

Second Marriage to Mr. Rich

Chapter 81

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Ned clenched his fists. His expression was dark and indiscernible.

"Could you share how Gregory learned about my pregnancy?" Angeline asked.

"I checked his phone. Your labmates were talking about taking care of you or something along those lines in the chat group."

From that, Angeline was sure Alva saw the pregnancy test strips in the bin.

"Thanks," she replied, wrapping her jacket tightly around her as she left.

Ned was surprisingly composed when she left, possibly because he felt guilt over her pregnancy. He stood still as he watched her go.

Angeline ran into Alva when she entered the dormitory building. She had two servings of supper with her as she looked at Angeline with concern.

"Angie, um... Gregory's cousin, and you..." Alva muttered hesitantly.

Alva noticed the light was still on in Angeline's room, so she headed downstairs to get some supper, worried that Angeline might be hungry. She was appalled to see Gregory's cousin dragging Angeline into a corner.

Although Alva was initially hesitant, she was worried about Angeline's safety. Just as Alva was prepared to step forward to protect Angeline, she heard her hollering at him.

Gregory mentioned that his cousin had proposed to someone. However, Angeline obviously wasn't the one he was proposing to.

Alva didn't expect Gregory's cousin, who was exceptionally good-looking, to be Angeline's scumbag ex. He was, in fact, the one who had lost his memory on the day they signed their marriage certificate. Alva wondered what sort of scumbag he was. She wanted to know how we could have the heart to divorce his pregnant wife.

"He's my ex," Angeline said casually.

"I'm fine. Be at ease, Alva."

"I noticed the light in your room was still on, so I got you some supper," Alva explained, showing the supper to her.

She spotted Ned standing in front of the dormitory building wearing a frown. She immediately linked arms with Angeline and strode right in.

you need someone to talk to, we can eat together."

"If you .

The next day, Gregory found Angeline already in her protective goggles and mask when he arrived at the laboratory early in the morning. She had begun her experiments. He kept looking around the lab as he organized yesterday's experimental data.

Before Gregory came over from the hotel, Ned told him to look out for Angeline. He was unsure of Ned's relationship with her. Still, that didn't stop him from being curious.

After Alva told Reese and Marion about what she heard last night, they knew Gregory's cousin was Angeline's scumbag ex-husband. As a result, they detested Gregory as well. Gregory spent the morning feeling utterly perplexed.

Angeline finally left the lab in the afternoon. Her fingertips were already pale when she took off her rubber gloves.

"Angie, I brought you lunch. Come to the pantry and have some!" Marion called.

"Coming!"

In the pantry, Angeline retrieved her phone from her pocket to text Henrietta a reminder to have her lunch. It was then that she noticed a photo in her messages inbox. The number didn't appear to be a scam. She clicked on it, and her pupils contracted.

In the photo, Henrietta was kneeling on the floor with her hands restrained. Someone was grabbing her hair, forcing her to tilt her head up to be slapped. Her uniform had already been

torn open.

Her face was covered in tears, and her vulnerable eyes were filled with terror.

Angeline could barely breathe as she stared at the photo. Blood rushed to her head, and she felt like she was being choked.

Her hand shook incessantly as she gripped the phone. She noticed it was River Town High School's uniform.

"Angie, eat up!" said Marion while opening the takeout box.

When she noticed how pale Angeline had gone, she immediately wiped her hands with tissues and strode to her. Looking concerned, she asked, "Is there something wrong?"

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Angeline instantly locked her phone screen. Her heart was pounding heavily.

She recalled the bruises she saw on Henrietta's wrists when she fell asleep on the dining table. However, she found no other wounds on Henrietta when she checked. So, Angeline assumed that the bruises on her wrists were by accident.

Moreover,

Henrietta had returned home early with her shoes wet the other day.

Yesterday afternoon, Henrietta's eyes gleamed with hope and joy when Angeline had picked her up for lunch. She was overjoyed to be transferred to a new school and was confident that life would improve for them.

Angeline finally realized Henrietta wasn't happy because she transferred to Cloudsville High School. Instead, she was simply relieved she could finally attend a new school.

