

My Dreamy Old Husband

Chapter 76

Before Juliette could even finish her sentence, she felt a chill go down her spine as she experienced goosebumps.

Xyla had a frosty look on her face. She clenched her fists as hard as possible, and she didn't even realize that her nails were already piercing through her flesh.

The scene of Sophia and Richard kissing each other at the pavilion last night kept replaying in her mind; she really wanted to slash Sophia into pieces every time she thought about the latter lying in Richard's arms and calling him 'hubby.'

After a while, she turned around and looked at Juliette impassively. Juliette was afraid to look up into her hawk-like eyes.

From an outsider's point of view, who would have thought that someone as adorable as Young Lady Harper was actually a woman with a wicked heart.

"Are you sure that's what she said?" Xyla looked at Juliette coldly, looking as though she was about to kick Juliette if she said anything wrongly.

Juliette nodded immediately. "Yes, I'm sure of it—she said it herself. She even gave me a pocket-full of snacks so I wouldn't tell anyone about this."

She was sweating all over her back as she finished her sentence.

Xyla did not reply. The atmosphere became unusually dead and after about a minute, she finally said coldly, "Ha! It seems like the nails were not enough to teach her a lesson last time. You should head to your training first; don't give her

any trouble just so you don't let the cat out of the bag. Meet me here after training at ten o'clock tonight."

Juliette felt a sense of relief as she turned around and left.

She didn't want to be Xyla's accomplice, but her mother suffered from several heart attacks and required surgery. On the other hand, her father was working in Huff Technology; they were relying on the company's sponsorship to fund her mother's surgery. If she offended Xyla in any way, her whole family would be ruined.

Richard had stayed out all night thinking of ways to get Kayla out. Since Sophia refused to help, Kayla couldn't clear off her allegations. In other words, his sister would definitely fail military training because of it and have a hard time graduating.

He kept thinking about it and came up with countless solutions, but all of his ideas were soon discarded by himself immediately.

The Fletchers! The Fletchers! If only he had a wider network of connections and knew someone from the Fletcher Family, the situation could be resolved. Unfortunately, he could only admire their presence from afar.

Since he was too engrossed with his own thoughts, he missed the time when the lights went off in the dormitory. Once the lights were off, the doors would be closed.

He didn't make it in time to return to the dormitory, but Richard did not have to worry about getting his scores deducted because he was the student leader. Instead, he went to the infirmary and reported his 'sickness' in order to get a bed and slept through the night.

However, he did not expect to see Xyla crying as she came to get treated when he was about to leave the infirmary the next morning.

He felt bad when he looked at the way she cried and immediately went to comfort her. "What's wrong, Xyla?"

When Xyla saw Richard coming out of the infirmary, her eyes dimmed for a split second, but it was quickly replaced with her pitiful tears. She showed him the wound on her hand and said aggrievedly, "I accidentally injured myself this morning."

Richard accompanied Xyla as she got her wound treated before sending her off to the training ground. Xyla was so aggrieved that she kept holding onto his hand, unwilling to let go of him.

The two were acting lovey-dovey as they went to the field.

When it came to the couple's mushy behavior, everyone was already accustomed to it. The marriage between the Harper Family and the Huff Family was bound to happen, and they had already released the news of their engagement to the public; it would probably be held after Kayla's birthday dinner party.

There were many well-informed people in the camp. Last night, some students saw Richard going into the dormitory to look for Sophia before they went out together.

Richard and Sophia were both gone all night, and someone else saw a man dressed in his army uniform carrying Sophia into the infirmary; the man in his army uniform was a hundred percent Richard.

Because the two of them were old lovers, rumors about Sophia and Richard getting back together and spending the entire night in the infirmary started to spread.

It turned out that everything Sophia did was all because of Richard.

Since it was almost training time, Sophia held Nathan's little hands and deliberately hopped their way into the field. She had initially wanted Nathan to learn a bit of childishness from her, but she didn't expect Nathan to remain impassive the whole journey—he even looked at her as if she was a crazy person.

A woman in love would always become crazy; with the help of some snacks, she had become even crazier!

If it were up to Nathan, he would need at least twice the amount!

As she skipped along, Sophia asked, "Darling, why are you not as lively and cute as other kids your age?"

