

Love's Cruel Stroke Chapter 26

Damian made his way into the banquet hall with the intention of looking for someone. However, he was met with the merry noises of children.

"Hahaha! Little Mute Girl has turned into an ugly monster!"

"Pull her up and take a picture! With this picture, we will mock her and see if she still dares to bite us!"

With that, a few kids pulled Olivia out of the flower bed. What they did not expect was Olivia to bite them upon contact. She bit the back of one boy's hand, and his hand was instantly bloodied.

"Get her! Teach her a lesson!"

Theodore was so angry that he gritted his teeth. Mom gets angry whenever she sees this freak. If I finish her, I am sure Mom will praise me!

With that thought, he found a large stone and was going to throw it at Olivia.

As soon as Damian turned his head, he met Olivia's beautiful and emotionless pupils. He froze for a brief moment before shouting, "Guards, stop them!"

Immediately, a bodyguard appeared, ran to Theodore, and stopped the boy before he could throw the stone in his hands.

Without wasting another second, Damian rushed over to Olivia and pulled her behind himself to protect her. Staring at the young boy in front of him, Damian yelled, "Return what they did to this girl tenfold." His voice was laced with authority as he spoke.

"Understood!"

The bodyguard cracked his knuckles and started off with Theodore.

Bang!

In the blink of an eye, the boy was thrown into the flower bed.

Theodore was so startled that he wet his pants. "Mom, help me! Someone is trying to hurt me!"

Then, the bodyguard placed a rag in his mouth to silence him. The other children were also scared out of their wits, and they too, were thrown into the flower bed...

Immediately, the cries of the children lilled the air, and only then did Damian feel satisfied,

He looked at the little girl, who was covered in dirt, and asked softly, "Are you hurt?"

Olivia looked at him warily and pursed her lips without saying a word,

Damian intended to hold her hand, "You're too dirty. I'll find a place where you can take a bath."

However, Olivia merely withdrew her hand and wore a defensive look on her face, causing Damian to feel slightly dejected by her response.

I sarrred her; so she should at least thank me. Why didny she say anything? Wait, those kids seemed to call her Little Mute Girl. She's so beautiful. Could it be that she can't speak?

Damian felt sympathetic toward the little girl. He whispered, "Don't worry, I will not bully you, and I'll take you somewhere you can take a bath. Okay?"

Once again, Damian tried to hold her hand, but Olivia turned around and walked away. However, she did not manage to leave the hall. The weeping over at the flower bed had long alerted the crowd in the banquet hall.

Many upper-class ladies attending the party had brought their children with them. As soon as they heard the screams, they immediately panicked and followed the commotion to find their children.

The one who ran at the head of the crowd was Monica. She was following after Olivia, but she lost sight of the little girl.

As soon as Monica heard the cries, a bad feeling arose within her. She walked over and saw seven or eight children lying on the ground. The kids were all crying and weeping in the flower bed.

At first glance, Monica saw her grandson and rushed forward to hug him. "Theodore, what's wrong? Did someone bully you?"

Theodore whimpered and shouted, "Grandma, it's Little Mute Girl! She's bullying me!"

Upon seeing Monica, Theodore immediately mustered up his courage and pinned the blame on Olivia.

The elderly lady raised her head and saw Olivia standing behind Damian, whose face was filled with indifference and hostility.

Immediately, Monica was furious. This is not the first time that little imbecile has bullied my grandson!

She was so angry that she rushed over to Olivia, intending to reprimand the little girl.

However, Damian pushed her away before she could lay a finger on Olivia. "It was me who made him cry. Do you have any complaints?"

He was only four years old. Although he was not tall, he exuded a powerful aura. Staring at Monica, his eyes resembled that of his father's, causing Monica to feel slightly taken aback.

"Grandma, he's the one who ordered his bodyguard to scare us!" exclaimed Theodore.

The other children replied, "Yes, that's him! His bodyguard was the one who threw us into the flower bed!"

“He even let his guard gag me! Mom, you have to take revenge for me.”

Following Theodore’s lead, the other children immediately began tattling to their mothers, who were all angered upon hearing what Damian’s bodyguard had done to their precious kids.

