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Chapter 382: An Immediate Slap in The Face

Harmony's feelings of upset were all cleared up at once.

A long and prominent scar was present on Samantha's stomach like a centipede crawling all over it.

Harmony smiled.

Ian had told her that Samantha was unwell when delivering the baby and had to go through a C-section due to the high risks of giving birth.

Therefore, it did not matter how perfect the other parts of her body were because anyone who saw the ugly scar on her stomach would feel sickened!

She wished that Samantha had died in the delivery room during childbirth.

Then again, the child's existence would be a very powerful weapon to be used against her!

Harmony curled her lips happily. She got up from the hot spring pool and put on a towel before walking out.

...

After coming out of the spa, Rochelle wanted to have a meal with Samantha but had to leave because Jonathan called her.

Samantha did not want to eat out all by herself so she took a taxi back to the apartment and whipped up some ramen.

Her phone rang just as she was eating.

Samantha picked up the phone and looked at it. It happened to be a call from Alan so she picked it up right away. "Dr. Sherwood."

Alan's warm voice came from over there, "Have you recovered?"

"I have. Don't worry, I'll take good care of myself and I won't let anything happen to my body again," Samantha repeatedly assured.

Alan was amused. "That's good. Make sure to keep warm. It's cold in Capital City now."

“You too. It’s also snowing in Emsteldt right now...”

“Yeah, Matt likes it a lot when it’s snowing. I promised him that I’d take him skiing this year...” Alan could not help but feel melancholic. “It’s unfortunate that I still haven’t been able to find out where he is. I don’t know if he’s doing well.”

Samantha’s nose immediately felt tingly when she heard that.

Had it not been for all those rotten things that happened, she should have been with Matthew, watching the snow in Emsteldt together with him. He would have been so happy and excited.

He spoke again in a slightly hoarse voice, “Matt is still young. I don’t think they’ll go hard on him as long as he’s still alive.”

Alan sighed. “Yeah. He’s such a good boy. How could they bring themselves to be harsh to him? We’ll definitely save him.”

“Yeah. We will.” Samantha spoke confidently!

“By the way.” Alan’s voice became a little more serious, “I did what you told me to do two days ago.”

Samantha smiled. “I see. Tha—”

“What?” Alan sounded dissatisfied.

Samantha stopped just in time and rephrased herself. “You’re very kind, Dr. Sherwood.”

Alan was helplessly speechless. Was there any difference between ‘thank you’ and ‘you’re very kind’?

They all fell under the umbrella of being a nice guy...

Nevertheless, he was well aware that she was not prepared to put her thoughts on her emotions until after she found Matthew...and made it up to Timothy.

He had already been waiting for a long time and it did not make a difference if he had to wait even longer.

“Be careful over there,” Alan warned again.

If he had not been chasing Matthew’s trail, he would have really wanted to stay by her side and protect her so she does not get hurt.

Samantha smiled warmly. "I will. You too. Remember to take care of your health. Don't just focus on work all the time and end up getting gastric pains because you skipped your meals."

Alan laughed genuinely that time.

He was happy enough whenever she showed the littlest of concern for him.

Samantha ended the call after chatting a bit more.

She rested her chin in her hands and felt slightly distressed.

Alan had made no secret of his affection for her since he confessed to her, but she did not seem to...feel anything for him.

Did she really lose the ability to love someone or was it...because he was not the right person?

She became increasingly worried as she thought about it and shook her head vigorously as she tried to stop thinking about it.

It was not the time to be thinking about that! She had to concentrate on dealing with Timothy's second personality!

Samantha thought of what Alan had said earlier and narrowed her eyes.

...

Inside the president's office of the Barker Foundation, Harmony had just returned when she saw an extremely delicate invitation on her desk.

She picked it up and saw that it was an invitation for the Barker Group's annual dinner.

The dinner would be held in another week and that year's annual dinner was slated to be an extremely high-profile event.

As far as she knew, the guests who were invited were all heavyweights in the business world, and even the EIA Group's Michael Holt would be attending.

More important than anything else, 'that man' would be there too!

During the past three years, she was always Timothy's plus one whenever he needed a female companion for a banquet.

The annual dinner would certainly be no exception.

She imagined holding Timothy's hand, standing by his side, and basking in everyone's gazes while facing so many business heavyweights.

The mere thought made her heart flutter and she could not stop smiling.

Although she had chased Samantha away three years ago and had been by Timothy's side the entire time, it seemed that 'he' still did not recognize her ability 100%.

As long as Timothy attended the dinner with her, then 'he' would finally recognize her abilities and allow her to secure someone with a strong backing!

She had to attend that grand event in full gear so the entire crowd would be overwhelmed by her beauty!

Harmony knew that the most eye-catching couple's outfit seen at the recent Parlez Fashion Show had arrived in Capital City. It was one of a kind and happened to come in a set specifically for couples. If she and Timothy wore it, the audience would almost certainly be in awe.

She quickly grabbed her car keys and cell phone before leaving the office.

Harmony raced all the way and drove directly to a private haute couture store that kept that set of clothes.

She was a VVIP member there and the salesperson welcomed her in. "Hello, Ms. Johnson."

Harmony nodded lightly and went straight to the subject. "I'm here today because I want that couple's outfit, both the man's and the woman's too. Take my measurements right now and have it tailored for me before my annual dinner next week."

Knowing that Harmony was wealthy and had lots of money, the salesperson beamed with a smile and said, "Sure, Ms. Johnson. Please come this way and I'll take your measurements."

The salesperson led Harmony into the dressing room and recorded the measurements respectfully. "Bust, seventy; waist, sixty-two; hip, eighty-two..."

Harmony's face soured when she heard the measurements.

She then heard another salesperson welcoming a guest in. "Mr. Crawford, you're here."

'Mr. Crawford?'

The only 'Mr. Crawford' that would make the salesperson so happy was Timothy's assistant.

What was Ronald doing there?

Then she heard the salesperson outside say, "Does Mr. Barker want some custom-made clothes? Ohh... He wants that couples set from the Parlez Fashion Show."

The salesperson measuring Harmony immediately complimented her. "Mr. Barker loves you so much that he told his assistant to come and order the dress for you."

Those words touched Harmony's heart.

Timothy's mind was in sync with hers and it was all but certain that he hoped for her to present herself beautifully at the time and boost his reputation!

The next second, Ronald said, "The lady's measurements are eighty-six, sixty, and eighty-eight."

The smile on Harmony's face froze instantly.

Even the salesperson tending to her felt embarrassed. Those were not Harmony's measurements, which meant that she had rushed to order a dress to attend an event that Timothy did not intend to bring her to...

Harmony face soured, for she only needed one glance at the salesperson's face to see what the latter was thinking. "Get out!"

After the salesperson went out, Harmony was so angry that flipped over the tea and cakes on the coffee table.

If her guess was correct, those measurements were likely Samantha's!

Did Timothy intend for Samantha to attend as his plus one? Was it because Samantha remained the official Mrs. Barker while Harmony had nothing?

Harmony ought to have been Mrs. Barker already! She should have been basking in the glory and attended the dinner with her arm around his!

She was breathing very heavily.

Not long later, a dense chill immediately appeared in her eyes as she thought of something.

It was perfect if Samantha attended the party as Mrs. Barker.

Harmony had been wondering how to deliver a fatal blow to Samantha!

The dinner might make for the perfect occasion!

Harmony took out her cell phone and made a call. As soon as the other side answered, she instructed immediately, "I need you to do something...."

Chapter 383: Showtime!

Time passed by in a flash and it was already the day of the Barker Group's annual dinner.

The Barker Group had generously contracted the most luxurious five-star hotel in Capital City as a venue to hold the banquet and entertain a few distinguished guests.

Ronald picked Samantha up at two o'clock in the afternoon and was driven over to a beauty salon.

She was like a marionette being surrounded by makeup artists, hair stylists, fashion stylists, and the like. It took her a full five hours for her makeup and hairstyling to be complete.

Samantha stood in front of the full-length mirror and looked at the beautiful, elegant woman in the mirror.

She used to be a little more youthful in the past, but after giving birth to Matthew, her temperament had become much calmer and there was a warmth that radiated from her bones.

Samantha was a little narcissistic and she had to admit that she was somewhat captivated by herself at that moment.

Becoming a mother was almost like becoming a new person.

