

The Tide 221

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When the even

ng to an end, a trun

A pair of golden-rimmed glasses were perched on his

The man strode toward the pavilion, exuding a sense of nobility and elegance

There was a uniformed body guard next to him

Ava had already lost all interest in hattering after

abrupt comment. She sat by the side and ate her cake in silence

He was very observant and paid close attention to one's mannerisms and emotions. He noticed the change in Ava's behavior. She was now very quiet looking visibly uneasy, like a child who had done something

Trevon tightened his grip on Natalie's hand. Thinking that he wanted to eat something. Natalie asked. "What do you want?"

He lifted his chin slightly, gesturing for her to look in the direction of the door.

Seeing Joseph. Natalie was thrilled and, at the same time, apprehensive

As her hand was interlocked with Trevon's under the table, she could not go up to Joseph to greet him. She could only say, "Ava, Joseph is here."

Ava was eating her cake when she heard what Natalie said. Her face immediately lit up as she broke into a smile. She ran up to Joseph and took his hand, pouting in an endearing demeanor. "Joseph, why

are you only here now? The barbecue is almost over. Do you want to be the closing act of the event and take all the limelight?"

Joseph stroked Ava's head with the other hand and smiled affectionately. "Hey, I rushed over without even changing my clothes. Can you forgive me for coming late?"

Ava took a few steps back and scrutinized Joseph's outfit. "All right, I shall pardon you this time."

When Natalie saw Joseph approaching the pavilion, she broke free from Trevon's grip and shot him a warning look. "Joseph, are you done with your busy schedule?"

Joseph replied. "Yes, I'm free now."

He walked over to Jasper and carried him in his arms before turning to Trevon. "Mr. Wilson, have you recovered from your injuries?"

Trevon did not think much about what Joseph was insinuating. He merely replied. "Thank you for your concern. Joseph, I'm feeling much better now."

Joseph was astonished to hear Trevon addressing him by his first name in front of everyone. It suggested a level of familiarity and closeness between the two men.

Joseph reciprocated with a smile. That's good to know. Take good care of yourself. I hope you're taking care of Natalie and not Natalie taking care of you"

Trevon nodded. "Yes. Ill bear that in mund"

Joseph, with his tall stature, held Jasper in his arms. However, his posture did not look out of place. Instead, he seemed to feel at ease carrying the boy in his arms. His gaze then shifted to Frank. He said in a cordial tone. "You must be the young heir of the Roberts family You truly embody the essence of your family name and upbringing"

Frank was lounging on the chair lazily, and his body sprawled out in a relaxed manner. He replied politely. "Thank you for your compliment. Mr. Turner Have some food'

Ava was determined to ensure that the barbecue did not devolve into a mundane gathering where men engaged in dull conversations. She asked, "Joseph, what do you want to eat? I'll get you some food"

Joseph raised his head and gestured for Ava to take a seat. "Sit down. I'm not hungry Just get me a drink."

Ave soon perked up and quipped, "All right. I'm at your service"

Natalie could tell that Joseph's attitude toward Trevon had changed. She did not know what both men talked about, but she guessed Joseph must have accepted Trevon

Trevon was also certain that Joseph had already accepted him. He had no eyes for anyone else at that moment. Once again, he reached out for Natalie's hand under the table and locked hands with her.

If not for Trevon's sweaty palm, Natalie would not have known how nervous he was. He was feeling apprehensive yet

relaxed

Trevon held her hand tightly. It was as if he was afraid of losing something precious. He then stroked her hand, thinking that he might have hurt her.

She understood how he felt. She was delighted to be treated so tenderly and affectionately by someone known to be indifferent and ruthless. Undoubtedly, she was touched.

To gain Joseph's trust. Trevon chose to hurt himself. Natalie not a hard-hearted person. She was moved by what Trevon

did for her

No woman liked to be alone. She was just afraid of being disappointed.

At the same time, a woman also yearned to be cherished and loved by a man. She would certainly be moved if a man did something for her

Sensing his sincerity. Natalie held on to Trevon's hand tightly, their fingers interlocked. She was reciprocating his feelings with her act 14915

At that moment. Trevon felt very regretful. If Joseph had come to settle scores with him earlier he would not have had to wait till now for his relationship with Natalie to develop to this stage

11 was already half past seven

Other than Frank, who went

the evening when they returned to Grand Manor

Lathern Club, everyone else arrived at Grand Manor

L

Jim drove Trevon back while Natalie. Ava, and Jasper were in Josephs car Hackett was in another car with his family

The cars stopped at the parking lot of Grand Manor at the same time. Trevon was the first to get out of the car

"You can

back first. You don't have to pick me up tomorrow. There are a lot of things to do in the company recently. Wait for my father's instructions Trevon did not go upstairs immediately. Instead, he waited by the car door, instructing Jimi

"All right then. I'll go back first. Mr. Wilson. I've already changed your room. Your clothes have also been sent to the new room However, Mr. Blackwell found out that I've changed the rooms and he's also left his suitcase in your new room."

Pinching his forehead, Trevon took a deep breath Realizing that he had no other choice he gave in.

"Okay, got it."

After Jim drove off, Hackett got out of the car with his luggage. He walked toward Trevon with a smirk.

"Hello, we're going

to be roommates."

With one hand in his pocket, Trevon looked at Hackett disdainfully. He was secretly hoping to spend the night in the room with Natalie Gritting his teeth, he demanded. "Did I say you can stay in the same room as me?"

Hackett looked at him jubilantly Tve something to show you. You can decide if I can stay in your room after that."

As he spoke, Hackett showed Trevon the WhatsApp message Frank had sent him earlier. He waved his phone in front of Trevon with a wicked smile. Tell me now, can I stay in your room?"

Trevon glanced at the message with a glacial expression. His eyes widened as he read it Two years ago. Frank had asked Trevon about Natalie Back then, Trevon maintained that he did not like Natalie. He had stated in the message that he would never fancy such a scheming woman like Natalie

Frank had actually taken a screenshot of the message.

He had been so scheming to keep the message for the last two years, intending to create trouble for Trevon now.

Trevon lamented silently that there were too many obstacles in the way of his relationship with Natalie

Hackett gloated when he saw Trevon's shocked expression. How rare it was to have a hold against Trevon. "Mr. Wilson, what do you think will happen if I show this to Natalie?"

Trevon finally caved in. He said coldly. "If you dare to spout nonsense in front of her. I won't let you off
Hurry up and get
in."

Hackett smiled gleefully. He had never felt so pleased in front of Trevon

He deliberately brushed past Trevon as he sauntered toward the room. "Thank you for taking me in. I am so grateful."

At the thought that his plan had failed, Trevon looked defeated.

Hackett walked over to Sherri "Can you carry Ruby while I reply to a message? Don't worry. I'm talking to a man"

Sherri was shocked to hear what he said

Harkeit then sent Frank a text message [Thank you, Mr. Roberts. I managed to stay overnight in Trevon's room. You should see his face. It was as black as thunder |

He had every reason to brag It was very to see Trevon looking so bummed out

Hackett had never felt so pleased.

He was over the moon

Seconds later, he received Frank's reply. Don't just pay me lip service. I want something in return.]

Hackett smirked as he sent Frank a voice message. [Friends shouldn't talk about money. It's the thought that counts]

Frank replied. [Do you think I'm a saint? I'm only human. Cut the crap. Show your sincerity with something more tangible.] Hackett was speechless. Nevertheless, he picked up his phone and transferred two thousand dollars to Frank.

Frank sent a message with a question mark, followed by a voice message. [Do you know the definition of sincerity If you have no clue what it means, come and see me. I'll explain it to you clearly I

Following that. Frank, feeling rather playful, sent a long message to Hackett | Level One. 20 million dollars to show your utmost sincerity Level Two, 10 million dollars if you are rather sincere. Level 3, 6 million dollars for perfunctory sincerity. 2 million dollars if you are only patronizing me. Finally, two thousand dollars if you're a freeloader Which category do you belong to?

Hackett wondered if Frank had nothing better to do once he had no girlfriend. He could have simply told Hackett he wanted money. It was such a waste of time to type such a meaningless message.

He scoffed inwardly. "How dare he say I'm a freeloader when I paid him two thousand dollars? He did not hesitate to accept my money over the phone."

In the end. Hackett chose Level 3 and transferred six million dollars to Frank.

Frank replied with a message. [Here ends our partnership]

Hackett was rendered speechless, thinking that Frank was the cunning and ungrateful one

When Natalie got out of the car, she saw Trevon standing by the side, looking glum. She walked over and asked, "What's wrong?"

Trevon's expression immediately softened. "Nothing. I'm just waiting for you. Let's get in."

Joseph walked over and took Jasper from Natalie's arms. "Mr. Wilson, you got here pretty fast. Are you staying on the 38th floor too?"

Trevon smiled. Joseph, let's go in together."

Joseph said. "Let's go. Do you want to have a game of chess?"

Since Trevon was not able to spend time alone with Natalie that night, he agreed. After all, he rather liked Joseph. "Sure.

Your room or mine?"

Joseph said. "You've given me so much good wine. We should try some in my room."

Trevon replied readily. "Sure."

Though worried, Natalie did not say anything. Joseph assured her, saying, "Don't worry. I won't make things difficult for him. It's just a game of chess"

Ava held Natalie's arm "Natalie, everything will be fine. Joseph is a gentleman. He won't bully Trevon"

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The elevator ascended gradually to the 38th floor..

Trevon and Hackett walked into the room where Daniel had stayed earlier.

Trevon stood at the door for a few seconds before entering. He turned around and gave Natalie a contemplative look.

Natalie quickly looked away, her heart fluttering. She lowered her head and walked into her room.

Although she knew Trevon was staying at Grand Manor, she was surprised that he was staying in Daniel's room.

Sherri noticed the exchange of looks between Natalie and Trevon. She placed her arm around Natalie's shoulder. "Stop looking. Hackett said that Mr. Wilson had changed rooms. He was originally staying on the 37th floor, but he asked Jim to change his room to the 38th floor"

Natalie now realized what had happened. Once Trevon knew that Joseph had accepted him, he changed rooms immediately.

She thought that Trevon was very adept at handling all sorts of situations.

Ava had something on her mind that night. She took a shower early and hid in her room to play on the computer.

After sending Jasper back to his room, Joseph returned to his suite.

Ruby and Jasper were chasing each other in the living room. Natalie had just finished showering and was drying her hair with a towel. She sat down beside Ava and looked at the computer. "What are you doing?"

Ava's eyes were fixed on the computer as she replied, "I want to play a game with Frank tonight, so I sent him a message a while ago. However, he hasn't replied."

When Natalie heard that, she stopped wiping her hair and sat up straight. "Ava, the person you invited for a game tonight is

the boss of Lithern Club,"

Hearing this, Ava was stunned. She turned to look at Natalie inquiringly. After a while, she said, "Why didn't anyone stop me when I added his WhatsApp number? Does he know that I'm the one who hacked into his computer?"

Natalie did not know either. If Frank knew Ava was the culprit behind the matter regarding Lithern Club, most likely, he would not have given her his contact information

Since only Natalie, Ava, and Sherri knew about that matter, Natalie felt she had to ask Sherri if she had told Hackett about it.

Natalie was sure she had never told Trevon about it.

Thinking about it, she shouted in the direction of the living room, "Sherri."

Sherri walked in from the living room when she heard her name. She leaned against the door and asked suspiciously. "What's up?"

Natalie asked, "Did you tell Hackett about the incident involving Ava and Lithern Club?*

Sherri replied without hesitation, "Of course not. How can I say such a thing? Don't worry. I can keep secrets."

Ava and Natalie were relieved to hear Sherri's resolute reply.

Sniffing her body. Sherri then proceeded to take a shower. Natalie and Ava continued chatting with each other.

“Why don’t you ask him if he installed the computer system at Lithern Club himself? You should be able to gauge how much he knows from his response.”

Ava agreed that she should give it a shot and test Frank. Nodding her head, she immediately entered the site on her computer “Buddy, I heard from Trevon your computer skills are very good. Did you install the computer system at home yourself?

Frank did not reply to Ava’s message but swiftly sent out his response to this question “My friend installed it.”

Ava glanced at the computer. After confirming it multiple times, she was relieved. “Natalie, he said that someone else installed it for him.”

