

Her Family of Tycoons vs. His Family of Fools (Mia and Ethan)

Chapter 10

“And... Ryan has publicly declared that his company will reject all our promotional deals from now on. But any negative news about us? He’ll push it for free.”

“In short...” Mark was on the verge of breaking down. “He’s openly out to destroy us.”

Ethan frowned.

Companies always valued peace. Even rivals kept up appearances.

No one openly declared war like this.

“You must have heard wrong,” Ethan said.

“I didn’t.” Mark wished he had. “They made it perfectly clear. They even posted an official announcement online right away.”

Mark handed over a piece of paper with a pained expression.

“Our PR director handed in his resignation five minutes ago. He said he doesn’t want to offend industry giants, or he’ll never work in this field again.”

That PR director had spent forty years building his career.

Ethan himself had personally recruited him.

That showed how powerful the people behind Mia really were.

Ethan stared at the resignation letter and let out a cold laugh.

Bravo, Mia Cole.

She’s been hiding such tricks all along.

An unknown man with power over both legal and underground circles.

Ryan, a deep-rooted media tycoon.

And Leo, the hugely popular celebrity backed by a massive fortune.

Heh.

Mia, you are more capable than I thought.

I seriously underestimated you.

Ethan stared darkly at the floor, recalling Mia's words at the courthouse: "I'll give you an explanation."

So this is her explanation.

She'd left so cleanly.

The housekeeper said she hadn't taken a single bag.

Now I know why-she'd already hooked up with bigger fish.

His mind flashed back to their divorce that afternoon.

Her light blue sweater, her fair shoulder, and her saying: "Okay, just wait till I get divorced."

Acting so proper and gentle in front of me, but flirting so openly outside.

Ethan convinced himself that Mia had planned this divorce all along.

If she'd really loved me, she would never have given up on me just for a director position.

Her so-called love was just a lie to fool me.

I felt a little guilty for how hard she worked these three years.

But now I only regret not being harder on her.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have had the energy to chase other men.

Three of them.

His fist on the desk tightened.

Suddenly his phone rang again.

He was about to hang up, but saw the name on the screen: Grandma.

Margaret had been hospitalized after seeing the news.

Even with an oxygen mask, she snapped furiously, “Ethan Hale! Are you dead? It’s been half an hour since this mess blew up, and you’ve done nothing?!”

“Lina’s cried herself sick several times. Mia put that camera in her room, didn’t she?! Tell her to get to the hospital at once! Is she trying to rebel?!”

“Grandma, I know. I’m handling it,” Ethan said.

After hanging up, he asked Mark for Mia’s phone number.

He called directly. A robotic voice replied, “Sorry, the number you dialed is powered off.”

Mia’s phone stayed off until Ethan arrived at the hospital that night.

Online public opinion exploded.

Stories spread about Lina being Ethan’s true love, how he’d married Mia just to get a personal doctor for Lina.

Doubts about Lina’s pure, innocent image.

Wild speculation about whether her baby was Jacob’s or Ethan’s.

The Hale family became the center of ugly gossip.

Words like cheating and disgrace flooded the internet.

The hospital called to say Margaret’s blood pressure was dangerously high.

Ethan rushed to calm her down.

Margaret had an IV in one hand.

She looked past Ethan, staring behind him.

“I told you to bring Mia to me!

“She thinks she can hide after causing this mess? No way!

“Ethan, divorce that evil woman at once!

“Right now! And make her clarify in front of reporters that she faked that video!”

Margaret’s wrinkled face twisted with rage. “Then make her bow in the ancestral hall and apologize to the Hale family!”

Lina had grown up by Margaret's side, always acting sweet and obedient.

Even with clear evidence, Margaret refused to believe the truth.

She automatically decided Mia had forged the video.

But Ethan had already had it analyzed.

There were no signs of editing.

"Grandma, I've divorced Mia," he said quietly.

Margaret froze.

"Divorced already?!"

"You... you divorced her?!"

When Ethan nodded, Margaret's anger exploded.

She threw a pillow hard at his face.

"Useless!"

"You're completely useless!"

"You just let her go like that? You're nothing like your grandfather or your father. You just let her divorce you that easily?!"

"As long as you were married, any trouble was just family business. Now you're divorced-if you touch her, she can sue you!"

Margaret stared at him like he was her worst enemy.

"No brains! Absolutely no brains!"

"I don't care if you're divorced or not! As long as she's still a director at that hospital, you can control her! You make her apologize publicly for Lina and fix this mess!"

"Go pressure the hospital right now! Get her fired! Then she'll have no choice but to obey you!"

Mark stood by the door, unsure whether to speak.

After a moment of hesitation, he leaned in quietly.

“Um... Mrs. Hale... we just found out. Mia already resigned. She’s left the hospital.”

The words hit Ethan and Margaret like a stone.

Seconds later, a furious, shrill scream exploded from the ward.

“Ahhh!!!

“Ethan!!! I don’t care how you do it-bring that b*tch back!”

Margaret completely lost control.

They had to give her a sedative to calm her down.

Ethan left her room with a cold face and headed to Lina’s ward.

Before he even opened the door, he heard her soft sobbing.

When she saw him enter, tears rolled down her cheeks.

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“Ethan... what does Mia mean by this? Why did she fake that video to ruin me?”

Lina covered her face and cried, her shoulders shaking weakly.

“She’s just jealous I have your attention. That’s why she’s framing me.

“That baby was so hard to have. You know how weak my heart is. If I lost this baby, I might never get pregnant again. You know that. Mia knew it too.”

Lina cried and clenched her fists.

“She knew it! She wants to make sure I can never have children. She wants to hurt me!

“It wasn’t enough for her to make me miscarry. Now she’s destroying my name!

“Ethan, what do I do? People are saying such terrible things about me. Mia’s just jealous everyone loves me. She wants to take it all away.

“But I’m just a weak girl with a bad heart... What else can I compete with her for? What else is there...”

By the end, Lina collapsed weakly onto the bed, tears streaming down, looking utterly broken.

Ethan stood still, watching her coldly.

He didn't say a word. He didn't move an inch.

Lina clutched her chest and waited.

But Ethan didn't come to comfort her.

Her heart sank. She took a deep breath and sat up.

She leaned weakly against the headboard. "Ethan... you believe her, not me? We grew up together. You know me. I..."

The room was dim. Lina looked up at him with tearful, innocent eyes.

"I married Jacob because my family made me. I had no choice. You know that. I know you've always blamed me for not choosing you. But I've regretted it every single night. I wish I could go back to when we were together..."

Lina watched his cold expression. Her heart grew colder. But she still wanted to gamble. She had to. And she believed she could win.

Ethan married Mia for me.

That means I still hold an important place in his heart.

"Ethan... I've always loved you. I'll divorce Jacob. You... you'll still take me back, won't you?"