

Zillionaire 261

Chapter 261 Honey, I Was

Wrong

In the past, Linsey might have held back, worried about hurting Collin's feelings.

But now, those concerns were gone. She knew Collin could handle a bit of playful teasing.

Linsey shot Collin a playful glare. "Well, duh, who told you to be so naughty?"

Her playful banter reassured Collin. Linsey was clearly no longer bothered by the online gossip.

He chuckled and shook his head. "You think I'm bad just because of how I am with you?" he teased. "Darling, you haven't

seen anything yet."

Linsey blinked, stepping out of the bathroom to stand before him, disbelief written across her face.

"How much worse can you possibly be?" she challenged.

Collin's eyes twinkled mischievously as he slowly looked her up and down, his gaze lingering on her neck. He raised an eyebrow. "You may not know all of me, but surely you're not completely innocent?"

Linsey's heart skipped a beat at the suggestive glint in his eyes.

She instinctively covered her neck, her mind flashing back to their passionate encounter at the villa on the private island...

Was that what he was referring to?

Realizing his implication, Linsey glared at him. "Collin!" she scolded, her cheeks flushing.

Seeing the genuine annoyance in her eyes, Collin panicked. Had he pushed it too far?

If this led to him being banished from the bedroom tonight, it would be a tragedy.

Desperate to avoid that outcome, Collin immediately raised his hands in surrender. "Honey, I was wrong," he said quickly.

"I'm sorry."

Linsey lifted her chin, crossing her arms with a smirk. "Since you're apologizing so nicely, I'll forgive you."

She smiled and moved behind him, taking hold of the handles of his wheelchair.

"So, Linsey," Collin said, quickly changing the subject, "what are you going to do about Jude?"

Linsey's anger dissipated as quickly as it had come. After a moment of thought, she replied with determination, "I'm definitely going to confront him. But there's something I don't understand."

Collin turned to look at Linsey, who had now settled on the bed. "What's that?" he asked.

"I don't get it. Jude and I have no bad blood between us. Why would he try to frame me like that?" Linsey frowned. "He was a well-known designer. He had no reason to target a newcomer like me."

Linsey concluded, "So, I think someone might be pulling his strings."

"You're very perceptive," Collin praised, a warm smile gracing his lips. "I had the same thought."

He reached out and took Linsey's hand in his. "That's why I went out today to find Jude and get some answers."

Linsey's eyes widened in surprise. "Wow, that was quick! You actually found him? What did he say?"

Collin's voice was low and measured. "At first, he wasn't willing to cooperate, so I had to... persuade him."

His long fingers gently caressed the back of Linsey's hand. "It won't be long before we find out who's behind this. And when we do, they'll pay for what they've done to you."

A steely glint entered Collin's eyes as he spoke.

He had already warned Kylee to stay away from Linsey.

But she had not only ignored his warning but also dared to scheme against

Linsey, attempting to destroy her reputation.

That was unforgivable.

He would show no mercy. Anyone who dared to harm his wife would face his wrath.

Chapter 262 I Didn't Resort To Any Physical Violence

A terrifying rage ignited in Collin's eyes, his gaze darkening with fury.

Even Linsey, standing close beside him, flinched, her heart skipping a beat at the intensity of his anger.

She had rarely witnessed this darker side of Collin, and for a fleeting moment, he felt like a stranger.

The outburst was fleeting, his expression quickly regaining its usual composure. Noticing Linsey's unease, Collin immediately inquired, "Linsey, are you alright?"

Linsey blinked, snapping back to reality. Looking into his eyes once more, she was met with his usual warmth and affection.

Had she imagined that flash of anger?

She pressed her lips together and instinctively shook her head. "I'm fine," she murmured.

But then, she recalled Collin's earlier words. Was this what he had meant?

A nagging suspicion lingered in Linsey's mind, a feeling that Collin might be keeping secrets from her.

However, she was certain that Collin would never harm her, so she pushed the thought aside.

