

All Too Late Chapter 151

Clement grinned. "Ms. Johnson, I haven't finish my words."

Kathleen stared at him calmly. "Then what are you waiting for? Just go ahead and talk."

Clement gritted his teeth in anger and stared at her. "Kathleen, how dare you talk to me like that?"

"Clement, if you have the nerves, raise your hand to me. Let's see if you can continue staying in Jadeborough," Kathleen sneered.

"Don't ever think that the Macari family will support you! You've already divorced Samuel. The Macari family will not mess with me because of you," Clement uttered disdainfully.

Kathleen laughed. "Clement, I've been Mrs. Macari for at least three years. What's more, I've been living in the Macari residence for almost ten years. Do you think I will be afraid of you?"

In response to her words, he frowned.

"You are the one who wouldn't dare to mess with the Macari family instead," Kathleen said mockingly, "Don't overestimate yourself. Even though you're older than Samuel, you're nothing compared to him."

Clement glared at her furiously.

Kathleen smirked. "Do you think I'm oppressing you with the Macari family? My brother will not let the Corbyn family off the hook, either. Do you think he's just a big shot in the entertainment industry? Do you really think that he gains his wealth and force through the show business?"

If they purely took Charles as the boss of the entertainment industry, that would be hilarious.

Clement narrowed his eyes and asked, "What other identity does your brother have?"

Kathleen smiled. "Do you want to know?"

Clement remained silent, but his gaze turned glacial.

"You can find it out yourself. Or you'll think that I'm fooling you." Kathleen's pretty eyes turned frosty.

Anger flashed across the man's eyes. He grabbed Kathleen's neck and exclaimed, "Everything you just said was to frighten me. Do you think that I'll believe you?"

There was no fear in her eyes. She uttered mockingly, "Then do it! What are you waiting for?"

Clement gritted his teeth. "Did my mother ever give you other things? Not the house or the money! Something else!"

"She did!" Kathleen smirked. "She gave me her hatred. She wanted me to avenge her. The most unbearable thing in her lifetime was that she had done nothing wrong, but she was cast out of the Corbyn family. On top of that, her own children treated her cold-heartedly like a stranger!"

"You b*tch!" Clement knew that Kathleen was fooling him. His hand was clenching hard around her neck.

Kathleen was out of breath, and her face began to turn pale. Even so, she didn't struggle nor retaliate and let Clement strangle her neck.

At that moment, a man was running in from outside, reporting, "Mr. Corbyn, Samuel and Charles are here."

Clement sneered, "That's fast." No wonder she is not afraid or retaliates. She knows that they will be showing up just in time to rescue her.

"Tell the boys to hold them off for some time!" Clement ordered coldly.

"Yes, Mr. Corbyn." The man went out again.

Clement grabbed Kathleen's jaw. "I know your lips are sealed. But, let's see how stubborn you are then!"

He roughly prised Kathleen's mouth open and stuffed a pill inside. After that, he let go of her.

Kathleen rubbed her neck and stared at him. "What did you feed me?"

"A poisonous pill. If you don't give me what I want in three days, you will be poisoned to death." Clement glared at her wickedly. "Trust me; I'm not lying to you. Not only that, but I am also the only one who has the antidote to this poison."

Right after he finished his words, Samuel and Charles dashed in with several men.

"Kate!" they voiced out at the same time.

Charles reacted faster than Samuel. He quickly took a good look at Kathleen. "Are you okay?"

The latter answered sullenly, "He made me swallow a poisonous pill and asked me for something. I don't actually know what he wants."

Clement frowned. Did she just say it out loud? Shouldn't she silently carry all of this without troubling anyone else? Then, after a moment of struggling with her thoughts, she will give me what I asked for in exchange for the antidote.

"Clement, you made me do this. Do you think I will be a dimwit, silently solving the problem by myself? Well, I won't. If I can't deal with it, why don't I just tell my brother?" Kathleen mocked.

Upon hearing her words, Clement gritted his teeth.

She is such a pain in the a*s.

"I think the antidote is on him," Kathleen uttered coldly while staring at Clement.

Is he trying to escape? Not a chance! Samuel promptly rushed toward him. His big, slender hand grabbed Clement's collar from the back. He then dragged the latter forward and smashed him onto the coffee table.

Clang!

The coffee table shattered into pieces. Everything on the table fell to the ground.

Charles shielded Kathleen to prevent the pieces from hurting her.

Samuel walked toward Clement, stepped on the latter's chest, and loomed over him. "Where's the antidote?"

Clement was so infuriated. "What are you waiting for? Get him!"

However, no matter how hard he raged, no one was coming to save him.

Nobody entered either.

Samuel coldly said, "Your men have been subdued by my people. They are all dead meat."

Charles walked over, searched Clement's body, and found a pill.

He handed it to Kathleen. She did not take it eagerly but stared at Clement. "Next time, use your brain first before you make a move. Investigate my family background clearly before kidnapping me."

Upon finishing her words, she swallowed the pill.

Clement glared at her furiously.

Kathleen then looked at Samuel. "Samuel, about the mines..."

"I know." The man gazed at her meaningfully.

"I'll sell them to you. Can you take them all?" Kathleen said indifferently.

"Of course." Samuel nodded and then continued, "But are you sure you want to hand them to me?"

"As long as it's not him," Kathleen scoffed and gave a sidelong glance at Clement.

The latter smirked. "You don't want to give me? That's your business. But why would you hand them to your ex-husband instead of Christopher? It seems like you still have feelings for him."

"Do you want to hear the truth?" Kathleen stood up.

Meanwhile, Clement glared at her.

"Even if I give them to Christopher, you will think of a way to take them from him. It's not that I don't trust him, but he is oppressed by his family. I will only stress him out." Kathleen paused for a second and continued, "However, Samuel is in a totally different situation. He can take them all without seeking any approval from anyone. Furthermore, he will never allow the Corbyn family's wish to come true. That'll be enough."

Clement gritted his teeth. This woman is clearly not the type of person who plays by the rules.

Kathleen mocked, "Clement, I'm the one who has the upper hand in this. If you try to take away the things by threatening me, you're just too naive."

"Let's go." Charles' heart ached when he saw the bruise on Kathleen's neck.

Samuel walked over and lifted Kathleen into his arms. With that, he strode out of the place.

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Samuel placed Kathleen inside the car and buckled her seatbelt. "I'll ask my men to keep an eye on Clement. After we confirm that you are fine, I'll release him."

Kathleen uttered faintly, "He won't dare to make a fake drug."

"Just in case." Samuel's tone was deep as he shifted his gaze toward Kathleen. "You've really grown a lot."

Kathleen glanced at him helplessly. "Thanks for the compliment. I've grown a lot in terms of love as well."

Samuel cast her a complicated look. "Let's go to the hospital."

"Okay." Kathleen nodded.

Taking off his coat, Samuel put it on Kathleen before closing the car door.

Then, he went around the front of the car and came to the driver's seat. After getting into the car, he drove Kathleen to the hospital.

Charles stayed behind to wrap up the mess.

Seeing Samuel taking Kathleen away, Charles was not pissed this time.

Turning around, he saw Tyson leading his men to tie Clement up.

"Tyson, what are you doing?" Charles furrowed his brows.

"We're following Mr. Macari's order. He said that we should wait until Ms. Johnson is fine before letting him go," Tyson explained.

"He isn't scared of offending the Corbyn family, is he?" Charles asked meaningfully.

Tyson responded disdainfully, "It's just the Corbyn family. Mr. Johnson, don't worry. We will take good care of Mr. Corbyn. We've even prepared three beautiful women in case he needs them. We'll make sure he feels at home, and we won't torture him."

Charles was rendered speechless by that.

Does everyone around Samuel talk like this?

Charles waved his hand, gesturing them to handle it themselves.

In any case, Samuel did that for Kathleen.

If the Corbyn family dared to express their dissatisfaction in the future, surely Samuel would help out.

Charles did not want to owe Samuel any favor.

Nonetheless, Kathleen chose to call Samuel at the most critical moment.

Indeed, Charles was upset that Samuel's existence exceeded his.

Meanwhile, at the hospital, Kathleen was admitted to the VIP ward again.

Richard personally came to draw her blood.

Kathleen's face seemed somewhat pale as she asked, "Dr. Zimmer, are there beds available this time?"

Richard was rendered speechless as he immediately shifted his gaze toward Samuel.

Samuel uttered coldly, "She is asking you if there are enough beds in your hospital. I have no idea about that."

What an ungrateful person he is! I shouldn't have helped him!

