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Looking arrogant, Sue was filled with contempt as she glared at Rachel.

"You've seen Justin's attitude toward you. I don't care what tricks you've used to replace your sister to marry into this family, but do you think you're fit to become a part of the Burton Family given your disability? Don't you dare to start dreaming about approaching my Julian. I'm telling you-in your dreams!"

I've never thought of approaching Julian. He's just my grandma's doctor-in-charge!

Rachel quickly wrote down this sentence to show Sue.

"What the hell!" Sue flipped Rachel's notebook away furiously.

The notebook fell on the floor, so Rachel quickly went to pick it up.

"Mrs. Duncan, get a cab and send her back to the Hudson Residence right now! Tell them that she's not allowed to enter the Burton Residence again in the future; otherwise, they shall bear the consequences!"

Looking contemptuous, Sue immediately ordered the servant to pack up Rachel's stuff and throw them out.

Mrs. Duncan couldn't wait to see Rachel be driven out of the Burton Residence, so she rapidly stuffed Rachel's belongings into the luggage and dragged it out.

Rachel had very few things to begin with, so her stuff couldn't even fill the entire luggage.

Rachel's face turned pale all of a sudden when she saw that a corner of the luggage was not properly zipped up. She staggered toward Mrs. Duncan to take the luggage back from her because there were her mother's relics in it.

"Mm... mm..." Rachel struggled to speak, so all she could do was let out a coarse sound. Despite her trying hard to gesture, no one understood her.

As such, they argued all the way to the entrance.

"Get lost!" Sue pointed at Rachel with an extremely menacing look.

All Rachel wanted was to get her luggage back, but she was mistaken for refusing to leave. As such, Mrs. Duncan pushed her and said crabbily, "We're asking you to leave. What are you doing?!"

Rachel stumbled and lost her balance. She screamed as her body fell backward.

However, she didn't feel any pain as she had imagined. A pair of big hands supported her back steadily from behind. "What are you guys doing?" A cold rebuke emerged.

Rachel lifted her head to see Justin's frigid face under the light. At this moment, he was staring at the front with a slightly angry look.

Rachel's belongings fell out of the luggage and spread over the floor. With that, Justin immediately realized that she was going to be chased out.

"How dare you?" Justin let go of Rachel as his face darkened even more.

"I-it's..." With her face turned as pale as a sheet, Mrs. Duncan stuttered while glancing at Sue helplessly.

Neither did Sue expect that Justin would appear all of a sudden. Guilt-stricken, she still said stubbornly, "Justin, we can't let this woman stay. The Hudsons are clearly playing with us by doing as such. We can't be bullied by them!"

"Whether I keep her or not is my own business. Others have no right to interfere with it."

Justin's voice wasn't too loud but it was strong, and no one was excused from his statement.

It was rare to have moments like this where Sue would feel embarrassed. She raised Justin on her own, and everyone in the Burton Family respected her, so she had always been arrogant. However, she didn't dare to be haughty when faced with Justin.

Immediately, she was intimidated and attempted to exhort Justin nicely, "Justin, don't be angry. You shouldn't take your marriage lightly. You guys have not registered anyway, so it doesn't count."

Hearing that, Rachel clenched her fists as she became hopeful all of a sudden.

The marriage between the Burton Family and the Hudson Family was a sudden

decision. Although Rachel couldn't escape from it, if Justin was determined to abandon her, there was nothing Jefferey could do either. If that happened, she wouldn't have to continue staying cautiously with the Burton Family.

However, Justin caught a glimpse of Rachel's hope in her eyes. At that moment, without even realizing it, Justin's face darkened.

Is she hoping to leave the Burton Family? In her dreams!

Justin's strong and loud voice emerged in the yard. "If you're referring to this matter, you don't have to be worried, Aunt Sue. We'll get our registration done tomorrow by

2 P.M."

"What?"

There was a change in everyone's expression, including Julian, who just walked out of the house upon hearing the noise.

Seeing Julian walk out, Justin's eyes darkened even more. He grabbed Rachel abruptly and stared fixedly at her. "Without my permission, she's not allowed to leave the Burton Residence, even if it's her own will."

Rachel moaned and gritted her teeth as she felt her arm hurting.

In everyone's eyes at that moment, it seemed as if Justin was protecting Rachel.

However, Julian's eyes darkened.

Sue wore a sulky look but didn't dare to say anything further.

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After all, they were staying at the Burton Residence, and Justin was the master of this place.

"Follow me upstairs." After giving the short, precise command, Justin retracted his gaze from Rachel and strode toward the mansion.

Rachel quickly took the luggage and followed Justin. While passing by Julian, she heard him asking in a low voice, "Are you okay?"

She nodded and quickly caught up with Justin as she didn't dare to stay on any longer. However, Justin overheard Julian's question and felt disturbed for some

reason.

Once the door of the master bedroom upstairs was closed, the mansion became silent.

"What's going on?" Giving off a cold aura, Justin unbuttoned his blazer and sat down on the couch.

Rachel shook her head. *I don't know.*

"Oh, really?" Justin snorted. "Are you very close to Julian?"

His cold voice echoed in the room while Rachel's heart jolted.

"Mm... mm..."

Before she could think of a reply, Justin stood up suddenly and grabbed her cheeks with a fierce look. "You're really something. Aunt Sue wants to drive you out because of Julian, isn't it?"

"Mm...mm..."

"You're refusing to admit it? What's it about then?"

Rachel shook her head incessantly to deny it, but Justin showed her his phone. On the screen plastered a picture of her and Julian in the hospital.

Justin did not let go of her cheeks and continued with harsher words. "Does Jefferey think that he would be able to seize the Burton Family through his two daughters?"

Rachel shook her head helplessly as tears welled up in her eyes.

Justin's pupils dilated as he saw her weak and helpless look. "The reason you willingly replaced Amber to marry into the Burton Family is due to your grandma's illness, am I right?"

Rachel's heart skipped a beat when she heard the word 'grandma'. Fear accumulated in her eyes at once.

What does Justin want to do?

"Is that why you're so obedient to Jefferey?"

Justin's eyes were so frosty that it would leave one flustered. Rachel instinctively wanted to recoil, but her back was already flattened against the wall, and she could feel the coldness from it.

"Have you ever thought that if Jefferey can control you due to this matter, so can I?"

At that moment, Rachel felt her blood run cold.

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There was a tinge of coldness coming from his fingers onto her cheeks that were held with force. However, the voice ringing next to Rachel's ear was even colder.

At this moment, she felt her head ringing as it went blank. Anxious, she quickly turned to look at Justin.

It was only then that he gradually let his grip off and took his seat on the sofa again. With his chin slightly tilted upward, he said with an arrogant, cold look, "I thought that you were lying. Now I see that you're willing to do anything to help with your grandma's illness."

After a few moments, she suddenly remembered that she had to breathe, so she took a deep breath in too quickly. Due to that, she choked hard and ended up holding her neck with her body leaning against the wall as she had a consecutive string of coughs.

She choked so badly that tears welled up in her eyes. Amidst her coughs, her hand that was holding a pen trembled. 'What do you mean?'

Seeing that, he calmly took a breath in before letting it out. As he tucked his crossed fingers between his knees, he looked up at her before saying, "I want to make a deal with you."

There was a brief pause before he continued his next sentence.

"I want the Hudson Family's prescription."

It's the prescription again! He's indeed coming for the Hudson's prescription!

When she heard that, her face turned pale as she shook her head several times. What prescription? I don't know."

The Hudson Family's prescription was a trade secret that serves as the key livelihood of Hudson Pharmaceuticals. Even Amber didn't know much about it, much less Rachel, the neglected daughter who was born out of wedlock.

"We're not in a rush."

Of course, he was aware of the limitations of her capabilities.

"The Hudson Family owns many prescriptions, but I only want one-the one in Jefferey's private safe."

Upon hearing that, she shook her head helplessly. 'You're asking too much from me?'

No matter which prescription he'd ask for, she wouldn't be able to obtain any of them.

"Too much?" As he looked at her neat handwriting on the notebook, his face turned dark. He then looked at her with a cold gaze before he blurted, "That's right! I'm asking a lot from you because it's what you Hudsons owe me!"

Years back, they were the ones who caused Katie's death in that fire. It was a blood debt that had to be paid back, so there was no way he'd be asking too much from them.

As his train of thoughts ran through his mind, his face turned even darker. In a cold tone, he continued, "Jefferey will be celebrating his birthday at the end of the month. If you manage to get it, I'll help you eliminate the evidence he has against you. You will no longer be restricted by them."

Hearing his deep voice echo in the room, she shuddered.

Justin wants to do something to Grandma... No way!

