

The Mbahsb 621

[Chapter 621](#)

Julia was frightened by Seth's glare and didn't dare to make a scene anymore. Biting her lower lip, she tugged Seth's shirt and said piteously, "Don't get mad at me. Get mad at her. She's the one who provoked me first."

Seth looked at Julia quietly. He was well aware that Julia had been bullying Tasha ever since she moved in. It was only normal that Tasha couldn't stand it anymore.

But Seth needed the support of the Walker family. Even if Julia was an annoying little bitch, he couldn't afford to do anything to her right now.

"I'm not mad at you. Why would you waste your time on such a shallow and stupid woman?" Seth softened his tone to comfort the aggrieved Julia.

Julia instantly cheered up, shooting Tasha a smug smile.

Tasha forced a smile but said nothing.

She knew that this was probably what he really thought of her. They had been married for so many years but Seth had never given her the light of day.

Tasha used to think that it was because of his pride. It was true that she wasn't as excellent as him. Now, Tasha realized that Seth looked down not just upon her, but everyone.

Indeed, Seth had never thought highly of his wife. In his eyes, she was an incompetent and stupid woman who only cared about money. For the sake of money, she was willing to abandon her own child.

But on second thought, that made things easier for Seth. A greedy woman like Tasha was simple and easy to control. At least, she didn't pose a threat to him.

Seth glanced at the drawer that was opened by Tasha just now. Inside lay several pieces of gold jewelry that had been gifted to him.

Seth sneered and glanced at the laptop on the table. It looked untouched, so he didn't think too much about it.

"Come with me," Seth said to Tasha coldly.

Tasha clenched her fists to calm herself down and followed him to the corridor.

"How much more do you want?" Seth asked abruptly. He didn't even bother to beat around the bush.

"You opened two restaurants in Sugden after we got married, right? I want them both." Tasha answered without missing a beat.

Truth be told, she wasn't interested in Seth's restaurants at all. She had never even been to either of them. It was just an excuse she came up with on the fly.

"You're insatiably greedy, aren't you? Those restaurants have always done well. How come I never knew you were so obsessed with money before?" Seth sneered in disdain. "Fine. I'll give you the two

restaurants, but from now on, you should behave yourself. I've given you a lot of money. That's it. If I find out you tried to go through my things again, I won't be as nice."

Knowing that this was his last and final warning, Tasha nodded in satisfaction. "Thank you, Mr. Lester. Don't worry. I promise I won't do it again. And I know that what I've asked for is just a drop in the bucket for you."

Seth rolled his eyes and then left with Julia.

The very next day, Seth moved out of the Lester family home with Julia.

Just as they were leaving the villa, she yelled, "You little bitch! You greedy, fucking slutty bitch! You're already getting a divorce yet you still blackmail Seth for money!"

"Shut up." Seth frowned in disgust. He really couldn't take Julia's shrill voice.

Patrick had said that he was going to come back home recently, so it wasn't decent for Julia to continue to live here. Moreover, Julia always quarreled with Tasha at home. Seth didn't want to give Tasha another chance to blackmail him again.

Tasha stood on the balcony and watched their limo drive away, feeling anxious.

Now that Seth didn't live at home, she would have no chance to get her hands on his laptop.

Tasha took out her phone and texted Ethan promptly, asking him if he had any ideas as to what she could do next.

[Chapter 622](#)

A few days later, Ethan asked Tasha to meet him in a cafe near the Lester family home.

"Have you seen Julia recently?" Ethan asked as a thought suddenly occurred to him. In Ethan's eyes, the only person who could connect Seth to Tasha was Julia.

Resting her chin on her palm, Tasha sighed heavily. "Not really. Before they moved out, Seth warned her not to provoke me. She looked scared of Seth, so I don't know if she will come to me again."

Ethan nodded and took a sip of his coffee, lost in thought.

Yesterday, Seth had come to him, saying that he wanted to negotiate and make peace.

But Ethan knew that it wasn't in Seth's nature to simply "make peace".

However, this negotiation might be an opportunity in disguise.

After thinking about it for a while, Ethan said, "You have to get your hands on the data on his laptop. It seems to me that Seth trusts you somewhat. No one else but you can get close to his laptop. And I think I might have a way for you to do it."

"What do you mean?" Tasha asked with her eyebrows raised.

Ethan then explained his plan in detail, which made Tasha feel that perhaps there was hope after all.

