

《Once Bitten, Twice Shy》

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Chapter 22: Brilliant Reversal

...

Penelope had a beautiful dream, and she was smiling even in her sleep. Hence, she slept until noon and unwillingly opened her eyes.

The first thing she did was to take her phone by the pillow and swiftly check Weibo.

The trending topic was still Samantha, and there was even a red box with the word “trending” beside her name. It seemed that the netizens talked smack about Samantha even more ruthlessly overnight.

Penelope smiled and tapped on the trending topic.

She really wanted to see how the netizens cursed at Samantha so that she could start the new day in a good mood.

However, she was stunned when she saw the first trending post on Weibo. Penelope widened her eyes in disbelief, and even her smile froze on her face.

What was going on...

Penelope wondered whether she had made a mistake as she had just woken up, so she blinked her eyes a few times and looked at her phone again. Unfortunately, her eyes were not deceiving her!

The trending post on Weibo was posted by an amateur artist who specialized in shooting pornography. She clarified that the female in the viral photos and videos was her, and not Samantha!

To appear more convincing, she even recorded a video to prove that she was not lying!

The artist only resembled Samantha by 30%, but she looked 80% similar to Samantha after adding a filter.

In an instant, the netizens turned into Sherlock Holmes and started to compare the pictures and videos as if they were investigating for crucial evidence.

The result was that the artist appeared more identical to the woman in the video. Hence, the lady might have been her!

Then, public opinion began to reverse.

[Dammit! I told you that she is a socialite after all. Hence, she wouldn't be so wild, and she'll still remain classy.]

[The commenter above is right. There are so many keyboard warriors on the internet these days, and they'll trust whatever they hear. Moreover, they only know how to hide behind the screen and curse at others. In reality, they are really evil.]

[Am I the only one who thinks that Samantha's quite pitiful? She went viral on the internet for such a matter. Will she be depressed? I'm worried for her. Does anyone know how she is right now?]

[She's just a girl but was inexplicably framed. Even the media and marketing accounts promoted the news together, so someone must've done this behind her back! I wonder which immoral person did this. They should be the ones suffering instead!]

[We can't let go of such an evil person easily. Otherwise, they might create another rumor and hurt another innocent girl, who might even be one of us! I'm determined to investigate who the person is!]

[Me too!]

Some of the netizens even immediately created a group called "Protect the Girls", and started to find out who was behind it.

Penelope did not expect the matter not to progress as she hoped! Instead, they were all blaming her!

What was that damned Sheena doing?

Next, Penelope gritted her teeth in anger and hurriedly called Sheena. As soon as she picked up, Penelope roared, "What were you doing? You can't even handle such a small matter. If you don't quieten this matter, I'll torture you!"

Sheena was puzzled too. This unknown artist suddenly appeared and claimed that she was the female lead in the video, causing the crowd to reverse their opinions. Was it all a coincidence, or was someone helping Samantha?

To prevent anything else from happening, she even let Nate detain Samantha. Hence logically, Samantha would not be able to do anything!

Sheena gave it a thought and asked, "Penny, do you think someone is helping Samantha?"

"That's impossible!" Penelope answered, "The Larsson family had long collapsed, and her parents are begging for favors everywhere. They can't even take care of themselves, let alone support Samantha!"

When Sheena heard that, she felt relieved. She pondered upon the situation and concluded. "Penny, I've checked and found that after the artist came out with her statements on Weibo, her followers had increased by more than a million within half an hour. Since she works as an adult film artist, I bet she's just joining the conversation to be an instant hit! Thus, we can pay more netizens and let them use this as a distraction. Then, they would know that the artist is just doing it to ride the wave, and the real female lead is still Samantha!"

After listening to Sheena, Penelope's anger reduced, and she snorted, "Thankfully, you're smart. Hurry up and settle it. Spend as much as you need. I want Samantha to be completely destroyed!"

"Alright, Penny!"

As soon as she hung up the call, Sheena quickly contacted some paid netizens and explained her request. At the same time, she transferred money to them too, wanting them to act immediately and control the discussion!

Once again, the paid netizens flooded Weibo, and they frantically left comments everywhere.

The internet instantly turned into a battlefield. She had her own opinions, and the other party had their own understanding. No one was willing to give in, and they were cursing at each other, causing the matter to go incredibly viral.

In the end, Weibo's server broke down.

Their developers grumbled as they did their utmost best to fix the server. Finally, after three hours of fixing the bug, Weibo was finally back to normal.

However, another hot news item was exposed!

A verified Weibo account posted, [Samantha was indeed framed, and there's evidence!]

Then, he released the phone recording between Sheena and Nate, striking a deal as well as the bank transfer records. Furthermore, he even posted the conversation logs of Sheena paying netizens and transfer histories.

Such prominent records proved everything.

Seeing that the situation was not favoring them, the paid netizens instantly quietened. On the other hand, the righteous netizens were furious.

It was so disgusting for someone to play such a trick. They would not let go of Sheena, the evil wrench!

The netizens went to the police's Weibo page and left comments, requesting them to arrest Sheena as she was considered involved in a crime.

The police swiftly visited Schmidt's residence.

When Penelope came downstairs, she saw the police holding Sheen by her arms, dragging her out.

Sheena saw her and cried out, "Penny, help me! I don't want to go with them! I don't want to be jailed!"

Penelope panicked, and her face was instantly ashen.

Since the matter had been exposed, someone must take the blame. If everyone knew that Penelope orchestrated the whole thing, what would they think of her? What would Timmy feel about her?

She could not embarrass the Schmidt family, nor could she let Timmy regard her as an evil wrench. If that happened, she would never marry into the Barker family!

Penelope's expression was full of resentment and hatred, and she scolded, "Sheena, I can't believe you'd do such a terrible thing! I'm so disappointed in you."

Then, she turned to the police and said in a righteous tone, "I won't disrupt your work. Do as you wish."

Sheena's hope shattered as it appeared that Penelope wanted her to be her scapegoat, and she yelled furiously, "Penny, this matter is clearly your..."

Chapter 23: Outwitted

Before Sheena could finish her sentence, Penelope had already rushed forward and ruthlessly slapped her.

With a crisp clap, Sheena's face moved sideways from the hit, and her words were stuck in her throat.

Penelope inched closer and whispered threatening words by Sheena's ear, "Shut your mouth! Don't forget that everything you have, I gave it to you! Don't say things you should not!"

Deep resentment and indignation appeared in Sheena's eyes.

Nonetheless, Sheena knew that she had to swallow the bitter pill. Otherwise, Penelope would never let go of her and her mother. After all, her mother would be promoted to a housekeeper in the Schmidt family next month.

Sheena considered the advantages and disadvantages. In the end, she decided to stay quiet.

She glanced profoundly at Penelope, secretly swearing that she would make Penelope regret what she did to her one day!

Penelope finally breathed a deep sigh of relief when the police brought Sheena away.

At last, she had finally cleaned up the matter... However, they had adequately planned everything, so why did nothing happen to Samantha? Moreover, she even fought back brilliantly!

What was going on?

...

At that moment, in a studio on the outskirts.

Nate and a few of his accomplices were trussed up, squeezing together in the corner. Moreover, their faces were wounded too. They appeared lifeless as they were tied up the whole night and unable to move, nor were they given food or drinks.

At the thought of what happened last night, Nate still had a lingering fear.

Initially, he thought that Samantha was a weak girl, and he could easily control her, yet just when she agreed to cooperate well, she swiftly attacked him. Then, he felt something stabbed at his neck, and his body fell directly, causing him to kneel in front of her.

When his friends saw this, they immediately rushed forward to teach her a lesson. Even though she seemed frail, she could put up a good fight.

Nevertheless, she was alone, and there were many of them, all of them being brawny men. Hence, she gradually lost her strength, falling to a disadvantage.

