

Pampered 161

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Lately, Tina couldn't sleep well. She woke up all of a sudden in the middle of the night. The bedside light was turned on, and Samuel was nowhere to be found.

Having sweated so much, Tina decided to go out and get some fresh air. She walked to the courtyard, and saw a group of servants walking in her direction. As she didn't want to cause trouble for anyone, she subconsciously decided to avoid them. At the same time, the servants' conversation and laughter drifted into her ear. "How many Mrs. Langfords are there in this place? I thought Mr. Langford is in love with Miss Young. Why did he bring Miss Lynd home in such a high-profile manner?" "I guess you have no idea what's going on. Miss Lynd is a seductress! She charmed Madam Langford with her words. She ended up securing an opportunity and got married to Mr. Langford."

"Tsk, tsk! What a manipulative and vile woman!"

Tina could care less about the spiteful comments directed at her. Just as she was about to leave, she heard the servants chatting about something else.

"By the way, I just saw Mr. Jackson. Is he seriously going to kneel in the courtyard all night? I heard he just went through a surgery after getting involved in a car accident. Lord Jackson sure is cruel!"

"There are no other choices left. If Lord Jackson doesn't do this, Mr. Jackson will face even worse consequences!"

"That's right. He did offend Mr. Langford, so this is the consequence he has to face. Mr. Langford isn't to be trifled with. Everyone knows he's the cold-blooded and ruthless Tyrant of Freesia."

Based on their conversation, it was obvious that the servants respected and feared Samuel at the same time.

Soon, they left the courtyard. However, Tina was left rooted on the spot. What exactly did she just hear...?

To think Mr. Jackson was kneeling in the courtyard...

Thinking that she might be hearing the conversation wrongly, Tina couldn't stop herself from running in the direction of where the servants came from.

Just as she predicted, she noticed a familiar silhouette kneeling in the courtyard.

That silhouette was none other than Frederick Jackson.

He was stunned when he spotted Tina standing in the corridor.

"What are you doing here?" he asked. Immediately after that, a bitter smile graced his face.

Tina was Samuel's woman, after all. How could she not be here? "Why did Samuel make you kneel here? Is it because of me?" Tina asked, staring at Frederick's arm, which was still in a cast. His complexion was slightly pale, too. "This won't do! I'll go find Samuel right now. You shouldn't be kneeling like this since you haven't recovered from your injuries!"

Tina was about to turn around and leave, when Frederick called out to her.

“Wait!”

Frederick continued helplessly, “You’re Mr. Langford’s woman right now. I’ve already offended him in the past by trying to court you. This time, I knew about your relationship with him, and yet I insisted on hiring you as my housekeeper. The fact Samuel didn’t make me pay the price with my life is already a blessing for me. If you plead for my sake, I might lose my life for real!”

Tina’s face grew even paler. Her weak and thin frame started swaying slightly, as if she was about to collapse.

After all, Frederick ended up getting injured badly to save her. That day, she was unable to take care of him in the hospital. However, she didn’t expect that she would be the cause behind his punishment

When Frederick noticed the sorrowful expression on Tina’s face, he couldn’t help but say, “It’s just kneeling for one night. This is a piece of cake for me! Thanks to my father, I’ve grown strong enough to handle stuff like this. He used to beat me up a lot when I was a kid. You should hurry up and return to your room. It’s a chilly night. Not to mention, you’re feeble and thin as well. If you’re not careful, you might end up catching a cold.”

Frederick might have sounded nonchalant, but Tina wasn’t reassured at all. “I’m not leaving. At least, let me keep you company. Maybe it can help ease the guilt in my heart,” she said firmly.

At that moment, lightning streaked across the dark sky. It looked like it was about to rain. When Frederick realized that Tina was about to stand in the rain with him, he quickly said, “Alright, I yield. Samuel didn’t post any guards here to watch over me anyway, so I’ll stop kneeling now. Can you help me to the corridor so that I can get some rest?” “Okay.”

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Since Frederick had spent a long time kneeling, his legs had grown incredibly numb. He could only limp at the moment, so he ended up shifting half of his weight on Tina’s frame. Tina propped him the best she could, feeling slightly strained from his weight. Just as they reached the corridor, it started raining cats and dogs behind them. The sight of the duo looking so ragged made Frederick want to tease Tina again.

“Look at us. Don’t we look like we’re cheating on Samuel behind his back? Then again, since Samuel has already misunderstood you, why don’t you agree to being my lover? Think of it as you making amends to me...”

