LLDP 61-70

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The person outside the door seemed to hold a grudge against her, smashing the door heavily. She could hear the sound of the door frame trembling even in her bedroom.

It seemed that the person outside could break in any moment.

She lifted her quilt with a sullen face, causally brushed her hair, put on her shoes and walked out of the bedroom. She wanted to see who the hell was so rude.

Before that, she first went to the kitchen and took a sharp knife.

Just as she reached the foyer, she heard the sound of talking from outside the door.

"Mom, what are you doing? Stop it!" Logan grabbed Shonna's arm and tried to stop her from banging on the door.

Shonna looked at him angrily and said, "Why are you stopping me? Let go. I will teach this little bitch a good lesson today."

"She is my... Well, this is a matter between Amber and Makenna. Why do you have to interfere?" He frowned with a teenage face.

She grunted and said, "Why can't I interfere? Makenna is my future daughter-in-law. Since she is bullied, I, as her future mother-in-law, have to give her support!"

After saying that, she shook off his hand and continued to smash the door, shouting, "Amber, you dared to bully Makenna. Do you dare come out and see me? Open the door! I know you are inside. Open..."

Before she could finish her words, the door in front of her was opened.

She was caught off guard and lunged forward instantly.

Seeing Shonna's big body stumbling towards her, Amber felt a bit disgusted. She let go of the door handle and took a few steps backward.

Thump!

Shonna fell to the ground with face down in front of Amber, yelling painfully.

Logan froze outside the door.

Amber looked down at Shonna on the ground and smiled. "Yo, you really flattered me with such a big salute. Ms. Woodham, no need to be so polite. Come, get up!"

While saying that, she pretended to help her up.

"Get lost! I don't need your help!" Shonna got furious with red eyes and shook off her hand with a bad attitude.

She did not expect that she would lose face in front of Amber.

Amber did not get angry. Instead, she straightened up her body and smiled. "Ms. Woodham, get up then."

Shonna gave a cold grunt and braced her hands on the ground to get up.

But due to her fatness, she could not get up easily.

Amber laughed out.

Shonna looked at her with gritted teeth. "What are you laughing at?"

"It's nothing." Amber waved her hand and said, "I suddenly remembered a toad I saw on TV last night. It fell from a high place and was flipped over. Because of its fat body, it just could not turn back to its feet. It was so funny and I laughed."

"You... How dare you call me a toad?" Shonna pointed at her, trembling all over.

Amber spread her hands and said with an innocent face, "No. I was talking about a toad, not you. Why do you have to think like that? You think you are a toad?"

She looked at Shonna with a smiling face.

Shonna just could not say anything.

Wouldn't that be like admitting that she was a toad?

She ignored Amber, turned around and saw Logan still standing outside. Instantly, rage surged in her heart and she bellowed, "Come over quickly and help me up!"

"Oh yes." He finally returned to his senses and stepped inside to help her up.

"You have big strength as a teenager," Amber praised him.

He got a bit proud and said with a raised chin, "Hum, of course. I am a man!"

Of course he had big strength!

She sized him up and down and landed her eyes between his thighs for two seconds. Then she shook her head and said, "I can't see that."

"What... Hey!" After he noticed where her gaze was landed, he instantly blushed and subconsciously clenched his legs, pointing at her in shame and anger.

Shonna was more than furious. She raised her slap towards Amber's face while saying, "Bitch, how dare you seduce my son! I will teach you a good lesson today."

"Hey you! Watch out!" He did not expect things to turn out like this. Being anxious, he instantly warned Amber to dodge away.

Amber looked at him with some surprise. The worries on his face was unexpected to her.

Soon she smiled.

It seemed that her help for him last time did pay off. He was being a grateful boy now.

She did not dodge like he warned but raised her left hand. A knife slid out from her sleeve and she held the knife with its back against her left cheek.

The blade shone appallingly in the air.

When Shonna saw it, she gaped and stopped in time before her hand reached the blade. Luckily, she did not get cut.

"You... You even had a knife on you!" He looked at Amber in disbelief.

Shonna looked at the knife with terror.

Amber put the knife down and fiddled the blade with her fingers and said with a smile, "Since you almost smashed my door, I thought it was a robbery. I brought a knife to protect myself. Wasn't that quite logical?"

He did not know what to say.

She no longer looked at him and landed her eyes on Shonna, who was still a bit startled. "You said that you came here because I bullied Makenna, huh?"

Hearing this, Shonna immediately forgot her fear and asked with a fierce face, "Isn't that so? You let those dirty men kidnapped Makenna and she's now in hospital. You..."

"Do you have any evidence?" Amber interrupted her with a cold face.

It seemed she guessed correctly last night.

They surely suspected that it was Amber who had asked someone to kidnap Makenna.

"This is what Makenna told me personally. Do you still need proof?" Shonna sneered with crossed arms.

Amber stared straight at her calmly. "If you don't have evidence, then you are slandering me. I will call the police."

"Then do it." Shonna rolled her eyes at her with disdain.

Amber looked at her for two seconds and took out her phone from her pocket.

"You're really going to call the police?" Shonna was goggle-eyed.

She thought Amber was just threatening her, and did not expect her to take action.

Amber looked at her who seemed like a complete fool. "Do you think I am joking with you?"

While speaking, she got through to the police and spoke, "Hello, is this the police station? I have to report a case. Someone here..."

Before she could finish, Shonna hurriedly grabbed her phone and smashed it hard on the ground.

With a snap, the phone shattered.

Shonna laughed out with a smug face. "What can you do now?"

Amber looked at the phone on the ground with a sullen fac e. After a while, she sneered, "That's all you've got? Do you know where you are?"

This was Kelsington Bay, one of the most exclusive residential areas in Olkmore City. The security here was first-class with alarms everywhere. It happened that there was one on her shoe cabinet.

She raised her hand and pressed on the alarm. All of a sudden, the sound of an alarm resounded throughout the whole building.

"What's wrong?" Shonna got startled and glared at her. "What did you do?"

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"You'll find out soon." Amber gave a frigid grin.

Rapid footsteps from the elevator were soon heard, and four security guards stood before their eyes.

Logan understood the gravity of the situation at this point and took a step back behind the door to make a phone call.

Amber watched his actions and knew who he was calling, but instead of stopping him, she directed the guards, "This lady here smashed my door, my phone, and my belongings," she said, pointing to Shonna, "I feel intimidated by her aggressive conduct, please have her locked up."

"Little floozie, how dare you! You..." Shonna shrieked angrily at Amber.

"As you can see, she's insulting me; please put her in jail right now!" Amber interrupted Shonna.

"Yes, Ms. Reed," four of them said in unison, arresting Shonna and taking her to the elevator.

"Mom!" Logan was panicked as he saw the guards take Shonna away and his call went unanswered.

Shonna was unable to free herself from the guards, so she turned to glare at Amber while cursing her way out.

Amber couldn't believe a lady from such a privileged family could swear and act so shrewishly.

As the elevator door closed, Shonna's voice faded away.

"Why did you do that?" Logan questioned angrily as he hung up the unanswered call.

"What did I do?" As she rested against the door frame, Amber asked lazily.

"You let them take my mom away," Logan gripped his phone firmly.

"Didn't she ask for it?" Said Amber. "I said it just now. I feel intimidated by her aggressiveness in smashing my door, and this alone is more than enough to have her locked up. And not only that, but she also destroyed my phone and cursed me!" Amber added, her arms crossed in front of her chest.

"I suppose you heard how she cursed me using such harsh and filthy language just now, am I wrong to have her sent away?" Amber said, pointing to Logan's ear. "If someone spoke such things to you, you'd do the same!"

"I..." Logan was speechless and could only stare at the ground.

Yes, he would have responded in the same way if someone had acted in the same manner against him; in fact, he might have beaten them until they stopped talking.

"Don't expect people to treat you with respect if you don't treat others the same way," Amber scoffed as she stared at Logan's helpless expression.

Logan's face was flushed with rage, "I didn't," he said emphatically.

Amber slammed the door in his face when she went in.

"Hey..." Logan's phone rang just as he was about to stop her, and he was glad to see it was Jared. "Why didn't you pick up just now?"

