

Chapter 175

“She never tells me where she’s going. The two of us don’t communicate much if we’re not at home together. You’re acting a little weird. What exactly is going on? Has she kidnapped your husband and hidden him away for her daughter?”

“I just received a call, and I think they got into a car accident. Can you find out the specifics for me?”

I was not in the mood to joke around with him. Mason and Zedd had not picked up my calls, so he was the only person I could find that might be able to help.

“Okay, I’ll investigate immediately,” he said solemnly, putting aside his previous unruly demeanor.

After hanging up the call, my heart continued to pound. I was unsure if I was nervous or afraid. I clenched the phone so hard that my palms became sweaty, and I paced back and forth in the room anxiously.

anxiously.

Ten minutes later, Xander called me and said, "I've booked the earliest flight tomorrow morning. Are you coming along?"

There was a thump in my heart. I had still been feeling quite hopeful just a moment ago, but my heart had now fallen into the abyss. The last trace of strength in my body had been sapped away, leaving me dry. It was too strenuous to even breathe now.

I composed myself and said, "Yes!"

"Don't worry too much about him, he's still in the resuscitation room. He should be fine since he was sent to the hospital in time. It's still early, so there's no use panicking now. Get some sleep first, and I'll come pick you up tomorrow morning," Xander said in a slightly deep tone.

I massaged my sore glabella and said, "I know. Okay, I'm hanging up now. See you tomorrow morning."

How could I possibly fall asleep? I could not stand the stifling atmosphere in the house. The room was empty without

were several men in uniform squatting
own in the hall. They were probably
trying to capture a fugitive.

Xander and I rushed to the security
checkpoint, not thinking too much about i
t.

At that moment, the men walked toward u
s, a picture in their hands. They glanced a
t it and said, "Are you Wanda Lane?"

Though I was a little surprised, I still
nodded slightly.

"We're from the Salt City Administration
for Industry and Commerce. We can't
believe you've actually been this fast.
Don't try to run. Come with me!" One of
them looked at me with a grim
expression.

I was completely dumbfounded and stood
rooted to the spot, not knowing what to d
o. Standing beside me, Xander said, "
Why are you looking for her? We're in a
rush."

"We know you're in a rush. Why else
would we be squatting here this late at
night?" one of the young men snapped.

I calmed myself down and went forward,
saying, "I'm a law-abiding tax-paying

ying, "I'm a law-abiding tax-paying citizen. Shouldn't you at least give me a reason before you take me away?"

"Your company has been suspected of long-term money laundering. There were two deaths last night, and although you're not the one legally responsible, as the president's wife, you are obliged to cooperate in our investigation."

Our company, Grant Corporation?

I was not just dumbfounded, but stupefied too.

"Although Mid-Nutri Technology isn't your company, your name has been signed on all its documents over the years. Come with us first."

"You've got the wrong person, right? She doesn't have her own company. All those companies belong to her husband. You should go to Theo Grant, Grant Corporation legal owner, and not come here giving a pregnant lady trouble."

"Sir, you can hire an attorney if you have any doubts. Don't stop us from performing our duties, or we will take you away too." After such a long delay, the patience of these men was running

you away too." After such a long delay, the patience of these men was running thin.

Although I did not know what was going on, I had calmed down completely, so I said to Xander, "I'm fine. You go ahead and see what's going on over there. Contact me if there's any news. I'll join you as soon as I'm done here."

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Although I was terrified when we first got on the road, I had calmed down now.

Slowly, I recalled the time when Grandma was still alive. Afraid that Theo would leave me alone after she was no longer around, she opened a small company that produced shampoos and gave me 50% of the equity.

However, due to poor management afterward, the business closed down in just less than two years.

As I did not contribute money nor took part in the management, I did not pay much attention to this matter. When Theo told me that the company went bankrupt and the site would be given to Zedd, I did not think much about it at the time.

I did not expect that this company still existed and something this serious had happened.

When I arrived at the Administration for Industry and Commerce, a man in

● Industry and Commerce, a man in civilian clothes sat across from me.

“Ms. Wanda, we learned that your company’s product caused a customer to experience serious hair loss due to issues in product quality two years ago. The customer eventually suffered from depression and committed suicide. Just last night, a family member of the deceased consumed poison to commit suicide in front of the factory. Are you aware of this?”

I shook my head immediately. “I’m not aware of it at all. I admit that this company exists under Grant Corporation, but production halted two years ago. As for the customer you just mentioned, it’s actually my first time hearing about this case.”

