

## No Escape 541

### [Chapter 541](#)

An hour later, the three women and three men casually walked out of the hotel.

The reporters, who had been long been blocked outside the hotel, rushed to them as they first saw Ella and Yvonne.

"Mrs. Samuel, can you tell us whether you spent last night with Sum or not?"

"Mrs. Samuel, did you sleep in the same room with Sum?"

...

So many questions overwhelmed Ella.

Ella felt very strange facing the camera again and struggled to remember how to best answer these reporters.

Her silence gave the reporters the impression of assurance and nearly drove them nuts.

"Mr. Sum, were you with Mrs. Samuel into the hotel and in the same room?" This reporter had asked him frankly.

"Mrs. Lowell, as the wife of Samuel, it is rumored that your relationship is in a bad state. Are you going through divorce procedures now?"

"As is recorded in document, you are not divorced yet. Are you now cheating on Mr. Samuel?"

...

There were so many reporters that it was hard for them to step forward.

Ella had planned to say nothing because she knew that the more she said, the harder was to make it clear. But in the now current events, she knew that the reporters wouldn't leave her if she didn't give them something.

She took a microphone, the reporters shutting their mouths up right away. She spoke: "I will love my husband forever and didn't and will never do something that involves cheating on him. I can make that promise with my life. As for what happened yesterday, it was nothing but a class reunion party."

The reporters became furious again: "If so, Mrs. Samuel, can you please explain why Mr. Samuel showed up in public with another woman the other day?"

"And by the way, why did your husband took your son out with his ex. Can you explain that?"

Ella answered impassive: "You should go to his office and ask him rather than me. Thanks." When she finished her words, Sum helped her clear the way out in front of her and led her to the parking lot where her car was.

Suddenly, a familiar Porsche stopped right in front of the hotel before they had already reached the parking lot.

Ella's heart beat faster and faster at this moment. Nothing was more familiar to her than this car.

The driver's door opened, and a well-dressed Samuel got out of the car.

The reporters crowded his car, as the car lights were flashing at them.

Samuel looked at this woman gently, with a kind of ruthlessness that swept across his eyes: "Honey, say goodbye to your classmates and let's go home."

Ella was shocked about what he had done. She felt like she was having a dream when she saw that Samuel was smiling at her.

With his arm around her waist, Samuel came close to her ear and warned her in a low voice, "Don't make trouble for me!" These words violently drew Ella out from her dream.

Then she hugged with Sum and the others and said goodbye: "My husband came to pick me up. I need to leave first. See you."

Although she was in a total mess, she pretended to be happy in public. After all, she was an actress and knew how to hide her real feelings.

Samuel's appearing and Ella's farewell to the others puzzled the reporters. It seemed that the plot they had thought of was going to another direction whatsoever.

Wasn't it rumored that Mrs. Samuel had been cheating on her husband? Why he was now picking her from the hotel?

Meanwhile, Ella acted as elegantly as possible. It seemed that nothing had ever had happened to her.

Samuel opened the door of the front passenger seat and then fastened her seat belt.

He drove the car away, leaving the reporters behind, wandering at what had just happened.

At the same time, all the others sneaked away from this trouble-ridden place in their own cars.

However Samuel's calm appearance couldn't just peace out this storm that had broke overnight. Although reporters didn't cover too much of this on the news, it continued to go viral on the internet.

Different opinions divided people into separate groups on the internet. Some people believed her story while others criticized and believed it was just a hoax.

While some music was playing at a low volume in the car, there wasn't a single word uttered between them.

"Samuel, I did nothing wrong last night.... I stayed with Mammy and Yvonne in the same room." She dared to confess that she was drunk, so she only chose to tell him of those facts that were in her best.

But he still said nothing. The silence continued to fill the air around them in the car.

"It's true, I swear I didn't lie to you." While she was speaking to him, she glanced at this poker-faced man standing next to her.

... The silence between the two of them continued...

Noticing that he didn't want to speak with her whatsoever, Ella stopped talking.

A few minutes later, Samuel's phone rang:

"Hello.... She's with me in the car. Fine... OK." Then he passed the phone to Ella.

It was Eason. Ella put the phone to her ear: "Brother."

"Ella, what happened to you yesterday?" He had tried calling her for over ten times but to no avail.

Ella cleared her throat and said: "Everything is fine.. brother. I just went to a class reunion party. Reporters exaggerate what they saw." These paparazzi had now went too far. She had been off the stage for a long time. Why didn't they let her lead a normal life?

"If so, why were you in Sum's arms." Samuel turned down the music so that Eason could hear him.

What Eason asked was exactly what Samuel had been angry about all along, and the reason he was so silent in the car.

"Thing is... Emmm... Brother, stop asking. That's all I wanted to talk about. Bye." Ella voided his answer and hung up the phone on him straight.

After she returned Samuel's phone, twenty minutes later, Ella was brought to The Royal Valley Mansion.

Standing at the door and waiting for Samuel, Ella was a little afraid.

Why did he bring her to this house? Shouldn't they go back to the old house?

Samuel opened the door with his finger print and Ella followed him in.

The moment she stepped through the door, the door was shut heavy by Samuel.

Ella's heart beat faster than ever, so she changed her shoes in a hurry and quickly ran upstairs.

Just when she rose to her feet, her wrist was firmly yanked.

Samuel forced her to the living room and threw her on the sofa.

Her hand was against the sofa's cushions. She fell on them but didn't hurt too much, as they were soft.

She rubbed her wrist and looked up the approaching man in front of her. She looked pathetic.

"Drop your act!" His anger rose again when he saw her face and attitude.

His cold voice hurt her heart right away.

"Samuel, I had done nothing wrong to you, nor cheated on you." She hurried to restrain her feelings and explained.

Samuel ignored her explanation and further scolded: "We are not divorced yet, how can you date another man. How dare you do this!" His finger pinched her cheek.

## [Chapter 542](#)

"We just got together and had fun. That's all!" She shouldn't have drunk and lost her consciousness.

"Get together? Three couples in three rooms. Everything seems clear to me! How can you lie to me this way!" Samuel picked her up and dragged her upstairs.

Ella flushed as she was overwhelmed with clothes thrown over her. Just when she thought she was going to be soon stifled, she was thrown directly onto a big bed.

"Bitch, I left the old house for a few days and you're burning to date another man! How dare you!" Samuel untied his tie and threw it aside the bed.

Coughing badly for a long time, Ella was astonished to see Samuel untying his shirt in front of her. Remembering what had happened a few days ago, Ella jumped off in fear the other side of bed.

"I didn't!" she said. But Samuel just turned a blunt ear to her explanations.

Noticing how terrible and mad Samuel now was, Ella drew back slowly in fright.

However, Samuel climbed up in the bed and caught her again with ease, leaving her no chance whatsoever to escape.

"Samuel, let me go, please! I really did nothing wrong!" Damn it, Ella now screamed with fear in her voice. She didn't want her nightmare to repeat all over again.

Jealousy and anger had taken the control of his mind, so he didn't want to listen to what she had to say in her defense. She lost her whole faith in him that moment.

His arms were like a girth hitch-- the more she struggled, the more trapped she became.

"Let go of you? You were satisfied with Sum, weren't you? You must think I'm useless now, do you?" He didn't realize how terrible his eyes were, shining, gleaming bright with anger and hatred in them.

Ella bit hard on his wrist for vengeance.

But even when a patch of Samuel's skin was bloody red and almost tore, he still didn't want to loosen his hold.

