

Chapter 491 Defect With The Parachute

After washing up and getting dressed, Ethan went back to the bedside and stroked Janet's hair. Then, he leaned forward and kissed her. Janet squeezed her legs together as the growing sensation made her uncomfortable. She was half naked, revealing her slender back. "I'm going to the company now." Ethan smiled, his eyes gleaming with tenderness. He touched Janet's quivering lashes and trailed down her flushed cheeks. Not long after Ethan left, Janet's phone rang. She was still sleepy. Ethan hadn't let her rest last night. Janet was exhausted; her body felt like jelly. She didn't feel like moving out of bed. But her phone kept ringing and she had no choice but to pick up. "Hello, who's this?" Janet mumbled, her eyes still closed. "Janet, it's me, Lila. Are you free this afternoon?" Lila asked, coming straight to the point. "Do you want to go skydiving with me? I have an extra ticket." Janet pursed her lips and thought about it. Ethan had to work overtime today. It would be boring to stay at home all alone. Besides, Janet had never gone skydiving before. She was thrilled to try it. "Okay. Send me the address. I'll directly go there in the afternoon." Janet hung up the phone and slept until noon. Before meeting Lila, she sent a message to Ethan, informing him that she was going to try skydiving. But Ethan was busy; he hadn't read the message. Janet and Lila soon arrived at the club and took a helicopter to the spot. "Janet, have you tried skydiving before?" Lila asked when she saw the excitement in Janet's eyes. "No, but I've always wanted to try." Janet's stomach flipped with excitement and fear as she looked down at the surrounding mountains. Everything looked tiny from where she was standing. She had never tried skydiving before and couldn't wait to experience it. Hearing it was Janet's first time, the coach once again enlisted the dos and don'ts. Lila had tried skydiving several times. It was no big deal to her. Thus, she felt relaxed. "Is this your parachute? Gosh, it's so beautiful." Lila sighed as she looked at the heavy parachute equipment in awe. The female coach pointed at the backpack in front of Lila. "This is your parachute, and that's your friend's." Lila nodded noncommittally and glanced at it.. Just then, she discovered a problem with the string in Janet's parachute. It

looked like the string was severed before and was tied again in place. Lila had tried skydiving before, so she had experience in the sport. Considering the faulty string, the switch of the parachute was likely to get stuck in the knot that would prevent the parachute from opening in mid-air. On the off chance the parachute opened, it wouldn't function normally, let alone withstand the weight of two adults. Janet and the coach would plunge to death. Lila pointed at the parachute, wanting to remind the coach about the severed string but subconsciously shut up. Somehow, Charis's words rang in her ears. Janet and her parents had an unshakable relationship. Lila believed her mother and father would ignore her as long as Janet was around. However, if Janet died in an accident, Lila would continue to be the only daughter of the White family. Her life would be back on track again. Thinking of this, Lila chose to remain silent. She adjusted Janet's parachute so that no one would notice the knot.

Chapter 492 The Accident

"We're ready now. Everyone, put on the equipment. Remember, you must strictly follow the coach's instructions. If you're scared, just close your eyes and take deep breaths. When you reach a certain height, the coach will remind you to open your eyes to enjoy the view. The scenery ahead is stunning. I hope you'll enjoy the experience." The coach gave the crowd the last few reminders through a Loudspeaker. The helicopter whizzed through the mountains and circled at the top. Wind swept towards it from all directions. From that vantage point, one could've enjoyed a panoramic view of Barnes's beautiful mountains and forests. The coach continued, "Check if your parachute equipment is ready." Janet's coach inspected their parachute pack twice, but didn't find anything wrong. Then he helped Janet strap on the equipment. Lila bit her lip nervously as the coach helped Janet with the parachute.