The curtain was lifted all of a sudden and the sound of footsteps came closer.

When Samantha looked through the mirror, she saw the slender and tall figure of the man behind her. His black suit made his temperament even colder and sterner, while his handsome face was as cold as ever and carried hints of evil.

Before she found out that Timothy suffered from multiple personalities, she just felt that he had changed into a stranger.

At that moment, she could clearly sense that the man in front of her was not the Timothy she once loved deeply.

His main personality was full of warmth within, but his second personality possessed a coldness that stemmed from the bottom of his heart.

Samantha turned around and glanced up at Timothy.

He was wearing the men's couple outfit, the chest of which was embroidered with chic red roses and matched with her skirt that was similarly embroidered with vivid red roses.

Red roses signified a fiery love.

Timothy lowered his eyes and looked at her in a calm, almost icy manner.

Samantha could not help but laugh.

As much as she tried to play pretend with Timothy's second personality, it was difficult for them to pretend that they were in love.

She genuinely wondered if the second personality had any ability to love someone.

It seemed as though she never saw him looking at Harmony with deep affection...

Samantha was still in a trance when the man said abruptly, "Know your place tonight, Samantha. If you screw up, neither you nor your precious son will live to see the sun tomorrow!"

His tone was indifferent, but it immediately snapped Samantha's consciousness back. She even felt a chill down her spine after hearing it.

After all, he never joked around with his words and was so ruthless that he did as he said he would.

Samantha smiled. "I am a person who honors agreements. Since you've agreed to my terms, I will fulfill my role as Mrs. Barker."

As soon as Samantha said that, she walked forward and raised her hand to hook his arm.

Timothy looked as though he did not expect her to do that. He was stunned for a moment and frowned soon after.

He hated touching people, especially when the person touching him was the woman he hated! Moreover, her approach...made him feel...

Timothy's expression sank.

Samantha glanced askance at him. She knew what he was thinking, but instead of letting go, she hugged him a little tighter and asked, "Aren't we supposed to pretend to be a loving couple?"

“Or, could it be that you can’t afford to...play pretend, Mr. Barker?”

She spoke the last few words in a slightly provocative tone.

Timothy glared at her coldly and scoffed. He turned the tables on her and wrapped his long arms around her slender waist, almost pressing her entire body against him.

Both their bodies instantly became very close.

Timothy gazed down at her and the heat from his breathing was caressing her face. A murderous look had already appeared in his eyes as he said, “Don’t even think about provoking me, Samantha. You won’t be able to bear the consequences.”

Ronald had been standing outside and heard the conversation taking an ominous turn. He coughed a few times and raised his voice to remind them. “Mr. Barker, Mrs. Barker, it’s almost time. We have to go!”

Timothy pushed Samantha away mercilessly and adjusted his shirt placket. He then lifted his feet and strode out of the dressing room.

Since Samantha was wearing high heels, his push sent her staggering a few steps back before finally being able to stand firm.

She had nearly lost her patience and wanted to kick Timothy’s back.

That scumbag had no sense of mannerism at all!

Then again, she had done what she did on purpose because she knew too little about his second personality. She needed to try a little bit of this and that to figure out what kind of character he was.

Getting a better understanding would allow her to tailor the best method to deal with him.

Based on what she saw earlier, Timothy’s second personality was a control freak who did not allow anyone to provoke him!

Furthermore, he did not like to have any physical contact with people.

However, she still had to put a question mark on the latter conclusion because she could not be sure whether he did not like physical contact in general or was simply averse to it when it was her...

...

When the car arrived at the hotel, Ronald opened the door for Timothy and Samantha to get out of the car.

Timothy hugged Samantha's slender waist and led her into the venue inside the hotel.

They became the focus of attention as soon as they appeared and all eyes were on them.

It was a feast for the eyes to see a handsome man and a beautiful woman, both of whom were talented and charismatic individuals.

Everyone recognized at a glance that the couple's outfit they were wearing was the most eye-catching set that year.

It was another new masterpiece by the famous designer known only as G, a present that G designed for a loved one whose love was most intense.

That they wore a matching dress and stood together was already a big enough display of affection.

Michael and his wife Lilian had also arrived at the venue. Timothy and Samantha went to greet and shake hands with them.

Michael looked at Samantha—the legendary Mrs. Barker—and praised her generously, “You're a beauty of the highest order, Mrs. Barker.”

He then teased Timothy, “I'm not surprised that Mr. Barker would rather terminate his partnership with me three years ago to protect his wife.”

Lilian was obviously very interested in Timothy and Samantha's love story. She said, “Mrs. Barker, my husband told me a lot about you and Mr. Barker. It's really romantic that he always rushes back to see you as soon as possible.”

Samantha was stunned.

She had no idea something like that happened...

As it turned out, the reason Timothy was always able to show up in time whenever she encountered troubles before was because he turned down many important projects.

That was the love shown to her by his main personality, but she was unaware of it.

If she had known that was the case, she might have been a little braver three years ago and things would not have ended like that...

Her eyes were slightly red and she unconsciously looked at Timothy with a hint of tenderness.

Timothy looked at her eyes and was just as stunned, for it felt like his heart had been touched.

In the eyes of bystanders, the two of them were looking at each other affectionately when they made eye contact like that. The affection between them was so strong that everyone could not help but smile tenderly at them.

Harmony, who was standing on the other side, squeezed the wine glass with her fingers and almost caused it to break.

Her face was filled with jealousy and her eyes were brimming with intense hatred. She would have wanted to step forward, separate the two, and send Samantha down into hell.

The person standing beside Timothy should have been her!

She closed her eyes and took a few deep breaths before suppressing her anger.

Her plans were all in place and she could let Samantha feel smug for a moment. Time would soon tell who would eventually be the one to hold their head high. Samantha was bound to be destroyed after falling from grace.

She swirled the wine inside her glass and sipped it with a smile.

A thrilling show...was about to begin!

Chapter 384: A Resounding Strike

The dinner was approaching its climax. A well-known host in the entertainment industry had been invited as an emcee for the dinner, so he smiled and began talking about the Barker Group's achievements that year. After that, he said, "Next up, let's give a round of applause to Mr. Barker and his wife to say a couple of words on stage."

Everyone's attention was focused on Timothy and Samantha.

Timothy curled his lips into a smile. He gently extended his hand toward Samantha and made a gesture to invite her up.

Samantha responded with a happy smile and placed her hand into the man's broad palm.

Timothy held her hand and walked with her onto the stage. When they were heading up, he very considerately helped her to lift her long skirt slightly.

One could see that the female staff members were all getting excited.

Lilian could not help throwing herself into her husband's arms as she watched.

The only jealous person was Harmony, whose expression looked particularly unbearable.

She was still filled with jealousy even though she knew that Timothy was pretending in front of everyone. She was jealous to see Timothy holding Samantha's hand, and his act of lifting Samantha's skirt made her even more jealous. It had been so long and yet Samantha was still able to stand rightfully beside Timothy.

Despite all the time that passed, Harmony still could not face the public and secure her position as Mrs. Barker!

Even so, she had the perfect time to take action!

Harmony lowered her eyes and took out her cell phone. She quickly typed out a text and sent it. [You can start!]

The spotlight was cast on Timothy and Samantha as they stood on the stage, and the way they held hands looked like a scene from a soap opera.

After Timothy's black pupils glanced across the crowd, his thin lips parted open, "My dear guests, first of all, I would like to thank you for coming to the Barker Group's annual dinner. This year, we've..."

After giving an account of their major achievements that year, the audience immediately burst into applause.

Timothy smiled and said again, "For the coming year, the Barker Group will start a new S-tier project, the core contents of which I will show on screen in a bit..."

The big screen behind him lit up.

Everyone's eyes were on the big screen as they waited eagerly to see what grand plan the Barker Group had in store.

However, no one expected that the photo on the big screen...was not a project plan, but...a photograph of Samantha.

To be precise, it was a photograph of...Samantha with another man!

Judging from the photos, Samantha and the man were very close and seemed to have a good relationship...

There was an uproar.

What was happening there?

Everyone has just seen Timothy and Samantha's loving affection, and barely seconds later came that photograph of what seemed to be an extramarital affair.

It was quite a resounding slap to Timothy's reputation.

