

The Silent Wife Chapter 66

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Chapter 66

Although it was already midnight, the bars along Riverdale's Vista Road were still brightly illuminated by the streetlights.

"Why did you ask me out so late at night?"

Tina toyed with the wine glass on the table as she dragged her sharp nails along the surface of the glass.

Then, Amber explained, "Remember when you wanted me to investigate Henry's current location? | managed to get it two days ago."

Tina's expression changed at that moment and she was becoming agitated. "Why didn't you tell me earlier? Where is he now?"

"He's at a factory situated in the north of Africa. That's probably the furthest foreign factory under the Burton Group. Your father had transferred him there to be a coolie."

"Send me his exact address."

"I'm afraid doing that would be useless." Amber frowned with a conflicted expression.

"What's wrong?"

Then, she opened the gallery in her phone before she pushed her phone slowly toward Tina's direction.

Under the illuminating bar lights, the dazzling phone display showed the image of a foreign death certificate with Henry's name printed on it.

It was at this moment when Tina's pupils constricted before she snatched the phone in disbelief.

"Two days ago, my men returned with the news that Henry was robbed on his way to purchase supplies and by the time those from the Burton Group found him, he was already gone.."

"That's impossible" Tina mumbled as her face paled. Then, she quickly contacted someone and asked with a cold voice, "Hugh, where is Henry right now?"

"I don't want to listen to your excuses! If you don't tell me where he is now, I'll make sure that you won't be working in Burton Group from tomorrow onward!"

After she heard something from the other end of the call, her gaze slowly dimmed.

She suddenly threw the phone aside in anger, which resulted in a loud crash and causing Amber to shriek before she stared at Tina in fear.

A second later, tears started to fall from Tina's eyes.

A while later, Amber composed herself before she tried to console Tina. "Tina, you have to stay strong because it's impossible for the dead to be resurrected. I feel like I'm also partly responsible for this as I shouldn't have invited you over for my father's birthday party. If I hadn't done that, Rachel wouldn't have discovered the truth and the subsequent events wouldn't have..."

Tina's eyes were red. "Rachel..."

She repeatedly mumbled Rachel's name as she continued downing shots after shots of whiskey.

An eye for an eye, Tina swore to exact revenge on those who caused Henry's death.

The morning sunlight pierced through the curtains the next morning.

Rachel woke up from her dream and she opened her eyes to see the repetitive patterns of the ceiling. It took her a while to recover from her daze when she heard the sound of water running down the drain in the bathroom.

A while later, she quickly closed her eyes and turned around when she heard the bathroom door opening.

The sound of soft footsteps was approaching closer toward her before the other person sat by the bedside.

"Still tired from yesterday?"

Justin's simple words had caused Rachel's eyelids to twitch before her face flushed. After she forced herself to open her eyes, she cautiously wrapped the blanket around her before she sat up.

Then, he commented nonchalantly, "I was still wondering how long you're going to keep up the act."

His hair was still wet as water droplets continued to drip onto his tanned chest before it fell into his towel.

As she recalled what had happened yesterday night, Rachel lost all courage to look at the man.

After wearing his shirt, Justin looked at her before he sneered, "I can't believe you are unable to even fake being asleep. What was Jefferey thinking when he sent you over?"

With that, he rose to his feet and prepared to leave. However, a hand reached out from the blanket and grabbed hold of him.

When he turned around to see the woman, he noticed that most of her flushed face was hidden under the blanket as she stared at him with teary eyes.

A frowning Justin stared at her from above before he asked, "Do you want me to accompany you?"

Rachel immediately quickly shook her head before her slender finger cautiously pointed at his shirt.

Your shirt button's wrong.

He was taken aback and looked down to see that two of his buttons had been wrongly buttoned, making him look disheveled.

A while later, his deep voice rang out in the room. "Do it for me."

A stunned Rachel had no choice but to extend her bare arms and grab her blanket with one hand while she used another hand to undo the buttons on Justin's shirt amidst his pressurizing gaze.

As he stared at her exposed bare shoulder, his dark pupils slowly constricted. "Are you taking your sweet time so that you can try to seduce me?"

Rachel paused and quickly shook her head.

I'm not

"You're not what?"

She followed the direction of Justin's gaze and looked down before gasping and tightening her hold on the blanket. At this moment, her pale face went as red as a tomato before she quickly hid her face underneath the blanket.

Justin didn't know why, but his mood brightened when he saw Rachel being so anxious.

After he buttoned his shirt again, he got up and left.

"It's still early. You should continue sleeping if you're still tired."

Justin's magnetic low voice along with a slight hint of gentleness echoed through the room.

By the time Rachel came back to her senses, he had already left. *It seems like this is the first time*

Justin has actually spoken to me with so much calm. Is he worried about me?

She was confused.

Buzz

The sound of the vibrating phone rang out from the side of the bed.

When Rachel saw Hans' text messages on her phone, she quickly returned to her senses.

In the library, he was walking past rows and rows of bookshelves while pushing his cart, helping her to place books on the higher parts of the shelves. "Is your leg better now?"

Rachel nodded. *It's almost healed.*

"How's the packing?"

I'm almost done since I don't have much to pack in the first place and I can leave anytime I want to. I'm just worried about Grandma.

As Nancy's condition was unstable, she might not be able to withstand the long distance travel.

Upon hearing that, Hans suggested, "I can help you with that. I have a friend who works in a private hospital and he can help you out. If you send your grandma to the hospital earlier, they can help to make your identity anonymous."

However, Rachel looked hesitant. *That might not be possible. If I send Grandma over, it would be hard for me to keep it a secret. Moreover, Justin might be able to trace everything to you, so you'll be dragged into this as well.*

"I'm fine with it."

No. She shook her head with determination and rejected Hans' suggestion.

Although she was fine with him helping her out with small issues, she couldn't risk having him involved in her plans.

