

All of the parents were so angry that they were speechless.

"I won! I won!" Tyler ran toward Sonia while he was still panting, but there was an obvious hint of excitement in his voice. "I looked so good when I smashed the ball just now! Did you see it? Did you take a photo of it?"

"No." She brushed her hair emotionlessly, as if the person who cheered for him just now wasn't her at all.

"Y-You are lying. I could clearly see you—"

"You were playing for yourself and your brother. It has nothing to do with me, so why should I look? Alright, now. Stop blocking me. I need to help you sign that contract." She pushed him aside and walked toward the coach before switching to a more polite tone. "I'm sorry for taking up your time."

Listening to her, Tyler was speechless.

Meanwhile, Zane took a photo of Tyler's shocked expression before wrapping his arm across the latter's shoulders and asked, "I heard that you bullied her every day when she was in the Fuller Residence.

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Now, the tables have turned. How does it feel being bullied by her?"

"I'm a man so I won't argue with her!" Tyler let out a grunt.

"What are you standing there for?" Suddenly, Sonia turned around and rolled her eyes at him.

Don't you want to continue playing basketball? Come over and sign the contract!"

Since it was a big deal in his life, Tyler quickly ran over and signed the contract.

Then, the coach informed the students and their parents that a car would be sent over to pick them up to the training base by then. After a few conversations, the coach left with his team and the parents also left with their children.

Sonia and Tyler left the basketball court, and the latter kept on flipping the contract in his hands as if this was all a dream.

Actually, when Sonia declined his call this evening, Tyler had called Tina instead, asking for her help.

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However, she tactfully told him that she was still recovering in the hospital, so it was inconvenient for her to help. "Tyler, you should listen to your brother and stop making him angry."

As Tyler was about to give up all hope, Sonia arrived in the end.

Not only did she help him teach those parents a lesson, she stood firmly on his side and without making him fear Toby, she said to him, "I want you to play this game seriously."

As Tyler lifted his head and stared at Sonia in front of him, his eyes seemed to be shrouded in golden light even though the sky had darkened and the sun was already gone. Yet, he looked at her in awe, as if she was his savior.

After shoving the contract into his bag, he caught up to her and walked alongside her. "Sonia, you look so good in this outfit today and it really brings out your figure. No supermodel can outshine you!"

Listening to his words, Sonia was left speechless. The moment she turned around and saw the gullible sincerity in his eyes, she could feel the goosebumps all

over her body.

While rubbing her arm, she said, "I'm not a part of the family anymore, so you should call me Miss Reed."

"Yes, Miss Reed." He was quick to change his words.

After she helped him out so much, he wouldn't even hesitate to call her his mother at the moment.

When they arrived in front of the car, he quickly took a step forward to open the back door of the car. "Miss Reed, please have a seat. Be careful with your head."

Sonia, on the other hand, felt awkward about the situation, so she quickly got into the car.

"What are you doing?" Zane came over and nudged Tyler. "Why are you so attentive with her? Do you actually fancy your ex-sister-in-law?" he asked with great interest.

"What are you thinking about? I'm only sixteen!"

"It's not a bad idea." He flicked the soot of his cigarette and continued teasing Tyler.

"You are young, energetic and much better than your brother because you are passionate. Maybe she likes you."

Meanwhile, Tyler's face was burning red as he angrily sat on the passenger seat without uttering a word.

When they were talking, Sonia just so happened to lower the car window to get some fresh air, so she heard every word they said and was rendered speechless by Zane's teasing.

It's hard to believe that an indifferent person like Toby would be good friends with a guy like Zane. Nothing makes sense!

She rubbed her temples to ease the headache before taking her phone out to see if there was any work left to deal with, but she realized that she had received a few messages, one of which was from Z-H.

She wondered who this person was since she didn't set a name for the number but after clicking in, she immediately saw the 88888 transfer above.

After he replied to me that day, I probably had so many things to deal with that I

forgot to delete his contact.

Just as she was about to delete the person, she saw the message he sent her 30 minutes ago: 'The owner of the Continental Co. is currently at Mt Buller Resort.'

Z-H also shared the location with her.

How did he find out about the whereabouts of the owner?

Therefore, she sent a message to him, 'Who are you? How did you know that I'm looking for the owner of the Continental Co? Are you looking into me?'

Far away inside the Fuller Group's office, Toby furrowed his brows slightly when he received her message.

She didn't recognize me that night? To be fair, she was really drunk that night, so she probably blacked out afterward and forgot everything the next day.

Just as he was about to send the word 'Toby' that he just typed, he suddenly remembered that the two of them were divorced. *If she finds out what happened that night, she'll definitely feel so*

embarrassed that she won't accept my help.

In the end, he deleted his name and retyped the message before sending it to her.

Z-H: 'I'm Zane's friend and I know about you through him. He told me that you are his business partner, so I want to help you acquire the Continental Co.. A friend of mine just so happened to meet the owner when he went on a holiday at the Mt Buller Resort, so he kept on bragging about it in our chat group. Since you gave me quite a lot of money the last time, you can have this information for free.'

After carefully reading the man's message, Sonia finally put her guard down.

Looks like he is just Zane's friend.

After thanking the man, she quickly lifted her head and stared at Zane, who was driving, her eyes full of doubt.

Why would Zane's friend just so happen to appear in front of me that night? Plus, I even threw myself into his arms and...

Meanwhile, Zane seemed to realize that she was staring at him, so he stopped his

conversation with Tyler and glanced at her through the rear-view mirror. "President Reed, what kind of expression is that? Could it be that you are moved by what I just told you?"

"What is it?" Tyler quickly asked him. "What did you tell her? Why would she be moved?"

"Do you really want to know?" Zane raised his brows and purposely spoke slowly. "Just a few moments ago, I told her that I'm better and more handsome than your brother—"

"Mr. Coleman, if you don't want to drive the car, you can always get the hell out. I'll drive myself!" She could no longer stand him.

After letting out a grunt, he didn't continue with his words. Instead, he turned to Tyler and said, "There is a saying that you'll become the person you are living with. Don't you think that Miss Reed's temperament is similar to your brother's after she spent six years of her life with him?"

As Tyler thought about it, he nodded. "You're not wrong."

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Meanwhile, Sonia was rendered speechless as she listened to the two of them. *I really want to grab a roll of tape underneath the seat and seal that mouth of his!*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

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Tyler spent a huge amount of money to treat Sonia and Zane to dinner, and he was evidently quite proud of himself as he swaggered into the house.

He had already signed the contract for tryouts. Meanwhile, both Zane and Sonia had promised to keep this a secret for the time being. By the time he passed tryouts and officially joined the national basketball team, Tyler would no longer be fearful of Toby's wrath because it would be insignificant. And so, Tyler hummed a tune as he walked into the foyer to change into his bedroom slippers. However, he entered the living room and was caught by surprise upon seeing Toby sitting on the couch. The latter was dressed in loungewear and was currently smoking a cigarette quite relaxedly.

