 'came by herself'.

Meanwhile, Justin replied indifferently, "There was something urgent at the company so I got the driver to send Rae here first. Did I miss anything interesting?" His words spoke volumes.

Amber's expression stiffened in response and she glanced at Rachel before replying awkwardly, "You didn't miss anything. Did Rachel mention anything to you?"

Justin didn't answer. However, his eyes focused on Amber's neck. "The necklace suits you."

He changed the topic so quickly that everyone was quite perplexed. Meanwhile, Amber's face lit up and she suddenly revealed a coy expression as she touched the diamond necklace on her neck without saying a word.

This was a gift from Justin when he accompanied Rachel back to the Hudson Residence previously.

"The birthday boy is here."

Someone hollered loudly and the crowd's attention became focused on the other entrance of the ballroom. Just then, Jefferey entered the room while

chit-chatting with a few of the Hudson relatives and they managed to attract everyone's attention.

"Justin, let's go and wish Dad a happy birthday!"

Amber immediately reached out for Justin's hand and dragged him along. As for Justin, he didn't object to it and he left Rachel standing right there.

Momentarily stunned, Rachel felt an inexplicable sense of sadness well up as soon as Justin's arms were removed from her side. In all honesty, she couldn't control the emptiness in her heart.

Obviously, everyone would like a dazzling woman, right?

Despite Amber's personality in private, at the very least, she was a likable character on the surface.

Meanwhile, Justin was dragged by Amber and they came to stand right in front of Jefferey. The former then turned around to glance further toward the back and noticed that Rachel had walked off quite a distance away.

"Justin, could you give me a hand with the cake?"

"Sure." He then collected his thoughts and followed Amber along to push the cake trolley. However, his thoughts remained fixated on where it was originally. All of the thoughts swirling in his mind were related to the scene earlier in the study room. He couldn't quite shake off the scene of that woman's devastated and distraught look from his mind.

As for Rachel, she had no intention to join the crowd so she took a seat in a secluded corner. As she sat there, she saw Amber and Justin push out a cart with the birthday cake on it for Jefferey. Soon after that, she walked off by herself to get a bottle of wine. Normally, she abstained from alcohol but today, she wished to have a drink.

As soon as she recalled her mom's tablet being locked-up in such a cramped space by Jefferey, she felt a burst of anger that welled up within her and threatened to spill over.

It was clearly evident that it wasn't an altar to commemorate the dead. The bright-red locks and the walls full of talismans were clearly an arrangement

specifically there for the dead and it wasn't intended to commemorate but instead, it was to suppress the dead!

Did Mom really lose her life from a car accident? Suddenly, Rachel was quite suspicious of the whole incident.

The night had fallen and the full moon was clearly mirrored in the swimming pool by the ballroom.

"Do you plan to get drunk and then act pitiful in front of Justin?"

There was a female voice that rang out from in front of Rachel, causing her to clench the bottle of wine in her hands tightly as she raised her head to glance across the room.

Somehow, Amber had trailed after her.

"Are you keeping quiet because I guessed correctly?" Amber crossed her arms and her four-and-a-half-inch high heels clicked loudly against the tiles next to the swimming pool. She glanced at Rachel with a cold expression and the haughty look on her face was clearly evident. "I'm sorry, I must have forgotten. You're a mute so you can't even express yourself."

Rachel shot her a look and gestured, What do you want?

She's not inside fawning over Justin or acting as the dutiful daughter in front of Jefferey, but she came over to find fault with me. What's the point anyway?

"I'm here for something important of course! Justin just drank some wine earlier and now, he's having a discussion with my dad about business matters so I came out to take a breather. I'll have to head back inside soon." As soon as Amber finished her words, she snorted coldly and added, "Do you think that everyone is as useless as you?"

Meanwhile, Rachel clenched her fists tightly and her expression darkened slightly.

"What are you looking at? Did I say something wrong?" Amber scanned her surroundings and replied smugly, "How dare you come here anyway? Have you forgotten how you fell to the ground and sliced your forehead open when you were young?"

Just then, Rachel felt a throbbing pain on her forehead as soon as Amber brought up the incident from their childhood. Since young, Amber had a mean streak in her that was as comparable as right now. In the past, she had pushed Rachel into the unfilled swimming pool, causing the latter to fall to the ground and bleed profusely. This remained Rachel's worst nightmare even up till today.

"Do you think that Justin will stand by me, just like how Dad did, if the same thing happened again today?" Amber questioned, her expression turning vicious.

Instantly, Rachel's face turned and she took a step backward instinctively.

"Why are you so anxious?" Amber stared at Rachel with a cold look and then the former removed her necklace in front of the latter. "We're no longer kids so obviously we have to act our age. Do you think that I'm still the same as when we were kids?"

As soon as she said that, the necklace soared into the air at a perfect angle and landed with a 'plop' sound into the swimming pool.

Rachel frowned at her, What are you doing?

"You've got two options right now. One, jump into the pool and get it for me. Two, I'll tell Justin that you grabbed my necklace and dumped it into the pool. Do pick one. I must say that I'm quite generous to you."

Pale-faced, Rachel confronted Amber, Why are you doing this?

Meanwhile, Amber scanned her from head to toe and replied, "I haven't avenged myself from the episode at the pond last time, so I suddenly realized it. This is fair, right?"

Upon hearing that, Rachel clenched her fist tightly and her palm throbbed with pain. She fell into the pond at the Hudson Residence because of her own doing and now she's blaming everything on me?

In the past, Rachel had tolerated Amber's tyranny and overbearingness because the former was thankful for Jefferey's kindness in taking in her and her grandmother after her mom had passed away. However, the scene at the altar today had overthrown everything in her mind.

Amber, I think I've got a third option.

My Mute Bride Chapter 44-Amber was startled. "What do you mean by a third choice?"

Before the woman could even react, Rachel suddenly lifted her hand to push Amber's shoulder.

Splash!

There was a huge splash in the swimming pool.

"Cough... Ahhh... Help me!"

Rachel silently stood beside the pool as her expression grew colder under the moonlight.

The third choice that she had mentioned was to push Amber with that damn necklace together into the swimming pool.

The commotion at the swimming pool quickly alerted the people in the hall, so the attendants immediately saved Amber from the pool. One by one, they hurriedly covered her with towels, but even so, she had made herself a fool in front of everyone.

"Amber." Jefferey held Amber in distress. "Are you alright?"

Then, she let out a loud cry while pointing at Rachel with a trembling finger. "She pushed me!"

The moment her words came out, it caused an uproar among the surrounding guests.

His face darkened as he glared at Rachel. "What happened?"

However, she remained silent and refused to deny or confirm Amber's accusation.

