

## Chapter 891

Barbara looked sideways before casting her gaze outside of the window. "What were you going to tell me back then?"

It was only then Helios remembered the question he had wanted to ask before she interrupted him.

"About that... What I wanted to ask is why... Why would you do that last night?"

He did not know how to word his question. He was not disgusted by the kiss last night. It was just that there was a strange feeling that he could not understand. Barbara pressed her lips and fell silent for a long while. She grabbed the cup tightly and asked, "Do you want to hear the truth?"

He looked at her.

Barbara took a deep breath and tried to hide her embarrassment by smiling. "...My emotions got the best of me last night, and I just lost it. Of course, if it caused you any trouble, we could pretend it didn't happen." When Maisie heard what Barbara had said, she frowned. 'She was so bold last night, but she chickened out today?'

Nolan popped a piece of meat into Maisie's mouth and said, "Seems like I won." "Don't count your chickens before they hatch," Maisie replied. "Who knows?"

Maybe there will be a comeback."

She had made a bet with Nolan last night. If Helios could get into a relationship, he had to give her 15,000,000 stars, and he had to figure out how he should give them to her.

Nolan couldn't help himself and chuckled again. "If both of them really start a relationship, will you still ship Helios and me?"

Maisie tossed a piece of meat back into Nolan's mouth and replied, "It won't affect the relationship between Barbara and I even if I ship you and Helios."

Nolan was rendered speechless.

At the same time, Helios frowned slightly after listening to what Barbara said. He parted his lips slightly and asked, "Really? We should pretend it didn't happen?"

Barbara was stunned, and she wondered if she had said something wrong. "I'm just-" "If you can pretend nothing happened," Helios chimed in, his gaze fixing on the blanket of blue in the distance, "Why don't you consider me first?"

Barbara did not say anything. He retracted his gaze and sat upright, his face turning stern. The gentle Helios was gone.

"At least I don't like being treated like a fool."

Treated like a fool?

Barbara nearly jumped up and shouted, 'I'm not treating you like a fool!'

She did not make any effort to lower her voice, and everyone in the cafe, including Maisie, turned their heads at the same time to look at her.

The guests who appeared in the cafe were all those who had attended the birthday banquet last night, and naturally, they all knew Helios, so they were shocked and incredulous that a woman would “toy with’ Helios.

“It isn’t like what you guys think!” Barbara waved her hand, and then she pitched her voice low to explain to Helios, “Mr.

Boucher, I’m not treating you like a fool. Yes, it was my fault last night. I had a bad intention in the first place, and I should have held back.”

Pfft!

Maisie covered her mouth and fell into Nolan’s arms when she heard how Barbara explained herself.

Helios narrowed his eyes but did not say anything and waited for Barbara to finish her sentence. “It was you who got close to me first, Mr. Boucher. I thought you were drunk and you wouldn’t remember it, so ... I just gave in to my desire.”

After she finished speaking, she wiped up a forced smile at him.

Helios lowered his eyes and replied, “Okay.”

“Okay?”

Barbara was dumbfounded. She had said s o many things, and his reply was just an “okay”?

‘As expected. I’m too aggressive, and he thinks I’m an easy woman.’

After all, Helios had never fallen in love with anyone before. He did not even have any scandal with any women throughout his entire career.

If his fans knew that she had kissed him, she was confident that they would tear her apart.

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How could Barbara really expect that Helios was also interested in her?

After a long while, Helios placed the cup near his lips and lifted his head to look at her. “I indeed had an urge to kiss you last night.”

Barbara was stunned. After that, she forced a smile onto her face and said, “You must be drunk...”

“Not really...” Helios replied after a long while, “I was wide awake at that time.”

Barbara froze in her spot. She was wondering if her brain or her ears were playing a trick on her. He had not been drunk. Instead, he had been wide awake.

‘Does this not mean that he knew I was teasing him with those words last night?’

The more she thought about it, the more she wanted to find a hole and bury herself in it. The ship returned to the Bass Wave Port in the afternoon. Ryleigh and her group came down from the ship. Her allergies had mostly subsided, but her eyes' puffiness was still visible with the mask on. Louis took off his hat and put it on her head, stunning her. When she turned her head around, she saw that Barbara was walking away in a hurry.

She asked curiously, "Why is Barbara walking so fast?"

Colton and Daisy were walking behind her. Colton giggled when they heard Ryleigh's question and replied, "Aunt Barbara must have been shy."

'Shy?'

Ryleigh thought for a while, and it was only then she remembered Barbara had kissed her cousin last night.