Knowing that Rachel was a stubborn person, Hans argued, "According to what you've said, Burton Group is extremely powerful, so Justin will be able to track you down no matter where you try to

escape to. If you were to bring Nancy along with you, it would be impossible for you to even leave. I swear to God-Justin will get his karma one day."

Upon hearing Hans cursing Justin, Rachel suddenly frowned.

She didn't agree with his comments about Justin. Although Justin was a fearful man, he did help her out on several occasions in the past.

"Rachel, what are you thinking about?"

I have an idea. She snapped out of her trance.

"What is it?"

He mentioned that besides those whom he can control, he only trusts those who are dead.

Hans was stunned.

As long as I'm dead, he won't try to look for me or make things difficult for Grandma.

Rachel placed the book in her hand onto the bookshelf with a calm and determined look in her eyes.

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While Rachel was in the midst of her conversation with Hans, she felt her phone vibrating in her pocket.

Upon reading the message that she had received, she looked stunned.

"What's wrong?"

Nothing. It's just a spam message. Don't you still need to provide legal aid? Go on with it, then.

Hans took a look at his watch. "Alright. We shall leave it at that for now. I'll talk to Janice if you want to continue with your plan so that she can get someone in the system to help you out."

After he left, she unlocked her phone again and frowned as she stared at the text.

It was a message from Justin.

'Don't go anywhere after work. I'll come and pick you up.'

If it weren't for his saved caller ID, Rachel would have had a hard time believing that this was something Justin would say.

'I have a meeting at noon, which means I'll get off later than usual today. So, I don't want to bother you!

Still, she didn't receive any reply after sending him that text.

As Rachel was still busy with her work, she didn't think much about it and kept her phone in her pocket.

At noon, Sandy, the library's director, went to Rachel's department to get a few helping hands.

"We do not have enough manpower, so I'll need one person from your department to help attend to the guests during the meeting for these two days."

Upon hearing that, everyone in the office looked down. It seemed like none of them wanted to do something that wasn't beneficial to them.

Why would someone want to attend to guests when they could just stay at the back and scroll their phone?

"Rachel should be the one." Suddenly, an ill-intentioned voice rang out from the corner.

A stunned Rachel looked up from her laptop.

"We are all super tired from rearranging the archives, but Rachel took a two month holiday and probably had rested well, so I think that it would be fair to get her to do it. Don't you think so as well, Rachel?"

However, Sandy frowned and interrupted before Rachel could say anything, "Adelyn, if you don't want to take the job, you don't have to make others your sacrificial lamb."

The woman who was by the corner answered with a voice that wavered, "I was just kidding."

Sandy glared at her before deciding, "Is this a suitable time to crack a joke? I've decided-you'll be the one then. Follow me."

Upon hearing that, Adelyn's expression changed.

Moments after Sandy left with Adelyn, everyone in the office looked at each other before they started to gossip

"Didn't I mention before that Rachel has someone backing her up? Look at Miss Patterson's attitude earlier. She was obviously shielding Rachel."

"Nah. I feel like Adelyn asked for it since she shouldn't have assigned someone else to do the job that she didn't want."

"I mean, Rachel took so many days off this month and she even took sick leave for a few days after returning from her wedding leave. I heard that her husband actually contacted the manager and personally informed him about it."

"Seriously?"

"Why would I lie to you?"

Some of their gossip had reached Rachel's ears, which caused her to frown instinctively. Still, she maintained her composure and continued her work to bookmark the overdue books that hadn't been returned on her laptop.

Nonetheless, just because she avoided trouble didn't mean that it wouldn't look for her.

"Rachel." Olivia, who was sitting right in front of Rachel, knocked at the partition between them. "It's been a while since you got married, but we still haven't met your husband. What does he look like? Who is he? When are you letting us meet him?"

When she recalled Justin's face, Rachel felt her heart tightening.

He's just an ordinary man. There's not much about him.

"That's impossible. Your husband has sent his secretary over to provide us with your wedding sweets after your return from your wedding leave. He even contacted the manager for your sick leave and the manager immediately gave you a month off."

As she was aware about this, Rachel looked shocked when she heard Olivia's words. *Did Justin contact the manager to take a month of sick leave for me?*

Well, he overreacted. I'm fine anyway. Aren't I at work now?

"Still, we all want to meet him, Rachel."

Nevertheless, Rachel knew that none of these people cared about her wellbeing after her marriage. Instead, most of them just wanted to see her making a fool out of herself.

Still, this conversation would never end if she refused to let them meet Justin.

He's coming over to pick me up from work later tonight.

"Is that so? That's so sweet!" Everyone in the office sounded jealous.

"He even picks you up from work!"

Rachel lightly added, *You guys can meet him by then.*

"Sure! We will just observe him from afar to satisfy our curiosity."

Still, her facial expression was nonchalant and devoid of any emotions.

While the others were still gossiping, the landline on Rachel's table rang.

"Hello? This is the file management department."

"Rachel, I need you to come and help at the meeting room. We don't have enough manpower right now."

It was an internal call from the vice manager of the library.

"Miss Patterson has asked someone else to help out, though. Do you guys still need more help?"

"Oh, that's being responsible for giving out drinks for the guests. We still need someone to serve the executives at the front row, which you're most suited for."

A slightly confused Rachel still agreed in the end.

It had been a while since the meeting had started and when she entered the room with a jug of water, Mr. Ronin, who was the manager, only informed that the person whom Rachel would serve was seated in the first row.

Among the midst of men in suits in the meeting room, there was a woman in a royal blue working suit who was on her feet. She had a slender body with perfect makeup and she was now currently seated in the first row of the room.

Miss Patterson pointed at that woman. "That's the person in charge of the charity donation by the company this time."

As the man sitting next to that woman was extremely tall, most of her figure had been blocked by him. So, Rachel was unable to see the woman well even after looking in the direction that Sandy pointed at.

"Just serve them water as you go along."

Alright

Rachel quickly went over with a jug of water.

As the attendees were having a short break from the meeting, the entire area was noisy as everyone discussed the new building expansion.

