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I was not trying to imply anything else. Instead, I genuinely thought that this was a win-win situation for both of us. However, he glanced at me coldly and instructed, "Eat quickly!"

At that moment, his phone rang. He glanced at it and frowned. "I'll go and answer this call."

I nodded and watched as he left with his phone.

The barbecued meat was ready after a while. Not waiting for him, I stuffed them into my mouth eagerly. It felt so carefree to eat without anyone disturbing me.

When I raised my head and glanced at Ashton, I saw him enter the car with his phone. He probably wanted to talk in his car.

Ten minutes passed. While I was eating happily, he came in and sat opposite me. However, he did not touch his cutlery at all.

Instead, he asked, "Jared and Joe are having a celebration tonight. Will you be coming along?"

"Where?"

"The Paramount Club."

The Paramount Club was the most luxurious place in K City. It was where men visit to splurge and a place for women to seek their riches. I was not interested in a place like that.

Hence, I replied calmly, "I don't want to go."

He nodded. "Good!"

Ashton really disliked barbecue, so he did not take a single bite. Instead, he merely watched as Late.

By then, I was already slightly full. Looking at the remaining food that had not been barbecued, I felt that it was a pity that I could not bring them home.

Hence, I could only give up and say to Ashton, "Pay the bill!"

He stood up and went to the cashier without a single word. After dragging me out of the barbecue shop, he asked, "Are you tired? Do you want to take a stroll?"

I shook my head. "I'm fine!" Remembering that he had not eaten anything, I asked, "Would you like to eat something?"

"It's okay." After a short pause, he said, "Let's go home first."

At that moment, my phone suddenly rang. Sitting on the passenger's seat, I accepted the call.

Jared's voice rang out. "Scarlett, is Ashton busy now?"

Taken aback, I shook my head. "No."

He chuckled. "We're at Paramount Club. Would you like to come over?"

I glanced over at Ashton. He had already started the engine and was driving back to the villa.

After hesitating for a while, I replied, "Okay, we'll come soon."

Hanging up the call, I looked at Ashton and instructed, "Let's go to Paramount Club."

Ashton raised his eyebrow, but did not say anything.

We soon arrived at the third floor of Paramount Club.

With the energizing music booming beside my ears, I followed behind Ashton and headed to the private room.

He glanced back and reminded me, "Stay by my side later. We'll leave after a short while."

I nodded.

Ashton pushed the door open, revealing a dimly lit room. The lights on the stage were flashing brightly while a young girl danced.

When Ashton entered, Joe and Jared stood up and dismissed the girl on the stage.

The room was basked in a warm yellow light, which made the atmosphere less lively than before.

Rebecca was sitting beside Joe quietly, while another girl wearing a blue skirt sat beside her. She looked quite familiar to me.

After mulling over it for a while, I suddenly realized that she was Kristina. I could not help but frown. She was sitting next to Jared and looked very intimate with him.

I felt slightly upset. Although Jared was clueless about what happened to Macy, she was currently pregnant and hiding in the countryside, while Jared was here acting so intimately with another woman.

More importantly, Kristina was not as naive as she seemed. She was so obsessed with Ashton earlier, so why did she suddenly shift her target to Jared?

After we sat down, Ashton and Jared started talking about work, so I did not join in the conversation. As for Rebecca, she was a very unlikeable and arrogant person who was unwilling to socialize with others.

Instead, she watched as Kristina eagerly poured alcohol for the other men with a bright smile while occasionally interjecting their conversation.

The resentful look in Rebecca's eyes intensified. After Kristina finished pouring some alcohol into Joe's glass, she could not help but stand up and instruct Kristina, "Ms. Larson, buy some tacos for me. I didn't eat much for dinner tonight, so I'm feeling a little hungry."

The men did not pay much attention to her. However, Ashton looked at me and asked, "Would you like to eat anything?"

I thought for a while before shaking my head. "I'm not hungry."

Ashton fell silent. On the other hand, Kristina's expression became slightly ugly. Smiling at Rebecca, she said, "Ms. Larson, you can order food over if there's anything you'd like to eat. It's getting late, so it's not safe for a girl like me to go out alone."

"There's nothing in the food delivery options that catches my eye. Why can't you just run an errand for me? Are you afraid that I won't pay you?" Rebecca's arrogance and stubborn personality was acting up.

As she had always been like this, I had already gotten used to her attitude.

