

Pampered 71

Chapter 71 Malicious intent surged within Cindy as she thought how unstoppable she would be once Madam Langford was out of the picture.

On top of that, Tina would soon be dead. Cindy would be the mistress of the Langfords! Without hesitation, Cindy reached out to unplug Madam Langford's oxygen tube.

Bang!

The door was swung open in the nick of time.

Tina felt her body freeze. Was Samuel still awake? She'll be damned if he sees her... "I-I'm here to visit Grandma..." Tina explained anxiously, gasping for air. Cindy looked at Tina with disbelief, eyes almost popping out of her sockets. She was quick to regain her composure and asked scornfully, "Weren't you kicked out? How are you still here?"

"I'm so sorry Cindy," said Tina, trying not to sound nervous. "I just wanted to check on Grandma. How is she doing now?" Cindy felt the tension left her body after realizing that Tina wasn't aware of her intentions. She pretended to be gentle, though she was gloating on the inside. "As long as I'm here, nothing will happen. Samuel's right next door, so you should leave. Otherwise, I can't guarantee what he'll do if he finds out you're here."

Tina felt a rush of complicated emotions when she looked at Madam Langford lying helplessly on the bed.

She planned to leave as soon as she saw Madam Langford. Now that she was here, she was suddenly hesitant to leave. After all, Madam Langford was still in a horrible state. "Cindy, can I stay to take care of Grandma Langford? Please?" Cindy began to feel impatient. It took her quite an effort to drive Tina away, and the woman might seduce Samuel if she were to stay.

At the same time, Sandy also realized that something was amiss. He quickly brought a group of people with him.

"How dare you show your face?! Get her out of here! And tell the hospital to not let her in!"

Tina grabbed the door frame with all her might, for she didn't want to leave this easily.

Yet how can the weak body of hers go against those strong bodyguards? One after another, her fingers were pried open forcefully.

At that moment, they heard faint sounds coming from the bed. "Cough... cough..."

Cindy, who was the closest to the bed, shouted, "Grandma's awake!"

"What?"

Without hesitation, Sandy shouted anxiously, "Get the doctor! I'll inform Mr. Langford that Madam Langford is awake!"

Tina, who was left unattended, lay nervously by the bed. Madam Langford looked at Tina and asked in a whisper, "Tina, is that you?"

"Yes, it's me." Tina held Madam Langford's hand tightly and said in a choked voice, "I'm sorry, I didn't know that you would show up at the event. I made the decision to give away the opportunity to someone else, but I never knew that it'd give you such shock..."

"My dear, there's no need to cry. It's not your fault." Madam Langford coaxed her in a calming voice as she gathered what happened. "It was Samuel who angered me. It has nothing to do with you." Even in her terrible state, Madam Langford still had the patience to comfort Tina.

Tears streamed down Tina's face as immense guilt crushed her.

"Grandma!" Samuel rushed to the ward as soon as he heard the news. His eyes immediately turned cold when he saw a familiar thin figure by the bed. "You dare to show up here, Tina?!"

Tina felt a frightened chill run down her spine.

Chapter 72 Madam Langford was furious with Samuel's behavior. Immediately, she yelled, "You! How dare you bully Tina in front of me!" She had just gained her consciousness, and having to go through an intense range of emotions activated the alarm from the machines. "Calm down, Grandma!" Tina said anxiously. The medical team quickly did a checkup on Madam Langford. And all this time, Madam Langford didn't let go of Tina's hand. Seeing how protective she was towards Tina, everything others wanted to say died on their lips. Samuel endured his emotions as he shot them a furious glare. 'Disgusting woman! How dare she put up an act in front of Grandma after everything that's happened.

Madam Langford's condition started to stabilize after a while. Still holding Tina's hand, she said to Samuel sternly, "I don't have much time left, and I don't wish to leave with regrets. Promise me that you'll take care of Tina no matter what. She's the only Lady Langford that I approve of! Do I make myself clear?". Samuel answered gravely, "Grandma..."

