

# 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 make 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.

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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!"

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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.

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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."

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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...?"

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 226[ 605 words ]

"You should take it back," Karen said.

Seeing Karen's eagerness to get her out of there, Isabella's heart lurched again with a terrible premonition.

She had finally made it to the Blackwood family's main residence. She had spent all last night planning how she would act in front of old Mr. Blackwood, how she would subtly slander Serena in his presence, and how she would project the air of a future matriarch.

But now...

She couldn't even get a glimpse of old Mr. Blackwood. How could she leave willingly?

Isabella fluttered her lashes, her eyes full of concern. "Karen, old Mr. Blackwood's health is the most important thing... Why don't we just wait here for a little while? Once old Mr. Blackwood is rested, maybe he'll be willing to see us."

As she spoke, she lifted the insulated container in her hands, her tone deliberately sweet and obedient. "I got up extra early today. I spent three hours brewing this nourishing chicken soup for old Mr. Blackwood using the EverVita Essence I managed to win at auction recently after paying an exorbitant price..."

"EverVita Essence?" Karen exclaimed. "You mean the herbal remedy developed by that elusive Phantom Healer, the one who is rumored to be able to bring people back from the dead? I heard a small 10g bottle is worth over a million dollars on the market!"

Isabella nodded obediently, her beautiful eyes filled with sincerity. "As long as it helps old Mr. Blackwood. recover, the money is nothing."

Karen was shocked that she was willing to spend so much just to curry favor with her grandfather.

After all, while the medicines developed by the legendary Phantom Healer had a market price, they were almost never in stock.

For Isabella to get her hands on a bottle, she must have done more than just throw money around; she must have pulled a lot of strings.

Karen wanted to help Isabella, since it would be beneficial to her own future.

But when she thought about her grandfather's earlier attitude, his reaction...

She didn't want the same scene to play out in front of Isabella, which would only make her look even more incompetent.

She was just about to refuse.

Just then, Patton emerged from the study and gave a command in a deep voice to a servant in the

hallway Everyone, on your toes

The young master will be bringing a distinguished guest home shortly. The master has instructed that the main residence be cleaned and the tea, snacks, and everything else must be of the highest quality! And the layout of the front hall... set it up exactly as the master requested!"

Karen and Isabella were both taken aback.

A distinguished guest?

Nicholas was bringing a distinguished guest home?

Who could possibly be so important that even old Mr. Blackwood was making such a fuss?

Karen's eyes darted around as an idea began to form.

Her grandfather might not want to see Isabella right now.

But later... Nicholas would be back!

Wasn't this the perfect opportunity for Nicholas and Isabella to cultivate their relationship?

Maybe... seeing how considerate and devoted Isabella was to his grandfather would improve Nicholas's impression of her!

With that thought, a smile

immediately spread across Karen's

face. "Isabella, since you put so much effort into making this soup, and it's a token of your sincerity, maybe Grandpa will feel much better after drinking it. Let's just wait in the side hall."

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Patton heard the commotion and frowned slightly, starting to walk over to speak.

Karen quickly cut in, "Patton, this

soup was made with the EverVita Essence developed by the Phantom Healer. We'll just wait for Grandpa to

wake up let Isabella deliver the coup to him personally, and then we'll leave. We promise not to disturb his rest. Surely that's acceptable, right?"

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 227[ 576 words ]

When Patton heard the name "Phantom Healer," he glanced at the insulated container in Isabella's hand, then at Karen.

Since she was, after all, a young lady of the family's second branch, Patton nodded. "Then I must ask you two to move to the side hall for now. We need to redecorate this area."

Being allowed to stay meant a chance to turn things around, so Karen naturally had no objections.

A flash of joy appeared in Isabella's heart, and she nodded obediently.

As long as she could remain at the Blackwood estate, there was a chance!

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The Lancaster family estate.

As soon as Serena came downstairs, she heard waves of laughter from the living room.

She looked up.

Sure enough, she saw Nicholas sitting on the sofa, chatting with old Mr. Lancaster and Catherine.

His posture was relaxed yet elegant, and his words were tactful and perfectly measured. He managed to show respect for the elders and his high regard for Serena, without seeming overly sycophantic just because of her.

He had old Mr. Lancaster and Catherine grinning from ear to ear, so charmed they couldn't contain their smiles.

They had almost completely forgotten about his ulterior motive: to steal their precious girl.

"Serena, you're up?" Catherine stood up with a broad smile. "Come have breakfast. Nicholas has been waiting for you for a while."

Serena glanced at the wall clock as she walked over. "We agreed on ten o'clock."

It was only eight-thirty.

Nicholas lifted his head slightly, a warm smile spreading across his handsome, almost ethereal face. Even his almond-shaped eyes seemed to ripple with affection. "A day apart feels like an eternity. By my count... a whole season has passed since we parted last night."

"Besides, it is my honor to spend more time speaking with old Mr. Lancaster and my aunt-to-be."

He delivered the lines, one after another, without batting an eye.

Catherine was so amused she burst into laughter again.

Serena was speechless. "You're so cheesy."

Nicholas's expression didn't change. "It comes from the heart. How can that be cheesy?"

Serena gave him a weary look and walked straight to the dining room to sit down for breakfast.

The others waited by her side.

Seeing his precious granddaughter in a simple white T-shirt and pants did Mr. Lancaster couldn't help but ask, "Serena, dear... do you not like YB's designs?"

Ever since his granddaughter returned to the Lancaster family, they had ordered every piece of clothing, every bag, and every pair of shoes from B, the designer most popular with young women today.

But they had never seen Serena wear any of it.

old Mr. Lancaster was worried that their initial research into what young women liked was completely wrong.

He quickly asked, "Serena, which designer do you like? What style of clothes? Grandpa will have them ordered for you right away!"

"Or... we could just hire the designer to come to the house and create custom pieces just for you, based on your preferences!"

With that, old Mr. Lancaster was about to pull out his black card for Serena again.

Serena ate her breakfast calmly and replied, "No, I like YB's designs very much." She gestured to her outfit. "This is a YB design."

old Mr. Lancaster froze, his hand holding the card trembling slightly. "YB also designed... something so plain and simple?"

When he had looked into it before, he had specifically noted that YB's designs were aluxurious

high-fashion pieces with bove

cuts.

Serena hummed in affirmation.

Of course they did.

This was an exclusive piece she had designed for herself for comfort and mobility, one that had never been released to the public.

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 228[ 598 words ]

Old Mr. Lancaster still felt it was a bit inappropriate. Although his granddaughter looked beautiful and elegant even in a plain white T-shirt and pants, he said, "Serena, this is your first formal visit to see old Mr. Blackwood. Isn't your outfit. a little too simple? Why don't you change into a dress after breakfast? Grandpa will pick one out for you!"

Although the Lancaster and Blackwood families had always been close, this was Serena's first time visiting the patriarch of the Blackwood family as a representative of the Lancasters. It was important not to appear dismissive.

"Old Mr. Lancaster, there's no need." Nicholas's thin lips curved into a smile, his voice gentle and deep. "I love Serena for who she truly is. She doesn't need to change herself or cater to anyone just to meet someone."

He let out a low chuckle, his voice laced with a thrilling tenderness. "With me, Serena only ever needs to be herself. That's more than enough."

His words weren't flowery, but they were exceptionally sincere.

Serena's hand, holding her spoon, paused mid-air.

Her long, raven-like lashes trembled slightly as she lifted her eyes to look at him.

Her gaze met his deep, tender, almond-shaped eyes.

This man... it wasn't just his face that was captivating.

Those long, deep-set eyes seemed to be naturally full of affection when he looked at someone.

Her heart skipped a beat, and tiny ripples spread through her.

One after another, they gradually expanded.

Her fingers curled unconsciously around the spoon.

She lowered her gaze, continuing her breakfast and avoiding the man's intense stare.

old Mr. Lancaster and Catherine exchanged a glance, their looks of approval for Nicholas deepening.

This young man...

Whether it was his looks, family background, or abilities, he was top-tier.

Most importantly, his consideration and respect for Serena were more moving than any sweet talk.

The two elders were already lost in thought.

Serena silently finished her breakfast.

Seeing that Serena was done eating, old Mr. Lancaster seized the opportunity and immediately shoved the black card he had taken out into her hand. "Serena, take it! Go pick out some gifts for old Mr. O

Blackwood fater. You're representing

the Lancaster family for your firs

formal visit to their elder. You can't

skip the formalities."

"Old Mr. Lancaster, that's not necessary. I've already prepared a gift," Nicholas said with a smile. "Besides... Serena agreeing to come with me to see my grandfather is the best gift of all."

"That won't do!" old Mr. Lancaster waved his hand. "We can't count it like that. What you prepared is your business, but Serena can't go empty-handed."

After tucking the black card into Serena's hand, he even held her hand, making her grip the card tightly. "Take it and go buy something! Spend as much as you want!"

Serena felt helpless in the face of her grandfather's curious habit of shoving a black card at her at the drop of a hat.

He was really looking for any excuse to give her money every day.

"Grandpa, haven't even finished spending the money you all gave me. I'm very rich now, a total heiress," Serena said with a resigned smile. Besides live already prepared a gift."

After handing her the card, old Mr. Lancaster waved his hand magnanimously. "If you haven't finished, keep spending. And you can keep spending with this card too!" When it came to the black card, Serena could never win against her family. She could only put the card away. "Well, we'll be going now."

Old Mr. Lancaster nodded with a cheerful smile. "Go on, go on. Come back early."

Serena walked to the entryway, changed her shoes, and was about to grab her canvas bag.

A hand beat her to it, lifting the bag.

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 229[ 580 words ]

"I'll get it."

Serena watched him sling the canvas bag over his shoulder. The movement was so natural, so familiar, it was as if... he was born to carry her bag.

He was a natural.

Serena was at a loss for words.

After getting into Nicholas's car, they drove slowly toward the Blackwood family's main residence.