"I want to go back to the old house and will never go out any more. I promise I won't go anywhere... Please, please let me go." Now that taking action didn't seem to work, she changed her strategy to begging in a low, gentle voice.

From her weak, sorrowful look, the desire to conquer and to take control of everything was even more aroused in him than before. Let her go... No way.

"Ella, I told you once, I'll never forgive you for cheating on me!" He wanted her to know the consequences and costs of what cheating on him would imply!

Samuel didn't want to hear her voice anymore so he pressed his mouth to her lips.

His kiss was aggressive so as to punish her. Her scream was just the starting point of where her suffering would now lead to.

In Samuel's law firm.

Samuel didn't show up until almost midday, dressed in his suit.

He stirred up a storm of gossips and discussions while passing others by, and he heard them.

The reaction of his staff was within his expectations of them: "For those who gossiped about me in the office campus, fire him/her directly."

Anna nodded to show his understanding of the matter: "Samuel, I lost contact with you when Miss Brigham called you. She asked you to call back." Actually, Anna forgot to mention Ella's call because of Eason's words.

Samuel took out his phone out of his pocket and turned it on.

"Get it? Then prepare the materials and don't forget any evidence. The case in this afternoon is very important." Anna nodded and left the office.

Samuel dialed the number and made the call.

"Grandma!"

"Where is Ella?" As soon as the line was connected he could hear an anxious voice speaking into his ear.

"She is in the villa." Samuel was satisfied with the punishment he gave to Ella this morning.

Melody lowered down her voice as she was sleeping besides her: "What happened to you?" Why did her daughter tell her that she was unfaithful?

She was so worried, but not able to get all of it through the phone.

"It's fine. I know how to deal with it." Samuel picked out from his desk the necessary materials for the case and put them into his portfolio.

Melody felt Samuel's reluctance to explain it all to her, but she didn't force it on him: "Have a peaceful talk with Ella. Violence can never be a choice." Resorting to violence is a taboo for each man. She knew her grandson wouldn't do things like that, but she couldn't help to make it a warning for him.

"Violence?" Samuel paused for a while. He did, indeed, resort to violence with Ella. But he didn't beat her. Ella shouldn't exaggerate that bad.

"Fine, grandma." His phone rang again the moment he ended the conversation with his grandmother, Melody.

It was Ella. His eyes became darker. "God." How could she be in the moon to call me?

He picked it up and kept his silence. However, on the other side, Ella was hysterically screaming: "Samuel, you bastard! Why do you take me into custody!" Outside the villa now stood two guards, forbidding Ella to go out of the house.

She was taken into custody for just a while, but she was already more than furious. "You are gentle, aren't you?" He made a mockery of her.

Ella's confidence faded right away. Her image as a lovely girl in front of Samuel was destroyed by herself and her actions.

She was too angry to say a word, so she furiously kicked the door with her foot. Yet she dared not to kick it too hard., or otherwise, she would have felt regretful.

"Let me out!" she screamed. She made efforts to lower her voice down. She didn't want to be locked in there and tortured by him every day from now on.

Ella heard his sneering clear last evening: "How can I let you out and have an affair with another man?"

"I didn't! I didn't! I didn't! I have emphasized it for many times! If you don't trust me, why do you still touch me?!" She raised her voice and continued to express her dissatisfaction with all of this.

She loved him so much, and it was impossible for her to cheat on him. Samuel must have known that.

"Your loud voice won't change anything. Stay at villa and don't make any more trouble!" The man warned her in a cold voice and hung up the phone on her.

Ella dialed again but to no avail. Once, twice... Ten times... No one answered the phone.

Sitting on the sofa, she was more and more distressed of what was happening.

Samuel looked on the internet and found that the current event was spreading more and more. The name of Samuel and Ella became notorious over internet.

A piece of video caught his attention especially. He clicked it and it showed how Ella and the others were getting out of the hotel.

Ella could remain calm in the face of those sharp questions. But, in the end, the road was blocked by reporters so that Ella had no choice but to say something in front of the cameras.

Her brittle voice flied into his ears and beat his nerve.

"I will love my husband forever, and I didn't and will never do something that involves cheating on him. I can make that promise with my life."

"As for this question, you should go to his office and ask him rather than me. Thanks."

No more than two minutes had passed, and he showed up at that scene in a rage. At that time, he was so burned up by what he had heard that he ignored her reaction.

When he called Ella "honey" she seemed so surprised and astonished.

This scene really hurt Samuel, and he closed his eyes and started thinking about something.

### [Chapter 543](#)

The Maverl Corp.

Sum went through his email while he had a meeting in the office.

An E-mail from Samuel got his attention.

The content was quite simple and pretty straight-forward: "If you ever dare to meet Ella again, I will prosecute you with charges of sexual harassment or threatening.

Sum paused for a while and fell into a deep contemplation.

Ella was bored in the villa. While she was sleeping, a knock on the door suddenly woke her up.

Who could it be? She slowly got out of bed and opened the door in a daze.

"Hello, Mrs. Lowell; your lunch has been prepared. Do you want to bring it here? Or, would you rather go down and eat it there?" A strange voice spoke from the woman who was asking in the door respectfully.

Ella looked at her from head to toe: "Who are you?" Ella had never seen her before now.

"Mrs. Lowell, I am your new servant, Joy." Joy, along with another girl, were hired by Samuel.

Their job was just to clean the rooms, since there was no one left in the villa.

Servant? Ella nodded and said: "Thank you, I will have it by myself." Ella closed the door, changed her clothes and got down stairs.

Downstairs, she found a girl putting the dishes on the table.

The dishes were selected by Samuel, so Ella liked them.

After lunch, Ella surfed the internet the whole afternoon in the study.

There were too much netizens cursing at her. Ella almost couldn't help opening a Twitter account and scold them back.

But she thought for a while, and let it go.

During the evening, the dinner was still cooked by Joy. And when Ella was having dinner, Jenny called her.

Today was Ella's birthday. When Richard asked Samuel, Ella found an excuse for him.

As she hung up the phone, Ella felt that she had no appetite anymore.

Samuel must be celebrating Emma's birthday now... Putting down the bowl, Ella went back to the room and looked through the Twitter posts wearily.

Many people talked to her in private chatting on Twitter, so she decided to answer them one by one.

When she opened the 36th note, there was only a picture. In the picture it was Emma, holding a birthday cake in her hand while she blew it's candles on it.

And Samuel was sitting on her side.

Ella's eyes filled with tears and she couldn't help pouring them out at the sight of this.

Now she was not in the mood to surf the internet either, so she closed her phone and just stared at the blank ceiling of the room.

After Melody had coaxed Jerry to sleep, she was also ready to go to sleep too. But she kept thinking that she had forgotten something important.

As she was tumbling around in bed, she finally remembered what it was! Today was Ella's birthday!

She got out of bed and put on her glasses. It was already ten o'clock.

Young people always wake up late! She tried calling Ella. As it was expected, her phone call was answered right away.

"Ella, happy birthday!" Half a month ago, Melody had reminded herself to buy a gift for Ella. But today she totally forgot about it. Alas, the old always have a bad memory.

Ella was surprised to receive good wishes from Melody: "Grandma, you are so nice to have remembered my birthday!" Even grandma remembered her birthday...

"No, I just recalled it. I forgot to buy you a gift, but I'll buy you one another day. Don't be mad with me, please." Melody was kind of regretful that she didn't have anything to give to Ella.

"It's nothing, grandma. I am already happy that you just called me." Melody felt relieved after hearing Ella's joyful voice.

