

Under the Heiress' Facade #Chapter 461 - Read Under the Heiress' Facade Chapter 461

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Rhett continued, "Chad even built an empty house where the original house had burned down to preserve your ashes and honor your memory."

The Killians did purchase the land where Catherine's house had burned down. Although they built a new house, no one lived there.

But whatever they said could merely be a trap to lure them back here. After all, the Killians couldn't be trusted completely.

If they were truly that kind, why was Lucius accused of killing Greg and imprisoned for it? Why did Daphne die in a car accident?

Moreover, how did Bernard end up being poisoned so severely? What about Aurora's medicine being swapped, almost causing her to miscarry?

Hera said nothing, causing the atmosphere in the banquet hall to turn tense. Afraid she would bring up Greg again and spoil Chad's mood, Karen quickly tried to smooth things over.

"Oh, these are all in the past, so we shouldn't bring them up. Since Mrs. Jones and Hera are doing fine now, let's not talk about such gloomy things like ashes."

She then winked at Chad, asking, "Chad, didn't you have something to discuss with Hera?"

Chad cleared his throat. "Hera, I've heard about your true identity. Congratulations on reuniting with your birth parents. Exclusive content

"But you're still family to us after all these years, and you're Aury's benefactor as well. To show our gratitude, I'd like to adopt you and restore your status as a member of the Killian family again. What do you think?"

Hearing that made Rhett's heart skip a beat. Meanwhile, Catherine was clearly uncomfortable and tugged at Hera's hand, hoping that she would not agree.

Meanwhile, Giselle, who had hurried to the banquet hall entrance, was in shock upon hearing these words. After returning to the Killians, they hired many private tutors for her to focus on picking up many skills. Whether it was etiquette, academics, instruments, or arts, Giselle was making much better progress than she ever could with the Everetts. Even the other young ladies of Norburgh could not compare to her.

If Giselle hadn't been switched at birth and had grown up in the Killian residence instead, with such rapid progress, she would have been the academic prodigy at Cavenridge International Academy and the most outstanding young lady in Jedburgh.

Giselle had been enduring in silence, spending so much time developing herself just so she could appear before Hera one day and humiliate her completely as revenge. She also wanted Hera to know that she was a true member of the Killian family.

After finishing her piano lesson half an hour ago, the maid informed her that Chad had invited Hera for a meal. Thus, Giselle immediately hurried over to show off to her.

As she arrived at the entrance, she never expected to hear Chad talking about reinstating Hera's status in the family. If that happened, who would Giselle even be?

At that moment, Hera's voice drifted from the banquet hall. "What do I get in return if I agree?"

"No!"

"No!"

Two voices echoed at the entrance to the banquet hall. Everyone looked over and saw Bernard striding in. Behind him was Giselle, dressed in a Chanel haute couture dress and wearing as much jewelry as she could.

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Hera was somewhat surprised to see Bernard return so quickly. She wanted to ask how Tiramisu was doing, but he merely glared coldly at Chad and the rest of them. He did not look at her.

She then looked at Giselle, who had followed Bernard into the hall. Hera wasn't surprised to see her at the Killian residence as it would be odd if she weren't here.

Although she had returned to the Killians, Hera was still angry at her for treating Catherine so harshly.

"Giselle, you... Unlike Hera, Catherine was shocked to see Giselle, who also seemed to dress more lavishly than she did with the Everetts.

Catherine finally understood that she was unable to locate Giselle because she had already returned to the Killian family for some time, and they had also acknowledged her as family.

Although she had guessed earlier that Giselle might show up at the Killian residence, she was still astonished to see it with her own eyes. She felt even more distressed upon recalling how Giselle had treated her before leaving.

Giselle also noticed Catherine's presence and suddenly felt guilty. On second thought, as long as she did not admit to her past actions, they could not do anything to her.

Besides, Giselle also knew that Catherine couldn't bear to do anything to her. After all, she was her biological granddaughter and her only kin left in this world.

