

Spare Wife 341

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The Siblings Both Fall

Joan clenched her teeth. "Stop talking!"

Sean looked at her coldly and said nothing more.

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She looked at the cop beside her vacantly. "Can I talk to him for a bit, officer?"

"Yes, but you have to confess to your crimes. Denial won't do your sentence any good." The left.

Xavien got a chair for Sean, who sat down and looked at Joan coldly, saying nothing.

cop

"When you came to my place that day and used Snakey's photo to force an answer out of me, you knew how you were going to take me down, didn't you?" She looked at the man with hate. That day, he showed her a photo of Snakey on his phone and asked if she knew that

guy.

A few days before he showed her that photo, she was in contact with Snakey, coming up with a plan to use Lina to gain his trust. Joan did not admit it, but she told him she could find a way if he wanted to get in touch with Snakey.

"I wasn't trying to take you down. You were blinded by your greed. If you'd taken Jimmy's side, I'd never have found him easily." He looked at her coldly.

"So,

you

showed me that photo because you wanted me to walk into the trap." Joan smiled. Sean tossed a smokescreen into the battlefield, and she let her guard down. The moment she told him she could hook him up with Snakey, she had fallen into his trap. Similarly, Snakey had been dragged into it since then as well.

"After your imprisonment, try to remember everything Kingston has done for you. Get better. You and your brother are at least 100 years too early to fight me." Sean stood up.

Joan cried and screeched, her scream hysterical.

He stood at the doorway and looked at her for a while. Once she calmed down, he added, "Back in high school, I took you and your brother as close friends. When he tripped over in the working world, I wanted to help you guys get on your feet. But kindness often begets betrayal in return. My kindness gave birth to their evil.

Sean did reflect on how things turned out this way, but the Palmer siblings made him realize what kindness begets betrayal' meant. His unlimited giving to Joan eventually backfired on him.

When she looked at him, she only saw his back as he was gone a moment later. She fell from the bed and crawled toward the door, crying. "Sean, please, I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Don't leave me! I promise I won't ruin your relationship anymore! I'll tell Abigail everything! Please, don't leave!"

She did not get too far, for the pain made her black out for a moment, and she almost fainted.

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When the cops came in, she was bawling her eyes out.

On the day of the hearing, Kingston confessed to his crimes before his lawyer could say a thing. He even told them about what he did in the past.

Abigail was in the plaintiff's seat, staring at him in surprise. Her lawyer was shocked as well. He had a stack of documents prepared, but there was no use for them anymore.

In the end, Kingston was sentenced to ten years of jail time. When Abigail came out of the court, she was a little dazed. Her lawyer smiled awkwardly. "Didn't think it'd go that smoothly." They were prepared for the battle, but Kingston confessed immediately.

"Yeah. Thanks for all the work you did for me over these months. I'll give you the payment as promised. She turned around and smiled at her lawyer.

The lawyer smiled, nodding. "Pleasure doing business with you, Ms. Quinn."

"Pleasure." She shook his hand.

A few days after Kingston's trial was over, Pendorf's authority announced Joan's verdict. She was sentenced to three years in prison for a case of kidnapping. Since she was a has-been, her verdict went viral.

Abigail was immersed in her work, so she did not notice it. Her neck was sore when she was done. with work for the day, so she asked Luna, who had just returned from a business trip, to get a massage at the massage parlor together.

While enjoying the massage, Luna said, "Hey, do you know that Joan and her brother are both jailed?"

Abigail was almost falling asleep from how great the massage felt when she widened her eyes. "What?" It had been a while since she heard any news about Joan.

"She's sentenced to jail. Sean chucked her in himself. I couldn't get the details, though." Luna looked at Abigail, shocked.

Abigail was stunned as well. First, Kingston confessed to his crimes. Then, Joan was sentenced to jail. Both her biggest enemies had fallen, and Abigail thought she should finally rest.

Luna turned around and looked at her, eyes sparkling. "Honestly, how'd he find it in him to chuck her into prison? I thought she was his beloved."

“Maybe she did something that angered him too much,” said Abigail. No matter the reason, it was good for her that the Palmer siblings were jailed. Half of her grandmother’s safety problems were solved now.

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Luna turned back again and sighed. “Never make an enemy out of Sean. Everyone who does did not end well.”

Abigail grunted in agreement, then remembered the call he made back then. Does that mean he had an actual falling out with the Palmer siblings?

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For Whom

The ladies came out of the massage parlor eventually. Then, Luna saw Cameron hiding behind a tree in front of the parlor, watching them. She asked, “Did Sean follow us here again?”

“Hm?” Abigail thought Sean had come, so she looked in the direction Luna was looking. When she saw Cameron, she explained, “He didn’t. Cameron’s been following me lately. Oh, I forgot to tell you. Kelly and Josh came to Pendorf.”

“Why?” Luna frowned. She had no idea about the grudge between Abigail and the Pearsons, but Kelly left a bad impression after that transaction case.

“Kelly said she came to get a gown, but that’s not her main goal. Josh only came with her,” answered Abigail.

Luna looked miffed. “What goal does she have?”

Abigail looked at Luna and whispered, “The gown is just an excuse. She’s coming for Sean.”

Luna looked surprised. “She’s set her sights on him?”

“Yes.” Abigail nodded.

Luna chortled. “She has a good eye. Goes for the most handsome guy.”

Abigail agreed. Sean did have a look that could attract a lot of ladies, and not to mention he came from a great family.

The ladies went to the car park, and Luna looked at Cameron, who was still following them. She asked, “He follows you around like a stalker every day?”

“He does that without even bothering to hide. It’s not stalking.” Abigail was amused.

“And he’s riding a scooter.” Luna muttered, “Not like Sean doesn’t have cars.”

“It’s just Cameron’s personal preference.” Abigail held her forehead. Ever since Cameron started following her, he let his inner self loose. First, he rode a shared bicycle. Then, he got used to it. Perhaps, and got a scooter. He said it made his job easier because he could follow her car better.