When that thought popped into her mind, she began to look around in the crowd for her cousin. She saw that Helios had sent his parents to the car. He was saying something to them before they entered the car.

Initially, Barbara was hoping that someone could fetch her home while they were on their way back, but apparently, no one was going the same way as her.

Then, Helios' car appeared beside her. He rolled down the window and said, "Hop in.'

She was stunned and hesitated for a few seconds before opening the door.

Ryleigh was so shocked that she was petrified.

"When... When did they start seeing each other?"

Louis turned his head around to look at her. "I don't think that's your business, right?"

Standing with her hands on her hips, she lifted her chin to look at him and said, "Why is it not my business?"

"I don't want to continue this conversation with you," Louis said as he dusted his shirt. After that, he lowered himself with his eyebrows lifted and smiled at her. "If you have the leisure to care about others, why not put more effort into our own business?"

Her face turned so red that even the mask she was wearing couldn't hide that she was embarrassed now. She turned her head away.

"I want to go home."

The two kids looked at them in confusion. Suddenly, Daisy grabbed Colton's hand and asked, "Colton, I think we can't call her 'Godmother' anymore. We should call her 'Aunt'."

Colton nodded with assent.

She turned her head around and saw Tristan walking up to her parents with Nollace. After he said something to them, he asked Nollace to follow them.

Nollace watched as Tristan left. Under the sun, his beautiful face was filled with disappointment.

“Nolly.”

Nollace was stunned. He turned around and saw Daisy was running toward him, her face brimming with a bright smile.

Seeing how much Daisy liked Nollace, Maisie knew she did not have to worry about them. Nollace wouldn't feel bored when he was staying at the Goldmann mansion.

Colton crossed his arms in front of his chest. He turned his head sideways and mumbled, “You don't even address him with his full name anymore?”

He was her brother, yet she had never called him anything sweet like “Colty” before.

Jerking her head around, Daisy replied, “Nolly is our cousin, so why can't I call him that?”

Colton stood with his arms on his hips and refuted matter-of-factly, “He might be younger than you.”

After a short silence, Nollace said, “I was born in June.”

Colton was rendered speechless.

When Daisy saw her brother had frozen in place, she went closer to him and asked, “Colton, didn't you tell me that Nolly is younger than

us?”

Colton harrumphed and turned his face away.

Looking at the three of them, Daisy couldn't help but remember Waylon, who was still overseas. Whenever Colton and Daisy were fighting, as their eldest brother, Waylon would not join them in their fight, just like Nollace right now.

## Chapter 893

Alfred sent them back to the Goldmann mansion first. When Nolan was not getting into the car, Maisie asked, “Are we not leaving?”

Nolan wrapped his arms around her waist and whispered into her ear, “Didn't I tell you that I'm going to give you flowers?”

Maisie was even more confused.

‘Isn't he just going to give me some flowers? Why does he make it like it's so mysterious?’

However, she was wrong. When they returned to the Blue Bay villa and stepped into the courtyard-the spectacular scene before her eyes stunned her.

There were blue roses everywhere, filling

the courtyard to the brim.

The blue roses and the fire-red flowers hanging on the tree set off each other beautifully under the greenery and blue sky and white clouds.

Maisie was so stunned that she had forgotten to cover her mouth. The surprise came too suddenly.

Nolan hugged her from her back and rested his chin on her shoulder. He pitched his voice low and asked, "Do you like it?"

"H-How did you do that?"

Blue roses were genetically modified roses. It was inserted with a sequence of genes from tri-colored Hoary Stocks that stimulated the production of blue pigments. That was why the rose was blue in color.

However, blue roses did not bloom at this time of year.

She initially thought they were fake, but the faint flower fragrance was telling her that these were the real deal. Nolan chuckled. "Well, everything is possible if you have money." Maisie was rendered speechless.

Nolan was right. Everything would be possible as long as one had money.

He caressed her head gently and continued. "I'll get a few experienced gardeners to take care of the garden. If you have anything you want to plant later, you can let them know."

Maisie turned around, threw herself into his arms, and wrapped her arms around his neck. There was a smile in her eyes as she said, "Can I grow some vegetables or fruit?"

Nolan was stunned for a moment. A smile appeared at the corner of his eyes as he said, "Sure. You can grow whatever you want."

#Mr. Goldmann's wife lavishly booked a cruise ship to celebrate Mr. Goldmann's birthday, as well as to propose to him on the scene. "They're just like the king and the queen in the fairy tale," the netizens commented.#

The news swept over the Internet, and it garnered even more attention than a popular artist. It became the hottest topic on Google Trends. It even surpassed the scandal between Helios and Barbara, pushing their topic to No. 10.

