

Rebirth of the Deadly Beauty

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Chapter 601

[567 words]

"I'm the same age as Julie," Winnie replied stiffly. She was put off by George's flirtatious tone, but she answered honestly out of respect for Julie.

"As for hobbies... I enjoy reading."

"Reading? How boring. You should come out with me sometime. I'll show you what real fun is like!"

Though George was supposedly asking Winnie out, his tone carried a hint of disdain. His eyes, however, never left her face. They were filled with an obvious hunger that thankfully went unnoticed by Winnie, who kept her head down out of

nervousness.

Anyone who caught that predatory look would have felt sick to their stomach.

Yolanda's gaze turned cold. She was about to lead Winnie away when George beat her to it by trying to get rid of her first. Annoyed by Yolanda's presence, George barked at her, "Hey! Go get me another champagne!"

When Yolanda didn't move, he raised his voice. "I'm talking to you! Are you deaf?"

Since Julie had not bothered to introduce Yolanda, he didn't care to know her name. "How dare you ignore my orders?"

"She's my cousin, not a server here!" Winnie frowned and grabbed Yolanda's hand. "We need to deal with some stuff, so we'll be leaving now."

"Did I say you could go?" Anger flashed in George's eyes. He was used to beautiful women falling over themselves to get his attention wherever he went. No one had ever dared to give him an attitude like Winnie just did.

"Are you sure you can handle the consequences of rejecting me?"

He figured Julie must not have properly explained his background to Winnie. Besides, he was still very much interested in her, so he suppressed his anger. "I'm the heir to the Langley family—one of the most powerful pharmaceutical families of doctors in Creybia!"

A powerful pharmaceutical family in Creybia...

From what Yolanda knew, while there were many pharmaceutical families in the capital, the Langleys probably dealt with medical supplies and equipment.

Though not as prestigious as families like the Caldwells or the Hendersons, they were considered up-and-coming. Many other families even sought marriage alliances with theirs.

But compared to the old-money families, they were still far from being in the same league. Yolanda only knew of their existence. She had no reason to know who their head of family was or its members.

"So what? Why should I do what you say just because you're the heir to whatever family?" Winnie snickered and asked. "It's not like I'm trying to work for your company!"

Speechless, George shot up from the couch. He had never encountered such an ungrateful woman before. But he had always been stubborn. The more she resisted, the more determined he became to conquer her.

"Believe it or not, you won't be able to find a decent job anywhere in Riverdale if I say so!"

George was confident in this threat. While he couldn't actually blacklist her from every company in Riverdale, he had enough pull with several major corporations to make hiring or firing someone easy. He figured this would be enough to scare a naive woman like her.

Sure enough, he caught a flicker of hesitation in Winnie's eyes, and she stopped talking back. George's face lit up with smug satisfaction.

"That's more like it. Stick with me, and I'll make sure you're set for life. Your monthly income will be fifty times what it is now. I only have one requirement— that you come when I call..."

As he spoke, he reached out to touch Winnie's face.

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[443 words]

But before George could touch Winnie's face, Yolanda grabbed his wrist.

"You-" George tried to pull away but couldn't break free. Instead, the grip on his wrist only tightened painfully.

"Let go of me, you little bitch!"

Yolanda released his wrist as requested, but with a shove that sent him tumbling back onto the couch.

"What do you think you're doing?"

George was surprised by Yolanda's strength. He tried to save face by acting as if he was the one who had decided to sit down and ignore Yolanda. He even crossed his legs casually.

He was not worried about what she might do. Not only were there security guards throughout the ballroom, but he had brought six of his own bodyguards from Creybia. Each one of them was hand-picked for their exceptional skills. With such backup, he did not believe Yolanda could cause any real trouble. "Didn't you want me to get you champagne?" Yolanda asked with a cold smile.

"Hmph! Good to see you know your place!" George sneered while waving her away. While George indulged in fantasies about getting Winnie alone and perhaps convincing her to join him at his hotel, Winnie shot Yolanda a worried glance.

"I'll be right back," Yolanda whispered to Winnie before walking toward the champagne tower nearby.

After Yolanda left, Winnie became even more guarded. She only gave minimal responses to George's questions.

Having hit several dead ends, George's patience began wearing thin. But Yolanda returned with a glass of champagne just then. She placed it in front of George and sat back down beside Winnie.

"We really need to go..." Winnie started to stand, but Yolanda tugged at her sleeve and turned to George.

"Since Julie introduced us, it would be rude to leave just like that."

George gave her a smug look, missing the cold glint in her eyes as she spoke. Then Yolanda raised her own glass and gestured to Winnie. "Let's have one drink with him before we go."

She gave Winnie a subtle wink. Though unsure of Yolanda's plan, Winnie obediently picked up her glass.

George's tone softened. "If you really have somewhere to be, I won't keep you."

He downed the champagne Yolanda had brought him in one gulp, then licked his lips with greed. "Just give me your number and wait for my call..."

Winnie was speechless. This man really thought he was some kind of king. Did he expect her to be on standby 24/7 while waiting for his summons?

She was also annoyed with Julie. Regardless of her friend's motives, introducing her to such a creep was totally inappropriate.

But since Julie was hosting the party, Winnie decided to avoid making a scene and simply pulled Yolanda toward the exit without another word.

"Stop right there!"

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Chapter 603

[577 words]

As George tried to pester Winnie and Yolanda, he suddenly clutched at his neck with a pale face. When he looked at his hand, he found the back of his hand covered in red hives.

"What the hell is this?!" His entire body began itching unbearably, so he scratched his skin hard. When he rolled up his sleeves, he found his wrists covered in a dense rash of red welts too.

"Ahh!" Two passing women screamed when they saw George's face. The rash had spread there too. The sight of it alarmed the nearby guests.

Their screams drew more attention. Everyone who saw George recoiled in shock.

"What's going on?" Julie rushed over at the commotion. She was startled by George's appearance too.

"This must be an allergic reaction. He needs to get to a hospital!" someone called from the crowd. "Allergies can be serious. Someone call an ambulance!"

George couldn't even speak. He just stood there while frantically scratching his skin. He broke open the hives, which released a nauseating odor.

"God, that smell!"

"Is it infected?"

"That's disgusting..."

The guests pointed at George and gossiped while keeping their distance. They were afraid the reaction might be contagious.

Seeing the pain George was in, Yolanda took advantage of the chaos and pulled Winnie through the crowd and out of the hotel. Julie was too preoccupied to notice them leaving. Once outside, Winnie let out a shaky breath.

"His face looked terrifying... Was that really an allergic reaction? But he didn't eat anything. He only drank the champagne!" Winnie was puzzled. Surely if George was allergic to alcohol, he would not have drunk it willingly.

"Maybe he's not the healthiest." Yolanda pretended to know nothing.

She was not exactly trying to hide things from Winnie. She had only meant to teach George a lesson by adding a small amount of allergy-inducing powder to his champagne. It looked scary but wouldn't cause anaphylactic shock or kill him. Julie would be too busy to think it through now. And by the time they figured out someone had tampered with the drink, it would be better if Winnie didn't know too much so that she would not be dragged into this.

"People with sensitive systems can get reactions like that," Winnie agreed. She did not suspect anything. "I remember a classmate who was allergic to mangoes. One bite and she'd break out in hives. It could get dangerous if she wasn't careful.

"Though I can't say I feel sorry for someone like George having an allergic reaction."

Seeming to have thought of something, Winnie added, "Yolanda, I'm so glad you came with me today. I don't know how I would've gotten away from him otherwise! This is exactly why I hate these kinds of events!"

She hated the fake socializing and especially hated being sized up like an object by men.

"You should keep your distance from Julie." Yolanda usually would not badmouth someone behind their back. But she felt she needed to warn Winnie about Julie's obvious ill intentions.

"Well, she's actually not that bad..." Winnie was still reluctant to think badly of Julie despite being angry. "She probably meant well at first. She just didn't consider how I'd feel about it."

Winnie always tried to see the good in people, which was an admirable trait that unfortunately made her vulnerable in today's society.

Knowing Winnie wouldn't cut ties with Julie even if she told her to, Yolanda offered instead, "You can ask me to come with you the next time you can't get out of one of these gatherings."

"Thanks, Yolanda!"

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Chapter 604

[520 words]

Winnie gave Yolanda a sheepish smile. "Even though I'm supposed to be your older cousin, you seem so much more mature than me..."

"Hey, are you hungry? Those little cakes couldn't have been filling. Let me treat you to some barbecue! I know this place that makes amazing grilled ribs!"

"Sure." Yolanda smiled warmly at Winnie. It didn't matter if Winnie was naive. At least no one would be able to take advantage of her while Yolanda was in Riverdale.

Meanwhile, Julie was having a rough time. The Caldwell family had been gaining influence lately, and even Boris was interested in having George work for him. That was why Julie had hosted this party on Boris' behalf to entertain George. She even introduced Winnie to him as a way to please him.

She never expected that George would have an allergic reaction and end up being rushed to the hospital by ambulance. After questioning the event staff, she had no proof but had a strong feeling that Yolanda was behind it.

"That bitch!" This was the third time Yolanda had ruined her plans and got her in trouble with Boris. Julie stood anxiously outside the emergency room. She clutched her phone and did not know how to explain this to Boris.

"Ms. Monroe!" Right then, her bodyguard hurried over. "The hospital admission paperwork is all taken care of."

"Okay." Julie was distracted. She glanced at the emergency room again before instructing her staff, "Stay here and let me know when Boris arrives!"

With that, she walked out of the emergency center with her phone in hand.

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The next day, Dunstan called Yolanda to tell her Kieran had woken up. She got permission to miss class and went straight to Willow Creek Clinic.

"Ms. Henderson!" When Yolanda entered, Dunstan was disinfecting the examination area.

"Is Mr. Morrison awake?" Yolanda addressed Kieran just as respectfully as the original Yolanda had.

"Yes, the nurse told me he woke up briefly in the early morning but fell back asleep shortly after." Knowing how concerned Yolanda was about Kieran's condition, Dunstan had called her immediately after learning this.

"I'll go check on him."

Yolanda went to Kieran's room in the back wing. The nurse had just finished washing Kieran's face. She was about to leave with a basin of water when she saw Yolanda and greeted her respectfully. "Ms. Henderson, you're here!"

"Did he only wake up once in the early morning?" Yolanda asked while looking at Kieran lying in bed.

"He wasn't really conscious. He didn't say anything, and he just opened his eyes for a few seconds before falling back asleep," the nurse explained.

"Thank you for your hard work." Yolanda nodded to the nurse and went to the bedside to check Kieran's pulse. The nurse quietly left with the basin.

His pulse was normal. Yolanda suspected he might be staying unconscious by choice. He might not want to wake up. Though she didn't know what had happened to him, it was clear he'd had a rough time after leaving juvenile detention.

After checking on Kieran, Yolanda returned to the clinic's front area. As soon as she got there, Dunstan rushed over and whispered, "Ms. Henderson, someone's here asking for Mr. Morrison."

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[466 words]

"Looking for Mr. Morrison?"

Yolanda was briefly puzzled before realizing they meant Kieran. When she had first brought him to Willow Creek Clinic, she had tried to contact his family. She'd learned he only had a wife, no children.

However, his wife had temporarily returned to her parents' home, which was away from Riverdale.

As for the Morrison family, they showed no concern whatsoever after Dunstan called them about Kieran being sick and in the clinic. They did not even visit. It was as if they were afraid they'd be asked to pay his medical bills.

Following Dunstan's gaze, Yolanda spotted a middle-aged woman sitting on the waiting room bench. The woman had delicate features but was dressed simply. Even so, her refined features and natural elegance couldn't be hidden. She must have been quite beautiful in her youth.

This must be Kieran's wife, Selena Durand. The original Yolanda remembered seeing a photo of her with Kieran back at juvenile detention, and Yolanda's own investigation had confirmed this was indeed his wife.

Notably, Selena had filed a missing persons report for Kieran a year ago. The police had treated it as a routine missing persons case, with no resolution to date.

When Yolanda had tried contacting the Morrison family earlier, she'd learned Selena had gone to her parents' place. Seeing her travel-worn appearance now, she surmised that Selena must have come straight here upon returning to Riverdale.

Yolanda asked Dunstan to continue attending to patients while she approached Selena.

"Hello, I'm Kieran Morrison's wife. Are you the one who saved my husband?" Selena stood as Yolanda approached. Though Dunstan had briefed her, and while she was surprised by Yolanda's youth for a doctor, her tone showed no contempt or distrust.

"I found Mr. Morrison on the street."

"Mr. Morrison?" Selena looked at Yolanda questioningly.

"He used to volunteer at juvenile detention. He was like a teacher to me."

This surprised Selena further, but she did not ask why Yolanda had been in juvenile detention. "Thank you so much, Ms. Henderson!"

"Please, call me Yolanda." Kieran had been so kind to the original Yolanda. Since he had been her only hope back in juvenile detention, Yolanda wanted to show proper respect to both him and his wife.

"You're Mr. Morrison's wife, so I should address you more formally."

"You're so considerate of relationships, Ms. Henderson."

Selena smiled. She knew that even as a volunteer at juvenile detention, Kieran's help to Yolanda must have been limited and was hardly worthy of being called a teacher. But seeing Yolanda's sincerity, she didn't press the issue.

"I'll call you Yolanda then. May I see my husband?"

"He's resting in the back wing. Follow me." Yolanda led Selena back there. As soon as she entered the room and saw Kieran lying there, pale and haggard, Selena could not hold back her tears.

"I'll go check if Mr. Morrison's medicine is ready."

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Chapter 606

[566 words]

Yolanda pretended not to notice Selena's emotional state and quietly stepped out. She closed the door behind her. When she returned with the medicine, Selena had composed herself.

"Yolanda, thank you so much for taking care of my husband. Could you tell me about his condition? When might he wake up?"

"That's hard to say."

Yolanda set the medicine on the bedside table and explained to Selena, "Mr. Morrison's physical condition is stable, but he hasn't regained consciousness. This likely has a lot to do with his mental state."

"Perhaps something happened that's making him reluctant to wake up, or he's experiencing some kind of psychological avoidance from trauma before he collapsed. When I found Mr. Morrison, he was injured and very weak. Do you know what happened to him over the past year?"

Selena's eyes darkened, and she shook her head. "I don't know. One day he said he needed to take care of something, and then suddenly I couldn't contact him. If the police hadn't notified me, I wouldn't even know he'd been found."

Selena covered her mouth as she coughed. "I'm sorry, I've been unwell myself, so I was staying at my parents' to recover. I just returned to Riverdale two days ago."

Yolanda knew Selena's recovery had been more out of necessity. While investigating Kieran, she'd learned about the Morrison family situation. After Kieran's disappearance, his relatives had been eyeing his assets.

"Let me examine you."

Looking at Selena's complexion, Yolanda could tell she was just weak and fatigued rather than seriously ill. While having rest and peace of mind would be best, that was impossible given her situation.

Not only had her husband been missing, but her in-laws had also been trying to take over their house and squeeze out what little money Kieran had left.

"Thank you." Selena extended her arm and revealed her delicate wrist. Poor nutrition had left her skin an unhealthy pale.

"Nothing too serious, but you need rest. Don't overexert yourself." Yolanda thought for a moment, then added, "I'll write you a prescription. After two courses, it should help with your migraines."

"How did you know I get headaches?" Selena was surprised, then remembered Yolanda was a doctor here and smiled sheepishly. "Sorry, I'm still not used to someone so young being able to treat patients. It's really amazing of you!"

"At juvenile detention, Mr. Morrison would often bring me books to read. It helped me a lot."

For the original Yolanda, Kieran had been the most important person during her time in detention. Without his warmth, she might have had thoughts of ending her life before even getting out.

"Though he never mentioned you to me, I believe any child he cared about must have a good heart." Selena took Yolanda's hand. "Whatever mistakes you made before, that's in the past. Don't dwell on it. What matters is how you move forward."

Selena was so kind and understanding. Most people who learned about Yolanda's history in juvenile detention would look down on her. Some even openly mocked her. But Selena did not treat her like a troubled teen. She believed that Yolanda couldn't be a delinquent.

"Yes, I will." Though she was not the original Yolanda anymore, she felt grateful that the original had met such kind people.

"By the way, I couldn't come immediately because I was at my parents' place. But now that I'm back, I shouldn't trouble you any longer. I'll call a cab and take my husband home to recover."

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Chapter 607

[480 words]

"This clinic is the best place for Mr. Morrison's recovery right now." Yolanda only said that because she knew Selena was just worried about being a burden.

"If anything happens with his condition, we can treat him immediately. As for the costs, don't worry about that. This is my clinic, so please feel at ease letting him recover here."

"This is your clinic?" Selena looked at Yolanda again with surprise. She had thought Yolanda just worked here instead of owning the place.

"Mr. Morrison took good care of me before, so I'm just returning the favor. Please don't feel burdened."

"Well... then I suppose my husband will have to trouble you a while longer..." Selena hesitated before agreeing. She knew Yolanda had a point. In her current situation, she really could not provide Kieran with the careful attention he needed.

"But we should still pay for his treatment and stay. I..." Selena trailed off, looking embarrassed.

Yolanda knew she probably did not have much money with her now. Selena had lost a pregnancy and her health had worsened, so Kieran told her to quit work and rest. After his disappearance, she had lost their income source.

With little savings, she'd had to rent a small market stall to make ends meet. But overwork and worry about Kieran had made her ill. That was why her brother took her to their parents' home in the neighboring province to recover.

Having just returned, she only had the ten thousand dollars her parents had given her. It was barely enough to cover even the hospital stay, let alone the medicine.

"Mrs. Morrison, don't worry about it now. We're family. We can sort out the costs after Mr. Morrison wakes up." Yolanda knew Selena would not accept free treatment, so it was better to postpone the discussion until Kieran woke up.

"Thank you so much!" Selena accepted Yolanda's gracious offer after hearing her words. "We'll definitely pay for everything once Kieran wakes up. Thank you for taking care of him when I couldn't find him."

Though Yolanda mentioned owing Kieran a debt, Selena did not take advantage of this or take Yolanda's kindness for granted. She knew that while Kieran had volunteered at juvenile detention, he could not really help her much. He had only encouraged Yolanda, and that was a small gesture.

"I'll go home to get organized and bring him some clean clothes tomorrow."

Yolanda nodded and prepared to see Selena out. Just then, Selena's phone rang. Looking at the caller ID, her expression turned troubled. She looked as if she did not want to answer.

