## Zillionaire 571

Chapter 571 Your Stubbornness Is Getting
Carol's expression quickly soured.
Unexpectedly, Linsey's face showed no signs of the disappointment or heartbreak Carol anticipated.
It wasn't Carol's intention to rush Linsey over today.
She had just found out that the CR Corporation's founder intended to propose to his wife at the company's annual party tonight and to make their relationship public.
Thinking about it made Carol grow increasingly bitter, her gaze turning poisonous.
She was determined not to let Linsey leave unharmed.
A wicked grin spread across Carol's face as she said, "You've just brought something to my mind. Believe me, dragging you here wasn't for a mere chat."
In a swift motion, she extended her hand towards Linsey.
Linsey braced for a slap, helpless with her hands bound.
However, instead of a slap, a sharp pain erupted in her fingers.
Carol was pinching them.
Linsey inhaled sharply, defiance sparkling in her eyes as she met Carol's gaze.

"Still staring me down?" Carol's voice dripped with bitterness. She then seized Linsey's wrist and jerked it backwards. Linsey let out a sharp cry. Her complexion grew ashen as beads of sweat formed on her forehead. The old injury on her wrist intensified agonizingly. Watching Linsey wince brought Carol a twisted sense of delight. Even with minimal effort, she had inflicted considerable pain on Linsey. Carol savored the moment, her smile wide and eyes twinkling with cruel satisfaction as she observed Linsey's torment. "I almost let it slip my mind," Carol muttered aloud, a false note of forgetfulness in her voice. "Your hand was sprained not too long ago. It hasn't been that long-it's surely not healed yet, is it?" Carol feigned innocence with a blink, but her grip only grew tighter. Linsey clenched her teeth, her wrist throbbing with such intense pain that it made her head spin. She held back any plea, not uttering a word, and that only deepened Carol's frustration. "Really, Linsey, your stubbornness is getting tiresome." Bored, Carol suddenly released her grip. Linsey inhaled sharply, her breaths shaky, almost sobbing. Yet she contained her cries. Beyond a sharp initial cry of pain, she remained stoically silent.

Her hand shook visibly, and her eyelashes fluttered as she fought the pain. Tears moistened her eyes, which she kept downcast.

Once she let go of Linsey's hand, Carol's attention was caught by a fruit knife on a nearby table.

A sinister thought crossed her mind. With lazy authority, she commanded Alexa, "Fetch that knife and chop off this wretch's finger! I'd like to see how she manages her designs without it."

The despair in Linsey's eyes deepened, a glimmer of hopelessness passing through.

Despite the dread, Linsey managed a defiant sneer. "Carol, do you know anything besides torture?"

Carol's anger flared at the challenge, and she slapped Linsey across the face without a second thought.

The sound of the slap echoed sharply, and Linsey's head snapped to the side. A bright red welt formed on her cheek, swelling rapidly.

Chapter 572 Get The Camera Ready

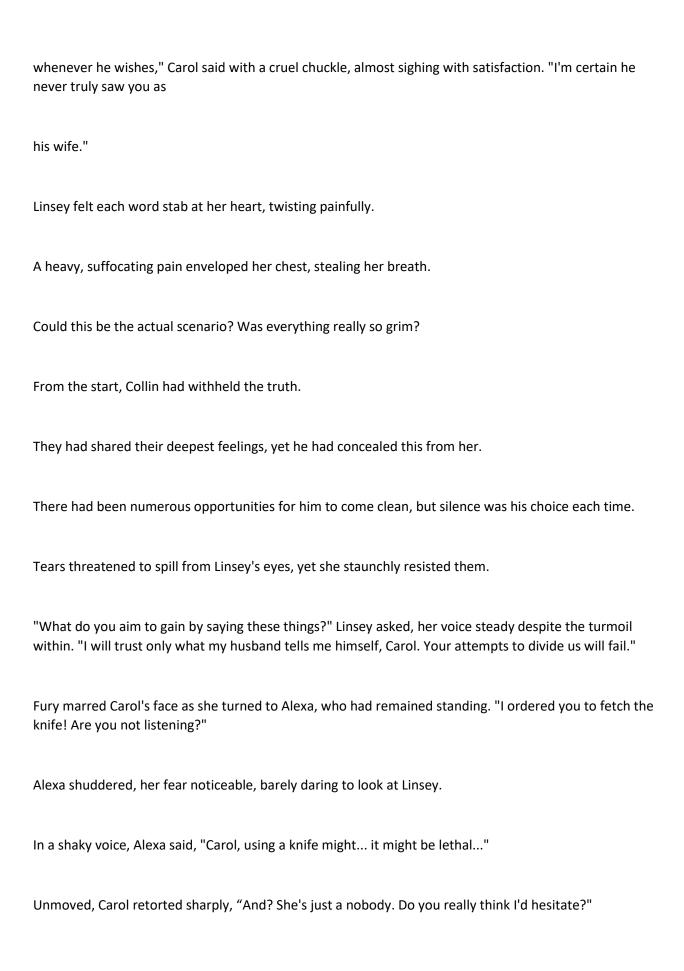
"You're despicable," Carol muttered, her tone oozing with scorn. "You deserve nothing better than disdain. And

