

My Mute Bride Chapter 11

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Chapter 11, My Mute Bride

Sue frowned in displeasure. *This mute simply won't back down!* she thought to herself. "The servants around have seen you pushing Amber into the pond. Do you still want to make excuses for yourself?" *These people were far away in the front hall when Amber fell into the pond. Do they have clairvoyance? She didn't even bother to tell a more convincing lie,* Rachel thought to herself. Her jaw was set. Evidently, she didn't believe such a ridiculous excuse. The atmosphere was tense for a moment; the Burton Family purposely said that the surveillance camera was broken, yet Rachel couldn't forcibly have the surveillance videos checked.

Just then, a familiar and gentle voice spoke from behind them. "I can prove that she didn't push the other woman." Rachel was stunned when she saw who the visitor was. *Isn't he... Dr. Peters?* The slender young man walked toward them and came to Sue's side. He said, "I'm back, Mom." Sue beamed with delight at once as she affectionately held her son's arm. "Weren't you supposed to come back this afternoon, Julian? Why did you come back in advance?"

Julian answered with a smile, "Actually, I came back half a month ago—it's just that I interned at the hospital for some time. I came back today to give you a surprise at first, but I didn't expect to see such a scene." As he spoke of this, his eyes fell on Amber, and his smile faded somewhat.

"I clearly saw you falling into the pond yourself. Why did you accuse Miss Hudson of pushing you into the pond?" Everyone was stunned upon hearing his words. In particular, Amber had a slight change in countenance, and she bit her lip. "I... I... I felt like Rachel pushed me. P-Perhaps... I was wrong."

Mrs. Duncan was about to say something, but Sue instantly silenced her with a glance. After all, she knew how stubborn her son was. Now that he had seen it, the tension would only rise if others continued to mislead him. At the thought of this, she turned to look at Rachel in a disapproving attitude. "You and Amber are sisters.

She isn't an outsider, so a little misunderstanding isn't a big deal." Amber nodded vigorously as she took the opportunity Sue had given her to get herself out of the awkward situation. "That's right, Rachel. I must've mistaken someone else for you, and I'm sorry about that. Don't take it to heart."

However, Rachel didn't want to accept Amber's perfunctory apology, so she didn't give the latter even a look in response. Instead, she fixed her eyes on Julian. *This man has helped me once again,* she thought to herself. As she was really grateful, she thanked him with a gesture. Since he understood what her gesture meant, Julian nodded at Rachel.

In reality, he was also surprised at first. He didn't expect the lady whom he had met once at the hospital and felt well-disposed to would be his cousin-in-law. For some reason, he had a strange feeling; it was as though he found this regrettable. However, he didn't give it much thought as he could only turn his eyes back to Sue.

"Let's drop the matter here, Mom." Sue understood that Julian didn't want them to go on. *That's the kind of person he is. He always steps in whenever he encounters an injustice because of his particularly strong sense of right and wrong,* she thought to herself. Since she didn't want to upset her son over such a trivial matter, she nodded with a smile and replied, "Let's go."

"I haven't seen you for so many years, so let's have a nice chat." The crowd then left slowly, leaving only Rachel and Amber at the scene. Amber got up from the ground and stared at Rachel with a slightly peculiar look in her eyes. "Do you know Julian in person?" Rachel ignored her, though. Amber quipped, "Rachel..."

As expected, you and your mother are people of the same sort." She then left, leaving a cold-looking Rachel behind. Ever since Rachel went to live with the Hudson Family more than ten years ago, Amber had been accusing her of being the daughter of a homewrecker, insinuating that her mother had given birth to her by seducing Jefferey.

When Rachel was little, she wished she could tell them that her mother wasn't that kind of person. Her mother was not only of gentle disposition but also talented and well-versed in literature; she was the best mother in the world!

However, it wasn't until she had grown up that she found how foolish she had been. Why would a bunch of bloodsuckers who couldn't tell right from wrong care about the truth?

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After Justin came back, Sue explained the incident and made a few indifferent remarks. The man merely cast a casual glance at Rachel, who was standing in a corner, without stating his position. Even so, Rachel wasn't disappointed since she had expected such an outcome long ago. On the other hand, Amber couldn't help but chuckle inwardly. *Doesn't this show that he doesn't care about Rachel at all?* she thought to herself.

With a big smile on her face, she walked up to Justin and held out to him the coffee she had brewed. "Have some coffee, Justin. You've been busy all day long, so let's quench your thirst with this." Much to her surprise, Justin refused and said, "It's not necessary. It's late, so you should go home now."

Amber's smile froze on her lips. She deliberately acted cute, pretending not to understand that Justin wanted to chase her away. "I want to learn something

from you so that I'll do a better job of helping my Dad manage his company in the future, Justin. Can I do that?"

Normally, a man wouldn't have the heart to refuse a coquettish plea made by such a pretty and graceful lady, but Justin narrowed his eyes. "If you don't leave right now, you don't have to come here anymore." The scar on his face made him look very menacing when he looked at someone chillingly.

Upon that, Amber's expression changed slightly. She hurriedly smiled in a placating manner to save herself from the embarrassment. "All right, all right. I know you are afraid that my Dad will be worried about me, right? You're only saying so for my own good, and I understand that, Justin. In that case, I'll be going home first.

I'll come again some other day." She was still smiling when she left, but her face instantly darkened as soon as she left the place. In the end, she glanced at the Burton Residence's gate with a look of determination in her eyes. After Amber left, Rachel held a cup of brewed Earl Grey tea and placed it on Justin's desk.

