

Our Billion 221

Chapter 221-Granny Atherton's wrinkled face finally showed a hint of joy. "Eddy is here? Hurry, get another pair of cutleries for him!" she ordered. "Right away," replied the maid with a smile. Seconds later, Edwin could be seen walking over from the hall. He was wearing a red vest and a pair of black trousers in contrasting colors. He was also carrying a large bag in his hand, and the corners of his mouth were habitually curved. "Did you miss me, Grandma?" "Not at all." The smile from the corner of her eyes gradually spread across her face in a smile.

Edwin's expression morphed into one of hurt as he exaggeratedly shouted, "Hey, it seems that I'm not welcome at all. Oh, well, I'll just leave the gift here and go.

Sorry for being annoying!" Granny Atherton glanced at him. "Oh, grow up, won't you! Still so childish." Edwin smiled as he handed all the gifts in his hand to the housekeeper.

The housekeeper glanced at the contents in the box and said to Granny Atherton, "Madam, look! Master Edwin has given you so many high-end supplements.

You're not even done with the previous ones!" "You brought so many supplements. It's such a waste to not finish them," said Granny Atherton to Edwin.

He stretched lazily and moved his wrists. "Anyway, most of these were given to me by other business partners. It's the least I could do to give them to you." "Hey, Edwin. Please take a seat," said Lola. She looked restrained upon his arrival, and she immediately lost her calm.

No matter how much Lola tried to please Granny Atherton, she would never speak to her with such a tone.

Edwin saw Lola and said, "Tsk! Even Lola is here now. How are things with your sister and Jamie?" Lola's heart sank, and she took a glimpse at Granny Atherton subconsciously.

Back when the old lady was a young woman, something had happened between her and the head of the Mason family, which caused her to despise the Masons until this very day.

Despite this, she did not prevent people from the Athertons from interacting with the Masons. After all, their business circle was very vast in Sapphire City, and she had already passed on her authority to the new generation. Still, not many people had dared to mention the Masons to her.

“My sister didn’t really want it, but Jamie had accidentally impregnated her. She couldn’t have an abortion due to her thin uterus, so she have no choice but to accept Jamie...” explained Lola.

Granny Atherton’s face softened a little. “No wonder Louella hasn’t come to see me much recently. She’s pregnant?” “Uh-huh,” “Give her some supplements for me when you leave later on.” Granny Atherton took a sip of tea lazily, not wanting to hear anything more about the Masons. She quickly changed the subject, saying, “So, you were saying?” Lola hurriedly replied, “Grandma, there is a very outstanding designer in this competition, but the manuscript she brought for the competition has been proven to be plagiarized.” “Plagiarism?” The old lady showed a deep disgust on her face. “This is unacceptable!” “Grandma, calm down.” Lola lightly patted Granny Atherton’s back as she tried to comfort her, “I’ve already disqualified her from the competition, and it won’t affect the reputation of Chandier Jewelry.” Edwin shot Lola a dark stare. “The plagiarist you’re talking about is Catelyn, right?” he sneered. “You know that, too?” Lola deliberately misinterpreted his meaning and winked at him.

Edwin sat on the chair and folded his legs gracefully. “Whatever you told Grandma wasn’t the same as what I’ve heard.” “Edwin, you’re not in charge of this competition, so you may not understand the situation at hand. The design that Catelyn handed in was indeed plagiarized. If you don’t believe it, you can ask Kelly about it,” said Lola.

Chapter 222-Lola was undaunted by Edwin’s remark and was, instead, filled with self-reassurance.

She had followed the correct procedure to disqualify Catelyn, and Edwin would never notice the flaw in this.

Edwin sneered, “The plagiarized person was a Mason, and her name is Queenie, who had shamelessly tried to seduce me before. Just because of this, if Catelyn did indeed plagiarize, Queenie deserved it.” Granny Atherton’s eyebrows jumped as she heard his statement.

