

Vengeful Hearts Return Chapter 11

The private room suddenly got really quiet, but Audrey didn't seem to notice. She kept playing a game on her phone with Brian. Suddenly, she got a message from Carly. [Baby, why don't you come see me? Don't you love me anymore?]

Audrey replied, [I'll come see you in a couple of days!]

Carly: [I'll be waiting!]

Audrey: [See you then!]

After replying, Audrey went back to playing the game with Brian. The only sound in the room was them playing. Audrey's character in the game was surrounded by five enemies. She took down four of them and was about to attack the fifth when a news alert popped up on her screen. It read, "Popular actress visits the Clifford family with her parents, warmly welcomed by Dylan Clifford. Rumors say they're getting engaged."

After seeing the news, Audrey heard her character get defeated. She pouted and put her phone aside, annoyed.

Brian finished his game and put his phone down too. He kept glancing over at Dylan, frowning a bit.

Neither Dylan nor Audrey spoke, making the room feel awkwardly quiet until Dylan's phone rang.

Dylan answered, hearing Cade asking, "Mr. Clifford, are you really getting engaged to that Sarah?"

Dylan frowned, annoyed. "What engagement?"

"You don't know? The news about you and Sarah's engagement is all over the internet! Everyone's talking about it! I already shared the link in the group."

"Hold on!" Dylan frowned and checked the group chat, seeing Andrew and Shawn also asking about it.

After reading the news, Dylan coldly posted in the group chat. [Sarah? I don't know her!]

Shawn immediately replied in the group chat. [Aren't you at the Clifford family \mansion?]

Dylan raised his phone and snapped a picture of his surroundings, sending it to the group. The photo showed a bit of Audrey's hand, delicate and clearly a girl's hand.

Shawn: [Are you out with a woman?]

Dylan: [Yeah, with my girlfriend.]

Andrew, Shawn, and Cade all fell silent.

Dylan exited the group chat and said coldly into the phone still connected to Cade, "Use your account to clear up the rumors." With that, he hung up.

Cade silently rolled his eyes, wondering why these annoying tasks always fell to him.

Cade was the CEO of a game mpany called Jurassic King, and he had a verified account online. He took two minutes to craft a message and then posted it with his account. "Hey, guys, I know everyone's curious if certain news is true. I just got the answer from Mr. Clifford."

Attached was a screenshot of Dylan's earlier group message.

Sarah, knowing she was going to the Clifford family house for lunch today, had her assistant contact reporter

to stake out near the house. She told them to take pictures of her entering the Clifford family mansion and to write in the news that she was warmly welcomed by Dylan, hinting at their engagement.

Sarah had been heavily criticized online yesterday, so she came up with this plan to save her reputation. To ensure its success, she even paid to make it a trending topic. But save her reputation. To ensure its s to her shock, the rumor was exposed as fake news just ten minutes after it started trending.

Cade's post quickly became a trending topic, and everyone online started mocking and insulting Sarah.

"What a shameless bitch. She made everyone think Dylan personally welcomed her, but he wasn't even at the Clifford family mansion! She's such a clown!"

"Looks like Dylan already has a girlfriend? So Sarah is a homewrecker? Wow, like mother, like daughter!"

"I used to think she was pretty and kind, now I find her disgusting!"

At the Clifford family mansion, Sarah was chatting with Claire, feeling a bit down because she was there to discuss her engagement to Dylan, but Dylan wasn't home.

"How about the 5th of next month? That date looks pretty good!" Claire suggested, looking at a calendar.

“Sounds great! We’ll go with your choice!” Rebecca said with a smile, then frowned, adding, “But if we set the date like this, won’t Mr. Clifford have an opinion?”

The Hernandez family was wealthy, but nowhere near as rich as the Clifford family. Ten Hernandez families couldn’t match the Clifford family’s wealth. Plus, Dylan was the most respected man in Northville. Rebecca didn’t dare to offend him.

Hearing Dylan’s name, Claire’s expression turned slightly displeased. She said, “Don’t worry, if I set the date, he won’t dare to oppose it!”

“That’s great.” Rebecca felt relieved hearing Claire’s words.

Sarah sat quietly beside them. Suddenly, she noticed her phone buzzing in her bag. Glancing at Rebecca and Claire who were still chatting, she stepped aside to take the call.

“Don’t you know I have important things to do today? Why are you calling me non-stop?” Sarah said impatiently.

“Sarah, it’s urgent! You better check the news online and come back to the office quickly!” her assistant said urgently.

“Got it!” Sarah snapped, hanging up. She opened her phone to check the news, and her face turned pale as she read.

Sarah was shocked. She had planned everything perfectly and couldn’t understand why Cade would suddenly post a message at this moment. Suddenly, Audrey’s face popped into her mind. She was sure the hand in Dylan’s photo belonged to Audrey. She had long suspected Audrey was back for revenge, trying to steal Dylan from her. Now, she was even more convinced.

“Sarah, don’t just stand there. Come over and talk to Mrs. Clifford!” Rebecca called out, but was surprised to see Sarah’s face twisted in anger.

Noticing Rebecca looking at her, Sarah quickly changed her expression to one of sadness and pity. Her eyes filled with tears, and Rebecca felt a pang of sympathy.

“Sarah, what’s wrong? Tell me why you’re upset,” Rebecca asked with concern.

William and Claire also looked at Sarah. Seeing her sad and teary-eyed, William felt his heart ache. “Sarah, tell us what’s going on.”

“Mom, Dad, how could Dylan do this to me?” Sarah’s expression grew more sorrowful as tears streamed down her face.

At the mention of Dylan, Claire's expression changed. "Sarah, what happened? Did Dylan hurt you? Tell me, and I'll make sure he pays for it!"

"Dylan is with my sister!" Sarah shouted.

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As Claire heard that Dylan was with Audrey, her face darkened immediately. She angrily said, "What, he's still with Audrey?"

Seeing Claire angry, Sarah, despite her tear-streaked face, quickly tried to calm her down. "Mrs. Clifford, don't blame Dylan. You know my sister always liked Dylan, so it's normal for her to go after him once she got out of prison."

Sarah placed all the blame on Audrey. After all, Claire already hated Audrey. Years ago, Audrey had nearly killed Claire. Although Sarah didn't know the details, she knew Claire despised Audrey.

