

# My Mute Bride Chapter 21

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It felt like a dream to Rachel as Justin carried her into his car; she couldn't even feel the pain in her knees anymore. It was the first time she felt that this man wasn't as cruel and heartless as he seemed on the surface.

Rachel looked at him as she sat inside the car. *Why did you help me?*

Justin still hadn't answered the question that she had asked him back in the principal's office. After all, deliberately going through the effort to set up a trap did not seem like something that he would do.

Justin watched as her hands signed away. Even though he couldn't understand sign language, he could still figure out her thoughts through the grateful look in Rachel's eyes.

"You don't have to thank me. I didn't do it for you." Justin's tone was as cold as his expression. "I only looked into this matter for the Burtons' reputation. You married into my family, so you are a Burton. It's best that you behave yourself so that we can live together peacefully. Otherwise, do not blame me for my callousness if you cause another controversy like this."

The icy voice resounding around the car interior instantly smothered the warmth flickering in Rachel's heart. *That's right. Why would Justin go through so much trouble for me?*

Rachel couldn't stop herself from shivering at the memory of his treatment of her last night. It wasn't cold, but she still shuddered. If something like this happened again, Justin would certainly kick her out.

As such, neither of them spoke on the trip home.

Justin did not stay after he sent Rachel back to the Burton home. Instead, he got the chauffeur to send him to his workplace. Soon, the car sped down the highway.

"Everything with the school has been dealt with, Mr. Burton. There won't be any rumors about that past incident anymore. The media outlets have also prepared their scripts for their apologies."

Justin leaned back in the back seat, his eyes closed as he rested. His handsome features were reflected in the window's glass, but his expression turned harsher and

colder. "A mere gym teacher wouldn't have been able to spread the news about such an old incident and cause it to come back to public consciousness."

“You’re saying that someone else is behind the incident’s resurgence?”

“Investigate the situation properly before he’s handed over.”

“Understood.”

The next morning, news of Rachel’s gym teacher sexually harassing female students surged to the top of many trending news lists, and multiple victims jointly voiced their condemnation. News about the Young Mistress of the Burton Family was promptly buried by this, dropping from its top spot on the trending list. Discussions about that promptly fell to the wayside.

“The gym teacher has already been handed over to the relevant authorities. We will continue to follow up on the developments regarding his years of crimes...”

A reporter was narrating the news for the day on the television screen.

“You can’t believe the news nowadays—they’re always changing their stories every day.” Sue huffily switched the television off. She then crossed her arms and sat on the couch, fuming

She initially thought that she could use that piece of news to kick out that eyesore of a mute, but she hadn’t expected for the mute to be wrongfully accused. Even more surprisingly, it was Justin who personally brought the mute with him to get to the bottom of the matter.

*Could it be?* Sue’s brows furrowed. How was it possible, though? She had personally raised Justin herself. How could he be interested in someone like Rachel? Yet, she still couldn’t figure out why Justin continued allowing Rachel to stay with the Burtons.

“Miss Hudson is here, Madam Parham.”

The servant’s voice pulled Sue’s thoughts back to reality.

“You’re here, Amber.” Sue got up to greet the woman. “Why are you here so early in the morning? Have you... seen the news?”

“News? What news?” Amber sat down on the couch as she looked at Sue with a puzzled expression.

“You know, news about that mu-your sister. Investigations now show that she had been framed. That gym teacher from your school has been reported as well. He’s been arrested already.”

“Huh? How could that be?”

"Also, weren't you confident when you said that your sister used to be in a relationship with that teacher? How could things have turned on its head so suddenly? Now, everything is just going great. I'm worried that Justin will say that I was jumping at shadows!"

Obviously, Sue was putting the blame on Amber.

The latter stiffened slightly, a bewildered look on her face. "Madam Parham, that incident had the entire school up in arms back then—everyone in school knew about it. How did Justin settle it after visiting the school once?"

Sue's expression stiffened when she heard that.

"Still, the guys writing those news reports sure have guts. They know that my sister is married to Justin, yet they still pushed those reports out the door anyway. They must not be worried about offending the Burton Family."

Amber's words reminded Sue of something, and her mind suddenly came to a stop.

"Are you saying that Justin only did this because of our family..."

Amber lowered her head to sip her tea. She forced herself to smile and proceeded to absolve herself of any responsibility. "Just act like nothing happened, Madam Parham. My sister is the lady of the Burton Family now, after all—the downfall of one means the downfall of all."

The way she said that last sentence was especially loaded with meaning.

Sue's face turned green. With Rachel's 'precedent' of tricking Amber and marrying into the Burton Family, Sue did not doubt the woman's words at all. Anyway, Justin's behavior was indeed unusual. How could he have gone through so much effort just to prove the innocence of a mute woman? He had to be doing it for the Burtons' reputation. *That damned girl!*

Upon thinking about this, Sue set her teacup down heavily. "Mrs. Duncan, where is that girl? Where did she run off to? Doesn't she know that she has to greet the guests whenever they are over? Such a lack of manners!" she said none-too-kindly.

"I shall call her now."

Meanwhile, Rachel was currently resting in her bedroom. She didn't dare to drink

the ginger soup that Justin had gotten Mrs. Duncan to bring to her after being drenched in cold water. When she came home that morning, her entire body was wrecked with chills. Even with her blanket wrapped tightly around her, she still shivered.

The graceless sound of the door opening woke Rachel right up from her nightmares. When she opened her eyes, she saw Mrs. Duncan standing by the door.

"Why are you still sleeping?" Mrs. Duncan asked in surprise.

Rachel stretched a hand out from under her blanket and weakly signed. *Did something happen?*

"Stop gesturing. I don't understand anything." Mrs. Duncan's voice was dripping with distaste. "Madam Parham wants you to go downstairs. Miss Hudson is here."

*Amber is here?* Rachel's heart sank. After internally struggling with herself for a long while, she gritted her teeth and clambered out of bed.

Amber had to be involved for that high school incident to suddenly see a resurgence. After all, she was the one who wanted to get her kicked out of the Burton Family. Since her threats didn't yield any results, then this was most likely her revenge.

Although Rachel wasn't willing to interact with Amber more than was necessary, Justin loathed for her to cause more trouble for him. So, Rachel had to carefully handle Amber. At the very least, she couldn't get into another fight with her sister.

Rachel changed into a simple white dress before heading downstairs, and her face was completely devoid of any color. When she went down the stairs, her footsteps were also shaky. If she hadn't had a hand on the rails, she would have probably lost her balance and rolled down the stairs.

"Rachel, why don't you look so good?" Amber lifted her head to look at her, feigning a look of worry

Sue rolled her eyes at Rachel in displeasure. "Why are you acting like you're on death's door? Is it because you want your family to think that you haven't been living well with us? Is it so that you can embarrass us? Aren't you yourself to blame for your own condition?"

Rachel stood at the bottom of the stairs. She didn't even have the strength to argue otherwise.

"What are you standing around for? Bring some snacks here. You're an illegitimate child, all right-you don't even know any decorum around guests. What a useless thing with no mother to raise her."