"I can't believe this, Rachel. Have you already decided to abandon your family just because you are now Mrs. Burton? How dare you do this to Amber! If anything happens to her, I'll—"

“What will you do?” A deep voice was suddenly heard from behind Rachel as it interrupted Jefferey’s lecture.

Before she could even turn around, her body was completely engulfed by an enormous shadow.

As he looked at Justin, Jefferey could not help but significantly control his temper. “What is it, President Burton? Are you now going to defend your wife?”

His words immediately reminded everyone else that Rachel was no longer the neglected daughter of the Hudson Family. Rather, she was now Justin Burton’s wife, so no matter what she did, he still needed to pay some respect to Justin.

While being as indifferent as usual, Justin uttered, “This is your family’s business. I’m just here to have a look.”

His words were clear as ever.

Upon listening to him, Rachel couldn’t help but silently laugh at herself. How could he ever speak up for me?

If he were willing to help her, Amber wouldn’t have had the confidence to play such tricks with her.

Upon hearing Justin’s words, Jefferey finally let out a huge sigh of relief. After all, since Justin was here, it wouldn’t be wise for Jefferey to immediately accuse Rachel, so he coldly questioned, “Rachel, I want you to tell me what happened earlier. How did Amber fall into the pool all of a sudden?”

Meanwhile, Justin tucked both his hands into his pockets and he stood aside as if he was an outsider watching the drama.

After withdrawing her gaze, Rachel lost all hope as a hint of grievance was seen on her gorgeous face. Amber wanted to grab her necklace which fell into the pool. I tried to pull her back, but she fell in the end, she explained through her gestures.

“Nonsense.” Jefferey’s voice deepened. “Why would Amber jump into the pool for a necklace?”

You can ask her that for yourself. When she was in the Burton Residence back then, she also jumped into the fish pond for no reason. Am I right, Amber?

There was a hint of coldness on her face as her usual calm personality had now turned aggressive when she brought up the 'fish pond' incident.

Sure enough, Amber's expression suddenly changed as she hid inside Jefferey's arms. If she mentions the 'fish pond' incident at the Burton Residence, it would completely destroy my reputation.

The surrounding guests couldn't understand sign language except for Jefferey and Amber, so all of them were looking at each other, wondering what Rachel had said.

"What fish pond?" Justin's voice was loud, but those three simple words just so happened to fall into Rachel's ears.

She instinctively glanced at him in shock. He actually knows sign language?

As for Amber, her face quickly paled while she explained in panic, "It's nothing. I didn't say that it was her who pushed me into the pool. I... I was just trying to grab my necklace. It's my fault."

The moment she explained what had happened, the guests immediately discussed it among themselves.

"Did she really accuse the other woman by mistake?"

"Doesn't this count as slander?"

Meanwhile, Jefferey's expression darkened because he was infuriated after being embarrassed in front of all the guests. "Amber, what are you talking about? Have you lost your mind?"

Upon listening to the whispers of the other guests, he angrily threw her aside before leaving.

"Dad!"

Amber was now covered in a towel as she looked really embarrassed.

Then, the housekeeper asked everyone to return to the hall while leaving the frantic Amber alone.

Rachel, I'm not done with you yet!

Because of the farcical scene, Jefferey was so embarrassed that he ended the banquet early.

Therefore, Rachel and Justin returned to the Burton Residence in the same vehicle.

"You are quite a good liar." His deep sarcastic voice echoed within the car.

She was immediately left dumbfounded as she stared at him. He knows that I was lying?

Justin's narrow eyes slowly focused. "Unfortunately, you were still too impulsive. There are many surveillance cameras at the banquet."

If Amber hadn't panicked after Rachel mentioned the fish pond, Amber could have checked the surveillance video straight away and the truth would have been revealed.

Rachel let out a sigh of relief and leaned against her seat after she heard him. There wouldn't be any surveillance cameras at the pool. She isn't that stupid.

Since Amber had the courage to throw the necklace into the pool for her to retrieve, she would have definitely made sure that the scene wouldn't be captured by the surveillance camera just like what she had done at the Burton Residence last time.

Sadly, she didn't expect Rachel to push her straight into the pool.

However, it was all thanks to Justin's help.

After a moment of silence, Rachel asked, Do you understand sign language?

She wanted to know why he acted like he didn't understand her at all when she came to Burton Residence when he actually knew sign language all this while.

While looking at her, Justin slightly furrowed his brows to show his annoyance. "What does that have to do with you?"

For a moment, Rachel was taken aback, so she changed the question. You knew that I was lying, so why did you help me?

If she hadn't mentioned the fish pond all of a sudden, Amber wouldn't have felt nervous and the scuffle wouldn't have ended so quickly.

"Help you? You are thinking too much. I was just helping to preserve the Burton Family's reputation. The Young Madam of the Burton Family wouldn't do such a degrading act," he coldly answered.

Upon listening to him, she couldn't help but feel gloomy. Is he blaming me for causing him trouble again?

Ding!

Suddenly, a message was sent to Justin's phone, breaking the awkward atmosphere.

Rachel quickly withdrew her gaze and silently swallowed the other questions she had in mind. Instinctively, she turned her head toward the car window.

Meanwhile, he unlocked his phone and read the message sent to him.

'President Burton, I've done what you asked me to do. Just as you had expected, it is a method of suppressing wronged souls that is rumored among the geomancy believers.'

As he looked at the message, his eyes glanced to one side.

At the same time, Rachel leaned against the car window while quietly gazing outside in a daze. The side of her face looked extremely gentle and soft, but after a closer look, he could see the gloom within her eyes which she started to have after exiting the study room.

Then, Justin replied to Frankie, 'Go and investigate how Rachel's mother had died back then.'

'Didn't she die in a car crash?'

'Apparently not.'

After he typed those two firm words, he kept his phone away as his expression became serious.

If her mother actually died from a car crash, Jefferey wouldn't have felt so guilty that he has to turn to such a superstitious method. Suppressing a memorial tablet is just simply absurd.

My Mute Bride Chapter 45-Rachel had always been in a daze ever since she returned from the Hudson Family's birthday banquet.

She went to the hospital the next morning.

"She always goes out every day. At this point, she might as well stay at the hospital." Sue stood in front of the dining table as she glared at Rachel, but she didn't stop Rachel.

"Madam, I don't think you should worry too much about it since she definitely won't last long with Mr. Burton," Mrs. Duncan answered.

"Why do you think so?"

"The two of them are still sleeping in different rooms at this moment and if this woman can't bear any child for him, they won't last long even if they don't hate each other. On top of that, she is a mute."

Upon listening to Mrs. Duncan's words, Sue subconsciously glanced upstairs and suddenly thought of something. "Then, if another woman bears his child, won't this solve all of our problems?" she asked thoughtfully.

