

# **My Billionaire Ex-Husband Chase Me Back - Chapter 133 -164**

## **Chapter 133: Plead -**

Chapter 133: Plead

Laura immediately dialed the person's telephone number, biting her nails tensely while waiting for the call to connect.

"Kelly! Oh, thank goodness you finally picked up," Laura was relieved to hear Kelly's voice from the other end. "It's me, Laura. Can you give this phone to Andreas?" she asked hastily.

After hearing Laura Kiels, Kelly wasn't happy with how she called their boss' first name. She knew they had a special relationship, but how could she casually call him that?

"Excuse me, Miss Laura, did you mean Mr. Corby?"

Laura didn't bother answering Kelly's question. Instead, she said, "Kelly, don't ask. Just give him your phone! I need to talk to him now. This is very important..."

Kelly's expression became even grimmer upon hearing Kelly's bossy request.

"I'm sorry, Miss Laura, but you can not talk to Mr. Corby now. He is in the middle of a meeting," Kelly said.

Kelly was worried now. Her furious boss had been upstairs for almost an hour but had not returned. He didn't even bring his cell phone, too angry to learn that the newly appointed CEO had tried to fire him from the company.

"Listen, Kelly... this is very important. If you don't give this cell phone to Andreas, we will most likely face a big lawsuit," said Laura irritably. "Now, take this damn cell phone to Andreas. Now!"

"Miss Laura, even though I want to give this cell phone to him, I can't..." Kelly said calmly, holding back her annoyance at hearing Laura curse.

"What do you mean? Why can't he take my calls?" Laura stopped in her tracks and froze, annoyed by Kelly's words.

Kelly sighed silently as her patience began to wear thin while talking to Laura Kiels. If only this woman were not their number one actress, she would hang up the phone.

"Right now, Mr. Corby is in a meeting with the new CEO of Quantum Capital, so, Miss Laura, I can't disturb them just because you ask..." She said politely, even though inwardly, she was starting to curse her.

“Argh!! Fine... Fine... But you have to tell him that S Jewelry might sue us if he doesn’t clean up the mess he made!” After ending the call with frustration, Laura slammed her phone onto the bed. Then, she storms to the bathroom, fuming. She decides to head into the office to meet with Andreas and discuss this matter.

Kelly was speechless. She looks at her cell phone screen, which has now turned dark.

“Why would SJ sue us?” She muttered while placing her cell phone on the desk and continuing to read some files on her laptop, ignoring Laura’s warning.

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While at Bella’s office.

The tension in the room grew intense upon Jack’s arrival, and he joined in on the silly plot Bella and Leo had created and started.

He was immersed in his role as someone who would receive a verdict from Bella. Jack settles on the single sofa opposite Bella and Leo.

After Jack confirmed that his brother-in-law, Andreas, was looking at them, an evil smile appeared on Jack’s lips before he started to speak.

“Bella, please, I beg you to forget about this. I know that my family is causing problems for this company, but as a friend, can you just let this go? Please don’t send him to prison or sue him for anything...” Jack’s voice sounded sincere as he pleaded.

Hearing Jack’s pleading shocked Andreas. He turned his gaze away from Jack and toward the new CEO, Arabella Donovan.

Since entering this room, only this was the first time Andreas realized the woman’s last name was Donovan. He remembered Jack once telling him that the name of his company, RDF, was actually the last name of its founder.

Instantly, Andreas feels his throat go dry; he feels suffocated.

‘So, this woman wasn’t lying all along? She plans to fire Jack Foster from his position because of me!?’

Andreas became even more afraid when he realized that his brother-in-law would lose his position because of him.

Now, Andreas felt like all his muscles were betraying him. He almost fell to the floor, unable to support himself. He grabbed a nearby couch and took his seat without being asked.

He looks at Jack, then at Bella, but they completely ignore him.

No one looks at him.

No one talks to him.

But what they talk about directly hits him in the heart. They are now discussing his punishment, which includes imprisonment and paying back the embezzled money.

Just the thought of the punishment was enough to make him feel as if his soul had left him.

Andreas' hands started to shake with worry. He turned to Jack, who was still trying to convince Bella to forgive him and give him leniency. It hurt his heart to see Jack do that for him.

Now, there is only guilt left in his heart because he abused his brother-in-law's trust.

Andreas' eyes feel blurry as he says, "B-Brother-In-Law—"

However, before Andreas could finish his words, Jack glared at him and shouted, "Shut up, Andreas!!" he snapped, sharply looking at him.

Andreas looks frighteningly pale and red-eyed, amusing Jack.

'What the fuck! This trash, already cry!?' Jack can't believe what he saw. He tries to maintain his angry expression while holding his laugh inwardly.

After Jack saw Andreas shut his mouth entirely and lowered his head, avoiding his gaze, he turned to look at Bella again.

Jack smiled at her through his gaze this time, but it was only for a moment. He wanted to let Bella know that what she was doing now was fantastic—she succeeded in teaching this stupid Andreas Corby a lesson.

Jack sighed deeply and spoke in a miserable voice, "Bella, I'll accept whatever you want. Just tell me..."

Bella holds back her laugh and looks at Andreas.

Having accomplished her goal, she decides to stop to let Andreas know that his power and arrogance are his greatest weaknesses—he is nothing without Jack's help.

Bella remained calm and composed as she said, "Jack, we are best friends. But for business, that's a different story."

"I understand, Bella—"

Chapter 134: Punishment

She remained calm and composed as she said, "Jack, we are best friends. But for business, that's a different story."

"I understand, Bella—" Jack said faintly.

"What I want is simple. I have two choices for you..." Bella paused to take a deep breath. She appears to feel bad for stating her punishment, but inwardly, she struggles to hold on to her laughter.

Bella never imagined that acting like this would be so exhausting.

She now admires actors and actresses for their ability to portray various emotions and roles perfectly in movies and dramas.

While her? She acted for only a few minutes, and her energy was almost drained.

"Please tell me what your decision is..." Jack said calmly.

However, Bella noticed that Jack held back his laughter and urged her to speak quickly; otherwise, they would be caught.

Bella shifted her gaze to Andreas. She saw him still lowering his head, lost in thought about his fate.

She looked at Jack again before saying, "First, fire him from his position and have him pay every penny for everything he took from the company. If you do that, he doesn't have to go to jail..."

Andreas was shocked to hear that. He slowly raised his head, looking at Bella in horror. He never imagined this beauty would have such a cruel way to punish him.

Now, Andreas can only pray that the woman will give him a lighter choice in option number two. He would accept it as long as he didn't have to go to jail, return the money in full, or have his brother-in-law fired from the CEO position.

"Second, he didn't have to pay anything but went to jail. And you, as the person who brought him into the company, should resign, and you will never be involved in RDF Group again."

Andreas nearly vomited blood upon hearing her second option. Why did both of her choices carry the same weight in his punishment?

'Damn, this woman!!' Andreas can't help but scold her in his mind. He wanted to voice his opinion, but he couldn't say anything. He could only swallow hard and wait for his brother-in-law's decision.

Bella fixed her gaze on Jack.

"Alright, that's my final offer to you, Jack. You decide," she said casually, yet her voice was as cold as ice.

"I choose number one," Jack said without hesitation.

Andreas Corby feels like lightning just struck his head hearing his final verdict.

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Sinclair Tower.

Tristan was engrossed in the document he was signing when Dylan startled him with a sudden knock on the door.

"Speak!" Tristan quickly glances at him before he returns his attention to the document.

"Boss, I have to tell you something very important..." Dylan came in and sat in the chair before Tristan's desk. He felt excited about what he had just found out.

"What's that?" Tristan asked as he placed his pen on the table and looked at Dylan curiously.

"Today, there was supposed to be an advertising shoot for S Jewelry. Boss, I believe you already know that your mother, Ms. Sinclair, has selected Laura Kiels as their new brand ambassador..." Dylan paused, observing Tristan's reaction.

When he noticed Tristan's expression darken, he silently swallowed.

'Did I come at the wrong time?' Dylan wondered as he prepared to light another flame.

"Dylan, since when did I manage that small subsidiary?" Tristan took a deep breath and leaned back in his CEO chair. His eyes were still fixed on Dylan.

He continued, "My parents manage the company. I didn't care what they were doing as long as they didn't tarnish the Sinclair Group name. And I'm not interested in knowing about that woman. So, please stop talking about her in front of me!"

Even though his relationship with Bella wasn't what he wanted—Bella still rejected him whenever he asked her to return to him—he was grateful for their closeness. He could be her driver. He can spend his time with her and their son every weekend.

However, if Bella heard about that woman again, he feared Bella would be jealous.

“Boss, I understand, but please hear me first...”

“Make it short. I have to go to Bella's office soon. I don't have much time to hear your gossip!”

“That woman didn't show up at the filming location. I heard from one of my trustworthy sources... SJ's marketing director was fuming because of that woman's attitude. He wanted to sue her and her company, Stellar Entertainment. But, your mother, stop him...”

As soon as he heard about Stellar Entertainment, Tristan was immediately interested in hearing the complete report on this case.

“Mhm....okay, go on...” Tristan said.

“And what surprised me was that I just learned from our spies...” Dylan smiled, thinking about Max, who told him about what happened at Quantum Capital. “Ms. Bella just made a move. You know what I mean, right, boss?”

Tristan didn't answer; he just nodded. He knew that Bella was planning to fire Laura Kiels. Since then, he has asked Max to monitor what is happening at Quantum Capital to make sure no one could harm her if she made a move like this.

“Boss, The COO of Quantum Capital and the CEO of Stellar Entertainment, Mr. Andreas Corby, resigned this noon...” Dylan continued. When he saw his boss smile happily, he chuckled inwardly.

Tristan took some time before reacting to Dylan's news, carefully considering what he had just heard.

Before long, he gazes at Dylan again.

“Are you sure Andreas Corby resigned because of Bella?”

Tristan still had doubts. Because what he heard was that Bella was only going to fire Laura. She didn't mention that she would also fire Andreas Corby.

Dylan immediately shook his head.

“Boss, I cannot confirm it, but based on my observations of the current situation, there seems to be a connection between them,” Dylan paused while he took his cellphone.

“I think you should check this out, boss...” He offers his cell phone to Tristan.

Tristan’s expression changed abruptly when he caught sight of Dylan’s cellphone screen.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

#### Chapter 135: A Chance to Help Her

Tristan’s expression changed abruptly when he caught sight of Dylan’s cellphone screen.

After a glance, he returned Dylan’s cell phone, “Ask Max to send the picture and video to my mother. Make sure to use her number,” he ordered.

“Her number? So, you want that woman to send her own videos and photos to your mother accidentally?” Dylan asked, shocked to hear Tristan’s plan.

Tristan didn’t answer him. Instead, he asked, “Do I have to explain that?”

“Yes, Boss! I will do it now—” Dylan’s voice trailed off as something crossed his mind.

“What are you waiting for? You can go now.”

“Boss, did you forget something?”

“What is it?” A thin line appears on Tristan’s forehead, which is enough to show his curiosity.

“This is your chance to completely help your wife crush that woman. If you do good, Ms. Bella might waver to you...” Dylan said excitedly when he saw the light in Tristan’s eyes shine. “I’ll excuse myself now. Good luck, Boss!”

Tristan smiled as Dylan left the room, knowing he was right. This was the perfect opportunity to help Bella get rid of Laura Kiels from Stellar Entertainment.

Instantly, countless ideas appeared in his mind. He couldn’t wait to share this with Bella.

Tristan sped up his work.

A few minutes later, Tristan was driving to the Quantum Capital building in his car. He arrived thirty minutes earlier than usual.

Tristan was tempted to call her but resisted the urge to wait.

He needed to meet Bella in person to ensure she was in the mood to talk. He didn't want to ruin her seemingly good mood. This was a rare opportunity to help her. And the chance of successfully helping her was tremendous.

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While inside the Quantum Capital building.

Bella had just finished her work. She plans to prepare herself to go home, but not long after, Jack and Leo come to her office.

"Bella, remember what you promised me," Jack said as he leaned against the door frame and narrowed his eyes at her.

After Bella replaces her high heels with sneakers, she frowns and looks at Jack, confused about what he is trying to say.

"Promise? What promise?"

Leo laughed instantly, hearing Bella's words. He slightly shook his head while patting Jack's shoulder.

"Jack, now you believe me, right? My Boss will not remember trivial things like that."

Jack was speechless. His eyes were still on Bella, and his expression looked like a big word had been written on his forehead, "Seriously!"

When Bella saw Jack's displeased look, she smiled as she approached them.

"Jack, I didn't forget... I just thought you would fly back to your wife right away because you had already achieved your plan to fire your Brother-in-law using my hands..." Bella said in a pitiful tone.

When she saw that he was about to say something, she took a deep breath before continuing, "Boss, you know what? You should reward me with something nice for my achievement. I cleaned up your mess just a few days after starting work in this company." She grinned and then turned her gaze towards Leo.

"Right, Leo? Don't you think you and I should be awarded for this achievement?" She asked casually, but Jack, who heard that, felt like getting a jab from her.

Leo agrees with Bella and says, "Well, I don't need anything, but you deserved it. And, if I'm Jack, I'll give you a generous present, Bella..."

Jack, "..."



Instantly, Jack felt his heart tingling and sour hearing Leo's remark.

"You traitor, Leo! Did you know Bella took so much from me to bring her back to the company?" Jack wanted to say that but feared Bella would twist his words.

So, he remained calm. He didn't want to fall into their trap. Not again!

"Well, that's why I didn't bring it up again...you want to meet with Tristan and Dax..." Bella continued her words when she looked at Jack, who said nothing.

The corner of Jack's lips lifted into a faint smile as he heard her words.

"Too bad I can't meet them because I will fly back tomorrow," Jack said in his gloomy tone.

However, a second later, Jack clapped his hands and smiled widely before saying, "But... Let's have dinner tonight to celebrate your success in firing my scum brother-in-law. As a reward for your help, you can choose an expensive restaurant in the city. I will also pay for all the expenses as a gift for you and Leo."

Bella, "..."

Leo, "..."

"This is just a small token of appreciation for your hard work," Jack said. He saw them in return before continuing, "Come on... there's no need to thank me!"

Bella was left speechless. Jack seemed to have learned a lot today, and she could only inwardly laugh at her failed plan to prank him.

"Deal! But I need to call someone..." Bella said as she walked towards the elevator, and the two men walked between her.

Bella tries to call Tristan. She hoped he had not yet left his office.

He picked up the phone on the first ring, surprising her with his quick response.

"Hi, Bella..." Tristan's cheerful voice was heard on the other end.

They all step into the elevator when Bella apologizes to Tristan, saying that she has an important meeting and he should go home first. She didn't entirely tell the truth that she would go to dinner with Leo and Jack.

"Are you still in your office?" Bella asks when she doesn't hear a response.

Tristan smiled wryly as he spoke to her, “I’m outside your office, Bella. My work has finished, and I arrived early. There’s something I want to discuss with you,” he said, trying to sound nonchalant so that Bella wouldn’t hear his disappointment.

Ding!

Bella was stunned and didn’t leave the elevator upon hearing that Tristan had arrived.

“Y-You’ve arrived?”

After Jack gestured for her to leave, she finally walked out and glanced at the parking lot, where she saw Tristan’s car parked in its usual spot.

“Mhm, and I saw you know—” Tristan said calmly, but a frown slowly appeared on his forehead when he saw a familiar man walk beside Bella.

‘Jack Foster!?’

Chapter 136: I’m Fine Now!

‘Jack Foster!?’

Tristan recognized the man as Jack Foster, a New York businessman consistently ranked among the top 25 wealthiest people in the world by Crazy Rich magazine.

Countless questions now crossed Tristan’s mind.

‘How does Bella know Jack Foster? Wait? Does Quantum Capital also belong to RDF Group?’

Tristan froze when he realized something. So far, he had never tried to dig up information about Bella’s company. But now, he felt the need to do that—to find out about Jack and Bella’s relationship.

“Tristan, actually, I have to—” She can’t finish her words as she knows that Tristan is probably watching them.

“Do you guys want to go to a company dinner?” Tristan asks politely, noticing Bella’s hesitation to speak.

“Yes. My boss... invited us to dinner. I can’t refuse him because he will fly back to New York tomorrow morning.” Bella stopped in the lobby as her eyes fixed on his car.

She felt terrible because Tristan was already in the parking lot waiting for her, but she had also promised Jack to dine with him.

When Bella is unsure how to ask Tristan to leave, Jack overhears their conversation and sees an opportunity to meet Tristan.

“Bella, you can ask him to join us...” Jack smiled at her when their eyes met. “I don’t mind if he joins us. How about you, Leo?” he turned his gaze to Leo.

This was the opportunity Jack had been waiting for to meet Tristan Sinclair. He wanted to teach Tristan a lesson for hurting his best friend in the past and also needed to warn him not to mess with Bella again, or he would do something that would make him suffer.

“I don’t mind either. It would be fun if your ex-husband joined us...” Leo smiled meaningfully at Jack before looking at Bella.

However, his smile immediately disappeared when Leo saw her glaring at him as if she wanted to whack him with her glare.

“Oops, sorry, boss... I mean, Mr. Sinclair,” Leo flashed an awkward smile before turning his gaze to look after Sam, ignoring Bella, who looked sulky. He needs Sam to drive them to the restaurant.

Tristan, who heard their conversation, felt joy. He couldn’t help but thank the two men for allowing him to join them.

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Bella finally had to ride in the car with Tristan while following Sam’s car in front.

They headed to the private restaurant that Leo suggested.

Bella ignored Tristan since she sat beside him and talked to Dax instead. She informed him that she could not return home to dine with him.

“Mommy, it’s fine...” Dax’s cheerful voice relieved Bella. “You’re with daddy!?”

“Yes. You want to talk to him?”

“No, Mom. It’s dangerous to drive while taking a call...” Dax said seriously, which made Bella almost laugh when she heard her four-year-old son talking like an older person.

“Baby, there’s a technology called ‘Speaker.’ Your dad can still hear us.”

“Ah, Mom... You’re right! How could I forget?” Dax couldn’t help but laugh. Then he continued, “Mommy, did you say you were going to have dinner with Uncle Jack?”

“Yes... Uncle Jack is visiting Mom for work. He wanted to meet you, but it looks like he doesn’t have much time now, Dax. So, maybe next time...”

"I see. It's fine, Mom. Send my regards to him. Alright, I have to go now. I have piano class in a few minutes..."

After Dax talked to Tristan for a few words, he ended the call.

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The car became silent again.

However, not long after, Tristan finally can't help but ask Bella about Jack.

"Bella, can I ask you something?"

She turned her gaze at him, "Yes, sure..."

"Jack Foster. Is he the owner of your company?"

"Mhm, he is."

"How do you know him? Have you worked with him before?" He asked curiously.

Given Jack's background and high position in a global company like RDF Group, Tristan had been curious about Bella's acquaintance with Jack Foster.

Bella smiled upon hearing his question, and she started to explain that she knew Jack and Dylan during her studies in the US. Since then, they have become best friends. However, Bella didn't tell him she owned a significant company share in RDF Group.

"I see," Tristan now understands. "It is so nice of him to ask you to work for his company, Bella."

Bella shifted her gaze and looked at the car in front of her before she answered.

"Jack established Quantum Capital in this country in the hope that I would take the management over from him. But when I returned to this country, I never expected my grandfather to force us to get married..." Bella took a deep sigh, remembering those times.

Tristan's face stiffened at her words. He remained silent, worried that their conversation would turn awkward again.

"Well, you know the rest of the story," she laughed softly. This made Tristan even gloomier as he remembered his stupidity in ignoring such a beautiful and intelligent woman.

Bella didn't stop her words. She continues to torture Tristan with her words without her realizing it.

"That time, I was so stupid to fall for you, Tristan. I abandoned my career and only have a plan in mind to become a housewife... Your wife..." she casually said, but for Tristan, her words felt like a thousand nails stabbing his heart.

