

The Silent Wife Chapter 61

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Chapter 61

For several days in a row, Rachel didn't see Justin. On the contrary, Janice came every day, bringing prepared meals with her.

Sorry to trouble you.

Rachel felt very embarrassed about it. Then, Janice opened the lunchboxes and put them on the table, saying, "I was entrusted by others to be faithful to you. Besides, I also have a favor to ask of you."

Rachel's eyebrows knitted slightly at that.

If you're asking about James, I really don't know much about it. Other than my father, who was close to him, Amber was too, so maybe you should ask her.

"No, we'll alert them if I ask her. Oh yeah, you should not mention this matter to your family either. It's for your own good."

Rachel nodded a little to show that she understood, but she was still puzzled.

You guys suspect that James killed someone, right? Who did he kill?

"The sales agent of a pharmaceutical company."

Why?

"Our initial hypothesis is that it was due to business competition, and James was just a henchman who was instructed to do so."

Rachel's heart stuttered at that. Did this mean that Hudson Pharmaceuticals was involved? What about Dad?

Aren't you afraid of alerting them by telling me this?

"You won't." Janice looked at her, her gaze calm. "James is Jefferey's tool. Aren't you also suspecting that your mother's death is related to Jefferey? And don't you already plan to leave Riverdale? By the way, Hans asked me to bring word, saying that your grandma's situation has been arranged. As long as you're ready, you can leave Riverdale at any time."

Hearing these words, Rachel had her face suddenly become tense, and her fingers clutching the silverware trembled slightly.

She had to leave because she could never hide the fake prescription from Justin.

It was late in the evening when the roar of planes crossed over the Riverdale airport. After the van picked up the people from the terminal building, it drove down the airport highway.

“Mr. Burton, it’s still necessary for you to personally come. This time, the contract for Brentwood New City has finally been signed, so the engineering team can go ahead and carry out tasks with confidence.” Holding the contract in his hand, Frankie couldn’t hold back his joy.

Justin said, “Don’t take it lightly. They might jump the gun.”

“You mean Jason Burton,”

“He has suffered a loss this time. I’m afraid the marriage between Tina and the Hindenburgs will have to be ahead of the agenda.”

“Don’t worry, the things you asked me to prepare have been ready for a long time.”

Justin nodded slightly.

“Mr. Burton, I believe you must be tired after these few days. Let’s send you home to rest later.”

“No, we’ll go to the hospital.”

Hearing the crisp reply, Frankie felt his heart thump faster. Somehow, he inexplicably felt worried for Rachel.

It was already dark when Julian took Rachel’s examination report and knocked on the door to enter the ward. When he came in, Rachel was leaning on the bed, looking at the moonlight outside the window.

“Do you want to go out for a walk?” Julian’s voice pulled Rachel’s thoughts back. Then, she froze for a moment and turned her head back.

Putting his hands in the pockets of his white coat, Julian showed her a warm smile. “It should be boring for you to stay in the ward all the time, right? The rosebuds are blooming outside, so I’ll take you out to have a look.”

Rachel hesitated for a moment but nodded. She didn’t tell Julian that she was leaving Riverdale, so she still had to thank him for taking care of her these days.

The hospital’s courtyard wall was filled with rose vines of all colors at this moment as Julian helped Rachel walk toward the small pavilion. “Your health indicators are already normal, but the injury of your foot has yet to heal, so it’s not convenient for you to walk around. Therefore, I still recommend you stay in the hospital for two more days for observation before being discharged; it’s safer that way.”

It's better for me to be discharged from the hospital as soon as possible.

"Why are you in such a hurry? Do you have something to do?"

Nothing. I'm just bored staying in the hospital.

Julian nodded to show that he understood.

By the way, thank you for taking care of me this time, and thank you for helping to hide this from my grandma.

"It's fine. However, do you still plan to keep the matter of your marriage to my brother hidden from her?"

Rachel thought for a moment. *There should be no need for that in the future.*

Hearing that, Julian froze. "Are you planning to tell her?"

Rachel was about to answer when her gaze suddenly withdrew for a moment, and her hand trembled before she reflexively pulled it out of Julian's hand.

