

This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr

Chapter 561

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Chapter 561 Change How You Address Me

"Is that so?" Toby raised his chin, but he didn't probe further. Instead, he bent down and placed the high heels in front of her feet. "Wear them."

"Okay," Sonia answered. Then, she held the wall, ready to put on her shoes.

At this moment, he suddenly rose to his full height and grabbed her hand to place it on his shoulder. She looked at him in confusion and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Hold my shoulder while you wear them," came Toby's answer.

"No, it's the same even if I hold onto the wall," she replied and was about to remove her hand when Toby stopped her.

Toby pressed her hand down on his shoulder and didn't release it. "The wall is very cold, so your hand will freeze. My shoulder is warmer."

Sonia felt amused upon hearing this. "You're really... Forget it. Since you are willing to be a wall, then I'll just use you as my support."

With that, she simply grabbed his shoulder, raised her foot and began to wear her shoes. After putting them on, Sonia removed her hand. "Thank you, Mr. Wall."

This nickname made Toby subconsciously raise his eyebrows. "Mr. Wall?"

"Yes, you were behaving like a wall for me, so it is only right to call you Mr. Wall." Sonia looked at him with a tease.

He smiled slightly before he responded, "As long as you like it, but I'm much happier when you call me by my name. So, Sonia, don't address me as President Fuller in the future, okay?"

Although his eyes were dark, there was a hint of hope in them, making Sonia unable to refuse him.

Sonia turned her head to avoid his gaze before she concurred, "Then, from now on, I'll call you Toby."

"Good." Toby nodded in agreement.

Although it made him feel a little detached for her to address him by his name, it was considered an improvement from 'President Fuller' which was worse. I will have her call me something more intimate one day.

"Let's go. I'll bring you to meet President Homer." Toby looked at the time and since it was already 11:00PM, the person of interest would leave in a while if they didn't arrive soon. The main purpose for Sonia's arrival was to meet Ted Homer.

After hearing what Toby said, Sonia nodded heavily. "Okay."

The two of them went toward the elevator and arrived at the lounge upstairs. When they came to the door of Ted's lounge, Toby suddenly stopped in his tracks. She noticed this and was rather puzzled. Just as when she wanted to ask what was wrong, he explained, "You can enter on your own; I'll wait for you outside. Didn't you say that you wanted to obtain the purchasing rights by yourself? So, I won't go in."

If he entered and Ted saw that Toby was with Sonia, it was almost a guarantee that Ted would immediately award her with the purchasing rights. It would only mean that she didn't receive the purchasing rights through her own ability, but rather because of Toby's name. Hence, he wouldn't enter and influence the outcome of the situation.

Sonia quickly understood his reason and solemnly replied, "Alright. Then, I'll be out soon." He is right. I need to rely on my own ability to obtain the purchasing rights, so it's better for him not to go in.

As she had forgotten about this, it was a good thing that he reminded her.

"Go ahead. Good luck." Toby nodded and gave an encouraging smile.

Sonia returned the smile. "I will; I'm going in now."

In response, he acknowledged her words with a grunt. Afterward, Sonia took a deep breath, rearranged her clothes and hair before she raised her hand to knock on the door. A moment later, she went in. True to his words, Toby stood at the door like a guardian.

After waiting for about half an hour, there was movement behind the door. Thus, he straightened his posture and looked at the door opposite him. When the door opened, it was Sonia emerging with an excited face. His gaze softened as a smile appeared on his face while he observed her face that flushed with happiness. "Were you successful?"

"Yes." Both of Sonia's hands clenched into fists in excitement and she said, "During the interview, President Homer was originally unwilling to award the purchasing rights because he thought that Paradigm Co. was too small. However, I finally moved him with my persistence and he's agreed to let me have the

purchasing rights and even asked me to head to his company tomorrow to sign the contract.”

“Great!” Toby gave her a thumbs up in praise.

She was considered great—from a newbie who knew nothing in the beginning to slowly getting to speed with the handling of the company’s business, she was now also able to discuss with a transnational company’s boss alone and successfully obtain their collaboration. All of these improvements happened in just a few months and enough to illustrate that in addition to her talent, a lot of hard work went into play. As a result, he believed that in the future, she would dazzle more in the industry.

Sonia had a wide smile as she responded, “Thank you for the compliment. I feel awesome too.”

A laughing Toby lowered his hand. “You really don’t know how to be modest.”

“It’s not that. I just think that when I should be proud, I should just accept such a feeling. As long as I know that I have to keep working hard, it’s okay to be proud.” She ruffled her own hair as she elaborated.

Toby’s gaze was gentle when he replied, “That’s right.”

When Sonia met his kind eyes, she was stunned. She suddenly realized that he was becoming gentler, which reminded her of the way he used to behave as the forbearing child in white.

He reached out and waved his hand in front of her when he noticed that she stared at him while lost in her train of thoughts. “What are you thinking about again?”

She had yet to fully return to her senses. When she heard his words, she subconsciously said, “I thought of the past you.”

“The past me?!” Toby narrowed his eyes.

Her gaze wavered before she completely regained her composure. While looking at him, she hurriedly asked, “Um... What did I just say?”

“You said that you remember the past me.” Toby added, “Sonia, to you, what was the past me like?”

What was he like? Sonia lowered her eyes and thought. In the past, Toby was the most hygienic, gentlest, most heartwarming teenager she had ever met. When she first met him, he had left her so stunned that she wondered how there could be such a wonderful senior in this world.

However, after she married him, she realized that he had long changed from a gentle teenager to a stoic and indifferent jerk who cared about no one. When she

thought about this, she looked at Toby again and glared at him instead. "In any case, he's completely different from you now."

At that, Sonia walked toward the banquet hall while a doubtful Toby looked at her back.

What is going on? Why is she angry? I didn't seem to have provoked her, right? He couldn't figure out what he had done wrong, so he gave her a chase. By the time they returned to the banquet hall, the speech that Sonia's friend and her fiance gave was over. It should've ended a long time ago, but due to the earlier earthquake, it was postponed until now. Sonia stood at the corner and followed other guests in applauding and congratulating the couple for officially being engaged.

Of course she wasn't giving her blessings like the others, but rather, she was merely following the tide because she knew that her friend didn't need grace at all. After all, it wasn't a union out of love.

"Your friend is not willing to cancel the engagement with Will Lazuli." Toby brought a glass of red wine to Sonia and he stared at the couple onstage.

Sonia looked at the glass of red wine in his hand and frowned. "Your arm and foot aren't even healed yet, so why are you drinking?" Then, she snatched the glass from his hand and placed it on the dining table at the side before bringing him a glass of juice instead. "Drink this."

Toby looked at the bright red juice in his hand, the corners of his mouth slightly twitching with amusement. He knew it was sacchariferous without having to drink it and since he disliked anything that was too sweet, he never drank juice. However, this was a different matter altogether. She cared about him, which was why she handed him the glass of juice. If he didn't drink it, it would sadden her.

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Toby gently swirled the glass of juice in his hand and the bright red liquid looked even more translucent and beautiful under the hall lights. He tilted his head before taking a sip—it was sweet; in fact, it was so sweet that even his heart was coated in honey.

At this moment, Sonia took the glass of red wine that she had snatched from his grasp earlier and took a sip. Then, she answered his earlier question, "Well, Nancy is not willing to break off the engagement."

"She loves him?" Toby looked at her.

He was referring to the scum Will Lazuli.

She shook her head. "Of course not. Nancy said that since the person she wants to marry is no longer around, she would marry Will for her family's sake. Anyway, she feels that it'll be the same with whoever she marries as they would still live separate lives after the marriage."

"I see." He nodded before looking away. After he watched the couple leave the stage, he tilted his head and finished the remaining juice in his glass with one gulp. Then, he set aside the glass and informed Sonia, "I'm going to see Will's father. Do you want to come with me?"

Sonia waved her hand. "I won't go; I don't know him."

"That's fine. Just wait for me here and eat something. I'll be back soon." He picked up a platter and threw two pieces of mango-flavored snacks on it before he handed the plate to her.

After she reached out to take it, she replied, "Go ahead. I'll wait for you here."

"In that case, I'm leaving." Toby smiled a little and turned to make a move.

After he left, Sonia suddenly froze. Strange, why did I promise to wait for him?

The answer to it vaguely surfaced in her heart, but she quickly suppressed it again. She lowered her head and used a delicate silver fork to break the snack into bite-size bits before she placed it into her mouth. The moment she bit into it, she could taste that it was exceptionally treacly. Strangely enough, although the taste was definitely not as good as that made by a pastry chef in the high-end hotel, for some reason, she felt that this particular morsel was much tastier.