Natalie turned to look at the computer. She did not think Frank would lie about this matter. Satisfied, she stood up and continued to dry her hair. She reminded Ava, “Be careful. You can play a game or two with him. Just don’t let anyone know about what you did to Lithern Club.”

Ava replied, “Okay.”

After about 20 minutes later, the doorbell rang

Sherri had just come out of the bathroom. Her hair was still dripping wet, and she was wiping it dry with a towel. “Natalie, open the door. My hair is too wet.”

“Oh, okay.” Natalie opened the door and saw Hackett standing outside. He was, wearing dark blue pajamas. “Mr. Blackwell?

Hackett turned to one side and squeezed through the door, smiling. “Mr Wilson is play chess with Mr. Turner 1 lule scared to be alone, so I came over to chat with all of you”

Natalie scoffed at his lame excuse

By then, Hackett had already entered the house. However, he did not walk around. Instead, he waited patiently in the living

Inside the room. Sherri was still drying her hair behind closed doors. As the hairdryer was very loud, she did not know that Hackett was in the living room. She only realized it was him when she came out of the room

She tied up her hair casually and asked in surprise. “Why are you here?”

Hackett was playing with Ruby when he replied with a daughter.”

1. “I want to see you before I sleep. I also want to see my

Seeing how pitiful he looked. Sherri did not have the heart to chase him away

Natalie decided to leave Ava alone since the latter was busy She closed the door of her room and sat in the living room. She cast a glance at Hackett and asked, “When are you two going to meet your parents”

Both Hackett and Sherri had been together for a while and even had a child together Natalie thought it was time for them to meet each other's parents.

She was aft and that Richard would be unhappy if this matter dragged on too long

It was obvious that Sherri liked Hackett, and Hai kett would always accommodate Sherri

Hackett was playing with Ruby and Jasper when he heard that He looked up at Sherri and smiled. "I'll do whatever Sherri wishes If she's agreeable, I'll go over tonight"

Hackett knew he would be able to run away from Edward. He could not care less now since Frank had already cheated him of a large sum of money.

The ball was now on Sherri's court Feeling a little nervous, she looked at Ruby before turning to Hackett After some thought, she finally said, "Let's wait a little longer. It's my father's birthday next month"

Natalie did not say further. She could only advise them. It was up to both of them what they planned to do.

However, oftentimes, things would not go according to everyone's wishes.

Natalie decided not to probe further since Sherri had her plans. She would be happy as long as Sherri was happy.

Meanwhile, Joseph was playing chess with Trevon in his room

This time. Ethan was not with him Only Joseph and Travon were alone in the room.

One used his left hand to play chess, while the other used his right hand. There was an expensive bottle of wine on the table.

Joseph poured himself a glass of wine and said indifferently. "Mr. Wilson, you should drink some water instead"

Trevon smiled and did not pour himself any wine. He wanted to recover as soon as possible too. He had spent so much effort and time getting so close to Natalie and found his injuries to be a big nuisance

No one spoke. It was as if they were just having a game of chess. Time passed by the minute. It had been more than two hours, but no victor emerged.

Trevon did not seem to be in a hurry. He poured himself another cup of hot water and drank it slowly

Joseph said. "Do you smoke? Trevon had been in the room for hours, and Joseph had yet to see him smoke. He

remembered Pat telling him that Trevon was quite a heavy smoker.

Trevon curled his lips into a faint smile. I quit smoking"

Joseph was surprised "Is it because of Jasper?"

Trevon explained. "It's for Natalie's sake. She stopped smoking, so I should stop too."

Joseph did not know that Natalie smoked. Hearing this, his hand froze in mid-air, holding a black chess piece tightly. He stared inquiringly at Trevon, who was sitting opposite him.

When Natalie was pregnant in Sapphire Caty, she did not smoke. She also did not smoke after giving birth.

Hence, Joseph had no idea at all that Natalie smoked.

Trevon noticed the change in Joseph's expression. He was aware that Joseph did not know Natalie smoked. He slowly retracted his gaze and looked down at the chessboard as if he was the winner

He spoke up, sounding helpless "She started smoking when her mother passed away. She used to smoke before she got pregnant, although she wasn't addicted to it. She would smoke a few cigarettes whenever she was in a bad mood"

Joseph was stunned. He retracted his hand that was frozen in the air and put the chess piece back on the table. He knew what

kind of feeling it was for a woman to take up smoking as a means to numb herself from her loneliness and despair.

She found solace in smoking, using it as a coping mechanism to ease her emotions, for she had no one else to confide in or seek comfort from.

Joseph was silent for a long while. He had always been able to hide his feelings well. However, he now looked guilty and heartbroken

Trevon was comforted to know that Joseph was feeling bad for Natalie. It was good to know that another person cared for her. She deserved to have both love and kinship. He assured Joseph, I won't let her smoke again. I'll quit smoking with her."

After a while Joseph finally spoke up. "I hope you'll keep your word"

If his parents knew that Natalie used to smoke, they would be heartbroken.

Joseph knew that his father would blame himself even more. All of a sudden, Joseph's throat was dry, and his chest felt tight.

Trevon made his earlier promise not just to Joseph. It was also to himself. He said, "I will keep my promise. Besides, aren't you always keeping watch on me

The corners of Joseph's lips curled up. He poured Trevon another cup of water from the coffee pot. He looked at Trevon intently As long as you are good enough for Natalie, I won't waste any more resources on you."

Trevon shook his head, knowing full well what Joseph meant "If you have too much money and don't know how to spend them you can transfer them to my bank account. I don't mind showing off my love to her in front of you. You seem to enjoy seeing us together"

Joseph ignored him and went to the toilet. While playing chess, both men had gone to the toilet countless times.

It was an evenly matched game. Their skills were on par with each other. Joseph looked at the clock. It was already half past eleven. "Til leave Athana in four days time I have a favor to ask of you."

"Is this my honor, or should I sider myself unlucky?"

Ignoring him, Joseph continued. "Think what you like. It's about Natalie"

Immediately Trevon replied. "Its my honor then"

Joseph stopped what he was doing. The gentleness on his face was soon replaced by a serious expression. "It's about my aunt, who is also Natalie's mother. I suspect that there is more to her death. I don't have as many connections in Athana as you do. I hope you can help look into this matter"

Two years ago, Trevon had also investigated the matter. When Natalie went overseas, he had put the matter on hold. "Okay, Til take up this task"

Trevon understood Joseph's considerations. He also knew how Joseph felt when he entrusted the matter to Trevon.

Joseph could do whatever he wanted in Sapphire City. He had so much power that he could also plant spies around Trevon. However, if Joseph wanted to investigate something that happened decades ago, he had to start looking for clues from scratch. He would need to spend a lot of time and effort on it.

Trevon knew at once that Joseph made the right decision. Immediately, Trevon knew what he had to do. "Til get my friends to continue investigating. I looked into this two years ago but stopped after some time"

Joseph was surprised to hear that Trevon had investigated the matter earlier. This meant that both of them had the same thought. Who's the chef of this hotel?"

Trevon smiled and immediately replied. "Til look into this. Leave if you have to. I'll deal with this."

Joseph sneered. "Im sure you can't wait for me to leave."

Trevon retorted. "Don't tell me you want to stay and break up a loving couple"

Joseph was rendered speechless.

He decided to avert the question and warned. "Don't let Natalie know about this. If you find out any bad news, don't tell her too. It's better that she thinks that my aunt committed suicide. Also, how's the investigation of the car accident going?" Trevon's expression darkened and he said in a low voice, "I won't let her know. We're still investigating the car accident. There's some progress in this"

[Chapter 223](#)

It was already midnight

Trevon's heart was heavy when he left Joseph's room. The first person he thought of was Natalie. He quickly took out his phone and sent a message to her (Goodnight, my love)

He did not think that Joseph's suspicion was groundless. He had the same thought back then. His body stiffened when he thought that the truth might turn out to be exactly what they suspected

Natalie was lying in bed. When she was half-asleep, she felt her phone vibrate. She turned to one side and unlocked her phone. It was a message from Trevon

She scanned the message and typed. ["Have you showered"]

After sending the message, she felt her heart beat a little faster. Her face was also flushed red.

Shortly after. Trevon replied. [Are you waiting for me? Are you waiting to help me shower?]

Natalie's grip on the phone tightened. Indeed, her earlier message seemed to suggest that she was waiting to help him shower. While contemplating how to reply to him, another message from Trevon arrived. It's rather late. I won't tease you anymore. I'll keep a tally of what you owe me, and I'll collect next time, with interest |

On the chatbox, she could tell that Trevon was typing another message. Soon, another message was received. [Rest early. Good night. I miss you!]

As she read through their playful banter in the chatbox, her heart warmed with affection.

They must be deeply in love with each other. No matter how late it was at night, he would never fail to send a message to wish her good night,

The computer game between Ana and Frank was still going on. They had already played several rounds.

Ava had lost one round. She wriggled her fingers and turned to Natalie. "Natalie, what are you doing? Why do you look so happy? Did Trevon send you a message?"

Natalie concealed her feelings of joy and changed the subject. "Aren't you going to sleep? It's already midnight. Is there already a winner?"

Although Ava had lost, she still felt very happy. Both of them were evenly matched. She rarely met someone whose skills were on par with her. She beamed. "Not yet. Oh, forget it. I'll tell Buddy we'll play again another day."

As she spoke, she started to text Frank (Buddy. I'm logging off now. Let's play another day 1

Frank did not reply to Ava's message. She waited for a while and frowned. "Natalie, does Frank usually not reply to messages?"

Natalie did not know either. After all, she did not have Frank's contact information. If it was a few hours ago when Hackett was still around, she could still ask him "I don't know, but he doesn't seem to talk much"

She uttered in her heart. "Whenever he opens his mouth, only harsh words can be heard. Who can tolerate such rudeness?"

Suddenly, Natalie got curious. She turned sideways on the bed and supported her head with one hand. "Why did you call him Buddy?"

Ava was not bothered by Frank's non-reply. She turned off the computer and placed it on the table. She climbed onto the bed and lay down. With her hands supporting her chin, she said, "Natalie, don't you think he's very handsome?"

Natalie was taken aback. She started to wonder if Ava had fallen for Frank.

She knew that Frank was not someone Ava could handle. Although he was handsome, he was also aloof and tough-looking. It was obvious that he was not an easy person to get along with

Natalie warned Ava, "Ava, don't mess around with him. He's not one to be trifled with"

Tilting her head to one side. Ava pondered for a while. "Is he that difficult to get along with? He seems fine, although he doesn't like to talk much"

Natalie asked, "Did he reply to your messages tonight?"

Ava shook her head, looking disappointed. They played several rounds of computer games that night, and Ava would send him messages to ask him some technical questions regarding the game. However, he did not reply to any of her messages.

Indeed, he was very cold.

Ava was the one attacking him throughout the night. In turn, he had launched a counter-attack. Other than playing games, there was no interaction between them.

Frank did not seem provoked even when Ava teased him mercilessly during the game. He merely continued playing after each loss.

Ava supported her head with her hand, pouting. "No. He didn't reply to a single message."

Natalie did not expect any reply from Frank too. She remembered that Sherri tried to flirt with Frank at the cafe. Back then, he told her he liked women who did not talk a lot.

At that time, he rejected Sherri without any regard for her feelings. Natalie figured that he only gave his WhatsApp ID to Ava on Trevon's account. He was not obliged to respond to Ava after that.

Natalie was convinced that was how Frank felt. No matter how much Ava teased him, he would not respond to her messages. Perhaps it was true that he liked women who talked less

Ava was talkative, playful, quirky, and competitive. She was especially strong-willed. Indeed, she would not be someone Frank would like. It was a good thing that Frank ignored Ava right from the beginning.

Natalie turned to look at the phone she was holding in her hand to look at the time. It was already 40 minutes past 12. She stood up and stroked Ava's head. "Hurry up and go to sleep. Frank is not someone you can mess with. It's fine to exchange pointers on computer games. Just don't think about anything else"

Ava suddenly sat up and snorted, "Hmmp, I must make him talk. Don't you think it's uncomfortable for him to hold it in and not speak? I'm sure he will suffocate to death."

Natalie was rendered speechless by that remark.

She wanted to tell Ava that it was holding all inside him. It was Frank's personality. Some people were introverted, while others were extroverted. Both Ava and Frank belonged to different worlds.

The next morning, Ava arrived at the airport in Athana.