Meanwhile, Cedrick drove Catelyn back to Ocean Path Residence.

This man had helped buy her hygiene products and, in turn, was photographed by a female convenience store employee who posted it all online. Catelyn could not help but feel embarrassed by this situation.

There was a strange feeling in her heart. After all, she had thought the items were delivered under Cedrick's order. Meanwhile, Cedrick's face looked rather grim.

Looking at the rear mirror of the car, he noticed Catelyn was peeping at him from time to time. When Catelyn did it again, Cedrick quickly turned his head to her.

"What are you looking at?" "W-What? I didn't do anything!" Cedrick tapped the steering wheel with his index finger. "I have surveillance cameras in my car. Do you want to take a look?" "I was just thinking about those hygiene products last night! Did you...really buy them yourself?" asked Catelyn.

Embarrassment flashed across Cedrick's face. His hand that gripped the steering wheel shook involuntarily, and the car nearly slipped.

Suddenly... Thomp!

Something slammed against the car's rear, causing the entire car to shake violently, and the inertia caused Catelyn's entire body to fall forward.

The seat belt stretched over her shoulders, creating a faint bruise. Catelyn covered her shoulder with one hand and cursed her bad luck. However, she did not expect Cedrick to be in worse shape than her. During the impact, he was a little absent-minded. As the car behind rear-ended them, and because of his height, his forehead hit the sharp corner of the pendant in the car, tearing through his skin.

Blood trickled down his face.

"Oh my god, you're bleeding!" shrieked Catelyn as she hurriedly took out a piece of wet wipes. "Keep your head down, let me see if the wound is serious. I'll wipe the blood off for you." The faint smell of blood filled the air. Cedrick reached out and touched his forehead, instantly feeling the moist blood on it.

"The driver was too careless. I'm bleeding now..." Catelyn could not help worrying. "Should I turn around and go to the hospital for a bandage?" "Don't go," droned Cedrick "Wait here. There is a pharmacy opposite us, so I'll go buy some medicine." Catelyn shifted, intending to get out of the car when a warm hand grabbed her wrist. She quickly turned her head and met Cedrick's narrow gaze and smile. "Are you that worried about me?" he teased.

"You were injured while we're on the road, just to send me home. I can't bear it.

I'd do the same for anyone else, so hurry up and let go of my hand!" "Is it so hard to get you to say something sweet?" Cedrick suddenly ducked and bit Catelyn's finger.

It felt like there was a surge of electric current on the spot on her finger where the tip of his tongue had crossed. Flustered, Catelyn hurriedly retracted her hand.

Chapter 223-Their relationship had just started last night, yet Cedrick was already holding her hand!

Was her hand made of gold or something? Why was he holding it so tightly?

Cedrick's car was driven from the company. Although it was just a simple Bently model, it was still a very valuable car.

Because it was a luxury vehicle worth millions, the driver that rear-ended the Bently would naturally feel panic. She thus quickly stepped out of the car to check the damage.

She was a coquettish-looking woman. With a face that seemed to be heavily powdered with blush, she had long legs and was wearing fashionable clothes.

"Hey, handsome! I'm so sorry... I was on the phone just now, and I accidentally hit your car!" spoke the woman, who was apparently an internet celebrity girl. She bent by the car window while speaking to Cedrick.

With one hand pressed against the wound, Cedrick took out a business card from his pocket with the other hand and handed it to the woman. "Call this number. My lawyer will handle it." Cedrick proceeded to wind the car window back up, leaving the woman stunned.

"Sir, wait a minute!" She hurriedly stopped Cedrick from closing the window, maintaining a smile with a coquettish look at the end of her eyes. "Well, the thing is, I'm an internet celebrity with millions of fans. If the public hears about this, it'll affect me negatively. Do you think we can keep this private?" Cedrick glanced at Catelyn in the passenger seat and said calmly, "How private would you want this to be?" "You can be as private as you want," said the woman.