Sonia sat on the couch in the corner and ate the snacks while waiting for Toby to return. After she waited for a while, she placed her plate aside before heading to the bathroom where she stood in front of the sink to wash her hands and fix her makeup. Suddenly, she saw from the mirror that the compartment door behind her had opened to reveal Jessica coming out while ruffling her hair.

Sonia immediately placed the lipstick in her hand aside to turn around and greet, "Jessica!"

Jessica paused in her action of fixing her hair, then she raised her head. "Who... Sonia?"

Her voice was shrill with surprise and the gaze that she fixed at Sonia was full of shock and disbelief.

"Why are you here?" Jessica loudly questioned as she took two steps forward to stop in front of Sonia.

Sonia covered her lipstick and kept it in her purse. Then, she gently replied, "I came to attend my friend's engagement party, so why can't I be here?"

"Friend?" Jessica quickly reacted as her face contorted for a moment. "You're Nancy Sandstone's friend?"

Nancy Sandstone was Will Lazuli's fiancée.

After Sonia crossed her arms, she answered, "Yes, but you seem to have a problem with Nancy. Is it because of her fiancé?"

When Jessica heard these words, she stiffened before she clenched her palms. She had a panicked gaze as she asked, "What do y-you mean by that?"

"I'm sure you're aware of what I mean in your heart." Sonia's expression sank before she added, "Jessica, it's been 6 years since we met. Yet, I did not expect you to surprise me by becoming a homewrecker."

Those words had greatly agitated Jessica as her bloodshot eyes bulged while she stared angrily at Sonia. "Did you say that I'm a homewrecker? Nancy is clearly the homewrecker! Will and I are in love whereas he doesn't fancy her. However, she insisted on being engaged to Will, so isn't she the homewrecker between Will and I?"

If Nancy knew what was best for her, she would've taken the initiative to break off the engagement with Will and surrender her position as his fiancée.

Sonia instantly laughed after hearing those words because she felt that Jessica truly lacked principles. "So, this is what you think a homewrecker is? Just because you and Will have feelings for each other, Nancy is the homewrecker in your opinion and preventing you from marrying Will? Huh, you are really shameless, Jessica. Do you think Dad will be happy to know that you're doing all this?"

Dad...

A trace of guilt surfaced on Jessica's face as her eyes flashed, but it soon disappeared. She crossed her arms and justified herself by retorting, "Dad died a long time ago, so I no longer give a damn about him. Don't use him to pressure me!"

"You!" Sonia's face reddened with anger. Now that she angrily pointed at Jessica, she continued. "Jessica, you are aware that Dad is dead, right? Then, do you know that you are the one who killed him?"

Jessica's gaze shifted around as she denied, "Sonia, stop talking nonsense. How could I have killed Dad? It's impossible."

She refused to bear this charge even though it was indeed the truth.

"Impossible?" Sonia sneered. "6 years ago, you and your mother felt that Paradigm Co. was going to collapse, so you guys stole the last of the remaining funds and ran off to leave Dad with an even bigger mess. Therefore, Dad was extremely discouraged and jumped to his death as a result."

"Don't you dare!" Jessica clenched her fists. "You just said that Dad committed suicide, so how could my mother and I have killed him? Don't accuse us without proof! What does his death have to do with us?"

When Sonia heard those cold words, she shook her head in sarcasm. "Jessica, you are terrible. Are you even Dad's daughter at all?"

"No!" Jessica craned her neck and answered without any hesitation, "Back when Dad defended you each time but was mean and laid a hand on me, I stopped regarding him as my father."

Sonia's eyes widened in disbelief. "You're holding a grudge against him because of this? And you don't even want to admit that you're his eldest daughter?"

"Isn't that enough?" Jessica sneered.

Sonia forcefully closed her eyes to take a deep breath in an attempt to suppress her anger. After that, she elaborated, "Jessica, do you know why he was mean to you and even whacked you? That's because you always bullied me and caused trouble. No matter how he tried to teach you, you wouldn't listen, so he laid a hand on you for your own good. He hoped that you would grow up and learn your ways, but I never expected you to hold a grudge against him for this. And you don't even want to acknowledge him!"

"What do you mean by him doing it for my own good? I never thought it like that. In his heart, only you are his good daughter and I'm just the one who always disgraced him. In fact, I think he regretted having me as his daughter, right?" Jessica's face contorted.

Shock was written on Sonia's face. "Insane; you are really insane!"

"I'm not insane. I'm totally sane because I heard him saying it with my own ears. He said that he should've strangled me in the first place to prevent me from harming the Reed Family. Since he did this to me, why can't my mother and I take the money and flee? I have long hated him and wished for his death, so when we heard that he died, we were elated." Jessica laughed out loud with pleasure.

An expressionless Sonia felt she could no longer suppress the rage in her heart. After she clenched her hands, she dropped her purse and grabbed Jessica by the hair to forcefully drag to the sink.

Jessica never expected that Sonia would treat her in that fashion. Now that she felt her hair being tugged hard by Sonia, she began to scream in pain. "Ahhhh! Let go of me!"

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Chapter 563 Toby's Worries

Sonia turned a deaf ear to Jessica's pleas and instead maintained her tight grip on Jessica's hair. Then, she turned on the faucet with her other hand before she clogged the sink.

The moment that Jessica listened to the sound of water running, a huge unease rose in her heart. "What are you doing?"

"What else?" Sonia's red lips curved upward. "You will soon know; you'll definitely remember it for the rest of your life."

"What the f*ck are you talking about? Sonia, hurry up and let me go!" Jessica screamed with rage and tried to grapple with Sonia to break free from Sonia's grip. However, as Jessica had inherited both her mother's Sandra petite height and body shape, she couldn't shove a stronger Sonia aside. It also didn't help that Sonia's strength was fueled by her anger. Thus, as Jessica struggled, not only was she unable to remove her hair from Sonia's tight grasp, she was exhausted and drenched in perspiration.

Jessica reluctantly raised her eyes to stare at Sonia in a deadly manner, her eyes filled with venomous intent. "B*tch, let me go or I'll—"

Her head was pushed into the clogged sink by Sonia before she could even finish threatening Sonia. The cold water instantly entered her eyes, nasal cavity as well as her mouth, making her unable to breathe and causing her extraordinary pain as well as discomfort. Her hands continued to flail violently in the air while Sonia coldly watched.

"You have such a dirty mouth, which is why you need a good wash. Let's see whether you dare to badmouth Dad and other people in that manner next time."

Although Jessica's head was submerged in water and she couldn't speak, she still could hear. When she heard what Sonia had said, she was so angry that she subconsciously opened her mouth to retort. As a result, the moment she opened her mouth, a large stream of water flooded her mouth and throat, which made her feel even worse.

Sonia trained her eyes on Jessica while silently calculating to yank her out of the sink. After all, she couldn't bring herself to kill the woman if she was disgusted with Jessica. Feeling that the time was almost up, Sonia pulled Jessica's hair to bring the woman out of the water. As Jessica's head tilted upward from the

impact, she began to cough violently while looking at the ceiling and panting heavily. She was completely in a mess; her eyes were bloodshot and her eyelashes were wet.

“How does it feel? Your mouth should be a little cleaner, right?” Sonia’s gaze was cold as she looked at Jessica.

As Jessica’s chest heaved violently, she furiously glared at Sonia. Then, she gritted her teeth and growled, “B*tch, you had the f*cking nerve to—”

Then, a frowning Sonia once again shoved Jessica’s head into the water. “It seems that your mouth hasn’t been washed clean yet. Why don’t we continue?”

An enraged Jessica forcefully closed her eyes and mouth before she continued to struggle underwater in an attempt to shake Sonia’s grip off her. However, Sonia had grabbed her by the hair and held onto it and no matter what Jessica did, she couldn’t shake Sonia’s hand off. Knowing that whatever she did wouldn’t succeed, Jessica felt despair, but of course, there was also deep hatred. Her mind was full of the hatred that she couldn’t help but open her mouth to curse.

However, since she was in the water, only a completely incomprehensible gurgling sound was heard when she opened her mouth.

Even though Sonia couldn’t understand what Jessica had said, she guessed that Jessica was cursing her through the hatred in the woman’s tone. Then, she said after a snort, “Jessica, you really can’t learn to behave, can you?”

Upon saying those words, she tightened her grip on Jessica’s hair and pulled her out of the water again. Just as Jessica opened her eyes and was about to take a breath, Sonia shoved her down into the sink once again. Then, Sonia continued to yank Jessica’s head up and forced it down again, repeating the process a dozen times until Jessica was about to collapse.