"Are you asking for money?" Jared asked, after hearing Logan's somewhat panicked tone. Having turned on the speaker and left his phone aside, he continued to work on his computer.

"Is money the only reason I'll ever contact you?" Logan said, frowning.

"Isn't it?"

Logan was speechless.

"Alright, I call most of the time to aski for money, but not this time, something happened," he added as he glimpsed at Amber's door.

"What happened?"

"Mom has been arrested."

"What? Tell me everything," Jared said, his eyes narrowed.

Logan told him the whole incident word by word, "So Amber had the security to take mom away."

As he listened, Jared grimaced even more. "All right, I'll go to the police right away, and is she alright?" He asked coldly.

"Who?" For a brief while, Logan was perplexed.

"Amber." As he pressed his lips together, Jared muttered.

"Oh, she's good, but why did you ask?" Logan was enthralled.

"You mentioned mom was aggressive just now, and if Amber's hurt, we'll need her forgiveness to bail mom out, which is why I'm asking," Jared explained, a little hesitantly.

"Ah, I see." Logan looked to the door, unconcerned, and said, "Don't worry, she's alright. She managed to avoid mom's attack."

"All well, then," Jared felt a weight lifted from his heart, despite the fact that he had no idea why.

Jared then donned his black cloak and left the office, heading for the station.

Shonna was bailed out since no one was hurt, but they paid a significant sum of fines.

"You are finally out," Logan said as he spotted them coming out of the station.

"How dare that whore put me in such a dreadful situation and humiliate me; I'll take my vengeance shortly!" Shonna became enraged and expressed her displeasure.

Whore? Hearing that, Jared's face fell; he hadn't realized that was how Shonna had been addressing Amber all along, and a sliver of rage erupted inside him.

"Mom, why didn't you listen when I told you not to bother Amber last time?" He said, somewhat enraged, casting a glance at Shonna.

"And you! Why didn't you stop her?" Jared said to Logan.

"I tried, but failed. What should I do? Mom raced to Amber after learning that she was engaged in Makenna's kidnapping." Logan grumbled, his lips pursed.

"I did it because Makenna told me in the morning that the kidnapper is one of Amber's admirers, so I figured that ugly slut must be the mastermind of this kidnapping," Shonna complained.

"Yes, the kidnapper is Amber's admirer, but she has nothing to do with the kidnapping," Jared said, irritated by Shonna's words. He trusted his gut and believed Amber had nothing to do with it.

"I feel the same way," Logan said with a nod.

"Which side are you on?" Shonna said, pulling Logan's ear. "Why are you defending that ugly slut?"

Even Jared was taken aback when he heard Logan defended Amber, because he knew how much Logan despised her and had not expected such an anomaly from him.

"Mom, let go, it hurt!" Logan was on the verge of collapsing from pain.

"Keep in mind that only Makenna could be your sister-in-law, and never defend that whore again!" Shonna said as she let go knowing he was in anguish.

"All right," Logan grudgingly agreed.

As he rubbed his glabella and opened the car door, Jared muttered, "That's enough, let's go back."

After sending them back to the Farrell Mansion, Jared left. On his way, he hesitated but called Amber.

He phoned her for the first time since their divorce.

Within seconds, his call was answered.

"Hello? Who is this?" Amber answered gently.

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Jared frown. She deleted his number?

Amber was about to hang up after receiving no response, when she heard a man's voice on the other end said, "It's me."

Amber's pen-fiddling hand froze in mid-air, and she stared at the number on the screen and recognized it now!

Despite the fact that she deleted all of his contacts after their divorce, she still remembered his phone number.

"Is there anything I can assist you with, Mr. Farrell?" She said, taking a deep breath.

Jared's face clouded as he heard her cold tone when she realized it was him. She was gentle just now, when she thought he was a stranger!

"I call to apologize," he said, concealing his irritation.

"Apologize?" Amber said as she tossed the pen on the table and leaned back. "Mr. Farrell, what did you apologize for?"

"I'm sorry my mother troubled you," Jared apologized.

"Oh, for your mother," Amber sneered. "You've already apologized for your fiancé and your mother, so I assume you'll have to apologize on behalf of your brother next, huh?"

"There won't be another," Jared said coldly.

"Don't be too sure about that; I know how troublesome the Farrells can be, particularly your mother." Amber couldn't help but roll her eyes when she mentioned Shonna, "Mr. Farrell, there's a question I've been meaning to ask for a long time, mind if I ask now?"

"Go ahead," Jared replied as he adjusted his earpiece.

"Are you related to your mother biologically?" Amber inquired, one hand supporting her chin.

Shonna was a shrew, and no matter how exquisite she looked, her demeanor was shrewish.

It was difficult to believe that someone like her could have given birth to someone like Jared.

"Why did you ask?" Jared said, a little puzzled.

Amber shrugged and said, "Just out of curiosity."

As he turned the sterling wheel, Jared said, "Yes, we are biologically related."

Amber groaned with despair, thinking that it may be a hereditary abnormality.

"All right then, I have no more questions," she said, "But please keep your mother under control; I don't want to see her barking like a mad dog in front of my door ever again."

Barking like a mad dog? "Mind your language, Amber," Jared said, slightly irritated.

"What's wrong with my language?" Amber burst out laughing. "Perhaps you should reflect on how you and your family had treated me during our six-year marriage. What gives you the right to demand respect from me. Who do you think you are?" She hung up as soon as she finished speaking.

The beep in his earphones indicated that the call had been terminated.

"How you and your family treated me during our six-year marriage," Jared rubbed his forehead as Amber's words resonated in his ears.

He felt a huge weight on his heart as he remembered how they had treated Amber previously.

While thinking about all of this, he arrived at the hospital. Before stepping in, he parked the car and lingered inside for a while.

Makenna was watching TV in the VIP ward, while Mrs. Gardner was peeling an apple beside the bed.

When she heard someone knocking on the door, she glanced up and said with a smile, "Makenna, guess who's here?"

Makenna turned to the door and was surprised when she saw Jared, "Jared..." her eyes welled up and she ran towards him.

"Why are you crying?" Jared said as he hugged her and stroked her hair.

"I miss you," she said, her head leaning on his chest.

"I'm here now, am I?" Jared said, his glint softening.

Mrs. Gardner put the apple away and rose, smiling. "Jared can keep you company now while I go find out when Makenna may be discharged," she said.

"All right," Jared said with a nod.

He then placed his hand on Makenna's forehead and breathed a sigh of relief as he realized she was no longer having a fever.

"Do you feel better?" Jared inquired as he drew his hand back.

"I'm still dizzy," Makenna replied, a frown on her face.

"Rest a little longer," Jared said as he slid the cushion into place and motioned for her to lie down.

"I'm done resting; all I need now is you at my side," she said, shaking her head.

Jared didn't say no; instead, he took a seat by the bed while Makenna clutched his arm and put her head on his shoulder.

"Jared, your mother came to see me this morning and hurried over to Ms. Reed after I told her she may be related to my kidnapping; I couldn't stop her."

"I know," said Jared.

"You knew? Did she do anything to Ms. Reed?" Makenna asked, looking at Jared's profile.

Jared looked down. His mother had been arrested before she could harm Amber. Amber, on the other hand, kept herself from being harmed.

Thinking about that, Jared smiled and without realizing that his eyes were gleaming with softness .

Realizing why he smiled, Makenna tightened her fists. She was alarmed, but still pretended to be curious as she said, "Why are you smiling, Jared?"

'Look at his bright smile when Amber is mentioned! Oh shit, I need to get rid of Amber as quickly as possible; if thing continues this way, Jared will fall for her. I can see he likes her, even if he doesn't recognize it.' Makenna pondered.

Hearing Makenna's query regarding his grin, Jared's eyes clouded and he returned to his normal self. "Nothing, I just thought of something funny."

"Ah, I see." Makenna forced a grin on her face while being depressed on the inside.

Mrs. Gardner walked in and said, "Makenna, the doctor says you may go home tomorrow."

"That's fantastic; I'm tired of being in the hospital; I've been here for six years and finally get to go home," Makenna exclaimed cheerfully as Jared caressed her hair.