why should I care how I treat you?"

Carol's smirk widened as she continued, "Let's get one thing straight, Linsey, I am a Lawson, and you, you are just a faceless designer with no clout. Believe me, I have endless means to ruin your days. But here's the highlight."

She grabbed Linsey's chin forcefully, compelling her to look directly at her.

"You might be married to CR Corporation's founder, but he doesn't like you. To him, you're merely a conniving soul, poised to snatch his fortune. He's kept his true self a secret, making it easy to leave you



Carol's animosity towards Linsey had now escalated to its peak.
Irony washed over Linsey as she listened.
She had never wronged Carol deliberately, yet she had become the target of Carol's deep-seated animosity.
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Such was Carol's hatred that she wished Linsey dead.
Carol's words left Alexa shocked, her heart racing under Carol's intense glare.
After pausing briefly, Alexa gathered her courage to suggest, "Simply cutting off her fingers or ending her life might be too merciful. She deserves more than a quick end."
Reluctantly, Carol discarded her initial plan, but her determination did not waver. "Linsey holds her career close to her heart. Damaging her hands would torment her deeply."
Her words showed complete disregard for Linsey's feelings.
Throughout this, Linsey kept her silence, pain radiating from her right hand while she gently massaged it with

her left.
She had to create a plan to break free.
Carol continued to plot out loud, mulling over various methods of punishment. Then, with a menacing chuckle, Carol commanded, "Get the camera ready."
"Understood."
Carol's accomplices wasted no time. They quickly positioned the camera, ensuring it aimed straight at the bed. Exhaustion in her voice, Carol announced, "Linsey, I'm spent. I'm going to let someone else entertain you now."
Chapter 573 I'll Pay Double
Carol rose to her feet, a grin spreading across her face.
Linsey's pulse quickened as she took in the sight of the menacing men near the
bed, fear evident in her eyes. "What is it you want?" she demanded.
The men looked at each other, their smirks unmistakably offensive.
"You can guess what's expected in a setting like this, can't you?"
"She's so hot. We've struck gold with her," one commented.
Linsey's heart sank as she grasped their intentions, revulsion twisting her features. She turned to Carol, her fists clenched to stave off the panic. "Carol, you can't do this. It's against the law."

Carol sneered, "Scared? Imagine what happens when I spread the video of you with them. Your reputation will crumble. I'm curious how you'll cope in town then." Alexa overheard and finally pieced together the full extent of Carol's scheme. Disturbed, she glanced worriedly at Linsey, then uneasily at the imposing figures. Linsey, utterly outmatched by the men, faced an impossible situation.

Furthermore, her hands were securely bound to the bedposts.

Alexa had just managed to persuade Carol against inflicting physical harm on Linsey-how had it escalated to

this vile plot?

"Carol, I thought our plan was only to confront her with the truth about her husband," Alexa murmured, approaching Carol with worry.

Given Linsey's character, deceit from her most trusted partner was something she could never tolerate.

If Linsey manages to leave and seek a divorce from CR Corporation's founder, it could give Carol the opening she had been seeking.

