

Bogus Billionaire by Shining Riviera (Caroline Evans)

Chapter 201

Posted by **Hamaaa**, 125 Views, Released on October 12, 2023

Chapter 201

A shadow fell across Jude's face as he started mumbling to himself.

"Kirk's been married for at least three months now. Why did he only buy her a house now? Tell me, Simon, does this woman even exist? Or did Kirk hire her to put on a show for me?"

Confused, Simon asked, "But why would he do that?"

Jude gripped his cane. It took him a moment to respond. "Because the woman he married is Caroline!"

Now that made Simon inhale sharply. "Mr. Morrison Senior, how is that possible? Ms. Evans and Mr. Kirk have never met each other."

"I hope so. Perhaps I was overthinking it." Jude let out a long breath.

"Mr. Morrison Senior, if you're so worried about it, why don't you simply call Ms. Evans to make sure?"

"No way!" Jude rejected his idea outright.

Kirk was highly alert about this matter the last time they met. If Jude were to ask Caroline directly about this, it would surely arouse Kirk's suspicions.

Jude shut his eyes tightly.

The image of a young woman in a wedding gown emerged in his mind. She looked very much like Caroline, and she held a bouquet of flowers in her hands.

Beside her stood a dashing young man who looked very much like Kirk too.

The thought of them together made Jude's eyes snap wide open, and he started panting heavily.

Simon rushed forward to pat his back as he tried to console him. "I'll call the family doctor over."

"Don't." Jude waved a hand in the air to dismiss him.

"This is retribution. It's all retribution. Go and bring me the manager of the media department!"

Simon stared at him, wide-eyed and bewildered. It had been a long time since Jude had stepped down and let go of everything related to the company.

"What are you waiting for?"

"I'm on it!" Simon left in a hurry.

The sunflower garden was quite close to their hostel. It didn't take much time for them to go there.

When they reached the garden, Caroline turned to see Sean a couple of feet behind her. He was with the hostel owner's daughter.

Caroline wasn't sure what they were talking about, but she could see that the young woman was smiling from ear to ear.

The young girl hadn't been part of Caroline's plan for this trip. She had appeared so suddenly, out of nowhere.

"Carol, let's take a picture!" Gwen hollered as she darted into the rows of sunflowers with her phone in one hand.

Caroline hurried to catch up with her and just so happened to glance at Sean and the young woman.

"Carol, you need to focus." Gwen tugged Caroline's arm. It appeared as though she couldn't care less about what was happening on Sean's side.

"Okay," said Caroline, stealing a glance at Gwen beside her.

Although Sean seemed to be busy chatting with the young woman, he couldn't tear his eyes away from Gwen, even for a moment.

Something twitched Inside of him when he saw how she appeared to be unall ected by what he was doing.

The young girl followed his gaze and giggled. “You like the lady in white, right ?”

1/2

+15 BONOS

“Not really. Only those who walked by would notice,” she joked.

Despite that, Sean still looked fondly in Gwen’s direction.

The young girl then raised her eyes to meet him. **In** a naive tone, she asked, “ So, you’re deliberately getting close to me just to provoke her. then?”

This made Sean stare at her in shock and disbelief. He hadn’t expected her to be so vigilant. “I–I’m so sorry, Mia!”

Surprisingly, the young girl, Mia, wasn’t mad at him. She laughed at him inste ad. “Let me give you a hand, then!” she said cheerfully as she hooked an arm in his.

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Sean was stunned. He found it hard to believe just what was going on in Mia’s mind. He was so dumbfounded that he forgot to free his

arm from hers.

“Mia, are you sure about this?”

Mia shushed him and took a few steps closer to him. “She’s looking at you.”

A smile made its way onto Sean’s face. “Really?” he asked, pleasantly surpris ed.

‘Yep.’

“Then how does she look? Is she upset?”

“She doesn’t look happy, alright.”

“So, it worked then?”

“I think so,” said Mia as she looked right into his eyes with a dazzling smile.

Caroline’s brows were knit tightly together as she watched Mia and Sean from afar. She cocked her head to one side to see Gwen walking into the distance.

Then, she turned to Kirk, who was beside her. “What’s Sean doing?”

Kirk had been enjoying spending time with Caroline by his side. He was holding hands with her as they walked side by side, much to his **delight**.

Hearing her mention another man’s name—his good friend’s name, at that—made him very displeased. He furrowed his brows and said, “I don’t know.”

“Why don’t you ask him?” Caroline said.

Kirk looked down at her. His coarse fingers drew circles in her palm. Suddenly, he smirked and said, “Sure, I can. But I have a condition.”