Unexpectedly, just as when they thought they could capture her, a woman barged in. She was wearing high heels, and she was charming. It was as if she could steal someone's soul away with just a smile.

The lady brought over a man that appeared to be her bodyguard, and in just two minutes, he knocked out all of the men there. All of them howled in pain, and they could not get up.

After that, they were all tied up, and under Samantha's coercion, they cooperated with her and lied to Sheena.

The door suddenly opened, and they heard footsteps approaching.

Nate looked up and saw Samantha smiling innocently and sweetly as she walked toward them. Although she was smiling, Nate quivered in fear.

This woman should not be underestimated, and it was best not to offend her.

Nate licked his dry lips, begging with a hoarse voice, "Ms. Larsson, it's my fault for being so ignorant and underestimating you. Please, be the bigger person, and let us go!"

Samantha shrugged. "Sure. I can let go of you, but you must surrender yourself to the police and explain to them what happened."

"This..." Nate hesitated. He did not want to get the police involved.

"You're unwilling?" Samantha was not in a hurry, and she was still showing a smile. "Since I can't convince you, I'll let the guard from yesterday persuade you."

As soon as she said that, Nate and the others panicked. That guard could break their bones with just one punch! Their lives were more important after all!

Nate hurriedly nodded. "I promise you that I'll go to the police station! I will go! I will go!"

"Great."

Samantha walked forward, took out a dagger, and swiftly cut the ropes.

...

Later, Samantha walked out of the studio and made her way to the car parking in front of the entrance. Then, she opened the door and got into the car.

There was another woman in the car, wearing a black professional suit that showed off her curves. The lady was gorgeous with unparalleled beauty, yet there was an air of arrogance to her.

She was Rochelle Tyrell, the Tyrell family's precious daughter and also Samantha's best friend.

It could be said that they grew up together, and their friendship was so great that if Rochelle was a man, Samantha would be willing to marry him.

When Timothy broke off their marriage and became the laughing joke, only Rochelle stood by her side. All these years, although she was not in a good situation, Rochelle would still help Samantha as best she could.

Thankfully, Rochelle could lend a hand this time too!

When Samantha and Nate were signing the contract, she felt that something was amiss. They hastily signed the contract and immediately started the shooting, it was as if they were rushing.

Hence, when Nate drove her to the studio, Samantha had secretly contacted Rochelle.

Coincidentally, Rochelle had just returned from abroad. As soon as she received Samantha's S.O.S, she instantly rushed over.

Then, they subdued Nate and the others.

After that, Samantha outwitted them with their own tricks, and she let Rochelle find an unknown actress, imitating Samantha, and took some pictures and videos. Later, they sent them to Sheena.

Sheena indeed fell for it, and she transferred the money to Nate. Furthermore, she even made up those things on the internet, thinking that she could harm Samantha. In the end, she was left to suffer her own consequences!

Rochelle turned to look at Samantha, interrupting her train of thoughts. "Are you sure you're going to let it slide just like that?"

Samantha returned to her senses and smiled. "Your guard had already mercilessly beaten them earlier. That's enough. Besides, the main culprit is not them."

"Alright. You have the last say." Rochelle smiled dotingly. "However, does Sheena Williams have a grudge with you? Why did she do so many things to destroy you?"

Samantha shook her head. "I don't know Sheena, but I've checked her background, and she's close to Penelope. On the outside, people think that Sheena and Penelope are best friends. If my guess is not wrong, Sheena is nothing but a scapegoat. The person who wants to deal with me is Penelope!"

Rochelle raised her brows. "Best friends? She left her to suffer when something serious happened! What a toxic friendship."

Her accurate ridicule tickled Samantha's funny bone, and she immediately chortled, agreeing with Rochelle. "Chelle, I have no words to say."

Rochelle then gave it a thought and asked, "However, Penelope is your b*stard husband, Timothy's, new girlfriend, right? Aren't they publicly showing off their affection? Why would she want to attack you?"

B*stard husband... Rochelle hit the nail on the head again, and Samantha truly agreed to her words.

Nonetheless, as to why Penelope would want to hurt her, Samantha could not understand either, even though she was smart.

Rochelle speculated, "Unless, that b*stard doesn't even like her, but he still has feelings for you. Hence, she's jealous of you and wants to destroy you?"

"That's impossible!" Samantha shook her head hard. "There must be other reasons."

Looking at how resentful Timothy was to her, how could he still like her?

When she heard that, Rochelle did not express any other opinion anymore.. Then, she changed the topic, "Since Penelope already cleared her name, are you going to let her go?"

Chapter 24: ?Revenge

Let her go?

Samantha smiled. "I won't retaliate unless I'm attacked. Since she messed with me..."

Then, she paused before slowly uttering, "Naturally, I'll get my revenge!"

Penelope had really gone too far this time. If she were not well prepared earlier, she would be infamous now and shunned by the public.

Hence, even if Sheena became her scapegoat, Penelope should not think that she could rest easy! Samantha would definitely teach her a lesson!

“Is this still our soft-spoken lady?” Rochelle’s slender and beautiful finger teasingly lifted Samantha’s chin. “Why is she so valiant now? Nonetheless, I support you in getting even with her.”

Samantha giggled, looking at Rochelle with her big beautiful eyes. “Thank you, Rochell.”

As Samantha said that, she even hugged Rochelle’s arm, rubbing her head against Rochelle’s shoulder and acting coquettishly.

Rochelle smiled, and with a languid tone, she asked, “Do you need my help?”

Samantha sounded resolute, and she answered, “No. I want to handle it myself!”

Next, she added, “It’s only Penelope, so I can do it alone.”

Rochelle could tell what Samantha was thinking. After all, Penelope was Timothy’s new girlfriend. If anyone laid a finger on Penelope, Timothy would surely knock on their door. Thus, Samantha did not want to trouble her.

Then, Rochelle did not say anything more but reminded Samantha, “Well, if you need my help, just call me.”

“Alright!” Samantha playfully bowed to Rochelle. “My love, you’re forever my strongest support.”

After that, Rochelle sent Samantha back to the city and dropped her off at the crossroad as per her request.

Samantha got out of the car and waved Rochelle goodbye. She also suggested that they should find time to grab a meal together.

Watching as Samantha walked away, Rochelle’s cold gaze had a hint of sadness.

Before this, Samantha was indeed a pampered young lady. Even though Simon and Cynthia were useless, Old Master Larsson really spoiled her.

After that, Samantha dated Timothy, and he also doted and pampered her.

Hence, it was hard for Rochelle to imagine what Samantha experienced those two years abroad, making her so vigilant and decisive.

It was not a bad thing, but if one could forever be a child, who would be willing to grow up overnight?

Rochelle was also forced to grow up, and she turned into someone that she despised.

Hence, Rochelle felt bad for Samantha and also for herself.

...

At the thought of how she failed to destroy Samantha and how Sheena was schemed against, Penelope became angrier. She threw a massive tantrum at home and smashed everything in her room into pieces.

However, this did not calm her rage, so she went to the Dark Room and drank some alcohol to vent her anger.

Penelope was staggering as she walked out. Noticing that her driver, Derrick, was late to pick her up, she called him and roared, "Where the hell are you? Why are you making me wait? Don't you want to work anymore? If you don't want this job, get lost—"

Just as she said that, she heard a whistling sound coming from beside her.

Then, Penelope looked up and saw a few men that appeared to be in a gang, approaching her and surrounding her. With a lecherous gaze, they looked at Penelope and teased, "Miss, why are you so angry? Why don't we keep you company and help you release your anger?"

Penelope had always been protected well. Moreover, she was close to Timothy, and no one dared to disturb her. Hence, when she suddenly met such a situation, she could not help but be afraid. Nonetheless, she still put on a false bravado and warned them, "Don't you know who I am? I'm Timothy Barker's fiancée! You'd better stay away. If you dare to lay a finger on me, Timothy will make you suffer!"