Rachel quietly clenched her fists as she listened to Sue's insufferable grumbling. However, all she could do was take it. She nodded her head before heading into the kitchen.

Amber's gaze shifted over to her. "Rachel looks unwell. I'll go and help her."

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Rachel was dishing up some desserts in the kitchen when Amber suddenly came in. "Let me help you, Rachel."

Rachel's back froze, and she subconsciously took a step back to keep a safe distance from Amber. Amber looked at her with her head tilted to one side and asked, "What's with that look on your face? Are you afraid that I'll eat you alive?"

Rachel signed, *You don't have to pretend to be kind to me. You're the one behind the news, aren't you?* Rachel was good-tempered, but she had always had a clear understanding of things.

"What do I have to do with something you've done yourself?" Amber snorted coldly with her arms folded across her chest. "You should've seen clearly by way of this incident that you're unwelcome in the Burton Residence. Why would you ask for trouble by insisting on staying?"

Rachel looked at her and explained dryly. *You and Dad arranged for me to marry into the Burton Family*

"Yeah, that's right, but I didn't know what kind of person Justin was back then. Now it seems to me that Dad's move is as wrong as wrong can be. As his daughter, I should help him correct his mistakes."

*You should say that to Dad.* The look in Rachel's eyes was determined. If Jefferey wanted her to leave the Burton Family, she would definitely leave at once without a word. As long as her grandmother's life wouldn't be endangered, she would not stay in the Burton Residence with her heart in her mouth even for a moment longer.

However, Amber misunderstood what Rachel meant, and her face fell at once. "Are you trying to pressure me using Dad? What do you think you are? Do you think he married you into the Burton Family because he thinks highly of you?"

Rachel frowned. *What sort of logic does she have? Did she become dull while studying abroad? They disliked Justin for his ugly appearance, but they had to depend on the Burton Family. Hence, they secretly substituted Amber with me and plunged me into this abyss of suffering. What does she mean by saying that Dad thinks highly of me?*

Just then, Amber added, "I'm telling you, Rachel—Justin is mine. The status of Mrs. Burton should have belonged to me, so you should give up the idea as soon as

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possible. Otherwise, don't blame me for being unpleasant with you. I have shown you mercy this time!"

*Has she shown me mercy?* Rachel thought to herself. She glared at Amber and wanted to refute the latter at first, but she didn't want to make this a bigger deal than it was. *What do you want me to do?*

"I want you to ask Justin for a divorce and leave the Burton Family."

*That's impossible.* Rachel shook her head.

"In that case, don't blame me for being unpleasant with you, Rachel. Don't forget that I have got something else on you even if the matter with the PE teacher is false!"

Rachel knitted her brows.

"I heard that Hans has returned to the country. If Justin learns about that matter..." Amber's eyes were full of cold sarcasm.

*Don't talk nonsense!* At the mention of the name, Rachel's face suddenly became even paler, and her hand trembled slightly as she held the corner of the table with it to support herself. *I haven't been in touch with Hans for a long time.* Seeing that Amber refused to give up, she clenched her fists before the look in her eyes gradually turned calm. *If you insist on doing so, then I guarantee you that you won't be able to marry into the Burton Family even if I leave the place.*

"What do you mean by that?"

Rachel took her cell phone out of her pocket in front of Amber.

"Did you record our conversation?" Amber's face darkened fiercely. Never in her wildest dreams did she expect Rachel, who had always submitted meekly to insults, to have such a card up her sleeve. If Justin heard what she had just said to threaten Rachel, the consequences would be disastrous. After all, the news about the so-called 'PE teacher' had brought disgrace on the Burton Family.

Rachel signed back. *I don't want to fight with you over anything. As long as Dad agrees to it, I'll leave the Burton Family at once, so don't force me!* Even a worm would turn, and Rachel looked quietly at Amber with calm and powerful eyes. Since Jefferey couldn't do anything with Amber, Rachel was under pressure from both of them. She couldn't keep awaiting her doom in such a way; if she really caused trouble, Justin would

definitely throw her out!

Amber stretched out her hand exasperatedly and tried to snatch Rachel's cell phone. "Give me your cell phone!" *I have been careless, and I need to get rid of this voice recording!* she thought to herself.

Rachel hurriedly dodged Amber's hand, accidentally knocking over the plate of desserts behind her as she failed to dodge it in time. The plate hit the ground with a loud clatter and smashed into pieces.

"What's wrong, Amber?" Sue's inquiring voice sounded from the living room.

Upon seeing this, Amber became even more anxious. While Rachel was unprepared, she snatched the cell phone from her and threw it directly into the kitchen sink. The cell phone was instantly submerged under the running water with a *splash*. Then, as they were scrambling for the cell phone, Amber unexpectedly hugged Rachel right away before both of them fell onto the ground. "Aaah—" Her scream reverberated around the kitchen.

"What's the matter?" A man's deep and cold voice sounded at the kitchen's entrance. Before they realized it, Justin had come back, and he happened to stumble upon their argument.

At this moment, Rachel was pinned underneath; she raised her head in pain to see Sue and Justin walking inside one after another. Justin's tall figure stood behind Sue like a commanding mountain. At the sight of the scene, she trembled subconsciously.

Before Rachel could explain herself, Amber, who was sitting on the floor, cried first, "My hand is bleeding, Justin!"

"Oh, my!" Sue exclaimed. "How did you hurt yourself?"

Red blood oozed out of Amber's palm and dripped onto the ground as her hand pressed on the porcelain shards. "I saw that Rachel looked unwell so I went to help her, but I didn't know why she pushed me instead. Ugh... It hurts so much, Justin..."

*This... is sheer nonsense! She's confusing right and wrong!* Rachel thought to herself. With her face deathly pale, she subconsciously looked at Justin and shook her head vigorously. She believed that Justin wouldn't easily believe Amber's clumsy trick.

Meanwhile, Justin frowned slightly as he strode past Sue and crouched down in front

of the two women. However, he merely took a cold glance at Rachel. The next instant, he stretched out his hand toward Amber. "Let me take a look."

Amber was still sobbing as she tremblingly reached out her 'tender' hand to Justin. "Ugh... It really hurts. I just wanted to help Rachel, but she said she doesn't like it that I keep turning up here. She even said that she's the lady of the house here. Should I not come, Justin..."

*The lady of the house?* Justin's face darkened slightly as he gave Rachel a cold look. "This is the Burton Residence. It's not your turn to decide who can come, don't you think so?"

Rachel's heart sank as she looked at Justin in disbelief. Her face was pale as if she had lost too much blood, and she shook her head almost imperceptibly. *I didn't*

*say that. She thought to herself, I didn't do anything. Why does he refuse to listen to even a word of my explanation?*

Justin helped Amber up and ordered the servant to fetch the medicine right in front of Rachel. When Amber took the opportunity to lean against him, he didn't dodge her,

As they left the kitchen, Amber's eyes gleamed with smugness, and she threw Rachel a warning look. *Your cell phone is gone. If you still dare to shoot your mouth off, you'll be dead meat.*

On the other hand, Sue glared at Rachel with disgust when she saw that the latter was still sitting on the floor. "Why are you still sitting here? Hurry up and clean up the place! I really have no idea what is wrong with the Hudson Family. You and Amber are both daughters of the same family, yet they married such an unpresentable person into our family. What bad luck this is!"