"Don't go against my wishes!" Madam Langford was stubborn and assertive despite lying weakly on the bed. "Swear that you won't hurt Tina! Otherwise, I won't be able to gain peace in my afterlife!"

"Fine. You have my word, I won't hurt her," Samuel replied, left with no choice. A smile appeared on Madam Langford's face after she heard Samuel's words. "Very well. I know you're a man of your word. You should spend your life happily with Tina..." She closed her eyes, and her voice sank into silence right as she finished her words. "Grandma!" Tina shouted in panic. "What is happening? Doctor, please help!" There was a dreadful pause, and then everything fell into chaos. Fortunately, Madam Langford's condition was stable. As it turned out, she merely passed out due to the fatigue from the emergency surgery. "Judging from her condition, she'll need at least another half a month to recover," the doctor said.

Tina looked at Samuel and said, "Samuel, let me stay behind and take care of Grandma for the time being. I'll do my best".

Samuel stared incredulously at Tina, his eyes sharpened into a hateful glare.

“And you think I would say yes to that?” he spat sarcastically. That stunned Tina. “But... But you just promised Grandma.

“I only said that so she won’t be worried.”

The coldness in his voice was so dreadful, Tina felt chills all over her body.

“I’ll never let a manipulative person like you stay by Grandma’s side. Someone, get her out of here!”

Tina grabbed Samuel’s arm as if he was her last hope just as the bodyguards approached her.

“Samuel, please. I really want to take care of Grandma. I...”

Before she could even finish her sentence, she felt her visions getting blurry. She wobbled before falling into Samuel’s arms.

Samuel looked down at the woman in his arms, a sinister smirk gracing his lips.

‘She still insisted on seducing me even at this mament?’

Samuel pushed Tina’s thin body away harshly, not an ounce of pity in him. He was repulsed. Just as Tina was about to fall to the ground, a figure dashed into the room and held her protectively. “You?!” Samuel frowned.

Chapter 73 The one who caught Tina was none other than John Carter. John was glad to have appeared just before Tina got hurt. Strangely enough, Samuel found the sight of them hugging to be unbearable. He couldn’t believe that Tina managed to seduce John, too! 1. Samuel hissed through clenched teeth, “John, you may want to stay away from this woman. She’s nothing but trouble.” Knowing that he still needed Samuel’s help to find Coco, John didn’t want to get on Samuel’s bad side.

But seeing how terribly Samuel was treating Tina, John couldn’t help but fight back for Tina’s sake.

“I know what happened during the event. All Madam Langford wanted was to make her your wife, and that was the only reason she was there. And if I didn’t save her that time, she would’ve drowned to death!”

John’s words rang a bell. Samuel suddenly recalled pieces of what had happened that night. The girl John had in his arms was Tina! Did that mean she wasn’t putting up an act?! This was when Samuel also realized how pale Tina’s face and lips were. He started to feel guilty, but staunchly pushed that feeling away and snarled, “What about Pearl?” If it weren’t for Tina, how else would the Lynds family be there? “From what I know, Tina was adopted by the Lynds family. Pearl was the one who pushed her into the water.”

Everything was starting to make sense, especially Tina’s coldness towards the Lynds family. They wanted her dead.

“I just arrived not long ago, so I haven’t caught up with the details yet. But you should look deeper into the matter so that Tina won’t be framed as a scapegoat. That’s all from me. Goodbye.” John walked out of the room with Tina in his arms, turning away without sparing Samuel a single glance. Cindy, who had remained quiet on the sidelines, wasn’t happy with the situation. “That manipulative woman! How dare she seduce both Samuel and John!”