"Did you manage to find out the fox mask man?" Mrs. Gardner asked Jared.

When Makenna heard "fox mask man", her smiley face stiffened. "Jared..." she sobbed.

"Don't be scared..." Jared said as he drew her into his arms and softly stroked her back.

Looking at Makenna's response, Mrs. Gardner immediately regretted mentioning that name. "I'm sorry, sweetheart, I didn't mean to..."

"I'm alright, mom," Makenna answered, her eyes welling up with tears. "I deserved it all; if I hadn't injured Ms. Reed because of my insecurities, she wouldn't have plotted this kidnapping; it's all on me."

"Nonsense. Amber is such a vice woman," Mrs. Gardner cried too, "We compensated her already, but she still plotted the kidnapping. She is vengeful!"

Makenna wailed with her head down, as if she too, couldn't comprehend why Amber had done such a thing to her.

"Please understand that this kidnapping has nothing to do with Amber; it is utterly the kidnapper's own idea," Jared frowned at the two.

"Are you defending Amber, Jared?" Mrs. Gardner was taken aback and looked at him with bewilderment.

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"I'm not defending her. I'm stating the facts," Jared said with a gentle shook of his head.

"But..." Makenna's clutch on her sleeve halted Mrs. Gardner's comments.

"Mom, forget about it; we should trust Jared when he says these aren't Amber's doing," Makenna stated while forcing a smile on her face.

Jared grimaced at her words, which appeared to be twisted yet were not.

Mrs. Gardner knew what Makenna was saying and locked her gaze on Jared.

Makenna informed her that she overheard the kidnapper claiming that he acted on Amber's commands to get revenge on Makenna. Nevertheless, despite being saddened by Jared's act of defending Amber, Makenna continued to support him.

"Mr. Farrell," Ben said as he knocked on their door.

"Yes?" Jared asked.

He swept a glance at Makenna and continued, "I've got information on Jeremy Lynch."

Jared narrowed his eyes and said, "Wait for me outside."

As he went out, Ben said, "Yes."

"I'm going out for a while," Jared told Makenna as he pulled his arm free from her grip.

Makenna smiled as she nodded.

Before leaving, Jared assisted her in lying down on the bed and putting on the blanket.

"This is all I discovered about Jeremy Lynch," Ben said outside the room as he handed Jared a file. "He is an orphan who grew up in Ensford Town and only began attending school after ten years old with the sponsorship from Ms. Reed and her father. He was later discovered and eventually became a model. He does not match the description of the fox mask man."

"You're sure it wasn't him?" Jared frowned.

"Yes," Ben said, nodding. "I asked Mr. Gardner, he met fox mask man twice and could tell that the man was a top-notch hacker whereas Jeremy had no experience in this sector. Furthermore, he is now ill as a result of a shooting in a snowy location, but the fox mask man displayed no signs of illness."

"What should we do next?" Ben asked Jared.

"Investigate everyone related to Amber; I'm sure the is one of Amber's acquaintances; check every one of them." After a brief pause, Jared gave instructions.

"Yes!" Ben nodded.

"Hello, Mr. Farrell," said a voice from behind.

Jared turned around to see Chloe Mendez and Gigi Garland approaching him with a bouquet in their hands.

"Is Makenna there in the room?" Chloe inquired, avoiding the man's gaze. "We came here to pay her a visit after learning that she was sick," she stated, her voice quivering slightly.

Jared pointed to the door and said, "She's inside."

"Thank you." Chloe said as she turned to Gigi, "Let's go in."

"Yes," Gigi answered, elevating her chin.

Chloe knocked on the door while Gigi gazed at Jared. She hadn't gotten a good look at this man in the private room before, but now that she had, she thought Jared was far better-looking than her husband Nathan Lehman. Her eyes grew gloomy as she thought of the man who wanted to divorce her.

"Makenna invited us in," Chloe said as she opened the door and waved at Gigi.

"Coming," Gigi murmured as she walked in after politely nodding to Jared.

"Let's get going," Jared told Ben and proceeded to the elevator while putting the documents in Ben's hand.

"Are you not staying here with Ms. Gardner?" Ben asked as he followed behind Jared.

"No, she has the company from her pals," Jared responded indifferently before leaving a voice mail for Makenna, telling her he left.

Makenna bit her bottom lip as she listened to the voice message and reluctantly replied: Okay.

"What's the matter, Makenna?" Chloe inquired, noticing her change of mood as she placed the flower on the table.

"Nothing, thank you for coming," Makenna said as she placed her phone down.

"It's no big deal; we're best friends," Chloe said with a wave.

"I heard you were abducted, is that true?" Gigi sat in the chair next to the bed, her legs crossed in an elegant way.

Although it wasn't on the news, Makenna's hospitalization was not a secret; with a little digging, anyone could find out the story.

"You were kidnapped?" Chloe asked, her jaw dropping, "Who did that?"

Makenna's eyes welled up with tears. "An admirer of Ms. Reed." She forced a grin as she admitted, "I accidentally hurt her a few days ago, and so her admirer abducted me as payback."

"What? But you didn't do it on purpose, yet her admirer abducted you?" Chloe screamed angrily.

"Perhaps he believed I hurt Ms. Reed intentionally, therefore..." Makenna grumbled bitterly, not finishing her line.

"I assume this has something to do with Amber, she could be the mastermind of this kidnapping," Chloe fumed.

"No, Jared stated that Ms. Reed had nothing to do with it." Makenna hastily waved her hands no, fearful that they might misread the situation.

"How did he know Amber is innocent?" Gigi wondered as she rubbed her chin.

Makenna shook her head, unhappy, and said, "I'm not sure, maybe he asked Ms. Reed."

"I'm convinced that Amber had lied to Jared, Makenna, and we can't let her go without a fight..." Chloe remarked as she crossed her arms across her hips.

"But..." Makenna nibbled her lower lip in hesitant.

"Don't hesitate, she plotted a kidnapping now and could have other wicked plans in the future, we need to teach her a lesson, letting her know we are not hers to be bullied," Chloe's heart ached as she looked at Makenna.

Gigi offered, "Leave everything to me."

"What do you intend to do, Gigi?" Makenna inquired.

"I know Goldstone is attempting to acquire a loan; I can interfere and make sure the banks reject her application, putting Goldstone in financial jeopardy," Gigi remarked, flicking her nails.

Makenna's lips curled up slightly as she looked at Gigi take out her phone and call the banks, while Chloe gazed at Gigi with awe.

In Goldstone.

"Ms. Reed, we're in trouble," Sheila rushed into Amber's office.

"What's the matter?" Amber raised her eyes from the piles of documents to look at her.

"All of our applications were denied. Many banks stated that we were not qualified for the loan. For the banks that had given us the loan, they claimed that they had made a mistake during the verification process and requested that we immediately return the approved loan."

"What?" Amber clenched tightly on the pen in her hand, and he face turned livid. "What exactly is happening?"

"I have no idea, I guess someone must be targeting us, otherwise the banks wouldn't all be like this so suddenly," Sheila said, looking at Amber.

"Trenton Gardner!" His name came to Amber's mind.

"Are you saying the Trident Group is behind it all?"

Amber took a deep breath and said, "I couldn't think of anybody else."

If it was truly him, either the land or Makenna had to be the cause. It had to be one of these two.

"What are we going to do now?" Sheila wondered.

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Amber said after a few seconds of thought, "Let's do this. First, you go and communicate with the presidents these banks to see if they can change their mind. Then, try to find out if Trenton was behind this."

"Alright." Sheila answered, and then she thought of something, "Do we need to tell Mr Lyon about this?"

"No." Amber shook her head," I don't wish to bother him because he had his own company to look after."

"Alright."

Soon after, Stella Chan from the finance department arrived.

"Ms. Reed, what's going on? I just received phone calls from the banks requesting us to pay off our debt immediately. Didn't we just get the money? How come we're being asked to repay the loan when it's not even due?" Stella asked while walking to the office table.

Amber pinched her nose and replied, "Can't you see it? We've been targeted."

"Who?" Stella asked angrily as she slapped her hand on the desk.

Coldness flashed across Amber's eyes, "I suspect that Trenton did this, but there is no evidence to prove my suspicion for the time being."

