

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! -

Chapter 201[542 words]

Brian's eyes curved into crescents as he smiled. "Since Mr. Cole is being so sensible, I can rest easy."

As he spoke, he glanced at the bodyguards behind him. "Come on, bring out the debt agreement for Mr. Cole to sign."

"A debt agreement?" The color on Adrian's face changed slightly.

Brian produced a document and handed it over with a grin. "That's right, Mr. Cole. To prevent you from backing out after leaving Apex Horizon Speedway, we have to follow the rules."

He pressed the document and a pen against Adrian's chest. "Sign it, leave a thumbprint, and within three days, one hundred million dollars will be in Serena's account. Otherwise, you'll be charged a daily interest of 0.5%."

"Once you sign, you can get your ass over to the track and fulfill your end of the bet."

Adrian's pupils contracted as he snatched the document with one hand.

A sense of déjà vu struck him.

He snapped his head up, looking at Chloe, who stood opposite him with an alluring smile.

Didn't this scene seem familiar?

Wasn't this... the exact same routine Chloe had pulled just moments ago when she offered to lend him the 'Dark Serpent GT,' a car worth nearly as much as the 'Ghost'?

His pupils kept constricting as he looked from the bewitching Chloe to the aloof and languid Serena.

In a flash, it all clicked. "You... Chloe, Serena, you were in on this from the start? You conspired to set me up?!"

"Oh, my."

Chloe batted her exquisitely made-up eyes, her bright red nails covering her lips in a charmingly coquettish way. "Mr. Cole isn't too slow on the uptake, but unfortunately... it's too late."

Adrian was so furious he could have burst. "You lunatic! Are you completely insane? You'd put up a hundred-million-dollar Dark Serpent GT to play along with her? Just to stage this whole act?"

"That's right," Chloe's smile was wickedly alluring. "I, Chloe, have money to burn. I can afford to play. What are you going to do about it?"

Adrian's breathing grew ragged. He clutched the document tightly and slammed it onto the ground. "This is fraud! I don't recognize this so-called bet!"

How dare Serena play him like this!

How dare she team up with an outsider to scam him!

Her methods were insane!

It was all a setup, a trap they had designed.

He had every reason and excuse to deny the Overdrive challenge and its bet!

But just then.

A low, magnetic, and lazy voice, yet one filled with immense pressure came from behind him. Whether you recognize it or not is not@p to you."

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A tall, elegant figure slowly walked up to stand behind Serena.

Under the bright, dazzling lights, the man's aloof, devilishly handsome face was exceptionally stunning.

He had one hand in his pocket, his

entire posture lazy and relaxed, and

even his beautiful upturned

eyes

held a faint, indolent air.

But his presence was so cold it was chilling.

Especially the moment his gaze fell on Adrian, Adrian felt an intense

sense of suffocation as if the net

air around him had frozen solid

All the color drained from Adrian's face. "N-Mr. Blackwood..."

He never expected Nicholas to be here.

He remembered how Nicholas had stood up for Serena at the Obsidian Palace last time.

And now, Nicholas was here again?

Could this be a coincidence?

No!

Could it be that... these two people, from completely different worlds, actually knew each other?

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy!

Chapter 202[528 words]

"Mr. Cole, if you can't afford to lose, don't play. But if you play... you honor the bet."

Nicholas kept a hand in his pocket, his lazy eyes lifting slightly. He looked casual and unrestrained, but he radiated an intense pressure. "Will you sign it yourself, or should I sign it for you?"

Adrian's throat tightened. The powerful aura was so overwhelming he could barely breathe.

Especially when his gaze met Nicholas's deep, bottomless eyes, which were like icy pools.

An icy chill spread from his spine throughout his body.

In the face of absolute power, the prestigious family background he was so proud of became a complete joke.

His throat felt clogged, and for a long moment, he couldn't utter a single sound.

But when Serena heard that low, magnetic voice, not a hint of surprise showed on her face.

She lifted her eyes slightly and glanced at the man.

Sensing her gaze.

Nicholas's lips curved as he looked back at Serena.

His upturned, charming eyes crinkled with a smile, making him look as handsome as a devil.

The sight of them looking at each other, their equally exquisite, picturesque faces both tinged with obvious smiles, was incredibly grating to Adrian.

It only fueled his irritation.

His face darkened, and he clenched his fists, his body tensing with rage.

He slowly crouched down, his expression defeated, and picked up the document he had just thrown to the ground.

He looked utterly defeated and pathetic.

As he picked up the pen and signed his name on the debt agreement, he felt an immense sense of humiliation.

Then, under the mocking gazes of countless people.

He and a reluctant Hailey were forcefully pushed onto the track to fulfill their bet... as the losers.

Kneeling with every step.

Shouting at the top of their lungs, "Brianna is my goddess."

The scene was both ridiculous and laughable.

Many of the rich kids from their circle pulled out their phones to record the moment.

However high and mighty Adrian had once been, that's how pathetic he was now!

"Satisfied?" Nicholas looked down at the girl beside him, his upturned eyes exceptionally captivating.

"Those two were just a bonus." Serena raised her gaze, her eyes indifferent as she glanced to the other side. "Now, it's their turn."

Her gaze fell upon-

Brandon and Lauren, who were being held back by Brian's men not far away.

When they met Serena's gaze.

The color drained from both their faces, and they began to tremble uncontrollably.

From the moment Nicholas had appeared, they had been trying their best to shrink into the backgrounds terrified of being noticed by him

After all, they knew better than anyone just how horribly they had manipulated and gaslit Brianna.

Before, they had banked on the fact

that Brianna had become their

puppet. As long as she said nothing,

Nicholas would never know what

Nicholas would never k

they had done to her.

But... seeing Nicholas now, they couldn't help but feel a pang of fear and guilt.

Especially after seeing Adrian's humiliation.

Brandon's heart pounded. His eyes darted around as he pinned all his hopes on Brianna.

"Brianna... Brianna! This really has nothing do with me. Please, talk to her for me I didn't even race, and never agreed to any bet..."

To be forced onto the track to kneel with every step like Adrian and Hailey?

He would rather die!

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Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 203[516 words]

Brandon clung to Brianna as if she were a lifeline, his voice cracking. "Brianna, we grew up together... We have such a deep bond. Please, talk to Mr. Blackwood for me, talk to Miss Lancaster..."

As he spoke, he tried to grab Brianna's hand. "Didn't I... didn't I say before that on your coming-of-age day, I would grant your greatest wish? Well... I'll grant it now! I was planning for us to officially get together on your birthday... but we can do it now! Let's be official right now!"

"Brianna, you don't like me with Lauren, I swear... from now on, I'll cut off all ties with her. I'll only be good to you, and I'll never see Lauren again!"

Brandon's voice was trembling uncontrollably.

"Brandon?!" Lauren couldn't believe how cowardly and selfish he was being. He was throwing her under the bus to save himself?

He was going to cut ties with her and never see her again?

She had worked so hard to escape her backwater town.

She had finally started living a life of luxury.

Without Brandon, how could she maintain her current lifestyle?

She refused to go back to that place!

Lauren was frantic, tears welling up instantly. "Brianna, you saved my life. My life is yours! We're the best of friends, best sisters. Please help me... I can't go out on that track and kneel with them. I'm innocent..."

Brianna found herself caught between these two scumbags.

Looking at the two pathetic clowns putting on this ugly show, she found it utterly ridiculous and laughable.

It made her feel like she had been an absolute fool before, to have been so thoroughly deceived by such pathetic people.

Her face turned cold, and she glared at them, swatting away their outstretched hands.

"Brandon, when did I ever say I wanted to be with you? Don't flatter yourself!"

Yes, she had thought about it before.

She had imagined asking Brandon to dance the first dance with her at her

coming-of-age party and then e

announcing that he would be her. boyfriend.

But the only reason she'd had that idea was because of Brandon's hints and manipulations.

They were childhood friends, and

that

because of her health issues, she had rarely gone out or interacted with others. It was only natural she would develop feelings for him under his constant suggestions.

She truly believed that after she came of age, she and her childhood friend would finally be together.

But...

Now, the mere thought of it disgusted her.

She then turned to Lauren and snapped angrily, "And you, who are you calling your best friend? I saved you from that backwater town because, as a woman, I wanted to rescue you from a desperate situation. But you... you didn't cherish the opportunity."

"You know, you two are quite a match. One's a scumbag, and the other's trash."

"Now get lost and go kneel on that track. Consider it your walk down the aisle!"

"I hope you two are stuck with each other forever, so you can't go out and ruin anyone else's life!"

Her sharp retorts came one after another.

She felt incredibly relieved!

How could she have been so stupid before, to have trapped herself in the cage built

by an arrogant freeloader like Brandon?

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 204[536 words]

Thankfully, it wasn't too late to wake up!

Thanks to Serena, her mind had never been clearer!

This newfound clarity allowed her to see just how foolish she had once been.

She felt that Serena had a kind of magical power about her.

Just being near Serena felt like her mind and body were being cleansed.

She was even starting to think... that her car accident had been a blessing in disguise!

Brianna's gaze on Serena grew more and more adoring, shining brightly as if she were looking at her one and only goddess.

And that look was a dagger to Brandon's heart.

He had always thought he had this naive little girl from the Blackwood family completely under his thumb, to mold and shape as he pleased.

Until the day his family, the Kellers, could use her to climb to the pinnacle of Vaelion City, surpassing even the Blackwoods!

But that plan... had barely even started.

And Brianna was already treating him like this?

It was all because of Serena!

Brianna had only spun out of his control because Serena had appeared in her life!

"You!"

Brandon's eyes filled with venom as he glared at Serena, his face contorted with insane fury. "Serena, you're the one who corrupted her! You incited Brianna and drove a wedge between us, didn't you? You bitch, I..."

Smack!

