

The Three Little Guardian Angels by Ginger Bud Chapter 16

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Chapter 16

Maisie did not say a word.

'They poured all their thoughts to get me home for dinner. They even invited Nolan here and are now insisting on wanting me to stay for dinner. Then I must stay here to see what this mother-and-daughter pain plan to do.'

She then raised her head and chuckled. "Okay, then I'll stay here for dinner."

Willow and Leila did not expect she would agree, but everything was going according to their plan.

Maisie only bowed her head and ate without talking during the entire meal. Stephen and Leila were almost silent throughout the dinner, probably because of Nolan's presence.

Nolan did not eat much. He had wanted to refuse Willow's invitation when she asked him to accompany her back to the Vanderbilt manor, but Maisie was mentioned.

Since Willow had said that Maisie was the one who invited him to the Vanderbilt manor, he would have to see what Maisie had up her sleeves.

"Zee, how have you been all these years?"

That was probably the only time when Stephen would think of showing care for this daughter.

Maisie did not even raise her eyelids. "I did have a great time, thanks to you."

A hint of embarrassment stagnated on Stephen's face for a moment.

Leila hinted to Willow with her gaze. Only then did Willow begin to express herself in front of her father. She fetched some food into Nolan's bowl. "Nolan, you should have more."

Leila smiled immediately and added, "Mr. Goldmann, thank you for taking care of Willie throughout all these years. Willie has always been a thoughtful and well-behaved child, but please show her some patience if she were to give off any shortcomings."

Maisie lowered her head and almost burst into laughter.

Nolan noticed something, raised his eyes, and looked at Maisie. "Miss Vanderbilt seems to have something to say about this?"

This sentence directed the attention of the other three people on the dining table onto Maisie.

Maisie could not help but respond, "What can I say? But I'm only a little curious. Mr. Goldmann, you're in your 30s, and the both of you have been together for six years. It should be about time for you to marry our thoughtful and well-behaved girl."

She emphasized the phrases "thoughtful" and "well-behaved" earnestly as she had seen through the Vanderbilts' underlying plan.

With this sentence, let alone Leila, even Willow's expression turned a little rigid.

Not to mention Nolan, who was glaring at Maisie as if he was going to skin her alive.

Willow was afraid that Nolan would overthink, so she added immediately, "Nolan, Zee is just joking around, don't take it to your heart."

However, Maisie did not care about the consequences and continued asking, "Willow, how should I put it into words? Mr. Goldmann is your boyfriend, but why do you sound so polite when you're talking to your boyfriend?"

Willow's expression changed slightly, and she glared at Maisie furiously.

Seeing that Stephen's expression was not looking too happy, Leila smoothed things over immediately. "Zee, look at you. What are you talking about? This isn't a blind date."

'D*mn it, this b*tch could've brought up anything, yet she chose to talk about their marriage. Is she doing so deliberately to embarrass us?

'Although we've asked Willow to bring Nolan back so that we could make a match out of them, it's impossible for us to talk about it so blatantly. And there's no way that we can force the whole marriage matter onto him.

'We're doing so in front of Maisie just to make her know her place and give up fighting for Nolan, so all we need to do is just deliver the message implicitly. But who could have thought that she would eradicate the whole play!?'

Maisie was not a fool. The mother-and-daughter pair had both come to her and warned her not to have any thoughts about Nolan, and they had now invited Nolan to the manor and insisted on keeping her here for dinner. Their intention was so obvious to begin with.

That being the case, she must match them up even more diligently.

Maisie ignored Leila and continued to stare at Nolan. "Mr. Goldmann, please don't tell me that you've never planned to do so."

Maisie pretended to be surprised upon seeing that his expression turned gloomy. "How is this the right thing to do? A woman's prime shouldn't be wasted, not to mention Willow is already 26 years old. She's no longer young. It's time for her to get married."

Willow's expression turned more and more embarrassed, but she did not dare to look at Nolan.

Maisie raised her eyebrows. "Or, Mr. Goldmann, are you playing with my sister's feelings?"

"Maisie Vanderbilt!" Stephen smacked the table flusteredly and exasperatedly. He could no longer consider Nolan's presence. "Sh*t your trap! How can you comment on Mr. Goldmann!?"

Maisie chuckled playfully. "You're getting all worked up just because I told the truth? Father, even Mr. Goldmann isn't furious about this, so how can the magnanimity of someone like you be smaller than Mr. Goldmann's?"

