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Chapter 81

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Jane came to Sterling villa in the evening because Rebecca called for her.

She didn't look to be in a good mood when she entered the room, so Rebecca asked, "You look dull. What's wrong?"

"Nothing," she said and sat on Benjamin's bed which was again pushed away from Rebecca's bed, but now it was only two feet apart. "Donovan left me at the shopping mall, and he didn't return. He didn't answer my phone call, either."

"It looks like this is the first time it happened with him."

"Yeah. This is a bad sign, right?" Jane asked.

"Well, he's a famous wrestler, so he's gotta be busy at least one day of the week."

"You are right, but... Anyway, why did you call me?"

"Uh,"Rebecca looked a little embarrassed. She kept scratching her cheek. "I told you about the wedding reception, didn't I?"

"Yeah, you did, and that's the right thing to do, or you would have lost him, trust me," Jane sounded proud of her. "You should have done this long ago, to be honest."

"The thing is... I told him we'll have the reception after my one month recovery at the gym." "Oh boy, how did he react?"

He didn't say anything, but I can tell he didn't like it. "Of course, he wouldn't. You tell him, 'let's have a reception,' one night, and then the next day, 'no, let's wait a month.' Are you kidding me? It would be weird if he just smiled and went along with your stupid, selfish request. Asking him to postopone having sex becuase of your injury is one thing, but what's your little injury gotta do with the reception?" "L-Little injury?" a vein bulged in Rebecca's forehead. She would have grappled with Jane if she had recovered enough.

"Of course, it is little, compared to mine," Jane pulled a portion of hair on her head and revealed a mark on her scalp. "Did you forget?" "No, I didn't." A buffalo had tossed Jane over a car when Jane was in highschool. She suffered a nasty head injury and was in a comatose state for six days. Afterward, it took her a couple of years to regrow the hair at the wounded, stitched spot.

"Look here, Rebecca. You have a man who could earn enough for himself, but he stayed with you because he saw something in you," Jane's gaze grew serious. "If it was just your outward beauty, he wouldn't have slept in your room for months and never tried to sleep with you. Everyone cares about the gold, but no one cares about the soil it comes from. It's the same with us women. Men care about our flesh, but not the heart beneath. There are exceptions, of course, and I believe Benjamin is an exception, like how there will be those who care more

about the soil than the gold."

Rebecca's expression visibly brightened, "Why do you have such a positive opinion about him when you only met him a few times?" She sat straight to appear big. "Because I'm Jane! I can tell what a man's thinking from the number of times he blinks and stares at a woman, bwahahaha." "Geez, you're such a show-off." Ashley entered the room and served Jane some spicy food and sweets. Seeing the bandage on Ashely's jaw, she asked, "What happened to your jaw? It's quite swollen. It's not mumps, is

it?»

Ashley shook her head and then stood there, but after Jane gestured to her to leave, she had to walk out. (Benjamin's not here. When he returns home in the evening, what should I do? Arlo told me to kill him, but Arlo can go fuck himself. I can't kill Benjamin. He's a hardworking guy who loves his wife, and I love that about him. He's the husband I wish I had. If only he fell for me, I would have run away with him to some place, but that's not possible as long as Rebecca's around. He's too blinded by her beauty and charm. I should get her out of the picture permanently, and then I can have Benjamin all for myself!) She then frowned. (But how do I get rid of her from Benjamin's mind?)

She came to the roofed balcony to serve Selena an afternoon drink "Where the hell are you aiming? Aim higher!" Selena was busy shouting at Johnny who kept shooting at the parrots with a slingshot. "What sort of butler are you if you can't even hit two birds?"

The parrots flew from one tree to another and kept touring the garden but didn't leave the villa even though Johnny persistently went after them.

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The cops received an anonymous call and arrived at the underground tunnel as fast as they could, but what awaited them was beyond what they had expected or imagined. "You've gotta be kidding me," they couldn't believe what they were seeing. The whole

underground tunnel had collapsed. "What in the world happened here?" Now, they had no idea if anyone was even trapped inside or not.

Later that night.

A clean red Porsche arrived at the Sterling villa. After seeing Benjamin, the guard said, "Did you get the Porsche serviced? It looks fresh." Benjamin gave a thumbs-up before driving through the gate. After he parked the car, he was walking into the villa, but his ears caught the distant noise of the birds in distress. What bothered him was that the noises didn't come from the trees but from the dorms. He had a bad feeling about it. He rushed straight to the dorms and kicked the door open, waking up the butlers and cleaners. He went to the storage room, and it was locked. He looked at the butlers. "Where's the key?" he demanded.

"What the fuck? You not only barged into the dorms and disturbed our sleep, but now you ask for the storage room key so arrogantly!" one of the butlers raised his voice angrily. "Did you forget your place, Unpaid Maid?" "I won't ask again," Benjamin's stare tightened, Johnny glanced at one of the cleaners who stepped forward. "I have it, but I won't give you shit," he came closer to Benjamin with his chin lifted high. "You think we're gonna treat you differently just because you managed to get on the good side of Madam Rebecca? If you thought so, you are wrong. So what are you gonna do now?" He was slightly taller than Benjamin and had a construction worker's physique. "You are gonna go and complain to your wife now, aren't yo-bwugh," he suddenly coughed blood as something struck his belly. His eyes turned white as he collapsed forward and his chin rested on Benjamin's shoulder. Benjamin pushed his face aside, and he collapsed on the floor, almost lifelessly.

The butlers and the cleaners were astonished.

"Where's the key?" Benjamin asked.

One of the butlers took the keys out from under his pillow and quickly came over to Benjamin. He snatched the keys and opened the door. Inside the room, the parrots were locked in a cage, with their wings plucked, beaks broken, and nails crushed. They were shivering in pain and made weak noises.

Benjamin's gut twisted. As he clenched his fist, a vein bulged in his arm, and the bulge traveled up his arm and all the way up to the neck. The sliding sweat drop touched the bulging vein and hissed and turned into vapor.

A minute later.

As the butlers and the cleaners wondered what Benjamin was doing inside, he walked out with the two un recognizable birds in his arms. Most of them were shocked, and

they couldn't even recognize the birds. Benjamin glared at all them as he left the dorms. This wasn't the time to talk with any of them. The birds were of higher priority.

"What the hell are those?" some butlers still looked shocked. "Are they defeathered birds?"

"Who knows," Johnny shrugged his shoulders. (How the hell did he know that the parrots were locked in there? We sedated them, so they shouldn't even have the strength to scream. Just how did he...)

Soon, Benjamin brought the birds to his room. Rebecca was sleeping, but when the light was switched on, she woke up. Her sight was still blurry. "Benjamin," she could tell it was him, even though she couldn't clearly see him yet. "You were gone in the morning. Where were you ..." as her sight was restored, he sat in his bed, with the defeathered, badly wounded birds in his arms.

