

Pampered 121

Chapter 121

How many people in Freesia were referred to as Mr. Langford?

Of course, there was only one person: Samuel Langford. He was the only reason why all the big bosses in the private room were gazing at the door expectantly right now.

Tina didn't want to bump into Samuel on this occasion. She wanted to use an excuse to slip out of the room. However, it was too late.

Samuel's silhouette appeared at the doorway. Tina hoped with all her might that he wouldn't notice her, so she cowered right next to the vase in the corner of the room. However, she could still feel a pair of sharp eyes staring right at her back.

Samuel took the main seat at the table. He emitted a regal aura no matter what he did. This was proven by the scene of everyone crowding around him and trying to please him.

Tina felt quite unsettled. She snuck a look in Samuel's direction, noting his neutral expression. Perhaps he didn't even notice her at all.

After a while, the atmosphere started to heat up. Mr. Gomez must have had too much to drink, because he suddenly turned to Tina. "Why are you sitting so far away? Others might think that I'm abusing my employees! Come closer, will you? Have a drink as well. I'll have you know that the liquor here is all imported, so they're a rare find...". At that moment, Samuel's cold gaze was trained in Tina's direction.

Tina was alarmed. She tried to run out of instinct, but Mr. Gomez dragged her to a seat next to him.

"Hurry up and drink!" he urged.

Everyone else started egging on Tina to do the same. "Let's see how's your alcohol tolerance is like! If you can't drink a lot, then you can't do this job well!"

Tina was starting to panic. She finally latched onto the job opportunity after such a long time. Would she be losing this job as well?

Stuck between a rock and a hard place, she could only grit her teeth.

On the other hand, Mr. Gomez suddenly realized that something was off. Samuel was actually staring at the employee that he had just hired. It was a well-known fact that he never paid any attention to women at all.

With that thought in mind, Mr. Gomez quickly changed his mind. "Don't drink yet. Aren't you being a little rude here? Mr. Langford, why don't I let my new employee toast to your success?"

Alarm bells rang louder in Tina's mind. The sight of Samuel's deep and dark eyes made her heart sink. As a result, she could only approach him.

"Mr. Langford..."

Suddenly, Samuel let out a cold chuckle, interrupting Tina. He commented coldly, "Looks like your company is bad at judging one's character. Since that's the case, there's no need for us to continue discussing the collaboration deal."

The moment his words fell, he stood up and left decisively. Everyone in the private room was dumbfounded upon hearing the comment. The atmosphere which was previously bustling with cheerful conversations and laughter suddenly became as silent as a graveyard. All pairs of eyes were fixated on Tina. They were filled with so much hatred that they wanted to skin her alive.

"Mr. Langford! Mr. Langford!" Mr. Gomez quickly became anxious. Then, he pointed at Tina and started hollering at her. "I knew that I shouldn't have hired you! Scram! Get the hell out of here now!"

Tina knew that at this moment, she had lost her final opportunity to work in this city.

She didn't know how she walked out of the hotel after that. Then, she started roaming down the street like a wayward soul. A cold gust of wind blew in her direction, making her stomach churn even more. Tina was instantly reminded of the wine that she had just ingested. She latched onto a nearby lamp post while heaving her guts out.

The vomit was never-ending. Not only was her stomach shriveling in pain, but her abdomen also hurt to the point that she kept sweating cold bullets.

At that moment, faint footsteps could be heard from the street.

"I just saw that woman heading in this direction. Since she's had some alcohol, she must be super drunk right now. There's no way she can leave this quickly!"

"She ruined Mr. Gomez's plans, after all. We won't let her off the hook easily!"

"Yeah! It's precisely due to her good looks that Mr. Gomez chose her. He initially planned to sleep with her, but who would've thought that she'd offend Mr. Langford? At least now, we get to savor her..."

Tina felt as if an invisible hammer had slammed into the back of her skull, because her head was ringing badly from all the vomiting. She wanted to get up and escape, but her body was so weak that she collapsed to the ground instead.

As a result, the loud thud attracted the men's attention immediately.

"She's here! That's the one!" "Hurry up and take her away!"

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"Let go of me!" Tina started struggling valiantly against the men despite her fatigue.

The passersby around them looked rather confused by the sudden scuffle. However, the men chastised them immediately. "What are you looking at? My girlfriend's drunk, so now she's gone crazy. I'm trying to take her home right now. Mind your own business!"

It was true that Tina's condition didn't look good. The passersby were still confused, but they didn't stop the men from taking her away.

Just when Tina was about to be whisked away, a black luxury car blocked their way. The men originally thought that the car was just passing by, but they didn't expect the door to be opened slowly.

