

Heiress 391

Chapter 391

Bella thought to herself, 'What the hell is that bastard doing out there? Is he trying to gain sympathy by doing this? Does he think that I'll fall for such a despicable trick?!'

Bella's heart burned with rage. She turned around and wanted to go back to her room, but she stopped after taking two steps.

The rain in late fall was not like the one in the summer. The temperatures in Savrow can reach below 0 Celsius at night during the fall.

Justin had been standing outside for 3 to 4 hours, and he was wearing thin clothes.

Bella thought, 'What if he won't leave? If he froze to death at my doorstep, wouldn't I have to explain it to the police? How troublesome!

Thinking of this, Bella quickly walked back to her room, picked up her phone, and called Justin.

As a result, Justin's phone was turned off.

Bella could not understand what Justin was trying to do.

Justin's self-torture did not arouse Bella's sympathy, but it aroused her curiosity.

Thus, she quickly walked to the entrance, opened the door, and walked out with a huge black umbrella.

When Justin saw Bella's thin and slender figure walking toward him, he thought he was hallucinating from standing too long in the cold rain.

Justin only realized that Bella was real when she was right in front of him. He suddenly froze. A warmth surged in his heart, and his eyes widened with joy.

“What on earth are you trying to do? Get yourself killed?!” Bella’s voice was sharp as she reprimanded him.

“Are you cold, dressed like this?”

Justin still looked cold and emotionless. His hands trembled slightly as he unbuttoned the middle button of his suit jacket. He wanted to take off his jacket and put it on for her, but he realized that his jacket was already soaked through, so he froze in embarrassment.

“Why did you turn off your phone?” Bella asked, furious.

“The battery died,” Justin answered honestly, like a stupid husband being scolded by his wife.

Inexplicably, he was delighted by her fierceness. He was a bit masochistic.

“Were you planning to stand like this all night if I didn’t come out to see you?”

“Yes, I have something to tell you.”

Bella laughed in exasperation, her chest heaving. “Justin, why do you always make me despise you so much? Apart from such despicable tricks, can’t you do something more original? Are you a scumbag or the president of Salvador Corporation?”

“I don’t care what the means are as long as I can see you.” Justin’s deep voice was cold, but his eyes were incredibly alluring.

Bella was so angry that her breathing became rapid. Her puffed-out, trembling chest made Justin’s eyes darken with desire.

Fortunately, he was a gentleman with principles. Otherwise, no ordinary man would be able to control himself with that view.

“You couldn’t sleep well tonight?”

“What?”

“I remember that you never got up at night before. You always slept until dawn.”

Bella’s heart trembled, and her grip on the umbrella handle tightened.

When they first got married, they slept in the same bed for almost half a year.

Even if they shared the same bed, Justin would only turn his back to her. There was always a huge gap between them, like the Grand Canyon.

She knew that Justin was a light sleeper, but she did not know that he had also paid attention to her.

“Didn’t you have something to say? Spit it out! It’s cold out here!”

Bella couldn’t help but shiver.

“Let’s talk in the car.”

Justin grabbed the umbrella from her hand and quickly opened the

car door with his other hand. He pushed her into the car without further explanation.

The car was humid as soon as they got inside.

In the dim light, Bella noticed how Justin's pale and thin lips were trembling slightly. His hands on his knees were already turning purple from the cold.

She pursed her lips. Justin took out a blanket from somewhere and wrapped it tightly around her delicate body.

"I found the person behind the expose. It's a woman named Xena Gordon. Her father is Michael Gordon. You should be familiar with him, so you should also know why she did this. Xena Gordon was waiting for an opportunity to take revenge."

Bella raised her eyes in shock. "You came here just to tell me this?"

"Yes, but not entirely."

Justin's restrained voice was trembling. "I also wanted to see if you were sad or affected by this incident."

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"Hahaha!"

Bella did not like Justin anymore, so she no longer had to pretend to be a meek girl in front of him. She threw her head back and laughed out loud. "Do you think such a trivial matter can make me sad? Bella Thompson is not so easily defeated. Justin, you're really underestimating me."

"That's good." Justin's eyes showed a bit of relief.

"What's your real intention for telling me this?"

Bella felt that Justin was getting more and more strange. However, she could not fathom the possibility of Justin liking her no matter what.

For three years, Bella gave him countless opportunities to fall in love with her. How could he be tempted now?

If so, it was ridiculous how slow this man's reaction was.

"Bella, I owe you. Although our marriage was only in name during the past three years, I wasn't good to you."

Justin tried hard to give a reasonable explanation for his behavior and said in a hoarse voice, "So, I still want to make it up to you as Yong as there is a suitable opportunity."

"Make it up to me, huh? Okay."

Bella looked at Justin with her bottomless, cold eyes. "Then promise me that you will never again appear in front of me and stop meddling in my affairs. That's how you can make it up to me."

Justin frowned. His heart ached as if it was stabbed. His heart almost stopped beating.