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"Clean up this place and pour another cup of tea," ordered Sue.

After the woman left, Rachel fished her cell phone out of the kitchen sink. Unfortunately, the cell phone had been thoroughly submerged under water and could not be switched on anymore.

Rachel didn't expect Amber to have the nerve to be so reckless in the Burton Residence. However, when she recalled how Amber had just acted like a spoiled child in front of Justin, she was somewhat saddened. It wasn't because of Justin, but because she had seen Amber having her way in such a way as she grew up.

*Amber will get whatever she wants as long as she acts like a spoiled child before the people around her. On the contrary, I... Never mind, everyone has their own destiny,* she thought to herself. After putting her cell phone away, she gathered the porcelain shards and threw them into the garbage can without saying a word. Then, she dished up the desserts again, made the tea, and brought them to the living room.

At this moment, the servants had treated the wound on Amber's hand. In reality, her injury wasn't serious. It was merely a small cut made by the porcelain shards, and it had stopped bleeding while the servant was bandaging it, but Amber's eyes were still teary. "It hurts so much, Justin. Is the wound not bandaged properly?"

Justin held her hand and looked at it carefully. Then, he replied impassively, "It's not a big deal. If you're worried, I'll have someone take you to the hospital."



"Will the wound be infected? I might have to get a tetanus shot."

Rachel felt like laughing deep down inside upon hearing Amber's words. The woman studied medicine herself, yet she pretended to be naive and ignorant.

"Why are you still standing over there, Rachel?" Sue snapped when she suddenly noticed Rachel coming out. "Not only are you mute, but you're clumsy and oblivious as well. What are you waiting for? Hurry up and come over to apologize to Amber."

Rachel was stunned. Why should she apologize? She didn't do anything wrong. After putting down the desserts and the tea, she silently stepped to one side.

Sue refused to let her off, though. "Did you hear me telling you to apologize? Are you not only mute but also deaf?"

"Never mind, Madam Parham." Amber leaned against Justin while assuming a magnanimous demeanor. "Rachel probably didn't mean it."

Upon hearing Amber's words, Sue took her hand and replied, "You're too kind hearted. No wonder you were hoodwinked by some heartless people. If only you were the daughter-in-law of the Burton Family."

Upon hearing her words, all the servants in the Burton Residence had a peculiar look in their eyes.

Rachel clenched her fists secretly as she felt deeply humiliated. After all, Sue's attitude toward her was the most important reason why she had no position in the Burton Family.

"It's getting late. I came back to get something, and I have to go back to the company in a while. Have a nice chat." Justin's voice interrupted their conversation as his tall figure stood up from the sofa. He then shot a glance at Rachel before saying, "Come with me."

A startled Rachel looked at Justin in surprise. *Is he helping me out of this predicament?*

Sue's face darkened for a moment as she watched Rachel and Justin going upstairs. She said angrily, "This mute really does have some tricks up her sleeve. She has made Justin so protective of her!"

Amber thought nothing of it, though. "Justin is only doing so because he pities her, Madam Parham. If he really was protecting her, why didn't he refute your words?" In her opinion, not only was Justin not protecting Rachel, he even loathed the woman very much. *Perhaps he called her upstairs at this moment to give her a dressing-down. It's her fault that I'm wounded, after all, she thought to herself.* She felt incredibly smug upon recalling how attentive Justin was to her just now.

Meanwhile, after Justin closed the door to his study, Rachel took out the pen and paper she had brought with her, wrote down a sentence, and showed it to him. 'Thank you for helping me out just now!

Justin glanced at the sentence and snorted coldly. "Helping you out? That's just your imagination."

Rachel was startled.

"What happened in the kitchen just now.\*\*

'I didn't do anything.'

"How did Amber hurt her hand if you didn't do anything. What were you two arguing about?" Justin stared coldly at Rachel with stern eyes. "Did Jefferey tell you to search my place for something again."

No, he didn't.' Rachel hurriedly shook her head Amber. She suddenly stopped before finishing the sentence in her notebook. She hesitated for a moment, not knowing whether she should complete the sentence or not.

"Keep on writing." Justin's cold and deep voice sounded from above Rachel's head as he suddenly closed in on her, causing her to mark a dot on the paper as if the tip of her pen had been filled with lead. She could only bite the bullet and continue, 'Amber told me to ask you for divorce because she wants to marry you. This was true, and everyone in the Burton Family could tell what Amber was thinking about even if she didn't say it.

"Are you unwilling to do so?" Justin's voice sounded in her ear.

Rachel was surprised at once. For a moment, she was at a loss for a reply. This wasn't a question of whether she was unwilling to do so or not. After all, she didn't marry him in Amber's stead on her own will back then.

"What? Has Jefferey Hudson regretted it so soon?" Justin let out a cold snort. "You Hudsons really are as shameless as usual. You marry their daughters off as casually as if you're selling cabbage."

His insulting remark was harsh to the ear, but Rachel had grown used to it. What puzzled her was how he sounded like he didn't care about Amber. Instead, he seemed to loathe the Hudson Family. But if he loathed the Hudson Family, why would he insist on marrying Amber back then? Why would he be so attentive to Amber in the presence of other people!

However, Justin didn't continue his speech. He stared at her coldly and said, "I called you upstairs to tell you something."

Puzzlement showed in Rachel's eyes.

"You've been married to me for such a long time, but you have not returned to your

parents' home, right?"

Rachel's heart skipped a beat when she heard the word 'home'. She carefully nodded her head, though the Hudson Family really wasn't worthy of the tender sentiments meant by the word 'home' in her opinion

"I'm free tomorrow, so I'll accompany you back to your parents' place."

Rachel threw Justin a look of surprise. Why would he want to accompany her back to the Hudson Residence?

Justin's eyes darkened when he saw her hesitation. "What is it? Do you not want me to go back with you?"

Rachel quickly shook her head. It wasn't that she didn't want him to go back with her; it was just that she couldn't understand why he wanted to do so.

Justin waved his hand impatiently when he saw how inarticulate Rachel was. "All right, there's nothing else. You may get out now."

Rachel nodded. When she reached the door, she heard Justin's voice from behind. "I didn't mean that you should submit to humiliation when I told you to know your place. You're the wife of the Burton Family, so think over what you should do and what you shouldn't."

Rachel paused for a moment as she was closing the door. After a long time, she nodded her head and left.

As soon as the door closed, Justin sat down behind his desk and swiped his slender finger twice across his phone's screen. After he tapped the icon of an application unavailable in the market, Amber's voice rang from the phone. She sounded very different from just now with her biting and harsh words.