At the same time, she had bent down to refill the glasses of everyone in the first row before she finally reached the woman in the royal blue suit. Right when Rachel was about to refill the woman's drink, her familiar voice rang, "What a coincidence. We ran into each other again."

Rachel was shocked as she looked up to meet the woman's gaze.

It was at that moment when the atmosphere became tense.

Who else could act so obnoxious if it wasn't for Tina?

Why is she here?

Rachel felt pity toward Tina after learning from Justin that Henry had passed away. She couldn't help but wonder whether Tina was aware of the news yet.

"Is it *that* hard to refill my drink? Do I have to do it myself?"

Tina's voice caused Rachel to return to her senses.

I'll do it.

Rachel refilled Tina's drink before giving Tina a look that indicated that she was leaving.

However, Tina suddenly smirked and pushed the glass of beverage that Rachel had just refilled right in front of her while no one noticed.

"Hey!"

The document on the table was immediately almost drenched, which caused the planning department's executive to gasp as he stood up abruptly. "Hey, what are you doing?!"

Rachel couldn't believe that Tina would frame her blatantly right in front of everyone.

"Did you do that on purpose?" She glared at Rachel coldly with hatred in her eyes. "I can't believe that the professional qualities of an employee in City Council Library would be worse than that of the workers in our frozen warehouse!"

Rachel's expression froze.

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Everyone's gaze immediately landed on her while some of those in charge of the meeting had already headed over with some tissues to help clean up the mess.

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry."

"Look at this! All of our materials are soiled now."

"Tomas, grab five fresh copies of the meeting materials."

The spilled beverage continued to drip from the table to the ground, forcing all the executives at the first row to stand up. As a result, the scene quickly became chaotic.

When an anxious Rachel tried to grab more tissue papers from another helper to clean the table, she was stopped by Sandy. "Rachel, you can head back now. You're not needed here anymore."

"You can't just let her off without getting her to apologize for causing the meeting to end up like this, can you? The library is really generous to allow someone with professional qualities such as hers to continue working here, huh? Is there even a need for an expansion at this rate?"

Although Tina's voice wasn't loud, her cold voice still echoed in the huge meeting room.

Rachel's expression immediately changed before Sandy quickly came to her rescue. "Miss Burton, this is really a misunderstanding. She's not doing it on purpose by not apologizing."

"Can't you let her speak for herself? Does she need others to help her explain herself?"

Sandy frowned. "Miss Burton, that's because--"

Not wanting to cause any dilemma for Sandy, Rachel interrupted with a sign gesture. *I'm sorry. I didn't do it on purpose.*

"This..." The planning department's vice executive looked stunned. "She is..."

At this moment, everyone gave Rachel strange looks. Although it wasn't her first time being stared at like this, it didn't make her feel any better.

Sympathy as well as ill-intentioned looks were both humiliating for her.

"You can't speak?" Tina gave her a side-eye before she intentionally added, "It's my bad, then. Since everyone is raising awareness to be nicer to the disabled, my apologies to you."

"Rachel, is it?" Tina continued her acting and glanced at Rachel's work permit. "I'm sorry. You won't blame me for this, won't you?"

At this moment, a bitter smile appeared on Rachel's face. *It's fine.*

"It's just a misunderstanding." Sandy came to her rescue again.

After giving the crowd an apologetic nod, Rachel decided to turn and leave with clenched fists.

"Hang on" Tina called out. "Miss Patterson, since we need to understand more about the library's historical and cultural background, you should allow her to be in charge of providing us with guidance."

A stunned Rachel gave Tina a shocked look before Sandy explained, "Miss Burton, Rachel has never been in charge of any foreign exchange work. Moreover, as you can see, she's not really suitable for this job."

"Is that so? From what I see, she's quite suitable for it. Besides, since she has been working at the library for a long time, she should know her workplace's historical background well, am I right?"

"Of course! No one else is better than Rachel in terms of how familiar she is with the library. She even won first place in the library's historical quiz last year."

Another woman's voice rang out behind Sandy and it immediately attracted everyone's attention.

Rachel felt her heart clenching up at that moment as her ears rang from that woman's sharp voice.

Then, she turned around to see Adelyn staring at her with a hostile look.

Sandy still wanted to defend Rachel, but the library manager shot Sandy a warning look. "Sure. Since this is someone whom Miss Burton has handpicked herself, it would be easier to communicate with each other in the future."

As Burton Group was the main donor of the library's reparation and expansion, even the executives of the planning department had to listen to Tina. Even though it was obvious that Tina was targeting Rachel, they didn't want to offend Burton Group because of an employee.

"Well, I'm looking forward to working together with you." Tina looked at Rachel with a cold glint in her eyes, causing Rachel to quiver a little.

When the meeting had finally ended, Rachel started to pack her stuff to leave the office.

Her intuition told her that Tina was up to no good after Tina selected her to be in charge of docking.

"Rachel!"

Rachel stopped in her tracks after one of her colleagues called out for her.

As she turned around, she saw Olivia, who was in the same department as her, running toward her with two more colleagues. *Do you guys need anything?*

"Rachel, have you forgotten that you were supposed to bring us to meet your husband after work?"

Rachel was stunned as she had completely forgotten about this.

Since I got off work late today, he won't be coming anymore, so I'm taking the subway home.

This was the excuse that she prepared beforehand.

"Huh? Why didn't you tell us about it earlier? We even waited for you for such a long time."

"Exactly! We wouldn't have wasted our time if you had told us earlier."

I'm sorry.

Suddenly, the sound of a car honking interrupted the others from complaining.

Rachel looked up to see a stationary black business car at the side of the road.

"Miss Hudson." Frankie alighted from the front passenger seat before waving at her.

She was stunned.

Justin actually is here? I already texted him to tell him that he didn't have to, though.

"Rachel, is that your husband?"

"Didn't you say that he's not coming?"

I didn't know that he would be coming.

"That's great. Let us meet him then!"

As she forced a smile, Rachel felt her throat becoming bitter.

I'll ask whether he wants to see you guys.

