

Pampered 41

Chapter 41

Tina gasped, filled with disbelief. "I didn't do anything!"

"Samuel... This really is a misunderstanding..." Cindy explained weakly.

"I don't want to repeat myself!" Samuel barked indignantly.

Tina straightened her back, upset. "Why do I have to apologize? I didn't do anything wrong!"

"You!" Samuel was seething.

Cindy was dumbfounded as well.

"How dare she defy Samuel's orders?" she thought, stunned.

At the same time, she felt proud of herself. Based on Samuel's actions, she knew that she held an important place in his heart.

"Mr. Langford, Mr. Carter's here," Sandy informed, cutting them off.

Samuel didn't want to cause a scene with outsiders around. Thus, he had no choice but to compromise.

"Sandy, escort Mr. Carter to the conference room. Send Miss Young home after that." He then glanced at Tina and warned coldly, "Don't do it again."

Having said that, he strode away in a huff. A man whose demeanor was a stark contrast to him arrived right after. Dressed in a suit and tie, he seemed like a person with a kind and gentle disposition.

"Hello, Mr. Carter," Cindy greeted the newcomer sweetly.

John Carter nodded politely in response. Immediately after, his eyes were drawn to Tina.

For some reason, this woman felt oddly familiar to him. It was as if...

His heart skipped a beat as he stopped in his tracks. Turning his attention to her, he asked, "Hello, have we met before?"

Tina didn't expect Mr. Carter to talk to her. She quickly shook her head in response.

"I don't think we've met before." Tina had only seen John twice. The first time was at Loving Heart Orphanage, and the second time was at Samuel's private residence.

Plus, Mr. Carter shouldn't be able to recognize her as she was only watching him from afar during those two encounters.

When Tina replied, her voice cracked slightly from sobbing just now. John frowned, his face darkening somewhat. He didn't know why, but something broke inside him when he saw Tina's red and puffy eyes.

She reminded him of his long-lost sister, Coco Carter, who would always cry at the slightest discomfort.

He loved his sister deeply, more than anything. Alas, she was no longer by his side.

Lost in his reverie, he subconsciously coaxed her, “There, there, I’m here. Don’t cry, okay?”

Before John knew it, he was reaching out and attempting to wipe the tears off Tina’s cheeks.

Tina was stunned, not expecting the gesture. She backed off immediately and maintained a comfortable distance from John.

“I’m alright,” she said, her eyes reflecting defensiveness.

Sandy, who was standing next to them, made a timely interjection. “Mr. Carter, Mr. Langford is waiting for you inside.”

Noticing his inappropriate actions, John returned to his senses. The woman in front of him wasn’t his sister, but Samuel’s employee.

He sent Tina an apologetic smile.

“I’m sorry. I was preoccupied with my thoughts just now. I didn’t realize my actions would cause discomfort to you,” he explained. He paused before adding “What’s your name, miss?”

“Tina Lynd.”

“Tina Lynd...” When Samuel heard that, disappointment rose inside him.

‘Weird. What was I expecting?’

John shook away the messy thoughts in his head and reached for the napkin in the pocket on his suit before stuffing it into Tina’s hand.

“This is for you.”

Before Tina could refuse his offer, John had turned to leave as he followed Sandy into the conference room.

“Miss Lynd, I’m sorry for the misunderstanding just now,” Cindy said pretentiously as she approached Tina, still putting on the innocent act.

“It’s alright, I know you didn’t do it on purpose.” Tina shook her head. “I’ll head back to work now.”

Looking at Tina’s disappearing back, Cindy gnashed her teeth in jealousy. ‘What a scheming woman!’

When Cindy recalled the time Tina was with John, she couldn’t get over how close they seemed.

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‘I can’t let her stay in the company! She needs to leave!’ Cindy thought, panicking.

It was at this moment that Tina received a call from the conference room.

“Please send in some refreshments.”

Right now, Tina was the only person in the office.

She stopped whatever she was doing and replied, "Alright, I'll do it now."

All this while, Cindy didn't leave the office. She stared at Tina, trying to think of a plan to rid Tina once and for all.

