

All Too Late Chapter 281

Chapter 281

Chapter 281 Uncomfortable

Samuel wore a bitter smile. "Are you worried about them or me? That's enough Samuel!" Kathleen rearranged her facial features into a solemn expression. "I don't care who you are at the moment, but we must cooperate now. We cannot fight against them single-handedly." Samuel's face darkened. "Who are they?" Those people from the Blissful Sect. She knew she could not keep that information from him because Samuel would know everything once he questioned the man later. The Blissful Sect? He furrowed his brows. "I've never heard of them." "The Blissful Sect is very mysterious and keeps a low profile. There aren't many people who are aware of this organization's existence. They specifically target logistics businesses. Do you have any logistic-related business, Samuel?" Kathleen had no other choice but to distract Samuel. She could not let him know about her dealings with the Blissful Sect. Otherwise, he would adopt a more extreme personality. "Are you telling me that the Blissful Sect is targeting my logistics business?" Samuel knitted his brows. Kathleen nodded. "Can you let go of me? I'm getting very uncomfortable." Samuel loosened his grip and backed away. Kathleen sat up on the bed. Click! He cuffed her to the headboard. She was dumbfounded. "Get some good rest. Samuel lowered his head and pecked her on her forehead. Damn it! Kathleen was furious. "Samuel, you *sshole!" she snarled. He grinned at the sight of her exploding with rage. Kathleen was stunned. "Kate your growth in the past year astonishes me. From utilizing poison to mastering how to use a gun. My little girl is getting scarier. Samuel caressed her soft and tender cheek. She stared at him stiffly. "Were you putting up an act, Samuel?" Samuel wore a meaningful smile. "Would they have shown themselves if I hadn't put up an act?"

Would you have told me the truth? Kathleen was stumped. "The Blissful Sect, huh?" Samuel leaned down to kiss her neck and lips. "I will personally destroy the organization which had kept your whereabouts hidden for a year." She trembled all over. "Samuel!" she growled. He kissed her lips forcefully, rendering Kathleen helpless. She finally understood Samuel was merely luring his prey in the past few days. Not to mention, his plan was a huge success because he had successfully attracted his prey. "You told me you'd never lie to me!" Kathleen said to him angrily. "I did not lie to you. Do you think I was really oblivious to someone aiming at me with a sniper rifle the other day?" Samuel's face was perfectly handsome. Kathleen was at a loss for words. "Katie, I did not trick you. I was setting those people up. I captured Nicolette because I wanted to lure them out. However, you were very persistent in following us, so I had to detain you as well, he explained. "Samuel, you better don't return my freedom. Otherwise, I'll teach you a lesson!" She glared at him. "Perhaps I should give you my Academy Awards trophy, since your acting skills are on par with Hollywood standards!" "I'll offer you my life after I deal with the Blissful Sect." He turned on his heels and left. Kathleen sat on the bed and sighed. He's indeed the formidable Samuel Macari. I need to be so careful when going against him. Damn it! I should not have gone easy on him. Nonetheless,

she was still mad. Kathleen realized the Blissful Sect had been targeting Samuel since a year ago. That old bastard had fooled her and that woman was most probably a member of the Blissful Sect. Kathleen tried to force herself to calm down. It seems like the Blissful Sect is targeting Samuel for a different reason than the one I have in mind. No, this can't do. I need to go and listen to the questions Samuel will ask them. She unlocked the handcuff effortlessly. The handcuff could not possibly restrict her movements. After she had reunited with Charles, the first skill she learned was to unlock a handcuff. She exited the room and went downstairs. The rain had stopped pouring outside, but the wind was still howling.

The tree branches rustled against the windows due to the gales appearing like a demon waving its claws. Kathleen arrived at the entrance of the basement. She heard Samuel's indifferent voice. "What's Kathleen's position in the Blissful Sect?" Kathleen was startled. Is Samuel suspecting me of being a member of the Blissful Sect? "She's not one of us, but she'll join us soon," that man replied. "What do you mean by that?" "Our leader is impressed by her abilities and is interested in nurturing her," he explained. Kathleen frowned. That man was right but he was not telling the whole truth. "Isn't it comical for your leader to hand over such a large organization to another person for no reason?" Samuel was unconvinced. As I expected, look at that. That's Samuel Macari at his finest. Therefore, it is very difficult to fool him. On the other hand, he's so despicably adept at tricking others! "That's really all I know, I'm not a core member of the Blissful Sect, so I don't know anything else," that man said fearfully. Samuel furrowed his brows. Judging by this man's expression, I suppose he's not lying. "They ordered you to capture Nicolette to target me?" Samuel asked frostily. That man nodded. "Most probably." Samuel scoffed, "I've been clashing with your organization for so many years, yet I did not know your organization's name all along. Little did I expect my wife to become your leader soon." Kathleen was livid. Who's your wife? I'm your ex-wife. That man felt Samuel's tone was laced with a hint of peculiarity when the latter spoke. Samuel knew that was probably all the information he could obtain from that man. He stood up and aimed his gun at the man. That man was terrified and dumbfounded. "Ahh! Please don't kill me. I don't want to die. I've told you everything I know!" "That's why there's no use allowing you to live." Samuel announced coldly. That man felt completely helpless at that moment. "Samuel stop!" Kathleen walked into the basement. "You cannot kill him." "Advisor." That man was desperate at that moment. "Advisor?" Samuel grimaced, Kathleen pursed her lips. "I am the advisor to the Blissful Sect's research and development department. I am skilled in traditional medicine so I was appointed as their external advisor." Samuel wore an unfathomable look. Kathleen turned to gaze at that man. "You know who I am? Why didn't you tell me earlier?" "Ms. Johnson, I've only met you once," he replied. "Listen. I can spare your life, but you must follow me back to the Blissful Sect," she said. "Okay." He nodded. Samuel stared at Kathleen with a poker face. "You're leaving? She met his eyes. "I need to settle some personal matters. I reckon this has nothing to do with you?" "Are we falling out now?" Samuel grabbed her wrist. "Are you going to the Blissful Sect? Let's go together then." "I will not bring you along, Samuel." She shook her head. "I cannot betray the Blissful Sect. Cannot betray?"

Samuel questioned her, "Why? Is that useless organization more important than me?" Kathleen steeled her resolution. "That's right. I have the Blissful Sect to thank for my current achievements. Regardless of how the Blissful Sect treats you. I cannot be ungrateful Do you understand? Samuel's face fell I don't understand!"

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Chapter 282

Chapter 282 What Have You Been Through

The Blissful Sect was after him, and yet she was not willing to turn her back against the organization Knowing Kathleen was indebted to the Blissful Sect. Samuel could understand her sentiments. But why did she have to go that far and provoke me by saying that? "Do you really think I don't have the guts to kill him?" Samuel had his gun pointed right at the man's head. "Ms. Johnson, please save me!" The man was practically screaming at the top of his lungs. "Stop crying!" Kathleen chided angrily. "I'm going to poison you to make you a mute if you keep crying!" The man was stumped. He cast a sheepish glance at Kathleen and dared not say anything. Kathleen looked coldly at Samuel and said, "Samuel, we are not related to each other in any way. I will deal with my own matters as I see fit, and I will not interfere in your matters too." "Kathleen!" Samuel burned with fury right then. "If what he said is true that you're going to become the next leader of the Blissful Sect. are you going to attack me if I am to deal with the Blissful Sect?" Kathleen was stunned for a moment. She turned around to face Samuel. "Will you attack me then?" "No," Samuel replied in a heartbeat. He did not have the heart to do so. "I will, though." Kathleen's sweet voice was tinged with cruelty. "I owe the Blissful Sect a lot." Samuel's eyes burned with fury. He held Kathleen's hand and came up from the underground The two of them arrived at the living room as tension hung in the air. Samuel knew there was nothing he could do to Kathleen He did not even have the heart to pluck a strand of hair off her let alone harm her. Right then, a flicker of light illuminated the room. The sun was about to rise. It had been a long night. Kathleen was all tuckered out. She looked at Samuel and asked, "Are Tyson and the others just nearby? Samuel said nothing. "Ask them to come onto the island right away!" Kathleen approached Samuel and said, "Samuel I'm talking to you!"

Samuel glanced at her and fainted. "Samuel?" Kathleen was shocked. She reached out to touch his forehead. He's burning up! Kathleen knew his fever had taken a turn for the worse. She immediately looked for his phone. She wanted to call Tyson "Ms. Johnson... Tyson said in mild surprise. "I know you guys are just nearby. Get your *sses right here!" Kathleen chided. "Samuel has to go to the hospital immediately." "Understood." Tyson dared not defy her. Kathleen ended the call and then called Charles. It was almost time to contact him. The call went through, and Kathleen said impassively. "Charles." Charles asked worriedly, "Are you all right? "Charles, the Blissful Sect has made a move. What did your godfather promise me?" she said in a frigid tone. "I was just about to tell you that something happened to the Blissful Sect. Are you all right? Charles said in a hoarse voice. "I'm all right." Kathleen's tone was still cold and distant.