At last, Abigail came back to her neighborhood and waited for him under her apartment.

Cameron approached her, still riding his scooter, with a smile. "Are you waiting for me, Ms. Quinn?"

"What's the reason for Joan's verdict?" she asked.

He was still on his scooter. A moment of hesitation later, he said, "You don't have to get hung up

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on the truth, Ms. Quinn. Just know who Mr. Graham did this for."

"I have no idea at all," said Abigail honestly. She had no clue what happened between Joan and Sean, so how should she know who he did this for?

"I see. But the results are what you wanted anyway, said Cameron.

"I want to know the truth. Can you tell me?" she asked, a little gentler.

He smiled bitterly. "You should ask Mr. Graham. It's not like I don't want to tell you, but this case has come to a close. If I say too much, he'll be mad at me."

She nodded. "Fine. I won't ask."

With that, she went into her apartment, after which Cameron let out a sigh and rode away. After dinner, she did not work like she always did. Instead, she sat on the windowsill and stared out at the night. Did he do it for Lina? She stayed quiet for a long time, then called Sean eventually. Quickly enough, the call was picked up.

"Kingston confessed. Did you do anything?" She wanted to start slow and ask about Kingston first, before bringing up Joan's case.

"Nothing. Don't worry. He confessed because the evidence was clear. No amount of pleas would work in his favor," answered Sean calmly. If Abigail knew what he did behind the scenes, she would think she owed him. However, the mess started because of him, and it should end because of him, too. That would be the best way to do it so that she would not bear any guilt.

"So, you told him to confess?" she asked.

"More or less," he said. Threats were a form of negotiation too, so it was technically not a lie.

She grunted. So, he must've called me before the trial, knowing the results wouldn't change. Was he really in

a bad mood then?

"Any other questions?" asked Sean languidly.

"The news said you're involved in Joan's verdict. What did she do to cross you? The verdict came fast." Abigail thought the progress of Joan's case went too fast.

“She committed a crime, and they found the evidence. That’s why the verdict came fast.” He did not answer the main question, for he had planned Joan’s capture for a long time, so he could not explain things in just a few words.

Abigail was about to say something when a familiar voice on the other end spoke, “Lina, I got the best chef to cook for you.”

“Talk later,” said Sean.

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Even so, Abigail could tell it was Kelly’s voice, and she cocked an eyebrow. “Sure.” She’s fast. Linking up with Lina right away, but then, with her looks and background, Lina would be more than happy to have her marry Sean.

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The Ship Sank

Abigail hung up, and her mind started to wander. She had no idea how Kelly managed to link up with Lina, but Sean did not seem reluctant. And did she go to his house or the residence? Her mind was a mess. She then snapped out of it and knocked her head. “Oh, why am I thinking so much? Not like this has anything to do with me.”

Despite saying that, Abigail lost sleep, tossing and turning all night. The next morning, she came to work looking exhausted with dark circles under her eyes.

Luna was concerned. “You burned the midnight oil to make clothes again?”

“No,” Abigail denied. She made no progress on the clothes, so she could not use it as an excuse.

“What did you do, then?” Luna huddled closer to check the dark circles. “I see you worked late into the night. You should go home and get some rest if you can’t take it. We can do with one day of your absence.”

“I’m alright.” Abigail waved her down. She could not sleep anyway.

Luna sat on the couch and told the assistant to make coffee to wake Abigail up. “Lost sleep because of stress?” she asked.

“I don’t have any idea why I feel stressed.” Abigail massaged her temples. She never thought she would lose sleep, but her mind went on overdrive after the call ended. She kept wondering what kind of relationship Sean and Kelly shared. Of course, she did not think she was jealous but just failed to understand why.

Luna looked at her curiously. “If something bothers you, you can talk to me.”

“I called Sean last night to ask him some questions, and I heard Kelly’s voice. She was getting along well with Lina.” Abigail did not hide. She could not understand why she lost sleep because of that either. Maybe she would get out of this rut if she talked to Luna and combed things out.

“Oh, they’re hooking up already? Sean and Kelly?” Luna was surprised, and she raised her voice.

The assistant came in and heard that. She made a mental note of that, and as she placed the cup- of coffee on Abigail's table, she saw how pale Abigail looked, noticing the dark circles under her eyes. Ah, I see. Mr. Graham had a change of heart. Abigail lost her love. Rich guys are se mbags. All of them.

Knew it.

She got along with Cameron lately, so she would tell him a bit about Abigail. She thought it would be great if Abigail and Sean could be a couple. After all, he was handsome, rich, and came from a good family-a good match for Abigail.

But right after I shipped them, Sean hooked up with another woman. The assistant came to the workshop's doorway and harrumphed at Cameron He was standing sentry and was

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dumbfounded about that. Still, he smiled bitterly at the assistant. "I didn't get on your nerves, did I?"

"What? I just feel annoyed seeing you. You have a problem with that?" The assistant harrumphed and went back into the workshop.

Cameron was confused. "No wonder they say women are complicated. I get it now." He did not even do anything, yet Abigail's assistant hated him out of nowhere.

Meanwhile, Abigail did not realize that the assistant took the conversation the wrong way. She was talking about her confusion with Luna.

"I know you aren't jealous even without you telling me. He did help us deal with Kelly, and now he got back with her? That's confusing. Is Kelly that good that she could make him fall for her that easily?" Luna got a little angry at that point.

"Um, what are the chances he fell for her?" Abigail thought it was weird. Is Sean that kind of man?

"Honestly, if they think they make a great couple, then time means nothing to their love. We can't judge this based on what we know about Sean. Love doesn't follow logic." Luna was angry on Abigail's behalf. Is my friend not good enough? Why'd he accept Kelly's love that easily?

