

Unwanted Girl Spoiled by Billionaire – c 211-220

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Chapter 211

attending physician

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for the prison didn't come from the prescription itself, but rather from a separate highly ton
of the prisoning

Everyone started to get boisy again after

The attending physar

alked over to Bennent praising him. "Thanks to for Androns help, we could sparkly identity the
riile fine Abdough, the amenint of prosti ingested **was** juure high, most of it had already been
expelled. Moreover your

unracelent. The boain hasnt spread throughout his Beady. As long as Mr. Anderson taku

"Then 11) leave it to you. De Whate, Bennett smiled

treatment plan in place, for. White went to the ward.

berly saw Dr White, the immediately rushed over to him, her eyes filled with trans "Der White,
please, you have to save my

Dr. White comforted her, saying "Mrs. Anderson, please don't worry. We will do everything we can
to treat Mr. Anderson. The antidote is ready. and once administered, he should wake up very soon."

Kimberly cried tears of joy again when she heard this. "Thank you so much, Dr. White?"

ut we re here for Dr. White said.

At this moment, Charlie, the third son of the Anderson family, stepped forward and looked at Dr.
White, asking. "Dr. White, have you found out the rause of my father's condition! Was it the
prescription, or was it something else?"

Dr. White glanced the entire Anderson family, then looked at Vincent lying in the bed, and said, "Let's discuss this outside. We shouldn't disturb

Mr. Anderson right now

Sure" Thus, the group of people left the **ward**.

Leis followed behind, feeling a little nervous

"They probably wouldn't suspect me, right?" she thought.

Once outside, Dr. White began discussing Vincent's poisoning with the Anderson **family**.

"After a preliminary diagnosis, Mr. Anderson was poisoned by a type of neurotoxin, which isn't a characteristic of any substance in the

"Dora that morose it was poisoning?" At this moment. Eli said fiercely.

Teia was slackened by

Her heart trembled as she stammered to die. While, "Dr. White, have you confirmed that there's no problem with the prescription! Didn't you say that you've never seen this prescription before?"

"Uh, that's right. The prescription is still under study, Dr. White said.

sure that the poison didn't come from the prescription? Leia countered.

"Then here can you

However, Dr. White could not help but laugh, saying "Ms. Anderson, this thanks to your father, Dr. Anderson. He was the one **who** told us about the Arelerinas symptom, so we were able to discover the cause of the rash so quickly. The composition of the poison was something that

can confirm that it's not the prescription"

alright sor." Lada's heart sank when she heard that

She glanced towards Hemmett, unable to hold back a muttered tune, thinking,

Ing. "Bennett, damn it. Why did he have to say so much? Oh no! I

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wouldn't be found out, would it?"

"Someone must have deliberately poisoned him! And they wanted to frame Noelle!" Eli made the final decision.

Curbe shot him a glance and retorted. “But who would poison Dad’s medicine!”

“Could could it be Mana” Lea whispered, “She’s the one who prepared the medicine. She’s the most likely to have poisoned it.”

“How could it be Maria? Eli immediately refuted. “In a case like this, the person who prepares the medicine is always the first suspect. Maria has no grudge against Dad. Why would she poison him?”

“Who else could it be? Who else went there when Maria was preparing the medicine?” Leia bit her lip and said in a low voice,

“Of course, we need to question

Maria! And then check

the surveillance footage!”

1* Eli said,

“Mm... Yes, check the surveillance footage and the truth will be revealed. Leia forced a dry laugh, her heart sinking again.

She had poisoned the medicine during the power outage **at** the villa.

At that time, no one knew she had gone downstairs. Even if they checked the surveillance footage, they wouldn’t find anything on her.

With this thought in mind, Leia couldn’t help but feel **a** wave of relief.

Fortunately, the power was out when she went downstairs. Otherwise, she would be in danger.

Feeling sure she was in the clear, Leia joined in, saying. “Eli, we **have** to catch the culprit this time. Otherwise, Dad will be too pitiful.”

On the other hand, Kimberly, who was usually gentle and soft-spoken, couldn’t hide the rare flicker of coldness that appeared on her face

She grinned her teeth and said. “If I find out who poisoned your father, I won’t let her have **an** easy time!”

Leia was taken aback by Kimberly’s expression

She quickly forced another dry laugh **and** said, “Mom, **don’t worry**. We’ll catch the culprit!”

Kimberly nodded, her voice firm. “Mm, you must catch the culprit and bring justice for your father”

After that, Kimberly stayed at the hospital, continuing to **take** care of Vincent.

The rest of the family returned home to check the surveillance footage, determined to catch the **person** who had poisoned Vincent.

They asked Mana about who had been to the kitchen last night

Maria listed the people one by **one**.

Quite a few people had been to the kitchen last night—four in total.

However, three of them never came close to the medicine stove. One, though, **had walked** over to the **stove** while Maria went to the toilet. Due to a **blind spot** in the surveillance footage, **they** could only see him open the stove, but couldn't tell what exactly he **had** done to it

Seeing this, Leia insisted **that it was** that **person** who **poisoned** Vincent. "It's him! He must have poisoned the medicine!"

As soon as these words were spoken, the servant immediately shouted in protest, saying, "Ms. Anderson, I **didn't** poison Mr. Anderson! I have no **grievance** with him. Why would I poison him?"

ni **Lela asked**.

"If it **wasn't** you, why did you approach the stove and open it?"

"I only opened it to check because Maria **went** to the toilet, and I was **worried** the medicine would burn!"

At this moment, **Maria quickly spoke** up in defense, saying, "Ms. Anderson, my husband has worked diligently for the Anderson family. How could he possibly poison Mr Anderson? He's helped me check the **stove** before and he's never mentioned anything about poisoning!"

Maria and that person were **husband** and wife.

Both of them worked together for the Anderson family.

lery shows what **happened**, and you're

Leia steered, "You're a married couple, of **course**, you're covering for each other. The surveillance footage clearly **shows** still trying to deny it

Seeing Lela **was** adamantly **accusing** them of poisoning. Maria and her husband shouted in protest that they were innocent.

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To make matters worse, while investigating the couple's possible motive, they actually uncovered some suspicious detaile

nother couple

The couple had previously complained about their wages, being low issue had never been resolved, and the other servants often overheard Maria and her husband grumbling about their pay

e burder. Howrse

“See! I knew it was you two! How could you be so cruel!” Leia’s heart surged with triumph as she listened to the investigation results

Now, all the thought about was finding a scapegoat to take the fall for this

Hence, Leia launched into a tirade against Maria and her husband, “What has the Anderson family ever done to mistreat you? We’ve given you bonuses during holidays, yet because you’re jealous of others’ higher pay, you poisoned my father! Have you no conscience as it been eaten by dogs?”

“Wrongfully accused! Ms. Anderson, we didn’t poison anyone! We didn’t!” The couple, terrified, dropped to their knees, begging Lea

They cried with snot **and** tears, saying “We’re both honest people. Although we had complaints about the young master’s pay, we never thought of poisoning anyone! This is all a lie! **A** lie!”

Leia remained unmoved, continuing to sneer coldly. “The evidence is right in front of you, and you’re still pretending? Do you think we’re idiots?”

Then she turned to her brothers and said, “Damon, these two are the ones who poisoned Dad! Hurry up and send them to the police station, and

get justice for Dad”

Damon and the others seemed to be thinking about something after hearing this

No one li

listened to Leia

Just then, Noelle, who had been very quiet, suddenly spoke up. She fixed her gaze firmly on Leia and said. “The culprit might not necessarily be them, right!”

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Leia spun around to face Noelle

Feeling guilty, she accused, her voice rising a few notches. “Noelle, are you trying to defend the murderers? How can you let Dad down like this? He’s been so good to you, yet you want to let the culprits get **away** with it!”

Noelle retorted sharply. “No, I’m raising questions to find the real murderer”

“Hey, what do you mean? Leia choked out, taken aback.

