

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 51 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 51

Novel 20254-5 minutes

As Hailey spoke, she leaned toward Nicholas, revealing the impressive view offered by her little white dress.

"Who are you?"

Nicholas, his path blocked, lazily lifted his gaze. As his cool eyes landed on Hailey, his brow furrowed almost imperceptibly. "What's with the long face? Are you here for a funeral?"

He showed no sign of being captivated by Hailey, only the annoyance of being interrupted. "You're an eyesore."

Hailey's expression instantly froze, her face turning pale. Being publicly rebuffed by Nicholas left her so mortified she could barely contain her emotions.

Nicholas couldn't be bothered to spare her another glance. With a long stride, he walked right up to Serena.

Serena's height was already considered tall and striking among women.

But Nicholas's frame still easily dwarfed her, casting her in his shadow.

He looked down, his deep, ink-black eyes landing on the girl's coolly beautiful face.

A faint, intriguing smile finally touched his thin lips.

He had only ever seen her from a distance before.

His impression was... her legs were long and slender, and her waist was impossibly slim.

Now, up close, the hazy lights accentuated the cold, detached look in her eyes, making her stunningly beautiful.

"Miss," he said, his low, lazy voice whispering by her ear, laced with a hint of temptation and amusement. "Need a hand?"

The distance between them was close, yet teetered on the edge of a perfectly gentlemanly space.

Serena could smell the crisp, pine-like scent on him, mixed with a faint trace of tobacco.

She looked up, her gaze meeting his obsidian-like eyes.

His proximity created an incredibly strong sense of pressure.

And it was unfamiliar.

She wasn't used to it.

Serena subtly took half a step back, her expression distant, calm, and cold. "Thank you, but I don't need any help."

Detached, but still polite.

Nicholas let out a low chuckle, the vibration in his chest producing a deep, magnetic sound that was incredibly captivating.

"Alright."

He slowly let the single word escape his thin lips.

Then, with one hand in his pocket, he turned slightly to the side.

But his position was just right to block the

Adri

Serena

rian, completely shielding her from Adrian's dark, chilling stare.

espace between and

It created an unspoken stance of confrontation and protection.

He tilted his head, still exuding that casual, roguish air, and said in a playful tone in a voice only the two of them could hear, "In that case... I look forward to your performance."

They weren't standing particularly close, and Serena's attitude was distant and indifferent.

Yet the atmosphere between them had an inexplicable, perfect sense of chemistry. This scene stabbed into Adrian's eyes.

He felt a heavy blow land on his chest, a dull ache that made it almost impossible to breathe.

Seeing Nicholas's clearly protective stance...

A wave of panic and jealousy he had never felt before nearly shattered his composure.

Everyone else in the room was stunned, staring at Serena with utter disbelief.

How could Serena possibly know someone like Nicholas Blackwood?

Brian was shocking enough, but now Nicholas too?

What was even harder for them to accept was... she had actually refused Nicholas's help?

She treated even Nicholas with such cold indifference?

Anyone else in this room would be

ping, ready to kneel

and lick his shoes, just for a

chance

to say a single word to him. .net>

Hailey also found the scene infuriating.

She trembled with rage, her perfectly manicured nails digging deep into her palms.

She was nearly consumed by jealousy.

First Brian, and now Nicholas!

Why wasn't she the one catching the eye of such a god-like, perfect man?

She was, after all, a Wynn heiress.

Her status and lineage were far nobler than some gutter trash from the slums like Serena.

Why did that damn imposter Serena always have to compete with her for everything?

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 52 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 52

Novel 20254-5 minutes

Hailey bit her lower lip, desperately trying to control her jealousy-contorted face, and tugged on a still-dazed Logan beside her.

"Logan... D-did I do something wrong?"

Her tearful, pitiful look softened Logan's heart.

He glanced at Serena, then remembered that the Wynn family had now forged a connection with the Lancaster family, which gave them a bit of standing in front of Nicholas.

Logan took a deep breath and, forcing a stiff, fawning smile, said to Nicholas, "Mr... Blackwood... you may not know this, but this... Serena, was once my sister. This is really just a small private matter of ours."

"I heard you have close ties with the Lancaster family of Vaelion City. And since the Lancaster family has taken the initiative to partner with us, it's not impossible that we might work with you in the future, Mr. Blackwood. We're all friends here. There's no need to ruin the harmony between our families over such a trivial matter, don't you think?"

He deliberately emphasized "the Lancaster family."

He was also trying to boost his own importance by mentioning that the Lancasters had approached the Wynns for a partnership.

Nicholas looked as if he'd just heard a fascinating joke. He let out a soft scoff, his lazy, devilish eyes flicking toward Logan.

