

Let me go, Mr. Hill by Shallow South

Chapter : 101

Shaun pinched the cigarette between his fingers and took a hard drag. Smoke lingered as he exhaled.

He put out the cigarette butt in the trash can beside him and walked toward her with long strides.

“Come with me.”

He dragged her to the other side of the restaurant.

Catherine was pulled by him behind a hallway of wine cabinets.

The light inside was dim, and the man’s face exuded an invisible sense of danger as he looked at her from above.

“What are you doing?” Catherine pushed his chest but could not get him to budge.

“You took the words right out of my mouth.” Shaun grabbed her hand, his face dark. “Are you having a good time with Wesley Lyons? Did you forget that you’re married? It’s no wonder you keep trying to divorce me. You’ve already found your next target, haven’t you?”

“Shaun Hill, watch your words.” Catherine trembled in anger at the humiliation. “There’s nothing going on between Wesley and me—”

“Would he send you flowers if there’s nothing going on between you? Would he bring you to a high-end restaurant? Would you smile so happily at him?!” Shaun’s anger grew as he spoke. He gripped her face and forced her to face him.

Catherine was annoyed and upset. “How can I blame him for liking me when I’m so talented and beautiful? It’s not my fault I’m so charming.”

Shaun laughed in anger and was just about to speak when Catherine interrupted him.

“I know you look down on me. I’m worthless and shameless in your eyes, but that doesn’t mean that I took the initiative to seduce another person into liking me. I want to divorce you because I feel that I can’t go on with you any longer. It has nothing to do with anyone else.”

“You can’t go on with me?” Shaun sneered bitterly. “You climbed into my bed one moment and say you can’t go on with this relationship the next moment. How am I supposed to believe you?”

At the mention of that incident, Catherine could not help but feel bitter about it. She wanted nothing more than to absolve their relationship immediately.

“That’s right, don’t you despise me because I climb into men’s beds? Did you forget how you humiliated me those days? You said that I’m cheap, dirty, and just looking at me disgusts you. Shaun Hill, I’m a human being, not a saint. I’ll feel upset too.”

The more she said, the more angry and aggrieved she became. She even let out all the emotions she had been suppressing these days.

“I’m really fed up with you as a person. You’re derogative, selfish, and only take without giving. It’s like I married you to be your free full-time nanny. I’m not even respected! No, maybe I’m not even worth the position of a nanny in your eyes. I must have been out of my mind to ever want to stay with you till the end.”

“Shut up,” Shaun warned grimly.

“I won’t. Yes, you’re handsome, but will looks feed me? I’m sick of you...Mmh...”

Catherine's eyes widened as the man pressed himself against her. He lowered his head to seal her lips, pressing her against the wine cabinet.

She pushed him hard but could not budge one bit.

Shaun originally only wanted to stop her chatting mouth. Perhaps she had applied something on her lips because they were extra sweet and soft like jelly, making him unable to stop and wanting to taste more.

Catherine wanted to resist, but the faint tobacco smell mixed with the unique scent of his body made her dizzy and faint. She was unable to exert any strength.

After an unknown amount of time, her phone suddenly rang.

She immediately returned to her senses and shoved him away.

This time, Shaun let her push him.

Catherine turned her burning body away from him and answered the phone, "Hello..."

When she spoke, she found that her voice was indescribably charming. God, how did she become like this? Fortunately, Wesley did not notice.

“Cathy, you’ve been in the washroom for half an hour. Why aren’t you back yet?”

Half an hour...

Catherine was shocked. Had she been kissing Shaun for that long? She had not noticed at all.

“Oh, I... I have a stomach ache. I’m almost done.”

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Catherine hurriedly hung up. When she met Shaun’s eyes again, she felt her entire body turning red like a tomato.

Shaun also noticed this and was inexplicably happy for a few moments. His sexy lips curled. “Do you have a stomachache?”

Catherine glared at him, growing increasingly ashamed. “I can’t be bothered with you. In any case, if you don’t want me to cuckold you, I suggest you divorce me soon.”

“You dare threaten me?” Shaun grabbed her again, his tone cold.

“Catherine Jones, if you dare to cuckold me, I’ll make you pay a painful price.”

Catherine was not afraid at all.

“I know you’re a lawyer and there are a hundred ways to make me lose my reputation, but it’s useless against me. My reputation was ruined a long time ago, and the law doesn’t stipulate that cheating in a marriage is illegal, right?”

“There are no properties we acquired after marriage, so there’s nothing to dispute. I have no money and no reputation. What can you do to me?”

She raised her eyebrows triumphantly. Shaun did not know whether he wanted to laugh or get angry.

“Who said you’re not breaking the law? During the marriage, the wife violated the husband’s will, tried to force the other party to have sex with her by unfair means, and used drugs to endanger her husband’s health. Would you believe me if I said that with my ability, I can get you sentenced to five years in prison?”

He leaned into her ear and warned word by word in a magnetic but dangerous voice.

“...”

Catherine froze.

Was that true?

He must be kidding, right?

“Tsk, it seems that you really don’t know the law. You’re leaving with me. If you have dinner with Wesley Lyons again, I’ll send the lawyer letter directly to your company.”

Shaun smiled coldly and grabbed her hand, pulling her out of the restaurant.

Shaun sat in Chase’s car, but Chase was still eating upstairs.

When he hesitated on whether to call Hadley Young to fetch them, Catherine flung his hand away and rushed up to the bus stop ahead.

“Stop right there.” Shaun subconsciously chased after her.

Just as he was about to hop onto the bus, the driver stopped him. “Hey, hey, hey, young man, you have to pay.”

“I didn’t bring cash.”

“Do you have a travel pass?”

Shaun’s face darkened. “I don’t have a travel pass.”

He never needed anything like that.

The driver’s expression also darkened. “If you don’t have anything, then get off. You look like a model. How dare you try to ride the bus for free?”

“...”

Shaun had never been so humiliated before. He glared at Catherine who was sitting at the back. “Come here and pay for me.”

Catherine looked out the window, pretending not to know him.

The group of people on the bus stared at Shaun. His aura and attire made him even more handsome than those male stars from Korean dramas.

A girl sitting in front said shyly, “Sir, I have money. I can help you.”

“Me too, I have a bus card. I can cover your bus fare for a year.” Another girl scrambled to speak.

Shaun was unmoved but suddenly looked amorously at Catherine before saying loudly, “Honey, don’t be angry. I know I was wrong and shouldn’t have gotten jealous just now. Can you just help me pay the bus fare?”

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In an instant, more than ten pairs of eyes fell on Catherine. Those girls’ eyes were full of jealousy and envy.

Catherine was speechless. It had only been a moment yet he was already attracting the attention of other girls. Even so, he still had the nerve to say that about her.

She snapped at him. “I’m not your honey. Don’t speak nonsense. I don’t know you at all.”

“Honey, you can shout at me at home. Why do we have to fight outside?” Shaun helplessly let out a bitter smile and took out a document from his pocket.

“Fortunately, I brought my marriage license today.”

He unfolded it for everyone to see.

An old man said, “She really is your wife. Lady, you’re going too far. We were almost cheated by you.”

The driver also got angry. “Hurry up and pay for your husband’s fare. The bus isn’t a place for you to have a fight.”

Some girls grumbled, “You have such a handsome husband yet you don’t want him. Some people wouldn’t know fortune if it slapped them in the face.”

Catherine. “...”

She was going mad. Shaun Hill was crazy. He even brought their marriage license out with him.

Amidst the accusations, she had to force herself to pay for Shaun.

Shaun wrapped his arm around her slender waist and breathed into her ear while saying in a magnetic voice, “Thank you, honey.”

His breath sprayed on her earlobe in full view of the public, making her turn

red with shame.

She could only glare at him powerlessly and use her eyes to tell him, ‘Pissoff!’

Shane remained unmoved and followed her to sit at the back.

Catherine ignored him and lowered her head to send Wesley a message:[President Lyons, I’m sorry. My Aunt Flo suddenly came, so I have to go back first.]

Shaun glanced over and his mood immediately soured.

Not only had she changed her WhatsApp name, but she was even sending a message to Wesley in front of him. She did not care about him at all.

“When did you have an Aunt Flo? Are you still in contact with the Jones family?”

Catherine was stunned, and then the corners of her mouth twitched hard. “Brother, Aunt Flo is a common name for menstruation.”

“ ... ”

Shaun, who had always thought of himself as someone knowledgeable

about all sorts of things, coughed softly. “You’re quite good at lying, aren’t you?”

“I don’t want to hear that from you.” Catherine snapped back. “Why are you following me anyway? I’m going to work.”

“I’m hungry. I haven’t eaten.” The man looked at her with hungry eyes.

“That’s none of my goddamn business. I couldn’t care less if you starved to death.” He could continue dreaming if he wanted her to be at his beck and call.

The woman’s cold and ruthless expression made Shaun annoyed, but his emotions were complicated at the same time. He really did not understand women. Their moods switched at the drop of a hat.

“If you don’t feed me, I’ll follow you to the company.”

Catherine wanted to vomit blood. Feed him?

Brother, are you a dog or a cat?

However, to be honest, she also had not eaten and was feeling a little hungry.

Looking out the window, a crafty light flashed in her eyes as she got an idea.

“It’s impossible for me to cook for you, so we’ll eat at a shop. I pick. If you don’t like it, then you’re on your own.”

Shaun looked at her. For some reason, he subconsciously wanted to stay with her a little longer. “Deal.”

.....

Ten minutes later, the two people stood at the door of a hotpot restaurant.

Shaun hesitated and frowned at her. She was doing this on purpose. She knew that his stomach was sensitive and he did not like spicy food.

Catherine pretended not to notice and walked straight in.

These days, in order to cook for him, she had not eaten her favorite hotpot for a long time.

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After entering, she asked for the spiciest hotpot and ordered all kinds of tripe, mutton rolls, beef rolls...

When the food arrived, she took a piece of tripe and put it in her mouth after swishing it in the hotpot for a while.

It was too delicious, too fragrant!

Shaun's expression was as unpleasant as it could be. She was completely focused on her own food and did not look at him at all.

If this was in the past, she would definitely have ordered what he liked and then enthusiastically introduced how to best eat it.

Now, she no longer thought about him. It was as if she did not see him at all.

He suddenly felt a stuffiness in his chest and ordered in a cold voice, "Give me one."

"Don't you have hands? If you want to eat, then do it yourself." Catherine

did not even raise her head.

His temples throbbed, but he had no choice but to pick up the utensils and learn how to cook the meat.

After taking a bite, his handsome face turned red from the spiciness and he spat out the words, “What kind of hotpot did you order?”

“The spiciest one.”

Shaun smiled coldly. “You’re trying really hard to spite me.”

Catherine frowned and looked up at him, her face flushed from the heat. “I’m not. I’ve always liked to eat spicy food, but in order to accommodate you, I didn’t put peppers in the dishes I cooked. Now, I’ll only eat what I like to eat. I’m not going to devote myself to anyone anymore, understand?”

Shaun felt conflicted. She liked to eat spicy food?

He had previously thought that she was the same as him.

However, her attitude made him very unhappy, and his words were as cold as ever. “You should know that I never told you to devote yourself to me.

You did it yourself.”

The implication was that she deserved it, and she reaped what she sowed.

Catherine understood and did not blame him. If she had to blame someone, then she would blame herself for being stupid and mistaking him for the wrong person.

She lowered her head and continued to eat.

After the meal, she asked for the bill from the waiter. She scanned the QRcode and said, “I’ll pay for half and he’ll pay for the other half.”

“...”

Both the waiter and Shaun froze.

A moment later, Shaun put down his spoon unhappily. “Put it down. I don’t let women pay for meals.”

“I’m very sorry, but you’re a lawyer, so I don’t want to get into a money dispute.” Catherine paid her half of the bill and took her bag before leaving happily.

It was not easy for her to earn money, but she did not want Shaun to spend

money on her.

Shaun rubbed his temples as a headache built up. He swiped his card and hurriedly went after her.

However, a sharp pain suddenly hit his stomach, making his handsome face pale. He could only slowly sit down and rest.

A few minutes later, Chase called and complained angrily.

“Mr. Hill, you really embody the spirit of brotherhood. You were the one who insisted on coming to this restaurant, but then you left me here with Wesley Lyons and abducted Sister-in-law. You made me so embarrassed. If I hadn’t covered up for you and explained things to him, Wesley would have suspected that you eloped with her.”

“Let him suspect it then.” Shane suddenly hissed out a breath.

Chase seemed to hear something he should not have heard and was completely floored. “Holy sh*t, don’t tell me Sister-in-law and you are... Did you toss her in bed so quickly? Way to go, brother! Well then, I won’t disturb your fun times.”

Shane’s stomach twitched in anger as he snapped. “Shut up! I ate hotpot earlier and have a stomach ache now.”

“...” Chase became embarrassed. “Why did you eat hotpot anyway?”

Shaun was annoyed. “Come pick me up. Buy a bottle of stomach medicine on the way.”

More than ten minutes later, Chase saw Shaun bent over a telephone pole on the side of the road.

He ran over and passed him the stomach medicine as well as a bottle of water. He said sympathetically, “Brother, your stomach is weak. Why did you go eat hotpot? Who gave you the courage? Celine Dion?”

“She wanted to eat it, so I had no choice.” Shaun downed the stomach medicine before tilting his head to drink some water to wash the medicine down.

