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"Matt? Are you there?" Mary asked as the call was connected.

Matt cursed in his heart, but he still replied reluctantly, "H—Hey, Mom, what's up?"

"Oh thank God, you're there. I was worried for a while since you haven't called me," Mary sighed in relief. "What's wrong, Son. Why haven't you called me for almost a month now? Is there something wrong with your job?" 1

"It's all fine, Mom," Matt replied, not wanting to tell his mother about his real situation. He wasn't a renowned director who directed so many movies and TV shows. He was just a deadbeat who relied on his wife's credit card. 1

"Are you sure it's fine? Because you haven't been sending me any money for a while," Mary said. "You know that my living cost is a lot right now, I need a lot of money to make sure that Harry has a good life." 2

Matt couldn't help clicking his tongue annoyedly when his mother mentioned that useless bastard who lived with her now. 1

She had been infatuated with a young man in his early 20s who contributed nothing except being a parasite. 2

"Mom, why are you still keeping him in your home?! Don't you realize that he doesn't love you? He just wants you because you keep giving him money!" 2

"Oh, don't say that, Matt. He does love me, I know he does. He keeps telling me how much of a wonderful and youthful woman I am," Mary said. 3

She sounded so confident, and that infuriated Matt even more.

"You know that Harry is young and he's a struggling artist. He will be a big star soon, all you need to do is send me at least three thousand a month. Isn't that so hard? I know that you earn a lot as Director, so it shouldn't be a problem for you, right?"

"It is a problem for me, Mom," Matt refuted. He was so angry at that bastard for tricking his mother into a love scheme, but at this point, without money in his hand, he couldn't just let this slide because his mother's retirement fund would be drained as soon as possible.

"I lost a lot of money," Matt said. He was

thinking as he spoke, trying to find a good reason to let his mother know he had zero money.

"L—Lost a lot of money?! What happened?!" Mary asked as she was panicking. She didn't know what would happen if she couldn't give Harry the money he needed, he might leave her! 1

"I invested 90% of my money in a company, and the company is going downhill right now, there is no way I can recover my money there."

"90%?! Why would you do that!?"

"Because I thought it's a safe investment since it's a long-standing generational company," Matt said. He remembered one recent news story about the fall of a powerful company and lied even more, "I invested 90% of my money in the Gray company. But after the scandal of the CEO, the company's stock went downhill and well... I'm broke now." 8

Mary was devastated when Matt said that he was broke. She always thought his son was destined to be a great man who wouldn't lose money. That's why she already blew half of her retirement fund just to persuade Harry so he would fuck her. 2

"B—But you will still earn money after this, right?"

Matt wanted to say no, which would stop his Mom from asking me for money. But he didn't want to be disappointed, so he said, "Yes, I will get more money, but it will take about half a year, because my next movie project will be five months from now."

"Then how will you survive five months from now? What about your wife? Did she save some money?" Mary asked. "She must be, right? She's a stay-at-home wife!"

Matt didn't want his mother to find Kate because that would be a whole new problem, so he said, "No, Kate didn't save anything. We're living frugally right now using the money I have left. That's why I can't give you money for now, Mom."

Matt thought that would be enough to fool her mother and stop her from asking for money.

But she snapped instead, "That useless woman! How come she hasn't saved a dime for an emergency situation like this?!" Mary yelled. "She can't get a job for herself, she can't cook well, can't even give you a baby. She is so useless!" 2

"Hold on, son, I will call your wife and let her know how much of a useless bitch she is! Oh my god, what kind of stay-at-home wife is she? How come she wasted all of your money on useless stuff!" 3

Matt's eyes widened, "W—Wait, Mom! Don't call her—" 1

Beep.

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Matt was speechless when his mother hung up on him. He panicked and quickly dialed Mary again.

Unfortunately, Mary was uncontactable. She must be busy blasting Kate's phone right now.

"Fuck! Fuck! What should I do now?" Matt paced back and forth. He didn't want his secret to be found. Usually, Kate would be very cooperative. She would just ignore when Mary insulted her for leeching.

She would also stay silent when Mary said she wasn't fit to be his wife because she was useless and barren.

Kate agreed to play along to save her husband from embarrassment.

But now that they weren't together anymore, the chance of her telling the truth to his mother was significantly higher! What if she actually dared to do that!? 1

"Crap! I have to stop this! I have to meet her, so she wouldn't dare to do anything!" 3

Matt dashed out of the apartment and called Taxi to go to Kate's apartment. Since the sun was already setting, he figured that Kate must be at her other apartment right now. 1

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Meanwhile, Kate was busy reading a manuscript in her apartment. Since the pregnancy check-up yesterday, Henry insisted on her working from home because it would be less exhausting for her.

As she was reading the manuscript, her phone suddenly rang, and she checked the caller.

"Huh, Matt's mother? What does she want from me?" 3