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Natalie totally ignored Susan and fixed her gaze on the police, who questioned sternly, "Are you telling the truth?"

"Yes. Yesterday, her daughter greased the floor outside the restroom with essential oil, causing me to fall down. I was really lucky as I only sprained my ankle. If it were any more serious, I could have been handicapped or even died from the fall. Sir, this is first-degree murder, isn't it?" Natalie fluffed her hair and said dryly.

She intended to have Jasmine charged with first-degree murder.

"What do you mean by first-degree murder? You're still alive, aren't you?" Susan pointed at her disapprovingly.

Yulia sneered, "Do you mean to say Jasmine can only be charged with first-degree murder if my daughter is dead? I tell you, you are wrong, really wrong! As long as her assault was intentional, we can accuse her of committing first-degree murder."

"Yes, it's stated like this legally," the police agreed.

Susan was startled. She had no idea because she did not know the law.

Oh, no! I have caused Jas trouble for lodging this police report!

No, I can't have her tried as a first-degree murderer!

Susan clenched her fists. She glared at both Natalie and Yulia with hatred in her eyes. "You insisted that my daughter committed first-degree murder. Do you have any proof?"

Jas told me that she set Natalie up at the entrance of the restroom.

The was no security camera outside the restroom. I'm sure they won't be able to prove anything!

Natalie seemed to have sensed what was playing in Susan's mind and smiled. "Susan, talking about proof, I have both witness and concrete evidence. Jasmine's essential oil is with me and her fingerprints are on it. Moreover, even after the essential oil is washed off, there will still be a trail of residue on the floor which is traceable with the right equipment. All of these are enough to prove that Jasmine was trying to murder me."

"If this is the case, all of you have to follow me back to the police station," the police said.

"Sure." Natalie nodded in acknowledgement.

Susan kept shaking her head and grumbling reluctantly, "I'm not going! Why do I need to go?"

"It is because you lodged the police report," the police answered her coldly, "Hence, you must go. If you refuse, I'll have to bring you there by force!"

At the same time, he took out a pair of handcuffs; they glistened eerily under the light.

Susan trembled with fear at the sight of the handcuffs. She could barely utter any words.

Seeing her as timid as a mouse, Yulia laughed scornfully.

Later, Natalie asked the caretaker to help look after Connor. She followed Yulia into the police car and headed for the police station.

At the police station, the police questioned the ladies again to get a better understanding of the circumstances. Immediately after, a specialized team was sent to the bidding site to trace the essential oil residue. At the same time, another team was assigned to Jackson's hospital to obtain further details from Jasmine.

As her leg was broken, the police brought Harrison back to the police station on her behalf.

Once Harrison was in the interrogation room, he slapped Susan on the face furiously.

Susan was startled by the slap. She slumped to the floor with her hand covering her face and looked at him in disbelief. "Darling..."

"Don't call me Darling! I've asked you not to go and confront them, yet you didn't listen. See, you've caused such big trouble now!" In fury, Harrison pointed at Susan with his trembling finger.

Susan lowered her head timidly and dared not argue at all.

Yulia was standing at the corner of the interrogation room alongside Natalie. They both looked at Susan coldly in silence.

At that time, the door of the interrogation room was opened again. Two police officers approached Natalie. "Ms. Smith, according to our findings, you were telling the truth. Ms. Jasmine had indeed committed first-degree murder. Nevertheless, she will only be charged with intentional assault as you only sustained a minor injury."

Natalie smiled and replied, "It doesn't matter. I'm not surprised with this, but I would like to know what is the jail term for intentional assault?"

Hearing the guestion, both Harrison and Susan stared at the two police officers nervously.

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One of the police officers replied, "Not more than six months. Since Ms. Jasmine has broken her leg, she will only be given a non-custodial sentence.

"It's too bad that she won't be locked up in prison." Yulia twitched her lips.

Susan got up and grabbed hold of the police officers' hands. She asked anxiously, "Sir, this punishment is too heavy for my daughter. Can I bail her out?"

A non-custodial sentence is no different from jail time. It is still a form of imprisonment and will be a stain on Jas forever!

My Jas is fated to marry Shane and become Mrs. Thompson. How can she be tainted like this?

"To bail her out is not impossible, but it solely depends on the victim's willingness," The two officers turned to look at Natalie and explained further, "If Ms. Smith is willing to have an out-of-court settlement, your daughter will not be sentenced."

As if she had turned into a lifeless puppet, Susan weakly let go of the police officers' hand.

Out-of-court settlement.

Natalie certainly won't have an out-of-court settlement with Jas!

"Take some time to negotiate among yourselves." The two police officers turned and walked out of the interrogation room.

