

Mute Bride 251

Chapter 251 No One Could Stop Him

Rachel initially didn't hear her name being called. It was only until after someone tapped on her shoulder that she immediately returned to her senses. She blankly looked at the person who was behind her for a moment before she recognized the woman. "Lisa?"

Lisa looked at Rachel in shock. "What's wrong, Miss Hudson? I have been calling you for so long, but you didn't reply to me." When Rachel returned to her senses, she answered, "I'm alright. What brings you here?"

Lisa waved the file in her hand. "Mr. Beckham asked me to send this file to the meeting room. It'll be referred to in the meeting later. Congratulations, Miss Hudson."

"For what?"

"Why are you still hiding the truth?" Lisa smiled. "Everyone knows that the meeting this afternoon is about your promotion. We're just waiting for the official announcement from the Human Resources department. I guess President Burton wants to announce the news for himself."

Upon hearing that, Rachel froze slightly.

If Lisa hadn't brought it up, she would've forgotten about the promotion that Justin mentioned.

The corners of Rachel's lips slightly twitched upward. "You're exaggerating. Even if there's a promotion, I won't be the one to get it." So many incidents have happened recently. Justin already knows that I won't be staying for long at the Burton Group. I'm sure I won't receive the position of general manager in the company. At the very least, this is what I can predict.

She shot a glance at her watch as the traffic light opposite them turned green once again. "Let's go. We are having a meeting soon."

In the company's meeting room, Frankie had just finished printing out the documents and distributing them.

Rachel arrived rather late, but she did not expect to meet Justin at the door.

Their glances met for a few seconds before she quickly shifted her gaze and she walked directly into the room, leaving a frowning Justin behind her.

"I'm sure everyone has some knowledge of the main topic of today's meeting—the person who would be the general manager of Burton Pharmaceuticals."

His low and smart voice reverberated in the room. For meetings appointing the person in charge of a subsidiary, the management team of the main group would be present. In this case, a few leaders from Burton Pharmaceuticals were also in attendance and she was one of them.

"After many observations and meetings with the management team, we have made a decision." Justin's eyes scanned the meeting desk before his thin lips spoke a word. "Rachel."

Rachel was just lowering her head and perusing the documents. When she heard her name being called, she raised her head in shock. She thought she had heard it wrongly, but the applause rang in the meeting room.

The congratulatory words from the people surrounding her merely served to confirm the fact. How is it possible that Justin still insists on promoting me to the general manager of Burton Pharmaceutical?

Everyone left one after another when the meeting ended.

"Why me?"

Rachel immediately stood up to question Justin.

Beside them was Frankie, who tactfully walked out and closed the door behind him, leaving only Rachel and Justin in the meeting room.

Justin crossed his arms as he leaned back in the leather chair. His calm and collected composure was exactly the same as five years ago. "The words I say and the decisions I make are rarely changed. Why do you think that you won't be the one?"

"You clearly know that I won't be in Burton Group for long."

"Everyone including the intern to a high-level manager and even the shareholders can't guarantee that they will stay in Burton Group forever."

"That's different."

"In my opinion, they are the same. It's normal for people to enter and leave a company."

With that, Justin rose to his full height and buttoned his suit as he asked her, "Are you done yet? If yes, I have something else to attend to. I'll excuse myself first."

Rachel was at a loss for words.

"Send your proposal after the promotion to my office in three days," he added.

Then, he walked to the door in large strides.

As she looked at his back, she suddenly asked, "If I tell you that I'm going to resign today, what would you do?"

Justin clearly stiffened, but he did not turn around to face her. "It takes a month to complete the resignation process. You would at least have a month to do that. I guess I don't have to teach you to end things well, so just focus on what you need to do."

Rachel frowned as he left in large strides.

Upon seeing that Justin came out of the room with a darkened expression and he walked directly to his office, Frankie guessed that Justin had an argument moments ago.

Other people might not be clear about the relationship between Rachel and the trouble that the Hudson Pharmaceuticals had gotten into, but Frankie was clear about that.

“President Burton, do you really plan to ask Miss Hudson to stay in the Burton Group for a long time?”

“Why? Are you also against that idea?”

“What I meant is that she has a deal with Old Mr. Burton. Even without me telling you, I’m sure you are clear that she can’t stay for long, even if she wanted to.”

Since the beginning, Arthur had never planned for Rachel to stay in the Burton Group. One could guess that the deal was for her to leave Justin and the Burton Group without thinking deeply into the matter.

Justin clenched his fists tightly. “As long as she is willing to stay, there are many ways to ask her to do so formally.”

With that, he immediately entered the office.

As the office door closed, Frankie suddenly realized something. “President Burton, you’re saying that...”

He was shocked as he stared at the tightly shut office door. He insisted on Rachel’s promotion so that she doesn’t have to worry about staying? If Rachel is in charge of the future of Burton Pharmaceuticals, no matter what deal she had made with Old Mr. Burton, he would not let her easily leave for the sake of

Burton Group’s future. When that time arrives, even if she wants to leave, he would ask her to stay. President Burton has really exercised a lot of effort into this. Would Rachel be appreciative of his actions, though?

Frankie heaved a quiet sigh as he thought of what Rachel had done after she returned.

On the other hand, when she returned to her office, the colorful confetti flew around with a loud bang, which startled her.

“Congratulations on your promotion, Chris! In the future, we would need to address you as President Hudson.”

The members of her department gathered and enthusiastically cheered for her, making her unable to stop smiling.

“You guys...”

Lisa was the first one to speak, “What did I say? Everyone already knew about the promotion. Chris, from now onward, you are our official boss.”

“Yeah, we will have to address you as President Hudson in the future.”

“Let’s work hard with Chris from now on!”

Amidst the cheers, the crowd pushed a small trolley that had a cake with lit candles and they asked Rachel to blow out the candles.

One would have to admit that just in a few months, she had built an excellent culture in Burton Pharmaceuticals. Everyone was loyal to her and they prepared the celebration as soon as they heard the news of her promotion.

“Chris, come and blow the candles now!”

“What’s the rush? The main highlight of the show is still not here yet!”

Rachel asked in confusion, "What highlight of the show?"

Lisa mysteriously looked at her. Then, the crowd cleared the way to a corner of the office desk as they stood in two rows.

Then, Rachel immediately saw a huge bouquet of roses.

Chapter 252 A Battle of Two Men

Lisa stuffed the bouquet of roses into Rachel's arms and reminded her, "There's also a card inside." When Rachel saw the card, Lisa started to ambiguously read it out loud. 'Congratulations to my dear Chris for letting go of the past and accepting her new life. I love you.'

Instantly, it caused a huge uproar within the office. "Did President Burton give you this?" "Oh my God, I didn't expect him to be such a romantic person since he rarely smiles."

"What do you know? Men are usually romantic when they meet the person whom they love."

As she perused the contents on the card, Rachel felt a little resigned. She didn't even need to think to investigate who gave the flowers from this blatant style of writing. "It's not him. You all have misunderstood."

However, the crowd's roar instantly overwhelmed her explanation.

"Alright. We had enough of you two love birds. It's time to slice the cake."

"She needs to blow the candles first."

"That's right. Congratulations on your promotion, Chris. I hope that you are treating us to dinner tonight."

Now that the office was filled with laughter and chatter, Rachel remained quiet and agreed to treat everyone to a meal while she held the large bouquet of roses in her arms.

Meanwhile, in the president's office upstairs, Justin was reading through some documents and noticed that the cup next to him was already empty. "Miss Evergreen."

He called his secretary to serve him more tea, but there was no response.

A while later, he noticed that his cup was still empty, so he immediately furrowed his brows and went out the door. Then, he saw several secretaries gathering around each other as if they were discussing something.

"What are you all looking at?" His cold voice was heard.

When the secretaries heard his voice, they instantly rose in shock. "President Burton!"

The phone fell on the floor, and for some reason, someone had accidentally played the video on the screen.

The screen on the phone was showing the celebrations at Burton Pharmaceuticals.

In the video, Rachel was holding a large bouquet of roses while Lisa read out the contents of the card.

"Congratulations to my dear Chris for letting go of the past and accepting her new life. I love you."

"Did President Burton give you this?"

Although the scenes on the phone were extremely noisy, Justin's eyes were locked on the woman standing in the middle. As he stared at her joyful face while she held the roses, his cold face immediately darkened.