Moreover, with so many important partners present today, Samantha's actions not only brought down his reputation but even humiliated him in front of so many people.

After all, no man would enjoy being cuckolded!

Timothy and Samantha had also noticed that something was not quite right with everyone's reactions and turned to the side to look at the big screen.

The man's handsome face sank instantly and his eyes were filled with murderous intent. He looked at Samantha coldly and seemed as though he was going to set her straight on the spot.

Samantha seemed surprised that she and Alan would be photographed and was so stunned that her face turned pale.

She could feel Timothy's hand tightening its grip around her hand and it was as if her bones were about to be snapped off.

The pain brought Samantha back to her senses. She looked back at Timothy and opened her mouth to explain, "Timothy, it's not like this... I have no relationship with Dr. Sherwood. We're just friends..."

Harmony's eyes were fixed on Timothy and Samantha and she could not help sneering when she saw Samantha trying to justify it.

Harmony had come prepared for the occasion. She wanted to destroy Samantha completely so Samantha would never be able to clear her name again!

She gave a certain someone in the crowd a glance and that person immediately understood what to do. He asked loudly, "Hey, isn't the man in the photo the famous Little St. John?"

Once he mentioned that, everyone could finally see clearly that the man in the photo was Alan.

Although Alan usually kept a very low profile, he occasionally appeared in medical journals and there were still some people who could recognize him.

Everyone started discussing even louder.

“Goodness, Mrs. Barker’s appetite is rather big, it seems. Mr. Barker isn’t enough for her and she still hooked up with Dr. Sherwood. How morally corrupt.”

“Mr. Barker’s the one who should be pitied here. When he announced his divorce three years ago, the news of Samantha’s death came soon after. How many of us suspected that the murder was Mr. Barker and Harmony’s doing? People were saying bad things about them for a long time.”

“Harmony is pretty miserable too. She was chastised for being a homewrecker all this while, but who knows if Samantha was the first to have an affair. Harmony has helped the public so much over the years and you can see that she isn’t a bad person.”

“This whole thing made me look at things differently. I can only say that Samantha is truly a horrible person. Just look at how she came back to cause trouble just as Mr. Barker was going to marry Harmony. She just wants to make everyone’s life hard.”

Of course, there were also plenty who were neutral.

Several board members had worked under Old Madam Barker before, and because she had privately instructed them to help her take good care of Samantha, they thus began coming to Samantha’s aid.

One of them said, “Does one or two photos prove anything? Everyone knows that today is a big day for the Barker Group. The fact that these photos appeared at such a time might indicate that it was done deliberately.”

The second echoed, “Couldn’t have said it better myself. We all saw the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Barker earlier. It’s best not to comment without knowing the full story.”

A third remarked, “Let’s first listen to Mrs. Barker’s explanation. Don’t just accuse her blindly...”

Everyone else started to regain their reason once they heard what the board members said. After all, those present there were smart individuals who would not be swayed by the masses that easily.

Harmony gritted her teeth angrily when she heard their words.

She did not expect the old hag to treat Samantha so well. As if giving the shares was not enough, the old lady even got a few powerful board members to support Samantha. They were able to turn the situation around in just a few words.

Luckily for her, she could still deliver one final strike!

She curled her lips into a sneer and hinted at the crowd.

The person who spoke earlier stood up from the crowd. He held up what seemed to be a certificate in his hand and introduced himself loudly, "Hello everyone, my name is Ian Snell and I'm a reporter!"

Ian and his team were somewhat well-known within the circle.

Everyone turned to him simultaneously and waited for him to continue.

Ian smiled politely and then went straight to the point. "I've been doing a little research because of my longtime interest in Mrs. Barker's death."

"I just found out that Mrs. Barker has been living in Emsteldt during the three years she was away from the country. During the entire time, she had been with Dr. Sherwood and even gave birth to his child!"

When he said that, he took out another registration certificate.

On it was written clearly—'Matthew Larsson, three years old.'

'Mother: Samantha Larsson, Father: Alan Sherwood..'

Chapter 385: Yes, We Have a Son

Once everyone had read it, Ian turned to look at Samantha. Her face was already pale and she was on the verge of collapse. Ian then deliberately asked her, "Do you have anything to say about this, Mrs. Barker?"

Timothy's gloomy eyes stared at Samantha. His lips parted opened and he practically gritted his teeth when he whispered in her ear, "You're dead, Samantha!"

He had known for a long time that Samantha had been unfaithful when she did not draw boundaries with Alan and even had an illegitimate son with the man.

However, Timothy was not at all bothered about who Samantha frolicked around with and with whom she bore children.

Since Samantha was still Mrs. Barker, the least she could do was to hide those scandals and avoid letting them be exposed to the public.

She was still careless despite his stern warning, allowing other people to uncover her scandals and making them public.

Her actions were tantamount to giving him a public slap and trampling all over him!

Harmony was relishing the expression on Samantha's face at that moment. She felt liberated at long last and it had been ages since she felt such delight!

She would have cackled out loud if it was not for the current occasion.

What she felt then was the same as it was three years ago: she had always been confident that Samantha would suffer defeat in her hands!

There was nothing else she needed to do after completing her final move that day. Timothy would kill her and make sure that she disappeared!

The board members who supported Samantha earlier exchanged glances with each other. Their faces became extremely ugly and there was nothing else they could say on her behalf.

They were all helping her out of respect for Old Madam Barker, but Samantha's own indiscretion had caused all their efforts to go down the drain.

All of them regretted what they said earlier and were very angry with Samantha.

To think that Samantha would do something so humiliating for the Barkers despite receiving the old lady's affection and trust! It really was a shame!

Samantha looked at everyone.

Everyone took part in the schadenfreude to laugh, mock, and sneer at her. Then, Samantha laid eyes on Harmony standing among the crowd.

That woman was laughing smugly and defiantly.

Samantha looked at Harmony for a few seconds before finally turning to Timothy.

He had a murderous look in his eyes but she spoke up fearlessly. "At least give me a chance to explain."

"I just need thirty seconds."

Timothy sneered. "How do you suppose you're going to weasel your way out of this?"

She could be as eloquent as she liked, but nothing she said was ever going to change her definite demise.

Samantha smiled slightly.

She let go of Timothy's hand and walked up to the standing microphone.

The fear and paleness of her face had all but disappeared and she opened her mouth to speak in a clear voice. "Yes. We have a son."

Everyone gasped again as soon as she made that remark.

Everyone thought that she would defend herself, or that she might bawl her eyes out to win everyone's sympathy either by denying it or admitting her mistake.

Hardly anyone expected her to admit it so bluntly without showing any sign of shame.

Could that woman be so...shameless?

Did she lack even the most basic moral integrity?

Harmony laughed out loud.

She thought that Samantha was going to try and twist the facts, so she was understandably shocked when Samantha admitted it outright.

Harmony thought that Samantha possessed some ungodly power to turn the situation around, but it turned out that Samantha was just an ordinary person!

Samantha took a deep breath and continued, "I'm sorry for not sharing this good news with you. My husband and I had a child three years ago."

"Our son isn't very healthy, and since Dr. Sherwood is a close friend of ours, I brought my son to live abroad so he could receive treatment from Dr. Sherwood."

"Timothy and I, we didn't announce the news about our son mainly because we wanted to protect his privacy. I didn't expect this information to be eventually used by unscrupulous people. I sincerely apologize for the misunderstanding this has caused and I'm sorry for disappointing everyone."

Everyone present was dumbfounded after hearing her explanation.

The tables were turned a little too suddenly and it came as a complete surprise to everyone.

She had a son, that was for sure, but her son's father turned out to be Timothy instead of Alan!

Was the alleged hanky-panky between her and Alan nonexistent? Did she bring her son to live in Emsteldt just to receive treatment from Alan?

It was too much information to process and everyone was a little confused.

Harmony was also stunned.

She had already shoved Samantha down the depths of hell, where it was impossible to come out of. How was Samantha still capable of escaping from that predicament?

What in the world was Samantha blabbering about? Who was going to believe that kind of an explanation?

She quickly looked at the people around her.

Although no one believed it immediately, many looked as though they did not entirely doubt what she said either.

Harmony could not let that happen.

The opportunity had been served to her on a silver platter, and if she did not end Samantha right then, she would have further troubles to deal with in the future!

