

# Rebirth of the Deadly Beauty

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## Chapter 581

[ 714 words ]

Dunstan pulled Nathan back and said, "In traditional medicine, there's a saying called fighting fire with fire."

Dunstan might not have known how to resolve the spider's venom, but he knew what Yolanda was doing.

Lo and behold, Toby's breathing started stabilizing a lot more in less than five minutes. His face was no longer as pale as it was.

"His life is no longer in danger. But for safety's sake, it's better to bring him to the hospital for an examination."

"Thank you! Thank you, Dr. Henderson!"

Nathan and Lily breathed a sigh of relief like the huge boulder had been lifted off their hearts. Nathan scooped Toby up and thanked Yolanda.

Soon, the ambulance arrived. Nathan and his family didn't have the time to settle scores with Linda before they hurriedly hoisted Toby up into the ambulance.

Before they left, Lily pulled out a thousand dollars worth of crumpled notes carefully tucked under several layers of handkerchief. They looked like they had been saved for a very long time. Lily tried to press them into Yolanda's hands.

Yolanda only took two hundred-dollar notes from the stack and passed them to Dunstan. "200 dollars is enough for consultation fees and medicine."

"But..."

"Our clinic has the most reasonable price around, no matter who the patient is."

Dunstan took the cash from Yolanda very naturally. Then, he escorted Lily into the ambulance.

"If Ms. Henderson said it's enough, this is enough. If you need any more reimbursements, come back another day."

Yolanda had already gone into Willow Creek Clinic to wash her hands.

She noticed that this family was dressed modestly and thought they didn't look wealthy. If she didn't take anything from them, they would surely be restless about it. So, she took 200 dollars, and all was well.

On the other end, Dunstan, after watching the ambulance leave, turned around and, from the corner of his eyes, saw Linda in a disheveled state and Winnie with an awkward expression on her face.

Then, he offered, "Would you like to come in, clean up, and get some medicinal ointment applied?"

Dunstan knew his way around people. Since Linda was Yolanda's aunt, he needed to portray some basic manners before getting any clear signs from Yolanda.

"N-No need." All Winnie felt was awkwardness. She also silently blamed Linda.

However, since Linda was beaten up, she had been taught a lesson she deserved. Winnie couldn't say anything else regarding that.

"What do you mean no need? Yolanda is my niece. How dare she try to be pretentious with me?"

Linda was shameless for demanding Yolanda treat her as her elder with a straight face.

Alas, she was pulled away by Winnie, who was clearly feeling guilty. "Tell Yolanda I'll come look for her in another two days."

Dunstan nodded. He didn't attempt to hold them back as they left.

He waited for Linda and Winnie to disappear from his line of sight before returning to Willow Creek Clinic.

The patients who were crowding around had already dispersed.

Some went to pay for their prescriptions; some went to collect their medications and some continued to wait to see the doctor. Peace was restored within the clinic after that small fiasco.

Yolanda had her lunch in the clinic. Dunstan had ordered takeaway from the restaurant he had previously ordered from.

Yolanda thought that the pasta tasted good. She was thinking of bringing Gavin to the restaurant when he was back.

It wasn't that she hadn't seen Gavin in a long while. It was just that they were both really busy before they were reborn, so it was normal for them to not meet each other for a few months.

However, since they both came to Riverdale, other than meeting in school, they were able to meet pretty often at other times, making this the longest time they had been apart.

Just as Yolanda was contemplating if she should give Gavin a call, she heard Dunstan's voice ring out. "Mr. Wright, what brings you here?"

"Is Yolanda around?" Zach walked into Willow Creek Clinic and surveyed his surroundings. After he saw Yolanda, he walked toward her immediately.

Yolanda was a little surprised to see Zach.

According to her sources, Zach had been very busy recently. He wouldn't have the time to gallivant around like this.

"I just so happened to pass by, so I dropped by to see you." Zach held a box of donuts in his hand and passed it to Yolanda.

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[ 626 words ]

"I was having a meal with a few others in the restaurant down the street," said Zach.

Yolanda cocked her eyebrow and waited for Zach to continue.

According to her understanding of Zach, he wasn't the kind of person who would pop up randomly just to have small talk with her.

Sure enough, under Yolanda's mysterious gaze, Zach said in a low voice, "Mr. Hansen Senior was there too."

"Mr. Hansen Senior showed up?" Yolanda was a little taken aback, but she wasn't very surprised. "Were Vic and the rest there too?"

"Yes. There is really no hiding anything from you."

Zach initially wanted to keep Yolanda guessing, but since she figured it out, he could only tell her everything.

"Other than Mr. Hansen Senior and Mr. Seinfeld, Joel, Logan, and Blake were there as well."

"Let's continue this at the back." Yolanda glanced subtly at the lobby. There might only be a few patients left, but walls might still have ears, so it wasn't a good place for them to talk.

She gave Dunstan and the rest a heads-up before bringing Zach to the back area of Willow Creek Clinic.

The back area of the clinic was equivalent to Derek's living quarters. However, after Yolanda took over the clinic, Derek had new arrangements made for the back area.

Other than saving the living quarters in the inner courtyard for himself and Kelly, he had rearranged the rest of the space and allocated a room for Yolanda to meet with her guests.

Yolanda and Zach sat down in her meeting room. Lola, the clinic janitor, brought them two cups of tea and closed the door knowingly behind her as she left.

"Yolanda, as you know, Cayden had sent men to assassinate me previously." Zach wanted to start with something Yolanda already knew since he was only able to escape unscathed the other time thanks to Yolanda.

"After that, the Wright family and I have officially declared war with Cayden. He had sent more assassins to Riverdale for a sneak attack but he didn't succeed."

That one time was an accident. Since Zach was no ignorant young bloke, he certainly wouldn't let Cayden get his way.

At the same time, he had also sent people to assassinate Cayden, but of course, it didn't work as well.

"Cayden was previously very cautious, but since a lot of the forces in Riverdale already were wary regarding him, Serpent Alliance had suddenly stepped in with a bang.

"Cayden was determined to return to Riverdale and was ready to relentlessly battle us to our deaths for it."

As Zach spoke, coldness flashed in his eyes.

"Mr. Hansen Senior and I naturally wouldn't let him have his way. Technically speaking, these are the kinds of conflict the other forces wouldn't want to take part in, but recently, a certain somebody is wanting to poke their nose into this."

"Who?" Yolanda gave it some thought. Darkness clouded her eyes.

Even though this might look like it was just a conflict between forces of Riverdale, she felt things weren't as simple as they seemed.

"The Caldwell family of Creybia," Zach said as he took a sip of tea. "Yolanda, do you know about the Creybia's Famous Four?"

"Yes. Is Mr. Caldwell stepping in to mediate this?"

"That's right." Zach sighed. "But the mediation is a little..."

"What did he want?" Yolanda thought that if Zach could gather all the powerful people in Riverdale together to discuss the matter, what Boris had suggested might not be something that could convince the masses.

Sure enough, once Yolanda was done, Zach proceeded to explain with a frown.

"Mr. Caldwell said it's not good for anyone if both parties continue to battle on like this. To resolve this once and for all, he told us to battle it out in a duel."

"A duel?" Yolanda exclaimed coldly. Boris really thought he had all his ducks in a row.

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## Chapter 583

[ 898 words ]

A duel was a rule the underworld followed. If two forces were to have an unresolvable dispute, someone of a higher status would step in to mediate, and it would almost end up with the two parties dueling it out every time. The loser would have to follow what the winner wanted.

However, right now, other than the Serpent Alliance, Zach and the rest were not even considered a part of the underworld.

"That's right. Mr. Caldwell said that if Cayden won, we had to agree for him to return to Riverdale. When he is back, he is not to stir up trouble with us.

"But if we win, Cayden and the Serpent Alliance can no longer think of coming back to Riverdale anymore." Zach sighed. His voice brimmed with reluctance.

"Mr. Caldwell is clearly playing favorites. Doesn't he know how the Serpent Alliance started? This is very unfair for him to suggest dueling to resolve this.

"Besides that, Cayden had sent so many people to Riverdale to assassinate me and the other head of the families, which had majorly depleted his men. Many powerful experts his men trusted were also defeated in Riverdale.