His thin lips curved into a cold, humorless smile. "Oh? Are you... using the Lancaster family to threaten me?"

It was just a detached, cool glance, but it made Logan feel as if he'd been plunged into an ice cellar. A cold sweat broke out on his forehead, and his body began to tremble uncontrollably.

Logan's heart nearly stopped. His throat felt constricted, and he couldn't utter another word.

"Hah."

A sudden, sharp scoff cut through the tense atmosphere.

Everyone followed the sound.

They saw the strikingly beautiful girl holding her phone, her slender white fingers tapping casually on the screen.

Her expression was nonchalant, and a frigid smirk played on her lips. "Trying to climb the ladder using the Lancaster family?"

Her lips curled as she spoke in a calm, indifferent tone.

Then she raised her hand and held up five fingers.

"Five seconds."

Her voice was crisp and cold. "The partnership between the Wynn family and the Lancaster family is hereby terminated."

Five seconds?

Logan, who had been trembling in fear of Nicholas, couldn't help but burst out laughing at Serena's words.

Even Adrian's cronies in the room started to chuckle.

The heavy silence in the room was broken.

"Serena, are you insane? Do you have any idea what you're saying?" Logan was desperate to recover

from his embarrassing display in the

front of Nicholas, and his tone was more mocking than ever. "Five seconds to make the Lancaster family cancel their partnership with the Wynn family? Who do you think you are?"

He scoffed. "You think just because you have the Lancaster name now, you're suddenly the esteemed heiress? Let me tell you, it doesn't change what you are!"

"That's right, sis-I mean, Miss

Serena. I know you're upset, but you can't say something like that in front of Mr Blackwood. The Lancaster family's status isn't something that Hailey said, feigning concern to try and get Nicholas's attention.

But she hadn't even finished her sentence.

Logan's phone suddenly rang, the sound echoing through the room.

Everyone's eyes snapped to Logan.

Five seconds!

It had been exactly five seconds!

A strange, deathly silence fell over the room.

Logan's heart sank, and a sense of foreboding washed over him.

His hand trembled as he reached for his phone.

"Answer it," Serena said, crossing her arms and looking at him with a half-smile.

Her posture was filled with contempt.

Logan swallowed hard, then shot at

glare at Serena's beautiful face,

which was now filled with mockery.

He gritted his teeth. "Fine. I'll answer

it refuse to believe you have that kind of power!"

He swiped to answer and even put the call on speaker.

The moment the call connected, a voice came through the phone...

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 53 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 53

Novel 20256-7 minutes

"Hello, is this Mr. Logan Wynn?"

The voice on the other end was steady and firm.

It was an unfamiliar voice. Logan paused. "Yes..."

"This is Stephen, the executive assistant of the Lancaster Corporation. I am calling on behalf of the corporation to formally inform you that the partnership between the Lancaster Corporation and the Wynn family is hereby terminated."

"Furthermore, the Lancaster Corporation will not partner with any enterprise that collaborates with the Wynn family in the future. Thank you."

After saying this, Stephen, the assistant, politely hung up.

A dial tone buzzed from the phone.

Logan stood there, stunned, his mind buzzing. He looked as if he'd been struck by lightning, his face deathly pale.

With a clatter, the phone fell from his hand.

He snapped his head up, his pupils constricting as he stared fiercely at Serena. "You... It was you?!"

"No! Impossible! This is absolutely impossible!"

Logan's voice was distorted, his eyes bloodshot with disbelief. "How could you have that kind of power? How could you just say you wanted the Lancaster Corporation to cancel the deal, and they just did it?"

Not only had the Lancasters canceled this partnership.....

They had also declared they wouldn't work with any company that worked with the Wynns. Wasn't that a death sentence for the Wynn family?

How could a worthless country girl like Serena have the power to influence the Lancaster Corporation?!

Serena met his horrified gaze, her red lips curling slightly. Her voice was casual, without a ripple. "Didn't you say I was a jinx?"

Her eyes shifted to the stiff-as-a-board Hailey. The smile on her lips turned malicious. "Then let your lucky charm go and beg the Lancaster family to reinstate the deal. Let's see if her tears work, shall we?"

"You!" Logan seethed with rage.

Seeing Hailey's red-rimmed eyes and her pitiful, wronged expression, he pulled her into his arms and glared at Serena. "Stop trying to sow discord! You think I'd believe you?"

He sneered. "Even if the Lancaster Corporation really wanted to terminate the partnership, the call would go to my father or my older brother. Why would they call my cell phone directly?"

His gaze swept over the phone in Serena's hand, his expression one of someone who had figured it all out. "I get it. That so-called executive assistant was just an actor you hired! You deliberately set this up with someone to put on a show in front of me!"