She knew that Justin liked to make a cup of tea whenever he came home from work, which was why he refused to drink the coffee Amber had brewed. However, her body tensed up subconsciously as she could sense his dark gaze falling on her even with her head lowered. "Why are you lingering around here?"

Rachel pursed her lips and looked up at him. Then, she put her palms together and placed them between her neck and her shoulder to make a sleeping gesture. *Aren't you going to sleep?* She merely asked the question casually, but the man had obviously misunderstood her. Justin furrowed his brows and asked, "Do you want to sleep with me?"

Rachel was stunned for a moment before she shook her head vigorously. Justin then strode off and replied, "Since that isn't the case, don't disturb me." Rachel froze on the spot for a moment before leaving in silence. However, neither of them spotted Julian standing outside the window.

A hint of shock flashed across his eyes; he wanted to reminisce about the past with Justin at first, but he didn't expect to witness this scene. *Justin isn't actually nice to her*, he thought to himself. Upon realizing this, he immediately figured out what had been puzzling him. *No wonder even Mrs. Duncan dares to lord it over her.*

Julian heard from the nurse who looked after Rachel's grandmother that someone had paid for the old woman's treatment at first, but the financial support had been cut off for no reason. Thus, he speculated that Justin was probably the one who cut off the financial support, which was why Rachel was worried.

Furthermore, he heard what Mrs. Duncan said during the daytime and witnessed Sue's manner toward Rachel. What else could he not understand? Come to think of it, any woman would find herself in a very difficult situation if she was a mute who couldn't speak, was detested by her husband, and had an awkward position in the Burton Family, let alone a weak and helpless woman like Rachel. How could she afford her grandmother's expensive medical bills?

Rachel was only a stranger whom Julian had met twice, but for some unfathomable reason, Julian found his heart aching for her. *Perhaps I should help her*, he thought to himself. When Rachel woke up the next morning, everyone else in the Burton Residence continued to ignore her. Sue had stopped asking her to do the household chores ever since she did it and was stopped by Justin.

Rachel finished her lunch under the servants' contemptuous gazes, but when she got up, Julian called her, "Miss Hudson." He did not address her as his cousin-in-law. Instead, he kept calling her 'Miss Hudson' so that she didn't feel so embarrassed. Rachel's face showed a look of confusion.

Then, she heard Julian reply, "The hospital director told me that your grandmother has regained consciousness. As it happens, I'm going to the hospital to do a follow-up examination on her, so I can give you a lift." Rachel was first delighted at the news of her grandmother regaining consciousness, but she then hesitated somewhat.

She asked with sign language. *Can I go with you?* Since he knew what she was worried about, Julian shook his head with a smile. "It'll be fine." In the end, Rachel's eagerness to visit her grandmother got the better of her.

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Julian's car was a gray Infiniti; it looked very inconspicuous on the outside, and it felt as gentle and peaceful as the feeling Julian gave Rachel. It was quite the opposite of Justin, for that unfeeling man always drove a black Maybach, a luxury car worth more than 20 million that drew the eyes of the crowd. *Why am I thinking about him all of a sudden?* Rachel thought to herself. She bit her lower lip in vexation and looked out of the window.

Meanwhile, Sue happened to come back with Mrs. Duncan as soon as the car drove out of the Burton Residence's gate. Mrs. Duncan was stunned for a moment and said, "Madam, was that Young Master Peters' car just now?" Sue nodded. "What's wrong?" Mrs. Duncan replied hesitantly, "I just saw...

Young Mistress Rachel in the car." Sue's face darkened. "Are you sure you didn't mistake someone else for her?" Mrs. Duncan nodded seriously. "No, I didn't. Young Mistress Rachel was sitting in the passenger seat, and Young Master Peters was talking merrily to her." Sue fell silent and glanced at the outside of the gate with a gloomy look in her eyes.

"Find out how they know each other." Meanwhile, Rachel and Julian hurried to her grandmother's ward after they arrived at the hospital. When she arrived at the door, Rachel heard her grandmother laughing; she saw through the glass door that the nurse was telling her grandmother a joke. As she looked at her grandmother's gentle smile, she felt warmth in her heart. Rachel pushed the door open, and her grandmother's eyes lit up when she raised her head and saw her.

"Rae!" As she got very emotional, Rachel hurried to her side and supported her. Then, she shook her head at her and gesticulated. *You've just gotten a little better, so you can't get out of bed just yet. You should get some more rest.* Rachel's grandmother could only go along with her and lay back on the bed. She replied with a smile, "I'm in good health. In fact, I feel full of strength." Rachel peeled an apple for her grandmother with a gentle smile.

Then, she scooped it out into a bowl with a spoon, put a tiny fork that she had brought with her in the bowl, and handed it over to her grandmother. Rachel's grandmother was old, and her eyes were lined with wrinkles. When she saw how filial Rachel was, her eyes couldn't help but sparkle with tears. "I have been a burden to you, my dear granddaughter."

Rachel slowly shook her head and gestured. *We're a family, so there's no burden to speak of. Grandma, you have to build up your health and get better as soon as possible. I still want to travel with you in the future; didn't you say that your greatest wish is to see Mount Fuji in Japan?* Rachel's grandmother smiled with tears in her eyes.

"Fine, fine. I'll get better as soon as possible." Julian sighed inwardly at the warm and touching scene before his eyes. He hadn't had a father since he was a child, but Sue had been very attentive to him, and she had never denied him anything in terms of material needs. Even so, he was touched deeply by Rachel's relationship with her grandmother.

