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Tomas and Donna exchanged glances and nodded. After a few moments, Romeo arrived, followed by George and Jennifer.

“George, Jennifer, you’ve heard about Bella’s situation too.” Tomas was just rising to his feet when he sensed something off about their moods.

Donna noticed it too, but before she could reflect further, Arabella, Phillip, and Shirley came downstairs. Arabella looked completely fine, as if nothing had happened to her at all.

Phillip and Shirley, on the other hand, were like volcanoes ready to erupt, with an oppressive presence. Only then did Tomas and Donna realize they had been taken for a ride.

“It was my idea,” Romeo initiated, taking the blame upon himself.

When Bella told him that the masterminds were his aunt and uncle, he had someone locate their private jet, which had already landed at their private airstrip.

At such a time, approaching their house was risky—first because it could spook them, second because there was no guarantee of entry, third because it was their territory, heavily guarded. If they were to confront them directly, rescuing their grandparents from their clutches would be like climbing Everest.

But luring the grandparents here was a different story. First, his aunt and uncle couldn't bring a large entourage, and second, it would allow the grandparents for a safe escape. Third, he and Bella could set up their own crew in advance at Reflections Villa, leaving his aunt and uncle with no escape.

Knowing that the grandparents cared for Bella above all, he made up a lie which, as expected, successfully tricked the old couple into coming.

In Arabella’s room, this young lady had already explained the whole situation to the old couple.

Now, Phillip and Shirley sat in the seats of honor, Phillip’s face stern as he asked, “Now that we’re all here, let’s talk about why you set fire to the clinic all those years ago, harming Kenneth and Louisa?”

Kenneth and Louisa had also come downstairs, eager to hear why they would want to harm them. Over the years, they had no grudges with them; in fact, they got along quite well.

When Bella told them that the devastating fire had something to do with Tomas and Donna, they were stunned. It was completely unexpected!

Donna still looked every inch the dignified lady, exuding the poise and grace of the elite even without uttering a word.

Tomas also had an imposing presence; anyone could tell that he was someone people would respect on a daily basis.

“Could there be some kind of misunderstanding?” To s'eraiel | Ss warm and thinly not at all like someone capable of foul deeds. Please read the original content at .

Donna maintained her elegant composure. Even judging from her smile, she didn't align with the word “culprit.”

Just then, Jeffery, Luna, and Cathy, who had heard the news, simultaneously ran into the living room, panting heavily. “Why are you here?” Donna looked at the three children, her eyes filled with love.

“Was the fire from back then connected to you?” Cathy blurted out right away. “Speak up.”

Jeffery tugged at Cathy's sleeve, signaling her to calm down for a moment.

Luna still had her usual serene and cool demeanor, though side, Her' \ otigng yeere bhbinig in disbelief that her parents could be involved in that past tragedy. Please read the original content at .

“In front of everyone here, make it clear today,” Phillip Benatar

he was ra one sbeth ng wrong, his aura one of authority and intimidation. Please

read the original content at .

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“No need for sophistry,” Shirley said, her expression steely. “We want the truth.”

They had weathered many a storm, and even though they suspected their eldest son and daughter-in-law could be the masterminds behind it all, they managed not to lose their composure.

Asimmering rage was on the brink of bursting into flames, just waiting for a gust of wind to fan it into an inferno.

Tomas and Donna remained silent, and Louisa couldn't help but ask, "Tomas, Donna, did you really do this? Our families have been close for generations. I can honestly say I've never done anything to harm you. Why would you do this to us, not even sparing a newborn?"

Moreover, but they had caused an explosion at the entire clinic, implicating countless innocents.

"Mom, Dad, please say something," Cathy pleaded. "Why would you hurt Bella's family? The Collinses have always been so kind to us, and my sister-in-law. You almost made me lose her!"

Tomas and Donna remained silent.

"Dad, Mom," Jeffery stepped forward. "Cathy's just impulsive. She doesn't mean any disrespect. If there's something from the past that we don't know about, now that we're all here, it's time to speak up."

"Dad, Mom," Luna also chimed in. "Whether it was intentional or coincidental, we need an explanation. Bella has suffered for eighteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Collins have been separated from their flesh and blood for so long. For these reasons at least, we owe them an explanation."

Now that the investigation has led to their parents, they must have been more or less related to what happened all those years ago. Otherwise, with Bella's nature, she wouldn't have brought it up.

