

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

Chapter 441

Chapter 441 Establishing Boundaries

Jane did not foresee Florence's sudden arrival.

Upon the sudden entrance of a few individuals into the private room, Jane, who was still being served drinks by the person summoned by Harley, cast a narrowed gaze toward the door.

"Who is present?" Experiencing irritation due to the intrusion, Harley glared at the newcomers.

The man standing at the door, dressed in a formal suit with a clear bodyguard presence, gestured to Jane and Harley, indicating that his presence was solely to assist in opening the door. Upon verifying the bodyguard's identity, Jane and Harley observed as he moved to the side, unveiling Florence standing behind him.

"Mi-Miss Shelton?" Harley stammered in astonishment, nearly choking on her words.

Florence casually glanced at them, disregarding Harley, and waved her hand before her nose while disdainfully speaking. "Transfer them to an alternative room. Upon issuing the command, she proceeded into the adjoining private room.

Despite feeling somewhat bewildered, Jane and Harley obediently complied with Florence's instruction and moved to the new private room.

Very soon, in the upcoming private room. Jane and Harley were positioned in seats opposite. Florence.

*Miss Shelton, do you need any assistance from us?" Harley politely inquired, directing his question towards Florence.

Florence observed the duo before her and asked, "Who is Jane Coolidge?"

Jane's expression changed momentarily, but she promptly composed herself and responded,

I am Miss Shelton. How may I assist you?" Upon responding cautiously, she contemplated her recent actions. Upon further reflection, she realized she had not committed any offence against Miss Shelton from the Shelton Family. Momentarily experiencing a state of confusion. Harley also gazed at her, indicating with a lowered head and eyes. Upon witnessing it, Jane could only shake her head helplessly in response.

Despite their belief in their discretion, Florence closely observed their interactions. Nevertheless, she refrained from revealing their intentions and asked, "Are you Christopher's girlfriend?" Florence observed Jane closely. Initially, Florence had planned to capture Christopher as a means to exert pressure on Jonathan. However, she had not foreseen Christopher's prompt return to Riverdon. Given the potential difficulty in locating Christopher, she considered it equally effective to find his girlfriend.

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Upon receiving this information, Jane promptly shook her head and provided clarification. "Miss Shelton, Christopher and I have separated. He has returned to Riverdon, making **it** unfeasible for us to reunite." Motivated by self-preservation, Jane promptly disavowed **any** connection with Christopher. Upon noticing Florence's furrowed brow, Jane felt a sense of regret.

Fortunately, Florence only conveyed slight disapproval before giving instructions. "Summon Christopher to return to Northland."

Jane acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding Florence's intentions and realized that convincing Christopher to return at this point would probably not be successful. She murmured, "Miss Shelton, if I request him to return, he will not approve. Look..."

Before Jane could provide further details, Florence's companion impatiently interrupted. "If Miss Shelton directs you to make a call, please comply. Why hesitate?"

Jane promptly retrieved her phone and dialed Christopher's number without further delay.

Despite the persistent ringing. Christopher did not respond. Jane experienced a feeling of relief. Usually, his lack of response would have led her to devise different forms of retaliation. However, she harbored a silent hope that he would never respond. Upon the persistent ringing of the unanswered call, Jane exhaled a sigh of relief.

Just as Jane was about to inform Florence that she was no longer affiliated with Christopher, Florence abruptly signaled to the person next to her. "Use this cell phone to call him again."

The individual gave Jane a cell phone and directed her to reach out to Christopher once

more.

Jane refrained from showing any signs of discontent on her face. She accepted the cell phone and promptly entered Christopher's number before making the call.

On this occasion, the phone rang multiple times before Christopher responded, "Hello?" His voice came through the phone.

Jane glanced at Florence, who responded composedly before speaking abruptly. "Christopher, it is imperative that you promptly return to Northland."

Upon receiving a call from Jane, Christopher displayed surprise and asked, "Jane?" On this occasion, he omitted the formal salutation and addressed her by her name, Jane.

Jane experienced a feeling of relief in response to Christopher's **tone**. "It's me, Jane. Did you hear me asking you to return to Northland?" Her usual authoritative tone was accompanied by a subtle tremor **that** was challenging to discern.

Florence attentively observed Jane and awaited Christopher's reaction.

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Christopher didn't keep them waiting for an extended period and responded coldly. "Jane, I am not **obligated** to adhere to your directives."

Christopher's words resonated with Jane, delineating clear boundaries between them for Florence. Jane exhaled a sigh of relief and was on the verge of concluding the call when Florence intercepted the phone from her.

"Christopher, did Jonathan instruct you to hide in Riverdon?" Florence's voice exhibited a passive quality, yet it also conveyed a subtle undertone of coldness.

Christopher didn't respond immediately. However, Florence could perceive him inhaling on the other end.

Florence maintained her composure and commented, "Ensure that you hide effectively in Riverdon."

Only after Florence ended the call did Christopher experience a feeling of relief. He had never anticipated that Florence would have any communication with Jane. He could not risk opposing both individuals, with Florence being particularly influential. Christopher felt a persistent sense of unease due to the actions of the ruthless individuals and

Florence's leadership. Without delay, he quickly returned to the Sanders Family. Despite lacking the same level of freedom within his home environment, it is undeniable that he was more secure there.

Upon Christopher's early return home, Teresa felt joyful. "You have demonstrated maturity and a sense of responsibility." She didn't hesitate to commend Christopher. She experienced genuine happiness within her heart.

Christopher generally did not find pleasure in listening to Teresa's lectures. However, he found it oddly comforting at that moment. Considering Florence's caution, he compliantly sat beside Teresa and conversed with her.

When Michael returned home, he observed Teresa and Christopher's warm and affectionate interaction. "Hmph." He emitted a grunt from the doorway.

Upon perceiving the intentional noise made by Michael, Teresa hastened to welcome him. "Michael, you're back. You must be tired." She had become accustomed to assuming a maternal role and excelling in every aspect.

Upon seeing her, Michael experienced a notable enhancement in his mood.

Christopher stood up as well.

"Dad." He exclaimed as Michael neared.

Michael snorted. "Are you not out partying?"

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Christopher promptly shook his head. After arriving home, he proceeded to change his attire and take a shower. To ensure he did not smell of alcohol, he actively sought out Teresa and dutifully engaged in conversation with her.

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Chapter 442 Time to Have a Child

Even Michael wouldn't be able to notice anything amiss.

Michael inspected Christopher from head to toe before he reluctantly gave in. "Come to the study with me. We'll continue our conversation from where we left off yesterday."

When Michael called Christopher to the study the previous day, he gave him a severe reprimanding. As for now, their talk would depend on Christopher's performance that day. As Christopher had done relatively satisfactorily, Michael would not focus on criticizing him either.

Teresa felt slightly worried upon hearing this, but she did not have the habit of interfering in important issues. Therefore, in spite of her worries, she kept quiet and watched as the two men went up the stairs.

Meanwhile, Christopher followed Michael anxiously.

Upon arriving at the study, Michael asked, "Do you remember our conversation yesterday?"

Christopher immediately responded, "I do."

Even though Michael's scoldings typically went over his head, the reprimanding he had received yesterday was so severe that he couldn't just brush it from his mind.

Luckily enough, Michael didn't make him repeat it and inquired instead, "There isn't anyone in Riverdon who is interested in you. Are you still keeping in touch with the young lady of the Coolidge Family?"

Christopher's heart rose to his throat, and he hurriedly explained, "Dad, after that Coolidge boy offended the Shelton Family, I was scared that she would drag us down the mud with her, so I've already ended things with Jane."

In the short amount of time he had, this was the best excuse he could come up with.

Michael stared at him dubiously. "Didn't Jonathan say that he sent you back because you offended the young lady from the Shelton Family?"

Christopher was rendered wordless.

How could he have forgotten about that? The good thing was that he was still able to save the situation.

“Dad, Florence has set her

on Jonathan and wants to use me to manipulate him, which

is why she said that I offended her...”

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Her 440 Time to

by *framing things* in this way, Christopher *successfully*

Really? Michael furrowed his *brow*. “So you’ve *already* broken up *with Miss Cool* you’re going to graduate soon, it’s *about time* you start *finding a wife*.”

