

Second Marriage to Mr. Rich

Chapter 31

Chapter 31 .

Angeline was awakened by the sound of water running in the bathroom.

The blackout curtains in the hotel obscured the light, making it impossible to distinguish whether it was day

or night.

Feeling a splitting headache, she instinctively wanted to press her temples, but her arms were so sore that she couldn't lift them.

Not just her arms, but her whole body ached terribly, especially near her pubic area.

Sean!

A thunderous explosion echoed in her mind.

She sat up abruptly. Her blood turned cold.

Clutching the duvet tightly against her chest, Angeline gazed at the down jacket that was still damp on the floor. Other than the down jacket, a shirt, trousers, sweater, and her jeans were scattered on the floor. The scenes from the night before played in her mind like a movie.

She wondered what she had done.

Angeline's face was drained of color.

Sean was the adoptive son of the Lawson family, her biological mother's brother in name.

She didn't want anything to do with the Lawson family again, yet she ended up sleeping with the Lawson family's adoptive son under the influence of drugs.

The night before, she was somewhat conscious. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been able to call out Sean's

name.

Tortured by the effects of the drugs, she had lost consciousness and was in agony. She had kissed Sean uncontrollably, grasping him and pleading with him.

Angeline covered her face with both hands. When her palms touched her swollen and numb lips, the pain caused her to shudder. Trembling, she got out of bed and picked up her undried clothes. She couldn't wear the wet clothes in the middle of winter, so she wrapped herself in a bathrobe from the hotel

closet. Just then, she saw several shopping bags on the couch, three of which were for women.

Next to the couch was a box for women's shoes with her size written on it.

Sean must have ordered his assistant to buy them.

There were disposable underwear and socks, as well as new thermal wear, jeans, a sweater, and a down

jacket.

She glanced toward the bathroom, where the water was continuously running. Enduring the discomfort, she shivered as she changed her clothes.

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If she disappeared without a trace now, at least both of them wouldn't feel awkward for a while.

However, their relationship was extraordinary. They couldn't leave things unclear.

Angeline put on her shoes and suppressed the urge to escape. She sat uneasily and was on tenterhooks as she waited for Sean to finish showering. Soon, the sound of water in the bathroom stopped.

Sitting on the couch, Angeline straightened her back nervously and clutched tightly her phone which ran out of battery. Her heart was pounding.

The night before, although she had lost her sanity because of the drugs, she still remembered Sean's deep voice in the darkness, comforting her to take it slow since it was her first time.

She remembered Sean's breath and the tremor his thin lips brought her when they touched hers.

Angeline's ears turned redder and redder. It felt as though her entire body was burning. Anxious, she looked toward the bathroom door.

When the sound of the hairdryer stopped, her heart leaped in her throat.

The bathroom door opened. Sean, who had his pants on and was buttoning up his shirt, came out and didn't see her on the bed. He turned and saw Angeline, who had changed her clothes, on the couch. He paused as his gaze fell upon Angeline's pale face. "Why don't you sleep a little longer?"

Sean was calm as usual, but Angeline's heart beat faster and faster.

They had overstepped the boundary the night before. Although they were not blood-related, Sean was the adoptive son of her biological mother's family.

"Thank you for last night." Angeline finally found her voice after a while. "And... I'm really sorry. It was all my

fault."

Lowering her head, she continued, "You're the Lawson family's adoptive son, and I... Everyone thinks you've

been taking care of me for so many years because I'm a relative from your biological father's side and we're blood-related. So last night's incident must be kept a secret."

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If this matter were to be known, both Sean and Angeline would have to bear the stigma of incest.

How could Sean carry on with his life and establish himself in the business world?

Angeline had always known that he wanted to leave the Lawson family and

have them accept her. Hence, he might use last night's incident to publicly reveal that she was actually the biological daughter of the Lawson family's sole daughter. That would be a disaster for her mother, Jessica.