"You're right. We never knew Sean. Even if he's getting along with Kelly, there's nothing to be surprised about." Abigail's mind cleared up because Luna had dragged her out of the rut. She was confused because she thought Sean was the person she knew. Just because he dealt with the Pearsons did not mean he hated Kelly. Even if he did hate her, that was only because of the Pearsons' actions..

Now that Kelly had come to Pendorf and explained everything, did he still have reasons to hate her? It was not right to judge their relationship just because of her stereotype.

Luna looked at Abigail with consolation. "It's alright. You two are divorced anyway. What does it matter who he falls in love with?"

Abigail spent three years, but his heart did not even fall for her. Perhaps she was not his cup of tea; perhaps... Sean liked women with Kelly's looks and personality. It was normal. Love followed no logic, after all.

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Never Learn a Lesson

Early in the morning, Sean came to the hospital. He saw Kelly in the ward, looking after Lina, and annoyance flared in his eyes. He stood at the entryway, refusing to go into the room. "If you like my grandmother that much, Miss Hagl, why don't you take her to your place and care for her there?"

"Oh, what's with you getting mad first thing in the morning? She's just being nice. You're busy as a bee, and I'm bored living in the hospital alone. It's nice I get someone to talk with," Lina chided.

He remained icy and silent.

"Kelly's the most meticulous woman I've ever seen. She even got a chef to make breakfast, especially for me. Not everyone can do that," she commented, looking at Kelly with affection.

Sean knew she was mocking Abigail on purpose again. "If you like her that much, treat her like your granddaughter. I'm going on a business trip for two weeks. I'll tell the doctors about it. You rest up. Call Grandpa if you need anything," he stated calmly and left. He seldom got in touch with Lina anyway, and even if Kelly liked to stay with her, he would not do anything about it. She didn't learn anything at all. Even after Joan played her like a fiddle, she still doesn't know how to be cautious Kelly's a more cunning woman than Joan; she's a viper. There's nothing good about staying in touch with her.

Sean knew Lina would never listen to him until she got in trouble. Even if they were to argue, she would just use her heart condition to bully him into silence. As such, all he could do was stay away and talk as little as possible to her.

The moment he turned around, a disgruntled Lina complained, "I got kidnapped and fell sick, yet you're going on a business trip? How heartless can you be?"

Kelly held Lina's hand. Nicely, she said, "Old Mrs. Graham, it's hard to hold up a company alone. He has to do this. You get to live in the best ward and have the best bodyguards because he worked hard for it."

"I just want him to stay and get along with you," said Lina.

Kelly smiled. "I'm not close to him. We shouldn't force him to stay, or things will get awkward.

By then, Sean had already left. Xavien followed him and said quietly, "I've told Josh about Kelly's case. She's the one who hijacked the network. Probably wanted to use this case to get close to your family."

Sean nodded. "Let her get close to Grandma. I'd like to see what she's up to." He did not mind doing to Kelly what he did to Joan.

Once he was gone, Lina held Kelly's hand. "If you didn't do it for him, why did you come to care for me? Do you like him?"

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Kelly smiled but said nothing.

Lina quickly grinned as well. "I knew it. You don't have to feel embarrassed. He's always cold and distant, but you're a good lady. Take it slowly, and he'll see the good in you."

"I don't mean anything. This is all because of Abigail. There's a misunderstanding between us, so I want to know Mr. Graham and see if he can clear things up between me and her," said Kelly softly.

The mention of Abigail made Lina's face fall. "What misunderstanding do you have? She's a bad person anyway. Don't get anywhere near her."

Kelly put on a look of surprise but quickly defended Abigail. "It's not like that. You misunderstood her, too. She's a good person. Made a lot of designs people loved. I adore her."

Lina wanted to tell her that she had stayed in touch with Abigail for three years, so she knew what she was talking about. However, Kelly came from a great family, so she did not want her to know Sean was divorced for fear of scaring this lady before the relationship even began. Not to mention, she was doing this for Abigail.

"So what if she makes great designs? If she's a bad person inside, she's nothing," Lina said with scorn, chortling.

Kelly looked at her for a while and asked, "Why do you hate her that much, Old Mrs. Graham? I think she gets along with Mr. Graham quite well, and he takes care of her. I thought you didn't hate her."

"This is a long story. Just know that she owes all her success to Sean. She dumped him like trash after using him. But it's alright. I don't want a barren woman like her to have eyes for him. I'm not going to tolerate her." The mention of Abigail angered her.

Kelly listened quietly and smiled awkwardly. "I don't know much, so I'll refrain from commenting."

That made Lina sheepish as she thought about something. She's a gentle, reasonable woman who came from the capital. And from a great family, too. I have to seize this chance. Joan is nothing compared to her.

She quickly held Kelly's hand and defended herself. "Oh, it's just a grudge between families. I'm not lying to you. I experienced it first-hand. My family is the best one in this city. There's no reason for me to get angry at an orphan who has nothing unless she went too far, that is."

Kelly nodded. "Lina, you and Abigail both are quirky. You're straightforward, while Abigail's stubborn. She won't change her mind once it is set, no matter what you tell her. I wouldn't have tried to clear the misunderstanding through Mr. Graham anyway."

Lina still looked disapproving. "No need for that. She's not worth your time."

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The Misunderstanding of Chaos

Kelly shrugged, her tone laced with indifference. "Anyway, it was my fault to begin with. I'm not very good with words, which caused her to be upset. She's been holding a grudge ever since, and when I personally went to Pendorf to apologize to her this time, it ended up involving my brother instead. I feel even more guilty now."

As she spoke, her eyes welled up with tears, making her look wronged.

At that, Lina disliked Abigail even more. This is so her. She holds grudges over a few words, and it's led to a divorce and the current frosty relationship between me and Sean.

Lina held Kelly's hand, her face filled with anger. "You see, Sean doesn't treat me well, and it's all because of her instigating our discord. She really doesn't deserve you to be concerned about her."

