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Chapter 156

Lucas went to get the phone he had thrown into the garden before he even realized what he was doing. The garden was quite earthy

It was a dumbphone from ten years ago, something even a man as old as Justin wouldn't use now.

The phone was locked. Lucas found himself hilarious when he saw the cue reading "Enter the password".

Lucas thought that he must have lost his mind that he even got curious about what was on the phone.

What was so entrancing about it? It was nothing more than a phone Jessica had deserted.

Yet still, Lucas didn't stop trying to unlock the phone.

When his fingers fell on the keyboard, he subconsciously entered Jessica's birthday as the code.

It didn't work.

Lucas frowned, and for some reason, he tried his own birthday.

Lucas felt a throb in his heart when he unlocked the phone.

It was hard to tell what Lucas feelings were like at that moment. It was like a hunch for winning a lottery was proved. Lucas felt joyed and contented.

The contact list was empty, but there were over 200 text messages.

Lucas knew a gentleman shouldn't have pried on others' privacy. But anyway, Jessica couldn't think worse of him, could she?

It made no difference to do one more hateful thing.

Everyone had a rebellious kid in their heart. Lucas had lived 30 years as an obedient kid, yet Jessica made that rebellious one in him surface..

Lucas didn't know what was wrong with him. But he always had a strong reaction when it came to anything related to Jessica.

That was how he felt when he tried to unlock the cell.

The latest was from four years ago, reading "I married him".

The latest but one read: "I don't know what happened. It was all a mess.

He said he would marry me, but I have a bad hunch over it".

The one before that was brief, too. It said, "I saw him today".

All the messages were from the same number. It took Lucas half an hour to finish them all.

The very first one read "I found him".

The messages might seem puzzling to an outsider, but Lucas knew clearly what they were about.

The messages, as well as the sketch Olivia had found, proved nothing but Jessica's love for Lucas.

Holding the dumbphone, Lucas felt that all his sullenness had gone. He could hear his heart pounding wildly.

Four years ago, Lucas once thought Jessica was the plotter and married him for his wealth, Yet after Jessica divorced him, Lucas realized that Jessica was also a victim and she married him for nothing but love.

Later, Lucas found out about the sketch and the novel. That was when Lucas learned that Jessica had been in love with him for years.

Yet none of those had a stronger impact than these texts.

Recalling the past, Lucas felt overwhelmed by a mix of feelings that he had never experienced before.

Vincent felt a bit startled when he received Lucas' call through the intercom. Lucas had been in a bad mood these days. If not necessary, Vincent wouldn't go to Lucas' office.

But now it was not up to Vincent since Lucas had already asked to see Vincent.

Vincent braced himself to knock on the office door. "Mr. Thomas?" Vincent walked to the desk and called out timidly.

Yet Vincent only saw Lucas stare at a dumbphone with a bent head. Vincent felt confused, but he didn't dare to ask. He waited for another two seconds before he said, "Mr. Thomas?"

With that, Lucas came back to his senses and looked up at Vincent. "Suppress the gossip."

Vincent nodded. "Yes, Mr. Thomas."

Lucas gazed at Vincent for some time before he said, "Have you ever kept anyone in mind for ten years?"

Vincent had no idea where Lucas was going. Vincent hedged a bit before he said, "Mr. Thomas, I may not be a one woman guy. So, no, never." "Then do you think one would let go of someone they had been in love with for 10 years easily?"

"Of course not. People like that are always stubborn. On the surface, they may say they have let go of the past, but they couldn't deep down."

Lucas paused at what Vincent said:

No?

Was that so?

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"You may head out now," said Lucas as he gestured at Vincent.

Vincent wasn't sure if it was just his illusion that he found Lucas a bit strange.

Lucas seemed to be in a better mood?

Not exactly

Anyway, Lucas looked less terrifying.

But still terrifying

Vincent did not dare challenge Lucas. Thus, he responded and left.

Lucas was left alone in the office.

He glanced at the phone on his desk again. After a while, Lucas put the dumbphone into his pocket.

Perhaps Vincent was right. How could Jessica let go of her affection for Lucas that had lasted for over ten years?

The gossip over the land in the north was soon suppressed by Vincent, only a few hours after Dwayne posted it.

Jessica soon found out about that, too. Jessica assumed that Lucas must have been behind that.

Jessica knew about Lucas' pride throughout their three-year marriage. He disdained to play such a trick.

Jessica didn't bother to analyze Lucas' behavior since all her attention was focused on the banquet tonight.

Though Jessica's identity had gone public, she had to abide by the rules in the business world. Besides, the other party Jessica was meeting was no inferior to the Hall Group.

Jessica didn't count as a good drinker. She rubbed her temples when she felt a bit dizzy. "Wendy, get the driver over, will you? I'll have to wash my face now.".