“But I did teach a few people from the sect a lesson.” “Kate, I’m going back to the sect to check out the situation. Please stay at Jadeborough and don’t go anywhere,” Charles said concernedly. “Charles, I will deal with the matter at Jadeborough as soon as possible and go look for you.” She pursed her lips, and then said, “I’m going to cure the poison in your body “We’ll see how it goes. I can’t keep burdening you.” Charles felt his heart ache for her. “Kate, I do not wish to see you putting your life at risk for me again. I’ve wanted to see you settle down with a trustworthy man so that I can” Charles...” Her voice turned shaky. “You...” “Kate, after Vivian’s gone. I realize that this world is mundane and dull at best. He lifted his head to look at the blue sky. “After I knew that you were taken away by Samuel, suddenly did not feel as apprehensive anymore. Maybe I do hate him, but I know for a fact that he will not hurt you. “Charles, don’t do anything dumb. Kathleen sniffled. “Just you wait. I can save you for sure!” “Anyway, I will head back to the Blissful Sect first. Wait for me at Jadeborough Charles said.

“Charles, call me if anything happens. I will go look for you.” Kathleen said with furrowed brows. “Okay.” Charles said before hanging up After making sure that Kathleen was safe and sound, he knew he no longer had any inhibitions. Two hours later, Tyson finally arrived with a group of people. He looked at the island and castle that were in a mess, and he was at a loss for words. “Send Samuel to the hospital. Send Nicolette back to the Yoeger residence. Imprison the man.” Kathleen ordered calmly. “Yes.” Tyson then ordered his men to get to work He walked over to Kathleen’s side and asked, “Are you all right, Ms. Johnson?” “Yes, I’m okay. I’ll leave the cleaning up here to you guys.” Kathleen replied mildly. “Don’t worry, Ms. Johnson.” Tyson only took orders from Samuel, but Kathleen was an exception Others might not be aware, but he knew just how important Kathleen was to Samuel Kathleen got up and left in a car. They boarded a ship to head back to Jadeborough On the ship, there was a compartment for one to rest in. Kathleen fell asleep as soon as her head touched the pillow. She was haunted by multiple nightmares in her dream. There was blood everywhere. “Ah!” Kathleen’s eyes sprang open. She shot up from the bed and clutched tightly onto her sheets. “What’s the matter with you?” Samuel asked huskily. Kathleen was stumped when she spotted him. “Why are you here?” “I was afraid that you would leave without notice. Samuel said hoarsely. Kathleen leaned against the headboard and said, “Don’t worry. I will not leave. I want to stay in Jadeborough to wait for my brother.” Samuel stared at her and said, “Kate you’ve just left for one year. To be honest, your improvement in your skills infuriates rather than surprises me. It is definitely not something that you can cultivate with only a year of practice.” Kathleen appeared impassive. “So, what do you reckon?” “You’ve engaged in true battles,” Samuel said coldly. Kathleen did not say a word. He threw a cold, hard look at her. “What have you gone through this past year?” Would you let me off the hook if I tell you?” Kathleen muttered. “As long as you’re honest with me, then yes. Samuel had mentally prepared himself for whatever might come.

Kathleen hugged her knees to herself and said, “After the wedding Christ brought me to meet my brother. I thought that Charles was merely a boss of an entertainment

company. It was only after that I found out that his godfather was actually the leader of the Blissful Sect. I was in a bad shape right then, always feeling a need to thrash things around. I was plagued by the fury and urge to kill both you and Nicolette. Right then, Charles' godfather suggested to me that he had a way of letting me vent my frustration." Samuel listened to her every word attentively. "I was left to fend for myself in an area where a rival organization was having a vicious turf war with the Blissful Sect. Every day, all I thought about was when the bullets would finally kill me." she recounted bitterly. "But it happened that I was lucky enough to survive that and became an external advisor for the Blissful Sect." Kathleen knew she could not divulge the whole truth to Samuel Some things were better left unsaid, such as the fact that Samuel was the main reason that she had agreed to become the advisor for the Blissful Sect. Samuel then asked incredulously, "And Charles agreed to that?" "My brother has been poisoned. If he can't find the cure, he won't be able to live past forty. don't have the means to develop the cure, and I can only develop some medicine to dampen the effects of the poison. Only the Blissful Sect has the key ingredients to make the cure. Without the Blissful Sect, my brother will die. Samuel I'm sorry. If you wish to eradicate the Blissful Sect. you'll have to deal with me first she said ruefully.

She had to save Charles.

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Chapter 283 Loving Him My Way

Samuel then uttered in his deep voice. "All right then." He stood up, and Kathleen found her gaze following him "I never expected us to go on separate ways like this." Samuel said impassively Kathleen pursed her lips, saying nothing. She knew that the Blissful Sect wanted to kill Samuel, but she also knew that she could not lose what the Blissful Sect could provide to her. It was the only way to save Charles She had no other choice for Charles was her only brother. Samuel was wounded. He knew for a fact that Charles was more important to Kathleen than he was. Samuel started to cough as he covered his mouth. The palm of his hand was wet. Kathleen looked at his hand and was slightly stunned. "Are you coughing blood again?" "This is normal, Samuel said nonchalantly. "From now on, my matters have nothing to do with you. You take good care of your brother." Then, he turned around to leave. Kathleen was stunned momentarily before she retreated into a corner of the bed. Her eyes dimmed Ah, I should just let it all go. She was tired of it all. After a day's journey, they were back in Jadeborough A woman came to pick Kathleen up. She was taken aback by the sight of the woman. "Giselle? Giselle Zahn nodded She came over and draped a jacket over Kathleen. "We'll talk in the car." "Okay." Kathleen muttered and followed her. Samuel's eyes glinted as he eyed Kathleen's leaving figure Tyson, go investigate who that woman is. Samuel ordered. Tyson was slightly stunned. He knew that Samuel and Kathleen had fallen out for the two of them had not seen each other even when they were on the ship. During the voyage, Samuel kept smoking, sending swirls of smoke into the air that the ship almost looked like it was on fire. Noticing Samuel was down in the dumps. Tyson could not help

but ask the man, to which Samuel had wistfully replied that he would not interfere in Kathleen's matters anymore.

Here he is again, worrying about Kathleen just because a woman approached her. Men are liars. "All right." Tyson nodded. Kathleen followed Giselle into the car. "Giselle, why are you not following my brother?" Kathleen asked worriedly. "He sent me here to protect you. Giselle replied. "I'm going to be safe. You should have followed my brother." Kathleen's brows were knitted as she sighed in worry. "Mr. Johnson will only be at ease when he knows for certain that you are safe and sound. Giselle explained Kathleen eyed the woman before her quietly before she said. "It's been a long time. How's your condition?" "Thanks to your medicine, I'm doing much better, Giselle replied impassively. "Glad to hear that." Kathleen nodded. "I heard that Mr. Johnson's first love passed away?" Giselle asked after a brief pause. "Yes. She chose to end her own life that way Kathleen sighed. "No wonder Mr. Johnson sounded so distant. Giselle muttered in a small voice. Kathleen was stunned. Giselle had never been one to display her emotions in front of others. It was Kathleen's first time hearing her being vocal about Charles' impassiveness Kathleen regarded the woman intently and asked, "Giselle, do you have a crush on my brother? A flustered look darted across Giselle's face as she hurriedly said, "No." Kathleen furrowed her brows. "Ms. Johnson, please don't tell Mr. Johnson this. Otherwise, he will not let me stay by his side." Giselle panicked. "Do you know that Charles has always liked Vivian?" Kathleen asked curiously Giselle nodded. "Of course. I've followed him for a long time. I know Mr. Johnson very well." Then, you..." Kathleen was rather taken aback. "I like him. It doesn't matter whether or not he reciprocates that feeling. Giselle said calmly. just want to stay by his side. Ms. Johnson, I hope you could grant this little wish of mine. "What if Charles never realizes your feelings for him?" Kathleen frowned "I've never thought of letting him know." Giselle appeared to be at peace with her decision I just want to love him in my own way." "Giselle... "Ms. Johnson, you may save any of the words of advice you might have for me." Giselle's lips quired into a wistful grin. "I hope that he could give in his all without inhibition. To me, there's no better way to love him." Kathleen widened her eyes in surprise as she eyed the woman before her. She was in awe of Giselle's selflessness. "All right. Let's deal with the matter at Jadeborough first. We'll head back to the Blissful Sect after this is done and dusted." Kathleen declared. "Okay Kathleen and Giselle headed back to the mansion "Kate!" Frances headed out of her room and asked, "Are you all right? "Granny, sorry for making you worry. I'm all right." Kathleen said as she looked at Frances. Kathleen actually worried about Frances the most She was contemplating whether she should give Yasmine a call and ask for the latter's help. "I'm so glad that you're all right. I was scared witless when I heard that you were abducted," Frances said as she clutched Kathleen's hands tightly in her own "Granny, I'm really fine," Kathleen soothed her. "You must be all tuckered out. Go on and take your rest," Frances said. Kathleen nodded. "Okay, Granny." She turned around to head upstairs. Frances then turned to the housekeeper and said, "The weather is really nice today. Do accompany me for a walk outside." "Sure," the housekeeper nodded. Frances headed outside for a stroll with her housekeeper. After a few moments, Frances asked her housekeeper. "I forgot my thermos. Could you fetch it for me?" The housekeeper eyed the distance to the mansion. After confirming that it was indeed quite near, she said

