

The Silent Wife

Chapter 20

Justin had brought a sign language teacher to the principal's office so that she could help Rachel interpret her responses.

At that moment, the woman clenched her teeth and met the PE teacher's gaze. *The person in the video isn't me. Please explain yourself.*

"How can it not be you?" the PE teacher insisted. "You were the one who seduced me back then."

You're lying. Rachel quickly signed. *Why would I seduce you?*

When the teacher's interpreted response reached Justin's ears, he fell into thought. Although Rachel was a mute, she was still the eldest daughter of the Hudson family after putting aside her unfortunate circumstances. It was indeed unexpected to think that she would seduce an ugly PE teacher.

However, the PE teacher had his own comeback. "You wanted to raise your gym scores. The university you applied for required excellent scores across the board, but your grades for gym were too low. You couldn't successfully tempt me and you threatened me with a video clip, so I was forced to change your scores."

Rachel's face drained of color, and she frantically defended herself by signing away,

"How could I seduce a teacher just to change my scores?"

The way Justin looked at her changed. Amidst the tense stand-off, he gave an order coldly. "Check the records," he said.

The school records would have all of a student's grades, and everything would be clear as long as they checked the records.

Rachel's school records were soon retrieved. Despite her muteness, she excelled in every subject, save for the 'fail' grade at the end of her second semester as a sophomore, which had been struck out with red pen.

Anyone could see what the problem was since the grade had been changed to a higher one when she had failed it.

Intense coldness bubbled instantly in Justin's eyes. "What else do you have to say for yourself?" he asked Rachel coldly.

Rachel's face was even whiter than the walls around her, and she shook her head weakly.

Smack. The packet containing her school records was flung onto the desk. "From now on, you are no longer the mistress of the Burton Family."

The entire office went horrendously silent after those words fell.

Rachel panicked. She didn't dare to believe that Justin would so easily believe the PE teacher's testimony

No, she could not let the Burtons hate her! She had to explain things clearly since she couldn't afford to leave the Burtons. After all, her grandmother was still in Jeffrey's clutches.

Since she was still in a panic, Rachel blocked Justin's path and hastily signed something. *I can get my schoolmates back then to back me up.*

"There's no need for that. We Burtons have already been embarrassed enough!" Justin's tone was cold beyond belief. He swept his gaze over her in distaste and left with large strides, not once hesitating at all.

"Allow me to send you off, Mr. Burton." The principal quickly followed him. Meanwhile, the teachers who were left behind also scattered.

Rachel's mind was blank as she looked at Justin's back. Someone bumped into her, and she staggered from the impact. Her knees crashed against the coffee table from this, and she crouched down from the pain.

"Are you okay, Rachel?" a man called out behind her.

Rachel snapped out of her pain. She reflexively turned around, but before she could regain her

footing, she hastily took several steps back to look fearfully at the bald man before her.

Everyone else in the office had left; she and the PE teacher were the only ones left.

Don't come closer.

"I thought that there was going to be a huge disaster since Justin Burton came knocking on the school's door." The PE teacher chuckled coldly. "Who would have thought that it would be resolved so easily? Looks like your time with the Burtons hasn't been great, Rachel."

The latter's limbs instantly chilled. She looked at the door through the corners of her eyes before she tried to make a break for it. However, the PE teacher's eyes were sharp and his movements were swift. In one move, he gripped her arm and dragged her back roughly before viciously flinging her onto the couch. "You haven't even explained yourself properly. Why *are* you running?" he asked maliciously.

Rachel saw stars from the impact, and her heart dropped into an abyss.

Don't touch me! Someone, save me!

She opened her mouth and did her best in an attempt to make a sound, but regardless of her efforts, all she could make her throat produce was a hoarse, sobbing sound.

"Don't be scared." The PE teacher's gaze moved downward, a perverted smile appearing on his face as he stared at Rachel's heaving chest. "If you had just been willing to be a good girl back then, I wouldn't have been worried about you making a fuss, and I wouldn't have thought of covering it up. Now's a good chance for me; not even Justin Burton wants you now, so why don't you just come with me..."

Rachel shook her head in despair. She shrank into the corner of the couch, her entire body

trembling.

The truth back then was actually simple—a lecherous PE teacher wanted to take advantage of a mute girl, but he wasn't able to get what he wanted. In order to hide the truth, he fashioned a situation, one where he blew the whistle instead when he was the villain, and he sent the school into an uproar. No one cared about the truth at all, for all they wanted was to be entertained.