Before he could finish, Brianna swung her hand and slapped him hard across the face.

The young girl was delicate, but standing in front of Serena, she was fierce in her defense.

She had put all her might into that slap.

Her face was flushed with anger as she glared at Brandon. "Shut up! Who gave you permission to insult Serena?"

"Brandon, I was only ever deceived by you because you were the closest friend I had growing up! Now, I see you for the entitled leech you are and I refuse to let you drain me dry anymore. This has nothing to do with Serena!"

She pointed a finger at his nose. "If you dare insult her again, if you dare even glare at her one more time, trust me, I have ways to mak back even

pay back every cent you ever

you

scammed from me, with interest!"

Brandon's face changed drastically.

Pay it all back?

How could he?

All these years...

He and the entire Keller family had relied on Brianna just to stay afloat.

If he really had to pay it all back...

Even the entire Keller family fortune wouldn't be enough!

"Brianna." Serena's voice was cool as she took Brianna's arm and pulled the girl to her side. "Calm down."

She looked down at the girl's furious little face and gave her a gentle squeeze. "He's not worth getting worked up and harming your health over."

Brianna puffed out her cheeks, hugged Serena's arm tightly, and stopped looking at Brandon.

"Brianna..."

Brandon's face turned ashen. He collapsed onto the ground in defeat, his

expression panicked as he looked pleadingly at Brianna.

He refused to give up on this last

lifeline. "We've known each other for over a decade. Are you really going to deny our relationship because of an outsider?"

Brianna was about to snap back at him again.

Serena held her arm, her gaze lazy as she looked down at Brandon from above.

"Did you know that Brianna was in the hospital for over a week?"

Brandon's pupils contracted, and he quickly looked at Brianna. "Hospitalized? What happened?"

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 205[552 words]

Serena scoffed lightly. "You boast about a friendship of over a decade, yet you didn't even know your 'good friend' was in the hospital for more than a week? And you have the nerve... to use your so-called friendship to blackmail her?"

Brandon's face flushed, but he was also frantic. "Brianna, were you really in the hospital?"

So... that was why Brianna was angry?

Because she was mad he hadn't contacted her for days.

Mad that he'd left her alone in the hospital.

No wonder she was so cold and dismissive when he saw her this time!

As long as she was still willing to be angry, it meant she still cared about him.

Now that he knew the reason, it would be easy to win her back!

Brandon scrambled up from the ground and walked toward Brianna. "Brianna, I honestly didn't know you were in the hospital! And you, really, if you were hospitalized, why didn't you tell me? If you had told me, I would have dropped everything to come see you and take care of you."

His face was full of concern as he reached for her. "Did your heart condition act up again? If you weren't feeling well, why did you have to come to a place like this? And get into trouble with Mr. Cole and the others? What if it triggered another attack?"

He rattled on and on, but his words were still laced with blame for Brianna.

Brianna was so angry she almost laughed. "I didn't tell you? I did! But you were busy drinking with your buddies, with your arm around Lauren!"

Brandon's face paled slightly.

He had no memory of her saying anything like that. After all, he had never paid much attention to what Brianna said or did.

Even if he ignored her, she would always come crawling back on her own.

But... he never thought that this one oversight would have such serious consequences.

He spoke urgently, "Brianna, I know I was wrong. From now on... I promise I'll always put you first..."

His words were cut off again by Serena. "Do you know why Brianna was hospitalized?"

She hadn't initially intended to waste her breath on Brandon.

But...

Seeing Brianna, she was reminded of her past self.

She, too, had once been treated this way.

All her love had been thrown away on someone unworthy.

bet

She could walk away quickly after her heart had died, but just because Brianna didn't show it didn't mean

she was hurting inside,

belongs to someone

This was a bond with her childhood friend of over a decade, the person

she once imagined spending

the

rest of her life with.

How could she not be sad?

Brandon needed to understand what Brianna had given, and he needed to know what, exactly, he had lost.

Brandon's heart hammered in his chest. "W-why..."

"Brandon!" Lauren's pupils constricted, her face filled with unconcealed panic.

She desperately wanted to stop this.

But Serena's cool voice continued, "The day she was admitted to the hospital was your birthday."

Brandon's pupils trembled.

He had suspected Brianna was throwing a tantrum because she hadn't been able to celebrate his

birthday with him, which was why she hadn't contacted him. for a week. Content Belongs

But it was because she had been in the hospital!

Was it because of his birthday?

He suddenly remembered Lauren mentioning... that Brianna had been in a car accident.

His mind suddenly reeled.

His eyes widened as he stared at Brianna. "You... you weren't in a car accident, were you?"

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 206[567 words]

Seeing the look on Brandon's face, Brianna suddenly laughed.

The anger that had flushed her face began to fade, and her gaze toward Brandon calmed considerably.

She scoffed. "You didn't know?"

Brandon replied, "You never told me, so how could I have known? Brianna, I really didn't mean for it to happen... I drank too much that day and have no idea what went on. You didn't call me the next day to tell me. If you had just told me..."

"It doesn't matter anymore," Brianna interrupted, looking at Brandon's anxious face.

She used to think he was the most handsome man she'd ever seen.

Now, no matter how she looked at him, he seemed so ordinary.

She knew that Serena was giving her a chance to say goodbye to her past for good.

She let out another derisive laugh, full of mockery.

Suddenly, her eyes fell on the flustered Lauren.

Her laughter grew louder.

With every laugh, the obsession she had held for Brandon for so many years faded, dissolving into the sound.

Finally, it vanished completely.

After a long moment, she stopped laughing and stared intently at Brandon.

"Bri... Brianna..."

Her gaze made Brandon's heart pound, and his breathing became shallow and cautious.

He desperately wanted to explain himself.

But then he heard Brianna ask with a smirk, "Brandon, you're a really good actor, you know that?"

"That car crash... wasn't it your fault?"

Brandon's eyes widened as he vehemently denied it. "I didn't..."

"That day, you called and asked me to pick you up. While I was on my way, you called again," Brianna said with a laugh. "On the phone, you were bragging to your friends about how you had me wrapped around your finger, playing me like a fool."

Brandon's face turned pale. "I... I didn't..."

He wasn't an idiot.

Even if he thought those things, he would never say them in front of Brianna!

Brianna tilted her head, giving Lauren a half-smile. "But that call definitely came from you, and the voice bragging was definitely yours And so got into a car crash.

Brandon instantly understood and turned to glare at Lauren.

Lauren flinched, her mouth opening as if to defend herself.

Brianna continued, "After the crash, I called you countless times, and you hung up on every single one..."

Brandon's breath caught, and his lips trembled. "I didn't hang up on you..."

Before he could finish.

He seemed to remember something, and his face grew even paler.

He had been wasted, and at that moment, Lauren had walked over wearing a black maid outfit.

He was young, full of vigor, and had had too much to drink...

How could he have possibly been thinking about Brianna?

"It was your Brandon's eyes widened as he glared fiercely at Lauren You made that call deliberately letting Brianna hear those things, and you were the one who hung up on her..."

At that time, only Lauren could have touched his phone!

Lauren shrank back, shaking her head repeatedly.

But her reaction said it all.

Brandon was furious. He had been so good to Lauren, and she had backstabbed him like this!

He started cursing at her.

Lauren, however, was no pushover She immediately cursed back, dragging out all of Brandon's dirty little thoughts and as insecurities for everyone to hear.

Seeing them turn on each other, tearing each other down.

Almost every word out of their mouths was about her, but Brianna felt nothing.

Her goal had been achieved.

She couldn't be bothered to waste any more time on these two.

At that moment, every last bit of her obsession was completely uprooted from her heart.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! -

Chapter 207[564 words]

Brianna closed her eyes.

The young woman, who had always been so carefully protected by her family due to her health, matured in that single instant.

She took a deep breath.

Her heart was finally calm.

When she opened her eyes again.

Her gaze met Serena's bright and exquisite face. Her clear, bright eyes were filled with a gentle, warm concern as she looked at her.

As their eyes met.

A smile touched Serena's features, making her picturesque face exceptionally soft.

Brianna blinked and smiled back.

Serena reached out, took Brianna's hand, and pulled her close.

Then, she cast a lazy glance at the two who were at each other's throats, her voice cool. "If you want to argue, go do it while kneeling on the racetrack. By the time you're done... the police should be here."

Brandon's voice stopped abruptly. "What police?"

Serena's lips curved. "You know what you did."

Brandon's expression shifted, but he tried his best to feign composure. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"You don't?" Serena's eyes narrowed slightly. "Do I need to remind you what you did to the Ghost?"

Brandon's heart hammered in his chest.

He couldn't believe... Serena knew?

How could she possibly know?

His breathing grew ragged. "I... I didn't do anything! If I had done something to the Ghost, how could you have possibly won this race?!"

He clung to a sliver of hope.

He was a hundred percent certain he had avoided all the security cameras. There was no way anyone could have seen him.

"It's fine if you don't admit it."

Serena took Brianna's hand and walked directly to the control console nearby. "Move," she said.

The staff member hesitated. "Well..."

"Let her do whatever she wants! Can't you see who you're dealing with?" Brian shoved the staff member aside.

Nicholas stood with one hand in his

17.

pocket, his tall frame unmoving as he watched the slender girl at the main console. His stunning, deep-set eyes were fixed on

take responsibility for any

consequences."

With both Mr. Foster, one of the founders of Apex Horizon Speedway, and Nicholas, the prince of Vaelion City, giving the order.

How could the staff member dare to object?

Under the watchful eyes of the entire crowd.

Serena sat down at the main computer, her fingers landing on the keyboard.

Her ten fingers flew.

Her slender fingers moved so fast across the keyboard they were just a blur.

Ten seconds.

The camera feed fixed on the finish line area suddenly switched.

On all the screens, a clear security video began to play.