"T-Toby!" Tyler jumped up in fright and stammered slightly, "W-Why are you back so early? I thought Tina's still in the hospital. Why aren't you there to see her?"

Toby glanced at him. "Have you had your dinner?"

"Yes, I have."

"Come over here." Toby flicked the ash off

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his cigarette by the side of the ashtray using his index finger. "Let's chat."

Just then, Tyler could feel a cold sensation run down his spine. *D*mn! Did Tina tell him that I'm going to join the tryouts?* Tyler clutched his backpack and walked forward with trepidation. Then, he took a seat on the couch next to Toby, but his whole body remained quite tense. "Toby, it's all my fault—" he started.

Tyler had planned to admit his mistake and take full responsibility for everything. *The worst punishment he can inflict on me is to make me face the wall, so that's not a big deal.* Tyler wanted to prevent Toby from investigating this any further, lest the latter confronted Sonia about it.

"Go ahead and play basketball if that's what you're really keen to do." Tyler had barely said anything but was interrupted by Toby before he even finished his sentence.

Tyler stared at the other man in disbelief and he wondered whether he had misheard something. "Toby, did you agree for me to... play basketball?"

"Yeah, go ahead," Toby replied nonchalantly. "Do whatever makes you

happy. I won't stop you from it, and that includes playing basketball too. I'll talk to Mom about it."

Toby had rewatched the two video clips sent by Zane when he reached home at night and he had contemplated the situation for quite some time because of Sonia's words. Finally, he managed to come to terms with everything. He had entered the family business when he was in school because of his exceptional talent for business. Furthermore, he wasn't against it either. However, Tyler disliked finance and clearly had no intention to work for the Fuller Group.

Earlier on, Toby had rung up the coach who had gone to Tyler's school today. The former could sense the coach's strong liking toward Tyler from his words. The coach had praised him throughout their conversation and insisted that such great talent should be cultivated well and someday, Tyler would definitely shine in the athletic world. Just then, Toby realized that he shouldn't force Tyler to take over the family business if the latter was reluctant to. Otherwise, he might end up hating him. Besides, he didn't want to stifle Tyler's talent in playing basketball either.

"Is this for real?" Tyler's eyes sparkled. Feeling shocked, he couldn't quite believe his ears. "Tony, you're awesome! You're the most liberal-minded brother in the whole wide world! Don't worry! I won't let you down. I'll definitely make it into the national team and win lots of medals!"

Upon hearing that, Toby responded, "This is the path you choose for yourself so you have to persevere in it. Don't bring yourself or the family name into disrepute."

"Noted!" Tyler nodded vehemently before serving Toby a glass of water and some fruits. "Toby, did you win a tender today? I feel like you're way more patient and understanding than normal."

"So, what were your true thoughts of me previously?" Toby revealed a half-smile and glanced at him. "Fierce?"

Meanwhile, Tyler scratched his head and replied in a low voice, "Not really. In the past, I felt more like one of your subordinates working for you. Listening to you speak could be quite nerve-wracking."

Toby laughed out loud and maintained his silence for a short while before saying, "It's because a woman taught me an important

lesson today." *Throughout all these years, I'd assumed that I knew everything but after listening to Sonia's words today, I realized that I never paid attention to Tyler's actual thoughts. I always maintained an authoritative stance in front of Tyler and never showed him any concern as a brother, so we never really had a close relationship.*

"Wow! What sort of woman would dare to behave so insolently and tell you off?"

Tyler questioned with a surprised tone of voice. "Was she your discipline teacher from school?"

Toby chose not to answer. Instead, he casually asked, "What did you have for dinner with Sonia tonight?"

"We had hotpot for dinner and it was amazing. I ate four platters of meat just by myself..." Tyler was full of praise for the dinner he had eaten that night and he chatted incessantly about it. Suddenly, he realized that something was amiss and he immediately stopped mid-sentence.

"*Uh—I have some unfinished homework to do... Toby, I'll head upstairs first!*" Tyler grabbed his backpack and hurriedly left the room. As soon as he reached the top of the stairs, he turned back and yelled,

"Toby, don't smoke so much! Sonia mentioned that smoking too much hastens one's death!"

Toby shot him a cold look upon hearing that. Frightened, Tyler lowered his head and scurried off.

As for Toby, he stared intently at the half of a cigarette in his hand. He distinctly recalled that night he had with Sonia and the kiss filled with cigarette smoke that they shared. Just then, he felt his crotch tighten. Suddenly, he lost his urge to smoke and flung the cigarette into the ashtray.

.....

Sonia dialed to ask Charles for the time. Then, they caught a flight early in the morning, five days before the spring festival, to head back to Norfolk.

Mt Buller Resort was located at the northern tip of Norfolk. Being one of the largest ski field resorts in the country, every year during wintertime, there were plenty of people who flocked to the resort for a ski trip.

There were many cabs waiting outside the

airport to send passengers off to the resort. In the cab as they were along the way to the resort, Sonia took in the pretty snow scene outside the window. She then asked Charles, "Don't you feel cold skiing outside in a temperature below freezing point?"

"Of course not. We're clad in ski attire!" Charles was well-aware that Sonia didn't enjoy being among crowds so she didn't have much experience in such extreme sports. He responded by lifting his brows. "I was once the national champion in skiing. Would you like me to be your instructor and give you some tips? What do you say?"

She merely rolled her eyes at him. "We're here on a business trip. We're not here for fun!"

"Alright, alright. Business is much more important than me!" He heaved a sigh. "The schedule of the boss of Continental Co. should be a well-kept secret. How did you manage to get hold of this private information?"

"Don't ask. It's good enough to know that he's here." She turned her head in the other direction to look outside the window and

ignored him. *I can't quite mention that it was my casual fling who gave me the information!*

As soon as they arrived at the resort, Sonia and Charles proceeded to the hotel to check into their rooms.

She was lost in thought on finding a way to strike up a conversation with the boss of Continental Co. when she noticed that he had just walked in with his friends after a skiing session. Coincidentally, they bumped into each other while walking into the hotel.

"President Drew." Sonia moved forward and greeted the man standing in front. "My name is Sonia Reed and I'm the vice-president of Paradigm Co."

Sonia had looked up the background of the boss of Continental Co.—Ryan Drew—upon receiving the information. She found out that his father was also an entrepreneur but he had amassed his fortune by starting up his own business. He refused to accept any help from his father due to their conflict and would rather let Continental Co. go into receivership than accept any money from his father.

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This was a good thing though because it provided her with the perfect opportunity.

"I know you. You're Paradigm Co's newly-appointed female vice-president." Ryan extended an arm and shook her hand, a faint smile on his face. "It's such a coincidence meeting you here."

"It's not a coincidence. Actually, I came here specifically to see you." Sonia realized that he wasn't completely clueless about things so there was really no point in hiding anything. "I noticed that you just came back in from skiing. Could you spare ten minutes of your time for me once you've caught your breath? I would like to discuss something with you."

Ryan responded by saying, "Sure, I'll contact you after I've taken my rest. See you later." Then, he left immediately upon saying that.