Roaring waves of fury washed through Angeline. Her heart ached, but she couldn't stop it.

She should've been more attentive and learned that Henrietta had been bullied in River Town

High School.

"I'm fine," Angeline muttered, forcing a smile before she sat down and ate with her labmates.

Her phone, clutched tightly in her hands, buzzed again. It was a message from Henrietta. She reminded Angeline to take her lunch as well with a cute emoji. .

Feeling more at ease, she was relieved that she had transferred Henrietta to a new school.

If Henrietta was hesitant to pursue the matter, Angeline would help her overcome her trauma in a new environment.

However, if she was resilient enough to seek justice for the bullying she endured, Angeline was more than willing to back her up. She would assist Henrietta in pressing charges against them, even going as far as sending them to jail.

Nevertheless, Angeline wondered who had been texting her.

She messaged the person for inquiry, and the response came quickly. The unknown person told her to add their contact on WhatsApp.

Angeline realized it was Tommy once she added his contact.

Shortly after, he sent her a video. The photo he sent her before was evidently a screenshot from this video.

Angeline sprang to her feet.

"Angie, aren't you going to eat more?" Marion asked, looking up at her.

"I'm full. I feel like going outside to get some sun.

Angeline sat on the bench under the laboratory building. She decreased the volume of her phone and braced herself before tapping on the video to play.

In the video, a group of people smacked Henrietta's face with shoes wrapped in towels. Henrietta cried in fear, yet the group of demons cackled. They gave her a chance to call for help, yet no sound came from her when she opened her lips.

She could only kneel and beg for their mercy.

Tears streamed down Angeline's cheeks as she covered her mouth tightly.

Tommy: "Do you want to see something even more exciting?"

Initially, Angeline wanted to call him. However, she suppressed her agony. She needed evidence.

Angeline: "Did you instruct them to do this?"

Tommy: "Aren't you very tough? The adopted son of Lawson Global is backing you up, isn't it? If I can't do anything to you, that doesn't mean I can't take it out on a little mute girl."

When she texted him again, she realized he had blocked her. She took screenshots of their conversation and got up.

Pacing back and forth in the corridor, she tried to gather her thoughts. Her priority was Henrietta's safety. Fortunately, she had already been transferred to a new school.

She texted Henrietta and suggested having a fancy dinner out tonight.

Henrietta's response came swiftly. The emojis she sent clearly expressed how excited she was.

Feeling relieved, Angeline returned to the lab again.

At 5:40 pm, Marion received a call while organizing the data. She appeared to be stunned. She stood up and spun around to look at Angeline, who stood before the acrylic glove box, mixing chemicals in front of the video recorder.

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"Alright, got it!" Marion replied, setting down the data in her hands.

She went up to the translucent glass and tapped on it.

Angeline accurately dripped the reagent and called Gregory over to monitor it. Marion grabbed her by the arm once she exited the lab.

"Angie, a video was circulated at Cloudsville High School. Henrietta might not be able to handle it, so she disappeared. But apparently, she's not out of the school yet-Angie!"

Before Marion could finish, Angeline immediately dashed out. She didn't even bother to remove her lab coat.

"Alva! Go check on her!" Marion yelled at Alva, who had just entered, as she took off her coat

hastily.

Angeline's mind went blank. Did the video reach Cloudsville High School? Were Henrietta's classmates picking on her right now?

She called Henrietta as she rushed over to Cloudsville High School. However, it went straight

to voicemail.

As she ran at full speed, the wind rushed past her, and her racing heartbeat echoed loudly in

her ears.

Henrietta sat on the rooftop, her hands clasped over her ears firmly. Her bloodshot eyes were

filled with horror.

The images of her being bullied in the video replayed incessantly in her mind. She was bawling her eyes out, yet not a sound escaped her lips.

The bullying in school had begun long before, but she never dared to tell Anne about it. The bullies became more brazen after Anne's death.