Immediately after that, a few bodyguards rushed out of the car swiftly and apprehended the hooligans on the spot. Groaning in pain while lying on the pavement, the hooligans started hurling insults at the bodyguards. "Where the f*ck did you guys come from? How dare you ruin our plans!" "Are you trying to be heroes by saving a damsel in distress? Do you have any idea who you've offended? If you don't want to die, then get lost! Otherwise, Mr. Gomez will never let you off the hook!"

An icy voice drifted from the car. "Is that so?"

The hooligans widened their eyes in shock and stared in the direction of the voice. The blood in their veins froze. No one expected to see Samuel inside that car. Didn't everyone tell them that the woman had offended Samuel? Why was he here to save her? They were so frightened that all color drained from their faces. Dropping down on their knees, they started begging for mercy. "Please spare us, Mr. Langford! We were just trying to avenge you..." "Drag them away and send them to the police station," Samuel ordered coldly "No! Please help us! Spare us, Mr. Langford!"

No matter how much the hooligans begged for mercy, they were still taken away by the bodyguards. Soon, Tina and Samuel were the only ones in that area. The latter gazed at the former from above, taking note of her ragged appearance. Disdain was evident in his eyes.

"Get in," he commanded coldly.

Tina never would've thought that Samuel would help her out. She thought she was still dreaming, so she could only stare at the man in front of her with a dumbfounded expression.

His patience completely gone, Samuel said mockingly, "Tina, I have very limited patience. Do you want me to personally invite you into the car? Don't ever think that I'll tolerate your shenanigans, you shameless wh*re. You deserve this fate."

When Tina heard Samuel's words, all the rage and aggrievance that she had contained over the past month finally erupted.

"Sure, blame me for being a wh*re! It's my fault that I got into trouble! You might as well watch me die since that's the case! Why did you even save me, then?" she screamed.

Before Samuel could reply, Tina continued furiously, "Haha! Of course, I know the reason behind this! It's impossible for a man like you to tolerate my antics, after all! It's all because of Grandma that you're forced to save me! otherwise, you'd be the first one to clap happily when I die in front of you!" Samuel harrumphed coldly, "It's good that you know your place!" "Then I might as well go die now!" Tina rose to her feet all of a sudden and rushed toward the road. However, she had only taken one step before Samuel grabbed her by her arm and pulled her back forcibly.

She responded by biting Samuel's hand, making him gasp in pain. Still, he refused to let go of her.

"Are you crazy, Tina?!" Samuel was enraged upon witnessing Tina's suicidal moment. Then, he saw Tina breaking down in front of him.

She decided to spill everything from her chest, not caring if her words would anger Samuel or not.

“Yeah! That’s right! What if I’m crazy, huh? No one here believes me! I managed to find a job after all this time, but it’s gone thanks to someone slandering me in an article! No one in Freesia wants to hire me! The job I finally got today was my only hope, but I never would’ve thought that I’d be this unlucky to run into you! It was bad enough that I got fired, but I almost became the target for someone else’s revenge plot!”

Chapter 123 Tina no longer cared about Samuel’s opinion of her. She wiped her tears away while continuing to lament. “You might as well just kill me right now. Think of it as granting me a sweet release from this insufferable life! Since you hate me so much, you must be dreaming about this for a long time, right?”

Samuel no longer spoke. Instead, he just stared at Tina coldly. The latter also returned the gaze steadily, waiting for his answer. The next thing she knew, she felt her feet leaving the ground. To her surprise, Samuel had scooped her into his arms.

Tina was so surprised that she let out a shriek while wrapping her arms around Samuel’s neck. “Put me down! Where are you taking me?!” “I thought you weren’t scared of death. Why are you scared of this?” Samuel mocked with a cold chuckle.

He threw Tina carelessly onto the backseat and drove away. Several minutes later, Tina was stunned to recognize the surroundings when she looked out of the car window. “Isn’t this your house?” Didn’t Samuel want to kill her? Why would he take her back to his house? He had no intention to reply to her. All he issued was a simple command: “Get out.” Tina got out of the car in a daze and entered the hall with him.

“Sit here and wait,” Samuel ordered before heading toward another direction. Tina was bristling with anxiety. Her heart kept hammering behind her ribcage. What was Samuel planning to do with her? Was she really going to die here?

Soon, Samuel reappeared in front of her. This time, he was carrying a medical kit. Obviously, this surprised Tina a lot.

“Weren’t you planning to kill me?” she asked dumbfoundedly.