Harmony winked once more at Ian and immediately questioned, "You have no proof, Mrs. Barker. I have the registration certificate here which proves that Matthew is Alan's son. Does your denial automatically make it untrue? Don't you have to show some evidence before convincing everyone?"

Samantha turned to look at him.

She seemed to have expected that he would say that and smiled as she said, "There's evidence, of course."

She opened her clutch bag and took out a piece of paper, which she unfolded and revealed to everyone.

"This is a DNA paternity test. The DNA results for Matthew and Timothy confirm that they are father and son. The institution that produced these results is well-known for their DNA identification services and it's not their policy to allow falsification of data. Everyone is welcome to verify for themselves!"

The big red seal at the end of the paper was indeed the well-known institution's seal.

Moreover, a simple check would suffice for anyone to find out whether or not she was telling the truth. There was no point for Samantha to tell a lie that could be uncovered so easily.

That was proof that Samantha was telling the truth...

Samantha smiled again and said, "As for the registration certificate held by Mr. Snell, there is no doubt a seal, but something about that seal just doesn't seem right. Even if you wanted to frame someone, you should at least learn to edit those photos properly so they look more genuine."

Everyone looked at the certificate in Ian's hands.

The official seal did not look quite right, just as Samantha mentioned.

Ian himself was dumbfounded. He had sent someone to sneak into Alan's home and secretly photograph the certificate! How could it have been a forgery?

Harmony retreated two steps back as if a thunderbolt had hit her. The cause was not just due to Samantha's clarification, but also because Matthew was actually Timothy's son!

How?!

That would mean...Samantha's miscarriage never happened three years ago!

Harmony thought that her game was foolproof, but the fact was that she had been played by Samantha all along!

'Impossible...'

'Impossible!'

'How could the child survive?'

'No, it has to be Samantha playing some kind of trick again. She's trying to get away with it by fooling everyone!'

'The boy was registered under Dr. Sherwood's name. How could it be Tim's! Dr. Sherwood is a man too, and he could not possibly do something that would put him at a disadvantage!'

'No, Samantha can't be allowed to win!'

Harmony lost her composure and could not control herself from asking loudly, "You're lying, Samantha! Your child with Tim died from a miscarriage three years ago, and

Matthew can only be Dr. Sherwood's child. Why else would Matthew be raised by Dr. Sherwood all this time? You've come back to Tim's side, but where's Matthew? If he really is Tim's son, why isn't he here?"

Everyone could not help but agree when they heard that statement.

If that three-year-old child was Timothy's, then he ought to be by Timothy and Samantha's side. Where was the boy, then? He was nowhere to be seen!

Chapter 386: You're the One I've Always Loved

Faced with Harmony's aggressive questioning, Samantha had somewhat of a confused look in her eyes and said puzzledly, "Ms. Johnson, I don't understand why you're saying such a thing. After I returned to the country, Matthew was taken back by my husband and is with him right now."

After saying that, Samantha turned to look at Timothy and asked gently. "Isn't that right, Darling?"

Everyone immediately turned to look at Timothy.

His stance regarding the whole fiasco was key, but he had not said a word since everything happened.

He had the most say on whether Samantha cheated, whether her child belonged to Alan, and who the child was with.

Harmony looked at Timothy with a luminous gaze.

She knew how much Timothy hated Samantha. If Samantha had not coaxed Old Madam Barker for the shares, Timothy would have divorced Samantha long ago and Samantha would never be able to show up in front of him again.

This was their best chance yet of ending everything once and for all.

Samantha would be done for as long as he exposed Samantha's lies!

Timothy looked up and glanced at Samantha.

That woman was a surprise to him time and time again. He never expected her to turn the situation around so calmly at such a time.

From another perspective, everything that happened that night was probably within Samantha's predictions and she had probably been manipulating Harmony too.

Timothy's lips twitched coldly.

Everyone could not help but hold their breaths as they waited for his response.

Whose side would he stand on? Would it be his wife Samantha, or his lover Harmony?

Timothy took a step forward and stood beside Samantha, after which he took Samantha's hand under everyone's gazes.

His fingers interlocked with hers.

Timothy's thin lips parted lightly and his words resonated clearly throughout the entire venue as he spoke emphatically using the microphone. "Yes, we have a son."

"Everything my wife said is the truth. This reporter has not only maliciously slandered my wife's reputation, but also fabricated nonsense at our important banquet tonight. I'm deeply sorry for the confusion that was caused."

There was a hubbub in the audience as soon as he said that.

The plot twists were much more exciting than those in a television show.

Timothy's eyes glanced over to Ian and said coldly, "You'll pay the price for what you did today, Mr. Snell."

With a raise of his chin, two bodyguards hidden in the dark passed through the crowd and grabbed Ian, who was trying to make a quick escape.

He attempted to struggle but a bodyguard punched him and sent him falling to the ground.

Seconds later, he was immediately dragged out of the venue.

Meanwhile, Harmony froze in disbelief and was almost on the brink of collapse...

Was Matthew Timothy's son?

Did Timothy bring Matthew back?

He never told her about it and she was clueless regarding everything...

Even more unexpected was the fact that Timothy chose to stand on Samantha's side at such a time, especially when it was his best chance yet of eradicating her.

Could Samantha have influenced him again?

Impossible! It could not have happened!

Samantha looked straight at Harmony instead of looking at anyone else. She reveled in Harmony's crushed expression and curled her lips in a smirk.

Her smile was a smug and provocative one.

It was an exact copy of how Harmony used to smile at her.

Other people began pointing fingers at Harmony too. She screamed the loudest earlier and everyone was nearly deceived by her.

Sure enough, mistresses were all the same shameless women.

To think that she blatantly slandered Timothy's rightful wife under the public's watchful eyes in her attempt to climb her way up to legitimacy!

How shameless!

Many of the esteemed guests attended that night's dinner with their wives, many of whom had no tolerance for such mistresses after having suffered harassment by many annoying women.

That was one of the reasons why Harmony had never been acknowledged by the women in the circle even after so many years.

She was a mistress after all, and being around her would only degrade one's status. Secondly, she had never once done things the right way and was not the genuine Mrs. Barker!

This incident only elicited their despise towards her.

One of the ladies could not help but say, "Don't you think it's odd that she still has the decency to be standing around here? If I were in her shoes, I wouldn't have had the courage to even show up in public."

A second replied, "She would not have been harassing them in the past three days if she ever had any decency in the first place. Just look at how much Mr. Barker loves Mrs. Barker. Their son is already three years old! How could Ms. Larsson's rightful place as Mrs. Barker be shaken by any other woman."

"That's right," the third echoed. "Mrs. Barker's son is the future heir of the Barker Group, and I finally know why Old Madam Barker is so supportive of Ms. Larsson. She's a very promising young lady."

A fourth glanced at Harmony disdainfully and sneered, "Words aren't going to get her anywhere if she wants to get Mr. Barker. She failed against Mrs. Barker three years ago and now she's still fantasizing about snatching Mr. Barker when the Barkers' son is already three years old! I suppose the one person she could blame it on is herself for failing to live up to her own expectations."

Harmony could not be more embarrassed and it was made worse when those ladies' chastising went right to her heart. The son was already the final blow for her and she could no longer hold herself back from crying.

She covered her cheeks and turned around sharply to run away.

Timothy reassured the guests with a few remarks and that incident began something trivial that was immediately put past them.

The guests were all smart individuals who knew what to say and what not to say. It did not take long for the party's atmosphere to become more enthusiastic.

Timothy led Samantha off the stage.

When he held up a flute of champagne and handed it to Samantha, he lowered his voice slightly and pressed his thin lips against her ear to whisper, "What a show, Samantha!"

The icy breath brushed past her ears and was so cold that Samantha could not stop shivering.

She could feel the killing intent rumbling inside of Timothy.

Samantha looked up fearlessly at him. She did not take the champagne in his hand but pulled his hand instead so the champagne flute reached her red lips. She then took a light sip.

There were tiny hints of charm in her movements.

Timothy's expression sank slightly.

Samantha then pushed the champagne flute away, the rim of which had an additional lipstick stain.

She glanced up at the man and replied, "You flatter me."

After a pause, she continued, "Take good care of our son, alright Timothy. If he so much as loses half a strand of hair, I'll tell the whole world that you're a devil who doesn't even spare his own three-year-old son!"

