

Warning 431

[Chapter 431 My Weakness](#)

Liam's POV:

Upon waking up in the morning, I made sure to buy a bouquet of Cassie's favorite flowers.

I went to the hospital, opened the door of her ward, only to find that there was nobody inside.

Seeing the empty room made me panic.

I immediately looked for Cassie's attending doctor.

"Doctor, where is Cassie?" I asked.

Seemingly confused, the doctor replied, "Is she not inside her ward?"

I shook my head with a serious expression.

"Hang on, sir." The doctor found information on Cassie in the computer. "Miss Jenner hasn't gone through the discharge formalities. Maybe she's just taking a walk in the garden downstairs."

I had a bad feeling about this.

I searched every nook and cranny of the hospital, but Cassie was still nowhere to be found.

What was even more terrifying was the fact that our daughter wasn't in the hospital's nursery room.

'How could they disappear just like that? Did someone take them away or did they really leave without saying goodbye to me?'

I was so worried that I hurried to Cassie's place.

The moment I opened the door, I felt so nervous. It felt as though I was treading across a steel wire.

In my heart of hearts, I hoped that Cassie was here.

But to my chagrin, she wasn't home.

Dejected, I fell to my knees and my mind went blank.

'What the hell is going on?'

It was then that I noticed an envelope on the tea table.

I opened it and saw a letter from Cassie inside.

"I'm so sorry, Liam. I know that you've cancelled the wedding for my sake, but I also know that the Hill family isn't going to let me go easily. I can't expect you to abandon your family, and that's why I've chosen to leave with our daughter. I wish you happiness. All my love, Cassie."

Aside from the letter, there were several pictures of our daughter inside the envelope.

Our baby was so fragile, but her glistening eyes seemed to be magical. They rendered me unable to take my eyes off her.

With trembling hands, I gripped the letter tightly.

"No! This can't be!"

Cassie risked even her own life just to be with me and then she gave birth to our child.

'How could she leave me and take our daughter with her? Someone must've forced her to do so!'
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The moment I opened the door, I felt so nervous. It felt as though I was tredding across a steel wire.

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"No! This can't be!"

Cessie risked even her own life just to be with me and then she gave birth to our child.

'How could she leave me and take our daughter with her? Someone must've forced her to do so!'

The moment I gathered my composure, I dialed Nancy's number at once.

She wasn't answering her phone.

I called her again and again, and Nancy finally answered the phone in a weak, hoarse voice.

"Liam, I don't think it's necessary for us to stay in touch."

"Did you take Cassie and my daughter away?" I shouted anxiously. Silence ensued on the other line for a few seconds.

It was then followed by Nancy's laughter.

"Hahaha! Oh, my God! That woman left you? Well, congratulations! This is just freaking hilarious!"

I flew into a fit of rage. "Nancy, you bitch! You'd best return them to me safe and sound."

"Don't expect her to come back to you. Maybe she came to make a scene at our wedding for a different purpose. And now that she's achieved her goal, she left. You're a jerk, Liam. No woman will ever truly love you," Nancy said sarcastically.

I was so angry that I gritted my teeth and said, "Aren't you afraid that I'll call the police?"

"Go ahead," Nancy snorted before ending the phone call.

When I heard the busy tone, I was so enraged that I threw my phone onto the ground and roared at the top of my lungs.

Caroline's POV:

The second I got home from work, I received a call from Nina.

"That issue between the Hill family and the Wood family is so dramatic. It's like an episode out of a TV soap opera," she said.

"It's already been a few days since that happened. Isn't your reaction a little bit late?" I asked, letting out a sigh.

Trying to sound mysterious, Nina said, "I wasn't talking about their wedding. I just heard that Liam's mistress ran away with their child!"

"Oh, that? I made that happen," I responded.

Nina was so surprised that she almost shouted, "What the fuck? Are you serious?"

"Whoa! Don't overreact. I just offered the woman enough money, and she left out of her own volition."

A faint smile appeared on my lips as I stared at myself in the dressing mirror. I could barely recognize myself.

"Caroline, why did you do that?"

"Because I couldn't stand it. Nancy may have gotten her retribution, but the Hill family still hasn't paid for all their devious crimes."

Nina sighed, "Just as they say, people do change when they get rich."

"The richer you are, the kinder you become," I answered while chuckling.

The moment I gathered my composure, I dialed Nancy's number at once.

Nina burst into laughter.

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"By the way, are you really going to attend the Moore family's gathering this Friday?"

"Yeah. I miss my kids so much. They're my weakness," I answered firmly.

Nina expressed that she understood my reason, and decided to drop the subject.

After the phone call ended, I received an email from Hugo along with Charles' clinicopathologic analysis report attached to the email.

"I've checked the medical records sent from the hospital. Charles' illness can be treated, but currently, the patient's state of mind will have a great impact on his condition," Hugo commented.

My mind was thrown into disarray. It felt like my mind was being split in two. On the one hand, I was happy that Charles had reaped what he had sown; but on the other hand, I didn't want him to suffer from his illness.

I gathered my composure and sent a reply to Hugo's e-mail. "Thank you. For now, keep it a secret and make sure my Dad doesn't find out."

Afterwards, I printed the report.

Suddenly, I received another notification. It was an email from Hugo again.

"Got it. I'll keep it a secret for you. But before you do anything, you need to look into your heart and figure out what you really want to do. Caroline, there's no such thing as safe love in this world. Once you fall in love with someone, it means you've given him the right to hurt you."

After reading the e-mail, I lowered my gaze; lost in thought.

All of a sudden, I heard a knock on the door.

Upon opening the door, I saw Elena.

Elena greeted me with a smile and said, "Simon sent someone to deliver some tiramisu here. Would you like to go downstairs and eat it?"

I didn't eat much at dinner since I was super busy, so I was indeed a little hungry now.

"Let's go downstairs."

I went to the dining room and saw the tiramisu on the dining table. It was in an exquisite box.

I tried some of it, but I didn't like it that much.

"Simon heard that you liked tiramisu, so he asked a famous pastry chef to make some for you. You know, he's really attentive of you," Elena remarked with great admiration.

I could hear what she was saying, but none of the words registered into my mind.

[Chapter 432 The Savior](#)

Raina's POV:

Soon, it was Friday.

Wearing my elegant white dress, I went to the park where Susan and I agreed to meet.

I was waiting for her. And the moment she arrived, she warned me, "Raina, remember one thing. Do not hurt the kids."

"I know what I'm doing," I replied flatly.

"You should listen to me, or Charles will not let you go."

Sick of her nagging, I promised her with a frown, "Don't worry. I am not planning on hurting anyone."

After giving me a nod, Susan took out a small red pouch from her bag and handed it to me.

"This contains blood. Hide it well and you can wait till you get the right chance and break it."

"Alright."

"And watch out for the car with the license number ending with the digits 86. That car will take you to the place you want to go."

Upon hearing that, I nodded and smiled.

With that, Susan turned around and left.

I then walked to the bathroom in the park and put the blood pouch inside my dress. Just when I was about to head out, I bumped into Susan again.

Startled, I wondered why she was still there.

While I was in a daze, Susan pulled me aside and reminded me patiently, "Raina, when you see Alice, act naturally and greet her like you always do. Or else she'd get suspicious of you."

Glaring at her, I reminded her with a frown, "If you don't leave soon, they're going to be more suspicious!"

Only after hearing that did Susan walk away.

Finally, the place fell quiet again.

I waited on the path that Alice was supposed to walk on.

It did not even take thirty minutes for me to see Alice, pushing the baby stroller with the twins as she walked towards me.

However, she did not see me, so I pretended to run into her.

"Alice? I didn't expect to see you here."

"What a coincidence!" Alice also seemed to be surprised to see me. "Raina, I heard what Charles did..." she said in an apologetic tone.

"That was my fault. I was the one that went to the event wearing the necklace that you gave me, irritating Charles in the process. I apologize for the trouble, Alice," I said softly, interrupting her.

Lowering my gaze, I pretended to look guilty.

Deep down, I knew that I was doing exactly what needed to be done to arouse her sympathy towards me.

Just as expected, I heard her soft voice, mixed with a hint of anxiety as she said, "It was not your fault. Ever since Scarlett returned, Charles has become increasingly irrational and unreasonable. He doesn't even listen to me anymore. I am so worried about him and I really don't know if and when he will be able to move on with his life."

"Don't worry. Charles will understand you sooner or later. You are his mother, after all," I comforted her

with a smile, but in my heart, jealousy and anger were raging like the stormy sea.

I had been trying really hard to win Charles over, but he had been driving me away and he had even humiliated me in public.

I had been raped by my own father, and I had been forced to shoot a porn movie.

Thinking of that, I felt like I had experienced all the worst that the world offered.

On the other hand, Charles did everything he could to please Caroline.

And she was enjoying all the things that I could not even dream of getting.

What did she do to make Charles so obsessed with her?

The longer I thought about it, the more furious I became, and my palm started to hurt when I heard Alice's voice again, which pulled me back to reality.

Looking down at my hand, I saw blood, which was oozing out from my palm because I dug my fingernails too deep.

"Are you alright?" Alice asked in a concerned voice.

"I feel a little dizzy, and it's probably due to lack of sleep," I explained at once.

"Is that so?" Alice was still looking at my hand.

Giving her a faint nod, I squatted down in front of the stroller, grabbed a toy, and shook it in front of the twins to amuse them. "Jason, Jerry, did you two miss me?"