If Nolan wanted to get back at her at this moment, that would only prove that he was an unforgiving man.

"You!" Stephen was so ferocious that all the veins on his face and neck became extremely visible.

'This wicked daughter! I would've never let her come back if I knew that Nolan would be here with Willow today.'

Maisie put down her silverware and got up. "It seems that there's no way that I'm welcome to stay for this meal anymore. I was just helping you guys to tell the truth out of kindness, but you guys just went into reverse all of a sudden. As expected, I'm still an outsider in the Vanderbilt manor. I'm leaving already. Please do enjoy your meal."

Stephen was trembling with wrath, while it was only natural that Leila and Willow's expressions did not look much better compared to Stephen's.

Willow glanced at Nolan cautiously. "Nolan..."

Nolan stood up with a cold face, and Willow, who sensed his anger, did not dare to utter a single word anymore.

Seeing Nolan leave the dining area without looking back, she sank her teeth into her lip.

Stephen had naturally lost his appetite as Nolan had left the scene unhappily. He threw his silverware on the table, got up, and went upstairs.

Both the mother-and-daughter pair hated Maisie to death!

Maisie walked to the side of the road and was about to grab a cab, but a hand pulled her back abruptly.

Maisie stumbled for a split second, found her balance, and glared at Nolan. "Mr. Goldmann, what do you mean by this?"

Nolan gnashed his teeth. "Did you do that on purpose?"

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"Mr. Goldmann, why would you think that I did it on purpose? All I did was try to match you up with Willow, didn't I?" she explained while struggling, trying to break her hand free.

Nolan hauled her forcibly, and Maisie almost fell into his arms.

He gave off a cold voice. "You're the one who asked Willow to invite me to the Vanderbilt manor. And that's your scheme all this while?"

Maisie was startled and let off a trace of doubt. She then raised her head, met his gaze, and felt a little amused. "So I'm the one who asked Willow to invite you to the Vanderbilt manor? Isn't my reputation great?"

Nolan's eyes looked stern and cold. "Maisie Vanderbilt, you're not in the position to stick your hand into the matter between Willow and me. I don't care what your purpose is, don't act like you're a wisenheimer."

"Nolan, I'll tell you something today. I didn't ask Willow to invite you over here. Although I don't know what Willow says to you, these things have nothing to do with me."

Maisie shook off his hand and said solemnly, "I couldn't care less about the matter between the two of you. So go back and tell your girlfriend not to point all her f*cking fingers at me whenever she needs a scapegoat for some random blame. I'm not a pushover that she should choose to provoke so easily!"

Maisie was so angry that she no longer cared about her image and choice of words. She turned around and was about to leave, but Nolan suddenly dragged her into his car.

"Mr. Goldmann, what are you doing? Let me go!" Maisie pushed the locked rear door and glared at Nolan, who was getting into the car. "Nolan Goldmann, you'd better let me go, or I'll call the police!"

"Do as you like." Nolan ignored her and drove the car away.

Watching the car leave, Willow, who had just walked out of the manor, clenched her fists as her eyes dimmed.

Nolan drove the car into the wilderness and stopped the car. Maisie glared at him vigilantly while he did so. "What are you doing? We're in the middle of nowhere. Are you telling me that you're planning to kill me here?"

"Get off," Nolan only uttered two words.

Maisie took a glance at the pure darkness outside the car and asked, "You're asking me to get off here?"

Nolan seemed impatient. "Are you telling me that you don't understand what I just said? Get out of the car!"

Maisie hesitated, pushed the door, and got out of the car directly. Nolan drove away right after she closed the door.

Looking at the car lights fading away, Maisie gritted her teeth. "Mr. Goldmann, you do have the f*cking balls!"

It was pitch black all around, and the end of the endless highway was nowhere to be seen.

There was the sound of insects chirping coming from the forest. She illuminated her surroundings with the cell phone's flashlight and walked to the opposite side of the road. There were only rocks and seawater under the slope found on the other side of the curbstone.

Maisie wanted to call herself a cab, but there was no cell signal in this place.

'It won't be so miserable that I'll have to spend the night here, right?'

Nolan drove the car for a long time and then pulled over by the side of the road. He did not know what was wrong with him, but he had truly lost his head and started to argue with her.

'This is indeed annoying. I really thought that Maisie had asked Willow to invite me to the Vanderbilt manor just to talk me into the idea of marrying Willow.