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When he said that he ‘had no choice’, the words were full of spoiling and helplessness.

Chase was speechless. “So, where is she now? She dumped you here

after eating?”

“Shut up.” Shaun glared at him. He opened the car door and closed his eyes after getting in. He was in so much pain that he did not even want to speak.

Chase looked at his pale profile and secretly took a picture of him to send to Catherine’s WhatsApp.

[Sister-in-law, Shaun hurt his stomach in order to accompany you to eat hotpot. I’m sending him to the hospital now. Catherine, don’t be mad at him. He doesn’t say it out loud, but he does care about you.]

“What picture did you take just now?” Shaun suddenly opened his eyes and snatched Chase’s phone. He read what Chase typed and felt like he had lost his dignity and reputation. “I care about her? I think your head is missing a few screws.”

“This is my plan to let her come back and cook for you. It’s the trick of using an injury to win against the enemy.” Chase sighed. Was it that hard to admit that he liked her?

Shaun scoffed but did not speak.

However, he kept looking at the message on the phone.

Soon, the phone made a noise.

Catherine attached the number to a hospital and replied: [This is the best hospital for treating stomach troubles. Register early and take him there. Oh, by the way, he was the one who wanted to follow me to the hotpot restaurant. It's none of my business, so don't think you can extort money from me.]

“...”

Chase rubbed his neck silently and held his hand out toward Shaun. “Can you give me my phone back? I just bought it not long ago...”

Before he could finish, Shaun had already viciously smashed it by tossing it out of the window.

Chase bit his lip in silent aggravation, but glancing at the man who looked like he was about to explode, Chase did not dare to make him pay.

Not only was Shaun having a stomach ache now, but his heart was also flooded with a trace of pain.

He did not understand how a woman's heart could change so quickly. She had loved him to death not that long ago.

...

The next few days, Ethan and Sonya repeatedly went to Golden Corporation.

However, Wesley refused to meet them and did not even answer the phone.

Ethan had no choice but to go to the villa in Green Mountain to find him.

However, Wesley was on a business trip these days and Catherine was responsible for everything on the construction site.

“Cathy, can you help me contact my uncle?”

Ethan went up to Catherine. In just a few days, his once handsome silhouette became haggard and dull.

Catherine wanted to sigh.

Back then, Ethan Lowe was considered one of the best bachelors in Melbourne, but now, he really became uglier and uglier.

“Why should I help you? You’re my enemy.”

“Don’t say that. Did you forget that we grew up together?” Ethan said bitterly, “If I don’t restore the partnership with Golden Corporation, the board of directors will depose me from the position of president and I’ll lose my inheritance rights...”

“That’s none of my business. You’re not my fiancé anyway. Go find Rebecca instead.”

Catherine spoke as she ate a bun. She had not eaten since breakfast and was very hungry.

“My uncle doesn’t even like Rebecca.” Ethan grabbed her hand. “Cathy, I know you hate me, but I had no choice. I got engaged to Rebecca in order to consolidate my position. Besides, I haven’t married her yet. My heart will always be filled with you. Have you forgotten the feelings we shared for each other when we were still growing up?”

Catherine quickly shook him off, so disgusted that she almost lost her appetite.

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“How did I not realize before this how shameless you are? Did you forget how you slapped me at the entrance of the design institute? Or how you pushed me because of Rebecca Jones? Or how you paid someone to flood the villa in order to frame me just a few days ago? If I hadn't found out about it earlier, not only would I have needed to pay for the compensation, but my company would also be dragged down.

“Ethan Lowe, your viciousness chills me, and just the mention of our past relationship makes my hair stand on end. But you? You have no remorse and no intent to apologize, yet you're shameless enough to stand in front of me.”

Ethan's face burned red from her scolding, but he could not say anything due to his embarrassment.

In fact, he had been too angry that day and vaguely regretted his actions. Even so, his pride made him unable to bow his head.

Catherine glanced at him and looked around, then suddenly sighed.

“Forget it. Don't say I'm too cruel. After all, isn't the problem just about Golden Corporation withdrawing their investment? Won't the problem be solved if you just dump money back? I was at Summit for a while and

though I'm not familiar with the other matters, I know that my father still has more than 20 billion in liquid assets. You're going to be his future son-in-law, so he should be willing to help."

Ethan was stunned. "The Jones family still has so much money?"

"Duh. He also secretly invested in several companies, so his income is pretty good."

Catherine said her piece and walked away. As she left, she glanced back at Ethan who was standing there thoughtfully, and her lips curled.

She had not lied, but it was not certain whether the Jones family would be willing to help him through this difficult time.

Ethan quickly drove to the Jones family's residence.

However, his trip was in vain. A quick question to the nanny revealed that the family of three had just gone abroad to travel yesterday.

They just had to go on a vacation when he needed them most.

Ethan clenched his fists and took a deep breath before calling Rebecca,

but he could not get through.

It was not until the next day that Rebecca called back. “Sorry, Ethan. I was on the plane yesterday.”

“Why didn’t you tell me you were going abroad?”

Rebecca sounded wronged. “My parents have been in a bad mood because of Cathy, so we decided to go abroad while things die down. I didn’t have time to tell you because it was a last-minute decision.”

Ethan pressed his temples. “Rebecca, there are some problems with several projects I invested in and there’s a shortage of funds. Can you let your dad inject the capital?”

“I’m sorry, Ethan, but I really can’t help you. Summit is short of funds recently too,” Rebecca said, “My dad definitely won’t agree.”

“Rebecca, can’t you think of a way? I’m your fiancé.” Ethan almost begged. “Don’t you love me very much?”

“I’m sorry, but I’m really not in charge of the Jones family’s funds. The signal here isn’t good, so I’ll hang up now. Let’s talk when we get back, okay?”

Then, the call was cut. Ethan’s heart was chilled to the bone.

This was the woman who claimed to love him, yet she was not willing to ask for help for him.

Soon, Lowe Corporation called to urge him and he could only rush to the company for the shareholders' meeting.

“Ethan, you've been going to Golden Corporation the past few days, but have you solved the problem yet? Why are they still bent on canceling the cooperation?”

“In the beginning, it was you who swore that this plan was feasible. Do you know how much money the company has invested in it?”

“Can you do this or not?”

“...”

Faced with the accusations of the shareholders, Ethan turned pale.

At that moment, his father's illegitimate son, Percy Lowe, stood up and said, “Everyone, stop pressuring my brother. You don't have to worry. Although Golden Corporation has canceled all cooperations with us, I've talked to the boss of Helios and he's willing to cooperate with us.”

“Helios is also a big enterprise. Second Young Master is truly capable.”

“Yes, much better than a certain someone who only knows how to use women for a marriage of convenience.”

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 105

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“Is Fudge about to give birth?”

“So you’re finally willing to call me back now, huh?” Shaun’s voice was very cold.

“I asked you a question!” Catherine was anxious. She had taken care of Fudge for a long time now, so cared about the cat.

“It’s a difficult birth.”

“Then send her to the vet!” Catherine yelled irritably. How could he bear to let such a cute kitty suffer?

“She’s in labor now so I can’t move her. You’d better come over. Fudge misses you and needs your encouragement at this time. Of course, if anything happens, you can still see her for the last time.”

Shaun did not mention how upset he was. When he had stomach pains before, she simply threw the contact number of a hospital to him. She was more concerned about a cat than she was about him.

Catherine snapped at him. “Don’t talk nonsense. I’m coming over now.”

“Hurry up. I’m afraid she won’t hold on much longer.” Shaun hung up after speaking.

“Lalalala, my darling little Cathy, I’m done with my makeup so let’s go.” Freya had changed into a red dress and came out with a spin. “Do I look pretty?”

“Freya, I’m really sorry but Fudge is giving birth now so I have to go over. We shouldn’t go out tonight.” Catherine tossed her a few words and hurried out the door.

Freya. “...Are you going to be the midwife?”

However, what answered her was the sound of the door closing.

How infuriating!

It had taken a long time before she finally picked this dress, but Catherine left her behind because of a cat.

...

Catherine sped all the way to Jadeite Bay.

When she reached the door, she realized that the password had not been changed.

The lights in the room were bright. Shaun was squatting in front of the room where Fudge was delivering, quietly looking inside. He was like an old father waiting for his beloved daughter to give birth.

“How is it? Has she given birth?” Catherine rushed over.

“Yeah.”

Shaun looked at her with a complex expression. Ever since she moved out, she had begun dressing more youthfully.

Tonight, she wore a brown beret along with a short white down jacket.

It was the first time he saw a woman pull off a heavy down jacket so well. The furry snow-white collar lined her delicate face, almost making her look like a snowman.

Further down were black socks and short boots that wrapped snugly around her slender legs, looking extremely seductive.

Catherine was not in the mood to notice his gaze. She rushed to the delivery room and saw Fudge lying on the blanket weakly.

Laying next to her were three very small kittens. The kittens had their eyes closed and were still damp. It was clear that they had just emerged from their mother's belly.

Her heart almost melted. "They're so cute."

Shaun took a look inside. Cute?

How were they cute? Their fur was all matted and they looked more like bald mice.

However, it had been a long time since he saw her revealing such a gentle expression.

"Do you like them?" He looked at her. If she did, he could reluctantly make her their master.

"Of course I do. Who wouldn't like such little kitties?" Catherine poked them with her pinky finger and suddenly remembered something. "Didn't you say Fudge was having a difficult birth?"

How were the kittens already born by the time she arrived?

Shaun replied calmly, "It was very dangerous just now."

He had not lied. After all, births were difficult, so he was right when he said it was a difficult birth.

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 109

Catherine believed him and patted Fudge dearly. “Fudge, you’ve worked hard. You’re so brave. You’re the best.”

Fudge mewled weakly, completely exhausted.

“She’s hungry,” Shaun said.

Catherine thought so too. Giving birth was a laborious process.

“I’ll make something delicious for her.”

The lights and stove lit up the kitchen, and she put on the apron she used to wear before.

Shaun stood behind her, finding the sight pleasing to the eye. Sure enough, she looked right in her element at home. "I'm hungry too."

Catherine pretended not to hear him, so he went up to her and breathed into her ear. "I said I'm hungry. Did you hear me?"

Her eyes trembled, and she almost dropped the spatula.

Looking back at his brazenly handsome face, she gave a small smile. "Mr. Hill, I seem to remember you saying I'm as dirty as the women standing by the side of the street and that you never want to eat my cooking again because it'll ruin your appetite."

"..."

Shaun's handsome face imperceptibly stiffened for a moment. Had he said that?

Even if he had, was there a need for her to remember it so clearly?

"I was... Can't you tell when I'm just speaking out of anger?" He raised a sharp brow. "Which man can remain calm and not get angry when he's hurt by improper means? Are you saying that we don't even have the right to be angry anymore just because we're men?"

Catherine was rendered speechless.

Fine. He was a lawyer. He was best at refuting words.

“Cook.” Shaun knocked on the kitchen counter when she remained silent.

“Fine, I’ll cook.”

Shaun revealed a smile.

Although she had not been here for a while, the fridge was pretty well stocked with ingredients. In fact, they were all expensive and premium ingredients.

She whipped up salmon meatballs and cat pudding for Fudge. When it was Shaun’s turn, she randomly made a bowl of noodles, then sprinkled some scallions and added a little soy sauce in it. Lastly, she added a big spoonful of chili paste inside.

“That was quick.” Shaun walked over and froze when he saw the bowl. Then, he glanced at Fudge’s meal. It was the difference between heaven and earth.

Meow.

Fudge had not eaten Catherine's food for a long time and happily bit into the meatball. It was too delicious.

Shaun sneered. "I'm not even as good as a cat now?"

"I guess so. I've always lived like this." Catherine played with the cat. How would she be comparable to a cat in his heart?

"Are you getting back at me?" Shaun stared at her profile and suddenly smiled.

"You're overthinking."

Catherine had just finished speaking when her features became contorted as she looked straight into his dark eyes.

"I don't believe you aren't enjoying this at all."

"I'm not."

Clarissa felt the need to be completely clear with him.

"I admit that I shamelessly chased after you before and even used

improper means to get you. I was probably possessed back then.

“I don’t blame you for the names you called me because what you said was right. A relationship like this is only meaningful if both parties are harmonious with each other. Besides, you saved me twice before and I’ve been your nanny for free for so long, so let’s call it even. No one owes the other anything.”

Shaun stood up and smiled coldly. “You pestered me endlessly before. All the things you did and all the things you said, are you writing that off with just a simple ‘I was probably possessed’?”

“Back then, who was the one who said that she was overjoyed because she had met her darling?”

“Who was it who vowed that she would be good to me alone and do everything that she promised?”

“Who was it who said that all my flaws are merits in her eyes and that she liked my tone?”

Damn it, why did he remember all the sweet words she had previously said so clearly?

The more he spoke, the more furious he became.

“Uh...” Catherine was completely stunned and stammered, “I... Did I say...such sappy things?”

“...”

Shaun stared at her fiercely for a moment before laughing in exasperation.

How could there be such a heartless woman? She said those words then turned around and forgot about them. She was simply scum.

Catherine seriously thought that he would pour the noodles over her head. She shrank back in fear.

“Well... If you’re this angry, could it be that you’re... in love with me?”

“Dream on.” Shaun immediately bristled like a tiger whose tail got stepped on. His voice went higher. “In love with you?”

