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Charles and the others had also returned from their race. The three of them were sweating profusely, but their eyes were bright from the exercise, and it was hard not to notice the enthusiasm on their faces. It was clear to see that they had a good race.

"Here's some water, President Lane," Rebecca said as she took up two bottles of water and tossed one of them to Charles.

He took it over and quipped, "Thanks."

"What about me?" Zane regarded Rebecca unhappily when she did not give him bottled water like she did Charles. "I was the one who drove you here. Why is he the only one who gets water?"

Rebecca rolled her eyes at him. "Okay, here you go!" She took another bottle and tossed it to him.

It was only then that Zane broke into a satisfied grin. He twisted open the cap and took a few gulps, then doused the remaining water over his head and face. "That's the stuff!"

"Feels pretty good," Charles agreed heartily as he shook water droplets from the tips of his hair.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the field, Tina handed a bottle of water to Toby as well. "Here you go, Toby. Have a drink of water."

"Okay." Toby took the bottle and twisted the cap, but he did not drink and instead gave the bottle back to her. "You can take the first sip."

At the sight of his warm chivalry, Tina broke into a dazzling smile. "Thank you, Toby."

He dismissed this and bent over to take another bottle of water, then drank deeply. He had only just taken several gulps when a panicked shriek came from the other side of the field.

Everyone paused in whatever they were doing. Charles looked into the distance and saw that Sonia's horse was thrashing wildly.

Sonia, on the other hand, was scared witless as she tried to keep herself steady on the saddle. Her body tipped back and forth uncontrollably. She might have a tight grip on the reins now, but if this were to go on, the horse would shake her off at any given moment.

"Baby!" Charles yelled and threw his water bottle down, then ran over to his horse so he could go to Sonia's rescue.

However, he had only just mounted his horse when a figure on another horse dashed past him, beating him to the scene.

It was none other than Toby, and at the sight of this, Charles frowned. Nonetheless, he wasted no time in digging his heels into his horse's sides, swiftly catching up to the other man as they both rushed to save Sonia.

Right now, only Zane and Tina remained.

Rebecca had just left for the restroom, and Tyler had yet to come back from the other track

Zane was highly amused when he saw Tina grimace, and he chortled as he asked, "Oh my, it looks like Toby is going to rescue Sonia. Does that make you unhappy?"

Tina knew that he was trying to get on her nerves by making a joke out of her. She forced out a tight smile, though her hands were clenching the bottle tightly as she said, "Of course not. It's only natural that Toby saves Miss Reed from trouble. Why would I be unhappy?"

"Really? But judging from the way you're behaving, I think you're lying," Zane teased, his smile growing ever more wicked as his eyes fell on the distorted water bottle in her hand.

She stiffened when she heard this and quickly loosened her grip on the bottle, then chose to remain silent.

Zane chuckled at her reticence. "You're as two-faced as usual, Miss Gray. I can't believe someone like you has managed to win Toby over; he must have been blind. That being said, it looks like he's getting better."

He cupped his own cheek as he watched Toby, who had successfully saved Sonia from danger. "You know, there's no hiding the panic on Toby's face earlier, which means he still cares about Sonia. It's just that he has yet to realize this, but when he does, I wonder what might happen to you, Miss Gra—"

"That's enough! Stop talking!" Tina snapped icily, cutting him off. She dug her nails into her palms and stood up.

He quirked a brow at her. "What, are you mad?"

She glowered at him mutinously as she warned, "Mr. Coleman, I know that the incident with my father has greatly offended your family, but there is no need

for you to be so hostile as to try and pick on my relationship with Toby, is there? Aren't you worried that Toby would be unhappy if he were to know about this?"

"Why would I be worried?" Zane grinned at her ferociously. "He's my friend, after all. I have his best interests at heart, and if I were to ask him to leave you because I think you aren't good enough for him, then surely he would not blame me for it."

"You—" She broke off, her face turning white, then red with fury.

Zane, on the other hand, looked like the cat that ate the canary.

He hadn't wanted to do something as underhanded as picking on Tina's relationship with Toby, given that they did not get in his way, regardless of how they turned out. However, the Gray Family just had to be unethical and nearly dragged the Coleman Family's plans—which were carefully curated over many years—through the mud. Naturally, following such an incident, Zane had no intention of going easy on Tina. But such is the philosophy of a vengeful person like me.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the riding track, Toby was holding a trembling Sonia in his arms. She was clearly still traumatized after what had happened earlier.