Serena spoke up. "By the way, does Old Mr. Blackwood have any particular preferences or things I should avoid?"

Although she was casual by nature, she was now representing the Lancaster family as their daughter, paying her first visit to an elder.

She would do her best to observe all the proper etiquette perfectly.

Nicholas rested one hand on the steering wheel. His long, well-defined fingers

looked almost ethereal, as if coated in a soft light, drawing the eye.

He glanced over, a lazy, tender smile playing on his perfectly sculpted features. "My grandfather's only preference... is probably seeing his grandson get married as soon as possible."

"As for triggers..."

"The moment my grandfather sees you, even if you step on one of his landmines, he'll personally sweep the entire field clean for you."

Serena didn't know what to say.

Ever since this man had started peacocking in front of her, the smooth talk was nonstop.

He was getting more and more shameless.

"Serena," Nicholas said again, his voice a low, magnetic, and incredibly sexy rumble mixed with a hint of indulgence. "Relax. Just think of it as meeting a regular elder."

Serena was speechless. "I'm not nervous."

Nicholas's smile grew even more indulgent. "Mm, I know."

No, what the hell did he know? If he really knew, would he be smiling so giddily?

She really wasn't nervous!

Serena took a deep breath.

Forget it.

It was pointless to argue with this man.

He was so thick-skinned!

Even if she tried to explain, he would only hear what he wanted to hear.

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The Blackwood main residence, in the side hall.

Karen and Isabella had been waiting for over an hour. Isabella was so anxious she could hardly sit still, her gaze frequently darting

main hall. Content b Oward the

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The chicken soup she had Agnes specially prepare was about to lose its freshness, and there was still no word from old Mr. Blackwood's side.

She and Karen had been waiting here since early this morning.

Shouldn't Old Mr. Blackwood be awake by now?

They had waited for so long.

Shouldn't Patton have informed him?

Knowing she was waiting here with chicken soup she'd made for him, shouldn't he have come to greet her personally?

She watched the servants bustling in and out.

They had not only laid out a brand-new pink carpet and arranged all sorts of expensive fresh flowers, but were also adjusting the lighting of the crystal chandeliers in the main hall, creating a grand yet warm and inviting atmosphere.

Every detail underscored just how much importance the Blackwood family was placing on the impending arrival of their "distinguished guest."

Karen couldn't help but pout. "Who on earth is this distinguished guest that requires such a huge fuss?"

Given the Blackwood family's current standing, they wouldn't go to such lengths even if someone from the Elyndor government came to visit.

Everyone was busy rushing around for this "distinguished guest."

Meanwhile, the two of them were left neglected in the side hall, completely ignored.

The stark contrast left a bitter taste in both their mouths.

Karen had never been treated so dismissively before. Unable to

C of the side all to see

rinitation she stormed to

the

what was going on.

With a crash, a young maid carrying an exquisite tea set happened to be passing by and collided straight into Karen.

The expensive tea set fell to the floor and shattered into pieces.

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 230[ 590 words ]

The maid stared at the shattered pieces on the floor, her face turning deathly pale.

“Are you blind?! What's the damn rush?!” Karen, with nowhere else to vent her frustration, took it all out on the maid. "Is someone like you even fit to work at the Blackwood estate?!"

“I.... I...” The maid trembled uncontrollably. Even though it was Karen who had rushed out and bumped into her, she was now forced to bow repeatedly and apologize.

"You, you, what about you!" Karen raised her hand to slap the maid.

"Miss Karen."

Suddenly, Patton's voice cut in.

He saw the mess on the floor and the trembling maid, and his brow furrowed slightly. "What happened?"

Although Patton was just a butler, he had been by old Mr. Blackwood's side for decades. Often, his mere presence was enough to represent the patriarch.

Even the defiant Karen had to address him respectfully. “Patton, she wasn't looking... she bumped into me. My shoulder still hurts...”

Patton ignored her excuse, his serious gaze sweeping over the scene. He ordered the maid, "Clean this up immediately and get a new tea set. Be quick about it! The young master's car will be arriving any moment."

The maid nodded frantically.

Only then did Patton turn to Karen and Isabella, his face devoid of expression. "Miss Karen, Miss Isabella, why are you still here?"

The dismissal in his voice was blatant and unapologetic.

Isabella held up the insulated container, her face wreathed in a sweet, docile smile. "Patton, please don't be angry. Karen was just anxious... This soup was made with the extremely precious 'EverVita Essence.' I was just worried it would lose its freshness and that would affect its medicinal properties. Could I trouble you to check again if Old Mr. Blackwood is awake?"

Patton's gaze swept over the container before he extended his hand impassively. "Miss Isabella, you can leave the soup with me. When the master wakes up, I will deliver it to him on your behalf."

Isabella's expression changed slightly.

She bit her lower lip, reluctantly pulling the container closer to her chest. Patton, is I want to deliver the soup to Old Mr. Blackwood myself. It's more sincere that way..."

There was no way she was going to hand the soup over to Patton.

This soup was her ticket to seeing old Mr. Blackwood, her proof of effort for Nicholas to see!

If she gave it to Patton and left now, wouldn't all her efforts be for nothing?

Patton gave Isabella a humorless smile, his perceptive eyes seemingly seeing through all her little schemes.

He withdrew his hand, his smile remaining polite, but with a new layer of distance. "You are very thoughtful Miss Isabella. However the master is seeing a distinguished guest today. Even if he were awake, he wouldn't have time to see you. You shouldn't waste your time here."

Isabella's face went pale, her fingers tightening around the container.

She looked at Patton, a wave of humiliation washing over her.

She was seething with injustice!

In the past, whenever she came to the Blackwood estate, wasn't Patton always respectful and courteous?

How dare he speak to her with such an attitude now?

How dare he try to kick her out?

It must be because he found out she was the fake Lancaster heiress and was looking down on her now!

What a bunch of sycophants!

Isabella's eyes started to turn red.

Karen couldn't stand it anymore and spoke up for Isabella. "Patton, what is this attitude? My grandfather has always been very fond of Isabella and has always treated her like his own granddaughter! Arent you afraid he'll blame you for acting on your own when he wakes up?"

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 231[ 508 words ]

Patton maintained his professional smile, his words impeccable. "Miss Karen, you're being too harsh. Every visitor is a guest, and Miss Isabella has always been an honored guest of the Blackwood family. Why would I ask her to leave? It's just... as you saw in the study just now, the old master is indeed not feeling well and needs his rest. I'm merely concerned that you two will waste your time waiting here."

"Besides, a distinguished guest is arriving soon, and the old master... truly cannot spare a moment."

The flawless excuse made Isabella's heart sink.

She wasn't a fool.

She knew perfectly well that Karen had been allowed into the study at first.

That meant Old Mr. Blackwood had been available then.

But he had time to see Karen, yet no time to see her.

She had waited here for an hour...

And still, Old Mr. Blackwood had no intention of seeing her.

Could it be...

Was even Old Mr. Blackwood bothered by her status now?

Although the news of Serena's return hadn't been made public, and her welcome banquet hadn't been held yet, a top-tier family like the Blackwoods would have surely received the news by now.

So, the reason Old Mr. Blackwood was so cold to her, not even willing to grant her a meeting, was because of that.

Was he holding the fact that she wasn't the true heiress of the Lancaster family against her?

At that thought, Isabella's heart plunged.

The panic and resentment swirling inside her almost shattered her composure.

But she didn't dare resent Old Mr. Blackwood.

She could only channel all her fury and frustration onto Serena.

It was all because of Serena!

Because of Serena's return, her standing in the Lancaster family had plummeted.

Because of Serena's return, everything that should have been hers was being snatched away, piece by piece.

Because of Serena's return, she had faced one setback after another.

And now...

Because of Serena...

She might lose her last trump card...

Isabella felt weak, swaying on her feet as if she might collapse.

Karen quickly steadied her, her expression hardening.

"Patton, Grandfather has been resting for over an hour. He should be awake by now! Besides, isn't he expecting a distinguished guest? He ll have to prepare for that, won't he? Surely he has a moment to drink some soup in the meantime, right?"

As she spoke, Karen began to guide Isabella, intending to force her way into the old master's room.

Patton's gaze sharpened, and he immediately raised a hand to stop them. "Miss Karen..."

"Patton, Isabella will be marrying into

tine

the Blackwood family eventually. We'll be family so we can dispense

with all these formalities! Karen said, pushing Patton's hand away.

Patton sidestepped her and blocked her path. "Miss Karen, please don't make this difficult for me."

Karen's temper flared. She lifted her chin, her face cold. "I am makingat difficult. What are you going to do about it? You're just a butler for the Blackwood family Are you actually going to lay a hand on me?"

Just then, a commotion came from the main entrance of the Blackwood residence.

The sound of hurried footsteps approached.

A servant came running over. "Patton! Patton! Mr. Nicholas's car has arrived!"

c 232

Patton's expression grew serious, and he no longer had time to deal with Karen and Isabella.

"Miss Karen, Miss Isabella, I hope you won't waste your time and cause unnecessary trouble."

He gave them a slight nod. "Our guest has arrived. If you'll excuse me."

With that, he hurried toward the main entrance, calling out to the other servants to gather at the door to welcome their guest as he went.

Karen and Isabella were left standing there, watching as the staff, in a display of well-drilled precision, swarmed toward the main entrance.

Karen clenched her fists. The humiliation of being ignored made her frustration boil over.

As the eldest daughter of the Blackwood family's second branch, she had never commanded this kind of reception or pageantry!

"Let's go, Isabella! We'll go have a look. Nicholas is back, this is your chance!" she said, also wanting to see just who warranted such an extravagant welcome.

Isabella clutched the thermos in her arms. The mention of Nicholas's return had already set her mind racing.

Hearing Karen's words, she nodded obediently. "Okay, Karen."

They were just about to head toward the main entrance.

As they stepped out of the side hall, they saw Old Mr. Blackwood-the very man who was supposedly unwell and needed rest-personally leaning on his cane, surrounded by Patton and other servants, as he made his way toward the main gate.