"He didn't even ask for your phone number. There's no way he's going to call you!" Charles snorted by the side. "Why don't we go after him right now and make him have the discussion with us? His company will eventually go into receivership anyway so wouldn't it be easier if he just agreed to our merger?"

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"Do you think that everyone is as shameless as you?" Sonia muttered annoyedly. "Perhaps he has our company number."

Charles gave an icy chuckle in response.

In the end, Sonia did not receive any call from Ryan although one full day had gone by.

Meanwhile, Charles didn't hold back with his snide remarks either. "Baby, look at that. I told you he was going to ignore you but you didn't believe my words. Do you trust me now?"

Sonia, on the other hand, was seemingly at a loss for words. "Stop rubbing salt into my wound!"

"I've asked the front desk and he's gone skiing with his friends again." Charles placed his arms around Sonia's shoulders and steered her toward the ski field outside. "Let's go, then. Let's go look for him at the ski field!"

"The ski field is huge. Are you sure we'll be able to locate him?"

"If we can't locate him then we'll just enjoy

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ourselves skiing.”

Upon hearing that, Sonia was at a loss for words.

As they walked out of the hotel, the elevator door opened from behind them and out walked a man and a woman.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

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Tina held onto the man's arms with a smile on her face and said cheerily, "I was in a coma for so long that I've forgotten how to ski. Once we arrive at the skiing field later, you'll have to be my skiing instructor!"

Toby glanced at her leg and asked with a frown, "Are you sure that your leg is fine?"

"It's just a minor wound. Besides, I've been hospitalized for so long and I've recovered ages ago." Tina smiled lightly and held onto his arm tightly. "It's rare for you to accompany me for a trip when you have the time, so of course I want to share the fun with you."

"Okay," Toby responded calmly.

Tina had mentioned that she wanted to have some fun once she was discharged from the hospital. Coincidentally, Toby had some spare time so he decided to accompany her. However, he didn't expect her to plan a trip to Mt. Buller Resort. *It's quite likely that Sonia's here to see Thomas after getting the information from me.*

...

Sonia and Charles went to the equipment shop to rent their ski attire and equipment

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as soon as they entered the ski field. Then, they changed into their attire in the changing room.

The skiing boots and jacket were quite heavy but fortunately for Sonia, she became used to them relatively quickly. She walked down to find that each ski trail was full of people.

She scanned the place and realized that everyone looked identical in their ski attire. After searching for Thomas at several ski trails, she was exhausted and her eyes felt quite uncomfortable. "The ski field is massive. Charles, have you caught sight of President Drew?" There was no response from him for quite some time and Sonia turned around, only to find that there was no one behind her.

"Baby, were you looking for me?" Charles zoomed toward her from the slope above and he did a perfect turn on his skis before stopping right in front of her.

Angered beyond words, Sonia muttered, "I asked you to come along and help me find President Drew. How dare you go skiing?"

"There are so many people here and everyone's spread out all over the place.

There's no way I can locate anyone here!" Charles grabbed his skis and dragged her along. "Let's go, baby. I'll teach you how to ski. I'm sure you'll turn out to be a formidable skier from my intensive coaching."

Speechless, Sonia surveyed the massive ski field and realized that it was indeed quite crowded. In the end, she couldn't help feeling resigned.

Just then, Charles dragged Sonia to the beginner's slope. "This is the beginner's slope and it's not so challenging. It's suitable for a newbie like you. Once you get used to your skis, you'll be able to move around freely. By then we can head to the other intermediate slopes with a higher incline."

It finally dawned upon Sonia and she murmured, "No wonder there are not that many people here and most of them have someone accompanying them. It's because this is the beginner's slope." She peered around and all of a sudden, she saw a couple enter the ski trail. Coincidentally, it was someone she was quite familiar with.

Tina saw Sonia too and her expression

turned cold instantaneously. Soon after that, the former plastered a smile on her face and greeted the latter, "Miss Reed, it's such a coincidence to meet you and your boyfriend here."

"Miss Gray, we're actually not that close to each other so there's no need for you to force yourself to greet us," Charles responded lazily. "Why don't you pester your darling President Fuller to spoil you? You should get him to take over this whole ski field and prohibit us from entering. Then, there's no chance of us coming into contact with each other!"

Upon hearing that, Tina pursed her lips. "Mr. Lane, I don't recall doing anything to offend you. I have to say that your words are simply too extreme!"

"Have you forgotten about the incident at the club?" Charles suddenly exclaimed with surprise and continued, "Oh—that makes sense then! You only have President Fuller on your mind because you're overly anxious that your recycled husband will be taken by someone else. Obviously, you wouldn't care to remember anything else then."

Tina's face turned as pale as a sheet and

she looked quite pitiful standing there. *Charles is so rude! Previously at the club, he deeply embarrassed me in public and I let it go then but today, his words are harsher than before! He's so despicable!*

"Gosh! I didn't scold you so stop looking at me with that expression." Charles acted fearfully and turned to say to Toby, "President Fuller, your girlfriend is as fragile as a porcelain doll, so you'd better take extreme care of her to prevent her from shattering into pieces!"

Meanwhile, Toby narrowed his eyes but remained silent and guided Tina to the other side. He then adjusted her gear for her.

"Come here, baby. Let me help you." Charles kneeled down to help Sonia fasten her skis onto her boots. Snorting coldly, he muttered, "Tsk! It's so easy to show affection!"

Meanwhile, Sonia couldn't control her laughter as she found his actions quite amusing.

"What's so funny?" Charles stood up and ruffled his hair before smirking at her. "Is it because you think that I'm handsome?"

Baby, why don't you try and gain some weight? I'm sure I'll be able to bring more happiness to your life."

"Shut up!" Sonia poked him with her ski poles. "Don't force me to slap you on the face!"

Charles subsequently behaved himself after being poked by Sonia and his expression turned quite solemn. He carefully lent her a helping hand and gave her time to gradually get used to the skis.

Meanwhile, Tina, who was standing quite close to them, heard their conversation and her face flushed pink. She softly remarked, "Although there are not that many people around, how can they... flirt so blatantly? That's so shameless!"

Meanwhile, Toby glanced toward Sonia and Charles with tightly furrowed brows. *I thought that she came here to discuss business with the boss of Continental Co. but I never expected her to be skiing and flirting with Charles. She seems to be enjoying herself a lot.*

"Ignore them," Toby mentioned in a low voice and the surrounding temperature seemed to be lower than before.

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All of a sudden, Tina shivered as she lifted her head to look at him. She noticed that he had an impassive look on his face; it was as if his previous turbulent emotions had never existed and it was all in her imagination.

On the other hand, Sonia was a newbie at skiing so she was completely clueless at it. After Charles had finished giving her instructions, he let go of his hands and allowed her to slowly attempt using her ski poles. She tried to ski for a short distance but she soon lost her balance and fell onto the snowy surface.

This triggered Charles' mocking laughter. "Baby, you're so clumsy! How can you fall even while using ski poles! Can't you balance yourself?"