He still had that condescending look on his face that really made Catherine uncomfortable.

“Which part of me is unworthy of you? You’re just a lawyer, and I’m a chief designer. We earn about the same amount of money, right?”

“Heh.” Shaun sized her up and down. His eyes seemed to exude the question of ‘Who do you think you are?’

Did this woman not know who he was?

Catherine said defiantly, “What, aren’t you just relying on the fact that you’re good friends with Young Master Harrison? You really take yourself too seriously.”

“...”

Shaun felt his stomach hurt in anger.

Catherine saw him fall silent and thought that she had poked his self-esteem.

“If you don’t want to eat the noodles, then throw them away. In any case, I’m not doing this again. Let me make this clear, I cooked for you before because I was pursuing you. Now that I’m not, I have no obligation to cook for you anymore.”

She looked at his livid face as she spoke and did not dare to stay any longer. She stood up and took her bag.

Shaun's cold eyes locked onto hers tightly, and his voice was full of resentment. "Catherine Jones, of all the women who have pursued me before, you're the one who used the shortest amount of time. Did you really even like me?"

Catherine's heart beat faster as he stared at her, suddenly feeling guilty.

How could she say that she had only pursued him because she thought he was Ethan Lowe's uncle?

Now that she knew he was not, she naturally could not continue wasting time on him.

However, she might die if she told him the truth.

"Answer my question." Shaun gripped her arm tightly and pinned her to the edge of the dining table.

"Of... Of course, I did." Catherine calmed her mind and tried to keep herself from being exposed. "You... You're so handsome, so I was captivated by you the moment I saw you..."

"Then why did you stop liking me?" Shaun lowered his head. The tip of his nose almost brushed against hers.

The woman's sweet and fragrant scent reminded him of the kiss in the

restaurant before, causing him to almost kiss her again.

Catherine's scalp tingled as she said incoherently, "Because... Because after looking at you more, I discovered that your personality is too horrible and I can't stand it..."

Shaun's thin lips which were about to kiss her suddenly paused. His eyes gradually darkened as a surge of anger rose in his chest.

"Since you like me, shouldn't you also like my temper? Are your feelings so shallow and superficial? Were you playing with me?"

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 110

Damn it. This was the first time he wanted to strangle a woman so much.

Catherine's legs were trembling with fear. She wanted to cry. Why had she come tonight?

"I was wrong. I'm just that shallow and superficial. Please let me go."

The woman's face flashed with a deep fear, and her clear and watery eyes were like a kitten's. She did not dare to approach him at all.

Shaun's heart was inexplicably seized in pain. It was the first time his heart was moved, but it was because of a complete scum of a woman.

“Get out.”

He could not control his anger and flung her to the ground. “Don't let mesee you again.”

The man's force was very strong, and Catherine ended up knocking her knee on the floor when she fell. It hurt like hell.

She forced herself to stand up, also becoming angry. “If it weren't for Fudge, do you think I wanted to see you? You're temperamental and moody. Who can stand you?”

Then, she swiftly slipped away.

This time, she was no longer coming back.

In the house, a tight string in Shaun's mind completely snapped.

He grabbed the noodles she cooked and was just about to smash the bowl on the ground, but then he remembered that he had not had a good meal these days. He put the bowl down and smashed a cup instead.

After smashing it, his heart suddenly became empty and uncomfortable.

Why on earth did he have to be angry because of scum like her?

She said that she could not stand him.

Had she forgotten all the sweet words she said before? She changed so quickly it was like she was acting.

Fine.

He never wanted her to come back again. He would never look at her even if she came back to him and begged him.

He ate the noodles hatefully. It was really too goddamn spicy, so spicy that his stomach started to hurt again.

However, no matter how much it hurt, it could not compare to the pain in his heart.

...

When Catherine went back, Freya had a facial mask on at home.

Seeing Catherine back, she joked and said, “Hey, back so soon? I thought you would be staying the night there.”

“What are you thinking about? I only went there because I was worried about Fudge.” Thinking of Fudge, Catherine really had not wanted to leave. The three kittens were adorable.

Freya walked over and sat next to her. “Aren’t you too concerned about Shaun Hill’s cat?”

“What are you trying to say?” Catherine frowned deeply.

Freya peeled off her mask and revealed her beautiful fair, rosy face. “You used to live together every day and he even saved you several times. Have you fallen in love with him?”

Catherine froze, feeling a little conflicted.

“At the beginning, I approached him with a purpose, but I was slightly moved when he saved me when I was being bullied by Zayn. Then, he saved me again when I was locked up at my old house. I really did sincerely want to spend the rest of my life with him, otherwise I wouldn’t

have decided to give him my first time, but... What happened later mademe come to my senses.”

Freya patted her shoulder comfortingly.

Catherine smiled bitterly. “I want to be cared for and cherished, but withhim, all I experience is indifference, dislike, and no respect. It’s as if everything I do is wrong. It’s like I’m a more annoying existence to him thana fly. I don’t even have freedom. I’m tired, and after finding out that he isn’t Ethan’s uncle, I want to leave even more now.”

“Cathy...”

“It’s better to be with you.” Catherine held Freya’s arm. “We can eat together, cook together, go shopping together, and relax together. Unfortunately, you still have Patrick. How nice would it be if you could juststay with me.”

“Shut up, I don’t swing that way.” Freya pushed her away with a disgusted look. She sighed. “But Patrick is also very busy, so I’ll hang out with you forthe time being.”

Catherine could not help but remember Linda Shelby who was with Patrickbefore. “I met Linda Shelby at the party the other time. What’s her relationship with Patrick?”

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 111

“Patrick’s dad and Linda’s dad are comrades. After retiring from military service, they set up a business together. Patrick and Linda lived in the same area and grew up together. He just treats Linda as his sister.”

“Somehow, I feel that Linda doesn’t just treat him as her brother.” Catherine threw a glance at Freya.

Freya remained silent for a moment, then sighed. “You think so too? I used to doubt it as well, but I have no evidence.”

“Just keep an eye on her.” Catherine reminded Freya.

“Okay.”

...

A week later.

Rebecca and her parents returned to Melbourne after vacation.

Shortly after they got back to the Jones family's villa, Ethan gave Rebecca another call.

The moment Rebecca looked at the notification of the incoming call, her eyes flashed with annoyance. Nevertheless, she ended up picking up the call. With a smile, she asked, "What's the matter, Ethan?"

"Can't I just give you a random call?"

At that instant, Ethan was somewhere near the villa's entrance where he had seen Rebecca and her parents return.

"What are you thinking? Of course, you can." Ethan's expression was not as grim when Catherine's gentle voice sounded. However, her next sentence left him in a somber mood.

"But I'm still overseas. I plan to go surfing today, and I have a tight schedule."

"Really?" Ethan felt anger burning in his chest. "But I saw you returning home just now. I'm right outside the entrance of your villa. Why are you lying to me?"

“...”

Rebecca glanced out of the window.

Ethan continued to sound reluctant. “Is it because I’m no longer the president of Lowe Corporation that you’re trying to deny all connections with me?”

“Fine. Since you’re conscious of it, I’m not going to beat around the bush.” With a cold tone, Rebecca added, “Ethan, be clear about who you are. Now that you’ve lost the Lyons family’s support and failed to become the successor of Lowe Corporation, your status doesn’t even match mine. I’m the successor of Summit with a net worth of tens of billions of dollars. Since this is the case, there’s a huge gap between us. Let’s just separate without holding grudges.”

Ethan felt a sense of incredulity. “Rebecca, you actually decided to go for your personal gains at the expense of your principles. You told me before that you’ve fallen in love with me. You told me that you were willing to make sacrifices for me. Are all these lies?”

“Of course, those were true all because of your status back then. Stop pestering me already.”

Rebecca hung up once she finished speaking.

Ethan sat in the car like a lost soul.

After a while, he covered his forehead and began to smile so weakly that tears trickled down his face.

How foolish of him. In the relationship, he had always thought that he was in the driving seat. Little did he know that he had gradually fallen into Rebecca's trap.

He had been under the impression that she was so besotted with him that she would be willing to do anything for him.

It turned out that it was just a pretense. For the sake of this woman, he had even hurt Catherine. He hit her, criticized her, and almost ruined her.

He hit his head violently, wondering why he was so foolish.

It was Catherine who grew up with him since he was young.

If Catherine were in Rebecca's shoes, she would not have given up on him.

Ethan recalled the moment he learned that his father had an illegitimate child. He had felt that his life was full of darkness at that point. It was Catherine who stayed by his side and kept encouraging him to pull himself together.

She even went to learn how to cook for his sake.

Why had he forgotten about all these things?

It was no wonder his uncle thought that something was wrong with him. It was no wonder Christina thought of him as a blind man.

Indeed, both his eyes and heart were blind.

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 112

Less than ten minutes later, Ethan received a sudden call from Sonya.

“What’s going on, Ethan? Rebecca announced publicly on Facebook that she has canceled her wedding with you because you still have feelings for Catherine.”

Ethan was dumbfounded as he did not expect Rebecca to act so swiftly.

He immediately clicked on Rebecca’s Facebook profile.

She had written: [An innocent girl, who had just moved up the ladder, thought that she had met her prince, only to discover that he went after her simply because of her identity as a corporation’s successor.

[Recently, many have been criticizing me for being the third party between my sister and her boyfriend. In fact, I was unaware of it.

[He said he loved me, and I believed it. Therefore, I got together with him at all costs. I wouldn't be bothered even if a commotion arose during our wedding.

[However, I just found out that he still has feelings for someone else. He pretended to get engaged to me before this and merely treated me as a stepping stone to secure his position in Lowe Corporation. I was dumped afterward.]

Following the messages, Rebecca posted a photo of Catherine and him in Green Mountain.

From the angle of the photo, it showed that he seemed to be having a deep talk with Catherine while he held her hand.

It turned out that someone had taken a shot of them at that time.

In fact, the Jones family had planned to sling mud at him early on, which allowed Rebecca to get away with this.

It was too late for Ethan to regret it.

It was because Summit, Janet, Cindy, and other people had liked and shared the post that caused the topic to become a top search.

A lot of people criticized him for being a betrayer, calling him a scumbag.

They even criticized Catherine and him for being involved in a conspiracy to cheat the pure girl who came from the countryside.

Sonya anxiously said on the other end, “Are you having a complicated relationship with Catherine again? You’re out of your mind. Now you can only count on the Jones family to turn things around...”

“No, Mom.” Ethan’s words were stuck in his throat. “Can’t you see that Rebecca’s throwing mud at me in an attempt to keep a distance from me?”

Sonya was astounded. She appeared to have figured out everything at that instant.

“Little did I expect that she would be such a character. I was barking up the wrong tree. You’re now at the lowest point in your life, and there she is trying to ruin your reputation.”

“Exactly. I didn’t expect that as well. Perhaps this is karma.” Ethan was heartbroken. He was not sure if Cathy, whom he owed a lot, was hurt as well.

...

Talton Design.

When Catherine found herself on the top search and being criticized by a bunch of people for no reason, she had the urge to fling her phone.

How dare Rebecca falsify the issue?! Rebecca was the one who snatched Ethan away. She ended up dumping him and was now accusing Catherine and Ethan of scheming together.

Furthermore, Cindy only aggravated the matter by using her identity as a celebrity, which got more people to criticize Catherine.

What kind of people were they?

“A lot of information online is fake. Don’t bother about it.” Joseph, who had noticed the issue, comforted her. “Go home early and rest if you’re not feeling well.”

“Okay.” Indeed, Catherine did not want to get her colleagues to stare at her with strange looks. After nodding, she packed her things and headed home.

Who knew, just as she got downstairs, a crowd of reporters came out of nowhere to surround her.

“Miss Jones, are you getting back together with Ethan?”

“Getting back together? In fact, you guys never separated. You guys just pretended to have separated so that Ethan could cheat on Rebecca!”

“Rumor has it that you’re very jealous of your long-lost sister. Is that true?”

“According to a relative of the Jones family, you used to tell your parents that Rebecca and you couldn’t coexist, right?”

“That’s very evil of you. She’s your biological sister who has suffered so much since young.”

“Are you bullying her just because she came from a rural area?”

“What’s wrong with coming from a rural area? You look down on rural people, huh?”

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 113“...”

Catherine was surrounded by a crowd of reporters with microphones in their hands.

She wanted to explain, but no one could be bothered about her. They kept shoving her even though she was wearing high heels. In the end, she was shoved to the ground.

None of the reporters helped her up. They were just busy taking ugly pictures of her.

“What are you guys doing? Get out of the way!”

Ethan, who came here just in time, happened to catch sight of the situation. He immediately pushed the reporters away and helped Catherine up. “Are you okay, Cathy?”

Catherine had a sinking feeling upon seeing him. Sure enough, thereporters grew enthusiastic.

“It’s Ethan! He rushed here promptly!”

“Sure enough, the two of you are having an affair.”

“How disgusting!”

Ethan flew into a rage as more insults were hurled at Catherine and him. “Mind your words. All of it has nothing to do with her. I’m the irresponsible one. The person I hurt is Catherine, not Rebecca.”

“Pah, of course, you’re protecting Catherine because you’re in love with her.”

“How pitiful Rebecca is!”

“Exactly. Rebecca is really unlucky to have such a sister!”