The more he spoke, the more convinced he became. He laughed coldly. "You country bumpkin, is there anything you can do besides trick people?"

"Believe what you want," Serena said, not bothering to waste another breath on him.

"I believe her."

A lazy, casual voice suddenly cut through Logan's desperate denial.

Nicholas had a cigarette dangling from his lips. He raised a playful, eyebrow and glanced at Logan.

His posture was like that of a god looking down on a struggling ant. His tone was one of natural contempt. "The Lancasters aren't blind. Why would they ever choose to partner with a second-rate family like the Wynns?"

"Mr... Blackwood!" Logan was so furious his blood was boiling, and he started to shake.

The immense humiliation was about to snap the last thread of his sanity.

"Mr. Blackwood, don't let her fool you! How could she possibly have that kind of power? She's just a country bumpkin!"

Buzz-

Serena's phone suddenly vibrated, the urgent sound cutting off Logan's furious rant.

Serena didn't even bother to look at Logan. She glanced at the caller ID-Mr. Harrison.

Her brow furrowed slightly. The playful look in her eyes vanished, and the lazy, casual aura around her dissipated instantly, replaced by a sharp, focused intensity. The change was not lost on Nicholas, who had been watching her closely.

Serena immediately answered the call. "Mr. Harrison."

The room was now exceptionally quiet.

Even though the call wasn't on speaker, a grave, elderly voice could be heard intermittently—

Words like "Lead Lancaster," "core data," "leaked," "crashed," "national project compromised," and "take charge" could be pieced together.

Those words alone were enough to suggest the gravity of the situation!

Everyone looked at Serena with astonishment.

Adrian felt a vague sense of familiarity... that voice sounded familiar.

Meanwhile, Serena was hearing Mr. Harrison's hoarse, anxious voice. "Lead Lancaster, there's been an

incident at the institute. The corenet

data for 'Project Aegis' has crashed. Some of the encrypted data might be at risk of being leaked. If we can repair it in time, the entire national project could be compromised, leading to immeasurable consequences..."

Serena's eyes narrowed, her tone firm. "I understand, Mr. Harrison. Send the access codes to my encrypted channel. I'm heading home now to connect remotely and start emergency isolation and repairs. I'll be at the institute first thing tomorrow morning to handle it in person."

She had promised her grandfather she would be home early. If she went to the

institute now, she probably wouldn't be back all night.

Even if she explained it to her family, they would likely worry and lose a night's sleep.

Going home to work on the emergency repairs overnight would be fine.

Serena hung up.

"Mr. Harrison's saving grace..."

Nicholas's deep, magnetic voice was particularly captivating. His dark,

ink-black eyes held an undisguise

interest. So it was you."

Serena glanced at him.

He knew Mr. Harrison too?

But there was no time to dwell on that. Serena gave Nicholas a polite nod. "Excuse me."

With that, she grabbed the back of Brian's collar and turned to leave.

"Serena! Who do you think you're fooling?!—"

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 54 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 54

Novel 20254-6 minutes

Logan's mouth hung open, his face a mixture of purple and blue from a combination of shock and rage. "Mr. Harrison? The national treasure from Crestwood University? The head of a core national research project? Hahaha... You really know how to put on an act, don't you? You actually hired someone to impersonate Mr. Harrison?"

"Do you know that impersonating a key national figure is a crime? Who do you think you are? Making up such ridiculous lies just to show off!"

He pointed at the general manager standing by the door. "I bet that access card of hers was stolen from somewhere! You should verify her identity immediately. She doesn't deserve..."

Serena's steps came to a sudden halt. She tilted her head slightly and looked at the general manager.

"These people are too loud."

Logan sneered. "What? You think we're too loud, so you're going to have the

manager kick us out? You think you can pull off that act? We're VIPs here. Everyone

in this room is a regular at the Obsidian Palace. There's no way the manager would..."

However, before he could finish his sentence...

The general manager bowed deeply and respectfully in Serena's direction. "Miss Lancaster, I understand completely!"

He then raised his walkie-talkie. "Security, send a team to 6103 immediately. Clear the room! And record the names of everyone in here. They are to be permanently blacklisted. Effective immediately!"

"What? Manager, are you crazy?!"

Everyone cried out in disbelief.

Adrian's face was incredibly grim, his eyes dark and cold.

However...

No matter how much they protested...

The security team swarmed in and "escorted" every single of them out.

They were shown no courtesy whatsoever.

One by one, they were thrown out like trash, right in front of all the other guests coming and going.

All because of that one sentence from Serena.