The hooligans turned to each other and let out a mocking laugh. "Timothy? We won't be afraid even if the King is here!"

As he said that, he moved forward and grabbed Penelope.

Penelope screamed, but one of the brawny men covered her mouth. Then, without much effort, they dragged her to the alley behind the bar.

The alley was badly lit, and there was no one either. The few men trapped Penelope inside, discussing among themselves, "Her skin is so tender. I'm sure she'll be really fun to play with. Who's first?"

After a pause, he let out wretched laughter and continued, "How about... We do it together?"

Penelope panicked and hurriedly covered herself. She did not even try to be brave anymore as she begged, “Y-You want a woman... I-I can give you some money. Just name your price! After that, you can get any woman you want with the money. Please, let me go!”

Nevertheless, her words did not persuade them. The man grabbed her face and teased, “She’s a wealthy lady! Unfortunately, you’re our type. Just relax, and let’s have some fun!”

“Ahh! Don’t touch me! You’re a bunch of lowly peasants! You’re not worthy of me!” Penelope wanted to marry Timothy, and she thought that only a man like him was a match for her. When these hooligans touched her, she was so disgusted that she wanted to throw up.

The louder she screamed, the more merciless the few men became.

One of the hooligans directly tore her top, exposing her shoulder. Another man touched her waist, while one of them immediately took out a phone, focusing his camera on her face, and recording her sorry state.

Penelope had goosebumps all over. She was terrified, and she quivered from the cold. As she cried out, she cowardly begged, “I know I’ve done wrong. Please, let me go. I’m sorry. Help—”

At that moment, Samantha was standing by the alley entrance, leaning against the lamppost as she watched the wailing Penelope with a cold gaze.

Samantha knew that such a thing would be incredibly unbearable for a girl. However, Penelope did not show any mercy to her when she plotted against her.

Therefore, Samantha wanted Penelope to have a taste of her own medicine.

Nevertheless, Samantha still had a conscience. These men were performance artists that she hired, and they were not actual hooligans.

When Samantha was satisfied, she picked up her phone and called one of the men.

The person picked up, and Samantha said, “You can stop—”

Before she could even finish her words, she heard footsteps approaching, followed by Derrick’s driver’s anxious voice.

“Mr. Barker, Ms.Schmidt is over there! Please save her!”

Mr. Barker?

Timothy came?

Samantha subconsciously raised her and looked over.

Not far away, Timothy, Ronald, Derrick, and a few of Dark Room's bouncers were walking toward the alley.

Samantha smiled, but it was unknown if it was a sarcastic one or if she was mocking herself.

It was indeed true love! As soon as there was danger, he came immediately!

Perhaps he realized her gaze, Timothy stopped in his tracks, turned his head sideways, and he abruptly looked over.

Coincidentally, their eyes met..

Chapter 25: You Deserve the Beating

Ronald brought the guards and ran into the alley. As they were adequately trained, they quickly pressed the brawny men against the wall.

Penelope's clothes were untidy, and her hair was messy. Moreover, her makeup was ruined by her ugly cry. Seeing her, Ronald thought it was a tragic sight.

Although he was not a fan of the arrogant socialite, Ronald still acted like a gentleman and removed his coat, considerately passing it to Penelope. "Ms. Schmidt, cover yourself with this first."

Penelope was so terrified that she was in a daze. Then, after a few seconds, she looked at Ronald, completely ignoring the coat, and asked, "You... Is Timmy here for me too?"

Before Ronald could answer her, she stood up from the ground and ran outside staggeringly.

When she saw Timothy, Penelope cried even louder, aggrievedly complaining, "Timmy... Sob sob sob... I'm so scared..."

Then, she fastened her pace and rushed to Timothy, reaching out to him as she wanted to hug him.

However, just as Penelope touched the man's shirt, Timothy looked askance at her. Penelope's heart trembled, and she unconsciously retracted her hands.

In these two years, Timothy did dote on her. Whatever she wanted, he would get someone to send it to her. Penelope also heard that Timothy treated her better than he did Samantha.

Nonetheless, Timothy had mysophobia, and he disliked it when others touched him. Occasionally, he would allow Penelope to hold his arm when they were attending a banquet or out of social etiquettes.

Of course, Penelope felt indignant about his attitude. Hence, there was one time she brazenly ran into Timothy's embrace under Sheena's instigation, and Timothy almost broke her wrist.

She had lingering fears from that incident onward, and she did not dare rashly touch him again.

However, Penelope was afraid and aggrieved now, and she could not help but reach out to tug on Timothy's hem. Then, with a hoarse voice, she complained, "Timmy, if you were late for a second... I-I'll... You must avenge me and kill these hooligans!"

Her body was for Timmy. At the thought of how she was almost tainted, she gritted her teeth in anger!

In Samantha's eyes, such a sight only showed how intimate these two were.

Her mocking smile became even more profound. Deep in her heart, she still felt a subtle discomfort, even though it was hard to detect.

Later, Ronald walked over and politely asked, "Mr. Barker, how do we handle those men?"

Before Timothy could speak, Penelope interrupted in a resentful tone, "Break the arms and legs! Make them blind!"

As she said that, she coquettishly looked at Timothy with teary eyes. "Timmy, you must avenge me!"

Samantha watched from the side from the beginning, and she knew that the actors did not cross the line. The most they did was just taunt Penelope, and they did not hurt her at all. However, she was being so ruthless.

Since the performance artists took her money, Samantha would not protect herself and just leave them. Besides, with Timothy's ability, he could quickly find out she was the mastermind behind this.

Moreover, Samantha decided to teach Penelope a lesson, so she must bear the consequences!

Then, Samantha kept away her phone, adjusted her emotions, and calmly walked toward them. She said indifferently, "Let them go. I asked them to do this."

Timothy looked up, and once again, his sight fell on Samantha's face. There was a dark light surging in the bottom of his eyes, and no emotions could be seen.

Penelope turned her head around and saw Samantha. Initially, she was stunned. Soon, she appeared resentful. "It's you? Samantha, we have nothing against each other, yet you dare to ask someone to assault me? You're so disgusting and despicable!"

At first, she was anxious as Samantha managed to dodge the bullet. Hence, it would not be easy for Penelope to hurt her next time. Nonetheless, she did not expect that Samantha would be so stupid to knock on her door.

It seemed that God still cared for her, and Timothy was meant to be hers!

Penelope gritted her teeth and secretly pinched her thigh hard. Soon, she cried from the pain, and she turned to Timothy pitifully. "Timmy, a woman's reputation is so important. Even if Samantha is jealous of me, she shouldn't do such a heartless thing. If it weren't for you appearing just in time, I'd be ruined! You must do something!"

She wanted to let Timothy know that Samantha was an unscrupulous and ruthless woman. This way, he would despise Samantha and would not be enchanted by her anymore.

Samantha silently watched Penelope's acting.

She was actually curious as to what type of woman Timothy's new girlfriend was. Was she better than Samantha, and that was why Timothy liked her?

This was it?

Timothy's standard in the past two years had definitely dropped drastically. It was not that Samantha was boasting, but she was thousands of times better than Penelope!

Perhaps this was true love.

Samantha calmed herself down and met Penelope's eyes. Next, she showed a cold smile. "So it seems that you know a woman's reputation is important to her. Then, when we had nothing against each other, why did you plan those heartless schemes? Do you need to be such a hypocrite, Ms. Schmidt!"

When Penelope heard that, her eyes flickered with a panic light. "I don't know what you're talking about!"

Anyway, Sheena had admitted to all of those things. Therefore, even if Samantha guessed it was her, she would not be able to show any proof.

At the thought of this, Penelope calmed down, and she became even more brazen. "Samantha, stop slandering me! You were just unlucky for that to happen to you, so what does it have to do with me? You're using such a ruthless means to deal with an innocent person like me. You're so evil!"