“What is it?” Caroline’s gut told her that it wasn’t something she would look forward to.

“Call me ‘honey’ again.”

Caroline stared at him, speechless.

Kirk then reached to play with her earlobe. Jokingly, he told her, “Or we can make a baby.”

Caroline’s expression immediately changed. Her reaction made Kirk’s heart skip a beat, and he started to explain that it was just a joke.

However, she was already looking up at him. Her eyes were calm and clear, unlike his, which were flustered, “I’ve decided that I don’t want

children.”

Kirk felt as if his heart had just fallen into an abyss. An unfathomable look seemed to flit across his eyes, and he asked, “Do you not want to have a child with me?”

Caroline failed to notice that he placed emphasis on the words “with me”.

She forced a laugh and raised her eyes to meet his. Tears welled up in her eyes as she said, “Yes. I don’t want kids, I don’t think I’m qualified to be a good mother.”

Kirk relaxed at her words, but his heart started panicking again soon after that.

He rested his hands on her shoulders. “No. You’re definitely going to be the best mother in the world,” he assured.

Caroline shook her head. The bitterness in her wry smile had now spread to her eyes.

“Even though I have cut my ties with my family, we share the same blood and genes. My parents are so selfish. What makes you think that

I won’t become like them in the future?”

This question had weighed on her mind ever since Sarah had come to see her .

1/2

+15 BONOS

Gwen was the only one who seemed to be in a good mood during the journey back to the hostel.

Sean looked especially dejected. He could see that Gwen wasn’t mad at him at all.

Instead, she was exceptionally cheerful and couldn't stop chatting with Caroline. It was as though she had never noticed him with Mia at

all.

When they arrived at the hostel, he couldn't stand it much longer. "Kirk," he called. "Do you want to grab a drink?"

Kirk was holding his tablet in his hand. He looked up to glance at Caroline for her opinion.

Caroline smiled and said, "Go on. Just come back early."

Kirk looked back at Sean and said, "Let's go."

Then, the two men headed out together. Once they were out of the hostel, Sean started complaining about Kirk. "Caroline's got you wrapped around her finger."

Kirk glanced sideways at **him**. "It's my pleasure. Nobody wants to take care of you even though you want it."

There was a hint of glee and mirth in Kirk's tone, and Sean found himself at a loss for words.

Sean didn't think there was anything great about that. He'd get himself a wife very soon, too!

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There was a bar near the hostel, and there weren't many people there since it was only 5 pm.

Sean got them a spot in one of the corners of the bar. Then, he ordered a dozen bottles of beer, and started drinking.

Looking dejectedly at Kirk, he asked, "Hey, do you think Gwen has no feelings for me at all?"

Kirk was busy scrolling through his tablet. He didn't even raise his eyes to look at Sean when he replied, "What makes you think she likes you?"

"Because I'm a good-looking genius doctor." Sean pressed his fingers against his temples in distress.

Seeing Kirk fully hooked on his tablet, Sean strained his neck to peek at the screen. "What are you looking at?"

Kirk didn't try to cover the screen. When Sean saw what was shown there, his expression immediately changed to one of shock and horror.

"The person who took Caroline to Saint Pierre was her mother?"

Even beasts would look after their young. Caroline's mother was atrocious!

Kirk continued looking through the information on the tablet without replying. Sean watched him in silence for a couple of seconds before

asking. "Are you going to deal with her mother?"

Kirk finally averted his gaze from the screen. He looked at Sean as though he were looking at a fool.

"What are you planning to do? Don't tell me that Sean trailed off and made a gesture as if slitting his neck.

"You're fully aware of what I'm going to do," Kirk replied languidly.

Sean immediately grabbed his arm. "Are you really going to **do** that?"

"Is there a problem?"

"Nonsense!" Sean leaned toward him. "That's her mother!"

"Is she even qualified to be a mother?" he snapped. He wished he could get rid of Sarah sooner when he recalled how Caroline had

trembled in his arms that day.

*Kirk." Sean knew that Kirk was a ruthless and decisive person who'd not hesitate in the face of kinship, but this just wouldn't do!

“It’s different this time. We’re talking about her mother. If you kill her mother, you’ll become her enemy! How will you even face her after that?”

Narrowing his eyes, Kirk tapped his fingers against the table.

Sean calmly waited for Kirk’s mind to settle for a moment before continuing to give him advice.

Sean smiled and asked, “Do you know how to solve it now? Ask me for help, and I’ll give you an idea.”

Just then, Kirk’s eyes snapped toward Sean. Kirk said nothing and simply stared at Sean.

