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Sonia chuckled. "What I'm trying to say is that the Triforce Enterprise is now burdened with debts. The company would have faced bankruptcy if it weren't for the support of its fixed assets. Even if the company isn't bankrupt now, it's on the verge of bankruptcy—just like Paradigm Co. was three months ago. I'm sure Triforce Enterprise doesn't have any working capital now, right? President Gray is probably acquiring loans just to maintain Triforce Enterprise's operations. How could he possibly allow you to take out ten million just to save Tina?"

Julia was speechless after she heard what Sonia said. She was probably the only person on Earth who knew how much Titus had struggled while begging others to loan him some money. However, he had been too arrogant and had offended too many people in the past, so many of the people within his circles were reluctant to lend him any money. After so much effort, he had only managed to gather about two billion. The sum of two billion barely made a dent after he threw it all into the stock market, and it was far from enough for Triforce Enterprise to stabilize their business.

Every penny they had was crucial at this point, and Titus would certainly lose his mind if he found out that Julia had taken out such a huge sum for Tina. He might not divorce Julia, but their relationship would definitely be ruined if Julia had done such a thing. Julia felt a surge of terror just at the thought of that outcome, and she began to tremble in fear.

Sonia laughed when she saw the look on Julia's face. "Well, it seems like you aren't that prepared to offer me any money, Mrs. Gray."

Julia's face was rather pale. "What do you need me to do for you to show Tina some mercy?" Before Julia arrived, she had received a call from the police informing her that Tina had signed her confession. Julia would no longer be able to bail Tina out, and she wouldn't be able to see Tina until they went to court. The officers had also told Julia that the evidence for Tina's crimes—harming

and framing Sonia—were too strong, and that the court would probably already come to a decision after their first meeting. Tina might not even have a chance for an appeal.

When Julia asked Tina's lawyer if there was a way to save Tina, the lawyer's only idea was for Julia to come over and beg Sonia for help. If Sonia agreed not to proceed with the case, Tina would be safe. Julia therefore had to find a way to get Sonia to set Tina free.

However, Sonia's response felt like a bucket of ice water being poured over Julia's head. "I'll never let Tina go no matter what happens. She had harmed me in the past, but I didn't have any evidence then. Things are different now, so I'll have to make sure that she goes to jail this time!" Sonia uttered in an icy tone as she fixed her hair.

"You..." Julia widened her eyes as she pointed a shaky finger at Sonia. "You're just too evil!"

Rina blinked in confusion. Evil? Her head was held low as she gazed at Julia, who was standing in front of her. As much as I like my new mother, I have to say that she has some issues with her intellectual capacity. Even though I haven't studied much, I can tell that Tina was the one who harmed and framed Sonia. In that case, Tina's the evil one here, and Sonia is merely getting revenge with the use of the law. How does that make Sonia an evil person? Well, my new mother is pretty nice to me, so I won't voice out my opinions.

Sonia looked as if she had just heard the funniest joke in the world, and she let out a mocking laugh before she spoke. "No, no. Please don't say that, Mrs. Gray. I will never be as evil as your youngest daughter. She's capable of pushing others down the stairs, she managed to come up with a scheme to get someone to fall off a horse, she got a poisonous snake to bite someone, she tried to get someone raped, and she even got someone to splash acid on others! All her crimes are beyond evil! Her acts are worse than that of the devil."

Julia's face turned beet red after hearing Sonia's words, and she glanced away in a rather uneasy manner. "You... You're still well and alive now, aren't you?"

"Does that mean that I deserved all of that? Are you saying that I should forgive Tina because I'm fine now?" Sonia's expression turned cold. The corner of Julia's lips trembled a little. Although she didn't say anything, the look on her face made it clear that what Sonia had said was precisely what she meant.

Sonia shook her head as she knew that there was no point in having their conversation any longer. One couldn't wake a person who was only feigning sleep, after all. Sonia pulled her phone out and dialed Titus's number in front of Julia. "President Gray. It's me, Sonia."