As Claire heard these words, her expression grew even more displeased. "That Audrey is truly shameless!"

"Mrs. Clifford, don't be angry. This is our fault; we should have taught Audrey to know better. Don't worry, I'll go home right now and teach her some manners!" William said furiously. Yesterday, Audrey had embarrassed him outside Silvandel Auction House, and now this. He was beyond angry with Audrey.

"This isn't your fault. It's all because Audrey is too shameless. It has nothing to do with you!" Claire said coldly. "Rest assured, I only recognize Sarah as my daughter-in-law. I won't allow anyone else to marry Dylan!"

Hearing this, the three of them were very pleased, though they didn't show it on their faces.

"Don't worry, I'll make sure Dylan handles this properly," Claire added.

Now Sarah felt reassured. Just as she expected, Claire's dislike for Audrey had only intensified upon learning she was with Dylan.

As soon as Sarah and her parents left the Clifford family mansion, Claire immediately called Dylan. Her voice was icy as she questioned, "Dylan, are you with Audrey?"

"Who told you that?" Dylan asked coolly. He glanced at Audrey, who was eating across from him, his expression unreadable.

"Never mind who told me, I won't agree to you being with that woman!" shouted Claire.

“Whether you agree or not is none of my concern!” Dylan’s voice was icy and domineering. Even though he was talking to his own mother, he remained emotionless.

“I advise you not to cause her trouble, or you won’t be able to handle the consequences!”

Dylan hung up abruptly, not giving Claire a chance to respond.

As soon as Dylan ended the call, Audrey’s phone rang. Somehow, William had found her number. The moment she answered, she heard William’s furious voice. “Audrey, get back to our house right now!”

The angry shouting made Audrey frown slightly, so she held the phone a bit farther from her car before replying coldly, “Don’t worry, I’ll go back there, but not now.”

“You brat, are you deliberately trying to disgrace the Hernandez family and Sarah? Smearing Sarah online so everyone can mock her? If I had known this would happen, I should have strangled you when you were a baby!” William roared.

Audrey let out a derisive laugh. “Too bad for you. I’m still very much alive.”

“Audrey, apologize to Sarah online right now and admit you seduced Mr. Clifford, or you’re in for a world of hurt!” William shouted, desperate to restore Sarah’s reputation.

“Why should I apologize to Sarah? The worse she has it, the happier I am,” Audrey retorted coldly.

“If you don’t apologize, don’t blame me for what happens next!” William’s voice grew even angrier.

“Bring it on!” Audrey sneered, completely unfazed by William’s threats.

Perhaps the old Audrey might have been scared, but not now. Putting away her phone, she turned to Brian, who was eating beside her. “Are you full?”

Brian nodded compliantly. “Yes, I’m full!”

Audrey lifted her eyes, her cool gaze meeting Dylan’s. “Thanks for lunch, Mr. Clifford.”

“I’ll take you home,” Dylan said, standing up and addressing Audrey and Brian.

Audrey frowned slightly, then looked directly at Dylan. “Mr. Clifford, your mother is right. A convicted murderer like me doesn’t deserve to be with you.”

“Whether you deserve it or not is for me to decide. No one else has a say,” Dylan replied, his eyes cold and intense, almost obsessive as they fixed on Audrey’s face.

Audrey smiled lightly, her expression tinged with subtle mockery. "If that's the case, then why did you send me to 3 seven years ago, Mr. Clifford?"

For a moment, Dylan's face turned pale, his dark eyes freezing with a hidden pain. He pressed his lips together, his cold gaze locked on Audrey's calm face.

"Mr. Clifford, since you made your choice seven years ago, you shouldn't be bothering me now. Understand?" Audrey, not being the original host, couldn't feel the same pain, but from what she had learned, Dylan had chosen to believe his mother and put handcuffs on the original host, sending her to prison, where she endured inhumane suffering for three years. She felt that Dylan had no right to bother Audrey anymore.

The flicker of pain in Dylan's eyes abruptly vanished as he looked sharply at Audrey, who remained indifferent. A sudden pang of pain nearly suffocated him, but his expression stayed icy and domineering.

"Audrey, you and I will never be strangers," Dylan said.

"There's no need for that. I just want to never see you again," Audrey said calmly.

Audrey's voice was soft, but her words hit Dylan like a tidal wave of pain.

"Dream on!" Dylan growled through gritted teeth.

Dylan could endure Audrey hating him. He could accept that she wanted revenge. But he would never let her disappear from his life. He would stop at nothing to keep her by his side, even if it meant tying her up.

"So, Mr. Clifford, what if I'm not actually Audrey?" Audrey asked.

"What do you mean?" Dylan frowned, his expression turning frighteningly intense.

"I mean, the Audrey you knew is dead. I am a soul from another world with the same name. Whether you believe it or not, that's the truth," Audrey said, her gaze serious as she looked at Dylan.

She wasn't the original Audrey. It seemed the original host had been so utterly broken by Dylan that even though she had all of Audrey's memories, she lacked any recollection of Dylan.

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Audrey's words sent a shock through Dylan, His pupils trembling. He stared at Audrey, his eyes filled with darkness.

“You say you’re not Audrey, but why do you have the same habits? You dislike onions and garlic, refuse to peel shrimp yourself, and love orange juice. You both avoid the food at the bottom of the plate,” Dylan said coldly, stepping closer to Audrey. His piercing gaze seemed to dissect her.

“If you’re not Audrey, then how do you explain all this?” Dylan demanded, his intense presence frightening.

Audrey felt a flicker of fear. She usually remained calm in any situation, but now she frowned. She hadn’t realized she and the original host shared the same habits.

Seeing Audrey’s silence, Dylan’s expression darkened. He said in a chilling voice, “If you’re using this excuse to leave me, forget it. As long as you’re Audrey, I won’t let you go!”

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Audrey narrowed her eyes, glaring at Dylan. “Mr. Clifford, I’m not her. The Audrey who might have loved you is dead. I belong to myself!” she declared firmly.

Dylan scrutinized Audrey, trying to figure out her game, but he couldn’t understand.

“Brian, let’s go!” Audrey called, quickly exiting the room with Brian. She didn’t look back at Dylan and missed the anger in his eyes.