As *time* went by, Michael came *to the realization that Christopher* was genuinely a lost cause. *Christopher* was *letting him down* continuously, but shifting *the expectations he had put on him to Jonathan*, a child who was a reminder of his *previous mistakes*, was *also a tough choice* to make.

This led him to *grow the urge to place his hopes on a grandson who was even born yet*. Even *if Christopher* was *still* single, a fact that lowered the *chances of him getting a grandson even further*, it *would not stop him from focusing on this future grandson of his*.

Meanwhile, Christopher was *unable to wrap his mind around what Michael’s question*

meant, *and* he mulled over it *for a moment* before replying, “Dad, Jane and I really are over. Also, *I don’t have any plans for marriage as of now*.”

He wasn’t completely *against* it, but the woman he had originally planned to marry no longer held the same weight in his heart. *After* all, he just could not stand the fact that Fanny had *already* been defiled by another man.

“No plans?” Michael was dissatisfied with his answer. “Find a fitting marriage candidate as soon as possible. If you can’t, I’ll do it for you.”

As he spoke, he felt that he was being too stern and continued, “Find someone to get tied down to, then have a child for your Mom to take care of. She’s always talking about how bored she is at home.”

As he was used to being firm, he did not leave Christopher with any other options even then.

However, Christopher, who was bewildered at first, had a realization at that moment. In a rare moment of shrewdness, he became aware that his father did not only want him to find a partner, but instead, he wanted him to have a child as soon as possible.

Have a child?

At that thought, Christopher no longer resisted Michael and agreed flatly.

With that, the father and son exited the study, each of them carried away in their own thoughts.

On the other hand, in Northland, Fanny never received a call from Christopher. The longer she waited for him to call her back, the more frustrated and irritated she felt.

Just as she was getting extremely annoyed, Kaydron suddenly called her. Even though she was feeling peeved, she had no choice but to reply.

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Upon finding **out** that **he was** asking **her** out to his place again, Fanny finally caved. She only had one motive—she was planning to secretly delete the photos before making her way away from **Northland**.

At first, she had sought Christopher out with the intention of asking him about the current situation in Riverdon. And yet, he did not pick up the phone, nor did he call her even after a long wait on her end.

As midnight struck, although Fanny did not succeed in finding a chance to deceive Kaydron into telling her his password, she learned of his scheme to hurt Angela, and she egged him on in spite of her worries.

In the end, after receiving her encouragement, Kaydron took his men to kidnap Angela the following day. As per their agreement, Fanny was required to introduce him to the people from the Collier Family once he was done.

After she consented, Kaydron gleefully embraced her, and they ended up spending the night. While they were entangled in each other's arms, Fanny's phone rang next to her, but she did not get the opportunity to pick up.

At the same time, Jane was left speechless as she continuously dialed Fanny's phone. As the phone continued to ring without a response, she began to break out in a cold sweat.

However, as Florence was still eyeing her watchfully, she could only continue calling Fanny. She explained, “Fanny really is the person he likes, but I don’t know why the call won’t get through...”

Florence did not reply, but Harley, next to her, said under her breath, “Maybe she’s sleeping.”

When she didn’t get a response from Florence, Harley proposed softly, “Miss Shelton, why don’t we try calling her again tomorrow? We...”

Jane chimed in, “We’ll make sure to bring Fanny to you!”

Florence inclined her head crabbyly. “Fine, bring her here tomorrow.”

Once Florence and her men took their leave, Jane and Harley finally let out a relieved sigh. As the two exchanged looks, both noticed the anxiety and despair in the other’s gaze.

While the rest were buried in their worries, Angela was focused on reading her book. As night descended, a quiet settled over their surroundings.

Jonathan stayed by her side **as** well, and the two were silent except for the occasional turning of the pages.

“It’s bedtime,” he reminded her.

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Hearing that, Angela let out a yawn and settled into **his arms**.

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Jonathan tenderly carried her in his embrace and left the book on a shelf nearby before leading her back to the bedroom.

When the night went by, Angela woke up to the sight of Jonathan gazing at her with affectionate and tender eyes.

Once the **two** freshened up and finished their breakfast, Jonathan took Angela to Northland Medical University **as** usual.

After the news about Kaydron and Fanny’s entanglement, Angela’s personal bodyguards became even more vigilant than usual, and they stayed close to her even after she had bade farewell to Jonathan.

Oliver, as usual, remained by Angela’s side.

They never expected anyone to be idiotic enough to start trouble with this level of security, but to their surprise, someone did exactly that.

However, before Angela could even get a look at them, Oliver and the bodyguards had already subdued the suspicious individuals.

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Chapter 443

Chapter **443** Ignorance **is** not Dreadful

When Angela looked at them, she saw the people flailing **in** torment on the floor.

There were seven of them altogether, and all of them were in good shape, as though they had received intensive training, except one figure who was notably plump.

In contrast, Angela's team consisted of just four members, including herself. Oliver and Angela were assisted by two additional bodyguards. She was aware that Oliver had always been an outstanding fighter. Nevertheless, **she** was pleased at how competent her two bodyguards were.

Oliver and the two bodyguards had already subjugated all the men and were tying them up before she could even react. Angela couldn't even figure out why they had ropes around them.

Jonathan provided her four bodyguards, but they were usually on duty in groups of two. It was an interesting experience for her as well, since this was the first time she had seen them

operate.

She had no idea that Jonathan had used his military connections to enlist these bodyguards, which meant they were all outstanding mercenaries or veterans, and they could even take on a hundred men on their own.

Oliver was already dragging the man in the center, who was obviously the one in charge, and was questioning him about their intentions while Angela was lost in astonishment.

Oliver gripped the large man tightly in place with his fragile but full neck while the man was on the ground, twisted into an uncomfortable position.

Angela quickly recognized the man to be Kaydron as she had seen his picture when Jonathant had sent it to Mobius for verification. Additionally, with Yoanna's advice, she had made a mental note of his appearance long ago.

Considering Fanny's impulsive nature, she surmised that Kaydron would likely not hold out for long, especially given Jonathan's recent interest in her. Hence, they were not entirely unprepared.

"Speak! What are your motives? Who sent you?" Oliver demanded fiercely upon seeing Kaydron writhing in pain on the ground, refusing to speak.

Kaydron cried out in pain. "Ah, we had no ill intentions! We were merely passing through, I swear!" He continued to threaten, "You, on the other hand, should release me this instant! If not, I'll make you regret it!!

After all, he and his men had not managed to lay their hands on Angela, so it was natural for

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hit to defend himself in this manner.

Even so, Oliver remained unconvinced.

"Just passing through? Would you run toward us with a knife in hand if you were just passing through? Upon saying that, he kicked the knife at his feet and surveyed the other weapons brought by the men.

Kaydron's other accomplices had also been subdued by the bodyguards and were currently being restrained. However, the weapons they had brought were scattered around them, and there was quite a considerable number.

Intimidated by Oliver's demeanor, Kaydron began sweating profusely but dared not speak.

out of turn.

"Ask the others," Angela instructed Oliver, gesturing toward the other subdued men.

At her orders, Oliver confronted the group of men and asked, "Why did Reed summon you here? What was he planning?"

The men remained silent at first. However, the bodyguards who had subdued them had a way of extracting information, and soon, cries of pain erupted before someone finally spoke

1. up.

“Ah! Mr. Reed hired us to restrain a woman. We don’t know anything else...”

“Yes, Mr. Reed didn’t give us any other information. We truly didn’t know.”

“Stop attacking us. We genuinely had no idea.”

Kaydron only had brought six men along, and as soon as one spoke, two immediately joined in, while the others weakly admitted to their involvement.

Angela chuckled at the sight.

On the contrary, Kaydron appeared visibly frightened. He had hoped that the six men he had hired would swiftly overpower Angela’s three bodyguards, but they were subdued in a blink of an eye despite having the numerical advantage. It was truly terrifying!

Unaware of Kaydron’s fear, Oliver smacked Kaydron’s head and demanded, “Is what they said true?”

Kaydron was already on the verge of wetting his pants and no longer had the nerve to continue denying it. He quickly nodded. “Yes, yes... I was wrong for not knowing my place and getting on your wrong side. I really didn’t mean it...”

He glanced at Angela, silently pleading with his eyes.

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“What did you intend to do with me?” Angela disregarded Kaydron’s gaze and began casually surveying her surroundings instead.