"Have you considered it?"

"Give me some time? She could only compromise.

Nevertheless, she knew that she was unable to do what he asked of her. Not to mention, she didn't even know where the safe he mentioned was. How could she get the prescription?

"Are you trying to negotiate with me?"

Gritting her teeth, she held onto the pen tightly as she wrote, "Grandma's operation is next Monday. I can only do that after her operation ends."

Looking at her determined look, he knew that he'd gained nothing if he were to push her further. After giving it some thought, he briefly replied, "Okay."

After waiting for so many years, he didn't mind waiting for a mere few days.

"Don't try to pull anything funny." Before he left, he gave her a warning. "Don't forget. No one is going to have your back if you screw up."

Right after that, the door was slammed shut with a bang, causing Rachel to tremble.

After a few seconds, she held onto the arms of the chair before she sat down as her legs felt weak.

It seemed that she could no longer reside in the Burton Family nor in Riverdale, so she must bring her grandma and leave as soon as possible.

The next day.

When Justin was about to head out in the morning, he bumped into Julian at the door.

"Morning."

“Waiting for someone?” Justin nodded in acknowledgment as he gazed past Julian and noticed that he was leaning against a car like he was waiting for someone.

Without bothering to evade, he replied, “I’m going to work. On the way, I’ll bring Rae to see her grandma at the hospital.”

“Rae?” The nickname sounded extra unpleasant to Justin’s ears as the look in his eyes turned cold.

At this moment, Rachel came out of the house carrying a minimalistic white tote bag. Seeing the two men looking at her, she was stumped.

What are the odds of such a coincidence?

She had even deliberately decided to leave a little later than usual just to avoid these two men.

“Morning, Rae!” Julian’s voice traveled past Justin’s figure and entered her ears.

Out of instinct, she looked up and offered the source of the voice a smile, but her smile quickly faltered when her eyes met Justin’s. Hence, she tentatively gave a nod in response without budging.

“Let’s go. I’ll take you to the hospital.”

Julian’s voice could be heard once again. It was as warm and gentle as the morning sunlight

“There’s no need for that. I’ll drop her off on my way to work.” At this moment, Justin’s voice echoed in the front porch, somehow dimming the warmth of this morning’s sunlight.

Hearing that made her face freeze.

“Rae...” Julian’s gaze turned serious.

Inevitably, she didn’t have the guts to look at Julian in his eyes as her clutch on the tote bag strap tightened. Under Justin’s pressuring gaze, she slowly threaded toward him and got into his car.

He didn’t even have to say anything else.

Meanwhile, Julian seemed like a kicked puppy as he watched her sitting in Justin’s

car.

As Justin walked past Julian, he put his palm on Julian's shoulder firmly before saying in a cold tone, "You should call her Rachel; she is your in-law, not your friend."

Upon hearing that, Julian froze in his tracks.

As the MPV left the front porch, the atmosphere at the scene seemed too heavy for a day in summer.

The white figure standing at the front porch became smaller and smaller in the rear mirror, and Rachel couldn't help but sink into a state of guilt.

"What's wrong? Are you unwilling to be in my car?"

At this moment, a cold voice spoke up from beside her. At once, she snapped out of her thoughts and shook her head in denial.

"Then, are you disappointed because you didn't get to ride with Julian?"

Once again, she shook her head. 'I don't want to ride in his car. Even if I didn't get into yours, I wouldn't have gone with him.'

"Oh? Really?"

'Madam Parham doesn't like it when I get too close with Julian, so I will keep my distance from him.'

After being around Justin for some time, she learned that it was vital for her to get things straight so that unnecessary misunderstandings wouldn't happen.

Hearing that, he couldn't help but scoff. "Very sensible of you."

Sue had always taken Julian's marriage seriously. Usually, she wouldn't even approve of normal girls, much less Rachel.

After taking a glance at her, Justin turned his attention away to the view outside the window before he said monotonously, "Stay away from Julian. Don't get into trouble."

She nodded immediately to indicate that she had understood.

Seeing how obtuse she seemed, he no longer felt like talking to her. Hence, he shut his eyes and leaned back into the seat.

The view outside the window was moving backward at a high speed, and it was silent in the car. Hearing the steady and soft breaths coming from the man sitting next to her, Rachel no longer felt anxious.

At this moment, she tentatively turned to look at him.

The scar on his face seemed to have faded a lot, and he didn't look as scary and tenacious in his sleep.

Just as she was observing his features, she suddenly saw from her hindsight that the driver was checking her out from the rearview mirror. At once, she was stumped. Not knowing what else to do, she quickly bowed down to reach for her tote bag that had fallen between the two seats in hopes that the awkwardness would dissipate.

The moment she picked up the tote bag, her wrist was grabbed by a big hand.

Inevitably, she was caught off guard. She initially thought that Justin must have woken up, but he seemed to be still having his eyes closed when she turned to check on him. Nonetheless, she also noticed that droplets of cold sweat trickled down his forehead where the scar was imprinted on his skin. *He must be having a nightmare.*

Would a person like him get nightmares too? Though she couldn't understand why, she felt a little bad for him.

After a few moments, she finally calmed herself back down and decided to carefully retract her hand back.

"Katie..."

After a string of murmurs, he suddenly opened his eyes. At this moment, his gaze was as cold as a sharp sword, puncturing into her eyes in a swift action. Stupefied, she couldn't help but shudder as she held her breath.

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The atmosphere in the car almost felt like it was frozen.

Justin looked like he was still trapped in his dream as he hadn't loosened his grip on Rachel's wrist. His sharp gaze slowly turned out of focus as he looked in her direction, and it seemed like he was looking at someone else through her.

At this moment, she was too terrified to budge an inch.

"Mr. Burton, we've reached the hospital."

The driver's announcement managed to snap him out of his thoughts, clearing the haze before his eyes as he began to get a clear look at the woman in front of him. Almost immediately, his expression turned back to his usual cold look before he blurted, "Get down."

Not daring to delay further, she quickly obliged by grabbing her tote bag and got out of the car.

As she watched the MPV take off from the hospital's entrance, she heaved a sigh of relief. However, she was still dwelling on what happened earlier as she rubbed her wrist that was held forcefully. Out of instinct, she turned her wrist several times to ensure that it was still intact.

This man is scary even in his sleep.

However... She heard him call out a name earlier.

Was it... Katie?

Meanwhile, Justin was still in a trance after the car had left the hospital.

As the driver held the wheels, he asked with a worried look, "Mr. Burton, did you have a nightmare again just now?"

Justin's thick brows furrowed as his expression turned stoic.

It had been years since he last dreamt about the big fire.

Human's memory was bound to fade off as time passed. No matter how hard he tried

to remember, his memory of her seemed to be gradually fading away.

He couldn't recall when was the last time he remembered her face. All he could remember was a pair of eyes filled with tears in the big fire. Every time he tried to take a better look at her face, the dream would end.

Earlier, he saw Rachel's face on the girl in the fire.

At the thought of that, he clenched his fists so tight that his green veins looked as if they were popping out.

How could she?

"To the cemetery." The driver could hear Justin's cold voice coming from the backseat.

The driver was caught off guard when his gaze met Justin's through the rear-view mirror. At once, his hands that were gripping the wheel trembled before he answered, "Alright."

Justin didn't say anything else after that succinct instruction.

Meanwhile, Rachel was spending the entire day at the hospital with her grandma.

It was going to be Monday the next day, and her grandma's operation was scheduled to start early in the morning. It was specially arranged by Julian in regards to Rachel, so she was going to keep her grandma company throughout the night.

"Her temperature's normal. If no problem occurs, she'll be able to undergo the operation early in the morning."

In the ward, Julian was measuring Nancy's body temperature as he spoke to Rachel about things she should look out for prior to the operation.

"She has to fast starting this afternoon. Later around 2 P.M., she'll have to undergo an enema. There will be some slight discomfort, so do give her a heads up to mentally prepare."

With a nod, Rachel wrote, "I'll let my grandma know."

"Right, you must've not had lunch yet." Taking a glance at his watch, he proposed,

"Come on, let's eat together."

Nonetheless, she shook her head in rejection, 'No thanks, I'd like to keep my grandma company.'

As Julian was about to say something, a woman's voice cut him off, "Julian, you're here. I've been looking for you high and low."

Upon hearing that, both Rachel and Julian frowned, and they did it almost in sync,

None of them needed to look to know that it was Amber,

'Dr. Peters, you can go along with your work. I'll head back in.'

At once, Julian held on to Rachel before he said, "You still need to eat."

That made her halt her steps. In the next moment, Amber was already standing right before the two of them.

