"Doesn't it take a while for the water to heat up? When I was living by the countryside, it'd take about five to six minutes before the water becomes warm." Arielle smiled innocently.

Yvette studied her face to make out if she was speaking the truth. She was relieved when she found nothing odd.

No wonder she's out here while the water was running in the bathroom. This country girl probably didn't know that the water system in my house maintains at a constant temperature, and hot water would run from the showerhead instantly.

"I knew you were going to hand me some clean clothes anyway. Thus, I decided to wait until you bring me the clothes before I hop into the shower," Arielle continued.

Yvette's suspicion instantly vanished when she heard Arielle's explanation.

I guess I've overestimated her.

Yvette smiled and said, "Actually, our house runs on a constant temperature water system. So there's no need to wait."

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"Oh, I see," Arielle exclaimed in surprise.
"How advanced! It's not like this back at in my place."

Yvette had never showered at the Southalls, so she didn't know that Arielle was lying.

Thus when Yvette heard that, she secretly sneered at Arielle's statement and looked down on the Southalls too.

I can't believe they'd have to wait for the water to heat up!

"Alright. You can take a shower now. Do have some cake when you're done. My dad's probably done with his shower as well and is waiting for you. I believe he has prepared a surprise for you. I hope you won't refuse it because you deserved it!" Yvette said.

Well, the huge surprise I'm about to gift you is also something only you deserve. It's a shame you're always in my way. Or else I wouldn't have to do this.

Yet, she did not know that Arielle had understood the hidden meaning behind her words. She had already guessed what

the "huge surprise" was about.

Both Matthias and Yvette had exposed themselves by revealing clues like the guest room and the aroma diffuser. Hence, Arielle figured out their plan.

I knew they were going to set me up. Yet, I didn't expect it to be this! Well, they won't succeed.

Arielle smiled at her gratefully before picking up the clothes on the ground and headed toward the bathroom.

Nevertheless, she stopped halfway and turned to face Yvette. "There's a huge crowd today, and I'm worried that someone might accidentally barge in. So why don't you wait for me outside? I've locked the door from the outside."

Yvette began to worry when she heard Arielle's words.

How am I going to carry out my plan if she locks me outside? She is, indeed, a very careful person.

Things were not going as Yvette planned, but she was very calm.

I will find it weird if things go as planned without any mishaps and thought that she was just playing along on purpose.

Hence, Yvette calmed herself down and took out the aroma diffuser from her purse before placing it by the door.

Arielle eyed the aroma diffuser and asked, "Is that a candle, Yvette? It's super bright in here, so why are you lighting a candle?"

Yvette secretly sneered at her comment. How could she not know what an aroma diffuser was?

Nevertheless, she held back her laughter and explained patiently, "Oh, this is an aroma diffuser. It functions as an air purifier once it's lit. We had a few guests who stayed in this room in the past. I was worried there might be traces of an odd smell. So, I'll light it up for you."

"You're so thoughtful, Yvette. Thank you, but I'm not particular about such things." Arielle smiled faintly.

Yvette smiled back.

"Well, that's okay. But you've done us a

great favor, and we can't thank you enough. It's the least that I can do for you."

Then, she took out a lighter and lit the wick of the aroma diffuser.

Once it was lit, Yvette held her breath and said, "Alright then. I'll leave you to take a shower. But, I don't think you should lock your door. I'll just wait outside and keep an eye out for you."

Arielle hesitated for a moment and replied, "Okay. But be sure to keep an eye out for me. There are way too many people today, and it'll be a catastrophe if someone barge in unintentionally."

Yvette was nearly out of breath but managed to answer, "No worries. I'll be on the lookout." Then, she quickly left the room.

Arielle watched Yvette close the door behind her and listened carefully to make sure she had gone away. Then, Arielle quickly walked to the window, opened it, and gasped for fresh air.

She noticed Yvette began to hold her breath the moment she lit the aroma

diffuser.

Hence, she followed suit and held her breath until now. It was apparent that there was something wrong with the aroma diffuser.

Once Arielle regained steady breathing, she took a deep breath and held it until she reached the aroma diffuser to blow it out.

Concurrently, she brought the aroma diffuser by the window to allow the remaining scent to disperse into the air before examining it.

She couldn't find anything wrong with it at first. The aroma diffuser was made of conventional paraffin wax. Yet, she discovered something out of the ordinary when she looked at the wick.

