

No Chance 2001

[Chapter 2001](#)

Showing Off

Bella didn't let Mike assist her. She slowly walked out of the room step by step on her own.

However, she was probably pushing herself too hard. Not long after she left the room, her strength gave out. Her legs went weak, and she almost had a close encounter with the ground.

Luckily, Mike, who was behind her, caught her in time, preventing her from falling flat.

"I'm fine..." Bella shook her head, instinctively wanting to refuse. He pushed Mike away and continued to walk forward. However, after only a few steps, her vision darkened, and she completely lost consciousness.

"I don't know what you're trying to prove," Mike cursed, picking up Bella and taking her straight to the prepared presidential suite.

Although Bella had lost consciousness, the jostling in Mike's arms eventually roused her.

As she looked at Mike, she felt as if her usual senses were being infinitely magnified.

That crisp scent rushed into the tip of the nose, evoking a certain feeling.

That sensation...

Bella swallowed hard, unable to resist the peculiar sensation surging within her.

I feel so hot... I really want to take off my clothes.

Feeling the woman in his arms stir awake, Mike was fully alert. "You're finally awake. I don't know why you're so hot, like a burning coal."

Mike was grumbling to himself, but Bella didn't pay him any attention.

It wasn't that she didn't want to engage with him. She simply couldn't find the words to speak.

The moment she opened her mouth, it was filled with fragmented moans, the kind that didn't belong to her at all.

Even she found it strange to hear.

After much difficulty, Mike finally arrived at the hotel. He gently laid Bella on the bed and started to call for a doctor, presumably urging the medical technician to come as quickly as possible.

But Bella, who had long been tormented, could no longer hold back. She even took the initiative to hold Mike's hand.

Mike felt a sense of warmth touch his hand. Looking down, he saw Bella gazing at him with seductive eyes, tossing and turning on the bed, repeating only one phrase, "Hot... I'm so hot."

In the midst of it all, a few buttons on her clothes were accidentally undone, revealing a sudden glimpse of her beauty.

Mike's ears turned red from what he saw.

He turned his head, not daring to look at Bella, and simply asked, "Is there... Is there anything I can do to help you?"

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With a firm grip, Bella pulled Mike's hand, causing him to fall onto her body.

The crimson blush climbed from his face to his ears and then to his entire neck. He was as red as a tomato.

"Help.... help me," Bella said softly, and her gaze was flirtatious. Even her breath exuded a fragrance.

Mike was struggling with his inner conflict.

Bella desperately clutched his hand, pleading for help incessantly.

About two minutes later, Mike, with a determined look on his face, seemed to have made up his mind. His trembling hand reached out toward Bella's clothes, ready to unbutton them in a few swift moves.

Smack!

A clear handprint was now starkly visible on Mike's face.

He was suddenly taken aback, looking at Bella with a hint of grievance.

Didn't she ask for my help? Why is she hitting me now?

Bella was panting heavily. "I didn't ask you to help me like this. I want you to run the bath for me. Run.... Run some cold water and then help me... to the bathroom."

With great effort, Bella managed to utter a short sentence,

It was then that Mike understood what she meant.

Bella wanted to soak herself in cold water to calm herself down... But the New Year was just around the corner, and it was the middle of winter, so taking a cold bath was sure to make her sick.

Bella couldn't care less at this point. She urged, "Hurry up."

[Chapter 2002](#)

Getting Through It

Immediately after, Mike filled the tub with water and then helped Bella into it.

The moment Bella made contact with the cold water, she couldn't help but shiver.

Indeed, doing that in the depths of winter was a bit too much.

Considering Bella had been drained of all energy, Mike gently helped her into the water.

Seeing the state Bella was in, Mike couldn't help but feel a pang of sympathy. He suggested, "Maybe we should just forget it? The doctor will be here soon. Why put yourself through unnecessary suffering?"

Bella's face flushed, and she shook her head. With great difficulty she stuttered, "I am now... consumed by a burning in lust, unable to control myself... If I don't do this, I'm afraid... I'm afraid I won't last until the doctor arrives."