"Just so you know, this passenger with me in my car is my girlfriend," said Cedrick, the smile on the corner of his mouth suddenly deepening. He turned to Catelyn and said to her slowly, "Someone wants to take advantage of me. What will you do?" Catelyn was rendered speechless at this remark, while the influencer's face froze as she heard Cedrick's words.

Catelyn paused for a while before she then decided to cooperate with Cedrick's actions. She deliberately put on a stern expression and said to the woman with a serious tone, "I'm sorry, miss. It doesn't matter who you are, but you should obey the traffic rules. The damage to the car is a trivial matter, but you've injured my boyfriend." The woman's lips contorted into a tight frown. "Fine. I'll contact this lawyer and bring this into discussion." "Bye, bye! Try not to use your phone while driving next time," said Catelyn as she waved to the woman with her head tilted.

Did she just...say she was Cedrick's girlfriend? That was easier than she thought.

Cedrick drove away steadily, and a while later, they arrived at Ocean Path Residence. Watching Catelyn leave, Cedrick's warm eyes suddenly turned cold.

He took out his phone and dialed Charles Peterson's number.

He wanted him to remove the news immediately.

The photo of him buying sanitary products had made the headlines! What were the people in the PR department doing?!

Feeling the warmth of finally returning home, Catelyn pushed the door open and went inside her house. In the living room, Stella was sitting on the sofa, watching the television with Ollie. "At Sapphire City's Chandier Jewelry Company, the list of the semi-finalists has been announced, and the new round of competition is about to start. The winner will receive a big cash prize and the Chandier Jewelry Designer title. Annual salary is also guaranteed..." The channel happened to be broadcasting the news at Chandier Jewelry. Stella knew that Catelyn had lost in the competition, so she quickly switched to a different channel. Alas, Catelyn had already seen the news. During this period, Jamie had been pestering her for custody of Miles, and she had no time to be involved with other matters.

Nonetheless, being eliminated from the competition rid her of an opportunity to defend herself.

Chapter 224-It seemed that Catelyn had only reached the preliminary stage of the competition. Of course, she must not be idle; she had to clean up the plagiarism scandal, one way or another. However, she did not expect that things would take a strange turn. As soon as Catelyn came out of the shower, she received a call from Kelly Preston. She told Catelyn that after a series of careful considerations by the company's top management, they decided to give her another chance.

To be more precise, it was another challenge. Catelyn was asked to complete five design drafts within a week and hand them to Chandier Jewelry without any charges. If her work was excellent, she would be given the opportunity to be the finalist in the competition. Otherwise, she would be removed from the jewelry designing circle of Sapphire City, never to be hired again.

It was clear that Kelly did not even care about Catelyn before this. What, then, was with the sudden change of attitude? Such a question baffled Catelyn.

After listening to the whole story, Stella curled her lips and said, "I think Chandier is trying to get some free labor! She asked you to design five drafts. According to the market price, the cheapest one will cost several thousand, not to mention that when coming from you, it'll cost even more!" Catelyn did not answer.

"Perhaps the company executives find out that Queenie is a fake and that you're the original creator after all?" continued Stella.

Catelyn thought about it and decided to accept the challenge. "Whatever it is, this is an opportunity for me." Stella, nonetheless, was worried. "Think about it. If they're not satisfied with your design, you'll be kicked out of the designers' community!" "Grandma, you need to have confidence in Mommy. I believe in her. Come on!" insisted Ollie, his arms pressed to his chest as he cheered for his mother. Catelyn rubbed Ollie's fluffy hair. "I'll work hard for this," she assured him.

Ollie raised his head and hugged her thighs, acting like a spoiled child. "Mommy is the best!" Catelyn could not help but laugh at Ollie's words. At that moment, she suddenly thought of Miles, kept far away from her in Mason Estate, and her amber pupils darkened. She wanted to see Miles as soon as possible. Miles was a stubborn boy, after all, and Catelyn hoped he was holding up just fine.

