

The Heiress' Return: Six Brothers at Her Beck and Call (Wynter Quinnell)

Chapter 461 Belated Realization

The scream came from the second floor. The cameras positioned there showed nothing but darkness

Dexter prompted the crew to switch to night mode, but the equipment decided to go haywire at that

precise moment.

way on

While the team upstairs struggled to see around them, Wynter **and** Tobias were happily scoring away

the first floor.

The only person on the second floor who had picked up the flashlight prepared by the crew was Horace

This **was** not how the show was supposed to go. Dexter **frowned** as he demanded, "Where are the

producers? What's with the screw-up on set?"

None of the guests knew what was happening. Oliver had been so arrogant that his terror almost seemed

comical.

In his panic, he had snatched Horace's flashlight. He schooled his expression into one of neutrality **as** he

said, "Don't worry guys. Mr. Lyons loves a good power outage on the show."

"But, Oliver, we've only got one flashlight, and there's eight of us here," Zane pointed out, starting to regret

picking Cecilia. If he had known she would be this useless, he would have picked Joshua instead.

Sensing that Zane was irritated with her, Cecilia picked up the bottle of sleeping pills **lying** nearby and

said, “Hey, the woman in the story had trouble sleeping and might be delusional. I say we start from there.”

Zane’s eyes lit up at this. “You have a lead?”

“Well, the story did say the woman lost her child. All we have to do is find out where her child went and

that’ll **lead** us to another clue,” Cecilia suggested confidently.

She had gotten on the show through her live-streaming platform, and she had practically bribed the

playwright to let her be a candidate.

If nothing else, she was the only one here who knew the entire storyline. She would have won over the

audience if Wynter hadn’t stolen the spotlight in the beginning.

“So, where will the lead most likely be?” Zane was in no mood to hear Cecilia out.

Cecilia’s eyes widened at the question. She knew how the story went, but she had no idea what the layout

was, seeing as she had limited time to process the information the playwright had given her.

“Well?” Zane asked loudly, growing impatient. The all-consuming darkness around him **and** the chill in the air made his skin crawl. He wanted to get out of this place as quickly

as possible.

Being an honor roll student, Cecilia knew that she could draw inferences by going through the storyline by line.

However, it was only after all her inferences led to one possible lead that her face darkened. “It’s in the delivery room on the first floor. That’s where we should have started looking.”

The viewers couldn’t see the guests, but they could hear them just fine. At once, the viewers erupted into laughter as comments flooded in.

“Wow! How the tables have turned!” a viewer mocked.

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“Who was it that said there’s strength in numbers? Oliver was all talk. The way I see it, Kina and Wynter. **have** beaten them five to zero,” someone else commented.

“Guess being loud isn’t going to help you win challenges.

“Kina and his partner are going to be my new obsession. Look at them go!”

“If I were Oliver, I’d stay on the second floor and never come down. I’d rather be ubborn than lose face so publicly!”

Oliver thought the same thing. Going back to the first floor would mean total humiliation.

He could give up his position as a returning guest on Ultimate Survival once filming wrapped, but he would never be able to live down the shame if he went downstairs now.

However, as things were, he did not have a choice. Regardless of their number, the darkness that surrounded him and his fellow guests was terrifying.

Yvonne was the first to break the silence. “Let’s head back downstairs! I think the power hasn’t gone out on the first floor!”

“How do you know that?” Oliver demanded.

Not wanting to reveal that she had brought her phone on set, Yvonne lied, “I saw it! See , that’s light right,

there!”

Standing by the window, they could vaguely make out a blur of light coming from the first floor. Only fools would want to linger on the second floor after that! Alas, they were too late.

Chapter 462 The Internet’s Girlfriend

Oliver and the others heard a loud click, indicating that someone had locked the door from the outside,

followed by a chilling laughter. At once, panic and chaos ensued.

“Who locked **the** door? “Aimee tugged fiercely on the doorknob and looked at the camera as if to demand answers from the production crew.

Yvonne was no longer concerned with being called a rule-breaker as she whipped out her phone for its flashlight function. However, she paled when she realized that her phone had **died**.

Cecilia was a bundle of nerves as she clutched Zane's shirt and tried to hide behind him. Unfortunately for her, he was even more terrified than she was and became filled with the urge to quit the show.

Oliver shouted into the darkness, "Kina! Let us out right now! This isn't funny!"

There was a beat of silence outside the door, then a woman's angry voice pierced the air. "Kina? Who's Kina? I ought to punish you cradle robbers for trespassing our hospital!"

The voice sounded human and normal, despite the insidious undertone. The guests breathed a sigh of relief, but their relief was short-lived as logic kicked in..