"Negotiate? What is there to be negotiated? Let's go," Yulia said sarcastically as she helped Natalie out of the room carefully.

Natalie nodded as the two headed towards the door of the interrogation room.

Susan pulled Harrison's sleeve and called hurriedly, "Darling!"

Harrison knew what was in her mind. He pondered briefly and yelled, "Yulia! Nat! Please give me a minute."

Both Yulia and Natalie stopped and looked back.

Yulia sneered, "Why? Do you intend to plead on behalf of your daughter?"

Harrison cleared his throat in embarrassment because Yulia had nailed his thought. "Yulia, no matter what, Nat and Jas are sisters. You don't have to be like this. How about..."

"Stop!" Yulia let go of Natalie's arm and raised her hand, signaling Harrison to stop talking. "Sisters? I've only given birth to Nat. They're never sisters!"

"That's right. I only have a brother, Jared," Natalie added in an ice-cold tone.

Susan pulled Harrison's sleeve again nervously.

Harrison sighed, "Even if you refuse to recognize Jas, it is undeniable that she and Nat are related by blood. Why can't you be understanding and forgiving? Jas' leg is broken and Shane has already punished her last night. Can we just settle this matter in peace?"

"Dad, you're wrong. We've never done anything to hurt Jasmine, yet she has set me up numerous times. Besides, I didn't take revenge on her even after she caused me to sprain my ankle, and I didn't break her leg. How can I pretend as if nothing has happened?" Natalie responded disapprovingly, her lips pursed.

"True, indeed! You think you can bully us as you like?" Yulia challenged him.

Natalie looked up and glared at Susan, who was now hiding timidly behind Harrison. "Susan is the one who made Jasmine end up like this. She's the one who wouldn't stop stirring up trouble."

"Nat is absolutely right. When Susan intended to lodge a police report, Nat had reminded her kindly not to do so, as Jasmine would be the one ending up in prison. But Susan was being adamant and insisted to lodge the police report. Since she was hell-bent on sending Jasmine to prison, we are just being co-operative with her." Yulia raised her eyebrows.

Susan's face was as pale as a sheet of paper. Her entire body was shuddering.

Devils! Both mother and daughter are devils!

Harrison was also helpless. He understood that Natalie was right——it was all Jasmine's own fault.

However, he could not let Jasmine go to jail. Not even a non-custodial sentence!

"Nat, can you just forgive Jasmine and give her another chance? After all, she's Shane's fiancée. If she goes to jail, it will be a great shame for him, too," Harrison persuaded patiently.

Before Natalie could react, Yulia blew up and stepped in front of Natalie. She bellowed at Harrison with burning flames in her eyes, "You still dare to make use of Shane's name? Without me, it's impossible that Jasmine could be his fiancée!"

The corner of Harrison's eyes twitched. "Yulia, can you try to cool yourself down?"

"I can't!" Yulia yelled with clenched fists, "Why do I need to cool myself down? I have originally agreed for Shane to be Nat's fiancé, but all of a sudden, he became Jasmine's. Obviously, someone was pulling the strings. Now, do you still have the heart to persuade Nat to forgive someone who has snatched her fiancé? This is ridiculous!"

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After saying her piece, Yulia supported Natalie. "Nat, let's go."

Natalie nodded in response.

They ignored Harrison and Susan then left the police station in fury.

On the way back to the hospital, Yulia was still furning with anger. The more she thought about it, the angrier she became.

She had contributed to the success of Natalie and Shane's engagement as she once saved Shane's grandfather, but in the end, Susan and Jasmine reaped without sowing.

Actually, throughout these years, Yulia had thought it through and accepted the fact. But it just so happened that Harrison brought up this topic. So since he mentioned it, let's do something then.

When the thought crossed her mind, Yulia narrowed her eyes. "I must not let Jasmine have Shane."

Upon hearing her words, Natalie raised her brow and said, "Mom, what are you trying to do?"

Yulia snorted in response, "I want everyone to know Jasmine's true colors."

"You want to expose the things she did?" Natalie was so surprised that her jaw dropped.

Yulia nodded. "Yes."

"But this will affect Mr. Shane and Thompson Group's reputation. The Thompsons and Smiths are related by marriage. The power of the Thompson family is several times stronger

than the Smith family. If everyone knew about Jasmine's arrogance and her evil deeds, they would surmise that it was the Thompson family or Mr. Shane who condoned her to do these things." Natalie bit her lower lips and stared at Yulia with a pointed look on her face.

Yulia tapped Natalie's forehead and said, "At such a time, you still think on his behalf? Don't forget that you and Connor nearly lose your lives because of him. He has to make it up to you, right? So just treat this as his compensation to you!"