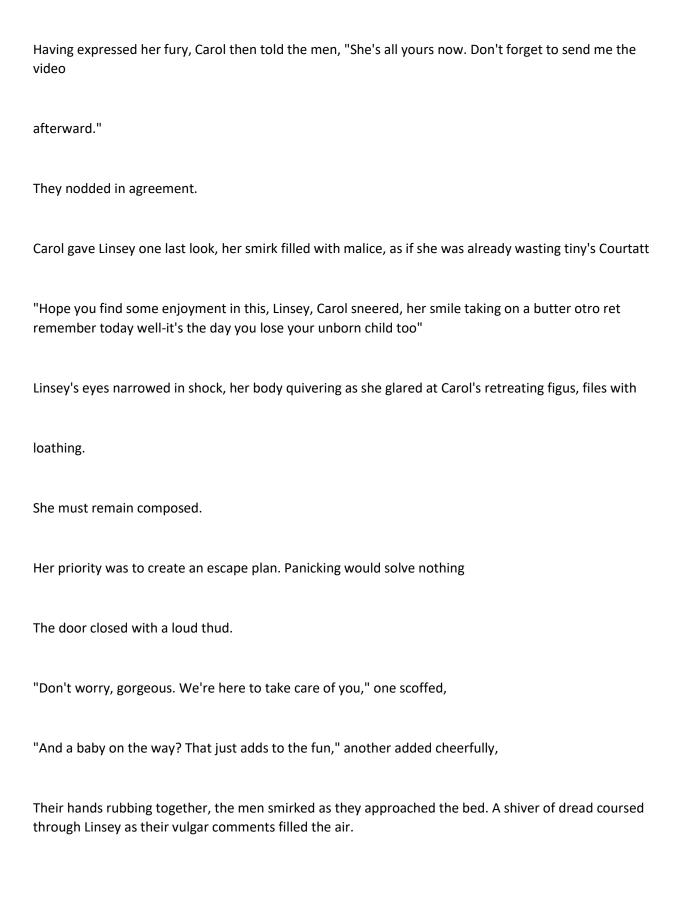
Unbeknownst to Alexa, Carol had crafted a more sinister strategy.

"Always interfering with my plans!" Carol erupted, scorn saturating her voice. "You're nothing but a servant. Just do as you're instructed and keep your mouth shut! Leave!"

Alexa bowed her head, rendered silent by fear.

Carol's mood had grown increasingly erratic and dangerous lately.

Provoking her seemed riskier than ever for Alexa.



One man sat at the bed's edge, his dirty hand inching towards her. Breaking her silence, Linsey said, "What did Carol offer you? I'll pay double."
Chapter 574 I'm Carrying His Child
When Linsey made her offer, the men hesitated briefly, then burst into derisive laughter.
"Seems this lady thinks she's in a position to bargain with us," one sneered.
"A first for us, truly. How intriguing," another added.
Linsey concealed her revulsion and pressed on, "Clearly, you don't work for the Lawson family. Carol must have hired you."
She observed their attire and demeanor, which suggested they frequented the city's outskirts, aimlessly squandering their days.
Their clothes were neat today, yet their eyes revealed a rougher past.
"So we're hired-what of it? You sure have a lot to say," one man retorted aggressively, making a grab at Linsey's attire.
Linsey, ignoring the throbbing in her wrist, shrank back, assuming a protective posture.
She said emphatically, "Let me go, and I'll pay you triple what she's offering. I assure you, the money will be
yours!"
The man in charge signaled for patience, restraining the impulsive member of his group.

"Triple, huh? The Lawson lady paid us two million. You, just a designer, where would you get such funds?" he scoffed. "Do you think we're naive enough to take your word?" Linsey maintained her composure. "As you've heard, my husband runs CR Corporation. You know of it, don't you? Whether it's triple or more, he can cover it." The leader was dismissive. "Sure, we heard it. But Miss Lawson also mentioned he doesn't really care about you. You didn't even know he was the founder until today. How can you claim such support now?" Linsey no longer reacted visibly to these provocations. She had to speak to Collin directly to verify any truth. She wouldn't believe a word of what these people said, not under any other circumstances. But at this moment, in order to protect herself and the child she carried, Linsey had no choice but to rely on this claim, even though she herself found it difficult to believe. Looking up, Linsey said coldly, "But remember, I'm carrying his child. Even if he doesn't love me, we are married, and this child is his heir." She then asked, "thd M tawson only overact you on handing may there the cover for the repercussions if my husband decides to art apner p for What's ne The men looked netbly shaken by hey implication "That sa pag