She initially wanted to prevaricate them, but she was left with no choice at this moment.

“Miss Hudson.” Frankie quickly moved forward as he wanted to open the car door for her.

Hold on. Don't open the car door yet.

Rachel motioned at the driver.

“What’s wrong?” Justin’s voice rang out next to her ear.

Rachel hesitated for a while before she asked cautiously, *Those are my colleagues and they said that they want to meet you.*

He frowned.

I'm sorry. You can just act like I never said it.

Then, she continued, *Please wait for me for a bit, I'll get down and explain to them.*

However, Justin reached out to grab her hand before she could get down from the car.

The moment Rachel felt his cold hand on her palm, she trembled before looking up in confusion.

However, he wasn't looking at her. Instead, he rolled the car window down.

“Are those your colleagues?” His deep voice echoed through the car.

As it was already evening, the scar on Justin’s forehead made him look fierce under the streetlights, which caused Olivia and the other colleagues to shudder when they saw him. All of them looked like they had seen a ghost and none of them dared to move forward.

Rachel suddenly felt embarrassed and angry. Without waiting for Justin to say anything, she reached over him and pressed on the window button to roll the window up.

Let's go.

Upon noticing Rachel’s gesture, Frankie gave Justin a hesitant look before Justin slightly nodded.

As the car drove toward the city, the view of the library slowly disappeared behind their backs.

When he observed that Rachel wasn't in a good mood, Justin asked, "What's wrong?"

However, she remained quiet for a long while.

I'm sorry. I didn't expect my colleagues to react like that.

"Are you angry on my behalf? It's not a bad thing to bring people fear."

As she paused for a moment, her confused gaze met Justin's dark gaze. He had a calm look that looked way more mature than someone of his age.

Why?

"If you are feared, others won't try to provoke you and that will save you from a lot of trouble."

Rachel was taken aback as she looked at Justin. With the progress of medical technology and the Burton Family's financial resources, the scar on his face could be removed as long as he was willing to undergo the process.

So... What you're saying is that you left the scar on purpose?

Justin then gave her a look and didn't deny her words.

The car became quiet for a moment before Rachel summoned her courage and asked, *Where did you get this scar?*

Upon seeing her hand signals, the man's gaze darkened. "Do you want to know?"

Rachel was shocked.

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However, she shook her head after hesitating for a few seconds.

She didn't want to know.

Her grandma had always told her that knowing many secrets wasn't a good thing since she was young.

Still, Justin continued with his words, "It happened a long time ago."

Rachel was slightly stunned.

His parents had passed away when he was a kid, so he had grown up with his aunt after that. It would have been fine if he came from a normal family, but he spent most of his life in the Burton Family where everyone was sly and cunning. She couldn't fathom what he had endured while he was growing up.

Suddenly, she felt like he wasn't as fearful as he was in the past and his scar wasn't no longer intimidating.

Then, Justin asked, "I heard from your father that you were kidnapped as a child?"

Kidnapped?

Rachel froze for a moment before she cautiously shook her head. *I don't remember much about my childhood. Why are you suddenly asking this?*

"It's nothing."

He looked away before he closed his eyes while she looked deep in thought.

As to the matter of her kidnapping, Rachel had heard two completely different versions ever since she was young. According to Jefferey and the servants in the Hudson Family, she was kidnapped at birth and taken away before being stranded for eight years.

However, her grandmother had told Rachel that she had been living with her in the mountains since young.

It was impossible for her grandmother to kidnap her in the mountains, wasn't it?

Rachel suddenly thought of something.

The next day, she asked Janice to meet her at a cafe.

"One cup of latte and a cup of cappuccino, please."

"Alright. Please wait a minute."

As soon as the waiter left, Janice asked, "Hans has already told me about your plans to leave Riverdale. Have you thought things through?"

I can only leave.

"But, the risk of faking your own death is extremely high. It won't be worth it if something really happens to you."

I know, but there is no other way.

"Why exactly do you want to leave all of a sudden? Hans never said anything specifically on the phone."

Justin wants me to find a prescription for him, but I couldn't find it, so I gave him a fake one.

Rachel briefly explained to Janice about the prescription.

"Prescription?" Janice pondered. "Isn't that considered a core secret of Hudson Pharmaceuticals?"

Yes. However, the core secret would be the dosage used since all of the ingredients in the herbal formula would be stated on the medicine box after all. What matters the most is the amount used.

"So, are you saying that even Jefferey doesn't know the dosage?"

That's what I'm thinking as well.

"That's weird." A puzzled look appeared on Janice's face. "Since this is the Hudson Family's core secret as well as an heirloom, how could he not know about it? Didn't you say that the prescription is in his hands?"

Rachel looked fairly stunned.

"Think about it carefully. How did the prescription that you've seen look like?"

The paper is slightly yellowed and it looks like it's generations old. It's also written with traditional words.

Then, she thought for a moment again. *Oh, the prescription is also written in a thin body with a brush.*

"Are you sure that the exact dosage wasn't stated?"

No. There weren't even spaces for the dosage, so I'm sure that they didn't fade over time either.

Nevertheless, Rachel couldn't understand why Janice was suddenly concerned about the Hudson Family's prescription. She signed in puzzlement, *Why are you asking me this?*

Janice immediately withdrew her serious gaze. "Hang on."

While Rachel waited, she started to tap on her phone before she slowly pushed the device toward Rachel. "Look, do you know this person?"

The phone contained the personal information of a person with a black and white ID photo. It seemed like this file was created years ago.

The man in the file was in a military uniform. With extremely handsome features, he looked like he was in his early twenties.

Rachel shook her head in confusion. *I don't know him.*

She had never seen this man or this photo before.

Janice frowned. "This man is Lionel Hudson."

Rachel froze.

Lionel Hudson was Jefferey Hudson's older brother; in short, Lionel was also her uncle.

"You must have never met Lionel since he had already passed on when you were born. His death was suspected as a homicide and the police were investigating his case for a long time back then."