He could feel the fear that emanated from her. Patting her back gently, he comforted her in a soothing voice, "There, there. Everything's alright now. Don't be afraid."

However, Sonia made no reply, but she was shrinking into herself from all the violent trembling.

At that moment, Charles strode over, and his eyes were stormy when he saw Toby holding Sonia in his arms. Nonetheless, he said courteously, "Thank you for saving her, President Fuller."

He was reluctant to thank Toby, but the truth remained that the latter beat him to Sonia's rescue; the truth remained that he was much slower than Toby.

"It's no big deal," Toby plainly answered as he gave Charles a brief glance.

Charles got down from his horse with grace. "Well then, could you perhaps let my darling go now? Don't forget that she's my girlfriend; it's inappropriate for you to keep holding her like that, considering your fiancée is still watching."

Upon hearing this, Toby abruptly stopped patting Sonia on the back, and it was only then that he registered that the woman in his arms was his ex-wife, not to mention somebody else's girlfriend.

It was inappropriate indeed to hold her the way he did.

At this realization, Toby turned to look at the lounge area, whereupon he met Tina's red and watery eyes. He pursed his thin lips, then released Sonia unwillingly from his embrace.

As soon as he did so, Charles reached out to grab Sonia by the wrist and pulled her into his arms, then asked anxiously, "Baby, are you okay? Are you hurt?"

She was still in a stupor as she shook her head and answered in a quivering voice, "I'm fine."

She had been close to dropping off the horse's back when Toby showed up in time to save her, so she narrowly escaped getting hurt.

But Charles was still worried as he appraised her from head to toe, and when he was sure that she was free from injury, he let out a sigh of relief. "Well, as long as you're okay. I thought my heart was going to stop beating just now. I was that shocked. I mean, the horse was completely fine, wasn't it? Why did it go crazy all of a sudden?"

The question hung in the air as Toby turned to glance at the now-calm horse that was in the distance. His eyes glimmered darkly.

"I don't know either," Sonia confessed feebly, shaking her head.

She had been perfectly fine as she rode the horse, but before she knew it, the creature picked up its pace and started to thrash around wildly. She had been scared witless, and there was no way she had the mental bandwidth to figure out a plausible reason behind the horse's mood swing.

"It's fine; I'll look into this matter. Baby, why don't you go back into the room and take a break. Look at how your legs are still shaking." Charles was staring at her legs, which were trembling.

Sonia merely nodded her head in agreement.

At the sight of this, he wrapped an arm around her, supporting her weight as he guided her toward the villa.

Toby, on the other hand, only watched with his lips pressed into a thin line as the two of them walked away from the tracks.

It wasn't until half an hour later that Charles returned from the upstairs, only to see Toby and the others sitting in the living room, having returned from the riding tracks.

Tyler was the first to notice Charles descending the stairs. He rose quickly from his seat as he demanded urgently, "Hey, is it true that Sonia got into an accident with the horse? How is she doing now?"

While everyone waited for Charles' answer, Tina noted the panic and concern on Tyler's face, and she lowered her gaze to hide the sinister gleam in her eyes. She recalled how much Tyler had hated Sonia back in the day. Why is it that he seems to have taken a liking to her and shows his concern for her now that she and Toby are divorced? What kind of spell has that wretched girl cast on Tyler?

"Yeah, President Lane," Rebecca interjected. "Is Sonia alright?"

Rebecca had been occupied in the restroom during Sonia's accident. It was only after her return that Zane told her about the story of the horse going wild, nearly toppling Sonia over to the ground.

Presently, Charles ignored Tyler as he addressed Rebecca, saying, "There's nothing to worry about. Sonia's fine, but she's still experiencing the after-shock. She's asleep now."

Rebecca let out a sigh of relief. "That's good to know."

Tyler, on the other hand, was unhappy to have been ignored by Charles, but upon hearing that Sonia had escaped danger and was recuperating, he decided to brush off the pointed snubbing.

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Charles' expression grew abruptly cold, and his icy gaze swept over the other five people in the room before it finally landed on Tina. "The mare Sonia picked out was the tamest of the bunch, and I know this because I deliberately asked the stable attendant about it. Logically speaking, it's impossible that the horse would go crazy all of a sudden, so I figured something fishy must be going on here."