"You have no idea. My brother really fancies her," Kelly said in a low voice.

It was because Lina had said a lot of negative things about Abigail that she felt a lot more comfortable as her fondness for Kelly grew.

After all, she was also in this situation.

During lunch, Cameron brought Abigail's assistant a glass of coffee.

Carrying the glass of coffee back to the studio, he blocked the assistant holding the takeout at the door. "Miss, even though I'm not sure what I did wrong, I bought coffee as an apology. Can you please tell me what I did wrong? I'll make sure to change!"

The assistant rolled her eyes at him and said, "Why are you still here? Your boss has fled with another woman, so you should guard the woman he likes instead. Who do you think you are by staying here to annoy people?"

She felt that it was probably Abigail being too polite to chase Cameron away, which was why the man was still there. However, she herself had no intention of being polite.

As long as he stood there, Abigail would be reminded of Sean every time she saw Cameron, which would make her sad after that.

"Hmm?" Cameron finally grasped the important part of the matter.

He pulled the assistant to a spot beside a tree outside the studio and whispered, "I really didn't know about this. You have seen how devoted I am to Ms. Quinn. Can you please explain in detail? I'd like to help you learn the truth so that we can avoid any misunderstandings."

Cameron knew that this young assistant shipped the relationship that Sean and Abigail had.

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Sometimes, he would catch her on her phone, happily reading fanfiction that was written by netizens on her phone. He found her quite cute.

Even though Sean and Abigail had long been divorced, and their three-year marriage was a disaster, Cameron was like the young assistant. He hoped that these two could reconcile.

The assistant stood with her hands on her hips, looking angry and refusing to speak. The more she thought about it, the angrier she was. She had been diligently reading the fanfiction online on a daily basis, but she never expected that Sean would have a change of heart so quickly? That left her on the verge of exploding.

“Miss, please. I really want them to be together, too. Just tell me, and I’ll dig more into it, okay?” Cameron handed the coffee to her solemnly.

She accepted it and looked at him, saying, “Abigail couldn’t sleep last night. It was because she discovered that your boss was with Kelly that kept her awake. I’m really pissed, you know?”

“Is that so, Miss? Have your meal first, and don’t forget your coffee too. I’ll inquire about this, and once I have something, I’ll report to you immediately,” Cameron replied, even though it caught him by surprise internally.

He found it difficult to believe that Abigail, who had a heart of steel, would lose her sleep over Sean and Kelly being together.

With some doubt, Cameron called Sean.

Sean had just arrived at the airport when he received Cameron’s call. “Is something wrong on your end?” he asked, preparing to turn back.

“Mr. Graham, did you happen to attend any other events last night and run into Kelly?” Cameron asked respectfully.

“She was at the hospital taking care of her grandmother,” Sean replied calmly.

He stood still, carefully recalling the events of the previous night. Soon, he realized, could it be that Abigail heard Kelly’s voice and cared about it?

“Ms. Quinn’s assistant said that Ms. Quinn couldn’t sleep last night. She misunderstood that you were with Kelly. Because of this, her assistant is pissed.” Cameron relayed what he knew to Sean, not being aware of the full story.

“Okay.” Sean’s gaze slightly darkened. He hung up the phone and turned to Xavien beside him. “Tell the client that I’ll be two hours late.”

Kelly’s involvement with the Pearson Family and the harm caused to Analise were the actual reasons behind Abigail’s insomnia, not the mere misunderstanding about his relationship with Kelly. Abigail was worried that Sean would side with the Pearson Family, so he needed to explain things to her.

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Outside the airport, he called Abigail, who answered the call quickly.

“We need to talk. Send me your current location. You can come in person or let Xavien pick you up.” Sean’s tone sounded urgent.

She fell silent momentarily before replying, “Can’t it be said over the phone? I’m quite busy now and don’t have time to come.”

“Whether our phones are being monitored or not, I can’t be sure. After all, Kelly’s visit to Pendorf can’t be as simple as it seems. I need to exercise every precaution possible.” Sean patiently explained the situation to Abigail.

“Then, send me the address, and I’ll take a cab there.” Abigail replied.

He hung up the phone with a faint smile on his lips. Sometimes, she was still relatively innocent, which was why he had genuinely managed to lie to her with that tone.

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His Explanation, Her Confusion

As Abigail arrived at the cafe Sean had suggested, she pondered many things on her way. Ultimately, she concluded that Kelly wasn’t interested in him but was using him as a pretext to further the interests of the Pearson Family. As she took her seat at the designated location, her expression turned serious. “What could be so important that it had to be discussed at a cafe?”

The man signaled the waiter to bring her a cup of warm milk before asking, “What’s with your face? Did you have a rough night yesterday?”

She was still contemplating what he intended to say. So, when she heard his question, she simply hummed in acknowledgment before grasping his inquiry. “Hurry up and say what you want. I

don’t have all day.”

“Even if you’re busy, you still need to find some time and relax,” Sean remarked. Honestly, it was because he wasn’t prepared to explain it to Abigail.

Her expression turned cold, and she demanded, “What are you trying to say?”

He sipped his coffee and began, “Cameron mentioned that you didn’t seem well today, and I thought it might be because of our phone call last night. You seemed to be overthinking things when you knew Kelly was with me.”

“I didn’t overthink about this,” she retorted immediately, aware that it was her gossipy assistant who had informed Cameron about her condition.

At that moment, Sean raised his gaze and looked serious. “I understand that you’re not concerned about the relationship. Instead, you are worried that I might side with the Pearson Family. However, I assure you that I will not have any connection with them, and I certainly don’t like Kelly.”

His unexpected statement left Abigail momentarily stunned. She lowered her head and took a few sips of her milk. In that brief moment, she discovered that it tasted unexpectedly delightful. “This milk is quite tasty. I didn’t expect it to be this good.”