Sonia’s current behavior was even more torturous than her earlier action of submerging Jessica’s head in the water for a long time; this was because every time Jessica wanted to breathe a little, the water had snatched that gulp of air. Besides, as a result of her repeatedly experiencing the suffocating feeling from the cold water, she was mentally and psychologically depressed and fearful. Thus, it was obvious from the psychological and physical torture that she would collapse sooner or later. Moreover, her strength had gradually reduced since she had been struggling to resist Sonia.

Sonia was aware that this process could not continue or Jessica would be rendered unconscious, so she pulled Jessica by her hair for the final time and threw the woman against the partition. When Jessica’s back slammed into the partition, the impact was so painful that she screamed before her body slid down in a manner that her butt landed on the cold floor first as she gasped for breath.

As she lacked strength at this moment, she couldn’t even stand up from the floor. Even at this moment when she looked like she had experienced hell, she still didn’t forget to give Sonia a death state. “Just you wait, Sonia. I’ll definitely

return the favor for today's humiliation and I'll let you experience the same thing!"

Sonia stood in front of the sink and addressed Jessica through the reflection in the mirror while washing her hands. With a smile, she said, "Really? If that's the case, I'll wait for you. Let's see whether you have the ability to do that."

Right after she said those words, she turned after yanking a piece of hand towel from the cardboard box next to her. "If you don't have that ability, you have to kneel in front of Dad's grave and apologize to him."

"On what grounds?" Jessica gritted her teeth.

After Sonia threw the hand towel into the trash can, she replied, "Isn't you being unfilial enough of a reason?"

When Jessica heard that, she fiercely gnashed her teeth.

Sonia was no longer in the mood to talk to her, so she took her purse and elegantly left the bathroom in her heels.

"Sonia!" Jessica roared through her teeth with such volume that it sounded like she wanted to tear Sonia apart. Her eyes were deadly and vicious as she stared at the direction where Sonia left, silently swearing in her heart that when she returned to the country, she would definitely snatch everything from Sonia. Not only that, she also wanted to ensure that Sonia experienced all the pain and desperation that the world could offer. Otherwise, Jessica felt that she couldn't express her hatred!

On the other hand, Sonia exited the bathroom and headed for the banquet hall. Just as she was about to enter the entrance, she saw a figure dashing out from the hall.

"Toby?" she shouted in a hurry when she saw the man running.

When Toby heard her voice, he stopped in his tracks.

Sonia frowned. "What are you running for? Have you forgotten your injury—"

Before she could even finish her words, he threw his arms around her and pulled her into his embrace. His voice was low and hoarse as he asked, "Where have you been?"

When she heard the worry and anxiety in his tone, she opened her eyes and meekly replied, "I went to the restroom."

"Why were you there for so long?" Toby slightly loosened his grip on her before he looked at her. "I went to look for you there and waited for almost 20 minutes. Did you really go to the restroom?"

"Of course." Sonia nodded. "Otherwise, where did you think I went?"

"I thought your sudden disappearance was the result of yet another accident," Toby answered with a serious and tense expression. "Every time you disappeared last time, you were in trouble whenever I found you. So, Sonia, don't leave without first notifying me next time, alright? You have no idea how worried I was when I couldn't find you; I was worried that something had happened to you!"

He could no longer receive news of her in trouble since his heart could no longer withstand any sudden news. So, he was really afraid now that he would die from such stimulation before he could even undergo the heart transplant

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He would end up leaving her behind once again by that time. So, he absolutely couldn't allow her to be in trouble again. Before going for the heart transplant again, he absolutely mustn't allow himself to be agitated. He needed to survive and live with her for the rest of their lives.

The moment that Sonia heard his worried tone, her heart felt warm as she smiled. "Sorry to have worried you."

Then, she lifted her hand and placed it on his back to pat him twice in an attempt to soothe him, after which he gradually regained his composure and said, "In the future, be sure to let me know when you'll be away for a long time."

He gently released her from his embrace and cupped her face with one hand while admonishingly looking at her. When she saw his solemn expression, she subconsciously nodded. "Okay."

A satisfied Toby's tightly furrowed brows were finally loosened after she agreed to his request. "Is there anything else to do next?"

"Nope." Sonia shook her head. She came to attend Nancy's engagement ceremony and deal with the purchasing rights. Now that both matters were done and dealt with, there was naturally nothing else for her to do.

"Then, let's head back." Toby raised his wrist to take a look at his watch—it was already almost midnight.

Sonia had long wanted to return home; so, when she heard his suggestion, she naturally nodded and responded, "Sure, let's go back."

The two of them walked toward the elevator and soon arrived at the hotel's parking lot. Toby took out his car key and pressed the button on it, resulting in the luxurious Bentley beeping as its lights flashed. Next, he pulled open the passenger door and gestured for Sonia to get in.

With that, she pulled the jacket draped over her body closer and covered her chest with one hand before she bent down to enter. Just as she stepped into the car with one foot, she suddenly thought of something and retracted her foot, thereafter standing up straight and turning her head to look in one direction.

When Toby saw this, he gently opened his thin lips to ask, "What's wrong?"

Sonia didn't answer but merely pursed her lips. Her face was cold as she stared at a spot some distance away.

Why is her expression so serious? Upon seeing that, he turned his head toward the same direction. It was only at that point when he saw a man and a woman not far away. The man was Will and while he did not know the woman, she was standing next to Will. Coupled with that and Sonia's expression, Toby immediately guessed that the woman was Sonia's sister, Jessica.

Jessica had followed Will to the parking lot as they were ready to leave the hotel and back to the apartment to have some fun. The moment she saw Sonia nearby, she thought of how Sonia had humiliated her earlier in the restroom, which only gave rise to the anger in Jessica's heart. Then, she saw that the man beside Sonia, whose face she couldn't clearly see, was the one who actually unlocked the Bentley and he now opened the door for Sonia. Jessica felt both hatred and jealousy when she saw that scene.

Paradigm Co. was still unable to financially support Sonia with the purchase of such a good quality car although she had already rescued the company, so it could only mean that the man next to her owned the vehicle.

That man is really blind. He's so rich, yet he's interested in a divorcee like Sonia? When Jessica saw the man turn around a second later, she was so stunned that she gaped at the sight of his handsome face. He's damn gorgeous!

She swore that he was the best looking man she had ever seen. Such a man should be standing on a pedestal and unreachable by the common folk, yet he was now standing next to Sonia! Why is this the case? What is so good about a divorcee like Sonia? Why should such a good man with looks and money favor Sonia?

The more Jessica thought about it, the more jealous she was. Her eyes turned scarlet as her face twisted with rage. Beside her was Will, who noticed her sudden change of expression, and he raised his eyebrow before he followed her line of sight to look over, only to notice Toby was there. For a moment, a trace of guilt danced in Will's eyes, but it disappeared just as quickly.

After he straightened his collar and adjusted his tie, he walked toward Sonia and Toby. Since he had already noticed them, he had to say hello, especially when Toby had a much higher status than him.

When Jessica saw Will heading over, her eyes brightened before she hurried after him. "Will, wait for me." Will seems to know this man. Then, in that case, if I follow him, I may also get to know this man. With that, I can remind this man that Sonia isn't a good woman and he should leave her.

Toby saw Will walking over with Jessica from across the street before he turned to Sonia beside him and asked, "Shall we leave?"

Sonia shook her head. "There's no hurry. Since they're coming over, wouldn't we be impolite to leave without greeting them?"

Moreover, Jessica looked provocative and smug, which meant that she was obviously here to cause trouble. Sonia actually wanted to see what Jessica was up to.

When he heard her response, Toby laughed lightly. "You're right. We mustn't be impolite."

With those words, he released his grip on the car door handle and stood beside Sonia. Moments later, Will arrived with Jessica and stopped at a distance of almost three feet away. He first pushed Jessica's hand away from him before he offered Toby a handshake with a flattering smile. "President Fuller, we meet again."

If it were usual times wherein Will had shrugged her hand off like this, Jessica would've been displeased, but she was extremely satisfied with his action at this moment. She didn't want to portray that she had any close contact with Will in front of the other man. While they were at a distance away, she had already noticed his good looks and now that she was up close and personal, she found him to be even better looking, which caused her heart to race. Furthermore, the man's stature and temperament were far beyond Will.

Before this, she had always felt that Will was already the best among men, so she was willing to be affectionate to him and follow him around to keep him firmly in her life so that she wouldn't have to worry about her life. Then, once she used some tricks in the future, she might also be able to marry into the Lazuli Family. However, now that she saw this man, she suddenly realized that Will wasn't that great after all.