Donna's gaze finally settled on Arabella as she asked in a calm voice, "What exactly did Beverly tell you?"

She knew Arabella had visited Beverly today and that they had chatted about the situation at home. Beverly had even expressed her regret that she hadn't got the chance to read the poems and take a trip with her families.

Beverly had mentioned the beauty of the outside world—words that can't be fully expressed by the intermediary—probably she urged Arabella not to be so busy, to take some time to enjoy the scenery with Romeo.

After leaving Beverly, Arabella had returned to the lab. Everything seemed normal. But here was a sudden explosion in the lab. Then, Steward drove Arabella back to Reflections Villa, and the family doctor was summoned.

It all seemed so normal that Donna hadn't realized it was Romeo and Arabella who had set a trap for them. "It had nothing to do with Aunt Beverly," Arabella replied.

She knew her aunt and uncle had kept silent about the true culprit because they had been threatened with the lives of Frederica and Alma.

The power of Tomas and Donna's far exceeded that of Lucas and Beverly's.

If they knew that it was Beverly who had given her the clue, it would be Frederica and Aunt Beverly—even Aunt Beverly, who were locked up inside, would also be in danger. Please read the original content at .

"It was Sam who left clues before he died, along with M's password" | Briks alone) Ailthe evidence points to you." Please read the original content at .

Arabella's words made Donna smile casually, her poise radiating elegance and grace.

"If that were the case, you wouldn't have waited until now to settle scores with us," Donna's eyes layed in a calm and peaceful, with a touch of gentleness. "You would have come after us long before Lucas and Beverly were taken into the detention center." Please read the original content at .

She knew the young lady had no solid evidence.

Probably something Beverly said had emboldened her to be so sure.

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But the intermediary, after eavesdropping on the aunt and niece's conversation, found nothing suspicious. There had been no physical contact between them. How in the world did Beverly pass on the information to the young girl??

"I indeed have no substantial evidence at hand. Whether to reveal it or not, that's up to you to decide," Arabella admitted honestly and straightforwardly.

Donna smiled brightly, a smile more precious than jewels, "Do you know why I like you? Among people our age, you're like a brilliant pearl, shining so brightly that you can't be ignored."

She knew that any further excuses were futile. The situation had reached this point, and they simply could not get out of here. The outside must have already been surrounded by people.

Given the temperaments of the old man and the old lady, they'd surely have their whole family of five sent to the police office.

She didn't want to implicate her children. Her gaze fell on Louisa, "Truth be told, | have no grudges against you. My circumstances back in the day weren't so different from Beverly's. For quite a long time, we sympathized and depended on each other for support."

Louisa glanced at her, then at Jennifer and the others. Why did this sound like it was a family matter of the McMillian family??

"Are you saying that Dad should have handed the company over to my older brother?" George looked at Donna, surprised at her thoughts.

"It's not just her," Tomas picked up. "I think so too." Everyone was astonished. "Ever since we were kids, in academics or anything else, | always outshined you," Tomas said, turning to his brother.

Relatives would always praise him whenever they visited, talking about how capable he was and how his father would, sooner or later, hand over the company to him.

Moreover, some old board members and shareholders would speak highly of him every time they saw him, saying that under his leadership, the company would surely reach new heights.

Even the private tutors tailored their lessons around shaping an excellent successor.

From childhood to adulthood, he had always believed that the company would be passed down to him—the eldest son—so he had always been strict with himself as an heir.

"But what | didn't expect was that three months before Dad announced his successor, you were constantly at his side. | didn't know why at the time, until the day, during the company's annual meeting, Dad publicly announced that he was handing the company over to you."

George had just graduated from college when their father gave him the reins of the company! Tomas, usually so composed, was visibly upset by the memory.

It should be noted that, he had graduated a year before George and had started from the ground up at the company. It took him a whole year to climb to a high-level position!

But in the end, he had to watch his younger brother, fresp.qut of ebnegd, takg-chatg@of the' company and become his superior! Please read the original content at .

How could he not be furious about that!!

“You took away the woman | loved, and then even tried to take her! Pie tone carried a hint of resentment. Please read the original content at .

Jeffery, Luna, and Cathy were all stunned. What was going on?? Cathy's eyes were wide with shock. There was a feud between her uncle and her father??

George was somewhat bewildered as he heard him bring this, “aaveh! t seahinyeaire dy passed?” Please read the original content at .

