

Rebirth Reclaiming Her Self by Fleur Delacour (Angela and Joseph)

Chapter 41

Chapter 41 Twenty Is The Legal Marriage Age

Chapter 41 Twenty Is The Legal Marriage Age

“May I check your pulse. Grandpa?” Angela asked softly.

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Bruce was momentarily taken aback, but then he remembered that Angela was also a doctor who had successfully treated his grandson. He had been so focused on finding a wife for Jonathan that he had forgotten about this.

Angela had been a benefactor to their family. Witnessing Jonathan’s fragile health, Bruce had sought help from renowned doctors, but to no avail. Unexpectedly, fate had brought Angela here.

Returning to his senses, he smiled and nodded repeatedly. “Sure, but I didn’t bring any consultation fee today, little doctor.”

Angela smiled, revealing her sweet dimples. “It’s okay. I’m just checking on my own family. No need for a consultation fee.”

Touched by her sweet smile, Bruce couldn’t help but think of his daughter. When she *smiled*, she also had a deep dimple...

“Angela, do you sense anything wrong?” Sebastian, who had spent a long time with Jonathan, was particularly sensitive to health matters and immediately noticed that Angela might have discovered something.

Angela hesitated before answering. “Without checking the pulse, I can’t make a hasty judgment.”

After she spoke, the room fell silent for a few seconds, then Jonathan spoke up. “Then, let’s check.”

Bruce didn't mind because he knew his own body, and there was no problem with it. Still, he sat down and waited for Angela to take his pulse. He was curious about the medical skills of this young doctor and whether they were as good as Sebastian had said.

When Angela placed her hand on his pulse, the room became exceptionally quiet, and after a while, she raised her clear eyes and asked seriously, "Grandpa, do you experience any pain in your ribs?"

This... A hint of surprise flashed in Bruce's eyes. "There is some, but it's not serious, so it doesn't matter."

How could it not matter? Many minor illnesses were ignored, **and** they became more and more serious: until they were incurable.

Angela shook her head, her little face serious. If you're sick, you should seek medical treatment promptly. Ignoring it can easily lead to a serious illness. The human body's organs and meridians are closely

interconnected, **and** it's easy for one problem to affect the whole body. This, Tidiens are closely

in the ribs may seem like

a minor discomfort, but it is caused by a blockage in the liver and gallbladder meridians."

Hearing her speak so professionally, Bruce wore a serious look, his tone solemn as he said, "You're right. I've learned my lesson. What do you suggest I do?"

Everyone in the room looked at Angela, who didn't feel embarrassed at all. Her professionalism gave her the confidence to handle the situation. "It's not a serious illness, but it shouldn't be ignored either. I'll prescribe some medicine for you to regulate, and after I finish my exams in twenty days, I'll give you **an** acupuncture treatment."

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Acupuncture treatment was the fastest, but she really couldn't spare the time.

"Exams?" Bruce was stunned. "How old are you?"

Blinking. Angela honestly replied, "Nineteen. I'm still in school, Grandpa

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After hearing this, he was stunned for a while, then he turned his head and stared at Jonathan, who returned his gaze with a questioning look.

Bruce's eyes **seemed** to be asking. "This girl is so young. How could you have the heart to lay your hands on

her?"

To that. Jonathan was speechless, even though he understood what Bruce was trying **to say**.

If Angela had noticed the exchange of glances between the two, she would have delved deeper into why the old man was acting so strangely. Lowering her head, she took out a pen and paper from her small bag and quickly wrote a prescription.

Just as Sebastian was about to take it. Bruce grabbed it first, then held it and muttered, "Not bad, **your** handwriting is really good. Have you been practicing, young lady?"

In her previous life, Angela used to practice calligraphy in her free time. After all, she had devoted **most** of her time to the Kins Family, leaving very little time for herself, let alone going out for entertainment. However, practicing calligraphy at home was a relatively indoor activity.

"I only know a little."

"You're already fluent. If you were my granddaughter, I would be so happy that I would eat three times. more every day!"

Angela giggled. "I'll call you Grandpa a few more times, then."

The two of them were having **a** great time, and the old man had completely forgotten about his plan to make Angela his granddaughter-in-law. When he came back to his senses, he saw his grandson silently staring at him.

"Ahem... Angela, you should check on Jon first." He still needed to create opportunities for his grandson. and future granddaughter-in-law.

Angela turned to look at Jonathan. Seeing that his complexion was better than yesterday, she shook her head. "No need to check on him today, but I'll come and check in a few days." She had just taken his pulse yesterday. It wouldn't be much different today.

As she had to rush back to school for class, she bid cheerful goodbyes to everyone before Jonathan **even** had a **chance** to exchange a few words with her.

Seeing that Angela was about to leave, Bruce suddenly remembered something and asked, "By the way, young lady, when is your birthday?"

Although a bit puzzled, Angela answered honestly, saying that her birthday was at the beginning of next month, which would be **soon**, right after her exams.

No one else had ever celebrated her birthday, so she would have to celebrate it alone again. Nevertheless, she was both excited and relieved because she could enjoy her birthday cake all by herself next month.

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She had just left the building when Jonathan glanced out the window and saw her happily skipping away like a naive little animal. Before she left, she even asked a gardener to trim the bushes for a flower. Then, she skipped **away**.

Yes, *like* a happy rabbit. Jonathan's gaze lingered until he could no longer see her, and then he turned his head, only to be caught off guard by Bruce's excited, gossiping eyes.

Jon, nineteen is not that young. In less than a month, Angela will be twenty! She can get married, then!"

Filled with enthusiasm, Bruce thought this was a reliable plan and imagined his grandson and Angela getting registered as husband and wife next month.

"Grandpa." Jonathan frowned. "Miss Kins and I only have a doctor-patient relationship."

Hearing him change Angela's title, Bruce knew that he was unhappy, so he couldn't help but slap the table and stand up. "Alright, I understand the doctor-patient relationship, but if you don't approve of Angela, there must be someone else. Terence's grandson is also twenty-five, and his great-grandson is already in kindergarten. That old man is proudly showing off his chubby great-grandson in front of me every day!"

Jonathan's brows furrowed. No matter how stern he usually was, he felt somewhat helpless in the face of this lively elder relative. However, his demeanor gradually cooled

down, no longer exuding the calm warmth as before. “Grandpa, I have no intention of getting married, and I won’t pursue any relationship with Miss Kins.”

Am I going to make her wait until I pass away and then mourn for me? he added silently.

For someone like him, it would be better to face his demons alone. Why should he harm Angela?

She should find a healthy man from a harmonious family, have children, and live a life filled with joy and

peace.

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Chapter 42

Chapter 42 The Speech Competition

Chapter **42** The Speech Competition

“You!” Bruce was extremely upset. If it weren’t for Jonathan’s poor health, he would have liked to give him a firm pat on the shoulder, just like Terence did when he was displeased.

His grandson, who lost his mother at a young age and had such a blood-sucking family, had struggled so hard from childhood to adulthood, and it broke his heart to see it.

If he didn’t take better care of him, how could he answer to his daughter?

Looking at Jonathan’s cold eyes, the old man’s anger faded instantly, and he gave in with a good temper. “Alright, if you don’t like Angela, you can find someone else. But how could you say that you won’t get married! If your mother were...”

At this point, Bruce’s **face** showed a hint of sadness and reluctance, and he finally waved his hand. Take your medicine. I’m leaving now.”

Before leaving, he swiftly grabbed the prescription Angela had left on the table, carefully folded it, and put it in the pocket of his suit.

Terence had been treating Jonathan for a year or two without much success, but now, a young doctor had surpassed him. He wanted to take this prescription and show it to him just to annoy him. If Angela couldn't become his granddaughter-in-law, she could be his god-granddaughter!

For some reason, he liked Angela the moment he saw her, and his fondness for her grew with every word they exchanged.

Angela and Bruce left one after another, and the villa quickly returned to its usual silence. Jonathan stared at the birds flying away outside the window for a long time, motionless.