The footage clearly showed the entire process of Brandon sneaking into the maintenance area, using a tool to damage the Ghost's side panel, and pouring some kind of liquid into the fuel tank.

Brandon's mind went blank, and his legs gave out from under him. "This... this is impossible!"

He had avoided all the cameras!

How could he have been recorded?

"Brandon, the Ghost is valued at..... over a hundred million dollars," Serena said, looking down at him with a smile. "Intentional destruction of property valued at one hundred million dollars, and... attempted murder. Tell me. With all these charges combined, how many years do you think you'll get?"

Brandon's face was ashen, and he trembled uncontrollably.

A hundred million...

Murder...

If he was really convicted of that.

He... wouldn't he rot in jail for the rest of his life?!

It's over! It's all over!

He scrambled over to Brianna's feet, weeping and begging for

forgiveness: "Brianna, I was wrong! know I was wrong! Please, let me go. For the sake of what we used to have, help me! I can't go to jail! can't!"

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! -

Chapter 208[557 words]

Brianna looked down at the spineless man crying at her feet.

Then she glanced at the looping security footage on the screen.

The video showed Brandon's vicious expression after he tampered with the Ghost. The last of Brianna's romanticized image of him shattered, leaving only disgust.

"Get lost!"

Brianna kicked Brandon in the shoulder. "What we used to have? You have the nerve to bring that up?"

After kicking him to the ground, she still wasn't satisfied and landed a few more kicks. "When you went after my friend Serena, did you even think about the consequences? You wanted to kill her just because of a few words? How can you be so vicious? So twisted?"

"Let me tell you, letting you rot in jail would be getting off easy! I'll make your life a living hell in there!"

The thought that Brandon's tampering with Serena's Ghost could have caused a serious accident on the track sent a wave of fear through Brianna.

It only made her want to beat him to death to avenge Serena!

Just then, the sound of sirens grew closer.

Several police cars pulled up to the side of the venue.

A place like this operated in a legal gray area.

The sight of police arriving was somewhat comical.

Especially since... a crash had just occurred.

But Brian swaggered over and exchanged a few words with them.

In the end...

Everyone tacitly agreed not to mention the recent crash.

Brandon and Lauren were pushed onto the track by the officers, who personally supervised them as they humiliatingly knelt their way along the track, fulfilling the terms of their bet.

Listening to the repeated shouts of "Brianna is my goddess!"

Brianna went from initial excitement to a growing sense of embarrassment.

That chant... was more than a little mortifying.

"Let's go." This was Brian's turf, and with a whole crowd of onlookers, there were plenty of people to make sure they honored the bet.

Serena had no patience to watch those losers kneel their way to the finish line.

Brianna covered her face and nodded eagerly, ready to leave with Serena.

"Serena..."

After dealing with the trash, Brian hurried over.

He glanced at Brianna, who was clinging to Serena's arm, and then at Nicholas and Nathan following behind.

He pressed his lips together.

His usually playful and roguish face was uncharacteristically solemn.

There were very few things that could make the carefree hell-raiser show such an expression.

Serena narrowed her clear eyes and looked at Brianna. Before she could speak.

Brianna obediently let go of her arm, her bright eyes filled with a smiles "Serena, you go ahead and handle your business. Ilgo talk with my brother for a bit."

Serena watched her skip over to Nicholas's side, then walked to a different area with Brian.

"Serena, that 'Silver Ghost'..."

something's not right," Brian said in

a low voice. "I pulled the earlier surveillance footage from the

maintenance area. Silver Ghost got

close to the Ghostfgh the video doesn't show him doing anything, the way he looked at the

Ghost... it was off."

As he spoke, he opened his palm to Serena. "My guys found this in his wrecked car when they were cleaning up the scene."

Serena looked down.

In Brian's palm was a pin engraved with a strange snake-like pattern, bearing the flag of Norvane.

"As soon as I found this, I had someone start looking into it."

"This is the insignia of a notorious assassin organization from

identity is fake, He's not from.net Norvane. That Silver Ghost... hiel

Byndor at all, hes from Norva

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 209[531 words]

Serena took the pin, her long fingers stroking it as her expression darkened slightly.

"Serena, aren't you surprised at all?!" Brian had been watching her face, but he couldn't see even a hint of shock.

It was as if...

She already knew.

"He probably thought I was going to die today for sure," Serena said, closing her hand around the pin and raising a lazy eyebrow. "He didn't bother hiding his killing intent toward me. That was the kind of intent a professional assassin has."

Brian's face fell instantly. "Does that mean I was a step behind you again, Serena?!"

She had already figured it out, and he was just now catching on!

Serena pocketed the pin. "You weren't late. You handled it promptly."

At the praise, Brian's tail practically started wagging. He lifted his chin, proud and smug.

"Clean up the loose ends. This is Elyndor, don't stir up any unnecessary trouble," Serena said, glancing at the time. "I have to get home."

Brian nodded repeatedly. "You got it! You know you can count on me."

Serena tucked her hands in her pockets and walked toward Brianna.

She happened to overhear Brianna saying, "Brother, she's so amazing. If you don't make a move soon, I'm going to lose my chance at having a sister-in-law."

Serena's long, dark lashes trembled slightly as her gaze fell on Nicholas's face.

Just then, the man looked up at her.

The moment their eyes met, a stunning smile appeared on his cool, almost ethereal face.

It was utterly captivating, like a seductive charmer.

Serena's heart felt a slight tickle, as if a feather had just brushed against it.

"It seems Serena has run into some big trouble."

The man started walking toward Serena on his long, straight legs.

Tall and elegant, his stride was unhurried.

As he approached against the light, it truly felt like... a deity gracing the mortal world.

He really was... constantly trying to charm her.

He stopped in front of Serena and lowered his long, dark lashes. His gorgeous eyes, shimmering like

Sted with amusement

"Need any help?"

"Just some small fries left over from Operation Ember Orchid. It's nothing," Serena said flatly. "No need, I can handle it."

Then, she flicked her eyes up at him

again. "Brianna is with me. I'll

guarantee her safety and make surë,

nothing happens to her. You don't need to follow us around."

Listening from the side, Nathan felt his lips twitch. He desperately wanted to blurt out, "Nicholas isn't here for Brianna! He's here for you, for you, for you!" FindNovel.net

But he didn't dare say it, nor could he.

This young woman seemed... very hard to win over.

If he messed up Nicholas's rhythm and ruined his chances, Nicholas would have his hide!

"Mm."

Nicholas's deep voice hummed in agreement, a slight curve to his thin lips.

He leaned in slightly, getting closer to Serena.

A refined, pine-like scent brushed past Serena's nose, and she felt the cool whisper of his breath.

The man's low, lazy voice was laced with a tender smile. "Of course I trust in Serena's abilities."

Serena was speechless.

Wasn't this man getting a little too close?

She pursed her lips.

Just as she was about to frown.

The man straightened up at the perfect moment, creating distance between them

again.

But that intimate, smoky pine scent still lingered around her.

Again and again.

It felt like a woven net, entangling her within it...

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 210[645 words]

"Well, well. What are we all chatting about?"

A smiling, alluring voice rang out.

Chloe, dressed in a fiery red gown, gracefully walked over.

Brianna's eyes widened. She shot in front of Serena, spreading her arms defensively with a wary expression.

"What... what do you want?!"

This woman had just lent out her club's crown jewel, the Dark Serpent GT, to Adrian.

Even though Adrian had later yelled something at Chloe about her being on Serena's side.

But what kind of 'teammate' would put up a hundred-million-dollar motorcycle as part of a setup?

Even she, the heiress of the Blackwood family, wasn't that extravagant!

Besides, judging by how Chloe had acted toward Adrian earlier, it was obvious she was blind and had a thing for that scumbag!

"Brianna, don't be so tense, darling. We're on the same side," Chloe said, amused by the girl's protective-hen-like posture. Her smile was the picture of seductive charm.

She stepped forward and casually slung an arm around Brianna's shoulders in a familiar gesture. "Oh, my heart... it truly aches! That was my club's pride and joy, the Dark

Serpent GT! I put so much effort into it, a passion project designed to rival the Ghost! Even though someone is paying for it, it still hurts!"

As she spoke, she dramatically pressed a hand to her heart with an exaggerated expression.

Brianna, still a bit uncomfortable in Chloe's embrace, was about to pull away.

But when she heard Chloe's words, she blinked, looking a little dazed.

Then, she saw Serena glance at Chloe, her voice cool but her eyes dancing with a smile. "Alright, alright. I'll email you the design for the new bike in a couple of days."

Chloe's eyes lit up instantly, and she broke into a satisfied grin.

She let go of Brianna.

Turning, she launched herself at Serena, throwing her arms around her in a tight hug. "Serena! I knew you were the best!"

Brianna stared blankly as the glamorous Chloe hugged her friend Serena with such intimacy.

And Serena just let her, not pushing her away, a lazy smile playing on her lips.

It was the kind of relaxed expression one only showed around a dear friend.

So...

This heiress of the Barnes family, who initially seemed to be helping that jerk and acting like she liked him, was actually...

So, when that scumbag yelled about being set up by them, it was true?

"Serena," Chloe said after letting go, shooting her a flirtatious look. "Since you raced today, that means you're planning a comeback. So, when are you coming back to the S Club? The new blood we've recruited is starting to doubt if the legendary God of Racing Skye, was really the founder of the S Club. If you don't show your

face soon, we're going to have a

mutiny on our hands!"

Serena kept her hands in her pockets, her expression unreadable. "I just got home, and I have a lot going on. We'll talk about it when I have time."

"The S... S Club?" Brianna's eyes widened. As a die-hard motorcycle enthusiast, she knew exactly what the founder of the S Club symbolized.

That was the legendary club that had signed Elyndor's racing god, Skye, and cultivated a team composed entirely of international champions!

