

Pampered 51

Chapter 51

Madam Langford tasted the chicken soup. Already, a deep frown graced her lips. "Why does this soup taste so nasty?"

Cindy was stunned upon hearing that remark. "T-That's impossible..." "Did you add anything into the soup?!" Madam Langford started nitpicking at the soup. "You didn't add any fragrant herbs at all! Did you boil the chicken once with hot water before serving it to me?"

Cindy couldn't help but stammer. It was impossible for her to answer Madam Langford, as she wasn't the one who made the soup. "I... I don't know... I was just experimenting on the soup..."

"You were experimenting on it, yet you dared to serve it to me? What do you think I am? Your guinea pig?" Cindy's response only succeeded in angering Madam Langford even more.

Cindy was so furious that her face turned a brilliant shade of red. She hated that five-star chef from the bottom of her heart. He screwed up the job, despite having received a hefty payment from her. Not only did she fail to catch any praise from Madam Langford for being a virtuous lady, but she also succeeded in angering the latter even more.

"I'll throw it right away, Grandma Langford," Cindy suggested immediately. Tina couldn't help but interject. "Dumping it is such a waste! If Grandma doesn't want to drink it, then I'll have it. I didn't eat much for breakfast, anyway." "That's right. Tina here doesn't waste food at all," Madam Langford commented before shooting Cindy a disapproving look. "If you're bad at cooking, don't go around wasting food." Cindy had no choice but to place the thermos flask in front of Tina. "If that's what you want, Miss Lynd, then you can have it."

Tina grabbed the flask. Coincidentally, she was feeling quite hungry as well. However, the moment she smelled the chicken soup, she could feel her stomach turning upside down.

"Urk!" Unable to hold herself back, Tina started dry heaving on the spot.

Meanwhile, Cindy's face darkened even more at the sight of Tina's condition. "What exactly do you mean by this, Miss Lynd?!" she asked in irritation.

"I'm so sorry," Tina apologized, looking slightly embarrassed. "M-My appetite hasn't been well lately."

The moment she finished her sentence, she started dry heaving again.

Having observed Tina's condition, Madam Langford looked like she just realized something. She instantly grabbed the former's hand and started pelting her with questions.

"Tina, when did your appetite start deteriorating?"

Tina took a moment to ponder over it. "I think it's been a month. Maybe it's because of the weather."

"Have you always been feeling drowsy or dizzy? Has your lower back been sore all this time?" Madam Langford perked up when she heard Tina's answer, and continued to ask her more questions.

Tina hesitated for a moment before nodding. "I think so." "What about your period? Has it arrived yet?"

Perhaps it was due to the fact that Tina had been working hard for her family since young, but her period cycle had always been unstable.

She was already used to the abnormal cycle. Madam Langford's question served as a reminder for her as she tried her best to recall her last cycle.

"It's not here yet, but I think it'll be here soon," she answered truthfully. "Oh my god," Madam Langford whispered, staring at Tina's stomach. She then exclaimed in surprise, "Tina, could you be pregnant?"

Tina was stunned.

"What? Pregnant?! That's impossible!" Before Tina could realize what was going on, Cindy's shrill voice knocked her out of her puzzled trance. Madam Langford was slightly annoyed by Cindy's behavior. "Why are you screaming? Have you forgotten your manners?" she chided, livid.

Cindy covered her mouth immediately upon realizing that she had lost her control in front of Madam Langford. Then, she looked at Samuel and asked, "How can she be pregnant, Samuel?"

You've been busy lately! It's impossible for her to be pregnant!"

There was no way Cindy would believe that b*tch Tina would get impregnated by Samuel.

However, Samuel himself was unsure of what was happening.

After all, he and Tina had only done the deed once, even by accident. It happened about a month ago

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Back then, Samuel had quickly detained Tina and performed a check-up on her on the spot. However, he forgot to feed her the required medicine. Now that he thought of it...

Even if it was only an accident, the possibility of her being impregnated from that session was still there.

Madam Langford stared at the duo's expressions. The more she thought about it, the more she was convinced that Tina was pregnant.

"You two! Don't you know anything about pregnancy symptoms? I can't believe that I need to remind you about them! Hurry and take Tina for a check-up, Samuel! It'd be great if she's really pregnant! We'll hold a wedding right away! I can announce to Freesia that I have a granddaughter-in-law now!" she gushed happily.

Tina's head buzzed throughout Madam Langford's excited monologue. She had been suffering from stomach problems over the past month. Even her period had yet to come.

