

A Love Forgotten Chapter 31

Elijah raised his voice, “You don’t mind? Now you’re pretending to be all generous.” His smile mocking as he said, “Ariana, you’ve won. She’s gone. She won’t be bothering us anymore. So, can you come home with me now?”

I clutched my chest as that familiar dull ache spread through me again.

I was indeed a fool. I’d thought for a fleeting moment that Elijah had suddenly come to his senses. I’d thought he finally chose to believe me over Jocelyn and that the me from before the memory loss could finally win for once.

I let out a soft laugh. “Have I won?” I looked him in the eyes and asked, “Have I truly won?”

I smiled faintly. “You only sent her away because you thought I was throwing a tantrum. You still don’t respect me or believe anything I say in your heart.”

Elijah’s gaze faltered.

So, I had hit the nail on the head regarding his thoughts.

I laughed at myself. “I lost a long time ago. Among the three of us, I should’ve left.”

Elijah looked as if he had something to say, but before he could do so, Frank walked in with my report.

He looked puzzled as he glanced at the three of us.

medical

Perhaps embarrassed, Elijah snatched the report from Frank’s hand. “Let me see. Let’s see what kind of illness has been keeping you in the hospital...” His words got caught in his throat as his expression gradually darkened.

He read the medical report before glancing back at me as if he couldn’t believe that the report was mine.

“Minor brain swelling, concussion, joint dislocation...” He read every page aloud as he looked at me suspiciously. “You...”

Frank took the report back from his hand and frowned. “Mr. Linden, let the patient rest if there’s nothing else.”

Elijah seemed as if he had just realized that I was truly Injured. “Is this true?”

I mockingly looked at him. “You’re right. I asked Dr. Drake to forge these results for me. I’m perfectly fine. I just want to avoid seeing you.”

Anger flashed across Elijah’s face for a moment before he caught sight of the medication I had been using earlier.

He snatched it over and inspected it closely.

Teri could no longer hold herself back. She said, “Elijah, are you out of your mind? Ari is lucky to be alive after falling from the second floor. How could you still think she’s taking her injuries for your sympathy? Did a dog eat your brain?”

She grabbed the medicine back from him and stuffed it back into my bag.

Elijah moved his lips slightly and looked at me with a complicated gaze. His tone was surprisingly gentle as he said, “Ari, I can take you to a doctor if you’re hurt. You don’t have to go through this alone.”

Teri scoffed. “You? You didn’t even bother to visit Ari after she fell. What’s with this sudden act of concern? You’re disgusting.”

Elijah’s face hardened as he said, “Ari, you used to scare me with your illness all the time. I thought you were just making a scene again this time...”

Teri shot back for me, “That was in the past. Ari fell right in front of you this time. What excuse do you have now? You clearly don’t care whether she lives or dies!”

I quickly pulled her back after hearing her harsh words. “Stop it. Let’s not waste time on this.”

Elijah fixed his gaze intently on me. “So, Ari, are you angry with me because I didn’t tend to you after the accident? I can explain. I was truly very busy those days. Jocelyn...”

He accidentally let something slip and found three pairs of eyes fixed on him when he realized it.

Teri let out a mocking laugh. “Busy, were you? You were too busy taking care of your little mistress while your wife lay in the hospital?”

Elijah eventually lost his composure after having endured Teri’s continuous sarcasm. “My business with Ari has nothing to do with you. It was because of a friend like you that she’s become so unreasonable,” Enraged, Teri was about to unleash a torrent of insults.

However, before she could, Elijah coldly glared at her and said, “The Stuart family is just an insignificant household. Are you sure you want to make a scene here?”

“What’s going on?”

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The familiar gentle and soothing voice made every part of me feel relaxed.

I looked up in surprise—Logan was here.

Meanwhile, Elijah's expression darkened the moment he saw him.

He strode over and stared at Logan. "Mr. Wood, did you arrange for my wife to take these check-ups?"

Logan nodded. "Yes, I did. Is there a problem?"

Elijah said coldly and sarcastically, "You're so considerate, Mr. Wood. I suppose I should thank you."

Logan responded casually, "There's no need to thank me." He then approached my ward and said, "Everything's taken care of. Let's go."

I immediately packed my things and prepared to leave with him.

However, Elijah blocked the way once again, He carried himself with determination and was unwilling to back down.