Julia's eyes were bulging wide as she screamed, "What are you doing?"

Sonia ignored her and continued to speak. "Your wife is here, and she's offering me ten million for me to set Tina free."

"What?" Titus shot to his feet on the other end of the call. His face was eerily dark. Ten million? Julia sure is a generous woman! I just applied for a loan from the bank, and I just got rejected. I'm on the verge of bursting out in anger, and that woman—Julia Ramsay—is offering ten million to save my useless daughter?! Doesn't Julia understand how much ten million means to Triforce Enterprise right now?

Titus was shivering with rage as he spoke. "Where is Julia Ramsay right now, Sonia?" He had used Julia's full name. Sonia's lips curled into a faint smile as she looked at Julia's terrified expression. "She's right in front of me. Why don't you speak to her?" With that said, Sonia pressed on the loudspeaker button before placing her phone in front of Julia.

"I want you to f*cking come home right now!" Titus shouted in a furious and cold voice.

"Honey, I—"

"I don't want to hear you talk. I'm not going to be as nice if I don't see you back in half an hour!" He interrupted her without any hesitation, and he ended the call after finishing his sentence.

Julia's entire being was shaking—even Rina, who had been standing behind her, was shocked by Titus's call.

"Do you have anything else to say, Mrs. Gray?" Sonia took her phone back.

Julia stood up. Her eyes were emotionless as she stared at Sonia—she had returned to her usual arrogant, icy and hostile self. "Just you wait. We're definitely going to find a way to save Tina. Let's go, Rina." Julia held onto Rina's hand and strode toward the exit.

It didn't take long for Tom to find out about the news of Julia paying Sonia a visit. Tom knocked on the door before entering the president's office. "According to our men from Paradigm Co., Mrs. Gray and Miss Rina just visited Miss Reed, President Fuller."

"What?" Toby frowned. "Were they there because of Tina?"

"Yes. However, it seems like things didn't go the way Mrs. Gray wanted them to. She had looked rather pale when she left the office," Tom uttered in a scornful tone. A similar smirk appeared on Toby's face. "Nothing will go Mrs. Gray's way if the person she's dealing with is Sonia."

The person who most desperately hoped for Tina to be convicted was probably Sonia, after all. It was an idiotic move for Julia to seek help from Sonia. "By the way, do you have any updates on the research that I got you to do on Rina?" Toby drummed his fingers on the table as he asked.

Tom pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose. "I did find some stuff."

"Some?" Toby pressed his lips together—he clearly wasn't satisfied with the other man's answer.

Tom nodded before responding in a rather helpless tone. "Yeah, some. I only found some because a part of Rina's past documents had been removed by someone. It took me a lot of time to recover some of the information. Rina used to be known as Taylor Carey, and she lived in a village. She belonged to a family who valued males more than females until Zane brought her over to Seafield."

"Zane?" Toby's pupils shrank at the mention of Zane. So, Sonia isn't the only person involved in Rina's return. Zane is part of it as well. What exactly are Sonia and Zane trying to do?

Tom seemed to have read Toby's mind, for he continued his speech in a stern tone. "Mr. Coleman and Miss Reed seem to be plotting something because I realized something else. This woman, Taylor, isn't actually Rina. Mr. Coleman had placed fake DNA samples in all of the major hospitals and accrediting bodies. That way, no matter how many times Mr. and Mrs. Gray attempt to run tests on Taylor, results would indicate that she is their daughter. I'm sure Miss Reed is aware of this—she wouldn't have passed the necklace to Taylor otherwise."

Toby kept quiet and knitted his brows as he sank into deep thought. Soon, he realized what Zane and Sonia had in common—they both saw the Grays as their largest enemy. However, they can't directly attack Triforce Enterprise due to the national policies in place. In order to get Triforce Enterprise bankrupt, they would have to think of other ways to attack them. Their best strategy would be to get hold of some of Triforce Enterprise's secret information. However, it's practically impossible for them to do such a thing unless they have someone planted in the company.

