

Pampered 111

Chapter 111 The moment Mr. Jackson said that, the man on the phone replied in surprise, "Yeah! How did you know that? I've never heard of her name in the past. All I knew was that she's called Tina Lynd. Do you know her?"

"No, I don't. Make sure to not leak this information to the public, by the way. Be careful of Samuel. He's a difficult one."

As soon as he was done talking, Mr. Jackson ended the call. He stared at Tina, who stood in front of him. Disbelief was apparent in his eyes.

"How is this possible?! If Samuel really did marry you, then why doesn't anyone else know about this?" he asked.

Moreover, Mr. Jackson could see that Tina was dressed in a cheap and ugly outfit. With Samuel's current position and power, there was no way he would let the woman he loved work for someone else while dressed so hideously.

"I have no obligation to answer you anything. Anyway, stop bothering me already. If Samuel found out about what you've done, you should know what consequences await you," Tina warned Mr. Jackson.

She turned on her heel and left. This time, Mr. Jackson no longer went after her.

To think that he was enticed by a woman for the first time ever and desired to pursue her, only to find out that she was Samuel Langford's wife..

Perhaps there were hidden stories beneath this marriage. Was she forced to marry him? When Mr. Jackson noticed that Tina was about to cross the road, he decided to leave as well. At that moment, a van rushed out from a corner. The door was opened in a hurry, and an assailant dragged Tina into the vehicle. Tina wasn't given a chance to struggle at all. Just like that, she and the van disappeared into the horizon. Mr. Jackson inhaled sharply upon witnessing the abduction. "F*ck!" he shouted.

Those people must be crazy to abduct someone right in front of him! Hold on... Could they be targeting Samuel from the start?

The more Mr. Jackson thought about it, the higher the probability. If the reason behind Tina's abduction was truly connected to Samuel, then it wasn't something he could partake in.

Still, there was no way that Mr. Jackson would stand there and watch Tina getting dragged into danger. After gritting his teeth, he quickly dialed a string of numbers.

"Who's this?" Samuel's voice came from the speaker.

Mr. Jackson replied, "Tina Lynd is your wife, right? Someone abducted her just now. Hurry and save her!"

The moment Mr. Jackson was done speaking, he quickly ended the call. Then, he called his own father.

“Dad, I accidentally got myself into trouble and involved myself with Samuel’s woman without knowing. You have to make some arrangements for me, and fast! I want to hide in another country until everything blows over,” Mr. Jackson requested.

Lord Jackson, Mr. Jackson’s father, was so angry that he almost popped a vein when he received the news. “It’s bad enough that you’ve been sleeping with every woman you meet all the time, but you’ve actually gotten yourself tangled with Mr. Langford’s woman?! Even if you have a death wish, I still want to live! D*mn it!” he roared into his phone, infuriated.

“Send someone to pick me up as soon as possible!” Mr. Jackson said before ending the call. He then gazed at the direction Tina was driven to, worry evident in his eyes. With Samuel plotting the rescue, she should be fine. Right...?

Right after Mr. Jackson hung up on Samuel, the latter rose immediately from his seat. Why would that man know about his relationship with Tina? He even referred to her as his wife...

Everyone’s gazes were fixed on Samuel the moment he stood. They waited for his answer anxiously.

“The meeting is on hold!” Samuel announced before striding out in a hurry. “Sandy, find out where Tina is right now!”

A strange sensation started spreading from within his heart. For some reason, he felt slightly unsettled the moment the mysterious caller told him that Tina was abducted. He was quick to chalk it up to him viewing Tina as a useful asset to him, however.

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After all, Madam Langford only had half a year left to live. She absolutely mustn’t suffer from any form of emotional triggers. No matter how much Samuel hated that disgusting Tina, it wasn’t time for her to die yet.

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Several minutes after Tina was dragged into the van, her hands and feet bound tight, she found herself in an abandoned factory. The factory was located in a rural area. Despite her efforts, she quickly realized that escape was impossible. Despair flooded Tina’s heart. She gazed at the leader, whose face was scarred, and asked, “Why did you abduct me? I didn’t go around seducing anyone’s husbands! If this is about money, I’ll give it to you! Please, just let me go...” “Let you go? Keep dreaming, woman!” Scarface laughed coldly in response. “That’s impossible. Someone offered us thirty million dollars for your life. They also want us to enjoy you thoroughly before we kill you. How could we possibly let you go?” “Why?” Tina couldn’t believe her ears. Still, she held onto the trace of hope in her heart and pleaded, “I don’t have any enemies! How could there be someone willing to pay you thirty million dollars for my life? You must’ve gotten the wrong person...”