'I've never publicly admitted that Willow is my girlfriend. Even Stephen and Willow's mother have never had the guts to ask me to marry Willow in front of me. And I indeed don't have the plan of marrying Willow, even though Willow is the woman that slept with me six years ago.

'But Maisie said that she didn't ask Willow to invite me to the Vanderbilt manor. Then why would Willow tell me that it was Maisie? Is Maisie lying, or did Willow lie to me?'

Nolan's brows were creased, and he was agitated deep down again.

'That woman has been left in that place... She should be scared and overwhelmed now, shouldn't she?

He tutted, turned the car around, and drove back.

When he got back to the place where he left her, Nolan saw Maisie sitting on the curbstone, facing the beach.

Her graceful silhouette was sitting upright, and her long, thick, curly hair spread behind her. She then inserted her fingertips into the hair, bound them with a hairband, and the slender neck exposed under her hair made her look like an elegant swan.

The night sky enveloped her body as if it was a mysterious gauze, which gave anybody the urge of wanting to tear the gauze apart.

Maisie turned his head and was startled by the man standing behind her. She said with a sneer, "I thought Mr. Goldmann was really planning to leave me here overnight. I didn't expect you to be quite conscientious, huh?"

Nolan frowned as he watched Maisie get up and pass by his side. He somewhat suspected whether he was being fascinated by a supernatural figure. He was even more reluctant to admit that he could think about something so steamy just by looking at a woman tying her hair.

Maisie walked to the car's rear and was about to open the door when his voice sounded from behind. "Sit in the front."

Maisie turned and glanced at him.

His tone sounded indifferent. "I'm not your driver."

He got into the car after saying so.

Maisie tutted, turned around, walked to the front passenger seat, got into the car, and sat down. "Mr. Goldmann, I think you're quite a baffling man."

Nolan ignored her and drove away with a gloomy face.

Maisie did not bother to speak to him either. She supported her head with one hand and leaned on the window of the car. When the car left the wilderness, Maisie's cell phone rang.

She took a glance at her cell phone—it was Waylon's call!

'Oh my God, it's 9:30 p.m. already! They must be anxious that I haven't gone back home at such a time.'

She answered the phone call, and her tone turned gentle immediately. "Hello, sweetheart?"

Nolan's expression dimmed. 'Sweetheart? Does she have a boyfriend?'

"I'm sorry, something came up, and there was a delay. I'm going back now, so wait for me at home. Muack~ See you." Maisie then ended the call.

The man beside her scoffed. "Boyfriend?"

Maisie took a glimpse at him with a bright smile. "Yes, it's my man."

'There's not only one "man" waiting for me at home, but two "men"!'

Nolan did not say anything, but he felt even more irritable deep down.

He drove her out of the car directly when they arrived downtown. Thanks to his inexplicable attitude, all Maisie got from the trip was nothing more than a bewildered look on her face.

It was already 10:00 p.m. when she got home, Waylon placed her slippers away and frowned. "Mommy, were you with a despicable man just now?"

Maisie burst into laughter. "How do you know that?"

Waylon crossed his tiny arms in front of his chest and explained helplessly, "You'll call us dears or sweethearts through the phone whenever you have a nasty man by your side."

'Mommy is a pro when it comes to dealing with such situations. While we were living abroad, she'd send messages to Colton or me and ask us to pretend to be her boyfriend or husband whenever those men that she had no feelings for called her.'

Maisie knelt and rubbed his little cheek. "My smart boy, you always remember all these down to the very details, huh. Where are Colton and Daisie?"

"They've fallen asleep."

She patted Waylon's little head. "Thank you. You always take care of your younger siblings when Mommy isn't home."

Waylon spread his hands. "I'm the eldest, ain't I?"

At Vaenna Jewelry...

Maisie walked to the elevator and was about to enter, but Willow caught up to her and dragged her aside.

“Willow Vanderbilt, are you looking for a fight?” Maisie retracted her hand and smirked at her.

“Maisie Vanderbilt, I didn’t expect you to have such a scheme up your sleeve, huh?”

“What do I have up my sleeve?” Maisie chuckled.

Willow gnashed her teeth and glared at her as if she was about to tear her into pieces. “Didn’t I warn you not to have any filthy ideas about Nolan? What did the both of you do behind my back last night?”

She had seen Maisie get into Nolan’s car with her own eyes, and Nolan had not come back all night last night.

‘This b*tch must’ve seduced Nolan!’