Yolanda caught a glimpse of the name, and her eyes darkened, but she said nothing. Finally, Selena answered, "Hello?"

"Selena, I hear you're back in Riverdale?" A harsh female voice came through the phone.

"Yes, I am." Selena's soft tone made her seem like someone who was easy to push around.

"Perfect timing! We need your help with something. Come over right now!"

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[470 words]

"Go where?" Selena asked in surprise.

"Come to Oceanview Heights, and hurry up! Kieran must have left you plenty of money, so bring all of it!"

"Well..." Selena hesitated and said, "Kieran and I don't have much in our savings right now..."

"Selena, that's not very considerate of you! We're all family. You can't just watch us struggle without helping, can you?" The woman on the phone cut off Selena's explanation harshly, "Stop playing poor and just get over here!"

Without waiting for Selena's agreement, she hung up. Selena's expression shifted for a while before she finally sighed in resignation. "Yolanda, I need to go now."

"I have a car. Let me take you."

Yolanda had picked up on some concerning undertones in that call. Worried that the Morrison family might take advantage of Selena, she wanted to go along and check out the situation.

While it might seem like overstepping as an outsider, the Morrisons had been lifesavers to the original Yolanda, so using her connections to help them felt natural. It was Selena's own lack of greed that made Yolanda want to help her more.

"You're busy here, so it's alright." As expected, Selena did not mention her troubles and declined Yolanda's offer.

"It's actually not busy right now." Yolanda called Dunstan and asked him to bring the car around. He drove to work daily anyway, and the clinic was not busy, so he could take them to Oceanview Heights.

Oceanview Heights was a luxury development in downtown Riverdale, with units selling for 800 dollars per square foot. There were no small apartments available either. It was considered an upscale property in Riverdale.

Eventually, Selena gave in and let Dunstan drive them. After dropping them off, Yolanda told Dunstan to return to Willow Creek Clinic.

"Are you not heading back, Yolanda?" Selena was puzzled about why Yolanda had come along.

"Actually, I've been thinking about buying property. I might as well look around."

"Alright, let's go in together then." Selena did not think much of it as they entered the sales office. She had planned to call her sister-in-law back but immediately spotted familiar faces on the office couches.

From her investigation into Kieran's family, Yolanda recognized them as Kieran's older brother and his family. There was Shane Morrison, his wife Fiona Greyson, their son Jason, and their daughter Tessa.

Yolanda did not like all three of them. Even before Kieran's disappearance, they had often taken advantage of him. After he went missing, Stanley and Fiona had bullied Selena, who had no family to stand up for her.

Since their place was close to Tessa's school, Shane and Fiona used this as an excuse to kick Selena out of Kieran's house. Now, she had to rent a place to live.

They were seated on the couch. Fiona spotted Selena first and immediately complained, "Didn't I tell you to hurry? We've been waiting for half an hour!"

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Chapter 609

[545 words]

Tessa rolled her eyes at Yolanda and snapped, "You ugly freak, mind your own business and get lost!"

"Tessa! How can you talk like that?" Selena was shocked by her crude language.

"Aunt Selena, I've known all along you don't consider us family. Now, you're even taking an outsider's side over ours!" Tessa sneered and said, "What would Uncle Kieran think of that?"

"I—" Yolanda started to speak, but Selena cut in, "Yolanda is not an outsider! She's our goddaughter, which makes her your cousin. And you need to apologize to her right now!"

Selena was really angry. After everything Yolanda had done for her and Kieran, she could not let her be bullied for no reason.

Yolanda was startled. Seeing the usually soft-spoken Selena so angry made her understand why the original Yolanda had been so grateful to Kieran. Here was Selena, who barely knew her, standing up to her husband's family to defend her.

Meanwhile, the original Yolanda's own parents had tried to grind her into the dirt in front of outsiders at every opportunity. Yet even in death, she had still yearned for her mother Diana's love. Even Yolanda was not sure how to evaluate such persistence.

As Yolanda sensed the lingering emotions of the original Yolanda, Shane's family erupted. "You won't give us money, but you're supporting some stray?"

"Goddaughter? More like your secret love child!"

"No wonder you claim you're broke. You're spending it all on this brat!"

"How dare you give my brother's money to outsiders?"

Shane and Fiona were convinced they had figured out why Selena wouldn't give them money. Feeling sorry for themselves, their accusations grew increasingly vulgar.

Tessa pointed at Yolanda's clothes and said, "You buy her designer clothes but say you have no money for my tuition. You're shameless! You both disgust me!"

As it happened, Yolanda was not wearing her usual bargain clothes but some athletic wear Gavin had given her. It wasn't even particularly high-end. It was just a set costing two thousand dollars from a mall sports store that she had found good for training before her rebirth. It was light and breathable.

But even that two thousand dollars seemed to hit a nerve with Tessa, whose eyes reddened with jealousy.

"What's wrong with buying things for my daughter? Are you my daughter? Why should I pay your tuition?" Selena finally showed some backbone.

"Before, Kieran and I helped because we considered you family. But if you don't see me as family, why should I waste money on ungrateful people?"

"Selena! Don't push it!" Fiona exploded. "Are you trying to say it's right of you to not pay for my daughter's tuition? What goddaughter? Does Kieran even know? I bet you just brought in your love child while he's gone!"

"She is my daughter! If I hear you insult her again, don't blame me for doing something about it!" Selena took a deep breath and glared at Fiona. "This is a public place. If you want to make a scene, fine. Let's see who ends up looking foolish!"

She did not believe Shane's family's bullying could make them right.

The sales staff were frowning at the crude language from Shane's family. Their high-end clients were usually sophisticated people, so they had never seen anyone throwing around terms like "secret love child" and "shameless" like this. It showed a complete lack of class.

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c 610

[494 words]

"Enough. We'll settle accounts later."

Shane noticed the sales agent's disapproving look and the whispers from other surrounding buyers, so he tugged at Fiona's sleeve. "We're here on business, so let's not waste time arguing with her!"

"Hmph! People might think we're bullying them just because there are more of us!" Tessa sneered too.

"Exactly, we're people of status. Why stoop to their level?" Fiona shot Selena a nasty glare and nodded.

"Selena, we're not looking down on you, but watching you quibble over small amounts is just pathetic. You'll probably spend your whole life stuck in that rental and never be able to afford a place like this."

Anger flashed in Selena's eyes after hearing those words. She was only living in a rental because Shane and Fiona had forced her out of her home, claiming Tessa needed it for school!

But being good-natured as always, she suppressed her anger. Standing up for Yolanda earlier had already pushed her limits, and she did not want to destroy family relationships over this.

Seeing Selena's silence, Shane's family grew even more smug.

"Pretty bold for people who stole someone else's house," Yolanda said coldly.

Furious, Shane shouted, "Who stole what? That's Morrison family property! You better not get any ideas, outsider!"

"Stop wasting your breath on them." Fiona pulled out her bank card and ID. "We want a high-floor unit with a sunrise view-and we're paying cash!"

She had already picked out a unit worth about five million dollars.

"One moment, please!" The sales agent's disdain vanished at the sight of Fiona's bank card. It was replaced by an eager smile.

"Please, have some refreshments while I process your paperwork!" As she spoke, she hurried off with Fiona's documents for processing purposes.

"Yolanda, let's go. I'm sorry you got dragged into this." Selena gave her an apologetic smile. She regretted her decision to come over and give these people money. She felt really guilty that Yolanda had to endure their insults and contempt with her.

"Mrs. Morrison, didn't I mention I was interested in buying? Let's look around together." Yolanda stayed put. She glanced at the development's display model in the center of the room.

"Hah! As if a poor nobody like you could buy a house here!" Tessa mocked when she heard Yolanda and Selena's words. "There's no way you can afford a multi- million dollar property!"

Though she suspected Selena had kept all of Kieran's money, Tessa doubted even he had millions saved up. If he did, why would he and Selena have stayed in their grandfather's old house? She had grown tired of that outdated place after Fiona had forced Selena out and said it was convenient for Tessa's schooling.

The unit they were buying was supposedly for Jason's marriage. It cost millions right off the bat. Tessa couldn't help feeling jealous. But having no grounds to accuse her parents of favoritism, she could only take her frustration out on Selena.

However, Yolanda pointed to the villa section of the development just as Selena finished speaking. "Is this villa still available?"

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c 611

[670 words]

"Yes, it's still available," the other sales agent replied. She shook her head and

tried subtly reminding Yolanda, "This is the best villa here at Oceanview Heights. Its price is also higher than other villas."

"How much is the total amount?" Yolanda asked immediately.

"Uhh... The total is 20 million dollars."

"I'll take it," Yolanda replied. She got her bank card and identification documents out.

Selena might not have minded, but she simply couldn't allow others to bully them without retaliating.

A 20 million dollar villa?

Yolanda's reply caused a sudden hush to the surroundings.

Whether it was strangers or Shane and his family, they all stared at Yolanda like she was a circus clown.

How could a young lady, less than two decades old, have the power and audacity to pay in full cash for a villa?

Even if Yolanda was able to afford clothes worth two thousand dollars, it didn't mean that she could cash out 20 million dollars all at once to pay in full cash for a villa.

To them, Yolanda was upset that she had been mocked, so she was putting on a show to save her dignity. Their eyes simultaneously filled with disdain.

Her facade would be exposed once she had to pay with her bank card. Was she that dumb to lie about something like this?

"Hahaha! Selena, your goddaughter brags too much. Does she really think that she's from a wealthy family?"

Even if Yolanda was Selena's goddaughter and not a secret love child, she wouldn't be anywhere close to being wealthy.

There were many cases of children being adopted from orphanages, but it was almost impossible for someone to adopt a child straight from a wealthy family.

If Yolanda was truly wealthy, she most certainly didn't need to be taken under someone else's wing.

Selena looked at Fiona. Her face was ashen, but she didn't say anything more.

She might not know how much money Yolanda had, but if Yolanda said that she could afford it, she was willing to believe her.

"You'd better check her card well, young lady, just in case she's a fraud." Shane smiled mockingly as he pretended to remind the sales agent with concern.

A few other sales agents refused to take the bank card from Yolanda's hand. They felt like she couldn't possibly fork out so much money, so they refused to work in vain.

At that moment, Nola, a petite sales agent who had just passed her probationary period, came up and took Yolanda's bank card and identification documents from her.

"If you pay this full in cash, there would be no way to get a refund. Do you really want to purchase this villa?"

"Yes." Yolanda nodded at Nola. She didn't make things difficult for Nola.

"I'm not going to go back on my word. You can go ahead with the paperwork." "Okay, sure thing!"

She had just finished her probationary period and had never handled such a big case before this. Even if there was a chance of it being a scam, it would only mean that she was doing all the work in vain. She wouldn't suffer any losses.

She ran to the manager's office with these thoughts in mind while holding Yolanda's bank card and identification documents.

Not too long after that, she sprinted back and passed the bank card and identification documents back to Yolanda with a troubled expression.

"My apologies, Ms. Henderson. You're not eligible to purchase our villas right now."

After hearing what Nola said, everyone else burst out in laughter.

Shane and his family laughed the loudest.

"I told you they don't have any money. How could they afford to buy a villa?"

"How could someone who was unwilling to pay for something that's worth a few dozen dollars have the audacity to claim to want to buy a villa? What a joke!"

"This is so embarrassing! I really don't want to admit that I'm related to the likes of you."

"Don't you have any dignity?"

The sales agents who didn't attend to Yolanda all had an "I told you so" look on their faces. They were all secretly smug that they were clever enough to avoid doing any work in vain.

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c 612

[660 words]

However, what Nola said after that stunned everyone else at the sales office.

"It's not that you can't afford it because you don't have any money in your bank card, Ms. Henderson. Since you already have a Cerulean Abode villa under your name, you won't be eligible to buy other residential properties in Riverdale for the next five years."

"She already has a villa?"

Fiona and the rest looked at Yolanda flabbergasted.

Cerulean Abode was the most luxurious residential area in Riverdale. Ordinary people couldn't even get a chance to visit it even if they wanted to.

Tessa rushed to Nola and challenged her, "Did you just say that she has a Cerulean Abode property under her name? How is that possible? Did you get it wrong?"

"I'm not mistaken! The systems are all linked now. There is indeed a villa under Ms. Henderson's name." The moment Nola finished speaking, there was an uproar amongst the crowd.

"That's impossible!"

Tessa and Fiona snapped back quickly to their senses and screeched.

"How could she have afforded a villa in Cerulean Abode?"

"Even if she was able to afford it, she doesn't have the eligibility to buy it."

Kieran was just a small business owner. How could he possibly have the right to stay in such a luxurious area like the Cerulean Abode?

"That's what is written in the system. It's true!" Nola felt a little helpless.

If these people didn't even believe in information from official websites, what else could she do about it?

House prices had been skyrocketing recently in Havaria, with most of the cities having purchase restrictions.

Yolanda used to own a lot of properties through the Hoffman family before she was reborn, so no matter which city she was in, she was able to just go ahead and live in one of them without having to worry about all of this.

The butler would take care of the paperwork for her for any property she fancied, so she didn't need to think about things like these, so it was only natural that she didn't know about the purchase restrictions.

"This is such a hassle." Yolanda frowned slightly. She didn't expect to encounter a purchase limit on houses. So, she asked, "How else can I purchase it?"

Nola knew that Yolanda wasn't without money, so she tried to make the deal work once more.

She looked at Selena, who was standing in shock beside Yolanda, and said, "You can buy it using your godmother's name, Ms. Henderson."

Previously, she overheard Selena mentioning that Yolanda was her goddaughter. It was perfectly reasonable for a wealthy daughter to buy a house for her mother.

"No, you can't possibly-" Selena rejected that idea immediately.

Only she and Yolanda knew that Yolanda wasn't her goddaughter at all. She only said it because Shane and his family made her so inexplicably angry.

"Did you bring your identification documents with you, Mrs. Morrison?" Yolanda didn't oppose what she had heard.

Since she couldn't purchase that villa in her name, she could just buy it under Selena's name.

Kieran had saved the original Yolanda's life, so it was perfectly reasonable for her to gift him with a villa as a token of appreciation.

"Yolanda, are you really going to use my name to make this purchase?"

Selena was a little flustered. She was worried that Yolanda was being emotionally blackmailed, so she rejected the offer immediately. Then, she realized that Yolanda had agreed to it without the slightest bit of reluctance.

"This villa is too expensive. I can't—"

"Ma'am, you should be happy that your daughter is capable of buying you a house."

Nola didn't understand why Selena would be so opposed to that idea. She didn't even have the joyous look a mother should have when they see their child doting on them.

However, to make the sale, Nola continued to advise Selena patiently, "Also, your house is your daughter's house, isn't it? You're one family. It shouldn't matter whose name the house is under, right?"

"Actually, we're—" Selena felt a little stuck. She simply couldn't announce to the world that Yolanda wasn't actually her goddaughter.

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- Chapter 613

Chapter 613

[706 words]

"You're right," Yolanda replied as she passed her bank card to Nola. "Please bring Mrs. Morrison with you to finish up the paperwork."

Nola nodded. She might not know why Yolanda referred to Selena as "Mrs. Morrison," but she still held onto Selena's hand enthusiastically.

"Please come with me, Ma'am!"

Selena followed Nola half reluctantly to finish up the paperwork.

"There must be a mistake with the information from the official systems," Shane spat through gritted teeth as he watched Selena walk into the office.

"There must be an error in the other system. I'm sure this has happened before. Yes, they must have gotten it wrong.

"Look at how disgustingly poor she looked. How is it possible for her to be able to afford a villa in Cerulean Abode? It's impossible for her to have any money in her account too.

"I reckon that that sales agent didn't even try to swipe her card. If she did and it went through, she wouldn't have an attitude like this. Hahaha! If she has money in her account, I'll eat this pamphlet."

Tessa kept her eyes peeled. She stared at the manager's office as she waited for Selena to be chased out or humiliated.

Suddenly, a middle-aged lady dressed in an office suit came out of the manager's office before Selena did.

She surveyed the surroundings, then after Nola spoke to her, she made her way hastily to Yolanda and said, "Ms. Henderson, I'm Celine, the manager of Oceanview Heights' sales office. The purchase paperwork is still being processed.

"Please allow us a moment longer."

Two million dollars was a huge amount. When she was informed that someone had purchased a villa paid full in cash, she couldn't wait any longer. She had to come out so she could personally attend to Yolanda.

"The payment was successful?" Shane and the rest looked at Celine as their jaws dropped.

"Okay." Yolanda nodded faintly.

It was another ten minutes before Selena came out with another employee from the manager's office.

She looked like she was feeling a little dazed, almost like she wasn't the one who had just signed a villa purchasing agreement.

She was initially there because Shane's family had summoned her there to bring them some money. Alas, Yolanda had insisted on purchasing a villa under her name. She couldn't wrap her head around it.

"Let's go." Yolanda had finally seen Selena come out of the manager's office and was no longer bothered by Shane and his family's pestering.

The action of her purchasing the villa with her bank card was enough to hit them like a slap in their faces, causing them to be so embarrassed before the sales agents that they could no longer look ahead with dignity.

As for other conflicts, it was Kieran and Selena's private matters, so for the time being, she didn't want to barge in to resolve it for them.

"Have a nice day!" Celine was polite as she reached out an arm and pointed to the exit to show them the way out. She had even intended to bring Yolanda and Selena to the door herself.

"Wait," Shane suddenly barked as he stood up. "Where did you get so much money to buy the villa, Selena? Is this the money my brother had made from his business?"

"Don't you think that you could take all his assets as your own now just because he's missing. I'm his brother. His money is my money.

"Don't even think about taking it all for yourself! You'd better surrender all of Kieran's money, or we'll sue you!"

Fiona couldn't take it anymore. Whenever she thought of all of Kieran's money being with Selena, she just couldn't live with herself.

They couldn't accept the fact that Selena now had a villa under her name that was worth 20 million dollars when she was currently living in a rented house and running a small market stall.

That was why Shane and his family had assumed that Selena and her goddaughter of unknown origins had taken all of Kieran's assets for their own. They had to get it back.

"Sue us?" Yolanda stopped in her tracks, turned around, and asked coldly, "What identity are you assuming to sue us?"

"He's my brother. You took my brother's money all for yourself," Shane replied unashamedly.

"Your brother is married. What do his assets have to do with you?"