Maizie's face was getting darker and darker as she read the news from the newspaper.

Even though she was staying with the Bouchers because she was pregnant, none of them treated her like she was their own. Francisco refused to come back, and even the maids looked down on her.

She wanted a proposal and a wedding as well.

However, her wedding had been postponed to next year. Elder Master Boucher also wanted them to keep a low profile. They had not even announced the engagement to the public by now, and she did not even have a ring.

She had been under the impression she could twirl the Bouchers around her fingers with the baby, but it seemed to her that she was wrong.

Suddenly, Katrina sent her a message and told her that she had only one day left.

When Maizie saw the message, she tossed the phone on the bed.

\$8,000,000! Where the hell should I get \$ 8,000,000 from?’

Suddenly, something flashed across her mind.

‘Oh yeah. Didn’t Francisco’s father have a wedding ring that cost more than \$3,000,000?’

Katrina had asked Maisie to make a copy of the wedding for her before.

He rarely put on the ring after he got a divorce from his wife. Besides, after she came to live with the Bouchers, she noticed that Eugene refused to let the maids touch the drawer in his study room. He had told them that there was something very important to him there, and they would need to bear the consequences if it were lost. Maizie reckoned that the ring must be there.

‘I can ask Katrina to get the fake ring after I give her the money. Then, I’ll put the fake ring back into the drawer, and Eugene won’t notice anything.’

When nobody was watching in the afternoon, Maizie snuck into the study room and began searching for the ring. As she expected, she found it in the drawer.

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Maizie opened the box that held the ring and took the antique wedding ring away. However, she did not know that the camera at the

corner was emitting a red light when she left the study room.

Maizie came out in her car. She contacted Katrina, and both of them met up in a coffee shop.

She arrived first, and Katrina arrived afterward.

“It truly surprises me that you’ve gotten the money so soon, Ms. Hannigan.”

Maizie put her purse on the table and said nonchalantly, “Rather than \$8,000,000 in cash, I’d trade you for something worth more than \$ 3,000,000.”

Katrina frowned. “What’s the thing that you want to trade?” When she saw Maizie pull out that ring, her expression changed. Maizie put the ring in front of her, and Katrina calmed herself down. She asked, “How did you get the ring?” “Well, I’m the future daughter-in-law of the Bouchers. My father-in-law and mother-in-law have gotten a divorce, so I just took the ring from Francisco. Alright, let’s cut the crap. Do you want to take it or not?” She pretended to be impatient to hide her guilt.

“Exchange for what?” Katrina asked again.

Maizie looked at the ring and said, "Francisco took the ring for me behind his father's back. You can't expect me to go back empty-handed, right? Don't you have a perfect replica of this ring?"

Katrina now understood what she was trying to say. She smiled and asked, "Are you sure Francisco gave you this ring?"

"What're you trying to say, Katrina? Are you trying to imply that I stole it?" Maizie replied, nearly exposing herself. She then tried to calm herself down and said through gritted teeth. "You must be delusional. How the heck would I get the ring if Francisco didn't give it to me himself."

Katrina looked at her for a while and pushed the ring back to her. "I want \$ 8,000,000 in cash. I don't accept other things as an exchange."

"Katrina, if you take this ring and sell it, you might get more than \$8,000,000." Maizie squeezed the words through her teeth exasperatedly.

Katrina rose to her feet, and Maizie was stunned. She slammed her hands on the table and looked at her downward. "Ms. Hannigan, are you kidding me? Do you know that this ring is a worldwide limited edition, the only one of its kind?"

Maizie was stumped and couldn't say anything. There was a sarcastic hint tugging at the corner of Katrina's eyes as she continued. "GO back and read a book. Don't come out and embarrass yourself with that empty head of yours. Everyone in Bassburgh knows that Eugene bought this ring in an auction that year, and you want me to sell it? What am I? Stupid?"

Eugene would certainly learn about it once she took the ring to a jewelry store or an auction house. She was not an idiot.

Even though she had been Eugene's lover: n the past, she was not stupid and would never fall into the trap set by a little girl "You..." Maizie was so exasperated she could not say anything right now. She had been under the impression Katrina would certainly want the ring since it was expensive. She did not know that the ring was a limited edition at all. "I'll give you one more day, Maizie. I want money. Don't give me these sh\*t anymore." Katrina then left the coffee shop without turning her head back, leaving Maizie sitting alone in her seat, her face turning pale and red.