Samuel didn’t bother replying to her question. Instead, he grabbed her arm and started applying ointment to her wounds. It was only then that Tina realized she was covered in wounds due to the struggles earlier.

Unable to regain her senses, she could only stare blankly as Samuel tended to her injuries and wrapped bandages around them. She was very sure that everything she had witnessed just now was a hallucination due to her drunken state.

“Are you really not going to kill me?” she asked again.

At that moment, Samuel’s phone rang loudly. Since he was busy with patching Tina up, he left the call on speaker mode. Sandy’s voice could be heard drifting from the speaker as he made his usual report.

“Mr. Langford, I’ve already investigated everything. It turns out that the reporter from the local newsroom was bribed in advance. He exaggerated the article’s contents in order to achieve the goal of slandering Miss Lynd’s reputation. The other platforms have also lifted their ban on her name as per your order...”

When Tina heard the report, she couldn’t believe her ears at all. She muttered to herself, “Why are you helping me? Don’t you hate me?” “Grandma needs your care right now,” Samuel replied coldly. “Also, you’re still my wife. I can’t just sit here without extending a helping hand.” Even though Tina had done so many things that disgusted him greatly in the past, he would still be patient and settle the final score with her in the end. Before the arrival of that day, he refused to let anyone interfere with the matters that concerned both of them. This was his bottom line.

Despite Samuel’s icy tone, Tina couldn’t help but feel affected by the word ‘wife. She almost forgot that she was married to Samuel, but she would never expect to hear him saying that particular word.

“Wife...” Tina mumbled softly. “But the woman that you’ll ever acknowledge to be your wife is Cindy, right?” As usual, Samuel didn’t bother explaining himself. However, Tina looked incredibly vulnerable tonight. Besides, she had already lost her mind due to her drunken state, so he didn’t want to be so critical of her. He explained coldly, “My relationship with her isn’t what you think it is. She saved my life before. If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t have existed in this world. That’s why I’ve decided to view her as my sister and take care of her forever.” Tina was suddenly reminded by the time when she had to hide under the table to avoid Samuel. Back then, she had eavesdropped on a conversation as a result. Cindy and Samuel’s first meeting took place after the abduction incident occurred ten years ago. “Is it because of the abduction?” she asked subconsciously.

Chapter 124 Samuel was surprised to hear the question. His sharp gaze landed on Tina’s form. “The Langford family had sealed the news. No one knows about this. How did you find out?” he demanded harshly.

Guilt gnawed at Tina’s heart. There was no way she could tell Samuel that she had heard everything from under the table.

“Of course, I didn’t eavesdrop on you! That was because... because I was...” Under Samuel’s cold gaze, Tina started stammering in panic. Before she could finish her sentence, the former’s phone started ringing again. “Samuel...” A sickeningly sweet voice blared from the phone’s speaker at that moment. Tina shivered the moment she heard the voice. She quickly recognized the owner of the voice.

That was Cindy!

Samuel didn’t notice Tina going stiff all of a sudden. He rose to his feet and picked up his phone.

“Samuel, I heard that you just attended a gathering. You must have drunk a lot, right? I’m very worried about your health, so I made some hangover soup for you...” Samuel turned her down swiftly. “There’s no need for you to do that.”

“Is that so?” Cindy obviously sounded dejected. “I wanted to surprise you at first, so I’m already in front of your house. Since you don’t need it, I’ll just go home.”

Samuel's brows were instantly tangled together. "You're already here?" "Yeah." Cindy let out a dejected sigh. "I got too worried about you, so I did unnecessary things. I won't do things that will make you angry at me ever again." Samuel rubbed his forehead in irritation. He couldn't possibly waste Cindy's efforts. She was already here, after all. "Wait right there. I'll come over," he said. "Really?" Cindy sounded incredibly happy. "I'll wait for you, Samuel!" Then, Samuel shot a look in Tina's direction. "Stay here. Behave yourself and don't go anywhere."

After that, he left hurriedly.

If Tina was still dazed from her interactions with Samuel earlier, then the conversation between him and Cindy had definitely sobered her up. Its effects were as strong as someone dumping cold water onto her during a winter month.

What exactly was she hoping for just now? Did she really want Samuel to treat her like his wife?

How ridiculous.

The reason why Samuel wanted Tina to behave herself was because he didn't want Cindy

having her heart broken after seeing her there. After all, she was the harlot who had ruined their happy relationship. Tina felt like vomiting once again, but then, she heard Samuel and Cindy's voices getting closer to the room that she was in.

"Samuel, can I stay here for a while? I need some rest," Cindy requested.

Tina got up in alarm upon hearing that request. It was a good thing she had stayed in that house before, so she quickly fled the house via the back door.