Inside the ward of Tran-Q, Nancy was recovering well and she could now begin to walk.

Rachel was accompanying Nancy while she ate her breakfast. Granny, can I ask you something?

"What is it?"

Last time, you told me that my dad brought me home because of something else. Wasn't it because my mom passed away?

Nancy's hand trembled slightly as she ate the porridge. "Why are you suddenly asking me this?"

Rachel gently smiled. In the past, I would get a headache whenever I tried to remember my childhood, so you always told me not to think about it. Now, I've

completely forgotten everything. If I don't ask you, I may not even remember what my mom looks like.

"Are you starting to miss your mom?" Nancy sighed as she pulled Rachel into her arms and patted the younger woman's shoulder to comfort her. "Don't think too much if you can't remember. All you need to do is to be happy."

As she leaned against her granny's arms, Rachel was filled with mixed emotions.

Granny, my dad told me that Mom died from a car crash.

Nancy's eyes immediately darkened as she fell into silence.

Due to Rachel's identity as Jefferey's illegitimate daughter, she seldom mentioned her biological mother in front of him or the Hudson Family.

However, the statement that her mother died in a car accident was the one she had heard the most.

"That's right. She died in a car crash." Nancy's voice sounded obscure and reluctant.

Then, Rachel rose to her feet. However, you told me before that I lost my voice in a forest fire. Before that, Mom had been with us all the time in the mountains with no roads, so how did she end up in a car accident?

Even though she had no memory about it, she had heard about it from Nancy many times before.

Before the Hudson Family had brought her home, Rachel, Nancy and her mother lived in a remote mountainous area where there were no roads and cars. That was the reason why the fire brigade couldn't enter to save them during the forest fire.

After listening to Rachel, Nancy turned her face away as she was obviously dodging her granddaughter's question. "Why are you asking me this today?"

Rachel pulled Nancy's sleeves, trying to gesture at Nancy to lift her head so that she could be observed while speaking.

"Rae, I'm feeling a bit tired today. I'm heading to sleep." Nancy's voice sounded hoarse as she pulled her blanket and lay down on the bed.

Upon seeing her this way, Rachel did not dare to ask any more questions.

Since Rachel was a kid, Nancy would rarely mention her mother to her. Now that her body was not in the best of health, Rachel did not want to agitate her any longer, especially when she had discovered that the cause of her mother's death wasn't an accident.

When Nancy fell asleep, Rachel closed the door and went out.

"Rae." The moment she went out, she ran into Julian, who just came to work. "You arrived much earlier today."

He initially wanted to drive her here, but Sue had informed him that Rachel left earlier in the morning.

Upon seeing him, Rachel nodded and smiled reluctantly.

"What is it? Is there something bothering you?"

Rachel shook her head.

"Is it because you still can't rent a room?" A concerned Julian asked.

She didn't want to explain much to him, so she simply nodded her head. I'll just tell him it's because I can't rent a room. Besides, it is indeed something that bothers me.

He smiled and answered, "You don't need to worry anymore since I've already arranged everything for you."

Rachel was stunned when she heard his words. He has arranged everything?

"There is a housing estate half a mile away from the hospital called Glendale." After they entered his office, Julian placed his keys on the desk and showed her the photos on his phone.

"It is a house with two bedrooms and it belongs to my friend. At the moment, he is studying abroad for another two more years, so it is temporarily unoccupied."

However, without even looking at the photos, Rachel immediately shook her head. Your friend's house is not suitable for granny.

“Don’t worry, I’ve already spoken to my friend. He said that he doesn’t care about the rent. He just wants you to take care of his furniture.”

While Rachel still hesitated, Julian took out the tenancy agreement. “It’s a formal process and I’m just the middleman. You don’t need to feel pressured by it.”

At this point, there was no way for her to reject him.

Although he had helped her a lot to secure this house, she knew clearly that she should stay far away from him.

Thank you, but I can’t accept it. She returned the contract to him with a firm look. Dr. Peters, Granny will be discharged in a few days’ time, so I will find a house for her myself. Thank you for taking care of her during this period. Granny and I really appreciate it.

“You don’t need to be polite with me.” Julian’s face darkened.

Rachel shook her head while she clenched the writing pad in her hand. Then, she rose to her height from the front of the desk and gestured to leave.

He knew that it was useless to say anything, but upon looking at her leaving, he suddenly felt disappointed in his heart.

Julian had never tried so hard to help a girl or felt this frustrated before. No matter how much he tried to help Rachel, she always seemed to shrug it off.

His instincts were telling him that she was avoiding him on purpose.

Frankie went into Justin’s office with a document in the afternoon. “Director Burton, this is the investigation report you wanted.”

Justin lifted his head slightly before he flipped through the document. “Tell me everything.”

“Since you are in a hurry, I still can’t confirm the minor details, but I found out that Miss Hudson’s mother is actually someone else. The woman who died in the car crash isn’t her biological mother,” Frankie explained.

Justin glanced at him. “Continue.”

“Their ages don’t match. The woman died in the car crash when she was 23 years old, but at that time, Miss Hudson was eight when she was brought back to the Hudson Family.”

Her mother was 23 years old when she was eight? Justin’s eyes grew colder. “This doesn’t mean anything per se.” We can’t rule out the possibility that Jefferey might be inhumane enough to impregnate a 15-year-old girl.

“It’s not just their ages. Their backgrounds don’t match either. We had previously overlooked one thing, which is Miss Hudson’s granny.”

Justin’s eyes happened to land on Nancy’s profile in the document.

Frankie continued, “Miss Hudson’s granny was born in Somerset Mountain and she has nothing to do with the woman who died in the car crash at all.”

Somerset Mountain?

Justin’s hands suddenly trembled as he held onto the document. At the same time, his eyes seemed to grow tense.

Frankie suddenly seemed to realize something that made his face freeze. How could I forget that I must never mention Somerset Mountain in front of Mr. Burton?

Back then, the biggest kidnapping case in Riverdale was the abduction of the Young Master of the Burton Family, who was Justin himself, by human traffickers. Therefore, Somerset Mountain was the place where he had almost lost his life.

My Mute Bride Chapter 46-The name ‘Somerset Mountain’ echoed within the office.

Justin’s expression visibly darkened as the ugly scar on his face trembled vigorously, as if the protruding vein from his forehead was suppressing his sudden surge of emotions.

“She was born in Somerset Mountain?”

Frankie returned to his senses and he quickly nodded his head. “Yes, Miss Hudson was eight years old when she was sent to the Hudson Family with her granny.”

“They were brought from Somerset Mountain?”

“That... I’m not sure.” He nervously looked at Justin.

After all, 20 years had already passed and the servants of the Hudson Family had changed many times, so it wasn’t easy for Frankie to find out that Rachel was brought over with her granny, let alone discovering their origins.