"Shut up!" Sonia noticed Tina by the side, who was quite adept at using her ski poles as she skied around gracefully. The former felt a stronger sense of displeasure and she clenched her teeth, getting up from the ground to continue practicing.

After multiple falls, she finally managed to maneuver her ski poles deftly and she could also glide around the track quite easily. At that moment, she finally

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experienced the pleasure of skiing and no longer paid attention to the people around her but immersed herself into the activity.

In the afternoon, Sonia and Charles made their way to the ski field once more and this time, they chose the intermediate trail. There were more people on this trail and it was buzzing with energy.

Charles no longer needed to instruct Sonia and he fixed his skis on before gliding along behind her. Perhaps he was too bored, so he kept chattering to her and was quite a distraction.

"Baby, come over to my place for dinner with Grandpa on New Year's Eve," Charles murmured. "My mom nagged me over the phone two days ago because she wanted to see you."

After her marriage, Sonia had always spent the New Year's with Toby and his family. This year, however, she was no longer married to him.

But in the end, she didn't agree with Charles' suggestion. "Let's talk about this later."

She was aware that he felt sorry for her,

but the Reed family still existed as there was still her and her grandfather left. Besides, she didn't wish to intrude on another family's gathering on such an occasion. She knew that her grandfather wouldn't want to either.

Charles heaved a sigh. "Could you just agree to it considering my handsome looks? Pretty please, my darling girlfriend?"

"*Fake girlfriend!*" Sonia replied in a huff.

She no longer wanted to listen to him chattering so she dug her poles into the snow, thereafter brushing past him and gliding off. She had merely moved a few meters when she suddenly heard the sound of skis moving against the ground behind her.

Before she could react, she felt a sharp pain from behind and the impact knocked her ski poles off the ground. She could feel herself zooming down the slope.

"Sonia!" Charles shouted, his expression darkening as he quickly rushed after her.

The slope was quite steep and she zoomed downhill without any chance of

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stopping. Without her ski poles, she found she was unable to balance herself and she wobbled unsteadily.

Suddenly, a shadow zoomed toward her from the side and a man pulled her as he moved closer to her. Then, he quickly wrapped her arms around his waist and said with a low voice, "Hold on tight. Don't let go of me."

Sonia was sick with panic that as soon as she heard the voice ring out inaudibly by her ears, she immediately tightened her grip on the man's waist.

Toby calmly steered his skis downhill and he skied on quite effortlessly despite having another person clinging onto him. Soon, they arrived at the end of the slope and they came to a firm stop.

"Miss Reed, we've arrived," Toby announced as he looked at the woman who was still clinging to him. "What's up? Do you want to hold on to me for a few more minutes?"

Toby Fuller? Sonia immediately let go of him as soon as she figured out who that male voice belonged to. She moved further away, keeping a distance from him.

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Then, she removed her safety helmet and revealed a composed look. "I'm sorry. I thought that you were my boyfriend so I held on to you tightly earlier. Thank you, President Fuller."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Toby's expression darkened when he heard that.

Charles glided toward them soon after that and came to Sonia. "Baby, are you alright?"

"Yeah, I'm fine."

"That's good to know," Charles muttered and he heaved a sigh of relief. Then, he reverted to an impatient tone and yelled at the person on the slope, "Hey! Miss Gray, can you hurry up?"

As soon as Tina arrived by skis, he rudely retorted, "I saw everything that happened, so don't you dare deny it! You shoved Sonia!"

"My vision was kind of blurry because of the helmet." Tina bit her lip and apologized to Sonia. "I'm sorry for accidentally shoving you, Miss Reed."

"Sonia was right in front of you and she wasn't standing by the side. You would have been blind to not see her!" Charles held up his arm and waved it in front of Tina's eyes. "Miss Gray, have you gone blind? Do you need me to refer you to a doctor for treatment?"

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"That's enough!" Toby said with a displeased tone. "I just saved Miss Reed and Tina has also apologized to her."

However, Charles revealed a cold smile and countered, "President Fuller, you're clearly aware of how steep this trail is. Meanwhile, my baby is just a beginner in skiing. If no one had come to her rescue after Miss Gray's shove, she would definitely have broken a bone if she had rolled down the hill."

"Can I assume that your girlfriend attempted to murder Sonia?"

"Charles, stop being so aggressive!" There was a tinge of redness in Tina's eyes due to the anger she felt and her voice trembled slightly as she mumbled, "Honestly, I didn't see her earlier. If you're unable to let go of this then I can ski downhill right now and Miss Reed can shove me as revenge."

"Okay!" Charles agreed right away, "You can head uphill right now and let Sonia shove you. I'll be there to save you then we'll be even."

Speechless, Tina leaned against Toby and revealed a weak, pitiful look on her face.

Sonia noticed Toby's darkened expression and it seemed that he was angered by Charles' persistent aggressiveness. And so, she tugged on Charles' arm. "Come on, let's head back."

However, Charles was significantly displeased as he shouted, "I don't want to go yet! You've already gotten a freaking divorce with Toby. Besides, his girlfriend is being a bully! Are you going to continue being a doormat?"

Upon hearing that, Sonia got close to him and mentioned in a low voice, "The details regarding the takeover of Continental Co. were given to me by Zane."

Zane and Toby had a close relationship. The former would have no qualms about following all of the latter's instructions and would choose to disregard their collaboration if requested by the latter.

Sonia didn't intend to let Tina get away with this either; however, she was much more reluctant for Toby to get involved and prevent her from taking over Continental Co.

Charles quickly weighed out the pros and cons on his mind as soon as he heard her

words. In the end, he snorted coldly but he significantly toned down. However, he turned around and flipped the two of them off before leaving.

Angered beyond words, Tina thought to herself, *I've never met a guy as scathing and as despicable as Charles!*

Just then, she noticed Toby's expression, which was as cold as ice, and she explained softly, "I was too engrossed in skiing so I didn't notice Miss Reed in front of me. I apologized to her but then I didn't expect Charles to be so aggressive. *Ahem!*"

She leaned forward and coughed several times, her face turning paler than before.

Toby couldn't bear to keep up his cold demeanor upon noticing her pallor and he took her into his arms. "I'm next to you so he wouldn't dare to do anything to you. The most he could do is attack you verbally. It's too cold here. Let's head back to the hotel."

"Okay." Tina wrapped her arms around his waist and smiled faintly.

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It was already 5 PM when Sonia and Charles arrived back at the hotel.

She dropped by the front desk and was told that Ryan was currently in the gaming room, so she went to see him by herself. Just then, she utilized Charles' usual shameless behavior and explicitly revealed to Ryan her plans to take over his company and that the price was negotiable.

However, despite her efforts, he was quite stubborn and refused to agree to her terms. Finally, he muttered in a frustrated tone, "I don't care how much you're willing to offer but I'm not going to sell the company! You should leave." Then, he chased her out of the gaming room.