“Chris, aren’t you having dinner with us?”

“It’s fine. You guys can go by yourselves. Feel free to eat anything you want. You don’t have to save money for me.”

Before it was time to get off work, Rachel handed her credit card to Lisa so that she could treat her colleagues to a meal.

It was due to what Janice had said earlier this afternoon that Rachel wasn’t in the mood for a meal. However, at the same time, Rachel didn’t want to stop her colleagues from having fun, so she simply gave an excuse and promised to eat with them the next time.

“Don’t worry, we won’t go easy on you. Let’s go.”

“Have fun.”

She was the only one left in the office because she decided to work overtime tonight. After she finished her first draft since her promotion, she noticed that it was about time for her to leave, so she packed up her stuff and left with that bouquet of roses.

The reason why she had left so late was because this bouquet of roses was too eye-catching, so she wanted to wait until most people in the building had left first.

Ding!

The door slowly opened when the elevator arrived on her floor.

Rachel was startled by the figure standing inside just as she was about to enter.

As their gazes met, Justin’s face grew cold when his eyes landed on the roses in her hand.

When the doors were about to close, he suddenly pressed a button while he asked coldly, "Aren't you leaving?"

Rachel tightened her grip around the flowers and she composed herself before entering the elevator. "Thank you."

Slowly, the elevator went downstairs.

"Who gave you these flowers?" His voice was heard from behind her.

"A friend."

"Why would a friend send you so many roses?" Rachel furrowed her brows and remained silent. Seeing that she wasn't responding to his question, Justin was more gloomy as he continued to question her. "Who gave it to you? Is it Julian? Or, is it that foreigner whom I saw the last time?"

At this point, she could no longer hold back her emotions. Upon hearing his words, she immediately turned around and coldly answered, "In what capacity are you questioning me? It's none of your business as to who sent this to me."

Immediately, his expression darkened as he grabbed her arm. "Of course it's my business. I have the right to know what man my daughter's mother is in contact with."

"Let me go!" Rachel could feel the pain coming from her wrist, so she started to struggle while her screams echoed within the elevator. "Justin Burton!"

However, Justin refused to release his grip on her; he even pressed her entire body against the wall of the elevator while ignoring her shaky feet. "I don't care what man you are in contact with, but this is a public office. Everyone here knows that you are my ex-wife, so what do you think others will say when they see you blatantly flirting with another man? Are you trying to embarrass me or your daughter?"

"Justin, don't you dare insult me!"

“Am I insulting you? Or, are you the one who is insulting yourself?”

Then, the elevator door finally opened.

Justin’s cold gaze landed on something in the distance across Rachel’s shoulder.

He could clearly see a white convertible sports car parked at the entrance through the glass door of the hall. At the same time, a man in a floral, vacation shirt was leaning against the car door in a manner that did not resemble an attorney. His curly brown hair seemed to be lit up by the setting sun.

“Chris!”

Upon hearing his call, Rachel was startled. Hernandez?

Justin had already let her go and he was now walking toward the entrance in strides.

“Justin!” She quickly ran over to him, but the bouquet of roses made her actions very eye-catching. Even though most people had already got off work, there were still many who were drawn by what was happening. “What are you doing?” She stood in front of Hernandez to protect him. “Don’t forget that we are still at the Burton Group. Many people are looking at you!”

Justin had already unbuttoned his cuffs and was now clenching his fists. The violent veins on his forehead revealed his displeasure. Without looking at her, he asked Hernandez, “Did you give her these flowers?”

After scanning Justin from head to toe, Hernandez furrowed his brows and replied, “It’s you again? So what if it was me?”

“Go away,” Justin coldly uttered to Rachel.

However, she stood firm. “What do you want?”

As for Hernandez, he seemed to have understood the man's intention, so his lips curled upward to reveal a fearless smile. "Chris, you can step aside. This is a battle between two men."

She furrowed her brows. "Hernandez..."

"Don't worry, we have a way to settle this in peace." He raised his chin toward Justin with a proud and disdainful expression. "Do you dare to compete with me in a fair fashion like a man?"

Justin's eyes only grew colder. "You are now in Riverdale. This is my domain, so I accept your challenge."

Hernandez touched his nose and sneered, "Don't get too ahead of yourself."

At the moment, Rachel seemed to have become a mass of air as the two men completely ignored her. They even left her alone at the entrance of the Burton Group.

Chapter 253 Boxing Show

Rachel incredulously stood on the sidewalk alone with a bouquet of roses in her arms as she stared at the sports car that drove off in haste.

After a short moment, she came to her senses and immediately dialed Jolly's number. "Hey, Hernandez just came and brought Justin with him." "What?!"

On the other end of the phone line was Jolly in a spa room. Despite wearing a facial mask, she suddenly jumped to her full height as her intense curiosity was piqued by Rachel's words. "Is that true?! When did that happen? Why? Did they come to blows with each other?"

"It seems like you're quite keen for them to come to blows with each other, right? Well, it happened before this." Rachel briefly shared what happened earlier before she asked worriedly, "Do you think everything's alright? Where could they have gone to?"

“Are you worried about Justin?”

“Jolly! Is this even the right time to be asking that question?!”

“Look at you; I was just joking anyway. Why are you anxious? I’ll be there shortly since I know where they are.” Jolly instantly removed her face mask and raised her eyebrows at Charlotte, who was by her side. “Charlotte, wake up. Let’s go! I’ll bring you to watch an exciting show.”

There was a pink towel currently wrapped around Charlotte’s head while she lazed on a lounge chair with a relaxed look. Jolly had placed a face mask on Charlotte’s tiny face as well and her only evident features were her eyes, nostrils and mouth.

As soon as Charlotte heard that, she asked with a confused voice, “What show is it?”

Meanwhile, Jolly replied mysteriously, “A boxing show.”

Charlotte maintained her silence. At that moment, the sun had already set and the night sky was brightened by the streetlights.

In one of the private fitness centers situated somewhere in town, there were currently two tall, strapping figures on each side of the boxing ring as they both concurrently entered the ring.

After Hernandez removed his jacket, he glanced at Justin and asked, “Are you injured?”

Meanwhile, Justin had an indifferent look. “Does it matter?”

“I will never take advantage of my opponent during a match, so I’ll use one hand to fight you.” As Hernandez said that, he removed the boxing glove on one hand and moved it behind his back.

“That’s not necessary.” Justin flexed his neck as his expression gradually turned cold. Then, he warned Hernandez, “Put it back on. Otherwise, you might not be able to get out of the boxing ring alive.”

The look of disdain gradually disappeared from Hernandez's face as soon as he noticed Justin's professionalism and the fierce look in the man's eyes. "Have you had training before?"

However, Justin merely uttered, "Are you afraid?"

"That's not possible," Hernandez coldly scoffed.

"Cut to the chase then."

As soon as the referee blew his whistle, the two of them instantly exchanged blows.

Since it wasn't an official match, both Justin and Hernandez were not restricted by any rules. However, the tension between the two was quite evident as their punches landed hard on each other. None of

them took the initiative to stop the match and the match would continue until the end unless one party lost.

On the other hand, Rachel waited for a long time before she finally saw Jolly's car showing up in front of Burton Group.

"Mommy! Get in!" Charlotte's head popped out from the backseat of the red sports car before she waved at Rachel in excitement.

"Why did you bring Charlotte along? Are you intentionally trying to blow up this incident?"

Meanwhile, the window to the driver's seat was suddenly wound down as Jolly's glee was masked by her pair of white-rimmed sunglasses. "I was halfway through a spa session with Charlotte, so I couldn't possibly leave a kid there by herself!"

In response, Rachel rolled her eyes and replied exasperatedly, "You could have just sent me the address and I would have gone there myself. You wasted my time making me wait for you here."

“This is sensational, so you can’t be the only one to witness it! Hurry up and get in the car!”

A resigned Rachel entered the car since Jolly was the only one with the address.

As soon as Rachel fastened her seatbelt, Jolly floored the accelerator as her car revved up and joined the other cars on the road.

After half an hour, Jolly stopped the car in front of a boxing gym.

“A boxing gym?” Rachel exclaimed in surprise, “How did you know that they are here?”

“Hernandez is a huge fan of boxing. We met up for lunch two days ago and he mentioned that he’d just joined this club.”

“That doesn’t mean that he would bring Justin here, though.”