She wore a gray pleated skirt and a white blouse with puffed sleeves, and her hair was tied up in a high ponytail. She looked like a high school student, innocent and youthful. It was impossible for anyone to harbor inappropriate thoughts about her.. Any ill intentions about her would be considered criminal.

Ava stood at the exit and looked around. Ethan stood on one side, watching over her. Not once did he speak up.

Perhaps Ava had been too engrossed looking around that she did not notice someone standing near her. Frank had already been here for a while. He narrowed his eyes and sized up Ava.

Frank thought. "She's too young. So what if she's good-looking? It feels criminal to even harbor any thoughts about her."

Ava turned around and saw a man standing near her. He stood out among the crowd, and she noticed him immediately. The handsome man looked very conspicuous, and she could pick him out with just one glance.

Frank was dressed very casually that day. He always liked to have a neat and simple appearance. He was wearing a pair of jeans and a white T-shirt. Perhaps the weather was too hot that his sweater was draped loosely around his shoulders with the two sleeves tight in a knot.

There was a roguish charm about him.

For a moment, Ava was startled by his appearance. The corners of her mouth soon curled up into a coy smile. "Buddy, are you here to pick someone up too?"

Frank glanced at the person standing in front of him and replied, "Yes."

Ava thought, "Don't you have anything else to say? Can't you say something more? Won't you suffocate to death by keeping everything inside? I'll suffocate to death if I were you."

Ava, the chatterbox. simply would not keep quiet. She continued to find a topic to talk to Frank Buddy, why didn't you reply to my message yesterday?"

Frank did not answer. He was wearing black sunglasses, so his eyes were not visible. The sunglasses were very large, covering half of his face. Hence, his face also could not be seen clearly.

Refusing to give up. Ava continued to chatter away. She was determined to make Frank talk. "Buddy, are you born under the sign of Capricorn?"

Ethan felt a little embarrassed for Ava. She was talking non-stop, yet Frank seemed to be ignoring her. It was as if he was dead

Ava's face soon wore a sense of defeat. Noticing her crestfallen expression through the lens of his sunglasses, Frank replied,

"No."

His answer got Ava excited. "Buddy, you're finally talking to me. Your voice sounds nice. You should open your mouth and

talk more in the future."

Frank suddenly stood up straight and strode toward the exit.

Ava turned around and looked in the direction where he was heading.

Someone wearing a pair of light-colored denim ripped pants and a light green off-shoulder shirt walked out. Both her hands were placed on the handles of two large white suitcases. She was also wearing a pair of white slippers.

Her straight hair draped over her shoulders like a cascading waterfall. However, her hair was not the same color as a waterfall. She was also wearing a pair of sunglasses, hiding her exquisite facial features.

A limited-edition black bucket bag was slung on one side.

Her outfit looked casual yet feminine.

The ensemble presented multiple styles, yet she managed to carry the style exceptionally well. She did not look out of place at all.

The woman tossed her luggage to one side and ran toward Ava. She hugged Ava, asking, "Ava, my princess, do you miss me?"

Ava smiled sincerely and replied softly. "Yes, I miss you. You should have come back yesterday. We had a barbecue party."

The girl let go of Ava and perched her sunglasses on top of her head. Ignoring Frank, she casually tossed her hair behind her shoulders. "It's fine. I'll bring you out to have some fun these few days"

Frank looked at the woman's outfit through his sunglasses and frowned. He scoffed inwardly. "What is this woman wearing? The jeans are ripped from her knees. If not for the limited edition bag, I would have thought that she could not afford to buy a new pair of pants."

He walked up to them and casually pulled the suitcases that the girl had tossed aside, asking, "Where do

The girl's smile froze, and she put on an arrogant demeanor. "I want to stay at your house"

Frank ignored her and strode toward the door with her suitcases.

you live?

It was then that Ava realized that she and Frank were picking up the same person. They were both here for Rose. However, she wondered what was his relationship with Rose. Ava was a straightforward person who spoke her mind. "Rose, is that your boyfriend?"

The girl snorted, "Hmph, do you think I'm masochistic? Why would I find a boyfriend who doesn't say more than ten words a day? Do you think I want to stare at him all day

Ava could feel Rose's blatant disdain for Frank. Although she was certain, she still felt compelled to ask again. "So he's not your boyfriend

Rose did not know that Ava and Frank had already added each other's WhatsApp numbers and had even played computer games together. She said disapprovingly, "I have perfect eyesight. Only a blind person will like him."

She added, "Much as I hate to admit this, he's my biological brother."

Ava stopped walking, shocked. She widened her eyes in disbelief. "He's your brother?"

Rose raised her hands and shrugged, acknowledging that Ava was right.

Ava asked again. "Rose, didn't you say your last name is Wild?"

Rose laughed and squeezed Ava's shoulders tightly. She found Ava to be very adorable. "Silly girl, I gave myself that last name. Who will have a last name such as Wild?"

Speechless, Ava found the response unbelievable.

[Chapter 224](#)

Rose's arm was still around Ava's shoulder when they walked out of the airport. However, from Frank's angle, he could see that Ava was still in shock while Rose looked happy

It was apparent that Ava did not know about their relationship. She must be dumbfounded by the news.

Frank placed Rose's suitcases into the trunk of his Porsche. He then leaned lazily against the driver's door, his entire body slouched on the car. He started to smoke, his hand holding a cigarette. When he saw Rose, he threw the cigarette on the ground and stepped on it

After putting out the cigarette, he opened the car door and got into the driver's seat. He rolled down the window and placed one hand on the ledge. He shouted offhandedly at Rose. "Are you leaving?"

Hearing this, Rose cast a glance at Frank and slowly released Ava's shoulder. She then patted Ava's shoulder. "Ava, let me put my stuff at home first. I'll bring you to a fun place tonight. As your sister and Sherri to come along. It's my treat"

Ava was curious "Where are we going?"

Rose smiled mysteriously. It will be lots of fun. Wear something pretty Ah, forget it. You're already very good-looking. I'll leave I'll contact you later Goodbye!

Rose rushed to the front passenger seat and blew Ava a kiss before getting in

Ava stood at the door and watched

the Porsche drive off With her hands on her hips, she let out a sigh. She then turned to Ethan and asked. "Ethan, tell me Why are the personalities of children born from the same parents so different? Is it due to

genetic mutations?"

Ethan did not understand her question "Miss Ava, I don't know anything about this matter, so I can't give you the right

Ava waved her hand dismissively. "Forget it. I shouldn't get too bothered about this. Let's go back and get some sleep"

In the car

car, Rose at the front passenger seat, looking relaxed.

Sensing the silence in the car, she started fiddling with the display screen. She grumbled, "What a lousy car"

Frank pretended not to hear her complaint. He did not even turn his head. "So you've decided to come back? Didn't you say you're going to stay in Sapphire City and not come back? I was planning to buy you a tombstone there."

Rowe rolled her eyes. "I'll come bas

annoying

want to. It is none of your business. Go on, play some soothing music. You're so

Frank retorted. "If you're so umurt don't ever come back. And don't step into my house."

The two siblings had never gotten along since they were young. Whenever they met, they would start arguing. Rose despised Fra for not helping her whenever their parents chaded her Instead. Frank would always rub salt into her wound.

Over the years, their mutual dislike grew to the point where they were always in conflict with one another, resulting in a contentious relationship marked by constant barking

Rose shamelessly shrugged Tm sorry I have no choice You can disown me as your sister if you dare. As long as you're my brother you have to let me stay in your house. There's nothing I can do"

She added "Besides, you're always not home. You should thank me for looking after your house"

Frank glared hercely at her, but Rose was not intimidated. She even stuck out her tongue playfully and smirked. "You don't have to thank me with such a look"

Frank muttered in his heart. Which kind of sister is she?" He said coldly to her. "Are you dying to get walloped?"

Rose ignored his question "Transfer some money to my bank account. I want to treat my little sister to a meal tonight." Aghast to see her demanding money from him. Frank sneered, "What happened to your pride? Weren't the one who declared you'd make a name for yourself? Seems like all your ego has vanished in Sapphire City"

you

Rose retorted. "Pride and ego are worthless. Ive thought it through. Why should I make things difficult for myself? It's good to just laze around and do nothing I have a brother who is a millionaire. Why should I live like a pauper! From today onwards, you will have to support me"

Frank turned the steering wheel with one hand and tilted his head to look at Rose. He wondered what had happened to her When their parents did not allow her to go to Sapphire City, she threatened to sever ties with them. She was so rebellious then. What made her go back to him after staying in Sapphire City for a few years?"

“Are you sure there’s nothing wrong with you? Have you fallen out of love? Did you suffer some setback in life?”

Rose answered sharply. “Do you have any idea about my love life? Do you even know how many relationships you and Mum have interfered with on my behalf”

Frank kept quiet. He did not think he had done anything
ng concerning this matter. Neither did he want to explain
himself, even if Rose still had not gotten over it

Rose lounged on the back of the seat, looking like she had seen through life. Tve finally come to my senses. I read many novels recently and have a lot of thoughts about life. I want to enjoy life before I die. I’ll fall in love as I wish and go to work whenever I want to Ill enjoy life to the fullest. This is the true meaning of life”

Frank no longer wanted to argue with her. He was certain there was something wrong with Rose.

Her mind was filled with strange thoughts.

Meanwhile, at Grand Manor. Natalie had just woken up. A ray of sunlight sneaked in through the gap in the curtains. reflecting onto the pristine beddings and warming her heart.

Jasper had been waking up very late these few days. Most days, he only woke up at nine o’clock.

Natalie picked up her phone and looked at the time. It was already nine o’clock. Placing her phone back on the bedside table, she turned to look at Jasper, who was sleeping soundly beside her.

She looked at hun with adoring eyes.

Just then, the vibrating sound of her phone brought her back to her senses. She took up her phone again. It was a text message from Trevon [Are you awake?]

She slowly sat up and leaned her body against the headboard. She typed her reply. [I’m awake. Have you had breakfast?]

Trevon replied. [No. I want to have breakfast with you. What do you want to eat? I’ll get some food for you at the restaurant.]

A feeling of contentment washed over her. She felt a sense of deja vu as she thought about those times when both of them were dating. It was such a warm sensation thinking that someone was thinking of her and showing concern for her. [I want to milk, toast, and macaroni. Do they have low-fat macaroni in the restaurant? If not, just get some pasta for me.]

Trevon replied. I can surely find all the food you want. Even if the restaurant doesn’t have them. I’ll make sure I bring them to you.]

Natalie did not know how to respond to his reply. His words seemed to imply that he would see that her every need was taken care of and that she was his top priority. [All right then. I’ll go and wash up first. Oh, can you get a bowl of cereal for Jasper’]

Trevon said. [Yes, I'll bring him some cereal with milk. He's too short. He needs more nutrients for his body]

Natalie was speechless.

His son was less than two years old. How could he compare to Trevon's height of 59 feet? If a two- year- old child was that tall, he would be a monster.

Half an hour later, Trevon stood outside the door and pressed the doorbell. He was already dressed and holding their breakfast in his left hand.

Natalie had already washed up. She was not helping Jasper to get dressed when she heard the doorbell ring. Immediately. she got up to open the door. The first thing she noticed was the tray that Trevon was holding. It was full of all kinds of food. She reached out to help him, but he quickly moved aside. She did not insist. Instead, she asked, "Why did you bring so much food here**

The impeccably dressed Trevon placed the tray of food on the dining table and said, "I brought food for everyone else. We shouldn't eat by ourselves."

Natalie turned around and glanced at the closed bedroom door. She knew that Sherri was still sleeping. However, she thought it strange that Hackett did not follow Trevon to her room. "Why didn't Mr. Blackwell come with you?"

Trevon said in disdain, "He spent the whole night on a video call with Miss Landor. He's still asleep"

As soon as he finished speaking, he walked over and wrapped his left arm around her waist. He pulled her closer to him and kissed her lips. "Let's have breakfast, okay?"

Both of them were standing in a rather compromising position. Natalie could feel her heart pounding faster. She blushed as Trevon leaned closer to her. He was going to kiss her again.

Suddenly, the door knob turned, and Ava walked out of the room merrily. She caught Trevon and Natalie kissing.