"What's wrong?" Confused, Julian followed Rachel's gaze only to see Justin coming toward them.

"Justin? When did you come?"

Justin had been here for a while. When he didn't see Rachel in the ward, he looked through the window and saw the scene of Julian holding Rachel as they went for a walk downstairs.

"I just arrived." With that said, he fixed his gaze on Rachel and continued, "Are you so seriously injured? Why don't I have someone get you a wheelchair so that you can go out easily."

Hearing that, Rachel turned pale, and she bit her lip.

Julian's gaze settled on his brother, and he said, "Justin, Rachel's foot is injured."

The weather was hot, and despite Julian's repeated instructions to be careful, Rachel's burns still

I had to be wrapped up in gauze, and now, with gauze wrapped around her feet and her wearing large slippers that didn't fit her feet, she was having a hard time walking.

Justin's eyebrows knitted slightly, and his gaze fell on the injured foot. "How did you get it infected?"

It's nothing; it's almost healed.

Rachel wasn't willing to explain further.

"It's wounded again, even though the old wounds are not yet healed. Therefore, she still needs more rest. Justin, if you are too busy with your work, you don't need to come to the hospital so often. I am here to take care of her."

Due to the medicine, Julian had been wary of Justin. Thus, he was about to support Rachel to go back to the ward when Justin stopped them with a dark look. "Wait."

Rachel's shoulders trembled when she felt Justin's tug on her arm. Then, she looked up at him with shock and fear.

Instantly, Julian's face changed. "She's already hurt in such a manner; what else do you want? Don't go overboard!"

"Dr. Peters, you're too dedicated to your patient." Justin gave him a sideways glance and picked up Rachel in front of him. "But you seem to have forgotten that she is my legal wife."

At that, Rachel's mind went blank as she looked up and saw the slightly green stubble on the man's sharp chin. The outline of his whole face was extraordinarily cold and angular when illuminated by the moonlight. Suddenly, the summer breeze blew, blowing the roses in the courtyard and making the petals fall on the ground. After that, large dark clouds in the distant sky crept in, as if there was a big storm coming.

At this moment, the corridor was full of people staring at them, so Rachel struggled to get down.

"You'd better not move."

A deep, cold voice rang in her ears as she did so.

"But if you really want to sit in a wheelchair, I don't mind either."

Rachel shivered as she used one hand to clutch the corner of her hospital gown tightly. The faint smell of tobacco that came from the man's body was familiar, yet struck fear into her heart.

Later, Justin put her back on the hospital bed and swept a glance at her. "How did your foot get hurt?"

Rachel clutched the sheets, her face pale.

I accidentally burned it.

"You did this to yourself?"

Seeing that she didn't speak again, Justin frowned before pouring a cup of water. On seeing Rachel's fearful expression, his frown deepened, and he handed over the cup. "Have some warm water."

Hearing that, Rachel revealed a stunned look of disbelief.

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"I've taken the prescription to have it analyzed. If this prescription is true, I'll let bygones be bygones." As Justin's voice fell, Rachel felt flustered.

Then, Justin glanced around the ward, where there were a few piles of fruits and flowers. "Someone came to see you?"

Rachel's heart thudded, and she tried to suppress her anxiety. *My friends came by.*

Justin didn't seem to think much about it as he replied, "Since you're injured, stay in the hospital for two more days, and go back when you've recuperated fully."

No need. I can be discharged tomorrow.

"Tomorrow?" Justin looked at her gauze-covered foot and said firmly, "No."

I still have to go back to work at the library.

"You don't have to worry about that; your leave is already approved."

At that, Rachel looked stunned, as Justin seemed to be different from his usual self today.

As they were talking, the sound of a door opening came from outside. "Justin, when did you arrive?"

The voice of Amber interrupted the conversation between the two people. As soon as Rachel heard her voice, her foot hurt reflexively.

Frowning, Justin questioned unhappily, "Why didn't you knock on the door?"

Amber put out her tongue at him and smiled intimately at him. "I forgot. After all, I got too excited to hear that you're here. You've been away for work for so long and didn't even pick up the phone."