He coldly said, "That's enough, Mr. Wood. Ariana is my wife, and I'm her husband. I'm taking her home. now." His gaze was locked on Logan. "If you cross the line, I'll call the police."

Call the police?

I drew in a sharp breath.

Teri watched with great interest from the side. "Elijah, you truly are something else. Call the police, huh? What are you trying to do? Force Ari to leave with you? Are you trying to abuse her and unleash your anger on her again?"

She patted on the medical report. "We could easily press charges for domestic violence with the injuries she's sustained."

Elijah seemed to regain his senses upon hearing her words. However, he ignored Teri's taunts, and instead, he looked at me before glancing at Logan.

But I didn't care to guess what he was thinking. After packing my things, I turned to Logan and said, "Logan, let's go."

Logan smiled faintly. "Mr. Linden, there's no need to escalate things."

Elijah's voice was cold. "Let Ariana come home with me then."

Logan glanced at him for a couple of seconds more before saying, "Mr. Linden, you might as well call the police."

Elijah was furious. "You!"

But Logan ignored him and simply turned to me and said. "Today's results were good." He then looked at the time and said to Teri, "This must be your friend. Would you both do me the honor of joining me for a meal? It's about time for dinner."

Teri's face lit up. A handsome guy like Logan had just invited her for dinner, after all.

She quickly urged me to get going.

Meanwhile, Elijah was completely sidelined. He couldn't even find a chance to speak even after several attempts.

I couldn't help but glance back at him as Logan led me and Teri out.

Elijah's handsome

face was ashen, and his gaze at me was intense.

I couldn't help but feel a shiver down my spine as I quickly took Teri's hand and left.

"Mr. Linden, you might as well call the police. Hahaha... Teri animatedly mimicked Logan's way of speaking.

I quickly tugged at her arm.

We had just finished our meal, and Logan had gone to fetch the car. Now, Teri and I were waiting for him outside the restaurant.

The restaurant was a century-old establishment in Halton City.

It was quite famous, and I was quite familiar with it. My parents used to bring me and my brother here when we were young. However, we stopped coming for various reasons after that.

I never expected that Logan would take me and Teri here today. He had even reserved a private room with a beautiful view.

It was a pleasant and peaceful dinner.

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As we waited for the car, we felt relaxed after the wonderful dinner. My mood, too, had finally lightened a bit after the meal.

Meanwhile, Teri was excited and kept complimenting Logan the entire time we were there.

She went on and on so much that I felt secondhand embarrassment.

She giggled before raising her fist in the air. That felt so good! Ari, didn't you feel good? Finally, someone put Elijah in his place. Did you see his face? He looked like he was about to blow a gasket."

However, I merely absentmindedly responded to Teri and was barely engaged.

Teri said, "Ari, you better hold onto that big shot. He's way more reliable than Elijah. On top of that, he's loaded."

I felt awkward. "What are you talking about? How could I possibly deserve him? Stop saying that, he'll be

I here any minute."

Teri waved it off. "Why wouldn't you deserve him? You're the daughter of the York family..."

"Well, isn't this the daughter of the York family? What are you doing here? Waiting for someone? A young man in a flashy floral shirt swaggered over with a few companions.

There were men and women, and they were all dressed fashionably.

Then, I noticed several sleek and limited-edition sports cars parked along the driveway, and some people were stepping out of them.

I frowned slightly as I glanced over at the young man greeting us.

Teri took a glance at him and said, "That's Porter Pollard. He's one of the dandies who hangs out with Elijah. He's with Evelyn and them. Let's just ignore him. Nothing good ever comes out of his mouth."

Porter twirled his car keys in his hand and arrogantly walked over. He then sized me up with a glint of surprise in his eyes.

He said, "Wow, Ms. York, looking pretty decent today. You should've dressed like this a long time ago. That garish makeup you used to wear was just terrible and tacky." He openly commented about my

appearance.

I had dressed down for the medical check-up at the hospital today. After all, all of my nice clothes were still in Elijah's villa. I wasn't wearing any decent jewelry today too simply because I didn't have any

Porter seemed intrigued by my silence. "Hey, Ariana. Do you have any plans tonight? Why don't you come to the Pour House for a drink? Elijah will be there too."

I frowned. "I'm not going."