Despite never being in a relationship herself, Ava, being a university student, was accustomed to witnessing such kissing scenes on campus and on television. Unfazed by their display of affection, she playfully covered her eyes with her hand. "Apologies. Natalie and Trevon. You may carry on with your kissing. I'll go back to my room"

She discreetly observed their reaction through the gaps between her fingers. Embarrassed, Natalie quickly pushed Trevon away. She said to him reproachfully, "Go ahead and eat your breakfast. I'll bring Jasper over."

She then turned around and hastily ran back into the bedroom

Trevon was not upset at all. He simply smiled, finding Natalie utterly adorable when she appeared shy.

He turned to Ava, who was still pretending to cover her eyes. "Stop acting. Open your eyes. Have you had your breakfast?"

Ava shook her head and smiled sheepishly. "No."

Trevon turned around and gestured at the breakfast on the dining table. 'Go and have some breakfast. Take whatever you

like

Ava was famished. She had gone to the airport early in the morning to pick Rose up and had not eaten her breakfast. Initially, she wanted to have breakfast with Rose. Little did she expect Frank to bring Rose away.

Her eyes lit up when she saw the amount of food on the table. "Trevon, you're awesome."

The blush on Natalie's face had subsided. Holding Jasper's hand, she led him to the dining room. Trevon was not eating his breakfast. Instead, he was leaning against the door and waiting for them. Puzzled, she asked, "Why aren't you eating?"

Trevon held Jasper's hand with his left hand and said, "I wanted to wait for you. We already agreed to have breakfast together"

He then carried Jasper to the chair with one hand. "I'll feed him. Go ahead and eat first."

Natalie was pleased with his gentlemanly behavior. However, he was still injured while she was perfectly fine. "Let me do it. You're still injured, she offered, showing her concern.

"I can still use my left hand. You should start eating. Trevon insisted on feeding Jasper. Natalie did not insist and let Trevon have his way.

During breakfast. Ava remained lost in her thoughts and did not engage in much conversation. From time to time, she would

say something, but her mind seemed preoccupied with other thoughts.

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Halfway through breakfast, Sherri's room door opened.

Everyone seated at the dining table turned to look in that direction.

Ruby ran out of the room, wearing a pretty pink dress. She went straight to Jasper, calling out in a soft voice, "Jasper"

Jasper was eating the cereal that Trevon had taken for him. He did not like cereal at all. He preferred food that tasted sweet. Unfortunately, he had to force himself to eat them since his father had brought them for him.

He ate his breakfast glumly "In"

Seeing this, Natalie stroked Ruby's braid gently "Ruby, what would you like to eat? Do you want some cereal?"

Ruby nodded Natalie then carried her onto a chair. She served her a bowl of cereal and fed her a spoonful

Leaning on his chair. Trevon looked at Ruby. He was rather fond of the adorable girl. "She's a good girl. The only problem is she looks like Hackett

Natalie kicked him under the table and shot him an angry look. "Eat your breakfast. Ruby is such a beautiful girl. If you're jealous of Hackett, just say so."

Instead of getting angry. Trevon quipped, "Why don't you bear me a daughter?"

Natalie was at a loss for words

Ava grinned as she watched both of them bicker. She, too, longed to be in love. "Natalie, I hope you and Trevon can always be so happy together"

The corners of Trevon's lips curled into a smile. He was pleased to hear what Ava just said. "Of course, we'll always be happy. Where do you want to go this afternoon? I'll make the necessary arrangements."

His tone was lighthearted and happy.

Just then, Sherri had already changed into her clothes and strolled out of her room. She looked like she had not fully woken up. "I heard you bickering from inside the room. You've been flirting so much that I already feel full *

Natalie retorted. "Well then you can go hungry. Otherwise, you may be too stuffed after that"

Sherri started to panic "How can you do this to me? Aren't we the best of friends? How can you be so blinded by love that you forget about your friends"

Trevon continued to feed Jasper. When he saw that Jasper had almost finished eating, he said to the boy. "Get down and go play Take care of Ruby"

Jasper replied offhandedly, "Sure

Sherri looked at Jasper's reaction and sighed. "Mr. Wilson, I can tell right away that Jasper is your son without performing at

DNA test"

Jasper was already a cold and distant boy at such a young age. He might grow up to be more unapproachable and aloof than

Tra

If that happened, no girl would be able to get close to him.

Trevon was silent for a while before he asked, "Am I that cold"

Thinking that Trevon was not that difficult to get along with, Sherri decided to be a little bolder "You're a very cold person. Don't you know that when you don't speak, there seems to be an almost impermeable barrier surrounding you?"

Trevon's expression remained unchanged, treating Sherri's remarks as compliments. "I'm a very disciplined person. I won't attract unwanted attention."

Sherri wondered if Trevon was trying to insinuate something.

Instantly, the atmosphere became clully. Natalie tried to change the subject. She turned to Ava, "Ava, did you pick Rose up this morning? Why didn't she come back with you?"

Ava took a tissue to wipe her lips and began to tell them the shocking news. "Natalie, do you know who I met when I went to pick Rose up this morning?"

Sherri and Natalie asked in unison, "Who is it?"

Trevon had already finished his breakfast. He sat calmly by the side and scrolled through the news on his phone. The corners of his mouth curled up slightly. No one could make out what he was thinking.

Ava's expression was complex. "My buddy, Frank.*

Sherri's eyes widened.

Natalie did not know what to say.

Trevon merely smiled. Sherri and Natalie were too distracted by the news of Frank's appearance at the airport to notice Tirus sur

Natalie regained her senses first. "Why did Frank pick Rose up? Did she leave with him?"

Before Ava could say anything, Sherri asked, "Are they a couple?"

Ava shook her head. She asked Rose the same question. "Rose said that Buddy is her brother. He is her blood brother." She nodded to reiterate her point, thinking both of them would doubt her words.

Sherri thought of Rose's last name and asked, "Isn't her last name Wild?"

Ava replied, "Yes. Rose said she gave herself that last name. Her real last name is Roberts."

Natalie was speechless.

She suddenly realized that Trevon would know something about it. She quickly turned to him. "Are the siblings not on good

terms?"

There must be a reason for Rose to use Wild as her last name.

Trevon touched his tongue to his lips and stifled a laugh. "They're bitter enemies."

Ava became anxious. "Does that mean Rose is in danger? Will they fight

Trevon looked from Ava's innocent yet nervous expression to Natalie's warning look. He knew she was telling him not to keep them in suspense any longer. He stopped teasing them and said. "They only bicker with each other. They do not fight. one another physically"

Ave heaved a sigh of relief. However, she still had not fully digested the news

Not only Ava but both Sherri and Natalie were also still in shock. It was such a small world. The real name of Jasper and Ruby's pediatrician in Sapphire City was actually Rose Roberts.

It was such a coincidence that she was also Frank's biological sister.

Moreover, Frank was a close friend of Hackett and Trevon. It seemed that fate had intertwined their paths in a remarkable coincidence. It was indeed an unexpected turn of events.

After breakfast, Trevon tricked Natalie into going into his room. He gave the excuse that she did not help him to shower the night before

When they entered, Trevon told Natalie to wait in his room first. He then went into Hackett's room and pulled him out of bed. Your girlfriend is looking for you. Get up quickly. Go and go parify her."

Hackett lay motionless on the bed. If not for the fact that he was still breathing, Trevon would have thought that he was dead. After a while, he muttered. "Don't disturb me. I want to sleep. I'm so tired."

Trevon had the urge to throw Hackett out of the room. However, he restrained himself since the latter had a hold on him.

Natalie waited for a long time, but Trevon did not go into the room. She decided to go out to take a look. Just then, she saw Trevon about to splash a glass of water onto the bed.

Seeing this, she quickly stopped him. When she saw Hackett sleeping like a log, she took the glass of water from Trevon's left hand. "What are you doing?"

Trevon said indifferently, "I want to wake him up

"Who wakes people up this way? He can continue sleeping while you take your shower. He won't bother you at all."

Trevon suddenly leaned close to her ear. I'm afraid you will be held back by his presence."

Natalie's heart skipped a beat, and her face flushed red. Bracing herself, she grabbed his arm and pulled him out of the room. She then closed the door so Hackett could continue sleeping.

Both of them went into Trevon's room, and Trevon used his foot to close the door. He then locked the door and smiled. "How are you going to help me shower?"

Natalie lowered her head, staring blankly at the shiny tiles on the floor. "Why don't I help you wipe your body?"

His height towered over her by more than a whole head, and now, with her head lowered, he appeared even more superior, looking down at her with a smirk on his lips. He lied, "I haven't showered for several days. The doctor said I can't get wet"

If Jim were present, he would have blurted out that Trevon's sleeves were specially customized. They were waterproof

Natalie knew that things would not be so simple after she came into the room. She was already prepared for Trevon's tricks. She clenched her hands into fists and released them. She raised her head, looking like she was facing a death sentence She urged, Hurry up."

She then strode into the bathroom. Trevon was amused to see how Natalie was pretending to be calm. He followed after

her into the bathroom, locking the door.

Natalie was walking in front when she heard the sound of the door being locked. It made her heart race even faster. The blush on her cheeks, which had not yet faded, deepened. With her back turned to him, she asked, "Why did you lock the door?"

Trevon's gaze was fixed on her waist, and his eyes were filled with complex emotions. "I'm afraid Hackett will peek at us."

Natalie was at a loss for words.

He had made his intentions clear. Yet he was scheming enough to push the blame to Hackett.

There was plenty of space in the bathroom. He stood still, waiting for her to undress him.

Natalie took a deep breath and walked toward him. She slowly removed the straps of the bandage from his hands and placed them on the sink. With her face flushed red, she asked, "I'll go look for the plastic wrap."

Just as she was about to walk away, Trevon held her in his embrace. He hugged her with one hand, preventing her from moving. "You will help me change if I'm wet, am I right? Mrs. Wilson, I haven't changed in two days."

His warm breath brushed against her rosy cheeks, causing her heart to skip a beat. She tugged at his shirt. "Hurry up and wash up. The water is ready."

Trevon wanted to take a shower, but Natalie had already filled the bathtub with water. He insisted, "I want to take a shower."

Natalie objected. If he used the shower, she would inevitably get wet too. "Your hand is injured. You shouldn't take a shower. You should use the bathtub. You're the patient. Listen to the doctor."

Trevon teased. "I'll listen to my doctor, Mrs. Wilson."

Natalie's mind inexplicably thought of role-playing.

Shaking away her thoughts, she tried to breathe normally. She reached out and unbuttoned his shirt, her fingers accidentally brushing against his skin. She instinctively drew back her fingers before undoing the remaining buttons. Meanwhile, Trevon continued to stare at a nervous Natalie, who was forcing herself to be calm. He did not disturb or tease her. He was waiting to see what she would do next.

Natalie slowly took off his shirt. She stopped and looked at his pants. They needed to be removed as well. She rolled his sleeves to his elbows and said, "Remove the pants yourself. Otherwise, you have to wash yourself. Take your pick."

The warmth from the hot water soon enveloped both of them, intensifying the already heated atmosphere. Her cheeks turned even redder, and the sight of the fair skin of her neck stirred enticing thoughts in Trevon.

Trevon swallowed hard several times. He smiled but did not say a word. He obediently took off his pants, wearing only his

underwear

Natalie unintentionally caught a glimpse of the part that was sticking out. Her face instantly turned red as she looked at the pair of white underwear. She quickly looked away “Sit inside. Put your hand outside the bathtub,”

Initially, Natalie thought that he would tease her. However, he was unexpectedly compliant and raised his hand as instructed. He obediently washed himself when she told him to do so.

Half an hour later, his arm still got wet. Seeing that Natalie’s touch was not gentle, he sneered, “You look like you’re washing

clothes

Natalie rolled her eyes at him. “Other than Jasper. I’ve never showered anyone else to shower. You should be happy that I’m helping you to shower. Don’t be so picky. If you’re not satisfied, you can get Mr. Hawk to help you,”

The smile on his lips widened. “I’m satisfied, of course. As long as you’re the one showering me, I’m happy. I always hope you will save all your first times for me”

Natalie knew what he meant by her first time and ignored him. “Get up. Wipe yourself clean and get out. I’ll change your dressing

Trevon stood up in the bathtub. “I need a rinse. I’m covered in bubbles.”

“Okay, be careful

Trevon’s mind was too corrupted. Embarrassed, Natalie did not want to stay any longer in the bathroom. She only felt guilty that he was injured because Joseph wanted to settle scores with him.