Three minutes later, the latter raised his hands in the air in defeat. “Fine! We’re friends after all, so I’ll let you in on it.”

Then, Sean lowered his voice and started explaining. The corner of Kirk’s lips lifted into a smile.

“You haven’t told Caroline about this, right?” Sean asked.

“No, I haven’t.” Kirk never planned to tell her about it. It would only upset her and wouldn’t benefit her in any way.

“You’d better tell her about it. She should be mentally prepared to take it on after everything that has happened,” Sean reminded him.

“Perhaps she’s already used to it all. Besides, the important thing is letting her handle it herself. Even if she finds out that you were involved in it later, she won’t hold a grudge.”

Lowering his eyes, Kirk fell silent for a moment. Then, he picked up his tablet and stood up.

Sean called out, “Are you leaving already?”

1/3

+15 BONOS

Sean took a moment to consider his offer before waving his hand to dismiss the idea. “No, thanks. I’ll figure it out myself.” Whatever trick or plan it was, Kirk was never up to something good.

Kirk smiled and strode out of the bar.

At the same time, Caroline and Gwen were together in the hostel.

Caroline stared at Gwen, who was bursting with enthusiasm as she shared tons of photos she had taken earlier that day.

“Carol look at this! Isn’t this art? Gwen pointed at the photo she had secretly taken of Caroline and Kirk.

At the time, Caroline was upset as the two spoke about having children. Kirk was holding her tightly in his arms. The sun’s rays were shining on them, making them glow. The entire scene looked both celestial and romantic.

Caroline’s heart skipped a beat when she saw the photo. Gwen noticed this and beamed. “What should I do now? I’m shipping you two hard!”

Caroline tried to glare at Gwen, but it didn’t last for long because she started blushing instead.

“I’m going to grab some water.” Gwen put her phone down and went to the kitchen. Meanwhile, Caroline took this chance to send the photo to her phone.

Soon, Gwen came back and handed Caroline a glass of water. Glancing at the photos on her phone, Gwen couldn’t help but exclaim, “I’m not sure why, but the longer I look at Kirk, the more satisfied I am. Is this what they call a ‘mother-in-law’s pride’?”

A laugh escaped Caroline’s lips. “Do you have the guts to say that to his face?”

Gwen laughed sheepishly and continued scanning through all the photos on her phone. Caroline stayed beside her and watched in

silence for a moment before reaching up to stroke her hair.

“Gwen,” she called.

“Huh?”

“You seemed to be in a bad mood today. Is it because of Sean and that young woman?”

All this time, Gwen had tried her best to put on a smile. Caroline’s question was the last straw. Blinking back tears, Gwen fell into Caroline’s arms.

“I—

I don’t know what’s going on. It feels worse than last time but we’ve already made it clear that we’re still friends.”

Before this, Gwen spent all her effort taking photos in the sunflower garden.

She had managed to take plenty **of** photos of the mesmerizing scenery there. Despite that, she hadn’t been able to tear her eyes away from Sean or stop herself from looking in his and Mia’s direction.

The irony was that she’d feel something twist inside her whenever she’d looked at them.

“Why don’t you give it a try?” suggested Caroline.

“A try?”

“Yep!” Caroline laughed. “Even if it doesn’t end well, you still have me. I’ll always have your back!” Caroline tried to reassure her.

“Try it.” Gwen sounded uncertain.

But Caroline nodded to encourage her. “Yep.”

A moment later, a smile appeared on Gwen’s face. “Alright then. I’ll give it a try.”

Just then, the door opened. The two women looked up to see Kirk entering the room. Gwen stood up and got ready to leave. "I'm going back to my room then."

After Gwen left, Caroline looked at Kirk and smiled. "Why are you back so early?"

"I missed you, so I'm back," replied Kirk.

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"Care to have a try?" He hooked an arm around her waist and gave her lips a peck.

It made Caroline laugh at how much of a hooligan he seemed right now. "Move," she told him.

"Where to?" He kissed her again and led her to the edge of the bed.

"I've taken root in your heart. I've nowhere to go."

Caroline's heart leaped into her mouth when she realized what he was doing. Still, she went with the flow and slowly lay down on the bed. Her eyes clouded expectantly.

Beside her, she felt the bed sink as Kirk lay down. He gently kissed her on the forehead, and the atmosphere changed to fit what was to

come.

Just then, Caroline got a notification alert on her phone, making both of them freeze.

Pushing against his chest, she panted, "L—let me check it."

A shadow fell across Kirk's face at how untimely the interruption was. He reached out a hand to snatch her phone away.

