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Shaun's pupils constricted.

Just as he was thinking about it, the phone rang. Hadley was calling him. "Young Master Hill, things are bad. Some people came to the laboratory's entrance and injured the members of Liona who were standing guard there. They've barged inside now and a few of our technical staff have sustained major injuries too."

"I understand. " Shaun glanced at Rebecca coldly. He turned around and walked outside.

At the door, three bodyguards suddenly blocked him.

Rebecca took pleasure in Shaun's misery and said, " Do you intend to go to the laboratory? How can I possibly let you go there to help them? Shaun, I know that you treasure your efforts a lot. I'm going to snatch them all away. Weren't you very great all along and thought you were high up? Back then in Melbourne, you treated me like an ant. I remember how you tortured me. From today onward, I'll settle our debts one by one."

"Not just yours." Wesley stepped forward slowly, his eyes filled with cruelty. "Mine too. Shaun, I vividly remember all the humiliation you've caused me. On my wedding night, Catherine should've been mine, yet you took her away. I swore that I'd return that humiliation to you one day. I'll make your life a living hell too."

Shaun looked at their contemptuous gazes which were directed at him. He just found them ridiculous.

Those people did not even think about how many things they did in the past to hurt Catherine.

“You two are quite a good match for each other. ” Shaun suddenly laughed and said, “You guys only allow yourselves to hurt others. If other people resist and take revenge, you make yourselves look as though you’re the victim. After all the things you guys have done, do you think you still deserve to be humans?”

Rebecca raised her eyebrows. “My dad is the Jones family’s eldest son. I had the right to inherit everything owned by the Jones family from the very start. Who asked Catherine to steal Hudson Corporation away? She brought everything upon herself. This is called retribution.”

Wesley let out a snort too. “It’s her honor to be picked by me. Moreover, I kept acting as if I had lost a kidney for her sake and even cared for her. I’ve never pleased a woman like that in my whole life.”

“Your shameless words are really an eye-opener for me.”

Catherine’s mocking laugh suddenly rang out at the door.

The three of them looked at the door. They realized that Catherine was there, being blocked by the bodyguards. Her petite stature could not be seen.

“Cathy...” Shaun walked over in long strides and tugged her hand. He said hastily, “Let’s go to the laboratory.”

“We don’t have to go there anymore.”

Catherine stopped Shaun. She entered and laughed when she saw Wesley and Rebecca’s smug faces. “Shaunny, don’t worry. I’ve already asked Elle to bring some people over to back them up on my way here. At the same time, I borrowed more than ten highly skilled people from Young Master Jewell.

They must've already arrived at the laboratory by now."

Wesley and Rebecca's faces stiffened, especially Rebecca's. In order to claim the laboratory that day, she had mobilized almost two-thirds of the people Sheryl and Titus brought from Neah Bay.

"No matter how many people you both bring today, I'll make them leave while crawling." Catherine's eyes contained a chilly look.

Even Shaun could not help looking at her in astonishment. He felt that Catherine was really furious. It seemed that she could kill Rebecca.

"I don't believe you." Rebecca was distressed. She shouted agitatedly, "Catherine Jones, don't you dare! I can call the police to apprehend you. Hill Corporation is mine now. It's completely legal for my people to enter the laboratory. If you guys dare to hurt my people, that's breaking the law."

"Although the laboratory is Hill Corporation's, all the data inside belongs to me alone. You had your people to barge in forcefully. Obviously, you're trying to steal my data." Shaun was well-versed in the law. He warned coldly, "Even if we go to the police station, we can say that this was self-defense. As for your bodyguards, never mind if they're disabled. Worst comes to worst, I'll just pay more compensation."

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"In your dreams! If your men dare to hurt my people, I won't let you have an easy death in this life." Rebecca warned fiercely, "You don't even know who you've offended. Even if Nathan Snow intervenes, he won't be able to protect you."

Catherine looked at Rebecca's haughty look. The anger in her heart grew. "No, Rebecca. I know who I've offended. Don't think I don't know that the people you brought aren't your subordinates at all. They belong to the Costner family. Haven't you been acting all domineering these days because you're relying on the Costner family now?"

Shaun was puzzled upon hearing that. The Costner family?

Rebecca laughed smugly. "That's right. I have the Costner family behind me. You, a country bumpkin, won't even know how strong the Costner family is."