Porter looked surprised. "You're not coming? Didn't you used to beg me to take you there? Have you forgotten? You even recharged 100 thousand dollars for me and purchased a bottle of Black Label."

I glanced at Teri.

Teri probably didn't expect that I would've tried to curry favor with someone like Porter just for Elijah.

She spoke up angrily on my behalf, "Ari already said she's not going. You guys can have fun by yourself Why drag her along? Are you expecting her to be your sucker again and foot the bill?"

Porter was momentarily stunned before shrugging it off with a casual smile. "Why make it sound so bad?"

www

Sucker? Come on, Ariana. Have I ever made you feel like a patsy?"

I looked at his smug grin and felt like I had just swallowed a fly. I had certainly been played for a fool before without a doubt.

It was probably even more than once. That was why Porter could so brazenly invite me for a drink.

I knew it was just another attempt to get me to pay and couldn't help but feel sick at the thought.

I coldly said, "I'm sorry, Porter. I've been on medication recently. I'm not going."

He and the group behind him started laughing. Some of them even exchanged mocking glances as if they were watching a fool.

However, I ignored their taunting eyes and tugged at Teri's arm. "Let's go."

Teri was desperate to get me far away from them and immediately pulled me toward the parking lot.

Porter called out from behind, “Hey, we’re not done talking. Ariana, why are you running off? I’m not going to eat you. I swear that I’m telling the truth. Elijah is meeting us for drinks tonight. I can show you the chat

I quickened my pace without turning back.

Porter saw me walking away with determination and scoffed from behind. “Oh, she sure is quick to run. It’s funny how she had insisted on coming with me to see Elijah. I only stood her up a few times. I never thought she would hold a grudge against me.”

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I stopped in my tracks.

The mocking voices continued to echo behind me.

“Is she Ariana? Hah, isn’t she Elijah’s biggest sycophant? I remember she gave each of us 50 thousand dollars last time only to beg for his forgiveness.”

“Yeah, she’s always chasing after Elijah. Every bar in the city has spies she’s paid off to keep tabs on him. Such dedication... Too bad that Elijah doesn’t even care about her.”

“She’s just pathetic for throwing herself at him. She’s ruined the York family’s reputation.”

“Keep it down. She’s Jonathan’s sister...”

“What do we have to be afraid of? We’re Elijah’s close friends. She should be trying to suck up to us.”

“The York family must be embarrassed to have such a disgrace like her.”

Anger uncontrollably churned within me.

Teri heard their outrageous remarks as well. She tugged at my arm. “Let’s go, don’t mind them. They’re just a bunch of brainless, spoiled rich kids who know nothing but spending money.”

Just then, I abruptly turned around and slapped Porter hard across the face.

He had a cigarette between his lips and was utterly caught off guard by my slap. The cigarette fell to the ground as he staggered back a few steps.

He clutched his face as his eyes widened in shock. “How dare you slap me?”

Without a word, I grabbed another guy who had been mocking me earlier and dug my nails into him hard. “Oh my God! She’s attacking us!”

I continued to lash out at them with a dark expression. I didn't even know where I'd found the strength to go after four or five of them like a lunatic.

After a while, Teri quickly rushed over to grab them for me and cursed at them, "You bunch of mannerless, spoiled brats. Do you guys eat shit a lot? Is that you guys have such nasty mouths? Do you all think you can afford to offend the York family? You bunch of petty losers, lowlives..."

"You actually think you deserve Ariana's respect just because she's been nice to you? Pah!" Teri scolded as she grabbed them and even landed a few punches on them for me.

At that moment, my mind went blank. All I could see was their twisted faces, and the only thought I had was to make these fools shut up.

They could insult me all they wanted, but not the York family and my brother! I would make them all regret

it!

When the group finally came to their senses, they rushed over to grab back at me. However, I fought back fiercely. I fought back with everything I had at everyone who came at me.

Even the four or five of them couldn't manage to catch me and Teri.

Then, some of them started shouting for security guards, while others threatened to call the police. Eventually, I was overpowered and was grabbed multiple times before being pushed down to the ground. Porter cursed, "She's crazy! Hold her down! Damn, she's insane. She made me bleed!"

Just then, a figure swiftly pushed through the crowd and forcefully shoved everyone off me. This happened just as the security guards were approaching, ready to hold me down.

