

The Heiress' Return: Six Brothers at Her Beck and Call

Chapter 1521 Stubbornness Makes Things Worse

The Montclair Group was bound to be implicated, as the onslaught of criticisms unquestionably tarnished the company's reputation.

Landon, the nominal CEO, once boasted about his superiority to Taylor. He even bragged that he would bring down the Whitman family. Yet there he was, struggling to find a way out of his predicament.

The Montclair family's tactics had always been dubious, and no secret was safe from the inquisitive people online.

While the previous three Montclair generations had been capable, the family began riding on others' coattails when Tamia took the helm. Even their employees were unaware of any real achievements.

Beyond connections and bribery, the family had no commendable qualities to speak of.

As the incompetent man he was, Landon couldn't withstand the criticism and fearfully locked himself in his office. He ignored his secretary's persistent knocking, hoping for Tamia to come to his rescue.

Meanwhile, the aristocratic families that had hoped to use the Montclairs to dispose of the Whitman family were left bewildered.

The Waldrons, ever eager to take the lead, now plunged into panic. After all, the Montclair family crumbled right after their fallout with the Whitmans.

"Didn't Landon promise that Taylor's account would reveal discrepancies? How did things turn up like this?" Alas, their questions remained unanswered. Even Landon was dumbfounded. He had filed a report with the authorities, yet the Montclair family was being investigated instead.

Plus, who on earth leaked that video? Tamia had never told him that Ophelia schemed her way into the Whitman family!

With things going awry, Landon was at a loss and could only call for help. The employees looked on in cold silence, having only learned the truth about their company.

The Whitman family had locked down several outsourced projects for the Montclairs, yet the Montclair family had schemed to replace them.

Now that the divorce was public, many companies were demanding to terminate their contracts. After witnessing the Montclairs' deceit, the companies no longer trusted doing business with them.

Landon didn't dare to issue any threats. In the past, he referred to Noah with affection, almost as if he were the Whitman family's second son. However, his declaration over the past two days had betrayed his true intentions.

Every one of the Montclair family's misdeeds had been completely dug up. Filled with indignation, Tamia rushed to the company and demanded the PR department address the crisis.

She refused to accept that the Montclair family was at its end. Even if Noah had transferred his marital property, she was certain that Ophelia would still receive her share once the relevant authorities conducted their investigations. Besides, Alfred was now out of the country.

Even if the Whitmans had any justifications, their accounts remained vulnerable.

Under the pressure of Tamia's fury, the PR department issued a lawyer's letter in hopes of intimidating the people online.

However, Lennox Camshion, the PR manager, recognized that the announcement could ultimately lead to the company's downfall.

He attempted to reason with Tamia. "We can't confront the public head-on since we're in unfavorable circumstances, Madam Wooten. The best course of action right now is for you and Ms. Ophelia to issue a public apology. After all, that video..."

When Tamia heard his suggestion, her anger flared. "Why should I apologize to those lowly people? Are they

even worthy of my apology?"

Lennox clarified that the apology was meant for the Whitman family, explaining that Noah might give the Montclairs a chance of survival for Cyrus' sake

At that moment, Ophelia shrieked, "I'll never apologize to them!"

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Ophelia's failed marriage had turned her into a laughing stock in Hawford. To make matters worse, Noah had heartlessly transferred his marital properties early on. What were those wasted years in the Whitman family even for?

"That scumbag must pay the price! Isn't the world all about feminism these days? Let's stir the pot like everyone else!" Ophelia demanded.

The Montclair Group had always been a family business. Aside from Tamia, none of her children possessed much intelligence.

Despite being aware of the fact, Lennox and his peers remained in the company out of loyalty to the late Camden Montclair, the Montclair family's former head.

When they heard Ophelia's demand, all they could manage was a bitter chuckle. The incompetent scions genuinely believed that the public would be swayed by mere words. How absurd!

The video had laid bare their misdeeds. Rather than upholding the dignity expected of an aristocratic family, they had stooped to illegal and immoral acts by drugging someone.

If they were found guilty of conspiring against the Whitman family, they would face complete ruin. Yet, they remained as obstinate as ever.

The senior executives shook their heads in disappointment, realizing that the foundation that Camden built was now crumbling.

Tamia had wielded her authority for so long that she couldn't care less about the executives' advice. If the Wray family devalued human lives, then Tamia viewed those earning less than millions a year as lowly.