Noelle continued, “During the power outage last night, the surveillance dutut capture whether anyone went to the kitchery Maria claimed she went to check the circuit with the electrician. Maybe someone took that opportunity to poisom Dad”

At Noelle’s words, Leia’s guilt intensified. She was the one who **had** used the power outage as a cover to **poison** Vincent. But there was no way she could admit it.

Her face twitched as **she said**, “Noelle, the power outage was so brief. How could anyone have used that time to prison him” It’s obvious that Maria and her husband, harboring resentment **against** Dad, are the ones who poisoned him.”

Maria, feeling cornered by Leia’s insistence, exploded in anger. “Leia, that’s going too far. You’re the one who should be suspected”

“What do you mean?” Leia’s face turned pale..

Maria shouted, “Ever since Noelle **came** back, you’ve been nothing but **jealous** and discontented. **Mr.** Anderson scolded you just a few days ago. Your motive is far stronger than ours.”

“Shut up!” Leia’s face turned beet red with rage. She gritted her teeth and said, “You’re lying. How could I poison Dad? They raised me for over a **decade**. How could I poison my own father out of a little resentment?

“Besides, we’ve already reconciled. How **dare** you slander me? I’ll sue you for defamation.

Maria, intimidated by Leia’s threat, wilted again and began to cry, claiming they were wronged.

At that moment, Eli chimed in, “It’s true that we can’t rule out the possibility that someone poisoned him during the power outage. But that widens the pool of suspects and makes it harder to investigate.

Curly added. “We’ve **already** determined that the **poison** Dad was given **is** a controlled substance, right! It’s not something an ordinary person can get their hands on. I heard **from** Bennett that this drug is strictly regulated and requires real-name registration for purchase”

Seeing everyone starting to doubt her, Leia, fearing she would be the next suspect, forced **an** awkward smile and **said**, “Hey, I knew it. Bennett is a doctor. He should **have** access to those drugs, right?”

Eli glanced at Lela and said, “So, you think Bennett poisoned Dad?”

“I.. I didn’t **say** that” **Leia** shrank back, lowering her voice. “But Bennett does have the easiest access **to** the drugs. Besides, Bennett **is** kind of eccentric. Sometimes I **have** no idea what he’s thinking”

To protect herself, Leia **was** ready to abandon Hennen, even though he had been the kindest to her at the moment.

Damon, however, spoke up. That's impossible. When **Maria was** preparing the drugs, **Bennett** was with me the whole time. He didn't have a chance to poison **Dad.**"

"Is that **so!**" Leia forced another awkward smile. "Damon, I'm just pointing out that he had access to the **drugs**. I didn't **say** Bennett **was** the murderer. Don't misunderstand me"

Eli shot her a cold look and said sarcastically, "Good thing Bennett

nett **isn't** here right now, or he'd be heartbroken to hear this"

Eli's side **remark** made Leia feel wronged. She couldn't help but lower her head, feeling wronged. "Why does Eli always target me? What **have** I done to offend him she thought to herself

For a moment, everyone was at **an** impasse.

At that moment, Kimberly rushed back in. **As soon as** she reached the doorway, she demanded fiercely. "I heard you found the murderer. Who is

"Mom, you're back!" Leia **quickly** approached Kimberly and **said**, "Maria and her husband was acting suspiciously in the kitchen, lifting the lid.

did it. We just

We just checked the surveillance. Maria's husband

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"Our investigation revealed that they've been dissatisfied with the Anderson family for a long time, thinking their wages were too low. They harbored resentment against Dad and wanted to get back at him."

At this, Kimberly's gaze immediately fell on Maria and her husband.

Maria and her husband burst into tears, protesting their innocence. "Mrs. Anderson, it wasn't us. We've worked for the Anderson family for nearly a decade, always behaving well. How could we poison **anyone!** Leia is framing us."

Leia gritted her teeth. "At a time like this, you still want to lie your way out

Kimberly **cast a** cold glance at Maria, her **usual** gentleness gone. She asked in a chilling voice, "Maria, did you really poison him?"

"Mrs. Anderson, no, it wasn't us" Maria wailed miserably.

Anger flaring. Maria cursed fiercely. It really **wasn't** us. Who the hell is framing us? Damn you to hell! I'll tear you apart limb by limb! You'll never see the light of **day again!** May you rot in the **deepest** pit of despair, you son of a bitch!"

Upon hearing **Maria's** wild cursing. Let's face turned ashen with rage. She trembled all over, unable to control her agitation, and screeched, "Take these two to the police station. Execute them. People like them deserve to die."

"Leia?" Seeing

gotten into you?"

ng Leia more agitated than her. Kimberly quickly moved to restrain her. "Calm down. What's go Leia **realized** she was overreacting and immediately burst into tears. "Mom. I'm just so furious. Maria and her husband poisoned Dad, but they refuse to admit it. They're outrageous. Every time I think about Dad lying in the hospital bed, I can't **bear** in

"It's okay. Don't worry. Your dad **has** woken up. Though he's still very weak, at least he's out of danger," said Kimberly

"Really! Mom, I'm so relieved" Lela covered her face with her hands, tears streaming down in a mixture of joy and relief.

Kimberly turned **back** to Maria and her husband and ordered sternly. "Take them to the police **station**"

"No. Mrs. Anderson, it really wasn't us" **Maria** cried out again, terrified at the prospect of being taken to the police station.

At that moment, Noelle stepped forward **and** said to Kimberly, "**Mom**, I think this whole thing is fishy. The culprits might not be Maria. I suggest we investigate further what happened **during** the power outage.

"During the power outage Kimberly was taken aback

Before Kimberly could fully grasp the situation, Lela snapped at Noelle, "Noelle! Why are you trying to protect Maria and her husband! It's obvious they're the poisoners, but you insist there's someone else. What are **you** even trying to do?"

Noelle gave Leia a cold **stare** and retorted, "Because I don't want Dad's poisoning **to** remain a mystery. Hey, Leia, aren't you overreacting a bit?" "No." Leia was left speechless once again.

She sniffed back her tears, which rolled down her cheeks, and said with a sense of grievance, "I'm just worried about Dad. Now that we've found the culprits. Em angry, and that's why I'm so emotional.

"Whats

wrong with **that?** Noelle, I know you're cold-**hearted**. I'm worried about him, **and** that's why I can't control my emotions. Isn't that normal!" Seeing Leia still pretending! Noelle felt a lump of frustration in her chest and decided not to hold back any longer.

She confronted Leia directly. "Then can you explain why you down there when the lights went out?"

As soon **as** Noelle spoke, all eyes in the **room** turned to Leia.

u came upstairs from the basement during the power outage! What were you doing

Leia went downstairs during the power outage! Everyone thought to themselves, utterly astonished.

Leia immediately panicked. Seeing all eyes on her, her face turned pale **as** she exclaimed to Noelle, "Noelle, what are you talking about? When did I go downstairs! I was wondering why you were at the staircase.

"Are you trying to frame me because you were the one who went down and now you're afraid of getting caught?"

was pitch dark, and the surveillance was completely down. No one can prove I went downstairs, Leia thought to herself.

In contrast, Leia now tried to turn the tables on Noelle. After all, Noelle couldn't prove that she hadn't gone downstairs either.

Noelle's face darkened as she was suppressing a surge of anger. She said to Lela, "Leia, how dare you deny your actions? You know very well whether

you went downstairs or not"

TI say it again. I didn't go!" Leia became agitated. 'Noelle, I thought of you as a sister, but you're always trying to frame me. What's your real intention! You just want the murderer to be me so you can get rid of me, don't you?"

"If I wanted to get rid of you, would I need to go through all this trouble?" Noelle's emotions were now unstable. Because Lea kept lying, Noelle's anger was reaching its peak

In the blink of an eye, Noelle was right in front of Leia. She grabbed Leia's neck with one hand, her eyes filled with murderous intent as she growled. "You went downstairs to poison Dad's medicine, didn't **you**? Do you think I'm stupid? I can tell whether you went downstairs or upstairs."

