

Her Seven Little Bodyguards Chapter 41

Chapter 41

Melanie realized that Hanson was helping Vania to get even. He only cared about Vania, and he had no concern for her at all.

She could only pin her hope on their children. “Hanson, I’m begging you. Please don’t take the children away from me. Morales and Morgan are my life, and they’re both still so young. How can you separate us? I was just too jealous of Vania. She doesn’t need to do anything for you to pay all your attention to her, whereas I’m the one who’s been by your side this whole time without even so much of a glance from you. I couldn’t take it, and I just wanted to find some people to scare her off. I didn’t plan on doing anything else. Why are you making it out to be such a horrifying thing? I was wrong about this, I really get it now. I’ll follow you tomorrow. I’ll apologize to her and beg for her forgiveness, but please, please reconsider your decision. Please don’t take the children away from me.”

“Now you’re thinking about what’s best for the children? What were you thinking about when you did those things? This is not the first time.” Hanson could not stand being in her presence any longer, so he immediately walked off.

Melanie fell to the ground like a deflated balloon. “Arghhh…” She screamed as if she was trying to vent all the pent-up emotions inside her. She crumpled into a heap on the ground with hollow eyes as her tears seemed to have finally dried up.

After a while, she muttered to herself, “Vania, I’ll never let you get away with this.” Her hollow eyes began to fill with hatred.

She got her phone and dialed a familiar number. “Find out what Hanson did in Easiland,” she barked her command and quickly ended the call. Then, she looked up a number in a protected document and anxiously made another call.

The phone began to ring, and as her heartbeat continued to grow louder with every ring, it felt like it was going to jump out of her chest. Finally, the call connected after ten seconds, but to Melanie, it felt like a lifetime.

The moment the call connected, Melanie began to lash out in a hushed voice, saying, “What on earth is going on? I thought everything went according to plan? How did Hanson find out about it? Did Vania make her way back to Hammond without even so much as a scratch?”

However, the call remained silent, and Melanie did not get an answer.

She impatiently demanded, “What’s going on? Speak!”

Finally, a polite voice filtered through the speakers. "Miss Greyson, this is Larry Clark speaking."

What? Larry?

Melanie suffered a huge fright and scrambled to end the call. She checked the number that she dialed and confirmed that it belonged to Wesley, so why did Larry answer the call?

Immediately, she crawled over to the voice recorder. Her hands were shaking as she pressed play. What she heard was an audio recording of her call with Wesley, as well as a recording of Hanson interrogating those hooligans.

Why did it turn out like this? She had assumed that Hanson was just standing up for Vania, but she never thought that he knew about the entire plan. What on earth happened in Eastland?

Just as she was lost in her confusion, she received a message that included Hanson's itinerary in Eastland.

When he reached Eastland, he headed straight for Farville and rescued Vania. Then, he spent the night with Vania in a hotel before heading back to Hammond in the morning

It was such a huge coincidence that Melanie started to wonder whether everything had been a premeditated plan all along.

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Who would have influenced Hanson? Why was he willing to follow Vania to Farville?

Melanie did not know what to do anymore. How was she going to win Hanson back?

All alone in the empty estate, Melanie continued to stew in her thoughts.

After a day of much-needed rest, Vania was finally back to her normal self the next morning. She knew that she was going to sign the contract with Hanson today, so she got up a little earlier than usual.

"My babies, Mommy is heading to the office now, so I'll see all of you tonight."

Her three babies reluctantly watched her leave. "Goodbye, Mommy."

Vania thought that she would be early, but when she arrived at her company, she found that Hanson was already waiting for her. Of course, Melanie was with him as well.

Vania did not bother to even look at Melanie. She smiled at Hanson and said, "I thought we agreed yesterday that I'll make the trip to Luke Corporation. I didn't expect you to show up here this early, Mr. Luke."

When Hanson heard the form of address that Vania used with him, he frowned and corrected her by saying, "Vania, I told you to just call me Hanson." His tone of voice left no room for objection.

He did not want to hear the words 'Mr. Luke' come out of Vania's mouth.

Vania nodded along, but she neither agreed nor disagreed to do so.