And on his face was a rare... smile?!

"Grandfather?!"

Karen's voice cracked with disbelief as she watched Old Mr. Blackwood walk briskly out the door.

His eager expression made Karen feel like she was dreaming.

Grandfather was personally coming out to greet this distinguished guest?

What level of guest could this possibly be?!

Isabella stared at Old Mr. Blackwood's retreating back, a flash of resentment in her eyes.

She was right... She had been right all along!

Old Mr. Blackwood wasn't unwell at all.

He... he was deliberately avoiding her!

Look at him—so vigorous and cheerful, with a spring in his step.

Did he look like a sick man?

The realization felt like a sharp slap

across Isabella's face, leaving it as a stinging burn.

burning with

Content belongs

She was utterly humiliated.

The two of them hurried to follow.

Outside the main entrance, the scene was one of incredible grandeur.

The sprawling courtyard's priceless flowerbeds filled the air with a rich floral scent.

Servants in uniform were lined up in two neat rows, their postures

respectful stretching

courtyard of the main house all the way to the gate.

A plush carpet also extended from the courtyard to the driveway.

The entire scene was one of unprecedented formality and luxury.

All this commotion just to welcome... a single guest?

Who on earth was this guest?!

Just then, a black Maybach pulled to a smooth stop at the end of the red carpet.

The driver's side door opened.

Nicholas's tall, elegant figure came into view.

Today, he was not just in his usual black shirt but had added a jacket over it Content be

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He had left the top two buttons undone, revealing a sliver of his fair skin.

The look was both formal and tinged with a lazy, devastating charm.

It made his coolly handsome face seem almost divine, like a god descending to earth.

Isabella's eyes were instantly glued to him.

Nicholas in a suit...

He was even more handsome, more magnetic than when she had seen him yesterday!

A man this perfect...

He had to be hers!

How could she possibly give up on him?

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 233[ 518 words ]

Isabella glanced down at the thermos in her arms, her fingers tightening around it.

Inside was a soup made with the EverVita Essence developed by the Ghost Doctor!

If she mentioned the Ghost Doctor, Nicholas would surely accept it.

And he would see how dedicated she was, how much effort she put in for Old Mr. Blackwood's sake!

With this thought, Isabella clutched the thermos and prepared to step forward.

But she had barely taken a step when she saw Nicholas, after getting out of the car, walk around the front to the passenger side and open the door.

He made a gentlemanly gesture of invitation, placing his right hand over his heart and bowing slightly before extending a hand toward the passenger seat.

The gesture was so gentle it was breathtaking.

Isabella froze, her pupils constricting violently as she stared.

The person in the passenger seat... was that the distinguished guest Patton mentioned?

That gesture...

That was how you invited a woman out of a car!

The guest was a woman?!

As if to confirm Isabella's suspicion, a slender, pale hand gently placed itself in Nicholas's palm.

Next, a foot in a simple white sneaker stepped onto the ground.

Her legs were long and slender.

The person getting out was, indeed, a woman.

She was dressed in a simple white t-shirt and pants, her waterfall of long hair tied back in a high ponytail, revealing a strikingly beautiful face that wore no makeup.

The golden sunlight cascaded down, outlining the girl's vivid features and giving her a cool, crisp aura.

"Grandfather," Nicholas said, leading Serena by the hand until they stood before Old Mr. Blackwood. "This is Serena."

"Hahaha... Serena, we've been

waiting

you!" Old Mr.

Blackwood's eyes were complex

fixed on Serena no longer every registering his grandson's presence.

He had seen Nicholas's chivalrous act of opening the car door and helping Serena out.

When had his grandson ever been so considerate?

He studied Serena's face, his smile growing warmer the longer he looked. "The resemblance... it's uncanny, Serena, you're the spitting image of your parents when they were young! Wonderful, truly wonderful..."

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Blackwood," Serena said with a graceful, slight bow.

Her calm and composed expression, even in the face of such a grand reception, impressed Old Mr. Blackwood even more.

His gaze was full of admiration. "Excellent, excellent. Come in, come in. Don't just stand at the door."

His enthusiasm left Karen and Isabella standing nearby, stunned speechless.

Isabella, in particular, felt as if she had been struck by lightning the moment she saw Serena. She froze in place, her pupils constricting as she stared blankly at her.

Her?

It was her?

That country girl they brought back from some village was Old Mr. Blackwood's distinguished guest?!

Serena was the reason for this grand display, this huge commotion, this personal welcome from Old Mr. Blackwood himself?!

Did Serena even deserve it?

Isabella was trembling with anger, nearly mad with jealousy.

Why?!

Even when Old Mr. Blackwood had been fond of her, he had never put on such a display for her!

He had never personally come to the main gate to welcome her!

But now, on Serena's very first visit, she received this kind of treatment, which was proof enough of how highly Old Mr. Blackwood regarded her!

# Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! -

## Chapter 234[ 554 words ]

Isabella couldn't believe it.

How could someone like Serena command such respect from Old Mr. Blackwood?

Was it just because she was the true heiress of the Lancaster family?!

Didn't he know Serena was a country girl, a high school dropout?

She was good for nothing!

Aside from her status as the Lancaster heiress, she could offer Nicholas no help at all. She would only bring him shame and make him a laughingstock!

"Isabella, what's wrong?" Karen asked, noticing her expression and tugging on her arm.

Isabella's long lashes trembled, and a single tear rolled down her cheek. "Old Mr. Blackwood's distinguished guest... it's... it's her... It's Serena."

"That's Serena?!" Karen squinted, her eyes fixed on the girl in the plain white t-shirt and pants, who wasn't even wearing makeup. Her brow furrowed deeply. "That's the wild girl from the country?!"

She already had a poor impression of Serena, and seeing her now, her disgust was palpable. "A country girl is a country girl. She has no manners at all! How dare she come to the Blackwood estate dressed like that?"

But seeing Serena's simple, almost casual attire juxtaposed with the grand welcome personally led by Old Mr. Blackwood made Isabella's own meticulously planned, elegant outfit feel like a bitter joke.

Isabella's eyes reddened as she watched Old Mr. Blackwood proactively take Serena's hand.

The genuine affection and warmth overflowed from the corners of his eyes and the lines of his smile.

And then there was her...

She couldn't even get a meeting with him. She couldn't even deliver the priceless soup made with EverVita Essence into his hands.

She and Serena... were a study in stark contrast.

Isabella was so upset she was on the verge of tears.

Old Mr. Blackwood, whom she had considered her last trump card, had also sided with Serena...

What was she supposed to do now?!

"Isabella, come on, we're going over there!" Karen said, seeing Isabella's devastated, tearful expression. She grabbed her arm to pull her along.

Isabella fought back tears, her voice choked with emotion. "Forget it, Karen... I can't compete with Serena. Old Mr. Blackwood seems so fond of her don't stand a Chance

"That's because Grandfather doesn't know what that bitch is really like!" How could Karen just give up on everything she had schemed for over the years?

She had helped Isabella for so long, counting on her to marry Nicholas to secure her own smooth sailing within the Blackwood family!

If Isabella gave up...

Wouldn't all her efforts have been for nothing?

Karen dragged her forward. "Are you

just going to stand by and watch that bitch gloat? If we leave with our tails between our legs, then... you'll be under her heel for the rest of your life

Isabella let herself be pulled along.

Over by the entrance, Old Mr. Blackwood led Serena into the main hall, his eyes still fixed on her.

Serena remained perfectly calm, and when she met his gaze, she would offer a slight smile.

She was poised, steady, and serene.

Old Mr. Blackwood was thoroughly pleased. He said with a broad smile,

"Serena, heard that being by a net

Brianna's life was hanging by a

thread after her car accident,

you who intervened in time to save her! And later when Brianna had an aneurysm heart attack, you rushed to the hospital to save her again, allowing her to be discharged so quickly... I really must thank you in person!"

For such a young girl to possess such incredible medical skill.

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 235[ 575 words ]

He had heard she had been lost in the countryside and endured a great deal of hardship.

Yet, even in that environment, she hadn't given up on herself and had managed to become so exceptional.

Besides the Lancaster family's excellent genes, it was mostly due to her own hard work.

He truly liked a girl as beautiful and diligent as this.

Moreover, the girl's eyes...

They were so clear and pure.

She had a completely different feel from Isabella.

"It was nothing," Serena said with a small smile. "You don't have to thank me, Mr. Blackwood."

As she spoke, she held her hand out to Nicholas.

Without a word, Nicholas handed her the canvas tote bag he had slung over his shoulder.

The gesture was entirely natural.

Serena took it, opened the bag, and pulled out a small, plain porcelain vial.

"Mr. Blackwood," she said, offering the vial to him. "A small gift for my first visit."

"These are pills I prepared myself. One a day with warm water will help strengthen your body and improve your health."

Her voice was calm and steady, very pleasant to hear.

Old Mr. Blackwood's eyes instantly lit up, and he accepted the small vial with delight: "Oh my! Not only can you treat hesses but you can also prepare medione? Serena, you're quite talented! This is wonderful stuff. I love it. It's better than any gold or jewels. You're very thoughtful, Serena. Thank you."

Serena smiled. "I'm glad you like it, Mr. Blackwood. Later, I can also prepare a more suitable custom formula for you based on your condition."

Old Mr. Blackwood's eyes shone. He nodded repeatedly, then carefully uncorked the vial with a sense of wonder and leaned in to smell it.

A clean, pure medicinal scent instantly filled his senses.

Just from the smell alone, Old Mr. Blackwood felt his head clear and his spirits lift. This was truly good medicine!

Old Mr. Blackwood carefully put the cork back in and was about to speak. Suddenly, a shrill voice cut in. "Grandfather, you can't just take that! Who knows what's in that bottle? You're going to take some unlabeled concoction from her?"

Karen marched up to Old Mr. Blackwood, pulling Isabella with her.