"Wait, isn't this hospital abandoned? Why did she say the hospital is theirs?" Zane asked fearfully.

Oliver explained, "She's probably a non-player character used for plot development. They did this last season too."

"I thought the NPC would only show up after an important lead has been found, Aimee interjected.

She had only just said this when the sound effects from the production crew rang through the **air**, followed by an announcement.

"Congratulations to pair number five for solving the key riddle and unlocking the NPC, Lana Wilson!"

"Lana is a nurse at the children's hospital and has seen her fair share of incidents at the hospital. Perhaps

you can sit down **and** have a nice chat with her to learn more!"

Reassured that this was the character that the playwright had told her about, Cecilia felt her shoulders

slump with relief. Whatever happened earlier was probably just a small mishap.

"You were right, Oliver. She's just an NPC after all. Thank goodness we have someone experienced

among us, huh?" Cecilia praised, attempting to get on Oliver's good side.

However, Oliver couldn't care less about her praises, nor was he happy about them. "Is the crew serious? How could anyone get to the **lead** that quickly? It's only been ten minutes!"

Dexter said nothing. The crew was still busy trying to bring the system back to life and fixing the equipment.

Meanwhile, the audience's astonishment was evident from the comments flooding the streaming channel.

"You have to commend Tobias' partner for having guts. She didn't even bat an eye before rummaging

Chapter 462 The Internats Crifiend

through the delivery room," a viewer commented.

"**She** solved seven questions in 13 minutes and found the Important lead! She's a genius! I think I'm in love!" another viewer gushed,

"She and Kina work well together. My gosh! When they looked at each other after hearing the scream,

made me want to ship them so badly!"

The show was gaining newfound popularity for having better suspense than the first season.

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Everyone thought this was courtesy of Dexter's plot arrangement, but Dexter **had** already summoned his

assistant and demanded in hushed tones, "Who let the NPC lock the others in? That's not how the script

goes.

"Maybe the playwright made some adjustments?" the production assistant suggested.

At that moment, Oliver said confidently to Lana, "We aren't cradle robbers, but we can help you track down the real ones."

Lana was about to walk away. But when she heard this, she backed up a few steps. "Oh? Do you have a

plan in mind?"

"Of course," Oliver replied, already thinking of ways to score. "We came here to help you."

Lana drawled breezily, "I don't like children who lie. But since you're here to help me, I'd like for one of you to come with me to the delivery room."

Chapter 463 Beating Up Lana

Oliver exchanged a nervous look with the others in the room. None of them volunteered to go to the delivery room with Lana.

"We finally have a lead," Oliver said, **scheming**. "One of you can go while I search for the other clues. I know what to anticipate from the production team."

No one in the room was foolish enough to believe him. They knew he was only acting.

Aimee was an award-winning actress too. Refusing to play along, she said to Oliver, "Since you were the one who suggested that we help Lana, why don't you

go with her?"

The longer they dawdled, the angrier Lana became. She suddenly slammed her fist against the door and snapped, "Which of you is coming with me?"

Even the audience could tell something was amiss when they heard Lana's irritation, which bordered on unhinged, but they couldn't quite explain it.

"That NPC sure knows how to act," a viewer commented.

"Why do I feel like whoever volunteers to go with her won't make it out alive?"

Lana cackled at that moment. "Caught in a dilemma, are we? In that case, I'll have to take my pick. The number I call out will be my crime-solving buddy, so be good! Let's see, shall I pick one, two, three, or four?"

Just then, someone said coolly, "Five. Pick five." It was Wynter. She had shown up outside the room and grabbed Lana's hand.

Lana stiffened in the shadows. "But I-

"The rules say that whoever you choose will be your crime-solving buddy," Wynter cut her off. She grasped Lana's index finger and directed it at herself. "And you **have** chosen me."

Lana appeared to be taking deep breaths. "Fine then! Come with me!"

The audience couldn't see Lana's expression as she stood away from the cameras.

Tobias didn't like the long and dark corridor from which Lana emerged. Worried, he told Wynter, "I can go with her and do recon for the mission while you stay here."

His intentions were simple—he couldn't let Wynter go with Lana alone to an unexplored part of the building. Wynter should stay put in an area that they had already scoped out.

"Mr. Quinnell, when you were on the show last season, were you this kind as well?" Wynter asked out of the blue. "You'd rather be vanguard than have everyone risk their lives?"

Tobias looked at her oddly. "This is my first time on the show."

"Have you both decided yet? Who's coming with me?" Lana interrupted irritably.

Chapter 463 Beating Up Lana

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Wynter did not let go of Lana's hand I'm coming with you. Lead the way."