She couldn't let that happen. Since she was the one who was drugged and had begged Sean to sleep with her,

it was only right for her to clean up the mess.

"Okay." Sean's eyes darkened as he calmly turned around to pick up his watch from the bedside table and put

it on.

"Do you feel any discomfort? I'll have Taylor take you to the hospital for a check-up." His voice was deep and

calm.

Angeline looked up at Sean, unable to hide her astonishment.

She thought Sean would take this opportunity to analyze the pros and cons for her and take her back to

Lawson Residence.

She had even prepared herself for harsh words, but Sean only cared about her body.

Sensing Angeline's gaze, Sean, who was leisurely tying his tie, raised his eyes. His gaze was so deep and calm that it was impossible to sense his emotion. "I know what you're thinking. I'm not that despicable."

Being seen through by Sean, Angeline felt like she was on pins and needles. "I didn't doubt your character. It's just-" .

Just then, Sean's phone vibrated. He glanced at it without answering and put on his suit jacket.

"I'll take care of the hotel surveillance. This matter won't be leaked. You don't have to worry about the Emmersons' appearance on the show.

"The identity the Lawson family prepared for your mom back then was flawless. The Emmersons can only find out that she died of massive bleeding in the hospital, but you might be implicated." Sean adjusted his cuffs. "Are you really not considering going abroad? There are many colleges abroad for you to choose from."

With Angeline's grades, as long as Sean donated money, it wouldn't be a problem for her to get into any college.

"I know you want to help me, but everyone has their own path."

Sean didn't force her any further. He answered one call after another.

+15 BUNUSE

After he finished answering the calls, he said to Angeline, "I have to rush back to Krontos for something. Anne is fine now. I suppose there are still some things you need to take care of in Oceanford. Stay in the villa until you leave. It's safer."

After Sean left, Angeline relaxed her tensed body. Only then did she notice how sore her body was all over.

She stayed alone in the room for half an hour before going downstairs to check out.

As she reached the hotel entrance, she saw Sean's assistant, Taylor Powell, standing by the car. Smiling, he greeted her, "Ms. Angeline."

Angeline was taken aback. "What are you doing here, Mr. Powell? Didn't Mr. Lawson say he had to rush back

to Krontos for something?"

"Mr. Lawson was summoned back to Krontos by Mr. Lawson Senior because he didn't show up at the blind date with the third daughter of the Scott family yesterday."

Taylor opened the car door and gestured for Angeline to get in. "Mr. Lawson asked me to stay and take you to the hospital for a check-up."

Angeline clenched her hands at his words. So, Sean was supposed to go on a blind date the day before.

"There's no need for that. I'm fine." Angeline just wanted to charge her phone as soon as possible and contact Anne.

"Mr. Lawson asked me to drive you back to rest if you don't want to go to the hospital. Taylor still wore a smile on his face. "There's some food in the car. You can have some on the way."

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Angeline thanked Taylor as she got into the car.

She borrowed a charging cable from him and finally got her phone charged.

Upon turning it on, she saw over 60 missed calls. Except for two missed calls from Anne, the others were from the same number. It was Ned.

Angeline tightly gripped her phone and wondered about Ned's intention for making multiple calls.

Was it because he had found out she hadn't slept with the man in the room he had arranged for her? Or

because he had found out she wasn't with Zachary?

Whatever the reason was, it couldn't be out of concern.

Angeline smiled self-mockingly and dialed Anne's number.

"Angie!" Anne sounded excited when she answered the call, but she still spoke in a hushed tone.

"Angie, the police said everything's cleared up, and Ms. Dalton said there's no need for any compensation. I've

been released. I'm at the hotel arranged by the production team now."

"Which hotel are you at? I'll come over now," Angeline said.

Feeling anxious that the Emmersons might bother Angeline, Anne hurriedly replied, "Don't, please don't come. .

The Emmersons are also here.

"Don't worry. I'm fine now. I'll go back after the recording. But... I'm not sure if I can give Ned the photos."