The end of autumn was approaching, and the migratory birds were flying in the gray sky for a while before they left one after **another**.

Sebastian followed his gaze and didn't know what he was looking at, but his heart still ached. Jonathan was not just avoiding marriage. He had previously not even planned to live for a few more years.

He had been so sick before, barely sleeping an hour or two a day. How could he have any expectations for

the future?

"Mr. Lawson, Old Mr. Lawson cares about you, so don't take it to heart."

"I know," Jonathan closed his eyes, then opened them again, no longer looking out the window. "Sebastian, bring me the medicinal meal."

Sebastian nodded and went to get the medicinal meal Angela had brought, sighing helplessly. Well, there's still a long way to go. One step at a time. Maybe, just as Angela said, the future will be full of hope.

After all, after taking Angela's medicine, Jonathan was getting better, so he could be cured!

After delivering this medicinal meal, Angela delivered a few more times, but Jonathan seemed to be busy. A few times when he was at the company, she could only wait outside the villa for Sebastian to come back and take it over.

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Chapter 42 The Speech Competition

ic reason, she felt that Jonathan was intentionally keeping his distance from her. Once, when she went to see him, he didn't even speak to her, and as soon as he saw her, he went back to his room to work.

Angela felt a sense of indescribable loss but quickly adjusted her mood. Because the milk tea shop's business was gradually improving, she made a considerable income from it, so her attention gradually shifted to the shop.

The days passed by, and the leaves on the trees turned from golden to a dry, caramel color. Angela swapped her short-sleeved dress for a long white shirt and light blue jeans.

She pulled her hair up in a high ponytail, looking very energetic. Her clean little face, like that of an elusive fairy, was unforgettable, and **as** she walked on campus, many people frequently looked at her.

The Brundelian speech competition was about to start, and she was rushing to cheer for Jessica to defeat Fanny

"Angela" From a distance, Jessica saw Angela and jumped up excitedly, waving at her.

Angela ran over. "Jess, are you nervous?"

Jessica shook her **head**, smiling. "With you here, I don't feel nervous at all. Just wait and see how I outperform Fanny!"

Seeing her confident expression, Angela relaxed, but suddenly, a sneer came from behind them. "Outperform Fanny? That's quite a boast!"

They turned around **and** saw Fanny and her friend, Stella Johnston. Stella's **family** was also wealthy, and as an only child, she had developed a **slightly** arrogant demeanor. Few students dared to challenge her.

Fanny pulled at Stella's sleeve. "Stella, Jessica is an excellent student. She's often the top student in our class, so she can afford to make such statements."

"Fanny, no matter how talented she is, she shouldn't be so arrogant. Remember, there's always someone better out there!" Stella sneered, her **gaze** towards Angela and Jessica turning colder.

She and Jessica had always been at odds. Both came from affluent families, but Jessica was more attractive and popular. Stella once overheard two classmates comparing her to Jessica, saying **that** she **was** inferior. Since then, she held a grudge against Jessica.

On the other hand, there was Angela, who used to be timid and unnoticed. Now, more and more people were praising her beauty.

How could a person change so much? *Did* she undergo plastic surgery? Stella wondered.

Angela raised her **dark**, beautiful eyes, staring at the two **of** them without blinking. "Yeah, being in first place is amazing. The feeling of being on top is even sweeter. Wait until you guys achieve first place, then come and argue with **us**."

She knew better than anyone how hard Jessica had prepared for this competition, while she had seen Fanny participating in various club activities and socializing **at school**.

In Angela's previous life, Fanny easily took the spot from her. Without any strong competitors, she studied peacefully for several months before winning first prize.

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Chapter 42 The Speech Competition.

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In this life, she spent 3,500 on the spot but spent all her time playing. Now, with Jess **as** a competitor. Angela **was** curious if Fanny could even secure third place.

With a strong dislike for Stella, Jessica snapped, "Yes, there's always someone better. Unlike some who only see one person and think she's the best."

people

Jessica Turner, you- Stella **was** about to angrily retort but was held back by Fanny.

"Stella, the competition is about to start. We shouldn't start a fight."

Stella was seething with anger, but considering Fanny's upcoming competition, she had to suppress her rage and shot a fierce glance at Jessica before leaving with Fanny. As she walked away, her anger intensified. "How dare Jessica compete against you for first place!"

Fanny cast her eyes downward, appearing somewhat upset. "Jessica is truly talented, Stella. I'm **a** bit nervous. If I don't win, how can I face James after he has invested so much in me?"

The thought of Fanny crying filled Stella with distress. Fanny, such a genuine and kind-hearted person,

e furious. deserved to win first place. If Jessica were to win, she would

No way. Jessica Turner cannot win!

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Chapter 43

Chapter 43 Underhanded Tactics

Fanny sighed in disappointment and pulled out her speech from her bag. “The competition starts in half an hour. I need to review it a bit more.” As she retrieved her speech, her hand trembled, and a small bag of medicine fell out of her bag

Upon hearing the sound, Stella looked down and noticed the word ‘laxative’ on the bag of medicine. She took the medicine from Fanny and asked, “Fanny, what is this?”

Fanny responded casually while continuing to flip through her speech. I’ve been experiencing some stomach issues recently, so I’m taking laxatives. As she spoke, she reached out to take the medicine back.

However, Stella quickly pulled her **hand away**, avoiding Fanny’s hand, and said with a smile, “Fanny, let me have this **pack**. I’ve been feeling a bit unwell recently too. Maybe a laxative will help.

“Sure, but you should **wait** until you get home to take it because this laxative is quite strong. If you take it now, you may miss the speech competition. Remember to watch the dosage when you take it.” Fanny smiled, noticing that Stella’s mood had improved.

“Okay, Fanny, Go ahead **with** your review, I need to use the restroom. Without waiting for Fanny to respond, Stella hurried off.

Fanny watched her retreating figure, shook her head helplessly, and muttered to the people around her that Stella was always in such a hurry.

“I guess Stella couldn’t hold it in any longer. She must have been holding it in just to accompany you,” a classmate teased.

The crowd was bustling. As this Brundelian speech competition was a state competition, it attracted an exceptionally large number of people. In addition to teachers and students, there were some elderly people dressed in suits, some well-dressed professionals, and even some foreigners with different hair and eye colors.

Angela, afraid of getting separated from Jessica and causing unnecessary accidents before the competition, tightly held her hand and followed her to the contestants’ seats.

Jessica’s turn to compete was around the middle, and the contestants’ seats were at the **very** front, so their seats were relatively forward.

Just as they sat down, two elderly men in suits took their seats across the aisle in the guest seats. Then, two middle-aged men in suits sat down in the row in front of the two old men. They seemed to know each other and started to greet each other.

“Hello, Mr. Fuchs.”

“How are you, Mr. Maxwell?”

As the competition time approached, people started to take their seats, and many contestants sat next to Angela and Jessica. Soon, the logistics volunteers began to distribute boxes of water. There were bottles of mineral water and also juices.

The contestants, who had been nervously reviewing and practicing in low voices, quickly **opened** the bottles and started drinking as their mouths were slightly dry.

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Chapter 43 Underhanded Tactics

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Jessica’s lips **were** slightly chapped, and she was about to open a bottle of water when she exclaimed.

“What’s wrong. Jess? **Angela** asked.

Her voice **was** sweeter **and** crisper **than** most, and as soon as she spoke, it attracted the attention of a few people on the other side of the aisle. Seeing **that** the young girl was exceptionally beautiful and vibrant, they couldn’t help but take a few more glances, but they looked away after a couple of seconds.

Smiling. Jessica shook her head, “Nothing, this bottle is quite easy to open.”

As she was about to take a sip, something flashed in Angela's mind, and she instinctively stopped Jessica. "Wait!" Her voice was so tense and excited that it attracted the attention of a few people nearby. The other students glanced over but quickly returned to their reviews.