Nathan rolled his eyes. "I am not a three year old anymore."

Sophia seemed to look different from yesterday. She was in a very good mood, and she felt that her body was as light as a bird—she could probably almost fly.

It must've been the snacks Michael had given to her. The thought of having so many snacks that she could eat in secret made her extremely happy, so she hopped into the training field unknowingly.

The atmosphere in the training field seemed to be different today, and everyone looked toward her direction as if nothing had happened.

Sophia looked extremely unusual today; it was obvious from her look of her face, which beamed and blushed madly. Upon closer inspection, there was a faint hickey on her neck and a tooth mark at the corner of her lips that was less obvious. One could tell at first glance that she had definitely been kissed aggressively last night.

She was even skipping around when she walked—these were all typical signs when someone crazy in love got back with her ex-boyfriend.

Although everyone had heard about the rumor, they chose not to believe it. After all, Sophia's relationship with the Harper Family had become incredibly awkward. But now, it seemed like Sophia was indeed a devious woman who would go out of her way for love.

Sophia seemed to have not noticed the unusual atmosphere as she greeted everyone like usual and started to prepare for training. Several full-length mirrors were placed at the side of the field so the students could check their outfits anytime. After all, tidiness and cleanliness of their uniforms were included in the scope of the assessment.

Sophia looked at herself in the mirror and adjusted her cap and belt. She pulled down the brim of the cap slightly, blocking half her eyes and leaving her high-bridge nose out as it reflected in the mirror. She suddenly realized that she looked quite 'handsome' in her military uniform.

She didn't know why, but the moment she thought of 'handsomeness', the first person who appeared in her mind was actually Michael. Dressed in his military uniform last night, he stood under the moonlight and was covered in a layer of silver frost. That look was incredibly handsome!

Sophia blushed as she thought about Michael. While holding her face in front of the mirror, she smiled inexplicably.

As Nathan watched her actions from the side, he rolled his eyes again.

He thought he was about to get a sister very soon.

Several nosy girls kept staring at Sophia, and when they noticed her smiling at the mirror inexplicably, they knew that what happened between Richard and her must be true. As they surrounded Nathan, they asked him teasingly, "Good boy, Nate. Is your mom in love?"

They were always under the impression that Sophia had taken money from Nathan's family to take care of him, so she was considered his nanny.

Furthermore, they always played computer games together. Sophia was Nathan's father in the game, so whenever they brought up the question to Sophia, she would say she was Nathan's 'father.'

Nathan told them the truth and said, "A woman in love has an IQ equivalent to a crazy person."

Even Nathan had admitted to it. In that case, it must be real! Sophia and Richard were really back together!

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By the time Sophia came back to her senses, she suddenly noticed a faint hickey on her neck, and her face went red in an instant.

That old pervert!

Why did he give me such a massive hickey? Does he want someone to see it?!

However, Madison didn't have makeup foundation with her at the moment, so she was unable to cover the hickey up and had no choice but to walk around with it in clear sight.

It's probably better this way—at the very least, everyone will know that I have a hickey too. The next time Richard and Xyla act lovey-dovey in front of me, I can show them my hickey to fight back!

The atmosphere on the training ground was awkward. Everyone was busy gossiping about Richard and Sophia, but when they looked up all of a sudden, they saw Richard and Xyla walking toward them hand-in-hand.

Everyone wore an army green military uniform that consisted of a green shirt, green pants, green shoes and a green hat. However, the hat on Xyla seemed particularly green at that moment.

They're here!

Everyone perked up all of a sudden as countless eyes glanced toward that direction.

Xyla noticed Sophia looking at the mirror on the training ground, so she deliberately pulled Richard over to the mirror. “I want to check my clothing in the mirror, Richard.”

The two proceeded to walk hand-in-hand toward the mirror beside Sophia, standing really close to the latter on purpose.

Xyla greeted Sophia as usual and chirped, “Good morning, Sophia!”

“Morning.” Sophia replied concisely, seeming as though she had not realized that the couple was standing next to her. Sophia continued to look into the mirror, and her eyes widened when she realized that there was a faint bite mark at the corner of her lips.

That’s such a deep bite! Is he a dog?!