She frowned, giving Serena a critical head-to-toe look. "You must be that country girl the Lancasters brought back, right? What are these junk pills? If something happens to Grandfather after taking them, can you bear the responsibility?"

"Karen?" Old Mr. Blackwood frowned at her. "Why are you still here?"

"If I weren't here, Grandfather, you would have been tricked by this woman!" Karen shot Serena a look of disgust. "She's a girl from the country. What does she know besides cutting grass and tilling fields?"

"Grandfather, you can't be so

desperate for a cure that you'll take

medicine from just anyone! Look at Isabella. She personally brewed a restorative soup for you, using the EverVita Essence she went to great lengths to acquire, winning it at auction for an astronomical price!"

As Karen spoke, she pushed Isabella in front of Old Mr. Blackwood. "That EverVita Essence was developed by the Ghost Doctor himself. It's incredibly nourishing! It's much better than some unlabeled junk from a country girl!"

She deliberately emphasized the auction and the "Ghost Doctor" to highlight how precious and extraordinary the soup was.

Isabella immediately played along, holding up the thermos with a demure and aggrieved expression "Mr. Blackwood, this is just a small token of my regard... It's just, it might have been sitting for a while So it's not as fresh, but, but the

medicinal properties should still be effective."

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 236[ 655 words ]

This was her subtle way of complaining.

She was complaining that Patton had kept her out, which had nearly ruined the soup made from the Ghost Doctor's EverVita Essence.

However, Old Mr. Blackwood merely gave the thermos Isabella offered him a detached glance.

His tone was distant. "That's very thoughtful of you, Isabella."

And that was it.

He made no move to take it.

Instead, he turned his head, his gaze returning eagerly to Serena. He reached out to her, a bright smile instantly appearing on his face. "Serena, quickly! Come check my pulse. These old bones of mine have been feeling so tired lately for some reason..."

The contrast in his attitude was stark.

Isabella's fingers instinctively tightened around the thermos, the smile on her face faltering.

She felt her face burn with heat, a mixture of embarrassment and indignation.

She... had so carefully prepared this EverVita Essence, even making Agnes get up at the crack of dawn to brew the soup, and all she got from Old Mr. Blackwood was a single, dismissive comment?

Meanwhile, Serena had just brought a bottle of unlabeled pills-who knew what they even were and Old Mr. Blackwood was showering her with affection?

Had Old Mr. Blackwood lost his mind?!

Karen watched as Isabella was slighted, then looked over at Serena, who was actually putting on a serious act and checking Old Mr. Blackwood's pulse.

Fury rose in her. Unable to bear it any longer, she decided to rip off Serena's mask right in front of her grandfather.

"Grandpa, don't let that country bumpkin fool you! I know all about her. She's just a good-for-nothing they brought back from the countryside who didn't even finish high school! What could she possibly know about medicine? If you actually take those shady, unlabeled pills she brought, they'll definitely harm your health! She's nothing but a..."

"Shut up!"

The old but incredibly stern voice boomed like thunder.

Old Mr. Blackwood thumped his cane on the floor, his expression dark. His stern eyes glared coldly at Karen. "Karen, do you think I'm senile? That I can't tell what's good for me?"

Karen flinched, her face turning pale.

Although Old Mr. Blackwood was usually stern with her, he had never looked at her with such severity.

Her arrogance vanished in an instant. She quickly lowered her head. "Gra- Grandpa... I'm sorry, that's not what I meant... I was just... just worried you were being deceived..."

"I don't need your concern," Old Mr. Blackwood cut her off coldly, his face like ice. "I know exactly what kind of person Serena is. I don't need you here making accusations and stirring up trouble!"

"She, Serena, is my honored guest! Either you drop your little schemes, or you can get out and go back to your father's house right now. Don't come to the main residence and be an eyesore anymore!"

Karen's face grew even paler.

She stared at Old Mr. Blackwood in

at old

disbelief. She couldn't believe it... He would publicly scold her and even threaten to kick her out, all for a country girl he had just met. He

his

showing her; own

was

granddaughter, no respect at all.

She really didn't understand.

What kind of magic did this Serena possess? Not only had she bewitched her cold-hearted third cousin, but now even her grandfather was on her side.

The more Karen looked at Serena, the more she disliked her. Serena seemed just like a homewrecker, here to disrupt the peace of their family.

But she didn't dare act out again. All

she could do was lower her head

meekly and defend Isabella in a small voice. "Grandpa, I was wrong...

Please don't be angry. I just... I just feel for Isabella and all the effort she put in to bid on the Ever vita Essence for you, she searched all over Vaelion City, and then she flew all the way to an auction in Caldoria. She had to win the bid at any cost just to get the EverVita Essence to make this soup for you, and... she got up at four or five this morning to brew it..."

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 237[ 513 words ]

"Most importantly, the Ghost Doctor's medicine is incredibly rare. If you don't drink it, Grandpa... wouldn't that be a waste of Isabella's heartfelt devotion? And a waste of such precious medicine..."

Old Mr. Blackwood naturally understood the value associated with the Ghost

Doctor's name.

He was also well aware that acquiring his medicine, even by winning an auction at any price, required considerable effort.

Old Mr. Blackwood's expression softened slightly, and he glanced at Patton.

Patton understood the cue and stepped forward to take the thermos from Isabella's hands.

Isabella's heart had sunk due to Old Mr. Blackwood's attitude toward Serena.

Now, seeing that he was willing to drink the soup she had brought, she finally breathed a sigh of relief.

As long as Old Mr. Blackwood accepted her gesture.

Then he would be in her debt.

And that meant she still had a chance to get him on her side.

She watched Old Mr. Blackwood with hopeful eyes.

Patton opened the lid of the thermos.

The rich aroma of chicken soup immediately wafted out, but... mixed in with the savory scent was a strong, unpleasant medicinal odor.

The smell...

...was not pleasant at all.

It was actually rather foul.

Patton poured a bowl and presented it to Old Mr. Blackwood.

The smell became even more pungent.

Old Mr. Blackwood frowned slightly, but he figured that since it was a medicine developed by the Ghost Doctor, perhaps its properties were just that potent.

He took the bowl and was about to drink when...

"Old Mr. Blackwood, wait."

A clear, cool voice suddenly rang out.

Serena spoke calmly and unhurriedly, "Old Mr. Blackwood, you can't drink this soup."

Old Mr. Blackwood's hand, holding the soup, paused. He glanced at Serena and set the bowl down.

Karen, who already harbored a prejudice against Serena, saw her jump in to ruin their moment. Her face immediately turned cold.

But mindful of how much Old Mr. Blackwood valued Serena, she bit her lower lip and said in a low voice, "Miss Serena Lancaster, why can't he drink this soup?"

Serena didn't even spare her a glance, keeping her calm eyes fixed on Old Mr. Blackwood. "The Ghost Doctor's EverVita Essence contains many highly restorative ingredients. If ground into a powder and taken in small doses with warm water these ingredients can nourish the body and strengthen one's constitution. But... Isabella put an entire bottle of EverVita Essence into chicken soup and boiled it for a long time. Under prolonged high heat, all of its medicinal properties have been destroyed."

"I just checked your pulse. It's unstable, and there are signs of an underlying inflammation. Drinking this soup now would be like taking poison. Instead of nourishing your body it will only aggravate your system. A mild reaction would be agitation, dizziness, palpitations, and night sweats. A severe one could trigger a sudden spike in blood pressure, or even cause a stroke."

Every word was crystal clear.

Old Mr. Blackwood hastily pushed the bowl further away.

"You... you're talking nonsense!" Karen could no longer hold back. "Serena Lancaster, you're obviously just jealous that Isabella managed to get a miracle drug from the Ghost Doctor! You're jealous that her gesture outshines those worthless little pills you brought for Grandpa!"

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 238[ 530 words ]

"You bring a bottle of unlabeled junk to fool Grandpa, and now you dare to curse him with sickness? What are your real intentions?!"

The accusation was delivered with righteous indignation.

Then, as Old Mr. Blackwood's face darkened, she turned to him. "Grandpa, don't listen to her nonsense! She's just jealous of Isabella. She knows she can't compare, so she's trying to get your attention this way!"

As she spoke, she shot Serena a judgmental look, her tone impatient. "And another thing, Grandpa, look at how she's dressed! It's her first time visiting you, an elder, and she's dressed so casually. It shows she has no manners! If you ask me, the Lancaster family doesn't care about her at all, which is why she looks so shabby!"

Karen was both furious and anxious, desperate for her grandfather to see Serena's true colors.

Serena's eyes lifted slightly, her expression remaining as placid and unruffled as ever.

She was just about to speak.

"Karen."

A tall, elegant man stood before Serena. He raised his eyes slightly, his gaze falling coldly on Karen.

His voice wasn't loud, but it was incredibly intimidating, easily cutting through all the noise and making Karen shrink back.

He exuded a chilling coldness, an oppressive aura that was utterly unnerving. "Grandpa hasn't spoken yet. What are you doing, barking like that? Is this the upbringing of a Blackwood?"

All of Karen's arrogance vanished. Even with her head down, she could feel Nicholas's icy gaze piercing her like a shard of ice.

Karen trembled, her knees almost buckling.

Her lips trembled as she stammered, "I... I wasn't..... I just..."

"Serena is Grandpa's honored guest, and she is *\*my\** honored guest." Nicholas's dark eyes narrowed dangerously, his entire presence radiating a chilling cold. "It is not your place to pass judgment on her. If you can't control your mouth, then get out."

Karen was so frightened her eyes reddened. She shrank back, not daring to utter another sound.

The sight of him so forcefully protecting his "wife" brought a smile to Old Mr. Blackwood's eyes.

It was obvious...

Nicholas's feelings for Serena were clearly special!

This was the first time he had ever seen his grandson so attentive to a girl.

There was hope!

Definitely hope!

Old Mr. Blackwood stroked his chin

and spoke up. "If my old eyes

deceive me... believe that's g

II

don't

YBirt

design Serena is wearing.