Although it had been a while since Julia had moved out of the Lester family home with Seth, her hostility towards Tasha never ebbed. On the contrary, she felt depressed now that she couldn't bully Tasha anymore.

She even went so far as to look for Tasha's number on Seth's phone. Whenever she felt irrationally angry, she would text Tasha hateful messages to vent her anger.

Looking at the string of abuses on her phone, Tasha couldn't stand it anymore and called Julia.

As soon as Julia saw the caller ID, she immediately was on guard.

"Shouldn't you focus on your baby? Why are you calling me?" Julia sneered coldly.

She wasn't afraid of anything now that Seth was on her side.

In her eyes, Tasha was nothing but a bitch who stood in the way of her getting married to Seth.

Tasha snorted impatiently. "Don't you have anything better to do? Seth already moved out with you yet you still kept finding ways to harass me. He can't keep you under his control anymore, can he? Since he can't discipline you, I have no choice but to turn to a 'higher power'. I'll send all the texts you sent me to your parents so that they can see how shameless their daughter has become."

Then, without waiting for a response, Tasha hung up the phone.

Furious, Julia texted Tasha more insulting words.

The hostility between the two was only getting more and more intense.

Satisfied, Tasha called Seth.

During this period of time, Ethan had been working hard to take the Lester family down, and Seth had been busy fighting back.

After a meeting, he saw many missed calls from Tasha on his phone. He didn't think too much about it until his phone started ringing again.

Annoyed, Seth answered it impatiently.

From the other end of the line, Tasha complained in an aggrieved tone, "Seth, can you teach your mistress some proper manners? She texts me hateful messages every day—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Seth hung up impatiently.

He was so busy that he had no time to deal with this bullshit.

Being met with the busy dial tone, Tasha smiled. Now she had a reason to go to his office.

She carefully gathered her things and took a taxi directly to his company.

[Chapter 623](#)

Tasha soon arrived at the Lester Group's headquarters. As soon as she entered the building, she saw a group of men in suits and leather shoes in the lobby.

She saw the side profile of the man standing in the middle. It was none other than Ethan.

It seemed that he had felt her gaze because he then turned his head. Seeing that Tasha had come, he nodded imperceptibly. Then he went up to the thirteenth floor with the senior executives of the Larson Group, exchanging pleasantries.

According to his plan with Tasha, today was the designated date he would come to the Lester Group to negotiate with Seth.

Seth wouldn't bring his laptop with him to the meeting. Usually, he would leave it in his office.

This was the opportunity that Ethan had created for Tasha. While they were busy negotiating, Tasha would have access to Seth's computer.

After waiting for a little over ten minutes downstairs, Tasha figured that the meeting must've started, so she rushed to Seth's office.

But when she arrived at the door, Seth's assistant blocked her way.

"Mrs. Lester, I'm sorry but Mr. Lester has told me that no one is allowed to enter his office. Please follow me to the reception room. You can wait for him there."

Tasha smiled coldly. "I'm his wife. Why can't I wait in his office? If even I am not allowed into his office, than who is? His mistress?"

Being scolded like this, the assistant stuttered falteringly. "N-no, Mrs. Lester. I'm... I'm just doing my job."

Truth be told, Seth had indeed brought his mistress into his office before, which made the assistant feel a bit guilty.

With her arms crossed over her chest, Tasha sneered coldly. "I'll let you go if you get out of my way. I plan on waiting for him in his office, nowhere else. I have to see him today to tell him to discipline that mistress of his."

The assistant squeezed his eyes shut for a second and took a deep breath. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Lester. I have to do what Mr. Lester says."

Tasha slapped away the assistant's outstretched hand and said, "I didn't think you'd be so loyal to him. But you should be careful. Remember, I haven't divorced him yet! And yet you already refuse to take me seriously? Do you know the consequences of offending me?"

Tasha still held the prestigious title of "Mrs. Lester" now, the assistant couldn't afford to offend her. Besides, thanks to the way Seth previously treated her, the assistant didn't think that Tasha was bright nor cunning enough to do anything suspicious inside Seth's office.

After hesitating for a few seconds, he finally stepped aside.

Before the assistant left, he asked politely, "Mrs. Lester, are you thirsty? Would you like some water or juice maybe?"