With this thought in mind, Jessica raised her head to look at Will and saw the gratifying smile on his face, which resulted in an obvious flash of abhorrence in her eyes. However, it disappeared almost instantly as she hurriedly turned to look at Toby, following which her eyes lit up at once.

Considering Will's attitude toward Toby, it was an indication that his identity was probably exceptional—at least more than Will's. Sure enough, the man whom she was really in search of should have been President Fuller!

As for Will... He was already part of her history.

Clearly, both Will and Sonia noticed Jessica's heated and passionate gaze at Toby. Will's expression stiffened slightly, but he recovered at once and lowered his eyes to hide the coldness within. That woman said that she had loved him before, but now that she had her eye on another man, she couldn't turn away. I'm going to punish her later!

When Will saw that Toby had no intention to shake hands with him, he gave an awkward smile before he withdrew his hand and feigned that nothing had happened. Then, he looked at Sonia instead. "And this lady is..."

"Hello, my name is Sonia Reed." Sonia returned the grin. Her smile was faint and even a little perfunctory because she really didn't want to be well-mannered to a cheater like him.

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Chapter 565 Sowing Discord

"Sonia?" Will felt this name was somewhat familiar. He pondered on it before he immediately thought of something and suddenly clapped his hands. "So, you are the friend whom my fiancée has mentioned to me, and also the lady that President Fuller spoke briefly about before. Nice to meet you."

Then, he extended his hand toward Sonia. She looked at his hand with a frown, somewhat not wanting to engage in a handshake. However, she was not Toby who could simply ignore the other party. Thus, she had to shake Will's hand to avoid offending him. Otherwise, he might cause her trouble, especially now that they were abroad and in his territory.

A helpless Sonia forced a smile as she extended her hand to take Will's proffered hand.

At this moment, Toby suddenly reached over and gently pressed her hand down, preventing her from shaking Will's hand. When she looked at Toby in surprise, he shook his head at her and looked at Will before explaining, "It's not necessary to shake hands."

Will suddenly reacted by laughing when he saw Toby's dominance. "Sorry, I wasn't being courteous and forgot the relationship between you and Miss Reed. I hope you don't mind, President Fuller." After he said those words, he hurriedly lowered his hand.

While listening to Will's words, Sonia pursed her lips. He must have understood the nature of my relationship with Toby since he thought we were a couple. However, Sonia didn't clear the air by telling the truth. After all, Toby had just helped her avoid shaking hands with Will, so she couldn't possibly not show Toby some respect.

"Alright, what do you want?" Toby removed his hand from Sonia's wrist and looked at Will before asking in an indifferent tone.

Will waved his hand. "It's nothing. It's just that I saw you here, President Fuller, so I came over to say hello to you."

"In that case, we should go now that we have exchanged pleasantries." After saying that, Toby pulled the car door open again.

Now that Jessica noticed Sonia and the others leaving, she hurriedly said after keeping silent with a decent smile earlier, "Wait a minute."

As a result of that, Sonia and Toby stopped in their tracks. As for Will, he admonished Jessica with a hard face, "What are you doing?"

Jessica feigned that she hadn't heard Will's words and didn't spare him a glance. After taking a deep breath, she took a step forward and put on what she thought was her most beautiful smile before addressing Toby with a soft, delicate voice, "How could you guys just leave? I haven't introduced myself yet. My name is Jess—"

"There's no need to since we're not interested." Before Jessica could even finish with her introduction, Toby had directly interrupted her with an impatient tone.

The smile on Jessica's face stiffened as she never expected that he wouldn't show due respect for her feelings. She was embarrassed and exasperated at that moment since she didn't know how to continue with the conversation as she stood there.

When she saw that Jessica was upset, Sonia felt especially pleased and looked at Toby with approval before mouthing, "Well done."

As Toby never expected Sonia to praise him, he simply chuckled. The moment that Jessica saw their interaction, it gave rise to her jealousy. She clenched her fists and spoke again, "Sonia, since you're my dear sister, why won't you introduce me to this gentleman?"

"Sister?" Will froze as his gaze alternated between Jessica and Sonia. "You two are... sisters?!"

"Yes, Will. Sonia and I are biological sisters." Jessica looked at the outraged Sonia and gently stroked her hair with a smug. Since Toby was unwilling to listen to her self-introduction, surely he wouldn't refuse to listen if she dragged Sonia along, right? No matter what, I must make this man remember my name today!

"Oh, that's right," a surprised Will added. "This lady is Sonia Reed whereas you are Jessica Reed. You guys share the same last name, which means that you are really sisters."

"Of course we are. We're half-sisters from the same father."

"Sorry, we are not sisters. I can't acknowledge someone who doesn't even recognize her own father as my sister," Sonia coldly replied as she furrowed her eyebrows.

It was only then that Will realized that the pair of sisters never exchanged a single greeting since the moment they met earlier. Since they were avoiding speaking to each other, it seemed like they had an acrimonious relationship.

"How can you say that, Sonia?" An aggrieved Jessica stared at Sonia and asked, "Since when have I not acknowledged our father? Why do you want to accuse me of such a thing and wrong me?"

"I have wronged you?" Sonia pointed at herself and laughed in exasperation.

Toby rested his hand on her shoulder and gently patted her, indicating to her not to be angry. Then, he lowered his head to look at Jessica like an eagle visually marking an ant, "Sonia never lies. If she says those words, it must be true."

"Sir, how can you misunderstand me based on my sister's words? I am my father's daughter, so how can I not acknowledge him? You must have misunderstood me from my actions. Maybe it's because our father died many years ago and I didn't return to pay my respects to him, so you..."

With that, Jessica lowered her head, tears swimming in her eyes.

Sonia felt an oncoming headache and interrupted, "Enough! You don't need to put on an act here as I don't buy it. You're simply disgusting. Let's go." She glanced at Toby, who responded with a slight nod before he opened the car door once again.

When Jessica saw this, she secretly gritted her teeth. Are you going to leave? No way!

She hadn't even chatted with this handsome man and sowed discord between him and Sonia yet, so how could she let them leave?

"Sonia!" She shouted in a hurry, "We haven't seen each other for so long. How about looking for a place to have a good chat?"

She walked toward Sonia and stretched her hand in an attempt to pull Sonia's arm. When Sonia noticed what Jessica was doing, she lifted her arm to avoid coming into contact with Jessica. However, at this moment, Jessica suddenly screamed and fell to the ground at once, thereafter bruising her arm.

"Sonia, why did you push me?" She held her arm and raised her head to look at Sonia with disbelief and hurt, as if Sonia was the most evil person.

The corners of Sonia's mouth twitched in response. "Do you believe me when I say I didn't touch her?"

She looked at the man beside her, who nodded with his slightly curved thin lips. "Of course."

His unhesitating answer made Sonia feel extremely satisfied. After that, she turned to look at Jessica. "You said I pushed you, right?"

Jessica lowered her head and retorted, "It's impossible for me to fall by myself."

She was clearly implying that it was Sonia who pushed her down. Sonia was furious and narrowed her eyes. "Since you have said so, then wouldn't it be a waste if I didn't actually push you to prove your accusation?"

"W-What are you going to do?" Jessica's heart suddenly raced as a sense of foreboding rose in her when Sonia's tone and expression made her recollect what happened back in the restroom.

"What am I going to do? Of course I'm going to push you!" Upon saying that, Sonia bent down to pull Jessica up from the ground before forcefully shoving Jessica's shoulder. Her action had caused Jessica to stumble and fall heavily onto the ground, which had shocked Jessica to the point where she forgot to yell in pain.

It was only after a while that she reacted and howled in pain with a contorted face. "Sonia! You—"

She never expected that Sonia would actually dare to push her!

"What about me?" Sonia remained in front of Jessica and looked at her with the same gaze as Toby earlier. "Jessica, you are really something. Normal people will keep a distance from those whom they know dislike them, but you are different. You are clearly aware that I do not like you, yet you still have the nerve to approach us for a chat. Aren't you a self-imposed wh*re?"

"You!" Jessica's face was red with anger. To her side, Will looked at the overbearing Sonia and couldn't help but swallow his saliva. God, this woman looks like a good girl on the outside, but I didn't expect her to be a tough cookie. How could President Fuller fancy such a harsh woman?

He shot a glance at Toby, but noticed that Toby was looking at Sonia with pride. Will's mouth instantly twitched. Well, President Fuller's taste is indeed unique. He likes such a woman. Besides, looking at how he supports that woman to physically attack others, I'm afraid that he would help to cover the crime if this woman really kills someone, right?