"Well. Where is Samuel?" Melody thought that today was Ella's birthday. Samuel must surely be with her.

Ella thought for a while and said: "Grandma, he is staying with Emma now. It's also her birthday... "

Melody was burned up right away as she heard this. How could Samuel be such wavering? How can he celebrate his mistress' birthday but ignor his wife's?

Melody hung up the phone without even saying goodbye to her and called Samuel.

But the phone rang for a long time and no one answered.

Melody was in a hurry, so she sent a message to her grandson: "Samuel, its Ella's birthday, do you know that?"

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Samuel and Emma got out of The Storm and said goodbye to her friends.

Then the two got into Samuel's car and drove off.

"Samuel, I am so happy today. Thank you for your bracelet. I like it very much." Emma looked at the bracelet that Samuel gave her. She was very happy.

"Good, as long as you love it." Samuel replied to her with indifference.

While they waited for the green light, Emma approached Samuel and put her small palm on his big one.

She touched her wrist unintentionally and felt that something was wrong with it. She lifted his sleeve and saw a tooth mark in it.

Samuel changed his face completely and drew back his arm and covered his wrist back with his sleeve

Emma, of course, would never believe that it was a mark left by himself or his son. He was bit by a woman apparently.



She was now hurt: "Samuel, that woman cheated on you again and again. Do you really still want to be with her?"

While they stopped at a red light and had to wait for ten minutes, Samuel didn't even move his eyes, and his tooth mark was hidden neatly under his sleeve.

"I know how to deal with this." Samuel started the car straight away when the traffic light changed to green one.

It was already 2 a.m. when he sent Emma home and came back to his villa.

The BMW was stopped at the door by another man, according to Samuel's given instructions. Samuel got out of the car and then parked it in the garage.

When he got out the BMW, some hand bags drew his attention.

But he didn't think too much of it and took them to be the stuff Ella had bought yesterday.

Carrying the bags, he left the garage.

It was late. She must be asleep with all the light off.

He took out his phone and checked the time. It was already more than two o'clock in the morning.

There was an unread message from grandma. When he saw what it was, Samuel stopped walking.

Half a minute later, he put his phone back into his pocket and opened the handbags he was carrying.

The first gift was an imported ceramic water cup with some letters on it which were written in white mark pen: "Dear Ella, happy birthday to you! Love you. Mam."

Then he opened the next handbag. There was a white skirt with a letter on it: "Ella, I wish you will live a faerie happy life!" Monkey.

...

Ella's birthday was in the same day as with Emma's.

He walked into the villa and opened bedroom's door. The bed was empty.

Where was Ella? The bodyguards were outside the villa. She must be here.

He went to other rooms but still he couldn't find her.

Finally, he went to the study and pushed the door open. He saw that it was a dim light there. On the sofa, beside the computer, lay a small, familiar figure.

#### [Chapter 544](#)

The laptop had not been turned off yet, and when Samuel hovered the mouse cursor over a photo, he saw himself in it, and Emma blowing cake candles beside him.

He felt guilty when he saw the sad woman sleeping on the sofa with her hand leaned to one shoulder.

Turning off the computer, he picked her up.

Ella briefly moved her small mouth. She had fallen asleep in a comfortable position.

It was only until Samuel put her on the bed when she finally opened her eyes.

She looked at the man beside the bed. Ah? Why was Samuel here? She thought she must've been in a dream. She then closed her eyes and fell sound asleep again.

Samuel sat by the bed, gently touching her bags.

"Ella, I am sorry.

If only you hadn't lied to me.

Ella..."

The next day, Ella woke up from her sleep because her phone was ringing.

She slowly opened her sleepy eyes and checked her phone. It was Sum.

"Hello, Sum." Her voice was husky, and this tone made Sum laugh.

"Ella, I am sorry to bother you." Sum thought she must have been awake since it was already nine o'clock in the morning.

Ella shook her head and looked at the time: "It's time to get up. What happened this morning?" She yawned and sat up from her bed.

The quilt was all in a mess. Did Samuel really come back? She remembered that she had fallen asleep in the study. How did she end up from the study in the bedroom?

Sum said, "Ella, Ella, did you fall asleep again?"

The bewildered Ella awoke again from her day-dream: "No, no, what did you say?" She got out of bed and opened the window curtains.

Sum imagined her sleepy face and smiled: "I saw your resume on the internet. Are you looking for a job?" He repeated what he said again, with patience.

"Ah, yeah! I'm too bored at home and I want to find a job, yes." Ella was a little embarrassed. Since they went back to old house, Samuel didn't let her come anywhere near their child. She was always bored when she was alone, so why wouldn't she go out and get a job?

Familiar with her current condition, Sum didn't ask for more information and just spoke out a sentence which simply shocked Ella: "You have graduated the Film and Television College. If you want to come back and work in that field again, I can invest in you."

Back to that field again? She did, once, think about it. But at the present, she was not suitable for that job anymore. "Well, I'd better find another job!"

She was willing to come back but now wasn't the time!

"Well then, how about coming to my company and being my assistant? I'll provide you a monthly salary of 50, 000." Sum had planned everything in his mind: since Samuel didn't cherish him whatsoever, he wasn't to be blamed for his bold invitation.

His assistant? A monthly salary of 50, 000? "Isn't it too high? I can't do anything!" Ella was more than surprised. She hardly knew anything about being an assistant.

"It doesn't matter. You are diligent and a good learner. As long as you work hard you will be competent at your job post." Sum mentioned a few of his requirements.

Diligent? A good learner? Work hard? It sounded easy enough! It didn't look like a very demanding job.

"If so, let me have a try. Is that okay?" she asked.

Sum laughed heartily: "You're welcome to try! If you are available now, you can start right away." He hoped she could be with him all the time...

Today? The bodyguards were still standing outside the house. She didn't know whether she could get out of the house or not.

"Let me have a look at the door, and if I can get out I will call you back!" She would spare no effort in getting out as soon as possible!

"Okay, I am waiting for you!"

Hanging up, Ella rushed into the bathroom to clean herself up. Then she got downstairs and opened the door of the villa. She was very surprised at what she found out on the outside.

Walking around the villa, she didn't find any trace of the bodyguards around.

It turned out Samuel only intended to keep her grounded for one day! She had thought that she would never be able to leave the villa.

She took out her phone and called Sum back for his company's address. Afterwards, Ella changed her clothes and left for her new job. She also took other clothes with her and decided that she won't be coming back to the house in the following days.

The Maverl Corp.

Ella parked her car in the company's parking lot. Sum was waiting for her at the gates.

She felt embarrassed when she saw that Sum had come out to receive her by himself. "Sum, why do you come out all by yourself?" They then walked towards the company.

Sum smiled at her in a good mood: "Well, if Miss Leonard has promised to come to my company, I must come out and meet her by myself."

All the staffs turned their eyes towards them. They guessed who this woman was and how she could easily make their boss so happy.

"Don't call me like that. I came here to work for you. You don't have to take care of me!!!"

"Nonsense, of course I have to." She was the only one on earth he had to take really good care of.

Sum took her to his office on the 12th floor. The style of his office was almost the same with Samuel's -- black and white ruled in both of their offices.

But his office was only half the size of Samuel's.

Sum poured her a glass of water and put it in front of her: "Here, you can drink some water first."

Ella took a sip of water and uncomfortably said: "I came here to work for you, but instead you treat me like an honored guest." No boss would ever receive their employee by himself downstairs and offer them water or tea.

Sum laughed with shallow dimples in his cheeks: "You are, indeed, my honored guest, and I am preparing to set a table here for you so you can work here in the future." He pointed at an empty place, indicating that that is where her table would be.