It appeared that those of higher status didn't quite deserve their positions, after all.

Tamia openly questioned Noah's reason behind the early transfer of his marital properties online. She demanded explanations regarding his chat histories and insisted that Ophelia had been wronged in every way. She also pressed Reuben for answers.

Having employed a similar tactic in the past, Tamia believed she would succeed again. Yet, in an age of advanced digital information, no one would fall for her games.

Ophelia mistakenly believed that Noah had known the truth all along and despicably planned for their divorce. What she didn't realize was that Noah had been giving her numerous chances over the years.

Hoping to spare Cyrus from a traumatic experience, Noah had always opted for the mildest approach to resolve matters. If the Montclairs hadn't crossed the line and Ophelia had been more mindful as a mother, he would've never disclosed the truth.

For years, no one questioned his dedication as a caring husband. Though he might not have loved Ophelia, he had dutifully fulfilled his obligations to her.

However, the Montclair family had persistently harmed the Whitman family. No matter how incompetent he felt, Noah refused to let his wicked spouse bring about his family's downfall.

Deep down, Noah understood that such matters couldn't be deferred, especially since Cyrus had been raised to become nearly useless. He realized it was time to make a decision.

Upon discovering the conspiracy between the Wrays and the Montclairs, Noah promptly transferred a portion of his shares to Taylor and Marie while allocating the rest to Cyrus.

Most ordinary men might not have acted with such decisiveness. In families with long histories, siblings often ruthlessly competed for their share of the inheritance. However, the Whitman family was different.

In the business community's early days, there was a well-known saying-no matter how furious Taylor might be, he would always listen to Noah upon returning home.

With someone as dependable and composed as Noah at the helm, the family's decisions and direction remained sound and reliable.

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Chapter 1523 The Truth Unveiled

As the people online delved deeper into Noah's background, their admiration for him grew. Not only was he the brightest student and heartthrob in school, but he also steered clear of any romantic rumors.

Although the public didn't buy into Tamia's skepticism, they were eager to hear the Whitmans' side of the story. Even Noah's good looks didn't excuse his wrongdoings if he was indeed guilty of cheating.

Knowing that the leaked video came from Noah himself, Wynter chose not to join the fray. However, she saw no reason to hold back from delivering the final blow to the obstinate Montclairs.

"Expose the Montclairs' IP address online. And make sure those who edited the images issue a public apology. Otherwise, the dark web will make their lives a nightmare," she instructed.

Typically, the troll armies were the ones that incited such public sentiments. Take the Montclair family for instance--they were the clients seeking to paint Noah as an unfaithful husband.

The troll armies had reworked the images provided by the Montclairs to fit their narrative, spreading controversies and misinformation online.

With the situation escalating online, the troll armies feared that the Whitman family would discover their involvement and take action against them. Before that could happen, the dark web called for their interdiction.

To keep their factories running, the troll armies must speak the truth. They would much rather incur the Montclair family's wrath than risk offending the dark web.

Without hesitation, the troll armies disclosed the truth. They revealed that Tamia had enlisted their help to slander Noah with an edited picture, all to portray him as an unfaithful husband during the divorce proceedings.

If the court accepted such misinformation as fact, Noah could end up with nothing.

As for the photo of Noah picking up a beautiful woman, it turned out to be taken at a company event. Ophelia was presented at the time, which meant she was fully aware of the truth.

Upon realizing the controversy was to smear Noah's reputation, many of the Whitman Group's employees voiced their disapproval.

"I can practically hear the Montclairs' scheme from my place."

"It serves her right! She's so eager to see Noah ruined. Is she really his wife?"

"Chill, girl. All she wants is the company shares."

"Props to Mr. Whitman! Thankfully, he diluted his shares early on. If the company ever falls into the hands of someone like the Montclairs, I'd be worried about my job."

The employees voluntarily spoke out for Noah, having witnessed his kindness firsthand. No sensible superior of a physical business should be entangled in such outrageous rumors.

Instantly, the public's fury fell upon the Montclair Group's PR Department. The Montclairs had eagerly awaited Noah's response, but now it was their turn to explain their actions.

As Tamia watched the company's reputation crumble, she thumped her cane and demanded someone be held accountable.

Lennox sneered and tore off his employee ID. "You still want someone to take responsibility. Can't you see the mess you've created? It's a total embarrassment! Get someone else to deal with this. I'm done!"