"What's wrong, Angela?" Jessica was confused, wondering why Angela looked so tense.

Angela frowned, thinking that perhaps she was overthinking, but just to be safe, she took the bottle from **Jessica's** hand and held it up to the sunlight for a closer look.

The water was clear, but upon closer inspection, Angela noticed some white cloudy substances in the water. Her face fell, and she squeezed the bottle so hard that the water spilled out.

What a disgusting trick! she thought angrily.

Angela couldn't help but reminisce about her past life when she **had** worked tirelessly for the Kins Family's business, even developing a new product that was recognized by higher authorities. Just as she was about to present her product to the visiting authorities, she was absent because she was unprepared **and had** consumed water that **had** been tampered with.

She fell ill for two days and had to take sick leave, allowing Fanny to attend the presentation in her place. Later, the authorities were impressed by Fanny, who was already well-liked, so **it was** not surprising.

However, the product was supposed to be developed by the Kins Family, but it ended up being attributed to Fanny's research, Angela recalled with slightly teary eyes.

"Angela, what's wrong? Don't scare me." Jessica noticed her unusual expression **and thought** she was unwell, so she quickly tried to get up. However, Angela held her down, shook her head, **and** lowered her voice to avoid being overheard. "Jess, **I'm** fine, but there's something wrong with **this** drink."

"The drink?" Jessica repeated, confused.

Angela forced a wry smile. "Someone has tampered with **this** drink. Saying this, she extended her index finger, dipped it into the water, tasted it, and became even more certain.

"It's senna leaf powder, a strong laxative, and there's quite a lot of it. If you drink this, you can forget about competing later. **Angela** sneered, "Such a despicable act.

In her previous life, she never discovered who had tampered with her water, and even the surveillance footage was missing a segment. However, since that incident, she had

started practicing the skill of identifying drugs by taste, and she **had** become very **sensitive** to the taste of various drugs.

“What?!” Jessica’s eyes widened in disbelief, **unable** to believe **that** such a thing would happen. “Angela, let’s inform a teacher!”

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Chapter 43 Underhanded Tactics

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Angela couldn’t help but frown. “I’m afraid it’s not a good time to report this to a teacher now because the school will downplay it. Don’t worry, Jess. Don’t think too much about it. I’m here, and I’ll protect you. After your competition, we’ll figure out what to do. This way, it won’t affect your competition.”

Upon hearing this, Jessica felt relieved and found Angela’s suggestion reasonable. If she had approached at teacher herself, the school would surely try to suppress the news to ensure the smooth progress speech competition. In that case, her mood and performance would be affected.

of the

She nodded in agreement. “Don’t worry, Angela. Right now, all I’m going to focus on is delivering my speech.”

Angela smiled, and her mood significantly improved. “Good,” she replied.

Seeing her smile, Jessica felt completely reassured. While she was reviewing her speech, Angela discreetly poured out half of the drink, leaving only half a bottle on Jessica’s desk. Then, she began to discreetly observe the seating arrangement of the students.

On the other side of the aisle, two elderly men in suits watched attentively from beginning to end. Their furrowed brows relaxed, and they exchanged glances before—looking at Angela, seemingly quite appreciative.

Almost everyone had arrived, and after the host delivered his inspiring opening remarks, the speech. competition officially began. The contestants took turns walking onto the stage, passionately delivering the speeches they had rehearsed numerous times.

When it was Jessica's turn, Angela clapped enthusiastically as she watched her confidently stride onto the stage. Suddenly, a voice came from the side, saying, "Excuse me, young lady."

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Chapter 44

Chapter 44 Another New Student

Angela turned towards the sound and **saw** two elderly men in suits who had just sat down, smiling at her. The men in suits in front of them were also looking back **at** her. Did *they* hear what I just said?

As she hesitated, one of the elderly men with silver hair and a youthful face asked, "You took a sip and determined **that** senna leaves **had** been added to the water?"

Now, Angela **was** certain **that** everyone had heard her. She **wasn't** afraid to admit it. If it weren't for Jessica's **mental** state, she would have reported it to the teacher earlier.

She nodded. "Yes, I **am** sensitive to the smell of medicine, and this bottle of water was opened in advance.

The two elderly men exchanged glances, a glint of light flashing in their eyes. "Are **you a** medical student? I don't think I've seen you before, one of the elderly men asked.

Angela slightly raised her eyebrows, a hint of expectation in her eyes. "No, I'm in the Foreign Language Department, but I'm planning to take the exam to transfer to the medical department next month."

"Good, that's great!" The elderly man's mouth widened into a grin, looking pleased.

Listening to his response, Angela suddenly felt that this elderly **man** was somewhat similar to Bruce.

The other elderly man looked at her curiously. "Why did you pour out half of the drink just now?"

Angela looked around and unconsciously lowered her voice as if she **was** about to share a secret with the elderly men. Generally speaking, criminals love to return to the scene of the crime. I poured out half a bottle of water to make the person who drugged the water think that my friend had drunk it, hoping that they would reveal themselves.”

She wanted to observe who would pay attention to the drink, but after a while, she didn't notice anything. It

was the people next to her who discovered her first..

“**You** are quite thoughtful, **and** with your sensitivity **to** medicine, you **will make a** good medical student. Study hard in the future.”

“Okay.” Angela, eager to find the person who drugged the water, brushed off the two elderly men. If it weren't for this incident involving medical issues, **she** would have been happy to chat with them for a while.

She turned her head away, and the elderly men began to whisper to each other.

“Terence, it seems like you're going to have another exceptional student. This young lady is both perceptive and virtuous!”

Terence chuckled. “I didn't expect to come across such a promising student while attending a Brundelian speech competition. It's fortunate that she's going to study medicine. Otherwise, I would have to find a **way to** convince her to switch!”

The other elderly man noticed that Terence was in a much better mood, so he cautiously brought up a matter. “By the way, the person you asked me to find last time **has** been located, but unfortunately.. Professor Fisher passed away half a **year ago.**”

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Chapter 44 Another New Student

Terence Fuchs, the elderly man, was stunned, unable to believe it. Tears welled up in his eyes, and after a while, he let out a deep sigh. “When I said goodbye to Professor Fisher, I thought I would see her again soon. Who knew that in the blink of an eye, more than a decade had passed, and that goodbye turned out to be a farewell.”

“Ah, my condolences, Terence. Professor Fisher taught you so much, and now you're a medical teacher. passing on what she taught to promising students. If she knew about this, she would be happy

Terence nodded heavily, but there **was** a hint of sadness on his face compared to before.

While the people below **the** stage were filled with sorrow, the competition on the stage continued enthusiastically.

Angela's gaze swept over Jessica on the stage, then around the room before finally settling on a person in the corner. Stella was frowning at Jessica on the stage, then her gaze fell on the half-empty bottle of water on the table, looking confused.

Angela's gaze became as sharp as a knife when she realized that Stella was involved. She noticed Stella's discomfort and hurriedly **ran** away. Angela's **suspensions** were confirmed when she saw Fanny waiting to go on stage. Is she involved in this, too? Stella isn't participating in the speech competition, so why **would** she harm *Jess*?

Jessica's performance was outstanding. As soon as she stepped on stage, she outshone the other contestants. The audience was captivated by her and listened attentively.

However, **an** accident occurred in **an instant**.

The banner above the stage suddenly fell, causing gasps from the audience. Jessica narrowly avoided being hit on the head by the thick wooden stick. Angela immediately stood up, ready to rush over. But Jessica quickly regained her composure upon seeing Angela's anxious expression. She effortlessly entertained the audience with a few jokes in fluent Brundelian, turning the mishap into a lighthearted moment. When she finished her speech, the applause was thunderous.

Angela hurried to the stage to meet Jessica, but she saw Fanny and Stella quickly disappear.

"Angela, I'm fine! Did you see how well I performed? I feel like I'll win first place!" Jessica reassured Angela as soon as she stepped off the stage.

