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Yvette nodded. She was sitting casually on the sofa. Her long and straight legs were slightly bent.

She rested her chin on her palm and said lightly. "Have a seat, Howard. How do you feel now?"

Howard had been struggling with serious heart disease for over twenty years. He had been hospitalized more than a dozen times.

He had almost lost all hope. Later, surprisingly, after taking a few boxes of medicine that Yvette gave him, he gradually felt better.

A few days ago, a doctor told him that his heart disease was cured. Now, he just needed to be careful with his health.

Even the doctors said his recovery was like a miracle.

The one who treated him as a renowned expert, Yosef Kenton, who had subtly asked Howard several times whether someone had been secretly treating his decease.

Talking about his illness, Howard but emotional. Who wouldn't want to live a few more years?

He said gratefully, "Boss, my disease is almost cured. I've been taking the medicine that you gave me regularly. It's amazing"

Yvette nodded nonchalantly and said lazily. The bio lab, one of the top three labs in Betricg, needs investment for a project,

right

Howard was puzzled. He wondered how his boss knew about this

The bio lab was indeed looking for investors to collaborate on a new project. This idea was brought up after a funding shortfall. But it hadn't been made public yet.

Only the powerful people in Betrico knew about this. It was still highly confidential.

Howard said, "Yes, boss, the bio lab is a key national lab and was supposed to have sufficient funding. However, due to some unexpected reasons, the costs exceeded considerably and the government doesn't want to invest more money in it. The director, Rashad, is now looking for other investors to resolve his urgent financial crisis."

Yvette grinned, looking wild, untamed, and strikingly beautiful. She said lightly. "Invest in this project. Tell him there's only one condition: I want someone to study in his lab."

Howard was briefly taken aback and reflexively blurted out, "Who?"

Yvette slightly raised her head and then said, "Me."

In just a few hours, the news that the Chambers Group was going to hold a conference was spreading rapidly.

Everyone was anticipating the announcement from the Chambers Group regarding its bankruptey and withdrawal from. Seacrity's market.

As one of the four major families declined, numerous others were eager to fill the void.

Family vacation packages

At the Smith residence, Dennis was sitting on the sofa with Nellie by his side and Zeke and Winona sat on either side, looking jittery. Neither of them was speaking.

Nellie's face looked healthily rosy and was glowing. Lately, she had been enjoying her life immensely. She changed her partners daily: all kinds of young and handsome boys.

She finally realized that she hadn't gained anything from all these years with Zachary

Although she was unwilling to accept it, there was nothing she could do about it.

If Zachary went bankrupt, she could do whatever she wanted.

Nellie was thrilled, thinking that Zachary would soon announce his bankruptcy and would have nothing left. She asked, "Dad, is the Chambers family really going to anounce their bankruptcy?"

Dennis's eyes looked fierce and menacing. His smile was cold and evil.

He said, "Yeah, even if the Chambers family tries its best, they won't survive a long time. He's left everything to Yvette. Although we've been pushing him hard, he hasn't used that inoney yet. He's made up his mind. It is a wise choice to announce their bankruptcy now. At least, he won't lose everything.

Nellie was so furious that she gritted her teeth when Dennis mentioned that Zachary was still protecting Yvette.

Zeke and Winona exchanged a glance. They had no say at this moment.

Recently, every time Wines went to a party with Victor, she felt that people despised her.

If she hadn't been going to marry into the Carter family, those people would probably humiliate her.

Although Victor had forgiven her,

sometimes cold toward her.

no longer as nice and soft to her as before. He was sometimes gentle and

When he was in a good mood, he treated her better. When irritated, he would look cold.

He showed no respect for her at all in front of everyone.

Winona didn't dare to say anything. She had to swallow her pride. She looked visibly worn out.

Zeke was now relying on the Smith family's money. He couldn't spend extravagantly anymore. Some people who once catered to him backed off when they noticed his decline.

Zeke's life was miserable too.

Dennis scanned Winona with a serious and cold look. He asked, "Winona, how have things been lately with Victor?"

Winona's fingers suddenly tensed. There was an awkward silence in the living room. She said, "Grandpa, I'm doing well with Victor. Don't worry. Yesterday, I had dinner with Mrs. Carter

Of course, Winona wasn't going to let Dennis know that she had a meal with Yulia yesterday. But Yulia kept laughing and sneering at her.

Dennis nodded in satisfaction at Winona's words.

He said, "Good job. Just focus on keeping Victor's heart but don't forget about yourself like your mother did. She had been tricked for years without realizing it

Hearing her name, Nellie's cheeks turned pink. She lowered her head.

Zeke looked at them with a cold face. A hatred was growing within him.

If his mom hadn't done something so disgraceful, he wouldn't be the laughingstock of Seacrity.

He would never shake off the label of a "bastard." And the saddest part was that he didn't even know who his father was

Three–lifteen on the nose, Zachary, dressed in a black suit, showed up at the conference in time.

He was entirely different from before. It was brimming with energy. She even jumped up and down while walking

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The reporters below were puzzled. They thought it wasn't at all what they had expected.

Zachary didn't look like someone about to declare bankruptcy atall. He looked so happy.

Before coming here, these twenty-something news outlets had already decided on today's headline.

The title would be: [The Chambers Family Is Going to Bankrupt What's Next for Them?]

Zachary calmly walked to his seat and sat down. Lucas followed behind him carrying a black briefcase.

Numerous cameras flashed on Zachary's face instantly.

Before Zachary could say anything, the reporters shot him with a lot of questions.

"Are you going to announce the Chambers Group's bankruptcy?"

"Did the Chambers family encounter a series of setbacks from the Smith family and the Carter family because of your divorce from Nellie

"Rumor has it that Zeke and Winona, whom Nellie, the third child of the Smiths, gave birth to, aren't yours? So you've left all your money to your eldest daught hom you reunited with not long ago. Is it true?"

"Did you alone bring the Chambers family to the bankruptcy?"

"Please, head of the Chambers family, could you please explain everything to us?"

"What exactly do you intend to announce at today's press conference, Mr. Chambers?"

Faced with the reporters tough questions, Zachary calmly waved his hand, signaling them to quiet down. His dark eyes glittered.

He said, "The Chambers Group is holding this press conference to address what happened in the past two weeks, preventing people with evil intentions from twisting the story any further. Iwill explain everything to you."

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As soon as Zachary began to speak, the room quieted down.

With a serious look on his face, Zachary nodded in approval as he observed the scene.

Ladies and gentlemen. First, regarding the rumors about Zeke and Winona. With the support of a report from a reputable institution, I can confirm that yes, they are not my biological children. As for whose children they really are? You'd have to ask Nellie herself. Furthermore, there have also been mumerous rumors claiming that I have abandoned my wife and children irresponsibly. But what you don't know is that not only aren't the two children mine, but Nellie had also been repetitively cheating on me over the years. I have photos and detailed records as proof for everything I've said. If anyone's interested. I'll have all of this emailed to you shortly."

Zachary dropped this scoop as soon as he started, getting the reporters all excited.

This head of the Chambers family was really ruthless. He had all the evidence ready,

Family vacation packages

Once this hits the news tomorrow, note Mellie but also the Smith family would have their reputation forever tarnished.

Not only did she cheat on Zachary, but she also made him raise her lovers' children.

With Zachary confirming the rumor in person, tomorrow's papers are sure to sell out.

The public nowadays adores scandalous stories about wealthy families.

Zachary swept his eyes over the excited reporters and gave a slight nod, "I'm sure everyone here knows how the Chambers Group has suffered a severe blow from the Smith and Carter families in the past few weeks. My former father-in-law, Dennis, bribed our suppliers and lured away all our partners by offering three times the market price, leaving the Chambers family in despair."

Speaking of which, Zachary sighed deeply.

The reporters below were certainly aware of the chaos the business world in Seacrity had been in for the past two weeks. The real culprits were the Smith family, who teamed up with the Carters to target the Chambers family. The Chambers Group was simply trying to defend itself.

Some reporters had already begun to feel sorry for Zachary

In twenty years of marriage, he had been cheated on countless times, and even raised his wife's lovers' child. Who could tolerate such a thing? If it were them, they would've throttled Nellie on the spot.

Zachary's eyes narrowed slightly, a sharp gleam flashing through them. He wasn't here to seek pity.