Currently, Samantha only had one thought. She was utterly disgusted by Penelope.

She only wanted to frighten her and let it be, but now...

Suddenly, Samantha snorted and grabbed Penelope's clothes, and she swiftly slapped her.

The only way to deal with these revolting people was to directly hit them when you could! There was no point arguing!

Penelope was caught off guard. She would never expect that Samantha would dare to slap her in front of Timothy. She had yet recovered, but she could feel her left cheek burning.

She stared at Samantha in disbelief. "You dare to hit me?!"

Samantha sneered. Then, she raised her hand and slapped Penelope on her right cheek. "You deserve the beating!"

Samantha did not show any mercy. The forceful slap caused Penelope to stagger. As she could not steady herself, Penelope directly fell to the ground, stupefied.

Ronald and the others gasped. Ms. Larsson was so fierce...

Samantha dusted her hand, and she cast a disdainful glance at Penelope. Next, she looked at the quiet Timothy, raising her head at him bravely and uttering word by word, "I slapped your new girlfriend.. If you want to avenge her, you're welcome to do so!"

Chapter 26: ?Do You Want Me to Carry You?

Timothy's gaze became more profound, and there seemed to be more emotions surging in them. Then, after staring at Samantha for more than ten seconds, he finally spoke.

However, he was ordering Ronald, "Take her home."

Ronald understood that Timothy was talking about Penelope. Then, he nodded and said, "Ms. Schmidt, I'll send you home."

Penelope instantly regained her senses, and she was unwilling. Hence, she looked at Timothy pitifully, and with a soft tone, she begged, "Timmy, it hurts so bad. Why don't you send me home?"

Even if Timothy was planning to stay and teach Samantha a lesson, Penelope did not want them to give them a chance to spend time alone. Who knew what the shameless woman, Samantha, would do?

Timothy acted as if he did not hear her, and he did not even glance at Penelope. After that, he swiftly made his way toward Samantha in big steps.

"Timmy!" Penelope shouted indignantly, and she struggled to stand up, wanting to chase after Timothy.

However, Ronald quickly blocked her way.

He faked a smile and pushed his glasses on his nose tip, and politely murmured, "Ms. Schmidt, let me send you home. Look at you now... It's better for us to handle this sooner."

As he said that, he took out his phone and switched to the camera function, pointing it at Penelope's face.

Initially, Penelope was angered by Ronald's words, but she instantly screamed when she saw her messy face.

Her makeup was ruined, staining her face. Moreover, Samantha's slaps just now caused her face to swell up. It was such a terrifying sight...

She even dared to use this face to act coquettishly in front of Timothy... What if Timmy was traumatized... At the thought of that, Penelope yelled again, "Ahhh—"

Then, she hurriedly covered her face and said, "Let's go! Let's go! Let's go!"

Ronald smiled. He kept his phone away and stretched out his arms, showing a "This way, please" gesture.

...

Timothy approached Samantha and looked at her. He did not do anything to her, but instead, he grabbed her wrist and dragged her away.

Samantha was not surprised. After all, they were in public, and Timothy was the Barker Group's CEO as well as the Barker family's heir. Hence, Timothy could not simply lay his finger on a woman in the middle of the street, so he would have to find a place and avenge his new girlfriend!

Samantha was forced to follow his pace. As his legs were long and he could take more giant steps, Samantha trailed staggeringly, but she still gritted her teeth and did not say anything.

The car was parked by the roadside.

Timothy dragged Samantha to the front passenger seat. Then, he opened the door, pushed her in, and slammed the door.

After that, he sat in the driver's seat, started the engine, and sped away.

Samantha knew that Timothy was in a bad mood without looking at him. Moreover, she could imagine how Timothy would torture her later.

Nonetheless... So what?

After all, the first person who started the mess would always be wrong. Furthermore, Penelope was so ruthless. If Samantha gave in this time, would Penelope not kill her the next time?

For the past two years abroad, she learned through painful experiences that enduring those people would not make her life better. Instead, not retaliating would only make them push their luck. As usual, ??if you gave them an inch, they would take a mile.

Hence, one must fight back until others realize that you were not someone to provoke. This way, they would fear you.

After about an hour, the car finally stopped.

Samantha looked around her and felt strange... She initially thought that Timothy would bring her to a secluded place, kill her, and then bury her. Why were they back in the villa?

Especially since Nancy was still staying in the villa.

Perhaps Timothy brought Samantha back to expose how cruel she was in front of Nancy? Of course, that would make Nancy disappointed in her, and then she would not protect her anymore.

As Samantha let her imagination run wild, Timothy had already gotten out of the car and walked toward her side. Next, he opened the door and looked disdainfully at her, calmly ordering her, "Get out of the car."

Samantha was still in a daze, and she did not make a move.

Timothy showed an unreadable smile. "What's wrong? Do you want me to carry you?"

Samantha immediately unfastened her safety belt and got out of the car.

No matter how Timothy wanted to avenge Penelope, Samantha would not be afraid! The worst thing that could happen was Timothy killing her. Nonetheless, Samantha believed in reincarnation, so that did not scare her at all!

After that, Timothy dragged Samantha by her wrist toward the villa.

It was already late at night, and Nancy was resting in her room. Only Aunt Julie was sitting in the living room watching a popular idol drama.

When she heard noises, she turned to look and noticed that Timothy and Samantha were back. However, just as she was about to greet them, she felt something was wrong, so she immediately remained quiet.

Aunt Julie watched as Timothy pulled Samantha upstairs, and soon, she heard the bedroom door being slammed.

As it was late at night, Aunt Julie could not help but be worried... Were they fighting again? Should she tell Nancy?

...

In the bedroom.

Samantha was tossed onto the bed. When she felt the quilt behind her, she instantly sat straight and stared at Timothy vigilantly.

She was not afraid of Timothy's revenge. It did not matter if he hit her or slapped her a few times for Penelope, but Samantha could not guess what Timothy was thinking, so she was feeling restless.

Who knew if Timothy would use any perverted methods!

Timothy appeared as if he had seen through Samantha's thoughts, and there was a hint of mockery in his gaze. "You still know how to be afraid? I thought you weren't scared of anything!"

Samantha was too lazy to argue with him. Timothy had a sharp tongue, and he would say really mean words that would only embarrass others. Then, Samantha looked at Timothy and said, "Timothy, if you're a man, you should go straight to the point."

"Alright," Timothy answered instantly.

As soon as he said that, he walked forward and stretched out his hands toward her.

Samantha was already prepared, so she did not avoid him. Instead, she straightened her back and froze in place.

Even if Timothy might hit her, Samantha did not regret slapping Penelope. In fact, she was satisfied with that.

She felt the man's hands touching her neck, and she thought she would be choked to death in the next second. Unexpectedly, he was only holding onto the shirt on her shoulder.

Samantha was stunned. What was he doing?

Nevertheless, she found out soon. Timothy directly pulled her shirt down and exposed her beautiful shoulders.

Samantha's eyes widened in surprise, and she stared at Timothy.

He was really a pervert. He actually thought of using such methods to torture her?

"Timothy... You..."

If it were any other way, Samantha could definitely endure it. However, it was really excessive for Timothy to humiliate her like this. Hence, Samantha reached out, trying to block him, yet she became stupefied after hearing Timothy's words..

*Chapter 27: ?So F*cking Pretentious!*

Timothy asked, "Are you hurt?"

Samantha blinked. She was feeling skeptical... Did Timothy say the wrong words, or did she mishear him...

Seeing that she was not answering him, Timothy seemed to lose his patience and directly removed Samantha's clothes, wanting to check her himself.

“Wait... Hold on...” Samantha finally found the words and grabbed the man’s hand. “I- I’m fine, and I’m not hurt!”