Very soon, a thought occurred to her. She approached Tina, and spoke in her gentlest tone.

"Miss Lynd, do you need help? I know you're new here, so you might not know where some of the things are located."

Tina looked at Cindy gratefully, not at all suspecting anything. "Thank you so much, Miss Young."

With Cindy's help, Tina prepared the refreshments in no time and served them to the conference room.

Cindy sat in the resting lounge afterwards, awaiting the results of her plan to manifest.

As time dragged on, the smile on her face widened even further. The proud expression plastered on her face made it obvious how proud she was of her work.

Just now, she had changed the water Tina had prepared into alcoholic drinks!

After spending quite a lot of time with Samuel, Cindy picked up a thing or two about John.

John had downright terrible alcohol intolerance. Right now, Cindy was waiting patiently for John to drink the refreshments Tina served. She was certain that John's allergic reactions would soon disrupt the flow of the meeting, which would then raise suspicions about the drinks. Tina would be screwed!

One minute, two minutes. The clock ticked on.

When Tina left the conference room, Cindy prodded her gently, "Have they drunk the refreshments?"

"Yeah, they did," Tina said, nodding.

Satisfied with her answer, Cindy deliberately blocked her way.

Utina. I have something to ask you. How did you come to know Samuel? I'm curious."

"I..."

Tina didn't know how to explain herself to Miss Young, whom she thought to be a kind and saintly lady.

Just then, they could hear a ruckus coming from the conference room. It sounded like someone had accidentally knocked over something.

Cindy's eyes immediately lit up with joy.

'It's about time! John must've drunk the alcohol, and now, he's in pain!' she thought in glee.

"What's that sound?" Cindy asked, feigning ignorance.

Tina, still oblivious of Cindy's evil scheme, said worriedly, "I'll head in and check what's going on."

Just as the door swung open, Cindy shoved Tina away and sprinted inside.

As expected, John, seemingly in pain, bent forward as the people around him looked at him worriedly.

“Mr. Carter, what’s wrong?”

“Mr. Carter! Mr. Carter!”

Upon witnessing the chaos ensuing, Cindy smirked proudly.

‘You’re done for, Tina! Look at what you did to Mr. Carter!’

“Mr. Carter, are you feeling unwell?”

Cindy approached John for a quick look. When she was certain that John had fallen ill, she shifted her gaze to the drinks on the table, let out a loud gasp, and picked up the cup to examine it.

With a nervous tone, she added, “Samuel! If I remember correctly, Mr. Carter has really bad alcohol intolerance, right?”

Samuel frowned. “How do you know that?”

“You told me before,” she explained.

Then, she shifted her gaze to Tina.

“Miss Lynd, it seems there’s something wrong with the refreshments. What exactly did you serve? There’s alcohol in the drinks! You’re in big trouble now!”

Tina stood there with a face filled with bewilderment, frozen on the spot.

#### Chapter 43

Cindy was incredibly proud of her achievements. ‘Sooner or later, that b\*tch will be chased out of the company! Samuel will never allow her to stay after committing such a terrible offense!’

While she was entrenched in sinister joy, she didn’t realize that no one in the room gave any form of reaction to her words.

Nervous, Cindy pressed on, “What’s wrong? Quick! We should call for an ambulance! Isn’t he allergic to alcohol?”

Finally, Tina came back to her senses and explained, “Miss Young, I think you’ve misunderstood the situation. Mr. Carter didn’t drink anything.”

“What?” Cindy was petrified. “That’s impossible! Didn’t you all say that he drank it just now? On top of that, Mr. Carter didn’t look well at all!”

Though John looked pale and tired, he rubbed his forehead and explained patiently, “Miss Young, I’m sorry to have worried you. I was just experiencing a bad headache, though I didn’t expect you to barge in and reach that conclusion. Thank you for caring about me.”

Cindy couldn’t believe her ears. She pointed to the half-empty cup and said, “But this cup...”

Samuel wouldn’t be the one to drink it, because he was already used to drinking freshly ground coffee. If John didn’t drink it, then who did?

“I was the one who drank it,” Tina finally admitted, face filled with distress.