Bella took off the blanket on her body and glared at him. "Stop saying that you'll make it up to me. I'd rather you say that you're doing this to attack Bethany. That way, I might have listened a bit more."

As he watched Bella enter her villa, Justin felt an emptiness in his chest. His mood was like the rain outside.

Deep down in his heart, he was hoping that Bella still had feelings for him.

He was unwilling to let go and helpless.

He thought, 'Was this how Bella felt during those three years of suffering when I didn't respond to her love?'

As soon as Bella returned to the villa, she leaned against the door and took several deep breaths to stabilize her fluctuating emotions.

She could hear the faint roar of the sports car engine outside, so she knew he had left. Then she slowly walked to her bed and looked out.

At this moment, a pair of warm hands fell on her shoulders.

Bella panicked at first, but she smiled bitterly and said, "Ash, you scared me to death. Why don't you make any sound when you walk?"

"I wasn't being quiet. You were just too deep in your thoughts."

Asher sighed, put his arms around his little sister's shoulders, and stood with her at the window to look out.

"Has he left?"

"Sorry for disturbing your sleep."

Bella lowered her long eyelashes shyly and leaned on Asher's broad shoulder. "Just now, Justin came to tell me that he found out that Xena Gordon was the one who leaked the photos."

"Oh? That's it?"

"Yeah."

The brother and sister fell into a comfortable silence.

After a while, Asher squeezed Bella's shoulder and asked with a smile, "What if Justin fell in love with you...?"

"Ash!" Bella frowned, her tone full of resentment.

"I mean, what if? If Justin fell in love with you and is now willing to dedicate himself and sacrifice for you, will you give him another chance?"

Asher looked at her seriously. "After all, he's the man you loved throughout your youth."

"I won't."

Bella was resolute. A bitter pain slowly rose in her heart. "Ash, at this point, it's no longer about forgiveness. I'm afraid. I have been let down for too long, and I have suffered enough because of love. I no longer want to worry about a man's moods, and I no longer want to stay up all night waiting for him. I no longer want to cook a feast just to get no response from him. Ash, I'm so tired. I never want to make the same mistakes again."

"Right. Justin has no right to regret his behavior after treating you like that."

Asher held his sister's cold hands tightly and sighed sadly. "My Bella is too good for him. Even if he regrets it, he can only live with that regret for the rest of his life."

Chapter 393

After KS World Hotel lost the cooperation with Ada Wang, Bethany dressed up meticulously the next day and went to the presidential suite of the Salvador Hotel to meet Ada Wang in the afternoon.

Ada was not surprised by Bethany's visit and was contemptuous of Bethany.

After all, Ada felt that Bethany could not hold a candle to Bella in all aspects. Her clothing preference, temperament, and intellect were far lacking compared to Bella.

If Bethany had not been the daughter of Salvador Corporation's chairman, Ada would not have any affiliation with such a superficial woman.

"Ms. Wang, KS World Hotel has breached the contract and hindered your wedding planning. I was very anxious on your behalf when I heard about this matter. I think that KS Group handled it too hastily. It's unprofessional to expose a customer's information. This behavior should be condemned and made an example of in the industry."

Bethany insulted the KS World Hotel, completely unaware that Ada Wang's expression had turned glum. "If you had chosen the Salvador Hotel, these things would never have happened."

"Ms. Salvador, are you implying that I'm not farsighted enough to pick your hotel?" Ada Wang sipped on a cup of black tea and asked with a pretentious smile.

"I... I didn't mean that." Bethany's face froze,

"Ms. Salvador, you should understand one thing. Although I will no longer cooperate with the KS World Hotel, it does not mean that the Salvador Hotel is my only option. Ms. Thompson is an excellent manager, and there may be another reason behind KS World Hotel

breaching the contract. It's still unclear whether they have been framed by a competitor."

Bethany's heart twitched after hearing this.

She felt attacked.

"But didn't you eventually cancel your cooperation with KS World Hotel?"

"That's because we have signed a contract and must abide by the terms of the contract."

Ada Wang curled her lips indifferently. "One shouldn't badmouth others behind their back. Ms. Salvador, you're a well-groomed young lady, so you should understand this principle. What's more, the dignified Salvador Corporation should not need to belittle their opponents to promote themselves."

Bethany's expression froze with embarrassment. She felt like she was sitting on pins and needles.

She thought that Ada was on bad terms with Bella because of the leaked wedding setup photos. She did not expect Ada to actually defend Bella. Was she bewitched by Bella? Or was she possessed?

"Ms. Wang, your wedding is just around the corner. It will definitely be too late to change to another hotel or make new plans."

Bethany knew that she had gotten a little carried away just now, so she quickly regained composure and humbled herself. "If you choose our hotel, you can still keep your wedding date. We will arrange the venue for you right away and complete it on time!"

"I can cooperate with the Salvador Hotel, but I have a condition."