"Are you saying that someone did something to President Reed's horse, President Lane?" Rebecca was quick to catch on as she asked with wide eyes.

"It wasn't me," Tyler interjected defensively with a shake of his head, waving his hands as though to bat away any accusation or suspicion that might be thrown his way.

Zane was calm as he sipped his tea and quipped, "It wasn't me, either."

"Well, it definitely couldn't have been me," Rebecca said, raising her hands.

As such, Charles' gaze fixed on the remaining duo, who had yet to voice their denial. "That just leaves President Fuller and Miss Gray, but seeing as President Fuller went to Sonia's rescue, I'm sure that he was not the one who pulled the dirty trick. After all, it's not as if he would purposely start trouble only to solve it himself—no one has the time for that, which means..."

"Which means you're suspecting me," Tina continued his sentence for him. She dug her nails into her palms and looked so flustered that she might be on the brink of crying.

Charles clapped in a flamboyant display of mockery as he sneered, "It looks like you are perceptive after all. You're right—I am suspicious of you because out of everyone here, you're the only one who would most likely go out of her way to hurt Sonia, and you have a track record to prove it."

"I didn't do anything!" Tina's tears streamed down her cheeks. She grabbed Toby's hand and pleaded, "You have to believe me, Toby! I didn't do it!"

"I believe you," Toby reassured her and squeezed her hand gently, signaling her to calm down.

Upon hearing that he still believed in her, she nodded and regained her composure.

Charles, on the other hand, rolled his eyes in exasperation as he accused, "Well, of course, you'd believe her. She could commit murder, and you'd let her get away with it as soon as she breaks out the waterworks. It's not as if everyone here is oblivious to how overly-indulgent you are toward her!"

Rebecca and Zane nodded in silent affirmation to this fact.

Not even Tyler could deny this, and he nodded along as well. Toby does spoil her every now and then.

"I believe in Tina not because I indulge in her every whim, but because she has a solid alibi," Toby argued, though he did not seem angry even while everyone else refused to stand on his side. He eyed Charles darkly as he elaborated, "She did not come into contact with Sonia's horse at any point of time, so why don't you tell me how she managed to pull off a sabotage?"

In the beginning, Toby wondered if Tina's other personality had been the one to orchestrate this incident, but upon careful analysis, he concluded that the opposite was true; the other personality never did come out at any point in time.

Meanwhile, Charles bristled at Toby's argument, but as soon as he gave it some thought, he realized that the latter was speaking the truth.

Tina had indeed been nowhere near the stable when Sonia picked out the horse, and it wasn't as if she could pull off the sabotage beforehand, given that there was no telling which horse Sonia would pick out of the bunch in the stable; Tina might be devious, but she was no prophet.

He allowed the possibility of Tina taking it upon herself to sabotage every single horse in the stable, but if that were the case, their horses ought to have gone crazy as well. However, they rode around the tracks unscathed. Could this really be just an accident, then? Charles thought uneasily.

Zane was the first one to offer a solution. "Why don't we get one of the stable attendants to come over and ask him about this? We'll know what happened as soon as he runs a check on the horse."

Toby shrugged indifferently. "That's fine by me."

It wasn't long before the attendant came over as asked, and when Charles pressed them on what had happened to Sonia's horse, they simply answered, "Miss Reed's horse was in heat."

"What?" Everyone gaped at the attendant in surprise.

Tina was the only one who lowered her head to conceal the smirk on her lips.

"Did you just say the horse was in heat?" Charles was bewildered. "But it isn't mating season for the animals!"

Zane, Rebecca, and Tyler were staring at the attendant, waiting eagerly for his explanation.

However, he only shook his head as he pointed out, "The season might be over, but it doesn't mean the animals would not go into heat. Sometimes, there are other factors that might stimulate the animals to go into heat."

Toby queried in a low voice, "So why did Sonia's horse go into heat in the first place?"

The attendant pondered on this momentarily, then replied, "We can't say for sure, but perhaps the horse picked up on any particular scent or took in a stimulant or something. There's no certainty for now, but these are the few possibilities I can come up with."