"It's more important for us to solve the financial problem than to gather evidence. We The loans are indispensable to support the operation of Goldstone. If we pay back the loans now, Goldstone will immediately go bankrupt," Stella explained with an irritated voice.

Amber pursed her lips.

She was well aware of the gravity of the situation.

"Ms. Reed." There was another knock on the door.

Sheila stood at the door with a regretful expression while shaking her head and said, "I had communicated with those banks. Those who haven't approved the loan for us claimed they wouldn't lend us any money whatsoever. Meanwhile, those who have lent out the money are determined to make us pay it back as soon as possible. Ms. Reed, what should we do?"

Amber asked, "Did they mention that this was instructed by Trenton?"

"No, I had asked them, but they were evasive in their words as if they were afraid of something." Sheila answered.

"How can the president of a bank be afraid of the boss of a private company?" Stella said as she frowned.

Amber narrowed her eyes, "Unless the one who instructed them wasn't Trenton but someone from the government."

"Ms. Reed, when did you mess with the government officer?" Stella looked solemn.

Amber shook her head and said blankly, "I don't know."

She had recently dealt with the authorities regarding the land. However, she didn't offend them.

"Forget about it. We can think about that later. The most important thing right now is to resolve the financial issue that we are facing," Stella suggested.

Amber closed her eyes tiredly, "Sheila, please contact the presidents of the banks that have already granted our loans. Just tell them that I am inviting them to dinner at Universal Hotel."

She must persuade those who have granted the loans from retracting the agreement. Otherwise, Goldstone Co. would go bankrupt.

As for those who had not released the loans, just leave them aside.

"Alright." Sheila nodded.

Amber looked at Stella and said, "Sort out those loan agreements and bring them to me. And I need you to accompany me to the hotel later."

"Alright."

After an hour, Amber and Stella arrived at the Universal Hotel.

Within the Olkmore City, this was the only seven-star hotel owned by the Farrell Group.

A typical meal here could cost more than an average family's yearly income.

Not to say that Amber had reserved a private room and ordered a slew of expensive dishes to entertain the presidents of those banks. This demonstrated her sincerity.

After enjoying such a delectable treat, the bank presidents were finally informed of the person's identity who had targeted her. The person's last name was Garland.

"Ms. Reed, from what I know, there is only one powerful family with the surname Garland in South Riverside." Stella whispered into Amber's ear.

Amber tightened her grip on the wine glass in her hand. Her bright face became frosty, and she said, "It's Gigi Garland."

She had no conflicts with the Garland family.

But she did have some disagreements with Gigi Garland.

"I guess it's her too. Why did she do this? Is it because of the card game last time?" Stella guessed.

Amber took a sip of her wine, and muttered with an unreadable expression on her face, "Maybe."

"If that's true, she is indeed too petty." Stella snorted, "Moreover, she is in South Riverside. How dare she wields power in Olkmore City? Ms. Reed, I need to leave for a moment to make a phone call."

"Alright." Amber agreed with a nod of her head.

Stella left the room and made a phone call in a quiet place.

"What do you want?" A gruff voice answered the phone.

Stella rolled his eyes and said, "I heard that because the Garland family was too high-profile over the past few years, the top authorities had decided to suppress them. However, they hadn't found a suitable excuse to act, right?"

"Why are you asking this?" The man said with impatience.

"It seems to be true." After pulling a cigarette from her pocket, Stella lit it and took one big drag. She added, "I'm here to tell you some good news. Gigi Garland, the granddaughter of Mel Garland, is currently in Olkmore City. She had used her family's power to exert control over the bank's affairs in this city. What do you think of using this as an excuse to move against the Garlands?"

The man on the phone brightened his eyes and said, "This is indeed good news. Before Mel Garland retired, he didn't meddle in the political affairs of other places. But her granddaughter has the audacity to do something like this."

"That's true. She was stupid enough to dig her own trap." Stella mused as she exhaled a puff.

Gigi had offended her previously when playing cards, so Stella played a little trick to cause some troubles to the Garland family

This time, Gigi had screwed the entire family.

Stella couldn't stop laughing when she thought of this.

The man frowned, "What are you laughing at? How is your search for the young master going?"

Stella stopped her smile and yelled, "How dare you ask this? You told me that the young master had stayed in Ensford Town, but I couldn't find any clues when I went there. How can I locate him?"

The man choked for a moment and said, "That's enough. Don't yell. Just quickly find the young master because the old master won't be able to survive for long."

"I understand." Stella responded reluctantly.

After the call, she puffed out the cigarette in her mouth and pressed it out before walking into the room.

When she arrived at the room, she noticed the bank presidents exiting.

Amber was trailing behind them, ready to send them off with a smile.

But it was clear that her smile was forced and filled with sadness. When all the bank presidents had left, Stella asked, "Ms. Reed, how was the negotiation?"

Amber returned to the room before responding, "No, they still don't want to help us. But I tried my best. They gave us three days to pay the loan."

"Three days..." Stella smiled, "That's enough!"

"What do you mean?" Amber looked at her in confusion.

Stella laughed and said, "Just relax, Ms. Reed. I'm sure that these banks would not call us to pay the debt after three days. Those who haven't approved our loan will change their minds and continue to lend money to us because the Garland family is going to suffer."

When Amber saw her expression of certainty, she realized something was going on. She asked, "Did you do something?"

Stella laughed and remained silent.

Amber was now sure that Stella was no ordinary employee.

Perhaps the key was the phone call she had made.

Thinking of this, Amber stood up and bowed to Stella.

Shocked by her actions, Stella stood up after too, asking, "Ms. Reed, what's this for?"

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Amber straightened her body, and gave a smile, "Thank you, Stella. Without your help, I'm really at my wits' end."

Goldstone. needed at least 100 million dollars to function normally. She had no idea where she would get the 100 million if those banks took the money back.

She should definitely thank Stella for resolving her problem.

Stella waved her hands and said, "Ms. Reed, you don't need to thank me. This is my responsibility as a subordinate to alleviate the boss's worries."

Amber smiled and felt her heart warm.

Stella's phone rang just as she twisted her lips and was about to say something.

She looked at her phone before answering with a serious expression, "Hello?"

"Stella, we had found another location where the young master has stayed. Would you like to take a look here?"

"Alright, I will buy the tickets now."

After hanging up the phone, Stella turned to Amber and said, "Ms. Reed, I have to ask for leave again. I have something important..."

"Just go ahead," Amber replied with a smile and added, "I will treat you to a meal when you get back."

"Thank you, Ms. Reed. I'll arrange for a driver to pick you up."

After saying that, she kept her phone and left the room.

Amber ate something more in the private room. Then, she decided to leave and return to Goldstone.

Just as she stepped out of the private room, the door to the opposite room was opened as well. Jared and Ben came out of the room.

They were both stunned when they saw Amber.

Amber was also surprised because she had not expected to meet them here.

"Mr. Farrell." Amber was the first to greet Jared in a friendly manner.

Jared responded with a slight nod.

Ben pushed up his spectacles and smiled politely at Amber, "Miss Reed."

"Hello, Ben." Amber smiled back at him.

Jared creased his eyebrows because his heart was uncomfortable.

She could even smile at Ben, but she always put on a poker face to him.

Sensing Jared's sulkiness, Ben shivered and subconsciously kept his distance from him.

Amber had no intention of starting a conversation with them. Instead, she walked towards the elevator after greeting them.

Jared also moved his legs.

The lift was rising, and three of them quietly waited at the lift entrance. The atmosphere was extremely depressing because none of them spoke.

Ben felt stressed after looking at Jared to his left and Amber to his right.

Why would they meet?

Ben rubbed his throbbing temples.

Finally, the lift arrived.

Amber was the first to walk in, followed by Jared and Ben.

Once inside the lift, Ben stood in the corner and pretended to be the invisible man.

The lift doors closed slowly and began to go down.

Suddenly, the light at the top of the lift flickered twice, and an electric current sound was heard.

Ben raised his head. He swallowed before asking, "Did something happen to the lift?"

As soon as he finished his words, the lift shook violently.

Amber subconsciously screamed, and her face turned pale with fear.