"But as the saying goes, where there's a will, there's a way. The Chambers Group has been diligent for so many years that even fate couldn't ignore it any longer. Just yesterday, Mr. Yates, the General Manager of the country's largest investment group, Sunrise Group, reached out to me. He's willing to lend a helping hand during this critical time to save the Chambers Group. Moments ago, we finalized a partnership where Sunrise Group agreed to invest \$5 billion in the Chambers Group, Through the Sunrise Group, we will jointly develop a new immersive online game with FastPulse Technologies, the world's biggest gaming company. We aspire to contribute to the domestic gaming industry?

The entire room of reporters was stunned. Is the Sunrise Group really going to invest in the Chambers Group? And they're actually developing immersive online games together with FastPulse? Unbelievable!

Has Sunrise gone crazy? With their power and status, why would they even want to partner with the Chambers Group?"

And remember, FastPulse Technologies is the world's largest gaming company headquartered in Mysonna. They have never worked with other companies before, dedicated to keeping the identities of their key tech experts secret.

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Why in the world would FastPulse collaborate with a company on the brink of bankruptcy?

They thought that there was a high possibility that Zachary had gone mad.

A young reporter was the first to speak.

"Mr. Chambers, are you sure you have not misspoken? Do you have a contract? Any other proof?

Zachary gave a small smile. He didn't show a hint of irritation at the blunt question. His composed demeanor earned him another wave of admiration.

"I assume that was what everyone was thinking. I assure you that I am not o

out of my

mind. I've already signed a contract with Howard Yates, the General Manager of Sunrise Group Having said that, Zachary glanced at Lucas. Lucas immediately walked up with a black briefcase in hand.

People wondered what was in the briefcase. They all guessed it might be the contract.

Lucas handed the briefcase to Zachary, then quietly stood aside.

Facing the cameras, Zachary opened the briefcase and pulled out a thick stack of documents.

The camer zoomed in, the large wo ONTRACT coming into view.

Of course, the details couldn't be shown to the public, so Zachary turned to the last page. Howard's signature along with the Sunrise Group's stamp were crystal clear.

The reporters couldn't doubt it.

It seems that the Chambers Group was incredibly lucky. With the Sunrise Group hacking them, they can finally get through this crisis.

Not only that, but the future of the Chambers Group looks promising. The Smith family and the Carter family may sound important in Seacrity, but they're nothing compared to a big conglomerate like Sunrise Group.

The Smith and Carter families would have to think again before messing with the Chambers family again.

Zachary faced the camera, his warm smile disappearing without a trace, replaced by a gaze as sharp as an eagle's.

His voice was strong and confident. "To conclude this press conference, I'd like to warn someone not to ruin the healthy competition of the market out of personal greed. We, the Chambers family, do not want to start trouble, but we're not afraid of it. If anyone dares to challenge us again, bring it on. I'll be right here waiting for you sewer rats,"

Everyone present knew exactly who Zachary was referring to when he said "rats."

After this press conference, the Chambers and the Smiths had completely fallen out. But now, with the support of the Sunrise Group, the Chambers had no reason to be afraid of the Smiths.

Everyone had a strong sense of foreboding that the dynamics of the four major families in Seacrity were about to change. Everything was uncertain.

At the same moment, Dennis sat on the sofa, gripping his cane with a strength like no other. His face was frighteningly stormy.

Nellie and the others hardly dared to breathe. They never expected Zachary to be so ruthless as to expose their dirty secret right in front of the press.

Dennis had never imagined that the Sunrise Group would step in to rescue the Chambers Group

After a while, Dennis finally spoke up, his voice as rough as sandpaper, "How did Zachary connect with the Sunrise Group?"

Winona and Zeke trembled with fear. Dennis looked frightening, like a demon emerging from hell.

Even Nellie shuddered, her voice trembling as she spoke, "Dennis, I really don't know how Zachary knew Howard Yates. He had never mentioned Howard before"

Dennis swept all the coffee cups off the table in a fit of rage.

He glared viciously at the three of them, shouting, "You don't know? Then what even do you know? Howard is at the top of the business world pyramid. One word from him can make entire companies disappear! By helping the Chambers Group, he's telling everyone that they're under his protection. To go against Chambers, you'll have to get Howard to back off first. Do you really think that Howard would hand over his most important game development project to Chambers Group if he was going to back out? Are you really that clueless after being around Zachary for so long? How can you not know that they're connected? If I had known that, I wouldn't have stepped in. Useless... absolutely useless..."

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Nellie didn't dare to respond to Dennis at all.

She felt wronged because Zachary never talked about his private matters with her. How was she supposed to know Zachary knew Howard?

Winona, seated on the couch, glanced up at the furious Dennis and showed a look of shrewdness.

Winona mustered her courage and spoke timidly, "Grandpa, I believe the situation isn't as dire as it seems. A prominent figure like Howard wouldn't act without a compelling reason. Dod. Well, Zachary must have presented him with an enticing offer, which is

why Howard is assisting him. I suspect that the Chambers Group might have promised Howard a substantial. share of their equity. If we can propose an even more attractive scentive, there might still be a chance for us to change the outcome."

Upon hearing this, Dennis turned to look at Winona, who was visibly trembling. His expression was stern, but it had softened compared to before.

He thought Winona's words made sense. Someone like Howard wouldn't help the Chambers Group for nothing. Perhaps, Winona said, Zachary had hit a dead end and turned to Howard

Zachary must have promised Howard enough benefits so that he would help the Chambers Group. Whatever the Chambers Group could offer, the Smith family could do the same.

Dennis gave Winona an approving nod and said, "Your words are sensible, Winona. Here's what we could do: Tomorrow, I'll pay Howard a visit, and you can accompany me. Look your best. I've heard that Howard has a son. If you manage to catch his eye, even if marriage isn't in the cards, your current standing could still allow you to become his mistress, which would be quite fortunate"

Winona's expression changed slightly when she heard this.

Zeke stood by with his head lowered, lost in thought. He wonders. Does Grandpa see both of us as so worthless?"

Zeke glanced at Winona Except when compared to Yvette, Winona was indeed good-looking.

Zeke thought, If what Grandpa said turned out to be true and Winona really got connected with the Yates family, could it change my fate too?"

When he thought about this, Zeke's eyes lit up, and he looked at Winona like a wolf eyeing its prey.

Dennis ignored what Winona thought and waved his hand dismissively.

Nellie told Winona and Zeke to leave first.

After they left, only Nellie and Dennis were in the living room.

Nellie stood up and helped Dennis sit down.

After a moment of hesitation, she finally spoke, "Dad, if you let Winona do this and the Carters find out, her engagement could be jeopardized. Winona is my daughter; she cannot be reduced to a mistress

Seeing Dennis' fierce gaze, Nellie swallowed her words, not daring to continue.

Dennis sneered, "Do you still consider Winona to be part of the esteemed Chambers family? After today, everyone will know she's an illegitimate child, born from your affair with someone else. What respectable family would want such a daughter- in-law? Before, we could keep it a secret without Zachary exposing it, but now the DNA test results are public. Do you think the Carter family would still want Winona? Honestly, if it weren't for the significant leverage I have over Claude, do you really believe he'd allow Victor to marry Winona? Let me be frank: the only value Winona has left is her beauty; otherwise, no one would even consider her as a mistress. Nellie, while Windina is young and has some worth, we must use her to benefit the Smith family. The Smith family doesn't support freeloaders

After Nellie listened to these words, she gritted her teeth and thought, 'Compared to wealth and prosperity, Winona really isn't that important. After all these years of raising her, it's time for her to pay me back

Nellie said, "Dad, I'll listen to you. Tomorrow, I'll make sure Winona looks really beautiful"

Hearing this, Dennis nodded with satisfaction.

He said. "Well, about Hayden Johnson, I've handled him for you. Don't worry, he'll take all the blame."

Dennis paused for a moment before continuing. "It's impressive how you've earned Hayden's loyalty. I had someone suggest to him that he should keep you out of it, and he agreed to take full responsibility himself."

Nellie looked proud.

If Dennis hadn't mentioned Hyden, Nellie would have long forgotten about Hayden.

He was just a man who had been fooled by her for over a decade. She believed it would be his honor if he could finally do something useful for her.

Dennis noticed Nellie's proud expression and offered her a cautionary note, "Be cautious these days. Zachary has substantial evidence about your affairs. I'll instruct the Smith Group's public relations team to manage the situation. Bide your time until the controversy subsides. You're not as young as you once were, so act accordingly, do you understand?"

Nellie nodded.

She had been worn out recently, so it might be a good chance to take a break,

It was regrettable to stop seeing the recently hired male escort, as he truly excelled at ensuring her enjoyment.