“Old Mrs. Yoeger, don’t go anywhere. I will return shortly. “Okay.” Frances nodded. The housekeeper headed back to the mansion to fetch the thermos for Frances. Frances then said coldly, “Come out now.” A middle-aged man emerged from behind a tree. “Who are you?” Frances said icily. The middle-aged man approached her and showed her the tattoo on his arms. “Old Mrs. Yoeger, I am from the Hoover family.” The Hoover family? Frances’ eyes widened. Then, she narrowed her eyes and demanded, “Why are you following me?”

“Old Mrs. Yoeger, I’m here to take Ms. Johnson home the man explained. Take her home? Didn’t Collin Hoover tell you that my child has nothing to do with him?” she said in an icy tone The man remained calm. “Old Mrs. Yoeger, if you had told Old Mr. Hoover that the child was his he would have lent you a helping hand.” “You can tell him to piss off. Frances bellowed. “Tell him I don’t need his help!” “Old Mrs. Yoeger, please listen to me,” the man said in a low voice. There are people who are aware of Ms. Johnson’s identity. She is in danger.” “What are you getting at?” Frances spat. “Old Mr. Hoover wants to take both you and Ms. Johnson home. Under his protection, the two of you do not have to worry about your safety,” the man explained. Frances’ gaze was frigid as she sneered, “Go and tell Collin Hoover that he can piss off. I don’t need his help!” “Old Mrs. Yoeger, I believe you’re well aware that your grandson and granddaughter are destined for great things.” The man’s eyes glinted as he continued. They might not be able to focus on what’s truly important if they have to take care of you.” Frances narrowed her eyes. The man noticed that the housekeeper was approaching, and so he said to Frances. Please do consider what I said.” Then, the man turned around to leave.

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Chapter 284

The housekeeper dashed toward Frances’ side. Panting heavily, she asked, “is everything all right, Old Mrs. Yoeger?”

“I’m okay. Let’s go home. I’m tired.” Frances’ face was pale.

Huh?

“Okay.”

The housekeeper was stunned momentarily before helping Frances back to the house,

Little did they know that Giselle had been observing them from the window on the second floor

She had a panoramic view of the entire commotion

Back at the Yoeger residence, Zachary heaved a sigh of relief the moment he saw his daughter stepping into the house.

The second Nicolette caught sight of her father, she, however, shot him a vicious glare.

"I'm so glad that you're back, Nicolette!" came Zachary's greeting, his voice as loving as ever

What a hypocrite!

Nicolette had thought that her father genuinely doted on her

Alas, she finally understood that Zachary had only been making use of her.

Meanwhile, Zachary had sensed a change in Nicolette's attitude,

That flustered him for a bit before he continued, "There's no need to worry anymore because you're safe now

Nicolette then raised a question leisurely. "Did you really send someone to go rescue me?"

Her words caught Zachary by surprise. "Of course I did!"

Even so, Nicolette simply took her father's words with a grain of salt.

"I was panic-stricken the moment you went missing, so I dispatched gazillions of people," explained Zachary in a heartbeat. "But, you know, I still couldn't hold a candle to Samuel."

Pursing her lips, Nicolette scoffed, "Now I finally see how lousy the Yoeger family is! We're so inferior to the Macaris that we're completely under their heel."

Zachary felt a twinge of guilt. "It's my bad. I'm always under the weather, which is why our family hasn't risen through the ranks for so long."

Nicolette sniggered at that inwardly

That would make sense, for the Yoeger family was never in his hands to begin with.

Vanessa was the one reigning over the entire Yoeger family at present.

She was dying to get rid of Zachary and the rest so that she could usurp the position as the head of the Yoegers and call the shots.

Dad is such a moron through and through!

Nicolette reckoned that it would be naught but a wasted effort for Zachary in the end

Witnessing her demeanor, Zachary felt helpless. "You should go get some rest."

After giving his remark, he stepped out the door.

In actuality, Zachary had never been close to Nicolette.

There was no solid kinship whatsoever between that father-and-daughter duo

Nicolette said nothing

Just when Zachary exited the house, he bumped into Yareli

"Hello, Uncle Zachary." greeted Yareli "You seem to be in the pink of health. You can even stand and walk now."

Zachary nodded. Yes. The previous doctor suddenly quit, so I went to see another one This doctor recommended me a kind of imported medicine I feel so much better after taking it."

As Yareli listened to his speech, her brows bunched up into a knot of annoyance

Since when did he change his physician? Why weren't Mom and I informed about this?

"Why didn't you mention this to me and Mom, Uncle Zachary? We ought to run a background check on this doctor, you know. What if he's a quack?" Yareli had a knack for feigning kindness

"Uh... Because both you and your mom are so busy lately. I thought I shouldn't bother you all with my personal affair was Zachary's explanation

Yareli nodded before changing the subject. "How's Nicolette?"

*She seemed to be quite emotional. I suppose she must've been agitated by something or someone Don't worry She'll be fine after a good rest stated Zachary

Till go talk to her later. I bet it's because of Samuel. She merely can't let him go." Yareli's expression darkened as she spoke

Zachary expressed his appreciation. "Thank you. Try your best, then."

After saying that, he spun on his heels

Yareli's gaze turned ever so malicious as she watched Zachary leave.

We've come so far to get what we've always wanted. There's no way we'll let it fall into someone else's clutches!

Wheeling around, Yareli made a beeline for Nicolette's bedroom.

As soon as Nicolette caught a glimpse of Yareli's presence, the former's gaze became as cold as the winter. "What are you here for?"

Wearing a disdainful countenance, Yarell looked at her and said, "What's the matter? Are you that afraid of me?"

"What did you say?' The displeasure in Nicolette's heart intensified,

Looking at Nicolette's legs, Yarell let out a sneer. "Don't you hate your dear Samuel to death for making

you a cripple?"

Nicolette bit her lip and hollered. What does that have to do with you?"

"Ah, right You totally deserved it yourself." Yareli was so unbending that she continued to mock. "A shady, illegitimate child trying to change its own destiny by stealing someone blind. Of course, you have nothing to complain about in the face of retribution."

Resentment washed over Nicolette on that note. "If it hadn't been for Kathleen, I would've already hit a home run."

"Hehe. It's too bad that she's still alive." A chill glint flashed across Yareli's eyes. "After so long, why haven't you realized that it's not crucial to captivate Samuel's heart at this moment? Kathleen's the most important issue you need to deal with So long as she continues to exist, she's going to be the greatest threat to you."

"As if I could replace her spot upon her demise" Nicolette bit her lip at that

"Of course you can!" Yareli narrowed her eyes to slits. "I've got wind that Samuel had mistaken Kathleen for you back then. If Kathleen were to be gone with the wind, given the resemblance you both bear to each other. Samuel would cherish you to no end. By then, hem makeover, and even make you the lady of the Macari family

Nicolette arched a brow. "Oh, really? Do you mind telling me from whom you got that information, then?"

“Rest assured. I’m not bluffing.” Yareli Nashed a meaningful visage and informed, “I’ve snooped that out from one of Samuel’s subordinates.”

“Why are you telling me all this?” questioned Nicolette placidly

“I just want to know if you’re really willing to admit defeat just like that.” Yarell put on a half-smile

Nicolette kept her lips buttoned. Indignation filled her eyes

Fishing out a piece of paper, Yareli threw out a suggestion, “If you’re thinking of revenge, I have the person who can do the job in your stead. But if anything were to crop up, you’d have to bear the consequences alone. I’m staying out of it.”