Those who attended the Sinclair Family’s banquet belonged to powerful and prestigious families. Naturally, those kids were incredibly doted on since birth.

Now that their precious kids were all covered in dirt, there was no way the mothers would not be furious over the situation.

“Mrs. Larson, I don’t care who this child is. I have to make him pay for what he did! If you dare lay a finger on my child, I will return it tenfold!” said Mrs. Wand angrily.

“These kids can’t be spared, and neither can this bodyguard!” Mrs. Lewis was equally furious.

Monica was glad to see the others denouncing Olivia and Damian and chuckled to herself. I didn’t mean to make things difficult for her. Who knew she would end up offending so many people herself?

Just as she was about to ask the guards to come over, Monica felt a chill running down her spine. Shortly after, Jordan appeared in the backyard, accompanied by an air of dominance. One of his hands was in his pocket as his cold gaze swept past his son.

Damian was so startled that he shivered, but he gritted his teeth anyway and stood in front of Olivia.

“Mr. Ford, what brings you here?” As the hostess, Monica took the initiative to ask.

Jordan replied coldly, “Ten minutes ago, I was on the balcony getting some fresh air

and noticed some kids were getting into an argument. The situation seems rather serious, so you should alert the police.”

Mrs. Wand gritted her teeth and said, “Mr. Ford is right. We need to call the police. He’s so aggressive at his young age, and we need to let the police educate him for a few days before we let him go.”

Mrs. Lewis chimed in, “How can a few days be enough? He needs to be sent away for at least three months!”

“Since you ladies have no objection, I’ll consider this matter settled.” Jordan clapped his hand softly. “Someone, send their children to the police station and tell the chief to educate them for three months before releasing them.”

Jordan’s words shocked everyone present.

Monica opened her mouth and said, “Mr. Ford, did you make a mistake? It should be these two suspicious children who should be locked up!” “Those two kids were just defending themselves. What’s wrong with that?” Jordan’s

voice was cold and hostile. “On the contrary, this child of the Ashe Family and a couple of boys were bullying a little girl. Tell me, who should be locked up and educated?”

His words left everyone dumbfounded.

The ladies knew their own grandchildren well. It was not the first time they had bullied others, so it was likely they bullied the little girl.

So what? We hail from prestigious families, so why can’t we allow our own grandchildren to bully a suspicious little girl whose background is unknown?

However, the other party standing against them was Jordan. They dared not offend him and thus did not utter a word.

Jordan raised his wrist and took a glance at his watch. “We still have ten minutes before the police arrive.”

Upon hearing that, the women immediately panicked. No matter what, we can’t let our grandsons go to jail. If word gets out, we will be the laughingstock of the town!

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Jordan stood up, wandering around the courtyard as his black suit made him give off a cold aura. Although spring had barely just begun, everyone else around somehow felt a strong chill and froze while some of the timid kids turned pale in their faces. After all, Jordan’s gesture obviously suggested how serious he meant with the words he just said.

Oh my god! The police are going to come and arrest us. While they might come from a prestigious family, little did they know that they were totally outclassed by the Ford Family because all Jordan had to do was just say the word, and there would be no turning back anymore. In that instant, the few arrogant ladies, who were behaving unreasonably a few moments ago, took their cold gaze away from Damian and Olivia before begrudgingly shifting their eyes to Jordan.

“Mr. Ford, we were just messing with the kids. We don’t need to involve the cops, do we?”

“That’s right, Mr. Ford. Your family and ours still have deals to work out, so I don’t think it’s necessary to make things harder than they already are. Right?”

“Furthermore, my kids are injured too, so let’s consider this even.”

“So, you’re going to pretend as if nothing happened and move on like normal?” Jordan smiled glacially.

The few ladies looked at each other and forced a brittle smile. “What do you mean, Mr. Ford?”

“Apologize.” Jordan spoke indifferently. “Apologize to the person you just hurt.”