Seeing that the coach didn't find anything wrong with Janet's equipment, Lila was relieved. Janet and the coach were strapped together and they walked to the helicopter door, which had already been opened. Janet suddenly felt a sense of thrill and her stomach did a somersault. "Get ready. We'll go first." The coach's voice was nearly drowned out in the wind. As soon as Janet was ready, they jumped out of the helicopter. The two of them plummeted through the air. At this moment, time seemed to have stopped and a fierce wind whipped at their faces. Janet screamed subconsciously. When she opened her eyes, she seemed to have integrated with nature. Just as the coach was about to launch the parachute, he suddenly found that it was stuck. Janet also noticed that something was wrong. "Why haven't you opened the parachute yet?" Janet craned her neck to look at the coach curiously. But to her surprise, the latter's face was pale as a sheet and there were big beads of sweat on his forehead. "The parachute... It's stuck..." The coach's voice was trembling. Gritting his teeth, he pressed the button with all his strength. Fortunately, the parachute finally shot out, but it didn't open completely. The malfunctioning parachute couldn't bear the weight of two people. As they plummeted faster, it began to deform in the air and didn't slow down their descent at all. Both Janet and the coach were scared out of their wits. Janet couldn't help but scream in panic. Everything was out of control. The two of them swung in the wind violently. The safety inspectors in the helicopter all noticed what was going on and were frightened as they watched the situation below. "Contact the control center quickly. There is something wrong with parachute No. 08." A safety inspector immediately did as he was told. Lila hadn't jumped yet. She stared at the figures below, which were getting smaller and smaller, her face full of horror. She covered her mouth with her hand and couldn't help but feel inexplicably excited. The earth was getting closer and closer. Janet squeezed her eyes shut and felt her life flashing before her eyes. The coach gritted his teeth and tried every means to use the wind to their advantage. He had rich experience in this field. As a coach, he had also learned many ways to save himself in case of such a dangerous situation. He tried using the malfunctioning parachute to change the direction of their fall. Soon, the coach saw a patch of forest in front of them. If they could fall into the trees, perhaps the branches could buffer their fall and they could survive. "Listen to me. Let's glide towards the forest and try to fall on a tree!" Janet was too terrified to speak. She could only nod in a panic, a Breathtaking seconds later, the two of them fell into the forest.

Chapter 493 Survive

Janet closed her eyes as she felt her back collide with the branches. She had no control over her body as she plunged, getting thrashed by the branches along the way. Janet yelped as the pain grew unbearable. The branches broke, and the birds fled in fear, squealing aloud. Janet passed through several branches and finally dangled on one of them that seemed to squeak under her weight. She slowly opened her eyes and saw the world spin around her. For a moment, she couldn't fathom why the whole world was upside down. The sky was under her feet and the land above her head. Janet involuntarily wriggled to escape. Unable to withstand her weight any longer, the branch broke, and she fell to the ground with a loud thud. "Ouch!" Janet screamed as she felt something sting all over her body. The ground was covered with layers and layers of leaves. The deformed parachute decelerated the fall, causing minimal damage. Besides, the canopy of branches and the heaps of leaves seemed to hold her in place. Janet looked around and saw the coach writhing on the ground a couple of meters away from her. "Are you okay?" Janet took a deep breath and tried crawling toward him to check his condition. But she couldn't move a finger. Every bone in her body hurt. Even the slightest movement caused her immense pain. She

lay on the ground until her breathing returned to normal. Finally, she mustered the strength and stood up. Then, she slowly limped toward the coach, An involuntary moan escaped her lips as she struggled to place her foot on the ground, The coach was still lying on the ground, gasping for breath. He was more injured than Janet.

“Legs, my legs...” Janet carefully rolled up his pants and found that both his legs had swollen up like a pumpkin. They were deformed. “It looks like a fracture. Can you try and stand up?” Janet grabbed his hand, trying to help him stand up. However, as soon as she moved his leg, he screamed in pain. 1 Janet tried several ways to help him but to no avail. The coach was in so much pain that he couldn’t move his body. “No! I can’t!” The coach cried out in pain and immediately lay back on the ground. His back was drenched in a cold sweat. Janet finally gave up to spare him from the pain. She sat on the ground and scanned the surroundings.