Justin answered indifferently, "I was busy."

"I understand; work is important."

Amber stood in the doorway for a while, then suddenly looked at Rachel before warning her, "Rachel, you need to rest more since you are injured. Why are you still running around? Others in the hospital are talking about you."

Rachel pursed her lips and did not say a word. *No wonder Amber came so quickly.*

"Is there something wrong?" Justin looked at Amber.

"Can't I look for you even when nothing is wrong?" Amber instantly turned around and pulled out a chair to sit

"Actually, I've received Tina's invitation yesterday. She's going to be engaged at the end of this month. Justin, since you don't have a female partner and I don't have a male partner either, why don't we go together?"

Hearing these words, Rachel looked upset, and she silently clenched her fists. She was very self aware, but it was too awful of Amber to say this in front of her.

Justin glanced at her and replied, "Let Julian accompany you."

"Why?"

"I have a female partner, so I can't accompany you."

Amber's face changed, and she said sharply, "How is that possible? Who is it? Why didn't I know about this?"

A trace of impatience surfaced on Justin's face. Looking at Amber, he said, "Don't you remember the engagement party of my family? Is it hard to guess who my female partner is?"

"You mean.." Amber's face stiffened, and she subconsciously looked at Rachel. *Justin actually wants to bring Rachel to attend the party?*

Rachel was also surprised as she looked at them in disbelief.

Gritting her teeth, Amber still said obstinately, "She's injured. I don't think she can go."

"There is no hurry. The engagement party is at the end of the month, so there is still time."

Hearing that, Amber felt speechless. Seeing that Justin looked cold and unwilling to entertain her anymore, she suddenly thought of something and said to Rachel,

"Did you tell Justin something? You got injured because you *were* careless and didn't hold the cup properly. You can't accuse me of that!"

Rachel frowned. For a moment, she didn't know whether Amber was stupid or what. Justin's face changed as he looked at Amber and questioned, "Her injury is related to you?"

Shocked, Amber panicked. "No, I don't mean that. Justin, it has nothing to do with me. They wronged me! That woman even twisted my arm. -"

"That's enough!" Justin frowned coldly.

Seeing his expression, Amber felt despair filling her. "Justin, don't misunderstand me. I'll explain to you another time."

With that, Amber glared at Rachel and then quickly left. As the door of the ward closed with a click, the room returned to silence. Whenever Justin and Rachel were alone together, they always felt that the room was extra quiet. She couldn't talk, and she did things carefully and cautiously, as if she was always trying to make herself invisible.

"Was your injury caused by Amber?"

Rachel clutched the sheets and did not say anything; she had no intention of provoking a disagreement between them.

"You're both daughters of the Hudson Family. Even if you are the illegitimate one, you don't have to be so submissive."

Looking at her unresponsive appearance, Justin coldly barked, "Did you hear what I said?"

Rachel trembled in fear and looked at Justin in trepidation.

"Your weakness and incompetence are a disgrace to me!"

When Rachel saw Justin's irritated look, she suddenly felt that this man was not as unfeeling as outsiders said. Perhaps he just didn't want to hurt her.

If you want, I can leave your family, and you can marry Amber.

Justin's expression sank as he fixed his gaze on her.

It wasn't me that you wanted to marry initially either, and you know that it was my father's arrangement for me to stay by your side. So, instead of suspecting me of harming you all the time like this, why don't you let me go?

"What makes you think I will let you go?"

I'm no use to you. No matter if you want to deal with the Hudson Family or do something else, Amber is more suitable than me.

Rachel was calm as she gestured with her pair of fair and slender hands. She still had a glimmer of expectation that Justin would let her go since she had no value to him, so she could leave Riverdale with her grandmother openly.

"What kind of place do you think my family is? You can come and go whenever you want?" Justin's hands pressed hard on the sheets as his tall figure enveloped Rachel in it. At that, her shoulders jerked, and she backed up reflexively.

"Let you go? Let you go so that you can remind Jefferey that I'm looking for the Hudson Family's remedy?"

I won't do that! Rachel hurriedly shook her head.