Monica was furious upon hearing Jordan’s words because she didn’t think she should apologize to the mute girl, considering the fact that Theodore also suffered injuries. At the same time, the other ladies felt the same way as Monica, thinking that Jordan was pushing his luck even though they were not going to hold Damian and Olivia for hurting their

grandchildren. As their pride got in their way, they refused to apologize by showing their unwillingness with their long face and suppressed anger.

“Alright, let’s get the cops involved then,” Jordan shrugged his shoulders and said. When he mentioned the word ‘cops’, he quickly dominated the situation and held the ladies at his mercy. After all, the matter would inevitably escalate and alert the press with the police’s involvement, which would put their families’ reputations at stake.

After three minutes of pondering and discussion, the ladies eventually came to a consensus and set their eyes on Olivia, who was covered in filth. “Sorry.”

In the meantime, Damian had never felt so gleeful before, watching his father giving

the feisty ladies a lesson with just a few mere words. Soon, he grunted coldly and said, “I can’t hear you at all. Come on. You need to show us a little more sincerity.”

Rendered speechless by the child’s reply, the ladies wished they could stuff Damian’s mouth with filth and dirt. At the same time, Monica was trying hard to calm herself down from her overwhelming exasperation while hugging the crying Theodore, nonchalantly replying, “Olive, your cousin Theodore, made a mistake today. He shouldn’t have laughed at you for being mute, and neither should he get physical with you. For that, I want to apologize on his behalf.”

Upon hearing Monica’s words, the ladies were stunned, wondering whether she really knew the girl who was standing before them. Theodore’s cousin? Whose child is this little girl? Why haven’t her parents come and look for her yet after such a big commotion?

“Well, now that they have already apologized, I guess it’s time for all of us to make a move,” Jordan responded coldly, but his words came as music to the ears to the people with him because they were almost freezing to death. At the same time, the ladies carried their grandchildren and left the scene while Monica gave Olivia an evil stare.

When the crowd scattered, Jordan walked closer to Damian, who curled up like a frightened rabbit. After all, he sneaked away from home the day before and was grounded by his father for three days. Therefore, he didn’t dare to imagine how much more severe his punishment would get now that he was caught sneaking out again.

“What happened?” Jordan asked in a cold voice. “Didn’t you see what happened when you were on the balcony?” Damian grunted.

Jordan kept his head slightly down because he didn’t see anything but only heard a child’s cry. By the time he showed up, he was greeted by the sight of a little girl who was covered in filth, which filled him with anger. Judging from the girl’s innocent and adorable appearance, he didn’t think Olivia would ever hit someone first, so he reckoned she was probably being bullied. His suspicion was confirmed when he managed to scare those unreasonable ladies off with his little trickery. Soon, he shifted his nonchalant gaze to Damian’s bodyguard.

The bodyguard then stepped up and politely replied, “Those kids were laughing at this little girl for being mute. When things escalated between them, Young Master Damian refused to stand by and decided to step in for her.”

Is she a mute? Can’t she talk? Jordan paused, evident in his blank eyes. He then gazed at Olivia, his heart melting with sympathy. Crouching down, he leveled himself with the child and stretched out his hand. “Come here, girl. Let me see where you’re hurt.”

Fixing her gaze on Jordan, Olivia pursed her lips and slowly approached the man before she held his finger. Seeing that, Damian felt somewhat unhappy because he

was the one who saved Olivia. “Therefore, he was upset that the girl wasn’t willing to hold his hand. I’m much cuter and more handsome than my dad, but why doesn’t she like me? Damian pouted, but no one seemed to notice the boy’s sulky mood.

Due to his excessively particular nature with hygiene, Jordan would normally back away from anything that seemed dirty to him, but at that moment, he surprisingly wrapped his arms around the filthy child. “Let’s go. We’re going to take you to a shower” How could a little girl like her fall victim to bullying? Jordan soon carried Olivia and made his way to the lounge, with Damian unhappily following right behind him.

On the other hand, Rachel was going mad as she went to see Elizabeth with Casper. When she learned that Olivia had left in a fit of pique, she searched high and low for her around the mansion, whereupon she heard from the maids that a little girl was bullied in the courtyard.