Could Taylor be a spy that Sonia and Zane had planted in the Gray Family? Toby wondered.

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Toby stopped drumming his fingers on the table. The more he thought about it, the more possible his hypothesis seemed. There'd be no other way to explain why they came up with a fake 'Rina'; they couldn't have done it just to comfort Titus and Julia, right?

At that thought, Toby looked up at Tom. "I want you to delete everything that you've found. Apart from that, I also want you to erase all traces in places that Taylor has ever been. Most importantly, I want you to ensure that all of the DNA samples that Zane has left in the hospitals and accrediting bodies are still present."

Although Zane had done his work on covering up Taylor's identity, there was still a chance that someone would suspect that Taylor

wasn't actually Rina. If Tom's research was able to indicate that Rina wasn't actually who she claimed to be, then other people would be able to do the same thing. All Toby could do was to ensure that he helped Sonia and Zane conceal Taylor's identity—at least others wouldn't be able to easily find out about the truth. Tom naturally understood Toby's intentions, so he nodded and went off to get it done without any protests.

In the next few days, the news of Sonia and Tina began to die down on the Internet—only a few media sites continued to report about it. They weren't celebrities after all, so the hype surrounding them died down after a while. One day, Sonia and Carl were discussing a trip to watch a show in Norfolk when Sonia's phone began to ring. It was a call from the police.

"Hello." Sonia picked the call up.

"Miss Reed, the date for Tina's court hearing has been set. It will be at 2.00PM tomorrow. You're required to be present as the plaintiff for tomorrow's case," the officer said.

Sonia nodded her head solemnly. "Alright. I'll be there on time." She lowered her phone after she ended the call.

Carl gazed at her. "What is it, Sonia?"

"Tina's court hearing has been fixed at 2.00PM tomorrow." Sonia chucked her phone onto her desk as she spoke.

A hint of darkness flashed in Carl's gaze before he put on a smile. "That's great. I'll go with you tomorrow."

"Okay," Sonia said with a nod.

"President Reed." Daphne knocked on the door before she walked in. Both Sonia and Carl shifted their focus onto her. "What is it?" Sonia asked.

Daphne stood outside the door without entering. "I've already made an appointment for the overseas hospital that you told me to contact. They asked when you're available to go there."

"What hospital is this, Sonia? Are you sick?" Carl's expression changed a little as he hastily scanned Sonia with his eyes.

Sonia smiled. "Don't worry, I'm fine. I got Daphne to make an appointment for me with a gynecologist." She turned back to Daphne. "I got it. I'm planning to go there this Saturday night." It was Wednesday then, and Sonia was planning to watch Carl's show at Norfolk on Friday. I'll leave the country to have the surgery on Saturday, and then I'll come back on Sunday. I have just enough time for everything, she thought.

"Alright. I'll get back to them now." Daphne nodded before she shut the door and walked off. Carl lowered his gaze to look at Sonia's belly. "Sonia, are you going overseas to do a checkup, or..."

"I'm going overseas to abort the child." Sonia rubbed her belly as she responded to Carl with a blank expression. "After what Tina tried to make Tim do to me, I'm a little reluctant to have the surgery in the country, so I decided to do it overseas. I had already obtained my visa a while ago, but I haven't had the chance to do it as I was too busy. I'm three months pregnant now, and I can't delay it any longer. It'll be harder to get an abortion if I wait anymore." That was only one of the reasons, of course. Sonia's other reason was that she was afraid she would develop feelings for the baby. She was worried that she wouldn't have the heart to remove the fetus once her motherly instincts kicked in.

Carl's pupils shrank a little after he heard what Sonia had to say. A hint of regret flashed in his eyes, but it quickly disappeared as he lowered his gaze and forced himself to put on a kind smile. "I'll go with you, then."

