

The Silent Wife Chapter 26

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Chapter 26

Meanwhile, Amber felt a little awkward during Justin's interrogation inside the bedroom. "O-Of course, I have! It's a family heirloom!"

Having mastered psychology after years of business, he could tell she hadn't the slightest idea based on how she was mumbling.

You sly fox, Jefferey! You don't even trust your daughter!

However, since Jefferey had sent Amber to study medicine, it was obvious that he wanted to prepare her to take over Hudson Pharmaceuticals in the future.

Justin didn't expose his rival despite knowing this.

Just then, Amber hastily switched the topic. "Honestly, Justin, I've got no interest in managing the family business. Besides, Dad sent me to study traditional medicine, so I think I should branch out on my own. Why don't you lend me a hand?"

Justin lifted his gaze from the book and asked, "What do you want?"

"I want to work in a hospital."

"Which one?"

"Tran-Q." Amber Warily studied Justin's expression, fearing that she might expose herself.

Tran-Q?

Justin seemed like he had realized something.

"Sure." He spoke with a freezing tone that resonated within the house, and anyone who paid attention to his voice could easily be captivated.

It was lunchtime soon, and Amber continuously served food to Justin.

In response, he simply thanked her and turned to grab a glass of water without touching any of his cutleries.

Upon seeing that, Rachel mentally shook her head.

Having spent her fair share of days at the Burton Residence, she knew Justin's dining habits very well. For one, would never eat any food that was served to him

with personal cutleries. Also, as long as there wasn't a serving spoon on the table, he wouldn't start eating.

Amber is going overboard with her bootlicking.

However, since they're so close to each other, perhaps he'll make an exception for her, Rachel guessed.

Meanwhile, Justin noticed that she was zoning out and pushed his plate before her. "The family chef is quite talented! Eat up, Rachel."

The woman was surprised by his caring tone; when she regained her senses, she saw that Amber was evidently upset.

If gazes could kill, she would've been murdered by her sister a million times over.

Rachel felt a chill down her spine, and she couldn't help but suspect that Justin was purposefully doing this to trigger Amber's hatred toward her.

I can't finish this. She signaled and pushed the plate back to him. *You eat up.*

However, the plate was stopped halfway on its way back to Justin.

When Rachel saw his cold leer, her hand immediately turned into jelly and she no longer dared to push the plate any further.

After a short while, she forced a smirk and pulled the plate back to herself. *Thanks.*

Throughout lunch, Jefferey sneaked some questions about Justin's business. The latter was probably in a good mood, for he revealed some inside information about his company.

"Director Humphries from the Security Council said that?" Jefferey's eyes shone like stars.

As he remained as calm as usual, Justin stated, "Actually, it was my assistant who heard it from Director Humphries during a partnership meeting last week. However, the risk of loaning remains high, so even the Arden Group is still waiting whilst observing."

"If Arden Group has set its eyes on the loaning terms, it must mean they're exceptional," Jefferey expressed in delight, "What a fine day. Bring some wine over, Rosa!"

When she saw her father being so lax, Rachel couldn't help but break into a cold sweat.

Although she wasn't exactly informed about the business industry, she could tell what Justin just said was merely a guess, and the profit-loss probability was 50-50. Moreover, the way he casually brought up Director Humphries and the Arden Group bought Jefferey off so easily.

With how significant the Hudson Group's loss was right now, Jefferey's debts would certainly reach new highs if he were to actually invest in a new field. By then, one mistake could cost him the entire company

Despite the endless thoughts in her head, Rachel never once made a single sound.

Later on, the hellish lunch finally ended.

Since Justin had a meeting to attend at work, he couldn't stay any longer. He took his leave along with Rachel, to which Amber and her father went and sent them off.

"Come visit often, Justin!" Amber acted cutely as she dragged Justin's arm. Anyone who heard her right then had goosebumps all over themselves.

"It's getting late, Mr. Burton. You still have to go home and change." Justin's driver let out a small cough and reminded them of the time.

"All right," Justin responded with a subtle nod before glancing at Rachel as she stood beside him. "Get

in."

Upon that, Rachel regained her focus and immediately followed behind after nodding.

Meanwhile, Justin revealed a frown as he grew impatient. In his mind, Rachel was always staring into

space lethargically like a dummy. She watched him converse with Amber all this while, yet she showed zero reaction.