Once again. Leia screamed in terror as Noelle grabbed her neck. She struggled desperately and cried out to Kimberly, who was stunned on the side, "Mom, help me. Noelle is trying to kill me. **Save** me!"

Only then did Kimberly snap out of her daze. She quickly moved forward and grabbed Noelle's **hand**, exclaiming, "Noelle, what are you doing? I go of Leia right now.""

Noelle didn't let go. She turned to Kimberly and said sternly, "Mom, you've been deceived by her. Leia is just pretending to be innocent. She's the one who poisoned Dad. She went **downstairs** during the power outage."

"I didn't. I never went downstairs." Leis denied desperately, tears and snot streaming down her face **as** she **screamed**, "Help! Help, someone's trying

The Anderson family's servants were all stunned. The two daughters of the Anderson family were now in a **physical** fight, and no one dared to step

If they did, **and** Leia later accused them of **taking** advantage of her, they would never be able to explain themselves clearly.

At that moment, a hand suddenly grabbed Noelle's wrist, which **was** around Leia's neck. "Noelle, let go, came the voice. Noelle turned to see Damon restraining her.

In **that** instant, Noelle felt an overwhelming sense of disappointment. Is Damon still going **to take** Leia's side **at a time** like this? Leia is the one who harmed Dad Dad coughed up so much blood and barely made it out of **danger**. How **can** Damon be so blind" Noelle thought to herself.

In the past, when Damon sided with Leia, Noelle never really minded or felt angry. Now for some reason, seeing Damon take Leia's side now made her extremely unhappy and even dislike Damon

Meanwhile, at the Atoraka-Nowedon Laboratory headquarters, in front of the **massive** detection equipment, the technicians noticed that Noelle's emotional fluctuations were extremely intense. They immediately reported the situation to the researchers

In no time, a group

a group of people gathered

"The emotional line representing familial bonds is fluctuating violently. What happened? When did the experimental subject's familial ties reach such an emotional peak? our researcher exclaimed in delight.

The value was now very close to the familial threshold of a normal family. In fact, at this point, they could basically start conducting emotional tests on the experimental subject, Noelle

"Mr Jones, the familial bond has been established exceptionally well. In the past, Noelle's emotional fluctuations were never this intense. This is time to the values of a normal person," Reid said excitedly to Brandon.

Brandon's gaze was fixed on the massive display screen. A faint smile played at the corners of his lips, but his handsome face betrayed intense emotion. Everything seemed to be unfolding as he had anticipated.

wasn't enough. For an emotional test.

As expected, as soon as Bennett appeared, Leia's emotions underwent a significant change. However, it still wasn't the deeper the bond, the more valuable the text would be

He smiled at the others and said, "It's just about average. Keep monitoring. Report to me when her emotional threshold

"Yes, sir." Brandon nodded.

At the Anderson family residence, even after Damon intervened, Noelle still hadn't let go of Leia. She continued to clutch Leia's neck and told Damon, "Damon, are you going to take Leia's side no matter what? She's the real culprit?"

"Damon, save me" Leia cried out, clinging to him as if he were her savior

Damon didn't **look** at Leia. He kept his eyes on Noelle and said, "Whether want to go to **jail**?"

Whether the culprit or not, do you really plan to kill her right here? De pre

At that, Noelle paused slightly. Damon was right. In the past, whenever Noelle had killed, it had always been in secret, eliminating her targets without anyone knowing. She had never killed in front of so many witnesses. It was impossible for her to eliminate the eyewitnesses.

Sensing Noelle's hesitation, **Damon** pried her fingers off Leia's neck one by one. He sounded somewhat exasperated you stop acting impulsively! The family **is** already in chaos, and we don't have the energy to deal with you right now! Hearing **Damon's** tone, Noelle suddenly felt a strange sensation.

I know youuu're angry, but can

Whether it was her imagination or not, she felt that Damon didn't seem to be taking Leia's side. In fact, the thought he was actu

situation

No **way**. **Leia is** in such a precarious position right now. Damon **should** be biased toward her, right? How could Noelle thought in herself.

Noelle stared intently at Damon, her eyes clear and piercing, **as** if trying to see through his thoughts.

Damon suddenly felt uncomfortable and frowned. "Why are you staring at me like that?"

"Can't I?" Noelle blinked and retorted.

was actually considering her

she ca

care more about my s

At that moment. Leia, who had just escaped **danger**, was still shaken. She clung to Damon and burst into tears. “Damon, Noelle tried to kill me. I’m so scared. She must be the one who poisoned Dad. She’s a murderer.”

Damon didn’t respond to Leia’s accusations. In fact, this time he didn’t even hug her and offer comforting words. He just looked down at Leia **as** she cried, his expression and gaze complicated.

Seeing Leia, who had poisoned their father but **refused** to admit it and even acted like a victim, Noelle **was** so furious that she wanted to tear her **apart** on the spot.

She said angrily, “Leia, stop pretending. You’re the **one** who poisoned **Dad**. Since there’s no **surveillance**, let’s check for fingerprints. You must have lifted the lid when you poisoned him, so your fingerprints will be there.”

Hearing this, Leia panicked again.

where everyone goes in and mut. So what if there are my fingerprints!

She cried out, “Noelle, you’re being ridiculous. The kitchen is a place wh

“**You’ve** been in the kitchen too. **Can you** guarantee that there are no fingerprints of **yours** on the utensils Can’t you just let it go? I’ve already apologized to you. Why are you still holding on to **this?**”

After **saying** this, she seemned to be overwhelmed and began to sway and fall.

Leia!” Kimberly, who was nearby, quickly caught her **as** Leia seemed about to faint.

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Kimberly’s emotions were in turmoil.

Looking at Leia’s tear-streaked face, she found it hard to believe that their adopted daughter of over a decade would poison Vincent. After all, they had never neglected her in all these years.

Even after Noelle returned, they hadn’t cut back on anything they provided for Leia.

And despite the occasional arguments, where Vincent Isaid scolded Leia **a** few times, they had eventually reconciled.

Kimberly couldn’t fathom why Leia would suddenly decide to poison Vincent. It was something she simply couldn’t accep

In her mind, no person with a conscience could commit **such** a heinous act. After a moment of contemplation, Kimberly turned to Noelle and asked “Noelle. are you sure! Did Leia really go downstairs during the power outage?”

“Positive,” Noelle replied firmly, nodding. I can tell whether she came upstairs from downstairs or went downstairs from **upstairs**. She was in a panic when she ran upstairs.”

“No, I didn’t. Leia’s emotions flared up again. Her eyes were red, and **tears** streamed down her cheeks **as** she screamed at Noelle, “Why are you **framing** me! I never went downstairs. Just because there’s **no** surveillance, you’re making things up, right?”

“If you really want to kill me, just do it. There’s no need to pin such an outrageous crime on me. Even in death, I’ll die with a clear conscience and won’t let you tarnish my reputation.”

“You’re still denying it Noelle said, her eyes flashing with anger and a murderous intent bubbling beneath the surface. “If you **don’t** believe me, let’s check for fingerprints. There will definitely be yours on the lid.”

“Are you ever going to stop?” Leia screeched at the mention of fingerprints. “So what if there are my fingerprints? Who knows when they were left? Lots of **people** have touched the lid. How can you be so certain it was me who poisoned it? You’re **just** trying to frame me. Noelle, you’re truly malicious.”

After her outburst, Leia turned to Kimberly and tearfully said, “Mom, I know there’s no way I **can** explain myself clearly now. Without surveillance, it all depends on Noelle’s word. In that case, I might **as** well die.”

With **that**, Leia lunged toward the door frame **and** slammed her head into it. There was **a** loud thud, and Leia collapsed to the ground, limp and unresponsive.