"Well, the second possibility is not viable, seeing as the horse didn't eat anything when it was led out of the stables," Rebecca chimed.

She had been there when Sonia picked out the horse, so she could attest to this fact.

Charles rubbed his jaw as he suggested, "So the horse probably picked up on a scent?"

Zane chuckled suddenly. "Please tell me the scent wasn't Sonia's perfume."

Everyone made various noises of doubt as their lips twitched, but none could deny the plausibility of this.

Rebecca turned her palms up as if resigned. "Does this mean that whatever happened to President Reed is just an accident?"

As reluctant as Charles was to admit this, he was compelled to. Without another word, he turned to go up the stairwell.

Having dismissed the attendant with a wave of his hand, Toby called out to stop Charles in his tracks, "Hold on."

Charles stopped and asked stoically, "What is it?"

Zane, Rebecca, and Tyler—and even Tina—turned simultaneously to look at Toby in curiosity.

Toby took Tina by the hand as he insisted coolly, "Now that the situation has been cleared up, shouldn't you apologize for wrongfully accusing Tina earlier?"

Charles narrowed his eyes at this and laughed incredulously. "Apologize? You want me to apologize to her?" He jabbed a finger in Tina's direction.

Toby eyed him steadily and demanded, "Do you not want to?"

"Yeah, I'm not apologizing, and why should I? I admit that I wrongfully accused her this time, but I didn't for all the things she did to Sonia in the past. Has she apologized to Sonia for all the other stuff? No. You were the one who apologized on her behalf."

There was a disdainful sneer on his face as he glowered at Toby defiantly. "She uses you as a shield after all that she did to hurt Sonia, and she never once bothered to make reparations. But you don't see me demanding an apology for Sonia like what you are doing now for Tina. So what right do you have to force an apology out of me?"

Upon hearing this retort, Toby grew sullen.

Tina, on the other hand, was embarrassed as she fixed her gaze on the tips of her shoes.

Meanwhile, Zane had his hands behind his head as he watched the show. He was entertained, and he encouraged Rebecca to sit back and enjoy the drama as he did.

Tyler was the only fool who blinked and asked, "Toby, what did Tina do to Sonia, and why did you have to apologize on her behalf?"

Anger flashed in Tina's eyes when she heard this. Of all the times for Tyler to bring this up, he has to pick now? Is he trying to make things worse for me on purpose?

"Shut up," Toby barked coldly, frowning.

Tyler fell into resentful silence at this. He only wanted to know the truth of what had happened, and he could not understand why he was asked to shut up instead. Why does he get to tell me to shut up?

Seeing how unhappy Tyler was, Charles seized the opportunity and crossed his arms in front of his chest as he offered, "Hey, kid. If you want to know what happened, I can tell you."

Tyler visibly perked up at this, and his eyes shone as he said, "Okay."

"Toby—" Tina anxiously tugged on Toby's arm, as though asking him to stop Charles from speaking.

However, it was too late, for Charles had already started off the narrative. "Listen, kid. Your gorgeous soon-to-be sister-in-law is as insidious as they come. She used public opinion to accuse Sonia of running her down with a car six years ago, and thankfully, Sonia managed to clear her name by getting her hands on the camera footage from back then."

"And also, there was that time at the resort when she squirted shower gel all over the bathroom floor and caused Sonia to slip and fall, thereby hitting her head. Two days ago, she even pushed Sonia down a flight of stairs in an attempt to kill her. So now you know all that Tina has done to Sonia in the past. What do you think, kid?" Charles was clearly satisfied as he stared at Tyler, who appeared to have gone into shock.

Zane and Rebecca, too, were astonished, given how they had no idea of any of these.

"Are these all true, Toby? Did Tina really do all those horrible things to Sonia?" Tyler clenched his fists as he glared at his brother with hostility. All this time, he had been so focused on basketball that he did not know what Sonia endured.

Toby was grim, but he said nothing.

Tina, on the other hand, gripped his arm tightly, and she did not make to defend herself either.

At the sight of this, Tyler understood immediately that Charles had been speaking the truth.

In recent times, he had realized that Tina was not as wonderful as he initially thought, but he certainly didn't think that she was more vicious than he imagined. How could she be so despicable as to do all those things to Sonia?

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Tyler lowered his head, looking as crestfallen as he was stunned.