In reality, Rachel's cell phone had been tapped since the first day she married into the Burton Family. Therefore, Justin knew exactly who she had talked to on the phone, what the person on the other end had said, and what had been recorded on her device. However, he was truly surprised that Rachel would record her conversation with her own younger sister. *I have underestimated this mute*, he thought to himself.

"You probably don't know this yet-Hans has returned to the country..."

Justin's brow furrowed slightly when Amber's threatening voice sounded through his cell phone's speaker. *Hans?* He let out a cold snort. *None of the two Hudson sisters is easy to deal with. I'd like to see for myself during the visit to the Hudson Residence what Jefferey Hudson, that old fox, is planning*, he thought to himself.

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After returning from the Burton Residence, Amber was on cloud nine.

Upon entering through her house door, she was immediately called out by Jefferey. "Where have you been, Amber?"

Since Amber had just set foot into the house and hadn't noticed her father sitting on the couch, she was taken aback by his voice. "... I went to the Burton Residence... You wanted me to get close to Justin, right?"

"Foolery!" After smacking his hand against the table, her father sprung up from his seat. "I asked for you to get close to the family, not fool around as you wish! Explain the news to me."

She asked guiltily, "What news? I-I've got no idea."

"As if!" Jefferey was utterly vexed as he said, "You're my daughter, and I'll never allow you to be married to such a rascal like Justin Burton. You've seen what he's capable of, and he's a bone-deep schemer!"

After having countless exchanges with Justin, Jefferey had long figured out that the former was a man who never let his actions be limited by moral boundaries. Otherwise, Jefferey wouldn't have taken the risk of offending the man by sending Rachel over as a substitute spouse.

On the other hand, Amber, who had a different opinion, saw a slight relief of tension on her father's face and immediately took the opportunity to grab his arm. As she tried to charm her father, she expressed, "Don't worry, Dad. In truth, Justin treats me very well. Earlier today, he even gave Rachel a good scolding right in front of me, believing whatever I told him! From what I see, there's no point letting Rachel stay in the Burton Family."

Gradually, she revealed everything that had taken place in the Burton Residence earlier. Of course, it was filled with twists of her own.

The more Jefferey listened, the uneasier he grew. "Listen to me, Amber-Justin is no simple man. Do you think he hasn't seen through your subtle gestures?"

For a man who dwelled so deep in the business world, Justin had certainly witnessed every plot that could happen. Thus, how could he possibly fall for mere tricks of a

simple-minded girl?

"Jeez, Dad, don't worry! I promise I'll get married into the Burton Family, and by then, Justin would surely help with our business."

"Amber!" Jefferey was outraged, and he revealed a glaring gaze as he rebuked, "This will be my last warning! I won't allow you to proceed with this fantasy of yours. If you still insist on it, I'll send you out of the country to continue your studies at once, and you'll no longer have to even think about Julian."

Amber dumbfoundedly stared at her father's stern look and quickly swallowed up the words she was about to speak as a smirk froze on her face. It was not until she finally regained her senses that she nodded her head, agreeing to her father's words.

Upon seeing his daughter so dispirited, Jefferey felt slightly sympathetic and patiently stated, "I'm only deciding this for your sake. Don't be mad, okay? Go get some rest now. Justin's coming to visit in the morning."

"Justin's coming to our place?" Amber's eyes instantly twinkled.

*Is he coming because he knows I'm hurt?*

The next second, her father's words shattered her dreams. "If Rachel was indeed of no use, she would've returned without her husband."

"Return? Rachel's coming back as well?"

"Of course," said Jefferey. He then warned, "I've already told you everything I should, Amber. Please end everything you have going on with Justin, and do not cause any trouble tomorrow."

Although Amber was dissatisfied, she didn't dare to show her objection to her father.

In her mind, Rachel wasn't even competition, so Justin had to be coming for her.

As for Julian, she had already formed a plan to bait him.

*These men will surely fall under my grasp!*

The next morning, Justin brought Rachel back to the Hudson Family.

In the living room were gifts of all shapes and sizes, which left the servants of the family peering in confusion.

*Isn't Miss Rachel said to be completely worthless in the Burton Family, even more so than the servants there?*

Besides, the man was supposed to be hideous according to the rumors, but that wasn't the case at all. Despite the scar on his face, his appearance was impeccable. Instead, the scar had proven to be a boost to his masculinity.

Upon seeing this, Amber was drenched in envy as she saltily uttered, "Wow, Justin, you're so nice to Rachel. She's very fortunate to have entered the Burton Family!"

"It's Mr. Justin for you, Amber." Jefferey shot her daughter a warning leer.

"Mr. Hudson." Justin lifted his commissures and greeted, "These are some simple gifts I've prepared for you, including a couple of presents specifically chosen for the both of you since it's our first time meeting."

Upon those words, Amber's eyes instantly glistened. "There's a present for me too?"

With that, Justin glanced at Rachel.

Upon recognizing the signal, she handed a bag that she had been holding on to Amber.

Justin had given her the bag before they came down from the car, and she didn't know what was inside it either.

Without showing any courteousness, Amber tore the gift open and quickly cried, "This is the necklace that I've been dreaming of! How did you know, Justin?"

In the bag was Tiffany's newest release. Evidently, the amulet was very pricey, and it was highlighted by the diamonds glowing underneath the sunlight.

At that, Rachel was also stunned.

Although Justin had always been a generous man, for him to give his sister-in-law such a lavish item on their first official meeting was quite the surprise.

Jefferey felt awkward by this and said, "That's too expensive for a gift. Return the gift,

Amber!"

"It isn't much, Mr. Hudson-it's merely a necklace," Justin replied in a calm voice. All of a sudden, he grabbed Rachel's hand and said, "After all, it's a gift personally selected by a sister to another, isn't it?"

When Justin clutched her hand, she felt a chilly sensation on her back while looking at his inexplicable grin.

Hesitantly, she nodded her head.

Meanwhile, Amber was certain that Rachel wasn't the one who had picked the necklace, and it was solely an excuse to confuse Jefferey while allowing Amber to receive the gift. After bearing that thought in mind, she was exhilarated.

For a while, the group had a casual chat.

In the meantime, Rachel was silently peeling some fruits at the side. Just as she was about to bring the apples to Justin, Amber suddenly said, "It's your first time here, Justin, so let me show you around!"

"Amber..."

"Jeez, Dad, you're always talking about business during family moments. That's so boring! I'm showing Justin around."

As she spoke, she separated both of their hands and pulled Justin away before Jefferey could say anything else.

After withdrawing his vision from the duo, the father turned to Rachel with a cold gaze and interrogated, "Did you buy the necklace?"

Rachel put the plate of peeled apples down and nodded her head.

"You must catch him fast before he develops any intentions toward Amber."

Rachel remained silent for a while before she signaled something. *Amber has feelings for Justin. There's nothing I can do if she were to approach him actively.*

"She's still an immature young lady. Are you going to let her do as she wishes?" Jefferey angrily stared at her. "No matter what, you're still her sister. Are you going to

watch as she walks herself into the fire?"

Upon hearing that, Rachel felt a stab in her heart.

