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Daphne was furious. Heaving angrily, she screamed, "Skewered my foot! You jerk, you tortoise-head loser! Come out right now!"

" ..."

The maids looked at each other in confusion. There was no one in the courtyard, so where had the mysterious voice come from?

With a murderous look on her face, Daphne ordered the maids to search the entire courtyard. However, the search turned up empty.

"Useless! The person is probably hiding out in the courtyard right now. Find him right now and make sure he turns up in front of me! I don't care if you dig up the entire courtyard."

As the maids searched around the courtyard for the mysterious intruder, Juan and Kyle snuck quietly into Daphne's bathroom.

Maya and Nina felt a little worried. They wondered if they could succeed on this second mission.

The maids searched as hard as they possibly could, but the search returned nothing.

Daphne was beside herself with rage. She decided to change the team of security guards first thing tomorrow morning. This team was too incompetent.

After this, they didn't hear the voice anymore. Daphne returned to her room.

She sat on her bed for a while, massaging her forehead. She felt as though her head had swelled to twice its size. Her blood circulation seemed pretty weak, too.

No, this wouldn't do. She decided to take a bath to get rid of her headache before she went to sleep.

She got up and went into the bathroom. When the two boys saw her entering, they quickly hid more deeply in a corner, praying that she wouldn't discover them.

Daphne took off her clothes. When the bathtub filled up completely with water, she lowered herself into it with a sigh of satisfaction. She shut her eyes, enjoying the pleasant sensation of the water lapping against her skin.

Juan snickered quietly. He took out a bag of white powder from his pocket and snuck some of it into the bathtub.

Daphne, who was still soaking in the water, suddenly felt her skin get itchier and itchier.

She opened her eyes, only to see that her skin was completely red. Every inch of her skin was covered with red spots.

How could this be?

Daphne widened her eyes in shock, realizing that there was something wrong with the water.

But she had just filled the bathtub with water! How could there be a problem with it?

Just as she was panicking over it, the two boys climbed onto the platform behind her and forced her head into the water.

Immediately, Daphne felt as though her face was on fire. Her first thought was, *Is this going to ruin my looks?* 

With her head under the water, she wanted to scream, but she wasn't able to. She struggled to get her head out of the water with all her might.

"Her face must be completely ruined by now."

Hearing this, Juan felt very satisfied.

"Disgusting woman! She deserves this for everything she has done. Remember this—if you ever dare to hit any of us again, I'll drag you to hell!"

With that, the two of them released Daphne's head. The woman removed her head from the water and spluttered violently.

"Help, help—somebody, help—"

Hearing her screams, the maids ran into her room. However, Daphne had locked the bathroom door, so they weren't able to enter and save her.

Daphne had to climb out of the bathtub and put on her pajamas before opening the door for them, all the while gritting her teeth in pain.

By then, Juan and Kyle had already climbed out of the window and escaped to freedom.

Daphne recalled the voice of the two boys she had just heard. They definitely belonged to Juan and Kyle.

The mysterious voice she had heard tonight, as well as the two voices who had cursed her out in her own bathroom, definitely had something to do with those wretched children!

Just you wait! Daphne swore that she was going to tear them apart from limb to limb.

The doctor of the estate hurried over and put her on an IV drip. He instructed Daphne to take lots of bed rest, watch her diet and ensure that she didn't get exposed to too much wind. The substance that had been poured into the bathwater in huge amounts was a highly corrosive one. If Daphne didn't follow his instructions, her skin might never recover—especially the wounds on her face.

"What about my face?" Daphne asked anxiously, as though she was asking about her own life.

If this face of hers was ruined, her future prospects would take a dramatic hit.

Hector, who was as handsome as a man could get, whose features looked as though they were crafted by angels, would want nothing to do with her in the future.

As the doctor gazed at her red face, he told her in a guarded tone that, no matter how hard he tried, her skin would never recover, and it was going to leave scars.

In actual fact, it was worse—she might even be disfigured. Taking her feelings into consideration, the doctor tried to soften the blow.