Before she got on the vehicle, she walked past Amber. The latter whispered in her ears, "What he said about returning to keep you company is just bullsh*t! Justin's only here to see me. Well, you've seen how much he adores me. I reckon you've never even gotten a gift from him, have you? In his eyes, you're nothing more than a slave."

Although Rachel was tilted, she maintained an apathetic expression and signaled. *In that case, why are you trying so hard to be his slave?*

She was a kind person, but she would never give in to a bully.

After expressing that, she turned around and hopped into the car.

As they watched the car fade into the distance, Amber stomped her feet and vented to her father by saying, "Look at her smug face, Dad! If she were to stay with the Burton Family any longer, she's going to step over us sooner or later."

Jefferey revealed a frown and uttered, "Stop your foolery. Did you tell Justin what I told you to?"

Amber was stunned for a while before she realized what he meant and answered, "Yes, I did."

"What was his reaction?"

"He agreed to it without any hesitation." Upon being reminded of that, Amber felt overjoyed. "He said I could check in with Tran-Q to work any time soon. By then, I'll get to meet Julian every single day."

"Good." Jefferey thought about it for a bit before he nodded his head. "By then, you shall direct your focus on Julian and less on Justin."

Despite her reluctance, Amber obediently nodded her head like a good daughter would before grabbing her father's arm. Then, they walked back into the house together.

On the other hand, the vehicle which Rachel and Justin were in had just exited Hudson Residence, proceeding slowly on the road while a good-looking duo could be seen in the rear mirror.

"You haven't told me what Jefferey gave you earlier."

A man's low voice sounded in the car, and not a tinge of emotion could be found in it.

Since Rachel was prepared for this, she warily signed. *Nothing. He just told me to warn Amber not to get too close to you to avoid spreading any rumors.*

"Is that so?"

Unexpectedly, her chin was tightly clutched as a tingling pain took her by surprise, causing her to let out a cry.

"Aaah,"

He's not buying it?

Then, Justin coldly scoffed as he strengthened his grip, seeming like he was squeezing a little duckling to death. "Is my man Jefferey afraid of rumors, or is he afraid of sending his beloved daughter to the wolf's den?"

At that, Rachel was so startled that even her actions of attempting to shove Justin's arm away slowed down.

The wolf's den?

Is he straight-up admitting that he's scheming against the Hudson Family?

Is he really going for the formulas?

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Chapter 27

Rachel was badly hurt by Justin's grip, yet she could only let out a hideous wail. Even the driver, who sneaked a couple of peeks, was pained by the view.

"What about the item Jefferey gave you?" His freezing voice echoed in the car. Justin was certain that Jefferey had handed her something, but they were interrupted by Amber just then.

Rachel started tearing up as she continuously shook her head in an aggravated manner.

When her devastated look reached Justin's eyes, he subconsciously loosened his grip.

It had been so long since that particular exchange; even if he did give her something, she must've concealed it by now. There was no way she would show it to him.

"It's best if you remember that living with the Burtons means you're one of us. You'd better not waver your loyalty... or else."

After seeing her curl up in the corner of the seat with a face as pale as snow, he immediately let go of her.

He was aware of Rachel's position in her family. Although he wasn't sure back then, he had certainly confirmed his suspicions after having visited the Hudson Residence earlier.

If it weren't for the leverage her father had against her, she wouldn't have been so obedient toward him.

After being reminded of the matter with the hospital, Justin had already come up with a plan.

Meanwhile, Rachel, who was staring at him in terror, grabbed her aching neck with one hand as she pushed herself against the car door. It was not until she was sure that he had unhanded her that she finally dared to take a breath.

As a result, the strangling incident moments ago had left a scar in her heart-it was indeed a challenge for her to remain by Justin's side.

After dropping her off at the Burton Residence, Justin went straight to Burton Group.

Frankie, who was Justin's assistant, poured a glass of tea and entered the latter's office.

"I've talked to the hospital, Mr. Burton. Miss Amber can go for her internship first thing tomorrow."

"Have you informed Julian already?" Without lifting his head, Justin took a sip of the tea before turning a page of his book.

"Not yet. Doctor Peters is absent today, but the Dean will inform him soon."

He lifted his head slightly and asked, "Is Rachel's grandmother hospitalized there?"

"Yes." Frankie nodded. "Doctor Peters is indeed her main operator, but..."

Upon sensing the pause in his assistant's speech, Justin raised his head and asked coldly, "But what?"

"The hospital records show that he had paid for her operation bills."

Frankie was thoroughly baffled as to why Julian would pay for Rachel's grandmother to undergo surgery.