Outside Natural Heaven, Brian looked up at Audrey and softly asked, “Audrey, is he and Lucas’s dad?”

“I don’t know, maybe,” Audrey replied, frowning. “Do you like him?”

Brian shook his head. “If you don’t like him, neither do we.”

Audrey smiled lightly and ruffled Brian’s hair.

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Richard stepped forward, saying respectfully to Audrey and Brian, “Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Clifford wants us to take you back to the hotel!”

“No need, thanks!” Audrey glanced at Richard lightly and then turned to leave with Brian.

Richard watched Audrey and Brian get into the taxi, then shouted for someone to follow them from behind to keep them safe, before returning to the private room to

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“Mr. Clifford, Ms. Hernandez and her son took a cab back. I’ve got someone tailing them,” Richard reported.

“Great, any news on what you were looking into?” Dylan asked.

“Nope. I’ve tried everything, but there’s nothing on Ms. Hernandez. Seems like someone’s covering up her tracks, and it’s likely a pro hacker!” Richard replied. He couldn’t wrap his head around when Audrey suddenly got herself a top-notch hacker on her side.

“What about the prison stuff?” Dylan asked again, frowning.

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“Nothing there either. Can’t find a single thing about Ms. Hernandez for the three years she was in prison!” Richard replied. That was what really spooked Richard. He’d pulled out all the stops to investigate, but came up empty. Clearly, someone was hiding Audrey’s information.

“Keep digging!” Dylan clenched his jaw, fury blazing in his eyes.

After Audrey and Brian got back to the hotel, she told Brian to take a bath first. She turned on her phone and saw a message from Invincible. [Ms. Hernandez, someone is trying to dig up your information, but they haven’t found anything because I’ve encrypted all your data. No one can crack it but me.]

Aud: [Great, thanks!]

Invincible: [Ms. Hernandez, do you want me to find out who’s looking into you?] Aud: [No need.]

Then, Audrey opened a group chat named “Non-human Research Center” and then started a private chat with an account named “Python.” She sent a message first. [Have you found any leads on the person I asked you to find?]

Python quickly replied: [I followed your clues to Bliss Hill Orphanage, but it's already been torn down. I'll let you know as soon as I find any new info!]

Aud: [Thanks!]

Python: [No problem!]

Audrey put away her phone and went to take a bath. After she finished, she went to

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Brian's room. As soon as she entered, she saw Brian typing away on his keyboard with a serious expression. When he noticed Audrey, he quickly closed his laptop, clearly trying to hide something from her.

"What are you hiding?" Audrey asked, frowning slightly as she glanced at Brian.

"It's something that will upset you. You'd better not look!" Brian had deleted all the nasty posts and news about Audrey.

Just then, Jessica called. Audrey answered, hearing Jessica angrily saying, "Audrey, you better stay off the internet. Your father is going all out for your sister. He's airing your dirty laundry and badmouthing you online. Now everyone is bashing you."

Audrey listened calmly and glanced at Brian. She had been prepared for trouble ever since William threatened her on the phone. But she didn't expect that, even though she and Sarah were both William's daughters, he would go so far to ruin her for Sarah's sake.

After hanging up, Audrey reached out to Brian and said, "Give me your laptop!"

Brian pressed his lips together, seeing that Audrey already knew, and handed over the laptop.

All the nasty posts and news about Audrey had been thoroughly deleted by Brian. Even the name "Audrey Hernandez" had become taboo.

Audrey's face was cold as she looked at Brian. "You did this!"

Since Audrey knew, Brian pouted and said, “They were talking trash online. Audrey, don’t be mad!”

Audrey’s expression softened a bit. “I’m not mad, just think it’s unnecessary. If you’re really upset, tomorrow I’ll take you to teach them a lesson!”

“How will we teach them?” Brian asked, his curiosity piqued.

“You’ll see tomorrow!”

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After hearing his subordinate’s report, Richard quickly relayed the news to Dylan at Clifford Mansion. “Mr. Clifford, the Hernandez family is maliciously smearing Ms. Hernandez online. Even her prison time has been brought up again by netizens. Originally, everyone was criticizing Sarah, but William successfully diverted their attention, and now they’re all attacking Ms. Hernandez!”

Dylan’s expression darkened, his eyes flashing with a murderous glare. “That bastard William, he’s digging his own grave!”

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Dylan pressed his lips together and coldly commanded, “Delete everything about her online!”

“Someone has already deleted all the news and posts about Ms. Hernandez, but we can’t trace who did it. It must be a skilled hacker,” Richard reported honestly.

Dylan frowned, puzzled about when such a powerful hacker appeared in Chritonia.

“Keep an eye on the online activity. If anyone dares to defame Audrey, shut them down immediately!” Dylan said coldly.

Then, he suddenly asked Richard in a sharp tone, “Have you found the person maliciously attacking our company’s network?”

“The opponent is extremely cunning, using only virtual IP addresses. Patrick could only pinpoint the area around Grandview Hotel,” Richard replied.

“Keep investigating!” Dylan ordered coldly. “Also, have someone secretly follow Brian and Audrey!”

The next morning, Audrey took Brian downstairs for breakfast and then went to a security company to hire a few bodyguards. They also rented two cars before heading to the Hernandez family home.

The house where the Hernandez family currently lived used to be Audrey's mother's childhood home, the old mansion of the Holland family. This house was situated halfway up Greencloud Mountain, with the beautiful Greencloud Lake nearby. Many years ago, Audrey's grandfather, Damarion Holland, bought this large mountain area. Damarion's wife personally designed and built the house.

Later, Damarion was unhappy with Audrey's mother marrying William, and before he died, he bypassed Audrey's mother and left the entire mountain and the house to

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Audrey. When Audrey was ten, her mother passed away. Everything the Holland family owned fell into William's hands. William, Rebecca, and Sarah moved into the house left by Damarion. Since this house belonged to the original host, Audrey was determined to help reclaim it.

After they got out of the car, Brian looked at the exquisite mansion in front of them and couldn't help but marvel, "Audrey, is this your house?"

"Yes, and it'll be your home too!" Audrey glanced at the tightly closed gate and told the bodyguards, "Ring the bell!"