Angeline clenched her fists and felt a sting in her palm. Only then did she realize her palm was bruised from the night before. She whispered, "Throw away those photos, Anne. Ned and I are divorced. We have to do with each other now."

Anne was stunned.

After a while, a low sob sounded from the other end of the line. "I should've realized it earlier. You never came back with Ned after waking up from the coma. You always said Ned was busy-" "Anne, it's all in the past now," Angeline softly interrupted Anne.

"I just feel you've suffered too much, Angie." Anne sighed heavily. "You loved Ned so much. You were even willing to give up your life for him. Ned clearly loved you the same too. You shouldn't have ended up like this."

Angeline's love and concern for Ned were obvious to everyone.

Just then, another call came in. Angeline told Anne she had another call coming in and hung up on Anne.

When the call was connected, Angeline realized it was from The Family Search.

"Hi, Ms. Emerson, can you come for the rehearsal this afternoon? The recording is tomorrow, and we need to

1/2.

"I won't go for the rehearsal. I have other things to do."

"Oh, okay. Then I'll talk to you about the details later over the phone. You can call me Alex."

Taylor, who was driving, saw Angeline put down her phone through the rearview mirror and said, "Ms. Angeline, if you don't want to participate in The Family Search, you can ask Mr. Lawson to make a call. Don't worry. Mr. Lawson and Professor Lawson have spoken on the phone. Professor Lawson hasn't been affected. The production team has a bottom line, after all. The Emersons' greed will surely backfire. Taylor's tone was confident.

Mentioning Sean inevitably made Angeline think of the incident from the night before. She gave

Taylor an awkward smile and said, "It's okay. I know what I'm doing. I have other reasons to participate in the program."

At this moment, her phone screen lit up again.

It was Ned.

With the divorce certificate obtained and Anne and Ingrid's matters settled, was Ned calling her to confirm whether she had fulfilled his final wish?

She lowered her gaze, silently watching the phone screen go dark before blocking the number.

Taylor dropped Angeline off at the villa gate and told her that Tommy had been arrested for drug-facilitated assault

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"Tommy got what he deserved. He won't have the chance to harass you anymore," Taylor said as he opened the gate to the villa for Angeline.

"Thank you," she replied. She knew that it was Sean's way of not involving her and warning Tommy.

No wonder Ned had called her. He was probably trying to hold her accountable.

Outside the shabby area, a sleek, black sports car stood out.

Ned sat in the car with furrowed brows as he realized Angeline had blocked his number when he heard the busy signal on his phone.

Annoyed, he tossed the phone aside and lit a cigarette.

On the passenger seat lay the scarf Angeline had left in the car the night before.

Ned only found out the drugs Tommy had given him weren't actually truth serum after Tommy was brought to

the private room by Sean's bodyguards.

Tommy had lied to him out of fear that he might relent.

Ned had forced Angeline to take those drugs and insisted she wait for Zachary to come and pick her up.

Angeline swore that even if she were to be trapped in Emmerson Village forever, she would leave on her own.

It was evident that she had misunderstood that he had intended to make her sleep with Zachary.

Just thinking about Angeline's "as you wish" annoyed Ned to no end.

Thankfully, Sean was there.

If it were anyone else, Ned would be concerned about Angeline's safety, but Sean should have already taken Angeline to the hospital.

He rolled down the car window. As he looked at the hustle and bustle of the village, he took a deep drag of his

cigarette.

All he could think about was Angeline's expressions from the night before, which only made him feel more

irritated.

All of Ned's impressions of Angeline weren't good. In his mind, she was the third wheel between him and Ingrid, an unshakeable nuisance.

However, when Ned heard that she was actually planning to take her own life when she had accidentally saved him that time, his heart ached inexplicably.

He couldn't connect the image of someone trying to end her life with the beautiful girl who had kissed him. against a wall covered in blooming roses at sunset.

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For the first time since losing his memory, Ned wanted to know about his past with Angeline,

Unfortunately, apart from that scene, he couldn't remember anything else.