The figure was tall and precise in his actions, and I was quickly pulled into his arms and shielded by him.

The man shouted, "All of you, stop it right now!"

I wasn't sure what power his words held, but it made the crowd back off significantly.

He then looked down at me in concern. "Ari, are you alright?"

I looked up and smiled. "Logan, I'm fine." I wiped my nose as I spoke, only to see my hand covered in blood.

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Logan's expression darkened when he saw me bleeding.

He glanced at Porter—who was still itching for a fight—before subtly signaling to the man beside him.

At the next moment, all I saw was a burly shadow darting from Logan’s side and landing a couple of quick slaps on Porter before delivering a powerful kick at him

Porter had been in the crowd earlier, shouting that he would make me pay. But now, he’d been instantly put in his place after those hits.

He scrambled to his feet and was about to charge at me again until he saw the man standing before him. His face went pale, and his lips trembled. “M—Mr. Wood?”

Logan stared at him. “Did you hit her?”

Porter held his face and looked aggrieved. “That crazy woman hit me first! Look, just look... He leaned forward and tried to show Logan his injuries.

Logan looked away in disgust. Meanwhile, the burly man from earlier intently glared at the crowd before him.

Intimidated, the group of dandies remained silent in the man’s presence. Each of them turned mute once they caught sight of Logan too.

Soon, the manager of the restaurant and the security guards rushed over.

The manager paled at the sight of Logan. “M—Mr. Wood, this must be a misunderstanding. Please come inside to rest and clean up the blood.”

The manager looked at me in concern. “Ms. York, you’re bleeding! Please come in and let us take care of that. You’ve lost quite a bit of blood.”

Logan stared at Porter and his group before he said to the manager in a low voice, “Don’t let any of them leave.”

With that, we were flanked by several fawning managers as Logan led me back into the restaurant.

I wiped my face with the hot towel handed to me by one of the waiters in the lounge.

“Let me see,” Logan took over the towel and wiped my hands.

There were a few scratches on my arms from the scuffle, but my face was relatively unscathed. The blood from earlier was merely a nosebleed caused by the hit.

Logan then carefully checked my limbs. He leaned in close enough that I could feel his breath brushing against the back of my hand.

It sent a shiver through me, and I awkwardly pulled my hand back. "I'm fine."

Logan glanced at me and adjusted his glasses. "Whether you're fine or not Isn't for you to decide."

I glanced at the row of people standing outside the lounge. They looked defeated, and I couldn't help but feel satisfied.

Logan seemed to have read my thoughts and said, "Feeling proud of yourself, hmm?"

I pretended not to hear him.

Chactas

In contrast, Teri chimed in beside him and chattered away, "Logan, they were the ones who started it with their nasty comments first. Ari is usually timid and gentle. There's no way she would've hit them first if they hadn't been so nasty."

Logan shot me a look and adjusted his glasses. "Gentle, huh?"

Teri suddenly found herself at a loss for words, especially since she had also been shocked by my outburst earlier.

We had been friends since childhood. We had gotten into many troubles and pulled pranks together, but she had never seen me take on a whole group like I did earlier. I had single handedly made those dandies flee in terror.

Logan took my slender hand and asked, "Does it hurt?"

I nodded. "A little."

My hand was red and swollen all the slapping I did. However, I was sure those jerks were hurting a lot more.

Logan then placed some ice on my hand and slowly said, "Don't be so impulsive next time..."

I casually hummed in response to assure him.

Then, Logan said, "Just remember to grab something before you hit someone. You wouldn't want to hurt your hand, would you?"

I was speechless.

Suddenly, a commotion seemed to have broken out outside the lounge as we were talking.

I frowned and looked over to see what was happening

Sure enough, I saw Elijah storming in with a darkened expression.

Porter hurried over to him and chattered away as he pointed at his face and injured arms. The others also seemed to have found their savior and flocked around him to complain about what had happened.

Teri and I exchanged glances before she cursed, “What rotten luck!”

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I tugged at Logan’s arm. “I don’t want to see him.”

Logan took a glance at me. “Wait in the car then.”

I hesitated. “What about here? It seems like they’ve called the police.”

Logan replied. “It’s fine. You and Teri get in the car. I’ll let the driver take you both home first.”

I nodded and immediately took Teri’s hand to leave. However, Elijah spotted this and blocked our ways.