At Soul...

"Uncle Kennedy asked for a leave again?" Maisie asked as she looked at Lucy, a female employee from her company.

Lucy was Kennedy's assistant, and she was the one who took care of everything when Kennedy was not in.

Lucy let out a smile of embarrassment and said, "Mr. Kennedy has been quite busy lately."

Resting her chin on her hand, Maisie asked, "Did he ever tell you what he was busy with?"

Lucy pondered for a while and shook her head. However, she seemed to have remembered something and said, "Oh yeah, I often see Mr . Kennedy sneaking out of the office and making phone calls elsewhere. I bumped into him a couple of times, and he looked particularly gentle when he was on the phone. Could it be that Mr. Kennedy is seeing a woman and hasn't told us about it?"

Kennedy was 48 years old this year, and everyone in the company knew that he had not married yet. After listening to Lucy's speculation, Maisie also began to suspect it. After all, Kennedy would rarely take a leave of absence and disappear in the past.

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It seemed to Maisie that she needed to go to Kennedy's house and check for it herself.

At the Boucher manor...

When Maizie returned to the Boucher manor and saw Eugene was sitting in the living room. She was stunned, and her shirt was wet from her cold sweat.

She forced herself to calm down and greeted him, "Mr. Boucher, what are you doing here?"

Eugene was sipping on his coffee.

Although he was not satisfied with Maizie being his daughter-in-law, she was pregnant with his grandson, so he had no other choice but to accept her.

You shouldn't go out so often since you're pregnant. I'll ask Francisco to take you for a maternity check-up in a couple of days."

It seemed to Maizie that he did not know that she had taken the ring away. She heaved a sigh of relief and nodded with a smile. "Okay, Mr. Boucher. I'll go back to my room first."

After that, she went upstairs.

Eugene lowered his head and looked at the ripples on his coffee with a gloomy face. When Samantha had been pregnant, he had let her go for the maternity check-up herself...

Maizie snuck into the study room after going upstairs and put the ring back into the box. When she came out of the study room, she saw that Francisco was standing at the door and looking at her.

She was stunned.

Francisco looked at her expressionlessly and asked suspiciously, "What were you doing in my father's study room?"

Maizie's face turned slightly pale. She forced herself to calm down and bit her lips. "I... I wanted to see if there were any books I could read or something. I'm bored at home sometimes..."

"Hah!" Francisco let out a sarcastic smile. "Do you really think I don't know what you're doing there?"

Maizie's expression changed. "Francisco, how could you say that to me? If you think I've taken something from this room, you can

check my body."

She spread her arms open to let him check her body. After all, she had put the ring back, and she was not afraid to let him check her anymore.



Francisco took a step back. His eyes were filled with disgust as he said, "I don't even want to touch you. Don't you ever dare to step into my father's study room again."

After that, he turned around and left.

Maizie stood frozen stiff after listening to what Francisco had said.

It was true that she did not like Francisco at all. All she ever wanted was to be the daughter-in-law of the Bouchers.

However, she was kind of heartbroken when he said he did not want to touch her at all. Was she really that bad?

She couldn't understand how Maisie could marry a gentle, handsome, and rich man like Nolan while she didn't deserve to have such happiness,

She just couldn't accept it.

Her phone rang again, and it was Katrina. She was reminding her again, and Maizie's face turned grim.

Maisie drove to Kennedy's house. She got out of the car and looked at the ajar door.

She pushed the door open and walked into the courtyard. The door of the house was left open, and she could hear Kennedy's laughter from inside.

"Uncle Kennedy has a girlfriend! I should probably go in and see her."

However, just as she stepped into the living room, she was stunned.

Kennedy was squatting in front of a baby chair, playing with a baby. The baby in the baby chair was only a few months old. She had a pacifier between her lips, and her eyes were big and black and watery. She grabbed Kennedy's finger with her tiny hand and giggled.

Maisie opened her mouth and asked, "Uncle Kennedy?"

Kennedy was dumbstruck. He jerked his head around and was stunned again when he saw Maisie. "Zee, what are you..."

Maisie looked at the baby in the baby chair and asked, "W-When did you have a baby?"

VITUPUJJ

'Uncle Kennedy is married and has a baby? And the baby is a few months old already? Why didn't I know anything about it?!

Just as Kennedy rose to his feet, the baby cried. He held the baby in his arms and comforted her, "Alright, alright, stop crying. Look, it's your aunt. She's here to see you."