“Abigail,” he called out, his tone tinged with a hint of helplessness.

After hearing her name, Abigail looked at him and replied calmly, “I know.”

“That’s good. Initially, Kelly came to my house because Grandma had a minor accident. She voluntarily went to the hospital to take care of her, You know how Grandma is-she treats Kelly dearly, even based on a little white lie,” Sean said softly.

“Alright, I understand. I’ll head back to work after finishing this glass of milk.” She was eager to change the topic, not expecting that he had invited her out primarily for this explanation. She felt uneasy, pondering what her assistant and Cameron might have gossiped about. Consequently, she decided to instruct her assistant to knock before entering her office in the future.

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Sean nodded and glanced at his watch, realizing that two hours had passed quietly from the moment he arrived at the cafe to Abigail’s arrival, with another thirty minutes until he departed for the airport.

Lost in his thoughts, he was jolted when she spoke. “If you’re busy, you can leave first. It’s fine.”

In response to her considerate words, he lowered his hand and smiled. “I didn’t expect you to remember my habits.” He acknowledged the fact that every time he checked his watch, it signaled an impending matter requiring his attention. Therefore, she consistently urged him to tend to his affairs whenever she observed him looking at his watch.

On the other hand, she set aside her milk upon hearing his words, and a smile graced her lips as she replied, “We did share three years of our lives, you know. It hasn’t even been a year since we parted ways.”

Sean’s emotions swirled within him as Abigail calmly reminisced about their shared past. “Yeah…” he murmured with a hint of bittersweetness.

After she left the cafe, Xavien approached Sean and gently reminded him, “It’s time to head to the airport.”

“Okay,” Sean said, suppressing his lingering sadness, and walked toward his car.

Observing Sean’s despondent expression, Xavien couldn’t help but sigh, knowing that Sean hadn’t yet let go of his feelings for Abigail.

After Abigail returned to her studio, feeling tired and in need of rest, her assistant informed her that Josh had arrived. Annoyed, she remarked, “I don’t want to see him.” She wasn’t one to entertain visitors when she was exhausted.

The assistant, bearing a troubled expression, explained, “He refuses to leave and insists on seeing you.”

“Where’s Cameron?” Abigail inquired as she covered her legs with a small blanket.

The assistant continued, “Even if Josh barges in forcefully, Mr. Hopkins can’t do anything about it.”

Reluctantly, Abigail set aside the blanket and stood up, accompanying her assistant to the entrance of her studio. She frowned at Josh and asked, “What do you want?”

“Has Kelly been here for the past few days?” Josh asked.

She replied coldly, "I'm not on good terms with her, Mr. Pearson. Why would she come to my place? Don't you have her number?"

"She's not answering my calls." he replied, his anxiety driving him to seek out Abigail.

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She stood on the stairway, scrutinizing him for a moment before saying, "Maybe you should ask Kelly about her purpose in Pendorf. I don't like the idea of me being used as an excuse."

After hearing Abigail's words, Josh grew increasingly certain that Kelly hadn't been to see Abigail in recent days. He also couldn't help but notice the seriousness in Abigail's expression and the impatience in her tone, making him wonder if she was dealing with her issues.

Just as Josh was about to leave, Cameron called out to him, "May I have a word with Pearson?"

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Pleasing Others

Abigail paid no attention to what Cameron would say to Josh as she went straight into her office. After informing her assistant, she lay down on the couch to rest. Soon, she fell into a deep slumber.

Outside, Cameron and Josh found a quiet spot to have a conversation. Cameron regarded Josh with a wry smile and delivered his words in a mocking tone. "Mr. Pearson, Miss Hagl may have claimed to be here to apologize to Ms. Quinn, but she hasn't taken any tangible steps to demonstrate her sincerity."

Josh's expression softened as he responded, "Do you believe that offering a token of apology is the sole indicator of genuine intent?"

"No, my point is, if she truly desires to apologize, she should be making every possible effort rather than coming here and ignoring your calls. One has to wonder, what was she doing when she wasn't answering your phone calls?" With arms crossed, Cameron wore a cold, smirking expression.

Puzzled by Cameron's insinuations, Josh approached him and inquired, "What are you getting at?"

"I'm merely conveying a message on behalf of Mr. Graham. It would be in Kelly's best interest to come here for a genuine apology rather than exploiting it as a pretext to harm Ms. Quinn. Otherwise, her fate could be akin to Joan's." As Cameron spoke, his demeanor grew stern.

Josh pursed his lips, contemplating his next words. Kelly has nothing to do with Vincent. This whole thing is a misunderstanding. She didn't have any motives for coming here."

"If that's the case, please head to Metro Hospital and take her, who seems to keep pleasing others, away. I recall that your family has announced a marriage alliance with the Davidsons. Didn't she come to Pendorf to find her in-laws because it's a marriage between her and Eric?" Cameron's words carried a hint of sarcasm as he turned and left.

Watching Cameron's departure, Josh clenched his fists tightly. While Cameron's words stung, Josh was more preoccupied with why Kelly was at Metro Hospital. Moreover, he pondered whom she was trying

to please. Deep in thought, he turned around and left. After making several attempts to reach his sister, she finally picked up the phone.

“What’s the matter, Josh?” she asked casually.

Josh, who had been anxious throughout the day, breathed a sigh of relief. “Where have you been? Why didn’t you answer your phone? You’re in an unfamiliar place. What if you got lost?” His concern was evident as he questioned her. After all, she had gone missing during their childhood, and he had experienced the torment of being unable to reach her, which had driven him to seek Abigail’s assistance.

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When she heard that, she quickly reassured him. “I’m at the library. I fell asleep while reading and didn’t hear the phone ringing. I’ll go home now.”

Josh stopped in his tracks as her response left him wondering, Is she at the library or the hospital? However, he soon shook his head and reaffirmed his thoughts, deciding to trust Kelly and not take anyone else’s word for it.