After working the entire morning, she was famished and exhausted. So, she stole a sip to quench her thirst. She did think that the water tasted a bit strange, but it never slipped her mind that it was actually alcohol.

Looking at Cindy, Samuel couldn't help but find the entire situation skeptical.

"Cindy, didn't I tell Sandy to send you back? Why are you still here?"

All color drained from her face. She didn't expect her plan to fail at all. Anxious, she scrambled for words and blabbered, "Samuel, I... I was still feeling sluggish. That's why I stayed back. I was resting in the lounge when I heard a commotion inside. I'm sorry, I didn't think twice before jumping to conclusions."

Samuel believed her every word. After all, someone as well-mannered and kind as Cindy would never plot anything for her benefit.

Thinking about this, he felt bad for doubting Cindy's intentions.

"You don't have to apologize, Cindy. Tina!"

His gentle tone took a severe turn when he called out to Tina. "I won't look into the fact that you've sent the wrong beverage to us. However, you should take responsibility for drinking our refreshments without our knowledge. For your mistake, I'm going to cut your salary by half. Don't do it the second time."

Tina was stung. She attempted to argue with Samuel, and retorted, "That's not fair..."

First things first, it wasn't her intention to work here at all. She was forced to come! Yet, Samuel was reducing her pay for something so petty. No matter how she thought about it, it just didn't feel right!

"I'll cut one month off your salary!" Samuel gave an ultimatum.

Fueled with anger, Tina could feel her head throbbing in pain. Perhaps it was the alcohol taking effect, but she mustered the courage to scream back, "You battard, I quit!"

Samuel's face turned livid almost instantly. It was obvious that he was furious.

Cindy heaved a sigh of relief. Though her plan didn't succeed, everything still went well in the end. 'What a b\*tch, I didn't have to do anything, and she still drove herself out of the company!' Cindy was delighted.

She hurried to comfort Samuel, saying sweetly, "Samuel, don't be angry. I'll convince her to come back."

"No need! You don't have to worry about any of this. Sandy, send Cindy back home now! As for that woman, just let her be."

∴ She knew Samuel hated women who liked to *overreact* over the slightest bit of discomfort.

'That woman will never work alongside Samuel now!'

Feeling wronged, Tina stormed out of the conference room.

Just as she was about to pack and leave, a group of women blocked her way. One of them hurtled a fierce slap on Tina's face.

#### Chapter 44

Tina wanted to fight back, but she had been rendered sluggish and weak due to her low alcohol tolerance. She couldn't muster the energy to fight back.

The women dragged her to the bathroom, vicious in every way. Once there, one of them pulled at Tina's hair and began barking insults.

"How dare you take away our chance to serve refreshments?!"

"I didn't expect you to be such a scheming woman! You're just a lowly intern! How dare you take advantage of our lunch break to approach Mr. Carter!"

"I heard you even tried to seduce him! You shameless sl\*t!" ..

"I can't stand being in the same room with you! You're obviously just a country hick who happens to have a pretty face! Looking at you makes me sick. I wish I could ruin that face of yours!"

They piled degrading comments on Tina, and even took to splashing water at her.

Tina, fuming, yelled back angrily, "Keep doing this and I'll report you to the police!"

"The police? I want to see you try! A thief like you will go straight to jail!"

"Girls, look at her waist!"

Tina's wet clothes were sticking to her skin after being splashed with water.

One of them noticed a strange mark on her waist, and promptly reached out to lift her top for a better look

"Don't touch me!" Tina was enraged and shoved her hand away.

Looking at Tina's hysterical reaction, wild assumptions rose in their minds almost immediately.

"Look at that! There's a scar on her waist. Oh my god, what a scandal! This sl\*t has given birth to children before!"

"I told you she's a wh\*re! God knows how many men she's slept with!"

Listening to their blatant humiliation, Tina couldn't be bothered to explain herself anymore. Instead, she shouted back sarcastically, "Are you sure I'm the sl\*t here? Why don't you take a good look at what you're doing now? Your minds are all filled with dirty tricks on how to seduce Mr. Carter! I'm sorry to tell you this, but he'll never consider dirty women like you!"

Tina's words were akin to knives stabbing at their weak points. "How dare you! Girls, let's all take turns to slap her!"