In addition, she was wearing high heels. She couldn't even stand up in the shaky elevator. Eventually, she twisted her foot.

She could even hear the sound of misaligned bones.

Amber broke out in a cold sweat due to the pain, and her expression distorted for a moment.

Just as she was about to fall, an arm wrapped around her waist.

Amber was stunned and asked, "What are you doing?"

Her voice had become hoarse as a result of the pain.

Jared hugged her in such a way that her back was pressed against his chest. Then, he said with a deep voice, "Don't move, lean against me."

Amber was reluctant and prepared to move his hands away from her waist.

Jared's voice came again with a hint of non-negotiability, "If you don't wish to hurt the other leg, just do what I told you."

Amber's hands came to a halt.

How did he know she had sprained her ankle?

It was impossible to tell how she truly felt. Finally, Amber no longer insisted on struggling to break free from Jared's embrace. Instead, she remained motionless as she obediently leaned into his arms."

After all, she really didn't want to injure both of her legs and end up going to work in a wheelchair.

After about two minutes, the lift stopped swaying and descended safely to the first floor.

Amber was finally at ease when the lift doors opened, and she saw the bright light outside.

Ben tidied up his messy clothes and took the initiative in exiting the lift. Then, he stood at the lift's door and held it open.

When Amber looked down at Jared's hand on her waist, a flash of complexity came across her eyes. She said, "Mr. Farrell, could you please remove your hand now?"

"I'm sorry," Jared said while taking his hand away.

Amber braced her hands on the lift wall to stabilize her body. Then, she shook her head and said, "Mr. Farrell doesn't need to apologize. Instead, I should be the one to express my gratitude. Thank you, Mr. Farrell for your help just now."

"You're welcome." Jared's face turned grim when he looked at her pale and stoic face. Then, he shifted his gaze to her swollen ankle with a sense of heartache. He said, "Your foot..."

Amber also looked down and slightly moved her ankle.

Due to this movement, the pain spread throughout her body. She grunted in pain as the cold sweat seeped out again. Her breathing became more rapid, but she pretended not to be in pain and smiled, "My foot is fine."

Fine?

Jared pursed his lips when he saw the cold sweat on her forehead. Then, he bent down to pick her up and walked towards the lift.

Amber was stunned. After regaining her composure, she struggled and said, "Jared, what are you doing? Put me down now!"

"Don't move! Or else you will fall," Jared reminded her.

Amber's face flushed, possibly from anger or shyness. Her body was extremely stiff, and she said, "Then you can just put me down."

"Are you able to walk if I put you down?" Jared said as he swept a glance at her feet.

Amber choked for a moment before she grunted, "That's none of your business."

"This hotel belongs to the Farrell Group. Since I am the boss here and you were injured here, I have the responsibility to look after you." Jared replied.

Ben, who was following behind them, was excited when he saw their backs.

When he was in the lift, he had seen clearly that Mr. Farrell did everything he could to protect Ms. Reed, even when he couldn't stand steadily. Moreover, worry and nervousness were written all over Mr. Farrell's face when he saw Ms. Reed got injured.

Mr. Farrell seemed to have feelings for Ms. Reed still.

Ben was thinking about this when he heard Jared call himself.

He quickly put his thoughts aside and walked towards the hotel lobby lounge. He greeted, "Mr. Farrell."

"Go get some ice packs," Jared instructed.

Ben nodded and did it immediately.

Soon, the ice packs arrived.

Jared took over the ice packs and sat next to Amber. He knelt to pick up her injured foot, placing it on his lap.

When he was about to remove her shoes, Amber stopped him and said, "Mr. Farrell, I can do it myself."

Amber had no idea what got into him that he had suddenly treated her so well.

She would get in touch if he did this in the past. But she wouldn't now. Her disappointed heart would not tremble again for his sudden kindness.

Amber removed her foot from Jared's legs. Then, she took off her high heels and applied an ice pack to her foot to ease the pain.

Jared was frustrated when looking at her actions.

He didn't like the way she kept her distance from him.

But why didn't he say anything since he didn't like it?

"Ms. Reed, I'm here to pick you up." Suddenly, a familiar voice sounded.

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Both Amber and Jared raised their heads to look over. On the other hand, Hayden walked over while twirling a car key on his finger.

Jared glanced at Hayden and the woman beside him with narrowed eyes and frowned.

Then, Jared wondered, why did she let Hayden pick her up?

Since when did they have such a good relationship?

When Hayden saw Jared, Hayden was also a little surprised. "Jared, you're here as well, and even sitting with Ms. Reed? You guys aren't on a date, are you?"

He pointed to the two playfully.

Amber put the ice pack aside and rolled her eyes at Hayden. "What nonsense are you talking about? I came here for a business meeting and met Mr. Farrell by chance."

"Is that so?" Hayden rubbed his chin with disbelief.

Jared remained silent but did not deny it either.

From Jared's action, Hayden believed it and pursed his lips with disinterest. Then, he saw Amber's swollen ankle and was staggered, "Ms. Reed, what happened to your ankle?"

"I have sprained it." Amber put her shoes back on and replied indifferently.

Hayden clicked his tongue and said, "It seems quite bad. I am afraid you have injured your bones as well."

"Hence, your next task is to send me to the hospital." Amber looked up at him.

Hayden acted as if he was her subordinate. "Yes, boss!"

Amber played along with him and extended her hand towards him. "What are you still standing there for? Come over and help me up!"

"Alright!"

Hayden came forward and helped Amber up from the sofa.

With a grim expression, Jared coldly watched the interaction between the two. Then, he slowly pursed his lips grimly.

Especially when Jared saw Hayden wrap his arm around Amber's waist, Jared's aura was so grim that it was terrifying.

However, neither Amber nor Hayden noticed Jared's unusual behaviour.

Amber's sprained ankle was so bad that she could not even touch the ground with her ankle. Whenever her ankle touched the ground, it would hurt. Therefore, she did not have the mood to pay attention to anything else.

On the other hand, Hayden was focusing on supporting Amber to prevent her from falling. Thus, he did not notice other things as well.

Without even bidding goodbye to Jared, both of them headed towards the hotel entrance.

Jared's gaze darkened as he watched the two leave. There was no hint of expression on his poker face.

"Investigate whether that elevator incident was an accident or man-made." Jared stood up and ordered in a cold voice.

With the development of the Farrell Group these years, it had indeed robbed the interests of some enterprises.

Thus, Jared could not guarantee that those enterprises would not harm him.

"Alright." Ben, who was at the side, replied and immediately investigated the matter.

Soon, he came back from the investigation. "Mr. Farrell, I have gotten to the bottom of it. It was an accident. The elevator already malfunctioned once in the morning. However, the person in charge of the hotel did not call to stop the elevator, nor did he notify anyone to repair it. That led to the occurrence of the situation we encountered."

Speaking of this, Ben was also a little scared.

Fortunately, they were lucky that the elevator finally descended safely to the first floor.

Otherwise, the consequences would be unimaginable.

"How dare he not stop the operation." Jared looked extremely livid as he clenched his fists. "Notify the headquarters' HR department to replace the person in charge of the hotel. Ask them to stop the operation of elevators for maintenance immediately."

"Yes, boss." Ben nodded.

Jared suddenly thought of something. "In addition, find out what happened between Amber and Hayden."

Amber and Hayden had known each other from the past. However, their relationship was average and not much different than that of strangers.

However, their relationship had improved by leaps. They could even mess around with each other. Therefore, Jared believed that something must have been going on between Amber and Hayden.

When Ben saw the sadness flashed across Jared's eyes, Ben knew that Jared must have been jealous of Amber and Hayden.

Although Ben thought so in his heart, he dared not say it out loud. So he could only play dumb and answered. "Okay."

•••

Hayden helped Amber into the hospital and registered at the front desk.

On the other hand, Makenna and the others came over while bantering.

The first person to notice Amber was not Makenna, but her friend, Chloe Mendez.

Chloe pulled Makenna's sleeve and pointed towards the registration counter. "Makenna, look, isn't that Amber? And Mr. Cohen as well. Why are they together?"

Makenna gradually stopped smiling and looked in the direction Chloe pointed. Makenna's eyes darkened, but her tone was soft, "It is indeed Ms. Reed and Mr. Cohen. But Ms. Reed seems to be injured."

