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Chapter 35

In the headquarters of the Burton Group, there was incense with the scent of tea leaves burning. The refreshing scent had set a good tone for people to focus.

Though Justin wasn't old, he was rather old-fashioned. He did things in a minimal manner, and he always had a stoic expression. Perhaps that was why he was in charge of the company at such a young age. Moreover, he was well-respected by everyone there.

"Mr. Burton, the East Pearl Project is almost finalized. These are the latest updates."

"Alright." He took over the documents and flipped through them as he leaned against the couch. At this moment, he casually asked, "How are things at the hospital?"

At once, Frankie answered, "The operation went smoothly. Mrs. Burton has been taking care of her grandma on her own, and she's recovering well and will be discharged in a week. (This novel will be daily updated at) Besides that, Mrs. Burton has been looking around for houses."

"She's looking for houses?"

"Most probably it's for her grandma to stay after she gets discharged," he explained. "Initially, Mrs. Burton has been staying with her grandma in the Hudson Residence. However, now that Mrs. Burton's married, her grandma probably doesn't want to continue staying there since they aren't related."

His words were carefully chosen as the truth was actually harsher. Based on Rachel's position in the Hudson Family, her grandma would probably not live comfortably there.

Hearing that, Justin remained quiet for a moment before saying, "Regarding the house, arrange it for them privately."

Snapping out of a trance, Frankie answered, "Okay."

Wasn't Mr. Burton uninterested in Mrs. Burton's condition? His attitude toward her changes every day...

On the other hand, Rachel had kept her grandma company at the hospital for a few days. Seeing that she seemed to be covering well as she regained her energy, Rachel felt relieved.

Early in the morning, Julian did his rounds and came to check for any post-op infections. After that, the hospital had arranged a single ward for Nancy which was much quieter than before.

“Your grandma’s recovering well. If this goes on, she may be able to get discharged earlier than expected” (This novel will be daily updated at) Julian said with a smile as he tucked his stethoscope into the pocket of his white coat.

“Thank you for everything these past few days, Dr. Peters.” Although Nancy’s head was bandaged, she didn’t look like a patient at all. She was very energetic as she held Julian’s hand, giving him a look of adoration.

“There’s something that I’ve been meaning to ask you.”

With a gentle smile on his lips, he said, “What is it? Please go ahead.”

“What do you think about Rachel?”

What Nancy said had left Rachel flabbergasted, and she had nearly cut herself with the knife she was using to cut apples.

Meanwhile, Julian didn’t think it was odd. He took a glance at her before saying, “Rae’s good. She’s beautiful, and her personality is easygoing. Most importantly, she’s kind.”

“Do you not mind that she can’t speak?”

It was only then that he sensed where the conversation was heading, so he was stunned for a moment.

Before he could answer, Rachel quickly tugged on her grandma as she signed. *Grandma, what are you talking about? Cut it out.*

“She’s even shy now,” Nancy said with a smile. “Dr. Peters, Rae is around the same age as you. Although her academic background isn’t as extensive as yours, she did complete her masters and now has a steady job. She’s working at the Riverdale City Council Library as a bookkeeper.”

Just like that, Nancy blurted everything out. She sounded like she was on a blind date trying to build her reputation. At that moment, Rachel wanted to bury herself deep in the ground.

“Dr. Peters, Rae is a good lady. You should consider her.”

At this point, Julian looked a little confused. As he took a glance at Rachel, he noticed that she was carefully shaking her head as if asking him for help.

It seemed that Nancy had yet to know his relationship with Rachel. Not only that, she might not even know that Rachel was already married to someone.

After chit-chatting, Nancy urged Rachel to send Julian off, which was a rather obvious attempt of giving them a chance to be alone. (This novel will be daily updated at)

'I'm sorry. Please don't take what my grandma said earlier to heart'

As soon as they exited the ward, she quickly apologized to him.

Obviously, Julian didn't understand. "Does your grandma not know that you got married? Why didn't you tell her?"

The Burton Family was a rich family in Riverdale, so getting married into the family was considered a good thing no matter what Justin was like as a person.

However, she could only show a forced look. 'Please keep this a secret from my grandma for now. I'll tell her everything when the time comes.'

Maybe she wouldn't even have to tell her if she could successfully bring her grandma and leave Riverdale together.

Seeing how troubled she looked, he frowned. "Is there something held against you that forced you into marriage with my cousin?"

Hearing that, she froze.

"He has always been introverted, so it was surprising when I heard that he was getting married. I initially thought that it'd be a business marriage of some sort. I heard that Hudson Pharmaceuticals had been in a pickle previously. Are you doing this because of the Hudson Family..."

Seeing his concerned look, Rachel was touched, yet she felt aggrieved.

Although Julian's guess was not completely right, it was the first time anyone had asked her this question after she was married to Justin.

Everyone thought that she was very lucky to get married into the Burton Family; a mute that got married with Justin Burton must be very grateful.

Shaking her head, she denied.

At this moment, her phone rang, interrupting their conversation.

After unlocking her cell phone, she saw an unfamiliar number calling her. After the call got connected, the sound of a man could be heard. "You must be Miss Hudson. I'm from the property center. Are you looking for a house? I happen to have one on hand, and I can bring you over to take a look this afternoon."