Her heart ballooned at once. "W-What are those things?" they looked ugly at first sight, but then she sort of recognized them. "Wait... are they?" her eyes widened slowly but surely. "Are those the parrots from the garden?" her voice hit the ceiling. She immediately rolled to the side and sat down, completely ignoring her ankle injury. "What happened to them?" she tried to get a closer look. "This..." she couldn't look at them from up close. With broken beaks, crushed feet, they looked miserable, to say the least. Their eyes were mostly closed as well. It looked like they were both a step away from death. The extremely weak noise they made stirred her gut. "H-How did this happen?"

"Someone put them in the cage," he replied while taking out the first-aid kit that was next to her bed. "Cage?" her expression warped. "What are you talking about?" " "We'll talk about that later. First, let me tend to these birds." "You want to treat them?" she yelled. "Are you serious?" she tried to pluck them from him, but he didn't let her.

"Aren't you allergic to fur?"

"Yeah, to dogs and cats, sure, but birds? I don't think so?" she quickly dialed her doctor and asked for a veterinarian's number, then made a call and explained the situation. "The veterinarian says he'll come here in thirty minutes."

Benjamin didn't say anything. He cleaned the wounds and wrapped them up neatly in bandages. Before she knew it, she kept watching. In a matter of minutes, he completely took care of the bandaging, including their feathers. "You... Did you learn this somewhere?" she asked curiously. "You didn't waste any cotton or cloth. You looked like you had so much experience." Benjamin didn't say anything. He put the birds on his bed. It was cold, so he covered part of them with the blanket and went to the couch.

She didn't like the fact that he didn't answer. The taste of her own medicine was bad, but she

was able to endure it well. She went to his bed and began tending to the birds by gently rubbing her finger over them, telling them they're going to be alright. The birds weakly responded as though they were expressing their pain to her.

Seeing her care for the birds in her own fashion, Benjamin's heart cooled down. He didn't smile, but his gaze definitely softened. He wondered, if he had a mother, would she have taken care of him the same way when he was hurt? He only heard that a mother's love couldn't be matched, but he had never seen or experienced it himself.

A minute later, she went back to her bed and looked at Benjamin and hesitantly said, "Y-You can sleep in my bed if you want. There's enough space."

Benjamin, however, didn't respond.

She knew he was awake, but she didn't know why he wasn't jumping at the offer. Maybe because the birds were hurt badly, he wasn't in the mood? Either way, she didn't persuade him anymore. "Don't sleep. The veterinarian will be here any second." "I'm awake," he replied. "I'll go and greet the doctor, so you should sleep."

"Mm," she laid back on the bed and closed her eyes. She didn't like to sleep when the lights were turned on, but tonight, she had to bear it.

Meanwhile, in Fracis' house.

Francis and his assistant were sleeping in the same bed, buttnaked, both of them. The phone rang. He woke up and lazily answered. "Hello?"

An extremely tense and scared female voice spoke from the other end. "H-H-Hello, is it Francis? Edward's father?"

"Yeah, that's me. Who are you? Why is your voice like that? Did Edward do something to you?" "Listen to me," she was crying, "your son is dead."

"What?"

"I was waiting outside the tunnel, but... your son and all those who went inside are dead. They are dead for sure!"

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Francis grew angry. "If this is some sort of a prank he's pulling, I swear-" "Forget about your son. He's gone! I'm telling this for your own good," she continued to speak in a rushed and scared tone. "Don't go after that son-in-law! If you want to live, then stay away from him! No matter how many lives you have, you can't touch a hair on him. He's... He's... Kyaaa!"

A scream came from the other side. The noise of the mobile falling on the ground, and the sound of her footsteps fading away was all Francis heard. "Hey, are you alright?" he

asked, but there was no response, even though the line was still on. Before he knew it, all the hair on his body was standing. Did his son really die? His eyes grew wide awake just at the thought of that possibility being real.

At the same time, in the outskirts of the city.

A woman had been running on the desolate road as though she had been running from a ghost. She looked terrified and kept looking back repeatedly. However, she suddenly stopped after noticing a man completely dressed in black, standing in the middle of the road at about a hundred meters ahead. His face was covered with a black cloth from the top of his head to the bottom of his nose. He had a dagger in each hand. He looked like the manifestation of darkness itself.

Her bladder leaked out as terror took over her countenance. "N-No, please..." she couldn't even speak as tears overflowed. "I won't tell anyone. I swear."

"You think you managed to escape from him?" a voice echoed in her head, shocking her. He was more than a hundred feet away, yet his voice clearly reached her, even though he didn't speak out loud. The sheer terror petrified her body in place. "You escaped because he let you go." He began to walk. His mouth was shut, but his voice still echoed in her mind. "And we're here to cover our king. We can't risk getting his identity leaked." "Don't. Please..." she begged. "Fret not. I'll make it quick," he turned into a flash, and the next second, her head flew and rolled down the road while his presence was already gone, with not even a trace of his footsteps or his scent left.

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The next morning.

The veterinarian had treated the birds and asked who abused them, but Benjamin didn't have an answer yet.

Benjamin didn't go to the rooftop. The parrots were still resting on his bed. Because their nails and part of their feet were crushed, the veterinarian said, they might never be able to stand, much less walk properly again. Their situation didn't even let him sleep. He felt guilty because if not for him taming them, they might have left the villa, and they would still be living somewhere happily. But now, their entire life was ruined by hurs mother-in-law.

Yes, Benjamin had overheard the conversations of the maids from a distance and learned what had happened. He didn't want to use his enhanced sense of hearing to eavesdrop on others in the villa, but the circumstances forced him to.

He knew Johnny was the one who caught the birds and beat them and tortured them, but the one who made him do it was Selena.

"Not only did you get some men to attack me, you even went after the innocent birds. I see that you really hate me to the core. I didn't want to confront you because it might lower Rebecca's opinion on me, but now you're really forcing my hand, Mother-in-law."

As he came downstairs, Kathy had asked him to make breakfast. He gladly obliged.

Sometime later.

Elizabeth and her parents and children sat early at the dining table and began to demand Benjamin to cook faster. Eventually, the food was put on the table.

"Wow, bagel with cream cheese," Roshan drooled immediately. "This is my favorite!"

There were also pancakes with maple syrup, and Nolan's favorite breakfast burrito. Elizabeth's favorite bacon and eggs were also there. Lisa's favorite banana smoothie was also there. While Roshan openly expressed his feelings, the others looked shocked. And they understood why Benjamin took such time. Yet Dorothy said, "Where's my favorite potato pancakes?" Benjamin smiled and said, "You already look like a potato, so why do you need potato pancakes?"

"What?" Dorothy was enraged.