Her gaze shifted down and settled on the foot that Amber had lifted up. Makenna could see the redness and swell on it.

"Miss Garland, was that your idea as well?" Makenna looked at Gigi, who was on the other side.

Gigi glanced coldly at Amber's ankle and shook her head arrogantly. "No."

"That is strange, then," Makenna murmured.

Chloe added, "Makenna, they are turning around."

Makenna looked over again.

This time, she met Amber's eyes.

Amber could not help but chuckle.

Hayden looked down at her, "What are you laughing at?"

"That is because I think the world is indeed small. I met Jared at the hotel and Makenna at the hospital. Who else could have such luck?" Amber replied.

Hayden watched as Makenna and the others walked over. A gossipy look flashed across his face. "They are looking for you."

Amber heard the gloating in his tone and glared at him steely.

The three of them stopped in front of Amber.

Makenna smiled and greeted, "Miss Reed, Mr. Cohen, what a coincidence."

"It is quite a coincidence." Amber nodded indifferently. Then, she looked at Gigi and thought of something.

Makenna's eyes darted between Amber and Hayden. A strange look flashed across her face and quickly disappeared. She pretended to be curious and asked, "Ms. Reed, why are you with Mr. Cohen? Wouldn't Mr. Lyon be angry if he finds out?"

Hayden raised his eyebrows.

He pondered, 'This woman is sowing discord between Amber and Cole.'

Amber ruffled the hair around her ears. Although she got seen hanging out with another man, she did not panic. Instead, she replied coldly, "Why would he be angry? Me having so many suitors would only make him seem outstanding. He is more concerned about preventing me from getting snatched away than getting angry."

Makenna's expression stiffened for a moment. Then, she smiled awkwardly, "Miss Reed, you are quite funny."

Chloe disdainfully rolled her eyes. "She is not funny but just shameless. She has a boyfriend, but she is still out fooling around with other men."

"Are you jealous, huh?" Amber looked at her with a smile, "I have suitors whenever I want. Is it because you do not have one? That is why you cannot bear the sight of me having them?"

"I... I am not." Chloe flushed with embarrassment.

Amber smirked, "Are you sure you are not jealous? Don't be shy to admit it. After all, you are ugly and no one will look at you. So it is normal to be jealous of a beautiful woman. Rest assured, I won't make fun of you."

"You..." Chloe was so enraged that she wanted to cry out. However, she couldn't deny that she was indeed jealous.

Upon seeing Amber effortlessly infuriated Chloe, Hayden smiled with interest.

Hayden now wondered if Jared knew this ex-wife of his has such a razor-sharp tongue.

"Miss Reed." Makenna pulled Chloe behind herself. "Were you saying that Mr. Cohen is also your suitor?"

"Tell her yourself." Amber nudged Hayden with her elbow. She warned in a voice that only the two of them could hear, "If you dare to talk nonsense, I will make sure you have a miserable time ahead."

The corners of Hayden's mouth twitched. At first, he did not want to get involved and only wanted to watch the bustle. However, these women had dragged him into it, so he had no choice but to stand out and respond. "Of course!"

Between Makenna and Amber, he disliked the former even more.

Thus, he would rather be on Amber's side.

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Makenna's eyes widened slightly with disbelief.

He actually admitted it.

He's really pursuing Amber?

Not to mention how shocked Makenna was, but Gigi and Chloe were equally flabbergasted.

Gigi looked at Hayden as if she was looking at a fool.

Just like Hayden, Gigi was also from a powerful and noble family. Thus, she despised Hayden for taking a fancy to a divorced woman.

She felt that it was a disgrace to the offspring of powerful and noble families.

"Mr. Cohen, your action is not very appropriate. Miss Reed is..." Makenna looked at Amber while biting her lips. It seemed like she was in a difficult position to say something.

Amber smiled with anger. "Miss Gardner, please continue. What is wrong with me? Your ambiguous words made it seem as if I have done something shameful. Is that what you want to tell Hayden?"

Makenna panicked, as she did not expect Amber to say her purpose out loud. Amber had caught Makenna off guard.

Makenna hurriedly shook her head and explained. "No, that was not what I meant. I just wanted to say that Miss Reed is also Jared's ex-wife. Mr. Cohen, since you are Jared's friend, isn't it inappropriate for you to pursue Miss Reed?"

"No, I think it is fine." Hayden smiled, "Although Amber is Jared's ex-wife, they have nothing to do with each other now."

"But..." Makenna wanted to say something else.

Amber interrupted her, "Miss Gardner, do you really can't bear to see me being popular?"

"I didn't... I didn't..."

"Otherwise, why are you opposing Hayden's decision to pursue me? If you think it is inappropriate for him to hook up with his friend's ex-wife, what about you? You and I were classmates in the uni, so is it also inappropriate for you to hook up with my ex-husband?" Amber looked at her with a smirk instead of a smile.

Makenna's face flushed with embarrassment and turned pale at the same time. She did not speak anymore.

What could she say?

No matter what she said, she would be the embarrassed one in the end.

"I assume Miss Gardner should have nothing more to say. Let's go." Amber said to Hayden.

Hayden looked at Amber with a smile and nodded in response.

He thought to himself, 'Makenna is obviously a scheming bitch. Only Jared would be blind enough to think that she is kind and naive. How the hell can he be so oblivious?'

When Hayden and Amber were about to walk forward, Gigi suddenly called out to them, "Wait a minute."

Amber narrowed her eyes, "Miss Garland, is there anything else?"

Makenna and Chloe looked at Gigi as well.

Gigi crossed her arms and spoke with an arrogant expression. "Miss Reed, are you not going to apologize to Makenna?"

"What for?" Amber looked straight at her.

Gigi let out a cold snort. "You had your suitor kidnap Makenna and caused her to be hospitalized. Shouldn't you apologize?"

"What? You had someone kidnap her?" Hayden raised his voice in surprise.

Amber rolled her eyes at him. "Do you think it's possible?"

"I think it's possible!" Hayden nodded solemnly.

The corners of Amber's mouth twitched slightly, "Get lost!"

Hayden shrugged his shoulders and stopped talking.

Only then did Amber redirect her gaze to Makenna and Gigi. "Do you have proof?"

"Makenna said she personally heard the kidnapper reveal that it was you who did it." Gigi replied.

Amber laughed, "Miss Garland, so you believed it. You stepped in to seek justice for Miss Gardner and made several major banks cut off Goldstone's loans?"

Amber initially thought Gigi had done so because of the previous poker incident.

Until Amber saw Gigi walking beside Makenna that she dismissed this conjecture. She assumed Gigi's actions must have something to do with Makenna's kidnapping. Now that she heard Gigi mentioning it herself, she was certain of it.

A trace of surprise flashed across Gigi's eyes, "You knew it?"

Makenna and Chloe were also surprised.

Amber looked at their expressions and sneered. "The only way to prevent people from knowing is not to do it."

Gigi regained her composure. "Even if you knew, it does not matter. Goldstone is going to be doomed."

"Is that so?" Amber tilted her head, "Miss Garland, you are willing to personally deal with me for the sake of Miss Gardner. This friendship really touches me. However, do you really think that Goldstone is collapsing? I don't think so. Instead, I think the Garland family is going down."

For a moment, Gigi's pupils constricted. However, she quickly regained her composure. "Miss Reed, are you joking?"

"She is not just joking but is deliberately teasing us. Who is she to decide the future of the Garland family!" Chloe said with a face of contempt.

Makenna also looked at Amber with disapproval. "Miss Reed, you can't simply say something like that."

"I do not think she is talking nonsense." Hayden suddenly spoke. He eyed Amber knowingly.

The certainty of Amber's tone made him realize that she was being serious.

The Garland family might really be in trouble. It was just that Hayden did not know where Amber got the information from.

"Hayden, do you also think she is telling the truth?" Gigi pointed at Amber and looked at Hayden with dissatisfaction.

When Hayden was about to speak, Amber spoke first, "Whether it is true or not, you guys will soon know. I just hope that you guys can still continue your friendship at that time."