"Don't do that. I just need to find a place outside of this office." She was just an assistant, not a boss.

Sum didn't force her and then he took her to see the assistant area outside the office they were in. Sum already had two assistants. Ella was almost useless here.

After finding a suitable place for her, Sum came back with a thick pile of documents: "Today your duty is to have these classified and bring them back to me after you've finished."

Ella saw the documents surprised: "Would it be easy?" Classify... It sounded easy.

Sum stood beside her with his hands in his pockets: "Yeah, it seems easy but actually it isn't. If there is any problem, you can freely ask me." Then he called a woman over.

She was young and about twenty years old. Ella said hello to her. Sum said something to Alma. He was asking Alma to take good care of Ella.

Sum went into the office and Ella started working on what she was assigned.

It was like he said, this job sounded easy, but in reality it was difficult.

Ella kept bustling around in his office on her first day. Only after, when she saw Ms. Alma's eyes, did she realize she was over-enthusiastic about it.

### [Chapter 545](#)

This time, she wrote down all the questions and only went back to the office once this afternoon.

Because Ella had planned to go back to the old house in the evening, she turned to Sum to ask for a favor. She hoped that she could leave work half an hour earlier.

Sum agreed straightforwardly. After a day's work, she said goodbye to him and left the company.

What she did not know was that the people were starting to gossip about them.

It was already seven o'clock when she returned to the old house.

Vincent was feeding the baby in the baby chair with Millet soup. Seeing her come, he said: "Ella, stay with us and have dinner. Why didn't you tell us that you are coming"

Vivien put a set of tableware between Melody and Jerry.

"It's fine. I get out late. You don't have to wait for me, you can have dinner first." Ella hugged her son and washed her hands, then sat by him at the dining table.

Melody served her some soup and asked her: "What have you been doing these last two days, Ella?"

Ella gave her son some steamed bread and turned to her grandmother: "I got a job. Today was my first day."

"Found a job? You are quite independent now." Viola interrupted her and made Ella a little embarrassed. Ella didn't understand what she meant by that, but she didn't asked further.

Vincent cast a glance at his wife and scolded her: "It's not your business. Eat your dinner."

Viola glared at him and went on to eat her meal.

Melody picked out some food for Ella and asked her: "Why do you want to have a job?"

Ella ate her food in the plate and answered her: "There is nothing for me to do back at home and so I might as well go out and find myself a job." explained Ella.

Of course, everyone knew what she really meant in that sentence.

"Well, Keep up the good work. Are you still living in Royal Valley?" Melody always supported her decision, no matter what she did.

Ella stopped eating for a second and shook her head: "I'll be living here for the time being, and if the job turns out okay, I will rent a house later." She was afraid of Samuel bringing other women to Yugu.

Her words silenced Melody.

After feeding his grandson the last mouthful of millet soup, Vincent looked at Ella, whose head was now lowered down: "Things are still not working out between the two of you?"

Ella shook her head when she finally realized he was asking her: "No, our house is a littler far away from the company. It will be more convenient for me if I rent a house." It took half an hour to drive to Sum's company. It was, indeed, a little bit too far.

But Viola didn't think so. She had a certain grudge held against Ella because of the scandal she was involved in. As far as Viola was concerned, there was nothing good about Ella.

"You can rent a house in another, hidden place, and do something that we don't know about. It's more convenient, of course." She was referring to other things, so Ella now stopped eating completely.

"Mum, if you are referring to the so called scandal that happened the other day, I can fully explain it to you..."

"You needn't to explain to us. You know everything that's in your heart and so do we." Viola cut her words directly.

Vincent put down his chopsticks heavily and seriously. His expression was like Melody's, to some extent. "Can't you have dinner peacefully?"

Viola sensed that her husband was getting mad, she stopped talking, and continued to eat her dinner.

In the end, they finished their dinner peacefully and without any more arguments.

It was already 11 o'clock when Samuel came back to the villa. He was a little disappointed when he saw that the house was empty.

He took out his phone and sent her a message via Wechat; "Where are you?"

Ella was so excited when she saw the message from him, and immediately replied: "Old house." She was sleeping with their son.

"Who allowed you to leave the house?"

She became upset with his accusation.

"It's not any of your business!" Recently, he was back in good relation with Emma. How could he remember her now?

Samuel was angry, and answered her with only two words: "Ella!"

"Samuel, can you accept my apology, please?" However, she received no reply.

After waiting for nearly half an hour, She gave up. Smiling bitterly, she turned off her phone and slept with her arms across her son.

In the following few days, Ella adapted to the new working environment she was in quickly and soon was able to finish her work with ease.

However, rumors about her and Sum started to spread when people in the company found out whom she really was.

In Samuel's law firm.

The door of the office was knocked on: "Come in." Getting his permission to enter, Emma came in.

Samuel cast a glance at her and continued working.

Emma knew he didn't want to talk with her. She had to find some words to say to him: "Samuel, do you know where your wife is?" Were it not for Catherine, Emma would have known nothing about it.

Samuel frowned at her words. Wasn't she in old house?

"Why have you come?" He asked her without raising his head out of his papers.

Emma stepped forward: "Your wife is cheating on you but you are still calm. I gotta hand it to you! How can you choose that tramp over me?"

"Watch your mouth!" The sharp voice of the man interrupted and silenced her complaints in an instant.

Emma bit her lower lip slightly and finished her sentence: "Your wife is staying with her new lover all day long. How can you still back her up? I feel sad for you."

The man raised his hand and stared at her. "Evidence."

Emma had expected he would demand this, and he showed her the photos she had from Catherine. In the pictures, Ella and Sum were walking out of the office together and laughing happily.

The evidence was clear. The expression on Samuel's face changed immediately.

He had thought that the woman was staying at the old house all the time. But instead, she was out meeting with her lover!

"Get out!" said Samuel with coldness in his words. Emma had no idea what he was really feeling.

Samuel became more and more inscrutable in any way possible. She couldn't understand him at all.

Emma had achieved her goal and said nothing more: "Okay, I will leave first." She left Samuel's office.

After she had shut the door, a diamond-encrusted pen was slammed against the wall by Samuel.

Taking out his phone out of his pocket, he found her phone number and made a call.

"Hello, I am Ella's colleague. She was in the office and discussed something with Mr. Sum. You can call her later." Ella's phone kept ringing so Ms. Alma answered it for her.

The phone was hung up abruptly. Alma stared at the phone with a baffled look on her face and went back to her work.

Twenty minutes later, Ella went out of the office. Ms. Alma was too busy and totally forgot to tell Ella about that call.

Half past five p.m.

Ella clocked out and left the office.

She walked towards her car and got out of her purse the key. Just when she was going to open the door, a powerful grip drew her back from it. Her mind was blank at that moment and this hand forced her into the car that was parked beside her.

## [Chapter 546](#)

She wanted to scream! But she bit her tongue when she saw Samuel.

Samuel was not in a good mood. In fact, he was in a rage. Terrified, Ella stared at him, helplessly.

"Feeling guilty?" Samuel asked coldly. Ella was confused.

Ella pushed Samuel slightly, but he stood firmly, staring at her with a furious look.

"Excuse me?" Guilty? Why?

Samuel was growing angrier by the second. He grasped Ella's jaw with his index finger and thumb. "Ella you are some kind of actor! You don't need to pretend to be innocent!"

Though, truth be told, had it not been for the picture, Samuel would have probably believed her.