Meanwhile, Charles scoffed as he glanced over at Toby haughtily. "So, do you still want me to apologize, President Fuller?"

The subtext of his question was clear: if he were to be forced to apologize, then he would expose even more startling crimes on Tina's track record.

Toby understood what was at stake, and he was grim as he returned Charles' sullen gaze.

Tina, on the other hand, was somewhat terrified as she tugged on Toby's arm. She forced out a tight smile and said, "Let's forget about this, Toby. Charles is right; I've done so many terrible things to Miss Reed, so it's only right that we excuse them from making an apology."

Charles quirked his lips mockingly. "It looks like you guys have given up on an apology from me, so I'm going to take my leave now. The air here reeks of hypocrisy."

As he said this, he flapped his hand in front of his nose as though to fan away some repulsive scent and headed up the stairs.

Seeing this, Rebecca let out a full-body yawn and interjected, "I'm worn out from all the horseback riding. I think I'll take a nap in my room."

"Well, I'm not staying here if the rest of you are leaving," Zane concluded as he rose from his seat.

Very soon, Toby and the two others were the only ones remaining in the living room.

Tyler glanced at Toby, then Tina. At last, he grabbed the former by the arm and proceeded to guide him toward the veranda. "Come over here, Toby. I need to talk to you about something."

When they reached the veranda, Toby drew his arm back and demanded, "What is it?"

Tyler closed the door to the veranda behind him. "Toby, you know all about what Tina has done to Sonia, don't you?"

He found it rather repulsive to call Tina by her given name so affectionately after learning all the terrible things she had inflicted upon Sonia. As far as he was concerned, he should adopt a more fitting nickname for the wretched woman.

Toby pursed his lips briefly, then admitted, "Yes, I do."

Tyler was obviously aggrieved by such an affirmation. "So, what are you still doing with her?"

Toby frowned and snapped, "This is my business, and it doesn't concern you one bit."

"How so? I'm your biological brother, Toby. Don't you think I have the right to be concerned?" Tyler's eyes widened incredulously as he went on to say, "Listen to me, Toby. You have to break up with Tina as soon as possible. She's a terrible human being, and I am totally against the both of you being together!"

A woman like Tina was basically the epitome of evil; there was no telling what other wicked schemes she might be up to next. What if she throws Toby under the bus? Or worse—what if she drags our family name through the mud?

However, Toby only grew impatient as he said, "Okay, that's enough. Just watch your own back and stop butting into my affairs." With that, he opened the door to the veranda and left.

Tina happened to be standing behind the door, and her eyes rimmed red as she regarded them plaintively. "Toby..." she began, chewing her lip anxiously.

Toby sighed tiredly. "Did you hear everything?"

She nodded and hummed sadly in response.

Meanwhile, Tyler was slightly flustered as he averted his gaze, not wanting to look her in the eyes.

After all, she had heard all of his bad-mouthing, and he would inevitably feel embarrassed regardless of how thick-skinned he might be. He let out a dry cough and made to walk away.

Just then, Tina called out to him, "Tyler."

He stopped in his tracks and asked icily, "What is it? If you're looking for an apology, then let's just say you'd be disappointed because there's no way I'm going to say sorry for speaking the truth."

I'm not in the wrong here. It's true that she is evil enough to attempt murder, and it's not my fault for wanting to keep her away from Toby!

"Tyler!" Toby was clearly displeased as he exclaimed his brother's name, sounding as if he was building up to an admonishment.

Tyler clenched his fists, and he was about to say something in retort when Tina interjected woefully, "No, Tyler, it isn't an apology I'm looking for. I just

wanted to say that I have, indeed, done some grievous things to Miss Reed. However, I have reasons for it, and it was not my intention to hurt her. I—"

"Whatever the reasons might be and regardless of your intentions, you were still behind all those things, weren't you?" Tyler cut her off bluntly. Then, he added, "There was a time when I thought you were a kind and gentle person, and I was completely fine with you being together with my brother. But now, I realize how blind and ridiculous I was. A wicked and vicious woman like you has no right marrying my brother. You're only going to burden him and drag him down!"

Having said that, he scoffed contemptuously at her and stalked off.

Tina watched his retreating figure and bit down hard on her lower lip as the storm clouds gathered ominously in her dark eyes.