It was only after Skye's retirement that the S Club was handed over to the next generation of Vaelion City's elite.

It had gradually faded from public view since then.

But the glorious records the S Club had set were an undeniable fact!

ña,

"So... the founder of the S Club, the one who made history for Elyndor's racing scene and led it onto the international stage, was you, Sere as Skye? Brianna was so shocked her face flushed red. She clapped her hands over her mouth to keep from screaming.

Chloe looked proud and raised an eyebrow at Brianna. "Of course. Why else do you think the Dark Serpent GT could rival the Ghost And why would so easily offer up my Bark Serpent GT to go along with that Cote family idiot's little scheme?"

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 211[581 words]

Brianna was speechless.

That was Serena for you!

Her gaze toward Serena grew even more fervent, more adoring.

This was her idol!

Her goddess!

After the group had their fun for a while, Brian arranged for everyone to grab a late- night snack at the Apex Horizon Speedway's restaurant.

Brianna had never experienced such a lively atmosphere before. Her eyes sparkled with a look of pure novelty.

Serena, naturally, wouldn't spoil Brianna's mood at a time like this and agreed.

The atmosphere at the table was relaxed and joyful.

Brianna clung to Serena and Chloe, chattering away as she asked about everything Serena had experienced four years ago as Skye, the process of creating the S Club, and more.

Her little face was flushed with excitement.

As the night deepened.

Serena glanced at the time. "Let's call it a night. Brianna was just discharged from the hospital and needs to rest. My family is also waiting for me."

She thought of her grandfather and the others. No matter how much she reassured them.

If she came home late.

They would ultimately lose sleep, worrying about her.

This feeling of being cherished by her family didn't pressure Serena.

On the contrary...

Warmth flooded her heart.

Growing up, aside from the care she felt from Old Mrs. Wynn, she had never truly experienced so-called family affection.

She had many friends who were like brothers to her.

But because she was strong enough, they often overlooked many things.

Only her grandfather, her parents, her brother...

They didn't assume that her strength and abilities meant she had the courage and power to face everything alone.

Only they would pat her head and say, "You are powerful, you are amazing, and you have the ability to

carry everything on your own but...

your strength doesn't conflict with our concern for you."

This was the first time...

Someone thought that.

She also needed to be cared for and cherished.

"Mmm..." Although Brianna wasn't quite ready for the night to end, she obediently pursed her lips and stood up.

Serena ruffled her soft hair. "It's okay. Once you've recovered, there will be plenty of opportunities."

Brianna nodded obediently.

"I'll take you home," the coolly captivating man said, one hand in his pocket, his dark, almond-shaped eyes fixed on her.

"No need," Serena replied.

"It's too late. It's not safe for a girl to be out alone," Nicholas said in a tone that brooked no argument.

"Not safe? Is there anyone in this world who could make Serena unsafe?" Chloe teased from the side. "Mr. Blackwood, don't tell me you're trying to woo our Serena?"

Nicholas raised an eyebrow, not refuting it. He just curled his lip and said in a soft, lazy voice, "No matter how capable Serena is in your eyes, she's stiff just a girl.

Those words, so similar to what the Lancaster family would say, made Serena's

long, raven-like lashes flutter.

She lifted her gaze to meet the man's smiling, mesmerizing eyes.

That feather that had been tickling her heart was at it again, stroking her softly.

She pressed her lips together, unaccustomed to this strange

fluttering feeling "I appreciate the

offer, Mr. Blackwood, but Brianna needs you to take her home more."

Seeing Serena's insistence.

Brianna puffed out her cheeks, giving her hopeless brother a frustrated glare.

She could only pull out the keys to the Ghost and press them into Serena's hand. "Here, Serena, you can ride the Ghost back. I'll come get it from you another day!"

Serena hummed in agreement. "Be careful on your way."

With that, she swung her leg over the Ghost.

The engine roared to life.

Serena said her goodbyes, and the silver-and-black motorcycle shot forward like an arrow loosed from a bow, quickly melting into the night.

c 212

Nicholas's eyes were deep as he watched the rapidly disappearing taillights, his charming expression instantly turning grim.

He glanced to the side and beckoned to Nathan. "You, take Brianna home."

Nathan was about to agree.

But Brianna grabbed his arm with one hand and pushed Nicholas with the other. "Alright, alright, I'll be good and go home with Nathan. You should hurry up and go after Serena, Nicholas!"

Nothing was more important than chasing after his future sister-in-law!

Serena rode the Ghost at incredible speed.

Her soul, imprisoned for four years, reveled in this rare feeling of freedom, the wind rushing past her.

However, this precious moment of peace and exhilaration was soon interrupted.

As she entered a relatively remote stretch of road flanked by dense trees.

Whizz! Whizz! Whizz!

A series of piercing sounds cut through the air.

Under the night sky, there was a dazzling glint of cold light.

Dozens of throwing stars shot toward the Ghost's tires.

Immediately after, numerous figures leaped out from the greenbelts on both sides.

Glittering katanas swung from the left and right, aiming straight for Serena's head!

The angles were cunning and utterly ruthless.

Everything happened with extreme suddenness.

So fast that there was no chance to react.

Beneath the silver-and-black helmet, the girl's clear, bright eyes narrowed slightly.

In the instant the two katanas came slicing down.

The front wheel of the speeding Ghost lifted abruptly off the ground, the roaring engine seeming to shatter the sky.

Then, with a whip of the handlebars.

The rapidly spinning tire dodged the two katanas and slammed directly into the face of the person wielding one!

The tail of the bike also swung violently, crashing into another attacker who was lunging from behind.

In the blink of an eye.

All the people who had rushed forward so recklessly were now scattered on the ground.

Serena leaned forward, pressing down on the front of the bike.

The front wheel landed smoothly on the ground at an incredibly sharp and strange angle.

Vroom! Vroom! Vroom!-

Countless heavily modified motorcycles swarmed from all the intersecting roads, surrounding Serena's Ghost.

The black-clad riders on the bikes all wore strange, snake-shaped masks.

Norvane, Siphon!

It was the same Siphon organization that had attacked the "Project Aegis" project and had a foothold in Elyndor!

Their retaliation was quite swift.

They had already figured out that she was the one who had destroyed their base in Elyndor.

But it made sense.

They had spent so much time,
manpower, and resources to establish a foothold, to

Close to the core of P
ears.

Only to be exposed and completely wiped out at the last second.

How could Siphon possibly let it go?

These professional assassins were probably part of the same group as that "Silver Ghost."

The numerous heavy motoret

closed in on Serena's Ghost,

attacking from all sides They thrust them poison tipped broken blades at her in unison.

Serena scoffed.

Her cool laughter sounded particularly eerie in the quiet, tense atmosphere.

Beneath the silver-and-black helmet, the girl's striking, delicate face showed no trace of solemnity or panic.

Faced with the pincer attack from all directions.

She didn't slow down.

Instead, she gunned the engine, twisting the throttle all the way!

The Ghost shot forward.

At this extreme speed.

Serena suddenly pressed the bike's body down.

The Ghost leaned into a sharp turn.

Two broken blades scraped past her helmet.

in

At the same time, Serena threw a powerful kick. Her long leg, clad cargo pants, was straight and slender striking one of the assassins squarely in the chest.

The assassin flew backward.

His motorcycle spun out of control, flying off the road and crashing into a wall with a deafening, explosive bang.

A curse erupted from one of the other men.

213

The other assassins roared in anger, immediately steering their motorcycles to ram violently into the Ghost. "Damn it! I'll kill you!"

Serena's eyes filled with even more mockery.

Norvane's professional assassins didn't seem very professional at all.

Don't they bother to properly investigate their targets before a mission?

Just as expected from Norvane's people.

That inexplicable arrogance was baked into their bones.

Trying to fight her on motorcycles.

And they wanted to play demolition derby?

Wasn't this just asking for a death wish?

In the instant the assassin charged at her.

Serena, with a highly difficult maneuver, swerved her bike and rammed right back into him.

The massive impact sent a violent jolt through the assassin's bike, causing him to lose control as his motorcycle veered sideways and flew off the street.

Meanwhile, Serena used the force of the impact to execute a sharp drift, spinning her bike on the spot!

Bang!

Clang!

One by one, the assassins and their bikes were sent flying by the sweeping motion.

And the Ghost, with incredible style, swung back to its original position and came to a steady halt.

She planted one long, straight leg on the ground, her body leaning lazily against the bike. She reached up and removed the silver-and-black helmet, revealing her stunningly perfect face.

Her crimson lips curled into a faint, lazy smile as her gaze swept over the groaning men on the ground, who were still muttering curses.

"Is this all Siphon is capable of?"

Her cool voice was exceptionally pleasant, her tone playful. "No wonder you couldn't make any waves in Elyndor."

Those arrogant words made the men who understood the language of Elyndor turn pale, their faces contorting in fury as they glared at Serena.

They seemed unable to believe that the girl who had destroyed their organization's years of careful planning in Norvane would have the audacity to mention their name.

And with such a look of disdain and contempt?

The assassins were seething with anger.

Suddenly, an assassin who had been thrown against a tree stared at Serena with a ferocious, twisted expression, letting out a series of guttural roars.

His body contorted in pain as he reached into his boot, pulled out a gun, and raised it to aim at Serena.

"Damn you! You bitch! Go to... hell!"

Bang!

A muffled gunshot rang out.

However, the shot wasn't aimed at Serena.

It was directed at the assassin who hadn't even had time to fully raise his gun.

The assassin fell to the ground.

Serena turned her head.

She saw a black Maybach screech to a halt on the side of the road.

The car door opened.

A tall and elegant Nicholas stepped out.

His coolly captivating face was grim,

his, almond-shaped eyes as d ws

a deep pool.

SWI

The gun in his hand was still smoking faintly.