"Serena, I'll walk you out!" Brian trotted eagerly behind Serena, his eyes sparkling with admiration as he looked at her, looking every bit her devoted follower.

Serena shook her head. "No need. Go back and tell the others to have fun. Put it on my tab. I have to get home and take care of something."

Brian nodded. "Okay, but how are you getting...?"

"I'm heading the same way."

Nicholas, one hand in his pocket, followed them with a casual stride, his posture as lazy as ever.

Serena lifted her gaze, her eyes landing on his flawlessly handsome face.

The way he looked at her was... filled with an unreadable depth.

She didn't like that feeling.

"Aren't you in a hurry to get home and fix something?" Nicholas smirked. "Take my car. I'm quick."

Serena was silent for a second. "...Let's go."

Nicholas's lips curled in satisfaction. He strode forward, walking shoulder-to-shoulder with Serena, his demeanor relaxed and unhurried.

Brian was left behind, staring at their retreating backs in stunned silence.

What did he just hear?

Nicholas said he was... quick?

Nicholas... quick?

How quick?

Like, three seconds quick?

-

The Maybach glided smoothly down the street. The car was quiet.

Nicholas rested one hand on the steering wheel, his posture relaxed and casual. His dark eyes were fixed on the road ahead, but his peripheral vision occasionally drifted to the girl's exquisite profile, catching the subtle tension in her brow.

"Looks like you've got a tough battle ahead of you when you get back. The man's low, husky voice was especially altering in the quiet car. "Rest for a bit. You can pay me back for the ride next time."

Serena turned her head, her clear, bright eyes meeting his for a moment before she gave a soft "Mm."

The man's voice was exceptionally pleasant, and it managed to ease some of the tension in her expression.

And this man... he was surprisingly tactful.

Unexpectedly, she didn't feel bothered by his presence at all. In fact, the faint, elegant scent of cedar in the car gave her an odd sense of calm and security.

She closed her eyes, her long, dark lashes resting on her cheeks.

Her mind, however, was operating at high speed, like a sophisticated supercomputer.

The code and

data models for

"Project Aegis" were rapidly forming in her mind. Possible attack vectors,

points of failure in the data

Stream everything was being

calculated and reconfigured.

They drove the rest of the way in silence.

The car drove smoothly through the gates of the Lancaster estate without any obstruction.

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 55 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 55

Novel 20255-6 minutes

Serena opened her eyes, their clear depths now sharp and focused after a period of intense mental calculation.

She unbuckled her seatbelt, got out of the car, and stood in front of it. Her expression was distant, but polite enough. "Thank you, Mr. Blackwood."

Nicholas rested his arm lazily on the open window, a slight curve on his thin lips as he corrected her, "Nicholas."

Under the warm yellow lights outside the main house, his refined, handsome face looked almost otherworldly, flawlessly perfect.

Nicholas lifted his fingers and slipped a minimalist black card into Serena's hand. "Don't forget, you owe me a favor for the ride."

Without waiting for her reply, he gave a casual wave, his well-defined hand catching the light. "I won't keep you any longer."

She glanced down at the black card. There was only a single string of gold-foil numbers on it.

"Right."

She gave a short reply, tucked the card into her pocket, and turned to walk back to the house.

Nicholas leaned on the car window, watching her back disappear from sight, a meaningful smile slowly spreading across his lips.

When Serena got home, she found Old Mr. Lancaster and her parents all sitting on the sofa in the main hall, waiting anxiously.

As soon as Catherine saw Serena, she immediately stood up and walked over. "Serena, you're back!"

Edward and Old Mr. Lancaster both turned to look at Serena.

Serena nodded, her gaze falling on an extra person on the sofa.

It was a man in his early thirties, dressed in a gray suit and wearing a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. He had a gentle demeanor and a polite smile on his face.

"This is your older brother," Catherine said, taking Serena's hand and quickly making the introduction. "He just finished up with work at the company today and rushed back to meet you."

Serena obediently greeted him. "Brother."

Julian Lancaster stood up, his smile warm. He produced a gift box with understated luxury packaging from behind him. "Serena, welcome back. This is a welcome gift from me."

His eyes rested on Serena's face, studying this sister who had just been brought home.

She had inherited the very best of their parents' features. Hers was undoubtedly the most striking face in the Lancaster family.

His gaze toward Serena grew even gentler. "Are you settling in alright?"

Serena accepted the gift box and met her brother's warm gaze.

He looked at her with genuine concern.

A warmth spread through Serena's heart, but she couldn't help but feel a pang of apology toward her brother.

"Thank you, brother. I'm settling in just fine," Serena said earnestly. "And I love the gift. But... I'm sorry, I have some extremely urgent work I need to take care of right now. As soon as I'm done I'll spend some proper time with you."