“Oh, Tina Lynd! They might have gotten the wrong person, but I’ll never fail to recognize the right person. I want you dead!”

At that very moment, a smug voice spoke from outside the factory. A figure emerged, and Tina was able to see the newcomer’s face clearly.

“Miss Young?!” To say Tina was shocked would be an understatement. Before the revelation, multiple thoughts filled Tina’s head. Perhaps Samuel had decided to kill her, or perhaps other forces at work were the secret masterminds...

To think that the one who wanted her dead was none other than the kind-hearted Cindy Young, whom Samuel loved with all his heart!

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Cindy had always put on the facade of a saintly woman whose benevolence had no peer. Samuel never saw through her disguise, much less Tina! Never once did Tina pick up on the hints. In fact, she would always feel guilty whenever she saw Cindy.

At that moment, the aforementioned woman approached Tina with a slow strut. The sight of the latter’s haggard look heightened Cindy’s arrogance.

“Tina, you f*cking b*tch! I’ve been tolerating you for a long time. Ever since you climbed into Samuel’s bed, I’ve always wanted to hack you into pieces! Oh, right. You have no idea, do you? By the way, I was the one who leaked the whole thing with Mr. Wallace! Who would’ve thought that ab*tch like you would survive the ordeal? It’s a good thing Samuel doesn’t care about you the slightest! Now that you’re in my hands, I’ll make sure to torture you to my heart’s content! I’ll make sure to relieve every bit of my hatred for you!” Cindy announced, cackling. The sound was no different from a witch’s evil laugh.

Tina could only grit her teeth in frustration. Never in her wildest dreams did imagine Cindy to harbor so much hate for her from the beginning. Despite the sorrow that overcame her, Tina still wanted to explain herself as a final ditch effort to survive.

“Miss Young, listen to me. Mr. Langford doesn’t like me at all! Didn’t he say that he wants to marry you? You two are the true couple, and I’m only here under Grandma’s orders! Besides, she’s awfully ill right now. The doctor said that she won’t live for more than half a year! My life isn’t worth anything, so it’s fine if I were to die right now. But Grandma’s health is far more important! Please, at least let me live for another half a year! Once Grandma passes, I’ll definitely leave, so...”

Smack!

A heavy slap made contact with Tina’s cheek, cutting her off instantly. Cindy gripped Tina by the hair like a lunatic, her usually pretty face twisted into an ugly, warped expression. Cindy began to spit venom. “F*cking b*tch! How dare you mention that in front of me! If it wasn’t for you, I’d be married to Samuel a long time ago! He’s been treating me like his sister for so many years ... No matter how much I tried to seduce him, he wasn’t moved at all. And then a filthy b*tch came along, and climbed into his bed in just one night!”

In the throes of fury, she went on, “Grandma Langford’s obsessed over you to the point that she defends you from everything! That old b*tch has never paid any attention to me! I can’t wait for her to die so she can stop messing with my plans! How is it that you’re the one who can sleep with Samuel, but I can’t?! That’s why I want you dead! Since you’re so good at seducing men, I won’t let you rest in peace! I want to know if Samuel still cares about you once he finds out that you’re dead!”

All sorts of thoughts crammed Tina's mind. She knew how much Samuel hated her, so there was no way he would care about her.

Cindy took in Tina's ragged appearance as she accepted a syringe from one of the goons, an evil smirk playing on her red lips.

"The moment I stab you with this syringe, Tina, your life will be over!" she crowed, filled with maniacal glee.

Chapter 113 Tina was already feeling uncomfortable from the start. The abduction had sapped her strength, so she couldn't muster the energy to struggle against her bonds.

She could only close her eyes in despair and said through clenched teeth, "You'll definitely reap what you sowed, Miss Young." "Is that so?" Cindy laughed before replying smugly, "I don't believe in such things! Back then, I took on someone else's identity and caused Samuel to treat me this way. Today, I'll step on you and become Samuel's one and only woman!

By then, Tina no longer had the energy to decipher what Cindy meant.

Just as Cindy was about to make her move, her phone suddenly rang. Victor's voice could be heard from the other end of the line. He reported anxiously, "Miss Young, this is bad! Mr. Langford has discovered Tina's plight! He's on the way here, and he's about to arrive soon!" "What?!" Cindy couldn't believe her ears. "How is it possible for him to know about Tina's abduction?! He was still at the meeting!" "Mr. Langford received a call earlier, so he paused the meeting. After that, Sandy found out about Tina's location in the abandoned factory. I'm about to move out with the rest of the bodyguards soon. You must hurry up and leave, Miss Young!" Victor explained in a hurry. He quickly hung up on Cindy right after he was done speaking, as though frightened of rousing anyone else's suspicion. Cindy was so furious that her expression became twisted. She delivered a few more slaps to Tina's face once more before grabbing a fistful of her hair and asking her darkly, "Who the hell is helping you, huh? I made sure to hide all traces of the abduction, so it's impossible for Samuel or Mr. Carter to find out! Who the hell told Samuel about this abduction?!"