Thus, she quickly dashed toward the place just when she happened to see Jordan carrying Olivia in his arms. Despite standing from a distance, she was able to make out the filthy silhouette and realized it was her daughter. So, she sprinted toward the man and snatched Olivia from his arms before he could react. When she gazed at the daughter in her arms, her anger instantly surged through her. Then, she glared at the man and the boy, questioning them about what she thought they might have done to Olivia. “What did you two do to my daughter?!”

“What do you mean, Miss Yates?” Jordan knitted his eyebrows.

While Rachel’s arms that were wrapped around the child were shaking, she took a deep breath to calm herself down. “I know my daughter rubbed you the wrong way a few days ago, but she is a child. So, don’t you think you went a little too far with a kid, Mr. Ford?”

In response, Jordan chuckled in amusement, thinking that the kindness he just showed Olivia was completely ignored and forgotten. With his head kept slightly down, he looked Rachel in the eye without saying a single word.

“This is a misunderstanding, Miss Rachel... | Damian seized Rachel’s sleeve and bitterly added, “We didn’t bully Olive...” The child bitterly tried to explain with tears welling up in his eyes,

No wonder she doesn’t like me at all. I didn’t know she had such a beautiful daughter and a son. Of course, she is not going to like me when she’s already a mother of two.

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Damian snuffled as he tried to swallow his bitterness. When his eyes were filled with tears, his sympathetic look somehow melted Rachel’s heart. It was then that she realized the boy would never bully Olivia despite his mischievous nature. Besides that, it didn’t seem to her that Jordan would get physical with a 4-year-old girl.

Damn, I must be out of my mind now. How the heck did it occur to me that Jordan and his son were bullying my daughter? Soon, Rachel pursed her lips and apologized in a soft

voice, "Mr. Ford, Damian, I'm sorry for the misunderstanding. Thank you for getting Olivia out of trouble."

"So, her name is Olivia. What a nice name!" Damian blinked. "Miss Rachel, can I be like a brother to Olivia? I'll protect her like how I did earlier tonight and make sure no one bullies her!"

She smiled and said, "Well, that depends on Olivia's wish."

"Olive, can I be your brother?" He seized Olivia's hand, but his action wasn't met with any response. Instead, she fixed her gaze on Jordan, her eyes filled with desire and desperation for attention.

In the meantime, Rachel had no idea why Olivia was so interested in Jordan, which made her recall her daughter's similar behavior a few days ago when they were on

the road. She then hugged the child in her arms and calmly explained, "Excuse me, Mr. Ford. I'd like to tend to Olive's wound now."

"Miss Rachel, my hand is injured too. Can you also tend to it?" Damian seized the opportunity and raised his hand to reveal a bloody cut that he received when he was in the bed of flowers.

Knowing Damian had beautiful, fair skin, Rachel decided that she must do something about it. Thus, she smiled and responded, "Come with me then. Let's head upstairs." As they took the stairs in the courtyard that would lead them to the second floor, she suddenly sensed a presence right behind her before she entered the room. Then, she knitted her eyebrows and looked at the man who followed her. "Mr. Ford, may I know why you're following us?"

"I don't feel safe leaving my son alone with a stranger," Jordan replied coldly, pursing his lips.

Fine. She shrugged her shoulders in an unconcerned manner as she opened the door and placed Olivia down. After that, she removed her daughter's filthy clothes and carried the latter into the bathroom for her to take a shower. At that moment, the room was left with Jordan and his son while both of them stared at each other.

Jordan coldly asked, "So, you sneaked away from home time and time just because you wanted to see this girl?"

"What does that have to do with you?" Damian grunted coldly.

"I suppose I've been too lenient with your punishment." Jordan glared at his son. "Since you won't learn your lesson from being grounded, I'll send you abroad and make you stay there for a few good years until you know what your mistake is."

"No!" Jordan objected by growling; he refused to be sent abroad because he would never be able to see Rachel again if that happened. After all, it was his first time liking someone so much that he wanted to see them every single day. Daddy is obviously trying to ruin my life!