"It was clear that even if we don't do anything about it, he wouldn't be able to return either. For Mr Caldwell to suddenly involve himself in this, and him wanting us to send people to compete in the duel, what he's up to is just too obvious."

"Have all of you agreed to it?" Yolanda asked faintly.

Other than Creybia's top three families, the other families had never stopped having conflict. They loved building their own forces. The other two top families in Creybia, the Fafnir family and the Storm family might be reluctant to often be second to the Hoffman family.

If Yolanda's investigation was correct, the Caldwell family might seemed to be unrelated to the top three families, but they had already secretly allied with the Storms.

What was happening right now might seem to be just a conflict between local forces, but because the Caldwells got involved, Yolanda had to read more between the lines.

"Initially, we were sure about forbidding Cayden from returning to Riverdale, and the little number of men he had wouldn't be able to hold on for long if we were to continue to run them dry.

"But because Mr. Caldwell is involved now, we can't openly oppose him even though we're unwilling. Even so, I've also discussed the matter with Mr Hansen Senior and the rest. We might not lose in the duel, so we agreed to it.

"As long as our men can beat Cayden's men, we'd rid all potential problems, and Cayden wouldn't be able to have any chance to do anything fishy anymore."

It wasn't wrong for Zach and the rest to think that way. Cayden had spent so much effort plotting against them. Even if this time things didn't go his way, he would just take a break and plan his next course of action.

Yolanda had her suspicions that the poison Nigel and the Seinfelds' had something to do with Cayden. She had even investigated if Cayden had any relation to the Nightshade Guild. Lo and behold, she actually found out that Cayden had once met with a low-level leader of the Nightshade Guild.

After Yolanda got the news, she told Rowan to keep the news under wraps. She wanted to see what the Nightshade Guild was up to.

Now that things have progressed to what it was, she believed that whatever the Nightshade Guild was planning, it would surface soon.

Now that both she and Gavin weren't around, no matter if it was the Xenith order or if the Fafnir family, they tried to be as low profile as possible. Since Talon Academy usually wouldn't take part in the conflict between forces, this had allowed Nightshade Guild, who had been oppressed, to have a chance to rear its head.

"Yolanda?" Zach saw that Yolanda was deep in thought and assumed that she was worried about the duel. Then, he added, "This has been confirmed, so you don't have to worry too much. We'll fight to our deaths with Cayden's men a week later in the arena, 12 floors below the basement of Lumia Tower.

"Xavier would be there as well. If anything happens, he will personally take part in the duel. Cayden wasn't his match a decade ago, so it will be the same now."

Yolanda's frown deepened after hearing what Zach had to say.

Since the Caldwells were adamant about siding with Cayden, it was impossible for them not to take Xavier into consideration.

It seemed like the duel wouldn't be as simple as it seemed.

Just as Yolanda was in discussion with Zach at the back of Willow Creek Clinic, the Henderson family was also hosting a guest.

In his study, Harold stood with his head hung low at the side while a middle-aged man sat at the table.

"Henderson Group had been involved in too many scandals lately, causing the share prices to plummet significantly. I'm very unhappy with you. As the CEO of Henderson Group, what you're doing is extremely stupid."

"I'm so sorry. I'll try my best to clear out all potential future dangers.

Harold didn't even dare to breathe loudly. In the face of Howard's insults, he didn't dare to complain at all.

"You should know that the Henderson family doesn't just have a side branch here at Riverdale, and it's not a necessity for Henderson Group to be located at Riverdale."

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[ 385 words ]

Howard's eyes gleamed coldly. Harold's heart sank.

"Please give me another chance!"

"I've given you enough chances. It's a shame you haven't appreciated them."

Harold had nothing to refute regarding Howard's word. All he could do was lower his head even more.

"Also, what's with your eldest daughter?" Howard's words caught Harold by surprise. He didn't expect Howard to keep tabs on his family matters.

"I chased her out because she doesn't know what's good for her." After contemplation, Harold replied to Howard's question carefully.

"She doesn't know what's good for her?" Howard scoffed but said nothing more.

Harold didn't understand what he meant by that, but he also didn't dare to ask.

He waited for a long time but Howard hadn't given him any other hints, causing him to panic even more.

"You'd better watch your step."

Howard hadn't mentioned anything else about Yolanda even till he had left.

For reasons unbeknownst to Harold, he felt uneasy.

As he respectfully sent Howard out, he returned to his study and tried to decipher what Howard meant, but to no avail.

"Was it a wrong decision for me to chase Yolanda out?"

...

In the evening, Viktor brought Raven to Willow Creek Clinic.

Zach had already left. Yolanda was planning to head home after she had given her last few patients their prescriptions.

"Ms. Henderson!" Viktor greeted Yolanda with a smile.

"Your medicinal skills are magical. I may not be able to move as effortlessly as I once did, but I don't need the wheelchair anymore." He walked slowly toward Yolanda with Raven's help.

"I came with my daughter today to thank you."

Then, Viktor gave Raven a pointed look.

After Raven was injured, she was no longer as haughty as before. Her actions were also more low profile than before.

Raven received Viktor's wordless hint and quickly pulled out a check from her coat pocket.

"Here's 50 million dollars, Dr. Henderson. You have to take this."

Yolanda glanced at the check in Raven's hand but did nothing else.

"You've already paid for your consultation fees and your medicine. You don't have to pay anything else."

"This is different!" Viktor replied quickly.

"If it wasn't for you, Ms. Henderson, my injuries would probably never heal. I know I can't repay your kindness with money alone, and you might not accept this money, but this is the only way I can think of to show my appreciation to you."

"You can take the check back, Mr. Thorne."

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[ 650 words ]

Yolanda wasn't planning on taking the money. She didn't see the need to.

"Uhh..." Viktor frowned. He was trying to think of a way to make Yolanda take the money.

Raven also looked at Viktor hesitantly.

Suddenly, an idea struck Viktor. He quickly exclaimed, "If you won't take the money, Ms. Henderson, would you allow Raven to do odd jobs in the clinic?"

"Odd jobs?"

Yolanda raised her eyebrows slightly. She didn't expect Viktor to come up with such an idea.

"Yes. I see how few employees this clinic has. When there's a lot of patients, it would definitely be very overwhelming for your employees."

Viktor saw that Yolanda wasn't immediately opposed to this, so he continued, "It's no longer suitable for Raven to continue training in martial arts. She might not have learned medicine previously, but she is quick on her feet, able to attend to people, and work with the computer.

"Please let her help you out here. Also, because of the medicine you gave previously, she might not be as good in martial arts as before, but she could still easily hold her ground against gangsters and troublemakers. You won't have any worries when anyone were to come to look for trouble."

Viktor smiled flatteringly at Yolanda.

"I know you don't have to worry about anyone coming to look for trouble with how skilled you are, Ms Henderson, but you won't be in the clinic all the time, right? What if someone took their chances when you're not around? With Raven here, they wouldn't be able to have their way."

Yolanda might have known that Viktor's goal of getting Raven to do odd jobs at the clinic was so that they could build a relationship with her, but he was right about the last part of his sentence.

She wouldn't be able to be at Willow Creek Clinic all the time. When all of Willow Creek Clinic's renovation was completed, she wasn't planning to allow Daniel and his men to continue staying at the clinic.

If she wasn't around and someone were to come look for trouble, with Dunstan here alone, it would really be something he wouldn't be able to handle.

Viktor watched Yolanda's expression carefully and knew that he had a chance of getting Yolanda to agree to this. Then, he looked pointedly at Raven.

Raven understood Viktor and said immediately, "Please let me stay, Ms. Henderson. I promise to not cause any trouble."

In the beginning, Raven was very unwilling. She kept thinking of ways to make things difficult for Yolanda.

However, when Yolanda had graciously forgo their previous trespasses and healed Viktor, Raven had a major change in impression toward Yolanda. She no longer resented her. In fact, she was filled with nothing else but appreciation for Yolanda.

"I promise to work hard. I won't be late. I won't leave early either."

Yolanda glanced at Raven and saw that her eyes were no longer filled with arrogance like they previously were. Instead, Yolanda saw sincerity in her eyes. So, Yolanda nodded in agreement.