Linsey offered a lighthearted smile, teasing, "I was just a little worried. You mentioned Jude was unwilling to cooperate.

How did you convince him? Did you go all vigilante on him and beat him up?"

She playfully punched his shoulder, emphasizing each word. "I just don't want you ending up behind bars."

Collin raised an eyebrow, a chuckle escaping his lips. "Linsey," he teased back, "is that really how you see me? As some

sort of thug?"

Linsey couldn't help but laugh.

"Don't worry," Collin reassured her. "I didn't resort to any physical violence. I just dug up some dirt on him."

Linsey's curiosity was piqued. "What kind of dirt?" she pressed.

She paused, recalling her earlier suspicions about Jude's designs.

"Wait a minute," she wondered aloud. "Did he plagiarize someone else's work?"

A sly smirk played on Collin's lips. "It's a bit more serious than simple plagiarism," he revealed. "What he did was far more

sinister."

Collin continued, revealing the shocking truth about Jude's past. Years ago, Jude had hired a ghostwriter to create designs

for him, and then, to cover his tracks, he had framed her, leaving the poor woman in a vegetative state.

Linsey's eyes widened in horror, her shock growing with each revelation. She couldn't believe the depths of Jude's

depravity

The reality was far more sinister than she had ever imagined.

"That monster!" Linsey exclaimed, her voice filled with disgust. "Jude is despicable! He deserves to rot in jail!"

Collin gently patted Linsey's head, his voice soothing. "You're absolutely right," he agreed. "But we need to be patient. Justice will be served, but first, we need to resolve your situation. I've already arranged for Jude to contact the person pulling the strings in all of this."

Collin gazed into Linsey's eyes, a hint of mischief in his own. "A good show is about to begin, Linsey," he said, his voice

laced with anticipation. "And I want you to have the best seat in the house."

Linsey, though curious about Collin's plan, didn't press him for details.

She knew, with unwavering certainty, that Collin would never do anything to hurt her.

All she had to do was trust him.

With a soft smile and a newfound sense of peace, Linsey wrapped her arms

around Collin's waist, resting her head against

his broad chest. She felt safe and secure in his embrace.

Chapter 263 How Can This Be Happening

On the other side of the room, Kylee's nerves were unraveling. Jude was still nowhere to be seen.

With each passing minute, the unease settled deeper in her chest.

She couldn't explain it, but a gut feeling told her something was wrong.

Cynthia's sudden gasp sliced through the tension. "Kylee! We got a situation! Linsey just posted a response on Twitter!"

Kylee's pulse spiked. She grabbed her phone and opened the app without a second thought.

There it was—Linsey's post, glaring back at her from the homepage.

She had dropped a clarification half an hour ago, backed by undeniable proof.

The entire story online had taken an unexpected turn.

Where Linsey had once been the target of scorn, the tide had now shifted. People were rallying behind her, starting to point fingers at Jude.

Kylee stared at the screen, her face twisted in complete disbelief.

"How can this be happening?" Her voice trembled, barely above a whisper. "Coen swore he destroyed every piece of Linsey's evidence. How come she still have proof?"

Squinting at the post, Kylee saw the telltale sign—Linsey had marked the design drafts with her signature as proof.

And just like that, a wave of fury slammed into Kylee.

She shot a furious look at Cynthia, her voice cutting through the tension. "Are you out of your mind? When you got Linsey's design drafts, why didn't you change anything? As a designer, didn't you know better than to just copy and paste?"

Cynthia froze, her eyes wide, struck by the brilliance of Linsey's backup plan.

When she handed the designs to Jude, she had only focused on minor tweaks, unaware of the safeguard Linsey had hidden.

in the drafts.

Heat rushed to Cynthia's face, her mind racing with the weight of her mistake.

It hit her all at once-Kylee wasn't just upset; she was livid, and this was about to land her in serious trouble. Desperately, she tried to shrink away from the mess she had created.

"Kylee, this isn't my fault! Who could've known Jude would be so careless? This is all on him!"