"Please, I don't understand. Please explain. Why do I need to pretend to be innocent?" She was honestly confused. Why couldn't he make himself clear?

Ella was becoming frustrated at the baffling nature of his interrogation.

Samuel let go of Ella's jaw and pointed toward the office building behind the car. "Why do you work there?"

Ella was speechless. Then she mustered, "It's just work, that's all. Please, I'm not looking for any trouble." Ella pushed Samuel away and slide to the other side of the back seat. She sat upright, erect.

Samuel conceded to her push and noticed briefly that she wasn't wearing her diamond ring. "Where's your ring?" he asked.

"I never wear it to work. It's not convenient, " she responded. "I always leave it at home." Truth be told, leaving the ring at home made sense. Ella's ring solicited immediate envy. It was truly an admirable and magnificent diamond.

Strangers had, on many occasions asked her about the ring. Some had even asked whether Sum had bought it for her.

"Not convenient?" Samuel prodded. "Do you think it's an eyesore when you stay with your lover?" he continued. Samuel's voice became mocking as he asked her questions. Ella felt herself becoming angry.

She further shifted herself away from Samuel, than pouted angrily, "So what if that's it? Does it matter? You also have a mistress. How could you blame me?" There was a small crowd near the car.

Samuel felt hurt. He knew that she loved him, how could she say such a thing?

"You bitch, I should have divorced you," he responded. Samuel was fuming.

But how could he call her a bitch? Irritated, Ella responded simply, "Divorce? Fine! I don't love you anymore anyway!"

He could play games all day if he wanted. Ella, a proud woman, was not going to participate.

"Bravo! Divorce!" Samuel quipped.

"Fine than, you can have everything for all I care. But I want my son!" How could he really want a divorce? Ella thought.

"You want you son, huh? Never." Samuel responded coldly.

"Samuel you bastard, give him to me! He's mine!" As she spoke, Ella felt her hand rising instinctively to slap Samuel.

Samuel caught her hand mid-air. "How could you think you could have the baby without me? Or we can have a lawsuit?" Samuel sneered at her.

A lawsuit? "Go to hell!" Ella took a long look at Samuel. If there was a lawsuit, she just had to lose!



"Ella, I don't want to hear anymore of this from you." Samuel frowned. He was disappointed in her.

"I'm never listening to you again! Samuel, you bastard!" Ella was not a fool, and suddenly she wanted out of the car. She pulled on the handle and tried to open door.

Samuel's meaty hand caught her and forced her back into her seat. Samuel shut the door hard. He began to move over her and placed his hands on her legs.

Shocked, Ella could see what he wanted now. She squirmed as his hand slid up her waist. Not to mention the fact that they were mere meters from the company front door, outside was broad daylight. Not here, Ella thought to herself.

"Let go of me!" She ripped his hand from her waist and bit into the fat part of his palm.

Lacking the desired reaction, she bit him again, harder. Samuel pulled his hand back and inspected the damage. The bite mark was red and wet with her spit. Responding angrily, he pinched her cheek with his strong, thick fingers. "Now look what you've done. Apologize to me!" He commanded her with a cold tone.

'Apologize', she thought to herself. "No way, either divorce me, or deal with me as I am." She said this without regret. After all, he was just a man, she knew she could live without him.

"I am absolutely going to do that! And don't think you are going to be working here anymore!"

Upon hearing this, Ella immediately grew enraged.

"Who the fuck do you think you are? Work is my one private matter. You can't control that! Hmmm."

It was already 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

It was peak hour and many of the employees had noticed the black Porsche idling in front of the company entrance.

Some of the bolder workers had even walked closer to have a look. However, the night-black window tint had concealed everything happening within.

...

After Ella finally apologized to him, Samuel moved into the driver's seat and drove away quickly, Ella still in the backseat.

At the Royal Valley Mansion

The car came to a stop slowly. Ella didn't want to get out of the car.

Ella leaned against the car window and ignored Samuel.

Even after Samuel finished smoking a cigarette, Ella still remained motionless.

When Samuel suddenly opened the door from outside, Ella nearly fell to the ground.

Catching her, Samuel walked towards the villa with Ella in his arms.

Ella did not resist. Samuel carried her into the bedroom and then disappeared into another room.

Twenty minutes later he returned.

He threw a pile of documents at her. "Sign your name here!" He said with ice-cold eyes.

Ella took a quick look at the documents. She read two words clearly, 'Divorce' and 'Settlement'.

She felt tears welling up in her eyes and blurring her vision. Samuel threw a black gemstone pen in front of her.

So he really did want a divorce after all.

Her hands shaking, Ella took the pen in her left hand and held the page down with her right.

Seeing her hesitate, Samuel became agitated. He began to move forward, when suddenly Ella's phone rang.

It was Eason.

Ella set the pen down and said, "Brother," into the phone. She spoke softly and began to sweep the tears from her eyes.

Samuel quietly pushed the divorce settlement papers away. Distracted by Eason, Ella didn't notice.

"You..." "What did you say!?" The sudden change in Ella's voice drew Samuel's attention back to her.

Whatever Eason had said, he seemed to repeat it again. Ella cried out once again, this time more fiercely. "Brother, are you kidding me?"

Suddenly, Ella began to cry hysterically. Unhappy with the sudden intrusion, Samuel threw the divorce papers on the floor.

Ella continued, "Brother, mom and dad only made you get married. How can you.. how could you.. curse them like this? Ella was beginning to hem and haw, and seemed to be getting out of breath.

Unable to bear seeing Ella in this mood, Samuel grabbed the phone from her hand and asked, "Eason, what happened?"

Hearing Samuel's voice, Eason regained his composure and began to tell Samuel what had happened.

Then he asked Eason to bring Ella to the hospital. Something terrible had happened. Mom and dad were gone. Ella needed to come bid her final farewell.

Samuel felt his heartbeat quicken. "Did this mean that... His parents-in-law... were dead?"

### [Chapter 547](#)

Ella jumped out of bed and ran to the door without putting on her slippers.

Samuel hurriedly hung up the phone and ran after her, "Calm down." Samuel wanted to stop Ella from her frantic running, and lifted her up in his arms.

Ella jumped off. Despite being barefooted, she didn't notice how cold the floor was. "How can I calm down? Didn't you hear my brother? My parents just died!"

Her parents were gone, and her husband wished to divorce her. Her troubles seemed endless.

She sprinted downstairs, and Samuel followed. He grabbed her arm just as she opened the door.

"Put on your shoes. I'll take you there."

Ella couldn't shake off Samuel's hold on her arm. She quickly slipped into her shoes and waited for Samuel to take her to the hospital Eason had mentioned.

In the car.

Ella was now in a state of utter shock. She muttered, "Eason must have been arguing with Mama and Papa...That's why he said that. But he can't curse them in that way! Eason, you are such an unfilial son... Samuel, my parents are still all right, aren't they? Eason was just kidding, wasn't he?"

Samuel's heart ached when he saw her like this.

He grasped her little trembling hand, "You have to embrace reality."

Embrace reality? Ella shivered at the thought.

She was afraid. She was so afraid...

Samuel stopped his car in a relatively empty street, and pulled Ella close. He held the trembling woman to his chest. "I'll be with you."

He'd be with her? Ella held him tight, "Samuel... I'm by your side... You're with me... You will always be here for me, right?" Fear had been gnawing at her since she had heard the news, so much so that her brain was unable to construct a complete sentence.

Forgetting all past problems, Samuel stroked her long hair and said, "Yes, I'll always be here." His presence soothed Ella.