"How can you relate the two incidents?" Natalie didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Of course I can. If he doesn't want Thompson Group and himself to be affected, then all he has to do is to break all ties with Jasmine. Okay, that's it. I have made up my mind. Stop persuading me." Yulia waved her hands. Without hesitation, she dialed a media reporter and broke the news of Jasmine's evil deeds, such as plagiarism, suppression of talent, intentional assault, and many more.

Once Jasmine's scandal spread, she will most certainly become a target of disdain in the eyes of the public.

After that, Yulia hung up the call in delight.

Looking at Yulia's happiness, Natalie massaged her temple as she felt her head aching. She thought of telling Shane about that after reaching the hospital.

After all, this will destroy Shane and Thompson Group's reputation.

What if Shane takes out his anger on Mom?

At the hospital, Natalie found an excuse to send Yulia away and phone Shane.

This was the first time she had called Shane after she left Thompson Group.

Nervous was written all over her face.

"Hello?" Shane's cold voice came from the other end.

Natalie gripped her cell phone tighter. "Mr. Shane, I have something to tell you."

"What?" Shane, who was sitting on his chair, moved a little to adjust his posture.

Natalie's lips twitched. "Well... My mom..."

She told him everything that happened just now, including what Yulia told the reporter about Jasmine.

On hearing that, Shane's eyebrows furrowed. The climate in the office turned frosty all of a sudden as though the air conditioner had been turned down a few degrees lower.

They still have the nerve to put Natalie into trouble!

Last night, he had warned the Smith family if they found trouble with Natalie, he would call off the engagement.

Are they turning deaf ears on my words?

Seeing as there was no response coming from Shane, Natalie thought that he was angry at Yulia. She balled her hands into fists and said, "Mr. Shane, I'm really sorry. My mom was pissed off by the Smith family, so..."

"It's okay," Shane interrupted her in a solemn tone.

Natalie was stunned for a moment before she could react. Then, she blinked her eyes in bewilderment and asked, "Mr. Shane, you don't blame my mom?"

"No, I should thank her," Shane replied while rubbing his fingers.

"Thank her?" Natalie was puzzled and tilted her head.

"Yes. Aunt Yulia gave me a chance to cancel the engagement," said Shane softly.

Natalie widened her eyes in disbelief. "You want to cancel the engagement?"

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"Yes. I'm tired of all these." Shane pinched the bridge of his nose.

The main reason for Shane to get engaged with Jasmine was because of that night five years ago.

Over the past five years, Jasmine benefited from him and brought many profits to the Smith family. With that, Shane considered he had returned the favor.

Natalie's heart ached when she listened to Shane as she found that his tone was filled with traces of exhaustion. She thought about it for a while and said, "Mr. Shane, since you've decided to cancel the engagement, I do not need to keep the truth from you anymore."

"Hmm?" Shane raised his eyebrows.

Natalie took in a deep breath before she answered, "Do you remember the first time we had a gathering with the critics? When I was back from the restroom, you sensed that I was being weird and asked me what happened."

Shane's eyes glimmered. He lifted his chin and answered, "Yes."

"Actually, that night I saw Jasmine with a man. They had sex with each other, and that wasn't the first time," Natalie said while scrubbing her cheeks.

She finally blurted it out.

After telling Shane the secret, she felt much more relieved.

Shane fell silent for a moment on hearing that. Then, he narrowed his eyes into a slit and asked with an icy glare on his face, "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Natalie lowered her gaze. "I'm sorry. I was planning to give you some hints, but I didn't find the chance to. So..."

"Alright, I know now." Shane closed his eyes. When he opened them again, there was a thin veil of ice over them. "If there's nothing else, I'll hang up now."

With that, Shane hung up the phone. Picking up his jacket, he walked out of the office.

Right then, Silas came out from the next door. Seeing Shane, Silas stopped in his tracks and queried, "Mr. Shane, where are you going?"

"Which ward does Jasmine live in?" Shane responded with another question and looked at Silas expressionlessly.

Silas had been working for Shane for years. Of course, he could tell that Shane was in a bad mood, so he promptly revealed Jasmine's room number.

Shane murmured an affirmative reply and walked toward the elevator.

One hour later, he reached Jasmine's ward. Just when he was about to knock on the door, the sound of glass shattering was heard from inside.

The next instant, Susan was consoling Jasmine gently. "Jas, calm down. You've smashed everything in the ward."

"This is none of your business!" Jasmine grimaced in anger and grabbed a glass as she replied to Susan, "If it weren't for you, I wouldn't be given a non-custodial sentence and left a criminal record. It's all because of you. Get out of here! I don't want to see you!"

As soon as she finished her sentence, she swung the glass toward Susan.

All colors drained from Susan's face, and she had no chance to react. Fortunately, Shane opened the door in time. Then, with his quick reflexes, he smacked the glass and rescued Susan.