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Chapter 566 Teaching Jessica a Lesson

As he thought about this, Will took a step back and retreated from these people. He had already witnessed that Jessica, who claimed to have loved him, was merely a gold digger. Now that she had encountered someone better-looking and richer than him, she immediately ignored Will and fixed her gaze on Toby, wishing nothing more than to be with Toby. Unfortunately, she was unaware that Toby was most disgusted by women like her.

Thus, Will wanted to see how Toby and Sonia would punish her.

After shoving Jessica aside, Sonia retreated to Toby's side. Toby took her hand and held it close to his eyes as he carefully checked her paw.

A puzzled Sonia then asked, "What's wrong?"

"Let me check whether your hand is injured." Toby turned her hand over.

She laughed. "How could it be injured?" There isn't any knife or anything similar that could have hurt me either.

Sonia was ready to withdraw her hand when Toby grabbed her hand and refused to let go of it. "Don't move! Even if you're not hurt, you still need to clean it. You just touched something dirty, so there will be germs."

With that, he pulled out the decorative handkerchief from his left breast pocket and wiped her hand.

She was amused by his action, but didn't pull her hand away and merely allowed him to do it instead.

As for Jessica, who was still on the ground, she was so angry that her nails dug deep into the flesh of her palms. She was so furious because the man had actually said that she was dirty and filled with germs! When Will heard that, he almost broke into a loud laughter. Sure enough, he knew that she would be punished by Toby and Sonia.

"Excuse me, sir."

Jessica took a deep breath to suppress the anger in her heart before the corners of her mouth squeezed downward to indicate her faux sadness as she looked at

Toby. "How can you say that? My sister pushed me to the ground. Not only did you not speak up for me, you suggested that I have germs instead. You've gone overboard—"

"Who are you to me?" Toby finished wiping Sonia's hand and released it while he coldly spoke to Jessica.

With an undisguised disgust in his voice, he continued, "Why should I speak up for you?"

"I..." Jessica choked and was suddenly unable to speak as her face paled before it reddened. Soon after, she calmed down. As she covered her bruised arm, she stood up from the ground and bowed her head to say, "I know that I have no relationship with you, sir. However, even a stranger would also step forward to speak for the victim in the face of such a situation. Thus, you shouldn't defend my sister just because you are together with her."

A speechless Toby was stunned. What the hell is this woman talking about? Sonia is my woman, so who should I defend if not her? This woman is really mentally afflicted!

With that thought, Toby pursed his lips and icily replied, "Your sister is my woman. What's wrong with me defending her?"

His words caused Sonia's head to shoot up as she looked at him. "You—"

"What's wrong?" He turned to look at her, his expression and voice becoming gentle all of a sudden.

She lowered her eyes to avoid his line of sight and shook her head. "Nothing." If he wants to say that, so be it. I can't go against him in front of Jessica. What's more, when he said those words, he was also helping me out.

"Sir, you can't do this." Jessica looked up at Toby with a face of righteousness. "I know that my sister is your woman and you should defend her, but her character is too..."

She cautiously glanced at Sonia as if she was afraid that Sonia would be angered. Then, she hurriedly withdrew her gaze to lower her head again and continued, "Her character is too domineering and she likes to bully others, so if you defend her like this for no reason, it will only encourage her temper and cause her character to worsen. Soon, she will certainly get into big trouble."

After hearing Jessica's words of sully and rumormongering, Sonia was about to explode with anger. She squeezed her palms and was about to rush forward to argue with her when Toby suddenly stretched out with his arm in front of her and shook his head, indicating for her to calm down first.

"Leave it to me." He looked at Sonia.

When Sonia saw from his gaze that he meant business, her heart inexplicably calmed down and she nodded. "Okay."

Toby lowered his hand and turned to Jessica, his eyes cold without a trace of emotion. "You said that Sonia has a domineering character and likes to bully people. So, do tell me, who did she bully?"

Jessica gripped the corner of her clothes and responded, "S-She liked to bully me since I was young. I grew up under her mistreatment, which is why I couldn't resist escaping from the Reed Family 6 years ago. I happened to see my sister in the restroom today and I was even excited to greet her, thinking that we haven't seen each other for 6 years. She should've been happy to see me, but I didn't expect that she would still harass me. In fact, she held my head underwater in the sink and tried to drown me."

Speaking of that, she wiped her teary eyes as she had actually cried.

A surprised Toby looked at Sonia, as if asking whether she had really done such a thing.

Sonia's red lips moved but she did not speak, thereby admitting that she held Jessica's head underwater. It was only then that Toby understood why she had spent such a long time in the restroom—she was taking out the garbage.

Next, he withdrew his eyes and looked at Jessica again. "Since Sonia had treated you this way, it means you must have done something wrong and angered her. Otherwise, why would she have done such a thing when she's a kind person?"

The corners of Sonia's lips curled upward as she was entertained by his words.

"Huh?" When Jessica heard this, she stopped crying and let out a strange sound instead. She looked at Toby incredulously; she was obviously unable to believe that he had actually defended Sonia to such an extent. Generally, whenever a man heard that their female companion had been so unkind as to hold people underwater, they would reckon that the woman was extremely vicious and be displeased by that fact. Will was such an example, but how was Toby so different with such an unreal behavior?

However, it was exactly this behavior of Toby's that made Jessica even more determined to snatch him from Sonia's grasp and tear their relationship apart. In short, as long as Sonia had something or someone, Jessica wanted a piece of it!

When she thought about this, Jessica spoke again, "No, sir, I didn't do anything wrong. I just—"

"That's enough!" Toby impatiently retorted. "You don't need to say anything else to me. I don't even know you, so what makes you think I'll believe your words rather than my own eyes? Wouldn't I know what kind of person Sonia is? Do I need you to tell me? You said that Sonia bullied you as a child, but why did I hear that it was you who bullied her as a child?"

"I didn't!" Jessica's expression changed and she hurriedly shook her head to deny the fact.

However, in her heart, she was wondering how Toby knew the truth. Was it Sonia who told him? No, he said that he didn't know her in the past, so how could Sonia have told him something about her?

"You'll know best about that." Toby held Sonia's hand in a comfortable manner and repeated, "In the past, you bullied her, but I couldn't help her at that time. Now, before you even dare to harm her again, you should think carefully whether you can afford the consequences. Besides, you kept badmouthing Sonia and made her out to be someone vicious, but I'm afraid you forgot that you two are sisters by blood. Do you really think others can't tell what kind of a person you are when you spread rumors and smear your own sister in front of outsiders like this?"

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Chapter 567 Toby's Venomous Tongue

"You... You—"

"What?" Toby interrupted her once again. "Do you think I don't know what your purpose is by saying all this and coming to smear Sonia? You just want to smear Sonia's image in my mind, so as to lower her position in my heart, right? Heh, you're just a stupid and venomous woman. Those who are interested in you are probably all sick in the head."

When he said that, he glanced toward Will at the side. Will gave an awkward cough before he hurriedly turned his head away. Jessica had never expected Toby to be so forthright that he completely exposed all her intentions to those around them. For a moment, she was so guilty, embarrassed and angry that her body shivered.

Even Sonia didn't expect that Toby actually had such a venomous tongue to him. However, she felt rather good and satisfied, especially when she saw how he defended her and described Jessica as worthless.

"Let's go." Toby looked at Sonia. There was no longer any need to be involved with Jessica as it would only be a waste of their time. Jessica was so humiliated by his words that she didn't dare to stop them from doing anything anymore.

Sonia nodded and replied, "Okay." She turned and didn't even spare a glance at Jessica, but simply bent over and entered the passenger side of the car. Then,

Toby closed the passenger door, walked around the front of the car to the driver's side to open the door and thereafter started the car engine to depart.

As the car drove toward the exit of the parking lot and some distance away, Sonia happened to glance at the rearview mirror and saw Will slapping Jessica so hard that she fell to the ground. When Sonia saw that, she exclaimed in surprise.

Toby also saw the same scene, but he simply elaborated, "Jessica is Will's lover, but she was hell-bent on trying to flatter me earlier. Thus, Will, who is a narrow-minded person, begins to loathe her. Will won't dare to strike me, but Jessica is nothing to him. Besides, you don't care about her either, so once we left, he naturally wanted to punish her."

Sonia pursed her lips. "Yes, she was bent on trying to flatter you."

"Hmm?" He raised his eyebrows. "Why do you sound weird?"

"No, not at all." She looked down at her nails and flicked them while saying in a somewhat unhappy tone, "You have so many romantic interests. After Tina, there's now Jessica."