Her brow was furrowed with a seriousness that couldn't be disguised, and her expression held a hint of urgency.

"Go on, go on!" Old Mr. Lancaster didn't even ask what work could be so urgent. He just waved his hand. "It's already so late. Go finish what you need to do."

"Yes, Serena, you should go. Don't let your work be delayed," Catherine added with concern. "Work is important, but you need to take care of yourself too."

Edward added, "If you need anything, just let the staff know."

Serena acknowledged them all, then looked at Julian apologetically.

"Go on. I understand. I'll wait for you," Julian said, patting her shoulder in a natural, affectionate gesture.

Serena smiled faintly, then quickly went upstairs to her room with the gift box. Isabella sat to the side, holding a research paper, and watched Serena's retreating figure with a cold expression.

She bit her lower lip.

What kind of urgent, important business could a country bumpkin who never even finished high school possibly have? Important enough to overshadow the Lancaster family?

She was just putting on a show, even being dismissive of the thoughtful gift her brother had carefully prepared for her!

She was just trying to build this independent image of hers to make the family feel sorry for her.

So manipulative!

Isabella clenched her fists, then looked at her brother, quickly adjusting her expression as she moved closer to the newly seated Julian.

She spoke in a casual, yet perfectly wheedling tone. "Julian, don't mind her too much. She just got back maybe... she doesn't understand our family's ways yet. She'll be fine once she's done with her 'work',"

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Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 56 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 56

Novel 20254-5 minutes

It might have sounded like she was speaking up for Serena, but the subtext was clear-Serena was ill-mannered, ignorant of etiquette, and completely disrespectful to her eldest brother.

Beneath his lenses, Julian's gentle eyes flickered. When he looked at Isabella, his gaze had cooled considerably.

But the warm smile remained on his lips. "It's fine. Rules are static, but people are not. Serena's work is important. Family is supposed to be supportive and understanding."

His tone was as gentle and calm as ever, but his words were a clear defense and show of understanding for Serena.

Isabella's smile froze on her face. Her fingers clenched, and a suffocating sense of frustration made her feel wronged.

How could even her eldest brother... act like this!

What kind of magic did that Serena possess?

She was fuming, but she knew that everyone in the Lancaster family was incredibly perceptive.

She had already displeased her grandfather once.

She didn't dare say anything more now.

Just then, Alfred, the butler, hurried over and said to Old Mr. Lancaster, "Sir, I believe I just saw a car from the Blackwood family parked at the main entrance."

"The Blackwood family?" Old Mr. Lancaster was a bit surprised.

Although the Lancaster and Blackwood families had a good relationship, and he and the old head of the Blackwood family were friends of many years, it was unlikely for them to visit the Lancaster estate late at night without prior notice.

Had something happened?

"The Blackwood family?!"

Isabella's eyes suddenly lit up, her heart pounding in her chest. She looked at Alfred with burning, hopeful eyes. "The Blackwoods? Was it Nicholas?"

Her voice was thick with an excitement she couldn't suppress. "Alfred, why didn't you say so sooner? Nicholas... I'll go meet him!"

With that, she started jogging toward the entrance, her face flushed with the nervous excitement of a schoolgirl with a crush.

"Miss Isabella!" Alfred called out quickly. "The Blackwood family's car has already left."

Isabella stopped in her tracks and turned to look at him. "How could it have left? Nicholas didn't even come inside!"

Alfred replied, "My apologies, Miss Isabella. The car seemed to just pull over on the road by the estate. entrance. Before our staff could go out to greet them, the car had already driven away."

He then turned his gaze respectfully to Old Mr. Lancaster. "From what I saw... it appeared the car was dropping off Miss Serena."

"Serena?" Old Mr. Lancaster and the other family members were all surprised.

Since when did Serena have any connection with the Blackwood family?

The elders exchanged glances, and in each other's eyes, they saw the same thought—

That young man, Nicholas Blackwood, drove their precious girl home this late at night?

Could this be fate?

"What?!"

Isabella's voice was uncontrollably sharp as she let out a cry.

The bashful expression froze on her face, and the mask of the perfect daughter began to crack.

After her outburst, Isabella forced

herself to calm down, though her

voice trembled slightly. "I mean when did Serena get to know Nicholas? She never mentioned it to the family."

Her face was a little pale, but deep down, she couldn't believe that Nicholas would associate with a fake heiress from the insignificant Wynn family, a country bumpkin up in the middle of

who grew,

nowhere.

Moreover...

This country bumpkin had spent four years as a desperate admirer of the eldest son of the Cole family!

There was no way Nicholas would know such a cheap woman, let alone drive her home!