It was him...

as

Serena's gaze swept over the gun in the man's hand. "Thanks."

The words had barely left her lips.

The man had already strode over to her in a few quick steps.

His pace was extremely fast.

A powerful force yanked her forward.

She stumbled into an embrace that carried a crisp, cool scent.

The sudden movement was completely unexpected.

By the time Serena realized what was happening, her brow furrowed.

She was about to raise her hands to push him away.

But then the man's slightly trembling voice reached her ears from above.

bayank god, youre okay

Wr

Serena's hands, which were about to push him away, paused slightly.

The tremor in the man's voice was laced with deep concern.

The emotion was so profound.

His arms were wrapped tightly around her.

At such close proximity, she could even feel the slight trembling of his body and the frantic beating of his heart. t

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 214[564 words]

"Serena..... It was so close, just a little bit..."

His voice was hoarse and tight. "I almost... failed to protect you."

The last few words seemed to catch in his throat, carrying a broken, vulnerable quality.

That intense emotion, so strong it made Serena's own heart tremble, enveloped her like a tangible thing.

Warmth spread through her, washing over a heart that was usually as calm as still water.

Serena's hands, which had been ready to push him away, slowly dropped to her sides. In the end, she didn't push him away.

She lifted her gaze slightly, meeting the man's captivating eyes, which were churning like a stormy sea.

His eyes were filled with worry and lingering fear.

Serena pressed her lips together, a complex emotion flickering in her bright eyes.

Her voice softened. "I'm fine. They were just a few lowlifes. Even if you hadn't come, they wouldn't have been able to hurt me."

"So, I shouldn't have come?" the man's voice sounded a little muffled as he tightened his hold.

He even buried his face in the crook of her neck.

His warm breath tickled her skin.

She shrank her neck back. "That's not what I meant..."

"Serena," Nicholas called her name, his voice hoarse. His large hands still rested gently on her waist, as if he was afraid she would disappear. "Don't go on adventures alone anymore."

Serena didn't answer, nor did she object.

She let Nicholas hold her.

The crisp, pine-like scent filling her senses threw her own heart into disarray.

She didn't know how much time had passed.

Finally, Serena started to feel a little numb from being held. "Have you held me long enough?"

"Of course not. I could hold you forever," Nicholas's breathing gradually calmed, and his voice lost its earlier tension.

Though he said that.

He was still afraid of making her uncomfortable by holding her for too long, so he let her go.

Serena glanced at him and immediately stepped back, moving out of his embrace. Only then did she raise her hands to straighten her clothes, covering the sliver of her fair, almost glowing waistline.

Nicholas's gaze swept over the surroundings, at the people scattered about.

A faint scent of blood hung in the air.

He took out his phone and dialed a number. "West Ring Road, coordinates are [reciting coordinates]. Attacked by Aurelian et

Farreatm Siphon operatives. Seven hostiles, all subdued. Send a team to clean up the scene immediately. Take all survivors into custody and process them at the highest level."

After hanging up.

Nicholas looked up at Serena. "After my people get here, I'll take you home."

Serena pointed to the Ghost parked nearby.

Nicholas said, "My men will return the Ghost to Brianna."

Serena shrugged and didn't refuse again.

The team from the Department of Defense arrived very quickly.

In just ten minutes.

A team sped to the scene and took custody of the remaining "Siphon" members.

Serena got into the car with Nicholas.

She reached for the seatbelt, but her wrist was suddenly caught by the man's hand.

"Don't move."

Nicholas frowned slightly, pulling her hand in front of him.

On the back of the girl's hand, a shallow scrape was bleeding.

Her skin

so pale that the

trickling made the entire back

of her hand look alarmingly

gruesome

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Nicholas's pupils constricted.

Inét

Serena also noticed the wound on her hand, her expression

unchanging. She tried to pull hand back it's a small scratch, fme."

Nicholas's eyes darkened.

IMS

He released her hand and leaned over to pull the seatbelt for her.

This position, this angle.

Besides the man's crisp, pine-like scent washing over her again.

There was also...

When he leaned over slightly.

The collar of his shirt was loosely open, revealing a section of his smooth, impossibly fair collarbone.

Just above it was his prominent Adam's apple.

Such fairness.

So exquisitely sensual.

It was perfect for...

Leaving a mark upon.

Serena's mouth suddenly felt dry, the close-up view a powerful assault on her senses.

Her cool, refined face was tinged with a faint blush.

She averted her gaze.

She didn't see the man's long, dark lashes lower slightly, or the profound, captivating meaning that bloomed in his almond-shaped eyes, which reflected her image completely.

The seatbelt clicked into place.

The man started the engine. "Hold on."

The black Maybach quickly pulled into traffic.

Soon, the car stopped in front of a 24-hour pharmacy.

Serena had never cared about such minor injuries. "There's no need. Let's just hurry..."

"Are you sure you want to go back like this?" Nicholas's gaze fell on the alarming wound on the back of her hand. "What will your parents think when they see it?"

Serena fell silent instantly.

If her parents saw this...

They would probably tear the Lancaster estate apart.

They would also force her to rest in bed until her hand was completely healed.

"Wait for me." Seeing her silence, Nicholas thought her lowered head looked surprisingly obedient.

His thin lips curved into a smile.

Nicholas went into the pharmacy and returned quickly.

Serena reached for the bag from the pharmacy.

But Nicholas held out his hand to her. "Give me your hand."

Serena glanced at him, then complied, placing her hand in his palm.

Nicholas's movements were very gentle. He carefully held her hand, bringing it to the space between them.

The car's interior light was soft.

He took out the medical supplies and, with his head bowed, began to clean the wound on the back of her hand with meticulous care.

His movements were so gentle, as if he were handling a priceless treasure.

Serena blinked, staring at the man's

lowered dark lashes, at his man's face, which looked

captivating face

almost reverent with i reverent with intense foc

He was so close that she could even feel his warm breath ghosting over the back of

her hand, making it tickle.

The antiseptic was cool, making the

man's hand, which occasionally

brushed against her skin, feel

scorching hot in contrast, sending a tingling, electric sensation through her

Serena's heart fluttered again, as if faint ripples were spreading across it.

She hissed softly.

In the past, Serena wouldn't have flinched even if a knife had cut to the bone.

But now, perhaps under the influence of the man's intense concern, she found it a little hard to bear.

Her fingertips trembled.

"Just hold on," Nicholas's voice was gentle. He lifted her hand, brought his lips close, and blew on the wound.

The warm breath washed over her.

It was an intensely tender and affectionate gesture.

Serena pressed her lips together, feeling strangely... that this childish action actually seemed to lessen the slight stinging pain.

"It's okay, it doesn't hurt," his voice was gentle, with a coaxing tone.

He carefully applied the bandage to the wound, his fingertips soft, his movements

slow.

Serena wasn't in pain anymore.

All that was left was an itch.

That kind of itch...

It made her heart itch as well.

The layer of frost over her heart seemed to have melted in a corner.

She averted her gaze, looking out the car window.

In the darkness, the window clearly reflected the man's deep, intense emotions.

The air inside the entire car seemed to have become more tender.

A very faint blush spread to the tips of her ears...

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 216[649 words]

Nicholas took in her reaction.

His thin lips curled into a slight smile, and his movements became even more gentle.

Whether it was intentional or not, as he applied the antiseptic, the man's long, slender fingers would occasionally brush against hers, sending a jolt of heat through her.

It was a simple matter of cleaning the wound, applying ointment, and putting on a bandage, something that should have taken only three to five minutes.

But to Serena, it felt...

As if time was crawling by.

The blush that had started at her ears had now spread across her entire face.

"All done." The man withdrew his hand at just the right moment and put away the medical supplies. "This is all we can do for now. I'll bring you some more medicine tomorrow."

Serena pulled her hand back. "You don't have to. I'm a doctor myself."

She could prepare any medicine she needed and treat it herself.

"You're the patient. Be good and listen," Nicholas said, his gaze falling on the back of her hand. "If you aggravate the injury, your hand will swell up, and you'll have a hard time explaining it to your family."

Serena considered it and didn't refuse again.

Nicholas started the car and began driving toward the Lancaster estate. "By the way," he said, "my grandfather wants to see you."

Serena was looking down, staring at the perfectly treated wound on the back of her hand.

The bandage on her hand was pink and adorned with a cartoon Hello Kitty.

This man... actually had a taste for this kind of style?

Quite a unique preference.

Just as she was thinking this, she suddenly heard what Nicholas said.

Her long, dark lashes fluttered up as her clear eyes met his sharp profile.

She was confused.

His grandfather?

Wants to see her?

"You're the reason Brianna was able to come back from death's door and recover so well, able to live like a normal person," Nicholas explained in his low, magnetic voice. "Grandfather wants to thank his granddaughter's savior in person."

Serena was about to say it wasn't necessary.

But the man's low, lazy voice spoke again. "Besides... our families have always been on good terms, and there's the matter of our childhood engagement. Now that his future granddaughter-in-law is back, my grandfather also wants to meet you and talk about the engagement in person."

Serena was speechless.

That last part was completely unnecessary!

This man was a perfect embodiment of "shameless" and "give him an inch, he'll take a mile"!

The car slowly pulled into the Lancaster family estate.

Serena was about to unbuckle her seatbelt to get out.

But the man had already leaned over, his slender, elegant fingers unfastening it for her.

That sexy collarbone once again assaulted Serena's senses.

He was as flamboyant as a peacock displaying its feathers.

Then, Nicholas got out of the car, walked around to the passenger side, opened the door for Serena, and held out his hand. "Let me help you."

Serena was at a loss for words.

She had only scraped the back of her hand; she wasn't disabled.

But it was obvious this man, who was clearly addicted to playing the knight in shining armor, had no intention of backing down.

Serena glanced at the brightly lit main house. It was clear someone was waiting for her in the hall.