Upon hearing that, Justin revealed a frown.

As he continued to turn the pages, Frankie's face slightly froze.

After a while, he hesitantly stated, "You seem to care about your wife very much, Mr. Burton."

In fact, the book Justin was reading was a guide to sign languages-one that Frankie had never seen in his boss' office. Since having entered his office, Justin never once let go of the book.

As he pondered on Rachel's situation, Frankie couldn't help but feel confused.

"Should we call the hospital and request for a more refined surgeon?"

Just as Justin was thinking about something, he became distracted by Frankie's words and immediately shot him a cold leer.

His assistant was taken aback by this and hastily apologized, "I've spoken too much."

After he exited the office, the room became silent.

As Justin's fingers brushed against the pages of the book, he had reached its last page and noticed some words on an empty space there. Evidently, the book had its share of age given its faded texts, though one could still read it with ease. It was the lyrics of 'To the Oak'.

'If I love you, I won't climb over you like the vines, stepping over you to look refined...

As Justin read the elegant handwriting, the image of Rachel's weak, tranquil eyes popped up in his

On the other hand, Rachel had just entered the Burtons' home.

In the living room, Mrs. Duncan was cleaning the table alone. Although she had seen Rachel's return, she didn't even bother to greet her.

Rachel wasn't mad about this, and she simply signed. *Where's Madam Parham?*

If Sue wasn't at home, she could relax and go upstairs for a rest.

Sadly, Mrs. Duncan showed her a scowl. "What are you saying, Mrs. Burton? I can't understand you."

At that, Rachel was stunned because what she had just expressed wasn't actually sign language. A normal person would have completely acknowledged what she was trying to ask.

from behind. "My mom went out with her friends. What do you need?"

When she turned around, she saw Julian smiling at her.

Rachel turned toward him and nodded her head as her way of greeting him. Then, she proceeded to write in her notebook, 'Nothing much. I brought something from home, and I just wanted to give it to her

In fact, the item she brought from home had been prepared by Jefferey's underlings under his order.

After all, she was a daughter of the Hudsons, and the family was depending on her although they weren't showing her any love. Hence, out of courtesy, Jefferey had prepared a simple gift for the Burtons.

"I think she's going to come home late. Whatever it is, you can hand it to Mrs. Duncan."

She nodded her head to express her acknowledgment.

'Why are you home? Don't you have work today?'

"I'm on leave today," Julian explained. "By the way, I'm going to the hospital tonight. Do you want to come along?"

Rachel was surprised by his offer, but she shook her head after a short while, rejecting his offer with a beam.

'Maybe not today, but I'll go tomorrow.'

Upon remembering Justin's mistreatment of her after her interaction with Julian, she was immediately perturbed. Thus, she thought it was best for everyone not to cause any misunderstandings.

After expressing that, Rachel pointed upward and made a sleeping gesture, suggesting that she was going upstairs for a rest.

In Julian's eyes were subtle traces of disappointment, though he still nodded his head. "Okay. Rest well."

Then, he watched as she walked up the staircase, noticing that she was visibly weak. For some reason, Julian's desire to protect her grew even stronger.

When night fell upon the city, the second bedroom on the second floor of the Hudson Residence still had its lights on.

"All right. Thank you, Dean. I'll arrive at the hospital first thing in the morning."

As she clutched her phone, she couldn't hide the merriness in her voice.

Shortly after the call disconnected, she received an employment notification on her phone and immediately sent a text to Justin. 'I've received the news from the hospital, Justin. It's such a pleasant surprise that you arranged this so quickly. Thank you so much!

After waiting for a long while, she had yet to receive a reply.

At that time, it was already eleven at night. *Justin is probably home and is sharing a bed with Rachel right now.* At that thought, the grin on her face froze.

No, wait! Rachel and Justin don't share a room! She remembered what Sue told her.

But Dad...

She seemed to have realized something, and she hastily picked up a tiny, white bag from her drawer.

Earlier that day, she had retrieved the bag under Rachel's bed before leaving her room.

Thanks to the fact that she majored in medicine and how she had been familiar with both traditional and modern medicine since young, she could easily determine the components that comprised the substance in the bag just by looking at it and taking a whiff.

If I'm not mistaken, Dad was the one who gave this to Rachel... Is he asking her to drug Justin with this?

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Chapter 28

The next day was a fine day.

Sue woke up early in the morning to have breakfast with her son.