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Chapter 614

[536 words]

"This isn't how things work. Inheritance law states that siblings have a share as well," Fiona shrieked defiantly.

"Fiona, Kieran is just missing right now. Are you cursing him and saying that he's dead?" Selena was so angry her body trembled with rage. She didn't think that Fiona would be so evil just for the sake of money.

If she hadn't known that Kieran wasn't dead, and was nursing his injuries at Yolanda's clinic, she would have had a mental breakdown.

"He's been missing for so long. He must be dead." Fiona refused to shut up.

Suddenly, before Selena could say anything to retort, Yolanda took a step toward her and gave Fiona a reverberating slap.

Fiona shrieked as she cradled her swollen face. "How dare you slap me?"

Then, she leaped forward hysterically. She looked like she was preparing to fight. Her stance was like that of a madwoman. She wanted to tear Yolanda's hair out.

However, before she could get close, Yolanda kicked her and she flew backward.

Fiona yelled in pain as her body crashed onto the couch. The intensity of the pain caused her yelps to soften a lot.

"Mom!"

"Fiona!"

Shane and Tessa were shocked. One of them helped Fiona up and the other one waved their fist at Yolanda. They wanted to avenge Fiona.

The only reason Shane would dare to throw hands with Yolanda is because he was a man, and he had a lot of strength. However, Yolanda didn't care about him and his punches which showed no technique. She easily kicked him away as well. "My arm, my arm!"

Shane landed on his arm when he crashed onto the patio. He heard a slight crack of a broken bone.

"You wretched bastard! How dare you lay hands on your elders? You won't get away with this!"

Fiona saw that Shane was hurt and didn't care about the pain in her body anymore. She rushed to his side with a limp.

"Didn't you just call me an outsider? How are you now my elders then?" Yolanda looked at Shane's dangling arm and snapped.

"If any of you ever make life difficult for Mrs. Morrison again, it won't be just a broken arm next time."

"You scumbag!" Tessa yelled unwillingly at Yolanda. "Just you wait!"

"How dare you bully us! My brother will finish you."

"Yes! Let's call Jason." Fiona felt like she had found strength and support again as she pulled out her phone frantically.

"Let it be known that things are different now. My son isn't someone you can cross. He is from Eternal Clan.

"Once you cross us, it would mean that you're crossing the entire Eternal Clan as well! If you don't want to be beaten to death, you'd better willingly surrender Uncle Kieran's inheritance right now."

Yolanda didn't care for Shane and his family as they shrieked and protested. She pulled Selena along with her and left the sales office.

"Yolanda..." As soon as they left the sales office, Selena called out worriedly to Yolanda. "It seems like Jason joined Eternal Clan. You beat them up just now. He will take revenge..."

She was very worried that Yolanda would be attacked by Jason because she had stood up for her.

"It's fine," Yolanda replied. After thinking about it for a while, she asked, "Won't you blame me for being nosy?"

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[643 words]

Selena shook her head.

"I'm not an ungrateful person. I understand that you're trying to help me. However, you gotta figure out a way to transfer the villa from my name to yours."

"No need to transfer. You heard it too. I have a villa in my name, and I can't transfer the villa back to myself for five years. I'll just lend you the villa for now.

"When Mr. Morrison feels better, he can move in as well."

"But..."

"I'm more assured with the villa being in your name." Yolanda smiled and asked deliberately, "Well...are you and Mr. Morrison going to take the villa and claim it as your own?"

"Of course not!" Selena responded immediately. "But this time, it's me that has put you in trouble. I didn't think that Shane and his family would go so overboard."

"You and Mr. Morrison are such kind people, but someone has taken advantage of your kindness. Next time, don't let them step over you anymore."

"But Shane is Kieran's brother. It would be bad if all bridges were burnt." Selena sighed.

Even though she felt like the way things were handled in the sales office was very satisfying, considering burning bridges with Shane and his family still made her

feel uneasy.

"Don't worry about all this. Just get your health back for now. I'll go with you to the place you rented to pack up things and move to the villa."

"Wait. We're not in a rush." Selena didn't think that she would be moving into Yolanda's villa so quickly.

"There's still half a year left of the rent I've paid. It's non-refundable, so I don't want to waste it."

Selena just felt like she had troubled Yolanda too much. She really didn't know how to thank her, so she could only wait for Kieran to wake up before she could discuss it with him.

She might have only met Yolanda today, but she really liked her. If possible, she would love to have Yolanda as her real goddaughter. However, she didn't know if Yolanda would like that.

But Kieran wasn't awake yet. It was still too early to consider things like this.

"I'll head back first to pack up some of Kieran's things to send to the clinic." "I'll go with you."

Yolanda and Selena returned to the place Selena rented. After Selena had packed some clothes for Kieran, she returned to Willow Creek Clinic with Yolanda.

Just as they had arrived, there was a sharp screeching of emergency brakes slamming from behind them.

"This is the place. Attack!"

Three SUVs had arrived and blocked off the entrance of Willow Creek Clinic completely.

Young men who wore unified navy blue martial arts costumes with the words "Eternal Clan" embroidered on them jumped out of the cars with weapons and sticks in their hands.

Their leader was a young man with a machete in his hand. He marched in with a menacing look on his face.

Selena was shocked. She pulled Yolanda to her side and panicked. "He's Jason, Shane's son. Hide first, Yolanda!"

Jason had brought so many Eternal Clan members with him. Selena was worried that Yolanda would be at a disadvantage.

"No need." Yolanda requested for Dunstan to bring Selena to the back wing.

"I can handle it from here."

Selena was worried. She stubbornly insisted on staying.

"Don't worry, Mrs. Morrison, Ms. Henderson is very skilled in martial arts. Even if the entire Eternal Clan were to come, they would still be no match for her, let alone these guys.

"You being here would just distract her, since she would have to make sure you're safe."

Dunstan was really good with his words. In just a few sentences, he convinced Selena to follow him to the back wing.

After Jason saw Yolanda, he compared her to the picture on his phone and pointed his machete at her.

"Are you the bastard child Aunt Selena picked up?"

He was just done speaking when he suddenly felt a sharp gust of wind by his ear.

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[677 words]

Before Jason could react, he felt a sharp pain coming from his left cheek.

Jason stumbled back a few steps. His cheek was swollen from the blow.

He was in a daze. He lowered his head and spat on the ground. He tasted blood in his mouth.

"How dare you hit me?" After snapping back to his senses, Jason was furious. "Do you know who I am?"

"I am from Eternal Clan. You bullied my parents in the sales office and now you dare hit me? Are you looking to die?"

He didn't even expect Yolanda to be somebody. He had already sent his men to gather information on her before he came over. She was just the owner of a small clinic. How powerful could she be?

He now had Eternal Clan backing him up!

Jason wanted to avenge Shane and the rest, so he brought a lot of people with him deliberately. He planned to wreck the clinic, then take a video of Yolanda and Selena kneeling on the ground, begging for mercy, so he could show it to his family.

He certainly didn't expect Yolanda to have the audacity to slap him across his face.

"How dare you cross Jason? We'll wreck this clinic today for sure!" The other young men from Eternal Clan were rowdy. They scared away a lot of the patients in the clinic.

"Stop your nonsense! Do it now." Jason waved his hands impatiently and signaled for the men behind him to start trashing the clinic.

"I'll show you what Eternal Clan is made of!"

"Which ignorant fool dares to represent the entirety of Eternal Clan?"

Just as Jason and his men were about to trash the clinic, two people walked out from inside the clinic.

"Raven?"

"Ms. Jamie!"

The people who were initially very arrogant suddenly were dumbfounded.

Raven and Jamie had just walked out from the clinic.

Raven was arranged by Viktor to do odd jobs at Willow Creek Clinic, while Jamie, after seeing Xavier's attitude toward Yolanda the other day, had voluntarily come to the Willow Creek Clinic to do odd jobs as well. She had only been here for one morning and worked visibly harder than Raven.

She was doing all of this so Yolanda would notice her.

According to Xavier's attitude toward Yolanda, if Yolanda didn't forgive her, her days would be increasingly difficult from then on. That was why, when she received news that Raven was working at Willow Creek Clinic, she came with her voluntarily.

She and Raven were mopping the floor in the lobby when they heard a commotion from outside the door. When they overheard words like "Eternal Clan" and more, they placed down their mops and went out the door immediately.

Before they could get near, they heard Jason spewing ridiculous nonsense from where he stood.

"I didn't know that any Tom, Dick, or Harry could just represent Eternal Clan, just like that," Jamie snapped.

When Jamie heard that Jason and the rest were causing trouble in the name of Eternal Clan, she was horrified.

This was definitely not consented to by the upper management of Eternal Clan. It was solely Jason bullying others while pretending to represent Eternal Clan.

"Ms. Jamie." Jason wiped the sweat off his forehead and asked carefully, "Why are you here?"

"Why? Am I obligated to report my whereabouts to you, asshole?"

Jamie had to be humble before Yolanda, but she was still the spoiled, haughty Jamie before the rest of the Eternal Clan apprentices.

"We wouldn't dream of it..." Jason and the rest of the Eternal Clan apprentices shook their heads. They were so afraid that Jamie would get angry and let out that anger on them.

"We're here to seek justice for Eternal Clan, Ms. Jamie." Jason didn't think too much when he saw both Raven and Jamie at the clinic. He assumed that they were there to see a doctor.

After he saw Jamie appear, he had a brilliant plan to get rid of Yolanda without having to physically strike her.

"I heard that the owner of this clinic looks down on Eternal Clan. They often spread rumors about Eternal Clan. They have been insulting you, Ms. Jamie. They say that you're useless trash."

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[654 words]

"Shut up!" Jamie roared as she kicked Jason. She was enraged.

It was obvious that Jason was the one who had come up with all of that. Even if Yolanda did say things like that, Jamie wouldn't dare to have any complaints.

"Ms. Henderson is Eternal Clan's esteemed guest. She isn't someone you can slander anyhow you like."

"Esteemed guest?" Jason and the young men behind him were stunned.

They looked at Yolanda incredulously. They didn't understand how that plain, insignificant young lady they saw could become Eternal Clan's esteemed guest.

"Of course! Raven and I are working for her. Who do you think you are, coming to her clinic to seek trouble?"

"W-Working for her?"

Jason might not know how Yolanda became so powerful, but he knew that he had gotten himself in big trouble. The young men behind him were already so

frightened their legs gave way. The weapons they had been holding were now on the ground.

"We're sorry, Ms. Jamie."

"You're sorry?" Jamie took a step toward them and picked up a stick from the ground. Using her left hand, she struck the Eternal Clan apprentice nearest to her ferociously.

"Weren't you very arrogant just now? Are you still going to seek trouble? Who else wants to wreck the clinic? Come out now!"

"Please spare us, Ms. Jamie! We're truly sorry!"

The Eternal Clan apprentices looked pleadingly at Jamie. By the time Jamie was done releasing her anger, some apprentices were looking dreadfully swollen and beaten up.

Yolanda didn't stop Jamie. Since they had come intending to wreak havoc, they had to bear the consequences of their actions.

As Jamie beat them up, she was also observing Yolanda's expression from the corner of her eyes. When she saw that Yolanda wasn't angry at her for what Jason and the rest had done, she breathed a huge sigh of relief.

If it was others, there was nothing much she could do. However, Jason was technically someone her subordinates had recruited. More than half of the young men from Eternal Clan who were present there were under her command.

She didn't have time to manage her subordinates over the last couple of days since she was injured, but she certainly hadn't expected Jason to create havoc like this. His claim about representing Eternal Clan to wreck Yolanda's clinic both horrified and angered her.

She was so afraid that when Xavier found out about this, he would break her legs

once more.

That was why when she beat the apprentices up previously, she showed no mercy at all.

"If I see any of you being rude to Ms. Henderson from now on, I'll break your fucking legs."

"I'm sorry, Ms. Jamie. I won't do it again. I promise that I won't!"

Jamie had also beaten Jason up. Together with Yolanda's slap, Jason's face was now swollen and unrecognizable. He was no longer able to be as menacing as he was.

"Don't tell me what you promise to do." Jamie was worn out after all the beatings. She threw the stick down and glared at Jason coldly.

"If Ms. Henderson doesn't forgive you, no matter who you plead, nothing will work!"

"I'm sorry, Ms. Henderson. I won't do it again." Jason was helpless. He could only hide his humiliation in his heart, turn around, and beg Yolanda for forgiveness.

He was extremely unwilling in his heart, but since Jamie was adamant about standing on Yolanda's side and claimed that Yolanda was Eternal Clan's esteemed guest, he didn't have a choice.

At the same time, he was also very doubtful. His parents told him that Yolanda was only Selena's goddaughter. How could Selena's goddaughter come from any substantial background?

Yolanda disregarded Jason. She watched coldly as Jason repeatedly pleaded for forgiveness.

"If you're still angry, Ms. Henderson, I can beat him up once more."

Jamie picked up the stick from the ground flatteringly and passed it to Yolanda. She was trying to curry favor from her.

"Or...would you like to do the honors?"

"Forget it. I don't want to dirty my hands." Yolanda cast a disgusted glance at Jason.

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[680 words]

"I don't want to see him ever again," Yolanda announced.

"Get the fuck out, all of you!" After hearing what Yolanda said, Jamie roared as she breathed a sigh of relief.

Jason gritted his teeth and before he left, he glared intently at Yolanda.

He was unwilling.

Yolanda noticed the expression on Jason's face, but to her, he was nothing but a circus clown. No matter how resentful he was toward her, he wouldn't be able to cause her any sizable trouble.

After Jason and the rest had left hurriedly, Raven and Jamie took it upon themselves to clean up the mess by the door, without waiting for Yolanda to give any orders.

Yolanda went in to wash her hands. She was about to look for Selena in the back wing when suddenly, her phone rang.

"Something happened, Yolanda!" Winnie's flustered voice rang out from the other side of the phone.

"What happened?"

"Someone sick in the head doused your front gate and my front gate with gasoline. They also threw a lot of dead cats and dogs in front of our doors. When my mom went out to the market today, she was nearly abducted.

"It's a good thing that she has a loud voice. She shrieked, and her screams got the attention of the police. She escaped narrowly. My dad's car was badly scratched, and his brake was tampered with. He was nearly in a car accident.

"As for Uncle Harold and Aunt Diana, I heard that they were threatened as well but I don't know about any details..."

Two families had experienced misfortune one after another. Winnie couldn't help but recall the incident at the cocktail party when they had crossed George—the man that Julie had introduced to them.

"Yolanda, could George Langley be the one behind all of this?"

Now that her family's safety was at risk, Winnie felt very uneasy.

"Where are you right now?" Yolanda's gaze turned steely as she added, "Come to the clinic immediately. Forget it. Send me your location. I'll come get you right now."

"I'm at—" Winnie was about to respond before she quickly changed topics. "Hold on, I have another phone call coming in."

Then, Yolanda heard a busy dial tone. Winnie had placed her on hold.

Quickly, Winnie's voice was heard once more.

"Yolanda, George really is doing this. He wants us to personally apologize to him, or he said he'd destroy both our families and would break Uncle Harold and Aunt Diana's legs."

George realized later on that the alcohol that Yolanda passed to him was tampered with. He hated Yolanda the most, but he didn't want to let Winnie go as well. So, he had gotten people to mess with both their families.

Sadly, he didn't expect Yolanda to not care about the Hendersons at all. It was no use for him to use the Hendersons as leverage to threaten Yolanda.

However, Winnie was genuinely worried for her parents, and Harold and Diana's safety.

"I'm on the train right now. There's a lot of people around me. Don't worry. I'll be at the clinic soon."

"Be careful." Yolanda's face softened after hearing that Winnie was okay. Then, she realized something odd about what Winnie had said.

"You said George sent people to threaten them. Did anything happen to Yvonne, then?"

"Yvonne? She's fine. Don't worry." Winnie thought that Yolanda was worried for Yvonne's safety. However, Yolanda was deep in thought.

This time, she wasn't suspecting Yvonne of plotting anything against her behind her back. Everyone else, except for Yvonne, who was connected to her and Winnie, was being threatened. Only Yvonne was unaffected.

It could only mean that either Yvonne had so much good luck that George's subordinates weren't able to get to her, or it could also mean that George didn't dare to cross her.

She thought back to how Yvonne had managed to poison the original Yolanda in the juvenile detention center. Regular people wouldn't have been able to bribe the people in charge to put the poison in the original Yolanda's food.

This could only mean that there was a big shot supporting Yvonne.

Since George didn't dare to touch Yvonne, did it mean that the person behind Yvonne was actually acquainted with George?

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[788 words]

Since George was from Creybia, the other person's identity was even more important to uncover.

As Yolanda waited for Winnie to arrive, she went ahead and did a detailed investigation of the Caldwell family's background once again.

Right now, there was a lot of underlying conflict between different big families in Creybia.

The Caldwell family had been trying to ally with many different forces, and George was one of them.

Whether the person behind Yvonne was related to the Caldwells or was merely acquainted with George, no one knew for sure at that moment. But since Yolanda had noticed it, it was only a matter of time before the identity of this mysterious person was revealed.

The Hendersons were just one of the middle-income families in Riverdale. So, what value did Yvonne have to be chosen by that person, and why would that person go so far to fulfill her desires?

The longer Yolanda spent in Riverdale, the more the puzzles and riddles cropped up around her.

Winnie arrived at the clinic 20 minutes later.

She might not have personally experienced those threatening events, but when she heard about how things were happening to the people around her, she was terrified.

"Did George come and threaten you as well, Yolanda?"

"Not yet for now."

Yolanda knew why George started on Winnie's end. Like what most people would do, it was always easier to bully the weaker, softer party first.

"Would you want to hide away for a little while, Yolanda?" Winnie looked at Yolanda worriedly.

"You're staying in Cerulean Abode. That's not a place that anyone could easily enter. Before that, Julie did say that George is from Creybia, right?"

"So, that should mean he won't be in Riverdale for much longer."

Even if George was threatening Winnie over the phone, she still didn't want Yolanda to take the risk.

"Who were you talking about, Ms. Henderson? Is this George from the Langley family in Creybia?"

Suddenly, Jamie walked in.

She had overheard Yolanda's conversation with Winnie and asked, "Is he threatening you? I'll deal with this! I know him."

Jamie refused to forgo such an amazing opportunity. If she could settle this issue with George for Yolanda, her relationship with Yolanda would surely improve. So, she immediately took on the task of dealing with George.