"What's happening here?" A stern voice hollered from outside.

The women were stunned silly. They turned and saw a man standing outside, only to be greeted with shock. "Mr. Carter!".

'Why's he here?' they thought, flabbergasted.

John glared at them, anger burning in his eyes. "I don't think I want to establish a business partnership with a company filled with employees with no basic moral values. I suppose I'll have to talk to Mr. Langford about cancelling our contract."

They were so frightened, their legs turned weak from the shock. If Samuel knew they were the ones who hindered his company's development, he would definitely make their lives a living hell!

"Mr. Carter! Mr. Carter, it's not what you think it is..."

"She's right! This woman right here is a thief! She's stolen what belongs to us."

"What's more, she's been sleeping around with men. There's even a scar on her waist, here, look..."

To prove their claims, they tried to take off Tina's shirt.

Tina thrashed her hands and feet around and yelled, "Get away from me!"

John couldn't sit there and do nothing. Furious, he bellowed an order. "All of you, get out now!"

Noticing that Mr. Carter was letting them off the hook, they glared at Tina before leaving the washroom.

"She's lucky Mr. Carter showed up. Next time, I'll make sure to rip off her face!" one of the women threatened.

## Chapter 45

Tina stood up awkwardly from the ground. She passed by John and thanked him in a low whisper.

"Thank you."

Drenched from head to toe, she looked just like a helpless kitten. John's heart went out to her almost instantly

"Wait," he reached out his arm and blocked her path.

Tina could feel something heavy on her shoulders. She looked up, and noticed that John was covering her wet body with his suit. It was still warm.

"Your clothes are all wet. Let's head to the resting lounge. I'll have my assistant bring you new ones."

Tina felt warm inside. When they first met this morning, Mr. Carter offered her his napkin. He was such a gentleman!

However, Tina refused his gesture.

"It's alright, Mr. Carter. I can take care of myself. Besides, I'm not your employee, so you don't have to look out for me."

John replied, "I'm actually doing this for myself. You remind me of someone I love."

For some reason, the woman in front of him kept reminding him of his long-lost sister, Coco Carter.

Perhaps he was just trying to alleviate the pain of losing his sister by helping Tina.

'What does he mean by that? I wonder who I remind him of,' Tina thought.

All of a sudden, she remembered what she had heard from the orphanage. Apparently, John had a sister who had been separated from him a long time ago. All these years, his family had never abandoned the hope of finding her.

"I guess he's helping me because I look like his sister,' Tina concluded.

Words spilled out from Tina's mouth when she saw John's depressed look, "Is this related to your sister?"

Shocked, John asked, "How do you know that?"

Tina covered her mouth when she realized that she had accidentally spilled her thoughts.

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"I, 1, umm..." Tina struggled to give him an answer.

Suddenly, a man from behind dragged her forcefully into an embrace. Samuel's domineering voice sounded from above Tina, startling her. "Mr. Carter, thank you for looking out for my employee. Since we're done discussing details about our partnership contract, I'll be taking my leave with her."

Judging by how Samuel was hugging Tina, suspicions arose in John. He asked Samuel, "She's not just an employee to you, is she?"

'Don't tell me she's the woman at Samuel's residence last night? That can't be right. If that's the case, why's he treating her so poorly at work? He didn't even do anything when Tina was getting bullied,' John thought

For some reason, it ticked Samuel off to see John and Tina talking together.

Samuel snapped coldly, "That's none of your business. Let's talk next time."

The moment Samuel said that, he tugged at Tina's wrist and strode towards the lift, dragging her all the way.

After the door of the lift was closed, Tina mustered up all her strength to shove away Samuel's hand.

Red marks appeared on her thin wrist. "Stop that!"

Samuel narrowed his eyes and threatened in an intimidating tone, "How dare you seduce John in front of me!"

"When did I do that?!" Tina was infuriated. "Why are you always blaming me for things I didn't do? Stop making assumptions!"



“Can you blame me for that? Remember what you did to force me to sleep with you.” When he saw the suit draping on her shoulders, he ordered domineeringly, “Take off that suit right now.”