The twins actually looked adorable with their big bright eyes, and their chubby faces, but for some reason I felt disgusted.

They were Charles and Scarlett's kids, and they were an obstacle in my quest to become Mrs. Moore.

However, I decided to make them my stepping stone.

While I was playing with them and talking to Alice, I kept getting increasingly anxious.

What was Susan even doing? It had been a while, and nothing had happened.

All of a sudden, I felt like God heard my prayers.

Reine's POV:

Soon, it was Friday.

Wearing my elegant white dress, I went to the park where Susan and I agreed to meet.

I was waiting for her. And the moment she arrived, she warned me, "Reine, remember one thing. Do not hurt the kids."

"I know what I'm doing," I replied flatly.

"You should listen to me, or Charles will not let you go."

Sick of her nagging, I promised her with a frown, "Don't worry. I am not planning on hurting anyone."

After giving me a nod, Susan took out a small red pouch from her bag and handed it to me.

"This contains blood. Hide it well and you can wait till you get the right chance and break it."

"Alright."

"And watch out for the car with the license number ending with the digits 86. That car will take you to the place you went to go."

Upon hearing that, I nodded and smiled.

With that, Susan turned around and left.

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Startled, I wondered why she was still there.

While I was in a daze, Susan pulled me aside and reminded me patiently, "Reine, when you see Alice, act naturally and greet her like you always do. Or else she'd get suspicious of you."

Gazing at her, I reminded her with a frown, "If you don't leave soon, they're going to be more suspicious!"

Only after hearing that did Susan walk away.

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"Don't worry. Cherles will understend you sooner or leter. You ere his mother, efter ell," I comforted her with e smile, but in my heert, jeelousy end enger were reging like the stormy see.

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I suddenly heard the sound of car tires screeching.

The moment I turned around, I saw a car rushing towards us.

Soon, the car doors flung open, and several men wearing masks, surrounded us.

Alice's expression changed drastically as she stood in front of the stroller and shouted, "What are you doing?"

However, the men did not falter at all.

One of the men pushed Alice to the ground in a swift move.

I hurried to hold her, showing an appropriate amount of panic in my eyes. "Alice!"

With a painful expression, she grabbed her ankle.

"Your foot..." Although my eyes appeared to show concern, I was laughing in my heart.

I felt like God had blessed me when I saw that Alice had sprained her ankle, which meant that she was not in a position to ruin my plan. She was not a threat.

Even though Alice could not move, she yelled at the men, "Stop! Don't touch them!"

I turned around and saw one of the men reaching for the twins.

"No!"

I shouted, rushed to them, and pushed the man to the side.

"Raina!"

I heard Alice's worried cries from behind me, but I did not have time to answer her. I quickly ran to the stroller and stood in front of it, pretending like I was protecting the twins.

"You bitch! Move aside at once!"

Cursing and glaring at me, the men rushed towards me.

Although their attacks looked frightening, it did not hurt much.

Twisting my body as I groaned in pain to keep up with the act, I never let go of the stroller.

Seeing the scary scene in front of them, the twins began to cry along with me.

"Stop!"

Alice tried to hobble over, but the men stopped her effortlessly.

One man threatened, "What's going on here? Are you that eager to die?"

Alice shook her head. "Please stop! Don't beat her! Is it money that you're after? I'll give you however much you want!"

I had been observing Alice the whole time, and when I noticed that she was on the verge of a breakdown, I knew that it was time for the climax of the show.

"You can kill me! But don't lay a finger on the babies!" I shouted and sobbed. Those words were the signal that we had agreed upon, so the moment the men heard that, one of them lunged towards me with a sharp knife.

"No!"

Alice was screaming when the man stabbed me in the chest with the knife.

There was a cold feeling in my chest and I felt the blood pouch break.

The bright liquid immediately dyed my white dress red, making it visually shocking.

I whimpered painfully and pretended to collapse to the ground.

"Shit! How could you kill her?" Another man shouted as he kicked the man who stabbed me to the ground. "Retreat!"

In the blink of an eye, they all jumped into the car, and drove away at lightning speed.

"Raina! Raina!"

Alice screamed as she ran towards me.

With a worried look in her eyes, Alice's hands froze and she was trembling, unable to think of what to do.

"Alice..." I spoke intermittently with my eyes half closed, pretending to be weak. "Jason, Jerry... How are they? Did... Did they get hurt?"

"No! They are fine! I want you to hold on, okay? Stay strong. Don't close your eyes." Holding my hands tightly, Alice burst into tears.

Just then, a car was passing by.

"Raina, hold on!"

Saying that, Alice staggered and waved her arms to stop the car.

The last two numbers of the license plate of that car was 86.

Relieved, I closed my eyes.

Soon, I felt someone picking me up.

I heard some noises and voices before we arrived at the nearest hospital.

"Doctor, please save her..."

I heard Alice pleading with the doctor outside the operation theater.

Slowly opening my eyes, I saw a young doctor in a white lab coat standing beside me.

Susan had already bought him off.

With a plain expression, he bandaged the "wound" that didn't even exist and waited there for a long time before he walked out of the room.

Standing behind the door, I peeked through the crack.

I saw that the twins' baby stroller was gone.

Two familiar-looking people were standing behind Alice. They were the servants who worked for the Moore family.

Clenching her fists, Alice looked at the doctor with a worried expression. "How is Raina?" she asked in a concerned voice.

"She is lucky that the knife missed her vital organs. Although I have treated her cut, it is still too deep, so she needs to rest well," the doctor said flatly.

I suddenly heard the sound of car tires screeching.

Only after hearing that did Alice breathe a sigh of relief.

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A while later, a nurse walked in and sent me to the ward.

Alice rushed over and looked at me with earnest concern.

Forcing a smile weakly, I said in a low voice, "It's good that you are all right..."

"Raina." She seemed to be moved by my act as she gently caressed my cheek.

"I was too flustered at that time, and all I could think about was to protect you..." I rubbed my cheek against Alice's palm with tears streaming down my face. "I'm sorry that I made you worry."

Beads of tears appeared in Alice's eyes. "You silly girl."

It took a long time for her to calm down.

She slowly wiped away her tears. "The doctor said that you need to rest well, so I am going to take you home."

Shaking my head with fear in my eyes, I grabbed her hand. "Please don't make me go back to the Hill family's house. I can't possibly go back there looking like this..."

"Of course! I know how worried your parents will be if they saw you in such a bad condition," Alice said with a sigh.

She clearly misunderstood what I meant, but that was exactly what I wanted.

Nodding weakly, I said, "Yes."

With a look of kindness, Alice said, "You should come to the Moore family's house with me to recuperate, then."

Soon, the car stopped in front of the Moore family's house.

Alice ordered the servants to help me sit on the wheelchair before she pushed it into the villa.

Lowering my gaze, I smiled, feeling excited in my heart.

I was confident that the moment I stepped foot in that house, I would have taken a huge step towards my goal.

I knew that it would only be a short while before I became Mrs. Moore.

"What happened?" Chloe asked in surprise.

I looked up and saw her walking towards us, wearing a limited edition designer-branded dress.

Alice briefly explained to her about everything that happened.

Shocked and horrified, Chloe leaned forward to hug me. "Thank you for saving my mom and my nephews."

"It was my pleasure," I replied with a smile.

Chloe rolled her eyes at me before she suddenly winked at me.

Just when I was wondering what she meant by that, she suggested to Alice, "Raina is the Moore family's savior. Why don't we let her recuperate in the master bedroom?"

'The master bedroom... Charles' room?'

Although I was overjoyed at heart, I pretended to be shy and embarrassed. "There's no need for such a big gesture. I only wanted to protect Alice and the twins. I do not want to trouble you guys..."

"It's no trouble at all! After all, we might have died if it hadn't been for you," Alice interrupted me with a

smile before she asked the servants to take me upstairs.

Chloe pushed the master bedroom door with a welcoming smile.

As I clenched my fists, I felt my heart racing uncontrollably.

However, a sudden cold voice extinguished my excitement like a bucket of ice.

"What do you think you're doing?"

Christine walked over to us with a long face.

Alice quickly explained everything to her in a soft voice.

And even after hearing that, Christine still refused without any hesitation. "No. Even if she did save your life, that doesn't give her the right to go into Charles' room."

"But this is the best room in the house," Chloe protested like a spoiled child.

Christine glared at her before she turned to Alice. "James will be home soon. Do you think that he will accept Raina staying there? How are you going to explain it to him?"

Seeing Alice embarrassed, a wave of nervousness crashed into my heart.

"You can't be doing this, Alice."

An old man's majestic voice made the room even colder.

I looked in the direction of the voice.

Michael and Lawrence were standing in the stairway. Among the men of the Moore family, they had more power than Charles.

Although Lawrence remained silent, I could tell that he was also against the idea.

Feeling the disappointment, my heart sank.

Now, it was nearly impossible for me to stay in the master bedroom.

However, Alice was unusually firm.

"Is a room more important than my life and the twins' life? If it weren't for Raina, we might have died today. Are you certain about treating the woman, who saved our lives, so rudely?" Alice questioned loudly.

[Chapter 433 Don't Come Today](#)

Caroline's POV:

The thought of being able to see my kids today delighted me.

I got off work early and left the company in high spirits.

Once I was in the car, I asked Elena to go to the shopping mall, so that I could buy the kids some gifts.