"Sorry, Bella..." Those were the only words that could come out of Tristan's lips. He tightened his grip on the wheel, looked at the road, and cursed himself inwardly.

"You don't need to apologize, Tristan. I'm alright now and happy with my life..."

Tristan didn't say anything, but his expression remained unchanged — angry at his old self for what he had done to her.

Bella remains oblivious to the change in Tristan's expression and continues to speak.

"From then on, Jack asked his brother-in-law to take care of the company until we divorced—" she paused, glancing at him.

Bella was shocked when she saw Tristan's face darken.

'Huh!? Why is he mad? Did I say something wrong?' She wonders.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

#### Chapter 137: Relieved

Bella was shocked when she saw Tristan's face darken.

'Huh!? Why is he mad? Did I say something wrong?' She wonders.

Nevertheless, she put aside her curiosity and continued her sentence.

"...Jack convinced me to handle Quantum Capital in this country. And you know what, Tristan? One of the reasons I came back to this country was because of him."

Bella sighed deeply while shaking her head, remembering how persistent Jack convinced her to return to the company.

"He was too noisy to force me to take care of Quantum Capital. I had no choice but to accept his offer, and he paid me well. So yeah..." She feels amused to remember those days when Jack visited them every month in Sweden.

She told him everything about it but didn't open up about her share ownership in RDF Group.

Tristan felt relieved that Bella's relationship with Jack was purely professional and friendship. Well, at least he doesn't have to compete with another big shoot.

"I think I should thank your boss. If it weren't for him, who convinced you to come back, maybe I wouldn't have known about Dax and been able to meet you again, Bella..." He said sincerely.

Bella was at a loss for words when she noticed the gloominess on his face.

She regretted mentioning the topic, fearing he would ask her again to return to him — a conversation she always avoided whenever they were alone.

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They arrive at a luxury private restaurant in the middle of the city, surrounded by a semi-forest garden.

This was Bella's first time visiting this place, and its beauty enchanted her.

As their car pulled into the restaurant's front yard, Bella felt like she had left the city and entered the countryside. The atmosphere was peaceful and serene.

She spotted the restaurant's name, Forbidden Garden Private Restaurant, written in gold on the wall.

'What an interesting name...' She mumbles.

While Bella was busy looking out of the car, immersed in the scenery, Tristan couldn't help but silently smile as he stopped the car in front of the main entrance lobby.

'Do they know this is one of my restaurants?' he wondered while looking at the other car in front.

Tristan put aside his curiosity as he dashed out and opened the car door for her.

"Thanks," Bella stepped out and joined Jack and Leo walk to the restaurant.

While Tristan he closely walks behind them and listens to their conversation in silence.

"Bella, you should thank me..." Leo glances at Bella while they enter the restaurant. "It's hard to get a table in this restaurant. I booked a table here a week ago to come with you. And I'm so lucky they called me today. They said I could come today because someone canceled their book."

"Wow! Really?"

“Yes.”

“Does the food taste good?” Bella asked curiously. She relies on Leo’s food recommendations since they are avidly interested in eating.

“On the first day, I arrived in this city, I happened to eat at this Western restaurant with an acquaintance. If the taste isn’t good, I wouldn’t recommend it.”

Bella’s eyes beamed when she heard about the excellent rating for this restaurant.

Leo apologizes to Bella for not being able to get the VIP room.

“I’m sorry, Bella... they only gave me a hall table,” Then Leo glanced at Jack, “I hope you don’t mind eating in the hall, Jack!?”

“No problem. As long as I can have dinner with you guys before I fly tomorrow, it is enough for me,” Jack said with a chuckle. He glanced at Tristan and slowed his step to match him.

Jack couldn’t help but ask, “What about our big boss, Tristan Sinclair? Are you okay eating in the hall?” his question made Bella and Leo look at Tristan.

“Me? Of course, I don’t mind,” Tristan answered before he glanced at Leo. “Mr. Smith, you don’t need to worry about the VIP room...”

Leo, “...”

‘What does he mean?’ Leo wanted to ask, but Tristan avoided his gaze, making him stop mid-sentence.

Tristan looks over at a middle-aged man in a black suit standing not far from them. The man is the manager in charge of this place. After a brief moment of eye contact with the man, Tristan turns his attention back to Bella and the others.

“Follow me,” Tristan said, leading the way up the stairs to the second floor. He glanced over at Bella and whispered, “Be careful...”

Bella, “...”

“Huh, the second floor only for VIP room area, Mr. Sinclair,” Leo said in surprise as he followed Tristan up the stairs. “Do you perhaps know the restaurant manager? That’s why you can access their VIP room without reservation?”

Leo was impressed with Tristan. If he knows Tristan knows the restaurant manager, he doesn't have to wait for a week to bring Bella to eat in this place.

Tristan didn't rush to reply as he continued walking, leading them to the second floor.

Upon arriving at the second floor, Tristan headed straight to the large wooden door in the corner.

When they entered the room, Leo and the others were amazed by the luxury of the VIP room, with a modern interior and large glass windows overlooking the beautiful garden.

There's a large wooden table is positioned in the center of the room, surrounded by ten chairs facing each other.

Upon entering the VIP room, Tristan caught Leo's amused expression as he waited for an answer.

"Mr. Smith, I don't need to make a reservation to come to my own restaurant..." Tristan calmly said as he pulled out a chair for Bella.

"Y-You own this Fo-Forbidden Garden Private Restaurant?" Leo gasped in surprised.

"Yes. I thought that was a piece of public knowledge, and you already knew..." Tristan chuckled before continuing, "Mr. Smith, thank you for your high praise for this restaurant. I will ask someone to send VIP access for you so that in the future, you can come here whenever you want without a reservation."

Leo, "..."

Jack, "..."

Bella could only shake her head while narrowing her eyes at stupid Leo. How could he not do his own research!?

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 138: When Jack Talks to Tristan

After a tense and awkward dinner, the four of them didn't immediately leave the room; they remained in their chairs.

Jack was talking with Tristan about recent global issues.

While,

Leo and Bella started gossiping about what was happening at Stellar Entertainment after Andreas Corby announced his resignation from the company.



However, Tristan could vaguely hear Leo and Bella's conversation. At the same time, he remembered his plan to sue Laura Kiels.

Just before Tristan wanted to tell Bella about it, Jack suddenly asked him to speak outside — on the veranda.

"Tristan, let's smoke outside and continue our chat," Jack said, a meaningful smile flashing across his face as he looked at Bella.

Bella, who witnessed Jack's suspicious gaze, began to feel worried. She frowned at him as if she wanted to stop him, but Jack completely ignored her.

"I'm sorry, Jack. But I didn't smoke. However, I will accompany you outside," Tristan said. He stood from his seat, and before he followed Jack, he gently patted Bella's shoulder and whispered, "Don't worry about me, Bella... We only talk." He could feel Bella seem to worry about them.

Bella, "..."

"Who worries about you!?" She wanted to say that, but somehow, her words betrayed her.

She was speechless.

Bella could still see them from her seat through the glass door connected to the veranda. Her eyes didn't leave them, worried and curious at the same time.

She saw Jack light his cigarette while Tristan stood beside him, and he started talking.

This time, Bella regretted not taking a lip-reading course. She really wanted to know what they were talking about.

"Leo, do you know why Jack wanted to speak with Tristan...without my presence?" she asked without looking at Leo, her eyes still fixed on Jack and Tristan.

"Come on, Bella...why are you curious!? Let them talk alone. What are you afraid about?" Leo chuckled when he saw the stiff expression and worry flashing in her eyes. "You didn't hear what your hubby said?"

Hearing Leo's last words made Bella anxious, even angry. She turned her gaze to him and snapped, "Shut up! Don't joke around saying that, Leo! If someone heard you, they might believe your words..."

Leo ignored Bella's annoyance as he shook his head. He didn't speak nonsense; instead, he stated the facts of what he saw.

Since Leo arrived in this city and worked with Bella, this was the first time he could talk and meet Tristan in person this close. Before today, he could only see Tristan from afar on several occasions because Bella never allowed them to meet.

After meeting Tristan in person, Leo felt confused. Why was the news he heard about Tristan Sinclair was completely different?

Before meeting Tristan directly, Leo is told by Jack and Harper that Tristan is cold to Bella, does not once show his affection to Bella in public, and never says his love for her either.

Nevertheless,

Everything Leo saw now indicated that Tristan was nothing like what he heard before.

Leo watches as Tristan takes care of Bella during their almost two-hour dinner. They appear casual and comfortable together.

Anyone who saw them would definitely think they were still husband and wife.

‘Does this girl realize that Tristan is apparently still showing great affection toward her and most likely still in love with her? People could see he treated her like a queen. Was she aware of that?’ Leo wanders.

He wanted to ask her, but now, looking at her expression stopped him.

From the look on her face, this girl would smack his mouth with her sneakers if he said anything in his mind right now.

Therefore, Leo decides to play safe — keep his mouth shut.

...

While on the veranda.

Tristan narrowed his gaze at Jack before asking, “Okay, Jack, what do you want to talk about?”

Jack didn’t rush to answer. He lit his cigarette and then turned to look at the dark sky above. He was thinking about how to start this conversation.

He was slightly confused when he witnessed Tristan’s sincerity towards Bella during dinner.

Not long after...

Jack finally said what was worrying him now, “Tristan, let’s pull no punches here. Tell me, what’s your motive for approaching her again? Haven’t you divorced her cruelly and pathetically five years ago?”

Tristan was surprised by the sudden question but quickly composed himself and smiled at Jack.

“I usually don’t let people interfere with my personal life. But you have been Bella’s best friend for a very long time. So I’ll allow it. Motive? I don’t have any motive. I only want my wife to return to. That’s all.” Tristan said.

“Wife?” Jack asked, confused when he heard Tristan’s words. “Why did you call her wife even though you were the one who forced her to divorce? Did you lose your memory or something?”

Jack’s words, even though polite, were strong and straightforward. But Tristan only responds by calmly shifting his gaze from Jack to the emerging full moon behind the clouds in the dark sky. He took a deep breath and thought about something.

Although he only briefly knows Jack, Tristan is gifted with the ability to see people as they are immediately. And he could see Jack for what he truly is—he is a good guy. Jack is also sincere in whatever he does towards Bella. He respects her a lot. They look close, not only as friends but also as family.

In just a short time, Tristan felt comfortable talking to Jack, making him decide to hide nothing about Bella from him.

He looked into Jack’s eyes before saying, “You see, Jack, I never filed our divorce papers in court. And those papers have turned to ashes. Jack, Bella is still legally my wife...”

Jack was speechless, unable to utter a single word after hearing what Tristan said.

“I don’t want to force her back to me because I know I’ve hurt her in the past. Instead, I want to pursue her in the right way and let her fall in love with me again,” Tristan explained.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 139: Her Dream

“Tristan Sinclair, you—” Jack was simply shocked by this plot twist.

How could this man never submit his divorce papers?

“You know Jack? She was gone when I realized I was starting to fall in love with her. She disappeared from my life, and I didn’t have a chance to apologize to her and express my real feelings.”

Tristan took another deep breath before he continued his word again.

“And now, when she returns, I want to chase her again. I want—” his voice faded when he saw Jack raise his hand to stop him.

“Tristan Sinclair, why are you telling me this? If you love Bella, you should tell her, not me!”

Jack felt strange listening to Tristan’s confession.

“If you don’t tell her about your feelings, Bella will never know because she can’t read your mind.” He glared at this foolish man.

Tristan, “....”

“Man, I told her many times. But, she rejects me all the time—”

Jack chuckled in delight, hearing Tristan’s sentence.

“You deserved it, Tristan Sinclair. She loves you so much, but you ignore her feelings. Did you know she left everything only to marry you?” Jack purposely says this to make Tristan suffer and blame himself even more.

Remembering Bella’s miserable past still made Jack angry with this fool, Tristan Sinclair.

Bella decided to stop her involvement in the RDF Group and her career only to return to her country and choose to become a housewife, Tristan Sinclair’s wife. Unfortunately, her choice was so sad because the man she called her husband never loved her.

...

Tristan knew he had been a jerk to Bella in the past. He hated himself for it, but it confused him when he listened to Jack’s words.

He never asked to marry Bella, but his grandpa insisted he do so. He couldn’t refuse his grandpa and accept the arrangement at that time.

When they were finally married, he knew little about her. What he knew about her was that she was beautiful and had just returned from studying in a foreign country.

“You said she left everything because of me? Can you explain to me?” Tristan asked, curious to know.

“Bella is the smart one among us and has a brilliant career in our company. But that woman...” Jack glanced at Bella briefly before turning to meet Tristan’s gaze again.

Tristan frowned profoundly and waited for Jack to continue his words.

“...Bella is different from any woman I have ever met. She has a simple mindset. Her dream is not to become a rich woman or a powerful woman in business but a housewife.”

Tristan was shocked to hear that.

“Yes... Yes... I could understand your shock, Tristan.” He chuckled.

“I also had the same expression and feeling when Bella said that to me. That time, I thought she was just spouting nonsense, but after she returned to Astington, she never came back to the company again. And a few months later, I found out she accepted the arranged marriage from her grandpa...to marry you.”

Jack shifted his gaze from Tristan to the moon. His mind drifted back to those moments.

After a few moments, Jack smiled before continuing his words again, “Bella is the only friend of mine who has a simple dream like that, to become a housewife and devote her life to you. He chose you, Tristan Sinclair...”

Tristan staggered as he felt his knees give out and almost fell to the ground. He grabbed the iron railing to support himself.

Knowing how Bella sacrificed her career just to be his wife, he felt like a thousand more nails were now piercing his heart. He couldn’t stop blaming himself for his stupidity, not caring about her feelings.

Tristan couldn’t say a word because, right now, his mind was too busy scolding himself.

After a long pause, Jack turned to face Tristan.

“You know what, Tristan? I already punched your face if you are not Little Dax’s father. You are so damn jerk!!” He said in a casual tone, but it felt like lightning struck Tristan’s head.

Tristan couldn’t refute Jack’s words; he accepted it. He is indeed the most asshole and stupidest human being who has ever graced the earth.

“Tristan, you said you want Bella to return to you?”

“Yes!” Tristan answers him without hesitation.

“If you want her back because you love her, I won’t stop you. But—” Jack trailed off, staring intently into Tristan’s eyes.

Jack’s terrifying gaze seemed sharp enough to make a hole in Tristan’s brain. He silently gulped, waiting for Jack to finish his fierce words.

“I will send you straight to meet your ancestor if you plan to hurt her again, Tristan Sinclair!”

Tristan clenched his fists tightly before saying,

“Jack, you won’t have a chance to do that! And thank you for looking after my wife for the past few years...” Tristan flashed a sincere smile at Jack before he left him and returned to the VIP room.

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Meanwhile, in certain private villas,

Laura Kiels fell to the floor, unable to support her weight, when Andreas’ hand hit her cheek so hard, throwing her onto the floor with her buttocks, kissing the cold marble.

She cries in shock, “Why? Why did you slap me, Andreas?” her voice trembles as she glares at him, furious.

This was the first time this man had laid a finger on her; she hated him!

Andreas stared back at Laura’s angry gaze. He didn’t rush to speak but stepped forward and leaned closer to her. He grabbed her black hair tightly to make her look up to meet his gaze.

“Y-You... Why did you hit me? Why?” Laura roared as she pushed away Andreas’ hand. She started to feel her scalp hurt, but she didn’t have success; Andreas’ grip tightened, pulling her even more.

Andreas moved closer to her face until they were only a few inches apart.

His face was red like a flame, but his eyes were cold as ice, making Laura tremble and confused by the man before her.

She felt like she didn’t know him anymore...

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 140: I Have No Power To Protect You!  
Laura felt like she didn't know Andreas anymore.

As tears streamed down her face, she shot him an angry glare. With a cracking voice, she said, "W-Why you angry with me? Why did you hit me..."

He sneered, tightening his grip.

"An-Andreas... I'm the one who should be mad at you." She continues to express her anger. "...Because of you, now I have lost my Jewelry endorsement. Also, my manager told me that S Jewelry will file a lawsuit against me and Stellar Entertainment. If—"

"SHUT YOUR MOUTH, BITCH!!" Andreas snapped. He gritted his teeth while holding back his urge to slap her again.

Laura's face turned redder and redder as if her blood vessels were about to burst. She really could not understand how this man had suddenly become so strange. This was not like his usual self.

All this time, this man never raised his voice before her. But now? He even slapped and hit her.

She was confused and mad at him.

"Y-You are the one who shut up!! You're a bastard. I hate you, Andreas Corby!" Laura raises her voice. She can't hold back her anger, so she cries even louder, ignoring his furious gaze.

"Again. I said shut up, bitch! This is all because of you. YOU! If you hadn't abused your fame and done your job well at Stellar Entertainment, that woman wouldn't have noticed a thing! But you're so stupid." His dark eyes flickered with intense emotion. He continued, "You drag me down, Laura..."

Laura became even more confused when she heard his words.

"Wh-what do you mean? What did I do? Why do you blame me?" she asks in confusion. "Who is that woman, you mean?"

"That woman... She fired me!" Andreas shouted right before Laura's face. When he saw her eyes widen in shock, he pushed her away before standing straight.

With disgust in his eyes, he looked at Laura, who was now only wearing her evening gown, which barely covered her body. But, for some reason, he wasn't interested in touching her tonight.

“What? Why did they fire you? How could she fire you? Did you mention the company is owned by your family??” Laura asked, wiping her tears. She still can’t believe it.

‘This man must be planning to break up with me, cut a tie with me; that’s why he made an excuse, right?’ She wonders.

Andreas walked to the corner, ignoring Laura’s question, poured himself a whiskey, and emptied the glass in one go.

After feeling his heart much calmer, Andreas’s anger slowly disappeared. He turned to see Laura, who was still sitting on the floor.

He clenched his fist before saying in his soft, trembling voice, “Laura, from now on, I am no longer the CEO of Stellar Entertainment nor the COO of Quantum Capital. I don’t have the power to protect you...And it’s all your fault!!”

His eyes shaking, looking at her now starts to cry again.

He took a deep breath before continuing, “Your career ended, Laura. Now, hide far away from this city or maybe the country because that new CEO will hunt you down.”

Laura was shocked that this man didn’t try to make an excuse, but this is all true. He is telling the truth.

She never imagined the man she thought was God in Stellar Entertainment would lose everything so fast.

‘But, why, Andreas said, I also lose my career? And the new CEO wanted to hunt me down? What does he mean?’

This confused Laura. Because she had never even met the new CEO, but why did the CEO target her? How strange!

Laura couldn’t help asking, “What do you mean? Why does the new CEO want to fire me too?”

“What I want to say is... That woman will throw you in jail,” Andreas said while walking over to the seating area and then sitting on it. His eyes were still fixed on her.

He continued, “Anyone who abuses the company’s position and money will be thrown in jail. And I think you are one of those people who will be removed from the company...”

Laura was shaking after hearing Andreas’ words. She never thought that this could happen to her. She believed she had a strong backup within the company and the industry and that no one could harm her.



However, now everything seemed to be going in an awful direction, and she was unsure how this matter would turn out.

“I can’t help you, Laura. Even I can’t avoid this problem. I’m lucky enough to have my brother-in-law. If not, I will also be sent to jail. Before that woman starts to with you, I suggest you run. Or find another person more powerful than me!”

Andreas rested his head on the sofa and gazed bitterly at the ceiling.

While Laura? She thinks about finding another powerful backup to help her escape this matter.

A smile slowly appears on her lips when someone crosses her mind.

‘Jessica Sinclair...’

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At nine in the evening, Tristan’s car stopped in front of Bella’s house. She said nothing else; she only said thank you and opened the car door.

However, before Bella stepped out of the car, Tristan stopped her.

Tristan starts to tell her that he knows about what happened at her company. He offers his help if she needs it.

Bella was taken aback. She quickly rejected it. This is only a small matter; she can handle it herself.

“Okay...” Tristan smiled faintly at her refusal. “But Bella, I just wanted to inform you that my company will sue Laura Kiels. I hope this helps you find a reason to fire her.”

