

No Escape 501

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Ella already knew something had happened on her way to Catherine's office.

She knocked on the door three times. Catherine looked up and her face became even gloomier.

"Ella, where are the files I told you to print out yesterday? Why there are only two copies of them?"

She knew it was coming. Ella took a deep breath and confronted with Catherine's accusation. She explained: "I worked till 10 o'clock last evening..."

"So what, your working late has nothing to do with me! I need to see results from you! Don't you know that I am going to need all these files for a contract signing later?" Catherine angrily threw the A4 paper on the desk and glared at Ella.

Somehow, Ella couldn't shake the feeling that Catherine was deliberately picking on her.

"Excuse me, Ms. Reynolds, sorry for causing you inconvenience." Ella apologized to her in an indifferent tone.

Catherine loathed her so much that she had to stop herself from scratching Ella every time she saw her..

"What's the use of you being sorry? Now go and print out all the documents I need. If you can't complete the task within 2 hours, you should pay for the loss you cause for the company!"

Ella saw her raging face, and she simply said "alright" and left her office.

She now knew for sure that this Catherine had a huge grudge against her. But she did not know where the grudge came from.

As soon as she sat back at her desk, Ella turned on her computer and began working.

10 o'clock in the morning, Ella felt thirsty. So she saved the document on her computer and walked to the break room with her mug.

At the door of the break room, she heard someone talking in a low voice: "Ella, that mistress is so unlucky. She got bullied by Ms. Reynolds the first day at work. Did you actually see that Ms. Reynolds herself touched the power switch?"

"Of course. I would not tell you this if I did not see it myself!"

"Mistress? Touched the switch?" At that moment, all Ella could feel was a rage building up inside her.

"Catherine, I got you!" thought Ella.

She quietly moved into the break room. The gossiping employees gathered there stopped talking immediately. They all went back to the office area with a guilty conscience.

Ella eventually completed the task and handed over the last piece of the file to Catherine before noon.

However, Catherine just responded with a cold voice, "There are now useless. You should now translate all the documents and hand them to me by EOD."

"Useless?" Ella gazed at Catherine who acted like nothing was going on, then she asked: "Do you have something against me?" 'Why does she bully me like this and waste all my time and effort.'

Catherine threw the folder in front of her. She crossed her arms, parted her ruby lips and said: "You are the wife of Mr. Lowell, why would I hold anything against you?" Her tone was full of nothing but mockery.

Ella did not reach for the folder but confronted her directly: "So you unplugged the power and made all my work in vain. What was that all about?" 'Plus, there is rumor about me being a mistress. Though I don't know yet who started it.' thought Ella.

Catherine's face looked a bit twisted. How on earth did she find out? "Ella, accusing someone without evidence will end up in a lawsuit."

"Lawsuit?" Ella didn't want to argue with her further. She came here to work, not to cause trouble for Samuel. Ella picked up the folder of documents that needed to be translated. On her way out, she said: "You know what you have done. If I catch you doing it next time, don't blame me for making it all personal!"

Having worked in the entertainment industry for several years, Ella had learned a lot of lessons One of the lessons was: A tamed horse is often ridden and a weak person is likely to be bullied.

If she gave in now, she would only end up getting bullied more often. In order to avoid getting bullied, she must stand her ground firmly and defend herself.

However, Catherine followed her out. She stood by the office door, shouting at her in a very angry voice, "You think you can abuse your power as Mrs. Lowell and bully the rest?" Her voice was so loud that people in the whole office area could clearly hear her.

All of a sudden, the whole floor went quiet.

Ella felt awkward, but she still turned around calmly and said: "Abusing my power? Sure, I bullied you, so what?" Since Catherine accused her of being a bully first, there was no need for her to explain anymore. No one would believe her anyway.

These were a bunch of easily-influenced and unfriendly colleagues. There was no need for her to pretend to be "nice".

Then, all the people present were shocked to see that Catherine, who boasted of being tough and professional, was now weeping out of anger because of Ella.

This instantly made Ella a horrible person. Many people avoided her as if she was some kind of poisonous snake.

Ella couldn't care less about their opinions. She was only feeling a little bit sorry for Samuel.

She sat back to her seat and clicked open the file. On seeing all these tedious terms and conditions, Ella felt instantly fatigue.

How on earth was she going to translate all these? She barely passed the primary English test. For Ella, translating was 1000 times more difficult than typing.

She took a deep breath and turned on the software on her computer. She started translating sentence by sentence, even word by word.

When her colleagues finished their jobs and gradually left the office one by one, Ella was only half way done.

Soon it was ten in the evening again, Ella's phone started buzzing. Ella saw the caller's name and thought about what happened last night. She still felt hurt deep down. But still, she pressed the answer button and replied: "Hello?"

Samuel heard her voice and sensed her sadness. He stopped loosening his tie, thinking. 'Was she still upset about last night?' "Where are you?"

Ella browsed through the law files and uttered indifferently: "The firm." 'Maybe I am over-reacting and pushing it too far. Sam is so nice to me and yet I am still mad at him...' thought Ella.

On hearing that she was still in the office, Samuel frowned his eyebrows. 'How come she is still at the firm at this hour?' "What's going on?" He knew it very well that sometimes Catherine could be as much a workaholic as Emma. But still he never saw Catherine making her staff work this late.

Ella signed silently and explained: "I have not finished the work assigned by Ms. Reynolds." In order to avoid further conflict with Ms. Reynolds, it would be wise for her to finish the work first and then go home.

Samuel did not say anything anymore and hung up the phone. Ella gazed at the phone and felt a little bit down as the call was cut off abruptly by Samuel. She then concentrated her attention on translating.

Twenty minutes later, someone showed up in the office quietly.

The file in her hands was taken away all of a sudden, which startled Ella a lot. She looked up and saw Samuel standing next to her. Her heart began beating faster and faster.

All her fatigue was driven away and her heart was full of joy. Sam was here for her...

Samuel examined her translation. The content of this document was too difficult for a layman. No wonder Ella worked so late.

But why would Catherine give such difficult files to Ella to translate? One peculiar thought crossed his mind but he shook his head and denied it.

He tidied up the desk and gathered all the files and the A4 paper together. He put them all in a folder and said to her, "Let's go home."

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Ella took a quick glance at the folder in his hands and hesitated: "But I haven't finished my work yet." She was not afraid of Catherine, it was more like she wanted to keep a low profile and thus avoided causing any trouble for Samuel.

Samuel slightly waved the folder in his hands and said: "According to your capability, it might just as well take the whole night for you to complete the translation. Are you sure you want work here two days and one night in a row?" He would never allow such a thing to happen.

"But Ms. Reynolds wants the task done asap. If I come home and sleep right now, I can't afford to bear the consequences." Ella's eyes were wide open as she gazed at the man standing in front of her.

Samuel pulled her up from the chair and said: "Let your man fix it for you."

These were quite common words. Somehow her eyes reddened as she watched him from behind.

Happiness overload!

On their way home, Samuel laughed as he noticed that Ella kept staring at him: "Are you checking to see whether I am more good-looking than you?"

His words instantly made her face reddish. "I didn't even know that you are so narcissistic, Sam." Ella turned her head around and looked at the view out of the car window.

Samuel's lips curled up. It was only now that he discovered she was actually quite interesting.

When they arrived home, Ella was told by Samuel to go shower first. Samuel, on the other hand, turned on his computer, opened her folder, and began working.

Ella had a quick shower and then she stepped out of the bathroom.

Without lifting up his head, Samuel simply said to her: "Tomorrow I will assign you to work for me. I will be in charge of your work directly." 'I will assign you some light tasks.'

