

**Chapter 125**

Everyone believed that Pearl's offense was the beginning of Maisie's public revenge.

The corners of Maisie's mouth twitched as she picked up the phone to call Mrs. Santiago.

At about 10:00 a.m., Mrs. Santiago posted a video using Pearl's social media accounts.

Pearl's condition looked very poor in the video, and her gaze was stupefied. She looked as if she had lost a lot of weight overnight, and there seemed to be a huge difference between her current self and the gorgeous selfies and photos that she usually uploaded onto her Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.

The video was obviously her first online appearance after the incident.

"I was in a conflict with Ms. Vanderbilt, but it was not Ms. Vanderbilt who put me in harm's way. I was taken advantage of that night, which had caused me to believe in others' words too easily. I don't want to cover anything anymore, so I'm posting this video to apologize to everyone."

**#Bruised Cheeks#:** The actual victim has posted a video to clarify the whole incident. Wake up, you haters. Stop being brainwashed by the designer.

**#Studied4Nothin#:** She looks really haggard. To be honest, a young girl got ruined just like this, yet she has to be ridiculed by the public. I would surely kill the culprit behind the whole incident if she was my daughter.

**#SexyV#:** All of you are just a bunch of f\*cking haters! You guys are still trying to defend that woman, too bad the evidence is too evident this time around.

At the Vanderbilt manor...

Stephen slammed the tablet on the table and pointed at Willow exasperatedly. "Look at the things that you've done!"

Leila, who was standing on the side, was frightened. She then walked up to Stephen. "Dear, don't be angry—"

"You, you get out of here." Stephen flung her hand away.

"Look at the daughter that you've brought up. The Santiagos... Are the Santiagos some random family that she can trifle with?" Stephen shouted at Leila.

Leila bit her lip. It was obvious that she felt extremely aggrieved.

"Isn't it all because of that b\*tch, Maisie?"

Willow never thought that Pearl would change her mind and side with Maisie.

"This must be that b\*tch's idea. It must be her!"

"What does this have to do with Willie? Ms. Santiago was the one who chose to believe in Willie when all Willie did was disclose some information to her very casually. Besides, Ms. Santiago was originally going to harm Maisie. She was the one who's so incompetent that she got one-up by

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Maisie—"Leila subconsciously let the scheme slip her tongue.

Seeing Stephen's gradually gloomy expression, Leila wanted to explain more, but that was when a backhand slap landed on her cheek.

That slap almost sent Leila into the air, and she landed on the sofa.

"So Zee was your original target?" Stephen could not believe it.

Leila would always put on a kind stepmother front when he was around, and even Willow would have the appearance of an obedient daughter, but he did not expect that his current wife could say such a thing.

"Dear, I didn't mean that..."

Stephen ignored her but glared at Willow, whose face was slightly pale. "So is it true that you were the one who set Zee up six years ago?"

"Dad, I didn't! You have to believe me!" Willow truly panicked.

"I mustn't be driven out of Vanderbilts because of this. Otherwise, I will have nothing left!"

"Stephen!" A stern and low voice came from upstairs as Madam Vanderbilt slowly walked downstairs with Linda. "What are you doing? Why are you so furious?"

"Mother, this is none of your concern."

"How can I not be concerned about this?" Madam Vanderbilt took a glance at Leila, who had been slapped, and then looked at Willow. "She's the woman that you insisted on marrying, and she's the daughter that you brought back to the Vanderbilts. And you're starting to feel upset about them now?" she asked.

Willow ran to Madam Vanderbilt and gave off an aggrieved look. "Grandma..."

Madam Vanderbilt looked at Stephen with a troubled expression. "Stephen, no matter what, Willie is still the daughter of the Vanderbilts and my granddaughter. The Vanderbilts still need to rely on her to climb up the social ladder. You've already driven one of your daughters out of the house. Do you plan to chase this daughter away too?"

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To Madam Vanderbilt, benefits always came first. The men would inherit the family business, and the women would marry someone with power and status to help the family.

That was why she would protect Willow—because she had 'usage'.

Stephen held his fist. "Mom, isn't Maisie your granddaughter too?"

"Maisie?" Madam Vanderbilt's temper rose. "She's exactly like her mother, always the outsider of the family. Why should I rely on her?"

"Didn't you marry Marina because of how capable she was? Your place in Bassburgh was sealed because of her, but did she respect me? She was immoral for thinking about another man when she was already married to you. The apple definitely doesn't fall far from the tree."