Meanwhile, in the prison, Hayden, who Dennis and Nellie mentioned, was staring blankly at the TV screen.

He wondered, Has Nellie deceived me? All these years, Nellie has always claimed I was her only one. So, who are all those men in the photos?"

Hayden's eyes turned red with anger.

He lowered his head and vowed to punish Nellie after he was released.

The following day. Dennis dispatched someone to ascertain the hotel where Howard was residing. Subsequently, he escorted Winona to that hotel, ensuring she was elegantly auired

When Dennis and Winona got to the hotel, Howard was having breakfast with Yvette.

Just then, Liam knocked on the door and came in, noticing Howard pouring juice for Yvette.

Once again, Liam realized how important Yvette was to Howard.

In the past few days, Liam had become accustomed to scenes like this.

Having witnessed similar scenarios countless times, he was unsurprised by what he saw.

As a capable assistant, Liam knew what he should look at and what he shouldn't.

Liam walked directly to Howard, sneaking a glance at Yvette, who was eating.

Liam bowed respectfully and announced, "Mr. Yates, Dennis Smith and his granddaughter are in the lobby and wish to see

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vou"

Without saying anything, Howard turned to Yvette for her opinion

He asked, "Should I meet them?"

Yvette looked down, her bright eyes thoughtful as she slightly tiled her head.

She pursed her lips and said in a casual tone, "No."

Liam was taken aback, thinking Yvette was quite bold to refuse like that.

However, Liam would be even more stunned by Howard's reaction in the next second.

Howard noticed Liam staring motionlessly at Yvette and frowned.

He asked. "What are you still doing here? Didn't you hear Yvette pay no?

Liam nodded blankly and said "Yes, Mr. Yates, I'll show them our Then he turned to leave.

After Liam departed, Howard presen ete with a pork rib.

He asked, "Ms. Zeller,

r, what do you plan to do about the Smith family's situation! Do you have any plans?"

Yvette looked up and wiped the corner of her mouth with a napkin.

Then she leaned lazily against the couch, and her fingers were lightly tapping on the table.

With a mischievous smile, she said calmly, "In three days, there won't be a Smith family left in Seacrity"

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In the hotel lobby, Dennis sat on the couch, with Winona dutifully by his side.

They watched as Liam stepped out of the elevator, but neither of them moved..

Dennis held his head high with an arrogant look, clearly not taking Liam seriously.

After working with Howard for many years, Liam had encountered all sorts of people. He observed that Dennis had not even given him a proper glance earlier.

Liam just sneered in his heart.

Slowing his steps. Liam approached Dennis and Winona and finally stopped in front of them.

Only then did Dennis lift his head slightly, just glancing at Liam without any intention to converse.

In Dennis' view, he didn't deem a mere secretary worthy enough to warrant him initiating the conversation.

Winona stood up and spoke softly, "Mr. Davidson, Grandpa and are prepared. May we proceed to meet Mr. Yates now?"

Liam smiled politely at Dennis and Winona and said, "I apologize, but Mr. Yates is currently not available. It seems unlikely that you'll be able to meet with him today."

Winona was taken aback, her complexion turning slightly pale, and she appeared somewhat disoriented

She didn't know what to do, so she looked towards Dennis, who was seated on the couch.

Even Dennis was momentarily shocked by Liam's words, and his expression was full of disbelief.

Dennis' hand that was gripping the staff trembled with anger.

He had thought that with the Smith family's status in Seacrity, Howard would definitely meet him.

Since Howard refused to meet Dennis, Howard decided to support the Chambers family.

Dennis' expression became serious, and his aged eyes shone with a menacing gleam as he fixed his gaze on Liam.

Liam maintained his polite smile as if he hadn't noticed Dennis nasty expression at all.

Liam's insides churned with disdain as he thought, 'Intimidating me? You should think twice about who I've been working for and who I've crossed paths with. Over the years, working alongside Mr. Yates in the business world, I've faced people far more ruthless and menacing than Dennis. Why would I be intimidated by him? The truly terrifying ones are like Ms. Zeller -those who can exert pressure and instill fear with just a stern look, wielding authority without the need for anger.

Given the

speculate flow of p

Dennis's identity.

in and out of the hotel, it wasn't surprising that a few had recognized Witiona and begun to

Some were pointing and whispering about Dennis and Winona.

Winona could clearly hear some of the words, yet she didn't dare refute them.

She could only lower her head, tightly clenching her hands.

Dennis glanced at Winona, feeling very annoyed, and war on his cane as he walked out

Winona followed behind Dennis timidly, not daring to say a worl

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After they left, Liani dropped his fake smile and walked away.

The news that the Smith family allegedly evaded taxes quickly spread across all major websites overnight.

In Seacrity, whenever people checked their phones, they could see news about the Smith family.

The Smith family had avoided paying over 3 billion dollars in takes

68%

The decades-long bribery scheme involving the Smith family and officials in Seacrity had been exposed. Daniel, who was recently implicated in a scandal, was among those who accepted bribes.

The Smith family paid Daniel 160 million dollars for a piece of land in Seacrity two years ago,

Furthermore, it was discovered that the Smith family had used substandard materials, resulting in elevated formaldehyde levels that caused leukemia in children from more than ten families.

The Smith family went to extreme lengths to conceal their actions, resorting to violence to intimidate the parents of sick children. This left the parents' complaints unresolved and tragically led to the suicides of two parents, who chose to end their lives by jumping from buildings.

The revelations had transformed the Smith family's deeds from mere economic issue into a criminal matter. If these allegations were substantiated, the Smith family might be subjected to severe legal consequences.

The Smith family's scandal caused a massive uproar. Wyatt was woken up by a phone call from his secretary in the middle of the night.

As soon as Wyatt checked his phone, he was instantly wide awake

Upon reviewing the second list that exposed more government officials bribed by the Smith family, Wyatt was left in shock, With the possibility of being transferred back to Betrico this year, he realized that if this issue wasn't managed with utmost care, it could spell the end of his career.

Wyatt quickly held a late-night meeting with the officials who weren't implicated in the list.

He immediately detained all the officials involved in the list and cut off their communication with the outside world.

In the middle of the night, Wyatt held four consecutive meetings.

The situation could spiral out of control at daybreak. If Wyatt didn't swiftly provide a satisfactory resolution to the public, it might become difficult to soothe the populace's rage.

As anticipated, Seacrity's official Twitter account was inundated with comments early in the morning. Within just ten minutes, hundreds of thousands of retweets and comments were made, with the figures continuing to rise rapidly.

The netizens commented: [Is this accurate? The Smith family is truly evil. It's shocking enough that they allegedly evaded

but there are also claims that they were in cahoots with criminal elements!

taxes,

[The Smith family can go to hell. Despite amassing substantial profits, they continued to use substandard materials in their products. The plight of those families who have been adversely affected is heart-wrenching. The images of their suffering serve as a stark reminder of the consequences of such actions]

[Those were just children! So innocent and little! Their parents even comfnitted suicide. What the Smith family did is outrageous! They must be punished severely. I suggest the Smith family pay with their lives.]

[I agree with the comment above. Such sc***ms deserve to die a thousand, even a million times over.]

[Agreed too. I wish we could see the Smith family torn toeds to make things right.]

I've always believed there are no good people in the Smith family and they're all rotten to the core. Remember the press

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68%

conference yesterday? The head of the Chambers family revealed that Nellie's two children are not his biological offspring.

I've heard some gossip that this Winona is a complete liar. She used fake works to deceive people. The Smith family is so awful!]

[The authority should intervene and conduct a thorough investigation into the matter.]

Public outrage erupted online. In response, newspapers swiftly revised their content overnight, replacing the original articles with urgent reports on the Smith family's tax evasion, bribery of officials, and connections to criminal elements.

Nellie had a great night's sleep. The next morning, she got up and went downstairs.

Seeing that the living room was empty, she felt a bit confused.

Usually, the servants would have breakfast ready by now. Nellie wondered, "Where did everyone go?

Nellie thought the servants were all slacking off and stormed around looking for them, finally spotting them in the garden behind the villa.

Nellie saw the servants holding their phones, talking about something.

She stormed over, her anger palpable, and scolded the servants with a raised voice, "What exactly are you doing? Are you being paid by the Smith family to loiter and gossip? This is utterly disrespectful! Do you believe I'm incapable of dismissing all of you? Now, get to work and prepare my breakfast immediately"

The servants looked at one another and finally couldn't hold back their anger anymore. They were fed up with the Smith family too.