“In my heart, it can never be passed!”

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Tomas' words left George utterly dumbfounded. It took a moment before he managed to ask, “If it can never be passed. then why did you marry Donna?”

It was then that everyone noticed the sorrow in Donna's eyes.

“What's going on?” Jennifer asked her husband George directly, “Didn't you say that | was your first love? Had you dated other girls before you were with me? Did you even take away the girl your brother liked??”

“Jennifer, let me explain.”

Just as Jennifer was about to twist George's arm in frustration, Donna spoke up, “The person he liked was you.” Everyone went silent.

Even Jennifer thought she must have heard wrong. Tomas liked her? How could that be possible.

Though she had grown up with Tomas and George together, she knew very well that Tomas only saw her as a little sister.

“When you got into college, he wanted to confess his feelings to you,” Donna continued, “but then he found out you were with George. He was heartbroken for a long time.”

Hearing this, Jennifer turned to look at her husband George, having no idea about this. George could only recount the events back then.

“We were in a relationship at that time. One day, Tomas found me, beat me up like a madman, and said that he loved you and wanted us to break up. But how could we part when we were deeply in love? Besides, | had been crushing on you for years.”

The revelation was explosive. Not just Jeffrey and Luna were shocked, but Cathy stood with her mouth agape, unable to process the information.

This was like something straight out of a soap opera. Her father, her uncle, they had such a tangle in the past.

George tried to clarify, “Back then, Tomas always called you ‘little sister Jennifer,’ and | really thought he saw you as a sister. | never knew his feelings. He also thought | was heartless and naive, and he never expected that | would pursue you, let alone end up together. When he realized we wouldn't split, he suffered for a long time.”

Only then did Jennifer remember that during the time she was dating George, Tomas seemed to appear less frequently, as if only George existed in her world.

But she had been so immersed in her sweet romance that she paid no attention to this. Only now did she realize why Tomas had been so scarce.

“Do you know how | got through that time?” Tomas’ voice was filled with restraint and pain; his eyes reddened as if he were a caged animal on the verge of devouring his younger brother.

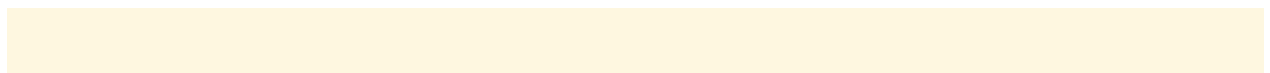
“Every day was sheer torture. | had to pull myself together under the guise of being the heir, but the old return every ni seagthGat in

Heart. aha Peli ing persisted throughout my college years, and even after | graduated and started working from the bottom up in the company, working day and night, | couldn't escape the pain.” Please read the original content at .

Tomas paused, seemingly lost in the painful memories, before continuing, “Later, when Dad suddenly com announce cat thenoimpany’ S annual Bui NS you were the successor, do you know how | felt? It was like climbing desperately out of a pit, only to be brutally kicked down again by someone, and this person, was my dearest brother!” Please read the

original content at .

Hearing this, George hurriedly said, “Brother, you've got it all wrong. Dad talked to me about this three months before he made th aunge Atyhattiime| dir have any real experience in managing a group, all my knowledge came from books, and | hadn't really learned how to apply it. In addition, | was still three months away from graduation, it was simply not suitable for me to take care of such a large group.” Please read the original content at .



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George hurriedly explained to his older brother, “I nagged Dad for three whole months, trying to get him to change his mind. In the end, Dad told me that if | took over the reins of the group, you wouldn't have to work so hard. | thought about how my thing with Jennifer hurt you, and if | could make your days ahead a bit easier, a bit happier.”

That’s why he showed up at the company’s annual meeting!! Later, his brother mentioned he had a new dream; he wanted to chase after his own dream and start his venture outside. How could a younger brother not support him?

And later, his brother made a success of himself and married Donna. George thought the matter of his brother liking Jennifer had turned the page.

But he never expected that, about two decades later, his brother would stand before him and say he couldn't get past it for the rest of his life.

Tomas didn’t expect that his younger brother’s insistence with their father had been for his sake, to let him inherit the company. He was completely stunned.

At that moment, Phillip, who was sitting at the main seat, spoke up.