Upon listening to Frankie’s answers, Justin was instantly filled with mixed emotions. All of a sudden, he closed the document in his hands and said, “I want you to find out more about it. Let someone else head to Somerset Mountain to investigate.”

For a moment, Frankie was startled. “President Burton, why are you suddenly so interested in investigating this?”

However, Justin didn’t answer as he coldly uttered, “Go and look for the survivors of that forest fire back then. No matter how big or small, I want to learn everything about Rachel, her granny and the Hudson Family. Hurry up and go.”

Upon facing Justin’s cold gaze, Frankie quickly nodded his head. “I’ll ask someone to look into it immediately.”

Justin nodded slightly.

“By the way, there is one more thing I need to tell you, President Burton.”

“What is it?”

“About Miss Hudson renting a house outside, the intermediary couldn’t get into contact with her, but he has Dr. Peters’ number. When I called him today, he told me that Dr. Peters had already rented the house.”

“He rented it? Where is the house?”

Frankie stuttered, “Glendale.”

Justin tightly furrowed his brows in that instant. A house in Glendale?

In the night, the particularly clear sound of an engine was heard in the courtyard of the Burton Residence.

Rachel had already taken a shower and she was now reading a book on the side of her bed. As soon as she heard the engine sound, she immediately closed the book and put it aside before wearing her sandals.

She had been waiting for Justin to return.

When she went downstairs to the living room, he had just removed his jacket and handed it over to the maid. The moment he saw her coming down, he immediately furrowed his thick brows. “Why aren’t you asleep yet?”

Rachel shook her head and pointed at the kitchen. I’ll go and make some tea for you.

When she was done making the tea, she brought it over to Justin’s study room, but he wasn’t there. However, the bedroom next to his study wasn’t closed shut, so she could hear the sound of water splashing on the floor.

Therefore, she simply waited for him in the study room, but a frayed newspaper on his desk quickly caught her attention.

Even though the paper looked ancient, the masthead ‘Riverdale Times’ was still clear to the naked eye. Below, the front page headline had an eye-catching title—‘Justin Burtin, the eldest grandson of the Burton Family was successfully rescued from a group of human traffickers in Somerset Mountain before their den was burned to crisp by a forest fire.’

It’s a newspaper from 20 years ago.

Rachel was stunned upon that sight.

It wasn’t difficult for her to discover that Justin was abducted years ago, but she was curious as to why he had retained the newspaper until now.

“What are you doing?” A gloomy voice was suddenly heard behind her, which gave her a fright. Immediately, the newspaper fell onto the floor mat.

I’m sorry. Rachel quickly leaned over to pick it up.

However, Justin was much faster than her. Before she even had the chance to touch the newspaper, his huge hand had already taken it away.

With a dissatisfied tone, he asked, “Who allowed you to simply touch my stuff?”

Rachel felt her heart racing as she revealed an apologetic expression. I'm sorry.

After he impatiently glared at her, he placed the newspaper back in the drawer of his desk.

Before he closed the drawer, he saw the black and white photo of 'the burning Somerset Mountain' in the newspaper. All of a sudden, he tightened his fingers as if he wanted to tear off the edge of the newspaper.

Out of the corner of his eye, Justin glanced at Rachel and remembered what Frankie said to him earlier in the evening. Suddenly, he had a suspicion in his heart. "When did the Hudson Family bring you back?"

For a moment, Rachel was left startled, but she carefully answered him. When I was about eight or nine years old.

"Don't you know how old you were when they took you back?" Justin glanced at her sideways and questioned, "Where did you live before coming back to the Hudson Family?"

Rachel shook her head. I don't remember.

After seeing her reaction, the anger on his face grew as he sneered, "You don't remember or you don't want to talk about it?"

Even though he was certain that it was Jefferey who set that fire in Somerset Mountain 20 years ago, he never found any evidence to prove the man's guilt.

When Justin realized that Rachel was brought back to the Hudson Family not long after the fire, he couldn't help but suspect whether these two situations were connected.

However, she just couldn't remember what happened to her back then as she revealed a bitter expression. I fell really ill after they brought me back to the Hudson Family, so I can't remember anything before I was eight.

She couldn't even remember what her mother looked like, but Nancy had luckily kept a photo of her so that Rachel wouldn't forget.

Upon seeing that Rachel couldn't remember anything, Justin began to lose his patience. "Since you don't know anything, what are you standing here for?"

After gritting her teeth, she decided to tell him. You told me before that you want to make a deal. Now, I would like to renegotiate the terms with you.

His expression immediately darkened as he scanned her face with his cold gaze.

If I can help you to locate the formula, will you allow me to leave the Burton Family?

“You want to leave the Burton Family?” Justin’s narrow eyes focused slightly on her.

Rachel pressed her lips and explained, Since I wasn’t the one you planned to marry in the first place, you can go to the Hudson Family and ask for compensation after my departure. If you really want to, I’m sure Amber will still be willing to marry you.

In the meantime, Justin’s face became gloomy. “What happens afterward?”

Afterward? She was confused. What do you mean by afterward?

Then, he stepped forward toward her. As she was engulfed by his imposing shadow, she could hear his cold voice sweeping across her ears. “You can finally be together with whoever you like afterward. For example, Julian. Am I right?”

A startled Rachel took a step back, but Justin grabbed her at that moment.

“Are you starting to think that I’ve been too tolerant with you lately?”

She shook her head and tried to calm herself down. There’s nothing between the two of us.

“I’ve known Julian for many years, but I’ve never seen him this concerned about a woman. He would drive you to the hospital, buy you breakfast, take care of your family, and even...” Justin’s eyes suddenly grew colder. “He even took you and your family in to live with him.”

Rachel’s expression immediately changed. What are you talking about?

She was confused because she did not agree to live with Julian at all.

“Are you now denying what I’m saying?” He tightened his fingers around her hand to the point where it almost shattered her delicate wrist. “Don’t tell me that you didn’t know that the house in Glendale was registered under Julian’s name. Also, don’t tell me that you are only renting his house. This kind of childish trickery won’t work on me.”

Her face paled as she never agreed to rent Julian’s house at all. I really don’t know anything about it.

Justin coldly stared at Rachel with his knife-like eyes as if he was slicing her body bit by bit. “If you want to negotiate, you must first have a bargaining chip. What is yours? Is it your body?”

My Mute Bride Chapter 47-The sky was already bright when Rachel regained consciousness. She didn’t know when the man next to her left, but the residual warmth of his body was still on the bed. When she tried to move, she could feel the soreness and pain all over her body as if she was crushed last night.

Rachel tried her best to sit up while she held her blanket. After a moment of dizziness, she stared at the light shining through the curtains and thought about what Justin had said to her last night.