Angela checked Jessica **and** found that she **was** unharmed, which relieved her. "Why did the banner suddenly fall?"

This question puzzled not only Angela, but also others. Concerned that it might harm someone else, several logistics staff members rushed over to investigate. They discovered that the rope used to hoist the banner had not been properly tied and had come loose.

"How could you be so careless? You can't even tie a rope properly. Thankfully, it didn't hit any students!"

"I'm

sorry, but it's really strange. I remember tying three knots," one of the logistics staff members. apologized hurriedly.

Angela's eyelid twitched. When no one was looking, she pulled Jessica to the other side of the banner to investigate. There were indeed three knots—tight knots that couldn't be untied without force.

"Angela?" **Jessica** sensed that something was wrong and became worried.

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Chapter 44 Another New Student

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"It's alright. Let's find a teacher and ask them to review the surveillance footage," Angela suggested, convinced that this incident was connected to Fanny and Stella.

Using such despicable methods and almost hurting Jess, I won't let them get away with it easily! she thought, and she was about to leave with Jessica when someone unexpectedly blocked their path.

"Angela Kins, why are you checking the surveillance?" Stella asked in a high-pitched voice, drawing the attention of many people.

"Don't you know why we're reviewing the surveillance? It's quite obvious," Angela replied sarcastically.

Stella appeared slightly uncomfortable. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Angela sneered and tried to walk past her, but Stella suddenly rushed forward and forcefully grabbed both of them. "You're not going anywhere!"

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Chapter 45

Chapter 45 School Clash

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Caught off guard, Angela's wrist was grabbed and she instinctively pushed back with force, causing Stella to stumble and nearly fall over.

Their actions immediately caught the attention of many bystanders.

"What's going on?"

Jessica, observing Stella's reaction, was also puzzled. "Stella, Fanny, did you two tamper with my water?"

Before the competition, she had only argued with these two.

Fanny widened her eyes and shook her head. "Jessica, what are you talking about?"

A hint of guilt flashed in Stella's eyes, but she shouted loudly, "Jessica, you're talking nonsense. You've finished your speech, and now you're deliberately disturbing Fanny to ruin her mindset for the competition, aren't you?"

She intentionally raised her voice, causing many students around to start whispering. Even some teachers looked over. Jessica was so angry she wanted to hit her, but Angela held her back.

"Jess, don't let her get to you. Let's go to the teacher and ask for the surveillance footage. Everything will be

clear then.

Without substantial evidence, they couldn't simply accuse Stella.

Checking the surveillance was the best solution.

While Stella was distracted, Angela pulled Jessica towards the surveillance room.

"Stop right there!" Stella paid no attention to anything else and **chased** after them.

Fanny also wanted to **chase** after them but was suddenly held back by someone.

"Samuel?" She turned around and was surprised to see him.

Samuel looked furious. "Fanny, focus on the competition. I'll teach Angela a lesson!"

Angela was truly heartless and unscrupulous, consumed by jealousy, and prone to causing harm.

Not only had she caused trouble for him before, but now she was deliberately spreading vicious rumors to affect Fanny's mindset about the competition.

He had been blind before, thinking Angela was a quiet and honest person.

After coaxing Fanny onto the stage, Samuel chased after Angela with a gloomy expression.

Today, he would settle all the old and new scores!

When Samuel reached the small open space behind the playground stairs, he saw that Stella had already caught up with the two..

Chapter 15 School Clash

"Angela, why aren't you running now? Stella was panting, cornering the two in a dead end.

Just as Samuel was about to step forward, he was stunned to see Angela step forward and slap Stella hard across the face.

The slap was crisp and loud, leaving everyone stunned.

After a good five seconds, Stella, clutching her burning cheek, finally reacted. "Angela, how dare you hit me?"

"You dare to drug others. **What** makes you think I wouldn't dare to hit you?"

Angela's voice was icy cold, chilling to the bone. Her expression was even colder.

She had already noticed traces of senna leaf powder around Stella's fingernails. Now, she was almost certain that it was Stella who **had** done the deed.

"Don't accuse me falsely. How dare you hit me? That's **assault**, and I'm going to call the police! Stella shrieked.

"Go ahead. I can't wait." **Angela** sneered. "I was worried you wouldn't."

Stella looked even more guilty. Drugging someone was **a** serious matter. If it was discovered, she **would** definitely be expelled. D*mn it, how did they find out? No one **saw** it.

As the standoff continued, Samuel could no longer hold back. He rushed forward and grabbed Angela by the collar. “**Angela**, you wicked **woman**. Come **with** me to see the **teacher!**”

Angela’s **collar was** yanked up by him. She immediately struggled, but the difference in strength between men and women made it impossible for her to resist Samuel. So, she scratched his face, leaving several bloody marks. Jessica rushed over to help.

Samuel, **have you** gone mad? Angela is your sister!”

If he continued to **pull** like this, Angela’s chest would be exposed.

“I don’t have such a wicked sister!” Samuel, his face hurting from the scratches, cursed loudly.

Stella’s eyes lit up. She also rushed over to help, aiming at Angela’s pulled **collar** and adding more force. But the collar only loosened slightly, not tearing. This only fueled **Angela’s** anger, and she slapped Stella

twice **more**.

The four of them were engaged in a heated fight, with none of them gaining the upper **hand**. Suddenly, a loud **roar** erupted.

“What are you students doing?”

They all turned **to** see several school administrators glaring at them, their hands frozen in mid-action.

“Come with me to my office!” **Thomas** Crane, the vice **principal**, couldn’t scold them publicly due to the presence of potential investors, so he decided to take them to his office first.

However, at that moment, Stella’s eyes lit **up**, and she excitedly **ran** towards the man beside him. “Dad!”

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Chapter 45 School Clash

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Only then did David realize that one of the students involved in the fight was his daughter. As Stella approached, he was shocked to see her swollen face.

“Stella, let me take a look.”

“Dad, you have to stand up for me!”

Upon seeing Stella’s severely beaten face, the expressions on the faces of several school administrators instantly turned grim.

This was a disaster. The investors were considering donating a building to the school and had come to visit under the pretext of the Brundelian speech competition. They didn’t expect their daughter to be assaulted like **this** at their school.

Thomas **made** a quick decision, pointing at the other three. “You three, call your parents right now! They must come and apologize with you.”

Stella looked triumphantly at Angela.

Call their parents? Could they even do that? When her parents arrived, they would surely take her side and

Samuel’s.

Angela, without any support, had the audacity to hit her. How dare she?

“Mr. Crane, this is not our fault... Jessica tried to explain, but Thomas didn’t listen at all and immediately turned to apologize to David.

“Mr. Johnston, I’m truly sorry about this. I will definitely provide you and your beloved daughter with a satisfactory explanation today.”

They were all taken to Thomas’ office. Stella and David sat on the couch while the other three stood and received a scolding **from Thomas**.

“Look at yourselves. Do you behave like students? Bullying your classmates at school! Now, you must call your parents and **have** them come to apologize together.”

Jessica shook her head, saying. “Mr. Crane, it’s not like that at all. Stella put laxatives in the water she gave me to drink before the competition. We were trying to review the surveillance footage, but she refused to allow us. That’s when the argument started. Moreover, she was also involved in the altercation.”

Thomas was surprised and furrowed his brow

Angela added, “Mr. Crane, let’s examine the surveillance footage. This involves drugging, which changes the nature of the incident.

Stella abruptly **stood** up and exclaimed, “I didn’t do that! You’re just trying to frame me because you wanted to sabotage Fanny’s competition, and I saw through it! Angela, you dared to slap me three times. My dad won’t let you get away with it!”

Angela sneered, about to retort, when David, who had been sitting on the couch listening, suddenly stood up in anger, rushed forward, **and** slapped her across the face.

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Chapter 46

Chapter 46 Is She Angela's Mother?

Chapter 46 Is She Angela's Mother?

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Angela was caught off guard when she received a hard slap across her face. She bit her lip, tasting the instant rush of blood in her mouth, while a ringing sound echoed in her ears.

