

The Silent Wife

Chapter 9 Things Turn Out Contrary to Her Wishes

- Rachel stayed in the hospital the whole time. However, Jefferey called her again at 10.00PM. She stared at the phone for a long time without answering it, but the screen continued to flash rapidly. In the end, she gritted her teeth and answered the phone.
- Jefferey's voice was unusually cold. "I heard from Amber that you left the Burton Residence this morning, so I figured that you must be at the hospital with your grandmother. You should know why I stopped paying the hospital bills, right?"
- Rachel pressed her lips together, knowing it was because she had failed to accomplish what he previously told her to do.
- Then, she heard Jefferey sneer. He threatened, "Do you not want to go back to the Burton Residence anymore? I'm telling you, Rachel—you must go back! If you refuse to return, I'll make all the hospitals in the city afraid to take your grandmother in. You know that I can do so. Of course, if you don't believe me, you can give it a bold try. If your grandmother dies unexpectedly, you'll be the one killing her."
- Rachel's expression changed; she held her cell phone tightly and breathed rapidly in fear. At this moment, she wished she could speak and vent all the resentment she harbored against this father of hers.
- Having achieved his goal, Jefferey smiled in satisfaction. "You'd better be obedient, or else you won't be able to bear the consequences."
- After Jefferey hung up, Rachel looked at her grandmother as she continued to lie on her sickbed. She thought bitterly to herself, Had I been a little more successful in life, I wouldn't have been at Dad's disposal, nor would Grandma's illness have dragged on until now.
- Soon, it was 11.00PM. After taking a deep breath, Rachel took a taxi back to the Burton Residence. The servants had gone to rest by then; since Rachel hadn't had anything to eat since this morning, she walked lightly to the kitchen to grab a quick bite. However, as soon as she reached the living room, she was startled by a dark silhouette leaning against the wall in a corner. Apparently, the man had spotted her as well. Why is Justin here? Where's Amber? she thought to herself.
- When he saw her looking around, Justin narrowed his eyes and asked, "What are you looking for?"
- Rachel took out her pen and paper and wrote, 'Amber.'
- Justin's eyes darkened. Staring at the woman's face, he then asked, "Aren't you afraid that I might replace you with her?"
- Rachel was stunned by Justin's question. For a moment, she didn't know what to say.
- Justin lightly flicked the cigarette butt between his fingertips that hadn't burned to the end with his fingers, and the cigarette butt fell to the floor, its sparks dying out bit by bit. Then, he raised his eyes and looked at her. "Amber is staying at the Burton Residence. I hope you'll understand what to say and what not to say in front of her in the future."

- Rachel was startled. Was he warning her not to make Amber angry? She slowly dropped her eyes upon recalling how Amber looked like she was determined to win Justin's heart during the daytime. Her sister had always bullied her over the years, so why would Rachel cross Amber on her own accord? If possible, she wished she had no dealings with Amber forever. Unfortunately, things turned out contrary to her wishes.
- As it turned out, Amber knocked on the door of Rachel's room the next morning. "Rachel, I heard from Madam Parham that the pond in the backyard is quite a fun place. Would you like to go with me to have a look at it?" She looked at Rachel expectantly like a vivacious and harmless little girl.
- Rachel looked around imperceptibly and found that Mrs. Duncan and the other servants were keeping a close eye in their direction. Perhaps the Burtons might say something about me again if I refuse to go, she thought to herself. Therefore, she nodded in agreement.
- The two sisters walked together in the Burton Residence's courtyard. It had to be said that the Burton Residence was simply too magnificent, for even Rachel sighed to herself. It was said that Arthur stepped down from his position ten years ago and had been recuperating physically and mentally at the Burton Residence since then, whereas Justin managed everything and was even more powerful than Arthur had been back when he was in his prime. No one could take advantage of Justin in the commercial world, and numerous people were eager to ingratiate themselves with him.
- The pond in the backyard of the Burton Residence—the residence of a family with an abundance of manpower and wealth—was as large as an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and there were all kinds of precious fishes swimming in it. Rachel stood on the classical-style bridge with Amber as they looked down and appreciated the scenery.
- For the next one or two hours, Amber happily enjoyed the scenery, and both sisters got along well enough without any trouble. However, as they were about to leave, Rachel—who had been walking ahead of Amber—was suddenly pushed by the latter from behind. She nearly tripped, but when she steadied herself and looked back, Amber had fallen into the fish pond with a splash. "Help! Help—"
- Rachel was stunned on the spot as Amber's cheap trick was too obvious. How could the large Burton Residence not have any surveillance cameras installed? Amber would give herself away once the surveillance videos were checked. However, she had always been a clever one. Could she have not thought about this?