She stumbled all the way to the street while waiting for a taxi to come pick her up.

The area that she was in right now was a community meant for only the wealthy. The mansions surrounding her were brightly lit, as laughter of various families drifted into her ear. Tina could only slump onto the bench and stare down at her injuries with the help of the dim streetlight.

Clack! Clack! Clack!

Tina didn't know how much time had passed, but the taxi hadn't arrived at her location yet. Instead, she heard high heels clicking behind her.

Cindy's voice startled her at that moment. "Tina Lynd, I was wondering where on earth you went. So you're here all along, huh?"

The moment Tina heard Cindy's voice, she was instantly on her guard.

"What are you trying to do, Cindy? Samuel's right here, you know? If you did anything to me, he'd definitely find out!" Tina hissed.

Cindy was dressed in fancy, high-end clothes. She was covered in branded clothing from head to toe, her attire paired with an expensive-looking bag. The sight of Tina's ragged appearance filled Cindy with glee, and she had the desire to laugh out loud. She jeered, "Oh, Tina! Look at you. What a pathetic woman! You're just like a drowning dog. Tell me, has your life been difficult lately?"

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Tina didn't want to pay Cindy any attention at first, but it was impossible for the latter to ignore the opportunity to mock her.

"Hey, Tina! You couldn't find any jobs lately, right? Don't you want to know who's the one who made your life hell?" she jeered again.

"You were the one behind this?!" Tina replied angrily. "That's right. It was me!" Cindy admitted frankly, without the intention to hide that fact. Tina was so furious, she balled her fists. She roared, "Aren't you afraid that I might tell Samuel everything you did?" "By all means, go ahead! Do you think Samuel will believe in what you say to him?" Cindy replied, still speaking in the same mocking tone. Her smug demeanor made it obvious that she feared nothing. That sentence pricked Tina's heart greatly. Cindy was right. Samuel had always trusted Cindy all this time, so why would he believe Tina? He would most likely think that she was framing Cindy again.

"I understand everything now. I'm the woman that Samuel trusts the most in this world. As for you, you're just his temporary plaything. Rather than dirtying my hands with your blood, I'd rather torture you and make you wish you were dead!"

Cindy approached Tina slowly, a twisted and ugly expression on her face. She sounded very excited when she spoke.

"I'll ruin your reputation bit by bit and make life difficult for you in Freesia, so much that you can't survive here. At the same time, Samuel will hate you beyond anything. This world will be a living hell for you!"

Tina wanted to ignore Cindy, but the latter's repulsively malevolent expression made her unable to hold back her temper.

"Cindy Young, you vile, despicable woman!" Tina roared.

Slap!

A loud slap rang across the street. Tina's palm made heavy contact with Cindy's cheek at that moment.

Cindy was stunned. She thought she would be able to watch Tina break down and cry in front of her, all the while looking remorseful and pathetic. She didn't expect the latter to have the guts to assault her physically.

"How dare you slap me! You filthy b*tch! You dare lay a finger on me..."

Slap!

Tina, however, replied with another slap. Flames of fury burned in her eyes as she hissed, "That's right. I have the guts to slap you. I'm not afraid of anything, anyway. Besides, I don't have anything now, and you even called me a drowning dog! Why should I be afraid of slapping you?"

Hearing Tina's response made Cindy more furious than ever. To think that the mongrel dared to slap her in the face...

“You f*cking b*tch! I’m going to kill you...”

Just as Cindy was about to pounce onto Tina and start beating her up, she froze, as if she had just seen something. A sinister glint appeared in her eyes before she twisted her ankle on purpose and let out a pained shriek.

“Ouch!” Cindy collapsed to the ground in a haphazard fashion. Even the blue shell necklace fell to the ground.

Tina staggered a few steps backward to put some distance between her and Cindy. She didn’t hesitate to mock her. “How is it possible for you to fall even under those conditions, Cindy? You deserved it!”

A sad and aggrieved look suddenly appeared on Cindy’s face, and she put on a pitiful appearance. “Do you really hate me that much, Miss Lynd?” “Yes!” Tina replied without any hesitation. “Then just hit me! Scream at me! I’ll let you do anything to me as long as you’re satisfied...” Cindy continued in an aggrieved tone.

Tina’s head had been spinning the whole time. It was at that moment when she finally regained her senses and took notice of something suspicious. “Cindy, why the hell are you pretending...” “Tina, what are you doing?!” The next thing Tina knew, a cold baritone snarled from behind her.