Sitting in front of the table, Julian couldn't help but glance upstairs and ask, "Where's Rachel?"

By right, he didn't have to care about Rachel this much, but he just couldn't bear seeing Justin's attitude toward her.

"Why do you have to bring her up this early in the morning? You've just spoiled my day!" Sue put a peeled egg onto Julian's plate and said, "Have an egg, son."

Julian frowned. "Mom, please be kinder toward Rachel. It's not easy for her either."

Sue was displeased on hearing that. "You just got back recently. You don't know about our current family situation. Originally, Justin was supposed to marry Amber-the second daughter of the Hudson Family, but Rachel tricked Amber and palmed herself off to marry Justin. Are you expecting me to be kind to a woman like her? In my opinion, Justin should divorce her and cast her out."

Julian's frown deepened as he had never known this story.

Just as they were talking, the sound of footsteps coming down from upstairs came forth from the living room-it was Rachel getting ready to head out.

the latest to wake up in the whole family. You're just a lazy good-for-nothing."

Rachel stood quietly and made a gesture. *I'm sorry*

"Do you think I'll understand your hand gestures?" Sue rebuked crabily. "Where are you going early in the morning?"

'Hospital.' Rachel wrote in her notebook.

Sue looked disgusted. "Don't you know you'll carry home a lot of bacteria going to the hospital every day?"

When she said this, she had completely forgotten the fact that her son was a doctor, and the period of him staying in the hospital was way much longer than Rachel's. Therefore, the number of patients and bacteria that he got in touch with was much more than Rachel too.

Seeing Rachel being yelled at by Sue, Julian quickly stood up from the dining table and interrupted, "I'm done eating, Mom."

"Already? Eat more, Julian."

"I'm good." Julian grabbed his jacket from the back of the chair and said, "Rachel, I need to talk to you about your grandmother's surgery. I can give you a ride to the hospital."

Rachel quickly nodded.

The top priority now was to escape from Sue; otherwise, Rachel might not be able to get away from being scolded by the former the entire day, let alone going to the hospital.

"Hey,"

Sue didn't manage to stop Julian, and she couldn't be too mean to Rachel since Julian was around, so she could only watch them leave the house one after another.

"Damn it, that mute! Julian must be possessed. How could he side with her?"

Mrs. Duncan, who was setting up the dining table at the side, reminded Sue as she heard their conversation. "We have to put our guard up, Madam. Although Young Master Justin always gives Rachel the cold shoulder, Young Master Julian is good-tempered and kind. We won't know if this mute has some other thoughts."

Sue's heart jolted when she heard that, and her expression changed immediately. She better not! If she dares to approach my son, I'll surely drive her out of the Burton Family!"

However, Sue was indeed worried knowing Julian's temperament.

While on the way to the hospital, Julian took out a packet of biscuits from the back seat. "You haven't had breakfast, have you? You can have some of this first."

There's a breakfast shop beside the hospital; you can get breakfast there when we arrive later."

Rachel received the biscuit and wrote in the notebook. 'Thank you.

Julian took a look at it and praised, "You have very nice handwriting."

Rachel continued to write, 'Thank you for helping me just now!

"It's my mom's fault. Please don't mind her." With his hands placed on the steering wheel, Julian apologized to Rachel while driving. "My mom is a little stubborn. She's often mean to people outside of the family. If she has treated you badly, I'd like to apologize to you on her behalf."

Rachel stared at the man in front of her who was good-looking and soft spoken. It was hard to imagine that Julian was Sue's son because there was a world of difference between him and Sue, who was mean and hostile.

"By the way, I heard that the one who was supposed to marry Justin initially is your younger sister?"

Startled, Rachel then nodded slowly.

"What happened? Why did you take her place instead?"

Rachel remained silent.

The reason was complicated and could not be explained in just a few words. Moreover, she couldn't tell Julian the true reason as she wasn't someone that would speak ill of others behind their backs. The truth was, Amber thought Justin was ugly, so she made Rachel stand in for her in the marriage instead.

Seeing Rachel remain silent, Julian felt sorry for her. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have asked you this."

'It's okay.' Rachel shook her head. I'll tell you in the future if there's a chance.'

"Sure." Julian smiled. "Next time, if you're getting bullied in the household or if Justin doesn't treat you well, you can always talk to me. I can help to talk to him."

'It's okay.' Rachel quickly waved her hands about.

If Julian really said something to Justin, she couldn't imagine how Justin would treat her. It would most probably make things worse.

Julian felt helpless all of a sudden.