It had been so long since the last time I saw them. Somehow, I wondered if they were mad at me.

Aside from that, there was something else I was worrying about.

"Elena, do you think the twins might not know who I am anymore?" I asked, wearing a serious expression.

Elena smiled at me. "Caroline, you're overthinking. You're their mother, of course they remember you!"

Upon hearing that, I regained my composure and calmed down.

"Let's go to the kindergarten to pick up James and then go to the Moore mansion together."

"Got it!"

Classes weren't over yet, but there were already numerous cars parked outside the kindergarten. Parents or house helpers were already there, ready to pick up their kids.

I got off the car, and walked towards the gate of the school. There, I saw two familiar faces.

I wanted to pretend like I didn't see them, but Tracy noticed me right away. She waved at me enthusiastically.

"Scarlett!"

I couldn't correct Janet and Tracy the way I did Richard.

Though I had changed my identity, I didn't want to hurt them.

Because to me, they weren't just bodyguards. They were my dearest friends.

I flashed them a smile and asked, "Are you here to pick up James?"

"Yup!" Janet nodded in response.

I frowned, feeling worried. "Hold on. Since you're both here, who's looking after the twins?" I asked.

Tracy flashed me a bright smile. "Don't worry about them. Mrs. Moore is taking care of them at home."

I felt relieved to hear that. Then, we all waited for James together.

After a while, the school's gate was opened and the children came out one after another.

"Mommy!"

A sweet child's voice reached my ears.

James ran towards me, throwing himself into my arms.

I planted a kiss on his cheek, and I could not hide my excitement to see him. "James, my sweet boy!"

After smiling at me, James turned his gaze towards Janet and Tracy.

"I want to go with Mommy. You can go home first."

I ruffled his hair and remarked, "James, I'm heading to the mansion as well. We can all go together."

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"Really?" James' eyes lit up.

My heart melted at the sight of his face and I nodded at him with a smile.

James jumped for joy, putting his arms around my neck.

"Yay! I can finally go home with Mommy!"

Charles' POV:

Once I was done with the meeting, my phone's screen lit up. My mother was calling.

"Mom, what's up?"

In an anxious voice, Alice replied, "Charles, something has happened. Come home as soon as possible!"

She dropped the call before I could ask any questions.

I rushed home, but my mother was nowhere to be found.

I took a servant's hand and asked, "Where's my mother?"

"Mrs. Moore is supposed to be in the master bedroom."

There was something odd about the servant's expression, but I paid it no mind and just strode upstairs.

Upon opening the door of the master bedroom, I saw something ridiculous.

Raina was leaning against the headboard of my bed, wearing my shirt. Her collar was left slightly open, revealing her collarbone and cleavage.

I creased my eyebrows and shouted, "Get the fuck out of my bed!"

"I'm sorry, I..." Panicking, Raina glanced over at the other two women who were both sitting beside the bed.

My mother glared at me, visibly unhappy. "How could you speak to Raina like that?"

"This is my room. No other woman is allowed to sleep on my bed," I answered stiffly.

Then, I stared daggers at Raina and said, "Are you going to leave voluntarily or would you like me to throw you out myself?"

"Charles!" my mother shouted.

She stood in front of Raina along with Chloe.

It was then that I noticed the bandages on Raina's leg. "Are you injured?"

Ignoring my question, my mother said, "Raina saved my life and the twins' lives. How could you treat her like that? You should be thanking her instead!"

"That's right. Charles, Raina got injured for our family. Can't you at least lend her the master bedroom until she's fully recovered?" Chloe chimed in.

Calmly, I said to them, "We have lots of guest rooms available."

My mother turned a deaf ear to my suggestion and responded firmly, "Whether you like it or not, Raina will be staying in the master bedroom until further notice. Both your father and grandfather have agreed to it already. There's nothing you can do to change it!"

"Really?" James' eyes lit up.

My heart melted at the sight of his face and I nodded at him with a smile.

Feeling helpless, I answered, "Mom, are you serious? Don't do this to me."

Feeling helpless, I answered, "Mom, are you serious? Don't do this to me."

The only response I got from her was a sharp glare.

"I'm sorry, guys. I want to talk to Charles," Raina said in a soft voice.

My mother flashed her a gentle smile. "Sure, Raina. Chloe and I will step out for the time being. Take your time."

With that, they both left the room.

This whole thing was so ridiculous. I had no intention of giving Raina a single opportunity to make more trouble for me, so decided to walk away.

However, Raina spoke to halt me. "Charles, believe it or not, I ran into Alice and the twins by chance. They were in danger, and I couldn't just sit idly by and watch it happen. Don't give me the cold shoulder."

The sound of her sobbing voice wasn't enough to faze me.

Without hesitation, I left the room and closed the door. Soon, the sound of her annoying cries disappeared.

I was more worried about something else.

Today was supposed to be the day Caroline would visit us--the kids, to be more precisely.

'What will she think if she finds Raina in my bedroom? Our relationship has only been mended not long ago. If she sees Raina here, she might freeze me out again. No! I'm not going to let that happen,' I remarked inwardly.

Suppressing the uneasiness in my heart, I dialed Caroline's number.

Soon, the call was connected.

I heard the voice that I had been yearning to hear. "Charles?"

"Caroline, I'm so sorry about this. Something has happened at home. You'll have to drop by some other time."

"What happened? Did something happen to Jason and Jerry?" Caroline asked worriedly.

I didn't want to lie to her, but telling her the truth was even more difficult for me.

"Today really isn't a good time. Don't come to the Moore mansion." I sounded sincere.

"But I'm already..."

Before I could hear the end of Caroline's sentence, I felt someone hugging me from behind.

"Charles, don't be mad at me.

I was surprised to see a woman's arms around my waist. The sleeves of my shirt were rolled up to her elbows.

At this moment, the front door of the house was unlocked. Not long after, it slowly opened up.

[Chapter 434 Photos And Memories](#)

Caroline's POV:

I had just arrived at the gate of the Moore mansion when Charles called me.

James opened the door with a beaming smile.

But what I saw next disappointed me. Raina was hugging Charles. The scene in front of me brought a pang to my heart.

How could he fool around with that woman while talking to me on the phone?

Was this why he did not want me to come to the Moore mansion today? He did not want me to disturb them, did he?

My gaze fell on Raina.

She raised her chin and smiled meaningfully.

To make things worse, the shirt she was wearing right now was the one I had bought for Charles when we were still together.

Thud.

My phone fell to the floor.

It was only then that I came to my senses. I immediately covered James's eyes so he would not see what was happening.

Then, with a bitter smile, I looked at Charles with an icy cold gaze.

"Excuse me." I picked up my phone, held James up, and brushed past Janet and Tracy, who were both in utter shock.

The emotions I had been bottling up felt like they were going to explode any second. Not wanting them to see that I was hurt, I strode out of the door without looking back.

All of a sudden, a pair of small hands touched my cheeks and wiped the corners of my eyes.

"Mommy, don't cry," James comforted me.

I stopped in my tracks and looked at him.

Then, I wiped my tears and forced a smile.

"Can you keep it a secret for me? I'm already an adult, but I still cry. It's embarrassing."

"Okay!" James grinned. The way his eyes curled when he smiled looked so adorable.

"Caroline!"

Charles's deep voice came from my behind. Before I could turn around, I felt his hand on my shoulder.

I suppressed all my emotions and looked at him indifferently.

"I'll visit the kids another day. Is there anything else you have to say?"

"Please don't jump to conclusions. The thing is, something had happened to Mom and the twins. Raina saved them in time, but she sustained some injuries. Mom insists on making Raina stay in the mansion until she recovers," Charles hurriedly explained.

My mind went blank when I heard that something had happened to them.

"What?! Did they get hurt?" I anxiously asked.

Charles stroked my arm comfortingly. "Don't worry. They're fine."

Despite his reassurance, I remained flustered and worried. "I want to see them."

James pursed his lips and chimed in, "I'll go with you!"

Charles nodded, picked up James, and pulled me into the house.

When we entered the mansion, Raina was in the living room.

She opened her mouth to speak, but I just brushed past her.

I went straight to the stairs, not in the mood to talk to her.

When we reached the second flight of the stairs, James pointed the way for me. "Their room is on the right!"

But just as I was about to push the door open, Alice grabbed my wrist. "Scarlett, how dare you show up here? You're an incompetent mother. You don't deserve to see the twins!"

"I heard what had happened today. I just want to see if they're fine," I reasoned out.

Chloe, who was standing behind Alice, looked at me with narrowed eyes and said crossly, "You're Caroline, not Scarlett. The kids have nothing to do with you. What right do you have to see them?"

I was too anxious about my twins' condition to argue with these two.

"Don't bully my mommy!" James shouted at Alice and Chloe. I felt proud to have a son who would stand up for me.

"Stop it. Let her in!"

Christine's voice came to our ears.

My heart tightened in my chest.

I turned around and saw Christine leaning against the wall for support and looking at us. Her skin was as pale as a sheet. She did not look so well.

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But what I saw next disappointed me. Reine was hugging Charles. The scene in front of me brought a pang to my heart.

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Christine's voice came to our ears.

My heart tightened in my chest.

I turned around and saw Christine leaning against the wall for support and looking at us. Her skin was as pale as a sheet. She did not look so well.

I could not help worrying about her.

Alice did not seem to notice that something was wrong with Christine.