He stopped abruptly when he noticed how her expression changed almost instantly after looking at the screen.

+15 BONOS

Chapter 204

Kirk didn't know what the notification was about. However, he had a few guesses after seeing Caroline's reaction.

He raised a hand to pat her on the back. "What is it?"

She handed him her phone right after.

Kirk glanced at the phone and said, "It seems like you aren't surprised at all."

Smiling, she explained, "Sarah called me the day I was taken to the hotel to meet Brie. I didn't connect the dots then. With this, I finally know why Brie had been bold enough to do that.

"She wasn't the one who took me there, so she knew she wouldn't have to take the blame if something happened to me."

Yet somehow an accident had occurred, making Brie go nuts.

Kirk took Caroline into his arms. "Are you upset?" he asked.

Caroline shook her head and rested it against his shoulder.

"A few days ago, Sarah came to me. She asked me to persuade Grandpa to agree to Eddy and Layla seeing each other. I wondered why

she would act like that —"

Then, she looked down at her phone and snickered. "If I'm not mistaken, Layla had called Sarah before that to tell her that Eddy was in the

hotel. That was why Sarah had gone so far as to abduct me and send me there.

"Sarah probably came to me because Layla blackmailed her with it. Otherwise, she wouldn't have asked me such a thing, considering how

much she wanted me to marry Eddy."

Caroline analyzed the entire situation with such composure.

Kirk couldn't help but take her hands in his. "Darling..."

Caroline met his gaze and tossed him a smile. "Can you help me find out who sent me this information? I have to thank them for this."

"Thank them?"

"Yes. It doesn't matter what their intentions were for sending this. I truly am grateful to them for letting me let go of things now."

Kirk started stroking her back gently. "Are you sure you're okay?"

"Of course." She stared into his eyes, her gaze clear without a trace of hesitance. "Do you know what I'm thinking now?"

"What is it?"

"If I wasn't Sarah and Dan's daughter, they might not have lived to this day."

Hearing this, Kirk slid his hand between her shoulder blades. "Yep. My darling's becoming more independent than ever."

Caroline smiled softly at him and decided to resume their conversation. "Can you help me find out who sent this?"

"Sure," Kirk agreed. Then, he plucked her phone out of her grasp and placed it aside.

"Forget it for now. I have something I need your help with."

Caroline blinked, puzzled. "What is it?"

Then, Kirk pushed her onto the bed once again, a mischievous smile playing on his lips.

"You know what to do."

It was time for dinner. Caroline went to find Gwen in her room, while Kirk walked out to the balcony to answer a call from Charles.

"Sir, I've sent the information to the madam," Charles reported.

“Good. I’ve seen it.”

+15 BONOS

Kirk absentmindedly rapped his knuckles on the wooden railing. His voice was dangerously low when he said, “Next time, pick a better time to send messages.”

That made Charles very confused. Why was Kirk in such a bad mood? Did he get into a fight with Caroline?

Charles recalled the last time Kirk had a quarrel with Caroline. The atmosphere in the company had been so excruciatingly taut that Charles had been haunted by headaches for quite some time.

Kirk said, “Send me every bit of information you can get about the Evans family.”

“Okay, Charles responded immediately.

After that, Kirk fell silent for some time. Taking it as a sign that Kirk had no other task to assign to him, Charles finally ended the call.

Later, Kirk pocketed his phone and exited the room in search of Caroline. He found her chatting animatedly with Gwen.

He wasn’t sure what they were talking about, but Caroline’s eyes twinkled as she spoke. He found this side of **her** overwhelmingly cute.

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Kirk stood by the door. The light fell on his face, and the corners of his mouth curved upward in a smile.

“Let’s go,” he told Caroline, who looked up to meet his gaze.

She strode toward him and hooked an arm around his. “Okay.”

Kirk glanced sideways at her. “Why are you so happy?”

Caroline tossed him a mysterious smile. “You’ll know once we get our dinner.”

Then, she fist-pumped the air slightly in Gwen's direction as a sign of encouragement. Gwen pursed her lips at this.

Later, the three of them went downstairs together. Sean was already waiting for them by the door. The place they were going to have dinner was just next door.

Just when the four of them started heading out, Mia came rushing to them. "Sean, are you guys going to have dinner?" She asked.

"Yes."

"Can I tag along?" Pouting, she winked at him.

Sean subconsciously glanced at Gwen, whose face paled briefly to see Mia here. Coincidentally, she locked eyes with Sean.

In the blink of an eye, Mia had already walked to Sean's side. She was tugging at his sleeve. Softly, she spoke. "Sean, I can help you to ..."