Meanwhile, Sonia was left standing there with a massive headache. She was just about to call Charles to come over and help her but then she realized that based on Ryan's current attitude, the other man would most likely be unable to convince Ryan even if he utilized his glib tongue. Besides, she wouldn't be able to gain learning experience if she didn't take the initiative to handle discussions personally.

Just then, Sonia recalled the man and she tapped into her Messenger. She found his

contact number and fired off a message. 'Have you dealt with Ryan Drew, the boss of Continental Co., before? He's quite difficult to deal with. He doesn't seem interested in talking to me no matter how much my offer is.'

After sending the text, Sonia suddenly wondered, *Why am I asking this guy? Wouldn't it be better if I asked Zane?*

Sonia tried to recall her message but time had lapsed and this option was no longer available.

Just then, the man replied to her message.

Z-H: 'Ryan is an arrogant man and he doesn't like having strangers interfering in his company. He doesn't want his company to be managed by another company. Previously, he went into talks with another company regarding a merger, but he refused the offer because the other party requested to take over the operation side.'

Z-H: 'He doesn't have a great relationship with his dad so you should tackle things from this aspect.'

Sonia managed to grasp the meaning

behind his short sentences.

Sonia: 'In my offer, I should specify that he gets to retain his rights to operate the company without any interference. Then, I could request for higher stakes in the shares obtained or perhaps, I can provoke him by mentioning his dad.'

Z-H: 'You got it. That's quite bright of you.'

The man's reply took some time. He was concise with his words but each of his sentences were extremely useful to her.

The negotiation tips he gave her were enlightening. Moreover, she realized how to avoid showing a disadvantaged front while negotiating with Ryan.

Sonia: 'Hey, Goose. Do you work for Zane or do you operate your own company? I noticed that you're quite knowledgeable.'

Z-H: 'I'm not known as Goose.'

Sonia: 'Well, you never told me your name either, but It doesn't matter. This is just a nickname!'

Sonia: 'I won't delete your contact. Why don't you retain my contact too? It's good

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to have you as a friend. You're knowledgeable and it's just nice because I lack a mentor for guidance.'

Sonia: 'I'll compensate you for your time. In the future, if I come to you with any questions, you can decide on the price for each question.'

In the hotel room, Toby revealed a frustrated smile upon reading the multiple messages sent by Sonia.

He had casually decided to provide her with a piece of information because she had helped Tyler but now, this woman was taking advantage of the situation and making excessive requests.

After quite some time, he finally replied to her: 'Sure. Alright.'

Sonia: 'You have such extensive knowledge; plus, you're a kind guy. You're just as cute as your profile picture.'

Just then, Toby grimaced. He didn't even want to look at her message and logged out of their chat. Then, he dialed Tom's number.

On the other end, Tom answered the

phone quite quickly. "President Fuller, is there anything that you need?"

"I had a Messenger profile that you managed previously." Toby frowned.

"There are so many pictures that you could have chosen, but why did you choose one with a goose?"

Tom replied tactfully, "The goose looked quite cute and I thought it would make you seem more approachable."

Toby remained silent upon hearing that.

"President Fuller, you've been using that profile for quite some time now. Why didn't you change the picture if you were uncomfortable with it?" Tom tried to indirectly hint that he was not at fault. "I could show you how to change it right now if you don't know how to—"

"That's not necessary!" With that, Toby directly hung up on Tom.

.....

During dinner, Sonia made her way to Ryan's table with Charles.

She took a seat across from Ryan and

smiled faintly. "President Drew, there are quite a few empty seats here. Would you mind if my friend and I joined you at your table?"

Ryan kept his head lowered while he ate and ignored her.

"I know that you're the founder of Continental Co. and the company is your baby." Sonia kept both of her hands folded on the table and she mentioned smoothly, "After we take over Continental Co., I promise you that you'll be the ultimate decision-maker for the running of the business. Continental Co. will be a separate entity and I won't assign any management team to monitor your work."

Ryan lifted his head to glance at her upon hearing that. "Who coached you on negotiating this way? Was it your ex-husband?"

Upon hearing that, Sonia was caught by surprise.

Ryan placed down his cutlery and revealed an unhappy expression. "Your ex-husband had his eyes on my company all this while. He assigned multiple staff on his management team to ask me out and

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negotiate terms. I was quite annoyed by all his pestering, which is why I came overseas for a short ski trip. Then, you ended up here!”

“President Fuller and I have been divorced for quite some time now. I obtained the details regarding the takeover of Continental Co. from another friend.” Sonia explained to him, but she started to suspect something was amiss. *He said that all of this was also mentioned by people from the Fuller Group, but I was coached on this by Z-H. If this is true, then could it be possible that the man from that night... Could he be Toby?*



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Charles stood up to pour Ryan a glass of red wine. "President Drew, you must be joking. After her divorce, she didn't even receive a single cent from her ex-husband. He's a miser, so how could he possibly help my baby?"

"You didn't even receive a single cent?" Ryan stared at her with a slightly shocked look on his face.

"Yeah. That's not all—she didn't even get any property or car, so would you be kind enough to give my baby some leeway and sell your business to her?" Charles placed his arms around Sonia's shoulders as he said that.

Sonia, however, flung his hand aside. "President Drew, ignore all of his nonsense. I was the one who didn't want anything."

Ryan took his glass of wine and was just about to say something when he saw a couple walking toward them, hand-in-hand.

"President Drew, it's a surprise to see you here. Miss Reed and Mr. Lane are here too. This is such a coincidence," Tina smiled demurely as she greeted them.

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Meanwhile, Charles gave a lazy stretch. "It's unfortunate for us though. I don't even want to see the two of you."

Tina's expression stiffened in response but she quickly regained her composure soon after that. "Mr. Lane, your words are as scathing as usual."

Charles put both hands behind his head and relaxedly swiveled on his chair. "Well, there's nothing I can do about it. This is how I am when I'm with people I dislike. Unfortunately, you're one of them, Miss Gray."

"How dare—" Tina's face turned pale upon being angered by his words.

However, Toby took her into his arms and he started to exude a menacing aura.

Sonia noticed his darkened expression and quickly tugged on Charles' arm. "That's enough. Stop it. Don't forget what I mentioned to you earlier."

However, Charles shrugged in response as he murmured, "Don't worry. I know what I'm doing."

The sight of the duo whispering to each

other was unbearable for Toby. Just then, he let go of Tina and glanced at Ryan.

"President Drew, have you considered my proposal for the takeover?"

"I haven't made up my mind yet." Ryan pointed at Sonia. "Your ex-wife is interested in my company too. She's negotiating with me right now and the terms she offered are exactly the same as yours. I had assumed that you were the one who gave her the idea."

Toby's eyes flickered for a moment, which went by unnoticed. "No. I am quite intent on the acquisition of your company so there's no reason for me to give this up just like that."

Sonia grimaced upon hearing that and immediately, the seed of suspicion disappeared from her mind completely. *That's right. He doesn't have a good impression of me so there's no way he would help me. Besides, ideas are generally concocted by people, so it's not a surprise for Z-H to come up with the same terms as Toby.*

Toby glanced at Sonia from the corner of his eye and he relaxed his brows upon noticing the look of relief on her face. /

knew that she would be suspicious of Z-H's identity once she came to negotiate with Ryan. As such, he had purposely come over and said all that, intending to dispel her suspicions.