Having said that, she glanced at Mike. "You wouldn't want me to take advantage of you, would you?" She chuckled after saying that.

Mike widened his eyes. Is this really the time for her to be cracking jokes?

This is absolutely madness.

After much difficulty, Mike managed to settle Bella into the water. He wanted to stay by her side, but Bella wouldn't allow it.

She claimed that it was inappropriate for an unmarried man and woman to be alone in the same room.

Yet, Mike had almost seen everything there was to see, so there really was nothing left for him to avoid.

Despite that, Bella still insisted, "Sir, I'm not married yet. If you keep this up, I won't be able to get married. Will I have to come looking for you then?"

Mike didn't know what came over him as he blurted out, "If you look for me, then so be it. Worst comes to worst, I'll marry you."

As those words were spoken, an eerie silence ensued.

Both of them fell silent. Mike felt that his words might have been a bit too much, so he cleared his throat a couple of times, attempting to lighten the mood.

"What I mean is... It's better for me to marry you than for you to drown alone in the bathroom, right?"

Bella did not continue the topic. She simply insisted that Mike should wait outside.

"Just stay nearby outside. I'll call you if I need anything."

In the end, Mike could only agree. As he left, he made sure to close the door behind him.

While anxiously pacing in place, he intermittently asked Bella if she was okay, all the while trying to get in touch with the doctor.

Even Mike felt that he was overdoing it.

Meanwhile, Bella was in the bathroom. The burning sensation was truly unbearable. She could only

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achieve brief clarity by biting her own arm.

At that very moment, she was also quite relieved that she had driven Mike away.

For some unknown reason, she simply didn't want him to see her in such a disheveled state.

Thus, twenty minutes passed, and both Bella and Mike felt as if each moment was stretching into an eternity.

The latter would occasionally ask toward the bathroom door, "Are you okay? Do you need any help?"

After he heard Bella's voice, only then could he feel at ease.

Gradually, Bella's voice became fainter and fainter until there was no response at all.

Mike couldn't care less at this point. He kicked open the bathroom door with one foot.

The sight before his eyes left him stunned.

The water in the bathtub was stained red with large patches of blood. Bella lay unconscious in the tub, the bite wound on her arm looking terribly gruesome.

It was hard for him to imagine what kind of pain Bella was facing. It must be tormenting for her! Hence, this was her last resort, by doing this to her own body.

A look of heartache surfaced in Mike's eyes as he lifted her out of the water.

The cold water instantly soaked Mike's clothes, mingling with spots of blood. His white shirt was speckled with the blood from Bella's arm.

Mike, who had always been fastidious about cleanliness, didn't seem to mind at all. There was not even a furrow in his brows.

[Chapter 2003](#)

Lost Contact

A melodious ringtone rang out.

Surprisingly, Elisa managed to sleep soundly until dawn.

She was awakened by the ring of the phone. Otherwise, she would have continued her slumber.

Even she was somewhat taken aback, finding it surprising that she could sleep so.... soundly in Gareth's embrace.

She hadn't had a good sleep in a long time.

Gareth was also awakened by the noise. Seeing him slowly come to his senses, Elisa was finally able to escape his grasp. She quickly left the couch and answered the call.

While doing so, she kept stealing glances at Gareth. His expression is somewhat unnatural.

She never expected that she could actually sleep in that position until dawn... She must have been really tired lately.

"Hey, Liz."

Julia's voice came from the other end of the line, tinged with a hint of urgency. This brought Elisa back to her senses, making her much more alert.

She replied, "Grandma, it's me. Is there something you need from me?"

When Julia heard Elisa's voice, she felt significantly more relaxed.

This girl has that sort of magical aura. It provides a sense of comfort.

It would make one feel that as long as Elisa was around, everything would be fine.

When they were in the small fishing village, Elisa also empowered Gareth this way. It was quite peculiar, but this might probably be Elisa's unique superpower-the power of leadership and persuasion.

Julia sighed and responded, "I wanted to ask if you know where Bella has gone. When I woke up this morning and didn't see her, I thought she had gone to work. But I realize it's Saturday, and after asking around, I found out that Bella didn't come home last night. Do you know where she went yesterday?"