Tina was too weak to fight back, so she could only smile weakly and reply mockingly, "How would I know? Maybe there's someone out there who hates how evil you are, Miss Young." "How dare you talk back to me even when you're about to die!" Cindy howled furiously. Cindy wanted nothing more than to stay back and witness Tina getting tortured, but due to Samuel's eventual arrival, she was forced to leave for now.

Cindy then turned to the other goons. "You lot, take her away. Drown her in some river, I don't care. Don't drag this out. Once everything's done, take the money and leave Freesia immediately. If Samuel finds out about this, neither of us will survive the consequences!"

Scarface and the other goons showed obvious disappointment over the fact that they couldn't enjoy ravaging a beautiful woman like Tina.

However, they knew very well of Samuel's cruel methods. All they wanted was money. There was no way they would mess around when their lives were at stake. They quickly grabbed Tina and dragged her toward the van that was parked outside the abandoned factory.

Suddenly, Tina wiggled out of the bonds that bound her hands and feet. She quickly picked up a metal pipe from the ground and, without hesitation, smashed it into the goon's head in front of her.

"Argh!" That goon never expected that Tina would still try to survive after all this time. Right after she landed her hit, Tina bolted out of the area with all her might. Fortunately for her, the abandoned factory was surrounded by a large forest. As long as she was able to hide there and wait until Samuel made his appearance, she would be safe. With that thought in mind, Tina ran as quickly as lightning. Even if pangs of pain started flaring from her stomach, she didn't dare to stop in her tracks. She found a secluded corner to hide in. Even though she realized that no one was chasing after her, she dared not let her guard down at all. However, Tina's earlier stomachache returned with a vengeance. The pain intensified more and more. She suddenly felt something gushing out beneath her. She caressed the spot, only to find bloodstains there. This discovery filled Tina with terror. Was her period here in advance, or had she suffered from internal injuries? Before she could ponder any further, she heard the loud rotor sounds of a helicopter flying above her head. Gunshots and car engines could be heard in the distance.

Samuel was here! Tina's tense nerves gradually relaxed. She could no longer hold on, so she started to lie down slowly...

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After an unknown period of time, she felt herself being cradled into a pair of strong arms that belonged to a man. At the same time, she smelled the familiar smell of tobacco, which reassured her greatly.

When Tina finally regained her consciousness, she realized that she was in the hospital filled with a strong smell of disinfectant.

She quickly got up, anxious. After making sure that she was finally, she slowly calmed down. "Mr. Langford!" A subordinate's voice suddenly rang from outside the ward, which gave Tina another huge scare.

At that moment, Samuel opened the ward's door. The first thing he saw was Tina cowering in a corner

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Tina's eyes were filled with raw terror. She was covered in bruises and lacerations that indicated her earlier torture from head to toe. The moment Samuel laid his eyes on her battered form, he couldn't help but feel frightened for her.

It was a good thing she was alive.

No matter how much Samuel hated Tina, he couldn't help but soften his tone when he spoke. "Don't worry. Those people were criminals who were on the run. They were shot to death on sight. All you need to do now is to recover," he said. Tina was stunned when she heard those words. "They're all dead?" "That's right. They're dead. No one will hurt you anymore," Samuel affirmed. Tina's emotions started running rampant at that moment. She grabbed Samuel's hand as she asked, "W-What about Cindy?" Samuel couldn't help but frown. "What does this have to do with her?" It was clear that he didn't know about Cindy's involvement. "She was the one who wanted me dead!" Tina explained hurriedly. "She spent thirty million dollars to kill me! The reason why I got captured by Mr. Wallace back then was thanks to her leaking the news! The one who wants me dead is Cindy! She's..." However, Tina

couldn't continue speaking. She noticed Samuel's eyes slowly becoming cold. "Are you done?" Samuel looked at the woman in front of him, his tone coated with disdain. Whenever he started sympathizing with Tina, she would use her actions to remind him how manipulative and cunning she was. Even after going through that much turmoil and suffering, she insisted on framing Cindy, who was obviously innocent. "Tina, let me remind you that Cindy has stuck by my side for ten years. It's impossible for her to do this sort of thing. Stop trying to sully her name! I'll pretend you're spouting nonsense since you're heavily injured, but if you do that again next time, I won't ever let you off the hook," he snarled darkly.