Tasha sank into the sofa in Seth's office and started flipping through the magazine on the table. "No, you can go out now. By the way, please turn off the CCTV camera in Seth's office. I don't want a video of me and my husband fighting to be leaked."

After a slight pause, she added, "If his mistress wants to come inside, stop her. I'm sure you wouldn't want to see blood in here."

"Oh, um, I see." The assistant faltered under Tasha's cruel gaze.

A scornful woman in an unhappy marriage was really scary. He still remembered that the first time they met a few years ago. Tasha was a gentle and elegant woman back then.

After the assistant bowed and closed the door behind him, Tasha immediately stood up and walked towards Seth's desk.

The laptop was sitting in plain sight.

Tasha looked around and found that the red light on the CCTV camera was indeed off.

She couldn't help but chuckle at how the assistant was such a gullible young man.

Now, she had plenty of time to copy the data on Seth's laptop. She didn't know how long the meeting would last, but since Ethan had seen her just now, she knew he'd try his best to buy her time.

Tasha promptly inserted the flash drive into the laptop.

Eventually, all the content in the computer was downloaded.

[Chapter 624](#)

Tasha quickly unplugged the flash drive and shut the laptop.

Just as she tucked the flash drive into her bag, she heard the sound of footsteps and talking from right outside the door. It was Seth.

"Send me the meeting notes later," he was saying to someone. The moment he opened the door, his eyes landed on Tasha.

He was stunned for two seconds, and then frowned unhappily. "What are you doing here?"

As he spoke, his eyes were full of scrutiny and suspicion.

"Finally! I've been waiting for you for so damn long. You hung up on me, so I had no choice but to come here. Can you please keep your woman in line? She won't stop harassing me! If it weren't for all the money you promised to give me, I would've taught her a hard lesson by now!" Tasha seemed so angry that she gritted her teeth and wagged her finger at Seth. When in reality, she was only acting.

"She's still young. Just cut her some slack, will you?" Seth put down the documents in his hands and glanced around the office.

His devices all had passwords. Even if Tasha wanted to do something, she wouldn't have succeeded.

Besides, he doubted Tasha would try to do anything sinister, like stealing valuable information from him.

“Are you really going to just stand by and watch until she kills my baby?” Tasha was very dissatisfied with his dismissive attitude.

Seth frowned and pressed the spot between his brows.

Women were such troublesome creatures.

“I’ll talk to her tonight. Satisfied? Now, get out!” he snapped impatiently.

This was exactly what Tasha wanted. She successfully got everything she came for.

“You’d better keep your word. I don’t want to come here a second time!” Tasha cast him a resentful glance, pretending to be annoyed, and then left in a hurry.

Instead of going back to the Lester family home, Tasha went straight to the cafe, where she was to rendezvous with Ethan.

When she arrived, Ethan was already there, waiting for her. He was sitting at a table and had ordered a cup of decaf latte for her.

“All the information in Seth’s computer is here.” Tasha handed the flash drive to him.

Ethan slipped the small drive into his pocket and nodded in satisfaction. “Thank you.”

After saying that, he stood up to leave. “If there is really evidence of him doing illegal things in here, I’ll sue him before the month ends. But be warned: he’ll probably feel suspicious of you after receiving the indictment. Be careful.”

Tasha sipped from her cup of coffee and nodded seriously.

Ethan returned to the Larson Group with the flash drive.

After handing the drive to the technical staff to decode the data in it, they soon found something of interest.

Ethan called the senior executives and the lawyers to a meeting that night. As expected, they found a lot of evidence of Seth’s crimes.

After getting everything ready, Ethan filed a case against Seth.

Seth received the indictment from the court exactly three days later.

“Goddammit, Ethan!”

It was the first time that Seth had lost his cool like this. He went crazy and smashed everything in his office to vent his anger.

He knew that Ethan would never sue him without any hard evidence.

But both his computer and the company’s safe were password-protected, and only he knew the passwords.

Of course, someone might've be able to get their hands on the data in other ways, but how did Ethan's men get inside his office?

Seth couldn't figure it out.

In the end, there was only one possibility left: there was a mole in the company.

[Chapter 625](#)

With a dangerous look in his eyes, Seth made a phone call. "Call all our senior executives here. Now," he hissed into the receiver.

When all the senior executives were present, Seth asked someone to investigate their bank account records. He thought that he would definitely find the mole.

Ethan had collected solid evidence against them, which was extremely disadvantageous to Seth. He had to come up with a plan.