"Ms. Johnson, rest assured. There are enough beds." Richard gritted his teeth.

"I guess I came at a bad timing last time," Kathleen responded lazily.

"That's right," Richard said faintly. "You had bad luck."

"Maybe," Kathleen replied with a complicated look.

Richard narrowed his eyes and stared at Samuel.

The latter did not say anything.

"Samuel, the title deeds for those two mountains are in the box of the apartment, and the code for the safe is..." Kathleen paused momentarily.

Samuel asked coldly, "What is it?"

"Your birthday combined with my birthday," Kathleen replied faintly.

"Okay, I'll ask my men to get it." Samuel sent a message to Tyson, asking him to go take the deeds.

After Richard finished drawing Kathleen's blood, he let her rest and left the ward.

Kathleen looked at Samuel indifferently. "Samuel, I gave you the title deed for no other reason, just because I think it is the best option. Don't overthink it."

Samuel stared at her in an unfathomable way while nodding. "You made this decision after weighing the pros and cons. I know there is no emotion involved."

Kathleen hesitated for a while. "How could you say so? I didn't give it to Chris because I didn't want to trouble him. Plus, I know that if I gave it to him, he would need to cooperate with the Corbyn family. Besides that, Granny Monica has deep grudges against the Corbyn family. Surely she won't let them have the advantage. Hence, I can only give it to you. Whether I take it for myself or give it to others, I'm afraid I won't be able to fight against the cooperation between the Corbyn family and the Morris family."

Samuel asked in a low voice, "Do you think the Morris family and the Corbyn family will work together?"

"Nothing is impossible." Kathleen bit her lips. "Like I said. Chris is under his dad and grandpa, while Astrid is with Clement. Not to mention, Felix likes Astrid very much. If I give the title deeds to Chris, Clement will definitely extend an olive branch to the Morris family."

Samuel nodded upon hearing that.

Indeed, Kathleen's analysis was correct.

"Samuel, I have no choice but to trouble you then." Kathleen pursed her lip. "Maybe in my subconsciousness, I feel that you're strong enough to handle it."

Samuel grabbed a chair and sat down casually. "By giving it to me, of course, others might think you have some intentions toward me."

Kathleen narrowed her eyes, rendered speechless.

Samuel's cold lips curled into a smile. "How about we work together on Flobury?"

Kathleen blinked a few times. "Work together?"

"Yes, I'll consider these two mountains as the capital that you brought into the venture. We'll split the profit in half." Samuel looked at her seriously.

Split the profit in half?

"Evidently, you contributed more than me. How can we split the profit evenly?" Kathleen was exasperated. "Are you kidding me?"

Samuel smiled. "Four six then?"

Kathleen was left dumbfounded. "Four for me and six for you?"

"Six for you, four for me," Samuel responded.

Kathleen said, "Can you stop fooling around?"

Noticing her starting to lose her calm, Samuel comforted her, "All right. I will stop. Seven for me and three for you then."

"That's more like it." Kathleen resumed her composure.

Samuel stared at her deeply. "As a partner, do you have any suggestions regarding future developments?"

"I've only one condition," Kathleen uttered coldly. "I don't want the Corbyn family to be part of it."

"Don't worry. I won't involve them," Samuel promised.

"The Yoeger family as well!" Kathleen added.

Samuel teased, "Aren't you one of the Yoeger family?"

Kathleen paused for a short while. "You know what I mean."

Placing his hand on her head, Samuel smiled deeply. "I will only cooperate with you then. How about that?"

Kathleen snorted in response.

"Please get some rest." Samuel helped her tuck the blanket.

As a matter of fact, she was indeed a little tired.

The drug turned out to be extremely powerful.

Even though she had consumed the antidote, there were still some side effects.

One of the effects was making her entire body strengthless.

She needed to have a good rest.

All of a sudden, she opened her eyes. "No way. I still need to go and film."

Samuel pressed her down on her bed. "I've applied for sick leave for you."

Only then was she willing to lie down. "Thanks."

Samuel stared at her with a complex look. "Get some sleep."

Nodding slightly, Kathleen dozed off with an easy mind.

By the time she woke up, she noticed it was already sunset.

The sky was getting dark.

Is it already this late? Did Samuel leave?

"Are you awake?" Just then, Christopher's gentle voice was heard.

Stunned momentarily, she sat upright. "Chris?"

Christopher was sitting on the couch. He stood up and turned on the light. "Are you feeling better?"

Kathleen nodded.

She saw two contracts on the coffee table, and she supposed they were prepared by Samuel.

Did Christopher see it?

In truth, she would not be able to hide such a fact.

"Chris, actually..." Kathleen wanted to explain.

"The mountain is yours. You can handle it the way you like." Christopher sounded utterly gentle.

Kathleen bit her lip.

"Actually, I understand your concerns. My position in the Morris family is not the same as Samuel's position in the Macari family. He can run the family all by himself," Christopher responded bitterly.

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"Chris, I'm not looking down on you," Kathleen explained awkwardly.

"It's fine." Christopher's face was clouded with disappointment. "I know I'm not as good as Samuel."

Kathleen kept quiet, not knowing how to respond because that was not what she meant.

However, she decided not to clarify Christopher's misunderstanding since she did not want to complicate things further.

She believed Christopher would understand her concerns.

He merely felt dissatisfied that she chose Samuel over him.

At that moment, Samuel entered the ward with a medical report in his hand.

He left the room because he had gone to retrieve the report for her.

It was at that time when Christopher had come to see her.

"You're awake?" Samuel asked Kathleen without sparing a single glance at Christopher.

Kathleen nodded. "Are the results out?"

"Yes," Samuel replied as he passed the report to her. "It seems that pill is indeed an antidote. There are no toxins detected in your body."

"That's good." She heaved a sigh of relief.

Samuel's expression darkened when he finally noticed Christopher.

Christopher quietly asked, "Where's Clement?"

The question was directed at Samuel.

"He's being locked up." Samuel then continued coldly, "I've heard that the Corbyn family went to beg you for help."

When Kathleen heard what he had said, she froze on the spot.

The Corbyn family begged Christopher for help? Could the Corbyn family already have plans to work with the Morris family?

Samuel turned around to pour a glass of water before passing it to Kathleen and coldly remarked, "Do the Corbyn family regret their decision to use Astrid to ruin your relationship with Kate?"

Christopher remained silent.

“Otherwise, Kate would have handed the land deeds to you for the sake of helping her fiancé, even though the engagement was fake. This way, the Corbyn family would be able to work with you with confidence. Am I right?” Samuel questioned sarcastically.

Upon hearing his words, Christopher’s eyes turned icy cold.

“I bet the Morris and Corbyn families were already in cahoots when I ruined your plan with Olivia two years ago. Too bad none of you had expected the land deeds to be in Kate’s hands,” he mocked.

A frown formed across Kathleen’s forehead.

The Morris and Corbyn families have been in cahoots since long ago?

With a smirk, Samuel continued, “I don’t want to wrongfully accuse you because I doubt you have any say in the plan. I’m pretty sure your grandfather was the one who came up with this plan.”

“Samuel, don’t you think you know too much?” Christopher asked as he shot a cold glare at him.

“Haha! I think you just don’t want me to spill too much in front of Kate,” Samuel replied coldly.

Knowing that he could not refute, Christopher could only narrow his eyes and glare at Samuel.

“Samuel, you told me before you would never lie to me. So tell me, what do you know?” Kathleen asked with knitted brows.

“I will tell you whatever you want to know,” he replied solemnly.

Worried about what Samuel was about to say next, Christopher quickly voiced out. “You don’t have to do that. I will tell her myself.”

Samuel gestured for Christopher to go ahead and tell Kathleen everything.

There was no reason to stop Christopher from spilling the beans himself.

Looking at Christopher, Kathleen asked, “Chris, what’s going on?”

After a moment of hesitation, Christopher finally explained, “Grandpa told me that we can get married as long as you hand over the two land deeds to the Morris family. From then on, the Morris family will treat you well, like how the Macari family has been treating you.”

After listening to his explanation, Kathleen remained silent.

He quickly continued to explain when he noticed her silence. "Of course, I did not—"

"Okay," Kathleen agreed before he could finish his sentence.

Her words caught Christopher by surprise.

Immediately, a look of thunder clouded Samuel's face. "Are you sure?"

This woman will be the death of me!

"Chris, can you give your grandfather a call? Since he's the one who came up with the idea." Kathleen flashed a sweet smile at him.

Her sudden request caught Christopher off guard. He quietly stared at her as he contemplated if he should make the call.