The crisp slap of the employee ID against the table felt like a blow to Tamia's face. She never imagined that the very people she looked down upon would dare to show her such disrespect.

Since the new Cascadia's establishment, there had been no incidents of strikes. But at that moment, all of the Montclair Group's employees decided to walk out in protest.

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Chapter 1524 Apologize

Tamia stomped her foot in anger as she yelled, "You ungrateful bunch! You wouldn't have achieved anything without Camden!"

Lennox glanced at the terrified Landon and retorted, "I'm sure you've realized we're only staying for Mr. Camden's sake. With your children's capabilities... Landon is nothing but an ignorant scumbag, taking pleasure in young, beautiful women's company.

"Alfred may have been smart once, but he's been raised to be incompetent. I've lived long enough to see through your games-you may fool others, but not us.

"Everything you've done has been about seizing power. Now that the Montclair Group is yours, you should clean up the mess."

His concluding remark cut deep like a knife. Overwhelmed with anger, Tamia could only point a shaky finger at the retreating figures wordlessly.

Just then, Landon came over and whispered, "What should we do, Mom? The Waldrons have stopped answering our calls."

"Look at these bastards running away! They sucked up to us upon learning Ophelia might seize the Whitmans' shares. But when trouble comes, they bury their heads in the sand!" Tamia gritted her teeth as a metallic taste filled her throat.

Consumed by fear, Landon suggested, "How about we take Mr. Camshron's advice and have Ophelia apologize to the Whitmans?"

Tamia shared the same thought. Rather than further embarrassing the whole family, it would be best for Ophelia to address the problem directly. With a glance at Ophelia, Tamia ordered her to offer an apology.

Ophelia was completely stunned, with tears seemingly crystallized on her face. She never expected her caring mother to suggest such a thing.

"Do you even realize what you're asking, Mom? What will the other ladies think of me if I apologize? The public will never forgive me!

"And why should I apologize when Landon is the one overseeing the company? As the CEO, he should've stepped up and fixed this mess..."

Tamia interrupted with a sharp slap that left Ophelia's face swollen. The unexpected blow silenced Ophelia, and she stared at Tamia in disbelief.

At that moment, she felt the weight of contempt in Tamia's eyes, as if she were worthless, with nothing to offer the family.

Tamia felt no remorse for her actions and snapped, 'What are you staring at? If you weren't so dumb, you could've seized the Whitmans' shares! You're a fool who can't even control your own husband. Go apologize immediately!

Tamia could not care less about Ophelia's feelings. In her eyes, a divorced daughter was nothing more than worthless.

"Get ready to record her apology video and upload it to the company's main account," Tamia instructed. She intended to quell the public outrage with Ophelia's apology.

As long as the situation was resolved, Landon would remain safe regardless of any moral or legal violations. And with Alfred taking the blame, the Montclair family could have the chance to rise once more.

Landon was pleased with the arrangements, agreeing that Ophelia was the root of the chaos. He figured she must've filed a divorce out of sheer boredom

No one cared to listen to Ophelia as she was shoved in front of the camera like a puppet. All of a sudden, memories of her moments with Noah flooded her mind.

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Chapter 1525 Deep Regrets

Although Noah wasn't one to show affection, he had always treated Ophelia with respect in public. He fulfilled her every request, including assisting the Montclair family.

Over the years, Noah had remained loyal to Ophelia. Unlike those who kept mistresses, he maintained the same elegance and aloofness he had during their college days. Despite their distant relationship, Noah's life outside of work centered around Ophelia and Cyrus.

Ophelia once had the ideal family that everyone envied, yet she realized it far too late.

As tears streamed down her face, she wondered if things might have turned out differently had she been more assertive. She could have stayed as Noah's wife even without his love, fulfilling her desires and commanding respect from others.

However, she chose to heed Tamia's words and ended her once-happy life. She lost her home, son, and the Whitmans' shares she once valued.

She had never coveted the shares before, so how had she come to that?

Drowned in regret, Ophelia clutched her collar tightly as she gasped for breath. Voices relentlessly echoed in her ears while the camera started rolling.

"What are you doing? Say something!" Tamia shouted and gave Ophelia a push, believing her tears could stir sympathy within the public.

Ophelia could no longer find her voice. Her mouth was agape as she reached out, though her eyes were filled with indignation. There was no way she could present herself to the public in such a state.