Samuel took a tissue to wipe her tears, "Don't cry. Let's go and see what happened."

When they reached the hospital, Eason was in a ward, eyes glazed, sitting in a chair beside the hospital bed.

On the hospital bed lay two bodies, covered in a white sheet from head to toe...

Ella almost fell to her knees, but Samuel caught her in time.

She didn't have the courage to go and verify whether they were her parents.

"Ella, go and have a last look at them. They'll be put into the morgue soon." Eason looked at his younger sister, red-eyed, whispering hoarsely, sounding ten years older.

Ella shook her head. She wouldn't go. "They are not... Not my parents....I will not...." With that said, she pushed Samuel away and rushed to the door.

"Ella!" Samuel raised his voice, and shouted at her, which made Ella stop. She laid her trembling hands on the knob, but found that she couldn't bring herself to open the door.

Samuel came over, and gently led her back to the hospital bed. "You don't even want to say a final farewell to your parents? Do you want to be an unfilial daughter?" Samuel spoke to Ella while removing the white sheet.

Ella saw Jenny's face first.

She looked abnormally pale. Ella noticed the scratches, and dried blood on Jenny's face.

"Mother!" Ella collapsed on top of Jenny. She cried, and shook her mother vigorously.

Samuel pulled her back and locked her in his arms. "Ella, don't cry."

Ella cried for a long time. When her sobbing had reduced to sniffles, Samuel unveiled the other body. It was Richard, her father.

The shock of seeing her parents was too much for Ella to bear. Darkness flashed before her eyes, and she fell.

"Ella? Ella!" Samuel hurriedly picked up the unconscious Ella, and rushed outside.

Eason followed, watching Samuel running down the corridor, shouting, "Doctor! Doctor!"

Fortunately, Ella had only fainted. It was not very serious.

Samuel and Eason sat together on a bench in the hallway. It looked like all life had drained from Eason. "What happened to mother and father?"

Eason pulled his hair, and repeated what the police said, "Accident on the road...collision with a big truck...They... died instantly."

Eason was so angry, he felt like he could kill the truck driver.

"Drunk driving? Or... "

Eason shook his head. "The police are still investigating. I haven't been informed yet."

Over the next few days, Eason and Ella spent every minute at Leonard's House, attending to their parents' bodies.

Samuel also tried his hardest to come over to help Eason handle funeral rituals.

The culprit had been arrested, and police had concluded their investigation with the cause being drunk driving.

It was hard to remain angry with the driver. He was raising two children. Eason didn't claim for compensation. Instead, he intend to let the culprit kneel before his parents' grave and apologize.

By the seventh day, all family members and relatives had come to show their respect. Many who were not well connected with the family, also attended the funeral rituals to show their respect for Eason and Samuel.

Ella had been kneeling in front of her parents' portrait, watching people come and go, numbly nodding in response to their condolences.

Melody, Vincent, and Viola also came. They brought Jerry with them. Ella got emotional when she saw her son.

"Don't be too sad, child. Your parents would not have wanted you to suffer." Melody comforted Ella. This poor girl...

"Yes, grandmother, I see." Samuel had told her that too.

Although Viola was sympathetic to Ella's plight, she hadn't wanted Jerry to come. After a few minutes, she took Jerry from Ella's arms, "Jerry and I will be outside."

Jerry was Ella's only comfort now. She didn't let go, "Mother, let him be with me for a while, I'll bring him to you later."

"Jerry is so young...I don't want anything sinister to haunt him."

"Viola!" Shouted Vincent, "What the heck are you talking about?"

Viola stared at him in disbelief. Was she wrong? Although unhappy, she dare not refute Vincent. Viola left the mourning hall.

Ella could not believe what Viola had implied. She now lost all respect for her mother-in-law...

Vincent was a little embarrassed. He tried to explain to Ella, "Ella, Viola has different beliefs. Please forgive her." His wife was generally okay, but she didn't know how to talk to people.

Ella tried to smile, "Sure, father." Then she watched Vincent take Melody's arm, and lead her out of the mourning hall.

A man appeared at the door. He was dressed in a black suit and a black shirt.

He put a bouquet of white chrysanthemums in front of the portrait, and bowed respectfully three times.

"Sum." Ella was so touched by his act. She greeted him. Since her parents passing, Sum had called frequently to comfort her. She was deeply grateful.

#### [Chapter 548](#)

Sum walked up to Ella, slightly teasing Jerry in her arms. "Ella, just deal with your parents' funeral. Don't worry about the company. You can go to work at any time."

"My wife is not going to work. We'll take this time as unpaid work" said Samuel. He was greeting the guests at the front entrance. When he heard that Sum was already here, Samuel wondered where did Sum enter the house. Why didn't he see Sum coming in?

Looking at Samuel, Ella said with a little embarrassment in her voice: "Thank you, Sum. I'll go back to work after this brief period of time." Samuel was about to divorce her. If they divorced, she had to work, so that she could afford to live independently. Therefore, she must not take this job lightly.

Samuel walked up to her and took Jerry from her, then looked at their son and said: "Honey, I know you feel bad. Be good. I'll raise you and our son."

People came in and out of the mourning hall, looking at the situation here with curious eyes. Are these three people the main protagonists of the latest circulating gossip?

Ella was not in the mood to bicker with or to fight against Samuel, she simply replied, "Sum, we will speak soon"

"OK." Sum soon left after saying goodbye to them.

During all this time, there seemed to be a disturbance outside. The new comers were Harry, Lola, Chuck and Daisy.

Eason came in with them. Lola hugged Ella, who looked very pale, and said: "Ella, it's all going to be all right."

Daisy also walked to her and said: "Ella, don't be sad."

Their comfort made Ella's eyes turn red with tears.

Samuel took out the handkerchief in his pocket and wiped her tears: "Don't cry." Ella had been crying for all these days. He really started wondering whether this woman was made out of water.

Ella took over the handkerchief from his hand and nodded her head. Man's fate is as uncertain as the weather. These general principles are widely known, but it isn't really easy to face the reality.

The four people bowed to Richard and Jenny's portrait, and left after talking for a while.

When Melody's party left, Viola came over and was just about to leave with Jerry.

Ella was feeling bad and wanted her son to be with her: "Mother, Jerry stays with me today."

"No way!" Viola said loudly, looking at Ella in disbelief.

Samuel was talking with a guest, and after he heard Viola's voice he immediately rushed to them.

"Mother, what are you doing. There are still guests here." Samuel wrinkled his brows.

Viola knew that her son had hated this woman recently. She pointed at Ella and said: "Her parents just died, and Jerry is so young. What if he sees something unclean?"

Ella felt so angry after hearing her speaking those words that she wished she wouldn't have to speak with Viola anymore.

"Mother! Jerry can be anywhere he wants to be. Why are you being so superstitious?" Samuel reprimanded her, and dragged her out of the mourning hall.

They soon disappeared from Ella's eyesight. Looking at the tablet and the portrait of her parents, Ella felt even more confused.

Her mother-in-law didn't like her, and her husband wanted to divorce her. What should she do now...

Tears streamed down her face, and a chubby little hand covered her eyes. "Mom, Mom, yah yah yah." Jerry suddenly called her mum, which surprised her.

"Son, are you just calling me mum? Say it again." Jerry called mum before, but not as clear as he did now.

Jerry's little hand continued to wave in front of her eyes. Ella wondered if he was indeed wiping off her tears.

She wiped her tears in surprise, and talked to her son: "Good boy. Call me mum."

Jerry showed his three or four lovely teeth, looked at Ella, and spoke clearly: "Mum..."