Chapter 10 I Didn't Push Her

- Before long, Amber's cries for help had drawn a group of people from the front hall. As Rachel had expected, the first thing Amber did after being rescued from the pond was to question her tearfully, "Why did you push me, Rachel?"
- Rachel frowned at the sight of the reproachful eyes from the people around her. However, with so many people watching, what ought to be explained had to be explained. She shook her head while explaining with sign language. I didn't push her.
- Amber, the only person at the scene who could understand what she was signing, snickered in her heart. She pretended to look shocked and replied

loudly, "Did you say that you hate me? Rachel... Why would you hate me? We're blood sisters... How could you be so cruel?"

- Rachel's expression turned cold, for Amber had wilfully distorted the meaning of her explanation. Judging from the peculiar expressions of those around her, they obviously believed Amber's lies. Thanks to the lies that Amber deliberately spread, everyone in the Burton Residence knew that Justin loved Amber but ended up marrying Rachel—the one who had schemed to get married to him. As a result, they loathed Rachel and sympathized with Amber. Moreover, the latter won their favor with her honeyed words.
- "The way I see it, she did it because she's envious of Miss Amber."
- "What a vicious woman she is! She even laid a hand on her sister."
- "She looks pitiful on the outside, but she has such a wicked heart."
- Amber felt smug deep down inside upon hearing the comments around her, yet she pretended to look aggrieved as she turned to Sue. "What happened isn't what you think it is, Madam Parham. My sister didn't do it on purpose!"
- Sue's eyes were as piercing as knives as she scolded Rachel harshly, "What a dishonest and vicious woman you are! A woman like you doesn't have to stay at the Burton Residence anymore!"
- Amber even added fuel to the fire as she said, "Please let my sister off, Madam Parham. I understand her; if it weren't for my sudden visit to the Burton Residence, she wouldn't have been provoked to the point of doing this to me."
- Rachel looked even colder upon hearing what everyone had said. How could she not understand Amber's purpose in doing this? She simply wanted to drive her away from the Burton Residence, and Sue, who happened to have the same idea in mind, played along with her. The two women clicked instantly as they took advantage of each other.
- Nonetheless, how could Rachel let herself be made a scapegoat? She took out the pen and paper that she had brought with her in her handbag and wrote, 'I'd like to request to have the surveillance videos checked to prove my innocence.'
- However, Amber didn't get nervous at all; instead, she was emboldened by Sue's support. "I really won't blame you, Rachel. Just admit it; even if you have the surveillance videos checked, you'll only get humiliated even further."
- Just then, Mrs. Duncan chimed in, "The surveillance camera is broken, Madam."
- Sue glanced at Mrs. Duncan and nodded. She lied through her teeth, "That's right. It has been broken for several days, and the repairman will be coming to fix it tomorrow."
- All of a sudden, Rachel wanted to laugh; this was clearly the crappiest set-up. These women were from wealthy and distinguished families. Crafty as they were, they couldn't have possibly been unable to tell what actually happened, yet they deliberately ignored the truth. They probably had the surveillance cameras switched off in advance, which was why they didn't have anything to fear. It wasn't that Amber had succeeded in setting her up; it was just that everyone here never accepted her. To them, it didn't matter whether she was right or wrong. All that mattered was that only Amber was worthy of Justin, and she—a mute—was not!
- Rachel initially thought that Amber was the only person behind this set-up, but she didn't expect that everyone in the Burton Residence would gang up with her sister and target her. Perhaps this has been premeditated? she thought to herself.

- As it turned out, Rachel was right. Sue took advantage of the situation and demanded, “Now that you’ve done something so wrong, it is useless no matter how you explain it. You must apologize to Amber!”
- Rachel’s hands clenched into fists at her sides. After all, an apology would be an admission of wrongdoing in a different form. Right now, she was enduring everyone’s scornful and contemptuous gazes like a universally condemned vicious woman. She took a deep breath, looked at everyone in a dignified manner, and wrote down her stance. ‘Why should I apologize for something that I didn’t do?’