Samuel shook Tina's hand off ruthlessly, which resulted in the needle being pulled out of her arm as well.

The sharp pain flared from her arm, but she no longer cared. Her heart had sunk upon hearing Samuel's response.

Right. Samuel never believed her from the start.

Samuel and Cindy were deeply in love with each other. He wanted nothing more than to marry her, but Tina's appearance obviously threw a wrench in his plans. Since he hated her so much, why would he believe in anything she said?

When Samuel noticed how pale Tina looked, he couldn't help but frown again. "Is there anything else you want to tell me?"

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"No," Tina replied quietly.. She finally realized her purpose in Samuel's plan. To him, she was just a tool to gain Madam Langford's favor. What else could she say to him when she was already reduced to that? All she needed to do was stick to her role and stay with Madam Langford during the old lady's final months. After that, she would leave everything.

Meanwhile, Samuel couldn't help but feel annoyed. That woman had always been sassy and stubborn, not to mention, she never surrendered. What was she planning to do by looking all defeated and feeble? Was she putting on another act for him?

"Tina, you..."

Sandy chose to appear outside the ward at that moment.

"Mr. Langford, we've discovered some news related to Miss Lynd..." he reported. Tina was stunned. What did Sandy mean by that?

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"Speak." Samuel's tone was awfully cold.

Sandy shot a look in Tina's direction before replying, "Mr. Langford, we've tracked down the identity of the person who called you. It was Mr. Jackson from the Jackson family, from the time..."

It referred to the time Tina bumped into Mr. Jackson in the nightclub.

Tina finally realized something. It was precisely because of that phone call that Samuel had discovered her plight, hence his rescue...

She didn't expect the caller to be Mr. Jackson. Despite her swift rejection of his advances, he still chose to help her out. Her tone tinged with slight worry, Tina asked, "Where's Mr. Jackson right now?" Sandy didn't bother answering her question. Instead, he handed over the documents that he had been holding to Samuel to read. The latter scanned through them once, his expression instantly darkening. He hadn't paid attention to Tina recently, and she had already started seducing Mr. Jackson. Now, she was actually caring about another man right before his eyes. "You're quite amazing, aren't you? You just won't stop seducing men wherever you go. How dare you show your concern for an adulterer in front of me?" he snarled, livid. As expected, Samuel knew he shouldn't place his hopes on this worthless woman.

On the other hand, Tina was completely disappointed in Samuel after hearing him defending Cindy so strongly. Since he never believed her, Tina decided that she shouldn't waste her time in explaining anything to him. Besides, once Tina was done accompanying Grandma Langford on her journey to the afterlife, Samuel would be dying to get a divorce with her.

"Yeah. Can't I do that?" Tina chuckled coldly before replying in a mocking tone, "I'm just a tool to comfort Grandma, not your real wife. Do you think I'm going to become a living widow?"

Her response ignited the fury within Samuel's core. His gaze became incredibly frightening as he strangled Tina mercilessly with one hand, uncaring if she was injured. "I've never met a wh*re like you, Tina!"

Tina was unable to breathe properly. However, the sight of Samuel's furious expression didn't frighten her at all. She had lost count of how many near-death experiences she had, after all.

"Kill me now if you have the balls! End my suffering now so that I can go to the afterlife and keep Grandma company!" Tina replied furiously. "So what if I'm acting like a wh*re, huh? You're not my real husband, so why should I care about your opinion?"

"You..."

Tina's words were akin to a sharp dagger that stabbed Samuel's heart on the spot. He wanted nothing more than to strangle the life out of the woman who repaid his kindness with malice, but the sight of her stubborn gaze reminded him of Grandma Langford, who was suffering from poor health. Samuel could only release his hold on Tina angrily and leave the ward with a thunderous expression, making sure to slam the door on her.

Tina knew there was no salvaging her relationship with Samuel, so she collapsed onto her bed. She closed her eyes and drifted away into dreamland. Once Samuel left the ward, he got into his car. Tina's words made him so angry that his head started throbbing. Still, he suppressed his emotions and barked out an order. "Sandy, gather everyone and continue the meeting!" "Yes, Mr. Langford," Sandy replied respectfully. Samuel closed his eyes in an attempt to rest. He really wanted to forget about that heartless woman, but images of her kept popping into his mind. She kept getting entangled in Mr. Jackson's affairs. Not only that, but she also repaid his kindness with malice by mocking him all the time. Once she woke up, she started lashing out anxiously and even told him that Cindy was the mastermind behind her abduction.

Was that really the case?