Now that his arm was already wet, she decided not to help him shower anymore. “I’ll go out first. Shower and come out” Trevon did not stop her. He knew that she was embarrassed. “Your service isn’t good at all. You didn’t help me clean up” “There’s no such service. Natalie quickly walked out of the bathroom and closed the door. Leaning against the wall, her breathing started to get heavier. Trevon had been tempting her too much

She used her hand to fan her face continuously. She had to calm herself down.

[Chapter 226](#)

A few minutes later. Trevon walked out of the bathroom with a white towel wrapped around his torso. His body was not completely dry. Water droplets cascaded from his chest, trickling along the well-defined contours of his abdomen and finally landing on the towel

Natalie was waiting by the bed with a first-aid kit. Her gaze fell upon his sturdy chest and perfectly sculpted eight-pack abs, emitting an enticing aura of hormones from his entire body.

She closed her eyes. Wipe yourself dry “

Trevon curled his lips into a wicked smile. “I can’t reach some parts of my body. You have to help me.”

Natalie walked over, suppressing the flutters in her heart. She went to the bathroom to get a clean towel and brusquely wiped his back dry. She then threw the towel to him, "Wipe off the water on the front yourself."

Trevon let out a laugh. "Are you painting a piece of wood? It's so · haphazard"

Natalie ignored his protests "You're not going to parade your body in public. Why does it have to be so clean and precise?"

Trevon did not argue further. He chuckled and looked at her, amused Tossing the towel to one side, he sat down by the bed.

Natalie carefully changed the dressing on his right hand and his palm. By the time she finished changing the wound, the blush on her face had already dissipated

She was so focused on dressing the wound that she entertained no other thoughts.

Soon, she started to pack the first aid kit. Trevon caught her hand and wrapped his arm around her waist, pulling her down to sit on his lap

Their eyes met. She knew what he wanted. She also understood the longing in his eyes. However, she pushed his chest away. "Stop it You're injured."

Pleased that he had hit the nail on the head, he said, "So it's okay if I'm not hurt?"

His voice carried a hint of temptation and seduction.

She sat on his lap, and their heads were almost the same height. Before she knew it, his lips touched hers, and they indulged in a passionate kiss. It started gently, gradually deepening until they reached the most intimate connection.

Their breathing became heavier. His hand rubbed against her waist, stroking it gently. It sent shivers through her body, causing her toes to curl in delight.

His eyes were bloodshot as he said in a low voice. "Darling, do you want to inspect my body? I'm still a pure man. I was so foolish in the past. You can check my body if you don't believe me."

This was the first time he had called her Darling Her heart was already in turmoil. Now she felt her emotions surge further.

However, she did not show her true feelings. Natalie rested her head below his chin as his breathing grew louder. She said softly. "I'm a surgeon, not a urologist."

Besides, it sounded so crude to inspect his body in such an ambiguous manner.

Natalie was rendered speechless by Trevon's next remark. He leaned closer to her ear, causing the atmosphere in the room to intensify. Both professions extract parts of a body. Isn't it the same?"

Her highly charged emotions calmed down at that very instant. She felt annoyed yet amused. How could it be possible to have such contrasting feelings at the same time!

Natalie did not know how to respond. Trevon was too shameless.

He leaned close to her ear again and whispered something. After saying that, he smiled with a look of anticipation. Seeing his pitiful and longing expression, Natalie nodded without thinking

About an hour later. Natalie left the room angrily. She bumped into Hackett, who happened to open the door of his room. He was shocked to see her “Natalie?”

Natalie nodded and quickly hid her hand behind her back. She then hurried out of the room.

Although Hackett had only one intimate encounter, he was still perceptive about such matters. One look at Natalie’s expression, and he could guess what Trevon had done. His sleepiness that was lingering vanished in an instant, awakened by his curiosity.

He strode into Trevon’s room, where Natalie had left the door open. Trevon was standing in front of the wardrobe, trying to put on a white shirt, siniling. The towel was still wrapped around his waist.

Hackett leaned lazily against the door frame and teased, “You’re already so energetic in the morning Aren’t you afraid of injuring your waist?”

As Trevon was in high spirits, he ignored Hackett. He was still satisfied, although he did not have his way with Natalie.

Hackett continued, “Tell me about it. You used such a short time this morning. Has it been so long that you rushed into things”

Immediately. Trevon pulled off the towel around his waist and threw it at Hackett’s face

Hackett started cursing loudly, but Trevon ignored him. “Are you sick in your mind? The towel is so dirty. This is disgusting”

Trevon smirked. “It has my smell too. Breathe in deeply. Doesn’t it smell good?”

From Trevon’s comment, Hackett finally understood what happened. “You’re sick. So what if you got your satisfaction this morning? There are so many disgusting people in the world, but you are the worst.”

Hackett was indignant. He, too, had a girlfriend who could satisfy him.

When Natalie got back to her room, the living room was bustling with activity. Sherri and Ava were chatting merrily Ruby and Jasper were playing with Lego blocks. The atmosphere was harmonious and joyful.

Sherri turned to look at Natalie, whose face was a little red. “What’s wrong with you? Did you go for a walk with Mr. Wilson

Natalie felt a little guilty. Tm fine. Im just a little hot Maybe the air conditioning is too strong. I’m going to take a shower.”

Her hand was still in her pocket, still shaking. If Sherri saw her hand, she would be able to guess what had happened.

Sherri shouted after her as she entered the bathroom. “Hurry up and wash up. Rose is bringing us out to have some fun tonight. We should settle the kids before that”

Distracted, Natalie replied offhandedly. "Okay"

She quickly locked the bathroom door and removed her hand from her pocket. Staring at the skin between her thumb and index finger, which had turned red, she trembled slightly. The unsettling scene flashed across her mind again. Even his breathing seemed to echo in her ears.

The emotions that were initially fading away surged back in an instant.

Natalie undressed and stood under the showerhead. She then turned on the warm water and rinsed herself.

Meanwhile, in the living room. Ava was thinking of how to settle the kids. She asked Sherri cautiously, "Sherri, do you think we should let Trevon and Hackett take care of Jasper and Ruby?"

Sherri slapped her thigh, thinking that it was a brilliant idea. "Your brain is working well. It's not a bad idea at all. I'll get Hackett to come over."

Hackett's phone rang while he was desperately washing his face. He wiped his face furiously and cursed. "Pervert, do you think everyone likes to smell your body scent?"

Fishing his phone from his pocket. Hackett saw the message from Sherri. She wanted him to go to her room. It was already half past ten in the morning.

Tossing the towel into the trash can, he made his way to Sherri's room.

The doorbell rang, and Sherri opened the door. Hackett was standing outside the door, beaming. "Do you miss me?"

I do miss you. I want you to be a nanny today'

She continued, "Come in. I have something to tell you. I'm going to meet a friend with Natalie and Ava tonight. You'll have to take care of Ruby

Hackett did not expect Sherri to say that. "Aren't you going to bring me along?"

Sherri said, "It's only for girls. How can we bring you men along? Just stay here and take good care of Ruby. Im going out to have some fun."

Hackett was reluctant, but on second thought, he wondered if Trevon also had to stay behind. "What about that rascal, Trevon Does he take care of his son too?"

Ava quipped, "If Natalie comes along. Trevon will have to babysit Jasper"

Hackett instantly felt much better At least he was not the only one left alone.

Ten minutes later, Natalie came out of the bathroom. She was embarrassed to see Hackett grinning at her. She coughed lightly and said, "Sherri, what did you say just now? I didn't hear everything"

Sherri pretended to sound mysterious. "Don't ask anything. Anyway, Rose says it's a secret. She's inviting us out to have fun. I've already made plans for Ruby. What do you plan to do with Jasper?"

Natalie asked. "How did you plan to settle Ruby?"

Sherri raised her chin, gesturing at Hackett.

Natalie immediately understood what she meant. "That doesn't sound like a good idea."

Sherri insisted, "What's wrong with that? He's the child's father. We are the ones who've been taking care of the children. It's perfectly okay for the men to take care of the kids for a day."

Natalie felt Sherri's reasoning sounded logical and decided to do the same. As she spoke, she took out her phone and sent a

jessage to Trevon. I have something on tonight. I'll send Jasper to you this afternoon.]

Trevon replied immediately. [Huh? Where are you going?]

Natalie wrote, [Just tell me if you'll do it. Don't poke your nose into our business.]

Trevon sent a smiling emoji followed by the message. [You're quite hot-tempered today. All right then, since you're so tired. today. I'll take care of my son]

Shortly after. Natalie received a notification of a bank transfer. The amount was two million dollars.

Natalie was at a loss for words. She did not know what was it for.

Trevon then sent her another message [My woman doesn't have to worry about money. Buy whatever you want. If it's not enough. I'll transfer more money to you]

Once again, she felt that domineering was a very apt description of Trevon.

[Chapter 227](#)

The colorful and glittering lights shone brightly on the stage, and the music was at the maximum volume. It did no noisy amidst the rowdiness. Instead, it appeared to be a refreshing change in the environment.

One could listen attentively as the body and mind moved with the rhythm of the music. All the frustrations of the day. longing, entanglements, and emotions were cast away in this place. The bar hail always been a place where many people sought transient joy.

The temporary numbness of unpleasant emotions was, in fact, an illusion. Many people understood, but they chose to indulge in self-deception

They were only seeking a brief moment of release and a chance to let go and unwind.

The VIP seats on the second floor attracted the attention of the people on the first floor. Many of them looked up to admire VIPS. Many wished they had a pair of wings and could fly straight to them.

The four women sat in pairs. Not only were they dressed beautifully, but they also possessed enviable looks, figures, and charm.

However, not everyone was allowed to go up to the second floor. The second-generation heirs on the first floor were eager to reach out to them, but alas, they seemed unattainable.

The table was full of fruit wine, non-alcoholic beverages, yogurt, fruits, nuts, and potato chips. The food seemed a little out of place in the bar

The area did not seem to belong to a bar. Instead, it looked like a movie theater.

Natalie, dressed in a pair of jeans and a simple shirt, was seated comfortably on the couch. She was supporting her head with one hand. She warned Ava. "You can only drink non-alcoholic beverages or yogurt."

After much cajoling, Joseph finally allowed Ava to go to the bar. Although she was surrounded by Joseph's men, she was still delighted that she could come out that night. Tim not going to drink any alcohol. If I drink any wine, Joseph won't allow me to come out in the future"

The playful Ava was already planning for future nights out. Seeing how disciplined Ava was, Natalie did not say any further.

Sherri had not been to a bar for a long time. She scanned the people on the dance floor on the first floor and asked Ava. "There is only one bar worth going to, and that is Lathern Club"

Rose took a sip of the fruit wine and shrugged. "It Cranky Franky can't even earn money from his businesses, he should just disappear from the face of the earth."

Sherri was stunned to hear Frank's nickname. Although she found the nickname to be very apt for him, it still sounded strange. "Cranky Franky?"

"Rose, can I ask you a question? Are you sure he's your blood brother?"

Rose said disdainfully. "It can't be more real than this. I hate to admit this, but he is truly my brother."

Sherri sighed. "Hey, why do you change so much after you've grown up? I remember that we were sitting together in class, you are very fat. Look at your figure now"

After Sherri finished speaking, she gestured around Rose's body to illustrate the significant difference between now and

then

Rose leaned against the couch lazily and crossed her legs, eating a cherry tomato. "I need to make the class teacher do some work. Otherwise, he'll be too bored."

Sherri was speechless, thinking. "How did Rose come out with such strange logic?"

Natalie was very curious as to why Rose despised Frank so much. She was under the impression that elder brothers would usually dote on their younger sisters. Both Ava and Sherri had very doting brothers. Natalie wondered if she had a misconception about how siblings should behave.

She wondered if there was any bad blood between Frank and Rose.

However, it did not seem like there was any grudge between them. Natalie only thought about this for a few seconds. She is not a nosy person by nature. She thought, perhaps, everyone had their way of getting along.

Thinking so, Natalie decided not to probe further.

On the other hand, Ava felt differently. She felt an urge to clarify what she wanted to know “Rose, why do you dislike your brother so much? Are you not on good terms with him?”