It seemed like she was trying to be coquettish right now.

Gwen saw it and bit her lip. "Um, I don't feel well. I won't be going with you guys." With that said, she turned away from them and went

upstairs.

Stunned, Sean took a moment to react. He hastily thanked Mia and rushed after Gwen.

Mia's brows scrunched together. But when Caroline looked at her, Mia's expression immediately reverted back to the naive look she

usually wore.

"Caroline, did I say something wrong?"

Caroline remained composed as she replied. "What did you say wrong?"

Mia bit her lip, feigning innocence. "Why did Gwen rush off looking so angry, then?"

“She’s not feeling well,” Caroline replied curtly.

“But she looked just fine.” Mia tried to sound concerned.

Staring at the seemingly innocent Mia before her. Caroline decided not to beat around the bush any longer. “You did it on purpose, right?”

Mia stared back at Caroline, wide-eyed, as though she were innocent. “What do you mean?”

Caroline smiled softly at her. “You’re purposely getting close to Sean in front of my friend. I noticed it back when we were at the sunflower garden.

“Sean’s a straightforward man, so he failed to notice your tricks. But I’m a woman, and I know what you’re doing. Your tricks are useless against me.”

Mia paled at her words. She was still much too young to face a direct admonishment, after all,

“I—
It was Sean who asked me to help him. He only wanted to help Gwen realize that she likes him.”

Then, Caroline plucked out two hundred-dollar notes from her wallet and handed them to Mia. “Thank you then.”

It made Mia’s already pale face turn even whiter.

Tears started streaming down her cheeks as she sobbed, “What do you mean? I’m not a prostitute!”

Mia turned to look at Kirk, who stood beside Caroline. “Kirk, Caroline’s ridiculous—”

1/2

+15 BONOS

Caroline didn't want to make things difficult for Mia, so she said, "Didn't you say that Sean asked you to put on a show for my friend? Even supporting actors and actresses get paid. You were the main actress just now. You should get paid too."

Glowering, Mia bit her lip at the sight of the two hundred dollars in Caroline's hand.

Refusing to take the money meant that she did indeed have ulterior motives for Sean. Yet if she took the money, she'd no longer have an excuse to continue putting on an act with him.

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Mia cast a miserable gaze at Kirk once again. Kirk put his hands in his pockets, his eyes cold. He had no intention of speaking up for her.

Seeing this, Mia stomped her foot angrily and stormed off.

Caroline frowned as she watched Mia leave. Then, Caroline put the money back in her bag.

Kirk stepped forward and put his arm around Caroline's waist. He said, "Let's get some food."

Caroline looked at the elevator and asked uncertainly, "Shouldn't we go check up on them?"

Kirk smiled. "What are you going to do?"

"But I'm worried about them."

Kirk forcefully led her to the restaurant next door. "They're already adults. They can handle **things** on their own."

Caroline didn't respond.

Even when they were at the restaurant for food, Caroline was still worried about them. So, she packed some food for them and went to the hostel. When she arrived downstairs, she saw an ambulance parked at the entrance.

Caroline had a bad feeling and hurried out. She saw Sean carrying Gwen down the stairs.

“What happened?” Caroline approached them nervously. Gwen had her eyes closed in pain.

“She’s gastric,” Sean was clearly flustered. His tone was extremely frantic. “I’m taking her to the hospital”

“We’ll go too,” Caroline said. She dragged Kirk to their car and followed the ambulance.

Caroline was anxious the entire way there. When she arrived at the hospital, the nurse had already given Gwen an IV drip, and she was fast

asleep in the hospital room.

Caroline finally breathed a sigh of relief. “You’ve been busy all night, so I’m sure you haven’t eaten yet. You two should go home for now. I’ll stay here and take care of Gwen.”

“I’m the doctor. I should stay behind,” Sean insisted, fixing his eyes on Gwen.

Seeing this, Caroline looked back at Kirk. He nodded slightly at her. Then, the two walked out of the room together.

“I’ll go get them some food. Wait for me here.” Caroline suggested.

“No, I’ll go.” Kirk pushed Caroline onto a chair.

Caroline watched Kirk leave before turning to look at Sean in the hospital room. Sean kept watching Gwen like a hawk.

She let out a sigh. He clearly had feelings for Gwen, so why did he ...

Suddenly, her phone vibrated. Caroline took it out. The first things she saw were push notifications from an entertainment website. She was about to put her phone away when she saw her own name.

“Breaking News! Caroline Evans’ Mother Came Forward, Accusing Her of Being a Freeloader Who Immediately Turned Against Her Family After Getting Married. Is the Future Mrs. Morrison Really That Disloyal and Despicable?”