When Amber saw how he was holding onto Rachel, her face turned dark,

It took Rachel a moment before she snapped out of the trance and pulled her hand back with a frown on her forehead.

As Julian's gaze swept past Amber, he said coldly, "We're going to eat. What do you need?"

"You two?" The raging fire in her eyes was evident. She gritted her teeth as she said, "Isn't it a little inappropriate for you two to eat together?"

Just as Rachel was about to free herself from his grip, he spoke up. "There are so many people in the hospital cafeteria. What's inappropriate about eating together? Your house rules must be very strict, Miss Hudson."

"I don't mean it that way, ... Julian, I'm here to ask for your thoughts on a case diagnosis..."

"It's lunch break now."

With a courteous yet distant tone, he didn't bother to let her finish as he cut her off. "We can talk after I have my lunch. Let's go."

It was rare for Rachel to see Amber embarrassed like that. What was more, Rachel didn't expect that Julian, who had always been kind to everyone, would treat her so coldly. She was a little stumped at the moment, and she was already led down the hallway away from Amber when she came to her senses.

'Wait! At this moment, she tentatively tugged on his sleeve.

"What is it?" He stopped in his tracks immediately.

'Dr. Peters, you should go ahead and eat. I'm not hungry yet?

Though it was satisfying to see Amber getting flabbergasted, Rachel insisted on turning him down.

In response, he frowned and asked with patience, "Are you avoiding me? Is there a reason why you're doing that?"

Hearing that, she shook her head before offering him a smile. "I need to go keep grandma company?"

After that, she turned on her heels and headed back to the ward.

The moment she turned around, the smile on her lips slowly went missing. In the current situation she was in, she couldn't afford to offend Sue anymore.

As he watched her walk away, he couldn't help but feel a mixture of sadness and disappointment.

It was a feeling that he had not felt before in the past two decades.

As soon as she walked into the ward, her grandma looked at her with a stumped expression. "Why are you back already? Didn't you go to eat with Julian?"

How did you know that?

Obviously, Rachel was surprised to see her reaction.

“How can I not know? I was the one who asked him to bring you to get something to eat,” she said with a triumphant smile on her face. “Dr. Julian is a good man. Not only does he look good, but he’s also good in many other aspects as well. Most importantly, I can see that he has feelings for you. Rae, you should grab the chance.”

At once, Rachel reached forward to cover her grandma’s mouth. *Don’t say that! We shouldn’t tarnish his image and name. The relationship between us isn’t what you think it is. You’re overthinking it. What is Grandma thinking? Is she trying to play cupid?*

Seeing that Rachel had gotten all flustered, her grandma thought it was best for her to stop going on. Nonetheless, she still felt a little dissatisfied with how the conversation ended. “Rae, never think too lowly of yourself. In my eyes, you are so much better than Amber.”

Hearing that, Rachel could only shake her head helplessly.

Whether she was better or not, it no longer mattered. The truth was, she was already married to Justin.

At this moment, her grandma held onto her hand before sighing, “My beloved Rae is all grown up already. You’re a chip off the old block; you look as beautiful as your mother was.”

Rachel didn’t really have many memories about her mother, and whatever she now knew were stories she heard from her grandma. From her grandma’s eyes, her mother was smart, gentle and kind-she was the finest woman in the world.

How did my mother die?

When Rachel brought this up, her grandma’s face turned pale, and she fell silent.

Just as Rachel thought that her grandma would tell her the story as she usually would, she suddenly lowered her voice before murmuring, “Because of a piece of the prescription.”

Prescription? Why is it the prescription again?

At once, Rachel’s heart skipped a beat. She simply stared at her grandma with a dumbfounded face.

Her grandma then asked, “Rae, do you remember what happened when you were young?”

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Shaking her head, Rachel gave her grandma a blank look.

She couldn't remember most of the things that had happened when she was young. All this while, she suspected she learned the ability to recollect memories a little later than other children since she couldn't remember much. Besides that, she only remembered a little of the time before she arrived at Riverdale.

Seeing her reaction, Nancy reached out her frail, bony hand to brush several strands of Rachel's fringe behind her ear, revealing her neat, beautiful face.

As if she was talking to herself, she murmured, "It seems that you don't remember. If you did, you wouldn't have followed Jefferey here."

Hearing that, she was dumbfounded. *Why? Didn't Dad bring us over to Riverdale because he thought that our old place wasn't safe?*

When Rachel was young, she lived in the mountains with her grandma and mother. (This novel will be daily updated at www.novelheart.com) After a huge forest fire happened which resulted in her mother's death, Jefferey brought her and her grandma over to Riverdale. "Of course not, that old dog, he did it because..."

Because of what?

After the accident was brought up, Nancy looked uneasy. Sadness seemed to have emanated from her clouded eyes.

At this moment, Rachel tugged on her grandma's sleeve. *Grandma, are you okay?*

All of a sudden, Nancy snapped out of the trance before she replied, "Yeah."

She then gently patted the back of Rachel's hand as she said, "Rae, you must live a happy life. We just have to be honest and true to ourselves. That suffices. Your mom who's looking over you from above will want you to be safe and sound."

Upon hearing that, Rachel nodded obediently.

"Right, Rae, do you still keep the box that your mom left for you?"

Yes. She nodded once again.

"You must keep it well."

Grandma, what's inside the box?

From what seemed to be the beginning of her memories, Nancy had been asking her to keep the box well. However, the box was square like a cube, and there was no opening to it. It looked like a piece of wood that had been tinkered on.

Nevertheless, Nancy referred to that as a box.

“One day, when you open it, you’ll know.”

She said that meaningfully, but Rachel was still confused. She couldn’t help but feel that her grandma was hiding something from her.

As the operation was scheduled to take place in the early morning, Rachel could only catch a wink of sleep for a brief moment.

The fact that Julian would be the lead surgeon for the operation made her feel so much more at ease.

The light of the operation room was on while she waited alone. At the break of dawn, the operation was finally done and the door of the operation room was pushed open, revealing Julian who walked out as he was taking off his mask.

“The operation was successful. Your grandma is fine.” With his gaze fixed on her, he told her with a smile.

It was only then that Rachel could heave a sigh of relief as she lay back against the chair,

“Are you okay?” Instinctively, he quickly reached out, making a gesture to help support her.

She then shook her head. *Thank you.*

“Don’t mention it. It’s my job as a doctor. You should go catch some sleep since you didn’t rest very well last night. Your grandma’s still on anesthesia and she won’t be waking up so soon.”

Hearing that, she nodded without shifting her body.

Throughout the operation, she had been tense as she waited. Now that she could relax, her legs felt so weak that she couldn’t even walk.

Seeing that, Julian felt his heart ache. “Let me help you.”

She then waved him off. “I’ll rest here for a while. I’ll leave my grandma to you then.”

Needless to say, he could clearly feel she was distancing herself from him. He was about to ask her something, but he held it back when he saw how weak she

seemed. After debating with himself, he didn't speak up about what was on his mind.

"I'll buy you some food then."

Before she could reject him, he had already handed her a bottle of water and left.

Once again, she was alone in the empty hallway.

Since the operation was over, she now had to face the things that she dreaded. She couldn't help but feel nervous about it.

Meanwhile, in the morning, at the Burton Residence.

"Justin, go easy on the caffeine. It's bad for your health."

At this moment, Sue placed a cup of fruit juice in front of him before taking a glance in the direction of the second room. "Rachel didn't come back for the past two days. I wonder what she is up to that she can't even take care of her husband. This is absurd."

As Justin read the newspaper, he said disdainfully, "She's taking care of her grandma at the hospital."

"There are caretakers in the hospital. Is it really necessary for her to be there 24/7? Julian hasn't come home for these past two days too. Every time I called him, he said that he was busy. I'm sure that Rachel is bugging him."

Hearing that, Justin looked up from behind the newspaper with a dark gaze.

"Justin, don't get mad at me if I say this as I know that you feel sympathy for the mute, but the Burton Family isn't doing charity. We don't just take in anyone. Not only is the mute not behaving herself, she even goes out to do inappropriate stuff. I'm sure she has some ulterior motive."

Sue got more agitated as she went on. "Julian's always helping her, and he doesn't even listen to his mother now. You remember how soft-hearted he always was, don't you? It must be the mute who seduced..."

Suddenly, a loud thud sounded from the coffee cup colliding with the dining table. Sue's ongoing nag stopped at once as she looked up frantically to meet with Justin's cold expression

"Justin, I may have said a little too much, but... I'm doing this for you."

He then cut her off, "Aunt Sue, you can start thinking about Julian's marriage if you're free."

That caught Sue off guard.

"I'm done eating. I'm heading to the company now."

With that, he grabbed his coat and left the dining room in large strides.

