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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Arielle!” Vinson answered without hesitation.

Initially, he was reluctant to tell Jordan about it because he knew that the latter would spread the news to the others. But, he knew that he had to clear the misunderstanding between them now.

He had never discriminated against homosexuals, but he just did not want Jordan to misunderstand him.

As a straight man, he hated being misunderstood.

Since he had never dated anyone before, many people assumed that he was a homosexual. He did not want his close friends to misunderstand him.

When Jordan heard Arielle's name, he was stunned.

He asked in surprise, “Goddess?”

Vinson glared at him and warned, “She's not your goddess. She's your future sister-in-law. Watch your language.”

“Okay!” Jordan raised his hands in surrender and asked, “But, Harvey's courting Arielle, right? He even went to an island and killed a shark to gift her its tooth. I heard that gifting a shark tooth signifies a confession.”

Vinson frowned upon hearing that, “Did Arielle accept it?”

Jordan shrugged. “I don't know. However, since both of you like the same woman, how are you going to share

her?”

Vinson glared daggers at Jordan.

“Who said anything about sharing? Arielle is mine.”

“Fine, fine. She's yours.”

Jordan quickly made an “OK” gesture to him. I almost fell for Arielle too. Luckily I got away before any damage was done. Otherwise, I'll die competing with these two.

Vinson did not want to continue talking to this idiot. He said, “If you've nothing to do, just put yourself in jail. Stop messing around. If Arielle finds out about this, I'll tear you apart. Do you understand?”

“Yes, yes!” Jordan nodded. He quickly left the mansion under Vinson's threatening gaze.

At that moment, he was happy yet conflicted.

He was happy to know that Vinson had not fallen for him but conflicted because the person Vinson liked was Arielle. They fell in love with the same girl. What now?

Moreover, both of them were loyal men. Once they fell for a woman, they would be in love with the same person for the rest of their lives.

What if they go against each other for Arielle?

Jordan was frustrated.

Thinking about that, he quickly took out his phone and sent Carter a message on WhatsApp.

Carter! Breaking news! Vinson and Carter fell in love with your Chief! My goddess, Arielle!

Carter replied him: ...

In the car, Jordan typed another message proudly. Are you surprised? You're the first person I told this to! Is dinner on you tonight?

Carter replied: Look at where you've sent me the message.

Jordan was confused as he glanced around and sent back: I'm in my car now. Why?

Just when he sent the message, he saw the title of the chat above their conversation - The Fantastic Four.

That was the title of the group chat for the four of them.

Jordan felt his world falling apart.

The next second, a notification popped up. Vinson has left the group chat.

One second later, another notification chimed. Harvey has left the group chat.



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After a couple of seconds, another notification came. Carter has left the group chat.

Only Jordan was left in the group chat now.

He sat in his car, feeling at a loss about what just happened. Damn! Damn! I'm such an idiot! A f**king idiot!

...

Back in the mansion, after Vinson quit the group chat, he was prepared to return to the Southall residence.

At that moment, Rayson phoned him. He sounded anxious.

“Mr. Nightshire, something terrible has happened! One of the branches of Soir Coffee has a problem now! A customer was sent to the hospital after an allergy reaction. Seems like the situation is really bad.”

Vinson frowned. “Is it caused by something from our coffee shop?”

“I'm not sure of the details yet, but the customer's family members are complaining about it at our office now. I'm afraid it might cause a negative impact on us. What should we do now?”

“Try to calm the family members and stop this news from spreading. I'm driving over now. I'll be there in around twenty minutes.”

“Okay, Mr. Nightshire.”

Upon hanging up, Vinson walked out of the mansion while he sent a message to Arielle: Are you all right?

Arielle replied quickly: Don't worry. Nothing's going to happen. Cindy won't let anything happen at Shandie's funeral.

Then, Vinson sent another message: All right. I need to settle something urgent now. I'll be there after I'm done.

In the Southall residence, Arielle smiled as she typed her message. Do what you need to do. If you're busy, you don't have to come. I can handle it by myself.

After giving it some thought, she sent another message: I'll call you if I have any problems.

Some time ago, she had never thought that someone would have her back like this. However, everything was different now.

Vinson replied quickly. Okay. Call me anytime.

After Arielle sent an “OK” emoji, she kept her phone back in her pocket. She started studying Cindy again.

The latter did not look as upset anymore as she tended to the guests.

The more Arielle thought about it, the more she felt something was off.

She had a feeling that Cindy was plotting something.

However, Arielle knew that she could handle everything well.

The funeral went on smoothly. Shandie's grave was in the second cemetery of Jadeborough.

The grave plots of the first cemetery were extremely expensive. They cost much higher than the houses in the city of Jadeborough, which was why only truly prominent and wealthy people could be buried there.

Henrick did not even want to pay for Shandie's grave at the second cemetery. In the end, Cindy had to fork out the money herself.

Maureen was buried there as well.

After making sure no one was keeping an eye on her, Arielle found Maureen's grave and placed a bouquet of flowers there.