In a rush of panic, Cynthia added, "Jude's supposed to be here. Why is there still no sign of him? Has he just run off?"

Kylee's eyes narrowed, her teeth clenched. "If that idiot has actually run away, it's over. I'll find him and make sure he pays

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for this."

Just then, a voice rang out from outside the room. "Miss Russell, Mr. Jude Todd is here to see you."

Kylee's eyes lit up. Without a second thought, she instructed, "Let him in. Now," Meanwhile, Jude stood at the entrance of the villa, fidgeting nervously.

He had already seen the chaos online on his way over.

Everything had been laid bare, and no matter what he did now, there was no escaping the consequences.

At first, Jude's instinct was to run. If he could just leave Grester, change his identity, start fresh, maybe no one would remember his betrayal.

But as the thought lingered, a bitter taste rose in his mouth. Resentment gnawed at him.

He had nothing left, while Kylee and Cynthia were still living their lives without a care.

It was all because of them.

His mind flashed back to how they had treated him-condescending, dismissive, as if he were beneath them.

Why? Just because they were from wealthy families? Why did they think they had the right to look down on him like that?

Chapter 264 Come With Me To The Study

Jude's frustration built as he gripped the item Collin had given him, his knuckles turning white.

If that was the case, he would make sure Kylee and Cynthia felt the same sting of public shame.

"Mr. Todd, Miss Russell would like to see you. Please follow me," a servant called, snapping him from his thoughts.

Jude nodded, his heart pounding in his chest.

As he stepped inside, he discreetly flicked the switch on the item in his hand....

At that very moment, a notification flashed on the phone of Collin's assistant who was at Vista Villa.

The assistant raised an eyebrow, quickly heading toward the master bedroom door. He knocked and spoke to Collin inside. "Mr. Riley, Jude's activated the device. Should we go ahead with the plan?"

"Of course," Collin replied without hesitation.

Linsey, overhearing the conversation, couldn't help but ask, "Why mention Jude? What has he done?"

Collin let out a soft chuckle and gently took Linsey's hand.

"Come with me to the study. You'll find out soon enough."

Suppressing her curiosity, Linsey followed Collin toward the study.

Collin wheeled himself up to the desk and began working on the laptop.

Linsey stood beside him, watching as he casually clicked through a few commands. Soon, an image flickered onto the

screen.

The camera view zoomed in, following the main perspective.

"What's this?" Linsey asked, her brow furrowing in confusion.

Collin smiled, his gaze steady. "Just watch. You'll see soon enough."

Linsey glanced at him briefly before turning her attention back to the screen.

It showed a lavish villa. Before long, a servant appeared, calling out, "Mr. Todd." When she heard the voice from the screen, Linsey's eyes widened in realization.

"Is this a video Jude recorded?"

Collin nodded slightly. "Actually, this isn't an old recording-it's happening right now, in real-time."

Linsey's understanding clicked instantly.

Why this is what you meant when you said I should watch a good show?" Linsey exclaimed, her face lighting up with

excitement as she pointed at the screen.

A few seconds passed before she quickly added, "When you met Jude, you gave him something to record everything capturing the true face of the person behind all this!"

Collin raised an eyebrow, clearly impressed by how quickly Linsey had figured it out.

He nodded "Yes, dingo

Linsey couldn't help but offer her praise. "Collin, you're brilliant!"

Her unexpected compliment brought a smile to Collin's face, lifting his spirits.

Alright enough standing What comes next might blow your mind. How about sitting down and watching?"

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Linsey nodded eagerly, excited to finally uncover who was behind it all. She started to move toward a chair, but before she could sit. Collin suddenly grabbed her wrist and pulled her onto his lap.

She was caught off guard, instantly seated on him.

Her face was inches from his, the warmth of his presence making her heart race. She could almost hear the steady thrum of his heartbeat in her ears.

"Hey Collin, what do you think you're doing?" Linsey asked, her cheeks flushing with heat, unable to hide her surprise.