“No, Leia!” Kimberly was horrified to see **Leia’s** desperate attempt at self-harm. She rushed over and caught Leia before she hit the ground. The other Anderson **siblings** were also stunned. None of them had expected Leia to resort to such a drastic act to prove her innocence.

“Isn’t she overreacting?” Eli whispered to Charlie. Charlie frowned but remained silent. They had been on the fence the entire time. Noelle was adamant that Leia was the poisoner. Eli found it hard to believe that Leia would go so far as to poison their father, although he was now favoring Noelle.

After all, their father had nearly died, and there were no deep-seated grudges between the Anderson family and Leia, just minor quarrels and friction. It seemed too extreme to think that Leia would resort to poisoning.

However, Noelle was insistent, and Eli didn’t know which side to take, so he chose to **stay** quiet. Charlie felt the same way.

He trusted Noelle and didn’t think she would deliberately frame Leia, but he also couldn’t bring himself to believe that Leia would poison their father over a trivial matter. However, **Leia’s** attempt to kill herself was certainly unexpected.

Charlie thought there were probably two possibilities. Either Leia truly felt wronged and wanted to die to prove her innocence, or she was guilty and trying to cover up the truth with a suicide attempt. But which one was it! Charlie couldn't be sure

Leia, why are you so foolish shouted Kimberly.

Kimberly saw the large bump on Leia's forehead, with blood streaming down. In moments, half of Lela's face was stained red.

For a moment, the maternal bond of over a decade overcame reason. Kimberly's heart ached **as she** said, "I believe you. **Okay?** Don't do anything Toplish again

Lela was sobbing uncontrollably, crying out, "Mom, I'm so miserable. What have I **done** wrong! All I wanted **was to stay** here peacefully, but Noelle won't let me. Why?"

As she spoke, she coughed a few times, looking like **she was** about to

collapse. Kimberly was **frantic** with worry, saying "**Lela**, don't think like that. I

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know you're innocent?

Then Kimberly turned to Noelle and said. "Noelle, stop saying that Leia is the culprit. She's already tried to kill herself. Isn't **that** p her innocence Stop it. Please"

Noelle suddenly became furious after hearing this

proof enough of

Of course, the crying baby gets the candy. Leia just bumped her head and shed a little blood, and Morn starts feeling sorry for her, ignoring the truth she wondered.

She retorted indignantly, "Mom, she really is the murderer. If she wanted to die, why didn't she hit her head harder? Shedding just a little blood and

calling it suicide?"

"But..." Kimberly was speechless, unsure of what to say,

Leia, on the other hand, was trembling with **rage**. She screamed at Noelle, "You just want me dead, don't you! Noelle, you heartless woman. How can you be like this? Fine. If you think I'm faking it, I'll die for real this time. Even if I die, I won't let you off the hook!

With that, Leia **made** another move to slam her **head** against the door. But Kimberly wouldn't let her do it again, he quickly restrained Leia, saying. "Leia, calm down Noelle was just angry. Don't be impulsive."

"Mom, I don't want to live anymore. Let me die. Noelle clearly doesn't want me alive. She just wants me dead, Leia said.

"Don't be impulsive, Leia, Kimberly pleaded, struggling to hold her back. I'll **make** Noelle apologize, okay? Don't try to kill yourself" Then Kimberly turned to Noelle again, urging, "Noelle, apologize to Leia."

posture rigid. "Unless she really kills herself, she's ju

s just puning on a show

"I won't apologize. Noelle stood firm, her p

"Why are you being so stubborn? Kimberly was at her wit's end. She couldn't choose between her two daughters.

Leia, seeing that Noelle wouldn't **even** apologize, was consumed with anger. She was determined to stand her ground against Noelle today.

"If Noelle won't apologize, I'd rather die than let her **off** the hook. Even in death, I'll drag her down with me, Leia thought to herself.

"Fine. Noelle, I'll die right here" Leia said fiercely, making another move toward the door.

Kimberly

y was shouting at the servants to hold Leia back while also trying to get Noelle to apologize. The entire hall was in chaos.

And then, in the midst of the turmoil, one of the servants, who **had a sharp** eye, spotted someone outside the door and suddenly shouted, "Bennett's back!"

Everyone instinctively turned to look outside. Bennett **was** rushing toward their

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The moment Leia saw Bennett, she forgot all about her crying **and** desperate attempts at self-harm. Her heart began to race wildly, and **a** sense of foreboding suddenly washed over her.

"Bennet, where have you been? Why are you just getting back now?" As soon as Bennett entered, Eli and his brothers immediately gathered around and **asked**.

Earlier, when Bennett had left the Anderson family on their way back from the hospital, he had mentioned he had something to take care of. It was only now that he had returned.

Bennett's handsome face wore a faint smile as he said, "I remembered some suspicious details while I was at the hospital, so I went to investigate."

"Suspicious details! The brothers exchanged puzzled glances

Noelle was also staring at Bennett. He had previously mentioned that it wouldn't be a poisoning incident had occurred.

It took a long time to drive Leia out of the Anderson family, and then the

Noelle believed Bennett must

know **something**

she **was** puzzled.

This is a poisoning case. If not handled properly, Dad could have died. Leia is a bad **person** and might be capable of such a thing. But **could** Bennett really be heartless enough to let Dad be poisoned? she wondered.

At that moment, Bennett's gaze fell on Noelle. He smiled when **he** saw her, walked over, and gently patted her head with a **tone** of affection, asking, "Why are your eyes red? Who upset you, huh?"

Noelle felt a bit uncomfortable seeing Bennett laugh at a **time** like this. She removed his hand from her head, turned her face away, and ignored

him.

Bennett didn't seem to mind, lowering his hand and maintaining his gentle, brotherly smile.

Leia watched all of this unfold, and her sense of foreboding grew stronger. Why is Bennett being **so** nice to Noelle? Didn't he see that I'm injured and bleeding? Noelle just has red eyes from anger, and he rushes over to comfort her. But I almost died. Is he blind? she thought.

Moreover, Bennett's mention of investigating some suspicious details had caught Leia's attention. What exactly did he investigate! Could it be about the poison? she wondered.

Feeling too guilty to stay silent, Leia approached Bennett and greeted him. "Hey, Bennett, what did you investigate? Is it related to Dad's poisoning?"

Bennett turned **his** head upon hearing her voice. Seeing her staring **at** him with wide **eyes**, he curved his lips into an ambiguous smile and replied. "Yeah, I was investigating **Dad's** poisoning."

At **that**, Leia's heart plummeted. Her face twitched as she looked at Bennett and asked, her eyes growing more desperate, "So, what did you find

Upon seeing Leia's near-hysterical anxiety, Bennett's **mischievous** side **began** to surface. Instead of being straightforward, he smiled at her and said **ambiguously**, "Right, **what** did I find out? Leia, **what** do you think I **discovered**? You're so **nart**; **you** must be able to guess something, right?"

The words nearly gave Leia a heart attack. She **was** out the verge of tears, clutching Bennett's hand tightly, her heart almost in her throat, and said,

"What's the matter?" Bennett smiled even brighter and **said** gently, "Just **say** it."

Leia was almost certain that Bennett had found evidence of her obtaining the poison, but she couldn't understand why he **was** acting this way.

Still not willing to give up, Leia clung to Bennett's hand, hoping that he would let her off the hook for the **sake of** their **years** of sibling bond.

"Icament said I'm his best sister. He's always been so gentle with me. Every time he buys gifts, he only gets one for me. He's been so good. He should let me off the hook this once, right? Leia thought to herself

The atmosphere between Bennett and Leia was strange.

Just moments ago, Leia had been on the verge of suicide, but now that she saw Bennett, she clung to him desperately, looking **terrified**

The rest of the Anderson family **couldn't** understand what was going on.

Eli spoke up. "Bennett, you investigated for **poisoning**? Did you find **anything**? Any leads on the culprit?"