That was why she forced him to admit in public that Matthew was in his hands.

She only dared to do that because of one aspect that she knew well about Timothy: he was a man who valued professionalism above all else and would not let anyone ruin that on such an important occasion.

If she could provide a reasonable explanation, he would definitely side with her!

Timothy sneered and asked. "Do you think I'd believe you?"

He did not believe a word of what she said because she was too crafty.

Samantha did not hate or disdain him like before and her expression became serious all of a sudden.

She looked into his eyes and said clearly, "Timothy, Matthew is our son, without a doubt. He's in your hands right now, so you can always verify your DNA with his at your convenience."

"And..."

She leaned closer to him, tiptoed slightly, then opened her red lips and completed the rest of the words in his ear, "...Dr. Sherwood and I are just good friends."

"You're the one...I've always loved."

Chapter 387: Did You Take My Confession As A Joke?

Timothy's eyes went blank for a few seconds after he heard Samantha's words.

He took a sudden step back and frowned before saying sternly. "What kind of tricks are you playing at, Samantha?"

That woman always played her cards in unexpected manners.

Samantha looked at him in a somewhat hurt manner and pouted. "You think my confession to you is a trick?"

Timothy pursed his thin lips tightly and kept quiet.

Samantha sighed softly after seeing that and lowered her eyes to feign indifference. "Forget about it. Just treat it as a joke then."

She squeezed out a smile. "Just pretend you didn't hear anything."

Timothy's brows frowned even more.

Samantha adjusted her emotions immediately when she saw someone coming over to make a toast to them. A gentle smile appeared across her face, and she took the initiative to hold Timothy's arm while saying softly, "You don't need to worry. I'll definitely play my role as a proper social tool."

Timothy glanced at her again.

The sadness and melancholy from earlier disappeared completely from her expression as if it was just an illusion. He could not help but laugh.

Which side was her true side?

However, since the guest had already walked up to them, Timothy set aside his confusion and curiosity while holding up the champagne to accept the toast.

After socializing with Timothy for some time, Samantha smiled stiffly and leaned into Timothy's ear to whisper, "Darling, I need to use the restroom."

Timothy glanced at her and nodded.

Samantha then let go of his arm and turned around to walk toward the bathroom.

He stood there as his black pupils followed Samantha's figure unconsciously. The word 'darling' continued to echo in his ears.

His heartbeat...seemed to have gotten a little out of control.

When the guest saw that, he could not help but chuckle and tease him. "You and your wife are very affectionate with each other, Mr. Barker. You can't keep your eyes off her even when she's only leaving for a moment."

Everyone nodded in acknowledgment when he said that.

Timothy retracted his gaze and curled his lips instead of denying it.

...

Before Samantha could go to the bathroom, Harmony rushed out all of a sudden and stopped her halfway.

She was clearly very angry when she stood there and her expression was horrendously hideous. The look she had was extremely inconsistent with her temperament as a pure delicate flower.

Samantha felt thoroughly delighted to be able to piss her off like that!

Harmony glared at her fiercely, and that sharp knife-like gaze seemed to stab right through Samantha. She gritted her teeth and said, "You... You're the one who deliberately played me, aren't you?"

When she ran out of the venue, the cold night wind blew against her and immediately woke her up.

She had planned everything so well and everything was supposed to be foolproof! How did she plunge into such a dire situation and let Samantha escape again?

Although she did not understand why at first, she thought about it in more detail and finally got the answer.

She became angrier the more she thought about it, which prompted her to go back and block Samantha there.

Samantha's lips twitched.

She could never comprehend why Harmony always seemed to willingly come forth to get humiliated.

Nevertheless, Samantha had the kindness and maturity of a grown person and would be happy to fulfill Harmony's wishes.

Samantha admitted without reservation, "Yes."

"You... So...you already knew that I got someone to follow you?"

"What's the matter? Is getting someone to follow me all that little brain of yours can think of? Can't you think of anything else?" Samantha shook her head regretfully. "And to think I thought so highly of you. I expected you to be...a little smarter."

Samantha smirked and explained, "I found out that Mr. Snell photographed me secretly at the airport, but I didn't expose him because I wanted to see what he was going to do."

"I guessed that he would contact you, and sure enough, he did! My next guess was that you'd let him continue his investigations on me after you've seen the photos, and surprise, surprise...you really did have him continue investigating me."

"I never wanted to reveal the child's existence, but since the truth was bound to come out after you insisted on investigating, I had no choice but to tell the truth myself."

“I have you to thank for helping me announce it today. I wouldn't've known how to tell the world otherwise. Now that the whole world knows about the child I had with him, who knows if...we might be able to get back together again.”

“You, on the other hand, have a fertility issue and can't get pregnant. Oh yeah, I remember you wanting my child to acknowledge you as his mother, right? What a shame. Your plan failed again, and now everyone knows that Matthew is my son. And you? You'll never be the mother of my child!”

Each one of Samantha's words pierced right through Harmony's heart and the expressions on her face seemed to circle through the entire spectrum of negative emotions.

Her chest rose and fell in anger as she nearly went mad.

Due to her infertility, she wanted to use Samantha's son as a means to secure her position as Timothy's wife. However, Samantha's announcement pushed her into a corner and she could no longer use Samantha's son to her advantage!

Matthew's birthright made him Timothy's legitimate heir and the Barker Group's sole heir!

Harmony flung her hands down and bit her lower lip so hard that it nearly bled. She was still reluctant to give up and said, “No, Tim would never want your child. He won't!”

“So what if he's born? Tim won't let him live!”

There was a sudden burst of violence in Samantha's eyes.

Had it not been for Harmony's hypnosis that awakened Timothy's second personality, Matthew would not have been captured and have his life be in limbo.

How dare Harmony say such a thing in front of her?

Samantha launched forward abruptly, reaching out and choking Harmony's neck with precision before pressing her against the wall.

“You...nggrh...” Harmony could not continue her sentence and her eyes merely widened in shock.

She never expected Samantha to do such a thing.

Samantha did not intend to merely threaten her and began tightening her fingers at once.

Harmony struggled hard but could not break free, with the lack of oxygen making her cheeks red as her eyes gradually rolled back.

Samantha looked at her coldly and watched as her struggling gradually weakened, her face turned bluish-purple, and she took her last breath.

She then loosened her hand all of a sudden.

Harmony's body collapsed to the ground and she covered her neck with her hands. Incessant coughing followed soon after and she was unable to say a single word.

Samantha stood in front of her and gazed down condescendingly at her. "I'll make sure you suffer if you so much as dare to lay a hand on my son."

Her tone was very gentle but contained a distinct murderous intent that could send chills down a person's spine.

As soon as Samantha ended her words, she did not look at Harmony a second time and started walking right to the bathroom.

Harmony coughed so much that tears were streaming down. She looked at Samantha's rear figure through her misty gaze and started shaking all over.

Although she was absolutely furious, she still had a hint of fear deep down inside her heart. Samantha had become more terrifying after three years of absence.

After a pause, Harmony placed her hands on the ground to support herself and struggled to stand up. However, her limbs were still a little weak and she had only managed to get up halfway when she collapsed miserably back onto the ground.

She was situated in a walkway where anyone could pass by her at any time and she had to ensure that none of the guests there would see her in such an ugly situation.

Harmony gritted her teeth and tried to stand up again, but she fell back to the ground just like before.

At that moment, a hand stretched out in front of her.

Those hands had exceptionally fair skin, almost as if it was frequently shielded from the sun. The person's fingers were also extremely beautiful, slender, and possessed well-defined joints.

Harmony raised her eyes subconsciously and looked at the person who came.

The next second, a stark look of surprise appeared in Harmony's eyes.

Chapter 388: 'He' Makes an Appearance

Harmony's voice was trembling slightly. "Sir... Sir..."

She had received news that 'he' would attend the annual dinner that night. However, there was no sign of him ever since she arrived at the venue.

He should have been seated with the other guests of honor if he had been present.

She therefore assumed that he was busy with something or had other reasons for being absent.

It never occurred to her that he would show up, but perhaps he had kept a low profile all along and did not reveal his identity.

An extreme sense of dread came over Harmony's expression.

In that case, had he been around to watch her resounding failure when her plot against Samantha ended up biting her back?

"Sir, I..." Harmony eagerly wanted to explain herself.