I was honestly unaware of this incident.

“Ms. Wanda, you said that this company has halted production, yet you’ve still been earning profits in the last two years. Moreover, many of the documents were personally signed and approved by you. Don’t tell me you’re unaware of these things?”

things?"

Unbelievable. I had no idea how to defend myself at all and could only keep shaking my head. "I don't know. I don't know anything at all."

"Please calm down, Ms. Wanda. You're the company's shareholder and the one who signed all the Mid-Nutri documents. We have evidence of it."

After a pause, he continued, "As for the two lives, they're not directly related to you, so the police will handle it.

Therefore, this case is more industrial and commercial in nature. You just need to explain to us about the money laundering, but as far as you're concerned, you're not in any trouble."

The man's words reminded me that the person had only died in front of the factory but the reason was still unclear. This was not a criminal case yet, so it could only be considered an economic case.

After calming myself down, I looked at the man in front of me and said, "I'm really sorry but I can't answer your questions now. You're illegally detaining me and violating my human rights. I will

me and violating my human rights. I will reserve the right to take legal actions.”

Mid-Nutri was under Grant Corporation, after all. Even if something happened, I was not directly involved.

As for the person's death, something was clearly wrong here. Perhaps someone was framing me on purpose. I could not say anything at the moment because Theo was not around. If anything went wrong, the Grants' attorney would step in and solve it.

Seeing that I had raised my guard, the man got up and said, “I initially wanted to give you a chance to come clean, but since you refuse to say anything, I guess we can only do things by the book now.”

The man left the room after saying those words.

As there was no substantial evidence found, the Administration for Industry and Commerce did not have the power to detain people. Hence, after a quick questioning, I was allowed to leave.

I went to Grant Corporation as soon as I got out.

got out.

I was still unclear as to what had happened, but there was certainly a conspiracy behind this incident.

Before the car arrived at Grant Corporation, I could already see a crowd from afar.

I did not rashly go forward and gave Mason a call instead. The call was unanswered.

I then called Zedd. Fortunately, he answered it.

“Zedd, you’ve been using Mid-Nutri’s company site this whole time, right? What was the reason for the fatality last night? I need an explanation.” I owned half of the company’s shares, so I had the responsibility to ask about it.

Zedd fell silent for a moment before saying, “You’re something huh, Wanda? Shouldn’t you be worried about Theo right now? Aren’t you worried whether he’ll come out alive or not?”

I had a splitting headache. The fear and forbearance from last night finally exploded at this moment.

exploded at this moment.

I yelled without a single care, "Do you think it's my responsibility if he insists on dying in a car accident with his lover? Did the two agree not to stop until they could die together? What, so one car accident isn't enough and they got into another in Whaldorf City?"

Zedd fell silent.

After a very long time, he said, "I've sent someone to handle Mid-Nutri's incident. You indeed signed some of the documents because you hold half of the equity, hence you have the right to decide. Theo knows this. You can ask him yourself when he's out of danger!"

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Having said that, he fell silent again before saying, "If you're smart, Wanda, you should know that sometimes, if you insist on doing something, you'll only end up being the unlucky one in the end."

"What do you mean by 'I'll end up being the unlucky one in the end'?" I felt like I was being pushed into a major conspiracy. Most importantly, I had no idea what they were up to at all.

Zedd did not say any more and hung up straight away.

Seeing the crowd, I felt a little afraid and pulled out my phone to call Cecilia.

"Where are you? I was just about to call you." As soon as the call connected, Cecilia's anxious voice was heard.

"Downstairs of Grant Corporation," I replied weakly.

"Don't go in. I watched the news and this is huge. I'll come and pick you up immediately."

immediately.”

“No, I’m not going in and am on the other side of the road. I drove here. You don’t have to come out.” I did not want to go in when the situation was this bad either. Therefore, I revved up the engine and drove to Cecilia’s house.

As soon as I stepped in through the door, she pulled me and asked anxiously, “What exactly is going on? I saw the news saying that you’re to be held accountable for it.”

I sighed. “Grandma gave me half of the equity when she first started this company. Even though I didn’t manage it, lots of documents after that were signed and approved by me.”

She was stunned. “So someone planned to set you up from the start and deliberately made you take the blame?”

I nodded. From what I could see so far, that seemed to be the case.

“They also checked Grant Corporation’s financial reports and say that we’re using this company to launder money. If it’s true, then I’m afraid Grant Corporation will suffer a major crisis and may even

will suffer a major crisis and may even face bankruptcy.”