“From the time you were in kindergarten until you graduated from college, | raised both of you as my successors. You attended the same private lessons, all designed around shaping a competent and outstanding heir. As a father, | never favored one over the other.”

Tomas was somewhat surprised, as he had always thought that his father only trained him, and he didn’t expect his brother to be included.

Phillip’s gaze settled on Tomas, “You've always had better grades than George, but George is more adaptable, flexible, and knows how to improvise. By contrast, you’ve always been too by-the-book.”

Phillip’s words caused Tomas to pause in thought. He had always believed his academic excellence was more than enough to overshadow his brother.

He hadn't anticipated that in their father’s mind, grades were not the only criterion for evaluation. What his father valued more was flexibility and adaptability in action.

“Since childhood, George has been capable of resilience; he was not a slave to his emotions, unlike you, who can be easily shrouded in negativity for so long. He has his own principles and

approach to life. In contrast, you stick to the rules. With the group in your hands, it's hard to expect breakthroughs."

Tomas, who had always seen himself as the chosen one, felt like he'd been struck by a bolt from the blue upon hearing his father's words.

Phillip continued, "Before | announced the successor, | did talk to George a few times. But George felt he was too flighty than you, his calm older brother. Besides, the tradition among the other prominent families was always to pass the company to the eldest, and he didn't think there was a precedent for giving it to a younger son, so he kept refusing. But | trust my judgment."

Tomas' heart took another hit.

He had always thought that with the best grades and heres avaras His fetheryrauld stitch) and over the company to him. Please read the original content at .

Furthermore, with the praises fro relatives, direc pspared Sharéhbl ers cVar tbs yaats. lease read the

original content at .

And the conventional practice to pass the family business to the eldest son. He believed that he was the rightful heir to the company.

He thought that it was only because his brother pestered their fat eHYen three months thaphe@hahge his rhinld eaten to hand over the company to his younger sibling. Please read the original content at .

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Never in a million years did he think that in their father's heart, his younger brother was the most suitable successor.

"From the time you both were in preschool until you graduated from college, all the tests were subtly integrated into your daily lives. The challenges | set for you were the same, and every time, George outperformed you."

That's why Phillip insisted on choosing George as his successor.

“Hold on a minute.” Cathy interjected, confused, “What does this have to do with the Collins family? And what about that fire from years ago???”

She felt like she had been listening forever but was still clueless about the connection. That’s when Donna started to speak, her voice tinged with self-deprecating humor, “I had the biggest crush on your father for six

whole years in middle and high school. | worked my butt off to get into the same college as him, just to spend more time around

him.” Everyone was stunned, Cathy included, who was gaping in disbelief.

“The day we started college, | finally mustered the courage to confess my feelings to him, only to be turned down.”

Donna chuckled at the memory, “After that, | confessed year after year, and was rejected just as many times, right up until graduation. | still couldn’t win his heart.”

Now that even Jeffery, Luna, and Cathy were taken aback. They had never imagined their usually quiet and reserved mother had been so fervently pursuing their father in her youth.

“It was after | had received my degree that Tomas first mentioned the name Jennifer to me. He told me to stop wasting my time on him, saying he only had room in his heart for Jennifer.”

All eyes turned to Jennifer, who herself was surprised by the depth of Tomas' feelings for her.

“But | was young and stubborn, how could | admit defeat to someone else? The more unattainable he was, the more | wanted to prove myself. On one hand, | felt sorry that he loved someone he couldn't have; on the other hand, | thought | stood a chance, and then there was a part of me moved by his deep affection. After that, | went all out to be good to him.”

Donna’s voice was laced with the sour tang of old regrets as she continued.

“For him, | interned at McMillian Corporation, starting from the bottom like he did. On the night Phillip announced the successor, Tomas got drunk for the first time, crying his heart out. Maybe it was the alcohol talking, maybe he just needed someone to comfort him, but that rainy night led to something indescribable. The next day, he woke up and said he would take responsibility.”

No one could have guessed that was how their parents came together.

“At the time, | was so happy, thinking | finally saw the silver lining after all the clouds. Even though | soon found out that all he had for me was courtesy and a distant companionship, | was willing to be the moth to his flame. When he wanted to start his own business, | was right there with him. No matter how hard or exhausting it was, | wanted to show him that even though | was a pampered miss, spoiled from childhood, | was capable of standing by his side, through thick and thin.”

As Donna spoke, a tearful smile played on her lips.