Afraid of being discovered by Angeline, Henrietta always cleaned herself up before returning home. She didn't want Angeline to return to River Town, worried she would learn about the bullying incident. However, the bullying only became worse. They ripped her clothes off and burned her with cigarette butts, forcing her to scream in pain.

Henrietta threw her arms around her head, burying it between her knees. She was deeply traumatized. .

She thought she could start anew in a new city. She thought she had finally left hell.

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+15 BONUS

But why wouldn't they leave her alone?

Why did the videos start circulating in Cloudsville High School?

Henrietta couldn't stand the way others looked at her.

Her classmates, who were so friendly to her this morning, called her a slut in the afternoon. They even asked her how much she charged for a night. Her friends, with whom she had lunch, began avoiding her in the afternoon.

Henrietta could no longer endure it. It seemed like she could never escape from hell.

She took out her phone and turned it on after an undetermined amount of time. Tears streamed down her face as she started texting Angeline.

Just as Angeline arrived at the academic building, she heard a loud thud. Her steps on the

staircase came to a halt.

Soon, screams echoed in the classroom. There was a huge commotion.

"Someone just jumped off!"

"Behind the academic building!"

Angeline's blood ran cold. She spun around and headed to the back of the academic building.

Alva was still gasping for breath when she caught up with Angeline. Trailing Angeline from behind, Alva's heart skipped a beat when she heard the students upstairs exclaiming that someone had just jumped off the building. She stayed close to Angeline while calling the

ambulance.

It was dark behind the academic building.

In the dim street lights, they could make out a body in a school uniform lying in a pool of blood. The shoes strewn beside the body were the ones Angeline had bought for Henrietta the day before school started.

Angeline sprinted to Henrietta's side, kneeling to feel her pulse.

She found that Henrietta still had a pulse.

She was trembling as she took out her phone to call the ambulance.

"Hello, Cloudsville High School here. A student fell off a building! Yes... right behind the junior high academic building! I don't know where she's bleeding from, but apparently, she's still hemorrhaging. I understand. I won't move the patient."

Angeline stated the address before she called out to Henrietta, "Hatty! Hatty!"

She didn't know where Henrietta was bleeding, and she didn't dare to move her. Shaking all

+15 BONUS

over, Angeline placed her hand in front of Henrietta's nose, afraid that her shallow breathing would cease anytime.

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Soon, the principal and other teachers gathered around.

Alva stood beside Angeline, unsure of how to comfort her. Marion squeezed through the crowd, covering her mouth in shock when she saw the sight before her. The ambulance and police arrived quickly.

It wasn't until Henrietta was taken to the emergency room that Angeline finally collapsed on the hospital bench.

Her hands were covered in Henrietta's blood.

"Angie... your phone."

Alva handed Angeline's phone back and sat beside her, consoling her.

"Don't worry, we still have hope. It's only the ninth floor, after all. There was news about a kid being fine after falling from the 28th floor!"

Angeline saw an unread message from Henrietta. She tapped on it with her bloodied hands.

Henrietta: "Angeline, I really can't take it anymore. I feel like I can never escape from this hell in my entire life. I'm sorry, Angeline. I want to be with Mom now.

"I'm behind the academic building, and there's no one here, so I won't hurt anyone when I jump off the building.

"Please bury me with Mom. I'm really sorry, Angeline. I just... I just can't forget these .

memories, which are too painful. The pain's too overwhelming for me, and I feel like the only way out is death."

Henrietta had sent the message right before she jumped. It was incoherent, as she was merely expressing whatever was in her mind at that moment.

Angeline finally couldn't hold it in. She burst into tears.

Even Alva, who read the message, bawled her eyes out.

If someone were resolute about dying, they wouldn't allow time for others to save them.

In Henrietta's case, she was still concerned about hurting others when she jumped off the building.

Henrietta ultimately couldn't be saved. The doctor said she lacked the will to live.

In just two months, both Anne and Henrietta had passed away. Angeline vividly remembered how she promised Anne in front of her grave to look after Henrietta. Yet now, Henrietta was

+15 BONUS

gone as well.

Angeline absently stood outside the operation room. Tears flowed down her face as she stared blankly into space.