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Maisie looked at her with her arms crossed. “Why don’t you direct that question of yours to your boyfriend? Why are you asking me that?”

‘This sounds absolutely absurd. She makes it sound like I’ve snatched her man from her.’

Willow’s face turned pale due to the rage. “Maisie Vanderbilt, you won’t be preening yourself for long, just you wait!”

She flung her arm and left after leaving such a threat behind.

Maisie squinted her eyes as she gazed at Willow leaving the scene. ‘Who will be the triumphant one in the end? That’s still unknown.’

At Maisie’s office...

Maisie was sitting in front of the computer surfing the Internet, and suddenly a staff member walked in in a hurry. “Ms. Zora, something has happened!”

Maisie raised her head calmly upon seeing that she was so nervous. “What’s the matter?”

“A few customers bought our jewelry in the store and found that they were all fakes. They’ve tracked the origin of the jewelry to our company and are now in

our office building. The employees of the purchasing department said that the raw materials were acquired according to your order.”

After she finished explaining, Maisie lowered her eyes, turned off her computer, and got up. “Let’s go and take a look.”

In the lobby, the few guests, who had come to the office angrily due to the fake jewelry, had created a stir.

“Vaenna Jewelry has been in the business for decades, and yet you’re manufacturing fakes. Do you still want to be in business?”

“This pearl bracelet costs a few thousand dollars. I went to other stores to inspect them and found out that they’re fake pearls. Are you trying to con your customers just because of your reputation now?” A lady threw the bracelet on the table agitatedly. “We’ll see if your jewelry business can survive when I expose this matter to the public!”

Willow and her secretary walked out of the crowd. She walked up to her and comforted her with a smile. “Madam, calm down. We’ve already communicated with our purchasing department. There must be some misunderstanding regarding this matter.”

“Misunderstanding?” The lady pointed to the bracelet’s box. “Take a look at that! It’s clearly bought in your store, and I still have the receipt from your store. The evidence is conclusive!”

Willow was very calm. “Madam, our products have never been found out to be fraudulent. There must be some issues with the supplier’s materials. Don’t worry, I’ll ask our designer about the source of our materials when she’s here. If it’s found out to be fake—”

“I’ll double the compensation.” Maisie’s voice sounded, and everyone’s gaze fell on her, who arrived at the scene slightly late.

Maisie walked to the counter, picked up the pearl bracelet, and took a glance at it. “These are indeed fake pearls.”

“See, I told you it’s fake!” The lady became even more confident.

Willow looked at her, “Zee, you ordered all these materials, and the purchasing department also purchased the materials according to the order slip that you placed, but why are there fakes?”

After Willow finished speaking, the secretary behind her took out the order that she had gotten from the purchasing department and handed it to Maisie.

Maisie skimmed through the slip and smiled. “This is indeed the order slip that I handed them.”

“Zee, did you do this to ruin Vaenna’s reputation? You’re deceiving our customers!”

The lady glared at Maisie. “You’re the one who purchased these fakes? You’re so wicked. Why open up stores? Pay me back the money that I’ve lost!”

“Yes, pay her back!”

“If you don’t give us an explanation today, we’ll bring this matter to court, saying that Vaenna Jewelry is selling fake jewelry to deceive customers!”

Willow was secretly preening herself. ‘Maisie, we’ll see how you get to stay in Vaenna!’

“What’s wrong this time around?” Nolan and Quincy appeared in the crowd.

Willow walked up to him aggrievedly as soon as she saw Nolan. “Nolan, we’ve found fakes in Vaenna again, but Zee is responsible for the acquisition of the rough diamonds and raw materials this time.”

Seeing Nolan, the lady stepped forward hurriedly and complained, “Mr. Goldmann, you might not know this, but I’ve bought fake pearls from Vaenna for thousands of dollars. So please reason this out for me. This is a huge jewelry company, a brand that has existed for decades, so how can it sell fake jewelry to deceive customers?”

Nolan’s gaze was fixed on Maisie. He walked toward her and said in a cold tone, “You’re responsible for the purchase of raw materials. Give them an explanation.”

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Maisie took a glance at Willow, put down the pearl necklace in her hand, and the corners of her lips were slightly raised. “I didn’t order this batch of mock-ups, so I won’t take this fall.”

Willow came over and grabbed Maisie’s hand. “Zee, you should tell the truth. After all, Vaenna is still your father’s company. You mustn’t destroy your father’s efforts, right?”