One of the bodyguards immediately went to ring the bell. Soon, the gate opened, and a middle-aged woman in her forties or fifties came out. Seeing Audrey, the woman's face showed disdain and mockery.

"Oh, Ms. Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez told us you've been kicked out of the Hernandez family, and you have no right to be here anymore!"

Audrey recognized this maid, Mary Brown. When Rebecca moved in, she dismissed all the original staff and hired new ones, including Mary. Mary had often bullied Audrey in the past.

"I don't have the right?" Audrey sneered, glaring coldly at Mary. "This house doesn't belong to William. What gives him the right to decide if I have any rights here?"

“It doesn’t belong to him, so it belongs to you? Do you think you’re still the high society socialite from the Hernandez family? You’re just a jailbird bitch now! This isn’t where you belong. Get out of here!” Mary mocked, slamming the gate shut with a bang.

After shutting the door, Mary went back inside. William and Rebecca were there, and seeing Mary enter, Sarah asked, “Mary, did Audrey leave?”

“No, it looks like she’s not leaving anytime soon, and she brought several people with her!” Mary replied.

“Let her stay outside. Don’t let her in. I’ve been too soft on her. She needs to suffer a bit!” William growled, his face full of anger.

“Mary, you said she brought several people. Who are they?” Rebecca asked, remembering the last time she saw Audrey outside the Silvandel Auction House. She felt that Audrey was more difficult to deal with this time.

“They look like some thugs!” Mary said after thinking for a moment. ‘Dressed like gangsters, wearing sunglasses in broad daylight—what else could they be?’ thought Mary, and her disdain for Audrey grew.

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Hearing they were thugs, Rebecca felt relieved and a bit contemptuous. She had thought Audrey had become smarter, but it seemed she was wrong. ‘Does Audrey think the Hernandez family is just a regular household that can be intimidated by a few thugs?’ Rebecca thought.

“Mixing with those kinds of people, she’s no good herself. Keep the gate locked, and don’t let her in!” William shouted angrily.

“Mary, my dad’s still mad at Audrey. Why don’t you let her stand outside for a while longer? Who knows, Dad might let her in later once he’s cooled off!” Sarah smirked, deliberately speaking to Mary.

Mary knew exactly what Sarah meant. On such a hot day, standing for even a little while was unbearable, let alone staying outside for longer.

Mary walked to the gate, opened it, and sneered. “Mr. Hernandez said he’s too busy to see you right now. Just wait outside until he wants to see you!” After saying that, she slammed the gate shut without caring about Audrey’s expression.

“Audrey, what do we do now?” Brian asked, glaring coldly at the gate. He really wanted to call Jessica and have her bring a group of people to blast the gate open, but that would definitely cause a scene and wasn’t a good idea. Plus, this mountain and mansion were left to Audrey by Brian’s great-grandfather, and he didn’t want to see the mansion destroyed.

Audrey had already guessed that William and Rebecca wouldn’t let her in easily, so she was prepared early on.

She pulled Brian back a few steps and coldly looked at the gate.

“Crash it open. I’ll take the blame for the damage to the car!” said Audrey. One of the bodyguards immediately got into the car and started the engine, driving straight towards the gate of the Hernandez family.

The front of the car crashed heavily into the gate, making a loud noise. A huge dent appeared on the gate.

Audrey glanced at the gate again and continued, “Keep going!”

Following Audrey’s command, the car rammed into the gate once more.

Inside the house, they heard two consecutive loud bangs and were startled. Rebecca hurriedly asked, “Mary, what’s happening outside?”

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The sound was really loud. Hearing Rebecca’s inquiry, Mary quickly said, “I’ll go check right away!”

As Mary was walking toward the door, she heard another loud crash, so loud it made her cars hurt. When she reached the door, she was shocked to see that the entire door had been smashed by a car, leaving a huge hole in the middle. Panicked, she quickly turned and ran back inside the house.

“Mr Hernandez, Mrs.Hernandez, Audrey had someone ram the gate with a car!” Mary shouted.

William thundered, “What? What on earth is that brat trying to do?” He stood up and quickly headed towards the door.

Rebecca and Sarah were very surprised too and followed William.

They hadn't even reached the door when they saw that Audrey's car had completely wrecked it. William shouted angrily, "Audrey, what are you doing?"

Seeing the shattered gate, Rebecca and Sarah were shocked, not expecting Audrey to be

so ruthless.

Audrey looked at them mockingly, a smirk tugging at the corners of her mouth. "I was having the gate rammed. Can't you see?"

William's anger flared even more. He bellowed, "Audrey, what's gotten into you again? Bringing these thugs here was bad enough, but ramming the gate? You better believe I'll call the cops right now and have you locked up for a few more years!"

William's words only fueled Audrey's twisted grin, making it even more chilling. She sneered. "What's wrong with me crashing into my own house's gate?"

Sarah couldn't help but laugh at this. She said, "Sis, did you forget? Seven years ago, when you were sent to jail by Dylan, Dad disowned you. You have no relationship with the Hernandez family anymore!"

Audrey raised an eyebrow and smirked. "So what?"

"Since you're no longer Dad's daughter, what right do you have to come here? How dare you crash through the Hernandez family's gate!" Sarah asked.

Ever since Audrey returned, Sarah has been in a bad mood. Now, she couldn't even be bothered to maintain her kind facade. She wanted to see Audrey get completely kicked

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out of the house, and she relished the idea of thoroughly defeating Audrey.

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Sarah had thought her words would make Audrey pale, but Audrey just glanced at her casually and then smiled. Audrey's smile was chilling. Her gaze toward Sarah was filled with arrogance, which made Sarah feel disgusted.

Sarah thought, 'Audrey has been kicked out by Dad, so why to still act all high and mighty?'

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“Sarah, who do you think you are? You have no right to be smug in front of me!” Sarah mocked.

Audrey glanced at Sarah mockingly.

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Rebecca also didn't like Audrey's attitude. She frowned and said, “Audrey, Sarah is your sister after all. How can you speak like that? It's really rude!”

Audrey responded to Rebecca with a mocking laugh, as if she had heard a joke.

“You, a homewrecker, have the nerve to lecture me about manners? If you're so well-mannered, how come you ended up being a homewrecker?” Audrey mocked.