They were deep into the woods. To make things worse, the coach had broken his legs. Therefore, it was impossible to leave the place by themselves. Janet closed her eyes and let out a weary sigh. They had no choice but to wait for someone to rescue them. “I hope they can find us before it gets dark.” Janet untied the parachute and rolled her sleeves up to examine her wounds. Her body was covered in scratches and bruises. She rolled down her sleeves and groaned, “How unfortunate of me to encounter such a situation during my first skydiving experience. Gosh, I’ll never try this again.” “To be honest, I have never encountered such a situation before,” the coach said breathlessly. “The toughest situation I had encountered before was with a client who became terrified midway and wanted to get back into the helicopter. But we were already flying in the air.” Janet smiled bitterly. The coach shifted on the ground, yelping in pain. “Check if the satellite phone on my waist is working or not. If it is, then we can use it to ask for help. The people in the helicopter should have seen our approximate landing location as well.” Janet quickly took the phone from his waist. Luckily, the phone was still working. Following the coach’s instructions, she called the emergency team for help.

Chapter 494 Waste Of Time

“Mr. Larson, we’ll get this project, I guarantee it. You’re such a visionary for coming to Barnes for development. Your suggestion at the meeting just now was revolutionary!” As the shareholders filed out of the meeting room, they kept flattering Ethan.

Ethan smiled courteously but said nothing. He got his private phone back from the assistant and checked it for messages. The next second, his expression darkened. “Why didn’t you tell me someone had sent me a message?” he asked his assistant in a low voice. The assistant was so frightened that he stammered, “Well, Mr. Larson, you never check your phone during such significant meetings. You told me never to bother you with texts or calls.” Ethan reread the text from Janet and frowned. The shareholders from the meeting just now exchanged glances when they saw Ethan’s dramatic change in disposition. What could’ve happened? Did stock prices plummet? Ethan tried dialing Janet’s number, but he couldn’t get through. “Move tonight’s meeting to tomorrow.” With an icy cold expression, Ethan grabbed his suit jacket and stormed out of the building. Almost every single time he left Janet alone, something bad happened to her. This made him seriously consider bringing her with him wherever he went. She was an adult for crying out loud. Why couldn’t she take care of herself? Skydiving was an extreme sport. Besides, given their current situation, neither of them were safe. The Lester family was out to kill them. 1

Ethan closed the car door. He didn’t know which club Janet had gone to, so he asked the driver to head to the northern Suburbs first. Most parachute clubs in

Barnes were located there.

He leaned against the window and rested his forehead on his hand. He blamed himself for not reading the message in time. If he had seen it earlier, he wouldn't have allowed Janet to go. Two hours had passed since Janet texted him. Ethan tried calling her again, but to no avail. Just as he was about to give up, the call suddenly connected and he heard a woman crying on the other end of the line. "Who's this? Where's Janet?" Ethan narrowed his eyes in suspicion. He could instantly tell that this voice didn't belong to his wife. Janet wouldn't cry like that. "This is... Lila," the woman said in between sobs. Her pitiful crying only annoyed Ethan. "Give the phone to Janet," he said coldly.

"No... Janet... Janet isn't here. She..." Lila was too choked with sobs to complete a single sentence. "I'm... Sorry. I'm just so scared..." Ethan's patience soon wore thin. He raised his voice and shouted, "What happened?" His angry voice struck fear in Lila's heart. She promptly stopped crying and said, "Janet... Her parachute malfunctioned. Oh, my God! I don't know what to do... I just..." Ethan's heart sank when he heard this. Anxious to get more details, "Tell me everything. Now." "We... She... I don't know... It happened so fast. This is all my fault. oh, God! This is all my fault..." Lila seemed to be scared out of her wits. She couldn't stop crying nor could she speak coherently. Ethan rubbed his temples and took a deep breath. "Stop crying, will you?" Why was this woman so useless? She was wasting his precious time. It seemed that Lila didn't understand what he was asking. She just kept sobbing into the receiver. Ethan tried asking her again, but no matter what he couldn't get any useful information out of her. He was so angry that he hung up the phone directly. Then he dialed his assistant's number. His tone was bone-chillingly cold. "Check all the parachute clubs in Barnes quickly and find out which one Mrs. Larson went to." The assistant was quite efficient. Minutes later, he called Ethan back and reported, "Mr. Larson, there are only two parachute clubs open for business today in Barnes, and one of them was full this morning. The club you are looking for should be Mountaintop Parachute Club. They received two female customers earlier this afternoon." Ethan gave the driver the instructions and the luxury car sped on the expressway towards the Mountaintop Parachute Club.