"You can start tomorrow at 7:30 am. Your working hours will be 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. You will have two off days in a week with a pay of 3500 dollars. The clinic will provide you with two meals."

"How could we take your money, Ms. Henderson?" Viktor and Raven waved their hands, expressing their reluctance.

"This is the protocol of our clinic. If you don't agree with this, I can't allow you to stay." Yolanda finished and was about to turn around and leave.

Raven quickly exclaimed, "I agree! I agree to all of that!"

"Come tomorrow and look for Dunstan."

Yolanda was planning to touch base with Dunstan since it was Monday the next day. If there were no urgent matters, she had to go to school.

"There's one more thing, Ms. Henderson..." Viktor took a step forward toward Yolanda.

"I was wondering if you have any available time lately. The head of our clan would like to invite you over for a visit."

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## Chapter 586

[ 699 words ]

Yolanda might not know why Xavier wanted to meet her, but she agreed to head there the next day after school.

She was more free recently, and Zach had just told her about the duel, which piqued her interest.

If everything went well, the representative on their side would be someone from the Eternal Clan, so she would take the opportunity to gauge their abilities.

Yolanda might not be interested in the conflict between the forces, but if Cayden was allowed to return to Riverdale, it wouldn't be beneficial for her. It might mean that the connections she had built since she arrived here had to be reshuffled.

So, no matter if it was for official or private matters, she hoped that the forces of Riverdale wouldn't lose in this duel.

On the morning of the second day, Yolanda had just walked into class when someone had come up to her to ask about the Southdale Physics Competition. "Yolanda, do you think the questions for competition this time round are difficult?" "How certain are you that you would be in the top 10?"

"What did you answer for the last question, Yolanda? Is the answer like this?"

Yolanda picked a few questions out of the bunch of knowledge-hungry classmates to answer.

Suddenly, a light cough was heard by the door.

Everyone turned around to find Clara walking into the classroom with her lesson plans.

"We're about to begin, class. Go back to your seats." Once she was done, she looked deliberately at Yolanda as if she was trying to decipher clues from Yolanda's expression.

Sadly, Yolanda's face was emotionless at that time. Clara didn't know what her thoughts were, so all she could do was test them out.

"Yolanda, did the physics competition go well? Are the questions difficult?"

"It went pretty well," Yolanda replied coolly.

Clara was stunned. She thought she had torn Yolanda's registration form. Yolanda shouldn't be able to take part in the competition.

How could it have gone well?

However, she thought further and assumed that since Yolanda's classmates held high hopes for her, she didn't want to admit with humiliation that she couldn't even take part in the competition. Perhaps that was why she was pretending that nothing had happened.

Yolanda's reaction caused Clara, who was previously feeling a little uneasy, to breathe a sigh of relief.

If Yolanda were to make a big fuss regarding the registration form, it would reflect badly on her. Even if Yolanda didn't have proof to show that the issue was on Clara's end, it would be hard for Clara to have to fight against and survive after being the talk of the town.

This was especially true when the students of the school all held high hopes for Yolanda and hoped that she would be able to shine for the school. If news suddenly got out that Yolanda wasn't able to participate in the Southdale Physics Competition because of Clara, her position as the homeroom teacher of the excellent class might be revoked.

Since she had already given Yolanda her admission ticket, if Yolanda were to confront her about it, she could still push all the responsibility to the committee of the Southdale Physics Competition. But Clara was guilty as charged, so, for reasons unknown, when Clara caught Yolanda's eyes, it would give her a sense of uneasiness.

"Did the competition really go well, Yolanda? The entire school is anticipating for you to get a good place."

Clara tried to control her facial expression. She forced a smile that seemed encouraging, but in reality, she was hoping for Yolanda to cave and give her some clues.

"I'm pretty confident regarding the competition's results this time." Yolanda smiled and asked, "Ms. Bennett, why do I feel like you don't seem to have a lot of confidence?"

"H-How is that possible? You're my student. Of course, I'd hope for you to place well in the competition." Clara didn't manage to get information out. The uneasy feeling in her heart grew.

Normally, if Yolanda's admission ticket was found to be fake, she wouldn't be able to take part in the competition at all. However, judging from Yolanda's attitude, it seemed like she had really taken part in the competition.

She also overheard Yolanda discussing the questions of the competition with other students. What was going on?

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## Chapter 587

[ 542 words ]

Clara was planning to ask around for updates regarding the situation after class, so naturally, she wasn't able to focus while she taught. Students had noticed that she had made a few simple mistakes while teaching, causing displeasure to rise amongst the students of 1A.

When the bell rang, signifying the end of school, Clara felt like she was finally released from prison as she hurriedly ran out of class with her lesson plans in tow. To Yolanda, it was exactly like she was scurrying away defeatedly.

"Why is Ms. Bennett so odd today?"

"I noticed it too. The few errors that she had made while teaching were clearly not supposed to be made."

"Ms. Bennett has been very distracted recently. Have you noticed that?"

"We've gotta submit our feedback. Her focus is clearly not on teaching."

If it were other classes, they wouldn't talk about their teacher like this. However, since class 1A was the class of honors, if half the class or more were unhappy with any teacher, they had the right to request a change of teacher by voting them out.

Initially, they all thought Clara was a pretty good teacher since she had solid professional knowledge. However, recently, the errors she had made while teaching were very prominent.

"We'll keep this in view. She's probably just not well the past two days."

Madeline, the class rep, was also a little displeased with Clara, but she didn't immediately head to the discipline office to complain about her.

"If she's still like this next week, we'll look to the disciplinary department to tell Mr. Zwink about it."

Yolanda's face was apathetic as she listened to what the other students were saying.

Only she knew that even if the students of class 1A didn't complain about Clara, her teaching days were numbered.

"Someone's here for you, Yolanda."

At this time, a student who was seated by the door called out for Yolanda.

Yolanda raised her head toward the direction of the door to find Yvonne standing outside.

Yvonne was dressed as a typical Mary Sue with her dainty white dress and cascading straight hair looking delicate and pitiful.

The students in the school all knew about the gossip about the Henderson sisters and Gavin, and rumors were claiming that Yolanda was adopted. However, since students of class 1A admired Yolanda a lot for her results, no one would bring up these rumors just like that.

The gossip not only lacked evidence, but it was also only spread by word of mouth. So what if it was real news? In First Academy, academic results were the only backing one would ever need.

Yolanda stood up slowly and walked to Yvonne. Her face was calm as she asked, "What is it?"

The incident at the pub was history. Winnie told her that Yvonne was discharged on Sunday, and she had not told Harold or Diana about this.

Yolanda was guessing that based on Yvonne's personality, she wouldn't let go if she had suffered losses. She would go for sneak backhanded attacks as usual. She wasn't the type who would go into a full revenge mode.

Yvonne had probably already pretended to forgive Layla, and Layla would have probably thanked Yvonne for her graciousness.

"Are you free this weekend?" Yvonne looked at Yolanda while acting all innocent. "I'd like to invite you for tea."

"I'm very busy this weekend."

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## Chapter 588

[ 696 words ]

The only reason Yolanda saved Yvonne previously was because of Winnie, and because she also loathed perverted men like Leonardo. It didn't mean that she was willing to interact with Yvonne again.

Since she had cut ties with the Henderson family, her revenge on Yvonne would be ways that would go straight for the kill-making her lose absolutely everything. Yolanda didn't want to waste too much time on her.

"When will you have time?" After hearing Yolanda's reply, disappointment flashed in Yvonne's eyes.

She took a deep breath and asked once more, "Yolanda, I think there are some misunderstandings between us. There's something I needed to clarify with you."

Acting pitiful was the best trick in her books. Since they were both standing outside of the classroom, students from other classes would glance at them as they walked past them.

Yolanda frowned and was feeling a little impatient. "I won't have time at all."

After she was done, she didn't care about Yvonne anymore and returned to class. Yvonne merely forced a smile in return for Yolanda's aloofness. She wanted to call out to Yolanda but the bell had rung. It was time for class.

No matter how unwilling she felt, she had to leave.

Yvonne had never cared for any interaction with Yolanda in school in the past. For Yvonne to come looking for her first this time, Yolanda really didn't know what she had up her sleeve.