"Rebecca, I admit that you're the strongest opponent I've ever met in my whole life. Of course, it's not because you're great, but it's because you're too despicable and shameless."

Catherine tried to restrain herself and calm down. She wanted to get some things clear. "How exactly did you find my mother and what did you say to her?"

Shaun was shocked.

Rebecca acted innocent and widened her eyes. "What are you talking about? I don't understand it at all."

"Stop pretending. I've already met my mom."

Speaking of that, Catherine's heart started hurting badly. "What exactly did you say to her to make her... hate me so much?"

"Oh, you're talking about her slapping you twice, right?" Rebecca happily looked at the mask Catherine was wearing on her face. "You can't blame her for that. Who asked you to seduce her husband so shamelessly? In the end, you got slapped and can't even show your face now."

Rebecca had received a call from Sheryl about that on her way to Hill Corporation.

When Rebecca thought of Catherine getting scolded and slapped in her face by her biological mother, she felt very satisfied.

Although Catherine and Sheryl had finally met each

other, Rebecca had already done a DNA test with Sheryl earlier on. No matter what Catherine said, Sheryl would not believe her.

Not to mention that Sheryl had taken Rebecca's drug. She was not able to reason anymore.

"Cathy, what's going on?" Shaun got more confused. What did it mean that Catherine got slapped by her mother?

Was her mother still alive? Shaun was utterly stunned.

As for what Rebecca said about Catherine seducing another person's husband, Shaun did not believe it at all.

Catherine did not reply to Rebecca. Instead, she stared at Rebecca coldly. "I wasn't expecting you to tell the truth anyway. Actually, I can more or less guess what's going on. You must've twisted the truth and said many bad things about me in front of my mom. I didn't know she was still alive in the past, so you could make up all the rumors you wanted. I'll explain everything to her in the future. After all, I'm her real biological daughter."

"Haha."

Rebecca looked as if she had heard a joke.

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Wesley smirked, looking at Catherine like she was a clown.

“Oh, I’m looking forward to that day,” Rebecca said with a smile, “But so far, she’s given me hundreds of billions and even bought Hill Corporation for me. She’s very good to me.”

Catherine could not stop her body from shaking with anger.

She did not know who the person behind Rebecca was before, so she was not that angry, but now that she knew it was her mother, she really wanted to vomit blood.

“Catherine, don’t you like stealing my things very much? First, it was the architectural company, and then it was Hudson Corporation. But I don’t care about all those now. ” Rebecca curled her red lips. She just wanted to see what Catherine looked like when she went mad with jealousy. She had waited for this day for too long.

“Rebecca, although I don’t know what lies you told, I believe that the truth will not be hidden forever.

I’ll stay and reveal your true colors little by little. I’ll let the Costner family see just how disgusting you can be.”

Catherine spat out word after word and sneered. “As for now, I advise you to go to the lab and have a look. When you brought those men from the Costner family, they were in one piece. But you’ll be going back with them all battered and bruised. Will Titus not mind at all?”

Rebecca's heart shook when she thought of Titus' domineering and dignified face.

She was sure that Sheryl would not mind, but Titus...

"Of course, he won't mind. You don't know just how much Uncle Titus loves me."

Rebecca was stubborn, but she did not dare to stay any longer. She had to see if what Catherine said was true or not.

"President Lyons, let's go. I'll give you a tour of the lab downstairs." Rebecca gave Wesley a look.

Wesley nodded. When he passed by Catherine, he stopped and said with a fake smile, "Wife, as long as you're willing to go back to my bed, I can guarantee that your children won't get hurt. After all, I watched them grow up."

Catherine's eyes went cold.

How dare he threaten her with her children?

"Wesley, are you unwilling to get lost? Then, let me teach you a lesson." Shaun viciously kicked Wesley's knees. Wesley was caught off guard and immediately fell to the ground.

Shaun took the opportunity to kick him in his back, making Wesley fall flat on his face miserably once more.

Catherine could not help but laugh out loud as she watched the scene.

“Shaun, you...” Wesley felt his face burn as his shame turned into raging anger.

He got back up and was just about to fight back when Shaun pulled out a wad of money from his pocket, throwing it at Wesley’s face. “Sorry, my leg suddenly cramped up. That money is to compensate you.”

“Sorry, President Lyons.” Catherine gloated. “He probably got a leg cramp from anger when he heard you use the children as a threat.”