He comforted Rachel in a gentle voice and said, "I just talked to the nurse, Miss Burton—she said that your grandmother is fine. I'll go to prepare the documents needed for the follow-up examination on her, so take her to my office later." Only then did Rachel recall that Julian was here as well. Upon realizing that she had ignored him for a moment, she felt somewhat embarrassed. *Thank you, Dr. Peters. Thank you for your help over the last few days.*

You're a kind person. Julian couldn't understand Rachel's complicated sign language, but her grandmother explained it to him. "It's nothing. It's my duty anyway," he replied with a smile. After Julian left, Rachel's grandmother winked at her and teased, "Is this handsome young man your boyfriend, my dear granddaughter?"

"I have been in a coma for such a long time, so why didn't you tell me that?" Rachel was startled; she didn't expect her grandmother to get the wrong idea about her relationship with Julian. Her grandmother had been comatose for such a long time and was totally unaware of what had happened to her.

Moreover, she didn't want to tell her grandmother that she had gotten married lest the latter became upset. Therefore, she shook her head and gestured to her. *That's not the case, Grandma. He is a kind-hearted doctor who has helped us.* Rachel's grandmother was a bit disappointed, but she got over it nonetheless.

My granddaughter is such an outstanding lady, so she'll meet a partner who is truly nice to her in due time. Rachel spent the entire afternoon with her grandmother before leaving the ward. She then went to the hospital director, intending to ask

how much money would be needed for her grandmother to undergo her next major surgery.

To her surprise, the hospital director replied with a smile, "Please be rest assured, Miss Hudson—someone has already paid the money on your behalf. Your grandmother's surgery has been scheduled for next Monday, and you don't have to pay for it again."

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Rachel was shocked. *Who is helping me?* she thought to herself. She wrote down on the paper, 'Sir, could you tell me who paid the money so that I can thank the person?' After recalling how Julian had told him not to let it slip, the hospital director could only refuse with a smile, "I'm sorry, Miss Hudson, but the person forbade our hospital to reveal his name, so please forgive me for withholding the information."

Rachel nodded in disappointment. On her way back, she kept thinking about this. Out of the people she knew, no one could have helped her to pay the money in full. No matter how hard she racked her brains, she couldn't figure out who it was. Even though she didn't understand why the person wanted to help her, she had to repay such an act of great kindness!

I don't need to worry. I'll find a way to find the benefactor in the future either way, she thought to herself. The car soon returned to the Burton Residence. At that moment, the sky gradually darkened; no sooner had Rachel arrived did Julian come back as well. As luck would have it, they met again in the living hall.

"I was about to pick you up and send you back, Miss Hudson. I searched all over the hospital, but I didn't find you; it wasn't until I asked the nurse that I learned you had left," said Julian as he greeted her with a smile. For some reason, seeing the fair and beautiful face before his eyes put him in a good mood.

It was as if all the fatigue he felt after spending an entire day operating on patients had been swept away. Rachel smiled apologetically and wrote to him. 'Thank you, Dr. Peters. I had something else to attend to, so I left first.' Julian waved his hand and smiled, revealing his white and shiny regular teeth, Meanwhile, his eyes sparkled as though there were stars in them.

"You don't have to thank me since it's nothing. I can give you a lift again if you want to go to the hospital in the future. It's all right." Rachel truly thought that Julian was very kind as he was the only person in the Burton Residence who had shown her kindness. He was Sue's son, but the mother and son were unlike each other. Compared to the stern Sue, Julian had an unusually great affability that made people unconsciously feel drawn to him.

She wrote, 'The hospital director said that my grandmother's surgery has been scheduled for next Monday. Are you going to be the chief surgeon, Dr. Peters?'

Julian nodded with a smile at the sight of her beautiful handwriting. "Yes. Please be rest assured, for your grandmother will make a full recovery after the surgery." Rachel smiled in relief upon hearing his words. They chatted for a while before Rachel went upstairs.

As soon as she entered her room, she saw Justin sitting on the sofa. He lit a cigarette with dexterity while fiddling with the cigarette case and lighter in his hand. His expression was cryptic and hard to discern in the curling white smoke, causing the atmosphere in the entire room to be extremely strange. Rachel was a bit surprised.

They had met by chance outside the kitchen last time, so could this be a chance encounter too? But if this encounter happened by chance, why would he make a special effort to show up in her room? Just then, Justin stood up from the sofa, moved close to her, and lowered his head. "You had fun outside with Julian for the entire day; when you came back, you two exchanged glances and chatted for a long time downstairs.

You look soft and weak, Rachel, but I didn't expect you to be so ambitious as to have designs on Julian." Rachel's expression changed. She quickly took out her pen and paper and explained, 'It's not what you think it is. Julian is my grandmother's chief surgeon, and we were talking about my grandmother's condition.'" Justin took the paper and glanced indifferently at the words on it.

Then, he tore it with both hands and threw it to the floor. His brow darkened, and his eyes were deep and chilling. "Do you think I'm blind?" he asked. *This woman has never smiled ever since she came to the Burton Residence, yet she smiled more happily than ever at Julian downstairs just now.*

On the other hand, Julian was looking at her as if he was looking at the woman he loved. Only a fool would believe there's nothing fishy about this! he thought to himself. "You couldn't take advantage of me, so you approached Julian instead. Do you think he'll really love you? Do you think he'll really love a mute who is no longer a virgin?"

Rachel's face suddenly turned pale. *There's nothing between Julian and me, so why would he misunderstand me? Is it fun to insult me in such a way?* she thought to herself. She was no longer in the mood to explain herself.

Just let him believe whatever he thinks. Her expression turned cold. Not wanting to argue with Justin, she walked past him and moved ahead, but he suddenly grabbed her wrist!