After deliberating for a brief moment, Nicolette eventually grabbed that piece of paper from Yareli

The latter narrowed her eyes

She knew that Nicolette was a woman with insatiable ambitions

Even if Nicolette had been disabled, she would never rest until she seized what she desired.

With that, Yareli grinned from ear to ear as she exited the room

Nicolette, In turn, looked at the phone number written on that paper and dialed accordingly.

In the meantime, Kathleen had just awakened from her slumber, feeling a whole lot better

A knock came from the door. “Are you awake?” uttered Giselle as she walked into the room.

Kathleen nodded and asked, “What’s the matter?”

With a deep tone, Giselle answered, “A middle-aged man came to look for Old Mrs. Yoeger today!

couldn’t hear what they had been conversing about, but I took notice of Old Mrs. Yoeger’s sullen look

What?

Kathleen knitted her brows into a tight knot. “Did you find out who that man is?”

"We're on it. It's just that he has concealed his identity so well. It may take longer," Giselle elucidated the matter

"All right. Be sure to let me know the outcome," said Kathleen flatly

"Don't you want to ask Old Mrs. Yoeger about it?" Giselle was baffled

"Forget it. Granny wouldn't tell me." Frowning, Kathleen went on. "I somehow have a feeling that she's hiding something from me Maybe that man's related to my mom's biological father It's just a wild guess, though."

"I don't get it. Why wouldn't Old Mrs Yoeger disclose that to anyone of you?" queried Giselle in perplexity

"Well... Perhaps the identity of this man would invite nothing but trouble to our family Kathleen's tone reeked of austerity. "I can understand her decision. Yet, if they've already shown up on our doorstep. we can't take things lying down

"Don't worry, We'll have the results latest by tomorrow' comforted Giselle

That's good, then

Out of the blue, Kathleen's phone rang,

She answered the call

Nicolette's voice sounded from the other end of the line "it's me. You've agreed to help me get out of the Yoeger family, right? Does it still count?"

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I'm not going to ask the Yoeger family for mercy on your behalf," Kathleen clarified. "I'm only promising you that Zachary won't touch your kidney."

'Let's meet, then, Nicolette said.

Kathleen scoffed. "Do we still need to meet over this matter?"

"Kathleen, I have Melting Ice Grass," Nicolette revealed. "Do you want it?"

Her words stunned Kathleen. "What did you just say?"

Melting Ice Grass? How could she have that?

Kathleen frowned and asked again, "What are you trying to say?"

"I heard from Samuel that your brother had been poisoned," Nicolette replied.

"That's impossible. Samuel would never tell you that!" Kathleen wouldn't believe her words,

"Kathleen, you guys fought, didn't you? There was a half-smile on Nicolette's face. "He wants to destroy the Blissful Sect, but the sect has the medicine that can save your brother. That's why you guys turned against each other, right?"

Kathleen was stunned.

How could she know about what Samuel and / talked about last night? We were the only ones present. No one else was there!

This meant that Samuel was the only person who could tell Nicolette about it.

Kathleen sneered, "Samuel actually told you?"

"I used to be his confidante, after all, Nicolette boasted. "Kathleen, you can't deny that I'm better at coaxing men than you do. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to maintain our relationship no matter how many lies i tell. Am I right?"

Kathleen froze

Indeed, Nicolette's words made sense.

"Give me the Melting Ice Grass. I'll agree to any condition you state."

Nicolette's expression looked ambiguous as she said, "Sure. Come and meet me on your own."

"Sure," Kathleen agreed without any hesitation

After Nicolette gave her an address, Kathleen hung up the phone, ready to head there right away.

Giselle held her back. "Ms. Johnson, where are you going?"

"Nicolette has Melting Ice Grass," Kathleen said eagerly. "I'm going to meet her."

She then took out a document from the drawer to bring with her.

“Ms Johnson, have you ever wondered why she would have Melting Ice Grass with her? It could be fake,” Giselle advised

“Whether or not it’s fake, I have to go Melting Ice Grass is the only antidote to my brother’s poison.

The effectiveness of the Blissful Sect’s Snow Grass is quite average. It can only suppress the symptoms but not remove the poison.”

“Let me go with you.” Giselle was very worried,

“I’m fine. She won’t be able to do anything. Don’t worry. Giselle. I’m totally prepared,” Kathleen reassured.

Giselle pursed her lips. “How come Nicolette knows so much, though?”

“Samuel told her,” Kathleen said with darkened eyes, shocking Giselle with her words.

“I’m leaving now.” After saying that, Kathleen left in a hurry.

Worried about her safety. Giselle could only follow her in secret.

Nicolette had asked Kathleen to meet her in a bar that was also involved in some shady business

Kathleen had long heard about it, and she was surprised that Nicolette actually found this place.

Things were getting more and more interesting

When Kathleen walked into the bar, a man approached her “Who are you looking for?”

“Nicolette Yoeger, answered Kathleen coldly

This way.” The man started leading the way, and Kathleen couldn’t help but narrow her eyes

Upon arriving at a room, the man gestured at the door. “Please enter.”

Kathleen opened the door and saw Nicolette sitting on a couch inside

“That was quick,” Nicolette remarked with a faint smile

Walking inside, Kathleen responded, “You surprised me.”

“What’s that in your hand?” Nicolette asked with curiosity

“Zachary doesn’t have kidney cancer. He was fooled by someone. This is the proof.”

Immediately, Nicolette’s eyes lit up, “Give it to me!”

“Where’s the Melting Ice Grass?” Kathleen asked icily.

“Kathleen, have you forgotten that this proof is my hush money? If you don’t give it to me, 1911 reveal everything and tell everyone that Samuel has a split personality. threatened Nicolette

“If you do that, the first person to suffer will be you!

Hearing that Nicolette bit her lip in silence.

“I’m not going to lose one of my kidneys, anyway,” Kathleen added indifferently.

Nicolette clenched her Jaw. “Fine. You win!”

Then, she took out a box from behind her. “The Metting Ice Grass is in here.”

Kathleen strode over. It was only when she approached Nicolette that she saw what was on the latter’s

body

It was a robotic exoskeleton from the military.

No wonder Nicolette could come on her own who gave her this?

As If hearing Kathleen’s thoughts, Nicolette smiled smugly. “Samuel gave this to me.”

Samuel?

“I suppose you know about Samuel’s connection to the military,” Nicolette bragged, “I just stayed with him and comforted him, and he gave me this in return.”

Kathleen couldn’t help but purse her lips

Nicolette took the document from her before shoving the box into her hands. Take a look at it. I don’t want you to accuse me of scamming you.”

When Kathleen opened the box, a swirl of white smoke came out

Caught off guard, she got a whiff and immediately fainted.

“Haha!” Nicolette laughed boisterously. “Kathleen, it seems like you’re quite easy to take down Come

in!”

Following that, the man earlier entered the room.

“Have you prepared everything?” Nicolette demanded,

“Yes,” answered the man with a nod.

A vicious glint flashed across Nicolette’s eyes. “Very well Take her away. I want to see if Samuel would still want a woman touched by other men.”

Without a word, the man carried Kathleen out

Nicolette stayed behind gritting her teeth, “Everyone from the Yoeger family has to die!”

Meanwhile, the man brought Kathleen into a room and left afterward

The next moment, Kathleen sat up swiftly and looked around.

When she saw the interior of the room, she couldn’t help but curse silently. There were various kinds of adult toys around her.

Demn these disgusting people! Nicolette has overestimated herself Does she really think she can trick

me?

Right after she hid behind the door, a series of footsteps sounded. From the sound of it, someone was heading toward the room.

“Gentlemen, we prepared a gorgeous lady for you today. Please enjoy yourselves.” The voice belonged to the man earlier

“All right. You can leave now” urged someone else as he tipped the man.

Following that, three men entered the room and closed the door behind them.

“Huh? Where is she?”

Clang!

Without any warning, Kathleen whopped the head of the man in the middle with a flower vase.

Instantly, he slumped to the ground.

The man on the right tried to run away, but Kathleen did a roundhouse kick and sent him collapsing as well.

“Someone-Before the last man standing could yell for help, an exquisite-looking gun appeared in Kathleen’s hand

It had been hidden in her boots all this time, and the man who had brought her there had not noticed it

“Don’t kill me!” the last man pleaded for help, fear evident on his face

“Perverted scumbags!” Kathleen was incensed, “You *ssh*les have ruined countless women’s lives. Today. I’m going to make sure justice is served!”

Her gun had a silencer on it, so she didn’t need to worry about attracting attention

She fired three shots, each aimed toward the three men’s groins

In an instant, the three of them turned into cripples

Kathleen was very satisfied.