Yolanda was not worried about what was happening to Harold and Diana, so she waved her hand and allowed Jamie to deal with this.

Winnie was at the clinic at that time, so Yolanda was able to guarantee her safety. As for the others, Yolanda knew that George was just scaring them at most. He wouldn't just take away their lives like that.

If not, according to how George handled things, Diana and the rest would already be dead.

George was so sure that he had gotten a foothold against Yolanda. He wanted to get her to admit defeat and apologize by using her family against her to make her bend to his will, but he had misjudged because Yolanda didn't care about their safety at all.

The Hendersons were nothing to Yolanda. There were no familial ties between them. Selena, whom she had only met for one day, meant more to Yolanda than the Hendersons did.

As time passed, the original Yolanda's desire for a cheap familial connection, which was a lingering wish from her consciousness, gradually diminished.

After Yolanda answered Winnie's phone call, there were no signs of emotions or sensations from the original Yolanda. That would've been the best kind of proof. However, since the Hendersons and Winnie's family had been threatened by George, Yolanda wouldn't let her guard down too easily.

She got Daniel to send more men to Willow Creek Clinic, and she told Blake to be on standby.

In the meantime, the Kaufman family had sent people to Willow Creek Clinic to collect medication. When they realized how tense the atmosphere was at the clinic, they asked Yolanda if she needed their help.

However, because their positions were too unique, with Joel and Jude holding important positions in government sectors, Yolanda didn't want to involve them, so she rejected their offer.

There was one other thing that Yolanda was more concerned with. Gavin had not contacted her for an entire day now.

Normally, even if Gavin was busy with work, he would send her messages in his spare time. However, the last two messages she had sent had gone unanswered.

Yolanda wouldn't usually investigate Gavin's whereabouts. This was a mutual understanding they shared. Now that Gavin hadn't contacted her for an entire day, no one else would think that something was wrong other than her.

She took some time out to give Gavin another call, but there was still no response.

Just as she was about to put down her phone, it rang. After Yolanda saw who was calling, she was slightly taken aback since the call wasn't from Gavin.

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Chapter 620

[529 words]

At the same time, in the Henderson residence, Diana locked all the windows and doors erratically and checked them again and again for peace of mind. Alas, she still wasn't assured.

So, she got a heavy rosewood chair and used it to barricade the foyer door to prevent anyone from barging in without warning.

George's antics petrified her. Diana was now so easily spooked that she had to wait for Harold to come home before she was able to calm down a little.

"What do we do now, honey? Mr. Langley is from Creybia. If he really did want to kill us, the Langley family could easily make it happen."

Diana was terrified. She had been overwhelmed with fear for the entire day. Harold, in comparison to her franticness, was more composed.

"Don't panic just yet. Even if he's from Creybia, there are eight of us, including your eldest sister's family. It's not a small number of people he could just kill off easily."

"This is all Yolanda's fault! That jinx! She's already been thrown out of our home, and still, she's able to drag us down with her."

Every time Diana remembered that all their disastrous experiences were because of Yolanda, she couldn't help but want to kill Yolanda.

However, as things were at that moment, Yolanda had offended someone else, and even though they had the Termination of Relationship agreement on hand, they didn't have the chance to show it to George.

The people who came over to threaten them didn't listen to them when they tried to explain. To them, Diana was just giving them an excuse to guarantee her safety.

"By the way, Yvonne should be done with school now, right? George shouldn't be able to reach into school. Get her to wait at school and tell her not to go anywhere.

"I'll drive over to pick her up."

"Yes, Yvonne should be done with school by now."

Diana realized that and was just reminded of Yvonne.

However, she was just about to call Yvonne when her phone rang.

It was Yvonne.

"Are you done with school, Yvonne?" Diana asked worriedly, "Are you okay over there?"

"I'm okay." Yvonne's tone was a little taken aback.

"I was just calling to tell you that my friend has a birthday party tonight, Mom. I

won't be coming home. We'll be going to her house to celebrate."

"Oh, I see. Go ahead then." Diana breathed a sigh of relief.

"Did anything happen, Mom?" Yvonne seemed to be able to hear the worry in Diana's voice and asked, "Or should I just come home?"

"N-No need!" Diana tried to readjust her tone. "Nothing happened at home. Just go ahead and celebrate with your friend."

Yvonne didn't face any threats where she was. Diana was relieved.

After she hung up, she told Harold, "Honey, you don't have to go get Yvonne anymore. She had a birthday party with her friends. She should be fine."

Harold nodded.

"I'll call up some old friends and see if they're able to get in contact with Mr. Langley. If it's really not possible, we'll go over and apologize on Yolanda's behalf."

"If we apologize on Yolanda's behalf, what if he takes out all his anger on us?" Diana was a little hesitant.

"Do we have any other choice now?" Harold said coldly.

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Chapter 621

[543 words]

"To George, she is one with us Hendersons. Even if you have a hundred different signed relationship termination agreements, we're not exempted from any responsibility," Harold huffed coldly.

"That wretched bitch! How unfortunate! How unlucky!" Diana shrieked angrily.

"If not for her, our home wouldn't be filled with misfortune. I should have known! I shouldn't have allowed her to leave the juvenile detention center."

"What's the use of the 'I should have known's now? You're the one who didn't teach her properly. It's too late for you to regret it now."

Harold was also very displeased with Yolanda, but his displeasure included a mixture of his complaints about Diana's lack of care for Yolanda.

"How could you pin this on me?" Diana defended herself with anguish.

"I've cared for that wretched Yolanda growing up the same way I cared for Yvonne. Yvonne turned out to be understanding and sophisticated. All the elite society women are so jealous of me having such a great daughter.

"Then there's Yolanda. So lazy, stupid, bad-tempered, and arrogant. There's nothing good about her at all!

"I really don't know who she took after. If she and Yvonne weren't twins, I really would suspect that all those years ago, we brought the wrong baby home from the hospital."

Just as Diana was grumbling incessantly about Yolanda, on the other end of the hung-up phone, Yvonne was sitting comfortably on the couch with a half-finished glass of champagne in her hand.

She was at a high-end apartment now in the central district with no classmates and no one celebrating their birthday.

William Crosse, a middle-aged man in a dark grey jacket sat in front of her. He had golden frame glasses, his features looked chiseled, and he carried a hint of cunning air.

"Actually, if you want your parents to be okay, Sir can help you pull some strings."

"No need." Yvonne swirled her champagne glass nonchalantly.

"They need to go through enough suffering to hate Yolanda more." A mocking smirk appeared on her face.

"I want Yolanda to be banned from the Henderson household forever. Everything in the Henderson family can only be mine."

"Sir had already promised you that a long time ago. But, I have to warn you, don't do anything excessive. If you affect Sir's plans, it won't end well for both you and me."

"I got it." Yvonne frowned unhappily.

"Sir gave you enough people for it to be easier for you to watch the Henderson Group on his behalf, not for you to use for your personal gains." William's voice was laced with warning.

"You're talking way too much today, William Crosse." Yvonne slammed her glass on the patio impatiently. "All I did was light a fire. What's the big deal?"

"Just light a fire?" William huffed coldly. "Do you know why Leonardo could have such a firm standing on Pub Street even though he's just a thug?"

"He's gotten himself affiliated with Mr. Byron from the underworld. That's why, isn't it right?" Yvonne was unfazed.

William scoffed. He was about to retort when he remembered Sir's warning. Then, he kept his mouth shut and thought, "This arrogant woman still doesn't know how big a trouble she had unintentionally gotten herself into."

"It doesn't matter, since according to how things are right now, it wouldn't be too long for her to end up as Sir's discarded pawn."

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Chapter 622

[683 words]

Caleb stood in front of the window in a room within the Hoffman main residence in Creybia, and behind him was a long-haired girl with a blanket wrapped around her on the bed. A fear that had not dissipated was evident on her face.

"Yulie, I heard that you got attacked again when you were out today?"

"I've encountered four assassins, Caleb, but they have all been killed by the bodyguards you sent to protect me."

The young lady's porcelain skin was ashen. Her silky, long hair cascaded down her back, emitting a soft, doleful air around her.

Caleb turned around, saw the young lady like this, and couldn't help but frown.

"I think you've been a little weird recently, Yulie."

Finally, he couldn't take it anymore as he blurted out what he had hidden deep within his heart.

Yulia had always had a strong and fearless personality since she was young. She would never show such a vulnerable look.

"Is that so?" The young lady on the bed raised her head as helplessness flashed in her onyx-coloured eyes.

"I've gone through such a scary airplane incident. I haven't regained my bearings yet and now these people are lurking in the dark, wanting to kill me..."

"I'll investigate as quickly as I can to find out who wants to harm you." Coldness fled in Caleb's eyes as he looked intently at the young lady once more. "Bring more bodyguards when you go out next time."

"Okay." The young lady nodded.

"I'm tired, Caleb. I want to take a nap."

"Go ahead. I'll leave now. Call me if you need anything."

Caleb didn't say anything else. He walked out of the young lady's room and closed the door gently behind him.

The young lady on the bed stayed in the same position until the footsteps in the hallway had gone far. Then, the helplessness and the confusion that was just on her face disappeared in an instant.

She took out a cell phone from underneath the pillow stoically and dialed a number. Soon after, her cold, emotionless voice reverberated in the room.

"I'll be at the private club in the penthouse of Eastgate Plaza. Continue the assassination."

Yolanda received Rowan's call when she was at the clinic.

This all started when she sent Rowan an email a few days ago.

She had never really paid much attention to the Riverdale's Henderson family because Harold's business management skills were mediocre and were not worth paying much attention to.

However, while investigating the mysterious support backing Yvonne, she found out by chance that Harold was one of the contenders for the position of future head of Creybia's Henderson family.

The current Henderson family was merely one of the many elite families in Creybia after their ancestors formed the Henderson family after being kicked out of the Hoffman

family. That Henderson family had two branches-one in Dunhill City, and another one in Riverdale City.

The Henderson family had traditional and ancient family rules that were still being used currently. The rules dictated that only a male could be the head of the family.

However, the current head of the family only had one daughter, Zoey Henderson, so the competition was great amongst her cousin brothers to fight for the position of the future head of Creybia's Henderson family.

According to the rules, if the current head of the family didn't have any sons, not only would his brothers have the right to inherit the position, but the branch families would have the same privilege as well.

This was why the Henderson family in Riverdale City and Dunhill City both were eligible to compete for the head of the family's position.

The Riverdale Henderson family was of a younger generation. According to the family tree, Zoey of the Creybia Henderson family was Harold's cousin, giving Harold the eligibility to compete for the position of the future head of the family as well.

"However, he was too mediocre. He had no potential to be the head of the family."

Yolanda found an unoccupied room in the back wing of Willow Creek Clinic and was on the phone with Rowan.

"Yulie, Harold isn't incapable. In actuality, he was one of the strongest contenders a few years ago."

"Him?" Yolanda was surprised.

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[546 words]

Harold gave Yolanda the impression that he put a lot of effort into the company,

but there was little to no substantial progress. He didn't seem to care much about his family either, since he rarely went home to eat with his wife and daughters.

Yolanda never had a good impression of Harold, so she never really read through Harold's information in detail.

"You've finally misjudged someone, Yulie." Rowan snickered, and added mysteriously, "There's a reason why Harold is the way he is now."

It did sound like there was more to the story.

Yolanda was suddenly interested in gossip regarding Harold.

"You know how the Hendersons have always feigned to be obedient to us Hoffmans but in reality, because of the history between our ancestors, they loathed us more than they respected us?"

"Yes." Yolanda nodded.

Even though she had four older brothers and she didn't need to worry too much about the conflict between families, she still knew a lot of private news about different big families in Creybia.

"Right now, the Henderson family isn't that capable yet. Luke Henderson, the current head of the Creybia Henderson family tried to curry favor with the Storm and Fafnir families, but the cunning heads of these two families disregarded him.

"Luke is pretty anxious about it because he only has one daughter. Since his wife is from a formidable family, divorce isn't an option. His secret love child has no right to inherit the Henderson family, so he thought of changing the family rules."

"You're going off-topic, Rowan." Yolanda couldn't help but interrupt Rowan.

"I'm telling you the story from the very beginning, Yulie. Could you be a little more patient when you listen to stories, please?" Rowan grumbled. Then, he continued. "There are two Henderson Groups-one in Dunhill City, one in Riverdale City, and they are both messy disasters inherited from the Creybia Henderson family.

"In the beginning, no one in the Riverdale Henderson family wanted to take over the company. In the end, Harold took over, and once, the company was doing very well.

"When Harold took over Henderson Group, he found out that CEOs were eligible to compete as contenders for the position of next head of the family. Harold was still very full of fire then. He wanted to make the Henderson Group his stepping stone to finally be sent to Creybia.

"Sadly, something unexpected happened after that, causing him to crash into the slums, bringing Henderson Group down with him. It is completely incomparable to its glory years a few years ago."

"What happened?" Yolanda was curious.

"There was a project in Riverdale City that was in the limelight at that time, which was the development project of Anfield Hills."

"Anfield Hills?"

Yolanda only knew this hill to be an abandoned hill in Riverdale. No one would go there on a regular basis, and the Riverdale city government wasn't doing anything about it.

"Something's wrong with this hill?"

"You got it," Rowan continued.

"At that time, there were a lot of companies who wanted a piece of the Anfield Hills development project. If it all went well, Anfield Hills would have been the top tourism spot in Riverdale City, but sadly..."

Yolanda realized that Rowan was giving her cliffhangers once more and asked immediately, "Harold got the Anfield Hills developmental project, but what happened after that that caused the project to halt like this?"

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Chapter 624

[747 words]

"You were right," Rowan replied. "At that time, the Creybia Henderson family wanted to develop Anfield Hills as well, so they sponsored money and talent to Harold, giving Harold a great advantage during project bidding.

"It was only natural for the bidding to have gone very well since the Creybia Henderson family were also so adamant in getting this project. Lastly, the officials had decided that Henderson Group and another company in Riverdale City called Jaywood Development Corporation were to partner to develop Anfield Hills.

"Other than the profit that came with developing Anfield Hills, the elders of the Henderson family also wanted to test Harold through this project. This would have meant that Harold's performance had already gotten the approval of the family elders. They would have agreed that he was an eligible contestant as the future head of the Henderson family.

"If Harold was able to successfully complete the Anfield Hills development project, he would most likely be able to return immediately to Creybia. However, the heavens disposed of the plans men had made. The development of Anfield Hills had encountered a series of unfortunate events, one after another since the very beginning.

"Firstly, four scout workers had died due to a thunderstorm, then Anfield Hills was said to be haunted. After that, there were a few workers who had gone missing, and this caused great havoc to erupt. Later on, the rumor had Anfield Hills being haunted had reached far and wide.

"It wasn't the rainy season, but that area would rain day after day, causing the speed of development to slow down significantly, further proving the rumor right. At that time, a witch called Madam Lou started appearing out of nowhere on social media platforms claiming that Anfield Hills was where the Gates of Hell were located.

"If the development project was to continue, it would bring disaster to the entire Riverdale City."

"Did Zoey arrange for Madam Lou to appear?" Yolanda asked.

"That's right. This witch is someone Zoey had arranged for. However, she was just exaggerating actual events that had already happened. No one knows for sure if the accidents that happened before were natural disasters or man-made, but I'm leaning toward Anfield Hills having issues, but not as severe as rumored.

"However, since it's already all over the internet, it's practically impossible to make Anfield Hills a tourism attraction after that. Later, the officials announced that Henderson Group and Jaywood Development Corporation didn't have the complete paperwork submitted and had halted the development project.

"Henderson Group was still cushy in terms of funds. Even though they lost a lot of money, it was mostly from the investments made by the Creybia Henderson family. So, to Harold, other than being prematurely disqualified in the race of contending for the future head of the family, the losses he suffered through this were considerably small.

"As for Jaywood Development Corporation, they had declared bankruptcy not long after the development project halted. The CEO of that company was also found to have hung himself in his apartment later on. Then, things progressed into what you're seeing now.

"The Henderson Group has not had any smooth sailing development projects since then. In the beginning, Harold was still fighting to reverse the situation, but since it just kept flopping, he started giving up. He no longer dabbled with popular projects.

He only took on little projects worth a few million dollars."

"I'm afraid someone is deliberately causing this to happen to Henderson Group. Isn't that right?" Yolanda thought about it for a while and added, "This is the way to completely break Harold, so he wouldn't have the courage to think of anything else."

"I thought the same previously, so I did some investigating." Rowan chuckled. Then, he continued, "What I found surprised me."

Yolanda didn't respond as she waited for Rowan to continue. This time, Rowan went straight ahead without baiting Yolanda to respond.

"The bad luck Henderson Group had experienced these few years has nothing to do with Creybia's Henderson family since Zoey was occupied with fighting with her cousin brothers. She had no time and energy to deal with Harold, whom she had once defeated."

"It would only mean that there's another force secretly stopping the development of Henderson Group."

"Right. However, this person is really good at their job. I haven't found any evidence yet, but I'll keep you posted on what I'll find in the coming days."

"Okay, you gotta—"

Before Yolanda could finish her sentence, Dunstan's frantic voice rang from outside the door. "Oh no, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Summers is missing!"

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Chapter 625

[693 words]

"Something came up. I'll talk to you next time." Yolanda hung up the phone immediately and rushed out of the room.

"What did you say? How did she go missing?"

"Ms. Summers got a phone call just now and said that her friend was at the door and had come to give her some items. She said she wouldn't need to go far."

Dunstan stood remorseful before Yolanda.

"I was too busy preparing medications for the patients, and since we have Mr. Miller's men at the door, I didn't pay too much attention to that. Alas, Ms. Summers never came back after she went out.

"Mr. Miller's men said that Ms. Summers got into a black SUV, and it zipped away immediately after. I tried calling Ms. Summers, but the call didn't go through."

Yolanda took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down.

Quickly, she organized her thoughts. The only person who was able to bring Winnie out at this time could only be Julie, whom she still thought was her good friend.

Julie was no saint for introducing Winnie to George. It was very likely that Julie would use Winnie as a means to threaten her.

What Yolanda couldn't understand was why Julie didn't come and settle scores with her directly at Willow Creek Clinic but chose to abduct Winnie instead. But as she walked out of the back wing and saw Eternal Clan apprentices making rounds, she understood immediately.

Jamie had gotten her subordinates to come so she could make sure that everyone in Willow Creek Clinic was safe.