"Angie!" Alva called, holding onto her shoulders.

Her lips parted, but she didn't know how to comfort her.

"Angie..."

"Hold these bastards accountable for what they did!" Marion exclaimed, her chest heaving with fury.

She had never seen such vicious students before.

"You can't let them off the hook!"

Torture, burning Henrietta with cigarette butts, physical assault, rape-they were demons indeed.

Both male and female students were involved in the bullying. Their actions in the video were

inhumane.

"They're 14 years old and perfectly capable of being held responsible for what they did!" Marion continued, tears trickling down her cheeks.

At the police station, Angeline was resolute about pressing charges against all the students involved in bullying Henrietta in the video.

"And it was Tommy Yates, the second son of Yates Group, who instructed the others to pick on my sister!"

Although Angeline's tears never ceased, she was still eloquent as she spoke, "Here's the evidence!"

She provided the recording of Tommy threatening to bully Henrietta to force her presence at the Regalia Hotel in Oceanford. She also showed the screenshots of their conversation and the photo he sent to her message inbox.

The police officer comforted Angeline, who couldn't stop shuddering, saying, "Rest assured. The law won't let them get away."

Alva accompanied Angeline out of the police station. She called out to her cautiously when she saw Angeline's vacant eyes. It was then Angeline suddenly collapsed to the ground. "Angie!"

"Angeline!"

Ned rushed down from the car.

"Come and help!" he yelled at the police officers in the station.

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Gregory and Ned sat beside each other in the hospital ward.

In a hushed tone, Gregory asked, "Ned, is Angie's baby... your love child?"

"Love child?" Ned retorted.

His brows drew together as he snapped, "She was already pregnant before we were divorced!"

"Divorced?" Gregory exclaimed, his eyes widening in surprise.

"Wait... Angie's been pregnant for two months, which means you got her pregnant before you divorced. But... you just proposed to your fiancée! Ned, you're a scumbag!"

Staring at Angeline, who was still unconscious in bed, Ned glared at Gregory.

"You're insufferable!"

Ned's phone buzzed in his pocket. He took it out and glanced at it, frowning at Angeline. He got up and went outside to answer the call.

He reluctantly greeted, "Uncle Sean..."

"Don't you realize that you're already divorced from Angie?"

Sean's deep voice was laced with his dominance, causing Ned to glance around at his surroundings instinctively.

"I've already taken down the photos of you carrying Angie in your arms in front of the police station. Your successful proposal with Ingrid is still topping the headlines, and I don't want Angie to be caught between the two of you again. Go back to Oceanford now."

Although Sean sounded composed, Ned was intimidated by his tone.

"Uncle Sean, my mom told me to bring Gregory here. He's one of Angeline's labmates. I was about to leave, but I..." he said in a strained voice before continuing, "I learned that Angie's pregnant." Sean finally spoke after a moment of silence, "Come back now. I'll deal with this."

"But

Sean interrupted, "Or do you want the media to learn about your past with Angie?"

Ned pressed his lips together and weakly retorted, "But after all, Angie's pregnant with my child."

"She isn't," Sean snapped, his tone clearly growing impatient. .

+16 BONUS

Although Angeline was drugged that night, Sean wasn't. He was sure that she was a virgin when they slept together.

Thus, the child was his.

"She doesn't have anything to do with you now, do you understand?" he warned gravely.

"Since you chose Ms. Dalton, quit dallying around with your ex. Don't make it to the news. again and cause trouble for everyone!" Eventually, Ned gave in after a brief silence.

"Right, I get it. I'll head back to Oceanford at dawn. I'm sorry for having to trouble Angeline's matter, Uncle Sean."

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Sean propped himself against the French window, gazing at the sunset. His expression was

indiscernible.

His features, gilded by the warm orange gleam, were reflected on the window. He seemed pensive. Taylor knocked on the door, entering the room with his iPad.

He glanced at it, saying, "Mr. Lawson, we have an appointment with Mr. Manent at 7:30 pm tonight-"

"Call off the appointment," Sean interrupted, turning around to grab his blazer on the couch.