Upon hearing the phrase "didn't come home last night," Elisa felt as if a thunderbolt had struck her entire being.

Yesterday... Elisa's mind was racing. She had been out socializing yesterday.

She still hasn't returned after a whole night of socializing?

Elisa instinctively understood that a serious problem had arisen, but she didn't want to upset Julia, so she kindly told a white lie.

"Ah, yes. I know. I'm the one who sent her on a business trip."

However, Julia wasn't so easily fooled. After a moment of hesitation, she asked, "Is that really true? Hmm, you better not be lying to me."

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Without any hesitation, Elisa replied, "It's true, Grandma. Why would I lie to you? She really did go on a business trip, but it's a short one. She probably thought she could return overnight, so she didn't tell you."

"Why can't my calls get through, then?" Julia asked cautiously, pressing for an answer.

Elisa chuckled. "Perhaps her phone ran out of battery on the way back, and she didn't bring a power bank. She drove alone for the business trip, so don't worry. Shall I personally call our partners? I'll notify you. immediately once I have any news."

Upon hearing these words, Julia finally let down her guard and began to trust,

She replied. "All right, then. You must get back to me as soon as possible. Ideally, I'd like Bella to call me personally. That would put my mind at ease."

Elisa agreed and said, "It's also my fault. I shouldn't have let her go on a business trip alone. Next time, I should at least have someone accompany her. Otherwise, it might be dangerous for her to lose contact with us."

After Julia heard Elisa's words, her attention was smoothly diverted.

The elderly woman said, "That's not quite the right way to put it. After all, it's perfectly normal for a company's employee to be sent on business trips. We shouldn't make a big deal out of this one incident. However, it would be best if male colleagues could accompany female employees on future business trips."

[Chapter 2004](#)

The Search

Elisa nodded in agreement.

Julia's intentions were good.

She didn't want Bella to be overly special in the company. After all, her status was already there for all to

see.

Regardless of whether it was Bella or any other girl, no one should travel on business alone.

Elisa agreed, then chatted with Julia for a while longer before finally hanging up the phone.

As soon as she hung up the phone, Elisa immediately returned to her room without a moment's delay.

She stank to high heaven after not changing her clothes all night. The most pressing matter was to take a bath, change her clothes and head out immediately. She didn't even have time to greet Gareth.

Gareth watched Elisa in her flurry of activity, somewhat puzzled.

He rubbed his head, regretting that he really shouldn't have drunk alcohol the day before.

Originally, he thought if he felt unwell, drinking something warm would make him feel better.

Unexpectedly, the more he drank, the worse he felt. In the end, he finally lost consciousness.

However, Gareth still remembered the scene when he woke up that day. Elisa was in a hurry to put some distance between them. Does this mean that we slept together yesterday?

At that thought, Gareth's heart fluttered as if he were an eighteen-year-old high school boy who had just held the hand of the girl he liked.

Over the phone, he managed to catch bits and pieces of the conversation.

It seemed that Bella had gone missing, so Gareth also got up and went to freshen up and tidy up.

It took Elisa twenty minutes to tidy up and arrive downstairs, which was the fastest she could manage.

During that time, she also called those few people from the company who had accompanied Bella to the social event, only to receive an answer that wasn't particularly positive.

Everything seemed pretty normal that day. The contract signing was going through the usual process, and everyone thought the contract was going to be delivered.

There was a colleague named Brian who was quite sleazy, always looking at Bella with ill intentions.

As things were wrapping up, Bella asked the trio, one man and two women, to leave first.

They never saw Bella nor the man again.

In the end, the three of them returned to the room and looked around, only to find shards of gla*s scattered all over the floor. There was no sign of anyone.

Several people felt that something was amiss and immediately decided to call Bella.

At that moment, the phone was answered by the man who had disappeared.

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He said that Bella was drunk and needed to rest at the hotel. He himself would be leaving soon and suggested that the three of them shouldn't wait and could leave first.

The person was a veteran in the company, almost been promoted to the position of project team director, so the three of them didn't give it much thought.