She looked at Maureen's photo sorrowfully as she said, "Hey there, Mom. As I wished, the Southall family is now falling apart. Shandie is dead, whereas Cindy and Henrick are going to divorce soon. I've always wanted to find the truth about your death before, but I no longer want to know the process. I only know that Henrick and Cindy are the murderers who caused your death. I will definitely punish them for you. Just wait for me!"

Arielle had secretly come to Maureen's grave several times before. It was not the first time she talked to her

mother here.

Her gaze was firm as she looked intensely at Maureen's photo. A moment later, she pasted on a perfect smile before she walked toward Shandie's grave.

A car was already waiting to drive them back home.

Arielle climbed into the car with Henrick and Cindy.

Right as the car was about to arrive at the Southall residence...



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“Stop the car!” Cindy shouted.

She was sitting with Arielle in the back seat.

The latter turned to look at her in confusion. Cindy looked pale and was clearly not feeling well.

Since Arielle had medical skills, she could tell that Cindy was not faking it.

She frowned and gave Cindy a concerned look. “Aunt Cindy, what's wrong? Are you unwell?”

In the passenger's seat, Henrick turned around and asked, “What's wrong?”

Cindy covered her mouth with her hand and replied, “I think I'm having motion sickness. Stop the car.”

Henrick glanced at the chauffeur before the latter pulled over at the side of the road.

Once the car came to a halt, Cindy rushed out of the car and started throwing up beside a lamppost.

Eventually, she was just vomiting water. She could only steady herself by holding onto the lamppost.

Henrick furrowed his brows before he went to help Cindy. In confusion, he asked, “What's wrong? You've never had motion sickness before.”

Cindy wiped her mouth with her sleeve and answered weakly, “Maybe I was too upset today and it affected

my body. Let's go home. Help me call the private doctor to come over to check up on me later.”

Arielle was watching Cindy from the side. An idea occurred to her, but she swiftly pushed it aside, not deeming it likely.

“Forget about the private doctor. There's a hospital not far from here. Let's get a checkup there.”

She wanted to know if Cindy was really having motion sickness or something else was up. At least I'll know what's going on with her if we go to a hospital.

Cindy seemed reluctant as she looked at Henrick. “No need for that... Both of you must be tired. It's just motion sickness. I'm fine. I'll just roll down the car window later.”

Right when she finished speaking, she started retching again.

Although nothing came out, her face turned completely pale.

Henrick then sighed and replied, “It looks serious. We shouldn't get in the car. Let's walk to the hospital and get a checkup. You've never had motion sickness before. Something must be wrong.”

“Okay...” Cindy smiled apologetically before she began walking with Henrick's help.

Arielle followed behind. Her mind was racing to

analyze the situation.

I have a feeling her condition is probably caused by the thing that Matthias gave her. I saw her drinking it through the surveillance cameras.

However, Arielle did not say a word as she walked behind them.

She knew that the truth would be revealed at the hospital later.

...

They spent more than ten minutes to arrive at the hospital which was only several hundred meters away.

The three of them rushed to the emergency room together with their chauffeur.

Since there were only a few patients in the hospital and Cindy looked extremely pale, two nurses sent her for a checkup right away. Arielle and Henrick had to wait outside the door of the emergency room.

Arielle noticed that Henrick had his brows knitted tightly, looking worried.

Clearly, he was suspecting that Cindy had cheated on him.

That morning, Arielle had ordered Carter to have the staff of the psychiatric hospital gossip about Matthias and Cindy. Seems like it's working.

At that moment, she suddenly noticed that the Morgans' family insignia was on the wall beside the name of the hospital.



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This is Carter's family's hospital!

Arielle was delighted knowing that. This makes things a lot easier.

Without hesitation, she told Henrick that she was going to the washroom before she hid in a corner of the hospital. Then, she phoned Carter.

The latter answered the phone instantly, “Chief, what's up? Is there anything I can do for you?”

Arielle glanced around before she replied, “Your family owns Morgan Hospital, right?”

“Yes. Are you there now?”

“Yes. My aunt and also stepmother's name is Cindy Moore. She's getting a medical checkup here. Can you send someone to have a look at her?”

“Not a problem. I'll call them right now.”

“All right. Thank you. Also, thank you for helping me with the psychiatric hospital matter. I'll treat you to a meal some other day.”

“Sure.”

Arielle hurriedly hung up the call and kept her phone before she returned to the emergency room.

Henrick did not even realize that she had returned. He leaned against the wall, his gaze appearing blank and

looking like he had aged ten years.

It was the first time Arielle saw him looking like that. Deep down, all she felt was glee.

He clearly can't accept the fact that Cindy is cheating on him, but has he ever thought of Mom's feelings when he cheated on her back then? This is karma. He deserves it!

Arielle quickly hid the mocking look in her expression before she approached Henrick. "Dad, I'm back. Don't worry about Aunt Cindy. I think she's just too upset about Shandie's passing. Also, she stayed in the psychiatric hospital for some time. Her immunity might've weakened there."