As she couldn't speak, she wanted to end the call and text him back. However, Julian reached out and offered, "Let me."

As the two of them stood quite close, he heard what the property agent said earlier.

He knew about her looking for a stay anyway.

With gratitude, she then passed the phone over.

"Hello, it's not very convenient for her to pick up the phone right now. You can tell me about the property instead. (This novel will be daily updated at) This afternoon?" He took a glance at his wrist watch before saying, "Can we meet around 12.30 at noon? I'll be having my break at that time so I can go over to take a look. Mm-hmm, okay then."

After hanging up, he returned the phone back to Rachel. "I'll accompany you to look at the house at 12 noon later."

At once, she shook her head frantically. 'No need to trouble you. I can go myself.

"It's fine, you seem a little gullible." He offered a subtle smile before adding, "I'm free this afternoon anyway, so I'll go with you."

'Thank you!

She couldn't reject him as she knew that she'd be a little afraid to view the property on her own.

Not long after, it was 12 noon. Julian drove Rachel to meet with the property agent at the place they agreed on earlier.

The property agent who was wearing a formal suit was very friendly as he introduced them to the features of the house. "A unit is 150 square meters. Each block has a lift of its own, making it very convenient for elder people. It's very suitable for your condition."

Following the property agent, Rachel took a good look at the unit right in front of her. It did seem like quite a good place.

The building has fifteen floors, and each unit had kitchens and bathrooms. They were also fully renovated and ready for moving in. Most importantly, the location was great. It was just a ten-minute walk away from the library she worked at. If something urgent came up with her grandma, Rachel could rush home very quickly.

But...

"Why? You don't like it?" Julian's voice came from behind. "I think it's not bad here."

With doubts, she asked, 'How much is the rent here?'

Seeing her handwriting, the property agent smiled. "Don't worry, Miss Hudson, this unit is very affordable. The monthly rent is three thousand."

Three thousand?

Rachel was stunned to hear that.

Though she didn't have experience in renting houses, she knew that based on the location and the renovations, she couldn't even afford a bathroom with three thousand.

How is that possible?

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Having noticed that Rachel seemed doubtful, the property agent quickly said, "If you think it's expensive, the price is still negotiable. I can bring the price down to two thousand."

At once, she widened her eyes in disbelief at what she just heard.

She hadn't even said anything, and yet the property agent lowered the price by a thousand?

That's ridiculous!

Similarly, Julian sensed that something was off, so he asked straightforwardly, "Are there any problems with this unit?"

"What do you mean by that, sir? There isn't any place that is more suitable within three miles. There are no problems with this unit—it's even new! (This novel will be daily updated at) The price is also very affordable."

"Based on what you said and what we see, the rental of this house is the problem."

When the property agent heard that, his face froze. Looking at Rachel with a questioning face, he asked, "Do you two think that it's too cheap?"

Rachel then nodded honestly.

"This." The property agent scratched the back of his head immediately. "Two thousand isn't so bad..."

At this moment, Rachel looked up the rental of houses within the area on her phone only to find out that the average rental was around fifteen thousand. That made her even more suspicious.

Tugging on Julian's sleeve, she shook her head.

Understanding what she meant, he announced, "We want to have a look at other places first. We'll decide again later."

With that, he was prepared to leave with Rachel.

Anxious that they might leave, the property agent called out to them. "Why don't you name a price? You can pay any price and rent it."

That rendered them speechless.

When they were back in the car, Rachel took a look at the other houses and their respective rentals that were sent by the same property agent. It only left a frown on her face.

Was the market price so bad these days or was the property agent just bad at his job? Even for a unit with four rooms and two living rooms, the monthly rental was below three thousand.

'Sorry, I don't think any of the houses you offered suit me.'

She replied to the text message courteously.

In response, the property agent said, 'What kind of houses are you looking for? I have all kinds of variety.'

She didn't reply to him anymore. Looking at the conversation on her phone, she silently sighed.

To be frank, she didn't have much money at the moment. All she could afford was a small house.

Julian could see the content displayed on her phone screen, so he commented, "This property agent is so weird. (This novel will be daily updated at) There are all sorts of people these days. It's lucky that I came with you today. Who knows

what his ulterior motive is."

In response, she nodded in agreement before she quickly blocked the property agent with a flick of the finger

"You shouldn't rush when looking for houses. Don't worry, I'll settle this issue for you."

'There's no need, thank you. I can do it on my own!

After thanking him, she continued to scroll through her phone to look for information regarding house rentals online.

She really didn't want to bother him with anything else anymore.

Meanwhile, Justin *was* reading through documents in his office.

After his assistant, Frankie, got a call, he came over to report tentatively. "Mr. Burton, there were some complications with the agent. He got blocked by Mrs. Burton."

Furrowing his brows, he lamented, "Such a small matter, yet they can't even do it right."

Hearing that, Frankie was breaking out in cold sweat. "It's mainly because the houses you own aren't exactly suitable to be rented out. It's also hard to match the price with the market ratings. This..."

Seeing that Justin had a cold, stoic look on, Frankie quickly added, "I'll figure something out."

That seemed to satisfy the man more than the excuses.

Frankie then sighed to himself.

Why is my boss doing this to me? They're already married, and there's nothing wrong with taking care of his own wife. Why can't he just arrange it for her? Why does he have to make it so much more complicated?