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The Family Search was a pre-recorded program, and the actual recording was scheduled for the day after.

In the evening, the production team called Angeline, informing her of the program's flow and her scheduled appearance time.

Perhaps learning from the production team that Angeline was also going to participate in the program, Emmersons obtained Angeline's phone number from the production team.

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Seemingly having a premonition, Angeline pressed the record button when she answered the call.

"Angeline, you shameless bitch. Aren't you very good at hiding? Why are you suddenly afraid when you know we're going on the show?" Benjamin's voice on the other end of the line was full of malicious glee. "You ungrateful trash. We're doing you a favor by

having you marry the Morgan crip in Emmerson Village. There are so many men in college. A slut like you must have slept with countless of them. You- Before Benjamin could finish, the phone was snatched away by his grandmother, Juliet Emmerson. Her voice

was as sharp as ever.

*Jodie, you heartless bitch. Why don't you die? We raised you, and you caused your dad to go to prison? You're just like your slutty mother.

"We bought her to continue the family line, fed her, and treated her well. Not only did she give birth to a worthless thing like you, she even ran away! She even took my eldest grandson with her to the grave! Why

didn't you die with her?"

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Angeline intentionally recorded the conversation. After controlling her emotions, she calmly spoke.

"You're truly shameless to say such things. My mom originally had a happy family, but

you people abducted her to Emmerson Village. You didn't give her clothes, fed her only once a day, chained her up in the cellar, and beat and scolded her because you were afraid she would run away. "You had even broken her leg. Do you take this as treating her well? She

was brought to your house at the age of 16 and started having children after that. You people would abandon the baby if she gave birth to a girl."

After taking a deep breath, Angeline continued, "She gave birth to eight children in 11 years and died alongside the ninth child on the

operating table. Is this what you mean by treating her well? Would you say the same if

you were treated this way?"

Infuriated by her words, Juliet reflexively attempted to crush her with the most vulgar words possible.

"Y-You filthy slut! As a woman, you're going to a place full of men and

staying in one room with them. You claim to be attending classes, but behind closed doors, it's all prostitution and whoring around. All of you are dirty whores!"

Angeline raised her eyebrows slightly. Pretending to be angry, she raised her voice. "Oceanford College is a top

-tier college. It's a sacred place that has nurtured countless talents for the country. Don't use your filthy

thoughts to judge Oceanford College's students!" .

Hearing Angeline desperately defend herself, Juliet thought she had struck a nerve and continued attacking

her with the most offensive words.

"Bah! A top-tier college? Women from there are all sluts who have slept with countless men! Who knows if they can even bear children in the future? And you call it a top-tier college?"

"Mom, give me the phone." Benjamin's aunt, Katie Emerson, snatched the phone from Juliet, who was speaking harshly.

As usual, she began to play the hero. "Jodie, don't blame your grandma for getting angry. We're family, after all.

"Anyway, you're already 25, but you want to spend money to attend college instead of getting married? Your dad asked you to get the tuition fee back for your own good. Colleges are just money- making scams.

"A woman should get married while she's still young so that she can receive more wedding gifts. Those can

be sold for money and can be used to support Benjamin when he gets married. Isn't that great? You're contributing to the family. After all, he's the backbone of our family-"

Angeline interrupted Katie, "Since young, have you ever paid a cent for my education? Why would you have the

nerve to ask me to give you the tuition fee? I'd never been to school before ten years old. Ever since I could remember, I'd been mistreated and had endless chores to do!

"When I was ten, you wanted to punish me because I escaped with my mom and Anne. You only

let me go because Anne managed to give you 20 thousand dollars. Did you visit me once when I had an accident four

years ago?"

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+15 BONOS

After a pause, she continued, "Oh, right, you did visit me once. I was in a coma for over a year, and you

somehow found out I became a vegetable. You went to the hospital to see if I was dead.