The wick of the lamp had a hollow space that contained some light blue solids.

So that's what it is—these little solids hidden in the wick.

Arielle whipped out her bag and grabbed some tools before she extracted the wick

to examine the mysterious blue solids.

In the meantime, Yvette had rushed downstairs to look for Mason.

Mason was both Shandie and Arielle's cousin. Hence, he was only considered a distant relative of the Actonwards.

Yvette found Mason drinking by himself, and she believed he was a little tipsy as his cheeks had turned red.

Mason wasn't the best-looking guy out there, and unfortunately, the pimples he had on his face made it worse.

He came from average family background, and his tertiary education funds were also sponsored by the Actonwards and the Southalls. As soon as he graduated, he was immediately hired as an employee to the Southall Group with Cindy's help.

Yet, his ability only landed him as a project lead despite sharing a relationship with the owner of the company.

Cindy assigned him to get rid of Arielle and promised to promote him as a manager. However, he failed miserably and almost

lost his life at sea!

Ever since that accident, Cindy began to ignore him. Thus, he felt greatly dejected.

When he saw Arielle again, he was surprised to see her transform from a country girl to a beautiful, noble lady. To add on, she also possessed extraordinary medical skills. Her transformation had made him doubt himself.

How did a country girl change so much in a blink of an eye? I was born and raised in Jadeborough, yet I only earn seven thousand per month. This is so unfair!

Mason thought to himself as he sat alone and drank his sadness away.

He took another glass of champagne and drank it quickly.

Before the glass could reach his lips, a long and slender hand reached out and stopped him.

Who is this? How dare you interrupt me?

Mason looked up impatiently and found a beautiful face in front of him. His heart

skipped a beat, and he hurriedly got up from the chair. "What is it, Yvette? Did something happen to your father?" he asked.



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Yvette always knew Mason cared for her like cousins. Yet, she felt rather uncomfortable when she noticed the way Mason looked at her now.

Am I imagining things?

Ignoring her thoughts, she cleared her throat and said, "My dad's fine. I just wanted to ask you something."

"What is it? If there's anything I can do for you, let me know. I'll definitely do my best!" Mason replied.

Yvette shifted uncomfortably as the odd feeling in her heart had significantly increased.

But she didn't allow her personal feelings to get in the way of the plan, so she brought Mason to the balcony.

I wonder why she is being so secretive. "Yvette, what's wrong?" he asked.

Yvette looked around to make sure no one was nearby and said, "Mason, do you remember who Arielle is?"

Mason nodded. "Of course. What's up? Did she bully you?"

At that, Yvette shook her head and bit her lip. "To be honest with you, I really dislike her. She ruined my marriage with the Bakers and murdered my dog."

"What?" Mason widen his eyes in surprise while his heart leaped with joy.

He suppressed the joy in his heart and asked solemnly, "I've never heard of this until now. But, cheer up, Yvette. I'll make sure to teach her a lesson!"

She lifted her head to meet Mason's gaze and said, "Actually, I might have a perfect chance right now. But I'll need your help, Mason!"

Yvette was none other than the number one socialite in Jadeborough with an outstanding appearance. Thus, there was no way a man like Mason would reject her request.

"I'd do anything for you, even if it meant taking someone's life!" Mason said in determination.

Yvette couldn't help but realize Mason was acting really weird around her.

She frowned and wanted to him a few questions but held back.

It doesn't matter why's he acting all weird around me now. I'll deal with it once tonight is over.

After that, Mason secretly crept upstairs to the second floor as Yvette instructed and stood by the guest room where Arielle was in.

He imagined a thousand ways to get his revenge on Arielle—like kidnapping her after the birthday party and ending her life in the middle of nowhere. Yet, he didn't expect Yvette's plan of revenge was to sleep with her.

I admit that Arielle is a gorgeous lady, but I have my eyes on someone else. Thus, I have no sexual intentions toward her.

Mason stood by the door of the room but didn't open it. His mind was all over the place, and he couldn't think straight.

Then, he opened his palm and revealed a

pill on it. Yvette had warned him earlier that the air in the room would cause hallucinations, so the pill would help keep him awake.

Once the deed was over, he planned to place Arielle on top of himself. That way, it would seem like it was Arielle who forced him to do it. Then, she would be the laughing stock of Jadeborough.