"Right, Mr. Burton, Old Mr. Burton called earlier in the afternoon when you were in a meeting."

"Oh," he acknowledged. "What did my grandpa say?"

"Old Mr. Burton is at the summer villa. He has invited you over to have a meal this weekend."

"What else did he say?"

"For y-you to bring Mrs. Burton too."

Hearing that, he furrowed his brows.

At night, Rachel ate dinner with her grandma before she left to head back to the Burton Residence.

By the time she got home, it was already late and the maids of the Burton Residence had already gone to rest. (This novel will be daily updaed at) That made her sigh in relief as she quietly headed to her room to get a fresh set of clothes.

When she was organizing her items, she saw something that her mother had left behind-the black cube box.

Recalling what Nancy said, Rachel had a hunch that there must be some secret kept with the box.

As she was scrutinizing the box, the sound of an opening door could be heard coming from next door.

Justin's study room was right beside.

He's home?

As she registered that, she quickly stuffed the box back into the bottom of her wardrobe.

After waiting for some time, things seemed to have quieted down. Nonetheless, she was still a little uneasy as she hesitated to open the door. Once she did, she saw that the light in the kitchen was lit, and a tall silhouette could be seen standing by the door.

It was not her first time seeing him boil water in the middle of the night.

There were maids at home, but Justin wasn't one to always order them around.

"Is stalking part of the task Jefferey gave you?" A cold voice came from the kitchen.

At once, she snapped out of her trance. With one of her hands on the rail, she didn't know whether she should go downstairs or just head back.

"Prepare some tea and send it to the study." After that instruction, he placed the tin of tea leaves that was half-opened back down on the table before heading upstairs using the stairs on the other side.

After standing for a while, she walked downstairs to make some tea.

Justin had a habit of drinking Earl Grey tea when he did his work at night. It was the first habit of his that she learned about after getting married.(This novel will be daily updaed at)

The scent of the tea leaves emanated in the study room, and it had a hint of milk to it.

"I heard that your grandma's operation has already been done."

She was about to leave after putting down the teacup, but his voice stopped her. Hearing that, she looked up and nodded tentatively.

"Have you thought of how to execute what I told you to do?"

She clenched her fists as her expression turned helpless.

"Jefferey is holding a birthday party at the end of this month. This is the invitation card."

A gray invitation card was slowly pushed in her direction until it was right before her. His long fingers were pressing on the paper with force.

"It will be held at the West Magnolia Wine Brewery. If my guess is right, his safe should be right within the brewery."

Her hand that was holding the invitation card trembled.

How does he know about the Hudson Family so well?

'How do you know that?'

At this moment, he took a glance at her. He didn't answer her, but he said, "On that day, all you have to do is to avoid the guests and go to Jefferey's study room to find the safe."

She was put in a tough spot. 'Even if I find the safe, I don't have the passcode to open it!

"You don't have to worry about that."

Confused, she didn't understand what he meant. All she had to do was find the safe? If she couldn't open it, finding it would be useless. However, she could only say yes for her grandma's sake.

"Take this." Justin handed her a piece of card. "There's no passcode."

She was surprised and couldn't help but look at him with a stupefied look.

Is he helping me?

He didn't bother to wait for her to take it, so he simply tossed it onto the table.

frighten her.

"If Jefferey blackmails you again next time, let me know immediately."

As she bit her lower lip, the feeling of gratitude that she hadn't expressed was instantly washed away.

So that's the reason.

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It was only until Rachel left the room that Justin took the tea next to him and had a sip.

The Earl Grey tea had a thick fragrance and the light flavor of the milk balanced out the bitterness perfectly. The fragrance mixed with the aroma of the room and it had a calming effect. He was actually lost in his thoughts when he heard the door of the next room close.

After Rachel took care of her grandma in the hospital for a few days, the latter had a great recovery.

This afternoon, Rachel was getting some things in a convenience store nearby. As soon as she walked out of the store, she saw a figure in a suit bow slightly to her. "Miss Hudson, Old Master Burton wants to see you."

The person was none other than Arthur's personal butler. This time around, it seemed like Arthur wanted to meet her.

Ever since Justin took over the Burton Group, Arthur had already retired and he rarely appeared in Riverdale anymore. It was rumored that he would go to a mansion in the suburbs of Riverdale every summer to avoid the heat. Apart from that season, even the family members of the Burton Family would normally not be able to see him too.

After Rachel got into the car, she fidgeted with her fingers anxiously as she watched the scenery outside the window going backward.

It was most likely that the butler noticed her anxiety, so he consoled her, "Miss Hudson, you don't have to worry. (This novel will be daily updated at) After all, you have already married Young Master Justin. It's time to pay a visit to the elderly in the family."

Upon hearing that, Rachel pursed her lips and nodded politely.

At this moment in the summer mansion in the suburbs, Sue appraised Tina Burton from head to toe as the former complimented sweetly, "It's been a while since I last saw you and you've grown into a fine young woman."

Tina was Justin's cousin and she was the only daughter of his paternal uncle. She had been spoiled since young, which resulted in her short temper. However, she knew how to please Arthur.

Currently, she was sitting beside Arthur as she replied with a chuckle, "You look younger too, Aunt Sue."

Sue sighed. "Young? Not at all. I'm so worried that the white hair on my head has increased."