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The world spun around Rachel as she found herself being pinned down on the sofa by Justin, whose eyes were so sharp as if they could penetrate a person's

mind. “How dare you have designs on Julian, of all people? What is your purpose, to sow discord between us or to make me lose face? Or are you doing so to deliberately take revenge on Sue because of your hatred toward her?”

Rachel couldn't move at all as Justin held her wrists in a vice-like grip. She panicked at once. *What does he want to do?!* she thought to herself. Justin gently traced her brows and eyes with his thumb. “What a clear and beautiful pair of eyes you have. Unfortunately, they're tainted with ill intentions and the filth of someone who would stop at nothing to get what she wants.

How could a pretty and innocent lady exist in the Hudson Family?” Surprisingly, his tone of voice betrayed a hint of strange hatred. *Hatred?* Rachel couldn't understand where his hatred came from. She tried with all her might to break free of his grasp, and her mouth opened and closed repeatedly as she mouthed, “Let go of me... Let go of me...”

However, Justin grasped her so hard that it hurt her. As she thought of how she had been living in trepidation in the Burton Residence over the last few days and how he was slinging mud at her right now, all her grievances welled up inside her at once. While she struggled, the medical report issued by the hospital fell out of her pocket—it contained her grandmother's medical history.

Justin picked up the report, took a look at it, and looked stunned for a moment. *It turns out that she isn't lying*, he thought to himself. He then looked down at the woman beneath him who had already burst into tears. This was her first time shedding tears in front of him, and she cried without making a sound as tears flowed silently down the corners of her eyes. For some reason, his initial anger dissipated inexplicably. “I'll let you off this time.

If I see you getting too close to Julian again in the future, I will lock you up,” he uttered. The last three words he uttered made Rachel tremble all over. After he left, she tremblingly picked up the medical report and put it away. Finally, she closed her eyes hard as a slightly hoarse crying voice came from her throat. If it weren't for the fact that she had no choice, she really wished she could stay away from the Burton Residence and never see Justin ever again! ...

The next morning, Rachel woke up with her eyes puffy from crying. She had deliberately avoided meeting Julian since the night before; whenever she happened to run into him, she would pretend not to see him. In order to avoid suspicion, she didn't even go downstairs until Julian had left.

On the other hand, Sue felt even angrier when she saw how Julian was about to speak, yet he said nothing in disappointment. She went straight up to Rachel and warned, “No matter what your purpose is, you mustn't get close to my son in the future. Do you hear me?!” Since she had no intention of arguing with the older woman, Rachel nodded and was about to leave. However, Sue barked coldly and said, “Stay where you are!”

Rachel stood in place with her back to Sue. She listened as the woman let out a sneer behind her and threatened, “If you dare to harbor any improper and dirty thoughts, I'll make your life worse than death.” Rachel turned around and looked

at her. She then explained with her paper and pen, 'Dr. Peters and I met purely by chance; there isn't any purpose that you're thinking about.

I'll never speak to him again in the future, and I'll stay away from him.' Sue's expression eased somewhat when she saw that Rachel had written down her pledge. "I don't care whether what you said is true. In any case, if you dare to act counter to what you've said today, I will let you know that I, Sue Prahm, am no slouch!"

Rachel put away her paper and pen and left in exhaustion. After she left, Mrs. Duncan came forward and said to Sue, "Madam, I don't think what she said is believable." Sue raised an eyebrow. "Why would you say so?" Mrs. Duncan's expression was meaningful. "Young Master Justin loves Miss Amber, so he'll divorce Rachel sooner or later.

Rachel has probably predicted this, which is why she's hitting on the kind Young Master Peters, foolishly attempting to take advantage of him to seek connections with those rich and powerful. Therefore, she wrote the pledge today just to keep you in check." Sue's face darkened at Mrs. Duncan's words.

"In that case, how do you think I should deal with her?" Mrs. Duncan thought for a moment and replied, "I think there are two things we should do. Firstly, we should stop Young Master Peters from meeting her.

Secondly, we should get Miss Amber to drive Rachel out as soon as possible. That way, this scourge will not be able to continue staying at the Burton Residence. Otherwise, there might be untoward complications..." Sue was lost in thought upon hearing Mrs. Duncan's words. After a long time, she dialed Amber's phone number.

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Meanwhile, Amber was savoring her freshly painted fingernails. She tucked her cell phone between her chin and her shoulder as she greeted, "Hi, Madam Parham."

"It's me, Amber. There's something that I'd like to talk to you about."

Amber straightened up upon hearing Sue's words. "Please tell me about it, Madam Parham." After listening to Sue's words, she hung up the phone and stared blankly at a spot on the floor.

After Jefferey came back from his company, he waved his hand before her eyes. "What's wrong with you, Amber?"

His daughter came back to her senses and grabbed his arm at once. "Dad! You must help me with the matter that I told you last time!"

Jefferey was startled for a moment before he knitted his brows. "Don't fool around! Rachel is still of use to me in the Burton Residence, so don't do anything foolish."

Amber was unconvinced. "Dad, I can also help you if I win the two men's hearts. Why must you count on Rachel, that mute? What can she do?"

Even though Jefferey doted on Amber, he was aware of her willfulness. "That's enough, Amber. All you have to do is win Julian's heart. It will be better if you can make him do whatever you say since that will enable my plan to be better accomplished in the future. Don't think about everything else. Justin has a heart of stone, so you'd better not mess with him."

Amber shook her head. "No, no, no. You're wrong, Dad. Justin is very nice to me. He likes me, and I'm confident of making him fall in love with me. As for Julian, he'll also be mine sooner or later-please say yes, Dad. If you get Rachel out of the Burton Residence, my plan will be halfway accomplished! Please, Dad!"