Xyla noticed Sophia squeezing the hickey on her neck and the bite mark on her lips in the mirror; she was obviously showing it off in front of her!

When she thought about everything that had happened in the pavilion and the infirmary last night, she was so angry that her eyes were burning with rage.

However, she was afraid to show it in front of Richard. She knew that if she were to cause any trouble now, it would be a matter of time before she ended up like Sophia—it would only break her relationship with Richard.

I am not Sophia, and I am not that dumb to expose everything. I want Sophia to beat a hasty retreat; I will show her that I am the woman Richard cares about the most.

Sophia is nothing but Richard’s mistress, his paramour, and an underground lover. I am the one who will be engaged to Richard soon! In the future, I’ll even get married to him!

She purposely fell into Richard's arms and coughed weakly. Richard immediately asked, "Are you okay, Xyla?"

Xyla felt aggrieved as she displayed an innocent look on her delicate face. "It's all because of you—I couldn't find you all night yesterday, so I shouted until I lost my voice."

Richard's eyes dimmed, and he subconsciously glanced toward Sophia. He would always go out for a walk with Xyla every night, but he didn't tell her that he went to look for Sophia yesterday, let alone the fact that he wanted to get back with her secretly...

He replied guiltily, "I won't do it again."

Xyla was very pleased and overjoyed. She showed it off to Sophia silently, looking as though she wanted to let the latter know that what happened last night was simply a one-sided romance, and Richard didn't care about her at all!

This disgusting couple is going to act all lovey-dovey in front of me again! Sophia thought to herself.

She was not interested in their affection at all, and she was definitely uninterested in Richard. She only wanted to give the couple her blessings and hoped that they would stay away from her!

Not wanting to feel overwhelmed with their public display of affection, Sophia deliberately pulled down the zipper on her uniform slightly. Since the collar was covering her neck, it prevented her from showing off the hickey that would suggest she had a sex life too. Who would've known that by flapping her collar and revealing a little bit of skin, Sophia realized from the mirror that her chest was covered in hickeys under her uniform!

All of a sudden, she remembered what had happened last night. She thought about the hands that unzipped her aggressively, as well as the hot lips that steamed her soft skin; it was as if he had attempted to imprint his exclusive

signature on her body with the heat from his own, wanting to let everyone know that this woman belonged to him!

She covered her chest in surprise and immediately zipped up her shirt before running away in embarrassment.

How embarrassing!

From Xyla's perspective, it was a whole other story. That woman has so many hickeys! How dare she show it off in front of me!

Xyla was so angry that she would've chased after Sophia and shredded her into pieces on the spot, but she knew that she couldn't; it'd be stupid to do that. As a smart woman, she must learn how to endure it!

She would endure, endure, and endure!

Hence, she swallowed the gushing flame that was rising from her throat!

The brief 'exchange of fire' ended with Sophia revealing her hickeys and running away from them, showing off her victory. Although there were only two to three moves, the group of people watching the scene felt that it was way more interesting than any other TV show.

Sophia seemed to have won this round.

However, what could she do about that? She was only the paramour and the mistress. The person in Richard's arms was Xyla, and the Harper Family would certainly not allow a commoner like Sophia to become their daughter-in-law.

Richard was completely unaware of Sophia's abnormality, and he didn't notice the hickeys on her snowwhite chest. His gaze was fixated on Xyla, looking as though he wanted to redeem himself from the guilt he felt for her last night.

Undoubtedly, everything in the camp spreaded like wildfire. By noon, the fact that Sophia's chest was full of hickeys had become the headline in the barracks during lunchtime—several drill instructors had even caught wind about it.

Nonetheless, they would usually turn a blind eye to the students' private affairs. Unless it went overboard, they weren't bothered by it too much and did not intervene.

Sophia was completely in the dark about what was going on, and she didn't know that the incident last night had been twisted to that point. It was not until lunchtime did she hear something about the rumor.

“Sophia!”

Sophia was having lunch when she heard someone calling her name. She turned her head around and realized that it was Sarah and Mitchell, whom she had just met the other day. The two sat down beside her.

Mitchell greeted Sophia flamboyantly and said, “Hey, girl! You've become the talk of the town today! I'm so jealous of you since you're always the hot topic. You make the headlines so easily!”