“I must say that you’re being too naive here. Males usually prefer such methods to exert their dominance in a fight.” Jolly unfastened her seatbelt and gestured to Rachel by throwing a punch in front of Rachel. Then, she yelled toward the backseat, “Let’s go. Charlotte, it’s time to catch the show.”

The loud noise of punches being thrown was clearly audible in the huge gym.

Inside the boxing ring, Hernandez managed to dodge Justin’s blow from the front, but he couldn’t avoid the next punch in time. As a result, his mind was woozy despite being clad in protective headgear. He’s a professional.

“It’s not too late for you to surrender now.”

“In your dreams!” Hernandez gritted his teeth and readjusted his headgear. “Go on!”

At this moment, Justin threw a punch, but it was successfully dodged by Hernandez.

As Hernandez wasn't a weak opponent, he immediately responded by making a defensive move. While he tried to defend himself, he tried to concurrently figure out Justin's weak point. "I will not give up on Chris. She's the woman I love the most."

"How many women have heard these words?"

"Not that many."

"Not that many?" Justin's anger suddenly mounted.

Meanwhile, Hernandez took his chance and punched Justin in the face.

The blood splashed from Justin's nostrils. Despite him dodging the blow as fast as he could, he was still badly punched and he stumbled a few steps backward before he landed on the side of the ring.

Hernandez brushed his nose smugly. "Didn't I warn you not to be distracted?"

At that point, he managed to worsen Justin's raging anger.

Justin forcefully held onto the side of the ring as he rose to his feet. Then, he went straight for Hernandez.

Hernandez never expected that Justin would be terrifying in his moment of fury. Justin was like a crazed beast as he threw his punches with all of his might. As for Hernandez, he could feel his arms turning numb as he struggled to block the punches while he fought back and retreated.

"Hey!! Calm down! We agreed that this would be a friendly match."

"It's too late!" Justin didn't even bother to continue the conversation with Hernandez. "In the future, stay away from Rachel!"

Just as Hernandez was on the brink of desperation, there was a sudden flash in front of him where he seemed to see the light at the end of a tunnel. "Chris!"

"Bulls*it!" Justin threw another punch at him.

"Umm—" Hernandez clutched at his nose and fell to the ground.

"Hernandez!" Rachel's voice immediately rang out from behind.

Justin turned around and he immediately saw the trio running toward them.

Meanwhile, she rushed right into the boxing ring. As she assisted Hernandez to his feet, she worriedly asked, "Are you alright?"

He pressed his hand against his nose while responding breathlessly, "Chris, I think I'm about to die."

Rachel took his hand aside and she was shocked to see the blood spilling out of his nostrils. Soon enough, she regained her senses. "It's alright. It's just a normal nosebleed. Lift your head upward and stop moving."

As soon as she said that, she took some tissues from her bag to wipe off the blood for him.

As for Hernandez, he lay in her arms and moaned in pain, "Chris, I think my nose bridge must be broken. I won't be able to gain the affections of any other girls anymore. I'm hurt because of you, so you must bear the responsibility!"

"I'll head to the hospital with you to get it checked out."

"I don't need a check-up. You just have to treat me to dinner. I want to have your pierogi."

Meanwhile, upon seeing Hernandez create all sorts of requests to Rachel without a care in the world, Justin couldn't help but retort, "Hey! Are you done with your act?!"

Before Hernandez could respond, Rachel was already on her feet as she turned to Justin in annoyance, "What's wrong with you?! You've badly punched him yet you didn't even apologize?!"

Chapter 254 There's No Winning or Losing When It Comes to Feelings

"Apologize?!" Justin roared sullenly. "This is a boxing gym and he voluntarily asked for a match. I'm not responsible for the fact that he became injured and fell to the ground. Ask him whether he understands these rules!"

"Well, you were too ruthless! It's not like you're in a competition!" "How am I not in a competition?" he retorted self-righteously. "He lost, so he has to leave you alone from today onward!"

Rachel stared at him in shock. Even Hernandez, who was still in her arms, had to pause before he immediately changed tactics and moaned, "It hurts, Chris!"

"Where?" She came back to her senses and answered, "Let me take you to the hospital."

"Okay."

"Hold up!" An annoyed Justin stepped in front of them to block their way before he questioned Hernandez, "Have you forgotten what you said?"

Despite being a tall adult man, Hernandez continued to moan as he cowered in Rachel's shadow.

As she stood protectively in front of him, she said sternly, "Let me repeat this, Justin. I'm a person, not an item. It's childish and ridiculous that you're using me as a wager for a competition in the first place. Also, there's no winning or losing when it comes to feelings!" With that, she left while still supporting Hernandez's weight.

Justin stood rooted to the spot and clenched his fists so hard that his knuckles cracked.

After an interminable amount of time, a young voice spoke up behind him. “I told you it would be hard to pursue my mom.”

A frowning Justin turned to glare at Samuel before asking impatiently, “Why are you still here?”

“To see how pathetic you look.”

“Excuse me?!”

As Samuel folded his arms across his chest, he disdainfully took measure of Justin before continuing, “Look at you—you’re handsome, but you don’t know how to use it to your advantage. You’re so silly. Hernandez is smarter than you—he only had to moan in pain a few times before my mom left with him.”

“He was faking it!”

“So? Aren’t you faking it?”

The wound on Justin’s back had cracked upon a long time ago, which colored his bandages red. Hernandez did not deliver a light punch either—the traces of blood on the corners of Justin’s mouth had yet to dry.

Yet, Justin had wanted to win the fight so badly that he was unwilling to show his weakness in front of outsiders.

“He’s faking an injury whereas you’re faking being fine!” Samuel spread his arms as he shook his head. “There’s no hope for you, you stupid oaf.”

“Samuel, where are you? Quickly get into the car!” Jolly hollered from outside.

"I'm coming!" he answered before he gave Justin a few parting sentences. "You have to be focused on the woman if you want to pursue her. Think about what you're doing!"

Now that it was already nightfall, Rachel and Hernandez went straight to the hospital.

The moment Julian entered the ward upon receiving a call, he saw Hernandez moaning endlessly while holding onto Rachel.

"What are you doing, Hernandez?" Julian asked grouchy. "Let her go."

"No," Hernandez whined. "My head hurts, Chris."

"What do you mean that your head hurts?" Julian asked skeptically. "Drop the act."

"Julian." A helpless Rachel glanced up at him. "Hernandez has been beaten up. He keeps having a nosebleed and he says that he's dizzy and nauseated. Do you think he needs a CT scan?"

"Beaten up?" A startled Julian repeated after her before he recalled Hernandez's character and suddenly understood the situation. "Well, you deserve it. I told you not to act like that here lest you are mistaken for a hooligan!"

Upon hearing that, Hernandez protested unhappily, "I wasn't 'beaten up'! We were having a fair boxing match. I didn't lose; I allowed him to win."

"Hello. What do you mean by allowing him to win? I was there," Jolly scoffed from her corner of the room. "I thought you could give him a good beating, but it turns out he's made a fool of you. You've let all of us down!"

As Julian was now confused, he asked, "What happened? What boxing match? And why is everyone here?"

Although Rachel didn't know how to reply, Jolly leaned toward him to gossip, "Justin was the one having a boxing match with Hernandez, Julian."

Upon hearing these words, Julian gaped at Hernandez. "So, Justin was the one who beat you up?"

Hernandez was seemingly ashamed as he dodged Julian's gaze. Then, he mumbled, "If it weren't for the fact that I was fighting with one hand, I wouldn't have lost. He was exceptionally brutal!"

Jolly unceremoniously sneered, "Sure, keep on bragging. It's not like Samuel and I witnessed it. Justin is injured as well, but he didn't say anything. Yet, you have the audacity to brag after he knocked you down with one blow!"

After being utterly humiliated and having no repartee to Jolly's words, Hernandez changed the topic by gasping and distorting his facial features. "It hurts!"

"Where?" Rachel pulled him to face her so that she could give him a onceover. "Is your head injured?"

"Let me see." Julian stepped forward before Hernandez could answer her and pulled her aside.

"Ow! I don't need you to—"

Before Hernandez could finish speaking, Julian pressed on the man's head. "Where does it hurt? Here?"

"Tsk... Can you be gentler?"

"So, not here. How about here then?"

"Ahhhh! It hurts!!!"