With Nicolette in mind as her next target, she opened the door.

However, she was stunned the next second

Samuel was standing outside, his face grim.

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Kathleen didn’t want to talk to him.

Venting his problems to Nicolette, huh? What a disgusting man!

Without sparing him a glance, she walked past him.

*Tyson, clean up the mess,’ ordered Samuel

Tyson nodded. All right.”

Samuel then chased after Kathleen and grabbed her wrist, pulling her back

"Let go! Are you worried about Nicolette because I'm going to kill her?" There was a murderous look in Kathleen's eyes as she spoke

Samuel froze. Then, he looked at her coldly and questioned, "What are you talking about? If you want her to die, I can shoot her right now."

Kathleen scoffed. "You seem unwilling, though. You even got her the robotic exoskeleton"

"What robotic exoskeleton?" Samuel asked calmly

"Samuel, why are you acting dumb?" Kathleen snapped. She felt extremely frustrated as she stared at his handsome and noble features. "If you didn't tell Nicolette that my brother needs Melting Ice Grass, how would she think of using that to lure me here?"

Samuel's face darkened "I didn't even contact her. If you hadn't held me back that day, she would have been dead by now."

Samuel knew that Kathleen had spared Nicolette's life because she didn't want him to face a lawsuit

Now that Kathleen was accusing him, he felt upset

"You're the only person I told about Charles getting poisoned. Even in the Blissful Sect, not many people know about it. How did Nicolette find out? Kathleen demanded.

Feeling angry, Samuel stared at her frostily.

He was upset that Kathleen didn't trust him.

However, he couldn't do anything about it

He knew that Charles was the person Kathleen cared about the most at the moment.

She would often lose her rationality when Charles was involved.

"Let go! I'm going to get back at Nicolette!" Kathleen bit her lip as she glared at him. There was nothing but coldness in her expression.

Yet, Samuel still wouldn't let go.

"She's not here anymore," he stated.

Kathleen was taken aback. After a short silence, she retorted, 'I can look for her at the Yoeger residence'

"Five minutes before I came here, Nicolette texted me that you were having fun here,' Samuel said grimly

Having fun?

"If it were not for my fighting skills. I would be suffering right now." Kathleen said with annoyance.

'I asked someone to find her whereabouts, but she had left."

Hearing that, Kathleen furrowed her brows. "She left the country?"

"Yes. Someone is helping her in secret," Samuel said as he stared at Kathleen's face

The latter remained silent. She couldn't believe Nicolette had actually managed to escape

*Do you think I'm helping her?" After asking that, Samuel held his breath, waiting for Kathleen's answer

"How could she know so many things if it were not for you?"

"Have you never considered that the problem might be lying within the Blissful Sect? Samuel's expression was hard to read

Upon realizing that possibility. Kathleen clenched her jaw. "Then that old man must be asking for death! Regardless, I have to visit the Yoeger residence first

She broke free from Samuel's hold and turned to leave.

Suddenly, Samuel hugged her from behind

His action attracted strange looks from the many people passing by

Biting her lip. Kathleen growled, "Let go of me!"

"Shouldn't you apologize for falsely accusing me?" Samuel grumbled unhappily

"But you have no evidence to prove your innocence," Kathleen countered, turning her head to look into Samuel's dark eyes.

Samuel scoffed. "What if I prove that I have neither contacted nor helped her?"

*Then I'll apologize to you." Kathleen replied solemnly

Samuel smiled. "I don't need your apology."

His words brought a frown to Kathleen's face "What do you want me to do, then?"

"I want a kiss from you. When he said that his lips curled up further into a smirk.

Kathleen bit her lip once again and elbowed Samuel in the chest. "We'll see after you prove your innocence."

With that, she headed outside.

When she noticed Samuel following her, she asked, "Why are you following me?"

"I'm going to the Yoeger residence too. Since we're heading for the same place, let's go together."

"I have my own car" Kathleen didn't want to be in the same car as him.

"Don't you know we have to lessen our carbon footprint?" Taking her hand, Samuel led her to his car.

"Samuel, don't touch me! Do you have a death wish?" Kathleen blurted in a panic.

She was certain those people were still around

"I don't have a death wish. After what happened at the castle, I have no intention to die at all, Samuel Sald with a mocking smile

He had to live on and find out why Kathleen was so resistant to him.

However, he had a feeling that she was doing that to protect him

"That's great to hear." Kathleen forced a smile, but deep inside, she was relieved

You have to live a good life, Samuel We're no longer the same now.

Upon arriving at the Yoeger residence, Kathleen and Samuel got out of the car.

Immediately, they sensed something was amiss

From what I remember, the Yoeger residence is always heavily guarded. How come there's no one at all tonight? Kathleen pointed out

"It's not just that. In the past, the Yoeger family's butler or housekeeper would be standing here once they saw visitors coming." Samuel added.

He's right.

"Let's take a look inside. Stay alert," Kathleen said,

Stepping forward, Kathleen raised the gun in her hand,

Meanwhile, Samuel narrowed his eyes, an ominous look Meeting across them.

The mansion's door was left unlatched, revealing a crack.

Carefully, Kathleen pushed it open

The smell of blood immediately filled her nose

She grabbed Samuel's arm and whispered, "It's dangerous in there. I'll go in and take a look You stay here and wait for me."

Samuel raised his brows upon hearing her words "Do you think I need your protection?"

Does she think I'm useless?

Kathleen pursed her lips. "Surely you're not as good as me right now."

"Do you want to give it a try?" Samuel responded, wrapping his arm around her thin waist.

'Scr*w you' Kathleen snapped

Does he actually think now is a good time to joke?

At that moment, a hoarse voice sounded, "Save me..."

Kathleen was stunned

The voice sounded very much like Zachary's.

Without a second thought, the two of them walked into the mansion

They were greeted by the sight of Zachary lying in a pool of blood, struggling

"Mr. Yoeger, what happened to you?" Kathleen asked with a frown

"Nicolette came with a group of men and attacked us," Zachary answered weakly.

Nicolette?

"Let me turn on the lights." Samuel strode over to the wall and found the switch

Click!

With a click the entire living room was illuminated.

Aside from Zachary, there were two housekeepers lying on the ground by the entrance to the kitchen

Samuel checked on them and found that they were already dead

He quickly whipped out his phone and asked Tyson to come over

"Nicolette took Vanessa away Yareli is upstairs. Please go and check on her," Zachary said anxiously

"Let me go and check." Samuel offered. He was worried that someone else would be upstairs.

Kathleen knitted her brows, "Let's go together. Are Tyson and the others almost here?"

Samuel nodded

"Don't worry. This man won't die so soon," Kathleen said

"Let's go."

With that, the two of them headed upstairs

As Zachary watched their backs, a dark look flashed across his eyes

When Kathleen and Samuel arrived on the second floor, they heard noises coming from one of the rooms.

They walked over and entered the room.

Upon seeing the switch, Kathleen turned on the lights

"Ahh!" Yareli's scream pierced through the air. "Don't kill me, please. I beg of you! Spare my life!"

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Chapter 287

Kathleen walked over and noticed a disheveled-looking Yareli, who was hiding in the corner with a knife in her hand.

"Yareli" Kathleen tried to approach her.

However, Yareli used all her might to swing the knife around in frantic motions. "Don't come any closer!"

"Don't go over to her," said Samuel. He held Kathleen back, fearing that she would get injured,

Kathleen knitted her brows. "Yareli, calm down and take a good look. It's me. I'm Kathleen."

That was when Yareli paused and looked up at Kathleen, and then she turned to look at Samuel

Her grip on the knife loosened. The knife dropped to the ground with a loud clang as she suddenly bawled.

Seizing the chance, Kathleen hurried over and kicked the knife away before squatting in front of Yareli.

"What's the matter?" Kathleen asked.

*I-It's Nicolette! She's deranged!" Yareli explained between hysterical sobs, "She even took my mom away Kathleen, I know you hate my mother, but can you please help me save her?"

Kathleen frowned upon hearing those words,

Nevertheless, Yareli leaned in closer and added, "We're cousins, and my mom is your aunt, after all."

"Saving your mom is impossible. Plus, whether she lives or dies has nothing to do with me." Kathleen heartlessly stated.

Yareli instantly froze in shock. "How could you be so cruel?"

By then, Kathleen could not bother to continue chatting, so she stood up.

That was when Tyson rushed upstairs to report. "Mr. Macari, Zachary is now in the ambulance.*

"There's another one in here," Samuel said while pointing at Yareli.

Tyson looked at her before darting outside to call for help

It was not long before a doctor and nurse came over.