Sophia did not admire guys like Mitchell, so she buried her unpleasantness and asked, “What headline? Why do I not know this?”

Was it because of the hickey on her neck and the bite mark on her lips?

There were so many new students this year who would go out to the woods at night to make out; she was not the only one with hickeys, so why was she the only one who made the headlines?!

While having her lunch, Sarah asked in a puzzled manner, “Richard and Young Mistress Huff are getting engaged soon. Why did you choose to get back together with him now? If you get back together now, you'll be the mi...”

The word 'mistress' was immediately swallowed back down before it was uttered.

Sophia was puzzled. "Since when have I gotten back together with Richard? Why am I not aware about this?"

Was it because she had gone out with him for a while last night? She felt that she no longer had any feelings for Richard, so going for a walk with him was nothing—she would've kept it a secret if she was really guilty. However, Sophia did plan on bringing Nathan out for a walk last night and get him a popsicle along the way.

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Since when have I reconciled with Richard? Although it's possible for me to jump back into a previous relationship, I'm also clear that there's no use crying over spilled milk—I feel disgusted just by thinking about our past relationship.

Sean winked and held the bowl with his thumb and middle finger, feigning grace. “You don't have to pretend anymore; the entire barrack already knows that you and Richard stayed over at the infirmary last night.

Not only do we know that the two of you have spent a night together, somebody even spotted him bringing you to the infirmary!”

Hmm? Was Richard at the infirmary last night too? Sophia had no idea about this because she had been sound asleep at that time. Moreover, the barracks' infirmary was not just a single room; it was an independent building.

The infirmary was almost equivalent to a hospital as the building had five floors with dozens of wards. Last night, Sophia had even stayed at the finest single ward which came with air-conditioning. However, she really had no idea about the rumors between her and Richard.

Michael must've been the one who brought me to the infirmary. Heck, Michael and Richard don't even resemble each other—one of them is a complete gentleman who I can't even bring myself to bully, whereas the other one is just a useless piece of trash. Whoever mistook them for one another should get their eyes checked.

Sophia tried to explain herself and said, “Nothing happened between me and him. Last night, I was admitted to the infirmary because I was sick. I can prove this with my medical leave certificate.”

However, Sarah simply arched her brow; her eyes longed for more gossip. “Stop making up more excuses. Everyone knows that Zane brought you to the infirmary last night. If it wasn’t him, who else would it be?”

Sophia was unwilling to back down. “I can’t remember who it was. Last night, I did not have a clear head because I got sick all of a sudden. It must’ve been a good Samaritan who took me to the infirmary, and my son followed me all the way. Am I right, Nate?”

Nathan nodded with a long face. He had asked for Sophia to be put in a first-class ward last night; he was planning to stay there overnight because it came with air-conditioning, a television, and a computer.

However, Michael shut the door and locked him out of the room in the end. He then accompanied Sophia Edwards the entire night and only left early the next morning.

He’s forgotten about me after getting himself a wife. Nathan was extremely unhappy because of this.

Sarah tilted her head and laughed. “Stop pretending—I can even see your hickeys from here. Can you explain to me where you got them from?”

Sophia covered the hickeys on her chest calmly and said, “It’s just your illusion.”

Sean was shaking with laughter as he covered his mouth with his hands. With that, Sophia gave up explaining the situation to them because she knew that there was no use.

Just as Sarah was about to say something else, she saw Richard and Xyla approaching them. The couple looked as though they were heading to their table. With their trays of food, they intentionally sat at the table next to Sophia.

Not only were they sitting together intimately, but Xyla even laughed shyly as she played with Richard. Her actions and blushed face made her look like a well-protected fairy, and she emanated a blissful aura that only a woman in a relationship would have.

She greeted Sophia, "What a coincidence, Sophia!"

Sophia nodded drily and said with zero emotion, "Mm, what a coincidence."

Richard also learned about the rumors in the barracks, but he didn't know why it had escalated into the current situation. Although he did look for Sophia last night, the latter had rejected him even before he could mention a reconciliation.

How did the rumors spread out then? Sophia must be the one behind this! What exactly does she mean by this? Is she trying to get everyone's pity? Nonetheless, one thing's for sure—she's still trying to gain my attention.