“I want you to remember this. Once you’ve joined the Burton Family, only I can decide when you can leave.”

Rachel then tightly held the blanket. Am I destined to be under the control of someone for the rest of my life? No. For Grandma’s sake, I must change my current situation. I can’t let it continue.

As she thought about it, her phone suddenly rang. On the other side, Jefferey’s cold voice was heard. “I want you to come home immediately as I need to talk to you.”

As she looked at her phone, Rachel furrowed her brows. He’s definitely calling me over to ask about what happened that day at the banquet. It just so happens that I have something to ask him too.

When she arrived at the Hudson Residence, the housekeeper informed her that Jefferey was waiting for her in the backyard.

“I’ve told you before that I’m only having her by my side for a purpose other than placing someone near Justin.”

“What purpose does she have? That mute whom you raised for many years is always bullying Amber.”

When Rachel came to the entrance of the backyard, she could hear the voices of two men through a screen. One of whom was Amber’s uncle—Josh Steward.

Since Josh had doted on his niece, Amber, he was now infuriated with Jefferey’s decision. “Jefferey! Don’t forget that Amber’s mother suffered from depression then because of that mute! Do you want to see Amber going down the same path?”

“That won’t happen. Amber is my precious daughter; otherwise, I wouldn’t have allowed Rachel to marry Justin. Don’t you know what kind of a person Justin is?”

As she listened to their conversation, Rachel froze on the spot as she suddenly felt empty in her heart.

He’s right. Everyone knows what kind of a person Justin is. He knew that sending me over would be a torture, but he still did it. It is a fact that I was never well-liked in the Hudson Family.

Then, she heard Josh’s response. “Since she has married him, you should just sever your relations with her. Overall, I don’t want Amber to see her ever again. Even I feel infuriated whenever I see her.”

“I can’t do that. Even if she isn’t married to the Burton Family, I still can’t afford to cut off my relations with her.”

“Why?”

“Have you forgotten that she is our only clue to the formula?”

The formula? Rachel felt a thump in her heart. I’m sure that he mentioned that I’m the only clue to that formula.

However, she didn't dare to continue eavesdropping on their conversation anymore, so she went to wait for him in the living room. At the same time, she carefully thought about their conversation and felt that something was wrong.

Not long after, Jefferey sent Josh off and saw her in the living room. "When did you return?" Jefferey's expression looked strange.

Rachel calmly explained, I've been here for a while. Rosa told me that you are meeting a guest, so I chose to wait here.

Now that she had explained to him, she nodded her head at Josh, who was behind Jefferey, to greet him. However, Josh let out a grunt and glanced at her with disdain before leaving without saying a word.

After Jefferey had sent the man off, he returned to sit down while the maid served them with some tea.

Dad, what did you want to ask me about?

"Amber told me everything. You were the one who pushed her at the banquet, right?"

Jefferey had a somber expression and his eyes were staring at Rachel in a way that he wouldn't even use on strangers.

However, she remained calm. The truth depends on who you believe in. No matter what I say, you'll always believe Amber's words. Am I right?

It was always the same ever since she was a kid. There was one time when they went to the vineyard in the outskirts where she had been pushed by Amber into a waterless pool. It had resulted in Rachel knocking her head on the ground, but no matter how much she had accused Amber, it was all brushed off by Amber's simple reply. "It was Rachel herself who tripped."

Amber never bothered to apologize.

Upon listening to Rachel's words, he was infuriated as he bellowed, "What are you saying? You are Amber's older sister, so you should always tolerate her."

So, if she commits murder in the future, are you going to frame me for her crime as well if you have the chance to do so?

It was what Jefferey had done when he forced her to marry into the Burton Family.

Rachel was usually calm and she had hardly ever been this aggressive, so Jefferey was taken aback for a moment. After a while, he was enraged and slammed the table in front of him. "Do you really think you can say anything you want now that you have the Burton Family's backing? Don't forget that you are still a member of the Hudson Family."

While she looked at his angry face, she became calmer instead. Dad, I have dreamed of Mom for the past two days.

He was stunned for a moment as the rage faded from his expression, but no one knew whether it was from guilt or something else. "Your mom passed away many years ago. Didn't you forget everything after a bout with that serious illness?"

She wore a gentle expression. My memory has become better recently.

Jefferey was stunned as he looked at her in shock. "Do you remember anything?"

Rachel tentatively explained, I keep having the same dream of Mom bringing me up to the mountains to collect the herbs. At the same time, she kept telling me to memorize the—

"What?"

The formula.

He immediately jumped from the couch and looked at her in joy. "The formula? Have you remembered it?"

As Rachel looked at him, she was stunned as her eyes were filled with mixed emotions. Before she arrived, she had already prepared what she was going to tell him so that she could find out the cause of her mother's death from him. Actually, she wasn't sure whether the formula had anything to do with her mother's death, but she gambled with her chance. By the looks of it, her suspicions were correct.

The car drove all the way to the Hudson Vineyard in the outskirts.

While he sat on the back seat, Jefferey continued to comfort Rachel. "It's fine if you can't remember it. I'll take you to see something that'll definitely spark your memory."

She gently nodded her head and thoughtfully looked outside the window. What is this formula? What does it have anything to do with me? Why would Jefferey, who loves her daughter a lot, stop interrogating me to hurriedly bring me to this vineyard as soon as I mentioned the formula?

While they were on the road, those words echoed in her mind. She is the only clue to the formula. I'm the only clue? Does this mean that Jefferey raised me up in the Hudson Family all these years because of this?

The moment they arrived at the vineyard, Jefferey immediately brought Rachel to the same study room as their previous trip. As she looked at the direction of the bookcases, she suddenly became gloomy while resisting the urge to question him about the tablet and geomancy located behind the bookcase.

"Rae, come here." Jefferey immediately opened the safe under the desk in front of her and removed a letter before handing it over to her. "Open it and have a look."

What is this? Rachel silently guessed something in her heart.

"This is the secret formula of the Hudson Family that has been passed down from generation to generation."

My Mute Bride Chapter 48-A Pointless Formula As Rachel retrieved the envelope from Jefferey's hands, she noticed that it was thin and virtually weightless.

Can I look at it? she asked, looking curiously at him.

It was strange that he was handing her something that even Amber hadn't seen before.

Yet, he nodded his head in the affirmative. "You're my daughter. Whatever belongs to the Hudson Family also belongs to you. Why wouldn't you be able to open it?"

With that, Rachel carefully opened the envelope in front of him and pulled out a yellowing piece of paper with delicate rows of writing in between red lines.

‘Valerian, passionflower, hops...’

There was nothing special about this piece of paper. Wasn’t it simply the formula for the Hudson Pharmaceutical’s sleeping pills? The ingredients listed on the paper were exactly the same as those listed on their medicine boxes.