She looked into my eyes and firmly said, "No. I'll only let you in if you admit that you're Scarlett. Otherwise, you're just a stranger to us. How could we let you get close to the children when we don't even know who you are?"

I was at a loss for words.

Could I really see my children as long as I admitted that I was Scarlett?

But...

"That's enough, Alice."

Lawrence walked over and shot Alice a warning look. Then, he turned to me and said, "I can assure you that Jason and Jerry are safe and sound. You can visit them some other time. I'm afraid today isn't the right time to do so."

I clenched my fists in anger and frustration. My mind was a mess, like the chaos after the storm.

In the end, I held back my surging emotions and politely replied, "Of course. I'll see the kids next time."

Lawrence nodded. "You should go now,"

I nodded at Christine as a sign of respect and walked down the stairs.

Charles, who was standing by the railing and holding James in his arms, stared at me with an inexplicable expression.

"Caroline, I'm sorry. I didn't expect that things would turn out like this."

"Don't worry. I have." I forced a smile and cast a meaningful look at him.

Just as I took a step, I felt someone tugged the hem of my clothes.

I turned around and met James's tearful eyes.

"Mommy, don't go. Stay with me and my brothers. Please?" he pleaded.

I stroked his face with love and affection and kissed him on the forehead.

"I'll take you with me soon, then we'll be together all the time," I loudly said for everyone to hear.

Charles stared at me in awe, and I stared back at him.

"No way!" Alice roared.

I did not say anything in response, nor did I give Charles the chance to speak. Before he could utter a word, I marched out of the mansion.

"Caroline," Elena, who was waiting for me outside the door, walked up to me and asked with concern, "are you okay?"

"I'm fine,"

I answered with a nod. The document in her hand caught my eye.

It was the case analysis report that I was supposed to give Charles.

I felt sorry that he had been suffering from his disorder. But judging from what I had seen between him and Raina, it seemed that there was nothing to worry about at all.

In a fit of anger, I snatched the report from Elena's hand and tore it into pieces.

Elena gasped and looked at me with eyes wide in shock.

At this moment, I took a deep breath and forced myself to calm down. "Elena, you head back first. I want to be alone for a while."

"Oh. I see. Be carefully, okay?"

Although reluctant, Elena handed me the keys and did as told.

I sat in the driver's seat, started the engine, and stepped on the accelerator.

The car sped away at once. The wind rushed into the open window and made my hair fly everywhere.

It hurt when my hair whipped on my face, but the pain was nothing compared to what I was feeling inside.

But I did not care.

Raina and Rita's faces flashed through my mind. I could see them laughing madly and staring daggers at me. Nevertheless, the malice in their eyes remained the same. They were like witches, stretching out their hands to me. But instead of having hands, they had talons.

A myriad of emotions collided in my heart. It was devastating.

A few moments later, a familiar beach came into view.

I stepped on the brakes, and the car came to a screeching halt. Its loud, piercing sound brought me back to reality.

I looked around the beach. The scenery was beautiful. But to me, it was bringing me nothing but pain and trauma. The wind, the tide, everything just reminded me of the place where Rita had hidden James back then in New York.

I could not help worrying about her.

Alice did not seem to notice that something was wrong with Christine.

What was more, Charles himself planted the seed of sin—Rita.

What was more, Charles himself planted the seed of sin—Rita.

It was all because of him that my life ended up like this.

How ridiculous.

How could I forgive him?

Suddenly, my phone rang, interrupting my thoughts.

I looked at it and found that it was Simon who was calling.

It must be Elena who tipped him off.

I rolled my eyes, but I answered the call nevertheless.

The instant I pressed the answer button, Simon's voice came to my ears. "Caroline, are you okay?" he asked with concern.

"I'm fine," I answered.

"Where are you?"

I gazed at the boundless sea in front of me in desolation and answered, "By the sea."

"Send me your location and wait for me. I'll be right there."

Simon's deep voice was attractive, but I was not in the mood to admire it right now.

Raina's POV:

The atmosphere in the living room was awkward and heavy as the Moore family gathered here.

In dismay, I decided to head back to the master bedroom quietly.

When I walked to the window, I happened to see Caroline's car speeding away.

I was overjoyed.

Even if Caroline seduced Charles, she would be kicked out of the Moore mansion, just like what happened today.

Caroline could try, but she could not kick me out. I could stay here for as long as I wanted, and there was nothing she could do about it.

I was certain that Charles would eventually forget Caroline and open his heart to me.

While I was in deep thought, my phone rang.

I immediately answered the call, and Susan's shrill voice greeted me.

"My men just saw Caroline leave the Moore mansion! Well done, Raina."

I let out a snort and smiled triumphantly. "Of course. Caroline is nothing against me."

"Anyway, try to stay at the Moore mansion for a couple more days. I don't care how you do it. Just make that happen."

"I will."

Suddenly, I heard her turned serious. "Don't forget what Adam had asked you to do."

I just uttered a brief response and hung up the call irritably.

A knock came at the door the instant the call ended.

I turned around and saw Alice come in with a glass of milk.

When she saw that I was out of the bed, she walked over to me and advised, "Raina, you're still injured. You should stay in bed for the time being."

Without a word, I obediently did as told and accepted the milk she had given me.

Alice sat on the edge of the bed and gently said, "Please don't take Charles's attitude to heart."

This was what I wanted. I let out a sob and looked at Alice with tearful eyes. "Is Charles mad at me? Maybe I shouldn't stay here anymore."

"Of course not." Alice stroked my hair and reassured me. "Don't mind him. You can stay here until you've completely recovered."

I held her in a tight embrace. "Thank you, Alice."

Alice hugged me back and patted me comfortingly. "I understand your worries. Don't worry. Time will prove everything. I'm sure he'll see how much you love him one day."

"Okay," I replied in a low voice.

I hoped that time would quickly pass by.

I could not wait to be the one in Charles's heart.

Alice did not leave the room until I had finished drinking the milk.

As I huddled up in the quilt, I gazed at Charles and Scarlett's photos together.

They were smiling brightly, and I could almost see the love they had for each other.

I gritted my teeth in resentment, and hatred filled my heart.

I would do whatever it took to replace these photos for the ones of Charles and me.

This plan must not fail.

[Chapter 435 I Can Explain](#)

Simon's POV:

When I heard about what happened today from Elena, I immediately drove to see Caroline.

As soon as I got out of the car, I saw how lonely and sad Caroline was even though she had her back to me.

Heartbroken by this sight, I hurried over to her side, carrying several cans of beer.

I sat down next to her, and handed her an opened can of beer.

"Caroline, are you okay?"

Caroline took a sip of her beer; her eyes, filled with sadness.

"Simon, there's something about me that you don't know. My name used to be Scarlett. I've been married before, and I have three lovely children. Actually, there was four of them. It just so happened that the last child didn't get to see this world."

While she was speaking, her eyes turned red.

"Let bygones be bygones. You're no longer who you were in the past. You're Caroline now," I replied in an attempt to comfort her.

"I used to think that I've let go of the past, but it seems like I'm not that broad-minded." Caroline shook her head bitterly.

My heart ached when I saw how sad she was.

"Caroline, let me tell you something interesting."

"Oh? What would that be?"

Caroline turned her gaze towards me.

"Though I've met you for the first time just recently, I've seen a picture of your mother when I was a child," I said.

"How come you saw my mother's photo?" Caroline's eyes were widened in surprise.

"There's a photo of your mother in your father's study. I would often see it whenever I was playing there," I answered.

"I see." Caroline nodded.

I looked into her eyes with all the sincerity I could muster. "You look a lot like your mother. Back when I was a kid, I really thought she was so beautiful. I guess that's why I felt like you were so familiar. And that's probably also why I've liked you so much since the first time we met."

When I blurted out the last part of my sentence, my heart raced uncontrollably, and I could feel the tip of my ears burning up.

"Have you been living with my father ever since you were a boy?" asked Caroline.

I nodded and explained, "My father, Eason Felix, died when I was a child. That's why your father took me in."

"So our fathers know each other?"

I took a sip of beer and smiled at her. "I'll tell you all about it next time."

This time, she stopped asking questions.

Caroline stared at the sea in silence. It seemed that her mood had gotten a little better.

The mere sight of the side of her face made my heart skip a beat.

"Caroline, whatever decision you make, I'll support you," I said.

She smiled at me and said nothing.

Charles' POV:

As I watched Caroline walk away, I felt angry and upset.

Infuriated, I glared at Raina.

Simon's POV:

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Charles' POV:

As I watched Caroline walk away, I felt angry and upset.

Infuriated, I glared at Reine.

It took me so long just to mend my relationship with Caroline somehow. I never thought that all of those efforts would go to waste just because of Raina.

When I recalled the disappointment in Caroline's eyes before she left, I almost couldn't breathe.

"If you want Raina to live here, fine. I won't object."

Both Raina and my mother were surprised to hear that.

I sneered and continued, "But I won't come home before she's out of the house. Mom, take care of the kids for me."

"Charles, don't leave! I need to tell you something."

Raina seemed anxious and I could tell that she wanted to hold my hand.

Disgusted of her, I dodged her hands and turned my attention to James. "Son, I'm going to look for your mother and get her back. Stay at home and look after your brothers, okay? Be a good boy."

"Daddy, you need to apologize to Mommy sincerely. She's softhearted. I'm sure she'll forgive you," James whispered.