He realized that he could no longer understand Sophia's mind. Is this what people call 'love well, whip well'? In his mind, Richard let his imagination run wild and portrayed himself as the male lead of a soap opera.

Even though he had explained it to Xyla multiple times, he knew that this was definitely still a thorn in her heart despite telling him that she believed his words. Hence, he tried his best to cooperate with her in order to clear her suspicions.

The couple was now talking and eating in such an intimate and exaggerated way, making it obvious that they were putting on a show in front of Sophia. Sophia finally understood why Xyla had been grabbing at every opportunity to display her affection with Richard in front of her today.

She must have heard about my 'reconciliation' with Richard and thinks that I'm the third party now. She's now showing off her status as his girlfriend in front of me—the 'third party'!

Hence, Sophia rolled her eyes and regarded the couple as animals in a rutting season. How many times do I need to explain that I have no feelings for Richard anymore?

Even though Michael is a pervert, he's much better than Richard. As she lowered her head, Sophia gobbled her meal up and told everyone, "Let's go."

Everyone left after finishing their meals, leaving the flaunting couple behind. Watching as Sophia 'scurried off' out of the corner of her eyes, there was a glint of complacency in Xyla's eyes. Hmph, she's nothing but an embarrassing third party!

However, Sophia was not even bothered by Xyla's opinion about her. Rather, she was more concerned with the philosophy behind life in the barracks; there were so many rules to learn here. For instance, they could only get their food after scanning their IDs.

After finishing up their meals, they had to scan their IDs once more before leaving the canteen. As a result, their time spent in the canteen would be clearly recorded too. Although exceeding their ten-minute dining time would not cause many issues, these records were eventually reflected in their final assessment.

According to the rules, they only had ten minutes to eat and another ten minutes to shower; students had to scan their IDs before showering with hot water as well, and the time used to complete these activities were then compiled into statistics. Since procrastination was a big taboo in the barracks, those who did things swiftly usually got better grades.

Xyla and Richard had been displaying their affection for each other in public the entire day, and everyone regarded Sophia as an absurd joke now. Of course, Sophia did not tell them who the real joke was.

The weather was as clear as last night the next day; the sun was scorching, the sky was cloudless, and the temperature rose to over 39 degrees. Everyone was getting uncomfortable under the hot weather.

During their morning training, Commander Ford allowed Sophia to rest early because she had been admitted into the hospital due to a 'sudden high fever' before fully recovering from her 'previous sickness'. Moreover, her performance during today's training was stellar. Hence, Sophia watched as everyone else continued their training while resting in the shady area.

When it was break time, everyone gathered under the shady area below the trees. Meanwhile, Xyla chose to sit beside the 49th Company despite being a member of the 23rd Company. Undoubtedly, Richard followed suit and sat with her.

"I want to drink some water, Richard!" Xyla grumbled flirtatiously as she fidgeted on the ground.

Richard looked at her affectionately and said, "Here, let me feed you some." Regardless of everyone's presence, he started feeding her water with his mouth passionately. As they watched the show, the crowd knew who Xyla and Richard's target was.

Meanwhile, Sophia frowned after looking at the disgusting scene. F*ck. Why can't they get themselves a room? Not everyone enjoys watching people consume each other's saliva! As her expression seemed to be the clear evidence of her jealousy and envy, everyone became even more excited and were curious about the ending of this fight between the girlfriend and the third party.

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At that moment, Nathan—who was nowhere to be seen in the morning—returned with a few male students behind him. They were helping him to carry a few boxes over.

As they opened the boxes before Sophia, she realized that there were popsicles and snacks such as jellies, popsicles, and iced watermelons inside.

Holding a popsicle in one hand and an ice-cream in the other, Sophia said in a loud voice, “Come over, everyone! Get yourself a popsicle after such a tough round of training.”

This made all the second battalion’s troops cheer with joy before they rushed to queue up for the popsicles.

Meanwhile, the drill instructors did not stop them from doing so too. Although they were in the midst of training, they were unable to stop them from having a popsicle at break time as long as they had means to bring them in.

It was obvious that there was an influential person among this batch of students since stuff like popsicles and watermelons could even be found.