Chapter 495 Find Her

The Mountaintop Parachute Club had been thrown into chaos, and everyone was panicking. It had been run for over a decade, and not once had something like this happened. Ethan demanded to speak to the manager of the club and asked him what had happened. The manager was sweating buckets, visibly in shock, and all he could do was to blame the employees of the club. "What on earth happened here? I've only been away from the club of two days, but you've already caused someone's life to be in danger!" The manager was enraged, pointing and cussing at the employees. "Get to the point," Ethan grunted. "Yes, Mr. Larson." The manager nodded and bowed to Ethan while wearing a flattering smile. Then, the smile on his face disappeared as he turned his attention to the employees. "Have you found Mrs. Larson? Is she okay?" One of the employees replied hurriedly, "We've received calls from Mrs. Larson and the instructor. They said that they're safe and sound now." Ethan breathed a sigh of relief when he heard that. "We've already called the police and sent people to search and rescue them. Soon, we'll be able to find them," the employee said. "I'm coming with you," Ethan said with a nod.

The helicopter roved over the forest as the sound of its propeller resonated in the air. When Janet looked up, she saw a tall man going down the ladder, which was hanging from the helicopter. Seconds later, she realized who it was. Ethan was wearing a sullen expression, and his eyes depicted a complicated emotion. Bruises and wounds were all over Janet's body. As she stood on the ground, she

looked like she was barely able to keep herself standing. She pursed her lips and looked down, feeling remorseful. "Honey." "Don't you know how dangerous it is to go skydiving? Janet Larson!" Ethan shouted angrily. Janet didn't dare to say anything. "Turn around." He lifted her arm and her the clothes on her back. Rage filled his eyes as his face turned grim. "You almost died!" All the wounds on Janet's body made Ethan feel so sorry for her. Janet just let him chastise her, and she didn't bother to argue. Still, she was really scared.

Had she been unlucky, she might've actually died this time. While tugging at Ethan's sleeve, she said timidly, "I'm sorry, honey." When he saw the tears in her eyes, his heart softened. Truthfully, he still had things to say but he couldn't get mad at her anymore. "Let's take you to the hospital first!" Ethan carried her to the helicopter and gently placed her on one of the seats.

Pretty soon, Janet and the coach were sent to the hospital. Beal and Johanna arrived soon after. They were so shocked by what happened. So many stuff had happened within just a few days. "Where did you skydive, Janet? God, that establishment must be horrible! They can't even guarantee the safety of their customers!" Based on the tone of Johanna's voice, she was livid. Her eyes were bursting with anger, and it looked like she wanted to burn that parachute club to the ground or make them disappear from Barnes. "I'm so sorry, Mrs. White. It's all our fault." The manager of the Mountaintop Parachute Club didn't know how to explain the matter. It was true that the accident happened in their club. All he could do was sigh and lament the fact that he was so unfortunate that such powerful people were enraged in his watch. After hearing that Janet was involved in an accident, Draco went to the hospital to visit her. He had a strangely agitated feeling in his heart when he heard the news, so he wasted no time to rush over "You can rest in the hospital for as long as you need. Don't worry about your job at W Marks. I'll give you permission to take a sick leave until you've fully recovered." Seeing that Ethan and Janet's parents were in the ward as well, Draco said nothing more. After he gave his gift to her, he left right away. Later on, Ethan put Janet to sleep before leaving the ward to begin investigating the accident. The club's manager said to him, "We pay great attention to our customers' safety. Each time, before they skydive, we make sure that the parachute is secured and that there's nothing that can cause an accident. Logically speaking, the chances of the parachute being malfunctioning are very small." As a sign of their sincere apologies, all the staff of the club had come to the hospital. Lila's instructor came forward and whispered to Ethan, "I saw that woman touching Mrs. Larson's parachute package before she jumped. I don't know if she did something to the parachute, but you should ask her. She might know something." The instructor glanced at Lila as the latter sat on the hospital chair with a forlorn expression.