Yolanda never cared for what Yvonne was up to. Since she cut ties with the Hendersons, Yvonne should no longer have any reasons to look for her at school.

However, according to Yolanda's understanding of Yvonne, even if she was unwilling to let Gavin go, her abilities were sadly unable to keep up with her desire. All of her schemes were low-grade schemes that Yolanda could see through right away.

If Yolanda didn't have to avenge the original Yolanda, puny characters like Yvonne would not be worth her plotting and scheming.

However, Yolanda underestimated Yvonne's shamelessness, because, between the second period and the next, Yvonne came running to 1A once more. Yolanda didn't care to acknowledge her, but she was not affected as she waited quietly at the door.

Yvonne was in class 1A students' line of sight the entire day and had garnered enough attention. If Yolanda refused to promise her, she would continue waiting like this. She wasn't even that adamant when she pursued Gavin last time.

"Is Yvonne here for you for something urgent, Yolanda?" one of the classmates asked curiously.

Due to the complicated family background of the Henderson sisters, the other students weren't able to clearly tell if Yolanda was adopted or not. So, when others mentioned Yvonne to Yolanda, they could only address Yvonne in her name.

"She has too much free time."

Without raising her head from the doodling paper on the table, she continued with her drawings until the class bell rang, and Yvonne had no choice but to go.

Yvonne was filled with nothing but resentment for Yolanda but had to still pretend to be the innocent-looking girl she was. It was a good thing she had a lot of practice for that in life. No matter how angry she felt inside, she wouldn't show any of that on her face.

Finally, school ended. Yvonne appeared before Yolanda once more. Yolanda couldn't take it anymore.

"Saturday afternoon. You can pick the location."

It wasn't that Yolanda was forced to give in. She just didn't want Yvonne to continue to ruin her day.

Also, she also saw that the more she didn't agree, the longer Yvonne would continue to wait. Rather than having people she loathed constantly around her, annoying the life out of her, it was better for her to allow the other party to reveal the ace up their sleeve.

She refused to believe that Yvonne just wanted to catch up over tea. It would also be impossible for Yvonne to talk her into being reunited with the Hendersons.

After Yolanda sent Yvonne on her way, she walked out of the academic building. Eternal Clan was already there outside of school with transportation arranged, waiting for Yolanda. The cars they used were low-profile cars, so it didn't expose Yolanda, or their identity, nor did it attract the attention of other students.

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## Chapter 589

[ 656 words ]

The cars that came for Yolanda sent her directly to Eternal Clan's headquarters. Eternal Clan was a huge martial arts school.

Other than proper apprentices, they also did recreational training classes so ordinary people could train and be healthy. It had already formed a well- established chain of supply and demand.

However, the martial arts school here at headquarters was only open for apprentices to train, while the other training sessions were held in other divisions.

Yolanda was brought to the training halls on the 2nd floor. Before they entered through the door, they could already hear fighting noises from the inside.

"Ms. Henderson is here!" Viktor heard the commotion and walked out to greet Yolanda. "Mr. Yate is ready for you."

"Other than needing medicinal help, is there any other reason why Mr. Yate asked for me?"

After pondering, the only other possible interaction she would have with Xavier was her conflict with Jamie.

If Xavier was the type of person who was vengeful, it would also be highly likely for him to ask her to come in the name of seeking medicinal help, but in reality, seek revenge on her.

"Don't worry, Ms. Henderson. Mr. Yate isn't morally confused. He is also very troubled that Jamie kept stirring up trouble out there," Viktor explained hurriedly as if he could read Yolanda's mind.

"Also, the one who had previously injured Jamie is me. Even if she wanted revenge, you shouldn't be her target."

Other than the fighting sounds coming from the second floor of the training hall, the other spaces were quiet, like they had been deliberately cleared out. There were no Eternal Clan apprentices in sight at all.

"Ms. Henderson, Mr. Yate already has everything prepared. Please come with me."

Then, Viktor pushed the door open.

Yolanda marched into the room and the first thing she saw was a platform surrounded with barriers, like a boxing ring. It was a battle arena set up for internal use.

At this time, two young men were fighting in the arena. Yolanda glanced and saw that one of the young men was Asher, whom she had seen at the Kaufman's residence.

Yolanda knew Asher had some martial arts skills, but he was fighting another young man, and he was the lower hand.

It might not be very obvious yet, but in less than 50 rounds, he would begin to show signs of defeat.

"Is this Ms. Henderson?"

At the side of the arena, an old man was watching the duel. When he saw Viktor bringing Yolanda in, he took a few steps toward them.

Yolanda noticed that when Xavier walked toward them, he seemed to be limping a little. There was an odd expression on his face as well, like he was trying his best to hold in the pain.

She took a look at Xavier's legs and she had a conclusion in her heart.

"This is Xavier Yate, our clan leader, Ms. Henderson."

"Ms. Yolanda Henderson?"

As Yolanda was giving Xavier a once-over, he was also doing the same.

As Xavier's gaze fell onto Yolanda, he was a little surprised. The shock fled and quickly disappeared.

"Mr. Yate." Yolanda nodded at Xavier as a sign of acknowledgment.

Since Yolanda had no relations with the Eternal Clan, her attitude toward Xavier was one that was not degrading and not overtly respectful.

Xavier took all of it in and was shocked to the core.

It was his first time seeing such a steadfast young lady with such a powerful stance at her age.

Only one look and Xavier knew that Yolanda was an expert. He couldn't even clearly state the extent of Yolanda's power.

"Ms. Henderson, I've invited you today to request your help with my legs." Xavier then looked apologetically at Yolanda.

"I've previously heard Vik say that you're the one who has healed his legs."

"Yes."

Yolanda took another look at Xavier's legs.

Xavier did martial arts since he was young, so it was only natural that he was fitter than others his age. As he stood before Yolanda, it didn't seem like he had severe issues with his legs.

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[ 627 words ]

"My condition isn't as bad as Vik's, but there will always be a few days of intolerable pain for me in a month. It would be so painful I can't stand," said Xavier as he sighed.

"Initially, I thought it was rheumatoid arthritis, so I went to the hospital to buy some medicinal patches for them. However, they didn't work for me at all. I also went to see several traditional medicine doctors before this, but no matter if it was traditional medicine or acupuncture, nothing has worked for me."

"I'll first read your pulse." Yolanda pointed at a nearby chair and said, "Please have a seat there, Mr. Yate."

Xavier sat on the chair and allowed Yolanda to read his pulse.

Yolanda frowned and thought that Xavier's condition was very similar to Viktor's.

"I can cure this. This is a similar condition to Mr. Thorne. It's just that, Mr. Thorne was injured because he was dueling with others, so I wonder if you have had similar experiences before this."

Yolanda looked at Viktor and she asked.

"No." Xavier shook his head and said firmly, "I haven't had to fight battles on my own for a very long time. My legs also haven't been injured for the past decade."

Yolanda pondered. It seemed like she was trying to determine the cause of Xavier's symptoms.

At this time, there was a shout from the arena, attracting everyone's attention. The duel in the arena had reached a fever pitch. Asher presented his prized punching technique in order to beat his opponent.

Together with his kicking techniques, he had caused his opponent to be on a lowerhand after just four rounds.

After looking at Asher's techniques, Yolanda was first a little stunned. Then, she looked at Xavier again. This time it felt like she had finally gotten the whole picture.

"Is that young man on stage your apprentice, Mr. Yate?" she asked.

"Did you mean Asher?" Xavier replied with a smile. His eyes shone with pride.

"He isn't really an Eternal Clan apprentice, but I taught him how to fight since he was a young boy. I guess I could consider him half an apprentice."

Xavier was closely acquainted with Asher's grandfather, so he loved Asher like a grandchild as well.

"Did you teach him the punching technique he just used?"

"That's right. This is the punching technique I came up with, and will only teach it to talented apprentices. Viktor's punching techniques are all influenced by me as well."

"That's it then." Yolanda nodded. "I now know why your legs don't feel well, Mr. Yate."

"Why is that so?"

Xavier and Viktor looked at Yolanda curiously and patiently waited for her to tell them the answer.

At the same time, Asher, who was in the battle arena, had completely defeated his opponent. He jumped down from the arena. Then, he huffed and puffed his way to Xavier.