"What's wrong?" Tina blinked in response. "Is there something that is troubling you? Let us know so that Grandpa can help you out."

"It's not that I want to speak ill of this but based on Justin's character and family background, it is impossible for him to marry a mute. If you knew this, you wouldn't have agreed, would you?"

Meanwhile, Arthur was sitting in a master chair. He had a white beard on his face, and he looked stern

he has already made a decision, I'm sure he has his own reasons for doing so. Even though the young lady of the Hudson Family has a speech disability, she might be good at something else."

Arthur had done his research and he knew that Rachel had graduated with a masters degree. Even though she had never inherited her family business, she had a stable job and was also a humble person. No matter what, she was still the young lady of a prestigious family. It was better to marry her than to marry someone who just wanted the wealth of the Burton Family.

"Good at something else? Well..." Sue frowned and muttered, "We can skip this topic. I feel(This novel will be daily updaed at)

embarrassed even by just talking about it. It's fine if they just have a quarrel among their family members. It's not a good thing to expose the flaws of the family to the public after all, but it was on the news."

"The news?" However, before Arthur could say anything, Tina opened her mouth. "I've also heard about that. I thought Justin had resolved everything?"

"What news?" Arthur asked with a frown.

"Don't you know?" Tina immediately took her phone out. "This is it. I wanted to tell you this but before could do that, an explanation had been published. Since that was the case, I didn't want to disturb your rest."

After seeing that Tina took the opportunity to speak about Rachel, Sue was overjoyed. She sipped her tea quietly at the side as she enjoyed the drama that was indirectly started by the other woman.

Sure enough, as soon as Arthur read the news, his expression immediately darkened. "What rubbish! Are they joking around with the reputation of the Burton Family?"

Upon hearing that, Tina tried to console him, "Don't get angry, Grandpa. Didn't I say that they had given an explanation? No matter what the truth is, I'm sure Justin will handle this."

"If he doesn't even have the ability to handle this, he doesn't have to be the president of Burton Group anymore," Arthur announced with a dark expression. "Rachel has only joined our family for such a short time, yet she already caused so much trouble. It's clear that she's up to no good." *She's just a mute. How could she have stirred up such trouble? It's unreasonable!*

After some hesitation, Tina said, "Grandpa, actually I've heard some stories about this cousin-in-law of mine."

"What about it? Do you know her before this, Tina?" Sue asked with a shocked expression.

Tina then explained, "I've studied abroad with her sister, Amber, and I am quite close with her. Back then, I heard her mention this elder sister of hers and I heard that she was a loner. It seemed like she had a hard time getting along with her classmates and her behavior in school wasn't that good. Apart from that..."

"What else is there?"

"Apart from that, she's also an illegitimate child. She is not a real member of the Hudson Family to begin with, so I think she's not good enough for Justin." With that, Tina revealed a disdainful expression on her face.

While they were chatting, someone announced from outside, "Sir, Miss Hudson has arrived."

With a frown on his face, Arthur said, "Let her in."

Hence, the butler brought Rachel into the room. She still had her usual canvas bag as she held a bag of fruits she brought from the convenience store. It was quite difficult to tell that she was the young lady of a prestigious family.

Upon seeing that, Sue asked rather grumpily, "Why did you come here wearing such clothes?"

Rachel held the bag close to her as she felt wrongly blamed. After all, no one had told her that Arthur wanted to meet her today. Since the butler picked her up from the hospital immediately, she did not have the time to change.

Tina had heard of Rachel before this, so she appraised the latter from head to toe. When she saw Rachel's face, she could not help feeling pangs of jealousy. *I can't believe that she's so pretty.* However, as soon as she remembered that Rachel was

a mute, she immediately felt better. *So what if she's pretty? She's just a mute in the end.*

"Miss Hudson, this is Old Master Burton and that is Young Master Justin's cousin, Tina." The butler introduced the people present to Rachel before Arthur indicated for him to stand aside.

Rachel nodded politely at Arthur and Tina as she pointed at her lips to explain that she could not speak, looking polite and understanding the whole time.

Arthur, on the other hand, was looking closely at her. Even though she could not speak, (This novel will be daily updated at) her demeanor was quite graceful, so he was slightly relieved. "Take a seat."

Hence, she sat on the chair next to Sue, but she only sat on half the chair with her back straight.

Arthur nodded and continued, "It's been a while since you married Justin. I've been wanting to see you and I understand that it's quite sudden today. I hope I didn't interrupt your day."

Rachel then took out a pen and a piece of paper. Since the elders in the family want to see me, it's perfectly reasonable, no matter when it is.

When Arthur saw her neat handwriting, he quietly approved of her more. At the same time, her handwriting reminded him that she was a mute.

Arthur's expression darkened as he asked in a low voice, "I heard that the person who was about to marry Justin first was your younger sister?"

Upon hearing that question, Rachel felt her heart skip a beat.

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Rachel could not refute Arthur's words.

Everyone in the Burton Family knew that the person whom Justin initially wanted to marry was Amber, but she, a mute, was sent to the Burton Family on the night of their wedding instead.

Before Rachel could reply, Sue immediately continued speaking, "I know, right? I heard that she threatened her sister and said that our family is a dangerous tiger den. Apart from that, she also said that Justin is ugly and weird. Then, she pretended to be doing her younger sister a favor by marrying into our family."