Seeing that, Yarell snarled through clenched teeth, "Don't touch me!"

Tyson hurriedly explained, "Ms. Yoeger, they are good people."

"So what?" Yareli indignantly shrieked, "Someone tried to take advantage of me earlier, so I don't want anyone touching me now."

Feeling helpless, all Tyson could say was, "All right. Why don't you stand up on your own, then?"

A pout appeared on Yarell's pitiful face. "B-But I can't..."

"So what you do want?" Tyson asked impatiently,

"Can you help me up, Samuel?" Yareli pouted while whining, "I don't trust anyone now except you. I know you're not that kind of guy"

A frown marred Samuel's countenance.

"Looks like it's your lucky day. Mr. Macart," Kathleen snidely remarked before pivoting on her heels to leave.

She wanted to have a look at Nicolette's room.

Just then, Samuel's chiseled face contorted, giving off an air of hostility. "I have two words for you.

"What are they?" Yareli's interest was piqued.

"Get lost." Samuel said brusquely.

Then, he set off to go after Kathleen

All that remained was a furious Yareli, whose face had turned a hideous shade of purple

Did he ask me to get lost? How dare he! I'm Yareli Yoeger, the Yoeger family's heiress and a gorgeous lady! Doesn't he know to behave more gentlemanly in front of a lady? Ugh!

Tyson stared speechlessly at Yareli, secretly thinking her excuse to get close to Samuel was idiotic

Meanwhile, Kathleen went into Nicolette's room and noticed everything seemed ordinary

She circled around but still found nothing

Samuel soon sauntered over and asked, "Did you find anything?"

Kathleen shook her head. "Nope"

At that, Samuel shut the door before closing in on her

His actions immediately startled Kathleen, who exclaimed, "What do you think you're doing?"

I won't let him off easily if he dares overstep the boundary

Samuel's slender finger reached out to pinch her chin. "I'm not the least bit interested in Yareli, so you'd best not misunderstand anything."

"I didn't," Kathleen retorted while frowning

It was then that she got cornered by Samuel, whose gaze grew gloomier by the second.

"With Zachary's current condition and Vanessa getting kidnapped by Nicolette, Yareli is the Yoeger family's sole heir. She's a perfect match for you," remarked a grim-faced Kathleen.

Samuel did not know whether she was speaking honestly or sarcastically

Either way, her words bothered him.

Displeasure filled his darkening eyes as he leaned in closer to her face.

Kathleen knew there was nowhere to hide, so she shut her eyes.

She could already sense Samuel's breath closing in

Suddenly, a series of knocks came from the door before a voice rang out. "Mr. Macari, Derek Lynch has arrived

"All right. Samuel stopped what he was doing and replied coldly, ill head down now

"Okay." With that, Tyson took his leave

Only then did Samuel's frown loosen.

At the same time, Kathleen heaved a sigh of relief

Gosh, that frightened me.

Samuel's eyes locked onto hers as he instructed. "Come downstairs with me to see Derek

"Derek? asked Kathleen in perplexity

“Derek Lynch is a member of the military. He also specializes in the study of robotic exoskeletons, so he can prove whether I gave one to Nicolette.” While speaking, Samuel held Kathleen’s hand and led her out.

That was when her gaze landed on the trash can nearby

“Wait!” She broke free from his grasp just then, rushing over to take out a piece of paper from the trash can.

On the paper was a phone number

Samuel was quick to notice something. “It’s a foreign number.”

Kathleen nodded. “We can run an investigation on it.”

I’ll do it. Right away. Samuel took a photo of the number with his phone and sent it to Tyson

“Hmph. You’re not the only one with extra help. Kathleen scoffed while sending the number to Giselle.

Exasperated by her antics, Samuel asked helplessly, “What good is pissing me off?”

Kathleen did not respond.

Sorrow caused Samuel’s chest to tighten at that instant.

Silly girl. She seems to think I don’t know anything at all...

“Let’s go. Dropping the matter, he then led her down to the living room to meet Derek

“What a big scene. I can’t believe there are people who managed to survive this massacre.” Derek exclaimed, not knowing whether to feel relieved or amused,

“You’re here.” Samuel then questioned indifferently. “Have you investigated the matter?”

Derek looked over at Kathleen “Ms. Kathleen.”

The formal title startled Kathleen, who quickly corrected, “Just Kathleen is fine.”

Unsure of what to do, Derek looked over at Samuel for approval.

“Do as she says,” was the latter’s icy response

Amusement flashed in Derek’s eyes as he replied, I suppose.”

"Anyway, let's focus on what matters. Did the military misplace a robotic exoskeleton?" Samuel interrogated

"Technically, it wasn't misplaced. But then again, a set of robotic exoskeleton is no longer there..."

"Get to the point." Samuel's expression had darkened like coal by then

"One of our newer models that got wrecked is missing. Actually, it was not entirely wrecked. Before it went missing. It was meant to be repaired." Derek answered.

"That's a severe problem. Yet, the military has just found out about this?" Discontent was evident in Samuel's voice.

Derek's expression was complicated as he elaborated, "The person responsible for repairing the robotic exoskeleton stole it. The situation is complicated. However, if it's truly with Nicolette and she has gone abroad, then we're in deep trouble."

"Oh? So, you've only realized the gravity of the situation now?" Samuel sarcastically stated

"We'll investigate this matter thoroughly in secret." replied a helpless Derek

He then looked at Kathleen and said, "If Samuel had truly wanted to give a robotic exoskeleton to Nicolette, he wouldn't have stolen a flawed one. Plus, he wouldn't have taken this specific model. After all, it's only a half-body design. One can only walk after attaching its sections to their waist and ankles, which could be rather inconvenient. The one we're currently researching and have developed is utter perfection. So, wouldn't it make more sense if Samuel gave her that model instead?"

Those words took Kathleen aback

She had not expected Derek to reveal so much. It was now evident that Samuel and the military shared a more complex relationship than she thought

Eventually, Derek's gaze returned to Samuel. "I should head back. The higher-ups are taking this matter very seriously. Please inform me if you guys manage to track Nicolette down."

Samuel nodded. "Will do."

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Derek turned around and left

Samuel glanced at Kathleen with a grim expression

She looked back at him in silence

“Do you believe it now?” Samuel gazed at her sternly.

Nodding, Kathleen apologized, “Yes. I’m sorry.”

“I’ve told you before. It’s pointless to apologize. Samuel cupped her chin and continued, “You know what I want.”

Gnashing her teeth, she yelled, “You just want to take advantage of me!”

Samuel flashed her a half-smile. “Nobody forced you to agree on this. I wouldn’t have done anything to you if you didn’t agree earlier. You’re too naive.”

Kathleen was livid by his cheeky attitude.

“Do you want to do it here or in the car?” Samuel’s lips curled up in a devilish smile.

Taking a deep breath to calm herself, Kathleen replied, “In the car.”

“Let’s go.” Samuel grabbed Kathleen’s hand and led her to the car.

As soon as they sat down in the back seat, Samuel instantly cupped Kathleen’s chin and kissed her

She had no strength to struggle free

Ten minutes later, Kathleen’s face flushed with embarrassment as she stared at him with misty eyes.

I can’t believe he kissed me for ten minutes! Damn it!

Samuel snorted at her. “You’re a terrible kisser.”

Unsurprisingly, Kathleen was furious by his remark.

Shoving him away, she exclaimed, “I’ve already apologized to you. Goodbye!”

Having had enough, Kathleen was getting ready to leave

Samuel wanted to send her back However, he knew Kathleen would turn him down, looking at her expression

Forget about it I should send someone to protect her secretly

As Kathleen drove home, she called Charles on her Bluetooth earphones.

Biting her lip, she said, "Charles, it's me Something has happened to the Yoeger family."

Charles frowned "What's going on?"

"Someone secretly helped Nicolette She took Vanessa away and then injured Zachary. Nicolette has let jadeborough She should be overseas now," Kathleen explained, frowning

Did that really happen? Why would Nicolette take Vanessa away?" Charles was stunned

"I told Nicolette that the person who needed her kidney was Vanessa. Zachary was totally fine. It was Vanessa who wanted to kill two birds with one stone. She wanted to get rid of both of them," Kathleen explained

Charles paused for a moment before asking. "Are you safe over there?"

"I'm fine, Charles. What about you?" she inquired worriedly.

"Those two brothers are competing fiercely against each other. They're trying to win my favor. I don't know who's behind this for the time being." Charles explained.

Thinking of something, Kathleen said, 'I found a phone number in Nicolette's room. It's from overseas. I'll send it to you later. Please help me check the number

"All right. It's very chaotic over here. So, don't come here for the time being and never leave Giselle's side. Understood?" he reminded

Kathleen's frown deepened "Charles, are you fine over there?"