But the others already began eating, not caring about the insult Benjamin had thrown at Dorothy. Not even Nolan cared at the moment. The temptation of the breakfast burrito was too strong. However, the moment he bit a chunk and chewed on it, his expression began to change slowly but steadily.

Lisa sipped the banana smoothie but then immediately spilled it on the table. "Ew! It's salty!"

Roshan also dropped the chewed mass of bagel from his mouth. "What cream is this? It tastes

terrible" His expression looked more terrible, though, to the point of him crying.

Elizabeth's whole body jerked when her teeth crushed the scrambled eggs in her mouth. There was so much salt in it, she felt like she might pass out. She also ended up vomiting the whole thing just like her dad.

And they all glared at Benjamin, except for Dorothy, of course. "What the hell is wrong with you!" Nolan screamed as he threw the burrito onto the table.

"Why did you put salt in my smoothie?" Lisa yelled.

"I'm sorry," Benjamin looked a bit timid. "I must have mistaken salt for sugar."

"What?" Lisa could only grind her teeth. "Then what about my bagel, huh?" Roshan yelled. "The cream tastes like chicken shit!" "I'm sorry, Roshan, but how do you know what chicken shit tastes like?" Benjamin asked innocently. Roshan's expression contorted. "I see what you're doing," Elizabeth stood and shot daggers at him. "You're going to regret this dearly." "I doubt anything can make me regret more than making breakfast for you and your whole family," replied Benjamin. "You..." Elizabeth's blood boiled. She wanted to slap him a hundred times, scratch his face with her fingernails, kick him in his nuts as hard as she could and more.

Instead of arguing with him, they all went their own ways. For today, they would need to eat outside. "They kept pressuring me, or I would have had time for the potato pancakes, too," Benjamin thought. "But it's alright. I'll make her cry when I get the chance."

A few minutes later.

Delle took the breakfast to Selena's room, completely unaware of what had happened in the dining hall. Selena had freshened up and was in a good mood. "The birds must be suffering now. They will die in two to three days, so I should wait until night falls and then leave them on the rooftop. He'll be shocked the next morning when he sees them. Haha." She was also unaware of the fact that Benjamin had taken the birds because Delle or the other maids hadn't told her yet. They were too afraid to tell that news to her.

While she was putting some make-up on, the breakfast food was brought to her. Seeing the muffins and griddlecakes, her eyes lit up. She paused putting the makeup on and washed her hands."Are these blueberry muffins? You haven't made them in a while. What has changed now?"

"I didn't make these. Benjamin did, ma'am."

"Haha, that fool has no clue, does he? I ruined the lives of his pet birds, but he's here making

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me my favorite meals. These muffins will be my fuel for the day," with a happy face, she put the whole muffin in her mouth and chewed. Her heart suddenly ballooned as the extreme saltiness of the food hit her whole system like the tidal waves on a full moon night. The shock was just too much. She touched her temple, feeling dizzy. Her mouth was already full, and she forgot to breathe. In a second, she spiraled and crashed on the floor.

"Madam!" Delle cried out in worry. Meanwhile, Benjamin brought burritos and a sweet parfait to Rebecca. She asked if he ate, but he shook his head, so she gave him one of

the burritos. And they ate together. With the potatoes, spinach, beans, mushrooms, scrambled eggs and sausage neatly wrapped up in a flour tortilla, every bite was hearty, to say the least. "It's delicious," she remarked. "Try the parfait. I think it came out better." "Mm, sure."

In the background, the smell of the food made the birds act up a little bit, but Benjamin had already put softened peas and ground up mellets before them. However, it was the smell of the parfait that caught their attention. Nevertheless, they weren't in a position to stand and get to the table to sip on the parfait, and since they were injured and sick, consuming parfait wasn't a good thing. "Benjamin, how can they eat food with their beaks broken?" she asked. "Maybe we should put the food in their mouths." "Let them try for a little while. The quicker they adapt, the better it'll be for them." "Okay."

At the same time, Jacob was heading out, but as he was walking past the dining table, he noticed the burritos. "Why did they leave the food on the table? It's most likely Elizabeth and her parents!" he frowned in annoyance, but the burritos caught his eyes. "They sure look different today. I'm not a fan of burritos because they stuff too many things inside and end up butchering the taste, but I'll make an exception this one time." He reached out for the one that looked a bit bigger than the rest.

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The parrots did show some interest in the parfait, but in the end, they didn't eat anything. The veterinarian had to come and check up on the birds again.

Selena now knew what exactly had happened the previous night, and she then understood the reason why the muffins were so horrible, the worst she had ever eaten. She had to make

and buy the best muffins in the city and then eat them to feel a little better.

The word already reached Rebecca through Veronica, but she couldn't question Benjamin because she was smart enough to realize that Selena probably had something to do with the birds. Moreover, there wasn't much one could do if family members kept fighting against each other. Whom should she support? She had been seeing this since childhood, so she was thinking of telling Benjamin to control himself until she bought a new house where they could freely live together.

While Rebecca was planning a design for her and her husband to wear during the reception, Benjamin went to Rye's Pizzas to invite the workers there. The date of the

reception had been decided. It was after the two movies Jacob produced had released, so there were still over thirty days left. Benjamin didn't complain as any earlier date would mean troubling Jacob, and thus troubling his daughter.

After Elizabeth quit, Christopher was promoted back to being the manager once again. Benjamin treated him with an ice cream sundae the size of his head just to congratulate him. He gave various ice creams to other workers as well and made them feel a little special that afternoon, though it cost him a month's salary to be able to do that, for he didn't use the platinum card to treat his co-workers

While Benjamin was returning home, Shawn's car blocked his way at a U-turn. Only Shawn was there. No one else.

Benjamin got out of the Porsche and asked with a polite smile on his face, "What is it, brother in-law?"

Shawn was folding his sleeves while his gaze was semi-sharp. "I've been busy, so I ignored my wife's complaints about you, but to think you've grown so daring you put too much in their food, you must be taught some fear."

"Are you sure you want to do this here?" Benjamin asked. "In the middle of the road?"

"Hitting you in front of my family will make me look like a thug, but hitting you inside a car won't give me much thrill, either, so punching that little smile out of your face in public is for everyone's best."

"Then what are you waiting for? Come and beat me."

"You don't need to tell me that." Shawn used his boxing skills to repeatedly punch Benjamin's face and body all over. He kept going even after seeing blood. Once Benjamin fell to the ground, he mercilessly used his boots to strike Benjamin's stomach, making him cough blood. Even after hitting so much, Shawn looked like he could go for another round, but killing

Benjamin wasn't his intention. He put his foot on Benjamin's face and said, "It only gets worse from here on out. The only way you can escape from this nightmare is to leave this city. Disappear from Rebecca's life forever. I'll give you three days' time to think. If you still decide to stay, I'll start with breaking your fingers one by one every day. Trust me, I won't stop until you're dead."