Chapter 265 What's Wrong With Holding My Wife

Linsey's heart jolted in her chest, caught off guard. She tried to shift away from Collin's lap, but his arm tightened around her waist, anchoring her in place.

His low voice rumbled in her ear, sending a shiver up her spine. "It's just us. No one's around, so you don't have to be shy."

Linsey pulled back, her voice soft but firm. "It's not about being shy. How can you think about stuff like that right now?"

Collin chuckled quietly, drawing her closer. "What's wrong with holding my wife? The important stuff is ahead. No need for a chair. Isn't it better to relax on my lap for a bit?"

Linsey couldn't help but feel a mix of amusement and frustration at Collin's playful

excuses.

This sly, clever man was clearly up to something mischievous.

If he truly cared about those so-called important matters, he wouldn't be holding onto her so intentionally right now.

But they were a close couple, so if Collin wanted to show affection, it wasn't a big deal.

With that thought, Linsey stopped pulling away and leaned against him, her attention still on the screen.

Meanwhile, Jude, holding recording equipment, was guided inside by the villa's staff.

Before long, a familiar face appeared on the screen... It was Cynthia!

Linsey had always suspected that Cynthia had ulterior motives toward her.

After a brief silence, Linsey had hoped maybe Cynthia had given up, but it seemed the woman was still plotting.

Linsey had been puzzled about how Jude had come across her design drafts.

But now, seeing Cynthia, everything clicked into place.

It was all part of a scheme between Cynthia and Coen to set her up...

As Linsey processed this, another woman's voice suddenly cut through the

scene.

"Jude, what's happening? You took forever to show up, and you still messed up with Linsey? How could you make such a huge blunder?"

The voice hit Linsey's ears, and her eyes widened in shock.

Kylee?

Linsey had always sensed that Cynthia didn't like her, so the scheming made sense.

But why was Kylee caught up in this?

For a moment, Linsey wondered if she had mistaken it.

But the screen clearly showed Kylee, and after a few seconds, Linsey was sure she hadn't imagined it.

She couldn't shake the memory of how uneasy she had always felt around Kylee in their previous meetings.

Back then, Linsey had convinced herself she was just overthinking.

Now, she saw how convincingly Kylee could play her part.

Kylee had truly earned her reputation as an actress.

The more Linsey dwelled on it, the angrier she grew. If she hadn't left a mark on her design drafts, she might've been wrongly accused of plagiarism and destroyed in the industry for good.

She couldn't allow Kylee, the mastermind, to escape unscathed. Kylee had to be held accountable.

But then, a new thought crossed Linsey's mind.

Kylee and Collin had been childhood friends. How would Collin react when he learned the truth?

Would he take Kylee's side?

The thought unsettled Linsey, and she instinctively glanced at Collin behind her.

Chapter 266 Don't You

Want To Defend Her

Noticing Linsey's gaze on him, Collin raised an eyebrow and asked softly, "Why the sudden stare?"

Linsey paused, then answered coolly, "You don't look surprised at all."

She glanced at Kylee on the screen. "Did you already know it was Kylee who set me up?"

"When I questioned Jude earlier, I pieced it all together-it's all tied to Kylee," Collin replied, his expression unchanged.

Looking at his indifferent response, Linsey bit her lip and asked carefully, "Now that you know, what do you intend to do about Kylee?"

In that moment, Linsey couldn't shake the fear that Collin might still take Kylee's side.

Kylee had been his childhood friend. It was not surprising that Collin cared about her.

Before Linsey could finish her thought, Collin spoke. "This is about your reputation. Since she set you up, I won't hold back."

Linsey was slightly startled by his response. She blinked, staring at him, then asked, "But you've known Kylee forever.... But you've known Kylee forever... Don't you still have feelings for her? Don't you want to defend her?"

Collin hesitated, feeling the weight of Linsey's careful questioning. It was both amusing and a little exasperating.

She was his wife. How could Kylee ever measure up to her?