However, the baby was still crying loudly. Maisie shook her head and reached out for the baby.

"Uncle Kennedy, let me hold her."

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Kennedy handed her the baby.

Maisie held the soft baby in her arms, and her heart softened the moment she got in touch with the tiny human being. She patted her lightly on the back and coaxed her, and soon, the baby stopped crying and started smiling at her.

Kennedy laughed when he saw this scene.” Just look at her. Sure enough, women are still superior when it comes to taking care of children,”

Maisie placed the pacifier back into the baby’s mouth, turned her head toward Kennedy, and asked, “Uncle Kennedy, you haven’t answered my question yet. This girl

\*This isn’t my child. It’s a long story. Kennedy sighed. He walked to the couch, sat down, and explained, “I found this child in the rain about a month ago.”

Maisie was astonished. “You found her?”

Kennedy nodded.

He talked about the rainy day a month ago, when he had been on his way to a nearby supermarket for some groceries with an umbrella. When he had passed by a back alley, he found a waste cardboard box lying under the eaves. He had not originally planned to take a closer look, but he heard the weak cry from the cardboard box.

Something had felt wrong to him, so he went under the eaves and opened the cardboard box, and it turned out to be a baby girl.

She had only been about two months old when she was abandoned. Not to mention that it had been so cold, and she was wearing nothing. Other than the baby girl, the box had been empty, her skin had already turned bright pink from the cold, and her voice had sounded hoarse from all the crying

He could not bear it, so he brought the baby girl back home. He had then brought her to the hospital for a series of tests, and the baby was fine and healthy. Later, he had gone to the police station for some inquiries. Unfortunately, the police could only suggest that he adopt her or send her to any social welfare facilities for an abandoned baby with no family background or identification.

“I thought the child’s parents had already abandoned her when she was still so young, so I adopted her.”

After listening to Kennedy’s explanation, Maisie could not help but feel pity and sympathy for the baby, giggling at her in her arms. ‘She’s been abandoned by her parents when she’s so young.’ Maisie stretched out her finger and lightly poked her tiny cheek. The moment the baby reached out and held her finger, Maisie’s heart melted.

Kennedy smiled. “This child is very lovely, isn’t she?” “Yeah, Daisy was quite a crybaby when she was her age, but this child really loves to laugh.” Thinking of something, Maisie asked, “Have you given her a name?”

Kennedy was caught off guard. “No.”

Maisie looked at the baby in her arms tenderly and suggested, "Since she has such a precious smile, let's just call her Sapphie, short for Sapphire. It even sounds nice when it's coupled with your last name, Uncle Kennedy."

Kennedy murmured absentmindedly, "Sapphire Fannon, that sounds nice."

"By the way. Uncle Kennedy," Maisie recalled something, "Have you been taking care of this child by yourself recently?"

Kennedy was about to answer the question when a woman appeared outside the door with two handfuls of baby products.

What Maisie did not expect was that the woman who arrived at the door was actually Samantha.

Samantha only gave off a smile when she saw Maisie. "It's nice to see you, Ms.

Vanderbilt."

Maisie took a glance at Kennedy and then looked at Samantha, who was walking up to her. "Aunt Samantha, you..."

Kennedy took the baby products that Samantha was carrying. "I'm sorry to have to bother you again."

"You're welcome." Samantha looked at Maisie again. "Mr. Fannon has no experience in taking care of a child, so he's asked me to take care of the baby on his behalf these days."

"So that's how it is." Maisie's smirk intensified, and she handed the baby in her arms to Samantha.

Samantha held the baby in her arms and made cute expressions to the baby affectionately, entertaining the baby. And the baby started giggling again, her peals of laughter extremely contagious.

## Chapter 897

"I just can't understand what the parents of this child were thinking. They actually managed to make up their mind to abandon such a lovely child." Samantha grumbled.

Looking at Samantha's gaze when she was staring at the child, Maisie could see that she really loved children.

Maisie thought of the baby she had been carrying three years ago. If the child had not been lost in the accident back then, it should be about two years old now.

Kennedy put the baby products away and went into the kitchen. "I guess none of you have had lunch. I'll cook us something."

Maisie and Samantha were teasing and playing with the baby together. After a while, the baby started giving off cues, indicating that she was hungry, so Samantha went to make her some infant formula milk. After all, neither of them had any breast milk to feed her.

Seeing the baby sucking the milk from the bottle, Maisie chuckled.

“Do you know how Francisco has been doing recently?” Samantha asked Maisie all of a sudden. Maisie paused for a split second and replied, “I’m not very sure, but... I heard that he’s about to get married.”