She placed her hand in Nicholas's palm.

The man's large hand was scorching hot, easily enveloping hers completely.

He shielded her head as he helped her out of the car.

Still, he showed no sign of letting go.

Serena shot him a look.

Nicholas was unfazed. "I'm just worried you'll bump your hand and hurt it again."

Serena fell silent. Yeah, right. You sly fox, you're up to no good.

Behind a floor-to-ceiling window on the second floor of the main house, a fluttering curtain concealed a pair of eyes burring with a jealousy so fierce they could have spit fire

Isabella watched the careful way, Nicholas protected Serena, watched the gentle, focused expression on his face as he spoke to her and watched as he held her hand refusing to let go.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 217[555 words]

She was drowning in a sea of jealousy.

She just didn't get it.

It was obvious to anyone with eyes that she, the perfect top socialite of Vaelion City meticulously groomed by the Lancaster family, was a thousand, no, ten thousand times better than that country bumpkin, Serena!

So why would Nicholas...

Choose that country bumpkin!

In what way was she inferior to that girl?

She had always been gentle and fawning in front of Nicholas, showcasing her talents and capabilities.

For him, she strove to become more perfect, more formidable, all to secure her position as the matriarch of the Blackwood family and to show everyone that she was the most suitable person for him.

But... Nicholas was always lukewarm toward her, always overlooking her.

How did Serena so quickly convince Nicholas to acknowledge their childhood engagement and accept her as his fiancée?

Country bumpkins really did have a lot of tricks up their sleeves!

Even a man as noble as Nicholas had been deceived by her!

Meanwhile, in the brightly lit hall of the main house.

As soon as Serena and Nicholas stepped inside.

They saw Edward and Catherine sitting on the sofa, just as expected.

Old Mr. Lancaster wasn't there; he had probably been persuaded to go to his room to rest.

Seeing Serena, both of them breathed a sigh of relief.

Catherine came forward to greet them. "Serena, you're back!"

She then turned to Nicholas. "Nicholas, you're here too? Did you bring Serena home? Thank you so much. Colin, please get Nicholas a glass of water."

Nicholas, shedding his usual lazy and wicked demeanor, smiled in a reserved and gentle manner. "It was no trouble at all, Mrs. Lancaster. It's my duty to bring Serena home."

The implication was crystal clear.

Catherine's gaze fell on their intertwined hands, and she exchanged a look with Edward.

Their stance had been clear from the very beginning.

Everything depended on Serena's wishes.

Knowing Serena's personality, if she wasn't willing... she wouldn't have given Nicholas the chance to hold her hand.

Catherine didn't say anything, but

her eyes suddenly caught sight of

the pink Hello Kitty bandage on the back of Serena's other hand

She exclaimed in surprise, "Serena, what happened to your hand?"

"It's just a small scrape, I'm fine," Serena reassured her.

"How can that be fine?" Catherine was heartbroken. "Let Mom take a look."

Edward also put down his newspaper and stood up. "What's going on? How did you get hurt? How did it happen?"

As he spoke, he shot a somewhat reproachful glare at Nicholas.

"I'm really fine. Nicholas already treated it for me. It doesn't hurt at all." Serena

raised her hand to show them she was okay.

But the moment her hand was in the

air, Catherine grabbed it with a pained expression, treating it with extreme care. "Alright, alright. Mom believes you. Just don't move it. We'll have Dr. Samuel Arden come take a look later."

"Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster, please don't worry. It's just a superficial

wound and it's already been

treated," Nicholas said, his head

slightly bowed. "It was my oversight.

I apologize."

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This scene was witnessed by Isabella, who had emerged from her room and was standing in the corner of the stairs.

She was so jealous she could have burst.

Her eyes turned red with envy.

It was one thing for her parents to be so concerned about Serena.

But Nicholas actually lowered himself to treat that country bumpkin's wound?

She had never even had Nicholas tend to one of her injuries.

Why did Serena get to?!

When did they become so close?!

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 218[578 words]

In the living room, Catherine gestured for Nicholas to sit on the sofa. "Alright, since Nicholas has already treated Serena's wound, let's not fuss with her hand anymore so late at night. We'll see if it's red or swollen tomorrow."

Nicholas accepted the hot tea from Alfred and sat down.

His gaze swept across the room and landed on an exquisite crystal display case in a very prominent spot. Inside was a bright red certificate of commendation.

He raised an eyebrow slightly.

Noticing his gaze, Edward immediately broke into a proud smile. "That's a national award given to Serena. Serena wanted to be low-key about it, kept telling us to put it away or in the study, but I thought... this is a national-level award, embossed with the national emblem in gold! Such a great honor must be displayed in the most conspicuous place. We can look at it every day and feel happy!"

He didn't dare show off this certificate outside.

Now that he had Nicholas here, it was a golden opportunity to boast, and Edward wasn't about to miss it.

Nicholas's lips curved into a sincere smile. "Serena is truly amazing."

"Of course, she is! Look whose daughter she is!" Edward was beaming with pride.

Isabella bit her lower lip hard, her face contorted with jealousy as she stared at the national award certificate.

She saw the pride and joy radiating from Edward's face and the way Nicholas stared at the certificate with a burning intensity.

She was so furious she could have burst.

That certificate was supposed to be hers!

The person making her father proud should have been her!

The person being praised by Nicholas should have been her!

That country bumpkin, Serena, loved to steal everything from her!

She stole her parents, her brother, and Nicholas, and now she had even stolen her accomplishments!

The more she thought about it, the more furious Isabella became.

Her heart was filled with a sour mix of jealousy and bitterness; she felt sick.

She couldn't take it anymore. Taking a deep breath, she quickly walked down the stairs. "Nicholas?"

She acted as if she had just noticed him, her face a mask of pleasant surprise, She rushed toward him. "Nicholas, I cant believe you're here so late! Did you bring my sister home?"

She smiled sweetly, her eyes full of affection for him. "Thank you so much for bringing Serenahome so late But Louess it's for the best Serenais so pretty, but she's always out playing so late. It wouldn't be good if something happened."

It sounded like she was thanking Nicholas.

But between the lines, she was hinting to him about Serena's habit of staying out all night!

What kind of respectable girl stays out so late every day, making her family wait up for her?

She must be messing around with the wrong crowd.

After all, country bumpkins play dirty.

But the moment Isabella rushed over, Nicholas's dark brows furrowed almost imperceptibly.

He shifted slightly closer to Serena, his cool, handsome face a mask of indifference. "Bringing Serena home is my duty. You don't need to thank me on her behalf."

With that, he finished his tea and stood up. "It's getting late. I won't impose any longer."

From beginning to end, he didn't spare Isabella a single glance. His expression was utterly calm and

indifferent tinged with

disguised

distance. "Also, when Serena comes home is Serena's business. It's not

for you to worry about."

Isabella's smile froze. She stared blankly at Nicholas, who showed her no courtesy and was so blatantly biased toward Serena. The color drained from her face.

Tears instantly welled up in her eyes.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 219[594 words]

Nicholas was so gentle with Serena.

So why was he so cold to her, as if she were a complete stranger?

Was he that protective of Serena?

Was his gentleness reserved only for Serena?

The more Isabella thought about it, the more her heart ached, as if it were being squeezed and torn to shreds.

The pain was unbearable.

However, the man was oblivious to her heartbreak and suffering. His cold eyes showed no flicker of emotion.

But now, his gaze fell on Isabella. "And one more thing, Miss Lancaster. Let me reiterate, we are not close! Please don't let me hear you address me like that again. It makes me very uncomfortable."

Because he was in front of the Lancaster parents, Nicholas was already being quite restrained.

But his indifference and bluntness were still so ruthless that her face flushed crimson.

The humiliation was overwhelming!

Tears streamed down her face. Her tearful, wounded eyes shot Nicholas an accusing look.

Then she covered her face and ran upstairs, sobbing.

As she ran, she let out the choked sobs she had been suppressing for so long.

"Isabella..."

Catherine called out anxiously as she watched Isabella run up the stairs.

Seeing that Isabella paid her no mind and slammed her bedroom door shut with a bang, she sighed.

She looked at Nicholas with a hint of apology. "Nicholas, Isabella... she's just too deeply in love with you. She lost her composure for a moment. Please don't take it to heart."

"You're too kind, Mrs. Lancaster." Nicholas's dark eyes were sincere and open. "I should be the one apologizing. My words to Miss Lancaster just now were perhaps a bit harsh."

"I hope you can understand. My

heart already belongs to someone, and the only person I want to pursue is Serena. Therefore, I will consciously and actively maintain a proper distance from all other women to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings of trouble. This is my respect for Serena and my responsibility to this relationship."

This speech made the Lancaster parents nod repeatedly in approval.

They exchanged a look, and their eyes were filled with admiration.

The more they looked at this young man, the more satisfied they were!

Even though they knew he had designs on their precious daughter, they couldn't deny... this young man was truly outstanding.

A man with a conscious sense of boundaries who deliberately kept his distance from other women was a rare find.

"We understand, of course we understand!" Edward nodded with a smile. "This is how young people should be-open, honest, and responsible. Why would we mind?"

While things were harmonious downstairs.

Upstairs, Isabella, who had run back to her room in tears, was trembling with rage.

After slamming the bedroom door, she threw all the pillows from her bed onto the floor, her sobs heart-wrenching.

Agnes, who had followed her in, was heartbroken. She sat on the edge of the bed, patting Isabella's back soothingly. "Oh, Miss Isabella please don't Cry. Your father and mother only have eyes for their biological daughter now. They dote on her and don't care about your feelings at all. You have to rely on yourself."

These words only added fuel to the fire.

Isabella grew even angrier, her tear-streaked face snapping up. "Rely on myself? How am I supposed to do that?"

Agnes wiped her tears with a tissue.