It was a smart and effective plan to ruin Arielle's life once and for all without killing her. Besides, it is the only thing I can do for Yvette.

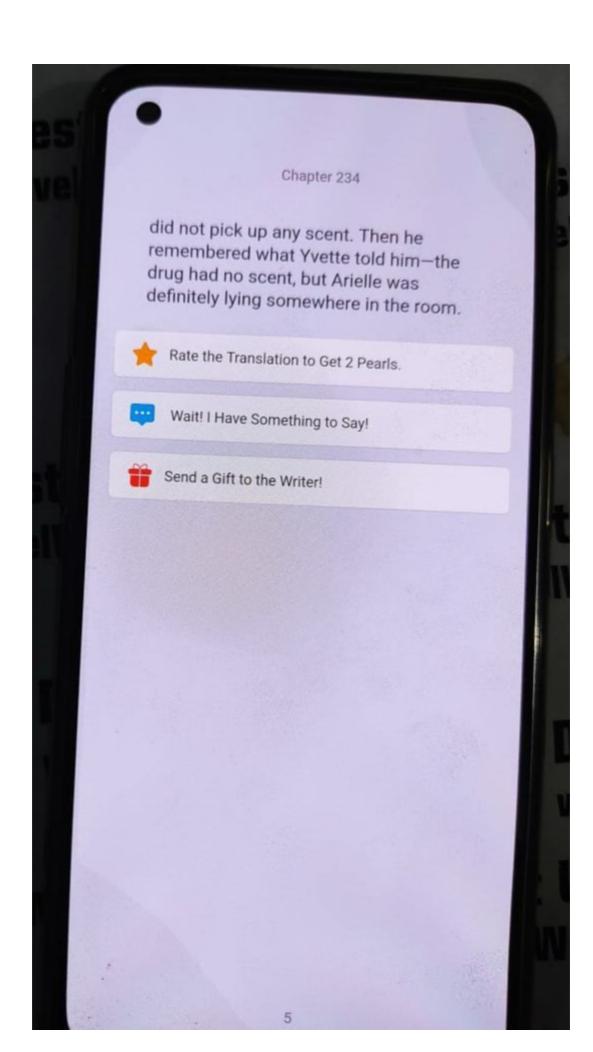
Mason took a deep breath and gritted his teeth before he entered the room.

The moment he pushed the door open, he threw the pill onto the ground.

I know I can stay wide awake even without the help of the pill. I know perfectly well that I like Yvette, and only her!

But I also know that I can't have her when I have nothing at all. Hence, I've hidden my feelings for her deep inside my heart.

As soon as he entered the room, Mason



Even after combing through the bathroom, he couldn't find anyone.

All of a sudden, he heard a slight rustle that resonated from the bedroom.

Immediately, Mason made his way toward the bedroom.

When he entered the room, he caught sight of a seductive figure on the bed. Yet, the woman looked like she was in great pain.

Mason stared at the woman for several moments before he strode toward the bed. Carefully, he pulled Arielle's hand away from her face.

Immediately, Mason jolted in astonishment.

Instead of Arielle, the woman was actually Yvette.

Why on earth is Yvette here?

Mason quickly moved to help Yvette into an upright position. "Yvette, are you alright?" he coaxed gently as he shook her shoulders in an attempt to wake her up.

Upon Mason's words, Yvette's eyes fluttered wide open, and she locked gazes with him.

Just as Mason wanted to ask her why she was in the room, he felt a throbbing pain that pounded in his head. Immediately, his vision turned blurry.

"Yvette..." Mason mumbled before he collapsed onto the bed. Promptly, he lost consciousness.

Arielle pushed Mason's limp body off her and rose to her feet with an impassive expression.

To tell the truth, she wasn't Yvette. In fact, the woman's identity belonged to none other than Arielle.

Mason had hallucinated and mistook her for Yvette instead.

Arielle tucked her gold needle away. For a brief moment, she looked at Mason with an expression of slight surprise before a mischievous smile tugged the corner of her lips upwards.

It seems like my cousin has a crush on

Yvette. No wonder Cindy picked him. Mason is an excellent candidate because he will not betray Yvette. He also harbors a deep hatred toward me. After all, I once hurled him into the sea.

The room was so quiet that it was pin-drop silence. Gradually, the warmth in Arielle's bright gaze faded away.