As her eyes passed over the knives under control around her, she was filled with a sense of unease. Although she was aware from the information Yarrison provided that this man called Kaydron was not the brightest lamp of the bunch, she was taken aback by his sheer foolishness.

Setting aside the fact that committing misdeeds during daylight was an idiotic choice, his audacity of bringing people to her did not do much favors to his intelligence.

As if sensing Angela's skepticism, Kaydron cursed, "Why should you care about what I'm planning to do?"

He couldn't comprehend why her bodyguards were becoming increasingly formidable, and why every single one of the men he had brought with him had failed. The more he dwelled on it, the more contorted his expression became.

At that, Angela clicked her tongue and asked, "Was it Fanny who sent you to harass me?"

While she and Fanny had not openly clashed with one another, it was only because she couldn't be bothered by what Fanny was doing behind her back. However, now that Fanny was no longer hiding her true colors, Angela could not continue turning a blind eye either.

Kaydron was perplexed for a moment, but he quickly recalled Fanny's instructions and denied, "No."

Fanny had promised him a reward, and in order to obtain those rewards, he could not betray her at a crucial moment like this. Moreover, he had not caused any harm to Angela today! It was Angela's associates who had injured his men!

Fortunately, he had deliberately chosen to act in this secluded location, where their preemptive strike would go unnoticed, in turn shielding them from any accusations of intending harm toward Angela.

As Kaydron realized this, his expression eased slightly, and he continued to defend himself without hesitation.

"I don't know why you think that we're trying to harm you. We were just passing through! Besides, I don't know the person you're talking about, so she certainly didn't send me here."

Faced with his denial, Angela calmly remarked, "It's fine if you refuse to admit it. However, if you encounter her in the future, kindly relay that if she plans to cause trouble for me again, she should send someone smarter."

Upon hearing this, Kaydron erupted in anger, his eyes widening like saucers. "What the hell do you mean? Are you calling me an idiot?"

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Angela innocently shook her head. As she looked at Kaydron's greasy face and the way he was rendered immobile by Oliver, she haughtily declared, "I am not labeling you as unintelligent. In merely presenting the facts objectively, being foolish is not alarming; being manipulated due to your foolishness is"

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At Angela's words, Kaydron began to struggle with all his might, only to be subdued by a powerful blow from Oliver. However, he remained agitated and began to hurl vulgar insults at her instead.

Despite that, Angela was seemingly unaffected by his profanity and nonchalantly checked the time before saying to Oliver, "I'm heading to my training. Can you handle things here?"

"Of course!" Oliver promptly silenced Kaydron before nodding in affirmation. He swiftly signaled the other two bodyguards nearby to accompany Angela and ensure her safety.

Angela then departed. After all, she was worried that she would be late after the delay.

Upon her arrival, she noticed most of the students had already gathered, even though she was not late.

As the training session was drawing to a close, it was unusual for anyone to be tardy like she was. In addition to the false accusations she had been framed with the previous day, all immediately turned toward her as she stepped foot into the classroom.

eyes

Usually, they looked at her with admiration due to her medical expertise, but the gazes on her now seemed to be more curious than amazed.

Angela naturally took a seat beside Yaxley, who asked, "Everything alright yesterday?"

Although he had taken a day off, he learned of the false accusations against her as well.

Angela smiled and replied, "It's fine. Everything has been resolved."

However, when she recalled that Joseph was behind the incident that unfurled the previous day, as well as the fact that Fanny had instigated Kaydron to confront her that day, she couldn't help but feel that the Kins Family was indeed a toxic bunch.

Upon hearing her response, Yaxlen refrained from probing further and lowered his gaze as if deep in thought.

Following their conversation, the training session promptly commenced, and Angela immersed herself in her studies.

First, Oliver reported the incident involving Kaydron to Jonathan before he quickly proceeded to report it to the authorities.

The police swiftly detained the men for interrogation, but they were a twist—Kaydron and the other **six** vehemently denied targeting Angela, instead accusing Oliver of causing their injuries and demanding compensation.

TORTEMO

Chapter 444 She **Has** Malicious Intentions

"Officer, we didn't do anything wrong. They suddenly attacked us!"

"**Yes**, they assaulted us without cause, so they should compensate us for our medical expenses and emotional distress!"

Kaydron joined the chorus of complaints, "I was only passing by, but they attacked me for no reason. I don't know any of them."

As he spoke, he inwardly gloated to himself.

Though he may be arrogant, he had considered the possibility of failure and arrest when he initially confronted Angela with his hired men, and he had strategized with them beforehand in case something happened.

Hence, **as** soon as he had the chance to speak, he insisted on following their prearranged plan.

Naturally, Oliver would not let them off the hook easily. He promptly produced a recording device.

“Do you think we weren’t prepared? This device captured everything you said earlier.”

The young police officer, upon receiving the recording, displayed a conflicted expression. “Good thing you were ready.”

How strong do they have to be to remember to turn on the recording device while fighting?

Meanwhile, after noticing the bodyguards’ actions, an experienced police officer remarked to the young officer, “Their claims may be valid, but we must listen to the recording.”

The seven men who had been causing a commotion the entire time fell silent out of fear, and Kaydron’s expression contorted in discomfort.

Just before the recording was played, a timid voice spoke up:

“Mr. Lawson told us to change our accounts. We were hired by him, and he threatened not to pay us if we spoke the truth.”

Once one person spoke up, the others swiftly followed his lead and turned against Kaydron.

“It was all Mr. Lawson’s doing. We’re just innocent employees, and we never **got** a chance to do anything anyway...”

“It’s not our fault. Kaydron was behind it all!”

As Kaydron watched as these men began to accuse him, his complexion turned from a pale mustard to a sickly green, and his facial expressions were mixed.

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He knew he shouldn’t speak at that moment, but **as** he struggled to hold himself back, he eventually couldn’t resist any longer and blurted out, “What do you mean? I hired six **of** you, but you can’t even defeat three of them! You six useless pieces of trash are holding me back, and now you want money?”

Although his demeanor was fierce and cruel, his furious expression, combined with his greasy and plump face, made him appear rather comical.

Seeing this, Oliver reached out to the police officer and prompted, "Give me the pen back."

The young police officer asked in confusion, "Huh? Aren't we supposed to play the recording?"

Oliver explained, "This is just an ordinary pen."

A heavy silence filled the air following his words.

Immediately after, Kaydron's enraged voice sounded. "What do you mean!? He doesn't have the recording? Since he didn't record anything, let us go! We didn't do anything at all!"

However, his outburst only led to the police officers believing that the group of men was behaving irrationally and decided to take them into temporary custody. The duration of their detention would be determined by the number of prohibited knives they were carrying.

As for Oliver and the two bodyguards, they were swiftly released after being questioned.

By the time she learned about the situation on Oliver's end, Angela had already been picked up by Jonathan and was casually leaning against him as she commented, "Oliver is becoming more clever."

Hearing that, Oliver responded from behind the wheel, "Mrs. Lawson, I was always clever."

Angela chuckled. "Yes, yes."

Jonathan tightened his embrace around her before adding, "They can only be detained for three days."

Angela shrugged. "It's all right. I'm not the only one Kaydron has offended."

Jonathan quickly grasped who she was referring to and asked, "How are you planning to handle it?"

He gave her free rein most of the time, and even in this case, he would not interfere **too** much.

Angela pondered for a moment before declaring, "I haven't decided yet. I don't want to make the first move; I think it's filthy."

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The person they were referring to was no other than Fanny. Although she frequently caused trouble, her abilities were limited, and she was never able to harm Angela. Instead, she left Angela speechless every time.

“Should we let her face the consequences?” Jonathan suggested.

After mulling over his words, Angela nodded in agreement. “I don’t think we need to do anything. She will bring it upon herself.”

According to Yarrison’s special investigation, Fanny had been causing quite a commotion lately, and there were likely many people who were displeased with her.

They were, in fact, correct; Fanny was not having a good time at all.

She was escorted into a car by Jane.

“Ms. Coolidge, what is the meaning of this?” She was familiar with Jane and had been envious of her when she was openly with Christopher before. Now, seeing Jane again only sent a shiver down her spine. Jane must be harboring malicious intentions toward her!

Jane smirked at the sight of Fanny trembling with fear. “Miss Fanny, don’t be scared. Someone just wants to have a word with you.”