Therefore, the servants dropped their brooms and exclaimed, "Mrs. Chambers, there's no need to fire us. In fact, we no longer wish to work for the Smiths. Instead of having breakfast, I recommend you check your phone!"

The other servants loudly agreed

They were just ordinary folks, and after knowing what the Smith family had done, they were all furious and didn't want to work for such people anymore.

One of the servants cursed, "Nellie, the Smith family is truly ruthless! Sooner or later, the Smiths are going to hell!"

Someone echoed, "Yes, God is watching over you, and He will not abandon you!"

Nellie stared at the servants in disbelief. She couldn't believe they dared to speak to her so rudely.

She hadn't figured out what the servants were talking about.

Nellie was just about to curse the servants when they all turned their backs and left the Smith residence.resolutely.

Seeing how determined the servants were and recalling what they mentioned, Nellie began to worry.

A bad feeling washed over her.

Nellie quickly ran into the villa to grab her phone and see what had happened.

As Nellie reached the door, she encountered Zeke, who seemed flustered, like he had just rushed back in.

Zeke exclaimed, "Mom, terrible news

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Nellie asked. "What do you mean? Don't make such a fuss or you'll wake your grandpa and get yourself into trouble."

Zeke, seeing Nellie's response, realized she still didn't know what had happened.

He

anxiously pulled his phone from his pocket and handed it to Nellie.

His voice was filled with despair when he said, "Mom, check the news online now. It's everywhere. The Smith family is finished this time."

Nellie

pushed down the anxiety in her heart, unlocked Zeke's plone, and read the content.

Just seeing the headline, Nellie understood why Zeke had said those words.

She was aware of some of the news being reported.

She wondered, Dad has hidden those documents so well all these years! How did they get exposed at such a crucial time?

Just then. Dennis wobbled down the stairs, using his cane for support.

He noticed Nellie's pale face and Zeke's worried look and frowned. What's happening? Why are you two just standing there?" asked Dennis.

Nellie was shaking all over, raising her head stiffly, trembling

She muttered, "Dad, we're doomed."

Dennis' expression turned gloomy instantly,

He scolded, "What are you talking about? Are you out of your mind?"

Zeke couldn't stay calm any longer and grabbed the phone from Nellie.

He cautiously said, "Grandpa, last night at midnight, someone revealed that the Smith family has been involved in tax evasion, selling substandard products, and bribing officials. All the documents and photos are now available online, and people are expressing their anger towards us on the internet"

Dennis' eyes widened when he heard this, and he suddenly felt fint

Dennis was acutely conscious of his past actions. Unable to support himself any longer, he lost his balance and, in the next instant, tumbled from the second story.

Nellie and Zeke were frozen in shock, but neither of them immediately rushed to help Dennis.

Nellie was jolted back to reality when bright red blood began to flow from Dennis' head. She fumbled for her phone to dial 911, but before she could make the call, Zeke intervened..

Nellie stared in a daze at Zeke.

Zeke held back his excitement.

When Dennis was lying there, Zeke didn't feel worried at all. Instead, he felt a bit thrilled.

The Smith family was ruined. With Dennis losing his power, Zeke saw an opportunity to seize the family's wealth and make

his escape

Nellie asked, "Zeke, what are you doing? Give me the phone. Your grandpa is bleeding! We'll be too late if we don't hurry to

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call an ambulance

However, Zeke smirked wickedly.

Nellie felt a chill run down her spine at the thought of something, and she suddenly looked up.

She muttered. "You... Zeke. You wouldn't..."

Zeke nodded without a moment's hesitation.

Zeke glared fiercely at Dennis, who was lying on the ground. Turning to Nellie, he said, "Morn, consider this. The Smith family has been mired in numerous scandals, and our reputation is beyond repair. Grandpa should take responsibility for his actions. We should quickly gather any valuables we have at home and leave the country. Money can give us a fresh start anywhere. You know the combination to Grandpa's safe, don't you? Now is not the time for secrecy. Let's take everything and leave. Once we're abroad, you can continue living as you wish. There's nothing left for us in Seacrity. If you can't see that. I'm afraid I can't save you either."

Nellie was torn between conflicting thoughts.

She felt Zeke was right, but meanwhile, she couldn't help but feel sorry for Dennis.

Zeke noticed Nellie's hesitation, sneered, and added, "Mom, do you really want to live a life with absolutely nothing?"

Nellie, having made up her mind, shouted, "No! I don't want to live like that. Zeke, you're right. Let's pack up and leave now. I know the code, and we'll leave your grandpa to his fate"

Nellie and Zeke began packing their stuff, not sparing a glance at Dennis, who was passed out on the floor.

Just as Nellie and Zeke were about to get into the car, Nellie suddenly remembered Winona.

She hesitated for a moment before asking, "Zeke, what about Winona? Should we just leave her behind?"

Zeke was silent for a moment before replying, "Mom, since she's engaged to Victor, she's part of the Carter family now, so you don't need to worry about her."

Nellie thought Zeke's words made sense, so they both left with determination.

In the physics classroom at Apex Urban University, Bonnie inquired, "Yve, I noticed your computer was on all night. Did you stay up the entire time? Would you like to go back to the dorm and get some rest?"

Yvette rested her chin on her hand and gently twirled the pen. She looked down and said with a smile, "Nah. Have to visit someone tonight."

Bonnie asked, "Yve, did you hear what the Smith family had done? It's outrageous! They're absolutely inhuman."

Yvette remained expressionless.

She raised her bright eyes slightly and, with a nonchalant expression, spoke in a low voice, "Yeah

Yvette looked up at the sky, which was a brilliant blue dotted with soft white clouds, and the sunlight was pouring down-it was a perfect day.

If the heavens refused to accept the devils, she would take them in

When Dennis woke up, he found himself in a ward, guarded by two police officers.

Earlier, when the police arrived with evidence, they found tennis unconscious on the floor and brought him to the hospital

It took Dennis a while to recall what happened, his eyes filled with a venomous look

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He never anticipated that his beloved daughter and Zeke would abandon him to face the challenges alone. Just before Dennis lost consciousness, he distinctly heard Zeke's words with his own cars

Despite being astute throughout his life, Dennis failed to realize that he had raised ungrateful children.

When the two police officers saw that Dennis was awake, they showed him the arrest warrant.

"Mr. Smith," one of the officers announced, "you are under arrest as per the law. Considering your health condition and after consulting with your doctor, we have determined that you will be fit for questioning in two days. Until then, you are under constant surveillance. Please remain in this ward. Any attempt to leave the room will result in consequences you will have to

face.

Dennis' expression was sullen, and he remained silent.

Without wasting time speaking to Dennis, the officers departed.

After the police departed, Dennis collapsed, looking at least a decade older. He was acutely aware that the Smith family's fate was sealed.

Dennis had been a dominant force in the business world throughout his entire career. He never anticipated that everything could vanish overnight, rendering all his hard work futile.

If Dennis ever found out who leaked the information, he wouldn't let them go.

He wondered who the mastermind was and suddenly thought of the Chambers family, but deep down, he felt it was unlikely.

Dennis pondered, Zachary definitely couldn't have uncovered these secrets. Besides, if it were him, it would have come our long ago.

Dennis racked his brain but couldn't figure out who had destroyed the Smith family.

At exactly 11:00 p.m., a figure swiftly entered Dennis's ward, causing the surveillance cameras on that floor of the hospital to suddenly go blank.

In the darkness, a pair of slender and tender hands gently lifted Dennis from the bed. At that moment, Dennis was so deeply unconscious that he didn't feel anything

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The night sky was dotted with stars, and the air was cool. Neon lights flickered, and the scent of medicine hung heavily in the air.

Up on the hospital rooftop. Dennis slowly opened his eyes.

In a daze, he saw a tall and slim figure standing ahead, cloaked in darkness.

Dennis thought he was dreaming, but a cool breeze blew by, waking him up immediately

His eyes widened in shock.

He wondered. 'Should I be in the ward? Where is this place? This shouldn't be a dream

Dennis asked in a trembling voice, "Who Who are you? Why did you bring me here? Where are the police? Where are the officers who were watching over me?"

As the person turned around. Dennis couldn't believe his eyes.

He asked. "You Are you Yvette?"

This was the first time Dennis had seen Yvette in person. Before he had only seen her in pictures

Dennis was utterly shocked.

Yvette stood there in all black, expressionless, like a merciless killer.

Her deep-set eyes were devoid of emotion, tinged with a hint of redness.

The upward tilt of her eyes conveyed a sense of defiance and a hint of wildness.