Elisa was so frustrated that she couldn't help but scold the three of them over the phone, "With your level of alertness and response, I really wonder how you got into the company's project team. Why did you leave when he told you to? Why did you trust him? Couldn't you confirm it? Which hotel?"

Having obtained the hotel address, as well as the man's contact information and home address, Elisa hurriedly rushed out.

At that moment, she encountered the neatly dressed Gareth.

Perhaps due to the experience from the day before, Elisa always felt a bit guilty when she saw Gareth.

Elisa originally didn't want to greet him and planned to leave directly, but fate had other plans, as Gareth called out to stop her.

"I'm going with you." The tone was not of negotiation but of declaration.

Elisa instinctively wanted to refuse, but when she opened her mouth, she couldn't find the words to say

Gareth was Bella's brother. It was only natural and expected for them to go together.

[Chapter 2005](#)

Checking The Surveillance Footage

She had no reason to refuse.

Before setting off, Elisa looked at Gareth with concern and asked, "Are you sure you're feeling okay?"

Gareth nodded. "I'm fine. It's more important to find Bella first."

Seeing the situation, Elisa no longer insisted otherwise.

Gareth was driving while Elisa was on the phone next to him.

She first tried to call that man, but his phone was unreachable.

Elisa decided to make a trip to the hotel first. If something really did happen, it most likely occurred at the hotel.

Even though that was the last situation Elisa wanted to face, she had to prepare for the worst.

Elisa continued to call Terence.

The call was answered by the secretary.

Evidently, the matter was being pushed around.

At first, the secretary said, "Mr. Matthams left quite early, so I don't know what happened afterward. Perhaps you could ask at the hotel."

After that, he added, "Ms. Wickam is an adult. It's inevitable that she has her own social life. Perhaps she made plans to go somewhere with her friends? Maybe Ms. Benett could try looking for her again? Isn't it a bit inappropriate to keep calling and questioning Mr. Matthams?"

With that, he hung up the phone.

It sounded like they didn't want to take responsibility for what happened.

In fact, they even thought of Bella in a particularly bad light.

Instead of treating her like a lady of wealth and refinement, they treated her like a delinquent girl who hung out with a bunch of fair weather friends.

Elisa's fist tightened and loosened, then tightened again. Now is not the time to settle scores. Once we find Bella, we must make his company pay!

Venting her frustration, Elisa struck the window twice with her elbow, startling Gareth to his core.

"No matter how rushed you are, you shouldn't neglect your own health. We're almost there, don't panic," he urged.

Gareth spoke words of comfort, but in reality, he was also anxious, wishing he could find Bella there and then.

Elisa rubbed her temples without saying a word, unsure what to say.

At that very moment, an awkward atmosphere filled the car.

Elisa felt as if she was a murderer who had just encountered the family of her victim.

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Indeed, she felt that she was the cause of it all. If I had been a bit more persistent yesterday, either going with Bella or not letting him go at all, or even if I had just asked a few more questions and arranged for a few people to accompany her, would we not be in this situation now? I-If something really happens to Bella, I'll never forgive myself in this lifetime.

Elisa buried her head in the crook of her arm.

Seeing the situation, Gareth felt a pang in his heart and stepped on the accelerator under his foot to drive at one hundred eighty kilometers per hour.

At that speed in the city, it was considered speeding.

One might easily get into a car accident at that speed.

Luckily, Gareth was a skilled driver. He quickly reached the hotel without any incidents along the way.

As soon as she arrived at the hotel entrance, Elisa quickly got out of the car and found the hotel manager to request the surveillance footage.

The hotel manager was initially unwilling to cooperate. "Sir, Ma'am, I believe you do not have the authority to freely access our hotel's surveillance footage. If there's anything you need, you can contact the police."

Elisa's gaze was firmly fixed on the manager. Although the manager felt somewhat lacking in confidence, he did not back down, insisting that it was his duty to do so.

Fortunately, a phone call from Gareth promptly resolved the issue.

Otherwise, the manager could get beaten up by Elisa.

They then went through the surveillance footage from the private room the night before and watched it from the moment a few people entered the room until they left.

