Chapter 10

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The Ruined Bride of Velvet Nights by Brick Moving Ant

• As I said this, Thaddeus completely broke down, his eyes full of remorse. • He began slapping himself hard, then pulled out a knife and started stabbing himself wildly. • "Scarlett, I'm sorry. Would this make you feel better? I'll do anything for you. Let me atone for my sins, please? Give me one more time..." • Before he finish, I cut him off. • "You were sleeping with my sister. Your photos were plastered all over my room. Every day while I was being abused, I had to stare at them. I really wanted to die ai that time." I let out a cold laugh. • "And now you decide to investigate." • I ignored the three of them and walked away with Hayes.

• It wasn't the easiest walk, all those judging eyes made me hard to breathe. • Everyone avoided me like the plague. Hayes couldn't find anywhere for us to stay.

• Until my mother, who had been following us, broke down and explained loudly in the crowd,

apologizing to me. Someone recorded it, livestreaming the whole scene, causing another online • storm. • "She is innocent! My older daughter Vivienne set her up! She was forced! The culprits have been caught! Please stop! She's innocent..." • Along with the livestream, the Blackwood and Lancaster families released a joint statement clearing

• my name. • It documented the entire two-month ordeal, though what I'd been forced to endure was summarized in just a few words. The internet exploded with apologies. • Almost every post read: "Scarlett, I'm sorry for mocking you." "Our laughter shouldn't have been directed at the victim!"

• "Scarlett, sorry, take care and get better soon!." • 21:49 • The Ruined Bride of Velvet Nights

• 7.7% • Chapter 10 • "Scarlett, I'm sorry, Wishing you a lifetime of peace and good health, far from your monster family!" • By the time I saw all this, I was already abroad, finally getting a thorough medical examination at a hospital. • Unfortunately, peace wasn't in my future.

• The doctor told me my uterus was completely damaged. From long-term starvation and being forced to consume alcohol and various drugs, my stomach was ruined too. Most of my scars would likely never fade. • Worst of all, I had stomach cancer. • When the report came back, Hayes cried uncontrollably, holding me tight and begging me not to give up. • "The tests must be wrong, Scarlett. Let's check again, please. There must be something wrong."

• But after multiple tests, the results remained the same.

• I didn't cry. Instead, I smiled and wiped Dr. Hayes's tears, kissing his forehead just as he always did • mine. • "It's okay. At least I won't die today, right? Hayes, I can still be with you for a long while." • But the cancer progressed rapidly. I couldn't eat or walk, also often collapsed from the pain. • When my parents and Thaddeus learned I was dying, they tried to visit several times, but I avoided • them.

• I didn't want to see them and wouldn't know how to say. • Later, news came from home that everyone who had hurt me had been mysteriously killed. The • captured murderer was Thaddeus. • When police found him, he was still stabbing Vivienne's body like he was crazy. • Hayes grew thinner each day, while I suddenly found renewed energy. • "Hayes, please bury my ashes under a tree after I die." • 21:49 Chapter 10 "Yes." "Don't let anyone know." "Yes." "Why do you only say 'yes'?" I turned to look at him, for the first time, showing a trace of my old dissatisfaction on my face.

He didn't be angry. Instead, he smiled. As he smiled, tears covered his face. He reached out and covered my smiling eyes with his hand. "As everything Scarlett's wish." I was satisfied, my eyes crinkling with a smile. "Then promise you won't die with me. Live well, please?" This time, I never heard his answer. In the last second before losing consciousness, I faintly heard he say: "Babe, that's the only thing I can't promise."

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