Rachel's expression immediately changed when she heard that.

'I have never said these words.'

"You are still trying to argue!" Sue still wanted to say something but Arthur broke her off.

"Enough. We don't have to dwell on the facts." Arthur's eyes were as cold as Justin when he looked at Rachel, which in turn made her shudder even though she was not cold.

"Miss Hudson, since it was a misunderstanding, why don't we resolve it? It brings no one happiness to force both of you to be together. It's without a doubt that you are not compatible with Justin."

Rachel clenched her fists tightly as she looked at Arthur in shock.

He then continued in a low voice, "Not many people know this marriage to begin with, so it's probably better to stop right here to prevent more losses. The Burton Family will compensate you. Just forget about the marriage after that."

Rachel looked at the people around her. Some of them were looking at her gleefully, while others merely seemed disinterested.

Even in her dreams she wanted to get away from the Burton Family, (This novel will be daily updated at) but Jeffrey would never let her do that and neither would Justin. She could imagine the consequences if she did that.

With the great pressure placed on her, she shook her head.

Arthur's expression darkened in response. "You don't want to do that? Even if you are the young lady of the Hudson Family, you are not good enough for our family. On top of that, you are an illegitimate daughter. No matter what, to our family,"

The words 'illegitimate daughter' stabbed at Rachel like sharp daggers.

She clenched her fists so hard that her fingernails dug into her skin.

"Grandpa." A loud voice rang from the door, breaking the tense atmosphere in the room.

Rachel immediately raised her head and saw Justin walk past the door in large strides. His tailor-made black suit fit his body perfectly and his tall height emanated a cold and indifferent air.

"You're here, Justin," Arthur said coolly. "Good timing-let's clear things in your presence."

"Grandpa." Justin shot a glance at Rachel. "Rachel is already *my* official wife. Marriage is not child's play and I have never considered a divorce."

"What nonsense!" Arthur's expression darkened as his tone became harsher. "The woman whom you are going to marry is the second young lady of the Hudson Family, but they were so 'kind' to give us a mu-

"Grandpa."

Before Arthur could utter the word 'mute', Justin interrupted him. "I've never said that the person I wanted to marry was the second young lady of the Hudson Family."

With that, silence fell upon the entire room.

Rachel was also stunned to hear that and she looked at him in surprise.

"I want to marry the daughter of the Hudson Family but I never said that she was Amber Hudson."

Justin's explanation had once again proven that they had heard him correctly.

With a confused look on his face, Arthur asked, "You're saying that the woman you wanted to marry from the beginning was Rachel?"

Justin did not reply to him. However, Sue was unable to stand the former's silent approval anymore.

"Aunt Sue, you probably don't understand me well."

With that, Justin shot her a stare so cold that she shut her mouth on her own accord.

He did not plan to bring Rachel here at all. He could immediately (This novel will be daily updated at) know the person who gave Arthur the suggestion to bring her here.

And so, the atmosphere seemed to have become frozen at that moment.

Justin was almost as stubborn as Arthur. Upon seeing this situation, the butler quickly tried to calm them down. "Sir, young master, the chef said that dinner is ready. Why don't we start the meal first?"

Arthur frowned before he stood up, holding his crutch for support. "Let's tuck in," he said coolly.

Upon hearing that, Rachel heaved a sigh of relief.

When they ate, she sat beside Justin. Even though her clothes were quite plain, her demeanor was graceful and elegant.

When she saw that Justin did not eat much, she took the initiative to peel the shells of the prawns for him, leaving just beautifully peeled prawn meat in his plate.

Of course, Arthur did not miss this.

Rachel has the rare air of an elegant and generous young lady, and she also has the attributes of being an obedient wife who can take good care of her family. If she weren't a mute, it's actually not a bad idea for Justin to marry her.

After dinner, Justin was summoned to the study by Arthur while Rachel waited for them in the living room.

After the maid poured tea for them, Sue chatted happily with Tina.

"It's been so long since we last met, Tina. I heard that you are planning to be engaged soon after coming back?"

"Indeed," Tina replied with a smile.

"I heard that your partner is the eldest son of Riley Corp., who is young and capable. I have to say-you

really are lucky!"

Tina, however, seemed to avoid the topic of the engagement as she murmured, "Actually, I don't have plans to get married so soon." Through the corner of her eye, she shot a glance at Rachel and suddenly changed the topic. "Hey, why didn't you hold a wedding when you marry Justin?"

Rachel was sipping her tea when she heard that. In the end, she lifted her head but she had no idea what to reply.

Sue then said annoyedly, "Look at her! If we hold a wedding like this, we will be a laughing stock. We can't possibly risk such embarrassment."

"You have a point."

Tina looked at Rachel and said, "I heard from Amber that if I told her about Justin's character, the person who would marry him might be her, not you."

Rachel froze upon hearing that, having no idea what Tina meant by this.

"I saw you peel the prawns for Justin but he doesn't eat any of it. Is there a point in pleasing him this way? I hate materialistic women who don't have dignity."

Even though Tina's voice was not loud, her arrogant attitude still insulted Rachel, (This novel will be daily updaed at) as though the latter was lesser than Tina.

As the time dragged on, Rachel found her expression becoming more forced.