This piece of news didn’t attract Caroline’s attention, but another one did.

“Breaking News! According to Inside Sources, the Actress Daphne Dawson Is the Wife of Eddy Morrison’s Mysterious Second Uncle!”

This headline was probably the reason why the news about Caroline wasn’t trending.

Caroline opened the article out of curiosity. She paid little attention to the entertainment industry. Hence, she only found out that Daphne was an unknown D-lister after reading this article.

The website had also posted a picture of Daphne, while the word “confidential” was posted where the picture of Eddy’s second uncle should be. Clearly, the paparazzi hadn’t managed to get a photo of him.

Caroline looked at the picture of Daphne again.

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Caroline frowned slightly. She couldn’t believe this was the taste of the eloquent man who had spoken at the press conference more than a month ago.

However, the entertainment website’s sources were well-founded.

Some people had even discovered that Daphne had been playing minor supporting roles before she married.

But now, all of her parts were second or third leading roles. She could only have such connections because she’d married Eddy’s second uncle and affiliated herself with the Morrisons.

“What are you looking at?” Kirk asked, quietly showing up beside her.

Caroline looked up, almost **thinking** the man standing before her was Eddy's second uncle. Aside from their faces. Kirk and Eddy's second uncle looked really similar.

"Nothing important. Just some gossip."

Caroline remembered that they had a fight because of Eddy's second uncle, so she didn't hand him the phone. Instead, she asked, "What did you buy?"

"Some oatmeal and pasta," Kirk said calmly, watching Caroline put her phone away. Then, he took the food into the room.

Sean didn't have an appetite. He said powerlessly, "Thanks, Kirk. But I don't want to eat anything right now."

Kirk shrugged. "Suit yourself."

After that, he took Caroline to wait outside the room.

Gwen only woke up later on. When she saw Sean, she murmured, "What are you doing here?"

Feeling emotional Sean said, "You're awake."

Hearing the voices, Caroline and Kirk walked into the room. Caroline asked, "How are you feeling, Gwen? Do you want a doctor here?"

Gwen smacked her lips and croaked, "No I'm thirsty..."

Sean immediately got up to pour some water for Gwen. After that, he carefully helped her sit up. "Here. Drink some water."

Gwen glanced at the large palm on her shoulder, and a tinge of emotion appeared on her face. She lowered her head and sipped the water.

Seeing this, a smile appeared on Caroline's face. "It's a good thing that Sean was around, Gwen. You have to thank him **for** his help properly."

Sean said shyly, "You don't have to do that."

Gwen noticed that sly smile on Caroline's face, but she didn't have the energy to retort.

Caroline insisted, "She has to. Kirk and I have something to do. You two can discuss how she can express her gratitude."

She winked at Kirk and pulled him out of the hospital room.

Kirk looked down at both of their hands and smirked. He turned back and grabbed Caroline's hand as well. As soon as they entered the elevator, he got a call from Charles.

When the call connected, Charles broke out in a cold sweat. He said nervously, "Sir, news about you and Ms. Dawson has been leaked!"

After he spoke, he braced himself for Kirk's massive wrath.

Kirk's face contorted. He looked down at Caroline and tried to suppress his anger. He hissed. "Wait for me there!"

Charles scratched his neck, surprised that Kirk hadn't lashed out in anger.

Caroline was keenly aware of the change in Kirk's mood. She asked with a smile, "What's wrong? Did something happen at work?"

Facing Caroline's gaze, Kirk's heart melted. "Yeah, there's a problem with a project. I'll take you home first."

+15 BONOS

Then, Caroline and Kirk set off back to the city. As she reached home and got out of the car, she received a call from her apartment's **real** estate manager.

"Ms. Evans, you need to come here quickly."

Caroline frowned and asked, "Did something happen?"

"Many people threw rotten eggs, paint, and dung at your door. We didn't have enough security personnel. We've already called the police and warded them off. But you must come and get this issue settled."

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+15 BONOS

Caroline arrived at her apartment. She smelled a foul stench as soon as she stepped out of the elevator.

The door to her apartment was covered in dung, and the walls were painted with the words "Caroline Evans, the disloyal daughter." The liquid from the broken eggs was flowing down the cracks in the bricks.

The real estate manager was waiting for Caroline at the door. When he saw her, he covered his nose and walked over.

"Ms. Evans, the police officer is in the office getting the surveillance footage."

Caroline nodded slightly and opened the door.

The inside of her apartment was clean. It looked exactly the same as it had before Layla had wrecked the place.