Catherine was enraged at Ethan who was causing even more trouble at this crucial moment.

Catherine and Ethan failed to jostle their way out, and worse still, the crowd was now blocking their way even more aggressively.

Amid the commotion, a security officer hurriedly dispersed the reporters.

Wesley forced his way through the gaps, only to notice Catherine's sunkempt hair. He then told the reporters off fiercely.

“Are you guys interviewing or interrogating her? Are you bullying a weak woman by acting so violently? Are you guys even qualified to be reporters?”

When the reporters noticed an air of authority around him and his costly outfit, they were not bold enough to carry on with the forceful attack.

Nevertheless, someone was dissatisfied with his behavior. “We just want to get their relationship clear.”

“They have nothing to do with each other.” Wesley pulled Catherine violently toward him. “She's my girlfriend. If you guys ever cause her trouble again, I'll definitely do something about it.”

Ethan was shocked.

Catherine was in shock as well. Damn. If Shaun found out about it, she would be viewed as having betrayed their marriage.

As Catherine was rooted to the spot, Wesley thought that she was startled. He put his arm around her shoulders, then brought her into the car.

Ethan followed them right away. After he got into the car, he anxiously asked, "Uncle Wesley, are you guys really in a relationship?"

"I can get together with her as long as she's ready. In fact, I used it as an excuse to deny your relationship with her just now." Wesley glanced at Catherine helplessly. "Sorry. Do you mind?"

Catherine was speechless.

Now that she was married, could she say yes?

However, it was Wesley's well-intentioned effort.

She nodded. "I understand."

Ethan let out a sigh of relief upon knowing that it was a pretense. "Cathy, I—"

"Stop addressing me this way. It's disgusting." The minute Catherine saw

him, anger welled up inside her.

“Ethan, are you trying to push me into a dead end? You know that everyone is against our relationship, yet you came to meet me. Are you trying to add fuel to the fire, thinking that I deserve to be attacked more bitterly? Did I wrong you in our past lives? Why are you going against me again and again on purpose?”

“I... I didn't mean to.”

In the face of her criticisms, Ethan was at his wits' end.

If this situation had happened earlier, he would have lost his temper. However, his mind was full of Catherine's positive aspects and Rebecca's negative aspects at that point.

“I came here simply because I want to apologize to you. When I saw you being surrounded just now, I was afraid that you'd get hurt, so I couldn't help but act that way. Sorry, Cathy. I'm really sorry. It was very foolish of me to get deceived by Rebecca. Now I finally know that you were the person who treated me the best.”

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 114

Catherine's anger simmered down. At the same time, she still found Ethan's words ridiculous. "How silly of you to say that. Rebecca is smart, diligent, gentle, and generous, whereas I'm evil and brutal."

Upon hearing the sarcastic remark, Ethan was so embarrassed that his handsome face flushed.

"Cathy, forgive me for hurting you back then. I'm really sorry. I'll slowly make it up to you for the rest of my life. Are you willing to come back to me? I promise that I'll never repeat my mistakes again.

"I used to be too naive back then. You were right in saying that I'm still young and can work hard on my own. Everything will be fine as long as you stay by my side."

With that, he gazed at her eagerly.

Wesley's face darkened. Little did he know that his nephew was such a shameless person.

What worried Wesley most was that Catherine would be touched by Ethan's words. After all, Catherine and Ethan had feelings for each other.

"Think wisely, Cathy. He has betrayed you once, and it can happen a

second time...”

“Uncle Wesley!” Ethan roared, “I know you like Cathy, but you can’t force a relationship. After all, I’m the one whom she loves deep down.”

Their argument caused Catherine’s head to hurt. She then interrupted their argument loudly.

“Alright, Ethan. Shut your mouth! You’ve hurt me enough. How dare you say I like you?! Have you no shame? I’m deeply disgusted just by looking at you. If time could rewind, I wish I wouldn’t have gotten to know you.”

Not wanting to be involved in their argument anymore, Catherine opened the door and got out of the car straight away.

“Don’t leave!” Ethan hurriedly clutched her. “Give me another chance. I won’t give up.”

“Stay away from me. Hands off.”

Wesley said, “Let me send you home. Ethan is the one who should leave. Someone’s trying to incite the incident secretly. I’ll solve it for you.”

“No need. I’ll find a way to deal with it.”

Catherine broke free from Ethan’s grasp and left without turning back.

She felt that she would explode with anger if she stayed any longer with Ethan. Furthermore, she did not want to owe Wesley any favors.

...

On the other side.

As Chase watched the video of Wesley announcing in public that Catherine was his girlfriend, he was at his wits’ end at that instant.

Ugh, it had to do with Rin again.

Recently, Shaun would go to court with a long face as if he was going to a battlefield.

In addition, the atmosphere of the law firm was as icy as the South Pole. Everyone was in fear.

If Shaun found out about this top search, Cathy would be in deep waters where she might be killed.

Chase had to contact Hadley immediately to stop him from informing Shaun about the incident.

He could not reach Hadley after making a number of attempts to call him.

He had no choice but to race to the lounge. As soon as he pushed open the door, the dart that Shaun threw landed right on the red bullseye.

A strong sense of fierceness permeated the lounge.

“Shaun...”

“If you’re planning to let me know about the incident of Wesley publicly announcing that Catherine’s his girlfriend, you don’t have to tell me.” Shaun turned around and took another dart. His person conveyed a sense of coldness and intimidation.

Chase glanced at Hadley who was standing upright. Hadley then said, “I’m the one who revealed it. This woman betrayed Young Master Hill.”

Chase was at a loss for words.

Damn. Cathy had to fend for herself now.

He coughed lightly. “Regarding this incident, there should be a reason...”

“Why are you always standing up for her?” Shaun suddenly turned around, his eyes expressing coldness. “Is it because you’re into her?”

Chase nearly bit his tongue. Words were stuck in his throat.

“How’s that possible? I clearly know that I shouldn’t snatch my friend’s wife.”

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 115

“Soon, Catherine won’t be considered my wife anymore.” An air of hostility filled Shaun’s handsome face. “I’ll get a divorce with her as soon as possible.”

Chase was astonished. “But you haven’t settled the issue regarding the old manor...”

“I’ll find a way to settle it later.” Shaun lowered his head. He took a cigarette and smoked it. “There are hardly any decent women in Melbourne. Most of them are scummy. You don’t have to tell me things about her anymore.”

Relationships were just like dramas. One minute, one could be affectionate, and the next, one could easily change his or her mind. One could even cheat on his or her partner.

At the thought of the woman, Shaun felt the urge to strangle her.

When the thought that she might be in a relationship with Wesley occurred to him, he sensed a tight feeling in his chest. The woman was f*cking filthy!

Chase felt awkward, wondering what was wrong with the women in Melbourne.

“Are you sure?”

“Yeah. Help me search for another villa right away. I don’t want to live in a place where she has lived before. Considering that Fudge has given birth to three babies, the place is too small for her as well. I need a bigger courtyard.”

“Okay.”

Deep down, Chase was troubled by Catherine’s ignorance. Shaun was such a powerful person with a lot of women vying for him. How could she not know how to seize the chance to keep him by her side? How silly of

her.

After turning around, Shaun stared out of the window. Chase was not sure what was on his mind.

Hadley noticed the cigarette in Shaun's hands that was almost burning his fingertips. However, Shaun did not seem to realize it.

Hadley frowned, thinking that it had to be a serious issue.

...

In the next two days, Catherine stayed at home.

The issue related to Ethan and her had gone viral online. The comments were all criticisms directed at her.

Each time Freya read the comments, it made her blood boil. "Do you want me to get my brother to deal with this matter?"

"No need. I need more Facebook fans anyway," Catherine answered calmly while shaking her head.

Freya was speechless. “These haters are here to criticize you.”

“Haters can turn into my fans too.” Catherine treated the matter with a lighthearted manner and gave a playful smile.

On the fourth day, she had gained over eight million fans.

She shared the full video of Ethan pulling her the other day along with a message.

[After being attacked for several days, I can't tolerate it anymore. How dare she throw mud at me solely based on a picture of him grabbing me by the hand? First Young Lady Jones, you dumped Young Master Lowe all because he failed to become the successor of Lowe Corporation. You could've stated your reason clearly rather than put the blame on someone else.

[You're also a disgrace to the people living in the countryside. Unlike you, those in the countryside are pure and kind-hearted. You match Young Master Lowe very well as both of you are equally scummy. Both of you better get back together so others won't be harmed.]

A commotion arose again shortly after the video was shared.

Those who initially criticized her had been paid to do so. Later on, more people found out about the video.

When the truth dawned on those who stumbled on the video, each of them began attacking Rebecca on her profile.

[It was Ethan who grabbed Catherine on his own accord, and she soon broke free from his grasp. You must've known about it earlier. How evil you are to push the blame to your sister!]

[Look! Your sister said that you match Ethan well. Both of you better not part.]

[That's very evil of you. What an angelic b*tch and a hypocrite. You're the most annoying sort of person. Go and kill yourself!]

“...”

Someone shared Catherine's excellent academic background as well as her numerous great achievements overseas.

More people began to pay attention to Catherine. Of course, the c

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 116

[Hey, are you available? Can you help me design a theater?]

“ ... ”

Within just a few days, many people had looked for Catherine online to design their houses. However, Catherine did not accept their requests but only posted her company's address.

Talton Design soon turned into a household name on the internet and consequently attracted an endless stream of clients.

Joseph grinned from ear to ear. He quickly gestured to Catherine and increased her salary. “Because of you, our company has received a few large projects worth over ten million dollars. It was very brilliant of you to turn things around. You've even become a well-known designer now. How awesome! You're currently the most popular designer in the country.”

“Well, thank you for taking me in back then,” Catherine said with a smile.

...

The Jones family's house.

At that instant, Rebecca was seething with rage.

These days, she had been receiving more than thousands of private messages with criticisms directed at her. Even Summit's official website was filled with harsh criticisms. She was shunned by those rich ladies who used to be close to her.

If this situation persisted, no wealthy man would choose to marry her.

Sally was on tenterhooks. She thought that it would not be appropriate to tell her daughter off, so she targeted Jeffery. "Our daughter is in serious trouble all because of your awful idea."

"Who knew there would be surveillance cameras in a villa that hasn't been renovated?" Jeffery flew into a rage as well. If this had happened back then, he would have been slightly tolerant of Catherine. However, all he wanted to do at the moment was kill her.

As soon as Jeffery finished speaking, James rushed in. "Aunt Sally, Uncle Jeffery, something bad has happened. Lublin Hotel is on fire."

A drastic change was visible in Jeffery's expression. Lublin Hotel was Summit's five-star hotel where renovation works were underway. So far, over 50 million dollars had been invested in the hotel. "What's going on?"

How's the condition now? Has the fire been put out?"

"The fire has been put out. However, three floors have been completely destroyed by the fire. The Clark family is already aware of the incident," James stammered evasively. At last, he gnashed his teeth and knelt on the ground straight away. "Uncle Jeffery, the Clark family will definitely assign a team to investigate the issue. I reckon... the substandard cables were the cause of the fire."

"What did you say?" Jeffery pointed at him while trembling. "Where did you get the cables from?"

"It was President Meyer who recommended them to me. He offered me a rebate of a few million dollars back then. Do you remember that I gave you a coffee maker set worth over two million dollars? That's the money..."

Jeffery raised his hand and slapped James on the face violently. "You've been earning a lot in recent years, haven't you? Why would you think of taking bribes through the purchase of cables? You're blinded by money, huh?"

"You need to save me, Uncle Jeffery." James kept tugging his shirt firmly. "I did this with the intention of honoring Aunt Sally and you."

"How can I save you? The Clark family is the second most powerful family in Melbourne after the Harrison family. Once the matter is investigated, the consequences are going to be disastrous." Jeffery shook off his grip.

Rebecca sighed. “Why were you so careless, James? I remember that it was Cathy who took charge of the construction site earlier. Why didn’t she stop you at all?”

Struck by a thought, Sally quickly said, “I was just brooding over how to give Catherine a lesson. Now is the chance. We can shift the blame to her. We won’t be able to live peacefully until she’s sent to jail. Once this issue is made public, everyone will know that she’s the sort who’ll do anything for the sake of money. In this case, no one will criticize us regarding the recent incident.”

Jeffrey was momentarily stunned. At that instant, he was convinced by the idea. He deemed it to be a feasible solution since he did not know how to distract the public from the issue. “Alright then. The fire that broke out in the hotel has nothing to do with you. Catherine was the one in charge of it previously, and the incident happened due to her taking bribes.”

Rebecca was still worried. “Dad, I hear that Wesley has been treating Catherine quite well nowadays. He might lend her a helping hand.”

“Don’t worry, the Clark family isn’t like any other families. Once they decide to give someone a lesson, no one will be able to stop them from doing it.” Jeffrey scoffed.

...

At night, Joseph treated his employees to a meal and a karaoke session in celebration of the company’s success.

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Just as Catherine was packing her things to head to the restaurant with her colleagues, a few police officers barged in. “Who’s Catherine Jones?”

Her colleagues looked at each other with alarmed faces. Catherine had a sinking feeling, then she stood up and said, “It’s me...”

As soon as she responded, both her hands were cuffed.

The police said indifferently, “A fire broke out in Lublin Hotel this morning, which has resulted in a loss of over ten million dollars. We’ve received a call from the party involved in the incident, and Summit claims that you were in charge of the hotel back then. You have to go to the police station to be investigated.”