Julie didn't want to alert the Eternal Clan apprentices, so she chose to trick Winnie and abduct her when she was out there.

"What do we do now, Ms. Henderson?" Dunstan asked anxiously.

It was his negligence that had caused Winnie's disappearance. If something bad were to happen to her, he really could not live with himself.

"We wait for them to call," Yolanda replied. She meant it, but she had also already whipped out her phone to check for Winnie's location.

Lo and behold, Winnie's phone was on the move. It was on a route that was heading straight toward the Henderson residence.

"I'll head out for a while. Tell the employees of Willow Creek Clinic to stay put. Don't go anywhere."

Yolanda headed out quickly after stating her instructions.

...

Just as Yolanda was rushing to Henderson Residence, Jamie had brought a troop of people to a pub in Riverdale.

The pub was reserved entirely for a private event, so when Jamie barged in with her troop, she just so happened to see George leaning on the couch. He was drinking with a woman in his arms.

"George Langley! Yolanda is my friend. Who gave you the audacity to threaten her family?" Jamie hollered.

The last time George came to Riverdale, he pursued Jamie and later got beaten up by her. When she got to know that George was the one threatening Yolanda's family, she immediately volunteered to bring men to settle scores with him.

She felt like since George was once hesitant to do anything to her because of her identity as Xavier's daughter, it would be the same right now as well.

Sadly, things were different now. The current George had completely disregarded Jamie.

"Oh, it's Ms. Yate, I see." George smirked arrogantly as menace flashed in his eyes. "If you want me to spare your friend, accompany me for a night. If you make me happy, I might let bygones be bygones."

"You asshole!" Jamie barked. "Who do you think you are? I'll tell you, if you don't want to make Eternal Clan your enemy, you and your men need to get the fuck out of Riverdale!"

"We haven't met in so long, Ms. Yate, and you're still as stupid as you were." George's smile was mocking as he swirled the wine in his glass.

"Do you think I'm afraid of you? Last time, I spared you because I respected Mr. Yate. Don't overstep your worth now."

"Say it again. I dare you." Jamie's eyes were icy.

It had only been a few months since she last saw George. He was once her

lapdog who didn't dare to whimper even after she beat him up. How dare he now challenge her like this after a few months?

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Chapter 626

[587 words]

"I'll say it as many times as you want me to. So what if you're Mr. Yate's daughter? You're never the one he values the most anyway.

"Your words are nothing to me," George replied.

He was unafraid of burning all bridges with Jamie because he had found better support for himself.

"Indeed, I can't do anything to you in Riverdale, but do you really think you can still do anything to me? My grandfather has just been appointed as the leader of Shadow Clan."

"What?" Jamie was shocked. Her face darkened.

Shadow Clan and Eternal Clan were both martial arts forces in Havaría, and they were under the jurisdiction of the Havaría Martial Arts Association.

George's grandfather was now the leader of the Shadow Clan, putting him on the same level in the hierarchy as her father, Xavier. George was right. She could no longer do anything to George at the moment.

"Afraid now, are you?" George looked at Jamie smugly as he continued. "We, the Langleys, are about to ally with the Caldells.

"You have heard of the Caldwell family from Creybia, right? Do you think you can afford to cross Mr. Boris?"

Jamie glared at George, but she couldn't respond. She was speechless.

She really couldn't do anything to him when she took into account his new standing.

Suddenly, George's phone rang. He whipped out his phone to look at its screen, and amusement flashed in his eyes.

"I don't have time to waste with you right now. An interesting show awaits me."

Then, he pushed the lady in his arms away, got up, and started heading out. His bodyguards followed closely behind him.

"Come with me so you can watch it too. Your good friend is the main character in this show."

When George made his way to Jamie, he smirked at her, threw her a cryptic invitation, and walked out the door.

"Oh no!" Jamie suddenly thought of something and rushed out with her troop. "Follow behind their cars. Hurry up!"

...

Yolanda arrived at Henderson Residence ten minutes before George and the rest did.

She had already informed Blake to send his men over. She wasn't afraid to face the forces from Creybia alone, but there were still Winnie, Diana, and the rest. It was detrimental to have more men on hand.

The door was wide open. It seemed like a deliberate act on Julie's part to make sure she was able to enter immediately.

Yolanda walked into the foyer to find Diana and Harold passed out on the ground. Diana looked like she passed out from fright, while Harold had obvious bruising on his forehead. There did not seem to be any other injuries on their bodies externally.

"Yolanda!" Winnie, who had both her hands tied up, was seated on the couch. She yelled at Yolanda the moment she saw her, "They're after you! Run!"

She was drowning in her remorse. If she hadn't blindly trusted Julie, she wouldn't have attracted all this trouble, and Yolanda wouldn't have been threatened because of her.

"Shut up!" Julie's subordinate slapped Winnie twice.

Julie merely glared exasperatedly at Winnie as she grumbled, "I've been so kind to you, Winnie. Why did you have to betray me?"

There was no longer kinship in her eyes when she looked at Winnie. Instead, they were filled with hatred.

"You've been kind to me?" Winnie was dumbfounded. She didn't expect Julie to put the blame on her.

She quickly snapped back to her senses and yelled back at her. "When you said you have been kind to me, were you referring to you introducing me to a pervert I don't like for your personal gain?"

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Chapter 627

[677 words]

"What's not to love about Mr. Langley? He's the heir of the Langley family and is about to be Mr. Caldwell's right-hand man soon. His worth is skyrocketing through the roof.

"You, as an ordinary girl, are beyond fortunate to be able to be acquainted with Mr. Langley, but you don't know what's good for you, and you nearly foiled my plans! You've never treated me as a friend in your heart."

Winnie was speechless after hearing Julie's ridiculous nonsense. She didn't bother saying anything to Julie in response anymore. Instead, she turned to Yolanda.

"Yolanda, her men have this place surrounded, and George is bringing his men with him as well. You might not be able to handle this alone. Hurry, contact the people you know and ask them to bring people over to help you!"

Winnie vaguely knew that Yolanda was pretty well connected in Riverdale, like with Logan from last time. Yolanda knew medicinal skills and had cured many big shots. They would surely be willing to help her out in this.

"I have everything taken care of. Don't worry." Yolanda saw the handprints on Winnie's face, and her eyes darkened.

She turned to Julie and said, "I'm here now. She and all of them are useless to you now."

Yolanda looked pointedly at Diana and Harold who were passed out on the ground.

"You're not losing anything by releasing them."

Julie stared intently at Yolanda. After Yolanda was done speaking, Julie nodded to her subordinates.

Maybe she thought that Yolanda was trapped and cornered with nowhere else to go, or maybe she had her concerns and didn't want to have any lives lost. Whichever the reason, she allowed her subordinates to drag Diana and Harold out. Winnie's restraints were removed as well.

Blake's men had arrived. Yolanda gestured for Blake's men to bring Winnie and the rest to the hospital.

"I'll stay back with you, Yolanda." Winnie refused to leave. She was worried.

"Go have a physical exam done in the hospital." Then, she looked at Harold and Diana, who were being dragged around like sacks of potatoes, and figured out an excuse.

"Please help me admit them into the hospital."

Winnie looked in Diana's direction. Diana was her aunt, and she respected her. So, Winnie nodded.

"You gotta be careful. Call me if anything happens."

Then, she had firmly decided to follow Harold and Diana to the hospital.

Since Yolanda wasn't able to leave now, she would have to take up the responsibility to take care of Diana.

After Winnie and the rest had left, George barged into the villa with his men. "You did pretty well this time, Julie."

When he saw Yolanda standing alone in the living room, hatred flashed in his eyes.

Yolanda had caused him to humiliate himself at the cocktail party, and she was the reason he had to be admitted for a day in the hospital. How could he possibly let this go?

The bodyguards behind him didn't need further instructions. They went ahead and surrounded Yolanda. They only had one target, and they were ready to attack.

"Are you okay, Ms. Henderson?" Jamie, who had soon arrived as well, had also brought a troop of Eternal Clan apprentices with her. However, they were stuck outside in a brawl with George's men.

Jamie ran in on her own and saw Yolanda standing there unscathed. She breathed a sigh of relief.

Yolanda's expression softened as she saw Jamie.

"Hah! She may be fine now, but if she doesn't kneel and apologize to me, something will happen to her."

George glared fiercely at Yolanda. He looked behind Yolanda and then fixed his eyes on Julie as he snapped, "Where's Winnie?"

"I told her to go to the hospital for now."

Julie felt that as soon as she was finished with Yolanda, Winnie would obediently come back to her when she called.

She might have argued with Winnie just now, but she had no intention of burning the bridges completely with Winnie, so she allowed Winnie to leave first.

When Winnie finally understood that the power Goerge wielded was so great he could do absolutely anything to a second-rate family, she would then be very willing to be with him.

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Chapter 628

[486 words]

"Who said you could act on your own? Get her over here right now." George frowned unhappily. "You remember what Mr. Caldwell wants you to do, right?"

Julie lowered her head to hide the coldness in her eyes as she responded, "Yes." "Hurry up then." George was a little impatient.

"I have my men here. You're useless here now. Bring Winnie to Mr. Caldwell's club immediately.

"When I'm done with this bitch, I'll make Winnie apologize to me."

Julie gritted her teeth and left with her men.

In the Henderson residence, George was still up against Yolanda. He was having a terrific daydream of Yolanda kneeling before him in apology as he sat on the couch.

"I don't have much time. If you don't apologize right now, I'll get them to do it." George looked at Yolanda with disdain.

Then, he looked pointedly at his men.

"I initially didn't want to be so calculative with a woman like you, but since you really don't know what's good for you, don't blame this on me."

He really didn't understand. The Hendersons were merely a second-rate family. Even if Yolanda had a clinic, it was just a small business. Why would Jamie be so respectful toward Yolanda?

It didn't matter if he understood or not. He now had his grandfather and Boris' support. Even Jamie had to stay obediently and silently on the sidelines.

George was very pleased. He smiled as he watched his men inch closer to Yolanda.

"Hold her down. If she refuses to kneel, break her legs."

"Yes, sir!"

George's bodyguards pounced at Yolanda once they had gotten their orders.

Yolanda took a subtle step back. Just as the first bodyguard had started attacking, she threw a punch at his belly.

The bodyguard didn't expect Yolanda to be able to retaliate. He grunted as the punch landed, and his body stumbled backward uncontrollably. He almost knocked into the men behind him.

George was shocked. He didn't expect Yolanda to fight back.

"All of you, attack her! Break her legs!"

Upon George's orders, the vicious-looking bodyguards leaped forward to launch their attack. However, to Yolanda, they were merely feeble puppets.

In the blink of an eye, the dozens of men George brought with him were all defeated. Only eight of them remained conscious because they were tasked to protect George.

They didn't attack Yolanda; that was why they were temporarily spared.

"W-What are you doing?"

George finally realized something wasn't right as he watched his men splayed on the floor, severely injured. He inched backward involuntarily and hid behind his bodyguards.

"I'm telling you, if you dare lay hands on me, you're dead."

"Is that so?" Yolanda materialized in front of George in a flash. His bodyguards were merely decorative pieces to her.

She grabbed George's collar and slapped him hard.

George yelped in pain and spat out his two front teeth together with a mouthful of blood.

"H-How dare you?" George looked incredulously at Yolanda as agony flooded his senses. Loathing and defiance filled his eyes, but he was more shocked than anything else.

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Chapter 629

[551 words]

George had the Shadow Clan and Boris backing him up, but Yolanda still dared to attack him. Did she not know how strong they were?

Not only was George in shock, but Jamie was also so shaken she didn't dare to move.

She expected Yolanda to fight with George's men to protect herself, but she didn't think that Yolanda would dare attack George as well.

George's bodyguards who were not splayed and unconscious on the ground looked at Yolanda incredulously. Their eyes were bulging out of their sockets. They thought they had experienced a shared hallucination.

"This slap is for Winnie."

Yolanda grabbed George's collar tightly so he wasn't able to wriggle his way out of her grasp, and gave him another slap.

"This is for all the injured employees of Willow Creek Clinic."

George's face was swollen like a pufferfish. It was so bad his facial features were no longer recognizable.

Initially, George still had the strength to curse at Yolanda. But as Yolanda slapped him continuously another seven times, he no longer had the strength to even yelp in pain anymore.

He was looking so pathetic, the remainder of his bodyguards didn't even dare to do anything to stop Yolanda. All they could do was secretly call for reinforcements.

After Yolanda was done teaching George a lesson, she released George, and he crumpled onto the ground like a broken doll.

She turned around and glared coldly at the bodyguard making the phone call. "Get all the help and reinforcements you can think of to come together. I don't have too much time, so if they're late, I'm leaving."

Since George had previously mentioned that Shadow Clan and the Caldwell family were backing him up, they must be furious to know that she had injured him.

It was too much of a hassle to deal with one group at a time. Yolanda thought she might as well get it settled once and for all tonight.

The bodyguard with the phone was stunned. The moment the call went through, he shrieked, "Mr. Langley is injured! Hurry, inform Mr. Delacro!"

Jamie's expression grew more solemn after she heard what the bodyguard had said.

Donovan Delacro was George's maternal grandfather. He was the leader of Shadow Clan.

However, she was secretly relieved that Shadow Clan's headquarters wasn't in Riverdale, but in Dunhill. So even if Donovan were to receive this plight for help and get on the plane immediately, it would still take him half a day to arrive.

She should think about a way to get Yolanda out of Riverdale in the meantime to hide away for a while.

"Ms. Henderson, you—"

Just as Jamie was about to pester Yolanda to leave, the door suddenly swung open, and another troop of people entered.

They were all burly-looking martial artists and their outfits were embroidered with Shadow Clan's insignia.

"Mr. Langley!" Their leader was Warren Calvert, a square-faced man. When he saw the bloody-faced George on the ground, he was shocked. He ran immediately to George to check on him.

"Uncle Warren, y-you gotta avenge me."

George could barely get his words out, but he glared venomously at Yolanda. "I want that bitch to die."

Even if Yolanda was skilled in fighting and was able to fight ten men on her own, could she win against 100 men?

Shadow Clan apprentices were professionals. They would be able to finish Yolanda off for sure.

"Don't worry, Mr. Delacro will be arriving soon."

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[602 words]

Warren Calvert's words sent a chill through everyone present.

"You're talking about Mr. Delacro, the head of Shadow Clan, right? How could he possibly get here so quickly from Dunhill?"

"Mr. Delacro was already heading to Riverdale on business. After getting the call, he sent me ahead immediately."

The man who George called "Uncle Warren" helped him onto the couch to rest. "Don't worry, Mr. Langley. I'll make sure they pay for this!"

The Shadow Clan and Eternal Clan had always been rivals who frequently clashed over the years. Only the Havarria Martial Arts Association's mediation and respect for underground rules had kept some peace between them recently.

Now, they were on the brink of an armed conflict because of Yolanda. It would turn into a more serious situation. Though Jamie typically stayed out of Eternal Clan affairs, she could tell how serious this was becoming.

Just as she struggled with what to do next, Yolanda spoke up. "Jamie, call your people off."

Though Yolanda was not really fond of Jamie, this was strictly between her and George. Others did not need to get involved. "This is between George and me, so leave Eternal Clan out of it."

"Ms. Henderson!" Jamie was genuinely moved by this gesture. If she were in Yolanda's shoes, she would not have isolated herself like this by making herself the sole target.

"Tell them to withdraw!" Seeing Jamie's hesitation, Yolanda repeated her command more forcefully. She had steeled herself for this before coming. She did not care even if it stirred up trouble with some powerful figures in Creybia.

She would have to return there eventually anyway. Nydia couldn't possibly know about her reincarnation. So unless she revealed herself, those plotting against her would never suspect she was just an ordinary high school student in Riverdale

now.

Yolanda had hoped for a quiet life in Riverdale. Even when Diana and the other Hendersons were being difficult, she was not caught up in the power struggles between major families. She did not expect herself to be pulled back into Creybia's power circles just two months after arriving.

Combined with the connection between the Henderson side family and the Hoffmans, Yolanda couldn't help wondering if her reincarnation was truly random. Could her rebirth as the original Yolanda, a member of the Henderson branch family, be part of some larger scheme?

Yolanda had her doubts but could not be certain. After all, supernatural phenomena like reincarnation defied explanation. But since she was not the only one who had reincarnated, she felt compelled to consider all possibilities carefully. "Hah! Aren't you cocky!"

Warren looked at Yolanda with surprise, thinking she was being foolishly defiant. If Eternal Clan's people weren't here, he would have already ordered his men to burn this mansion to the ground.

He had looked into Yolanda's background before rushing over. She was just from a cast-off side family of the Hendersons in Creybia, which was not even considered among Riverdale's elite families. Where did she get the nerve to think she could stand against the entire Shadow Clan alone?

"You think you can take on a hundred men by yourself? Even if you could, so what? The Shadow Clan's power isn't something one person can stand against! While I'm still feeling generous, get over here and apologize to George! Maybe I'll let you live if you do!"

Now that Donovan Delacro was involved, Yolanda was as good as dead-it was just a matter of how. Though if she apologized now, he might show some mercy and just leave her crippled. He wasn't afraid of bloodshed in Riverdale, but dealing with the aftermath would be a hassle.

"Did you hear me? Get your ass over here and apologize!"

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Chapter 631

[509 words]

George's speech was slurred from his missing front teeth. But seeing Shadow Clan's people arrive had transformed his earlier dejection into smug satisfaction. His grandfather Donovan and his men would certainly make them pay for this!

His bodyguards, who had been beaten by Yolanda earlier, perked up. They felt proud now that someone powerful was on their side. Donovan was on par with Xavier in status, so Yolanda was surely done for!

Jamie hesitated as she did not expect things to escalate this far. Retreating now would leave Yolanda at their mercy. Though her people could not match the Shadow Clan's strength, the Eternal Clan's mere presence could still deter them.

She stepped back from Yolanda but did not withdraw her people as Yolanda demanded.

"Why aren't you on your knees yet?" Upset, Warren frowned at Yolanda's indifference. He had offered her a way out. If she was too foolish to take it, he wouldn't show any mercy.

"What makes you think I would kneel to people like you?"

Tilting her head, Yolanda sized up the Shadow Clan members before her. When she graduated from Talon Academy, she had challenged every martial arts clan in Havarria as required. Even their leaders could not defeat her, so these Shadow Clan minions did not worry her at all.