After a dramatic bout of yelling, Hernandez wrestled out of Julian's grip and glared at him before saying through gritted teeth, "Are you treating me or trying to kill me?"

"You're fine. Look at how hearty you sound. Your head doesn't hurt anymore, does it? If it still does, we have therapists here. I can ask them to massage you and apply acupressure to stimulate the blood flow in your head."

A livid Hernandez answered, "No."

As she was a little worried, Rachel spoke, "Maybe you should get a CT scan or have Julian arrange an appointment for acupressure on your behalf."

"No!" Hernandez quickly declined. "My head doesn't hurt anymore. Really, I'm okay now. I'm perfectly fine. Look at me!" Upon saying that, he waved his limbs around in front of her, looking very much like an octopus who was being cooked alive with his silly dance.

Julian had once given Hernandez an acupressure treatment when they were both abroad.

At that time, Rachel had only just learned how to perform acupressure and she was looking for people to test her skills on. Since he was eager to be her test subject, he stepped up to the plate only to be interrupted by Julian. In the end, a single push from Julian had left him feeling like he was half-dead.

Now, she was exhaling in relief. "I'm glad you're fine."

"Don't worry about me, Chris, but if you truly are worried about me..." Hernandez sidled up to her as he batted his eyelashes. "You can have dinner with me tonight to celebrate my wellbeing."

"Take me along," Julian insisted as he removed his gloves and tossed them into the bin. "I happen to be getting off work anyway."

Hernandez glared hatefully at him as he protested, "I didn't say I wanted to bring you along!"

Julian ignored what was said and immediately turned to Rachel. "You don't mind, do you?"

With a magnanimous smile, she answered, "Of course not. Since Jolly and Samuel are both here, why don't we all go together? We also haven't had a get-together in a while. What does everyone want? My treat."

Jolly shot Hernandez a sympathetic look and shrugged her shoulders, indicating that it wasn't her intention to be in his way.

Chapter 255 Are You a Trustworthy Man Yourself?

As night fell, the streets of Riverdale were illuminated by neon lights. A black car traveled up the hill along the winding paths toward the summer villa of the Burton Family.

It was moments after Justin left the boxing gym when he received Arthur's call. Frankie was driving as he said, "You refused to answer Old Mr. Burton's call, so he contacted me. It seems like he's really mad this time."

Justin had taken the liberty to promote Rachel to the position of general manager of the Burton Pharmaceuticals; it was, in fact, an act that went against Arthur's original intentions.

"So?" Justin curtly replied, his expression impassive. As a matter of fact, before he made the decision, he had foreseen that Arthur would never allow this to happen if Arthur had known about it. Therefore, he decided to take action without his grandfather's knowledge.

Frankie seemed to have something to say, but he ended up swallowing his words. Nobody would be able to stop Justin from doing as he pleased since he was the boss.

Upon seeing the shallow lines between Justin's brows, Frankie asked, "President Burton, how is your injury?"

"I'm fine." Justin held his arm with his other hand, but soon released his grip. If it weren't for my injury, the match would've ended way earlier.

The vehicle arrived at the summer villa, which seemed especially tranquil and serene under the night sky. As soon as he alighted from the car, he saw a black vehicle driving away from the villa. When it drove past him, he noticed a freezing glare aimed at him from the car window that had yet to be rolled up.

The Burtons' butler, who had been standing at the door, immediately stepped forward to welcome Justin. "Young Master Justin."

Justin returned to his senses. "Did Jason just leave?"

"Yes."

"That's something new. I seldom see him returning in all these years. What brought him here today?"

"It's nothing important. He was back to visit Old Mr. Burton." It was obvious from Dennis' response that he did not wish to elaborate on the topic. "Young Master Justin, let's head inside. Old Mr. Burton is waiting for you."

Justin entered the villa with his brows furrowed.

"Young Master Justin is here," Dennis announced.

"Let him in." Arthur's cold voice was heard from the study.

"Grandpa, I heard that you wanted to see me."

"Do you know why I want to see you?"

"I reckon it is about the new general manager of Burton Pharmaceuticals."

Upon seeing how unashamed Justin was with his actions, Arthur was enraged. "Of course! I'm sure that you know how important Burton Pharmaceuticals is without having me explain it to you. I've invested so much blood, sweat and tears in building the brand, yet you are going to watch it go down the drain by handing it to a woman?"

"Go down the drain?! I don't think that Rachel has the capability to do so, not to mention that she won't do so."

"She won't?" Arthur slammed the desk and thundered, "How do you know that she won't? She is a woman who sent her own father to jail! If only you knew..." Before he finished his sentence, the words choked in his throat, as if he suddenly realized something.

When Justin heard that, puzzlement appeared on his face. "Knew about what?"

"Nothing!" Arthur's cold expression returned. "You can't keep her in the Burton Group. no matter what. She's bad news and will only bring harm to the Burton Group if she continues to stay."

"And this is the reason why you struck a deal with her behind my back?!"

"Isn't this enough of a reason? Perhaps you need me to tell you in the face that she had her motives from the very beginning when she tried to get close to you and joined the Burton Group! Don't you understand now?"

"I know." Justin seemed cold and calm. "She did all this for the sake of a man named Hans Egerton. Besides, you were the one who gave her the evidence back then. With that evidence, she managed to send Jefferey to prison."

"If you knew it, why—"

"Since Hans' matter has been resolved, why are you still worried?" His expression was as calm as dead water as he interrupted Arthur, rendering Arthur speechless.

Justin had to admit that he was furious and completely baffled when he first discovered that Rachel had approached him because of Hans' death. However, when he finally calmed down, he managed to understand where she came from and even admired her courageous personality.

Since he was the one who broke Hans' legs, it was an undeniable fact that he had to bear a certain responsibility for Hans' death. In contrast, if he was in her shoes, he might not have been able to

uphold justice when his family's well being was at stake. Yet, she was able to do what he couldn't.

"All in all, this woman cannot continue to stay in the Burton Group. Do you hear me?" Arthur raised his voice.

"You have no right to interfere."

"What did you say?"

"Rachel holds two-thirds of the list of Burton Pharmaceuticals' herb suppliers and she has been in charge of the collaboration with the Carter Enterprise and our exploration into the international market. You can't just deny all her efforts, snatch everything that she is currently in charge of and kick her out of the company with just a word or two. That is if you're willing to sacrifice the Burton Pharmaceuticals as collateral damage."

Arthur's expression changed rapidly and it finally fixed on a nonplussed expression. "That's impossible! She has just joined the Burton Pharmaceuticals not long ago, so how could she—"

"You can take a look at this yourself if you don't believe me." As Justin spoke, he slowly pushed a document that was sitting on his desk toward Arthur.

In the folder were all the tasks that Rachel had been handling together with her entire network and contacts—they were evidence that the company's performance would face a major downturn if she were to be kicked out from the Burton Pharmaceutical.

Justin was certain that Arthur wouldn't dare to endanger his own hard work. As expected, after reading the entire document, a somber expression appeared on Arthur's face as he fell into a long silence.

"Grandpa, I'll leave you to continue reading. I shall take my leave now. Justin took a glance at his watch before he rose to his feet and asked, "Speaking of which, why did Jason suddenly return today?"

Arthur returned to his senses and nonchalantly replied, "He came back to visit."

Although Justin forwent the question, he clearly noticed Arthur tightening his grip on the document from the corner of his eyes. Arthur clenched his fists so strongly that even his own joints had cracked—a clear sign of nervousness.

Justin then posed another question before he left. "Is there anything else that you are hiding about Rachel from me?"

Arthur frowned. "Is there any need for me to hide anything from you?"

"It's great that you don't, but even if you do, I will ask her myself."

However, Arthur stopped him a second later. "Justin, remember this—that woman is not trustworthy. Don't waste your time on her."

"Are you a trustworthy man yourself? You have known the reason why she returned to the country a long time ago, yet you didn't tell me," Justin countered. To him, nobody was trustworthy. He only believed in what he saw and what he felt.

While watching Justin as the man left the study, Arthur abruptly threw the document into the waste paper basket.

Dennis heard the commotion and entered the room. "Old Mr. Burton, what's the matter?"

With a gloomy expression, Arthur propped his withered arms on the desk as he ordered, "Have all the people keeping an eye on Rachel retreat for now."

"What happened? Aren't you worried that she may find out the truth about the video?"