Amber and Rachel were only one year apart, yet her younger sister was the one to receive all the love from their father while she was unhesitantly shoved into the hell that was the Burton Family. Not only that, she was even guilt-tripped to continue doing so.

*My sister? Other than to put on a facade, when had she ever called me her sister?*

"You still owe me an explanation for the mess-up with the documents previously. You'd better fulfill your orders this time."

Upon hearing those words, Rachel's heart skipped a beat.

*What does he want me to do right now?*

She didn't have the courage to anger Justin anymore.

Out of the blue, Jefferey's tone turned gentle. "Rachel, you're my daughter regardless of what happens. It pains me to see you getting mistreated in the Burton Family, so I'll surely give you a solid spot in the family."

After listening to her father, Rachel was stupefied.

Jefferey looked at her and handed Rachel a miniature paper bag. "As long as you bear his child."

## My Mute Bride Chapter 25

[/ My Mute Bride](#)

### My Mute Bride Chapter 25

Although he was speaking in a low volume, the words thundered in Rachel's ears.

Other than their wedding night when Justin had nailed her out of vengeance, he was always giving her unfiltered cold treatments. Despite knowing what kind of man he was, Jefferey still insisted that Rachel was to bear his child.

*What bullsh\*t is this? That's impossible.* Rachel shook her head.

Jefferey's expression remained calm as he stated, "It's not impossible. Feed him with this—pour it in his drink when he's not watching, and you'll eventually get impregnated."

Instantly, Rachel was thoroughly dumbfounded.

*What father in the right mind would say such things to his daughter?*

When she previously returned to the Hudson Residence, she bore an optimism that her father would show her some sympathy, but it ultimately vanished as each day went by

Despite that, she had never expected her father to treat her as an object that was to simply be sold off to the Burton Family. After all, she believed that he still had a heart.

*Did you ever see me as your own daughter, Dad?* As she stared at Jefferey, she attempted to draw a little empathy from her father.

"Of course! You're even the young mistress of the Hudson Family, so you've got to know that these burdens are yours to carry, Rachel. Once you give birth to Justin's child, his family will belong to you—this will be beneficial to you as well."



As he smugly continued explaining his plans, the insatiable greed in his eyes felt like an avalanche falling upon his elder daughter.

She gritted her teeth and expressed. *I can't do it.*

After receiving a warning from Justin, she refused to play with fire any longer.

Instantly, Jefferey's face became gloomy. "Do it even if you can't."

Before Rachel could sign anything, she was interrupted by Amber and Justin's voices from outside the room.

He swiftly shoved the paper bag into her hands, grabbing her hands as he sternly reminded, "Don't forget that your grandmother is still in the hospital."

Since her father had leverage on her, no matter how resistant she was, she had to force herself to take on the mission.

"What are you talking about?" Justin's voice sounded behind them.

Upon feeling a chill in her spine, Rachel hastily stuffed the paper bag into her sleeves.

"Nothing much. Just a simple catch-up since it's been a while since she last returned." After straightening his back, he calmly turned to Justin with a forced smirk. "She mentioned that she has been well taken care of at the Burton Residence."

"Is that so?" Justin gave Rachel a knowing look.

As their eyes met, she couldn't hide her guilt as her face turned pale.

"Uhh... Dad hasn't seen Rachel for so long, so why don't we just leave them two to chat? Let me bring you upstairs, Justin." Amber hated it when Justin showed Rachel any attention, so she dragged his arm.

"It's fine. Rachel can lead me."

Upon hearing that, Rachel was visibly stunned as she peered at him in a perplexed manner.

Amber tugged his arm disappointedly. "Justin..."

"Before we came here, Rachel promised to show me the place she resided in before she married me." After jerking his arm away, he sent Rachel a cold leer. "Isn't that right, Rachel?"

At the mention of her name, all she could feel was coldness and nothing else.

*What does he want to do?*

Amber watched as Justin and Rachel went upstairs, and she furiously stomped her

foot.

“Sit down, Amber.” Looking at his rebellious daughter, Jefferey was tilted.

*How intriguing of him!* Jefferey couldn't help but wonder what it was that Justin did to charm his daughter, making her so hooked onto him.

If that were to go on, he would be in a lose-lose situation.

Meanwhile, Rachel led Justin to her bedroom upstairs.

As her room was facing north, there wasn't much sunlight in the space.

She felt slightly cramped after shutting the door and pulled the chair at the desk out, inviting Justin over for a seat.

“This used to be your room?” He gave her an indescribable look.

In response, Rachel nodded her head, to which the man in front of her frowned.

Rather than a woman's bedroom, the room seemed much more like an isolated study. It only had shelves filled with books, an old desk, and a single bed sitting in the corner.

Who would ever expect Jefferey to let her daughter live in such a miserable room? After all, the Hudson Family came from a wealthy background as well.

However, with how he was willing to send Rachel into the Burton Family, it was clear that the mute lady bore no significance in her father's heart-she was merely a tool.

Meanwhile, Rachel anxiously stared at Justin, having no idea what he was about to do. After all, he simply stood before the bookshelves. After pulling a book out from the collection, he asked in a seemingly nonchalant manner, “What did Jefferey say to you just now?”

Rachel shook her head carefully, but she was feeling nervous deep down inside.

“Nothing?” He raised his head and revealed an icy gaze. “What's that in your hand, then?”

As the words escaped his mouth, Rachel's mind instantly went blank as she

subconsciously took a step backward, almost drenching the paper bag in her hand with her sweat.

*He saw it!*

Despite her retreat, Justin stood still—it was even scarier than if he were to move forward. Gazing at her chillingly were his eyes that resembled an abyss.

Rachel remained still even though her shoulders trembled, and she eventually reached out an arm toward the man before slowly opening her shut palm.

Now, all she could do was resort to her survival instincts.

All of a sudden, the door suddenly sounded with a *creak*.

“Justin!” With the sweetest smile in the world, Amber pushed the door open and entered. “I brought some fruits for you.”

Instantaneously, there was a slight impatience on Justin’s face. He answered in a dull tone, “Thanks.”

“No worries. Just make yourself at home.” As she brought the fruit platter into the room, Amber gave her sister a mean glance when she walked past her. “Do you want to go and help in the kitchen, Rachel? The servants don’t know what Justin is allergic to.”

After nodding her head, Rachel sneakily jerked her leg and kicked the paper bag she accidentally dropped earlier under the bed.

*I shall take my leave. Have a good chat.*

As soon as the door was shut, she was finally able to breathe properly. Thanks to being anxious around Justin, she had drenched the back of her clothes with cold sweat.

She could never bring herself to drug anyone.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the door, Justin and Amber’s voices could be heard.

“Do you like the necklace?”

“I love it! How can I not? It’s a present from you!”

“You studied medicine when you were overseas, right?”

“Yeah, it’s what the family specializes in.”

“You already have the formulas from Hudson Pharmaceuticals. What’s the point of studying abroad?”

“I know, right? I have no clue as to what’s going on in my father’s head. We already have patents for the formulas. Why should I even bother learning any other stuff?”