On the other hand, Jordan reacted indifferently and wondered why Damian couldn't be like his brother, Dmitri. After all, Dmitri was Damian's elder twin brother, but thanks to Jordan's strict parenting, he had become rather independent and mature unlike Damian, who was still acting like a 2-year-old kid. As his elder son grew more mature, Jordan was worried that Damian and Dmitri would eventually grow further apart, which could lead to an estrangement that would result in more arguments. Therefore, he believed it was time for him to take Damian's upbringing seriously.

In the face of his father's mean gaze, Damian froze, believing that Jordan was going to give him a hard time. While the father and son exchanged gazes with each other, the bathroom door was open, whereupon Rachel came out with Olivia in her hands.

Meanwhile, Olivia seemed as if she was an egg with its shell peeled off amidst the steam from the bathroom and it tempted onlookers to caress her cheek. With her wet hair covering her forehead, her beauty was breathtaking with her bright eyes and water droplets dripping from her eyelashes.

In the meantime, Jordan's heart melted when he saw Olivia, wishing he could have a daughter aside from his two sons. If I had a daughter, I'd make her a princess whom everyone envies. Despite his urge to hug her, he managed to restrain himself and suppress his impulse. This girl is Rachel's daughter. So, the daughter of a scheming lady like her may only just be pretty on the surface. At the thought of that, he reluctantly took his eyes off the girl and put his hands in his pockets, giving off a cold aura.

Nonetheless, Damian desperately approached Olivia and pinched her face as his urge took over him, but the girl coldly and warily deflected his hand.

"Olive, I'm going to be your brother from now on, and I'll protect you in all I can. Let me help you dry your hair, okay?"

While Olivia wouldn't usually respond to any sound, she shook her head rapidly this time.

Witnessing her daughter's reaction, Rachel was stunned because she had never managed to get any response from Olivia, no matter what she did. Therefore, she

was surprised to see Olivia responding to a child she hardly knew. Olive seems to treat Jordan and his son differently. Why is that so?

Applying the medicine to Olivia's injury, Rachel gently cajoled, "Don't worry, this boy isn't going to hurt you. Let him dry your hair, would you?"

"Yes. Yes, I'm going to be super gentle. I promise I won't hurt you, but if I do, you could just hit me!" Damian swore to the girl.

A few moments later, Olivia nodded in response, which filled Rachel's eyes with complicated feelings. Although she was expecting her grandmother to show her daughter more love so that Olivia would open up, she didn't think the two people who changed Olivia were instead two strangers whom they barely knew.

Damian was beyond the moon as he grabbed the blow dryer since he had the chance to dry Olivia's hair. As the three of them sat on the carpet near the bedside, it made for a harmonious familial scene.

In the meantime, Jordan stood from afar, watching the children's interaction with slight discomfort. I'm standing right here. So, is that lady not going to receive me with a little hospitality? What's worse is that I can't believe Damian has just left me in the cold after he's gotten himself a new sister.

Finding himself the odd man out there, he decided to make himself scarce, but at that moment, Olivia suddenly shot a gaze at him, warming his heart deep down like the sunlight that was shining on the thawing glacier.

In that instant, Jordan's indifference dissipated as he began to feel peace in his heart with a smile on his face. While the room was filled with harmony and tranquility, there was a kid standing outside the room and watching them through the gap of the door that was left ajar. Not long after that, Casper took his eyes off them in surprise, finding it hard to believe that the man whom he deemed was his father had a son about his age.

If Mr. Ford is really the father of me and Olivia, that means there was probably another lady who was also pregnant with his child at the time Mommy was pregnant. A man who impregnated two ladies at the same time doesn't deserve to be Olivia's father, let alone have her love. We are better off without a father like him.

"At the thought of that, Casper took the ancestry DNA test kit from his pocket and threw it into the trash can emotionlessly.

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The Sinclairs' party ended around 10.00PM, and the news online had reached its peak as all sorts of headlines went up the trending list.

'Seaview City's Aphrodite in the past made a surprising comeback!

"Revising Seaview City's Aphrodite's scandals!

"Rachel Yates sever ties with the Yates.

'Yates Corporation's current share vesting.'

Immediately, the Yates Family became the headline on every news platform in Seaview City.