“Why do you want to sue her? Because of the rumors she always spread in the past that you guys actually—”

“No,” Tristan quickly interrupted her before she could finish. “That’s not the case!” He told Bella about what happened today between S Jewelry and Laura Kiels.

A small smile appeared on the edge of Bella’s lips.

It is a massive help for her to remove this woman from her company.

She can’t stand to see the delusional woman working for her company.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 141: Precious Moment  
Next Morning.

Early in the morning, Bella put on her running outfit to get ready to exercise as usual.

As she reached the first floor, she spotted Noora walking towards the backyard, holding something in both hands.

“Did something happen outside, Noora?” she asked when she saw her rushing outside.

Noora was surprised to hear Bella’s voice. She turned around, “Good morning, Miss. I have to go out to bring this tumbler for young master...”

“Huh!? Baby Dax is already awake!? But this is only six... What is he doing outside?”

Noora was a little surprised when she saw Bella’s reaction. She clearly remembered telling her about this yesterday.

“Young Miss, sorry to ask. Did you read my text? I informed you about this through my text yesterday...”

Bella feels bad.

Yesterday, she was too busy dealing with Andreas Corby’s matter. She rarely checked her cell phone, and it seemed like she had missed this information.

Noora smiled when she saw Bella clueless.

“...Young Master Dax started his martial art today. He had already started about ten minutes outside with his senpai. Do you want to see him?”

Bella said nothing else; she nodded and walked towards the back door. When they arrived at the backyard, she was surprised to see Dax and his martial arts teacher on the field.

She also saw Tristan standing near the outdoor terrace, his eyes fixed on Dax. She felt even worse for not being aware of this precious moment.

“Hi, good morning, Bella...” Tristan greeted her with his spring-like smile when he saw her.

Bella returned his greeting with her not-to-happy expression. She still feels terrible because she didn’t come faster to see her son start her big day, first-day martial arts lesson.

Standing beside him, her eyes focus on Dax, now running on the field following his martial arts teacher.

“You should tell me about this, Tristan.”

Tristan finally understands why Bella appeared in such a gloomy mood. It seemed like she was unaware of their son’s big day.

“I thought you already know...” He smiled at her before following her line of sight.

Bella didn’t respond to his words. She looked at Dax and then at his teacher. After a few seconds, she was surprised to see the man leading Dax.

‘Why does that man look familiar?’ She mumbled while narrowing her eyes and looking at the man.

When Dax and the man finally turned around, facing in their direction, Bella was shocked beyond words.

After waving and smiling at Dax, who is now looking at her, Bella turns to Tristan and asks, “So, Geoffrey is our son’s martial arts teacher?”

Tristan had once mentioned to her his plans to find a martial arts teacher for their son Dax. She left the decision entirely to Tristan, as his idea was to ensure that their child was academically sound and skilled in martial arts and physics.

However, she didn’t expect him to assign Geoffrey to teach their son; she thought he would pay outsiders to teach Dax.

“Yes. There’s no one else who can teach Dax right now other than Geoffrey,” Tristan said while looking at Bella. “He’s an expert among experts. He only feels bored with his old life and chooses to be my butler...”

Bella, “....”

‘Gosh, Tristan Sinclair! You must think you are so genius, and I’m an idiot. Who would believe that?’ She vented her sarcasm in her mind before saying,

“You mean he was on an undercover mission to protect you by pretending to be your butler?” Bella said while squinting her eyes to try to see his sincerity.

Tristan didn’t answer her, but the meaningful smile that appeared on the corner of his lips was enough to answer Bella’s question.

“Why did you assign him to your house when he would be more suited to being in your office or following you around?” Bella asked. Her curiosity about Geoffrey’s identity began to bother her.

Bella’s memories reel back to when she was still married to him — trying to remember when she met Geoffrey.

After a few seconds, Bella finally remembered something. Geoffrey also moved into Tristan’s house as soon as she entered.

‘Why did Geoffrey work as Tristan’s butler the same day I moved there?’ she wonders while staring at Tristan.

Tristan looked back at her without uttering a word. It makes her even more curious. She blinked at him, silently waiting for a response.

Before Bella asked again, Tristan finally said, “Do you really want to know?”

“Yes, I need to know the background and crucial details about anybody who teaches my son.”

Tristan smiles lovingly at her, saying, “Bella, come back to me, and I will tell you everything...”

Bella was rendered speechless.

She gave him a disdainful look and then turned her attention to Dax, ignoring the shameless man.

However, when Bella saw the field, her heart was stiff; she could see Dax patting while lying on the grass. Feeling unable to hold back, she moved to run after Dax, but Tristan stopped her.

“No, Bella,” Tristan said gently, looking at her teary eyes. “Please respect our son’s decision. This is what he wants...he wanted to train hard.”

Even though Bella felt angry at Tristan for letting Dax do this kind of thing at such an early age, she couldn’t argue with him either. He’s right; This wasn’t just Tristan’s decision but also Dax’s.

Bella still doesn’t understand why Dax is willing to go through this at such a young age. Whenever she asks, Dax only gives her a vague answer.

She was increasingly curious about what Tristan actually discussed with their son, which made him willing to do this physical exercise.

“Our son is strong, Bella. Don’t worry about him. Besides, Geoffrey knows what he’s doing. He knows Dax’s physical limit better...”

Tristan smiled at her, trying to reassure her. But when he saw her teary eyes, it made him panic.

“Bella, why are you...” Tristan’s voice trailed off when Bella brushed his hand away and turned her face towards Dax again.

“I know...” She said barely audibly as she tried harder not to cry now.

Bella was worried after seeing her little son working hard.

She understands the difficulty of practicing these exercises because she experienced them when taking Krav Maga and Tae Kwon Do lessons with her self-defense instructor.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

#### Chapter 142: Afraid Of Herself

Bella’s heart ached when she saw how hard her son practiced, so she also decided to do her own practice.

The sun began to rise high as Bella ran along her usual running path. The path was still empty, and she seemed to be the only resident who used that route.

She increased her speed to run as fast as possible while listening to her favorite music.

When Bella finally arrived at the peak, she felt blessed to see such a beautiful view, even though the sun had already risen.

The sky was beautiful, blue, and clear.

After admiring the beauty of the sky for a few moments, Bella decided to rest while sitting on a boulder before going down.

While enjoying the refreshing morning breeze, her eyes looked towards the calm blue sea in the distance. However, before she could really appreciate it, she was shocked beyond words when she saw Tristan standing not far from her.

‘What the hell!? Since when he was there?’ She blinked a few times, wanting to ensure that what she saw was real, not only her imagination. ‘Oh my god... He still there!?’

Bella turned off her music before asking him, “Tristan Sinclair, why are you following me here?”

Tristan turned to see her, putting on the same expression as her — surprised. But Bella could know he was just pretending. How shameless!

“Oh, Bella? I didn’t know you were there...” Tristan approached her. He smiles at her before continuing his sentence, “Since when are you here?”

Bella, “...”

While trying hard to resist the urge to scold him, she could only give him a deadpan expression.

“Tristan, can you stop being shameless? Stop trying to impress me, too!” She snapped.

Bella knew Tristan was trying hard to pursue her and impress her. All this time, she had just let him do whatever he wanted, but now, she felt the need to remind him again.

How tiring!

“Hahaha, sorry, Bella. When I see your angry or annoyed expression, I am even more flattered by you. You look even more beautiful with this expression.”

She almost laughed when she heard his cheesy lines but tried to stay calm and composed out of respect. She could only shake her head lightly and stare at the sea in the distance.

Bella tries to ignore him to enjoy the scenery and the silence. However, Tristan Shameless Sinclair didn’t let her enjoy her peaceful moment.

Tristan sat beside Bella and followed her line of sight, enjoying the view of the blue sea in the distance.

A few seconds passed in silence until Tristan spoke in a serious tone, no longer sounding like a teenage college boy teasing his crush.

“I’m sorry if I’m bothering you, Bella. I just can’t stand the thought of you running alone here. What if a bad guy appears and tries to harm you?” he looks at her.

Bella could only take a deep sigh while she turned her gaze at him. Once more, she feels surprised to see his eyes filled with love and warmth.

Afraid she would drawn there, she returned her gaze to the sea again while trying to calm her mind.

“I heard from our son that you will take him driving around the city today!?” He asked.

“Mhm, I decided not to go to the office today because I came home late last night. I feel terrible for leaving Dax that late and quite often lately,” she answered, still avoiding his gaze. “And the temperature is just right for Dax and me to drive around the city.”

Bella had never had the chance to take her son to see the city, and today was the perfect day. She also needed time to rest her mind after a busy week at the office handling Stellar Entertainment.

“That sounds great. Let me drive you guys...”

Bella was surprised to hear his words. She was about to reject him, but her words betrayed her when she saw his calm and sincere gaze. What she said and thought were completely different.

“Okay...” She feels speechless hearing her own sentence.

Tristan’s eyes became even happier when he heard the answer. “T-Thank you, Bella...”

She silently takes a deep sigh before flashing an awkward smile at him.

‘Well, at least Dax will be happy if he knows his father will join...’ Bella tried to convince herself she was doing this solely for Dax’s sake.

“Okay, where are we going this afternoon? To the amusement park, the mountains, or the beach?” Tristan asked enthusiastically.

Bella told him about her plan. After chatting and making new plans, they immediately went home.

....

What Bella imagined actually happened. Dax was really excited when he found out that Tristan would join them.

Previously, they planned to leave in the afternoon. However, after breakfast, Dax asked them to leave immediately.

Dax knew his parents were busy, especially his father. And he had lots of places to visit and was worried they wouldn’t have time for it.

Bella certainly didn’t refuse Dax’s request. She could only follow her son and Tristan, who seemed to have their own plans and new arrangements for this trip. In the end, she was the one following them now, not the other way around.

Their first stop was the museum, which Dax wanted to see. Then they visited a technology exhibition in the city; they spent their time there until lunchtime.

Tristan took them to a private restaurant in North Mountain, about a 15-minute drive from the technology exhibition venue.

When Tristan's car finally stopped at the Old Stone House, Bella was surprised. She knows this place as one of the luxury private restaurants in the city.

This restaurant does not accept random customers, not even to the nouveau riche.

They could only serve ten guests daily and only accepted members of certain families already regular in their restaurant.

Bella looked at him in awe while silently taking a deep sigh. This man never ceased to impress her. She was starting to be afraid of herself now, worried that she would begin to like him again.

"Alright, let's go..." Tristan's voice snapped her from her thoughts.

Bella immediately steps out of the car, silently following Tristan and Dax as they walk before her. Seeing them hold hands, she feels her heart race.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

#### Chapter 143: Family Day Out

Bella immediately steps out of the car, silently following Tristan and Dax as they walk before her. Seeing them hold hands, she feels her heart race.

It was not the first time Bella felt touched by the closeness of the two men in front of her; she had seen this often since they lived side by side.

By day, she found it hard to describe her feelings anymore. Her heart for Tristan slowly swells again, witnessing how patient and gentle he is toward Dax and how close they are now.

Bella tried hard not to waver, witnessing how close Tristan and Dax were now, but it was hard to do so. Especially all this time, she had always chosen Dax's happiness over her own.

'Did I start to waver on him again?' This question has consistently appeared in her mind lately, teasing and confusing her.

'NO! Stop thinking about it, Bella. You and Tristan are just a thing of the past!' Bella shook her head, trying to get the ridiculous thought out of her mind.



Bella refuses to imagine her future with Tristan; they become husband and wife again. Just imagine how his parents, especially his mother, constantly verbally abused her; it was enough to make her heart suffocate.

“Mommy...”

Dax’s cute voice startled Bella and pulled her out of her thoughts. Bella smiled at Dax and took his hand to walk together. Holding her son’s smooth, plump hands was enough to calm her heart and mind.

The three of them now entered the empty restaurant.

No. Bella felt like he had entered someone else’s house. The place doesn’t look like a restaurant but rather a luxurious home with a large, beautiful living room.

The middle of the room has a seating area with an O-shaped sofa, surrounded by a vast glass wall showcasing a city view.

There are three wooden doors in the corner. She heard from Tristan that it was a dining room—all guests in this place would eat in a private room.

On the other side of the room, Bella saw a bar with wine and expensive alcohol. There was also a billiard table near the bar.

Looking at how luxurious this place was, Bella was curious to meet the owner; she wanted to ask why the owner made a place this beautiful and comfortable but only accepted ten guests daily. From a business perspective, it is clear that this person is not looking for profit.

‘Gosh, Bella! Forget about business! Can you just enjoy this happy moment with Dax?’ Bella chuckled inwardly as she put aside her curiosity.

Before long,

A bald man with a friendly smile on his round face greeted them.

“Mr. Sinclair, your table is ready upstairs,” the bald man said politely. He also greeted Bella with the same politeness; however, when he saw Dax, he was slightly surprised. Still, he kept his curiosity and gestured to them to follow him.

Tristan merely nods while following the man leading them to the second floor.

On the second floor, there’s a small lounge with the same city view with modern furnishings. They didn’t stop there, but the bald man led them to one of the doors in the corner.

A typical luxury VIP dining room has a large wooden table in the center with six rows of chairs facing each other. The room is decorated with modern furniture and expensive art hanging on the wall. It is the same with the lounge on the first floor; in this room, they can also see the city view through the glass wall that faces the city.

Bella and Dax sat side by side with the city view while Tristan sat opposite them, facing the door.

After they ordered food.

They began to engage in small talk; Tristan and Dax talked about the exhibition they visited earlier, while Bella just heard them while checking her cell phone.

She was surprised to read so many texts from Leo informing her about the progress of the company's clean-up matter.

Their legal department started to summon everyone who abused their position and role in the company.

Basically, the company wants them to return what they have taken from the company. If they cannot return it, they will be sent to prison. No one can escape this matter, including the big star like Laura Kiels. She is one of the actresses they have who continually violates the cooperation contract.

Thanks to Stefan, they have all the evidence that Laura Kiels violated the contract, most often advertising the deal and drama. Because of her, companies usually have to pay fines. If she couldn't return the money the company paid for her, she would also go to prison, and her career in this country would be over.

Of course, Bella has a unique way of taking care of this delusional woman. She will not be kind or easy on Laura.

How dare she make a scheme with Jessica to ruin her marriage!? If it weren't for that bitch, her son wouldn't have been born without his father.

Read all company updates from Leo enough to make Bella even more in a good mood.

She typed a message to Leo praising him for his hard work for the rest of the week and today.

[Bella] Leo, you did a great job!

[Bella] Remind me to double your year-end bonus!

[Bella] (Fire Emoji)

Leo's reply text arrived just before she put her phone in her bag.

[Leo] Thank you, boss. But something is going on in the office now.

[Bella] What is it?

She looked at her phone and felt a little worried. Before she wanted to type another text, her cell phone rang.

"Tristan, Dax, I'm sorry, I should pick up this..."

"Mhm, don't mind us," Tristan smiled at her to ease her worries. He could see how nervous she was now, which worried him, too.

"Yes, mommy... take your time..." Dax also smiles at her.

Bella's heart raced slightly when she saw that Dax's smile resembled Tristan's. She immediately stood from her seat and accepted Leo's call in the corner.

"Did something bad happen there?" She asked in her tense voice.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 144: Faster Her Plan

Bella stood from her seat and accepted Leo's call in the corner.

"Did something unpleasant happen there?" She asked in her tense voice.

"Yes!" Leo didn't rush to continue. He sighed deeply to make himself feel better after the hectic morning.

"What is it? Come on, say it! Don't make me curious like a cat." Bella is starting to feel impatient, waiting for Leo to finish his words.

Leo chuckled before saying, "That bitch came into the office and made a scene," he fell silent again to take another deep breath, enough to make Bella lose her patience.

"Okay. And?... Damn it, Leo! I'll hang up if you don't finish your words in one sentence. Why are you trying to waste my time now?"

Bella couldn't hold back her anger any longer. When she wanted to hear the news, this man was trying to waste her time.

"Boss, that bitch wants to meet you."

Bella slightly rubbed her eyebrows with her free hand when she heard Leo's words. This man should know the answer; she would never want to meet Laura Kiels on this matter, and that woman was not worth her time.

"Leo, why are you telling me this? You're supposed to know my answer to that question."

"I do know. However, that woman threatened us. She said if you didn't have spare time to meet her, she would wreck our public image so huge that it would never recover. And she doesn't care if, in the process of bringing down the company, she goes down too..."

Bella couldn't help but laugh a little when she heard someone threaten her company with a kamikaze act.

"So, what does she want with me? Does she want to make a deal with me? Is she lost her brain somewhere!?"

"Hahaha, I know, right?"

Bella didn't know why Laura dared to challenge her, but even when that bitch tried to do so, she didn't have a chance to harm her.

Instead, Bella had prepared a gift for the bitch to celebrate her fall. Bella had initially planned to give it to her after she was no longer in the company, but it seemed like she was eager to receive it now.

A faint smile crossed Bella's face, imagining the present she would give that woman.

"Leo, why did that woman assume she could bring our company down?"

"That bitch said she has evidence to bring down the Quantum Capital..."

"Interesting! She had evidence!?"

"Yes, that's what she said. Well, boss, do you know what upsets me about it? That woman and her manager tried to bully me when I went down the lobby to get my coffee."

Leo's soft chuckle could be heard from the other end before she continued.

"By the way, they also threatened me by saying you would have no choice but to fire me," he continues.

"What? What a delusional couple. I can't believe we have a dumb and dumber in our talent list."

“Yeah, they are indeed dumb! I could understand if they didn’t know who you are and what your identity is because it is still undisclosed. But me? It’s a different case. Everyone knows how high and powerful my position is. They seem stupid enough not to ask someone about my identity and then think they could threaten me...”

Bella felt relieved now. What Leo wanted to convey was not a big problem for her or Leo. She could and would handle that woman, but later, not now or even today. And she needed to end this call.

She feels terrible because she talks too much with Leo and ignores Tristan and Dax.

“Leo, we will talk again about this matter tomorrow. I have to go now...”

“Boss, wait! So, do you want to meet that woman or not?” He asked quickly before Bella hung up the phone.

“No! Ignore her. Don’t waste your time with that bitch... I’ll handle her,” She would take care of Jessica Sinclair and, of course, her ex-mother-in-law.

Bella didn’t want to rush into teaching Laura Kiels a lesson, but the universe seemed to have other plans for her.

“Roger, boss!” He said.

Leo knew Bella had special plans for Laura Kiels, but he didn’t know precisely what she would do. All he knew was that Laura Kiels and her manager would never get another job offer in this industry.

....

“Sorry, Baby, to let you wait...” Bella leaned in to kiss his forehead. Even though Dax didn’t say anything to protest, Bella could see he looked disappointed.

“It’s fine, mommy. I was just worried that your steak would get cold. I know you hated it when your steak is cold.”

“Oh, you’re so sweet, baby... thank you,” Bella said tenderly to Dax as she sat in her chair.

When Bella saw her plate, she was surprised that the steak had already been neatly cut into small slices.

‘There’s no way Dax could do that, right?’

Bella slowly raised her head and peeked at the man across from her—the only person who would cut her steak. This is not the first time Tristan has made a small effort like that, but he does it every time they eat together.

When their eyes met, Bella felt embarrassed to be caught peeking at him. She smiled awkwardly at him, then said, “Thank you.”

Tristan only responded with a faint smile, obviously happy to see her blushing.

“You should eat while it’s still warm,” Tristan said calmly, although he refrained from saying what was on his mind right now — telling her their status and forcing her to return to his embrace.

He distracts his mind and prays to heaven, ‘God, can you lessen my punishment for hurting her in the past!? Please... Please... soften her heart faster. I feel like I’m on the verge of going crazy right now. It’s hard to resist her charm.’

Bella didn’t say anything. She started eating silently while feeling something strange—a warm feeling—in her heart. This feeling worried her because she felt this way the first time she saw him in the past.

Just like Tristan, Bella also began to distract her thoughts by praying, ‘God, if this man loves me sincerely, let me see that sign. But... if this man doesn’t love me sincerely and only approaches me again because of Dax, please keep him away from me.’