His words were pretty intimidating, but he couldn't tell whether his words were really effective or not.

After Shawn left, Benjamin got up to his feet, wiped the dirt off his clothes, and spat bloody saliva to the side.

A voice echoed in Benjamin's mind. "How could you let him do this to you, lord? My blood is boiling. I want to go and cut him into a thousand pieces!" "Shadow..." Benjamin looked toward a roadside tree where a man in black was hiding in plain sight. "Do you want to die?" he spoke without moving his lips.

"But, Lord...."

"I won't tell you again. Don't touch the Sterlings. Filthy they may be, they're still family. I'll deal with them myself. Besides, I don't need you here, so go back." "But, Lord..."

"That's an order."

Shadow replied no more.

Benjamin went home with all the injuries. After getting out of the car, he acted like an injured man suffering from quite a bit of pain as he made his way to his room. The butlers and maids saw him but did nothing to help him.

He went to his room and opened the door.

"How could he use my favorite book as a coaster for his drinks!" Selena fumed as she pushed the glasses aside and took her book. "Mm?" she turned her head, and a badly wounded Benjamin limped into the room.

"Benjamin!" Rebecca was shocked seeing blood coming from his forehead. As she got down from the bed with effort, Benjamin came over to her with a sad face and gave her a big hug. "It hurts, Rebecca. How could Brother-in-law do this to me?" he cried out but at the same time he winked at Selena, not giving her the chance to even enjoy the news of her son beating her son-in-law even for a second.

The fact that he was hugging her daughter angered Selena enough already, but the way he acted like he was badly hurt was something she couldn't just digest. She waved her hand and hit his face with her favorite book, screaming, "You little shit!" "AHH!" Benjamin cried out some more as he stepped back a couple of times. Blood poured down from his nose. A lot of it. His beard was completely covered with his blood now. Rebecca's heart began beating super fast. She glared at Selena. "Mom! Did you just hit him with the book?"

"U-Uh," Selena's tongue got stuck in her mouth. She had ended up reacting before she knew it.

Rebecca took some cotton from the first-aid kid and put it under Benjamin's nose and tried to stop the bleeding. He moved her fingers up so that she pinched his nose with the cotton. He began breathing through the mouth and exaggerated it a bit. "B-Benjamin..." Rebecca was worried. She looked for her mobile but it was on the desk. She quickly looked at Selena. "Mom, grab my mobile and call the doctor!"

"What?" Selena made a strange face. She should call a doctor for treating Benjamin? She never even imagined herself doing that. However, with the way her daughter had been looking at her, she thought it was better to do what she wanted right now. "Fine." She dialed their family doctor, and while she talked, her daughter was looking at her and so was Benjamin, but he was still smiling. That sassy smile tore through her temper. "You bastard!" she yelled. The doctor who was on the line was shocked. "Excuse me?"

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The family doctor had come and treated Benjamin, even though the bleeding had stopped by the time he came.

Selena was also there. She didn't want anything serious happening between the husband and wife as they were sitting next to each other. So she stayed in the room to make sure nothing of the sort happened.

As the doctor was leaving, he looked at Selena and said, "You may love your son-in-law, but you can't be calling doctors bastards for not answering your call in the first few rings."

Selena's face flushed pink as the doctor had said what he wanted and left. Though she felt embarrassed, she was at least glad that her words were taken in a way that would make her daughter feel better about her.

However, seeing the wounded parrots resting in the bed was something she didn't like. Beds were not meant for birds, she thought. If not for Rebecca constantly being in the room, she would have already done something about it.

After Benjamin rested on Rebecca's bed, Rebecca went to the couch. This only furthered Selena's hatred toward him.

"Come and sleep in my room," Selena told Rebecca. "It's okay, mom. I'm fine here. You can go now. Thanks for the help."

Selena slowly walked out, cursing Benjamin in her thoughts. She ordered Belle to bring her cream coffee before heading to her room, with her favorite book in hand. Delle went to prepare the best tea she could, but while she was looking for sugar, Shadow entered the kitchen and mixed something in the coffee and left just as fast.

Delle took the coffee to Selena who tasted it and said it was good. She began reading her book, but in a couple of minutes, her stomach began stirring. She didn't mind it and continued reading, but then her bowel started making noise, which even Delle heard, and that embarrassed her.

"You go," she told Delle. After the maid left, she put the book down and rushed into the bathroom.

Loud farting and shitting noises followed afterward.

Meanwhile, outside the villa.

Shadow just entered a black SUV. Alfred was sitting in the back, and he sat next to him.

"You didn't do anything crazy, did you?" asked Alfred.

"Nothing crazy. I didn't want to upset the Lord too much, so I only added a laxative in her coffee," Shadow replied. "She'll not leave the bathroom until midnight."

"What if she dies from dehydration?"

"She'll call a doctor I'm sure."

"Still, he might get angry at you for this." "I know." Shadow was still wearing the mask that covered up his face from above his mouth." She deserves a lot more if you ask me. Not just her. The people in this villa are all full of shit. If it was up to me, I'd just make them stand in a line and then roll all their heads with one strike. I don't understand why the Lord is wasting his time with them. Everytime they treat him badly, my daggers beg me to get rid of them." "Despite everything, he still considers them as family. You don't want to dishonor our Lord's family, do you?"

Shadow squeezed his lips together. "Keep your shit together, or it's your head that will roll." "M-Mm. By the way, Young Lady Rye has been calling me. What should I tell her?" "Just don't answer."

Meanwhile, Rebecca had been trying to change Benjamin's mind. "She even stayed here and helped you, so forgive her for what she did to the birds, okay? I will tell her to never touch the birds if she wants me to respect her."

Benjamin, however, said nothing.

"How about we go to the beach with my mom and veronica? Just the four of us?" she asked." I'm sure it'll be fun. I can't swim yet, but I'll just sit out in the sun, and we can have a nice chat with the family. What do you say?"

Again, Benjamin didn't seem all that interested. Going out with her alone was one thing, but going anywhere with her mother or sister would only invite trouble, so he was naturally against that idea.

Rebecca was a prideful woman. She had already asked him twice, and she didn't want to keep doing it anymore. She stood and walked out of the room and came to the balcony for some fresh air.

Johnny was washing the cars in the garden. He kept looking at her for every few seconds, and she noticed that and went back inside.

A few seconds later, Ashley brought a glass of coconut water to Johnny, pleasantly surprising him. "I-Is this for me?" he asked in shock. "Yes," Ashley pleasantly smiled, though only faintly. "After Oliver died, you're the most hardworking butler in the house. Now that Devon also left, you're going to become a head butler, so take good care of me, okay?" "O-Of course," he drank the whole glass of coconut water in one gulp, making her say, 'oh, my. You can drink a whole glass in one gulp. You really are full of surprises. You can also work as well as you eat. You are one handy man.' "Haha." He just blushed. "Too bad, she can't get to you even if she wants to." Johnny was startled. "Who?" Was Ashley talking about Kathy? "Who else? Madam Rebecca!"