Collin understood Linsey's worries. He gave her a soft smile before speaking. "I've known Kylee for years. After my accident, when everything changed, she stuck by me. As long as she didn't cross any major lines, she was always a friend."

Linsey stayed quiet, her thoughts drifting as she imagined the struggles Collin must have faced.

His words hinted that after the accident, most people had turned their backs on him.

Collin's expression hardened. "But this time, she really crossed a line. I won't forgive her so easily."

Linsey's mind wandered for a moment before she asked without thinking, "What's the line?"

Collin grinned, a soft chuckle escaping him. He tapped her forehead lightly, his fingers warm against her skin.

"Hey, answer me," Linsey muttered, raising her hand to her forehead.

It wasn't that Collin's tap had been rough, but it still irked her a bit.

She shot him a playful look. "What was that about?"

Collin's smile spread even wider when he saw her expression.

"You're such a goof," he said, his voice light and teasing. "You seriously don't know?"

"Well, you've never told me," Linsey shot back. "How am I supposed to know? Am

I supposed to be a mind reader now?"

Collin laughed. "Take a guess."

Linsey sighed lightly, her voice casual. "Is it me?"

"Definitely." Collin didn't miss a beat.

Linsey hesitated for a moment, thinking he was probably just teasing.

Since when had she become that important to him?

Seeing the doubt in her expression, Collin grew more serious. "Linsey, I'm telling you the truth. If you don't believe me..."

He paused, gently guiding her hand to his chest, not giving her a chance to pull

away. "Feel my heartbeat," he said softly. "You'll know if I'm lying."

A playful glint danced in his eyes. "I swear."

Chapter 267 You Can't Discard Me

Just

Linsey's gaze was irresistibly pulled into the depths of Collin's eyes, like a moth to a flame. The gentle pressure of her palm against his chest let her feel the vigorous thumping of his heart, a rhythm that echoed her own heart's bittersweet ache.

Her cheeks soon flushed with a soft, spreading warmth, yet she didn't retreat.

Instead, waves of gratitude and affection surged within her, overwhelming yet comforting

With a tender look, Linsey nodded, her voice a whisper of resolve. "Alright, I will always believe in you."

That moment deepened her gratitude for the serendipitous twist of fate that had led her to Collin-and to their unexpected marriage.

In her world, beyond Dolores, her steadfast childhood friend, she believed Collin was the only other soul who would never betray her.

On the laptop screen, the ongoing drama between Jude and Kylee unfolded.

Jude faced Kylee's incisive questions with a calm that belied his inner turmoil. "On my way here, I felt eyes on me, lurking shadows tailing my every move. To shake them off, I took a few extra turns, which unfortunately ate up my time," he explained, her voice tinged with a feigned hint of panic.

"Miss Russell, surely you've seen the frenzy online? I've been exposed. Linsey's countermove was swift and merciless. What do I do now?" Jude's eyes were wide, his plea desperate. "Miss Russell, you have to help me."

His words struck a nerve in Kylee, igniting a furious blaze within her. She clenched her fists, itching to confront the idiot causing all the trouble.

But the problem loomed large and unresolved, threatening to rear its ugly head again if not swiftly dealt with.

Kylee took a deep breath to quell the rising storm of her anger, her voice a controlled, icy whisper. "There's no use in dragging this out. Given the mess we're in, you'd best pack up and leave the country. Stay under the radar until things cool off. I'll come up with a way to get you back soon."

Jude's eyes narrowed into slits, his lips twisting into a bitter sneer. "Get me back? After all this, do you really believe I can get back?"

He released a heavy, burdened sigh, his tone laden with bitterness. "Aligning with you has shattered my reputation. And now, you're shoving me aside like I'm just another problem to sweep under the rug? That's not going to fix anything, Miss Russell. You can't just discard me."

Kylee's brow furrowed deeper, the edges of her patience fraying. "What exactly do you expect from me then? I never wanted it to come to this either." Her voice, although tinged with frustration, held a note of weary resignation.