Ella kissed his face in excitement. She was now so happy that her son had called her mum.

"Father, mother, did you see it? Jerry called me mum. If you were destined to leave, why didn't you wait until brother married a wife and had a baby, and Jerry called you grandpa and grandma..."

In the evening, Ella had planned to live at home. But Eason rejected her, and asked Samuel to take them away.

The three of them went back to the Royal Mansion. Samuel went to his study after taking a shower.

Ella slept on the bunk bed in the baby's room with her son. Looking at the sleeping baby, Ella began to be lost in deep thought.

Her parents had suddenly just left the world, and she felt she lost everything. Her brother lived abroad for most of the time. If Samuel divorced her, she would be left all by herself.

She made up her mind and decided to try to win back Samuel's love.

It was now getting late. Samuel went back to the bedroom after finishing all the work.

The bedroom was empty. Samuel opened the door of the baby's room. In the dim light, he saw that the two of them, mother and son, were sound asleep together.

Sitting next to them for a while, Samuel didn't want to break this harmony and went back to the bedroom.

As he had an important case, Samuel got up early in the morning.

After coming downstairs in the morning, he found out that someone had got up even earlier than he.

Jerry was biting on one of his toys on the blanket in the living room, and Joy was watching him.

In the kitchen, Ella fried an egg, and was about to heat up the milk. Seeing Samuel, she said: "Samuel, wait a minute. Breakfast will be ready soon."

Samuel looked at his watch and found that time was running short. He had to go to the company as soon as possible: "No, thank you. I'm in a hurry. Help yourself." The he kissed Jerry and left the villa in a hurry.

Ella looked at the heart-shaped egg in the plate, her eyes turning red and filling up with tears. She put the milk back into the fridge and ate the fried egg.

Ella was bored at home in the morning, and so decided to take her son to the shopping mall and buy some things needed in the house.

Rledo Mall

Ella parked her car and walked into the mall with her son in her arms.

Floor 1 of the Mall

Two women wearing high heels walked towards the boutique: "Catherine, are you a kid? Why do you have to ask me to shop with you?" Emma was dragged into a boutique, looking extremely reluctant.

"I have to go to the company soon, but it won't take long." Catherine saw a sky-blue key chain that had a crystal dolphin with diamonds in it.

She had just stretched her right arm and the key chain was immediately taken away by someone else.

She turned her head and saw a familiar person. This woman wearing a white woolen coat and holding a baby was Ella! Catherine and her sister sneered. How small the world could be!

"Miss Leonard, what a coincidence!" said Catherine with a mocking tone.

Ella looked at the two sisters with indifference and avoided talking to them as she was in a bad mood.

#### [Chapter 549](#)

She held the key buckle in her hand to catch her son's attention. Then they turned to someplace else.

Being ignored, the two sisters looked at each other with anger in their eyes.

Emma took a few steps forward to stop Ella, saying: "Jerry, give me a hug." Jerry looked at Emma with goggled eyes and didn't seem to react at all at her words, which made Emma somewhat embarrassed.

Noticing that she was friendly to her son, Ella began to talk to her: "I am sorry Miss Reynolds, my son does not play with strangers." Then she moved pass Emma to leave.

However, Emma was so angry at the sight of Ella that she had no intention of letting her go just yet.

She took Jerry from Ella directly and without permission. Looking at him kindly, Emma started: "Jerry, your father and mother will soon get divorced, and I will be your new mother." She kissed him after saying her words.

Jerry looked blankly at her, without any expression and reaction whatsoever. Emma thought in her heart whether Ella had given birth to an idiot. He remained uninterested to everything and everyone.

Really, no reaction at all? Emma had accidentall hurt him and Jerry began to cry loudly in seconds.

Ella was in pain and eager to take the son, but Emma refused to give him back. Catherine looked around and found that the tall cabinets happened to block the camera.

She also came over and took Jerry to herself. The two sisters hugged Jerry each in turns, refusing to give him back to Ella.



The chaos had attracted the shopping guide to see what's had happened. But she was too busy and just left after taking a brief look.

Ella was now angry: "You two are looking for some trouble, aren't you?" Jerry cried louder and louder while Ella couldn't take him back.

"Yes. Last time you made me allergic. Now that you are here, let's settle this." Emma pinched Jerry's ass for several times until she could feel good.

Watching her son cry more and more relentless, Ella grabbed the key buckle from Jerry's hand and furiously threw it into Emma's face.

"Ah!"

Emma felt hurt and nearly threw Jerry to the ground, Ella hurried forward and caught his son just in time.

Then Ella walked away without hesitation.

What happened here had already attracted lots of onlookers. Ella forced her way out of the crowd, coaxed her crying son, and walked out of the shop.

Catherine, having no time to care for Emma, went after Ella immediately, "Stop! Ella! You cannot leave just yet." Jerry was still crying, ignoring his mother's efforts to try and comfort him.

Feeling hurt and furious, Ella coldly replied to Catherine, "Fuck off!"

'Nothing good ever comes out of running into these two women.' Ella wiped out Jerry's tears in concern. She doubted whether Emma had done something bad to her son, otherwise Jerry wouldn't have cried so loud.

Normally, Jerry was not a crying boy. She couldn't figure out why her son was now so sad and couldn't stop crying.

Ella broke free from Catherine's grasp and wanted to stay away from the two sisters as far away as possible.

Caught off guard by Ella's sudden movements, Catherine stumbled backwards and her belly collided into the fence nearby.

By the time she recovered from the pain inflicted by the collision, Ella had long gone with her son.

Catherine clenched her teeth and glared back at her, "Ella, you won't get away with this!"

Emma's face was hurt by the diamond on the dolphin. She paid for the loss of the dolphin in the boutique and went to the hospital to get treated for her face wound.

In Samuel's law firm.

Catherine went straight in Samuel's office after Anna reported what had happened.

Samuel had just finished a court case and was studying an international case at that moment.

"Mr. Lowell." Catherine took a deep breath and covered her stomach with the palm of her hands, although it was not painful at all. She looked at the man in front of her with an aggrieved expression, her heart jumping faster and faster in her chest.

Samuel raised his head and looked at her without expression and words.

Samuel, your wife has gone too far. My sister and I must sue her. Catherine took a deep breath and said these words in a determined way.

Hearing the name of Ella, Samuel put down the pen and asked: "What's happened?"

"My sister and I met Ella in the shopping mall. My sister just wanted to hug her baby and out of blue, Ella threw the key buckle into Emma's face. She wanted to leave after hurting Emma. So I stopped her for an apology. However, she pushed me to the fence nearby and my stomach is still aching even now!" Catherine was now peevish as she spoke these last words.

"My sister and I met Ella in the shopping mall. My sister just wanted to hug her baby while she threw the key buckle straight into Emma's face. How is Emma now?"

Catherine was unhappy to hear that Samuel was sorry for Ella, saying: " My sister was hurt by the diamond in the key buckle and has already taken treatment for ther wounds in the hospital."

"Em, Miss Reynolds, I am very sorry. I will make my wife apologize to you face to face. I will also compensate you for all the medical bills." 'What happened to the woman?' 'Did she hurt the innocent casually, just because she was in a bad mood?'

After getting his assurance, Catherine stopped complaining further as she didn't want to raise his suspicion. She bit her lower lip tightly, nodded her head and left the office.

After Catherine left the office, Samuel lit a cigarette, and it was at the moment that his phone rang.

What showed up on the phone display made Samuel feel somewhat uneasy. He answered the phone just before the ring was about to end.