Henrick forced a grin and replied, "Yeah. I'm not worried."

A beat later, he added, "Arielle, what do you think about Cindy?"

Arielle paused for a while before she smiled. "Aunt Cindy is really nice."

She knew that if she badmouthed Cindy now, Henrick would suspect that the rumor he heard in the psychiatric hospital might be fake.

As expected, after hearing her answer, Henrick asked, "I thought you two were always having misunderstandings? Why did you still say she's nice? What do you mean by that?"

Arielle smiled and answered, "I don't know how to put it in words... I just feel like she's treating you well. I think she's a nice person because of that."

Seeing her being so pure and naive, Henrick's face turned darker.

He knew that Cindy treated him well. But is she treating me well because she's feeling guilty and indebted to me?

Thinking about it, Henrick recalled that Cindy had never once given him an attitude ever since they got married. That's really strange.

Studying Henrick's changing expressions, Arielle knew that her plan was working.

She smiled gently as she asked, "Dad, what are you thinking?"

"N-Nothing." Henrick lowered his head guiltily.

Right at that moment, a doctor walked toward them and asked, "Is Cindy Moore's family around?"

Henrick did not respond. Yet, Arielle raised her hand and replied, "Right here. We're her family."

The doctor looked at her before he said, "There's some problem with the patient, so we took her to do an in-depth examination. You can wait for her in the waiting room. It may take an hour for the results to be out."

Henrick was stunned. He asked, “What's wrong with her? Why do we have to wait for so long? I thought she was only having motion sickness?”

The doctor pushed his glasses up and explained, “We're not sure yet. Please wait patiently until the results come out.”

Finished speaking, he turned around and left.



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Before leaving, the doctor glanced at Arielle and mouthed at her. Let's talk outside.

Although Henrick did not notice, Arielle saw that.

She went to the waiting room with Henrick and found an excuse to leave. Then, she saw the doctor waiting for her at the entrance of the hospital.

“Are you Ms. Moore?” the doctor asked.

Arielle nodded. “Yes. I'm Arielle Moore.”

The doctor glanced around before he said, “Let's talk over there.” He then walked toward the garden of the hospital.

Arielle followed him to a corner before they came to a halt. “Ms. Moore, my name is Andrew Collins. Mr. Morgan ordered me to inspect Cindy Moore.”

Arielle nodded and greeted him. After that, she asked in confusion, “Dr. Collins, is there any problem with Cindy Moore?”

Andrew shook his head and answered, “There's nothing wrong with the patient. However, we found out that she's pregnant.”

Arielle widened her eyes in shock. “Pregnant!”

She wasn't having motion sickness; she's just pregnant! She's actually pregnant? Whose child is it?

It was the first time Arielle failed to control herself. However, she was lucky that Andrew was on her side.

She took a deep breath to calm herself before she asked, “Are you sure about that? She's almost fifty years old...”

“According to the preliminary examination, the level of human chorionic gonadotropin in the blood of patient has increased significantly, which indicates that she is pregnant. However, since Mr. Morgan has called us personally, I'm going to do more precise tests on the patient.”

After several seconds, Arielle questioned, “I-Is there a chance that there's a mistake with the result?”

Andrew pondered about it before he answered, “This index is high. It can also be affected by some medications. However, if an ultrasound is done, the result of the test is 100% accurate. My staff is now taking her for B-scan ultrasonography.”

Arielle murmured her assent and added, “I understand. Please inspect her thoroughly.”

“Yes, Ms. Moore.” Andrew nodded firmly before he turned around and headed back to the hospital.

As Arielle watched Andrew leave, she fell into deep thought. If Cindy's truly pregnant, that's going to be bad news to me. Henrick doesn't have a son, and he looks down on women. He's going to wait until the baby is born to do anything, even if there's proof that she cheated on him with Matthias. I can't wait until the baby

is born. This family has to fall apart in order for me to take advantage of them.

Arielle shut her eyes and prayed that the result was wrong. She hoped that Cindy was not pregnant.

A couple of seconds later, her eyes flew open.

She suddenly remembered the surveillance cameras in the psychiatric hospital.

In the footage, Matthias had Cindy drink something every day. It looked like some sort of herbal remedy. Could that possibly affect the result of the medical checkup?

Arielle clenched her fists, suspecting that Cindy was faking a pregnancy.

This is probably her trump card. If this is true, Cindy's really smart. However, the truth will be revealed eventually. By then, I won't have to do anything for Henrick to end her life. Henrick hates deception and betrayal the most. Not only that, but he's an incredibly prideful man. It will be the end of Cindy right after I expose the proof of her cheating on Henrick.



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Arielle's head was flooded with thoughts.

After standing in the garden for several minutes, she managed to get a conclusion before she headed back to the emergency room.

When she arrived at the entrance, she saw Cindy crying in Henrick's arms.

Arielle rushed to them and asked, "Dad, what happened to Aunt Cindy?"