Chapter 496 A Suspect

Of course, Ethan wouldn't just trust in this woman's words. He went to the ward of Janet's coach, who was also severely injured in the accident. The coach's foot was in a bulky cast. Knowing that Ethan was here to ask about the accident, he recounted the details carefully. "I was explaining the dos and don'ts to Mrs. Larson when I noticed her friend sneaking around the parachute equipment. I didn't think much of it because at the time, I just thought she was curious about the equipment, like our other customers usually are." If the coach hadn't been questioned by Ethan, he would've forgotten all about it. After interrogating the coach, Ethan went back to Janet's ward to take care of her. Beal and Johanna stayed in Janet's ward, too. They didn't ask how the investigation was going until Janet was taken to the doctor's office for a follow-up examination. "I have a suspect." Ethan went straight to the point. Now that he had pieced together the puzzle, he felt that Lila was very likely to be the one who tampered with Janet's

parachute. When Lila answered Janet's phone earlier, she kept crying profusely and refused to even finish a sentence. Logically speaking, she was already a grown woman, not some child. Even if she was scared out of her wits, she wouldn't have cried that like. It was more likely that she was deliberately stalling him, hindering him from saving Janet. Beal seldom got angry. He was usually gentle and non-confrontational, and even when he was angry, he usually wouldn't show it on his face. But now, he looked absolutely enraged. "Since you have a suspect, let's call the police. I doubt anyone in Barnes would dare to go against the White family." Ethan pursed his lips and didn't say anything. After all, he hadn't questioned Lila yet. "I'll tell you who it is when I come back." After saying that, Ethan pulled Lila's skydiving coach aside for a talk. At this time, Lila was sitting on a bench in the corridor, crying her eyes out. "She's my number one suspect right now." With a cold look in his eyes, Ethan jabbed his thumb in Lila's direction. "Repeat what you said to me just now." The coach reiterated that she saw Lila tampering with the parachute. When she heard the coach's claim, she stood up immediately. "What the hell are you talking about? It wasn't me!" She denied vehemently, almost without thinking. Panic seized her. She didn't expect that someone would witness her crime.

The coach stood her ground firmly. "I'm not the only one who saw you. Mrs. Larson's coach can also testify to it. If you didn't tamper with it, why were you standing so close to the parachute equipment and even fiddling it?" Ethan locked eyes with Lila and said ominously, "We need an explanation, Miss White." Lila took a step back, fear written all over her face. The two coaches had seen her. She couldn't deny that she didn't tamper with the parachute now. But she didn't do it with her own hands... Facing the serious gaze from Ethan, Lila bit her lower lip and explained in an aggrieved tone, "I... I did check her parachute and saw that the strings had been tampered with. But I didn't do it!" 1 Well, at the very least, she didn't break it with her own hands! She wasn't the one who started all this. Ethan narrowed his eyes at her. Through gritted teeth, he demanded, "Then why didn't you tell anyone? You've skydived before. You should've known that Janet could've been killed!"

Chapter 497 Wanted Her Dead

Upon hearing that, Lila suddenly clamped her hand over her mouth. Just now, she was so busy defending herself that she had unwittingly spilled the beans. "... .." Lila was at a loss for words. "I just forgot to mention it to her coach. Besides, why are you all looking at me? Even her coach didn't notice it!" No one believed a word she said. "You saw that her parachute was tampered with and kept that information to yourself. That's a crime in itself." Ethan's gaze was so piercing that it bored into Lila's skull. "Since you can't give us a reasonable explanation, we'll conclude that you deliberately kept it to yourself." Her reaction had given her away. Ethan had seen through her at a glance. "Even if you didn't do it yourself, you're partly to be blamed. You knew the parachute wouldn't work, and yet you said nothing. It's clear to us that you wanted Janet dead!" Faced with Ethan's aggressive questioning, Lila didn't know what to say. Indeed, she saw that one of the strings had been cut and retied, but she didn't warn Janet. "No, I didn't... That's not..." Lila was at a complete loss and burst into tears. She shouted, "I didn't do it! I wasn't the one who wanted her dead! You can't put the whole thing on me!" Her whole body was trembling. She had never been considered a suspect before, let alone a murderer. Ethan rolled his eyes at her quibbling. "You were sneaking around the equipment. Even if you really didn't cut the string, you probably did something to conceal it, which was why Janet's coach didn't notice that anything was wrong when he inspected it." Ethan had figured it all out. "You... You don't have any proof!" Lila glared at him angrily. She hated how smart Janet's husband was! He had put the pieces together so soon. Ethan indeed didn't have any solid proof, so he couldn't do anything to Lila in the meantime.