Rachel had heard about this case as the Hudson Family always talked about Lionel's cause of death every time his name was mentioned. Apparently, he went hiking with his fiancée and she ended up pushing him off the cliff.

Did they catch the perpetrator after that?

Janice shook her head. "The police had investigated this case for a few years, but they could never discover where that woman went. It was like she had vanished into thin air. Most importantly, the Hudson Family had done all they could to stop the police from pursuing the woman."

Why?

"You really don't know?" The way Janice looked at Rachel was odd.

I don't know.

"Lionel's fiancée, Selena Hudson, is also the adopted daughter of Old Mr. Hudson."

The Hudson Family had already lost a son and they refused to allow their family scandal to be publicized as they might not be able to suppress the news if the murderer was really Selena. The moment that the reporters were informed about this, the Hudson Family's reputation would be tarnished if the incest relationship had made the headlines.

Janice continued, "It was rumored that Selena was already pregnant when she escaped and for the child's sake, the Hudson Family only stopped pursuing after what happened. Back then, the Hudson Family was way more powerful than they currently are, so they managed to suppress the case until now."

Rachel looked helpless.

The Hudson Family indeed had lived a glorious life before Jefferey took over the Hudson Family.

I've never heard anyone mention Selena or the fact that my uncle had a child, though.

"Well, of course you never heard about it since they are both dead. After their attempt to track her for a few more years, the police finally found the bodies of Selena and her daughter."

Three sentences into the story later, three people had already died.

Rachel only felt a gust of wind from the back of her head. *Why are you suddenly talking about this?*

Janice gave Rachel a meaningful look. "It's because the police suspected Selena and her daughter to be the earliest kills of Gunny after tracing back to his case."

Gunny again?

Why would Gunny kill them?

"Gunny works under Jefferey. To put it bluntly. Jefferey wanted them dead."

Why?

"It's simple." Janice looked at Rachel before using her slender yet strong fingers to take the coffee that

the waiter brought over. Then, Janice took a sip from the mug with a calm demeanor.

Rachel gradually returned to her senses. *Are you implying that it's for the prescription?*

After all, this topic had started because of the prescription.

"Lionel and Jefferey were the only children of the Hudson Family back then. According to my understanding, Lionel had always been Old Mr. Hudson's favorite, so the inheritor of Hudson Pharmaceuticals would have been Lionel if there were no accidents."

Are you suspecting that Jefferey murdered Lionel because of the ancestral prescription?

"It's highly likely."

However, the prescription that I saw didn't even have anything on it, not even the dosage.

Upon hearing that, Janice looked conflicted. "Rachel, have you ever thought about how this issue might be related to you?"

Rachel was taken aback. *What do you mean?*

"Selena and her daughter died twenty years ago and you were taken back to the Hudson Family by Jefferey at around the same time as well. Back then, he instructed for you to be taken care of, but he's now using you without any qualms..."

You're saying that my father did all of these because of the prescription...

Rachel felt her heart sink.

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Rachel was confused because she had never met those people whose names Janice had just mentioned. While Rachel never thought that she had anything to do with them, she couldn't explain why everything seemed to revolve around the prescription.

"Despite the lack of evidence to prove the connection between your return to the Hudson Family and those people's deaths, I can't help but think these two matters are somehow related, if we consider the timeline." Janice then asked in a hushed tone, "Did Grandma talk to you about the prescription?"

Upon hearing Janice's question, Rachel was stunned. When her grandma was still in the hospital, she had mentioned the prescription to Rachel, but her explanation was interrupted by other matters at that time,

No. Rachel gestured as a sign of denial.

Janice appeared to be disappointed. "It's alright. Let's not talk about it then. Anyway, I'll definitely help you to leave Riverdale. At the same time, you can be rest assured to know that I'll take care of the rest of the matters."

Thank you.

"You're welcome. Anyway, I have other matters to attend to, so I'll make a move first."

Rachel nodded as she watched Janice entering a jeep through the café window. Deep down in her heart, she felt sorry for lying to Janice although she didn't have

a choice. After all, Rachel's grandma used to educate her about how words were capable of misleading people. Thus, she decided not to discuss something she wasn't sure about until she understood what was going on.

As soon as Rachel returned to the library, her colleague had informed her, "Rachel, Miss Patterson came earlier. She wants you to deliver these files to the person in charge of the engineering department in Burton Group."

Rachel was taken aback as she was reminded of her casual encounter with Tina at the meeting the day before. *Alright, thank you.*

It was later in the afternoon when Rachel arrived at Burton Group's lobby where she typed a few words on her phone to show it to a lady at the front desk. 'Hi, I'd like to meet Director Roland of the engineering department!

The receptionist gave her a strange look. "Do you have an appointment?"

'I'm from the City Council Library. I'm here to discuss the library's architectural history with Director Roland!

"Please give me a moment. I'll make a call right now to confirm your appointment."

Rachel nodded and stood aside to wait.

"Hello, Sandy. Someone from the City Council Library is here and it looks like she has an appointment with Director Roland... Oh, sure, I'll let her in then." Upon hanging up the call, the receptionist turned to Rachel and said, "Alright, I've just confirmed your appointment. Please give me a moment."

'Thank you!

A few moments later, the elevator gave a short ring before someone in a pair of high heels walked out. "Nice to meet you. I'm Director Roland's secretary, Sandy Patterson. You must be Miss Hudson, right?"

Rachel responded with an affirmative gesture. Yes.

"Director Roland is still at the construction site and I'm just about to head there. Perhaps I could take you there with me?"

Rachel was stunned. *If you're too busy, I can come another day.*

"We're always busy in our line of work. Are you scared of going to the construction site?" Sandy knitted her eyebrows and elaborated, "Because I just received a phone call and was told that Director Roland has something rather urgent to talk to you about."

Okay then, *is it far from here?*

"Nope. It's not that far from here, actually. I'll drive." Sandy seemed like a nice person as she asked Rachel about the City Council Library while riding the elevator with her to the underground car park.