Catherine felt as if her head had exploded. “It has nothing to do with me at all. It’s been over two months since I left the hotel. They’re probably trying to make me their scapegoat!”

“I’m sorry, but Summit has provided me with evidence regarding your receipt of rebate and use of uncertified cables. Stop denying it.”

The police immediately seized her and walked out.

Meanwhile, many reporters were already waiting downstairs.

“What kind of popular designer is she? She actually offered clients substandard cables that would cause a fire.”

“Gosh. I just paid Talton Design for the renovation cost. I’m going to cancel it and ask for a refund.”

“Same here. Who knows, my house might even end up in flames?”

“...”

In just a moment, all the clients who had initially made payments to Talton Design came to ask for a refund. Some clients were worried about the renovation work that was underway and came to hold the company accountable.

Talton Design’s impressive reputation earlier was totally ruined overnight.

...

In the police station.

Catherine felt dizzy with the dazzling light shining on her in the interrogation room. However, she continued to speak in an agitated manner, "I've said that this has nothing to do with me. I was just a designer for the hotel back then, but James is the project manager. He's in charge of materials."

"Enough, stop denying it already. President Meyer, whom you laundered the money with, said that you've been in contact with him. You earned more than six million dollars from the laundering, then you paid 500,000 dollars to your superior so that he wouldn't expose the matter. Two months ago, James finally revealed this to President Jones as he could no longer stand your behavior. With that, President Jones decided to fire you. How smart of you to attempt to accuse him!"

Another female police officer added, "You come from a wealthy family as well, but why do you act as if you're desperate for money at such a young age? You're such a morally corrupt person."

A shiver ran down Catherine's spine. "This isn't the truth. I'm the one who reported James, yet somehow..."

"Enough. Stop explaining. Even your dad has admitted that it's your doing. You're his biological daughter, whereas James is just his nephew. You have the greatest control over the construction site," the police interrupted her speech.

“That’s impossible.”

Catherine shook her head, looking pale. She then stood up with agitation. “I’m his biological daughter, but why is he accusing me? Am I not as important as his wife’s nephew?”

“Stop acting crazy. Take her out and lock her up.” The police waved.

“I want to make a call. I want to get someone to bail me out,” Catherine yelled.

“Sorry. Given that your case is quite severe, you’re not allowed to meet or contact anyone else before the case is closed.”

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The police flatly refused Catherine and locked her up once again.

The small room was filled with seven to eight people. Each of them was assigned a wide wooden bed.

As soon as she sat down, a tall woman walked toward her and splashed a pail of water on her bed.

“What are you doing?” Catherine blurted out. A bunch of evil-looking women mobbed her right away.

“How dare you shout at me?!” The tall woman rolled up her sleeves, then said fiercely, “You know, I killed the woman who shouted at me before this.”

“Sorry... You may splash as you wish.” Catherine was not a fool. She knew full well that it was not easy to deal with the bunch of people who were locked up here, so she tried her best to tolerate them.

Nevertheless, they did not seem to plan on letting her go.

“Oh well, this won’t work on me. I hate beautiful women like you the most because my husband was snatched by a woman just like you.”

The woman ran toward her and subsequently gave her a kick.

As much as Catherine wanted to shout for help, someone covered her mouth.

Shortly afterward, she felt dizzy upon being beaten. In a daze, she seemed to hear someone say, "Go ahead and kill her. Nobody's going to blame us for killing her anyway."

"She deserves it since she offended someone she shouldn't have."

"..."

Who had she offended this time?

Rebecca? Jeffery?

Hah. She would have felt heartbroken if this had happened back then. However, she was already used to it now.

Who could rescue her this time? Her relationship with Shaun was over, whereas Freya... Freya was not a worthy opponent for the Clark family either.

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Freya's heart sank. Indeed, the Clark family was one of the very few powerful families in Melbourne. Cathy had offended the Clark family.

“So... So what can we do?”

“I've... informed my uncle to come here.” A look of distress and helplessness crossed Ethan's face. Although Wesley was currently his lover, he had no choice but to ask him for help in order to save Catherine.

“My uncle has a wide network. He might have a way out.”

“Oh, okay.” Freya had heard from Catherine that Wesley was interested in her. Sure enough, Ethan had to rely on his uncle at crucial moments like this.

As Freya gazed at Ethan, her eyes were increasingly filled with disgust. She could not help but mock him. “After being dumped by your fiancée, you finally know who treats you the best. You don't find Catherine shameful anymore, huh?”

“Back then, it was my fault. I was blind.”

Freya snorted. “The environment in the detention center is really awful. Ever since Cathy was locked in the old manor, she was traumatized by the experience. We have to bring her out tonight.”

Ethan was stunned. “What happened in the old manor? Wasn’t she served with great food and drinks there?”

“Is there something wrong with you? Didn’t you see the medical certificate which was shared online? She was terribly abused there, and she almost lost her life.”

Freya stared at Ethan as if he was mentally disabled.

“She was locked there for three days with all the windows and doors nailed shut. Not even a ray of light could shine through. The rice she had was stale. She had no blanket and clothes. There was no electricity and water. She couldn’t even contact anyone outside and had almost died in the manor. Fortunately... Fortunately, we managed to rescue her. By the time she arrived at the hospital, she was nearly dead.”

Ethan’s body trembled violently.

He had visited the Jones family's house to ask about it, but that was not what he was told.

Now when he recalled Jeffery, Sally, and Rebecca's faces, he could not help but shudder.

He could not imagine how evil they were to have the intention of killing their biological daughter and sister. They were really scary.

It was no wonder Catherine hated Ethan. Ethan was too silly and could not see through the incident. At that point, Catherine was undoubtedly in absolute despair.

Soon, Wesley arrived after rushing over.

"Uncle Wesley, you must save Cathy," Ethan begged him with swollen eyes. "She's innocent. I owe her way too much."

"Whether or not I'll save her has nothing to do with you. She's my lover, and I'll certainly go all out to save her."

As Wesley spoke, he grimly headed upstairs along with a lawyer. Half an hour later, he came back down with a sullen look.

"I can't bail her out."

“What? Even you failed to do it?” Freya started panicking. Struck by a thought, she asked, “Can I ask the Harrison family for help?”

Freya had Chase’s number, but Catherine and Shaun were currently on bad terms. It was not known whether Chase would be willing to lend her a hand.

“It won’t work. I heard that the Clark family is very furious this time. The Harrison family’s intervention in the matter would mean they’re going against the Clark family, so it’s impossible for them to do it.”

Wesley’s head hurt. He had come up with all the possible solutions on his way here.

“So there’s nothing I can do apart from watching Catherine continue being locked up until the sentence is imposed.” Freya grew uneasy. “This is not just about being in jail for several years. It might ruin her life.”

“Exactly, Uncle Wesley. Please try to find a way out.” With a pale face, Ethan turned his gaze to Wesley.

Wesley’s brows furrowed as if two mountain peaks were squeezed together. “There’s another person who can help, but it’s really difficult to get him to help. He’s a legendary lawyer in Australia who has never been defeated. He hasn’t lost any lawsuits so far, nor has he failed to bail anyone out.”

“Who’s he?” Freya and Ethan asked at the same time.

“Shaun Hill,” Wesley enunciated.

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Wesley said, “Before this, he had been living in seclusion for years. He suddenly came to Melbourne a while ago, but it’s way too difficult to get him to help. Previously, I asked him to settle a business lawsuit for me by offering him a pay of 300 million dollars, yet he declined.

“Of course, he has declined many offers, including those from the business and political powerhouses. In his eyes, money and power are nothing.”

Freya was at a loss for words.

In a daze, she wondered if Wesley was referring to that Shaun Hill.

Cathy’s husband was also Shaun Hill, and he was a lawyer.

Cathy said that her husband’s income was pretty much the same as hers,

though.

She also said that her husband behaved arrogantly and cruelly only because he was Chase's friend.

My God. What kind of a f*cking powerhouse had her best friend offended?

Not only had she offended him, but she was also unaware of his identity despite staying with him for over two months.

“Don't worry. I'll beg him,” Wesley said.

“Uh...” Freya gave a light cough. “If you're referring to the same Shaun Hill... I got acquainted with him back then. I'll look for him. If I can't get him to help, there's no need for you to beg him then.”

If Wesley were to go and beg Shaun, the situation would involve a love rival asking for the official husband to save his wife whom he was going to divorce. Not only would Shaun refuse to save Catherine, but he might also cause her to end up in jail forever.

In this case, Wesley must not beg Shaun.

“You know him?” Wesley looked at Freya with a different expression.

Ethan was astonished as well. “I’ve heard about Mr. Hill. I didn’t expect that you’d know someone like him, Freya.”

Freya said embarrassingly, “I don’t know much about him, but I have a friend who’s familiar with him.”

“Your friend is brilliant.” Wesley praised. “We’ll wait for good news from you.”

Freya was speechless.

‘Yeah, right. My friend is still in the detention center, waiting for you guys to save her.’

...

Once they parted, Freya gave Chase a call. “Young Master Harrison, I’m sure you heard that Catherine has been arrested by the police. Apparently, the evidence available is all against her. I’d... I’d like to get Mr. Hill to bail her out.”

Chase sighed. “These days, Shaun doesn’t want to hear Catherine’s name at all. He’ll definitely not help her. What’s more, he has made the decision to divorce her a few days ago.”

Freya was at her wits' end. "Where's he now? Can you give me a chance to talk to him face-to-face?"

"Unfortunately, he has accepted a case recently. He flew to Perth for work yesterday and will only return the day after tomorrow."

Freya was overwhelmed by frustration deep down. It was proving impossible to save Catherine by tonight. "Can you tell me the hotel he's staying at in Perth? I'll fly there to meet him."

On the other end, Chase remained silent for a while. He eventually told Freya the address. The plan's success would ultimately depend on her.

That night, Freya booked the soonest flight to Perth and headed there.

After she arrived at the hotel, she knocked on the door of the room.

It was a slender young man who opened the door. She subsequently felt the warm air emanating from the room. The man wore a white shirt with its neckline hanging below his collarbones, revealing a small part of his sexy chest.

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Staring at the man's chest, Freya was stunned. The man caressed her chin, his bewitching eyes displaying a captivating smile. "Tsk, you guys actually asked a woman to come over. She looks great, though."

Freya's face darkened. She seriously wondered if she came to the wrong place.

However, she heard the sound of people playing cards inside the room. She then asked, "I'm looking for Shaun. Is he here?"

In a daze, the man turned his head and looked into the room, "Someone's looking for you, Shaun. That's strange. When did you get into a relationship with someone in Perth?"

"I'm a friend of his wife." Freya pushed away his hand that was blocking the door and entered the room in a huff.

There were three men in the living room, and all of them had an impressive aura. One of the men with a cigarette dangling out of his mouth said, "Rodney, I just asked you to open the door. Why did you let her in?"

"You can't blame me." Rodney Snow sat on an empty seat. He took a

cigarette and lit it up, then gazed at Freya enthusiastically.

Shaun, sitting on the seat of honor, cast a casual glance at Freya while holding his cards. He threw a card onto the table.

“Throw her out.”

“Wait a minute.” Freya rushed toward Shaun without a second thought. “Catherine was tricked by her parents and is now in the police station. You’re the only person who can save her now. The police said that the case will be closed in three days, and she’ll be sentenced by then.”

“None of my business,” Shaun blurted out these four words indifferently.

“But she’s your wife.”

Shaun suddenly curled his lips. “You’re mistaken. She’s Wesley’s girlfriend, and her life has nothing to do with me. Get lost.”

The mention of that heartless, scummy woman ruined his mood.

“Enough. Shaun asked you to get lost. Hurry up and leave now.”

Rodney, who let her in just now, dragged her toward the door.

Knowing that this was the only chance, Freya clutched the threshold, trying her best not to let go.

“No. Cathy has never gotten into a relationship with Wesley. Wesley deliberately said that in front of the reporters the other day. You’re the one Cathy loves. You’re the only person who has a place in her heart. Ever since she met you, she has fallen head over heels for you. Although she’s been living with me these days, all she thinks about is you. She’s been weeping every day.”

Shaun’s eyes finally twitched. He tossed the cards and subsequently leaned backward. “Let go of her. Carry on with what you were saying.”

Freya’s eyes sparkled as she saw hope. She quickly added, “Cathy told me that ever since you saved her from Zayn, she started being madly in love with you. She just wants to be your woman. However, no matter what she did, you never paid attention to her. She feels worn out and miserable, so she chose to leave you.

“She said that it really hurts her that you don’t love her back. It hurts her even more when you treat her with disdain. She initially planned to go out with me when your cat gave birth to her babies the other day. The moment she learned about it, she ditched me and went to your place instead. She said that Fudge is your sweetheart, so if anything happened to Fudge, you’d be heartbroken.”

Shaun's attractive brows furrowed in spite of himself. "Really? But that was not how she behaved when she came that day."

"Of course, she wouldn't express her feelings directly." A look of distress crossed Freya's face. "She wants to cook for you forever and not just for the time being. She wants to be your wife and not your sitter. You really don't understand women."

Freya waved emotionally with tears rolling down her face.

Shaun was stunned, his heart racing uncontrollably.

Was this really the scummy woman's thoughts?