While they were speaking, Tina's phone rang. As Rachel was quite close to her, she saw the caller's name-'Amber Hudson'. Truth was, it was a rather unpleasant sight for her.

"Excuse me for a moment. I need to pick up this call. Aunt Sue, do have a nice chat with her."

With that, Tina walked out of the room while holding her phone. Before she left, she even shot a glance at Rachel disdainfully and arrogantly, as though she was not worth looking at.

Meanwhile, Sue sipped her tea slowly. *This trip back home is worth it. Even if Rachel's marriage can't be cancelled for the time being, the rudeness of everyone in the Burton Family is enough.*

I just don't believe that this little mute is able to take the pressure for a long time.

On the other hand, after Justin was called into the study by Arthur, the latter went straight to the point.

"What the hell do you think about this marriage?"

Justin had a cold look on his face. "I won't have a divorce with her for the time being."

"Why? I can tell that you don't like her. If she's healthy, then so be it. However, she's a mute. She is obviously not good enough for you."

"Grandpa, I don't care who I marry, as long as she is the daughter of the Hudson Family."

Arthur froze upon hearing that. He looked at Justin in shock for a long while before he returned to his senses. "Justin, don't tell me that you are still brooding over that past incident."

A cold look appeared on Justin's face and his expression became even darker with the mention of the incident

Upon seeing that, Arthur frowned. "I've already told you that the fire was an accident."

"No, it wasn't." Justin's gaze was firm and harsh. "The mountain fire was caused by Jefferey just to kill one person."

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"Who did he want to kill?"

"Lionel Hudson."

This name had disappeared in Riverdale for many years. It had been so long that even Arthur was unfamiliar with him, but it was easy to tell that Lionel's incident was strongly related to Jefferey.

"Jefferey's older brother?"

Justin nodded. "After the fire, the shares in Jefferey's hands had increased by more than 130 percent. He became the biggest shareholder of Hudson Pharmaceuticals and took over the company after that."

Arthur's gaze became more serious. "Justin, this is the private matters of the Hudson Family."

The casualties resulting from internal battles within rich and prestigious families were usually covered up pretty well. It was meaningless to recount such a mysterious incident from so many years ago.

Meanwhile, Justin's tone was extremely cold. "There's karma in murdering someone. Jefferey should pay the price for this."

After seeing that it was useless to advise him anymore, Arthur controlled his expression and sighed helplessly. "I'm tired. You may go back first."

Without another word, Justin left.

After that, the butler came into the room to pour a cup of tea for Arthur.

"Sir, the young master is still young so he is more impulsive. It's natural that he cannot tolerate the occurrence of such an incident. After all, the fire that year almost killed him."

Back then, the members of the Hudson Family stopped the Burton Family from putting out the fire. If

Justin did not get lucky and escaped, he would have died in that fire.

"Do you really think that it's because of his own life that he never let the Hudson Family off the hook?" A worried expression shrouded Arthur's face. "I'm sure that another child died in the fire back then."

The butler froze. "You're saying that the young master is doing this because of the child?"

Arthur nodded in response.

Everyone else knew that Justin Burton, the first young master of the family, was a cold blooded man with a heart made of stone. He would do anything to achieve the greatest profit. However, only Arthur, his grandfather, knew that Justin valued loyalty and decency.

Upon hearing that, the butler sighed. "In that case, this is a tricky matter indeed."

Ever since Justin returned from the summer villa, he was not in a good mood at all.

In the evening, Rachel brewed a cup of tea and brought it to his study.

However, Justin did not drink tea like how he usually would and neither did he look at her. (This novel will be daily updaed at) He just looked at the page in front of him, but he never even flipped it. The frown on his face was quite

Are you in a bad mood?

Rachel looked at him tentatively.

He shot a look at her and clenched his hands around the page, but he did not reply to her.

She asked worriedly, Is it because your grandfather asked us to have a divorce? If he asks about this again, how do you want me to reply?

She merely wanted to be clear about what he thought, so that she would not make any mistakes that would offend him in the future.

"It's none of your business."

After hearing those five cold words, Rachel pursed her lips and took a step back tentatively as she prepared to leave.

Justin's temperament was changing quite fast and it made her unable to anticipate anything at all.

"Wait."

His voice suddenly rang from behind her, making her turn around in shock.

With a huge study table between them, Justin was looking at her coldly. His stony expression was accentuated by the ugly scar on his face. As he stared at her with a pair of cold eyes that sent shivers down her spine, anxiety bubbled up within her.

His voice was not loud but it was firm. "Do you hate Jefferey Hudson?"

Rachel's heart stopped beating for a moment before she shook her head.

Justin's expression darkened. "Why do you not him? He asked you to take Amber's place to marry me, and he put you near me just like a chess piece whom he could control. Apart from that, he even threatened you with your family's life. Why don't you hate him?"

Rachel's expression tightened as she clenched her fists.

After a moment, she still shook her head.

Even so, he is still my father who raised me for so many years, and he has given me an excellent education and a life that's better than the average.

Otherwise, with my disability, I'm afraid my life would not be as comfortable now.

"He is also a murderer!"

His cold voice echoed in the room and as Rachel met his red eyes, her heart sank.

What do you mean? Who did he kill?

Justin's expression became increasingly sullen.