Glancing outside the door again, Caroline felt as if she had traveled back in time to when Layla had trashed her house.

The real estate manager said, "Let's go downstairs, Ms. Evans."

Caroline looked away. Nodding slightly, she followed the real estate manager to the elevator.

As the elevator doors opened, a white figure rushed out of the emergency exit. They jabbed a knife at Caroline.

Fortunately, Caroline had quick reflexes. She immediately dodged by moving in the opposite direction the moment the attacker rushed over.

The attacker missed his target and froze for a moment. Then, he ran toward Caroline again.

The real estate manager also sprung into action. He charged forward to snatch the knife from the attacker.

Having lost his knife, the attacker panicked and ran toward the emergency exit.

Caroline chased after the attacker. However, he was too fast. By the time Caroline got into the stairwell he had already disappeared.

The real estate manager rushed over as well. "Ms. Evans, don't go after him."

Caroline nodded. "Thank you for your help."

"You're welcome. It's the least I can do."

The two lingered at the stairwell before going downstairs to meet the police officer in the office. When the real estate manager saw the police officer, he recounted what happened.

Before the police officer could say anything, the man sitting on the couch said. "**The** security here is just too bad."

The real estate manager's face turned pale from the man's words.

Caroline looked over at the man. He was tall and slender, with handsome features. He had a bright and outgoing disposition, However, his tone carried a hint of tyranny.

She blinked, feeling that he looked familiar. For a moment, she couldn't remember where she had seen him before.

It wasn't until the man looked at her with a smile that she remembered what she was about to say. She said hurriedly. "You can't blame the real estate manager for this."

The man smiled at Caroline's words. "This is the first time I've seen someone speak up for their real estate manager. Our business seems to be doing well, so I can rest assured."

Caroline looked at the man questioningly.

The man asked with a smile, "Do you really not remember me?"

Caroline asked, "Do we know each other?"

“I’m Adrian Sorkin.”

Caroline thought for a while before finally remembering him.

12

+15 BONOS

home not long ago.

Caroline didn’t remember much from her childhood, especially before she turned eight years old. Hence, she had *no* recollection of the man in front of her.

She laughed. “Oh, right. Adrian.”

Posted by **Hamaaa**, ? Views, Released on October 12, 2023

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Adrian seemed to realize that Caroline didn’t recognize him. So, he changed the subject. “I’ll ask my secretary to talk to you about the compensation. Do you have any other requests?”

Caroline asked in surprise, “Does the real estate management need to give compensation?”

“Of course we have to compensate you. You suffered from property damage under our management.”

Caroline understood. It was no wonder the Sorkin family could thrive in property management. Their reach extended to all kinds of properties in Easton. They really served their clients well.

The police officer had retrieved all the surveillance footage. He turned to Caroline in embarrassment.

“Ms. Evans, since there are too many people involved, it will be difficult for us to arrest them one by one.”

Caroline glanced at the people indignantly demeaning her in the surveillance footage. She smiled lightly. "That doesn't matter. The most important thing is to arrest the person who attacked me."

The police officer agreed. "Of course."

The police officer confirmed the details with Caroline again. Then, he left with a copy of the surveillance footage.

"Are you going to let them off just like that?" Adrian walked up to Caroline. (1)

He smiled at her and suggested, "If you arrest those people, you can at least lock them up for a few days to knock some sense into them."

"There's no need to do that" Caroline objected. "They're just being deceived."

Sarah was the true culprit behind all of this since she had spread lies online, accusing Caroline of being a disloyal daughter.

Caroline's scandal was big, so Adrian knew a thing or two about it. He looked over at Caroline again. His eyes were filled with interest. "I heard you got married, and your partner is a very ordinary worker, right?"

Caroline said, "Yeah."

"Mr. Morrison Senior hoped that you'd marry Eddy. As long as you insist on it, he'll definitely marry you. Didn't you like him very much? Why did you give up?" Adrian probed even further.

Caroline looked at Adrian with a smile and quipped, "I didn't expect you to be that nosy. Mr. Sorkin."

Adrian laughed as well. When he smiled, his two crooked teeth showed. He looked so foolish that no one would be able to tell that he was the son of the Sorkin family.

"Sorry, I shouldn't have asked."

"It's not that serious." Caroline smiled. "I just got married like any other person. But because I used to be Eddy's fiancée, everyone has so many questions. That's why I'm living so miserably right now."

"On the contrary. I think you're much happier than before."

Thinking of Kirk, Caroline smiled joyfully. She affirmed, "I think so too."