Ada Wang flipped her short hair nonchalantly. "I want Mr. Justin Salvador to personally handle the whole wedding. I only trust him."

Bethany left the hotel angrily.

Thinking of Ada's words, "I only trust Mr. Salvador", Bethany felt seriously offended. This was a personal insult to her.

She really wanted to check to see if Ada was possessed by Bella. Why else would Ada show her such animosity?

"Mom! What do you think I should do now?!" Bethany called Shannon with a sad tone.

“That actress thinks that she’s a big deal? How dare she ignore my precious daughter? I hope her marriage doesn’t last long!”

Shannon was also furious. She said in a cold tone, “Go and beg your dad to put pressure on that bastard. For the sake of the hotel, Justin will definitely come forward to solve the problem.”

Bethany followed her mother’s instructions and rushed to Salvador Corporation in a hurry.

In the chairman’s office, Bethany leaned against Gregory and cried, complaining about the cold shoulder she received from Ada Wang today.

“Bethany, you’re too naive and well protected by me and your mother.

How could you know that the world is a cold and cruel place?”

Gregory kneaded the back of his daughter’s neck in comfort and felt distressed. “You are new to this, so you need to gain some experience. Just take this as a little feedback. Next time, you have to understand that your expressions and eyes are a reflection of your heart.”

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Gregory continued, “You can’t let others figure out what you are thinking through your eyes. This is very dangerous.”

“I know, Dad...”

Gregory took out his phone and made a video call to Justin.

When Justin picked up the call, his stern and angular face filled the screen.

Bethany hurriedly hugged Gregory's arm tighter, trying her best to show off how much Gregory loved her in front of Justin.

As a result, Justin ignored it completely and asked coldly, "Why are you looking for me?"

"Your sister has already reached an agreement with Ada Wang, and now it's up to you to finalize the deal."

Gregory commanded, "Meet with Ada Wang as soon as possible and sign the contract."

"We've already talked about it, so there's no need for me to come forward."

Justin raised the corners of his lips. "Bethany, congratulations in advance for snatching such a big project from Ms. Thompson. Since you're so smart and capable, you should complete this important contract signing process by yourself. I won't steal your limelight."

Bethany was so angry that her insides were burning. Her eyes were red from suppressing her anger.

If Justin did not take up the project, Ada Wang would not work with the Salvador Hotel.

"Justin, Bethany is your sister. It's not easy for her to push things to this point. As an elder brother, can't you help her complete the deal?" Gregory's voice was deep, and his eyes were filled with anger.

"Whether this project goes through is Bethany's responsibility. There's no such thing as only sharing hardships but selfishly reaping all the benefits."

Gregory was fuming. "Justin!"

"If you really want to solve this matter, you might as well meet Ada Wang in person. Can't you, the chairman of Salvador Corporation, handle a celebrity?"

The call ended, and the screen turned black.

Justin hung up the video call without giving them a chance to respond.

The Hoffman family also encountered trouble.

Mrs. Hoffman had been competing with Lance Iverson's daughter, Astrid Iverson, for the jewelry charity auction. Originally, Mrs. Hoffman had almost reached an agreement with Vincent's team, but she suddenly received news yesterday that Vincent had chosen Astrid.

Her hard work in recent days was in vain, and she was so depressed that she could not eat.

Zoe saw this and felt resentful.

She knew why Vincent suddenly changed his mind. He was venting his anger on Bella's behalf.

Zoe returned to her room, furious. She had no choice but to call her frenemy, Bethany.

"I'm in a bad mood. Let's go for a drink at my brother's club tonight."

"Sigh... I'm also in a bad mood."

Bethany told Zoe about Ada Wang's refusal to sign a contract with her, "Although we stopped Ada from working with Bella, I didn't reap the benefits. How infuriating!"

"Hmph! Don't worry. Ada Wang just doesn't want to admit that she made the wrong choice. She'll naturally figure it out in a few days."

Zoe entered her walk-in closet, went through the expensive designer clothes, and asked in a lazy tone, "A lot of things have happened recently, but I had to endure it all. Bethany, can you organize something fun to make me happy?"

Bethany was startled.

She immediately understood what Zoe meant and said with a playful smile, "Don't worry. I'll definitely make you happy tonight!"

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That day, after Carrie escaped from Ryan's arms, she did not get to sleep all night.

She was also injured. When she returned home, she found a large scrape on her elbow, with pus seeping out. The stinging sensation made her pout, and she almost cried in pain.

Carrie sneaked out of the house, so she did not dare to tell anyone that she was injured. Thus, she found the first aid kit and simply cleaned the wound. That night, she hugged her teddy and went to bed in tears, but she could not fall asleep.

In a daze, she recalled many things.

Carrie recalled being forced to eat lunch in a dirty bathroom.

She remembered being thrown headfirst into a trash can by a boy under Zoe's instructions.

Carrie thought of the dead mouse she found in her school bag.