Lana was surprised by how fearless Wynter was. It didn't matter, though, because Wynter would cry soon. enough. But little did Lana know, Wynter had something else up her sleeve.

The cameras around did not give Wynter the privacy to do what she needed to, but the other side of the corridor didn't have surveillance.

Meanwhile, Dexter was frowning as he demanded, "What the heck is going on with this NPC?"

The production crew came close to stopping the filming, but they were too late.

With a tug. Wynter pulled Lana into the darkness of the corridor. Lana was just as baffled as the audience when they saw this.

"For a moment, I almost forgot which of them was the NPC," someone said.

"I was getting kind of freaked out at first, but number five is **winning** me over with her actions!" another

gushed.

Wynter did not waste her breath on Lana after pulling her into the corridor away from the cameras.

Before Lana could raise her arm, Wynter stabbed her with a needle and pinned her against the wall. “Give

me the clue.”

Lana’s shadow moved on the wall **as** if to scare off Wynter.

With one swift move, Wynter stepped on the shadow and said icily. “Tell me the clue before I lose my

patience.”

Lana glowered at Wynter and gritted her teeth. She **had no** idea who Wynter was, but the fact that the

latter did not fear her made it **hard** for her to strike.

A conflict between Wynter and the other players might make things interesting.

Playfully, Lana said, “In that case, you can move on to the next level. Congratulations on getting the clue all by yourself!”

With that, she handed Wynter a card, on which was written a single line. “Everybody loves Mommy!”

Chapter 464 Formidable Opponent

The sound effects started again after Wynter finished reading the words on the card.

“Congratulations to player number five for finding the clue and saving her teammates! Player number five, you may choose to keep the clue a secret or reveal it!

“Here’s a hint: you’ll stand a better chance at winning if you keep the clue a secret since you won’t have to

split the score among the ten of you.”

At that moment, the lights on the second floor came on, and the cameras captured the guests’

expressions.

Zane and Oliver were visibly panicked. They hadn’t gotten a single clue since getting here, and they were saved by the person they thought was least likely to be the ultimate survivor. To say they were humiliated

was an understatement.

Now, the fans who **had** avidly defended them at the beginning of the challenge had gone quiet in the

comment section.

Everyone began to see Tobias in a new light. But the person who had won over the audience was Wynter.

No one had expected a non–celebrity to perform so well in a star–studded variety show, much less steal

the spotlight. At once, the streaming numbers skyrocketed.

Remembering what Yvette had told her, Yvonne drew close to Tobias after spotting him and said, “Kina,

you’ll get into an accident during filming. Stick close to me and I’ll keep you safe, not to mention help you

win this challenge!”

Tobias looked at her skeptically and wondered what was wrong with her.

Yvonne said defensively, “You have to believe me! I have a friend who’s really good at making predictions.

“The power’s back on,” Tobias pointed out coolly. Yvonne kept quiet after that.

Oliver and Zane were about to open the door when Lana asked icily. “Who said you could leave?” She

glanced at the lock on the door and added, “One of you is a clever little pretender.”

She regarded them with faint amusement and ordered, “Find out which of you is the pretender, and you

can all move on to the next level.”

His eyes lit up when Oliver realized this was a new clue. “That person is one of us?”

Lana nodded.

Tobias couldn’t care less about the clue as he asked Lana, “Where is she?”

“I’m here.” Wynter showed up with a newspaper she must have picked up from somewhere.

Lana giggled. "Player **number** five is in the lead, so she won't be playing with you guys for the next mission.

Chapter 464 Formidable Opponent

212

Upon hearing this, Wynter gave Lone a sharp look and asked, "Why?"

"To keep it fair," Oliver interjected. "An NPC's role is to ensure things don't get out of hand during filming.

"You were lucky enough to find so many clues after poking around. But what you did could affect the show's overall development

Someone in the comments typed, "Oliver is so full of himself."

"Who in their right mind would support a guy like him?" another one commented.

When Zane came to Oliver's defense, his fans couldn't help but wish he would keep their mouths **shut**. The last thing the fans wanted was to see Zane humiliated after filming wrapped up.

Lana didn't expect her instructions to be met with such acquiescence. She beamed and said, "This player is right. We're doing this to keep the challenge fair."

She had no idea about Wynter's background. She only knew that Wynter was unafraid of her and had

violent tendencies.

She had also sensed the good fortune that seemed to cloak Wynter like a protective shield. As things were, Lana couldn't make a move against her. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for the others.

With a clap of her hands, Lana said, "Now this is getting interesting."

Tobias noticed Lana's odd behavior. "Excuse me, miss, but why do you behave like a child?"