"Coincidentally, President Drew, I'm also quite intent on acquiring Continental Co."

Toby's expression remained impassive and he casually remarked, "Is that so? Then let's wait and see who President Drew chooses."

"Of course it will be Paradigm Co.!"
Charles placed his hand behind Sonia's chair.

Meanwhile, Tina gently tucked her hair behind her ears and revealed a slight smile. "From your options, the Fuller Group would be the best choice. Paradigm Co. is teetering on the edge of hardship so obviously, it wouldn't be a good choice. What do you think, President Drew?"

Sonia placed down her wine glass and her expression darkened. "Miss Gray, where are your manners? I was here before you and I'm currently negotiating on behalf of Paradigm Co., yet you've barged in and thrown shade at us in front of President

Drew. I don't think this is the polite way to handle things, no?"

"Exactly!" Charles sneered at Toby quite coldly. "President Fuller, your girlfriend seems to be clueless about the rules in the corporate world and she's obviously broken the rules. Don't tell me you're unaware of that too?"

Charles' words were full of scorn and contempt and Toby felt quite uncomfortable hearing that. The latter then took Tina's hands in his and said, "Let's go."

Meanwhile, Tina bit her lower lip. "Toby, did I... did I do something wrong?"

"It's not a major thing. You just have to be more mindful in the future." And so, the two of them walked off, hand-in-hand.

Charles pursed his lips in response. "That Fuller guy sure is protective of Tina! He doesn't even have a limit for it!"

Sonia, on the other hand, felt a stabbing pain in her heart and she didn't respond to Charles. *Tina is his precious darling. Who else would he be protective of if not her?*

Ryan took a sip of his wine. "President Reed, do you harbor and grudge ex-husband and his partner?"

She recollected herself and smiled faintly. "Not exactly a grudge, but we've had some disagreements. Alright then, President Drew. Why don't we continue our negotiation?"

Meanwhile, Ryan leaned backward. "President Reed, do you remember the words spoken by your ex-husband's fiancée earlier?"

"Of course." Sonia nodded. "She's right. The decision is in your hands. Of course, it's evident that we're not the best option compared to the Fuller Group but we have one advantage that they can't compare against."

"Oh?"

Suddenly, Sonia recalled Z-H's mention of Ryan's arrogance in their exchange of messages, and the smile on her face widened. "I can offer you the liberty of buying or selling your shares whenever you want to. In the future, if you have the means and would like to buy back the shares of Continental Co., I'll sell it back to

you at thirty percent extra of the current purchase price. However, if Continental Co. is merged into the Fuller Group, do you think you would still be able to buy back the shares?"

Although she had been a housewife for the past six years and was no longer up-to-date with the happenings in this world, Sonia remained well aware of Toby's reputation in the corporate world as a living Hades. There was no way one would be able to win back something that had been taken over by him.

Ryan's expression changed and he showed some interest. "It seems, your offer is quite tempting and is indeed quite difficult to reject."

He then lifted his wine glass to propose a toast.

It's a done deal? Sonia mused and was elated beyond herself. Soon after that, she lifted her wine glass to toast him upon being nudged in the elbow by Charles as he reminded her.

After their toast, Ryan stood up. "Alright, I've got to go and meet my friend at the hot springs. I'll leave the two of you to your

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dinner. Let's meet up in the next few days. Once I'm back in town, we can sign the merger documents."

"Sure." Sonia tried hard to suppress her excited feelings and smilingly agreed to his suggestion.

Meanwhile, Charles cupped her chin and his eyes sparkled with approval. "Baby, you're awesome! Earlier when you were negotiating with him, you were stunning and your confidence shone through. I'm sure that you'll be able to handle everything by yourself and soon enough you'll definitely become a dominant lady figure in the corporate world."

In response, Sonia hit his hand out of annoyance. "It's okay to talk to me but stop touching me!"

Charles clutched at his chest dramatically with a hurt expression on his face. "Baby, this is too much! I can't believe that you're actually annoyed with me! We've known each other since we were young. How could you?"

Sonia rolled her eyes at him and completely ignored his antics.

Suddenly, Charles' cell phone rang.

He stopped joking and took out his phone to glance at the screen. "Baby, I'll go outside to take this phone call."

"Go ahead." Sonia made a feel-free gesture.

After he had walked off, she suddenly recalled something and took out her cell phone. She tapped into Messenger and clicked on her chat with the person with a goose as his profile picture. 'Thanks for your tip.'

Z-H: 'Did you close the deal?'

Sonia smiled and swiftly typed her reply. 'It's a done deal. You mentioned that Ryan was an arrogant person so I purposely provoked him by offering him the chance to buy and sell the shares whenever he wanted to. It was how I managed to win him over.'

Ryan's personality meant that he would not go to his parents for money at all. At the same time, without Continental Co. in his hands, evidently, it would take him a long time to earn an extra thirty percent of the shares' worth.

By then, perhaps Paradigm Co. would have been restored to its former glory and even if he decided to buy back Continental Co., it would not be a loss to the former either.

Z-H: 'Congratulations.'

Sonia: 'Thank you. I wouldn't have succeeded so quickly without all of your tips. Can I treat you to dinner?'

She regretted her words immediately after sending the text. She could still clearly remember the details from that night. *It's going to be so awkward when we meet up!*

On the other end in the hotel room, Toby had a black robe on and he was currently seated cross-legged on the couch. He stared at his phone with a dark expression as he mused, *Dinner?* He then pursed his lips and replied, 'That's not necessary.'

Sonia heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing his reply and she replied, 'Alright then. Let's talk about this next time.'

Z-H: 'Sure.'

Sonia then logged out of her account just as Charles made his way back. "Baby, I'll treat you to some time at the hot springs.

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How does that sound?"

Sonia's eyes sparkled in response. "Sure! I haven't been to the hot springs in ages."

Ever since she married Toby six years ago, she had given up all of her pleasures in life. She had nearly forgotten the feeling of soaking herself in a hot spring.

And so, Charles dragged her along and rushed toward the hot springs. "Let's go!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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After changing to their yukatas, Sonia and Charles came to a divide leading to the men and women section of the hot springs.

Charles' eyes twinkled and he immediately grabbed hold of Sonia's soft waist. "Baby, why don't we go to the mixed-gender section?"

She smiled at him before hitting him with her elbow.

"Ouch!" He held his belly in pain. "Baby, why did you hit me?"

She squinted her eyes at him and sneered, "Do you not deserve it? How dare you ask me to join you in the mixed-gender section?"

"What's wrong with that? We are a couple anyway." He quickly stood up straight and defended himself.

"It's just an act." She couldn't stand him, so she put her bath towel on her shoulder and opened the curtains which had the word 'women' before walking inside.

The women section of the hot springs was extremely quiet since it was empty.