“I don’t want to,” Tina refused, adamant. Samuel, infuriated, grabbed the suit and threw it on the ground.

Chapter 46 Tina immediately bent down to grab the suit, but Samuel pressed on her hand, forcing her to stay still. Looking at her awkward pose and drenched clothing, he began shooting question after question. “Look at you! Are you trying to seduce John with that pitiful look of yours? You scheming woman! I warned you, didn’t I?! As long as our contract is still binding, you are my woman! Don’t you dare go around sleeping with other men!”

Samuel’s words were rude and degrading, insulting everything about Tina. The way his eyes reflected his mounting suspicions was the straw that broke the camel’s back. Fury surged in Tina and she exploded.

“Your employees were the ones ganging up on me! Does it seem logical to you that I’d pour water on myself? Mr. Carter was just walking past when he saw the incident and decided to help me. To you, his kind gesture also suggests ulterior motives. Why do you always think that the world is getting at you all the damn time? Are you that insecure?! Rumors have it that you don’t like women, but I don’t think that’s true. I bet you’re just an impotent b\*stard who can’t get it up! That explains why you can’t find yourself a wife all these years! You disgusting trash!”

Right at this moment, the lift gradually opened its door. Seizing the chance to escape, Tina pushed Samuel away, grabbed the suit, and dashed off. At first, she thought that she could leave after giving him a piece of her mind. Much to her dismay, Samuel caught up to her in no time. Ignoring her desperate attempt to escape, Samuel roughly yanked her by the collar, like how one would grab a cat, and slammed her into the backseat of the car. “What are you doing? Let go of me!” Although Tina was thrashing her arms and legs like a maniac, Samuel could still subdue her with ease.

He mounted on top of her and forced her to a corner. Tina was overwhelmed with fear when she looked at his wide shoulders and domineering position. Glaring at her, Samuel hissed venomously, “Tina, I dare you to say that again.”

Tina shivered.

“I... I don’t remember what I said,” she stuttered.

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“Didn’t you say that I’m impotent? Let’s test that theory today,” he growled hoarsely. “No!” Tina sobered up completely when she heard that. “I was just spouting nonsense just now! The alcohol made me do it!”

Samuel sneered, “It’s too late now.”

The woman in his arms smelled like flowers. With her body drenched, her clothes stuck to her body like a second skin and emphasized her alluring curves.

Noticing that Samuel was slowly approaching her, Tina knew that she couldn't escape anymore. She closed her eyes tightly, preparing herself for the impending doom. Looking at how reluctant she was, Samuel felt a pang of irritation.

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All of a sudden, images of Tina and John Carter in the washroom flashed in his mind. She was all smiles and laughter when talking to John. Yet when it came to Samuel, she acted as if he was threatening to slit her throat with a knife!

"Tina, don't forget about the terms and conditions in the contract. Since you've taken my money, stop acting like I'm forcing myself on you."

Guilt stabbed at Tina. It was true that she had taken 1.5 million dollars from him. According to the terms in the contract, she had to at least act like she was enjoying his company.

"I understand."

Her heart hammering against her chest, Tina did her best to avoid looking Samuel in the eye and wrapped her arms around his neck.

Just as Samuel was inching forward, Tina backed off. "W-Wait! I just thought about something!" She thought about Cindy and asked, "Samuel, is Cindy aware of our relationship? Don't you think she'll be very sad if she knows what we're doing now?"

Chapter 47 "Tina, do you want to die?" Samuel threatened.

"I-I'm just looking out for you!" Tina ran out of words and ended up blurting out, "You're in love with her, right?".

Samuel heaved in a deep breath. He had a strong urge to punch her in the face.

"Get out, now."

Tina immediately got up. "Alright." The moment she stepped outside the car, Samuel stopped her. "Wait, come back here." Tina was frustrated. "What do you want me to do?!"

Samuel shot her an annoyed glare. "You're coming back home with me. Also, don't forget to visit Grandma tomorrow."

Tina had a strong emotional attachment to Madam Langford, so she instantly agreed. "Alright, I'll follow you." Samuel drove her home personally. The entire journey, none spoke a single word. Silence reigned all the way.