Tina turned around swiftly, only to see Samuel glaring at her. “Why are you here?” Tina asked instinctively. Murderous intent was clear in Samuel’s eyes. He suddenly felt that his act of pity was nothing but a big, fat joke. It was like the plot of a children’s story that involved a kind-hearted farmer and a traitorous snake.

Samuel no longer paid any attention to Tina. He immediately shoved her away, since she happened to be standing in front of Cindy.

“Move!”

Tina stumbled away the moment she felt the force pushing her away. She lost her balance and fell to the ground as well. Intense pain started flaring from her stomach as a result.

Chapter 126 As Tina watched Samuel helping Cindy up, she finally realized why the latter pretended to be weak all of a sudden. “Things aren’t like what you think, Samuel. Please listen to me..? Tina said, but as always, Samuel found her words empty and meaningless. “Listen to you?” Samuel laughed coldly in response. “Tina, do you seriously take me for a blind man?”

Cindy received two heavy slaps from Tina, after all. Her cheeks were already red and swollen. Anyone who laid their eyes on her would’ve thought that Tina was the one who bullied her on purpose. Tears started falling from Cindy’s eyes. She said softly, “Samuel, this is really a big misunderstanding...” “There’s no need to explain.” Samuel felt guilt gnawing at his heart, “Come back with me. I’ll apply medicine to your cheeks.” “B-But Samuel, I thought you hate having outsiders in your house,” Cindy protested weakly, all the while pretending to be considerate about him.

Samuel glanced at Tina coldly. You’re not the outsider. That woman is.”

As soon as his words fell, he scooped Cindy into his arms and carried her bridal style. The latter quickly wrapped her arms around his neck shyly before shooting Tina a wicked smirk. Mockery was written all over her face.

See, Tina? Samuel would never believe you! You're a joke!' she thought joyfully. "Wait a second..." Cindy suddenly noticed something on the ground. "Samuel, I've dropped my necklace!"

It was until then that Tina noticed a blue crystal shell necklace sitting on the spot where Cindy had fallen earlier. Stunned by its appearance, she instinctively picked it up.

Why did the necklace seem so familiar to her?

But before Tina could study it properly, Samuel snatched it viciously out of her hand. The duo disappeared in the distance right after. A short while later, the taxi that Tina had been waiting for finally appeared.

The driver was an honest-looking man. He apologized sincerely to Tina, "I'm so sorry for being late, Miss. Traffic was all clogged up, so I got delayed. Why do you look so pale? Do you need me to send you to the hospital?"

Tina finally noticed her frightening appearance. She looked like a ghost who had just crawled out of a pool.

She could only shake her head while clutching her stomach. "I think my period's coming..."

Tina's health had always been poor. It was the norm for her to not have her period for two or three months, but once it was time, her body would be racked with pain. The day's events had infuriated her greatly, so her period probably decided that it was the best time to make her day even worse.

At her reply, the taxi driver didn't ask her any more questions.

Tina returned to her apartment like a lost soul. All strength was already sapped from her body, so she collapsed onto her bed and fell into a deep slumber.

It was barely dawn when Tina was awakened by a phone call.

John's voice drifted through the speaker. "Hi, Tina. You must be at work around this time, right? I'll go to the art studio and visit you there."

His words woke her up instantly. If John were to visit the art studio, he would have found out about her dismissal.

As she didn't want to worry him, she quickly replied, "I got sick, so I've lodged a sick leave." It was by pure coincidence that last night's events made her voice incredibly hoarse, so she sounded very sick on the phone. John sounded quite concerned. "You're sick? What are you down with?"

"Um..."

Tina caressed her stomach instinctively. She thought the reason behind her sudden stomachache last night was because of her period, but that didn't seem to be the case.

"Maybe my period's coming," she replied.

The moment John heard Tina's reason, he knew that it was an inconvenient topic for her to talk about. "I'll drop by your place soon."

Some time later, he appeared in front of her door. John didn't beat around the bush and told her in a straightforward manner, "I've been collecting intel on your background. Unfortunately, the criminals involved in your abduction case are all dead. The orphanage didn't have a picture of you as well. Do you have any clues about your childhood?"

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When Tina noticed John's expectant gaze, warmth flowed into her heart. It was obvious that he was sincere in helping her out.

However, she could only bite her lower lip and shook her head. "I can't really remember my childhood. The doctor told me that it could be due to the shock that I had received, but I ended up developing selective memory loss."

John comforted her, "It's fine if you don't remember anything. There will always be clues. I'll have someone look for them again..." Tina looked very crestfallen, and clutched her head. "If only I can remember useful information..." she mumbled. "Take it slow. It's best if you can regain your memories, but if you can't, then we can't force it to happen," John coaxed her in a soothing voice while patting her head. "Your health is the most important thing. I hear it's best to drink hot tea during your period, so I'll brew you a

cup."