But she had to stop Hera from staying at the Killian residence. Giselle assumed that after working hard, she would definitely be more talented than Hera the next time she saw her.

As it turned out, not only was Hera an academic prodigy, but she was also the famous miracle doctor sought by many wealthy families. Even Chad wanted her to remain with the Killians.

Chad suddenly felt a headache coming on as he watched them enter, especially when he spotted Bernard.

Chad then sternly said, 'Since everyone is here, let's hear Hera's decision.'

Since he couldn't convince Bernard, he wanted to try his luck by attempting to adopt Hera. Not only would Bernard become her uncle again, but Chad could even recruit her, the miracle doctor, into the family. It would be killing two birds with one stone.

"Once you're a Killian again, you'll enjoy all the privileges that come with being family," Chad answered Hera. How could she not understand what Chad had in mind? He just wanted to have her within the family as she had received numerous requests from various wealthy families.

But she noticed Giselle's anxious expression and intentionally asked, "If I become a Killian again, what about her?"

Hearing that made Giselle very nervous. She was worried that she would be overlooked in the family if Hera agreed to Chad's request. She unconsciously clenched her fists, holding back her jealousy and fury while waiting for Chad's answer.

Bernard gazed at Hera in confusion as if he had never expected her to ask such a question. Did she truly want to become part of the Killian family again?

"Gianna is one of us, so she will be part of the family as well," Chad explained. It seemed that she had a different name after being acknowledged by the Killians.

Upon hearing that, Giselle did not hesitate and pinched her thigh hard, bringing tears to her eyes.

She then exclaimed, 'Hera, I won't blame you for not telling me my true identity back then. But I've finally found my home. How could you be so harsh to take this away from me? I clearly...'

"You clearly didn't want to give up your identity as Ms. Everett and return to the village. Thus, you used your status as Zyler's future wife to remain the daughter of the Everett family.

"You even forced them to announce that Hera was adopted while you continued to live a luxurious life. Why

are you singing a different tune now?" Bernard coldly glanced at Giselle, his voice sounding as icy as ever while interrupting her.

Giselle was startled. She never could have imagined that although Hera said nothing, Bernard had ruthlessly exposed her. After all, she was his biological niece.

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Giselle stared at Bernard innocently as if she had been wronged. "Uncle Bernard, I-"

Bernard did not even give her a chance to speak. 'Shut up. Hera has plenty of time to deal with you for all those nasty things you've done. Are you in a hurry to get punished? Are you dying tomorrow? If not, get lost!' Giselle trembled before freezing in shock. She was left utterly devastated.

Hera looked at Bernard in astonishment, realizing for the first time that he could be so ruthless with his words.

Bernard turned to Chad and said coldly, "As for you, if you want a daughter, you should work hard with your wife and give birth to another. Don't you dare consider Hera! If it's so easy to get such a talented daughter, why do orphanages even exist?"

With that, he did not even wait for their response and grabbed Hera's hand to forcefully lead her away. As for her, she was completely taken aback by his anger.

Although she always knew that Bernard could be rather two-faced, he always had been gentle and considerate toward her, aside from his illness in the past.

In fact, he had never gotten this angry with her before, let alone speak so harshly to her.

Seeing how infuriated Bernard was today, Hera wondered if he had woken up on the wrong side of the bed. The pressure on her wrist caused her to frown. She tried to free herself from his grip, but he merely held on tighter.

"Bernard, you're hurting me," she remarked.

He sullenly shoved her into the passenger seat. He held back his anger after noticing Catherine following behind and allowed her to get into the back seat.

During the journey, the atmosphere in the car was very tense and quiet. Even Tiramisu, who usually liked to cuddle with Hera, was exceptionally silent while lying in the back seat. Its small, black eyes would flicker cautiously toward Bernard from time to time.