"You plotted to remove my oxygen tube and extort money from the hospital when I die. And now you're telling me we're family?"

"Jodie, you-" Katie sighed. "Why didn't you mention that we spent 30 thousand to get your mom? You let her

go and caused your dad to be imprisoned. That York lady wanted you. Giving us 20 thousand dollars in compensation wasn't too much.

"And if we hadn't given you away back then, could you have the good life you have now? Your dad raised you,

after all. If you were to die, the money we asked from the hospital could be considered his retirement money. Besides, you're fine now, aren't you?"

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"Forget it. Let's not talk about that." Katie suddenly changed the subject. "Jodie, you and Benjamin are both your grandpa's grandkids. Since he paid for your education, shouldn't he help Benjamin out now that Without waiting for Angeline to respond, she continued, "Jodie, can't you help persuade your grandpa? We're family, and we really don't want things to escalate to the point of tarnishing your grandpa's and your reputation on television.

"Isn't your grandpa a college professor? If this gets out, it'll ruin his reputation as an educator."

Angeline's face darkened. "What do you want?"

"I heard that colleges provide a house for professors, right? Tell your grandpa to transfer the ownership of the house to Benjamin. If he doesn't have one, ask him

to buy Benjamin a villa in Oceanford. Also, buy a car worth half a million for him." Katie started making requests.

"It's not that we want the car, but this is the bride's family's request. They also asked for wedding gifts worth 660 thousand dollars. Your mom is your grandpa's only daughter. Now that your mom is gone, your g Benjamin?"

"If your mom knows that he holds onto so much money and doesn't help Benjamin, even avoiding him, she won't rest in peace in heaven."

"You tortured my mom and caused her death! If Mr. Lawson Senior helps you, then she'll truly not rest in peace." Angeline spoke calmly.

"Give me the phone!" Unable to hold back his anger, George snatched the phone and launched into a tirade. "Jodie Emmerson! Have I given you too much respect? Don't think I don't

know that you're telling the Lawson old man to avoid Benjamin just to get your hands on his house and money!

"Let me tell you. The Lawson old man's house and money belong to Benjamin. Don't you dare think you can have them, you shameless, worthless bitch! I'll kill you!"

"Don't talk nonsense! When

this brat was 12, we took a five thousand dollar deposit from the Wyatts, but your useless sister couldn't bring Jodie back. I had to cough up 600 dollars to settle the matter," Juliet interrupted George anxiously. "This time, we took 30 thousand dollars from the Morgan crip. We promised to bring Jodie back to bear kids for him. If you kill her, we'll have to compensate him! He's not someone we can mess around with." "This worthless bitch is alive because of me, so I have the right to decide if she lives or dies!"

After roaring at Juliet, George commanded Angeline on the phone, "Call the Lawson old man now. If he doesn't give Benjamin the house, wedding gifts, and a car, I'll kill you! You shameless slut who tries to covet your brother's inheritance!"

George's voice dripped with malice, a chilling reminder of the mistreatments Angeline and her mother endured in the cellar. It starkly contrasted with his usual facade of kindness to outsiders.

"It seems like seven years of prison haven't been enough for you. If you kill me, you'll get the death penalty. You took 30 thousand dollars from the Morgan crip to sell me. This is human trafficking. If you really get a heavy sentence as the seller."

Angeline had already gotten the recording she wanted and didn't want to engage with the Emmersons any longer, so she hung up the phone.

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The Emmersons refused to give up and called again.

Angeline decisively blocked their number. She began organizing the pieces of evidence she had left behind against the Emmersons.

Meanwhile, the Emmersons were grumbling in the hotel and coming together to curse Angeline.

"That bitch is just like her useless mom! Shameless scum! All she wants is Benjamin's inheritance!" Juliet

seethed with hatred.

"Benjamin, you must perform well tomorrow on the show. No matter what, you have to get in contact with your grandpa. Don't let that bitch get what's yours!"