David, Pled with anger, continued to shout. "How dare you well so today, I'll teach you on their behalf?"

hit my daughter? Your parents didn't teach you

Everyone was stunned, not expecting violence to erupt when things had calmed down.

"Angela!" Jessica was heartbroken and tried to shield **Angela**.

However, Stella pushed her **away** with a triumphant look, preventing her from reaching Angela. "Angela, you deserve this! You slapped me three times, and you still owe me two."

David snorted. "Angela, let me tell you. If you want to downplay this incident, you

daughter with double the slaps you owe her. Otherwise, we're not finished!"

Samuel, standing nearby, **was** taken **aback**.

have to repay my

He instinctively wanted to defend Angela, but he quickly composed himself, his body slightly trembling, and looked at Angela coldly.

She deserved this. If she **hadn't caused** trouble for Fanny and dared to hit Stella, she wouldn't be in this situation.

Besides, she had sent him to jail and left him with a criminal record. He hadn't even settled the score with her yet.

She deserved those three slaps.

Double that, and it still wouldn't be too much.

Samuel remained still.

Jessica protested angrily, "Why should she? It **was** Stella who drugged her first! You..."

Seeing that David still seemed

her. "Jess, go call your **dad**."

She couldn't let Jess get hit, too.

Ready to strike, Angela swallowed a mouthful of bloody saliva and stopped

After saying that, she touched the spot where she had bitten herself.

It really hurt,

Thomas, seeing that David still seemed ready to strike, quickly tried to mediate. "Mr. Johnston, this isn't a good way to handle things. Let's call the children's parents **and** discuss this calmly."

Upon hearing this, Stella immediately stirred the pot. "Dad, let her call her parents. Then, you can hit her in front of them. They won't say anything"

As she spoke, she gave David a meaningful look.

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Chapter 46 Is She Angela's Mother?

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David, seeing Stella's swollen face, felt sorry for her. Besides, even if Angela's parents came, they wouldn't **dare** to offend **him**. Maybe they would even hit her to maintain his reputation.

He nodded. "Alright. Let's call their parents first, then we can 'discuss' this when they arrive."

Jessica instinctively looked at Samuel, but Samuel just gave Angela a cold look. "Angela, you better think about how you're going to explain this to our parents."

After saying **that**, he walked to a corner to make a phone call.

Angela, what should we do? Should you call Uncle Donald and Aunt Hecate? Jessica was worried.

Angela gave a faint smile and comforted her, "Jess, you go call your **dad** first. Maybe he can help us."

Jessica suddenly realized. "Oh, right. I should call my dad. Our family is just as capable as Stella's. My dad can at least say a few words. At the very least, he won't let you get hit.

Jessica hurriedly went to make a phone call.

Stella saw Angela still standing there, her eyes filled with triumph, and taunted, "Angela, why aren't you calling your parents?"

Angela looked at her with disgust, took out her phone, scrolled through her contacts, passed by Clara, Aunt

call.

Hecate, and Queenie, and finally called someone, walking to a corner to make the
Passed by Clara, Aunt

Stella vaguely heard her calling someone "Uncle," and Stella muttered to herself, "She must have called Uncle Donald, right?"

An ordinary office worker trying to challenge David? Besides, he **wasn't** Angela's father, so why would he bother to get into trouble for her?

Just wait. David would humiliate her and Uncle Donald later.

After everyone finished their calls, Scarlet arrived **soon** after.

“Mom Samuel greeted her.

Scarlet glanced around the office, her gaze pausing on Angela before moving away with a frown. “Where’s Fanny? You didn’t **harm** her in the fight, did you?”

Samuel explained, “Fanny wasn’t present. She had just finished her competition.”

Scarlet breathed a sigh of relief, then remembered to inquire about what had transpired.

“Dad, this **has nothing** to do with Samuel. He was here to assist me. When Fanny hit me, he immediately intervened,” Stella clarified. Samuel had stepped in to stop Fanny when she slapped Stella earlier.

With this in mind, Stella looked at Samuel with a hint of shyness.

The Kins Family were **all** attractive, including Fanny’s brothers, each one more handsome than the last. Samuel was exactly her type, handsome **and** assertive.

Upon hearing this, David’s expression

flashed slightly. He greeted Scarlet **in a** friendly manner, “Good day, madam. I am **Stella’s** father. These two girls assaulted my daughter today. I intended to resolve the

Chapter 46 Is She Angela’s Mother?

matter with their parents. I apologize for any inconvenience caused.”

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Scarlet’s brows relaxed, then furrowed again. Her expression seemed complex. Finally, she looked at Angela with disapproval. “I apologize, Mr. Johnston. Angela is my daughter”

Just as **David** was about to express his displeasure, Scarlet’s finger was already pointing at Angela’s face.

“Angela! How have I raised you? Have I spoiled you to the point where you dare to strike your classmate? People might think I never taught you manners!”

“Don’t touch me,” Angela said, feeling nauseated at the sound of her own voice.

Every time she heard her voice, she could recall her words.

She was going to die anyway, so she might as well donate *her kidney*. At least it would be *of some use*.

Disgusting.

Scarlet was taken aback, then erupted in anger. "I am your mother. What kind of attitude is this? Have you become too arrogant!"

She was furious. Angela had previously sent Samuel to jail, leaving him with a criminal record. Now, she even dared to talk back to her.

"Are you?" Angela spat out each word, each one sharp and piercing, as if carved with a knife.

"You!" Scarlet **was** so enraged that she raised her hand to slap her.

This time, Angela was prepared. She skillfully stepped back, evading Scarlet's slap. The force behind the attack was so strong that she almost lost her balance.

David watched in astonishment, his eyes filled with doubt. He discreetly pulled Stella aside and whispered, "Is this woman truly Angela's mother?"

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Chapter 47

Chapter 47 Private Resolution

Stella was momentarily confused but quickly grasped David's intention.

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She patiently explained. "Dad, it's all because Angela is heartless. She even reported her own brother to the police, and I heard he now has a criminal record."

David finally understood and felt somewhat relieved. No one would support such a heartless person. Not **only** could Stella retaliate against Angela today, but he could also witness Angela's mother disciplining her.

Good, let her understand the consequences of bullying his precious daughter!

Scarlett was furious with Angela.

Seeing that there were still people around, Scarlett restrained her urge to have Samuel hold Angela down for her to hit and sternly ordered, “Angela, your lack of manners is my fault **as a** mother, but today you must apologize to this classmate. Otherwise, you’re committing intentional **assault**. Do you want to go to the police station too?”

Angela glanced at her but remained silent.

For some reason, Scarlett felt an inexplicable unease from her gaze.

It was **as** if she felt that Angela **was** completely disappointed in her, **treating** her like a stranger.

But what surged up in her heart was nameless anger.

Why did she look at her like that? She was her biological mother, who had carried her for ten months.. Asking her to apologize was like asking her to harm herself.

David timely interjected, “Madam, I must make it clear to you that an apology from Angela is not enough today. I can’t bear to lay **a** finger on my daughter on normal days, but this wild girl hit her! She must let my daughter slap her **back** three times, or she can go to the police station.”

Scarlett was **taken aback**, and when she looked at Stella, she noticed her swollen **face**.

Was it appropriate to return the slaps directly?

“Aunt Scarlett, it’s me, Stella, Fanny’s friend. Today, I was trying to stop Angela from disrupting Fanny’s speech competition, and that’s why she hit **me**,”

Stella cried out in grievance. She had been to the Kins Family before, and although she didn’t visit often, Scarlett should still recognize her.

“What?” Scarlett was surprised, **and** only then did she recognize the swollen-faced Stella. She quickly became furious. “Angela, you dared to disrupt Fay’s competition! And you hit Fanny’s friend!”

Before Angela could say anything, Scarlett glared at her. “Mr. Johnston, I think we should resolve this matter privately today. It wouldn’t be wise for our family to face **public** scrutiny.”