Before Frederick could finish his sentence, Tina released him immediately. He was in the midst of lowering himself to the floor slowly, so he ended up crashing onto the floor and let out a pained yelp. “Are you trying to murder me?!” “Stop cracking jokes like that!”

Tina was angry at Frederick, but at the same time, she deemed it inappropriate to leave him sitting there.

"I pissed Samuel off this time. That's why he released his anger on you by punishing you. Previously, you've saved my life, so I don't mind serving you, but please don't ever say things like this in the future. I'll never agree to becoming your girlfriend."

Frederick could only shrink away from Tina, his expression all scrunched up in sadness.

"Do you really hate me this much? You're not even Samuel's wife. If you refuse to become my lover now, I can wait till you guys get divorced..."

"This has nothing to do with my hatred for you! It's impossible for us to be together! Even when I'm divorced, I'll never be with you!" Tina replied firmly.

Her immense dislike for Frederick was one thing. The point was, she was now pregnant with a baby. Her dream was to raise her child on her own. That was enough for her.

She didn't want Frederick to waste his time on her.

On the other hand, the latter's heart felt as if someone had dumped ice cold water on it. It was rare for him to develop genuine feelings for a woman, and yet God decided to torture him.

Maybe it was due to him being a casanova in the past that the heavens deemed it necessary to deny him of his true happiness.

"Actually, I don't think you and Samuel will get a divorce..." After mulling over the thought, Frederick decided to come clean with Tina. "But I know you don't like Samuel. Rather than watching you getting tormented by him, I want to help you out. Just treat it as an act of goodwill from me. If you want to leave this place, I can take you with me."

Tina didn't think the same way. She knew Samuel would definitely terminate the marriage between them in the future. In fact, he must be itching to marry Cindy as soon as possible

However, she found herself græing to Frederick's offer

That night, Tina and Frederick sat in the corridor. When it was almost dawn, Tina hurried back to her room since she would be discovered by others if she continued hanging around the corridor. She snuck back to her room and avoided the servants the whole time, so as to not get discovered

Once she returned to her room, she couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief. Thankfully, she was safe and sound

However, Samuel's cold voice drifted from the room the moment she entered "Where the hell did you go this early, Tina?" he demanded icily.

Tina was scared out of her wits upon hearing the question. She never expected Samuel to appear in her room again.

His tall frame was seated on the couch near her. Clad in a suit, he looked like a regal ruler who was about to judge her with all the harshness in the world. "D-Didn't you leave?"

"I'm the one asking questions here." Samuel's eyes were incredibly sharp Tina's heart started beating wildly.

There was no way she would tell him the truth. If Samuel found out she had gone to see Frederick, the latter would definitely be in more danger.

“LL.” Samuel rose to his feet, and started drawing closer to Tina

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Samuel stopped right in front of Tina. The latter could feel his domineering hormones engulfing her.

Samuel grabbed her chin and narrowed his eyes threateningly at her. “Look me in the eye. Tell me. Did you do something unforgivable last night?” he demanded. Tina was speechless. Samuel’s tone made her feel like she did cheat on him behind his back. However, she knew both of them didn’t have feelings for each other. It was all just an act. With that thought in mind, she started calming down. She stared into Samuel’s eyes and replied defiantly, “Do I need to report to you wherever I go?” “You’re my wife now.”

“Since you referred to me as your wife, that means I’m also Mrs. Langford of the Langford family. Why do you feel the need to interrogate me? All I did was take a walk around the grounds. You make me sound like I’m a thief.”

The sight of Tina looking irritated dispelled the suspicions that had been bothering Samuel. She even mentioned her identity as Mrs. Langford. For some reason, he didn’t think she was disrespecting him. Instead, he found himself to be in a good mood after hearing Tina’s reply “Is that so?” he continued. “Where did you go?” “I don’t know. I’m unfamiliar with this place. I don’t want to get lost here and make Grandma worry about me, so I came back.”

Tina’s response was logical. Besides, she also mentioned Grandma Langford, so Samuel no longer questioned her. “Go freshen up and change out of your clothes. We’ll greet Grandma together later.”

“Huh?” Tina was surprised to hear the request. “I just changed into these clothes!”

Samuel had always been picky with people’s appearances. He scanned over Tina’s attire quickly and realized that she was wearing extremely shabby clothes.

In the past, he wouldn’t have minded her attire. Now, he thought it was painful to look at.

“I told the butler to send the most fashionable clothes of this season. Throw away the trashy clothes you’re wearing immediately.”