He tossed it on and headed out.

"Mr. Lawson, what about your upcoming schedule?"

"We're going back."

Taylor was stunned. He grabbed Sean's laptop and the other materials off the coffee table before darting after him.

"Mr. Lawson, but we have yet to secure the chip partnership. Mr. Lawson Senior said we must obtain the partnership since our company's survival depends on it. We've been here for nearly a month, and we've finally managed to meet-

Sean opened the suite door, his tone steady and composed as he rebuked, "Do you genuinely think we can secure the partnership? Our company is still on Marvonias sanctions list. They won't sell the chips to us. Get Hayden over here to pack our things. Inform the others to stop everything and return."

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Taylor was puzzled.

"But we've been doing this for almost two months now. The people back home are counting on this collaboration. Besides, who knows what Mr. Manent might have to say after today's meeting."

Sean pressed the down button on the elevator, his stern features reflected in the mirrored

walls.

"Instead of begging to survive, it's better to take a bold stance and fight for it! Maybe then we won't be at the mercy of others in the future."

The elevator let out a soft ding as it arrived. Sean was the first to step in.

Although Taylor didn't fully understand Sean's words, he knew his decision was final.

He had been at Sean's side for many years and had never seen him make a wrong move.

Taylor broke into a cold sweat at the thought of Lawson Global returning empty handed.

Besides, the chairman was using the cancellation of Sean's engagement as leverage to get him to resolve the chip problem in Marvonía. .

Back on Lawson Global's private jet, a group of executives gathered.

"Mr. Lawson, the negotiations are still ongoing. I have a meeting with Raymond Corporation this afternoon to discuss the chip manufacturing partnership. Why the sudden need to return. to Oceanford?" asked a confused executive who had been called back.

Before Sean could answer, someone else chimed in, "Stop wasting your breath. Mr. Lawson knew before he got here that Marvonía wouldn't sell us the chips, let alone partner with us to manufacture them." "If we knew they wouldn't sell us the chips, why did we waste our time here?"

"It's all for show for the folks in Marvonía!" a knowing executive sneered.

He looked at Sean, who poured himself a glass of water at the bar.

The executive happily informed his colleagues, "Two weeks ago, my team safely escorted two chip experts back home."

Another young executive added, "On my end, Dr. Harris had followed the route I arranged for him. He's headed to Coldor first, then to Norlandia, and finally from Fontenay back to Oceanford. Our staff should have picked him up at the airport by now."

+15 BONUS

"Professor Irich, a Ravorian from Norlandia's ASML Solutions, flew directly from Norlandia to Krontos yesterday."

Something finally clicked in his mind as Taylor listened to everyone's exchange.

Sean's grand gesture of bringing the company's top executives to Marvonia to negotiate the partnership was a cover to move the experts the company had already contacted back to Oceanford. "Now that we're suddenly leaving, the people in Marvonia must be shocked," chuckled one of the executives.

"Everyone else knew about this but me? I was the only one losing hair by the handful, using every brain cell to secure the chip collaboration for us," the original questioning executive chuckled with frustration and resignation.

"If we had already decided not to partner with them, why not simply bring everyone back home? What's the point of going to Marvonia? We could just as easily invest the money in research and development!" Sean stood at the bar and poured another glass of water from the bottle.

As he twisted the cap back on the bottle of mineral water, he remarked, "Wasn't the plane incident enough to set off alarms for us? 154 of our citizens, including 60 chip experts, were caught in it."

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Sean brought a glass of water over to the couch and sat down.

"The safety of our staff is vital, and you can never be too careful. Yes, this trip may delay us by two months and cost us some money, but the value of each scientist far exceeds the cost and time invested."

After a sip of water, Sean continued, "Since we can't partner with foreign companies to develop the chips, it's time for us to make a last stand and focus on domestic research and development." He lowered his glass and leaned forward to address the Lawson Global executives.

"Gentlemen, this time, against all odds, we will forge ahead and pursue development independently. Under optimistic projections, the next three to five years will be critical for our company. But if we persevere, we'll surely break the monopoly in the chip industry."