Was she truly pregnant? It couldn't be... Right? Samuel, on the other hand, had mixed feelings. He stole a glance at Tina's flat stomach before finally speaking up. "Let's go for a check-up." "Okay." Tina stood up immediately. Since she had risen to her feet too quickly, she ended up bumping into a corner of the table. The pain flaring from her side made her gasp out loud.

"Move slower!" Madam Langford instantly reprimanded. Her tone was one of complaint. "Even if you aren't pregnant with my great-grandson, you must take care of yourself. Don't be so brash in the future."

“Got it, Grandma,” Tina replied, feeling her heart warming up in return. That elderly woman was the only one who truly cared about her. She followed Samuel out of the ward, a hand rubbing her stomach subconsciously as she walked. She was starting to space out as well. Samuel turned around at that moment only to see Tina rubbing her own stomach. For some reason, that image touched his heart.

He had always been cold and aloof. He didn’t care about anyone other than Madam Langford and Cindy.

What if Tina was pregnant with his baby?

Yet, the thought of this woman’s true nature disgusted Samuel to no end.

“Tina, have you been planning this the whole time?” he asked coldly. “What?” Tina snapped out of her trance. A look of confusion set in shortly after that.

“You hatched a plot to climb into my bed just so you can be pregnant with my baby and become a part of the Langford family, right?” Tina couldn’t help but explain, “I didn’t think that much... I was just trying to...”

She stopped talking all of a sudden. The reason she tried very hard to get into Samuel’s bed

was because she wanted revenge on the Lynd family. If Samuel were to find out about her

purpose, her plans would most definitely be foiled. Samuel seemed to have seen through Tina’s guilt. He started chuckling coldly. “Even if you’re pregnant with my baby, I won’t ever let you into the Langford family. You may have fooled Grandma, but you can’t fool me!” Tina was in no mood to listen to Samuel’s ravings. “You can think whatever you want.” The duo soon arrived at the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, with the intention of doing a blood test.

Tina feared pain the most. The moment she spotted the syringe that would be used to draw her blood, her face became as pale as a sheet. She couldn’t help but shrink away from it.

“C-Can I not... do the blood test...?”

“This is Grandma’s order, Tina.” Samuel pressed Tina down on the chair impatiently. “Or do you like it more when I’m the one drawing blood from you?” If a doctor were to tend to Tina, it would be a normal blood-drawing procedure. But if Samuel was the one doing it, then she would most likely suffer a lot.

In the end, Tina finally cooperated with the doctor and had her blood drawn. Her complexion still pale, she stood up from the chair with wobbly knees before collapsing to the side uncontrollably.

Samuel caught her instinctively. But the thought of Tina faking her collapse popped into his mind at the next moment, prompting him to release her immediately. He didn’t want to touch her at all.

A short while later, the doctor returned with the blood test report.

“What’s the verdict, doctor?” Tina couldn’t help but feel anxious. Samuel’s brows were tightly knit together as well as he waited for the doctor’s response. “Miss Lynd, Mr. Langford. The blood test report has been released. According to the report...”

Chapter 53 “According to the report, you aren’t pregnant, Miss Lynd,” the doctor said. Tina could feel the invisible weight crushing her heart being lifted. “Really? That’s great!” She balled her fists together

in triumph, feeling quite relieved. The doctor choked on his words upon seeing her reaction. In his line of work, he had witnessed a lot of patients who would do everything just to be able to conceive. It was his first time seeing someone who was happy about not being pregnant. Meanwhile, Samuel felt a mixture of emotions swelling in his heart as well. It was a great thing that Tina wasn't pregnant with his child. He didn't know why, but he was reminded by the scene where Tina had caressed her stomach. A pang of disappointment followed suit. "Miss Lynd. You may not be pregnant, but you still need to rest a lot. Your anemia is on the severe side. You need to maintain a good sleep schedule by waking up and sleeping early. Your diet should consist of more meat, eggs, and milk. Also, please refrain from engaging in physical intimacy for the time being." "Ah. Alright," Tina mumbled back in response. She could feel her ears heating up, so she bowed her head, not daring to look at Samuel. After that, they returned to the upper floor. Cindy approached Samuel anxiously and asked, "What's the result, Samuel?" In response, he simply shook his head. Cindy finally heaved a sigh of relief. It was fortunate that Tina wasn't pregnant with Samuel's baby. Having restored her elegant demeanor, she remarked gently, "Well, that's quite unfortunate." At the same time, Cindy vowed to herself that she would never let Tina get close to Samuel ever again. Luckily for her, Tina wasn't pregnant this time. If that filthy b*tch were to be accepted into the Langford family due to her pregnancy, then she would most likely replace Cindy in becoming Mrs. Langford. Madam Langford received news of Tina's condition from the others. She was slightly disappointed, but she was more concerned about the latter's health. "I heard that you're severely anemic, Tina. You need to rest a lot. Don't worry about your job. Your health matters the most," she said sagely. Madam Langford no longer insisted on having Tina to care for her in her ward. Noticing the latter's pale face, she said, "Tina, I'll have someone send you home. Samuel, I'd like to have a word with you."