"Grandpa Yate, I thought you wanted to see if my martial arts skills have improved." His tone was filled with anguish. It was almost like he was upset that Xavier didn't fix his attention on him when he was dueling, but his expressions were leaning more toward a younger generation seeking attention coquettishly from their elders.

It was completely different from the haughty, prideful young man Yolanda had to deal with in the Kaufman residence.

Asher was haughty before outsiders, but he would reel back a lot of that when he was with his elders.

He noticed Yolanda when he got nearer and raised his eyebrow in surprise.

"We have guests here." Xavier was about to introduce Yolanda to Asher when he pursed his lips and muttered, "I know her. I met her at Grandpa Kaufman's home." "Grandpa Kaufman?" Xavier was a little taken aback. Then, it was like he had suddenly figured things out as he asked Yolanda, "You're the one who cured Mr. Kaufman Senior as well?"

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[ 571 words ]

"That's right," Yolanda replied coolly, but her eyes were fixated on Asher.

"If you continue training that punching technique, you're going to have permanent injuries on your legs."

"Nonsense!" Asher roared. "Grandpa Yates is the one who taught me this punching technique. If you don't know anything, don't spew nonsense!"

"What do you mean by that, Ms. Henderson?"

Xavier looked at Yolanda, flabbergasted. However, he was more capable of holding his composure than Asher, who was inexperienced in life. What Yolanda had said previously also made him think a little deeper.

"Are you saying that mine and Vik's leg injuries are related to this punching technique?"

"Yes, you can put it this way."

Yolanda didn't care about how angry Asher felt. She continued to explain slowly, "Mr. Yates, your punching technique is indeed capable of making its user's body express its full strength, but there is a fatal weakness to this technique.

"When a punch is thrown, it will cause a halt in blood flow to the user's veins in their extremities. The problematic moves are the fifth and tenth moves. If these aren't tweaked, it would cause permanent harm to the user's body."

"What gibberish! I've been training with this punching technique for so long, and I don't feel like anything is wrong. Don't act like you know it all."

Asher wanted to fight back more, but Xavier stopped him.

"I previously tweaked the fifth and the tenth move in the past to allow this punching technique to achieve the greatest potential it could. Seemed like I have misjudged in this area," Xavier thought out loud.

He was considered one of the giants in the martial arts world, so the area of things he had to consider was definitely more than young people like Asher. This was why when Yolanda first gave her opinions regarding that punching technique, his first reaction wasn't to feel offended.

Instead, he started seriously thinking about whether the punching technique he had used for decades was really flawed.

Since Yolanda had high expertise in martial arts and knew medicinal skills, her words were worth pondering upon.

"I'll continue to work on it when I go back."

Xavier thought that since Yolanda was able to point out the problems with these two moves, it would mean that there wasn't a huge problem with the rest of the moves. If he could tweak these two moves and make it better, this punching technique would probably still be viable.

"Asher, stop using this punching technique for now."

"Did you really believe this young lady, Grandpa Yates?" Asher's eyes bulged with surprise.

He really didn't understand it. Yolanda was just a young lady. Even if her medicinal skills were exceptional, she still didn't have the right to order a martial arts grandmaster around.

"What are you saying?" Xavier glared at Asher. "Ms. Henderson is my esteemed guest."

"I don't buy it!" Asher couldn't stand an amateur trying to tell him what to do. "If you're so capable, wanna fight?"

Yolanda ignored Asher's provocation. She turned around and looked at Xavier instead.

"Arrange for a suitable time and I'll do acupuncture for you. If you stop using this punching technique shortly, your legs can recover in just one treatment course."

Xavier's condition was different from Viktor's. Viktor's leg injuries flared when he was dueling with others, naturally, his injuries would be more severe.

"I have time right now." Xavier's face was stoic, but his elated tone betrayed his true feelings. This leg injury had been bothering him for a very long time now. "Grandpa Yates!"

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[ 654 words ]

Asher saw that he was being completely ignored and glared at Yolanda.

Suddenly, Yolanda moved. She attacked Asher with just one hand.

Asher suddenly felt a strong, piercing wind attacking his direction-one that was too fast for him to handle. He stumbled to avoid the first attack. Before he could adjust his breathing and plan for a counterattack, Yolanda's second attack had arrived.

In less than ten rounds, Asher had been forced to retreat several steps because of Yolanda's attacks. He had no room to counterattack at all.

Asher was horrified to find that Yolanda was not without skills. She just hid her power too well, causing him to not realize that she was a pro.

How could this be possible?

Asher's disdain was through the roof, but on the surface, he was still adamant in not admitting defeat.

Xavier was also shocked when Yolanda attacked. Yolanda was stronger than he had thought.

What he didn't know was that Yolanda had reserved some energy. She hadn't attacked Asher with her full speed and power.

The martial arts skills that Yolanda had learned since she was young were the kind that used the shortest amount of time to deliver the most fatal of blows. If she were to attack Asher with her full power, he would have been dead by now.

"Do you still not admit defeat, Asher?"

Xavier thought it was good for Yolanda to teach Asher a lesson since it would be beneficial for his growth.

It might not be the best thing for someone to have a life that was too easy.

Asher lowered his head and remained silent.

Although he knew his abilities were far beneath Yolanda's, it was still too much of a humiliation for him to have to admit that in public.

Yolanda didn't care about Asher's provocation, so she wouldn't care about whether he admitted defeat or not.

She had suddenly attacked him because she wanted him to know when to back off so he would stop causing a disturbance.

"Hahaha, Asher is a kid like this, Ms. Henderson. Please don't mind him."

Alas, it was Xavier who had spoken out to pacify the situation. Then, he added,

"I'll bring you to the meeting room. I'm afraid I'll have to trouble you to do acupuncture on an old man like me."

Just as Xavier and Viktor were about to bring Yolanda out, someone else suddenly came through the door.

When that certain someone saw Yolanda, she was first stunned, then, she pointed at Yolanda while shrieking at Xavier, "This is the person who wanted to harm me, Dad! You gotta avenge me!"

It was Jamie, Xavier's youngest daughter.

Xavier was already 40 years old when Jamie was born, so he doted on Jamie a lot, causing her to be as arrogant and rude as she was.

At that moment, Jamie still thought that Xavier was able to back her up, so she excitedly, yet gloatingly screeched at Yolanda, "You bitch! Now that you have shown up here on your own, just you wait! You're finished!"

She had to take her revenge.

Previously, since Viktor was the one who had laid hands on her, she didn't dare to lament her woes to Xavier. Now that she had seen Yolanda there, the hatred in her heart had caused her to lose all rationale. She didn't even stop to think of why Yolanda was there.

"Hurry up, Dad. Get someone to beat her up!"

Jamie hollered once more only to realize the unusual atmosphere in the room.

Viktor and Asher looked at her complicatedly, while Xavier, her father, had no plans to avenge her.

"Uhh..."

Jamie was about to ask when she heard Xavier's grave voice giving Viktor orders.

"Her legs are recovered, right? Break them again, so she won't be able to stir up more trouble out there."

Upon hearing Xavier's orders, Viktor was about to take action when Yolanda stopped him.

The punishment Jamie had endured was enough. Xavier merely wanted to curry favor with her, enhancing the relationship between her and the Eternal Clan by ordering for Jamie to be punished in her presence.

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[ 653 words ]

Yolanda was only there to treat Xavier, knowing that in one week, there would be a duel that would alter the course of the underworld.

If Xavier were to feel unwell at that time, it would greatly impact the morale of Riverdale's representatives.

Yolanda has always been very clear about what was important and what was not, so she didn't care to be calculative with the likes of Jamie.

Seeing that Yolanda didn't press further, Xavier's face softened a little. However, he still glared at Jamie, causing her to shudder in fear as she scurried away.

Then, Yolanda did acupuncture for Xavier and advised him on how he could tweak his punching technique. Xavier's eyes opened after he heard what Yolanda had said. After thanking Yolanda, he hurriedly went into isolation to improve his punching technique.

Before he went into isolation, he had personally arranged for transportation to send Yolanda back.

...

After school the next day, Yolanda received a call from Winnie.