As soon as Eli asked, Leia immediately turned to look at him nervously, wishing she could strangle him.

Chapter 215

Damn! Shut up, you bastard! Leia thought bitterly.

"Yeah, I know who the culprit is" Bennett replied.

eyes

widened in horror as she **looked** at him. Bennett was still looking at her, his expression as gentle as ever, eyes that made her feel like she was in an icebox.

but there **was** a coldness in his

"Hey, Leia. I'm really disappointed in you," Bennett said, and it felt like a death sentence to Leia. Her heart clenched painfully.

Her eyes widened in disbelief as she stared at Bennett. "B-Bennett, you

Bennett gently pried Leia's fingers from his arm one by one, then looked at her with utter disappointment. "You're the one who poisoned Dad, aren't

His words **hit** the Anderson family like a bomb, sending shockwaves through everyone present.

“Bennett, what are you saying? Leia is the culprit?” Kimberly’s mind was reeling, unable to believe her ears

‘Bennett is saying

Leia poisoned her father? How could that be possible! Kimberly thought.

“Bennett, are you serious? Leia did it!” Eli was equally stunned, demanding an explanation.

Charlie quietly glanced at Leis. It was hard to believe, but if Bennett **said** so, it was almost certain that Leia was the culprit

Damon said nothing. He hung his head, his hands clenched into fists, his expression one of deep **pain** and struggle as if he had known all along but was unwilling to accept it

In fact, Damon had suspected Leia from the beginning but needed someone to break the silence. Now Bennett had laid the truth bare for everyone

to SEL.

‘It’s over. There’s no turning **back** now; Damon thought miserably.

“No, it’s not me. I **didn’t** do it,” Leis finally snapped out of her shock **and** began shaking her head frantically.

you say you loved me the most! How

She lunged at Bennett again, screaming “Bennett, how could you frame me like this? I’m your sister. Didn’t you could you team up with Noelle to hurt met Why are you doing this?”

Lela’s cries were heart-wrenching, and anyone who saw her might **have** felt a pang of sympathy. But Bennett was never one to empathize with others. His heart was colder than anyone else’s, utterly ruthless,

Since Leia loves to play the victim, I’ll play along. Bennett thought to himself.

With a feigned look of sorrow, Bennett continued, “Lela, are you still pretending at a time like this? Remember that day when I went to the lab for overtime? You were there too, weren’t you? I told you not to touch the chemicals in the lab, so why did you **take** the poison?”

He went on. “When Dad was poisoned. I noticed the symptoms matched the **missing** chemicals from the lab, I checked the surveillance and, sure enough, it was you who took the poison. I trusted you, Leia.

“I always thought of you as my favorite sister. Hut you betrayed my **trust** and tried to harm iny father. How could you let me down! I really thought I knew **you!**

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Bennett laid out the truth, word by word sentence by sentence.

The color drained from **Leia's** face with each revelation.

The rest of the Anderson family listened, their understanding a mix of clarity and confusion. Eli, ever impatient, blurted out, "Hennett, what are you talking about? What lab? What drugs?"

Bennett turned to Eli, maintaining his sorrowful expression. "It was the day Leia decided to reconcile with Noelle. They were supposed to have a class that evening but skipped it and came back home. Dad scolded Leis for it, and the stormed out."

He continued. "When I went after her, I had some work-related issues, so I brought her to my labs, where I stored some dangerous chemicals. her to stay put and not touch anything, but she secretly took the poison hack with her.

"The symptoms Dad showed today matched the effects of that drug. I grew suspicious and checked the surveillance etage. Some enough. I saw her take the poison Bennett explained

cling strangely? She madenly decideil to

(reality, she had already planned

Turning to **his** mother, Kimberly, Bennett added, "Mom, do you remember that day when I said Leia was come back and apologize to all of us after just a short visit to the lab. We thought she had a change of hear, bi to poison Dad"

Bennett presented Leia's motive, her suspicious behavior, and the evidence of the poison, all laid bare before everyone.

Even with an Oscar-worthy performance and a hundred reasons to speak, Leia couldn't clear her name now

"It's over. Everything is truly ruined, she thought.

Pale and terrified. Leia felt the weight of everyone's gaze. She feared losing the life of luxury she had always known, the ridicule and contempt she would face, and the possibility of going to jail

After a moment of contemplation, she decided to turn to the softest and kindest heart in the room, her mother, Kimberly

Leia spun around and threw herself at Kimberly's feet, sobbing and begging for mercy. "Mom, Im wrong. I know I'm wrong. It's my fault. [1] change. Please, Mom, forgive me this oner...

Kimberly was in a daze. Until Bennett revealed the truth, she still believed in her daughter.

Despite their recent friction, the Anderson family had never mistreated Leia. They had shared over a decade of love and care. In Kimberly's mind, no matter how wronged Leia felt, she couldn't possibly harm the parents who had **raised** her.

But the reality was far more brutal. **Vincent** was **still** in the hospital, barely out of danger, and the long-term effects of the poison were unknown. He might never fully recover, and it was all Leia's doing

"Leia.. Kimberly's tears streamed down her face as she looked at her daughter.

"Mom," Leia's eyes lit up with hope, **thinking** she still had a chance.

The next **moment**, a loud slap echoed through the room Leia's face twisted to the **side**, and **she was stunned**. Her cheek went numb at first, then seared with pain as if half her face no longer belonged to her.

"Did she just hit me?" Leia thought, her **mind** buzzing. Why did Mom **slap me?**"

Growing up, Leia had always been the Anderson family's pampered princess. She had **never** been struck, not even scolded harshly by her mother. This time, Kimberly actually struck her

"**Mom**, you...." Leia turned to **look** at Kimberly, shocked and hurt, wanting to **ask**, "**Have** you gone mad! I'm your daughter. How could you bear to **hit** me! **Just as** I thought. Ever since Noelle came **back**, everyone has changed. They only care about Noelle and don't have a place for me in their hearts anymore"

But before Leia could finish turning her head, crack, another loud slap echoed. The other side of **Leia's** face was also slapped hard by Kimberly

Now, Leia **was furious**. She **turned** around angrily, glaring at Kimberly, about to speak.

However, Kimberly spoke first, her voice filled with rage as she shouted, "Leia, don't you feel any guilt! He's your **father**. He raised you for eighteen years, and yet you poisoned him. Where is your conscience? Do you even have a heart?"

The more Kimberly had trusted Leia moments ago, the more she despises her now.

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Chapter 216

Kimberly was trembling with anger. Her hand, which had slapped Leia, was numb, but she wished she could hit Leia even more. Kimberly was too angry, too disappointed. Their daughter of eighteen years had actually tried to poison her father.

Kimberly couldn't understand how Leia could have the heart to do such a cruel thing

"Leia, speak up. How have we wronged you? How could you harm your father like this? Where is your **sense** of right **and** wrong!

“How can you be so ruthless, so malicious? You’ve utterly disappointed me. Kimberly’s emotions were so intense that her face flushed with. and she almost shouted the words out.

After her outburst, Kimberly nearly collapsed from the surge of emotion.

“Mom!” Damon, standing nearby, quickly moved to support his mother as she wavered.

Once Kimberly steadied herself against Damon, she glared at Leia again and said through gritted teeth, “Are you mute how? Speak up. How has the Anderson family wronged you?”

Leia’s **face**, already bloody from her earlier attempt to slam her head against the door, was now

ow swollen from the to slaps Kimberly had given her. She no longer looked like the refined, privileged young lady she once was; instead, she resembled a malwoman fier wild and frenzied appearance was terrifying.

After being confronted by Kimberly and seeing the reactions of the rest of the Anderson family, as well **as** the servants who were watching with i sense of curiosity. Lela knew she was finished.

Even her most compassionate mother had struck her. No matter how much she pleaded for mercy, they would never let her go. With that realization. Leia decided to stop pretending.