Upon seeing the news on the television, Francis slammed the television controller to the ground in anger. "I should have choked her to death back then. How dare she make an announcement severing her ties with us? Who gave her the audacity to do that?!"

"Calm down, Francis. It's obvious that she wants revenge," Miranda sneered. "It's better if she severs her ties with us so that she has no reason to retrieve those shares from us."

After Rachel's 'death' back then, half of the company's shares that she had were automatically transferred to Shirley.

Now that she came back alive and severed her ties with the Yates, there was no way that she'd be able to get her shares back.

At the thought of that, Francis finally calmed down a little. However, Shirley, who was at a side, suddenly gasped.

"Dad, that b*tch bought a lot of troll accounts to defame our family!"

She showed Francis her phone, and when Francis saw all the trending headlines, he felt like he was about to combust from anger.

Just ten minutes ago, an account posted something about Yates Corporation's equity change and described a power struggle scenario between big shots based on the information.

"Rachel Yates received 50% of Yates Corporation's shares when she was eighteen and became Yates Corporation's inheritor, but she got into an accident on the second day of becoming the inheritor, turning into the greatest joke in Seaview City. During this, the person who benefitted the most was the second young lady of the Yates Family,

Shirley Yates. However, Shirley Yates and Rachel Yates aren't biologically related. With that said, Miranda Porter and Shirley Yates definitely have enough motive to try to harm Rachel Yates. However, Rachel Yates refused to give up on her shares, even after her accident. Thus, Miranda Porter and Shirley Yates continued going after her until they took her life and robbed all of her shares for Yates Corporation, allowing Shirley Yates to be the Yates Family's inheritor!

'Sill, who would have thought that Rachel Yates didn't actually die and came back unscathed?'

"Regardless of anything, the family members of the Yates Family are horrible. Miranda Porter, the manipulated one; Shirley Yates, the malicious one who feigns innocent; and Francis Yates, who acts dumb as if he had been tricked all along... How dare any of these three have the audacity to snatch Rachel Yates' shares?'

'Persistent in evil will surely bring about self-destruction. Yates Corporation is definitely going down after this!

After that, the netizens started a series of movements to boycott Yates Corporation's products. Due to these movements, Yates Corporation's shares had plummeted, and they had lost 200 million in revenue within two hours.

Francis could feel his chest aching before he snapped, "Why didn't that banshee die when she left?! How dare she smear Yates Corporation with her own misfortunes? I can't believe this!"

"Dad, now's not the time for that. We need to think of an idea fast." Shirley clenched her fists before saying, "Although I am Yates Corporation's inheritor now, it is true that I snatched it from Rachel in the first place. Maybe, the attacks online would stop if I returned the place to her."

“No way!” Miranda gritted her teeth before exclaiming, “You’re the person who has the ability to lead Yates Corporation to its success, so why should you give your position to that b*tch?!”

“Your mom is right.” Francis harrumphed coldly. “I’ll have to make a public announcement regarding this issue. Contact the reporters. I have a press conference to go to.”

Upon hearing that, Shirley sighed in relief. She didn’t want to be involved in all of these, as she still wanted to marry the Fords in the future.

Since Francis was willing to settle things on his own, it was better if she steered away from this mess.

The Yates Family moved fast, and they had already arranged a press conference at 600PM tomorrow

Francis had a fatherly look on his face when he showed up in front of the cameras, and his pale face from not having enough sleep had gained sympathy from a portion of people before he even said anything.

“Rae is my biological daughter as well as my first child, and my love for her is not something that can be explained with just words... Five years ago, she made a huge mistake, and I was really furious, so I locked her up for a few months so that she would reflect on herself. I’ll admit that it was my fault for doing so, but you guys will understand why I did what I did if you think from the perspective of a father. Then, Rachel burned down the Yates Residence and caused Yates Corporation to lose a few billion in revenue... Still, all of these were nothing in front of her death. During these four years, I really thought that she had passed away, and I’ve even erected a tombstone for her as well as tidying it up annually. However, I wasn’t informed that she was alive all along. If I had known earlier that Rae was still alive, I would have held a bigger welcome banquet for her. Rae, I know that you have some misunderstandings about me, but I really love you... Why don’t you come home? Come home, and all of the things that belonged to you will be transferred back to

At the end of his speech, Francis was already in tears. Immediately, all of the comments online got split into two.