"Yolanda, is it a must to wear an evening gown to a cocktail party? I don't have one. Can I just wear an ordinary maxi dress?"

"Are you going to a cocktail party?"

Yolanda had already walked into a train station, so Winnie's voice was a little unclear since the signal wasn't that great.

"Yes. Julie invited me. I've never been to any occasions like these before so I thought of asking you if there's anything I needed to take note of."

"If you need an evening gown, I have a few here."

Winnie's figure was similar to Yolanda's after she slimmed down. After Yolanda moved into her villa, she brought all the gowns Gavin bought for her with her, so it was just nice for Winnie to be able to come and take her pick.

"Oh, you have gowns with you? Can I borrow one, please?"

Winnie was stunned for a while before she was reminded of the Hendersons' status. They would probably be required to attend cocktail parties regularly, so she said, "I'll come over to your house now then."

She had a good relationship with Yolanda and so she didn't think there was anything wrong with asking Yolanda to lend her a gown. Also, if Yolanda didn't want to, she wouldn't offer to do so at all.

"I'm on the train now. I'm half an hour away from home."

"Okay, I'll head there first."

Before Winnie got off the phone, she was reminded of something and asked, "Do you need me to bring you some food?"

"No need."

Yolanda didn't feel very comfortable letting Winnie go to the cocktail party alone. Winnie might be good friends with Julie, but in the limited time that Yolanda had interacted with Julie, she felt like Julie was someone with a complicated background.

Yolanda didn't want Winnie to be caught up in all of it.

However, in front of Winnie, she wouldn't speak her mind about Julie since it would give off an impression of her sowing discord between Winnie and Julie. Besides that, she didn't care to be someone who gossiped about Julie behind her back.

Half an hour later, Yolanda walked out of the train station and arrived at the Cerulean Abode. She saw Winnie coming from another direction toward her.

When Winnie saw Yolanda, she waved very enthusiastically at her.

"I'm so sorry for what my mom did the other day, Yolanda." When Winnie was finally by Yolanda's side, she quickly apologized.

Even though she had messaged Yolanda her apology after she pulled Linda away on Saturday, she still felt that it was more sincere for her to apologize to Yolanda face to face.

"It had nothing to do with you."

Yolanda felt that Winnie was someone who she could be good friends with, so she wouldn't be angry at her for what Linda had done.

All three Whitmore sisters were odd in their own ways. For Winnie to grow up in such an environment and not turn out to be someone with a distorted worldview was a miracle.

"I feel like sometimes, my mom can be a little stubborn."

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[ 663 words ]

Even though Yolanda said that it was okay, Winnie still felt very guilty.

"Whatever. I'll talk to her when I have time."

Winnie didn't seem to want to dwell any longer on this topic of conversation, so she moved her attention to evening gowns.

"Can I just borrow an ordinary evening gown? I don't know anyone else other than Julie at that cocktail party. I don't want to stand out too much."

One of Winnie's strong points was that she didn't like being the center of attention. She knew very well that she had come from an ordinary family background, and wouldn't even have the chance to attend functions like these if it weren't for Julie.

This time, Julie had insisted that she be there. If it wasn't for this, Winnie would have found an excuse to sit out of this.

She was clear that dressing up flamboyantly in situations like these was not going to be beneficial to her at all. On the contrary, it would attract trouble to her instead. So, she just applied a thin layer of foundation and some lipstick without any other makeup like eyeliner, eye shadow, blusher, and others.

"Just choose whichever you like."

Other than the custom gown Yolanda had made for her current figure, she didn't have any other ordinary gowns. Those with the standard sizes were either Louis Vuitton or custom pieces from boutique brands. She had bought some of these, and Gavin had also gotten her some as well.

However, since she had to keep the disguise to have the same figure as the original Yolanda, she didn't have many opportunities to wear these gowns.

"So many gowns!" Winnie initially thought Yolanda would only have a few gowns, so when Yolanda brought her to her specialized gown wardrobe, Winnie was dumbfounded.

All the gowns displayed there were clearly worth a fortune. She felt almost lightheaded looking at the choices before her. She didn't dare to make any choices.

"Just pick something you like."

Yolanda saw Winnie's distress and took the initiative to recommend some pieces to her.

"I feel like this mermaid gown in royal blue would suit you very well. There's also that black piece there with embroidered diamonds-

"Uhh, I'll try this one." Winnie thought both the ones Yolanda had mentioned were too glamorous, so she picked out a pastel yellow knee-length dress that was by the door.

Yolanda didn't say anything more. She went ahead and took out all the matching accessories for that dress.

Winnie had a different shoe size than Yolanda. Since she was wearing a pair of heels that were suitable for a formal occasion, Yolanda left Winnie with that instead of helping her style it differently.

"This is it then." Winnie changed fairly quickly. She didn't really care about what she was wearing. She merely wanted to be decently dressed so she wouldn't humiliate herself in a social event with the high society.

Yolanda stepped in to put the diamond necklace and earrings on her as she asked Winnie casually, "How's work recently?"

Winnie saw the expensive diamond necklace in Yolanda's hand and was about to reject it, but was distracted by Yolanda's question.

"No news yet."

Previously, she had quit her job to prepare for an interview at Cinnamine Pharmaceuticals, but when the interview date was confirmed, she had second thoughts.

"Did you not want to go to Cinnamine Pharmaceuticals, or did you already go for the interview and got rejected?"

Yolanda was a little surprised.

She wanted to talk to Cinnamine Pharmaceuticals' HR manager to get Winnie hired, but she also knew Winnie well enough to know that she wouldn't be willing to enter the company if Yolanda pulled strings for her.

It wasn't impossible for Winnie to be hired at Cinnamine Pharmaceuticals based on her own ability, so Yolanda didn't interfere.

"Uhh... I don't feel like going there anymore." Winnie contemplated for a while before deciding to tell Yolanda the truth.

"I don't want to be in the same company as Edward and his cronies, including Stella, Kelly, and the rest. I don't want anything to do with them at all."

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## Chapter 595

[ 681 words ]

The incident at the pub last time had Winnie realizing that they were totally different people, so she didn't want to have any other further interactions with them.

"If you're worried about this, I can tell you that Edward left Cinnamine

Pharmaceuticals. This is also the case for Stella and the rest. They have all left. This is internal news."

"They have all left?" Winnie didn't have doubts about where Yolanda got her news from since she was acquainted with all the big bosses. It was only normal for her to be able to know insider news.

"They had such great jobs. Why did they all resign?" Winnie was a little confused since Edward exaggeratedly praised Cinnamine Pharmaceuticals the last time they met.

He seemed like the kind of person who wouldn't resign on his own.

"It's too late to say all this now. I didn't go for the interview in the end."

"Send your resume to their HR department once again. Maybe they'll give you another chance."

"We'll see how things go."

Winnie didn't carry much too much hope even after hearing what Yolanda had to say.

Since she had missed her prior appointment with a big company like Cinnamine Pharmaceuticals, it was highly unlikely that she would be called back for an interview again.

"Time's almost up. I gotta go," Winnie said as she checked her appearance one more time in the mirror.

"Is there anything I should take note of at the cocktail party? Is there something I should do or something I shouldn't do? If there's a charcuterie platter, can I just help myself to it?"

Winnie had never attended any cocktail parties before this. Even though Julie was the one extending the invite to her, she was still a little nervous.

"Do you want me to go with you?" Instead of answering her question, Yolanda shot her with another question.

"Wait, you're willing to go with me?" Winnie's eyes gleamed as she nodded and said, "Of course!"

Initially, she had also thought of persuading Yolanda to go with her to the cocktail party, but she felt like Yolanda might not like occasions like these, so she didn't mention anything to Yolanda.

Yolanda's offer to go with her to the cocktail party was an answered prayer for her.

"Even though Julie will be there, she has to socialize, so I'm actually feeling kind of nervous to be on my own. If you can accompany me, I can rest assured."

Yolanda changed into a white dress, took her bag, and walked out of the villa with Winnie.

There weren't many dresses of her current size. The dress that she was wearing was a dress Diana prepared for her when she tricked Yolanda into wearing it for a blind date. Since Yolanda had no plans on maintaining the disguise for long, she didn't bother spending additional money making other dresses.