Henrick clearly did not know what was going on as well. He lowered his head and said, "Stop crying. What happened?"

Cindy pointed at a doctor and a nurse standing nearby while she uttered through her sobs, "He molested me!"

She shouted so loudly that almost all the people in the emergency room heard that.

They turned to look at Cindy in surprise before casting a disdainful look at the male doctor she was pointing at.

Several bad-tempered people walked over and started berating the male doctor.

"She's a patient. How could you be so disgusting? Have you forgotten about your medical ethics?"

"You don't deserve to be a doctor. Miss, call the police! We can't tolerate this kind of people! We have to punish him!"

“Yes! He has to be punished!”

As everyone reprimanded the doctor, his face turned dark.

The doctor warned, “Ma'am, please don't slander me! When did I molest you? You were brought to the room for an ultrasound. I haven't even started the inspection when you screamed and ran out the room.”

The nurse beside him nodded.

“That's right! Ma'am, we haven't even finished the inspection. You're supposed to take off your clothes for the examination. You can't slander us like this.”

Henrick was furious and embarrassed. He asked, “Did the doctor molest you? Could it be a misunderstanding?”

Cindy wiped her tears and complained in embarrassment, “I've done this examination before. I certainly know that I'm supposed to take off my clothes. Do you think that I can't tell the difference between molesting and examining? He molested me when the nurse wasn't paying attention. I swear that it wasn't a misunderstanding!”

“Okay!” Henrick shot a look at the chauffeur, and the latter stepped forward to restrain the doctor immediately.

Meanwhile, Henrick called the police.

Since there was a police station beside the hospital, several policemen arrived in no time. They started asking about the situation.

When they heard that a doctor molested his patient, their expressions became solemn.

The nurse who was speaking for the doctor backed out when she noticed everyone around her was on Cindy's side.

The doctor tried to defend himself, but no one believed him. Moreover, there was not a single surveillance camera in the B-scan ultrasonography room. Hence, he could not do anything to prove his innocence. In the end, he had to go to the police station to record a statement.

As Arielle watched the male doctor being dragged away, she was more certain than ever that Cindy was faking her pregnancy. It's obvious that she's trying to avoid the B-scan ultrasonography because she's faking her pregnancy.

Clearly, Cindy had never thought that her actions might destroy the doctor's future and career.

That was how evil she was.

Henrick was infuriated and only calmed down after the doctor was taken away. Then, he started yelling for the management of the hospital to compensate him.

The hospital sent Andrew to negotiate with him.

When Andrew came, he glanced at Arielle. She sighed as she noticed how helpless he was.

Andrew walked toward Cindy and Henrick before he bowed down to apologize.



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“Sir, Ma'am, after we confirm the situation with the police, the hospital will contact you to talk about the compensation.” Andrew did not forget about Carter's order. He added, “The hospital will pay for the fee of all the medical examinations you've done here today. For all subsequent examinations, we will arrange for a female doctor to do them for you. Please come with us.”

Cindy instantly refused, “I don't want to continue with the examination! Even if you arrange a female doctor, I'm still afraid! You just need to give us the results of the tests I did before. I'll go to another hospital for other tests.”

Hearing that, the other patients left the hospital as well, not daring to have their examinations there anymore.

There was no doubt the news would spread like wildfire in Jadeborough. Morgan Hospital would suffer an unprecedented devastating blow after having its reputation tarnished.

Thinking about that, Andrew looked exasperated. He nodded at the nurse beside him and said, “Get the patient's examination results here.”

“All right, Dr. Collins.” The nurse walked off and returned with a report in her hand.

Andrew glanced at Arielle, seemingly asking for her permission. No one else understood that look.

Arielle frowned while thinking about it. Since a male doctor's future was ruined now, she knew that she could

not let anything bad happen anymore. Hence, she could only nod in agreement.

Seeing that, Andrew walked toward Cindy and handed her the report. "According to the blood test results, Ma'am, you're pregnant. Congratulations"

"What?"

"What?"

Henrick and Cindy gasped in shock at the same time.

However, Arielle could tell that the latter was faking it.

Although Cindy looked surprised, Arielle noticed that her eyes were filled with triumph.

"Congratulations, Aunt Cindy." Arielle smiled as she stared at Cindy.

Inexplicably, the latter felt guilty.

Arielle's gaze was so sharp that it seemed to pierce through Cindy's mind. Cindy felt like Arielle could read her mind now.

However, she quickly regained her composure. No one else knows about my plan except for Matthias. Even if Arielle guessed it, she won't be able to expose me. Matthias told me that as long as I keep drinking the herbal concoction, I will have all the symptoms of a real pregnancy. If I don't do the B-scan ultrasonography, no one will ever find out that I'm faking my pregnancy.

Arielle is probably congratulating me as a sign of her backing down.

With that thought, Cindy covered her mouth and said, “Don't congratulate me... I'm so old now... Oh no! I don't know what to do.”

She then turned around to look at Henrick.