“Later, when George and Jennifer got married, he got drunk again, mistaking me for her. Then, I got (one) pregnant, and (P) Esnee Buy after our marriage, I discovered that whenever he was drunk, he'd call out her name. Even after I had our second and third child, sometimes I could still hear him calling for Jennifer in his dreams.” Please read the original content at .

Overcome with emotion, Donna could no longer hold back her tears.

All these years, she had made so many sacrifices. For her husband—too much indeed, she transformed from a maidenly young JOG unchest ally, a formidable figure in the business world as if she had experienced a rebirth. But in the end, she was still not comparable to Jennifer!! Please read the original content at .

There was a place in her husband's heart that, though they were married, though they had children, she still couldn't enter.

The bitter irony that the love of her life, her husband, cherished her so. How could

could she not feel resentment? Please read the original content at

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Especially when George and Jennifer appeared together, the more love they showed for each other, the deeper the wound inflicted on Tomas' heart, the colder Tomas became towards her.

And so, Donna grew to hate Jennifer more and more.

Why should Jennifer effortlessly win the love of both brothers and live so happily, outshining her the moment she married into the family?

Why should she endure such hardship. George and Jennifer's love shone brightly. While her own love was dim and shadowed.

Donna continued, “Then there was this old board member who applied for resignation and went back to his hometown to live out his old age. He had been with George ever since he took over the group and was instrumental in helping him establish a foothold. George thought he wanted to retire due to old age, so he gave him a generous reward to ensure his comfortable retirement.”

Donna paused before adding, “But later, George found out that he had actually returned home for a surgery at Mercy Hospital due to health problems. The old man didn’t want to worry them. When George learned of this, he wanted to visit him that very night.”

Donna’s thoughts seemed to drift back to that evening, “At that time, Tomas' loathing for George had peaked, and my resentment towards Jennifer had burrowed deep into my bones. I was aware that Tomas had orchestrated an ambush at the clinic, planning to blow up the entire place upon George’s arrival, taking the old man along with it.”

Because that “old man” had always been a staunch supporter of George, while showing nothing but disdain for Tomas and for her, the two of them had endured him for far too long.

A flicker of hatred flashed in Donna’s eyes, “When I learned about the plan, I wanted Jennifer to go too, to die with them. I told her that the old board member had always been wholeheartedly supportive of George, of the McMillian family, and as George’s wife, it would be good for her to visit as well. She didn’t think much of it and agreed.”

But then, Jennifer suddenly got her period, and with the pain and the mess, George couldn’t bear to see her suffer, not to mention, it wouldn’t be good to go out and see people with soiled clothes.

So, George decided to send her back home to rest and go visit the old board member alone. Unbeknownst to them, in this brief window of time, the clinic would explode.

After the police got involved, they reported the fire as an accident, so George didn’t think much of it.

Only now did he realize that the fire was a trap set for his elder father in order to kill him. Please read the

original content at .

And his sister-in-law Donna hated Jennifer so much and wouldn't mind her death. If it weren't for Jennifer's sudden period. If it weren't for his decision to return to the mansion.

He and Jennifer would have died together in the explosion with the doctor Hember. Please read the

original content at .

Just as George was about to confront his brother about his cruel intentions, he saw his ethieruhl |
fy rq Ponmpalhierrac a mask of shock and fury, “You sent Jennifer there? | wondered why she
suddenly went with us that night. You wanted her dead?! How could you even think of such a
thing?” Please read the original content at .

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“| did wish her dead!” Donna burst out, her voice trembling with emotion. “Don’t think | don’t
see what you’re up to. You think that as the elder brother, it’s right that you take care of your
little brother’s wife and children now that he’s been blown up? You want to divorce me and then
what? Slip into his shoes, playing house with her?”

Tomas fell silent. And his silence was the last straw for Donna.

“So, this really is what you’re thinking.” Donna’s voice cracked, tears streaming down her
cheeks, “I got it right. Haven’t you thought about how old your three children are? You still like
her even now.”

In a fit of rage and disappointment, Donna grabbed the mug from the table, along with the fruit
bowl, and hurled them at Tomas with all her might.

This was the first time anyone had seen Donna lose control like this.

“You’re heartless!” Donna looked at the man in front of her with desperate sorrow, and accused
with intense indignation. “After all these years I’ve spent on you, in your heart, I’m still less than
nothing compared to her!”