Chapter 74 As it turned out, everything she had done for the past two months was to take advantage of him. Despite knowing that Tina wasn't a gold digger, Samuel still found her unforgivable. He hated people who took advantage of him the most. And Tina, she had the guts to use him as a means of her personal revenge. Even if the reason she missed the banquet was because of Pearl pushing her into the pool, a manipulative woman like her will never be part of the Langford family. He would never allow her to get close to his grandmother. After the incident regarding his grandmother settled down, Samuel went back to completing his piled-up work. The next day, in front of the office. A delicate shadow flashed in his direction and blocked his way. "Samuel, we need to talk..." Before Tina could hear Samuel's response, the bodyguards were already dragging her away. She started to feel anxious. She knew full well that if she were to leave now, it wouldn't be easy to approach him anymore.

"Samuel, please! I know you hate me because you think I lied to you, but there was nothing else that I could do."

"And we have a contract, remember? You're a man of your words, so you wouldn't breach the contract, right?"

Samuel stopped as soon as he heard about the contract. "Really? The contract?" he hissed.

"Yes," Tina said. "Samuel, our contract won't be over for another month. Could you at least let me stay by Grandma's side and take care of her? I promise to leave once the contract ends." Samuel glared at Tina, his face a sharp expression. The silence was dreadful. Tina didn't give up and went on, "I swear, I'll disappear from your life right after I finish taking care of Grandma. I can even return all the money I've received from you. I mean it. You have to trust me, Samuel!"

Samuel's expression remained the same, not a hint of change in his aloof look. It took him a while to respond.

"The contract? It's void."

These four words were enough to shock Tina to her core. Still, she persisted. "But... But you've always kept your word. The contract can't be void..."

"Yes, I've always kept to my words. However, this is an exception. I will end this contract right here and right now."

Samuel's tone was grim, and then he pulled out his checkbook.

He wrote and signed the check before shoving it into Tina's hands.

"Aren't you a sucker for money? Here, take this and never come back. You and your pathetic acts disgust me!"

Samuel looked at Tina, utterly repulsed.

Tina's heart was torn into pieces as she stared at the check.

He would never believe her, anyway. None of her explanations mattered in the first place!

Tina could feel her hands trembling as she clenched the check tightly. Her teeth chattering, she hollered, "Fine, I'll leave!"

Samuel let out a laugh under his breath. So she really was a sucker for money...

But the next second, Tina tore that check worth of billions into pieces.

"I admit, I approached you with bad intentions. I wanted to take my revenge, but Grandma treated me so sincerely. My wish to take care of her was genuine. If you don't buy it, then there's nothing that I can do. And as for your pathetic money, keep it for yourself!" She flung the torn check back to Samuel and stormed away angrily.

Chapter 75 Samuel was taken aback by Tina's unexpected reaction. 'So that's the real her? Stubborn, yet won't back down easily.' 'She was putting on an act the past two months just to get her revenge. 'What a manipulative woman...' Samuel glanced at the check on the ground that had been torn to pieces. Complicated emotions surged in his heart. For some strange reason, Tina reminded him of the girl who saved him... "Is everything okay, Samuel?" Cindy asked softly, running towards him. She received news that Samuel would be in the office, and so she came to see him. But all she saw was Samuel staring quietly at the ground. Samuel looked at Cindy: "Why are you here?" | "I'm worried that you'll miss your meals due to your busy schedule. So, I brought you lunch," Cindy replied, blushing red. Samuel handed the lunchbox to Sandy. Subconsciously, his eyes fell on Cindy as he tried to look at her necklace. Yet, her neck was bare.

"What happened to your necklace?" That question shocked Cindy. "What was that?" "Why is he asking about the necklace? Could it be...? Does he know something?" "It's just a bit unusual. You're not wearing the necklace today when you used to wear it every day," Samuel said calmly. Cindy felt a rush of happiness at his words. 'Samuel always acts like he doesn't care about me, but he spots even the smallest details about me.'

ma

"I'll wear it every day if you like it that much."

"That's good. That necklace means a lot to us, so don't lose it," Samuel said.

LUMELE

A lingering feeling of guilt struck Cindy. Nevertheless, she responded coyly, "For sure! I'll just take my leave now..."