Freya continued to spice up the story. "Mr. Hill, do you think Wesley is as attractive as you? Has Wesley ever saved her? Think about it. How could she possibly fall for Wesley and not you? Is she blind?"

"She said that even though you don't love her and both of you can't be together, nothing can ever stop her from loving you."

Shaun sneered. "Alright, I'll give you one last chance. Go in there to heat up the food."

"Sure." Catherine's eyes twinkled with brilliance as she darted into the pantry.

There was a microwave available. She heated up the food in less than three minutes.

She placed it in front of the man. It was his favorite roast pork.

He glanced at it and instantly felt his stomach growling. Ever since she left, he had not enjoyed a good home-cooked meal.

In a matter of minutes, he devoured the entire dish, leaving nothing behind in the lunchbox.

She gasped in amazement on the side. This was the man who said he was no longer interested in her cooking!

Men were such liars.

"What are you staring at?" Shaun caught a glimpse of her staring and a hint

of embarrassment flashed across his handsome face.

“No, um... I’m just happy to see you enjoying my food again,” Catherine said half-jokingly. Then, she noticed the man casually picking up the documents on the side as if ready to resume working.

She was impatient though, trying her best to remove her coat casually.

Naturally, he noticed that. However, he did not expect to see her in a floral dress beneath the coat. The tight-fitting style perfectly illustrated her curvy figure.

“You’re trying to seduce me now?” He sounded sarcastic but was secretly pleased. As expected, she was still interested in him romantically.

Embarrassed, she wished she could vanish into thin air right this very moment yet she still stubbornly argued back, “Not at all. The heater in your office is working too well. Ah, it’s getting really warm in here.”

“If so, why don’t you take off... everything?” he said with a raised eyebrow.

Her beautiful face froze for a split second. Then, she quietly put the coat back on. Forget it, she gave up trying to seduce him because it would just further humiliate her.

“Come here.” He gestured with his hand.

She walked toward him with a forced smile plastered over her face.

The man grabbed her by the wrist and pulled her inward so that she would fall sitting on his lap.

Everything happened too quickly. As she was buried into the fresh scent he exuded, her entire body tensed up as if she was struck by a bolt of lightning. Her face turned red within seconds.

Oh goodness, although she had intimate interactions with him before, this was the first time she was sitting on his lap. This scene was just like a young couple deeply in love.

Shaun was delighted upon noticing that the woman’s ears had gone completely red. This silly thing was shy.

“Sign it.” He retrieved the document that had been drafted long ago from the drawer. “Stay by my side from now on. I’ll protect you.”

Her heart began to pound upon hearing those words.

She was just like any other woman. Especially after getting hurt by people

closest to her again and again, she constantly felt helpless and afraid.

However, it was certainly out of her expectation to hear him promise to protect her. The gentle tone of his words also gave her this strange fuzzy feeling in her heart.

“Don’t overthink it. I protect everyone around me, including a pet.” Upon seeing her being dazed, Shaun said unnaturally.

To Catherine, that remark felt like a slap in the face.

Well, she certainly had been overthinking.

After regaining her composure, she picked up the pen and signed at the bottom of the document.

“Good girl.”

He held her by the chin and turned her around so that she had no choice but to stare right into his handsome face. They were only inches apart. She could almost smell his breath.

“I... It’s time for me to go.” She could not take this any longer.

“Thinking of leaving?” He pulled her closer straight away.

“It’s a waste to the dress you’re wearing if I let you go right now.” Shaun’s eyes darkened gradually as he placed his right hand behind Catherine’s neck and inched forward to lock lips with her.

This was the feeling that he had been reminiscing about after their kiss in the restaurant last time.

He wondered what she had applied on her lips because they tasted unusually sweet.

She was baffled. If he actually despised her, then why did he keep kissing her?

His words and actions contradicted one another.

However, Catherine dared not make the assumption that Shaun was romantically interested in her. Perhaps he was just satisfying his desires as a man.

In the beginning, she was still able to keep a cool head, but in a matter of

seconds, she lost herself in the kiss. Especially due to the fresh scent exuding from his body. She draped her arm around his neck subconsciously.

“Rin, it’s been a long while.”

The office door was suddenly pushed open and Chase came walking inside in big strides. His eyes widened at the sight before him.

Catherine quivered and instinctively pushed the man away. Her cheeks were red with embarrassment as she stood up from his lap.

Shaun’s face was tinted with an unusual rosy color. Despite that, his eyes at the moment flared furiously like an infuriated lion.

“Um... Sorry. I didn’t see anything.”

Shocked, Chase immediately left the room and shut the door behind him.

He should not have been nosy. It was mainly because he feared that Shaun would pick a fight with Catherine again, given his poor temperament, so he came over with good intentions. Who would have expected... Ha!

Well, he had definitely underestimated his old friend.

Inside the office.

Catherine lowered her gaze to the ground and tousled her hair in frustration. She was utterly embarrassed.

Shaun was annoyed for having been interrupted but became pleased to see the adorable girl acting all shy.

“Come here.” He gestured to her again like just now.

However, she dared not step forward this time. “Don’t do that. I’m just a sitter.”

“A sitter?” The man laughed at her silliness. He rose to his feet and walked to the woman. His fingers gently brushed across her red lips. “I’d have sacked the sitters if they misbehaved like you do.”

Her face was written over with confusion. He rolled his eyes.

He remembered her being witty, but why had she become so slow lately? He had already dropped so many hints.

“Remember, you’re my woman starting from today,” he said impatiently. She must be over the moon now that her dream came true.

A shudder passed through her. Oh goodness, she did not wish for this.

“But you don’t think I deserve you. You complain that I’m a cheap and dirty woman.”

“Shut up.” He became furious. Was she asking to be insulted?

“You’re right, that’s what I think, but a man has his desires. Do you think being an innocent sitter is enough to pay off the 400 million dollars debt? You aren’t worth that much.”

“...”

She was speechless. Alright, it was evident that he was not interested in her romantically.

“Stand right there.” Shaun cast a bunch of keys and a card on the desk. “I’ve moved to Riverside Mansion. These are the keys to the villa’s main gate. That’s the same card you used before to spend for household expenses.”

This took Catherine by surprise. “Why did you move all of a sudden?”

“Fudge has three kittens now and the old place isn’t spacious enough. They need a garden to sunbathe,” he replied flatly.

“...”

She was speechless. Why was she not a cat instead? It was too tiring to be a human.

A cat did not have to cook and enjoyed the privilege of staying in a renovated luxurious villa.

“Don’t be jealous. Stay by my side loyally and you can live like that too.” The man twitched his thin lips slightly. As long as she stopped messing with other men and behaved well around him, he could let her be Mrs. Hill forever.

Anyhow, he had to remarry again if they ever divorced. That was too troublesome for him.

“Oh.” She pouted softly. She did not want to be his personal chef forever. Her goal was to keep earning money so she could repay the 400 million dollars debt as soon as possible. “I’ll move in two days later.”

“No, do it right now. I want to see you there when I go home later.” He frowned.
“Your case is a tough one. I might lose if I don’t eat and sleepwell.”

“Um... Sure. I’ll move in right away.” She tried her best to force a smile.

...

After leaving Jennings Solicitors, Catherine headed back to Freya’s place to pack her belongings.

They had lunch together as well. Before finally leaving, Freya placed a small box in her hand while smiling mischievously. “Remember to protect yourself. Don’t get pregnant.”

Catherine threw the thing away as if it was a piece of burning coal. Her cheeks were the color of ripe tomatoes. “Stop being so silly.”

“Well, I thought of using it myself. Patrick came to stay over that night. I thought something would happen then but he suddenly had to leave.” Freya shrugged nonchalantly. “You don’t have to use it, but don’t blame me for not warning you when you get pregnant.”

On second thought, Catherine picked up the box and placed it inside her luggage.

Perhaps Shaun wanted to do that with her? Just in case.

Soon, she arrived at Riverside Mansion.

He had moved into a double-story palace-style mansion. The garden was massive with lots of space to run about.

Upon discovering Catherine's arrival, Fudge immediately ran over with the three kittens.

She picked up one of the kittens with pure white fur. How adorable!

"Miss Jones? I'm Aunty Linda, the housekeeper." A woman in her mid-50s walked over to introduce herself.

A look of surprise flashed across Catherine's face but was soon replaced with a smile. A mansion of this size would certainly need a housekeeper. If she were to handle everything in here, then she would certainly become a faded old woman in less than three years.

"Let me show you to your room." Aunty Linda led her upstairs to one of the rooms.
"This is your bedroom."

“Oh, right. Thanks.”

She was overwhelmed with surprise. This bedroom was spacious like a master bedroom, not to mention that it was so clean and tidy that even the bedsheets had been taken care of. It was way more luxurious than the place in Jadeite Bay.

Aunty Linda said, “Towels and toothbrushes are already in there. Let me know if you need anything else.”

After the woman left, she began taking out her skincare products and laid them on the table. She noticed a hairdryer inside the drawer too.

She secretly thanked Aunty Linda for her thoughtfulness. She planned to put away her clothes, but the room had heated flooring and the environment was warm and cozy.

It was winter outside but it felt like the end of spring in here. She began to feel sleepy all of a sudden.

Since it was the evening anyway, she changed into thin loungewear and snuggled under the duvet. A familiar scent engulfed her.

The mattress was so comfortable, not to mention the soft and snug duvet. Besides, the lawsuit had been troubling her lately that she had not been able to sleep well at night lately. Finally, she did not have to worry anymore.

In a matter of minutes, her mind went blank and she fell fast asleep.

Shaun's car slowly pulled into the villa around 5 p.m.

Aunty Linda was surprised to see him coming home early.

Although the man had just moved in not long ago, he had been leaving early and coming back late every day. Plus, he always had his three meals elsewhere. It was as if this house was only a place for him to stay the night.

“Young Master Hill, I... I had no idea you'll be back at this time. I didn't prepare dinner.”

“It's alright, you don't have to.” He knew he was home earlier than usual. Well, he had gotten too distracted to work after Catherine left the office.

Perhaps he left work earlier because he could not stop thinking about the

meals she would prepare for him.

However, it had almost been three minutes since he stepped foot into the house but the woman was still not here to welcome him.

“Where is she? Out?”

He scanned around the place with a deep frown.

Aunty Linda appeared slightly shocked. “She hasn’t come downstairs since entering your room. I guess she must be sleeping.”

He raised an eyebrow curiously. In his room?

Well, what a bold woman she was to sleep in his room as soon as she arrived. Was she really that impatient to lure him into bed?

How inappropriate of her. Although he had decided for her to be his woman, he had not agreed for them to share the same room.

Displeased, Shaun headed upstairs to his bedroom. The door was left ajar, hence he walked in without hesitation.

While walking past her luggage that was left open on the floor, something hidden in the piles of clothes caught his eye.

The corners of his lips twitched into a playful smile as he picked it up. She seemed fully prepared.

After putting the thing away, he walked to the bed to watch the woman sleeping on it. Her long black hair was scattered across his pillow. Those little cheeks were tinted with a rosy color from the pleasant afternoon nap.

The room was quite warm, thus she only pulled the blanket up to her chest, revealing her beautiful neckline and sexy clavicle.

One of her legs was draped over the bed, hanging in the air.

The vibe in the bedroom definitely felt more pleasant with the presence of a woman.

The displeasure in his heart vanished immediately, replaced by an enigmatic intention that arose from deep within his eyes.

...

Catherine was in a deep slumber. Suddenly, she felt as if someone was

grazing her lips.

It did not hurt, but it sure was distracting.

She tried to push the thing away but it was to no avail. Left with no alternative, she weakly opened her eyes.

The first thing that entered her sight was the man's thick eyelashes. They were slightly lowered as if the man was indulging in something delicious.

At the next moment, the man's eyelashes lifted. Her eyes met those darkened pupils. They looked as if something fiery was burning beneath.

Hang on...

Why was Shaun here?

She quivered subconsciously before pushing him away firmly.

The unexpected push almost made him fall off the bed. After getting his footing, he growled in a deep voice. "Catherine Jones, you're asking for death."

"It's your fault to suddenly climb into my bed." She was rather furious for being shouted at.

Seriously? He came into her bed upon arriving home. Did he really take her for those lowly women?

“Your bed?” He scoffed out of anger. “Look at that confidence. Why has my bed suddenly become yours?”

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 136

Although Catherine had been in a relationship with Ethan before and the latter treated her well, the two of them had never shared a bed—not to mention massaging her belly gently when she was on her period.

She really did not expect the domineering Shaun to do something like this. Besides, he was extremely patient. In the end, she was the one embarrassed. “Alright, it doesn’t hurt that much anymore...”

“Keep quiet and go to sleep,” he ordered without stopping his hand.

She dared not comment further. Soon, because the pain had eased, she fell fast asleep.

The next morning at 6 a.m., he stirred in his sleep as she got out of bed to

prepare breakfast.

“Where are you going?”

“Continue sleeping. I’m going to make breakfast...”

“You don’t have to do that since you’re not feeling well.” Once again, he pulled her back into his arms. He placed his palm on her stomach again out of instinct.

“It doesn’t hurt anymore.” She tried to stop him.

“Oh.” He closed his eyes again. She sneakily lifted her eyes to study his handsome features. Any woman would not be able to resist a man with his dashing looks, especially when he was being so gentle.