However, this was enough for Melanie to start boiling with anger. Are these two people fliruing in front of me?!

Since when did Hanson ever allow other people to call him by name? He rebuked her constantly back then when she first started addressing him as Hanson. In the end, he did not bother correcung her any longer, but she knew exactly why. It was not because he had finally accepted her, but it was because he no longer cared what she did. It did not matter to him how she addressed him anymore.

Vania asked her staff to prepare two glasses of water, one for Hanson, and one for herself. She did not get one for Melanie, and she still did not even look Melanie in the eye at all.

Melanie was infuriated by how Vania was ignoring her. It was obvious that Vania was disregarding her on purpose. Even so, since Hanson was with them, Melanie could only patiently wait in silence.

She heard Vania saying politely, "Since you're here, it saves me a trip to your office. This is the contract that my company has prepared. Please take a look and see if there's anything you'd like to discuss."

When Hanson received the document, he did not even bother to look through it. He flipped straight to the back and signed his name with a flourish. Even his signature looked as intimidating as he did.

Vania blinked a few times and asked, "Aren't you going to check the terms of the contract?"

Hanson sounded very indulgent as he said, "I trust you."

Vania shot back and said, "Aren't you afraid that I'll cheat you?"

Hanson shrugged indifferently. "Who cares? I can afford to lose a bit of money if it makes you happy."

Was 150 million a bit of money? The world of Hanson Luke was certainly beyond the imagination of ordinary plebeians.

However, what did he mean by 'If it made her happy? Did that not sound a little too flirtatious?

As for Melanie, she felt a stir of jealousy again. Was Hanson under some kind of spell? Why did he have so much faith in Vania?

She was beginning to think that Hanson did not bring her here to apologize at all. He simply brought her here to be ridiculed in public.

As for Linda and Larry, they were starting to feel like they were watching a couple on a date.

Vania had been started by Hanson's words, but soon, she was back to her confident businesswoman self, "Since there are no amendments necessary, then the contract can commence today. I will have a collection of jewelry designs ready within a month, and Luke Corporation will handle all the sales and marketing that comes after."

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Hanson didn't seem worried at all. He was willing to offer Vania his full support. "No problem. You can contact me anytime with a request."

"Sure," Vania responded.

Melanie, who was ignored on the side, faced another crisis in her heart. Since the two of them had successfully collaborated, they would have more opportunities to meet in the future. Would the things that she had done be revealed? If so, it would be detrimental to her.

After talking about business, Vania first gazed at Melanie, who was seemingly absent minded, before looking at Hanson. "Do you have anything else?" she inquired.

Right then, Hanson gave Melanie a meaningful glance and then continued staring at Vania.

She is undeniably beautiful.

Upon receiving the signal, Melanie immediately retracted her thoughts. She lowered her head in Vania's direction and said, "I'm here to apologize to you." That being said, if Vania listened carefully, there was a hint of indignation in Melanie's tone.

After hearing the other woman's half-hearted apologies, Vania sneered, "Oh? Apologize? I wonder when you are referring to, Miss Melanie? Is this an apology for what you did five years ago? Or is it about the present moment?"

As she said that, Vania leaned against her executive chair and looked at Melanie condescendingly.

After Melanie heard the words 'five years ago, she quickly interrupted, "I am here to sincerely apologize. It's my fault that I sent someone to intimidate you when you went to Farville. I'm sorry, so please forgive me!"

Melanie was terrified that Vania would suddenly reveal what had happened five years before, so she kept hinting at Vania with her eyes.

Melanie's admonition, however, no longer frightened Vania. The latter merely said lightly, "Oh-I thought it was another matter. It turns out that you plotted the Farville incident. If you don't come to apologize, I won't even know." With Hanson's presence, Vania continued and provoked, "I wonder what would have happened if Hanson hadn't been protecting me. I never expected you to do something so nasty. How

could you be so cold-hearted? I didn't offend you, so why would you do this to me?"

As Vania spoke, she pretentiously wiped away her non-existent tears, portraying herself as a helpless and innocent woman.

Doesn't Melanie hate me for interacting with Hanson? Then I will do just that.