I coldly said, “Get out of our way!”

Elijah suppressed his anger and extended his hand to grab me. “Come home with me.”

I took a step back and avoided his hand as I frowned. I’m not going back.”

Then, Teri stepped in between us. “Elijah, so what if we beat up your pack of lackeys today? They were the ones who insulted Ari first. They deserved it!”

Elijah stared at me with a hardened face. “Ariana, you never learn, do you? I thought you were serious this time. But it turns out that you were just making a scene” He sneered. “Who taught you this?”

He then glanced at Logan and distinctly insinuated that he was the one to blame.

I sneered. “Mr. Linden, what does it have to do with you that I hit someone who deserved to be hit? You didn’t think that I did it just to get your attention, did you?”

Elijah smiled disdainfully. “Isn’t that what this is all about? You used to bribe them just my to get to know

whereabout5.

“What? Now that you’re out of money, you’ve resorted to getting my attention by hitting them?”

I turned to Teri and said, ‘Is something wrong with this man? I can’t believe he thinks I hit people just for

his attention.’”

Ten clicked her tongue. “I know. Who would’ve thought the president of the Linden Group was mentally ill? Ari, we should stay away from him. Who knows? We might get caught in the fallout when he acts. foolishly”

Elijah grew angrier at our words.

He extended his hand to grab me before a hand firmly stopped him in his tracks.

Elijah looked at Logan and coldly said, “Mr. Wood, we meet again.”

Logan didn’t let go of Elijah as he turned to me and said, “Aren’t you heading to the car?”

I quickly took Teri’s hand and walked toward the car.

I heard Elijah’s mocking voice behind me, “Mr. Wood, you have quite the unique taste

Logan was unfazed “I don’t understand your joke, Mr. Linden

Eljalis voice was neither too loud nor too soft. It was perfectly pitched for everyone to hear what he said.

“I never expected that your preference is for married women, Mr. Wood Since you’re so interested in the woman I discarded. I suppose I can consider that this lingering hassle has finally been dealt with.”

The air went still, and Teri tightly clutched my hand

I stared at Elijah with reddened eyes

He held his head high and met my gaze with defiance.

I could smell the metallic pang of blood in my nose, and my heart turned cold as the warm blood flowed out from my nose.

I heard one person laughing before others followed suit.

At that moment, my vision blurred. I glanced around and saw everyone looking at me with a pitiful and disdainful expression.

They’d destroyed my self–esteem with such loud humiliation.

I didn't even remember how I got out of there, but I was already at the Wood residence when I regained

my senses.

Teri was wiping my face and my hands beside me.

I

It was only then I realized my palms were covered in deep red marks from where I had dug my nails into

them.

I let out a deep breath.

Teri patted her chest in relief after seeing that I had calmed down. "Good heavens. I'm glad you're okay. You looked truly terrifying just now."

I felt a strange calmness wash over me as I asked, "Did Porter call the police?"

Teri pursed her lips in disdain. "So what if he did? The police came and left. Elijah didn't let his lackeys make a fuss about it. It's all over now."

I asked, "Where's Logan?"

Teri took a glance at me. "It seemed like he went off to take care of something." She seemed slightly worried as she nudged me. "Ari, what are you planning to do next?"

I answered without hesitation, "Divorce."

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Teri relaxed for a moment before quickly growing anxious again. "But if you ask for a divorce, you probably won't get back the money you funded Linden Group with back then. That bastard, Elijah, is quite shameless. He might try anything to not give it back."

I calmly said, "I'll get the best attorney and sue him. I have to get back every last cent. If Elijah refuses, I'll fight him to the death."

Upon seeing that I was adamant, Teri promptly said, "Good. Since you're so driven, I'll support you."

I then turned to her. "It's the weekend tomorrow. Pick a time to go back with me so I can grab some stuff."

Teri was surprised.

I said, "I have a lot of goodies at Elijah's villa."

Teri finally caught on and nodded. "Yes, right! I remember that you used to love buying designer bags and jewelry. Can't let Elijah and Jocelyn get those for nothing."

At the next moment, I fell silent.

Upon noticing my gloom, Teri sat beside me and comforted me.

Just then, the door opened.

Logan, who had returned late, walked in.

Tactfully, Teri got up and said goodbye, and soon, Logan and I were left alone in the room.