On the other hand, those troops who needed to fight for a bottle of iced water looked at them enviously. Although popsicles were sold at the commissary, they couldn’t get their hands on it every single time because the demand for popsicles exceeded their supply. Since their drinking water was supplied by Bayside University, they only had mineral water; all they could do was to chill it. However, it was sometimes a wild wish for them to chill it because they were not allowed to use the barracks’ fridge either.

Under such circumstances, how were the second battalion able to eat popsicles?!

Greatly envious of them, everyone asked the battalion commander about it. As the battalion commander did not dare to expose the existence of the influential person behind all of it, he could only fool them by saying, “The second battalion has been performing well recently, so the commanding general gave them a reward.”

As soon as everyone heard that Joel was behind this, they stopped pursuing it any further. Indeed, the second battalion had been doing great because their internal affairs were handled nicely, nobody was absent from training, and they even finished their meals swiftly—these were what the other troops could not achieve.

Everyone from the second battalion was now sitting with Sophia. They were all eating iced watermelon, popsicles, and ice creams together as they watched Richard and Xyla displaying their affection with a bottle of water—that bottle of cheap mineral water was not even chilled!

After going on for a while, Xyla scurried away because she could no longer stand the sight of Sophia eating popsicles while she could only drink mineral water.

After the second battalion finished the popsicles and watermelon given by ‘Joel’, they became energetic once more and were determined to get good results in order to thank their commanding general!

Except for the battalion commander, little did everyone know that those popsicles had been brought inside by Nathan himself.

The battalion commander did not dare to investigate Nathan’s identity, so he could only help the boy to keep a low profile.

In the afternoon, Sophia returned to the troops despite her ‘illness’ and gave a stellar performance. As a result, Commander Ford could not stop praising her.

During their afternoon break, Sophia finally saw Kayla as she showed up in the training field.

After 24 hours of lockdown, she should be out by now.

Kayla must have been crying miserably because her eyes were all swollen. Moreover, she was behaving herself as she had not said a word after coming back. However, Sophia was even more wary of her. Was it possible for her to admit defeat so easily?

She must be plotting something against me.

After having lunch that day, Juliette returned to the dormitory by herself and sneakily closed the door after checking to see that nobody was around. Then, she took out a box from the wallet under her military attire.

It was a common accessories box used by the girls, but there were a few dead insects inside of it.

They were called rove beetles, and they had a potent toxin inside their bodies. When people came into contact with them, they could not just hit them with their hands. This was because the rove beetles' toxins would cause dermatitis and eventually leave permanent scars on the body.

If these insects were on one's face...

Juliette gulped and took a deep breath. Then, she covered her fingers with tissues and took the rove beetles out carefully, putting them on Sophia's towel which she had left on the hanger. Juliette even used the head of a toothbrush to push them further into the towel, leaving several marks with disgusting colors behind.

When Sophia rushed back to the dormitory, the first thing she would do was to wipe the sweat off her face with a towel. By then...

Although Juliette had no wish to harm people, her father's future and her mother's surgery expenses were now controlled by Xyla. If she did not do this, she would be the unfortunate one instead.

As soon as Juliette hung the towel back to its original place, somebody knocked on the door. Feeling guilty, she shuddered and quickly threw the tissues in her hands away before walking over to open the door. Much to her surprise, Sophia stood outside with a faint smile on her face.

"You're back, Sophia..." With a smile plastered on her face, Juliette greeted Sophia awkwardly, not daring to look into the latter's eyes.

After a brief conversation, she pretended to tidy her stuff up.

Sophia entered the room and asked curiously, "It's not even night yet. Why did you lock the door?"

Juliette made up an excuse and said casually, "I was changing my clothes!"

However, she couldn't stop herself from looking at Sophia out of the corner of her eyes. As expected, the first thing Sophia did after coming back was to wipe her face with the towel.

As Sophia walked toward the hanger for her towel, Juliette felt her heart almost jumping out of her throat.

As she watched Sophia taking the towel, Juliette opened her mouth and nearly shouted out loud. However, her body stiffened instantly and she did not dare to speak a single word. If I don't accomplish this task, I won't be able to explain it to Xyla.