The man opened his lips and interrupted her. "Get up."

There was a hollowness to his voice that somehow made him feel detached and untouchable from everyone else.

Harmony had no choice but to swallow the words she had intended to say. She stretched out her hand timidly and placed it onto his palm as she stood up slowly with the help of his strength.

...

Inside the bathroom, Samantha soothed her emotions and turned on the faucet before washing her hands.

She then took out some foundation and lipstick from her purse to touch up her makeup. After that, she adjusted her hair and skirt.

When she looked at herself in the mirror, she grimaced before letting her facial expression relax.

Her emotions had spiraled out of control earlier when Harmony brought up Matthew's name. After all, the time had not yet come for her to do anything to Harmony just yet.

Timothy's second personality would always protect Harmony, whether or not he genuinely loved her or whether he simply needed her to help him suppress his main personality.

She had to deal with Timothy in a roundabout way instead of opposing him outright.

Moreover, she had to pay with her life if she killed Harmony, which was not worth it at all!

Besides, Harmony's death would be too easy if she died just like that. Samantha was adamant that Harmony must suffer a life that was worse than death!

A notification popped up on Samantha's cell phone.

She returned to her senses and took her phone out to glance at the screen.

It was a WeTalk message from Rochelle, who praised her exaggeratedly for doing a good job!

Samantha could not help but smile.

She was really lucky to have a best friend who stood with her all the time, supported her, and fought side by side with her.

In reality, the incident at the hot spring the other day was a plan that Samantha hatched with Rochelle.

That newly opened spa was a birthday present from Jonathan to Rochelle, and the owner behind the scenes was none other than...Rochelle!

From the moment Harmony stepped into the spa, everything she said and did was reported as it was to Rochelle.

Once they knew that Harmony was there to find out whether Samantha had given birth to a child, Samantha was happy to let Harmony seek that confirmation. Although she did have a C-section, Vincent's skills were so top-notch that the incision was made cleanly and the suture was done using cosmetic thread.

She underwent several procedures as soon as she gave birth, and the scars on her stomach were so faint that it was very difficult to see.

Rochelle somehow managed to get a sticker of a scar and it had a very realistic effect when pasted on Samantha's stomach.

Harmony fell for it and even left behind a blank check.

Rochelle did not hesitate at all as she filled in the amount for five million and donated it to poor students in Matthew's name.

Samantha wondered how Harmony might immediately vomit blood if she found out that the whole thing was orchestrated!

Harmony was quite unfortunate to have suffered so many losses after trying to trick her enemy!

Samantha decided it was about time she ended the chat with Rochelle as Timothy might have some complaints if she disappeared for so long.

Even though she was just being used as a tool, she was still going to fulfill her duty to the best of her abilities!

After all, she needed to establish a good relationship with the second personality prior to getting him to let his guard down slightly.

Samantha put away her cell phone, pushed the restroom door open, and walked out.

Between the toilet and the hall was a path leading to the outdoor garden.

When she passed by the place, she unconsciously glanced outside but unexpectedly chanced upon Harmony, who was standing there seemingly in tears while speaking to someone in a choked tone.

Unfortunately, she could not see who was standing beside Harmony due to the wall blocking.

All she saw was the man stretching out his hand towards Harmony. There was a handkerchief in his hand and he probably handed it over to her so she could wipe her tears.

Samantha could not help but raise her eyebrows.

Who was it that was comforting Harmony? Could it be Timothy?

Did he give his all to put a facade in the public eye but then rushed over to comfort his true love Harmony after knowing that Samantha had hurt her?

Samantha initially felt that Timothy's love for Harmony and Timothy's need for Harmony were balanced, with neither outweighing the other.

After all, based on her current understanding of Timothy's second personality, he was a thoroughly indifferent person who most likely lacked a heart and the capability to love.

It seemed that she had been wrong.

Could Timothy's second personality love Harmony more than he needed Harmony?

Samantha's lips twitched and she felt like laughing.

Timothy's second personality had possibly the worst judgment anyone could ever have. What did he see in a pretentious b*tch like Harmony?

None of that mattered though, because the second personality's love interest had nothing to do with her and was not worth her time to be pondering over it.

Samantha was in no mood to see the two of them being affectionate with each other in a romantic place, for she did not want the sight of them to sting her eyes. As a result, she raised her feet and decided to leave.

The next second, Harmony's respectful voice sounded. "Thank you, Sir."

Samantha's black eyes suddenly widened and she immediately halted her footsteps.

What did she just hear?

Did Harmony address him as... 'Sir'? In such a respectful tone?

If that were the case, then the man beside Harmony was not the Timothy that she expected, but...the influential backer behind Harmony?

She had always guessed that there was someone powerful behind Harmony because Harmony alone could not have pulled off such feats time and time again.

In addition, when Samantha interrogated the doctor who poisoned Old Madam Barker, she had asked him whether anyone was supporting Harmony from behind the scenes. He did not issue any denial then.

Samantha never put much thought into that so-called backer and it came as a surprise that he showed up!

That man was Harmony's backer, meaning he was the one who has been supporting Harmony all along, and the man who put Timothy, Old Madam Barker, Samantha, and Matthew in such a situation.

Samantha clenched her hands tightly as anger started to swell in the depths of her eyes.

'Who is this person?'

'What does that b*stard's face look like?!

'Timothy, myself, Grandma, and Matthew...all of us were supposed to live a simple and happy life.'

'But that man joined hands with Harmony and brought chaos to our lives.'

She needed to know who he was and why he did it!

Samantha closed her eyes and took a few deep breaths.. There was an icy glow in her eyes by the time she reopened them, and she immediately lifted her feet to head towards the outdoor garden!

Chapter 389: 'His' True Face

When Samantha strode forward, Harmony seemed to have sensed Samantha's presence and turned around abruptly to make eye contact with Samantha.

Harmony's eyes widened and she was somewhat stunned to see Samantha's presence. It was almost as if she did not expect Samantha to show up there and walk over so blatantly.

Her first reaction was to whisper to the man. "Sir, please leave. I'll stop her."

She knew that he did not want to reveal his identity.

Harmony then immediately walked over to Samantha and spread her arms before her while scolding, "What are you doing here, Samantha?"

From the moment Samantha stepped into the garden, her eyes were fixed on the man Harmony addressed as 'Sir'. From Samantha's angle, all that could be seen was his back.

His figure suggested that he was a tall and thin man. He was wearing a large black trench coat that covered nearly his entire body. In addition, there was only a faint light in the garden, making it difficult to see clearly, especially when it came to his face.

Harmony's act of blocking her way made it abundantly clear that Harmony did not want her to pass, but the man in front had already started walking toward the other side of the garden.

Was he leaving?

Samantha was determined to see that man's true face!

She gritted her teeth, grabbed Harmony's arm with both hands, and pushed her aside forcefully. "Get the hell out of my way!"

Harmony's strength was inherently inferior to Samantha's and was immediately thrown to one side. However, Samantha only managed to take two steps forward before Harmony hugged Samantha's waist with both hands and gave everything to try and stop her.

Samantha was already thoroughly incensed and that anger surged much more when Harmony tried to stall her.

She no longer treated Harmony kindly and immediately reached back to grab Harmony's hair.

Harmony cried out in pain, "Let go of me, you b*tch!"

"Sure!"

Samantha pulled harder, forcing Harmony to stand up straight. She then gave Harmony a resounding kick on the knee.

The high heels Samantha wore that day were rather tall and slender. The stabbing pain made Harmony's knees go weak and she knelt in front of Samantha.

Harmony wailed in pain and could no longer stand up again.

Samantha gazed down icily at Harmony.

She would have ridiculed Harmony a couple of times in the past, but on that occasion, she had no time to be paying attention to Harmony because the priority was to find out who that man was.

Samantha strode past Harmony and immediately chased after the man.

The garden had winding paths and there were plenty of plants blocking the view at every turn. Samantha could not catch up for a moment, so she could only try her best to follow him and refrain from getting lost.

After all, she had already startled the man, and if she could not find out who that man was that day, it would be even more difficult for her to know his identity in the future!

She was at a severe disadvantage if her enemy was always in the dark while she was in plain view!

The man in the trench coat walked faster and faster, perhaps because Samantha was chasing him, and he took a big detour around the garden before finally walking back into the building along the porch.