“You know me best, Cathy. ” Shaun shook his leg and said with a vague smile, “President Lyons, you should go quickly. I’m afraid my leg will cramp and I’ll lose control again if you say anything else.”

“If I were you, I’d behave myself by tucking my tail in between my legs. But it seems you’re the type who won’t shed tears until you see the coffin.”

After a deep chill flashed in the bottom of Wesley’s eyes, he turned around and left together with Rebecca.

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Catherine looked at Wesley’s back. That man could still endure it despite being humiliated to this extent, proving that his schemes were not shallow at all. This man was probably more trouble than they thought.

“Cathy, where did you go today? What happened?” Shaun turned her body and took off her mask.

When he saw that her tender fair face was not only swollen but also had a handprint on it, his eyes instantly flooded with a burst of hostility.

“Was it really your mom who hit you?”

He still could not believe that her mother was alive.

“... Yeah.” Although Catherine did not want to admit it, she nodded painfully. “I didn’t expect it either. I always thought my mom had died, but she greeted me by slapping me twice on our first meeting.”

Catherine was controlling her emotions, but maybe it was because she was talking about someone she loved so as she spoke, her eyes could not help but get red.

Shaun hugged her, feeling distressed. “Cathy, you don’t need a mother like that.”

“That’s not it. I thought the same thing as you at first. But after talking to my dad on the phone, I calmed down and thought about it. Rebecca probably did something. Rebecca’s reaction was very strange just now. I don’t know what she did, but it seems like she’s fearless.” Catherine was at a loss.

She had wanted to meet Sheryl and explain to her about Grandma’s death and the evil deeds Jeffery, Sally, and Rebecca did. However, Rebecca’s attitude made her start to doubt herself. Would Sheryl believe her?

Shaun snorted coldly. “No matter what Rebecca did to sow dissension, as your biological mother, she believed what others said so casually. She’s not worthy of being your mother at all.”

He did not care about Sheryl’s status. He hated anyone who dared to hurt his woman.

Catherine was dumbfounded. Shaun's words touched her heart.

Yes, someone else could incite Sheryl, but did she not have her own ability to distinguish right from wrong? Besides, Sheryl was her mother, but she indiscriminately hit her own daughter and even hated her so much.

How could Catherine not be disappointed in her?

"Shaunny, there are some things we have to get to the bottom of," Catherine said with a bitter face. "My mom has been helping Rebecca to suppress us. If we don't expose Rebecca's true face, we'll forever be suppressed by them. Even Wesley and Rebecca have joined hands. After what Wesley said just now, I'm afraid that he'll do something to the children. "

"That's why I want you to take the children and leave first," Shaun said without thinking.

Catherine parted her red lips. In the end, she lowered her eyes and said guiltily, "There's one thing I forgot to tell you. I just learned about this. Matthew is actually my half-brother."

Shaun froze. Catherine had mentioned the Costner family, but he did not expect her to bring up Matthew.

"Matthew deliberately approached me in Melbourne."

Catherine bit her lip. "He already knew my true identity. Later, when Hill Corporation was being investigated, I went to him for help. He said he couldn't do it, but he could ask his father, Titus, for help. Titus refused back then, but during the banquet held by Nathan, you were called away and I saw Titus on the top floor. He was playing chess and I helped him reverse the game, so he said that he would help me once.

"Today, I went to see him in hopes that he would help you after I leave, but I didn't expect my mom to suddenly appear. Now I know that this was all orchestrated by the Costner family. I was so

stupid.”

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Shaun understood. His expression sank. “So... Titus knows about your plan?”

“... Yeah.” Catherine admitted with difficulty. “But he doesn’t know about your relationship with Uncle Brennan. I didn’t tell him that we’re leaving on Uncle Brennan’s private plane because I was afraid that they would take precautions. I’m sorry, I— ”

“Don’t apologize. It’s not your fault.” Shaun stroked her dark hair. “We didn’t expect the Costner family to be so shameless.”

After all, they let Matthew deliberately approach them and the same happened with Titus.

Wait, Titus’ name sounded familiar. It seemed Brennan had mentioned him before.

Brennan said that he had seen a woman in Neah Bay who looked very much like Catherine.

However, he did not have any evidence, so he did not mention it to Catherine because he did not want her to be disappointed.

In that case, the wife of the head of the Costner family in Neah Bay was really Sheryl Jones.