The other men were the same too. However, Kristina was not used to it. In her opinion, Rebecca was deliberately trying to put her in a tight spot. After all, she was the only one whom Rebecca could order around.

Although Kristina's face clouded over, she still squeezed out a smile and tugged Jared's sleeve. She asked gently, "Jared, is there anything you'd like to eat? I can buy some for you when I go down to buy Kristina's food."

Jared frowned. Glancing at Rebecca, he asked, "Didn't you eat earlier?" He always had a cold demeanor. If he had no intention of treating someone gently, he often acted in an aloof manner.

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"I'm still hungry!" Rebecca replied stubbornly.

"Why don't you buy it yourself?" Jared responded in a frank and unemotional manner.

Upon hearing that, Rebecca and Joe became visibly upset. Rebecca pouted as she argued, "What's the matter with you? She's just a mere employee. Why can't I order her to buy something for me?"

"Mere employee? What about you?" Jared continued relentlessly, "You have forgotten about your past, haven't you?"

Rebecca had been a helpless orphan before being adopted by Cameron and Zachary.

Upon hearing those words, Rebecca felt humiliated and could not hold back her anger. "Screw you! Are you seriously getting mad at me because of her?"

Jared sneered, "You expect others to be submissive and tolerate you just because you are now part of the Moore family, don't you?"

"Jared, shut up!" Joe interrupted and glanced at Kristina in annoyance. "What a scheming little mind you have! Why are you deliberately creating a scene and upsetting everyone over such a simple request?"

Shaking her head vigorously, Kristina was aggrieved at his allegation. "Mr. Quinn, that's not true! I didn't mean it!"

Jared scoffed at the statement, "Why are you blaming her? Is there a need to make her life so difficult? Why don't you buy it for Rebecca if you care for her so much?"

His words aggravated the situation and infuriated Joe. "Jared, what do you mean? Did Rebecca offend you? Are you looking for trouble?"

The tit for tat continued and made the atmosphere tense.

Bam! Ashton slammed his glass on the table and looked at them coldly. "Did you guys invite me here to watch you quarrel with each other?"

Joe immediately pointed at Kristina and directed all blame at her. "Ashton, it's all because of her!" He screeched while looking utterly disgusted at her.

I had gotten used to Joe's habit of insulting others who annoyed him.

Though Kristina and I did not get along well, I sympathized with her at that moment.

Ashton frowned and glanced at Kristina. Then he asked impassively, "Are you reluctant to buy?"

She immediately shook her head and denied, "No, it's not like that!"

Ashton raised his eyebrows and ordered, "Then go buy it now!"

Hearing Ashton's order, Kristina shot a glance at Jared. However, seeing that even he chose to remain silent, she reluctantly stood up and left.

"What are you? In love with her?" Seeing that Kristina had left, Ashton looked at Jared and asked blatantly.

"No!" Jared immediately denied the accusation and took a sip of wine, refusing to say anything else.

"Then don't let her ruin your relationship with Joe!" Ashton chided softly. He then shifted his gaze to Joe, "And you, play nice next time!"

Joe nodded and raised his glass towards Jared. "Jared, I'm sorry for losing my cool just now!"

Without saying a word, Jared toasted to him and emptied the glass. That was considered as a reconciliation.

The relationship between men was not complicated, and they let bygones be bygones.

The three of them continued to chat, and it seemed like they have chosen to forget about the ruckus relating to Kristina.

Rebecca pursed her lips and was obviously unhappy. She stayed in the room for only a while longer before she stood up and left.

Having sat for a prolonged period of time, I was starting to feel uncomfortable, so I approached Ashton and whispered in his ear, "I need to get some air!"

He nodded and stood up. "I'll go with you!"

However, I shook my head and refused. "It's all right. I'll go by myself."

I then gently pushed him down to his seat and smiled before I left.

With all kinds of people coming to Paramount Club, I dared not travel too far and chose to stroll along the corridor.

Rebecca saw me wandering along the corridor when she came out of the bathroom. So she approached me and sarcastically remarked, "It looks like your baby is due soon! But it's hard to say if it will be safely delivered, nor will it survive!"

I frowned and immediately leaned against the wall to steady myself. After ensuring my own safety, I looked at her and replied, "Ms. Larson, I thought you would be gracious and become more gentle after joining the Moore family. But it seems like you are getting worse instead. No wonder Ashton is getting more tired of you!"

Rebecca was speechless with rage for a moment. She then glared at me. "Scarlett Stovall! Who do you think you are? Do you really think you can make Ashton stay by your side by having his baby? That's impossible! Killing a person, not to mention a baby, is a simple task for the Moore family. You won't have him! I won't let you give birth to the baby!"