Jude didn't hesitate, his voice sharp and unyielding. "I'm not asking for much-1 just want what's mine. We agreed on five

million when the job was done. But now, you've turned my life upside down, forcing me out of town. You'll have to pay

extra for that."

Kylee, her jaw set hard, asked through clenched teeth, "How much do you want?"

"Fifty million," Jude replied without missing a beat.

Kylee let out a sharp, bitter laugh before growling, "Wow, Jude, you've got some serious guts asking for that kind of money!"

Beside her, Cynthia's temper flared, her voice rising in indignation. "Are you freaking serious right now? Where the hell do you think we're getting that kind of money? You act like fifty million is just spare change lying around!"

Jude huffed, his disdain palpable, "You expect me to believe that? One of you is a famous actress, and the other was born rich. Look at me-I used to be a celebrated designer, admired by everyone. Now, I'm nothing, and my reputation was ruined because of you."

He then chuckled darkly, her eyes glinting with malice, "If you don't want your

world to crumble, you'd better pay up. Otherwise, I'm going public with how you two schemed to set Linsey up."

Chapter 268 I've Got It All

On Tape

"You!" Kylee's face flushed crimson with fury.

Cynthia, already on edge, couldn't mask her shock.

Neither of them had expected Jude to stoop so low, especially given how

obedient and honest he had always been.

What had gotten into him?

But both Kylee and Cynthia were determined-this couldn't get out.

Kylee felt more threatened. If anyone found out she was behind it all, her carefully crafted image as the sweet, innocent celebrity would shatter.

In the future, whenever her name came up, people would think of her as the mastermind behind framing a designer for

plagiarism.

That would be the end of her career in the entertainment industry.

It was all Cynthia and Jude's fault-they were both idiots!

Kylee clenched her jaw. "Fine, I'll give you the money. But you have to swear you'll never breathe a word of this."

Cynthia, knowing she had no other choice, reluctantly nodded.

But to their surprise, a flash of disbelief crossed Jude's face.

They actually agreed! He had only been bluffing.

It seemed he had really struck a nerve.

Then, greed took over Jude. A satisfied smirk crept across his face as he raised the stakes. "Fifty million was the number earlier, but now? It's changed. Each of you will owe me fifty million."

Kylee and Cynthia seethed with fury.

Kylee's eyes widened, her voice trembling with disbelief. "Jude! Are you out of your mind? Fifty million each? You've got

some nerve!"

Cynthia's fury was palpable. "Jude, we've known each other for years! Are you really gonna do this? You can't honestly say you had no part in this mess. You're supposed to be a veteran in the design world, yet you missed the signature on Linsey's drafts. You're just as guilty as anyone else in this fiasco!"

But Jude didn't flinch. "Enough with the excuses. I've gone out of my way to help you take Linsey down. Fifty million each is a small price to pay."

Kylee's disgust grew with every passing second. Her voice turned icy as she shot back, "Don't push your luck. Messing with

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me won't end well for you. We'll give you fifty million total-that's more than generous. If you're smart, you'll sign the contract and get out of the country. Fast."

Cynthia didn't hold back either. "After everything we've been through, I'm not asking for much. Kylee's already being generous with the money. Fifty million is more than enough for you to live comfortably for the rest of your life. Sometimes, it's better not to push your luck."

But despite their words, Jude didn't flinch.

He knew he held all the cards. They were completely at his mercy.

In that moment, Jude saw them for what they really were-just as hypocritical as

he was. As long as he kept the pressure on, they would crack, desperate to protect their reputations and hand over the cash.

A smug grin spread across his face as he spoke, his voice dripping with

arrogance. "Let me make this clear. From the moment I walked in, I've been recording everything. If you don't want me to expose all of this, you'd better pay up fast.

Don't say I didn't warn you."

Kylee's eyes widened in shock. "Did I hear that right?"

Jude couldn't help but bask in her panic. With a victorious smirk, he pulled out the

hidden recorder, holding it up as if it

were a trophy. "I've got it all on tape. The ball's in your court now."