Catelyn had asked Cedrick to take her to the Mason Estate, and he promised to have it done.

Sure enough, Cedrick had sent a car for her the very next day.

Catelyn cooked in advance, making some biscuits and puffs that were Miles' favorite snacks before packing the food in a beautiful lunch box. She trembled with excitement at the thought of finally seeing Miles again.

He had very strong taste buds, and Catelyn had a feeling that he might not have enjoyed the food in the Mason Estate as much.

She missed him terribly.

Meanwhile, in the Mason Estate, Miles' teacher had arranged a math lesson for him in the afternoon.

He moved the desk to the balcony. With a small umbrella over his head, he sat lazily on the rocking chair with a book in one hand and a pen in the other. The math problems were not a challenge, of course, and Miles quickly solved them all.

How boring. Why did Catelyn not come to pick him up yet? Suddenly, the sound of a car engine was heard coming from downstairs. Miles turned and took a glance, and the moment he saw the woman who got out of the car, his dull eyes lit up in an instant.

Chapter 225-It was Catelyn's first time at the Mason Estate.

Back then when she came to visit Ollie, she had only sat outside for a moment and left immediately. She did not have the intention to stay at the time, let alone pay attention to the details of the place. The

house had a luxurious European-style decoration with red walls and bricks, looking very sentimental. The landscape garden was filled with different kinds of plants, and the amount of greenery here was just astounding. "Aunt Catelyn!" Before Albert could even finish his words, a small figure suddenly appeared in front of him. Miles' short legs rapidly stomped the ground as he raced toward Catelyn. He instantly clung to her legs the second he got to her as if afraid she would run away. He raised his little face and jumped happily. "Oh, Aunt Catelyn, you're finally here! I miss you so much! Do you miss me?" Catelyn was equally excited to see him. She picked him up and kissed his tender little cheek. "Are you here to take me home?" Miles blinked hopefully.

Catelyn immediately made a silent gesture to him. She looked around as she lowered her voice. Luckily, Albert did not get too close to them, and he probably did not hear what Miles just said.

She whispered to Miles, "Don't forget what I said to you on the phone. You should treat me as your employee, and don't mention anything else about me taking you home. Do you understand?" The light of hope in Miles' eyes gradually dissipated, and he pursed his lips. "How long do I have to pretend?" "Shh!" Catelyn pressed her mouth with her fingers, seeing Albert was just standing nearby. "I promise to take you home as soon as possible. Will you be good?" Miles looked at Catelyn, his eyes gleaming as he did. "I've always been good," he remarked. "I brought you some biscuits and puffs," said Catelyn. "Do you want to eat them?" "Alright," mumbled Miles, visibly sulking.

Cedrick returned to the Mason Estate after finishing some business. The moment he entered, however, a burst of laughter from a distance greeted him. It seemed to have come from the living room.

There, Miles had taken off his shoes and sat on the sofa, cross-legged, with a storybook on his lap.

Catelyn, on the other hand, was sitting next to him, feeding him her freshly baked biscuits while telling him stories in a soft tone.

"This story tells us that children aren't supposed to tell lies. They must be honest." Miles chewed the biscuits in his mouth and muttered, "So it's wrong to lie." "Well..." Catelyn stopped and thought for a moment.

Did she not teach him to lie and deceive Cedrick? The irony.

Catelyn appeared to be a little uncomfortable. Her tone got softer as she added, "Well, under certain circumstances, to protect yourself, it's okay to tell a white lie every once in a while." Miles rolled on the sofa. "Like what we're doing now?" Catelyn coughed lightly and praised, "Smart boy." The warm and soft female voice of Catelyn was like a small feather brushing on Miles' heart. At this moment, Cedrick strode into the living room. Miles immediately got up from the sofa and stood in front of Catelyn, spreading out his arms and legs as if he was a hen protecting her chicks. Catelyn was baffled. "What are you doing?" "Big Demon said he wanted you to be my stepmother, but I don't want it! I'm not going to let him take advantage of you!" At that very moment, Catelyn felt something stinging inside her, as though something had pierced her heart.