Samuel stared at Cindy, watching her back until she left the room. 'I should get rid of that absurd thought. Cindy's the little girl from back then. She has the necklace, so she must be the one.'

"Oh, right. About the lunchbox, you may get rid of it," was the first thing Samuel said to Sandy the moment he returned to his office.

"Mr. Langford? But... That's from Miss Young..."

Samuel threw Sandy a cold stare. "If you like it so much, you can keep it for yourself."

That sentence alone was enough to kill all the words Sandy had on his lips.

When Samuel looked at the lunchbox, he was reminded of Tina's meals. They might look unappetizing, but they were unexceptionally tasty. "Ugh!" Samuel felt annoyed when he realized he was thinking about Tina again. He shook his head and hurriedly directed his attention to his work.

Tina, at the moment, was penniless and homeless. She gave most of the money she had received from Samuel to the Lynds. The rest she had donated to the orphanage. Since the Lynds had cut off all possible connections with her and kicked her out of the house, she had to rent a unit near the hospital for the time being,

Chapter 76

Even though Samuel forbade her from entering, Tina still believed she would get the opportunity to see Grandma again if she stayed near the hospital.

The only issue was that the rental fees for units near the hospital were expensive. Since she was a college dropout, no companies would be willing to take her in.

Without any options left, Tina decided to take part-time jobs in the neighborhood.

She worked as a dishwasher in the hotel during the daytime, and as a delivery staff at night. When she was lucky, she would receive some tips from generous customers. She didn't earn much, but she had enough to make ends meet. One particular night, an exhausted Tina was on her way back to her unit. Suddenly, a scream from behind alerted her. She had just walked past a pub.

"There you are, Tina!"

Tina turned around, only to see Pearl. The latter's face was laden with thick layers of makeup. Standing next to her was an intimidating-looking man.

Pearl gnashed her teeth as she went on shouting, "Do you have any idea how long we're trying to find you? How dare you make our family suffer so much! You're so dead!"

Tina's mind went blank. All she knew was, she should run away.

Previously, Samuel threatened the Lynds so that Tina would come to him. Tina ignored the Lynds' calls and turned her back on them.

Her actions infuriated them greatly. If they could get their hands on her, she would be finished!

And so, Tina set off running as hard as she could. Unfortunately, the people behind her were even faster.

Pearl shot her a hateful look as she screeched, "Run? Do you think you can run away when I have Jeremy with me?!"

Jeremy easily caught up to Tina. Upon reaching her, he caressed her face with a perverse leer.

"Oh, wow, Pearl. She's really cute. Is she really your sister? You guys don't look alike!" Pearl's unsightly face scrunched in envy and annoyance. "S*t! She keeps seducing everyone!"

"You might not know, but this woman is on Samuel's blacklist. Our family suffered because of her, so don't fall into her trap!"

Jeremy flinched when he heard Samuel's name.

"What? Samuel? Samuel Langford?"

"Yes!" Pearl continued, "Samuel was looking for her, but she got away. I guess this is where she was hiding. I'm gonna send her to Samuel. He might even give me some money in exchange!"

Jeremy instantly grew excited. "Tie her up, quick!"

This was a one in a million chance for him to get on Samuel Langford's good side! Imagine the benefits he could leech off Samuel!

"Pearl, you are my lucky charm! I'm gonna get rich and marry you!" Jeremy said, laughing raucously.

"There's no rush. But this bit*h made my family suffer, so there's no way I'm gonna send her away this easily!" Pearl exclaimed, her eyes full of resentment. "Sure! Let's tear her face and ruin her looks! Hey, you! Bring me a knife!" Jeremy said, ordering his cronies. Tina couldn't stop trembling as she listened to their conversation. Pearl approached Tina slowly, knife in hand. She never liked Tina since they were kids. After a long period of waiting, she could finally get her revenge. "Tina, you've pissed Samuel off. You're dead meat!" "It's all your fault that our family had to suffer! I'll never let this go! I'm gonna ruin that face of yours, so you can never seduce anyone again!" "There's no one here to save you this time! Hahaha!" Pearl cackled.