Something seemed to be pounding beneath her chest. Without a word, she silently lowered her head again.

...

The day had finally arrived.

On the day of the trial, Catherine, Shaun, and Hadley showed up at the court together.

Upon arriving at the courthouse, Shaun's cell phone suddenly rang when they got out of the car. It was a phone call from Old Madam.

"Hadley, bring her to the courtroom. I need to take this call." He walked to the side after saying that.

Both Catherine and Hadley got into the elevator.

A group of people was standing outside of the elevator the minute they stepped out—including the Jones couple, Rebecca, James, as well as Miles Clark and his attorney.

Miles approached Catherine, looking evidently enraged. "Catherine Jones, enjoy your last few moments. Your life will come to its end when this case closes."

She was not offended. After all, Miles was also a victim. "Young Master Clark, believe it or not, I have nothing to do with this incident."

“Nothing to do with you?” He scoffed. “It was you who pestered me about this project and promised you’ll design the most unique hotel for me. Everything is falling apart now. I don’t care how much you’ve benefited from this project or who else you’ve bribed, but you must take responsibility for this incident.”

He raised his voice as he talked. His father had handed over the Lublin Hotel project to him, and he had poured in a lot of capital and effort into this in order to please his father. However, the fire burned down several floors and he was severely reprimanded by his father as a result.

Jeffrey sighed before stepping forward. “Young Master Clark, it’s my fault that I’ve not taught my daughter well. I really shouldn’t have assigned such a massive project to her. Don’t worry, Summit will take full responsibility for the damage it cost you this time. I’ll compensate you and promise to use the highest quality materials this time around.”

“I hope you’ll keep to your word. I’ll hire a team of professionals to inspect the progress in the later stage. If something goes wrong again, then it’ll be you who’s sent to prison, President Jones.” Miles could not be bothered to deal with the Joneses anymore. He left with his attorney after saying that.

Jeffrey’s face changed the second Miles took to his leave. “Cathy, you’ve really disappointed me.”

“President Jones, it’s about time to get out of the character you’re playing.” Catherine almost flew off the handle at the sound of that. “James is obviously the person behind this mess. You don’t have to like me but I’m your birth daughter. Am I worth less than a nephew who isn’t even

blood-related to you?”

A complicated emotion flashed across his eyes. Sally stepped in immediately. “What nonsense are you talking about? James is innocent. Not only are you ruining Summit’s reputation but you’re also trying to frame your cousin now? How can you be so cruel?”

“Mom, I’m your daughter!” Catherine shouted hysterically. She was only a human no matter how tough she pretended to be. “Do you know that James bribed the inmates inside to take my life?”

“Hey, stop it with the nonsense.” James shouted, “Slandering is a crime. Have you any proof?”

“Keep quiet if you don’t have any proof.” Sally glared at Catherine. “What else do you bring to the family apart from troubles? You deserve the mess you’re in today. Take some time to reflect on yourself in prison!”

A shudder passed through Catherine. People always said that even a vicious tiger would not eat its cubs, but she felt that Sally and Jeffrey were more savage than a tiger.

“The two of you will be punished!” she shouted angrily, “It’s one thing that you treat me coldly and with contempt in the past but you shouldn’t have

set me up. I promise I'll take my time to destroy Summit!"

Rebecca laughed sarcastically. "Do you think you have much time left? The Clarks' attorney said that you'll be given a sentence of at least 20 years. My dear sister, take care in prison. I'll visit when I have the time."

"All of you seem so certain that I'll lose." Catherine scoffed upon seeing these faces that could not wait to throw her into prison.

James replied arrogantly, "It's good to have hope, but maybe there's something you don't understand. The Clarks have hired Harry Stewart, the best attorney in the whole of Melbourne, whereas you..."

He threw a quick glance at Hadley before giving a mocking sneer. "Ha, who is this? Did you find a recent graduate from law school?"

He walked over to poke Hadley's chest. "Hey, mate, do you know who you're fighting against? The Clarks! Don't step through that door and ruin your future. My advice to you is to leave as soon as you can."

Hadley raised an eyebrow in surprise. Indeed, he had a bit of a babyface, thus others could mistake him as a recent graduate. Interesting.

Rebecca suggested kindly, "No one dares to take on Cathy's case. You

probably don't know much as you're still new to the working society. But we're saying this for your own good."

"For who?"

A voice reeked of indifference rang in the air.

Catherine knew who the voice belonged to without having to look over her shoulder. The corners of her lips twitched into a curve. All of a sudden, she was quite eager to see the look on their faces when they were confronted in the court later.

Rebecca, Jeffery, and the others shifted their gaze to the source of the voice.

A few seconds before, the doors to the elevator opened and out came a tall silhouette.

The man's light gray suit perfectly accentuated his strong and towering build. His handsome yet intimidating face revealed no emotions. As his calm and quiet eyes scanned across the faces before him, the others could not help but tremble slightly.

It was him.

Rebecca recognized the man within seconds.

He was the man who had shown up at the restaurant with Chase last time. This was the man who had instructed the staff to throw her and her friends out of the place.

Janet had looked into him after that and found out that he was just an attorney.

Was he the attorney that took on Catherine's case?

"I didn't know you're that close with these people." Shaun's darkened eyes turned to Hadley as he spoke flatly.

"You're pulling my legs," Hadley explained with a polite smile, "They mistook me for Miss Jones' attorney and thought that I'm a fresh graduate."

"Your face... Indeed, you look too young," Shaun commented after taking a quick look.

Hadley smiled and shrugged helplessly.

James understood what was happening now. However, as he was used to having Jeffery's support in Melbourne all this time, he had adopted an

arrogant attitude. He did not think highly of Shaun.

“Oh, I understand now. You’re Catherine’s attorney huh? Sigh, a good-looking man like you shouldn’t have to work as an attorney. Just finda sugar mommy and I’m sure you can live a better life than this.”

A hint of astonishment flashed across Hadley’s eyes. Well, the last person who dared to speak to Young Master Hill with that tone was long dead.

Catherine also threw a nervous glance at Shaun, only to see that he remained nonchalant as if he had not just been insulted.

“A piece of trash doesn’t deserve to speak to me.”

He retrieved his cold glance and turned toward Catherine. “Come in with me.”

Then, he walked toward the courtroom. She quickly trailed behind him.

Hadley flashed a smile at James. “Speak your mind when you still have the chance.”

His smile was reserved and polite, yet it sent a shudder down James’ spine. “Aunty, will I be alright?”

Sally looked at him tenderly. “Don’t worry, your Uncle Jeffery has cleaned up all the evidence left behind. You’re only here today as a witness.”

“Behave yourself next time if you’re a coward.” Jeffrey gave a snort of contempt. In actuality, he did not like James too much but Sally had taken aliking to this nephew. Besides, James knew how to please them with gifts every now and then.

“Don’t worry, this young lad is just using his powerful connections to intimidate people. I’ve not heard of him in Melbourne.”

Rebecca frowned. “I’ve seen him before. He’s a good friend of Chase Harrison. It was him who ordered to have me, Janet, and Cindy thrown out of the restaurant last time. James, you should probably watch your mouth.”

“What? He’s a friend of Chase Harrison?!” James was completely taken aback but soon regained his composure. “It’s alright, Miles Clark will surely punish him for taking on Catherine’s case. So what if he has Chase to back him up? The man himself is not a member of the Harrison family.”

Rebecca was persuaded. However, that man exuded an overly domineering aura as if he was at the top of the food chain. She had never seen anyone like him in Melbourne.

Just as she was lost in her thoughts, the elevator doors opened again. This time, Wesley and Ethan walked out of it at the same time.

Ethan clenched his teeth angrily the second he saw the woman. “Rebecca, you b*stard. I must’ve been blind to have actually trusted you!”

“Watch your mouth!” Jeffery reprimanded, “You’re the one who wanted to take advantage of my daughter. It’s a shame. Take a good look at yourself now. You don’t deserve her at all.”

Ethan suddenly laughed as he turned to look at the Jones couple.

“You used to take pride in watching me grow up and treated me as your own son. I thought it was all genuine. Rebecca is definitely your birth daughter. The three of you are exactly the same.”

Impatience washed over her face. “Don’t play the victim. You only got engaged to me because I’m the successor to Summit.”

“You...”

Ethan’s face was overcast. He was about to spit out harsh words when Wesley reminded him, “This is the courtroom. It’s not a place for you to argue.”

He had no choice but to keep quiet. However, as he walked toward the courtroom with his uncle, he could not resist throwing another glance at the rest. “James, do you know who’s the attorney representing Cathy today?”

A look of surprise flashed across James’ face. “A nobody. We’ve met earlier,” he replied with a cold smile.

“Ha, all of you are really uncultured.” Ethan walked into the courtroom after teasing them.

James and the Jones family who were left behind did not know how to react.

“It’s going to be alright. Catherine doesn’t have the money or connections. How could she have possibly hired someone more capable than Mr. Stewart?” Jeffery said before leading the others into the courtroom.

They had to be present today as they were the witnesses.

Catherine also threw a nervous glance at Shaun, only to see that he remained nonchalant as if he had not just been insulted.

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They had to be present today as they were the witnesses.

"Jump out of the car if you want." Shaun deliberately stretched out his necktie as he instructed Hadley, "Speed up. Drive at the speed where she'll die instantly if she jumps out right now."

"..."

Catherine was speechless.

This man was the devil himself.

Upon realizing that Hadley was actually speeding up, she glared at him angrily but her courage to jump out of the car had instantly diminished.

“Come here.” Finally, he gestured to her impatiently.

“As long as you don’t tie me up,” she said worriedly.

“Did I say I want to tie you up? You’re the one entertaining these filthy thoughts.” He impatiently grabbed her close and placed her on his lap.

There was someone else in the car! Her cheeks flushed instantly, and she dared not move around simply. To play safe, she initiated a neutral conversation topic.

“What would you like for dinner tonight? I’ll make anything you request to thank you for your help today.”

“It’s always food with you.” He threw her a mocking look before laughing sarcastically. “What else do you know apart from cooking for me?”

She was at a loss for words. He was the one who always ordered her to

cook for him.

He snorted when she did not reply. “Why were they here today?”

“I don’t know.” She blinked innocently with her round eyes.

“You’re prohibited to meet those two stupid things again,” he warned.

“ ... ”

She blushed with shame at his arrogant comment. Ethan was empty-headed but Wesley was at the very least a successful, young businessman.

“You don’t seem to agree with me?” Shaun asked. Beneath his raised eyebrows were eyes overflowing with dangerous intent.

“Of course I do.” Catherine instantly tried to curry his favor. “You’re right that they’re not on your level. The way you triumphed over the enemy at the courtroom today was incredibly awesome. I’ve no idea how you did that. Those horrible doings of James were well-hidden yet you managed to dig them out. You’re totally my idol. Incredible!”

She gestured a thumbs up and looked as if she was completely infatuated by his charms.

Despite that, she was speaking the truth. Initially, she thought it would be a challenge to win this case. It was not an easy feat to defeat someone as treacherous as James.

However, it seemed that Shaun handled it almost effortlessly.

The woman's eyes sparkled with brilliance. His thin lips curled upwards slightly and he instantly became delighted.

He had won countless court cases before but this was certainly his proudest achievement so far.

Shaun lazily placed an arm on the headrest while he played with her long chestnut-colored hair with his free hand.

“Do you know how much effort I poured into this case? Every piece of information and evidence did not come by easily.”

“I know, and I really appreciate it.” Catherine felt even more sorry upon hearing this.

He stole a glance at her out of the corner of his eyes. Suddenly, he massaged the area between his brows, looking exhausted. “I'm tired,” he

said through his thin lips.

“Let me give you a massage.” She quickly sat upright and started rubbing his temples.

He shut his eyes and quietly enjoyed this moment.

Hadley, who was sitting in front, twitched the corners of his lips. He was shocked by Young Master Hill’s shamelessness.

‘Please, all you did was give the orders. I was the one who ran back and forth tirelessly for

Catherine nodded. She would do that even without being told.

In order to express her gratitude, she made herself busy in the kitchen to prepare all of Shaun’s favorite dishes.

At this moment, she was checking her social media.

Well, the entire online community was criticizing Summit. Although Jeffery was not being investigated this time, the netizens did not believe the president of the company was innocent.

There were even petitions across the internet to boycott Summit.

Summit was going down!

The people from before who misunderstood her for accepting bribes all changed their minds and started to feel sorry for her after knowing that she had been framed.

She used to have one million followers but now the number had increased to over ten million. She was even more popular than some celebrities.

After dinner was ready, Aunty Linda could not help admiring the delicious-looking feast. "I didn't know you're such a great chef. No wonder Young Master Hill isn't willing to eat what I prepare."

This was a surprise to Catherine. She knew Shaun was reluctant to admit it but he had undoubtedly become accustomed to her cooking.

"Aunty Linda, I can show you how to make them next time. This way, you can cook for him even if I'm not around."

"Sure, but why wouldn't you be around? You two are married now, and you should stay together for the rest of your lives." Aunty Linda smiled as she tidied the space. Evidently, she had not thought twice about the remark.

Catherine was speechless. She needed to try harder to earn money now that the case was closed. She could not let herself be tied up to Shaun forever.

Aunty Linda was busy at the moment, thus she went upstairs to get a cleanset of loungewear before heading to the swimming pool.

A strong and fit figure moved swiftly in the water like a dolphin.