"Can't I speak to him? Was he expecting you to discuss such an important matter with me? Won't he want to speak to me instead?" she asked.

"All right." Christopher pulled out his phone and dialed Felix's number.

Meanwhile, Samuel stood aside in silence with a darkened expression.

While waiting for the call to get through, Kathleen took a sip of the water that Samuel had poured for her.

Soon, the call was answered.

"Grandpa, Kate would like to speak to you." Christopher put the call in loudspeaker mode and placed his phone before Kathleen.

Felix's cold voice was heard from the phone. "Ms. Johnson, have you decided to hand over the land deeds to us?"

"I can hand them over to you, but not without a price. Let's see if you can offer me an attractive deal that I can't resist," Kathleen replied. However, her words seemed to be implying something else.

"Is the condition of marrying into the Morris family not attractive enough for you?" Felix sounded confident.

"Haha!" Kathleen burst into laughter. "Attractive? I think we both know very well how much the two mines are worth. Also, I don't think I need to remind you about their real value, right?"

“So? What are you trying to say?” Felix asked in an icy tone.

“I can give you what you want, but I’ll have to see if you can offer me a deal more attractive than what Samuel has offered,” Kathleen answered.

“Tell me what you have in mind,” Felix replied.

“Honestly, when I married into the Macari family, I wasn’t interested in being a part of a wealthy family. Besides, now that I’m wealthy on my own, I’m even more uninterested in marrying into prestigious families.” Kathleen continued in an indifferent tone, “But since you’ve asked me to state my conditions, how about letting Christopher marry matrilocally into my family? Of course, our children will take after my last name. If you accept this condition, I will hand you the land deeds.”

“What did you say? You want Christopher to marry matrilocally into your family?” Felix thundered.

“Old Mr. Morris, do you think I don’t know what you had been fighting for was never the money but the authority over Jadeborough in the future? Don’t you think you should pay a price that is befitting to reach such a huge goal?” She smirked and went on, “You think too highly of the Morris family. If I really wanted to marry into a prestigious family, it would never be the Morris family.”

Felix is way too confident!

“Even if I were in love with Christopher, do you think I ought to willingly compromise my self-interest? I’m not so dumb as to hand over the two valuable mines in exchange for mistreatment and suppression from the Morris family! You may dislike me for having married once before, but I similarly feel disgusted by the Morris family’s greediness!” she added.

“You!” Felix was infuriated.

“The Morris family is known to be greedy and likes to take advantage of others, so would you allow someone like me, who has nothing to offer, to marry into your family? Moreover, you even planned to work with the Corbyn family. Do you think I am unaware of your plans to attack the Macari family once you’ve attained the authority you seek? I may have divorced Samuel, but Grandma, Mr. Calvin, and Mrs. Macari love me like I’m their own daughter. If you think I’m going to let anything bad happen to them, dream on!” Kathleen snapped.

With that, she hung up the phone.

After listening to the conversation, Samuel realized that there was nothing for him to worry about.

Kathleen was surprisingly level-headed.

Hence, it was clear that she was not in love with Christopher.

She looked at Christopher solemnly and asked, "Chris, can you guarantee that the Morris and Corbyn families would not join hands to fight against the Macari family in the future? Please think it through carefully before answering me."

Christopher fell silent.

"I know you can't convince your grandfather. But, Chris, I'll repay all the kindness that you've shown me before. However, I am indebted to the Macari family as well. In fact, I am indebted to them more than you, so I can't be an ungrateful person," Kathleen explained.

"I-I understand." Christopher glanced at her with a soft look. "Kate, actually I can—"

"No, you will never be able to convince your grandfather." Then, with clear, unwavering eyes, Kathleen said firmly, "There is no point in discussing a hypothetical situation. As long as there is some uncertainty, I will not take the risk. Besides, I don't like you, and I'm not interested in marrying into the Morris family."

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Christopher was offended by Kathleen's distrust of him.

However, he knew that he could not force her to trust him as well.

It was his incapability that prevented her from believing him wholeheartedly.

However, she had an indescribable trust toward Samuel, be it good or bad.

Her understanding of Samuel was deeply engraved in her.

"Rest well. I'm going to make a move first." Christopher got up to leave.

Kathleen sighed.

Samuel stared at her with his dark eyes as he asked. "Should I be happy?"

Kathleen stared back at him. "Happy about what?"

"Happy that you trust me more than Christopher." Samuel raised a brow.

Kathleen snorted coldly, "What's there to be happy about? Do you think it's something that you should be proud of?"

Samuel's brows furrowed.

"You think that I treat you differently compared to others but you don't know that these were my sufferings back then." Kathleen's voice was soft and hoarse. "Because I know you too well, that's why I can read all your minor expressions. I've learned how to observe your expressions, afraid that you'll dislike me if I don't. I've been trying to play my role as that perfect wife but we still ended up with divorce."

Samuel's face darkened.

"I was constantly wondering. Must it always be like this?" Kathleen was frowning. "Must I understand you so well and please you so much? There was a voice in my head back then, telling me that you'll fall in love with me if I try harder. Maybe if I just wait for a bit longer, then you'll notice how good I am. But all my hard work was wasted once Nicolette was back."

Samuel's voice was slightly hoarse. "I..."

"I'm not reprimanding you by saying it all out, Samuel." Kathleen took a deep breath. "It's just that I realized that you won't care about that person no matter how much she loves you because you don't love her. Likewise, it's because you don't love me, that's why you tend to ignore whatever I do. Isn't that right?"

Samuel was silent.

"How much do you know about me, Samuel?" Kathleen was biting her red lips. "Aside from those shallow stuff, how much do you know about my inner thoughts?"

"I... I don't know." Samuel spoke hoarsely. "I'm sorry."

"You really don't know." Kathleen's voice was deep. "But it means that you still have some self-awareness, judging by the fact you're admitting this. Here's what, Samuel. I rejected Christopher not because he wasn't as good as you but because I just wanted to simplify things. I didn't return for the Morris family, the Corbyn family, or whatever. I just wanted to quickly settle all these unimportant things. Do you understand?"

Samuel stared at her with his deep eyes. "Is it perhaps that I'm one of those unimportant things too?"

"Yes." Kathleen could not help but nod. "You sure are. I initially thought that we'll just become strangers when we meet again. But little did I expect you to cling to me."

She could not understand that.

"So I've never been a part of your plan?" Samuel asked.

She nodded slowly.

Heh!

Samuel smiled coldly. "The truth always hurts more than lies."

Kathleen pursed her lips.

Samuel raised his hands and placed his thumb on her red lips. He gently caressed them. "But what should I do? I think I'm feeling down but I can't bring myself to leave."

Kathleen was frowning.

"Back then, I wasn't afraid because I took your love for granted. I knew that you'd always be waiting for me no matter how many times I left." Samuel's voice was low. "Now, I'm not afraid to leave too because you don't love me, but I love you."

Kathleen stared at the cold man before her. She could not believe that those words came out from him.

Samuel was overflowing with ferocity. The air surrounding them turned cold.

Kathleen shivered a bit.

However, that ferocity in him vanished in a blink of an eye.

“Let’s not talk about this.” Samuel put down his hand. “We’ve agreed on being a family. I should learn how to adapt to this.”

Kathleen pursed her lips.

A smile flashed across his cold yet charming face. “But I must say, you made the right choice. It’s the simplest way by giving the land deed to me. It simplifies everything.”

Kathleen said, “But that’s if you can manage it.”

“How hard do you think it can be?” Samuel raised a brow.

Kathleen frowned. “Isn’t it hard? What if Felix and Clement join hands?”

“They will have no gains from doing so. Why would they?” Samuel asked coldly.

Kathleen paused.

That’s true.

If Clement knew that the Morris family could not do anything once the land deed was given to Samuel, he would not collaborate with them anymore.

Christopher returned home.

Emily approached him. “How’s Kate?”

“She’s all right,” Christopher answered.

“Grandpa’s here. He’s waiting for you in the living room,” Emily said.

Christopher frowned. He was not feeling good inside as he was displeased with Felix.

Upon reaching the living room, he saw Felix sipping coffee. He greeted, “Grandpa.”

Felix eyed Christopher from the side. “Was Samuel there when Kathleen called me?”

Christopher nodded. "Yeah."

"Hmph! I knew it! You saw everything, right, Christopher? She's so disrespectful toward me but yet you want to marry her?"

Christopher frowned. "Wasn't it because you insulted her first, Grandpa? What's with a second marriage? Is it illegal?"

Felix slammed on the table. "How dare you talk to me like that? That woman's a bad influence on you!"

Bad influence?