“Do you want me to pick you up?” he asked softly. He thought, When she comes home, I’ll have a chat with her. Either she apologizes to Abigail and asks for forgiveness, or I’ll send her back to Capitalis. After all, Pendorf was Sean’s territory. Thus, something terrible would happen to Kelly if he allowed her to run off and still didn’t resolve the misunderstanding. Even their family couldn’t find any dirt against Sean. Plus, Sean had given them a clear warning by having Vincent undergo an investigation.

“It’s fine. I’ve already called a cab. It won’t happen again, Josh. I’m sorry for making you worry. It’s my fault.” Kelly apologized again.

“I’ve told you before. You don’t need to keep apologizing. Just come back quickly. I need to talk to you about something important.” After hanging up the call, Josh was still in denial. He wasn’t sure whether Kelly was at the library or the hospital and wondered if he should find someone to look into this.

When Luna returned to the studio after running errands, she was greeted by the sight of Abigail reclining on the couch. She couldn’t help but wonder, Is Sean some kind of human-sized sleeping pill? Why else would Abigail fall asleep so quickly after meeting with him?

Abigail slept through her entire workday and still felt a bit groggy when she woke up.

Luna was sitting on the couch while watching videos with headphones on. Seeing that Abigail awoke, she promptly removed her headphones and smiled. “You’re awake? It seems that Sean has quite an effect on you. You met him, and you’ve been sleeping for nearly three hours. I’m quite impressed.”

“He probably put sleeping pills in the milk he gave me,” Abigail said with a deadpan expression. She doubted that the man had anything to do with this and was certain he might have spiked her drink.

Luna raised an eyebrow and stood up with her bag in hand. Then, she told Abigail, “Let’s go and have some food.”

Abigail nodded in agreement. Luna had already tidied up her things during her nap. As they left the studio, Luna wrapped her arm around Abigail’s shoulder. She inquired, “By the way, did Sean explain his relationship with Kelly to you? What did he say?”

Abigail responded, "It's more or less the same as before-nothing particularly remarkable." Recalling her conversation with him, she could feel her heart racing with every thought of it.

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"What exactly did he say? Does it have anything to do with Kelly?" Luna was eager to know. After all, she couldn't accept that Kelly was more attractive than Abigail.

Abigail assured her, "It's not about Kelly. Sean made it abundantly clear that he doesn't like her."

"That's what I thought. There's no way he would be blinded by her looks," Luna replied as she finally calmed down. After all, Sean had not fallen in love with Abigail for the past three years. If he were to have feelings for Kelly now, she would feel sorry for Abigail.

[Chapter 348](#)

He Looks Like Abigail's Brother

The next day, when Kelly arrived at Metro Hospital, Josh got out of another car. She hadn't mentioned her visit to the library that morning. Instead, she told her brother she was meeting at friend and asked him not to worry. Initially, he had no intentions of following her, but he couldn't help himself.

His suspicions grew as he followed his sister. She had only been in Pendorf for a few days, making it unlikely that she had formed a deep connection with someone so quickly. Furthermore, her early morning visit to the hotel for breakfast indicated that this friend held significant importance in her life.

Josh followed Kelly into the hospital and eventually saw her entering Room 602. He approached the payment counter and asked the doctor sincerely, "Excuse me, has the fee for Room 602 not been paid? My sister said her friend staying in this room hadn't settled the bill yet and asked me to help pay it. However, I'm not sure if this is the right room or not. Could you please check it for me?"

The doctor searched on the computer for a moment and then replied, "Are you sure you are not mistaken? An elderly lady occupies room 602. There's no way your sister's friend would be that old."

Josh expressed his confusion, stating, "But I just saw her entering Room 602. She even told me to make the payment."

After a brief silence, the doctor said, "Sir, the patient in Room 602 is a special case and doesn't need to pay. Your sister must have made a mistake. I suggest you ask her about it."

"Thank you. I'll ask her about it." Then, Josh turned around and left. He wandered through the hospital corridors, devoting about half an hour to exploring the facility. During his investigation, he uncovered the exclusive nature of the wards in Building 1. These rooms were exclusively reserved for affluent individuals who had either invested in or made significant contributions to the hospital. Remarkably, patients on the sixth floor or higher were exempt from any admission fees.

In Pendorf, only three people could stay on the sixth floor. Among these, two were unknown to him, while the third was Sean. After laying eyes on Sean's name on the directory, Josh fell into contemplative silence. He carefully pocketed his phone and, with determination, headed toward Room 602.

Inside the ward, Kelly engaged in a conversation with Lina. Suddenly, Josh appeared at the door and asked, "What are you doing here, Kelly?" Having previously investigated Abigail, he was well-acquainted with the Grahams, thus recognizing Lina.

Kelly turned around and was surprised to see him, "Josh, did you follow me here?"

He nodded, and his gaze wandered briefly over Lina before fixing it back on Kelly. "I was worried

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about you. After all, you're not familiar with Pendorf."

Kelly stood up and smiled. "I'm not a child anymore. I used to handle things on my own when you weren't around. I've grown up. By the way, this is Sean's grandmother, Old Mrs. Graham."

"Are you Kelly's brother? You both are so good-looking." Lina smiled as she looked at Josh. However, a hint of contempt flickered within her. After all, he bore an uncanny resemblance to Abigail. In that fleeting moment, Lina wondered if he was indeed Kelly's brother rather than Abigail's.

He had no particular fondness for Lina, and he politely nodded in response to her comment. "Thank you."

"Old Mrs. Graham had been kidnapped a few days ago, leading to her hospitalization due to severe shock. Since she is still recovering, I decided to come and take care of her," Kelly explained to Josh softly. There was no sign of guilt in her expression. Despite her awareness of his lack of knowledge regarding the situation, she remained unfazed.