She also thought of her favorite novel that Zoe had shredded and thrown everywhere as if it were snow.

Finally, Carrie thought of the piano in the music classroom... That was a nightmare that would traumatize her forever.

Zoe Hoffman and Ryan Hoffman. Ryan is her brother, huh?

Carrie's fair and thin little face was covered with tears. She clutched the quilt with both hands and suppressed her cries until dawn.

Although Carrie was autistic, she was not a heartless little fool.

She knew that even though Ryan was Zoe's brother, he had saved her from dying in a car accident.

Thus, in the afternoon, Carrie quietly came to the kitchen and made a blueberry mousse cake according to an online tutorial. She thought about asking Justin to bring this cake as a token of gratitude to Ryan.

After making the cake, Carrie put it in the refrigerator. She clapped her hands with satisfaction, turned around, and walked toward her room.

As soon as she pushed open the door, Carrie's relaxed expression instantly froze, and she backed away in panic.

She saw Bethany sitting on her bed with her legs crossed and arms folded across her chest while looking at her with a smile that made her scalp tingle.

"Shouldn't you say hi when you see your sister?"

Bethany flicked her newly made golden manicure and said, "You're just a dummy. Have you become mute now too?"

"Hello, Bethany..." Carrie whispered.

"I'll take you out tonight to play, okay?" Bethany suddenly smiled at her.

“No... No need... I don’t know how to play. You will feel bored with me around.” Carrie lowered her head and answered in a trembling voice.

“Are you sure you don’t want to go? Tsk, fine then.”

Bethany stood up slowly, looking at Carrie with mocking eyes. “I thought of finding an opportunity for us sisters to get close, but since you don’t want to, I won’t force it.”

After saying that, Bethany walked out of the door with her hands behind her back.

Carrie took a long breath and walked into the room with heavy steps.

Suddenly, she ran to the bedside in shock and fumbled through the neatly folded quilts and stacked pillows.

However, she could not find her cherished teddy bear, which Bella had given her.

“My Teddy! Bethany!”

Carrie knew that Bethany would never set foot in her room without harboring some evil intentions because Bethany liked to torture her.

Thus, Carrie knew that Bethany must have taken away her teddy.

Carrie’s whole body was soaked in cold sweat. She staggered out of the door and ran downstairs.

Outside the villa, Bethany had already sat in the car, and the housekeeper closed the door.

“Give it back to me! Give me back my teddy!”

Carrie shouted at the top of her lungs as she ran.

Bethany lowered the car window, stuck out her tongue evilly at the sweating Carrie, picked up the teddy, and shook it in her face.

“Drive,” Bethany instructed the driver.

The luxury car’s engine roared as the car disappeared in the blink of an eye.

“Bethany! Give it back to me... Give me back my teddy!”

Carrie cried, but it was in vain.

At this moment, Carrie looked like a weak mother, helplessly watching someone kidnap her child. Even the housekeeper on the side felt uncomfortable seeing this scene.

“Prepare a car for me!” Carrie looked at the housekeeper with red eyes.

This was the first time in her life that she had ordered someone to do something for her.

“But, Ms. Carrie... Madam Shannon doesn’t allow you to go out alone

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Carrie shouted, “I am also the daughter of Chairman Gregory Salvador, so why can’t I go out when Bethany can? Hurry up and get the car ready!”

Thus, the butler had no choice but to prepare a car for Carrie.

As night fell, the lights in the city lit up.

In a luxury private room at ACE Club, Zoe and several of her peers from Savrow's upper class smoked and drank. They no longer look like the prim and proper young ladies they were trained to be, but like wild girls who were experienced in the nightlife scene.

Zoe went to Inalia to study abroad after graduating from junior high school, so she did not have many friends in Savrow.

These men and women were a part of a small group in her junior high school class. Everyone here had bullied Carrie under her instigation.

"I wonder how Carrie is doing now. I haven't seen her since graduation. As a daughter of the Salvador family, she's so low-profile."

"I heard from my mother that Carrie has mental problems, so Mrs. Salvador doesn't allow her to meet people."

"Seriously! No wonder I thought she was stupid when we were in junior high. I didn't expect she was actually a retard!"

"Hey, retard is a strong word!"

Zoe crossed her slender legs and held a cigarette between her red lips. She inhaled deeply and blew out a smoke ring. "The scientific name for that is autistic."

"Ah, but still mentally retarded. Hahahahaha!"

The whole group burst into laughter.

Zoe listened to their wild and mocking laughter and smiled slyly.

At this time, the door to the private room opened.

Bethany walked in under the guidance of the waiter.

As soon as Bethany arrived, the room fell silent in an instant, and everyone exchanged shocked glances.

"It's okay. Carry on. Bethany is one of us."

Zoe hooked her fingers. Immediately, a young man brought over a crystal ashtray and waited for her to flick the ashes into it.

When Bethany saw this, she was stunned.