"If you lose your composure now, you'll fall right into that country bumpkin's trap, won't you? Mr. Blackwood is your only way out! You have to hold on to Mr. Blackwood

tightly and marry into the Blackwood family!"

"I want to! But... but he won't even look at me!" At the mention of Nicholas, Isabella

cried even more sadly and aggrievedly. "His eyes... they only see that country bumpkin!"

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 220[606 words]

She was going crazy with her desire to marry Nicholas!

But it wasn't something she could achieve just by wanting it.

Thinking about Nicholas's attitude toward Serena versus his attitude toward her was a stark contrast.

Isabella was both desperate and resentful.

She was going crazy with jealousy!

"Oh, my dear Miss Isabella, you've forgotten what I told you last time... you have to work on other people!" Agnes lowered her voice. "You've always been kind, and as the top socialite groomed by the Lancaster family, you can't play dirty tricks like that country bumpkin from the countryside. If you want to win Mr. Blackwood back, trying to impress him directly won't work."

"Do you know how that country bumpkin managed to charm Mr. Blackwood into driving her home?"

Agnes pursed her lips in disgust. "I just asked around. To marry into the Blackwood family, that country bumpkin has been trying every trick in the book to please them! The Blackwood family's daughter has a heart condition, yet she dragged the girl out to go racing and even lured Mr. Blackwood there."

Isabella's crying stopped abruptly. Her eyes widened. "She... she took Brianna racing?!"

"Exactly!" Agnes placed her hands on Isabella's shoulders, making her look up. "You see? She's bold and has her methods. With one gamble, she got Mr. Blackwood to drive her home!"

Isabella's fists clenched, her eyes flickering. "Brianna..... that's a dead end for me. Then I should work on Old Mr. Blackwood!"

The only person in the entire Blackwood family who held any sway over Nicholas was Old Mr. Blackwood.

As long as Old Mr. Blackwood was on her side.

Nicholas would have to marry her!

And once she married into the Blackwood family, she had plenty of ways to capture Nicholas's heart!

Seeing that Isabella had understood, Agnes patted her shoulder gently, her voice growing more serious. "Miss Isabella, Old Mr. Blackwood has always been fond of you, and he's very anxious to hold a great-grandchild... As long as you can use his influence to successfully get pregnant with Mr. Blackwood's child, old Mr. Blackwood will

definitely accept you! Even if Mr. Blackwood is unwilling, he'll have to marry you for the sake of the child!"

The more Agnes spoke, the brighter the flame of eagerness burned in Isabella's eyes.

She nodded vigorously. "Yes... yes! As long as old Mr. Blackwood only recognizes me as his

granddaughter-in-law, that country bumpkin Serena will have absolutely

no way of entering the solutely

Blackwood

family's doors!"

She thought for a moment, then immediately picked up the phone she had thrown on the bed and dialed a number.

Soon, the call connected, and a woman's voice, full of affection, came through. "Isabella, what's wrong? Why are you calling me so late?"

Isabella's eyes reddened, and she made her voice sound delicate and tearful. "Karen, am I bothering you?"

"Not at all, I just got back from a party and I'm wide awake," the other person said, then paused slightly. "Isabella, have you been crying?"

Isabella blinked, and the tears welling in her eyes spilled over, making her sniffles more pronounced. "No."

"Don't lie to me, I can tell," the woman's voice turned cold. "Was it that little bitch from the countryside? Is she giving you trouble again? Bullying you?"

Isabella sniffled and denied it again.

The woman grew even angrier. "That little bitch, she can't go one day without causing trouble. I really don't know what your parents are thinking. They already have a daughter like you, voted Vaelion

City's top socialite, yet they insist on

bringing back that country bumpkin. Isn't that just a pure

embarrassment? Aren't they

ashamed?"

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"That bitch has been bullying you ever since she got back. You can tell she's nothing but a troublemaker! Set up a meeting with her. I'll deal with her!"

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 221[587 words]

Hearing Karen spit out the word "bitch," Isabella felt a surge of relief, but she

maintained a tearful tone, her voice laced with repressed grievance. "Karen, I know you're worried about me and hate to see me wronged, but I'm fine. You don't have to stand up for me. After all... she's going to marry into the Blackwood family someday. It wouldn't be good if you two didn't get along because of me."

That remark made the woman on the other end gasp and scoff. "Marry into the Blackwood family? What right does a country girl like her have to marry into our family?"

"She's the one... with the childhood engagement to Nicholas," Isabella said, sounding as if she was about to cry. "Now that she's back with the Lancaster family, eventually... she'll have to..."

"Even if the engagement is honored, the bride can only be you!" the woman sneered. "If that bitch wants to walk through the Blackwood family's doors, she needs to take a good look at herself and see if she's even worthy!"

"But..... but Nicholas, he... he seems to genuinely like Serena..." As Isabella said this, she seemed to completely lose her composure and broke down crying. "She took Brianna street racing tonight... and apparently got hurt, so Nicholas brought her home. He's never brought me home... And just now, in front of everyone, he was so harsh with me... for Serena's sake. I... I..."

The woman on the phone exploded. "What?! That bitch took Brianna street racing? Isn't Brianna still in the hospital? How dare she take Brianna street racing?"

"Isabella, don't cry! Grandfather values promises above all else. You are the only future matriarch of the Blackwood family that he and I will ever recognize! That Serena is just some uncultured hick from the countryside. What does she amount to? Nicholas probably

only took her back to the Lancaster estate to confront her about taking Brianna street racing. There's no way he could possibly like that kind of woman!"

The woman on the phone was Karen Blackwood, Isabella's greatest ally in the Blackwood family and Nicholas's cousin.

Karen had always been certain that Isabella would become Nicholas's wife and the future matriarch of the Blackwood family. She had cultivated a close relationship with Isabella early on to secure her own future.

She frequently praised Isabella to Old Mr. Blackwood and often passed along information about Nicholas's whereabouts and plans.

"Karen, Nicholas is really different with her..." Isabella sobbed, her tone filled with worry. "I heard... that before she came back, she grew up in the countryside, didnt even finish high school, and got involved with all sorts of shady people. She's always surrounded by a group of men..."

"When I saw Serena come back just now, she was injured, and Nicholas didn't look too happy either. I'm just worried... worried that she's fooling him, that she'll drag him down..."

"How outrageous!" Karen was easily

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provoked. "She didn't even finish high school?! A low-life like that dares to dream of entering our Blackwood family?! Don't worry, Isabella. Grandfather values an impeccable background and good character above all else. How can she possibly compare to your gentle and sensible nature? Only you are worthy of Nicholas. You're the most suitable person to be the future matriarch of the Blackwood family!"

As she spoke, she slammed her hand on a table. "Isabella, I'm going to the main residence to see Grandfather first thing tomorrow morning Im going to make him put his foot down with Nicholas will absolutely not allow a woman like that into this family!"

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 222[557 words]

Isabella was ecstatic, the corners of her mouth curling up, but her voice remained soft. "Karen, is that a good idea? What if... what if Nicholas finds out? He'll be angry..."

"What's not good about it? You're doing this for Nicholas's own good! For the Blackwood family's good!" Karen's voice grew sharp. "Isabella, you're coming with me to the main residence tomorrow!"

Isabella's eyes lit up.

She had just been wondering how to get more face time with Old Mr. Blackwood, and Karen had handed her the perfect invitation.

It was exactly what she wanted.

"Well... alright then, Karen. I'll do as you say." Though overjoyed, Isabella feigned reluctance, projecting an image of magnanimity, as if she were making a great sacrifice for the Blackwood family.

After hanging up the phone.

Agnes smiled in satisfaction. "Miss Isabella, that's the right move. What you need to do now... is use every resource at your disposal to find a way to get pregnant with Mr. Blackwood's child. Secure your position with a child, and you'll marry into the Blackwood family!"

"Tomorrow, you must be on your best behavior. Make Old Mr. Blackwood see that only you... are worthy of the position of the Blackwood family's matriarch. As long as he recognizes you, the family engagement can only be yours!"

After making his stance clear, Nicholas spoke politely, "Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster, it's getting very late. I won't disturb you any longer."

At this hour, the Lancasters naturally wouldn't insist he stay.

They nodded. "Thank you for bringing Serena home, Nicholas. And... we really liked the gifts you sent last time."

"I'm glad you liked them," Nicholas said with a gentle smile.

Seeing his phony expression, Serena's mouth twitched.

She stood up, grabbed his arm, and started pulling him toward the door. "I'll see you out."

The moment the girl's hand clasped his arm, a ripple of pleasure spread across the man's cool, almost ethereal features.

A smile played on his thin lips as he obediently let Serena pull him along.

His deep, dark eyes, shaped like peach blossoms, overflowed with doting affection.

Edward and Catherine saw it all clearly. They exchanged a look and smiled in unison.

It seemed...

Serena didn't exactly dislike Nicholas.

The atmosphere between them... felt like there was something there!

Once Serena had dragged Nicholas out of the main house, she tried to let go of him.

The instant she released her grip, Nicholas caught her hand. "See me all the way out, fiancée."

The word, seeming to roll off his tongue, was laced with playful charm.

Serena's heart fluttered again. She pursed

her crimson lips and she

never agreed to any engagement.

"I

"Mm, I know," Nicholas said, his charming eyes twinkling and a smile on his lips. "I'll work hard."

Serena was speechless. "Whatever."

Her cool, stunning face was tense as she glanced down at the hand he was holding.

The man's fingers were long and elegant, with well-defined knuckles, impossibly beautiful.

In the skin

seet, his pale skin

covered in a

glow, making his fingers soft, cool

translucent jade. FindNovel.net

She didn't pull her hand away.

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It wasn't that she was mesmerized by his looks.

It was simply because the man was utterly shameless, and she doubted she could get away even if she tried.