Finally, they arrived at Samuel's private residence. Tina thought that Samuel would leave her behind and go inside. Unexpectedly, he grabbed her wrist roughly and grunted in displeasure, "I'll show you to your room."

"What?" Tina was stunned.

Samuel frowned. "What are you thinking? From now on, you'll be sleeping in the guest room. If you catch a cold again, Grandma will think that I'm forcing you to sleep on the sofa."

“Okay,” Tina obliged. Looking at her innocent expression, Samuel’s mood went for the worse. ‘What’s she thinking about now? Half of the time, I can’t tell if she’s straight-up lying to my face or if she’s showing me her true intentions.’

Tina’s room was opposite Samuel’s. After she entered her new room, she showered and changed into a clean set of clothes. Then, she jumped into bed and slept through the entire afternoon. The next thing she knew, she woke up from hunger at night.

Noticing there weren’t many helpers at his house, Tina wondered who prepared Samuel’s meals every day. But even if they did prepare something for him, she knew for a fact that they wouldn’t prepare hers. She opened the bedroom door and found the kitchen almost immediately.

Fortunately, there were a lot of ingredients in the fridge. After selecting a few, she started preparing dinner.

In the brightly lit kitchen, Tina shuffled from place to place, as if trying to search for something What Tina didn’t know was that Samuel was standing outside the kitchen, watching her every move.

Unfamiliar with the layout of the kitchen, she scanned the place and finally found the condiments section. It was located on the shelf just above her.

She stood on her toes and tried to reach for the items up there, but to no avail. So, she grabbed a stool and stepped on it.

Most of the condiments inside were imported goods, and the labels were written in a foreign language.

After searching through the shelf, she finally found something that she was familiar with: soy sauce. The moment she closed the shelf, the glass reflected the surroundings behind her.

To Tina’s horror, someone was standing just outside the kitchen door! The stool wobbled unsteadily as she jumped in shock. Seeing that she was about to fall, Samuel rushed forward and pulled her into his arms.

He was disgusted. “Why are you so clumsy?”

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“You scared me! Why are you sneaking around behind me?” Tina’s soul almost fled out of her body from the shock. She thought he was a ghost! “Me? Sneaking around? This is my house!” Samuel barked back, furious. Only then did Tina remember that she was currently living under his roof. Embarrassed, she lowered her head and asked politely, “Have you had dinner? I’ve prepared some food.”

Even though Samuel had left the office early that day, he had spent the entire evening looking through documents in the study.

Chapter 48 Samuel always ate at irregular timings. On top of that, he was also very picky with his food. Even Madam Langford couldn’t coax into getting rid of his bad habits. Yet for some reason, he found himself getting interested in tasting the food Tina made. “Sure,” Samuel grunted curtly, his tone grumpy. He purposefully made it sound like he was forced to do it.

Tina rolled her eyes. It was a shame she didn't have poison right now. Looking at the condiments beside the table, she had the urge to flood the whole thing with soy sauce.

Despite her evil desires, Tina still couldn't bring herself to waste food. At the end of the day, delicious food was still served.

Samuel had tasted Tina's home-cooked food twice. Once was when she was at the hospital ward to visit his grandmother, and the second time was when she made supper for his grandmother. Tina looked at him nervously. "How is it?"

She was confident in her culinary skills, but she was still fearful when presenting her food to the hatefully overbearing president. "Surprisingly, it tastes good. I hate to admit it, but you have talent," Samuel said with a casual tone, though his words were insulting. He didn't dig deep into the details, there was no doubt that he was still praising her in a way.

"Really?" Tina was joyful. "Eat more!" Samuel frowned when he saw her proud look. 'Why's she so happy over a small praise? I thought she's a scheming woman who won't show her true colors easily.'

Tina noticed his questioning stare, but she chose to turn a blind eye to it.

After they finished eating, Tina moved to clean the dishes. However, Samuel stopped her. "Leave it there. The cleaners will take care of it tomorrow morning."

"I can wash them by myself," Tina said. She was slightly moved by his unexpected show of thoughtfulness. Samuel cut her off with a grunt. "The cutlery's expensive. I doubt you can pay for it if you break them."