Otherwise, Susan will be disfigured now.

"Thank goodness!" Susan was horrified at what happened just now and patted her chest to ease her mind. Then, she gazed at Shane with gratitude in her eyes and said, "Shane, thank you so much."

Shane ignored her. He furrowed his brows and sized up the messy ward scornfully.

Jasmine noticed his expression and felt awkward, so she tried to distract him. "Shane, are you here to visit me?" she asked.

Shane walked toward her bed and looked at her with a cold gaze. "You haven't forgotten what I told you last night, have you?"

Jasmine froze. The memories of what happened last night flashed through her mind. "Shane, you want to call off the engagement?" she queried.

"Cancel the engagement? No! We can't allow that!" Susan became anxious upon hearing that.

Shane pursed his thin lips and said, "As I said, don't mess with Natalie and her family. Otherwise, I will cancel the engagement, but did you take it seriously?"

"Of course, I did! I didn't go to find Natalie today. It's my mom who went to find Natalie. It has nothing to do with me! Shane, you can't put the blame on me!" Natalie pointed at Susan. Turbulent emotions possessed her.

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Although Susan was upset that she had to bear all the blame, she had no choice but to sacrifice herself to protect this engagement.

"That's right, Shane. It's all my fault. I was the one who did it. It has nothing to do with Jasmine, so just blame me instead. Please give her one more chance," pleaded Susan as she clutched her chest.

Shane scoffed coldly, "A chance? I've given her plenty of chances when she's working in Thompson Group. However, she never appreciated any of them."

Starting to panic, Jasmine suddenly burst into tears. "Shane, I'm sorry. It's not that I didn't appreciate the chances, but I was too afraid that Natalie will snatch you away. That's why I kept targeting her."

"Snatch me away?" Stretching out his arm, Shane pinched her chin and lifted her head. He asked frostily, "Who do you think I am?"

Jasmine tried her best to rebuke, "Of course, I know that you're different from the other men. You won't be so easily snatched away by other women. But Natalie's different!"

"Tell me. Why is she different?" Shane flung his hand away.

As Jasmine rubbed her chin, which was hurting from his strong grip, an intense look of jealousy crept into her eyes. "Because you love her."

When she said that, Shane's eyes widened. "What are you talking about?"

I love Natalie?

How is that possible?

A look of disbelief crossed Susan's face.

Although she knew that there was something ambiguous going on between Shane and Natalie, she did not know that he actually loved her.

Clutching the blanket tightly, Jasmine glared at Shane with bloodshot eyes. "You don't believe it? I'm only stating the truth. As long as Natalie's around, your eyes will be fixated on her. Although you hate being close to women, yet you always take the initiative to get closer to her—even risking your life on a few occasions. If this isn't love, what is it?"

Although he looked expressionless, his hands, which were hidden in his pockets, clenched into fists. His emotions were in turmoil after hearing what Jasmine said.

He admitted that he paid a lot of attention to Natalie, and that he did not detest interacting with her.

In fact, he had been wondering why he kept saving her and why his emotions were so affected by her every action.

Is it because of love?

Shane's silence seemed to be an implicit acknowledgement of his feelings for Natalie. Upon noticing that, Jasmine's face twisted in envy. "You're my fiancé, but you fell in love with another woman. How can I possibly spare Natalie?"

Shane cast his gaze downward, concealing the emotions in his eyes. "Even if you're right, I'm the one who committed a mistake. I fell in love with her, which has nothing to do with her. Why didn't you target me instead?"

"You didn't do anything wrong. Natalie is the one who seduced you." Jasmine shook her head vigorously, insisting that it was all Natalie's fault.

Shane gazed at her. "You are unreasonable. Let me tell you this, regardless of whose fault it is, it's never an excuse for you to harm others. My patience for you has already run out. I'll invite the reporters over later and announce that our engagement is over."

When Jasmine heard that, she quickly tried to sit up, ignoring her leg which was still in a plaster cast. "No! I will never cancel the engagement. Not even if I die!"

He wants to cancel the engagement and be together with Natalie.

I will never allow that!

"You think that you can change my decision?" A mocking smirk played on Shane's lips.

Jasmine knew that he was being serious this time. In her haste, her eyes rolled over and she suddenly fainted.

When Susan saw that, she wailed miserably. "Jasmine!"

Then, she dashed over to the hospital bed and wanted to summon the doctor over.

However, she soon felt someone pulling her. Lowering her head, she noticed Jasmine grabbing the corner of her shirt. She understood everything instantly. Wiping her tears, she spun around and said to Shane, "Shane, Jasmine has already fainted. Let's talk about cancelling the engagement later, okay?"