“I’m telling the truth.” Maisie kept a straight face while pulling her hand away, took the pearl bracelet, and walked to the lady. “Madam, you’ve bought fake jewelry from Vaenna, and I know you’re not in the mood. After all, you’ve paid for it with your money, and that means something.

“But don’t worry, I can’t allow Vaenna’s reputation to be dragged through the mud because of some fakes. I promise that not only will your money be refunded,

but you can also bring a genuine product back after I've gotten to the bottom of this incident."

The lady was stunned. It was only natural for her to accept this arrangement willingly as she would be able to get her money and beloved jewelry back.

"That's fine by me, but tell me now, what's the matter with this counterfeit? We only want to get a statement from you today."

Maisie walked to the staff of the purchasing department. "I did tell you that you'll be held responsible if something wrong were to happen to this batch of material when I handed over the purchase order to you, right?"

The clerk of the purchasing department was dumbfounded and lowered her head. "But the materials are indeed ordered according to your order slip."

"Yes, Zee, the purchasing department just ordered according to the order that you handed to them, so how can you blame them for when something has gone wrong?"

"Otherwise, should I blame you?" Maisie raised her gaze.

Willow choked, and her expression obviously changed.

Nolan frowned and stared at her with his indifferent gaze. He knew deep down that Vaenna was a company that Maisie's mother had founded, and it should be impossible for her to fool around with the company's reputation.

Maisie showed the raw material order slip in front of everybody. "Anyone who knows a thing or two about jewelry knows about the company Jade Mountain Co., the supplier that I wrote on the order slip. All the rough stones of the fine diamonds and jade used by half of Bassburgh's jewelry companies come from Jade Mountain Co.."

Several guests nodded and discussed. "The ores from Jade Mountain Co. are indeed top-notch. The gemstones and diamonds that they produce are worth tens of millions."

"Yeah, the raw stones of Jade Mountain Co. can't be fake."

Maisie picked up the pearl bracelet. "The pearls on this bracelet are made of pearl powder and crystal. As we all know, crystal is worth very little in the market. Its price is not as high as gold, silver, and diamond, and its quality can be categorized into high and low.

"Premium and natural crystals are only worth approximately \$400–600 per ounce, while the price of top-quality crystals is approximately a little over \$200 per ounce."

The lady did some math with her fingers and asked all of a sudden, "Then is the crystal in my pearl bracelet worth the money?"

"It's of course worthless. They're just ordinary crystals." Maisie smiled and looked back at the employee of the purchasing department. "You've been working in a jewelry company for so many years, and you don't even know the gemstones of Jade Mountain Co.?"

The staff from the purchasing department looked down, and her expression became embarrassed.

Willow was really scared deep down. She could not let Maisie have any room to get back up. "They did buy it from Jade Mountain Co., but now that counterfeits are found, it only shows that the rough diamonds and raw materials of Jade Mountain Co. might not all be real."

Willow was proud of herself deep down upon seeing that everyone was staring at her silently.

However, she soon noticed that everyone's gaze did not look right, and Willow's face turned slightly pale.

'Could I have said something wrong?'

Maisie chuckled. "Director Vanderbilt, you're working in the jewelry industry. But how come you didn't inquire about the company Jade Mountain Co. back when you took over Vaenna Jewelry? Don't go around telling others that the raw materials of Jade Mountain Co. are fake when you have meager knowledge about them. You're not only offending the owner of Jade Mountain Co. but also making a joke out of yourself."

Willow's face almost turned crimson. Someone even burst into laughter secretly after Maisie said so.

"The cause of this fake pearls incident definitely did not originate from the supplies. If it is, then we should visit Jade Mountain Co. and question them. But if this batch of material did not come from Jade Mountain Co., it means that someone is trying to tear the company apart. If that's the case, I won't just stand here and take the fall for them."

After saying so, Maisie's gaze seemed to drop on and off Willow. "I worked in the jewelry design industry while I was in Stoslo. I've gotten my hands on gold, silver, diamonds, gems, carnelian, and jade. Do you doubt my ability to distinguish the genuine from the fakes?"

As she said so, she glared at the employees from the purchasing department. "It's time to replace the whole purchasing department."

Although it was a casual statement, it turned the face of every single employee from the purchasing department pale.

Willow looked nervous but bit the bullet and said, “Zee, although the people in the purchasing department have caused this issue, you can’t just fire them. After all, all of them acted according to the instructions—”

“Then are you saying that there’s a problem with my order?”