Samantha was flustered for a bit and laughed. “Really?”

Maisie did not know what to say.

‘I would give Maizie my blessing if she wanted to marry Francisco sincerely, but I’m afraid that the purpose behind the marriage isn’t as simple as it seems.

What’s more, she once conspired with Tony and disrupted Nolan’s plan, and Saydie almost had to suffer big time because of them. I always have a feeling that Maizie won’t want to settle down so peacefully.’

“What’s the girl’s personality like?” To Samantha, who did not know anything, it was only natural for her to feel delighted as a mother when she learned that her son was about to get married.

Maisie lowered her gaze and smiled. “You’ll know when you get to meet her in person.”

The night sky was dark, and the Neon Light District of the city was cold and desolate. The only dimmed street lamp that had been standing at the intersection of the alley for decades illuminated its surroundings in yellow, and the rest of the area was pitch black.

Katrina walked out of the alley. After moving out of her original apartment, she rented a cheaper apartment around the area. She had also lost her high-paying job at Glitz, so she could only work the night shifts at a nearby convenience store.

She had just walked out of the alley and looked down at her phone for a second.

A shriek caused by a car’s abrupt brake pierced through the cold air. It was then followed by a loud impact which caused the alarms of the cars parked on the side of the road to go off.

A nearby resident turned on the lights and looked out the window to get a better idea of what was going on when he saw a car whizzing past the intersection, while the ground was stained with blood, and that was when he saw the woman...

The scene was quickly closed off by the police.

The resident who had witnessed the accident was the person who called the police. He cooperated with the police by providing all the information that he knew throughout the investigation.

He was gravely frightened by the scene too. “I-I heard a loud noise, and the alarms of some of the cars parked on the side of the road went off, and it was very loud. When I got up and took a look out of the window, I saw a car escaping the scene after hitting someone.”

The police let the witness go after asking a few questions. Katrina’s body was placed into a body bag, carried into the coroner’s van, and brought away from the scene. Officer Zaleski flipped through Katrina’s personal belongings and found an ID card in her handbag. ‘Katrina Zalensky.

Officer Zaleski frowned.

‘Why does this name sound so familiar?’

He then went through her phone-its screen already shattered but still functioning-and handed it over to his subordinate. "Get someone from the tech department to crack the passcode, retrieve all her call records as soon as possible, and contact her family."

At 2:30 a m., Barbara was woken up by a phone call. She fumbled around for her phone and picked up the call without even taking a look at the caller's ID. "It's in the middle of the night. What's the matter?"

The other party said something to Barbara that woke her up in an instant.

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At the hospital's mortuary...

Barbara hurried over and saw a doctor and three police officers standing outside in the corridor.

Officer Zaleski turned to look at her.

She walked toward them and asked," Katrina, is she..."

Officer Zaleski replied, "You're Ms. Chase. Ms. Zalensky was killed in a car accident. We're currently investigating the perpetrator who escaped the scene."

## Chapter 898

Barbara stared blankly at the door of the morgue. Nothing was going through her mind, and her lips slowly closed after a long time. "T-This is impossible."

She could not believe it at all.

'Katrina is dead? But how could a woman as cunning and scheming as her die just like that?'

Officer Zaleski stared at her. "Ms. Chase, would you like to cross-check her body?"

Barbara did not speak.

She followed Officer Zaleski into the morgue and stopped right in front of the refrigerated storage cabinet where corpses were stored. Officer Zaleski opened Freezer #16, and the woman lying inside was indeed Katrina.

The astonishment in Barbara's eyes gradually turned into gloominess. She pursed her lips tightly, not knowing what to say and feel at the moment.

After a long time, she said with difficulty," I'll inform my father about this."

Maisie did not know about Katrina's accidental death until two days later, and Nolan was the one who broke the news to her.

"That sudden?" Even Maisie was shocked. After all, Katrina was considered someone she knew and met but was not very familiar with. Nolan flipped through the magazine and took a sip of coffee. "Life could end in just a blink of an eye, and no one can ever predict what will happen tomorrow."

Maisie lowered her gaze and face. She actually felt rather disturbed when she heard the news, knowing that a living person had turned

into a cold corpse all of a sudden.

She could not help but think of her father and Cherie. She put her silverware down. "Hubby, bring me to my father and Cherie's graves when you have the time." Nolan paused in the middle of a page turn, raised his head, and stared at her.

At Skyhigh Condo...

The doorbell rang a few times before Barbara put the wine glass down, got up, and stumbled to the door to open it.