With a faint smirk, Yvette walked unhurriedly towards Dennis, hands in her pockets.

Her pressure made Dennis instinctively fearful, causing him to step back.

The face in front of him was exactly the same as Lilian's. He had once sent Lilian to the lab personally.

Dennis pondered, 'No... They're not the same. Lilian would never have eyes like those of a beast

Dennis, who was quite old now, for the first time felt an unexplainable fear facing someone

Dennis asked, "What do you want? Don't come any closer! What sneaky trick did you use to bring me here? Did you bribe the police? This is illegal! You know it, right?"

Hearing these words, Yvette paused, glancing at Dennis, who was lying on the ground.

Dennis thought Yvette was scared and gained a bit of his courage back.

He said angrily. "If you send me back now, I can pretend none of this ever happened."

Yvette raised her eyes slightly.

Her face remained expressionless

She pursed her lips and smirked. Then, in the silent dark of the night, she sneered, the sound oddly out of place.

Yvette walked up to Dennis, looking down at him as he lay on the ground weakly.

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Her gaze was calm, and her delicate features hinted at mischief, while an oppressive pressure filled the air.

In the next moment, Yvette effortlessly lifted half of Dennis's body off the ground with one hand.

Without a word, she leisurely dragged Dennis towards the rooftop railing

Every step Yvette took was intense torture for Dennis.

His legs scraped against the ground, and his thin hospital gown couldn't possibly protect him from the floor's rough surface.

After just a few steps, blood was already seeping through his knees.

Dennis let out a piercing scream of despair, and his agonizing cries echoed across the entire rooftop.

At first, Dennis cursed at Yvette with foul words, but getting no response from her, he started playing the victim and begging

for mercy.

Yvette's lips curved into a sly smile.

By the time they reached the edge of the rooftop, the hospital gown Dennis wore had been in tatters.

He was drenched in blood, panting heavily from the pain, his voice raspy from the screams he had let out earlier. Now, he was too weak to utter a sound.

If anyone else saw Dennis now, they wouldn't think that this was the head of the Smith family, who once ruled Seacrity's business world for decades.

Dennis's body trembled uncontrollably as he faced Yvette. He was truly scared of this young lady in her twenties.

Dennis pointed a finger at Yvette, his eyes filled with fear.

He screamed wildly as if he had been frightened, looking completely crazy.

Dennis whispered, "You, You're a devil. A devil... Please, I'm begging you, let me go. There's no way out for me. Please spare my life, will you?"

Yvette looked down and gave Dennis a cold, mocking look.

Her voice was as cold as ice as she said. "Dennis, stop pretending. If someone really lost their mind, their eyes wouldn't be filled with as much intense hatred as yours are right now."

Dennis's face turned from purple to red, then from red to pale.

Exposed by Yvette, he stopped pretending to be insane.

The resentment was evident on his face.

Dennis had thought he could fool Yvette. However, he didn't expect her to see through his trick so easily.

Dennis asked, "What exactly do you want? Are you trying to avenge the Chambers family? Look at me now. I'm already miserable enough. Haven't you vented your anger yet?"

Yvette's expression was still cold and detached.

She smiled with mockery, the malevolence in her eyes obvious

She crouched down in front of Dennis and spoke in a sterice, "Do you think you're miserable? Have you forgotten the time twenty years ago when you burned down a family's home because they wouldn't relocate for a demolition project, resulting in the

loss of eight lives? And what about the Smith Group using substandard materials with high formaldehyde

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levels to build children's rooms, leading to dozens of children developing leukemia? Don't you remember the two families. who, after seeking justice in vain, took their own lives by jumping off a building together? Do you really consider yourself a victim? That's absurd!"

Dennis froze.

When Yvette finished speaking, he felt a chilling sensation, as if the faces of all the people he had once driven to death flashed before his eyes.

Dennis felt he was not in the wrong. To him, those insignificant people deserved it for being in his way.

Dennis glared at Yvette, his teeth clenched and neck taut, as a wicked smile spread across his face.

With an unpleasant voice, he stated, "They were ungrateful. People like them were inferior. I was born to be superior. They were the obstacle to my success, so they deserved death"

Yvette seized Dennis by the neck and dragged him to the edge of the rooftop,

One more step and Dennis would plunge from the 30th floor.

Yvette's stern gaze was tinged with a terrifying resolve.

With hatred, she said in a light tone, "Do you know the difference between humans and animals? Only those with a conscience deserve to be called human. But you? You're worse than an animal."

Dennis's face flushed a deep red, half out of fear and half out of anger.

Being part of the Smith family, Dennis always felt superior, believing he was born above others. Yet, Yvette dared to call him worse than an animal, even though just yesterday he was the esteemed head of the Smith family.

Dennis suddenly recalled what Yvette had said earlier and turned pale, using all his strength to glare at her.

His eyes were filled with shock and terror.

Dennis asked, "It was you, wasn't it? You leaked the Smith family's secrets. The news about me killing that family of eight never got out. How... How did you know?"

Dennis wanted Yvette to confess but also wished she wouldn't, because if it was true, it would be more unbearable for him than death

Facing Dennis's desperate gaze, Yvette stood up, her eyes cold and determined, as she took a tissue to wipe away the blood that had gotten on her hand earlier. She said indifferently. It was me."

Dennis froze, his mind blank.

At this moment, Yvette's words echoed in his ears like a siren's call.

Dennis mumbled to himself, "Impossible! How old are you? I engaged the top hacker team from the Mysonna International Hacker Group to construct a firewall. It's encrypted with multiple layers of security. They assured me that fewer than three people globally could break it. How do you possess this information? Are you deceiving me? Yes... You must be lying."

However, Yvette heard every word loud and clear.

She squinted slightly, raised an eyebrow, and showed a wicked smile.

She said. "Oh, didn't Kim Lawson from Group

One telly? I programmed the defense wall just for fun in my spare time."

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Yvette's words destroyed Dennis's last hope, and he completely collapsed.

His eyes widened with anger and despair as he spat out the blood he had been suppressing, and it splattered across the ground

Under the moonlight, the scene looked creepy and eerie

It was only at this point that Dennis truly felt fearful and regretful.

Before Yvette returned to the Chambers family, Dennis had looked into her background, which looked plain and normal.

Dennis never really took Yvette seriously.

He assumed she was merely a rural girl, undeserving of his notice. At that time, he mused, "What's the worst that could happen if Yvette discovers I was the one who hurt Lilian? Handling her would be a breeze for me!

Thinking about it now, Dennis realized everything made sense.

It was simple for a top hacker, who was invincible against any member of the International Cybersecurity Conference, to erase her own past.

Dennis, who was clever all his life, was caught off guard and didn't expect to be outsmarted by Yvette.

The Smith family was ruined overnight by Yvette's actions, and she had tortured Dennis cruelly.

Dennis said recklessly, "I never thought you'd be a hacker. I've lost fair and square, but we're in the hospital, and I can't believe you'd kill me here. As long as I'm alive, I'll definitely sue you for intent to harm. Just wait and see

Yvette shoved her hands into her pockets.

Her eyes were half-closed, her posture relaxed and carefree.

She said calmly, "I'm sorry to tell you, but you won't have the chance to say anything?"

Effortlessly, Yvette lifted the scrawny Dennis from the ground.

She slammed his head onto the floor, leaving his lower body hanging in the air.

Dennis was so terrified that he didn't dare to move, not even struggle.

If Yvette let go, Dennis would fall from the rooftop and be smashed to pieces.

Suddenly, Dennis realized that Yvette really intended to kill him and begged with tears, Tm begging you! I was really wrong Yvette. Please spare me. Oh, right... Don't you want to know what actually happened with your mother back then? If you spare me, I'll tell you the truth. Don't you want revenge? I'll tell you everything I know."

Dennis had exhausted all his options. If he had any other tricks up his sleeve, he wouldn't have resorted to his final move.

Yvette stared at Dennis's terrified face, speaking slowly and gently, yet it only made Dennis more afraid, "Say it."

Dennis remained silent.

He understood that speaking now was not an option. Revealing everything to Yvette would significantly reduce his chances of survival, as he was certain she would not hesitate to fints him off.

Yvette sneered, her eyes unfathomable as her slender fingers slowly increased their pressure. With a fierce glare, she silently

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warned Dennis, One Two-,

Dennis's face tumed pale with fright

Breathing became more and more difficult for him, and he realized what Yvette meant, as when she counted to three, she would let go.

Dennis managed to squeeze out a few words, "Till say it! I'll spill everything I know, alright?"