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Cindy could see that her presence wasn't needed. "Then I'll be taking my leave now, Grandma Langford." Tina left the ward first. Soon, she heard Cindy calling out to her. –

"Miss Lynd, wait up!" Tina stopped in her tracks before asking curiously, "What's the matter, Miss Young?" "I know about everything that happened between you and Samuel," Cindy said bluntly. Tina looked a little embarrassed. "Is that so?" "I grew up with Samuel, so I know he's a responsible man. If he did rob you of your virginity, then he'd definitely view you as his responsibility. Besides, it's obvious that Grandma Langford likes you a lot. She even gave you the jade bracelet that was passed down in the Langford family. You might stand a chance in becoming the future Mrs. Langford." Tina waved her hand and explained sheepishly, "Please don't misunderstand my intentions, Miss Young. I've signed a contract with Mr. Langford. Once two months are over, I'll leave the Langford family on my own. You don't have to worry about me." "Really? You'll leave the family by then?"

"Yes."

"But... What if you accidentally get pregnant? There's no way the Langford family will allow their flesh and blood to be detached from the family..." The day's events had instilled a sense of danger and urgency into Cindy's mindset. She needed to act, and fast.

If Tina wasn't under her constant surveillance, there was a chance that she would snatch her rightful position in the Langford family away from her. "Then what can I do to reassure you?" Tina asked. Cindy

was satisfied by Tina's question. Tina was a smart one, that was for sure. "How about this? You don't have a bodyguard with you, right? It's not safe for you, given your current status. Why don't I arrange a bodyguard to protect you? What do you think about that?" Protection? More like constant surveillance.

Chapter 54 Tina didn't mind the arrangement. Regardless of who wanted to monitor her, be it Samuel or Cindy, she would leave the Langford family once two months were up. "Sure. It's up to you to make those arrangements, Miss Young." Tina walked out of the hospital, only to see a car parked in front of her. The bodyguard, who got out of the car, greeted her respectfully. "Hello, Miss Lynd. I'm Victor Miller, your bodyguard. I'll be at your service from now on."

Soon, Tina got into the car and returned to the mansion.

In the ward, Madam Langford was lecturing Samuel with a stern look

"Samuel. Now that Tina's your woman, you need to be responsible for her, alright?"

"Yes, I understand," he replied.

"I know Cindy saved you in the past, and that you've been treating her like your little sister because of that. However, I don't think she views you the same way," Madam Langford continued.

The elderly woman wasn't blind. She could see through Cindy's intentions.

All this time, she had been pretending to be ignorant to Cindy's little tricks. After all, there weren't any women hanging around Samuel. Since Cindy wanted to please him that much, Madam Langford allowed her to do as she pleased.

But now, the elderly woman viewed Tina as her future granddaughter-in-law.

As the future Mrs. Langford, Tina mustn't be harassed by anyone at all. "Tina is a nice woman. Not to mention, she's very considerate of others. These are her virtues and weaknesses. I don't want anyone bullying her. Do you understand what I mean?"

Samuel closed his eyes in response.

Tina? Nice? Considerate?

Her acting skills were stellar. She had successfully fooled Madam Langford into thinking that she was a nice and innocent woman.

"Yes, I understand."

However, Samuel's response didn't reassure Madam Langford at all. "By the way, isn't our company hosting a banquet in a few days? All of the elites of Freesia will be there. It's a good opportunity to bring Tina and introduce her to everyone. It also serves the purpose of making other women give up on pining after you." Samuel frowned immediately. He didn't agree with his grandmother on this suggestion. "Banquets like this don't suit her, Grandma," he protested. "What do you mean by that? Are you disgusted by her background?!" Grandma Langford chided right away, anger taking over her senses. "I'll be attending the banquet as well, so I can

back her up. Let's see who still dares to gossip and spread rumors about her by then!"