YB?

The world's top designer brand?

A brand so exclusive that even she, a lady of the Blackwood family, couldn't always

get her hands on their clothes?

How could Serena possibly be wearing a YB design?

And... why would YB design such a simple-looking outfit?

Old Mr. Blackwood glanced at Karen. "YB's designs use a unique tailoring method and embroidery

style that is highly recognizable net

That's how they became famous worldwide this outfit of Serena's it may look simple and elegant, but if you look closely at the embroidery on her collar, isn't that YB's signature stitch?"

Karen quickly looked at Serena.

As a socialite who had spent years studying luxury brands, Karen naturally recognized YB's unique embroidery.

Her face instantly went white. She felt as if she'd just been slapped.

Old Mr. Blackwood added, "I don't care what Serena wears, this olde man likes it! It's clean and simple, easy on the eyes Besides, a girl as beautiful as Serena would look good even in a potato sack!"

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 239[ 568 words ]

His words were filled with affection for Serena.

"As for the gift..."

Old Mr. Blackwood said, stroking the small porcelain bottle Serena had given him with a cherished air. "It's the thought that counts. That's what this old man cares about most."

"Besides, Serena is the Lancaster family's own flesh and blood, the apple of their eye. Do you really think they would mistreat their own daughter?"

At his words, Isabella's face turned white as a sheet, and she swayed on her feet.

Was Old Mr. Blackwood implying that...

She was just the Lancasters' fake daughter?

Did he only care about..... the real one?

"Isabella."

At that moment, Old Mr. Blackwood suddenly looked at Isabella.

Isabella flinched and quickly tried to compose her expression, looking at him in a daze.

Her eyes were already turning red.

Old Mr. Blackwood's tone softened a little. "I appreciate the thought, Grandpa has received it. Thank you for going to the trouble of making this soup, but... I have the pills Serena gave me, and that's enough."

Isabella felt a wave of shame and humiliation, and tears instantly welled up in her eyes.

She bit her lip hard to keep from crying in front of everyone.

She couldn't believe it. Old Mr. Blackwood, who had always been so kind to her before and had even wanted her to be his granddaughter-in-law, was now so biased and trusting of Serena.

Even before...

Before Old Mr. Blackwood knew she was an imposter, he had never been this pleasant or shown her such unconditional trust and enthusiasm.

Karen saw Isabella swaying on her feet, looking utterly devastated and ready to give up.

She gritted her teeth.

This was about her own future!

She had invested so much in Isabella, counting on her to marry into the Blackwood family so that Karen herself could gain more influence and benefits.

After all, she couldn't rely on her useless father.

She had to plan for her own future.

She also needed Old Mr. Blackwood and the main branch of the family to

former secure the perfect husband

for a strategic marriage.

To maximize her own gains!

But all of that depended on Isabella marrying Nicholas.

As scared as she was, Karen wasn't ready to give up. She forced herself to speak again. "But... but, Grandpa Isabella used her own savings to win that EverVita Essence at auction, paying whatever it took it was developed by the Ghost Doctor, how could there be anything wrong with it? Serena Lancaster... she doesn't know anything about medicine, she's just fearmongering. You... you can't just take her word for it..."

The coldness emanating from Nicholas intensified His

handsome face beca

dangerously captivating.

So captivating it was terrifying.

Suddenly, a cool, soft hand gently rested on the back of his.

The touch was delicate and smooth.

It easily dispelled the cold aura radiating from him.

Nicholas's body went slightly rigid. He looked down.

Serena's hand was covering the back of his.

The warm, soft touch was like cotton...

It was enough to make his heart melt.

His Adam's apple bobbed slightly as his gaze shifted from her hand to her face.

The girl's expression was calm and cool.

He understood her meaning-she could handle this herself.

Nicholas's eyes deepened slightly, the corners crinkling with a hint of tender affection.

A smile touched his thin lips, and he turned his hand over, enclosing hers in his palm.

He didn't say another word.

Serena was speechless.

She was just tired of watching those two make a scene.

What did he think he was doing, taking the opportunity to get touchy?

A sly fox was a sly fox.

Always finding a way to slide in.

## **Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 240[ 615 words ]**

Serena couldn't be bothered to look at Nicholas anymore. She lifted the corner of her eye, glancing sideways at Karen and Isabella.

Her crimson lips curled into a deeply ironic smile. "Jealous of her?"

The cool voice wasn't loud, but it reached everyone's ears clearly.

Her gaze was tinged with disdain and mockery. "Jealous that she treats the scraps left over from making pills like some kind of treasure? That she paid an outrageous price for them at an auction?"

At this, she couldn't help but let out a short, sharp laugh. "Should I be jealous of her ignorance?"

"Y-You're lying!" Isabella shot back, her eyes red with anger and frustration.

She had spent so much money on EverVita Essence, treating it like a precious treasure, a miracle drug.

How could it possibly be the dregs left over from making pills?

This was a hundred times more humiliating than a direct slap in the face.

Isabella looked at Serena, utterly wronged. "EverVita Essence is an herbal medicine personally developed by the Ghost Doctor. It has the effect of strengthening one's constitution and nourishing the body. It sells for an astronomical price on the market. How could it possibly be scraps?"

Moreover, the auction house she went to was an internationally renowned one.

They would never pass off fakes as the real thing.

Isabella bit her lower lip hard, her pale face looking even more aggrieved. "Sister, the family gave you plenty of money, enough to buy a lot of decent gifts. You can't be disrespectful to the Ghost Doctor just because your bottle of... whatever health supplements you brought from who-knows-where was outshone by his EverVita Essence!"

She put on an act of looking out for Serena. "The Ghost Doctor's authority is beyond question. Sister, you should stop trying to show off."

Her words were all meant to imply that Serena was unsophisticated, a stingy country girl.

That her family had given her so much money, yet she was too cheap to buy a proper gift.

She had the petty attitude of a country bumpkin.

Serena's laugh was laced with endless scorn. "You're all so good at kissing up to the Ghost Doctor. Does the Ghost Doctor himself even know about it?"

Isabella's face flushed with indignation. "This-this isn't kissing up... It's just a matter of fact! I flew to Caldoria specifically to attend an international auction, and that's how I managed to acquire this small

bottle of EverVita Essence

Who doesn't know the Ghost Doctor

Ghost Doctor's

reputation? Why would he ever put

so-called scraps up for auction?"

Serena raised an eyebrow. "Then why do you think this EverVita Essence appeared

at an overseas auction?"

Isabella's lips trembled. "Th-that's obviously because... the Ghost Doctor's reputation is international..."

"It's because throwing away the scraps left over from making the real pills would be too wasteful. So, they're ground into a powder, bottled as Eve Vita Essence, and shipped overseas." The effects of EverVita

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Essence were real; if taken correctly, could indeed strengthen one's constitution and nourish the body.

Long-term use would yield even more obvious results.

It was more than enough to fool a bunch of foreigners.

Isabella, of course, understood Serena's implication. Her face instantly turned pale.

"You were the only person from

Elyndor at that auction. Didn't you find that Strange?" Serena's look was one you'd give to a complete idiot. "Only @fool like you would get played by a few shills driving up the

price, stupidly raising your bid three

times and even paying that ridiculous final price."

"Do you have any idea how the people who ship EverVita Essence overseas are laughing at you? And here you are, so proud of yourself. It's laughably pathetic."

Inch by inch, the color drained from Isabella's face, only to be replaced by a deep, crimson flush of shame, anger, and humiliation.

Her eyes widened as she stared at Serena in disbelief.

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 241[ 587 words ]

How... How did Serena know the details of what happened at the auction? And that she had to bid three times to secure it at an exorbitant price?

When she was bidding for the EverVita Essence, Serena hadn't even returned to the Lancaster family.

She was still with the Wynn family, having a miserable time.

How could she possibly know the details of an auction happening far away in Caldoria?

It was as if she had been there herself.

Isabella felt a knot of displeasure tighten in her stomach.

At the auction in Caldoria, she had been so magnificent, spending a fortune and drawing the envious gazes of all the foreigners.

But now, coming from Serena's mouth, her grand gesture to curry favor with Old Mr. Blackwood was being twisted into an act of foolishness?

Seeing Isabella's flustered anger, Karen, who had lost all her own bluster, couldn't help but mutter under her breath, "A country bumpkin, a high school dropout who couldn't even graduate, dares to question the Ghost Doctor!"

Serena couldn't be bothered to waste any more words on them. She raised her eyes, her gaze shifting to the bowl of chicken soup that had been set aside and was now cold.

"Since you're so convinced this is a miracle tonic that strengthens and nourishes the body, then... you should drink it. That way, your efforts won't have been wasted, Isabella."

Karen froze, her eyes fixed on the murky, increasingly foul-smelling chicken soup. A sense of dread crept into her heart.

Serena's words kept replaying in her mind...

She had said that if the EverVita Essence was used incorrectly, brewing it into a soup would turn it into poison.

And then there was Serena's claim that this was just the leftover scraps from making the actual medicine.

Although she didn't believe a word Serena said, there was still that inexplicable feeling...

"What's wrong? Weren't you just singing the Ghost Doctor's praises? Afraid to drink it?" Serena sneered. "You're scared to drink it yourselves, but you dare serve it to Old Mr. Blackwood?"

"Who... who said I'm scared to drink it?" Karen couldn't let herself be intimidated by a country girl like Serena, nor could she admit that she had been swayed by her words.

She stuck her neck out. "I'll drink it! I'll show you what a real miracle tonic is!"

With that, Karen stepped forward to grab the bowl of soup.

Isabella's expression changed, and she quickly reached out to stop her.

That was chicken soup made from the EverVita Essence she had spent so much effort, and money to acquire. How could she bear to let Karen drink it?

Using it to please Old Mr. Blackwood could yield much greater returns.

What was the point of letting Karen drink it?

She might as well drink it herself!

Of course, Isabella didn't dare say that out loud.