"She's all grown up now. How dare she threaten me with imprisonment? I'm her biological father! I gave her her life! I can take it as I wish!" George's face darkened as he spoke harshly.

Jay was how the Emmersons addressed Jessica, Angeline's birth mother.

Women abducted to Emmerson Village were simply meant for childbearing, so no one cared what their names

were.

Upon learning that Angeline's birth mother's name started with the letter "J", George started referring to her as

Jay.

"When Jodie was 12, I couldn't bring her back. Now that she has all grown up, why would she just return to Emmerson Village with us? George, you took the Morgan crip's money. If Jodie doesn't go back, how do we explain ourselves to him?"

"If she dares!" George was trembling with anger.

"Her nude photos are everywhere. We'll talk about this on the show tomorrow. By then, everyone in Oceanford. will know she sold herself in college and condemn her. Then, she'll have no choice but to come back with us

to Emerson Village and marry the Morgan crip."

At 12:30 pm the next day, Angeline headed to Oceanford TV Station with the prepared materials.

Ian, who had received a call from Sean, met Angeline before the show started.

At exactly 2:00 pm, the recording began.

The studio was packed with an audience.

This show already had high ratings. Now, with the incident between Ingrid and Anne-the show's guest-at the

airport, the show gained more attention.

As usual, Ian gave a brief introduction before inviting the Emersons to narrate the incident.

George put away his ferocity from yesterday when he was on the phone with Angeline. He sat on the couch meekly with his thin, hunched body. He kept his head down and did not say a word, pretending to be pitiful.

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+15 BONOS

Benjamin slowly began to speak about how he missed his birth mother and recounted how pitiful he was when he was a child as he was bullied and called a child without a mother. Many older audience members were moved to tears listening to him.

Juliet began to shed tears as she listened to Benjamin's words. She then recounted her hardships, swearing that she was not a wicked mother-in-law.

"We treated Benjamin's mom like a treasure as soon as she came to our house. We never made her do any work. When she was sick, I was the one who fed her. But our family was too poor, so she left the child and ran

away." .

Katie quickly comforted Juliet. Her eyes were red-rimmed.

Following Ian's arrangement, Angeline sat quietly in the backstage dressing room. As she watched the Emmersons perform through the screen, she didn't feel anything at all.

"How could she do that? Why would there be such a heartless woman? If she thought the family was poor, she should take the child with her!"

"Anyone can be a parent nowadays. They just give birth to the children but don't raise them. Poor child!"

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Many of them among the audience sympathized with this "virtuous" family, expressing their indignation.

Ian turned to Benjamin and asked gently, "Your mom left when you were just five. Don't you hate her?"

"I don't because..... my grandma and dad told me that she didn't marry my dad willingly. My dad borrowed 30 thousand dollars to buy my mom. Although my grandma and dad treated my mom well, she had no feelings for my dad and didn't want to stay in that poor place.

"I understand her actions. It's just that since childhood, everyone else had a mother except me. I really miss my mom, and I want to see her." Benjamin choked, "I want to ask her why she abandoned me." Sure enough, as Benjamin's voice fell, whispers erupted from the audience.

"What? She was bought?"

"Is it human trafficking or arranged marriage by the mother's family?"

"No way it's human trafficking. It should be an arranged marriage."

"Even if it was an arranged marriage, the child is innocent."

Anne, who had been waiting on the other side of the stage, heard the audience's discussion and was so

furious that her eyes turned red. She couldn't help but rush out before she questioned loudly, "Why don't you

dare to tell everyone that Jay was abducted to your house?"

At once, the staff escorted Anne back.

As soon as that was said, the audience bustled with discussions.

"What? This young man's mother was abducted?"

"Oh my, I heard that women who are abducted usually end up having a tragic life."

*No wonder she ran away. My goodness. Who wouldn't?"

The story of a child born to an abducted woman who sought to find his mother was the hot topic Ian most wanted for this episode.