“Your health’s been poor lately...” “Tina makes me happy! When she’s around, my health improves by leaps and bounds. When she’s not, it’s natural for my health to deteriorate,” Madam Langford argued. “Alright, Grandma. I understand what you’re saying,” Samuel replied. “I’ll take her to the banquet, so don’t worry.”

Upon returning to the mansion, Tina returned to her room to rest. The next dawn, Victor woke her up. “Miss Lynd, please come with me,” he requested. Tina looked slightly dazed as she rubbed her eyes blearily. “Where are we going?” Victor frowned instinctively while staring at the rude and uncouth woman in front of him. If it wasn’t for Tina, he wouldn’t have been punished by Samuel. Fortunately, Cindy was kind enough to protect him. Now that Tina had taken over Cindy’s rightful position in the Langford family, all Victor felt when he looked at her was disgust. Thus, his tone gradually became one of impatience. “This is Mr. Langford’s order. Please stop dilly-dallying around, Miss Lynd,” he said harshly “Oh, alright.”

Tina was clearly used to Samuel’s way of doing things. After freshening herself up, she followed Victor out of her room.

Victor took her to a design studio. It was not until a bunch of designers surrounded her and started taking her measurements that Tina realized what was going on. She was there to have her gown custom-made as she would be attending the banquet. “Huh? Am I attending the banquet as well?” she wondered out loud, filled with disbelief.

Chapter 55 “That’s impossible, right?” Tina asked, dumfounded. Samuel hated her guts, so why would he take her to the banquet? Victor couldn’t be bothered to explain anything to her. Instead, he handed her a banquet invitation. “Miss Lynd, this is the invitation to the banquet. Please keep it safe at all times. I’ll guard the door.”

It was obvious he didn’t want to be around Tina at all.

Tina, however, didn’t mind the bodyguard’s behavior. She glanced at the invitation in her hands, noticing that the date was set for the next weekend. She had no idea why Samuel wanted her to be at the banquet. However, she was confident that he definitely had no intentions of letting her stay with him throughout the entire night. She was most likely attending the banquet as an invisible extra

The designers of the studio were very experienced. After an in-depth analysis of Tina’s body type, they quickly found a gown for her to wear. When Tina exited the fitting room, she had an awkward look on her face.

At the moment, Tina was wearing a black fitting fishtail gown studded with gems and rhinestones. The light’s refraction caused the gown to sparkle like a beautiful night sky filled with shining stars.

The gown’s design was strapless, revealing Tina’s shoulders and collarbone while accentuating the amazing curves of her body. She looked extraordinarily breathtaking in it, exuding a charm both innocent and sensual. The designers of the studio went all bright-eyed the moment they took in Tina’s visage. They were quick to shower her with praises. “Miss Lynd, this gown suits you perfectly!” “Yes! This gown happens to be our one and only design. We were still wondering who on earth can truly bring out this gown’s beauty. To think that you’d appear on our doorstep today...”

“You look incredibly gorgeous! Even if you get pitted against models, you wouldn’t lose to them!”

Tina was embarrassed to hear the gushing praises from the designers. She replied softly, "Um ... Can I try on another gown? Maybe something with less pizzazz and more common-looking?"

The fishtail gown was much too expensive. Tina should know; after all, she did steal a glance at the price tag earlier.

It was worth a million dollars!

The thought of her wearing the million-dollar gown made Tina feel like a walking, talking wallet. Needless to say, it stressed her out.

"Uh... Well..." The designers looked at each other, clearly at a loss for words.

They were used to serving young heiresses of Freesia. Such women were well-bred ladies would always demand for the best and most luxurious gowns, seeing as their main goal was to outshine the other plain b*tches in their vicinity once they showed up at prominent venues.

Never would they have thought that they'd hear such odd requests tumbling out of their client's mouth. "Well, Miss Lynd, if you prefer simplistic gowns, then we'll find you one." Under Tina's request, the designers presented her a series of simple-looking gowns. Tina browsed through the gowns. In the end, she selected one that was cheaper than the others. "I'll take this one," she said. The designers shot that gown a quick look. "This gown's style has already fallen out of trend some time ago. Are you sure you don't want to consider other gowns, Miss Lynd?" Not only was the gown out of trend, but it was also very lame compared to other gowns. However, Tina stood her ground firmly. "This is the one. I like it a lot," she insisted. Even a gown as old-fashioned as this was already worth a hundred thousand dollars. "Alright, then. We'll pack it up for you." The designers couldn't help but exchange dubious glances once again. They all felt that Tina had an odd perception of beauty.

Tina finally heaved a sigh of relief. Then, she sank down on a nearby couch and waited.