"I'm afraid that those people whom we sent over may alert her and raise her suspicion instead. After all, she has been keeping in touch with that man from the Investigation Bureau lately."

"How about Mr. Caleb then?"

"I've already ordered him to lie low now and stop all the unimportant business."

Chapter 256 It Was an Ending, and a Beginning

Arthur's dimly lit eyes were filled with coldness. "Ask him to cut all connections with Hudson Pharmaceuticals as soon as possible. Hudson Pharmaceuticals has already been eyed."

"Yes, sir." Meanwhile, a black sedan was speeding on a mountain pass. The man in the back seat was rather advanced in age. His sideburns were turning gray, and his face was as cold as an iceberg. In a daze, he looked outside of the window.

Buzz. Suddenly, a sound emerged in the car as a message appeared on the phone screen. After reading the message, the man hummed, "We just got an order. So, back to business."

Although the driver was dressed in suits, he had a heavy countryside accent. "Mr. Caleb, didn't Old Master Burton ask to keep a low profile for now and stop accepting orders?"

"Stop accepting orders?" The man snorted. "He made it sound like a piece of cake. If I quit, do you think my subordinates will settle for it? Do you expect them to be unemployed?"

"We can take it slow. I can explain to them."

"It's okay. We can finish this deal first and talk about the rest later."

"Yes, Mr. Caleb. You're loyal to your brothers, so they will definitely be more careful when doing tasks in the future so that the police won't catch them tripping. Even if they really get caught, they will seal their lips just like Bucky."

Just then, the driver could sense a cold stare from the rear mirror. He quickly clammed up upon realizing he had said something wrong as cold sweat trickled down his forehead. "Mr. Caleb, I didn't bring this up on purpose. I..."

Caleb glared coldly at the driver. "Bucky is going to be released soon, isn't he?"

"Yes, sir. Next week."

"He has done me such a huge favor. I should give him a good treat, shouldn't I?"

"You've been taking good care of Bucky's family over these years and he's very grateful toward you. It's unnecessary to give him a treat. Bucky has said that it's his honor to be able to serve you after being released from the jail."

"Did he say so?"

"Of course."

"I'll leave this matter to you then."

The driver was startled as he didn't understand Caleb's meaning at first. "Mr. Caleb, what do you mean? What do you want me to do?"

"Only a dead man can be trusted. Be careful, and make sure to not leave a mess."

The temperature in the car decreased all of a sudden. The driver's hands which were placed on the steering wheel trembled as his face turned pale.

Caleb's extremely bony face was reflected in the rear mirror as his protruding cheekbones gave him a hostile look. His royal vehemence was long gone ever since five years ago, and all that was left was a gaunt look after going through years of suffering.

Five years ago, all evidence pointed toward him. Due to that, Arthur did everything he could to turn the situation around—even making Bucky a scapegoat to save his life. But at the same time, Caleb was

removed from the Burton Family. Because of that, his old self had died long ago, making Caleb now an unempathetic person who would climb the ladder at all costs for the sake of money and power.

What happened five years ago might have been an ending, but it was also a beginning.

After coming back from the summer villa, Justin went into the room to check on Charlotte. Charlotte was already asleep but she didn't sleep well. While opening her eyes in a daze, she rubbed them with her chubby hands. "You're back, Daddy."

Justin held her hand. "Don't rub your eyes."

Charlotte yawned and said in a soft yet slightly hoarse voice, "Is it morning already?"

"Not yet. Go back to sleep."

"Goodnight, Daddy."

"Goodnight."

Justin patted the blanket covering Charlotte and sat beside her bed for quite some time after seeing her fall asleep again. Although Charlotte was by his side every day, he still missed her dearly.

Ever since he lost his memory, being a father was his greatest comfort for the past five years; it was as if he got a daughter overnight. To be honest, he started off as an inexperienced father but he gradually got the hang of it—he even managed to change her diaper. His identity as a father had filled in a lot of blanks in his memory.

When he first woke up, he wasn't able to remember a lot of things. More often than not, he would feel uncomfortable after seeing some strange yet familiar scenes by the road. Until now, he could still remember the throbbing pain in his heart.

At that time, the doctor advised him to rest more and try not to overthink. He did as he was told and devoted most of his time to work while spending the remaining time left to accompany Charlotte.

5 years had passed. It was as if the memories that he had lost were discarded, and they didn't seem to be important anymore. However, when Rachel came back, he couldn't recall any memories of her existence. Because of that, he came to a realization that his memories were important; not only did he forget about Rachel, he forgot about a part of his life.

It was already late at night; the cold wind blew across the balcony of the mansion.

"Hi, Doctor Zane. I've thought about psychological therapy. "

...

The next day, Rachel sent Charlotte to school early in the morning.

"Will Samuel go to school today too?" Before getting out of the car, Charlotte had asked this question again and again.

As soon as they got out of the car, they saw from afar Hernandez and Samuel standing at the school entrance waving at Rachel. "We're here, Chris!"

"Samuel!" Charlotte darted over and gave Samuel a big hug.

Being pounced upon by Charlotte, Samuel stumbled backward and nearly spilled the banana milk that he was holding. "Ouch..."

"Why is it you who sent Samuel here? Where's Jolly?" Rachel looked at Hernandez and asked.

"Jolly called me. She said she has a headache and asked me to pick Samuel up."

Hearing that, Rachel was rendered speechless. "I've told you guys to not let her drink but you all refuse to listen. It's impossible for her to not get drunk."

Truth was, Hernandez proposed to have a drink during dinner last night. The initial plan was just to drink a little, but Jolly ended up drinking non-stop. If Rachel didn't stop her, she would have offered to pay the bills for all the patrons in the bar again.

Although the Carter Family was wealthy, they couldn't afford the constant splurges by their prodigal daughter.

"Let's not talk about that. This girl must be Charlotte." Hernandez bent down and pinched Charlotte's cheek. "How cute you are! You're as cute as your mother!"

"Hey!" Charlotte widened her eyes crabbily and shoved Hernandez's hand away. Then, she rubbed her cheek in disgust. "Don't pinch my cheek!"

"You have a real temper!"

"Who are you?"

"Me?" Hernandez squatted down. "You can call me Hernandez, but since you're still so young, you can call me Mr. Hernandez for now. Later when your mother and I get married, you can call me Dad."

"I'm not going to call you Dad!" Charlotte pulled a long face at once. "I already have a dad!"

"I know. That's why you can call me Mr. Hernandez first. It's okay, you can take your time."

"You baddie!" Charlotte immediately pushed Hernandez away.

Surprised, Hernandez lost his balance and actually slumped on the ground as a result of the push.

"Hey, Charlotte." Rachel quickly stopped her. "That's not the right way to behave."

"Hernandez, are you okay?"

Hernandez stood up and said sulkily, "No way she could've inherited her temper from you. She's rather hot-tempered."

"I'm sorry."

"It's okay. I'll let it slide since Charlotte is a cutie."

Chapter 257 Silence

"Who are you calling a cutie?! I don't like you!" Standing in front of Rachel, Charlotte glared at Hernandez angrily with her hands on her hips. "You! Stay away from my Mommy!"

Hernandez was amused. "There, there. We're running late, so go on in." Rachel quickly asked Samuel to bring Charlotte into the school.

With that, Samuel dragged Charlotte into the school. Unsatisfied, Charlotte kept turning her head back and squinting her eyes at Hernandez as a warning.

It was only after seeing the two kids enter the school did Hernandez turn around and say to Rachel, "Your daughter has a bad temper, unlike you."

“Oh, really?”

“There’s a saying that goes, ‘One takes the behavior of his or her company’, so I think we have to speed up the matter about the lawsuit.”

Rachel was startled. “Let’s wait for a while more. There are still some matters that I would like to investigate.”

If what Janice said about Jason being the mastermind behind the abduction back then was true, then Rachel was determined to reverse the verdict for Nancy and send Jason to jail. Before achieving that, she shouldn’t be distracted by Charlotte’s matter.

Meanwhile, Samuel dragged Charlotte all the way into the classroom.

“Hey Samuel, why are you dragging me?!” Charlotte shoved Samuel’s hand away and grumbled, “Didn’t you hear that the guy is going to snatch Mommy away?”

“I heard it. Don’t worry, he won’t be able to win Mommy’s heart.” If he was able to, he would have done that long ago and didn’t have to wait until today.