"You..." Warren's face darkened as he gestured to his men. "Take her down!"

He refused to believe a young woman could handle Shadow Clan's elite members alone!

At Warren's command, the Shadow Clan members charged forward. Like George's bodyguards before them, they could only last a few moves against Yolanda. Their reinforcements were completely defeated in less than ten minutes.

The living room of the Henderson residence was not quite spacious in the first place. Now that it was cluttered with unconscious bodies, it became difficult to move around.

"Get them out of here," Yolanda told Jamie when she saw that Jamie stayed. Since Jamie chose to remain, it meant that she had weighed the pros and cons. In that case, Yolanda might as well ask Jamie's people to clear out these unconscious men.

As Jamie's people began removing the bodies, Warren stared at Yolanda in shock. "No wonder you're so arrogant. Too bad..."

He shook his head with mock pity. With skills like hers, she could have earned a high position in the Shadow Clan if she had just apologized. She would have been well above the regular members. But she had offended George and refused to back down, so now she had to die.

George watched eagerly as Warren removed his jacket.

He was still confident that the Shadow Clan would avenge him. So what if those worthless fighters were beaten? Once Warren stepped up, Yolanda was finished! "Uncle Warren, break her arms and legs! Make her beg for mercy at my feet!"

As soon as George finished speaking, Warren launched his attack on Yolanda. She dodged his first punch, only to face another immediate strike.

She had to admit that Warren's skills were far superior to the other Shadow Clan members. At least he could exchange a few moves with Yolanda instead of being knocked out instantly.

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Chapter 632

[440 words]

Yolanda noticed something odd about Warren's fighting style. It was totally different from the Shadow Clan members' techniques and was not like anything she had seen in other Havarian martial arts clans.

Intrigued by his unique style, she decided to draw out the fight rather than end it quickly. She studied his movements as they exchanged blows.

But her apparent caution made Warren think she was struggling to keep up. Eager to finish her off, he increased his attack speed. After twenty exchanges, Yolanda had decoded his pattern, while the onlookers watched in amazement.

The Shadow Clan members were especially shocked. Warren was Donovan's right-hand man and was ranked among their clan's top five fighters, yet Yolanda had matched him for dozens of moves.

"You've got skill, I'll give you that. Too bad you're young and arrogant!" Warren taunted as he continued his assault. "It's too late for apologies now!"

Suddenly, he pivoted sharply and drove his fist toward Yolanda's back. It was meant to be a killing blow.

"Yolanda, watch out!" Jamie shut her eyes helplessly as she did not want to watch Yolanda getting killed. George and his people watched eagerly, savoring what they expected to be their moment of revenge.

But just when everyone thought Yolanda was finished, Warren's punch stopped mid-swing.

"What?"

"How?"

In the split second Warren had launched his attack, Yolanda had already anticipated his move. She acted quicker than him and caught his arm with lightning speed.

"Damn you!" Warren roared while struggling futilely against her iron grip.

"Are you done showing off?" Yolanda's lips curled into a mocking smile. "Your punching technique is the strangest I've ever seen, but your mastery is lacking. I guess this really is all you've got!"

She had completely figured out his technique. If executed perfectly, it could be a devastating technique that could possibly be even more superior to Eternal Clan's signature moves. But Warren focused too much on pure power and speed, neglecting the fundamentals.

If Yolanda was fighting against someone who had really mastered this technique, she was not even sure she would win. But this raised another suspicion. Though he worked for the Shadow Clan's leader closely, his style suggested he was not originally one of them.

"You're dead!" Enraged at her criticism of his technique, Warren summoned all his strength to break free and deliver a fatal blow. But the moment Yolanda released his arm, she struck his chest and sent him flying backward.

When he hit the ground, dead silence fell over the room. No one had expected this outcome. They had all assumed Yolanda would die at Warren's hands, but she had dominated the fight instead.

Warren's face twisted with fury and the pain in his chest.

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Chapter 633

[492 words]

Warren could not accept being beaten by a young lady barely in her twenties, especially in front of everyone. When he tried to stand, the searing pain in his chest made him fall before he could steady himself.

Only then did the shocking realization hit him—he had been incapacitated by just a single punch and could no longer fight Yolanda. This was not a fluke; he had been thoroughly outclassed. As this sank in, Warren's expression grew even darker.

"Who... who are you?" He could not believe a young woman from an ordinary family like Yolanda could possess such power.

Ignoring him, Yolanda turned to Jamie. "Throw him out with the others!"

"How dare you!" Warren exploded in rage. His authority in the Shadow Clan was just slightly beneath the other elders, so he had never faced such humiliation.

"Why wouldn't I dare to toss out someone I've defeated?"

Yolanda's cold laugh rang out as she addressed the crowd and raised her voice.

"Anyone who objects can come to avenge him. But make it quick; I don't have much patience!"

Fury and resentment burned in the faces of George and the Shadow Clan members, but none dared step forward. Yolanda's power was beyond anything they had seen. However unhappy they were, nobody there was foolish enough to challenge her.

As the tension peaked, footsteps approached from outside. Twelve imposing bodyguards in black entered first. Their murderous auras instantly chilled the atmosphere at the Henderson residence.

Behind them came an elderly man in an elegant gray suit and tie. "Who dares to bully my grandson?"

"Grandpa!" George's eyes lit up as he rushed to the old man. His hand was still covering his mouth. "You have to make them pay!"

The crowd recognized the man as Donovan Delacro, the current leader of the Shadow Clan. He had just arrived in Riverdale on business when he got word of George being attacked.

He had sent his trusted fighters ahead before gathering his bodyguards to come to the Henderson residence. Seeing George's swollen face, murderous intent flashed in Donovan's eyes. "Who's the fool who dared hurt my grandson?"

"Her!" George pointed at Yolanda furiously. "She even took down Uncle Warren!" Donovan frowned. He then noticed Warren clutching his chest on the ground. He studied Yolanda intently as if trying to see through her.

He knew exactly what his men were capable of. For this unremarkable-looking young lady to defeat his trusted fighters was astounding. "Which clan are you from?"

He noticed Jamie behind her and mused aloud, "Are you Xavier's apprentice?"

"I'm not with the Eternal Clan." Yolanda sized up Donovan in turn. He was clearly a martial arts master. Fighting him would require her full attention and considerable time.

Finally, she had found an opponent worth taking seriously after her rebirth. The idea of that excited her. "Enough talk. Are we going to fight or not?"

She cracked her knuckles. Since Gavin left on his business trip, she had not had anyone to spar with properly.

Donovan did not know what to say.

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[500 words]

Donovan had not expected such a response from Yolanda, so it made him pause.
"Aren't you afraid?"

"Why should I be?"

"Anyone who dares hurt my grandson will face death!" Donovan fixed her with a dark stare.

"After what you did to him, you won't leave here alive today. But since you're young and inexperienced, I'll offer you one chance. Apologize to George now and be his slave from here on out."

It was not a bad plan on Donovan's part. Having Yolanda serve the Shadow Clan would give George a powerful protector, and no one would dare bully him again.

"Did you think I'd agree to that?" Yolanda found it laughable. No one in her position would accept such terms. If she feared death, she would not have confronted George in the first place.

"You have no reason to refuse." Donovan stated firmly, "You can't beat me. You'll only die fighting me."

"Is that so?" A mocking smile played across Yolanda's lips. "Same goes for you!" "You insolent brat!" Donovan roared, "You'll regret your arrogance!"

He had hoped to avoid fighting someone so much younger than him since it would not make him look good. But her constant provocations left him no choice but to teach her a lesson himself.

He figured she would submit when she was at death's door. Anyone sane would choose life over pride, after all.

"Stop stalling. People might think you're scared to fight me." Yolanda launched her attack after finishing her words. She hated people who wasted time with endless talk before a fight.

Before Donovan could respond, her fist was already at his face. It was so fast that he barely dodged it.

As an experienced fighter, he could immediately tell that she was stronger than he had assumed. He focused entirely on the fight. Having to use his full strength against someone so young felt humiliating, but he soon realized that one wrong move could mean defeat.

The room fell silent as they fought. Even George, who had been waiting for his grandfather's revenge, held his breath. In just moments, they had exchanged over thirty moves without either gaining the upper hand.

The onlookers could hardly believe what they were seeing. As Shadow Clan's leader, Donovan rarely needed to fight personally anymore. Few martial artists in Havarria could match his skill.

As someone who was barely twenty, Yolanda actually managed to hold her own against him for so long. Even if she lost, no one would underestimate her again. Besides, she might actually win.

Donovan grew increasingly unsettled as they fought. He could not place her fighting style. The last time he had seen something similar was watching one of the elders spar...

In that moment of distraction, Yolanda's fist drove into his chest. This time he could not dodge, and the blow knocked him unconscious.

"Grandpa!"

"Mr. Delacro!"

"So much for the Shadow Clan's leader." Yolanda had looked forward to this fight. He had a solid foundation in fighting, but his mind was too cluttered. Lasting a few dozen exchanges was his limit.

"Don't get cocky!" George shouted defiantly at Yolanda.

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[482 words]

"What's wrong with being cocky? If you've got a problem, come fight Ms. Henderson yourself!"

Jamie taunted George with a smirk. She was not afraid anymore. If Yolanda could take down Donovan, what was there to worry about? Even if the Havarria Martial Arts Association got involved, the Shadow Clan had clearly been the ones who had started this.

Besides, she had always disliked George. This was her chance to rub it in. Without waiting for Yolanda's order, she had her people throw Donovan, George, and their

group out. Since Donovan was unconscious and injured, the Shadow Clan members did not dare to linger and quickly drove him to a nearby hospital.

The evening's battle had practically destroyed the Hendersons' living room. It would need complete renovation before anyone could live there again. Yolanda didn't care, of course.

...

Julie went to the hospital looking for Winnie as George had asked. But Winnie seemed to be avoiding her and would not answer her calls anymore. Nothing was going right, and it was making her unstable.

Especially since arriving in Riverdale, she had not completed a single task for Boris. She had been ruining his plans instead. Going back to Creybia like this would be bad for her.

Agitated, she parked by the road and bought a pack of cigarettes from a convenience store. When she was back in her car, Julie stomped on the gas in frustration. But she suddenly realized something was wrong with the brakes.

Damn it! She had parked by the roadside earlier without much thought! It was too late by the time she realized what was happening. Her car spun out of control toward a planter, finally stopping when it hit a large tree.

Onlookers immediately called an ambulance. As they moved to save her, the car's fuel tank caught fire. Within seconds, they heard a boom as the sports car exploded.

Julie was barely alive when she was rushed to the hospital, but her face was severely burned. Even if she survived, recovery would take a long time.

...

As Julie was being taken to the hospital, Yolanda was in the inpatient ward. Diana and Harold shared a room, while Winnie was having her wrist injury treated.

After Yolanda gave Winnie a brief rundown of what had happened, Winnie gasped. "They won't come after you again, will they?"

"Not anytime soon."

Jamie had informed Xavier about tonight's events. Even if Donovan woke up wanting revenge, the Eternal Clan would keep them in check.

"But Aunt Diana and..."

Winnie stood with Yolanda in the hallway outside the ward. She did not need to finish speaking. They both knew Yolanda's terrible relationship with her family would only get worse after recent events.

"They'll just argue when they wake up. I'm leaving."

Diana and Harold would eventually beg her to return, but she did not want to deal with their endless arguing right now. "Are you heading home? I can give you a ride if you're going that way."

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[481 words]

"I should head home today and check on my parents. They were pretty shaken up."

Winnie sighed. This all started because of her, yet Yolanda was the one in the crosshairs. She felt really bad about it.

"Yolanda, you have to tell me if they come after you again! I might not be able to do much, but I can't just stand aside. You've helped me so many times, and I can't keep letting you take the hits for me."

"What are you talking about?" Yolanda stopped and turned to Winnie with a smile. "You're my cousin. Your problems are my problems."

Winnie paused, then smiled back. "So, don't shoulder everything alone!"

She quickened her pace to walk beside Yolanda toward the elevators. "The subway is still running, you don't need to give me a ride..."

As Winnie reached for the elevator button, she realized Yolanda had stopped walking. "Yolanda?"

The elevator arrived at their floor, but Yolanda stood frozen in front of a hospital room. "Go ahead, Winnie. I need to check something."

At the Eternal Clan headquarters, Jamie gave Xavier a detailed account of the evening's events. "Ms. Henderson said if the Shadow Clan pursues this, Eternal Clan can deny any connection to her."

"Tell the Dragon Brigade to monitor their movements." Xavier waved Jamie away.

"Mr. Yate, are you sure we should get involved?" Though Viktor was grateful to Yolanda for healing his legs, he did not dare risk the clan's safety. After all, this had not been their fight originally.

"Absolutely!" Xavier said gravely. "Do you know why Donovan came to Riverdale?"

"Why?"

"He somehow convinced the Havarria Martial Arts Association to let some Shadow Clan members come here for 'training and exchange.' But I see right through that old fox's game!"

Xavier scoffed, then continued, "With both you and me injured, he thought he could grab a piece of Riverdale's pie! The nerve!"

Viktor had not realized the hidden agenda, and now he was furious too.

"Donovan has been eyeing Riverdale for years but never had the chance. Today Yolanda fought him and took him down, which totally ruined his plans. His attempt to establish a foothold here will have to wait.

"I'd say her clash with them was a good thing. It taught Donovan a lesson too. How can he show his face in Riverdale when he can't even beat someone who's barely twenty?"

"Mr. Yate, given how powerful Yolanda is, if you were to face her..." Viktor knew Donovan's capabilities well, which made this all the more shocking.

Xavier fell silent for a long while. Though he could beat Donovan in a fight, Yolanda had actually managed to cause Donovan such serious injuries. Xavier doubted he could manage such a decisive victory.

Moreover, Xavier had spent a lifetime mastering martial arts, while Yolanda was still so young in his eyes. Whether for practical or personal reasons, maintaining good relations with Yolanda could only benefit the Eternal Clan, even if she seemed to attract trouble.

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Chapter 637

[476 words]

Viktor fell silent at Xavier's extended pause. He could not help drawing a sharp breath but said nothing more.

"Tell all Eternal Clan members right now that from now on, Yolanda is our honored guest. Our clan will respect all of her decisions and support her!"

After a moment, Xavier spoke again with a resolute tone, "Understood!"

As Viktor turned to leave, his phone suddenly rang. "What is it?"

It was one of his men.

"What?" Whatever news came through the phone nearly made Viktor drop it. His face drained of color.

"What happened?" Xavier frowned and asked.

Viktor lowered his phone. Panic flickered in his eyes as he forced out the words, "Donovan... he's dead..."

After Winnie left, Yolanda stood outside the hospital room near the elevators. She watched through the window as a nurse removed an IV from the patient and

carried the tray out.

"Sorry! Visiting hours are over!" When the young nurse saw Yolanda at the door, she eyed Yolanda suspiciously. "Do you have a visitor's pass?"

"I'm his fiancée." Yolanda walked past her into the room after saying that.

"Fiancée?" The nurse turned in surprise, then shook her head with pity as Yolanda entered. "Tsk... What's wrong with handsome guys' standards these days?"

Gavin was resting against the headboard after his IV treatment. Without opening his eyes at the sound of the door, he asked casually, "Was my return kept under wraps?"

"Yes, it's quite thoroughly concealed." Yolanda approached the bed. Her voice grew cold.

Gavin's eyes snapped open before staring at her in disbelief. "How did you—"

"So if I hadn't happened to come to the hospital, were you going to keep hiding this from me?" Yolanda looked at the man on the hospital bed expressionlessly. She was masking her true feelings.

"I..." Gavin opened his mouth, suddenly finding his usual eloquence useless before her. "I wasn't trying to hide it from you. It's just a minor issue."

Thankfully, it was minor. Yolanda had noticed when she entered that he was not injured, so she was just a little angry.

"I was going to tell you when I got back, but there was a slight complication on the way."

"Give me your hand." Yolanda hadn't forgotten her anger, so she still had a stern look on her face when she spoke to Gavin.

Knowing her temper, Gavin silently extended his hand without explanation. Yolanda checked his pulse, then asked after a moment, "Is it because of exhaustion?"

Helpless, Gavin nodded with a bitter smile and said, "I forgot I can't handle too much strain with this body."

During his business trip, his schedule had been quite tight. He only got to sleep two or three hours a day. At first, he managed, but this borrowed body gradually started failing him.

Then on his way back to Riverdale, he had encountered assassins.

"Was it Henry's doing?"

In all of Riverdale, his supposed brother from his original body was probably the one who wanted him dead the most.

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Chapter 638

[518 words]

"Yeah." Gavin held onto Yolanda's hand tightly as she checked his pulse. His tone was somewhat desperate when he told her his whole plan.

"Henry's people probably haven't gotten the news yet. There's an announcement ceremony tomorrow morning, and I'll be there to sign in person."

Henry's scheme was clever. Whether or not he could get Gavin killed this time, Gavin would miss tomorrow's signing. Then, as the Savage Group's representative, Henry could sign in Gavin's place and gain control of the project.

"So, when I messaged you earlier and got no reply, it was because you were exhausted?" Yolanda raised an eyebrow while withdrawing her hand.

"Yeah." Gavin nodded reluctantly. Then, he quickly added, "But this body should adjust to my work pace soon."

What man would want to admit weakness to his girlfriend?

"Don't push yourself. Take a few days to rest." Yolanda missed the strange look in his eyes.

"I"

"Mr. Savage, I've handled everything you assigned! Next-" A young man burst into the room, stopping mid-sentence when he spotted Yolanda. His eyes widened in shock.

"Flynn?" Yolanda was surprised too. The young man named Flynn Sanders was one of Gavin's staff from before his rebirth.

"He's the only one who knows the secret," Gavin explained quietly to Yolanda, who nodded subtly in understanding.

"Who are you? Why are you in my boss' room?" Flynn was too shocked to notice their quiet exchange. "Oh, I get it. You're just the front Mr. Savage is using to deal with his family drama, right?"

Speechless, Yolanda stared at Flynn in disbelief. She was wondering what nonsense he was spouting. Before she could speak, Gavin stated firmly, "Flynn, she's my fiancée. Don't raise your voice at her."

Yolanda gave Gavin a strange look. Clearly, Flynn did not know about her rebirth. Sensing her thoughts, Gavin explained, "The fewer people who know your identity before the truth comes out, the better."

Yolanda nodded. Gavin had a point.