He refused to lose to Ethan so easily. At the very least, he had to find the mole who had betrayed him.

But two days later, the investigation turned up fruitless. None of their senior executives had anything to do with the Larson Group. Plus, they all knew that it was a sensitive time for both companies, so everyone had been avoiding contact with people from the Larson Group.

Seth had also checked and double-checked the company's surveillance footage, but didn't find anything suspicious.

Seth pursed his lips, feeling that he had missed something, but he couldn't figure out what it was.

The in-house nutritionists and servants of the Lester family had been taking good care of Tasha these days.

And her belly was slowly getting bigger and bigger with each day that passed. The weather was getting hot lately, but she still had a good appetite and had eaten a hearty lunch today.

After finishing her food, Tasha went to the garden to relax. No one knew what was on her mind as she stared into the distance, lost in thought, stroking her belly absentmindedly.

"Mrs. Lester, have some fruits." The servant brought Tasha a tray full of sliced fruits and set it on the table.

However, Tasha was not in the mood to eat. She had heard that Seth already received the indictment from Ethan and was discussing with his lawyer how to deal with it.

"Don't forget to tell me when Seth comes back." Tasha reminded, leaning into her chair with her eyes closed.

She tried her best not to look nervous and recalled that day step by step, trying to find out if she had left anything that might've pointed to her.

The only thing suspicious about her that day was that she had asked Seth's assistant to turn off the CCTV camera in his office. But the Lester family was on the verge of bankruptcy, and that was all the more reason for Seth's assistant to keep his mouth shut. If word got out that he was the one who had turned off the CCTV in Seth's office, he'd definitely have to take the fall.

Now, there was nothing Tasha could do but wait for the trial.

A week later, the trial began.

Tasha attended the trial as a member of Seth's family.

They hadn't seen each other in a few days, and Seth looked much more haggard than before. His five o'clock shadow made him age ten years.

Tasha was secretly overjoyed to see him in such a mess. Suppressing a smug smile, she inadvertently caught a glimpse of Julia, who was sitting a few rows ahead of her.

She too looked like a mess. She was crying so hard that she kept wiping her tears and blowing her nose into a tissue.

Seth wasn't all that unlucky. At least in this trial, there was someone who sincerely hoped he could win.

Tasha withdrew her sight and subconsciously placed her hand on her rounded belly. Her fate, as well as the child's, depended on the outcome of today's trial.

Soon, the judge came in and announced the beginning of the trial.

Because of all the solid evidence stacked against Seth, Ethan won without a shadow of a doubt. Seth was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment.

Of course, Seth couldn't accept such a fate. He looked calm, but his bloodshot eyes and trembling fingers exposed his panic.

Holding onto hope, he filed an appeal, but the original sentencing was maintained in the second and final trial.

When the final judgment came, Seth nearly broke down on the spot.

Tasha had attended both trials. It was the first time in her life that she had seen Seth bowing his head. He seemed to be much shorter than before.

Twenty years' imprisonment. Seth was already in his 30s, and so he'd be over fifty years old by the time he got out. His life would be almost over by then.

On the day of the final sentencing, Tasha went to see Seth.

[Chapter 626](#)

When Seth was about to be taken away, Tasha walked up to him and said calmly, "I'm here to say goodbye. Don't worry about the baby. I'll raise him well."

Seth's eyes were devoid of life. For the first time, he said, "Thank you."

Tasha smiled knowingly. How stupid he was!

She leaned closer to him and whispered, "Haven't you figured out how Brandon got his hands on all that evidence?"

Since she would never see Seth again, Tasha decided to tell him the truth.

At first, Seth didn't understand why Tasha would ask him such a question, but it soon dawned on him. His eyes went as wide as saucers and his heart was filled with anger and indignation.

He opened his mouth and stared at Tasha in disbelief. "It was you! You were the one who used my computer and stole all my files! That was why you went to my study!"

Tasha raised her chin and smiled triumphantly. "Yes, it was all me. I copied the files from your laptop and gave it all to Ethan. My first attempt was a failure. Julia caught me before I was able to copy all the files. So I went to your office to finish the job."

Seth's jaw nearly dropped to the floor.

Who was this woman?! Was she really the Tasha he knew?

It was said that the more timid a person looked, the more ruthless they would be when cornered. It was true for Tasha.