Hera massaged her reddened wrist as she looked at the furious Bernard in the driver's seat. It was her first time seeing him so angry, but she still had no idea what made him so mad. Since Catherine was around, she held back from asking.

Bernard dropped off Catherine at the entrance to her residential area. Once the door to the back seat was closed, he turned the car around and headed toward the courtyard house.

"Bernard, what's up with you?" Hera asked cautiously.

Bernard took out the car keys and unfastened his seatbelt before getting out of the car. Hera, too, wanted to step out of the car.

Just as she unfastened the seatbelt, Bernard opened the door and wrapped his arms around her waist before forcefully carrying her out of the passenger seat.

He took her straight to the bedroom and threw her onto the bed. He even closed the door, causing Tiramisu, who had been following behind, to run into the door frame.

Hera cried in pain before scoffing. Just as she was to sit up, Bernard pinned her arms to the bed and asked coldly. 'Do you want to be a Killian so bad?'

Hera was perplexed. "When did I ever say that?"

"Well, you asked what you'd get in return!" Bernard glared at her.

Hera was speechless. "Are you angry at me because I asked what benefits I'd get from being a Killian? Was that

worth it?"

"Yes!"

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Tiramisu snorted at being locked outside the room. It seemed fearful that Bernard would do something terrible to Hera and indignantly used its hooves to scratch the door.

"If you make noise again, I'll barbecue you!" Bernard yelled sternly.

The scratching noises stopped immediately. They vaguely heard Tiramisu snorting before walking away.

Hera was becoming uncomfortable being held down by Bernard and wanted to get up and check on Tiramisu. She tried but found her hands firmly pinned to the bed, and she could not budge an inch at all.

She could only give in. 'Bernard, please let go of me first.'

Bernard did not loosen his grip and asked in a low voice, "Do you know what it means if you're a Killian again?"

He looked down at her, seemingly very cold and unfriendly. Not expecting that he would be this upset, Hera explained, "I asked that on purpose because I wanted Grandma to see how upset Giselle would be and expose her true colors.

"Last time, she deceived Grandma so badly. If I don't expose her true colors for Grandma to see, she'll be fooled by Giselle again."

Of course, she also wanted to take the opportunity to mock Chad's schemes. She was certain that if she agreed to his request, the headline in the newspaper tomorrow would be "The Killian Family Welcomes Dr. Shadow Into the Family".

She did return to the Killian residence to investigate who was behind Daphne's murder. Once clarified, she could clear the crimes that Lucius was wrongly accused of.

But there were many ways to get to the Killian residence. It wasn't worth it for Hera to sacrifice her freedom and become a member of the Killian family.

"So, don't be so angry, okay?"

Bernard noticed that Hera had not realized what was bothering him. He suddenly bent his head and kissed her.

It was nothing like his usual gentle kisses. This kiss seemed punishing as he pressed his lips against hers, kissing until she could hardly struggle or breathe.

Just as she was about to run out of breath, Bernard graciously let her go. They pressed their foreheads against each other as Bernard looked into Hera's eyes. "Do you understand now?"

"What?" Hera was momentarily confused after lacking oxygen. What should she have understood? What did he want her to say?

Bernard let out a chuckle and released her hands. Finally free, Hera immediately got up, intending to get out of bed. But she noticed the sinister smile on Bernard's handsome face.

"Seems like you still don't know who you are!" He undid the buttons of his shirt one by one. His piercing gaze was fixed on Hera like a hawk eyeing its prey.

The sight made Hera gulp in terror. It was her first time seeing this side of Bernard. It was scarier than whenever he fell sick, and she had no idea what to do.

At least she could stick a few needles into him whenever he started acting up. But he did not seem sick at all now. Instead, he looked like he was about to interrogate her.

She had once heard of Bernard's cruel tactics during interrogation, which made her skin crawl. She watched him slowly strip off his shirt and begin to remove his belt.

Hera instinctively touched her waist and realized that her bag was in the car. Her acupuncture kit wasn't with her, and she had no idea what to do.