At first glance, this pretentious behavior could be seen as being fake by others, but Hanson's face was filled with indulgence. He enjoyed watching Vania's acting and wanted to see this different side of her

On the other hand, Melanie was taken aback by Vania's unexpected response. Vania's questioning had rendered her speechless and she had no idea how to respond.

After a while, Melanie finally came up with a reason. "At that time, I was jealous of you. I was not thinking clearly, which is why I did it," she explained.

Vania, on the other hand, was still crying innocently. "Why are you jealous of me?" she sobbed. "Was it about my beauty? Or my talent? But I'm indeed both beautiful and talented, so it's pointless to feel jealous of me. Oh-maybe there's something you did that I knew about, and you want to kill me for knowing?"

Melanie's expression suddenly changed when she heard that. "What are you talking about? I have no secrets. I only came to genuinely apologize to you and beg for your forgiveness," she reiterated.

Vania casually pointed to her head with one finger as if she was considering some complicated questions. "But I can't perceive your sincerity," she sneered after a moment of silence.

At once, Melanie stood up and bowed to Vania. "I'm sorry," she apologized.

However, her tone was still filled with unwillingness.

Vania stared coldly at the other woman's actions and she remarked, "I heard that when you apologize to someone, you have to bow ninety degrees because it is considered courteous." Then, she gazed at Hanson deliberately, looking much like a spoiled child. "Am I right?" she asked coquettishly.

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Although Hanson knew that Vania did it on purpose, he took advantage of her coquetry. "You're right," he concurred.

Melanie clenched her teeth when she saw that. Vania was working with Hanson to intentionally embarrass her.

Hence, she had no choice and could only bow at a ninety degree angle in response to Vania's request. "I'm sorry. Please forgive me."

"Oops!" Vania said with a surprised tone. "I apologize. I was focused on Hanson at the time, so I missed it. I suppose you'll have to do it again."

Melanie gritted her teeth tightly and started all over again.

Just as Melanie thought it was over after she finished bowing, Vania supported her own head with her palm and said, "I don't think your apology is sincere and I don't

accept it."

What? Melanie frowned, expressing her impatience. "Then how would you like me to apologize?" she asked.

Vania shrugged innocently and her expression was overly naïve. "Didn't you say that you came to apologize to me? Why are you asking me how to do it? You obviously did not come to sincerely apologize, then. Forget it!" she remarked.

Forget it?

Melanie was stunned for a moment.

No, this can't be happening. I have already promised Hanson!

With that in her mind, Melanie could only endure Vania's willful attitude. At that point, she properly stood in front of Vania and bowed deeply. "Vania, I was wrong. I genuinely apologize to you for my past mistakes. I hope you can forgive me."

At that moment, Vania muttered, "What did you say? Your voice is so low that I can't hear a word,"

Melanie repeated what she just said, though she was annoyed by the request.

However, Vania still shook her head, indicating that she did not hear clearly.

So, Melanie could only repeat it and each time, her voice became louder than before. In the end, she repeated them more than ten times, until her voice became hoarse. Only then did Vania nod and state, "I can hear it clearly this time. And then?"

'And then' what?

Melanie's patience was running out due to Vania's torment.

She could tell that Vania was purposefully making things difficult for her.

Vania looked at a stunned Melanie and inquired, "Didn't you say you want to sincerely apologize to me? What's your token of remorse?"

What token of remorse? I thought I had bowed to you!

What exactly does she want from me?

In the end, Melanie tried to seek help from Hanson by looking at him pleadingly, but his eyes were fixed on Vania and he didn't bother to look at her.

That didn't work, so Melanie could only lower her head and scowl.

Then, as if she had made up her mind, she grinned her teeth and slapped herself in front of Vania.

The slap was so hard that the sound echoed throughout the room.

Oh-that looks excruciatingly painful! She does have some guts, Vania mused to herself.

It seems like she is willing to do anything for Hanson.

However, Vania merely put on a confused look and pretentiously asked, “What are you doing?”