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After taking off her bathrobe, Sonia wrapped a white towel around herself that reached her thighs before entering a single-sized pool.

The water temperature was high, so her whole body instantly turned pink and she let out a comfortable hum.

Then, someone opened the sliding door of the entrance and came in.

She lifted her eyes and saw a clear face through the mist.

It was none other than Tina Gray.

As soon as Sonia saw the other woman, she immediately furrowed her brows.
Everything about this resort is great, except for the fact that it is too small. You always bump into someone you don't want to see at every turn.

Tina also didn't expect such a coincidence. After a moment of shock, she revealed a gentle smile and murmured, "Miss Reed, we meet again."

However, Sonia couldn't stand being with her, so she nodded her head and prepared to leave.

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Just as she took a step out of the pool, Tina's voice was heard again. "Miss Reed, how can you leave when I just got here? Do you really hate to see me? After all, we went to the same university and even shared the same room."

While holding the towel in front of her chest, Sonia stood in the pool and sneered, "Miss Gray, don't you find your words a little funny? You were the one who hated to see me in the first place. It has always been the same since we were in university."

As Tina leaned on the edge of the other single-sized pool, she smiled faintly at Sonia. "Do you want to know the reason, Miss Reed?"

"Do enlighten me—I really want to know what I have done wrong to make you treat me this way!" Sonia simply sat back in the pool.

There was a single-sized pool between the two of them as they stared at each other from afar.

"Do you know that ever since you stepped into the dorm, I've always had a weird sense of threat from you? Somehow, I felt

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that you would snatch something important away from me." Tina sunk her nails into her palms hard. "Sure enough, you took Toby away from me while I was unconscious after the car crash. How could I forgive you after that?"

Listening to the hatred in her voice, Sonia remained emotionless as she spoke in her usual calm voice. "Whether you believe me or not, I didn't purposely snatch Toby away from you while you were unconscious. You said to me back then that you only see him as your brother."

This was the reason why Sonia asked Toby to marry her; otherwise, with her pride that she had back then, she wouldn't do such a thing no matter how much she liked him.

"You don't need to explain to me. No matter how much you explain, you can't deny the fact that you've had him for yourself for almost six years!" Tina glared at her while gritting her teeth.

Just as Sonia was about to say something, her phone suddenly rang on the edge of the pool. It was a call from Charles.

"Hello?"

"Baby, are you done?"

She nodded and murmured, "Almost."

Charles then urged, "You should come out quickly. I heard that there will be a fireworks party later on. I'll wait for you at the observation deck."

She reached out with one hand and grabbed a towel beside her to wipe away the sweat on her face. "Alright. I'll come out after I take a shower."

After hanging up the phone, Sonia stepped out of the pool and walked away, but she didn't forget to stop for a second when walking past Tina's pool. "Miss Gray, I know that you will still continue to come after me even after what I just said, but don't worry. No matter what tricks you have, I'll always be ready."

Then, she left with her slender legs.

Meanwhile, Tina lowered her eyes as she thought of something.

Moments later, the hotness had gradually made her head dizzy, so she got up and walked toward the shower room as she knew that she couldn't stay in the pool

much longer.

Meanwhile, Sonia was taking a shower inside a cubicle in the shower room. Tina could already hear her humming when she came in with her toiletries in her arms, and she felt that the other woman's singing was beautiful and her voice was heavenly

Hearing Sonia's voice, Tina couldn't help but remember Toby asking her two days ago why she had stopped singing since the letters once mentioned that she was good at it. Of course, she didn't dare to tell him that she didn't even know how to sing, so she could only use her bad voice as an excuse to close the topic.

Even so, Tina knew that as long as the owner of the letters was still here, all of her lies would be exposed someday unless the true owner disappeared forever.

As the light in her eyes flickered, she glanced at the door of Sonia's cubicle before turning toward the shower gel in the basin. All of a sudden, a terrifying thought surfaced in her mind.

She squatted and gently placed the basin on the floor. Then, she grabbed the shower gel from the basin and opened it before

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pouring the transparent liquid on the floor in front of the door of Sonia's cubicle.

After she was done, she revealed a faint smile as she quietly left the scene.

"This feels so good!" When Sonia had taken his hot shower, she came out of her cubicle with a basin in her arms. Unexpectedly, she seemed to step on something and slipped, causing her whole body to fall to the floor. She knocked the back of her head on the steps of the cubicle and passed out immediately.

At the observation deck, Charles was still waiting for her to come. A while later, the fireworks party had started but Sonia was still nowhere to be seen, so he took out his phone and called her.

However, no one answered the call, so he couldn't help but feel worried.

"Could something have happened to her?" He put his phone back in his pocket and quickly left the observation deck to find her but after searching several places, she was still nowhere to be seen, so he was certain that something might have happened to her.

In this resort, the only people that would hurt her are those two.

Therefore, he came to the front of a door and knocked on it frantically. "Tina, come out now!"

Soon after, the door was opened and Toby's gloomy face appeared in front of him.

"What is it?"

"I didn't come here for you. I'm here for her!" Charles glared at Tina who was standing beside Toby.

With a smile on her face, she asked, "Mr. Lane, how can I help you?"

"My baby is gone!"

Immediately, Toby's eyes narrowed. *Sonia is gone?*

Tina could see the reaction on his face as she fiercely clenched her fists. *Sure enough, I was right to get rid of Sonia. As long as she is alive, it will only affect him even more. Even her disappearance was enough to draw such a huge reaction from him.*

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After suppressing her emotions, she blinked confusedly. "Miss Reed isn't here, Mr. Lane. Why did you come looking for me?"

"Why did I come looking for you?" Charles repeated and chuckled sarcastically.

"What do you think? It's because you definitely hid her away somewhere. If you were willing to push her off the race track during the day, what else are you not capable of doing? You'd better hand her back to me this instance or else, not even Toby can protect you!"

"Why would I hide her away? I haven't seen her since dinner, so I don't even know where she is. How do you expect me to hand her over to you?" Tina's eyes turned red, making her look aggrieved.

However, Charles was having none of it. "Are you going to f*cking tell me or what?"

"Enough." Toby stepped forward and shielded Tina behind him while he spoke in a cold voice. "If you can't find Sonia, why don't you check the surveillance video? Interrogating Tina won't help you find her any quicker."

The moment Tina heard him mention the

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surveillance video, she panicked for a moment but soon after, she seemed to think of something that calmed her down.

Charles also came back to his senses and he slapped himself on the forehead. *I can't believe that I was so worried about finding her that I forgot to check the surveillance video.*

"I'll go to the surveillance room right away. I hope that her disappearance has nothing to do with you; otherwise, I won't let you get away with this."

He pointed at Tina's nose before leaving.

"We should follow him." Toby then took off his jacket and put it on her before helping her to the surveillance room.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Inside the surveillance room, the three of them could see that Sonia and Charles entered the hot springs about an hour and a half ago but since then, the former never came out.

From this, it was obvious that she should still be in the hot springs.

"I'll go check the hot springs!" With that, Charles immediately rushed out of the door.