She'd had a good relationship with Flynn in her past life, and he was Gavin's confidant. So, she had assumed Gavin would tell him she was Yulia. Now, she saw that Gavin was being even more careful for her sake than she would've been.

"What identity?" Flynn stared at Yolanda in confusion, then shook his head disapprovingly. "Mr. Savage, you've worked so hard lately. I'll take good care of you from now on!"

Gavin was speechless.

"Shut up!" He shot Flynn a cold look after realizing what Flynn was talking about.

Yolanda watched Flynn with amusement, curious what outrageous thing he might say next. Instead, he turned on her. "Mr. Savage is too polite to say this, but I'll be frank—you're just a tool. Don't dream of actually being with him. He already has feelings for someone else. Even though she's gone, no one can replace her."

Flynn started out haughty and warning, but Yolanda caught a note of sadness in his last words. Her amusement faded. She knew better than anyone who Flynn meant, but she could not respond.

Yolanda was terrible at handling emotional scenes like this. It was why she had never visited her old friends and comrades from her past life since her rebirth.

"Hey, why aren't you saying anything?"

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[412 words]

When Yolanda remained silent, Flynn repeated impatiently, "Did you not understand what I just said?"

"Enough, Flynn. Get out." Gavin had caught Yolanda's subtle mood shift and frowned.

"Mr. Savage?" Flynn looked hurt that Gavin would snap at him over a woman he had known for barely two months. His wounded feelings made him glare at Yolanda again.

Caught in the crossfire for no reason, Yolanda felt speechless. She had always seen Flynn as something of a little brother, so his words did not really bother her. Besides, she and Gavin were the ones keeping him in the dark, so he had every right to complain a bit.

Just as she was about to change the subject to lighten the mood, her phone rang. She was surprised after seeing who the caller was.

Xavier was actually giving her a call this late. "Ms. Henderson, Donovan is dead."

Yolanda paused, then casually moved to the window with her phone. This news would keep countless people awake tonight.

...

The next day, Yolanda called Joel to get details and let him know she was coming. She then headed to the district hospital's morgue. When she arrived, Joel and Viktor were already there with others.

Given Donovan's special status, Joel had received orders from higher-ups to personally handle the case.

"Ms. Henderson, it's cold down here. Maybe you shouldn't go in." Viktor looked at her with concern. Donovan's face was frozen in an expression of agony, and he worried it might be too much for her.

"I'm fine." Yolanda put on protective gear, gloves, and a mask, then entered with Joel and the others. At the bottom of a row of cold storage units, the medical staff had pulled out the large drawer.

The cold basement already felt eerie, especially since it was a morgue. Viktor was no stranger to death, and even he could not suppress a shiver. But as he sneaked a glance at Yolanda, he saw no trace of fear or discomfort.

"What's the cause of death?" Instead of approaching Donovan's body, Yolanda asked the medical examiner beside Joel.

"Cardiac arrest from external trauma. There's a needle mark at a pressure point near the heart."

"A needle mark?" Yolanda paused. Then, she suddenly understood Xavier's hesitation on the phone earlier.

"Yes, it's an extremely fine puncture. We suspect the murder weapon was an acupuncture needle that's commonly used in traditional medicine."

After the examiner finished, Joel and Viktor both looked at Yolanda. Neither believed she had killed Donovan, but someone was clearly trying to frame her for Donovan's death.

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Chapter 640

[546 words]

Though news of Yolanda fighting and injuring Donovan had not spread widely yet, both Shadow Clan and Eternal Clan members knew the details. Now with

Donovan dead, Yolanda was the prime suspect.

"After Donovan was hospitalized and stabilized yesterday, they planned to fly him back to Dunhill for treatment. But when he woke up, he flew into a rage and kicked everyone out of his room, saying he needed to be alone.

"Everyone assumed he was just embarrassed about losing to someone so young, so they let him be. When his people came to get him for the private flight, they found him dead. Ms. Henderson, if I may ask-where were you between eleven and midnight last night?"

Joel was not doubting her, but this would get complicated without a solid alibi.

"I was at home." Yolanda recalled that she had returned to her house during that time. Before coming to the hospital, she had also checked the surveillance around Donovan. All cameras had been thoroughly destroyed before the incident. They were beyond even hacker recovery.

This was clearly aimed at her, but her current identity was not worth such an elaborate frame-up. Using this method to cast suspicion on her meant there was a different motive altogether.

"That makes things difficult." Joel's brow furrowed. If officials applied pressure, even he might not be able to protect her.

But Yolanda was not particularly worried. Instead, she asked, "Are there other suspects?"

"Several people had grudges against Donovan, but none are in Riverdale. We can't rule out hired assassins, but they'd need someone well-known amongst the underground forces given Donovan's skills. According to our intel, no one matching that profile has entered Riverdale.

"As for George and Shadow Clan, they're convinced you're the killer. They claim you killed him to avoid consequences for injuring him."

"Absolute nonsense!" Furious, Viktor burst out before Yolanda could respond. "If Ms. Henderson wanted him dead, she could've killed him during their fight!"

"He insisted on having a fight with her, so it would have been self-defense if he had died then. Neither the Havaria Martial Arts Association nor officials would've held her responsible. Why would she need to kill him secretly?"

"Plus, everyone knows she's a doctor who carries acupuncture needles. If she wanted to kill him, why use such an obvious method? It's like writing 'I'm the killer'

on her forehead! Have you ever seen such a stupid criminal?"

"Mr. Thorne, please calm down!" Joel quickly interjected. "I believe Ms. Henderson too, but the evidence looks bad. If the Association and officials pressure us, I may not be able to protect her."

"Don't worry about that." Viktor relaxed slightly at Joel's words. "Mr. Yate went to Creybia early this morning. He'll handle the Havaria Martial Arts Association.

Without their complaint, officials won't pursue this matter!

"Then Ms. Henderson should be safe."

Joel looked relieved, but Yolanda felt this was not so simple.

"By the way, Ms. Henderson, members of Shadow Clan are furious about Donovan dying in Riverdale. They're all swearing to get revenge!

"But the Association rules forbid martial arts organization members from leaving their regions without approval. They can't come over and cause trouble yet.

"However, Donovan had a favorite disciple named Melody Jenzo. She arrived this morning to take care of his final arrangements. She's Shadow Clan's top fighter, and she'll definitely seek revenge. Be careful!"

Viktor warned her urgently.

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Chapter 641

[702 words]

Even though Viktor was well aware of Yolanda's capabilities, he knew that even the strongest fighter would have their moments of carelessness.

Shadow Clan and Eternal Clan were the most powerful martial arts forces in both Dunhill and Riverdale. However, all across Havaria, where experts were bountiful, many other forces could easily win against them.

He was just worried that Shadow Clan, in their despair, would spend a fortune to hire assassins to assassinate Yolanda.

Assassins were part of the underworld forces, which were considered a third party and were out of the jurisdiction of the martial arts association. That was the most troublesome part.

"I got it. But what's the purpose of the killer putting the blame on Ms. Henderson?" Joel just couldn't figure it out.

"His target isn't me or Donovan." After pondering for a while, Yolanda responded, but she didn't make all of her thoughts known.

"There might be a major shift happening in the Riverdale forces recently. Please keep your eyes peeled, Commissioner Kaufman."

After she was done speaking, she walked out.

She didn't even bother examining Donovan's corpse. It didn't matter anymore.

Yolanda and the rest took an escalator up from the morgue. Just as they had stepped out of the elevator, a group of people completely blocked their way.

The group consisted of both men and women, but their most eye-catching feature was their attire—they were all dressed in black in the midst of the busy hospital, as though they were mourning.

However, no one in the hospital dared to look at them directly, because everyone in this group exuded ominous air, thick with the intent to kill.

Joel stopped in his tracks. Viktor, who was by his side, was taken aback. He recognized these people.

The slender woman dressed in black, who was leading the group, was Melody. She was Donovan's favorite disciple.

At that moment, Melody's eyes were puffy and swollen. She looked exhausted, but the moment she laid eyes on Yolanda, who was by Viktor's side, her eyes gleamed with bone-chilling hatred.

"Are you Yolanda Henderson?" She glared at Yolanda, and the iciness in her eyes grew.

"You should introduce yourself before asking the identity of others." Yolanda sauntered forward and raised her head to look at Melody. She was unfazed by Melody's obvious intent to kill.

"I'm Melody Jenzo, Donovan's close disciple," Melody answered through gritted teeth. "How dare the likes of you injure my mentor?"

"Like George said, I'm sure you used some voodoo spells so you could win. If not, how could you, an ordinary nobody, have the ability to injure my mentor?"

Yolanda fought against the entire Shadow Clan and all of George's bodyguards alone and won. Everyone else was still in disbelief after a whole night that a young lady less than 20 years of age could be so skilled.

When George learned that Yolanda was a doctor, he quickly jumped to the conclusion that she cheated by using medication to temporarily increase her skills to defeat Donovan, like how athletes would take performance-enhancing drugs just to win in a competition.

After Melody saw Yolanda, she was more certain of George's hypothesis.

However, even if Yolanda had used medication to enhance her capabilities for a short while, the effects of the medication were limited by time. It couldn't last forever.

Melody knew that the best medication available in the market was only effective for two hours. Upon consuming one dosage, the user couldn't take another dose for six months.

No matter if Yolanda had eaten any medication or not, its effects would have worn off by then. If so, the Yolanda before her was nothing but trash.

"I forbid you from leaving! You're going to follow me back to Dunhill City and kill yourself before my mentor's grave. Then, I'll likely leave your body undisturbed, allowing you to die with some dignity."

Melody gave Yolanda a once-over and ordered Yolanda haughtily and ruthlessly.

"What do you think you're doing?" Viktor and Joel roared in anger. "This is Riverdale City."

"This isn't a place you can act however you please."

"I don't care if this is Riverdale or Dunhill. Wherever I am, my fighting skills give me the power to make the final decision." Melody glanced at Viktor and completely disregarded him.

"This is between Yolanda and Shadow Clan. All you other forces have no place in this."

"Ms. Henderson is-"

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Chapter 642

[472 words]

Viktor was about to inform Melody that Yolanda was Eternal Clan's esteemed guest, but Yolanda waved at him to signal for him to keep quiet.

Viktor glared unwillingly at Melody and held his tongue.

"You want me to go back with you?" Yolanda smiled faintly

"I want you to repent before my mentor's grave," Melody shrieked.

"What if I say no?" Yolanda cocked her head.

"Do you know who you're talking to?" Melody's subordinates pointed at Yolanda and yelled.

"Melody is Shadow Clan's successor! She only needs to twitch her fingers and you'll die instantly."

"That's right! I advise you not to go against Melody."

Melody waggled her eyebrows smugly at Yolanda as she heard what the rest of the Shadow Clan apprentices had said.

"Did you hear that? Heed my orders! I'm in a very bad mood right now."

"You'd better not make me angry or you'll have to suffer more. Pick your poison- leave with me right away, or my subordinates will break your legs and carry you out."

"Unfortunately, I won't choose either of those." Yolanda shook her head. Coldness flashed in her usually emotionless eyes.

"You're just asking for trouble!" Melody was enraged. Just as she was about to order her subordinates to seize Yolanda when Yolanda suddenly moved.

She zipped and materialized before Melody. Before Melody realized what was happening, Yolanda reached out and seized her throat. "You-"

"Don't move." Yolanda took out her acupuncture needles as she held onto Melody's throat. "If you move, even just a little bit, the needle in my hand will thread through your throat."

Melody was horrified. One part of her refused to believe that Yolanda could be so nimble, while another part of her was unwilling to be Yolanda's hostage. How could she get such a firm grasp on her before she could understand what had happened?

"What are you doing?"

"Let go of Melody now!"

The sudden turn of events caused the Shadow Clan apprentices to be thrown off their feet.

However, they didn't dare to move recklessly. They were afraid that Yolanda would do what she said she would.

"You! If you really kill me, the martial arts association will come after you!" Melody didn't dare to move, but she took time to reorganize her thoughts and regained some rationale.

"Hah! If I really wanted to kill you, do you think that I'd wait till now to do it?"

Yolanda scoffed and whispered into Melody's ear, "You're no match for me. Put your brain to use and think carefully."

"Who stands to gain the most out of your mentor's death? Don't let yourself be someone else's puppet now."

After she was done, she released Melody and walked out, passing all the other Shadow Clan apprentices while she did that.

"Damn it!" Melody's face was flushed as she coughed. She was about to turn and confront Yolanda further, but the burning sensation in her throat caused her to stop moving.

"What do we do now, Melody?"

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[529 words]

Melody was no match for Yolanda, so everyone else didn't dare to act recklessly.

They couldn't understand how Yolanda could be so skilled.

"Let's bring Mr. Delacro home." The unwillingness in Melody's eyes might not have subsided, but she had calmed down a little.

Yolanda's words had somewhat impacted her.

Even though she was doubtful, she wasn't as eager to seek revenge with Yolanda anymore.

"I'll settle scores with you one day, Yolanda!" she thought. No matter if Yolanda killed Donovan or not, she would have to defeat Yolanda personally for humiliating her today.

...

When Yolanda got to the first floor of the hospital, she saw Winnie, who had a food container in her hand, walking toward her.

"Yolanda!" Winnie called out and waved excitedly as she saw Yolanda. "Are you here to visit Aunt Diana and Uncle Harold?"

"No." Yolanda shook her head. "I have some other matters to deal with here."

"Aunt Diana and Uncle Harold are getting discharged this afternoon. I brought them some chicken soup. Would you like to come with me to visit them?"

"No." If Yolanda were to head up to their rooms now, Diana would only point, curse at her, and call her names.

She had better things to do in life than to go out of her way to pick a fight with Diana.

"Okay then. I'll explain to Aunt Diana on your behalf that this time, it's really not your fault."

"Okay." Yolanda knew Winnie meant well, so she nodded and said nothing else. When Winnie arrived at the ward, she saw Yvonne sitting at Diana's bedside with a bowl of soup in her hand. She was feeding Diana carefully.

"You're here, Winnie." Diana saw Winnie and ushered her over.

"Are you feeling better, Aunt Diana?" Winnie, with a food container in her hand, smiled at Yvonne as she asked Diana, "Where's Uncle Harold?"

"He has matters to deal with in his office. He has gone to work," Yvonne answered.

Harold only had a mild concussion, so he was fine after the doctors admitted him for a day for observation.

"I brought you some chicken soup my mom made, Aunt Diana. Would you like some?" Winnie sat beside Yvonne and asked nonchalantly.

"It's a good thing you weren't at home yesterday, Yvonne. Those people were too much!"

"I wish I hadn't attended my friend's party last night." Yvonne's eyes dimmed. "At least, when they bullied you, Mom, I could've stood before you and taken it all upon myself."

"How could I allow you to get beaten up on my behalf?" Diana's tone might be filled with anguish, but there was a look of relief on her face.

"I'm glad that you care, not like a certain wretched trash who is useless and only knows how to bring trouble home."

Even though Diana didn't name names, Winnie and Yvonne both knew who she was referring to.

"Aunt Diana, this is all entirely my fault. If Yolanda didn't step in to help me, I would've been bullied terribly."

As she spoke, she watched Diana's reaction and continued, "Yolanda actually cared for you a lot. Yesterday, after she rescued us, she had arranged for you and Uncle Harold to be sent to the hospital.

"She also took care of the matter with Mr. Langley. He won't bother us anymore."

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Chapter 644

[626 words]

"Hah! Yolanda took care of it? Do you really think she's capable of that? I'm sure she went and begged Mr. Savage to help her with it," Diana screeched.

"Mr. Savage hasn't been in Riverdale recently. Yolanda really did take care of the matters herself yesterday."

Winnie knew Diana wouldn't be easily persuaded, but she wasn't anxious as she continued to explain, "Aunt Diana, Yolanda is actually more capable than we know.

"Other than knowing medicinal skills, she also knows martial arts. It's as easy as ABC for her to fend for herself against a few gangsters."

"She knows martial arts? Why won't you say she can fly too?" Diana was usually kind to Winnie, but after hearing what Winnie had to say, she couldn't help but roll her eyes at her.

"Winnie, I know that you've been growing closer to her recently. Don't be fooled by her. She knows nothing but to boast."

"But Aunt Diana..."

"Let's call it a day. I'm tired." Winnie wanted to explain further but Diana clearly didn't want to hear it.

"I'll leave first, Aunt Diana." Winnie sighed helplessly. She left the food container on the table beside Diana's bed and left.

"I'll walk you out, Winnie." Yvonne placed the bowl in her hands down and walked good-naturedly behind Winnie, sending her off.

"I'll talk to my mom, Winnie. She misunderstands Yolanda too much."

"Yes, please talk to her when you can, since you're still family anyway."

Winnie didn't know why, but she felt like something was off when she looked at Yvonne.

"You went to your friend's house yesterday?"

"Yes, my friend threw a birthday party yesterday, if not, I wouldn't have been in complete darkness when such danger had happened at home."

Yvonne looked very remorseful.

"Didn't you go to school directly today from yesterday? How did you know that something happened at home?"

Winnie finally realized why she felt like something was off.

After what had happened, Diana and Harold were sent to the hospital yesterday for treatment, so it would be impossible for them to call Yvonne after that.

How did Yvonne know to bring soup with her so early in the morning today?

"Huh?" Yvonne blinked innocently and replied like she had finally figured it out. "The company tried to contact my dad but couldn't get to him, so they called me."

"I was worried about my parents so I went home after requesting a leave from school. When I got home, it was a mess. After that, I heard from the security guards that my parents were sent to the hospital."

"What did you mean when you said what you said, Winnie?" Yvonne asked. Her eyes slowly became red-rimmed and she looked a little sad. "Are you suspecting me of something?"

"No, no." Winnie waved her hands. "Please don't overthink this, Yvonne. I was just asking."

"That's a relief. I thought you hated me, Winnie." Yvonne breathed a sigh of relief, but her eyes glistened with more tears.

"Even though you've always been closer to Yolanda since we were younger, I really respect you as my cousin. I understand you're spending more time with her now that she's back, but I have only a few friends in school, and with Yolanda gone, I feel a little lonely at times when I'm by myself..."

Yvonne's words had Winnie feeling a little guilty. She quickly responded, "Don't be sad. I've been busy with finding a job recently. When things settle down for me, you can call me anytime you need someone to talk to."

When she was done, she saw that Yvonne was still down, so she added, "You and Yolanda both are my cousins. I treat both of you the same."