If I had been an ordinary woman, Yvette and Cindy would have torn me to pieces! Fortunately, I have a few tricks up my sleeve.

Coincidentally, the contents found within the aromatherapy candle that Yvette had prepared were substances that Arielle invented a few years ago.

She created the substances by accident. However, experimentation with her creations revealed that it could act as a cure for victims with autism as it strengthened their mental health. I can't believe that it got leaked into the market, and people are now using it for harm instead of good.

Yet, she looked at the situation from a different perspective. The drug that she'd

created was extremely effective. It could cause hallucinations, and anyone who fell under the drug's influence would not be able to distinguish reality from illusion.

With a determined look, Arielle bent forward to hoist Mason's body upwards.

Despite her immense strength, carrying a fully-grown man was no easy feat. It's a relief that Mason is as skinny as a stick. I can still withstand his weight. On the other hand, Vinson has a tall and muscular figure. I wouldn't be able to move him at all!

Wait a minute, why was I thinking of Vinson all of a sudden?

Is the cure starting to lose its effect? No, no, the drug will reveal the true feelings of one's heart. I don't have any feelings for Vinson. Even if I begin to hallucinate, he won't appear. I'm overthinking things.

Arielle inhaled deeply to calm her nerves and continued to move Mason.

The play had just begun; thus, Arielle didn't want to waste any more time lingering on such thoughts.

Back in the lobby, Yvette tricked a young woman. Foolishly, the young woman fell for her schemes and shifted their conversation topic to talk about the renovations in Yvette's mansion.

The young woman was the one who had tried to accuse Arielle in Harvey's home. Yet, at that time, she'd ended up humiliating herself instead.

"Yvette, I heard that you just finished renovating your house last year. The new designs must look stunning! Once the birthday party is over, you should bring us around for a tour!" The words spilling out of the young woman's mouth were nothing but white lies to flatter Yvette.



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Yvette smiled proudly. "Since everyone wants to have a look. Why don't I show you right now? I've installed surveillance cameras in every room to ensure the safety of my house. Let me ask someone to bring the projector so that we can all see it together. Even the guestrooms in my house have unique designs. However, the designer I hired is rather young, so I'd appreciate any form of feedback about the designs."

The young woman didn't know that she was being used as a pawn. "Alright!" She nodded her head enthusiastically.

Quickly, Yvette brought out the projector.

Various designs of the rooms were soon displayed on the screen.

Originally, only a few women had gathered to watch. As time passed, many bored guests began to flock over to view the designs.

Although the designer who the Actonwards hired was young, he was an internationally renowned interior designer.

The guests were amazed by the beautiful

designs as they watched on with admiration. Even the guest rooms had been built elaborately to resemble fancy hotel rooms.

Hence, they started murmuring excitedly amongst themselves. "This design is amazing!"

On the other hand, Yvette had different thoughts. When Arielle's room is shown, you won't think that that way anymore. It's going to be an extremely disgusting and debauched display!

But when Yvette thought about Arielle having a great figure, she became jealous. I'm sure that the male guests will drool over the footage.

Finally, Yvette's wishes were answered as the room that Arielle was in was shown.

Yvette felt her heart pounding erratically in her chest. She was so excited that she found herself holding her breath in anticipation. A dangerous gleam flickered in her eyes, her gaze so sharp that it looked like a cat that swallowed a canary.

It's here! It's finally here!

The camera panned around to show the room's entrance.

"Is the entrance made out of pear wood?" one of the guests exclaimed in admiration. "It's so beautiful!"

Yvette offered the guest a gracious smile, yet deep down, she was snickering evilly. There's something even better to watch later!

The camera paused at the entrance for a brief moment before turning to enter the room.

Yvette was so excited that it felt like her heart might leap out of her throat.

Finally, the bed was displayed in the surveillance footage.

The excitement had Yvette on the edge of her seat. Yet, the suspense ended abruptly. The bed was empty. Although the bedsheets looked rumpled, there wasn't any trace of Arielle nor Mason.

W-what is this?

In the blink of an eye, Yvette's face lost its

smugness as her mood took a drastic turn.

Right at that moment, a slender and fair hand patted her shoulder. "What are you watching, Yvette?" A clear voice echoed behind her.

This voice...

Yvette's back stiffened and forced herself to turn around rigidly. Right away, Yvette was greeted with the sight of Arielle's brilliant smile.