Chapter 269 Give Me Your Final Words

Jude braced for the moment Cynthia and Kylee would gasp in shock at what was in his hands. Instead, Kylee's face turned

steely, her voice slicing through the air as she sharply rebuked him. "Jude! How dare you secretly record us? You've

completely shattered our trust!"

Her eyes blazed with a lethal intensity as she glared at the recording device clutched in Jude's hands. The stakes were high;

if this got out, it would spell disaster for her.

"Someone, get over here now!" Kylee's voice thundered across the room.

Pointing an accusing finger at Jude, she bellowed, "Seize this treacherous scum!"

On her command, several burly bodyguards sprang into action, closing in on Jude with determined strides.

Jude was caught off guard by Kylee's swift and fierce reaction, his heart hammering in his chest.

In a desperate bid for freedom, he clutched the device closer and bolted.

But the bodyguards were quicker, effortlessly blocking his escape and tackling him to the floor with a thud.

"Help! Please, let me go!" Jude's voice cracked, his face draining of color as panic engulfed him.

Meanwhile, Kylee's fierce mask of anger softened into a smug, composed smile as she sauntered over to the subdued Jude. With a casual flick of her wrist, she plucked the recording device from his grasp, her earlier tension melting into a cold, triumphant ease.

Jude's body shook violently, his voice breaking as he swiftly shifted his stance to one of begging. "Miss Russell! I admit my fault-I won't dare repeat it, please, let me go!" His eyes were wide with desperation.

Kylee, her lips curling into a smug grin, leisurely pointed the camera at him. "Since you're such a fan of filming, how about we make you the star? Give me your final words," she remarked, her voice dripping with mockery.

"Final words?" Jude's voice caught in his throat, his face draining of color. "W- what do you mean?"

Kylee ignored Jude's mounting terror, her expression remaining unreadable.

His earlier bravado had only fueled her ire, solidifying her resolve. There would be no second chances-not this time.

With a chilling calm, Kylee glanced over at the lead bodyguard and gave a slight, almost imperceptible nod. Her voice dropped to a whisper, venomous and cold. "Jude doesn't deserve to walk away from this. The only way to deal with a snake like him... is to make sure he disappears for good."

Horror flashed across Jude's face, his entire frame quivering as the gravity of his predicament dawned on him.

Was Kylee truly going to end his life-just like that?

How could she do this?

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What the hell was she thinking?

Killing someone like it was nothing-she was out of her damn mind!

Frantic, he began to shout, the fear evident in every syllable, "Kylee! You can't do this! If you kill me, it won't stay hidden! You'll be caught!"

Seeing Kylee's unwavering stance, Jude finally collapsed into tears. "Kylee, I was wrong! Forget the money! Just get me out of this country! I'll do anything you say!" His voice broke, a desperate plea hanging between them.

Kylee's expression didn't flicker. "It's far too late for regrets. But before I decide your fate, I need to ensure you'll never breathe a word of this to anyone."

Her tone was icy, and as she spoke, a sinister glint sparkled in her eyes-a promise of dire consequences.

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Out of the corner of her eye, Cynthia, who had been quietly observing the confrontation, felt a jolt of shock. She hadn't imagined Kylee could take things to such an extreme.

"Kylee... you can't possibly mean to... are you really considering killing him? We don't have to resort to this! Just send him overseas!" Kylee's voice quivered uncontrollably with each word, betraying her fear.

She had aligned herself with Kylee simply to outmaneuver Linsey and score some favorable coverage. But the situation had spiraled into something far darker than she had anticipated.

"Shut up!" Kylee's shout cut through the tense air, her glare fierce enough to silence Cynthia on the spot.

Cynthia recoiled, her pulse racing, as a cold, heavy dread settled over her, suffocating her thoughts.

Chapter 270 They're Trying

To Kill Me!

Witnessing this side of Kylee was scaring Cynthia.

"Get on with it!" Kylee snapped, her voice razor-sharp with impatience as the lead bodyguard hesitated.