Lana froze and asked him curiously, "Me? A child?"

"It's normal for doctors and nurses in a children's hospital to act as the children do. She's just portraying her character," Cecilia explained, desperate to look intelligent.

Lana grinned. "You seem to know a lot about doctors," she remarked, eyeing

Chapter 465 A Pro at Blackmail

I'm an **honor** student at Sacred Heart Medical University. As Cecilia said this, she threw a pointed **look at** Wynter as if **to** belittle her academic background.

Wynter returned Cecilia's contemptuous look with an amused one before turning her gaze to Lana. "You

seem happy.

I'm always happy to meet someone from my line of work," Lana said with glittering eyes. "Healthcare professionals are my favorite people!"

She clapped her hands as though remembering something. "Oh, silly me! How could I forget something so important? Didn't you guys promise to help us find the missing baby?"

Oliver nodded and said immediately, "Yes, but we'll need you to cooperate with us. All you have to do is

answer a few of my questions."

Lana nodded with a smile. "Ask away."

"Were you the one who carried the baby out of the delivery room after the birth?" Oliver fired his first

question.

"Yes," Lana replied.

Zane pressed hurriedly, "Did someone take the wrong baby home? Was that why the woman in the story couldn't find her baby?"

Lana gave him a mocking look. "Nope."

"What? That can't be right," Cecilia interjected, sounding skeptical. "Are you sure you didn't remember

wrongly?"

Lana stared at her with dark, depthless eyes. "I remember everything clearly."

Cecilia clenched her fists clenched. She cursed the playwright for lying to her despite having taken her

money.

“Now what?” Aimee asked, frowning at Oliver. “This isn’t exactly what you guys inferred, is it?”

Oliver refused to back down. “The woman in the story missed her child so much that she fell into depression.”

“Nope,” Lana said again.

“But she took sleeping pills!” Oliv  r argued belligerently.

Lana grinned. “You get two more questions. If you still can’t get the right answer out of me, all of you will be eliminated.”

“You never told us there was a limited number of questions we could ask! Is the production crew screwing with us?” Zane gripped his hair in frustration.

At that moment he thought of something **and** asked “Mr Quinnell, didn’t **your** partner find a snel cli Get her to tell us what it is or we’ll be eliminated!”

Someone in the comment **section** **Jested**, “**Hey**, Zane’s fans, **your** baby’s a pro at emotional blackmail.

Presently, Wynter **was** reading a newspaper article containing the case details provided **by the** hospital Her gaze **darkened** as she scanned the personal information of her fellow players and drew comparisons.

Elimination was something everyone hoped to avoid. Even Almee turned to smile at Wynter as she **cajoled**, “Young lady, could you please help us out?”

As **Wynter** quickly processed whatever information she had learned, she cast her gaze on the players and said, “I don’t mind helping, but on one condition— Oliver and Zane, go out separately and walk down the

comidor.

“I’d like you both to feel how terrifying it is before coming back. Once you return, I’ll reveal the clue I found.

They should never have insulted Wynter, especially since she wasn’t a particularly forgiving person.

Oliver and Zane blanched. The latter had been hoping to needle Wynter into **giving** up the clue. But he hadn’t expected it to backfire on him.

“No!” Zane flat— out refused. He met Wynter’s sardonic gaze and clenched his fists. “This is blackmail!”

Wynter reasoned with him, “I headed down that corridor, found the clue, and got the power back on. I did

that for the team. Imagine how disappointed your fans will be if you won’t even walk down a well-lit

corridor.”

“**Don’t** give me that crap!” Zane sneered, “I can always quit if I want to.”

It wasn’t hard to see that his patience had run out. Without another word, he pressed the “help” button **and** said into the camera, “I’m backing out!”

When Zane didn’t get a response, he tapped his mic and asked, “Hello? Hello? I said I’m backing out!”

All he got in return was the sound of static.

Oliver paled at this. “What’s going on? A technical issue? Look, even the camera lights aren’t blinking

anymore!”

The only equipment that was still functioning was the guests’ body cameras.

“Wow, talk about an immersive experience!” a viewer praised.

Aimee doubted it was a technical issue. “Mr. Lyons would never allow something like this to happen.”

“All of you, shut up!” Lana was getting impatient and irate. “Now ask your last two questions!”

Zane narrowed his eyes and walked up to her, then gave her a hard shove. “I said I’m backing out! If anyone should shut up, it’s you. You’re just an NPC!”

Lana looked up at that moment and beamed at him. “Who said I was an NPC?”

Chapter 466 Getting Warmer

Lana’s words silenced Zane. The others froze as well. **Lucy**, who had been quiet throughout the ordeal, blanched and asked, “If you’re not an NPC, then what are you?”