However, Jefferey didn't want to see Amber making trouble no matter how much he doted on her. "All right, don't say that anymore. I won't help you with this, so you should stop having designs on Justin as soon as possible. I'll never let him off, let alone allow you to fall in love with him. That's impossible."

In the end, Amber still couldn't shake Jefferey's determination; she glared at him from behind with a look of displeasure as he left. However, even her father couldn't stop her when she became wayward. "I must get married to Justin by whatever means. He should have been my man! Rachel seized my husband for herself!" After

that, she gritted her teeth. "Since you're not going to help me, I'll just do it myself, Dad!" Then, she dialed Rachel's number.

Rachel was watering the flowers when she received a phone call from an unfamiliar number. It was not until she heard the voice on the other end that she realized it was Amber. "It's me, Rachel."

Rachel's hand that was holding the watering can paused for a moment when she heard Amber's malicious laugh over the phone. Amber then stated her purpose on her own by saying, "I won't beat around the bush, Rachel. I want Justin, so please leave on your own initiative. Since you're my sister, I won't make things too difficult for you. How about that?"

Rachel simply wanted to laugh. *They're father and daughter, yet one is forcing me to stay at the Burton Residence while the other is threatening and asking me to leave instead. Does that make a fence-sitter who does whatever they want me to do?* she thought to herself.

Of course, she wasn't intimidated by Amber's threat. Jefferey controlled her grandmother's health, whereas Amber was only a wayward and self-centered little girl. Therefore, she hung up the phone directly without saying a word after Amber made this absurd request.

The other woman glared at her cell phone with an extremely gloomy expression, and her face was as black as thunder. Suddenly, she hit upon an idea, and the corner of her lips turned up. "You forced me to do this, Rachel!" The smile on her lips was as strangely and charmingly beautiful as a flower. Right after that, she called another person and said, "John, I want you to help me find a high school PE teacher. By whatever means, get him to come and see me."

As expected, a video made it into the list of trending topics on social media by the third day. It contained a confession of a bald middle-aged man, who gave an account of how he had a relationship with a female student a few years ago when he was a teacher at a high school. Furthermore, he described a string of unscrupulous details, including how he and the female student had had sex in hotel rooms.

Rachel's photo appeared in the lower corner of the video. After that, someone began to dox her, and netizens quickly dug up her name, her address, and her identity as an illegitimate daughter. As the incident escalated very quickly, another post titled 'The Scandalous Story Between the Mute Wife of the Burton Group's President and Her High School Teacher' made it into the list of trending topics and was ranked first by the netizens.

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'Holy smokes, how exciting this is! That's Mr. Burton's wife! What a cheater!

'Speaking of which, why would Mr. Burton marry someone who's mute? It makes no sense whatsoever.'

"The lady's quite the looker herself. Just how specific are her tastes for her to go after a bald teacher like him? That's just so gross!

Instantly, Justin read a series of stinging comments. He stood up with a *whoosh* before picking up his jacket and leaving the office.

Meanwhile, Frankie hastily followed him.

Oh dear, Mrs. Burton is going to be in trouble.

Justin soon drove home in his Maybach, and he immediately flung his phone at Rachel the moment he stepped inside the house.

Rachel was taking an afternoon nap when he did so, her eyes suddenly fluttering open from his actions. Her eyes were still hazy with sleep when she quickly sat up and picked up his phone. She looked at it in confusion for a few moments before opening up the link displayed on the screen. As she scrolled further down, her expression sank.

Who was the one who posted all of that online?

Many people knew about what had happened back during her high school days, but she had lived a peaceful life for so many years since then. Why was it resurfacing now?

A frosty and low voice rang out above her. "What is going on here?"

Rachel pressed her lips together tightly, and her expression could not get any more tense. She quickly scribbled out her answer on a piece of paper. 'I don't know what's going on either

Everything was pure fiction, be it the bald teacher's claims, the lies that she had seduced a teacher, or the other slanderous stories!

Justin still didn't make a sound. All of a sudden, Sue came into the room with Amber in tow. She charged over furiously and pointed at Rachel's head while tearing into

her by saying, "You shameless woman! You've completely ruined the Burtons' name! All those ugly past deeds of yours are plastered over the internet right now!"

Amber stood behind Sue, and a look of schadenfreude flashed across her eyes when she caught sight of Rachel's pale face. She then feigned worry as she spoke to her. "What's going on, Rachel? Wasn't he your PE teacher back in high school? Why would he say such scandalous things? Is he getting revenge on you because you broke up with him years ago?"

Amber had especially emphasized those triggering words such as 'PE teacher back in high school and 'broke up. As such, Sue immediately blew her top upon hearing that. "Even Amber knows all about it! How are you going to explain yourself now?"

Rachel turned her head to look at Amber before writing down her response. "You're lying. You said that I broke up with the PE teacher. Do you swear on your conscience that you're not lying?"

Deep down, Amber wasn't afraid of all those lies and blind beliefs. She feigned a hurt look on her face and said, "Why are you talking to me in such a way? I'm just worried about you."

I guess Amber is just too into her role. It'll be a pity if she doesn't go on to become a n actress, Rachel thought to herself.

Hence, she turned around to look at Justin. When she saw how his brows were furrowed into a tight frown as he stared at her with a probing gaze, Rachel gave the situation some thought again. She then wrote on her paper, "I've never done any of this. Please believe me?"

Sue pointed a finger at Rachel's nose. "All right, you mute—you clearly ended up like this because you gave into temptation willingly and have no respect for yourself, and you're here playing the victim? I'm going to kick you out of the Burton Family today. We do not want women who aren't mindful of their conduct!"