When Tamia pinched her to provoke a response, Ophelia grabbed Tamia's hand and

shouted, "This is all your fault, Mom! If you hadn't manipulated my marriage, I would never end up like this.

"It's all your fault! Your greed for the Whitman family has led us to ruin! You've destroyed me and even ruined my son!"

No one had expected Ophelia to lash out like that. Fortunately, the recording hadn't been live. Still, everyone understood the implications and turned their attention to Tamia.

Tamia's expression turned sullen. She never imagined the obedient Ophelia would defy her. "You foolish girl! Have you lost your mind?"

To escape the humiliation, Tamia attempted to push Ophelia away. Ophelia clung to her tightly, coughing up blood as she continued, "You were the one who suggested my divorce, claiming it could give me more power in the family.

"Now that I'm deemed useless, you want to make me the scapegoat! You've destroyed my family. You're despicable!"

"You've really lost it!"

In a fit of rage, Tamia and Ophelia broke out into a fierce fight.

The employees were taken aback by the scene and watched in amusement. Deeply embarrassed, Landon ordered the security guards to pull Ophelia away.

As a polished woman, Tamia had always taken great care of her appearance. Her dresses were free of wrinkles, and her hair was styled classically. Even the tea she sipped was of the highest quality.

But now, her hair was a tousled mess, a far cry from the poised elite she once was. Her admired sense of foreign elegance now turned her into a laughing stock.

"This is ridiculous! Has that girl forgotten who raised her? If it weren't for me, she would have never married into the Whitman family! How dare she accuse me of destroying her family?" Tamia fumed.

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Chapter 1526 Tamia's Crushed Dreams

Landon clearly was on Tamia's side. As he helped Tamia sit down, he asked anxiously, "What do we do if Ophelia refuses to apologize? We need to settle the situation online. I'm worried if people keep digging, they might discover something."

"Don't worry. Alfred was the one involved, and he's already boarded the plane. No one will know that you're the one behind the Whitmans' tampered financial statement.

"Even if the police investigate, it'll all lead back to Alfred," Tamia assured, trying to catch her breath but failing. The sight of her clothes stained by Ophelia's blood left her in discomfort.

Upon learning that he wouldn't be discovered, Landon felt more at ease. He had always deemed Alfred as nothing but a nuisance competing for his inheritance. Unlike Alfred, Landon had Tamia laying the groundwork for him despite joining the Montclair family late.

For years, the Montclair family had tolerated the useless Alfred, who did little more than gamble away his time. However, Alfred finally served a purpose-taking the fall for their schemes.

As Landon reveled in his thoughts, someone came running over with alarming news. "This is bad! Mr. Alfred has been caught!"

Tamia, who was pressuring Ophelia for an apology, became stunned and whipped her head around. "What did you say?"

"Mr. Alfred has been taken into custody by SWAT officers," came the reply.

Tamia staggered to her feet in disbelief. "Impossible! Alfred has boarded the plane!"

"He was caught at the airport, right before he passed through customs. You need to make arrangements quickly, Mrs. Montclair Senior. I fear Mr. Alfred might spill something he shouldn't," the person urged.

It was Tamia's first time feeling so agitated. At best, the public's criticisms would only affect the Montclair Group's operations. But if Alfred revealed anything, it would spell doom for both her and Landon.

"Get someone to silence Alfred!" Tamia exclaimed in panic. She had never experienced such terror before and nearly stumbled over her own feet.

Ophelia couldn't help but laugh at Tamia's flustered state, even as she lay pinned to the ground with blood trickling from her mouth. "So, you are capable of feeling fear, Mom! I never understood your schemes until now.

"You ruined my marriage, and now you won't be any better off! Both you and Landon are doomed!"

"Shut up!" With a vicious glare at Ophelia, Tamia swiftly reached out to her connections.

She made a call to the other party's office. However, they were more eager to distance themselves from the Montclair family than getting involved.

Although Tamia was aware that the situation had changed, she couldn't understand why they refused to intervene.

"Rest assured, the Whitman family will never find out about your involvement." Tamia attempted to assure them.

A deep voice came through the phone. "Seeing as Mr. Montclair Senior has helped me once, let me offer some advice - the matters concerning the Montclair family are a special case.

"I have no authority to intervene, and the Whitman family is not part of this. This decision came from the higher-ups. You should be prepared for what's to come. Given how things have unfolded, I hope this will be our last call."