Hearing the roar of the engine starting from the porch, Sue blurted out as her face sank, "That mute is such a scourge! Justin made it obvious that he doesn't want my input on this, so it seems that she won't be going anywhere for some time. What a bummer."

As Mrs. Duncan tidied the table, she consoled Sue. "Madam, there's no need to let her bother you. After all, she is mute. That's all she is. Julian won't be interested in her. However, are you really interested in Ms. Amber?"

"Amber Hudson?" Sue scoffed. "What's so great about the Hudson Family? They just run a traditional medicine business. If it wasn't for Justin's proposal, they would've never had the chance to enter our family."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Duncan was confused. "Then you mean..."

"We'll just watch them fight. It'll even be great if they both end up losing. The thing is, I'll have to talk to the Tuscan Family if the mute stays any longer."

At the mention of the Tuscan Family, Mrs. Duncan was stumped. "Are you still dealing with the Tuscans—"

Before she could finish, Sue suddenly recalled something and she beamed. "It's been

some time since we last visited Old Mr. Burton."

With a nod, Mrs. Duncan agreed. "Every summer, he'd come from his hometown to the summer villa in Riverdale for vacation. We have just missed the season."

At this moment, Sue looked like she had an idea. "Ever since Justin got married, Old Mr. Burton has yet to meet his new daughter-in-law. I should go visit him and give him a heads up."

Hearing that, Mrs. Duncan was stunned for a moment before she quickly reacted with a smile on her face. (This novel will be daily updated at www.novelheart.com) "That's right. You're the one who raised Young Master Justin. Everyone in the Burton household respects you—even Old Mr. Burton listens to you."

What Mrs. Duncan said had sent all of Sue's worries out of the window. With a triumphant look, Sue announced, "This weekend then. Prepare some presents. I'll pay Old Mr. Burton a visit."

"Yes, ma'am."

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In the headquarters of the Burton Group, there was incense with the scent of tea leaves burning. The refreshing scent had set a good tone for people to focus.

Though Justin wasn't old, he was rather old-fashioned. He did things in a minimal manner, and he always had a stoic expression. Perhaps that was why he was in charge

of the company at such a young age. Moreover, he was well-respected by everyone there,

"Mr. Burton, the East Pearl Project is almost finalized. These are the latest updates."

"Alright." He took over the documents and flipped through them as he leaned against the couch. At this moment, he casually asked, "How are things at the hospital?"

At once, Frankie answered, "The operation went smoothly. Mrs. Burton has been taking care of her grandma on her own, and she's recovering well and will be discharged in a week. Besides that, Mrs. Burton has been looking around for houses."

"She's looking for houses?"

"Most probably it's for her grandma to stay after she gets discharged," he explained. "Initially, Mrs. Burton has been staying with her grandma in the Hudson Residence. However, now that Mrs. Burton's married, her grandma probably doesn't want to continue staying there since they aren't related."

His words were carefully chosen as the truth was actually harsher. Based on Rachel's position in the Hudson Family, her grandma would probably not live comfortably there.

Hearing that, Justin remained quiet for a moment before saying, "Regarding the house, arrange it for them privately."

Snapping out of a trance, Frankie answered, "Okay."

Wasn't Mr. Burton uninterested in Mrs. Burton's condition? His attitude toward her changes every day...

On the other hand, Rachel had kept her grandma company at the hospital for a few days. Seeing that she seemed to be covering well as she regained her energy, Rachel felt relieved.

Early in the morning, Julian did his rounds and came to check for any post-op infections. After that, the hospital had arranged a single ward for Nancy which was much quieter than before.

"Your grandma's recovering well. If this goes on, she may be able to get discharged earlier than expected," Julian said with a smile as he tucked his stethoscope into the pocket of his white coat.

"Thank you for everything these past few days, Dr. Peters." Although Nancy's head was bandaged, she didn't look like a patient at all. She was very energetic as she held Julian's hand, giving him a look of adoration.

"There's something that I've been meaning to ask you."

With a gentle smile on his lips, he said, "What is it? Please go ahead."

"What do you think about Rachel?"

What Nancy said had left Rachel flabbergasted, and she had nearly cut herself with the knife she was using to cut apples.

Meanwhile, Julian didn't think it was odd. He took a glance at her before saying, "Rae's good. She's beautiful, and her personality is easygoing. Most importantly, she's kind."

"Do you not mind that she can't speak?"

It was only then that he sensed where the conversation was heading, so he was stunned for a moment.

Before he could answer, Rachel quickly tugged on her grandma as she signed. *Grandma, what are you talking about? Cut it out.*

"She's even shy now," Nancy said with a smile. "Dr. Peters, Rae is around the same age as you. Although her academic background isn't as extensive as yours, she did complete her masters and now has a steady job. She's working at the Riverdale City Council Library as a bookkeeper."

Just like that, Nancy blurted everything out. She sounded like she was on a blind date trying to build her reputation. At that moment, Rachel wanted to bury herself deep in the ground.

"Dr. Peters, Rae is a good lady. You should consider her."

At this point, Julian looked a little confused. As he took a glance at Rachel, he noticed that she was carefully shaking her head as if asking him for help.

It seemed that Nancy had yet to know his relationship with Rachel. Not only that, she might not even know that Rachel was already married to someone.

After chit-chatting, Nancy urged Rachel to send Julian off, which was a rather obvious attempt of giving them a chance to be alone.

'I'm sorry. Please don't take what my grandma said earlier to heart?

As soon as they exited the ward, she quickly apologized to him.

Obviously, Julian didn't understand. "Does your grandma not know that you got married? Why didn't you tell her?"

The Burton Family was a rich family in Riverdale, so getting married into the family was considered a good thing no matter what Justin was like as a person.

However, she could only show a forced look. 'Please keep this a secret from my grandma for now. I'll tell her everything when the time comes?

Maybe she wouldn't even have to tell her if she could successfully bring her grandma and leave Riverdale together.

Seeing how troubled she looked, he frowned. "Is there something held against you that forced you into marriage with my cousin?"

Hearing that, she froze.

"He has always been introverted, so it was surprising when I heard that he was getting married. I initially thought that it'd be a business marriage of some sort. I heard that Hudson Pharmaceuticals had been in a pickle previously. Are you doing this because of the Hudson Family..."

Seeing his concerned look, Rachel was touched, yet she felt aggrieved.

Although Julian's guess was not completely right, it was the first time anyone had asked her this question after she was married to Justin.

Everyone thought that she was very lucky to get married into the Burton Family; a mute that got married with Justin Burton must be very grateful.

Shaking her head, she denied.

At this moment, her phone rang, interrupting their conversation.

After unlocking her cell phone, she saw an unfamiliar number calling her. After the call got connected, the sound of a man could be heard. "You must be Miss Hudson. I'm from the property center. Are you looking for a house? I happen to have one on hand, and I can bring you over to take a look this afternoon."

As she couldn't speak, she wanted to end the call and text him back. However, Julian reached out and offered, "Let me."

As the two of them stood quite close, he heard what the property agent said earlier.

He knew about her looking for a stay anyway.

With gratitude, she then passed the phone over.

“Hello, it’s not very convenient for her to pick up the phone right now. You can tell me about the property instead. This afternoon?” He took a glance at his wrist watch before saying, “Can we meet around 12.30 at noon? I’ll be having my break at that time so I can go over to take a look. Mm-hmm, okay then.”

After hanging up, he returned the phone back to Rachel. “I’ll accompany you to look at the house at 12 noon later.”

At once, she shook her head frantically. ‘No need to trouble you. I can go myself?’

“It’s fine, you seem a little gullible.” He offered a subtle smile before adding, “I’m free this afternoon anyway, so I’ll go with you.”

“Thank you!

She couldn’t reject him as she knew that she’d be a little afraid to view the property on her own.

Not long after, it was 12 noon. Julian drove Rachel to meet with the property agent at the place they agreed on earlier.

The property agent who was wearing a formal suit was very friendly as he introduced them to the features of the house. “A unit is 150 square meters. Each block has a lift of its own, making it very convenient for elder people. It’s very suitable for your condition.”

Following the property agent, Rachel took a good look at the unit right in front of her. It did seem like quite a good place.

The building has fifteen floors, and each unit had kitchens and bathrooms. They were also fully renovated and ready for moving in. Most importantly, the location was great. It was just a ten-minute walk away from the library she worked at. If something urgent came up with her grandma, Rachel could rush home very quickly.

But...

“Why? You don’t like it?” Julian’s voice came from behind. “I think it’s not bad here.”

With doubts, she asked, “How much is the rent here?”