"Are you jealous?" Toby's eyes narrowed slightly.

Sonia straightened her posture and immediately retorted, "How is that possible? Don't be nonsensical."

He knew that she wasn't telling the truth and laughed a little. "Yes, yes, you aren't jealous."

"Of course I'm not jealous," she muttered.

Toby wheeled the steering wheel and although his eyes looked at the road in front of him, his gaze was especially passionate. "Don't worry; no matter who is thinking of me, I won't pay any attention to them. You're the only one I love."

After saying these words, he turned to look at Sonia. At once, Sonia's heartbeat accelerated while her face gradually reddened. Luckily, it was dark in the car, so he couldn't see that she blushed; otherwise, she would not be able to hide that fact from him. How is this guy so good at saying such things now?

Somehow, Sonia suddenly remembered what Nancy had said to her in the dressing room before. Nancy said that if Sonia met someone who extremely liked her, Sonia should stay with him to avoid any regrets in the future. So, should she consider Nancy's words and be with Toby? After all, he was a really different person from before and if she stayed with him, she probably wouldn't live in the same way that she did 6 years ago.

Now that Sonia was deep in her thoughts, she fell into a daze as she looked at him.

He felt that she was daydreaming and thereafter stopped the car at a traffic intersection. Then, he turned to her and asked, "What's wrong?"

Her eyes flashed before she lowered her eyelids and smiled a little. "There's nothing wrong. I'm just wondering whether I should agree or not."

"Agree to what?" a curious Toby probed.

Sonia shook her head. "I can't say for now because I haven't thought things through."

Reconciling with Toby wasn't a small matter; the past 6 years had brought Sonia such deep, painful memories. Moreover, she was rather traumatized by her experiences and had some fear toward love and marriage. Hence, she needed to fully and carefully consider whether she should get back together with him or not. If she was impulsive in her decision, there was a chance of her having a full-blown nervous breakdown if she was hurt in the future.

Seeing that Sonia didn't want to tell him, Toby nodded and didn't force her to answer either. Suddenly, he thought of something and clarified, "By the way, Jessica said that you held her head down underwater in the restroom. What really happened?"

When she heard that, she looked furious for a moment before she shared what had happened in the restroom at that time.

"I see. Then, she deserved the treatment." Toby nodded.

Sonia rubbed her temples. "I really feel sad for Dad that he has such a daughter."

"There's still you, though."

"Me?"

Toby nodded. "Although Jessica is a bad daughter, you are your father's pride, so I believe your father will be extremely relieved when he knows what you have done for the Reed Family and Paradigm Co."

She smiled. "I hope so."

"Although you punished Jessica and she deserved it, still, don't do such a thing again in the future," he added.

Then, Sonia looked at him and asked, "Why?"

"I'm afraid you'll get hurt." Toby slightly opened his thin lips. "Although Jessica can't lay a hand on you, it's hard to guarantee that accidents won't happen. If something happens, what would you do?"

His words had left her silent; it was only after a while that she nodded slightly. "You're right. I'll be more careful in the future."

"That's good then. You should protect yourself." He gave a slight smile.

Sonia nodded again. "I will."

Soon, Toby stopped the car and pulled the handbrake. "Here we are."

"Huh?" Sonia first froze before she turned her head to look out the window. As the villa in front of her greeted her sight, she suddenly stared in surprise. "Wait a minute; how do you know I'm staying here?"

She had a vague feeling that she had forgotten something since she entered the car but couldn't remember what it was. Now she finally remembered it—and that was her negligence in telling him her address. Yet, even though she didn't do so, he still drove her here anyway, which was obviously a strange occurrence.

Toby opened the car door and got out before he answered Sonia's question. "I also live here."

"You also live here?" Sonia was so shocked that her mouth gaped. "You're the man whom Nancy arranged to come in?"

She pointed at Toby.

He raised his chin before replying, "Yes."

"Um..." A startled Sonia then alighted from the car as she continued to ask, "Aren't you staying in a hotel?"

"Something went wrong with the hotel suite, so they allowed Will to arrange a place for me to stay. All the properties that Will and his fiancée own have been fully occupied by other guests and only this villa isn't. Will has told me that you're the only one staying here, so I moved over this afternoon. I originally wanted to surprise you, but you were not in." Although he spoke lightly, she felt extremely unsettled.

She thought, Something went wrong with the hotel suite? How is that even a valid excuse? There are more than one room at the hotel and besides, how can there only be one presidential suite in a seven-star hotel? It's clear that he deliberately contacted Will to inquire where my accommodation is and moved in thereafter!

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Chapter 568 Nancy's Gratitude

At that thought, Sonia rolled her eyes at Toby and grunted, whereupon she took big strides toward the mansion's tall gate.

In the meantime, a confused Toby stood at his original position as he watched her walk away. Is she mad at me again? What's going on? What have I done? After a brief contemplation, he was sure he hadn't done anything wrong and caught up with the lady. "Wait up, Sonia."

Since Sonia feigned that she didn't hear anything and continued to walk forward, he was forced to increase his pace and followed her through the gate. As soon as the gate closed, he seized her wrist before pinning her on the wall while keeping his gaze on her. "Tell me what's going on. Why are you mad at me?"

Deep down in her heart, she rolled her eyes at the man, feeling piqued with his question. Did he just ask why I'm mad?! She placed her hands on Toby's chest and tried to shove him away. "It's nothing. Just keep a distance from me as I need to get going now."

Nonetheless, Toby refused to step aside as he continued to stand in front of her like a wall. "Just answer my question, or I'll never be able to ease my mind."

"Do you really want to know?" Sonia looked at him after she inhaled deeply.

"Of course, or I wouldn't have stopped you to ask about this."

She pursed her lips and answered, "Toby, did you move here because of me?"

The moment he heard her question, he was rendered speechless, but he was also surprised that she had figured out his intentions at the same time. It seems that I must have given myself away with what I have just said.

On the other hand, when Sonia noticed Toby's silence, she sighed and added, "As I have expected, you... really have no sense of shame at all!"

He immediately understood what she meant. "Are you mad because I moved in when you were already here?"

It was something that she didn't deny or admit. "You make me feel like I'm being creepily stalked."

"I'm sorry that I scared you, but hear me out, Sonia, I want to be with you—forever!" Toby answered.

An embarrassed Sonia kept her head down as she replied, "Well, I don't want to. You're too annoying. Get away from me!" She then pushed the man away and removed her high heels, whereupon she wore her flip-flops and entered through the living room.

Toby chuckled in response to her reaction and changed to a pair of flip-flops as well before entering the house. Soon, Sonia was found slumped on the couch from exhaustion after a long hectic day. Earlier that morning, she had taken a flight and spent a few hours on the plane. Even after she landed, she didn't get to rest as she had to purchase the medicine she was looking for in the afternoon followed by her attending the engagement ceremony at night. Now that she was exhausted from her tight schedule, she felt especially sore on her shoulders and rolled them in an attempt to relieve the inflammation.

Something seemed to cross his mind when he saw her reaction. Thus, he headed to the kitchen and made a cup of tea before giving it to her. "You must have had a lot to drink earlier tonight. Drink this and it should help you to sober up a little. Otherwise, you'll have a hangover pretty soon."

"Thanks." Sonia paused when she saw the cup of tea that Toby had prepared for her, but she soon accepted it.

"You're no longer mad now?" He sat down beside her.

Upon hearing that, she froze for a short while and grunted a while later. "Well, considering that you've brought this cup of tea over, let's consider things as even."

"Great." Toby lowered his head to smile whereas Sonia continued to sip her tea.

As he continued to sit next to her and watched her every move, it was slowly making her uncomfortable, so she placed the cup aside and excused herself. "It's getting late. I suppose I should probably head upstairs and catch some rest."

"Alright, do rest early." Toby nodded.

Sonia grabbed her purse on the couch. "The same goes for you."

"Of course, but not before I attend a short conference meeting."

"Alright, I guess I'll head upstairs first."

He looked at her. "Good night."

"Good night." Sonia curled her lips upward and turned to make her way upstairs.

When she returned to her room, she sat on her bed and waited for two minutes before she grabbed her robe and stepped into the bathroom for a nice bath. Now that she was soaking in the bathtub full of water, Sonia could feel the effects of

the alcohol kicking in as the temperature of her body slowly matched that of the water. Soon, she started to feel dizzy as her face flushed in the color of blood.

She knew that she was on the verge of losing her consciousness and could drown if she continued to remain in the bathtub, which was what she reckoned to be an embarrassing death. Therefore, she rubbed her temples and held the edges of the bathtub to get out of her bath. After that, she reached for the towel and wiped herself dry, whereupon she wore the robe and headed out of the bathroom to quickly head to bed.