"It's fine. Didn't you say that you have to attend a recording for some entertainment program the day after your show at Norfolk? I'm going on a Saturday, so you wouldn't have time to go with me. You should focus on your work. Charles will be with me." Sonia patted Carl's shoulder.

Carl feigned disappointment by letting out a long sigh. "Okay then." Sonia giggled when she saw the look on his face—he looked like a child who couldn't get his favorite candy. She then pulled her drawer open to make him a cup of peppermint tea. "Don't get all pouty. Drink this. It's your favorite drink."

When Carl saw the fresh-smelling peppermint tea in front of him, his gaze dimmed for a second before he spread his lips into a smile. "Thanks, Sonia. You know me the best." He devoured the tea with a pleasant look on his face. However, he was the only one who knew how unhappy he was at that moment—he hated drinking peppermint tea. The one who likes peppermint tea is Toby, not me! But I can't tell Sonia any of this. I can't even imagine how she'd react if she found out that I'm mimicking Toby. It'll probably change her impression of me. I'd lose my mind if she ever perceived me as some freak!

After finishing the peppermint tea in his cup, Carl excused himself from the office. Sonia intended to send him out, but he stopped her from doing so. Once he walked out of her office and shut the door behind him, the smile on his face gradually faded and was replaced by an icy, heartless expression.

He walked to the elevator and pressed on the button to go down before he stepped to the side, where there was a potted bonsai plant. He bent forward, opened his mouth and stuck a finger down his throat. The same blank and emotionless expression remained on his face even as he made himself gag. He threw up all of the peppermint tea that he had just ingested.

After letting all of it out, he finally heaved a sigh as he straightened his back and pulled a handkerchief out of his pocket. He was about to wipe his lips when he heard a female voice from behind him. "You just came out of President Reed's office, right? How would President Reed feel if she found out that you just vomited all of the drinks you had in her office?" the woman uttered in a spiteful tone.

Carl's facial muscles twitched a little as he immediately turned around to give the woman a threatening glare. The woman appeared shocked for a moment, but she quickly calmed herself down before letting out a whistle. "Yo, you scared me with that glare! This is the real you, isn't it?" she said with a laugh.

"I'll break your neck if you tell Sonia anything." Carl tightened his grip on his handkerchief as he hissed at the woman.

Rebecca twirled her hair playfully. "I'm terrified," she uttered sarcastically. The corner of Carl's lips twitched in annoyance. Terror? I've never seen a hint of terror in this woman's eyes. Well,

she's someone who has ended human lives with her own hands, so she's probably not afraid of my threats.

At that moment, Carl felt rather frustrated. He wasn't in the mood to fool around with her, so he turned to walk toward the elevator.

"Hold on." Rebecca grabbed his arm. "I can promise not to tell President Reed anything, but I want a few strands of your hair."

"No way!" Carl squinted as he instantly rejected her request.

She laughed. "I'll tell Sonia about it, then."

"Do what you want." He shot her a scornful glare. "Even if you did so, I can just tell her that I vomited because I wasn't feeling well. We'll see who she trusts more—you or me."

"But..." Rebecca was speechless for a moment. Of course Sonia would trust him more. He met Sonia before I did.

"Fine. Let's just say that I miscalculated my acts this time. But I'll still make sure to get some of your hair." Rebecca stopped fooling around and spoke in a more serious tone. "You've already rejected me twice. Even if one didn't believe that their birth father had another partner, one would generally feel curious and would agree to run tests and get evidence. However, judging by how insistent you are, I can't help but feel like you're avoiding something."

"Is that so? What would I be avoiding?" Carl clenched his fists.

The corner of Rebecca's lips curled upward when she noticed his subtle action. "You're trying to avoid the truth—that you aren't actually Ronald's son. You know that you're Gordon's son, don't you?"