So, it was Zane at first, and now Tyler is trying to tear Toby away from me, too? This is what Charles and Sonia are up to. They want to turn everyone around Toby and me over to their side and gang up against us.

At the thought of this, she shuddered in anger and felt a strong surge of hatred for all these people.

While she was simmering in spite, Toby thought she might be crying and pulled her into an embrace from behind as he placated, "I'm sorry, Tina. Tyler is still a kid, and he doesn't think before he speaks. I hope you won't hold it against him."

Tina regained her composure and schooled her features into an expression of empathy, then shook her head. "I don't blame him at all. He wasn't wrong anyway. I'm just a little scared."

"What are you scared of?" Toby turned her in his arms and gazed down at her.

She rested her head on his chest and listened to the steady rhythm of his heartbeat, then answered in a trembling voice, "I'm scared that Tyler may try to convince you to break up with me. I'm terrified that you really will leave me."

He sighed when he heard this and cupped her face in his hands, then dipped his head to look at her solemnly as he promised, "I won't ever leave you. Don't you believe me?"

After all, he had relentlessly pursued her several times before she agreed to go out with him and become his girlfriend; there was no way he would leave her.

She blinked and asked, "Really?"

"Really." He nodded in assurance.

"B-But Tyler is your brother. Surely he would talk to your mother and force you to break up with me. Would you still be so adamant when your family pressures you?" Tina gazed up at him hopefully.

He smoothed down her hair and murmured, "Yes. I'm the head of the Fuller Family, anyway, so it's not like they have a say in whatever I decide. There's nothing for you to worry about."

She hummed in satisfaction and broke into a smile, then nuzzled into his chest once more. "That makes me feel safe."

He hugged her gently and smoothed her hair. His gestures were gentle and compassionate, but there was an icy gleam in his eyes, which were dark pools devoid of warmth.

He wasn't sure what was happening to him. He was embracing a woman he loved dearly but found that he was growing distant from her; there was a newfound sense of calm in him that made him more level-headed whenever he assessed her.

•••

That night, there was a torrential downpour that was accompanied by rough winds and rumbling thunder, turning the scene outside the villa to one that was almost apocalyptical.

Tina was so frightened that all the color drained from her face, and she screamed when the thunder boomed overhead.

As of now, she was curled into a ball on the couch. "Miss Harper, could you please draw the curtains? The storm is terrifying," she pleaded with Rebecca, who was standing by the French windows while admiring the storm raging outside.

Rebecca turned slightly to cast her a baleful look, and contempt rose within her.

However, she did not want to stir up unnecessary trouble and decidedly drew the curtains as told.

"Thank you, Miss Harper." Tina breathed a sigh of relief and flashed the other girl a grateful, albeit watery smile.

Rebecca was impassive as she snapped, "There's no need to thank me. Do you honestly think I'd give a damn about you if President Fuller weren't backing you up?"

Having thrown these words over her shoulders, she stormed into the kitchen.

Tina lowered her gaze to hide the spite in her eyes, though she put on a resentful front.

Toby pulled out a woman's coat from the closet upstairs, and at the sight of Tina looking like a wounded kitten, he frowned. "What's wrong, Tina?"

"I'm fine." Tina lifted her head and gave him a small smile. "It's nothing to do with Miss Harper."

He pursed his lips. "Did Rebecca bully you?"

"Not at all." Tina flapped her hand dismissively. "I'm scared of thunder, and I asked her to draw the curtains earlier, but I seemed to have interrupted her storm-gazing plans, so she's a little unhappy with me at the moment. That being said, she didn't bully me at all. I'm the one who feels bad about this."

"You shouldn't have to," Toby argued while draping the coat over her slender frame. "The villa is for communal use; it was not your fault that you were afraid of thunder and asked that she draw the curtains. Anyway, are you still cold?"

"Not anymore," she answered with a gentle shake of her head.

He hummed in response. "That's good to know."

Just then, the sound of thudding footsteps sounded from upstairs.

As it turned out, Zane, Charles, and Sonia were making their way down the staircase.

Raking his fingers through his hair insouciantly, Zane asked aloud, "Hey, it's getting late! What's the chef doing? Where's our dinner?"

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"Stop howling. The chef is not here." Rebecca came out of the kitchen. Zane looked at her and asked, "Where did the chef go?"