All of a sudden, a cold smile appeared on Seth's face and his eyes took on a dangerous light.

"I never thought that you'd be the one to deliver the fatal blow. I should've taken you more seriously."

It never occurred to him that Tasha would have the guts—and the intelligence—to pull off such a stunt.

Seth had always thought that she was a simple, stupid woman who let others walk all over her.

In his eyes, Tasha had always bent over backwards for others.

"Yes, you've always looked down upon me, and it ended up being your downfall. Seth, thanks again for the loads of money. I'll live life comfortably after our divorce." Tasha sneered in disdain.

She knew that she and her child would never be able to use up the money Seth left them.

Seth smiled coldly, staring at Tasha, who now seemed to have changed into a completely different person. It was the first time that he realized how much he had underestimated this woman. He was such an idiot!

Seeing that Seth had fallen silent, Tasha didn't want to waste her breath on him any longer. She turned around and was about to leave when Seth suddenly shouted at her.

"Stop!"

Tasha looked back over her shoulder coldly and asked, "What?"

After recovering from his shock just now, Seth growled angrily, "Tasha! You are my wife and a member of the Lester family. How could you betray me?"

[Chapter 627](#)

Tasha looked at him as though he had just cracked a joke. She sneered, turned around, and carefully looked into Seth's fury-filled eyes.

She wanted to remember the way he looked when he discovered that she was the one who brought him down, imprinting the shame and embarrassment on his face in her mind forever.

"'Wife'? When did you ever treat me as your wife? Or as your family even? Seth, you are such a selfish and indifferent bastard. Yet you dare to ask why I betrayed you? You betrayed me first!"

"You set me up! Tasha, I've given you the money you wanted. Why would you go behind me back?" Seth demanded.

Tasha smiled calmly, but her eyes were devoid of warmth. "Because I hate you," she said matter-of-factly. "I hate you for trying to take away my child. I hate you for marrying me just to use me. And when I was no longer of any use to you, you tossed me aside for another woman, whom you brought into our home to humiliate me. Even after finding out I was pregnant with your child, you didn't change your mind. You even wanted to take my baby away! Seth, what do you take me for? Some lifeless doll that'll roll over at your beck and call? No! I am a human being! I betrayed you because you betrayed me first. I have to protect my child, and in order to do that, you have to be behind bars."

Seth glared at Tasha murderously, but he found he couldn't say anything to refute.

The woman standing in front of him with a calm and indifferent expression was completely different from the Tasha he knew.

Tasha took a deep breath and shrugged. "Well, it's all in the past anyway. It's meaningless to say anything more. You were good at what you did, you know? You shouldn't have been brought down by me, a lowly housewife. But that's precisely how you lost. The biggest obstacle to survival is not weakness nor ignorance, but arrogance."

Seth felt as though he was struck by lightning and all the color drained from his face.

Arrogance?

Seth had never considered himself arrogant. He had always been praised and envied by all, which led him to believe that he was better than everyone.

At a young age, he had been sent abroad. He had always been surrounded by strangers. Even at home, the housekeepers and servants were routinely replaced, and Patrick never allowed him to get close to any of them.

In addition, Patrick always told him that strong men didn't need feelings. Having feelings was a fatal weakness.

As a Lester, he had to be undefeatable.

Thus, Seth had grown to be indifferent to everything. Nothing in this world attracted him other than money and power.

But in the end, his own arrogance was the death of him.

Tasha watched as Seth was taken away by the marshals.

She watched him walk out of the court room with his shoulders slumped over in defeat.

Suddenly, she remembered the first time she met Seth.

Seth was standing by the door of her house, looking at her gently.

It was love at first sight for her.

Fortunately, she saw things clearly now.

Expressionless, Tasha picked up her bag and left the courthouse.

It was a sunny day. She breathed in the fresh air and smiled with relief, as if she had been reborn.

[Chapter 628](#)

When she returned home, Tasha filed for a divorce.

As Ethan had promised her, he hired the best lawyer to assist her with the divorce.

It didn't take long before Tasha successfully divorced Seth. Because she held an overwhelming advantage over him, she ended up getting more property than Seth had originally promised her. Additionally, since she hadn't given birth to their baby yet, the court gave her sole custody of the child.

When everything was finally settled, Tasha invited Ethan and Janet to a fancy restaurant for a celebratory dinner.

"Cheers!"

The three clinked glasses merrily.