Rachel was once again painted as a stubborn, rebellious, and naive young lady, while Francis was painted as a good father who constantly worried about his daughter.

Right then, Casper stared at the computer screen in front of him before smirking.

That old fart can really lower himself down to say such shameless words.

“Casper, can you find a way to get your hands on the surveillance footage at the suburban cemetery?” Rachel sat next to Casper and asked subtly, while Casper turned to her. “Mommy, why do you want to see the surveillance footage at the cemetery?”

“Just get it for me. I have my own use for it)”

Casper nodded before his slender fingers started tapping away on the keyboard. In no time, he was able to lock in on the cemetery’s surveillance footage.

Upon tapping into the footage, Casper felt the color draining from his face when the footage started playing.

Mommy almost got assassinated and jumped into the river?! So, that’s why she came home drenched in water the other day.

Right then, Casper clenched his fists.

I must grow up faster. I won’t allow anyone to put Mommy in danger ever again.

“It’s fine, Casper.” Rachel pulled him into her arms. “I’ve learned taekwondo in the past, and no one will be able to harm me. You don’t have to worry about me.”

Casper had been having it harder than all the other kids around his age due to his single-parent family as well as Olivia’s autism.

Knowing that he was a sensitive child, Rachel made sure to explain herself clearly to him before patting his back to console him gently. “You don’t have to worry about me because I’m an adult, and I’ll be sure to protect myself well.”

After hearing that, Casper nodded furiously and didn’t dare to behave differently.

Then, he saved the footage into a hard disk before giving it to Rachel while Rachel’s gaze turned cold.

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Since Francis dared to make such shameless claims, she was going to use the footage to refute his claims.

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After Francis’ press conference, the malicious comments online had gotten better, and the plummeting shares were starting to rise again. Everything seemed like it was progressing smoothly...

However, the footage broke the calm within half an hour.

Upon watching the footage, many of the netizens who weren’t involved in any gossip chimed in to express their thoughts as well.

‘Oh my goodness! How dare they hire hitmen at times like these?!

“Those men are obviously Shirley’s bodyguard, and they’re trying to kill Rachel!’

“Thank God Rachel is smart enough to use Shirley as her hostage, or she would have died at the cemetery.’

‘If they’re already behaving so cruelly toward their own family members, wouldn’t it be worse for their industrial competitors?’

'I bet the Yates Corporation only managed to progress so smoothly because of all the insidious means that they used. We must get the authorities to investigate Yates Corporation. I'm guessing that many shocking details will be revealed if that happened!

'I support the investigation of Yates Corporation as well!'

Shirley felt herself seething in anger.

Didn't I get my men to destroy the footage of the cemetery? How did that b*tch get her hands on it again?

Still, she still had to deal with the comments online no matter how pissed off she was, or Yates Corporation's shares would surely drop again if she continued to let things

be.

"Shirl, make sure the footage gets deleted no matter how much money you have to spend on it!" Miranda snapped while gritting her teeth. "You are to be married into the Ford Family in the future, and the existence of this footage is doing a blow to your image!"

Since Shirley's face could be identified clearly from the footage, everyone had been saying that Shirley got her bodyguards to attempt murdering Rachel, and it had painted Shirley as a cruel sister.

Right then, Shirley's face contorted in anger. "Of course. I'll get someone to remove the footage immediately."

Following that, she spent ten million to get the country's most famous agency to solve her problem

However, her money was refunded fully back to her account within half an hour,

"Miss Yates, we are sorry, but we are unable to remove the footage due to its complicated encryption."

Shirley threw the blanket in her hand in anger before she asked coldly, "Who can remove this footage?"

"You'll have to hire hackers to do it for you, since we can't do it."

When the call ended, Shirley's face immediately darkened.

This is obviously Rachel's doing!

Despite that, Shirley got more desperate to get the footage removed the more Rachel interfered.