The family had **spent** a lot of money and effort trying to clear Samuel's criminal record, and it was still unresolved.

Chapter 47 Private Resolution

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Angela was registered under their family. If she got a criminal record, it would be a complete disaster. If they wanted Fanny to have an easy job as a civil servant in the future, it would be impossible.

Resolving it meant allowing Stella to slap her back.

And Stella **was** already flexing her wrist, proudly approaching Angela.

Btch. She still had to obediently let herself be slapped back. She was going to scratch her face when she slapped her later and see how she could attract men in the future.

Jessica watched these people's malicious expressions towards Angela, feeling extremely anxious. Why hadn't her father arrived yet?

She wanted to step forward to help, but Samuel glanced at her and blocked her with his arm. "She brought **this** upon herself."

Seeing that no one was stopping her, Stella's eyes gleamed as she walked up to Angela.

Angela instinctively protected herself but heard Scarlett complaining on the side. "You're always **causing** trouble at home and **now** causing trouble for Donald. Samuel, you go and explain to Uncle Donald what happened. I don't want to see them!"

Angela's eyes drooped slightly, and the hand she had raised dropped again.

If she went to the police station, even if it was eventually proven that Stella was at fault, she probably wouldn't be able to get out for a while, and Donald's family **would** have to go through a lot for her.

Stella glared maliciously at the silent Angela, her sharp nails hooked, and she raised her hand high..

Squeak!

The **office** door swung open abruptly, causing Stella to pause **and** turn her attention towards the entrance. To her surprise, it was an elderly **man** who had entered,

Was it Jessica's father? Or Uncle Donald?

Before she could react, a sound resembling the rolling of a wheelchair reached her ears from outside the door.

A man in a wheelchair was being pushed into the room.

Stella was taken aback.

Could there truly be such a handsome man in existence?

The man **had** a cold demeanor **and** a stern face, with features that appeared as if they were chiseled by a skilled artist. Despite being confined to a wheelchair, his posture remained upright and commanding, emitting **an** aura of authority **that** sent a chilling and intimidating vibe without any visible signs of anger.

Such an individual would undoubtedly capture one's attention in a crowd, making it impossible to divert one's **gaze** elsewhere.

Stella **was so** astonished that she momentarily forgot what she was doing with her hands.

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Chapter 47 Private Resolution

However, as the man observed her actions and the person in front of her, his brows furrowed imperceptibly.

“What is happening here?” Sebastian had not anticipated stumbling upon someone about to harm Angela. In his haste, he disregarded everything else and rushed over to shield her. “Angela, are you alright?”

Angela was also taken **aback**.

Why was Jonathan here as well?

Every time something occurred, Jonathan seemed to be present. Angela felt a mix of reassurance and anxiety,

Would Jonathan think she was **a** troublemaker, always causing problems?

Thomas assumed that these two individuals were also Angela's relatives and hesitated. After all, it would not reflect well if it became known that a student was being assaulted under his supervision.

But how was he supposed to pacify David's anger?

Just as Thomas grappled with this predicament, he noticed a change in David's expression. David immediately became obsequious, retrieving a cigarette from his jacket pocket and scurrying over to Jonathan. "Mr. Lawson, what a pleasant surprise! I was planning to visit your home in a few days."

Upon reaching him, the previously arrogant David became as submissive **as a** eunuch, bowing so low that it seemed **as** if he wanted to bow even lower **than** Jonathan.

Jonathan cast him a cold glance. "Is this how your school handles conflicts between children?"

Angela's heart skipped a beat, **and** she recoiled, appearing particularly pitiful.

"I understand." David glanced between Angela and Jessica, suddenly comprehending. He chuckled ingratiatingly. "So this is Mr. Lawson's child. What a coincidence!"

With that, he turned to Jessica, assuming the role of a benevolent elder. "So, you are the daughter of the Lawson Family. I must admit, I was unaware."

Jessica blinked, her mind going blank. Was he referring to her?

David attempted to win favor with Jessica in an attempt to make amends for his earlier unpleasantness. However, he failed to notice the perplexed expressions on the faces of Scarlett, Samuel, and Jessica herself.

Just as David was about to approach Jessica, Jonathan suddenly looked up, his gaze directly falling upon Angela.

"Was there a fight?"

His tone **was** casual, making it impossible to discern whether he was pleased or displeased.

Angela's heart tightened, and she felt as if Jonathan was unexpectedly supporting her. This thought caused her face to flush. "Yes, there was a fight."

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Chapter 48

Chapter 48 Unexpected Alliances

Chapter 48 Unexpected Alliances

“Alright.” Jonathan replied to Angela.

Angela couldn’t hold back her tears.

Who wouldn’t want someone to support them as a child?

However, she had never had someone to rely on like this before.

Except for Jonathan.

Now, she also **had** someone to back her up.

Jonathan’s voice was not loud, but it struck David like a heavy hammer.

Did he hear something wrong? Angela called out to Jonathan.

So, the child that Jonathan mentioned **was** Angela.

Wasn’t Sebastian Angela’s **father**?

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Before he could doubt for too long, Sebastian had already said to Angela, “Angela, Mr. Lawson happened. to be with **me**, so we came to see you together.”

In just three seconds, David was already sweating profusely, his legs weak.

He recognized the importance of considering auspicious timings before leaving his residence today or, at the very least, evaluating his personal well-being. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have engaged in an altercation with **a member** of the Lawson Family.

If Jonathan expresses displeasure and takes any action, would the Johnston Family have any recourse left?

“Dad?” Observing David’s demeanor, Stella felt a sense of unease.

Judging by the situation, was she not allowed to hit Angela?

If she had known, she **would** have slapped her first. She **was so** angry.

Look at her swollen face. It was all messed up because of Angela!

While Stella was still covering her face, Jonathan had already seen the slap mark on Angela's face.

"Mr. Lawson, Stella really knows how to cause trouble, even calling you over. I'm really sorry." Scarlet also knew the importance and quickly came forward to **greet him**.

But Jonathan didn't give "Who hit you?"

her a glance; he just looked at the slap mark on Angela's face, his gaze deepening.

Angela was on the verge of crying, and she looked at David without saying a word.

Jonathan turned his gaze back to David.

Chapter 48 Unexpected Alliances

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David was so scared that he **was** profusely sweating, and it took him a long time to **stammer**, "Mr. Lawson, it's a misunderstanding. I really didn't know that Miss Angela was your sister. I'm really sorry, Miss Angela. I'll make it up to you."

"Sir, you can't bully others **like** this. You have to be reasonable. It was Angela who hit me first; she slapped me three times. My dad only slapped her once to protect me." Stella showed her swollen face. Her tone was like the heroine in a popular TV drama who, despite being bullied by the powerful, still stubbornly spoke **up**, attracting wealthy suitors.

But Jonathan just glanced at her and didn't respond; instead, he looked at Angela. "How do you want to resolve this?"

"Mr. Lawson, Angela is my daughter. Our family has decided to settle this privately with Mr. Johnston. It's not good for you to intervene. Scarlet couldn't help but speak up.

She couldn't understand how Angela could be considered Jonathan's child. Even if he was powerful, he couldn't bypass her to manage Angela.

Samuel was also somewhat wary of Jonathan, but he also resented him for helping Angela once, so he also spoke up. "Mr. Lawson, can you stop interfering in our family affairs? You and Angela don't have any relationship, right?"

Jessica couldn't stand it anymore. They didn't support Angela; that was one thing, but now that Angela finally had someone backing her up, they wanted to drive her away. Were they even human?

Although she didn't know what the relationship between Jonathan and Angela was, she immediately shouted out on purpose. "Settle privately? According to your definition of settling privately, is it to slap Angela a few more times?"

David stumbled, almost kneeling down to his teammates who were digging his grave. Were they helping him or harming him?

Initially, Jonathan didn't know about his previous request, but now that he knew, could this matter be resolved easily?