"This hospital offers great medical care. The medical staff can take care of Old Mrs. Graham better than you," Josh expressed his discomfort with his sister taking care of Lina in the hospital. He wondered whether Kelly was oblivious to Sean's apparent disapproval of their family.

"Kelly is more considerate than the nurses, and her company means a lot to me," Lina said with a smile despite her reservations about his resemblance to Abigail. Inwardly, she reminded herself that he was, in fact, Kelly's brother, and their similar appearances were merely a coincidence.

Josh smiled and said nothing.

Only when Lina fell asleep after receiving her IV did he discreetly motion for Kelly to step outside the room. As they stood at the entrance of the emergency exit, he regarded her with a puzzled expression. "I don't quite grasp why you came to Pendorf," he admitted.

She replied, "Well, it's all about clearing up the misunderstanding, isn't it? Did you think I visited Old Mrs. Graham because of Sean?" She appeared hurt by his lack of understanding.

Josh's expression softened, and he continued, "Nevertheless, you should have informed me about your plans. Do you know who Sean is? Aren't you afraid you'll provoke him by suddenly getting close to his grandmother?"

"I haven't done anything wrong. Besides, Sean's not an unreasonable person, is he? He already knows that Uncle Vincent is responsible for everything. He wouldn't harm me," Kelly explained while lowering her gaze. It was the first time she had stood her ground and refused to take the blame.

He considered her words for a moment and then asked, "Kelly, could you please keep me informed about your future plans? And how does winning over Old Mrs. Graham relate to resolving the misunderstanding between us and Abigail?" He genuinely couldn't grasp the significance of her approach.

Kelly confidently responded, "Sean was the one who investigated this matter and knows the truth. By building a good relationship with him, he can advocate for us in front of Abigail. If she trusts someone she trusts, it might help bridge the gap between us. Since she doesn't believe in me, we need someone she can trust to support our case."

[Chapter 349](#)

Change of Mind

Josh found Kelly's idea appealing, but convincing Sean was no easy task. To some extent, Abigail and Sean shared similar personalities. Once they had formed an opinion about something, they were not quick to change their minds.

"You're oversimplifying things. Sean won't easily dispel his misunderstanding toward you with what Uncle Vincent has done to him. Instead of reaching out to Sean, you might be better off talking to Abigail directly," Josh suggested as he tenderly stroked Kelly's hair. Observing the great effort she had put into resolving the misunderstandings between her and Abigail, he couldn't help but feel a sense of guilt. Kelly's inherent self-consciousness drove her to seek the approval of others, and she would go to great lengths to change someone's negative opinion of her. He had often considered advising her against such behavior but hesitated, fearing it would damage her self-esteem.

"But Abigail doesn't like me. The more I try to approach her, the angrier she'll get. Josh, you and her are still friends. Can you talk to her about it? I'll stay by Old Mrs. Graham's side. What if it works?" She looked at him with hopeful eyes.

He furrowed his brows. "Do you genuinely want to be friends with Abigail, Kelly?"

"I know you care a lot about your relationship with Abigail, Josh. It's because of me that things have become strained between you two," she admitted, her voice filled with guilt.

At that moment, Josh found himself at a loss for words, witnessing how Kelly consistently prioritized the feelings of others.

"Just trust me for once." She gently shook her brother's hand.

Looking at her, Josh sighed and said, "Alright, but be cautious. Before you earn Sean's favor, think carefully about what you say." Even though he knew that Sean wasn't easy to talk to and was ruthless, Josh also knew his personality; as long as one didn't step on his boundaries, he wouldn't hurt anyone.

"Okay!" Kelly nodded. As soon as she lowered her gaze, a glint of triumph flashed across her eyes.

When Abigail and Luna came out of the studio, they saw Josh standing not far away.

“He has been waiting all afternoon, and he doesn’t even say what he wants. He just stands there,” Cameron whispered to Abigail.

Abigail thought, How smart of him. After all, by not disclosing the reason for his visit, Josh left Cameron with no grounds to kick him out.

“He’s definitely here because of Kelly again,” Luna said in a hushed voice.

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As Abigail descended the steps, Josh approached her and uttered, “I’d like to have a serious conversation with you.”

Abigail responded, “If it’s about Kelly, you can just forget it.” She maintained her belief that maintaining distance from them would lead to a peaceful life, even though events rarely unfolded as planned.

When Josh stopped her, Cameron immediately stepped in, positioning himself protectively in front of her. With a stern expression, he warned, “Mr. Pearson, please don’t get me started.”

Josh looked at Abigail and said, “I promise this will be the last time. After today, I won’t bother you anymore.”

Luna grew annoyed, expressing, “Mr. Pearson, do you realize you’re causing trouble for others? Business should be based on mutual agreement. How dare your family force Abigail to design a set of clothes for Kelly when she had already refused?”

He responded, “It’s not about the clothes.”

Luna retorted, “Who cares what it’s about? Can’t you see that you’re causing problems for Abigail right now?” She then attempted to pull Abigail away, intending to leave.

However, Abigail grasped Luna’s hand and turned her attention to him. “Can you guarantee that after talking to me this time, your family won’t bother me again?” she inquired.

After hearing that, he felt somewhat uncomfortable. He nodded gently and offered an apology in a low voice, saying, “I’m sorry.”

“Let’s talk then. Do you want it to be a one-on-one conversation, or can Luna join too?” In the end, Abigail was still a soft-hearted person. Although she certainly disliked Kelly, her first impression of Josh was nice. Thus, she didn’t want things to get ugly between them. Moreover, perhaps she was also influenced by Sean’s reminder.

Half an hour later, Abigail and Josh sat in a restaurant. She didn’t order anything and asked him coldly, “So, what do you want to talk about?” To be honest, she had a hunch that it would be about Kelly.