When Yvette heard his words, she dragged Dennis up and threw him to the ground with a loud crack, which led to his painful scream

Dennis gasped for air, quickly confessing everything from the past, "At that time, the bio-lab in Betrico required funding for a project. The director, who was also an old friend of mine, Rashad Pollard, reached out to me. He mentioned that if the project was successful, we could make a fortune, but we needed a clandestine test subject. Around that time, Nellie was eager to marry Zachary and was insistent that I find a way to eliminate Lilian. So, I arranged for someone to incapacitate Lilian and deliver her to Rashad As for what happened afterward, I genuinely have no knowledge. Please, have mercy on me, I'm pleading for my life"

When Dennis saw that Yvette remained expressionless after hearing his story, he started to panic inside.

Yvette tilted her head slightly. Her eyes shone with a bright and cruel gleam.

She took a small black pill from her pocket and accurately tossed it into Dennis's mouth while it was open.

By the time Dennis realized it, he'd already swallowed it, and desperately clawing at his throat was pointless

He asked, "What did you give me?"

Yvette's voice dripped with scorn, cool and detached. "It's not a big deal," she said. "Starting now, every time you drift off to sleep, the most painful memories you'd rather forget will haunt you. You'll be forced to see faces you wish to avoid and to experience your deepest fears again and again, until the day you draw your last breath"

After Yvette finished speaking, she put her hands in her pockets and walked away without looking

Dennis couldn't believe what she said, thinking, 'How could such a drug exist in this world?

back.

Dennis couldn't move at all now, so he shouted desperately for help, hoping someone would come to rescue him.

The next morning, Dennis was discovered having spent the entire night on the cold rooftop.

He lay there, his mouth twisted and his eyes drooping. The doctors diagnosed him with a stroke.

Dennis was paralyzed, unable to even speak clearly.

The police had no idea how he got onto the rooftop. They wanted to check the surveillance footage, but all the videos from that time were missing, so they had no choice but to give up.

During the days Dennis was paralyzed, he was tortured physically and mentally.

Yvette really hadn't lied to him.

Now, whenever Dennis closed his eyes, he was haunted by the faces of everyone he had harmed.

In three days, the Smith family's stocks hit rock bottom, and the Smith Group was seized by the court. In Seacrity, the Smith family was no more, leaving only three of the four major families.

Wyatt thoroughly investigated everything and cleared the names of those victims, giving them justice.

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The children suffering from Jeukemia received proper care, and the corrupt officials were promptly punished by law, which ultimately alleviated the public's outrage.

The Smith family's ordeal had come to an end. The court had revised Dennis's sentence to life imprisonment in light of his medical condition. Once his health stabilized, he would be transferred from the hospital directly to the prison facility.

Ten days later, Fresh out of the shower, Yvette received a call from the Eagle King, calling all the way from Mysonna

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He reported. "Boss, you were absolutely right. Zeke and Nellie had escaped to Mysonna. But not even a week later, Zeke got his leg broken. That fool thought Mysonma was just like back home and ended up getting involved with the mistress of a local leader. To save himself, Zeke even offered his mother to that gang leader, and she agreed, apparently quite gladly. Later, Zeke and Nellie tried to run away with some stolen money but were caught. They broke his leg and left him on the street. Now, Zeke is begging to survive, and his mother isn't much better off. That gang leader has some strange habits, and it's said she's suffering a lot."

Heating this, Yvette was stunned slightly, holding the towel.

With an expressionless face and a low and hoarse voice, she said. "Okay, I got it. Bye"

Dennis was lying on the bed, drool all over his face.

His already thin body had wasted away completely over the past ten days, giving off an unpleasant

He looked like a skeleton, only his moving eyes showed he was still alive.

Winona entered, dressed in high-end designer clothing and white flat shoes.

When she saw Dennis lying on the bed, her expression was distant and disgusted.

She raised her hand to cover her nose and said in her usual gentle voice, "Grandpa, how are you?"

smell.

Hearing the familiar voice, Dennis wanted to reach out and grab Winona but couldn't move at all, only managing to make helpless sounds.

Winona sat in a chair, staring at Dennis, with her chin held high.

She showed a sinister smile and said, "Grandpa, I'm pregnant. Can you guess who the father is?"

Dennis was still conscious. When he heard her words, his eyes lit up. Winona just ignored his reaction.

She looked at him intently, speaking slowly and carefully, "Oh, you definitely won't guess it. You think it's Victor, don't you? Nope, it's Robert. Isn't that interesting?"

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Dennis' eyes grew wide, drool dripping uncontrollably.

He was so excited and kept babbling continuously.

Winona grabbed the towel from the bedside, pressing it firmly against Dennis' mouth and nose.

Her eyes were filled with madness while pressing down on him. Then she leaned close to Dennis' car and spoke in her usual tender voice, "Grandpa, why are you so worked up? Isn't this what you always wanted? You thought that sending me to be at mistress would benefit the Smith family, right? Everyone says you've always been kind to me, but only I know your love and care are fake. All fake! You just wanted to use me to get more benefits. You should be proud of me now! I'm already pregnant with Robert's child, and he's so obsessed with me that he can't leave me for a second. Victor is also under my control. Yulia thinks I'm carrying her grandkid, and she'd do anything to please me. Once I give birth to this baby, he'll be the Carter family's darling, the only heir.

At this point, Winona released the towel.

Dennis lay on the bed, barely conscious, clutching the sheets tightly and glaring at Winona

Winona took two steps back, grabbed a compact from her handbag, and sat on the sofa to touch up her makeup.

She was still smiling.

In the ward, only the sound of Dennis's breathing could be heard.

After Winona finished her touch-up, she looked charming again.

Lying there, Dennis didn't have the strength to even move a finger, and his breathing was nearly inaudible.

Winona glanced at her watch, and the timing was just perfect.

She pinched her arm hard. Her eyes immediately reddened, and tears welled up.

Winona approached the bed with a feigned look of vulnerability and sadness, tenderly taking Dennis' hand. In the softest of tones, she delivered her words, each one laced with malice, "Grandpa, I am the one in the Smith family who resembles you, the most. My heart is as icy as yours. Rest easy, knowing that your departure will bring me true joy. Don't worry about anything. I vow to seize control of the Carter family. Oh. I almost forgot to mention-my memory has been slipping lately -but my mom and brother have absconded with all the Smith family's wealth and fled overseas. But rest assured, I will track them down and exact vengeance in your name. They will not know peace"

With all his remaining strength, Dennis fiercely swung his arm and pushed Winona to the ground.

Just then, Robert and Victor walked in and saw Winona lying on the floor,

Both of them rushed over, panicked, to help Winona up

Winona lowered her eyes, looking as if she were in great pain.

Winona glanced at Robert, who was a step behind Victor, giving him a reassuring yet slightly flirtatious look

That Took made Robert's heart skip a beat.

Robert knew what Winona meant.

His relationship with Winona was undoubtedly scandalous it were to become public, it would be disastrous. The revelation of a father being involved with his son's wife would ran Robert's reputation.

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Winona was carrying Robert's child. Since Winona wanted to keep it a secret, Robert just followed her wish.

The new excitement Winona brought into Robert's life was something he'd never felt before.

Recently, Robert was enjoying life to the fullest.

Having an affair with his son's wife was especially thrilling.

Meanwhile, Victor was worried about the baby Winona was carrying, not Winona herself.

With Winona's baby, Victor assumed his grandpa might rethink the inheritance distribution.

The baby Winona was carrying was Victor's bargaining chip, so it must be safe and sound.

Victor looked anxiously at Winona and asked, 'Are you okay? Do you want to go see a doctor?"

Winona's eyes were red, full of tears, which made her look so pitiful

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She said, "I don't know what happened with Grandpa. He suddenly went mad, hitting me, pinching me, and then pushing me to the floor. I just wanted to tell him he's going to be a great-grandfather. Why would he do this to me, Victor? Did I do anything wrong?"

Winona spoke while she cried.

She looked at Victor pleadingly, like he was her whole world, which satisfied Victor's need to feel in charge.

Victor glared at Dennis, who was lying there, ignoring Winona, and spat at him, cursing.

Winona stood silently on the side, her head lowered, but a creepy smile was on her lips.

Robert definitely didn't like seeing Victor and Winona so close, keeping his distance with a stern expression.

He said to Victor. "That's enough. He's Winona's grandfather anyway. Watch your mouth."