“Is that so? Then you must have seen the formulas at home, haven’t you?”

Upon the term ‘formula’ being uttered from inside the room, Rachel’s heart immediately sank.

At that moment, everything became clear to her; she finally understood why Justin had decided to accompany her back home and tried getting close to Amber.

For centuries, the Hudson Family had been the leading name in medicine; the most valuable thing in the company wasn’t their brand nor Jefferey’s sense of business, but the family’s secret formulas that had been kept away from public knowledge.

That was what Justin was coming for.

## My Mute Bride Chapter 26

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### My Mute Bride Chapter 26

Meanwhile, Amber felt a little awkward during Justin’s interrogation inside the bedroom. “O-Of course, I have! It’s a family heirloom!”

Having mastered psychology after years of business, he could tell she hadn’t the slightest idea based on how she was mumbling.

*You sly fox, Jefferey! You don’t even trust your daughter!*

However, since Jefferey had sent Amber to study medicine, it was obvious that he wanted to prepare her to take over Hudson Pharmaceuticals in the future.

Justin didn’t expose his rival despite knowing this.

Just then, Amber hastily switched the topic. “Honestly, Justin, I’ve got no interest in managing the family business. Besides, Dad sent me to study traditional medicine, so I think I should branch out on my own. Why don’t you lend me a hand?”

Justin lifted his gaze from the book and asked, “What do you want?”

"I want to work in a hospital."

"Which one?"

"Tran-Q." Amber warily studied Justin's expression, fearing that she might expose herself.

*Tran-Q?*

Justin seemed like he had realized something.

"Sure." He spoke with a freezing tone that resonated within the house, and anyone who paid attention to his voice could easily be captivated.

It was lunchtime soon, and Amber continuously served food to Justin.

In response, he simply thanked her and turned to grab a glass of water without touching any of his cutleries.

Upon seeing that, Rachel mentally shook her head.

Having spent her fair share of days at the Burton Residence, she knew Justin's dining habits very well. For one, would never eat any food that was served to him with personal cutleries. Also, as long as there wasn't a serving spoon on the table, he wouldn't start eating

*Amber is going overboard with her bootlicking. However, since they're so close to each other, perhaps he'll make an exception for her, Rachel guessed.*

Meanwhile, Justin noticed that she was zoning out and pushed his plate before her. "The family chef is quite talented! Eat up, Rachel."

The woman was surprised by his caring tone; when she regained her senses, she saw that Amber was evidently upset.

If gazes could kill, she would've been murdered by her sister a million times over.

Rachel felt a chill down her spine, and she couldn't help but suspect that Justin was purposefully doing this to trigger Amber's hatred toward her.

*I can't finish this.* She signaled and pushed the plate back to him. *You eat up.*

However, the plate was stopped halfway on its way back to Justin.

When Rachel saw his cold leer, her hand immediately turned into jelly and she no longer dared to push the plate any further.

After a short while, she forced a smirk and pulled the plate back to herself.  
*Thanks.*

Throughout lunch, Jefferey sneaked some questions about Justin's business. The latter was probably in a good mood, for he revealed some inside information about his company.

"Director Humphries from the Security Council said that?" Jefferey's eyes shone like

stars.

As he remained as calm as usual, Justin stated, "Actually, it was my assistant who heard it from Director Humphries during a partnership meeting last week. However, the risk of loaning remains high, so even the Arden Group is still waiting whilst observing."

"If Arden Group has set its eyes on the loaning terms, it must mean they're

exceptional," Jefferey expressed in delight, "What a fine day. Bring some wine over, Rosa!"

When she saw her father being so lax, Rachel couldn't help but break into a cold sweat.

Although she wasn't exactly informed about the business industry, she could tell what Justin just said was merely a guess, and the profit-loss probability was 50-50. Moreover, the way he casually brought up Director Humphries and the Arden Group bought Jefferey off so easily.

With how significant the Hudson Group's loss was right now, Jefferey's debts would certainly reach new highs if he were to actually invest in a new field. By then, one mistake could cost him the entire company.

Despite the endless thoughts in her head, Rachel never once made a single sound.

Later on, the hellish lunch finally ended.

Since Justin had a meeting to attend at work, he couldn't stay any longer. He took his leave along with Rachel, to which Amber and her father went and sent them off.

"Come visit often, Justin!" Amber acted cutely as she dragged Justin's arm. Anyone who heard her right then had goosebumps all over themselves.

"It's getting late, Mr. Burton. You still have to go home and change." Justin's driver let out a small cough and reminded them of the time.

"All right," Justin responded with a subtle nod before glancing at Rachel as she stood beside him. "Get in."

Upon that, Rachel regained her focus and immediately followed behind after nodding.

Meanwhile, Justin revealed a frown as he grew impatient. In his mind, Rachel was always staring into space lethargically like a dummy. She watched him converse with Amber all this while, yet she showed zero reaction.

Before she got on the vehicle, she walked past Amber. The latter whispered in her ears, "What he said about returning to keep you company is just bullsh\*t! Justin's only here to see me. Well, you've seen how much he adores me. I reckon you've

never even gotten a gift from him, have you? In his eyes, you're nothing more than a slave."

Although Rachel was tilted, she maintained an apathetic expression and signaled. *In that case, why are you trying so hard to be his slave?*

She was a kind person, but she would never give in to a bully.

After expressing that, she turned around and hopped into the car.

As they watched the car fade into the distance, Amber stomped her feet and vented to her father by saying, "Look at her smug face, Dad! If she were to stay with the Burton Family any longer, she's going to step over us sooner or later."

Jefferey revealed a frown and uttered, "Stop your foolery. Did you tell Justin what I told you to?"

Amber was stunned for a while before she realized what he meant and answered, "Yes, I did."

"What was his reaction?"

"He agreed to it without any hesitation." Upon being reminded of that, Amber felt overjoyed. "He said I could check in with Tran-Q to work any time soon. By then, I'll get to meet Julian every single day."

"Good." Jefferey thought about it for a bit before he nodded his head. "By then, you shall direct your focus on Julian and less on Justin."

Despite her reluctance, Amber obediently nodded her head like a good daughter would before grabbing her father's arm. Then, they walked back into the house together.

On the other hand, the vehicle which Rachel and Justin were in had just exited Hudson Residence, proceeding slowly on the road while a good-looking duo could be seen in the rear mirror.

"You haven't told me what Jefferey gave you earlier."

A man's low voice sounded in the car, and not a tinge of emotion could be found in

Since Rachel was prepared for this, she warily signed. *Nothing. He just told me to warn Amber not to get too close to you to avoid spreading any rumors.*

"Is that so?"

Unexpectedly, her chin was tightly clutched as a tingling pain took her by surprise, causing her to let out a cry.

"Aaah"

*He's not buying it?*

Then, Justin coldly scoffed as he strengthened his grip, seeming like he was squeezing a little duckling to death. "Is my man Jefferey afraid of rumors, or is he afraid of sending his beloved daughter to the wolf's den?"