Seeing her handwriting, the property agent smiled. "Don't worry, Miss Hudson, this unit is very affordable. The monthly rent is three thousand."

Three thousand?

Rachel was stunned to hear that.

Though she didn't have experience in renting houses, she knew that based on the location and the renovations, she couldn't even afford a bathroom with three thousand.

How is that possible?

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Having noticed that Rachel seemed doubtful, the property agent quickly said, "If you think it's expensive, the price is still negotiable. I can bring the price down to two thousand."

At once, she widened her eyes in disbelief at what she just heard.

She hadn't even said anything, and yet the property agent lowered the price by a thousand?

That's ridiculous!

Similarly, Julian sensed that something was off, so he asked straightforwardly, "Are there any problems with this unit?"

"What do you mean by that, sir? There isn't any place that is more suitable within three miles. There are no problems with this unit—it's even new! The price is also very affordable."

"Based on what you said and what we see, the rental of this house is the problem."

When the property agent heard that, his face froze. Looking at Rachel with a questioning face, he asked, "Do you two think that it's too cheap?"

Rachel then nodded honestly.

"This..." The property agent scratched the back of his head immediately. "Two thousand isn't so bad..."

At this moment, Rachel looked up the rental of houses within the area on her phone only to find out that the average rental was around fifteen thousand. That made her even more suspicious.

Tugging on Julian's sleeve, she shook her head.

Understanding what she meant, he announced, "We want to have a look at other places first. We'll decide again later."

With that, he was prepared to leave with Rachel.

Anxious that they might leave, the property agent called out to them. "Why don't you name a price? You can pay any price and rent it."

That rendered them speechless.

When they were back in the car, Rachel took a look at the other houses and their respective rentals that were sent by the same property agent. It only left a frown on her face.

Was the market price so bad these days or was the property agent just bad at his job? Even for a unit with four rooms and two living rooms, the monthly rental was below three thousand.

'Sorry, I don't think any of the houses you offered suit me.'

She replied to the text message courteously.

In response, the property agent said, 'What kind of houses are you looking for? I have all kinds of variety

She didn't reply to him anymore. Looking at the conversation on her phone, she silently sighed.

To be frank, she didn't have much money at the moment. All she could afford was a small house.

Julian could see the content displayed on her phone screen, so he commented, "This property agent is so weird. There are all sorts of people these days. It's lucky that I came with you today. Who knows what his ulterior motive is."

In response, she nodded in agreement before she quickly blocked the property agent with a flick of the finger.

"You shouldn't rush when looking for houses. Don't worry, I'll settle this issue for you."

"There's no need, thank you. I can do it on my own!"

After thanking him, she continued to scroll through her phone to look for information regarding house rentals online.

She really didn't want to bother him with anything else anymore.

Meanwhile, Justin was reading through documents in his office.

After his assistant, Frankie, got a call, he came over to report tentatively. "Mr. Burton, there were some complications with the agent. He got blocked by Mrs. Burton."

Furrowing his brows, he lamented, "Such a small matter, yet they can't even do it right."

Hearing that, Frankie was breaking out in cold sweat. "It's mainly because the houses you own aren't exactly suitable to be rented out. It's also hard to match the price with the market ratings. This..."

Seeing that Justin had a cold, stoic look on, Frankie quickly added, "I'll figure something out."

That seemed to satisfy the man more than the excuses.

Frankie then sighed to himself.

Why is my boss doing this to me? They're already married, and there's nothing wrong with taking care of his own wife. Why can't he just arrange it for her? Why does he have to make it so much more complicated?

"Right, Mr. Burton, Old Mr. Burton called earlier in the afternoon when you were in a meeting."

"Oh," he acknowledged. "What did my grandpa say?"

"Old Mr. Burton is at the summer villa. He has invited you over to have a meal this weekend."

"What else did he say?"

"For y-you to bring Mrs. Burton too."

Hearing that, he furrowed his brows.

At night, Rachel ate dinner with her grandma before she left to head back to the Burton Residence.

By the time she got home, it was already late and the maids of the Burton Residence had already gone to rest. That made her sigh in relief as she quietly headed to her room to get a fresh set of clothes.

When she was organizing her items, she saw something that her mother had left behind-the black cube box.

Recalling what Nancy said, Rachel had a hunch that there must be some secret kept with the box,

As she was scrutinizing the box, the sound of an opening door could be heard coming from next

door.

Justin's study room was right beside.

He's home?

As she registered that, she quickly stuffed the box back into the bottom of her wardrobe.

After waiting for some time, things seemed to have quieted down. Nonetheless, she was still a little uneasy as she hesitated to open the door. Once she did, she saw that the light in the kitchen was lit, and a tall silhouette could be seen standing by the door.

It was not her first time seeing him boil water in the middle of the night.

There were maids at home, but Justin wasn't one to always order them around.

"Is stalking part of the task Jefferey gave you?" A cold voice came from the kitchen.

At once, she snapped out of her trance. With one of her hands on the rail, she didn't know whether she should go downstairs or just head back.

"Prepare some tea and send it to the study." After that instruction, he placed the tin of tea leaves that was half-opened back down on the table before heading upstairs using the stairs on the other side.

After standing for a while, she walked downstairs to make some tea.

Justin had a habit of drinking Earl Grey tea when he did his work at night. It was the first habit of his that she learned about after getting married.

The scent of the tea leaves emanated in the study room, and it had a hint of milk to it.

"I heard that your grandma's operation has already been done."

She was about to leave after putting down the teacup, but his voice stopped her. Hearing that, she looked up and nodded tentatively.

"Have you thought of how to execute what I told you to do?"

She clenched her fists as her expression turned helpless.

"Jefferey is holding a birthday party at the end of this month. This is the invitation card."

A gray invitation card was slowly pushed in her direction until it was right before her. His long fingers were pressing on the paper with force.

"It will be held at the West Magnolia Wine Brewery. If my guess is right, his safe should be right within the brewery."

Her hand that was holding the invitation card trembled.

How does he know about the Hudson Family so well?

"How do you know that?"

At this moment, he took a glance at her. He didn't answer her, but he said, "On that day, all you have to do is to avoid the guests and go to Jefferey's study room to find the safe."

She was put in a tough spot. 'Even if I find the safe, I don't have the passcode to open it.'

"You don't have to worry about that."

Confused, she didn't understand what he meant. All she had to do was find the safe? If she couldn't open it, finding it would be useless. However, she could only say yes for her grandma's sake.

"Take this." Justin handed her a piece of card. "There's no passcode."

She was surprised and couldn't help but look at him with a stupefied look.

Is he helping me?

He didn't bother to wait for her to take it, so he simply tossed it onto the table.

A crisp noise sounded as a result of his action. It wasn't loud, nor was it soft, but it was enough to frighten her.

"If Jefferey blackmails you again next time, let me know immediately."

As she bit her lower lip, the feeling of gratitude that she hadn't expressed was instantly washed away.

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It was only until Rachel left the room that Justin took the tea next to him and had a sip.

The Earl Grey tea had a thick fragrance and the light flavor of the milk balanced out the bitterness perfectly. The fragrance mixed with the aroma of the room and it had a calming effect. He was actually lost in his thoughts when he heard the door of the next room close.

After Rachel took care of her grandma in the hospital for a few days, the latter had a great recovery.

This afternoon, Rachel was getting some things in a convenience store nearby. As soon as she walked out of the store, she saw a figure in a suit bow slightly to her. "Miss Hudson, Old Master Burton wants to see you."

The person was none other than Arthur's personal butler. This time around, it seemed like Arthur wanted to meet her.

Ever since Justin took over the Burton Group, Arthur had already retired and he rarely appeared in Riverdale anymore. It was rumored that he would go to a mansion in the suburbs of Riverdale every summer to avoid the heat. Apart from that season, even the family members of the Burton Family would normally not be able to see him too.

After Rachel got into the car, she fidgeted with her fingers anxiously as she watched the scenery outside the window going backward.

It was most likely that the butler noticed her anxiety, so he consoled her, "Miss Hudson, you don't have to worry. After all, you have already married Young Master Justin. It's time to pay a visit to the elderly in the family."

Upon hearing that, Rachel pursed her lips and nodded politely.

At this moment in the summer mansion in the suburbs, Sue appraised Tina Burton from head to toe as the former complimented sweetly, "It's been a while since I last saw you and you've grown into a fine young woman."

Tina was Justin's cousin and she was the only daughter of his paternal uncle. She had been spoiled since young, which resulted in her short temper. However, she knew how to please Arthur.

Currently, she was sitting beside Arthur as she replied with a chuckle, "You look younger too, Aunt Sue."

Sue sighed. "Young? Not at all. I'm so worried that the white hair on my head has increased."