She originally thought that Rosalind was the last of the evil fakers she had to deal with. She did not expect Zoe to also be good at pretending to be an innocent little sweetheart.

Bethany wondered what Ryan would think if he saw that his normally dignified and elegant sister behaved like a promiscuous woman.

Would he be furious?

"Hey Bethany, why didn't you bring Carrie here?"

When Zoe saw that Bethany was alone, she was a little upset. "Well, there will definitely be a lot less entertainment tonight."

"The older Carrie gets, the more disobedient she becomes."

Bethany sighed and laughed jokingly, waving Carrie's teddy bear in front of Zoe. "But don't worry. With this, my sister will definitely come over here tonight."

“What? Bethany, are you playing a new trick with her?” Zoe asked with raised eyebrows.

“Haha, just watch.”

Not long after Bethany entered ACE, Carrie’s cars arrived soon after.

Seeing the majestic nightclub with bustling traffic and people at the entrance, Carrie suddenly felt a burst of anxiety due to her social phobia. Her lips trembled slightly, and her face became paler.

She hurriedly got back into the car, took out her phone, and called Bethany.

“What’s the matter, my dearest sister?”

The other end of the phone was extremely noisy, but Carrie could still hear a hint of derision in Bethany’s tone.

“Give me back my teddy!” Carrie’s voice trembled, and her face turned red with anger.

“You mean this dirty, ugly thing? I hid it.”

“Hide it? Where did you hide it?!”

Carrie was so anxious that tears welled up in her eyes.

“It’s in the ACE club! Tsk, if I told you exactly where it is, it would defeat the purpose of me hiding him, don’t you think?”

Bethany’s charming voice was filled with malice. “My dearest sister, we haven’t played together since we were kids, so I want to play a game with you tonight. Go on and find it! Otherwise, your teddy will be all alone in a dark corner. Hahahaha!”

Carrie's eyes instantly turned red with anger. Bethany's evil laughter made her hair stand on end, and she could not stop shaking.

Carrie did not even feel so much hate for Bethany when she insulted and tortured her. The resentment she felt at this moment was overwhelming.

Her red eyes were filled with tears as she contemplated what to do. Carrie gritted her teeth and decided to rush into the ACE club.

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The music in the ACE club was blasting at full volume, but the luxurious private room was so quiet that everyone could hear their own heartbeat.

Ryan was wearing a black suit and a dark-patterned silk shirt with a wide collar. A silver necklace dipped between his solid chest muscles. He held a glass of red wine, sipping on it leisurely with his long legs crossed.

A drop of bright red blood oozed from the corner of his lips, which he had wiped away with his thumb. His expression was languid and frivolous, but his charming eyes held a hint of coldness that deterred people from approaching him."

His gaze was so icy, like a cold abyss.

Ryan's bodyguards stood in a row in the private room.

Ryan raised his head and drank the red wine in his glass before snapping his fingers.

Then his bodyguards dispersed. A tied-up man knelt on the ground in front of Ryan. His face was bruised and swollen, and his facial features were distorted.

“Mr. Hoffman... I was wrong... Please have mercy...” Some of the man’s teeth were broken. He leaked saliva and blood when he spoke.

“Tsk, your blood is flowing to the floor.”

Ryan glanced at him with disgust and raised an eyebrow nonchalantly. “Do you know how expensive the carpet in my private room is? You won’t be able to afford it even if I sell your organs on the black market.”

“Mr. Hoffman...”

The man rolled onto his stomach in front of Ryan, but Ryan raised his long legs and kicked him away.

“Mr. Hoffman... I have been with you for many years and have always been loyal to you. This time, I was coerced by Mr. Liam Hoffman! He threatened to kill me. He didn’t ask me to do much, only to report your whereabouts...”

Liam Hoffman was Ryan’s second uncle and his father’s only younger brother.

When Ryan was seven years old, his father died in a plane accident, leaving Ryan and his sister orphaned and his mother widowed. Fortunately, Ryan’s father had transferred all his shares and assets to

Ryan’s mother and Ryan early on. Thus, their family fortune was not left at the mercy of others.

Logan Hoffman, Ryan’s grandfather, was in charge of the Hoffman family. Although Ryan was Logan’s eldest grandson, the position of CEO that originally belonged to Ryan’s father fell into the hands of his second uncle.

Ryan had seen through Liam’s intentions. His second uncle, who cried the most at Ryan’s father’s grave, was, in fact, sinister and cunning. On the surface, Liam took care of Ryan’s family, but he was secretly plotting and guarding against Ryan.

All this was something that the weak Mrs. Hoffman and the inexperienced Zoe had no idea about.

As the backbone of the family, Ryan shouldered all the responsibility and pressure. Even his best friend, Justin, was unaware of the hardships Ryan went through.

“You’re quite good at pleading for yourself. You know that you’ve been working for me for the longest time, so you want to please both sides and save more money for yourself, right? Hah! You ought to

know that you might be able to earn more, but you might not have the life to enjoy all that money.” Ryan let go of his hand. The wine glass he was holding shattered. The cold light in his charming eyes was terrifying.