Right now, not even Justin believed her.

The man's hand was already reaching toward her. Rachel's eyes were filled with fear, and they were wide with despair.

Don't come closer...

All of a sudden, the office's door was sent flying onto the wall with a loud *crash*. The entire room practically shook. The next moment, the PE

teacher let out a blood-curdling cry as someone knocked him over.

By the time Rachel regained her senses, the PE teacher's lecherous face was already viciously mashed into the ground by a foot in a leather shoe. That foot rubbed hard against his face like it was a cleaning rag.

"Ah—" The PE teacher's features contorted into an eerie facsimile as he screamed.

Rachel lifted her head. When her gaze moved upward from the shoe, her entire body froze.

The gigantic figure's shadow descended, swallowing up Rachel's entire figure amidst the dust in the room.

The man's cold, handsome face was a little bit of a blur. His voice wasn't loud, but it was authoritative. "Whichever hand he used to touch my woman, then that hand will be maimed."

It was Justin.

Didn't he leave?

Justin's assistant, Frankie, retrieved a pinhole camera from behind a painting in the office. "Everything has been recorded, Mr. Burton."

It wasn't until the PE teacher had been dragged outside that Rachel returned to reality. She

looked at the man in front of her in shock. *You were here the whole time?*

Justin's forehead twisted into a small frown as he looked at the disheveled woman.

There were far too many holes in the news story, and it couldn't hold up at all. However, it was also difficult to find any definitive proof because of how long ago it was. That was why he pulled this stunt so that the PE teacher could have a taste of his own medicine. However, Rachel had to suffer unjustly for this.

Suffer unjustly?

When those words flashed across Justin's mind, his forehead twitched.

Rachel didn't know what Justin was thinking, but she let out a sigh now that the truth had come to light. She gripped the corner of the couch, just barely managing to support herself. However, the pain from her knees assaulted her again when she stood up, making her topple to the ground.

As she let out a scratchy cry of shock, a pair of large hands steadied her just in time.

Justin's eyes darkened when he saw the bruises on Rachel's knees. "Are they injuries from just now?"

Rachel felt uneasy, afraid that she had once

again caused trouble for him. She leaned against the couch and carefully signed. *I can walk by myself.*

The tears in the tiny woman's eyes had yet to dry, and her pretty little face was pale and haggard. She clearly was in a lot of pain, yet she still gritted her teeth and forced herself to pretend that everything was okay.

Justin's heart clenched. When she stood up, he pressed a hand onto her shoulder before taking off his jacket and wrapping it around her. Without another word, he scooped her up into a princess carry and carried her away under everyone's stunned gazes.

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Chapter 21

It felt like a dream to Rachel as Justin carried her into his car; she couldn't even feel the pain in her knees anymore. It was the first time she felt that this man wasn't as cruel and heartless as he seemed on the surface.

Rachel looked at him as she sat inside the car. *Why did you help me?*

Justin still hadn't answered the question that she had asked him back in the principal's office. After all, deliberately going through the effort to set up a trap did not seem like something that he would do.

Justin watched as her hands signed away. Even though he couldn't understand sign language, he could still figure out her thoughts through the grateful look in Rachel's eyes.

"You don't have to thank me. I didn't do it for you." Justin's tone was as cold as his expression. "I only looked into this matter for the Burtons' reputation. You married into my family, so you are a Burton. It's best that you behave yourself so that we can live together peacefully. Otherwise, do not blame me for my callousness if you cause another controversy like this."

The icy voice resounding around the car interior instantly smothered the warmth flickering in Rachel's heart. *That's right. Why would Justin go through so much trouble for me?*

Rachel couldn't stop herself from shivering at the memory of his treatment of her last night. It wasn't cold, but she still shuddered. If something like this happened again, Justin would certainly kick her out.

As such, neither of them spoke on the trip

home.

Justin did not stay after he sent Rachel back to the Burton home. Instead, he got the chauffeur to send him to his workplace. Soon, the car sped down the highway.

"Everything with the school has been dealt with, Mr. Burton. There won't be any rumors about that past incident anymore. The media outlets have also prepared their scripts for their apologies."

Justin leaned back in the back seat, his eyes closed as he rested. His handsome features were reflected in the window's glass, but his expression turned harsher and colder. "A mere gym teacher wouldn't have been able to spread the news about such an old incident and cause it to come back to public consciousness."

"You're saying that someone else is behind the incident's resurgence?"

"Investigate the situation properly before he's handed over."

"Understood."