"I don't believe it." Justin stared at her coldly and continued, "I've only ever believed in things I can control in my own hands or dead people."

Taken aback, Rachel froze on the spot, unable to move.

"You'd better stay here and not make a fool of yourself. It's not for you to say which one among you is more valuable."

With that, Justin straightened up and left, banging the door as he went. As the cold wind blew across Rachel's face, she shivered. Clenching her fists, she looked in the direction of the door, her brows furrowing.

How could she forget that for Justin, she was simply a plaything in his palm and a pawn against the Hudson Family? Even if she was an unwanted child, it was impossible for him to discard her like that.

Outside the corridor, Justin looked angry. Frankie had been waiting there and spoke when he saw Justin. "Mr. Burton. Just now, Miss Amber came out crying. Is she—"

Before he could finish, Justin glanced at the door and interrupted, "Book a restaurant tomorrow and invite her out for dinner."

Frankie froze for a moment, but he did not dare to ask more. "Yes, sir."

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The next morning, Rachel insisted on going through with the discharge procedure. Therefore, Julian took half a day off to send her back to the Burton Residence.

"My mother is not at home today, so you can take a good rest for a day," he urged as he helped her back to her room. "Even if you are recuperating at home, you should rest well. Don't move around as your injury will take at least three to five days to fully heal."

She nodded. *Thank you.*

Then, Julian glanced at a figure hiding by the door before he deliberately raised his voice and added, "Some servants in the family have stayed here for a long time and have thus forgotten their identity. Although I am not the head of this house, I still have the power to dismiss servants."

The shadow at the door shifted for a moment before it was Mrs. Duncan who walked out. She sheepishly answered, "Young Master Peters, I just care about Ra-I just care about Mrs. Burton and wanted to see whether there is anything I can help with."

Julian snorted coldly. "Is that so? You're not here to spy on us?"

At that, Mrs. Duncan's face paled.

He warned, "I'm going back to work in the afternoon, so you better serve her well. If anything happens to her, my brother won't let you off the hook."

She hurriedly nodded, not daring to say anything more.

When he left, she stood in the doorway and looked at Rachel before speaking in an odd way, "Mrs. Burton, what do you want to eat tonight? I'll have the kitchen prepare it."

Rachel shook her head. *I don't have much appetite. Don't mind me; just close the door for me.*

"You need to eat a little. I'll have the kitchen prepare something light for you."

Mrs. Duncan's uncharacteristic manner left Rachel feeling puzzled, but Rachel thought that her behavior was a result of Julian's words just now. So, Rachel didn't think much about it.

"Please rest first and I will send up the food tonight."

Once Mrs. Duncan left, Rachel carefully got out of bed and opened her suitcase. Then, she placed the small wooden box that her mother left her into the canvas bag she usually took with her. Rachel did not intend to bring many things with her when she left Riverdale as a little savings and her mother's items would be enough.

At night, Rachel ate some food before she felt tired. Then, she pulled the covers over her and went to sleep. At this time, the sound of an engine roared in the courtyard. It wasn't long before Amber helped Justin into the living room.

"Oh, Amber, what's wrong with Justin? Has he been drinking?" Sue exclaimed and went forward to help.

"Madam Parham, Justin seems to be drunk. I'll send him up to rest." Amber had a concerned look.

"Miss Amber, you drank a lot too. Are you alright?" Mrs. Duncan wanted to lend a hand, but Sue's glance had stopped her from doing so.

Then, Sue instructed, "Mrs. Duncan, go and search for some hangover remedy and send it up later.

Amber, you should send Justin to his room. It's the second room on your left on the second floor. Don't enter the wrong room."

Amber nodded as she met Sue's gaze, trying to suppress her excitement that even her hands that were supporting Justin trembled. Sue smiled meaningfully and added, "Amber, please take good care of Justin."

"I will, Madam Parham."

After she placed Justin on the bed, Amber carefully probed him. "Justin, are you okay?"

However, Justin remained unresponsive as he lay on the bed.

Upon seeing that, she carefully removed a white paper bag from her purse before she turned her back on him to pour the substance from the bag into a cup of water by the bed. "Justin, drink some water. You'll feel better."