Sensing something was wrong, Benjamin quickly added, "My dad was sentenced to prison for this. He has known his mistake after so many years in prison. He came with me today just to see my mom and apologize

to her. He feels very bad for his ignorance and lack of legal understanding at that time."

"I acknowledge my mistake, and I've served my sentence in prison, but the child is innocent," George said

timidly. .

"Even if I were sentenced to death, I would accept. After all, it's my fault. But Benjamin is innocent! Benjamin just wants to see his mom and grandpa. I only ask for them to meet him. Let me apologize to them. I'm willing

to die if they ask me to!"

With that, George knelt down. "I beg you, Mr. Taleman. Please help Benjamin."

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+15 BONOS

Ian quickly helped George up and said to the audience, "After our production team's extensive investigation, we found Dr. Leslie Holt, who performed surgery on Benjamin's mother.

"Dr. Holt has retired and moved abroad with her children, but we obtained her phone number and conducted a

phone interview with her."

The conversation between the production team and Leslie played in the studio.

On the phone, Leslie said that the abducted woman left a lasting impression on her.

The woman had suffered from severe abuse for a long time, with countless visible and invisible injuries all

over her body. Her leg had been broken, and her mental condition was very poor.

Later, she died on the operating table due to massive bleeding. The patient's mother had even knelt down and begged Leslie to save her daughter, offering any amount of money.

"That couple searched for their daughter for almost 12 years. The patient's mother suffered from severe depression due to her daughter's disappearance. She even tried to take her own life twice."

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Leslie spoke slowly. Even now, she sounded like she was lamenting as she said, "The patient's father also went down on his knees and begged me, saying that if his daughter

couldn't survive, he was afraid that his

wife wouldn't either.

"He begged me to save their daughter at all costs. But the patient still couldn't make it after the surgery. Later, I heard that not long after the patient passed away, her mother also followed her to heaven. It's real. The recording of the conversation stopped here.

Ian looked at Benjamin and said, "After our investigation, I'm sorry to tell you that your mom has indeed passed away, as her friend, Ms. York, said. Today, we've invited Benjamin's mother, Jay's friend, to come to the studio. Let's welcome Ms. York to tell us about Jay's story."

The staff escorted the emotional Anne onto the stage. As she sat down, she recounted how she and Jessica had escaped from Emmerson Village with Angeline's help.

She also described how Jessica had fallen in panic in front of the police station, leading to massive bleeding

and her eventual demise at the hospital.

The audience below murmured in sympathy.

"I told them Jay was gone, but they didn't believe me." Anne looked anxious. Just as she was about to reveal the fact that the Emmersons had used Angeline to threaten her, she abruptly swallowed her words, fearing it

might implicate Angeline.

"Anne, it's not that we don't believe you. You're close with Jay back in Emmerson Village, and you left

together. You should have her contact information!

"Benjamin just wants to see his mom, sister, and grandpa. You clearly have their phone number.

How can you be so heartless and not give us? If we had their numbers, we wouldn't be exposing our family's dirty laundry

on TV!"

As Juliet said that, she hugged Benjamin and cried. She started to ramble about how difficult her life had been and how Benjamin had been bullied as a child for not having a mother.

"After Benjamin's sister left with her mom, she hasn't contacted us for so many years. Look at what she had turned a good girl into! At such a young age, she's not focusing on her studies. Instead, she drugged others for sex. Her naked photos are everywhere."

Juliet became more and more agitated as she spoke. "We shouldn't have

let Jodie go back then. If she had listened to me, she would've been married and had children already. How could this have happened if she had

a man?" .

"You're talking nonsense! Angie is the best child in the world! She's a top student at Oceanford College! It was you who wanted to end her when you heard she helped her mom escape!" Anne became emotional. "It was you who said that girls can't make money! You said as long as I could give

you 20 thousand dollars, you would give Angle to me!"