The man had no son. As his wife, Cindy knew that he always wanted a son. However, after giving birth to Shandie, she was not able to conceive even though she had consumed all sorts of medicines in order to conceive. Henrick must be delighted because I'm pregnant!

Yet, when Cindy turned around to look at Henrick, the latter had a complex expression on his face.

She had never expected him to react that way.

Stunned, her heart started racing due to guilt.

After taking a deep breath, she was about to speak when Henrick suddenly asked the doctor, “How old is the baby?”



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Henrick's words caused Cindy to blanch fearfully as her heart pounded wildly in her chest.

Did Henrick find out about Matthias and me? Is he suspecting that the child isn't his?

At once, her palms turned clammy.

She convinced herself that Henrick merely wanted to know how old the child was.

Cindy cast a nervous glance at the doctor, who answered, "She's three to four months along."

"Three to four months," Henrick repeated. A look of relief washed over his face, and he finally allowed himself to beam happily.

Three to four months ago, Matthias was managing Cindy's branch office overseas. We had sex at least once a week back then, which means the child is mine!

As the doctor wanted to help Arielle out, he offered, "If you want to know the exact date, we can carry out a thorough checkup for you for free."

Cindy rejected his offer at once. "No need. I shall do that at another hospital. Thank you, though."

As she was insistent, the doctor had to give up.

He shot Arielle an apologetic gaze before leaving with the nurse in tow.

Arielle didn't blame him, for Cindy was indeed too heartless.

She'll get a taste of her own medicine someday!

With a polite smile on her face, Arielle congratulated Henrick, "Congratulations, Dad. You're going to have a son!" She paused before adding, "No, I should congratulate myself as I'm going to have a younger brother soon."

Her words struck a chord with Henrick.

He flashed a grin and gazed at Cindy affectionately.

"Cindy, you did a great job. If I knew you were pregnant, I wouldn't have sent you to the psy... To that place."

His comforting words reassured her anxious heart.

After heaving a sigh of relief inwardly, she put on a surprised but shy smile and offered, "I'm no longer young, so it's quite embarrassing to say it out loud. At least you can finally be proud of me if I'm pregnant with a son."

Henrick's heart softened at her words.

Looks like the rumors at the psychiatric hospital are fake. Not all doctors and nurses are kind souls. For example, that b*stard from earlier!

At once, Henrick's suspicion faded away as he gazed at

Cindy lovingly.

He now felt increasingly remorseful. It wasn't easy for us to end up together. I shouldn't have suspected my wife.

With that thought in mind, he ignored the others and pulled her into his arms.

“Don't be embarrassed. This is good news! Mom will be delighted to hear about it. A few months later, I shall announce to everyone that I have a son, an heir!” He guffawed in excitement.

Everyone shot him confused gazes, but he ignored them as he was too delighted at the news.

All the while, he had been yearning for a son, so much so that he even entertained the thought of getting a mistress to bear him an heir to inherit his fortune. Now, his wish had come true.

Cindy leaned into his arms shyly and sneaked a peek at Arielle.



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She was curious as to how Arielle would react to the news.

The reason Henrick defended Arielle was that she was his only child left. Now that he thought he'd have a son, she wasn't that important to him anymore.

If Cindy used Malorie to sow discord between Arielle and Vinson now, and they broke up, would Henrick still defend Arielle?

The answer was no.

Without having a rich son-in-law like Vinson around, Henrick will definitely turn a blind eye to whatever I do to her. As long as I make sure not to leave any traces behind, I shall be able to avenge Shandie soon!

Cindy was both curious and excited to find out Arielle's reaction. However, when her gaze landed on Arielle, she only saw the latter's slight smile.

Her smile showed no hint of anger or alarm. It seemed that her congratulations were sincere.

She's congratulating me sincerely? The person who killed her mother? That's impossible! Did she see through me? That sounds impossible, too.

Contrary to her expectation, she felt a chill go down her spine.

Cindy immediately hung her head low and gave Henrick a slight shove. "Rick, we're at the hospital.

Let's talk back home.”

Henrick released his grip on her as though he had just realized that fact. “Yes, you're right,” he exclaimed gleefully. “Let's go home and tell Mom about it. I bet she'll be delighted to hear the news!”

With that, he helped Cindy walk in an exaggeratedly careful manner, as though he was afraid she'd slip and fall any minute.

She was pregnant with his son, and he wouldn't allow anything to happen to his beloved son.

They held hands and walked out of the hospital.

Cindy sped up and left Arielle behind. The latter couldn't help but wonder if she had done this on purpose.

Once Cindy entered the car, she told the chauffeur, “Leave now. I don't want to suffer any longer.”

Henrick immediately urged, “Hurry up and drive!”

Arielle hadn't gotten into the car yet, so the chauffeur was about to remind them when Henrick ordered, “What are you waiting for? Can't you see Mrs. Southall's feeling uncomfortable?”

The chauffeur had to swallow his words, for he knew Henrick would fire him if he delayed any further.