Wendy was a little worried. "Miss Hall, shall I go with you?"

Jessica smiled. "That won't be necessary. I'm not that drunk."

Wendy turned to Jessica. She could still see soberness in Jessica's eyes, so Wendy nodded and said, "Then I'll be waiting for you at the entrance."

"Sure."

Jessica responded and walked to the ladies' room in her high heels.

It was not far, and Jessica soon got there.

Jessica sobered up when the cold water reached her face.

Jessica looked at herself in the mirror and found her makeup intact. She took a tissue and dried her hand. She then left.

Not long after Jessica left the washroom, a drunk man walked up to her. Jessica moved to the side, but she didn't expect the man to reach out for her. "Hey, gorgeous, you look so pretty. Wanna have some fun?" It was a middle-aged fat man with gray hair.

He had a wretched look on his face. Jessica stepped back with a frown. That was when another man cut in. "Get out."

It was Lucas. He grabbed the middle-aged man's wrist. The man cried out in pain and yelled to settle the score with Lucas,

Lucas grabbed him even more tightly. The pain sobered the man up. He hurried to apologize.

Lucas let go of his hand, and the man immediately fled in panic.

The man soon disappeared, leaving only Jessica and Lucas in the long

corridor.

Lucas felt mixed feelings when he saw Jessica.

With a complicated look on his face, Lucas wanted to tell Jessica about the dumbphone. Yet in the end, Lucas held himself back. His golden eyes flickered a bit. "Were you scared?"

Jessica shook her head. "No. Thank you, Mr. Thomas."

Jessica was smiling, yet that was a distant smile.

Lucas pursed his lips. "Sorry." Lucas apologized again.

Jessica raised her eyebrows. She looked less distant. "It's OK. Wendy's still waiting for me. I'll head out now."

Jessica said with a faint smile. She turned to leave.

Lucas stood there and watched Jessica leave. All his negative feelings seemed to have dispersed.

Lucas had to admit that he had fallen for Jessica.

Inexplicable yet irresistible.

Hari had gotten Lucas right.

Jessica arrived at the entrance of the hotel, and Wendy was already waiting for her beside the car. Seeing Jessica come out, Wendy heaved a sigh of relief and went to open the car door. "Miss Hall."

Jessica nodded and entered the car. Soon, the car slowly started:

Jessica looked out at the hustling traffic with her head tilted. When she thought of what happened just now, her mouth twitched a bit.

Jessica didn't expect that she and Lucas could have such a peaceful conversation after they were divorced.

How funnyl

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Wendy was a skillful driver. The car stopped after thirty minutes.

Wendy said softly, "Miss Hall?"

Hearing Wendy's voice, Jessica slowly opened her eyes.

Having seen the familiar surroundings, Jessica nodded. "Good night, Wendy."

Jessica then got out of the car. She then spotted Terry.

It had been a week since Jessica last saw Terry at her place, together with Lucas.

"You just had a drink?"

Terry flickered his eyes when he smelled alcohol.

Jessica nodded and raised her eyebrows. "What are you doing here, Mr. Davison?"

Terry smiled at what Jessica said, "What? Can't I just drop by and check on you?" Jessica felt a bit dizzy because of the alcohol. She didn't want to stay with Terry. "So now you are done?"

"Sure."

Jessica felt uneasy under Terry's gaze. She looked away and said, "Then I'll go upstairs. Good night."

"Good night."

Standing there, Terry waved at Jessica as well.

Jessica swiped her card to unlock the door. When she walked to the elevator, she looked back, only to see that Terry was still there, gazing at her.

From a distance that was neither too far nor too close, Jessica could see that the bruise at the corner of Terry's mouth was dispersed as the light in the room shone on his face.

With a beep sound, the elevator door opened. Jessica came to her senses and stepped into the elevator.

Terry meant it when he said that he was here to check on her.

Jessica found it harder and harder to figure out what was on Terry's mind.

He seemed to be playing hard to get, yet he could be quite pushing sometimes.

After that day, Jessica started her dream life where the only goal was to make as much money as possible.

Jessica had been obsessed with making money. Even Hannah couldn't ask Jessica out.

Jessica had no choice but to stick to her work. The plan was settled and the project would get started in a few days. Jessica had to cut the ribbon in due course.

After that, Jessica still had a ceremonial lunch meeting. She left with Wendy and headed back to the company after she stuffed herself.

At about one o'clock, Wendy came to Jessica, telling her that Rebecca had come to the Hall Group personally. She was right downstairs, hoping to meet with Jessica.

Jessica raised her eyebrows and looked up at Wendy. "Wendy, could you remind me of my afternoon schedule?"

"Miss Hall, you have a meeting at half-past two later."

Jessica cut in before Wendy could finish, "I see. Tell Rebecca that I'll be having dinner with her."