Chapter 11 The Best Mother in the World

- Sue frowned in displeasure. This mute simply won’t back down! she thought to herself. “The servants around have seen you pushing Amber into the pond. Do you still want to make excuses for yourself?”
- These people were far away in the front hall when Amber fell into the pond. Do they have clairvoyance? She didn’t even bother to tell a more convincing lie, Rachel thought to herself. Her jaw was set. Evidently, she didn’t believe such a ridiculous excuse.
- The atmosphere was tense for a moment; the Burton Family purposely said that the surveillance camera was broken, yet Rachel couldn’t forcibly have the surveillance videos checked. Just then, a familiar and gentle voice spoke from behind them. “I can prove that she didn’t push the other woman.”
- Rachel was stunned when she saw who the visitor was. Isn’t he... Dr. Peters?
- The slender young man walked toward them and came to Sue’s side. He said, “I’m back, Mom.”
- Sue beamed with delight at once as she affectionately held her son’s arm. “Weren’t you supposed to come back this afternoon, Julian? Why did you come back in advance?”
- Julian answered with a smile, “Actually, I came back half a month ago—it’s just that I interned at the hospital for some time. I came back today to give you a surprise at first, but I didn’t expect to see such a scene.” As he spoke of this, his eyes fell on Amber, and his smile faded somewhat. “I clearly saw you falling into the pond yourself. Why did you accuse Miss Hudson of pushing you into the pond?”
- Everyone was stunned upon hearing his words. In particular, Amber had a slight change in countenance, and she bit her lip. “I... I... I felt like Rachel pushed me. P-Perhaps... I was wrong.”
- Mrs. Duncan was about to say something, but Sue instantly silenced her with a glance. After all, she knew how stubborn her son was. Now that he had seen it, the tension would only rise if others continued to mislead him. At the thought of this, she turned to look at Rachel in a disapproving attitude. “You and Amber are sisters. She isn’t an outsider, so a little misunderstanding isn’t a big deal.”
- Amber nodded vigorously as she took the opportunity Sue had given her to get herself out of the awkward situation. “That’s right, Rachel. I must’ve mistaken someone else for you, and I’m sorry about that. Don’t take it to heart.”

- However, Rachel didn't want to accept Amber's perfunctory apology, so she didn't give the latter even a look in response. Instead, she fixed her eyes on Julian. This man has helped me once again, she thought to herself. As she was really grateful, she thanked him with a gesture.
- Since he understood what her gesture meant, Julian nodded at Rachel. In reality, he was also surprised at first. He didn't expect the lady whom he had met once at the hospital and felt well-disposed to would be his cousin-in-law. For some reason, he had a strange feeling; it was as though he found this regrettable. However, he didn't give it much thought as he could only turn his eyes back to Sue. "Let's drop the matter here, Mom."
- Sue understood that Julian didn't want them to go on. That's the kind of person he is. He always steps in whenever he encounters an injustice because of his particularly strong sense of right and wrong, she thought to herself. Since she didn't want to upset her son over such a trivial matter, she nodded with a smile and replied, "Let's go. I haven't seen you for so many years, so let's have a nice chat."
- The crowd then left slowly, leaving only Rachel and Amber at the scene. Amber got up from the ground and stared at Rachel with a slightly peculiar look in her eyes. "Do you know Julian in person?"
- Rachel ignored her, though.
- Amber quipped, "Rachel... As expected, you and your mother are people of the same sort." She then left, leaving a cold-looking Rachel behind.
- Ever since Rachel went to live with the Hudson Family more than ten years ago, Amber had been accusing her of being the daughter of a homewrecker, insinuating that her mother had given birth to her by seducing Jefferey. When Rachel was little, she wished she could tell them that her mother wasn't that kind of person. Her mother was not only of gentle disposition but also talented and well-versed in literature; she was the best mother in the world! However, it wasn't until she had grown up that she found how foolish she had been. Why would a bunch of bloodsuckers who couldn't tell right from wrong care about the truth?