Tina was angry at his crude remarks, but she knew it wasn’t a good time to pick a fight with him. All she could do was roll her eyes in secret.

Trashy clothes... In a way, he was mocking her for being poor, wasn’t he? Samuel was definitely the trashiest b*stard out there! After successfully fooling Samuel into believing her, Tina was soon greeted by the butler and the pile of trendy clothes he was carrying. Unfortunately, most of these clothes were too form-fitting. Just the sight of someone wearing

them could make others feel cold for them. Since Tina was no longer the same woman as she was in the past, she picked out a few loose clothes and wore them without complaint.

A short while later, she exited the dressing room. Samuel happened to be waiting for her outside

He shot her a glance before frowning. "Why are you wearing these clothes?"

"Can't I wear them?" Tina asked,

Samuel didn't hesitate to strike back with poisonous words. He commented in a nitpicking manner, "Those who don't know you might think you're pregnant. You're clearly wearing maternity clothes. Change out of them right now!"

Tina's heart skipped a beat at that moment. What Samuel said was correct.

It was impossible for her to reveal her shock, so she replied in annoyance, "Didn't you ask the butler to send these clothes over? Yet here you are, nitpicking everything. If you don't like me this much, you're always welcome to get rid of me."

"You..."

Samuel was angry and helpless at the same time.

That woman still had a sharp tongue and a venomous tone. Her personality didn't change the slightest. Instead of arguing with her, Samuel kept silent and took her to visit Madam Langford.

The elderly woman happened to be enjoying the sunlight in the courtyard. She sat on her rocking chair and started rocking in a regular rhythm.

Tina started taking care of Madam Langford immediately by massaging her shoulders and back. Judging from her actions, she was very familiar with the art of massaging. Madam Langford's cheeks had a healthy sheen of red. She looked much better compared to her condition in the hospital, and Samuel happened to witness this.

He had to admit that Tina was good at brightening up Madam Langford's day. If she wasn't present during the elderly woman's final days, the latter's mental state wouldn't be as good as it was as of now.

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Madam Langford looked at Samuel, who was standing far away, before shifting her gaze to Tina, who sat next to her.

She whispered to Tina, "How was your sleep last night?" "It was all right," Tina replied.

"That's not what I meant. I was asking... How did both of you sleep last night?" Madam Langford rephrased her question.

Tina was confused by the question. "It was fine..."

Before she could finish her sentence, she suddenly realized the true meaning behind Madam Langford's question. Her face was instantly colored a brilliant shade of red.

"How was it?" the elderly woman pressed with a smile. "When will I receive good news from you two about my great-grandson?" Tina was stunned to hear the question. She instinctively thought of her womb, where a baby was being nurtured there.

Madam Langford continued, "Don't blame me for being anxious. I know I won't live for much longer. I just want to see both of you living happily ever after before I die."

"Grandma, please don't say such unpleasant things," Tina protested unhappily.

The elderly woman decided to go along with Tina. "Fine, I won't say anything like that. My dear granddaughter-in-law is mad at me for speaking like that, after all. I won't do that in the future."

The pair started talking about other things. However, Tina found it difficult to concentrate on the conversation.

The doctor did mention that Madam Langford only had half a year to live, which meant she didn't have much time left.

No matter how secretive the doctor was when it came to concealing the truth from his patient to avoid worsening her condition, Madam Langford must have sensed that she didn't have long to live.

Her final wish was not only to see Tina and Samuel getting married, but also to watch them form their own family and produce the next heir of the Langford family.

If Tina wasn't pregnant at all, then there was nothing she could do about that wish. She couldn't summon a baby out of nowhere, could she?

Unbeknownst to the old lady, there was a baby currently growing inside Tina. It was bad enough that Tina kept her pregnancy a secret from Samuel. Would she really be that heartless to conceal the news from Madam Langford for the rest of the latter's limited life?

Tina was still thinking about the dilemma even after leaving Madam Langford's courtyard.

After breakfast, she snuck a peek at Samuel, who was seated next to her. He was currently reading the documents that Sandy had sent over, already looking quite busy with work.

For some reason, he was able to sense Tina's gaze on him. He lifted his head and asked, "What's wrong?"

Tina was surprised by his sudden question. All she did was sneak a peek at him. How did he know that she was looking at him?

"I... I..." Tina started stammering. "I was just curious. Today's not a weekend, after all, Aren't you going to the company?" Samuel replied lightly, "I'll be staying in the manor during this period of time. It'll be considered as a form of vacation for me."