In the end, it was an old man who walked out of the private room, cradling Bella in his arms.

[Chapter 2006](#)

Not Here

Upon seeing that, Elisa furrowed her eyebrows tightly and asked for the room number immediately.

After the receptionist nervously provided the room number, Elisa immediately asked someone to guide her to the room.

Throughout the journey, Elisa's hands were trembling.

She truly couldn't imagine how would she face Bella and Julia if something unforeseen were to happen to

Bella.

Gareth saw through Elisa's fear and held her hand in the elevator.

Elisa was momentarily stunned. She lifted her gaze to look at Gareth.

Gareth quietly said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here."

Elisa nodded, feeling as if an endless stream of courage was being transferred to her from the connection between them.

Elisa was certainly not an indecisive and irresponsible person.

If indeed it was my own arrangement that resolved Bella's problem, I would certainly take responsibility until the end.

She just hoped that Bella wouldn't run into any problems.

Arriving at the room, Elisa kicked the door open with a single foot.

Considering the possibility of encountering some unpleasant scenes inside, Elisa decided not to let anyone follow her in.

Before entering the room. Gareth grabbed Elisa's hand. "No matter what happens, don't get agitated. Remember to stay calm, okay?"

Elisa nodded, withdrew her hand, and walked in:

Gareth stared blankly at his empty hand.

A crowd gathered at the door, most curious for gossip yet too timid to look.

Elisa walked in. It was a suite, requiring one to traverse a corridor about ten meters long and turn a corner to reach the inner room.

Elisa's hands were trembling as she stepped inside.

However, to her surprise, there were only two men with no sign of Bella inside.

A portly man with large ears lay on the ground, maintaining a protective stance over his groin.

Elisa recognized the other skinny man. He was one of the people brought along by Bella for the social event.

His presence there spoke volumes.

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Elisa was almost trembling with anger. How dare they scheme against Bella! Very well. Since they had the galls to do so, I'll ensure they face severe consequences!

Suppressing her anger, Elisa searched the entire suite, including the bathroom cabinets, but couldn't find Bella.

There were signs of a struggle on the bed.

For a moment, Elisa didn't know whether she should be happy or scared.

Gareth stood at the door as he saw Elisa walked out in a daze.

Just as he was about to ask something, someone called him.

The call came from the lobby manager. After everyone left, the manager stayed behind to maintain order and saw the second half of the surveillance footage.

In the end, Bella was brought to the presidential suite by a man.

The lobby manager quickly informed the room number, a hint of excitement in his voice as if he had accomplished something significant.

Otherwise, based solely on his initial attitude toward the couple, he would be doomed if the couple sought

revenge.

After understanding the ins and outs of the situation, Gareth took Elisa's hand and headed straight for the elevator.

Immediately after, he pressed for the top floor.

Normally, a special room card was required to access the top floor. However, the lobby manager had already turned off the access control, so the two of them could go through without any hindrance.

With red-rimmed eyes, Elisa stared at Gareth and asked, "Where are we going?"

Gareth quickly explained the situation. "In short, Bella should have been taken to the presidential suite. Don't worry too much. I think everything should be fine."

[Chapter 2007](#)

A Comedy Of Errors

Elisa nodded, feeling somewhat comforted.

The two smoothly made their way into the presidential suite.

Concurrently, Mike finally had a chance to relax after a night of S**. He chose to take a bath before going back to sleep.

As soon as he arrived at the living room, Elisa barged in like a bandit and marched toward him with intimidatingly,

"Eh? Who are you? Are you Ms. Benett?" asked Mike.

Gareth looked at him, probably misunderstanding something. Before Mike could react, he directly landed. a punch on Mike.

Before Mike had a chance to react, he was knocked to the ground.

Elisa rushed into the bedroom, only to find Bella lying on the bed with a pale face and tightly closed eyes. She was extremely anxious.

Upon a second glance, she realized that the clothes Bella was wearing were not the ones from yesterday.

Overwhelmed with rage, she stormed out to confront Mike once again.

She clutched Mike's collar with one hand while forming a fist with the other.