After saying that, Amber smiled mockingly and gestured for Hayden to take her away.

Her foot hurt so much that it almost went numb.

Makenna and the other two women did not stop them anymore.

Gigi lowered her head and pondered something.

Chloe held Makenna's arm and looked at the Hayden and Amber's backs. "Hmph, no matter how serious she was, who would believe her?"

"Alright, stop talking anymore. Miss Reed was probably just too angry because of what happened to her company. That is why..."

Before she finished her words, the sudden ringing of the phone interrupted her.

When Gigi heard her phone ring, she somehow felt a little uneasy.

She took her phone out. When she saw the caller ID on it, her heart stuttered.

"Mom, what can I do for you?"

"Gigi, where are you? Are you still in Olkmore City?" A woman's anxious voice came over the phone.

The uneasiness in Gigi's heart grew even thicker. "Yes, what is wrong?"

"How dare you still ask what is wrong?" The woman burst into tears at once. There was a hint of angry accusation in her sobs. "You have caused big trouble. We received a report that a child of our family meddled in the political affairs of another city. Your father has been taken away by the discipline inspection. Your eldest uncle and the others have gotten suspended for a thorough investigation."

"What?" Gigi's expression changed greatly. Her hands and feet went cold. The words that Amber had just said reverberated in her mind instantly, and her body trembled.

It is true!

The Garland family is really in trouble!'

"Gigi, I am telling you, if the Garland family really fell apart, don't blame us for disowning you as a daughter." The woman hung up the phone after speaking.

Gigi held her phone in a dumbfounded manner. Her mind was blank.

Makenna and Chloe looked at each other.

Makenna asked softly with concern, "Miss Garland, what is wrong with you?"

When Gigi heard Makenna's voice, she finally returned to her senses. She remembered that the Garland family was in trouble because she had helped Makenna teach Amber a lesson.

For a moment, Gigi put all the blame on Makenna and said fiercely, "Makenna, you'd better hope that nothing happens to the Garland family. Otherwise, I'll never go easy on you!"

After saying that, Gigi shoved Makenna out of the way and quickly left the hospital.

Gigi had to rush back to South Riverside immediately and apologize to her grandfather and the others.

Otherwise, she would really be doomed.

"Makenna, what should we do? Amber was right. The Garland family is really in trouble." Chloe was shocked by the development of things, so she hurriedly asked Makenna.

Since Makenna's shoulder hurt from the impact, she rubbed it. She bit her lip and lowered her head. She concealed her uneasiness and panic and did not answer.

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How did she know what to do? If she knew, she would not be so nervous now.

How exactly did Amber know that something would happen to the Garland family?

Makenna bit her lower lip and her eyes darkened as she looked in the direction of where Amber left.

At this time, Amber had walked to the surgery with the help of Hayden.

The doctor in the surgery was surprised to see her, "Didn't you come to change the dressing last night, why are you here again now?"

Amber did not expect the doctor would recognize her, so she coughed a bit awkwardly, "Well, I'm here to let you check my foot this time."

"Check your foot?" The doctor bent down and looked at her feet.

Seeing her swollen ankle, he shook his head sympathetically, "Miss, you're really plagued by disasters. The injury on your head hasn't healed yet and your foot is injured like this. I advise you to go to the church to pray later."

"Haha!" Hayden did not hold back and burst out laughing.

Amber was originally blushing upon hearing the doctor's words and now when she heard his laughter, she was even angrier. She directly bent her elbow to hit him, "Shut up!"

"Ouch!" Hayden covered his waist in pain. His face was contorted, "What a woman, you did it so forcefully."

"Who allowed you to laugh at me?" Amber gave him a cold look.

He twitched his lips, "Okay, okay, I'm not laughing anymore, okay?"

Amber harrumphed and only then did she let him go.

When the doctor was applying ointment to Amber's foot, Hayden did not forget to inquire about the Garland family.

When he learnt that the current head of the Garland family had been taken away by the discipline inspector and that other members of the Garland family were also being investigated, he slightly turned his head and looked at Amber with astonishment.

Even he also did not know that something would happen to the Garland family but this woman actually knew in advance.

How strange.

Amber heard the contents of Hayden's phone so she naturally knew exactly why he was looking at herself like that. Her lips curled into a smile, "You want to know how I've predicted something would happen to the Garland family, right?"

"Yeah." Hayden nodded repeatedly, "Tell me about it."

"No!" Amber smilingly responded with a word.

Hayden choked for a moment and then brazenly continued to move over and said smilingly, "Don't be like that, at least I helped you when you confronted Makenna and the others."

"That's true."

"So just tell me, what's going on?"

Seeing that he truly wished to know, Amber did not tease him anymore and briefly told him the matter, "Wasn't Makenna kidnapped by someone? The person who kidnapped her seemed to be one of my suitors. Makenna then felt that I had asked that suitor to kidnap her so that I could get back at her."

"Get back at her for this." She pointed to the bandage on her head, "And in order to win back Makenna's dignity, Gigi used her identity as the daughter of the Garland family to get several major banks in Olkmore to reject my loan application."

"Wait a minute, you mean Gigi used her own identity..." Hayden's eyes widened with shock.

Amber nodded, "Yes."

It took Hayden a while to calm down. He laughed mockingly twice, "I see. Meddling in the political affairs of other cities is an official taboo. Even her father also doesn't dare to do so but she actually dared. How dare she deceive her father, her father must be going to cry, right?"

Hearing his comical description, Amber smiled.

Hayden looked at her, "So it you reported this?"

Amber shook her head, "No, it was an employee of mine who has connections."

"An employee with connections?" Suspicion flashed in Hayden's eyes, "You're really a lucky one."

Amber did not deny and just smiled indifferently, "Yes, my luck is indeed quite good."

Since she took over Goldstone, although she had encountered many problems, each time she had been able to turn them into success because of the people around her.

Cole, Stella, Hayden and... Z. All these people had helped her a lot. How fortunate she was to have met them.

"Since the Garland family had an incident this time, Gigi will certainly hold a grudge against Makenna. Makenna's life won't be easy. Gigi is a crazy woman," Hayden said with a smile. The gloating pleasure on his face was undisguised.

Amber's lips curled. She did not say anything.

Makenna's life would not be easy?

She did not think so. With Jared protecting her, Makenna would be just fine.

At this time, the doctor had already bandaged up Amber's wound and even gave her two crutches.

Amber refused Hayden's assistance and slowly walked out of the hospital using the crutches on her own.

When arriving at the parking lot, Amber saw a familiar face, Mrs. Gardner, who was talking to the driver.

Mrs. Gardner seemed to notice that someone was looking at her. She stopped talking and turned around with a thermal insulation box. Seeing that it was Amber, her originally elegant face with a smile suddenly turned cold and her eyes were even full of disgust.

Amber had seen a lot of such eyes. So naturally, she was not angry. She calmly walked towards the car using the crutches.

But when Amber walked past Mrs. Gardner, she caught a glimpse of the necklace Mrs. Gardner was wearing.

The color on the necklace had faded and its style was vintage. It should be an old necklace from many years ago.

Being the hostess of the Gardner family, she actually wore such an outdated necklace. This was really surprising.

But what surprised Amber most was the familiarity this necklace brought her. She had apparently seen it somewhere but she could not remember.

Amber did not think much about it, opened the car door and got in the car.

Hayden who was at the back greeted Mrs. Gardner.

Mrs. Gardner smiled at him and then asked, "Is Mr. Cohen very close to that person?"

Hayden knew who was she referring to and glanced towards Amber's car, "Kind of. Since you ask me this, you seem to have something to tell me, Mrs. Gardner."

"With all due respect, Mr. Cohen should stay away from that person. People with vicious minds will only bring misfortune to those around him," Mrs. Gardner said in a tone that was full of unconcealed disgust.

Hayden's lips curled, "Vicious minds? I don't think so though. Why does Mrs. Gardner think she is evil?"

"Makenna's kidnap is a strong enough proof, isn't it?" Mrs. Gardner frowned.

Hayden spread his hand, "But as far as I know, this matter was not done by Amber. Even if it was, it was Makenna who harmed her first, she was just fighting back. The vicious one should be Makenna, isn't it?"