Samuel could feel his headache worsening. He shouldn't have suspected Cindy – after all, she did save his life in the past. Also, he did have intimate relations with her on the night when he had lost control of himself.

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However...

When Tina shot that disappointed look in his direction, for some reason, his breath got hitched in his throat.

Once Samuel regained his senses, he realized he had pulled out his phone and dialed Cindy's number. In the past, she would always pick up his calls straight away. Yet today, no one picked up today. A frown graced his features as a seed of suspicion started taking root within his heart.

Meanwhile, Cindy cowered in a corner while staring at the name that popped up on her phone screen in fright. She grabbed Victor's arm tightly while asking fearfully, "What should I do? Samuel's calling me right now! He can't have discovered the truth, right?" The sight of a weak-looking and helpless Cindy made Victor's heart ache for her. "Don't worry, Miss Young. Tina won't be able to affect your relationship with Mr. Langford," he tried to soothe her. All Cindy could mutter was, "You don't know anything. You have no idea at all..." She spent ten years fooling everyone into thinking that she was the woman Samuel loved the most. However, she was the only one who knew that everything she had gained today was all thanks to a necklace. If Samuel were to find out that she was an impostor, then she would definitely die the most painful death... The reason why Samuel cared about her even more right now was because she was the impostor who took on Tina's identity as the one who was intimate with him that night. What happened after that? After that night, Cindy used every method she could think of to try and bear a child in order to strengthen her position within the Langford family, but Samuel wasn't tempted at all. The man she tried so hard to seduce ended up losing control right in front of Tina. How could she not be scared and worried?

Soon, Cindy's phone stopped ringing. Victor's phone was the one that rang instead. He didn't have the guts to ignore that phone call, so he picked it up immediately. "Mr. Langford," he began nervously. "Where's Cindy right now?" Samuel's tone was apathetic. Cindy started quaking even more after hearing that question. Victor quickly replied, "Miss Young hasn't been feeling well, so she's currently resting. Is there anything you need from her, Mr. Langford? I'll get her on the phone immediately." Samuel was silent for a moment, making both Victor and Cindy anxious. It took a while before Samuel finally replied, "There's no need for that. Her health has always been poor, after all. I'll have Sandy send over some supplements for her later. I'll come see her tonight."

After Samuel was done speaking, he hung up right away, certain that he was overthinking things. A dark expression was plastered on his face. That Tina woman was able to make him lose all sense of judgment. This was not a good sign. Meanwhile, Cindy was surprised and delighted to hear Samuel's reply. Soon, Sandy arrived at her room. After poking around, Cindy found out that Tina and Samuel had gone through a huge fight because of her relationship with Mr. Jackson.

Thanks to that, Cindy was able to survive the ordeal. She couldn't help but say smugly, "I knew it! That filthy b*tch tends to seduce men everywhere she goes! I'm the only Samuel trusts, so how can he ever believe in her nonsense? I won't ever let her go! I'll make sure she suffers a fate worse than death!"

However, Victor sounded quite hesitant. "Miss Young, everyone knows how much Mr. Langford loves you. Why would you care about a wh*re like her?" Deep down, Cindy cursed Victor for being an idiotic buffoon. On the outside, she grabbed his hand and pretended to look pitiful.

"Victor, what you don't know is that I can't live without Samuel. I'll die without him. The whole ordeal about me dealing with Tina will be our secret, okay? You'll help me, won't you?"

Victor could never turn Cindy's request down. The sight of her pitiful appearance made him agree immediately. "Alright. I'll definitely help you out, Miss Young. If anything were to happen, you can always blame me for it. Think of it as my way to repay you for saving my life before."

Unbeknownst to him, all Cindy felt for him was disdain. Even if he never said anything about it, she wouldn't hesitate to make him the scapegoat if Samuel were to discover the truth.

At that time, she could only pretend to be touched by Victor's confession. She held his hand and said, "Victor, I just thought of another great idea. You're the only one who can pull this off, so please do this for me..."

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Tina woke up from the nightmare instantly. In her dream, she had returned to the time when she got abducted as an eight-year-old. Not only did she fail to save the injured boy, but she was also thrown into the river by Cindy and almost drowned there.

Her eyes snapped open immediately and she took in her surroundings. She couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief after that.

Tina was rescued by Samuel, but he didn't believe her explanation at all... It was all thanks to Mr. Jackson's decision to notify Samuel that she was still alive right now, but what if the same thing were to happen to her in the future? Would Samuel stand aside and watch her die?

Those thoughts clogged up Tina's mind immediately. Then, she saw the array of messages and notifications on her phone. One of them attracted her attention immediately. It was a message from an unknown phone number. "If you're rescued, reply to this message so that I know that you're safe," it wrote. The message was signed by Frederick Jackson.