“I don’t care about other stuff. Bankrupt or not, I don’t care. I’m just worried about you. Everyone on the internet is saying that you’re the one who’s behind the deaths.

“Also, something has happened with the new product endorsement. They say that the shareholders are all putting the blame on you for starting the rumors and leaking the master copy. Some of the shareholders are particularly extreme, so you must be careful.”

I held my forehead. For a moment, I felt like I was being attacked from all sides.

Seeing how I was behaving, Cecilia said, “Don’t panic first. Theo will probably take care of the monetary problems for you. However, I think it’ll be hard for you to go to work again in the future. Perfect timing, I suppose. We can leave everything behind and head straight to Rosella City.”

My heart was a mess. I crouched down on the floor and hugged my head, saying, “Theo can’t handle this. He got into an

Theo can't handle this. He got into an accident and is currently in an ICU in Whaldorf City receiving emergency treatment. I don't even know if he's dead or alive."

"What's happening? Why is everything happening all at once? I refuse to believe that no one's behind this!" Cecilia screamed while clenching her fists.

I panicked. If someone was actually behind this, then what was the other party's purpose for doing this? Was he trying to bring me or Grant Corporation down?

I was still pondering when Miss Woods called me and said that there were many people outside the villa. She told me not to go back.

My head hurt even more. The only thing I was glad about was how safe it was at Cecilia's place because no one knew about it. 1

Xander gave me a call to tell me that Theo's surgery was a success but he was still unconscious and in the ICU.

The only thing I could do now was wait.

This lasted several days.

The bad thing about the internet was that even the smallest things were infinitely magnified. Grant Corporation's status in Salt City spoke for itself. The headlines published by major news agencies, self-published media, and trending hashtags recently were all about these matters.

Someone died in Grant Corporation's factory...

Mrs. Grant had a lover boy, resulting in the delayed release of new products and breach of Newlight Media's contract...

They also talked about Grant Corporation's internal management issues and so on.

All of a sudden, the so-called insiders started exposing all sorts of slander and misinformation. I was also described as being an unconventional and promiscuous sinner.

As expected, Grant Corporation's stocks crashed to a limit down. Many shareholders could not stand the pressure and stood downstairs of Grant Corporation every day to demand an

● Corporation every day to demand an explanation. They demanded that I, the vicious criminal, show myself.

Although the company held a press conference, it was of no use because Theo and I did not show up. It did not put things to rest.

The fuss that the stockholders created directly led to the shutdown of all the Grants' businesses.

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A big part of Salt City's economy depended on the Grants. With the closure of shopping malls, hospitals, and the construction industry, the entire city was almost at a standstill. Although the government had stepped in, the stockholders were convinced and wanted to see Theo in person.

There was nothing I could do but read the news every day. I was all over the internet, and I was too afraid to go to the company. Moreover, there were a lot of things that I could not figure out. All I could do was stay indoors in an anxious state.

Cecilia would buy various groceries every day and cook all sorts of dishes for me. Her culinary skills had improved considerably, and I could almost swallow the food she made.

"You shouldn't get too anxious. You're pregnant, and your belly is growing bigger and bigger every day. Your health is of utmost importance. The things going

of utmost importance. The things going on now are completely out of your control," Cecilia said and comforted me.

I nodded, but I had no appetite to eat. Although I understood Cecilia's words, it was impossible for me not to worry.

"I hope the audit results will be released soon. At least, it'll allow Grant Corporation to resume business because the loss this time is incalculable."

"I don't think it's possible. Theo has shot himself in the foot big time. If Grant Corporation goes bankrupt, then he'll have a lifetime of debts that he can't repay. Wanda, you need to divorce him immediately after he wakes up!" Cecilia looked worriedly at me.

Standing in Cecilia's shoes, I knew that she was just worried about me. Humans were selfish. It was an undeniable fact that we would always choose to stand on the side of those who were closest to us. However, I could not do so.

I said, "Grandma was really nice to me back then. If I ask for a divorce at this moment, then I'll not be able to ease my conscience for the rest of my life. If Grant

● conscience for the rest of my life. If Grant Corporation really goes bankrupt, then as his wife, I'll accompany him through the difficult times."

Cecilia did not respond to that and merely looked at me before asking, "Have you ever wondered if Zedd is the one behind this? Mid-Nutri got in trouble under his management but the signatures were all signed by you. Do you think he used you because he has been wanting to deal with Theo for the longest time?"