Rebecca had gone over in advance to meet Sheryl first. However, how did Rebecca know that Sheryl was still alive?

According to Brennan, the Costner family was extremely powerful and they could be said to be the richest family in the world. It was no wonder that Nathan did not dare to offend them.

“Cathy, I’ll take you to see my dad. He knows about some things, ” Shaun suddenly grabbed Catherine’s hand and said eagerly.

Catherine was confused, but seeing Shaun’s handsome and unpredictable face, she nodded.

Just as they left the office, a group of executives came up to meet them and were at a loss.

“Chairman Hill, Rebecca’s group came over and said that they want us all to get out. Is that true?”

“Chairman Hill, have you really been ousted as chairman?”

“Chairman Hill, is it true that we can’t stay in the company anymore?”

The group of executives was worked up. Some of them had worked in Hill Corporation for two or three decades. They thought of Hill Corporation as their family, so all of them were reluctant when they were suddenly asked to leave.

If they left, they would definitely not receive such generous treatment outside of Hill Corporation.

“Everyone, listen to me.”

Shaun raised a hand, and the intimidating force emanating from him made the crowd quiet.

"It's true that I'm no longer the chairman of the company, and I'm not quite sure what the company will be like in the future. Maybe... it won't be called Hill Corporation tomorrow."

Shaun's voice revealed some bleakness. When the employees, especially the female executives, remembered how high-spirited and noble Shaun was in the past, they were heartbroken.

"Eldest Young Master Hill..." someone exclaimed, "We believe in you. We believe that you'll revive Hill Corporation sooner or later. We followed you because you said you wanted to be the best high-end technology company in the country."

"Thank you all for your trust in me."

Shaun's dark eyes flowed with an exquisite ray of light. "If one day I rise again, I hope that I'll be able to work with you all once more. If I force you to stay now, you'll only be humiliated because of me. But I've seen all your efforts over the years. Later, I'll ask Hadley to handle the resignation formalities for you. Everyone will get an amount of compensation. I hope that all of you will have a bright future."

Shaun took out a card from his pocket and handed it to Hadley. "Split it."

Then, he took Catherine and left the office. Along the way, both of them were silent.

Catherine's mind was filled with the scene from earlier.

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Shaun had let all his employees go. What did that mean?

Did it mean he was really giving up on Hill Corporation?

This was all because of her mother.

Catherine was filled with chagrin, remorse, and heartache.

Their car arrived at Brennan's villa. Shaun opened the car door and reached out to her. "Come on."

"Shaunny, I'll definitely try my best to solve this misunderstanding and have my mom return the company to you." Catherine looked up with watery eyes.

"Heh."

Shaun ruffled her bangs as he said in a low and helpless voice, "Silly girl, your thinking is too simple. Hill Corporation's shares now belong to Rebecca. In other words, even if Sheryl regrets it in the future, it'll be hard to take the company back."

Catherine was stunned. "Is my mom out of her mind?"

"You say that about your mom, but a wise man like Titus also indulged in Rebecca and let her run amok with so much money. Even though the money is from the Costner family, the shares are under Rebecca's name. But Titus didn't stop it from happening. That's a little strange."

Shaun gave her a deep look. "Frankly, I think that Rebecca didn't just do something as simple as sowing dissension."

Catherine's pale lips trembled. She did not know what to say.

"Let's go in and see my dad." Shaun led her into the villa.

Surprisingly, they found that Lea was also there.

When Lea saw the two of them, an embarrassed look flashed across her face. "I wanted to talk to your father about some things regarding Country Y. I don't know much about that place, and I don't know where your grandparents should live after moving there, so I wanted to ask him to help us buy a villa there."

If it were in the past, Shaun might want to be a little nosy.

He actually wanted his parents to talk privately more often since there was a possibility they would get back together. However, he had something on his mind now and did not have the heart to think about anything else. "Dad, do you remember telling me that you went to Neah Bay and saw a woman who looked a lot like Cathy?"

"Yeah." Brennan nodded. "Why are you suddenly bringing that up?"

Catherine was stunned. "So you've seen her before."

"It's my fault. I should've told you earlier. I should've taken you to Neah Bay back then to meet that woman."

Shaun said to Brennan with a bit of chagrin, "Did that woman remarry someone called Titus Costner and have a son called Matthew Costner?"

“Her husband is Titus, but I don’t know her son’s name,” Brennan said.