Lila's eyes darted all over the place in a panic. She seldom played dirty let alone got caught red-handed; now she didn't know how to get herself out of this situation. At a loss, she stormed out of the hospital in tears. She had to find a way to solve this matter as soon as possible. With Brandon's connections, he would find the truth out sooner or later.

After Lila left, Ethan returned to Janet's ward. When Janet saw him come in, she broke into a sweet smile. "Where've you been?" After hesitating for a few seconds, Ethan decided to tell her what he had just found. "No wonder she suddenly invited me to go skydiving with her." Janet smiled bitterly. On the inside, she was completely shocked. She had been having a bad feeling ever since Lila started acting nice around her. But it never occurred to her that Lila would actually try to kill her. Ethan said nothing "Do my parents know?" Janet suddenly asked. "Since Lila tried to hurt me, maybe she'll try to hurt them, too." Ethan pinched her cheek and smiled. "You silly girl. She wanted to hurt you because you are your parents' biological daughter and the future heir to the White fortune. What good will come out of hurting your parents? And no, I haven't told your parents about it yet. I'm afraid they might not believe it was Lila and will try to hinder the investigation." Janet lowered her head. "Of course they won't believe it. Lila was their daughter for so many years..." Ethan wrapped his arms around her comfortingly. "If you're sick of this place, let's go back to Seacisco and I promise things will go back to normal." Plus, in Seacisco, Ethan could protect her. Just then, the door to the ward suddenly swung open and Johanna stormed in. "What's going on? I won't let you take my daughter away from me!

Chapter 498 It's Human Nature

After hesitating for a good while, Ethan then proceeded to tell them the truth. Beal and Johanna couldn't believe their ears. "Where is Lila?! I need to talk to her!" Beal couldn't believe that Lila would actually be capable of doing such a thing. "She's no longer here in the hospital." Ethan glanced over at the expression etched on their faces. It really seemed like they couldn't believe it. Johanna mulled it over in her head for a while and found it hard to believe that her daughter, whom she had raised for so many years, would actually do such a thing. She started to have many doubts in her mind. "Why would Lila do such a thing?" Ethan had always respected Beal and Johanna, but when he heard her question, he knew that she didn't believe a word he said. His eyes darkened visibly. "The two coaches have witnessed this matter, yet you're unwilling to believe me. Janet happens to be your biological daughter, Mrs. White. Lila wanted to get rid of her for a good reason. Are you going to defend a murderer who tried to kill your very own flesh and blood?" His firm voice made Johanna startled for a complete moment there. Johanna and Beal thought it over for a long time at the door. "Brandon, we raised Lila and have always treated her like our very own daughter. We'll investigate this matter, but I don't want to jump to any conclusions for the time being." With a very calm and indifferent look on his face, Ethan said to them, "But Janet is your biological daughter. As her parents, you should be on her side no matter what." He paused for a beat and went on to say, "Before you found Janet, Lila was considered your only daughter. But after Janet showed up, she must feel her limelight was stolen by Janet. She must really despise Janet from the bottom of her heart. With Janet out of the way, she could finally get her previous life back. Mrs. White, you've been in the business world for so many years now, you should know more about human nature than I do, am I right?" He had a fair point.

Johanna felt unhappy being lectured by Ethan, but at the same time, she felt happy for Janet that she had found someone who would be by her side no matter what. Janet was so very lucky. Johanna's face suddenly darkened noticeably. "I just want to say that I wasn't trying to defend Lila. I just thought she knew better than to do something like that. Everything that she had belonged to Janet. She had enjoyed it on Janet's behalf all these years. Now that Janet has returned to us, we didn't treat Lila like garbage.