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Hera immediately picked up the shirt Bernard had cast on the floor and draped it on him. But the shirt fell off his body as he undid the belt around his waist.

Hera could only wrap her arms around Bernard to stop him from stripping any further.

"Bernard, let's talk about this. Don't be so fierce, okay?" She softened her voice, trying to negotiate.

Her gentle voice seemed to calm him down, but he remained stern. "Have you figured out who you are?"

Hera's heart skipped a beat. She wondered if Bernard had discovered her identity as Raven and felt that she was mocking him whenever she talked about her learning programming.

But she had been using her alternate account during this period instead of Raven. There was no way he could have found out

"I'm Dr. Shadow, right?" she asked tentatively.

But that wasn't the answer Bernard was looking for. His eyes darkened, and the atmosphere in the bedroom seemed to turn tense as well.

Hera noticed this and wrapped her arms around Bernard's neck. She was about to bend her fingers to touch the acupuncture points that would make him faint when he suddenly grabbed hold of her hands.

"Sweetie, you're not thinking properly. But what are your sneaky hands up to?" Bernard narrowed his eyes while asking. His voice was soft and gentle, yet rather threatening.

Seeing that her sneak attack failed, Hera forced herself to explain, "I just noticed how tired you were and wanted to give you a massage. Don't you believe me?"

"Yes, I'll believe anything you say," Bernard answered gently. Hera could not help but shiver upon hearing his

response.

With a powerful swing, he carried her before falling on the bed again. "Since you want to give me a massage, let's do it on the bed."

Tiramisu, who remained by the door, heard some vague sounds inside the room. It began to scratch the hell out of the door frame.

It didn't care about Bernard's threats to turn it into barbecued pork! Bernard was not allowed to bully Hera. Although it was only the end of May, Jedburgh was suddenly hit by a hailstorm. The ice rained on everything, destroying the budding flowers in the garden. The scattered petals and leaves on the ground fell among the ice shards, creating a mess.

It wasn't until dawn that the intense hailstorm came to a stop.

In the room, Bernard kissed Hera, who lay weakly in his arms, and whispered in her ear, 'Do you know who you are now?'

Hera's voice had turned hoarse, and she had no energy to move. She was so tired that she could not even open her eyes.

Her eyes were still damp with tears, and her lips were red, making her seem very alluring. There was no sight of her usual aloofness that made anyone feel distant from her.

Bernard watched her with satisfaction. Aside from her, no other man could see this alluring side of hers. Since he was in a good mood, he decided to let her off and whispered, "Sweetie, you're my girlfriend and future wife

"If you were to become a Killian, you wouldn't be able to marry me anymore. So, I'll never let you agree to Chad's wishes, got it?"

Hera's eyes twitched. That was it? Truthfully, she did not want to be a Killian. Even if she was reinstated, she would be just their adopted daughter, and they weren't related by blood anyway.

Bernard did whatever he shouldn't have done instead of what should be done. Didn't he say that he didn't care about others' opinions? She seriously suspected that Bernard was looking for an excuse to sleep with her.

If Hera had the strength, she would have kicked him off the bed. He watched her remain still in his arms, fast asleep. He wasn't sure if she heard him at all.

Bernard stood up and carried her into the bathroom for a shower before setting her on the bed again. After covering her with the blankets, he kissed her forehead. "I love you, sweetie."

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It was 8:00 am when Catherine, Everly, and Wayne arrived at the clinic on time to start work. Everly noticed that Bernard's car was parked in the courtyard and the door to the western wing was wide open.

Her eyes lit up, and she immediately ordered the cleaners to clean up the scattered petals and leaves caused by last night's hailstorm in the courtyard. She also had them check the extent of the damage done to the herbs that Hera had been growing in the flowerpots.

While giving orders, Everly looked toward the door to the western wing several times, wishing she could go inside and have a look.