After their intense, sincere prayer...

Finally, lunch ended when Dax suddenly felt sleepy after eating so many steaks and cake.

When Tristan asked him to rest on the couch, Dax hurriedly did it, and it took only a few minutes before he fell asleep.

Seeing that, Bella and Tristan looked at each other, smiling. She decided to end their family day and return home.

However, Tristan instantly feels gloomy.

“Are you sure you don’t want to stop by somewhere first? We can let him sleep here first...” Tristan offered. He still wished to spend the day with them. He even plans to have dinner together.

Bella, who knew his worries, could only sigh softly. After a while, she gave him an idea, “Let’s go to your house. We can stay there until night...”

Tristan’s gloomy expression suddenly brightened up instantly.

...

Inside the Mercy SUV park near the main door, a man started taking photos of Tristan carrying a sleeping Dax on his arm with Bella next to him as they left the restaurant.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 145: Investigate Who Takes Their Photos

After putting Dax in his bedroom, Tristan joins Bella in the living room.

Tristan saw her read something on her cell phone. From her expression, he could guess something was bothering her now, which worried him. However, he didn't want to distract her now.

He sat across from her silently. After a few minutes, she looked up at him, and he warmly smiled at her despite her shock.

"Gosh, Tristan, you startled me!" She placed her cell phone in her bag and silently took another deep sigh, trying to hide her worry. However, it was too late. Tristan already knew.

"You look slightly worried. Something happened in the office?" he asked in concern.

Bella, "..."

Even though Laura Kiels made a scene in the office only to meet her, it was not the one that distracted her now. However, an anonymous email reached her in her inbox.

After a few moments of silence, Bella finally told him what was bothering her.

"Tristan, someone followed us and took our picture," she said while offering her cell phone to him. "You can see the picture..."

Tristan's expression instantly stiffened when he saw the photo of them leaving the restaurant. He frowned momentarily, as if thinking about something, before returning her phone.

"Don't worry, Bella. I will ask someone to find out who took this picture and try to blackmail you." He smiled, trying to reassure her not to worry much.

Although Tristan tries to lessen her worry, Bella's expression remains unchanged. She can't dismiss the thought that her evil in-law would see that picture and come after Dax. No, she will never allow them to do that!

Bella looked into Tristan's eyes before she said firmly, "Tristan, I'm afraid your parents will do something bad to Dax."

The light in her eyes flickered as her emotions flared. She continued, "Like forcing Dax to the Sinclair family without my concern. If they do that, I will never forgive them!"

"Bella, how many times have I promised you? This time, my parents will not have the opportunity to hurt you or our son. That's my promise. Please believe me and don't worry about it, OK?" Tristan said with sincerity.

Bella remained silent. Somehow, she still doubts it because she knows how manipulative Jessica Sinclair was in the past.

She even wondered a few times that Jessica Sinclair might be the reincarnation of a female character in Chinese Drama, a white lotus lady type—she appears friendly and gentle before other family members. Still, behind them, she turns into devil's mode every time she faces her.

...

"About that picture, I will ask someone to check now..." Tristan spoke again, pulling Bella out of her worried thoughts.

"Mhm, thank you. If you know who that person is, please tell me. I need to know why that person sent me that photo," Bella said. She was suspicious; that person had a malicious motive.

"OK," Tristan said and took out his cell phone. He made a call without hesitation in front of Bella.

She was taken aback to realize that Tristan didn't hide it when he talked to someone. She believed he was now speaking to his hacker.

"Max, I want you to check the CCTV around Stone House Restaurant..." Tristan tells him the exact time, and he needs the identity of anyone who entered that restaurant around that time.

While Tristan talked over the phone to Max, Bella was surprised to know Max was actually his hacker.

She is already suspicious of Max because, as a Technology Director in a big company such as Sinclair Corps, Max spends most of his time in Tristan's house, teaching Dax coding.

'Geez! No wonder I often hear him talking to Max on the phone...' Bella laughed inwardly as she listened silently to their conversation.

Max, who was in the computer room downstairs, immediately carried out Tristan's orders, and it didn't take long for him to get what his boss wanted.



He calls immediately, "Boss, I send you the details in your email."

"Thanks..." Tristan felt in a good mood because Max could complete the task quickly, only a few minutes after he ended the call.

"That's my job, boss." Max chuckled.

Before Max ended the call, he suddenly remembered something. He said, "Ugh, Boss... I want to take a vacation today. Can I go back to my apartment now?" He had stayed in this house for almost two weeks, and now he really missed his own bed.

"You can, but not now. Dax sleeps upstairs. I promised him that you would teach him at noon. So, you wait until he awakes. You can return to your house this night... and come back here again in two days."

"..."

Max can't refute Tristan's order; he could only say, "OK, boss. I understood..."

After Tristan ended the conversation with Max, he checked the email before showing it to Bella. However, when he read the information, he was surprised to find out who had taken the photo.

"You will not believe who that person was," Tristan said. I emailed you the information."

Bella feels curious.

She immediately opened the email from Tristan. When she saw the information, her expression was exactly the same as Tristan's, shocked beyond words.

"Andreas Corby!?" Bella whispered, feeling confused. "Why does he still dare to take my photos and send them to me?"

"You fired him, right? Maybe he wanted to take revenge on you?"

"Yeah. He was supposed to fly back to his country, but he's still here..." Bella started to believe what Tristan said.

"Do you need me to put someone to tailing him?" Tristan said after he saw worry flash through her eyes.

"No need. I have someone who can handle that." Bella took out her cell phone, and she texted Sam.

“Bella, I could help you. I have plenty of people who could do such a simple job.” Tristan offered his help again.

Bella was speechless.

How could this man take over all of Sam’s work? He had been her driver, and now he wanted to do the investigation for her.

If Sam finds out about this, he will probably resign and return to New York to work with Jack because he has nothing to do here.

Gosh!

Chapter 146: Arabella Donovan, You Wait!  
While in a particular apartment.

Laura Kiels was heartbroken after reading Andreas’s text.

[Andreas] Laura, you are such a lovely woman I ever have, but our story ended here.

[Andreas] I’m boarding now. Take care of yourself.

[Andreas] I hope we have the opportunity to meet again (Love Emoji)

She wiped her tears before typing to reply to his text.

[Laura] I hated you!

[Laura] I wish we would never encounter again, Andreas!

Even though she hated him so much for leaving her like this, she couldn’t forget his kindness during this time; he always protected her.

[Laura] But, Thank you... thank you for what you have done for me in the past.

[Laura] (Brokenheart Emoji)

After she sent the last text, Laura threw her cell phone away. Just before she wanted to continue sleeping, burying herself under the blanket, another message came. She grabbed her cell phone and checked. It was another text from Andreas.

Laura faintly took a deep sigh before she opened the text.

[Andreas] This is my last present for you, Laura.

[Andreas] This is a photo of the man you love and the new CEO who fired me. This woman is the source of our problems.

[Andreas] If this woman didn't take over the company, we might still enjoy our life in peace. (Angry Emoji)

[Andreas] Dear, you can use this picture to teach this woman. It looks like she has a scandal with Tristan Sinclair.

Laura was shocked beyond words when she saw the picture. Her hands trembled as she held the phone.

"Arabella Donovan!? So... So... the new CEO who sued me is you?"

She couldn't believe what she saw. This bitch, how dare she!? HOW DARE!

"Waah... Bella... You are really bitchy!! You already divorced Tristan, but now you return to seduce him again? Tsk... Tsk... What a slut!"

Laura shook her head while looking at the photo of Bella with Tristan. She felt like she wanted to slap this woman. How dare she return to this city and have the audacity to meet Tristan?

What angers her even more is that this woman not only steals Tristan from her but also tries to ruin her career.

"How dare you do this to me, Arabella Donovan!? After I made money for the company, you still want to get rid of me. I know you did this to me because you were jealous that Jessica Sinclair liked me and treated me unlike she treated you, right!?"

When she looks at Bella's picture of her walking beside Tristan, the man she loves, her heart feels hot, as if the eternal fire is burning inside her.

She continues venting her anger while throwing her cell phone on the bed. Only looking at the picture of Bella and Tristan together again makes her feel like a razor slicing her heart.

"Arabella Donovan, I won't stay silent. I will avenge a thousand times for what you did to me now. You want to put me in prison!? I will do that to you, too. Do you want to end my career in this country? Dream on! I will make it impossible for you to stay in this country! You will never return to Tristan Sinclair. Bella, don't think you could have him! Because you will never have his children—"

Suddenly, Laura felt choked when hearing her own words.

"Ch-child..." Her voice trembles as she grabs her cell phone.

Laura opened the photo again and was shocked when she looked at Tristan up close. She could see clearly that Tristan was holding a little boy.

“Who is he? Why does Tristan carry this little boy? Why the three of them—” Suddenly, Laura Kiels’ voice trailed off when she realized something—that little boy, perhaps Tristan and Bella’s child.

“No! No! That’s... Impossible. That woman is barren. She definitely can’t get pregnant. That little boy surely not their son!” Laura refused to believe what her mind told her.

Still shaking at the thought that the child was Tristan’s child, Jessica Sinclair suddenly appeared in her mind.

“What should I do? What should I do...Should I tell Jessica about this?” Laura felt confused. After several minutes of thinking, she finally decided to call Jessica.

She needed to make a deal with Jessica to free her from all the problems she was facing now. Only Jessica could protect her now.

\*\*\*\*

At Tristan’s house,

When Dax woke from his nap, he was surprised to realize he had slept in his bedroom at his father’s house.

Dax got out of bed and wanted to look for his parents; his steps stopped when he saw his mother sitting on the sofa in the corner, closing her eyes.

A smile bloomed on his lips, looking at how beautiful his mother was. He approached her.

“Mommy, are you sleeping?” Dax asks softly, afraid to wake her up.

After Dax didn’t hear Bella respond, he looked around to find a blanket for her but found nothing.

Just before Dax wanted to find his father, Tristan entered the room.

“Dad...” Dax put his index finger to his lips to ask his father not to make any sound. Then he signaled Tristan to come closer to him before he whispered. “Mom is sleeping on the sofa. I’m worried she will feel uncomfortable. Can you carry her to my bed? Or to her bedroom?”

Tristan smiled at Dax while glancing at the sofa.

He was surprised to see Bella sleep soundly while sitting. Earlier, he thought she had come to check on Dax, but she seemed exhausted and sleeping while sitting.

"Dax, I'll carry Mom to her room. You can go to your computer room now... Uncle Max is waiting for your lesson today," Tristan said.

"Ok, Dad. Hmm... please take care of mommy for me."

"No worries, my little man." Tristan ruffles his soft hair.

After Tristan saw Dax leave the room, he approached Bella on the sofa. His heart raced the moment he saw her face so close.

Like an angel sleeping on the sofa, Tristan could see how beautiful she was.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 147: He Saw Her Sleeping Like an Angel

Like an angel sleeping on the sofa, Tristan could see how beautiful she was.

Tristan gazed at her serene face for a moment more, admiring her beauty. As he saw her features, he felt an overwhelming sense of pain. He now feels related to a quote he had read before, "Regret always comes later."

He truly regrets what happened in the past.

They would still be madly in love if he had fallen in love with her sooner.

Sigh!

'You are the stupidest man ever graced this world, Tristan Sinclair. How could you ignore this woman in the past?'

Once again, Tristan scolded himself for his stupid mistake that he would never forget for the rest of his life.

After he silently took a deep breath. Tristan leaned closer to carry her.

However, he stopped the moment his hand was about to touch her. He worried about carrying her now, afraid she would wake up and misunderstand why he was holding her in his arms and being so close to her.

Also, Tristan didn't want her to wake up so soon; he wanted to continue feasting his eyes on her perfect beauty—this woman would never allow him to do it if she was wide awake.

But when he saw her sleeping position, Tristan put aside his greed as he gently carried her in a princess-like embrace to her bedroom.

Feeling the softness of her skin and smelling her flower-like fragrance excited his whole body as if something had awakened inside him.

He tried hard to keep holding himself, not kissing her forehead or lips, which looked very tempting. They were slightly parted as if she had issued a silent invitation for him to kiss her.

Tristan gently placed her on the soft bed while silently swallowing, relieved that Bella slept soundly. He didn't immediately leave, but he sat on the edge of the bed with his gaze falling on her face.

However, when Tristan sat so close to her, like now, he could feel his pulse start to quicken again.

He tried to distract his mind and look away from her face. He couldn't help but look at her lips.

Instantly, he felt his throat dry.

He swallowed hard as he lowered his gaze to her long neck and then to her chest.

Instead of feeling better, he felt even more miserable when he saw her black lace bra peeking out from the three unbuttoned buttons of her shirt.

'Oh, dear Bella... even when you sleep, you torture me like now,' Tristan shook his head slightly while smiling miserably. But he didn't take his eyes off her.

See how fair her skin was under her clothes. It was enough to make his blood rush to a particular part of his body.

He immediately stood from the bed, afraid he couldn't hold himself back from touching or even caressing her.

After he covered her with a soft blanket, Tristan left the room with his throbbing head, heading to his study room.

....

Meanwhile, in the computer room,

When Dax got to the room, he saw Max playing a game on one of the computers. Max seemed so immersed that he didn't notice Dax standing behind him, watching how he played.

After looking closely, Dax was surprised to see Max play the game he usually plays.

However, after a few minutes, Dax faintly shook his head as he sat in the chair next to Max, making him jump in surprise.

"My Lord, Little Dax! Why did you startle me?" He glanced at him briefly before he took off his headphones and placed it on the table.

"Teacher, I'm afraid I'll distract you and make you lose your game..." Dax answered without looking at him as he started turning on his computer.

"That's why I was waiting for you to finish your game," Dax continued, looking at Max with a meaningful smile.

Before Max could answer, Dax continued, "Teacher... I thought you would impress me with your gaming skills, just like how you impressed me with your coding and programming skills..."

"Huh, what do you mean?" Max frowned, not understanding the meaning of little Dax's words.

"Sorry to say this, Teacher, but your gaming skills are...average, to my surprise. Your eye and finger coordination was ok, but you don't have the required skills to play your hero optimally. And I think that is the reason why you lost..." He said politely, which Max felt was too polite for a boy his age.

However, Dax's overtly polite words made Max feel like someone had just slapped him in the face. But later, he feels déjà vu because a particular person always says those lines to him.

'Damn! How could this little boy say the same words my gaming friend X4D always told me?' Max sighed in silence and only to himself. He was annoyed that at least two people politely mocked his gaming skills.

"Dax, do you know that not all computer experts can play games well?" Max wanted to tell Dax this but held back, afraid this little man would say something that could hurt his adult pride again, making Dax too similar to his other gaming friend, who always mocked his game skills.

As Max tried to set aside his annoyance by telling Dax that the lesson would start soon, he suddenly felt goosebumps when he realized something.

‘Wait...wait...DAX... X4D... Why are their names similar?’ Max wonders while looking at Dax. ‘Are Dax and X4D the same person? No... Impossible, right!?’

Max immediately dismisses the idea. There is no way a four-year-old boy before him is his gaming buddy X4D. Not possible. Or is it?

The thought that his gaming buddy might be a 4-year-old boy made Max feel suffocated. He tries to put aside his suspicions, but a few seconds later, he decides to check his gaming friend’s location.

After he gave Dax a new task to complete — to make him busy. Max typed something on his keyboard. The monitor went black in just a few seconds, and many green codes and numbers finally appeared.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

#### Chapter 148: Tristan’s Suffering

After he gave Dax a new task to complete — to make him busy. Max typed something on his keyboard. The monitor went black in just a few seconds, and many green codes and numbers finally appeared.

Max’s hands dance across the keyboard even faster as he tries to check the location of his gaming friend’s X4D.

If X4D were in this city, he would be sure that the little man beside him was X4D.

Max still tries to refuse to believe this kid is his gaming friend.

Nevertheless, Max’s expression slowly changes from calm to shocked after a few more seconds when he finds X4D’s actual location.

‘What the hell!!! So, this little Dax is that witty X4D who always calls me stupid and slow!?’

Max can’t help but curse inwardly while looking at Dax in shock and disbelief. He wanted to be sure, to ask him, but he felt his words betray him; he couldn’t say a single word.

He could only pray that this little Dax would not notice him, knowing that user ID Bitter\_Coffee was actually him.

\*\*\*\*



When she woke up, Bella was surprised to find herself in the bedroom at Tristan's house.

'Why am I suddenly here?' Bella mumbled, confused. She remembers sitting on the sofa in Dax's bedroom, waiting for him to wake up from his nap.

She sat on the edge of the bed and looked around. No one was in the room. Upon checking her watch, Bella sighed in relief, realizing dinner was still hours away.

However, she suddenly felt terrible because she had slept for almost two hours.

After folding the blanket neatly and checking her appearance in the bathroom, Bella left the room to find Dax and Tristan.

Bella was surprised when she left the room and saw Tristan standing in the living room. He was still wearing the same clothes—his favorite black slim-fit shirt with black trousers—and stood motionless in front of the large glass window that looked out onto the garden.

Looking at Tristan's broad back, Bella could feel her heartbeat quicken; she felt nervous for some unknown reason.

After she adjusted her thoughts and expressions, she immediately approached him.

Bella cleared her throat as she stopped a few steps behind Tristan.

"Oh, you're awake, Bella..." Tristan smiled lovingly when he turned back to see her.

However, when Tristan saw her hair styled in a simple bun, showing off her smooth, long neck, his smile gradually turned frosty. Instantly, the feeling that he had been suppressing when Bella was asleep slowly emerged.

'Damn, Tristan Sinclair!!' He could only scold himself in his mind, trying to restrain himself from pulling this alluring woman into his arms and kissing her. His imagination was now starting to run wild, and the more he imagined it, the more suffering he was.

He shook his head slowly, wanting to throw away his dirty thoughts.

'Man! You better stop now!' Tristan tried to warn himself, but how could he resist her charm now?

He clenches his hand while trying to maintain his smile at her.

"Mhm..." Bella answered, "Tristan, I'm sorry I fell asleep... Did you carry me to the bedroom?" She asked.

It couldn't be Dax who moved her, right?

He didn't rush to answer her but sat on the single sofa, trying to avoid eye contact.

Tristan motioned for her to join him in sitting. After he saw her sitting on the opposite sofa, he smiled before answering her question. "Yes. Our son asked me to move you to your bed because he was worried you would sleep in an uncomfortable position," he answered sincerely.

He wouldn't have dared if Dax hadn't asked. He clearly remembered what he once promised, he would not touch her without her permission.

"Sorry, Bella. I didn't have a choice but to carry you."

"It's fine. I understand..." Bella said. She couldn't help but smile at the thought of her son being mature before his age. "Where is he now?" she asked.

A relieved smile slowly appeared on Tristan's face; Bella wasn't angry. This is enough for him.

"He is downstairs. He took his computer lesson with Max. Do you want to see him?" He offered.

Bella shook her head. She didn't want to disturb her son during his studies. Besides, she needed to peruse and elaborate on several crucial files on her laptop now.

"Tristan, I need to return home now."

"Return home? Bella, you promise to dine with me. But why you—" Tristan, unable to continue his words, feels disappointed.

Bella immediately explained when she saw his gloomy expression. "I need to check something important on my laptop. I will return here again before dinner, can I?"

"Oh, I see," Tristan's smile returned when he heard her explanation.

"Bella, you may use my computer to remotely access your files if it's on the cloud. If it's on your laptop, I can ask Geoffrey to come to your house to bring your laptop here. There's no need to waste time and energy going home now."

Bella was surprised to hear his offer, but she thought the offer was sensible.

“Yeah, I can access the files remotely. But are you sure you’re comfortable if I use your computer?” Asked Bella. A big boss like him usually does not allow others to use their laptops or home computers.

“Yeah, a hundred percent fine with me,” Tristan chuckled and stood. “Let’s go to my office...”