Rachel thought that she had explained everything that she needed to. It didn't matter whether Sue believed her or not, for the important thing was that Justin believed her.

After all, only Justin had the power to help her prove her innocence!

As such, she kept her eyes on his expression.

Sue nearly keeled over from anger when she saw how Rachel ignored her, and her words turned even more caustic. "Why didn't he name anyone else in the video? Why was it only you? Your behavior is the problem! I'd advise you not to argue

anymore; this matter has already caused a huge stir, and everyone out there knows about it. Don't blame me for being cruel either—we, the Burtons, cannot allow you to stay any longer!"

All of a sudden, she shoved Rachel forcefully.

The latter stumbled from the force of the push, and she steadied herself with much difficulty. She reflexively looked at Justin, only to see that the man's eyes were filled with bottomless cold apathy—there was no sign of concern at all.

Rachel's heart immediately sank into the abyss.

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"Please don't blame my sister, Madam Parham. It's all in the past. Rachel was young, and she didn't know any better. It was only because of a slip in judgment that she—"

Amber pretended to beg for mercy on Rachel's behalf. In truth, however, she was deliberately fanning the flames.

Just as she wanted, those words instantly drew Sue's ire. She grabbed Amber's hand and interrupted her by saying, "You're still speaking up for her, Amber? She plotted to steal your fiance, and she also has no sense of propriety. A woman like her is practically sullyng the Burtons' name!"

Sue got more and more worked up as she continued. She then pointed at Rachel. "You'd better scam right now! You,"

Sue still had more words to say, but then Justin stopped her with a gesture. His gaze darkened as he immediately gripped Rachel's wrist and coldly tossed a few words her way. "You there. Follow me."

He didn't even give her a chance to respond.

Justin was exceptionally strong, and Rachel felt like her wrist was about to be broken from being squeezed in his hand. He dragged Rachel back to his room and slammed the door before swinging her onto the bed.

Rachel fell clumsily, for the sudden movement made her head spin. Just as she was about to get up from the bed, Justin pressed down on her and locked her firmly underneath his body.

What is he planning to do?

Panic immediately colored Rachel's eyes, and she couldn't stop herself from shrinking back. However, she couldn't escape at all because Justin had her firmly pinned down.

A dangerous aura radiated from him, making her feel extremely uneasy.

"What are you hiding for? Feeling guilty already?"

Justin gave a cold chuckle, and the mocking look in his eyes intensified.

Rachel had seen that expression of his; when she heard him speak again, she

promptly widened her eyes and glared back.

Justin eyed her. The cold words raining down on her head seemed to be a precursor to his fury.

"Jeffrey really did raise an obedient dog."

Rachel froze before she grabbed at the bedsheets. She then shook her head and gestured, *I didn't do anything.*

She was not Jeffrey's dog, and she hated the Hudsons. After all, she was forced to marry into the Burton Family only because she was concerned about her grandmother

“What? You want me to believe you just because you shook your head?” Justin’s voice gradually became deeper. His rough hand moved upward, seeming as though he would snap Rachel’s neck at any moment.

He was truly incensed now. Ever since the mute woman arrived at their household, the Burtons hadn’t had a moment of peace. Now, she even caused a huge scandal like this. She was just a mute, yet they had underestimated her.

Rachel’s face turned red from exertion as she valiantly tried to fight off his powerful grip. She didn’t want to die, for her grandmother was still waiting to be rescued-she could not die either.

“Looks like you won’t admit it unless I mete out some sort of punishment!” Justin let out a cold scoff when he saw her struggling stubbornly. All of a sudden, he put in more power and lifted her up completely.

Rachel was so startled that she let out a cry. Even though she couldn’t speak, fear still made her throat produce a hoarse sound. It was scratchy and unpleasant to the ear, and it drew Justin’s ire.

The man lifted her up and brought her straight to the bathroom. Then, he flung her into the gigantic bathtub before he coldly ordered, “Take off your clothes!”

Rachel froze.

What was Justin going to do?

She lifted her head, but all that met her gaze was Justin’s icy cold eyes, devoid of any warmth. Right now, any explanation she could give would seem weak and useless.

Rachel snapped her eyes shut and bit her lip. After some hesitation, she gave into the situation, and she began taking off her skirt with slow movements. Off went her blouse, and off went her safety shorts. In the end, all she had on was her bra.

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Every inch of her body was exposed to Justin’s eyes, and nothing was hidden. Right now, she felt she was like a plaything with no respect.

The next moment, Justin turned on the tap filled with cold water.

Icy cold water spilled over her head, viciously drenching the rest of her body. Instantly, all the warmth that her body had vanished. Rachel shuddered violently as all the color left her face.

It's so freezing cold.

"I'll ask you one more time-is the news true?" Beyond the curtain of water, Justin spoke to her in a low voice, each word he said pounding at Rachel's heart icily.

Rachel shivered as she shook her head. Even though her teeth chattered, she would not admit to something that she hadn't done.

No, it's not true.

Her entire body was being assaulted by the cold water to the point that she was shivering from the cold. Any other man would have felt something upon seeing her like this.

Likewise, Justin was no exception. After he temporarily stopped the water to let it drain, Rachel wrapped her arms around her chest. She kept shivering, and her face had already turned green from the cold.

"As long as you admit it, I will let you go," he said frostily. This was the last chance he would give her.

Rachel continued to shake her head. She forced herself to put up with her discomfort and gestured with her hands, still shivering all this while.

I never did any of it. Won't you believe me?

Justin did not know sign language, but he could still see that she was denying the accusations valiantly.