Soon, they hit the road as every single object outside the car window looked like they were traveling in the opposite direction at high speed. As the tall buildings in Riverdale City slowly disappeared from sight, the city view was then replaced by greenery and nature.

Meanwhile, Rachel was sitting on the front passenger seat when she took a look at her watch. Then,

she realized it was already 4 PM. *We still haven't arrived there yet?*

"We're almost there. This project site is the closest one to our company, in fact. The last project took us half a day for a round trip."

Upon hearing that, Rachel set her sights outside the window and wondered, *We're about to arrive at the border between Riverdale and Southville. If we keep going, we'll soon find ourselves on the East Coast.* After another thirty minutes of driving, she leaned against her seat and yawned just when the car finally pulled over.

"Here we are."

She exited the vehicle and followed Sandy when she heard the sound of tidal waves a close distance away. *Oh my god! I can't believe we're now on the East Coast.*

"This way, Miss Hudson."

Thank you. Rachel gestured to express her gratitude and wrapped herself in her sweater before she made her way to the beach. Soon, upon the sight of a lady standing by the seaside, she froze in her tracks, as if her legs were rooted into the ground.

"We meet again, Rachel" Tina wore a dress in the color of light beige while the bodyguard who held the umbrella above their heads acknowledged Rachel with a smile. At the sight of them, Rachel suddenly had a bad feeling and subconsciously backed away.

"Here is the person whom you've been looking for, Miss Burton. Perhaps I'll excuse myself then."

"Please do."

Rachel was left alone with Tina and her two bodyguards at that moment. Therefore, she gestured in a panicky manner and asked, *What do you want?*

"Relax. I just want to have a little chat with you. Look at how beautiful the sea view is." Tina's voice was accompanied by the sound of the rough waves, which sent chills down Rachel's spine. "Did you know that Henry loved enjoying the sea view? In fact, he once told me that he wanted to buy a house by the

seaside and live with me there so that he could watch the sunrise every morning. It was because of this that proposed the project of building a seaside resort. This piece of land that we're currently standing on will soon become that resort... Do you think there is a chance Henry can still see it?"

Rachel paused and expressed her thoughts with her hand gestures. *He is in a better place now. May he rest in peace.*

"He is dead!" Tina suddenly flipped and glared at Rachel like an angry beast. "You're the reason why he is dead. Do you know how it feels to be dead?"

At that moment, Tina seemed like a lunatic who had just lost her mind as she had a sinister and scary look. An intimidated and frightened Rachel took a step backward as she scanned her surroundings, only to realize there was no one else by the beach.

"Restrain her!"

As soon as the two bodyguards heard those cold words, they quickly grabbed Rachel and manhandled her.

In the meantime, she violently shook her head while staring at Tina like she wanted to say something desperately. However, the voices she made were drowned by the howling sea breeze as she was taken to the seaside, leaving traces of her struggle behind her on the beach.

On the other hand, Tina followed behind them while the wind caused her hair to billow wildly in the air. "Rachel, we all have to be responsible for the mistakes we make. Did you know you took a life just because you snitched on us?"

Rachel shook her head, wishing she could just shout with her voice that it wasn't her who snitched on Henry.

"I want to know how Henry felt before he died. I want to feel the way he did, so why don't you tell me about it?!" Tina didn't even bother to look at Rachel as she instructed the two bodyguards by simply moving her finger.

A second later, Rachel felt a violent force coming from behind her head, whereupon she was completely buried beneath the surface of the water. While the rough tidal waves kept hitting her in the face, her nostrils were also filled with the stench of the seawater. At the same time, she struggled with all her energy, feeling as if her limbs were about to snap, but even so, she couldn't free herself from the two men's strong grip.

After what felt like forever, the two bodyguards lifted her to the surface of the water. When the air she inhaled went down her throat, she couldn't stop shaking

and coughing violently, as if she was about to cough her lungs out. *I didn't do it! I didn't snitch on you guys!*

Just when Rachel thought Tina had retaliated enough, Tina raised her hands in the air and glared at Rachel to give her signal. Then, the sea water flooded into Rachel's nostrils once again. Although she could hear the sound of waves around her, she was being suffocated to the point where she no longer had the strength to fight back.

The Silent Wife Chapter 71

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Chapter 71

"Miss Burton, we're going to kill her if we continue doing this."

"Why should we be worried? If she dies in this situation, we'll just feed her body to the fishes in the sea. I want her to pay for Henry's death with her life!"

"Miss Burton, I wouldn't say anything if it'd someone else, but she is Young Master Justin's wife after

all."

Tina was rendered speechless before she warned, "Rachel, you better learn your lesson this time. Our game has only just started!" Then, she left with her men after making her point clear.

Then, Rachel crawled back to shore in a drenched state. The sea breeze concurrently blew and sent a cold chill down her spine, making her slouch as she frantically looked around her. A few moments had gone by as she failed to spot a single soul. Soon, she knew why she was alone after she realized that she was on a sea coast that was under development.

It was already after dark when Justin left the company and returned to Burton Residence. As soon as he stepped into the house, Sue quickly approached and greeted, "You're back just in time. Wash your hands and get ready for dinner."

He removed his vest and asked, "Is Rachel back?"

"Nope, what's wrong? Didn't you pick her up from work?" she probed even though she was happy to see him return without Rachel.

He frowned and looked at the time, thinking that Rachel should have been back by now because it was already considered late by the time he had finished his meeting. Thus, he took off his vest and walked toward the living room while making a phone call. "I'm sorry. The number you've dialed is currently unavailable. Please try again later." An intercept message was heard.

Sue added, "She is an adult, so what could possibly happen to her? Don't worry, Justin. Why don't you sit down and enjoy your dinner? She's probably returned to her maiden home or something."

Nevertheless, Justin seemed like he didn't hear Sue's words as he proceeded to make another phone call. "Hello? It's me. Is Rachel home?"

It was after hearing the other party's answer that he hung up the call and grabbed his vest before leaving.