Perhaps the conversation he had with Arthur just now-the first conversation of this topic that included the truth that he had been finding out all these years-or the nightmares that happened frequently because of Rachel's presence caused that emotion to bubble up within him again.

Presently, he looked at Rachel in front of him. She had a pair of eyes that were very similar to Katie's innocent, (This novel will be daily updtaed at) naïve, and pure. It was as if all the adjectives that describe beauty would describe her eyes.

However, Katie was gone forever and the person currently in front of him was a mute, who was also

the daughter of a murderer.

Justin swept away the drink that Rachel made with a loud crash. The tea cup fell to the ground and split into many pieces, and the hot water splashed onto her ankle.

"Oh!" she yelped in pain.

"Get out of here!"

She froze. *What happened to you?*

"Can't you understand me?" Justin roared, his eyes rather terrifying at this moment.

She took a step backward subconsciously. After a while, she did not care about the pain she felt in her ankle anymore and left in a rush.

She could not imagine the consequences if she stayed for another second longer, for she might be torn apart by the man in front of her.

After she left, Justin walked to the windows and opened them to let the cold air blow on his face. (This novel will be daily updated at) After his depressed emotion was slowly brought away by the wind, he slowly calmed down.

Then, he heard the sound of the door closing in the next room, followed by the sound of the lock clicking.

He arched his eyebrows when he heard the sound.

As soon as he remembered the conversation he had with Rachel just now, he suddenly became flustered.

So what if I tell her so much? This mute is just Jefferey's chess piece! Even if I hold her soft spots against her, it can't change the fact that she is a member of the Hudson Family

On the other hand, Rachel sat by the bed for a while as she felt the aftershock.

Through the corner of her eye, she glanced at the grey invitation card on the dressing table.

When she saw that, her heart immediately tightened. Jefferey's birthday party would fall on the day after tomorrow, and she could not escape the thing that Justin wanted her to do.

The night had fallen, and the Burtons' summer villa in the countryside was solemn and quiet.

On the balcony on the second floor, Tina was laying down lazily with her phone in her hand. "Grandpa doesn't like her but Justin insisted on marrying her, so he can't do anything about it. Amber, I think you should just give up. Justin is a weird person."

Amber said something on the other end of the phone that made Tina slightly impatient.

"Well, we'll see about that. It's getting late now. 'll hang up first."

With that, she immediately hung up and complained, "She's asking me for help for such a small matter. I'm too lazy to care about it."

“What’s wrong?” A tall figure walked out from the room. Even though the lights were dim, his handsome face was not obscured.

Tina turned around from the balcony and shrugged. “Nothing much. Amber asked me to attend the birthday party of Old Mr. Hudson. It seems like she still hasn’t given up on Justin.”

“Are you going, then?”

flatter him?”

The man hugged her waist. “But your father asked me to go.”

“What?” She froze for a moment before returning to her senses. Her eyes lit up as she said, “Then I’m

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Chapter 40

In the end, two days passed since Rachel last saw Justin.

“Mrs. Burton, Young Master Justin has a meeting so he’ll be back later.”

The driver explained to her the reason Justin was absent as he drove her to the birthday dinner party.

Meanwhile, she nodded to indicate that she understood. Nonetheless, there was a hint of apprehension on her face.

Rachel was well-aware of her non-existent position in Justin’s heart. Furthermore, his instructions for her to attend this birthday dinner weren’t even for the sake of celebrating the birthday of his father-in law, Jefferey.

Right after she got out of the car, the butler led her toward the reception area.

“Miss Rachel, the Master is greeting his guests at the front foyer and Miss Amber is in the living room with her friends. I’ll lead you there.”

Thanks.

As they crossed the main hall, the large semi-outdoor swimming pool was located right past the french doors and there were a bunch of balloons by the side of the pool.

Suddenly, she was caught by surprise and she slowed down her footsteps subsequently.

She could distinctly remember from her fuzzy memories of the first and only time she came here many years ago.

It was during Amber's tenth birthday and Jefferey had spent 1.8 billion to purchase this manor, which was registered under Amber's name. That day, there were many guests in attendance, such as their relatives and elders from the Hudson Family and Jefferey's business associates.

Rachel remembered a ten-year-old Amber being surrounded by the guests and the latter stood right in the middle, standing out like a shining diamond among the children.

"Rachel, if you agree to be my servant then I'll allow you to come and stay with me anytime you want."

"Amber, are you actually asking your sister to be your servant?"

"She's no sister of mine! What kind of sister is she? Do you have a mute sister?" (This novel will be daily updated at)

"Hahaha..."

At that time, Rachel had just come to stay with the Hudson Family for about two years and she had been quite unwell as she recuperated in the hospital for almost a year. Therefore, the time she had actually spent together with Amber was barely more than six months and the former had merely known that the latter had a straightforward but wild personality.

"You stupid mute. It would be an honor for you to be my servant. Don't you dare act so high and mighty!"

"Let's hit her!"

"Ah!"

"Blood! She's bleeding!"

Just then, Rachel stood by the edge of the french windows and suddenly, she felt a prick of pain on her

forehead which caused her brows to furrow tightly.

"Miss Rachel." The butler's voice brought her back to reality.

"Miss Rachel, what's wrong?"