With that, the person quickly hung up and instructed their secretary to dispose of the SIM card.

"A decision made by the higher-ups? And what does he mean by 'special case?'" Tamia wondered. As she stood baffled, a loud commotion erupted outside.

"What's going on out there?" someone questioned.

"It seems like the SWAT officers have come to arrest Mr. Landon!" another answered. Overwhelmed by rage and anxiety, Tamia ultimately collapsed.

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Chapter 1527 No Chance to Recover

Landon hurried to catch Tamia as she fell, but he was too late. Though Tamia longed to escape the chaos and simply pass out, the throbbing pain in her forehead kept her grounded in the harsh reality.

Panic swept through the Montclair Group.

Weak in the knees, Landon hurriedly asked, "What should we do, Mom? That bastard Alfred must have ratted me out and tried to pin all the blame on me!"

"D-Don't worry, I'm here. I'll definitely get you out of this." Despite being at her wits' end, Tamia stubbornly dug in her heels.

Unfortunately, the SWAT officers were expected to arrive any moment.

Landon's face paled with fear, and he suddenly blurted out, "You made me do this, Mom. You said if I helped the Wrays tamper with Taylor's financial statement, it would give us the upper hand."

Stunned by his words, Tamia spat out a mouthful of blood.

Yet, Landon continued, "Don't worry, Mom. I'll make sure to visit you in prison. Unlike me, you don't have much time left. My life has just begun. Think about your unborn grandson!"

With only a daughter to his name, Landon usually behaved poorly and mistreated his wife. Rather than showing kindness to her daughter-in-law, Tamia had preferred Landon keep mistresses in hopes of bearing a son.

However, she never anticipated her own words would return to bite her.

As she gasped for breath, Tamia could no longer suppress her rage and shouted, "You ungrateful son!"

Landon winced as pain shot through his neck from the forceful tugging. He shoved Tamia away, sending her tumbling to the ground. While Ophelia burst into laughter at the sight, the employees looked on in deep embarrassment.

The Montclair family's longtime followers turned away in disappointment. Though it was advised to seek a virtuous wife, Camden regrettably went for someone like Tamia instead.

When the SWAT officers arrived to make arrests, they were met with the absurd scene before them.

Although Landon attempted to shift the blame to Tamia, the law wouldn't excuse his actions. In the end, all the criminals were taken away, leaving the Montclair Group in complete ruins.

Instantly, Hawford's aristocratic families descended into chaos. To see two major families collapse in a single month was unprecedented.

Many questioned Wynter's innocence in the matter, especially since the Montclair family had suffered a downfall just as they attempted to act against her. Still, they remained skeptical that Wynter could command the SWAT team.

"I've looked into it, Mr. Waldron, and it seems like everything's a coincidence. Someone with the surname Keller from the higher-ups has been looking into the Montclair family for quite some time," came the report.

Edison was immediately reminded of a figure from his past-Lucas Keller.

Back then, Lucas was still struggling with his political standing, but he had now risen to a level far beyond Edison's reach. Edison couldn't help but suspect that Lucas had backers supporting his rapid ascent.

"Don't act rashly. We'll leave the Montclairs to face their fate. Tell Mr. Lark and the others to keep a low profile for now. We'll postpone any dealings with Wynter Quinnell," Edison instructed, hoping to buy some time.

Alas, it was wishful thinking, as Wynter might not give them the chance to recover.

Meanwhile, many people had witnessed the Montclairs' arrest at the Montclair Group. At that point, there was no need for solid evidence to understand the injustice that had befallen Noah.

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Chapter 1528 The Montclairs Know Her Identity

Little did the Montclairs realize they were taken to a location close to their company.

After having her hands cuffed and vision obscured, Tamia assumed they were brought to an interrogation room. When the blindfold was removed, she was dazzled by the bright lights before finding Landon and Ophelia sitting by her sides.

While the terrified Landon screamed for his lawyer, Ophelia sat in silence and drowned in regrets.

However, the silence was shattered by a drawling voice. "Unfortunately, there's no lawyer here. But I can help arrange a lifetime sentence for you."

Ophelia was utterly stunned as Tamia turned to the voice in disbelief. Although Landon didn't know Wynter well, he recognized her face.

After all, she had made quite an impression upon her first appearance. Landon could even faintly recall the tattoo on her nape.