Sue quickly gave chase and asked, "Where are you going late at night, Justin?"

A few moments later, he sped in his black sedan on the highway in Riverdale while Frankie's voice was heard from the earpiece. "I just asked the people from the library and they said Tina had a meeting about expanding their project there, in which she appointed Young Mistress Rachel to be the person in charge."

"Go on."

"After that, Young Mistress Rachel went to the Burton Group in the afternoon, but she was never seen again. Then, I requested the security department to show me the security footage, so I'm sure she was taken by someone from the engineering department."

"What about Tina then?"

"She was not in the office the whole day and it also appears that she can't be reached at the moment."

"Who took Rachel away?" The man's growl intimidated Frankie.

"I'll wait for you in front of Burton Group's entrance in twenty minutes. Bring our men with you!" Justin ordered with a glacial voice. Upon finishing his sentence, he removed his earpiece and tossed it onto the passenger seat next to him with a darkened expression.

Deep down in his heart, he reckoned Tina had a role in Rachel's disappearance, considering how lightly Tina regarded a person's life. After all, she had been spoiled until salt wouldn't save her since she was a little girl. In fact, his initial plan was to have Frankie oversee the City Council Library's construction project that was funded by Burton Group as he wanted to avoid any unwanted attention and interference.

Justin thought that Tina would go easy on Rachel since she was his wife, only to realize he was wrong after the fact

Twenty minutes later, he arrived at Burton Group when Frankie came with Director Roland. Moments after alighting from his car, Justin shut the door behind him and took big strides toward them.

“President-“Before Director Roland could finish his sentence, a heavy kick landed on his chest, whereupon it sent him staggering backward before he toppled over with a painful scream.

“You kidnapped her, didn’t you?” Justin’s rage was uncontrollable.

“President Burton, it wasn’t Director Roland who took her away. It was his secretary instead.” As he was scared by what he saw and heard, it took Frankie a while to make sense of what was happening before he anxiously explained, “Since Sandy lives out of the way from here, I don’t think we’re going to make it on time.”

Justin fixed his gaze on Director Roland. “*Your secretary?*”

At this moment, Director Roland was frightened out of his wits. “President Burton, I swear I don’t know anything about that! I really don’t know what’s going on.”

“Is that so?” Justin walked closer to him and asked, “So, are you saying your secretary did all this behind your back?”

Director Roland repeatedly nodded. “I was in a meeting for the entire afternoon, so I have no idea what has been going on.” As soon as he finished his words, Justin grabbed him by his collar, towering over the director like a huge mountain and suffocating him with the intimidating aura.

“I’m going to ask you one more time. Where did Tina tell you to take her to?” Justin’s glacial eyes seemed as if he had the intent to kill.

Frankie, who was standing beside him, answered, “Director Roland, do you know who Tina kidnapped? It’s President Burton’s wife! Do you have any idea what you’ve done?”

As soon as Director Roland heard that, his face paled. “What? She is... President Burton’s...” The moment the man stammered, he had accidentally given himself away that he was in fact aware of Rachel’s disappearance..

“I’ll talk!” He decided to cooperate, knowing he couldn’t get away with his mistake. “I’ll give Sandy a call right now and ask her where she took Rachel to.” Then, he rummaged through his pocket for his phone in front of Justin and Frankie before dialing his secretary’s number. Once the call was connected, he desperately asked, “Where did you take President Burton’s wife?”

A few moments later, Director Roland turned on the loudspeaker, whereupon Sandy’s trembling voice

was heard. “East Coast. I took her to the East Coast, but I didn’t know she’s the president’s wife! You need to save me, Director Roland!”

Save you? He’ll need to save himself first from the way I see it! Frankie thought.

After learning the exact location, Justin immediately entered his black car to start the engine before driving across Riverdale at lightning speed in the night.

On the other hand, Rachel was walking barefoot on the highway for what seemed like an eternity. Her phone was also out of battery as she simply couldn't switch it on. Then, she tried to flag a car down for help, but her sorry state had only scared every driver who approached her away. Because of that, she was forced to continue walking amidst the chilly wind as her entire body shook while she hugged her arms.

Not knowing how long she had been walking, her legs began to feel numb as she struggled to take a step forward. Soon, she felt so overwhelmingly dizzy that she had to stop and hold onto the railing by the roadside to take a rest. However, as soon as her hand came into contact with the railing, she felt as if the whole world was spinning around her shortly before she collapsed onto the ground.

In that instant, Rachel wondered how good it would be if she had just died there and then. After all, her death wouldn't need to be faked and she no longer needed to worry about her grandma's safety either.

While Rachel was absorbed in her thoughts, she was suddenly distracted by a car's glaring headlight that forced her to raise her arms with the last bit of energy to cover her eyes. Soon, the car pulled over by the roadside at a distance not far away from her, whereupon a tall silhouette emerged in the light and ran toward her.

The man anxiously called out, "Rae!"

Am I dreaming?

The Silent Wife Chapter 72

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Chapter 72

The tall figure ran toward Rachel. As the headlights shone on his back, it almost blinded her. Before she passed out, she could hear a familiar yet strange voice. She recognized it as a specific man's voice, but his panic and concern was alien to her. *It must be me hearing things.*

The black car then drove without a hitch on the highway toward Riverdale.

Rachel was roused by the warm breeze in the car. She drowsily opened her eyes to see the man driving at the front seat. (This novel will be daily updatad at)He looked solemn from the side as his slender fingers were on the steering wheel.

"You're awake?" Justin saw her from the back mirror. "Are you all right?"

She moved her arms, only to realize that a coat was draped over her. It smelled of cologne and tobacco. After being stunned for a while, she clenched her fists before reaching out to sign. *I'm fine.*

"Are you hurt?"

No.

"I'll take you to the hospital."

It's okay, I just need to head home and rest.

Even though the heater in the car was already turned on, Rachel was drenched since she was at sea and her body still remembered the sensation of walking for 2 hours in the ocean breeze. As a result, she shivered at that thought.