Faced with Audrey's questioning, Rebecca was left speechless, unable to respond.

William couldn't bear it anymore. He frowned and said angrily, “Enough, Audrey. Are you here just to make us unhappy? This is the Hernandez family. You have no right to cause trouble here. Get out of here right now!”

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William was so fed up with Audrey that he felt like strangling her on the such an embarrassment. Why can't she be as good as Sarah?’ he thought.

“You guys should be the ones leaving!” Audrey looked coldly at William.

Sarah couldn't help but snap, “Audrey, are you out of your mind? You're telling us to leave, but who gives you the right?”

Audrey chuckled, casting a glance at William. Suddenly, William had a bad feeling, a wave of inexplicable panic washing over him.

After Vivienne's death, he searched through her belongings but couldn't find the deed to this house. ‘Could the deed be with Audrey? But Audrey was only ten years old back then. Could she understand such things?’ He wondered.

“What right?” Audrey's smile grew even wider and there was a hint of mockery in her gaze as she looked at them. “Because both the entire mountain and this house belong to me.”

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Audrey's words darkened the mood of everyone present. William had anticipated that she might possess the deed to the house, but he hadn't thought she also had ownership of the mountain.

Damarion didn't like William, so Vivienne and he basically lived outside. Vivienne rarely talked to him about the Holland family's affairs. After Damarion died, he and Vivienne moved here. This meant that he wasn't familiar with a lot of the inside information about the Holland family. He had no idea this whole mountain belonged to the Holland family.

Rebecca and Sarah's faces darkened. 'The entire mountain and this entire house belong to Audrey? How is that possible! All of this belongs to us. How could it be Audrey's?' they both thought.

"Audrey, what nonsense are you talking about? What's your connection to this house? This house clearly belongs to Dad. And you say this entire mountain is yours? Do you think anyone would believe that?" Sarah asked.

But she couldn't help but think, 'If this entire mountain really belongs to Audrey, then Audrey is going to be rich.'

She had heard before that Greencloud Mountain was quite valuable. Five years ago, someone wanted to buy it, and the price at that time was pushed to over 400 million dollars. However, the owner of the mountain, she heard, refused to sell.

Five years later, the value of this mountain had probably increased several times over. 'But how could such a gold mine belong to Audrey?' she thought, unable to believe it.

"Sarah, whether this mountain is mine has nothing to do with you, but this house is indeed mine. If you don't believe it, you can ask your dear daddy!" Audrey mocked.

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Sarah immediately looked at William, her tone urgent. "Dad, this house is obviously yours, right? Tell Audrey!"

Audrey watched William's face grow darker and found it quite amusing. She thought, 'If William had known that the deeds to the mountain and the house were with me, he would have taken them long ago.'

Rebecca noticed William's silence and felt a wave of fear. She often boasted to her friends about living on the Greencloud Mountain, and many envied her. If this house really belonged to Audrey, how could she maintain her superior image?

“William, say something! Sarah is asking you! Rebecca’s voice trembled.

William, under everyone’s gaze, coldly looked at Audrey. “This house is mine, Audrey. Stop causing trouble!”

He didn’t believe Audrey could prove the house was hers. “When Damarion died, Audrey was so young. There was no way Damarion would have given the house directly to her. The deed must have Vivienne’s name on it. Since Vivienne was my wife, our property was shared, meaning the house was still mine. With this thought, William felt more confident.

Hearing William’s words, Rebecca and Sarah both sighed in relief. Sarah smirked. “Audrey, did you hear that? This house is Dad’s!”

Audrey, unfazed by William’s words, looked at him calmly. “My lawyer will be here soon, and then you’ll see whose house this really is.”

As soon as Audrey finished speaking, two cars pulled up and parked nearby. A group of people got out, led by a young man in a black suit. He had a handsome, serious face with gold-rimmed glasses and sharp eyes that scanned the crowd. He walked over to Audrey and shook her hand. “It’s nice to meet you. I’m Simon Evans from Starglow Law

Firm.”

Audrey shook his hand and said, “Nice to meet you, too. I’m Audrey Hernandez.”

Simon nodded to Audrey and then led his team toward William and the others.

Upon hearing the name, William’s face turned pale. He had heard of Simon, a legendary lawyer known as the best in Chritonia. Simon and his team were undefeated in court. William was shocked that Audrey had managed to hire such a top lawyer.

Even though Rebecca and Sarah didn’t know much about the legal world, they had

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heard of Simon Evans’ reputation. Hearing that Audrey had hired him, their expressions grew uneasy.

Simon stepped forward and stood in front of William, pulling a sealed envelope from his briefcase. His tone was cold. “Mr. Hernandez, on behalf of my client, I demand that you vacate my client’s property immediately. If you do not comply, I will call the authorities and take legal action.”

He took out a document from the envelope and handed it to William. "This is the original deed with my client's name on it, along with the newly registered land and property certificates. The Greencloud Mountain and this house were gifts from Damarion Holland to my client for her first birthday."

William's hands trembled as he took the deed. To his shock, the name on the deed was Audrey's, not Vivienne's.

William couldn't believe it, and neither could Rebecca and Sarah, who stood there pale and stunned.

Audrey's claim that the entire mountain was hers turned out to be true. Sarah's jealousy flared, her eyes green with anger. She thought, 'Why? Why are the mountain and the house Audrey's? How could they be hers?'

Rebecca's face twisted with rage. 'If the mountain and the house truly belonged to Audrey, then legally, William had severed ties with Audrey seven years ago, and we had no right to stay here. The thought made Rebecca feel sick.

William opened his mouth to argue, but with the land and property certificates as evidence, he had no arguments left.

Simon, ignoring the looks on their faces, collected the documents and put them back in the envelope. "Since it's been proven that this house belongs to my client, please move out immediately. Otherwise, we'll have to involve the authorities."

Simon's words struck them like a bolt of lightning. 'Move out today? How could we possibly move everything out in one day?' They all thought.

Before they could protest, Simon added, "Oh, and the valuable antiques and paintings Damarion Holland bought are also inherited by my client. So, during your move, I will need to inventory those items. If any are missing, you will need to return them or pay their value."