"Don't blame it all on others, Grandpa." Christopher was cold. "Why can't she talk? You were wrong in the first place. There's nothing bad about Kate. The bad ones are the Morris family. We don't deserve her!"

"What are you talking about?" Felix was furious. "Who is she to be picky about? She's a woman who's going to remarry. It's her honor to be married into the Morris family. How dare she reject us? If she had been smart enough, she could've just given the land deed to me and have children at home."

"That's enough!" Christopher was mad. "Who do you think Kate is? And who do you think you are?"

Felix's face turned pale.

"Stop being so arrogant," Christopher said angrily. "I know about how you and that woman treated Mom! After all these years, and now you're doing the same thing to the woman I like. I'm telling you now that's intolerable! Whether I get married to Kathleen or not, I won't allow you to insult her like that!"

"You're out of your mind!" Felix was mad. He turned to look at Emily. "Look at your son!"

Emily frowned.

"Why are you blaming Mom?" asked Christopher coldly.

At that moment, Aaron came back.

He could hear them arguing from the courtyard.

It was apparent that he knew the reason behind the argument.

"You're back just in time, Aaron! Look at them!" Felix said angrily. "What kind of head of the family are you?"

All Too Late Chapter 155

Aaron questioned calmly, "Am I the head of the family?"

Felix froze for a few seconds after hearing that.

"How are you not?" Felix's face darkened.

"Dad, why did you come to my house to meddle in my affairs if you think I'm the head of the family? Aaron asked coldly.

Felix's scowl deepened at his words.

"One is my wife, and the other is my son. No matter how bad they are, it's not for someone who isn't the head of the family to lecture them." Aaron continued coldly, "Also, you have left the company for many years. How do you know how the company currently functions? Why must you insist on the Morris family working with the Corbyn family?"

"Are you dumb?" Felix was furious. "Even Kathleen knows this isn't purely about business. It's to compete for who will have the final say in Jadeborough in the future!"

Aaron had an indifferent look. "You lost to Samuel's grandfather many years ago. Moreover, Samuel surpasses his grandfather in greatness."

"Why are you belittling yourself?" Felix felt highly aggravated.

Aaron said composedly, "I'm not belittling myself. It's a no-win situation for both parties if I try to fight for the final say with the Macari family. Someone else might benefit from it. Moreover, it's enough to be on equal footing with the Macari family."

Felix snorted. "How pathetic!"

With that, he stormed off.

Aaron was unmoved. Does he think that it's an easy matter to be on equal footing with the Macari family?

He turned to glance at Christopher. "Your grandfather is not going to things slide that easily. He cannot swallow his anger that Old Mrs. Macari chose Old Mr. Macari over him in the past. He's targeting the Macari family and that girl because of his anger."

"Kate must have thought of this since she's a level-headed person. Thus, she..." Emily spoke hesitantly.

"Indeed, she knows this better than anyone else," Christopher murmured with his voice lowered.

"Isn't that good?" Aaron added faintly, "I do admire her. Kathleen knew she had no future with you, so she made it clear to you. Isn't that a good thing? Do you like fickle-minded people?"

Christopher shook his head lightly.

Emily stated, "Christopher likes Kate because she is more sensible than anyone else."

Christopher remained silent and turned to leave.

Aaron said frigidly, "I didn't imply directly that Kathleen still likes Samuel."

"You're thinking too much," replied Emily.

"Is Christopher not outstanding?" Aaron said in a deep voice, "The most popular bachelor apart from Samuel was Christopher. When Samuel revealed his marriage, my phone was blown up with calls from people wanting to be our in-laws."

Emily quietly responded, "You experienced love too. However, you still don't understand that you can fall in love with someone for no reason."

Aaron shrugged. "Don't people always desire the unobtainable?"

Emily was rendered speechless at once.

What kind of father speaks like this about his son?

"That's the truth." Aaron's gaze darkened. "Although my words are unpleasant to listen to, they are true. The same applies to Samuel, Kathleen, and Christopher."

Emily did not feel like entertaining him anymore.

Aaron followed behind her. "Darling, look at my dad. He still hasn't let go of this matter after over forty years."

"Don't you think this matter is not fair to your mother?" She frowned.

"So what if it's unfair? She was happy to be with my father. What's the use of me saying it?" He shrugged. "Of course, my mother also desired the unobtainable."

Emily was at a loss for words.

“Back then, Samuel had Nicolette in his heart. However, when she returned, he discovered she was not how he imagined her to be. After Samuel finally saw Kathleen’s qualities, she did not love him anymore. He then began to chase after her,” Aaron said while analyzing.

At this, Emily frowned.

Aaron uttered quietly, “It’s the same for Kathleen. Although she got together with Samuel, she could not capture his heart. So, Kathleen always believed that she would be rewarded for her efforts if she tried harder. Ultimately, she learned it the hard way and gave up on Samuel. Christopher should have confessed to Kathleen since he liked her from the start. He held back his feelings and got beat to it by his love rival.”

“Aaron, you’re speaking really annoyingly!” Emily was not too pleased with his remarks.

“I already mentioned that although my words are unpleasant to listen to, they are true.” He continued, “It’s the same as Calvin chasing after your younger sister back then.”

“What about you?” Emily looked at him coldly. “How do you feel about me?”

“Of course, that doesn’t apply to me! After all, I won you over instantly,” Aaron said smugly.

He was better than Calvin in terms of getting girls.

“According to what you say, the undesirable is the most sought. Those people seem to be truly in love and really loyal.” Emily sneered coldly. “Since you won me over so easily, this means that you don’t cherish me, right?”

Aaron was speechless.

“Speak up.” Emily raised the knife that she was using to cut the avocados.

She was planning to make an avocado salad.

Aaron replied sheepishly, “Darling, what are you talking about? I only cherish you even more after getting together with you. I’m not the same as those scum men out there.”

Emily was rendered speechless at once.

“In short, Emily, I love you. I will love you forever!” He hugged Emily and kissed her a few times.

Emily said angrily, “Stop fooling around.”

“Okay, let’s be serious for a moment.” Aaron hugged her from behind and rested his chin on her shoulder. “Are you not going to help Christopher? Look at how united the Macaris are! Although they appear to be shunning Samuel, it’s to evoke sympathy from Kathleen. Even though she can see through their facade, she will still go soft on him.”

Emily pursed her lips. “What can I do? Christopher lost at the starting point. Kathleen fell in love with Samuel first.”

“You have to help Christopher. My heart aches for him seeing him in this way.” Aaron sighed.

“You can’t force a relationship,” Emily muttered softly.

Aaron took a deep breath. “Where there’s a will, there’s a way. Kathleen might have feelings for Christopher. However, she might have formed a bad impression of our family after what my father did. You can seek her out more often and let her know that there are people from the Morris family who welcome her. When she considers settling down in the future, it will be helpful for Christopher.”

“Can we beat Old Mrs. Macari to it?” Emily asked.

“Why not? Since Old Mrs. Macari treats her like her biological granddaughter, we can treat her like our biological daughter.”

Once again, Emily was at a loss for words.

“Do work hard. You can do it!” Aaron gave her words of encouragement for no reason.

Emily smiled in amusement.

Aaron hugged her and smiled along with her. “Speaking of this, it’s fortunate that Kathleen put a stop to this matter.”

“You didn’t want to cooperate with the Corbyn family?” Emily inquired curiously.

“Yes. The Corbyn family’s business overseas isn’t legitimate. I’m not going to get the Morris family involved in this mess,” replied Aaron indifferently.

“Doesn’t your father wish to cooperate with the Corbyn family?” Emily frowned.

“He is getting senile and also got fooled by Astrid’s grandfather. My priority is to kick Astrid out of Jadeborough first. We can’t just forget about the matter of her setting up Christopher. Even if Christopher is unable to marry Kathleen, there is no way he will marry her!”

All Too Late Chapter 156

It was seven o'clock at night.

Wynn timer had brought Kathleen some food.

She gave Kathleen a big portion. "Here's yours."

Then, Samuel received the smaller portion. "And here's yours."

Samuel was left speechless.

Wynn timer explained, "Well, I only made an extra portion in light of your rescue efforts today. Otherwise, you wouldn't be getting any food. Not even a bowl of soup."

Reluctant to speak, Samuel remained silent.

Kathleen saw that Samuel was slightly depressed, so she said to Wynn timer, "Mrs. Macari, I was saved today all thanks to Samuel."

"Oh. Kate has put in some good words for you. I'll reward you with a bowl of soup later," Wynn timer muttered slowly.

"Hah!" Samuel laughed in disdain. "Thank you, my queen. Thank you, my princess."