Thank you for coming to rescue me. I'm a little tired; I want to sleep for a bit.

Justin frowned before he slightly nodded. "Go to sleep then."

There was no further movement from the back seat. Then, he glanced at the mirror to notice that she had already curled up into a ball under his coat. She looked like a stray cat that had been bullied and his frown deepened at that sight.

Rachel actually hadn't slept. She had buried her face in the coat, thinking that Justin knew what Tina was going to do to her since he was able to quickly locate her, yet he had allowed it to happen.

Justin and Rachel were still a long way from Riverdale and they had remained silent throughout the entire journey.

The car finally pulled up at the garage of Burton Residence. Then, he carried her out from the back seat. (This novel will be daily updated at)She was shivering as she hid under the coat and even her lips were pale.

"Young Master Justin."

"Where's Julian? Get him upstairs." As he left the cold words behind him, Justin carried Rachel away.

The servants in the Burton Residence couldn't help but stare with eyes as wide as saucers while they watched him carry her up the stairs.

"How did she end up like this?"

The moment Julian saw Rachel's condition, his face went as pale as a white sheet. "Justin, what did you do to her?"

Justin was indignant. "I just found her and brought her back. What do you think I did to her?" He balled

his hands into fists, the expression on his face shifting.

If it weren't for the fact that Rachel was still unconscious, Julian really wanted to pester her and ask what had happened. What was Justin trying to do?

Julian took a thermometer and checked her temperature. "She has a fever."

"Is it serious?"

"Depends on the person." He didn't even look at Justin as he explained, "If the person is weak, the fever can affect their brain or induce other symptoms. She hasn't even fully recovered and her leg's still injured! How did she end up like this? Where did you find her?"

Upon seeing the filth on Rachel's face, Julian shouted as he could no longer control his anger.

As Sue and Mrs. Duncan eavesdropped from the other side of the door, his shout suddenly startled them. Sue hastily moved to open the door to go in, but Mrs. Duncan held her back.

Surprisingly, Justin was slow to anger. His gaze fell upon Rachel's tightly closed eyes before he pushed out two words between his teeth, "The beach."

The beach? Julian was stunned before he tried to calm himself down. "Get someone to change her into clean clothes. (This novel will be daily updated at) I have some fever medicine with me and I'll let her take some while observing how it goes. If her fever recedes by tomorrow morning, she'll be fine. If the fever persists, we'll have to get her to the hospital."

"Okay."

"Justin, I still want to remind you about one thing." Julian stood up and squarely faced Justin. "She is a real live human being. I don't care how you married her. She's a good girl, so even if you don't like her, you can't torment her."

Justin's voice was lowered as he replied, "Just get the medicine."

Julian thought that Justin didn't care about whatever he said, which caused Julian's handsome face to be distorted in anger. He then clenched his fists and left in fury.

It was deep into the night when a night breeze picked up on the balcony, which hinted at an incoming rainfall.

"Mr. Burton, Director Roland's a senior in the engineering department, so his skill in the profession is unquestionable. He was confused this time around and it

really could be Tina who pushed him to it. It may not have been his intention to do it, so I'm afraid it wouldn't be appropriate to fire him just like that."

Justin's tone was cold. "So, you mean to say that he is allowed to do anything as long as he didn't mean to?"

On the other side of the phone, Frankie was so scared that he shuddered and lacked the courage to raise any objections again.

"Get the HR department to look for his substitute."

Justin turned his back to the wind and lit a cigarette. He didn't manage to get many puffs before the wind scattered it. "What about Henry's death?"

Frankie came around and responded gingerly, "We're still investigating it, so there should be some news soon."

"Get someone to keep an eye on Tina for the time being."

"Understood."

After the call ended, Justin extinguished the cigarette and he strode into the house.

Rachel had already taken the medicine and headed off to sleep since she was still in a drowsy and feverish state. Her pale cheeks were lined with fine beads of sweat, which reminded him of that day when she passed out after he had forced medicine down her throat.

He felt his heart turning cold and after a long while, he sat down by the bed to hold her hand. (This novel will be daily updated at) She whimpered. It sounded so pitiful and her eyebrows were knitted so tightly, as if she was trapped in a nightmare.

"Rae," Justin called her name, but he didn't receive any response.

It was true that Rachel was in the midst of a dream. She was dreaming about the fire-the one that had haunted her from her younger days up until now. Every time she had that dream, the more she suspected that it was not a dream, but a real memory hidden somewhere in her mind; yet, she couldn't clearly recall it.

It was already noon the next day when Rachel woke up. She reached out and felt for the alarm clock on the bedside table. *11am?*

When she noticed that, she hastily threw the blanket aside and got out of bed.

Right at that moment, the door clicked to announce Justin's arrival-he was carrying a bowl of congee with his hands. "You're awake?"

Rachel felt a little awkward as she managed to plaster a smile on her face. *I just woke up. Aren't you going to the office today? I have to head into work now.*

"I helped you to take the day off." He placed the bowl down and replied earnestly, "So, you don't have to go to work today. You woke up at the right time. Here, have something to eat."

I can't. The library's expansion is especially crucial in its early stage. I cannot take leave just like that.

As soon as Rachel finished signing, Justin's large hand pressed on her shoulders until she surrendered and sat down. "I already said that I took the day off for you. You are not in the condition to do any strenuous work."

She would never have beaten him in terms of stubbornness, but she suddenly found it weird that he had the patience to convince her like this. In fact, she was bewildered at the fact and sat on the bed again in a daze.

"Have some congee." Justin pointed toward the bedside table. "It's with seafood."

Rachel shook her head. *Thank you, but I'm not hungry. Just leave it aside.*

He frowned as indignance crept onto his face-it was an obvious premonition to another outburst. She instinctively tensed as her face paled.

Upon seeing her so weak and frightened, Justin suddenly felt endless annoyance. After a while, he

suppressed his emotions and reached out with his long arm to take the bowl. "Open your mouth."

Rachel stared in disbelief at the spoon being brought right in front of her.