"Okay. Thank you, John," Tina replied with a small smile.

Then, she tried her best to recall her childhood. However, she couldn't remember much about the little boy in her memories. All she could remember was him being drenched in blood. After that, she recalled the way the Lynd family had beaten her up and treated her like a servant. Pearl also hated her a lot, and tended to steal from her...

Suddenly, Tina recalled something. She stood up immediately and blurted, "The picture!" When she was tidying up the orphanage that time, she had located a picture of herself. Even though her face wasn't shown there, she remembered seeing a necklace. That necklace looked like the blue crystal shell necklace. It must be a clue. "John, I think I remembered a...! Tina rushed into the kitchen with the intention to tell John what she recalled.

Knock! Knock! Knock! Suddenly, a series of knocks could be heard from the front door. Tina went to open the door, only to see Sandy standing there. "Sandy?" She was confused. "How did you know I live here?" The moment Tina asked the question, she instantly felt like a fool. It would be tremendously easy for Samuel to gather the information he wanted. Sandy couldn't be bothered to answer her question and said coldly, "Miss Lynd, Madam Langford wishes to see you right now." "Okay. I'll head over to the hospital later," Tina replied with a nod

Sandy frowned immediately. "Miss Lynd, I mean you have to go there now," he repeated.

"But..." Tina wanted to say something else, but John happened to walk out at that time.

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“Are you receiving a guest right now?” he asked, clearly not expecting the guest in question to be Sandy.

At the same time, Sandy didn’t expect to witness John and Tina together. Of course, he was completely stunned.

“Mr. Carter? What are you doing here?” he asked!

Feeling a little awkward, Tina said immediately, “Let’s go visit Granda, Mr. Shaw.” After bidding John goodbye, she got into the car with Sandy. When he saw Tina heaving a sigh, he couldn’t help but mock, “You’re quite amazing, Miss Lynd. Last night, Mr. Langford ordered me to lift the ban on your name. Yet today, Mr. Carter is already staying by your side. Looks like this is another one of your performances, right? You’re toying around with two men in one go, aren’t you? Perhaps I should throw Mr. Jackson into the mix as well?”.

Tina didn’t bother to explain herself. She didn’t want John to be worried about her. As for Samuel’s subordinates, she would just let their imaginations run wild. “So? Are you planning to tell Samuel?” she replied coldly. “Naturally, Mr. Langford doesn’t need to know about unsavory things like this. He’s taken care of Miss Young the whole night, so he doesn’t have the mood for insignificant matters.”

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Samuel took care of Cindy the whole night?

So much had happened last night, so Tina had forgotten most of them. However, she would remember Samuel’s look of disdain vividly.

She made sure to keep her expression as neutral as she could before saying lightly, “It’s true that my matters are insignificant, but aren’t you free enough to meddle in them?”

“Miss Lynd, I’d like to give you a piece of advice. The more bad things you do, the heavier your downfall will be. Now that you’ve treated Miss Young that way, the consequence you have to face will be grim,” Sandy warned with a snort.

Tina replied with a cold chuckle of her own. “Oh yeah? It’d be great if that advice does come true. Your precious Miss Young is in dire need of it.”

“You...”

Tina didn’t mind the sudden change in the car’s atmosphere. The only person in the Langford family that she missed right now was Madam Langford. The thought of her having only half a year to live gave her strength. No matter how much the rest of the family despised her, she would grit her teeth and spend the rest of Madam Langford’s life by the old woman’s side.

Once they reached the hospital, Tina saw Madam Langford and Samuel, who was by her side. Samuel shot her a cold look. His eyes remained blank and emotionless.

Tina didn’t mind his coldness, for she no longer cared about how he felt for her. She went ahead to grasp Madam Langford’s hand and said softly, “Grandma, I’m here. What’s so important that made you request my immediate presence?”

Grandma Langford seemed to have detected something from Tina's expression.

"Tina, why's your complexion so pale? Are you unwell? Or are you being bullied...?" Tina quickly shook her head. "No, Grandma. You're overthinking right now. I just had my period today, so I feel a little unwell." Madam Langford immediately said to Samuel, "You brat! Don't you know that your own wife is having her period? Hurry up and fetch her hot tea and a blanket!" Tina was surprised by the sudden demand. "Uh... That's too much, Grandma!" Oh, heavens! If Samuel did those things for her, he would most definitely get his vengeance later. "What do you mean by too much? You're his wife, so this is his duty! Hurry up and go!" Madam Langford demanded. Samuel didn't turn down his grandmother's demand. He spun on his heel and left the ward instantly. Tina thought about his gesture. As expected, Samuel would rather use an excuse to leave the ward rather than stay in the same place as her.