Ella thought for a second and then she turned the offer down. She replied: "No need. Your work is quite demanding. It requires great attention and significant capabilities, which I do not have. If I work for you, I will bring you nothing but trouble."

To be honest, if she did not have Samuel or a baby son right now, she would definitely go back to her career of acting.

But now, things were different. She had him and their son; she no longer dreamed of going out and acting.

Samuel did not force her to take the offer. He simply said: "If you come across some difficulties at work in the future, just come up to the 68th floor and ask for me." The whole 68th floor belonged to Samuel.

She nodded and walked to his side. Ella was quite amazed at his script. It took her several hours to translate two pages. But he managed to translate two pages during the time she was having a shower.

She bravely wrapped her arms around his neck from behind and whispered in his ears softly: "Sam, you are so awesome. You can translate so fast!"

As a man, there is nothing more satisfying than being praised by his woman!

The sweet scent of shampoo from Ella's body aroused him.

He put down the folder and pulled her over to his chest and kissed on her ruby lips.

...

1 AM.

Samuel pulled the sheet over on the sleeping woman and went to the bathroom for a shower.

After he came out of the shower, he walked to the bed and kissed the sleeping beauty on her forehead. In order not to disturb her sleep, Samuel brought the computer and the folder to the study.

The next day, Ella only woke up when the alarm clock had rang for a while.

She tidied herself up and walked out of the bedroom. At the same time, Samuel returned from the gym. On seeing her, he pulled her over to the dining table and said: "You have breakfast first, I will just go for a quick shower."

A sweet smile adorned Ella's face.. She happily nodded to him as Vivien brought her breakfast over.

After a while, Samuel dressed himself up and walked out of the bedroom. He saw Ella was on the phone with granny. "Granny, I will come around this Sunday to visit you." Her voice was jolly and sweet. Samuel realized that she never spoke to him in such a tone. This unhappy thought made his face gloomy for a second.

Ella had already finished her breakfast. She saw Samuel was sitting next to her, so she offered to bring his breakfast from the kitchen for him.

She was still holding the phone and her smile was sweet: "Sure, I know..." "I heard Jerry's voice!" She went into the kitchen and she sounded quite excited.

It was not until ten minutes later that she finally hung up the phone.

By then, Samuel had drank the last drop of the milk. Ella ran back to the bedroom to fetch his suitcase and her own bag.

Just as she walked out of the closet, Samuel somehow showed up. He closed the bedroom door and blocked her at the entrance of the closet.

"What's wrong? Samuel!" Ella was holding bags in both hands. She was quite confused and innocently looked at the man in front of her. She could tell that he was apparently unhappy.

He softly pinched her chin and forced her to look up into his eyes. Then he demanded: "Ella, call me Sam." He wanted to hear her sweet voice calling him Sam.

... Ella was stunned. What was going on with Samuel? Was there something wrong with him?

She held the two bags with one hand and use the other hand to throw away his hand. She lowered her head and said softly: "Stop it. We are running late for work." She was already on the clocking in system. If she was late, she would not get full bonus for punctuality.

Samuel picked up the folder on the desk next to them and handed it over to her: "It's all done now."

Wow! All translated? Ella's eyes shone with joy. Samuel was so awesome! She happily extended her hand for the folder.

However, the man waved the folder aside and she did not manage to get it.

Yes?

She stared at Samuel as he held the folder up high. Ella was confused.

Samuel looked at puzzled Ella and found her unbelievably cute. "What did I just say?" He held the folder high and asked her calmly.

Ella realized what he had said and her face went all reddish. She lowered her head and did not want to look him in the eyes. She deliberately said: "You just said that..." "it's all done."

"Before that." His tone was full of obvious dissatisfaction.

Fine, fine! Ella screwed up her courage and lifted her head. She called him: "Sam." Her expressive eyes were full of love. Samuel gazed at her and stood still.

How come it never occurred to him that she was this beautiful!

His gaze made Ella quite shy. She lowered her head and pulled his suit sleeve: "I have said it already." She was obviously acting cute, which satisfied Samuel a lot.

He handed the folder to her and took his suitcase from her hand.

Then he picked up the tie next to them and handed it over to her.

Ella looked at the deep blue colored tie and paused with shock. Did he want her to put it on for him?

"I don't know how to put..."

Her reaction made Samuel very pleased. Not knowing how to wear a tie meant that she had never done such a thing for any other men.

"Let me teach you." He put down his suitcase and her bag and started teaching her how to wear a tie step by step.

After a while, Samuel ended up wearing a crooked tie, yet the two still walked out of home.

Parking lot of the firm

Ella stepped out of Samuel's Porsche and walked next to him towards the lift.

"I have bought you a car. If I am not available, you just drive the car yourself." He took out a car key from his suitcase and handed it to her.

"Was this the very first gift Samuel ever got me?" thought Ella. Ella happily accepted the car key and smiled: "Thank you, Sam!"

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Samuel was happy as Ella was in a good mood, "The car is at the 4S shop on Glory Road. We can get it today or tomorrow." Samuel was happy as Ella was in a good mood, "The car is at the 4S shop on Glory Road. We can get it today or tomorrow." Samuel was happy as Ella was in a good mood, "The car is at the 4S shop on Glory Road. We can get it today or tomorrow."

The alavator came. Samuel blockad the door and want in aftar Ella.

Ella noddad, "Okay." They raachad the 23rd floor. Ella lookad at him and wavad.

At the momant bafora the alavator stoppad, Ella was raady to go out, but Samuel stoppad har and kissad har on the lips.

The alavator door was opan. Sha ran out of the alavator, blushing.

Looking at har back, Samuel wora a big smila.

Whan Ella gava the translatad documants to Catharina, sha obviously saw a touch of surprisa on Catharina's faca.

Thinking of how axcallant Samuel was, Catharina wasn't surprisad.

"Raad this casa and writa a plan for ma." Ella was plaasad as a naw job was assignad to har, but it was difficult for har to do that. Sha had navar appaarad in court or angagad in any lawsuit... Thinking of that, Ella, a layman, falt worriad.

Catharina was disgruntlad by har raluctanca to taka the portfolio and squintad, "What ara you doing? Do you want to quit?"

Evary word that Catharina said irritatad Ella.

Ella snaarad, "Catharina, this is my husband's company. You don't hava the right to fira ma!" Sha had navar said somathing lika that bafora, but in the faca of Catharina, sha had to raly on nepotism.

The two words, "my husband", cut Catharina to the quick.

Har cousin Emma had baan in lova with Samuel for many yaars, but avantually Ella bacama his wifa.

"Ella, you said Samuel was your husband. But ara you sura ha lovas you?" What sha said daprassad Ella instantly.

Sha wasn't sura about that...

Looking at Catharina, Ella falt somathing was wrong, "You lika my husband?" Sha mada a daring guass and carafully watchad the raaction of Catharina.

Catharina's haart baat quickly. Sha was infuriatad, obviously trying to hida somathing. "I am simply faaling sorry for my cousin. What ara you talking about?" Sha likad Samuel? With the prasanca of Emma, sha navar darad to think that...

"Your cousin?" Thasa two words succassfully divartad the attantion of Ella. Who was har cousin?

Catharina calmad harsalf down, "Why should I tall you that? Go back to work!" Sha ragainad har usual braath and sat back in har chair. Sha didn't want to talk to Ella any mora.

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"I don't want to repeat what I said. Get out!" Catherine was being rude, which made Elle angry.

Elle didn't want to talk to Catherine either, so she took the portfolio and got out of the office.

Sitting back in her chair, Elle opened the portfolio and took out the case inside. She was a bit dumbfounded.