He explained, “Kelly went to visit Old Mrs. Graham to clear up the misunderstanding. She did everything to please her, hoping that Sean would put in good words in front of you. After all, he was the one who uncovered the truth. She believes that if he vouches for her innocence, you won’t harbor ill feelings towards her.”

She couldn't help but chuckle upon hearing this. After a moment, she nodded and inquired, "Anything else?"

Abigail admitted that Kelly was skilled at lying and undeniably clever. In Josh's presence, Kelly had the knack of using her misunderstanding as a convenient excuse. As long as there was no concrete evidence linking her to Vincent's actions, she could continue playing the innocent card.

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Abigail found it the first time she had encountered such a shameless woman.

"I don't want Kelly to come into contact with the Graham Family. I can assure you there's indeed no connection between what happened to Uncle Vincent and her. I've checked it many times. When we found her, she was living with her adopted family, and she was leading a cautious and sensitive life. She's genuinely hurt that you harbor negative feelings toward her," Josh spoke

sincerely, locking eyes with Abigail.

[Chapter 350](#)

I'm Not a Ruthless Person

Abigail nodded but remained silent. She couldn't help but feel a sense of regret for not recording Kelly's reaction the last time she called her. However, she knew that even if she had recorded it, it might not have made a difference, as Kelly could always claim that someone else had impersonated her. After all, Abigail didn't even know whose phone number Kelly had used.

"Of course, it's your prerogative to like or dislike someone. Still, I was hoping you could put on an act to put Kelly at ease, even just for once." Josh looked at her hopefully. "As long as she knows you don't hate her, she'll leave."

After hearing that, Abigail's mind was filled with doubts about whether he truly comprehended Kelly's nature. She knew that acquiescing to his request would inevitably plunge her into a web of complications. She questioned the wisdom of playing the saint in this situation. It was evident to her that Josh was placing her in a very uncomfortable predicament, all for the sake of Kelly. He was ready to make a rather impolite request of her. She inquired with a cold smile, "Kelly is important to you, isn't she? That's why you want me, an outsider, to endure discomfort for her happiness, isn't it?"

He knew how selfish and disgusting he was and made a conscious decision to approach her and talk about this. However, he couldn't bear the thought of Kelly having to humiliate herself before Sean's relatives just to gain Abigail's forgiveness. With a pained expression, he confessed, "I know I'm being selfish, Abigail. But I hope you can do me this favor."

Abigail stared at him for a long moment, her silent contemplation reflecting the transformation she had observed in Josh. A person who had been consistently considerate had now seemingly transformed into someone she despised due to Kelly's web of deceit.

She couldn't help but sigh as she considered the apparent lack of principles in some men. Men often treated women they perceived as vulnerable like fragile porcelain dolls, going to great lengths to ensure

their happiness rather than standing firm in their principles to help these women grow stronger. As these thoughts swirled in her mind, she couldn't suppress a rueful chuckle.

"I find it disheartening to witness how you've changed. I have no insight into Kelly's past, and I don't see a reason to extend sympathy to her. Furthermore, she currently enjoys a privileged situation where she doesn't need to cater to anyone. If you were a good brother, you would have reprimanded her instead of indulging her, which only encourages her self-degradation." Abigail rose from her seat, her disappointment palpable as she gazed at Josh. "You're all the same, and I find it mundane. Individuals who lack boundaries are truly repulsive."

After hearing that, he raised his head and locked eyes with her, his heart pierced by her cutting words.

"I hope you won't come looking for me again," she stated firmly. "Even if Sean came to speak on her behalf, it would be useless. Besides, he would never do something so foolish. Instead of feeling sorry for her past, why don't you feel sorry for yourself?" She saw Josh as a clown being

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manipulated by Kelly. After delivering her final words, she turned and walked looking back.

away without

Josh remained seated at the restaurant table, his mind filled with self-doubt. Did I make a mistake? Should I not have allowed Kelly to act this way?

Meanwhile, Abigail, still caught up in her troubled thoughts, didn't immediately head for her car when she left the restaurant. She walked aimlessly along the road, with Cameron silently following her, sensing her distress.

Indeed, her mood was at its lowest point. She wasn't a block of wood that had no feelings; in fact, she was disappointed in Josh and Eric because of how they had been good to her in the past. It felt as though they were following in Anthony's footsteps, treating her like a disposable tool as soon as someone more significant entered their lives. It was as though they hadn't anticipated that their actions would hurt her, much like the way Sean used to treat her..

As Cameron trailed Abigail for some time, he couldn't help but notice that Josh had caught up to them.

With a sense of urgency, Josh swiftly approached her and gently but firmly grasped her wrist from behind. "I'm sorry, Abigail," he began, his eyes locking onto hers. A heavy shroud of shame draped over his face, concealing his features.

"I'm sorry," he repeated, his voice laced with remorse. "I went against my original intention. I shouldn't have treated you like this. You shouldn't be treated this way by us. I'm truly ashamed of what I did," he confessed, his gaze falling as the weight of his actions bore down on him.

Abigail gently withdrew her hand from Josh's grasp and spoke with calm composure. "You know, even though I haven't had much contact with Anthony, I considered him a good friend from our time in university until the day we broke ties."

Josh didn't know about this, so he was shocked when he heard about it. After all, if it weren't for Anthony, he and Eric wouldn't have met Abigail.

"I thought you were my friend," she continued, her smile bittersweet. "But you've disappointed me over and over again. I'm not someone who severs ties lightly, and I sometimes feel sad when my friends force me to do things I despise. Please, don't ever contact me again. I don't want to feel disgusted when I'm around you."

The thought of losing Anthony as a friend couldn't have escaped Abigail's regret. She reflected on their nearly eight-year-long friendship and recognized the pain associated with losing a dear friend. She acknowledged that the feeling of suffocation isn't exclusive to romantic relationships but can affect friendships as well.

"I'm sorry." Josh apologized again. "I will handle this properly. Please don't hate me, okay?" He looked into Abigail's eyes genuinely.