At that moment, Bernard, dressed in a black silk pajamas, walked out. Having just woken up, his usual well-combed short hair was slightly messy, making him seem more attractive than usual.

The sight of him distracted Everly, and she also became slightly envious of Hera. She held back the jealousy in her heart as she walked over. "Good morning, Bernie."

"Not so loud. Don't disturb Hera while she's sleeping," he ordered coldly.

The two cleaners exchanged glances with each other before gazing at Everly. They hadn't been very noisy. But if they had been, that was also because Everly had ordered them to clean up this area.

Everly felt her face burn as she lowered her voice and explained, "Sorry, I didn't mean to do it on purpose. I was just too worried about whether the hailstorm destroyed Mrs. Jones and Hera's herbs."

Bernard acted as if he heard nothing. Instead, he went to the car to retrieve the medicine provided by the pet hospital yesterday before returning to the house.

Having noticed the medicine, Everly asked in a low voice, "What happened to Tiramisu.."

Before she finished speaking, she heard Bernard make a call and say sternly, "Kick anyone out who makes noise above 30 decibels!" He then shut the door.

Initially, Everly did not feel embarrassed as Bernard had always been aloof and heartless. She was merely envious of how considerate he was of Hera

But when Everly turned around and saw the cleaners watching her, she suddenly felt rather embarrassed and immediately said in a low voice, "What are you two looking at? Quickly clean up, and don't disturb Hera from her sleep'

Meanwhile, Tiramisu saw the door to the bedroom open and scampered out from the study to the bedroom. Just as it was about to leap onto the bed, Bernard picked it up and carried it out from the room.

Tiramisu snorted as it struggled in his arms. It wanted to see Hera and be with her.

Bernard immediately covered its mouth and checked whether Hera had awakened. After shutting the door, he removed his hand from Tiramisu's mouth and said, "Be good. Don't disturb your mother sleeping."

Tiramisu snorted, feeling very unhappy. But it did not scratch the room door after being placed on the floor. After feeding Tiramisu some medicine, Bernard called Douglas to inform him that he would be working from home today.

He wanted to wait for Hera to wake up. Last night, he was too angry and did not control himself. He seemed to have gone too far.

Douglas had dropped by to report on his work. When he entered the clinic, he noticed the eerie silence at the clinic.

Everyone seemed to be extremely cautious and walked very softly. They even spoke so gently that he could only hear what they said if he leaned in.

"Is Mr. Killian this temperamental whenever he wakes up?" Wayne whispered in Douglas' ear.

Douglas was startled. He had no idea that Bernard would wake up with a bad temper. How did he not know this?

Due to severe chronic headaches in the past, Bernard found it hard to have a good night's sleep. Even the slightest noise would immediately wake him up.

Additionally, Bernard used to be in the military, where he had to get used to the different environments and frequent emergencies. There was no room for him to be careless, let alone wake up with a bad temper. "Perhaps it was Ms. Youngworth who woke up with a bad temper instead?" Douglas denied it.

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"It's impossible." The moment Wayne said that, he suddenly remembered Michael Thornton's face pierced with silver needles everywhere. The sheer number of them made him feel terribly uncomfortable.

Wayne vaguely recalled that Michael had a nosebleed as a result of the extremely hot weather and went to Catherine's house early in the morning. Hera pierced many needles on his face for disturbing her sleep. Wayne couldn't help but shudder and reminded Douglas, "Be careful when you go in later. Mr. Killian has given orders that any noise made cannot be above 30 decibels. Otherwise, you'll be kicked out."

Douglas was shocked. Bernard was asking for too much, and it was only early in the morning.

By noon, Bernard finished all the work required for the morning and entered the kitchen to prepare lunch. Seeing how Hera was still asleep, he took off his apron and entered the bedroom.

As he watched her deep in slumber, he was slightly reluctant to wake her up, but she couldn't not eat. He sat by the bedside and lightly kissed her eyelids first. Once he saw her stir from her sleep, he whispered in her ear, "Sweetie, it's time to wake up."