Bella followed Tristan to his home office. She felt slightly uncomfortable because it was her first time entering his office. She can see that the furniture in this room is typical of a workspace, with an elegant, modern, and minimalist interior.

Tristan stopped at his desk and looked to see her, “Bella, you can use this laptop.” He said while pointing at the large laptop on the table.

Bella wasn’t moving, and she looked hesitant to approach him. Upon seeing that, Tristan continued, “Oh, my apology, Bella. Here, you can sit at my table...and I’ll wait for you on that sofa in the corner.”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 149: Surprised to See Their Wedding Photos!

Tristan didn’t wait for Bella to react as he walked to the corner. He settled on the leather sofa after taking a book from a nearby bookshelf.

He tried to be naturally preoccupied with the book as soon as possible to give Bella a sense of privacy.

Bella smiled as she saw him engrossed in his book. She approached his table nonchalantly and only thought about her work.

However, as Bella was about to sit down and open the laptop, she suddenly froze when she noticed a beautiful photo frame on the table.

‘How could he still have this picture?!’ she muttered as she looked at their old wedding photo.

Bella was completely taken aback when she noticed their wedding photograph on the table. She hadn’t thought about the photo since their separation, not even once. However, at that moment, the memories of the photo and the day it was captured flooded her mind.

Seeing how beautiful she looked in her wedding dress brought back all her feelings of that time. She clearly remembered the smile in the photo—her happiness at finally becoming Tristan Sinclair’s wife.

Bella used to find it amusing when she recalled her past. At first, when she learned that her grandfather and parents had asked her to marry Tristan, she despised the idea. However, after meeting Tristan in person, she unexpectedly turns into a silly girl who falls head over heels in love with him.

How stupid!

Now, looking at her bride's happy smile in their wedding photo, Bella can't help but smile too.

However, when her gaze fixed on Tristan's face, her smile gradually faded. Looking at Tristan's deadpan expression — his gaze on the picture didn't share happiness and sincerity contrast with her.

She felt her heartache as she remembered that Tristan never loved her. To him, their marriage was only a duty to produce heirs for the Sinclair family.

Bella's hand clenched into a tight fist to distract her broken heart.

'Why does Tristan still own this picture!?' She wonders.

Bella clearly remembered asking Noora to burn all their wedding photos. She didn't even keep anything for herself because there was no point in keeping it.

'Did Tristan have the hard drive for our wedding photo? No. It's impossible...'

Bella immediately dismissed that thought because she remembered that the only people who took photos of their wedding were her family. All their hard drives and wedding photos were destroyed.

She didn't remember Tristan's family assigning a photographer at that time because their wedding was private and top secret, and only a few people attended.

Bella slowly turns her gaze from the picture to Tristan. She saw him immersed in reading the book on his lap.

Instantly, she feels her heart quickened.

'How handsome...' she whispered to herself, thinking that the man in the corner was the God who grace from heaven and blessed her eyes with his present.

She refused to blink, afraid of God disappearing from her sight.

Badam!

Badam!

Bella could hear her own heartbeat loudly race inside her.

Not long after, the rusty feelings she had once had, which she had long buried deep in her heart, slowly rose, causing her hands to shake and her knees to weaken.

Bella almost stumbles when her knee gives in. She grabs the table's edge while lowering her gaze to distract her mind from him.

After a few moments,

Once she felt a little bit calmer, Bella looked at him again.

However, her heartbeat races even faster. Bella was surprised again because, this time, Tristan looked back at her with a visible frown.

Tristan closed the book in his lap when he saw she had not sat down or touched the laptop on the table.

He couldn't help but ask, "Everything okay, Bella? You can't use the laptop!?"

Tristan didn't wait for her to answer as he stood from his seat and approached her for help.

Bella blinked several times, looking at Tristan, who was now towering in front of her.

Her heart beat faster.

She opened her mouth several times to ask about their wedding photos. Still, she couldn't say anything, as if all the sentences she wanted to ask were slowly turning back in her throat.

Gosh!

"This is weird because I still use the laptop when you sleep," he said, smiling at her. Let me check the laptop for you."

Before Tristan walked past her, Bella's hand stopped him.

Tristan looked at her in surprise, and then he saw her soft hand holding his arm.

They stood close enough for him to smell her familiar, fragrant scent. He felt like he was on cloud nine, too happy.

For a few seconds, their eyes meet, conveying their own emotions.

Bella feels confused with Tristan, who still keeps their wedding photo.

While Tristan feels overjoyed because Bella is holding his arm.

After a moment of silence, Bella finally voiced her thoughts.

“Tristan, why are you still keeping—”

“Mommy... Daddy...”

Bella couldn't finish her words as Dax's voice sounded from the door so suddenly.

Surprised, they both look at the wide open door and see Dax standing with Geoffrey behind him.

Dax smiled, looking at his parents, who seemed just about to hug each other.

‘Did I come in the wrong time?’ Dax wondered.

“Ummm....Mommy and Daddy seem to be doing something important, and we shouldn't bother them. Mom... Dad... I'm sorry if I interrupted anything. You guys may continue... I'm going to continue my lesson with teacher Geoffrey,” said Dax, then hurriedly closing the door, not wanting to thwart his father's efforts to win his mother's heart.

However, before the door closed, Bella snapped from her shock and was even more surprised to realize she still held Tristan's arm.

“Dax, Dax... would you wait, please... This is not what it looks like. We are not doing anything...like you think we're doing,” Bella said while approaching him and running to the door.

She completely forgets her plan to come to Tristan's office.

At this moment, she just wanted to cover her face and leave the room; she felt embarrassed.

Tristan secretly chuckled as Bella fled from him. He didn't say anything; he slowly walked and followed her and their son with a smile.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 150: Hearing Dax's Opinion

Bella held hands with Dax as they headed to his bedroom.

She could feel her son glancing at her a few times, but Bella ignored him because she was busy trying to calm her mind after what happened inside Tristan's office.

However, before they enter his bedroom, Dax's innocent voice echoes, surprising Bella and causing her to blush to hear his question.

"Mommy, did you and Daddy finally get back together..." Dax's innocent voice slowly faded when he glanced at his father behind and saw him shake his head as if to answer his question, "No."

Dax sighed to himself, feeling sorry that his father had not succeeded in winning his mother's heart.

Bella became even more embarrassed when she heard Dax's question. She cleared her throat slightly as she glanced at him. When their eyes met, she leaned closer to him. "Baby, let's talk inside," she whispered. Something important she needed to talk to him about.

Little Dax nodded at his mother, even though he was slightly confused when he saw his mother's expression, which was different from usual. Now, she looked confused and tense.

After they entered Dax's room, Bella stopped and turned to face Tristan, who was still following them from behind.

"I'm sorry, can you wait outside? I need to talk with Dax... alone."

Tristan is confused by her words, but he smiles and nods in the end.

"Sure, Bella. I will wait downstairs. Please don't forget we will have dinner at seven."

"Ok. Thanks..."

Tristan waved and smiled at Dax before leaving.

Even though Tristan was curious why Bella wanted to talk to Dax without his presence, he didn't protest or ask anything about it. So he left with his mind filled with countless questions, hungry for answers. But Tristan vowed not to let himself be drawn by his curiosity and foil any hope to get Bella's heart and mind.

Tristan halted at the sight of Geoffrey near the stairs before he descended to the first floor.

"Geoffrey, since when did my son finish his computer studies?"

"Around five minutes ago, sir. Young Master Dax insisted on seeing you and his mother. He said he would look for you and his mother by himself if I refused to tell him where you were, sir. So I have to let him know that his mother is in your study room," he answers.

Geoffrey was slightly worried he made a big mistake, coming to his study room at the wrong time and making his master angry.

Earlier, Geoffrey had only briefly seen Tristan and Bella standing so close. But he immediately could guess what was happening in that room.

Although Geoffrey was worried that he had ruined his master's moment, he still felt delighted because his master had made significant progress.

"Master, apologize if I bother you earlier," Geoffrey said while bowing his head slightly.

"No. It's fine, Geoffrey," Tristan said, stopping in his tracks. He turned to see Geoffrey behind him, "By the way, you may go ahead about preparing our dinner."

"Yes, master."

Before Tristan walked again, he remembered about Max, "...one more thing, Geoffrey. Did you see Max?" he asked.

"Max? He just left after playing a computer game with young master Dax, sir... He said you had already allowed him to go home once he met young master Dax. He also said he would be back in two days." Geoffrey explained.

Tristan just nodded and continued. He headed to the library to make a phone call.

....

Meanwhile, Bella and Dax sat next to each other on the sofa. But Bella didn't say anything. She was still debating whether to ask Dax about what was weighing on her mind.

After a few moments of silence, Dax was the first to ask, "Mommy, you looked terribly worried. What's wrong? Please don't make me worry..." He felt worried after seeing his mother's expression.

Dax's question made Bella flinch. After taking a deep breath, she decided to talk to him.

"Dax," she said, looking him in the eyes. "May I ask you about...something...?" She felt a massive stone in her throat as she broached the topic.

"Yes, mommy, you may ask anything." Dax smiled as he placed his hand on hers. He was surprised to feel how cold her hands were now.

Dax was about to say something but paused when he saw her finally speak.



“Please forgive Mommy if the question sounded too straightforward, Dax. But Mommy really needs to know... If you had to choose someone who would become of our little family, who would you choose, your father or Uncle Sean?”

Instantly, Dax’s calm expression turned confused.

However, slowly, he regained his composure as he said, “Mommy, I think you asked the wrong person. You are the one who should decide, not me...”

Bella took a deep breath. Of course, as usual, Dax brilliantly answers her question. And she agrees with him. She is also glad Dax didn’t say or ask anything afterward. Just a brief, simple answer.

His answer makes Bella even more confident that her decision to involve her genius son Dax in any significant choices is correct. Even though he is only a toddler in other people’s eyes, Bella knows Dax is a genius. Moreover, he has unusual wisdom for a child his age. And for that, Dax’s opinions will always matter in her future choices.

“Baby, I know... but I just want to hear your opinion,” Bella said. Suddenly, she was starting to regret talking about this to Dax. She might be wrong. Dax, maybe not that wise. Maybe, for this matter, he was too young to hear it.

Dax took a moment to reply. “Mom, I like Uncle Sean a lot. He’s a great guy. But I have spent a good amount of time with Dad. And he is a cool guy. A great guy, just like Uncle Sean. But Dad is my biological father... So, if I had to choose, I would definitely choose my father,” he eventually said.

Bella was shocked by his response. She slightly tightened her grip on their linked hands.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 151: Dad or Uncle Sean?

Bella was shocked by his response. She slightly tightened her grip on their linked hands.

“But Mommy, that’s was just my opinion. I will never force you to follow my choice to reunite with Dad. It’s your happiness that matters more to me. So please, don’t decide anything just because of me. Just follow your heart. I’m just a kid. Kids are tough and easily adaptable human beings, Mommy.”

She was speechless when she heard her four-year-old son speak like Aunty Noora. He sounded mature, and she felt embarrassed because his words were correct.

“You are such a wise and genius kid, Dax. Thank you, baby... for sharing with mom what’s in your heart and mind,” said Bella. She smiled as she slowly placed her hand on

his chubby cheek. "I am very grateful to have a wise, intelligent, mature son like you... I feel like I don't want or need anyone else in the world but you. Only you, my son..."

"Mom, I'll always be by your side and protect you. Whatever you choose, I promise I won't go mad or go anywhere far," Dax said in a sincere and meaningful tone. But Bella, who had heard it, was amused.

She held her laugh, looking at how adorable her son's expression now was.

"Really? Oh, thank you, baby...I will keep and remember your promise, darling."

Dax smiles at her and says, "My mother is the best woman...I will protect Mom forever."

Bella's eyes became blurry when she heard his sentence. Blissfully, she pulled him into her arms.

A few moments later, after they hugged silently, Bella finally let go of her hug. Her smile was still there, framing her beautiful face. Unfortunately, her smile slowly faded when she heard Dax's following words.

"Mom, so who do you choose? Dad or Uncle Sean?"

Bella, "..."

She couldn't answer her son's questions. She could only hug him tightly until he asked to let go.

After dinner, the family day is finally over. Bella excused herself to return to her house.

Tristan's expression slowly turned sad when he realized they were finally going home. A day with Bella and Dax was not enough for him, and he wished they would be reunited soon.

"I hope you and Dax sleep over here..." He said while walking to Bella's house and carrying Dax in his arms — he slept again.

Bella quickly glanced at him and sighed deeply upon hearing his words.

She tried to avoid Tristan's words, concerned that he might bring up a topic she was not ready to discuss. She had more important things to think about than discussing his desire for them to reunite as a married couple.

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The next day.

After news of S Jewelry's lawsuit against Laura Kiels spread across online media and television, Laura could no longer go out in public places without disguising herself.

Just like today, Laura Kiels left her house wearing a wig and oversized sunglasses to hide her face.

She even used her manager's personal car to leave her apartment because journalists and paparazzi had been camping in front of her apartment building since yesterday.

Laura received a stern warning from the apartment management due to the disturbance caused by the paparazzi and journalists. The presence of these intruders made it difficult for the guards to maintain security and disrupted the comfort of other residents.

Several journalists even attempted to enter the restricted area by pretending to be residents, further aggravating the situation.

After being pressured by the apartment management, she was forced to either give a statement to the media or temporarily leave her house until the journalists were no longer camped outside.

Laura had no other choice but to leave her apartment temporarily until everything calmed down—she couldn't meet with the media now.

She decides to go somewhere unknown to avoid journalists. However, she got Jessica Sinclair to agree to meet her in a private restaurant before that.

It was difficult for Laura to ask Jessica Sinclair to spare time to meet her. The socialite woman seemed to have drastically changed her attitude lately. She didn't know why Jessica had become unusually distant, but she would find out later.

Laura arrived ten minutes early at the restaurant and waited anxiously in the reserved VIP room. She kept her sunglasses, even though the waiter who took her order had left and she was alone in the room.

She was busy observing the room, concerned that a hidden camera or CCTV might be in the room that would record her meeting with Jessica. After convincing herself that nothing was suspicious in the room, she felt relieved and sat calmly. But still too uncomfortable to take off her sunglasses.

Her eyes kept staring at the door. A few minutes later, she heard a knock on the door.

"Yes, come in, please..." Laura said, trying to use her low tone to hide her actual voice.

When the door opened, she saw the waiter return with her order, a cup of warm camomile tea, to calm her nerves.

Several minutes passed, and her anxiety continued to increase. But Jessica still hadn't shown up.

Laura checked her watch several times to confirm the time of their meeting. She started to worry when she saw that Jessica was five minutes late.

This was strange because the old socialite woman was never late every time they met.

Countless unpleasant question now fills her mind.

'Did she abandon me here? Why hasn't she come yet?' Laura felt nervous. She was afraid Jessica would still avoid meeting her.

Now, she was confused about whether to call Jessica again or wait as she glanced at her cell phone on the table.

When Laura decided to call Jessica's cell phone, the door opened, and Jessica finally appeared. With a happy smile, she stood up and approached Jessica.

"Auntie Jessica, you finally—" Laura's voice suddenly stopped when a powerful slap landed on her cheek. She was shocked, looking at Jessica, who was looking mad at her. "W-Why are you..."

"How dare you!" Jessica hissed at Laura, who stared back teary-eyed.

"Why did you slap me, Aunty...?"

Plak!

Another powerful slap silent, Laura.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 152: She Didn't Have A Chance

Jessica's slap sent Laura Kiels staggering backward, almost falling to the floor.

Her cheeks felt sore and hot as she rubbed them with both hands while looking confused at Jessica Sinclair; why did this woman hit her!?

"Au-Aunty Je-Jessica, why did you slap me?! What did I do that made you slap me?" Laura Kiels asked in her whimper, almost crying, shocked and confused.

Laura Kiels never imagined Jessica Sinclair, the woman she respected the most, laying her finger on her as soon as they met without a single word or warning.

‘What did I do to make this woman angry like this? What?’ Laura wonders in confusion and fear.

Her chaotic mind was scrambling to think what fault she might have done. But so far, she only recalled one mistake. But it’s a small one where she didn’t come to the agreed filming location.

‘Did she hit me because of that?’ She felt utterly perplexed and started to feel angry.

When Laura saw Jessica staring at her disdainfully, She felt even more hurt and betrayed. An enormous feeling of furiousness replaced her confusion.

She clenches her teeth and finally says, “You know what, Aunty Jessica? Before you slapped me, I wanted to share some important information about your son. But when you suddenly slapped me, I felt like I no longer needed to tell you. Instead, I will meet with the media and disclose the secret information that I know you would never want the Media to know about it.”

Laura Kiels no longer cares about her career; if Jessica Sinclair can’t promise to do her demand, she doesn’t care.

She only needs money to pay what Stellar Entertainment demands—the amount that Arabella Donovan legitly forces her to pay.

If Jessica can’t give her the money she needs, she will take her last route to get money.

Laura knows that A-Netz\* loves her and will forgive her later. The bad news she faces now is easy to ignore, as it concerns only neglecting her work contracts.

It’s not a scandal like stealing someone’s husband, so she is sure that A-Netz would forgive her.

She only had to post an apology statement on her social media and disappeared for several years. Once A-Netz has forgotten this matter, she will return to the industry.

When Laura saw Jessica’s eyes shaking in confusion as she looked at her, Laura smiled happily and returned to her seat.

“What do you want to say, slut?” Jessica’s cold and angry voice made Laura flinch slightly.

‘Sl-slut!? How dare she call me that way!!’ Laura’s hands under the table clenched into tight fists.

“Aunty, I won’t say anything if you don’t tell me your reason for hitting me,” Laura said calmly, but her gaze betrayed her. She looked at Jessica with her disdainful gaze as if she wanted to return Jessica’s slap through her gaze.

“What have I done to you that made you lay your finger on me?” Laura continues.

Jessica’s expression became even uglier when she heard Laura’s words. She didn’t want to discuss it because it was embarrassing, but this woman forced her.

“Do you want to know?” Jessica asked in her soft yet cold tone.

“Yes!” Laura answers her without hesitation. She needs to hear her good reason.

Jessica’s soft chuckle echoed in the room.

“Do you know that you are a shameless woman I ever know!? How dare you appear innocent in front of me, but you act like a whore behind my back?” Jessica said as she took out her cell phone.

Laura, who heard her words, almost choked hearing Jessica’s words. Before she could speak, Jessica handed her cell phone.

“What is it?” Laura said as she slowly looked at the cell phone. “Oh my god—” Instantly, Laura felt her blood run cold, too shocked to see the picture on Jessica’s cellphone.

She saw herself on the bed, sitting on Andreas’ lap. They were both naked; he squeezed her breasts while her face looked at the camera with an embarrassed expression. She blinked several times to see the picture more clearly, hoping what she saw was a different image.

But the more she looked at it, the more she trembled.

‘Ho-How could Jessica have this photo?’

She remembers Andreas forcing her to take this picture for his personal collection, but why did this picture appear on Jessica? Did Andreas send it to Jessica? Why did he do that?

“Do you want to see other interesting videos?” Jessica said disdainfully.

Laura didn’t know how to react. She felt her soul leave her, too shocked by what she saw. She could only clench her fists while silently staring at Jessica as she played the video.

She almost spat blood when she saw the video of her making love with Andreas several months ago.

“E-Enough... Please... Stop!!” Laura said in her trembling voice. She felt very embarrassed hearing her moans in the video. “Please stop it!!”

Jessica’s smile grew wider, too happy to see this little slut finally show her true face.

“I can’t believe I had the idea to force my son to marry you,” Jessica said regretfully. “...After I saw these photos and your video, I understand why my son, Tristan, was never interested in you. It’s like he already knows who you are...a slut!”

Laura was left speechless and humiliated after Jessica’s words.

After a while, Laura finally asked, “How do you get those photos and videos?”

“Heavens! You still ask?” Jessica couldn’t believe what she heard. “You were the one who sent it to me!”

Laura was shocked beyond words. How could she send it? She doesn’t even have that stuff on her phone.

‘Someone hacked Andreas and my phone?’