Leia laughed maniacally. “How has the Anderson family wronged me? Kimberly, listen carefully. The Anderson family has wronged me

ways

“W–what are you saying?” Kimberly couldn’t believe her ears.

in

so many

She knew the Anderson family **had** always treated Leia extremely well. Before Noelle’s return, Lela had always been given the best of everything Even the sons of the family didn’t have better provisions than Leia.

After Noelle came **back**, everyone initially protected Leia. Even when they eventually accepted Noelle, they never neglected Leia’s needs.

But now Leia claimed that the Anderson family had wronged her in so many ways. Kimberly was utterly bewildered. She couldn’t tell if her own perception was flawed or if the world had gone mad.

Unwilling to accept **this** baseless accusation, Kimberly stared hard at Leia and pressed on. “We’ve wronged you? Go ahead. How have we wronged your

Leia gritted her teeth and said furiously, “You still have the nerve to ask how you’ve wronged me!”

“When Noelle came back, you all told me **that** I would always be your daughter and their sister, that you would always love me no matter what. But look what happened after Noelle returned! Everything changed”

She

continued. “Eli has been biased toward Noelle from the very beginning, siding with her and targeting me. He speaks to me with sarcasm but treats **Noelle** with kindness

“Even at school, when I greeted him, he ignored me. Didn’t he know how much his attitude affected me? He was already the student council president, but he didn’t even stand up for me. I find it disgusting to have a brother like him.”

Eli’s forehead veins bulged with anger as he opened his mouth to retort that she brought all this to herself, but Charlie opened him before he could **speak**.

The next moment, Leia shifted her focus to Charlie. “Charlie is nothing but a hypocritical and despicable person as sheltered by Lightning Media all because of him. He knew exactly what Reyna was up to but didn’t warn me, letting me walk right into a trap

“He pretends to be neutral, but every time, he sides with Noelle and even helps her to report me. Does he really deserve to be my brother? He never considered my fate. He never treated me like a sister.”

After her tirade against Charlie, Leia turned her **gaze** to Damon, her eyes filled with resentment and sorrow. “Damon, didn’t you always say you loved me the most, that you would always stand by my side no matter what? But when Noelle got sick, you were more anxious than anyone else.

“You even ran all over the city to find medicine for her. Did you ever think about how I felt! You were supposed to be the brother I relied on the most, but even **you** sided with Noelle. You don’t care about me as much as you claimed. I hate you. I hate you so much.”

Damon **listened to** Leia’s accusations, his lips pr

pressed into a thin line. He clenched his teeth, unable to utter a word.

He had always cared deeply for Leia, and even as he grew to appreciate Noelle, he never forgot Leia’s position in the family.

Damon knew that without someone standing firmly by her side, Leia would be **devastated** and **might** go astray. He had tried desperately to get her back on track, even willing to give her everything he had. But in the end, it had still come to this **point** of no return..

Damon didn’t want to defend himself: he just couldn’t **understand** how things had escalated to this point or who had pushed **Leia down** this irreversible path.

guide

After finishing with Damon, **Leia** turned to Kimberly. “**You** used to be good to me, but everything changed when Noelle came back. You were so biased, yet you didn’t even realize it.

Also, Nicolas has always been pursuing me. I just didn’t **think** it through at the time and let him go to Noelle, but I regretted it I wanted him back. Yer you all condemned me. I don’t understand what I did wrong.

“I just wanted to reclaim something I had carelessly lost, but **you** all turned against me. No **one** stood up for me. Am I really your most beloved daughter? If so, it’s pretty **worthless**.”

She went on. “And Vincent **always** claimed to treat us equally, but did he? He’s the most **vain** and hypocritical of all. He was so mean to Noelle at first, but **as** soon **as** she showed her talent and could bring him glory, his attitude changed completely.

“Both of us skipped **class**, but he **only** scolded me. When Noelle made mistakes, he turned a blind eye. He’s so **biased**, yet you still **ask** me what you did wrong? Ugh. Even if I had the chance to do it all over again, I would still poison him. He deserved to die.”

Watching Leia’s increasingly deranged state, Kimberly felt a mix of **heartbreak** and confusion. I never realized Leia felt this way all along. Have we really been dut biased, causing her so much pain” she thought to herself.

As Kimberly was lost in her **agony** and confusion, Eli could no longer contain **himself**

He stepped forward and shouted, “Leia, do you have any shame left? How can you say these things so brazenly? Is this your excuse for poisoning Dad! You don’t mention your own faults but only point fingers at others. Do you think you’re in the right?

“Who was the one who first insincerely **said** we should treat Noelle equally and be nice to her? But as soon as we did, you were the most jealous. The been targeting you? You don’t realize why you’ve been targeted? You’ve forgotten all the despicable things you’ve done, haven’t you?”

He continued, “Alright, you’ve forgotten, so let me help you remember. When did my attitude start to **change**? It was when the school rumors started flying. Noelle was being called an illegitimate child by everyone. The rumors circulating in your **class are** the **most** serious.

“Everyone was targeting Noelle, but you pretended not to see it. You told me you didn’t know about it. If you hadn’t been **fanning** the flumes, who would have labeled Noelle like that! You just wanted everyone to despise her so you could elevate your own status, didn’t you?”

다

Chapter 217

He went on. Then there was the Reyna incident. Reyna didn’t even know Noelle at first. With so many people spreading rumors about her, why did she specifically sur Noelle You **know** very well who told Reyna about Noelle. And the fact that Noelle was the creator of The Shadows.

“Didn’t you start spreading that in the classroom! But **what** did you tell Charlie? You said Noelle **was** being vain and talking out of turn. You twist the truth, spread rumors, and never say anything genuine. I’ve seen through you. How could I possibly still be nice to you? Do you think I’m crazy?”

Leia’s face turned pale as Eh spoke, making her look **somewhat** pitiful

Hot Eli didn’t care about her feelings or what others thought. He **pressed** on. “You blame **Charlie**! When Reyna asked you to sign that contract, it was already clear there were issues. Didn’t Charlie tell you to be careful? Did you listen!

Theard about it. Charlie even planned to persuade you, but you went behind his back and signed it anyway. Now **that** things have gone wrong, you blame Charlie! You’re **really** ungrateful. If we don’t do everything for you, we’re in the wrong, right? Who do you think you are? Does everyone have to indulge you

He continued, “**Nicolas has** been chasing your Have some shame. Has Nicolas ever **given** you a good attitude? The last time he came to our house. did he even look at you? Nicolas always buys gifts for Noelle whenever he sees her. Has he ever bought anything for you?

“He’s yours, and you let him go first! How ridiculous. You have the nerve to say **that**! Now that you see Noelle is doing well, you’re jealous and want to take him back. And you still think you’re in the right? Leis, I never realized how shameless you could be.”

He went on. “The worst part is the **poisoning**, Dad only scolded you a few times, and you were already in the wrong. But you completely ignored the eighteen years the Anderson family **has** raised you and poisoned **him**. You only remember how the Anderson family **has** wronged you.

“When Dad was coughing up blood, you still tried to frame Noelle. Did you ever think about Dad’s feelings? You even said he deserved to die. Leia, you’re absolutely disgusting. I’ve never met anyone more malicious and willing to turn things around on others **than** you.”

hapter 218

El had a fiery temper and didn’t indulge Leia. His words were straightforward and, at times, extremely harsh to hear.

After listening to him. Leia’s face turned dark with anger. Her lips trembled, and the way she glared at Eli was as if she wanted to tear him lin

limb from limb. Despite her fury. Leia was speechless, unsure of how to retort.

At that moment, Bennett, who had been observing the scene, stepped forward with his usual elegant and composed demeanor.

“Alright, I believe anyone can see who’s in the right and who’s in the wrong. Leir’s attempt at murder is already undeniable. Ler’s hand her over to the police and let them decide, he said to the others

Both Leia and Damon looked up upon hearing this.