I had suspicions about this earlier but Theo brushed it off when I mentioned it to him. Zedd had said himself that Theo was the one who authorized the signing of the documents.

Also, Zedd and Theo managed the company together, so if anything happened to Grant Corporation, Zedd would not be able to safeguard himself either. This was evident from their company's share situation.

Zedd was no fool. He would not do such a thing to hurt his own interests. Hence, the truth of the matter would only be out after Theo's return.

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after Theo's return.

I did not know anything about the company's operation. Thinking about these things would only make my head hurt. I did not know what to do at all.

Cecilia walked over and took me in her arms, comforting me. "Don't think about it anymore. You can't do anything to change the result now. Who knows, maybe this is happening right when Theo got into a car accident because it's a set-up by his business foes."

I had thought about the things Cecilia said. Theo was in an accident, Mason and Zedd were not around, and all the news was exposed overnight. Every move seemed to have been planned in advance.

However, I had not heard the news of Grant Corporation offending anyone all these years. Why would anyone drive the corporation to this point?

My brain began to carefully search for the most likely suspect, and suddenly, a lightbulb lit up in my head and a name appeared.

Grayson Louis.

I seemed to connect the dots all at once.

seemed to connect the dots all at once. The last time he came to me, I had rejected his suggestions. Before Grayson left, he vowed to use extraordinary means.

Thinking about it now, he had just found his long-lost daughter and would certainly try to fulfill her wish by all means. Cindy's only wish was to marry Theo.

However, I was pregnant and he could not possibly force Theo to divorce me. Hence, the only way to do it was to set me up and then put Grant Corporation in a difficult position so I would take the blame. It would force me to resign and leave.

They would then step in to help Grant Corporation. It would be a walk in the park to get Theo to give up on me.

They had been targeting me since the very beginning. Besides, Zedd even told me previously that I should just give up.

"What's wrong?" Seeing how astonished I look, Cecilia asked me.

I looked at Cecilia and said solemnly, "I

I look, Cecilia asked me.

I looked at Cecilia and said solemnly, "I think that this is indeed a conspiracy, but it isn't directed at Grant Corporation. Their target is me."

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“Forget it. You’re no VIP, so who would bring Grant Corporation down because of you? They would be offending Theo. In Salt City, that’s a name that can induce fear in anyone who hears it!” Cecilia refused to believe me.

Cecilia did not know the reason for it, nor did I have the energy and time to explain it to her.

I had doubts in my mind. Xander said that Grayson and Petra were in the ICU as well. Would they really take things this far for their daughter? Even to the point of putting their lives at stake?

Perhaps the scene at the hospital was also part of their schemes?

At the thought of this, I pulled out my phone to give Xander a call.

The call was answered after two rings. “How are you, Wandy? Are you safe now?”

Xander asked anxiously, his voice slightly weary. However, he still remained

wary. However, he still remained concerned about me, which made me slightly moved.

"I'm okay. I'm safe." I got up and stood on the balcony, looking at the traffic below. I said, "How are things on your side? How's your mother and the rest?"

"It's still the same. The three of them have not woken up yet after the surgery. They're all in the ICU. The doctor will have to observe them for a few more days to know the result."

After hearing what Xander said, I grew even more suspicious. They were in the ICU. It seemed that they had genuinely gotten injured in the car crash.

I could not help but think of Mason and Zedd. I asked, "Are you in the hospital alone? Have you seen Mason and Zedd?"

It was strange that they had not shown up when something this major was happening to the company. Although I was aware of their close relationship, Theo was in the ICU and did not need to be taken care of all the time. Hence, it was unlikely they would be occupied all the time.

time.
"Mason is taking care of them inside. Zedd went back to Salt City today. Don't worry about Grant Corporation. Take care of yourself. Don't leave the house."

"Okay, got it. You take care."

After hanging up the call, my head hurt even more. Their behaviors were unusual but I could not figure out why. The business field was like a battlefield. There were all sorts of deceitful tricks, and nobody bothered to put on a false pretense.

After lunch, I got ready to leave. Since Zedd had returned, I needed to think of a way to go to the company to meet him.

Cecilia saw me grabbing my bag and came up to grab me. "You can't go out. It's dangerous out there. What do you need? I'll buy it for you."

"I'm not going out to buy anything. I heard that Zedd is back. I'm going to the company. I can't eat or sleep if I can't clear things up."

"There's a crowd outside of Grant Corporation. Even the basement is congested. How do you plan on going in?"