Chapter 77 As Pearl approached Tina with the knife, Tina had never felt more desperate in her life. No! She couldn't allow Pearl to do this to her! Never...! Quick as lightning, Tina threw herself towards Pearl and pounced on the latter. Pearl, caught by surprise, let out a high-pitched scream almost immediately. "Ahhh!" Tina quickly took advantage of the chaos and snatched the knife from Pearl. She then held it tightly, determined. "Let me go and leave me alone!" Her face, burning with anger, scared everyone. "I-Jeremy! Look at how crazy she is! Y-You can't let her get her way!" Pearl was trembling now, her voice shaky.

Even Jeremy was taken aback by Tina's sudden explosion of rage. "Let's go!" he barked.

Pearl, of course, wasn't satisfied with it. "Why? Are you just going to let that crazy woman do whatever she wants? Jeremy, we outnumber her! We can definitely win..."

But Jeremy wasn't in the mood for any more of Pearl's rubbish. Impatient, he swung around and gave her a hard slap on the face.

"Do it yourself, then. Am I your slave? Why should I risk my life for you?!"

Soon, Jeremy and his cronies disappeared. Pearl was the only one left with Tina.

Tina glared at Pearl and growled, "We're the only ones left. Are you still planning to threaten me?"

"Just you wait!" Pearl shouted defiantly, covering her bruised face with one hand. "This isn't over! I'll make sure you suffer, Tina!"

Pearl fled right after that.

Right then, all of the nerves in Tina's body relaxed. She could feel the tension seeping out of her body.

Both the knife and Tina's body dropped onto the ground. She was so tired, she had no energy to support her body.

Luckily, she survived.

After a momentary rest, she tried to stand back up. As she did so, a sharp pain stung her.

"Ouch..."

It was only then did she realize that she had accidentally cut herself when she grabbed the knife from Pearl.

Tina could barely drag her exhausted body back to her unit. She quickly took care of her wounds, and fell asleep immediately after.

The next day, Tina was washing dishes as usual. She had rubber gloves on as she scrubbed the plates away.

Cling, clang! A mountain of plates was piled in front of Tina. "Here you go!" Tina glanced through the kitchen. Strangely enough, it looked like she was the only one with such a heavy workload.

But since she was a newcomer and she really needed the money, she had no choice but to accept it. She responded softly, "Alright." "Make sure they're all clean. I'll cut your salary if I find any dirt on them!"

Tina worked the entire day, to the point she was forced to miss her meals. When she finally had the time to rest, her wounds from last night got infected all over again. Just then, she received a call from the person in charge of the orphanage. That rang a bell. Tina suddenly remembered that she was supposed to help with the moving at the orphanage today.

But...

Tina picked up the phone as she stared at her wounded hand in dismay. She mumbled apologetically, "I'm sorry, Madam Woods. I think, today..."

Chapter 78

She wanted to make up some excuse, especially when so many things happened to her in such a short time. There was also the fact that Madam Woods had just recovered from her illness. Madam Woods would be worried sick if she were to know about Tina's wounds.

Yet the voice that came through the phone was calm yet deep, a familiar masculine tone. "I'll come to lend a hand today, Tina."

"What?" It took Tina a while to register what had been said. She didn't expect to hear from John.

"You're living near the hospital, right? I'll be there in ten minutes. We can go together." John ended the call right after he finished, not leaving Tina any room to speak.

That further confused Tina. 'He'll be here in ten minutes?' She rushed back to her unit quickly to take care of her wounds, and made sure to put on thick gloves to cover them. Not long later, a luxurious car

appeared at her shabby apartment. The unusual sight attracted the attention of many within sight. Tina got into the car hurriedly and urged John, "Let's go." John, who was sitting at the back, gave out a shocked gasp at how Tina was dressed. "Tina, what are you...?" "It's intentional. There'll be a lot of organizing and cleaning later, so I'm wearing something comfy and easy to work with."