Meanwhile, she tried to console herself and said, People don't really feel anything when they first come into contact with these insects' toxins. It'll be too late by the time she discovers it, and no one will know who the culprit is.

However, Sophia did not wipe her face after taking the towel. Instead, she just stood there and suddenly turned her gaze to Juliette before she said with a smile, “Why are you looking at me?!”

Hurriedly, Juliette averted her gaze and said, “Nothing, nothing...”

In the end, her flustered appearance had betrayed her.

Sophia calmly fetched a basin of water and slowly rubbed some soap in it. After making a basin of soap water, she soaked the towel in it and said, “The barracks still use soaps that have been produced years ago. When you make soap water out of them, it is the best tool to saturate strong acid, am I right...”

A shudder ran through Juliette Sanders’s body. How did she know?!

The alkaline in the soap could saturate the toxin of the rove beetles.

This must be a coincidence. How can she possibly find out?!

Much to her horror, Sophia continued to wash her towel while saying nonchalantly, “The nails in my shoes, the diamond necklace in my bag, and the rove beetles in my towel are all your doings.”

She was not asking a question, but was stating a fact as though she already knew this long ago.

Juliette did not admit to it and said, “I don’t know what you’re talking about now.”

Sophia poured the water away and left the towel aside. Then, she took up another towel and washed her face slowly before she said, “There’s no need for you to argue with me because you’re aware of your doings. In the future, just let me know whenever you receive their orders. Don’t be doubtful of me; what I have in mind is definitely more ruthless than theirs.”

Juliette did not say anything and bit her lip instead. Meanwhile, Sophia went for a shower with her towel and basin.

As she watched her leaving figure, Juliette became lost in her thoughts; an inner conflict stirred in her mind. The Sanders Family had been an influential family too, but its wealth and status declined as time went by. Soon enough, they disappeared from Bayside City's upper social class in the end. Otherwise, she would not have been threatened by Xyla at all.

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However, Juliette was not a fool too. Since Sophia immediately found out that she was the culprit and even knew about the nails and the diamond necklace, her previous confrontations with the Harper Family popped into Juliette's mind.

Although Sophia seemed like an absurd joke at Bayside University, she had actually won every single time if one looked closely into it. Moreover, she had never been bullied since coming to the barracks and had even managed to get Richard back.

Her words might be true—she's even more ruthless than Kayla and Xyla.

The kid named Nathan seems to have a powerful backing too.

'Fletcher' is most certainly a terrifying last name...

Since the barracks had surveillance cameras everywhere, Sophia knew about Juliette's wrongdoings a long time ago. After all, nobody was able to hide their actions from the cameras, and Sophie was merely holding herself back from getting revenge. Now that they were in military training, her main objective was to get a high score and had no wish to waste her time with those people.

Nonetheless, this did not mean that she could tolerate their bullying time after time.

It seems like the Harper Family is loaded with money; five hundred million is still insufficient for them to remember their lessons.

Juliette went to look for Kayla after failing her task.

“How did it go? Have you done it? Is that b*tch disfigured now?” Kayla asked expectantly while holding Juliette firmly.

Juliette lowered her head and said softly, “I did it, but the insects were on her body instead of her face. So, we can’t really see it...”

“What?” Kayla exclaimed and pushed Juliette to the ground, giving her a few hard kicks.

Juliette remained silent and did not dare to fight back.

“You’re a piece of trash! Why can’t you even settle such a minor issue?” Kayla was boiling with anger. She was not going to give up until Sophia was disfigured.

After she calmed herself down, she stopped venting her anger on Juliette because she was still useful to her. It’s better to keep her first since Sophia still thinks of her as her best friend, Kayla thought to herself. She then said, “You may go back now. I’ll look for you next time.”

Juliette scurried away.

Not daring to offend both the Harper and the Huff Family, Juliette could not stop her tears from falling on her way back. Nonetheless, Sophia looks more threatening than them...

In the blink of an eye, it was already the twelfth day of their training. Sophia was more or less clear about every rule in the barracks, so she was even stricter on herself and grabbed every opportunity to gain extra points. Additionally, she had high expectations for her company as she could not let her team points fall behind too. Based on Nathan’s information about the internal situation, her company seemed to remain in the first place and their points far exceeded the other companies; Nathan had been reporting every drill instructor’s conversation he’d eavesdropped on to Sophia.