That was right. Many people had been protesting there these days. I could not just attach a pair of wings to my body and fly up there, right?

Cecilia pondered for a moment and said, "Why don't we do this? You'll put on a disguise and I'll drive your car and park it outside. Everybody already knows what car you drive anyway, so I believe it'll cause a commotion. You'll then take advantage of the chaos and get in."

"No way, you're pregnant too. That's too dangerous. I won't allow it." Those people could do anything after losing their minds. I dared not let Cecilia take the risk.

"I won't drive, then. I'll get a friend to do it. When they see that the driver is a man and not you, they won't lay a finger on him." After saying those words, Cecilia pulled out her phone without waiting for my consent.

Although I was still worried, I could not think of a better way. I decided to just go with it.

Cecilia and I wore a hat, sunglasses, and

disguised ourselves. We came to Grant Corporation's back door. There were far fewer people here.

When her friend had parked the car across the road, Cecilia squeezed into the crowd and cried out, "Isn't that Mrs. Grant's car? She must be in the car."

As soon as she said those words, the listless men were suddenly energized and they all rushed toward the opposite road together. In the midst of chaos, I squeezed into Grant Corporation's back door. I trotted my way over, took the president's exclusive elevator, and went up to the top floor.

Unlike in the past, Grant Corporation was very quiet. Aside from the business tax and audit personnel, only some middle-level employees were still at work.

I looked for Zedd in the conference room. He was having a discussion with the investigators.

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He was a little surprised to see me come in. "How did you get up here?"

"I can't fly, so of course, I walked up with my own two feet."

The investigator on the side looked at me and said to Zedd, "The audit has basically been completed and the results will be released tomorrow. From the current preliminary investigation, there's nothing wrong with Grant Corporation's operation except for a portion that's Mid-Nutri Technology. It's expected that you can resume business very soon." He got up and left after saying that.

Zedd got up to walk him out. "Thank you. Sorry for the trouble."

When the investigators had left, he leaned back on the sofa and smoked. He appeared easygoing and relaxed as though nothing was going on.

I could not sit still thinking about my worries and fears these days. I was angry. I went up and put out the cigarette in his

I went up and put out the cigarette in his hand. "Mr. Zedd, I need an explanation for what's been happening recently."

He was not mad after his cigarette was snatched away. He looked at me and said, "What explanation do you want? Do you want me to tell you that I was the one who did all this?"

"Isn't that the case? Ever since I took over the new product endorsement, accidents have been happening. People have been secretly tripping me up and all signs point to you.

"Besides, you're responsible for taking care of Mid-Nutri. Need I say more? Don't treat me like a fool." I raised my voice and looked at him coldly.

He was half-lying on the sofa, looking askance at me. "Regarding the new product endorsement, it's because you wanted to hold a competition, and as a result, everyone knows about it. How can you blame me when rumors like that broke out? As for Mid-Nutri, yes, I'm managing it, but many of the documents were indeed signed by you. You have no one to blame but yourself for trusting your subordinates so much. Don't you

wary. However, he still remained concerned about me, which made me slightly moved.

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your subordinates so much. Don't you ever read the documents before you sign them?"

I was speechless. "So from what you're saying, this is all my fault? Was it my idea to use Mid-Nutri to launder money too?"

He moved a little closer to my side and said, "Theo knows about the things happening in Mid-Nutri. The internal flow of each factory in the enterprise replaces each other. This isn't supposed to be a big deal in the industry. For a company as big as Grant Corporation, directly announcing the closure of a factory will affect the stock market. That's why we came up with this plan."

I was stunned. "Theo knows about this?"

Zedd looked meaningfully at me and said, "I don't know about the other stuff but he knows better than anyone about the things happening in Mid-Nutri. Also, this matter was handled two years ago. We've already appeased the family. We can't just let a factory like that stagnate a business from growing and developing, right?"

"Why did someone still die, then?" They

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Why did someone still die, then?" They clearly said that a family member had committed suicide in front of the factory.

"It's been two years since the incident and the family is just coming over to make a scene? Do you think it's reasonable? Someone's just trying to use this incident to make a scene."

Things turned out to be like this. Someone deliberately chose to report this to target Grant Corporation as well as me.

This was a double whammy to not only destroy Grant Corporation's prestige but also to bring me into disrepute. The reason why Zedd and the rest were not panicking was that they knew that there was nothing wrong with Grant Corporation. When the storm passed, they would then issue a statement to sweep me out, making it a convincing solution.