"What's wrong?" Tina blinked in response. "Is there something that is troubling you? Let us know so that Grandpa can help you out."

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"It's not that I want to speak ill of this but based on Justin's character and family background, it is impossible for him to marry a mute. If you knew this, you wouldn't have agreed, would you?"

Meanwhile, Arthur was sitting in a master chair. He had a white beard on his face, and he looked stern and strict. However, his tone was politely cool. "Since young, Justin has been very opinionated. Since he has already made a decision, I'm sure he has his own reasons for doing so. Even though the young lady of the Hudson Family has a speech disability, she might be good at something else."

Arthur had done his research and he knew that Rachel had graduated with a masters degree. Even though she had never inherited her family business, she had a stable job and was also a humble person. No matter what, she was still the young lady of a prestigious family. It was better to marry her than to marry someone who just wanted the wealth of the Burton Family.

"Good at something else? Well..." Sue frowned and muttered, "We can skip this topic. I feel embarrassed even by just talking about it. It's fine if they just have a quarrel among their family members. It's not a good thing to expose the flaws of the family to the public after all, but it was on the news."

"The news?" However, before Arthur could say anything, Tina opened her mouth. "I've also heard about that. I thought Justin had resolved everything?"

"What news?" Arthur asked with a frown.

"Don't you know?" Tina immediately took her phone out. "This is it. I wanted to tell you this but before I could do that, an explanation had been published. Since that was the case, I didn't want to disturb your rest."

After seeing that Tina took the opportunity to speak about Rachel, Sue was overjoyed. She sipped her tea quietly at the side as she enjoyed the drama that was indirectly started by the other woman.

Sure enough, as soon as Arthur read the news, his expression immediately darkened. "What rubbish! Are they joking around with the reputation of the Burton Family?"

Upon hearing that, Tina tried to console him, "Don't get angry, Grandpa. Didn't I say that they had given an explanation? No matter what the truth is, I'm sure Justin will handle this."

"If he doesn't even have the ability to handle this, he doesn't have to be the president of Burton Group anymore," Arthur announced with a dark expression. "Rachel has only joined our family for such a short time, yet she already caused so much trouble. It's clear that she's up to no good." *She's just a mute. How could she have stirred up such trouble? It's unreasonable!*

After some hesitation, Tina said, "Grandpa, actually I've heard some stories about this cousin-in law of mine."

"What about it? Do you know her before this, Tina?" Sue asked with a shocked expression.

Tina then explained, "I've studied abroad with her sister, Amber, and I am quite close with her. Back then, I heard her mention this elder sister of hers and I heard that she was a loner. It

seemed like she had a hard time getting along with her classmates and her behavior in school wasn't that good. Apart from that..."

"What else is there?"

"Apart from that, she's also an illegitimate child. She is not a real member of the Hudson Family to begin with, so I think she's not good enough for Justin." With that, Tina revealed a disdainful expression on her face.

While they were chatting, someone announced from outside, "Sir, Miss Hudson has arrived."

With a frown on his face, Arthur said, "Let her in."

Hence, the butler brought Rachel into the room. She still had her usual canvas bag as she held a bag of fruits she brought from the convenience store. It was quite difficult to tell that she was the young lady of a prestigious family.

Upon seeing that, Sue asked rather grumpily, "Why did you come here wearing such clothes?"

Rachel held the bag close to her as she felt wrongly blamed. After all, no one had told her that Arthur wanted to meet her today. Since the butler picked her up from the hospital immediately, she did not have the time to change.

Tina had heard of Rachel before this, so she appraised the latter from head to toe. When she saw Rachel's face, she could not help feeling pangs of jealousy. *I can't believe that she's so pretty.* However, as soon as she remembered that Rachel was a mute, she immediately felt better. *So what if she's pretty? She's just a mute in the end.*

"Miss Hudson, this is Old Master Burton and that is Young Master Justin's cousin, Tina." The butler introduced the people present to Rachel before Arthur indicated for him to stand aside.

Rachel nodded politely at Arthur and Tina as she pointed at her lips to explain that she could not speak, looking polite and understanding the whole time.

Arthur, on the other hand, was looking closely at her. Even though she could not speak, her demeanor was quite graceful, so he was slightly relieved. "Take a seat."

Hence, she sat on the chair next to Sue, but she only sat on half the chair with her back straight.

Arthur nodded and continued, "It's been a while since you married Justin. I've been wanting to see you and I understand that it's quite sudden today. I hope I didn't interrupt your day."

Rachel then took out a pen and a piece of paper. 'Since the elders in the family want to see me, it's perfectly reasonable, no matter when it is.

When Arthur saw her neat handwriting, he quietly approved of her more. At the same time, her handwriting reminded him that she was a mute.

Arthur's expression darkened as he asked in a low voice, "I heard that the person who was about to marry Justin first was your younger sister?"

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Rachel could not refute Arthur's words.

Everyone in the Burton Family knew that the person whom Justin initially wanted to marry was Amber, but she, a mute, was sent to the Burton Family on the night of their wedding instead.

Before Rachel could reply, Sue immediately continued speaking, "I know, right? I heard that she threatened her sister and said that our family is a dangerous tiger den. Apart from that, she also said that Justin is ugly and weird. Then, she pretended to be doing her younger sister a favor by marrying into our family."

Rachel's expression immediately changed when she heard that.

'I have never said these words:

"You are still trying to argue!" Sue still wanted to say something but Arthur broke her off.

“Enough. We don’t have to dwell on the facts.” Arthur’s eyes were as cold as Justin when he looked at Rachel, which in turn made her shudder even though she was not cold.

“Miss Hudson, since it was a misunderstanding, why don’t we resolve it? It brings no one happiness to force both of you to be together. It’s without a doubt that you are not compatible with Justin.”

Rachel clenched her fists tightly as she looked at Arthur in shock.

He then continued in a low voice, “Not many people know this marriage to begin with, so it’s probably better to stop right here to prevent more losses. The Burton Family will compensate you. Just forget about the marriage after that.”

Rachel looked at the people around her. Some of them were looking at her gleefully, while others merely seemed disinterested.

Even in her dreams she wanted to get away from the Burton Family, but Jefferey would never let her do that and neither would Justin. She could imagine the consequences if she did that.

With the great pressure placed on her, she shook her head.

Arthur’s expression darkened in response. “You don’t want to do that? Even if you are the young lady of the Hudson Family, you are not good enough for our family. On top of that, you are an illegitimate daughter. No matter what, to our family—”

The words ‘illegitimate daughter’ stabbed at Rachel like sharp daggers.

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She clenched her fists so hard that her fingernails dug into her skin,

“Grandpa.” A loud voice rang from the door, breaking the tense atmosphere in the room.

Rachel immediately raised her head and saw Justin walk past the door in large strides. His tailor made black suit fit his body perfectly and his tall height emanated a cold and indifferent air.

“You’re here, Justin,” Arthur said coolly. “Good timing-let’s clear things in your presence.”

“Grandpa.” Justin shot a glance at Rachel. “Rachel is already my official wife. Marriage is not child’s play and I have never considered a divorce.”

“What nonsense!” Arthur’s expression darkened as his tone became harsher. “The woman whom you are going to marry is the second young lady of the Hudson Family, but they were so ‘kind’ to give us a mu—”

“Grandpa.”

Before Arthur could utter the word ‘mute, Justin interrupted him. “I’ve never said that the person I wanted to marry was the second young lady of the Hudson Family.”

With that, silence fell upon the entire room.

Rachel was also stunned to hear that and she looked at him in surprise.

“I want to marry the daughter of the Hudson Family but I never said that she was Amber Hudson.” Justin’s explanation had once again proven that they had heard him correctly.

With a confused look on his face, Arthur asked, “You’re saying that the woman you wanted to marry from the beginning was Rachel?”

Justin did not reply to him. However, Sue was unable to stand the former’s silent approval anymore.

“Justin, don’t fool around. How could you possibly want to marry a mu—”

“Aunt Sue, you probably don’t understand me well.”

With that, Justin shot her a stare so cold that she shut her mouth on her own accord.

He did not plan to bring Rachel here at all. He could immediately know the person who gave Arthur the suggestion to bring her here.

And so, the atmosphere seemed to have become frozen at that moment.

Justin was almost as stubborn as Arthur. Upon seeing this situation, the butler quickly tried to calm them down. “Sir, young master, the chef said that dinner is ready. Why don’t we start the meal first?”

Arthur frowned before he stood up, holding his crutch for support. “Let’s tuck in,” he said coolly.

Upon hearing that, Rachel heaved a sigh of relief.

When they ate, she sat beside Justin. Even though her clothes were quite plain, her demeanor was

graceful and elegant.