Melanie bowed her head and pleaded for mercy in a hushed tone. “Vania, it’s all my fault. Please accept my apologies. I know it’s all because of my jealousy that caused these things and hurt you. I’m truly sorry. This slap is to remind me that I shouldn’t be jealous of you from now on. For the sake of my sincerity, please forgive me.”

Melanie purposely said it in a wholehearted tone. She had used all her strength for that slap, and it was so painful that her head started to feel dizzy.

This way, Vania should be able to let me go. Hanson is here after all, and Vania must consider his image.

However, it was wishful thinking for Melanie in using this way to get rid of Vania’s retaliation.

Vania didn’t seem to be moved by Melanie’s apology. Instead, she looked puzzled and asked, “What are you doing? You make it look like I want to use violence against you. I just want you to show remorse but instead, you slapped yourself. You’re trying to paint me as somebody who bullies people if I’m on the right side. It seems that you are not genuine in seeking my forgiveness. I can’t see the slightest sincerity from you, you know?”

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After Vania finished speaking, she gazed at Melanie with a half-smile, wanting to see what kind of reaction the latter would have next.

Melanie, on the other hand, stared at Vania incredulously.

She is so articulate that she can turn black into white with a few sentences!

If she can’t see my sincerity after all this, then what does she want? Should I keep slapping myself, or should I find another way to apologize?

But what other way do I have?

At this point, Melanie looked at Hanson innocently, hoping that he would give her some hints.

But there was nothing from the man. He didn't even bother looking at her, so how could there be any hints?

Seeing Melanie was stuck in a conundrum, Vania said sarcastically, "Oh-by the way, I recalled there was one time when you indiscriminately came to my house at midnight, wanting me to kneel before you and apologize. Does it ring a bell?" Vania's words seemed to hint to Melanie on how to apologize.

Hearing that, Melanie was thunderstruck. Although Hanson knew about this, he didn't know the details. Please don't go any further! she prayed.

On the other hand, Vania could see through Melanie. She gave the latter a teasing look and casually continued, "Well, this matter has given me an idea. Reciprocally, you should kneel and apologize to me. If you do so, I will accept your apology."

It was easy for Vania to say that, yet the words seemed to carry a heavy weight for Melanie to bear.

This woman dares to ask me to kneel and apologize to her?

And publicly, at that? What about my image and reputation?

Melanie couldn't accept Vania's suggestion and glared at her as if she was looking at a wicked person. Immediately, Melanie burst into tears, expressing her innocence. "I always thought you were a righteous person, but I never expected you would go to this extent to pick on me. I have sincerely apologized to you, so why do you have to

force me to a corner like this?!" she cried.

Vania chuckled coldly in response. "I learned this from you. I'm not a righteous person either, so it's just an eye for an eye. What's more, this is incomparable to your viciousness in ruining my reputation and leaving me to die in the mountains."

Vania knew deep down that Melanie was not going to kneel before her and apologize. The latter came here today just for Hanson's sake, and it was nothing but a show.

So, Vania emphasized indifferently, "You were the one who wanted to apologize, and I have never forced you to do so. The only choice you have here is to kneel and apologize. Otherwise, the best choice for you is to turn around and leave."

That being said, how could Melanie turn around and leave? Hence, she humbly begged for mercy. "Vania, please accept my heartfelt apologies. I know you're enraged and it was entirely my fault. I am truly sorry."

After saying that, she squeezed her eyes closed and slapped herself again.

Slap! Slap! Slap!

Melanie continued by slapping herself more than a dozen times. Every strike of hers was accompanied by a loud noise and before long, her cheek was reddened and swollen like a peach.

As she slapped herself, she kept on apologizing, "I was wrong... I was wrong..."

During the whole process, Vania remained silent and simply glanced at the woman indifferently.

She did this to herself. I never asked her to do this.

On top of that, it was only a few slaps. Compared to the intimidation Vania had received and the family affection she had lost, this was nothing. These slaps were far from enough to relieve the rage in her heart,

Meanwhile, Melanie's hand was already hurting from the slapping, but Vania showed no signs of relenung. At that moment, she had reached the breaking point.

Just then, an idea came to her mind. "Ah!" Melanie fell to the ground on her knees and she directed her body toward Hanson.