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In the past, Russell would've left the situation to Yvette.

However, he no longer trusted Yvette.

"This is an important matter. I nearly died because of that young lady, so I need to get to the bottom of it. Edmund, bring that young lady in black to me now!" Russell declared.

All color on Yvette's face paled to a chalky white as panic rose in her heart.

She glared at Arielle furiously.

In return, Arielle shrugged and responded, "My darling cousin, that young lady in black isn't me. Why are you glaring at me?"

Russell turned to look at his daughter, who hurriedly offered a smile.

"Arielle, you must be mistaken. I'm wearing a pair of black contact lens which might be scary when I look at someone. If you dislike it, I shall not look at you."

Arielle shook her head. "I must've been mistaken, then."

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Yvette was raging inwardly, but she had no choice but to force out a smile.

Ugh, this is terribly frustrating!

Right then, a tied-up Shandie was brought in by the bodyguards.

There was a towel stuffed in her mouth. Upon seeing Yvette, she started struggling and yelling, but her voice was muffled.

It was right at this moment that fear crept into Yvette's heart.

She had prepared the evening gown for Arielle. After all, she could pin the blame on Arielle and silence her once and for all, but unexpectedly it was Shandie who ended up wearing the black dress.

It's Arielle! She saw through my plan and gave the dress to Shandie! What a scary woman!

Sweat formed on Yvette's forehead as she lowered her gaze fearfully. She stared at her feet and prayed that her scheme wouldn't be revealed.

At the sight of Shandie's predicament,

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Arielle pretended to ask in astonishment, "Shandie, it's you? How could you show up in this dress? Don't you know Uncle Russell hates the color black?"

Shandie was furious and humiliated, but her mouth was stuffed, and she could only wail in desperation.

Russell immediately felt dizzy at the sight of Shandie's dress.

The butler immediately grabbed a white towel to cover Shandie up so Russell could calm down.

Still, he couldn't hold back his fury. "Shandie Southall! Are you here to upset me?"

Shandie shook her head hastily.

No! I know nothing! I didn't even know Uncle Russell is back!

Russell frowned and ordered, "Remove the cloth from her mouth and let her explain herself. I want to know why she wants me dead."

"Yes!" Edmund stretched his hand out to

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remove the cloth from Shandie's mouth.

Before he could do so, Yvette stopped him anxiously and said, "Dad, the truth is out. You don't have to question her. I think we should send her back to the Southalls, so her father can discipline her!"

Her plan had gone off the rail, so she had to sacrifice Shandie!

Shandie's a fool, so there's no harm in sacrificing her.

"Mm, mm!" Shandie's muffled voice rang out.

She initially thought it was Arielle's plan, but since Yvette was trying to stop her from saying anything, it was clear the latter was the mastermind.

*It was Yvette who did this to me! That b*tch!*



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She couldn't understand why Yvette tried to harm her. *Have I ever offended Yvette?*

On the other hand, Arielle was waiting to see them turning against each other.

She put on a concerned look and said, "Yvette, you can't say that. Shandie and I aren't that close, but I know she isn't that evil. Besides, there's no bad blood between her and Uncle Russell. Why would she harm him? This must be a misunderstanding. You need to give her a chance to explain herself."

Shandie nodded vehemently.

Yes! I want to explain. I shall reveal Yvette's evil deed!

Yvette gritted her teeth in anger. "Arielle, stay out of our family's business. There's nothing to explain!"

Russell shook his head. "Arielle's right. She's our relative, so we should give her a chance to explain herself. Edmund, remove the cloth in her mouth so she can talk."

Before Yvette could stop Edmund, he had

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already removed the cloth from Shandie's mouth.

Immediately, Shandie yelled out, "Uncle Russell! It was Yvette who set me up! My father locked me up in a monastery, so I knew nothing about your return. Yvette gave me the dress. She set me up and tried to kill you!"

"What did you say?" Russell's question was directed at Shandie, but his furious gaze had landed on Yvette.

Yvette felt like her blood had frozen in her veins.

She took a step back instinctively. "Dad..."

"Don't call me Dad!" Russell declared icily. "Is Shandie telling the truth? Were you the one who prepared the dress?"

Yvette shook her head in terror. This was the first time she had ever seen Russell this mad.

He looks like he's questioning a criminal.

No! I can't admit to that mistake.

She forced herself to calm down and pinched her thigh without anyone realizing it. The pain caused tears to stream down her cheeks. "Dad, don't you trust your daughter? Shandie is just an adopted daughter. Even if she's your niece, you shouldn't side with her and doubt your daughter!"

In response, Shandie clenched her teeth and exclaimed, "I'm not adopted! I'm my dad's biological daughter!"

Her sudden revelation shocked both Yvette and Russell into silence.

Arielle, who was usually calm, couldn't stop herself from arching a brow in surprise. *Huh. I can't believe Shandie revealed Henrick and Cindy's biggest secret in public.*

It was, indeed, a big scandal.

By claiming she was Henrick's biological daughter, Shandie was announcing that Henrick had cheated on Maureen with Cindy before Maureen's death.

Arielle snickered silently. *Shandie didn't inherit Cindy's IQ, but she inherited Henrick's*

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rashness. Ha! I get to kill two birds with one stone tonight.

Pausing for a while, Arielle pretended not to believe Shandie's announcement and responded, "Shandie, what are you talking about? You're adopted by Aunt Cindy. How could you claim to be Dad's biological daughter?"

"I am!" Shandie stuck her chin up and insisted. "We can take a DNA test if you don't trust me!"

Right then, Arielle could barely hold in her laughter.

Isn't the main point about the dress? Why is she insisting she's Henrick's biological daughter now?

In the end, Shandie's foolishness turned out to be a great help to Arielle.



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