Chapter 226-Catelyn subconsciously turned to look at Cedrick. He had spoken to his son about...making her his son's stepmother?

Cedrick's eyebrows pulsed frantically for a while. He watched as Catelyn's expression looked too complex to comprehend. He did not explain anything but went straight to the living room.

There was a leather sofa in the living room, placed in an L shape.

Catelyn and Miles sat on the horizontal end of it, while Cedrick settled on the vertical end. He sat and crossed his legs elegantly and said to Miles, "Your grandmother missed you and has sent people to relay the message a few times.

Pack your stuff; I'll send you over in a bit." Janice was Ollie's grandaunt, to be exact, but she had no descendants. Ollie had always addressed her as 'granny'.

Miles, however, had no clue who Janice and this granny' were.

He had never met Janice before, after all. "I will go after Aunt Catelyn leaves." Miles looked toward Cedrick apprehensively. It was a baby beast's instinct to protect its mother, and he did not like the way Big Demon looked at his mother like prey.

"I was merely informing you, not discussing it with you." Cedrick was cold and unapproachable as ever.

Catelyn finally had an opportunity to spend some time with Miles, and she was reluctant to let Miles leave, too. She subconsciously hugged Miles tighter and looked to Cedrick as if pleading with her eyes. "Can we wait a while more?" Seeing both his son and Catelyn in the same stance made Cedrick feel rather... strange. It was not frustration, nor was it fluster. It felt...uncomfortable, in a way.

He was sitting just nearby, and she was his girlfriend. She asked him to show her around the house, but ever since she came to the Mason Estate, she did not seem to care much about him. As for his son, it was almost the same case, as though the world was left with only the two of them.

He felt like an outsider.

Cedrick cursed to himself. He could not believe that he was having such childish thoughts!

Catelyn noticed that Cedrick fell silent, and his face was grim. It was obvious he was not listening to her.

She said softly to Miles, "I'm a little thirsty, and there's no more water in the jug.

Could you help me get some from the kitchen?" Miles knew that Catelyn was just making an excuse for him to leave.

He was initially unwilling to leave Catelyn alone with Cedrick, but he knew that there would be a few days in a month that Catelyn would be physically weaker and paler. He figured that this had to be one of those days. He threw a side glance at Cedrick defensively, then disappeared into the kitchen. What an adorable boy. Catelyn wanted to cherish every second she had with him. Catelyn took a deep breath and sat closer to Cedrick, now just a few inches from him. She reached her hand out and grabbed the hem of his shirt, gently saying, "I really love Ollie. Could you give me more time to spend with him, please?" Catelyn did not dare annoy him anymore. After all, if she wanted to see her son, she needed his approval, or she would not be able to even step foot into Mason Estate.

She would keep him happy if she needed to. Cedrick turned to look at her and locked eyes with her bright ones. Her eyes were shimmering, silently pleading Every word of hers pierced right through his heart. He felt his heart itching, as though someone was scratching it. "What can I get if I allocate more of his time to you?"

Chapter 227-The sudden change of topic caught Catelyn by surprise.

She was quiet for a brief moment before saying, "You suggested that I become his stepmother. Naturally, I'd want to foster some kind of relationship. If you send Ollie to his grandmother's, we might not be as close with each other in the future." "I can see that you already have a good relationship with him." Better than that with his own father.

Cedrick looked at her pensively, then said, "Stay over tonight." Tonight?

Catelyn's eyes widened as her cheeks grew pinkish. "I'm on my period..." Cedrick's expression stiffened. "I was only suggesting that you keep my son company. What do you think I was implying? You thought I wanted to sleep with you?" "... " Catelyn's face was as red as an apple at this point.