Mr. Jackson was the sender.

Tina was worried she wouldn't be able to thank him for his help before that message popped up. She quickly called his number straight away. Soon, someone picked it up. Much to her surprise, a woman's voice sounded from the other end of the line.

"Hello? Who's this?"

Tina was stunned. She was sure that she dialed the right number, so she asked cautiously, "Hello. Is this Mr. Jackson's number?"

The moment she heard Tina's voice, the woman subconsciously clicked her tongue.

"Oh? Are you here to look for Mr. Jackson too?" she asked.

Tina could detect hints of hostility coming from the woman's voice, which annoyed her slightly. Since Mr. Jackson was an infamous casanova, this woman must have misunderstood her intentions.

"I'm Tina Lynd. Can you please pass the phone to Mr. Jackson? He helped me out some time ago, so I'd like to thank him," she explained, maintaining her neutral tone to avoid sounding like she was being submissive or oppressive.

The woman chortled coldly in response. "Why are you still pretending? You're the eighteenth woman who wanted to talk to Mr. Jackson today. Do you really take me for a fool? Hmph!"

She ended the call the moment she was done speaking. Tina was rendered speechless and quite helpless. She wanted to thank Mr. Jackson, but it seemed doing so was impossible.

Just then, Tina noticed a text message sent to her by one of her colleagues. They were inquiring about the reason behind her sudden disappearance.

She finally realized that she had skipped her shift once again thanks to the abduction. What was worse, her boss had warned her about her tardiness last time...

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Worries flooded Tina's brain immediately. She looked at her injuries before gritting her teeth and choosing to get discharged from the hospital. She wanted to explain everything to her boss and beg for another chance, even at the expense of getting half of her monthly salary deducted.

But once Tina arrived at the art studio, she realized that her boss wasn't in his office at all. She quickly found out that he would return from his business trip in the evening.

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Right after that, Tina realized that the clocking system had malfunctioned when she tried to clock in for work. Her colleagues were also keeping their distance from her. What was worse, everyone decided to not sit with her during lunchtime. Just as she was about to head toward the pantry, she heard a conversation from that room. "I can't believe she has the guts to come back to work! How shameless of her!" "Yeah! I was super surprised when I saw her! She tried to come over and talk to me earlier, so I quickly left! I don't want to get infected by her!" "Hey, do you think she's infected with that disease? Ugh, she's so disgusting! How can someone like her work with us?" Tina knew that her colleagues had the tendency to gossip. Initially, she wanted to avoid eavesdropping on them, so she planned to leave. Unexpectedly, someone asked the gossipers a million-dollar question. "Are you guys talking about Tina?"

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"Who else would we be talking about?" The colleague, who originally had a decent relationship with Tina, couldn't help but lament. "She's super disgusting! I was blind to have watched over her at work in the past! To think that she's a woman who'd sell her own body! How disgusting!"

When Tina heard her colleagues slandering her like that, she finally realized the reason why everyone ignored her today. Her head buzzing with countless thoughts, she rushed into the pantry impulsively out of anger.

“What the hell are you guys talking about? How dare you speak ill of people behind their backs! I hope your tongues rot and fall off one day!” Tina growled.

Surprised by her appearance, those colleagues decided to reveal their true colors. “Your face should be the one rotting first, you despicable homewrecker! You’re such a shameless wh*re!”

“What nonsense are you spouting this time?” Tina was so angry that her body shook. “Is it because of the b*llsh*t those hooligans spouted when they came here yesterday? You guys choose to believe them just like that?”

“Everything happens for a reason! Why are you blaming others for your own despicable actions? Why would they seek you instead of other people?”

“Stop accusing me of things I’ve never done! I can always sue you for slandering my name!” Tina replied angrily, clenching her fists.

“I speak nothing but the truth. You speak as if I’m scared of you suing me! I honestly have no idea how thick-faced you are for daring to return to this place. The things that you’ve done in the past are all exposed on the internet! What the hell are you acting all innocent for, huh?”

A colleague unlocked her phone and showed a news article to Tina.

“Your immorality has been exposed on the internet. Look at this article. Half a year ago, you seduced someone else’s boyfriend and got expelled as a result. After that, you start indulging in physical relationships with countless others! Someone sought you out and punished you for wrecking their marriage! All the evidence is here, so I’d like to see how you’ll defend yourself!”

Tina was shocked to find her picture plastered on Freesia’s local news. The reporter of that article used her old university’s forum thread that slandered her name back then and combined it with the incident where the hooligans sought her out yesterday as reference. They made up a completely false article based on those references.