The man kept kowtowing to Ryan, so much so that the floor covered with luxurious velvet rugs made a clunking sound.

“I don’t care that you lied to me. It’s expected for the boss of a big conglomerate to have one or two traitors around them. That’s a show of success, isn’t it?”

Ryan leaned forward slightly. His broad shoulders cast a beautiful shadow on the floor.

The moment Ryan lowered his long eyelashes and smirked slowly, the miserable man in front of him looked so afraid, as if Ryan were the grim reaper.

“What you did wrong was to expose yourself. Since you’ve deceived me, you should’ve continued lying to me. This way, you won’t ruin my mood, and you can even live longer.”

“Mr. Hoffman... Please...” The man’s body was shaking, and he almost peed his pants.

Ryan narrowed his eyes and drawled, “It’s been a long time since I visited my second uncle. I should’ve been more courteous. Yasmin.”

A charming woman wearing a deep V backless slit dress came out of a dark corner. She was Ryan's secretary.

"Mr. Hoffman," Yasmin said respectfully.

Ryan's smile suddenly disappeared. "Cut off his treacherous tongue!"

"Yes, sir."

"No, no, no! No... Ah! Mm!"

Yasmin's face was expressionless as she raised a knife and cut out the man's tongue with more skill than a butcher.

Ryan stood up slowly, put his left hand in his pants pocket, and smoothed back his hair.

"Wrap it up and send it to my second uncle. He can eat it as an appetizer for his next meal."

....

In the private room on the other side of the club, Zoe ordered the staff to broadcast the hundreds of surveillance cameras in the entire club on the large screen. That way, they could watch Carrie from various angles.

Carrie was like a deer lost in the forest-flustered, frightened, and helpless.

Zoe and her friends watched it with interest.

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Carrie bumped around the ACE Club like a headless fly. She was pulled around by drunken guests. Some men even harassed her. She managed to avoid them, but they started yelling at her.

Everyone in Zoe's private room watched this and laughed heartily. They found it more amusing than any comedy.

"Hahahaha! This retard! She hasn't changed one bit since she was in junior high school. Has she stopped growing since then? Hahahaha!"

Zoe pointed at the screen and laughed wildly. "Bethany, I'm really curious. Where did you hide that tattered bear?"

"I hid it in..."

Bethany laughed playfully and whispered something to Zoe.

After hearing this, Zoe burst out laughing.

"That's creative of you! I doubt that dummy will be able to find that tattered bear by tomorrow. Hahaha..."

....

Carrie looked through almost all the tables in the club. She had been kicked so many times by the guests unintentionally that her arms and calves were all bruised.

She stood there stupidly, hugging herself with trembling arms and looking at the strangers in front of her who were casting strange looks at her. Her mind went blank. Her breathing hitched and became

labored.

Suddenly, the lights in the club changed colors.

Colored confetti floated down like flowers in the spring.

Everyone cheered and swayed their bodies on the dance floor.

“Teddy... My teddy...”

Carrie was only thinking about her toy. She bent over and tried to find the whereabouts of her teddy.

Suddenly, her little face, which was covered in sweat and tears, bumped into a warm wall made of muscles.

The collision made her see stars. Her nose was sore and numb, and the tears that were pricking at the corners of her eyes overflowed.

“Oh, I’m sorry...”

Carrie lowered her head and was about to run away when that moving

“wall” blocked her way.

“I’m really sorry, miss...”

“Carrie?!”

Carrie’s heart pounded rapidly. She covered her small nose and raised her clear, doe-like eyes slowly.

What she saw next was Ryan’s deep and drunken gaze and thick eyebrows.

“I’m not dreaming, am I? Is it really you?”

The next second, Ryan widened his eyes. He suddenly opened his arms wide-to-wrap Carrie in his embrace. His left arm tightened around her waist, and his right hand clasped the back of her neck to shield her protectively.

After all, the dance floor was too chaotic. These adrenaline -fueled people were wild and might accidentally hurt her.

Carrie’s heartbeat was racing. Her trembling little hands pressed on the hem of Ryan’s shirt.

She wanted to push him away, but she had felt scared all night. With him supporting her, she wanted to hide in his arms for a while, even if it was only for a few seconds...

Carrie thought, ‘This is wrong... He’s a good man, but he’s Zoe’s brother.’

When people on the dance floor saw the “Prince of Savrow”, they felt as if they had seen a deity and gasped in surprise.

Ryan’s gorgeous face made countless men cry and countless women scream.

His charming eyes were famous for being the sexiest ones in Savrow, driving people to ecstasy and lust.

At this moment, those captivating eyes were staring at the girl in his arms.

The luxuriant life and the hustle and bustle in the club seemed like another world because Ryan and Carrie only focused on each other.