Chapter 56 All of a sudden, loud commotion exploded from outside the designer studio. "Miss, only VIPs are allowed to enter the studio," a voice reprimanded. "What do you mean by that?! I'm here to look for someone! Hey, Tina! Don't you dare hide there without making a sound! I saw you entering this place! Come out if you dare!" "How dare you not keep in contact with us? We're your family! This is way over the line, Tina!"

Ellen and Pearl's shrieks drifted from outside the studio.

"I'm so sorry, Miss Lynd. Two women decided to show up and start a ruckus outside. Don't worry, we'll dispatch someone to remove them from our premises immediately," one of the designers said apologetically to Tina. Tina frowned immediately. "I know them. Let them in." She wanted to know what Ellen and Pearl were up to this time.

Ellen and Pearl were soon permitted entry into the studio. The moment they saw the piles of expensive gowns, their eyes lit up immediately before envy took over.

"Wow, Tina. Aren't you an amazing one?" Pearl's tone was one filled with jealousy. "Now that Mr. Shaw's being held in high regards by Mr. Langford, you're definitely not the only woman he's seeing. Not to mention, you're so stupid. Hey, what if I stay with you and devise plans for you? I'll make sure that you can capture Mr. Shaw's heart right away."

Tina didn't hesitate to return fire in a mocking tone. "Oh, yeah? Are all your plans going to be like that one time when you tried to seduce Mr. Shaw deliberately, only to get tossed into the pool to cleanse your brain?" "You..." Pearl's face cycled through different shades of green and white. The memory of what transpired last time humiliated her terribly.

Just when Ellen was about to chastise Tina, she noticed the invitation in the latter's hand.

"Hold on! What's that?" she pointed out.

Ellen didn't hesitate to snatch the invitation over and scanned it. She shrieked excitedly, "Oh my god! You actually obtained the invitation to the Langfords' charity banquet?"

"What? The Langfords?" Pearl perked up immediately.

An idea popped into Pearl's head and she suggested, "Tina, why don't you give the invitation to me? To be frank with you, you're just a secret lover who can't be showcased to the public. I'm the heiress of the Lynd family. I've always heard that Mr. Langford's single. If I have the chance to attend the banquet, I might attract his attention. Once I become Mrs. Langford, I might be gracious enough to play matchmaker for you and Mr. Shaw!"

"That's right, Tina. Why don't you let Pearl attend the banquet in your stead? Consider this as your repayment to our family's benevolence for raising you." Ellen pitched in as well.

Tina had the urge to let out a cold chuckle on the spot. Both Ellen and Pearl were greedy monsters. They had already taken five million dollars from her, yet they insisted on bothering her with idiotic ideologies of having her to repay their benevolence. Pearl even had the idea of wanting to seduce Samuel, out of all people. She definitely had a death wish.

Tina had never planned to attend the banquet in the first place. Furthermore, she wanted the Lynd family to suffer. Thus, she said curtly, "Fine. If you really want to attend the banquet, then I'll grant your wish." "Really?" Pearl and Ellen were ecstatic.

"However, you have to agree to my condition," Tina continued. "A while ago, Loving Heart Orphanage had collapsed. The director, Madam Woods, suffered severe injuries. This all happened because the Lynd family decided to cut the budget and constructed the building without insufficient materials. I want you to rebuild Loving Heart Orphanage." "What?" Ellen's stingy nature kicked in right away. "Do you know how much it costs to rebuild an orphanage? Dream on!"

"The Langfords' charity banquet will be held next week. If you start publicizing the news of you rebuilding Loving Heart Orphanage this week, Mr. Langford will most definitely pay attention to you. If you ask me, I think he prefers kind-hearted women." "That's right," Pearl piped up, her eyes already sparkling. She turned to Ellen and said, "Mom, you can't obtain great rewards without making great sacrifices. The cost of rebuilding that orphanage is nothing compared to the price of me becoming the future Mrs. Langford." Ellen gritted her teeth. "Fine! I'll discuss this matter with your father. If it's for the sake of your future, I suppose we can spend some money on it..." Tina smiled at the sight of Pearl and Ellen hatching their plans together. "Then, I'll be waiting for your good news," Tina said.

Chapter 57 The moment she finished speaking, Tina spun on her heel and left.

Just then, the staff member, who was done packing up the gown for Tina, showed up. She asked in surprise, "Miss Lynd, your gown is ready... Huh? Where did she go?" Pearl snatched the gown from the staff member's hands rudely. Smug, she sneered, "It's fine. She's not going to the banquet, so this gown's now mine!" Tina left the designer studio with the intention to inform Sylvia of the good news. Victor, who was supposed to be guarding the door, was nowhere to be found. A while later, he finally reappeared. "Where did you go just now?" Tina asked curiously.