She knew the storyline roughly, but what was she supposed to plan?

Finally, she helplessly sent a WeChat message to Samuel to ask him for advice.

"The library and the archives room are located on the 28th floor. Go and have a look." After a few minutes, Samuel replied.

Elle stood up and walked to the 28th floor.

The 28th floor was very quiet. She thought for a moment and decided to go to the library first.

The door of the library was opened. Elle was shocked at the scene inside the room.

What she saw was several dozen rows of long shelves filled with books.

All of them were low-releted, but they were classified very clearly. Elle went to the row of introductory books. She found a few textbooks and started reading them by the window.

"Hello, could I sit here?" She heard an attractive male voice suddenly.

Elle looked up at the man in a black shirt who pointed at the seat on the opposite.

She checked confusingly the seats in the front and at the back. All of them were indeed occupied.

"Oh, okay!" She quickly moved her books to her side.

"Thanks! The man gently set down and then put a book on the table.

The library was very quiet. Elle lazily leaned back on the couch, holding her face with her right hand and finally fell asleep.

When Dreke, who sat on the opposite, closed the book in his hand and went to get another one, he couldn't help laughing as he caught sight of her napping.

At that moment, someone walked in.

Dreke's smile faded instantly.

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He then opened another book and continued to read it.

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"Help yourself." Samuel gave the chopsticks to Ella and walked towards the door.

"Aren't you going to eat anything?" Ella asked him curiously. Four dishes and one soup were on the table and they seemed untouched. He probably hadn't eaten anything yet!

Samuel put both hands in his suit pockets and smiled at her, "You eat first. I still have some work to finish. Once I'm done, I will come back."

"I will wait for you then."

"No need. You eat now." He said no more and walked out of the lounge.

Ella put a little bit of each dish onto her plate and started to eat slowly.

Halfway through her meal, her cellphone started ringing. She put down her chopsticks and looked around for her phone.

Her phone was on the bedside table not faraway. She took it over, only to see a strange number.

"Hello." She sat back onto the sofa.

Then she heard Catherine's cold voice: "It's the office hour now. Where are you?" Catherine looked at the empty seat in the corner and was really upset.

Ella looked at her meal and then checked the time. The lunch break had been over for more than half an hour.

"I will be right back." She didn't want to talk too much to Catherine. She hung up the phone and began devouring her food.

When Samuel walked in, Ella was pacing restlessly up and down. "What's the matter?" He looked at her with confusion and wondered what she was looking for.

Ella's face was reddish and she patted on her own chest and said: "I ate too fast, I need water..." It was all Catherine's fault. She urged her to go back to work and she ate so fast that she got choked up.

Samuel walked towards a cabinet and opened it. Inside, there was a wide selection of bottles of mineral water, neatly organized.

He took out a bottle, screwed it open and handed it to her. Ella took a sip. Samuel patted her lightly on the back and asked: "How can you be so careless?"

A big girl like her shouldn't choke on food anymore.

Ella took several sips of water and finally felt better. "Oh, I am just running late for work." Otherwise she would not worry at all.

Samuel shook his head and explained to her: "You are 'Mrs. Boss' of this firm. You can come and leave at will." In other words, there is no such thing as running late for work.

Mrs. Boss? This title made Ella extremely delighted.

Samuel looked at her and was amused at the goofy way she held onto the water bottle. He laughed:

"So, are you not in a hurry anymore?"

Ella realized what she was doing upon his reminder. She shoved the water bottle into Samuel's arms and stormed out the door: "Bye Samuel!"

"Samuel..." The words were never this delightful.

However, he should still correct the way she addressed him. After all, "Samuel" was too formal and maybe "darling" sounded sweeter.

Ella went back to floor 23 and walked quickly towards her desk.

After learning basic knowledge about the law this morning, she had a vague idea how to start the business plan.

However, on her way to her seat, she overheard some whispered gossip.

"She dares to come and go at her whim just because she claims to have the title of Mrs. Boss. Hasn't she forgotten that she used to be a mere mistress?"

"Exactly. Mistresses will be mistresses. Even if she is now married to him, her reputation is still ruined."

Ella was walking very fast as she was running late. However, she stopped when she heard these words.

She turned around and gazed at Jenifer who was a close friend of Catherine and said: "Alright. Why don't you just go straight to Samuel and say those words to him? Tell him that I was a mistress and he should get rid of me?" It was true that I used some tricks to sleep with Samuel.

But it was a matter between them. It was none of others' business! When it came to Emma, it was still irrelevant. Grandmother had made it very clear that she would never agree to Samuel marrying Emma.

Anyway, these were all private matters. It was not up for discussion with anybody else.'

Jenifer scornfully looked at calm Ella and challenged her: "Why would you be so proud anyway? If Mr. Lowell really loves you, why doesn't he give you a proper wedding? How come the two of you just had a simple registration ceremony?" These words hit Ella right in her heart.

People standing by all whispered in agreement: "Jen was right. Look at Ella, she does not even have a wedding ring."

"Exactly. It was not a matter of money. Mr. Lowell was so rich that he would not even blink while buying hundreds of diamond rings, let alone just one."

"Therefore, we can tell that he does not love her. Maybe he married her because of the child she was carrying."

"The child she was carrying?" "Such a shameless woman. Who knows what kind of tricks she used to get into his bed."

...

Ella stood there and listened to the evil remarks. One was worse than the last. They were commenting about everything: mistress, diamond ring, child and shame.

At that moment, she felt as if she was really shameless.

She took a deep breath to fight back the hard feelings and simply said with a cool voice: "If you have any questions, just go talk to Samuel. There is no need to gossip behind his back."

Then she turned around and sat back onto her seat.

Actually, she wanted to cry, as these comments really hurt her. But she controlled herself as she knew very well that tears were for losers. If she cried, they would not show sympathy for her, moreover, they would treat her as a joke.

Samuel's top assistant Anna walked in and witnessed everything here. She was here to deliver Ella's cellphone.

It had been several minutes since Ella returned to her seat, yet these women were still gossiping about her.

"Crooked woman with crooked morals..."

"Ahem!" Anna gave a cough, which drew everyone's attention instantly. They all shut up as soon as they noticed her.

This was Samuel's top assistant. She had been working in her position for six years straight. She was a tough woman with strict disciplines. She held such a high reputation in the company that most of the staff did not dare to cross her.

Anna walked elegantly in her high heels towards Ella and said: "Madam, your cellphone was left in the Boss' lounge. Boss wanted to return the phone to you himself, but some important client just showed up so he sent me instead. Madam, I hope you don't mind."

These words shocked everyone, as they all heard loud and clear that Anna just said Boss wanted to deliver the phone himself. Besides, returning the phone was such a small errand. Even if Samuel was occupied, he should not bother his top assistant. Instead, he could just send any junior to do the job.

What's more, Ella was in Mr. Lowell's lounge during the lunch break! Anyone who had worked in the firm for over three days was aware that Mr. Lowell did not like anyone going near his lounge.

Even the cleaning lady needed to wear full set of hazmat suit including gloves and mouth-mask to get into his private lounge.

Everyone present felt like they had been slapped hard on the face as it turned out Mr. Lowell was quite nice to Ella.

Ella gazed fondly at elegant Anna and she was really moved. Ella was bullied in the firm since she started her job. She was truly touched when someone finally stood out and defended her.

"Thank you." She took the phone from Anna's hands and smiled at her.

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"You are welcome, madam. If you don't need me, I will return to my work." Anna had a good impression of Ella as she did not put on air and was very casual. She gave Ella a kind smile and left Floor 23.