"Enough!"

Stephen's sudden outburst stunned everyone. Even Madam Vanderbilt looked at him like he was out of his mind. Her son had never yelled at her.

"You have no right to talk about Marina like that." Stephen stomped upstairs right after he said that.

Leila, who still had her hand to her face, turned pale when she saw Stephen yell at his mother because of Marina. Stephen had not let go of Marina even years after her passing.

That was why he wanted to revise his will. He was obviously trying to let Maisie inherit Vaenna! No, she wouldn't let that horrible woman take anything from her!

"Mom, we need to talk..."

Leila could only talk to Madam Vanderbilt since she would definitely not agree to leave Vaenna to Maisie!

...

When Pearl's explanation video was posted, a lot of netizens sympathized with her.

From her rude actions to being tricked, and with the statements by the few people involved, all the mistakes pointed toward the culprit—Willow.

Even People's Daily of Bassburgh made a statement supporting Pearl, indirectly criticizing Willow's actions and saying that she should lose her status as a renowned jewel designer.

After the news came out, the loss that Vaenna suffered was devastating. Even clients who had pre-ordered jewelry from them requested refunds to avoid getting involved.

Willow's fame had just started, but she became the most hated person in town before she could enjoy it. That was going to anger the Vanderbilts.

"I didn't expect Mrs. Santiago to be able to convince Ms. Santiago to come out. This seems to be the nail on Willow's coffin."

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Unless Willow could show some proof.

Maisie leaned back on her chair. "Mrs. Santiago wants to clear her daughter's name, and I have evidence of her colluding with Willow. She would of course choose to help me."

As for Willow...

She probably never expected to be framed. If Willow was smart, she would accept it and be good until all this blew over.

Of course, if she chose to go against Pearl and expose her plan with her, she would get into the bad books of the Santiagos.

She had no proof. The netizens would just be annoyed by her attempt to explain.

However, Maisie didn't anticipate Willow's Twitter being suspended. It was obvious that Mrs. Santiago was behind it.

Suddenly, her phone rang. It was Leila.

Was this about Willow?

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Maisie laid the phone down on the desk and turned on the speaker. Leila's voice floated out. "Maisie, your grandma wants to see you..."

When the call ended, Kennedy was worried. "Do you think Madam Vanderbilt wants to see you because they have some plan? Do you want me to go with you?"

Maisie smiled. "No, Uncle Kennedy. There's a lot to be done at the studio. Madam Vanderbilt and Leila wouldn't be too much of a problem."

Maisie arrived at Sunrise Restaurant. It was odd that Madam Vanderbilt and Leila hadn't asked her to return to the Vanderbilt manor but wanted to meet her here instead. What could be the reason?

She saw Madam Vanderbilt and Leila sitting behind the table when she got into the room.

"Grandma, you asked to see me?"

Madam Vanderbilt wasn't happy at all, seeing that Maisie wasn't showing her respect and had a cold attitude. "I heard that your father has transferred the ownership of Vaenna to you?"

Maisie paused, curious. "Why didn't I know about that? Doesn't Vaenna belong to Willow now?"

She looked toward Leila while answering.

Leila was quiet and looked at her with a complicated look. Was there a hint of... resentment?

Madam Vanderbilt scoffed and said, "Even though Vaenna is a company founded by your mother, it's under us Vanderbilts now. It belongs to us."

"You're just a woman. You'll marry one day, and Vaenna will be none of your business then. I won't agree if your father changed his will so that you inherit it."

Madam Vanderbilt's speech surprised Maisie.

What did she mean? Had her father changed his will so that Vaenna would go to her?

How would that work?

"Maisie, I want you to give up on Vaenna." Madam Vanderbilt sounded like she was commanding Maisie to let go of Vaenna.

Maisie's eyes turned dark. "Grandma, I respect you but don't forget that since Vaenna belongs to the Vanderbilts, it will have nothing to do with you as well."

Vaenna now belonged to her father. It would be reasonable for him to decide who it went to. Her grandma, Madam Vanderbilt, would have no power in this. She had no right to ask her to give up on Vaenna.

"I'm the Vanderbilts' elder!" Madam Vanderbilt raised her voice.

"It doesn't matter. You still have no right."

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Maisie didn't show any mercy, and her attitude was clear that she would not give up.

Madam Vanderbilt slammed the table. "You can have Vaenna over my dead body!"