She anger. What? Those antiques and paintings belong to her? Why?" Sarah erupted in had given one of the family's antique vases, valued at over 12 million dollars, to a TV show's investor to secure a lead role. She couldn't afford to pay Audrey back.

William and Rebecca's faces darkened. William had given away many family antiques. to solidify his position in the Holland Group. He couldn't afford to repay Audrey either.

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"Because those were gifts from Damarion Holland to my client. If you have any objections, you can have someone gift them to you, too!" Simon said with a cold, smug smile.

Audrey couldn't help but chuckle at Simon's sharp words. She found out that Simon was really good at being sarcastic.

Sure enough, Sarah's face turned dark with anger. She thought if she had such a wealthy grandfather, too, her mom wouldn't have had to be his dad's mistress.

Rebecca, looking sullen, nudged William, signaling him to say something.

William, accustomed to his high status, found it hard to swallow his pride and speak gently to Audrey. But now, forced by the situation, he looked at Audrey and said with a soft tone. "I know you hold grudges against me and Rebecca, but that's because you were so rebellious. I had no choice but to do what I did back then. Look, we've lived here for twenty years and are used to it. Now, suddenly asking us to move is too much. Since you're back, let's live together as a family. You need to take care of a kid now. You should work hard and make some money. Come to the company and help me out with some tasks."

Rebecca, smiling at Audrey, added, "Audrey, William is your father after all. It's not easy being a single mom. With us here, it would be much more convenient,"

Sarah, unhappy with her parents' sweet talk, knew it was their way to stay. Silently cursing Audrey, she vowed to one day kick Audrey out and claim the mountain and house for herself.

Audrey found it laughable. She thought, "These two are so shameless. A moment ago, they were heartless, and now they're pretending to be so considerate. Do they think I'm that easy to fool?"

With a mocking look on her face, Audrey said coldly, "No need for that. Please move out today, or I'll have my people help you move."

William thought Audrey would surely give in after he swallowed his pride and said those soft words. He couldn't believe Audrey still wanted to kick them out. Angrily, he shouted, "Audrey, don't forget, I'm your father! Is this how you treat your father?"

"Father?" Audrey found it utterly ridiculous. "If I remember correctly, you severed our relationship seven years ago! So, where do I have a father?"

"Are you moving or not?" Audrey's voice turned cold as she looked at them.

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Chapter 17

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“Audrey, you dare to throw us out? I won’t move!” Sarah retorted.

‘She’s just trying to scare us, she wouldn’t dare actually kick us out, Sarah thought. ‘Doe she think I’m scared of her? Dream on!’

Seeing through Sarah’s thoughts, Audrey sneered and told her bodyguards, “If they won’t move, help them out. Throw everything and everyone out!”

“Audrey, you wouldn’t dare! I’ll sue you!” William shouted, not expecting Audrey to go this far.

“Get them out!” Audrey ignored William and ordered the bodyguards. Simon instructe his team, “Go inside and inventory everything. List any missing or damaged items for compensation.”

Hearing this, William and Rebecca’s faces grew even darker. Audrey was determined to throw them out, making William furious.

Sarah glared at Audrey with hatred. She had never been so humiliated. Imagining the scene being exposed to the media, she could already hear the ridicule.

Soon, there were loud crashing noises from inside. The bodyguards, unable to discern the value of items, threw everything out except for the antiques and paintings marked by the legal team.

Seeing their expensive skincare products, luxury clothes, bags, and jewelry being tossed out roughly, Rebecca and Sarah couldn’t bear it. They shouted, “Stop! We’ll pack ourselves!” Though unwilling to leave, they had to pack to prevent their valuables from being damaged.

With the help of the servants, they quickly gathered their belongings. The legal team finished their inventory. “Ms. Hernandez, according to Damarion Holland’s list, eight collectibles are missing: three paintings and five antiques. Based on recent auction prices for similar items, the total value is 120 million dollars.”

“What?” William, Rebecca, and Sarah were all shocked at the price.

William had given away some items to secure his position in the Holland Group. And to expand his company, he also sent out some collectibles to business partners. He never imagined they were worth over 100 million dollars. There was no way he could repay such an amount.

Rebecca, looking at Audrey’s face, which was identical to Vivienne’s, felt a surge of hatred. ‘On the day I stepped into the Hernandez family’s house, I should have gotten rid of Audrey!’ she thought angrily.

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Simon turned to his team and said, "Show Mr. Hernandez the list."

Audrey nodded. She trusted Simon's team to handle it.

One of the lawyers handed the list to William. "Mr. Hernandez, please. If everything is correct, we need you to sign and pay the amount to my client."

William's face darkened. "I don't have that much money."

The lawyer smiled and pulled out another document. "If you can't pay it all now, that's fine. Just sign this IOU. You have one month to pay. If you don't, my client will file a lawsuit. I don't think you'd want that."

William got angrier as he listened. He thought, 'If Audrey sues, everyone will know I can't pay. Who will want to work with me then? But paying over 100 million dollars all at once is too much. Despite the Hernandez Group's loud reputation, it's not as strong now as it used to be. The Hernandez Group's funds are tight. The recent projects drained all our money. If I knew this ungrateful daughter would do this, I would've left her in prison seven years ago! But now, he had no choice. William grimly signed the

IOU.

Seeing William and his family leave with their things, Audrey felt much better.

Bria

"Audrey, is this our home now?" Brian asked, his voice sweet and innocent.

"Yes, do you like it?" Audrey smiled.

"I like anywhere you are!" Brian said, his face looking so cute.

"Brian, don't you like me too?" Suddenly, Simon's voice came from beside them. The Simon at this moment had a smile on his face, a stark contrast to the cold and ruthless Simon from before.

"Of course, I like you, godfather!" Brian ran to Simon, grinning. "But why are you here?"

Simon ruffled Brian's hair, eyes full of affection. "Your godmother made me come. Let's go, I'll tak

you and your mom out to eat."

Simon glanced at Audrey. "What do you say, Audrey? Will you join us?"

Audrey smiled, her eyes sparkling. "Since you invited, I'll go. But this meal's on me, as a thank you for your help today."

Simon laughed. "Even if I didn't help, you could handle it. These people are nothing.

Anyone could've dealt with them. I believe even without me, you can handle them on your own."

"That would take all the fun out of it!" Audrey glanced at Simon.