When she went back to Floor 68, she hesitated for a moment. In the end, she decided not to mention the incident to Samuel. Because the topic the staff of Floor 23 had been gossiping about was a private issue between the two, she was in no position to judge.

Now she only hoped that Ella could stand up for herself whenever she got bullied, instead of bottling up her feelings.

That evening, Samuel finished work early and he went back to the Lowell villa with Ella. Ella was greeted by the happy Jerry whose big smile melted her heart instantly.

"My dearest baby, mommy misses you so much!" Samuel was touched by the scene of them greeting each other. He was in a good mood too.

Melody noticed that there was something growing between the two. She looked at them and was very pleased with such progress.

Vincent and Viola returned at dinner time. As Jerry was staying at the Lowell 's villa these days, the old couple always returned here whenever they were finished with work.

During dinner time, the family was chatting and laughing. The ambiance in the dining room was quite relaxing and harmonious.

However, a sudden call from Viola's phone broke the harmony.

She stared at the phone and checked the caller's name. Then she answered the phone without any concern, "Hello, Em."

Samuel heard the nickname and frowned his eyebrows. Ella did not know who Viola was referring to, and was still concentrating on her meal.

"Oh, sure, does Samuel know about this?" Viola seemed very pleased.

Then she gave Samuel a stern look and said to the phone, "What? He blocked your number? I will tell him off."

These words finally drew the attention of Ella, she looked at Viola curiously. She looked so joyful. Her mother-in-law never showed such a joyful expression in front of her before.

Ella looked at Samuel and noticed that his face was quite gloomy and apparently he was eating food at a much slower pace.

Em? What does she mean by Em? Is it Emma? Ella instantly felt sad when she realized that cruel fact.

Melody knew who Viola was talking to and when she heard that Samuel blocked Emma's number, she was secretly applauding and cheering.

Then Viola spoke again, "Really? Your firm wants to cooperate with Samuel's firm? That's so wonderful!"

Viola was the only person who was cheerful at the dining table. The rest were not so pleased. Samuel

looked at Ella who was dining quietly, then he put down his chopsticks heavily onto the table.

Everyone was quiet. The awkward atmosphere now seemed even more awkward.

Viola noticed that her son was upset, so she ended the call in a hurry, "Em, I am in the middle of something at the moment. I will call you back later." The call finally ended. Ella put down her bowl and chopsticks and started rocking her baby's crib.

"Mom, you can forget about it!" "I am now married to Ella, there won't be anything between me and Emma anymore."

Samuel's remarks were bold and direct. It somehow made Ella feel better.

Melody put down her chopsticks and backed Samuel up: "Viola, now that they already have Jerry, everything is settled. You shouldn't behave like this anymore." Melody's voice was calm and she sounded very authoritative.

Vincent also felt that Viola was pushing it too much; but he did not say anything, as Melody and Samuel already made their points clear.

Viola looked at her mother-in-law and then her son, and she felt embarrassed as she did not want to be addressed to like that in front of Ella. She formed a dry smile and said: "It was just a phone call. No big deal."

"Let's eat." Vincent opened his mouth and suggested in a cool voice. The topic was then dropped. However, the harmonious ambiance was long gone.

Ella quickly finished the food in her bowl and wiped her mouth. She stood up and tried to smile, "Granny, mom, dad, I have finished eating. Please excuse me."

She pushed Jerry's trolley to the side and then she walked upstairs with her son in her arms.

As soon as Ella was gone, Viola spoke again: "Ella was a weak and fragile girl. She was not suitable for Samuel. To be honest, I still prefer Emma, as she was strong and independent."

Her words made everyone present lose their appetite. Samuel was quite angry now but he controlled himself because granny was present, he said in a deep voice, "If you like Emma so much, why don't you go and marry her yourself?"

"You don't like her at all? I think that you would have married Emma if granny had approved it." Viola had a bite of her food and uttered those words. She thought she was simply telling the truth.

Samuel heard her words and kept his silence. This time, he didn't deny it. Then he said, "Now that I am already married to Ella, you should really stop dredging up the past! Ella is my wife. I won't let anyone speak ill of her."

With these words, he stood up and wiped his mouth, "I am full now. Please excuse me." And then, he walked upstairs with Ella.

Melody watched him go away and sighed deeply. She kept on eating without saying anything.

In the bedroom of the second floor.

Jerry lay on the bed, suckling on the milk bottle. His tiny legs were kicking in the air. Ella leaned against the bed and stared at him fondly.

The hurtful words her colleagues said during the day and the ones Viola said just now were flooding towards her and made her think.

She was so happy with Samuel these days that she somehow lost her judgement.

She thought Samuel had started to accept her. But maybe, his mind was still full of Emma!

"It is not easy to forget someone when you are in love with her."

Just like her. She loved Samuel so much that she needed to get him no matter what, even if it involved playing tricks.

The bedroom door was pushed open from outside. Ella was startled and her heart skipped a beat. She sat up straight from the bed and saw Samuel walk in.

"Keep an eye on our son, I am going to run a bath for you." She wanted to do more things for him from now on. She wanted him to get used to her and her companionship.

After finishing these words, she walked into the bathroom. It felt like the time when they just started a relationship. She was timid and tried very hard to please him in every possible way.

Ella was in the bathroom for almost twenty minutes. She never came out.

When Samuel walked in with Jerry in his arms, she was squatting next to the bathtub. She looked absent-minded.

The water in the bathtub was almost full and she was not even aware of that.

Samuel walked quickly towards the tap and closed it.

Ella only came to her senses when Samuel was standing right in front of her. "Oh Sam... The bath is ready." Ella was a little bit embarrassed as the water was really full. She was totally lost in her own thoughts.

When she was about to take Jerry, Samuel grasped her wrist and asked:

"What was on your mind?" His voice was very soothing and comforting. Ella paused and looked up at him, his face was full of gentleness.

"Nothing... I was only thinking about... about... the proposal..." She was not good at telling lies. Her face, even her ears were now reddish.

Samuel knew she was lying. But he did not challenge her on this. He handed the baby to her and said: "I will go shower now."

She took the baby and walked out of the bathroom.

Jerry was now yawning, so Ella hummed a lullaby softly and tried to put him to sleep.

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After the baby fell asleep, Ella put him in the middle of the bed. She piled some quilt along the bed edge in case the baby should turn and fall, then she walked downstairs.

In the kitchen, the maids were still busy working. They completely ignored her when she walked in.

Because of Viola's attitude, the maids did not treat Ella fairly.

Ella knew about their attitudes but she did not say anything. She took out a box of milk from the fridge and pulled some milk into a pot to heat.

One of the maids disagreed and murmured: " I just washed that pot clean..."

Ella was cross, so she turned around and confronted her: "So what? I cannot use the pot you just washed?"

The maid curled her lips and walked away with no more words.

Ella looked at her back and took a deep breath. How come they all treated her in such a nasty way? Wherever she went, she was always neglected.

When Ella carried the warm milk back to the bedroom, Samuel just stepped out of the bathroom.

He was in a piece of gray robe and was drying his short hair with a towel.

"Samuel, I just heated up the milk for you. Please drink it while it is still warm." She carefully walked up to him and held the milk up for him.

Samuel stared at the milk and frowned his eyebrows: "You don't need to do these things. Just leave them to the maids." What he was trying to say was, she was his wife and there was no need for her to do these errands in person.

However, Ella paused, as she thought he did not like her doing these things for him. "Oh, okay!"

Samuel took over the milk and randomly put it on the table next to him. He intended to drink it after he had dried his hair.

Ella mistook his behavior and confirmed that Samuel did not like her doing that for him. She looked at the milk and then cast a sad glance at her sleeping son. Ella felt a little bit down as she walked into the bathroom.