Wynn timer scoffed, "I'm your queen, but she's not your princess. Keep your slick tongue to yourself."

Samuel decided to shut his mouth as he dined.

Wynn timer patted Kathleen's head, slightly concerned. "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine." Kathleen nodded.

"That's good." Wynn timer furrowed her brows. "Mom was furious when she learned about this. She mentioned that she'll make time for poker tomorrow. She plans on telling her poker friends about this incident. Don't worry. The news will spread like wildfire."

Kathleen asked, "Mrs. Macari, is that necessary?"

"Of course it is! They have wronged you," Wynn timer replied seriously.

Kathleen was grateful, but she didn't want to trouble them.

Wynn timer had a good look at Kathleen before taking a glance at Samuel. She felt at ease.

After Kathleen finished her meal, Wynn timeridied up the table and prepared herself to leave.

“I’ll see you out.” Samuel got up to send Wynn timer off.

Both mother and son were standing in front of the elevator when Wynn timer asked coldly, “Have you finally thought things through? Do you now know that you have to protect her?”

Samuel did not utter a word.

“Now that you’re finally together with Kathleen, you’d better do your best to treasure her. Be careful, or she might not forgive you next time,” Wynn timer added with a frown.

“Mom, she doesn’t love me anymore. I can sense it,” Samuel replied in a serious tone.

Wynn timer stared at him.

He continued, “She’s no longer the same Kathleen who used to love me.”

Wynn timer maintained her composure. “Oh? I’m not surprised. You shouldn’t be pestering Kate if it bothers you. Who knows? Perhaps she’ll end up with Christopher.”

Samuel couldn’t find the words to reply, causing his mother to snort.

At last, he replied adamantly, “She’s not going to be with Christopher. She came back this time to reclaim her identity.”

Wynn timer was stunned for a moment. “What identity?”

Samuel threw her a sideways glance. “Didn’t you know? Kate’s parents were both orphans.”

“I knew that already. In fact, I learned about it before you. Who do you think I am?” she said.

Samuel’s face was expressionless as he felt mocked.

He continued to explain nonchalantly, “Kathleen is back because she found out her mother’s real identity. She’ll leave once her business is done here. No one can stop her then.”

Wynn timer gave him her heartfelt advice. “It all comes down to your own doing. How can you be sure if you haven’t tried? As long as you’re sincere, I don’t think Kate will hold a grudge against you forever.”

Samuel fell silent.

At that moment, the elevator arrived.

“All right, this will do. You don’t have to send me any further. Go back and keep Kate company,” said Wynnie.

“Mom, do you know about Kate’s identity?” Samuel asked all of a sudden.

His mother shook her head.

“You’ve never suspected why Kathleen and Nicolette looked so alike?” he went on.

Wynnie was shocked. “Wait... What? Are you saying that..”

Samuel nodded. “Old Mrs. Yoeger had a little girl once, but she disappeared without a word. Sounds about right?”

“That’s right.” Wynnie missed the elevator, her brows tied into a knot. “Could it be that Kate’s mom is actually Old Mrs. Yoeger’s missing daughter?”

“Yes.” Samuel nodded in response.

“Oh my God!” Wynnie took a step forward and grabbed Samuel’s arm. “Samuel, now that you mention it, I remember how we were supposed to bring Kate to Old Mrs. Yoeger’s birthday party back then. If we had brought her with us that time... then maybe...”

Samuel took a deep breath. “I was the reason why they missed out on each other.”

“That’s not true!” Wynnie was agitated. “Nicolette must have known! Otherwise, why did she insist on going? She was aware that the Yoeger family disliked her and knew you wanted to avoid conflict. Between herself and Kate, you’ll only bring one of them to attend. She was trying to prevent the reunion from happening!”

At that, Samuel’s gaze darkened.

Grinding her teeth, Wynnie growled, “Who would have thought? She’s just as cunning as her mom! So, when is Kate going to the Yoeger residence for her big reunion?”

“She hasn’t mentioned when. I’m guessing it’ll be soon. She’s probably still investigating the reason behind her mom’s disappearance. After that, she’ll head for the Yoeger residence,” Samuel replied indifferently.

“That’s right. Your grandma spoke to me about this before. She suspected it to be an inside job. The security in the Yoeger residence was really tight. It was unlikely that

anyone could just come in and take the child away. Sadly, even after some extensive searching, there were no leads for the investigation to continue on. Otherwise, Old Mrs. Yoeger wouldn't have..." she trailed off with a sigh.

"Mom, don't share this information with Grandma just yet," Samuel reminded.

"I know. Rest assured." Wynnie nodded in acknowledgment.

The elevator had returned.

Wynnie managed to get on it this time.

Samuel watched as the elevator door closed before him.

Right when he was about to leave, he heard a deep and familiar voice calling to him.

"Samuel."

Turning around, Samuel stared sharply at the woman in the wheelchair. A cold gleam flashed across his eyes. "It's you."

Nicolette was wearing a mask. She sneered at him. "Are you surprised to see me?"

Samuel merely shot her an icy glance and made to leave.

"Samuel!" Nicolette shouted. "I heard Kathleen was hospitalized. I would like to visit her."

"Get lost!" Samuel's reply was icy and ruthless.

Nicolette narrowed her eyes. "You're so cold and heartless."

Samuel asked with a grim voice, "Do you have a death wish?"

Nicolette snorted with an evil look in her eyes. "Samuel, you cruel man. You broke both my legs for Kathleen's sake. The pain I felt at the time was excruciating, do you know that?"

"When you killed our child, Kate was in immeasurable pain too," Samuel replied impassively.

Nicolette burst into laughter and mocked, "Too bad she can no longer give birth."

"Shut up!" By this point, Samuel was clenching his fists.

"It's a fact. Why can't I say it?" Nicolette appeared to be deliberately provoking him.

Samuel was on the brink of losing himself.

Noticing that, Nicolette stared at him. "You want to hit me? Go ahead! Hit me!"

Samuel narrowed his eyes. "You think I won't?"

In response, Nicolette shut her eyes and braced herself for the slap.

She was waiting for Samuel to hit her.

Nicolette had reporters on standby. They were hiding around the corner, ready to capture any movement that might serve as evidence.

If Samuel made a move on her, she'd gain the upper hand in future negotiations. Samuel is going to be at my mercy, and Kathleen as well! They can both die together!

Nicolette knew now that Samuel wouldn't have a change of heart.

Since he was unattainable to her, she would rather destroy him.

Once she got rid of him, there would be nothing left that she was afraid of.

Slap!

As expected, Nicolette received a harsh slap to her face.

All Too Late Chapter 157

"Samuel, you—" Nicolette opened her eyes.

However, to her surprise, the one standing before her was Kathleen.

The latter was wearing a blue and white striped hospital gown. Although her delicate and beautiful face looked pale, she was still exuding an imposing air.

The one that hit her was Kathleen.

"It was my first time hearing someone make such a request, so I naturally had to comply," Kathleen answered maliciously as she looked down at Nicolette from above.

This was the first meeting they had after a year.

Nicolette gritted her teeth in anger. "Kathleen!"

"I merely fulfilled your request," Kathleen said coldly and raised her eyebrow. "If you ask me to hit you like an idiot, then you can't blame me when it hurts. You deserved it, though."

Nicolette's face and ears reddened with fury.

"Hmm? Is your mask stuck on your face?" Kathleen sneered. "Why aren't you taking it off?"

When Nicolette recalled how her face looked now, her eyes blazed like two torches. "It's all because of you!"

"Me?" Kathleen faked ignorance. "What does this have to do with me?"

"Did you forget?" Nicolette ground her teeth in resentment. "You're the one who did this to my face! Don't you think you can worm out of this if you pretend you forgot!"

"Oh. In that case, you deserved it. Can't blame me." Kathleen shrugged.

"Kathleen, if Samuel hadn't illegally imprisoned me, I would have sued you! I'll make sure you get thrown in jail!" Nicolette roared.

"You're going to sue me?" Kathleen stared at her expressionlessly. "Who gave you the gall to do that?"

"I have evidence!" Nicolette gnashed her teeth before yelling furiously, "And witnesses too! Those who attended the wedding are my witnesses! They saw it all!"

"Try me then," warned Samuel, his low voice tinged with frost. "Let's see who will dare to bring out the evidence and who will testify for you."

"Nicolette, don't think you didn't leave any evidence of what you have done all these years!" Kathleen said mockingly while looking coldly at her.

Nicolette smirked. "Back then, Samuel got rid of all those people in a fit of anger."