Going through all means to destroy one's enemy was the darkest aspect of human nature.

While I held on to my belly, I gave her a cold-eyed stare and sneered, "There is always rule of law, no matter how formidable the Moore family is. They won't simply hurt an innocent because of you. Look at yourself, all anxious and panicked. There must be tons of people in the Moore family who look down on you and refuse to accept you into their family!"

If Rebecca led a comfortable life in the Moore family, she would not engage in such attention-seeking behavior.

Seeing as she was losing to me in argument, Rebecca stomped her feet and threatened me, "Just you wait!"

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Rebecca turned around and walked back to the room.

Perhaps it was because she walked so fast, but she ran into Kristina at the corner, and the both of them collided together. "Ah!"

"Are you blind?" The collision irritated Rebecca utterly, and she pushed Kristina to the ground after balancing herself.

At that moment, Rebecca presented herself as a domineering and arrogant woman.

Kristina suppressed her anger and got up from the ground with the tacos in her hand. Fortunately, the tacos were not crushed.

She scampered to her feet and began apologizing profusely. "I'm sorry! I was in a hurry just now. It was an accident."

"Accident?" Rebecca yelled. She then gave Kristina a side glare and responded in disdain, "It was disgusting to come into contact with your filthy body!"

Then, she grabbed the tacos from Kristina and threw them into the trash bin without hesitation.

Rebecca contemptuously ordered, "It's dirty. Buy me a new one!"

Furrowing her brow, Kristina was speechless with rage. "Ms. Larson, you've gone too far!"

Rebecca responded arrogantly, "Okay! Should I inform Joe that you refuse to buy tacos for me? Should I also tell Jared and Ashton that you hit me deliberately as a payback?"

"You're a jerk!" Kristina gritted her teeth in anger.

"Haha! Are you going to buy or not?" Rebecca looked at Kristina condescendingly with her arms folded.

I witnessed the incident from afar and chose not to interfere.

After a while, Kristina bit her lip and nodded, concealing her fury. "Okay! I'll buy it for you."

She then turned and walked toward the lobby of Paramount Club.

Rebecca leaned against the wall and gave me a contemptuous look. "I thought you were a brave person and would stand up for her. It seems that you are colder than I thought. Scarlett, you are not a good person either!"

She entered the room after finishing her speech.

I followed behind her and sunk in thought.

I've never said I am a good person. I don't act blindly to seek justice for anyone! Besides, I find Kristina more scheming than Rebecca after having dealt with her several times.

Didn't she have a crush on Ashton? Since when did she turn her target to Jared?

As Ashton saw me following Rebecca into the room, he immediately stood up and approached me. Then he asked while cuddling me, "Are you all right?"

I remained silent but glanced at Rebecca, who was glaring at me and pursing her lips.

Indeed, she was jealous.

Ashton noticed my gaze and looked toward Rebecca with a scowl on his face.

Though he did not say a word, Rebecca was aggrieved at his silent warning.

I guessed Ashton had never looked at her that way.

However, he ignored her and turned to Jared and Joe. "It's getting late. We are leaving."

Jared got up and threw down the blanket, "I'm leaving too."

Joe immediately stood up and replied in annoyance, "Damn! Why are you guys leaving so soon?"

Ashton glanced at them and explained, "Scarlett is not supposed to stay up late. You guys have a nice chat!"

Knowing I was pregnant, Joe did not say much but looked at Jared. "Why are you in such a hurry to leave?"

"I want to sleep!" Jared said flatly.

Joe was this close to lashing out curse words, but he held them back and paused for a while before speaking, "Fine! Let's go! We must get together for a drink some other day!"

At that moment, Kristina came back with the tacos. She realized everyone was about to leave and handed the food to Rebecca immediately. "Ms. Larson, here's your taco."

Rebecca did not even spare her a glance. "Why did you take so long to buy the food? I'm no longer hungry!"

She took the tacos and threw them into the trash. That was a skillful operation!

Ashton gave me an impassive glance and dragged me away. Jared frowned but did not say a word. He then looked at Joe. "See you!"

Although Kristina was upset, she remained silent and calm, keeping up her facade of being meek and gentle.

Ashton went to get his car and asked me to wait at the entrance of Paramount Club.

The sky was dark with an occasional cool breeze. It was about to rain.