“You’re saying that you’ve known him for some time, and so does Mommy?”

“Yeah. Hernandez is Mommy’s superior in Montenegro.”

“Oh no!” Charlotte put her head in her hands while wearing an anxious look. “Mommy is going to be snatched away! You guys knew each other while you were still abroad. He has more advantages than Daddy!”

“That’s not true.” Drinking his banana milk from a straw, Samuel mumbled with a slur, “If we follow your interpretation, Mr. Peters would have more advantage, but even he failed to win Mommy.”

“Uncle Julian is too introverted, but that guy is different from him! Also, don’t you feel that Mr. Wade has a crush on Mommy too? Mommy just has too many admirers!”

“That’s because our mommy is very outstanding!”

In comparison to Charlotte’s worry, Samuel was rather calm. After all, Rachel’s admirers would want to curry favor with him, so he has been treated kindly by them ever since young.

Charlotte was frustrated. “No way. If this continues, Mommy will be snatched away sooner or later. Samuel, you have to cooperate with me. Otherwise, I’ll never talk to you again.”

“Okay, okay, but what do you want to do?”

“I want to create opportunities to let Daddy and Mommy meet more often, but how can I do that?”

Seeing Charlotte’s troubled look, Samuel hesitated and thought of an idea in an instant. “There’s actually a way. Our school is going to hold a cross-country sports day soon, right?”

“Oh yeah!” Charlotte’s eyes glistened. “We can get Daddy and Mommy to participate in the sports day together!”

On the other hand, Rachel did not show up in the morning meeting. After the meeting, Justin pondered about it and still couldn’t help but give Rachel a call.

“Hello?”

“What’s the matter?” Rachel’s voice came forth from the other end of the line.

“Are you in the office?”

“Why?”

“Why didn’t you attend the morning meeting since you’re in the office?”

“I took the day off.” Rachel sounded reasonable. “A manager has the right to take a day off, don’t they?”

Little did Justin expect that after giving Rachel a promotion, it actually became a reason for her to go on leave. As such, he was rendered speechless.

“Is there anything else? If not, I’m going to hang up first.”

Obviously, Rachel couldn’t be bothered to explain her absence to him as she was still not happy that he went boxing with Hernandez when he was still injured. With that, Rachel couldn’t relate to him as she thought his actions were extremely childish and ridiculous. What she hated most was to be deemed as an item—belonging to whoever the winner is.

“Hold on. Send the proposal to my office.”

“Now?”

“Yes, now.”

Rachel took a deep breath. “Okay.”

After hanging up the call, Justin lifted his eyebrows slightly. After all, he was the boss, so he had the authority to order his subordinates. He waited excitedly and heard a knock on the door 10 minutes later. He gave a dry cough and said, “Come in.”

“President Burton, here is the proposal you’ve asked for.”

The satisfaction in Justin’s eyes froze immediately when he saw Lisa. It was only after a moment did he mumble, “Leave it there.”

"I'll excuse myself first if there's nothing else."

"Wait a minute," Justin hailed Lisa. "Is Miss Hudson very busy today?"

"Not at all." With her innocent eyes widened, Lisa wore a confused look. "Is there anything? Do you need me to pass a message to Miss Hudson?"

"It's okay." Justin waved his hand sulkily and gestured for Lisa to leave.

The moment Lisa left, Justin flipped the proposal and flung it onto the table. All women are petty. Yesterday's incident isn't just my fault but she puts all the blame on me. That's too much!

After work, Justin and Rachel reached home one after another. The atmosphere during dinner time was rather uncanny. Because of that, Samuel and Charlotte exchanged glances multiple times.

"What's wrong with Daddy and Mommy?"

"Shh..." Samuel glanced cautiously at Charlotte and lowered his voice. "Yesterday, your dad went boxing with Hernandez, and he ended up injuring Hernandez, so Mommy is annoyed."

"Huh?" Charlotte widened her eyes. But when the thought of Hernandez crossed her mind, she immediately blurted, "Serves him right!"

Just as Charlotte was about to put in a good word for Justin, Rachel noticed it and stopped her.

"Charlotte, let's remain quiet when having a meal." Rachel placed a peeled prawn on Charlotte's plate and said nonchalantly, "Eat up."

Charlotte clammed up immediately and gave Justin a sympathetic glance. At the same time, she sighed inwardly, Mommy is quite scary when she gets serious. I can't help you, Daddy. Good luck.

"I'm done, Mommy."

"Me too."

"Go ahead and play." After sending the two kids off, Rachel stood up and started keeping the dishes, completely ignoring Justin who was still eating. At that moment, he had not even gotten to take a piece of meat yet.

"Hey." Justin frowned. "Don't be too mean. I didn't even beat him up that badly. I just bruised him slightly. Do you have to be this angry at me?"

"Am I angry at you?"

"Aren't you?"

Ignoring Justin, Rachel turned a deaf ear on him and continued cleaning the table. Then, she carried the dishes into the kitchen.

Justin put down his cutlery and went after Rachel. "Rachel!"

He grabbed Rachel's arm immediately, almost causing her to stumble. "Why are you even angry at me? It was him who proposed a boxing match, not me. Even if you're dissatisfied that I agreed to compete with him and think I'm wrong to do so, both he and I are culpable.

Don't you think it's too much to put all the blame on me without weighing out the situation? Why do you have to treat me like this? Alright, I admit that I treated you badly in the past. I know it was my fault and I'm trying my best to make up for it now, but you have to give me a chance to do so. Say something!"

Every time Rachel remained silent, it made Justin even more frustrated.

Chapter 258 You Need to Apologize to Me First

“Alright, I’ll tell you the reason why I treat you this way.” Slap! Rachel hurled the cloth she was holding to the side of the fool before slapping it on Justin’s arm. “In your eyes, you always tend to objectify anything and anyone.

I’m just an object to you—an object that can be traded and exchanged. You were like this in the past, and you’re still the same now. This pompous act of yours is rooted deep down in you. Everyone below you is merely objects.”

As she blurted that, her gaze was as cold as ice—there wasn’t a trace of warmth in it. She didn’t seem angry; she was just so cold that he started to feel alarmed.

“We are just... different. Are you satisfied with this answer?”

At this moment, he seemed to be flustered as he failed to speak.

Tossing him a cold glance, she continued as she started to walk outside, “Do you know why I returned to this country? If it wasn’t because of Charlotte, I wouldn’t be here. I do not expect anything from you. All I hope is that we’ll maintain our distance and not get in each other’s way.” After saying that, she left the kitchen.

Hearing the sound of her footsteps heading upstairs, he swung his fist toward the wall with great force. As painful as the collision might have implied on his knuckles, it was incomparable to the pain her words brought. It was the first time he felt so defeated; he felt helpless beyond words.

At this moment, he noticed a shadow lingering by the entrance of the kitchen. With his brows furrowed, he asked, “Who’s there?”

Upon the cue, Samuel showed his head from behind the door, giving Justin a sympathetic look as he asked, “Are you okay?”

“When did you come?”

“I was here for some time. I heard everything.”

Hearing that, Justin snickered, “Are you here to mock me?”

Shaking his head, Samuel supported himself against the frame of the door. “Are you trying to court my mommy?”

“What do you think?!”

Upon hearing Justin lash out, Samuel grew a little mad. Crossing his arms as he stood, he exclaimed, “If you continue to talk to me with this attitude, I will not help you!”

Justin replied with disdain, “You want to help me? How can you possibly help me?”

In response, Samuel said, “Our school will be holding a sports day soon. It will be held outdoors.”

Unimpressed, Justin asked, “So?”

“Are you dumb?! If Hernandez hears about this, he will find a way to join. That way, he’ll have plenty of time to spend with my mommy.”

As Justin thought of the possibilities that could occur outdoors, his expression changed in a split second. Hernandez seemed like a playboy who was skillful at courting ladies, so one could imagine what he’d do with such a great chance!

Seeing how horrible Justin’s expression was, Samuel sent him a wink before saying, “Don’t be too worried because I have a way to make him go away and let you join instead.”

“What do you have in mind?”

“First of all...” With his chin tipped upward, he put on a proud expression. If it wasn’t for his young age and soft voice, he’d sound much more authoritative. “You need to apologize for your cold attitude toward me just now.”

