

Shandie shouted in anger, "No! You didn't even try to help me—"

"Enough!" Henrick roared.

He could no longer master his fury and started heaving like he was short on oxygen.

Shandie panicked instantly.

She grabbed Cindy's arm and wailed, "Mom, help me! It was all Arielle's fault."

"Shut up!" Cindy cut in and gave Shandie a forceful slap.

Smack! Shandie was stunned by the sudden flare of pain that attacked her.

The slap was so forceful that she could even see stars in her vision. Her cheek promptly turned numb.

She reached out to caress her cheek and realized the dental crown she had just paid for was broken.

Staring at Cindy in disbelief, she uttered, "Mom?"

Did Mom just slap me? Seriously?

Cindy held back her guilt and shook her head.
"Stop it. You've brought harm to the entire family. Get on your knees and beg for your dad's forgiveness."

"Mom!"

"Get on your knees!" Cindy commanded sternly.

Shivering in shock, Shandie trudged obediently to Henrick and dropped to her knees.

Alas, Henrick didn't even spare her a glance.

His team had poured in a lot of effort to strike up a deal with Nightshire Group. They were about to sign the contract, but it all went down the drain at the very last minute.

It was all Shandie's fault.

Suddenly, he wanted to disown this daughter of his.

He would've given her a beating, but since Cindy had already slapped her, he couldn't be bothered to waste his energy.

Henrick announced, "Don't kneel in front of me. Go to your Aunt Louisa's monastery to kneel and pray. Six months later, if you have no remorse, you shall follow in your Aunt Louisa's footsteps in becoming a nun!"

Shandie's eyes widened in consternation. "Dad! Are you throwing me out?"

Henrick was too exhausted to talk to her. He waved and ordered the housekeeper, "Pack up her stuff and send her to the monastery now!"

The housekeeper glanced at Cindy instinctively.

Parting her lips, Cindy was about to plead with Henrick to change his mind when she noticed her husband's expression. She shut her eyes in agony and ordered, "Go, help her pack up now."

"Mom! How could you agree with Dad? I don't want to be a nun! I want to get married—"

"Shut up! You don't even know your mistake. You should repent at the monastery!" Cindy shot the housekeeper a look, and the latter immediately dragged Shandie out.

Even though Shandie had been brought out, her cries could still be heard from afar.

Cindy closed her eyes in pain.

She couldn't bear to let her daughter leave, but she had no choice. If Henrick couldn't relieve his anger, he might do something even more extreme.

Hence, she slapped Shandie first so he wouldn't beat her up.

I wonder if Shandie understood my intentions.



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Cindy opened her eyes and gazed at Arielle viciously.

Arielle pretended to not see her. *I knew Henrick will lock Shandie up or send her somewhere else. Turns out, he decided to send her to the monastery. She'll definitely suffer there.*

Right then, the housekeeper came downstairs with six pieces of luggage.

Arielle questioned, "Does she need this much stuff at the monastery? I think Aunt Louisa can provide her with the clothes, right?"

Cindy glowered at her. "It's getting cold. She needs to bring more clothes to stay warm."

Henrick spoke up. "Sannie's right. The monastery has everything she needs, including winter clothes. Besides that, she's not allowed to bring any electronic devices. If she goes there to play games and such, she can't reflect on her mistake!"

"But—"

Cindy was about to refute his words, but Henrick shut her up with an icy glare. "I thought you agreed that she needs to reflect on her mistake, but it seems like you don't share my sentiments. So did you slap her to put up a show?"

Cindy hastily changed her mind. "I'm worried she might get sick. Forget it, then."

Therefore, the housekeeper packed everything in

one bag.

When Shandie arrived at the monastery and realized there was only one piece of luggage with her undergarments, she nearly lost it.

My phone! Where's my phone?

"Tell Mom to send me my phone now!"

The housekeeper parted her lips to reply, but Henrick's sister, Louisa Southall, ambled out before she could say anything.

Louisa had only taken her temporary vows as a nun. When she saw how Shandie was kicking up a fuss, her brows scrunched up.

"How dare you kick up a fuss in the monastery?"

Shandie shook in dread upon seeing Louisa.

Before Louisa became a nun, she was stern to both Shandie and Cindy. She preferred Maureen to Cindy. After that, she came to the monastery and became a nun. Shandie had no idea what made her do so.

"A-Aunt Louisa," she greeted Louisa as her teeth chattered.

Louisa eyed her coldly and ordered, "Come in and pray."

Shandie was utterly disheartened. She could only place her hopes on Cindy to get her out of this

place.

When she recalled how Cindy slapped her, she grew increasingly dejected.