In other words, Kathleen did not have the evidence or witnesses.

"Are you sure about that?" Kathleen said indifferently.

Nicolette scoffed. "I know Gemma is your friend. She would be more than happy to fake evidence for you."

"It seems like you have done your research. My bad for underestimating you," Kathleen replied icily.

“You’ll never win against me!” Nicolette glared at Kathleen in a threatening manner.

Coldly, Kathleen said, “Bring it on!”

After that, she turned and left.

Nicolette gave Samuel a knowing smile. “You know, I have to thank you, Samuel. You got rid of all the witnesses of that incident only because I saved your life.”

Samuel’s dark eyes were cold as ice.

“If you dare to lay a hand on Kathleen, you’re dead!” Samuel warned Nicolette, his eyes giving her a forbidding glare.

Although Nicolette’s heart skipped a beat in fear, she faked her composure and smiled. “Samuel, don’t forget that I once saved your life.”

“I told you long ago that we no longer owed each other anything,” Samuel retorted, his aura getting colder by the minute.

“You’re so heartless,” Nicolette muttered and looked at him wistfully.

Samuel ignored her and left.

Nicolette’s eyes glinted as she watched Samuel disappear.

I still love him. To me, Samuel is dazzling. If I can’t have him, I’d rather destroy him. I will never let Kathleen have him!

Kathleen returned to the ward.

Whenever she saw Nicolette, other than a deep hatred, she also felt a tightness in her chest.

That’s right. Whenever I see her, I feel suffocated.

For every day she failed to get her revenge on Nicolette for killing her children, that was one more day she could not be at ease.

Samuel entered the ward.

As he walked gracefully toward Kathleen, the gaze he fixed on her was complicated and unfathomable.

“You should leave,” Kathleen said expressionlessly.

Samuel's sharp jawline tensed. "Kate, Nicolette and I have nothing between us anymore."

Slowly, Kathleen raised her head. Looking at the cold yet charming man in front of her, she said, "Samuel, there's another important reason I don't want to be with you."

"What is it?" Samuel frowned.

"You slept with Nicolette, didn't you?" Kathleen gritted her teeth hard. "To me, she is the killer of my unborn sons, but you had sex with her. I can't—"

Samuel grabbed her wrist before replying irritably, "I know you hate me and resent me. I can take that. However, you shouldn't slander me for something I didn't do!"

Kathleen frowned and retorted, "I didn't slander you!"

"The only woman I have ever slept with was you!" he declared solemnly.

"Haha!" Beads of tears started to appear at the corners of Kathleen's eyes. "Samuel, you said that you'll never deceive me. But now, you're lying straight to my face."

However, Samuel was firm in this statement, and the whites of his eyes gradually reddened. "I didn't lie."

Eventually, the tears rolled down her face. "I heard it."

"What?" Samuel's brows creased.

"I heard the voice recording Nicolette sent me. It was you having sex with her." Kathleen smiled dejectedly, her tears beading on her curled, long lashes.

The hand that had been holding her wrist tightly slowly loosened.

Gradually, his eyes filled with disappointment. "Why don't you believe me? I told you I would not lie to you."

Kathleen pursed her lips tightly.

Grabbing his jacket, Samuel turned and left.

Kathleen's expression was miserable. With both hands covering her face, she sobbed lightly.

Why am I crying again? I thought I had moved on.

After that, Kathleen did not see Samuel for several days.

It appeared like he would never bother her ever again.

Meanwhile, Kathleen resumed her daily routine of going to the filming set and returning home. She never went anywhere else.

Although her life was simple, it was exciting too.

On this day, Charles was the one fetching her back from work.

In the car, Charles asked, "Since your workload at the set isn't that heavy for the time being, can you help me with something?"

"Sure. What do you need me to do?" Kathleen put down her script.

Tomorrow was the scene that involved the court, so Kathleen had nothing to do.

"It's like this. A boy band in our company has participated in an idol competition. They were scheduled to record their live performance this Thursday, but the female idol they were supposed to work with refused to go. That female idol was from another company. After an artiste from our company snatched a movie role from said idol, she refused to participate in this idol competition anymore," Charles explained, rubbing his temples.

"You want me to stand in as a dancer for them?" Kathleen asked curiously.

"Yes." Charles nodded. "This live performance is important because it is also an elimination round."

"Didn't you spend money on it?" Kathleen raised an eyebrow.

"We shouldn't stand out too much and win it now that money has been spent on it, if you know what I mean," Charles hinted.

"Oh, I get it." Kathleen immediately understood her brother's plan. "You deliberately didn't compromise and let our company artiste snatch the female idol's movie role so that you will get the chance to ask me to fill in for the boy band and make them famous. Am I right?"

"Ahem, it's not snatching," Charles righteously corrected her. "It's just a standard business tactic. Moreover, if she wanted to participate, I would have let her."

Kathleen was speechless.

This is the day I finally got to see my brother's calculative side!

"Okay, I'll do what I can," Kathleen said in exasperation.

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Charles took a look at the time and said, "They should be at the rehearsal room at this hour. Let's go there now."

Kathleen was lost for words.

Looking at her, he asked, "Is there a problem?"

Helplessly, Kathleen replied, "I still haven't eaten."

Is he really my brother?

Charles was dumbfounded upon hearing that. "I forgot about that. I'll get someone to prepare some salad for you."

Kathleen whined, "I want steak!"

"No. You have to be on stage three days later. Your face cannot be bloated. Be good, okay?" Charles coaxed.

The corners of Kathleen's mouth twitched.

He only has eyes for money!

Thus, Kathleen followed Charles to his company's rehearsal room.

Music sounded from within.

They peered into the room through the glass door and saw four tall and slender men practicing inside.

"Let's go in." Charles led Kathleen into the room.

The dance instructor immediately turned off the music.

When everyone saw Charles, they greeted, "Mr. Johnson."

Charles smilingly announced, "I've brought you guys your female dance partner."

With a charming smile, Kathleen walked over and greeted, "Nice to meet you guys."

The four men were shocked.

“Let me introduce her. She’s my younger sister, Kathleen Johnson. She’s also the winner of the Academy Award for Best Actress. With her help, I’m sure you guys will be able to get through the third round of eliminations,” Charles said with a grin.

Kathleen humbly said, “Don’t listen to my brother. I’m not that famous yet. A lot of people might have heard of my name, but they probably don’t even know what I look like.”

With a meaningful smile, Charles introduced, “Kathleen, this is Skyler Mayer, Mason Linsley, and Yohan Nicholson. As for this guy, he has the same surname as us. His name is Blake Johnson.”

“Nice to meet you,” the four men greeted Kathleen.

She nodded and said, “It’s my first time dancing today. Please bear with me.”

Chuckling, Yohan said, “Ms. Johnson, you don’t have to be so humble. I heard that you’re a professional in contemporary dance.”

Upon hearing that, Kathleen was surprised. “How did you know?”

Yohan explained, “We’re schoolmates, unlike the three of them. They’re from Zaprington University.”

“Oh, I see…”

He continued, “Even though I was busy back then and did not have time to attend the school celebration, someone sent me the video of your dance and stage play. It was absolutely amazing.”

Blake chimed in, “Hey! Even though we’re from Zaprington University, we know a lot about Jadeborough University too.” He looked at Kathleen meaningfully and said, “It’s a pleasure to collaborate with you.”

“Thank you,” Kathleen replied with a smile.

The dance instructor clapped his hands and ordered, “All right, it’s time to practice again!”

“I’ll go get changed,” Kathleen said to everyone.

They nodded in response.

Following that, she left to get changed.

After a while, she returned wearing sportswear.

Her outfit accentuated her voluptuous figure and slender waist.

It was no exaggeration to say that she had the face of an angel and the body of a succubus.

Kathleen stood in the middle and began training with the dance instructor.

Everyone else stared at her in surprise.

She can remember and repeat every move after learning from the dance instructor only once. Even her positions are correct! Is she a prodigy?

There were a lot of intimate interactions between Kathleen and the four men during this dance routine.

It was quite rare that Kathleen managed to perform so beautifully and charismatically. None of her actions were inappropriate at all.

The dance instructor had brought up this problem when collaborating with the female idol last time, but he was at ease after seeing Kathleen's performance.

On the day of the performance, everything was broadcasted live.

Nobody knew that Kathleen would be Team LR's special guest.

Instead, everyone's attention was on a new, mysterious judge who would be on the panel this time.

The mysterious judge's vote would be crucial in deciding the outcome.

It was said that anyone could advance to the next round and escape elimination if they could get the golden card from this judge.