Daphne lay on the bed. Her eyes, which had been full of fear up till now, suddenly flashed with a sudden savageness. She ordered her maids to bring Lady Musgrave over.

When the latter saw how badly injured she was, her heart broke.

She had always regarded this niece of hers as her biological daughter.

"Daphne, my dear, what happened?"

Daphne reached out to grab Lady Musgrave's hand. She burst into tears and cried out, "Aunt Portia, you have to take revenge for me! It was Nicole Lane and those horrible kids of hers who did this to me! Look what they've done to me!"

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When she recalled that Daphne had played those dirty tricks on Nicole Lane and the children on her orders, Lady Musgrave felt even more sorry for her.

"Daphne, don't worry! I'll make them pay for this!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she turned on her heels and walked out of Daphne's residence.

When Nicole saw her four children return in high spirits, she knew immediately that they had completed their revenge plan successfully and taught that wicked woman a good lesson.

Just as she was about to praise them, she heard an urgent knock on the door.

"Who's that?"

It was already so late. Who could that be?

Nicole opened the door to see John standing outside, his expression looking rather panicked.

After receiving the orders from Evan, John had been watching over the children silently as they carried out their revenge plan against Daphne.

When he heard that they were going to execute their plans tonight, he hid himself in a corner and observed. He left the scene a little later, and found out that Lady Musgrave was on her way to seek revenge.

"John! What is it?"

"Mrs. Seet, you'd better take the kids and hide somewhere immediately! Lady Musgrave is intent on seeking revenge for her niece, and she's coming almost immediately!"

Lady Musgrave.

Nicole felt her heart sink. She didn't think Lady Musgrave would've found out so quickly. These children must have been too careless and let something slip in their carelessness.

Trouble was coming their way.

Aside from Sir Musgrave, his wife was the most important person around in this estate. If she insisted on avenging Daphne, Nicole and her children were going to suffer greatly.

"Mommy, it was Daphne who bullied us first! All we did was take revenge. What's there to be afraid of?"

Hearing Nina's indignant argument, Nicole couldn't help but sigh.

Lady Musgrave would never hear them out. She was Daphne's aunt, and she was going to take her side for sure.

Nicole had met Lady Musgrave a few times before, and she knew that the older woman's loyalties lay with her blood relatives rather than cold logic. Besides, she had always hated Nicole and the kids, and she wouldn't pass up such a good opportunity to torture them.

"Mommy, we were the ones who did this. This has nothing to do with you! When the time comes, just hand us over to her..."

"Shut up!"

No mother would sell out her own children like this. She certainly wasn't going to submit her children to Lady Musgrave's cruelty.

These four children were her life. She had to protect them.

"Let Mommy think. Mommy will be able to come up with something."

Just as she was wracking her brains to think of an idea, Maya suddenly said, "We can go hide out in that grandpa's residence, can't we?"

Nicole and the three other children turned to look at her instantly.

She was right. That grandpa had announced that nobody other than him was allowed to enter his residence.

Perhaps Lady Musgrave would be too scared to enter too. They would be safe then, wouldn't they?

Maya could be so clever sometimes.

"Mommy, that's the only place we can go now! It's the safest place in the entire estate!"

"Exactly! Mommy, let's not hesitate anymore. We should leave now."

Nicole nodded. Although John didn't know where they were referring to, he had no choice but to send them over there right now.

"Mommy, look! That old witch is bringing people over to our residence!"

Maya pointed to the distance. Under the fluorescent lights of the corridor, she could see Lady Musgrave heading in the direction of their house with a suite of maids and bodyguards in tow.

Looking at the number of people around her, Nicole knew she meant business. If she caught them while she was still so enraged, Lady Musgrave would punish them horribly to set things right for Daphne.

Nicole sighed with relief. Thank goodness they chose the little path that led down into the garden. Otherwise, they would have bumped right into the duchess.

"Let's hurry and go. Once she realizes that there's no one in the house, she'll send people to search for us all over the estate."