As he was knocked out from the alcohol, he did not react as she poured half the cup of water down his throat. After she placed the cup aside, she then climbed onto him and pulled off his shirt.

At that instance, the man's wheat-colored chest was completely exposed in front of her while his cold and handsome face was like the embodiment of desire such that she couldn't help but want to leap on

him.

While Amber knelt on his body, she began to remove her own clothes.

In his state of drunkenness, the man suddenly opened his eyes. A startled Amber paled with fear as she stammered, "Y-You're not drunk..."

In the next second, the man's gaze drifted up before he fiercely rolled the woman over and pressed her down. As his alcoholic breath came toward her, she looked into his handsome and drunk face. Suddenly, she came back to her senses and calmed down. After drinking so much tonight, how could he still be sober? Not to mention, she had given him that packet of pills!

While the man ripped her clothes, she immediately went all in. Moving around to circle the man's neck with her arms, she called out to him in a soft voice, "Justin..."

At this time in the living room on the first floor, Sue listened to the commotion coming from upstairs and she couldn't hide a smug smile. She waved her hand toward Mrs. Duncan before she said, "There's no need to send it."

Mrs. Duncan understood and placed the hangover remedy aside.

"By the way, that mute-"

"Don't worry, I've included a sufficient amount of sleeping pills in the food given to her earlier. She won't wake up tonight, so she definitely won't ruin anything."

"That's great then. This is such a golden chance, so she must not ruin it. She's just a useless mute, so how can she even begin to fight for a place in the family? Dream on," Sue snarkily replied.

She knew that Justin had invited Amber out for dinner, so she guessed that they would be intimate later at night. After all, she had confidence in Amber's wiles and tricks. All Sue needed to do was to go with the flow and take care of that mute for them.

"Madam, isn't it a bit too risky for us to do this?" Mrs. Duncan looked concerned. "If outsiders know

about this, isn't this bad for the reputation of the Burton Family?"

Sue laughed. "Who will spread this around? Amber?"

Mrs. Duncan looked startled. "Young Master Justin will blame us for this, though."

"What does this have to do with us? Amber was the one who brought him back and we can't control what they do later, right? Don't think so much about it. We didn't do anything." After saying this, Sue yawned and went toward the bedroom. "I'll get a good night's sleep tonight."

It was already late at night, so Rachel was in a deep sleep and having a dream. Suddenly, she vaguely felt like someone had pulled her up as the cold breeze snaked into her pajamas, making her shiver and subconsciously stretch out with her hands to pull the quilt up. However, before her hand could even reach the quilt, she was pressed down and something entered her body in the next second.

“Ahhh!”

The déjà vu feeling invaded all Rachel’s limbs, causing her to cry out in pain and shock. Then, she was jolted awake from her dream and when she opened her eyes, she saw the man who was riding on her body.

Justin! How could he be here!

Cold sweat instantly broke out from Rachel’s back at that sight. She wanted to scream, but she couldn’t as she desperately tried to escape this nightmare. *This must be a nightmare.*

With bloodshot eyes, Justin looked like a beast that had escaped its cage and was nearly ripping her apart. No matter how she struggled, he had her in his grip. Next, the sweat slid down the scars on the man’s face and landed on her face as it mixed with her tears.

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The next day.

“Madam! Madam, come upstairs and take a look!”

The inside of the room was dim and the curtains were drawn tight.

Rachel was woken up by the shouts outside the room. With a *bang*, the door of the room opened from outside. She covered in fear before the pain on her feet forced her to open her eyes.

Sue stood at the door and with just a glance, she saw Rachel with her bare shoulders and the room was messy. She immediately became upset and scolded, “What the hell is going on?”

The room still smelled of lovemaking while the floor was scattered with women’s intimate clothing. On top of that, there was blood on the sheets mixed with unknown stains too. It was not difficult to imagine what had happened in this room last night.

However, Rachel was bewildered. *What happened last night?* The soreness all over her body was reminding her of last night’s memory. She was deep asleep when Justin suddenly barged in and tore her clothes. No matter how much she had struggled, he pounced and wrestled with her like a wild animal. As she shuddered violently, she did not dare to believe the scene before her.