She revealed a forced smile and shook her head. *I'm fine. Let's go.*

In fact, she wasn't originally so submissive but she was forced to give in as she was in a less advantageous position. She had come to the realization that remaining alive was not as easy as she thought after going through hardships and experiencing so much pain.

In the living room, there was a group of youngsters gathered around. Most of them present were youngsters from the Hudson clan, (This novel will be daily updated at) plus some of Amber's classmates and friends.

"Amber, your elder sister is here."

Standing among the crowd, Amber turned her head and just then, there was a flash of disdain across her face. Half-jokingly, she replied, but there was a serious note to her tone, "My sister's no longer the same as before. She's full of air now. Everyone's here waiting for her to arrive. I guess she's made a good match so she no longer gives any regard to us."

Rachel frowned in response and merely nodded to the crowd as an indication of greeting. Then, she remained silent.

Meanwhile, Amber looked behind her and she purposely raised her voice as she announced, "Rachel, why are you here by yourself? Where's Justin?"

Amber didn't address Justin as her brother-in-law but she called him by his name to prove their intimate relationship.

He's busy so he couldn't make it under short notice.

"What's there to be busy with? Even so, couldn't he take some time to accompany his wife to his father-in-law's birthday dinner?" Someone in the crowd blurted this out and shortly after that, the crowd whispered among themselves.

"I thought Rachel had married well but perhaps her life is not as good as it seems."

"That's quite obvious with her being mute. Furthermore, she married Justin on behalf of Amber so obviously he wouldn't be attracted to her, would he?"

"I heard that the Hudson Family was spared because Amber went to plead for mercy."

Just then, Rachel nervously gripped her bag tightly. She had no intention to explain herself so she turned around and headed toward a corner to avoid the crowd.

However, Amber grabbed Rachel's arm and commented with a condescending tone, "Go and get me a bottle of wine from the cellar."

Rachel frowned and responded, *Why don't you go and get it yourself?*

"Me?" Amber surveyed the surroundings and replied matter-of-factly, "I need to entertain my guests, can't you see that? If I leave right now, would you be able to entertain them?"

Rachel was unable to speak and she wasn't familiar with these people either so Amber's words were clearly intended to embarrass her. The former clenched her teeth and then she spun on her heel to walk away.

However, Amber raised her voice and shouted, "Hey! Don't you know where the cellar is? If you don't then make sure to ask one of the servants. They can't understand your gestures so you'd better bring a notepad with you!"

At that moment, there were countless mocking laughs that rang out, which sounded quite grating to the ears.(This novel will be daily updated at)

Meanwhile, Amber reached out for a glass of wine from a waiter as she looked at Rachel's retreating back, a deep look in her eyes.

The show was about to start.

The wine cellar was located on the other side of the living room and it was one level below so Rachel had to take the elevator.

However, perhaps the elevator was faulty and awaiting repair or for some specific reason, but Rachel waited for ages but to no avail. In the end, she decided to take the stairs which was situated by the

side.

She walked on the carpeted floor in her high heels so the sound she made was soft and practically inaudible over the loud music from upstairs.

As soon as she arrived at the lower floor, she came toward a row of bookshelves and a resting area. The wine racks were placed further inside and the racks were much taller than her. She took a few steps forward before realizing that she hadn't asked Amber which wine she wanted.

Originally, Rachel intended to head back to clarify but in the end, she considered it and realized that she was quite likely to be humiliated by Amber for no reason once again. As such, she decided to grab a random bottle.

As soon as she took the bottle of wine in her hands, she suddenly heard some whispers from outside.

Rachel paused in her tracks immediately.

Someone's here?

"Aren't you going to join your friends upstairs and have a chat?" The man had a low baritone.

“What’s there to talk about? If it wasn’t for you, I wouldn’t even attend this dinner. None of them from the group upstairs are worthy of anything. Their family background is quite normal. The Hudson Family is going downhill too. Otherwise, do you think Jefferey Hudson would have sold off his daughter for a mere twenty to thirty million?”

The woman’s voice sounds familiar. Rachel gripped the wine bottle tightly in her hands and her expression tightened. She looked through the gaps in the wine rack and saw that there was a shadow of a couple in a tight embrace by the corner. *Tina?*

In the corner of the cellar, there were two figures closely entangled with each other on the couch. The woman had a throw covering her body but her bare shoulders were exposed to the air. She looked seductive as she leaned against the man’s shoulders and panted. It was quite evident that they had just ended an intense tryst.

Meanwhile, Rachel was significantly stunned and she couldn’t believe her eyes.

In fact, Tina was betrothed to the eldest son of the Hindenburg family-Noah Hindenburg. *Are they just seeking exhilaration in someone else’s wine cellar?*

Rachel didn’t want to get involved in someone else’s matters. After all, it was best to avoid things that

were indecent so she turned around to leave.

She was in a hurry and didn’t pay attention to her surroundings. Just then, a loud noise was produced as her dress got caught on the edge of the rack. The ripping sound of material rang out all of a sudden and it was exceptionally grating to the ears in the silent cellar.

The air became still for a short moment and soon after that, someone reacted.

“Who’s there?” Tina’s voice rang out instantly.

Meanwhile, Rachel’s expression changed and she hurriedly grabbed the hem of her skirt to run off.

However, Tina’s cold voice suddenly rang out from behind. “Stop!”