Tina could make out his hidden meaning. The reason he chose to stay in the manor was not because he wanted to spend time with her. He wanted to be there for Madam Langford during her last moments in life.

"Do you care about what Grandma thinks?" Tina asked again.

Samuel frowned instinctively before replying coldly, "Of course. Otherwise, why would I marry you?" When Tina heard his response, she choked on air for a moment. What he said made sense; if it wasn't for him being filial, he wouldn't have dumped Cindy and married a woman he hated,

That was why, if he ever found out that she was pregnant...

He would choose to keep the baby because of Madam Langford's wishes, right? After all, the elderly woman wanted nothing more than to welcome the birth of a Langford baby into this world.

Once Tina noticed that Samuel had returned to his documents, she quickly made up her mind. She didn't want Madam Langford to leave the world with any regrets. Besides, she also wanted to give birth to her baby.

Thus, she needed to let Samuel know about her pregnancy. Tina took a deep breath and said seriously, "Samuel, I'd like to tell you something."

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Samuel directed his razor-like gaze on Tina. He seemed slightly annoyed that she had chosen to interrupt him while he was working. However, Tina could care less about his feelings

She planned to tell him about what happened on that fateful night two months ago, the night that had led to her pregnancy.

"Do you still remember the night when you drank too much, and." Before Tina could finish, Sandy appeared at the doorway. He reported, "Mr. Langford, Miss Young is here."

Tina was surprised to hear that.

Miss Young? As in, Cindy?

"What's she doing here?" Samuel questioned with a displeased frown. "Didn't I tell her to stay at home?"

Sandy shot Tina a look before replying, "Miss Young wants to apologize to Miss Lynd properly. She even went all the way to the church and knelt there in order to obtain a blessed amulet. She hopes you'll accept it."

Tina couldn't help but let out a cold chuckle while glancing at the amulet in Sandy's hands.

"You call that a blessed amulet? Why does it look more like a deadly amulet to me?"

Cindy wanted nothing more than to kill Tina with her own hands. How could that woman give up on her goal so easily?

Moreover, she didn't bother apologizing to Tina until Tina was sent to live with the Langfords in their manor. Plus, Samuel happened to stay there for the time being. Even an idiot could see the motives Cindy harbored.

Samuel glanced at Tina's direction, noting her disdainful look. A light frown graced his face, seeing as he was also unhappy with Cindy's actions.

“Send her back, Sandy,” he ordered.

The aforementioned man looked slightly conflicted. “Miss Young has a weak constitution, so we don’t dare to force her to leave. Besides, she only wishes to meet up with Miss Lynd and apologize to her. Otherwise, she’ll continue kneeling there.”

“I will never meet up with her. She can kneel for as long as she wants.”

Tina took on a firm stance, refusing to budge. What if all of this was part of Cindy’s new plot to kill her again?

Samuel didn’t reply. He put down the documents, stood up, and headed outside in silence.

Strong gales graced the manor’s grounds. Cindy could be seen there, dressed in very little clothes. She looked as pitiful as a white flower being whipped around by the strong wind.

Her eyes lit up the moment she noticed Samuel coming out of the manor. Just as expected, he still cared about her.

“Samuel!” Cindy called out in a weak voice, putting on a pitiful act. “Why are you the only one here? Where’s Miss Lynd? Is she really not going to forgive me?” The sight of Samuel’s dark expression made Cindy turn on her waterworks.

“I know I’ve crossed the line, Samuel, but I have no choice! I don’t want to leave you at all! I love you so much, I’ve spent my days without you having nightmares... Her complexion was awfully pale. Her body started swaying as she cried, before she collapsed in Samuel’s direction. “Cindy? Cindy?!” Samuel’s expression changed drastically. The servant who followed Cindy here explained, “Mr. Langford, Miss Young has been sick for days. However, she was unable to stomach any medicine due to her overwhelming guilt. The doctor said her condition is worsening day by day, and her life might be in danger soon...” 1

Samuel felt Cindy’s forehead immediately. Much to his surprise, she was burning up. It was evident that she had a high fever.

With no time to waste, he scooped Cindy into his arms and ordered, “Sandy, get the car ready. We’re going to the hospital.” “Yes, sir,” Sandy replied.

Meanwhile, Tina sat on the couch for a very long time. She had been waiting for Samuel’s return, albeit impatiently. Finally, she grabbed a nearby servant and asked, “Where’s Mr. Langford? Why isn’t he back yet?” “Mr. Langford? He left with Miss Young,” the servant replied. Tina was stunned to hear the news. She asked right away, “What? Why didn’t he tell me anything?”