Because she was pregnant, Tasha didn't have wine and instead was nursing a glass of orange juice. With a smile, she sighed in relief and said, "Finally, it is over! I won't have to worry about him finding me out anymore. These days, I had been worried sick! I could've died from anxiety!"

Janet was also happy for her. She raised her glass and clinked it with hers. "Cheers to your freedom, Tasha!"

Tasha grinned from ear to ear. Then she turned to Ethan and said sincerely, "Thank you so much for helping me. Without you, I wouldn't have been able to take Seth down on my own."

Ethan nodded and humbly added, "If it weren't for your help, I wouldn't have been able to pin Seth down for his crimes."

Janet smiled and reached for Ethan's hand, squeezing it gently. "We should be the ones thanking you. Without you, we wouldn't have been able to defeat Seth so easily."

Tasha chuckled. "This serves him right. If he hadn't been so ruthless, I wouldn't have done this to him."

“Now you’re the biggest winner, aren’t you? The property he left you is more than enough for you and your child to live a happy life, you lucky lady!” Janet teased Tasha playfully.

“Well, actually most of his assets are under investigation now, so there might not be much left afterwards. I can’t count on the money he left me. Moreover, I feel like a career is calling me. Truth be told, I wanted to treat you two to dinner today because I have one more thing I wanted to ask from you...” Tasha looked at Janet expectantly, waiting for her answer.

Janet couldn’t figure out what she was building up to.

“What is it?”

“I want to go back to the design industry after I give birth to the baby, but I’ve been a housewife for years now, isolated from society.” Tasha bit her lip anxiously. “I haven’t designed a single thing in years. I don’t know if I’ll be able to pick up everything I learnt from college.”

It turned out that her request was no big deal. Without hesitation, Janet said, “Don’t worry. I’ll help you. I remember your works back then—they were all excellent. I’m sure it won’t be that hard to get you started again.”

Encouraged, Tasha breathed a sigh of relief and said sincerely, “Thank you, Janet.”

Life was so magical. Tasha had never thought that Janet and she would meet again years after graduation and even become friends.

After the meal, Ethan drove Janet to the airport. She had been going back and forth between Barnes and Seacisco recently.

Recalling what Tasha had said to her, Janet couldn’t help but sigh. “Tiffany was right. Men are indeed the stumbling block to a woman’s career.”

Ethan, who had pulled to a stop at a red light, looked at her sharply. He brought Janet’s hand to his mouth and nibbled on a finger. “Me included?”

With a smile, Janet raised her hand and patted Ethan’s cheek softly. “No, my husband is the only exception.”

[Chapter 629](#)

During this tumultuous period of time, the Lester family experienced setback after setback.

As soon as Seth’s illegal acts had been exposed, many other people were put behind bars as the investigation unfolded.

As for the Lester family’s business, most of Seth’s companies in Sugden were shut down, which greatly affected the Lester family’s power. Now, they were no match for the Larson Group.

Even before the trial, Patrick had been running all over the country trying to keep the Lester Group afloat. The stress had aged him ten years overnight, adding wrinkles to his haggard, tired face.

When he heard about Seth's verdict, he completely broke down. He didn't even have the strength to try and pull himself together anymore.

Before returning to his home, Patrick went to the private hospital where Nora was admitted.

"You underestimated Ethan. I've always found him to be a smart, composed person. When he was little, Elissa, a grown woman, often picked on him. Yet he still managed to get this far on his own."

While Nora had been confined in the hospital the past few weeks, she still caught word of what was happening outside.

But at her age, she could no longer meddle in these matters anymore.

And she didn't intend to.

Nora sighed sadly. "I don't have much time left. When your father was still alive, he used to say that people should pursue virtue after they pursued wealth. You've used up all the virtue he had saved for the family, and we're no longer blessed."

As she spoke, Patrick poured her a glass of water and handed her the medication on the bedside table. He frowned and said, "Mom, stop talking like that."

Nora sighed and pushed the medication cup away with her wrinkled hand. "I've been taking this same medicine for years and it has done me no good. You can go back. I want to rest now."

Patrick returned to his home alone, despair looming over him like a storm cloud. The house was empty, aside from the servants.

In the past, Patrick usually heard the short-tempered Ritchie quarreling with his mother at home. But now, the house was eerily quiet and lifeless.

Patrick sank into the sofa wearily, burying his face in his palms.