Mom must've abandoned me, her only daughter! I've made up my mind. If she doesn't rescue me from this place, I'll no longer regard her as my mom!

At the Southall residence, Arielle took the letter she had intercepted from the housekeeper.

This was the letter Cindy wrote to Shandie.

Arielle bribed the housekeeper to lie to Cindy that the letter had been delivered to Shandie. The future letters Cindy wrote would all be sent to her instead.

As the housekeeper was paid, she agreed to help Arielle without hesitation.

"Ms. Arielle, I shall take my leave now."

"Alright." Arielle waited for the housekeeper to leave before she took out the letter.

The letter was scribbled sloppily, showing how anxious Cindy was.

Of course, she would be flustered seeing her darling daughter being sent to the monastery. Still, the moment she regained her senses, she'd target Arielle. *I need to prepare myself for her retaliation.*

Arielle squinted her eyes to read the letter, which

explained how Cindy slapped Shandie to relieve Henrick's anger. She also assured Shandie she would save her soon. Shandie was to listen to her Aunt Louisa's instructions and not create any trouble there.

There was no useful information until Arielle reached the end of the letter.



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I have already thought of the perfect plan to deal with Arielle. I'll find a man for her and stir up some scandalous news about their relationship. When that happens, your father will be glad he still has you. Trust me, darling. It won't be long before you can make a grand return!

Having read the letter, Arielle's narrowed eyes stared coldly into the distance.

Just when she thought Shandie was bad, Cindy turned out to be even worse.

However, the one mistake that Cindy had made was to underestimate Arielle.

If she thinks she can destroy my reputation, I'd like to see her try!

With a flick of the lighter, Arielle lit up the letter and let it burn to a crisp.

Meanwhile, Cindy was pacing about in her room, her anxiety increasing with every passing second.

Suddenly, her gaze landed on the wall calendar, and an idea hit her.

Yvette's birthday is coming up, and I bet she's still mad at Arielle over that dog. Perhaps I could use that to my advantage?

With that thought in mind, Cindy quickly fished her phone out and called Yvette.

Once the call got through, Yvette didn't even

bother masking the annoyance in her voice. "What do you want?" she barked.

Even though Yvette was rude, Cindy didn't seem to mind. She was merely a distant relative, and a socialite like Yvette would never care to show her much respect.

"Oh, my. Who has offended you? Tell me, and I'll stand up for you!"

Yvette scoffed and replied, "No need for that! If it weren't for your useless daughter, the Bakers wouldn't have called off my engagement! I don't want to speak to anyone from your family!"

Even Cindy was taken aback by this sudden turn of events. "The Bakers called off the engagement? What happened?"

Yvette was reluctant to elaborate, but she was no match for Cindy's powers of persuasion. After some coaxing, she eventually shared a summary of what had happened.

Cindy's lips curled into a smile as she listened intently, pleased that the grudge between Arielle and Yvette was even worse than she had thought.

Cindy sighed before chiming in, "I'm sorry, I didn't know about this. But Yvette, neither me nor Shannie is to be blamed for that. In my opinion, it's all Arielle's fault! If that slut hadn't bewitched Mr. Baker, he wouldn't have called off the engagement with you!"

Knowing that Cindy was on her side made Yvette feel a lot better and more forthcoming. "We haven't told anyone else about the engagement, so please keep it to yourself. As for Arielle, I won't let her off easy! I hope you won't stand in my way when I go after her."

"Why would I do such a thing?" Cindy replied. "The truth is, I've already thought of how we can get back at her. All I need is for someone to work with me..."

With Arielle as their common enemy, it was easy for Cindy and Yvette to talk for more than two hours as they hashed out their devious plan.

Before long, it was time for dinner.

As she made her way to the dining room, Arielle saw that only Cindy was at the table. Having lost the partnership deal with Nightshire Group, Henrick was probably still busy panicking about how he could salvage it.

Arielle remained calm as she sat opposite Cindy and quietly tucked into her meal.

For a while, all was peaceful until Cindy broke the silence. "Sannie, you're too skinny. Here, eat more," she said while placing a drumstick on Arielle's plate.

Arielle looked up, only to see Cindy smiling at her with seemingly no hint of malice in her eyes.

Seeing her so calm and collected, Arielle could

only guess that Cindy had formulated a plan.

Despite that, Arielle pretended not to suspect anything and smiled warmly back. "Thank you, Aunt Cindy."

Now, let's see what else she has to say.

If Cindy wanted to play the long game, Arielle would be more than happy to play along.

Right on cue, Cindy let out a deep sigh. "Speaking of Shannie, it's all my fault for spoiling her..."

There we go. The game's in play.



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