Jonathan nodded slightly.

David quickly pulled Stella behind him and glared at her. "Stella, what nonsense are you talking about? Apologize **to** Miss Angela quickly!"

"Dad!" Stella couldn't believe it. Why should she apologize?

She still wanted to argue, but David slapped her face. "Still not apologizing?"

Tears streamed down Stella's face as she clenched her fists, unwilling to apologize to Angela.

Finally, Angela spoke. "Jonathan, I don't need an apology, but I want the truth about what happened today. If the **school** can't provide it, I'll **call** the police."

Jonathan, who had just arrived and didn't know the **cause**, waved **his** hand upon hearing her words.

The bodyguard pushing his wheelchair behind him called out, and eight burly bodyguards in black suits squeezed into the small office, each with their biceps bulging against their suits.

Chapter 48 Unexpected Alliances

A sudden suffocation filled the room, affecting everyone present.

David stammered, "Alright, Miss Angela. Not only will I apologize today, but I will also tell you the truth. Please don't let Mr. Lawson lose his temper."

is my

With that, he raised his **hand**, hesitated for a moment, and then slapped himself hard twice. "This is apology to you."

It was only at this moment that Stella finally realized the severity of the situation. Her face turned pale, and she dared not speak recklessly anymore.

Who on earth was this person that even David, a prominent figure in the Riverdon business world, was so

afraid of?

Thomas, feeling completely numb, tried his best to minimize his presence, fearing that Jonathan would

notice him.

If he had known that there **was** such a powerful figure behind Angela, he would have risked everything to protect her just now,

Scarlet, repeatedly ignored, looked very upset, especially since she couldn't understand why Jonathan was so protective of Angela.

What made Angela so special?

No matter how confused she was, she didn't dare to speak out. She could only watch as Angela meticulously unraveled all the events that had just happened. Thomas quickly had someone check the surveillance footage, which confirmed everything.

To everyone's surprise, it was Stella who had drugged Jessica, causing Angela to hit her.

Even more surprisingly, the drug was actually obtained from Fanny.

Scarlet's eyelids twitched.

Sebastian looked coldly at these people, then stepped forward. "Mr. Lawson, should we bring Fanny over?"

"No!" Scarlet exclaimed, her voice filled with agitation. "Didn't you all see? This has nothing to do with Fanny. It was Stella who approached Fanny for it. She had no idea!"

Her words went unnoticed by the others.

Jonathan continued to gaze at Angela, awaiting her opinion.

After a moment of contemplation, Angela looked up and

, Jonathan, please wait a moment. I **have another** question to **ask**. Stella, I have a question for you. Did you untie the rope that held the banner?"

She had intended to review the surveillance footage of the banner rope, but it turned out to be a blind spot and was not captured.

At that moment, it wasn't just Stella **who was** present.

Fanny was also there.

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Chapter 49

Chapter 49 Truth Revealed

Chapter 49 Truth Revealed

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The decision rested solely on her. "No!" Scarlet was the first to speak out, visibly agitated. "Didn't you all see? This has nothing to do with Fanny. Stella took it upon herself to ask Fanny. Fanny had no idea!"

Her words fell on deaf ears.

Jonathan continued to gaze at Angela, awaiting her opinion.

After contemplating for a moment, Angela **raised** her head **and said**, "**Jonathan**, please wait. I have another question. Stella, I need to ask you something. Did you untie the rope that was holding the **banner**?"

She had intended to review the surveillance footage of the banner's rope, but it happened to be in a blind spot and was not captured.

At that moment, Stella was not the only one present.

Fanny was there **as** well.

Stella, her face swollen, suppressed the urge to curse at Angela and resentfully replied, "What rope?"

"The banner fell because someone untied the rope, **and** it almost hit Jess." Angela remained composed.

Stella, irritated by Angela's demeanor, retorted, "How could I possibly untie the rope? Angela, **that** banner. could have killed someone! I may dislike Jessica, but I'm not that cruel."

Angela nodded, ceasing her questioning, and returned to Jonathan's side, stating, "Jonathan, I have finished asking. There is no need to involve Fanny."

Scarlet breathed a sigh of relief. Angela still had a conscience. If she had dared to implicate Fanny in this, Scarlet would have slapped her for sure.

Thomas now understood the situation. Although he didn't know who Jonathan was, he cursed Stella in his heart. How could a student commit such a malicious act as drugging someone, causing so much trouble *for* the school?

Seeing that Jonathan had yet to speak, he finally weakly spoke up, "Mr. Lawson, I am Thomas from the school. I sincerely apologize for what happened today. We will definitely punish Stella to your satisfaction."

Jonathan still kept his eyes down, not responding or looking at him, but this silence made Thomas feel an overwhelming sense of crisis. The pressure climbed up his spine, weighing heavily on his back.

He wanted to speak again, but Sebastian sternly interjected, "Sir, how to resolve this matter should be the victim. Don't you think?"

up

to

A warm feeling washed over Angela's heart. So, Jonathan was planning to let her decide. He truly wanted to give her complete control over this matter.

Sebastian was also standing up for her. How touching-

"This..." Thomas didn't believe a young girl could handle this matter properly, but he opened his mouth, glanced at the silent David, and awkwardly chuckled. "You're right, Angela. How do you propose we resolve

this?"

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Chapter 49 Truth Revealed

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Angela gained confidence, her eyes shining brighter than before. She shifted her gaze and **said**, "Sir, I don't believe you can handle this matter appropriately."

Thomas felt all eyes on him and found himself speechless. He truly wanted to slap himself. Why did he agree to let Stella go just now? This kind of handling was not befitting of his position as vice principal, and it was unfair to his students. It was no wonder Angela couldn't trust him.

Angela continued, "Let's not involve the police. After all, it's an internal matter within the school."

As soon as her words left her **lips**, she could clearly sense Thomas and David both exhaling a sigh of relief, while Stella appeared unsurprised.

They were relieved too soon.

Angela smirked and said, "Simply expel her. She's only a freshman; she can go back and retake the entrance exam and learn moral education again. Stella, start anew."

"What?!" Stella exclaimed. "You want me to drop out? Angela, how dare you!"

"Not drop out, but expulsion. Angela kindly clarified.

"Angela, you're **just as** ruthless **and** self-centered as your family claimed. You..."

Stella **was** fuming, cursing without restraint. David was so frightened that his face turned pale, **and** he immediately covered his daughter's mouth, saying. "Mr. **Lawson**, my daughter doesn't know any better. I **will** go to the school to discuss the expulsion today."

Jonathan finally raised his heavy gaze and asked, "How many disrespectful words did she use just now?"

"Two." **David** struggled to remember Stella's disrespectful words from earlier and then tentatively suggested, "Mr. Lawson, should we consider withdrawing from bidding for the two plots of **land** in the city center this time?"

“Okay.”

Jonathan’s face showed no joy, but David was almost in tears.

Finally, a trace of fear flashed across Stella’s face.

Although she didn’t usually pay attention to David’s business, she could gather some information from his conversations and phone calls when he came home. These two pieces of land were crucial to the Lawson Family. David had been occupied with this matter for almost two months, and she didn’t know how many subordinates he **had** scolded over the phone.

The next moment, David turned his head to look at Stella, anger flickering in his eyes, but he held it **back** for now. After quickly bidding farewell to Jonathan, he hurriedly left the scene with Stella.

Thomas looked miserable. How did he get involved with such a person? However, when he glanced **at** Scarlet and Samuel, he couldn’t help but grumble internally.

The way Jonathan referred to Angela didn’t sound like they were siblings. Jonathan was so protective of Angela, even more so than her own family. If it weren’t for their indifferent and even complicit attitudes. earlier, he wouldn’t have given up intervening when Angela was being beaten.

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Chapter 49 Truth Revealed

Scarlet appeared somewhat embarrassed. She hadn’t expected that this incident was indeed not Angela’s fault. But **she** couldn’t bring herself to apologize, and the thought of Angela trying to involve Fanny earlier filled her with disgust.