"When is your due date?" A voice from behind startled me. I turned around and saw Jared.

"Soon. Two more weeks."

He nodded. As Kristina was not there, I asked him, "Is Kristina your assistant or...?"

"Secretary!" Jared answered without hesitation. He then continued, "Did you get in touch with her recently?"

I was confused, "Who?"

"Macy!"

I froze for a while and then shook my head. "No! I am kind of busy and seldom call her. Why?"

He shook his head and said no more.

I hesitated, unsure of what to say. "Why don't you visit her after you complete the task at hand?"

I did not know much about their story, but I did know that people who missed each other would hold the other in their hearts.

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Macy was unsure if Jared fell for her. Thus, she was reluctant to tell him about the baby as she did not want him to compromise because of it.

Truth be told, Jared himself was probably still uncertain about what feelings he had for Macy.

Ashton's car was approaching, and we bade each other goodbye. "I'll talk to you another day. I have to go now!"

Jared's voice sounded out behind me after I barely took a few steps, "Get a trustworthy person to be by your side when you deliver the baby!"

I froze for a moment but found it strange. "All right!" Well, I don't have a mother-in-law. Unless I suffer from delivery complications, do I have to hesitate in choosing whether to save the mother or the baby?

After I got into the car, I moved clumsily and leaned into the seat, feeling tired. "When can the job at hand be settled?"

Macy was going to deliver her baby in two months. I was worried about her as she was on her own, and the healthcare over there was limited.

Ashton started the car engine and glanced at me. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing! Let's visit Macy when everyone is free. I haven't seen her for quite some time."

He agreed and sighed, touching my belly, "You must have suffered these few months."

I remained silent and felt flustered. It would be Rebecca's birthday two days later.

I looked at Ashton and asked, "Are you going to celebrate Rebecca's birthday?"

Knowing Rebecca, she would definitely invite them for a party.

Much to my surprise, he shook his head and replied, "The baby is due soon. I shouldn't go out."

I could not help but laugh. "The exact date of delivery is not confirmed yet. Besides, there is a doctor and maids at home. What are you afraid of?"

He raised his eyebrows and looked at me. "They are not your hubby!"

I burst out laughing and stopped talking.

Looking at the scenery along the road, Cameron's words came to my mind and made me uneasy. Though those days seemed to be calm, I felt as if threats were hiding in the dark, crouching and waiting for the time to make their death strike.

Cameron would do whatever it took to make the engagement between Ashton and Rebecca happen.

Though Rebecca was arrogant, she dared not cross the line. But Cameron was different. She was a self-made tycoon and was definitely a worrisome foe.

Ashton noticed my less than favorable condition, but he dismissed his worries, thinking that I was just tired. Thus, the moment we arrived at the villa, Ashton carried me to the bedroom right away.

I pretended to be asleep in his arms, as I was in no mood to chat. I waited till there was a pin drop silence in the bedroom before opening my eyes.

I then called Jackson and he answered after a few seconds.

"It's five in the morning here, my dear!" His voice was a little hoarse.

I was taken aback and responded, "Why are you still at M country? Haven't you already returned? You haven't come back, have you?"

I thought he had returned when Nick last called me.

"No! I'm taking a flight back tomorrow afternoon." He sounded rather tired. "Why did you call me suddenly? Is the baby here yet?"

"Not yet!" I paused for a second. "The baby is due within these few days. I feel uneasy, and Macy is not around. Could you please come back early?"

"Yeah, I know! I'm trying to settle the things over here so that I can rush back immediately. But I got caught up in the client's matter, and it's a bit of a headache."

I knew he was occupied most of the time, so I nodded but didn't press on. "Okay! My baby is due in about two weeks. I should be able to wait till you come back." Then I continued, "By the way, I can't reach Macy. What's going on?"

"There is no signal at her place occasionally. She's in a mountain, after all. Don't worry about her! Take care of yourself and call me if you need me, or else you can look for Nick! He's already in K City."

I nodded and felt more secure. "Please take care of Macy. She lives far from the city, and it's difficult to reach out for help if anything happens."

Jackson sighed, "I know! Both of you are weird, with one hiding in the mountain and the other one feeling insecure even with her husband by her side."

I kept quiet when I heard the sudden footfall in the corridor. "I'll talk to you another day. Have a good rest!" I spoke softly and promptly ended the call.

Two days had passed.

Though Ashton had been busy, he would dine with me every day.

I had gotten used to waiting for him at the yard around dinner time.