She could

only watch in agony as

Karen rushed over picked up the net

bowl, and brought it to her lips.

Her heart was practically bleeding with pain!

As Karen brought the bowl to her

mouth, the foul odor became even

stronger at close range

Besides the rank smell, there was another strange, indescribable odor.

She couldn't quite put her finger on what it was...

In short, it was unappetizing.

But now, she was already committed.

Even if the smell was overpowering...

She couldn't show any hesitation.

Otherwise, it would just give that damned hick another chance to question them!

Instantly, Karen raised the bowl and gulped it all down.

To be honest, the soup didn't taste bad.

But the strange odor permeating it became even more intense after she swallowed...

Her entire mouth and throat were filled with that bizarre taste.

She almost wanted to throw up.

## **Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 242[ 566 words ]**

But she had already drunk it.

She had to put on a brave face!

Karen held up the empty bowl for Serena to see, lifted her chin, and smiled triumphantly. "See that, Miss Lancaster? I drank every last drop!"

Serena lazily lifted her eyelids, a faint, careless smile playing on her lips. "Well, a dog doesn't care if it's eating scraps from the gutter."

The deeply insulting remark made Karen's face turn ugly. The mention of "gutter" made the strange taste in her mouth even more nauseating.

Karen pushed through it. "You said this soup turned into poison. So why haven't I dropped dead?"

Serena raised a slender, jade-like hand, holding up three fingers.

Karen burst out laughing. "Don't tell me, it takes three days? Three months? Three years for the poison to take effect?"

Serena lowered one finger, her red lips slowly forming a number. "Two."

Karen's laughter stopped short. She stared at Serena's hand and scoffed, "Stop being so dramatic, you..."

"One."

Serena lowered her last finger.

The instant the word "one" left her lips...

"Ah-!"

Karen's expression froze, her face instantly turning a deathly, ghastly white.

She clutched her stomach, doubling over uncontrollably as large beads of cold sweat broke out on her forehead.

"My stomach... ah! It hurts so much... my stomach..." Karen's voice trembled as she gasped for breath in pain.

Suddenly, she tasted a coppery tang in her throat, and a large mouthful of dark red blood sprayed onto the floor.

She couldn't hold herself up any longer and collapsed to her knees, curling up in agony.

In just a few moments, her clothes were soaked through with cold sweat.

"Miss Karen!"

Patton reacted the fastest, quickly calling for the maids to help her up.

"Karen!" Old Mr. Blackwood's face darkened. He pushed himself up from the table. "Go get Dr. Warren over here, now!"

Dr. Elliot Warren was the Blackwood family's doctor and arrived quickly.

He immediately performed a

preliminary check on Karen. After a moment, his expression turned grave. "Acute liver damage with signs of hemorrhaging. It looks like an acute drug poisoning reaction. She needs to be pushed to the hospital for a stomach pump immediately. If we delay... I'm afraid the liver damage will be severe!"

"What are you waiting for? Get her to the hospital!" Old Mr. Blackwood looked at Patton.  
"Patton, you go with them. Make sure she gets the best care, whatever it takes. Ensure Karen is okay."

"Yes, sir." A group of people scrambled to carry Karen out and rush her to the hospital.

Isabella stood frozen in place,

staring at the shocking pool of dark red blood on the floor her face as white as a ghost.

She was ice-cold, shaking like a leaf, her face a mask of terror and disbelief.

She stared blankly at the bloodstain on the floor, then at the open insulated container on the nearby table.

The EverVita Essence...

Was there really something wrong with it?

And it was exactly as Serena had said!

But that was a medicine developed by the Ghost Doctor.

How could the Ghost Doctor's medicine possibly be poisonous?

Isabella's mind was a chaotic mess, and the fear was so overwhelming she could barely breathe.

She didn't dare to think...

If... if Old Mr. Blackwood had been the one to drink that soup...

Then she would have...

Just the thought of that scenario made Isabella's legs so weak she could barely stand.

She didn't dare to let her thoughts go any further.

"Someone, show our guest out!" Nicholas's cold voice rang out, his dark eyes, devoid of any warmth, fixed on Isabella.

## **Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 243[ 524 words ]**

"Nicholas..."

Isabella's anxious heart leaped into her throat as she met Nicholas's indifferent gaze.

She was heartbroken.

This man...

They were once engaged.

The man she had dreamed of marrying countless times was now treating her with such coldness.

And he was doing it in front of Old Mr. Blackwood and all the Blackwood family's staff.

After this...

How could she ever have a place in the Blackwood family?

Fat tears welled up and rolled down her cheeks, one after another.

She knew that even in this dire situation, she absolutely could not leave just like that.

If she left now...

She would truly be finished.

She might really lose any chance of ever marrying Nicholas!

Isabella clenched her fists and scurried over to Old Mr. Blackwood. "Old Mr. Blackwood, I'm so, so sorry... I'm sorry! I didn't do it on purpose. I truly wanted to show my respect for you. I didn't know... I didn't know the Ghost Doctor's medicine could... could cause this kind of problem..."

She cried pitifully, apologizing profusely to Old Mr. Blackwood, trying to win his sympathy.

"All medicine carries risks, and the dosage of any single ingredient is crucial. Especially for drugs sold at international auctions, the efficacy, usage instructions, and dosage are all strictly controlled and guided by specialists," Serena interrupted her in a calm, unhurried tone? Was it that you didn't know or that you simply didn't care enough to find out?"

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Isabella's face turned even paler, her expression uglier. A flicker of resentment appeared deep within her tear-filled eyes as she looked at Serena.

This damned country girl! To make herself look good in front of Old Mr. Blackwood and Nicholas, she was publicly tearing her down like this!

She was just flaunting the little bit of medical knowledge she had, seizing the opportunity of Isabella's mistake to turn them against her!

She wanted Old Mr. Blackwood and Nicholas to be completely disgusted with her!

So calculating!

"I'm not... I didn't... How could I not have been careful..." Isabella could only cry, hoping her tears would

make Old Mr. Blackwood and

Nicholas feel sorry for her

believe her. "I was willing to pay any price to win the EverVita Essence how could I not have been diligent..... How could I ruin such a precious medicine and serve it directly to Old Mr. Blackwood? I truly didn't know..."

Old Mr. Blackwood looked at the disheveled Isabella, at her gasping sobs.

After all, he had practically watched her grow up and had once genuinely hoped she would become his granddaughter-in-law.

Old Mr. Blackwood sighed, his tone complicated. "Alright, Isabella, stop crying. Grandpa knows you don't understand these things. I don't blame you. It's a good thing Serena was here

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That last phrase, "It's a good thing Serena was here," made Isabella's fingers dig

into her palms, her heart twisting in frustration.

She had spent so much money on that EverVita Essence, all to curry favor with Old Mr. Blackwood.

Now... she was the one who had lost the most!

That damned hick Serena was her jinx!

Ever since she came back, Isabella had lost an untold amount of money. All the allowance she had saved up was gone!

The affection that used to be hers was also slipping away, one person at a time. She was so utterly pathetic now!

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 244[ 610 words ]

Isabella was heartbroken, but she didn't dare show a hint of it in front of Old Mr. Blackwood.

Hearing the slightly softer tone in his voice, she immediately choked back a sob and looked at him with teary, pitiful eyes. "Thank you, Old Mr. Blackwood, for not blaming me..."

Old Mr. Blackwood waved his hand. "I'm not the one you should be thanking."

Isabella knew she absolutely could not show any animosity toward Serena right now.

Her public image was that of a sophisticated top socialite.

And she was, nominally, Serena's older sister.

Isabella immediately turned to Serena, tears streaming down her face, humbling herself completely. She spoke with a grateful expression, "Serena, thank you... thank you so much! If you hadn't stopped me in time, I almost... I almost caused a terrible disaster and harmed Old Mr. Blackwood."

"You're Old Mr. Blackwood's savior, and you're my savior too! It was my fault for being ignorant. I apologize to you, and I thank you. I'll be sure to learn from you from now on!"

She sobbed and expressed her gratitude in the same breath.

Her tone was sincere and earnest, as if she were truly filled with remorse and overflowing with gratitude for Serena.

"No need," Serena said, looking at her theatrical performance, her clear eyes devoid of emotion. "A half-hearted thank you and apology are meaningless."

She lifted her gaze, her attitude distant and indifferent. "I'm not interested in playing along with your act."

Isabella's sobs caught in her throat.

She stared at Serena in disbelief, shocked that she would be so disrespectful.

To publicly humiliate her like this in front of the Blackwood family.

Wasn't she afraid that everyone would find out how Serena had been bullying her, the poor little victim, ever since she returned to the Lancaster family?

At this thought, Isabella immediately put on a pitiful expression, her eyes welling with tears. She looked helpless and flustered as she reached for Serena's hand. "Serena, how could I not be sincere? I'm truly grateful to you..."

Her plan was to grab Serena's hand, hoping Serena would shove her away. Then, she could fall to the ground and create the illusion that Serena had attacked her in public.

As long as everyone saw just how arrogant and cruel Serena was, how she bullied her...

Everyone would see Serena's true colors!

But she had only taken one step toward Serena when Nicholas shot a look at two maids.

Understanding his signal, they immediately stepped forward and blocked Isabella's path. "This way, Miss Isabella."

Their tone was polite, but their actions were firm.

Isabella couldn't believe her plan had been shattered before it even began.

She looked at Serena, who was surrounded by the Blackwood family and didn't even spare her a glance.

Jealousy rose in her like bile.

She was filled with rage and indignation.

She didn't want to leave. She tried to

choke out a few more words

through her tears, hoping to evoke a shred of pity. "Old Mr. Blackwood Nicholas. I really am sincere. My gratitude for my sister comes from the bottom of my heart..."

"Enough."

A layer of frost settled over Nicholas's handsome, almost ethereal face. His gaze, as he looked at Isabella, was as cold as ice. "Out of respect for the Lancaster family, I won't pursue this matter today if you keep this up, you'll only end up embarrassing yourself."