In the bedroom, Ella's phone on the table started ringing.

Samuel drank the milk and picked up the phone. He saw the caller's name and his face was gloomy instantly.

"Mr. Hall." He answered the phone.

Sum was quite surprised to hear a man's voice. He paused for a second and then he directly asked: "Mr. Lowell, where is Ella?"

'Ella? How dare he call her like that!' Samuel sneered, "My wife is in the shower. What are you up to? If you don't have anything important to say, I am going to shower as well."

Sum heard the scornful tone from his voice and knew exactly that Samuel was showing off. Sum paused for a second and then said: "Well, when she is done, please tell her to call me back. I have something important to say to her."

Call him back? Samuel thought Sum must be out of his mind. "You can just say it to me."

"Say it to you? Are you acting on behalf of Ella now?" "

"Of course!" Samuel replied without any hesitation.

Sum paused again, then he said: "I will call her tomorrow then." Then he hung up the phone. Samuel stared at the phone and then he blocked Sum's number.

When Ella stepped out of the bathroom, Samuel mentioned nothing to her.

Ella cast a glance at the man who was browsing through his phone on the bed, then she walked to the other side of the bed. She knelt on the bed and carefully put the baby between them.

She cuddled her son and closed her eyes. Ella was ready to fall asleep.

All of a sudden, the baby was taken away from her chest. She opened her eyes and saw Samuel putting their son on the other side of the bed.

Then he leaned over and hugged her tightly.

Ella sniffed his body scent and her breathing got heavier. Her Samuel did nothing, and there she was, already falling for him. He was just so irresistibly charismatic.

"Let's talk." He said.

"Talk?" Ella's imagination was running wild. What on earth did Samuel want to talk about with her?

Samuel saw the nervous look on her face in the dim light and felt sorry for her.

"Don't think too much." He kissed her on the forehead and tossed back her bangs. He looked her in the eyes and said: "I married you. Therefore, I don't want to have any business with Emma anymore." It would take some time for him to forget her, but he was willing to do so.

Ella looked up and saw his face. He looked very sincere and serious. "But mom does not like me..." Viola liked Emma so much that it made Ella feel really bad about herself.

"It is alright. We just need to avoid her then." The fact that her mother-in-law preferred Emma over Ella was deeply rooted in her mind and she just wouldn't let it go for now. However, he would still make an effort to make things better.

Ella was relieved at his words. She hugged him on the waist and pressed her head on his shoulder.

"Fine." Her lips curled up.

"But..." He opened his mouth again. It somehow made Ella nervous.

"You need to step away from Sum." He sounded cross and this made Ella quite confused. Why was he mentioning Sum now?

But she still tamely nodded her head and replied: "Sure." Whatever he said, she was willing to obey.

Samuel's comforting words made her much more delightful. Ella shyly kissed his chin. The stubble of his beard tickled her.

She quickly lay back on the pillow and pulled up the quilt to cover her face.

Samuel was quite amused. He lifted the quilt with a smile, looked at her playfully and said: "Are you being proactive now?"

Ella shook her head hastily. She was just in a good mood.

Samuel put their son in the crib, turned off the bedside light and returned to the bed to hug her.

It was not until early morning that they finally got to sleep.

Ella woke up in the morning to her son's loud crying.

She opened her sleepy eyes and noticed that Samuel was already up and was nursing the baby.

Samuel gently shook Jerry to stop his crying and then he put him on the bed, right next to Ella.

"You can rest more. I am going to prepare milk for him."

Ella happily hugged her son and saw him walking away.

It was getting colder and colder. Samuel was still quite occupied with his work. If she had not bumped into Emma at the firm, Ella would have forgotten her existence.

Samuel was so nice to her now that she had thrown all her worries away. Her world was only filled with joy and happiness.

The woman standing right in front of her wore delicate make-up on her face. She was in a green short suit and had a pair of black high-heel shoes on her feet.

She looked charming and mature, like a real independent business woman.

Ella stared at her and she was staring back.

Emma had not seen Ella for a long time. She now glowed with happiness.

Her long hair was simply tied into a knot on her head. She only wore light foundation on her face and her lips were highlighted with a sweet orange color. Ella was in a light yellow suit and she had a pair of white wedges on her feet.

She was dressing quite casually, and yet she still looked outstandingly beautiful.

Especially the happiness glowing on her face hurt Emma deeply.

"Ms. Leonard, I have just had a meeting with Samuel. I am afraid I will see him quite often in the future." Emma sounded very cocky.

Ella controlled herself, and despite the fact she was greatly cross, she still smiled and replied: "Ms. Reynolds, you don't need to report your own issues to me. You should know that the only reason you are getting any chance of doing business with Samuel is because he obeys his mother."

Samuel had a great argument with Viola when she proposed that the he and Emma should conduct business cooperation. Viola passed out due to high blood pressure and this made Samuel give in.

Samuel told Ella everything yesterday.

Ella was very pleased that Samuel sincerely shared everything with her. She trusted him.

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Emma knew what Ella was referring to. It was Viola's input that made the cooperation with Samuel's firm possible. That man really had a cold heart. He had been seeing her for so many years and now he acted as if they were just like strangers.

It was all caused by this woman who was now standing right in front of her. She was Samuel's so-called 'wife'...

"Ms. Leonard, I just want to ask you one simple question. How did you get pregnant with Samuel's child back then?" When Samuel and Ella were not married, Emma was certain that Samuel was still in love with her.

She knew Samuel was a decent man. It was not possible for him to cheat on her.

But then, Ella just claimed that she was pregnant with Samuel's child. This raised her doubts as to what kind of tricks Ella had used.

Ella heard Emma's words and her face went pale.

This was supposed to be a secret. If anyone found out the truth, she would face horrible consequences.

"This is a private matter between me and my husband. It is none of your business. Ms. Reynolds, you should just mind your own business." With these words, Ella walked passed her and headed directly to the elevator.

When she was out of Emma's sight, Ella immediately got cold feet.

Emma's question haunted her. Ella prayed that her secret could remain secret forever.

Of course Emma was smart enough to notice Ella's reaction. Her face did go pale.

Something was not right. She felt urgency to investigate the situation.

"Ella, complete this file and hand it over to me in half an hour!" Catherine had just left her office, and stopped Ella before she could reach her desk.

Ella accepted the paper from her hand and nodded silently.

She was quite used to such situations now. Catherine's tricks were not that hard to put up with.

Ella was not stupid either. If she found something was out of her capabilities, she always turned to her husband for help. Samuel could fix anything for her. This made her extremely grateful and relieved.

Right now, Ella sat in her chair and stared at the file. She frowned her eyebrows as the file seemed quite difficult for her.

She never did any similar files before and Catherine had never bothered to find someone to teach her.

Only half an hour's time... She had to sneak out and seek help from Samuel.

Floor 68

Ella greeted Anna on her way and knocked on Samuel's office door.

She heard Samuel's reply and opened the door.

Inside the office, there was a man in white suit sitting on the couch. Ella was delighted to see him.

"Brother!" Ella was very happy to see Eason here. Her eyes were full of joy and she briskly flew towards him like a butterfly.

Eason was about to go see her downstairs just now. He stood up, opened his arms and embraced her warmly.

The two had not seen each other for half a year. They hugged each other with great joy and excitement.

Samuel looked at them and was not very pleased. He walked over and pulled Ella out of Eason's arms.

"Hey, greeting is enough, no need for hugs." Samuel stared at Eason with dissatisfaction. Even Eason could not hug his wife.

Ella was quite confused on hearing Samuel's words.