"Madam, Miss Amber is still in Young Master Justin's room." Mrs. Duncan's voice came from behind Sue.

Sue glared at Rachel. "Hurry up and wear your clothes! Are you planning to show your body for the whole family to see? What a shameless thing!" With these words, Sue and Mrs. Duncan left in a hurry.

Rachel's mind went blank as her ears buzzed.

On the other hand, Amber woke up alone from Justin's bed in the master bedroom. She was unclothed while the large room was empty, save for herself.

"Amber." Sue hurriedly entered.

"Madam Parham!" As soon as Amber saw Sue, she immediately jumped into Sue's arms and cried.

"What's wrong with you?"

"I don't know, Madam Parham. Why am I here? Isn't this Justin's room? My clothes... Me and Justin..." Amber burst into tears.

Sue looked around the messy bed before she revealed a puzzled look. "Amber, don't cry first. What happened last night?"

"I don't know, I don't remember anything!" Amber's eyes were red and tears were falling from them. "If my father knows about it, he will kill me!"

Was Amber trying to blackmail the Burton Family? As she was a sly old fox herself, Sue looked slightly contemptuous as she glanced at Mrs. Duncan.

Mrs. Duncan immediately understood and added, "Miss Amber, don't cry first. Young Master Justin went out early in the morning and he seemed to be sleeping in Mrs. Burton's room last night."

At these words, Amber's tears stopped abruptly and she looked at Mrs. Duncan incredulously.

Sue comforted Amber by patting her shoulder. "It's okay, Amber; if you can't remember it, you can

slowly think about it. Go and wash up first while I'll have someone send you a set of clean clothes." After saying this, Sue waved her hand and brought Mrs. Duncan away with her.

As soon as the door closed, Sue's expression sank. "Useless fellow. She literally allowed the chance to slip away herself."

Mrs. Duncan asked, "Then, about what happened last night..."

"We won't bother with it. Let her figure it out herself." A furious Sue coldly added, "That mute ended up benefiting from it!"

Inside the room, Amber's face was gloomy. *Did Justin actually sleep in Rachel's room last night?*

It was noon at the headquarters of Burton Group when Justin ended his call in exasperation after he noted the number of missed calls on his phone. After a while, Frankie came in a hurry. "President Burton, Miss Amber called again. She said she wants to see you."

"Tell her that I'm not available."

"Yes, sir." Frankie nodded.

Justin had an ugly expression earlier this morning.

"Were there any other calls besides hers?"

Frankie was taken aback. "No."

Justin's eyebrows instantly knotted together before he threw the phone onto the table in impatience.

It was out of necessity when he used that woman to vent his desire. Last night, he wasn't drunk at all, but he wanted to see what kind of tricks Amber had up her sleeves. However, he didn't expect her to be so bold as to dare to drug him. However, when he woke up early in the morning and saw Rachel's tear stained face beside him, he suddenly felt indescribable guilt in his heart and hurriedly fled.

"Mr. Burton, if you have no other orders, I'll take my leave first." Frankie's voice pulled back Justin's thoughts.

Justin frowned and answered, "Wait. Go and find a geomancy master who can read my fortune to come to my office."

"Huh?" Frankie froze for a moment, looking incredulous. *A geomancy master who can tell one's fortune?* "President Burton, what do you want to do? I thought you didn't believe in that."

"Just do as you're told."

Frankie nodded. "Yes, I'm going."

Justin acted in an extremely irritated manner today and several heads of departments were scolded early in the morning. Thus, it was better to talk less and just focus on work.

It had rained all afternoon in Riverdale and the drizzle only stopped in the evening. Mrs. Duncan knocked on the door with dinner again with a shifty look. "Mrs. Burton, dinner is ready."

Just put it on the table, thanks.

"I don't care when you eat the food, but I have to watch you take this medicine."

Medicine?