His cold words and indifferent gaze were like sharp blades stabbing at Isabella's heart.

She stiffened, the pain making it hard to breathe.

Tears streamed down her face.

Old Mr. Blackwood sighed and waved a tired hand. "Isabella, you should go to the hospital and check on Karen. After all, she suffered this unfortunate accident because of the soup you brought. It's only right that take good care of her."

you go to the hospital and that

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 245[ 520 words ]

This was Old Mr. Blackwood's way of giving Isabella a graceful exit.

However, Isabella clenched her fists.

Take care of that useless Karen, who was more trouble than she was worth?

Why should she?

Isabella grew even more furious, but she didn't dare let it show. She could only lower her head in humiliation and say in a choked voice, "Yes... I was just about to go to the hospital to see Karen..."

She turned away, her eyes filled with tears.

She kept looking back with every step, hoping Nicholas would ask her to stay.

But... no one over there paid any attention to her departure. They didn't even spare her a single glance.

Every single one of them was gathered around Serena, seemingly chatting with her, their faces wreathed in smiles.

Vaguely, she heard Old Mr. Blackwood chuckle as he said to Serena, "...Brianna's coming-of-age party is next week. Serena, you absolutely must come! Grandpa will be waiting for you!"

Immediately after, Nicholas's clear, magnetic voice followed, laced with an intimate smile. "Then Serena... will be my date."

Date?!

Those two words exploded in Isabella's mind like a clap of thunder.

Her vision went dark!

For Serena to attend Brianna's coming-of-age party as Nicholas's date?

Then what about her... the one who had been hinting to their entire social circle about an engagement between their families, the one who had been posing as Nicholas's future wife...

Wouldn't she become the laughingstock of the entire elite circle?!

Moreover, everyone in their circle would start speculating about Serena's identity. When it was eventually revealed... her status as the fake heiress would be impossible to hide!

Isabella was frantic with anger and anxiety, her mind a chaotic mess of misery.

But she was powerless to stop it. The two maids, under the guise of escorting her, practically dragged her out of the main house.

It was utterly humiliating.

Once Isabella was gone, the atmosphere in the main house became much more peaceful.

Faced with two pairs of expectant eyes staring straight at her, Serena hadn't yet answered when she suddenly heard a bright, cheerful shout.

"Serena!"

A young girl in a white nightgown came flying over like a breeze.

Her lovely cute face was brimming with an excited smile. "Serena, why didn't you tell me you were coming? If I had known you, were coming today, I wouldn't have slept in

Serena reached out and caught her, patting her on the head. "It's not too late to see me now."

With Brianna's arrival, the atmosphere became even more harmonious.

Old Mr. Blackwood watched his

granddaughter, who was usually et

sickly and only ever offered him a forced, listless smile, finally reveal such a lively and vibrant grin.

His own eyes softened with a smile.

He watched the natural, affectionate way his granddaughter interacted with Serena, and the more he looked at Serena, the more pleased and fond of her he became

Then he turned to look at his grandson...

He was just standing there, staring at Serena with a goofy grin, like some village idiot.

In an instant, his previous admiration for his grandson soured into undisguised disdain.

What did this brat do to deserve a chance with such a wonderful girl like Serena? Somehow... he felt like this kid wasn't good enough for her.

## **Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 246[ 610 words ]**

The more Old Mr. Blackwood looked at Serena, the more impressed he became. And the more he looked at his own grandson, the more disdainful he felt.

He decided he was done looking at the brat and turned his attention to the charming young lady, speaking with enthusiasm. "Serena, stay for lunch. You have to try what our private chef can whip up!"

Serena was about to refuse.

But Brianna grabbed her arm. "Serena, please stay with me and Grandpa....."

Seeing the hopeful looks from both the young girl and Old Mr. Blackwood, Serena's heart softened. The cool look in her eyes warmed slightly, and she gave a helpless smile. "Alright. Thank you for having me, Mr. Blackwood."

Lunch turned into dinner.

By the time Old Mr. Blackwood and Brianna were willing to let Serena go, it was already eight o'clock at night.

Serena checked the time and stood up to leave.

As reluctant as Old Mr. Blackwood and Brianna were, it was late, and they had to let her go.

They could only shoot Nicholas resentful looks.

If he would just get his act together and marry Serena, they wouldn't have to suffer through this painful goodbye!

Nicholas stood up to see Serena out.

"Don't worry about it," Serena said, shaking her head. "I have something I need to take care of."

Nicholas noticed her glancing down at her phone from time to time, a serious expression settling on her cool features.

He swallowed the words, "I'll take you wherever you're going."

He had a sharp sense that this was something she needed to handle alone.

Instead, he just smiled and nodded, walking her only to the main door of the residence.

The moonlight was clear and cool.

Nicholas draped his jacket over Serena's shoulders in a perfectly natural motion. "Call me when you get home."

The elegant scent of pine, unique to Nicholas, instantly enveloped Serena, carrying his warmth with it.

Serena wasn't quite used to it.

The man then pressed his car keys into her hand. "If you won't let me drive you, then take this car."

Serena glanced at him but ultimately didn't refuse.

This area was an affluent neighborhood, and hailing a car wouldn't be easy.

Besides, she was in a hurry.

Nicholas opened the car door for her.

She slid neatly into the driver's seat, started the engine, and the black Maybach quickly blended into the night.

She left without a moment's hesitation.

Nicholas stared at the car as it sped off and vanished from sight, a soft chuckle escaping him.

"What a heartless woman."

He smiled to himself and turned to go back inside.

The moment he stepped into the living room, he was met by two pairs of eyes-his grandfather's and his sister's both screaming with disappointment.

"Tsk, you useless thing!" Old Mr. Blackwood huffed in disgust. "It was the perfect opportunity! Why didn't you offer to drive her home? You could have just stayed the night the Lancasters place and not bothered coming back! The way you chase girls, you'll still be single in your next life!"

Brianna pouted. "Exactly! Nicholas, you're so slow! Serena is so amazing. If you keep dragging your feet, someone else is going to sweep her off her feet!"

The elegant, languid man leaned against the doorframe, hands in his pockets, listening to their complaints with a faint smile. "Don't worry, no one can take her from me serena. will only ever be mine."

He held up a finger and wagged it. "You two don't get it. When you're pursuing a girl it's all about a delicate touch. You have to know when to be close and when to give

her space. It's called strategy."

Old Mr. Blackwood and Brianna exchanged a look, their disdain practically overflowing.

"Strategy?" Old Mr. Blackwood scoffed. "If you really knew anything about strategy, would you still be single?"

## **Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 247[ 584 words ]**

Brianna nodded. "Totally! Nicholas is destined to die alone!"

After a long day, Old Mr. Blackwood was starting to feel drained.

But roasting his grandson had certainly lifted his spirits.

He preciousy took out the small porcelain bottle Serena had given him from his pocket.

He was happy today and had used up a lot of energy. It was the perfect time to take one to replenish his strength.

He uncorked the bottle and tipped out a smooth, round, brown pill that gave off a crisp, medicinal scent.

He was just about to take it.

Patton hesitated for a moment before speaking cautiously, "Sir, perhaps we should have the ingredients of this pill checked before you take it? Just to be safe. After all..... what happened this morning with the EverVita Essence..."

"Patton, don't worry, there's no need for that." Brianna pulled out an identical porcelain bottle from her small purse and waved it around like a treasure. "Look, Patton, these are the Heartguard Pills Serena gave me. They go for five hundred thousand dollars a pill on the market, but... you can't buy them even if you have the money! And Serena gave me thirty of them! I've been taking them for two days, and the effect is amazing! I feel just like a normal person now!"

"Heartguard Pills?!" Patton gasped, staring in shock at the small bottle in Brianna's hand. "Thirty of them?!"

As the Blackwood family's butler, he naturally knew that medicine developed by the Ghost Doctor was worth a fortune.

Especially since the Ghost Doctor was eccentric and only made medicine when the mood struck.

Even with the Blackwood family's influence, it was nearly impossible to obtain more than ten Heartguard Pills at once.

Yet the young lady of the Lancaster family had casually given his young miss a whole bottle?

Hearing this, Old Mr. Blackwood quickly picked up the pill in his hand and examined it closely.

He saw that the surface of the pill was not smooth but had a tiny character for "Heart" carved into it with an exceptionally exquisite technique.

The style of the carving was simple and powerful.

It was unmistakably the Ghost Doctor's exclusive, inimitable anti-counterfeiting mark!

"Brianna, let Grandpa see," Old Mr. Blackwood said, his voice trembling with excitement as he reached out his hand.

Brianna handed the porcelain bottle to her grandfather.

Old Mr. Blackwood poured one out.

Sure enough, the carved character for "Heart" on the Heartguard Pill had the exact same style!

This meant...

Old Mr. Blackwood's bottle didn't contain some ordinary health supplement.

It was a top-tier Vitality Elixir developed by the Ghost Doctor!

Its efficacy and value were thousands, even tens of thousands of times greater than the EverVita Essence Isabella had won at the auction!

Jet

"A whole bottle... of Vitality Elixir developed by the Ghost Doctor?!" Old Mr Blackwood shook the bottle. It felt heavy, there had to be at least thirty pills.

Based on the market price...

This small bottle was worth at least fifty million dollars!

No wonder Serena had scoffed at the EverVita Essence Isabella had presented.

What Serena had casually given him was a genuine pill developed by the Ghost Doctor!

"But where on earth... did Serena get

so many pills from the Ghost Doctor Old Mr. Blackwood looked

at his bottle, then at the one in

Brianna's hand. "Could it be Serena knows the Ghost Doctor?"

Otherwise how could Serena so casually produce an entire bottle of these top-tier pills that were nearly impossible to find on the market?"

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Nicholas watched his family's shocked expressions, a playful smile on his lips as he spoke slowly.

"Grandpa, what if I told you to guess that Serena herself is the mysterious, elusive... Ghost Doctor?"