Hera was fast asleep. When she was rudely awakened, she irritably grabbed the nearby pillow and threw it at him.

"Get lost!" Her voice was extremely hoarse.

Bernard caught the pillow and set it aside. 'Be good. Get up and have something before you go back to sleep. You've already skipped breakfast, so you can't skip lunch. Otherwise, it won't be good for your stomach.'

He kissed her forehead while saying, "Let me help you up, okay?"

"Stop bothering me!" Hera wanted to push his face away. But throwing the pillow earlier seemed to have drained all her energy. She found it difficult to even raise her arm now, and her hand fell limply against Bernard's face.

He kissed her palm. "See, if you don't eat, you won't have any energy. With that, he instantly carried her out from underneath the blankets.

Hera wanted to scream that he was clearly responsible for her current state. Usually, she could go without sleep for two days.

But her throat was terribly dry now, and her voice sounded hoarse. Even speaking felt like a chore. In addition, her body felt weak. Since she had no energy at all, she could only allow Bernard to do as he wished.

He headed to the bathroom to fetch the toiletries before helping Hera brush her teeth and wash her face. Seeing her messy hair, grogginess, and irritated expression, yet still allowing him to help her wash up, made her seem extremely adorable.

"Sweetie, you look really nice this way." He couldn't help but kiss her again.

Hera heard this and suddenly became wide awake. Afraid that he would have his way with her again, she hoarsely said, "Water."

Bernard immediately gave her a glass of warm water. Hera felt her throat feel much better after drinking the water and said, "Food."

Bernard immediately went out to bring her some risotto topped with bacon bits and personally fed her. The consideration he showed toward her was nowhere close to the man he was last night.

Yet the soreness throughout her body and the shredded clothes on the floor reminded Hera of what happened last night. Once full, she felt as if she had come back to life again.

She looked at Bernard for a moment. "I want my acupuncture kit."

Bernard put away the dishes and suddenly felt uneasy. "Sweetie, what do you need the acupuncture kit for?" Hera smiled. "You fell sick last night, so I have to treat you."

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Hera's sinister smile made Bernard feel slightly guilty. He did go overboard last night, causing her to become angry.

But he was upset last night too. Although she was his girlfriend, she didn't seem to understand that. They agreed to live together for the rest of their lives, yet she had been about to go behind his back and become his niece by accepting Chad's offer.

Chad clearly wanted to split them up. Hera was usually a clever woman, so Bernard couldn't understand why she did not see through Chad's scheme.

Although Hera also explained last night that she had done so to irritate Giselle on purpose and help Catherine see her true colors, Bernard just couldn't accept how Hera dismissed their relationship so easily.

That was why he was so angry. But he did his best to control his strength and not hurt Hera

"Sweetie, I was too angry last night and couldn't control my emotions well. I've upset you. Bernard wiped his hands with a wet cloth before helping her lie down.

"Besides, I've already recovered, so you don't need the acupuncture kit. I'll accompany you for a nap, okay?" Hera pushed his face away. 'No, you have not recovered, so I must treat you! Immediately! Quickly bring me my acupuncture kit!"

That idiotic Bernard dared to have his way with her last night. If she didn't teach him a lesson, he would just do the same thing in the future.

Seeing how Bernard remained motionless without a word, Hera asked coldly, "Do you not love me anymore?" "How could you say that? There's no one else I love aside from you,' Bernard immediately answered. "Then, why aren't you listening to me?" Hera asked icily.

Bernard had no choice, so he reluctantly went out to fetch her acupuncture kit. When he returned, he would let her do whatever she wanted to his face, using actions to prove how much he loved and adored her.

Soon, their voices drifted out of the room.

"Does it hurt?"

"Yes!"

"Do you know where you went wrong?"

"Yes!"

"Will you do it again?"

"Yes!"

Hera was speechless.

"You look alluring whenever you cry."