Just as Juan finished speaking, John suddenly recalled those extra bodyguards Evan had gifted them.

"Please leave first! I have to make a detour first. When they realize that you aren't here, they'll go and look for Mr. Seet."

"Okay!"

After John left, Nicole and the four children quickly made their way to the only safe refuge they knew.

When Lady Musgrave arrived at their residence, she found it to be completely empty.

"Where are they? They must have found somewhere to hide. Start looking for them right now!"

"Yes, Ma'am."

The maids went through all the rooms, turning them inside out as they looked in every nook and cranny. However, there was nobody in the house at all.

Lady Musgrave's face clouded over with rage. She made for the residence of the bodyguards that Nicole Lane had brought along with her.

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When she got there, it was completely empty.

This was preposterous!

This estate was her property. She couldn't believe how difficult it was to search for someone on her territory!

She wanted to order her men to search Sir Musgrave's residence as well, but she knew he would not be happy to see a crowd of people descending upon his home.

Besides, he had already ordered the employees around the estate to protect those four kids.

Hence, she made her way to his study room to explain everything to him.

"...those kids made Daphne suffer so horribly. I have to make them pay the price for it! Nicole Lane must have ordered them to do that. Otherwise, how could a few children their age cook up such a horrible plan? The scars on Daphne's face might even be permanent! You have to team up with me on this!"

Seeing his wife boil with rage, Sir Musgrave fell into deep thought.

From his few interactions with Nicole, he refused to believe that she would instigate her own children to do something like this.

Those children of hers were smart and innocent at the same time. Likewise, he had doubts that they would do something so cruel without a reason.

"There must be a reason for this. Do you know why they did this?"

Hearing this question, Lady Musgrave felt rather stunned.

She knew perfectly why the kids had done that. It was because Daphne took her orders and arranged for people to kidnap Nicole and the children away from the residence. She had tried to send them away.

Those children must have found out and retaliated like a bunch of rabid wolves.

However, there was no way she was going to tell Sir Musgrave about this.

She thought deeply about how to reply. Eventually, she said, "It's probably because those kids haven't been raised properly. That's the only reason why they could've done something so preposterous."

"..."

Sir Musgrave looked very, well, grave. Evidently, he didn't believe her explanation.

The wife continued indignantly, "You have to settle this debt for Daphne! She's my niece, and she calls you Uncle Stephen out of respect! How can I stand to see her being bullied like this on this estate? What am I supposed to tell her parents? Do you want to start a war with my maiden family over a matter like this?"

There was a deeper and more sinister meaning to her innocuous statement. Left with few options, Lady Musgrave decided to use her maiden family to threaten her husband.

She was insistent this time.

"I'll settle this matter for you. Please return for now."

"Alright. I'll go back and wait for your good news!"

Lady Musgrave turned around and swept out of the room.

Sir Musgrave remained silent, thinking deeply. He ordered his servant to call Nicole and the kids over. The man wanted to understand what exactly was going on.

After a short while, the servant returned and reported, "Sir Musgrave, they're in the drawing room. Lady Musgrave's men dare not enter."

Sir Musgrave felt a little surprised. Those children were really smart—they came to his residence, knowing that it was the only place in the estate where Lady Musgrave didn't have jurisdiction over.

It seemed like he had to make a trip to the drawing room himself.

Shortly, he arrived at the courtyard. Seeing that the lights were on, he entered the room straightaway.

His sudden appearance shocked the children.

Maya blinked her large eyes and exclaimed, "Grandpa, what are you doing here?"

Here, Nicole finally realized that her children had been referring to Sir Musgrave all along.

"This is Sir Musgrave. You need to address him properly." Nicole turned around and gazed respectfully at him. "They're just children. Please excuse their rudeness."

Hmm? Did Mommy say he's Sir Musgrave?

So he was the most important man on this estate. No wonder he had introduced himself as the owner of the place during their first meeting.