I looked at him, held back all my emotions, and thanked him.

He looked into my eyes earnestly. "Are you alright?"

I nonchalantly replied, "I'm alright. Why wouldn't I be alright? Just treat it as if I were bitten by a dog in public. He can't hurt me."

Logan grabbed my hand and looked at the pinch mark I had made.

I wanted to retract my hand, but he took the iodophor close by and slowly applied it on my wound.

I clenched my teeth.

He asked, "Does it hurt?"

I shook my head. "No."

Slowly, Logan cleaned my injuries.

I couldn't see his face because he was tending to my scratches with his head bowed, but I could hear him lightly say, "Say something if it hurts. If you don't, how would anyone know you're injured?"

At that moment, I felt an unfamiliar sense of warmth growing within my heart.

My voice was hoarse as I said, "But if I do, nobody would sympathize. They would just insult me more. I don't want-"

Logan held my hand, and I dumbly looked at him.

Up close, he was even more handsome. His beauty was mesmerizing.

Then, he suddenly smiled at me. “So long as you don’t allow yourself to think that way, you won’t feel bullied. Remember how brave you were today?”

2/2

I was taken aback for a moment before my actions that evening came to mind. I lowered my head, embarrassed.

Logan rubbed my head. “It’s over now. Get some rest. Everything will be alright.”

And with that, he left.

For a very long while, I sat in the room. It wasn’t until I was exhausted that I washed up and went to bed.

Enlightenment had likely dawned on my 18-year-old mind at that moment. Suddenly, I felt as if there were a lot of things I understood better now.

Early the next morning, I woke up and got dressed.

Frank arrived pretty early. As usual, he examined me before giving me an IV drip.

My condition was great, and the post-concussion syndrome was fading as well. Aside from the scratches and bruises I had gotten last night, I appeared completely fine.

So, I asked Frank if I could go out.

He looked at the scratches on my arm, vigilant. “Where do you want to go?”

I gave a sheepish grin. “It’s nothing. I’m just going out to take care of some business.”

Frank solemnly said, “Mr. Wood said you’re not allowed to go running about.”

I frowned. “Did he really?”

Frank threw his hands up. “I wouldn’t be stopping you if he didn’t. Do you think I enjoy giving myself more

work to do?4 S

I deflated. After a while, I pleaded, “I’m just going back to grab some of my stuff. I’m not actually running around.”

Frank was shocked. “You’re going back? Didn’t you break up with Elijah?”

However, I didn’t reply Frank as I had no desire to explain things to him at that moment.

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Thankfully, Frank wasn’t that nosy either. After giving me a few reminders, he let me go.

Then, I quickly called a cab, found Teri, and went home together.

Of course I had to return to Elijah’s villa to get my things. At the very least, I had to leave with a few changes of clothes,

As we were in the car, Teri chattered as she tried to come up with a plan for me.

After I’d picked Teri up, I even noticed that a golf club had been placed in the trunk. It was made from pure steel and felt comfortable in the grip of my hands.

Getting hit by it would surely be quite painful.

Once we arrived at the entrance of Elijah’s villa, we observed it from inside the car.

It was

It was dark inside the villa, and no one seemed to be home.

I took a deep breath. “I’m going in.”

Teri wanted to follow, but I told her to wait for me in the car.

However, she was worried and said, “What if you run into Elijah? I could at least help you deal with that scumbag.

I shook my head. “There’s no need. Elijah’s with Jocelyn right now.”

Teri asked in surprise, “How do you know?”

I opened WhatsApp and tapped on a random person.

Teri moved closer to look

She didn’t know that person, but they had written a huge paragraph of insults in their update.

“A certain someone is the ultimate lap dog but still won’t admit it. She even believed she was a badass when she attacked someone. Pft, She’s just a nobody.

“Did she forget how ridiculous she looked when she sucked up to him back then? Right now, he spends every day with a goddess and is attending the art festival’s opening ceremony with her.”

Below the caption was a photo.

Teri was angry when she read it, but in the end, she was more speechless than anything.

She asked, “Why do you keep this kind of person in your contacts? Why didn’t you snap back at them?”

I smiled. “Last night, those people said that I bribed them, didn’t they? I searched around, and unsurprisingly, found this.