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Linsey's expression softened slightly, "Even if I'm not cherished by him, I am his wits, the meter of the heir. If you degrade me today, I might be themed by Gloster the consider your own stay in win assaulted me, how can you be sure you won't fuck his writer She added, "The Lawson family pales in competion to the renowors at his disgord. He world's segge to handle thugs who have embarrassed him." Chapter 575 I Owe You Greatly The moment Linsey finished her statement, the leader's hand clamped around her neck. Linsey gasped for air, struggling to breathe. Looking into the leader's eyes, she saw his fury and humiliation-he had taken her words as a threat. Enraged, the leader said, "You think you can scare us? We'll have our fun with you, then leave your body where no one will find it. Who will stop us then?" His words provoked the other members. "You're going to regret your words," they taunted. As they advanced, terror flashed in Linsey's eyes. She thought desperately of Collin. Suddenly, the sound of the door breaking open resounded through the room. "Linsey!"

Linsey's eyes, once dazed, slowly started to regain focus.



Gorman hesitated, then complied without further objection, carefully setting Linsey on her feet.
"Please, stop! We admit our mistake!" Previously arrogant, the men now knelt, pleading for mercy. They turned their eyes to Linsey. "We realize our error. Please forgive us!"
Their cries escalated as they saw Gorman, standing tall beside Linsey, mistaking him for the founder of the CR
Corporation.
"We won't do it again! It was Carol Lawson who forced us! We never intended to hurt your wife!" they cried
out.
Linsey stood frozen, sorrow returning to her gaze.
Gorman, puzzled, asked, "Why would you think I'm her husband?"
Linsey quickly grasped the misunderstanding. The men must have believed that
the person who came to rescue her was the founder of the CR Corporation.
Earlier, Carol had mentioned that Linsey's husband was the founder of CR Corporation, so it was only natural that the men assumed Gorman, arriving with so many people, was him.
Yet Linsey had no desire to discuss the founder of CR Corporation now.

Interrupting the men's further explanations, Linsey turned to Gorman. "Thank you for everything today, Gorman. I owe you greatly. I need to go now."

She grabbed her phone, which Alexa had discarded earlier, and hastened away. Gorman, caught off guard, called after her, "Linsey!"

Chapter 576 Didn't You

Mention Leaving Town...

Outraged, Danny exclaimed, "Did you see that, Mr. Green? After everything you did to find and rescue her, all she does is thank you and leave? That's incredibly ungrateful!"

Despite his assistant's ongoing rants, Gorman stared quietly at the spot where Linsey had vanished, absorbed in

his own thoughts.

Seeing no response, Danny eventually stopped talking, feeling utterly powerless.

After an awkward silence, unable to bear seeing his efforts wasted, he cautiously suggested, "Mr. Green, Linsey couldn't have gotten far. Maybe we should catch up to her. She seemed distressed-someone should comfort her. Besides, it will be dangerous if she encounters trouble again."

Gorman abruptly snapped out of his daze, nodding in agreement. "You're right."

He took a few quick steps toward the exit but paused briefly and instructed, "Interrogate those thugs immediately. I want to know exactly how this connects to CR Corporation's founder."

"Yes, sir!" Danny responded swiftly, but when he looked up again, Gorman had already disappeared.

When it came to matters of the heart, Danny realized, his boss certainly didn't hesitate.

Outside, Linsey wandered aimlessly, her mind foggy and confused.
Suddenly realizing something, she reached into her pocket for her phone. As expected, there were numerous missed calls and anxious messages.
Most were from her worried colleagues checking on her.
She began typing a reply but quickly noticed her right hand felt unusually stiff and numb.
Frowning, she tried flexing her hand, only to wince sharply at the shooting pain.
Her hand barely responded to her efforts.
Gorman's voice came urgently behind her. "Linsey!"
Noticing her puzzled expression and the awkward way she stared at her hand, he quickly stepped closer. "What's wrong? Is your injury not healed yet?"
Linsey looked at him, momentarily bewildered.
Biting her lip, she hesitated, unable to remain distant from the man who had just rescued her. "It's nothing serious—just an old injury. But how did you know about my hand? Did you see the live stream I accidentally started during Carol's birthday?"
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Her confusion deepened as another question occurred to her. "Didn't you mention leaving town soon?"
She couldn't figure out why he was here now, let alone how he happened to save her.
It had been a while since he last saw Linsey. All of Gorman's resentment instantly dissolved at the sight of her.
At that moment, he fully accepted he couldn't truly resent her, nor did he ever want to let her go.
If Linsey's heart belonged elsewhere, he would simply remain quietly by her side. Maybe someday, Linsey would recognize his genuine feelings and return to him.
A gentle smile formed on Gorman's lips as he responded, "I haven't left yet perhaps in a few more days."
The real reason he had appeared at CR Corporation today wasn't something he could openly share with her.
Truthfully, he just couldn't stop thinking about her-and by sheer luck, he had discovered her predicament in
time to intervene.