Since Rachel was taken aback, she looked up and saw the box of medicine in Mrs. Duncan's hands. Then, she noticed the label 'morning after pills' on it. She felt a stabbing pain in her heart for no reason, which caused her face to pale at once. If Justin didn't want her to get pregnant, why did he treat her that way last night?

She remembered all that happened last night. In fact, compared to their wedding night, he even gave her the illusion of being gentle last night. However, at this moment, the pills told her that it was really just a mirage.

As Mrs. Duncan thought that Rachel was unwilling to take the pills, she said, "Mrs. Burton, this is not me giving you a hard time, so don't make it difficult for me."

Give it to me. Rachel stretched her hand out.

After she watched Rachel finishing her medicine, Mrs. Duncan was relieved and added contemptuously, "Remember to eat your food."

Rachel did not respond as she held the cup with a gloomy face. Perhaps the pills had dissolved too quickly as she felt a burst of bitterness in her throat.

Then, the phone on the table lit up for a moment before a text message from Hans popped out. 'How is it going? You're discharged from the hospital and returned to the Burton Family, right?'

Rachel collected her thoughts and quickly replied with two words. I'm fine!

Then, Hans asked, 'Grandma's side has been arranged for. How much luggage do you have? Do you need my help?'

'Not much; I have nothing to take with me!

Rachel glanced at the canvas bag hanging by the door. Only her mother's belongings and her bank card were in the bag and she needed to leave Riverdale with as little as possible, so she didn't plan to take anything else with her to avoid alerting others to her plan.

'Okay, when you're ready to go, let me know!

As she typed on the phone, the door opened from behind her. When she looked up, she met the gaze from a pair of narrow and cold eyes and her hands trembled. With a plop, the phone fell with a loud sound in the quiet room.

A frowning Justin looked at the floor and asked, "What are you doing?"

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The phone on the ground was still displaying the WhatsApp screen and the light coming from the screen was piercing her eyes.

Before she could come back to her senses, Justin's long legs had already stopped in front of her before he slowly bent down.

Rachel's face immediately pale as her heart started to race.

Right when she was about to take her phone, the screen suddenly dimmed before it blinked to lock itself.

"Check whether it's still working."

As she stared at the phone that he handed her, she gingerly took it. *It should be fine.*

"Have you eaten yet?"

Justin's gaze landed on the table and he wasn't suspicious at all.

The dishes that Mrs. Duncan sent over were still releasing steam.

When Rachel calmed down, she placed her phone on the table with the screen facing downward and she acted like nothing happened.

Why did you return much earlier today?

Justin frowned. "What? Do you want me to come back later?"

Rachel was taken aback. *That's not what I meant.*

While gazing at her, he threw a document file on the table. "Take a look at this."

The black file landed on the table with a silent thud.

After she hesitantly opened the document file, Rachel's pupils constricted when she read the content of the document before her frail shoulders started trembling.

There was a sealed rune paper in a plastic bag on the first page. (This novel will be daily updated at)It was exactly the same as the one she saw in Jefferey's darkroom with detailed explanations next to the rune paper.

"Those in geomancy said that this is used to subdue vengeful souls and it has a ritual along with it. It's not easy to carry out the ritual unless you have murdered someone or caused someone's death."

Rachel's head abruptly shot up before she looked at Justin in disbelief.

"Don't give me that look. I don't believe in this, but I still find it weird that Jefferey keeps items like this in his darkroom, so I had someone investigate it to see whether we can get something. It seems like he's probably involved in your mother's death at this rate."

At this moment, Rachel's hand that grasped the document tightened to the point where the joints of her fingers turned pale.

Although she couldn't understand what the rune had meant,(This novel will be daily updated at) she knew that it wasn't a good omen when she saw her mother's tomb being chained by four crippled men in red.

Why did you help me to investigate this?

"Since we had a deal where you help me to look for the medication formula, I can assist in investigating the mystery behind your mother's death."

Her eyes darkened.

To be honest, she didn't want Justin to help her out with this.

This man was too manipulative. Even if he really wanted to lend her a helping hand to investigate her mother's death, he might end up using it as a leverage to coerce her in the future.

There wouldn't be any good ending if she were to make a deal with the demon, but she had no choice but to follow along with it.