Still, Fanny couldn’t help but feel afraid. As she looked at the car speeding away, she wanted to cry out for help, but the person next to Jane covered her mouth before she could utter a word.

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Mmph, mmph!"

Jane looked pleased at the sight of Fanny being gagged, feigning surprise as she remarked, "Oh my, Miss Fanny, why are you so impulsive?"

Fanny glared at *her* while putting up a fight with all of her strength. However, her struggles only led to her getting her hands and feet tied up.

She regretted her decision furiously. She shouldn't have gotten into the car cooperatively when Jane asked her to!

Previously, she assumed that they called her over to have a look because Kaydron had kidnapped Angela, but little did she know that the seemingly shabby man was actually working for Jane.

At that thought, she realized she was in serious trouble.

Jane grabbed Fanny's chin, looking at her gagged mouth and bound limbs as she said with a smile, "Don't give me that look. I'm not going to harm you, but the person you'll meet later might not be as forgiving."

Despite her frantic struggles, Fanny wasn't able to break free from the restraints, so she could only shake her head and nod vigorously at Jane while blinking furiously.

Her mood lifted at the sight, and Jane removed the cloth from her mouth.

"Cough... Ms. Coolidge, may I ask who wishes to see me?"

Having learned her lesson, she dared not show disrespect to Jane anymore.

Jane nonchalantly replied, "You'll find out soon enough. And remember, the chance, think about what happened with Christopher."

while you

still have

Fanny was taken aback. She had been speculating if it was the people from the Collier Family who were after her as she had toyed with Jonathan before, and they had just decided to teach her a lesson now.

However, Jane's words made her realize her previous assumption was wrong. Her only connection to Jane was through Christopher, so Jane wouldn't be seeking her out for any reason other than Christopher.

However, Christopher had already returned to Riverdon, so how could she still be in trouble because of him?

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Chapter 443 In Serious Trouble

She wanted to probe further but refrained **upon** seeing Jane's impatient expression. Following Jane's advice, Fanny began to think about her interactions with Christopher.

Soon, she was escorted by Jane's men into a room, and her mouth was gagged once again. She was then carelessly thrown to the ground while Jane engaged in conversation with a

woman.

The woman casually asked, "Is this the Kins woman that Christopher is so fond of? Can she convince him to return to Northland?"

Jane promptly replied, "Yes, that's her. Christopher used to care deeply for her."

Utterly baffled by their conversation, Fanny glanced at Florence.

Though she was unfamiliar with Florence, she could tell from Jane's attitude toward her that this woman was not just any other ordinary person.

"Mm-hmm," she attempted to speak up.

Alas, her words went unnoticed as Florence interjected, "Have her call Christopher and persuade him to return to Northland."

Without someone like Christopher to use as leverage against Jonathan, Florence couldn't shake off her uneasiness and was eager to bring him back, especially since Jonathan refused to acknowledge her.

Just then, the cloth was removed from Fanny's mouth, and a cell phone was placed next to her ear soon after, already calling a number.

Ignoring the phone, she addressed the woman above her, "Miss, Christopher no longer has feelings for me. Even if I ask him to return, he won't."

Fanny made this statement with the hopes of being released, but to her surprise, Florence furrowed her brow and turned to Jane. "What is she talking about?"

Jane jolted and hastily replied, "She's speaking nonsense! Miss Shelton, Christopher definitely likes her! You'll see once the call connects."

However, the phone continued to ring without anyone picking up.

Fanny then spoke, "Miss Shelton, I am not the one Christopher likes. On the contrary, it's Miss Jane who had a relationship with him before..."

Upon hearing this, Jane immediately rushed over and threw her a kick.

"What are you making up now? My relationship with him was purely business! Weren't you

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Chapter 445 In Serious Trouble

always **clinging** to him back then?"

Although Jane had never explicitly mentioned that Fanny and Christopher were together, she had used Christopher as a shield, **so** naturally, she had to delve into their past. Therefore, she **was** well aware of the history between Christopher and Fanny.

Fanny was shocked by her words, and her eyelids twitched.

Florence looked at her and ordered, "Call Christopher and ask him to come back."

As soon as Florence spoke, a person suddenly appeared and untied the ropes on her, but she didn't dare **to** take out her cell phone.

Even though Christopher had been ignoring her calls, what if he answered now? What would she do then?

As she pondered how to handle the situation, her cell phone suddenly rang

Fanny instinctively wanted to hang up the phone, but someone beat her to it and pulled out her phone. Upon seeing the caller ID, everything went black before her eyes. It was Christopher.

The person next to her answered the phone immediately and handed it to Fanny so that she could speak.

With all the intimidating figures surrounding her, Fanny could only tremble as she answered, "Hello?"

“Fanny...” Christopher’s voice came through. “Fanny, I’m sorry for not answering your calls before.”

Alarmed, Fanny hastily responded, “It’s fine if you don’t answer my calls. We don’t have anything between us anymore.”

Christopher paused for a moment before he asked, “Fanny, do you not like me anymore? But I’ve always...”

“I don’t like you! I’m busy. I have to go.” Fanny cut off Christopher before he could continue.

She was worried about what he might say next, and attempted to hint for him to hang up quickly.

Even so, Christopher didn’t seem to understand her hints at all and said instead, “Fanny, if you’re mad at me for going back to Riverdon, I can explain myself.”

Fanny didn’t want to listen, but the person next to her covered her mouth. Hence, she was forced to listen **as** Christopher went on to explain.

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Chapter 445 In Serious **Trouble**

Free Coins

I went back to Riverdon so that I could get my dad’s approval for our marriage. Now that he’s agreed, if you’re fine with it, we can finally be together without any shame.”

As **soon** as Christopher finished speaking, Fanny was drenched in sweat. She turned to look at Florence in horror, only to see that the woman was smiling in satisfaction.

Florence mouthed something to Fanny, and she saw it clearly—she wanted her to ask Christopher to return to Northland.

At the sight of her silence, a man pressed a sharp knife against Fanny’s face.

Fanny, filled with anxiety and fear, could only steady her voice and reply, “Chris, I guess we can get married. Can you come back to Northland to stay with me?”

She didn’t know why Florence wanted Christopher to return to Northland, but between his safety and the safety of her own face, she chose to protect her face.

Florence smiled, satisfied with her tact.

After Fanny finished speaking, the room fell silent as they waited for Christopher's answer.

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Mmph, mmph!"

Jane looked pleased at the sight of Fanny being gagged, feigning surprise as she remarked,

Oh my, Miss Fanny, why are you so impulsive?"

Fanny glared at her while putting up a fight with all of her strength. However, her struggles only led to her getting her hands and feet tied up.

She regretted her decision furiously. She shouldn't have gotten into the car cooperatively when Jane asked her to!

Previously, she assumed that they called her over to have a look because Kaydron had kidnapped Angela, but little did she know that the seemingly shabby man was actually working for Jane.

At that thought, she realized she was in serious trouble.

Jane grabbed Fanny's chin, looking at her gagged mouth and bound limbs as she said with a smile, "Don't give me that look. I'm not going to harm you, but the person you'll meet later might not be as forgiving."

Despite her frantic struggles, Fanny wasn't able to break free from the restraints, so she could only shake her head and nod vigorously at Jane while blinking furiously,

Her mood lifted at the sight, and Jane removed the cloth from her mouth.

"Cough... Ms. Coolidge, may I ask who wishes to see me?"

Having learned her lesson, she dared not show disrespect to Jane anymore.

Jane nonchalantly replied, "You'll find out soon enough. And remember, while you still have the chance, think about what happened with Christopher."

Fanny was taken aback. She had been speculating if it was the people from the Collier Family who were after her as she had toyed with Jonathan before, and they had just decided to teach her a lesson now.

However, Jane's words made her realize her previous assumption was wrong. Her only connection to Jane was through Christopher, so Jane wouldn't be seeking her out for any reason other than Christopher.

However, Christopher had already returned to Riverdon, so how could she still be in trouble. because of him?

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She wanted to probe further but refrained upon seeing Jane's impatient expression. **Following** Jane's advice, Fanny began to think about her interactions with Christopher.

Soon, she was escorted by Jane's men into a room, and her mouth was gagged once again. She was then carelessly thrown to the ground while Jane engaged in conversation with **at**

woman.