Understanding flickered in Linsey's eyes. As she reflected on the danger she had narrowly avoided, a wave of fear briefly overtook her.
Had Gorman not appeared, she shuddered to think what might have happened.  Chapter 577 The Truth Will Be Revealed Tonight
Gorman looked at Linsey with a worried expression and softly said, "Do you need a ride back? I'd be concerned about you walking alone."
Linsey averted her eyes and whispered, "No, I'll be fine."
The news Carol had given her left her feeling adrift, uncertain of her next steps.
Despite her disorientation, she maintained a bit of clarity-her old hand injury had worsened, and a hospital
visit was necessary.
As a designer, the condition of her hands was crucial; she could not risk permanent damage.
Gorman noticed Linsey's distress but wisely chose not to probe further or pressure her.
He suggested in a gentle tone, "Let me walk you to the hotel exit and ensure you catch a taxi safely?" Confronted with Gorman's considerate insistence, Linsey found it hard to decline. She nodded and responded,
"Alright."
They shared a smile and made their way to the elevator, walking one after the other.

Since their last heated argument, moments like this-when everything felt so peaceful between them-had become few and far between.
Unable to type, Linsey sent a voice message to her team. "I encountered some issues earlier, but they're resolved now. You all head to the salon and prepare. I'll see you at the gala tonight."
She checked her phone but found no messages from Collin.
"Will you be at your firm's gala tonight?" Gorman asked casually as they walked. Linsey returned her focus and nodded. "Yes, I will be there."
Gorman paused, then added, "Your firm's gala is actually in this hotel, right? This morning, Mr. Wade invited me, but I declined."
Linsey was slightly taken aback. She looked up and saw the hotel's logo on the wall, confirming indeed that th venue for the CR Corporation's annual gala was this hotel. "Yes, it's being held here."
She wondered if Carol had intentionally brought her here, or if it was merely a coincidence.
"The gala is being hosted on the second floor," Linsey added.
"Then, are you planning to go directly to the second floor?" Gorman asked.
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At that moment, he regretted declining Dustin's invitation earlier. Had he accepted, he would have a reason to accompany Linsey now. Just as Linsey was about to respond, a familiar voice came from an adjacent hotel room. "Stop the rumors. The truth will be revealed tonight," said a deep, somewhat distant male voice. It was Collin! Why was he here? Linsey stopped in her tracks, shocked, and instinctively turned toward the room. The door was slightly ajar, likely left open by mistake. Behind her, Gorman stood quietly, his expression one of confusion, yet he chose not to speak. He listened for a moment and quickly recognized the voice-it was Collin, Linsey's annoying husband. Inside the room, the discussion went on. Linsey also heard Dustin's voice. "Collin plans to reveal everything to his wife tonight! I'm glad. From tomorrow, I no longer need to cover for him." Linsey felt a surge of tension.

So Collin really was keeping something from her!
Chapter 578 She's The One
For Me
The moment the words were spoken, a different voice suddenly entered the conversation.
"Unbelievable! Two years away, and it's like I've missed a lifetime! Collin, why have you been keeping this from your wife? Her name's Linsey, was it?"
Before Collin had a chance to answer, Dustin interjected in a laid-back tone, "Dilan, think about it. Do you not remember who Collin really is? In town, countless women dream about marrying the man who started CR Corporation. Had Linsey known that Collin was the founder before they got married, it would have caused complete chaos!"
As Linsey stood in the doorway, all other sounds disappeared. The overwhelming buzz was so loud that it drowned out everything else against her eardrums and
nerves.
Gorman was left utterly speechless, completely unable to process what had just happened.
There it was, the truth revealed in its entirety, Collin was actually the founder of CR Corporation! His first reaction was to glance at Linsey, yet her expression was nothing but distant and cold.
Silence hung in the air briefly before Collin spoke. "Marrying Linsey was never something I had planned. My grandmother kept pushing me to settle down. On our wedding day, the bride who was originally supposed to marry me ran away because of my fake disability. By pure chance, Linsey, who was there, ended up becoming my wife."
Collin, speaking lovingly of his wife, had no idea that Linsey was listening from just outside the doorway, hearing every word.