She looked at his face and noticed that he was not very pleased. But why?

Eason laughed. He examined his sister from head to toe and was very satisfied with his findings.

It was true, then, that Samuel had been treating her well. Just like what she had told him via Wechat.

Eason calmly moved back to the couch and sat there with his legs crossed. "Come here, Ella. Sit next to your big brother." Eason pointed to the empty seat next to him.

Ella was about to walk over to him when Samuel pulled her hand and indicated her to sit opposite Eason.

Moreover, he even laid a hand on her shoulder to show his stance.

Eason curled up his lips and smiled playfully. What was Samuel trying to prove to him? Was he showing off?

He was Ella's brother.

Was that gesture even necessary? On second thought, if he felt this protective of her in the presence of her own brother, then he would protect her even better in front of other men! Good job!

Ella looked at Samuel and had no idea what was going on.

Were Samuel and Eason still on bad terms? Why Samuel did not allow her to sit next to her brother? Whatever, if sitting next to Eason upset Samuel, she would just sit here then.

"Brother, when did you come back? Are our parents aware of your return?" "Why didn't you say anything beforehand?" Ella's voice was soothing and cheerful. She behaved like a jolly little girl in front of her brother. Samuel seldom saw her like that.

Eason took a packet of cigarettes out of his pocket and the two men both lit up a cigarette.

"They knew. I just arrived this morning. I was about to go downstairs and check you out when you showed up." Samuel took the paper in Ella's hand and started reading it.

It was only when Samuel took the paper out of her hand that Ella suddenly remembered her purpose in coming here.

"Samuel, I don't know what to do with this file. That is why I am here." She was quite embarrassed as she always bothered him with her works.

Only now did Samuel suspect that something might be wrong, "Catherine never asked any senior staff to show you how to do things here?" Usually beginners would get some help from the senior staff. Let alone the fact that Ella studied arts, not laws in school.

Catherine? Eason furrowed his eyebrows when he heard the name. He opened his mouth grumpily: "Wait a second, Samuel, what were you thinking, leaving Ella to Catherine?" Was he trying to feed a lamb to a tiger?

His sister was so innocent that when she was confronted with a member from the Reynolds family, she was doomed to get bullied.

Samuel paused when he heard Eason's words. He only considered that Catherine was an outstanding lawyer when he appointed Ella to be her assistant. He never thought about the fact that Catherine was Emma's cousin.

Samuel checked the file in his hands again and then he realized that Ella must have been suffering a lot when working under Catherine.

Eason then turned to Ella and said with a stern voice: "Ella, you should quit this job. You always wanted to return to the entertainment industry. I can help you with that."

Ella was take aback by what Eason said. It never occurred to her that Eason would voice her secret out loud. It was supposed to be a secret between her and her brother only.

Ella awkwardly opened her mouth and tried to cover it up: "Brother, stop making things up. I am perfectly fine here." She was happy here as she got to see Samuel most of the time and was able to work with him. As for those incidents at work, she could not care less.

Ella wanted to return to entertainment industry?

Samuel frowned his eyebrows. The thought of Ella making out with other actors while acting in movies made him uncomfortable. He made his decision instantly: "No need for that. My wife should be working with me. I will inform the firm later that Ella will be working as my personal assistant." She would only have to answer to him without taking on extra work

On hearing Samuel's words, Ella and Eason had completely different reactions.

Eason nodded his head with great satisfaction. He was very glad to see that things had improved significantly for this couple.

Ella shook her hands anxiously: "There's no need for that, Samuel..."

"No way!" Samuel interrupted her directly. He would also investigate how Ella was treated on Floor 23 during her time there.

"Ella, I agree with Samuel's decision. You shouldn't argue anymore." Eason would never let his sister work with any member from the Reynolds family.

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Samuel nodded and turned to Ella with a serious face. "Are you implying that you do not wish to stay by my side?" He completely ignored Eason's presence. Samuel's gaze was intense and his voice soothing.

On hearing his change of tone, Ella was timid instantly. Her face went red and she murmured: "Of course not." She wanted nothing but to stay with Samuel all the time. But she was also concerned she would slow him down during work.

"Fair enough, you can stay here for now. No need to go downstairs anymore." Samuel stood up with the file in his hand. He walked over to his desk and pressed a button. "Anna, please come in." His voice was cool and steady, not like the way he addressed Ella just now. It sounded very formal - exactly how a boss should be while speaking to his subordinates.

Within 30 seconds, someone knocked on the office door and Anna walked in.

She saw the three of them sitting on the couch and raised a smile: "Mr. Lowell."

Eason had met Anna many times before. He whistled at her casually, not much of a gentleman's move.

Ella looked at her bother in shock. 'What is wrong with him? Is he trying to flirt with the beautiful lady?'

Anna, however, completely ignored Eason. She stood there gracefully and looked at Samuel, waiting for his orders.

Samuel could not care less about Eason's behavior. Six years ago, when Eason saw Anna for the first time, he behaved like this. Nothing had changed ever since.

"Please return the file to Ms. Reynolds and inform her that my wife now works on Floor 68. Thank her for taking care of my wife before."

Anna cast a glance in Ella's direction and felt happy for her. She took over the file and replied: "Yes, Mr. Lowell."

"Thank you. That's all for now." Samuel laid his hand on the back of Ella's couch. Hearing Samuel's remarks, Eason noticed that the two were very intimate.

Eason was very relieved to see that his sister was happy in the marriage. In a good mood, he turned to Anna and said: "Beautiful Anna, how about a candle-lit dinner with me tonight?"

Anna did not cast a look at him, completely ignoring him. She politely bid Samuel goodbye. "Mr. Lowell, I will be on my way."

Anna walked out, but somehow Eason stood up immediately and followed her out.

Ella looked at the back of her brother and was utterly shocked. She knew it very well that her brother was kind of a playboy. But this was the first time she witnessed him chasing after a girl.

Anna completely ignored him and yet he had the guts to chase after her like that... Was Eason in love with Anna?'

"What's on your mind?" The office was now quiet as they were the only ones left. Samuel found Ella's shocked face quite amusing. He leaned over and asked her.

His handsome face was so close to her that Ella was startled. She replied honestly: "I am thinking about my brother and Anna."

Samuel was wondering since when Ella began to care about Anna. Were they already friends?

Anna was a workaholic. She wasn't very social. Work was everything to her. He had her working for him as an assistant for six years. He never saw her hanging out with any friends.

Anna was smiling at Ella just now and they seemed to be on very good terms. Samuel came to the conclusion that the two were very friendly to each other.

"Your brother should really behave now. He shouldn't be acting like a playboy all the time." Eason should follow Samuel's example. Marry a wife, have a child and start up a family. How nice it would be.

Ella could not agree with Samuel more. She nodded and said: "I would be very happy if Anna could end up being my sister-in-law." "If only my brother could behave himself."

Anna as their sister-in-law? His six-year-long assistant might end up being his sister-in-law. Samuel found this thought very weird.

"It depends on them." If Eason could somehow settle down, it would surely be nice.

Ella nodded in agreement. The office went quiet. Only the sound of their breathing could be heard.

Ella's heart beat was fast. She stood up from the couch and said: "Samuel, what can I do for you?" Her voice was soft.

Her body scent smelled like Jasmine. She pulled herself away from him and this made Samuel a little bit sad.

He stood up from the couch as well, reached out for her hand and walked her towards the desk. As he sat down on his chair, he asked her: "Massage my shoulders please."

"Massage your shoulders?" Ella paused.

Samuel raised his eyebrows and checked her reaction. He smiled and nodded: "Give me a gentle massage, and then we talk about work." His work was too complicated for her anyway. She would contribute more harm than good.