If she hadn't been a Hudson, he wouldn't have continued treating her like this. After all, he had ways of finding out the truth, and there was no need for him to do any of this. However, she was a Hudson, and she had to fail in upholding her duties and caused such trouble.

Can the Hudson family even breed good people?

With that thought in mind, Justin's anger reared its head again. He immediately turned on the tap once more and said, "Stubborn, aren't you? In that case, just stand here until you admit it."

Water once again spilled over her, and Rachel's shoulders shrank back violently.

However, Justin took a step back and coldly looked at his watch, nary a sign of concern on his face. He wanted to see how long Rachel could withstand this treatment

Time ticked by. Rachel stood in the tub, her mind addled from the rush of cold water. Meanwhile, her thin legs kept shaking. Several times, she nearly toppled over from losing her footing. Despite all that, she had no intention of giving in.

She could not shoulder such a heavy, scandalous burden, but she wasn't willing to let herself be humiliated for nothing either.

She would not admit to something she never did! Wasn't it just water anyway?

She was not afraid.

Rachel had no idea how much time had passed. Justin's expression turned darker and darker as he looked at his watch amidst the sloshing of the water in the bathroom.

Thump.

In the end, Rachel could no longer hold herself up and collapsed into the water. The agony she felt when her knees smashed into the edge of the tub left her sight dark, and she keeled over.

Justin's forehead screwed up into a tight frown, and the expression on his face turned complicated. His large frame made the bathroom seem cramped in comparison.

She never once said anything even before she fainted. There must be something else behind this matter.

In the end, Justin fished the little figure out of the bath. He dried her with a towel and carried her back to the bed.

My head hurts, and my throat itches.

Rachel felt absolutely weak when she woke up, and she was drenched in cold sweat. She shivered as she clutched her blankets tighter, tears misting over her eyes.

Scanned with CamScanner

The door suddenly swung open violently just then, and it startled her.

Mrs. Duncan looked at her in displeasure before slapping a bowl down. "Mr. Burton wishes for you to have this." The soup splashed out of the bowl, splattering over the bedside table.

Rachel quietly pulled out some tissue paper and wiped away the spilled soup.

Judging from the smell... It's ginger soup.

"Such a calamity-bringer, falling sick shortly after marrying into the family. A cripple is a cripple, all right," Mrs. Duncan scoffed coldly. With that, she whipped around and left.

Rachel's head felt like it was about to split apart. Naturally, she was in no shape to get worked up over Mrs. Duncan's caustic words. She did her best to lift her hand up and toss the tissue paper into the bin nearby.

Meanwhile, She didn't consume a drop of the ginger soup. Who knew whether someone had spiked it? After all, there were too many people in this household who wished her harm.

It hadn't been long since she set the ginger soup aside when the door opened again. This time, it was Justin.

Rachel couldn't stop herself from shuddering when she saw him. At the thought of what had happened last night, her skin chilled again, seeming as though she was soaking inside a tub of icy water once more.

I'm scared...

Rachel forced down her fear and did her best to sign. *Someone framed me.*

Unfortunately, Justin didn't understand her. His tone was cold as he said, "There's no need to keep gesturing. Since you won't admit to it, then you will have to prove to me yourself that you have nothing to do with that matter."

Rachel stiffened. What did he mean by that?

"Put on some clothes." With that, Justin turned around. "I'll be waiting for you downstairs."

Justin drove her straight to the private high school she once studied at. Other than the principal, the PE teacher who was involved stood inside the principal's office as

well.

"Mr. Burton, there's most likely been a misunderstanding over that incident back then." The principal was a nervous, timid mess when faced with Justin. He was deeply afraid that he would offend the Burtons because of this old incident.

Justin lifted a hand and cut off the principal. "Is that him?" he asked expressionlessly as he looked at Rachel.

Rachel and the bald PE teacher looked each other in the eye from where they stood between the principal and Justin. All those unpleasant memories from high school instantly crashed over her, and she reflexively shrank back toward Justin.

Justin caught sight of this instinctive action, and it inexplicably caused his heart to clench.

Yes. Rachel stiffly nodded.

“Tell me everything about the incident now I want to know the beginning, the in between, and the results.” Justin’s voice was frosty and distant. When he looked at Rachel, his gaze was devoid of any warmth a husband should have.

The others inside the office exchanged glances. It seemed that the rumors were true; what kind of rights would a mute who married into the Burton Family have?

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Justin had brought a sign language teacher to the principal’s office so that she could help Rachel interpret her responses.

At that moment, the woman clenched her teeth and met the PE teacher’s gaze. *The person in the video isn’t me. Please explain yourself.*

“How can it not be you?” the PE teacher insisted. “You were the one who seduced me back then.”

You’re lying. Rachel quickly signed. *Why would I seduce you?*

When the teacher’s interpreted response reached Justin’s ears, he fell into thought. Although Rachel was a mute, she was still the eldest daughter of the Hudson Family after putting aside her unfortunate circumstances. It was indeed unexpected to think that she would seduce an ugly PE teacher.

However, the PE teacher had his own comeback. “You wanted to raise your gym scores. The university you applied for required excellent scores across the board, but your grades for gym were too low. You couldn’t successfully tempt me and you threatened me with a video clip, so I was forced to change your scores.”

Rachel’s face drained of color, and she frantically defended herself by signing away.

“How could I seduce a teacher just to change my scores?”

The way Justin looked at her changed. Amidst the tense stand-off, he gave an order coldly. “Check the records,” he said.

The school records would have all of a student’s grades, and everything would be clear as long as they checked the records.

Rachel’s school records were soon retrieved. Despite her muteness, she excelled in every subject, save for the ‘fail’ grade at the end of her second semester as a sophomore, which had been struck out with red pen.