“The opening of the art festival is at 10:00 am today. Jocelyn is an honored guest at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and Elijah is with her.”

I pulled up the photo that the person had taken.

Teri was dumbfounded. “I suppose that works,” she said.

I then grabbed a large bag and told her, “Wait for me in the car. It will take me a few trips to bring back everything.”

After that, I used the facial recognition system to unlock the villa’s gate and walked in.

Once again, I was back at Elijah’s villa.

I felt a bit nervous and had maintained my composure just to set Teri at ease.

In truth, I didn’t want to come.

But I had to.

After all, some of my personal documents and undergarments, as well as the clothes, bags, and jewelry I’d bought over the last five years, were all here.

Yesterday, I’d spent the entire night thinking it over and preparing for the worst.

What would I do if Elijah refused to give me any money? If our divorce proceedings took a long time, how would I survive?

After mulling it over, I’d realized that taking the valuables I owned from the villa was my only option.

I was Ariana York. I had wasted seven years of my life in the social circles of Halton City’s scions, and I wanted to leave now. I couldn’t be humiliated again.

Money was the only thing that could grant me dignity. I needed money.

I drew a deep breath and opened the inner door to the villa.

There was no one inside, and it was quiet. Not even the maid in charge of housekeeping was here. So, I hurried to the second floor, opened the door to my room, and packed my belongings.

It was fortunate that Elijah probably didn't expect me to come back. Or perhaps, he never imagined that! would be back to take away my things.

I used my fingerprint to unlock the jewelry cabinet, and at the next moment, all the jewelry was then swept into my bag. There were also a lot of women's watches.

I didn't have time to scrutinize my identification card, passport, and things such as contracts and agreements. They were all swept into the bag as well. Those were the most important, after all. After that, I rushed downstairs, gave them to Teri for safekeeping, and ran up the stairs again.

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This time, it was for clothes.

I picked out about five sets of pajamas and some changes of clothes. Then, I started to swoop up the well-made haute couture pieces, While doing so, I was grateful for my good taste. My keen eyes had spotted so many garments that were the works of masterful couturiers.

Those clothes were bought for their appreciation in value over time. There were also some collaborative pieces, as well as clothes from seasonal collections that were no longer available.

The last items I wanted to take were the bags.

Without even looking at the lower shelves, I swept up the Hermes crocodile leather bags on the top shelf.

I felt satisfied. After these things were sold, they could provide me with a decent living for a very long time.

However, absorbed in looting, I didn't notice how much time had passed.

On my sixth trip back to the villa, as I was busy packing up, I heard the sound of a car outside.

I froze.

Was Elijah back?

Quietly, I peeked through a window.

As expected, Elijah was getting out of the car. Meanwhile, behind him was Jocelyn's disgustingly familiar silhouette.

I chuckled.

Jocelyn had said that she wanted to leave, didn't she? Yet now, she'd come back with him.

It seemed that the two were quite eager to start their new life without me.

So, I swiftly went back to the master bedroom to tidy things up a little. Then, I hid in the closet.

After a while, I heard their footsteps.

Eventually, the footsteps stopped at the bedroom door

I shrunk back and sent Teri a message. "Wait for me somewhere farther. Elijah is here."

She replied, "Should I get help?"

I thought it over before replying, "No need."

At that moment, someone spoke at the door.

"Elijah, you've been listless today. What's wrong?" It was Jocelyn.

Elijah's voice sounded, "I'm alright. Jo, you're tired, aren't you? Go inside and get some rest. I'll take you out for a meal later."

The lock on the door was turned open, and they walked in.

Jocelyn seemed to be surveying the room. Her voice betrayed her delight as she said, "Elijah, Ms. York hasn't returned in the past few days, has she?"

Elijah sounded somewhat glum. "No."

Jocelyn gently said, "Elijah, don't be sad. Since she wanted to leave, you can't keep her. After all... she might have already fallen for another man..."

I sneered inwardly.

Jocelyn, that bitch,

couldn't wait to reveal her true intentions..

Elijah's voice grew deeper and more somber. "She wouldn't."

Jocelyn froze, and as did I as I hid in the closet.

Elijah sounded rather displeased. “She wouldn’t fall in love with someone else. She’s just sulking. She’ll be back after a while.” Then, he chuckled. “When she’s back, I’ll make sure she gets what’s coming...” Frustration roiled within me.