At that, Rachel was so startled that even her actions of attempting to shove Justin's arm away slowed down.

*The wolf's den? Is he straight-up admitting that he's scheming against the Hudson Family? Is he really going for the formulas?*

## My Mute Bride Chapter 27

[/ My Mute Bride](#)

### My Mute Bride Chapter 27

Rachel was badly hurt by Justin's grip, yet she could only let out a hideous wail. Even the driver, who sneaked a couple of peeks, was pained by the view.

"What about the item Jefferey gave you?" His freezing voice echoed in the car. Justin was certain that Jefferey had handed her something, but they were interrupted by Amber just then.

Rachel started tearing up as she continuously shook her head in an aggravated manner.

When her devastated look reached Justin's eyes, he subconsciously loosened his grip.

It had been so long since that particular exchange; even if he did give her something, she must've concealed it by now. There was no way she would show it to him.



"It's best if you remember that living with the Burtons means you're one of us. You'd better not waver your loyalty... or else."

After seeing her curl up in the corner of the seat with a face as pale as snow, he immediately let go of her.

He was aware of Rachel's position in her family. Although he wasn't sure back then, he had certainly confirmed his suspicions after having visited the Hudson Residence earlier.

If it weren't for the leverage her father had against her, she wouldn't have been so obedient toward him.

After being reminded of the matter with the hospital, Justin had already come up with a plan.

Meanwhile, Rachel, who was staring at him in terror, grabbed her aching neck with one hand as she pushed herself against the car door. It was not until she was sure that he had unhandled her that she finally dared to take a breath.

As a result, the strangling incident moments ago had left a scar in her heart-it was indeed a challenge for her to remain by Justin's side.

After dropping her off at the Burton Residence, Justin went straight to Burton Group.

Frankie, who was Justin's assistant, poured a glass of tea and entered the latter's office.

"I've talked to the hospital, Mr. Burton. Miss Amber can go for her internship first thing tomorrow."

"Have you informed Julian already?" Without lifting his head, Justin took a sip of the tea before turning a page of his book.

"Not yet. Doctor Peters is absent today, but the Dean will inform him soon."

He lifted his head slightly and asked, "Is Rachel's grandmother hospitalized there?"

"Yes." Frankie nodded. "Doctor Peters is indeed her main operator, but..."

Upon sensing the pause in his assistant's speech, Justin raised his head and asked coldly, "But what?"

"The hospital records show that he had paid for her operation bills."

Frankie was thoroughly baffled as to why Julian would pay for Rachel's grandmother to undergo surgery.

Upon hearing that, Justin revealed a frown.

As he continued to turn the pages, Frankie's face slightly froze.

After a while, he hesitantly stated, "You seem to care about your wife very much, Mr. Burton."

In fact, the book Justin was reading was a guide to sign languages-one that Frankie had never seen in his boss' office. Since having entered his office, Justin never once let go of the book.

As he pondered on Rachel's situation, Frankie couldn't help but feel confused.

"Should we call the hospital and request for a more refined surgeon?"

Just as Justin was thinking about something, he became distracted by Frankie's words and immediately shot him a cold leer.

His assistant was taken aback by this and hastily apologized, "I've spoken too much."

After he exited the office, the room became silent.

As Justin's fingers brushed against the pages of the book, he had reached its last page and noticed some words on an empty space there. Evidently, the book had its share of age given its faded texts, though one could still read it with ease. It was the lyrics of "To the Oak:

'If I love you, I won't climb over you like the vines, stepping over you to look refined...

As Justin read the elegant handwriting, the image of Rachel's weak, tranquil eyes popped up in his mind. *Even a submissive girl like her is into such poetry.*

On the other hand, Rachel had just entered the Burtons' home.

In the living room, Mrs. Duncan was cleaning the table alone. Although she had seen Rachel's return, she didn't even bother to greet her.

Rachel wasn't mad about this, and she simply signed. *Where's Madam Parham?*

If Sue wasn't at home, she could relax and go upstairs for a rest.

Sadly, Mrs. Duncan showed her a scowl. "What are you saying, Mrs. Burton? I can't understand you."

At that, Rachel was stunned because what she had just expressed wasn't actually sign language. A normal person would have completely acknowledged what she was trying to ask

She was about to pull out her notebook and write something down in it when a familiar voice sounded from behind. "My mom went out with her friends. What do you need?"

When she turned around, she saw Julian smiling at her.

Rachel turned toward him and nodded her head as her way of greeting him. Then, she proceeded to write in her notebook, 'Nothing much. I brought something from home, and I just wanted to give it to her?'

In fact, the item she brought from home had been prepared by Jefferey's underlings under his order.

After all, she was a daughter of the Hudsons, and the family was depending on her although they weren't showing her any love. Hence, out of courtesy, Jefferey had prepared a simple gift for the Burtons.

.

"I think she's going to come home late. Whatever it is, you can hand it to Mrs. Duncan."

She nodded her head to express her acknowledgment.

'Why are you home? Don't you have work today?'

"I'm on leave today," Julian explained. "By the way, I'm going to the hospital tonight. Do you want to come along?"

Rachel was surprised by his offer, but she shook her head after a short while, rejecting his offer with a beam.

Maybe not today, but I'll go tomorrow.'

Upon remembering Justin's mistreatment of her after her interaction with Julian, she was immediately perturbed. Thus, she thought it was best for everyone not to cause any misunderstandings.

After expressing that, Rachel pointed upward and made a sleeping gesture, suggesting that she was going upstairs for a rest.

In Julian's eyes were subtle traces of disappointment, though he still nodded his head. "Okay. Rest well."

Then, he watched as she walked up the staircase, noticing that she was visibly weak. For some reason, Julian's desire to protect her grew even stronger.

When night fell upon the city, the second bedroom on the second floor of the Hudson Residence still had its lights on.

“All right. Thank you, Dean. I’ll arrive at the hospital first thing in the morning.”

As she clutched her phone, she couldn’t hide the merriness in her voice.

Shortly after the call disconnected, she received an employment notification on her phone and immediately sent a text to Justin. “I’ve received the news from the

hospital, Justin. It’s such a pleasant surprise that you arranged this so quickly. Thank you so much!

After waiting for a long while, she had yet to receive a reply.

At that time, it was already eleven at night. *Justin is probably home and is sharing a bed with Rachel right now.* At that thought, the grin on her face froze.

*No, wait! Rachel and Justin don’t share a room!* She remembered what Sue told her.

*But Dad...*

She seemed to have realized something, and she hastily picked up a tiny, white bag from her drawer.

Earlier that day, she had retrieved the bag under Rachel’s bed before leaving her room.

Thanks to the fact that she majored in medicine and how she had been familiar with both traditional and modern medicine since young, she could easily determine the components that comprised the substance in the bag just by looking at it and taking a whiff.

*If I’m not mistaken, Dad was the one who gave this to Rachel... Is he asking her to drug Justin with this?*

## **My Mute Bride Chapter 28**

[/ My Mute Bride](#)

### **My Mute Bride Chapter 28**

The next day was a fine day.