“Now! Tell me what evidence you want to show me. If you don’t come up with something interesting, your making-love-session video will appear on new TV tomorrow morning!”

Grinding her teeth in frustration, Laura threw away her intention to make a deal with Jessica. She didn’t have a chance to win this woman.

‘What the hell!!! Why did it become like this?’ Laura vented her frustration as she took out her cell phone and handed it to Jessica.

Suddenly, Jessica’s face turned frosty as she saw her son and Bella in one frame.

‘Wait! Why is Tristan carrying a boy? Who’s the boy?’

Jessica’s hands were shaking as she held Laura’s cell phone.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 153: The Fate Of Stellar Entertainment  
At Quantum Capital.

Bella has been working in her office since morning, monitoring the top 10 trending news about Stellar Entertainment.

Reading all the headline news about her company could only make her laugh.

“The CEO of Stellar has been fired due to an embezzlement case.”

“Andreas Corby, the CEO of Stellar Entertainment, was fired for corruption.”

“Five Directors at Stellar Entertainment Become Suspects, and Jail Welcomes Them!”

“Cleaning up at Stellar Entertainment has a negative impact on the company’s reputation.”

“S Jewelry is taking legal action against Stellar Entertainment and Laura Kiels for breaching their contract.”

“The end of Stellar Entertainment is approaching.”

“The Sinclair Group has removed Laura Kiels from her role as a brand ambassador for S Jewelry.”

“Stellar Entertainment’s new CEO and management have been appointed.”

Although news about Stellar Entertainment was circulating, Bella wasn’t worried, as she and Stefan controlled the information flow. There was no news about Quantum Capital and its other businesses.

If an article tries to relate Stellar Entertainment to Quantum Capital, all news about it will vanish instantly from the internet.

But something gave her a headache. Even though she could silence the news, she couldn’t stop the employees in this building from gossiping.

Sam informed Bella that the company’s future is causing concern among all departments, particularly the employees at Stellar Entertainment.

Stellar Entertainment employees seek an internal statement from the new management to explain the company’s future. Almost half of their actresses and actors have been fired, and the employees are eager to know what is happening.

Bella doesn’t plan to do anything for Stellar Entertainment; she will wait a few more weeks until all the cleaning processes are completed.

She focused on handling some work with other companies, especially their new investment in a new oil and gas company in Nova City.



Quantum Capital invested significant money in Celebes Energy, a new oil and gas company, becoming the largest shareholder. This caused Bella to shift her focus to Celebes Energy.

She has planned to visit Nova City since last week, but Stellar Entertainment drained her attention and time. So, Leo had to rearrange their plan to visit the company within a few days.

Currently, Bella can only read some reports from Celebes Energy and have online meetings with management.

Bella had been so busy working since morning that she would have forgotten to eat lunch if Leo hadn't come to remind her.

"Boss, I know you like working, but you can't forget your lunch..." Leo smiled when he saw Bella glaring at him. But he ignored his annoyance and continued his words. "Let's go find some delicious food..."

Bella closed her laptop and then stood up from her seat. After she took her bag, she approached and asked him, "What do you want to eat?"

"You choose," Leo leaned against the doorframe, concerned about her. She had been glued to her work, not standing from her seat since she arrived at the office.

Sam told Leo that Bella didn't ask him to buy her brunch, which she usually does when she is in the office.

"Alright, let's eat an Asian food..." Bella offer.

"Which country?" Leo asked excitedly. He was craving Asian food after eating pizza and burgers frequently in recent days.

Before offering, Bella thought momentarily, "How about Vietnamese food? I really want to eat Pho?"

"Damn!! What a coincidence! I want to eat that too..." Leo chuckled while they walked toward the elevator.

However, before they enter the elevator, a short-haired woman approaches Leo.

She greeted Bella politely before looking at Leo. She said, "Mr. Smith, I received a package for Ms. Donovan." She offered Leo a small black box the size of a watch case.

Leo frowned as he looked at his assistant, Dana. "What is it?"

“Sir, I’m sorry, but I didn’t dare to open...” Dana answer.

“Okay, you can continue your work. Thank you,” said Leo as he received the small black box from Dana and handed it to Bella. “Are you waiting for this one?”

Bella shook her head, confused, looking at the box.

“Nope, I didn’t wait anything. Ugh... Leo... Why, I thought someone was trying to prank me!? Can you open it for me?”

Bella felt suspicious and afraid to receive the box. Only a few people knew about her office, most of whom were her family. They wouldn’t send something to this place but give it directly to her, right?

Instantly, Leo’s expression turns tense as he eyes the black box on his hand, and then he slowly turns his gaze to Bella.

“Did your enemy send this?” Leo asked.

He became suspicious of those recently fired from the company, especially Andreas Corby and Laura Kiels.

Bella frowned. She also started to wonder if those people would take revenge on her.

“Well, just throw it...” she said and entered the elevator. Leo followed her behind, but his face grew tense as he saw the box in his hand.

After a few moments, he drew closer the box to his ear, hoping to hear something. Fear grips him as he considers the possibility that the object inside might be a bomb.

Ding!

The elevator opened.

“Gosh! You just need to open it or throw it away, Leo,” Bella said as she stepped out of the elevator.

Leo sighed softly as he followed Bella out of the elevator. He ran to match her pace and got closer to her, “What if... it’s a bomb?”

Bella stopped abruptly and frowned upon hearing his words. Although she had considered the same thought, she had set it aside that thought.

“No. It’s impossible...” Bella answered and continued walking toward the main entrance. She saw Sam standing near the car, waiting for them.

“You can give it to Sam. He is an expert on whether it relates to bombs or something like that.”

“Oh, you are right,” Leo said, immediately offering the box to Sam.

“Can you please check what’s inside? This is from an anonymous source. I suspect there’s a small bomb inside.” Leo whispered.

Sam’s expression instantly turned dark.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 154: Something She Didn’t Expect!

“Can you please check what’s inside? This is from an anonymous source. I suspect there’s a small bomb inside.” He whispered.

Sam’s face instantly turns dark. He immediately took the box from Leo, his face twitching as he stared into Leo’s eyes.

“You should check the CCTV before taking this box, Leo! How could you bring this box to our Boss!?” He snapped.

Leo, “...”

He feels hurt. This is the first time Sam scolds him.

“Okay, can we go now?” Bella chimed in as she saw Sam staring at Leo as if he wanted to punch him.

Sam hurriedly turned his gaze to Bella. “Boss, you can get in the car first. I’ll check this box.” He said politely.

“Be careful, Sam,” Bella said in worry before she entered the car.

When Sam saw Bella and Leo enter the back row, he opened the box immediately. What he saw surprised him—lay there a black card with “Arabella Donovan” written on it.

What surprised him the most was that the Spencer Group, the powerful and noble family in this country, actually issued the Black Card for Bella.

“Spencer Group?” Sam knew about this kind of card. RDF Group also issued three cards like this for only the company’s founder. He happened to have the card because Bella gave him the black card a few days ago.

'Huh!? Why does Boss Bella have this card? Did she know someone from the Spencer Family?' Sam wondered. He stared at the card silently before closing the box and walking to the driver's seat.

Sam glances at the back row. He sees Bella and Leo seriously discussing their plan to fly to Nova City.

Before driving, Sam offered the box to Bella, "Boss, sorry to interrupt. This box is safe..."

Bella was taken aback when she received the box. However, she accepted it and opened it, only to find a black card with her name inscribed on it. Her heart sank.

'Sean... Why do you still send this card to me?'

She still remembers refusing Sean's offer at that time. Since she didn't want this card, it would cause trouble for her in the future.

"What is it, Boss?" Leo asked, surprising Bella. He could see the black card on her hand but not the card's name. When he tried to peek, Bella immediately put the card into her bag.

"Nothing," Bella said, turning her gaze out the window. She didn't want to discuss this card with Leo.

Bella wants to keep her relationship with Sean private, as only a few people know about it. Their relationship is still uncertain, as Sean has not spoken to his parents about her, which was the condition she gave Sean. Without his parent's blessing, she would not accept him.

And now, she feels like she needs him so much.

However, when she needed his support, he went missing again after their last phone call. She always sent him so many texts, but he never replied to any of them.

Sigh!

'Sean, please come back soon. If you don't come back soon...' Bella slightly shook her head. She didn't want to think about Sean because the more she thought about him, the more upset her heart became.

She decided she would never use the card he had given her.

Because she knew someone from the Spencer family would know if she used it, especially when Sean engraved her name on the card.

However, something sparked her curiosity, 'Who was Sean asked to send this card to?'

Bella was aware of how hard it was for Sean to get in touch with his family.

If he had asked one of his family members to issue an exclusive and rare Black Card for her, Bella would have been assured that the people he sent were not random.

After a few more minutes of thinking, Bella pulled out her cell phone. She texted Stefan, asking him to check the identity of the person who sent her the package.

Not long after, they arrived at Mogul Mega Mall. The Vietnamese restaurant is located on the fifth floor. This is not a fancy restaurant with a VIP room; they had to eat in the hall like most people.

Luckily, the three arrived after lunchtime, and the restaurant wasn't too full. They decided to choose a corner table.

Bella let Sam and Leo order for them as she sat at the table alone, waiting for them. A few moments later, his cell phone vibrated.

As Stefan's name appeared on her phone screen, her face lit up with a smile.

"Stefan, have you got the person's identity?" Bella asked excitedly.

"Yes, sister Bella. The woman who delivers the present for you is actually Amanda Sepencer's assistant. Do you want to hear her identity? I mean... Amanda Spencer?"

When Bella heard Spencer's name, she could feel her blood run cold. She had heard Amanda's name before but didn't remember who she was.

"Yes. Please tell..."

"She is actually the youngest sister of your current president, Mr. Jayson Spenser. Amanda Spencer manages the Spencer Family business. I will email you her detailed information."

Bella could only say, "Mhm..." she was too shocked to realize that Sean had asked her aunt to issue the black card for her.

"Do you need any other info, sis!?"

"No... I didn't need anything," Bella finally replied after a few seconds in silence, still trying to manage her shock.

“Alright, I will hang up now...”

“Ugh, wait, Stefan... Please make sure Stellar Entertainment’s news is still on track.”

“Don’t worry, my beautiful sister...” Stefan laughed. “What about the news about Laura Kiels? Do you need me to release them now?” He asked enthusiastically.

“No! Wait until the right time. I will tell you later...” Bella immediately stopped him. She didn’t need it yet.

Bella ended the call after she talked with Steffan about a few more things.

Not long after, she received detailed information about Amanda Spencer.

After reading Amanda Spencer’s profile enough to make Bella’s knee feel like tofu.

She can’t believe Sean has put her in trouble now.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 155: Jessica Knows Bella’s Office

While Bella and the others enjoy their late lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant, a black luxury sedan is parked opposite the Quantum Capital building.

Jessica Sinclair looked tensely at the Quantum Capital building, waiting for someone she needed to see to appear from its lobby.

However,

Jessica Sinclair had already waited almost two hours but didn’t see anyone she wanted to see.

“Are you sure that woman works in that place?” Jessica asked the chauffeur without taking her eyes off the Quantum Capital Building.

“Yes, madam. That’s what we heard from Miss Laura Kiels. Ms. Donovan works in that building,” the chauffeur replies politely.

“But where is she? Why can’t we spot her coming out of the building?”

The chauffeur glanced in the rearview mirror in disbelief.

How could he know that? After all, it wasn’t time for an employee to go home—it was only 2 p.m.

“Madam, I will ask someone to look at Ms. Donovan. We will inform you once we confirm she is working in the building. You don’t have to wait here...” the chauffeur said, feeling sorry for his madam.

“Well, I guess that’s what we should’ve done instead of wasting two hours of my precious time, was it? But it’s my fault. You’re only my chauffeur. I shouldn’t expect anything intelligent from you. Okay, drive me home now.”

Jessica sighed loudly and evidently condescended toward her chauffeur, implying her disappointment in him. She also felt tired after waiting for Bella to appear from the building, but she had not yet appeared.

During the wait, she tried to call Bella several times without being prevailed. It seemed like that damned girl had blocked her number.

Just before the driver drove the car, the driver saw someone familiar walk out from the main entrance and now standing in the outer lobby of the Quantum Capital building.

“Madam,” he turned to see Jessica in the back row. “I think that woman there is Ms. Donovan...”

Jessica hurriedly turned her gaze to the Quantum Capital building. She could clearly see Bella standing near the main entrance, waiting for someone.

Soon, a man approached; after a short talk, they entered the building side by side.

Jessica knew that man and had seen him with Bella at the Sushi Tei restaurant a few days before.

“She is indeed working there,” Jessica says in a frosty voice, and her expression slowly turns displeased.

After she saw Bella enter the building and vanish from her line of sight, Jessica looked at her chauffeur again.

“Assign someone from my security team to follow her. I need to know where she lives. Also, find out which company she works for and what her position is...” she ordered.

Jessica needs to find out whose child Tristan is carrying. She is suspicious that the child may be her grandson, which worries her. She wants to ask Tristan, but she restrains herself from calling him. Their last dispute drifts them apart.

She had no chance but to investigate Bella herself. This girl was starting to worry her.

“Yes, Madam, I will tell the security staff about your instruction.” The chauffeur answered politely and started driving the car.

Jessica worries Tristan will hate her more if he finds out about her investigating Bella, so she instructs his chauffeur to find capable people and keep it a secret. She didn't want her son to hate her even more if he learned about this.

Soon, the car finally left the area, heading fast to the Sinclair mansion.

....

In the Quantum Capital.

Bella once again opens the files Stefan sent her about Amanda Spencer.

After Bella read all the complete reports, she could only sigh deeply, feeling pressured by Amanda Spencer.

Apart from her noble image, Amanda is also active in social work as a philanthropist. She is also a great businesswoman who rules a few vast companies the Spencer Group owns.

What surprised Bella, Amanda was actually the CEO of one of the biggest entertainment agencies in this country, S99 Entertainment Agency.

Because of her involvement in business and social activity, Amanda Spencer is the second family member to regularly appear on media covers—the number one being Sean's father, Jayson Spencer, the current president of the country.

Imagine how powerful and noble the Spencer Family is, which gets Bella on her nerves. Her most significant worries about starting a relationship with Sean are her status as a single mother and his noble family status.

"Gosh! How could I be involved with this family?" Bella sighs deeply as she closes her laptop.

She turns her chair, looking at the scenery outside while trying to calm her mind.

Many thoughts are now filling Bella's mind, especially about Amanda Spencer. She was sure that Amanda would not just follow Sean's request; she might as well try to investigate her identity.

"Sean, you know?" Bella continued to talk alone to vent her frustration. "...this is not the right move. And... Did you know that you have gotten me into trouble?"

Bella could guess she couldn't avoid meeting Amanda Spencer soon.



...

After a few minutes, drowned in her thoughts, suddenly, something crossed her mind. She turned her chair back to face her work desk and grabbed her cell phone.

Her face turned tense when she remembered something.

“Sister Bella,” Stefan’s hoarse voice came from the other end, making Bella feel sorry for him. She had completely forgotten that it was already late at night in Stefan’s place.

“Do you need something urgently?” He asked.

“Stefan, sorry. Did I wake you up?”

A soft chuckle could be heard from the other end, “Yeah, you did. But it’s fine... for my sister Bella, it doesn’t matter.”

Bella smiled faintly, hearing his sweet words.

“Stefan, can you find out who is searching for my identity?”

“Of course I can. You need that information now?”

“No, I’m not in a rush. Go back to sleep. You can do that tomorrow.”

“Alright, I will inform you soon.”

“Thanks, Stefan.”

“Anything else?”

“No. Bye!” Bella ended the call immediately. She didn’t want to interrupt Stefan’s sleeping time more than it should.

After Bella hung up the phone with Stefan, suddenly her phone rang again.

Despite being confused, she immediately picked up the phone when she saw Tristan’s name on the screen.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 156: Someone Stalking

Despite being confused, she immediately picked up the phone when she saw Tristan’s name on the screen.

“Bella, can we talk? I hope I’m not interrupting anything.” Tristan asks, worried that she is in the middle of a meeting.

“You’re very fortunate with your timing. You’d have interrupted my meeting if you called five minutes ago. What is it?”

“Really? Thank God for that. Yeah, it’s about this afternoon. I don’t think I can accompany you home, Bella. I’m really sorry for that. I have a last-minute meeting, and I can’t push it back...” he said apologetically. Bella could sense Tristan’s sincere tone.

Tristan said, “But don’t worry. I’ll send my car and my driver to pick you up. But, Bella, I need your help with something... Would you mind saying something nice to our son about my absence from attending his piano test?”

He would go home with her if he could postpone this sudden meeting for tomorrow. However, this time, he couldn’t avoid it.

“I see. Okay, I’ll tell Dax you’ve tried your best to come, but sometimes work happens,” Bella said. But when she heard him let out a long sigh, she continued. “You don’t need to worry. Dax will understand. And you don’t need to send your driver either. I have Sam. He can drive me home...”

“O yeah. I forgot about Sam,” he said, smiling before continuing, “Thank you, Bella. I really appreciate your good words to Dax. I’m sorry I won’t be able to see Dax’s first weekly test.”

“It’s fine; Dax would understand. Ugh, Tristan, well...” Bella hesitates to express her thoughts.

“What it’s?” Tristan ask, confused when he notice her reclucant.

“I just want to say that from now on, you don’t have to drive me anymore. Someone has been watching us, taking our pictures, and even trying to blackmail me. If your mother sees that picture... I hate to think what she will do about that. Do you agree??”

Tristan didn’t say anything immediately, but Bella could feel he must be angry and frustrated.

“I hope you didn’t break your promise, Tristan.” She continued after Tristan spoke. “You need to stop driving me around. People are watching, and I don’t like the possible consequences.”

“Hmm....If you want me to do that, I will force myself to accept it even though it’s really...hard for me to be away from you.”

“Thank you...” Bella said, her tone obviously sounding relieved. Her smile slowly appeared from the corner of her lips. She waits for this, stopping Tristan from acting as her driver.

Tristan chuckled softly and asked, “Are you that excited that I didn’t pick you up from work?” His tone was casual, but there was a hint of disappointment.

“No. Of course not. I just feel worried...” She answers quickly while scolding herself inwardly to make it obvious that she is happy. Gosh!

“Alright, we will talk about it later at home.”

“Mhm,” Bella could only respond that.

After talking a few things, Bella finally ended the call and continued her work.

\*\*\*\*

In the afternoon,

After hours of reading files and attending online meetings with her office in another city, Bella tried to rest her eyes on the way to her house. She felt exhausted.

However, soon after she closed her eyes, Sam’s voice suddenly startled her.

“I’m sorry, boss, if I startled you...” Sam meets her gaze in the rearview mirror.

“It’s fine. What is it?” She asked while sitting straight.

“It looks like someone is following our car,” Sam said. He rechecked the rearview mirror and saw a black city car following their car. The vehicle discreetly followed them since leaving the Quantum Capital building. However, Sam is too experienced to miss it. He became aware of the stalking car a few minutes after he picked up Bella.

Bella was surprised to hear that. She immediately turned to look behind her, and she saw the car Sam had mentioned.

“What are you going to do, boss?” Sam asked seriously. When he saw her facing forward again, he saw she was thinking about something.

Bella glances at Sam in her calm expression. Still, inwardly, she feels curious to know the person who has the audacity to follow her.

“Are you sure that person is following us?” Bella asked.

“Yes, I’m positive,” Sam answered firmly. “I took an unusual route and turns, but the car still followed us...” He continues.

While turning his attention back to the road ahead, he chose another route with much more traffic to make it harder for the car behind to follow. However, somehow, the car still managed to follow their vehicle. He became more convinced that the car behind was tailing them and that the driver was an experienced one, too.

“I see,” Bella’s smile turned sour. She wasn’t sure who the person behind their car was, but she started to guess some names. “Sam, can you stop by the gas station? Let’s check whether the car is still following us or not.”

“Oh, you want us to stop and catch the stalking car, Boss? You got it.”