Charles let out a chuckle "Of course, I'm fine They won't do anything to me as long as I don't pick a side. Don't worry about me."

"Okay." Kathleen nodded.

Even so, she was still concerned about her brother's safety

We have to solve these issues in Jadeborough as soon as possible

The next day, Kathleen went to the filming set first

She had too much on her plate lately.

The film crew was thrilled to see her on the set

“They’ve received Mr. Macari’s payment.” Valerie informed

Kathleen also knew about the situation at work.

She was busy doing the reshoots the entire morning,

Kathleen swiftly got into the character and managed to shoot the scenes without having a retake so that no one could find faults in her acting.

In the evening. Samuel came to the filming set when they finished shooting.

Furrowing her eyebrows, she asked, “Didn’t you promise not to pester me?”

“Zachary’s awake, Samuel said coldly.

“Should I visit him in the hospital, then?”

Samuel cast her a meaningful look. “He said he wants to meet us

Kathleen was puzzled. Why would Zachary want to meet us?

T’ll wait for you to get changed. He stood at the door of the lounge with no intention of entering

it’s even weirder for you to stand there.” Kathleen frowned at him.

Arching his brows, Samuel stepped inside the lounge.

Kathleen had meant to tell Samuel to wait for her in the car. Nevertheless, he completely misinterpreted her words,

What a bother!

She reluctantly went inside to change her clothes.

Ten minutes later, the duo left the filming set and headed toward the hospital.

Zachary’s complexion looked pale as he lay on the bed.

“You guys are here,” he uttered weakly.

He was shot in the shoulder and the call. Nonetheless, his injuries were not serious.

Zachary would be fine as long as he recuperated smoothly

Glancing at him indifferently, Kathleen probed, "Why did you ask us to come here?"

Zachary gave her a long, meaningful look. "Yoeger Group's stocks have been going down today. It's estimated that it will continue to plummet tomorrow."

"What does that have to do with me?" Kathleen was puzzled.

*Kathleen, you're also part of the Yoeger family no matter what." Zachary mumbled.

Kathleen could not help sneering at him. "Me? Part of the family? Ha! Does it mean that I'm part of your family only when I'm being useful to you guys? Don't forget that I have no relation with any of

you!"

"Even though your mother isn't my father's biological daughter, she's still my cousin. You can ask Old Mrs. Yoeger. There's no way she will stand aside and do nothing when the Yoeger family is in trouble." Zachary explained hurriedly.

"You guys only need her to clean up the mess. How did you treat her back then?" she retorted.

Zachary said dejectedly, "Kathleen, I was also deceived by Vanessa. I only found out that there was nothing wrong with my body today. That wicked woman was the mastermind behind everything! She even planned to marry Yarell off to an old guy just to consolidate her position. Isn't she despicable?"

"It takes one to know one." Kathleen scoffed.

Zachary could not come up with a retort.

"What are your motives behind this?" Kathleen did not want to waste time talking nonsense with him.

"I want to take Frances back to the Yoeger residence and let her preside over these matters. Otherwise, the Yoeger family will be ruined, Kathleen, I promised to transfer some of the family's shares to you if you allowed me to bring her back," Zachary pleaded.

Kathleen snorted in response.

However, Zachary was genuinely willing to do so.

"I won't allow you to do that." Kathleen said.

Zachary was stunned by how swiftly she rejected his request.

“You guys are too ambitious and heartless. Who knows what you will do in the future? That’s why I’ll never agree on this. Therefore, you can save your breath, Kathleen advised coldly

Zachary pursed his lips “Kathleen, can I see Old Mrs. Yoeger?”

Shaking her head, Kathleen rejected him indifferently. “No.”

All of a sudden, Yareli’s voice sounded from the entrance of the ward. “Who gives you the right to say

no?”

Kathleen turned around and saw Yareli entering the ward while holding Frances.

“Granny? Why are you here?” Kathleen was shocked.

Frances stepped forward and advised, “Kate, you don’t have to say anything. I will handle all the matters of the Yoeger family.”

Kathleen frowned upon hearing that.

Looking at Samuel, Yareli greeted, “Samuel, you’re also here.”

Nevertheless, he did not deign to reply her.

“Mom, I’m so sorry. It’s all my fault. I shouldn’t have believed in Vanessa’s words Zachary broke down in tears.

“That’s enough. You aren’t a child anymore. Stop crying.” Frances admonished frostily

“Okay.” Wiping his tears, Zachary added, “Mom, we need you to step up and reassure everyone in the Yoeger family right now.”

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Frances’ gaze darkened. “Don’t worry. That’s what I came here for.”

“Granny, what do you mean by that?” Kathleen was a little taken aback.

Frances gestured for her to stay calm for the moment.

“Zachary, I want you to make a promise to me.” Frances cast him a stern look.

“Go ahead, Mom. I’ll do anything you ask me to,” Zachary said softly.

Frances replied coldly, “I only need you to make a vow that you will never go against Kate in the future.”

Zachary was taken aback by her request. “Mom, although Kate’s mom isn’t my real sibling, we’re still cousins. That makes Kate my niece. Why would I go against her?”

“Just promise me!” Frances demanded sternly.

“Okay.” Zachary nodded sheepishly.

“Furthermore, I want to give my shares of Yoeger Group to Kate. You guys aren’t allowed to vie for it. Besides swearing in front of me, I want you to post a statement on Twitter,” Frances ordered seriously.

What on earth is she talking about?

Zachary was stunned by her request.

“What’s wrong? Are you unwilling to do so?” she questioned coldly.

After a moment of pause, Zachary answered gingerly, “I-I will do it.”

“Very well, then. If you do as I say, I’ll step up and help you to stabilize the situation tomorrow,” Frances promised.

He pursed his lips and replied, “All right.”

“Go ahead and make your vow,” Frances ordered impassively.

Stretching out his hand slowly, Zachary uttered, “I swear that I will never go against Kathleen.”

“What if you break your vow?” Frances probed nonchalantly.

Zachary gritted his teeth and declared, “Then, I’ll be struck dead by lightning and rot in hell!”

Are you satisfied now?

Yareli looked at Zachary in amazement. What a vicious oath!

“Yareli, what about you?” Frances asked coldly.

Yareli was surprised by the mention of her name. “Me? Granny, do I have to swear in front of you too?” she asked sheepishly.

“Of course.” Frances did not want to state the obvious.

Even though Yareli had not done anything to Kathleen, Frances did not think that she was innocent either.

“I…” Unlike Zachary, Yareli was reluctant to make a vow.

Frances gave her a frosty look.

Pursing her lips, Yareli muttered pitifully, “Granny, I promise to get along with Kate in the future. After all, we’re cousins and related by blood.”

Nevertheless, Frances remained silent.

Looking at Kathleen, Yareli asked, “What do you think, Kate?”

Kathleen felt disgusted upon hearing how Yareli called out to her intimately. “You don’t need to do that. Let’s steer clear of each other in the future. You guys should do as Granny says. Besides, you are the ones who need her help, not me.”

Yareli stiffened. Feeling displeased, she pretended to yield. “All right. I swear that if I do Kathleen wrong, my mom will die a painful death. Is this good enough for you?”

Kathleen gave her a long, meaningful look.

"You're truly your mom's precious eldest child. How filial of you to swear on her life," Kathleen remarked sarcastically.

Yareli gritted her teeth upon hearing Kathleen's jibe. She cursed the latter several times silently.

Gosh, I want to eat her alive.

"You guys better remember the vows you made today. Only time will tell if this will come back to bite you," Frances reminded seriously.

Zachary and Yareli were flustered by her words.

"Come with me, Kate," Frances urged.

"Okay." Kathleen followed her out of the ward.

As Samuel prepared to leave, Yareli called out. "Samuel."

However, he pretended not to hear anything.

"Wait, Samuel. I have something to tell you." Yareli tugged on his arm.

Samuel shook her off. "So, you get handsy with me since you can't talk properly, right?" Yareli was snubbed by him.

Biting her lip, Yareli pleaded, "Samuel, why are you treating me like this? I only want to ask you to help me save my mom."

"She deserves to die," Samuel uttered emotionlessly.

"Samuel, can you help me for the sake of our relationship in the past?" Yareli sobbed. His expression darkened at once. "There's nothing between us. Stop making a fool of yourself."

With that, he spun around and left.

A sinister look instantly flashed across Yareli's eyes. "D*mn it!" she cursed.

Zachary laughed mockingly at her. "I think you aren't as good as Nicolette when it comes to dealing with Samuel."