"Shut up! Stop talking!"

Douglas dropped by in the afternoon for Bernard to sign a contract. The moment he walked through the door to the western wing, he saw Bernard. His back was facing him as he stood at the bedroom entrance, mopping the floor.

His sleeves were rolled up, revealing his muscular arms. From the way he mopped the floor until it was spotless, anyone would have assumed that he was a full-time househusband.

The sight surprised Douglas completely. Hera was the only one who could order Bernard, the powerful grandmaster of Astral Nova, around.

He didn't know why, but he had a gut feeling that if Hera learned of Bernard's true identity one day and asked him to stop working, he would actually retire and quit the job

He remembered Bernard had joined Astral Nova so that he could use the organization to locate someone. But from the moment Hera appeared, he never followed up with the matter.

Douglas couldn't help but snap a photo and send it to the group.

Theo: "Is mopping the reason why Bernard has set aside the 500-million-dollar project?"

Samson: "Did all the cleaners go extinct in Jedburgh? Shall I send two cleaners over right now?"

Aaron: 'Could he have done something wrong, so Hera is punishing him?'

"What is it?" Bernard saw Douglas from the corner of his eye and turned back to ask.

Unable to hold back, Douglas let out a chuckle.

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Douglas saw that Bernard's face had been pricked with two rows of sharp needles. Gold needles protruded from M-HN-3 and GV-26, making him look extremely comical.

"Bernard, do you feel unwell?" Douglas held back his laughter while asking.

"No," Bernard replied.

"Then...." Douglas pointed at the gold needles on his face.

"Hera did this to me."

Of course, Douglas knew that Hera was responsible for that. Aside from her, no one else would dare to stick needles on Bernard's face. He wondered whether he had looked into the mirror and seen how comical he looked.

Although Douglas did not learn medicine, he still had some knowledge of acupuncture points on the human body. Hera wasn't even doing acupuncture at all. She was clearly punishing Bernard.

It was hard to believe that the typically aloof Hera would do such childish things in private. Yet, Bernard just let her do as she pleased.

"Don't they hurt?" Douglas couldn't help but ask. It hurt him just seeing those needles.

Bernard answered, "They do."

"Then, why don't you take them out?" Douglas asked.

"Hera will be angry if I do that."

Douglas was speechless at how Bernard just let Hera have her way. He didn't even let anyone disturb her sleep, yet he allowed her to do whatever she wanted. Hera would become uncontrollable one day, thanks to how Bernard spoiled her.

Bernard checked the contract Douglas had brought along. Once certain everything was correct, he signed it. Then, he picked up the mop from the side and continued mopping the floor.

Meanwhile, Hera leaned against the headboard while cuddling with Tiramisu. Having overheard the conversation, she couldn't help but smile.

As Everly stood at the living room entrance, she became rather upset upon overhearing their conversation. To her, Hera had gone overboard.

Bernard was such a distinguished man. How could he be left to do all these heavy chores and even have his face pierced with needles? Hera was clearly abusing him on account of his adoration of her.

If it were Everly...

"Oh my, Bernie! How could Hera do this to you?" Everly went up to Bernard. "It must hurt since these gold needles weren't positioned in the right acupuncture points. Let me take them out for you."

"Get lost!" Bernard avoided her with disgust. He entered the bedroom and continued to mop.

Everly was slightly indignant, but a voice deep inside her seemed to whisper that as long as she showed Bernard that she was more considerate than Hera, he would eventually fall for her one day.

"Bernie, it's a woman's job to tidy up a room. You can set the mop aside and let me handle it." Everly hurried into the room.

Although she saw Hera leaning against the headboard while comfortably snuggling with Tiramisu, she did not feel awkward. After all, Hera was the one who asked her to come over to prepare medicine for Aurora.

Hera frowned slightly upon hearing Everly call Bernard "Bernie". Her gaze flickered between Bernard and Everly, and she asked, "When did the two of you become so close?"