Samantha frowned.

He would have reached the banquet venue if he walked back in, and the place was so full of guests that it would be very difficult for her to locate him once he was in.

Moreover, she could not just accuse him recklessly if she went in and chased after him. If any trouble was caused, Timothy would not let her off the hook!

Samantha quickened her pace and ran towards him as fast as she could.

As soon as the man stepped into the venue, Samantha ran up to his rear. She did not give him any chance to escape at all and grabbed his shoulders with one hand while using all her strength to push his body over.

Her pupils looked right at the man's face as soon as she turned him around.

During the key moment that Samantha was about to get a good look at him, her vision immediately turned black.

She was left stunned.

The lights had gone out at that exact moment and the entire place was pitch-black.

The man's face was hidden by the darkness and she could not see a single thing.

Seizing her absent-minded moment, the man removed her hand suddenly and walked off.

Samantha reacted quickly enough and reached out to grab him, but all she managed to grasp was thin air.

The lights suddenly came on again and Samantha narrowed her eyes because she was unaccustomed to the sudden change in brightness.

The emcee apologized from the stage. "I'm sorry, everyone. There was a little power trip due to the hotel's unstable current. No need to panic, everything's back to normal now."

Samantha scanned her surroundings but could not find anyone tall and thin wearing a black trench coat.

She walked grudgingly back into the crowd while keeping her eyes peeled for anyone suspicious.

Samantha then saw the man standing beside Michael. The man was talking to Timothy while holding a glass of champagne. Her footsteps stopped and she looked at the man in surprise.

Why was he here?

Timothy seemed aware of her gaze and his black pupils glanced at her. As soon as he saw her standing there in a daze, he frowned as if he was dissatisfied.

Samantha felt the pressure coming from him and regained her senses. She immediately adjusted her emotions and smiled before walking towards Timothy.

She consciously walked back to Timothy's side and stood there.

Timothy gazed at her tender and doting look that was unlike any other. He curled his long fingers to tuck a lock of hair behind her ears and said, "You're back."

Samantha smiled back, "Mhmm."

She then glanced over at the man standing beside Michael and pretended not to know him as she asked, "And who might this be?"

Michael introduced the man to her very enthusiastically. "Mrs. Barker, this is Theodore McKinnon, my good friend, and business partner."

It turned out that her master's name was Theodore McKinnon.

Although he mentioned the other day that he would come back to meet Samantha, she did not expect him to know Michael and even show up to the dinner without notifying her in advance.

Michael and Theodore seemed to have a very good relationship.

Theodore smiled gently and stretched out his hand toward Samantha. "It's nice meeting you, Mrs. Barker."

Although Samantha had lots of questions, she understood tacitly and pretended as if they just met for the first time. She reached out and shook hands with him, saying politely, "The pleasure's mine as well, Mr. McKinnon."

Samantha's eyes looked on Theodore.

When he was in the 'underworld', his appearance was much more casual, donning his signature oversized T-shirt with washed-out jeans. His hair was very messy as well and he always looked very nonchalant.

Years had passed since she last saw him, and although his appearance had not changed, his fashion sense had changed completely.

On that day, he was dressed in a light-colored suit with his shiny hair slicked back in a dashing manner. He very much looked the part and had an air befitting his status as her master.

Samantha was very happy that he was doing well.

She had no opportunity to speak with him alone after the party because Theodore had left along with Michael and Lilian.

Samantha then figured that she could always meet him again some other time since he was already in the city anyway. Besides, she had more important things to tend to that night!

She raised her eyes and quickly scanned the four walls of the venue. Surveillance cameras were present all around.

Her vision came into focus, and when no one was paying attention to her, she untied the diamond necklace around her neck and hid it in her sleeve.

Under the cover of the table, she threw it to the ground and use her feet to kick it under a large ornamental vase, away from the cameras' field of vision.

After doing that, she secretly let out a sigh of relief.

Her anger would not ease that easily if she did not find that man!

If one of her valuable items were 'lost', she could ask the hotel to check the surveillance, and if that man came out of that venue, the surveillance footage might be able to capture his identity.

After completing her thought process, Samantha raised her head and turned around.

Her eyes met Timothy's gloomy eyes all of a sudden and she did not know how long he had been standing behind her. He was just staring at her with an inquisitive look in his eyes.

Samantha's heart began throbbing wildly all of a sudden..

Chapter 390: Go on A Date with Me!

Did Timothy catch what she did?

He did not trust her at the moment and was much more alert than before. If he suspected her in any way, it would be particularly troublesome for her.

Furthermore, she was unsure whether there was any connection between Timothy's second personality and that gentleman.

Samantha took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down. She then squeezed out a smile and asked, "Have the guests already left?"

Timothy's black eyes continued to stare at her and he nodded gently. "Yes."

He then asked, "What are you doing here?"

Samantha pursed her lips gently and tried her best to speak in as natural a tone as possible. "I've been socializing with you all night and drinking, but I haven't gotten anything to eat. I'm hungry, so I came to have some cake."

She turned slightly to reveal the cake in her hand, which was missing two bites.

Timothy glanced at it and said nothing.

Samantha could not help but breathe a sigh of relief. She was lucky to have been quick-witted enough to reach behind and hid a slice of cake in her palm when she noticed that something was wrong earlier.

For the moment, it looked as though she succeeded to bluff her way through it.

At that point, Ronald came over and said respectfully, "Mr. Barker, the car is already waiting at the door."

Timothy nodded and shifted his gaze away from Samantha. He then stretched out his long legs and turned around to leave.

Samantha was speechless.

What in the world was he doing? Was he planning to leave all by himself and leave her to go home alone in the middle of the night?

Although she knew that Timothy's second personality was a scumbag with terrible behavior, she had still accompanied him to socialize tonight, allowed herself to be dressed like a doll, wore those high heels, and stood for several hours while drinking alcohol on an empty stomach!

What the hell was wrong with him? Did he actually burn his bridges after getting to the other side and treat her as less than human once she lost her value?

She looked at Timothy's tall and straight rear figure and was struggling hard to not take off her high heels and stabbing the man on the back of his head!

Unfortunately, she could not do that!

'He's ill!'

'He's very ill right now!'

'I have to be tolerant and patient! I'm an understanding person who shouldn't be offended over the actions of someone with an unsound mind!'

Samantha tried her best to comfort herself and quickly grabbed a tissue from the table. She then wiped her palms clean and lifted her skirt slightly to give chase.

At the hotel entrance, Ronald opened the car's rear seat door for Timothy to bend down slightly and get in.

All of a sudden, he felt the hem of his jacket being grabbed.

He froze instantly and turned around to look behind him, only to see Samantha standing there with an aggrieved look while clutching his jacket hem.

Samantha was a beautiful woman to begin with, but she looked even more stunning due to how she was dressed up that night.

She was only wearing a thin evening dress at that moment. The wind was quite strong outside and the temperature was extremely low, causing her body to shiver a little as she had a little frown on her face. Even the tip of her nose and her ears were red from the cold.

That, in addition to those soft, gentle, and beautiful dark eyes looking at him, could easily arouse feelings of care and sympathy in those that laid eyes on her.

However, Timothy looked at her for a few seconds with an unmoved expression and said insipidly, "What's the matter?"

Samantha was utterly speechless.

She wanted to drill Timothy's head open to have a look at what was inside. Did he have to ask that when she was looking at him like that?

Samantha once again repeated to herself, 'He's ill. He's very ill! Don't haggle so much about him!'

Her voice trembled as she spoke due to the cold wind. "It's really late, Timothy. Shouldn't you bring me home?"

Timothy frowned slightly.

Before he could refuse, Samantha quickly added, "Even if you're just pretending, you have to keep it up until the very end, right? Look around, there are plenty of people watching..."

Although the guests had all left, the hotel staff were all looking in her direction.

If Timothy simply left her behind, he would be making the headlines on the entertainment page again tomorrow.

The man looked up and glanced across the staff at the door, all of whom were peeking out from behind the curtains. Although he did not think they dared to leak any news out, but...

He then looked at Samantha's face again.

Her little face that was red with cold did seem...a little pitiful.

Timothy straightened his body and raised his chin at Samantha. "Get in."

Samantha immediately got in without hesitation as she was feeling very cold.

Timothy then went in immediately afterward.