Robert gazed at Winona, who had her head down, and his demeanor softened considerably. Even his voice took on a gentler tone as he spoke, "Winona, if you're not feeling well, just schedule an appointment with a doctor. Alternatively, have our personal physician come to see you. Your health is of utmost importance."

To prevent Victor from getting suspicious, Robert added, "You're carrying the Carter family's heir, so you must be cautious

Winona nodded obediently, her voice sweet, gazing softly at Robert, "No thanks, Daddy. I'm really fine."

Robert and Winona exchanged a knowing look and smiled.

Only they understood the meaning behind the

e words.

Shyly, Winona lowered her head and leaned slightly forward, giving a clear view of her ample cleavage Seeing her shy demeanor, Robert couldn't help but feel a strong desire to be with her at that moment.

Victor was cursing Dennis, failing to notice Winona and Robert exchanging flirtatious glances.

Robert's gaze towards Winona was so intimate.

Then Robert glanced at his watch,

The visiting hours were two hours.

He realized the time was nearly up and didn't want to stay an extra minute,

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Winona looked at Demis sadly before leaving the hospital with Robert and Victor.

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In the Apex Urban University cafeteria, Bonnie, after waiting in line with anticipation, forked up a rib. She glanced around. hesitated for a moment, and then carefully returned the rib to her tray.

The rib was picked up again in less than three seconds, moving back and forth as it was repeatedly lifted and placed down.

Yvette, sitting across from Bonnie, glanced up, her chin slightly raised.

With a raised brow, she asked, "Did this rib annoy you?"

Bonnie paused for a moment. Then she nodded seriously, with little enthusiasm...

She said, "It annoyed me, Yve. Don't you think it's too perfect! Look at its round, plump shape and smell its natural aroma. With this tender, juicy, and flavorful rib, honestly, who wouldn't be enchanted?"

Yvette pursed her lips.

With her long legs bent, Yvette casually tilted her head and leaned back a bit.

She said, "Oh, then just eat it."

Bonnie glanced at the rib with a pained expression and let out a wail.

"I just can't do it, cried Bonnie.

Yvette smiled helplessly and rubbed her temples.

Bonnie had recently been obsessed with losing weight.

Yvette's eyes were half-closed.

She asked, "Why?"

Bonnie gulped, knowing Yvette was about to switch to her cold mode, so she thought it best to come clean quickly. Bonnie explained, "I don't know what's happened recently, but I've suddenly gained over six pounds. So, I'm thinking of going on a diet. Starting today, unless I lose ten pounds, I absolutely can't eat my favorite ribs."

Yvette forked up some ribs and put them right into Bonnie's mouth, stopping her from saying anything else.

Yvette said, "Please eat. I'll provide you with a prescription later. Maintain your regular diet, and you'll likely lose weight within less than a month without needing to diet."

When Bonnie heard Yvette's words, she bit into the ribs without hesitation, as if she was afraid the ribs would fly away. Bonnie said, "Yve, you should've told me earlier! Wait for me, and I'm going to get more ribs! I wonder if there are any left!"

She had barely finished speaking when she quickly went to the food area.

Yvette smiled gently.

Seeing her smile, everyone around was stunned by her gorgeous face

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After they finished meals, Yvette and Bonnie went to the new milkshake shop offcampus to get a banana milkshake.

Once back in the dorm, Bonnie was so exhausted that she collapsed onto the bed and refused to move.

Yvette got her phone and walked over to the balcony.

Over the past two weeks, Jeremiah sent Yvette only three text messages, each concise and containing just a few words: [I'm good. Don't worry. Miss you.

Yvette's pretty fingers fiddled with her phone.

Her gaze was calm as she dialed Jeremiah's number.

After three rings, a stranger's voice came through on the other end, saying, "Hello, Ms. Zeller, this is Emmett."

Yvette stood by the window, her eyes cast downward, softly blinking,

With a slow pace and low voice, Yvette got straight to the point, "Tell me everything the location, the time, and the whole

story

Emmett remained silent for seconds.

Feeling a bit at a loss, the speech he had prepared just silently went down the drain.

Emmett wondered, 'Did Yvette guess that something happened to Mr. Chavez?"

Emmett didn't speak for a long time.

A trace of irritation creased Yvette's brow.

Her gaze intensified, becoming as cold as ice, with her eyes growing darker and taking on a fierce edge.

"Speak up, I don't appreciate listening to nonsense, Yvette interjected abruptly."

Emmett was jolted back to reality. He wasn't unwilling to share everything with her, it was simply that Jeremiah had explicitly instructed him not to disclose anything to Yvette prior to his departure.

Emmett thought, Forget it. I can't keep this under wraps forever. Since Mr. Chavez chose Yvette as his partner, she needs to take her responsibility, doesn't she?

Emmett skipped the small talk and began detailing everything that had happened over the past two weeks.

He declared, "Our mission to Mysonna is a confidential state operation focused on probing a local criminal group-known as the Tiger Head. This gang has been providing

narcotics to smaller gangs in Clusia. Lately, a novel drug has surfaced in several small towns. A single dose of this substance delivers intense euphoria but has also led to fatalities. Its effects are particularly damaging, with a notable risk of addiction among teenagers. If we fail to uncover the individuals responsible for the production and distribution of this substance, it could rapidly proliferate throughout the nation, leading to grave repercussions."

Yvette's eyes turned cold, and she frowned tightly at those words

She asked, "Isn't the underground scene in Mysonna controlled by the Goodman family? Could they be involved?"

Emmett was surprised.

He didn't expect Yvette to know about the Goodman family, the leading crime syndicate in Mysopna.

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However, he knew this wasn't the time to dig deeper.

Emmett responded, "Ms. Zeller, we have actually discovered some clues. Our current investigation indicates that the gang involved in the drug shipments to Clusia is operating under the command of the Goodman family's seventy-second force, known as Blaze Hall."

Yvette let out a sneer. Deep in her eyes, there was a hint of malice. With an icy voice, Yvette said, "Go on"

Hearing her voice, Emmett couldn't help but shiver, feeling terrified.

He went on, "Five days ago, we obtained information from an informant suggesting that the Tiger Head gang leader frequently takes his crew to a remote rainforest for several days. Upon their return, they're seen carrying numerous large black boxes, which raises suspicion. Mr. Chavez led a team of ten skilled soldiers into the rainforest for further investigation, while I remained behind to provide support. Since then, it's been five days with no updates from Mr. Chavez. It's as if they've completely disappeared. The rainforest is particularly unsettling because it's known to interfere with all forms of communication and GPS signals"

Yvette slightly narrowed her eyes.

She glanced at the clock on the wall.

Then she said calmly, "Got it. I'll reach Mysonna by seven this evening"

Emmett checked his watch and calculated the time difference. He realized there were only five hours left until seven. If Yvette were to take a flight, she wouldn't be able to arrive on time.

Emmett asked with respect, "Ms. Zeller, are you sure you can make it by seven? The earliest flight now won't take off for another three hours, so there's just not enough time. Do you need me to arrange a private jet for you? Mr. Chavez's private jet is ready to be dispatched anytime."

Emmett didn't really think Yvette's presence would make much of a difference, but having one more person could mean more support.

Emmett was well aware that Yvette held a very special place in Jeremiah's heart.

If Yvette decided to go to Mysonna, no one could stop her. Besides, if she found out Jeremiah was missing and did nothing about it, she would be really disappointed

Yvette turned down Emmett.

She said, "No, thanks, I have a private jet, and I should be able to make it."

With that, Yvette hung up, changed into an exercise outfit, grabbed her black backpack, and left.

Before leaving Apex Urban University. Yvette left a note for Bonnie: [Taking time off. Don't worry.]

On her way to the airport, Yvette called Howard and mentioned she needed a private jet.

Without a second thought. Howard lent his personal jet to Yvette.

When Yvette got to the airport, everything had been arranged by the waiting staff. The whole process took less than half an hour, and Yvette boarded Howard's private jet heading for Mysonna

Simon received a text from Yvette during his meeting, which was as concise and direct as usual: [Taking indefinite leave.

Simon smiled helplessly, wondering, "Where is she going this time? I hope she doesn't get hurt.

It was exactly 6:30 p.m. in Mysonna when Yvette's private jet landed.

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As soon as she got off the plane, she received the hotel address from Emmett. Then she called a taxi to go straight there.

Inside the taxi. Yvette gazed out the window at the familiar buildings passing by. Expressionlessly, Yvette closed her eyes

The male driver, captivated by Yvette's beauty, harbored ill intentions. He contemplated taking a detour upon realizing that she hailed from Clusia.