He could stand to see his own brother blown up, yet he can’t bear to part from his brother’s wife.
Suddenly, Donna felt that she had become a joke all these years. Marrying this man seemed like
the biggest mistake of her life!

“| hate you.” Donna’s voice was a whisper, choked with sobs, her body shaking. “Tomas, | hate
you, you’re the coldest, most heartless man alive. You don’t deserve a single ounce of the love
I’ve poured out for you. You don’t deserve it!”

Tomas watched his wife breaking down, a torrent of emotions flooding him, but didn’t know
how to comfort her. “Why can you be so cruel. Why can’t you see everything I’ve done.”
Donna’s voice broke as she stumbled, nearly collapsing. Luna and Cathy rushed up to steady her.

“Dad, you're wrong,” said Jeffrey, giving his father a disappointed look and offering his mother a tissue to dry her tears. He felt his father had truly let everyone down.

Donna couldn't stop crying. She didn't understand why she had given so much but couldn't touch her husband's heart! From junior high until now, she had devoted the best years of her life to the man before her. She thought she was chasing the light.

But it turned out to be a false light that led her straight to hell and years of torment.

Years of grievances and heartache all burst out in this moment. Donna cried her heart out. Shirley, out of nowhere, stepped in front of her eldest son and slapped him hard across the face. “This slap is for Donna!”

There was no more that had to be said. Tomas had married a woman

but didn't fulfill his responsibilities as a husband; his mind is preoccupied with his brother's woman—that deserved a slap! Please read the original content at .

Seeing Shirley stand up for her made Donna cry even harder. She didn't expect Shirley to be so understanding at this time.

“Brother, you've gone too far!” George was utterly disappointed in his brother. Something else, in the heart, his brother had truly failed Donna! Please read the original content at .

Tomas, with tears welling in his eyes, looked at him and said, “When I

you to break up with her, you should understand that matters of the heart can't always be controlled.” Please read the original content at .

His heart ached too. On one hand, he felt sorry for his wife, but on the other, he couldn't control his feelings for Jennifer.

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Particularly after Jennifer became a married woman, she blossomed into an even more enchanting figure, her allure intensified, utterly irresistible.

At every family gathering, her parents' birthdays, holidays, and celebrations, her stunning beauty captured his gaze, tugging at his heartstrings.

He had exhausted all his acting skills to control his emotions and not show them. "What does this have to do with the Collins family???" Shirley demanded, her anger flaring. "Back then, Lucas' situation was similar to mine. We sympathized with each other, and Donna and Beverly also became friends."

That night, one of Tomas' men reported to him that George and Jennifer had returned home, apparently because Jennifer had her period suddenly and was not feeling well.

Tomas had planned on seizing the opportunity to strike, but then his men reported that Kenneth and Louisa were at Mercy Hospital, and Louisa had just given birth to a daughter.

He called Lucas, offering to take care of things for them once and for all, as his men were already in position at the clinic, with the explosives all set for action.

If Kenneth and Louisa died, the family business would naturally fall into Lucas' hands. And later, Lucas could lend his support to Tomas in taking over the company from George.

At the time, Tomas was building his own company, which was not as large as the one his brother had inherited, and he needed support.

By then, he was already intimate with Lucas and his wife.

"But Lucas hesitated. After all, it was his own brother, and his sister-in-law had just given birth to a daughter. He found it hard to be ruthless, but I told him, 'No guts, no glory.' all this while hoping he would bear in mind my support when he eventually took over the family business."

Everyone was shocked upon hearing the truth. But what Tomas hadn't anticipated was that Kenneth and Louisa would escape the inferno with their baby.

When he received the news, he immediately sent his men to clear the remaining trouble, fearing any survivors could pose a threat to him.

However, not long after his men arrived, Kenneth and Louisa's people showed up. He had no choice but to order his men to retreat. He never expected that the child Kenneth and Louisa had saved wasn't their own flesh and blood, but Serena.

Nor did he foresee that Arabella would be taken in and raised by the Murphy family.

He only learned of this many years later, but by then, he figured since the Collins and the roley Families? Hawn'realized their children had been mistakenly switched, he might as well stay out of it, feigning ignorance. Please read the original content at .

“You bastard!!” Shirley, seething with rage, slapped him, and unable to contain her fury, struck him two more times, “So this was all your doing.”