Wendy nodded. Rebecca had asked to meet Jessica several times. It would be impolite to refuse every time.

They were both from the upper-class society after all. Though Jessica had cut ties with the Thomas family, she had to mind the manners.

It was a bit late when Jessica was done with the meeting. The sky was getting darker.

"Wendy, what time should I meet with Mrs. Thomas?"

"Seven o'clock."

It was already half-past six.

Jessica pursed her lips slightly and handed the document in her hand to Wendy. She smiled slightly and said, "Time to clock out, Wendy." Jessica had to go to the appointment.

On Friday, the traffic was quite congested. When Jessica arrived at the restaurant, it was already 7:10 pm.

Jessica walked all the way to the appointed private room. When the waiter pushed the door open, Rebecca was already there,

"Jessica."

Jessica nodded, "Sorry, I'm late, Mrs. Thomas. I had a meeting earlier." As she spoke, Jessica entered her seat and took the menu from the waiter behind her. She also handed a menu to Rebecca as well. "Mrs. Thomas,

let's take our order."

Rebecca was amazed at the young woman in front of her. She realized that Jessica was no longer her timid and obedient daughter-in-law from the past.

In the past, Jessica had good manners, too. Yet she hadn't been as assertive as she was today.

Though she was late, she apologized and then took the initiative.

Jessica spoke softly, yet Rebecca could tell the line Jessica had drawn between them.

Seeing the menu in front of her, Rebecca could only suppress the complicated feelings in her heart. "Sure."

It was the second time Jessica went to the restaurant. She wasn't familiar with the menu. She only ordered two specialties.

Jessica closed the menu, and the waiter went forward to take their menus away. He turned around and closed the door, leaving Jessica and Rebecca in the room.

Rebecca had prepared what to say before she came. Yet when she finally saw Jessica, she felt lost for words.

Rebecca knew that Jessica was different now. All her efforts to bond with Jessica would eventually be in vain.

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Rebecca suddenly recalled that Lucas, who was never close to Rebecca, suddenly came to her to ask about Jessica. He wanted to know how Jessica spent those three years.

Rebecca felt more determined and took the initiative to say. "Sorry for asking you out when you are so occupied, Jessica."

Jessica had been silently sipping her coffee, waiting for Rebecca to speak. Jessica smiled faintly when she heard that. "Mrs. Thomas, it's very kind of you to say that. You've been asking to see me several times, yet I didn't meet with you until today. It's me who should say sorry. Besides, I was late today and kept you waiting. It's so rude of me.'

Rebecca found it hard to go on with Jessica's polite formula. The private room fell in silence. Rebecca felt so embarrassed, sitting there.

Jessica didn't feel embarrassed. Rebecca must have something to say. Otherwise, she wouldn't have asked to meet with Jessica over and over again.

Jessica poured herself a glass of iced water, poured Rebecca another glass, put down the kettle, and said, 'To what do 1 owe you?

Rebecca nodded and took something out of her bag. 'Jessica, I got this from Lucas' grandma. Now that Lucas' brother is dead, I don't have to choose between Max's wife and you."

"I know you are occupied. Originally, I didn't mean to bother you. But we were once mother and daughter in law for three years after all. I know you treated Lucas with hearts and minds. But I was too useless to protect you well. The other day, Lucas came to me and asked a lot about how you were doing in those three years.

"Lucas is my son. Though we are not close, I could tell that he had a place for you when he married you. But because of what happened between his father and me, his personality was affected. He is too reserved and talks too little. He holds a place for you, and I can tell that. The past is in the past. We should let bygones be bygones. You are still young now. Don't waste time on the past. Now that you've been

divorced for nearly a year. I suppose you have already calmed down. I hope you can give Lucas a second chance."

Jessica kept smiling while listening to Rebecca.

As soon as Rebecca finished speaking, the waiter came to serve the dishes. Jessica smiled. 'Mrs. Thomas, let's have our meal now, shall we?"

Rebecca gazed at Jessica. Her smile was still there, yet she seemed never to have heard what Rebecca had said. Or perhaps Jessica heard it all, but she didn't give it a damn.

Rebecca felt embarrassed. She forced a smile and said, 'Sure, let's have our meal now."

Rebecca did not say anything else. She did not know what else to say.

Jessica did not speak, either. Only the collision between tableware could be heard.

Rebecca had lost her appetite. She was done after a few bites.

Rebecca felt a bit sullen when she found Jessica was savoring her meal.

Jessica took her time to finish the steak and wipe her hand with a tissue. Only after she had done all of that did she take up the necklace and said to Rebecca, "Mrs. Thomas, I'm not your girl."

Rebecca's face froze. Jessica, I thought you liked Lucas."

"Yeah, indeed, very much."

Jessica paused for a moment. "I LIKED him."