To William, especially Rebecca and Sarah, Audrey was a thorn in their side. Sarah always wanted to take what was Audrey's. Today, Audrey showed Sarah how big their gap was. Rebecca and Sarah probably hated her even more now. The shame of being kicked out would forever haunt them, making it unforgettable. Audrey felt like she had finally gotten her revenge, and it felt satisfying.

"You're as ruthless as ever!" Simon chuckled. He knew how scary Audrey could be, and was glad she wasn't an enemy.

With Simon's team handling things, Audrey felt at ease. She paid the bodyguards and left with Brian in Simon's car.

Dylan soon heard about what happened with the Hernandez family. When he found out Audrey and Simon went out for dinner, Dylan got upset. His dark expression made Richard think he'd rush over and grab Audrey any second.

"Find out Simon's relationship with her!" Dylan ordered.

Dylan had some interactions with Simon in Ladale City, so he wasn't completely unfamiliar with him. Simon came from a prestigious background and held a high position, but he became Chritonia's top lawyer and founded Starglow Law Firm. Without relying on his family's help. Since starting his company, he had never lost a case.

But Simon was very mysterious; he rarely personally defended others. Usually, he assigned his staff to interact with clients. However, for reasons unknown, he suddenly came to Northville and became Audrey's lawyer. Dylan thought there must be something special between Simon and Audrey.

Dylan's eyes narrowed, his lips tight. He wanted to know what happened in those seven years.

At 9 PM, a black car stopped in front of a hotel. Audrey, with Brian beside her, said goodbye to Simon in the car and then got out, smiling, clearly in a good mood.

In a dark corner, another black car was parked. Dylan watched Audrey's smile with cold eyes, his mood worsening.

Dylan ordered Richard coldly, "Crash into them!"

Richard thought he misheard at first. But Dylan repeated it, then Richard followed orders. The black car sped out of the shadows and crashed into Simon's car. The collision made a loud noise, catching people's attention.

As soon as the car hit, Audrey recognized Dylan's car. Her expression changed. "Dylan, what are you doing?" she demanded coldly..

Inside the car, Dylan's body was tense. Through the half-lowered window, he glared at Audrey with fierce eyes.

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The atmosphere turned tense instantly. Even Richard could sense how terrifying Dylan had become.

Outside, Audrey remained calm, showing no fear of Dylan, acting as if he was nothing to her.

Simon got out of the car, and Audrey shifted her gaze from Dylan to check if Simon was hurt. "Are you okay?" she asked, concerned. Simon was here to help her, and if he got hurt, she'd feel guilty.

"I'm fine, Simon replied, waving it off. He had reacted quickly when Dylan's car sped toward him, minimizing the damage. Though the crash seemed deliberate, Richard had reduced speed at the last moment. Simon was surprised to see that the behind this was none other than Dylan Clifford.

person

But Simon quickly figured out what was going on, so he shot a strange look at Audrey. He had heard about Dylan and Audrey's situation before, though not in great detail. Still, he never imagined someone like Dylan would actually get jealous. He knew Dylan must be jealous because he could see possessiveness in his eyes.

Dylan stepped out of his car. His usual aloof demeanor now radiated anger, making him even more intimidating. His cold eyes glanced over Simon as he coldly said, "Simon, why didn't you tell me you were in Northville? Sorry about my subordinate. He mistook the brake for the accelerator. If I'd known it was you, I would've invited you to join Audrey and me for dinner. I'll cover your car repairs."

Richard, taking the blame, bit back his explanation. As an experienced driver, he'd never mix up the brake and the accelerator.

Dylan didn't care about his subordinate's thoughts. He kept his gaze on Simon, his possessive tone causing Audrey to frown slightly..

Simon gave Audrey a knowing look, then turned to Dylan and said, "Mr. Clifford, you're always so busy. I wouldn't want to bother you. The car repair costs aren't much. I've got it covered. Besides, it wouldn't be appropriate for you to join Audrey and me for dinner, would it?" Hearing this, Dylan's face darkened even more..

Simon, pretending not to notice, smiled at Audrey and said warmly, "It's late. Brian needs to sleep. You and Brian should go up."

Audrey gave Simon a warning look, signaling him not to say anything else. She understood Simon's intent to provoke Dylan but didn't find it necessary: "It's late. You should go. Drive safely," she urged, fearing Simon might say more.

In Dylan's eyes, this looked like concern and affection for Simon from Audrey. It fueled his anger, making him want to take Audrey away immediately.

Seeing Dylan's reaction, Simon felt amused. He realized that even Dylan would lose control to jealousy. Clearly, the crash wasn't an accident but a spur-of-the-moment act by Dylan. Jealous men were unpredictable!

Simon knew staying longer would annoy Audrey. He sighed and said, "Alright, I'm leaving." He then affectionately ruffled Audrey's hair, earning a warning glare from her.

Simon coughed awkwardly and shifted his hand to Brian's head, ruffling his hair gently. "Brian, say goodbye to Daddy. I'll visit you again soon."

Brian, understanding the act, sweetly responded, "Bye, Daddy! I'll miss you!" He gave Simon a kiss on the cheek.

Feeling Dylan's jealousy, Simon felt satisfied. He got into his car and drove off with a smile.

With Simon gone, Audrey didn't want to linger. She turned to leave with Brian.

Dylan, his lips pressed into a thin line, grabbed Audrey's wrist and demanded, "What's your relationship with him?" Jealousy made him even scarier, his eyes fixed coldly on Audrey.

Audrey laughed coldly. "What's it to you?" Her meaning was clear: Dylan had no right to know her relationship with Simon.

“I forbid you from dating him!” Dylan, consumed by jealousy and anger, couldn’t stand the thought of Audrey with Simon.

“Who I date is none of your business. Let go!” Audrey replied icily.

“Don’t push me, Audrey,” Dylan warned.

Seeing Dylan about to overstep, Brian stepped in front of Audrey, shouting, “Let go of Audrey, you bad guy!” Brian’s face, so much like Audrey’s younger self, made Dylan hesitate, loosening his grip slightly.

Audrey pulled Brian back and said, “Don’t ever do this again.” She then turned and left with Brian.

Dylan stood there, watching them go, his face dark under the dim lights. His tall figure looked lonely and forlorn.