When she saw that Justin did not eat much, she took the initiative to peel the shells of the prawns for him, leaving just beautifully peeled prawn meat in his plate.

Of course, Arthur did not miss this.

Rachel has the rare air of an elegant and generous young lady, and she also has the attributes of being an obedient wife who can take good care of her family. If she weren't a mute, it's actually not a bad idea for Justin to marry her,

After dinner, Justin was summoned to the study by Arthur while Rachel waited for them in the living room

After the maid poured tea for them, Sue chatted happily with Tina.

"It's been so long since we last met, Tina. I heard that you are planning to be engaged soon after coming back?"

"Indeed." Tina replied with a smile.

"I heard that your partner is the eldest son of Riley Corp., who is young and capable. I have to say

-you really are lucky!"

Tina, however, seemed to avoid the topic of the engagement as she murmured, "Actually, I don't have plans to get married so soon." Through the corner of her eye, she shot a glance at Rachel and suddenly changed the topic. "Hey, why didn't you hold a wedding when you marry Justin?"

Rachel was sipping her tea when she heard that. In the end, she lifted her head but she had no idea what to reply.

Sue then said annoyedly, "Look at her! If we hold a wedding like this, we will be a laughing stock. We can't possibly risk such embarrassment."

"You have a point."

Tina looked at Rachel and said, "I heard from Amber that if I told her about Justin's character, the person who would marry him might be her, not you."

Rachel froze upon hearing that, having no idea what Tina meant by this.

"I saw you peel the prawns for Justin but he doesn't eat any of it. Is there a point in pleasing him this way? I hate materialistic women who don't have dignity."

Even though Tina's voice was not loud, her arrogant attitude still insulted Rachel, as though the latter was lesser than Tina.

As the time dragged on, Rachel found her expression becoming more forced.

While they were speaking, Tina's phone rang. As Rachel was quite close to her, she saw the caller's

name='Amber Hudson? Truth was, it was a rather unpleasant sight for her.

"Excuse me for a moment. I need to pick up this call. Aunt Sue, do have a nice chat with her."

With that, Tina walked out of the room while holding her phone. Before she left, she even shot a glance at Rachel disdainfully and arrogantly, as though she was not worth looking at.

Meanwhile, Sue sipped her tea slowly. *This trip back home is worth it. Even if Rachel's marriage can't be cancelled for the time being, the rudeness of everyone in the Burton Family is enough. I just don't believe that this little mute is able to take the pressure for a long time.*

On the other hand, after Justin was called into the study by Arthur, the latter went straight to the point.

"What the hell do you think about this marriage?"

Justin had a cold look on his face. "I won't have a divorce with her for the time being."

"Why? I can tell that you don't like her. If she's healthy, then so be it. However, she's a mute. She is obviously not good enough for you."

"Grandpa, I don't care who I marry, as long as she is the daughter of the Hudson Family."

Arthur froze upon hearing that. He looked at Justin in shock for a long while before he returned to his senses. "Justin, don't tell me that you are still brooding over that past incident."

A cold look appeared on Justin's face and his expression became even darker with the mention of the incident.

Upon seeing that, Arthur frowned. "I've already told you that the fire was an accident."

"No, it wasn't." Justin's gaze was firm and harsh. "The mountain fire was caused by Jefferey just to kill one person."

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"Who did he want to kill?"

"Lionel Hudson."

This name had disappeared in Riverdale for many years. It had been so long that even Arthur was unfamiliar with him, but it was easy to tell that Lionel's incident was strongly related to Jefferey.

"Jefferey's older brother?"

Justin nodded. "After the fire, the shares in Jefferey's hands had increased by more than 130 percent. He became the biggest shareholder of Hudson Pharmaceuticals and took over the company after that."

Arthur's gaze became more serious. "Justin, this is the private matters of the Hudson Family."

The casualties resulting from internal battles within rich and prestigious families were usually covered up pretty well. It was meaningless to recount such a mysterious incident from so many years ago.

Meanwhile, Justin's tone was extremely cold. "There's karma in murdering someone. Jefferey should pay the price for this."

After seeing that it was useless to advise him anymore, Arthur controlled his expression and sighed helplessly. "I'm tired. You may go back first."

Without another word, Justin left.

After that, the butler came into the room to pour a cup of tea for Arthur.

"Sir, the young master is still young so he is more impulsive. It's natural that he cannot tolerate the occurrence of such an incident. After all, the fire that year almost killed him."

Back then, the members of the Hudson Family stopped the Burton Family from putting out the fire. If Justin did not get lucky and escaped, he would have died in that fire.

"Do you really think that it's because of his own life that he never let the Hudson Family off the hook?" A worried expression shrouded Arthur's face. "I'm sure that another child died in the fire back then."

The butler froze. "You're saying that the young master is doing this because of the child?"

Arthur nodded in response.

Everyone else knew that Justin Burton, the first young master of the family, was a cold-blooded man with a heart made of stone. He would do anything to achieve the greatest profit. However, only Arthur, his grandfather, knew that Justin valued loyalty and decency.

Upon hearing that, the butler sighed. "In that case, this is a tricky matter indeed."

Ever since Justin returned from the summer villa, he was not in a good mood at all.

In the evening, Rachel brewed a cup of tea and brought it to his study.

However, Justin did not drink tea like how he usually would and neither did he look at her. He just looked at the page in front of him, but he never even flipped it. The frown on his face was quite terrifying

Are you in a bad mood?

Rachel looked at him tentatively.

He shot a look at her and clenched his hands around the page, but he did not reply to her.

She asked worriedly, Is it because your grandfather asked us to have a divorce? If he asks about this again, how do you want me to reply?

She merely wanted to be clear about what he thought, so that she would not make any mistakes that would offend him in the future.

"It's none of your business."

After hearing those five cold words, Rachel pursed her lips and took a step back tentatively as she prepared to leave.

Justin's temperament was changing quite fast and it made her unable to anticipate anything at all.

"Wait."

His voice suddenly rang from behind her, making her turn around in shock.

With a huge study table between them, Justin was looking at her coldly. His stony expression was accentuated by the ugly scar on his face. As he stared at her with a pair of cold eyes that sent shivers down her spine, anxiety bubbled up within her.

His voice was not loud but it was firm. "Do you hate Jefferey Hudson?"

Rachel's heart stopped beating for a moment before she shook her head,

Justin's expression darkened. "Why do you not him? He asked you to take Amber's place to marry me, and he put you near me just like a chess piece whom he could control. Apart from that, he even threatened you with your family's life. Why don't you hate him?"

Rachel's expression tightened as she clenched her fists.

After a moment, she still shook her head.

Even so, he is still my father who raised me for so many years, and he has given me an excellent education and a life that's better than the average. Otherwise, with my disability, I'm afraid my life would not be as comfortable now.

"He is also a murderer!"

His cold voice echoed in the room and as Rachel met his red eyes, her heart sank.

What do you mean? Who did he kill?

Justin's expression became increasingly sullen.

Perhaps the conversation he had with Arthur just now—the first conversation of this topic that included the truth that he had been finding out all these years-or the nightmares that happened frequently because of Rachel's presence caused that emotion to bubble up within him again.

Presently, he looked at Rachel in front of him. She had a pair of eyes that were very similar to Katie's innocent, naïve, and pure. It was as if all the adjectives that describe beauty would describe her eyes.

However, Katie was gone forever and the person currently in front of him was a mute, who was also the daughter of a murderer.

Justin swept away the drink that Rachel made with a loud crash. The tea cup fell to the ground and split into many pieces, and the hot water splashed onto her ankle.

"Oh!" she yelped in pain.

"Get out of here!"

She froze. *What happened to you?*

"Can't you understand me?" Justin roared, his eyes rather terrifying at this moment.

She took a step backward subconsciously. After a while, she did not care about the pain she felt in her ankle anymore and left in a rush.

She could not imagine the consequences if she stayed for another second longer, for she might be torn apart by the man in front of her.

After she left, Justin walked to the windows and opened them to let the cold air blow on his face. After his depressed emotion was slowly brought away by the wind, he slowly calmed down.

Then, he heard the sound of the door closing in the next room, followed by the sound of the lock clicking

He arched his eyebrows when he heard the sound.

As soon as he remembered the conversation he had with Rachel just now, he suddenly became flustered.

So what if I tell her so much? This mute is just Jefferey's chess piece! Even if I hold her soft spots against her, it can't change the fact that she is a member of the Hudson Family.

On the other hand, Rachel sat by the bed for a while as she felt the aftershock.

Through the corner of her eye, she glanced at the grey invitation card on the dressing table.