Lana **giggled as** she shook her head and said, “Didn’t I hospital? I work here as a nurse,

say this was obvious.”

No sooner than the words leave Lana's mouth did the power in the building grow unstable.

Lana pointed out in a singsong voice, "Heads up, players! You have two minutes left to ask your questions before you're all eliminated!"

Zane's

stammered nervously, "W- What's going on here? Oliver?"

"Beats me," Oliver said, pressing his "help" button incessantly. Unfortunately, he received no response.

The only ones in the room who hadn't flown into a panic were Tobias and Wynter.

Aimee looked terrified as she grabbed Tobias' hand and pleaded, "Come on, Kina, get your partner to spill the clue so we can all figure out the case together."

Aimee might have been quiet when everyone else was singling out Tobias, but he wouldn't forget that his first audition had only been possible because of her. As such, he glanced at Wynter meaningfully.

Without objection, Wynter handed him the card Lana had given her.

Lana narrowed her eyes at this **and** warned, "Player number five, are you sure you want to do that? Giving out the clue could mean watering down your score."

"Grown-ups know better than to fight over a game score or two," Wynter quipped.

Lana frowned. This was not going according to her plans, but she couldn't break the rules now.

She mentally cursed Wynter for being so unpredictable. Adults were selfish and only looked out for themselves, so why wasn't Wynter like that?

Meanwhile, the others pored over the line on the card that read, "Everyone loves Mommy!"

Zane was no scholar despite his fancy degree from some university abroad, so he had no hope of deciphering the clue at hand.

"What does it mean?" he asked aloud.

"Maybe the woman in the story was popular, and the person who stole her baby was one of her many admirers," Cecilia guessed, going in the direction of one-sided love.

It made sense for a man who was vying for a woman's attention to go to such drastic lengths.

Oliver seconded this thought. When he saw that time was **running** out, he quickly said to Lana, "The woman's baby was stolen by one of her admirers!"

"Nope," Lana sang, her eyes gleaming with twisted excitement. "One last question!"

- Chapter 3166 **Ooting** Warmers

Zane couldn't care less about sucking up to Oliver anymore.

He grabbed the latter by his collar and **snapped**, "You **keep** asking the wrong questions ! Are you trying to throw us under the bus too?"

"..."

Oliver was shaking. He couldn't understand why things were getting so out of hand.

Lana looked gleeful. "If you can't think of any more questions, then I'll start eliminating..."

"The woman in the story was a celebrity, right?" Wynter suddenly cut her off.

Exasperated, Zane cried, "Who the hell said you could ask questions?"

He had never heard anything more ridiculous. How could the woman in the story be a celebrity?

But much to everyone's surprise, Lana said slowly, "That's right." She didn't like Wynter very much, but the game rules kept her from lashing out.

She said through gritted teeth, "Player number five has unlocked an important clue. Everyone gets half an hour extra for the game. Player number five, proceed with your questions."

Zane's jaw dropped. He couldn't believe that Wynter had got it right.

"**Gosh**... I feel bad for Zane," someone in the comments mocked.

"Number five is unbelievable! But don't you guys think the story's a little absurd? Why would a celebrity be

involved in it? someone else asked.

Just as everyone was baffled, Wynter continued asking. "The woman didn't want anyone to find out that

she aborted her child, so she bribed a doctor into keeping the procedure a secret. Am I right?"

Lana answered in a low, grave voice, "Yes."

The single word seemed to coalesce in the air,

Chapter 467 Abandoned Souls

The other guests were dumbfounded, save for Lucy, who looked like she was about to be **sick** as she hid

in the corner.

Wynter

us?”

raised a brow as she asked the most bombastic question of all, “Is the woman in the story among

Everyone gasped in front of their screens as the viewers took to the comment section to express their

shock **and** guesses. For once, Ultimate Survival was breaking streaming records for all the wrong reasons.

“I can’t even process that question right now!” a viewer typed belligerently.

“The **woman** in the story aborted her baby, and if she’s **one** of the cast members...”

“The clues said the woman was a celebrity! There are only two women there who fit that description!”

No one **had** tuned in to the variety show expecting such a scandal.

“So is it the silver-screen us

Aimee or the unassuming Lucy?”

“I bet it’s Aimee. Wasn’t she always rumored to be going out with directors at night?”

“No! It has to be Lucy! She’s been touching her belly ever since she got into the building!”

The viewers had seen every expression and gesture made by the guests on the show.

Oliver and Zane exchanged a puzzled look as Wynter asked Lana, “There’s a story hidden within this one,

Isn’t it? Do I have to reveal just the one, or both of them?”