"In the afternoon, the chef went out to make purchases but never came back. Just now, I called them, and they said that on the way back, there was a landslide, so they were blocked by it and couldn't come back." Rebecca shrugged.

Blinking, Tyler questioned, "Then what about our dinner tonight?"

"What else can we do? We have to make it ourselves. I went to the kitchen just now and found that there are plenty of ingredients there already." Rebecca pointed in the direction of the kitchen.

Hearing that, Tyler wailed. "You mean to say that we have to cook by ourselves?"

"Or what?" Rebecca rolled her eyes.

The corners of Zane's mouth twitched as he said, "Does anyone here know how to cook?"

Once these words came out, everyone fell silent. After a while, except for Sonia, they shook their heads one after another, saying that they didn't. After all, it was a fact that all the people present were from wealthy families and had been served with a silver spoon in their mouths since childhood, so they certainly didn't know how to cook.

"It's over then. It looks like we won't have anything to eat tonight." Zane touched his stomach and spoke with a bitter smile.

Rebecca gave him a sidelong glance, saying, "It's all because of you. You were the one bringing me here and causing me to have no food."

At that, Zane bristled. "Who knew the chef was so unlucky to have encountered a landslide?"

"Yeah." Rebecca sighed.

Then, Tina pulled Toby's sleeve. "Toby, what should we do? I'm so hungry!"

Toby's thin lips moved as he replied, "There should be snacks in the kitchen. Let's go look for them and make do with them."

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Tina was so hungry that she couldn't stand it anymore. When she smelled the aroma of the food, she felt even hungrier. Then, Toby looked at Tina's hungry appearance and finally agreed. "Let's go."

"Mm." Tina smiled and nodded. Just after walking a few steps, she suddenly stopped again and looked back at Tyler on the sofa. "Tyler, do you want to come along?"

"I'm not coming with you," Tyler answered with a cold attitude, making Tina lower her head in the gloom.

Toby pursed his lips. "If you don't come over to help, then you won't get to eat tonight."

After saying that, he pulled Tina and continued to walk toward the kitchen.

Clutching his hair in exasperation, Tyler really wanted to just ignore them, but his stomach was growling. In the end, he went to the kitchen as well.

The kitchen was very large, so all of them could move around in it without any issue. When Toby came in, the three of them saw Sonia flinging the pan, and the food in it rose up in the air, flipped over, and fell back in neatly.

Charles, Zane, and Rebecca stood by the side, all of them looking stunned. "Amazing!" Rebecca marveled.

Zane followed with a nod. "What a great chef!"

"Darling..." Charles's face contorted as he both felt happy and heartbroken. He was happy that he could eat Sonia's cooking later, but he was heartbroken that the woman he cherished so much had been bullied by the Fuller Family so much that she even knew such a difficult technique. After all, she had never done this in the past before.

Thinking of this, he turned and glared at the three who had just entered.

The three of them were also watching Sonia flipping the food, and it was not until they felt Charles' glare that they snapped back to their senses. In fact, they were actually fascinated by Sonia's skills.

"Let's go over there." Toby coughed lightly, withdrew his gaze, and pointed to the other side of the stove. So, Tina took his arm and went over with him. After that, Tyler looked at Sonia, and then at his brother, and then followed him with his head hanging low. The three of them came to the stove and looked at the pots and pans in front of them with difficulty because none of them had ever cooked before. Thus, they couldn't even recognize anything, so now they didn't know where to start.

"Toby, how do we start?" Tina picked up the spatula and looked at it, then asked the man beside her with difficulty.

The man was silent for a few seconds before saying, "Let's wash the vegetables first, and we'll see what you want to eat?"

"But where are the vegetables?" Tina was at a loss.

Tyler snorted. "Even if I can't cook, I know the vegetables are in the refrigerator."

After saying that, he turned around and walked toward the refrigerator. Tina bit her lower lip, her eyes reddening. "Toby, am I useless? I don't even know where the vegetables are."

"No, it's normal not to know this if you don't know how to cook." Toby stroked her hair.

However, Charles couldn't help but roll his eyes at this. "How is that normal? This is common sense, okay? Your fiancée doesn't even have common sense.

President Fuller, you even lied to her and convinced her that this is normal. How brainless can she be not to understand that it's just a lie to comfort her!"