When Arielle made it past the crowd and arrived by the

road, she was greeted by the exhaust of the car speeding away.

Henrick had left her behind!

I'm no longer important to him now that he has a son. Whatever. It's better if his attention isn't on me anyway.

Nevertheless, she was a human being with feelings. It still felt dreadful to be left behind.

As bitterness rose in her heart, she massaged her temples and chided herself for being too sensitive.

Sighing, she stretched out a hand to hail a cab. Before she could do so, a car with the Morgans' family insignia rolled to a stop before her.

Looking up, she saw Carter heading her way.

“Chief,” he greeted her.

At the sight of him, Arielle flashed an apologetic smile. “I'm sorry to drag your hospital into the mess.”

Carter gave a dismissive wave. “I've sorted everything out. Our hospital only hires doctors with integrity. Cindy must be lying. It would happen even if you were not there. Besides, this hospital's location isn't that great. We were already planning on shutting it down this year and sending the doctors to other hospitals. Don't blame yourself,” he assured her.

“Thank you for your comforting words.”

“I'm not comforting you. I'm just stating the truth,” Carter said. He pointed somewhere and requested, “If you feel sorry, can you help me with something? Actually, can you help Vin out?”



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Arielle instinctively turned in the direction Carter was pointing.

It was a skyscraper with the signage “Nightshire Group” on the top floor.

Suddenly, Arielle recalled Vinson's text. He claimed he was busy at work and couldn't return to the Southall residence immediately.

Her eyes twitched as she demanded, “What happened to Vinson?”

Carter exhaled. “I just found out about it, too. Vin told me to keep it a secret from you, but I came anyway—”

“Just tell me what happened to him. How can I be of help?” she urged.

Carter gestured for her to get into the car. “Come on. Let's talk on the way there.”

“All right.” Without hesitation, Arielle nodded and hopped into Carter's car.

Carter stepped on the gas and started explaining the entire incident. “You're Soir Coffee's ambassador, right? A customer ate something in the cafe and had a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. He's receiving emergency treatment in the hospital now. His family came to the company and demanded Soir Coffee be shut down. It's quite a serious matter, and everyone's talking about it online. Many netizens are starting to boycott Soir Coffee.”

Arielle listened to everything carefully and thought over it. “It's normal for a customer to have an allergic reaction. The company has to offer adequate compensation and settle the matter. Why did it escalate into something this big?”

“You're right.” As the car stopped at a red light, Carter pulled out his phone and showed a few screenshots to her. “Take a look at this.”

Arielle glanced at the screenshots taken from a few online articles. A few reported that a few customers had food allergies after dining at Soir Coffee. Some articles even outright reported that the customers had suffered from food poisoning.

Food poisoning was way more serious than food allergies.

Finally, Arielle understood the severity of the situation.

Back when she was shooting the advertisement, she had heard Nightshire Group wanted to make Soir Coffee into a worldwide famous cafe. To achieve that, they had already invested an enormous sum of money and manpower.

If multiple food allergy and food poisoning cases popped up, the brand was doomed.

Arielle's expression turned grim.

After a brief silence, she asked, “Did you check the food in the cafe? Was it a case of contradictory food

items?”

Contradictory food items would cause food poisoning.

Carter shook his head. “I've asked Vin about it. When the first case happened, he ran a thorough investigation. The coffee shop doesn't use a lot of ingredients, so the results were out in less than a day. The ingredients were fine.”

“What about the customers? Could there be something wrong with their health?”

Carter shook his head once again. “The customers were all healthy young adults. This particular case is especially serious because the customer suffers from a blood disorder. He's still in a critical condition now. The family members of the other affected customers are gathered at Nightshire Group's entrance. Vin is figuring out a way to settle the matter in private. When you called me, I was right there. It was a chaotic scene.”



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Arielle's brows furrowed in concern. Her sixth sense told her it was a setup.

Who would want to do this to Vinson, though?

Suddenly, someone popped up in her mind.

She turned to Carter. "Did you monitor that person who placed the bomb? Could it be him?"

"We've thought of that and planted Harvey as a spy. Though he hasn't infiltrated them completely, he discovered they're currently in the middle of an important deal with a mysterious family. They don't have the time for this."

Arielle nodded in understanding as her confusion heightened.

If it isn't him, who could it be? Is it really a coincidence? Or is there indeed something wrong with Soir Coffee's food?

As her nails dug into her palm, Arielle urged, "You said you needed my help. Explain."

"It's about the patient," Carter revealed grimly. "The previous customers got better swiftly, but this particular customer is still in a critical condition. I need your help to check him out. Can you do that?"

Arielle inclined her head. "I'll do my best."

Carter heaved a sigh of relief before letting out a self-

deprecating chuckle.

Not long ago, he had his doubts about her medical skills. Now, instead of going to the best doctor he had, he came to Arielle for help.

The more he thought about it, the more absurd it felt.

Arielle might be an expert in psychological illnesses, but this is different. I wonder if she can do it.