Although this girl was a mute who looked delicate and fragile, she had a determined aura. Her gentle

eyes were filled with strength, which caused one to not be able to look away from her.

Wasn't a girl like this more worthy to be loved than Amber?

Julian just couldn't understand what was on Justin's mind.

Soon, they arrived at the hospital. Julian went to meet his walk-in patients while Rachel went straight to her grandmother's ward.

During this period of recuperation, Nancy looked much better than before. When Rachel arrived, she was busily chatting with the patient next to her. The moment Rachel came into her sight, she smiled brightly. "Speak of the devil! I was just saying Rae should be coming to visit me soon."

Rachel smiled gently and held Nancy's rough hand. *How are you feeling? Is everything okay?*

"I'm good, but look at you! You've lost so much weight in such a short period. Did you not eat properly because you're worried about me? Or is it because Jeffery didn't treat you well?"

Nancy had always been displeased with Jefferey.

Don't worry, Grandma. I'm good.

"Glad to know. By the way, Rae, is the operation fee very expensive? I think I'm fine now and I can be discharged tomorrow."

No way. Rachel pressed Nancy's hands and wore a serious look. You must do the operation. Don't worry about the money. It has already been settled.

"How?"

Rachel pursed her lips. *My dad got it settled.*

Nancy looked at Rachel in suspicion. "Really?"

Yeah. Rachel nodded seriously.

To not make Nancy worry, she could only say so. If Nancy knew she married into the Burton Family for the sake of her medical fee, she would surely refuse to proceed with the operation.

True enough, Nancy was relieved. *"Hmph! Looks like Jefferey still has some conscience. Nevertheless, I don't think he genuinely wants to help us but he's just eyeing our prescription."*

Rachel was startled. *What prescription is that?*

Nancy looked around the ward before she lowered her voice and said, "I've not told you this last time but back then, Jefferey fetched you back to our family precisely for the sake of the prescription. The prescription"

"Rachel."

A familiar voice emerged from the door and interrupted Nancy's speech.

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Chapter 29

The moment Rachel heard the familiar female voice, her back immediately became stiff. Then, she turned around to see Amber standing at the door in a white robe, staring back at her with an arrogant look.

Why are you here? Rachel was shocked.

Nancy frowned. Subconsciously, she held Rachel's hand tight and bit her tongue.

"I'm here to do my internship. Do you think everyone's like you-unemployed and living off the elderly?" Amber mocked Rachel nastily.

Internship?

Rachel stared at Amber in shock.

Indeed, Amber was dressed in a white robe of Riverdale General Hospital. Holding the patients' record book, she entered the ward and walked up to Rachel and Nancy. "What a coincidence. I'm assigned to do a checkup for your grandma on the first day of my job."

Rachel instinctively put her guard up and stood in front of Nancy protectively.

"Rae." Nancy patted Rachel's shoulder before looking at Amber and said calmly, "I've never thought that the second daughter of the Hudson Family would leave the family business aside to work in a hospital. What an ambitious girl."

Amber had an arrogant look on her face. "The elderly sure know how to speak appropriately. Unlike someone, who's not only a mute but even irritates the others."

Truth was, Amber had arrived at the hospital early in the morning and the director received her personally. Besides that, everyone in the hospital treated her respectfully.

Hearing that, Nancy snorted, "But alas, a person with an evil heart can never be a good doctor. Amber Hudson, I don't need you to do my checkup. Please ask another medical staff to come."

"What did you say?" Amber's expression changed. "Who are you calling evil-hearted?"

"The one who attacks others like a mad dog."

All this while, Nancy's temper wasn't the best thanks to the hostile treatment she had received during the early years when she raised Rachel on her own.

Moreover, she had seen the doings of Jefferey and Amber over the years. If it wasn't that she wished for Rachel to receive adequate education, she wouldn't allow Rachel to stay in the Hudson Family.

Amber had never been provoked like this before, so she immediately yelled, "You old hag, don't you be ungrateful! It's your honor to have me do a checkup for you, yet you call me evil-hearted?! The evil ones here are you and your daughter who passed away at a young age. She was a mistress and still wanted to retain a good reputation? Serves her right to give birth to a daughter who is a mute. All these are retributions!"

"You..." Nancy was so annoyed that her face turned pale. With her hand placed at her chest, she was at a loss for words.

Meanwhile, Rachel was stirred up. She quickly helped Nancy with her breathing while waving her hands at Amber, gesturing for her to stop going on.

