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After steadying herself, Jessamine tried to put some distance between herself and Thaddeus.

This made Thaddeus mad. He dragged her back into his arms. "Why are you avoiding me?"

Afraid that he'd forgotten, Jessamine reminded, "We're getting divorced, Mr. Holt. It's only right for us to keep our distance."

The trace of guilt that Thaddeus had just started feeling for Jessamine immediately dissipated. He let go of her and strode toward the dining room.

Sasha had rammed into Jessamine as a way of venting her frustrations. To her surprise, she caught Thaddeus holding Jessamine intimately when she turned around to see what had happened. She was so angry that she took a photo and sent it to Amy.

The dishes were neatly laid out on the table. The housekeeper, Wanda Green, called everyone to the meal.

The shrimp that Sasha had been talking about all day were finally served, and they'd been placed right before Jessamine. Sasha took advantage of Thomas' distraction to move the shrimp and put them before her, then replaced them with a bowl of salad.

Everyone only started eating when Thomas gave the green light.

Jessamine was focused on eating the food on her plate when a shrimp was suddenly added to the pile. She looked up to see Thaddeus' uncle, Noah Holt, giving her a friendly smile.



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Thomas had had Noah when he was older, and Thaddeus' parents had gotten married and started their family late. Because of that, Noah was Thaddeus' uncle despite only being four years older than him. They'd practically grown up together. 1

Noah had always been a rather frail child and spent most of his time undergoing treatment abroad, only recently returning to the country. He was polite and gentlemanly, unlike Thaddeus and his sharp tongue. 1

Jessamine returned his smile with a polite one. "Thanks, Noah. I can get them on my own."

"You're welcome. I'll get you another one when you're done."

Jessamine had the vague sense that something was off with the atmosphere. She glanced to the side to see Thaddeus staring at her. He seemed to be warning her from eating the shrimp.

Suddenly, the shrimp on her plate seemed to lose all appeal. She didn't know whether to eat it or not and was in a dilemma.

When Thomas saw this, he said, "Why are there only so few shrimps when we have a whole crate? Where are the rest?"

Wanda quickly brought out another plate of shrimp when she heard this. She placed them right before Jessamine and explained, "The table was too full earlier. There wasn't any space for these."

Sasha curled her lip when she saw the mountain of shrimp before Jessamine. She huffily reached out to grab one from the pile, but Heather smacked her hand as soon as she raised it. "Don't you already have some before you?"

Thomas glanced at Thaddeus. When he saw how the latter was busy eating, he said, "Why aren't you getting any food for Jessie? Honestly, I don't know what she sees in you."

Jessamine's palms were clammy with sweat. Thaddeus hated serving other people, especially when it came to eating seafood. They rarely had this at home because he found it troublesome.

In general, he would only eat the things that Jessamine had placed on his plate.

To Jessamine's surprise, Thaddeus scooped up a shrimp and put it on her plate. He continued doing this until there was a small pile. It was all thanks to Thomas that she was getting the chance to be pampered by Thaddeus.

Halfway through the meal, Thaddeus' phone rang. He wiped his hands with a paper towel before heading to the balcony to answer the call.

Jessamine had an ominous feeling as she watched him leave. Sure enough, a few minutes later, he grabbed his suit jacket before turning to leave. He looked anxious.

Thomas was angry. "We're only halfway through the meal. Where are you going?"


Thaddeus had already changed his shoes and was about to open the door. He didn't dare ignore Thomas' question and answered, "A friend's heart condition is acting up. I have to go check on her."

Jessamine's heart sank. A heart condition?

Thomas saw right through him. "Don't lie to me about your so-called

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friend. I bet it's that woman. I'm warning you—there's only one woman that I'll recognize as your wife, so you'd better stay away from that woman.

"Why is she still alive if her heart condition acts up every day? She needs to call 911 if she's having a heart attack, not you. It's not like you're a doctor! If you ask me, she needs to get her head checked. Why else would she be so fixated on a married man?" 

Thaddeus was too anxious to argue with Thomas on this, and this wasn't the right time. He opened the door and strode out.



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