It was autumn, and the evening breeze was cool. The deciduous trees shed their leaves and covered the yard with yellowish-brown leaves. Some plants had withered from the cold temperature.

Ashton promised to get some new plants to make the yard more lively as soon as he had spare time.

"Madam, there's a call!" Molly handed the phone over to me.

It was John.

"Happy birthday, Letty!" He was smiling and wished me with a soft tone.

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Upon receiving his birthday wishes, I glanced at the phone to look at the date and realized it was my birthday.

"Thank you!" I was stunned. I had forgotten my birthday after getting married to Ashton. Truth be told, if it were not for the occasional glances at my identity card, I probably would have lost track of my age.

"Do you have any plans for the evening?" He inquired.

I raised my head and looked at the sunset. The night was falling. I seldom went out as I was about to deliver the baby. Thus, I answered, "I'm staying at home!"

"Oh. Do you want me to come over then? To celebrate your birthday?" John asked.

"No, thanks! It's fine." I appreciated his kindness, but Ashton would rather not see him.

I thought it was Ashton when the doorbell rang. Why did he press the doorbell when he could unlock the door with his fingerprint?

John ordered, "Open the door! There's a gift for you!"

After sitting there stunned for a while, I got up and opened the door.

The was a huge pink cake placed at the entrance, surrounded by many heart-shaped balloons with fluorescent lights inside. They looked beautiful in the night.

"Do you like it?" John's voice traveled over from the other end of the line.

I was stunned and tried to suppress the feeling of joy. "You made that?"

He replied softly, "Yeah! Raise your head and look at the sky!"

I followed his instruction and was amazed by the beautiful fireworks. The night sky was filled with colors and light.

"Thank you, John!" I was touched, and I could feel myself tearing up.

It was great to be on someone's mind.

"You're welcome! I'll celebrate your birthday every year onward," John responded calmly.

Watching the fireworks shattered into thousands of sparks, I was dazzled by its beauty. Rebecca and I shared the same birthday.

After the colorful sparks faded, the pink cake was carried into the villa. Mrs. Eriksen and Molly looked around and asked me whose birthday was it.

I smiled and told them, "It's mine!"

Mrs. Eriksen was shocked to learn that. "Oh my, it's your birthday today, Letty? I should call Mr. Ashton right now! I'll tell him to give you a big surprise!"

I smiled and rejected, "No. I've never celebrated my birthday all these years. We can all have dinner together once he comes back. That'll be more than enough."

Mrs. Eriksen was trying to call Ashton but to no avail. She frowned and complained, "Why did he turn off the phone? Could it be out of battery?"

Staring at the beautiful cake, I wondered how Macy was doing as she did not call me recently.

During those years on my birthday, she used to call and wish me well, or she would get me a cake.

Thinking of Macy, I tried to call her, but she did not pick up.

After a few attempts, I was worried and called Jackson instead.

When the call was connected, he spoke anxiously, "Letty, something happened to Macy! Make a move to Clermont now!"

I was shocked to hear that. "Isn't Macy by the countryside in J City? Why is she back here all of a sudden?"

"I'm not sure. Nick called to inform me that he found Macy unconscious in his courtyard half an hour ago. He has called the doctor. We have no idea what's going on." He then continued, "I'm at the airport now and should arrive tomorrow morning. Please check on her first. Take care!"

After I ended the call, I put on a jacket and called Nick. There was no time to give anything any thought.

Seeing that I was so anxious, Mrs. Eriksen followed me and asked worriedly, "Letty, what's going on? Don't panic! I'll call Mr. Ashton."

I had no time for her nagging and left in a hurry. "Mrs. Eriksen, please inform Ashton that I'm going to Serene Villa in Clermont."

I ordered the bodyguard to drive me to Clermont.

Nick finally answered my call after few attempts. I could hear the background noise.

"Scarlett!"

I hurriedly asked, "Is Macy at your place? Are Macy and her baby all right?"

I could not calm myself down and was so anxious that my hands and feet turned cold and kept trembling.

He assured me, "The doctor has checked on Macy. Both she and her baby are fine. She has taken some sleeping pills and will awake when the effect of drugs is over."

Then he tried to comfort me. "Don't panic and rush over! You should stay at home and get ready to deliver your baby!"

I was so panicked that I could not think straight. Why would someone give Macy sleeping pills? Why is she back here in K City instead of J City?

All those questions, including Cameron's words, came into my mind.

Thinking about these, I panicked, tried to call Ashton but he did not pick up.