“I...”

Maisie sneered. “The public has just seen it. The order did say Jade Mountain Co., so how did it go wrong when the order arrived at the purchasing department?”

“I had warned them at the time that the purchasing department would be held responsible for the mistake. However, as the company director, the employees under your management have made such a big mistake and sold fake products to the customers. If you can be held responsible for the incident, then I won’t care about it.”

Willow bit her lip at a loss and could only look at Nolan.

Nolan was indeed a little disappointed with how Willow handled the matter today, but he understood that she did not understand. Hence, he did not argue with her.

“Then dismiss the person in charge of the purchasing department. After all, it’s an error of the department.”

Maisie could not help but feel ridiculed when she heard this. “Doesn’t she need to be held responsible as the company’s director?”

Willow’s heart skipped a beat.

‘What does this b*tch mean?’

Nolan’s eyes looked cold. “Willow’s knowledge in the jewelry industry isn’t as good as yours. She herself probably doesn’t know anything about such mistakes. So how do you want her to be held responsible?”

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Chapter 20

Maisie had nothing else to say after listening to that, so she waved her hand.

“Okay, you’re a shareholder, and you have the final say here.”

She turned around and walked to the customers with a smile. “Ladies and gentlemen, please come with me to the VIP room and negotiate about the details.”

The customers nodded and followed Maisie to the VIP room.

Willow was delighted deep down when she listened to how Nolan protected her.

'I knew that I'm still Nolan's bias.'

"Nolan, I didn't know that such an incident would happen. I'll pay more attention in the future." Willow gave off a sincere and apologetic attitude while admitting her mistakes.

Nolan took a glimpse at her and said with a cold tone, "You don't understand the market, so just don't walk right into such a situation in the future. Just let Maisie deal with it."

Nolan walked away with Quincy.

Willow lowered her eyes as her nails sank into the palm of her hand.

'Maisie, Maisie, Maisie!

'Not only have I not chased her away through this incident, but I also have to leave everything to her. I'm the official director of Vaenna!'

In the VIP room, Maisie asked the employees to bring in the authentic versions of the products that the customers had bought and placed them on the table. "As an apology, these will be given to you as gifts. As for the payments, they've been refunded through respective platforms and will be credited soon. I'm truly sorry for what happened today."

She got up and bowed to apologize to them.

The lady smiled and waved her hand. "It's okay. We've got the general picture of the whole incident now, plus you've also given us an explanation. So let's just wipe this incident off the book."

"Thank you for your understanding, madam." Maisie sent the customers to the door personally, and the customers left with great satisfaction.

Maisie then walked out of the elevator in a good mood, looked up, and saw Nolan standing in front of the French windows in the corridor.

Her ecstatic mood dissipated immediately. "Mr. Goldmann, you do know you're on my floor, right?"

'This isn't the floor where Willow's office is located.'

"I was waiting for you." Nolan slowly turned around, looking at her coldly.

Maisie forced a smile off the corners of her lips and stepped forward. "What's the matter, Mr. Goldman? Are you here to vent for your little girlfriend again?"

"Can you stop talking like that all the time?" Nolan did not like this tone and attitude.

"Sorry, that's just who I am." Maisie shrugged.

Nolan's thin lips were pressed into an indifferent line.

'That's not the attitude that she gives off when she's dealing with others. She's hostile when she's around me.'

"Heh, are you feeling upset because I helped Willow?"

Maisie looked blank.

'What?'

Nolan seemed to have seen through her. "I know that your relationship with Willow has always been bad. You're making her your target because she took over your mother's company."

He approached her and took his time to speak. "You have to be forgiving whenever there's a chance to do so. She hasn't even complained about what you did to her six years ago."

"What did I do to her six years ago?" Maisie met his eyes and smirked all of a sudden. "So Willow has become a victim to you?"

Nolan lowered his eyes and brows and said nothing.

Maisie suppressed her smile, and her face became indifferent. "Yes, she has always been the pitiful one in front of others. Even my father feels distressed whenever he sees her victimizing herself, let alone you."

"Maisie Vanderb—"

"Mr. Goldman," Maisie interrupted him expressionlessly. "You don't even know a thing about what I've experienced, so you don't have the right to judge me. I don't care what the enchanting Willow has told you, but I'm saying this with a clear conscience. I was the victim of the incident from six years ago."

She then returned to her office almost immediately after saying so without waiting for Nolan to say anything.