"Hera, don't get it wrong. While we were at the pet hospital yesterday for Tiramisu's infusion, Bernie asked me about your past. He didn't mean anything by it," Everly immediately explained.

But her explanation seemed to make things worse.

"If it's about me, can't you ask me? Do you have to ask her?" Hera asked Bernard.

Everly instantly answered first, "Hera, don't blame Bernie. He just wants to know more about your past."

"Shut up! Was anyone talking to you?" Bernard cast an icy glance at Everly. Couldn't Hera tell what a sneaky bitch Everly was?

"I'm sorry." Everly furrowed her brows. She looked rather innocent as she blinked at Hera. Her particularly innocent appearance made it hard for anyone to blame her.

She had also acted this way in the past. Whenever she did something wrong, she would apologize while looking quite innocent. Thus, Hera and Catherine would not pursue the matter or scold her for it.

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"I never expected Hera to have Tiramisu as her pet since she used to despise pigs..."

Bernard played a recording on his phone, which was everything Everly had said at the pet hospital last night. Everly turned red instantly. She never expected that Bernard would record their conversation.

Hera stared at Bernard in shock. She didn't know whether he was being overly defensive or if he had a strong intuition.

Bernard glanced at her, seeming to explain that he was innocent and Everly was framing him.

Hera silently looked at Everly with a blank expression.

She brought Wayne and Everly out of the village since she had cared for them for more than ten years. But she never expected Everly to develop feelings for Bernard.

But that was understandable. Not only was Bernard handsome, but he had a good body and family background. Even Hera found him attractive, so it wasn't a surprise that Everly liked him. However.. "Hera, I-'Everly tried to explain.

"You don't have to say anything." Hera coldly interrupted.

She reminded Everly, saying, 'If you want money, property, and fame, I can give you all that as long as you're loyal to me. If you can't do it, just leave!

"But if you stay with me, intending to take advantage of my trust toward you to take what doesn't belong to you, don't blame me for being ruthless! I can always take back whatever I've given you!"

Seeing her intentions exposed before everyone else, Everly lowered her head in embarrassment as her face burned.

If Hera had not brought her and Wayne along, Everly might still be working at the farm, rearing chickens and pigs in the village. She would be preparing medicine for the villagers to earn a living.

There was no way she could earn her current monthly salary even after working several years in the village. Besides, she even lived in a high-end neighborhood while being served by maids and cooks.

The pleasures of life had come too easily, making her wish she could have more.

"I'm sorry," Everly choked out.

Hera icily took the medicine instructions from the table and handed it to Everly. "Go and prepare the medicine.

Everly bent her head and sniffled as she took the instructions before leaving.

"Sweetie, you were too soft," Bernard remarked. If it were up to him, he would have gotten rid of Everly. He never liked disloyal people.

"She's more useful to us if she stays." Hera took the gold needles off Bernard's face one by one and continued explaining.

"After all, it's very tricky to find such a good herbalist like her in Jedburgh. If I send her away, she'll work for someone else to make a living. Instead of having her as my competitor, I might as well give her another chance."

Bernard was unwilling to give Everly a chance, but he would respect Hera's decision since she had already made up her mind.

"If she doesn't appreciate the second chance, I'll get rid of her for you."

Hera smirked. "Sure."

Bernard watched her slowly use alcohol to sterilize the gold needles. Then, she easily found Tiramisu's acupuncture points and positioned the gold needles there.

The sight shocked Bernard. "Hera!"

"What?" Hera noticed him staring at the needles on Tiramisu's body. "Is there a problem?"

Yes, there was a huge problem. "Are you using the same needles I used earlier on Tiramisu? Am I not human to you? Have you forgotten that it's an animal?"

"Tiramisu is like my son."

Bernard wordlessly watched Tiramisu comfortably settle in Hera's lap during the acupuncture process. It wasn't his first time thinking of barbecuing Tiramisu.

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