When the servant heard Tina, she couldn’t help but laugh. “Don’t you know how close Mr. Langford and Miss Young are, Miss Lynd? Must he report everything to you? You’re a strange one, aren’t you?” the servant jeered.

Even though Tina may be the official Mrs. Langford of the Langford family, all the servants knew who the real mistress of the family should be. That was the reason why none of them showed Tina any respect.

Tina's heart sank to the bottom of her stomach pit.

She could hear many servants conversing among themselves outside. They described how weak Cindy's body was, and how anxious Samuel had looked when he saw her collapsing. It was clear that the two were a match made in heaven. Yet Tina had forcibly separated them, turning them into star-crossed lovers who could never be together.

Tina had just reached her room when she received a phone call from an unknown number,

The moment the call went through, she heard a familiar voice drifting from the speaker.

"Samuel..." Cindy's voice was extremely weak. "I've done so many hurtful things to you. Not only that, but I also lied to you. Please, just let me die..."

Samuel interrupted her words immediately, his tone domineering as usual.

"Stop saying ridiculous things! I won't let you die."

"Even if you can forgive me, Miss Lynd will still take everything to heart. After all, I was clouded by jealousy back then..."

Right after that, Samuel's voice rang from the phone.

"Cindy, even if you don't do anything, I won't let her live a comfortable life. This is all because Grandma still needs her care. She only has half a year to live. You've always been the most important person to me in this life, so please, don't do stupid things like this anymore. Your hands will be dirtied by them. Besides, I promised to grant her a wish. It's a form of compensation to her."

Samuel's voice was cold and ruthless. Each and every word lodged itself in Tina's heart like sharp daggers.

Her head started buzzing from the conversation. She could no longer bear to listen to the rest of the conversation, so she hung up on the caller.

Her mind may be chaotic at the moment, but at the same time, she was more sober than she ever was in the past. She could only caress her stomach, feeling the tiny life growing within her. All of a sudden, she felt like a clown.

Earlier, she almost came clean to Samuel about her pregnancy, thinking that he would keep the baby due to Grandma Langford's wishes. Now, she finally understood everything.

No matter how normal Samuel pretended to be, he would never let go of the hatred he bore for Tina. Once Madam Langford passed away, he would definitely not let her off the hook.

If he found out that she was pregnant, the Langford family would take the baby away on the date of her delivery even if Tina successfully gave birth.

She would most likely be separated from her baby forever. Cindy would never make a kind stepmother, since the latter was vile in nature.

Tina found it difficult to accept all those possibilities. As a mother, she definitely didn't want to be separated from her baby, much less allow them to fall into Cindy's hands. She could only conceal her

pregnancy from Madam Langford. As compensation, she would cater to the latter's every wish and demand during her final days. While Tina was busy thinking, she fell asleep without knowing. By the time she opened her eyes, the sky was already dark. It should already be evening.

"Oh no!" she shouted, remembering that she didn't take her required medicine today.

Just as she was about to get up, she suddenly noticed a figure standing in her room. The unexpected sight frightened her greatly. "Samuel!" Tina couldn't help but sigh in relief when she spotted the familiar face. She grumbled in displeasure, "Why didn't you switch on the lights?"

"You were sleeping so soundly, I didn't want to disturb you," Samuel replied. "Also, I talked to Cindy. She promised me she won't do anything to hurt you ever again, so you don't need to worry about her."

Tina felt like laughing in Samuel's face the moment she heard his explanation.

If she hadn't received the phone call, she would've trusted him completely. Seeing that Tina wasn't replying to him, Samuel added, "By the way, I left in a hurry this morning. What were you planning to tell me?"

"Is that so? I've completely forgotten about it." Tina played dumb without hesitation. However, Samuel repeated the things that she had said to him earlier in the morning. "You asked if I still remember the night when I drank too much. Which night was it?"

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Tina's heart skipped a beat almost immediately. She didn't expect Samuel to still remember what she said earlier, especially when so long had passed. He even remembered every single word clearly. "You must be hearing things. I didn't say anything about you drinking too much... I can't remember exactly what I said." Tina played dumb till the very end, not wanting to admit to anything. Samuel narrowed his eyes immediately upon hearing her response. He walked toward the bed and gripped her chin tightly. "Are you hiding something from me, woman? I hate liars the most." Tina retorted in annoyance, "Why would I hide anything from you? I wanted to tell you everything I wanted to say before, but you're the one who left me all of a sudden. Besides, it's been so long. I even took a nap! How can I remember what I wanted to tell you?"

