## Spoiled 55

Those deep, ink-like eyes stared at Sophie's beautiful face through the rearview mirror.
Given what an awkward situation they'd been in before, Sophie would've preferred not to have too much contact with Justin Battleson.
But Stardust Garden was located on the mountainside, out of the way, making it difficult to hail a taxi.
Moreover, she and Justin were involved in a perfume transaction, so she was headed to Riley Group to finalize the fragrance, which was along his route.
Therefore, she had no choice but to thick-skinnedly ask for a ride.
Plus, she wanted to have another talk with Justin.
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The car began to slowly descend the mountain.
The interior of the car was eerily quiet.

Sophie stared down, her eyes fixed on her small hands folded in her lap, sweat pooling in her palms.
She didn't speak, and Justin didn't either.
Gritting her teeth, Sophie finally broke the silence.
"Mr. Battleson, about tonight's explanation with the old lady, please make it clear so she won't misunderstand again."
"Hmm."
Still just a faint reply.
Sophie asked again: "The old ladyis she not in good health? Does she have any illness?"
"She's well."
A cool, crisp voice answered.

"Actually, you can tell me the truth. I won't spread it around."
Sophie said with certainty, "The old lady seems to be confusing you with Ryan Battleson, or confusing him with you. She seems to be seriously ill."
""
The corner of Justin's mouth twitched.
"Mr. Battleson, if you're uncomfortable sharing, then don't."
Sophie saw that he was unwilling to divulge any more information, so she decided not to pry further.
After all, she was not part of Stardust Garden and she was planning to leave soon anyway.
However, even though she'd only spent a brief amount of time with the old lady, she felt extremely grateful for her care.
She hoped the old lady would stay healthy and live a long life.

"By the way, I told the old lady about my contract marriage with Ryan. You don't need to hide it from her anymore," Sophie said softly.
Justin's brow furrowed, his voice chilling, "Sophie, are you eager to shout about the contract from the rooftops?"
"Eager to divorce and throw yourself into Henry Hudson's arms?"
Sophie's clear eyes widened in surprise.
"Did you hear what my stepsister said? Of course not."
She immediately denied it and explained, "My relationship with Henry is just like what I explained to you."
"If you don't believe me, you can investigate further!"
Even though she felt a bit impulsive after saying that, Sophie knew that her contractual relationship with Ryan was understandable and Justin's investigation was out of consideration for Ryan's happiness.
But now that Justin was aware of the contract, there was no need to investigate her anymore.

After all, they were just strangers connected by a business deal.
"Sorry, I was a bit carried away. I'm not your brother's wife, so you don't need to investigate me anymore."
Sophie bit her lip, a look of regret on her face.
Her words conveyed a single message —
They had no connections anymore.
They were strangers.
Justin's gaze darkened, a shadow spreading across his face.
He was unnerved for some reason.
He felt irritable.

Worse yet, he found that he didn't want Sophie to leave Stardust Garden.
"Sophie, you didn't doubt what my grandmother said?"
Braking the car, Justin turned around and stared at the woman in the back seat.