Panicking, she tried to excuse herself by saying she wanted to check on his son.

However, Cedrick pulled her back as soon as she stood up, and she, losing her balance, tumbled into Cedrick's chest, her forehead accidentally knocking on his neck. Her heart was racing as they looked at each other in silence. There was an indescribable sexual tension between them.

Catelyn was worried that Miles would be back any minute and quickly stood up, but Cedrick held her in place on his lap. "Cedrick, your son could be back any time soon," reasoned an embarrassed Catelyn.

"What are you afraid of? He's quite mature, isn't he?" Cedrick cuddled Catelyn casually, his tone flirtatious as he added, "You were looking at him so affectionately all the time. Do you really want to be his stepmother?" Catelyn was still panicking, but she could not push him away. She stared at him.

"Are you suggesting that the way I look at you is ruthless?" It was supposed to sound hostile, but with her misty eyes, it pretty much sounded like a flirt to Cedrick. She was so close to him that he could feel the temperature in his palms rising, and his heartbeat raced off-beat.

Catelyn felt annoyed to be mocked. Was he not wo to be mocked. Was he not worried that his son would see them in such a compromising state?

She pulled his arm over and took a big bite.

This was payback for his unconsented cuddle, his presumptuousness, and for calling his son 'mature'! His son was obviously influenced by him! Ollie was so endearing, but he was raised to be a quiet little boy who would not share his thoughts with other people.

Heck, Cedrick even told him that his mother was dead when she was very much alive!

Catelyn's initial intention was to get off Cedrick's cuddle, but she suddenly snapped when she imagined Ollie bumping into them, so she took one big bite into his arm. She even subconsciously exerted a little more force than necessary.

Cedrick felt acute pain shooting up from his arm but did not pull away from Catelyn. He clenched his fingers into his fist, and his biceps flexed. Catelyn's facial muscles were sore from the biting. "Does my arm taste good?" he asked casually, much to Catelyn's chagrin as she blushed. She flung his arm away and was even more enraged. "It's salty and hard. There's no taste to it. Heck, even roadside skewers would taste better than this!" "I have something else for you to eat. Do you want it?" Cedrick was still nonchalant, but Catelyn understood the underlying meaning of it. This jerk was teasing her!

Miles was back, but he could sense the tension in the air. Cedrick was looking at his mother like a predator, as though he was planning to eat her whenever he had the chance.

Miles stretched his neck and shouted, "Aunt Catelyn, I want to eat cake!" Catelyn was worried that he would get cavities in his teeth, so she rarely bought cakes for him. She would usually bake cakes for him with lower sugar content instead. "You should cut down on your dessert intake." Cedrick was starting to feel the boy was getting in his way a little too often.

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Chapter 228-He was blabbering the whole morning.

Miles humphed because he actually wanted Cedrick to dislike him.

He shook his little head adorably at Catelyn. He had not cried or thrown a tantrum; instead, he simply looked really innocent and sad about it. His big eyes blinked pitifully as he said, "The store-bought cakes are not as tasty as the ones you make. Plus, I only had one small piece the other day... Aunt Catelyn, please..." He was calling Catelyn repeatedly. It hit Catelyn's soft spot, and she found it hard to turn him down.

She would not stop at just a cake. She would pluck the stars from the sky if he wanted them.

"How about we bake some cakes in the afternoon?" "Yayy!" Miles happily spun around, not forgetting to throw a victorious look at Cedrick. "Aunt Catelyn is going to bake a cake for me. Aunt Catelyn is so kind, so pretty, and so talented..." Cedrick snickered, "What a sweet talker." "Hmph!" "Watch your mouth." "Hmph hmph hmph!" Miles was not scared. After all, the worse he could do to him was to ground him. Cedrick's veins on his forehead bulged. With the top three buttons on his shirt loose, his icy cold prominent facial features were lit under the warm chandelier light, creating a tense atmosphere.