Catherine, who was standing by the pool, appeared dazed. His swimming skills were as good as professional swimmers.

The man sprung out of the water like a predator. His short dark hair was plastered on the edge of his forehead. Water droplets trickled down his hair, across his face, over his tall nose bridge, red lips, clavicles...

She was holding her breath without even realizing it. Goodness, this man ate so much every day yet his figure was still perfect.

Embarrassed, she looked away. "Dinner is ready. I've brought you a set of clothes."

She placed them on the side and intended to leave.

Shaun placed both palms on the edge of the pool and propped himself out of the water in a swift manner.

He was wearing swimming shorts and nothing else. His thighs were toned, and the water droplets emphasized every line and curve on his beautiful tanned body. He looked immaculate like the sculpture of David.

“Pat me dry,” he ordered as he wiped the water off his face with the back of his hand.

She was taken aback. “Um... It’s not a good idea. You should do it yourself.”

“I’m tired.” A weary look washed over his face.

“...”

She was speechless.

‘Are you sure? You were still energetic a second ago in the water.’

“Hurry up. I’m cold,” he urged. “What’s the matter? I just won you the court case but you can’t even do this little thing for me?”

“I’ll do it right now.”

She inched forward and spread out the towel. She tried drying his hair first but the man was much taller than her, thus she had to stand on her tiptoes. She did not notice that her upper body was almost pushing against his chest.

The woman’s pleasant scent filled the air around him.

She did not take much notice of that. Instead, she was frustrated because she could not dry the back of his head due to the height difference. Left with no choice, she walked to his back and went on her tiptoes, unintentionally pressing up against his back again.

“ ... ”

The man was speechless.

When Catherine went round to the front again and their eyes met, his gaze was burning.

Catherine's face flushed red from his stare and she hurriedly lowered her eyes, not knowing how seductive her appearance was.

The strings in Shaun's brain seemed to have easily snapped and he suddenly held her waist. "Is that thing of yours finished already?"

Catherine was a little bewildered and could not react. She could only subconsciously nod.

Immediately after, her body was lifted from the ground.

"What are you doing?" She hugged his neck in fright.

"Catherine Jones, I admit that your seduction skills are getting better and better." Shaun's voice was husky as he carried her to the bedroom upstairs.

The woman was going crazy. 'When did I seduce you? Brother, you're the one who told me to wipe you down. Aren't you supposed to have superb self-control? Didn't you think I was disgusting before?'

When Catherine was thrown onto the bed, she shuddered.

Although she had already expected this day to come after signing the contract that day, she was still very afraid. After all, her previous experience had left a deep trauma on her.

Shaun pinched the tip of her little nose, teasing her.

Catherine, "..."

"Wait." Catherine pushed his chest with red-rimmed eyes and an expression of pain. "Shaun, we can't do this. I don't deserve you."

"You're quite self-aware."

Shaun paused as he said with interest.

Catherine was choked up, but she could only steel her nerves and barrel on.

"It's because I know your identity now. You're a lawyer who stands above others while I'm just a small-time designer with no backing. There's a whole world of difference between us. I can't use my lowly body and pull you down from your altar. That's blasphemy. It's an insult."

“Didn’t you want to climb into my bed before?” Shaun raised his brows.

“...”

‘That’s only because I thought you were Ethan’s uncle.’

However, Catherine did not dare to tell the truth and could only say weakly, “It’s because I didn’t know anything back then. I thought that conquering your body would gain me your heart, but then I found out that I was wrong.”

“You were wrong.”

Shaun stroked her chin over and over again with a deep smile. “I hate being schemed against by women, but I’m still a man. Since you just so happened to appear, I gave you a chance.”

Catherine’s eyes widened. Every pore in her body seemed to scream, ‘No!’

Seeing the man’s lips getting closer and closer, she was at a loss. She was just about to close her eyes when Shaun suddenly stopped. “You wait here. I’m going to take a shower.”

He remembered that he had just come out of the swimming pool and was not clean. It would be a problem if her body became infected with germs.

Shaun stood up and elegantly went to the bedroom, while Catherine lay on the bed and fought with her conflicting feelings for a long time. Although she had already told herself many times before to be brave, when it was finally time for it to happen, she suddenly felt afraid.

After struggling for a long time, she still turned tail and ran.

When Shaun came out of the shower, the bedroom was empty and there was no one left on the bed.

He went downstairs to find her with a dark expression on his face. Aunty Linda asked curiously, "It's almost time for dinner. Why did the madam run out?"

Only then did Shaun realize that Catherine's struggles earlier were because she was unwilling.

Damn it. He kindly gave her the opportunity to legitimize her position, but she refused!

Shaun was so angry he immediately called her. "Catherine Jones, get your *ss back here right now! Do you need me to remind you of the contents of

the contract? Do you think I run a charity and will work for free just because I see injustice? Or do you think that your cooking skills are worth a couple hundred million dollars?

“Besides, it’s not your first time. Why are you still pretending in front of me?”

Everything he said was like a whip on Catherine’s heart as she listened on the other side of the phone.

In the beginning, she had felt very apologetic, but now, she was also angry. “How would you know it’s not my first time?”

“Ethan Lowe and you started dating in high school. How could it be your first time?” Shaun did not believe at all that teenagers nowadays could maintain a pure relationship.

“I’ve never done it with him before.” Catherine felt very wronged. “I still have my first time. Whether you believe me or not is up to you.”

Shaun was stunned, his heart a little frustrated. “I’ll give you ten minutes. Get back here now or suffer the consequences.”

On the other end of the phone, Catherine stood by the pool for a while

before finally returning to the villa.

After all, she did owe him. She did not want to be an ungrateful person.

Shaun stood at the door waiting for her. The dim light fell on his handsome face, flickering.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean it. I was just scared...” Catherine obediently went to his side and apologized. “If you still want to, I’ll accompany you back to the room.”

Shaun gritted his teeth. “Why didn’t I see you being afraid when you were seducing me before?”

“At that time... It might be because love is reckless, so I pursued you without second thoughts!” Catherine lied, wanting to cry but not able to shed tears. “After being rejected, I chickened out and developed a trauma.”

Shaun, “...”

The dignity he lost seemed to be slowly recovered by her again, and his mood was not as irritable as before.

“Fine. I won’t touch you for now. Go in and eat.”

He turned around and went back to the living room with a cold face.

Catherine was stunned, in disbelief that he let her go just like that.

...

Summit.

In the chairman’s office, Jeffery was listening to the general manager’s report.

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“Besides, it’s not your first time. Why are you still pretending in front of me?”

Everything he said was like a whip on Catherine’s heart as she listened on the other side of the phone.

In the beginning, she had felt very apologetic, but now, she was also angry. “How would you know it’s not my first time?”

“Ethan Lowe and you started dating in high school. How could it be your first time?” Shaun did not believe at all that teenagers nowadays could maintain a pure relationship.

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After all, she did owe him. She did not want to be an ungrateful person.

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et me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 149

“I’m not someone you can just fall in love with,” he said arrogantly but still let her go. He was not giving her a hard time anymore.

The conversation ended just like that, and Catherine sighed in relief. It seemed that she still had to pretend to be deeply in love in the future.

...

9:00 am.

After she arrived at the company, she went directly to the office to find Joseph.

She had been on leave since she was arrested by the police previously and had not been to the company since.

Firstly, she was afraid that her colleagues' comments would make things hard for Joseph, and she did not want Talton Design's reputation to be damaged again.

Although the lawsuit was over, she still felt guilty toward Joseph.

“Joseph, I'm really sorry. I haven't been in the company for long yet I'm always causing trouble for you and the company.”

Catherine was very grateful. She knew that Joseph had been under a lot of pressure for not firing her.

“It’s okay, I’ve always believed in your character.” Joseph smiled and poured her a cup of tea. “Besides, we can consider this a blessing in disguise. I finally entered Melbourne and Summit has always been my biggest competitor, but now, Jeffery is planning to sell Summit.”

Catherine froze. Although she knew that Summit had encountered a big hurdle this time, with Jeffery’s personality, he was not someone who would give up that easily.

If he sold off Summit, the Jones family would lose their standing in Melbourne. Could they accept that?

“You don’t have to be so surprised. James Lennon’s scandal was too big and Summit has a very bad reputation now. No one will dare to cooperate with them for the next two years at least. Many of the upper management staff and designers have also been poached away. Jeffery Jones won’t be able to achieve anything without support.”

Joseph explained to her, “No one will be stupid enough to inject capital into them. Maybe Summit will be able to rise again once the winds die down, but if a large company like them wants to retain their talents, the huge losses might end up bankrupting the Jones family.”

Catherine understood. Jeffery wanted to sell Summit at this time so he could make a profit and also stop his losses in time. Then, he could take the money and use it in other investments.

“You deserve the biggest credit for this.” Joseph raised his teacup and offered her a toast.

Catherine drank the tea and said, “Joseph, please arrange more assignments for me. I just finished the lawsuit and owe a large amount in legal fees.”

“That’s true. The cost of hiring that big name, Shaun Hill, must not be cheap.”

Joseph laughed before taking out a document from the drawer and handing it over. “Do you know the property of Hudson Corporation? It’s located in the prime location of the city and is currently under construction. I asked around and found that there are four apartments and seven residential houses that are to be renovated. If you can take these on, I’ll give you a commission of ten million. The design costs will be calculated separately.”

Catherine’s eyes lit up as she said excitedly, “I’ll do my best, Joseph.”

“The manager of Hudson Corporation and I have had dealings before, so you can go to him directly.” Joseph gave her a business card.

Catherine was slightly stunned and moved to the point of speechlessness.

“Joseph, what if the other designers in the company find out about this...?”

“I simply gave you a phone number. Whether you succeed or fail is all on you.”
Joseph winked at her.

Catherine caught the hint. She had to take this project and make sure not to let Joseph down.

After going back to her office, she was about to look through the information on Hudson when Ethan suddenly called.

She could not be bothered with him and declined the call.

Ethan called a few more times, making her annoyed, so she blacklisted the number.

Let me go, Mr. Hill [by Shallow South] Chapter 150

In the afternoon, Catherine had just stepped out of the elevator when Ethan's figure appeared and blocked her way.

“Do you know how annoying you are? Didn't I make things clear to you the last time?”

Catherine saw him and took a detour.

“Cathy, your grandmother passed away!” Ethan suddenly grabbed her arm. “Don’t you know anything about it?”

Catherine’s body shook. She turned around slowly, her eyes filled with disbelief. “You’re lying!”

“I’m not. I kept calling you today because I wanted to comfort you, but it looks like the Jones family really didn’t tell you anything.”

Ethan had just finished speaking when Catherine broke away from him and ran to her car.

However, her hands were shaking so much that she could not open the door.

“Come on, you can’t drive like this. I’ll take you there since I know the place.” Ethan took her car keys and opened the door. He helped her in and buckled her seatbelt before speeding to the funeral parlor.

After getting out of the car, Catherine stumbled and rushed into the hall.

When the portrait of Granny Jones entered her sight, the truth that she did not want to believe was finally cemented.

Tears fell down her cheeks in large droplets.

She never thought that the engagement party would be the last time she saw her grandmother.

She was too unfilial. She had let her grandmother down.

“Who let you in here?” Dressed in black, Jeffery looked at her with a belly full of anger and dragged her to the door. “Get the hell out!”

“Why can’t I come? I’m Grandma’s granddaughter.” Catherine stood up and struggled like a wild beast with red eyes. “Why didn’t you tell me that Granny died? You even deprived me of my right to see her off for the last time! This family is simply deranged!”

“How dare you scold me, you wretch?!”

Jeffery raised his hand to slap her face, but Ethan rushed up to block him, saying angrily, “Did Cathy say anything wrong? Granny Jones loved Cathy

ever since she was a child. If you don't even let Cathy send her off one last time, aren't you afraid that Granny's spirit won't die in peace?"

The words 'die in peace' made Jeffery's pupils shrink fiercely.

Catherine did not notice that and simply asked blankly, "Why did Granny suddenly die? Although she was paralyzed the last time I saw her, she could still eat well. She shouldn't have left so suddenly."

Jeffery's thin lips trembled. Surprisingly, it seemed as if he had forgotten how to speak.

At the side, Rebecca sighed sadly and said, "Grandma didn't eat much after that and her mental condition was a mess. In addition, the incident with James and you caused the company to be in a bad situation, so Mom and Dad have been busy trying to fix the situation and occasionally neglected Granny. Who would've thought that... she left just like that."

Rebecca shed tears as she spoke, "Dad, don't be so hard on yourself."

Jeffery was reminded by Rebecca's words and whirled around to face Catherine. "This is all your fault! If you hadn't messed up Summit, I wouldn't have been troubled with so many matters and your grandmother wouldn't have died."

Ethan could not bear to listen to him anymore. "Uncle, how could you still push the blame onto Cathy even at this point? It's obvious that it's because

you didn't discipline James well. He did all those things because you indulged him. You reap what you sow."

"Ethan, I know that you don't think well of us anymore because we annulled our marriage, but you can't slander my father like this," Rebecca accused with red eyes.

Ethan might have been able to bear it in the past, but after he had seen Rebecca's true colors, he felt sicker the more he saw her.

"Rebecca Jones, I'm very glad I didn't end up marrying such a two-faced woman like you!" Ethan gritted his teeth and said.

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