Mike narrowed one eye, speaking indignantly. "Why did you hit me? Do I still need to get beaten for being a good person?"

Elisa's fist stopped just about ten centimeters away from his face.

She asked, "What do you mean by that? Can you explain?"

Once Mike regained his senses, he struggled to get up, wrenching his collar from Elisa's grasp.

Gareth helped Elisa up, his gaze fixed intently on Mike.

However, Mike wasn't easily frightened. Who would be happy about getting beaten up for no reason at all?

Mike snorted coldly. "You didn't plan properly, and due to your carelessness, Bella almost ended up in the hands of that rotten old man. I was the one who rescued her, and now you want to hit me? What kind of logic is that?"

Seeing how righteously he sounded, the couple thought they might be in the wrong.

Upon recalling the incident with Bella, Elisa was already filled with guilt. Thus, she was inclined to believe most of what he said immediately.

Yet, Elisa still cautiously asked, "Why are Bella's clothes different from yesterday's? Even... Even her underwear has been changed." Elisa probably felt a bit embarrassed to utter the last sentence. Also, she felt that once she pointed out what had happened, it would become a fact.

After all, why would a man and a woman inside a room have to change clothes for no reason?

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When Elisa entered the room, she noticed two tags on the bedside table. They were from a woman's undergarment.

Clearly, it was for Bella.

Mike's face turned red, but he still stubbornly argued, "That fatty drugged her. Before the doctor arrived, Bella chose to take a cold bath to avoid being controlled by the drug. It was only after the doctor came and gave her an injection that she gradually fell asleep. All that happened late at night, but I couldn't just let her sleep like that. Otherwise, she would catch a cold."

Gareth frowned. "This is your reason for changing her clothes?"

"It wasn't me who did it!" Mike's eyes were wide with disbelief. "I tipped the waiter to do it. I'm not the kind who takes advantage of others in their time of need."

The last sentence was spoken softly by Mike.

From then on, most of Elisa's doubts were dispelled.

"I'm sorry for wrongly accusing you." Elisa bowed to Mike.

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Gareth watched from the side, not intervening.

He knew she wasn't bowing for offending Mike or misunderstanding him.

Instead, she was doing it because she was grateful for his help when Bella was on the verge of being tarnished.

[Chapter 2008](#)

The Scheme

Mike shifted his gaze somewhat unnaturally.

Just at that moment, Bella slowly came to her senses and recounted the whole story from beginning to end, finally bringing the matter to a complete closure.

After expressing her gratitude once again, Elisa and Gareth brought Bella back home.

They did not return to Wickam Manor. Naturally, they did not want to upset Julia.

Of course, the moment Elisa found out that Bella was all right, she immediately called Julia to assure her that all was well.

On the phone, Bella also assured Julia that she was fine. It was just that her phone had run out of battery. after returning from a business trip.

Julia did not doubt her. She just sighed in relief. "You, don't try to show off by going on business trips. alone in the future... cough, cough... As a girl, you still need a man by your side." She could not stop coughing as she spoke these few short sentences.

Bella laughed and spun a lie that she and another person had a project they needed to work on together. As such, she would not be able to return to Wickam Manor for a few days.

On the other hand, Elisa did notice something was off and quickly asked, "Grandma, did you catch a seasonal cold? Why do I feel like you've been coughing all day?"

Julia sighed, "Perhaps it's because I'm getting old. Come back with Bella another day. It's nothing serious."

Elisa agreed without giving it much thoughts

The elderly lady reminded the three of them to take care of their health while they were out and about and not to neglect everything else when they got busy with work.

"Especially you, Liz. Out of all of you, I worry about you the most. You work so relentlessly. There's a saying. 'Doctors don't treat themselves. As a doctor, how can it be good if you always have gastric issues?'"

With a smile, Elisa promised not to have any more stomach troubles.

Bella also stepped in to ease the situation. "Grandma, rest assured. I will definitely help you keep a close eye on my sister-in-law... I mean, Elisa."

At home, she was so used to calling Elisa her sister-in-law that it almost slipped out of Bella's mouth and made the atmosphere a bit awkward for a moment. Only Gareth was secretly laughing.