Rose leaned against the back of the couch and scoffed. How could they possibly be on good terms? “Do you know why I call him Cranky Franky? No doubt he is good-looking, but he has a foul mouth. What a pity*

Rose was amused to see the three of them looking shocked. “Let’s not talk about this fellow anymore. We’re here to have fun today, not to get ourselves upset.”

looked around at the table that was full of food, wondering if Rose wanted to party in the bar or if she was having a

Adept at reaching other people’s feelings. Natalie could sense that Rose did not want to talk about her brother

had many questions in her head. She wanted to ask Rose why she transferred schools and why she left for overseas. it was apparent that Rose did not want to talk about such topics, Sherri kept quiet. She then thought of asking Ava

did to lathern Chub eather but decided against it. After all, Rose was Frank’s sister

All the questions were spinning around in her head, but Sherri had no answer. With no outlet for release, a nowy person like Sherri teli very suffocated. She was on the verge of depression.

Ava dad isot expo

bring her to the bar where she hacked into the computer system the last time She was both the identity of her opponent.

she had to hack mo the bar’s computer system again to force her opponent out.

sitting beside Ava From the corner of her eye, she caught a glimpse of Ava’s scheming gaze and mischievous

aily stopped Ava That’s enough Don’t go overboard Otherwise, you’ll blow your cover.

ho was excned earlier, suddenly became listless. Pouring, she grumbled. “Can’t I do it one last time? I really want to know who this person is His computer skills are incredible”

talie was about to answer when her cell phone rang. She took it out of her pocket. It was a message from Trevon. He had sent her a photo of himself with Jasper

Is the photo. Jasper was writing with a pencil Trevon had bought him a sketchbook

atabse did isot know what to say when she saw the photo. Finally, she texted. [He’s only one year old. Aren’t you being a little too hasty!]

Trevon replied (He’s too unrestrained. He has to start learning from a young age.1

Natalie would feel her head spinning For a split second, she sympathized with Jasper.

Just as

about to put her phone away. Trevon sent her another message [Natalie, where are you?]

quilty Natalie pondered over how to reply to his question. Soon, she sent him an appropriate response [Beauty salon] Trevon did not doubt her and texted. Choose the best product for yourself You don't have to worry about saving money.]

Okay I'm going to have a mask applied on my face now.]

Trevon did not send any messages after her response.

When she was putting away her phone. Wa pleaded with her in a serious tone. "Natalie, can I try to attack the system one

Rose became curious when she heard the word "attack" "Ava, did you hack into someone's computer system again?" "Yeah, I round an expert to pit my skills against. He's really good, but he doesn't like to talk"

Ava did not tell Rose she had hacked into Lithern Club's computer system. She was afraid that Frank would not play with her if he knew about it. Although she could not find the expert who installed Lithern Club's computer system, she figured

ok s skills were not too bad

Ava hoped she could play with him on a regular basis. Hence, she did not want to blow her cover and kept it a secret from

Rose did not probe further and ask whose system Ava hacked into. Since she was giving them a treat, she raised her glass of fruit wine as the hostess. "Come, let's drink to a toast. From now on, we'll be known as the Four Beauties."

Natalie's hand momentarily froze. She was still holding a glass of fruit juice. Her lips soon curled into a smile, thinking Rose was such a carefree girl. She was finding joy in every moment and often entertained strange thoughts.

It was no wonder Rose got along so well with Wa. Both of them were equally outspoken and never beat around the bush.

Sherri asked. "May I ask what the Four Beauties mean?"

Rose grinned. "All four of us are very beautiful"

Pleased with Rose's reply. Sherri quickly drank a toast with Rose, saying, "That's the truth. I love this group. From now on we're the Four Beauties is a pity we didn't have a chance to befriend each other when we were young. Now that we've met. it's worth the wait Let's have another drink!"

Natalie thought, "Both of you should be sworn sisters. We should set up a ritual for that, and the heavens and earth can be

your witnesses.”

Ava loved being among friends and was beaming widely. She turned to Natalie “Let’s all drink to a toast. From now on, we’re the best of friends”

Natalie felt like she just fell into a trap, but since they were already on this topic, she did not want to be a wet blanket. Raising

her glass, she drank a toast with the three girls. Rose even insisted on taking a big gulp, showing her sincerity in their friendship.

Sherri gulped down the wine in one go. Ava only drank half the glass.

Fate often played tricks on people. Indeed, both Sherri and Rose had such similar personalities that they must regret not meeting each other earlier.

The four people upstairs were chattering merrily with each other, wearing a smile on their faces. Natalie was more reserved, only giving a faint smile. The other three girls were laughing heartily. Standing nearby were a group of plainclothes bodyguards

This scene was witnessed by the man who had walked into Lither Club. He took out his phone and snapped four photos of the group.

He then strode to the private room on the second floor.

Soon, the party was disrupted by the man. Glancing at the table, he raised his eyebrow. “Is this a tea party?”

When Natalie saw Frank, she realized her lie to Trevon about being in a beauty salon was about to be exposed.

Rose was half-lying on her side. She folded her arms and looked up, gesturing to Frank. She seemed to be inviting him to join them.

Ava blushed as she looked at the man under the lighting. Dressed in a white t-shirt with a cardigan and a pair of dark gray jeans, he was incredibly handsome.

In Ava’s eyes, he was more dashing than the male leads in the TV drama series

Frank only wanted to say hello to the girls and take a peek at what they were doing. He said in a low voice, “I’m not joining you. Go home early after the party. Don’t drink too much” He then instructed the manager standing behind them. “This table is on the house.”

Frank then strode away without stopping. It seemed he only meant to just say hello to them.

After Frank left, Sherri mused, “Rose, your brother is really handsome. Why doesn’t he have a girlfriend?”

Rose did not deny that Frank was good-looking. “Look at his mouth. How can anyone like that poker face? Anyway, I won’t get a boyfriend like him

Before Sherri could reply, Ava interjected, "Well, I quite like such a man. I really like this type of man. He's cold and aloof. It gives off a mysterious feeling"

Ava cupped her face with her hands as she praised Frank. Her gaze was fixed on Frank, who was walking further away. She was reluctant to see him leave.

Sherri and Natalie were stunned.

Both of them looked at each other and said together in a loud voice, "You like Frank?"

With a slightly flushed face, Ava took a deep breath and confidently declared to the others, "I'm going to pursue him."

Startled by Ava's declaration, Rose instinctively sprayed all the fruit wine she had just drunk, causing the others to quickly dodge out of the way

"Sorry. I'm sorry. I'm too shocked."

Rose quickly took a tissue and cleaned up the mess. Then, she looked across at Ava with her eyes wide. The latter was wearing a beige, square-necked dress. Her slightly curly hair was tied up in a high ponytail. Rose felt wistful, thinking that Joseph was not worthy of such a pure and innocent girl.

Ava was wearing a different outfit in the morning. With a new outfit, she exuded a different kind of charm

Ava could take on many styles

Rose wanted to persuade Ava to give up the idea of pursuing Frank. "Ava, is there anything wrong with your eyesight? Are you musochistic?"

Sherri and Natalie also felt that Frank was not suitable for Ava. Ava was playful and bubbly, but Frank was cold and aloof. They did not think Ava would be able to handle such a man.

The Turner family treated Ava like a princess. They would never allow her to marry Frank and move so far away from them. Moreover, Ava was only in Athana for a visit. She was going back to Sapphire City soon.

Ava looked very serious. "Yes, I want to pursue him."

Natalie could feel her head spinning. She did not expect such a response from Ava. She reminded her. "Ava, you can only stay in Athana for half a month. Now, you've less than half a month left. Why don't you find another man from Sapphire Cay?"

Ava was adamant. She was bent on winning Frank's heart. "I'm sure I'll succeed after half a month. I can conquer Frank."

Natalie was curious to know what made Ava so courageous that she was so determined to win Frank over in half a month.

Excited, Rose laughed out loud. "Ava, if you can win my brother's heart, I'll acknowledge you as my sister-in-law immediately."

Ava was brimming with confidence, making an okay gesture with her hand. "All right. I promise I will win his heart before I return to Sapphire City."

"Okay. We should make a plan tonight. I'll tell you all about my brother so you know how to please him."

Rose started teaching Ava how to pursue Frank. Both Natalie and Sherri did not want to listen anymore.

Sherri looked at Natalie. She wanted to know what was happening. Somehow, the tea party had transformed into a manhunt operation.

Ava and Rose faced each other, discussing their plan eagerly. Sherri leaned close to Natalie and asked, "Aren't you going to persuade her against it?"

Natalie frowned, looking helpless. "Do you think I can change her mind now?"

Sherri sighed. "Love descends upon you in the blink of an eye."

Natalie said, "Enough with the literary and cultured act. You don't measure up."

Sherri grinned. After all, Natalie was her best friend and knew her best.

However, she also wanted to know if Ava would succeed, but Natalie must not know what she was thinking. That would spell trouble for Sherri

[Chapter 228](#)

Meanwhile, on the 38th floor of Grand Manor, Trevon was trying to help Jasper with his writing. He pointed in exasperation at Jasper's crooked handwriting.

"Write another line of this word. You can only stop writing when you get it right."

Jasper wanted to argue back but could not due to his limited vocabulary. He started to sulk, wishing that his mother would.

come back soon.

Meanwhile, Hackett was having fun with Ruby. He lifted her high into the air, cajoling. "Ruby, I can raise you again, but you have to call me Daddy Just call me Daddy once."

Though hesitant. Hackett seemed to have succeeded in persuading Ruby. She opened her mouth slightly as Hackett looked at her with anticipation. He was feeling excited and apprehensive at the same time. It was a mixture of complex emotions.

"Daddy" The soft and childish voice echoed in the living room.

The next minute, a mocking voice was heard. "How useless. Don't tell me you're contented with her calling you Daddy."

Hackett was elated. He did not hesitate to show his delight. "Oh yes, I'm contented. I feel so happy. If this doesn't matter to you, you can tell Natalie you don't care if Jasper calls you Daddy"

When Hackett mentioned Natalie. Trevon picked up the phone on the table again. There was a message in the chat group which was muted. It was sent to the attention of Trevon and Hackett.

Curious, he clicked on the message. In hindsight, he should not have read it. He stared at the shocking information.

Natalie had told him that she was in the beauty salon. Trevon thought. Since when did she learn how to lie?"

Hackett was about to say something to Trevon when he caught sight of the latter staring blankly at his phone. Hackett patted Ruby's head and walked toward Trevon with Ruby in his arms.

"Damn it. They are having fun at Lither Club while we stay home to look after the children" Hackett's voice grew louder when he saw the photo. He felt indignant.

Frank had sent them four photos. One was a close-up shot of Natalie. They could tell that it was taken in close proximity. There was also one photo of Sherri and another of Ana. The last was a group photo of the four ladies

They were having a tea party.

The good thing was that they were not on the dance floor.

In the photo, Natalie wore a pair of jeans and a shirt. Her skin looked very fair and smooth. Her hair, which Trevon could never distinguish the exact color, was casually draped over her shoulders. She was beaming and looked like she was enjoying

herself

Trevon suddenly stood up and said to Hackett, who was standing beside him. "Look after the children. I'm going out for a while As he spoke, he started to walk away

There was no way Hackett was going to stay home to look after the kids. He did not want to handle Jasper and Ruby all by

himself

Carrying Ruby with one hand, Hackett grabbed Trevon's arm with his other hand. "Why don't we send the children to Mr.

Turner?"

Trevon brushed Hackett's hand away, saying, "He went out to discuss a project."

Hackett suddenly thought of another plan. "Why don't you call Jim over? I think he's quite suitable to babysit the kids."

He persuaded Trvon, "Come on, just call Jim. You know how pretty Natalie looks today. If you delay any longer, she may catch the eye of some young hunk. Besides, you two have such a big age gap

"You're much older than Miss Landor too. Pot calling the kettle black."

Hackett did not think he looked old. He was always dressed flamboyantly to disguise his age. He was unlike Trevon, who wore black every day. It was as if he was attending a funeral. One look and anyone could tell that Trevon was old.

He looked like a cradle snatcher standing next to Natalie.

Despite his protests, Trevon still took out his phone and quickly made a call to Jim "Where are you?"

Jim was always sucking up to Trevon and took the opportunity to get into the latter's good books. "I'm on the 37th floor. I moved in today, so I can be readily available whenever you need me, Mr. Wilson."

Trevon ignored his flattery. "Come up to the 38th floor"

Shortly after Jim knocked on the door of the room on the 38th floor, panting.

Hackett opened the door and looked at him. He was almost out of breath. Hackett gave him a wicked smile. "I'll give you a chance to practice ahead of time."