Samuel’s expression was even more complicated,

Why was Jonathan so protective of Angela?

With his protection, would Angela really need to return to the Kins Family in the future?

He wasn’t sure anymore.

Finally, Scarlet spoke first, in a condescending tone, “Angela, I misunderstood earlier, you..

Jonathan, I'm feeling better now. Let's go," Angela interrupted, seemingly not hearing her as she smiled sweetly and took over, pushing the wheelchair from the security guard.

"Okay."

Angela pushed the wheelchair **and** winked at Jessica, who was following behind. "Let's go. Jess."

Jessica's heart skipped a beat, **and** she quickly followed.

Her gossip-loving soul was ignited. Who was this **man** who was so kind to Angela? This was amazing, as Angela wouldn't **have** to fear the Kins Family anymore.

In an instant, the once bustling office fell **silent** and awkward.

Thomas looked at Scarlet **and** Samuel with resentment. "**Madam**, I don't mean to offend, but Angela is also your child. How can you side with outsiders **and** allow her to be beaten?"

"You don't understand. This child has always been disobedient. If I'm not strict with her, how can I control her?" Scarlet also had **many** complaints. Was it her fault? It was all because Angela was disobedient.

Thomas shook his head. "Even so, children have their own self-esteem. It's acceptable to discipline them at home, but outside, home is their last refuge, and family is their last support.

"If a child is bullied outside, and this last refuge **can't** provide shelter, and the family even wants to tear down the house she built herself, leaving her exposed to the elements, how can she love this home, and how **can** she obey the family's rules?"

Scarlet was stunned. She opened her mouth to argue, but for a moment, she didn't know where to begin.

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Chapter 50

Chapter 50 Fallen Leaves, Broken Ties

Scarlet paused for a moment before finally managing to **say**, “I wasn’t protecting her before. It’s **just that** she’s inherently bad, even poisoning her own family!”

Thomas wanted to say something more, but she impatiently interrupted him. “Enough, Sir. Since this matter has nothing to do with Samuel, I won’t interfere. As for Angela, she can be whoever’s child she wants to be. From now on, she’s not part of the Kins Family. I’ve been feeding an ungrateful wretch. If she gets into trouble at school in the future, just call Mr. Lawson. Don’t come to our family.”

With that, she grabbed the still-dazed Samuel and headed out.

Watching their retreating figures, Thomas sighed at her lack of maternal instincts. He quickly pushed the matter to the back of his mind and hurried to find out who Jonathan was.

If Angela was expelled, how could David possibly donate to the teaching building? And Jonathan certainly wouldn’t care about this.

He was truly heartbroken.

What **a** mess!

Unaware that she was being cursed by Thomas, Scarlet left the office in a hurry. “I don’t know if Fanny has finished the competition. If Angela really affected Fanny’s competition, I won’t let her off.”

Samuel, who had been silent for a long time, suddenly said, “Mom, did our family ever support Angela

“before?”

Scarlet frowned but couldn’t help but think back. In the years of raising Angela, she really couldn’t remember **anything**.

In the end, she could only say dismissively. “I don’t know. She didn’t cause any trouble before, **and** she was introverted and didn’t like to talk. Probably not. Why are you suddenly asking about her?”

Samuel was silent **for a** moment, then shook his head. “It’s nothing. Let’s go find Fanny.”

Walking with Scarlet through the school, Samuel kept his head down, looking at the fallen leaves on the ground, one after another.

He rarely paid attention to fallen leaves before.

They were just leaves, nothing special, and not eye-catching.

But today, he discovered that the ginkgo leaves scattered all over the ground were actually quite beautiful, even stunning. It's just that fallen leaves can't speak. Even when they fall on the ground, their voices are soft, and he hadn't noticed before.

But the beauty of fallen leaves doesn't depend on his gaze. They were inherently beautiful.

Samuel looked up and saw Fanny running towards them, but he couldn't help but think of Angela.

She had originally planned to block the slap for Stella, but after hearing Scarlet mention Uncle Donald's family, she put her hand down.

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Scarlet did not protect her but tore down the house she had built herself, leaving her to face the storm with her weak body.

Fanny arrived and suddenly stepped on a fallen leaf. The sound of it shattering startled Samuel, and he suddenly came to his senses.

The fallen leaves on the ground were crushed.

"Samuel, what's wrong?" Fanny looked worried.

Samuel's heart softened after seeing Fanny, and he shook his head to say he was fine. Looking at the fallen leaf, he felt a sense of loss.

Scarlet took Fanny's hand. "Fanny, how was your competition?"

Fanny hesitated, then **said**, "Mom, I didn't perform well. It's all my fault. I'm wasting the money James gave me. There's a better competitor in our department, Jessica Turner. She's Angela's best friend and the one Angela gave the spot to."

Scarlet was displeased. "In **that** case, tell Angela to have her friend withdraw from the competition. That spot was originally yours, and she agreed to give it to you. You didn't agree to give it to someone else, so it shouldn't count."

Samuel frowned slightly at her words.

"Mom, Angela definitely won't agree. She also wants Jessica to win. Fanny sighed softly. "Before the competition, Angela brought Jessica to see me and Stella, saying that

we drugged Jessica's water. I don't know what she misunderstood, but she definitely dislikes me more **now**."

Upon hearing this, Scarlet was livid. "**Fanny**, I already know about this. It was indeed Stella who spiked the water, and Angela wanted to

Frame you as well. But it has nothing to do with **you**. **You** don't need to worry. Stella has been expelled, and you should avoid **associating** with her in the future."

"Stella was expelled?" Fanny's eyes widened in disbelief.

"Yes, it's all because Jonathan helped Angela. I don't know what he's thinking, always defending Angela. Well, don't worry about it. It's fine if you don't win first prize, second prize is also good. We're planning a celebration party for **you** at home. We've already bought the food."

Before Scarlet could finish, Samuel, with his keen senses, caught on to something. He stared intently at Fanny and asked, "Fanny, aren't you surprised that Stella actually spiked the water?"

Fanny blinked, seemingly not understanding why he would ask **such** a question and looked a bit hurt. "Oh, I **forgot**. I **was** too upset when I heard **that** Stella was expelled. Samuel, what's wrong?"

Scarlet also found Fanny's reaction strange and couldn't help scolding, "Samuel, why are you speaking to **your sister** like that?"

"It's **nothing**." **Samuel** shook his head, suppressing the strange feeling in his heart.

Fanny didn't seem surprised that Stella had spiked the water, but only surprised **that** she was expelled.

Thinking **about** this, Samuel couldn't help but recall that when the banner fell, Stella and Fanny were both present, and the rope seemed to have been untied by someone.

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Chapter 50 Fallen Leaves, Broken Ties

Why

Angela stop questioning Stella after just one question?

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5 Free Coins

Why didn't she ask if anyone saw Fanny untie the rope?

Doesn't she like Fanny? With such an opportunity, why didn't she continue questioning?

Samuci was filled with confusion, feeling as if a veil had been cast over his face, obstructing his **vision**. He was clearly close to the truth, but he couldn't see it clearly.

Seeing that he didn't ask anything further, Scarlet and Fanny quickly changed the subject.

Soon, they arrived at the venue for the Brundelian speech competition. All the contestants had finished their speeches, and it was time to announce the results.

A moment later, a foreigner with blond hair and blue eyes took the stage, speaking passionately in Brundelian.

As he finished his sentence, those in the audience who understood Brundelian erupted in excitement.

"Mr. Jone mentioned that the winner of the first prize will have the opportunity to study in Veridia as an exchange student. All the tuition fees will be covered." Someone nearby who understood translated for others, their faces filled with excitement.

Studying abroad holds great value in today's world, but not everyone has the chance. The school may only offer one or two **spots** each year, and the tuition fees are unaffordable.

However, now there are available spots and covered tuition fees. It's such a wonderful opportunity that anyone would desire.

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