After some more idle chatter, they hung up the phone, and the three of them went home together.

Only when Elisa returned home did she feel completely at ease.

She tirelessly prepared a medicinal diet to nourish the two of them.

She certainly had not forgotten about the recurrence of Gareth's injury.

Bella was delighted. Being considered half an invalid, she did not have to do anything at home. She was practically living a carefree life where she was being pampered.

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There was also Mike's occasional care and the fruits he sent over.

Elisa gazed at the mountain-like pile of fruits and exchanged a glance with Gareth. Both of them shared an understanding smile.

Meanwhile, at the Wickam Manor, there was no one around Julia. Kaylee knew that her opportunity to act had arrived.

Although Bella usually left early and returned late on weekdays, she essentially stayed by Julia's side whenever she was at home.

Kaylee could not find a single opportunity to take advantage of the situation, so she could only watch and wait.

However, ever since the day Bella did not return, Kaylee's gaze had changed. She knew that after enduring hardship for so long, it was time to test the results.

During this period, she had been consistently using the recipes or medicines sent by the mysterious person to undermine Julia's health.

It was time to introduce the venomous insect now.

So, when evening came, Kaylee brewed some tea and then placed the offspring insect inside it. She then served it to Julia.

Julia glanced at the tea and initially did not want to drink it. She usually could not sleep if she drank tea at night.

But for some unknown reason, perhaps because the food was a bit too salty that day, Julia inexplicably drank it down.

[Chapter 2009](#)

Success

Kaylee watched as Julia downed her drink in one gulp. The madness in her eyes was almost impossible to

hide.

As soon as Julia finished drinking, she felt a wave of dizziness wash over her, and her head was heavy with sleepiness. So, she let Kaylee leave.

Kaylee did not say much and left obediently.

However, the moment she closed the room door, the corners of her mouth that had been suppressed all along could not help but lift into a smile.

Drinking the offspring insect meant that from now on, Julia would obey her words during the control period and execute them as if they were sacred decrees.

Even in ordinary times, Julia would feel an inexplicable closeness to Kaylee.

Now, how is Elisa going to compete with me?

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Kaylee pulled out her phone and sent a message of success to the mysterious person. What followed was a quiet anticipation for good news, and she was really looking forward to it.

In the room, Julia felt a wave of turmoil. She tossed and turned in bed, unable to sleep.

All she could see before her were those unpleasant things from the past.

In particular, the disappearances of Elisa and Gareth. They kept unfolding before her very eyes.

It seemed as though she was determined to turn all the difficult things in her life around.

She felt an even more intense headache as if her head was about to explode.

“Ah— uh—” Julia seemed to be wrestling with something and felt extremely uncomfortable. Sweat trickled down her neck.

Normally, such a commotion would have already awakened the people downstairs.

But, as it happened, Kaylee made sure that no one was on guard that day.

So, Julia could only moan to herself like this for nearly half an hour.

In the end, it seemed her mind was being controlled.

Julia curled up the corners of her mouth and fell asleep in a beautiful dream.

Meanwhile, in her own room, Kaylee seemed to sense something, and a smile tugged at the corner of her lips.

Now, what will Elisa, with her great powers and extraordinary wisdom, do?

After spending a few days at home with Bella, Elisa took Rachel to visit the other party’s company on the third day.

At first, Terence thought they were there to sign a contract, and he could not help but feel a bit smug.

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No matter how indifferent she appeared on the surface, she was still concerned about this contract deep. down. Otherwise, Elisa would not have come personally all the way there.

Terence welcomed the two women into the meeting room and smiled warmly as he said, “Oh my, I really must apologize for making you come all this way, Ms. Benett. Couldn’t you have delegated the contract. signing to someone else? There was no need to trouble yourself.”

“Sign a contract?” Elisa appeared as if she had heard some kind of joke.

Terence’s face turned somewhat unpleasant for a moment. “So, if you’re not here to sign the contract, what exactly are you here for?”

Elisa curved her lips. “Good question.”