Confused, Jim asked, "Mr. Wilson, what's going on?"

When Trevon saw Jim, he quickly took his coat from the chair and put it on. Undoing the top button of his shirt, he instructed. "Tim going out for a while. I'll leave these two children to you. I'll reimburse the cost of your hotel room."

Jim was about to protest that he did not know how to take care of children.

He then came up with another suggestion. "Mr. Wilson, why don't I call Mary?"

Seeing Trevon's sharp gaze, Jim timidly changed his mind and said, "It's all right. I should be able to manage this. Mr. Wilson, you should get going."

Now that Jim had agreed to babysit the children. Trevon turned to Jasper. "Practise your writing. I'll review your homework when I get back. Don't cause any trouble"

Jasper was doing his homework when he answered obediently, "Yeah."

As soon as he finished speaking. Trevon walked toward the door. Hackett was still taking his time to talk to Ruby. He kissed her and said. "Daddy is going to find Mominy. Stay here and play with Uncle Jim. Say goodbye to Daddy."

Ruby simply waved her hand. She did not say whatever Hackett told her to.

When both men left the room, Jim looked around, flustered. He was now alone with the two children. Jim was a very efficient worker. After working for Trevon for so many years, he learned a lot and was able to handle most of the company's matters alone. However, he had never taken care of young kids. He had no experience in babysitting.

Jim walked up to Jasper. He was Trevon's precious son, so Jim felt compelled to suck up to the boy. He said ingratiatingly,

Jasper, what are you writing? Oh, your handwriting is really beautiful."

Jasper suddenly thought of an idea. He pushed his homework in front of Jim before handing him the pencil. "Write."

Jim was at a loss for words.

After a few seconds, he snapped back to his senses. He asked Jasper in disbelief, "Do you mean you want me to do your homework for you?" Jun pointed at himself.

He could not believe that a young boy like Jasper would have such a thought.

Jasper nodded, looking serious. "Yes,"

Jim saw the determined look on Jasper's face and knew he did not have a choice. Reluctantly, he took the pencil and started to imitate Jasper's handwriting. As he wrote, he grumbled to himself.

Jasper was making Jim relive memories of his kindergarten days.

After Jasper assigned his homework to Jim, he started playing with his favorite toys with Ruby in the living room.

Now, their roles were reversed. During that time, Jasper would occasionally check on Jim's handwriting as if he understood what the words meant.

Meanwhile, the four girls were chattering away, enjoying their tea party at Lither Club.

After much discussion, Ava and Rose finally came up with a plan to win Frank's heart. Natalie and Sherri were astonished to

hear that.

Sherri and Natalie knew all along that the people in Sapphire City were more open-minded than those in Athana. However, they did not expect Ava, who had never been in a relationship, to be so bold to pursue the cold and aloof Frank. They did not know how to persuade against it.

Regardless of whether Ava would succeed, Sherri and Natalie were certain Ava would encounter setbacks in the process of wooing Frank. Ava was pampered since young and might not be able to withstand Frank's harsh criticisms.

Natalie was worried Ava would get hurt by Frank. He was no ordinary man. Natalie tried to advise Ana to abort her plans. "Ava, I think you'd better forget about it. It won't be easy to pursue Frank."

However, Ava had already made up her mind. Once she decided something, it was hard to change her mind. It was the same for her chosen major in school. Back then, she was impressed by Joseph's computer skills that she set her heart on learning programming.

When Ava decided it was cool to know programming, she was determined to overcome all obstacles to achieve her goal. In the end, she succeeded and gradually learned to like programming.

Most people fell for another person because of outward appearance. Ava was no exception. She did not deny that she was attracted to Frank's good looks.

Ava pouted and refused stubbornly. "No, I must pursue him."

Natalie's head started to spin. "Ava. Frank is a person, not a computer system. Also, aren't there many handsome guys at your university in Sapphire City?"

Ava was adamant. "I don't like any of them."

Natalie took a deep breath. She did not know what else to say.

She wondered if she should tell Joseph about it

Soon, Natalie decided against it. Perhaps Ava was only wooing Frank in the spur of the moment. She might give up after being rejected by Frank several times.

Sherri smiled and said, "Just let Ava try. Who knows, she might win his heart."

Natalie looked at Sherri suspiciously. Sherri seemed to be interested to know what would happen next. "Oh, shut up and eat your food"

Rose was as excited as Ava. She wanted to know if Frank could withstand the charms of the bubbly Ava. After all, Rose was very fond of Ava

She said excitedly. "Ava, if you succeed in winning my brother's heart, I guarantee he will treat you very well."

Ava asked. "Why?"

Rose told Ava her logic with a serious expression. "It's the same in the drama series on television. These men are usually reserved and introverted. However, they always say one thing but mean another. They may claim they don't want something, but in reality, they do. When they meet someone they like, they will show their true colors and won't hide their feelings any longer."

Sherri was speechless.

Ava stared blankly at Rose.

Ava had a thought. Natalie brought out Trevon's true feelings. Was he also one of those reserved and introverted men Rose was talking about?

[Chapter 229](#)

The energy and excitement in the bar had reached the highest point. Many people on the first floor were cheering as if there was going to be some kind of performance.

The four women on the second floor were watching a handsome man and a beautiful woman engaging in an intimate dance. Soon, they got tired of watching Rose mused, "I haven't been back to Athana for a few years. So many people had undergone plastic surgery. Looks like I have to get a good-looking man for my child's father in the future. I can save on plastic surgery fees in the future"

Sherri, an obstetrician-gynecologist, gushed, "Rose, you're right. Delivering good-looking babies puts me in a good mood. To be honest, there can be exceptions to good genes too. Last year, there was a good-looking couple whose baby's looks were much to be desired. Their child had a flat nose, single eyelids,

and a small mouth. The moment the child's father looked disgusted when he saw his baby. He even insisted that we made a mistake. In the end, the matter was escalated to the hospital director. Thank goodness we got to the bottom of it by performing a DNA test."

Natalie heard the story from Sherri earlier. She concurred, "There's always a possibility to everything. Genes are no exception."

Rose was a pediatrician, so she had a lot in common with Sherri. "I agree. Looking at good-looking people can indeed make one happy. Your children are born into a good family. They're very good-looking. I'm so envious."

A quick-witted Sherri asked, "You like children too?"

Rose said, "I do. If I don't like children. I won't be a pediatrician."

Ava quipped, "I like children too"

The four of them exchange smiles. They were all full of maternal love.

As the music grew louder, the girls got tired of shouting and talking at the top of their lungs. They started to discuss where they should go next.

Natalie did not notice that some people had sat near them until a pair of warm hands caressed her waist. She reacted swiftly by jabbing the person's chest with her elbow.

"Whoa! That's so brutal" Trevon joked, rubbing his chest with one hand. He was delighted to see Natalie.

Natalie turned around when she heard the familiar voice but did not seem surprised to see Trevon. She guessed that Trevon would know where she was the minute Frank appeared.

She glanced at Trevon, who was still rubbing his chest. Natalie had used a little too much force because she thought the person was a stranger. Realizing her mistake, she quickly helped to rub Trevon's chest, only to have him hold her hand tightly. She pretended to be calm. "Why are you here? Where's Jasper

Ignoring her question about Jasper, Trevon smirked, "I want to see how you're doing with the mask in the beauty salon. I'm here to pick you up."

Natalie was at a loss for words. She felt awkward for lying to Trevon earlier.

She quickly changed the subject. "Did you hurt your hand?"

Trevon let go of her hand and wrapped his hand around her waist, leaning close to her ear. "Natalie, you've become very naughty. You now know how to lie without batting an eyelid. There's a big difference between a bar and a beauty salon. Or do you not know what a beauty salon is?"

Natalie was very embarrassed to have her lie exposed in front of her.

However, she refused to back down. She said indignantly, "So what? How many times have you lied to me? Compared to this lie. I'm no worse than you."

Natalie's rebuttal was eloquent yet playful. Trevon could only smile and look affectionately at her. "Yes, you're the boss. I just missed you. I was afraid you'll be drinking wine and can't drive."

Rose was sitting opposite them. She was amused at the besotted Trevon. However, she did not say or do anything to disturb the couple.

Sherri then turned to Hackett, who was sitting beside her. "Don't say a word. I've been taking care of the child for so long Why can't I come out and have some fun?"

Although Sherri felt a little guilty, her commanding presence seemed to justify her actions.

Hackett swallowed the words he wanted to say and smiled obsequiously. "You think too much, my dear. I'm just afraid you'll drink too much, so I came to pick you up."

Everyone started laughing at Hackett. He was really good at mimicking what Trevon said.

Rose finally could not take it anymore. She looked up at the two men. "Hey. I'm such a big girl. Can't you see that I'm sitting alone? Am I invisible? Have you forgotten about your friends now that you have your girlfriends?"

Trevon kept quiet as he did not want to argue with Rose. He continued caressing Natalie's waist.

Hackett had seen Rose in Frank's photos, but he pretended to look surprised. "Isn't this Rose? Oh, you're back. I thought you were going to get married and settle down in Sapphire City"

Rose disliked such hypocrisy. "Hmph. Ive been sitting here all this while, and you just realized that I'm present? Is Ruby your daughter?"

At the mention of his daughter. Hackett became smug "Uh-huh, isn't she cute?"

Rose was quite a perceptive woman. When she saw Hackett and Trevon, she already knew their relationship. "She's rather adorable In this aspect, you're better than my brother."

Hackett scoffed. "Of course. Your brother doesn't even have a girlfriend"

Trevon glanced at Rose, who was sitting opposite him, his hand still on Natalie's waist. "Aren't you going home?"

Rose was not as friendly to Trevon as she was to Hackett. She replied with a straight face, "No."

"Wow, you're quick." Frank held a toothpick between his teeth, both hands in his pockets. He was standing in front of

Trevon.

He then shot a look at the two men, thereby successfully seated himself beside Rose. "Looks like my bar has become a place for picnics."

"It's a pretty cool place for picnics. You might want to consider going into this business."

Frank replied. "Do you want me to set up two tents for you then? It will be a different experience in the bar."

Trevon replied, "Keep it for yourself. You spent so much time and effort cheating people. Don't waste this hard-earned money. No one will stay dumb forever. You won't be able to cheat them all the time. Save the money for rainy days"

Frank knew that he was referring to the incident involving Hackett, as well as those photos. He shrugged his shoulders. nonchalantly and lounged on the chair. He said to Rose. "Have you had enough fun? It's midnight. I don't have the money to buy skincare products for you"

Rose looked at the group and knew it was not possible to proceed to the next venue. She was glad to be single. It was so much more carefree and liberating. She could do whatever she wanted.

Nevertheless, she was surprised that Trevon liked Natalie

In this vast world, as long as one's imagination was wild enough, nothing was strange,

Fortunately, Rose was very adaptable When she saw Trevon's arm around Natalie's, she was only shocked for a few seconds.

Natalie was a good-looking lady When she first saw Natalie at Sapphire City. Rose already felt that Natalie deserved a lot more. She just did not expect Trevon to like Natalie.

Frank soon noticed someone staring at him. He turned to Ava. "What's the matter?"

Ava blushed and shook her head. "Nothing"

Just when Frank thought that was the end of their conversation, Ava said, "You're so handsome,"

Not used to being praised without warning. Frank's toothpick fell from his mouth. A few seconds later, he replied calmly, "I know that. You don't have to tell me."

Both Natalie and Sherri were shocked at his response.

Rose did not interrupt them. Her gaze shifted back and forth between Frank and Ava.

Ava smiled. "Buddy, we have the same taste."

Frank was stunned at her quick-witted response.

Ava initially also wanted to ask Frank if he had a girlfriend. She decided she did not want to be a third party if he had a girlfriend. It would be a shameless thing to do.

The girls had to end their party now that the men were there.

Natalie drove Sherri's car to the bar earlier. Now, Hackett was going to drive it back to Grand Manor.

Ava sat in the back seat of the black Maybach while Trevon took the front passenger seat. Natalie was the driver. "Did Frank call you, or did your bodyguards inform you of my whereabouts?"

Trevon replied calmly. "My men will never betray your whereabouts. They will only protect you. You don't have to worry

about this

No doubt then, Natalie knew Frank was the one who informed Trevon where she was.