Timothy’s lips twitched, and he pointed at Samantha’s arm with his chin. Her arm was scraped, and the blood had dried up. “What’s that?”

Samantha looked at her arm and finally recalled what happened. When she was fighting Nate and his gang, she suffered a few punches as well and accidentally knocked on something while she dodged them.

However, she had been so busy that she ignored her injuries. Moreover, she did not expect Timothy to notice them...

The reason why Timothy brought Samantha back to the villa and pulled her clothes down was not to avenge Penelope, but to care for her?

As soon as the thought appeared in her mind, Samantha felt that it was impossible.

“You...” Samantha gulped and looked at Timothy. Then, after hesitating for a while, she asked, “What are you doing?”

Timothy might not understand her, or perhaps he pretended not to understand, and he questioned her back, “What do you mean what am I doing?”

Samantha naturally could not ask him straightforwardly whether he was concerned for her as she could easily embarrass herself! After giving it a thought, she found another way to ask him. “It’s none of your concern if I’m injured or not!”

None of his concern?

Those few words were enough to cause Timothy to fly into a rage.

When he was abroad, he saw the trending photos and videos. With just a glance, Timothy knew the woman was not Samantha.

Even though Timothy did not know what happened, he knew that she might be in trouble.

Since he despised her, Timothy should be celebrating her misfortune. However, he could not control his concern at that moment.

It was just like how it was when he returned to the villa and saw Samantha’s pale face as she lay in her bed weakly. He also lost control of his emotions.

Timothy was outraged, and he was furious until then that Samantha could still affect his emotion. Nonetheless, despite knowing that, he still took the first flight back.

As soon as they touched down, he found out that Samantha was at the Dark Room and hurriedly went over. Only when Timothy saw her standing in front of him did he feel relief.

Samantha was fine, and even said such annoying things.

This woman could always easily anger him.

Soon, Timothy's handsome face darkened. As the emotions in his eyes calmed down, his tone also turned indifferent, and he reminded her, "If Grandma sees that you're hurt, she'll blame me for not taking care of you well. Don't forget about our agreement!"

It was just as she expected...

Timothy did not hit her to avenge Penelope and even voluntarily cared about her injury because of their agreement.

Thus, he would get his revenge once Nancy believed their acts?

Samantha lowered her gaze. Thankfully, she was not delusional about Timothy's feelings for her. Otherwise, Timothy would definitely ridicule her again.

Then, Samantha took a deep breath, and there was a subtle tone of mockery as she answered Timothy, "Don't worry about it. I still remember it well. Since we're a loving couple, I'll surely hide my injuries well and won't let Grandma find out. I'll not break our agreement!"

"That's not good enough. We must handle your wounds as soon as possible, so I'll get the doctor over."

After that, Timothy took out his phone and was ready to call the doctor.

Seeing that, Samantha hurriedly rushed forward and grabbed his phone. "Don't. Don't call the doctor."

Timothy frowned.

"These are just superficial wounds, and there's no need to worry. Moreover, if the doctor comes at such a late hour, Grandma will certainly find out about my injuries, and I don't want her to worry," Samantha explained.

When Samantha was sick before this, Nancy was worried about her all day. Hence, Samantha did not want to trouble Nancy anymore.

Timothy met her gaze, and he remained quiet for a few seconds as if he suddenly realized Samantha's thoughts. Then, he uttered word by word, "You don't want to call the doctor because you want me to apply the medicine for you?"

Samantha was speechless. She really wanted to know why Timothy, who had such a high IQ, would misunderstand her?

He would always twist her words!

To prevent Timothy from accusing her of seducing him again, Samantha immediately denied, "No! That's not it! I don't want that! This is just a small injury, and I can handle it myself!" After saying that, Samantha did not give Timothy a chance to reply to her, and she hurriedly ran into the bathroom.

Then, she locked the door and pressed her ear against the door.

Timothy did not follow her. Instead, Samantha heard his footsteps getting further away from her. Therefore, he probably left.

That was not surprising at all. As long as Timothy was sure that Samantha would not expose the truth to Nancy, he would not be concerned about her.

Samantha felt a sudden pang of pain in her heart, and she laughed self-deprecatingly.

Although she was injured many times, she never felt pain. However, with Timothy's slightest gesture, she would think that it hurt.

That was so f*cking pretentious!

Samantha raised her gaze and looked at herself in the mirror, and she could not help but cursed at herself, "Samantha, you're so f*cking pretentious!"

...

Avoiding the wounds, Samantha managed to take a quick bath. Then, she walked out with her bathing robe and saw Timothy sitting on the bed, causing her to stop in her tracks in surprise.

Did he not leave just now? Why was he back? Could it be that he changed his mind and he wanted to get even with her?

Timothy glanced at her and said, "Come here."

Samantha did not respond.

He frowned. "Come here and apply the medicine!"

When she heard that, Samantha finally noticed the medicine kit beside Timothy.

So he did not leave her, but went to take the medicine kit just now?

Or could it be that Timothy did not trust her and was afraid that Nancy would notice her wounds, bringing him trouble again?

Samantha approached him and said, "You don't have to trouble yourself. I can do it."

As soon as she said that, Timothy grabbed her wrist. With just a quick force, Samantha was directly dragged onto the bed.

After that, Timothy pulled her bathrobe.

Samantha held onto her lapel. "I told you..."

"If you don't want to wake Grandma up, then be quiet!" Timothy coldly interrupted her.

"Or maybe you're doing this on purpose so that Grandma will find out?"

If she could, Samantha would love to sew Timothy's lips shut. Every word that came out of his mouth was malicious.

Samantha was trying her best to control her rage. Unexpectedly, Timothy suddenly grabbed her shoulder and pushed her against the bed..

Chapter 28: Share the Same Bed

"Timothy, what are you doing— Mmf—"

The man's lips crashed onto hers, stopping her from finishing the rest of her sentence.

Samantha widened her eyes, and her pupils constricted. Then, she tried to push Timothy away as hard as she could.

She knew that he had bad intentions!

Next, Samantha opened her mouth as she wanted to bite Timothy's tongue. However, it seemed that he expected it, and his big palm grabbed her chin. With just a slight force, she could not move anymore.

Samantha's big, round eyes glared at him. If looks could kill, Timothy would already be slashed into a thousand pieces.

Not long after, Timothy sneered at her disdainfully and let go of her. After that, he whispered in her ears, commanding her. "Moan!"

What?

Samantha was in a daze.

"Moan!"

Samantha was caught off guard. His words caused her to be in a trance for a few seconds. Then, she finally understood what he was doing. Timothy was not punishing her, but someone seemed to be eavesdropping?

Surely enough, Samantha soon heard sounds of someone sneaking around at the door, and it should be Nancy and Aunt Julia.

These two elderlies were really getting better at eavesdropping!

"Why are you not moaning?" The man's voice suddenly rang.

He purposely lowered his voice, making it magnetizing and hoarse. When Timothy whispered in Samantha's ear, she could feel his breath on her face, causing Samantha's ear to redden uncontrollably.

Samantha trembled, and she could not help but shrank her neck.

This time, she had no choice but to comply with Timothy. Otherwise, Nancy would think that Timothy was bullying her. If she barged in, Samantha's wounds would be exposed.

At that time, Timothy would surely kill her.

However, even though Samantha had done it before, Timothy was the one who initiated it, and she really did not know how she should moan!

Noticing that, Timothy's gaze darkened, and he showed a malicious smile. "If you don't moan, I'll continue!"

He was not frightening her. In fact, as soon as he said that, he immediately removed the tie on Samantha's waist, and her bathrobe instantly loosened.

Samantha gritted her teeth. What a jerk! He was so shameless!

She knew that Timothy was a man of his words, and she could not think about anything else anymore. Hence, Samantha summoned up her courage and screamed dryly.

"Ahh— "

“Hmm—”

Timothy looked at Samantha with a gaze full of disdain.