Hence, everyone was trying to guess the identity of the mysterious person.

Kathleen's interest was piqued as well.

She asked, "Charles, do you know who it is?"

Charles shook his head and replied, "The production team was good at keeping it a secret. I tried to sound them out, but they still kept their mouths shut."

Apparently, to maintain confidentiality, Kathleen could only show up once it was her turn to get on stage, so she had to wait in the car before that.

The car was parked in the parking lot. Once it was time to go, she could just get off straight from the car.

She had already put on makeup and changed her outfit.

The look she was going for today was cool and chic. There was a hint of wildness amid the sexiness.

The live broadcast had begun.

The first performance was done together by all the contestants, instantly firing up the crowd, who cheered loudly.

Following that, the host stepped on stage and started to introduce all the judges.

Finally, it was time to introduce the mystery judge, who was not sitting below the stage.

In an excited tone, the host announced, "Now, let us welcome our esteemed judge, Macari Group's CEO, Samuel Macari!"

Applause and screams filled the air.

Nobody expected the judge to be Samuel.

Following the announcement, Samuel walked up from backstage.

He was wearing a custom-made black suit paired with a white shirt, giving off an elegant and noble aura.

Under the lights, his gaze was stern and cold.

Seeing his sharp gaze, everyone was in awe.

It was as though his surrounding had lost its glow.

Charles frowned and exclaimed, "How could it be him?"

Kathleen did not know that the mysterious judge would be Samuel either.

It had been a week since they last met. They had not seen each other ever since the fight.

Kathleen had been very busy these few days too, so much so that she had not had time to think about Samuel.

However, her heart wrenched when she saw Samuel's handsome and distinctive features.

Samuel took his seat with a cold expression.

The cameras were all focused on him.

The audiences in the live room went wild.

Oh my god! That's Samuel Macari!

Never in a million years would I have expected Samuel Macari to be the judge. He's so good-looking! He will definitely be the top celebrity if he enters the entertainment industry!

His looks are impeccable! I thought some of the contestants from "Super Rookie" were outstanding enough, but Samuel Macari is on a whole other level!

Now I know why Kathleen Johnson liked him so much back then. If it were me, I wouldn't be able to resist this face either! He's just too handsome!

His body is also so well-built! I am so jealous of Kathleen!

Can you people not bring Kathleen into this? They're divorced. Katie is now a strong independent woman!

It's just the truth anyway! You guys can hate on the relationship, but we can't ship them? Can you all not be so nosy and controlling?

That's right! How could Kathleen have fans like this? I thought her fans were all gentle.

Kathleen is Kathleen. Her fans are her fans. Her fans aren't exactly wrong. Since they've gotten a divorce, they're strangers to each other now. There's no need to bring up the other person's name.

The live room devolved into frenzied squabbling.

Charles gave Kathleen a side glance and casually remarked, "You have fans who defend you now."

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Kathleen said coldly, "Are you implying that you didn't expect me to have fans?"

"That movie's premiering only on the week after the next," said Charles in a deep tone. "Even though you scored an award beforehand, the vast majority of the public has yet to

see you on screen, so you couldn't have gotten so many fans. After they've watched your acting and have a good impression of you, only then will your fan base expand. If not, all these are mere casual fans and serve you no purpose."

Kathleen was rendered speechless.

Even though the viewers in the live room were still in an uproar, the performance had already begun on the stage.

They had drawn lots to determine the order, and Team LR's performance would be the last one.

Up until the moment before Team LR took to the stage, Samuel had yet to hand out the golden card in his hands.

It seemed like getting the golden card was a difficult feat to achieve.

On top of that, all of Samuel's feedback had been straightforward and harsh.

Each time he gave his comments, no one would dare to utter a word.

For a person with an imposing aura like him, wherever he went, he would unwittingly suppress the presence of the people around him.

It was inevitable.

Right then, someone knocked on the car window.

Charles side-eyed the person by the window and said, "It's time to go."

Kathleen nodded.

Putting on a jacket, she got out of the car and followed the staff member backstage.

On their way there, they were extremely cautious so that no one would catch sight of them.

As they reached backstage, Kathleen took off the jacket and prepared to go on for her performance.

The staff member then helped her put on an earpiece.

The former was a young lady, seemingly a little older than Kathleen.

Gazing at Kathleen, she was somewhat excited. Even her hands were trembling.

Kathleen looked extraordinarily attractive with her makeup that day, and her features were flawless.

Suddenly, Kathleen flashed a smile at the young lady.

The latter's heart melted into a puddle right away.

How could she have a smile as pure as an angel?

After the young lady finished everything, she uttered timidly, "G-Good luck."

"Thanks!" said Kathleen with a sweet smile.

Seeing her grin, the young lady nearly fainted. She then walked away with an unsteady gait.

In the meantime, Kathleen was all ready to go.

As the music began, she walked up the platform from backstage.

Initially, everyone saw only a silhouette and could not tell who the person was.

As she paced into the spotlight, the crowd instantaneously realized that the figure was Kathleen herself.

It was then the audience went into a state of frenzy.

Kathleen was all dolled up that day, looking stylish and stunning. She was clad in a black leather top with wide shoulder straps and a pair of black leather shorts. Her slender, long legs were in a pair of thigh-high boots.

Wearing exquisite smoky-eyed makeup, she gave off an air of indescribable wildness and sexiness.

As she showcased her swift and sharp dance moves, her every expression and posture was inundated with charm and beauty.

Her interactions with the other male celebrities also looked elegant and dashing. Not a tinge of tackiness was present in her movements.

Watching Kathleen's performance, the crowd completely went out of their minds, so to speak.

They had almost forgotten that they were there to watch the male celebrities compete in a talent show.

Sitting on the judges' panel, Samuel observed Kathleen with an intense, ice-cold gaze.

What a beauty!

Under the dazzling lights, it was as if Kathleen was glowing.

That day, she became the goddess in every man's heart.

A burning sensation of possessiveness gradually hit Samuel. He wished to just take her away and hide her from the eyes of other males.

He tried his best to rein in his emotion and suppress his desire, yet deep down, he longed for her.

Kathleen. My one-and-only Kathleen! I wish I could get my hands on her right now!

The music finally stopped.

Thus ended Kathleen's perfect performance.

She held hands with Skyler and Mason, and they bowed together to the audience as a gesture of appreciation.

The sound of applause continuously filled the air.

Soon enough, the host appeared on stage and remarked, "Who would've expected the special guest of Team LR to be Kate?"

Kathleen put on a faint smile.

"Let's see what our judges have to say," added the host.

The judges were so pleased with Team LR and Kathleen's performance that they gave a very high score.

Team LR and another group ended up neck and neck for first place.

In the end, everything boiled down to Samuel's vote.

The atmosphere turned silent.

Everyone knew about the relationship between Samuel and Kathleen.

Hence, they were very worried that Samuel wouldn't be fair in giving his rating.

Some of them were thinking that Samuel might just grant the group a sky-high score while the others were afraid that he might give a terribly low score.

There were all kinds of conflicting thoughts in the crowd.

Kathleen, too, was a little nervous, for she wasn't sure if Samuel would be fair and square.

From her point of view, there was a possibility for Samuel's pettiness to act up all of a sudden.

"Mr. Macari, what do you think of our last performance?" asked the host in a tranquil manner.

The crowd turned to look at him.

Samuel, in turn, watched Kathleen intently and commented, "The dance was good."

Pursing her lips, Kathleen expressed her gratitude, "Thank you for the compliment."

"You must work harder." Samuel's tone reeked of coldness.

Panic-stricken momentarily, Kathleen then replied, "Y-Yes."

Out of the blue, Samuel directed his impassive gaze at the host. "Not everyone is allowed to call her Kate. Are you that close with her?"

Everyone fell silent on that note.

So, he kept mum a while ago just because he was bothered by this?

Samuel continued in an icy tone, "I think it's better for me to withhold my vote. Otherwise, some folks would accuse me of being biased."

After saying that, Samuel put down the golden card in his hands.

Kathleen gawked at Samuel, and the latter narrowed his eyes to slits.

"Are you trying to say that this golden card was supposedly meant to be given to Team LR, Mr. Macari?" The host had no choice but to carry on with the emceeing.

Samuel gave a nonchalant response, "This is to avoid any misunderstandings."

Kathleen was at a loss for words.

He'll only invite speculations if he doesn't give that card!

"Mr. Macari, from the way you spoke, we already know where you stand. The other groups won't be delighted, anyway," uttered one of the judges indifferently.