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 57 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 57

Novel 20254-5 minutes

Nicholas must have been coming to visit Grandpa, but something urgent came up, so he left!

Yes! That has to be it!

Isabella repeated this to herself over and over, finally managing to calm her emotions.

She urgently grabbed Alfred's arm and instructed, "Alfred, remember this. From now on, if you see Nicholas's car anywhere near the Lancaster estate, you must inform me immediately! Do you understand?"

She had been in love with Nicholas for many, many years.

And now...

Serena's return had made her own position in the family incredibly awkward.

It was as if Serena had cast a spell on her grandfather and parents; they all favored her now.

She had to win over Nicholas. It would be best if she could successfully marry into the Blackwood family. Only then... only then could she solidify her position within the Lancaster family and never lose the place that was supposed to be hers alone!

Alfred glanced at the hand gripping his arm tighter and tighter. He frowned slightly and discreetly pulled his arm away before nodding respectfully. "Of course, Miss Isabella."

Upstairs, Serena walked into her fantastical room, a space filled with lace and an explosion of girly pink, without a change in her expression.

She placed the gift from her brother on the desk, then pulled a specially modified laptop from her canvas bag.

She opened it.

Her slender, fair fingers flew across the keyboard.

The screen lit up, and she immediately logged into an encrypted channel, where a complex authentication screen appeared.

If anyone else had been there to see that authentication screen, they would have gasped in shock.

It was the access portal for a national core research facility!

Serena's fingers danced across the keyboard, a blur of motion as she entered a string of extremely complex commands. The screen instantly switched to another terminal window, where streams of code cascaded down like a waterfall.

Without the slightest hesitation, her fingers moved at an astonishing speed.

The screen instantly split into countless complex code windows, with dense lines of code constantly scrolling by.

Serena's expression was calm and

focused. She rapidly entered

commalid after command,

partitioning and caffing up one template after another...

She never paused, yet she was able to precisely isolate the source of the interference.

Only then did Serena stop, her clear, bright eyes narrowing slightly.

This interference source...

It was disguised within a core service process template, and the attack vector was incredibly sophisticated.

Without calculations more precise than a supercomputer's, it would have been nearly impossible to detect.

To be able to tamper with the core service process template in such a way...

It had to be one of the core members of this project!

Serena's cool gaze sharpened, her eyes locked on that template.

Then, her ten fingers returned to the keyboard.

A set of targeted anti-tracking code was rapidly constructed.

Knock, knock...

A very light knock came from the door. "Serena, it's me."

Hearing her brother's voice, Serena didn't look up, her fingers still tapping away at the keyboard. "Come in."

The door opened, and Julian walked in carrying a glass of warm milk and a plate of delicate pastries.

He saw Serena sitting at her computer and didn't want to disturb her. He walked over with light.

footsteps and placed the tele

milk and

pastries on the desk. Content,

His gaze fell on his still-unopened gift, and he paused for a moment.

It seemed his little sister was truly busy.

Julian decided not to bother her any longer. Just as he was about to leave his eyes landed on the screen in front of her Comment

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Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 58 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 58

Novel 20255-7 minutes

Countless lines of scrolling, complex code, dazzlingly intricate formulas, and rapidly partitioning architectural diagrams filled the screen.

Even Julian, who had seen his fair share of high-stakes situations, felt his pupils contract. Behind his lenses, his gentle eyes reflected a sharp glint of astonishment.

As the heir to the Lancaster family, he was well-versed in various fields of data and algorithms.

But looking at the screen full of code before him, he realized its complexity was far beyond his scope of understanding.

He could only discern that she was performing some kind of high-level isolation and removal, as well as some sort of template repair.

This... was not something an ordinary IT engineer could do!

The blue light of the screen illuminated her delicate profile. Her expression was calm and focused, and her fingers flew across the keyboard as if she were in complete control of the situation.

Julian watched Serena for a few seconds before quietly leaving the room, gently closing the door behind him.

An unknown amount of time passed.

Serena finally finished repairing a critical template.

Seeing that the damaged data stream was now stabilized and isolated, she leaned back in her chair, the nerves that had been tense for so long finally relaxing a little.

She closed her eyes and raised a hand to pinch the bridge of her nose.

She then casually picked up the glass of milk beside her and took a sip. The warmth chased away some of her fatigue.

She paused for a moment, then opened her eyes and stared at the glass in her hand.

Someone had deliberately kept it warm for her.

No wonder the temperature was just right.

Remembering her brother's quiet departure, a strange warmth spread through her chest.

A faint smile touched her lips. She picked up the pastries, eating them one by one, and then finished the glass of milk.

Her energy replenished, she turned her gaze back to the screen and dove back into the fight.