Did he think everyone was as experienced as him?

Samantha grabbed the duvet under her tightly, preventing herself from slapping Timothy if she lost control.

Even though her acting was terrible, Nancy and Aunt Julie seemed to believe it. Soon, they heard footsteps by the door getting further away, and it became quiet again.

Samantha breathed a sigh of relief, and she hurriedly pushed the man on top of her.

Timothy frowned resentfully when he was pushed, but he still straightened himself up.

Then, Samantha wrapped herself with her bathrobe tightly and sat. Her forehead was already sweating from messing around like that, and she did not know whether she was frightened or if it was the heat.

“Remove your shirt! Apply this medicine on your wound!” Timothy took the medicine kit over and opened it.

Samantha was stunned as she did not expect Timothy was still thinking about applying the medicine for her. If she did not know that he was highly filial to Nancy, Samantha would believe that Timothy was actually distressed about her injuries.

Nevertheless, Samantha did not want to argue with him anymore. Otherwise, Nancy might come over, and the night would be unbearable.

Then, she gently removed her robe, showing her injuries to Timothy.

Seeing that Samantha finally complied, Timothy did not say much. Next, he took the cotton swab, dipped it in a medicinal solution, and applied it on her wound.

Samantha frowned when she felt the sudden pain. She lightly gasped and pursed her lips as she endured the pain in silence.

Timothy could not help but look at her.

Samantha used to be squeamish back then. If she accidentally knocked on or bumped into something, she would frown and wail in pain, and Timothy must coax her.

Noticing Timothy was staring at her, Samantha asked in confusion, “What are you looking at? Is there something on my face?”

Timothy did not know whether he was really curious, or perhaps he was just expressing his thoughts, but he said, "Before this, you'd yell in pain even if it was a small scrape on your finger, but now you can endure quite a lot of pain."

Before this...

Since she returned, Samantha and Timothy had been arguing like cats and dogs whenever they met, and they had never once mentioned about the past. Therefore, she did not expect that Timothy would suddenly speak of this.

Nonetheless, was Timothy really oblivious, or was he pretending to be? Hence, that was why he said such a thing?

Yes, she was indeed squeamish in the past. However, she was not that delicate, and she only did all that so that Timothy would coax her.

Those were nothing but things a couple would do.

Yet, now... Oh, wait. She should say, since he publicly broke off their marriage two years ago, she lost the person who cared for her and would coax her.

No matter how badly it hurt or how uncomfortable it was, she only had herself. Thus, there was no reason to scream in pain.

Then, Samantha glanced at Timothy again. If she really screamed, he would definitely tease her, right?

The man had been staring at her face, and none of her changes in emotions went unnoticed. Samantha lowered her gaze, trying to prevent him from seeing through her thoughts. Next, she deliberately irritated him. "I won't scream in front of you!"

If she were not screaming in front of him, then who would she be doing it to?

Timothy could not help but replay the words Samantha said to Nancy—"I have someone I like!"

So, was she only going to scream in pain in front of the man she liked?!

Great! This was just amazing!

Then, Timothy flashed a mocking smile. He was not as gentle as before when he applied the medicine to her wounds. Instead, Timothy's actions were rough.

The sudden pain caused her to gasp, and she did not hold it back as she gritted her teeth and scolded Timothy, "Timothy, are you crazy!"

It was just as if she were hurt the second time! Did Timothy want her to get better soon or further injure her?

He was just fine seconds ago but became angry again in a blink of an eye. What a crazy man! His mood swings were ridiculous! Anyway, Timothy was just not fond of her!

After applying the medicine to her wounds, Samantha felt as if she had endured multiple types of torture.

Thankfully, it was all over!

However, she noticed that she celebrated too soon as she saw Timothy walk into the bathroom, wash his hands, and come out, but there was no hint of him leaving the room. Instead, Timothy returned to the bed, removed the blanket, and sat.

It appeared as if he was going to sleep in this room and this bed that night!

Samantha was stunned, and she quickly asked, "Are... Are you not leaving?"

Nancy and Aunt Julia were asleep, so there was no need to pretend anymore!

As if he heard a joke, Timothy looked at her with his obsidian eyes and uttered, "This is my room, so why should I leave?"

Samantha could not argue back.

So, was he going to share the same bed as her?

He despised her, and he was even angry just now.. Was she still able to live to see the next day?

Chapter 29: ?You Need to Be Taught a Lesson!

Samantha answered Timothy, "I'll leave then!"

She stood up and wanted to make her way out, but Timothy grabbed her wrist. Then, she felt as if her world was spinning, and she soon fell onto the bed.

Timothy rolled over, pushed her upper body against the bed, and pressed her hands by the side of her cheeks.

The man narrowed his eyes, and his gaze was filled with threats. "If you go out now, it's the same as you telling Grandma that we're acting."

Nonetheless, Samantha was so anxious that she had forgotten about this.

Samantha knew that she was in the wrong, and she could not argue back either, so she said, "Then... You should sleep on the sofa!"

"Hah."

Hearing the man's sneer, Samantha suddenly got her senses back. It seemed that she once again forgot that Timothy was no longer the same man who loved her unconditionally.

When they were dating, Timothy was always so gentle to her and considerate of her needs. Moreover, he would listen to her every word. Hence, Samantha unconsciously ordered him around again.

As Samantha was afraid that Timothy would ridicule her, so she hurriedly added, "I'll—"

However, before she could say that she would sleep on the sofa instead, Timothy spoke with a tone full of contempt and tease.

"Why are you acting like this now? Have we not slept together before? Besides, which part of you have I not seen or touched before?"

As he said that, he deliberately raised his brow and fixed his gaze on her. In fact, he even stared a few seconds at the opening of her collar.

Shameless!

Samantha clenched her jaw.

"You, on the other hand!" Timothy lightly pinched Samantha's chin. "Don't try to do anything while I'm asleep!"

"Haha!"

Samantha laughed in anger.

Did he really think he was everyone's favorite, and everyone would want him?

"Mr. Barker, don't worry about it. Even if you're naked and initiate everything, I! Won't! Be! Interested! In! You!"

The last few words were said through her gritted teeth.

The smile in Timothy's eyes disappeared, and his face became gloomy. "Likewise!"

“Why are you still not letting me go?”

Timothy got up with his face darkened, and he rudely pushed Samantha to the other side of the bed. Then, he turned off the light switch loudly, directly lay in the bed, and shut his eyes.

Childish!

Samantha secretly cursed at him.

Although they had stopped bickering, she still could not sleep on the couch for the sake of her dignity. After hesitating for a while, Samantha slowly laid down.

The bed was huge, but with Timothy in it, Samantha felt that it was ineffably crowded. This made her appear overcautious and uncomfortable, so she could only sleep as close to the edge of the bed.

In the dark, Samantha could not see Timothy’s silhouette, but his presence was apparent.

The big room quietened, and the night seemed always to find a way to provoke one’s innermost fragile emotions.

In the past, Samantha would try all she could to get closer to Timothy.

Back then, Timothy would not have expected that Samantha would never dare to get close to him now.

Samantha turned around, and with her back facing Timothy, she blinked a few times, took a few deep breaths, and shut her eyes. Soon, she fell asleep.

When the woman’s breathing gradually became calmer and longer, Timothy’s lashes fluttered, and he slowly opened his eyes.

He looked at the figure faraway from him, shrinking at the edge of the bed. There was an uncontrollable pang of pain in his heart.

This feeling should not exist. Hence, it darkened his face further.

Since Samantha returned, Timothy had done foolish things again and again. Although he knew that it was stupid, he still did it.

Timothy was not sure what he wanted either.

...

The following morning.

Samantha's phone rang a few times, and she went to grab the phone on her bedside table. Then, she opened her eyes in a daze and noticed that Rochelle had sent her WeChat voice message.