It just so happened that I could not defend myself since I was responsible for the endorsement. I also owned 50% of the shares of Mid-Nutri and was the one who signed the documents.

Therefore, I alone would take the blame i

Therefore, I alone would take the blame in the end.

I was the only one who would be kicked out in the end.

I was so furious that I laughed miserably. "Mr. Zedd, I always thought you were just good at yelling at me. I can't believe you're so scheming too. I'm pretty impressed."

Public opinion would be enough to sweep me out the door and leave me without a chance to make a comeback.

Zedd did not say a word. After a long silence, he looked at me and said in a low voice, "You don't need to be upset. You'd leave sooner or later anyway. The company's shares remain yours, so you won't really lose anything."

Would not lose anything?

I laughed. Was the loss of reputation not a loss? It might be difficult for me to re-enter the workforce in the future.

I stood up and looked down at him from above. "I've thought of the many ways I would leave, but I certainly didn't think I would be kicked out by you. Does Theo

I stood up and looked down at him from above. "I've thought of the many ways I would leave, but I certainly didn't think I would be kicked out by you. Does Theo know about this?"

He neither admitted nor denied it.

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I staggered backward. The pain in my heart made it hard for me to breathe. I had thought of countless possibilities in the last few days and guessed many people. I was even bent on thinking that Grayson did it.

Though who knew that the result turned out to be such a huge slap in the face?

This was all indeed a conspiracy against me. They were merely going with the flow and glad to see it happen.

Not wanting to stay here any longer, I covered my chest and left the building that made me feel suffocated.

What happened next was similar to what I thought.

The results of the inspection were out. After conducting an investigation into Grant Corporation, they found no irregularities.

The death that happened outside of Mid-Nutri Technology was merely a

●tri Technology was merely a coincidence. There was no direct evidence to prove that it was related to the company. As for the accounts, I was the one doing it in secret and had to bear all the responsibility for it.

Therefore, I was expected to bear the penalties and fines alone.

The company resumed business, and after bearing all the compensation, I was fired from the company, never to be hired again.

Things had finally settled down after days of drama. Grant Corporation suffered huge losses because of this incident. Their stock price slumped as well. Business was closed for a few days, but thankfully, everything went back to normal again.

As I was willing to take responsibility for it, the company was able to salvage parts of its reputation. Everything went back to normal after business resumed operations as usual.

I went from being in despair and sad to slowly calming down. However, I continued to have low spirits and could

continued to have low spirits and could barely cheer myself up.

I had been staying in Cecilia's house without returning to the villa. As I no longer needed to go back to work, I had nothing to do at home and daydreamed all day. ①

My stomach grew very quickly, and a bump was already visible.

I no longer cared about what was happening in the outside world. I did not watch the news nor did I care about the current situation. I also stopped asking about Theo.

Cecilia was anxious to see me like this. She had been making all sorts of different dishes for me every day to cheer me up.

After dinner, Cecilia said to me, "Wanda, our house in Rosella City is done. Should we go over and stay for a few days? I need your help to check out the place. I don't know much about renovation works."

"Okay." Although I did not feel like going out, I had to accompany Cecilia since she had asked.

I knew very well that she just wanted to

use this as an excuse to bring me out. For the sake of my child, I should go out to take a walk. I should not allow the sullenness in my heart to devour me whole.

Rosella City was not very near to Salt City, but the high-speed train made things convenient. We arrived in just three hours.

Cecilia's house was in a high technology zone. The government was planning for a new education park that would have public and private schools. There were many schools here, and all the area was being improved. It was a good living environment.

Cecilia did not buy a villa according to the original plan but chose a luxurious townhouse community where each building had only six floors. Moreover, the buildings were all set apart from each other with impressive green spaces. Looking at the place as a whole, it seemed really worth it.

A house of more than 2,152 square feet was more than enough for the four of us to live in.

"What do you think? I'm not well-versed in these things. Do you think the decorations are okay?" Cecilia asked in a soft voice when she saw me looking around the place.

I raised my thumb. "It's perfect!"

"Really? Oh, thank God. I was afraid you wouldn't like it. We agreed that since you paid for more than half of the house, this house will belong to the two of us. If you don't want to stay in Salt City anymore, come and live with me. This will forever be your home."

"Thank you, Cecilia!" I reached out to hold her tight, unable to stop my tears from falling down.

She was always putting up with all my decisions. She also made arrangements and future plans for me in advance.