Dylan had always thought of himself as rational and cold. If not, he wouldn’t have sent Audrey to prison seven years ago after she nearly killed his mother. But tonight, seeing Simon and Audrey together, his calm and rationality shattered. For the first time, he acted out of sheer jealousy, losing his composure completely. Dylan let out a self-mocking laugh.

Vengeful Hearts Return Chapter 20

As soon as Audrey and Brian returned to the hotel, Simon called Audrey.

“How did it go? Dylan didn’t give you a hard time, did he?” Simon asked.

“You knew he would give me a hard time. Impressive!” Audrey said in an indifferent voice.

Hearing the displeasure in Audrey’s voice, Simon couldn’t help but touch his nose. embarrassingly and clear his throat, saying, “just wanted to see the legendary cold-hearted, emotionless man going mad for love. Tsk. Tsk. Indeed, no matter how godlike, once touched by love, even the mighty needs to take a humble posture.”

“Alright, that’s not interesting.” Audrey said flatly, then hung up the phone.

She wasn’t sure if the original host’s feelings for Dylan still lingered in this body. After hanging up, Audrey felt inexplicably irritable and annoyed.

This uncontrollable feeling upset her, and she was quite resistant to it.

Fortunately, in the following days, Audrey was busy dealing with the house and had no time to think about anything else.

William and Rebecca had lived in the house for too many years, with many traces of their life inside. Audrey drew up a new design plan, intending to find someone to renovate it.

After reclaiming the house, Audrey's next target was the Hernandez Group.

That was Damarion Holland's life's work, which William had taken after the original host's mother died. Audrey naturally had to reclaim the Hernandez Group to retrieve everything that rightfully belonged to the original host.

Once the house matters were nearly settled, Audrey received a call from Aaron, inviting her and Brian to dinner at the Longman family.

Knowing Aaron wanted to consult her on some medical issues, Audrey agreed.

In the Longman family, Shawn rarely visited Aaron, but Aaron simply ignored and dismissed him.

Aaron said, "Over here, this window needs another wipe, and it would be best to place a potted plant here. And where's my coffee set? Bring it out, and fetch my special edition coffee beans.

Aaron was excitedly directing the servants to tidy up the house, knowing his teacher would be coming for dinner the next day.

Seeing the busy scene left Shawn a bit puzzled.

Shawn thought, "What's going on? Do they have some noble guests coming tomorrow?"

"Right, prepare more snacks and fruits too. Kids love to eat them," Aaron said.

Shawn sneered inwardly, "Thinking even of snacks and fruits that kids like? This noble guest coming to the house must be bringing children along."

After Aaron was almost done with the preparations, he finally noticed Shawn sitting on the sofa.

"What are you doing here?" Aaron asked.

Shawn was speechless. He had been sitting there for a long time, and his grandfather only now noticed him now.

"Who's coming over tomorrow?" Shawn asked.

"None of your business. Get out of here. You're an eyesore. Go deal with your own messy affairs," Aaron said.

The Longman family had been in medicine for generations, yet Shawn, unlike his family, didn't like medicine.

Not liking medicine was one thing, but Shawn went into the entertainment industry, even starting an entertainment company, which infuriated Aaron..

After Aaron went off to handle more preparations, Shawn found a housemaid to ask, "Who's coming over tomorrow?"

The maid thought for a moment and said, "I heard it's his teacher coming. That's all we know."

Shawn thought, 'Grandpa's teacher is Audrey. So is she coming?'

No wonder Aaron was having everything cleaned up and even preparing snacks and fruits for children. It was because Audrey and Brian were coming for dinner.

Thinking of this, Shawn immediately stepped out and made a call.

Shawn asked, "Dylan, do you want to come to my house for dinner tomorrow?"

"No," Dylan coldly refused.

"No, I mean the old resident, Aaron's place."

On the other end, Dylan frowned and then asked, "She's visiting Aaron tomorrow?"

Seeing Dylan guess it right away, Shawn felt disappointed. He had wanted to surprise Dylan by having him over to the old house tomorrow.

"Yes, I went back and wanted to see Aaron, but he was busy preparing for Audrey's visit. Like he was some noble guest. He didn't even care about me," Shawn said.

Knowing Audrey would be at the Longman family, Dylan agreed to come and said, "I'll be there."

Early the next morning, Dylan arrived at the Longman family.

Aaron thought it was Audrey and Brian, only realizing it wasn't when the butler brought Dylan in.

But Aaron wasn't a fool.

He had already suspected something was up when Shawn insisted on staying at the Longman family last night.

And now, early in the morning, Dylan showed up. Aaron quickly guessed the reason.

But since a smiling visitor should not be turned away, Aaron couldn't just kick him out.

Over the years, Aaron had been treating Dylan's illness, and he knew it might be related to some events seven years ago.

But Aaron wouldn't ask about it. In fact, he had invited his teacher today to discuss some cases, one of which was Dylan's..

"Aaron, sorry to bother you," Dylan said.

Dylan knew Aaron would understand why he came, so he didn't explain and simply handed over the prepared gift.

"No bother at all. It's rare for young people like you to think of me," Aaron said.

Aaron asked the butler to make coffee for Dylan.

Hearing Dylan had arrived, Shawn came down from upstairs.

"Why are you here so early?" Shawn asked.

Although he knew Dylan was coming, Shawn hadn't expected him to show up so early.

"Nothing else to do, so I came early to chat with Aaron," Dylan said.

Shawn glanced at Dylan. It was obvious he wanted to see Audrey early, but he claimed he wanted to chat with Aaron. Such a blatant lie.

"How have you been? Finished your medication?" Aaron asked as he looked at Dylan, noticing his complexion was still not good.

"Yes, but still no improvement," Dylan replied indifferently, seemingly unconcerned about his own health.

"My teacher is coming today. I'll ask her about your condition to see if we can find a cure," Aaron said,

"Thank you, Aaron." Dylan nodded and thanked him..

At 10:30 a.m., Audrey and Brian finally arrived at the Longman family.

When the butler led Audrey and Brian inside, they immediately saw Dylan sitting in the living room, chatting and having coffee with Aaron. Audrey frowned, and her eyes showed a hint of coldness.