Samuel frowned, not bothering to investigate the matter anymore. "Go freshen up. We're dining with Grandma later." "Got it."

Over the next few days, Tina stayed in the manor and took care of Madam Langford.

Since Tina was doing much better at the moment, she decided to cook chowder for Madam Langford in the kitchen. After taking a sip from her bowl, Madam Langford remarked in satisfaction, "As expected, the food you prepare suits my taste perfectly."

"Now that I've recovered from my illness, I'll be able to cook for you every day," Tina replied sweetly.

"That won't be necessary. You're the youngest Mrs. Langford, after all. Leave the cooking to the chef. You don't need to cook every day. I don't want you feeling exhausted all the time." Tina felt quite touched at Madam Langford's reply. "Grandma, nothing I do for you is tiring as long as you're happy." Madam Langford smiled happily. Then, she shot a glance in the direction of Tina's flat stomach.

“Exhaustion is bad for you if you’re pregnant with my great-grandson,” she pointed out.

Tina didn’t reply. Instead, she caressed her stomach, guilt weighing on her heart.

“By the way, Samuel loves your cooking as well. He’s been working nonstop in his study throughout the entire day, so he didn’t get to eat anything at all. Why don’t you bring some chowder for him?” Madam Langford suggested.

Tina hesitated for a moment before deciding to bring a bowl of chowder upstairs. All the while, she felt helpless.

How was it possible for Samuel to like her cooking? The chowder would most likely be wasted.

Tina approached the study and knocked on the door lightly. There was no reply, which was strange to her. Perhaps Samuel wasn’t in the study at all? She opened the door carefully by a crack, and soon heard faint voices drifting from inside the study. Sandy was speaking. “Mr. Langford, the press conference will be held the day after tomorrow. Are we still proceeding with it?” Samuel grunted in agreement. “Well...” Sandy continued, “Are we still following the original decision when it’s time to announce the identity of the future Mrs. Langford to the public?” Samuel would only acknowledge one person as the future Mrs. Langford, and that woman was Cindy. Who would have expected Cindy to do such idiotic things? Furthermore, Samuel seemed to be paying more attention to Tina nowadays, so Sandy had no idea what his employer was thinking

Samuel’s reply was instantaneous and decisive. “No matter what happens, the Langfords will only acknowledge Cindy as the future Mrs. Langford.”

“Understood, Mr. Langford,” Sandy replied. He turned around and saw a figure standing outside the study. “Miss Lynd? Why are you here?”

Samuel’s gaze darted to the doorway the moment he heard Sandy’s question.

All Tina could feel was great, burning shame. “I knocked on the door just now, but I guess you didn’t hear me. Grandma asked me to send dinner to you. I’ll leave right away after putting it down.” Tina placed the tray on the table sitting at the doorway in a hurry. She was about to slip away when Samuel called out to her.

“Stop right there.” Tina had no choice but to do as she was told.

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“Sandy, leave this room. Close the door behind you.” “Yes, sir.”

Sandy left after shooting Tina an odd look. The door was closed shortly after that, leaving Samuel and Tina alone in the study.

Feeling quite uncomfortable by Samuel’s presence, Tina said awkwardly, “Now that I’ve brought dinner here, I’ll be taking my leave if there’s nothing else...” “What dinner? I don’t see anything here.” Samuel’s tone was very cold. Tina was left speechless. The table was only a few steps away from him. Did he want her to serve him like a servant? Left without a choice, Tina could only bring the chowder to him. “Eat up.” Samuel couldn’t help but frown. “Your attitude makes me think that you’ve poisoned the chowder.”

Admittedly, that idea did pop into Tina's mind earlier. Nonetheless, it was just an intangible thought that wasn't put into action.

"Do whatever you want." Tina couldn't care less about Samuel's thoughts. The reason why she was there in the first place was because of Madam Langford's request.

Unexpectedly, Samuel didn't get angry at her rude response. Instead, he picked up the bowl gingerly and drank from it. A moment later, he finally spoke up. "It's quite decent."

Tina could only watch Samuel downing the bowl of chowder. A look of shock was plastered on her face.

She might have only stayed in the Langford manor for a few days, but she already caught wisps of conversations between servants who talked about how picky Samuel was with his food. The chef would look very troubled during mealtimes as well. To think he would prefer a bowl of simple chowder over a fancy spread...

However, she didn't think too much about it.