Tina lifted her head and looked at Toby next to her before asking in a soft tone, "Toby, should we follow?"

"We should!" he answered with furrowed brows. "Charles suspects that her disappearance has something to do with you, so we must follow him to help clear your name. Let's go."

She smiled faintly and replied, "Alright. We'll do as you say."

When they got to the entrance of the hot springs, they could hear Charles negotiating with the security guard.

"Sir, I've told you that the hot springs' operating hours have passed. There isn't

anyone inside." The guard blocked Charles' path to prevent him from getting in.

As Charles was about to say something while scratching his head, a loud scream could be heard coming from inside the hot springs, drawing everyone's attention to the source.

Then, everyone saw a cleaning lady running out of the hot springs in fear while mumbling something to herself.

The guard grabbed her and asked, "What's the problem?"

"S-Someone's dead!" the cleaning lady stuttered.

"What?"

Everyone was shocked by what they just heard.

Then, she pointed inside with her trembling hand. "Someone has died inside the shower room of the women's section!"

"Sonia!" Instantly, Charles' expression changed as he rushed into the hot springs.

Toby and the guards also followed suit.

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On the way, Toby looked really tense and the aura that he was exuding at that time was enough to suffocate anyone.

Is that woman really dead? Is this a joke? Is this all part of her prank?

As he gritted his teeth tightly, he suddenly felt a strange ache inside his heart that messed up his breathing.

Tina also seemed to notice the sudden change of his emotions. Even though she was filled with hatred inside, she still managed to get her eyes teary. "Toby, why does Miss Reed have to suffer so much at such a young age?"

She spoke as though she felt sorry and sad for Sonia's death but when everyone else wasn't watching, she curled up the corners of her lips.

This is great news! As long as she is dead, I won't have any more worries.

When they arrived outside the shower room, they opened the door and went straight in, ignoring the 'men are forbidden to enter' sign above the door. However, the moment they entered, they immediately witnessed the terrifying scene of Sonia

lying on the floor with a pool of blood still flowing from her head.

It took a while for Charles to come back to his senses before walking stiffly toward her.

Meanwhile, Toby stood at the door with his eyes locked onto Sonia's pale face as he instinctively clenched his fists tightly.

It really is Sonia! She really is dead!

At this moment, he felt as though he had lost something that was important to him. Not only was his heart aching, it felt empty too.

Suddenly, Charles' excited voice was heard. "She is alive. Sonia isn't dead yet. She is still breathing!"

What? Tina's smile froze all of a sudden and her eyes filled with disbelief. Sonia isn't dead?

Toby's eyes were trembling as he stared at Charles. "Is it true?"

"I'm sure of it. Sonia is indeed alive." He could clearly feel her weak breath after placing his fingers right under her nose.

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At the same time, the guard let out a sigh of relief before turning toward the cleaning lady with dissatisfaction. "What were you doing? She obviously isn't dead, so why did you go running around saying that she is dead?"

The cleaning lady answered aggrievedly, "I was scared when I saw her lying on the floor in a pool of blood, so I assumed that she was dead."

The guard was left speechless.

As for Tina, she also glared at the cleaning lady angrily. *It's all because of her that I got all excited for nothing. Also, why couldn't Sonia just die after slipping on the shower gel that I poured?*

She was afraid that others might notice her true intentions, so she quickly composed herself and smiled. "This is great. Miss Reed is still alive. This is great news, right, Toby?"

However, he didn't answer her as he walked toward Charles and Sonia.

At the moment, Charles was shaking her gently, trying to wake her up.

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Seeing his complete lack of basic medical knowledge, Toby was so infuriated that he grabbed the other man's collar and pulled him away from Sonia.

"Fuller, what are you doing?" Charles roared.

Toby lifted his gaze and glanced at him coldly. "It's obvious that she is in a deep coma, so you can't just wake her up by shaking her. Also, her head was injured, so you'll only make her injuries worse and cause her to lose more blood. If you don't want her to die, your best choice is to call the doctor immediately"

Listening to him, Charles was dumbfounded at first before being annoyed at himself.

*D*mn it! I always lose my cool when I'm frustrated. I can't believe I didn't even think of such an important thing like calling a doctor.*

Quickly, he took out his phone and called the hotel.

Meanwhile, Toby squatted down and gently lifted Sonia's head so that she could lie in his arms.

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Then, he tore off a piece of cloth from his shirt as a bandage to wrap around the wound on the back of Sonia's head to stop blood from flowing out.

During the process, his eyes were filled with distress and pity, and even he himself did not notice it.

However, Tina witnessed everything as she stood off to one side. She saw red but she couldn't do anything to stop it.

She knew clearly that if she stopped him at this moment, it would only show how petty she was that she couldn't even tolerate an injured person.

After making a phone call, Charles said to them, "The hotel said that they have already arranged a doctor to go to Sonia's room. We just need to bring her there right away."

Therefore, Toby knotted the bandage and carried her up.

Seeing the situation, Charles immediately put his phone back in his pocket and stretched out both his hands. "I'll take care of her."

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"No. It's clear from your previous actions that you are not suitable to take care of her," Toby muttered coldly, refusing to hand over the woman to him.

Charles chuckled sarcastically. "If I'm not suitable, then what makes you suitable to take care of her? President Fuller, don't forget that you and Sonia are divorced. I'm now her boyfriend."

"He's right, Toby. Mr. Lane is Miss Reed's boyfriend, so you can just hand her over to him. I believe that he will take good care of her." Tina went up and gently urged him to let Sonia go while she pulled at his sleeve.

Toby's hands slowly tightened around Sonia's armpit and knee but in the end, he let go and handed her over to Charles, his expression dark.

After letting out a grunt, Charles turned around and left with Sonia in his arms.

Seeing the two of them leaving, Toby somehow felt annoyed and frustrated inside his heart and he clenched his fists. However, when he clenched his fists, he suddenly noticed a sticky feeling coming from his palms. After opening his hand, he realized that other than Sonia's blood, his

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hands were also stained by an unidentified liquid.

There was a faint scent from the liquid and when he rubbed his hands, the liquid started to form bubbles. *It must be some kind of shampoo or shower gel. I've just touched Sonia, so I probably got it from her.*

Upon thinking about it, he looked at the place where Sonia passed out and sure enough, there really was a pool of the same liquid.

Immediately, he let out a sneer. *Looks like she spilled her toiletries and accidentally slipped on it. What an idiot!*

"Toby, Mr. Lane and Miss Reed are gone. Let's go back to our room." Tina grabbed his arm.

However, he then lifted his arm and withdrew it from her. "I need to wash my hands first."

After that, he went to the front of the washstand and washed off the blood and shower gel on his hands before leaving the hot springs.

When they got back to their room, Tina

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grabbed a bathrobe and gave it to him.
"Toby, you just bandaged Miss Reed and your body was stained by her blood, so why don't you take a bath first?"

He had the same idea, so he took the bathrobe and went into the bathroom but when he smelled a familiar scent in the air, he narrowed his eyes.



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