John had never been to an orphanage, so what Tina said made sense to him. When they arrived at the orphanage, Tina was shocked to see how crowded it was. "Where did these people come from?" she asked in confusion, knowing quite well that the orphanage couldn't afford to hire so many people. "I figured that the burden would be too heavy on Madam Woods, so I did some advertising nearby and got quite a few volunteers," John explained.

It would be a lie if Tina said she wasn't touched, especially when she saw how much John cared about the orphanage.

"Thanks to you, I'm pretty sure things will be easier for Madam Woods now." "If it weren't for you, the orphanage wouldn't even have the chance to be rebuilt," John said, chuckling as he stroked Tina's hair. "Let's go help them."

"Sure."

With the volunteers there, there wasn't much for Tina to do. In the end, she was asked to do some organizing in the storage room.

"These are all the pictures of the kids here. I think you're the only person I can rely on to take care of them," Sylvia said, as she walked down her memory lane. "Who knows, you might even find pictures of your childhood!"

"Really?" Tina's eyes lit up with excitement. As predicted, she soon found an album from ten years ago

The album was old, and all the pictures inside were dusty. However, she managed to find one picture with her name on it.

The picture showed a little girl hiding behind an adult. Her face couldn't be seen.

Yet, Tina immediately knew that the little girl was her.

She also noticed a blue crystal shell necklace around her neck. It was so pretty, it sparked her curiosity.

'Did I have a pretty necklace like this?' She also noticed that this picture was taken on the day she was adopted by the Lynd family. Chances are, that necklace was stolen by Pearl, that bully! Thinking back, she had endured all their abuse for almost a decade. Finally, she managed to cut ties with the Lynd family. Of course, it would be possible only if Pearl would stop bothering her! Tina gathered her thoughts, and continued organizing the pictures all the way until evening. She then received a call from her boss to deliver a food order. But when she reached the shop, she found Pearl standing there instead of her boss. Pearl was still caught up with the thought that she couldn't get what she wanted from Tina. Fueled with a desire for vengeance, she stormed Tina's workplace.

Seeing Tina, Pearl barked scornfully, "I knew it, Tina. Someone like you deserves to work in a shabby place like this! Hahaha! I'll smash everything here! Let's see if anyone's willing to hire you anymore!" .

Accompanying Pearl were several thugs getting ready to destroy the shop. Tina's eyes burned as she shouted angrily, "Stop it, Pearl! That's enough!"

"What are you gonna do about it, huh?" Pearl shot Tina a look of loathing, her tone dripping with venom. "I told you, I'll destroy your life! This is the price for ruining my family!"

Tina threw herself at Pearl, but Pearl, who had been expecting this, managed to dodge.

Her cronies then gave Tina a hard kick in the stomach, sending her crashing to the ground. Pearl cackled as she looked at the injured Tina, pleased. "On second thought, I'm gonna torture you slowly and make your life even more miserable! Today's just the beginning. I promise, I'll ruin you forever!"

Pearl then left with her cronies. Just then, Tina's superior appeared. He pointed his fingers at her as he exploded. "This is all your fault! You caused all this to happen! You have to pay for all the damages!" Tina's face went as white as paper. 'He's not wrong... Nothing would have happened if it weren't for me!!

"I promise to pay, but I'm broke right now," Tina muttered timidly, her voice sinking into silence.

"Broke? Then I'll send you to jail!" the boss shouted, livid. "I don't care who, but go borrow money from anyone!"

Tina opened her phone and scanned her contacts, Helpless, she answered softly, "I really don't have anyone..."

Pearl had been bullying her since day one, and the fact that she was an orphan contributed to her small social circle.

Now that she was in trouble, who would care to help?