To Tina, it was impossible for Samuel to like her cooking. He was definitely putting on an act for Madam Langford's sake, as he didn't want the latter to discover that their relationship was built on a foundation of lies.

Just as Tina cleared the table and was about to leave, Samuel stopped her once again.

"You should've heard our conversation just now. The day after tomorrow is the press conference, so Sandy will be taking you to a designated studio to have your gown tailored for you."

"Got it," Tina replied cooperatively before spinning on her heel and leaving without any hesitation.

However, something unexpected happened the next day when Tina followed Sandy to the fashion studio. A familiar figure was seen sitting in the VIP lounge.

"You're here as well, Cindy?"

Tina's tone was filled with hostility.

Cindy sounded surprised when she saw Tina. "Do you really despise seeing me that much, Miss Lynd?" "Stop pretending," Tina replied in disgust. "Sandy isn't here. We're the only ones in this room."

Upon hearing the response, Cindy's surprise was replaced by a look of arrogance. "You must hate me so much that you want me to die, Tina. It's a shame Samuel's very protective of me. My name will be announced as the next Mrs. Langford in the press conference tomorrow. You, on the other hand, are just there to take a picture in order to appease Madam Langford. In other words, you're just a tool! How can there be such pitiful people in this world? The sight of you leading such a pathetic life just strokes my ego more!" Cindy was extremely arrogant at that moment. She finally realized that Samuel would always defend her no matter what she did, due to her identity as his childhood savior. Moreover, he thought the woman he had slept with that night was her. She had these two identities backing her up,

whereas Tina had nothing. Tina didn't wish to talk to Cindy anymore, so she turned on her heel and was about to leave the lounge.

Suddenly, Cindy spoke up. "Tina, do you seriously think I'm going to let you leave?" "What?"

Tina walked to the door. It was then that she realized that she had been locked inside the lounge with Cindy. "What are you trying to do?" Tina's expression changed drastically.

"What do I want to do? Oh, Tina, you filthy b*tch! Shouldn't you know exactly what I want to do?"

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Tina immediately clutched her stomach protectively. She remembered the time Cindy appeared in front of her and almost succeeded in feeding her medicine that would cause her miscarriage.

If John hadn't arrived in time, Tina would've lost her baby.

This time, Tina would never let Cindy succeed in whatever scheme she had hatched.

"If you dare to lay a finger on me, I'll fight back till the end! Even if I die, I'll haunt you forever!" Tina's voice was filled with rage and despair. Cindy, on the other hand, was shocked by Tina's ferocity. She harrumphed coldly before replying, "Do you really think I'm going to dirty my hands, Tina? You still remember what Samuel told me over the phone, right? He thinks I'll sully my hands if I were to deal with you directly!"

Cindy's tactic was to use her words to provoke Tina. She wanted Tina to know just how much Samuel cared about her.

However, Tina remained unmoved.

Right now, she only cared about the baby that was growing in her womb. As for that man's opinions, she couldn't care less about them.

Seeing as her provocation didn't work on Tina at all, Cindy immediately thought of another idea. "You haven't told Samuel about your pregnancy, right? What if I call him right now and inform him of your pregnancy? Why don't you guess how he'll react, hmm?"

As she spoke, she pulled out her phone and pretended to key in Samuel's number.

Tina's expression changed at that instant.

Samuel hated her a lot, so he would definitely assume that Tina was plotting something by hiding her pregnancy from him. At the same time, he cared about Cindy a lot. If she were to make demands, Tina was sure she wouldn't be able to keep her baby. "No!" Tina cut Cindy off anxiously. "Miss Young! As long as you let me keep my baby, I'll do anything for you!"

Cindy was filled with glee the moment she heard those words.

Frankly speaking, Cindy herself wasn't sure about Samuel's stance on Tina's pregnancy as well. If he found out that the woman whom he slept with that night was Tina, the fact that she was pregnant with Madam Langford's precious great-grandson would plunge Cindy's situation into a dire one.

Ever since Tina moved into the Langford manor, Cindy spent her days being paranoid and scared for her own life.

Who would have thought that the filthy b*tch didn't tell Samuel about her pregnancy?

It was then that Cindy knew that her chance was here. Hence, she formulated a plan immediately

That day, she showed up at the entrance of the Langford manor under the pretense to apologize to Tina. Her true intention was to use her illness to lure Samuel away. After that, she dialed Tina's number and played the edited audio clip containing that conversation.

Today, she found out that Tina would be visiting this particular studio. Thus, she waited for Tina here on purpose in order to find out what the latter was thinking.