Rebecoa's face darkened. "Why are you making things difficult for yourself?"

"I don't think parents should be involved in this."

Jessica sneered. "I still have work to do. I think I'll head out how."

Jessica..."

Rebecca wanted to stop Jessica, yet Jessica left without tuning back. Jessica checked her wristwatch. It was still not yet half-past eight. She didn't waste too much time.

"Miss, please, help me!"

Just as Jessica raised her head, a young woman suddenly threw herself at Jessica.

The woman was in a suit, with the top button missing. Her hair was messy and she only had one shoe. Obviously, she had just made a narrow escape.

Jessica didn't have unlimited empathy for others, but the woman had already thrown herself at Jessica.

She looked pitiful.

Jessica reached out to help her. The door of a private room was pulled open. A middle-aged man ran over with a stern face, trying to pull the girl.

Jessica's face turned grim. She stopped the man with her bag.

The man went mad. "Who the hell are you? You have no idea who you are dealing with."

As the man spoke, he wanted to pull over the woman again. Jessica frowned and kicked him.

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The man was kicked to the ground, clutching his stomach and grimacing in pain. "You bitch! I'm gonna slap —"

Before he could finish, Jessica lifted her leg and the man twitched a bit. He was too timid to challenge Jessica again.

He just looked at the woman fiercely. "You wanna lose your job? Even so, you have to apologize to the general manager first. Otherwise, you are not going back!"

"No, no, no! Please. I'll quit. I'll quit. Please, miss, please help me. I've just graduated from college. He offered to take me on a business trip. But I didn't expect that he would ask me to sleep with the guest..."

Though the woman didn't speak much, Jessica understood what was happening. She took out her phone and pressed "911". She then said to the man, "Get lost yourself, or should I call the police?"

The man clutched his stomach and cursed. Finally, he went back to his private room.

As soon as the man left, the woman Jessica had been holding all the time lost her strength. She fell to the ground and started crying.

Jessica had to squat as well. "You can't just stay here and keep crying. Perhaps I can give you a ride?"

With that, the woman stopped crying. She gazed at Jessica for some time and said, 'Thanks, I, I live in this hotel. But I don't dare to live here anymore. I still have my ID and luggage in the room. Can you please help me get my luggage?"

The woman looked too miserable. Thus, Jessica decided to give her a hand. "Sure."

Entering the elevator, the girl was still sobbing with her head bent. Jessica chuckled as she gazed at her. "Luckily, we don't have any companions here. Otherwise, they might think I was a bully."

The woman then gave Jessica an embarrassed look. "Sorry. It's just that I can't hold it back."

Jessica took out a tissue from her purse and said, 'It's OK. Stop crying and remember the lesson you've learned from today'

The girl took the tissue and looked at Jessica gratefully. "Thank you. If I hadn't met you, I wouldn't have known what to do."

Jessica snorted. What are you afraid of? Just call the police."

*They confiscated my phone.'

Jessica paused for a moment. It's fine now. You don't have to be afraid."

"Thank you. You are such a good person."

This was the first time Jessica had been praised as a good person. She couldn't help but laugh. "I'm usually not that good."

Jessica was not that warm-hearted. If she hadn't thrown herself at Jessica, Jessica might not have helped her.

The girl wiped her tears and didn't reply.

The elevator then opened Jessica walked out and glanced at the girl. 'Is the room card with you?"

The girl nodded 'I brought the roch) card with me when I ran My ID is in the room..."

Tided That was start'

Perhaps it was because Jeasica was beside her The woman was less scared. They soon reached the room the girt month

i tre girl look out her town Chubut did not dart to open the door, only looking at Jessica tutuldly

Jessica had never seen someone timider. Even Hannah was bolder than her.

Thus, Jessica had to take over the card and said, "What are you so afraid of? They can't be waiting for you in the room."

Jessica took over the room card and swiped it on the doorknob. The door clicked open. Jessica pushed the door open and glanced inside. She turned to look at the woman. "No one's there, you..."

Before Jessica could finish speaking, the woman suddenly pushed Jessica into the room.

The girl's timid eyes had now turned sharp. Jessica staggered a bit. A man suddenly came from behind the door. Before Jessica could react, the man grabbed her and made Jessica swallow something.

The man then pushed Jessica to the ground. When Jessica stood up, the door had already been locked.

Jessica got up and pulled the doorknob, and as expected, it was locked. Good people didn't end well.

Jessica got herself into trouble. Jessica wanted to take out the phone, but her phone was in her bag and her bag was taken away when she was distracted.

Jessica couldn't help but frown. She then walked into the room and found someone lying on the bed. It was her ex husband!

Jessica frowned when she saw Lucas on the bed.

"Lucas?"

Lucas seemed to have fallen asleep. He didn't react at all. Jessica called out to Lucas, yet no reply was heard.