He secretly glanced at Yvette, who was relaxing with her eyes closed. A smug look spread across his face.

He thought. Tm so lucky today, I might as well overcharge her just as the driver was about to take a detour, a voice from the back seat said, "Planning to take a detour?" Yvette spoke perfect Uprian.

The driver panicked, nearly losing control of the steering wheel. He was operating a licensed taxi, and receiving a complaint could result in a fine.

The driver couldn't admit it and kept denying at repeatedly, his speech heavy with an accent.

Yvette didn't waste her time with him, and her eyes remained closed.

Realizing that Yvette had seen through his plan, the driver followed the navigation and drove carefully for the rest of the trip.

Emmett was staying at the Regal Hotel, the largest and most expensive in Mysonna, with an average nightly rate of 30 thousand dollars.

Every corner of the hotel was luxurious.

The world's most expensive dishes and the oldest vintage wines were easily available, as long as one could afford them.

So, as a customer of the Regal Hotel, one could enjoy top-notch service.

Yvette got out of the taxi with her black backpack, stunning everyone around her.

It wasn't just because of Yvette's unique beauty and her aloof and noble demeanor.

The main point was that she got out of a taxi.

Generally, the people who stayed in the Regal Hotel were wealthy and powerful.

Every customer wore brand-name designer clothes, had immaculate makeup, and drove luxury cars.

There had never been anyone like Yvette, dressed in a no-name tracksuit and canvas shoes

A woman whispered, "Oh my god, am I seeing this right? This woman is dressed like this! Is she staying here?"

The gentleman next to the woman squinted at Yvette, outwardly agreeing with her disdain while secretly watching Yvette.

He remarked, "Oh, darling, you're correct. Look, she's heading towards the hotel entrance. That's ridiculous. How could someone so ordinary be entering Regal Tower?"

The woman said, "I want to file a complaint. I can't accept this."

Meanwhile, the security guards at Regal Tower glared at Yvette as he walked up to her angrily.

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One of the tall security guards approached Yvette and asked quite rudely, "Hello, miss. This is Regal Tower, and the Regal Hotel is not just any hotel. Are you lost or did you take a wrong turn?"

Yvette's expression was bland. She raised an eyebrow arrogantly and looked irritated.

The guard said, "Miss, you..." However, he suddenly stopped talking, and he stood shocked, as if someone had gripped his throat. He couldn't believe what he had seen. It was shocking.

The guard instantly recognized the card in Yvette's hand as the black card issued exclusively to VIPs by Regal Tower. Globally, fewer than ten people held this card.

The guard's attitude immediately changed. He bowed deeply to Yvette and said flatteringly, "All right, miss. Please follow me. We'll get a presidential suite ready for you right away"

Yvette glanced up at the guards, giving them an impassive look. She didn't even bother to say a word. Then she just walked right into the hotel.

The two guards exchanged a glance and felt panicked.

If a guest of this caliber lodged a complaint, it would be the end for them. Who would have guessed that a woman in simple sportswear stepping out of a cab would possess a black card from the Regal Hotel?

The man and woman who had earlier felt humiliated and wanted to confront the hotel were dumbfounded when they the black card Yvette was holding, something they dreamed of having.

In Room 203, Emmett was exhausted and pacing back and forth He occasionally glanced at the clock on the wall and wondered, Yvette said that her private jet would arrive at Mysonma at seven. How could I believe her? How could a college student have a private jet?

In the room with Emmett were three men in camouflage uniforms.

They were Frankie Ellison, Chris Wilcox, and Bruce Mosley.

They had been working with Jeremiah for over a decade, handling all sorts of things around the world, and very few people knew their true identities.

Frankie, who was sitting on the sofa, suddenly stood up and asked, "So, are we just going to sit here and wait for Yvette? Even if she's Mr. Chavez's girlfriend, she's just a college girl. What can she do?"

Next to him, Chris frowned, his expression serious. He remained silent and looked at Emmett, clearly in agreement Frankie's words.

Bruce,

with

andnding on the balcony, put out his cigarette, turned around, and without a word, picked up the jacket from the sofa

to head out.

Emmett noticed the uneasy expressions of the three and looked anxious.

He could understand why the guys were so worried. It had been five whole days without any news from Jeremiah. That rainforest in Mysonna was notorious for its danger. Every year, countless adventurers lost their lives there.

"Bruce!" Emmett stopped Bruce.

Bruce stopped and stared at Emmett with a meaningful look.

He asked Emmett, "Are you really planning to wait for Mr. Chavez's girlfriend to decide on everything? Have you lost your mind, Emmen? With each passing moment, Mr. Chavez is in more danger. If you want to wait for her, fine, but do it by

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yourself.

Frankie nodded firmly, and even Chris, who was usually the most obedient to Emmett, opposed Emmett for the first time and said, "Emmett, we really can't wait any longer."

Emmett was quiet for a few seconds. Then he looked down at his watch and said, "There's still five minutes. If Yvette isn't here by exactly seven, we're heading to the rainforest"

Frankie scoffed.

He couldn't understand why Emmett insisted on waiting for Yvelle. Frankie just didn't believe Yvette would be punctual enough to reach the hotel on time.

The room was silent.

The only sound was the ticking of the clock on the wall.

Just one

e more minute left.

Emmett sighed in disappointment, realizing he had put too much trust in Yvette.

Bruce had a mocking smile on his lips, thinking. You can't believe a woman.

Emmett couldn't bear to wait any longer and rose to his feet. As he reached for the gun on the table, the doorbell chimed

Emmett's heart was filled with joy.

Ignoring the others' reactions, Emmett walked briskly to the door.

The other three exchanged glances and wondered, 'ls she really here?"

When Emmett opened the door, he saw Yvette.

She stood at the door, clad in a black tracksuit, a cap, and carrying a black backpack.

Half of her face was illuminated by the corridor lights of the hotel.

Yvette looked up to meet Emmett's gaze.

Her eyes were serious, exuding a distinct coolness, and she held an old–fashioned telephone in her graceful hand.

Emmett stepped aside and said respectfully, "Ms. Zeller, please come in."

Yvette walked in expressionlessly, noticing the three unfamiliar men in the room. Her gaze remained calm.

Yvette put down her backpack, sat on the sofa, took off her cap, and crossed her legs as if she were at home.

The three men across from her were surprised by her arrogant demeanor and doubted if she didn't see them at all.

Yvette glanced at the men and then at Emmett who followed her in.

Her eyes, cold and icy, held a glint that was chilling. The delicate curve of her eyebrows imparted an unparalleled charm to her visage.

She nodded slightly and said to the men, "Please take a seat."

Frankie didn't realize when he suddenly sat downL

Upon hearing Yvette's words, he dutifully took a seat on the couch immediately. It was only once he was seated that he

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questioned why he was heeding the instructions of a woman he had just met.

Bruce showed a mix of emotions

He looked at Yvette's stunning face with pursed lips.

Bruce had guessed that Jeremiah's girlfriend must be outstanding, but he hadn't expected her to be so extraordinarily beautiful.

Bruce pondered. The more beautiful a woman is, the more dangerous she might be.

He felt a bit worried for Jeremiah, hoping he wouldn't end up like him, deceived and hurt.

Chris remained composed.

Once all three were seated, Emmett walked up, pouring Yvette a glass of water before sitting beside Chris.

Yvette's confident demeanor was evident in her posture.

She faced the gazes around her with her usual calmness.

Then she pulled out a piece of paper from her pocket and laid it on the table.

Frankie, most curious about what was written on the paper, immediately picked up the paper

Bruce and Chris glanced at the paper, too.

Frankie read, "Compasses, serum, lighters, raincoats, and ready-to-eat steak..."

Clearly, these were items prepared for entering the rainforest.

While the guys understood the need for compasses and other tools, why should they bring ready–to–eat steak?

They were on a rescue mission, not a camping trip, so they thought Yvette was just a pampered young lady.

Yvette glanced coldly at the three men, prompting Emmett to quickly introduce their names to her.

He said, "Ms. Zeller, to my left is Frankie Ellison, next to him is Chris Wilcox, and then Bruce Mosley. They've all been working with Mr. Chavez for over ten years and came right away when they heard about the incident."

Yvette said lightly and briefly, "Yvette Zeller."

Bruce nodded and greeted Yvette, followed by Chris and Frankie.

After the introduction, they didn't waste time on small talk.

Bruce took the lead and spoke directly to Yvette, saying, "Mr. Chavez has been missing for five days, along with some others, We've decided to go to the jungle tonight."