Madam Langford's grip on Tina's hand tightened. She whispered, "The reason why I sent Samuel away is because I want to tell you something that's for your ears only."

"What is it?" Tina thought that the elder woman sounded quite mysterious.

"I know you two are newlyweds, but there are some things you should take the opportunity to do..."

Madam Langford whispered a few words into Tina's ear, causing her cheeks to flush immediately

"Grandma, what are you talking about? I don't want to think about that for now." "What do you mean by that? You're the youngest Mrs. Langford, after all. The next generation of Langfords depends on you!" Grandma Langford sounded quite serious. Tina felt bitter on the inside. She and Samuel were just faking their marriage, and yet Madam Langford insisted on her getting pregnant with her precious great-grandchild. How would that be possible?

Since Tina didn't want to upset the elderly woman, she could only reply, "Okay. I get it, Grandma."

"Good," Madam Langford replied in satisfaction, a wide smile spreading across her face.

Once Samuel was back with the blanket and a cup of hot tea, Madam Langford ushered the couple to sit together.

"By the way, Samuel, don't you have some good news to tell me?" she asked. Samuel immediately called out to Sandy. "Sandy, bring it in."

Sandy, who had been standing outside the ward, entered the room with a red velvet box. Once it was opened, a beautiful diamond ring was revealed.

The diamond on the ring was the size of a pigeon's egg. It glittered beautifully under the light. "When you two obtained your marriage certificate that day, you were unable to hold a grand wedding to celebrate that moment due to my illness. I know this must have saddened you, so you should hold a press conference first. Samuel will contact all of the media sources in Freesia. You'll show up at the conference while wearing this diamond ring. That way, everyone will know that you're the youngest Mrs. Langford."

Chapter 129 There was no way Tina would ever accept something as precious as that ring. After all, she wasn't the real Mrs. Langford of the family.

“But Grandma, I already have the ancestral jade bracelet that you’ve given me. You shouldn’t be giving me a diamond ring this big,” she protested.

Madam Langford stared at Tina seriously before saying, “No. This is different.”

“How so?”

“The ancestral jade bracelet means that the Langford family has accepted you. But once Samuel gives you this ring, it will be a symbol of the love you have for each other. Nowadays, the media loves making up stories out of nothing. If we don’t announce your presence in a grand way, you’ll most likely be gossiped and talked about behind your back. Things like this must be treated with care at all times.”

Tina never expected that Madam Langford would consider that much for her sake. However, the fact that the ring symbolized true love between her and Samuel was a farce. It was impossible for them to have feelings for each other.

Madam Langford urged, “Samuel, put this ring on Tina’s finger. Let me see how it looks on her.”

Samuel grabbed Tina’s right hand and slid the ring onto her fourth finger. Once they got out of the hospital, Samuel had no intention to talk to Tina. He was ready to get into his car and leave quickly.

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“Wait!” Tina called out to him.

However, Samuel’s tone was cold. “Just go,” he commanded. Alarm took over her senses as Tina quickly ran to the front of the car and spread her arms to stop it. As a result, she was almost knocked over by the vehicle. The chauffeur was very shocked and scared at the same time. “Mr. Langford, what should I do?”

That woman looked like she didn’t want to live at all.

Frost glazed over Samuel’s eyes. After he got out of the car, he grabbed Tina roughly by her arm and threw her to the side.

“Tina, what the hell are you planning to do this time?” he demanded. Tina’s shoulder hurt so much from the force, but she managed to withstand the pain. She took off the diamond ring and said, “I just want to return the ring to you. This is too precious, so I can’t take it.”

Samuel’s tone was coated with disdain and mockery as he replied, “I hate all the things you’ve worn. They’re filthy. Besides, you seriously can’t believe that I’d buy a real diamond ring for a woman like you, right? This is a fake ring. It’s just to fool the others. After all, things with beautiful exteriors and rotten cores fit you the most, Tina.”

Samuel’s words were incredibly humiliating. Tina bit her bottom lip, knowing that the former’s misconception of her had gone too deep. It wasn’t something that she could explain with a few sentences.

She stowed away the diamond ring and replied, “Fine. I’ll take it. Also, what’s the deal with the press conference that Grandma talked about earlier?”

Was Samuel really planning to gather all the media in Freesia just to announce their marriage in front of them?