He had no way to fix this.

Now Patrick was fully aware of just how terrifying and cruel Ethan was. The latter had shown no mercy to his own family.

Ethan had picked off all of Patrick's family one by one—first, his wife, then his youngest son, and then his eldest. Even the Lester Group, Patrick's pride and joy, had been destroyed. Now he had nothing.

"Sir, Mr. Ethan is at the door."

A servant came and report to Patrick.

Before Patrick could say anything, Ethan strode into the living room with his hands in his pockets.

He looked around the house quietly.

“The house is the same as before, yet it feels different. There used to be too many people in this home and it got too crowded. Now it’s empty, which is good. It makes the house look bigger.” Ethan walked to the sofa opposite Patrick and sat down, sneering coldly.

Patrick laughed bitterly. “Are you here to see me at the end of my rope?”

Ethan remained unfazed. “On the contrary, I’m here to offer you a way out. Whether you take it or not will actually depend on you.”

[Chapter 630](#)

Patrick doubted Ethan would be so kind, but he was utterly exhausted and desperate. “Ethan, what more do you want? I don’t want to play any games with you anymore.”

“It’s not up to you,” Ethan answered simply, resting his chin on the back of his hand. “As you know, your family is on the verge of collapse. One push and it’ll all come crumbling down.”

Ethan paused for a few seconds and frowned at Patrick. “But if you turn yourself in, admit to the police and the public that you raped and then slandered my mother, and apologize to her in front of her tomb, I will let you and your family go.”

Patrick’s expression changed.

If he did this, his reputation would be ruined and irredeemable. Patrick had enjoyed a certain level of prestige all these years and it’d undoubtedly be a huge shame for him to apologize to a woman he had never taken seriously.

He had only ever touched Sylvia Larson because she was beautiful, nothing more.

Sylvia was born in a rich family. When she was in school, many boys had chased after her, but she rejected all of them, including Patrick.

However, things changed when the Larson family declined, and she was forced to take on a job as a waitress in a hotel in Seacisco.

At the time, Patrick had already married Elissa, and the Lester Group reached its peak under his leadership. When they met again under such a circumstance, Patrick wanted Sylvia to be his mistress. Although she looked harmless enough, she was actually a tough woman and refused his offer without hesitation.

Patrick was so angry that he raped her in the very hotel she worked at. Afterwards, he attempted to silence Sylvia with money, because the latter was struggling financially. But she refused to accept his money.

Patrick was afraid that the scandal would affect his reputation, so he lied to the public and claimed that Sylvia had seduced him. After all, he was rich and powerful, and there were many women who wanted to sleep with him.

It wasn’t until much later that Patrick found out that Sylvia was pregnant. Sylvia probably didn’t abort the child because she was afraid that she might not be able to conceive again in the future, so she retreated to the countryside and gave birth to Ethan there.

Since she was incapable of fighting against the Lester family and hadn't stirred up any trouble, Patrick ignored her existence altogether.

Unexpectedly, thirty years later, her son rose from the ashes to avenge her.

"It happened thirty years ago! Even if I admit my mistake to the public, it won't make much of a difference. Your mother is dead," Patrick said desperately.

Ethan expected such a response, so he said in a cold voice, "Quit making excuses. If you do as I say and turn yourself in, you'll only be imprisoned for a few years at most, but ultimately, you'll be able to protect your precious Lester family. By the time you're released from jail, you'll have another chance to start anew. But if you don't admit what you did, I'll make sure you live a miserable life. I won't stop until the Lester family, which has been around for hundreds of years, is completely destroyed—and you'll have no one to blame but yourself. Like I said, it's your choice now."

Patrick fell silent for a long time, and suddenly looked much older. The chandelier hanging from the ceiling illuminated his white hairs.

Seeing that he wasn't going to respond, Ethan stood up and was about to leave.

"It seems that you don't want to save the Lester family. That's fine by me."

"Wait!" Patrick's voice suddenly sounded from behind Ethan.

Ethan paused and looked over his shoulder indifferently.

After a long time, Patrick sighed and said hoarsely, "I'll turn myself in."

"For the first time, you've finally made a wise choice," Ethan said with a sneer.

Patrick smiled bitterly and looked up at him. "Ethan, did you plan all this from the very beginning? Was everything—the court cases, the sentencing—was everything just a ploy to force me to turn myself in?"