The next morning, news of Rachel's gym teacher sexually harassing female students surged to the top of many trending news lists, and multiple victims jointly voiced their condemnation. News about the Young Mistress of the Burton Family was promptly buried by this, dropping from its top spot on the trending list. Discussions about that promptly fell to the wayside.

"The gym teacher has already been handed over to the relevant authorities. We will continue to follow up on the developments regarding his years of crimes..."

A reporter was narrating the news for the day on the television screen.

"You can't believe the news nowadays—they're always changing their stories every day." Sue huffily switched the television off. She then crossed her arms and sat on the couch, fuming.

She initially thought that she could use that piece of news to kick out that eyesore of a mute, but she hadn't expected for the mute to be wrongfully accused. Even more surprisingly, it was Justin who personally brought the mute with him to get to the bottom of the matter.

Could it be? Sue's brows furrowed. How was it possible, though? She had personally raised Justin herself. How could he be interested in someone like Rachel? Yet, she still couldn't figure out why Justin continued allowing Rachel

to stay with the Burtons.

"Miss Hudson is here, Madam Parham."

The servant's voice pulled Sue's thoughts back to reality

"You're here, Amber." Sue got up to greet the woman. "Why are you here so early in the morning? Have you... seen the news?"

"News? What news?" Amber sat down on the couch as she looked at Sue with a puzzled expression.

"You know, news about that mu—your sister. Investigations now show that she had been framed. That gym teacher from your school has been reported as well. He's been arrested already."

"Huh? How could that be?"

"Also, weren't you confident when you said that your sister used to be in a relationship with that teacher? How could things have turned on its head so suddenly? N

ow, everything is just going great. I'm worried that Justin will say that I was jumping at shadows!"

Obviously, Sue was putting the blame on Amber.

The latter stiffened slightly, a bewildered look on her face. "Madam Parham, that incident had

innocence of a mute woman? He had to be doing it for the Burtons' reputation. *That damned girl!*

Upon thinking about this, Sue set her teacup down heavily. "Mrs. Duncan, where is that girl? Where did she run off to? Doesn't she know that she has to greet the guests whenever they are over? Such a lack of manners!" she said none-too-kindly.

"I shall call her now."

Meanwhile, Rachel was currently resting in her bedroom. She didn't dare to drink the ginger soup that Justin had gotten Mrs. Duncan to bring to her after being drenched in cold water. When she came home that morning, her entire body was wrecked with chills. Even with her blanket wrapped tightly around her, she still shivered.

The graceless sound of the door opening woke Rachel right up from her nightmares. When she opened her eyes, she saw Mrs. Duncan standing by the door.

"Why are you still sleeping?" Mrs. Duncan asked in surprise.

Rachel stretched a hand out from under her blanket and weakly signed. *Did something happen?*

"Stop gesturing. I don't understand anything."

Mrs. Duncan's voice was dripping with distaste. "Madam Parham wants you to go downstairs. Miss Hudson is here."

Amber is here? Rachel's heart sank. After internally struggling with herself for a long while, she gritted her teeth and clambered out of bed.

Amber had to be involved for that high school incident to suddenly see a resurgence. After all, she was the one who wanted to get her kicked out of the Burton Family. Since her threats didn't yield any results, then this was most likely her revenge.

Although Rachel wasn't willing to interact with Amber more than was necessary, Justin loathed her to cause more trouble for him. So, Rachel had to carefully handle Amber. At the very least, she couldn't get into another fight with her sister.

Rachel changed into a simple white dress before heading downstairs, and her face was completely devoid of any color. When she went down the stairs, her footsteps were also shaky. If she hadn't had a hand on the rails, she would have probably lost her balance and rolled down the stairs.

"Rachel, why don't you look so good?" Amber lifted her head to look at her, feigning a look of worry.

Sue rolled her eyes at Rachel in displeasure. "Why are you acting like you're on death's door? Is it because you want your family to think that you haven't been living well with us? Is it so that you can embarrass us? Aren't you yourself to blame for your own condition?"

Rachel stood at the bottom of the stairs. She didn't even have the strength to argue otherwise.

"What are you standing around for? Bring some snacks here. You're an illegitimate child, all right—you don't even know any decorum around guests. What a useless thing with no mother to raise her."

Rachel quietly clenched her fists as she listened to Sue's insufferable grumbling. However, all she could do was take it. She nodded her head before heading into the kitchen.

Amber's gaze shifted over to her. "Rachel looks unwell. I'll go and help her."

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