The woman casually asked, "Is this the Kins woman that Christopher is so fond of? Can she convince him to return to Northland?"

Jane promptly replied, "Yes, that's her. Christopher used to care deeply for her."

Utterly baffled by their conversation, Fanny glanced at Florence.

Though she was unfamiliar with Florence, she could tell from Jane's attitude toward her that this woman was not just any other ordinary person.

"Mm-hmm," she attempted to speak up.

Alas, her words went unnoticed as Florence interjected. "Have her call Christopher and persuade him to return to Northland."

Without someone like Christopher to use as leverage against Jonathan, Florence couldn't shake off her uncasiness and was eager to bring him back, especially since Jonathan refused to acknowledge her.

Just then, the cloth was removed from Fanny's mouth, and a cell phone was placed next to her car soon after, already calling a number.

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Chapter 445 In Serious Trouble

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Chapter 445 *In Serious Trouble*

I went **back** to Riverdon so that I could get my dad’s approval for our marriage. Now he’s agreed, *if you’re fine with it, we can finally be together without any shame.*”

As soon as Christopher finished *speaking*, Fanny was drenched in sweat. **She** turned *to look at* Florence in horror, only to see *that* the woman was smiling in satisfaction.

Florence mouthed something to Fanny, and she saw *it* clearly—she wanted her to **ask** Christopher *to return to* Northland.

At the sight of her silence, a man pressed a sharp knife against Fanny’s face.

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Chapter 446

Chapter 446 Rescue Has Finally Arrived

To everyone's surprise, Christopher remained silent on the other end.

As time passed, the silence began to feel suffocating, and Fanny felt as if she was in pure agony. Moreover, with the intense gazes of Jane and Florence fixed on her, she found it event more difficult to breathe.

"Chris?" she cautiously called out.

"Fanny, I'm here," Christopher replied. However, as if he hadn't heard her previous request, he continued, "I'm a little busy at the moment. I'll get in touch with you later."

Before Fanny could utter another word, he abruptly ended the call.

"Huh?" Fanny was left baffled.

She wasn't the only one—even Jane was frozen in shock.

Florence let out a mocking laugh, her eyes scanning Jane as she remarked, "Is this what you meant when you said that he would definitely come back for her?"

At her words, Jane felt her knees going weak.

Fortunately, she managed to compose herself in time and stammered, "I—I don't understand why Christopher is behaving like this..."

"Ha. Are you that cowardly?" Upon saying that, Florence waved her hand dismissively.

Although Jane was still anxious, she promptly heeded her instructions and left.

In her hurry, Fanny was left forgotten on the ground.

Fanny attempted to make herself inconspicuous, but Florence's attention was soon drawn to her.

"Can you

convince Christopher to return to Northland?" Florence inquired.

She had contemplated the idea of bringing someone back from Riverdon, but the distance was too great, and she found it quite troublesome even if she left things to her subordinates.

Fanny trembled slightly as she cautiously regarded Florence.

Although she was still unsure of Florence's identity, she understood from Jane's respectful behavior that she **was not** to be trifled with. **In** other words, Florence was someone she couldn't afford to offend

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However, her quick wit led her to discover a potential opportunity.

She timidly spoke up, asking **in** a cautious and somewhat simpering tone, "Miss Shelton, do you have an important matter to discuss with Christopher?"

Florence raised an eyebrow while she studied Fanny, as if trying to discern her intentions.

Fanny allowed herself to be scrutinized, meeting Florence's gaze despite her nervous apprehension.

After some time, Florence grew disinterested and was about to speak when her subordinate handed her a document.

"Miss Florence, Ms. Coolidge left this behind before she departed. She mentioned she forgot to give it to you." The man spoke solemnly, placing the document before Florence without averting his gaze.

Florence swept a bored glance at it. However, upon noticing that it contained Fanny's information, she then turned her attention back to Fanny, who was still seated on the floor, and casually began perusing the document.

Fanny sat rigidly on the ground, puzzled as to why Florence suddenly disregarded her question and instead moved her focus onto the document. Afraid to provoke Florence, she could only lower her head quietly and wait.

Minutes ticked by, with Florence skimming through Fanny's information. As the papers grew more tedious, she suddenly noticed that there was a sister named Angela in Fanny's relationships section.

Hmm?

And there it was, Angela's husband was Jonathan.

Well, what a small world...

Florence couldn't help but smirk, finding it quite amusing.

Fanny sat on the ground, her legs numb, but she dared not move. Instead, she gritted her teeth and endured the pain.

Fortunately, Florence didn't prolong her discomfort and spoke up shortly after, "I am interested in pursuing Jonathan. Do you have any ideas? Share them with me."

Florence's words hit Fanny like a thunderbolt, shocking her to the core. She gazed at Florence with a conflicted expression, unsure **of** what to say. In fact, she was completely clueless.

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Upon seeing Fanny's trembling lips and her uncertain eyes, which displayed her hesitation to speak, Fanny felt her good mood vanish instantly, and she slammed the file on her desk.

"What are you staring at? Can't you hear me?"

Startled by the file hitting her, Fanny quickly regained her senses and begged, "Miss Shelton, please don't be angry. I heard you. I was just a little surprised."

After a glance at the papers scattered inside the file, Fanny immediately realized that it contained her own information. She was filled with fear and doubt, but at the same time,

she knew that she had no choice but to go along with Florence's demands at a time like this.

"Why are you surprised? If you can't bring Christopher back, then find another solution!"

After looking through Fanny's information, Florence understood that if Fanny is able to convince Christopher to return to Northland despite being in a relationship with him. In the past, it was clear that the chances of him returning were unlikely, and they could only explore other options.

It was only then that Fanny discovered that the reason Florence wanted Christopher back in Northland was to pursue Jonathan.

Maintaining a serious expression, she hurriedly piped up. "My sister Angela is married to Jonathan, and it seems he cares deeply for her..."

Florence's expression soured at this revelation.

She kicked Fanny and snapped, "What are you implying? You and your sister clearly have issues with each other, and you're not even biologically related to the Kins Family. Why are you pretending?"

Fanny winced at the kick but continued, "I-I meant no harm, Miss Shelton. I was just offering advice."

Florence's eyes turned cold as she scoffed, urging her to continue.

Fanny suggested, "You could kidnap her, then use her to manipulate Jonathan. If that fails, use Angela to lure him in and gather evidence..."

As she spoke, she observed Florence's reaction. At first, her expression was normal, but Fanny soon noticed her growing displeasure as she went on and immediately stopped herself.

Florence cast a lazy glance at the person next to her. "Is this plan feasible?"

She had been trying to impress Jonathan and wanted to leave a good impression on him. Hence, she had no qualms about dealing with Christopher only because she found out that the two were step siblings who weren't close with each other through her investigations.

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As for Angela, it was natural that she had thought of laying her hands on this woman who was so close to Jonathan. However, she did not want to take things that far yet, and she did not want Jonathan to hate her either.

“Miss Florence, it is true that Angela is getting in the way, the person replied, agreeing with Fanny’s suggestion to hurt Angela.

Florence cast him another glance and asked, “Will Jonathan blame me if he finds out?”

The answer to her question was obvious, and the person hastily replied, “Since it was her idea, let her handle it.”

As soon as he finished speaking, he shot Fanny a look.

Fanny froze with fear at his gaze, but she could only grit her teeth and agree, “Yes, Miss Shelton, you don’t even have to do anything. I—I’ve already sent someone to deal with Angela...

She finally remembered Kaydron and recalled that he was supposed to make a move against Angela. She hoped he had succeeded in dealing with Angela.

Chapter 447 No Longer Messing

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Chapter 447

Chapter 447 No Longer Messing Around

Kaydron, who was the current subject of Fanny’s thoughts, was now sitting in the police station feeling frustrated.

The good news was that they wouldn’t be detained for long. He believed that as long as he could contact Fanny and have her use her connections and efforts, he could easily be released on bail.

However, he couldn't reach her at all, which made him extremely peeved.

"Still can't get through?" Despite his frustration, Kaydron remained polite as he asked the police officer at the station.

An officer placed down the cell phone and replied, "No."

Kaydron boiled with anger, and he was already planning to make Fanny regret her indifference toward him now.