Perhaps that was the only strange thing—the contents were exactly the same, with no listed dosages on this piece of paper.

As Rachel was pondering the matter, Jefferey spoke urgently, “Well, Rae, do you remember anything?”

She shook her head.

Of course she didn’t remember anything. She had been lying to him from the get-go.

“Look at it carefully.” He seemed a bit impatient. “Didn’t you say your mother had you memorize the medicine’s dosages? Try to remember it.”

Upon hearing his words, she finally understood what he meant.

It was obvious that Jefferey had a list of ingredients but none of the required dosages.

Yet, the sleeping pills were Hudson Pharmaceuticals’ top-selling product. Its production had never stopped all these years. How did they manage to produce it if he didn’t have the precise dosages?

All of a sudden, Rachel’s heart sank.

Dad, how did my mom die? she asked.

The sudden question caused his expression to stiffen. “I thought I told you she died in a car accident. Why? Did your grandmother say something?”

While looking at Jefferey’s guilty expression, Rachel happened to glance at the bookcase situated at the far end of the room from the corner of her eye.

After a heartbeat, she slowly shook her head in denial.

Only then did his expression relax.

Given that she couldn't remember anything, he sank in disappointment onto the chair behind his desk.

Even when she returned the formula to him, he carelessly tossed it aside, as if absolutely unconcerned about it.

Indeed, the contents listed on the paper did not have any financial value—what was worth a lot were the required dosages. It was no wonder he previously had the paper locked up so carefully.

“Let's forget Amber for now. How's your progress on what I asked you to do?” Jefferey asked coldly from behind the desk.

As she tried her best to look calm, Rachel answered, I'm on it.

“It's true we can't rush it, but you need to hurry. The Hudson Family needs the support of the Burton Family, not just for me but for yourself too.” While looking at her, he asked, “Do you have any more of the drug left?”

She frowned before she shook her head.

That packet of drugs had been thrown away a long time ago. After all, her room was rarely visited by anyone; so, she imagined that the drugs were still under her bed at this moment.

On the other hand, her father was thrilled, thinking she had already used them up. “I'll have someone send you another packet soon. Remember—don't use too much at one go, or you'll be discovered.”

Upon having no other choice, Rachel nodded in understanding.

For now, Jefferey locked the formula for the sleeping pill inside the cabinet. With a demeanor that was completely different from how he usually treated her, he added, “Rae, you don't get to return often. You should come home with me tonight and have dinner with the family.”

His change in attitude surprised her, but she surmised that it was likely because she brought up the medicine formula.

It was only when night fell that Riverdale became a bustling city.

Inside the summer villa owned by the Burton Family at the outskirts of the city, it had been a while since Tina was summoned into the study by Jason.

Clang!

The thunderous sound of porcelain being shattered rang from the study.

“Tina!” While in the living room, Lilian anxiously stood up.

“Sit down.” Arthur was still holding his cane and seated unmoving on the couch with a severe expression.

Lilian’s face paled, but she dared not rebel against him. “Tina is still a young kid who doesn’t understand things, Dad. I’m afraid she might say something that enrages Jason so much that he’ll lay a hand on her.”

“You can’t interfere even if he does. She is indeed the one at fault here.”

“She’s your most beloved granddaughter, Dad—”

“Enough!” His cane slammed once on the floorboards, interrupting her words. “Did she consider the repercussions of what she did? Clearly, I must have spoiled her too much for her to turn out so bold and lawless! How are we going to explain ourselves if the Johansson Family finds out about this?”

Lilian watched Arthur in the silence as her face became pallid.

Meanwhile, Tina was still on her knees inside the study. Her knees were already slightly bruised, but she had remained stubborn. “I take responsibility for what I did, but I’m not going to explain myself.”

At this moment, Jason was so angry that he was trembling. While pointing at her nose, he yelled, “No? Tell me, then—what are you going to do about your betrothal to the Johansson Family? You’ve disgraced me. You’ve even disgraced your grandfather!”

“What’s the big deal? We can just call off the engagement. I don’t want to get married anymore.”

“Hah! And what makes you think we’ll call off the engagement just because you don’t want to get married anymore? This plan was set in motion a long time ago and it’s not up to you to decide whether you want to or not!”

As she turned her face away, Tina muttered, "Whatever you say."

Her recalcitrance had enraged Jason even more. "Let me tell you something, Tina Burton. I have already transferred Henry Offerman somewhere else, so don't think you'll ever see him again from today onward!"

Tina's expression immediately changed. "Where did you transfer him to?"

"That's none of your business. At any rate, it's someplace you'll never locate and if I find out that you're looking for him, I'll send him somewhere even worse and farther."

"How can you do that?"

"Because I'm your father!" Jason coldly glared at Tina. "You can continue to kneel here until you finally figure things out and willingly marry into the Johansson Family."

With that, he stormed out of the study without looking back.

The door slammed shut with a bang.

Upon hearing the door being locked, Tina gritted her teeth so hard that they nearly shattered before pulling her cell phone out of her pocket to call Henry. "Hello?"

The other end of the line was silent for a long time.

"Say something! My dad says he has transferred you. Where did he transfer you to?"

"We can't talk to each other again in the future, Tina."

"What?" she asked anxiously. "Where are you right now?"

"At the airport," Henry answered weakly. "Mr. Burton's men are right next to me, so I can't tell you where I'm going. The point is that I won't be able to see you again in the future. Keep your head down and don't enrage him. Live your life well."

"Wait, you're at the airport? Where are you going? I'm coming to find you." Tina immediately stood up and went to open the door, but it was locked from outside and couldn't be opened no matter what.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

“Open the door! Open the f*cking door! Are you all dead?”

Bang! Bang! Bang!

From the other end of the line came the announcement to board the flight and the call ended before Tina could say anything else.

“Hello? Hello? Henry!” While still holding onto her cell phone, she finally broke down.

Deep in her heart, she wondered who had spilled the beans. How did they know to tell what had transpired to her father and her grandfather so that she would have no way of hiding the truth?

There weren’t many people who knew about this matter.

All of a sudden, Tina recalled the incident from the Hudson Family birthday feast a few days prior. It’s her. It has to be her, that mute woman!

My Mute Bride Chapter 49-A week later, Nancy was discharged from the hospital.

Ever since Rachel indicated that she was about to regain her memories, Jefferey’s attitude toward her had warmed considerably. He called her multiple times in that week itself and invited her home for dinner.

His behavior led her to confirm that her mother’s death was connected to the medication formula.

“I can take care of myself, Rae. Why did you hire a nurse?”

Inside her bedroom, Nancy was looking out through the door and she grumbled a little at Rachel’s waste of money.