Johnny's mouth widened, "What?" he lowered his voice. "Why would she want me?" "How would i know? But what I can say is that she looks at you differently. Didn't you notice that?"

"Well." Johnny rubbed the back of his head. "Maybe? I'm not sure." "That's because you don't know about women. If you ask me, you're better at everything than the useless son-in-law. So, of course, she's gonna be more interested in men like you. Did you ever wonder why they don't even sleep on the same bed? Maybe she's waiting for a better man, but how long can she burn from passion? Because no one came forward, she's decided to officially wed her useless husband. I feel bad for her. If only she can find a man who can please her passions, she wouldn't need to be with Benjamin." She sighed and then took the glass from him and walked away Johnny looked toward the balcony where Rebecca had stood a minute ago.

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Anous returned to his job. He took the kids to school and then dropped Benjamin, Rebecca, and Veronica at the Powell's gym. Jane and Donovan were already waiting there. Donovan didn't look ashamed of what had happened at the birthday party, as he seemed to already put that behind him.

"Why do we only get 1 hour?" Jane complained before even entering the gym. "Donovan says we need at least two to three hours to properly train our body under supervision." "This is like rehabilitating, you know," replied Rebecca. "Some training without therapy." After they entered, a tall and handsome black man came to greet them. Both Rebecca and Jane went speechless for a second.

"P-Powell?" Jane was shocked. "It's you?"

"Haha," Powell laughed, putting his hands on his waist. "It's great to meet friends from college, especially you, Jane." He offered his hand for a handshake, but she didn't go with the flow.

Jane grabbed Donovan's arm and said, "This is Donovan, my boyfriend."

"Oh..." Powell's gaze changed. He looked at Donovan from top to bottom. "Your body isn't bad, but it needs some more symmetry." "Pfhh," Donovan couldn't believe this guy. "Whatever." He walked past him. "I don't need anybody's help." "Your wish," Powell didn't mind it. "My only obligation is to care for Ms. Rebecca, so.." when he looked at Rebecca and smiled, Benjamin put his arm around her shoulder, startling both of them.

"Why don't we see how good you really are, Mr. Powell?" Benjamin said. "I hope your skills match at least half your reputation." Powell just smiled in return and then showed his skill with actions. He made Rebecca do low impact workouts that targeted her injured leg. After she warmed-up enough, he made her do slightly harder workouts using resistance bands and also making her stand on one leg. There wasn't anything groundbreaking in the exercises he made her do, but at the end of the first session, she was already able to walk a few steps without having to use the walking stick. Rebecca was mightily impressed with Powell and gave him a handshake at the end. "You definitely are worth paying 1000 dollars per hour." "He didn't magically cure you," Benjamin said. "You are still going to feel the pain after your muscles cool down."

"I know that, too," she replied, "but you've gotta give credit where it's due."

"Of course," Benjamin said, "but I would have done better. Just saying."

Powell could only shake his head,

At that moment, Artur walked into the wym, and Powell went over to greet him,

"Why's he here?" Veronica looked surprised. All she had done in the gym was experiment with every item and didn't really do any productive work. "The guy who built an excalator for you, sis." She looked at her sister,

Rebecca frowned, (Brother... I thought you really cared for me, but you don't do anything in that doesn't benefit you, do you?) She felt really disappointed in her brother Shawn.

"Why are there so many people here?" Artur asked Powell, jokingly. "I thought you only took one person in at a time?"

"Yes, Mr. Artur, but I had to make an exception because some of them were my college mates." "Oh, 1 see," he said and glanced at Rebecca. "It's nice to meet you again, Ms. Rebecca."

"You two know each other?" Powell seemed surprised.

"Just a little," Artur touched his cheek once.

"We'll be back tomorrow, Powell," Rebecca said and walked out without the help of the walking stick. Benjamin followed her and helped her when she was about to slip on the stairs. He had her back. "Thanks."

"Don't mention it."

Donovan and Jane went in a separate car. Veronica tagged along with her sister. While Anous drove, Benjamin sat in the front, with the sisters in the back.

"I'm telling you. He's definitely joined this gym for you, sister," Veronica said, "It's a great opportunity if you ask me. Artur Bonsbell... He's filthy rich. Mom and dad won't object to it. I don't like big guys, but maybe you do. I only see good fortunes ahead with him."

"Why don't you marry him then?" Benjamin spoke back.

"Huh? I would if he wasn't that big," replied Veronica, sounding serious and genuine. "He's too far away from my preferences, but I think my sister has a different taste."

Benjamin glanced over his shoulder and looked at his wife. "Is your sister serious?"

"Huh?" Veronica raised her hand to slap Benjamin's face, but Rebecca stopped her.

"Hey, what are hell are you doing!" Rebecca yelled at her. "I'm doing what's best for you," Veronica yelled back. "What's best for my sister!" "And that is?" Benjamin asked aloud, "What you want, or what your sister wants?"

"O-Of course, it's what my sister wants," Veronica said and then went silent for a little while." I won't accept you as my brother-in-law. Even if the heavens collapse, I won't!"

Benjamin could only shake his head. Talking with this woman was useless, he thought.

Meanwhile, in Powell's gym.

Powell was training Artur, and he received a phone call. He was about to reject, but after

seeing the name, he asked Artur's permission and walked outside before answering, "Hello.

sir."

"How are you doing, Powell?" a male voice came from the other side. "Doing, great, sir. If not for your financial support, I wouldn't be here, sir, earning 10 grand a day."

"Good for you. Now I want you to do me a favor."

"Anything, Sir Arlo."

"Nothing much. A woman named Rebecca has started coming to your gym, right?"

"Yes. She's my collegemate." "Oh, that's great. I was about to tell you to install some cameras in the washroom for her, but it seems there may be no need for that."

Powell's expression changed. "W-What are you saying, sir?"

"Will you be able to bring her to me, Powell? If you do, I'll help you earn more than 10 grand a day with less work."

Powell was really tempted by the offer. "Sorry, sir, but she's a friend of mine. Ask me anything else, and I will do that for you."

"Is that so? Fine. It was good talking to you." The call ended.

Powell exhaled audibly. "Why is Arlo Campbell interested in Rebecca? Did she see her in one of the competitions? That guy is the king of womanizers. I'm afraid Rebecca is going to have a hard time dealing with him." He noticed that Luther, Artur's bodyguard, was looking at him, so he smiled and said, "How are you doing, sir?"

He only received a nod in return. "This guy never talks," murmuring to himself, Powell went back into his gym.