The children thought he was the owner of this residence, but his influence actually extended beyond that. He was the owner of the entire estate.

Sir Musgrave looked at the adorable children, who stared back at him with their large, round eyes. A warm smile appeared on his cold, handsome face.

"No worries. I don't mind the way they address me. Don't you think it's very affectionate? I like these kids."

So they could actually address Sir Musgrave as Grandpa?

He even felt affectionate towards them and liked them very much.

Wow! Instantaneously, the children felt even closer to him.

Maya looked at him happily. Suddenly, she blurted out a question. "Since you're Sir Musgrave, can you keep that old witch and that horrible Daphne in check?"

Nicole froze in shock. She reached out a hand and pinched Maya on the cheek, hard.

How could she call Lady Musgrave an old witch in front of her own husband?

"Maya, watch your mouth!"

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Looking at her anxious mother, Nina mumbled, "Mommy, it's okay to call her the old witch. I did it in front of him before."

She did it before? Oh my goodness...

Nicole felt her head spin at once.

What else did the kids say in front of Sir Musgrave?

"Sir, please don't mind them. They're just kids."

However, it seemed like Stephen didn't mind the kids calling his wife the old witch.

Under the soft, warm lights, he gazed at Nicole. Smiling bashfully, she looked gentle and captivating. She's very much like Rosalie.

"It's alright. I came to find out what happened between Daphne and the kids."

Nina was the first one to step forward. Staring at the man, she replied indignantly, "She's a bad woman! She sent someone to prank us by pouring flour on me and making me look like a white puppy. It's so embarrassing!"

Juan then added, "I was drenched all over because she made someone pour water on me from above. She even asked someone to put us in a sack. I don't know what she was trying to do to us."

Maya complained as well, "She hit my head with a ball, and it hurts so much."

Kyle kept silent. I'm the lucky one who didn't get pranked; I actually escaped the ordeal safe and sound.

Looking at his mommy, who didn't utter a word, he spoke on her behalf. "Our Mommy was pushed into a pond. If the water was deeper, she would've drowned."

"That's right! An eye for an eye. We must take revenge!"

Nicole still didn't say a word but she didn't stop the kids from telling the truth.

At that moment, her curiosity was piqued. I wonder what Sir Musgrave will do after knowing these things.

In an instant, Stephen's face turned grim and his gaze was frigid.

I didn't expect Daphne to treat the kids this way. She even pushed Nicole into a lake. How terrible!

My wife even demanded justice for Daphne. Now I see that Daphne has brought it upon herself. She got exactly what she deserved!

Just as he remained quiet in contemplation, Evan and John walked into the courtyard.

Oblivious to Stephen's presence, John announced before entering the room, "Ma'am, the old witch has retreated. She won't be doing anything tonight so you can bring back these smart kids."

Stephen turned to look at the door.

The old witch is certainly my wife's nickname. But who is this Ma'am? Is it Nicole?

When he was still feeling puzzled, he saw the two men stepping through the door.

Stephen's presence surprised Evan, and John froze for a moment as well.

Though Evan had stayed at the estate for quite some time, he had only seen Stephen from afar several times. This was his first time encountering Stephen face to face.

Just now, Evan had removed his ugly mask because he didn't want to expose Yoda's true identity in case he ran into Lady Musgrave. Now he was showing his real, incredibly dashing face.

"Who are they?" Stephen asked inquisitively.

Previously, Nicole lied to Stephen that she was in love with Levant so she could stay at the estate. She did so to cover up her actual intention, which was to search for her biological father.

My lie will be busted if I tell him who Evan really is. And he'll probably suspect that I approached Levant with ill intentions and have us investigated.

She hesitated for a second before answering, "They're my bodyguards."

What? Bodyguards?

Stephen's piercing eyes landed on Evan right away.

This man carries such a domineering and elegant vibe. There's no way he's just a bodyguard.

"Your bodyguards?"

With his eyes on her, Stephen gave her a meaningful smile. Judging from the way they addressed her and from Evan's demeanor, something just didn't sit right with him.