I nodded in response and left without looking back.

When I closed the door, the sound of Raina's sobbing and my Mom's voice faded.

As I walked out of the Moore mansion, I called Caroline again and again.

Sadly, she didn't answer any of my calls.

Upon hearing the mechanical voice over the phone, I was flustered. All I wanted to do right now was to explain everything to Caroline.

Once I had managed to compose myself, I drove down to Garden Street.

I took some of Scarlett's favorite clothes and accessories from the room, and went to her current residence.

As I looked at the stuff inside the bag, the uneasiness I felt diminished.

'Caroline is pretty mad at me. I don't think she'll want to see me. I need to come up with an excuse to see her first, and then I'll sort this whole mess out.'

A bitter smile appeared on my lips.

I never noticed since when I had to come up with all sorts of excuses just to see her.

Upon my arrival at her house, her bodyguard, Elena, told me that Caroline still hadn't come home yet.

Confused, I frowned.

'It's already so late. Where could Caroline have gone?'

I decided to take out my phone to call her again.

Still, she didn't answer. My only option now was to wait for her at the door.

With every passing moment, I grew more anxious and irritable.

Just as I was about to call Richard to find out Caroline's whereabouts, a car pulled over in front of the villa.

She and Simon got out of the car.

They were walking side by side like a couple.

Seeing them together got on my nerves.

I strode forward, grabbed Caroline's hand, and tried to pull her to my side.

Upon seeing what I did, Simon stood in front of her to protect her.

It took me so long just to mend my relationship with Caroline somehow. I never thought that all of those efforts would go to waste just because of Raina.

I glared at him and shouted, "Fuck off! This is between me and Caroline! This has nothing to do with you!"

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"I'm courting Caroline. Her business is my business." Simon didn't back down.

I suppressed the urge to beat him up and just focused my attention on Caroline.

"Caroline, why did you come home so late? I was so worried about you."

"Sir, that has nothing to do with you," Caroline remarked, shaking off my hand.

My heart sank when I heard the way she addressed me.

"Of course, this has something to do with me! I've been waiting for you here for so long, but here I find that you're with another man!"

"Did I ever beg you to wait here?" she asked.

I was rendered speechless. To stifle my anger, I took a deep breath.

"Caroline, what happened earlier wasn't what it seemed like. I can explain. You don't have to use

another man just to piss me off!"

"What do you mean by that? Do you think you deserve my attention enough for me to try and piss you off?"

Caroline shot me a cold glance, and then she held Simon's arm like it was a natural thing for her.

Everything she said over the phone at the hospital the other day came rushing to my mind.

She said that she would give Simon a chance.

"Caroline, are you with him now?" I asked in a trembling voice.

The thought of that possibility made me feel so uncomfortable that I found it hard to breathe.

"You and I have nothing to do with each other anymore. It's none of your business who I'm with, isn't that right?" asked Caroline.

As I looked into her cold eyes, I felt as though my heart had been pierced by a knife.

Suddenly, I lost my confidence. "Caroline, please forgive me. I had no idea that Raina would come to the Moore mansion. Mom was the one who made that decision, and she kept me in the dark about it!"

"Your relationship with her has nothing to do with me."

Caroline scoffed at me before leaving with Simon.

As I watched them walk away, my head felt like it was being torn apart.

The severe pain stimulated my nerves.

Slowly, I bent down, holding my head tightly.

I tried to endure the pain, for I wanted to go after her.

But sadly, my legs wouldn't move.

At this time, a scene flashed through my mind.

Caroline was walking away with a man, side by side with him.

I wanted to see the man's face, but the more I thought about it, the more my head hurt.

That scene lingered in my mind.

My chest felt like it was tightening. I clutched it, frowning in confusion.

'Who was that man in my memory? Why was he so close to Caroline?

Richard never told me about it.

Am I just imagining things?'

[Chapter 436 The Chance Of Taking Back Custody Of The Kids](#)

Scarlett's POV:

When I got inside the house, Elena handed me a bag.

"What's this?" I asked.

"Mr. Moore brought it over," she answered.

I poured out all the contents of the bag.

There was matching T-shirts, a coffee mug, a pair of ski gloves, and even sexy lingerie.

These were the stuff that I'd left in Garden Street. They carried memories of me and Charles.

It all felt ironic to see these things again.

Just before I could throw the stuff aside, I found an iPad underneath the pile of stuff.

I picked up and tapped on the screen. The password prompt appeared soon after.

I input James' birthday, but it turned out that it was the wrong password.

After a brief pause, I input the twins' birthday and Charles' as well, but none of them were correct.

At this point, I was starting to get annoyed.

After pondering on it some more, I tried to input our wedding date. The iPad was unlocked right away.

In the gallery, there was photo album.

I casually swiped the screen, and familiar photos came into view.

There were a lot of pictures. There was one where I was sleeping soundly; some were of me holding

James, others were when I was feeding Jerry and Jason. There was even a picture of me and Charles, hugging intimately during our wedding day. It looked like I was whispering something to his ear.

The time we spent together was now a distant memory to me. But when I saw these photos again, those memories became vivid again. It seemed like they happened only yesterday.

I felt a lump in my throat, and soon, tears blurred my vision.

'He has a new girlfriend now. Why can't he just let me go? Is he using these photos to remind me of how stupid I used to be?' I wondered.

"Caroline, are you okay?" Elena asked worriedly.

"I'm fine. I just really miss my kids."

She patted me on the back and said, "Don't be upset. You're preparing to take back the custody of your kids, right?"

"I am. Nobody can stop me from being with my children!"

The worry in my heart was lifted. I wiped away my tears and went upstairs.

Once I had calmed down, I gave my lawyer Percy Gray a call.

Scerlett's POV:

When I got inside the house, Elene handed me a bag.

"What's this?" I asked.

"Mr. Moore brought it over," she answered.

I poured out all the contents of the bag.

There were matching T-shirts, a coffee mug, a pair of ski gloves, and even sexy lingerie.

These were the stuff that I'd left in Garden Street. They carried memories of me and Charles.

It all felt ironic to see these things again.

Just before I could throw the stuff aside, I found an iPad underneath the pile of stuff.

I picked up and tapped on the screen. The password prompt appeared soon after.

I input James' birthday, but it turned out that it was the wrong password.

After a brief pause, I input the twins' birthday and Charles' as well, but none of them were correct.

At this point, I was starting to get annoyed.

After pondering on it some more, I tried to input our wedding date. The iPad was unlocked right away.

In the gallery, there was a photo album.

I casually swiped the screen, and familiar photos came into view.

There were a lot of pictures. There was one where I was sleeping soundly; some were of me holding James, others were when I was feeding Jerry and Jason. There was even a picture of me and Charles, hugging intimately during our wedding day. It looked like I was whispering something to his ear.

The time we spent together was now a distant memory to me. But when I saw these photos again, those memories became vivid again. It seemed like they happened only yesterday.

I felt a lump in my throat, and soon, tears blurred my vision.

'He has a new girlfriend now. Why can't he just let me go? Is he using these photos to remind me of how stupid I used to be?' I wondered.

"Caroline, are you okay?" Elene asked worriedly.

"I'm fine. I just really miss my kids."

She patted me on the back and said, "Don't be upset. You're preparing to take back the custody of your kids, right?"

"I am. Nobody can stop me from being with my children!"

The worry in my heart was lifted. I wiped away my tears and went upstairs.

Once I had calmed down, I gave my lawyer Percy Grey a call.

As soon as the call went through, I asked, "What do you think are my chances of getting the full custody of my kids?"

Raina's POV:

When I woke up the next morning, I heard birds singing outside the window.

I slept well last night.

Perhaps because Charles' smell lingered on the bed, I felt comfortable. It was as if I was sleeping in his arms.

I didn't have to worry that Gary would suddenly barge into my room, pin me down and rape me.

That was why I must stay here!

After getting up from the bed, I went downstairs.

It was really quiet here. Aside from James who was sitting on the sofa and playing with his iPad, it seemed as though there was nobody else in the living room.

I sat next to him and said, "Good morning, James. Are you here alone?"

"I don't like talking to ugly women," he replied without even looking at me. Then, he moved aside.

"What did you just say?" I asked through gritted teeth.

'Argh! How dare this kid call me ugly?

What an uneducated little rascal!'

"Oh, so you're not just ugly; you're deaf too, huh?" James remarked casually.

I was so angry that my body trembled. I wanted to teach the boy a lesson. But the moment I raised my hand, I noticed a security camera in the corner.

After taking a deep breath, I put on a smile, and continued speaking to the boy gently. "What are you playing, James? That looks fun! Do you mind if I play with you?"

Suddenly, James looked at me. The look of disgust on his face was exactly like Charles'. Subconsciously, I shrank backwards.

"James, I just want to..."

But before I could finish my sentence, James cut me off. "How about I give you a test first. If you can solve the problem, I'll let you play with me."

'A test, huh? What does a little kid like him know? Fine. I'll bite.'

Confidently, I nodded in agreement to his suggestion.

James put down his iPad, took out a notebook from his schoolbag, and began writing something on it.

Out of curiosity, I approached him.

"Don't peep," James said while covering his notebook.

"Fine." I looked away and sat back, feeling disdainful.