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 248[ 611 words ]

Old Mr. Blackwood, Brianna, and Patton all whipped their heads around to look at Nicholas.

Their eyes were wide with disbelief.

"What?!"

"The Ghost Doctor?!"

The legendary Ghost Doctor-who could supposedly bring people back from the brink of death, was mysterious and eccentric, and whose medicine was worth a fortune was Serena?!

But on second thought, it made sense.

Serena had only recently been brought back to the Lancaster family.

To have stockpiled so many of these rare Heartguard Pills and Vitality Elixirs would have cost tens of millions.

Why would a young woman like Serena spend so much money on these pills?

Besides, in all of Elyndor, there were only a dozen or so in circulation on the market.

For Serena to be able to produce so many at once, and even offer to formulate a new pill specifically for Old Mr. Blackwood's condition...

Only the Ghost Doctor could do something like that.

Once they connected the dots, the way Old Mr. Blackwood and Brianna looked at Nicholas was no longer simple disdain.

It had escalated to soul-searching questions like, "You're a toad trying to eat a swan?" and "What makes you think you're worthy?"

Old Mr. Blackwood was heartbroken, pointing at Nicholas and slapping his thigh dramatically. "See! Look! What did I tell you! This kid is not good enough for Serena! And he still dreams of pursuing her? You're a toad trying to eat a swan!"

He felt that even thinking of Serena as his future granddaughter-in-law was an insult to her!

The more he looked, the more he felt his worthless grandson was utterly unworthy of Serena.

Brianna propped up her chin and chimed in, "Exactly! Nicholas, besides being handsome, what else about you is worthy of Serena?"

Then, her face scrunched up, her brows knitting together. "But I still want Serena to be my sister-in-law, ugh, what do I do!"

As she spoke, she glared at Nicholas again. "It's all your fault for not being more impressive! Ahhh!"

Nicholas was speechless.

He looked at his family, who seemed ready to pack him up and throw him out of the house.

He couldn't help but touch his face.

Wasn't being handsome an advantage?

At least Serena was a sucker for his looks.

He could still use his charm to win her over!

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The night was deep.

Serena drove the black Maybach, turning onto the road leading to the suburbs.

After an hour's drive, she parked in an extremely hidden corner of a desolate, abandoned factory district.

The area was overgrown with weeds, the silence broken only by the chirping of insects.

The cool, bright moonlight added a strange, eerie atmosphere to the scene. Serena got out of the car and navigated the depths of a half-collapsed factory building with practiced ease.

The environment, thick with dust and cobwebs, gave off a damp, decaying smell. She stopped in front of a heavy, rust-covered iron door shrouded in cobwebs.

She raised her hand and quickly pressed an inconspicuous indentation next to the door several times.

\*Click!\*

A faint sound was heard.

The heavy iron door slid open silently, revealing a downward staircase.

The brightly lit passage stood in stark contrast to the desolate ruins outside.

Serena stepped into the passage.

The iron door closed swiftly behind her, as if nothing had ever happened. Even the cobwebs outside the door hadn't moved a fraction of an inch

After descending several dozen

steps, an underground world filled

with a sense of technology and cold, military style came view

"Boss, you're here!"

A man with a buzz cut, Jaxon, hurried over to greet her.

Behind him were several men in black combat gear, carrying guns.

Upon seeing Serena, they all immediately held their weapons and bowed their

heads respectfully. "Boss!"

This was the secret base of her Gray

Zone faction-the Ghost Alliance a

heavily guarded, information-sealed

stronghold in Vaelion City,

existence known only to a few key members of the alliance.

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 249[ 557 words ]

Serena gave a slight nod and walked inside. "What's the situation?"

Jaxon followed behind her, giving a rapid report as they walked. "We've got a lead on the matter you asked us to investigate."

"The group of assassins who ambushed you on the road-although they were taken away by Elyndor's Department of Defense, we managed to get the preliminary interrogation results and background information from them through special channels."

"That group of assassins, along with the Silver Ghost who infiltrated Adrian's team at Apex Horizon Speedway, belong to the same faction."

They quickly walked through the heavily guarded corridor and entered the command center in the core area.

A huge screen displayed dense and complex data and schematics.

Jaxon continued, "We've confirmed the organization behind them. It's the remnants of Norvane Siphon, an assassin organization active in the gray zones, known for being ruthless and vindictive. They were entrenched in several strongholds in the Solmera Archlands."

As he spoke, he pulled up another set of data.

The screen showed a blurry avatar and an encrypted contact list. "Based on communication fragments, we traced their financial flow... The true source of the commands is from the Norvane mainland, from an organization codenamed 'Kurobara Shroud.'"

"Its leader, Black Mirage, is highly elusive. There's not much information on him, only that he has had deep cooperation with Siphon for a long time. I suspect Siphon is likely one of the overseas forces secretly supported by Kurobara Shroud."

Anyone could figure out the purpose of them backing such a force and establishing roots in Elyndor to infiltrate its military and research sectors.

Serena stared at the blurry avatar, her gaze darkening slightly.

"Boss," Jaxon said with a grave expression, "you uprooted the network they spent years meticulously planning in Elyndor, destroyed their nearly successful espionage plan, and now you've eliminated their core elite..."

"Knowing the vindictive nature of Black Mirage and Siphon, their retaliation will be absolutely insane and impossible to defend against."

"It's too dangerous for you right now. The guys think you should stay here at the base for a while. Wait until we've completely eradicated Siphon and Kurobara Shroud before you show yourself again."

Serena stood before the massive screen, her cool, clear eyes reflecting all the data on the Siphon organization and Kurobara Shroud's forces.

There was no hint of emotion in her eyes. "Stay at the base?"

She let out a soft laugh. Da When have ever been afraid danger Hiding is not my

Jaxon had to admit she was right.

Back then when she was just a girl in her teens, she had come to the Gray Zone all by herself for a rare herb on one of the islands.

She truly had no fear of death.

Even now, Jaxon could never forget...

That day, the boss had walked out of that island, covered in blood.

The herb was perfectly protected in her arms.

The blood on her face couldn't hide the murderous glint in her eyes. She was like...

The Reaper, crawling out of hell itself.

After that, everyone was beaten into submission.

And

Sheth her own power,

Meet

established her own faction in this og gray z

lawless

Gontent

In just one year, she built her faction into a major power that no one dared to provoke.

The names "Ghost Alliance" and "the demon" made everyone in the Gray Zone tremble in their boots.

It was true...

The great demon had never been afraid of anyone.

Jaxon's gaze toward his boss filled with even more admiration and respect.

## Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! - Chapter 250[ 622 words ]

"Besides... Kurobara Shroud is vicious and has no morals. If I keep hiding and they can't find me, they might shift their target to the people around me."

Images of her family members from the Lancaster family flashed through Serena's mind.

Her eyes darkened as her slender fingers tapped on the tabletop. "Deploy more people to my family's home. Protect everyone in the Lancaster family in secret."

Although the Lancaster family's security system was top-notch and their bodyguards were the elite of the elite, there were no guarantees when facing unhinged psychos like the members of Siphon and Kurobara Shroud, who had no morals and used twisted methods.

Her family was her bottom line. She would not tolerate any harm coming to them.

Jaxon knew that while the boss appeared cool and distant, earning her the title of "the demon" in the Gray Zone, she was actually the most loyal and sentimental person he knew.

The herb she had come to the Gray Zone to pick all those years ago was for Old Mrs. Wynn.

This was one of the reasons they were willing to follow her to the death.

"For the time being, I'll find a place to stay outside," Serena said after a moment's thought. "Have the 'Black Vipers' move into the Lancaster estate. They'll stand guard in shifts, 24/7. Report any activity immediately. If necessary, use any means to prioritize my family's safety."

Jaxon replied, "Yes, Boss!"

"As for the Siphon organization... and the Kurobara Shroud faction..." A chill flashed in Serena's cool eyes, and a biting arc formed on her red lips. "Keep a close watch

on them! Dig up every single one of their strongholds, their core personnel networks, their financial chains, piece by piece!"

"The moment we get a chance, we'll eradicate them, root and stem, and eliminate the threat for good!"

Jaxon immediately grew solemn. "Understood!"

After giving her orders, Serena left the base.

She still had to return to the Lancaster estate and figure out an excuse to move out for a while.

Thinking about how much her family cared for her, she realized she'd need a good excuse, one they would accept.

Sitting in the black Maybach, Serena checked the time. It was just past nine. She still had some time.

She turned the steering wheel and dialed a number. "Chloe, the design you wanted is ready."

Chloe had lent her the S Club's crown jewel, the Dark Serpent GT, just to help her out.

Since Serena had promised to design a motorcycle with

formance far exceeding the Dark Serpent GT she would naturally deliver.

Chloe's voice was full of pleasant surprise. Whoa, Serena, that was so fast! You're the best! Perfect timing, were all hanging out at Obsidian Palace. The whole gang's here, come have a drink with us!

"I can't. I have to go home, so I can't smell like alcohol," Serena said before hanging up and heading toward Obsidian Palace.

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At the entrance of Obsidian Palace,

the Wynn family was being blocked by security, their faces a mixture of embarrassment and anxiety.

Patrick and Marianne Wynn were at the front, trying to reason with the guards.

Logan and Hailey hid behind Patrick, their heads bowed, so ashamed they wished the ground would swallow them whole.

Because of the Apex Horizon Speedway incident... Serena had tricked Adrian into losing a hundred million dollars.

Adrian had blown up at Hailey the moment he got back and demanded that the Wynn family cover part of the losses.

The Wynn family was already on shaky ground. How could they possibly absorb half of that loss?

Of course, Hailey wasn't willing, and neither was the rest of the Wynn family.

But Adrian completely ignored them.

Patrick had found out that the shareholders of Apex Horizon Speedway were having a gathering at Obsidian Palace today.

He had immediately brought Hailey and Logan here, hoping to plead their case with the shareholders.