“Both of them, of course, Lana answered, grinning. “Whether or not you’ll become the ultimate survivor

depends on the accuracy of your retelling.”

Wynter said evenly, “In the first story, the starlet was a homewrecker who got pregnant and tried to use

that as leverage to marry rich. However, the man she sought to marry turned her away despite her

pregnancy.

“When the starlet realized that her plan had failed, she decided to abort her child to maintain her good-girl image for the public.

“Unfortunately, she was too far along in her pregnancy for any mild procedure to take effect. It didn’t help

that the child was stubborn enough to resist the abortion drug she took.

“Just as she was fretting over ways to get rid of her child, she got into a car crash in a hillside area.”

Wynter added slowly, “She was finally freed of her so-called burden. That was what she called the baby she carried—a burden.

“The story we were given told us that the woman later suffered delusions and constantly scribbled notes.”

Throwing a notebook onto the floor, Wynter elaborated, “I found this in her recovery ward. She wasn’t scribbling anything of note, just constantly cursing her unborn child for being a burden that got in her way

Chapter 467 Abandoned **Souls**

of stardom and then haunting her afterward.”

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A cold look flashed in Wynter’s eyes. “Unfortunately, she forgot how she had begged to become pregnant. **in** the first place, if only so she could fulfill her dreams of marrying rich. She got rid of the child because she didn’t need it anymore.

“She didn’t know that such horrid acts had a way of coming back to her. It was only a matter of time.”

As Wynter said this, she fixed her gaze on Lana. “Children are never meant to bear the sins of their parents. No one should be deemed a burden, and no one should be deprived of unconditional love.”

Lana’s eyes widened when she heard this, and she stared at Wynter in disbelief. For a minute, she seemed lucid. Then her eyes glazed over like she was lost in her thoughts.

She lifted an arm as her lips parted. She made no sound, but Wynter knew who she was saying—parents.

Wynter **could** tell there was a greater source of anger and grudge at work here. Someone **was** using the soul of a resentful infant to wreak havoc.

The unborn child didn’t know any better. It was simply hurt, and the grudge it formed was a direct result of that. Wynter knew at once that the child was crying to her for help.

As such, she decided that it was time she punished the one who abandoned this child, and she was going to do it publicly.

“I’m guessing everyone wants to know who the starlet in question is,” Wynter said as she slowly opened up the newspaper she had been reading.

She continued gravely, “Lucy Yogi headlined the entertainment page when she missed out on the leading

role for the hit drama, “Love Conquers All, due to health reasons.”

Chapter 468 Earthbound Formation

“Lucy,” Wynter’s icy gaze snapped to Lucy.
“you didn’t turn down ‘Love Conquers All’ just because you were pregnant. You turned it down because it was a web drama and the pay was low.

“You thought you were too good for a small production like that, but you didn’t expect the show to be one of this year’s biggest hits.”

Lucy shook her head vehemently at Wynter’s accusation. “No, that’s not true!” She couldn’t admit to it. If word of it got out, her career would be ruined.

She would be banned from the industry for what she **had** done.

With all the clues Wynter had gathered, Wynter drove home her point. “The hospital has records of your getting into an accident. The doctors might have kept your pregnancy a secret, but they won’t do the same with the accident.

“Anyone who wanted to probe into the matter would eventually uncover the truth, Lucy. You can’t run

from this.”

“Miss, I don’t know what kind of grudge you have against me to keep needling me like this,” Lucy began stubbornly, “but you’re blowing the rumors way out of proportion! I told you, I didn’t do anything. I’ll take you to court for slander!”

“Go right ahead.” Wynter gave a nonchalant shrug before straightening up and turning to Lana. “Well? Aren’t you going to do something? You said players who are caught lying will be punished individually.

The abandoned souls occupying Lana’s body never expected someone to help them.

Lana’s eyes widened as she registered this, and an insidious smile tugged on her lips as she sang, “Yes, they must be punished. Lucy, come with me!”

Once Lucy left with them, she would not return. The souls might not be able to do anything to Wynter, who wielded some form of heavenly **luck**, but they could torture wrongdoers to the brink of death if they

desired.

As for Wynter and the young man who seemed adamant about protecting her, the souls decided to leave them alone. Just like that, the souls reached a consensus.

“Whoa, things are getting heated!” a viewer commented.

“Are those rumors about Lucy true? Is she really that twisted?”

“Candidate number five hasn’t made **any** mistakes **thus** far. I’m guessing Lucy’s fans will be in for a rude awakening.”

“Damn... I’m mindblown. Are the internet police watching this right now?”

The ones panicking right now were the members of the production crew.