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Chapter 87

CHAPTER 87

When Rebecca returned from the gym in her tights, Johnny was watching her from a distance. This was the first time he was seeing her curves, and he couldn't turn his eyes away. Even though Veronica was also wearing tights, he was always watching her in her bikini, so she didn't feel any special to him.

It was only Rebecca that was his mango just out of reach. He wanted to jump and get hold of the ripening mango as fast as he could so he could have a taste of it.

However, he suddenly felt a chill of the underworld, and he soon realized that Benjamin was giving him a death glare. He turned his head and minded his work. (Tsk! This overprotective son-in-law is always right behind her ass. But he's a nobody, and I will make Rebecca realize that.) As he imagined Rebecca using her delicate arms to stroke him in the most intimate way, the thing in his pants throbbed. He get going far in the fantasies he lost track of time.

Meanwhile in Rebecca's room. She was going for a bath, and Benjamin asked, "Can I join?" She stopped almost immediately but didn't turn back to look at him. She knew she was keeping her husband waiting for many months, but for him to shamelessly and casually ask if he could enter in the bathtub with her, nervous butterflies took flight in her stomach. "You waited for so long. Just wait for a little longer." Saying that she went in and briefly looked at him before shutting the door. "Haah," Benjamin fell back on the bed. "I wish she knew better than to disregard me like this. Don't you think so, guys?" he looked at the parrots, but they were still sleeping and recovering

Delle knocked on the door and said, "Madam Selena is calling for you, Benjamin."

"For me?" he was surprised. "For what?"

"I don't know. Please come. She isn't feeling well."

"Alright." He went with her. When he entered Selena's room, he was surprised to see Selena on the bed, with two saline bottles supplying electrolytes to her. She looked weak and dehydrated. It didn't seem like she was faking it.

"B-Benjarnin..." Selena's eyes were blood-red from rage, but she wasn't in a position to move. Otherwise, she'd have jumped off the bed and kicked the living shit out of him. "How could you do this to me?" she looked pitiful as well as rageful at the same time. "I've never flushed the toilet so many times in one day..." she was in tears. "My stomach is still making weird noises. I've never had diarrhea this bad. If I don't make it out of this, and something were to happen to me, then don't celebrate because I'll become a ghost and possess you and make you jump off a cliff!"

"What nonsense is this?" Benjamin raised his voice. "I'm not responsible for you becoming like this. You probably did this to yourself to put the blame on me, didn't you?"

"You think I'll hurt myself so badly I won't even have the strength to scream at you?" Selena screamed at him.

Meanwhile, in Rebecca's room.

She walked out of the bathroom, rubbing her hair with a towel. But someone suddenly shut her mouth from behind and forcibly took her into the bathroom and kicked the door shut. She thought it was Benjamin, but then a different voice reached her ears. "I've always wanted to do this..." he grabbed her best with the other hand. "I know you wanted this too, right, Rebecca?"

After realizing that it wasn't Benjamin but was actually Johnny, her heart rate spiked. She struggled to get out of his bind, but he was really strong. The pressure his hand put on her mouth and nose made it difficult for her to even breathe.

"Ehehe, the walls here are thick. No one's gonna hear shit even if you scream," he turned her around and pressed her against the wall before moving his hand from her mouth to her throat. The fear in her eyes only strengthened his libido. He moved his other hand down to grab her pussy, but her knee struck his crotch hard and completely sucked all the strength out of his limbs, causing him to back a step away.

That little attack with the knee sprained her ankle, but she somehow managed to rush out of the bathroom.

Johnny bore the pain and chased her. He shouldn't let her out of the room before he had his fun with her no matter what. However, she didn't go for the door but went to her bed. He went after her, but she took something out of her bag that shocked him.

"W-Wait," he was saying, but bullets struck his chest and face repeatedly. Johnny looked at her in disbelief. He thought she really was into him, but maybe she wasn't.

Benjamin rushed to the room and broke the door open. Rebecca turned and pointed the gun at him in reflex. After seeing him, she lowered the gun and sat on the bed with a plop, her eyes looking at the dead body. Elizabeth and others also gathered soon, and they were all left in shock. Lisa and Roshan asked their mother if Rebecca would end up in jail, but Elizabeth glared at them, telling them to shut up, and they did. Vlad and Mercie were also there, staring at the dead body, but Elizabeth told Ashely to take them away.

As Ashley took the kids away, she looked shocked as well as disappointed. (I didn't think that fool would attempt something like this so fast. It hasn't even been a day since I told him, and he...)

Rebecca just sat on the bed, not moving. The time when she got kidnapped played in her mind. Back then, she couldn't do much as some of the kidnappers touched her inappropriately. Now, she managed to kill Johnny, but she couldn't feel happy about it.

She grabbed her mobile to call the police, but Benjamin caught her hand and shook his head. "Let me handle this," he said.

"What do you mean 'you will handle this,'?" she looked confused. Was he saying he'll take the blame for this?

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Chapter 88

CHAPTER 88

Selena fired all the male butlers and cleaners after giving them the next three months salary, so they didn't complain and also leaked what happened inside the villa, and she didn't lose any face, either. Both parties knew that this was done to make Rebecca feel comfortable.

While Benjamin had taken Johnny's body in a car and went out into the city, Selena had removed Benjamin's bed and all his belongings from Rebecca's room.

When Rebecca told her this wasn't necessary, she was told to shut-up.

"I know you better than you know yourself," Selena told her. "Right now, it's not good for a male to be living in your room, even if it's your husband."

"But... shouldn't we at least discuss this with him first?" asked Rebecca. "What will he think when he comes back and sees all his stuff moved to another room?"

"Let him think whatever he wants," Selena snorted. Her stomach rumbled again. "Ah, for fuck sake!" she raised her hands and screamed before rushing to the washroom in Rebecca's room itself.

Delle then explained to Rebecca about Benjamin putting diarrhea-causing pills in Selena's coffee. She touched her forehead in response. "It's salt last time, and now it's this? Why's he acting like this now?"

"Now that you told him you'll make your wedding public," Selena spoke aloud from the bathroom. After taking the electrolytes, she was feeling energetic now. "He's finally showing his true colors. He'll become more and more assertive, and if you keep silent, he'll get away with anything and everything. Don't forget that he's the guy who took advantage of you when you were drunk. That type of a guy can never be trusted." Her mother's words didn't help Rebecca cope with the situation any better. She just killed a person, yet her mother was more worried about her son-in-law's situation.

At that moment, Jacob entered the room. "Dad..." as he came over, she stood, thinking he'll hug her. "Where's the gun?" he asked. She didn't respond, or rather she couldn't. "I asked you, where's the gun?" "Benjamin took it," her expression turned a bit said. "Why?"