"I don't care! Call someone, now!" he roared through gritted teeth. "Otherwise, I'll send you to a brothel!"

Out of desperation, Tina made her calls.

As expected, everyone hung up the second Tina mentioned about wanting to borrow money.

Suddenly, Tina saw a familiar number.

She didn't save that number, but she knew that it belonged to Samuel.

"What are you waiting for? Call now!" Tina took a deep breath. Mustering her courage, she dialed the number.

Then again, he must've blocked my number since he hates me so much!

Contrary to expectations, the call went through. For a second, Tina thought she dialed the wrong number. How was it possible for Samuel to pick up her call?

However, what Tina heard was a woman's voice.

“Hello?”

Tina couldn't recognize it. Hesitant, she said, “Hi, I'm Tina...” “Oh, Tina. I'm Cindy. Why are you calling Samuel this late at night?” Tina was shocked. This was indeed Samuel's phone, but the one who picked up was Cindy instead.

A strange feeling pricked her heart. These two must be living together. Otherwise, Cindy wouldn't be picking up Samuel's phone'.

“Cindy, I actually wanted to...” “Sorry, Tina, but Samuel's just coming out of the bath. I have to go.”

Chapter 80

Cindy cut Tina off without any reservations and went on, “Oh, right. We're getting married soon. Now that your contract with Samuel is over, I do hope you won't contact him anymore. Wouldn't it be bad for you if word of this got out?”

Once Cindy was done, she hung up without waiting for Tina's reply. Tina felt as if she had been slapped in the face. ‘Cindy must have misunderstood! I never planned to seduce Samuel in the first place.’ Unfortunately, this phone call had been her last chance. The boss had exhausted all his remaining patience when he saw that Tina's call got cut off yet again. “Seems like nobody's willing to lend you any money! You're coming with me to the brothel!”

He was about to drag her away by force, only to be interrupted by a deep voice.

“Wait.”

Tina's eyes widened as she looked in the direction of the voice, “John?! What's he doing here?” “Who're you?” the boss sneered, scanning John from head to toe.

“I'm her brother,” John replied.

“Brother? That's impossible!” The boss wasn't buying it, but he was quickly reminded of something. “In that case, shouldn't you help your sister to pay for all these losses? Or should I send her to the brothel instead?”

Tina wished she could hide in a corner, away from all the embarrassment. Never did she imagine that John would see this pathetic side of her. She was ashamed.

John raised his hand, and the assistant behind him strode forward with a signed check. “Write however much you want.”

The boss looked hesitant. “You're not trying to deceive an old man like me, right?”

“You can confirm with the bank, if you so desire.”

At that, the boss made a quick call to the bank. After ten minutes, he reappeared with a huge grin on his lips. “It's all good now! You may take her with you.”

John approached Tina. “Let's go.”

Tina followed him with her head down, looking like an embarrassed ostrich. She silently got into John's car.

"How did you know I was in trouble?" she asked awkwardly.

"I gave my number to everyone in your neighborhood when I dropped by your place today. One of them called me when they saw that you're in trouble," John replied.

Warmth flowed through Tina's entire body as she heard this. She was grateful for his kindness, but when she spoke, the distress in her voice was obvious. "I'm so sorry to trouble you."

However, her timidity angered John.

"What trouble? You're my sister! You didn't even bother to call me when you're in that mess! Do you even see me as your brother?"

Tina was his sister, someone he wished to protect wholeheartedly. He had been deeply tortured when he lost Coco. He refused to go through the same agony ever again. "I'm... I'm sorry." Tina initially wanted to say that she would repay the money, but her words died on her lips. With the way John was feeling right now, he wouldn't accept it.

Maybe I'll pay him back slowly when I have the money. Or maybe I'll just buy him a meal.' Aside from that, she wasn't sure what else she could do to repay his kindness. "Mr. Carter, we're here," the driver announced as the car came to a stop. Tina glanced outside. Confusion bloomed on her face and she said tentatively, "This is..."