She had always been against me marrying Theo in the past, but when I got married, she was happier than anyone else. Worried that I would be bullied or that I would have no family to return to after fighting with Theo, she bought a house in Salt City to keep me company.

house in Salt City to keep me company.

● She would always be in the same place, smiling and greeting me with open arms.

“Do you have to be so moved, silly girl? We’ve agreed to be each other’s family and to take care of each other, no?”

Cecilia patted my shoulder and consoled me softly.

“Mm, we’ll take care of each other.” I smiled and nodded hard.

“Look at you, smiling and crying at the same time. Go and wash your face. We’re going out to eat. We can’t starve ourselves.” Cecilia joked while cupping my face.

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“Okay,” I responded and went into the bathroom. Although Cecilia was about the same age as me, she was always very good at taking care of others. Many times, I would be put in a trance and see her with a motherly glow.

I was planning to have a quick bite outside but Cecilia disagreed. She insisted on taking me to the famous burger joint in town.

Therefore, we hailed a cab to the busiest commercial building in the city center, which was similar to Grant Corporation in Salt City. Over here, shopping, food, and entertainment were all conveniently located in the building.

When we arrived at the F&B area on the fourth floor, Cecilia brought me to have the famous chicken burger that she would not stop praising. It did taste pretty good. However, I did not have much of an appetite lately so I felt full after taking just a few bites.

after taking just a few bites.

Cecilia's appetite improved ever since she got pregnant. She finished her food very quickly.

"You don't have morning sickness yet?" I asked, looking at her.

She spread her arms. "Do you think I'm pregnant with a fake baby? I have no other reaction apart from having a much better appetite."

"That's a good thing! Your baby will be an obedient and thoughtful child in the future." When I thought of my own listless appearance, I was sincerely happy for Cecilia.

"I don't expect the baby to be considerate, I just want to give birth to a healthy baby so I won't die alone." Cecilia seemed a little down. Perhaps she was reminded of the past.

"What are you talking about? I'm here for you. You won't be alone." I patted her shoulder.

"Yeah, I still have you. I'm not alone." Cecilia shook her head and put on her usual smile. "Let's go shopping downstairs later. I haven't bought

downstairs later. I haven't bought anything for a long time and am tempted to do so."

"Okay."

Seeing that I had agreed, Cecilia immediately put down her cutlery and dragged me downstairs.

"Listen, there's a pretty good boutique over here. It's the designer's own store, so the clothes in there..." Before Cecilia could finish her sentence, she clenched my hand and stood frozen on the spot. She stared fixedly ahead, her eyes filled with anxiety and terror.

I was slightly stunned and followed her gaze.

In the middle of the hall, a tall and handsome figure stood out from the crowd. He was impossible to ignore.

It was Tyler! There was a pretty and sensual-looking woman standing beside him. The two were talking, and they seemed to be on good terms.

What was he doing in Rosella City?

"Let's go, Wanda." Cecilia pulled me

Let's go, Wanda." Cecilia pulled me away, her body shaking slightly as her complexion paled.

"This way." I hugged her to console her, planning to leave from the side door immediately.

What I had for Tyler was not only fear but also hatred. Cecilia was different. All she felt was anxiety and fear. These feelings had been carved into her bones and accompanied her like a shadow.

Well, it made sense. Anyone who saw the potential murderer of one's parents would not be able to bring themselves to stay calm.

Initially, we thought that Tyler had not seen us because we were standing so far away.

However, after walking just a few steps away, a man clad in black stopped us in our tracks. "Ladies, Mr. Tyler would like to invite you for tea."

"Wanda." Cecilia shifted her position and tugged at my clothes for dear life.

I understood the fear she felt. This was the first time she had faced Tyler since w

the first time she had faced Tyler since we escaped a few years ago.

I held her back and shook my head gently, saying to the man, "Please tell Mr. Tyler that we'll visit him some other time. We still have things to do today."

The man clad in black stood rooted on the same spot, staring at us with his dark pupils. "Mr. Tyler said that if you're not free today, he won't mind going over to you instead."

Cecilia let go of my hand and went up to scream at the man's face, saying, "We said we're not free because we don't want to see him! Don't you understand? Tell Mr. Tyler that if he still wants to live, then don't push me to the edge. Otherwise, don't blame me for what I'll do!"

Who knew how much courage Cecilia had mustered to say those words. It was probably a declaration of war against Tyler after spending all these years in fear, right?

However, the person listening was completely unmoved. The man acted as if he had not heard what she said. His voice remained cold and emotionless. "Please

However, the person listening was completely unmoved. The man acted as if he had not heard what she said. His voice remained cold and emotionless. "Please don't make things hard for me. Don't blame me for being rude."