At once, Justin frowned. “You want me to apologize, to you?” The furrows on his brows were deep as he stared at the annoying little kid standing before him. Now that he heard what the kid said, he was certain that all of Rachel’s attention was not on him nor about the idea of leaving Riverdale, but on Samuel.

Hugging his arms tightly, Samuel huffed, “Forget it if you don’t want to. I don’t mind having Hernandez as my stepfather anyway. I’m leaving. Hmph!” After finishing his sentence, he turned on his heels and was about to leave.

“Wait.” Immediately, Justin called out to Samuel. It took him a brief moment before finally caving in. “I’m sorry.”

It was only then that Samuel turned back to face Justin with a triumphant look as he tilted his head to a side. “That’s more like it. You cannot treat me like that anymore in the future.”

“Hurry up and tell me what idea you have in mind.”

“You’ll know by then. I’m afraid that you’ll mess it up if I tell you now.”

“Hey!”

“Don’t hey me! I have a name.”

It was Justin’s first time getting blackmailed like this—not to mention, his opponent was just a kid. Though one may think that he’d feel offended, he seemed to be fond of that kid, even when he used to

think that the kid was annoying before.

“Alright, Samuel.” Justin made a mental note to be more patient as he kneeled down before the kid. “I promise that I’ll follow your plan. Now, can you tell me what your idea is?”

At once, he revealed, “It’s simple. I’ll keep Hernandez away for a few days by sending him back to Montenegro.”

“So, you want me to go camping with both of you?”

“No, no. If you’re going, my mommy will not be willing to go too!” With a wink, he waved at Justin. “Come closer, I’ll tell you...”

At this point, Justin could only comply and lean closer to the kid. When Justin heard what Samuel had in mind, he beamed in a split second.

The night was getting dark. Behind the glorious, bustling Riverdale, was the darkness that people were oblivious to. In a crowded club, smoke was lingering in the air.

Inside, the deepest private room was so secluded that it was almost separated from everything outside. By the door, two bodyguards were holding their position. As the soundproofing was great, the noise outside didn’t affect whatever that was going on inside.

On the couch made of authentic leather sat a middle-aged man who had a cigar in his hand.

Just then, a person who seemed like an assistant came in after knocking on the door. “Mr. Caleb, we’ve managed to gather some people. Would you like to see them or talk to them in person?”

“There’s no need. Just tell them that this must be executed cleanly. The embassy cannot be involved in this.”

“Don’t worry, this has already been instructed. Due to the fact that the woman involved has a special identity, we wouldn’t dare to be uncautious.”

“There’s actually nothing special about her identity.” The man scoffed, “It’s just a mask. Don’t forget. She was born out of wedlock; nothing would change even if she’s involved with the Carter Family.”

At that moment, the sound of door knocks rang from outside. “Mr. Caleb, Miss Patterson has arrived.”

As he heard that, the frown on his face was relaxed slightly. “Alright.”

“Mr. Caleb, I’ll take my leave first then.”

“Okay.”

With that, the man’s cold face was slowly clouded by the thick smoke.

...

The next morning, Rachel saw Justin about to head out with luggage when she was having breakfast with her child.

“Daddy, where are you going?” Instantly, Charlotte threw Justin a question.

In response, Justin replied, “I’m going on a business trip. I’ll be back in two days. Behave yourself at home while I’m away.”

“Alright!”

With Rachel keeping Charlotte company, she no longer threw tantrums whenever Justin went outstation.

Seeing that there was no reaction from Rachel, Justin was a little dismayed. “Aren’t you going to ask where I’m headed to? Or when will I be back?”

Upon hearing that, she said blandly, "You're the president of the company, so your schedule must be confidential. I have no right to ask you that."

"Y-You..." He was at a loss for words. Needless to say, he felt wrong-footed after getting mocked by her early in the morning.

"Care for some breakfast?" She placed a bowl of oatmeal in front of him.

"Specially prepared for me?"

Chapter 259 Do You Still Remember Those Prescriptions?

"I cooked extra. It'll be a waste to throw them away." Despite what Rachel said, Justin still proceeded to take a seat happily to have breakfast. To him, the oatmeal was a sign of her showing goodwill.

Seeing that, Samuel, who had been by the side, silently shook his head with a sympathetic expression. Look at how pathetic he is. He's ecstatic over a bowl of oatmeal.

After sending the two children to school, Rachel drove to the suburbs alone. The Riverdale Penitentiary was located on a vast empty land. Some said that the surroundings were wide and empty to prevent the inmates from escaping. After all, it was hard to hide in plain sight.

When Jefferey was brought out, she thought that she'd be hit by waves of emotions, but it was quite the contrary. She was so calm that she even surprised herself.

It had been a while since she saw him, and he had visibly aged; his gray hair had turned completely white. He looked like an old folk who didn't have much time to live. At this moment, she said, "You must've not expected to see me here, visiting you."

On the other side, he sneered after hearing that. "What is there to be unexpected about? Aren't you here to see how bad of a shape I'm in now? That'd help ease your hatred toward me for giving your hand in marriage to the Burton Family."

“Burton Family?” The light in her eyes dimmed. “Compared to the other things you did, forcing me to marry Justin was nothing. You should bear the consequences of your actions. Although you’re being punished, it’s not enough to make up for everything you did. Think of all the people you’ve killed and the sins you’ve committed. Do you think the truth can be buried when people are dead?”

“Why? Are you trying to catch a slip from me?”

“Do I have to do that? The prosecutor’s investigation period for my parents’ case has already passed. You can still pay for your sins when you die and see them in the afterlife.”

Throughout her little speech, he listened with a disdainful look. “Are you done?”

With a 15-year sentence, it meant to him that he had to spend the rest of his life in prison. Hence, nothing she said could anger him anymore.

“After living for so many years, I’ve gotten everything that I want, so dying right now is worth it. In fact, I hope that I’ll die sooner. You can ask the old man—I mean, your grandfather. He was the one who looked down on me, but I was the one who brought up the entire Hudson Family.”

“What if I tell you that you won’t be listed in our family history when you die?”

At once, he was stumped.

She continued, “I’m aiding Carter Enterprise in the process of buying over Hudson Pharmaceuticals. As the eldest daughter of the elder heir, I will be taking over Hudson Pharmaceuticals. The first thing I’ll do when the time comes is to remove you from our family records.”

“What right do you have?!” He stood up in a swift movement and was immediately yelled at by the prison guards standing behind him. “What are you doing?! Sit down!”

However, Jefferey was raging. “Who do you think you are? Why would the Hudsons listen to you?”

“Well, because I have 6 of the Hudson Pharmaceutical prescriptions.” At that moment, a cold smirk appeared on the corner of her lips. “Don’t you remember? The same 6 prescriptions that troubled you so much for these past few years.”

At this moment, Jefferey was taken aback. How could he not remember? If it weren’t for the prescriptions, he wouldn’t have considered smuggling overseas—which was what brought him here

today.

“I will let my parents get the respect they should’ve gotten. As for you and Amber, I’ll have both of you removed from the Hudson Family’s registry forever. The Hudson Pharmaceuticals that you worked so hard to support will be brought down and rebuilt by me in the name of my parents.” At this moment, she brought out the business proposal and waved it in front of him. “Can you see this? Hudson Pharmaceuticals will be rebranded. Do you like it?”

The moment he saw the name of the brand, he widened his eyes so much that his eyeballs were almost protruding. Slam! He slammed his palm on the tempered glass as he exclaimed, “Rachel! You b*tch!”

Immediately, Jefferey went mad. It was as if he was going to break through the glass, but the prison guards standing by quickly held him down.

“What are you doing?!”

“Take him away.”

“Visiting hours are over.”

Under the roars of the jail alarm, he was forcefully taken away as they ended visiting hours earlier.

Following the commotion, the prison guard requested Rachel to show the document that she was holding. “Please show us what you showed the inmate earlier.”

“This?” She cooperatively handed it over. “It’s a business proposal.”

Having flipped through the documents, the prison guards didn’t find anything unusual. Hence, he asked with curiosity, “Why did he get so worked up?”

In response, she said, “Who knows?”

Since there wasn’t anything wrong with the documents, the prison guards didn’t question further. With that, she left the penitentiary.

The moment the metal gate closed behind her, Riverdale’s ray of sunshine shone on her face. At this moment, she could finally feel true justice being brought upon in Riverdale. Under the sunlight, she took out the brand proposal and glanced through it. The sunlight hit the name of the brand, making the words ‘Lionel Hudson’ gleam. She had used her father’s name for the registration of the brand with an orchid as the brand’s logo.