Nathan was undoubtedly her best helper!

When everyone returned to the dormitory after a day of training, they were either sleeping, talking, or visiting other people's rooms. At this moment, Nathan had just finished taking a shower at the male bath and was all wet. Since Sophia was not back from the showers, he took a towel and wiped his hair by himself.

All of a sudden, a girl beside the windows screamed, "Ah! A snake!"

A black figure made its way in from the windows. A long black-tail snake slithered in and moved around the dormitory upon coming inside, which frightened all the girls in the dormitory and Nathan as well. Although he behaved as though a young man, he was still afraid of the snake and started crying upon seeing it, not daring to move an inch.

Everyone in the room freaked out, and they rushed outside while screaming and crying. Soon, Nathan was the only one left in the room and the black-tail snake slithered toward him.

"Nate!" All of a sudden, Sophia appeared and screamed when she saw that snake.

Nathan turned his head around and saw Sophia. With her hair still wet, she came into the room with a basin and ran toward him. She threw the basin at the snake with a thud, crushing the reptile who was going for Nathan.

"Mommy!"

Terrified for his life, Nathan ran toward Sophia and held onto her leg.

Sophia was startled. Apart from using his charm in front of Michael, this was Nathan's first time calling her mommy voluntarily.

"It's okay, Darling. Mommy's here, so you don't have to cry anymore." Sophia quickly hugged Nathan and consoled him.

That creature scared her too, and she had no idea where she got the courage to protect Nathan by crushing it with the basin.

Nathan seemed to have been completely freaked out by it. He continued to howl even after Sophia had been consoling him for a long time.

Soon enough, the management of the dormitory learned about the news and sent someone over to bring the snake away. When the girls who had escaped earlier came back and saw a pool of blood with the snake's head on the floor, they were so scared that they went to sleep in other rooms.

Naturally, Nathan was brought away too.

When Sophia saw Nathan being brought away and his howls could no longer be heard, she felt worried and guilty.

Since Nathan was from the Fletcher Family and was also Michael's son, it was unlikely that Michael would let her take care of Nathan in the future after what happened today.

Although they had only stayed together for a few days, Sophia seemed to be very fond of her 'darling'.

Feeling distressed, Sophia was unable to fall asleep the entire night. Not only was she sad and felt that she was responsible for this, but she was also scared that she could no longer meet Nathan anymore.

A lot of dormitories had been spotting snakes recently, but it was quite a common phenomenon since the barracks was located in a mountainous area.

The next day during training, Sophia did not see Nathan anywhere. I don't think he'll be at training anymore...

Upon thinking about this, she was in low spirits and felt distracted the entire morning.

The pest control company came over and sprayed pesticides everywhere that day, filling the barracks with an unpleasant smell.

At night, Juliette sneakily told Sophia that the snake had actually been released by Kayla.

As Juliette was too timid to touch the snake, Kayla found another guy to release it in the 49th Company's dormitory.

Ha. It really is Kayla!

On the fifteenth day of their training, Nathan was still nowhere to be seen. Sophia felt that her life was boring without Nathan's companion.

When the training ended at night, Kayla walked around the barracks and found a secluded place to meet a tall, strong guy.

Two days ago, she found a guy and got him to release the snake through the windows of the 49th Company's dormitory. However, she did not dare to meet up with that guy until now since their trick had escalated and gained the commanders' attention.

After being placed in confinement and receiving punishment, it was impossible for her to pass military training now. Hence, she decided to act recklessly and planned to do something more straightforward after the release of the snake failed.

“Go and find several men to break that b*tch's legs when she's alone! Then, strip all her clothes off and bring her to the crowd at the training field!” Kayla ordered ferociously.

The guy in front of her was probably from the sports department as he looked fit and strong. He seemed to be in a dilemma after hearing her orders. “Isn't this... a bit too obvious? We're in military training now. If the drill instructors know about this...”

She wanted him to strip Sophia's clothes off now. If he really did this, the commanders would probably not let them off. By then, was he not the perfect scapegoat?

"Do you still want to bail your father out?!" Kayla scolded mercilessly, "If the Harpers don't help you this time, your father will never be free from prison!"