Instantly, Tina retracted her hands. 'I should've known better! Someone as evil-hearted as Samuel will never think about the wellbeing of others.'

"I have matters to attend to tomorrow morning. You should head to the hospital first. I'll join you later."

"Alright," Tina agreed. Samuel turned to leave after that. Tina returned to her room, and promptly fell into a deep slumber as her hunger had been satiated.

The next morning after washing up, she thought about hailing a taxi to visit Madam Langford. Just as she was about to leave, a car unexpectedly drove past the gates of the house and entered the residence.

At first, Tina wondered if Samuel had arranged for someone to pick her up. When the car window was rolled down, however, she couldn't believe her eyes.

"Mr. Carter! Why are you here?"

Upon seeing Tina, John was certain that she was Samuel's lover of sorts. In a gentle tone, John asked, "Is Mr. Langford at home? I can't seem to find him at the company."

Only then did Tina remember that the two were business partners. It wouldn't be surprising for John to come here.

"He's not at home right now. He said he had something to attend to this morning."

"Oh, really?" John didn't seem to care about that and added, "Where are you going? I'll send you there."

Tina waved her hand to dismiss him. "It's alright. I have to go to the hospital. I'll just call for a taxi."

"Get in. I'm heading to the hospital as well."

Tina couldn't bring herself to reject his offer and ended up getting in the car. While they were on the way to the hospital, a thought struck her.

"Excuse me, Mr. Carter? I've washed your suit, but I've forgotten to bring it out just now."

"Don't worry about it. Here, this is my card with my assistant's number on it. Just call my assistant when you're free. He'll head over to collect it from you."

"Okay." Tina reached for the name card and kept it in her pocket. All of a sudden, John thought about something and began, "Right, I almost forgot..."

Chapter 49 Out of the blue, he asked, "Umm, do you like to eat sweet things?" Tina nodded, joyful. "Oh, I love them! Chocolate cotton candy's my favorite." Samuel was shocked. Coco's favorite food was also chocolate cotton candy. "What's wrong?" Noticing his stare, Tina grew embarrassed. "Do you think I'm too childish? I mean, cotton candy is something kids would like to eat..." John shook his head almost immediately. "Not at all. What a pleasant coincidence, I also like chocolate cotton candy!" "Really?" Tina was surprised. She didn't expect a gentleman like Mr. Carter to have a palate for sweets.

"I know how to make sweets, too. If you want, I can make some for you."

John nodded happily, smiling. "Sure!" Tina warmed up to him instantly when he struck up the topic of desserts. She chatted merrily with John, her tone happy and eager. Aside from having the same preference for deserts, they also shared similar hobbies and interests. The entire time, Tina enjoyed herself. Before they knew it, the car came to a stop and the driver announced, "Mr. Carter, we have arrived at the hospital." Tina came back to her senses. She hurried to say, "Thank you so much for sending me here, Mr. Carter. I'll take my leave now. Goodbye!"

She waved her hand and smiled brightly. John replied in a gentle tone, "Goodbye." He stared quietly at Tina's back as she left. Without knowing it, a warm smile graced his lips. He was beaming. The driver saw John's warm expression and commented emotionally, "Mr. Carter ... I haven't seen you chatting that happily with someone in ages." Ever since the unfortunate disappearance of his sister, John had never been as chatty. He became more reserved, speaking only when he was required to at work. John heaved out a long, mournful sigh. "The way she talks reminds me of Coco..." Coco was a girl with a bright personality, who also happened to love desserts. Sadly, John knew it was just a mere coincidence that Coco and Tina happened to resemble each other.

Even after all these years, he was still dedicated to searching for his lost sister. Whenever he heard trails about Coco, he would immediately verify it personally. Thus, he also treated his encounter with Tina very seriously. Coco had a birthmark on her back. Using that clue, he searched through almost all the orphanages and hospitals in the city for relevant information.

Still, nothing came up. After facing major disappointment time and again, he had to accept the painful fact that Coco wasn't in this city.

After wrapping up his business with Samuel Langford , he would head back to his hometown.