Leila wasn't expecting Madam Vanderbilt to be so worked up, but what she said reminded her of something.

Madam Vanderbilt just wanted Vaenna. She wouldn't give it up to either Maisie or Willow. Leila was just using her to push Maisie back. When Maisie gave up, and when the old woman passed on, Vaenna would belong to her daughter.

Maisie and Madam Vanderbilt stared at each other, their lips pressed tight. "You're threatening me with your death? But why do you think I would be affected by your passing?"

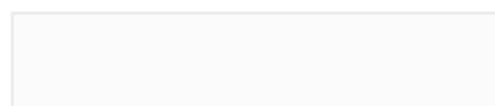
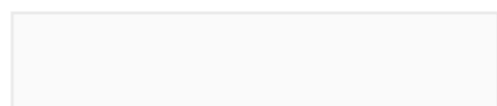
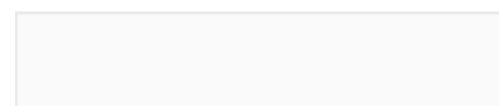
"You really are exactly like your mother!"

Madam Vanderbilt sounded sarcastic, obviously unhappy with this attitude she shared with her mother.

Maisie's face was sunken. "Too bad my mother passed too soon, or else she might just have made you implode."

"Maisie! Is that how you speak to your elders?" Madam Vanderbilt's anger was at its peak. She almost threw a bowl on the table, but she held back when she remembered that she wasn't at home.

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"I'll treat my elders how they treat me. You've never treated me as your granddaughter since I was a child anyway. Why do you think I should be nice?"

Madam Vanderbilt had never seen nor carried her since her birth just because she was a girl.

She had still been young and didn't understand much then. She would still return home for Thanksgiving with her parents. However, she had seen and remembered how Madam Vanderbilt treated her mother.

Marina would be calm and not care much about Madam Vanderbilt. Maybe that was the reason Madam Vanderbilt thought that she was a lot like her mother.

Maisie had been under the impression that her mother's coldness to the Vanderbilts was mainly due to her father's infidelity with Leila.

"Zee, how could you argue with your grandmother?" Leila was still trying to stay in Madam Vanderbilt's good books and acted as the good daughter-in-law.

"I'm just being honest." Maisie crossed her arms and said bluntly, "It's impossible for me to give Vaenna away. Even if Dad didn't leave it to me, I'd still find a way to take it back."

No one could stop her.

"How dare you!" Madam Vanderbilt sneered.

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Maisie said that in a resolute tone, turned around, and left.

Right after she left, Madam Vanderbilt lost it and started shattering all the dishes on the table. Leila was startled but tried to console her. "Mother, don't be angry. We'll find a way to take care of her."

Madam Vanderbilt calmed down after hearing what she said. "This girl really has Marina's blood. You're right. We'll find a way to take care of her."

Maisie walked out of the restaurant, but she suddenly stopped at the car park, turned around, and looked at a Porsche in a flirty color.

She looked at the license plate.

Wasn't that Ryleigh's car?

Ryleigh loved bright-colored cars—red, purple, and sometimes she would change them to green too.

Maisie picked up her phone and called Ryleigh, and it was picked up very quickly. "What's going on? Are you at Sunrise?"

Ryleigh was stunned. She lowered her voice. "How did you know?"

"I saw your car. Why are you whispering? Are you meeting a man?"

"No, I—"

"Ms. Hill, we can talk another day if you're busy."

"No, I'm not. There's no need to postpone it." Ryleigh laughed dryly at the man sitting across from her and mumbled into the phone, "I'll explain later."

She hung up.

Maisie stood there. A man's voice? This girl. Was she forced to go on a blind date by her father again?

At the Blackgold Group...

Nolan walked out of the elevator. Before Quincy could react, Nolan bumped into a woman, but when he looked closely, it was his woman.

Maisie hadn't been paying attention. She had been walking too quickly and hadn't seen him, so she walked into him. She was going to apologize, but when she saw that it was Nolan, she didn't feel like it anymore.

Seeing her walking away when she saw that it was him, Nolan furrowed his brows, put out his arm, and blocked her. "Are we pretending to be strangers?"

Maisie looked around and gnashed her teeth. "Mr. Goldmann, this is the main hall. There are a lot of people around."

The people coming and going were very busy, and the two of them were blocking the entrance to the elevator. Nolan's identity pretty much meant they were under the spotlight.

People were looking over every now and then.