Instead, we kept her in the White family and still treated her like our own daughter; she should feel grateful for that. Furthermore, as far as I know, she could never be this cruel and heartless.”

“That’s true, but human beings tend to be greedy. People are never satisfied with what they have,” Ethan said in a rather indifferent tone. “Besides, even if she didn’t have the guts to plan it herself, when she saw the chance to kill Janet without even lifting a finger, she took

Beal and Johanna let out a long sigh. “After we got our Janet back, we had to share our love among our girls. Without it having to be said, we couldn’t love Lila as much as we did before. Or else it wouldn’t be fair for Janet,” Beal said. “But I can see how sharing our love would make Lila resent us. What should we do next?” Ethan didn’t say a word for a long time and then he finally said, “Now that things have come to this, what’s your next move? Are you going to side with Lila?” Johanna turned to look at Janet and said, “I’m going to ask Lila why she didn’t tell Janet about the broken string.” Johanna still harbored some hope for Lila. “We have to investigate this matter,” Janet said and pursed her lips together tightly. Even though she said it in a gentle tone, she looked very sullen. “If it was really Lila, I won’t let her get away with this!”

Chapter 499 What An Idiot!

Lila burst into tears and ran out of the hospital after being questioned by Ethan. She had nowhere else to go. She didn’t dare to head home, nor did she have any friends who would be willing to take her in. She could only stay in a hotel for the time being. She had no idea what to do next at all. After eating a meal, she hid in the hotel room and cried sorrowfully for hours on end. She knew that she was left with no other choice now. Even though Ethan hadn’t gotten any hard evidence to prove that she did it, he would probably still tell Beal and Johanna about it. They would be really disappointed in her. She had no idea if they would kick her out after they learned about this. Lila cried all night long. She was flustered and scared, at a complete loss of what to do next. No one could get her out of this fix now.

At this time, she suddenly thought of Zoe. She proceeded to give Zoe a call. Charis had been waiting for Lila’s call this entire time. “What’s the matter? How was your day today?” “Something happened to Janet’s parachute today. It malfunctioned and she fell into the forest!” Lila said while weeping at the same time. “Is she dead? No... I mean, how could such a thing happen? Was she hurt?” Charis was so excited to hear the news. Fortunately, she was talking to Lila on the phone now and Lila couldn’t see just how excited she was. Lila cried even more bitter tears and filled her in on the whole story. All of a sudden, there was no response from Charis. “Zoe? Are you still there? Hello?” Lila called out her name several more times. “Yes, for a moment there, I was only trying to help you figure this out. You can’t make up lies to defend your actions now. I suggest you admit to it and apologize for the matter. Try acting like you really regret it. I believe your parents still love you. If they saw your regret, at least they wouldn’t kick you out of the family.” “But I dare not see them right now.” Lila blew her nose into a tissue. Charis heaved out a long sigh and said, “You have to do this. If you don’t say something now, it only means that you don’t regret doing this at all. In this way, your parents will only grow more disappointed in you.” After hearing this, Lila stopped her tears and asked, “Should I head out and go see them now?”

Charis rolled her eyes to the ceiling and said, “It’s midnight now. Your parents might have already gone to bed. Bring gifts to the hospital to see them tomorrow morning and make sure you act sincere!” After hanging up, it was hard for Charis not to curse Lila’s stupidity. How stupid was she really? She actually divulged the truth? To make sure everything happened according to her foolproof plan, Charis never intended to get Lila involved too much. Lila was only the bait to get Janet out in the field. Charis had

bought off Lila's coach and had her tamper with Janet's parachute. In that case, even if Lila saw that the string was tampered with, she would have nothing to do with it. Charis never expected that Lila would actually be so stupid. "What an idiot!" Charis rubbed her aching temple with her fingers and cursed out loud. From this point on, the Whites, Janet, and Brandon would be on guard against Lila. But Charis could do nothing about it now. It had already happened. The only thing she could do now was try to help Lila stay in the White family. After all, Janet didn't perish in the accident. Lila might become useful to her again some other time. Charis hoped in her heart that she could continue using Lila as her pawn.