Dilan gave a knowing nod. "You were worried Linsey was after your wealth, which is why you hid your identity as CR Corporation's founder, even after the wedding."

On the outside, a bitter smile tugged at Linsey's lips as she listened. Her eyelashes fluttered, heavy with the weight of tears she hadn't let fall.

Was it really about the money?

Each word from Collin seemed to shatter Linsey more and more. "That was exactly my reason. It also gave us an easy way out, just in case things went wrong and divorce became unavoidable."

Linsey's face went pale, and her knees gave way beneath her, causing her to almost collapse to the floor.

Gorman's eyes narrowed, and instinctively, he reached out to catch Linsey, pulling her close into a protective embrace.

His gaze

softened as he looked down at her, a mixture of pain and concern washing over his face.

He glanced toward the door again, his eyes clouding over with a storm of anger.

The realization hit him hard; Collin's betrayal of Linsey was beyond anything he could have imagined.

It turned out that Collin had always been the mysterious founder of CR Corporation, and that even his supposed disability had been nothing more than a deception.

He was truly a terrible man! Collin's true nature was far more monstrous than anyone had ever realized.

Breathless, Linsey struggled to regain her composure, her grip tightening on Gorman's arm, her voice raspy as she whispered, "Let's leave..."

She felt a desperate need to leave, searching for any place where she could find peace, far from the bitter sting of Collin's words.

She simply needed to be taken away from that place.

Gorman silently supported her, his actions firm as he guided Linsey away from the scene.

Unaware of the drama unfolding outside, the four inside remained wrapped in their own bubble.

Dominic poured water for the group, raising an eyebrow at Collin with a curious expression. "Those were just your first thoughts, weren't they?" he asked. "After all, tonight you made your intentions to marry Linsey in front of everyone tonight. Now, by revealing your true identity as the founder of CR Corporation, you're protecting her and ensuring she earns the respect she deserves."

When Linsey's name was mentioned, a gentle warmth softened the usual indifference on Collin's face.

"Without a doubt, Linsey means everything to me," Collin said, his voice filled with

a sincerity that had been missing before. "I've made up my mind, she's the one for me, and there will be no one else."

Chapter 579 You Might Just Be After My Wealth

Collin had meticulously arranged every detail for his proposal tonight, filled with the hope that Linsey would be swept away by the surprise.

In doing so, he intended to share their love not only across Grester but with the entire world.

Collin had been eagerly anticipating this day for a long time.

As he thought about the evening ahead, a smile instinctively appeared on his face.

Pulling out his phone, he hesitated between texting Linsey or calling her directly. She had probably already received the elegant dress and matching jewelry he had sent, and was most likely busy getting ready.

Choosing not to disturb her, Collin decided to send a text, typing, "Honey, do you like the dress?"

What Collin didn't know was that Linsey was sitting in Gorman's car at that very moment, reading his message.

Her gaze fixed on the screen, tears welled up, blurring her vision.

A single tear dropped, smudging the loving nickname she had saved for Collin in her phone.

With a heavy heart, she wondered why Collin kept sending her messages like this.

Among Collin's sweet words, she couldn't help but wonder which ones were sincere and which were just empty promises.

It was only now that Linsey understood the bitter truth that what she had believed to be a beautiful, sweet marriage was, to Collin, nothing more than a fragile bond that could be easily thrown away.

Did he see her as nothing more than a potential inconvenience, a problem just waiting to arise?

What she found most ridiculous was Collin's confession that he had hidden his identity as the founder of CR Corporation, worried that she would only be attracted to his status.

Completely absurd, absolutely ridiculous!