Dexter had been notified at the very last minute that one of the guests on the show happened to be a suspect that the police had been keeping tabs on. They wanted the production crew to assist them with

Chuple: 468 Eartabound Formation

the arrest.

But for some reason, they simply couldn't get through the hospital entrance.

Meanwhile, Kaspar's fresh-faced apprentice, Maurice Ashton, was watching the variety show while eating when he saw what happened.

"Oh, no!" he exclaimed as he bolted to his feet.

Grabbing his bowl, Maurice put a hand on his hat and ran toward the tea room. "Master! Master, quick! There's an Earthbound Formation!" There was a loud bang as he ran into the door.

Inside the tea room, Kaspar and Dalton were having a pleasant conversation over tea.

Dalton was plagued with personal burdens, to say nothing of his noble destiny. Kaspar couldn't take in someone with such a vulnerable life force as his apprentice.

That said, Dalton was well-read and often came up with insights that were beyond even Kaspar's understanding. As such, Kaspar found him a delightful companion.

More importantly, Kaspar hoped he could find some clues about the person who had broken the formation the other day from Dalton.

bring up the to

He was just about to bring up the topic when Maurice interrupted them.

"Walk, don't **run**, Kaspar chastised Maurice. "And it's bad form to watch television shows while you eat. Haven't I told you many times that those who study the Arcane Way must first uphold good values? Talent can only get you so far..."

Kaspar trailed off when he saw what was on Maurice's phone. At once, he rose to his feet and stared at

the screen with wide eyes. "An Earthbound Formation!"

Chapter 469 Rapport

"Yes!" Maurice confirmed grimly, rolling over from where he had fallen and rising to his feet. "Master, the people in that building are in danger! We have to save them!"

In the past, Dalton would have dismissed an incident like this. He wasn't particularly interested in what

went on at Mt. Dragon.

However, the words “Earthbound Formation” caught his attention. His fingers tightened around his teacup as he cast a curious look at Kaspar and Maurice.

He frowned as a dark look passed over his handsome, chiseled features. “Is that Ultimate Survival?”

Kaspar demanded, “Do you know it?”

“My company is one of the sponsors,” Dalton explained as he took Maurice’s phone and enlarged the screen. “A celebrity friend of mine is a guest this season.” He had to look out for Tobias, his future brother-

in-law.

Kaspar gripped Dalton’s arm **and urged**, “Get the crew to shut down all the unmanned cameras right now

and bring me there!”

“You got it,” Dalton said, never one to dilly-dally.

Meanwhile, Dexter broke into a cold sweat when he got word that Dalton was looking for him.

“Mr. Yarwood, Kina is safe for the time being,” Dexter reassured. He was already tied up with events going on inside the hospital building as it was.

“We can’t go

have worked.”

With the strange

into the building for some reason. We’ve been trying to. But thus far, none of our methods

Dalton

was surprisingly calm. “Dismantle all the equipment outside the building. Brief me on what’s happening inside the building and the details of the original script.”

Having never seen

anything like this, Dexter explained, “We’ve already verified the identity of the NPC we hired for the show, but she suddenly lost control. Mr. Yarwood, do you think she’s the suspect the police have been looking for?”

Dalton asked the most pertinent question, “What’s the story?”

Dexter forwarded him the key footage from within the hospital building. The first thing Dalton saw when he clicked on the footage was Wynter, his fiancée with an “unassuming background.

At this point, he had gotten into the car with Kaspar and Maurice

As he settled into the privacy of the luxury car, Kaspar sensed the air around Dalton grow cold. He asked with a raised brow, “Are you upset?”

Dalton sighed. “No. I’m just worried.”

It seemed Dalton was getting more anxious than Kaspar now. But even so, he analyzed the footage.

Chapter 466 Rapport

carefully. That was when he noticed the newspaper Wynter was carrying,

He paused the footage and zoomed in on the newspaper.

The article read, “Two little girls died **after** falling into a washing machine. Their mother was too preoccupied with watching their younger brother and hadn’t heard their cries for help, while their father was cooking in the kitchen and did not hear his daughters’ screams over the sound of the cooking hood.”

Dalton’s gaze darkened at this. His eyelashes cast shadows over his chiseled cheekbones as he sent the picture of the four non–celebrity guests to the Special Operations Team.

He followed up with a message: “See if any one of the non–celebrity guests had anything to do with the news in this article.”

Kaspar had no idea what Dalton was getting up to. “Why are you looking into this?”

“It seems my fiancée is more talented than she lets on,” Dalton mused in his deep voice, plucking at his

red–beaded bracelet.

Kaspar ignored him and continued watching the variety show anxiously. He nearly cried in frustration when it cut to a commercial and cursed the platform.