Catelyn initially wanted to ignore Cedrick. However, seeing the two were about to start a fight, she had to step in. "You are a CEO. Don't pick a fight with a kid.

Aren't you afraid of lowering yourself to that level?" Cedrick took a side glance at her and asked, "Why do I have a feeling that you are not here to see me but to see Ollie?" She was always siding with this little brat.

Catelyn's initial intention was indeed to visit her son. She said, "I just don't want to see the both of you getting into a fight and wasting our quality time together." Miles suddenly grimaced and said, "Childish." Cedrick almost gave him a death stare. Miles's tiny face puffed, creating a sharp contrast with Cedrick's expressionless face. The atmosphere was so tense that Catelyn pulled the little one behind her. She wondered if Cedrick was really pissed. Was this how they usually interacted? That was scary!

"He is barely four years old, and he is your son. Just take this as a good time to teach him a life lesson, give him a break..." Cedrick adjusted his collar and said coldly, "You're such a peacemaker." "So... We will need some flour, butter, eggs, and other ingredients. Are there more in the kitchen?" Catelyn tried to redirect the conversation. Cedrick never cared about these things. Albert came by, failing to hide the grin on his face. He said respectfully, "We have other ingredients, but I'm afraid we don't have enough flour." Catelyn was troubled as she could not remember if there were any stores nearby... Miles volunteered and said, "Aunt Catelyn, let's go buy some flour!" Big Demon would definitely not join them to run errands.

Then they would have the opportunity to run away!

“There’s a mall a stone’s throw away, I’ll drive you there.” Unexpectedly, Cedrick continued the conversation so smoothly.

Miles was caught off guard. Has the Big Demon changed? He probably would not even know how to get into a mall, right?

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Chapter 229-Maybe because it was the weekend, the mall was crowded and noisy in the afternoon. Cedrick parked at the entrance and frowned slightly as he observed the crowd hustling around. Miles pushed the car door open, hopped onto the ground, and carefully led Catelyn out of the car.

Cedrick watched him scornfully.

Why hasn’t he realized that he was such a flatterer before this? Catelyn saw that Cedrick had no intentions of getting out of the car and shopping with them.

Perhaps it was because he was unhappy with the previous incident where they got photographed together by the paparazzi at the convenience store. She then said, “There are too many people at the mall. Just wait for us here. We will be right back.” Cedrick’s frown remained, and he said nothing. The mother-son duo had not been to the mall together in a very long time.

The boy dragged Catelyn into the mall. He could finally have some alone time with Catelyn without Cedrick. He was happily chattering away, and his tiny face was adorably naive.

Catelyn pushed the cart in one hand and stopped by the dairy section. “You pick out a box of cream cheese here. I will be right back after getting a bag of flour.” “I promise to accomplish the mission!” Miles raised his right hand high and bowed to Catelyn dramatically.

Catelyn giggled in amusement.

The mall was a sophisticated mall with a grand layout near the high-end residential area. The goods were also mostly imported premium ones. Catelyn took a two-kilogram bag of flour and tossed it in the cart, about to make her way back to Miles. Suddenly there was a furry husky scurrying through the gap between her feet.

The husky dashed around recklessly, pushing Catelyn's cart two feet away from her.

"Woof!" Catelyn was worried that her cart would crash into someone and hurried to catch her cart. "Bailey." A pair of high heels clicked against the hard floor, followed by a woman's voice calling the dog's name.

The husky heard the command, turned around, and ran back to its owner.

Catelyn held the cart in one hand and then looked to the source of the voice. The woman wore a dress, and a silk scarf was on her shoulders. She walked down the aisle with disdain on her face.

It was Maia.

Maia stopped before the husky and rubbed its fluffy head.

"Good boy, good job." Catelyn saw Maia, but she was not too interested in entertaining her. She wanted to walk past Maia, but Maia, holding the dog leash, blocked her way by reaching her hand out.