Samantha habitually played the message.

Rochelle said, "Sammy, I just heard what happened last night! The b*stard took you away? Are you alright? Are you alive?"

"Don't worry! If that b*stard dares to bully you, I'll avenge you! I'll castrate him, then kill him! I'll do it again and again!"

As soon as the voice messages finished playing, Samantha felt the presence of a strong surge of murderous intent. At first, she was stunned. Then, she finally realized...

She was not sleeping alone, and Timothy was here too...

Samantha was exhausted the night before, and she directly fell asleep, causing her to forget his presence!

Samantha grabbed her phone and trembled. All her languidness had disappeared, and she immediately sat straight on the bed, trying to find a way to escape!

Nonetheless, Timothy would not allow Samantha to run away. He grabbed her shoulder and tossed her back into the bed, pressing her beneath him, and coldly asked, "Who's the b*stard?"

Samantha gulped guiltily.

Since she could not run away, she would just have to deny it!

Next, Samantha faked a smile and answered, "If the shoes fit, wear it."

If Timothy took it as a personal attack, then it was not implying to him. Unless he really wanted to take the criticism for himself, then he would be admitting that he was a b*stard!

Soon, Timothy showed a cold smile. "Samantha, it seems that you need to be taught a lesson!"

As soon as he said that, he abruptly lowered himself and kissed her lips. Just as she was shocked by what just happened, the man pried open her mouth and forced his tongue in.

Samantha's cheeks were red as a beetroot. Only when she was almost out of breath did Timothy let go of her. However, without waiting for Samantha to catch her breath, Timothy pinched her chin and overbearingly kissed her again.

...

In the Schmidt's residence.

Penelope had been tossing and turning for the whole night, and she did not sleep at all.

Firstly, it was because her cheeks were hurting, and secondly, it was due to her rage.

Since she was a child, her parents never bear to lay a finger on her. Unexpectedly, Samantha ruthlessly slapped her. Twice!

It was absolutely humiliating!

Moreover, Timmy watched at the side as Samantha hit Penelope, and he did not seem to feel distressed about it either. It was already a new day, and he did not even call Penelope to ask if she was alright.

Could it be that Timothy was bewitched by Samantha, that sl*t, again?

At the thought of this, Penelope could not lay still anymore. She quickly sat right up, but she accidentally touched her swollen face. It hurt so bad that she fell into the bed again.

The door was pushed open, and Violet Schmidt ran in. Then, she sat at the edge of the bed, helping Penelope up.

Violet said in distress, "Penny, are you alright?"

When she saw her mother, Penelope instantly cried aggrievedly. "Mommy, you're finally back from your vacation. These few days, I..."

Violet interrupted her, "I know... The servants told me everything."

After that, she wiped away Penelope's tears. "Penny, don't cry anymore. I'll help you. Only my daughter is worthy of being Madam Barker. Other people would never steal away your happiness!"

Hearing Violet's words, Penelope finally calmed down. After all, she was much more scheming than Sheena, the idiot.

Penelope stopped crying and asked impatiently, "Mommy, what do you have in plan?"

Chapter 30: Taken Advantage

Violet shook her head and broke into laughter. “Why are you so anxious? Everything about you is great, but you’re too impatient. No wonder you were at a disadvantage before.”

Everything must be well-planned to prevent any error and failure. Otherwise, they might as well not have done it, but if they did, they must succeed on the first try!

Then, Penelope hugged Violet’s arm and acted coquettishly. “Of course I’m nervous! Mommy, you don’t even know how shameless Samantha is! As long as she stays by Timmy’s side for another second, I won’t be at ease!”

Samantha?

Violet narrowed her eyes.

Indeed, she did not take great concern about the outcast socialite. After all, the Larsson family was facing bankruptcy, and Samantha had no influential family background to support her, so what could she do alone?

Nonetheless, Penelope’s fight with Samantha this time had proved otherwise! Not only did Penelope failed to destroy Samantha, Samantha even brilliantly retaliated and had the upper hand. Hence, Violet could not ignore her completely!

To ensure that her plans after this would succeed, Violet would have to meet and learn from Samantha.

Violet hugged Penelope and comforted her, “Alright. It’s just Samantha! I’ll avenge you!”

Penelope stopped crying, and she showed a smile. “Mommy, you treat me the best! I love you~”

...

Timothy went downstairs in a great mood, whereas Samantha appeared behind him half a minute later with a sullen expression on her face.

As she was watering the flowers, Aunt Julia greeted them enthusiastically. “Good morning, Mr. and Mrs. Barker.”

Timothy smiled and languidly answered her, “Good morning.”

Aunt Julia was stunned. Her Young Master had always been aloof since he was a child, and he always had an indifferent expression on his face. After that, he dated Samantha, and he became warmer. However, after breaking off their marriage two years ago, Timothy returned to his emotionless self.

Wait. He actually became even colder than before.

It had been so long since Aunt Julie saw Timothy in such a good mood. Could pigs fly?

Then, Aunt Julia glanced out the windows. There was no pig in the sky. Next, her line of sight fell on Samantha's face, and she finally understood.

So... Timothy's sudden change was because he was in love!

In the dining hall.

Nancy was sitting at the main seat with Timothy on her left and Samantha on her right. After peeping at the couple, Nancy's gaze fell on their lips.

The corner of Timothy's lips had a tiny wound, and Samantha's cherry lips were swollen.

Tsk tsk tsk... It seemed that the two had an exciting night!

Nancy could not hold herself back, and she kept giggling. From time to time, she even let out a burst of teasing laughter.

Her decision to move in there was a smart one! Just look at how fast Timothy and Samantha were progressing!

Later, Nancy looked at Samantha and said, "Sammy, you should eat more. Thank you for your hard work. Do eat more to replenish your health, okay?"

Samantha almost spat out the porridge in her mouth when Nancy said that. Thankfully, she managed to stop just in time and swallowed the porridge.

Samantha opened her mouth, wanting to explain. However, she knew that if she tried to do that, their act would be exposed. Hence, she could only fake a smile.

Unexpectedly, Nancy added again, "Hurry and recuperate your body so that you and Tim can have a chubby child soon! Wait, no, not 'a', but many! When that time comes, I'll help you take care of the children!"

Samantha really choked this time, and she coughed nonstop. Her cheeks soon flushed, and the redness slowly spread down her neck.

She finally knew where Timothy inherited those astonishing relentless traits.

Samantha secretly glared at Timothy. He had it easy! Timothy just sat there, calmly and elegantly enjoying his breakfast as he watched them.

Nancy hurriedly patted Samantha's back. However, Nancy was unwilling to give up on the matter, and she asked, "Sammy, isn't that a good plan?"

Samantha clenched her fists tightly.

A good plan? Who would want to mother Timothy's children? Just now, when they were in the room, he... he... Well, if it were not for Samantha unwilling to give in, she would already be taken advantage of!

Nonetheless, they still had an agreement, so she would have to cooperate well.

Next, Samantha blinked a few times and forced a bashful smile. Then, she answered Nancy against her conscience, "Yes, it is..."

Nancy was beaming when Samantha finally replied to her. Like a child, she clapped her hands joyfully. Then, she looked at Timothy and said, "Tim, did you hear that! You must complete this task!"

Timothy stopped cutting his bacon, and he looked at Samantha with a frivolous gaze. Then, he spoke in a deep and magnetizing voice, "I heard it. I will... work harder."

As soon as he said that, he put the small bacon into his mouth, elegantly chewing and swallowing it.

Samantha felt goosebumps all over from his gaze and coquettish words... Was this the so-called flirting with your eyes?

Moreover, watching as the man ate that piece of bacon, Samantha somewhat felt that Timothy was actually eating her.

This man was too good!

Samantha's flushed face became redder. Furthermore, she felt as if her cheeks were burning, and it was getting harder for her to breathe.