Besides, it was just a short walk to the estate gate. She couldn't be bothered to fight with him.

Nicholas looked down at the girl,

who was also looking down, staring intently at his hand. Her little face was tense, her expression serious. She was so cute he wanted to

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He coughed.

The smile at the corners of his lips deepened, the affection in his eyes practically overflowing.

Fine.

No rush.

He had plenty of time to get the girl to accept him.

When you're pursuing someone, patience is key.

And for her, he had all the patience in the world.

At least she was letting him hold her hand now. That was significant progress.

The two of them walked all the way to the estate gate.

Just as Serena was about to pull her hand back.

Nicholas tightened his grip, his captivating eyes holding the expression of a sad puppy. "I don't want to let go. What should I do?"

Serena narrowed her bright eyes and raised a brow at him. "What do you want to do?"

"Hmm..." Nicholas feigned distress. "If I said I wanted to stay and sleep with you, Old Mr. Lancaster would probably jump out of bed and chase me with his cane."

As he spoke, he suddenly leaned in, his lips close to the girl's flushed ear. "Let's compromise then... Serena, give me a hug."

He really knew how to push his luck.

Serena's eyes flickered as she looked at the flawlessly handsome face so close to hers.

Her expression remained blank. She decisively raised her other hand and pressed it against that infuriatingly perfect face.

She gave it a firm push.

It was a rather unceremonious way to handle such a work of art.

Just like that, she shoved the face that had been getting dangerously close to her ear and pushed it away.

"Get lost."

A single words escaped her crimson lips.

Then, she pulled her hand back and turned to leave.

Her steps were resolute.

But they held a hint of... a hasty retreat.

Nicholas stood at the gate, his starry, affectionate eyes fixed on Serena's back.

He curled his thin lips into a sly smile, looking like a triumphant fox. "I'll come pick you up tomorrow morning."

Serena didn't break her stride.

Nicholas kept watching until the lights in the main house went dark.

Only then did he avert his gaze and turn to leave.

As soon as Serena entered her room, she faintly heard the sound of an engine starting.

She guessed Nicholas had been waiting to ensure she was safely back in her room before leaving.

She was in her own home, surrounded by Lancaster family security. What could possibly happen?

Though she grumbled internally.

She couldn't help but lift the hand that had just pushed Nicholas's face.

Her fingertips felt a little warm.

It was as if the sensation of the man's smooth skin lingered.

This unfamiliar, subtle feeling...

It was really unsettling.

That man..... he was a master at using his good looks to charm her.

The next day.

At the Blackwood main residence.

Karen stormed into Old Mr. Blackwood's study.

She had been so angry she couldn't sleep all night.

For so many years, she had put so much effort, so much time and money, into building a good relationship with Isabella.

If Isabella didn't marry Nicholas, all her efforts would have been for nothing.

She was the eldest daughter of the family's second branch, and her father wasn't particularly capable. To maintain her current lifestyle, she had no choice but to curry favor with the main branch.

But currying favor with Nicholas...

Nicholas would never give her the chance.

So her only option was to get in with Nicholas's future wife.

After learning about the childhood engagement between the two families, she had

set her sights on Isabella.

She absolutely could not let all her work go down the drain!

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Karen now had to spare no effort speaking up for Isabella, to do everything she could to push her

into the position of the Blackwood family's future matriarch!

"Grandfather, you have to do something about Nicholas!" Karen said urgently, repeating everything Isabelle had told her the day before, with plenty of embellishments.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 224[611 words]

Especially when she spoke of Serena.

Karen's disdain and disgust were written all over her face. "Grandfather, how can a woman like that ever enter the Blackwood family? Letting her hang around Nicholas will only ruin him!"

"She's a country girl with no manners who didn't even finish high school. Just standing next to Nicholas would be a disgrace to him!"

Karen spoke until her throat was dry. "Grandfather, we know Isabella inside and out. She's well-behaved, sensible, and she's waited for Nicholas for so many years. In every way, she's the perfect match for him!"

"Besides, haven't you always been fond of Isabella, Grandfather? You can't just ignore this!"

Old Mr. Blackwood leaned back in his rosewood chair, his eyes closed. His stern, calm face betrayed no emotion.

Only after Karen had finished did he slowly open his eyes.

His gaze, sharpened by years of experience, was piercing as he looked at her.

"I know," Old Mr. Blackwood said, his voice deep and steady. "I have it under control."

"Grandfather, it's not enough for you to just have it under control. You have to do something." Seeing Old Mr. Blackwood's lukewarm attitude, Karen grew anxious. "Nicholas is the future of the Blackwood family. His partner must be chosen with the utmost care. It absolutely cannot be some shady woman like her..."

"That's enough." Old Mr. Blackwood closed his eyes again, his stern features turning icy. "I'm tired."

"Grandfather!" Karen didn't buy the excuse. It was early in the morning; he had just woken up. How could he be tired?

She wanted to say more.

Patton, the Blackwood family's butler, stepped forward at the right moment. His tone was respectful but firm. "Miss Karen, the master hasn't been well lately. He needs to rest. Please, you should leave now."

Karen's expression changed. She was both anxious and angry, but she didn't dare throw a tantrum in front of Old Mr. Blackwood. She could only say weakly, "But Grandfather..... Isabella is here too. She brought some soup she made herself and is waiting for you outside..."

Old Mr. Blackwood had always had a very good impression of Isabella and was quite fond of her.

By bringing her up now, she figured Old Mr. Blackwood wouldn't just leave Isabella waiting outside, would he?

But Old Mr. Blackwood kept his eyes closed, as if he hadn't heard a word.

Patton made a gesture. "Miss Karen, please."

Karen didn't understand why her grandfather had no reaction to the mention of Isabella.

She was doing all of this for the Blackwood family, for Nicholas!

She stomped her foot in frustration but didn't dare defy the true head of the Blackwood family. She could only retreat from the study dejectedly. The study door closed.

The old man who had been resting his eyes opened them again. They were perfectly clear, without a trace of fatigue.

"Patton," he said. "Find an excuse and have that Lancaster girl go home."

Patton was a little surprised. "Sir, I thought you were quite satisfied with her..."

"What does my satisfaction matter? The important thing is that Nicholas is satisfied," Old Mr. Blackwood glanced at him. "If I could force that boy to do anything, I'd be holding my great-grandson by now!"

Patton fell silent. That was true. The Third Young Master had a personality that would try a saint's patience.

In the past, the old master had tried everything, even feigning illness and threatening his own life, to get his grandson to agree to the

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engagement with the Lancaster family, but Nicholas had never budged. s̄wnovels

"However... that girl is rather interesting," Old Mr. Blackwood said, stroking his chin and starting to smile.

The stern look on his face instantly vanished.

Having served Old Mr. Blackwood for decades, Patton understood immediately Sare you referring

to the true heiress the Lancaster family brought back?"

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 225[558 words]

"Yes," Old Mr. Blackwood said, leaning back in his chair, his worldly eyes glinting with shrewdness. "That girl is Brianna's savior."

Patton, who had followed Old Mr. Blackwood for decades and was known for his vast experience and unreadable expression, lost his composure for the first time in years. "Could it be... the miracle doctor at Starlight Royal Medical Center who saved Miss Blackwood and cured her heart condition... is Miss Lancaster?!"

Old Mr. Blackwood smiled and nodded.

Patton was stunned. "But... but I heard that before the Lancaster family brought her back... she grew up in the countryside..."

"So what if she grew up in the countryside? As long as she herself is exceptional, her brilliance can't be hidden, no matter where she grew up." The more Old Mr. Blackwood spoke, the more satisfied he looked. "Did you know that Nicholas... called me first thing this morning?"

Patton was surprised. "The Third Young Master called you on his own initiative?"

"Yes, it's rare for him to do something like that. It was all for that girl the Lancasters brought back. He said... he's bringing her to visit later and even told me to prepare a gift in advance." Old Mr. Blackwood's eyes were full of amusement. "That boy and Brianna have incredibly high standards. Not just anyone can get their approval. Yet that girl has Brianna calling her 'sister' and even made Nicholas... call me on his own accord for her sake."

"I've never seen anyone that those two siblings have taken such an interest in....."

"And even more... the new Lancaster girl made that boy say the words 'my heart belongs to someone'..."

His smile deepened. "Patton, it seems... my dream of holding a great-grandchild is one step closer!"

Now, even Patton was in shock.

No wonder the master had sent Miss Isabella away directly.

Otherwise, if she ran into the real Miss Lancaster later...

That would have been incredibly awkward!

"Go, go and get things ready. We need to welcome the Lancaster girl properly, I'm very curious to see her for myself... to see what kind of girl she is, how exceptional she really is." Old Mr. Blackwood waved his hand.

Just as Patton was about to leave.

Old Mr. Blackwood suddenly stood up, a little unsteadily.

Patton rushed forward to support him.

"No need, this old man's body isn't that frail yet, Old Mr. Blackwood waved him off. "I'm going to prepare a welcome gift for the girl. You go and give the orders. Young people today care a lot about making things, feet special. It's her first visit, so we have to show our full support, but without putting any pressure on her."

In the main hall of the residence.

Karen emerged looking flustered, her face pale and flushed.

Isabella, holding a delicate thermos, quickly stood up to greet her, her face full of anticipation. "Karen, how is Old Mr. Blackwood? Can I go in now?"

Karen's expression was grim.

Isabella's heart sank. "Karen, what's wrong? Is Grandfather... still not awake?"

Karen had her pride to consider; she certainly couldn't admit she had just been "asked" to leave the study.

She kept a straight face, hiding her embarrassment. "Grandfather isn't feeling well. He just took his

medicine and is a bit tired. He's not

seeing anyone today We shotg home for now."

With that, she reached out to pull Isabella away.

Isabella was instantly disappointed. She looked down at the thermos in her hand. "Then... what about this soup...?"