"Catelyn, you must be delighted, aren't you? You are now high and mighty and get people to help you to buy tampons in the middle of the night. I have never met someone as shameless as you! Not only did you snatch someone else's fiancé, but you are so upfront about it as if you were right all along. Where is your self-respect?" Maia was squinting her eyes. Her expressions and words were full of loathing. Catelyn took a brief glance at the fierce husky. "Ah, I see what it means by a pet's behavior is a reflection of its owner's." Maia stared at her aggressively. If the mall were not as crowded as it was, she would have slapped Catelyn across the face. "Well, you can't even be compared to my dog! At least it knows who is in charge! You carry my family's surname while enjoying my family's reputation but snatched my fiancé!" Catelyn looked at Maia's ferocious expressions and smiled lightly.

“When my father declared bankruptcy, the ones who laughed the loudest were apparently the Clarks. Miss Clark, you pretend to be sweet and empathetic in front of Miss Coleman. Did she know that you are in fact such a cunning and aggressive person?” Her tone was monotonous and emotionless, as if talking about the weather, which made what she said even more infuriating!

Chapter 230-0 Maia was so annoyed that her eyes were bulging with blood vessels.

The corners of Catelyn’s lips curved up as she said, unbothered, “Right, a week ago, I saw a couple walking into the International Grand Hotel... Hmm, the woman resembled you so much.

Maia snapped defensively, “What are you talking about? I had never been to the International Grand Hotel! How dare you make false accusations!” “Looks like I have recognized the wrong person then. She looked so much like you, and I even took a photo of her. Do you want to have a look?” Maia’s pupils constricted in fear.

Her poised appearance could no longer remain composed. Catelyn watched her reaction and smiled lightly, then patted her shoulders. “Anyone can humiliate me, except you, because you don’t qualify to.” Then, she did not even leave room for rebuttal, turned and pushed her cart, and was about to leave the scene.

However, as soon as she looked up, she froze.

Cedrick had entered the mall and stood right behind the rack near them.

Step by step, he walked toward them with one hand in his pocket. He casually made his way through as though he was taking a stroll. His pair of sharp eyes looked ruthless and were eyeing Maia like a hawk. Maia saw Catelyn stopping after taking just a few steps and turned to take a peek out of curiosity. She was instantly petrified. “Ced... Cedrick, why are you here?” Cedrick walked to Catelyn emotionlessly and took the cart over naturally. “What took you so long to get a bag of flour? Let’s go. We will see what else we need.” He did not even look at Maia.

Maia’s face was pale, and she wondered how much of the conversation he had heard. “Cedrick, it was not like what you think. I had a small conflict with Cat, and I did not mean what I said.” She tried to save the situation by explaining, but the more she tried to, the messier it sounded.

Catelyn saw clearly that Cedrick's eyes were emotionless and cold when he shifted his gaze onto Maia. It was hard to read whether he was angry or not.

Maia's heart wrenched, her scalp was numb, and she was shivering. She felt guilty seeing his reaction.

Just when she could no longer hold it in, Cedrick suddenly paused and said, "We'll be speaking during the meeting tomorrow morning. Don't be late." The cart was taken over by Cedrick, and Catelyn stood idly next to him. She secretly observed his facial expressions... It did not look like he was suppressing his anger. Maybe he did not even care what she said.

That was great. Since she had already run into enough trouble, she did not want to get involved between the two of them anymore. "Don't you hate the crowd in the mall? Why are you here?" Catelyn smiled and asked. Cedrick's face looked extra grim under the blinding lights of the mall. "Here to remind you to get a few things." "Which ones?" Cedrick did not reply but answered her through his actions.

He brought her to the toiletries section.

Rows of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and personal care, lined up on the racks.

Catelyn understood it instantly.

She promised to stay over at the Mason Estate tonight, and since there was no mistress in the Estate, there were naturally no toiletries for one.