The two chatted some more. Before saying goodbye. Adrian offered to take Caroline out for a meal if given the chance. Caroline agreed casually, not taking it seriously.

"Sir, the news about you and Ms. Dawson's marriage remains at the top of the trending list."

Charles showed Kirk the traffic for various social media apps. He asked, "Do you want to get someone to remove these trending searches?"

Kirk frowned. He questioned, "Did you find out who did this?"

"I did. It's a small company. According to the paparazzi, he visited Saint Pierre Grand Hotel to photograph another female celebrity. Unexpectedly, he happened to see Ms. Dawson and Mr. Morrison Senior, so he put the pieces together."

1/2

+15 BONOS

Charles asked in surprise, "Sir, are you implying that someone instigated this small company to do it?"

Kirk narrowed his eyes.

Charles immediately understood. "Mr Mr. Morrison Senior did this? But what's his purpose?"

Kirk leaned back in his chair with a cold smile. Speculating, he said, "He's suspicious of *my* relationship with Carrie."

Charles looked at Kirk in shock. He echoed, "So, the last time you guys met was to confirm that..."

Kirk waved his hand, cutting him off. He asked, "Who's second on the trending list?"

Charles looked at Kirk hesitantly.

Noticing his hesitation, Kirk frowned. “Since when were you so hesitant to reply?”

Charles sputtered, “I—It’s the madam. Her family is accusing her of being a freeloader and abandoning them after getting married. He stopped talking when he saw Kirk’s thunderous expression.

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Kirk didn’t need Charles to finish speaking. He turned on his tablet, and a push notification about Sarah’s accusation against Caroline appeared on the big screen.

It was a video. It showed Sarah, who hadn’t dressed up and looked haggard. She cried as soon as she started talking.

“I know we shouldn’t air our family’s dirty laundry in public, but we really don’t have a choice. Caroline has blocked us everywhere, so we can only communicate like this. I’m sorry for using the public’s resources like this.”

Sarah wiped her tears away and looked straight at the camera. As if she were looking at Caroline, she put on a loving expression.

She said, “Carrie, I know you’re listening. You’re already a married adult, so I don’t want to keep pampering you. It would only do you more harm. You’ve never contributed to the family your entire life, but it’s okay. As your mother, I should be supporting and providing for you.”

She paused briefly before continuing. “But how can you be so cruel to leave your father and me alone after you got married? We’re still young, so we can still fend for ourselves. But we need you to support us when we’re old!”

The sound of Sarah’s tearful accusations filled Kirk’s office.

Charles felt uncomfortable just listening to this. Life was too harsh on Caroline. Her parents were simply monsters. They clearly knew why she had cut them out of her life.

Kirk narrowed his eyes, and the veins on his arms throbbed as he clenched his fists.

He looked through the comments. Most expressed pity towards Dan and Sarah or cursed Caroline for being a cruel and ungrateful daughter.

“Why didn’t you tell me about this sooner?” Kirk asked, glaring at Charles.

Trembling in fear, Charles explained. “Sir, although this headline about the madam is second on the trending list, it’s nothing compared to

yours.

“You’ve attracted almost 90% of the public’s attention. I thought the most important thing right now was to deal with the public’s opinion about your news, so I didn’t inform you about her...”

Kirk lightly tapped on the table with his pen. He asked, “Did you say that the news about me attracted most of the public’s attention?”

“That’s right, even before we did any damage control.”

“In other words, if I release another big story to the public, I can take the heat off of Caroline?”

Charles’ heart skipped a beat. He uncertainly asked, “Sir, what are you planning to do?”

“Don’t remove the trending searches and let this piece of news blow up even more. Also, invite that woman to see me tonight and ask her to dress up nicely,” Kirk ordered.

Charles asked worriedly, “But if you do that, it will increase the risk of your exposure to the public. This will have a certain impact on expanding your businesses in Easton.” 1

Kirk’s expression was sullen, and a cold glint appeared in his eyes. “Just do as I say.”

Charles had no choice but to obey. “Yes, sir.”

Meanwhile, on set, the entire crew surrounded Daphne.

“This glass of water is too hot. I want it warm! And these grapes aren’t fresh! Get new ones! Also, you! You’re the female lead, aren’t you? You’re a horrible actress! Get out of here if you can’t act!” Daphne barked.

The crowd remained silent, not daring to talk against Daphne. After finding out that she was the wife of Eddy’s second uncle, no one in the crew dared to disrespect her.

They didn’t expect a rich man’s wife to be right under their noses.

Eddy’s second uncle owned the largest company in Sarcozla. As his wife, Daphne could bring everyone in Easton to their knees, and no