Sitting in the back of the car, Ava was deep in thought. Shortly after, she leaned closer to the front and whispered, "Trevon, can I ask you a question?"

Trevon turned his body slightly and looked behind at Ava. He asked gently. "What do you want to know?"

Ava took a deep breath and scratched her ear. "Does Frank have a girlfriend?"

Hearing this, Trevon immediately turned back. He narrowed his eyes at Natalie as if seeking the truth from her.

Natalie nodded, indicating that his guess was right.

A smile immediately appeared on Trevon's face. When they were at the bar, Trevon thought Ava was merely paying Frank a compliment when she said Frank was handsome. He now realized she liked the man. He said solemnly. "He's single."

Trevon's reply made Ava loosen her grip on her skirt. At that instant, the gloominess in her heart dissipated. "Really? Does he like anyone?"

Trevon answered truthfully. "No. Do you like him?"

Ava did not hesitate at all. "Yes, Trevon, I want to woo him."

Hearing this, Trevon almost choked. He found the news very shocking. "Uh... wow, you're very brave. All the best to you."

Ava was thrilled. Finally, someone did not persuade her to give up. Trevon, aren't you going to ask me to give up the idea?"

Trevon looked very serious as his lips curled into a smile. "You don't need a reason to like someone. Where there's a will, there's a way. It's just like how I like Natalie for no reason. I believe you stand a good chance of winning Frank's heart. Good luck"

Natalie shot him a chiding look. Why did Trevon bring Natalie into his conversation with Ava? She had nothing to do with it.

She turned around and glared at the man who was talking excitedly. Trevon even winked at her.

Natalie's ears instantly turned red.

Ava was in a good mood after talking to Trevon. She was confident her plan would succeed.

She then whipped out her phone. "Trevon, give me your WhatsApp number."

Trevon took out his phone without hesitation and added Ava's WhatsApp number. Both of them were now friends on WhatsApp.

Shortly after, Ava sent him a message. [Trevon, let's make a deal. Can you tell me the whereabouts of Frank next time? I'll move into Joseph's room tonight.]

Trevon, who was seated in the front passenger seat, looked at the message and smiled. He thought Ava was a sensible and adorable girl. [Deal. I'll tell you everything I know.]

Ava sent him a crying emoji. [Trevon, I vow to win Buddy's heart before I return to Sapphire City]

Trevon took a look at the message and immediately understood what she meant. He promised, [If you need anything, let me know.]

Ava replied with an emoji of a penguin spinning in circles. [Trevon, you're awesome!]

Trevon replied with an emoji of a handshake, indicating that the deal was sealed.

Natalie was too focused on driving to notice what was going on. To her knowledge. Ava and Trevon merely added each other's number on WhatsApp

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The car drove up to Grand Manor, and the group went up to 38th floor.

Ava walked quickly past everyone else and came up to Natalie. "I'm going to play computer games with Joseph to hone my skills. I won't be sleeping with you tonight. Goodbye."

As soon as she finished speaking, she rushed into the room to get her pajamas. She only took the stuff she needed for the next morning and left her suitcase in the room.

Natalie immediately turned to look at Trevon and asked, "Is this your doing?"

It was not Trevon. Ava was the one who suggested this plan in exchange for information about Frank. Perplexed, Frank said honestly. "It's not my idea. Ava felt that she was playing gooseberry with us and decided to leave us alone tonight. I didn't ask her to do that."

He nodded resolutely, and Natalie also felt his explanation sounded reasonable. Ava always did as she wished. Otherwise, she would not have insisted on pursuing Frank despite their objections.

Just as Natalie was lost in her thoughts, Ava had already come out of the room. She took her things and bid Natalie goodbye again. "Good night, Natalie. I'm leaving now."

Natalie wanted to say something, but Ava had already rushed into Joseph's room. Feeling helpless, she could only shake her head.

Sherri understood what was happening immediately. Trevon was going to sleep in Natalie's room that night. She wondered if she would feel awkward as the soundproofing of the room might not be good. She might not be able to sleep the entire night.

Sherri did not think it was a good idea. Although they were all adults, she would still be uncomfortable if they got intimate

in the room.

Hackett thought Trevon was the one who made Ava go away and was displeased. How could Trevon do that to an adorable girl like Ava? "That's so despicable of you."

"Really? What about you? If you are not despicable, why did you have a bet with Frank?"

Sherri heard the word 'bet' and got curious. "What bet are you talking about?" Soon, they had already arrived at Trevon's

Foot

Hackett quickly gave Trevon a pleading look and implored the latter not to tell Sherri about his bet with Frank.

Trevon reciprocated with a mocking look. He scoffed at how cowardly Hackett was.

Sherri wanted to probe further, but she was too stunned by what she saw when the door was open. Jim was lying on the ground, motionless, while the two children were shooting him with toy guns.

Jasper playfully exclaimed, "You're dead. You're dead."

Ruby quipped excitedly. "Oh yes. Yeah!"

Both Sherri and Natalie were shocked beyond words.

They felt sorry for Jim

Seeing his parents enter the room, Jasper climbed onto the stool. He then whipped out his homework proudly and presented it to Trevon as if it was some treasure. "Daddy!"

When Jim saw the four of them, he was elated. His savior had arrived. He instantly stood up and became alive again. He had a hard time taking care of Jasper and Ruby. After doing Jasper's homework, he still had to pretend to be dead.

If they had not come back, Jim would have thought that he had indeed died.

After acting for so long, he could not tell the difference between real life and acting. He was too immersed in the role-playing.

Trevon looked at the homework Jasper had proudly presented to him and frowned. He narrowed his eyes as he looked at Jasper before turning to a guilty-looking Jim. He knew what had happened. "Good. Your handwriting looks great."

Trevon was in a good mood that day and decided not to pursue the matter.

Suspicious, Natalie took the sketchbook from him. She could tell at a glance that something was wrong with the homework. She stared at it with disbelief. She sighed as she carried Jasper. "Let's go take a shower."

Trevon grabbed her arm and stopped her. "He's already showered. He should go to bed now"

Sherri glanced at Ruby, who was still wearing her pretty dress. She asked Hackett, "Did Ruby take a shower too?"

"Yes." Hackett immediately carried Ruby and walked into his room.

Sherri followed closely behind and asked in surprise, "Are you going to sleep with Ruby tonight?"

Hackett looked at her, perplexed. "Do you want to go back to Natalie's room and listen in to the action?"

Sherri thought. "Ha! So Trevon is making me and Ava go away so he can have his way with Natalie. He's very cunning"

Trevon walked into Natalie's room with much familiarity. It was already very late, so Natalie had no problems getting Jasper

to sleep.

After Jasper fell asleep, she left the room quietly. Trevon was sitting on the couch. Feeling uneasy, she asked, "Do you really want to sleep here?"

Trevon got up and pulled her into an embrace. He said in a low voice, "I want to sleep with you. Don't be afraid. I'm handicapped now. I won't do anything to you."

It would have been better if he had not said that, but once he did, Natalie's imagination started to run wild. With a forced smile, she said. Im going to take a shower."

It sounded like a straightforward statement. Somehow, Trevon thought that she was implying something else.

He smirked and teased. "Okay, I'll wait for you."

Natalie walked into the bathroom and tried to prepare herself mentally. Although both of them had slept together several times in the Wilson's residence, it was not the same this time. The situation now was completely different.

Natalie was an adult and knew what could happen. She leaned her back against the door and took a few deep breaths. She could hear her heart pounding fast and loud.

After composing herself, Natalie walked to the showerhead and turned on the tap. The warm water fell on her head. The glistening and translucent water droplets clung to her fair skin as her thoughts gradually became clear.

After drying her hair, she casually took a hairband from the sink and tied her hair. When she opened the door and walked out of the bathroom, her eyes met with Trevon, who was leaning against the door. "Why are you standing here?"

Trevon's thin lips parted slightly, his eyes twinkling. Tm waiting for you"

These words made her heart flutter again, and her heart started beating faster again. She tried to act calm and looked up, averting his gaze. "Are you going to take a shower?"

He took note of every of her subtle expression as he stared intently at her. "I already showered before going to the bar to look for you."

Natalie was annoyed to hear that Trevon had taken a shower by himself. She said irritably. "You can take a shower yourself. but you insisted that I help you. Did you do it on purpose?"

Trevon admitted. "It feels more satisfying to have you give me a shower."

He emphasized the word 'satisfying' Immediately, Natalie's thoughts started to run wild. She recalled the incident where she had used her hand to satisfy him. It almost made her a handicap.

In an instant, her ears and cheeks turned red. Embarrassed, she lowered her head. "Stop looking so smug. You took advantage of me."

Trevon's smile widened. He took a step forward and stood in front of her. He pulled her into her arms with one hand and leaned close to her ear. "Natalie, are you thinking...

Natalie pushed his chest away gently. She then placed her hands on it and looked at him. "Don't go overboard."

Immediately, Trevon became compliant and did not tease her any further. He reached his hand out to stroke her hair. "Let's not talk about it anymore. Let's sleep now, okay?"

Natalie felt that every word he said that night seemed to insinuate something else. She wondered if she was thinking too

much.

She figured that Jasper was also sleeping on the bed with them, so Trevon should know better than to misbehave. Besides, his hand was injured.

Reality proved that Natalie was thinking too much.

Both of them held hands again and walked into the room together. Jasper had occupied half the bed, lying in the middle. Trevon frowned and went up to the boy. He pulled his wrist and moved Jasper to one side.

His movements were brusque, and he looked annoyed.

Unhappy with how roughly Trevon was treating Jasper, she reminded him, "Be gentle. He's only a child"

Trevon said shamelessly, "Huli. My gentleness is only reserved for you."

Natalie was speechless.

Natalie ignored his teasing and lay down under the blanket. Trevon also lay down, sticking close to her.

When Ava went to Joseph's room, he was still not back. She then chose a room and went inside.

Although she felt sleepy, she still wanted to send Frank a message.

She excitedly took her phone and opened Frank's chat interface. She typed. [Buddy, are you asleep?]

After a while, there was no reply. Ava refused to give up and sent another message. [What are you doing?]

[Are you working on your computer?]

Ava started badgering Frank. [I'm so lucky to have met you in Athana.]

After sending the message. Ava would look at her phone often, waiting for Frank's reply. After keeping watch of her phone for some time, she started to doze off.

Rose had told Ava that Frank was like a minefield. He was not a safe haven for anyone. Ava was bombarding Frank constantly with messages that he was about to explode. Frank preferred to be left alone and did not like to be disturbed.

Ava enjoyed flooding Frank with her messages.

Meanwhile, Frank was in his villa at Deepwater Bay.

He had just sent Rose to the villa. He whipped out his phone and looked at it. He frowned slightly, narrowing his eyes as he scrolled the phone.

However, he did not reply. He merely kept the phone in his pocket. Rose wondered if it was Ava and if she had started taking action. "Who is it? Why aren't you replying? Don't you think it's very rude not to reply?"

Frank looked at her coldly. "Are you getting out of the car? If not, you can sleep in the car."

Rose snorted. Only a fool would sleep in the car. Since she had already decided to lead a good life, she did not see any reason to suffer. Rose quickly got out of the car. "Do you fancy anyone?"

Frank did not even look back at Rose. He scoffed, "Do you think everyone is like you? You're so blinded by love that you can't see properly."

Hearing this, Rose froze. She walked past Frank, deliberately bumping him to show her annoyance.

Frank did not think he had said anything wrong. He said, "No pain, no gain."

Rose turned around immediately. "Don't you get it? If you think I've bad taste in men, why don't you find a girlfriend for yourself?"

Frank ignored her and went straight into the villa. "Sleep early if you have nothing to do. If you're bored, go get a job."

Rose retorted. "I've only stayed here for a few days, and you're already feeling the pinch. Don't worry, I'm not someone who will sit around and do nothing. I will work when I have to. I've already found a job. Don't worry about me,"

Frank ignored her nasty comments. "Chris' hospital?"

Rose replied. "I'm not going to his hospital. I'll be working at Athana Hospital."

Frank did not care where Rose was working as long as she had a job. He was happy if she did not torment him. "Come home during the weekend to see Mom and Dad."

Rose flatly refused. "No." She then strode into her room and banged the door close.

Frank looked at the door and pursed his lips. His head started to spin. Why was Rose still so rebellious at this age?

He stood downstairs and pondered for a few minutes before entering his room. He did not go back to Lither Club that night.