The executives relaxed when the meeting ended. They drifted off to sleep. .

Sean rubbed his temples wearily, his eyes red and exhausted as he looked out the plane

window.

Knowing Angeline as well as he did, he knew she wouldn't leave their child behind.

He wondered how he could convince her.

Meanwhile, Angeline had woken up in the hospital.

"Angie, you're awake!"

Alva approached the bed and helped Angeline sit up.

Her voice was hoarse as she asked, "What time is it, Alva?"

"It's 3:00 pm," Alva replied, placing a pillow behind Angeline and sitting beside her.

"Don't worry, the River Town High School bullies have all been arrested!"

The situation had escalated following the suicide of a student.

Moreover, Henrietta had recently transferred to Cloudsville High School, partially because of the bullying at River Town High School that had driven her to attempt suicide.

To clear its name, Cloudsville High School took the initiative to address the issue online.

By the end of the night, news of the bullying at River Town High School had risen to the top of trending topics.

The public outcry reached a boiling point, fueled by the horrific nature of the events. With the

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video evidence, the severity of the bullying was undeniable. As a result, law enforcement quickly apprehended the perpetrators and issued a formal report on the case. Even though the video was censored, it still evoked a sense of fear.

+15 BONUS

The sight of such videos was particularly enraging to parents, as their children were also students. If their children were subjected to such treatment, they would feel murderous rage

themselves.

In response, the parents collectively demanded that the perpetrators be punished.

However, due to the strict control of online video content, the more explicit videos did not

circulate on the Internet.

Still, many morally corrupt individuals used vile language to seek out these videos.

Some people criticized the parents' decision to send their child to a regular school, suggesting that it encouraged bullying.

A pregnant Marion, shaking with anger, led the students of Cloudsville College into an all-night online battle with the internet trolls.

However, Marion soon discovered that many women online were spontaneously reporting offensive comments and posting their views below the trending news.

GuardianAngel: "Say no to the dissemination of exploitative videos involving underage girls! As a mother and a woman, we must safeguard innocent victims and support the families of the deceased. Perpetrators should face legal consequences, not the victims."

AutumnCare: "Respect the deceased, cherish women, and remember, victims are not to blame. Expose the perpetrators, and let them face the consequences of their actions!"

Grumpy Toad: "I'm standing guard in the comments tonight! I dare anyone to ask for those videos. I'll report whoever that does. If I catch anyone spreading that filth, I'll report them to the authorities for distributing obscene material!"

LilTomato: "Rest well, miss. There are no bad guys there. We'll protect this world for you. We won't let those videos surface. You did nothing wrong. It's the perpetrators who are despicable!"

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Chapter 88

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On the internet, a massive online campaign called "Protect Her" quietly unfolded without any organized effort.

Even many celebrities joined in, calling to uphold the innocence of the victim and prevent the spread of videos that could further harm her.

More and more people voiced their demands online, calling for severe punishment for the perpetrators and those who distributed the videos. They pled for the protection of the victims and their families. Angeline was initially horrified at the thought of Henrietta's videos being circulated online. After all, it was those videos that drove Henrietta to the point of taking her own life.

She didn't want her sister to be subjected to further humiliation and torment after her death by having those videos spread across the internet.

But to her surprise, countless women on the internet were also protecting her.

Angeline bit her lip as tears streamed down her face.

Alva sat on the bed next to her. She looked at Angeline with tear-filled eyes.

"We will protect Henrietta!"

Angeline couldn't hold back anymore and burst into tears.

Henrietta's suicide and the subsequent uproar at Cloudsville High School took Tommy by surprise.

He nervously scrolled through the online comments, canceled all his appointments, and locked himself in his house, fearful of stepping outside.

Recalling Angeline's revelation of the recorded conversation with the Emmerson family on The Family Search, Tommy wondered if Angeline might also have recordings of their conversations.

Back when he forced Angeline to go to Regalia Hotel, he used Henrietta to threaten her. He wondered if Angeline had recorded him then.