As soon as the door was opened, the first thing that assaulted Helios' nostrils was the strong alcohol smell that originated from her body and the room.

Barbara stared at him. "It's you?"

She then turned around, walked back into the room, and sat on the floor under the couch. There was a bottle of red wine that was about to bottom out sitting on the table, the curtains were not drawn, and the light in the room was dim.

Helios walked up to the window and opened the curtains. The dazzling sunshine made Barbara raise her hand to block it subconsciously.

"You're drinking again." Helios stopped in front of her and blocked the light. He stood against the light, and the shadows on his face made his facial features look even more three-dimensional.

"I'm upset." Barbara raised her head, took a sip from the wine glass in her hand, and smiled in a daze. "The person I hate is now dead. Is that a good thing or not?"

Helios knew exactly who she was talking about.

He turned around, sat on the couch, and grabbed the wine glass from her. "Stop drinking already."

He poured the wine in the glass into the trash can.

Barbara tilted her head, stared blankly at him, and burst into laughter abruptly. "Are you worried about me?" Helios put the glass on the table and did not answer.

Barbara turned to her side, rested her elbow on the couch, and propped her head against her palm. "Do you know? Although I didn't really like Katrina... I was still a little sad when I learned that she died."

Helios tilted his head, and his gaze was fixed on her slightly flushed cheeks. She looked as if she was drunk most of the time but also sober from time to time, and her eyes looked a little hazy but also sharp at times, making him a little confused about whether she was drunk or not.

Barbara told him a lot again this time around, and Helios listened quietly without interrupting like the other night.

Barbara was probably the only one who spoke throughout the whole conversation. As such, she looked up at him suddenly." Why aren't you talking?"

Helios's eyes shifted from side to side. "I'm listening to you." "No, you have to talk to me too." Barbara got up from the floor.

She felt fine when she was sitting, but the tipsiness caught up to her as soon as she stood up, so she staggered forward, tripped, and fell into his arms.

Chapter 899

Helios caught her subconsciously, but it was more like a hug. Barbara's cheeks rested on his broad shoulders, and her fluffy hair was rubbing against his neck.

He sat stiffly as his Adam's apple rolled before raising his hand to press her head that was tickling his neck downward.

In a blink of an eye, he felt a sudden pressure being placed on his upper body and realized that Barbara had fallen asleep with her head tilted and resting against his shoulder and neck. Her shallow breaths gently brushed against his neck, and a strange feeling seemed to have found its way into his heart.

He sighed helplessly, picked up Barbara horizontally, brought her into the bedroom, put her on the bed, and tucked the blanket for her.

He stood by the bed for a moment before leaving quietly.

Nina parked the car at the side entrance of Skyhigh Condo, lifted the rearview mirror, and looked at Helios when he got in the car. "Mr. Boucher, is Ms. Chase okay?"

Nina knew that Barbara was the woman who shared the rumor with Helios a few days ago, not to mention that Helios had found her accommodation and had even come to visit her. Thus, their relationship must not be that simple.

Helios had long passed the age of an idol, and his fans had collectively urged him to get married multiple times, so even if Helios were to announce that he was in a relationship, most of his fans would still choose to give him their blessings.

"She's fine." He lowered his head and scrolled through his phone, only to see the press that the police had released just minutes ago.

The police also uploaded the surveillance video that showed Katrina being hit and killed that night.

In the video, the car stopped for a few seconds after hitting Katrina and then rolled over her body during its escape. The perpetrator's identity had been spread all over the Internet, and it was a suspect who was involved in a breaking and entering incident that had taken place in Asperia four years ago.

Helios squinted slightly, feeling that Katrina's accident was not as simple as it looked.

At the hospital...

After going through the obstetric examination, Maizie walked out of the medical room and saw that all Francisco had been doing was looking down at his phone and ignoring her all this while.

Naturally, her expression slightly dimmed.

'When other husbands come to the maternity check-ups with their wives, they stay by their side throughout the whole process. Meanwhile, my husband doesn't even seem to want others to know about our relationship.'

She bit her lip, approached him, and rubbed her abdomen. "Francisco, the doctor said that this baby will be a boy"

Francisco swiped his finger over his cell phone screen, lifted his gaze, and glanced at her. "So what if it's a boy or a girl? Does it have anything to do with me?" He wanted to leave, but Maizie held him back. "But this is your child too, Francisco. Can you bear to watch as the child is born without a father's love?"