Hearing this, Rebecca and Zane couldn't hold back their laughter, while Sonia also hooked up the corners of her mouth. Toby's face was ugly as he looked at Charles, his eyes icy cold. As for Tina, she looked like she was about to cry. "Charles, you are too much!"

How dare he call me brainless?

"How is that too much? I'm just telling the truth. You can't accept the truth?" Charles stretched his hands, smiling recklessly at Tina's chest that rose and fell violently.

Charles was about to continue mocking her, but Sonia pulled him back. "That's enough, Charles. It'll be a hassle if she gets too angry and ends up doing something bad."

"All right. Since you said so, darling, I'll shut up," Charles said with a smile.

Tina squeezed her hands and looked at Toby. "Toby, do you also think I'm stupid and don't even have common sense."

"No."

"Really?" Tina was obviously a little unconvinced.

Toby felt a little tired, but he still nodded with patience. "Really."

Tina could see that he was being serious, so her mood improved.

At this time, Tyler had already returned with a bunch of food ingredients he wanted to eat. "Toby, let's cook these." He looked at Toby excitedly.

Toby, however, frowned at the food ingredients he was carrying. "Do you know how to cook them? Why did you take so much?"

Tyler's face froze because he obviously had not thought about this, and scratching his head, he asked, "Then what should I do?"

Toby was silent, while Tina didn't know what to say as well. Next to them, Sonia was directing the three others to get plates and seasonings, and they were all busy with a lot of enthusiasm. The three people over on Toby's side, however, looked at the cold empty pots and stove for a long time without any action. With that, the two sides formed a stark contrast.

After a while, Toby sighed lightly, then took out his phone and searched for cooking instructions. Finally, they started cooking. However, the food that was made in the end looked unappetizing.

"Toby, is this blackened thing an eggplant?" Tyler asked very politely, pointing to a dish in front of him that could no longer be discerned. Hearing that, Toby pursed his thin lips into a straight line, and he nodded stiffly.

The corners of Tyler's mouth twitched as Tyler pointed to another plate. "Are these potatoes?"

Toby narrowed his eyes and swept a cold glance at him, which made Tyler shrink back and not dare to ask further questions.

When Tina saw that the atmosphere was a little stiff, she smiled a little and took the initiative to ease the situation. "Well Tyler, although these dishes look

a little unattractive, the taste should still be good. After all, Toby personally made them. Try it."

She handed a fork to Tyler, who pretended not to see and picked up another fork instead. Then, he simply reached for the eggplant. When Tina saw this, her hand froze in the air. However, Toby squeezed her hand and said, "It's okay. Eat it yourself."

"Mm." Tina forced a smile, but in her heart, she secretly held a grudge against Tyler, who had disgraced herself.

After I marry Toby, I will definitely drive Tyler out of the Fuller Residence.

"Blergh!" When Tina and Toby were preparing to eat, Tyler suddenly vomited all the food he had eaten with a contorted face.

"What's this? It's terrible! The taste is salty one moment and sweet next. Toby, you're really a genius at cooking." Tyler hurriedly drank water while extending his thumb toward Toby.

Toby's eyebrows furrowed together. "Is it very bad?"

"It's disgusting, okay?!" Tyler yelled loudly.

Toby lowered his eyes to look at the dish he had made. After hesitating for a moment, he grabbed a piece and put it into his mouth, and then his brows wrinkled even more, but he still swallowed the food.

"Toby, how is it? Is it disgusting?" Tyler came close to him and asked with a smile. Toby didn't say anything; his face was expressionless as he sipped his water as a tacit acknowledgment.

After the little episode, Tina silently withdrew her fork that was originally stretched out toward the food.

Forget it! I'm not gonna eat that.

Tina's action was noticed by Sonia, who was enjoying the food at the next table. Sonia decided to ignore it and continued enjoying her sumptuous meal.

As for Zane and Rebecca, they also did not want to cause trouble. After all, good food was in front of them, so they did not have the mood to care about anything else. Honestly speaking, Sonia's cooking was just too delicious, especially the fish, which simply melted in their mouths like butter.

Suddenly, Charles blinked as an idea crossed his mind. Putting down his cutlery, he turned his head to look at the next table. "Miss Gray, this is the dinner that President Fuller personally made, so why don't you eat it?"