Chapter 500 Apology And Repentance

The next morning, Lila arrived at the hospital with various concoctions with her. She knocked on the door and entered the ward. Both Janet and her parents were genuinely taken aback at her appearance. They hadn't expected her, of all people, to pay a visit. After hearing everything from Ethan just the day before, Beal and Johanna just couldn't bring themselves to be amicable with Lila now. "What are you doing here?" Beal asked. Contrary to his characteristic disposition as a loving father, he now pulled a long face to show his disgruntlement. Johanna didn't even afford Lila a cursory glance and kept her gaze averted from the offending woman. Lila really didn't expect the two of them to be so openly cold towards her. According to what Charis had told her, she started to cry bitterly in front of her parents and Janet.

"Dad, Mom! I am so sorry!" After saying that, she got down on her knees before them to beg. Finally, Beal and Johanna were softened. In any event, Lila was raised by them. Over the many years of her life with them, they had always treated her as their own flesh and blood. Regardless of the fact that Lila didn't achieve good grades at school and also didn't have any ambitious inclination, they never cared about it in the least bit. For them, as long as she was happy, everything was just swell. "What are you doing?" Johanna looked at Lila with a frown creased across her forehead. She felt crestfallen. Lila cried with absolute hysteria. "I clearly saw that there was something wrong with Janet's parachute, but I deliberately concealed it from being discovered. I'm sorry. I'm so very sorry." Fearing that Beal and Johanna would abandon her, Lila sobbed her heart out. This time, she wasn't acting. Her eyes were bloodshot red and swollen from all her bawling. She even cowered in a subservient, apologetic manner before Janet. Janet was also frightened by this uncharacteristic behavior. She hadn't imagined in her wildest dreams that Lila would actually put aside her dignity. "Don't do that." Janet turned her head away with deliberation. Her heart had also softened when she saw Lila's genuine display of regretful emotion. Lila wiped her tears away and said, "Before Janet came into my life, Dad and Mom only loved me. I felt sad and couldn't accept the sudden change, so I did such a stupid thing." Lila looked truly remorseful about her actions and genuinely seemed overcome by guilt. But in actuality, her apology was coming from a place purely of fear and not sincere regret. Why hadn't Janet died in the accident? Why did she have to be married to such a powerful, influential man? If Brandon hadn't put great pressure on Lila, she wouldn't have spilled the beans out of sheer nervousness. Lila bowed before Janet so many times that her head actually suffered an injury. The wound was open and bleeding. The droplets of blood dripped down her forehead into her eyes. Both Beal and Johanna couldn't help but feel compassion and forgiveness for her. In their eyes, Lila had realized her mistake and regretted it deeply. Lila used to be an arrogant girl. In the past, even if she did something wrong, she would never bow her head and admit her mistake. Johanna closed her eyes for a while. Now that she had witnessed Lila's sincerity before her own eyes, her tone became more gentle and she said, "You are not utterly unreasonable." Beal sighed heavily. Truth be told, just last night, he had considered breaking off all

relations with Lila permanently. He looked at her teary eyes and said in his deep voice, "Lila, you have really done the wrong thing this time. We are very disappointed in you." Hearing this, Lila felt as if she had been struck by lightning straight in the heart. She knelt down in front of Beal and begged, "Dad, I am really sorry. I swear that nothing like this will ever happen again. Don't abandon me, please!" Beal looked at her and said, "I have decided to give you one final chance only for the sake of your twenty-year family relationship with the White family. Lila, neither your mother or I ever asked much for you, but you at least need to know what you should do and what you shouldn't. Behave yourself and think it over. Don't let such a thing happen again." Lila nodded as tears profusely streamed down her cheeks. Although Beal didn't say it in a blatant, straightforward manner, his meaning was as clear as day. If something like this ever happened again, he might just kick her out of the White family for good. "Yes, absolutely! It won't happen again." Lila nodded submissively.