After a while, James threw the notebook in front of me and said, "This is a partially completed nine by nine grid. Fill this grid with numbers, so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three by three sub-grids of the entire table contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. But be warned, there's an additional restriction on the contents of individual cells. For example, the same single integer may not appear twice in the same row, column, or any of the nine three by three sub-grids of the nine by nine table." As soon as the call went through, I asked, "What do you think are my chances of getting the full custody of my kids?"

"How am I supposed to solve that? It's impossible!" I blurted out.

"How am I supposed to solve that? It's impossible!" I blurted out.

"Well, with your level of intelligence, it really is impossible," James said, taking his notebook back. Clearly, he was mocking me.

"Wait!"

I said, immediately stopping him.

'It's just a stupid Sudoku puzzle. I won't let it get the better of me!'

"Give me the notebook. I'll do it."

"You should think this through and save yourself the embarrassment," he answered.

Without another word, I grabbed the notebook from his hand, picked up the pen on the table, and began filling the table with numbers.

At first, I really just wanted to impress James, but now, his dismissive attitude towards me got on my nerves.

Time fled by quickly.

I filled many boxes, but each time I almost completed the entire table, my answer proved to be wrong. I was forced to erase my answers and start over multiple times.

For a moment, I paused to wipe the beads of cold sweat on my forehead. Just as I was about to try again, the notebook in my hand was taken away.

"Gosh, you're so slow!"

James took the pen from my hand as well and filled all the boxes within less than ten seconds.

And when I glanced at it, I saw that his answers were all correct.

"Sudoku is a piece of cake for me. My Mommy taught me how to solve Sudoku puzzles when I was two years old, you know!"

"You little..."

"You're so stupid. Do you honestly believe that you deserve to be with my Daddy?" James sneered unscrupulously.

I clenched my fists, stood up, and pointed at him with a trembling hand.

Before I could get another word in, James' face changed and he suddenly burst into tears.

[Chapter 437 Apology](#)

James' POV:

When I saw Grandma walking into the room, I immediately started crying.

Just as I expected, she walked over to me with an anxious look in her eyes.

"James, why are you crying? What happened?"

I threw myself into her arms and burst into tears as I screamed, "Grandma, Raina has been bullying me! I was being a good boy as Daddy asked me to and played a game of Sudoku with her, but when she couldn't solve the puzzle, she became angry and shouted at me!"

With an anxious look in her eyes, Raina explained, "I didn't! Mrs. Moore, you have to trust me! I didn't bully James at all!"

As expected, a coldness came into Grandma's eyes as she turned to Raina and said, "Raina, go back upstairs and rest. I'll take care of James."

"I really didn't bully him or shouted at him!"

Grandma motioned her to leave helplessly. "I see. You can go upstairs now."

Raina's eyes were filled with malice as she reluctantly walked out of the room.

Staring at her dejected back, I felt proud of myself.

I knew that a bad person like her should never become my stepmom.

Caroline was the only one who could be my mom!

I was determined to find a way to kick Raina out of our house.

Rolling my eyes, I held Grandma's hand and asked cutely, "Grandma, can you please ask Raina to leave our house? I don't like her!"

Grandma stroked my head and comforted me in a soft voice, "Raina saved your brothers and she is our guest. Don't be so mean to her, okay?"

"But she wasn't seriously injured! If you're really that worried about her, then you can hire a nurse to take care of her, right?"

"James, I'll ask Raina to leave in a few days. I just can't make her leave now."

Grandma refused my proposal resolutely.

Feeling a little aggrieved, I couldn't help but lower my head in disappointment.

"Don't be upset, sweetheart. How about I cook something you like? What do you want to eat for lunch?" Grandma asked.

After thinking for a moment, I said, "I want to eat shrimps!"

While we were having lunch, I put some of Jerry's applesauce over a plate of shrimps and handed it to Raina.

"Miss Hill, I shouldn't have been rude to you, and I am sorry. I hope you forgive me."

Raina looked at me reluctantly and said, "I'm not that hungry, but thanks."

"Miss Hill, you really seem like someone who is broad-minded. You won't be angry with me, right?"

With a smile, I pushed the plate towards her again.

Raina gritted her teeth and said, "I will accept your apology, but I do not like shrimps."

I acted like I was surprised. "My dad loves shrimps, so I thought you would like them too."

"Alright, then. I'll eat them."

Jemes' POV:

When I saw Grendme walking into the room, I immediately started crying.

Just as I expected, she walked over to me with an anxious look in her eyes.

"Jemes, why are you crying? What happened?"

I threw myself into her arms and burst into tears as I screamed, "Grendme, Reine has been bullying me! I was being a good boy as Daddy asked me to end played a game of Sudoku with her, but when she couldn't solve the puzzle, she became angry and shouted at me!"

With an anxious look in her eyes, Reine explained, "I didn't! Mrs. Moore, you have to trust me! I didn't bully Jemes at all!"

As expected, the coldness came into Grendme's eyes as she turned to Reine and said, "Reine, go back upstairs and rest. I'll take care of Jemes."

"I really didn't bully him or shout at him!"

Grendme motioned her to leave helplessly. "I see. You can go upstairs now."

Reine's eyes were filled with malice as she reluctantly walked out of the room.

Staring at her dejected back, I felt proud of myself.

I knew that the best person like her should never become my stepmom.

Caroline was the only one who could be my mom!

I was determined to find a way to kick Reine out of our house.

Rolling my eyes, I held Grendme's hand and asked cutely, "Grendme, can you please ask Reine to leave our house? I don't like her!"

Grendme stroked my head and comforted me in a soft voice, "Reine saved your brothers and she is our guest. Don't be so mean to her, okay?"

"But she wasn't seriously injured! If you're really that worried about her, then you can hire a nurse to take care of her, right?"

"James, I'll ask Reine to leave in a few days. I just can't make her leave now."

Grendme refused my proposal resolutely.

Feeling a little aggrieved, I couldn't help but lower my head in disappointment.

"Don't be upset, sweetheart. How about I cook something you like? What do you want to eat for lunch?" Grendme asked.

After thinking for a moment, I said, "I want to eat shrimps!"

While we were having lunch, I put some of Jerry's apple sauce over a plate of shrimps and handed it to Reine.

"Miss Hill, I shouldn't have been rude to you, and I am sorry. I hope you forgive me."

Reine looked at me reluctantly and said, "I'm not that hungry, but thanks."

"Miss Hill, you really seem like someone who is broad-minded. You won't be angry with me, right?"

With a smile, I pushed the plate towards her again.

Reine gritted her teeth and said, "I will accept your apology, but I do not like shrimps."

I acted like I was surprised. "My dad loves shrimps, so I thought you would like them too."

"Alright, then. I'll eat them."

With a stiff expression, she slowly picked up a piece of shrimp from the plate.

Seeing that, I covered my mouth and snickered.

She was such a terrible person, and I really wanted to see if she still dared to covet my dad while I was around.

During the lunch, Raina's face paled all of a sudden.

Excusing herself, she covered her belly with her hands and rushed to the bathroom.

"Good job, James!" Great-grandma praised me.

Charles' POV:

After leaving Caroline's villa, I went back to Garden Street in a daze.

My head was still pounding.

So I took a few pills and curled up on the bed.

A long while later, I slowly drifted off to sleep.

However, it was not a good night's sleep as I was having nightmares.

In my nightmare, Caroline left me, holding another man's hand intimately.

Who on earth was he?

I was trying my best to catch up with them, but I couldn't, no matter how hard I tried.

In the end, I was met with Caroline's cold eyes.

I woke up in cold sweat, and only after looking around the familiar room did I breathe a sigh of relief.

Fortunately, it was nothing more than a bad dream.

But was it really just a dream, though?

If that was really the case, then why was I still feeling pretty heartbroken and suffocated?

It felt so real, as if I had actually experienced it before.

I immediately picked up my phone and called Richard.

"Richard, has Caroline been with another man before? I mean, when she was still Scarlett."

Richard fell silent for a while.

Seeing that, my heart sank at once and my eyes turned cold.

So the scenes that flashed in my nightmare were real.

"Was that man Simon?" I asked, gritting my teeth.

"No," Richard denied immediately.

After I hung up the phone, I fell into deep thought.

I was desperate to know what happened during that year.

At that moment, I heard a knock on the bedroom door.

The house on Garden Street was where Scarlett and I used to live, so apart from us, no one really came there.

So was it Caroline?

I got out of bed excitedly and opened the door, my heart flooding with a sense of expectation.

However, when I saw the woman outside my door, disappointment crashed into my heart like a wave of misery.

It was Raina outside my door, and not Caroline.

'Yeah, right? Why would Caroline come here?'

"Surprise! Charles, aren't you happy to see me here?" Raina greeted me with a bright smile.

"How did you get in here? Get out! You are not welcome here!" I scolded her, looking at her with disgust in my eyes.

With a stiff expression, she slowly picked up a piece of shrimp from the plate.

"I begged Alice to give me the spare key. I heard that you were not feeling well lately, and I was worried that you might feel lonely, so I came here to be with you."

"I begged Alice to give me the spare key. I heard that you were not feeling well lately, and I was worried that you might feel lonely, so I came here to be with you."

Raina was wearing a sexy low-cut slip dress, which clung to her body, enhancing her curves.

However, I was not aroused by her at all.

When I recalled the night when she was in my room in the Moore mansion wearing my shirt, I felt like throwing up.

A wave of fury crashed into my mind and I felt my head pounding again.

I put my hand on the door to support myself as I tried hard not to faint.