Anyone could see what the problem was since the grade had been changed to a higher one when she had failed it.

Intense coldness bubbled instantly in Justin's eyes. "What else do you have to say for yourself?" he asked Rachel coldly.

Rachel's face was even whiter than the walls around her, and she shook her head weakly.

Smack. The packet containing her school records was flung onto the desk. "From now on, you are no longer the mistress of the Burton Family."

The entire office went horrendously silent after those words fell.

Rachel panicked. She didn't dare to believe that Justin would so easily believe the PE teacher's testimony.

No, she could not let the Burtons hate her! She had to explain things clearly since she couldn't afford to leave the Burtons. After all, her grandmother was still in Jeffrey's clutches.

Since she was still in a panic, Rachel blocked Justin's path and hastily signed something. *I can get my schoolmates back then to back me up.*

"There's no need for that. We Burtons have already been embarrassed enough!" Justin's tone was cold beyond belief. He swept his gaze over her in distaste and left with large strides, not once hesitating at all.

"Allow me to send you off, Mr. Burton." The principal quickly followed him. Meanwhile, the teachers who were left behind also scattered.

Rachel's mind was blank as she looked at Justin's back. Someone bumped into her, and she staggered from the impact. Her knees crashed against the coffee table from this, and she crouched down from the pain.

"Are you okay, Rachel?" a man called out behind her.

Rachel snapped out of her pain. She reflexively turned around, but before she could regain her footing, she hastily took several steps back to look fearfully at the bald man before her.

Everyone else in the office had left; she and the PE teacher were the only ones left.

Don't come closer

"I thought that there was going to be a huge disaster since Justin Burton came knocking on the school's door." The PE teacher chuckled coldly. "Who would have thought that it would be resolved so easily? Looks like your time with the Burtons hasn't been great, Rachel."

The latter's limbs instantly chilled. She looked at the door through the corners of her eyes before she tried to make a break for it. However, the PE teacher's eyes were sharp and his movements were swift. In one move, he gripped her arm and dragged her back roughly before viciously flinging her onto the couch. "You haven't even explained yourself properly. Why are you running?" he asked maliciously.

Rachel saw stars from the impact, and her heart dropped into an abyss.

Don't touch me! Someone, save me!

She opened her mouth and did her best in an attempt to make a sound, but regardless of her efforts, all she could make her throat produce was a hoarse, sobbing sound.

"Don't be scared." The PE teacher's gaze moved downward, a perverted smile appearing on his face as he stared at Rachel's heaving chest. "If you had just been willing to be a good girl back then, I wouldn't have been worried about you making a fuss, and I wouldn't have thought of covering it up. Now's a good chance for me; not even Justin Burton wants you now, so why don't you just come with me..."

Rachel shook her head in despair. She shrank into the corner of the couch, her entire body trembling

The truth back then was actually simple—a lecherous PE teacher wanted to take advantage of a mute girl, but he wasn't able to get what he wanted. In order to hide the truth, he fashioned a situation, one where he blew the whistle instead when he was the villain, and he sent the school into an uproar. No one cared about the truth at all, for all they wanted was to be entertained.

Right now, not even Justin believed her.

The man's hand was already reaching toward her. Rachel's eyes were filled with fear, and they were wide with despair.

Don't come closer...

All of a sudden, the office's door was sent flying onto the wall with a loud *crash*. The entire room practically shook. The next moment, the PE teacher let out a blood curdling cry as someone knocked him over.

By the time Rachel regained her senses, the PE teacher's lecherous face was already viciously mashed into the ground by a foot in a leather shoe. That foot rubbed hard against his face like it was a clear

"Ah—" The PE teacher's features contorted into an eerie facsimile as he screamed.

Rachel lifted her head. When her gaze moved upward from the shoe, her entire body froze.

The gigantic figure's shadow descended, swallowing up Rachel's entire figure amidst the dust in the room.

The man's cold, handsome face was a little bit of a blur. His voice wasn't loud, but it was authoritative. "Whichever hand he used to touch my woman, then that hand will be maimed."

It was Justin

Didn't he leave?

Justin's assistant, Frankie, retrieved a pinhole camera from behind a painting in the office. "Everything has been recorded, Mr. Burton."

It wasn't until the PE teacher had been dragged outside that Rachel returned to reality. She looked at the man in front of her in shock. *You were here the whole time?*

Justin's forehead twisted into a small frown as he looked at the disheveled woman.

There were far too many holes in the news story, and it couldn't hold up at all. However, it was also difficult to find any definitive proof because of how long ago it was. That was why he pulled this stunt so that the PE teacher could have a taste of his own medicine. However, Rachel had to suffer unjustly for this.

Suffer unjustly?

When those words flashed across Justin's mind, his forehead twitched.

Rachel didn't know what Justin was thinking, but she let out a sigh now that the truth had come to light. She gripped the corner of the couch, just barely managing to support herself. However, the pain from her knees assaulted her again when she stood up, making her topple to the ground.

As she let out a scratchy cry of shock, a pair of large hands steadied her just in time.

Justin's eyes darkened when he saw the bruises on Rachel's knees. "Are they injuries from just now?"

Rachel felt uneasy, afraid that she had once again caused trouble

against the couch and carefully signed. *I can walk by myself.*

The tears in the tiny woman's eyes had yet to dry, and her pretty little face was pale and haggard. She clearly was in a lot of pain, yet she still gritted her teeth and forced herself to pretend that everything was okay.

Justin's heart clenched. When she stood up, he pressed a hand onto her shoulder before taking off his jacket and wrapping it around her. Without another word, he scooped her up into a princess carry and carried her away under everyone's stunned gazes.