It appeared her plan was a huge success.

Tina, the filthy b*tch, had fallen into Cindy's trap hook, line, and sinker. "You'll do anything for me?" Cindy tittered gleefully. "I want you to leave Freesia right now! Can you do that?" Tina replied bitterly, "No, I can't. What will happen to Grandma if I leave now?" "Haha! In the end, you're still planning to stay by Samuel's side and fight with me for his affection!" Cindy growled, before slapping Tina. "You filthy b*tch!"

Having received the slap squarely in her cheek, Tina could only grit her teeth and endure the pain in silence.

"Miss Young, I know you hate me for ruining your relationship with Samuel, but I don't want to fight for his affection at all. All I want to do is to take care of Grandma during her final days. Then, I'll leave this city with my child. Please grant me this request, Miss Young. Please allow me to stay in this city for the time being. I promise I'll leave once my time here ends."

Cindy felt incredibly smug at the moment. Even if this filthy b*tch was able to seduce Samuel and live in the Langford manor, there was nothing she could do. Now, she could only beg like a filthy b*tch she was!

"Where's your sincerity? I can't see it at all. Why don't you kneel down and beg me? I might consider your request if you do that." "You..." Tina shot a glare in Cindy's direction. Cindy scowled immediately. "How dare you glare at me? Aren't you afraid that I might tell Samuel about your pregnancy? Both you and your baby will definitely die!" Tina could disregard her own life without hesitation, but she didn't want to put her baby's life in risk.

Chapter 170

Tina knew Cindy was deliberately tormenting her, so she slowly sank to her knees. "Miss Young, you're a generous and kind-hearted woman. Please spare my life." Ever since John Carter exposed Cindy's true colors, she had been leading her life in constant paranoia and fear. The sight of Tina begging for mercy

on her knees satisfied Cindy to no end. “Now, grovel to me! Keep groveling until I’m satisfied!” Cindy commanded smugly. Tina gripped the hem of her shirt without moving, which irked Cindy. “Oh? Are you planning to fight back?”

“Miss Young. I’m willing to grovel to you, but tomorrow’s the press conference. I still have to take a picture for Grandma...”

Cindy had no choice but to dispel that thought when she heard the reason. No matter how much she wanted to punish Tina, she knew that now was not the time.

“That’s true. I know you don’t dare to tattle on me to that old b*tch, but if she were to notice that something’s amiss, it’ll be bad for me. You got lucky today, Tina! I’ll torment you to my heart’s content once the press conference is over!” Cindy sounded very excited and smug over the prospect. She pulled out a key and unlocked the lounge’s door before skipping away happily.

Tina shifted into a sitting position on the floor. Tears started rolling down her cheeks at that moment. She looked so helpless and weak. She knew Cindy’s endless torture awaited her, but she was left with nothing in her life.

She didn’t have a home of her own, or people that she could call her family and friends. Not to mention, the chances of her finding a partner in the future was reduced to null.

All she had right now was the baby growing within her.

“You’re the only one I have, my dear baby,” she whispered to herself while caressing her stomach. “I’m willing to pay any price as long as I can protect you.”

Wiping her tears away, Tina got up and left the studio. Even if life continued to play cruel jokes on her and tried to break her down, her skinny figure would always emit an aura of unrelenting determination.

Soon, the time for the press conference was here,

The Langford family was a renowned and wealthy family in Freesia. The fact Samuel had held a press conference and kept the contents under a tight lid piqued the interest of the mass media, who made guesses of their own.

“If Samuel’s the one making the announcement, that means it must be something big!”

“My sources told me that he had married another woman, but she’s not Cindy. Is he planning to address this matter?”

“Yeah, I heard of that as well. Isn’t Cindy Young the only woman staying by Samuel’s side? Who else could he be marrying?”

Everyone was discussing the mysterious woman from the rumors.

Meanwhile, Tina walked past the gossipers in a simple gown. No one noticed her at all. She was taken to a private room to take her picture there. Soon, the photoshoot was over.

The photographer said, “You can leave now.” As expected, she was present only to be used as a tool. To think that she was discarded this quickly...

When Tina was about to leave the scene, voices erupted from the crowd of media personnel.

“Mr. Langford’s car is here!”

When everyone heard the announcement, they pushed forward immediately like a school of fish fighting for live bait.

Tina didn’t dare to go against the tide, so she was forced to follow them.

A Stretch Lincoln Limousine slowed down to a halt under the bright, flickering camera lights. Samuel’s figure appeared at that moment.