"Is it really you, Sevie? How can this be possible?" Ophelia exclaimed in a trembling voice. Wynter shot her an indifferent glance and retorted, "Why can't it be me?"

Having lived longer than her children, Tamia gained sharper insights and wiser

perspectives. "To think you can intervene in cases handled by special officers! This can't be You can't possibly have those kinds of connections!"

"That doesn't matter. What matters now is that one of you has the chance to reduce your sentence. I'm interested to see who it will be." Wynter chuckled as she casually took a seat across the three Montclairs.

For the first time, Tamia felt a chill creeping down her spine. She would rather face prison and wait out her sentence than endure such torture. To her, Wynter was no ordinary young woman-she was the devil itself!

As Tamia trembled in fear, Landon appeared almost relieved. "Sevie, look, Noah must've mentioned me before. I never wanted to hurt him. It was these women's ideas, and I was simply following orders!"

"But Mr. Waldron said you vocally aspired to bring down the Whitman family at the gathering, Mr. Landon," Wynter casually retorted.

Cold sweats instantly broke out on Landon's head. How had Wynter discovered the secret gathering and his declaration? It didn't make sense at all!

In contrast to Landon's anxiety, Wynter merely regarded him with indifference.

A thought suddenly struck Landon, and he nearly sprang up from his seat. "Please hear me out, Sevie! I was just following Mom's orders! I can tell you all about the Waldron family's plan!"

"The Waldrons mean nothing to me. Tell me something I can't find out," Wynter shot back as she tapped her fingers on the table.

Landon's expression instantly changed as a new idea took hold. When Tamia saw the look on his face, she knew they were doomed.

Given the circumstances, the Whitmans might still show them mercy. However, Noah might not offer them a chance to survive if certain secrets were leaked, no matter how much he cared for Cyrus.

Instinctively, Tamia tried to silence Landon. Yet, he retorted, "How could I possibly listen to you at a time like this, Mom? You taught me that it's every man for himself."

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Chapter 1529 Wynter Understands Human Nature

Landon had always been timid and had never endured any real hardship. The thought of spending the rest of his life behind bars was unbearable for him.

"Your greed is the reason why Ophelia and I turned out like this. You've always thought that the Whitman family was better than us. Whether it's you or Ophelia, you guys have always felt inferior to them. That's why you were so greedy.

"You were already beyond redemption from the very beginning. Yet, you still had to drag us down with you. Mom, you can't be so selfish," he said to Tamia.

Landon's words nearly made Tamia faint with anger. But Wynter deliberately kept her there, forcing her to listen to Landon speak.

"Sevie, my mom did a lot of things that you don't know about. I know even things from a long time ago, including matters involving Marie. I know all of it. I'm sure you'll be interested!"

Landon had never been so desperate before. He was willing to betray anyone if it meant avoiding prison!

Tamia was already broken inside. She had spent her entire life scheming for power, all for Landon's sake. Yet, the one pushing her into the abyss was the very son she had doted on the most!

What a ruthless tactic deployed by Wynter! It was as if she was cutting straight into her heart!

Wynter glanced at Landon, signaling for him to continue.

"At that time, your mother followed your father when he came to Hawford. I noticed that Marie was acting strange. She wanted to meet with Noah and the others, but instead, she ran into my mom.

"You should know that Ophelia had given birth to Cyrus at that point, so we were practically family. Marie trusted my mom to take her back to the Whitman residence. The Wray, Waldron, and Calico families all knew about this.

"My mom saw that something was wrong with Marie's mind and suggested keeping it hidden."

Wynter's gaze finally turned to the old, disheveled woman before her. The long-dormant fury in her eyes resurfaced. It was as if she could see straight through Tamia's soul.

Tamia only felt an overwhelming chill wash over her, and her legs started trembling uncontrollably.

Landon was still unaware of the imminent danger. He believed he could bargain for freedom. Hence, he started spilling every single detail without hesitation.

"Of course, if anyone in the Whitman family had known Marie was losing her mind, Shane wouldn't have gotten a penny of investment. Someone as shrewd as Noah wouldn't have lent him any money and would have torn him apart instead.

"The money they put forward back then didn't even go into Shane's pocket-it was divided among the aristocratic families. A part of the Wray family's startup capital came from that. Mom, didn't you get a good chunk of it, too?"

As Landon continued speaking, he glanced at Tamia, whose face had turned completely pale.