+15 BONOS

The usually mild-mannered Anne and the Emmersons were now engaged in a heated argument on stage,

The production team loved this kind of intense conflict. The camera was almost glued to Juliet's face,

"You're talking crap!" Juliet stood up, naturally twisting the truth. "Angie left with her mom back then. Her birth

mother wanted her! How could we refuse?

"Also, who took your 20 thousand dollars? Show me the evidence! You turned our good girl into a shameless slut who goes out to sell herself. How will she ever get married in the future? My goodness!"

Juliet's words were so harsh that the audience frowned.

How could a grandmother speak about her granddaughter like that?

Anne couldn't stand it and argued with Juliet. In the end, Juliet stepped forward and grabbed Anne's hair. The stage immediately descended into chaos.

Two and a half hours later...

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Chapter 40

Angeline walked out of Oceanford TV Station with Anne, who had tears streaming down her face. At the back of them were the Emmersons causing a scene and refusing to let the production team air the show "You must be in cahoots with that bitch, Jodie!"

Juliet sat on the ground, pounding her thighs in protest. "If you dare to air this, I'll jump from this building! Even if I become a ghost, I won't let you bunch of dickheads off!" .

Hearing that, Anne wiped away her tears and quickly pushed Angeline. "Go now, Angie. As the Emmersons are making a scene, they won't pay attention to you. Hurry, don't let them catch you. Someone from the production

team will take me back to the hotel later."

Angeline gently squeezed Anne's rough

hand. "I'm taking the train to Cloudsville tonight to see Professor Dickson. Once I'm settled in Cloudsville, I'll come home to count down the New Year with you and Henrietta."

Anne nodded repeatedly, then pulled out a credit card from her pocket and handed it to Angeline. "Take this

card. The PIN is your birthday. You need money when you're out."

Fearing that Angeline would refuse, Anne added, "If you can't finish using it all, just give it back to me when you come home. I'm afraid I'll hold you back if I accompany you to Cloudsville, so take some extra money. I'll

be at ease."

Angeline held onto the credit card and smiled at Anne. "Okay, I'll take it."

"Angie, you're not at fault. You're the kindest and best child in the world. Without you, both me and your mom- Anne's tears flowed uncontrollably as she recalled Juliet's words during the recording. "Both you and

Henrietta are treasures. Don't listen to the Emmersons' nonsense."

"I know, Anne."

"Alright, alright. Go now. Henrietta and I will be waiting for you at home. When you come back, I'll make your favorite beef stew and meatballs for you." Anne wiped away her tears.

As she watched Angeline get into the taxi, she squeezed the photo of Angeline and Ned in her pocket. Angeline had suffered too much in her life. Anne felt that she had to do something for her.

Before heading to the TV station, Angeline had already packed her luggage.

After getting her luggage, she got into a taxi from the villa area to the train station.

On the way, she opened WhatsApp and saw a text from an unknown number. "Angeline, you've got some guts!

Just wait!"

Frowning, Angeline deleted the message.

+15 BONOS

Before closing WhatsApp, she saw Sean's profile picture. It reminded her to ask for his account number to

transfer the money for her hospital stay and clothes.

There was no reply from him even after some time, so she sent another text. "Mr. Lawson, I'm leaving for Cloudsville tonight. Thanks for everything." Sean replied promptly, "Be safe."

"Please send me your account number." Angeline reiterated her request.

There was no response once again.

Sean was probably busy. Angeline locked her phone screen and looked out the window.

Today, she was leaving the city where she had lived for many years.

She had come to this city because of Ned. Now, leaving it behind meant letting go of everything and starting

anew.

Angeline messaged Anne, instructing her to send a message once she got home the next day.

The train from Oceanford to Cloudsville departed.

Angeline checked the time on her phone and noticed another message. She tapped to open the chat.

"You left your scarf behind. Do you still want it?"

The profile picture showed intertwined hands. The man had well-defined fingers and was wearing a sports watch, while the woman's hand was slender with beautiful, well-manicured nails. The hands were Ned's and Ingrid's. Their fingers intertwined, showing deep affection. The text was from Ned.