As for Tina, John could sense that she was an innocent and kind little lady. Before leaving, he decided to do his best to look out for her.

When John's car drove away, two people got out of a car not far away from him. They were Samuel and Cindy.

In Cindy's hand was a thermos with freshly brewed chicken soup. Cindy put on her usual sweet facade and said innocently, "Samuel, I think I saw Miss Lynd getting out of that car just now... That doesn't seem like a taxi. Is that her friend's car?"

## Chapter 50

Samuel spotted the car right away and recognized the owner, who was none other than John Carter himself.

Yesterday, Tina was flirting with him. Now, she had already wormed her way into his car. If he didn't verify her actions with her own eyes, Samuel would've thought that Tina was just an innocent woman. Now, however...

"Let her be. She's just a tool I'm using to please my grandmother. You should stay away from her, Cindy. Nothing good comes from associating with that scheming woman," Samuel spat in disgust.

"Okay, Samuel. I'll listen to everything you say," Cindy replied coyly. When Tina was chatting merrily with Madam Langford, Samuel and Cindy entered the ward. Tina wasn't a dense person. Noticing the loving couple, she made an attempt to leave the room almost immediately.

"Grandma, I'll cut some fruits for you. What about you two?"

Cindy took advantage of the situation and ordered Tina around like an entitled mistress. "Tina, wash the apples and cut them into cubes. Then, peel the grapes and remove the seeds. After that, prepare a cup of Americano for Samuel. He can only drink coffee made from freshly ground coffee beans."

Tina was confused by the lengthy order. Dumbfounded, she stopped in her tracks and asked, "Do I really have to prepare all that?"

Cindy was stunned. She was quick to act coy and apologized almost immediately. "I'm sorry, I thought you said you wanted to help. If you don't want to do all that, you can help in your way.

"No, I didn't mean it like that," Tina said, waving her hand awkwardly.

Madam Langford couldn't stand it anymore. She interjected heatedly, "Tina, you don't have to do all that. It's not like you're a helper. This is a hospital, not a hotel!"

"I'm so sorry, Grandma Langford. I don't mean to offend anyone." Cindy looked at Samuel anxiously.

"Samuel, what did I do wrong?"

Samuel hated the way his grandmother treated Cindy and tried to explain, "Grandma, Cindy wasn't the one who started it. You can't blame her for this."

“Then are you suggesting that Tina is the one at fault?” Noticing how protective Samuel was over Cindy, Madam Langford grew flustered and angry. “You insolent boy! How dare you defend an outsider? My future granddaughter-in-law is Tina, not that woman!”

“Grandma, I told you before. Cindy’s not an outsider, she’s my sister. I can’t just sit here and do nothing when you’re making things difficult for her.”

“You...” Madam Langford was so angry, she couldn’t catch her breath. Worried, Tina went up to Madam Langford and patted her back slowly. “Grandma, are you okay?”

“I’m alright, but if they keep angering me, it won’t be long before I pass on!” Madam Langford snapped.

Cindy’s eyes turned red as she whispered in fear, “Samuel, have I really done something so wrong? Why does Grandma Langford hate me so much? Maybe I should just leave...”

Samuel glared at Tina. ‘She must’ve been badmouthing Cindy behind our backs. That’s why Grandma hates Cindy so much!’

“Say, Cindy. Didn’t you brew some chicken soup for grandma?” Samuel asked.

Cindy remembered the thermos she brought with her and said carefully, “Grandma, do you want to drink some chicken soup? I brewed it the entire night for you!”

Still stubborn, Madam Langford snarled angrily, “No!”

“Grandma, please,” Tina persuaded in a soft tone. “Chicken soup is good for your health. What’s more, Miss Young made it especially for you!”

Madam Langford was speechless to see Tina speaking up for Cindy. “Tina, you can’t give in that easily!” Helpless, she relented and compromised, “Fine, I’ll drink some.”

Cindy opened the thermos almost instantly.

In fact, she didn’t brew the chicken soup herself. She made a chef from a five-star restaurant prepare the soup instead, in hopes that Madam Langford would view her as a diligent woman who is better suited with Samuel than Tina.

Unfortunately, things didn’t go as planned.