"Get out! This is not a place where you can come!"

"Charles, how can you be so mean? Alice asked me to take care of you because she was worried about

you. Do you really want to worry her?"

Raina's eyes turned red, and she was feeling wronged.

I gradually lost my patience and shouted, "Don't try to use my mom to blackmail me! Did you really think that you would be able to marry into the Moore family as long as you're able to win over my mom and Chloe? Well, you can keep dreaming about it!"

Tears welled up in Raina's eyes as she lost her balance and fell to the ground.

Covering her wound with a look of pain, she burst into tears.

"Charles, I'm in pain now, so please let me stay here."

It did not take even a second for me to see right through her lousy act.

Hearing her constant cries, my head started to hurt more.

I left the room irritably, ignoring Raina.

I walked downstairs, lit up a cigarette, and inhaled the smoke while rubbing my temples, groaning in pain.

While I was in a trance, a picture suddenly came to my mind.

Caroline was sweetly nestling in the arms of another man, but I couldn't see his face clearly.

And I even saw her showing him her sexy lingerie.

Her sweet and charming smile could make any man fall to his knees.

Recalling the image, I felt my heart sink.

Resentment and anger surged in my heart as I kicked the coffee table hard, my eyes filled with unwillingness.

'Why? How could Caroline smile at another man? How could she do it?'

I closed my eyes, enduring the pain in my heart as I wished I could tear that man into pieces.

I wasn't pulled back to my senses until I felt the burn from the cigarette butt on my fingers.

I put out the cigarette and threw it into the ashtray.

A bitter smile appeared on my lips as I looked at Caroline's photos on the wall.

She must have looked ravishing in that sexy lingerie, but it was a pity that I wasn't the only one who could savor her beauty anymore.

[Chapter 438 Steal The Ring](#)

Raina's POV:

I smiled triumphantly after I saw Charles leave.

Since he did not insist on driving me away, I wondered if I still had a chance with him.

Perhaps, he still had some feelings for me.

And as long as I worked harder, I could definitely win his love.

Thinking of that, I cheered up a little.

I got up, and looked around the room.

Just like the master bedroom in the Moore mansion, there was an entire wall covered with Caroline's photos.

Glancing at her smiling in the pictures, jealousy rose in my heart.

How could she get everything so effortlessly while I had to fight for what I wanted?

I cursed God for being so unfair towards me.

Lying on the bed casually, I took some selfies on my phone.

The thought that I was on the bed that Caroline had once slept on made me feel a strange sense of pleasure.

And I wondered how she would react if she saw the photos of me in this bed.

I then put my phone away, opened one of the drawers, and looked through it.

It was filled with Caroline's stuff, and I was surprised to see that Charles still kept them.

All of a sudden, my gaze fell on a ring in the corner of the drawer.

It seemed familiar, like I had seen it somewhere before.

It suddenly occurred to me that I had seen Charles wearing a men's ring of the same design.

Was it their wedding ring?

It had been a long time since they had gotten divorced, but he was still wearing the wedding ring.

It was pretty obvious that he still had not given up on Caroline.

Gritting my teeth, I tried putting the ring on.

However, it was not my size, so I could not wear it no matter how hard I tried.

In a fit of rage, I put it into my pocket.

I told myself that I would never let Caroline wear the ring as long as I was alive.

Just when I was about to check other stuff inside the drawer, I heard my phone ring.

It was a call from Susan.

"Hello?"

"Raina, where are you?" Susan's voice was filled with concern.

"I'm at Garden Street. Charles doesn't want to go back to the Moore mansion, and I had no choice but to come here to get close to him," I complained.

"Alright. Don't forget your task. Now that Charles is not in the Moore mansion, you should take the opportunity to finish the job quickly, or else Adam won't let us off the hook."

"Don't worry. I know what I'm doing," I said in an assuring tone.

I quickly hung up and walked downstairs, but Charles was not there.

Seeing that, I gritted my teeth in anger.

That moment, the door flung open, and Tracy and Janet walked in, both surprised to see me there.

"Miss Hill, you should be here, so please leave immediately."

"Where is Charles? Where did he go?"

"You're in no place to ask Mr. Moore's whereabouts. If you're still adamant about staying here, then

don't blame me for being rude later," Janet threatened me.

After hearing that, I had no choice but to leave.

However, I cursed them in my heart. How could they dare to be so arrogant to me?

I vowed to make them pay when I married Charles and moved in here one day.

I told myself that I would fire them the moment I married Charles.

Scarlett's POV:

"Elena, how's your investigation going? Have you found out anything about the twins getting attacked in the park?"

That incident had become a thorn in my heart.

I had a terrible nightmare on the previous night, and saw the twins getting kidnapped.

Recalling the nightmare, I sensed that it was quite similar to the time when James was kidnapped.

The moment I woke up from the nightmare, I could not sleep again, and became determined to win back the kids' custody as soon as possible.

"I am still investigating it, but since there were no security cameras in the area, it is not that easy to find out what really happened." Elena's voice was filled with a strange sense of heaviness.

With a cold look in my eyes, I ordered, "Keep investigating. It's definitely not going to be that simple. Also, find out if Raina has anything to do with it."

How could Raina appear there at the exact time when the twins were getting kidnapped and save them just in time?

Was it really just a coincidence?

Elena nodded and said, "By the way, Mr. Gray has arrived."

Massaging my temples wearily, I said, "Let him in."

"Hello, Miss Wilson," Percy greeted me with a smile.

I replied with a polite nod before I got to the point. "Mr. Gray, I would like to obtain full custody of my kids, and I am willing to pay any price for it. What do you think are our odds of winning?"

After pondering for a while, Percy said in a heavy voice, "Miss Wilson, forgive my bluntness, but considering your current situation, the odds of you winning the case is close to none."

"Why do you say so?" My eyes widened in disbelief.

Although I had mentally prepared myself for such an outcome, I still couldn't bring myself to accept it.

"Ever since you divorced Mr. Moore, the Moore family has been taking care of the kids while you were absent from their lives. If the Moore family's lawyer uses that against you in court, then there won't be any chance for you to win the case," Percy said helplessly.

"But I only did it because I had no other choice, and I could not take the kids with me." As I uttered those words, bitterness flashed through my eyes.

How had I brought myself to abandon my kids at that time? I would never have done that if I had been given any other choices.

It was true that I had been in poor health after the miscarriage.

Even though my dad had gotten the best gynecologist for me, I had never fully recovered.

Sighing, Percy suggested, "If you want to increase your chances of winning, then you should at least have a stable family of your own to prove that you can support your children."

"I think that my family is stable enough now."

"As far as I can see, not only is Mr. Moore wealthy, he also has his parents for support. So it won't be that easy for you to get your kids back," he explained in a low voice.

The moment I understood the real meaning of his words, my heart sank.

And it was true that Charles had a greater advantage than me.

Even so, I still wasn't willing to give up.

And I would never allow my kids to live with Raina, let alone call her mom!

"Mr. Gray, my father is coming back soon, and he will be living with us in the future. Don't you think it will help?" I asked nervously.

"Well, it would not be enough."

"What other way is there, then?"

Percy thought for a while and said, "You don't have a lot of options, unless, Mr. Moore volunteers to handover the custody of the children to you."

"Well, the Moore family will certainly not accept those terms, so it won't work." I shook my head with a bitter smile.

"If you're that determined about winning the case, then you need to find a man soon and get married. Miss Wilson, I'll let you think it over carefully. And if it's not something that you want, then you can apply for a private mediation first."

With those sincere words, Percy left, and I fell into deep thought.

Even after such a long time, my heart was still scarred from all the wounds.

And I did not have the courage to start a new relationship.

Was there really no other choice?

Elena came back to my office after seeing Percy off.

"Miss Wilson, the groundbreaking ceremony of the east bank project will be held this week. Do you need an escort?"

Recalling Percy's suggestion, I could not bring myself to refuse.

Taking out my phone, I sent a text to Simon.

"Simon, do you have time to accompany me to the groundbreaking ceremony of the east bank project this week?"

Soon, I got his reply. "It would be an honor. I'll pick you up, then."

Mixed feelings rose in my heart and I put my phone aside.

If I had to get married, Simon should be a good choice.

However, Charles' face just kept flashing in my mind uncontrollably.

[Chapter 439 A Date With Simon](#)

Charles' POV:

I drove to the Wilson Group.

Massaging my aching temples, I got off the car, and lit a cigarette, leaning against my car.

Soon, I saw Caroline among the crowd.

She was dressed in a pale ash gray coat which was simple yet well-tailored, and underneath it, she was wearing a white dress that enhanced her gentleness and her elegance.

The man beside her was Simon.

Why did he appear with her everywhere?

He was a total buzzkill!

Tossing the cigarette aside, I walked over to her. "Caroline."

She was cracking jokes with her colleagues, but the moment she saw me, she stopped.

She stood there coldly with a hint of sarcasm in her eyes.

"It has only been one night since we last saw each other, Mr. Moore. Why do you look so haggard? Looks like taking care of Raina all night must be really exhausting."

"I didn't do anything of that sort..."

"It is time for lunch now, Mr. Moore. If you want to discuss about work with me, then you can come during office hours."

After interrupting me coldly, Caroline glanced at her watch and asked her colleagues to leave.

I reached out my hand to touch her, but my hand was pushed away instantly.

"You'd better not touch her!" Simon hissed with a serious expression.