Leia immediately panicked. Just moments ago, she had been indignantly listing the Anderson family's bad doing, feeling utterly wronged. But now, at the mention of being taken to the police station, she was terrified.

"No. Bennett. I don't want to go to the police station. I won't go Leia pleaded

"Bennett, she Damon hesitated, calling out

ut in a lo

a low voice.

Bennett glanced at Damon and cut him off. "Damon, whatever you're about to say, **think** about Dad first. **You** saw him coughing up blood yesterday. right? He just barely escaped life threatening **danger**, and who knows what long-term effects the poison might have on him."

As Bennett spoke, Damon's face turned ashen He lowered his head, **and** the words stuck in **his** throat, unable to continue.

Then, Bennett turned to Leia with a smile. "You attempted premeditated murder. Now that everyone knows about it, what would it mean if we you off the hook!

"Are we supposed to harbor a criminal! Hey, **actually**, I'm partly responsible too. Since I'm not shirking my **duty**, you should act like an adult and take responsibility for your actions, don't you **think**?"

"Bennett!" Leia was both terrified and **furious** at his words. She glared at him, grinding her teeth as she asked, "How can you be so ruthless! Didn't you say I was your most beloved sister? Is this how **you** treat **me**?"

Bennett showed no remorse. He simply sighed, "Leia, that's the logic of a bandit. Just **because** I love you the most doesn't mean I should condone your crimes. Should I turn a blind eye while you try to kill my own father? Wouldn't that make me **a** monster?"

He continued, "I always knew you were selfish, but I never expected you to **say** something like **this**. You've really let **me** down. Come to **think** of it. I think Noelle is much better after all."

"Despite how badly we treated her at first, she never **thought** about killing us. Blood really matters. Unlike you, who's **an** ungrateful wretch. I'm done with **you**

"Otherwise, who knows when you might get upset again **and** try to poison us? No one can handle that," Bennett spoke in his **usual** calm and measured tone, but his **words** were like daggers to Leia's heart.

Leia, who **loved** to blame others, found Bennett even **more** adept at it. He not only criticized her but also **praised** Noelle, every word designed to provoke her anger. Leia was so furious she felt like exploding and wanted to tear Bennett apart.

Damn Hennett. I've seen through him. His words are all lies. Calling me his favorite sister was just a deception. In his eyes, I'm nothing but a pawn he's been **playing** with, Leia thought bitterly.

When Bennett returned, he had already called the police. Soon, the officers arrived. Bennett handed over the evidence to them and cooperated as they prepared to go **to** the station to give statements.

As Leia was being **taken** away, the **panicked** again.

Passing Kunderly, she **knelt** down and pleaded, "**Mom, I'm** wrong. I truly know I'm **wrong**. I don't want to go to the police station. I don't want to go. to jail. Please, for the sake of our years together, show me mercy this oner, Mom,"

Kimberly looked at Leia, who **was** sobbing and begging on her knees. Though she was furious, she also felt a deep p sense of sorrow. She silently

wept, too upset **to speak**.

At that moment, Bennett walked over, pried Leia's **hands** off Kimberly, and said with a simile, "Now you remember our **years** together? Why didn't you consider the years of father-daughter lund with Dad when you decided to poison land

"You were just complaining about how we wronged you, but now you have the nerve to talk about years of affection!"

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Chapter 218

Leia glared at Bennett with a mixture of anger and hatred, tears streaming down her face.

But Hennett was completely unfazed by her gaze and continued to cooperate with the police as they took Leia away.

As she was being led out, Leia's wails echoed through the air. One moment she was begging for mercy, claiming she knew she was wrong; the next, she was cursing the Anderson family, wishing them ill and predicting their downfall.

When she reached the outer gate, Leia chung to the iron bars, refusing to let go and biting anyone who tried to approach her.

She no longer cared about her appearance, her hair **disheveled** and her face smeared with blood, looking like a complete madwoman.

"Stay back, or I'll kill myself right here. Leia screamed at the police officers.

The police officers were momentarily at a loss on how to handle her. Bennett, however, watched coldly, his eyes devoid of any sympathy or heartache, filled instead **with** a mocking amusement as if he were watching a play.

At that moment, Bennett seemed to n

remember something and pulled out his phone, calling Damon.

Upon hearing the news, Damon rushed out and saw Leia clinging to the gate. He couldn't help but exclaim, "Leia

Hearing his voice, Leia immediately turned to look at him.

Damon was staring intently at her, his eyes still holding that familiar look of concern,

In **that** instant, Leia felt an overwhelming urge to cry.

Since her poisoning attempt had been exposed, everyone in the Anderson family had turned against her with hatred and indifference. Usually soft-hearted mother now looked at her with loathing. But Damon still looked at her with worry.

Even b

her

A thought suddenly crossed Leia's mind. If Damon had stayed by my side all along, unwavering in his support, would I have been so radical and ended up making such a grave mistake? she wondered.

As this thought occurred to her, Leia realized she **had** one last thing she needed to know. Even if she went to jail, she needed to understand: otherwise, she would die with regrets.

"Damon, there's something I need to ask you," Leia said through her tears.

"Go **ahead**," Damon replied.

Leia glanced at the others, especially Bennett, and said, "Everyone, step back. I only want to talk to Damon."

"Sure," Bennett said with a faint smile, stepping **back** in a gentlemanly manner **and** giving Leia and Damon some space.

Damon walked up to **Leia** **and** asked, "What do you want to know? Go ahead and ask

Leia looked at him, sniffled, and said pitifully, "Damon, there's something I can't get out of my head. You said you would draw a line with Noelle and stand firmly by my side. But that day, when you came back with Noelle, everything changed.

“Eli past pushed Noelle, but you were so anxious **about** her, completely focused on her. The next day, you ran around buying medicine for her, so concerned. I need to know what happened that day. Why did your attitude change **so** suddenly? I want the truth. What did Noelle do to you?”

that day still bother **you** that much”

surprised Even now, as she **was** about to be taken away by the police, Lea still seemed obsessed with what had happened. She

because of her

ise in bothers met Lesa snapped, dearly emotional Tho you know how Licht when I saw you upstairs being so gentle and attentive with Noelle” You toŠŠ THE VYSN Were shone with her, that youd take my side. And then I see you comforting her, even Arguing with D’ye thank your behavior was completely of that **day**”

Damon had no work.

Trom an outsider’s point of view, his actions had indeed been strange

But end. Daimon knew what Noelle had been through that day for his **sake**

seeme how desperately Leia wanted the truth, Damon didn’t want to hide it from her anymore. He didist want lyfr to think he’d betrayed her,

After a moment’s hestation, he decided to tell her—though leaving out a few crucial details.

“That day. Noelle and I were **attacked**. A group of people came after us

Duman nodded. “I don’t even know where they came from. They said they were going to **kill** Noelle—just because she accidentally knocked off one of their musks. 1 poi dragged into it too.

“The whole situation spiraled out of control. Noelle got hurt protecting me. When we got back, the place Eli hit her was exactly where she was already injured. I was still on edge from everything, so when I saw her hurt again, 1. lost **it** and argued with EIL”

Leu.....I don’t even know how to explain this to you. **But** after something like that. I **couldn’t** just pretend nothing happened. Noelle nearly died for me. Even of 1 hated her. I couldn’t just ignore that

Leu laughed bitterly. That’s ridiculous. What kind of world are we living in where people just randomly try to kill Noelle! Damon are you seriously expecting me to believe that?”

But halfway through her sentence. Leia **suddenly** went silent

She remembered something Back at school, there was a weird pop-up on her phone. It had asked her if there was someone she wanted dead.

At the time, she'd been seething with hatred for Noelle. So, half-jokingly, half-seriously, she'd entered Noelle's **name**.

But nothing happened afterward, so Lria dismissed it **as** a stupid prank and forgot all about it.