If Winnie had to choose, she would prefer Yolanda over Yvonne, but she didn't need to tell Yvonne such hurtful words.

"Really?" Yvonne finally smiled. "Can I really call you at any time?"

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- Chapter 645

Chapter 645

[528 words]

"Of course!" Winnie was a little confused after hearing what Yvonne had said. She felt like she was a fuckboy when she said that.

She finally understood why she didn't like talking to Yvonne. It exhausted her.

"That's great! I'll talk to Yolanda more as well. If there's a chance, I'd love for us three to hang out one day." Yvonne smiled timidly at Winnie. Her eyes gleamed with excitement.

"I still need to take care of my mom. I'll head back now."

"Okay, sure."

Winnie couldn't wait to leave. She mentally shook off the goosebumps she had felt and left quickly.

Yvonne watched as Winnie disappeared from her line of sight. The smile on her face faded slowly until it was all gone.

Her face, which was usually innocent-looking, was now emotionless. Her expression emitted a steely, menacing air instead. Then, she whipped out her phone and smirked mockingly. "It's time to talk to my good ol' sister."

That afternoon, Yolanda received a call from Yvonne.

"Yolanda, do you remember me wanting to ask you out for tea?"

"Just spit it out."

When there were only the two of them in the conversation, Yolanda didn't bother hiding how much she detested Yvonne.

"It's just... Such a huge fiasco happened at our home yesterday, and I'm still shaken."

Yvonne's words reminded Yolanda of how Yvonne wasn't home at all yesterday. Yolanda didn't care if Yvonne was truly fortunate to have escaped the incident, or if she had already prepared herself for it early on.

However, Yolanda was then also reminded that Yvonne had a mysterious supporter behind her. She was very curious to know how Diana would react when she got to know that the daughter she loved had a way to rescue them from their misery but pretended to not know anything about it.

"It's all thanks to you this time that Mom and the rest—"

Yvonne appeared emotional. She proceeded to "verbally regurgitate" the incident like she had it memorized, but Yolanda no longer had any patience.

"If you don't cut the crap, I'm hanging up."

"Let's meet at the cafe near the Henderson residence at 6.00 pm."

Yvonne could clearly tell that Yolanda had grown impatient, so she stopped her performance.

"I'll give you only half an hour."

Before Yvonne could respond, Yolanda hung up.

The cafe near the Henderson residence was located on a neighboring street. It was quiet and private, making it a place of choice for many dating couples.

Yolanda arrived at the cafe at 6.00 pm sharp. Yvonne was already waiting for her in a private room.

Yolanda walked into the private room and saw Yvonne, who was clearly dressed up and sat opposite her quietly.

"What is it? Hurry up."

"I'm

sorry, Yolanda!" Yvonne immediately extended her apology to Yolanda. Yolanda's face was still stoic as she watched Yvonne perform. She wasn't surprised at all.

Yvonne would do anything to achieve her goal, so it didn't surprise her that she would apologize to her of her own accord.

This has happened countless times since they were young. Every time Yvonne set the original Yolanda up, things would end with Yvonne acting all pitiful as she apologized to Yolanda before Diana.

If the original Yolanda got mad, she would come across as a selfish, unkind sister to Yvonne in Diana's eyes.

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Chapter 646

[646 words]

Yvonne had been using the same victim-playing tactic to crush the original Yolanda since they were kids. She always painted the original Yolanda as someone rebellious and unkind. It worked every single time.

Now that Yvonne had invited Yolanda out deliberately just to apologize, Yolanda was curious as to what she was up to.

There were only the both of them in the room with no one else to "play judge."

"I know we've had many misunderstandings between us as we grew up..."

Yvonne seemed to have not seen the mockery in Yolanda's eyes as she continued her emotional monologue.

"Also, because I care a lot about Mom and Dad and I wished that they loved me more, I did a lot of bad things. I tore your homework when we were younger, making Mom think that you tore it up because you didn't want to do it.

"During middle school, I was the one who stole that girl's money and placed it in your bag to pin the blame on you. You were too excellent. I was not only jealous, but I also felt uneasy.

"We're sisters but the adults only complimented you and ignored me. I didn't want to become your shadow, so I couldn't take it anymore. I did those things to you, and they were out of line."

Yvonne was completely honest about everything she did to Yolanda in the past.

"Also, there's one more thing." Lastly, Yvonne took a deep breath and added, "I was the one who framed you, causing you to be detained in the juvenile detention center."

The mocking look in Yolanda's eyes faded and was replaced with a sharp iciness.

Yvonne had been secretly harming the original Yolanda, causing her to die alone in the juvenile detention center.

Now that she had told Yolanda the truth, Yolanda could clearly feel the original Yolanda's hatred and distaste awakening within her mind.

The original Yolanda craved Diana's love and Harold's approval, but she had nothing but hatred toward Yvonne.

"Yolanda..." Tears cascaded Yvonne's eyes as she sobbed. Her eyes were filled with remorse.

"I thought I would continue being jealous of you and hate you to my core, but the other day, when you saved me without care when I was in danger, it made me realize that I was too despicable. If it weren't for you, that bastard would have harassed me..."

"I'm really sorry, Yolanda, and I really am sorry for all the things I've done to you in the past. Will you forgive me?"

Yvonne was remorseful as she bawled and repented, but Yolanda felt like a mere bystander in a quiet cafe, watching a ridiculous monologue, free of charge.

Yvonne couldn't wait to kill her, so how likely was her apology genuine?

Besides that, it was really unlike Yvonne to show her such a vulnerable side and to dish out her dirty secrets to her, knowing that Yolanda could use it against her.

There might be people who would realize their mistake after they had done something wrong, who would repent and turn a new leaf. Even though Yolanda believed that humans were innately kind, she didn't trust Yvonne.

However, she didn't expose Yvonne. Instead, she wanted to see what Yvonne was up to.

"Did you think that I would believe you after you said all that? I didn't think you were the one who was behind all of those things!"

Yolanda feigned a cold look as her tone became increasingly emotional.

"I trusted you, and I loved you like a sister! How could you do this to me? How could you?"

Acting was never a specialty that was uniquely Yvonne's. Since Yvonne wanted her "forgiveness," she might as well play into her hand to see what she was up to.

"I'm really sorry. I'll never do it again. I'm also willing to atone for my sins. From now on, if something is yours, I'll never snatch it away from you again."

"Are you sure?" Yolanda feigned surprise and asked, "Even Gavin?"

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Chapter 647

[565 words]

"Yes, including Gavin." Yvonne grimaced. Her hands balled tightly into fists under the table as her fingernails cut deeply into her flesh.

"Since he's the one you like, Yolanda, I won't fight you for him anymore."

Since Yolanda left the Henderson residence, a sense of foreboding loomed in her heart.

Even if Yolanda had already signed the agreement and was cast out from the Henderson family, Yvonne still felt uneasy.

She didn't need to monitor Yolanda all the time. She just needed to know that Yolanda's life was miserable to have a sense of security. This was how she had been living since she was young.

Most importantly, it would be even harder for Yvonne to meet Gavin without Yolanda.

This was why she wanted to repair her relationship with Yolanda. Just as she was stuck not knowing how she could do that, she was shockingly given a rare chance which allowed her to do so.

That stupid fool, Yolanda, had saved her without taking their past into account.

Yvonne was able to utilize this to admit her mistakes so she could gain Yolanda's complete trust.

Then, she would be able to be by Yolanda's side naturally.

It didn't matter if Gavin didn't accept her for now. When Yolanda's looks and reputation were completely destroyed, he would then know who would be the best woman for him.

Yvonne had rehearsed her apology to Yolanda several times in her heart, and Yolanda's reaction was well within her expectations.

She wasn't anxious at all, since Yolanda needed a transition period to digest all of this news.

Even though Yolanda had changed tremendously after coming out of the juvenile detention center, Yvonne felt like she was just stuck too long in the juvenile center and had grown resentful.

Yolanda was still the fool who was tenderhearted and easily persuaded. She only needed to apologize profusely, and Yolanda would surely cave.

"I hope you'll remember what you said." After being quiet for a while, Yolanda finally replied.

After hearing what Yolanda said, Yvonne breathed a sigh of relief.

"I won't do anything you don't like anymore, Yolanda. I owe you too much. I might not be able to repay all of it now, but I'll try my best to show you my sincerity.

"No matter how you treat me, you're still my dearest sister." Yvonne took out the gift she had prepared as she spoke.

"These are the gifts I got for you. The skincare brand you like has come up with a new edition. I've gotten you a set of brand-new ones.

"I also remembered that you have a headache problem, so I got you a scented candle just for this."

Yvonne took out everything she had brought for Yolanda from a bag. There were makeup products, scented candles, unbranded, imported snacks, and large-sized silk pajamas.

"These are my gifts for you as a token of apology, but I really don't expect you to forgive me immediately."

She merely showed Yolanda all the gifts and placed them back into the bag.

"If I miss you, Yolanda, and want to have a meal with you, could you not reject me, please?"

Yvonne still looked like she was treading on eggshells like she was afraid that something she would say would offend Yolanda.

"I only have one sister, and that's you, Yolanda."

"Let me think about it." Yolanda pretended to be torn.

"I accept your gifts but I don't like this brand of perfume. Don't buy this for me next time."

"Okay, I got it." Yvonne looked pleasantly surprised.

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[601 words]

"Are you okay with me hanging out with you next time, Yolanda?" Yvonne asked.

"You have free will. I can't stop you from doing anything."

"I knew you would forgive me." Yvonne cried once more. Compared to the dainty, pitiful little sniffles she portrayed before this, she was wailing and bawling her eyes out this time.

If Yolanda didn't know the true Yvonne, she would be so touched by the pretend sincerity Yvonne had portrayed and would think that she was genuinely regretful.

However, after Yolanda got to know what the original Yolanda had been through, Yvonne's performance did not move her at all. It only disgusted her.

"I'm sorry... I'm really sorry. I was blinded by my greed and insecurity before this. How could I have done something so evil?"

...

Yolanda agreed to meet with Yvonne today because she wanted to know what else Yvonne had up her sleeve. However, if Yvonne was merely going to play the victim, it greatly annoyed her.

She didn't want to watch Yvonne perform her monologue anymore. She grabbed the gift bag and walked out of the private room while ignoring Yvonne's cries.

Yvonne's methods might be simple, but she wasn't a simple-minded fool.

If Yolanda were to happily forgive her, Yvonne would be suspicious.

So, Yolanda merely pretended to be impatient so it matched the impression Yvonne had of Yolanda.

As Yolanda expected, soon after she left the private room at the cafe, Yvonne, who was previously sobbing on the table, wiped her tears dry immediately and looked relieved.

"You're still as impatient as ever, Yolanda..."

She went to the window, looked down, and watched Yolanda as she stood by the door. Her smile grew as she watched Yolanda check the gifts in the bag. She also twisted open the perfume to take a whiff.

...

Yolanda checked the gifts Yvonne had given to her as she waited for the cab by the roadside.

Yvonne had probably become smarter knowing that she had medicinal skills. This time, she didn't put poison in the obvious places like the makeup products and the perfume.

After examining everything, Yolanda placed the perfume and skincare products back into the bag.

Then, she looked at the candle that she hadn't examined and smiled coldly.

Solid scented candles like these looked fine, but as the candle burned, so would the evidence.

It seemed like Yvonne had improved a little. She wasn't as rigid as she thought. She knew how to use more than one method.

Originally, Yolanda wanted to quickly avenge the original Yolanda, but after she found out that there was a mastermind behind Yvonne, she changed her mind.

Yvonne had planned and schemed so she could get all of the Hendersons' assets, together with everything that was supposed to belong to the original Yolanda.

If Yolanda were to crush her dreams now, Yvonne would only feel unhappy, but it wouldn't be detrimental.

However, if Yolanda were to take away everything Yvonne cared for one by one after she assumed that she had gotten everything she wanted, that would give her a fatal blow that was beyond painful.

Since Yvonne was so despicable with her methods and was still using the original Yolanda's trust to harm her, she would now give Yvonne a taste of what it felt like to have devastating regret.

This was a game of revenge at the price of the original Yolanda's life. She certainly didn't want this to end so quickly.

By the time Yolanda returned to Willow Creek Clinic, the clinic was already closed.

Willow Creek Clinic's renovation was coming to an end, so Daniel no longer sent workers to work on the back wing at night.

It would be one more week before the workers didn't have to come anymore.

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Chapter 649

[640 words]

Yolanda first checked if the doors and windows at the front were closed. Then, she had intended to go to the back and bid her goodnights to Selena before she headed back.

Since Selena found out that Kieran wasn't missing, she would come over to take care of him every day.

Yolanda wanted to talk to Selena about moving, so after entering the back wing, she headed straight toward Kieran's room.

However, the moment she entered through the connecting door, she stopped in her tracks and turned to look in the other direction.

She smelled the heavy scent of blood.

Yolanda had been training with her mentors since she was young. Her sense of sight, smell, and hearing were more refined than that of an ordinary person, causing her to be able to immediately sense unusual danger in that seemingly normal back wing.

The scent of blood didn't come from Kieran's room, Derek's room, or Kelly's room. It meant that they were all safe for now.

Yolanda followed the little walkway along the connecting door and arrived at a small room by the store room.

That small room was an additional structure built at that time. Derek probably intended to store medicinal herbs or equipment inside that room.

However, the position of the room was lackluster. Whenever it came to summer, the summer rain would cause the room to be unbelievably humid, so the room had been left empty since it was built.

After Yolanda took over Willow Creek Clinic, she merely modified the entire building slightly. She still didn't know what to do with that empty room just yet, so she asked the workers to clear the items in the room and added air conditioning and a foldable bed for the aids in the clinic to rest when they needed to.

She had arrived at the small room a few minutes after. She was almost sure that the blood she smelled came from this room.

She sneaked up and quickly realized that there were still traces of wet blood on the handle of the door.

Her expression grew steely as she pushed the door open immediately.

The moment the door swung open, a whoosh was heard. A sharpened wood shrapnel flew quickly and viciously at Yolanda's throat.

Yolanda's face contorted a little. Her body had already moved quickly to the side the moment it detected danger.

That wooden shrapnel then embedded deeply into the wooden pillar behind her. Quickly, two other wooden shrapnels flew out.

This time, Yolanda didn't dodge. She caught the two shrapnels and threw them back.

A muffled grunt was heard from within the room, and there were no longer any other sounds.

Yolanda entered the room and found a young man covered with blood hiding below the foldable bed.

That young man, whose name was Elleven, was of a similar age to Yolanda but looked to be about three years younger. He had delicate features and fair skin.

If it weren't for the extremely piercing look in his eyes, Yolanda would have thought that he was a young lady.

Elleven wore a grey martial arts costume of unknown origin, but the grey outfit was now nearly a dark crimson color.

The two wooden shrapnels Yolanda had thrown back were now deeply embedded in Elleven's legs. However, compared to the other wounds on his body, the embedded wooden shrapnels were considerably small wounds.

Elleven was still conscious. He had a heightened sense of caution that caused great resistance toward Yolanda. He struggled as he threw the rest of his dart weapons he had on him at Yolanda.

"Stop wasting strength. If you continue to move, the blood in your body will drain out."

Yolanda might be reluctant to poke her nose into a random stranger's business, but she had to commend Elleven's luck for finding a hiding place here in her clinic.

If the wounds on his body continued to bleed, no one could save him later on even if they wanted to.

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[619 words]

As Yolanda spoke, she very easily caught two other dart weapons Elleven had thrown at her.

Elleven was very skilled with using dart weapons, and the damage he would have caused was great. However, due to his injuries, he wasn't able to accurately gauge his strength and accuracy while using the dart weapons, or even Yolanda wouldn't have been able to escape so easily.

Elleven saw how his dart weapons were rendered useless and tried his very best to keep his eyes open as he tried to catch his breath. He glared intently at Yolanda. His eyes were filled with wariness and hostility like a wolf cub caught in a trap.

Yolanda thought Elleven's expressions were amusing since she had seen many young people like Elleven in Xenith Order. These young people were normally trained from a very young age to become killing machines to later serve in organizations.

As they trained, the defiance raging in them would diminish, leaving only blind obedience.

But she still found the headstrongness a teenage boy should have in his eyes. "Since you don't trust me, wrap your wounds up yourself. I'll leave you be." Yolanda could always knock Elleven out and treat him. However, the look in his eyes reminded Yolanda of someone she once knew, so she didn't do it.

Martial artists normally knew how to save themselves. It was an absolute necessity for them to learn how to deal with their wounds.

Yolanda closed the door and went back to the clinic. She grabbed a first aid kit and some specialty blood-stopping medications she had made with her.

When Yolanda got back to the small room in the back wing once more, she found Elleven passed out on the floor.

She made her way to him and squatted down so she could clean his wounds up for him.

"If I knew this would happen, I wouldn't bother bringing all this with me. I would've just used acupuncture to stop your bleeding."

She stared at Elleven's face and nostalgia filled her eyes.

If he was still around, he should probably be taller than Elleven now...

In a blink, many memories appeared in her mind, but the movements of her hands were still slick and without delay.

After ten minutes, she moved Elleven, who was still unconscious, onto the bed.

Before she left, she thought about it for a while before deciding to leave her blood-stopping medication by his bedside anyway.

Then, she called Dunstan and told him to get someone to put some gauze and anti-inflammatory medication, together with three meals a day at the door of that small room.

She had also repeatedly reminded him to not allow anyone into the small room.

Elleven's injuries were too severe, so he was temporarily harmless. She wasn't worried that Elleven had ulterior motives and would harm the others at the clinic. As long as no one disturbed him, everyone should be fine.

Yolanda didn't have the time to care too much about Elleven because the results day of the Southdale Physics Competition had arrived.

Yolanda walked into her classroom the next day to find her classmates in a hot debate.

When they saw Yolanda, they surrounded her before she could make her way to her seat.

"I'm so nervous, Yolanda. Are you nervous?"

"You'll get a good placement for sure!"

"It's all on you to bring glory to our school now!"

"Other than Yolanda, I wonder if anyone else will be in the top ten."

"Probably no one, I guess. The questions were too difficult this time round."

With the mention of the competition questions, saddened, pained howls were heard from disappointed students all around.

Even students of class 1A thought that the questions were exceptionally difficult this time, so they could only place their hope in Yolanda to create a miracle.

"Quiet down, everyone! The results aren't out yet!"

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