If she did, and it was released, it would tarnish the reputation of Yates Group. He was certain that his dad would kill him.

Tommy silently prayed in his heart that Angeline didn't have any recordings.

"But what about the texts and WhatsApp messages?" he thought.

As Tommy paced in his bedroom while trying to figure out his next steps, he saw a police car pull up outside the mansion.

His eyes widened in shock. He rushed to the window, immediately feeling tense.

When the doorbell rang, Tommy quickly dialed Ned's number.

"Hey, brother-in-law!"

Tommy's voice was shaking.

"I may have screwed up! The police... They're outside my house! You've got to help me! I-I only did all this to take it out on you and my sister. All I did was spend some money to buy the videos from that kid named Michael Fuller..."

The Yates family maid, Emma Lowe, opened the door. The police officers showed their badges and said they needed to take Tommy in for questioning.

Emma looked surprised and a little nervous. Just as she turned to call for help, Tommy descended the stairs with his coat on.

"Tommy, we're from the local police. We need you to come with us to assist with an investigation.

The police officer showed Tommy his badge again.

Tommy nodded.

"Okay.

"Emma, I want your best stew for dinner tonight. Cook it!" Tommy instructed.

Emma nodded.

"Alright, understood!"

Meanwhile, Ned waited for Ingrid to finish filming on set. With a stern face, he walked to a secluded spot and made a phone call. He instructed Fletcher Corporation's legal department to go to the police station.

"Contact Michael's parents from River Town High School. Tell them to keep the kid's mouth shut, or there will be consequences! Pay them as much as they want as long as we clear Tommy's name." .

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Chapter 89

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Ned kicked a pillar in frustration after he hung up on the call.

The day Angeline's sister, Henrietta, jumped off the building, Ned was in Cloudsville. Angeline was still dealing with the pregnancy, but Tommy had made a mess of things.

Ned sat in the hallway and scrolled through the trending comments. He felt an inexplicable

sense of unease.

He had to keep Angeline from discovering that Tommy was involved in the incident. Then, he would be responsible not only for Anne but also for Henrietta. The deaths of Angeline's loved ones would all be blamed on him. She would despise him and Ingrid.

It was best to prevent any information from reaching Angeline. Not a single detail should reach her.

Ned's phone vibrated.

He looked at it and saw that it was Ingrid calling.

"Baby..."

"Where are you? I finished my scenes this morning, and the director permitted me to take the afternoon off. I can spend it with you." Ingrid was cheerful.

"I'm out in the hallway having a smoke. I'll be right there."

Ned ended the call and got up. He suddenly felt dizzy.

He steadied himself against the pillar and rubbed his temples.

"Why is Oceanford's notorious playboy, Ned, so obedient? Can I call you 'Baby' in private from now on?" Angeline's teasing voice echoed in his head.

"Angeline, are you crazy? What do you mean by that?" Ned replied with annoyance.

Despite his frustration, he couldn't ignore the slight sweetness in her words,

Ned stumbled over to the pillar and leaned against it as his pounding headache

overwhelmed him. .

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+15 BONUS

Sunlight pierced through the trees and stung Ned's eyes. He swore he could smell the sea

breeze.

Angeline was dressed in her school uniform as she sat on the seawall. The sea breeze ruffled her hair. With a ring on her index finger, she held her hand out to the blazing sun. Her dazzling smile shone brighter than the sun.

"Baby, don't you know we're still minors? Rings shouldn't be given away so lightly," she teased.

"But you look so happy! So what if we're not adults yet? You're stuck with me as your husband for life."

"What if I decide against marriage when I grow up, or if I marry someone else?" "Then I'll break my legs!"

Angeline turned to him, tucking her hair behind her ear to reveal her slender neck. With an amused look in her eyes, she said, "You mean you'll break my legs, right?"

Ned reached out and gently tapped Angeline's head with his finger.

"Think about it. How could I ever break your legs? If you don't marry me, I'll break mine, and you'll have to look after me for the rest of our lives! If you marry someone else, I'll do anyway to make you feel guilty forever."