Phillip also lashed out with a punch, “What gave you the right to decide for Lucas? That was their family business. What does it have to do with you?”

He never imagined his eldest son could do such a thing.

George stepped forward and landed a heavy punch on his brother,” couldn't even gpanayoul own brother. Youiveboes coveting your younger brother's wife for years.” Please read the original content at .

It was despicable, utterly despicable! Then Jeffery stepped up, his fists clenched, and struck his father hard, “Are you even human??”

“If you felt the company should've been yours, if you thought it was unfair, why didn't you just talk to Grandpa and have agohuersatiol? Ire foe enecenne company; it was Grandpa who chose him. But you, without asking, making things up yourself, harboring resentment against him for years, even plotting to kill him!” Luna, too, was disheartened by her father's actions. Please read the original content at .

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“Not only that, Dad, but you also had designs on Aunt Jennifer and broke Mom's heart. If you didn't love my mom back then, you didn't have to marry her. Now you're married yet failed to take responsibility. You were like eyeing the next best thing while you've got a full plate—completely outrageous!” Cathy fumed.

She had lashed out at her father, then turned to her mother, “And you, knowing full well he didn't care for you, you wasted so much time on him. You're the prestigious girl, for heaven's sake, raised with such care. Your grandparents held you in the palm of their hands and cared for you meticulously all those years—not to be trampled on by someone who doesn't appreciate you!”

Her mother, Donna, was stunned by her daughter's words.

“Ever since we were kids, we were always compared to Uncle George and his family. Everyone believed we were not doing as good as they did. At every social event, if they were present, guests would flock to them. Even in their absence, those people would still question us about them.”

Cathy's outburst had stunned everyone present.

“For example, ‘Is Mr. George McMillian coming to the birthday party?’ or ‘What’s their next move on that big project?’ or ‘Will they attend the charity gala?’ or ‘Are they going to clinch that real estate deal?’.”

Cathy took a deep breath, “No one ever cared to ask how we were doing. Growing up in such an environment, feeling the difference in how others treat us—it would be a lie to say that we don’t feel anything! However, they have never looked down on us for their success. On the contrary, Uncle George and Jennifer have been very loving, and even though Romeo is strict, our siblings have always been close!”

When Cathy said this, her eyes welled up with tears, “Do you know? I’ve always been proud of the bond between our two families. When my classmates’ families fall into infighting, after having witnessed so many power struggles, I’ve always been grateful to be part of such a loving and happy big family. | thought we were different from other families, but today.”

Her tears began to flow, “Today, I’ve realized that our family is even more ruthless and terrifying than others when it comes to power struggles! My own father, for the sake of that bit of family business, actually contemplated harming his own younger brother! And my mother, unable to win my father’s heart, turned her anger towards his beloved. What twisted values are these?!”

Perhaps Cathy’s emotion got a bit too overwhelming, and Jeffery was moved to step forward and gently embrace her. Unable to hold back any longer, Cathy wept in her brother’s arms.

George’s family felt a pang in their hearts, and even Phillip and Shirley were filled with mixed feelings after hearing their granddaughter’s words.

In their eyes, their sons were successful, and their grandchildren were outstanding. Wherever they went, they were looked up to. But from their granddaughter’s perspective, things were different.

For the first time, they became aware of how the outside world differentiated between the two families, and the negative impact it had on the children.

Such treatment from outsiders undoubtedly nurtured a sense of grievance and resentment within the elder branch. “Cathy,” Shirley gently patted Cathy’s head, and apologized, “I’m sorry you have been wronged.”

Cathy looked up and choked up, her eyes red and tearful, “Grandma, I’m not wronged. Even Wee gh those! respigeiesaler after Uncle orge’s family and don’t take us seriously, even showing disdain and condescension. yes, it does make me uncomfortable, but that feeling passes quickly.” Please read the original content at .

She spoke candidly, “I never thought it was our fault, or theirs. If they are admired and fawned over, it’s not our fault. My family simply hasn’t reached their level yet, but that doesn’t affect my affection for Uncle George’s family, nor does it change how they treat us.” Please read the original content at .

Her words moved everyone present, such an understanding child.

“Even if back in the day, Grandpa and Grandma had split the family business in two, as it was between Dad and George, each of us are different. After a decade or two, it’s natural that the brothers would be at different levels—one above, one below. It’s a matter of personal capability, not about fairness.” Please read the original content at .