Carol had been right all along!
Throughout their entire relationship, Collin had never once regarded her as a real wife.
As the realization settled in, tears flowed down Linsey's cheeks without stopping. "Linsey." While driving, Gorman glanced worriedly at Linsey.
Her silent tears of grief tore at his heart, filling him with a deep sense of sorrow.
Linsey's breathing grew shallow, and her head tilted back as a heavy tightness gripped her chest.
"Linsey!" Concerned, Gorman swiftly pulled the car to the side, unfastened his seatbelt, and leaned across to comfort her. "Linsey, just breathe, try to calm down."
With eyes swollen from crying, Linsey turned towards Gorman and opened her mouth to speak, but her vision suddenly blurred.
And then, darkness overtook Linsey as she slipped into unconsciousness.
Linsey's eyes fluttered open to find Collin seated by her side.
A thick, unsettling silence filled the room.
"Collin?" Linsey murmured, her voice raspy.
As she tried to sit up, a sharp pain coursed through her body, making her wince.
Collin's gaze fixed on hers with intense focus. "You're pregnant," he said, his voice filled with a mix of
emotions.

Linsey took a slow, deep breath, struggling within herself as she came to terms with the weight of Collin's
deceit.
She managed a weak smile and said, "Isn't this the part where you come clean about everything?"
With a frown, Collin responded, "Come clean about what?"
A brief silence followed before realization struck him. "Oh, you mean me being the founder of CR Corporation?"
he asked.
The man before Linsey seemed like a stranger as she confirmed, "Yes"
Before Linsey could explain, Collin interjected, "And? I've never truly cared about you, so why would I share something that important to you? After all, you might just be after my wealth."
Chapter 580 It Was Just A
Bad Dream
Disbelief washed over Linsey as she stared at Collin. "What are you talking about?"
Collin's patience wearing thin, he replied, "Enough. I don't have time for pointless arguments."
He stood up suddenly and, with a cold tone, he said, "You accuse me of deceit, but you hid your pregnancy from

me?"
Fighting to maintain her composure, Linsey asked, "What exactly are you trying to say, Collin? You were the one who wanted a child. Are you suggesting I shouldn't keep it?"
Collin's response was a sneer, his lips curling in disdain. "Not at all," he scoffed. "That child is meant to be the heir of CR Corporation. I intend to make sure they're raised by my future wife, someone who's truly a suitable
match."
With that, Collin tossed a document at Linsey. "Sign this. Once the baby is born, I want you out of town for
good."
"Never!" Linsey shouted, her voice filled with defiance. "Collin! I won't let you take my child!"
In that moment, the illusion crumbled around her.
Startled awake, Linsey sat up in the hospital bed, her face a mixture of fear and confusion.
She breathed heavily, the sound of her breath sharp and uneven in the stillness of the room.
Outside, Gorman, who was listening to Danny's report, heard the noise and rushed into the room.

Linsey gripped his hand, shaking her head faintly. "No, it was just a bad dream." Indeed, it had been merely a dream, not the cruel reality.

He reached out for her hand, his face etched with concern. "Linsey, what's wrong? Are you in pain?

Should I get the doctor?"

Yet, the chilling words Collin had spoken in her dream lingered hauntingly in her thoughts. Gorman exhaled deeply, his voice carrying a hint of relief. "It was all just a dream," he whispered, trying to comfort her. "Remember, dreams can twist reality. There's nothing to be afraid of." Despite his reassurances, Linsey found little comfort. She glanced down at their intertwined hands, feeling an uncomfortable tension lingering between them. With a subtle motion, she loosened her hold, catching a brief look of disappointment across Gorman's face. She paused for a moment, pretending not to notice, and then turned her gaze away. "I appreciate you for getting me to the hospital," she said, acknowledging his efforts. It dawned on her just how much she had owed Gorman. A smile touched Gorman's lips as he took a seat next to her bed. "You've thanked me enough for one day, Linsey." A smile flickered across Linsey's face, though her eyes remained serious. "I should be thankful. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't be here, safe and sound." "Please, don't say that," Gorman responded, his expression darkening Linsey chuckled softly and replied,

She then glanced down at her bandaged right hand and murmured, "My hand..."

"Alright, no more drama."

Gorman's expression grew more concerned. "The doctor has warned that your right hand is quite fragile from past injuries. It's at risk of long-term impairment, which could prevent you from performing detailed tasks or lifting heavy objects." Linsey's heart sank at the news.

Her career as a designer depended on her hands' dexterity.

With a serious nod, she said, "I understand. I'll make sure to take better care of it from now on."

Gorman paused for a moment before gazing at Linsey, his eyes filled with a complicated blend of emotions. "Linsey, are you aware that you're pregnant?"