Dawn broke.

Serena had finally completed the initial emergency repairs, stabilizing the current situation.

Her eyes showed a hint of fatigue, but she had no intention of resting.

She got up, went into the bathroom, and took a shower to wash away her exhaustion before stuffing her laptop into her canvas bag.

The canvas bag, containing data crucial to national core research, was slung casually over her shoulder.

As soon as she went downstairs, she heard waves of praise and laughter from the living room.

"Oh, our Isabella is just wonderful!"

"Keep up the good work. If you can become Mr. Harrison's student, your future will be limitless."

"Remember to double-check the paper you're submitting."

Isabella was dressed in a designer suit, her long hair elegantly styled, and her makeup flawless-the very picture of a refined socialite.

She held a thick manuscript in her hands, sitting demurely on the sofa.

Her parents were seated across from her, their faces beaming with smiles.

"Dad, Mom, you're giving me too

much credit, Isabella said, her

delicate face wearing a smile of confident ambition. "The

experimental data for the paper is all

organized. I'm planning to visit Mr.

Harrison today to feel things out.

Hopefully can pass the final

assessment and become his

student."

Her tone was modest, but her eyes couldn't hide her triumphant glee.

This was her chance to prove her worth to her family.

Her smile widened with a hint of malice as she caught sight of Serena coming down the stairs.

She immediately stood up, her face

bright with an enthusiastic smile, and walked toward Serena, even reaching out to take the canvas bag from her shoulder. "Serena, are you going out too? Where are you headed? I happen to be on my way

to see Mr. Harrison. Would you like

to come along?"

She paused, then feigned a moment of realization and explained hastily, "Oh, you probably don't know who Mr. Harrison is. He's a pillar in our country's field of computer and systems engineering data security. He's a professor at the prestigious D University, a true national treasure."

She looked every bit the part of a kind older sister, patiently explaining things to her less worldly sibling.

Serena shifted slightly, avoiding Isabella's outstretched hand. Her voice was flat. "No, thank you."

Isabella's smile faltered for a

second, but she quickly recovered, her expression becoming even more enthusiastic. "Mr. Harrison is truly brilliant. If you could learn even a little from him, it would be incredibly beneficial! Serena, how about... talk to Mr. Harrison and ask him to let you audit one of his classes? Maybe after hearing him lecture, you'll be inspired to study."

Serena didn't break her stride, walking right past Isabella. Her voice was distant and indifferent. "No need. Just worry about yourself."

With that, she lifted her gaze to her family. "Grandpa, Dad, Mom, Julian, I have some unfinished business to attend to. I need to go out for a bit."

"Wait!" Catherine's heart ached for her. She quickly grabbed a thermal container and rushed over. "Serena, no matter how busy you are, you have to eat breakfast. Take this. I've already asked the driver to wait for you at the door."

The moment Catherine saw Serena come down with her canvas bag, she had immediately told a maid to get the container.

The thermal container felt heavy in her hands. Serena's long, dark lashes fluttered as she met her mother's worried eyes.

Warmth spread through her heart, and she slowly smiled. "Thanks, Mom."

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! #Chapter 59 - Read Messing With Her? Are You Crazy! Chapter 59

Novel 20254-5 minutes

Old Mr. Lancaster looked at the girl's bright, makeup-free face and noticed the clear signs of exhaustion under her eyes.

He couldn't help but frown, though he managed to control his emotions. "Serena, when will you be back?"

Serena glanced at the time. "I'm not sure. Don't wait up for me. I'll call home when I'm done."

With a polite nod, she turned and quickly walked away.

Watching her hurried departure, Catherine sighed deeply. "That child... why is she so busy every single day?"

Isabella scoffed silently.

Busy with what?

It was all an act, wasn't it?

Could Serena, a country girl who hadn't even finished high school, possibly be busier than her father or brother? Busier than she was, spending her days analyzing experimental data, writing papers, and meeting with people like Mr. Harrison?

Everyone else made time for her.

Yet she was the one pretending to be some important, busy person.

She clenched her fists and let out a seemingly innocent sigh. "My sister really has it tough, not even having time for a single bite of breakfast."

However, no one took the bait.

Catherine stared at the front door, where Serena's figure had long since vanished, her eyes full of worry and heartache. "I heard from the staff that the light in Serena's room was on all

night. I'm afraid she didn't sleep at all, and now she has to rush out so early in the morning. How can her body handle it?"

"Mom, don't worry too much," Julian said, adjusting the gold-rimmed glasses on his nose. "This sister of mine... is anything but simple."

Everyone's attention shifted to him, not quite understanding what he meant by "not simple."