They were not the main characters of the cocktail party anyway. They were just going to show up and get some food.

When she thought about this, Yolanda turned to Winnie and said, "It's just like another social gathering. Don't be too nervous. If ill-intentioned people try to talk for you, just ignore them."

Most of the people who would be attending the cocktail party would be people who cared for their reputation, so they couldn't exactly humiliate Winnie in public. Since Yolanda was going to be there as well, even if Winnie were to face problems, she had nothing to be afraid of.

They got into a cab after they got out of the door.

"Julie is the one throwing the party this time. She has invited a lot of big business owners and higher management members. She said she wanted to take this opportunity to introduce more people to me."

Winnie understood that Julie was doing it for her good, but she really didn't want to socialize. She didn't want connections like these.

She was from an ordinary background. Even if she had the chance to get to know the second generations of wealthy families and big business owners, she was still from a different world than they were.

"I've already told her that I'll only be there for a while. It shouldn't take too long."

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[ 620 words ]

"Okay." Yolanda nodded, even as she tried to decipher Julie's purpose for throwing that cocktail party.

Julie was Boris' subordinate. While Boris had recently poked his nose into the conflict between Cayden and all other forces of Riverdale, Yolanda wondered if this party had anything to do with that.

Previously, Yolanda didn't know that Julie was the one organizing this party, so she didn't think too much of it. Now that she had known that, she felt the need to go and take a look, just in case any schemes were at play. If there was, she could inform Zach and the rest about it.

The hotel Julie chose was in the central district, so it only took them half an hour before they arrived at the location.

After getting out of the cab, Winnie gave Julie a call. Soon after, Julie came out of the hotel.

"Julie! Over here!" Winnie waved to Julie and pulled Yolanda along with her.

When Julie saw Winnie, she was ecstatic. However, when she laid eyes on Yolanda, who was beside Winnie, she couldn't help but frown.

"Why did you bring her, Winnie?"

"I bumped into her, so I got her to come along," Winnie said without batting an eye.

"You bringing her here would affect my introduction of new friends to you," Julie grumbled unhappily. Coldness flashed in her eyes as she looked at Yolanda.

Both she and Edna got dreadfully yelled at by Boris because of what had happened at Caldwell's Antiques. If Julie could kill Yolanda to appease her anger, she most definitely would.

However, there were some things Julie couldn't say in front of Winnie, so all she could do was glare at Yolanda.

To Julie, Yolanda, albeit a little clever, was no match for her at all even if Yolanda had caused them to lose thousands of millions at the antique shop, and with Jamie not being able to cause her harm. She was merely gallivanting around town with the Seinfeld family's influence anyway.

Yolanda's background had determined the extent of her maximum achievable growth.

No matter how capable a discarded pawn chased out by a second-line family was, she would just be a clown in the circus.

That was why even when Julie had suffered major losses whenever Yolanda was involved, she merely hated Yolanda. She had no apprehension toward Yolanda at all.

To her, Yolanda was not qualified to be her opponent at all. Even if Yolanda had displayed a little sense of intelligence, it didn't amount to anything substantial.

"Okay, let's go in now. You're the host tonight. It wouldn't be nice for you to be out here for too long." Winnie smiled as she tugged Julie's arm.

"She's my cousin, Julie. She might be a little stoic, but when you get to know her better, I'm sure you'll like her too."

"Like her? Hah! Not in this lifetime," Julie thought as her face grew stormy, but she didn't argue with Winnie.

She didn't want Winnie to be unhappy now since her inviting Winnie to this cocktail party wasn't just for her to come and have fun.

"You can go in first, Winnie. I'll introduce a few people to you later so you can get to know them. These are big shots.

"Once you get to know them, it will be very helpful to your future development."

As Julie spoke, she pulled Winnie into the hall. She didn't care about Yolanda at all.

Yolanda wasn't anxious. She merely followed behind Winnie and Julie as they entered the hotel.

Yolanda didn't have an invitation. However, before Winnie entered, she had deliberately told the guards that Yolanda was with them.

Julie's frown was etched on her face for a very long time. However, she didn't oppose that. That was why Yolanda was able to enter the hall successfully.

"Slow down, Julie! Let's wait for Yolanda."

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[ 674 words ]

As Winnie walked, she kept turning back to see if Yolanda was following along.

"She's an adult. She won't lose her way that easily. Why do you care so much for her?" Julie grumbled exasperatedly.

"You're too foolish. If I were you, I wouldn't even bring stupid fools like her to the cocktail party with me."

"How could you say such a thing, Julie?" Against Julie's snarky remarks, Winnie, who usually had a good temperament, got angry.

"Yolanda is my cousin. No matter how much you dislike her, you shouldn't talk ill about her in front of me. This is just basic courtesy between friends, isn't it? If I badmouthed your family to you, would you be happy about that?"

Julie's words got lodged in her throat. She didn't speak for a very long time. After that, she said unwillingly, "She's just your cousin."

"How is she considered your immediate family? I advise you to distance yourself from her. She isn't as simpleminded as you think."

"All these are just your biased views, Julie!"

Winnie didn't want to continue with this topic of conversation with Julie, so she tried again. "You're the organizer of today's cocktail party, Julie. You must be very busy. You can just leave me be."

After she was done, Winnie turned around and headed toward Yolanda.

"Yolanda, let's head to the treats area to get something to eat."

Julie stood there. A storm was brewing on her face as she glared intently at Yolanda. Coldness filled her gaze.

Winnie would never speak to her like this last time. She had known Winnie for so long. She knew Winnie very well.

However, she got one thing wrong. Winnie might have a good temperament, but it didn't mean that she was without emotions. If anyone were to do anything she couldn't accept in her presence, she would still get riled up.

"Let's go." Yolanda cast a sidelong glance at Julie as she deduced Julie's purpose of inviting Winnie today.

Although she might not know how Julie and Winnie usually interacted, she could tell that Julie was clearly mad just now, but still suppressed her emotions and tried to talk to Winnie without exploding.

That would mean that, at least in the current situation, Julie didn't want to offend Winnie.

Initially, Winnie would be the most invisible guest amongst everyone else at that cocktail party since she had come from a totally different background from the rest of the guests and had never interacted with them before.

Julie's purpose of inviting Winnie was indeed an intriguing one.

However, Yolanda didn't tell Winnie of her hypothesis. Instead, she brought Winnie to get a plate of snacks and they sat down in a quieter area.

On occasions like these, no one would take the initiative to strike up a conversation with Yolanda. She was also used to it and had hoped that it would continue like this.

On the other hand, because of her stunning looks, Winnie had garnered attention from quite a lot of people the moment she entered through the door.

However, those who were clearly interested in Winnie would only dare to look at her from afar. No one dared to go to them to strike up a conversation with Winnie.

Winnie and Yolanda were very relaxed.

As Yolanda took a bite of cake, she looked at Julie, who wasn't far away. She had a few guesses about what she was planning to do.

"These treats taste pretty good, Yolanda!"

Winnie was completely oblivious to the fact that she had become a tool for her good friend to achieve their personal gains. Instead, she was in a serious conversation with Yolanda about the sweet treats she had tried.

"If the chocolate on top was a little more bitter, it would be even better..."

Winnie had a sweet tooth, and it was a rare occasion for her to be able to eat desserts from a five-star hotel. She might initially be a little angry at Julie because of her attitude toward Yolanda, but after having eaten some desserts, her mood visibly brightened.

"Try this too! I know a patisserie that has opera cake tastier than this. I'll take you there one day."

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## Chapter 598

[ 557 words ]

Yolanda ate and talked to Winnie at the same time. Then, she was reminded of Yvonne wanting to ask her out, so she asked Winnie, "When you were in the hospital, did Yvonne tell you anything?"

"Huh?" Winnie thought back carefully and said, "She was in a bad mood that day. She initially had something she wanted me to pass to you, but after that, she said she would pass it to you herself. Has she given it to you yet?"

"Not yet. What is it?"

"Some daily living necessities, and your usual skincare products, I think."

When Yolanda heard Winnie talk about skincare products, she immediately knew what Yvonne was up to.