Ned's mouth hung open, but he struggled to catch his breath.

Those were memories of him and Angeline.

Just then, Ingrid turned the corner in her period costume. She spotted Ned on the floor in

agony.

She rushed over.

"Ned! Ned, what's wrong? Quick, call an ambulance!" Ingrid yelled, startling her assistant

behind her.

"Oh! O-on it!"

The assistant quickly took out her phone and dialed 911.

Ned's consciousness clouded. His eyes were half-opened and unfocused as he stared at the blinding sun in the sky. It might have been the sunlight, but tears began to well up in his

eyes.

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"B-baby..."

"Baby" was a nickname Angeline had given him.

"I'm here! I'm here, Ned!"

Ingrid assumed Ned was calling out to her. She gripped his hand tightly as tears streamed uncontrollably down her cheeks.

"I'm here, Ned! Please don't scare me!"

Chapter 90

Chapter 90

As she watched Ned faint before her eyes, Ingrid's face drained of color.

She turned to her assistant, her voice shaking with fear as she ordered, "Get help! Quickly!"

The assistant director hurriedly brought in several staff members and lifted Ned into a vehicle with the film crew's stretcher. They drove to the nearest hospital.

Angeline had barely said goodbye to Anne before she had to do the same to Henrietta.

Amid her grief, she forced herself to cheer up.

She knew that Anne's death was different from Henrietta's.

Henrietta's death involved school violence and sexual assault. Convicting the perpetrators would be a long process. Until those vile demons were properly punished, Henrietta could not rest in peace.

The bullying incident at River Town High School had a significant impact, attracting, widespread public attention.

It was especially so when many women rose to defend Henrietta's dignity after her death subduing the spread of the video and organizing the "Protect Her" campaign. It sparked a wave of female solidarity online.

The authorities acted quickly, and the case moved forward.

The day after Angeline left the hospital, Trevor went to see her.

Trevor acted on Ned's behalf and met with the River Town High School bully, Michael, and his parents. He cautioned Michael to watch his words.

Michael's parents proposed a condition that Trevor become their son's attorney. If they could reach an out-of-court settlement with Henrietta's family, they wouldn't ask for money or allow Michael to implicate Tommy.

The other parents knew Trevor's reputation as a prominent lawyer and also entrusted their

cases to him.

When Angeline came down from her dormitory, she saw Trevor, the head of Fletcher Corporation's legal department.

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She wasn't surprised in the slightest. Ned would spare no effort when it came to matters concerning Ingrid.

Tommy was Ingrid's cousin, so it was natural for Ned to be concerned about him.

Angeline stepped out with a stern expression and wrapped her coat tightly around herself.

Trevor smiled as he said, "It's been a while, Ms. Emmerson."

"Is this about Tommy?" she asked.

Trevor adjusted his glasses.

"I represent the kids from River Town High School now."

Angeline paused, then laughed bitterly.

case, so

"Let me guess, Ned has already instructed you to exclude Tommy from the entire the esteemed head of Fletcher Corporation's legal department is now defending those wretched demons."

"That's right, Ms. Emmerson. If you're willing to settle it privately, my clients can offer compensation," Trevor replied calmly.

Angeline's eyes turned red with anger as she asked, "Is Ned paying them off?"

"Ms. Emmerson, we've known each other for a long time. Your sister has passed away. Instead of prolonging this lawsuit for months, or even years, and stirring up more controversy, it might be better to resolve this sooner. Let the deceased rest in peace,"

"Not a chance! I will fight you in court no matter how long this process takes! Even if it . takes

my whole life!" Angeline erupted with intense anger as her voice grew louder,

"My sister won't find peace until the perpetrators are punished!"

"Hey, if it isn't the great lawyer, Mr. Marshall!" Riley greeted Trevor cheerfully, laptop in

hand.

He patted him on the back.

Trevor turned around.

"Mr. Gomez," he greeted Lawson Global's Chief Legal Officer, Riley.

Angeline's chest tightened when she noticed Riley. A lump formed in her throat.