On the other hand, James had already rushed to Northland. After learning from Scarlet that Joseph had been taken to the police station, he spent a day sorting out his affairs before hurriedly coming to Northland.

Unfortunately, he arrived at the wrong time, as Scarlet had gone to the hospital when he came knocking.

Thinking that he hadn't seen his younger brother in a long time, James decided to head straight to the hospital.

Currently, Scarlet was indeed at the hospital, but she was not in Zacharias' hospital room. Instead, she was inquiring about his condition with the attending physician. Upon learning that he **had** fainted again that day, she lost control of her emotions, and tears kept streaming down her face.

The doctor comforted her for a moment before escorting her out of the office.

At this point, Scarlet had already composed herself and went to visit Zacharias.

"Mom." Zacharias, who had been daydreaming in the hospital room, called out when Scarlet walked in.

Upon seeing his appearance, Scarlet couldn't hold back her tears once more.

"Mom, please don't cry," Zacharias hurriedly comforted her.

However, she said, "I know. I'll find a cure. Your illness will be treated, so don't worry about

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anything else."

There was a certain determination in her eyes that made Zacharias a little stunned.

He pursed his lips and did not respond.

Scarlet didn't say much more, afraid of making him feel uncomfortable.

After a long pause, Zacharias finally said, "Mom, don't worry I'm worried about Fanny being home alone."

You should go home after this.

Scarlet glanced at the time and nodded. "Okay, I'll head back for now."

Fanny should be coming home from school by now. However, before she could leave the hospital gates, she received a call from James, who had arrived in Northland, and he informed her that there was no one at home.

Scarlet was puzzled. If Fanny wasn't home at this hour, could it be that she was also on her way to the hospital?

James didn't leave her much time to overthink, and as soon as he heard she was at the hospital, he immediately said he would come over.

At first, Scarlet was about to stop him, but upon thinking that Fanny might also be on her way to the hospital, she held back. After some thought, she decided to call Fanny to check on her.

However, when she called, she found that Fanny's phone was switched off. This immediately filled her with even more confusion, and a sense of unease crept into her heart.

When James arrived at the hospital,

he saw Scarlet with swollen eyes that hadn't yet subsided.

"Mom, why are you crying?" Although James spoke words of concern, there was a hint of criticism in his eyes that he himself was not aware of.

Scarlet suddenly felt a bit uneasy, but she still let out a sigh of relief at the sight of James. *Help* has finally arrived, she thought.

She looked at James. This was the first time she had seen her eldest son since she had woken up from a coma. For some reason, she always felt she had grown distant from him after not seeing him for a while.

James noticed Scarlet's unease and asked in confusion, "Mom, are you feeling unwell? Did you have a check-up after waking up? Should I come with you for a complete examination?"

She quickly shook her head. "There's no need for a checkup. I'm fine. The doctor said that the reason I was in a coma was because there was a blood clot in my brain that hadn't

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dissipated, but now that it's gone, everything is alright."

After waking up, Joseph had dragged her to undergo a full-body examination, which was so extensive and varied that it left her feeling dizzy, and she really didn't wish to go through it again.

James didn't insist after hearing Scarlet's words, but it was Scarlet who, recalling the examination, once again thought of Joseph and couldn't help but feel her eyes water.

Joseph was still imprisoned, but she, as his mother, had no way to help him and had to rely on her eldest son to help her out, which made her extremely guilty.

James didn't realize what Scarlet was thinking but suddenly asked, "Mom, where is Zac's ward? I'll go to check on him first."

Compared to Scarlet, who was once in a coma but was now lively and active, James was more worried about Zacharias, whose body had never fully recovered.

Scarlet, who was already in a low mood from thinking about Joseph, felt her heart sink further into her stomach when she heard James mention Zacharias.

"I'll take you

James trailed behind Scarlet. Along the way, she didn't speak anymore, and James remained silent as he followed her to the ward.

see Zac. It's been a long time since you've seen him. It's time to catch up."

Scarlet couldn't help but think that their mother-son relationship might have faded a bit after not seeing each other for a while. However, for some reason, she suddenly thought of George.

Back then, George was sent back to Riverdon after starting a fuss, which most likely put him into close contact with James. Could it be that he was now so distant from her because of **George**?

Once the seed of doubt was planted, it would quickly grow and develop, forming an indelible shadow.

On one hand, Scarlet felt that James would not be influenced by George, but she also feared that it was George's doing at the same time, which led to her feeling conflicted.

In the end, she couldn't resist asking, "How is your father doing lately?"

James was surprised by Scarlet's sudden mention of George, and he turned his head to look

at her walking ahead of him on the left, as if trying to read her expression.

Upon seeing Scarlet walking while staring at the ground, looking relatively calm, he replied, "Mom, Dad has no longer been messing around recently."

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Indeed, George had not been causing trouble lately, not for any other reason, but because he didn't have much money left. When he owed 12 thousand at the casino in Northland, it was James who helped him out from afar. After George returned to Riverdon, he received a warning from James and had now calmed down a lot more compared to before. D

"Oh, Scarlet responded indifferently, as if she was not really interested.

Seeing that she didn't ask any further, James remained silent.

Although George stopped messing around, he developed a liking for alcohol. However, as long as he only drank at home, James wouldn't interfere. Therefore, their relationship remained relatively harmonious.

James continued to trail behind Scarlet, and when she stopped in front of a hospital room, he furrowed his brow as well.

After she entered the hospital room, he saw Zacharias' pale complexion. He had not been informed in advance about James' visit, so he was surprised to see him at first.

However, he quickly understood why Scarlet had kept it from him, as they soon started discussing saving Joseph and finding Angela. 1)

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Chapter 448

Chapter 448 No Brother

James, Zacharias managed to muster a smile upon seeing James, although his frail and sickly **appearance** made it appear pale and weak.

James felt sorry for his brother, who had always been plagued by illness, and quickly reassured him, "Zacharias, you need to take care of yourself."

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Zacharias nodded **in** agreement, but the two of them didn't have much to talk about. This was partly due to the turmoil that the Kins Family was facing, which left them with very pleasant topics to discuss.

After exchanging a few words, they lapsed into silence.

At the sight of her two silent children, Scarlet grew concerned about Joseph and casually inquired of James whether he planned to visit Joseph or go directly to meet Angela.

"James, are you going to see Joseph first, or are you going straight to Angela?"

As she spoke, she unconsciously lowered her posture without even realizing it herself.

Zacharias glanced at Scarlet upon hearing her question, and his gaze naturally shifted to James.

Joseph remained composed, showing no signs of discomfort at her words.

All of a sudden, Zacharias grasped the current situation. So, James had come to Northland for Joseph, and it was most likely at the behest of Scarlet.

Recalling what he had heard from the police earlier, he couldn't help but pipe up, "James, Joseph got arrested because he..."

However, before he could finish his sentence, James interjected, "Zacharias, go and get some rest. I'll just ask Mom about it."

He had come for Joseph, but Scarlet had already informed him over the phone that if he wanted Joseph to be released as soon as possible, he needed to go to Angela.

Even so, as he pondered all the recent information he had heard about Angela, James furrowed his brow. He did not want Zacharias to worry, which was why he chose to advise him to rest at that moment.

Zacharias shook his head, then said to James, "I'm not tired. James, you came to find a way to save Joseph with Mom, right?"

James nodded in response. "Yes. Joseph's case could be a big issue, or it could be a small

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problem. I'll speak to Angela and request for her to release him."

Upon mentioning Angela, he subconsciously frowned, as if recollecting some unpleasant

memories.

Zacharias pursed his lips at the sight of James' confident expression but ultimately refrained from expressing his earlier thoughts. If he were to mention that Joseph had brought it upon himself and to advise James not to disturb Angela, it wouldn't be appropriate for the time.

However, Scarlet seemed to sense his sentiments and frowned. "Zac, rest well. I'll speak with James outside."

With that, she rose to her feet.

She didn't mean to blame Zacharias, but she simply believed that he was not in a right state of mind due to his illness, and had even grown fearful of Angela.

Previously, they had been unable to take action against Angela because they were a broken family without a father in Northland. Moreover, coupled with Zacharias' poor health, there was nothing Angela had to be afraid of.

However, now James had arrived. He was the eldest son of the Kins Family and Angela's older brother. As the elder brother held a fatherly role, she couldn't possibly disregard everything he said, could she?