As Rachel stacked a pile of clothing onto the shelves, she glanced up at Nancy with a smile. The nurse was introduced by Dr. Peters, she signed. She’ll come over every day only to help you make your meals and tidy up the place. If anything happens, she can also contact me in a timely manner.

Although Rachel hadn’t accepted Julian’s offer to help her find a place, she had accepted his assistance to introduce a nurse instead.

“What can happen to me? I’m fully recovered now.” After looking around for a moment, Nancy sighed. “It is true that this place is a little too large for a single person. It’s such a pity that you can’t come over to stay with me.”

Rachel lowered her head in guilt without much explanation.

Nancy had assumed Rachel was still living at Hudson Residence, in which Rachel saw no need to clarify the situation as she was considered a member of the Hudson Family.

“Dr. Peters is a good man, Rae. We should find an opportunity to thank him.”

Yes, Dr. Peters is a good man, Rachel agreed.

“How about this? Have him come over for dinner this weekend. I’ll make us all some pierogi.”

The moment she heard Nancy’s words, Rachel stopped stacking the clothes for a while and immediately shook her head. He’s an extremely busy man.

“Whether he’s occupied or not is his business because we have to show our gratitude.”

Knowing that she wouldn’t be able to change her grandmother’s mind, Rachel surrendered and agreed.

When the time came, she simply needed to tell Nancy that Julian wasn’t free.

As if she saw through her granddaughter at a glance, Nancy responded, “Well, call him now and arrange a time. I want to ask him whether there is anything I should avoid eating, anyway.”

At once, Rachel lifted her head and glanced at her watch. I have no time, Grandma. I have to be at work soon.

“Oh, Rae...”

It was only after she slammed the door shut that she let out a sigh of relief.

She knew that her grandmother was intending to set her up with Julian, but she knew that it was impossible. As she couldn’t explain much to Nancy, she could only avoid her grandmother for now.

Moreover, she hadn't lied; her leave had ended today and she would have to head to the City Council Library in the afternoon for work.

Meanwhile, at the Burton Group, the engineering department was holding a project summary meeting for their bid inside a conference room.

"The bidding results for the Brentwood New City project have been released. Everyone's hard work during this period has paid off, thanks to President Burton's great support of our engineering department too. Once the contract has been signed, we'll be able to start implementing our overall plan..."

After Justin had listened in for a while, Frankie entered the meeting room after answering a phone call and whispered, "We've finished investigating your email leak, President Burton."

"What did you find?"

"We have tracked the IP address of the sender to an address abroad and managed to pinpoint a specific location."

Justin frowned at that.

When the meeting ended, he returned to his office.

With a solemn expression, Frankie handed the investigation report to him while saying, "Here's the specific address."

When Justin saw the 'SG Conglomerate' logo on the report, his gaze slightly darkened. "Are you sure it came from a computer inside SG Conglomerate?"

Frankie nodded. "According to this report, five of the floors in this SG Conglomerate building are rented out. For now, we've only managed to pinpoint the IP address to this building but not to a specific computer there. The network in this building is protected and our technology department hasn't been able to hack into it yet."

SG Conglomerate had crossed paths with Burton Group three years ago. At that time, SG Conglomerate was trying to break into the domestic energy market only to have Burton Group snatch the project right from their hands. Because of that incident, the two companies were not on good terms.

“Do you think these photographs were sent by someone within SG Conglomerate, President Burton?”

As he lifted his head from perusing the report, Justin answered coolly, “How do you think the previous two photographs have affected Burton Group?”

Now that the two photographs involving Julian and Rachel had been brought up, Frankie felt perturbed and answered hesitantly, “Maybe they’re trying to do the same thing that happened before and exploit public opinions to affect Burton Group’s reputation and, with that, its stock price.”

“They wouldn’t need to send the photographs to me if that were the case.” Unerringly, Justin pointed out the flaw in Frankie’s logic.

If the other party was trying to do as Frankie said, they could simply send the photographs to the media, write a news report, and hire some people to smear Burton Group’s name online. There wouldn’t be any need to send the photographs to Justin’s email inbox at all.

A stumped Frankie stood there with mouth agape as Justin’s logic was irrefutable. “So, they’re—”

“It might not have anything to do with them.”

After all, five floors of the building were rented out. From their previous conflict, Justin knew the people of SG Conglomerate weren’t so foolish as to do something that could be discovered upon initial investigation.

As such, he instructed Frankie, “Find out which companies are renting the five floors and the backgrounds of their respective person-in-charge. Also, have the overseas market research department monitor SG Conglomerate’s recent movements.”

In truth, Justin wasn’t expecting for an incident so minor to be connected with SG Conglomerate. After all, Rachel was the intended target of the email. At first, Justin even assumed that it was a repeat of the previous rumor incident and he was nearly certain that it was the handiwork of the mindless Amber.

However, judging from the current situation, things weren’t as simple as he thought they were.

As the saying went, it was better to be safe than to be sorry. It was best that he investigated the incident thoroughly.

“What has Rachel been doing lately?”

Frankie paused. “I was just about to tell you that her grandmother has left the hospital today and she is staying near Newbridge. She has a nurse taking care of her and the nurse—”

“What about the nurse?”

“The nurse was introduced by Dr. Peters,” Frankie answered in nervousness.

Justin snorted coldly. “I see that he’s making a career change from a doctor to a housekeeping agent.”

He and Julian had never gotten along as kids and as they grew up, their personalities had only drastically diverged. In his eyes, Julian was an idealistic child who never grew up whereas in Julian’s eyes, Justin was nothing more than an opportunistic businessman.

“And the place that she rented is at Newbridge?” Justin continued asking.

“Yes.” Frankie nodded. “It’s not far from the City Council Library where she works.”

Works?

If Frankie hadn’t mentioned it, Justin would have forgotten that Rachel was a working adult with a job at the City Council Library.

“She must have a lot of time on her hands if she can take such a long break.”

“She applied for annual leave,” Frankie explained. “It was followed by another week of sick leave because of her grandmother. That’s why she could take such a long break.”

“Annual leave?” Justin narrowed his eyes slightly. “So, it wasn’t marriage leave that she applied for?”

Frankie froze, afraid of having misspoken.

It was already in the afternoon when Rachel left her grandmother's rented residence. When she arrived at her place of work, it was still the lunch hour.

In an attempt not to disturb her coworkers resting in the office, she immediately entered the library to organize the shelves after she kept her bag aside.

Her main responsibility was to return the borrowed books to the shelves and to keep the mantelpieces and archives organized. Although it was not a well-paid nine-to-five job, the workload was steady and leisurely. More importantly, not a lot of social interaction was required.

"Excuse me, are there books about history and literature over here?"