They looked like the perfect couple, and seeing them being so intimate, I could not help but get jealous. Scenes from my nightmare kept flashing in my mind.

I pressed my forehead and smiled with self-mockery before I stared at Caroline and asked, "Is he the man?"

With a bright smile, Caroline clung to Simon's arm and said, "Yes, it's him."

She then looked into Simon's eyes with an affectionate smile, completely ignoring me.

Suppressing the pain in my heart, I sneered and said in a deep voice, "I see."

She looked at me indifferently with a satirical smile on her lips. "Now that you know we're together, don't show up in front of us again. Your presence alone bothers me."

After saying those words, she held his arm and walked away.

"Stop! Caroline, what is it that you want?" I called out to her.

She stopped in her tracks and turned around with coldness in her eyes that almost scared me. "I want to take back everything that belongs to me."

Frowning, I was about to say something when she added, "I have decided to date Simon, so please don't bother us again, Mr. Moore. And don't send me worthless stuff!"

Her cold words felt like a knife in my chest. It seemed that she did not care for the things that I had sent her.

"Scarlett!" I called out angrily.

Simon's POV:

Completely ignoring Charles, Caroline dragged me away.

I couldn't contain my joy when I saw her holding my hand tightly.

Did it mean that she was no longer attached to the past, and that my chance had finally arrived?

Besides, did she mean what she just said? About us being together?

I couldn't wait to ask her and confirm if I was right. "Caroline, do you really mean it? I mean... What you just said to Charles... Is that how you really feel?"

I was trying my best to suppress the raging happiness in my heart.

However, Caroline stopped, lowered her head, and remained silent.

I stroked her hair gently, pretending to be relaxed. "Don't worry, I am not in a rush to get your answer. Besides, we have plenty of time."

"You're right. I will think it over." Caroline's smile was filled with a sense of relief.

I looked away to hide the bitterness in my heart.

"By the way, why did you come here?"

Her sudden question reminded me of the reason I came to see her.

"I want to take you to a place." Before she could refuse, I took her to a building that was nearby.

After getting off the car, I led her to a luxury boutique called Zing.

It was a big store located on the top most floor of the building, and one could easily see half of the city from there.

"Welcome to Zing." Standing by the door, the store assistants nodded respectfully.

Knowing that Caroline liked to be left in peace, I signaled to them and said, "Don't follow us. I will call you if needed."

The store assistants obeyed and stepped away from us. Caroline let go of my hand and began to wander around happily.

I followed her with a proud smile on my lips. Obviously, women were intimately attached to fashion.

"The clothes here are so beautiful. But why is the store so empty? Did you book the entire store?" Caroline turned to me with a meaningful look in her eyes.

Clearing my throat, I changed the topic. "You can choose anything you like. The clothes here are all unique, and you will never see anyone else wearing anything similar."

Caroline's eyes lit up with excitement.

And I felt like I was floating in the clouds when I saw her smile. "Consider it as a gift for your inauguration of the east bank project."

"Thank you so much!" With a smile, she turned around, and began to examine the clothes carefully.

In less than ten minutes, she finished shopping. "You're done already?" I asked in surprise.

Caroline nodded in reply.

I snapped my fingers, signaling the store assistant to come. "Take her to try on the clothes."

After I saw them leave, I sat down on the couch and began to read a magazine.

Minutes later, I suddenly heard the sound of high-heeled shoes clicking against the floor, and when I looked up, I was speechless.

Caroline was wearing a teal dress with a tulle hemline, which enhanced her tall and slim figure.

Admiring her beauty, I noticed my heart race uncontrollably.

I quickly straightened myself up and walked to her. "You look gorgeous," I praised sincerely.

"Thank you." Caroline smiled.

Her smile made her look even more stunning.

I leaned and stretched out my hand. "Miss, can I dance with you?"

Caroline nodded and placed her hand in mine. I gently held her slim waist.

Following the soft music in the shop, we danced slowly and tacitly.

But then, the music suddenly changed to a lively tune, and I couldn't help leaning forward and holding her waist tightly.

When I saw that she was not refusing my touch, my heart was filled with joy, and I looked deep into her eyes.

[Chapter 440 Speed Up](#)

Simon's POV:

The song was about to end.

Under the dreamy light, Caroline looked like an angel.

My heart was racing as I held her in my arms.

I was stunned and speechless when I looked into her beautiful eyes. I immediately lowered my head unconsciously, trying to kiss her.

"The song is over." Caroline's cold voice came to my ears and she turned away immediately.

Feeling embarrassed, I helped her stand up and kissed the back of her palm.

"Pack this dress," I ordered the store assistant in a low voice.

"Sure, sir."

Feeling the bitterness in my heart, I could not help but sigh.

I did not know how long it was going to take Caroline to open up to me.

"Are you going back to the company or are you going home?" I asked.

Caroline frowned. "I want to go home."

Nodding in reply, I wrapped my arm around her waist. "Let's go."

Relief filled my heart when I saw that she was not trying to dodge me.

We kept silent through the ride, and thirty minutes later, we arrived at the villa.

I turned to look at Caroline and saw her sound asleep.

The soft afternoon sunlight was making her features appear more angelic.

She was really beautiful!

I unfastened my seat belt and approached her.

I saw her thick lashes flutter like a butterfly's wings.

Her lips were soft and alluring, tempting me to kiss her.

I approached her carefully, my whole body turning stiff from the nervousness.

Just when I was about to kiss her forehead, she suddenly opened her eyes.

"What are you doing?" Her cold voice pulled me back to reality.

After calming down, I grinned and said, "I wanted to wake you up, but when I saw you sleeping so soundly, I changed my mind."

Caroline rolled her eyes at me, opened the door, and was about to get off.

But I quickly grabbed her hand and said in a serious tone, "Caroline, I will be waiting for the day when you will accept me."

She looked at me with guilt in her eyes, which made me a little sad.

I handed her bag to her. "Go back and rest well."

A bitter smile appeared on my lips when I saw her rush into the villa.

I knew I had helplessly fallen for her.

Although I knew that she only told Charles we were together to piss him off, it still made my heart bloom with joy.

I told myself that it was only a matter of time before my wishes turned into a reality.

When I got home later, I got a call from my mother.

"Simon, how are you doing there?" There was an unmistakable hint of concern in her voice.

"I'm fine, Mom. What about you?" I asked casually.

"I'm fine too. With Edward's help, I don't need to worry about anything. But you..."

Although my mom was still talking to me, I felt like I could not hear her at all. I couldn't concentrate.

"Mom, take care of yourself. I'm busy now, so I'll have to go." I quickly ended the call and massaged my aching forehead.

"Edward..." I repeated the name in a low voice, recalling the past.

When Edward had found out that my dad was kidnapped, he had called the police, and had no intentions of paying the ransom.

Only after my mother constantly pleaded him to reconsider, had he agreed to pay the ransom.

However, by then it had already been too late, and my father had been killed.

And ever since then, Edward had been taking care of me and my mom.

Later, I heard that Edward had refused to pay the ransom on purpose.

Rumors spread fast, but when they reached him, he ordered no one should breathe a word of it again.

Looking out of the window, I narrowed my eyes.

Apart from Edward, only my dad's driver knew what really happened back then.

I had been trying to locate him for so many years now, but I couldn't even get a whiff of him anywhere.

And the detective I had hired told me that the driver had recently appeared in Los Angeles.

I was not going to miss another chance to find out the truth.

If only I could use Caroline to get to Edward. That would definitely save me a lot of troubles.

After thinking for a while, I sent a text to Percy.

"Find a way to make Caroline accept me as soon as possible."

Charles' POV:

I returned to my office, stood in front of the window, and took off my tie.

Anger was still surging through my veins from the moment I saw Caroline and Simon holding hands.

I was determined to keep her with me, no matter what it took.

All of a sudden, I heard a knock on the door, pulling me back to reality.

Amy walked into my office to give me a report of the day.

I pushed aside all the other thoughts and began to concentrate on work.

Time flew quickly, and it was soon time to get off work.

When I remembered that Raina was still in the Moore mansion, I did not even feel like going home.

I took out a bottle of wine from the wine cabinet, and was just about to take a sip when Richard knocked on the door and walked in.

He walked up to me and reminded me, "The doctor said that you should cut down on drinking. It's not good for you."

I glanced at him and did not say a word.

"Nicholas Wood wants to see you. Should I send him away?" Richard asked.

I frowned and said, "Let him in."

"Okay."

Richard then escorted Nicholas inside. I looked at him and asked, "Why are you here? Shouldn't you be taking care of Nancy at the hospital?"

Nicholas was about to say something, but he stopped and narrowed his eyes at Richard.

I motioned to Richard, who understood and left the room.

Nicholas then turned to me with an anxious look in his eyes, and said, "I want you to help me destroy the Hill Group."

"Well... Why would I do anything to help you?" I retorted, shaking the wine glass in my hand.

Scratching his head, Nicholas said, "I have no other choice. The Wood family is just not strong enough to fight the Hill Group."

I looked up at him and snorted, "And what does that have to do with me?"

"I know that you still hold a grudge because of what Nancy did in the past. She thought that if William took Scarlett away from you, then she might have a chance to be with you, but we both know now that she was just naive and thoughtless at that time."

"What did you just say?" I put down the glass angrily.

Nicholas stepped back in fear.

I stood up and hissed, "Say it again!"