"Nicolette is nothing but a liar! I'm not like her. I don't believe that Samuel will love Kathleen for the rest of his life," Yareli fumed.

"Even if his affection for Kathleen didn't last forever, can you guarantee that he will fall for you instead?" Zachary replied calmly.

Yareli glared at him. "What do you mean by that?"

"I just want to give you some advice. Don't be so stubborn. We have some important things to plan now. I'll never let you off the hook if you messed this up for us," Zachary warned.

Yareli chuckled in exasperation. "As if I will let you off either! You'd better make sure this plan is successful."

Zachary snorted. "You'd better tell your mom to be careful. Kathleen won't let her off that easily."

"You don't have to worry about my mom." Yareli narrowed her eyes and continued, "We'll just have to wait for Nicolette's next move."

Kathleen helped Frances as they walked downstairs.

Feeling surprised, she asked, "Granny, why are you here? The Yoeger family wouldn't be in a crisis even if you didn't come."

"I know. At worst, the stocks will fall. The company's market value will drop by half. By then, the Yoeger family will no longer be among the elites," Frances said coldly.

Kathleen was dumbfounded.

"I'm not trying to help them. That guy owes me. Therefore, I have to make him pay

back,” Frances added.

Her remark left Kathleen dumbstruck.

“Don’t worry. I know what you’re thinking about. Although I’m not in my right mind occasionally, I have thought about whether your mom was taken away by that guy,” Frances explained.

Kathleen froze for a moment. “Granny?”

“If it was him, I have the right to take back everything that belongs to the Yoeger family. Even if he wasn’t the culprit, I still have the right to do this due to his children’s actions.” Frances could not care less about other people’s opinions.

“Kate, you should follow me and live in the Yoeger residence. No matter what, the family is my heart and soul. I’ll never let the family fall on my watch. I will hand over the Yoeger family to you when the time is right,” Frances said in a deep voice.

However, Kathleen was stunned by her words. “Granny, I don’t think that’s a great idea.”

Frances said reassuringly, “Don’t worry. You don’t need to pay attention to those people. I’m getting old. Besides, my health is deteriorating. There isn’t much I can do for you. I want you to live a carefree life in the future.”

All Too Late Chapter 290

All Too Late

Chapter 290

Chapter 290 At A Disadvantage

Kathleen hugged Frances, feeling moved. “Granny...”

Frances caressed Kathleen’s face. “Good girl. I promise I’ll never make you suffer.” Meanwhile, Samuel silently watched the scene of the grandmother and granddaughter hugging each other by the side.

Frances smiled faintly and said, “All right. Could you wait over there? I’d like to have a word with Samuel.”

“Okay.” Kathleen nodded obediently and scooted to the side.

Knowing Frances had something to say to him, Samuel walked over. “Old Mrs. Yoeger, is there something you’d like to tell me?”

“Samuel, stop clinging onto Kate,” Frances advised. “Though both of you never told me about it, you were the one who kidnapped her, right?”

Samuel said nothing.

“Samuel, I’m not forcing you to leave Kate. I just hope you can consider my advice,” Frances said solemnly. “After all, I’ve known you since you were a kid. I was utterly heartbroken when you told me you liked Nicolette back then. Although you’ve seen her true colors now, I hope you can let Kate regain some of her freedom.”

Samuel’s eyes darkened. “Old Mrs. Yoeger, you don’t have to do this. My relationship with Kate is real. She didn’t promise to be with me because of how I clung to her. I won’t force her into anything in the future, but we have to walk this path together, as we have a common objective now.”

"All right." Frances knew there was no point in saying anything more. "Both of you are adults, and you have your own ideas. I just hope that you won't harm Kate, whatever decision she makes. It doesn't matter if you can't give her your blessing."

That was enough to make her grateful.

Samuel croaked, "I won't hurt her."

No matter how vicious and extreme he was, he would never harm Kathleen.

He loved her with all his heart.

"I'm going to bring Kate to the Yoeger residence for a few days," Frances said softly.

A cold gleam flashed across his eyes. "I know."

Frances cast him a thoughtful gaze. "Kate and I will be going home now."

"I'll send both of you home," Samuel offered solemnly.

"Okay," Frances answered after giving it some thought.

"This way." Samuel's voice was calm.

Hearing that, Frances called out to Kathleen, and all three of them got into Samuel's car.

Kathleen felt uneasy, for she knew Frances wanted to return to the Yoeger residence.

"Granny, they've hurt you so much. Why do you still want to live with them under the same roof?"

"Don't worry. If they want to kill me, they would've done it long ago," said Frances, staring into the distance, lost in her thoughts. "I know they let me live not because they couldn't bear to see me die but because I'm still useful to them. Just like this very moment. No matter what happens to the Yoeger family, as long as I'm alive, all their problems can be solved by using me."

Kathleen pursed her lips. "To be honest, I don't believe their promise."

"You silly child. Do you think I believe them?" Frances flashed her a half smile. "I've faced all the ups and downs of life. I understand the human heart well."

"So why are you still helping them?" Kathleen was bewildered.

"Because of my dignity." Frances' gaze darkened. "I can't accept how my daughter was taken away just like that. I know what that old man cares about. He fears the fortunes of the Yoeger family won't be inherited by a member of the Yoeger family. But he's forgotten that I've worked my ass off for this. I can give it to whoever I want. Anyway, he's basically powerless. He can't control me."

Kathleen was shocked by what she heard. She never expected Frances to have such thoughts.

Frances assured, "Don't worry. Back then, I didn't expect them to be so heartless and ambitious. Now that I know their true colors, I won't lower my guard."

Kathleen nodded in response.

"Okay. You should pack up your things. You'll move into the Yoeger residence with me tomorrow," Frances said seriously.

"Okay." Kathleen had no choice but to agree.

When she stepped out of Frances' room, she was stunned to see Samuel standing in the living room.

How did he get in?

As if reading her thoughts, Samuel explained, "The housekeeper let me in. She said you were talking to Old Mrs. Yoeger, so I didn't let her interrupt your conversation."

I see.

“Is something the matter?” Kathleen knitted her brows.

“Of course.” Samuel strode over with his long, slim legs.

Thanks to his height, he gave off an intimidating aura.

Kathleen frowned deeper. “What are you doing?”

“This is your house. What can I possibly do?” Samuel asked with a faint smile. “Look at how scared you are.”

Kathleen bit her lip, looking pale. “I just don’t want to be petty with you. After all, you’re not in great condition. You might not be my match if we really got into a fight.”

Samuel scoffed. “I can’t be bothered to fight you.” His gaze darkened. “We’re on the same boat, anyway. There’s no harm in having conversations.”

Kathleen frowned. “Since when are we on the same boat?”

“We aren’t?” Samuel raised his brow.

Kathleen did not agree with his words.

“Think about it. If I attacked Blissful Sect with my all and ruined their Snow Grass, how are you still going to save your brother?” Samuel asked coldly.

Kathleen froze for a moment. “What do you mean?”

“If we work together, I promise to find a way to get Snow Grass,” Samuel suggested seriously.

“What ways do you have?” Kathleen frowned.

“That’s not for you to worry. Snow Grass is what you want,” Samuel said nonchalantly, smiling. “Of course, it’ll be better if you have Melting Ice Grass, right? The latter is indeed hard to find, but that doesn’t mean it’s impossible.”

Surprised, Kathleen asked, “Can you find it?”

“If I can find it...” Samuel slowly parted his lips to speak when Kathleen cut in without hesitation, “I’ll agree to any request you make.”

Samuel’s lips curled into a subtle smile. “Very well. That’s what you said. You’d better not regret it.”

Kathleen paused for a moment and blinked with her eyes that sparkled like diamonds. “I won’t. What matters is that you can find it. As long as you can save Charles.”

Samuel fixed his eyes on her delicate face. “I’ll keep your words in mind.”

Kathleen pursed her lips.

“What do you think about this matter with the Yoeger family?” asked Samuel grimly.

Softly, Kathleen asked, “Do you have any thoughts about it?”

“Personally, I think this entire matter is a little strange,” Samuel said plainly. “Who exactly is Nicolette? How is she able to rob the Yoeger family and even take Vanessa away?”

“What about the phone number? Do you have any updates from your side?” asked Kathleen.

Samuel shook his head. “No.”

“This number wouldn’t appear in Nicolette’s room for no reason,” Kathleen said indifferently. “If you weren’t the one who leaked the news about Melting Ice Grass, then it must be them.”

Samuel looked at her coldly. “You still don’t trust me?”

“Only partially.” Kathleen turned her head away.

Samuel huffed in displeasure. “You’ll be at a disadvantage for not believing me.”