In the blink of an eye, Yvette's face drained of any color. "Why are you here?" she cried out in utter disbelief.

Immediately, Arielle acted as if she had been wronged. "I didn't think that my clothes were too dirty. Thus, I came downstairs after cleaning it up. What's the matter? Am I not allowed to be here?"

The sight of Arielle's innocent and puzzled gaze forced Yvette to snap out of her momentary shock. "Not at all; I was just surprised that you came downstairs so quickly," she remarked with a reluctant smile. "D-did you see someone else while you were upstairs?"



Arielle tilted her head in confusion. "Who are you talking about? I didn't see anyone at all."

"Okay... I think one of my friends got lost," Yvette replied hurriedly. "Let me take a look." With that, she hurtled upstairs at a frenzied pace.

I clearly instructed Mason to look for Arielle!
I even lighted the aromatherapy candle a
long time ago! Why does Arielle look like
she's unaffected by it? Does this mean that
the object that Matthias gave me is
completely useless? What on earth is
happening?



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The more she pondered about it, the more Yvette felt confused. She moved as quick as a hare. I need to go upstairs and find out what happened!

Due to Yvette's hastiness, she did not notice that Arielle was staring intensely behind her. A cold smile spread across Arielle's face when she saw Yvette panicking.

At the same time, one of the guests clasped Arielle's arm. "Ms. Moore, are you alright?"

Arielle's smile melted off her face as she turned to face the guest. "What is everyone looking at?" she asked him.

The guest answered her question warmly. "We were looking at the designs of the Actonwards' mansion. Ms. Yvette is so considerate. A few guests mentioned that they wanted to explore the mansion, so she immediately moved a projector here to show it to us. The mansion's rooms are being displayed right now."

Hearing the guest's explanation, Arielle shifted her gaze to the screen. True to his words, there were surveillance cameras

fixed in every room.

Seems like Yvette had intended to broadcast it live! Well, that's too bad because the protagonist of her little show has changed.

Once again, a small smile twitched Arielle's lips upwards. "Can I look at the previous rooms? I missed quite a few of them when I was upstairs earlier," she asked the housekeeper.

"Of course, once we finish looking at the other rooms. We'll go through them once again!" the housekeeper exclaimed.

"Thanks." Despite Arielle's grin, there wasn't a trace of humor present in her eyes.

Since Cindy and Yvette tried to play such lowly tricks on me, I'll give them a taste of their own medicine.

On the second floor, Yvette finally arrived at the room that Arielle was in earlier.

However, Yvette did not burst into the room right away. Instead, she waited until the screen at the hall had stopped playing

the surveillance footage within this room before she stepped in.

The room was empty, and not a single soul was in sight.

Slowly, Yvette surveyed the room carefully until her gaze fell on the candle that she placed.

She noted that it was still burning.

Nevertheless, she wasn't worried. After all, Matthias informed that the drug within the aromatherapy candle would diffuse after ten minutes. After fifteen minutes, it would vanish without a trace in the air.

It has been more than fifteen minutes since I lit the candle, so I'm safe.

After that, Yvette wandered toward the bed. Apparently, she couldn't seem to grasp an answer to the question. Why didn't Arielle fall under the drug's influence?! might as well call Mason and ask him about it.

Just as she was about to call him, Yvette heard a noise from the toilet. It sounded like someone was inside.

"Who's there?" Yvette frowned and called out.

The bathroom door swung open, and Yvette's eyes widened as round as saucers when she saw the man that stumbled out of the bathroom. *Jordan! Why is he here?* 

Immediately, Yvette felt a mixture of delight and shock. *Did Jordan regret breaking our engagement? Is that why he's here?* 

For a moment, Yvette couldn't believe her own eyes. She rubbed her hands over both her eyes to clear her vision before opening them again. Yet, the man standing before her was still Jordan.

Similarly, a look of delight and astonishment crossed Jordan's face when he saw her.

Standing right by the door, Mason had just awoken when he saw Yvette.

Just as he opened his mouth to ask Yvette what happened, Yvette hurried toward him excitedly, much to his surprise.

Throughout the past, Yvette had never



looked at him with such a tender and loving gaze. Her warm look caused him to seize up in shock.

Yvette then made her way toward Mason. "Why... are you here?" she asked him carefully.



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