"How could you..." Mrs. Gardner was so angry that her face darkened. Then, she coldly snorted, "I advised you to do so because Mr. Cohen is Jared's friend. Since you don't want to listen, forget it. I hope Mr. Cohen won't regret it in the future."

Hayden responded smilingly, "Whether I regret it or not isn't important. What is important is that I know Jared will regret it."

He suddenly bent down, approached Mrs. Gardner and whispered, "Jared is blind and can't see through your daughter's true colors, but I can see it clearly. Jared can't be blind for life. He will know your daughter's true colors one day. When the time comes, what should your daughter do?"

Mrs. Gardner looked at him with eyes full of horror.

In Mrs. Gardner's view, the smile on his face was like the devil's.

Mrs. Gardner's lips slightly twitched as if she was going to say something. But eventually, she did not utter anything. She grabbed tightly the handle of the thermal insulation box and walked away with a slightly pale face.

Watch Mrs. Gardner fleeing, Hayden stroked his chin and smiled even bigger, but his eyes looked cold.

By rights, Mrs. Gardner was Jared's future mother-in-law. He should be polite to her for the sake of Jared.

However, the Gardner family broke the rules. As an enterprise in Olkmore, they went to ask for the green light from the Garland family in South Riverside instead of the Cohen family. This simply indicated that they did not take the Cohens seriously at all. Thus, the Gardners should not blame Hayden for being disrespectful to them.

"What did you just say to her? How come she was so scared?" Amber asked curiously after Hayden got in the car.

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As Hayden buckled his seat belt, he said with a smile, "Nothing, I just told her a horror story."

"Do I look that stupid?" Amber looked at him, feeling speechless.

Hayden started the car with an aggrieved look. "What I said is the truth. There's nothing I could do if you don't believe me."

"Har, har." Amber rolled her eyes and retrieved her look.

Hayden suddenly turned around and took a quick glance at her. "Miss Reed, I suddenly realized that you look a little like Mrs. Gardner."

"Huh?" Amber was a little confused. "I look like her?"

"Yeah."

"Nah!" Amber shook her head. "Don't be ridiculous."

"I'm not, I'm serious. Your face shape and eyes really look like hers." Hayden nodded with a straight face.

He then added, "You two almost look like twins. No one would doubt if you claim you're mother and daughter."

Amber was now sure that Hayden was not kidding and she was stunned.

But soon, she returned to calmness and waved her hand. "So what? There's nothing strange to have two people looking alike in this world."

"That's true," Hayden answered.

Neither of them took this finding to heart and they soon forgot about it.

Amber lowered the car window and let the cold wind blew on her face. "By the way, I have a question for you."

"What is it?" Hayden listened to the radio music, and he swung gently with the rhythm.

Amber rolled her eyes at the irresponsible driver and asked, "Which friend of yours has the WhatsApp name 'Z'?"

"Sorry?" The music was too loud and Hayden couldn't hear her clearly for a moment.

Amber pinched the part between her eyebrows with a headache and shouted, "Who is Z?"

After a sharp screech, the car jerked to a halt. Both of them flew forward and were pulled back to their seats by the seat belt before they hit the windscreen.

Amber was so frightened that her face turned cadaverous. She only calmed down after a while. She turned around angrily and slapped Hayden on the arm. "What are you doing?"

Hayden knew he had almost caused an accident. He released the steering wheel, wiped his face and coughed with embarrassment. "Sorry, my mistake."

If she hadn't asked about Z, he wouldn't be so shocked that he suddenly stepped on the brake.

Amber massaged her temples. "OK, you'd better tell Stella your real identity yourself. I can't afford a driver like you."

"Oh no, you can't dismiss me like that just because of one driving mistake I made." Hayden looked at her with a smile.

Amber sneered, "Just drive!"

Hayden shrugged and drove again, but he was secretly looking at her from sideways. "You were asking me who Z is, right?"

"Yes." Amber nodded.

Hayden's eyes rolled. "Why do you want to ask about him?"

Amber looked down to conceal her expression. She said blandly, "Nothing. I've made friends with him by coincidence, and he's helped me twice, so I want to know his situation. He said he's your friend, so that's why I asked you."

"Is that so?" Hayden didn't dare to look at her for fear that she would see the nervousness in his eyes. "He is indeed my friend, but we're not so close, and I don't even know his name. We only drank together for a few times. He has gone abroad now."

"Is that so?" Amber nodded.

Since he had gone abroad, that meant she couldn't see him anymore.

For a moment, Amber was relieved.

In fact, she was kinda worried about encountering him one day as the situation would be awkward. After all, she was quite close to Hayden.

Now that he was abroad, she won't have to worry.

Yet not knowing why, she felt an inexplicable sense of loss in heart.

Amber looked at the scenery outside the window and didn't speak.

Hayden slightly heaved a sigh of relief, but he was planning to look for Jared and take advantage of him later.

After all, it took him a lot of effort to hide Jared's identity.

They reached Kelsington Bay half an hour later.

Amber got out of the car and limped into the building with two crutches.

As soon as she got out of the elevator, the boy squatting in front of her house had his eyes gleamed and he immediately stood up. "You're finally back. I've been waiting you for ages...What's wrong with your leg?"

The boy looked at her leg in plaster and the two crutches under her arms in surprise.

Amber didn't answer Logan's question, but frowned at him. "Why are you here?"

Logan lowered his head and replied unhappily, "I had a fight with my mother again. She asked me to quit basketball. I didn't want to, so I ran out."

Amber sneered. "What place do you think this is? You just come here every time you run away from home?"

"I have nowhere to go," Logan said with embarrassment.

In fact, he didn't know why he came to her too.

He only knew that he would feel very calm when he came here.

"Your family has a large business. You have real estate everywhere, and you're scared that you have nowhere to go?" Amber took out the key and said, "Get out of the way, I need to open the door."

Logan moved aside to let her unlock the door.

Amber stepped forward to open the door, and he stood behind her, as if ready to follow her in at any time.

Amber stopped unlocking the door and looked at him. "You're actually planning to get in?"

"I told you I have no place to go. I'm staying here with you tonight." Logan looked down at her stubbornly.

Although he was only a teenager, he was over 6 feet tall because of playing basketball.

Amber had to look up to see his face.

"It's okay if you want to stay here with me, but why should I let you stay here for free? I want twenty thousand dollars per night." Amber pretended as if she was counting money.

Logan exploded. "Twenty thousand dollars? Why don't you go rob a bank?"

"Why, if you can't afford it, don't stay here then." Amber tossed her hand to show she was helpless about it.

Logan's face flushed. "Who said I couldn't afford it? I just didn't have the money with me now. Can't I pay you next time?"

"No. If you can't give me the money, leave then. I don't offer credit, and why should I keep an enemy's son?" With that, Amber opened the door and wanted to go in.

Logan's face turned pale for a moment when she mentioned 'an enemy's son', but he soon recovered and wanted to follow in.

Amber immediately pulled the door back, leaving a gap. "I've said it. Leave if you have no money."

"I'm not leaving!" Logan looked at her angrily through the gap. "I know it's my mother's fault. I could give you more money as a compensation next time."

Amber smiled and rejected. "No!"

Could money compensate for six years of her suffering?

"You kept on rejecting me, what do you want then?" Logan stamped his feet.

Amber looked at him and replied, "It's very simple. I want you to leave."

"I'm not leaving!" Logan insisted.

"If you don't want to leave, stay outside then. Don't expect me to be soft hearted and let you in."

With that, she closed the door directly.

Logan stared at the door in front of him with eyes widened and mouth agape. He couldn't believe she really did that.

For a moment, Logan couldn't help feeling a little aggrieved. He then sat down on the ground angrily. As he secretly blamed Amber for being heartless, he felt a little regret as well, and even started to reflect on himself.

He reflected on his actions towards her in the past six years, and the more he reflected, the worse he felt.

Amber didn't leave after entering the house. She stood behind the door and peeked through the peephole.

Seeing that Logan was really staying, she had a headache.

Did God send him to torture her on purpose?

Amber took out her cell phone and made a phone call to Jared.

Seeing the caller ID, an uncanny look flashed across Jared's face and he answered the call. "Hello?"