He would hand easier projects over to her. He would not rush into it.

"Well!" Ella's face was reddish. She laid her hands on his shoulders and started to massage him clumsily. She had no clue what she was doing and why, all of a sudden, Samuel asked her to do this.

"Not much strength here. Harder." Samuel gave her orders while turning on his computer to prepare for his case in court tomorrow.

Ella set her teeth and really put an effort in massaging his shoulders. How come he did not feel pain at all?

On Floor 23.

Eason badgered Anna for a while until Anna finally gave up and agreed to have dinner with him.

She took a deep breath and restored her professional posture.

She took the file assigned to Ella and delivered it to Catherine's office. She put it on her table and said: "Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Lowell asked me to convey his decision that Mrs. Lowell will now work on Floor 68. He thanks you for taking care of Mrs. Lowell these days."

Her plain tone was quite distant and official.

Catherine furrowed her eyebrows when she learned Ella now worked on Floor 68. She asked: "How come? Ella mentioned something to Mr. Lowell?"

Anna smiled and replied: "I am not sure whether Ella mentioned anything to Mr. Lowell or not. However I do know, if you didn't do anything wrong, Ella would have nothing to mention to Mr. Lowell." What Anna was implying here was that Ella's testimony wouldn't come out of thin air.

If Catherine did something unfair, it was obvious Ella would mention it to Mr. Lowell.

Anna had full faith in Ella, as she believed her to be a generous and kind lady.

The truth was that Ella was so goofy that she probably never mentioned Catherine's name in front of Samuel.

Anna did what Samuel told her to do and walked to Ella's seat. She quickly tidied up Ella's stuff and went back to Floor 68.

She intended to return the stuff to Ella. But when she knocked on the door, she heard Samuel's voice from inside. "Come back later." His voice was very strange.

... Anna was a mature woman and she somehow had a vague idea what was going on there.

Her face was reddish as she returned to her seat. She put Ella's stuff aside, as of course, Ella was now "busy".

In the Venice Hotel.

Emma hung up the call from a private detective and coldly stared at the woman sitting on the opposite couch.

Elaine did not look her age at all. Although she was almost 50, her face showed no wrinkles due to heavy make-up. She gazed at her finger tips and appreciated her newly-manicured nails. Then she scornfully opened her mouth: "You don't have money for me, but you do have money for private detectives!"

Emma found it quite hard to accept the fact that Elaine was her mother.

Every time Elaine came to her, she was asking for money and threatening her with the concept of "blood is thicker than water".

"Mrs. Elaine, could you just leave me alone? I am quite upset now, don't you understand?" Emma anxiously threw her phone on the bed and then sat down on the couch.

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Elaine looked at her irritated daughter and giggled winningly: "Oh my dear daughter, you are so pretty, and I am sure you can use that to your advantage." Samuel with all his money was such a catch. It was so stupid of Emma to ever let go of him.

Emma was now more agitated. Of course she had been trying to get him, but Samuel always turned her down with a cold shoulder.

"Say no more. You should leave now." Elaine was in heavy debt and there were a lot of people chasing after her for money. Emma would hate to see those rude and brutal debt-collectors.

Elaine laid herself comfortably on the couch and behaved like an unreasonable child: "I have nowhere to go." She followed Emma to America and then from America to here. She would go wherever Emma went. Her daughter was her source of income. How could she live without her.

Emma stood up and took out a thick deck of money from her purse. She threw the money on the table and shouted at her mother: "I have no more savings. You are driving me crazy! Your unreasonable demands are killing me!"

Elaine was thrilled when she saw the money. She sat up and started counting.

She cast a glance at her daughter's irritated face and casually said: "What are you worried about? Didn't you just receive a lot of money from the boss of your firm, Felix?" mocked Elaine.

How dare she bring this up! Emma touched her forehead in agony. She stood up from the the couch and pulled Elaine towards the door with all her force. She shouted: "Go away right now!" Was she really her mother? How could she do this to her? She was a bloody nightmare! Were it not for her

mother and her huge debts, she wouldn't have sold her body to old Felix.

Elaine would not leave Emma alone. She glared at her and said: "I am your mother. How dare you talk back to me like this!" "Such a useless daughter!" "Can't even marry herself to a rich man!"

However, all she got was a huge slam of the door. The door was slammed close.

With Elaine gone, the room finally went quiet.

Emma sat down on the floor with her arms around her legs. She was in great agony.

She used to think that Samuel was the one. A man who she could rely on for the rest of her life. But somehow their relationship was cut short by the hands of Melody, that wench!

When she was with Samuel, all her expenses were paid by him.

With Samuel gone and her mother's heavy debts falling on her shoulders, Emma was now facing a financial crisis.

Felix somehow heard about her situation and lured her with millions of dollars.

Eventually she gave in to the temptation of money and walked into Felix's villa.

Whenever she thought about Samuel, the hatred towards Ella would grow inside her. Emma was determined to destroy Ella.

She must find out how Ella got pregnant in the first place.

Samuel's law firm

Ella woke up to the ringing of a phone. She opened her eyes and noticed that it was quite late. The lounge was dark and it was pitch black outside.

Samuel was not here. When Ella thought of what had happened this afternoon, her face went red. She was quite speechless. It was supposed to be a shoulder massage. How come it turned into...

Her phone rang again, which pulled Ella back to reality.

She picked up her phone and checked the caller's number. It was an unknown number.

She cleared her throat and answered: "Hello."

She then heard a man's voice: "Ella, it's me." Ella was confused for a second as she had no idea who that might be.

"Who is it?" This was a totally unknown number.

Sum shook his head and replied: "It's me, Sum." He had been calling her many times since last night. Eventually he came to the conclusion that Samuel must have blocked him.

Therefore he bought a new number and tried to contact Ella. It worked!

"Ah!" "Hi Sum, what are you up to these days?" She sat back on the bed while talking.

She vaguely remembered that he once mentioned to her there would be a university reunion. But then she never heard about it any more.

"I was busy working. Sorry about the reunion. I tried to contact you but I couldn't reach you." He did call her to talk about the reunion. But Samuel intercepted the call.

Ella paused and then she said: "I never changed my number. Did you change yours? Is that why you can't reach me?" This was the only explanation she could think of.

Sum hesitated for a moment and then he decided to tell her the truth: "I have called you before. But it was Samuel who answered the phone. I did tell him to leave you a message to call back." "Samuel is so possessive It was just a call" Ella thought.

But when did Samuel answer her phone? How come she had no idea about that? "Oh, alright, he must have been busy and forgot to tell me." It occurred to Ella that Samuel once warned her to stay away from Sum.

Sum could tell from her tone that she was defending Samuel. He smiled bitterly and said: "So, are you free tonight? Have dinner together?" Sum was not expecting her to say yes.

But when she actually turned down the proposal, he still felt hurt.

"I am sorry, Sum, but my brother returned and tonight I am supposed to meet the family at home." She was not lying. Her parents had called earlier and told her to come home with Samuel for a family gathering.

Sum believed her but he insisted: "How about some other day?" "Some of the old friends from the university really want to have a catch-up with you."

The way he put it made it hard for Ella to reject anymore. She gave in and agreed: "Sure then."

Ella ended the call and sat on the bed for a while. Then she got up and began to dress herself.

She walked into the bathroom and tidied herself up. Then she opened the lounge door.

It was quite dark outside. Only one office lamp in the corner was on. Where did Samuel go? Ella looked around and realized that the office was empty, which instantly made her feel uneasy.

She quickly reached for her phone and dialed Samuel's number: "Samuel..." She called out as soon as it got through.