Jacob gritted his teeth. "How could you be so foolish, Rebecca? If you had only just called, I would have used my contacts and dealt everything smoothly. What if this guy gets caught now? Even if he tells everything that happened, it won't make you look good. When you killed Johnny in self-defense, there was no need for you to bury the body somewhere secretly, unless you're guilty. That's what the court will say."

Rebecca's heart began beating faster and faster.

"I called him, but he isn't responding. You try calling him," Jacob said, even though he didn't call Benjamin even once. After all, he didn't even have Benjamin's number in his phone.

She immediately dialed Benjamin. He answered. "Hey, where are you?" she asked quickly. Sensing the tension in her tone, he said, "Be calm. I told you I'll handle this." "That's not it. You should-" as Rebecca was speaking, Jacob snatched the phone from her. "It's me, Jacob. Turn around and get back home right now! If the patrolling officers stop you, everything will get messy, you hear me?"

The call ended.

Jacob couldn't believe it. He looked at his daughter in disbelief. "Did he just hang up?" "What a mouth!" Benjamin slowed down his car and stopped by the group of officers that were checking every vehicle passing by. They soon came to his car and checked that there as no one else inside other than Benjamin." Why don't you open the trunk, mate?" one of the officers said.

Just then another officer, Steve, recognized Benjamin. "Hello, Mr. Benjamin. Where are you headed at this hour? To your second home?" "Of course, not," replied Benjamin, calmly. "What's going on here, though?" "Ah, a missing girl case." He showed the poster. "Have you seen here anywhere? She's the chief justice's daughter."

Benjamin glanced at the poster and remembered her. This was the same girl standing outside the underground tunnel, the one she let go. (She didn't return home? Perhaps, she was too afraid to return.) "Why are you taking so long to reply?" Steve asked. "Surely, you aren't hiding her in your trunk, are you?"

Benjamin stared at him, and Steve peered back at him without blinking and while chewing on the bubble gum. "Just kidding, mate." He furled the poster and his voice slightly changed, "I saw you talking with Jane the other day at the party. Are you two close?" "No. I'm close with her friend, though." "I see," Steve felt a bit relieved. "A'ight. You can go."

Benjamin nodded and pressed his foot on the accelerator gently as there were still cars before him that were moving. The dog held by the officer began to sniff and shout as Benjamin's car passed by. He glared at the dog, and it tucked its tail between its legs and squealed in a submissive manner.

One of the officers standing beside Steve asked, "Are you sure you don't want to check that guy's car?"

"I'm sure. He's a hard-working guy. Not the kind to kidnap girls."

"Charlie seems to have sensed something, though. Maybe he's carrying some stuff." "Well, we ain't got time to focus on that," said Steve. "You got a point. If we don't find the chief justice's daughter by tomorrow morning, he'll be all over our department." Steve glanced at Benjamin's car as it shrank in his sight. (I felt great when you hit Donovan, so now, we're even.)

Meanwhile, somewhere else in the city.

In a private casino, Francis was kneeling on the floor, with his face completely covered in his own blood. He was gasping and cringing in pain and crying. "I really don't know. Please trust me." His words weren't clear because a few of his teeth were missing. "I didn't know she was your daughter. I didn't know her until she called me. My son is missing, too."

A fat man was sitting in the chair before him, with two dozen armed guards standing behind him. "If your son wasn't missing, you would have already died. It's a pity that a capable law officers like us have to meet like this because of our incompetent children. But this doesn't change the fact that she got into some kind of mess because of your son, so you should take responsibility for it." He raised his hand a little and gestured to the guards. One of them stepped forth and took out a knife. "No, wait, please!" Francis begged. "Give me a chance."

Despite his efforts, his tongue was pulled out and cut into half. Blood poured out of his mouth. He shut his mouth and bawled his eyes out.

The fat man, who was the Chief Justice of the country, stood and put his coat on. "Pray that my daughter is alive. Otherwise, I'll come for your life and everyone associated with you." He turned and started walking. He glanced at the female guard next to him. "Who was that son-in -law my daughter talked about in her last call?"

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Chapter 89

CHAPTER 89

Sitting on Rebecca's bed, Jacob looked quite frustrated. For one thing, his wife was sitting next to him and resting her head on his shoulders. He didn't want to tell her to get up, but at the same time, he had more important things to do. Dealing with Johnny's body is just a minor part of that.

However, what angered him more was seeing his daughter designing a suit right in front of his eyes. "Is this the time to be planning designs?" "The request came from my old friend Evelyn. She wants to surprise her boss, so I need to finish this as fast as possible." "To her boss? Who the hell is her boss? Some roadside romeo?"

"CEO Adam of Conreid Lore."

Jacob went silent for a little while. "You can carry on, but do something about your mother. She's totally out."

"Yeah, so why don't you just put her down on the bed?"

"I'm afraid she'll wake up if I move. You come and deal with her." Rebecca sighed and did what Jacob asked of her and succeeded. Jacob didn't wait another second and slipped out of the room, sweating profusely for many reasons.

When Jacob was walking out of the villa, he noticed Anous outside, standing, requesting with his eyes to take him back into the job. It was Shawn who gave him the job in the first place, so Jacob simply told him to ask Shawn. He could have just said 'you can come to work', but he didn't want any unnecessary headache from his wife.

However, Anous was doubtful if Shawn would care enough. He tried asking Elizabeth already, but she didn't even seem to care about him anymore even after all the things he did for her, though he hadn't exactly done anything for free.

At the moment, only the gate guards were men working in shifts, for they never entered the villa and only stayed outside the main gate.

Anous shook his head. "Nah, there's no way I can work as a gate guard. It's too below me. It seems I should look for a new rich family." He walked away s a disappointed man.

Meanwhile, somewhere in the forest on the western side of the city. Benjamin dug a deep hole and tossed Johnny's body down. He barely broke a sweat despite all the labor.

"Grrr!"

A menacing growl reached his ears. From the cover of darkness, a pack of wolves prowled forth at him from every direction. There were at least ten of them.

He raised his head and looked at the one in the front, the alpha. The moment their eyes met, the alpha wolf stopped growling and started backing away a few steps, causing the other

wolves to do the same. Once they retreated enough, they turned and skedaddled into the shadows.

"They must have caught the scent of his blood, but I've dug deep enough, so they shouldn't be able to dig and pull the body out."

He looked for a plant that would eventually grow tall, and he found a young maple tree, which he uprooted and then planted at the buried spot, then covered the base with dry soil. He stared at the soil beneath the tree. "I saw you staring at my wife a few times. I got so angry that I wanted to kill you, but then you were also looking at other women the same way, so I thought you were just blinded by lust. Still, I didn't think you'd attack Rebecca. Thank God, nothing happened to her, or..." he put his pressure on the base of the shovel, and it dug into the soil. He took a breath and controlled himself. "If you have any family, I'll send them some money in your name, so rest in peace."