"Indeed, I've taken my stand." Casting a glance at Kathleen, Samuel explained, "The reason for me not giving the golden card is to save everyone else from embarrassment. After all, it's obvious that they're good."

All the others stared at Samuel.

Flashing a half-smile, he went on, "Besides, the special guest of the last group is outstanding in all aspects."

"Do you mean Ms. Johnson is very charming, Mr. Macari?" That judge appeared to be implying something.

Putting on a deadpan look, Samuel answered, "Isn't it already public knowledge that I'm wooing her right now? Where are you going with this conversation?"

Hearing that, the judge was stumped for words.

Kathleen fixed her gaze on Samuel. He's actually the one who's making a scene here!

The host flushed at the sudden turn of events. "All right! Who would've anticipated a tie for first place to happen in our show? Anyway, thank you very much for watching our performances today. We'll be announcing the elimination name list privately. Thank you for your participation!"

As the host finished his last sentence, the competition that night also officially came to an end.

Kathleen wheeled around and prepared to leave.

At that moment, Samuel approached her and grabbed her hand from behind. He dragged her straight to the other end of the stage to exit.

The onlookers were in shock while Charles' expression darkened.

I've had enough of that Samuel!

Samuel towed Kathleen all the way outside.

As they arrived at the parking lot, Samuel threw Kathleen into his car before hopping into the vehicle himself. After that, he removed his jacket and wrapped it around Kathleen.

Kathleen stared at him in puzzlement. "What the heck are you doing?"

Looking her in the eyes, Samuel brought his head low and pressed his lips to her skin.

He had kissed slightly above her eye.

Kathleen was stunned.

"Don't ever look at other men that way." Samuel's voice was hoarse. "You know, I've been wanting to get you off the stage since just now."

"You broke the rules, Samuel!" Kathleen flew off the handle. "Didn't we agree to remain as close friends?"

"Rules are meant to be broken." Pinching her chin, Samuel said, "If it hadn't been for the performance today, I wouldn't have realized that I wanted you to be mine so much."

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Kathleen froze. Colour drained from her fair face as an uneasy and panicked expression took over. "Samuel, what are you doing?"

His dark eyes turned misty.

Samuel ran his long and slender fingers along her jawline before forcing her to tilt her head up. With his thumb, he rubbed her red lips gently.

He craved her desperately. Yet, he was doing his best to suppress the intense desire.

From the moment he threw aside all caution and dragged her away from the stage until kissing her eye earlier, he had been holding himself back. Otherwise...

"Aren't you letting me go?" Kathleen said anxiously as his action against her lips was starting to hurt a little.

Samuel loosened his grip.

"Open the door!" she yelled angrily. She wanted to leave the car.

"Head to the Johnson residence," Samuel told Tyson calmly instead.

"Okay." Tyson then started the car engine.

"Samuel, you can't be this forceful!" Kathleen was furious.

Snorting, he crossed his legs and stared at the petite woman next to him.

She had been incredibly alluring earlier on the stage. No wonder he had been hearing news about his ex-wife being the campus belle in her school lately.

Looking at her flawless face, he flashed her a gentle smile that was laced with affection. "I'm sorry for what happened just now."

Kathleen ignored him. He's a freaking rule breaker!

"I apologize," he said solemnly.

She maintained her silence.

"Sorry." Samuel sounded extremely serious and earnest.

Upon hearing that, Kathleen was shocked.

When she had come back this time, Samuel had apologized to her too for the past mistakes he committed.

However, she didn't expect him to make an apology for this matter.

Samuel was a proud man with a powerful status. There was no way he would apologize to others.

When Samuel saw her startled expression, he asked, "What's there to be surprised about?"

"Nothing." Kathleen withdrew her gaze from him.

At that moment, his phone rang.

Picking up the call, he said, "Yes, she's in my car. I didn't do anything to her, and I'm sending her home. Yes, all right, I'll ask her about it."

With that, he hung up on his mother.

"Mom said the family has prepared a celebratory dinner for you. Do you want to go over?" His voice was deep.

Celebratory dinner? Kathleen wasn't feeling convinced.

"It was Grandma's idea. She said it was the first time she saw you performing on the stage, and you even won the first prize, so she wants to celebrate it for you."

Upon hearing it was Diana's idea, she agreed to it immediately, "Okay."

Samuel frowned. Would you still go if it was my idea instead? I bet you wouldn't.

"By the way, why did they call you?" Kathleen asked puzzledly.

"Because when they called your phone, it was your brother who answered it. He obviously talked bad about me," Samuel said in a flat tone.

It was then she realized she didn't have her phone with her.

She extended her hand in Samuel's direction.

He gave her his in response.

Kathleen was speechless for a while before shoving his hand away. "Phone!"

Samuel gave it to her obediently.

When Kathleen was dialing Charles' phone number, she noticed it had already been saved in Samuel's contact list.

However, upon seeing the display name, she was at a loss for words.

"Why did you save his name as Husky?" she huffed.

His expression darkened. "He names me Retriever."

"How can you guys be so childish?" she blurted and rang Charles up.

"Samuel, I've already spoken to Old Mrs. Macari about this! Where the heck did you bring Kathleen?"

"Charles." Kathleen didn't expect him to be this mad.

"Darling, where are you? Is everything okay?" The sudden change in his tone was obvious.

"I'm fine. I'm on the way to the Macari residence now. Why don't you come over too, Charles? Then we can head back together." Kathleen stole a peek at Samuel.

He wasn't showing any reactions.

"Okay! I'm coming over to save you!" He ended the call as soon as he finished speaking.

When Kathleen was about to hand the phone back to Samuel, she accidentally saw the display name he set for her—Wife.

Her eyes darkened as her gaze fell on his finger once again.

He was still wearing his wedding ring.

Pretending as though she had not seen anything, Kathleen returned the phone to him.

“Why did you join this kind of variety show all of a sudden?” Samuel asked.

“Those people are from Charles’ company,” Kathleen explained. “What about you?”

“It’s a television program sponsored by my company.”

I see.

After some thought, she decided to remind Samuel.

“Samuel.” Her voice was sweet, but it sounded aloof at the same time.

“Hmm?” He turned, gazing at her smooth and pretty face.

“You should take off your wedding ring, or else people might misunderstand.”

“I’m not used to the empty feeling.” Samuel stroked his ring. “Just like I’m not used to you not being by my side either.”

Staring at his exceptionally attractive lips, she said, “You have to move on with your life. Don’t dwell on the past.”

“You’ve never asked me why I liked Nicolette so much.” He diverted the topic.

Kathleen kept quiet.

“Aren’t you curious?”

“Does one need a reason to like someone else?” Her gaze darkened.

Grabbing her wrist, he rasped, “I thought my feelings for her were love, but they weren’t. They were merely a sense of gratitude because she had saved my life before. I didn’t expect myself to be so terribly wrong.”

Samuel had never dated anyone before, so he didn’t know what love was.

After Nicolette saved him, he developed favorable feelings toward her.

He had thought it was love.

However, it was nothing close, merely a sense of gratitude.

Unfortunately, it had overshadowed his love for Kathleen, leaving him oblivious.

By the time he understood everything, it was already too late.

Still looking outside the car window, Kathleen pulled her hand from his grip and didn't say a thing. What's the point of understanding it now? We can no longer go back to how it was.

Soon after, they reached the Macari residence.

The moment they stepped inside the house, Diana and the rest of them were already there, holding party poppers.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

They pulled the strings of the poppers, and confetti rained down on Kathleen and Samuel.

Kathleen felt like they were a pair of newlyweds.

"Katie! You looked so amazing today!" Diana said excitedly. "Seeing how successful you are now, I regret letting Samuel marry you back then. Men are definitely the stumbling blocks in women's career paths!"

Samuel was silent.

He stretched his hand in Kathleen's direction, wanting to clear away the confetti that was all over her head.

However, Wynnie shoved him aside. "Go away. Don't touch her!"

Samuel was rendered speechless.

Diana then dragged Kathleen to the living room.

There was a huge strawberry cake placed on the coffee table.

"Come, come! Cut the cake." Diana handed Kathleen the knife.

"Old Mrs. Macari, this is too grand," Kathleen said embarrassedly.

“Our little princess has performed on television and even got first place! Of course, we need to celebrate.” Diana was extremely happy.

“Exactly! You were abroad when you won the Best Actress award. We couldn’t even celebrate for you that time. Thus, we’re making up for that now,” Wynnie said.

Kathleen blushed. Holding the knife, she cut up the cake.

A message was written on top: “Kathleen’s Domineering Return.”

Offering the slices to the people around, she gave Samuel the piece with the “Domineering” word.