Yolanda was a little intrigued to know what had caused Yvonne to change her mind. Could Yvonne want to turn over a new leaf and make peace with her just because she saved her once?

According to Yvonne's personality, that would be impossible.

If Yvonne had any consideration of their relationship as sisters, she wouldn't think to poison Yolanda at all.

However, one thing that was for sure was that Yvonne couldn't have done the poisoning alone. That would include how the original Yolanda was detained in the juvenile detention center for three whole years for some crime she was accused of that appeared out of nowhere.

If no one helped Yvonne out, she could never have achieved such a thing.

Yolanda was also intrigued to know who this person might be. They expended so much effort to help Yvonne bring harm to Yolanda. This made Yolanda curious about their purpose for doing all of this.

However, Yolanda was certain that Yvonne was only a pawn of the mastermind behind this. Yolanda still wanted to bait the mastermind out through Yvonne, so she didn't want to alert the enemy right now.

"Yolanda, I feel like Yvonne really wanted you to go home."

Winnie didn't know about the story between Yolanda and Yvonne. Since she was tricked by Yvonne's acting skills, she genuinely thought that Yvonne had hoped for Yolanda to go home.

"Have a proper talk with her when you have time, okay?"

"I will." Yolanda smiled mysteriously.

She was certainly going to have a proper conversation with Yvonne. How else could she expose Yvonne's little devilish plans?

"I'll go get another piece of cake, Yolanda. What else do you want to eat?"

Winnie finished the cake on her plate and was planning to bring more food back with her. She was not interested in mingling. Other than Julie and Yolanda, she knew nobody else, so she could only sit in the corner, eating and drinking her heart out.

"I'd like a soda please." Yolanda passed her empty glass to Winnie. "Okay, I'll be right back."

As Winnie had left to get more food, Yolanda looked up to survey the guests in the hall. As she found no one she knew, she retracted her gaze.

Suddenly, Yolanda caught sight of a woman walking toward her from the corner of her eye.

She didn't even need to turn to be able to picture how arrogant and insufferable Julie's expression was.

"You're so shameless. How dare you use Winnie as your stepping stone that you would come and freeload on food and drinks here?" Julie snarked unpleasantly.

"You're so loathed, yet you're still shamelessly here. So daft indeed."

Yolanda ignored Julie. She whipped out her phone and started scrolling through the local news like Julie didn't exist.

"Hey, I'm talking to you."

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[ 528 words ]

Julie's voice was laced with anger, but she tried to keep her voice low.

"If I were you, I wouldn't drag Winnie down with me."

"What do you mean by that?" Yolanda had finally lifted her head and glanced at Julie.

Even though she had guessed why Julie had invited Winnie, she wanted to hear Julie say it.

"Hah! You're just degrading Winnie to your level by standing next to her, you stupid bumpkin. Do you know how off putting you look?"

Julie previously suffered from Yolanda's scheming at Caldwell's Antiques and felt like she had anger stuck in her chest. That anger could not be released. So naturally, she tried to use all sorts of mean words in an attempt to destroy Yolanda's self-esteem.

What she failed to realize was that her words had caused no harm to Yolanda at all, and in turn, made her look like a complete joke.

"Are you done yet?" Yolanda looked apathetically at Julie like she was just watching a clown perform her act.

"Do you understand the words that are coming out of my mouth?"

Yolanda didn't react at all, causing Julie to feel as if her full-strength punch landed like a joke on the pillows.

She was so humiliated that she roared at Yolanda. "Do you need me to get someone to throw you out before you finally realize that you have no right to be here?"

"Who are you to determine if I have the right or not?" Yolanda got up and snapped back at Julie when she saw Winnie coming back with a tray in her hand.

"I am the host here today. Everything I say goes!" Julie spat through gritted teeth. "Even if you pretend to be a know-it-all, you gotta know your limits."

"What are you talking about, Julie?"

Winnie came to Julie's side. Her curiosity was peaking. She knew for sure that Julie didn't like Yolanda, so she was very surprised to find Julie engaging in a conversation with her.

"N-nothing much." Julie hid the menace in her eyes and replied to Winnie nonchalantly, "It seems like your cousin isn't feeling too well and wants to go home."

"Should I arrange for someone to send her home?"

She didn't want to burn all bridges with Yolanda, destroying all her plans. So, if Yolanda knew what was best for her, she would back off and all would be well.

"Are you feeling unwell, Yolanda?" Winnie looked at Yolanda. She was a little surprised, so she questioned her with concern.

"Are you feeling dizzy? Does your stomach hurt? Could it be because the previous cup of juice was too cold?"

Winnie placed the tray she was holding onto the patio, came to Yolanda, and felt Yolanda's forehead with her hand.

Yolanda was slightly taken aback. Then, a hint of a smile appeared as she shook her head. "I feel like your friend might have misunderstood. I don't feel unwell." "Really?" Winnie looked at Yolanda doubtfully and asked once more, "Are you pretending to be okay? If you feel horrible, I'll go to the doctor with you now."

"Have you forgotten that I'm a doctor myself?"

"Right..." Winnie had just remembered that Yolanda had medical skills, and realized that she might have automatically, and massively overreacted. "Are you really okay?"

"I'm fine."

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## Chapter 600

[ 609 words ]

Julie rolled her eyes as she listened to Yolanda and Winnie's conversation. It was embarrassing how Yolanda had the nerve to call herself a doctor when she was still a student!

What made it worse was that Winnie was actually playing along with Yolanda's bragging. It frustrated Julie to see her friend acting this way.

Winnie was starting to give off the same lower-class vibe since she had been hanging around with someone like that. How could she ever hope to move up in society?

Julie couldn't exactly have Yolanda thrown out now even though she would not leave. She could only shoot Yolanda a warning glance, silently telling her to behave and not mess up her plans to set Winnie up with someone worthwhile.

"Ms. Monroe!"

While Winnie and Yolanda were talking, another guest approached their group with a drink in hand. He wore a custom-tailored Harlowe suit from their spring collection, and the scent of his herbal cologne announced his presence before he even reached them.

Winnie could not help but look at him. She was somewhat taken aback by his appearance. The young man had clean-cut features and a charming smile, and his impeccable style made him pleasant enough to look at.

Yet after her initial surprise, she felt her brow furrow instinctively. Something about the way he looked at her made her uncomfortable, though she couldn't quite put her finger on why.

"Perfect timing, Mr. Langley! Let me make some introductions." Julie beamed at the approaching young man. "This is my bestie, Winnie Summers. Winnie, this is George Langley. He's a big shot from Creybia!"

The Langley family? Yolanda sized up this man. While there were several prominent families with that surname in the capital, she was not sure which family he belonged to. But like Winnie, she took an immediate dislike to him.

Winnie's reaction was pure instinct, but Yolanda's distaste came from observation of his behavior. When Julie introduced Winnie, he had looked her up and down like he was appraising some merchandise. He carried himself with that entitled air of someone who had never learned to respect others.

Worse still, he made no attempt to hide his interest in Winnie. Meanwhile, his disdain for Yolanda, who was standing right beside Winnie, was equally obvious.

Julie smiled in satisfaction when she noticed George's reaction. She then ignored Yolanda on purpose. "Winnie, Mr. Langley has come such a long way, so he's our honored guest. You should keep him company while I greet some other guests."

Before Winnie could protest, Julie had already turned and walked toward the center of the ballroom.

"Wait, Julie..." Winnie called after her, but she acted as if she heard nothing and did not even look back.

"Why don't you sit and have a drink with me, beautiful?" George made himself comfortable on the couch by the coffee table. He even reached out as if to pull Winnie down beside him. He seemed oblivious to her discomfort.

"I'm sorry, I don't drink." Winnie smoothly stepped back from his reach. She pulled Yolanda with her to sit across from him. Sitting up straight, her hands were secretly clenched into fists.

Even someone as naive as her could see Julie's matchmaking attempt for what it was. But she had zero interest in dealing with arrogant trust fund kids like him.

After Julie left, an awkward silence fell over the group. Winnie didn't know what to say, and Yolanda had no desire to speak. They then decided to ignore George as if he was not even there.

Winnie had hoped George would get bored and leave, but instead, he actually tried to start a conversation with her. "So beautiful, how old are you? What do you like to do for fun?"

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