"What? Did I hit on the nail and make you feel embarrassed? Rachel. You, your mother and your grandma are all the same. Do you think very highly of yourselves? I'm warning you-you better stay

away from Julian and stop having wishful thoughts."

Rachel was worried that Nancy would be provoked again, so she shoved Amber to drive her out.

"How dare you touch me? Let go of me! What are you doing?" Amber pushed Rachel forcefully, which caused the latter to stumble backward with a bang and slump onto the ground. Her back hit the edge of the bed, and it was so painful that she almost couldn't breathe.

"What happened?" A male voice emerged from the entrance.

"Julian." Amber quickly changed her expression. Initially, she still wanted to continue humiliating Rachel, but she immediately feigned a pitiful look the moment she saw Julian. "Julian, she pushed me first."

However, Julian couldn't be bothered to talk to her and quickly went up to help Rachel get up. "Are you okay? Did you hurt yourself?"

Rachel was in so much pain that even her tears rolled down, but she shook her head and looked toward Nancy, who was lying on the bed.

Julian understood her intention. After helping Rachel to sit down at the side, he quickly did a checkup for Nancy with his stethoscope. "Take a deep breath, ma'am. Lie down first and don't think of anything else. Try to control your breathing."

On the other hand, Amber was pissed off. "Julian, 1—"

"Shut up!" With the stethoscope in his hand, Julian turned around and shot a fierce glare at Amber. "Who allowed you to come here? Get out!"

It was just her first day in the hospital as an intern, but she actually came to the ward without any doctor's permission and proper training. Worst of all, she hurled insults at the patient. After the situation was settled, Julian reckoned he had to have a talk with the chief doctor who allowed Amber to barge in the ward.

After some time, Nancy finally calmed down and her heart rate went back to normal. She lay on the bed and rested while Rachel sat beside her, holding her hands tight.

Rachel nodded.

'Is Amber going to work here? Can you not let her be in-charge of Grandma's case?'

Julian's face turned gloomy when Rachel brought this up. "Leave this matter to me. Don't worry."

With that, he immediately turned and walked out.

Meanwhile, Amber was still waiting outside the ward. The moment she saw Julian walk out, she quickly walked up to him and explained, "Julian, it's really not like what you've seen. It's her who pushed me first."

With a darkened face, Julian wore a rare, cold expression. "Amber Hudson, do you really think the other patients have not heard what you said to Rachel and Grandma?"

There were other patients in the ward too, so Julian could find out the truth by just asking them.

Amber's face turned pale. The process of her getting into the hospital was so easy with Justin's help that she got too carried away. She merely wanted to humiliate Rachel but had never expected things to

turn out this way.

She was even more aggrieved to see Julian siding with Rachel. Gritting her teeth, she said, "Julian, why are you always protecting her? Don't forget that she's your in-law."

With an indifferent look, Julian said, "We're in a hospital and she's the family of a patient. What does it have to do with what you said?"

Amber was rendered speechless. Blood boiled, she stomped and snapped, "I'm going to tell Madam Parham!"

With that, she ran away angrily.

Standing in the corridor, Julian frowned with an impatient look as he watched Amber run away.

Both Rachel and Amber were the daughters of the Hudson Family, yet there was a world of difference between them. Rachel couldn't even afford Nancy's medical fee, so it wasn't hard to imagine how much suffering she had gone through at home since young.

After coaxing Nancy to rest, Rachel followed Julian to his office to treat the wound.

Rachel's ankle was scratched as a result of being pushed by Amber. Actually, the bleeding had stopped and she wasn't affected too badly, but Julian still insisted on treating her wound.

"Done. Try to stay away from water these few days."

'Thank you.' Rachel wrote the two words and showed them to Julian.

Seeing Rachel's neat handwriting in the notebook, Julian asked out of the blue, "Before this, I've heard from your grandma that you were not born mute. Have you thought of treating it?"

Startled, Rachel then shook her head.

Indeed, she wasn't born mute. Back then, a fire accident caused her to lose her voice. Initially, the doctor said it could be cured, but after so many years, she had missed the best timing to treat it. Besides, she couldn't afford the medical fee, so she had never thought about getting it healed at all.

"It's okay. I can talk to you about this later. Did you hurt your back too? Let me have a look."

At that moment, Julian's office door was left ajar. None of them had realized that someone from the outside was taking pictures of them being alone in the room. *Snap!* A scene of them which could easily cause misunderstanding was captured.