She was so furious, her body shook. All of her colleagues in the pantry were staring at her mockingly, waiting for her to embarrass herself. Their eyes were filled with disdain, their

stares like needles pricking her heart without stopping.

But all Tina could say was, “Things aren’t like that!”

However, no one believed her.

“Listen to her! She’s still trying to lie to us after all this time!”

“How revolting. Everyone, stay away from her! Anyone who ate with her back then better go to the hospital for a checkup. Don’t get infected with weird diseases because of her!”

Tina could no longer bear to listen to such rumors slandering her name. She spun on her heel and ran out of the art studio. Just then, she bumped into her boss, who was returning from the outside.

“Ouch! Hey! Who ran into me?” the boss asked crossly.

Tina was stunned for a moment before she grasped onto her boss’ hand like he was her final hope. “Boss, you’re finally back! You know all about what happened to me, right? Please explain everything for me! I’m not that kind of woman...” The moment the boss noticed Tina, his expression changed drastically and he stepped away from her quickly. “You’re already fired, so what the hell are you doing here?” he hollered. Tina couldn’t believe her ears. Back then, her boss was kind to her and vowed to nurture her talent and potential. Why would he say such hurtful things? “I’ll give you three months’ worth of salary. It’s eighteen thousand dollars, so I’ll round it up to twenty thousand. Now, get the hell out of here! Don’t bring trouble to my art studio!” he added, impatient. Tina’s lips couldn’t help but tremble. “B-But...” “Are you trying to threaten me by using Mr. Carter’s name?” The boss chuckled coldly. “He’s on a business trip these days, so he doesn’t have time to deal with matters like this. Besides, he’s only staying in Freesia temporarily to deal with the collaboration, so he’s just toying around with you. Now that you’ve invited so much trouble to your doorstep, I advise you to think how you should explain everything to him later.” Then, the boss summoned the security guards to chase Tina out of the studio ruthlessly. Tina found herself walking aimlessly on the street. Not only did her injuries hurt, but her heart was also throbbing in pain. Why would everyone treat her like this? Who was the mastermind behind everything? If the mastermind knew about what happened to her in her university, did that mean the Lynds were the brains behind the operation? Tina’s head was crammed with all sorts of thoughts. Just then, her phone started ringing from her pocket. The caller was John Carter.

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When Tina saw John’s name being displayed on her phone screen, she didn’t dare to pick up the call. Fear flooded her mind at that instant. She was afraid that John had seen the news and refused to believe in her explanation. The phone kept ringing for a very long time before the call eventually disconnected.

Immediately after that, Sylvia called her. Initially, Tina thought that something bad had happened at the orphanage. The moment she picked up her phone, all she could hear was Sylvia’s concerned voice.

“What’s wrong, Tina? Did you have a fight with Mr. Carter?”

“What?” Tina was stunned to hear that.

“He called you earlier, but you didn’t pick up. He was worried that you’re mad at him. Did you two fight?” Sylvia elaborated.

She had always busied herself with the orphanage’s matters, so she didn’t know about the news that ruined Tina’s reputation on the internet.

The older woman advised sincerely, “Even though you two may not be related by blood, I can still see that you treat each other just like biological siblings. Both of you are truly blessed to have found each other. Since you’re a family, you have to communicate with each other if you happen to be in a conflict...”

Tears started rolling down Tina's cheeks. She couldn't stop her voice from choking up as she replied, "Okay. I understand. I'll call him right now."

"Oh dear, what are you crying for?" Sylvia asked in bewilderment. "Did Mr. Carter really do something that hurt your feelings?"

"No. It's not like that." Tina was afraid that Sylvia might misunderstand John because of her reaction. "They're just minor things. Don't worry."

The moment she was done speaking, she quickly ended the call and took a deep breath. Then, she located John's phone number and dialed it.

The moment the call went through, John's anxious voice could be heard.

"Tina, I heard that you got abducted yesterday. I called the hospital just now, but they told me you've already left. Where are you right now?"

Tina didn't reply at all.

Feeling rather guilty, John continued, "It's all my fault. I'm your older brother, but I wasn't there for you..."

"It's not your fault," Tina replied firmly.

She had so many things to tell John. Sylvia might have referred to her and John as a family, but the latter was never her real older brother to begin with. What the boss said to her earlier rang true as well. She had caused so much trouble lately. Did she really want John to deal with all of her problems for her?

Since Samuel had never believed in her, should she tell John all about it? Even if she did, was she expecting John to get into a huge fight with his own partner just for her sake?