"There's no need for me to report my private matters to you, is there, Miss Lynd?" Victor replied rudely. His gaze then swept Tina from head to toe. "Where's your gown, Miss Lynd?" Tina decided to let Victor have a taste of his own medicine. "There's no need for me to report my private matters to you, right?" "You..." Disgust and disdain filled Victor's eyes. It was no wonder Cindy had gone to ask for his help. There was no way a weak and dainty woman like Cindy could have won against a vile woman with a sharp tongue and sassy comebacks at her disposal.

Tina got into the car right away and ordered, "Let's go. I need to go buy a fruit basket. Drop me off in front of the neurology hospital after that. I'm visiting a friend of mine."

Half an hour later, Tina showed up in front of the neurology hospital with a fruit basket in hand. It contained Sylvia's favorite fruits. She rushed up the stairs happily and barged into Sylvia's ward while gushing, "Madam Woods, I have good news for you!" The moment Tina entered the ward, she was surprised to see a man standing in front of her. Slightly stunned, she said, "Mr. Carter? Why are you here as well?" John, too, was surprised to see Tina. One glance at the fruit basket in her hand told him that she was here to visit Sylvia.

"I didn't expect we'd end up meeting here. Could this be our destiny?" he replied with a gentle smile. Sylvia looked rather curious. "Tina, what's wrong? Have you met Mr. Carter before?"

"We bumped into each other by chance. He helped me before," Tina explained briefly without going into the details.

At that, Sylvia gave an emotional reply, "Bless Mr. Carter for his kind heart. He's here because he heard of the orphanage's collapse and wanted to offer me the funds required for the reconstruction..." Tina's heart skipped a beat upon hearing Sylvia's words.

John truly was an amazing man for doing that. He must be doing it for the sake of his long lost sister.

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The aforementioned man said, "I heard about the difficulties the orphanage is currently facing, so I'd like to invest five million dollars into the reconstruction of the building. After that, I'll be hiring a professional staff team to help Madam Woods. After all, it must be tough for her to run the entire orphanage on her own."

erosity. Thank you, Mr.

but I've already solved this

Tina was touched by John's ge problem."

"Is that so?" John was surprised to hear the declaration. "Yeah. I came here just to tell Madam Woods the good news. The Lynd family has decided to rebuild the orphanage. This time, I'm sure there won't be any problems." Since the Lynd family was determined to get on the Langford family's good graces, they would most certainly pour in a lot of effort into the reconstruction. Sylvia stared at Tina gratefully and reached out to take Tina's hand. "It must be difficult for you, Tina. Thank you so much. You've been working so hard for the orphanage's sake..." "Madam, I was raised there. The orphanage is my home, and everyone living there is my family. Of course I need to take all of you into consideration!" Tina said seriously. John was stunned to hear Tina's words. He never expected her to be an orphan. "Miss Lynd, how old were you when you first arrived at the orphanage?" he suddenly asked, taking Tina by surprise. "Oh, me? I think I was about eight years old." Since Tina liked John a lot, she would answer all of his questions the best she could.

Chapter 58 Eight years old...?

John made some quick calculations in his head. He immediately deduced that Tina and Coco were about the same age.

His heart started pumping wildly. Doe-like eyes stared at Tina intently as he asked, "Miss Lynd, I'd like to know if you have any birthmarks on your body." That question caught Tina off guard. She was stunned for a moment. "Huh?" Seeing as she was confused, John hurriedly explained, "Please don't misunderstand me, Miss Lynd. It's just that when I first saw you, I had a feeling that you look exactly like my long-lost sister. Her name's Coco Carter, and she's your age. Most importantly, she was born with a birthmark" A trace of hope lingered in his grim tone. However, Tina shook her head. "Mr. Carter... I don't have any birthmarks on my body." It was true that she didn't have any birthmarks at all. However, there were a few scars on her waist that refused to fade away no matter what. According to the doctor, those scars were remnants of the time she got rescued from her kidnappers.

John's eyes immediately went dull. "Is that so...?"

Why was he hoping for something impossible to happen before his eyes? There was no such coincidence in this world. How could his long-lost sister suddenly reappear in front of him? The sight of John's sad expression made Tina's heart throb in pain. She murmured softly, "I'm sorry for letting you down, Mr. Carter." "What's there to be sorry for?" John squeezed out a smile at Tina. One could easily tell that the smile was filled with sorrow. "I'm already used to it after so many years." This made Tina's heart ache for him even more. John had a heart of gold, and the last thing she wanted to see was his sorrowful visage.