Without another second's pause, the lead bodyguard drew a knife, inching toward Jude with measured, deliberate steps.

Panic surged through him. He shook his head frantically as he struggled to break free, but a crushing grip pinned him in

place-there was no escape.

Terror coiled around his throat, choking off any words. His eyes stayed locked on the blade, every glimmer of metal a

silent promise of the danger ahead.

Meanwhile, Linsey and Collin watched the nightmare unfold on the screen.

Linsey's breath hitched. Disbelief clouded her face as she instinctively grabbed Collin's hand. "Kylee's not actually going to

kill him... right?"

Collin's brow furrowed, his surprise reflecting Linsey's at Kylee's icy resolve.

"Chill, she won't get that far," he murmured, giving Linsey's hand a reassuring squeeze. Still, a flicker of irritation tightened his jaw-Kylee's cruelty had rattled her, and that didn't sit right with him.

Linsey glanced up, confusion clouding her eyes. What did he mean by that? Before she could ask, the sharp wail of police sirens tore through the video feed. "The cops are here!" someone shouted, their voice a shaky mix of relief and lingering fear.

The lead bodyguard jolted, panic flashing across his face as the knife slipped from his grasp, hitting the floor with a sharp,

metallic clatter.

Kylee's fury twisted into something dangerously close to laughter. Her eyes narrowed into icy slits as she leveled a glare at Jude. "Well, Jude, you actually had the nerve to call the police? Guess you never planned to cooperate from the start," she

sneered, her voice dripping with contempt.

Jude's heart pounded in his chest. Relief surged through him at the sound of the sirens, though confusion tugged at the

edges of his thoughts.

How could he have called them?

It didn't matter now. The police were here, and that was enough.

Seizing his chance, he broke free from the bodyguard's grip and sprinted for the door, desperation driving every step. "Help!

They're trying to kill me!" he shouted, his voice raw with panic.

Kylee's breath hitched. Rage surged through her, and she barked out an order, desperate to have him caught before he

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could slip away.

Jude bolted like lightning, disappearing before anyone could react.

Though he had slipped through her fingers, Kylee knew the real threat wasn't him-it was whatever recordings he had.

Those needed to be destroyed.

Without hesitation, she lunged for the device in her hand, ready to smash it to pieces.

But she was already too late. A wall of police officers closed in around her, cutting off any chance of escape.

"Kylee Russell, you'll need to come with us," one officer said firmly. "There are some important matters we need to discuss."

Before she or Cynthia could utter a word, the s seized them both, dragging them away without room for protest.

The device slipped from Kylee's grasp as an officer confiscated it, and the laptop screen abruptly cut to black.

The sudden shift left Linsey frozen, shock rippling through her like a jolt of electricity.

She stared at the blank screen, her mind struggling to catch up. Slowly, she turned to Collin, realization flickering in her

eyes.

"So, it was you all along?" she asked, her voice low, laced with equal parts awe and disbelief.

No wonder he had been so sure Kylee wouldn't succeed-he had set the whole plan in motion from the very beginning.

"Isn't it obvious?" Collin replied smoothly, his voice calm and steady. His gaze softened as he looked at Linsey, a gentle

smile tugging at the corners of his mouth. "I did some digging on Jude Todd beforehand. With his track record-like leaving someone in a vegetative state- trustworthy isn't exactly the word I'd use for him."

His words flowed unhurriedly, each one measured and deliberate. All the while, his arms stayed around Linsey's waist, the

gesture both protective and unmistakably possessive.

"I played along, making it seem like I needed his help to expose whoever was pulling the strings. I knew the second he

realized Kylee and Cynthia planned to pin everything on him, he wouldn't just sit back. He'd retaliate- and try to squeeze

every ounce of profit out of the situation."

Collin's lips curled into a smirk, his eyes gleaming with a flicker of mockery.

"And knowing Kylee and Cynthia, they're not exactly the type to cave under

blackmail," he said, his voice low and edged. with quiet amusement. "It was only a matter of time before things boiled over between them."