Nevertheless, before she even made it to bed, her knees somehow weakened and caused her to collapse on the ground, but thanks to both the floor mat and the alcohol, she didn't feel any pain as a result of the fall. She only fixed her eyes on the chandelier on the ceiling; she occasionally blinked her eyes until she finally succumbed to the alcoholic effects and drifted off in the illuminating light.

On the other hand, Toby had just finished his conference meeting and he was about to head upstairs for bed when the doorbell distracted him at that moment. He placed his laptop aside with a frown before walking to the entrance. When he answered the door, he was greeted by a tall and slender lady who politely smiled at him. "Mr. Fuller."

"It's you." He looked at the lady and asked, "To what do I owe you this pleasure?"

Then, Nancy scanned the surroundings behind Toby to seemingly search for something, but when she didn't appear to locate the thing that she wanted, she averted her gaze and answered, "I'm here because I'd like to have a word with Sonia. Is she asleep?"

"Yes, she is." An unhappy Toby maintained his gaze on her. "Can't you wait until tomorrow?" What's so important that she has to come all the way here to disturb Sonia?

In the meantime, Nancy was also aware that it wasn't the right time to visit Sonia, but she merely wanted to tell Sonia something that she thought was important. "I'm sorry, Mr. Fuller. It was my fault for not thinking about this earlier, but there's something pertinent that I need to inform her. In fact, it's something that I just discovered an hour ago about Will's mistress, who happens to be Sonia's sister. I was also reminded about something else, so I came as quickly as I could." She smiled in embarrassment.

"Is this about Jessica?" He squinted. "What's the story? You can let me know and I'll pass on the word to Sonia."

"Well..." She appeared to be a little hesitant. A few seconds later, she shook her head and apologized, "I'm sorry, Mr. Fuller, but since it's an important matter, I think it's probably better for me to personally tell her."

Needless to say, Toby could tell Nancy's distrust toward him, but decided to brush it off and instead said, "Alright, since you want to tell her yourself, you

could come again tomorrow. Furthermore, your reaction tells me that it's not really that urgent, so you can probably wait until tomorrow, can't you?"

"You're right. In that case, I should get going and leave you to it, Mr. Fuller." She nodded and walked away, but as soon as she took her first step forward, something seemed to have crossed her mind. So, she immediately turned around and spoke, "Hang on, Mr. Fuller."

As he was in the midst of closing the door, he paused and pursed his lips in an annoyed manner. "Is there anything else?"

Nancy suddenly bowed to the man. "I've heard from my father that you confronted Will's dad and told him about the affair. Thanks to what you have done, Will's father lectured him and forced Will to sever ties with everyone whom he's ever known outside of the family. On top of that, he has even compensated for the damages that he's caused to the Sandstone Family. So, you have no idea how grateful I am to you!"

An emotionless Toby looked at Nancy before responding, "If you want to thank someone, you should thank Sonia. I only did it for her sake. She cares for you as a friend and doesn't want to see you living your future in a mess, which was why I did what I did. However, that's just a small part of the reason. My actual reason was to force Will to leave his mistress, Jessica. After all, she is another daughter of Sonia's father."

Although Sonia never shared a strong bond with Jessica, she didn't want her half-sister to be someone's mistress because it would bring shame to Henry's name. That was why Toby hatched a plan to instigate Will and Jessica to break up so that she would no longer be known as a homewrecker.

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Nancy smiled in response. "Anyway, for whatever reason it might have been, you surely did me a favor, Mr. Fuller, and I'm grateful for what you both have done for me. However, as I came in a hurry, I didn't manage to prepare a gift for both you and Sonia. I'll be sure to have it ready when I come again tomorrow. See you!"

"Sure," Toby replied.

As soon as she bowed again and thereafter left, he immediately closed the door and kept his laptop away before heading upstairs. When he passed by Sonia's bedroom, he slowed down and peeked at her door. The moment that he noticed

the faint light from the bottom gap of the door, he stopped and wondered whether Sonia was still awake. The lights are still on. Is she still up?

At that thought, he knocked on the door with the plan of giving her a heads-up about Nancy's visit. "Are you there, Sonia?" he asked while knocking on the door.

Nonetheless, even after he knocked for a few more minutes, nobody came to answer the door. Is she really asleep?

Toby knitted his eyebrows, but he quickly dismissed that thought because he knew how Sonia hated to leave the lights on when she wanted to sleep. So, it meant that she was still awake, but it still didn't answer his question as to why Sonia didn't answer the door. Why didn't she open the door? Don't tell me she's not in her room now?

At the thought of that, he immediately became anxious as he paused and immediately shifted his hand to the door knob. Then, he gently twisted it to open the door, thereby stepping inside and setting his eyes on the bed. When he saw that the bed was empty, his eyes dilated in horror. She's not in her bed! Where is she? His heart skipped a beat as he clenched his fists. At the same time, he began to frantically scan his surroundings for any indication that would reveal how Sonia had left the room when he never noticed her heading downstairs.

Nevertheless, as Toby looked around the room, he spotted what resembled strands of long hair on the floor not far away from the bathroom, but since the couch had blocked his vision, he wasn't sure what he had seen. Even so, he decided to circle around the couch to investigate what was behind it, only to discover a motionless Sonia on the ground like she was dead.

"Sonia!" Toby's expression changed as he quickly stepped forward to check on Sonia. He then carried her in his arms and felt her forehead, but it didn't feel feverish. After that, he proceeded to check on her breathing and detected nothing unusual either. She's not showing any symptoms that will indicate she is sick, such as agonal breathing.

In that instant, he suddenly became amused with what had happened as he slowly calmed down after realizing Sonia was merely asleep, and not under the weather. Well, what can I say? She has managed to fall asleep on the floor. Wasn't she afraid of catching a cold? As Toby didn't intend to wake her up, he placed Sonia's arms around his neck and carried her with one of his hands slightly below her buttocks. Then, he headed for the bed and placed her on it, whereupon he fixed her hair and tucked her in. He planted a kiss on her forehead and switched off the lights before leaving the room.

It was already 11:00AM the next day when Sonia woke up. When she opened her eyes, the first thing that came into her line of vision was the ceiling. Then, she looked at the bed on which she lay and paused in a trance. Wait a minute. How did I get here? Didn't I collapse on the ground and drift off because I was too drunk after my shower last night? Or, did Toby enter my room last night? As Sonia moved to a sitting posture, she pursed her lips and rubbed her temples.

As soon as she straightened her posture, she was suddenly overwhelmed by a strong nausea and headache that was accompanied by dizziness. It was something that left her with a terrible feeling.

However, she endured her nausea and removed the blanket before she proceeded to wear her flip-flops. Then, she staggered toward the bathroom, where she rested her knees and vomited into the toilet bowl. She felt much more relieved when she was done and her nausea disappeared despite still feeling dizzy.

Sonia reached out to flush the contents of her vomit away before she stood up to get ready with her morning ablutions. By the time she was done with getting herself refreshed, an hour had already passed by.

Then, she proceeded downstairs and heard Toby's voice from the living room. "The Lazuli Family seems to be doing rather well." Right after he finished his sentence, a lady's voice was heard, but instead of saying something, she chuckled with a soothing voice that sounded like a ringing bell.

Meanwhile, when Sonia heard that female voice, she stopped in her tracks and held the staircase railing while unknowingly tightening her grip on it with a sour look. Toby is quite the ladies' man, isn't he? After running into Jessica yesterday, he is now talking to another lady. Is he going to meet with someone else tomorrow?

The more Sonia dwelled on it, the more uncomfortable she felt and she couldn't help but express her dissatisfaction with a cold grunt.

Despite her soft grunt, Toby managed to hear her, thanks to his keen hearing. So, he looked up and saw Sonia standing on the stairs, whereupon his glacial look was replaced by an amiable one and accompanied by a gentle voice. "You're awake."

However, as she didn't want to bother him, she ignored him and coldly looked away. Why do you even bother looking at me? Go ahead and talk to that lady! Laugh all you want! I'm sure you don't want to leave her in the cold.

On the other hand, Toby's head was filled with question marks when he saw Sonia's unhappiness. What's wrong with her?

Nancy was seated with her back facing the stairs and hence unable to see what was behind her. However, when she saw that Toby was looking at the staircase, she figured that Sonia was awake. She stood up in happiness and circled around the couch to approach the stairs. Then, she stopped in her tracks and waved at Sonia to greet her. "Hi, Sonia."