“Did you come here alone?” Ryan asked in a voice that only the two of them could hear.

Carrie nodded, then shook her head.

“What happened? Tell me.” The man’s eyes darkened for a moment, but his voice was gentle.

“I... Lost my teddy...”

Carrie did not want to speak at first, but when he asked, she could no longer hold back her grievances and started crying.

“Ryan, my teddy is missing... Annie gave me that teddy... It’s my favorite teddy...”

Chapter 399

Ryan’s heart melted when he heard Carrie cry.

His Adam’s apple rolled, and he actually had an inappropriate reaction

The crystal tears that streamed down Carrie’s face seemed to have caused ripples in Ryan’s heart.

In an instant, Ryan forgot about how Carrie had abandoned him and ran away the last time they got into a car accident.

“Annie? Do you mean Bella? Bella gave you the teddy?” Ryan narrowed his eyes and gently wiped the tears from Carrie’s cheeks with his calloused fingertips.

Carrie nodded vigorously, the tip of her nose red.

“Where did you lose it? Here?”

Carrie nodded again, her eyes still red.

“Don’t worry, I’ll help you find it.”

Ryan took Carrie’s little hand and walked to the stage step by step, in full view of everyone.

A dreamy and crimson light followed, illuminating the two of them.

Carrie lowered her eyes timidly, but she could not help but sneak glances at him.

Although Ryan looked a bit fierce, he was really handsome.

His strong and chiseled face was unparalleled in this world.

Carrie pursed her lips. Her twinkling eyes wandered all over the man’s face as she carefully etched his deep facial features in her heart.

“Stop the music.”

Ryan stood in the DJ’s position, picked up the microphone, and said only three words. The originally boisterous place fell silent.

Zoe and Bethany were having fun, so they did not look at the screen until someone reminded them.

In an instant, Zoe sat upright on the sofa and screamed angrily.

Everyone was so frightened, thinking that she was possessed.

When Bethany saw Carrie and Ryan standing side by side, and Ryan was holding Carrie’s hand as if they were a couple, Bethany felt so angry that her chest felt tight. Her mind buzzed.

Ryan was holding Carrie's hand so openly and looking at Carrie with such affection as if she were the one for him.

Was Ryan showing the world that he loved Carrie?

Bethany thought, 'Carrie! That little bitch! If you dare steal my man, I will definitely kill you!'

"What's going on?! Why is my brother with that fool? Explain!"

Zoe called her personal bodyguard over and glared at them with piercing eyes. "Didn't I tell you to keep an eye on that fool? How could she and my brother run into each other?!"

"Ms. Zoe, please calm down... I kept an eye on her the whole time, but

I didn't expect Mr. Ryan to show up at ACE tonight. Carrie was running around, so she would definitely bump into Mr. Ryan." Zoe's bodyguard panicked and explained it incoherently.

"Useless fool!"

Zoe had nowhere to vent her anger, so she simply kicked her bodyguard in the leg.

In the end, she missed the bodyguard's leg and fell to the floor with a scream.

Bethany and her friends stifled a laugh.

On the stage, Ryan's charming eyes held a smile as he spoke, "I hope everyone is having fun tonight. Why don't we play a little game? My sister has lost a teddy bear here."

As soon as he said this, a photo of Carrie's teddy bear appeared on the huge screen behind him, which Carrie had taken before on her phone.

There was a lot of discussion in the audience.

“Sister? I thought Mr. Hoffman only had one sister. She’s the protégé of a famous pianist. I don’t remember her looking like this.”

“Sister? More like a backup lover. You just called that man bro, but are you his sibling?”

“But this lady doesn’t even look like she has come of age! She’s still a child, right? I doubt she’s an adult yet!”

“What do you know? Rich men like girls much younger than them. They like the innocent, natural, and real type.”

Carrie vaguely heard a word or two of criticism. Her cheeks turned red with embarrassment, and she wanted to withdraw her hand from Ryan’s grip.

Whenever this happened, all she could think of was running away.

However, the man held her sweaty little hands so tightly that she could not move despite struggling with all her might.

“So, whoever can find this teddy bear tonight will get all their expenses at ACE waived for one year!”

Ryan’s alluring voice made the whole audience scream in surprise.

At this moment, huge numbers appeared on the big screen, starting a countdown.

“Five, four, three, two, one... Let the game begin!”

The corners of Ryan's lips rose in satisfaction as he waved his hand nonchalantly.

The crowd quickly dispersed and spread to every corner of the club.

The scene was truly spectacular when Ryan saw it from the stage.

Carrie blinked her doe-like eyes in surprise. She could not close her mouth.

Ryan stared at her surprised face, his eyes getting darker by the second.

"Come on. Let's wait in my private room. They'll find your teddy soon."

Chapter 400

Ryan took Carrie to another private room.

In the private room, a few escorts were drinking with three rich young men, Ryan's friends in Savrow.