Before long,

Their car stopped at one of the nearest gas stations.

While Sam casually filled the car’s tank with gas, Bella glanced behind her for the stalker’s car.

It turns out that what Sam said was true. The stalker’s car also entered the gas station and is now joining the queue even though it is not directly behind their vehicle.

Soon after, Sam returned and drove the car, leaving the gas station.

“Do you want them to follow us?” Sam offered. He planned to deal with them rather than try to avoid them, but he couldn’t do it without Bella’s permission.

“There’s no need for that now. I have to get home soon, Sam...” Bella answered. She had promised Dax that she would come home early and watch his piano performance.

Bella didn’t want to waste time finding out the stalker.

“You were able to escape their tailing, right?” She asked Sam.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 157: Proud Mommy

Bella didn’t want to waste time finding out the stalker.

“You were able to escape their tailing, right?” She asked Sam.

“You bet I can, Boss. That’s easy.” Sam reply her with a proud smile.

Soon, their car was speeding in the Little Heaven direction, maneuvering slickly among the crowded road. After several sudden turns left and right, Sam drove the car on the much less congested route.

When Bella looked back, all she saw was an empty street, and she no longer saw the suspicious vehicle, which relieved her.

A few minutes later,

Bella took out her cell phone. She sent a series of texts to Stefan. She asked him to hack into the CCTVs along the road her car had just taken and investigate the person tailing her car.

In her mind, only two people had the motivation and means to do that.

The first person was Laura Kiels. That woman would surely hate her even more when she found out who Quantum Capital's CEO was

The second person who could do that was, of course, Andreas Corby.

Bella was sure Andreas would also be the only person with access to Laura and would undoubtedly tell Laura about her.

Bella still clearly remembered Andreas' gaze the last time they met; That gaze would only come from someone who looks at someone else and despises what he sees. And Bella could sense he hated her a lot. Andreas saw her as if he was holding a knife and was going to thrust it into her gut.

Gosh!

After sending a text to Stefan, Bella sighed and gazed out of the car, pondering the many questions in her mind.

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Arriving home, Bella rushed to the piano room.

She saw Noora outside the piano room, pacing back and forth, looking tense. From Noora's expression, Bella could tell her late arrival had stressed out that poor woman.

She walked faster towards Noora, "I'm late, aren't I?" she asked apologetically.

"Thank goodness you're here, miss. Hurry, hurry! Young Master Dax is about to take his Piano-Practical Grades," said Noora as she opened the door to let Bella into the room. After Bella sat in the back near the door, Noora sat beside her.

Bella smiled at her son as he spotted her arrival, nodding for him to return to focus on the piano. At the same time, his teacher gave him a musical score to play.

She also spots her grandpa and Nick sitting on the other side of the room. After Bella gave her grandpa a small greeting, she returned to focus on her son again.

Bella felt proud and grateful to see her little son growing fast and adapting quickly to daily activities in the new city.

If only they had returned to this city sooner, Dax's talent would have developed more quickly in any aspect. When they lived in northern Sweden, they did not have this privilege. They lived in the middle of the forest, and private teachers rarely came to their house to teach Dax.

Although Bella had arranged for a music tutor, Dax's progress was slow because the tutor only came twice a month.

Bella felt warm inside her heart as she watched Dax master his piano lesson in just a few days. Now, as he prepared to do his practical grade, she was grateful for his progress, even though it was only for personal enjoyment and not professional purposes.

"Miss, I feel so proud of young Master Dax. He is incredibly diligent in his studies, never once complaining or refusing to learn, even when tired. And what's more, he has mastered all the lessons he has learned so quickly. All of his teachers compliment him on his genius-level abilities." Noora whispered.

Bella's eyes filled with tears, feeling deeply moved by Dax's dedication to his education. She nodded in agreement with Noora.

She also realized how quickly her son was developing. Sometimes, she even worried that Dax's development was below average because he disliked speaking to people he didn't know.

However, anyone who had a chance to talk to Dax, including Tristan, always said his development was not below average. Dax is way above it—he possibly is a Polymath, a prodigy in various fields.

...

As Dax's piano-practical grade was coming to an end, Bella's cell phone vibrated. She quickly looked at the phone screen and was excited to see it was Stefan. He told her that he had sent two files to her email.

She didn't have time to check the files, but reading Stefan's text was enough to make her nervous.

[Stefan] Sister, three people are trying to investigate you.

[Stefan] The first and second are Jessica Sinclair and Amanda Spencer.

[Stefan] For the third one, it's a bit strange. Dark Skull, an underground organization, is trying to dig up your information.

'Dark Skull?' Bella muttered under her breath.

She had never heard of that name before. Still, judging by the fact that this was an underground organization, she believed it would come at her with wicked intentions.

After putting aside thoughts of Dark Skull, Bella turned her attention to a file containing information about the person who had followed her car earlier.

Bella was thrilled to check the files, but she didn't have time to do it now when she saw Dax approaching her. She stood from her seat and smiled happily at her son.

"Oh. My dear Dax... you're doing a great job. You know what, baby?" Bella, leaning closer, looked into his eyes, "Mommy is so proud of you..."

"Thank you, Mom," Dax said with a smile. Bella couldn't help but pull him into her embrace. "Mommy, my teacher wants to talk to you," Dax whispered, causing Bella to release her hug.

After Bella saw Dax leave the room, she approached Dax's piano teacher.

"Thank you for properly guiding Dax to learn to master the piano, Mr. Thomson," said Bella as she shook Oliver Thomson's hand.

"Ms. Donovan, your son Dax is an exceptionally talented pianist. Despite having only a few lessons with me, he has already mastered the techniques and perfectly played the score I gave him. I am amazed by his progress and can guarantee that he will become a great pianist if he continues to pursue piano studies seriously." Dax's teacher, Mr. Oliver Thomson, couldn't hide his admiration for Dax's exceptional abilities, even when Dax was still four and a half years old.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 158: Finding Who Follows Her

Hearing Oliver Thomson's extravagant compliment made Bella even more proud of her son. "Thank you, Mr. Thomson. I appreciate it."

“Ms. Donovan, I wanted to inform you that a piano competition will be held in the city in two weeks. I suggested that Dax participate in the competition, as I believe he has the potential to do well...”

Bella was surprised to hear that. So far, she has only allowed Dax to learn piano for personal purposes, not professional or competition, since she knows Dax is only interested in computer science.

Bella smiled at Oliver Thomson.

“Sir, I will talk to my son first. If he agrees, I will support his decision...” Bella politely responds, even though she knows Dax will definitely reject the idea.

Her son used to say he only studied music to pass the time. He didn’t plan on becoming an expert because he dreamed of becoming a computer science expert.

After talking a few more things, Oliver Thomson finally excused himself, and she walked him to the entrance.

...

Later,

Bella heads into the living room to look for Dax but can’t find him and her grandpa. Before she headed to her bedroom to change clothes, Noora appeared.

“Young Miss, are you looking for a young master Dax?”

“Yes. Do you know where Dax is?”

“Yes, Young Miss. Young Master Dax is with Old Master and Old Sinclair in the Library.” Noora answer.

“Oh, Grandpa Sinclair is here too?” Bella was surprised to hear that the older man usually came in the morning and left for his own house before evening. It’s rare to see him here at night.

“Yes, miss. Old Sinclair came to watch Young Master Dax play the piano, but he arrived only when the play was over. So he decided to join us for dinner.”

“I see. Thank you, Noora,” Bella said as she headed towards the Library without waiting for Noora’s reply.

Bella must greet Lewis Sinclair before heading upstairs to check Stefan’s files.



When Bella entered the Library, she couldn't help but smile. She saw her son playing chess with Lewis Sinclair while her grandfather watched them play closely. They seemed so immersed that they didn't notice when she entered the room.

She walks there to join them and stands beside Dax to make them finally aware of her.

"Oh, Bella..." Lewis was happy to see her, but his expression slowly turned sour when he didn't see his grandson. "You come alone? Where's Tristan?"

Bella smiled at Lewis before answering, "Tristan had a sudden meeting, so he couldn't return with me."

Lewis' expression turned displeased hearing that.

"Bella, that was just his excuse," he said, shaking his head. "...Why did he turn into a busy person all of a sudden, huh?"

Lewis wished Tristan would only focus on his family instead of the company. Still, it looked like that brat had forgotten his promise. He made a note to scold his grandson when he saw him later.

"Grandpa Lewis..." Dax suddenly chimed in, looking at Lewis. He continued when he looked at him. Don't be angry with Dad. He didn't lie. My Dad actually called me via video earlier. He told me he had promised someone important to meet him, so he must honor his promise. And I know that is what a good gentleman does when he makes a promise..."

Lewis's angry expression slowly faded when he saw Dax before him. Of course, this little man would not lie. Lewis smiled at Dax before asking, "And did your father tell you who this important person who could make him not come to his own son, my sweet Grandson, piano recital?"

Dax's eyes lit up, knowing his father would be having dinner with the president of this country. However, when Dax remembered his father telling him to keep it a secret, his happy emotions slowly faded, replacing his usual calm.

"You don't know who he will meet?" Isaac, who was curious, also asked.

Dax glanced at Isaac. He shook his head, unable to answer him.

Bella smiled, looking at her son — she could see he was hiding something.

"Grandpa Lewis, Grandpa... I'm sorry, I can't stay here to accompany you..." Bella tried to ease the tension by helping her fluttering little son. "I have to go to my room to

change..." she said, ruffling Dax's hair. Dax looked up to see his mother; he smiled at her.

"Sure, dear. Don't mind us, we have challenging games to play," Lewis said.

Before Bella left, Isaac reminded her not to forget dinner at seven. He had noticed that she had forgotten to have dinner with them lately, as she often fell asleep after returning from the office. Isaac could see how exhausted she was from working nine to five.

"Sure, Grandpa," Bella said with a meaningful smile before leaving the room.

When she arrived at her bedroom, Bella didn't bother to change her clothes but immediately went to her desk and turned on her laptop.

Stefan has sent her a couple of files about her request to check the information of the person following her. After a few minutes of reading the file, her expression slowly turns dark.

"Jessica Sinclair!?" Bella whispered while shaking her head. She can't believe that woman already knows her office.

How could she know that?

Bella believes no information about her will appear on the company database or the internet if someone tries to search her name.

Did someone tell her about it?

Or was it just coincident she saw her near Quantum Capital?

She was completely puzzled.

"Tsk... Tsk... Why do you look so interested in knowing where I live?"

Bella was grateful that Tristan had a sudden meeting. Otherwise, Jessica will find out that they actually live in the same area. Bella couldn't imagine what would happen if that evil woman knew—she might come to this place to make a fuss.

Gosh!

After a few minutes, Bella set aside Jessica Sinclair's case. She opened another file about three people attempting to find her identity.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

## Chapter 159: Dark Skull

Bella set aside Jessica Sinclair's case. She opened another file about three people attempting to find her identity.

She knew about Jessica Sinclair and Amanda Spencer but was confused about Dark Skull.

She had never heard of that name before and had never encountered them.

'What and why are they trying to find anything about me?'

This is the biggest question that now fills her mind. The unknown reason for their action in digging for information about her also caused anxiety for Bella.

Bella opened the information about Dark Skull, and what she found out shocked her.

Dark Skull was an underground organization. Mafia organization. They are notorious for their involvement in illegal activities, such as the unlawful sale of drugs and firearms.

However, many people are unaware of their illegal activity. Dark Skull is hiding under the company name the Dark Roses Group. They dominate the country's illicit nightlife business, with numerous clubs, bars, and casinos under the same name and branches nationwide.

"What kind of information about me they are looking for? What is their end game?" Bella wonders, continuing to read the files to learn more about Dark Skull.

...

After reading the report about the Dark Skull organization, Bella took a deep breath and stood up from her seat.

She walked towards the window and looked at the dark sky while thinking. However, not long after, she heard a light knock on the door.

When Bella glanced at her watch, it was already seven p.m.

Bella couldn't help but scold herself because she was too preoccupied with elaborating on the files, and she had completely forgotten about dinner. Now, she felt worried that her grandfather would scold her.

Noora appears behind the door and reminds her about dinner.

"Miss, I thought you slept again."

“No, I was just too engrossed in the file I was reading and lost track of time for dinner.” She smiled apologetically.

Noora smiles back at her, “They haven’t started dinner, Miss. They all wait for you...”

Bella asks Noora to inform the others to start dinner without her. She will join them several minutes later. After she has finished freshening up. Then, she rushes to change her casual home clothes and joins the others.

Arriving at the dining room, Bella was surprised that they hadn’t started eating but were waiting for her, making her even more regretful.

After apologizing to the grandpas and Dax, they all start to dine.

At dinner, Isaac chats with Lewis. Meanwhile, Bella and Dax quietly enjoyed their dinner.

However, even though Bella seemed to have enjoyed her dinner, she still thought about the Dark Skull Organization in the back of her mind. She kept thinking about them. Setting a plan to discover their motives for gathering information about her.

Until her last bite, Dark Skull still puzzled her. She can’t fathom any reason for any criminal organization approaching her. And she never fears her adversaries when she knows their reasons. This one is different. This one is entirely unknown.

Bella decides to discuss this matter with Sam. He might know about Dark Skull with his background and past experiences as a member of this country’s military special force team.

...

After dinner, Isaac and Lewis continued talking again in the living room. Meanwhile, Bella accompanied Dax, who was watching television in the corner of the living room.

Bella uses this opportunity to tell Dax about her business trip visiting Nova City. She tells him she will take him with Aunt Noora to Nova City.

“Really, mommy!? You will take me for your business trip?” Dax asked excitedly. He couldn’t hide his excitement, especially since his mother told him she had rented a beach house for them to stay in temporarily for a week.

“Isn’t that amazing, baby? You, me, and Aunt Noora stay at a beach house for a week...!”

“YEAH! That is amazing, Mommy. So, when will we fly there?”

He read about Nova City on the internet. It boasts beautiful beaches and a warmer temperature than the capital.

“Uncle Leo already arranged everything so that we will fly there the day after tomorrow.”

“That fast?” Dax was slightly surprised. He thought they would go there next week.

“What about my private lessons?”

“Don’t worry. I’ve asked Aunt Noora to postpone this week’s private classes to next week...” Bella explained.

Dax nods while smiling widely. He can’t hide his happiness knowing he will have another visit to a sandy beach again.

Later,

After chatting about Nova City, Dax returned to watching a space documentary on the television. However, before long, something crossed his mind.

He looked at his mother, who was typing on her cell phone.

“Mommy, how about daddy? Will he join us on this trip?” he asked curiously.

Bella was stunned to hear Dax’s question. She hadn’t told Tristan about her plans since this was related to her company.

However, after hearing Dax’s question, Bella thinks she should tell him because she will bring Dax with her for a week.

“Baby, I was planning to visit Nova City because of my work,” Bella smiled as she rubbed Dax’s back gently, “...and I think your daddy will be too busy to come with us. He has a lot of work to do. He might not have time to fly to Nova City with us.”

When Bella saw the disappointed look on his chubby face, she hurriedly added, “But, tonight, I will tell your Dad about our plans. Let him decide himself. If he has time, he can visit us at our beach house. Agree?”

Dax’s eyes gradually brightened as he nodded, “That’s a great idea, Mom. I hope Dad has time. I mean, he had missed my Piano Recital tonight. But a couple of days with Dad on the beach would be awesome. Also, I want to go fishing in the sea with him. Dad once promised to take me to the sea if the weather got warmer...”

Bella was amazed at how happy Dax had been discussing his future holiday plans with Tristan.

Initially, Bella didn't want Tristan to follow them. But, after seeing her son's beaming eyes, she began hoping that Tristan would join them in Nova City. Seeing Dax fully enjoy spending time with his Dad would be priceless.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

#### Chapter 160: Night Walk (1)

As the night grew late, Lewis bid farewell and headed home. Dax also told Bellas he felt drowsy, and after a good night's kiss, he went upstairs to sleep.

Bella heads back to her bedroom to call Stefan and discuss the tasks she needs him to complete.

However, after she changes into her nightgown and is about to call Stefan, Tristan's name flashes on her cell phone screen before she can dial Stefan's number. She checks the time before picking it up. It is 10:30 pm. Her hand stops to answer Tristan's call.

Bella decided not to pick up the phone because it was too late for her to pick it up, right?

She feels relieved when the ringtone stops, but a text from him later almost chokes her.

[Tristan] I could see your light still on, Bella (Smile Emoji)

[Tristan] May I come in? I hope we can talk in person for a bit.

Bella sighed deeply as she looked out her window and saw him waving at her.

...

She rushed down after putting on her sneakers and was surprised that the first floor was already dark. Only a few yellow lamps in the corner were still on.

No one was there, only her, as the workers who usually clean the house already finished their job, and by now, they all rested in their own room.

She felt strange. This was the first time she had come to this floor this late, and she was worried that her grandfather would catch her meeting Tristan this late.

'Gosh! Why do I feel like a teenager who will meet her boyfriend secretly?' She feels amused.

Bella continued walking towards the main door, trying not to make any sound. However, before she opened the door, her hand stopped as she realized she was only wearing her nightgown, forgetting to wear her coat.

She was reluctant to go out but too lazy to change upstairs.

'He just wanted to talk for a moment, right?' Bella wondered as she opened the door. She was taken aback when she saw Tristan standing right before the door.

"Hi... Tristan," Bella greeted him. When she saw his handsome face closely, her heart started to make weird sounds again.

Badam!

Badam!

Bella distracts her mind while turning her gaze to the elsewhere, trying to calm her racing heart. But she could feel her cheeks warmer by the second.

"You may speak now, Tristan. And you had better hurry because I am sleepy," she said without seeing him and acting like she felt bothered by his presence.

Tristan smiles as he sees her blushing. He removes his black coat and drapes it over her shoulders smoothly and calmly without a word or even a sound. He even breathes so calmly, as if he was doing meditation. Deep inside Tristan's mind, that is precisely what he was doing, meditating to calm his overly exciting feeling.

When she finally returned her gaze to him, Tristan said, "Bella, the sky is clear, and the night's breeze felt invigorating. Let's enjoy it with a small walk..." He began walking toward his garden without giving her a chance to refuse.

Bella was left speechless as she watched him walk away. She wanted to refuse, but when she looked at his long coat, now almost buried in her body, and felt his familiar fresh mint fragrance, her mind and body defeated her vanity and prejudice.

She closed the door behind her and started walking, following Tristan. But she deliberately didn't want to match his step, so she walked two steps behind him.

They walked in silence for several minutes. Arriving at his garden, Tristan turned onto the terrace near the swimming pool and sat on the rattan garden chair. Bella followed him; she sat opposite him.

As Bella looked around the garden, she was enchanted by its peaceful atmosphere and the charming colored lights on the roof. What made her even more stunned by this garden at night was the yellow lights on the ground created a romantic atmosphere.

"Oh, I think the temperature just dropped a few degrees since I'm coming. Are you freezing? We can talk inside my house if you—"

"I'm fine. I'm just a bit cold, but nowhere near freezing. Thanks to your warm coat, also...the walks make it even less cold..." Bella interjected. She feared her mind would betray her again and agreed to enter his house. At this time, entering his house might lead to something she would regret later.

"Are you sure?"

"Mhm. And now that we're walking, you might want to start talking, Tristan...I can see there's something you want to say to me..." she answered, trying to speak as calmly as possible.

Tristan smiled before apologizing, "I'm sorry if I seem to insist on taking you to walk as a way to talk to you, Bella...I...I don't see any way else."

Bella, "..."

She gave him an annoyed look. She couldn't believe this man had lured her outside to enjoy a night walk when what he really wanted was just to talk.

How sly!

Bella opened her mouth a few times and wanted to scold him, but somehow, no words came out from her lips. She could only take a deep sigh and turn her gaze, looking at the lonely moon in the dark sky, ignoring him.