“Dad, do you know who’s been secretly dealing with the Hill family all this while? It’s Titus and Sheryl. ”
Shaun smiled bitterly. “I don’t know what kind of despicable method Rebecca used. It’s like she’s
brainwashed Titus and Sheryl. They keep

targeting Cathy, who’s Sheryl’s biological daughter.”

Brennan was shocked. It had just been his guess, but he did not expect that it would be true.

“Dad, you said before that Titus is a ruthless and shrewd person. Is it because he doesn’t like that Sheryl
gave birth to a daughter before so he’s deliberately trying to get rid of Cathy?” Shaun guessed.

“No, Titus is... I’ve only seen him once, but he’s not the kind of person who would target a young lady for
that reason.”

Brennan thought about it. “Why don’t I talk to Titus? Maybe we can clear up the misunderstanding.”

“No,” Catherine hurriedly said, “Uncle Brennan, you’re our last trump card. You can’t reveal your
relationship with Shaun. If it really comes down to it, we have to count on you to leave with the two
children and keep them safe and sound.”

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“It won’t be that serious, right? After all, she’s still your biological mother.” Lea was a little puzzled. “
Suzie and Lucas are her grandchildren too. Not even I was that vicious when Shaun and I were on bad
terms.”

At most, she said some unpleasant things and tried to get Liam to snatch the position of chairman.

When Shaun had children, she was still quite happy about it.

However, Catherine fell silent and did not reply.

Shaun sighed. "Cathy's mother slapped her."

Brennan lit a cigarette. After a moment, he said, "In that case, I won't go to Titus for the time being. Also

... you originally planned to leave next week. Are you still going?"

Everyone looked at Catherine.

Catherine was silent for a while before shaking her head. "I want to stay and find out the truth."

Shaun touched her long hair. A sharp light flashed in his dark eyes as he gradually had an idea. "Dad, what's the real power of the Costner family like?"

Brennan hesitated for a moment before saying in a complicated way, "I remember I told you that Titus' wife is the owner of Soromon Island. After Sheryl got stranded there, she developed the oil on the island. In terms of financial resources, Sheryl and Titus are on par. One of them is in control of the oil, and the other is in control of the shipping routes and banks. No matter which country they go to, their identities are enough for the president of each country to personally receive them."

Catherine was shocked. "My mom didn't get her current position because she married Titus?"

"No, these two people are a strong alliance." Brennan looked at her with a bit of pity. "You're her biological daughter. If Sheryl publicly acknowledges that you're her daughter and she gives you even one drop of her wealth, it'll be enough to make you the richest young lady in the world."

"Dad, stop sprinkling salt on Cathy's wound. She doesn't care about money." Shaun quickly interrupted. "Dad, I have an idea. We took out a significant number of Titus' men today. I'm guessing that he'll definitely send over more men from Neah Bay, but as long as those people can't go through customs and enter the country, Titus and Sheryl will be helpless in Australia no matter how much money they have. When that happens, we can deal with them however we want to."

Brennan was slightly surprised. "You're very daring. If something happens to Titus and Sheryl in the country, Nathan will get into trouble. He won't agree with what you're doing. The Snow family can't afford the Costner family's revenge."

"Dad, you said that the Costner family and Soromon Island are two places of enormous power. Where there's money and power, there'll be disputes. The Costner family is full of talents, so won't there be people who are jealous of Titus? As long as we can find the right person in the Costner family to cooperate with, Titus' death might even be a happy thing for the people of the Costner family."

Shaun's words were meaningful, and everyone understood.

Brennan looked at his son with eyes full of horror.

Catherine was a little stunned. "Is there... a need to go that far?"

"This will be the last resort we use to protect ourselves. Don't worry, even if that day comes, I won't hurt your mom. At most... I'll put her under house arrest." Shaun gently reassured her. "For now, we still have to meet Titus and your mom to talk and find out what the misunderstanding is. It's best if we can clear the misunderstanding. But if we can't, then we won't be left with a choice."

Catherine nodded. She would definitely figure out the truth as soon as possible.

Shaun turned to look at Brennan. "Dad, please go to Neah Bay and find out who's the most ambitious member in the Costner family as well as who's the most jealous of Titus. You have to go to Soromon Island too. Sheryl only appeared afterward, so there must be people on the island who don't accept her."

"Okay, I'll fly there tomorrow." Brennan nodded ruefully.

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