"Samuel." Emma said softly over the phone.

"Hum?"

"Did Auntie say that... you will get a divorce with Ella and I am to spend more time with Jerry so that we might bond" Emma stopped without finishing her words because Samuel didn't say anything over the phone. She felt embarrassed.

"How is your face?" He never knew his mother could be so meddlesome.

Emma was so happy to hear that he was concerned about her. She took a deep breath and started to speak out her true intentions over the phone "Sam, I had already taken the medicine... I just wanted to hug Jerry. Ella was annoyed by Jerry's crying and pinched Jerry in the butt. How could you sleep easy knowing that your son is with that cruel woman?"

Pinch the baby? After hearing her words, Samuel stubbed out cigarette butt hard in the ashtray. "Emma, be careful with your words! Do you need me to teach you?"

"Sam, don't you know me at all?" Emma's unhappy voice reminded Samuel of Ella's previous lie.

Yes, Emma never lied to him while Ella...

"I already knew it and will investigate this matter at once. If it is indeed Ella's fault, I will bring her to you to apologize for what she did." Samuel closed the file and turned off the computer. He would never allow anyone to hurt his son. Even if she was his mother!

"Sam, I will wait for your call." Emma hung up the phone.

At the Royal Valley Mansion

Ella told Joy to send her stuff in the trunk to her room upstairs. She took Jerry, who was already starting to cry himself off to sleep, to the baby's room.

### [Chapter 550](#)

Gazing at her sleeping son, Ella fell into a daze, holding her cheeks in her hands.

Why had Jerry been crying? Didn't he like Emma? No, it couldn't be that. He hadn't cried when Emma held him at the old house the last time.

Suddenly, the door of the baby's room was opened from outside. Surprised, Ella stared at the man in the doorway.

She glanced at her cell phone. It was just about 12 o'clock. 'Had he returned home for lunch?'

"Samuel..." She stood up and began to walk towards him. After entering the room with a few heavy steps, Samuel walked directly to his son's crib.

Ignoring Ella, he pulled the child's clothing down to have a look at him.

From the front, baby Jerry seemed fine. However, as Samuel turned him over and pulled down his freshly-changed diaper, he was shocked to find a large bruise on his son.

By the look of it, Catherine seemed to be telling the truth. As expected, Emma had told the truth.

Ella noticing the bruise for the first time, finally understood why the child had been crying so insistently. 'Emma had pinched my son! How heartless! How could she dare hurt a child.' thought Ella.

"I'm going to pinch your whole body!" Gnashing her teeth in anger, Ella went to her son and moved to pick him up.

"Liar!" Samuel's single utterance caused Ella shudder and stop.

With a bad feeling in her stomach, Ella felt her skin crawling as she saw at the icy-coldness in Samuel's eyes.

"Samuel, what are you talking about?" She seemed to have heard Samuel calling her a liar.

Seeing honest confusion on her face, Samuel almost believed her again.

"Ella, where did this bruise come from?" The question was rhetoric. Samuel just wanted to hear her explain herself.

Seeing his expression, Ella was becoming worried. Emma and her sister must have been spreading lies behind her back.

"Samuel, I did not hurt Jerry! It must have been Emma! Jerry wasn't crying when she first came over, but a little while later, I couldn't get him to stop."

"Enough.." Having been betrayed by her before, Samuel no longer had any faith in Ella.

Listening to her hurried explanation, Samuel felt only that she was making an excuse.

At that moment, Ella felt her heart drop. Then she frowned. "If you were never going to believe me, why did you even ask?" She was shocked that Samuel had believed the sisters.

Samuel picked up the sleeping child and walked towards the bedroom door.

"Samuel, what are you doing?" Anxiously, Ella stood in front of Samuel. 'Where is he trying to take the boy?'

Samuel looked at her coldly. "This is child abuse! If you don't want me to press charges, then get out of the way now!" Child abuse not being his legal forte, Samuel was uncertain of the exact process for determining abuse, though he knew he could at least press charges for wounding with intent.

Child abuse? Ella stared at Samuel in disbelief. "Samuel, are you stupid? He's my son. How could I ever do something like that? You're crazy!"

Ella's rebuke made Samuel feel gloomy. "I know that the death of your mother and father was a terrible shock. I will ask my grandmother to look after Jerry for the short term. It would be better if you don't see him for now." With this, Samuel pushed Ella aside and walked out the door.

Ella felt frozen to the floor and watched silently as Samuel walked away. Was this somehow related to the divorce?

Regaining her composure, she quickly ran after him and caught up to him. "Samuel, you can't do this!" He is my son, and he needs me!"

"Ella, it's only for a few days. I will not keep him away forever. You just need time to deal with all this pain." Samuel looked away from her and kept moving.

Samuel seemed to be implying that Ella had lost her grip on reality following the death of her mother and father. Did he think she had abused her own son because of this?

Well the pain was real, that was true. Losing her mother and father had been a crushing blow to Ella.

But she had pulled herself together! Those two damn sisters. In her moment of suffering, they had whispered gossip in his ears.

"If you take Jerry, I will get Emma in trouble!" After all, it was her fault that Samuel was trying to take Jerry away!

"Ella..." "You're hysterical!" Come with me to apologize to Catherine and Emma this afternoon. Samuel moved around her and went down the staircase.

Ella hurried behind him, but was careful in the staircase with Samuel and Jerry. Ella stopped Samuel for a third time after they arrived on the first floor.

"Samuel.. Samuel, please. I will apologize to Emma and Catherine, just let me have my son.. Please.."  
Ella's eyes were red and swollen. But she could tolerate this injustice, even it was only for her son.

Samuel was disappointing her.

"I told you that after a few days, I will let you see Jerry again." Samuel gave Ella a final, solemn look, adjusted the sleeping child on his shoulder and left the villa alongside Joy.

The front door was closed and Ella could not help but burst into tears.

When Samuel returned from the old house, he found the home deserted. Where had she gone?

He tried her phone, but the call went immediately to answering machine. Samuel suddenly felt worried.

He began to worry that perhaps he had been too hard on her and that she might do something stupid again.

Samuel drove around looking for Ella, but as night began to fall, he still hadn't found any trace of her.

Pulling off to the side of the road, Samuel slowly smoked a cigarette. The smoke rose slowly, softly enveloping his outline against the setting sun.

Abruptly, Samuel's phone rang. He quickly put out his cigarette and picked up the phone. It was Anna.

"Hi."

"Mr. Lowell ..." Anna seemed to pause unnaturally long.

Samuel prodded her to speak. "Yes, please go ahead." Impatiently, Samuel ran his hands through his hair. Where on earth was Ella?

Anna cleared her throat before relaying the message she had just received. "Ella just went to a bar.. and.. Well, she fought Emma."

Samuel felt a sudden, sharp pain in his temples.

Samuel stood silently for a few moments before speaking. Just as Anna was beginning to wonder whether the call had disconnected, he spoke. "Which bar?"

After punching the address into his GPS, Samuel drove his Porsche quickly down an empty road towards the Twilight Bar.

This woman.. She was always causing problems. How could she actually fight with someone else?

At the Twilight Bar.

The whole bar was smashed to pieces. Triumphant, Ella stood in the middle of the bar surrounded by a group of strangers. She stood looking down on another woman.

Emma was crouched on the ground. Her hair was a mess of tangles, and her clothes were ripped to shreds. Her silk stockings were torn and one of the heels was missing from her designer shoes.

Ella pulled a stool in front of Emma and sat down. "Emma, apologize to me.. NOW!"