Julian continued, "Last night when I brought her some milk, I saw what she was working on in her room... was all incredibly complex code, data, and system architecture. The level of complexity was so high that even I couldn't understand it."

His tone held an admiration he himself didn't realize. "Whatever she's working on... it's probably no small matter."

More importantly, the glance he'd gotten of Serena's computer screen last night was likely just the tip of the iceberg.

And that tiny glimpse alone was enough to leave him utterly stunned.

Hearing this, Catherine's heart ached even more. "She's so young. Why does she have to bear so much pressure? It's not like we can't support her..."

"You should be happy for her," Old Mr. Lancaster said, stroking his chin with a proud smile. "Stop your needless worrying. No child of the Lancaster family is a weakling. Serena isn't the type to depend on her family to get by. The fact that she has such capabilities and can shoulder such responsibilities is a good thing."

His voice was filled with undisguised pride. "Even Julian says she's not simple. That means she's truly outstanding. She's a true Lancaster!"

Isabella stood to the side, listening as her grandfather's words dripped with approval and pride for Serena. She watched as her parents and brother all nodded in agreement.

Their blatant admiration felt like needles stabbing at her heart.

Right now, they should be proud of her, of the fact that she was about to become Mr. Harrison's student!

If Serena were really that amazing, she would have been bragging about it all over the house. Why would she be so secretive?

They didn't even know what Serena was doing, so what were they so proud of?

Isabella clenched her fists, feeling more and more like she was being completely marginalized in this family.

Agnes, who had been standing behind Isabella, saw the twisted expression on her face and quickly tried to steer the conversation back to her it's true. The children raised by you, sir, and Mr and Mrs. Lancaster are all exceptional. Look at Miss Isabella, she's on her way to meet Mr. Harrison right now."

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

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Novel 20253-4 minutes

However, her attempt had minimal effect.

Catherine just nodded distractedly. "Yes, Isabella. Be careful on your way."

Her mind was clearly still on Serena. She turned and muttered, "This won't do. I need to go to the kitchen and have them prepare some nourishing soup for Serena. She'll need it when she gets back..."

Isabella's smile completely vanished, her meticulously manicured nails digging deep into her palms.

Agnes discreetly tugged on her hand. "Miss Isabella..."

Just as Isabella was about to shake her off with an irritated frown, Agnes shot her a meaningful look and began pulling her outside.

Once they were out of the house, Agnes lowered her voice, a sense of urgency in her tone. "Miss Isabella, you need to pull yourself together! You absolutely cannot let that uncouth country girl outshine you!"

Hearing Agnes's name for Serena, Isabella's expression softened, and the impatience in her eyes lessened.

Agnes continued, "Ever since that wretched girl came back, everyone in this house has been acting as if they're bewitched. You can't afford to slack off now! If this continues, your place in this family..."

She didn't finish the sentence, but her meaning was clear.

Isabella clenched her fists.

Did Agnes think she didn't know all this?

But she was powerless right now. Even playing her trump card—Mr. Harrison—had only earned her some superficial praise and a few material rewards.

"Miss Isabella, you need to think about your future. I just heard Linda, who was cleaning outside, say that the Blackwood family's car... is here again," Agnes said, patting Isabella's hand. "You have to seize this opportunity. As long as you can marry into the Blackwood family, you'll be the most respected woman in all of Vaelion City! And you will always have a place in this family."

Isabella's heart leaped, and her eyes lit up.

Nicholas was here again?

She quickly ran a hand through her perfectly coiffed hair and started jogging toward the main gate of the estate.

She silently congratulated herself for spending over two hours getting ready this morning to meet Mre Härrison. She was in her most perfect state!

At the thought of Nicholas, a shy blush appeared on Isabella's face.

But...

When she reached the ornate iron gate, panting, she found it completely empty.

She walked up to the gate and looked around, but the surroundings were quiet. There was no one else in sight.

"Where is Nicholas?" Isabella asked the security guard on duty.

The guard quickly stood up. "Mr.

B25ickly stood up. "Mr.

his car was at the gate for a little while,

about two minutes ago et

.net>

Gone?

Gone again?!

The shyness and joy on Isabella's face faded, bit by bit.

Her entire body seemed to deflate, as if all the life had been drained out of her.

Why... why had the Blackwood car

appeared at the Lancaster estate et

twice in a row, yet neither time was for her? .

They hadn't even come to the door either time.

What was Nicholas's reason for coming to the Lancaster estate?

Staring at the empty, tree-lined path, Isabella felt a powerful sense of unease rise within her.

Meanwhile.

Serena was sitting in the passenger seat of Nicholas's car.

Tip: You can use left, right, A and D keyboard keys to browse between chapters.