It didn't take long for Carter to dispel his doubts, for he believed that she was the best doctor in the whole wide world.

He floored the accelerator and picked up speed.

“Before heading to the hospital, we need to stop at Nightshire Group and enter through the back entrance. I need to inform Vin and ask him to come with us,” he explained.

Even if they wanted to treat the customer, his family might refuse to let them butt in.

“All right,” Arielle agreed. She promptly urged, “Hurry!”

If the customer's condition is as serious as he claims, it will be a race against time.

Carter sped up. He ran two red lights before arriving at Nightshire Group.

Though Arielle expected the chaos, she realized it was worse than what she had imagined earlier.

The once empty area before Nightshire Group's building was crowded.

The protesters even held up banners to attract everyone else's attention.

Nightshire Group poisoned their customers! We demand the closure of Soir Coffee!

Shut Soir Coffee down to protect the consumers!

Soir Coffee, a subsidiary under Nightshire Group, is killing innocent people!

After Carter parked the car, a group of people with white bandannas marched over while clanging cymbals noisily. The word “protest” painted in red over their bandannas immediately caught the bystanders' attention.

Nightshire Group's entrance was packed, so Carter's car was instantly surrounded by people, too.

Frowning, Carter whipped out his phone to call Vinson, but the latter's phone was engaged.

“I'll head up to look for him,” Carter said. He added, “Now that the place is crowded, I'm afraid they'll recognize you and harm you in a fit of rage. Stay in the car. I'll be back with Vin soon.”



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Arielle was the ambassador of Soir Coffee. Back when the advertisement was first released, it became a trending topic.

Clearly, people would recognize her.

Arielle had no intention of causing trouble. "I'll stay in the car." She reminded him, "Be careful. I saw a few men with baseball bats in their hands."

"Okay," came Carter's reply. He then left.

As he was clad in an expensive suit and obviously stood out from the others, his appearance immediately attracted the protesters' gazes.

"Hey! Stop right there!" someone hollered.

In the blink of an eye, Carter was surrounded.

As those protesters couldn't enter Nightshire Group's building since it was guarded by burly bodyguards, they decided to stop any employee they happened to see.

The leader demanded, "Who are you? Do you work in Nightshire Group as an executive?"

Carter adjusted his gold-rimmed glasses and shook his head. "I don't work here. I'm Nightshire Group's business partner. After hearing about Soir Coffee's recent negative incidents, I want to dissolve our contract."

The leader immediately flashed a satisfied grin. He

handed his baseball bat to someone else before stepping forward to shake Carter's hand.

“Oh, we're on the same side. Did I scare you?”

Carter nodded. “To be honest, yes.”

“Sorry about that,” the man responded with a smile. “You're making the right decision by canceling your collaboration with Nightshire Group. We're planning on blowing the matter up and making their share price hit rock bottom. You should hurry and dissolve your contract now!”

Carter's expression froze for a split second.

Make the share price hit rock bottom? This is clearly a part of a bigger scheme!

He couldn't stop himself from saying, “We're on the same side, so I should remind you that the police might arrest you for causing a scene here.”

“We're not afraid of that!” The man patted his chest and declared arrogantly, “We're ordinary citizens placing our lives on the line! Besides, why would the police arrest us victims? They should arrest Vinson Nightshire of Nightshire Group!”

Carter did his best to conceal his true feelings. His lips curved up as he nodded and reminded them to be careful. After bidding goodbye to those protesters, he headed for Nightshire Group's entrance.

Arielle had her eyes on Carter, so she heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing him striding away from the crowd.

Right then, someone turned to glance at the car.

Arielle immediately turned her head aside so they wouldn't recognize her.

Alas, it only took one glance for the man to realize who she was.

After all, her arresting features would definitely leave an impression on anyone she met. One could easily recognize her from her side profile.

The man yelled, "Come here, everyone! Arielle Moore, the ambassador of Soir Coffee, is in the car!"

At once, everyone clustered around the car.

"Are you sure this is the ambassador of Soir Coffee?"

"There's no way I'd mistake that face for another person!"

"What are you waiting for? Let's drag her out! She must be an evil person for agreeing to be the ambassador of such an unscrupulous store!"

"The car's locked!"

"Smash the car! Do it now!"

As Arielle was in the car, she thought she could stay

inside even though they had recognized her. To her utter shock, those men started bashing the car forcefully!

Bang! Bang! Bang!



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The crashing sounds became harder and louder by the minute.

Though she was in an expensive car, a crack soon appeared in the glass window.

On the other hand, Carter heard the commotion even before he reached the entrance.

It was too loud and noisy to ignore, after all.

He turned to look over his shoulder and spotted the window beside the passenger seat shattering into pieces. Someone had stretched his arm in, attempting to open the door.

Arielle's been discovered!

Shocked, Carter dashed toward her.

At the same time, in an office on the top floor of Nightshire Group.