Sonia could tell that it was Nancy's voice, which left her stunned like she was in a trance. Then, she shifted her gaze to Nancy and responded in shock, "It's you?" So, it was Nancy whom Toby was talking to all along.

"What's wrong? The last time we met was a day ago, so don't tell me you have forgotten who I am," Nancy joked when she noticed Sonia's bewilderment.

"Nothing's wrong; it's just that I'm surprised to see you here." Sonia shook her head, wondering what it was that Nancy was happily discussing with Toby.

"I came to thank you and Mr. Fuller," Nancy replied. "Since you weren't up when I arrived, I decided to have a little chat with Mr. Fuller while waiting for you."

"Really? So... What were you guys chatting about?" Sonia shot a gaze at Toby shortly before turning her attention to Nancy and asking in a jealous tone.

Toby raised his eyebrow and chuckled, now knowing why Sonia was behaving in an unhappy manner. She is probably jealous that I'm talking with another lady.

"We were talking about Will." Nancy didn't seem to sense that Sonia was jealous as she smiled and elaborated, "Mr. Fuller had a word with my dad about Will's affair yesterday. Thanks to him, Will's family forced him to apologize to me and break up with his mistress."

"Oh, I see." Sonia nodded upon realizing what was going on. So, that was what Toby meant by saying the Lazali Family was doing fine. In that instant, she instantly eased her mind and felt less anxious while descending the stairs with her hand still on the railing.

At the same time, Toby noticed that her legs were trembling and immediately understood what she needed. Thus, he placed the finance magazine that he held aside and headed toward the kitchen to grab a bowl of hangover soup that he asked someone to deliver earlier that morning. He then handed it over to Sonia. "Drink it."

"What's this?" Sonia stared at the liquid that resembled some soup, but she scrunched up her nose in disgust when she detected a strange scent from the bowl.

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"Call it the hangover soup," Toby answered.

Sonia knitted her eyebrows. "The hangover soup? Wait a second. Why is it in such a strange color? And, why does it smell funky?"

Toby set his eyes on the bowl of soup in silence. "Well, it surely doesn't have a mouth-watering appearance and a pleasant smell, but what matters is that it works. So, just drink it."

In fact, he had learned how to prepare the hangover soup the night before through an online tutorial. Immediately after he carried her to the bed, he detected the smell of alcohol wafting from her, although it wasn't strong. Thus, he quickly understood why she was able to fall asleep on the floor before he headed downstairs to the kitchen to study how to make the hangover soup.

Nonetheless, the soup that he had prepared somehow didn't look similar to the one he watched on the tutorial. Even so, he tested the effectiveness of the soup on himself by drinking it after making himself drunk. When he woke up the next morning without a terrible hangover, he was certain that the soup he made was indeed effective.

Deep down in his heart, Toby was ready to proudly tell Sonia that he was the one who made the soup right after she drank it in an attempt to impress her. Now that he saw the disgusted look on her face, he reluctantly decided to change his mind. It was because of that he faked a cough and explained, "I don't know. Maybe it's a new flavor that some guy in the hotel invented."

"A new flavor?" Sonia's lips curled upward. "Which hotel is this guy from? He really has the guts to prepare some hangover soup that looks like poison. Ew! I doubt he even managed to make any sale from it, except those who are dumb enough to buy one from him."

I'm dumb?! He fixed his gaze on Sonia with annoyance while she was still unaware of his irritation. On the other hand, after remaining silent for the entire time, it was Nancy who managed to see through Toby's unhappiness and pulled on Sonia's sleeve.

"What's wrong?" Sonia turned and looked at Nancy.

Nancy didn't say a single word, but she merely jutted her chin at Toby.

Then, Sonia turned and saw his expression as well as the hangover soup shortly before she instantly understood the awkward position that she had just landed herself in. Thus, she smiled in embarrassment and apologized, "I'm sorry. I didn't really mean it. I just forgot that you were the one who bought the soup."

She wasn't lying because she had indeed forgotten that it was Toby who bought the hangover soup for her. Otherwise, she wouldn't have called those who bought the hangover soup dumb and unknowingly insulted him.

A helpless Toby sighed when he saw Sonia's embarrassment before he affectionately noted, "That's enough. Aren't you dizzy now? Hurry up and drink it."

"Okay. I will." She smiled, thinking that even though the hangover soup didn't seem to be mouth-watering in appearance, she should appreciate his kind

intention. Thus, she told herself that she shouldn't disappoint him when he was merely trying to show his care for her.

At the thought of that, Sonia took a deep breath and closed her eyes while bringing the bowl closer to her mouth as she guzzled the liquid down her throat.

When Sonia was guzzling the soup, Toby had already inserted his hand into his pocket and rummaged for a toffee. Then, he held it in his palm and maintained his gaze on her. The moment she finished the soup, she noticed a candy in front of her before she managed to put the bowl down. She was surprised and shifted her eyes to the person who gave her the toffee.

The man's eyes brightened up at her response. "Well, the hangover soup surely didn't taste well, so chew this toffee. It should help to remove the unpleasant taste."

Since Toby was the one who prepared the soup, he knew how unpleasant the taste was, which was why he had prepared the toffee beforehand.

In light of his thoughtfulness, Sonia was briefly stunned before she felt warmth in her heart. Soon, she gave him a smile as she took the toffee in front of her. "Thank you."

Toby also reacted with a smile. "Don't mention it. Give me the bowl."

She didn't reject his offer as she gave him the bowl, whereupon he headed to the kitchen with it and left her alone with Nancy in the living room.

Not long after that, Nancy stroked her chin and gazed at Sonia peeling off the toffee's packaging. Then, when she turned her attention to Toby, she instantly understood what was going on and gave a playful smile.

"It looks like Mr. Fuller has a crush on you, Sonia," Nancy opined.

When Sonia heard those words, she puckered her lips with the candy in her mouth. Then, she kept her head slightly lowered and spoke with a soft voice, "Yeah, I guess so."

Upon hearing Sonia's confirmation, Nancy asked, "In that case, have you thought about being with him?"

"I don't know." Sonia shook her head and circled around the couch before she sat down on another single sofa.

"You don't know?" Nancy echoed her words. "Are you saying that you've actually considered being with him but haven't made up your mind about it?"

While chewing the toffee in her mouth, Sonia replied, "Well, you know that I have been divorced once, so I don't really trust love anymore because I just can't

handle being hurt again. So, before I really make up my mind, I won't start a relationship with anyone so easily."

"You have a point." Nancy nodded and angrily added, "This is thanks to your goddamn ex-husband who hurt you so much that you no longer have the courage to look for your next love."

Sonia's lips curled upward in silence as she wondered whether she should inform Nancy that Toby was her ex-husband before deciding, Fine, I guess she is better off not knowing it.

Nancy expressed her opinion while looking at Sonia. "Speaking of that, Sonia, I think that both of you would be a perfect couple."

"Why do you think so?" Sonia bent over and poured herself a glass of water.

"It's simple; it's because you are both in love with each other," Nancy answered while shrugging her shoulders.

When Sonia heard Nancy's casual answer, her eyes dilated in horror as she nearly dropped the glass in her hand. There's no way I'm in love with Toby! That's absolutely impossible! I'm sure that I no longer have any feelings for him, so how does it look like I'm still in love with him?

"What's wrong, Sonia?" Nancy was frightened by Sonia's dramatic reaction.

Sonia clenched her fists, trying to maintain her composure while forcing a brittle smile. "I'm fine. I'm just a little shocked by your words."

"Shocked?" A confused Nancy knitted her eyebrows, wondering why Sonia would be shocked by what she had just said.

Sonia fiddled with the glass of water. "Yeah, you said I'm in love with Toby, but that's a joke. Why would I fall in love with him?"

"Hey, I'm being serious because I'm certain that you are in love with him." Nancy crossed her legs and added, "I'm a keen observer and I can tell from the way you look at him that you definitely have feelings for him. Furthermore, you just said that it has crossed your mind about being together with Mr. Fuller. It's just that you haven't made up your mind, so that brings me to one question—if you're not in love with him, why would you even think about being together with him? If that's the case, what you just said doesn't make any sense. Don't you think so?"

In that instant, Sonia was rendered speechless as her eyes widened and her mouth was agape. At the same time, she was confused by the question of considering rekindling the old flames in the first place and why it never occurred to her about accepting Charles or Carl.

After all, both Charles and Carl were in love with her as well, which made her question herself about her true feelings for Toby. Do I really have a crush on Toby? Or, have I found the love that I once had for him again?

At that moment, Sonia sat there in a trance, clearly unable to calm down after Nancy saw through her and pointed out what was on her mind.