Cecilia stomped her feet in anger as an anxious look crossed her face.

I pulled her hand and said softly, "Looks like we can't escape this today. Don't be afraid. I'm here with you."

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After saying that, I looked at the man clad in black, asking, "Where are we going?"

I knew Tyler's character better than anyone. Even if we escaped this time, he would still show up at our doorstep and refuse to let us go. Rather than wait for him to come knocking at our door, it was better to go see what he wanted.

"This way, ladies." The man led us to a cafe on the fourth floor.

This place was comparatively quiet compared to the bustling and lively scene downstairs. The renovation was elegantly done, and even the ornaments were intentionally placed. It was clear that the owner was a person of elegance.

Cecilia and I exchanged glances with each other, a nervous look in our eyes. We held each other's hands.

The man led us to a private room and made a 'please' gesture without even knocking the door.

knocking the door.

I was about to push the door in when I heard a woman's voice. "Mr. Tyler, this is your favorite tea. I've been saving it for you."

Her voice sounded gentle, yet it did not give the impression of a frivolous woman.

I stuck out my chest and suppressed the panic in my heart, pulling Cecilia inside with me.

In the room, I saw the elegantly dressed woman from earlier. She was making tea with her slender fingers and skillful movements. The scene was quite pleasing to look at.

On the other side of the table, Tyler held up a teacup and was tasting it.

Brewing tea in a cafe? Sure enough, only Tyler was capable of doing something like this.

Seeing that we had come in, Tyler put down the teacup and glanced thoughtfully at me while smirking. "Please have a seat, ladies."

Cecilia was terrified of Tyler. It was a fear that had been residing in the depths of

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... had been residing in the depths of her heart. However, now that she was meeting him again for the first time in so many years, the hatred buried in her heart had returned as well. She clutched my hand tightly and glanced fiercely at Tyler. "What exactly do you want from us?"

Tyler ignored Cecilia and looked at me instead with a hint of a smile in his eyes. "Want to have a cup of tea?"

I held Cecilia's hands gently, motioning her to calm down before looking at Tyler. I said blandly, "Sure."

Having said that, I pulled Cecilia with me and we sat across the table.

The woman opposite poured two glasses of tea and placed them in front of us with a smile.

"Get straight to the point, Tyler. We're not afraid of you in broad daylight," Cecilia spoke loudly, but it was uncertain whether she was saying it to Tyler or herself.

Tyler frowned at her, a hint of displeasure in his eyes. He said mildly, "Drink some tea first."

Drink some tea first."

None of us moved. Compared to Cecilia's agitated state, I was relatively calmer. I looked at Tyler and said, "Just tell us what you want. I don't drink tea at this hour because I won't be able to sleep at night."

Tyler glanced at me with a hint of mockery in his eyes. He poured tea for himself, took a sip, and said slowly, "You're much tougher than I thought. I thought you wouldn't be able to eat or sleep and would get upset for a very long time after getting chased out of the company in public like that."

"That's none of your concern." My heart trembled, but my countenance remained the same as I looked at him with a neutral expression. Grant Corporation's incident was a major event, so it came as no surprise that Tyler had found out about it.

He darted a sideways glance at my belly and said mildly, "Your belly isn't that big yet. It's been less than six months, right? You can still abort it."

"Are you out of your mind, Tyler?"

Before I could say anything, Cecilia stood up emotionally and screamed in his face.

emotionally and screamed in his face. Her initial nervousness and fear had turned into hatred and anger. She had forgotten about her fear completely.

Tyler frowned, looking a little impatient. He put down his cup and said, "Take this lady out."

The man clad in black stepped forward and said to Cecilia. "This way, Ma'am."

I clenched Cecilia's hand tightly and asked nervously, "W-What are you trying to do?"

Tyler glanced at me and smiled. "Don't be nervous, Wandy. I'm just inviting her out to have something to eat."

"I'm not leaving. I want to stay with Wanda."

"She's not leaving. She's staying with me."

Cecilia and I said at the same time as we embraced each other tightly. We were both terrified of him to our cores.

Tyler saw this and laughed, saying, "Be a good girl. We'll have a good chat and you can go back after that. Otherwise..."

good girl. We'll have a good chat and you
can go back after that. Otherwise..."

He gently turned the cup in his hand
without saying anything more.

I could sense the threat from his gaze.

It was a soundless threat!

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