Ronald closed the door, walked quickly to the driver's seat, then opened the door and sat in before starting the car.

The heater inside the car had already been switched on and Samantha rubbed her hands together before feeling herself coming back to life.

She glanced at Timothy and was speechless when she saw him sitting there blankly.

It appeared that playing the damsel in distress did not affect him whatsoever!

She still had a long way to go before she could gain control over Timothy's second personality!

20 minutes later, the car arrived at the apartment building but Samantha did not get off the car.

Timothy glanced at her. "What's the matter? Do you still need me to get down and send you to the door?"

The inner Samantha rolled her eyes at him.

'Seriously! I'd be better off hoping that the sun rises from the west rather than expecting a straight man like him to show any form of thoughtfulness.'

However, Samantha did not show any emotion on her face and maintained her smile. She turned her head to look at him and asked softly, "Since I've fulfilled your request, shouldn't you also fulfill your promise to me?"

Samantha did not have to choose that time to mention it, but she wanted to strike while the iron was hot. What if something untoward happened and Timothy was no longer willing to fulfill his end of the bargain?

Then she being his tool for the entire night would be in vain.

Timothy cocked his eyebrows slightly. "What is it?"

He was curious to see what Samantha wanted to do!

Even if she said that her conditions had nothing to do with her precious son, he believed that it would involve the boy somehow or rather.

Samantha looked intently at him with her dark and beautiful eyes. Her red lips parted ever so slightly as she said, "Go on a date with me, Timothy!"

A date?

Timothy's indifferent expression went blank for a few seconds.

He never imagined that she would make such an...unexpected yet funny request.

Did she honestly want to go on a date with him?

Timothy could not help but sneer.

Samantha seemed to have expected that reaction from him but she still looked at him and said seriously, "Do you think I'm joking with you? I'm being serious here!"

"Timothy, my condition is that you agree to go on a date with me."

The man looked directly into her eyes.

Her eyes were bright, luminous, and seemed to have a burning strength within them.

She did not look like she was playing tricks or joking with him.

Their relationship was supposed to be that of mortal enemies, yet she wanted to go on a date with him?

It was ridiculous!

Timothy's thin lips parted and his voice was as cold as ever when he asked, "Why?"

Chapter 391: Good Night, Hubby

Samantha leaned her face close to Timothy's.

The distance between them narrowed all of a sudden and they were so close that their breaths were interwoven.

Samantha curled her lips in a sweet smile and deliberately kept him in suspense. "If you promise to go on a date with me, I'll answer you on the day of our date."

Having a little back-and-forth was always good when it came to little games between men and women.

She had to toss some bait to get him hooked.

Timothy's lips curled up too.

He could very well see what Samantha had in mind, and in the past, he would have felt that it was childish and boring.

He was frequently able to see through what went on inside a person's mind with only a simple glance and felt that it was rather boring.

However, Samantha was a little different.

He knew that she felt the same for him as he did for her, that is, the desire for the other party to be forever gone from their lives.

Her actions, however, were often very unexpected.

He was never one to be misled by such acts and enjoyed a challenge.

In any case, killing Samantha would be as easy as killing an ant, so he felt that there was no harm seeing what kind of tricks she could pull on him.

Timothy's lips parted open and he spoke in a low, mellifluous voice, "Okay, let's go on a date then."

His voice was very seductive when heard up close and Samantha's heart unconsciously skipped a beat as the tip of her nose turned slightly red.

Timothy seemed to have noticed it and looked at her with a half-smile.

Samantha touched her nose in embarrassment and immediately sat back down as she chastised herself in her heart.

Her beauty failed to work its magic on him, but she was almost captivated by his handsomeness. What a huge blunder that could have been.

His handsome face was all to blame!

It was human nature to be attracted to beautiful things... and she was human too!

After clearing her throat slightly, Samantha reverted to indifference and said, "It's a deal then. I'll send you the time and place. I'll be going up now."

After that, Samantha opened the door and got out of the car.

When she was about to close the door, she bent down slightly and leaned her little face in so she could say sweetly to Timothy, "Good night, Hubby."

After saying that, Samantha seemed to feel rather shy as she closed the door decisively and rushed quickly into the apartment.

Timothy turned around and looked through the car window to watch Samantha's slender figure disappear from view. His handsome face remained expressionless as he said, "Drive."

Ronald acknowledged the order and started driving away.

Timothy was unsure if it was the alcohol that he drank that evening or the car heating was turned on a little too high, but he felt somewhat hot and yanked off his tie before unbuttoning two of his shirt buttons.

None of his actions managed to cool himself in any way, so he ordered again in a slightly hoarse voice, "Turn off the heater."

Ronald was speechless.

He wondered if he had heard wrongly because the weather outside was very cold, and the car interior would become just as cold once the heating was turned off.

Seeing that Ronald did not do anything yet, Timothy frowned and his voice became cold as he uttered, "Hmm?"

Ronald trembled in fright and turned off the heating at once.

His big boss's anger was more terrifying than the cold wind, and he would rather be cold than bear the brunt of that anger.

Ronald wondered why Timothy felt so hot for no good reason when he felt that the temperature was just right...

He did not understand what was going on.

His big boss's heart was something he could never comprehend.

...

Once the car disappeared into the night, Samantha walked back out of the apartment building.

She had gone upstairs and changed quickly into some warm and comfortable sportswear. Then, she walked to her car, got in, and started the engine before driving away.

Since it was already very late and the road was quite empty, she arrived at the hotel rather quickly.

She looked for the manager after entering the hotel and said that she needed to check the surveillance footage because she had lost her necklace.

Samantha was in the limelight earlier that night, and whoever that questioned the stability of her position as Mrs. Barker had seen for themselves that she held that status very stably!

The manager did not dare to offend Samantha of course, and since the necklace she was wearing that night was priceless, his head would be the first to roll if it was lost!

Without saying another word, the manager respectfully led Samantha into the surveillance room and even served her some tea and cakes.

He even offered to help, but she immediately waved her hand and said, "Thank you, I can do it myself. You can help me with guarding the door. I don't want to be disturbed."

The manager nodded repeatedly. "Yes, Mrs. Barker."

After he went out, Samantha immediately sat in front of the monitoring screen and adjusted the time of the footage from the venue.

It was about two and a half hours into the party.

The man in the black trench coat appeared inside a few frames, but none of the many cameras within the venue managed to capture his face.

All that the cameras managed to capture was his neck.

She could not glean any useful information when his entire body was wrapped so tightly!

Samantha frowned.

She observed carefully again and was immediately struck by a surprising discovery.

When the lights went out and the man broke free from her hand, she thought he would take the opportunity to leave the venue. However, once the lights came back on, his figure was not seen exiting the main entrance.

Besides, the time of the blackout was only ten seconds, and walking from the venue to the main entrance took at least a minute. It was therefore illogical for him to leave during the blackout.

In that case, did he continue mingling in the venue instead of leaving it when he broke free of her?

Did he expect her to check the surveillance footage after the event for fear of being tracked down by her? Or perhaps he thought that the most dangerous place was the safest and that by hiding in plain sight, before leaving with everyone after the end of the banquet, would be the best solution?

If it was the latter, then his quick-wits had come back to bite him.

Timothy brought her to socialize with almost all the guests that evening. She had a good memory and could probably rule out which one of those guests appeared out of nowhere.

Samantha continued to look at the footage and checked every guest.

In the end, the person that had been filtered out...was actually...Theodore, her master.

Samantha could not help but rub her eyebrows.

She and Theodore had been in the underground world for more than half a year, and in her eyes, he was both a master and a father figure to her.

He had been very kind to her too, saving her life countless times and helping her through so many difficulties.

If Rochelle was at the top of the list of people who would not betray her, then Theodore would be a close second.

She never believed that he would do anything to hurt her.

Furthermore, there was no reason for him to do those things. He did not know Timothy, and he ought to have no relation with the Barkers.

On second thought, she wondered if she had ever truly known him.

Could time have changed him?

Samantha felt a tingling pain on both sides of her temples.

Being betrayed by someone whom one was close with and trusted the most was more painful than anything. She did not want to experience it again.

However, she could not just form conclusions based on that. After all, it was just pure speculation in the absence of any evidence.

Samantha became increasingly restless with each passing thought and was unable to calm herself down in that short time frame.. All of a sudden, her phone started ringing.