Now, hearing Damon's story, a chilling thought struck her, "What if that pop-**up wasn't** a joke? **What** if someone had really acted on the info she gave them? No. That's insane. That's too **ridiculous** to be real right?

tally fine to me. Are you sure

Leia shook her head, still in disbelief. Her voice trembled. "You said Noelle got hurt saving **you**, but she looked totally fine to you're not making this up"

"She was really **hurt**, Damon insisted. "Think back, Leia—didn't Eli say she didn't look right! That she seemed pale? Everyone noticed it. That's why I helped her upstairs to rest. And remember Nicolas? He showed up too. He carried her **downstairs** and said she had a fever—but really, it was the infection from her injury"

Leia's mind flashed back to that **day**.

Noelle, always full of energy, had **looked** totally drained. And when Nicolas carried her **downstairs**, hadn't there been a faint metallic smell in the

That smell was blood

It had been **hurt**. She **wasn't** faking it.

So Noelle really

Realizing this, Leia started trembling

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shook though

at Damon—the one who

one who had always protected and stood by her had betrayed her for Noelle.

But after bearing Damon's explanation, she realized something painful. She was the one who had pushed Damon into Noelle's arms.

If she had instead acted on her hatred for Noelle... if she hadn't entered that information into that pop-up, the attackers would never have come. Noelle wouldn't have been in danger. She wouldn't have needed to save Damon. And Damon wouldn't feel like he owed her anything.

He would've stayed by her side.

Tria's world crumbled

Then, out of nowhere, she burst into laughter—loud, broken, almost hysterical.

Teari

* Damon looked at her, completely confused. He tried to approach her, but she showed him hard.

“Don't touch me”

“Leia?” Damon saw the tears streaming down her face—so much pain, sorrow, and despair. He was stunned, unsure of what had triggered her so badly.

Leia's heart felt like it was being torn apart,

she thought the universe was playing a cruel joke on her.

And Danson, still clueless, just stood there—it was almost laughable.

Something in her **cracked**,

A twisted smile curled on her lips **as** she cried and laughed at the same time. “Damon, aren't you curious? Why would Noelle suddenly **be** attacked like that out of nowhere?”

Damon's expression changed instantly. A terrible realization hit him.

Lea what are **you** saying!”

She didn't

it deny it. Her voice **broke** as she confessed, “It's exactly what you think. I did it. **I'm** the one who sent the info. I wanted her dead”

Damon was in shock.

“You can tell the police if you want. I don't care anymore. None of it matters now” Leia laughed hysterically.

I

She stumbled her way toward the police officers and was soon taken into the car.

Bennett, watching from a distance, hadn't **heard** their exchange.

But Leia's meltdown sard enough—and it made him smirk.

He'd always wondered why Damon, of all people, **hadn't** cut ties with Noelle yet. Even argued with Eli over her.

Event

went around town the next day buying her medicine. That wasn't normal.

Something major n 've happened, Beient had thought.

And now he knew—Leia had done something that forced Damon into Noelle's debt.

From that moment on. Damon could never fully **walk** away from her.

Leia had meant to destroy Norlle

Instead, shrid Bundled Noelle het strongest ally on a silver platter

Watching her spiral like a tragic clown was, in Benuri, kind of hilarious.

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After Leia was taken away by the police, Rennen followed to give his statement. The others **stayed** behind at the house, the atmosphere heavy with

shock.

No one had expected it.

The one who'd poisoned their father turned out to be Leia—the girl who'd grown up with them under the same roof for eighteen years.

Kimberly had been through one blow after another. She looked like she'd aged ten years in a day.

Everyone insisted she rest, but she was back downstairs less than thirty minutes later, insisting on going to the hospital to be with their father.

With no other choice, they had the driver take her.

Thankfully, the hospital soon delivered a bit of good news: Vincent had regained full consciousness and was recovering well. He could even speak normally **again**

For the Anderson family, still reeling from betrayal, this glimmer of hope was like a breath of **fresh air.**

Later that evening, the Anderson siblings gathered again.

Eli scratched his **head** in frustration. "What the hell kind of twisted **drama** is this? **Lela must've** lost her **mind**. Why couldn't she just talk things out like a normal **person!** Poisoning someone? Seriously? She completely lost it. Thank God Dad's okay now"

He paused, then turned to Charlie. “By the

way,

PIP

you tell

Aurel So he should be on his way back by now, right?

Charlie replied **flady**. I called him earlier. He’s booked a flight and should be back tonight”

“Good” Eli nodded, then looked around the room with a frown. “Wait, where’s Damon? And Noelle? Don’t tell me he’s blaming Noelle for Leia getting arrested...”

That thought made Eli instantly tense up.

more

Charlie sighed. “Relax. Damon hasn’t blamed Noelle for anything **in a** long time. Even when Noelle grabbed Lela by the throat, Damon was mu worried about Noelle getting into trouble than about Leis being the one attacked.”

Eli blinked. “Huh....you’re right.”

He calmed down, then added, “Now that I think about it, when did Damon’s attitude toward Noelle start to change? I **didn’t** even **notice it** at first, One day I just realized–hry, everyone seems to have accepted her already”

Charlie’s expression remained neutral. “Who knows.”

Even he hadn’t expected it.

In just a few short months; **they’d** all **gradually** come to accept Noelle.

Eli glanced at him, **picking** up on his tone. “**So....** you’ve accepted her too, huh? Come to think of it, you’ve been pretty protective of her lately“–

He **raised** an eyebrow, clearly teasing.

“When Reyna wanted to sue her, you came straight to me asking for details..

When Leia tried to pin the Nicolas incident on Noelle, you stood up for her.

Everi after **Bennett** scratched Noelle’s hand, you were the first to warn her about **him**,

“Sure, that all sounds like **what** a good older **brother** should do,” Eli continued, grinning, “but **coming** from you, Mr. Cold–and–Distant, **it’s** kinda

obvious.

Charlie gave him a cool, unimpressed look. “I just stated the facts. Nothing more. I **wasn’t taking** sides.”

“Oh, come on,” Eli Laughed. “You **really** expect me to believe **that?**”

He wasn’t stupid.

Charlie hated clingy people. He always kept his distance. But N

Noelle? **Noelle stuck** to him like glue and he let her.

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If it had been Leia trying that, she’d have been frozen out on the spot.

Charlie was just as awkward as the rest of them—he just hid it better.

“Sure, sure. Totally objective and impartial” Eli teased.

Charlie, for all his usual calm, looked ever so slightly embarrassed. To avoid the topic, he shifted the attention.

“What about you?” he said. “You’re not exactly subtle either. You’ve defended Noelle against Leia more than once”

“Me?” Eli blinked, then folded his **arms** with mock indignation. “I am the definition of fairness and objectivity”

“If Leia hadn’t constantly been messing with Noelle, playing all those little mind games. I wouldn’t **have said a** word. But she made mistakes and refused to own up to them. Of course I wasn’t going to be nice about it.”

“*Noelle*, on the other **hand**—she’s like a clueless puppy. Always smiling, even when people are mean to her. She gets tricked and doesn’t even realize it. As her brother, how could I not look out for her!”

What Eli didn’t say out loud was **that** he’d liked Noelle from the very first moment he saw her.

She had this dazzling smile. She looked like a doll when she wasn’t talking—but the moment she opened her mouth, she was adorably dumb.

Even when he was cold to her, she never took it personally. Every time she **saw** him, she’d beam like sunshine and greet him with that cheerful

voice.

And honestly, what kind of normal person wouldn't like someone like that?

Back then, out of respect for Leia's feelings, he'd tried to keep his distance.

But now that he saw Leia's true colors, it was no **contest**. His loyalty had quietly shifted.

Thinking of Noelle again, Eli looked around. "Seriously, where did those two go? **I'm** gonna find them"

He had to admit for someone on her way out. **Leia** still managed to **leave** him with one last bit of entertainment.