Dalton, on the other hand, went on to pursue the lead he had found. It wasn’t long before the commercial

break was over.

When Lucy heard that she was going to be dragged out of the room to be punished, the blood drained

from her face.

She glanced at Oliver for help, but he snapped at her, "Don't drag us into your mess!"

Lana clutched Lucy's shoulders, and her fingers dug into the latter's skin painfully.

Next to Lucy, Yvonne watched the scene in horror and wondered if the unborn child was truly after blood this time. A chill went down her spine as **she** considered this.

As for Lucy, she gripped the door frame with newfound desperation. When her fingers began to slip, she roared, "Is it my fault for wanting to get rid of that child?"

Chapter 470 Defender of Souls

Lucy didn't think she was in the wrong at all. "Do you know how vicious showbiz is? How will I work if I have a child with me? How do you expect me to work and care for a child at the same time?"

"Do you know how many actresses are vying for my roles? They're all waiting for me to screw up so they can steal my thunder!"

Abandoning her golden-girl image, Lucy seethed. "If that child had wanted to be born, then she could have at least made it worthwhile for me!

"I had to pull strings to get an ultrasound done. Can you imagine how disappointed I was to find out I was carrying a daughter? The family of the man I was seeing wanted a son!"

She clenched her fists tightly. "They kicked me out because of that wretched baby!"

Lana laughed maniacally at Lucy's show of anger. "What did I say? Grown-ups are selfish liars!"

There was a loud crack as the camera lenses split and shattered.

Lana wrapped a hand around Lucy's neck and lifted her into the air, her eyes filled with hatred. "Since you refuse to apologize, you shall die!"

With the cameras out of commission, the audience could not see **what** was happening now. The show cut off right after Lucy admitted to having an abortion and refused to apologize for it..

At once, the topic of Lucy's former pregnancy and subsequent abortion began trending online. However, before the audience could learn more about the scandal, the screen went black. The audience flew into

panic.

"What's going on? Is it a technical issue?" one of them typed.

"Can the production crew do something? We've only just gotten to the good part!" another viewer demanded.

But the production crew was panicking harder than the audience. They would be held responsible for any casualties on set regardless of the cause. To make matters worse, there was a criminal among the guests.

Dexter was close to barging into the building and clamping a hand over Lucy's mouth himself. He couldn't believe she would rat herself out and put his and the show's reputation at risk.

Inside the children's hospital, Lana tightened her grip around Lucy's throat and hissed, "You would have made a terrible mother. If the world is as cruel as you, we don't want any of it!"

Lucy's feet had been lifted off the floor, **and** she was flailing her arms wildly in the air.

Yvonne screamed, "Lucy! Someone help her!"

However, none of the others dared to move. As Zane and Oliver were standing closest to Lana, they could see her shadow under the lights.

Chapter 470 Defender of Soul

However, the shadow didn't take the form of a woman. Instead, it was a cluster of moving silhouettes.

"What the hell is that?" Zane demanded loudly as he covered his mouth and came close to tears. "What is the production crew playing at?"

Oliver staggered back and fell onto the floor.

Tobias, on the other hand, saw no strange shadows. All he focused on was protecting his partner. But just as he was about to pull her behind him, Wynter moved out of his way.

She moved so quickly that she materialized in front of Lana in the blink of an eye.

Lana gazed at her with bloodshot **eyes** and hissed, "Are you going **to** stop us too?"

“She is not the person whom you seek vengeance on,” Wynter pointed out calmly. “Put her down and I’ll show you how we grown-ups play our games.”

Lana’s hateful voice suddenly changed. When she spoke again, it was as if multiple children were **crying**

out, “You’re lying! Grown-ups are all liars!”

“You’re doing her a favor by killing her since all she wants is fame and power,” Wynter clarified, reaching

out to grab Lana. “You should let her live so that she’d suffer public humiliation. Don’t you want her to fall from grace?”

A dark look glazed over Wynter’s eyes as she continued, “You won’t be doing yourself any good by killing

her. Even souls can’t be redeemed after committing such a grave sin. There’s a **child** among you who

called out to me.

“I believe there’s something that ties the both of us together. If that’s the case, I’m obligated to protect him.” Wynter’s dark hair was like glossy black velvet in the light. “I cannot let him commit such a grave sin.

As she said this, she loosened her grip on Lana.

“How fortunate for you to have someone protect you.” Lana’s face twisted with envy and malice, the hate in her eyes intensifying. “But who will protect **us?**”

She glowered at Wynter mutinously as her cluster of shadows grew larger. “Are you saying we deserved this abandonment? What do you know of our suffering?”