Thank you.

Rachel felt anxious as she looked at Justin and noticed that he hadn't left.

Is there anything else?

At the same time, he was staring at the woman in front of him intently as he couldn't seem to forget about what happened yesterday night.

He had been like this for the entire day.

At first, Justin concluded that it was due to the effects of the alcohol combined with the drug that Amber gave him yesterday, but he could feel his body getting heated up the moment he saw Rachel again.

"Did you know that Amber drugged me after sending me home yesterday night?"

Upon hearing that, Rachel looked stunned before she quickly shook her head. *I didn't know.*

"Is that so? Are you sure that Jefferey didn't ask Amber to seduce me since he couldn't rely on you to do so?"

Amber? That's impossible. If he wanted to do that, he wouldn't have asked me to replace her as your bride.

Upon hearing that, the man's narrowed eyes became cold.

Are you sure you were drugged yesterday night?

Justin looked at her. "Why do you sound disappointed?"

At that, Rachel was taken aback before her face flushed red. *That's not what I meant*

"What do you mean then?"

She took a step back instinctively. When her back was closely pressed against the back of the chair, the strap of her night gown suddenly slid off her shoulder, revealing her pale shoulder. In the meanwhile, the other thin strap of her night gown rested on her collarbone and looked like it might snap anytime soon.

His pupils constricted, causing her to anxiously pull up her strap.

"What are you trying to cover when I've already seen everything?"

Upon hearing that, Rachel became so embarrassed that she wanted to disappear. Still, she couldn't help but think about what happened last night before her face blushed even more.

As he watched the woman in front of him bit her lips and sucked in her cheeks, Justin's frown deepened.

A while later, she gasped loudly when he dragged her to the bed.

She could feel her mind becoming blank the moment her nightgown was peeled off.

As the sky darkened, the Burton Family's summer villa was illuminated by yellow lights.

Tina's outfit was in a mess as she lay on the couch while wearing her green spectacles. The television in front of her was currently playing a foreign romance movie while she was surrounded by bottles of alcohol on the ground.

'Clang!' The loud noise of beer bottles clashing into each other rang from the entrance of the door.

"Who said that you are allowed to drink a lot? What if someone else sees you like this?"

Jason was standing in the living room and the moment he saw her looking like she was in a mess, he was pissed off. "Don't forget that you're getting engaged at the end of the month!"

However, she didn't spare him any glances before she chuckled coldly. (This novel will be daily updated at) "Don't worry, I won't forget about that. I'll marry into the Hindenburg Family as you wish and help you with your business."

"What are you talking about? Isn't this arrangement for your own good? Noah Hindenburg is young and successful. Everyone in Riverdale will be envious of your marriage!" Upon noticing that Tina couldn't be bothered by what he had said, Jason dropped the topic. However, his expression turned serious. "I'm here to discuss something with you."

"What is it? I'm listening."

"Do not interfere with anything related to Justin."

When she heard those words, Tina burst into laughter with an obnoxious expression.

"Are you even listening to what I'm saying?!" Jason raised his voice. "He has removed all of the men whom I've arranged for the project in Brentwood New City. Although he's considered young among your generation, his connection runs deep. Try not to offend him, do you hear me?"

"Alright," she answered nonchalantly before pulling her blanket. "I'm going to rest now. If you still want to lecture me, you can continue to do so!"

"You,"

His eyes widened in anger and he couldn't be bothered to talk to Tina any longer when he saw her slumped state. If it weren't for the engagement at the end of the month, he would have asked her to kneel for a few more days.

“You better behave yourself for the rest of the month! If not, that kid’s not going to make it back alive!”

The sound of the door slamming shut echoed throughout the room.

After a long while, Tina suddenly rose from the couch before she took the whiskey bottle next to her and took a huge gulp from it. Then, she aimed the bottle at the television screen in front of her.

“What a bunch of useless losers! Why can’t I offend him? (This novel will be daily updaed at)So what if I do it? He can try to kill me if he can!”

The sound of the ringing phone on the table finally reached her ears after a series of crashing noises.

However, her gaze darkened upon seeing the caller ID.