Rayson was reporting to Vinson. "Mr. Nightshire, we've hushed the media as per your order. Similar reports will be stopped before they get published. But if those family members keep protesting, we can't really stop the netizens' gossiping."

Vinson inclined his head and inquired, "What about the customer at the hospital? How is he doing?"

Rayson shook his head. "He's still in the emergency room. I've asked Mr. Carter Morgan to send his best

doctor to the hospital, but the customer is still in a critical state.”

Solemnly, Vinson lit a cigarette and ordered, “Tell the doctors to do their best and get the best specialists in town. For now, close every Soir Coffee store in Jadeborough. Make sure no employees stay behind so they won't get hurt.”

“Yes. I'll get it done right away.”

Frowning, Vinson looked down and noticed a bunch of people hitting a car.

Not far away, Carter was rushing toward that car.

Surprise flashed across Vinson's face.

Carter isn't someone who'd risk his life for a cheap car. There must be someone inside the car! Who could it be?

Suddenly, a sense of dread welled up within him.

At once, he turned on his heels and ran out while praying fervently, Please don't let it be Arielle. Please don't let it be Arielle!

Downstairs, in the car.

Arielle looked around for something to defend herself but to no avail.

As a hand reached in to open the car door, she grabbed the person's wrist and twisted it forcefully. Crack! The

sickening sound of bone cracking filled everyone's ears.

“Ah!” the man yelled in agony and withdrew his hand as the color drained from his face.

Right then, Arielle suddenly noticed the logo of the car.

It's a Rolls-Royce!

Her eyes lit up. When the second person came at her, she pushed the door open forcefully and pressed a secret button.

Click! An umbrella popped out.

All Rolls-Royce cars were equipped with an umbrella!

Swiftly, Arielle opened the umbrella and shoved the men closest to her away before anyone could realize what she was trying to do.

As it was crowded, her action caused everyone else to stagger backward like dominoes.

Arielle grabbed the opportunity to leap onto the hood of the car.

She then propelled herself upward and landed at the other end of the crowd, rolling on the ground to break her fall.

Her movement was swift and natural, as though she was a skilled martial artist.

Everyone gaped in disbelief.

Arielle rose to her feet swiftly. As everyone gazed at her in shock, she ran away, heading for the road.

One man regained his composure and hollered, “She's running away! Hurry, go after her!”



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The road was full of cars.

When Arielle arrived by the road, there were only three seconds left before the light would turn red.

She dashed across the road so quickly that everyone could only see a shadow flitting past them.

When the protesters arrived by the road, the light had already turned red.

Watching the cars speeding across the road, most of the protesters came to a halt hesitantly. However, some ignored the red light and dashed across the road to go after her.

Honk! Honk!

At once, the vehicles on the road screeched to a halt.

Bang! A car promptly rammed into the car before it.

The owner hopped out of his car in fury and shrieked, "Didn't you see the red light? Do you have a death wish? My car costs over two million! I demand compensation!"

The road descended into chaos. Some took the chance to go after Arielle, but most of them got stopped by the car owner and the busy traffic.

When Carter appeared beside the road, someone suddenly realized he had alighted from the same car that Arielle was in earlier.

“He didn't come to call off the contract; he's on the same side as that woman!” someone roared.

The crowd immediately made their way toward him.

Carter had no choice but to turn and run in the opposite direction.

It just so happened that the man who had talked to Carter earlier was right behind him, flanked by two tall and muscular young men.

It was three versus one. Unfortunately, Carter didn't have any weapons with him, while the three men were either holding baseball bats or knives.

Clearly, Carter was at a disadvantage.

Nevertheless, he didn't seem to have any other choice than to face them head-on.

Carter took off his glasses and placed them aside before shrugging out of his suit jacket. Pushing his sleeves up, he clenched his fists and declared, “Come on!”

Now that his glasses were gone, an air of hostility replaced his initial scholarly impression.

It's a piece of cake to defeat three men in one go.

The leader cursed, “B*stard, you lied to me! I shall let you know the consequences of lying to me. Get him!”

Upon command, the men brandishing knives ran toward

Carter.

He dodged an incoming attack deftly and spun around to kick the attacker's back.

The attacker shrieked in pain and collapsed to the ground.

The other man roared angrily and increased his speed, aiming his knife at Carter's chest.

Though he was fast, Carter avoided him in time and punched his face.

“Ouch!” The man covered his cheek in anguish and spat out a tooth.

“Damn it!” he cursed. His expression turned icier as he attacked Carter again and again.

Even so, he failed to gain an upper hand.

The leader pulled off his bandanna and swung his baseball bat in the direction of Carter's head.

Carter managed to avoid being stabbed by the knife but didn't notice someone behind him. Before the baseball bat could land on his head, a hand appeared out of nowhere and gripped the leader's wrist.

He couldn't even move as the force immobilized him.

“Who are you?” He glared at the culprit.

The sunlight reflecting off the other man's face made him a gorgeous sight to behold. His chiseled features glinted dangerously under the sunlight. It was a daunting sight.

It's Vinson Nightshire!



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