She lowered her head and avoided that man's gaze, stuffing her mouth with food.

Out of sight, out of mind!

Seeing Samantha acting this way, Timothy's smile became deeper. Yes... The weather was great, and he was in an excellent mood.

...

Later, Samantha went to visit Corey in the hospital.

During this time, Corey was readministered with better medicine and care. Hence, his condition was better than before, and he could even engage in small conversations with Samantha.

“Sammy, I’m sorry. I’m so useless that I’ve burdened you.” Corey’s face was still pale, and his tone was dispirited, but his gaze was filled with guilt.

Samantha held his hands tightly. “No, you’re amazing. You’re my strength. I saved you, and you saved me too, so... you must live well and stop overthinking, alright?”

Those two years abroad, Samantha gritted her teeth and managed to go through hell because of her love for Corey.

It could be said that without Corey, she might let go of herself. In fact, she might not exist in this world anymore.

“Okay.” Corey did not want her to worry, so he obediently nodded.

Samantha then lightly caressed his head.

When she got out of the hospital, Samantha received a call from the herb store, notifying her that the herbs she ordered before had arrived. Hence, she could go over and collect them.

Nancy took care of her well when she was sick before, and she could not return the favor. However, Samantha noticed that Nancy could not sleep well at night, so she ordered the herbs to make some soup for Nancy. That way, Nancy would be able to get a good rest.

Then, Samantha hailed a cab and asked the driver to drive her to the herb store.

About forty minutes later, they arrived at her destination. Samantha paid the fare and got out of the cab. As soon as she walked into the store, she saw a familiar face..

Chapter 31: Framed by Someone

Samantha stopped in her tracks. It was indeed easier to cross paths with your enemies. Once again, she met Penelope.

Penelope did not appear as bedraggled and ridiculous as she did that day. Instead, she was wearing the latest suit-dress from Chanel, paired with Tiffany & Co's limited edition bracelet, and carrying the classic crocodile Hermes bag.

She looked highly arrogant.

An older lady was standing next to Penelope, dressed in a more expensive outfit than Penelope, appearing more elegant and luxurious than her.

Samantha had seen the lady before on Nancy's birthday, but only from afar, and she knew that the woman was Penelope's mother, Violet.

Since Samantha was not interested in the mother-daughter duo, she quickly averted her gaze and walked directly to the counter.

"I'm here to take the herbs I ordered," Samantha informed the staff. Then, she took out a receipt from her bag and handed it to her.

The staff took a look at the receipt, and after confirming it, she said, Please wait for a while, Ms. Larsson. I'll get the herbs over.

"Sure."

As she was waiting, Samantha took out her phone and simply scrolled through.

Soon, she heard the click-clack sound of high heels approaching her. Then, Penelope's malicious voice rang, "Hey, Samantha. What a coincidence!"

Samantha did not cast a glance at Penelope. It was as if she was nothing.

Obviously, Penelope could not stand seeing Samantha so rude, and she was instantly filled with rage. "Samantha, are you deaf? Can't you hear that I'm talking to you?"

Samantha smiled and looked up, but she pretended to be puzzled. Then, instead of answering Penelope, she questioned, "There's someone... talking to me? Why do I only hear an annoying fly buzzing by my ear!"

Hearing that, Penelope gritted her teeth in rage. "Samantha! How dare you call me a fly!"

Samantha did not hold back and sneered.

Truth be told, Samantha had never seen a scum like Penelope. She knew that she was not a match against Samantha, yet she still knocked on her door.

It was a knockout!

Handling such an idiot was like child's play.

"You dare to laugh at me?" Penelope raised her hand. "Samantha, I must tear your filthy mouth today!"

As soon as she said that, her fingers ruthlessly aimed at Samantha's cheek.

Naturally, Samantha was not afraid of Penelope. However, just as she was about to dodge Penelope, a hand suddenly appeared and grabbed Penelope's arm, stopping her.

Samantha was surprised, and she turned to look at the person.

Now, she was even more baffled.

It was Violet!

When Penelope saw that it was Violet, she was stunned too. She did not expect that her mother would not help her, and she even blocked her! Penelope appeared somewhat aggrieved and cried out, "Mommy, why did you stop me!"

Was she not supposed to help her hit Samantha, that b*tch?

Then, Violet scolded Penelope, "Why are you causing a scene! I saw that you started it, and now you want to hit her? You're a daughter from an influential family, so what is with this behavior!"

Penelope was feeling indignant from the scolding. "Mommy! Whose side are you on?"

Violet ignored her and turned to Samantha, showing her an apologetic smile. "Ms. Larsson, I spoiled Penelope, so let me apologize on her behalf. I'm sorry about that."

Samantha did not know Violet, but she heard before that Violet had an excellent reputation among the upper-class. Moreover, she was well-educated, sensible, kind, and generous. Meeting her for the first time, it seemed that the rumor was true.

Nonetheless, Violet was so friendly and even apologized on Penelope's behalf. Besides, she was also an elder, so Samantha showed her respect and smiled faintly. "It's alright."

At this time, the staff came and passed the herbs to Samantha.

After checking that everything was fine, Samantha thanked the staff and turned around to leave.

However, just as she walked out the entrance, the loud and sharp alarm rang, shocking everyone.

Then, a staff member shouted, "There's a thief!"

The guard in the store was quick to react. He hurried toward Samantha, who was standing by the door and grabbed her hand. "You stole something, yet you want to run?"

Everything happened too suddenly, and Samantha blinked her eyes a few times. Then, finally, she realized that she was accused of being the thief?

Since her conscience was clear, Samantha was not afraid. Instead, she shook off the guard's hand and walked into the store. After that, she stood still in front of the staff and asked her, "What did I steal?"

The staff was stunned as she did not expect Samantha to be so calm and imposing. Soon, she stuttered, "Our... Our store's thousand-year ginseng collection. Just now, it was there on the counter, and it was still there when you came. However, it disappeared once you wanted to leave. If you're not the thief, then who can it be?"

Thousand-year ginseng? Samantha was not even aware of that. "I didn't see it, nor am I the thief!"

"This is so hilarious!" Penelope suddenly mocked, "Which thief will admit they're the thief? Of course, you won't admit it!"

Then, she turned to look at the staff and suggested, "Why are you still arguing with the thief? She has not left the store yet, so the thousand-year ginseng must still be with her. You'll find out with a search."

"Ms. Schimdt, you're right." Soon, the staff winked at the guard.

The guard walked forward and grabbed Samantha's bag rudely. He opened the zipper and tossed the items inside onto the counter.

Soon, a wooden box appeared in front of everyone.

The staff took the wooden box and opened it, showing the thousand-year ginseng inside. "Ms. Larsson, are you still denying it?"

Seeing this, Penelope's ridicule became louder. "Samantha, are you this poor? It's just a thousand-year ginseng, and you want to steal it? Goodness..."

Penelope's words caused the crowd to murmur.

“Samantha used to be a socialite, but now she ended up becoming a thief? It’s so embarrassing.”

“Do you think the actress in those obscene pictures and videos is actually her? She seems as if she’s willing to do anything for money.”

“Just look at how calm she is! She’s so shameless. If it were me, I’d want to dig a hole and hide!”

There was no emotion in Samantha’s expression, and she swept her gaze across the crowd. In the end, her line of sight fell on Penelope and Violet’s faces.

If she still could not tell that this was a setup, then she was really too naive.

It was no coincidence that she met Penelope and Violet that day. In fact, they had been waiting for her.

Penelope deliberately picked a quarrel with Samantha, and Violet came to the “rescue” just to avert her attention. Then, they could sneakily place the herb in her bag.

Then, she would be caught red-handed, leaving her no way to argue!

This was such a grand scheme!

The staff called the police, and they soon arrived. After learning of the situation, the police went to Samantha and said, “Ms. Larsson, please follow us back to the police station..”