She didn't know what took over her. Before she realized it, these words were blurted out of her mouth all of a sudden: "Mr. Carter... If you don't mind, I'll treat you as my older brother. Let's look for your sister together." John was stunned upon hearing her request. "What?" Tina finally realized what she had just said. She quickly slapped a hand over her mouth while looking very embarrassed. Then, she explained awkwardly, "I-I'm not trying to take advantage of you, Mr. Carter! Honest. What I want to say is, I want to help you look for your missing sister. She must be a kind person just like you, Mr. Carter. They always say that kind people are blessed with good fortune. As long as you don't give up, you'll definitely have a chance to meet her in the future." John couldn't help but crack a small, genuine smile. It was very rare to find a young woman as

kind-hearted and sincere as Tina. He also had an inkling that they were meant to meet. When Tina referred to him as her older brother earlier, her words tugged on his heartstrings.

"Alright," John agreed.

"Huh?" Tina was stunned to hear the answer. "Are you agreeing to the idea of me looking for your sister with you, Mr. Carter?" "It's always nice to have an extra pair of eyes." John paused for a moment before continuing, "Also, if you don't mind, you can always call me by my name. If Coco were here, she'd have taken a liking to you as well."

Tina thought that she was hearing things. That, or she was experiencing auditory hallucinations at the moment.

It was just a random idea that she happened to blurt out. She didn't expect John to agree to that idea. After all, he was John Carter, Samuel's collaboration partner in many projects.

To think that he would agree to her nonsensical request... At that moment, John's phone rang. "Sorry, I have to take this call," he apologized. As he turned on his heel to leave the ward, Tina was still stuck in a trance. "Am I dreaming?" she wondered aloud. "Silly girl, this is reality." Sylvia's amused voice drifted into Tina's ear. A kind smile was plastered across the former's face. John soon reappeared after that. "Tina, it just so happens that I need to attend a banquet next week. Would you like to be my plus one?"

Chapter 59 Tina didn't hesitate to accept the invitation with a nod. "Sure thing!"

"Good. I'll pick you up on that day. Are you going home now? Do you need a ride?" John asked.

"There's no need for that. I didn't come here on my own." Tina waved the offer away. "By the way, I haven't returned your jacket yet..." "You don't have to worry about that. On the day of the banquet, I'll pick you up. You can always return the jacket to me by then," John said kindly.

Tina then set a meeting time with John before waving him goodbye. She walked all the way to the hospital's exit, feeling as if she was still stuck in a trance. Victor asked coldly, "Miss Lynd, is there anywhere else you'd like to go?" "Nope. Let's go home," Tina replied.

The moment she returned to the mansion and entered her room, a notification sound blared from her phone. It was a text message from John, asking if she had already reached home safely. At that moment, Tina finally realized what exactly happened to her. Good heavens, she must be out of her mind! She actually found herself a brother! Tina had only met John a few times in the past, yet she was daring enough to say such things right in his face. Oddly enough, John agreed to become her older brother instead of being disgusted by her blatant rudeness. After reading John's text message, a strange feeling started spreading from the depths of Tina's heart. She couldn't believe that she had an actual family member now

Not daring to keep John waiting any longer, Tina quickly texted back to reassure him.

The next few days went by peacefully and happily for her. It was obvious that the Lynd family had taken her words to heart. They didn't hesitate to dump a huge sum of money into the reconstruction efforts as they wanted to finish rebuilding the orphanage in a week. As a result, the orphans living there had a significant upgrade in their meal quality. When Tina went to visit Madam Langford, the latter was quick

to discover her happy smile. "What is it, Tina? Did something good happen to you? Why do you look so happy?" the elderly woman couldn't help but ask.

"It's nothing. It's a secret!" Tina teased.

Madam Langford became grumpy the moment she heard Tina's answer. She was about to throw a tantrum on the spot. "What secret is it? Why can't I know?"

Tina quickly did her best to appease the elderly woman. "Don't worry, Grandma. I didn't mean to hide it from you. It's just that I'll have to wait for some time before I can let you in on the secret."

She mustn't let anyone else know about her newly-formed relationship with John.

Tina still felt like she was living in a dream. The moment she was to tell anyone about that secret, she might wake up and realize it wasn't true. There was also a chance that John might regret his decision and everything would return to square one.