With these thoughts in mind, Scarlet had already exited the ward.

James noticed the change in Zacharias and offered him a few comforting words before following him out of the ward.

Seeing James emerge, Scarlet inquired once more, James, have you made a decision?"

James nodded. "Let's visit Joseph first to assess the situation."

She felt a twinge of discomfort but agreed, "It's best to see him first; you two haven't seen each other in a while, after all."

James inquired about the whereabouts of Joseph at the police station before preparing to leave, showing no intention of accompanying Scarlet.

As she watched his departing figure, Scarlet called Fanny once more. However, Fanny's phone remained unreachable, causing her to grow anxious.

After some consideration, she decided to head straight home. Shortly after, James encountered Joseph.

Upon seeing **James**, Joseph couldn't contain his surprise. "James, why are you here?" he

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exclaimed.

James sighed and replied, "Mom sent me to check on you. You can't stay locked up forever. I came to understand the situation, and then I'll go find Angela."

Feeling uneasy, Joseph stubbornly insisted, "There's no need to involve Angela. It was **my** mistake that led me to being discovered this time. Next time, I won't let Angela get a hold of my weakness."

Sighing once more, James looked at Joseph, unsure of what to say.

Despite not having been in Northland recently, he had kept in touch with Joseph and was aware of his experiences in Northland as well as Angela's recent attitude. If she maintained her previous tough stance toward Joseph, persuading her would be challenging, and maybe even impossible.

Nevertheless, since Scarlet wanted him to convince Angela, he felt obligated to do so even if it was just for show.

However, even if he went to Angela, he would not be as naive as Scarlet to think that merely using his status as the eldest brother would make her change her mind. From the start, he had planned to negotiate with her.

"Jonathan, you don't need to offer Angela any incentives. It won't be a major issue for me to be locked up for a while," Joseph argued after hearing James' thoughts.

Shaking his head, James responded, "Don't worry about that. I'll assess her attitude before I

you did previously." make a decision. You just need to explain to me what

Although he had already heard Scarlet's version, he knew that she had twisted the narrative due to her emotions. As he had expected, Joseph's account differed slightly from Scarlet's.

Even after Joseph finished recounting the events, he remained resolute. It was impulsive of him to write those words and have them placed in the classroom where Angela was training, but he had no regrets. Angela had acted ruthlessly, so why couldn't he speak up?

However, he hadn't anticipated that she would manage to trace it back to him, despite his efforts to be discreet.

"You shouldn't have acted impulsively, James remarked, standing up. "I'll **go** speak with Angela. Take care of yourself."

James attempted to call Angela, but the call didn't go through. Undeterred, he used a different number and called again.

This time, the call was answered promptly, but it wasn't Angela on the line.

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+5 **Free** Coins

Chapter 448 No Brother

Recognizing the voice, Joseph inquired, “Mr. Lawson?”

Jonathan responded coldly, “Who is this?”

Although James felt displeased by Jonathan’s tone, he maintained a cheerful demeanor as he identified himself. “Mr. Lawson, it’s me, James, Angela’s brother.”

“I’m not aware of Angela having a brother,” Jonathan replied icily, his tone making it clear that he was not willing to give in.

Moreover, the meaning behind his words were clear—Angela had no brother.

Peeved by Jonathan’s tone, James suppressed his anger and continued, ‘I am James. I would like to speak with Angela. Mr. Lawson, could you...’

Although he did not finish his sentence, it was obvious that he wanted Jonathan to pass the phone to Angela.

However, Jonathan disregarded his request and curtly stated, “Angela is sleeping. Call back another time,” before abruptly ending the call.

As James listened to the dial tone, his expression darkened. Nevertheless, he quickly regained his composure and reached out to Scarlet.

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Read Chapter 449

Chapter 449

Chapter 449 I Don’t Believe You

When Scarlet received James’ call, she had just reached home, and she had also realized that **Fanny** was nowhere to be found.

She immediately felt a sense of panic, so much so that she didn't bother to ask James any more questions, even though he mentioned that Angela had already gone to bed and they would talk the next day.

With her phone in her hand, Scarlet said in a stunned tone, "Fanny is missing!"

Confused, James asked, "What?"

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With a trembling voice, Scarlet repeated, "Fanny's missing. She hasn't been picking up phone..."

the

She couldn't fathom where Fanny could have gone besides the hospital or home after leaving school. When she was at the hospital, she thought Fanny was at home while she was at the hospital, and vice versa when she was at home earlier.

Now that she had returned home once more, she finally realized Fanny was missing!

Her heart raced with panic at the realization.

James tried to reassure her, "Don't worry, we'll continue when I get back home."

As he was new to Northland, James had no idea where to start looking when Scarlet suddenly mentioned Fanny was missing. In fact, he was more inclined to believe that Fanny wasn't missing, but Scarlet was overreacting instead.

After hanging up, he tried calling Fanny, but upon finding that her phone was turned off, he decided to rush straight home.

Despite waiting at home, Scarlet couldn't calm herself at all. She continuously dialed Fanny's unreachable number and wondered fervently if she had been kidnapped.

It wasn't without reason that she would think so, as Fanny had been kidnapped in the past, and she immediately thought of Fanny's past kidnapping now that she had disappeared once again.

The more Fanny remained unreachable, the more Scarlet became certain that she had been kidnapped, and even began to speculate on who could have kidnapped Fanny.

Upon hearing the dial tone again, she couldn't help but think of Angela. After all, the only person in the entirety of Northland who did not get along with he

was none other than **Angela**.

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Chapter 449 I Don't Believe You

It must've been that w*inch, Angela! She did something to Fanny because she doesn't like her, Scarlet suddenly declared fiercely from her seat on the couch, her complexion pale.

As her determination grew, Scarlet's resentment toward Angela deepened. Moreover, she recalled James informing her that he was able to talk to Angela, which made her even more certain that Angela was avoiding them out of guilt.

Although she suspected Angela, Scarlet refrained from confronting her directly as Angela wouldn't answer her calls, and James had advised against rash actions.

While Scarlet was consumed by worry over Fanny's disappearance, Fanny herself was at a loss for words.

Since getting into Jane's car, she had been on an emotional rollercoaster. Meeting Florence had initially heightened her anxiety, but upon learning of her interest in Jonathan, Fanny felt a little more relaxed and strategically redirected her focus toward Angela.

Moreover, she voluntarily disclosed her involvement with Kaydron and Florence, to her expectations. She seemed interested when she mentioned that she had already sent Kaydron to hurt Angela.

"When will he make his move?" Florence asked.

Without hesitation, Fanny replied, "He promised to do it yesterday, so he should have succeeded by now, but since you brought me here, I couldn't contact Kaydron, so..."

The implication behind her words was clear. She was hoping that Florence would either go along with her words or allow her to contact Kaydron to inquire about Angela's situation.

However, Florence did not meet her expectations. Instead, she directly instructed one of the people beside her, "Go check on Kaydron and see what he's done to Angela."

The person quickly agreed and left.

Upon hearing Florence's instructions, Fanny was dumbfounded. She whispered, "Miss. Shelton, I could have just asked Kaydron directly..."

She couldn't understand why Florence went to such lengths to have her people check on Kaydron. Moreover, she had a lingering worry that Florence might discover that Kaydron had her photos.

Kaydron was foolish. This was the very fool who had her photos in his hands. Although she knew that she would eventually find the opportunity to delete them if she deceived him long enough, things would be utterly different if the photo fell into Florence's hands.

From their recent interactions, Fanny could tell that Florence was not as foolish as Kaydron. Even if she was foolish, the people around her were not fools but rather quite capable

2/4

Chapter 449 I Don't Believe You!

individuals. If the photo really fell into Florence's hands, retrieving it wouldn't **be easy.**

As she pondered the situation, her emotions overwhelmed her eyes. Not wanting Florence to notice, she lowered her head after making her suggestion.

Upon hearing her suggestion, Florence only scoffed disdainfully.

However, Fanny didn't give up and continued, "Miss Shelton, why don't I contact Kaydron and ask him? I'll have him bring Angela directly to you."

She wasn't sure if Angela was still in Kaydron's hands, but she could only hope so. After all, this was also her bargaining chip in negotiations with Florence.