"You know what, Bella?" Tristan's soft voice broke the silence. "We always met in the evening almost daily for the last few days. And, suddenly, today, we couldn't meet. Then, during my most important meeting today, I could feel something big inside me was missing when I couldn't see you this evening. That's why I rushed here, even though my important meeting guest asked me to stay. I hope you can understand and not be angry with me..."

Hearing Tristan's sincere and sad tone, Bella felt slightly wavered.

She didn't respond, but then something else crossed her mind—something that had bugged her during dinner. She needed to talk to him about two crucial things.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 161: Night Walk (2)

Bella needed to talk to Tristan about two crucial things.

She looked at him again, "It's fine...I wasn't angry with you. Maybe it's because I felt tired after a full day at work."



His eyes lifted when he heard her soft forgiveness, "Thank you, Bella."

"Well, Tristan, I have something I need to tell you," Bella said, her expression slowly turning gloomy when she remembered Jessica Sinclair knew her office and started investigating her.

"Sure. Go ahead..."

Bella tells him that her car was tailed after leaving the office this afternoon, which shocks him.

"That's a terrifying experience, Bella. Are you okay?" Tristan asked worriedly while looking at her closely as if he wanted to check her whole body.

"As you can see, I'm fine... I'm fortunate that Sam was alert when we were being followed, so we could get here safely," Bella was amused by his reaction.

"Thank god," Tristan feels relieved. However, his face stiffened again when he asked, "Did you know who's tailing your car?"

Bella took a deep breath before telling him, "I have done some quick but deep research through every CCTV that my car passed, and I could positively indicate that your mother is likely the one behind them." She paused when she saw his face immediately turn red as if all the blood had rushed under the skin of his face.

'Mother, why did you do that?' Tristan gritted his teeth, angry, hearing his mother try to follow Bella despite his warning not to do anything about her.

"I came to that conclusion because the driver of the tailing car was a close friend of your mother's most trusted driver," Bella continued after she saw him looking angry.

Tristan remained silent and simply gazed at her, his expression filled with regret.

"I'm not entirely sure how much your mother knows about me, but I suspect she knows where I work. Now, it appears she's also trying to find out where I live," Bella's voice expressed concern. "You remember my concerns, don't you, Tristan?"

Tristan took Bella's hand suddenly, surprising her. She blinked, looking at their hands together.

Before she could say something, Tristan spoke.

Tristan sounded confident as he reassured Bella that his mother wouldn't harm her or Dax, even if she learned about her and their son. He promised to protect her no matter what.

When Bella heard how sincerely he said those words, she could feel the glacier in her heart slowly melting.

Bella lowered her gaze to see at their hand and said, "Thank you." She let him hold her hand because she needed it. She's not a superwoman who can handle everything; she's just an ordinary woman who also feels scared and sad.

This man had apologized many times for his past ignorance, and she was not a woman who would be blinded by their past misunderstandings. She had forgotten about it, even though she couldn't open her heart to him again.

However,

As the days passed, she found herself increasingly unable to ignore his sincere approach.

After a while, they held hands in silence. Finally, Bella spoke first. "Tristan, I'm flying to Nova City for a business trip, and I plan to take Dax with me..."

Tristan was surprised to learn about this. He frowned before asking, "For how many days? When are you going to fly there?"

Bella told him everything about her office trip and vacation with Dax. She also shared how excited Dax was about the trip and hoped Tristan would join them there.

However, after Bella finished her words, she saw Tristan's happy and proud smile. She quickly pulled her hand from Tristan's grasp.

Bella could tell that Tristan had misunderstood her words. She could see it in his gaze.

"Tristan, please understand that I do not want you to come to Nova City. It's Dax who's insisting on your presence. I wouldn't have bothered you about our trip if it wasn't for him," Bella explained, hoping to avoid misunderstandings.

"I know, I know. I understand what you're saying, Bella. Don't worry about it," Tristan said with a reassuring smile.

"So, are you going with us or not?"

Tristan's smile instantly vanished as he remembered that he also had a business trip abroad. He tried to figure out if he could adjust his schedule to join them.

After fast thinking, he finally responded to her.

“Of course, I will join you and Dax,” Tristan said excitedly, “but I might catch up with you later because I have a business trip abroad in a few days,” he said calmly, though inwardly, he felt worried Bella would feel displeased.

“Sounds perfect, Tristan,” Bella said with a smile. She didn’t want him to stay with them the entire week. Spending a day with Dax was already the best for their son.

He feels relieved hearing that. “Alright, I will ask Dylan to prepare a jet for you to use.”

“Please don’t. If we use your family jet, your parents will find out about us,” Bella quickly rejected Tristan’s offer. She prefers to use commercial flights and avoids using the Sinclair Jet.

A thin line appeared on Tristan’s forehead upon hearing her answer. He understood her worries but couldn’t stand the fact that they would use a commercial flight.

“Bella, I won’t use the Sinclair Jet but my own.” His smile reassured her.

Bella narrowed her eyes at him, suspicious of his answer. Worried that she had heard wrong, she asked again, “Tristan, are you sure you have a private jet? I mean, not your family or company?”

Tristan said calmly, “I don’t have it now but will buy it tomorrow. I will register the jet under our son’s name with stand-by Pilots and stewardesses. And all expenses paid. That way, you and Dax can use it anytime you want to travel together.”

Bella was speechless hearing his words.

She couldn’t resist venting her sarcasm, ‘Oh wow, why is this man boasting his wealth to me now!? Tsk! How shameless...’

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

#### Chapter 162: Night Walk (3)

Bella couldn’t resist venting her sarcasm, ‘Oh wow, why is this man boasting his wealth to me now!? Tsk! How shameless...’

“Are you joking, right?” How could this man lightly say to buy a jet like he bought an ice cream?

“No. When it’s about you and Dax, never. And, also... I have a friend who sells private jets. He has often begged me to buy one to help boost his sales performance. I’ve always declined his offers, but now I have a reason to buy one as a gift for our son.” Tristan said calmly, but Bella almost choked hearing his words.

'My goodness... this man was telling the truth. How rich is he? Is it unlimited?' she wondered, trying to dismiss the idea of counting his wealth.

When Tristan saw Bella staring at him with her confused gaze, he smiled and explained more.

"Bella, I'm not going to buy a new jet but a used one. I hope you don't mind about that. I mean... I can order a new jet for Dax if you find a used jet—"

"No... No... Of course, I don't mind," Bella answered quickly, worried that this man would misunderstand again.

'Oh my, why does talking to him feel so difficult?' She could only vent her frustration in her mind. Before continuing her words, "...ugh, Tristan, you can give him what you want. He is your son, after all."

Bella couldn't bear to talk to him about this matter. She will never win.

Speaking of private jets, Bella could actually afford one for herself or Dax. But why should she do that? She rarely flies, and the private plane only charges a monthly fee for service and operating costs. She heard from Jack that he would have to pay around \$700K to \$1 million annually.

What a waste!

Bella would prefer to use that money to invest in a new startup company, earn more profits, or buy shares to receive dividends.

"Tristan, if you buy a Private Jet for Dax, I expect you to pay the annual service and operating costs..." Bella reminded him firmly. It would be a hassle if she had to pay for it.

Tristan was amused to hear Bella's worry. When he saw her glaring at him as if scolding him through her gaze, he answered her hastily.

"You don't need to think about that, Bella. I have a company that services and maintains private jets in this country. So, any service and maintenance charges on any jet under my name or Dax are part of the company's Owners' expenses..."

Bella silently sighed, aware that involving or mentioning Dax in their conversation would not favor her because Tristan was doing nothing but positive and amazing things for Dax. She nods in agreement with his decision.

After hearing Tristan's explanation regarding the used superjet he planned to purchase, Bella began to feel drowsy. She yawned a few times without making a sound.

Tristan fell silent upon seeing Bella and asked if she was okay.

"I'm feeling exhausted. I think I should head home now," Bella said as she stood up.

He stood up and said, "I'm sorry, Bella, for making you tired. Let me walk you home."

Bella walked silently beside Tristan as they made their way to her house. Once they arrived, Tristan excused himself and headed to his own house.

After walking a few steps, Tristan turned to face Bella and said, "Good night, Bella. I'll call you tomorrow." He smiled before continuing to walk.

"Mmm, goodnight, Tristan Sinclair..." she whispered to herself.

After watching Tristan walk away, Bella went inside her house. When she reached her bedroom, she was surprised to find his long coat still hanging on her shoulder.

She chuckled softly.

"Geez!! How could you forget to return this, Bella?"

She took off Tristan's long coat, carefully folded it, and placed it on the sofa.

Bella tried to remind herself to return his coat tomorrow if they met.

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Next morning.

Knowing that the mafia was monitoring her made Bella sleep poorly last night. Even when she tried, she couldn't ignore this matter.

When Bella arrived at her office, the first thing on her agenda was to discuss the Dark Skull organization. She invited Sam and Leo to come to her office.

Not long after,

Leo arrived at Bella's office after one of her secretaries told him to. When he entered, he sat across from Bella and looked at Sam, sitting next to him.

"Morning, Boss. Why did you call us so early?" Leo asked, narrowing his eyes at Bella. He was curious.

It wasn't just Leo who was curious and confused; Sam was too. Bella usually comes to the office at ten, but today is different. She already arrives before nine.

Bella ignores Leo's question. She turns to Sam and asks, "Have you ever heard of an organization named Dark Skull?"

Sam's face suddenly turned pale when he heard that name again. After many years, he was not active in his military team. This was the first time he heard someone say that evil organization.

"How do you know about that evil group, Boss?" Sam asked in shock, shocked to learn that Bella knew about the most evil organization he had ever encountered.

"Do you know them or not?" Bella asked again, ignoring his question. Judging by Sam's expression, she knew Sam was familiar with them.

"I know them. They are one of the reasons I retired from the military. I was injured after a secret operation against them. Even then, we succeeded in destroying many parts of the organization, but we failed to capture its top leader. He escaped..." Sam clenched his fists in anger before he explained more about what happened in the past.

"Wait... Wait... Who the hell is this Dark Skull?" Leo suddenly chimed in, his eyes darting towards Bella and Sam. "Can you guys explain it to me?"

Bella sighs deeply, "Sam, you tell him."

Sam immediately told Leo about the Dark Skull organization.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

#### Chapter 163: The Sentinel Network

Bella listened silently. However, when she heard Sam's words, she was stunned because Sam didn't seem to know that the Dark Skull organization still existed. If Stefan is right, and he likely is, they continue their business, hiding under the Black Rose Group.

Countless questions now dance through her mind. How could he not know? Doesn't the government know either? How? Why could Stefan give her such detailed information?

"Boss, why are you suddenly asking about Dark Skull?" Sam's question brought Bella out of her thoughts.

Bella didn't rush to answer. She looked at Sam for a moment and then at Leo, who now wore the same curious and confused expression as Sam.

“Damn! Bella, can you please stop scaring us like that?” Leo snapped. He feels thrilled by the tension in the room.

“Can you be quiet, Leo?” Sam hissed at Leo. Then he turned to Bella. “Boss, would you mind telling us why now?” he asked politely.

Bella took a deep breath when she saw Sam almost beat Leo.

“My trusted sources told me that Dark Skull is investigating me. They’ve been researching anything about me for a couple of days now. This is really puzzling me. Why is this evil organization interested in me? I don’t remember ever meeting people like that in the past...”

Sam and Leo were left speechless when they heard Bella’s words.

“My source couldn’t tell me who hired them or if the initiative came from the organization itself. And, Sam, this is why I ask you about them...” she continues.

“Boss, hold on a second. Something seems off. Although the Dark Skull leader hasn’t been captured since I retired from my unit, I have heard from a reliable source that they no longer exist as a threat. So, even if they still exist, they are probably not a threat to you.”

Bella, “....”

“Boss, don’t worry too much. If my source is to be trusted, they are just a lowly gang now. I could handle them by myself...” Sam said confidently.

Bella seemed calm but was internally frustrated because Sam was unaware of the new Dark Skull. It wouldn’t have alarmed Stefan if it had only been a low-key criminal organization.

“Sam, I trust my source is credible. If my source told me the Dark Skull Organization still exists in this country and has grown bigger than before, I know it must be true.”

“That’s fucking scary, Boss! Are you really sure this organization still exists and is in full motion against you!?” Leo slightly shouted in surprise. “Are you really sure, Boss? Why do they want to know your identity?”

“I wouldn’t ask you to come here to discuss it if I wasn’t so sure. Also, if I knew what this organization is up to,” she said faintly.

“I see,” Leo nods.

“Are you sure it is bigger than before?” Sam asked. He doubts it. If Dark Skull returns, his former team will surely annihilate them again.

Sam didn't say anything about his doubt to Bella because he needed to hear more.

"Yes. My source wouldn't alarm me if he saw it as non-threatening. Have you ever heard about the Dark Roses Group?"

"Boss... So, you mean the Dark Roses have become their new front now?" Sam asked, starting to piece things together.

"Mhm, that's what my trusted resource informed me."

"And the military still permitted them to conduct business in this country? What nonsense is this?"

Bella looked at Leo when he spoke up. "I'm not entirely sure why, but I'm assuming that the new Dark Skull is hiding effectively and that nobody knows about them yet—not even the military or your old team, Sam..." she said, glancing over at Sam.

The light in Sam's eyes lifts as he responds, "Or they have a powerful backup in this country."

"If that's the case, you should be worried, Bella," Leo said, his tension increasing.

"I need to discuss what I should do now! Like I said before, I didn't even know their motive to investigate me," Bella said helplessly as she gazed at them.

"Boss, I can make a few guesses about the motive," Leo smiled mysteriously.

Bella and Sam turn to see Leo curiously.

"Speak then!" Bella said curtly.

"Boss, have you ever met a total stranger person? That person is probably the culprit. Even the mob leader himself. He probably investigated your identity because he was interested in you... I mean, he fell in love with you at first sight."

Sam, "...."

Bella, "...."

"Seriously, Boss... are you sure you never encountered such a man!?"

"No, of course, I never met such a man! You would know if I have." Bella responded to Leo's question to her. "Also, what are my chances of encountering a certain evil man? I



never go to strange places. I only go to my houses and offices. And you guys were always around me when I was in public places. Like when I visited the restaurant.”

Bella took a deep sigh and looked at Leo. She was speechless by his wild imagination.

Gosh!

Leo then turned to Sam. “Do you know the name of the mafia leader, Sam?”

Sam looked at him back and said, “I think his name is Mad Dog!”

“What the hell? It’s an ugly name for a mob boss. How can he lead a criminal organization with such an ugly name?” Leo said.

“Leo, stop asking stupid questions to the Boss and me, will you?” Sam asks calmly, but his gaze betrays him; he looks at Leo disdainfully.

“Ah, it must be a code name code name...” Leo chuckled, seeming not to be bothered with Sam’s disdainful gaze.

“Yeah, short off!” Sam said, ignoring Leo. Then he turned his gaze to Bella: “Boss, should we call Mr. Jack? We need to establish The Sentinel Network in this country to help us accurately assess the possible threat and also help us take proper countermeasures.”

“Wait, do you guys want to hear the other motive?” Leo chimed in, ignoring Bella and Sam’s discussion topic.

“HELL NO!”

“HELL NO!”

Bella and Sam shouted together without looking at Leo.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 164: Blamed Stellar Entertainment

They continued their conversation while ignoring Leo’s funny ideas.

“Yes, I also thought about it, Sam. Even though I believe Jack will agree to whatever I propose here, I will ask him first for courtesy...” Bella agrees with Sam that they must open a Sentinel Network branch office.

This security and network company operates similarly to a spy network throughout the country in which it is based. It collects and analyzes information to keep on file for future reference, and it also hires capable individuals who could act as guards if needed.

“Yes. That’s a good idea, Boss. I know Mr. Jack would never reject your proposal.” Sam smiles.

“I know. Sam, you can start recruiting your former army colleagues and take the Director position of the new establishment. You have experience working at the head office, and I know you can handle the operation and management of the Network smoothly.

Sam was taken aback at Bella’s words.

“Certainly, Boss. Thank you for your confidence in me. I will immediately begin working on it.”

“Excellent!” Bella answers. Then she looks closely at Leo to ensure he follows the discussion before asking, “Do we have any empty floors in this building, Leo? Can you spare one entire floor discreetly for our plan?”

“Boss, don’t worry. I’ll handle everything related to office location and setup,” Leo reassures her with a warm and excited smile.

Leo remained silent when Bella shared more details about her Sentinel Network plan. His silence is because he fully supports Bella’s plan. Moreover, he recognized the need for such a network in this country.

Leo believed that this Network would play a crucial role in their bigger plan to elevate Quantum Capital’s status to one of the top twenty-five companies in the country.

After thanking Leo, Bella smiled and got up from her seat. She dismissed them, “You guys can continue working,” she said before returning to her own tasks.

However,

When Bella opened her laptop, the news she read surprised her.

The news of Laura Kiels’ decision to withdraw from the entertainment industry and her apology note on social media shocked Bella.

Laura Kiels stated that she would pay Stellar Entertainment the amount she owed, plus all fines from her client for her faults.

This surprised Bella even more. She can’t help but took a deep sigh after reading all those articles and A-Netz\* comments. They blame Stellar Entertainment while defending Laura Kiels. She already expected this, so she kept her last card to turn the tide.

“Did Laura really have enough money to go with that scenario?”

Bella doubts Laura's ability to pay off her debts since S Jewelry sued her for a large amount of money for settlement.

After thinking for a while, Bella took the landline and called Leo.

"Did you read the trending news on the internet?"

"Yes, I was just about to call you. Why do I feel like this girl might not be telling the truth? I don't think Andreas Corby would give her enough or even any money. Where did she find the money to pay off her debt?" Leo asked.

Bella was amazed because Leo shared the same doubts as her.

After a soft chuckle, Bella asked Leo to confirm with the legal team whether Laura had already settled everything, as it seemed suspicious to her.

Later, Bella set aside Laura's affairs and redirected her focus to other matters.

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Bella quickly texted Jack, asking him to call her when he had free time.

It didn't take long before Bella's cell phone vibrated again. She immediately picked up when she saw Jack's name appear on her cellphone screen.

"Wow, Boss... you still awake now?" Bella happily greeted him.

"Yeah. Thanks to you. Why did you wake me up with such a text? Why do you need me to call you and not the other way around? This better be genuinely urgent." Jack's voice was hoarse, and he sounded rushed.

Bella is sure Jack is lying because how could a text notification wake him up? However, if he set his text notifications to a loud song, she might believe it.

She put aside her curiosity and immediately announced her plans to open a Sentinel Network branch office in Astington. She also told him that she had actually asked Sam to start recruiting.

After explaining everything, Bella continued, "Jack, I hope you agree with the decision I made before speaking to you."

A soft chuckle could be heard on the other end, followed by Jack's earnest voice.

“Bella, you don’t have to ask me about this. Did you forget why I opened the branch there? It’s because I have full and undoubtful confidence in you, so you can do whatever you want there.”

Bella, “....”

“I’m serious, alright!”

He laughs before saying, “Well, my friend, me too. I’m serious. If you need more capital to start a new company, call Harper. Tell her how much money you need to establish a new company there. She will send it to you.”

A smile spreads across her face as she responds, “I don’t need money. I could withdraw cash from the black card you gave me...”

“Are you kidding me? Of course, the money won’t be enough to start a new company,” Jack laughed at Bella’s answer.

“Gosh!! Jack, why did you give me such a small amount of card when I thought the black card was unlimited?”

Jack patiently explained that the card had limits. It couldn’t withdraw large amounts of money but could buy expensive items like a private jet or an island.

“I hope you can understand, Bella.”

“Got it. I’ll ask Leo to prepare a proposal for Harper.”

“Nice. Anything else?” Jack asked. He had to go back to bed, or his wife would sleep, and he might not get what he wanted tonight.

“No,” but she paused abruptly when she remembered the Dark Skull organization. “Uh, Jack, on second thought, I might need to ask you about something else.”

“Yes?”

“Do you know where your brother-in-law is?” Bella asked, suspecting that Andreas Corby may have been the one to hire Dark Skull to investigate her.

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\* A-Netz = Astington Netizen