"Alright, then." Madam Langford was satisfied with that answer. She then whispered, "I have a surprise for you as well, but I won't tell you anything about it. You'll find out when the time comes."

"Really? Then I'll be looking forward to it!" Tina nodded obediently. "What would you like to have for dinner, Grandma? I'll start preparing right now."

"I love eating whatever you prepare," Madam Langford replied with a smile as she watched Tina leave her bedside. She was immensely pleased by the latter's mannerisms. In her heart, she had already viewed Tina as the future Mrs. Langford.

Madam Langford dialed a phone number right away before saying, "Hello, Samuel. I've changed my mind. Not only will I be attending the banquet, but I also want to give Tina a surprise. You have to work with me on this, alright?"

Time passed quickly. Soon, it was the day of the banquet. One evening, Tina received a call from John. "Tina, are you ready? I've just reached your house."

Tina didn't expect that John would show up as promised. She replied happily, "I'm going downstairs now."

Very soon, she spotted a car parked outside the mansion. Once she got into the car, she returned the jacket, which she had folded neatly, to John. There was a small box sitting atop of the jacket as well. "Mr. Carter, I've also made you some handmade desserts. You can taste them if you don't mind," she told him.

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John lifted a curious eyebrow in response. "Did you just call me Mr. Carter? Shouldn't you be calling me something else?" Tina blushed in embarrassment and hurriedly amended her words. "Right. John."

Happiness was evident in John's eyes upon hearing Tina calling his name. He might have only met her a few times in the past, but destiny tended to work wonders. He even had a feeling that Tina was the younger sister whom he had taken care of since they were young.

"Let's go," he said. "I'll take you somewhere you change into new clothes."

Tina finally realized that she didn't know where they were going. "Um... Where are we going, by the way?" she asked

"We're attending the banquet hosted by the Langfords," John replied.

Tina was shocked to hear the answer. She had just given her spot to Pearl, but she never expected that she had the chance to attend the banquet again.

Then again, John was Samuel's collaboration partner. It was common courtesy to invite him to the banquet the latter hosted, after all.

Meanwhile, the aforementioned man happened to be studying Tina's expression. A misunderstanding was already brewing in his mind when he saw the shock on her face.

The last time they met, he had saved her in the company.

After Samuel whisked Tina away by force, John was worried about her. As such, he had his men poke around for information about them. Only then did he discover the duo's complicated relationship. As far as he knew, Samuel would be bringing Cindy as his plus one in the banquet.

It was obvious that Samuel treated Tina like dirt.

While gazing at Tina's complicated expression, John said in a soft yet serious tone, "I'm here, Tina. I won't let anyone push you around." Tina knew right away that John was misunderstanding her. "Actually, my relationship with Mr. Langford is..." "It's alright. You don't have to tell me everything. I won't meddle with you and Mr. Langford's affairs," John interrupted. "After all, when you started your relationship with him, we were still strangers. However, you're now my younger sister. I will always stand with you on the same side. Just remember that."

John's tone showed his protective nature.

His words touched Tina greatly. She originally thought that he would be disgusted by her because of what happened between her and Samuel. At that moment, the driver spoke up. "Mr. Carter, we've arrived at our destination."

that lol load taken dier to the saine designer studio that she

Tina looked around and not had been to previously

This time, he was the one who took her into the studio to browse for *gowns*

"This gown suits you," John suddenly said. The gown that he had his eye on happened to be the million dollar gown that Tina had worn the last time she was here,

Tina rejected John's suggestion immediately. "N-No, it doesn't..." "This is the one." Her older brother's tone was gentle yet domineering at the same time. "You're my younger sister, so this gown will be your

welcoming present into the family Besides, you're my plus one for tonight's banquet. I can't let you wear a simple gown to that banquet. I have a reputation to maintain, after all." Tina had no choice but to slip into that gown for John's sake,

When she exited the fitting room, surprise and awe flashed in John's eyes. He praised happily, "Just as I expected, this gown suits you perfectly."

After Tina was done with dressing up and applying makeup on her face, she and John left the designer studio. Soon, they arrived at the five-star hotel that served as the venue of the Langfords' banquet. Perhaps it was due to the fact that John was her partner, but the moment Tina got out of the car, she attracted everyone's attention immediately. Feeling quite awkward, she lowered her head and walked behind John. Before she could take a few steps forward, a piercing shriek rang from behind her.

"Tina?! What are you doing here?!".

Pearl couldn't believe her eyes. To think that the gorgeous *woman* in front of her was actually Tina...!