When Carrie saw these strangers hugging each other, her face turned red like a tomato. She lowered her head so much that she resembled an ostrich sticking its head in the sand. Ryan pulled her into the room.

As soon as Ryan led her in, his friends wolf-whistled and cheered.

"Ooh! Hi, Mrs. Hoffman. You're definitely young and promising for being able to take down our brother!"

Carrie panicked. Her face turned red

"Shut up! This is..."

Just as Ryan was about to introduce Carrie as Gregory Salvador's youngest daughter, he suddenly remembered what Justin told him and quickly changed his tune. "This is my sister. You bastards better get your mind out of the gutter!"

"Ryan, your little lady's teddy bear is quite expensive. Free consumption at ACE for one year is a lot! It's at least hundreds of thousands of dollars, or even millions if they come every day. You're really generous just to find a teddy bear for her. With that money, you can probably buy a tonne of teddy bears."

Ryan's friends did not believe that Ryan and Carrie were not in a relationship.

There were countless women around Ryan, but he would not treat just anyone so generously. Thus, they concluded that Ryan must like Carrie.

"She wants that bear, given to her by my first love. It means so much to the both of us, so what do you know?" Ryan rolled his eyes. He felt that his friends were insufferable.

"First love? Are you talking about my sister-in-law?" Carrie stared at him in shock.

"Yes, I used to like your ex-sister-in-law. Bella was my first love." Ryan smiled and admitted it frankly.

He had fallen in love with Bella. Even though Bella rejected him harshly, he felt honored to have loved such an outstanding woman.

Even if he died, he would have this written on a monument.

As a result, Carrie screamed in horror. "No, no, no! You can't like my sister-in-law! My sister-in-law belongs to my second brother! No one is allowed to steal her from my second brother!"

"I..."

"Aren't you friends with my second brother? How can you steal his wife?!"

Carrie showed a righteous expression on her face and clenched her fists tightly. “My brother will feel sad and betrayed if you steal his wife. If you want to take my sister-in-law away from me, I won’t be friends with you anymore!”

Carrie could not think of a way to threaten this man, so she said something childish and ridiculous.

There was silence in the room before everyone burst into laughter.

Carrie suddenly blushed. She curled her toes and pinched the corners of her shirt shyly.

Ryan also did not know whether to laugh or cry. It was obvious that Carrie was embarrassed, so he suppressed his smile and turned to glare at everyone.

As if a pause button were pressed, everyone held their breaths and did not dare to make fun of Ryan’s girl anymore.

“Carrie, I didn’t expect that you have quite upright views.”

Ryan bent over slightly and stretched out his hand to rub the top of her head. Her hair was so soft. He narrowed his eyes and said, “I know that you’re standing up for your second brother. Otherwise, might have thought that you were a little sour.”

“Am I sour? I don’t think I taste sour...” Carrie said seriously.

Ryan was speechless.

He finally realized how different he and Carrie were.

However, she had successfully attracted his attention.

Everyone in ACE was busy trying to find a teddy bear for Carrie.

There was a glass door in the private room that opened out to a large terrace.

Ryan was drinking with his friends in the room, while Carrie stood alone on the terrace, nervously grabbing the railing and praying that someone would find her beloved bear.

“Found it! I found it!”

At this point, a woman yelled and jumped on the stage, holding a teddy bear high above her head.

“What the hell?! Where the hell did you find it?!”

“In the toilet flush tank, in the men’s bathroom!”

The men present subconsciously covered their crotches and thought, ‘Wow, this woman really gave her all to find this bear...’

Carrie jumped up with joy, like a child.

“Oh, this is much faster than I thought. Sure enough, money does wonders. I guess they might even smile if I ask them to eat their own shit.”

Ryan turned and walked into the terrace, holding a cigarette between his thin red lips. The orange fire flickered on the bud of the cigarette.

“I’m going to get my teddy!”

Carrie was afraid of being alone with Ryan and wanted to run away again, but she was stopped by the man’s strong body.

Ryan would not allow Carrie to run away from him again.

After the car accident that night, he secretly swore to himself that he would never let this little rabbit escape the next time.

“Don’t rush. Your toy is wet, so I’ll get my secretary to dry it for you before returning it to you.”

Carrie lowered her head, not daring to look into his eyes, which were so alluring. She just muttered, “Thank you...”

“Congratulations to this lady for winning the first prize! Your consumption at ACE will be free for one year!” Yasmin smiled and took the bear from the woman’s hand.

The woman was ecstatic, and everyone was jealous.

ACE was the most expensive nightclub in Savrow. Free consumption for one year was a big deal, like hitting the jackpot!

One would cry tears of joy at winning this prize.

Ryan narrowed his eyes and gestured toward Yasmin with his hand, which was holding the cigarette.

Yasmin understood what he meant and laughed loudly. “To thank everyone for their hard work helping Mr. Hoffman’s sister find her teddy bear, Mr. Hoffman will settle everyone’s tabs tonight!”