Francisco freed his hand off her grasp, dusted the sleeve that she had touched, and said with no expression, "I never touched you that night, and I know that. Don't you ever think that I'll really marry you just because you used a despicable means of spiking my beverage and slandering me."

Looking at Maizie's slightly pallid face, he sneered. "Since you're saying that it's my child, we'll have to verify it before you come up with that statement."

Maizie's shoulders twitched, and she lowered her head and gaze just to cover the panic that she felt. After a while, she asked, "Then will you treat him well if I can prove that the baby belongs to you?"

Francisco frowned.

'It'd be the best if it's not my child. At least I won't have to marry her if that's the case, but when she says so...'

He was actually a little worried.

What if it's really mine? But how could that be possible? How could I have no recollection of touching her that night at all?'

He turned his head away impatiently. "We'll only talk about it after the test." He turned around and left without waiting for Maizie. The latter stood there, staring at his back and clenching her hands that were resting on both sides.

Maizie's cell phone suddenly rang, and her gaze became even gloomier when she saw the caller's ID.

## Chapter 900

"Ms. Hannigan, I'm doing things for you for the sake of Mr. Grant. However, Mr. Grant is in prison now, and I've helped you solve your trouble by killing someone." The man then scoffed. "Now the police are looking for me everywhere, and I have to leave Bassburgh, but I'll need some money to do so."

Maizie replied sullenly, "Haven't I already given you \$500,000?" "Ms. Hannigan, how would \$500,000 be enough? Mr. Grant gave you more than \$ 500,000 back then, didn't he? Besides, if I were to be caught by the police, I'd only spend 10 to 20 years in prison. But you're different. You're the mastermind of this



murder, and let's not forget your title as the future daughter-in-law of the Bouchers. It would be bad if this were to ruin your future."

Maizie understood the underlying meaning of the man's words and trembled with wrath. She had been under the impression everything would come to an end after getting someone to solve the trouble that she had initially. Still, she did not expect to have gotten help from another problematic person.

"I'll pay you another \$500,000, but you'd better keep your mouth shut. Otherwise, I'll get my godfather to go after you when he gets out of prison."

Samantha went to buy milk powder in the baby product section of the mall with a stroller. After buying the milk powder that she needed, she saw Eugene getting out of the car when she left the mall.

She took a glance at Eugene and said nothing.

Eugene was about to ask her something but then saw a few-month-old baby in the stroller that she was pushing and asked with a surprised expression, "Samantha, whose child."

"Isn't she adorable?" Samantha smiled at him and did not answer his question directly.

Eugene stood in front of the stroller. "This can't be your child."

Samantha's brows creased for a split second. "Mr. Boucher, if there's nothing else that you want to say, I'll take my leave first."

"Samantha," Eugene stopped her from leaving, "Would you come back home for a short visit in a few days? Francisco is getting married next year, and his fiancée is currently pregnant too."

Samantha was astonished, but she immediately lowered her gaze after thinking of something. "That's great. You're about to become a grandfather. I'll go back and take a look when I have the time."

She pushed the stroller and passed by Eugene without even looking back. Eugene watched her get into the car and leave, feeling disturbed as he missed the time when she was still by his side.

It was he who had not known how to cherish her, and it was he who had destroyed his happy family and marriage altogether.

Two days later, Nolan brought Maisie to the cemetery. Her father, Stephen, was buried next to her mother's grave, and Cherie's tombstone was also located near theirs.

Quincy also came with them to visit his sister. He brought along a bouquet of white daisies, which he then placed in front of Cherie's tombstone, and stood there for a long time.

Maisie stood up slowly and turned to look at Nolan. "Thank you for organizing my father's funeral on my behalf back then."

Nolan put his arms around her shoulders and took her into his arms. "I'm his son-in-law, so that's something that I should do too."

Maisie lowered her gaze and stood next to him. The cool autumn breeze blew the withered leaves off the branches. The leaves were fluttering down like feathers and finally landed on the tombstone. While they were on their way back, Maisie received a call from Barbara, who was waiting for her at Soul.

Quincy parked the car at Soul's entrance, and when Maisie was about to open the door and get out of the car, Nolan pulled her backward and kissed her lightly between her eyebrows. "I'll pick you up after work."

"Okay." Maisie walked out of the car with a smile and watched the car leave before stepping into the company. When Maisie appeared at the door, Barbara was already sitting in her office waiting for her. "You've finally stepped out of your apartment?"

Barbara rubbed her forehead. "You should know about what happened to Katrina."

Maisie took a seat on the couch opposite

Barbara. "Yeah, I know. It's rather sudden."