Despite having no idea why Stephen smiled, Nicole flashed him a smile, too.

The scene of Stephen and Nicole exchanging glances with a smile made Evan feel uneasy.

It seems like she's trying to please this man intentionally.

Clenching his fists, Evan gazed at her with his cavernous eyes while questioning in an icy voice, "Am I your bodyguard?"

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Nicole felt her chest tighten at his question.

It's safest to say that you're my bodyguard. I'll be in trouble if finds out you're the man I love and the father of the kids.

In order to appease Evan, she nodded, fluttering the lashes of her twinkling eyes. "Yes, you're my bodyguard."

The man secretly gritted his teeth. How could she say this? Is she embarrassed to admit that I'm her man? Or does she have other ideas in mind?

Fury was evident in Evan's gaze despite his effort to suppress the intense rage within him. On the other hand, Nicole seemed flustered, as if she were trying to conceal something. Observing the two, Stephen's brows drew together.

After a brief moment of silence, he suddenly looked at Nicole and asked, "Since you and Levant are in love with one another, why don't you both get married right away? Then my wife will no longer pick on you and the kids because you're her daughter-in-law."

Marry Levant?

Why does Stephen bring this up all of a sudden?

Nicole was dumbstruck.

Stephen eyed her intently and observed her reaction. A realization hit him when he saw her shocked and anxious face.

I've heard that Nicole intentionally keeps a distance from Levant these days. The way they treat one another is nothing like a couple in love. Other than that, she also secretly tries to scout out some incidents of the past at the estate. I guess she has a hidden agenda, and the appearance of these "bodyguards" has confirmed my suspicion.

Meanwhile, Evan's expression became cold as ice at Stephen's words.

Looking daggers at the woman, he asked in a cold tone, enunciating every word, "Are you and Levant in love with one another?"

In a panic, Nicole lifted her head to see him.

Whoa! His face looks so stern. This is scary... How should I answer him? If I nod, will Evan lose his cool and do something extreme? But if I don't, the excuse I used to stay at the estate becomes invalid. Sir Musgrave will probably think I have a hidden agenda. How am I going to find out my identity then? Oh goodness, why must you give me such a tough challenge? I wish I can draw lots to decide. Now tell me, should I nod or not?

Seeing their mother's conflicted expression, the four kids exchanged glances. Then Maya stepped forward, innocently blinking her luminous eyes at her mother.

"Mommy, I don't want a stepdad. You can't marry Uncle Levant."

Kyle followed and said firmly, "Mommy, I don't want a stepdad, either."

The quick-witted Juan noticed his dad's sullen expression and hurriedly said, "Mommy, quickly tell Daddy you don't like Uncle Levant."

Rolling her eyes, Nina walked over to Stephen and looked at him solemnly.

"Mommy is deeply in love with Daddy, so she won't marry Uncle Levant."

Seeing her kids defending their parents' marriage boldly, Nicole's dilemma was replaced by worry.

Oh, no. Sir Musgrave now knows that I've lied to him. Is he going to deal with me?

Sizing Evan up from head to toe, Stephen asked the four kids, "Is he your daddy?"

"Yeah."

"Yes."

"You're right."

"That's him."

The four kids nodded in unison.

Stephen then turned to look at John. "Did you call her Ma'am just now?"

The kids have admitted it, so I have nothing to hide anymore. John gave him a firm nod.

"Yes, she's our Ma'am."

Stephen's gaze fell on Nicole. "Since you have a husband and kids, why are you still messing with Levant?"

I'm here to find out who I really am! And I have no other way to get into the estate.

When Stephen saw Nicole remaining silent, he asked again on purpose, "Who do you actually love? Levant or this man?"

Urgh... Of course I love Evan.

Nicole's bright eyes landed on Evan and found him staring right back at her with his dark eyes.

Oh my! That murderous look.

Actually, Evan was waiting for an answer from her as well.

If given a choice, who will Nicole choose?