Rachel was in the midst of moving a few returned books from a small cart onto the shelves when a man spoke up behind her all of a sudden. Her body had stiffened as a result and she froze, feeling like her feet had been cemented into the ground.

As if it carried all the brightness of her childhood with it, the man's voice had illuminated the rare few memories of her younger days where she was kindly treated.

My Mute Bride Chapter 50-"I remember that they were here." The voice behind her was clear and powerful. "Am I correct, Rachel?"

As she slowly returned to her senses, Rachel spun around to look at Hans.

"Long time no see." The man before her was a head taller than her. In the eight years that passed since she last saw him, his bright and handsome visage was more mature than in her memory, but his smile was as still as brilliant as ever.

In astonishment, she gaped and signed. How... Why are you here?

As his entire family emigrated eight years ago, she thought she would never see him again.

In her twenty-nine years of living, he was one of those rare folks who brought warmth to her life. Like a sun, he had brightened her entire youth. When she was lonely and helpless, he stood firm and unmoving by her side.

Now that they were in the cafe next to the library, where the rich smell of coffee wafted, Rachel studied the man in front of her for a long time, feeling like she was in a dream.

“I know I’m handsome, Rachel, but I’m going to blush if you keep looking at me like that,” Hans teased by batting his eyelids at her.

She couldn’t resist rolling her eyes at him. I see that your narcissism has never gone away, she retorted.

“Well, I’ll treat that as a compliment,” he chuckled before he looked out the window. “Things have changed a lot here, but you work in a good environment and it puts me at ease.”

When did you return? she asked.

“A while ago, but I was busy with the procedures surrounding my work transfer. If I knew your grandmother was in the hospital, I would have looked for you sooner to help you out.”

Work transfer?

A dumbfounded Rachel stared at Hans. You’re coming back for work?

“Of course. Did you think I was back on vacation?”

How about your parents... Midway through her signing, Rachel stopped as she suddenly realized that something was amiss.

Hans, who was seated opposite her, forced a smile before he admitted with a pained expression, “My mom... passed away two years ago.”

Her expression froze. I’m sorry.

The primary reason why he had suddenly emigrated all those years ago was because of his ailing mother and she needed year-long treatment abroad. For the ease of receiving treatment, his father chose to sell their company and move the entire family along.

“It’s okay.” Hans purposefully gave a breezy smile. “Two years have passed since then. My mother has suffered a lot in life and maybe death was a relief to her.”

All of a sudden, Rachel felt saddened.

His mother, whom she had met before, had been an extraordinarily gentle mom and that was how she raised a son with such a bright and warm personality.

Snap!

Hans suddenly reached out and snapped his fingers in front of Rachel's face, which startled her.

What are you doing? she asked.

"Don't look so sad, okay? Whenever you do that, I'll have to comfort you instead. I remembered that when we were in high school and I broke my leg, you cried so hard that someone not in the know thought I hurt you..."

Rachel snickered.

"Alright, forget about me. How are you doing?"

I—

Before she could finish signing, her cell phone rang, which interrupted her.

When she looked down at it, she realized that it was a call from Frankie. All of a sudden, her heart thumped with a bad sense of foreboding.

"Are you at the library right now, Mrs. Burton?" Frankie asked when she answered the call.

Rachel tapped once on the back of her phone in reply.

"Oh, that's good. President Burton has arranged for me to send some candy to your office as wedding favors for your coworkers. The candy is on its way here and I'll have someone drop it off for you once it arrives."

Wedding favors? she thought in astonishment. Had she heard wrongly? Was Justin actually arranging for her coworkers to receive wedding favors?

"What's wrong?" Hans piped up opposite her.

As she looked into his bright eyes, she felt inexplicably bitter. Nonetheless, she simply tapped on her phone once more and hung up after a moment.

“What’s wrong?” he repeated. “Why do you look so upset?”

While forcing herself to be calm, Rachel shook her head. Nothing, she signed. It’s just that I’m needed back at the office and can’t accompany you anymore.

“Oh! That’s okay; go back to work then. I don’t need you to keep me company.” With a sigh of relief, Hans slouched in his chair with a smile. “I’ll just sit here for a bit before heading home. I’ll look for you on another day.”

Okay. After she nodded, she stood up only for him to stop her.

“Haven’t you forgotten something?”

Rachel paused and looked at Hans uncomprehendingly. What? she asked.

He waved his cell phone at her. “Aren’t you going to leave me with a way to contact you?”

For some reason, or maybe due to the glaring afternoon sun, his smile was so brilliant that it felt like he was pulling her from the brink of hell back into the world.

A few minutes later, still seated next to the window, Hans relaxed when he saw that the WhatsApp number she gave him was valid. Then, he put his phone down in relief. He couldn’t help smiling as he picked up his coffee cup and looked out of the window to see her returning to the library.

Rachel was still awkward and silly in a cute way just like all those years ago.

Meanwhile, she was surrounded by her coworkers once she returned to the office.

“I can’t believe you didn’t say a word, Rachel!”

“I know! So secretive.”

“It must be because your husband is rich and handsome, isn’t it?”

“Don’t hide him! Bring him here for us to look at him sometime.”

As she was bombarded by questions of all sorts, Rachel stared at her coworkers in befuddlement.

Since she couldn't speak, she rarely interacted with them. While they weren't hard to get along with, she wasn't exactly close to them either and it was truly her first time being swarmed like that by them.

"Rachel must have married well. Look at how her husband had someone send us wedding favors. How sweet!"

Immediately after her colleague had said those words, Rachel spotted favor boxes on the nearby desks. Those red and intricately carved wooden boxes were elegant and classy.

She immediately understood what was going on in an instant.

The person in charge of distributing the favors was a man in a suit. He had a straight posture and wore the look of an assistant, but it was Rachel's first time seeing him.

After he finished distributing the boxes, he asked in an extremely deferential manner, "Where do I leave the leftovers, Mrs. Burton? Assistant Beckham had me bring some extra over just in case."

All at once, her coworkers' voices lowered as they stared at her in envy.

Their eyes on her made her feel uneasy, but she forced herself to be calm and pointed to her own workstation. Just leave it there.

The man who had brought the wedding favors immediately nodded and he dropped the remaining boxes on her desk before saying, "If there's nothing else you need, Mrs. Burton, I'll take my leave now."

Rachel quickly thanked him, hoping he would leave sooner.

The moment he left, the atmosphere in the office minutely changed. As they stood around the office, her coworkers exchanged glances with all sorts of expressions.

From a corner, someone piped up, "Let's wish Rachel a happy marriage!"

Once the dam was broken, wishes of 'Happy marriage!' was thrown at Rachel from all four corners of the floor.

Even though she forced herself to smile in gratitude, a sense of uneasiness was brewing in her heart as she thought, What on earth is Justin up to?