When she saw that, her heart immediately tightened. Jefferey's birthday party would fall on the day after tomorrow, and she could not escape the thing that Justin wanted her to do.

The night had fallen, and the Burtons' summer villa in the countryside was solemn and quiet.

On the balcony on the second floor, Tina was laying down lazily with her phone in her hand. "Grandpa doesn't like her but Justin insisted on marrying her, so he can't do anything about it. Amber, I think you should just give up. Justin is a weird person."

Amber said something on the other end of the phone that made Tina slightly impatient.

"Well, we'll see about that. It's getting late now. 'll hang up first."

With that, she immediately hung up and complained, "She's asking me for help for such a small matter. I'm too lazy to care about it."

"What's wrong?" A tall figure walked out from the room. Even though the lights were dim, his handsome face was not obscured.

Tina turned around from the balcony and shrugged. "Nothing much. Amber asked me to attend the birthday party of Old Mr. Hudson. It seems like she still hasn't given up on Justin."

"Are you going, then?"

“No. There’s nothing fun about birthday parties. What am I going to do? Watch a bunch of people flatter him?”

The man hugged her waist. “But your father asked me to go.”

“What?” She froze for a moment before returning to her senses. Her eyes lit up as she said, “Then I’m joining as well.”

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In the end, two days passed since Rachel last saw Justin.

“Mrs. Burton, Young Master Justin has a meeting so he’ll be back later.”

The driver explained to her the reason Justin was absent as he drove her to the birthday dinner party.

Meanwhile, she nodded to indicate that she understood. Nonetheless, there was a hint of apprehension on her face.

Rachel was well-aware of her non-existent position in Justin’s heart. Furthermore, his instructions for her to attend this birthday dinner weren’t even for the sake of celebrating the birthday of his father-in-law, Jefferey.

Right after she got out of the car, the butler led her toward the reception area.

“Miss Rachel, the Master is greeting his guests at the front foyer and Miss Amber is in the living room with her friends. I’ll lead you there.”

Thanks.

As they crossed the main hall, the large semi-outdoor swimming pool was located right past the french doors and there were a bunch of balloons by the side of the pool.

Suddenly, she was caught by surprise and she slowed down her footsteps subsequently.

She could distinctly remember from her fuzzy memories of the first and only time she came here many years ago.

It was during Amber’s tenth birthday and Jefferey had spent 1.8 billion to purchase this manor, which was registered under Amber’s name. That day, there were many guests in attendance, such as their relatives and elders from the Hudson Family and Jefferey’s business associates.

Rachel remembered a ten-year-old Amber being surrounded by the guests and the latter stood right in the middle, standing out like a shining diamond among the children.

"Rachel, if you agree to be my servant then I'll allow you to come and stay with me anytime you want."

"Amber, are you actually asking your sister to be your servant?"

"She's no sister of mine! What kind of sister is she? Do you have a mute sister?"

"Hahaha..."

At that time, Rachel had just come to stay with the Hudson Family for about two years and she had been quite unwell as she recuperated in the hospital for almost a year. Therefore, the time

she had actually spent together with Amber was barely more than six months and the former had merely known that the latter had a straightforward but wild personality.

"You stupid mute. It would be an honor for you to be my servant. Don't you dare act so high and mighty!"

"Let's hit her!"

"Ah!"

"Blood! She's bleeding!"

Just then, Rachel stood by the edge of the french windows and suddenly, she felt a prick of pain on her forehead which caused her brows to furrow tightly.

"Miss Rachel." The butler's voice brought her back to reality.

"Miss Rachel, what's wrong?"

She revealed a forced smile and shook her head. *I'm fine. Let's go.*

In fact, she wasn't originally so submissive but she was forced to give in as she was in a less advantageous position. She had come to the realization that remaining alive was not as easy as she thought after going through hardships and experiencing so much pain.

In the living room, there was a group of youngsters gathered around. Most of them present were youngsters from the Hudson clan, plus some of Amber's classmates and friends.

"Amber, your elder sister is here."

Standing among the crowd, Amber turned her head and just then, there was a flash of disdain across her face. Half-jokingly, she replied, but there was a serious note to her tone, "My sister's no longer the same as before. She's full of air now. Everyone's here waiting for her to arrive. I guess she's made a good match so she no longer gives any regard to us."

Rachel frowned in response and merely nodded to the crowd as an indication of greeting. Then, she remained silent.

Meanwhile, Amber looked behind her and she purposely raised her voice as she announced, "Rachel, why are you here by yourself? Where's Justin?"

Amber didn't address Justin as her brother-in-law but she called him by his name to prove their intimate relationship.

He's busy so he couldn't make it under short notice.

"What's there to be busy with? Even so, couldn't he take some time to accompany his wife to his father-in-law's birthday dinner?" Someone in the crowd blurted this out and shortly after that, the crowd whispered among themselves.

"I thought Rachel had married well but perhaps her life is not as good as it seems."

"That's quite obvious with her being mute. Furthermore, she married Justin on behalf of Amber so obviously he wouldn't be attracted to her, would he?"

"I heard that the Hudson Family was spared because Amber went to plead for mercy."

Just then, Rachel nervously gripped her bag tightly. She had no intention to explain herself so she turned around and headed toward a corner to avoid the crowd.

However, Amber grabbed Rachel's arm and commented with a condescending tone, "Go and get me a bottle of wine from the cellar."

Rachel frowned and responded, *Why don't you go and get it yourself?*

"Me:" Amber surveyed the surroundings and replied matter-of-factly, "I need to entertain my guests, can't you see that? If I leave right now, would you be able to entertain them?"

Rachel was unable to speak and she wasn't familiar with these people either so Amber's words were clearly intended to embarrass her. The former clenched her teeth and then she spun on her heel to walk away.

However, Amber raised her voice and shouted, "Hey! Don't you know where the cellar is? If you don't, then make sure to ask one of the servants. They can't understand your gestures so you'd better bring a notepad with you!"

At that moment, there were countless mocking laughs that rang out, which sounded quite grating to the ears.

Meanwhile, Amber reached out for a glass of wine from a waiter as she looked at Rachel's retreating back, a deep look in her eyes.

The show was about to start.

The wine cellar was located on the other side of the living room and it was one level below so Rachel had to take the elevator.

However, perhaps the elevator was faulty and awaiting repair or for some specific reason, but Rachel waited for ages but to no avail. In the end, she decided to take the stairs which was situated by the side.

She walked on the carpeted floor in her high heels so the sound she made was soft and practically inaudible over the loud music from upstairs.

As soon as she arrived at the lower floor, she came toward a row of bookshelves and a resting area. The wine racks were placed further inside and the racks were much taller than her. She took a few steps forward before realizing that she hadn't asked Amber which wine she wanted.

Originally, Rachel intended to head back to clarify but in the end, she considered it and realized that she was quite likely to be humiliated by Amber for no reason once again. As such, she

decided to grab a random bottle.

As soon as she took the bottle of wine in her hands, she suddenly heard some whispers from outside.

Rachel paused in her tracks immediately.

Someone's here?

"Aren't you going to join your friends upstairs and have a chat?" The man had a low baritone.

"What's there to talk about? If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't even attend this dinner. None of them from the group upstairs are worthy of anything. Their family background is quite normal. The Hudson Family is going downhill too. Otherwise, do you think Jefferey Hudson would have sold off his daughter for a mere twenty to thirty million?"

The woman's voice sounds familiar. Rachel gripped the wine bottle tightly in her hands and her expression tightened. She looked through the gaps in the wine rack and saw that there was a shadow of a couple in a tight embrace by the corner. *Tina?*

In the corner of the cellar, there were two figures closely entangled with each other on the couch. The woman had a throw covering her body but her bare shoulders were exposed to the air. She looked seductive as she leaned against the man's shoulders and panted. It was quite evident that they had just ended an intense tryst.

Meanwhile, Rachel was significantly stunned and she couldn't believe her eyes.

In fact, Tina was betrothed to the eldest son of the Hindenburg family-Noah Hindenburg. *Are they just seeking exhilaration in someone else's wine cellar?*

Rachel didn't want to get involved in someone else's matters. After all, it was best to avoid things that were indecent so she turned around to leave.

She was in a hurry and didn't pay attention to her surroundings. Just then, a loud noise was produced as her dress got caught on the edge of the rack. The ripping sound of material rang out all of a sudden and it was exceptionally grating to the ears in the silent cellar.

The air became still for a short moment and soon after that, someone reacted.

"Who's there?" Tina's voice rang out instantly.

Meanwhile, Rachel's expression changed and she hurriedly grabbed the hem of her skirt to run

off.

However, Tina's cold voice suddenly rang out from behind. "Stop!"