Florence coldly glanced at her and kicked her as before, "I don't believe you. Just sit on the ground and wait for my people to find out the information."

Fanny felt even more speechless.

She looked at the darkening sky outside, unsure of how long it would take for Florence's people to gather information. She could only hope that Kaydron would be of some use, and that even if Angela hadn't been captured by him, he had at least caused trouble and distress for her.

As the sky grew darker, Fanny became more and more exasperated and nervous, growing stiff as she sat on the ground.

In contrast to her nervousness, Florence was much more relaxed.

She lazily leaned back on the sofa and sent a few text messages to Jonathan but did not receive a reply as usual. Then, she languidly started eating.

Although Florence could eat, Fanny couldn't. Hence, not only was she hungry, but she was also getting more and more anxious.

She thought about how she had not been home since leaving school and did not inform Scarlet of her absence either, and she grew a little worried that Scarlet would be concerned.

At the same **time**, she recalled Scarlet's refusal for Zacharias to donate a kidney for her, and her heart grew cold. In Scarlet's eyes, she was still not as important as a biological child!

Lost in her thoughts, although Fanny remained seated on the ground without moving, she gradually became restless and agitated.

Just when she was about to collapse, the person who went to check the news for Florence finally returned.

After entering the room, he quickly walked to Florence's side and handed the documents to

Chapter 449 I Don't Believe You

her before whispering a few words in her ear. Then, he went to stand behind her.

When Fanny saw him, she immediately asked, "Did you find out?"

Although Fauny felt like she had been waiting for a long time, the fact was that the person did not take long to check the information.

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Chapter 450 You Talk Too

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Chapter 450

Chapter 450 You Talk Too Much

Fanny observed the man's stoic expression and hoped to glean some insight into what he had discovered, but her efforts were in vain.

Considering his swift return, she surmised he hadn't uncovered anything significant. However, the sight of the document he handed to Florence left her uneasy.

The man paid no heed to Fanny's inquiries.

Even Florence seemed indifferent to her presence.

Instead, Florence's eyebrows raised in surprise after listening to the man's whisper, but she quickly composed herself and focused on the document.

Fanny grew anxious that her previous inquiry had been too quiet, so she asked again, "Miss Shelton, did you find anything?"

Florence lifted her gaze and glared at her Fanny before instructing the person beside her, "Teach her a lesson, but don't leave any marks on her face."

The remark left Fanny puzzled momentarily, but it wasn't until she saw a person who had been standing near Florence suddenly approaching her with fists clenched and looking ready to strike. It was then did she comprehend the gravity of the situation.

Fanny stood there, dazed and bewildered, only feeling the force of the fist striking her body before letting out a cry of pain. "Miss Shelton? Why did you hit me?"

"You're too chatty," Florence replied calmly, observing as she endured a few more blows before casually remarking, "Okay, don't go overboard."

Initially, Fanny didn't appear to be in the best of health, so Florence hadn't instructed her men to treat her as roughly as they did Christopher. But Fanny's incessant chatter demanded.

a response.

After Florence's subordinate stopped hitting Fanny, he paid no attention to Fanny, who had already been beaten to the ground, and stood once more beside Florence.

Fanny lay on the ground, writhing in agony. Though her face remained unscathed, the impact of the punches felt like they could shatter her bones.

Even if her bones remained intact, she knew she'd wake up bruised and aching tomorrow.

The physical pain was daunting, but the humiliation cut deeper into her heart. Especially upon hearing Florence's accusation of talking too much, she felt utterly debased.

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However, **with**

She was worried about not being able to speak much in the future, but she didn't know that Florence had her beaten not just because she talked too much.

Florence suddenly ordered someone to rough up Fanny because she had listened to the special reminder whispered in her ear by her subordinate.

He mentioned that Angela's bodyguards were all ex-soldiers and mercenaries, and Fanny had some grievances with Angela.

With Angela being heavily guarded, it wasn't easy to abduct her, and Fanny's shift in focus. from Christopher to Angela was as obvious as daylight.

One reason was to deter Fanny from persistently urging Christopher to return to Northland, while the other was to exploit her as a pawn in dealing with someone Fanny disliked.

Florence had no objection to Fanny's first goal, but the second one didn't sit well with her. Fanny actually thought she could be manipulated, which was preposterous.

Am I truly that susceptible to manipulation?

Thus, the punches Fanny took were of her own making.

Initially, Florence had shown some leniency toward Fanny because Fanny was a girl, unlike how she treated Christopher. Now, it seemed everyone had their limits, and Fanny had willingly crossed the line.

In the room, Florence mulled over the information her subordinate had uncovered.

The entire experience was agonizing for Fanny.

Before long, Florence finished reviewing the documents and directed her attention toward Fanny.

"What's on your mind?" Florence's gesture indicated that Fanny could speak freely.

Despite the lingering pain from her bruises, Fanny pushed it aside. She swallowed hard and inquired, "Miss Shelton, what did you discover?"

At this moment, she dared not bring up the grand promises she had persuaded Kaydron to convey to Florence through Angela. Instead, she cautiously inquired about what Florence had discovered while holding her breath.

Given that she hadn't had the opportunity to reach out to Kaydron that day, Fanny remained **uncertain** of his success or failure.

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Chapter 450

Hehr Florence found her expression amusing and let out a slight chuckle.

However, Fanny didn't overlook any of Florence's subtle facial cues.

Upon witnessing the latter's smirking smile and disdainful glance, Fanny's heart constricted and felt overwhelmed with embarrassment.

Florence wasn't interested in addressing her concerns. Instead, she casually tossed a piece of paper onto the table in front of Fanny and sneered, "So, this Kaydron you mentioned, right? He's the guy you're using to deal with Angela, huh?"

Her voice was light, but the paper landing on the table felt like a heavy blow to Fanny's heart.

Fanny quickly picked up the paper and glanced over it hastily. It was just a regular profile of Kaydron, along with a photo attached. It was indeed him.

"Yes, Miss Shelton," Fanny replied, still mindful of Florence's earlier remarks about her talking too much. Even though she had many questions, she dared not ask and simply answered Florence's inquiry honestly.

"Oh," Florence responded coldly, after which she asked, "Did you previously say he could deliver Angela to me?"

Fanny felt a sense of unease creeping in, and she felt unsure whether to respond. While she hesitated, a sudden punch landed on her, causing her to cry out in pain.

"Ah-

"Miss Shelton wants an answer," the man said, clearly following Florence's orders, as he confronted Fanny with clenched fists.

It **was** only then that she snapped back to reality and realized she had been lost **in** thought just a moment before.

“I... I did say something. Because Kaydron told me last night they were going to move on Angela today. He even swore they’d get her for sure!”

She gritted her teeth against the pain and couldn’t focus on anything else but to blame Kaydron.

Kaydron did mention going after Angela today, though he didn’t promise anything. But he shouldn’t have chickened out.

At this point, there had to be some resolution.

Florence’s voice cut through the tension, “Tsk, that fella has already been nabbed and is sitting in lockup. Oh, and when they got him, he hadn’t even gotten close to Angela.

Chapter 450 You

Locked up?” Fanny was stunned.

She had been taken away by Jane as soon as she left school and had hardly had any contact **with** the outside world from evening until now. Naturally, she was unaware of Kaydron’s

arrest.

Fanny wasn’t as shocked by Kaydron’s arrest. She was even more surprised that it happened before he even reached Angela’s place.

While she had considered the possibility of Kaydron failing, she never imagined him getting nabbed before meeting Angela.

Upon seeing Fanny’s bewildered expression, Florence gave a quick signal to the person beside her.

but

That person promptly filled Fanny in on what happened to Kaydron. The more she listened, the more disheartened she felt. She had hoped he would at least make some progress, instead, he got himself locked up before achieving anything and dragging her into the mess.

And to make matters worse, Angela didn’t face any trouble. Fanny’s plan felt utterly useless.

Fanny didn’t want to admit that she had sent this foolish man to do her bidding. And the thought of Angela getting away scot-free didn’t sit well with her at all.

Luckily, Kaydron wouldn't be detained for too long.

Realizing she couldn't let Florence witness her distress, Fanny attempted to salvage the situation, saying, "It's okay that he failed this time. If your people are willing to help him, he'll definitely succeed next time!"

Florence scoffed. "Yeah, right."

Before Fanny could react, a fist landed on her.

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