Meanwhile, his words seemed to upset Jocelyn. She softly said, “Elijah, I know you still love Ms. York.” Like a cat whose tail had been stepped on, Elijah retorted, “I don’t! I have no love for her at all.” Jocelyn continued, “But if you don’t love her, why don’t you let her go? She’s no longer valuable to Linden Group now. You promised me. Once Linden Group’s problem has been dealt with, you would...” She seemed to have started crying.

She croaked, “It’s been so many years. Do you even remember your promise?”

Elijah sounded irritated. “Jo, stop crying. Have I ever failed to keep my promises to you? Didn’t you want that five-carat pink diamond? I gave it to you, didn’t I?”

“Because of that, I’d even offended her. If it weren’t for that pink diamond, she wouldn’t have asked me for a divorce.”

Jocelyn sobbed, “You... you’re actually blaming me for offending Ariana for showing off the pink diamond. Are you afraid of her? You’re even complaining that it was my fault that she asked you for a divorce?”

“You. Elijah, you’ve gone too far! I’ve waited seven years for you.

“I had such a difficult time abroad, all because I was waiting for you. Do you know how painful it was for me when I couldn’t help you back then? When I watched you marry another woman, I felt like I was dying...”

Jocelyn started to recount her hardships.

I was completely stunned.

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At that moment, a thunderclap jolted my mind, and my vertigo returned.

I felt my body shaking, and my heart inexplicably started to throb in pain.

It hurt so much.

This was different from the dull pain in the past. Now, my heart felt like it was splitting apart from this excruciating pain.

So, a painless amnesia was truly impossible. This body remembered everything.

All of this was a sham. It was all a ruse set up by Elijah and Jocelyn!

During our five years of marriage, Elijah had kept in touch with Jocelyn. They'd even believed that I deserved to be used and sacrificed by them.

For I was dumb, so dumb that everyone knew.

My limbs turned cold.

I had assumed that before losing my memory, everyone had hated me because I looked for trouble in seeking out unreciprocated love.

Now, I realized it was all a scheme—a nasty plot.

By Elijah and Jocelyn's designs, Elijah had accepted my pursuit and agreed to our marriage.

It was a deliberate ruse. People called this a "romance scam", and I was the pathetic victim.

I wanted to laugh, but I couldn't. The pain in my heart was real.

I clutched my chest, and my tears flowed uncontrollably.

Meanwhile, outside the closet, the two of them were still arguing.

But I didn't want to listen anymore.

Disgusting.

Elijah was disgusting, as was Jocelyn.

This place was even more disgusting.

I wanted to scream and go on a rampage, but I did nothing. I could only crouch in the closet as the voices outside slipped into my ears.

Elijah began, "That's enough! Jo, do you have to dredge up the past now? Have I ever mistreated you?"

“For you, I’ve put up with that madwoman, Ariana, for five years. Have I not done enough? I’m tired too. Can you try to understand me?”

Jocelyn’s sobbing stopped. Then, she said, “Then swear that you love me, Elijah.”

There was annoyance in Elijah’s voice as he said perfunctorily, ‘Yes, I love you.’”

Jocelyn seemed to have moved closer to him. She sounded bashful as he continued, “Elijah, I love you

so much. If Ariana wants a divorce, let her go. We’ll think of a way to keep the money...”

Elijah was silent for a while. “We can’t get a divorce yet

Jocelyn raised her voice. “Why?”

“Because it’s a bother to get a divorce... Some stocks would be affected... You wouldn’t understand,” Elijah replied.

Now, I felt like throwing up.

And so, I did.

I flung open the closet door and vomited on the floor.

After wiping my mouth, I looked up at the two.

I laughed so hard that my eyes watered. “Well done! You’re impressive, Elijah. You lied to me about everything. You tricked me into marrying you. You swindled the York family’s money. You played with my feelings...”

Elijah’s face was pale. “No, I didn’t...” After realizing what he had said, he shut his mouth.

Meanwhile, Jocelyn clung to Elijah as if she were startled. She whined, “Elijah, why is she here? I’m scaredGet rid of her, quickly.”

I stood up, swaying. As I stared at Jocelyn, I saw a flash of glee in her eyes.

I asked, enunciating each word, "Jocelyn, do your parents know how disgusting you are?"