His work here was done. As he was leaving, with the shovel in hand, a shadowy figure flashed behind him, making him stop. "What is it?"

"I have a confession to make," said Shadow and then explained what happened with Selena as well as the situation with the Chief Justice's daughter. "I'm sorry, Lord. I should have checked her background before proceeding, but she saw something she shouldn't have, so..." he kneeled and lowered his head. "I'm not giving excuses. I know I deserve punishment." He raised the dagger in his hand, suggesting that Benjamin should just behead him. Benjamin, however, started walking. "Go back home." Shadow pursed his lips in a bit of frustration. "Why, Lord? If it was the past you, you would have punished me severely. What has changed now?" Benjamin kept walking without answering. After he entered his car, he grabbed the wheel but didn't start the engine. "Nothing changed, Shadow. I'm still the same. It's still the same me. It's just that I feel like..." he looked at his arms, "I'm bound by some invisible chains I can't break. Maybe living in society as a common citizen is affecting me. Don't know where this will take me." He started the car. On his way back, he tossed the shovel into the woods. The police stopped the car at multiple spots and checked his car and noted his details before letting him go. Benjamin came home late at night. He expected some commotion, but to his surprise, nobody was outside. Everyone seemed to be sleeping.

However, after he entered, he saw Shawn sitting on the couch. He was reading some documents, but after seeing Benjamin, he stood and took his glasses off. "I thought you would get caught."

"I took care of it." "Nothing to worry about, then?"

Benjamin nodded.

"Why don't you tell me where you tossed the body? I'll make sure..."

Benjamin smiled. "Don't worry, Brother-in-law. I'm not going to use this against the Sterlings, especially when Rebecca is involved directly."

"Mm," Shawn didn't believe him and was thinking of forcing the answer out of him, but Rebecca called out for him from the first floor,

Shawn just watched as Benjamin walked past him.

Benjamin went upstairs. "I thought you would be sleeping," he looked at Rebecca. "How can I sleep after what happened?" she said. "About Johnny..". "I took care of it. Just forget about it, okay?" Benjamin's assurance eased her. He opened the door of the room but was then shocked to see his bed and all his stuff gone. He suddenly remembered something. "Wait, where are the birds?" Rebecca was also shocked as she had completely forgotten about the parrots.

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Chapter 90

CHAPTER 90

Rebecca asked Selena about the parrots in the middle of the night, but she said she had no idea about the parrots and told her to ask the maids who also said they didn't see the parrots.

Rebecca knew they were lying, but there was nothing she could do now. Limping around the villa, she looked for the birds herself.

However, Benjamin was the one who first found them. They were lying lifeless in the garden, with dog bites on their bodies, on both of them

When Rebecca saw the dead birds, her gut twisted. He silently buried them under the guava tree where the couple mostly played together. She shed tears, but he didn't. He wanted to break the bones of the dogs, but he felt like he should punish others first if he were to punish the dogs for acting on their instincts.

As he was walking away, Rebecca didn't know what to even say to him. Because of her negligence, the parrots died. She felt sad and helpless. She might be earning millions, but could she bring the birds back to life so she could see her husband smile?

Growing up, she didn't raise any pets, but the value of the lives of the two dead parrots seemed just as priceless as that of humans at the moment,

She just followed him with weak footsteps as he went to the dorms. The men's rooms were almost empty, except one bed and the luggage on it. It was Johnny's bed, but the luggage belonged to Benjamin. All the other beds and unnecessary luggage was already moved to the storage room before the butlers left.

He just stood there, watching the bed. Sitting on the same bed as the one who attacked his wife? The thought itself stirred up his temper. It felt like Selena purposely did all this. After all, there were empty guest rooms in the villa.

Rebecca entered the room and said, "Benjamin..." she came up to him and put her hand on his shoulder. "I apologize on behalf of my mom. Don't take this seriously. I'll talk to her later Let's go to my room." "Your room?" Benjamin smiled, but there was no life in it. "Yeah, you are right. It was never our room."

Rebecca's heart sank. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean that."

"Words don't easily come out of one's mouth, Rebecca Lies or truth, whether we mean it or not, every word comes from the heart," he said. "But I'm not upset. Like you said, that is indeed your room." He paused as something kept hurting him inside. "I'm tired. Can you leave, so I can rest?"

"I'm really sorry," her eyes teared up. She removed her hand off his shoulder and caught his hand. Please…"

"Sorry, but I'm not stepping into your room again. I'll stay in these dorms, if you're okay with that," he said, without even looking at her His throat felt tight and made it hard to speak as his eyes lost focus "Or do you also want me to leave this villa and your life like your mother

Rebecca felt dead for a second. Her mind went blank. Her face turned into a stone, unable to make any expression. Her hand let go of him.

At that moment, both felt like their feelings didn't matter to the other. Turning back, she limped her way out as fast as she could. Benjamin began putting the luggage off the bed, but his limbs felt so weak. A heart-wrenching pain pierced his soul from within, glistening his eyes with tears. He didn't cry, but he didn't put all the luggage down, either. He sat down next to the bed, thinking he was more of a waste of space in the villa than the luggage around him.

About an hour later. Anous jumped over the wall using a ladder and entered the garden. The dogs recognized him and so didn't attack him. He snuck into the dorm rooms. "I should steal some valuable things and leave before dawn breaks," he thought as he covered his face with a towel. "I'm sure the men's dorm rooms are empty now. If I can break into the storage room, I should be able to

find some valuable things." However, once he entered the men's dorms, he noticed Benjamin sitting by the lone bed and looking straight at him. "H-Hi..." he waved his hand before turning around and walking away. Ten steps later, he ran. (Why's this useless bastard here? He didn't recognize me, did he?) He briefly glanced back to see if Benjamin was coming after him. Luckily, he wasn't. But then, because he was running in the dark, the dogs chased him now and ganged up on him from multiple sides. They bit him all over from head to shoulders and ears. By the time he revealed his identity to the dogs and made them understand, he was bleeding in many places. Still, the adrenaline was running high. He picked himself up and walked over to the wall, but because both of his legs were bitten, climbing the ladder itself proved to be extremely hard. "Where are you going in such a hurry, Anous?" a female voice came from behind, startling him. He looked back in haste but saw nobody. "W-Who is it?" his voice quivered. The dogs that had been around fled in different directions.

"Stay back," the voice came from a tree, but something touched his back. "It hurts to see your blood being wasted. Let me treat you." He turned back to see, but there was nothing but the ladder between him and the wall. "Don't go." The voice came from another tree.

"T-This voice..." his teeth chattered in trepidation as he recognized who the voice belonged to. He hurriedly climbed the ladder to jump over the wall, but something caught his hand and dragged him into the thicker shadows under the trees. The dogs kept barking from a distance, but two glaring red eyes grew in the shadows and made the dogs squeal and bolt back into their cages.