Jefferey and Lionel had always been competing against each other since young. The highest accomplishment for Jefferey was that he had won against Lionel and inherited Hudson Pharmaceuticals. Obviously, he couldn’t have expected that ‘Lionel Hudson’ would be a brand that Hudson Pharmaceuticals would be launching to the market.

This also signified that the name ‘Lionel Hudson’ would always be intertwined with Hudson Pharmaceuticals as long as it survived; the name would always be remembered by many more people as time passed.

The moment Jefferey lost it was when Rachel felt that she had finally avenged her parents.

...

Three days later, Justin was having a video conference in a hotel outstation. The meeting was held to discuss the plan of buying over Hudson Pharmaceuticals.

Closing his computer, Justin asked Frankie, "During the meeting, you seemed off? What is it?"

Hearing that, Frankie replied, "I just received news amidst the meeting that Carter Enterprise is also planning to buy Hudson Pharmaceuticals, and their preparations are almost as complete as ours. I think..." In a doubtful tone, he cautiously continued while observing Justin's expression, "I'm afraid that Miss Hudson may have been involved since the beginning."

In fact, no one else knew Hudson Pharmaceuticals better than Rachel. Therefore, there was a high chance that she was aiding Carter Enterprise as the proposal plan was attained so quickly.

At this moment, Justin furrowed his brow. "You're saying that Rachel wants to help Carter Enterprise in buying Hudson Pharmaceuticals?"

"Yes."

After contemplating silently, he said, "If that's what she wants, then give it to her."

"Huh?" Frankie couldn't believe what he had just heard. "Mr. Burton, what did you say?"

Chapter 260 Protector

"I said, since she wants it, give it to her," Justin repeated his words for Frankie.

"Burton Group's plan to buy Hudson Pharmaceuticals will end here. Tomorrow morning, inform the team in charge and tell them that the team is dismissed." "President Burton, do you want to think it through first?"

"There's no need." After Frankie heard that, his jaws dropped. Losing Hudson Pharmaceuticals was quite a big matter for the Burton Group as it had been planned for a few years. Besides that, the pharmaceutical products that were about to be launched by the Hudsons might play a big role in the future market.

Nonetheless, Justin actually handed everything over with one simple sentence. Hence, Frankie felt that he must be in a dream.

...

Three days later, it was Saturday. The Bilingual Elementary's students embarked on their outdoor camping activity from Riverdale.

Early in the morning, Rachel brought the two children to meet up with the other parents at the school's entrance. After getting onto the big bus, it took around 3 hours before they reached Astoria's Cloudy Mountain Highland.

"Later on, we'll be forming a tent for each family. There will be a teacher to guide you as you pitch your respective tents. If it's any parent's first time joining our camping activity, questions are always welcomed. Okay, we'll dismiss and take a break."

After the leading teacher announced the dismissal, all families that were standing in front of the bus spread out.

Rachel, who was with Samuel and Charlotte, was staring at the tent feeling flustered. Scratching the back of his head, Samuel said, "Mommy, the three of us can't pitch a tent."

Rachel said, "It's alright, let me try." After that, she pulled out the guide that was inside a bag that was filled with tent-pitching tools. The moment she saw the instructions, she already felt like giving up before she had even started. She then admitted, "It seems that it's really quite hard."

However, Charlotte asserted, "Mommy, the guide isn't hard. The three of us just don't have the strength to support the tent. The frame is very heavy, and both Samuel and I can't move it."

Rachel couldn't help but feel embarrassed when Charlotte said that the guide wasn't difficult. After all, both the children were talented smart kids. In some aspects, Rachel could only admit that she was not good enough. After scrutinizing the frame and its components, she was a little dispirited. "It's pretty heavy indeed."

“Rachel!” A familiar voice could be heard coming from behind. “Let me help you!”

Turning back, she could see Victor making his way toward them. She felt that she was seeing a savior as she almost teared up. “Victor!”

Meanwhile, Victor’s appearance made Samuel and Charlotte give each other a look. Crap, we forgot that Mr. Wade is also tagging along. This is going to affect our initial plan.

Giving Charlotte a look, Samuel asked sotto voce, “What do we do now?”

Charlotte quickly started to brainstorm. “Don’t panic, I’ll figure something out.”

“It’s too late.” Samuel glanced behind Rachel before saying, “He’s here.”

With a low growl, a black jeep came to a stop by a river that was just a stone’s throw away from their campsite.

At this moment, Rachel had yet to notice anything. Nonetheless, Victor, who was one of the leading teachers, was alarmed. At once, he put down the things in his hands before marching over.

“Victor, this isn’t done yet...”

Following the direction he was heading, she saw a familiar figure exiting the jeep before closing the door. The string of actions was not done subtly, earning the attention of some parents. At once, she quickly tossed the things in her hands and rushed up.

“You sc*m! Why are you here?” Victor clutched on Justin’s collar as he roared.

At that moment, the word ‘sc*m’ had earned the attention of all the parents and children at the campsite.

Initially, Justin was going to brush Victor off, but he quickly raised his hand to explain when he saw Rachel coming toward them. "I didn't do anything. This time, you better see it clearly. He's the one who started it, and I didn't even lift a finger."

Not bothering to talk nonsense with him, she immediately held onto Victor and broke the two up. "Victor!"

"Rachel, don't stop me! This sc*mbag is always everywhere. Look! He's even here now!"

"Many parents and kids are watching. Do you not want to be a teacher anymore?"

"I don't care!"

"Nonsense!" She was so panicked that she was on the verge of slapping Victor for his bad temper. After finally turning over a new leaf, he managed to become a teacher. If they were to fight, he would lose his job. It was just not worth it.

At this moment, a slap was sent straight to the back of Victor's head, causing him to cover it in pain. "Rachel!"

Turning to look at Justin, she asked, "Care to explain? Didn't you go on a business trip? Why are you here?" Was his business trip so coincidentally happened to be in Cloudy Mountain Highland?

Justin then explained, "The business trip ended sooner than expected. As Charlotte's father, I have the responsibility to join her school activity with her. Isn't the goal of this activity to improve the relationship between the child and their parents?"

Hearing that, she couldn't find any words to refute. Since he was Charlotte's father, he had the right to join the activity. However, if she knew earlier that he would be here, she wouldn't have even considered coming.

"Mr. Wade, don't you think so?" Justin was even provoking him now.

With his brows furrowed, Victor was about to attack Justin again, but he was stopped by Rachel's firm grip. "Victor, the tent has not successfully been pitched yet. Let's go. Don't fight with him. It's not worth putting your future at stake for this." With that, she tugged on Victor before they left together.

Sending Justin a dead glare, Victor didn't forget to point at him as a sign to warn him to keep his distance. After that, he unwillingly followed Rachel to retreat.

To be frank, it didn't bother Justin one bit. After all, he didn't care about anything said by anyone other than Rachel.

Meanwhile, Rachel and Victor were squatting before the tent as they continued to pitch it.

"Daddy!"

At this moment, Charlotte ran into Justin's arms before he picked her up. "Did you miss me?"

"I did." As she said that, she gave his cheek a kiss.

On the other hand, Rachel and Victor were ignoring his presence while they continued to discuss and set up the tent. Not only that, even Charlotte, who was in his arms, was also getting ignored.

After being in an embrace for a moment, Charlotte contemplated for a moment before she whispered something in his ear. Following that, Justin nodded in response before putting her back down.

At this moment, Charlotte gave Samuel a look as a cue before the two of them ran away from the campsite. However, Rachel and Victor didn't seem to have noticed that the kids were running off.

"This should be here."

With a frame in her hands, Rachel pointed at the guide in Victor's hand before she gestured something. "It should be connected to here."

“I think it’s here.”

The duo were both newbies to building a tent. As Victor had just started working at The Bilingual Elementary not long ago, it was his first time joining this activity. Hence, he wasn’t much better at pitching the tent compared to Rachel.

“It should be here. Join it together with this.” A voice of a man could be heard coming from behind.

At the same time, the frame that she was holding was suddenly taken away as Justin fixed the frame without much of a struggle in front of the two. It didn’t take long before a side of the tent was already

set. “Now, nail this piece to the ground.”