"It's me, Ella. Mr. Lowell is in an urgent meeting right now." Ella heard Anna's clear voice.

She was quite relieved to hear that Samuel was in a meeting. That explained why there is no one here. "Alright. I will wait for him then."

She hung up the phone and went back to the lounge to tidy up the bed.

She hung around in the office for a little bit longer and got bored eventually. Ella decided to take a walk outside. Ella clung on to her coat as the evening breeze was quite chilly.

When she walked to the front of the firm, she heard a voice: "Ms. Leonard ." Ella turned around and saw a man.

Everyone at the firm knew she was the wife of Mr. Lowell. They seldom referred to her with her maiden name.

Ella was confused. She checked the man out and realized that she might know him. But she just could not remember where she saw him before.

Drake Lowell was amused by her expression. He walked over to her and smiled warmly: "Ms. Leonard, we met before in the library."

Oh! Now she remembered! He was the man who sat opposite her in the library.

"Hello!" She smiled back to him and the two walked out of the building.

"Are you on your way home?" Drake followed her as they walked towards the square of the law firm.

Ella shook her head and replied: "I am waiting for my husband." She mentioned the word "husband" on purpose.

Drake laughed and then he stared at her face with a smile: "Ms. Leonard, you are so young and beautiful, it is such a pity that you are taken already."

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To be honest, Drake's smile was quite sweet. But Ella did not like him.

She heard his compliments but was not pleased at all. She politely replied: "Thanks. I met someone I really like. The idea of getting married with him just came naturally." Samuel was the only man who made her feel the impulse to tie the knot.

"Someone you really like? You like Samuel?" His direct question offended Ella.

But she still replied with a forced smile. "Yes. I like him very much." He knew her husband was Mr. Lowell, why did he still refer to her as Ms. Leonard?

Her smile seemed dazzling to him. Drake nodded along but an evil thought just came across his mind.

"So how come, Ms. Leonard, you are all alone here?" He knew Samuel was now occupied in a meeting but he asked her on purpose.

The way he addressed her really upset Ella. She directly said to him, "If you can, please call me Mrs. Lowell. It will make me much happier."

Drake paused at her directness. After a while, he laughed and said: "Well, Mrs. Lowell, have you had dinner already? How about me buying you a meal?"

"We don't know each other that well." She did not have the habit of hanging out with some strangers, so she rejected him straightaway.

"Oh, excuse me, allow me to introduce myself to you. My name is Drake. I am a lawyer here as well."

He deliberately said his name vaguely.

Ella took it as Rake? She thought for a moment. It did ring a bell somehow. It was quite normal, as Samuel's law firm was big-sized and they had a strong team of lawyers.

It was not possible for her to remember all their names.

"Sorry, Rake, I need to go now as I still have something to do this evening." She didn't know she heard it wrong.

Drake did not correct her. That was exactly what he wanted.

"Fair enough. I will buy you dinner in the future then. Goodbye Ms. Leonard, oh, Mrs. Lowell." He didn't want to push her.

He was such a nuisance. He knew she was a married woman and yet he offered to buy her a meal!

"Good bye." Ella did not want to talk to him anymore. She turned around and started walking in the opposite direction.

Drake stared at her back, overwhelmed by an evil idea.

Ella had been waiting by the road for more than half an hour when she finally received Samuel's call.

They met up and Samuel drove her towards her parents' house in his Porsche.

On their way, Ella thought of Rake and curiously asked Samuel whether his firm had a lawyer whose name was Rake.

Samuel thought for a while and shook his head. He asked her whether she knew his surname. Ella shook her head. Therefore, they dropped the topic.

It was quite late already, so they didn't bother to go to the Lowell family villa to fetch Jerry.

When they arrived at the Leonard family's villa, Jenny already made a table full of nice dishes herself.

"Father, mother!" Ella greeted her parents warmly and then ran towards the dining table. She was truly attracted by the delicacies on the table.

She couldn't remember when was the last time she tried her mother's cooking. She hurried to have a taste!

Jenny had another plate of food in her hands when Samuel came in. "Mother, father!" Samuel greeted them warmly as well and handed Richard a gift he had bought in advance.

"Why bother buying gifts! We are happy already to have you here!" Jenny knew that Samuel was treating her daughter well these days. Her attitude towards Samuel had also changed a lot.

"My pleasure." Richard put his arm around Samuel's shoulder and they walked towards the dining room.

In the living room, Eason was sitting on the couch, skipping through the news channels on TV.

When he saw Samuel, Eason instantly cheered up: "Hey mate, I will meet Harry and Chuck tonight at nine at Storm." They all had not hung out in quite some time. Now it was good timing.

Samuel was pulled down to the couch by him. He was surprised and raised his eyebrows: "Harry? You sure a henpecked husband like him can be social this late?"

It was public knowledge now that Harry was a henpecked husband.

"He was free anyway. Last time he said that Lola was busy with the mine project and he had plenty of free time." Harry sounded like a man who was no longer in favor at that time.

The two chatted a little bit more and then Jenny came in and informed them it was time to eat.

At the dining table, Richard was in a good mood. He opened a bottle of good whiskey.

Jenny looked at Samuel as he was helping Ella get food from the plate, she said, "Samuel, Ella, don't you two want another one?" Jerry was taken good care of by Melody. Maybe it was good timing to consider a second child.

Ella did not understand the question the first time. She was all confused and asked Jenny, "Mother, what do you mean by another one?"

Samuel continued picking up food for her and reminded her: "Child."

Ella was quite shy by nature. Her face went red instantly and she exclaimed timidly, "Mother, why would you talk about this now?" Then she lowered her head and began eating her food silently.

Samuel saw her reaction and smiled. He answered on behalf of her: "Mother, father, we are working on it."

... Ella was so embarrassed that she kept her head down. She tugged at Samuel's clothes under the table.

The next second, her hand was wrapped by Samuel's palm.

Jenny was very satisfied with the answer. She happily nodded: "Good good, it is time for you to have another one. If Ella still wants to keep her job after the second child, we are more than happy to nurse the baby for you. Both your father and I are retiring soon. We should have plenty of spare time anyway." Her own son was not mature enough to settle down. She still had a son-in-law to count on.

Samuel considered her words seriously and then nodded. Then he changed the subject to Eason. "Hey mate, how is everything between you and Anna?"

Eason had remained quiet throughout as he hated his mother's nagging and was trying to avoid attention during the dinner. However, Samuel just drew attention to him.

"Exactly Eason! Can you be mature? Father and mother worry about you." Ella took great pleasure in Eason's misfortune and teased him.

Eason gave them a stern look and denied: "Who is Anna? I don't think I know anyone named Anna." Ella was actually admiring Eason's skills of telling lies.

"Eason, you are grown-up! I am gonna give you three months to get married. This is your final chance, otherwise you will be excluded from the Leonard family!" Jenny was genuinely upset. Eason was

already in his thirties, but still single. When would she have more grandsons?

Eason was shocked at the ultimatum from Jenny and took a deep breath. "Mother, seriously? Are you kidding me? I am your son! Just because I am not married, you're gonna exclude me from the Leonard family?"

"Within three months?" Where possibly could he find a daughter-in-law for her?

Jenny ignored his protest as she had asked him to find a wife countless times! If she did not push him, he would always choose to just play the field.

"We are shamed by your news on those tabloids. They are always about you dating young models and other internet celebrities." Richard opened his mouth to express his dissatisfaction. His son was such a trouble maker. Not like Ella, who was sweet and kind. He was very happy to see her in a healthy marriage and have her own child.

Ella lowered her head to hide her giggles. Samuel saw her happy face and somehow had a good mood as well.