Tina knew that John cared for her simply because he felt guilty about his own missing sister. She knew she didn't have that much power to make him sacrifice everything for her. In the end, she said, "I'm fine, John. Don't worry about me. I couldn't get used to the hospital no matter what, so I went home to rest."

After ensuring that Tina was safe, John believed her excuses and went back to work. As for Tina, now that she was fired, she had nothing else to do. So, she ended up spending a week recuperating in her apartment.

Soon, Tina tried to look for other jobs. Every time, she would attend the interviews with a hopeful outlook. Yet, she would always return dejectedly. One month passed in the blink of an eye. Once again, Tina found herself receiving a call that notified her of her latest failure in an interview.

However, the interviewer had told her confidently that she would most definitely pass just half an hour ago. To think that his tone would change drastically before she knew it... Anxiously, Tina couldn't help but ask, "Why did I fail?" The interviewer was silent for a moment. In the end, he could only hint at her helplessly, "Our company prioritizes our employees' conduct and mannerisms. You might want to improve on this aspect. Also, I received orders from my superiors to kick you out. I fear that as long as your name is Tina Lynd, you won't be able to find a proper job in Freesia..."

After saying all of that, the interviewer quickly hung up on Tina. She understood what he meant immediately. She was banned from all careers in Freesia. Tina could only hug her blanket while breaking down into tears. Despair flooded her heart at that moment. Just then, someone called her. "Are you Miss Lynd? Congratulations, you've passed your interview. Our boss is very satisfied with you. You may come to work."

Chapter 120 Tina gasped in surprise, unable to believe her ears. "Really?!" "Yes, but we don't know if you're suitable for this job..." "I am! I can do anything! I'm serious!" Tina quickly promoted herself. "Alright, then. Please come over to the hotel as soon as you can. I've read your file. The hotel is located quite close to your home. It's about ten minutes away."

Tina was stunned to hear the request. "The hotel? Now?"

She looked outside, noticing the looming dark sky.

"It's still early, isn't it? Don't you know that we pull overtime shifts all the time in this company? It's the norm here to dine with the clients and entertain them all the time. Can't you even overcome this small challenge?" The voice from the other end of the line sounded displeased.

Tina had been waiting for one long month. She couldn't bear to miss out on this opportunity.

After gritting her teeth, she finally replied, "I'll be there. Give me ten minutes."

Only then was the caller satisfied with her behavior.

"That's the spirit! Remember to dress up and look pretty. We'll be entertaining an important guest today, so you mustn't embarrass our boss!"

"Okay..."

Tina ended the call, feeling slightly worried. Then again, this was her last chance in getting a job. She checked the location of the hotel, which was a five-star hotel. There shouldn't be any problems, right?

With that thought in mind, Tina took a deep breath before hurriedly changing into a formal dress and rushed toward that hotel. Someone was already waiting for her at the entrance. They led her to a private room quickly. Many bosses were seated around the table in the room. They were all well-known characters

in Freesia who had their fair share of media spotlight in the past.

Tina finally heaved a sigh of relief. For once, it looked like everything will be alright.

However, she noticed that other than the bosses, there were a few women her age sitting next to them. Tina found it odd, but someone next to her gave her a shove right at that moment.

"What are you standing there for? Pour Mr. Gomez a drink!"

"Oh. O-Okay." Tina quickly did as she was told.

Mr. Gomez patted her on the back. "Don't be nervous. Tonight's gathering is a small one. Keep working for me, and I'll take you to all sorts of events in the future."

Tina felt slightly awkward and flustered at the same time.

Mr. Gomez added, "Don't just keep serving me wine. You should drink some as well." "B-But I don't know how to hold my liquor..." Tina replied.

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"Does this mean you're disrespecting me?" Mr. Gomez sounded quite displeased.

The other women started criticizing Tina's behavior. "Mr. Gomez, is this the new secretary you hired? She's quite a haughty one, isn't she? I think she seems more like a boss compared to you! Others might think of her as the lady boss, yeah?"

"Hahaha! Speaking of the lady boss, I think only Miss Cindy Young has the right to be this haughty!

"That's right! After all, she's Mr. Langford's one and only woman! She's naturally blessed with amazing luck. The rest of us can only be envious of her." Feeling awkward and embarrassed, Tina gritted her teeth and drank from the glass of wine in front of her. The wine was very strong. The moment she took her first sip, she couldn't help but cough violently. Her stomach churned uncontrollably, which made her nauseous. She quickly covered her mouth and tried to hold her puke back. At that moment, a voice drifted from the outside. "Mr. Langford is here!" "Oh my god! Is he really here?" The women all looked very surprised and delighted as they stared at the room door.

Tina froze on the spot. Did she hear that person correctly? Who was the one that came here again?