Tamia had been sabotaged by her own son, and she knew there was no way out for her. Her fate had been sealed.

Instead of giving all the information to Wynter, she thought she could at least take some secrets with her to the grave. If she couldn't have a happy ending, then neither would the Whitman family! She wanted them to carry this burden forever!

However, she had underestimated Wynter.

"This is a huge scheme. The Wray family's influence alone wouldn't be enough. How did four average aristocratic families manage to cover this up?" Wynter was calm and logical, completely unaffected by Landon's ramblings.

Landon, who had never worked well under pressure, hadn't thought deeply about this matter. "I don't know... it just kind of happened naturally."

"My uncles and grandfather would never be so easily outwitted." Wynter lifted her gaze. "Mr. Landon, think carefully-apart from the Wray, Montclair, Waldron, and Calico families, were some others also involved?"

As soon as Wynter uttered these words, Tamia couldn't sit still any longer.

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Chapter 1530 No Authority Over 001

Landon frowned as he pondered. "There was someone, I think... He was a low-level official in charge of Hawford's economy at the time."

"Take a look. Is it him?" Wynter slid her phone forward to show Landon a picture.

Landon immediately nodded. "That's him. How did he end up looking younger with time? I'd never have recognized him from how timid he used to be."

"Power can rejuvenate a person. It's understandable that you didn't recognize him, Mr. Landon." Wynter chuckled and she tapped on the webpage. "Now, does this look more familiar to you?"

The man in the picture wore glasses and a suit, appearing scholarly and vaguely familiar. Landon froze. "He... He's..."

"He's the third-in-command in the city, Fredric Monty." Wynter compared his current image with the old one. "It's true, he looks quite different. He has a new name and a new identity.

"For someone who started as a low-level official to rise to this position, the people backing him must have put in serious effort."

Landon had no idea about these complicated connections. He had never imagined that such a low-profile person could climb so high.

Why had Tamia never mentioned this? Instead, she had helped conceal his identity!

His wide-eyed gaze snapped toward Tamia, whose face was pale. She knew Landon was a fool and could only direct her bitterness toward Wynter.

Her voice dripped with malice. "Why did you even bother asking us when you already knew?"

"You forced us into this mess and pitted us against each other! Aren't you afraid of being investigated for misconduct after pulling these kinds of stunts?"

"Misconduct?" Wynter repeated the word thoughtfully, her gaze flickering to the surveillance camera. "Have I violated any rules?"

No one watching the footage dared to speak. After all, given their level, they had no authority over Special Unit's 001.

Everyone knew that Wynter wasn't just investigating these aristocratic families and their crimes. She was also targeting the one lurking behind them and the foreign influences entangled in these matters.

The person behind the scenes often followed some semblance of the rules, and foreign infiltrations were much harder to uproot. Hence, in order to fish them out, ordinary methods wouldn't suffice.

The Special Unit had long operated on the frontline. Their authority to investigate superseded all other agencies.

Wynter was unfazed by the fact that she was recorded. She tilted her head slightly, and her gaze landed on Tamia once more.

Tamia was starting to realize just what she was up against. Never in all her years had she encountered such a way of handling an investigation. The audacity of Wynter's brashness meant only one thing-she wasn't from an ordinary department.

If someone like her was here in Hawford, did the old man know?

"The investigation is mostly done. I'd like to have a more personal chat with Mrs. Montclair Senior." Wynter stood up, bracing herself against the table with one hand.

"Before you ask why, think about how you treated my mother and grandmother. I'm just returning the favor. For years, people have criticized my mother, saying she was a hopeless romantic who ruined both the Whitman family and her own lineage.

"Sure, Shane was a scumbag, but my mother was never a fool in love. The only person she couldn't let go of was me."

Marie's soul had been shackled for over a decade in the darkness. Yet, she was never fully broken because her inner strength was unwavering.

No one could guarantee that their marriage would be a happy one. It was also the long-standing alliance between the Quinnell and Whitman families that had played a role in Marie's marriage into the Quinnell family.]

Wynter had never seen it as a mistake. But now, she was determined to make these people feel the same helplessness her mother had faced all those years.

"Don't worry. I won't let you live out your days in peace. You love holding onto power, don't you, Mrs. Montclair Senior? Well, you probably won't enjoy serving others, then. So, from now on, get used to a life of hard labor."