The unspoken understanding between the two, honed over many years, meant they knew exactly what to do without needing to exchange glances or words.

Rachel handed over a letter of demand.

Upon picking it up for a look, Terence’s face turned as black as the bottom of a pot.

“What do you mean by this?”

Elisa casually tucked a loose strand of hair behind her ear and said nonchalantly, “What do I mean? I should be asking what your company means by this. Is it a rule to discuss contracts over drinks? Can’t

we finalize a contract without going to a bar or a hotel? So, Mr. Matthams, this is what you're really like. Despite your age, you still harbor such indecent thoughts!"

Terence's face turned from pale to green as he was being lectured.

He was well aware of Brian's actions. All these years, without his tacit approval and turning a blind eye, there was no way Brian could have been able to show off his power and get away with it.

He knew everything, but he just chose to act as if it was none of his business unless it concerned him.

Perhaps, to him, there was nothing wrong with his good buddy desiring a woman or two.

[Chapter 2010](#)

Holding Accountable,

Elisa didn't want to beat around the bush, so she spoke frankly and clearly.

"I'm afraid our collaboration with your company ends here. As for accountability, we will pursue it to the end." Elisa tapped on the table, a subconscious gesture she made when deep in thought.

These two blows seemed as if they had struck right at the heart of Terence.

Watching Elisa's aggressive demeanor, Terence felt his dignity was being trampled on. He slammed the table and pointed at Elisa, saying. "Don't go too far! Brian and I are your seniors. We won't tolerate such accusations! So what if we made some mistakes? Besides, nothing serious has happened yet! Moreover, when Brian returned, he was almost kicked to the point of being incapacitated by you all. What more do you want?"

Elisa couldn't help but laugh. She hadn't even said anything yet, and the one who made the mistake was pointing fingers and blaming her. What kind of logic is that? From the sound of it, are they trying to shift the blame onto me? Are they expecting me to pay the medical bills, too?

Elisa didn't get angry. She slowly stood up and knocked off the hand that Terence was pointing at her. "Mr. Matthams, please don't point at me. It's not about who shouts the loudest, but who has the evidence, right? I've already laid out my evidence before you. If you have nothing to say, then let's take this to court. I'm not afraid. I wonder if you are."

"You" Terence was so infuriated that he was almost speechless, feeling as if his heart condition was about

to act up.

Before Terence could finish, Rachel continued, "Furthermore, Mr. Matthams, it's clear as day from the video that Brian was plotting against our deputy CEO. We even have a confession from his accomplice. Even if he was kicked hard enough to break something, it would only be considered self-defense. Do you think we would be afraid?"

Upon hearing that, Terence glared at Elisa. In response, Elisa shrugged, spread her arms, and wore a face of unabashed mischief.

Ironically, Terence just couldn't handle her.

The intensity of his breaths increased, and in the end, he had to force himself to calm down, to sit and talk slowly.

The scene became somewhat unpleasant for a moment, and the atmosphere was quite awkward.

And so they stared at each other for about five minutes until finally. Terence gave in and asked, "What do

you want?"

Elisa started smiling. "Well, we want you to fire Brian."

"Impossible!" Without a second thought, Terence rejected the idea. Brian and he had been through life-and-death situations in the military. He couldn't fire Brian.

Everyone who came out of the military shared a common trait. They were straightforward and would unconditionally believe and support their comrades.

This was the case for Terence.

Elisa shrugged indifferently, then stood up. "If that's the case, we have nothing more to discuss. I'll see you

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in court."

It seemed as if Terence wanted to say something to make amends, but Elisa, accompanied by Rachel, left directly without giving him a chance to respond.

As Rachel was about to step out the door, she didn't forget to turn around and wave at Terence. With a beaming smile, she said, "Mr. Matthams, see you in court."

That look she gave was begging for a beating.

Once the two had left, Terence completely trashed the conference room.

Naturally, the commotion reached Elisa's ears, but she didn't pay it much attention. If you don't properly control your subordinates, you can't expect to get away with deception just by pulling rank or throwing your weight around after something happens. Over the years, countless young girls must have fallen for this trick.