“That was just something I told Grandma to ease her mind. The person who’ll be showing up at the press conference is Cindy,” Samuel explained.

“Okay. Good.”

“What else do you want to know? Ask all the questions you have right now. I don’t want you bothering me ever again.” Samuel’s tone was filled with impatience. “If you’re trying to make up excuses for what you’ve done in the past, then I advise you to quit while you’re ahead.” Tina knew that he was referring to Cindy’s incident last night. Since he trusted Cindy that much, what would be the use of her showing him the evidence? “There’s nothing else I’d like to say.” A cold smile spread on Tina’s lips at that moment. “As long as I have a chance to stay with Grandma, then I’ll be fine. I don’t care about what happens between you two. I hope that you’ll stay together forever and form an amazing family together.”

Once Tina was done speaking, she turned on her heel and walked away without any hesitation. Her slender and feeble figure looked like she was about to collapse just by a strong gale blowing at her. At the same time, her form radiated strength and tenacity.

Samuel had no intention to ask her to stay, so he returned to his car.

The sky started drizzling at that time. Tina and Samuel headed their respective ways, the distance between them growing more and more... Tina soon found herself arriving at a certain place without remembering how.

Chapter 130 “Oh? Aren’t you Miss Lynd? Today’s not a weekend. What are you doing here? Aren’t you going to work? Is there something you wish to discuss with the director?” The security guard in front of the orphanage recognized Tina instantly. He was surprised to see her there.

It was only then that Tina realized she had walked all the way to Loving Heart Orphanage. She didn’t care about the Langfords’ opinions of her. All she wanted was to not make the people she cared about worry for her.

“I just happened to pass by. There’s no need to bother Madam Woods...”

Tina was about to turn and leave before she remembered something.

“Oh, right! I’m here to look for something that I left some time ago.” The security guard didn’t suspect her motives at all. Tina was a kind-hearted woman who always dropped by to help out the orphanage personnel. Not to mention, she had a heart of gold. Naturally, she was accepted as a member of the orphanage.

“Go ahead.”

Tina walked all the way to the place she had tidied up the pictures. There, she started searching for that particular picture with the necklace. Soon, she found the old picture of herself. It was evident that she was wearing a blue crystal shell necklace in the past. Unfortunately, that was the only picture of her, and it was in low quality to boot. She could only see the vague outline of the necklace. Tina gritted her teeth

angrily. All of her childhood possessions had been snatched away by Pearl a long time ago. That beautiful necklace must be part of the latter's loot as well.

It looked like she would have to visit Pearl. Once she got back her necklace, she would be one step closer to discovering her own background.

Tina decided to not waste any time. She stopped by a cheap café and dialed Pearl's number.

"Hello? Who's this?" Pearl asked after answering the call.

"It's me, Tina."

"Tina?!" Pearl didn't hesitate to shriek into her phone. "You f*cking b*tch! I was worried about not being able to find you! Turns out you have the guts to find me instead!"

"The reason I'm calling you today is because I have something to discuss with you. Come over to the café, Tina said calmly, not wanting to start an argument with Pearl over the phone.

"Are you planning to get revenge on me?" Pearl asked suspiciously. "I heard a man paid your debt off for you and took you away. You must have seduced that guy, right? I'm not falling for your lies this time!"

Tina couldn't be bothered to explain herself. She said, "Pearl, I'm not as vicious as you. I just have some questions to ask. It doesn't matter to me if you come or not."

"What the hell is that attitude, huh? You're just a dog that our family took in! You..."

Tina hung up on Pearl immediately. She was very sure that the latter would most definitely come. When they were still children, Pearl used to cause trouble for Tina because she disliked Tina from the start. Now that Tina had finally left the Lynd family and led a comfortable life of her own, there was no way her sister would let her go just like that.

As expected, Pearl showed up at the café some time later.

"Hey, Tina. Looks like your life is quite difficult now, huh? Your clothes look so shabby! Is your sugar daddy so stingy that he refuses to give you money to buy new clothes?" The moment Pearl laid her eyes on Tina, she began mocking Tina relentlessly. Tina couldn't be bothered to care about Pearl's childish insults. She pulled out the picture from the orphanage and said, "This is a picture of me when I was still a little girl. You should remember the necklace I was wearing, right? I want it back." "You want this necklace?" Pearl cast a glance at the picture and recognized it immediately. She had snatched the necklace away from Tina on Tina's first day with the Lynd family. After that, she forgot where she had thrown the necklace to.

However, it was impossible for Pearl to tell Tina the truth. An idea popped into her head and she said with a cackle, "You want it? Fine! Pay for it!"