Hackers? Ha! Fortunately, Dmitri is a master hacker!

She took her phone and made an overseas call, and it was picked up by the secretary as usual.

"Sorry, Miss Yates, Young Master Dmitri is"

"I don't care what he's doing, but I want you to get him to answer my call now. If not, he won't have to see me after he returns to the country anymore."

Shirley's furious voice scared the secretary as she took a deep breath and answered, "Alright. Please wait for a moment, Miss Yates."

A long while later, a low childish voice rang out from the other end of the call. "Mom, is there anything important that you have to tell me?"

"Dmitri, you're the only person who can help me now. I really have no choice but to do this..."

Shirley pursed her lips as tears started falling.

Then, she choked a sob and said, "Yates Corporation is getting targeted by malicious comments. Now, negative news about us is all over the Internet, and our company shares plummeted. If this goes on, Yates Corporation might opt for bankruptcy..."

While Shirley trailed off, the sound of keyboard tapping continued ringing out from

A while later, his voice rang out again. "Mom, Yates Corporation is a huge family business and won't go bankrupt just because of this. Regarding the 1 minute 54 seconds footage that is the main cause of all the malicious comments online, are you the person filmed in the footage, Mom?"

"It's not me. How could it be me?" Shirley denied it instinctively, "Someone must have edited that footage to ruin our family!"

"Is that so?"

The keyboard sound rang out before Dmitri spoke again. However, he sounded colder this time, "There are no signs of editing on the footage at all. Mom, why did you lie?"

Right then, Shirley panicked.

Why did I forget that Dmitri's IQ is way higher than ordinary people's? How dumb can I get to lie in front of him?

She took a deep breath and apologized, saying, "I'm sorry, Dmitri. I didn't want to lie to you on purpose. However, I have no choice because your grandfather forced me to do so. I don't want you to think of me as an evil woman, so I was afraid to admit it.... Dmitri, can you help me to remove the footage?"

"Hang on."

Dmitri went quiet after that as he sat in front of his computer and had his gaze fixed on the screen. Then, he separated the 1 minute 54 seconds long footage into multiple frames before destroying and deleting it.

Right when Dmitri thought that he had succeeded, all of the picture frames were repaired before they turned into the footage again.

I actually can't remove this footage?

At that moment, Dmitri narrowed his eyes. He had been gifted with exceptional IT skills ever since he was a child, and he was exceptionally talented in hacking:

He wouldn't be embarrassed to claim that he could easily win a hacking competition if he were to join one,

However, he actually couldn't even remove simple footage like this.

"Dmitri? Are you still there, Dmitri?"

Shirley's anxious voice rang out while Dmitri frowned. Still, he replied respectfully,

"Mom, this footage is encrypted, so it won't be easy to get it removed. I need to think about this."

"What? Even you can't remove it?" Shirley was disappointed. "Where did Rachel get a hacker that even you can't win against?"

Upon hearing that, Dmitri asked in an indifferent manner, "Mom, if what's on the Internet is correct, Rachel Yates should be my Aunt Rachel. Do you have any past feuds with her?"

"Rachel and I... Well, the two of us hold many grudges between us! Remember this, Dmitri. Your aunt is a selfish person that almost caused the Yates Family's bankruptcy four years ago. Now, she became even worse and would only stop when she destroyed the entire family! Your grandparents got so pissed off that they fell sick, and my head hurt from not being able to sleep for the entire night..." Shirley started crying "If I can't get this footage removed, those netizens won't let me off the hook. What should I do now..."

"What about this?" Dmitri pursed his lips before he suggested, "I've been in charge of a project recently, but I haven't found a suitable partner company to collaborate with. If I make an announcement that I'll be working with Yates Corporation, that should divert their attention."

"Dmitri, are you for real?" Shirley squealed.

During these four years, she had tried all sorts of ways to get Yates Corporation to work with the Fords, but Jordan found all sorts of excuses to reject her every time.

Shirley didn't expect this blessing in disguise this time.

If Yates Corporation can partner up with Ford Inc., it would definitely help Yates Corporation to rise to higher ground.