Sue woke up early in the morning to have breakfast with her son.

Sitting in front of the table, Julian couldn’t help but glance upstairs and ask, “Where’s Rachel?”

By right, he didn't have to care about Rachel this much, but he just couldn't bear seeing Justin's attitude toward her.

"Why do you have to bring her up this early in the morning? You've just spoiled my day!" Sue put a peeled egg onto Julian's plate and said, "Have an egg, son."

Julian frowned. "Mom, please be kinder toward Rachel. It's not easy for her either."

Sue was displeased on hearing that. "You just got back recently. You don't know about our current family situation. Originally, Justin was supposed to marry Amber—the second daughter of the Hudson Family, but Rachel tricked Amber and palmed herself off to marry Justin. Are you expecting me to be kind to a woman like her? In my opinion, Justin should divorce her and cast her out."

Julian's frown deepened as he had never known this story.

Just as they were talking, the sound of footsteps coming down from upstairs came forth from the living room—it was Rachel getting ready to head out.

Hearing the sound, Sue glanced toward the living room and immediately wore a gloomy face. "You're the latest to wake up in the whole family. You're just a lazy good-for-nothing."

Rachel stood quietly and made a gesture. *I'm sorry.*

"Do you think I'll understand your hand gestures?" Sue rebuked crabily. "Where are you going early in the morning?"

'Hospital? Rachel wrote in her notebook.

Sue looked disgusted. "Don't you know you'll carry home a lot of bacteria going to the hospital every day?"

When she said this, she had completely forgotten the fact that her son was a doctor, and the period of him staying in the hospital was way much longer than Rachel's. Therefore, the number of patients and bacteria that he got in touch with was much more than Rachel too.

Seeing Rachel being yelled at by Sue, Julian quickly stood up from the dining table and interrupted, "I'm done eating, Mom."

"Already? Eat more, Julian."

"I'm good." Julian grabbed his jacket from the back of the chair and said, "Rachel, I need to talk to you about your grandmother's surgery. I can give you a ride to the hospital."

Rachel quickly nodded.

The top priority now was to escape from Sue; otherwise, Rachel might not be able to get away from being scolded by the former the entire day, let alone going to the hospital.

“Hey,”

Sue didn't manage to stop Julian, and she couldn't be too mean to Rachel since Julian was around, so she could only watch them leave the house one after another.

“Damn it, that mute! Julian must be possessed. How could he side with her?”

Mrs. Duncan, who was setting up the dining table at the side, reminded Sue as she heard their conversation. “We have to put our guard up, Madam. Although Young Master Justin always gives Rachel the cold shoulder, Young Master Julian is good tempered and kind. We won't know if this mute has some other thoughts.”

Sue's heart jolted when she heard that, and her expression changed immediately. “She better not! If she dares to approach my son, I'll surely drive her out of the Burton Family!”

However, Sue was indeed worried knowing Julian's temperament.

While on the way to the hospital, Julian took out a packet of biscuits from the back seat. “You haven't had breakfast, have you? You can have some of this first. There's a breakfast shop beside the hospital; you can get breakfast there when we arrive later.”

Rachel received the biscuit and wrote in the notebook. “Thank you!”

Julian took a look at it and praised, “You have very nice handwriting.”

Rachel continued to write, ‘Thank you for helping me just now!’

“It's my mom's fault. Please don't mind her.” With his hands placed on the steering wheel, Julian apologized to Rachel while driving. “My mom is a little stubborn. She's often mean to people outside of the family. If she has treated you badly, I'd like to apologize to you on her behalf.”

Rachel stared at the man in front of her who was good-looking and soft spoken. It was hard to imagine that Julian was Sue's son because there was a world of difference between him and Sue, who was mean and hostile.

“By the way, I heard that the one who was supposed to marry Justin initially is your younger sister?”

Startled, Rachel then nodded slowly.

“What happened? Why did you take her place instead?”

Rachel remained silent.

The reason was complicated and could not be explained in just a few words. Moreover, she couldn't tell Julian the true reason as she wasn't someone that would speak ill of others behind their backs. The truth was, Amber thought Justin was ugly, so she made Rachel stand in for her in the marriage instead.

Seeing Rachel remain silent, Julian felt sorry for her. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have asked you this."

'It's okay. Rachel shook her head. "I'll tell you in the future if there's a chance.'

"Sure." Julian smiled. "Next time, if you're getting bullied in the household or if Justin doesn't treat you well, you can always talk to me. I can help to talk to him."

'It's okay. Rachel quickly waved her hands about.

If Julian really said something to Justin, she couldn't imagine how Justin would treat her. It would most probably make things worse.

Julian felt helpless all of a sudden.

Although this girl was a mute who looked delicate and fragile, she had a determined aura. Her gentle eyes were filled with strength, which caused one to not be able to look away from her.

Wasn't a girl like this more worthy to be loved than Amber?

Julian just couldn't understand what was on Justin's mind.

Soon, they arrived at the hospital. Julian went to meet his walk-in patients while Rachel went straight to her grandmother's ward.

During this period of recuperation, Nancy looked much better than before. When Rachel arrived, she was busily chatting with the patient next to her. The moment Rachel came into her sight, she smiled brightly. "Speak of the devil! I was just saying Rae should be coming to visit me soon."

Rachel smiled gently and held Nancy's rough hand. *How are you feeling? Is everything okay?*

"I'm good, but look at you! You've lost so much weight in such a short period. Did you not eat properly because you're worried about me? Or is it because Jeffery didn't treat you well?"

Nancy had always been displeased with Jefferey.

*Don't worry, Grandma. I'm good.*

"Glad to know. By the way, Rae, is the operation fee very expensive? I think I'm fine now and I can be discharged tomorrow."

*No way.* Rachel pressed Nancy's hands and wore a serious look. *You must do the operation. Don't worry about the money. It has already been settled.*

"How?"

Rachel pursed her lips. *My dad got it settled.*

Nancy looked at Rachel in suspicion. "Really?"

*Yeah.* Rachel nodded seriously.

To not make Nancy worry, she could only say so. If Nancy knew she married into the Burton Family for the sake of her medical fee, she would surely refuse to proceed with the operation.

True enough, Nancy was relieved. "*Hmph!* Looks like Jefferey still has some conscience. Nevertheless, I don't think he genuinely wants to help us but he's just eyeing our prescription."

*Prescription?*

Rachel was startled. *What prescription is that?*

Nancy looked around the ward before she lowered her voice and said, "I've not told you this last time but back then, Jefferey fetched you back to our family precisely for the sake of the prescription. The prescription—"

"Rachel."

A familiar voice emerged from the door and interrupted Nancy's speech.

## **My Mute Bride Chapter 29**

[/ My Mute Bride](#)

### **My Mute Bride Chapter 29**

The moment Rachel heard the familiar female voice, her back immediately became stiff. Then, she turned around to see Amber standing at the door in a white robe, staring back at her with an arrogant look.

*Why are you here?* Rachel was shocked.

Nancy frowned. Subconsciously, she held Rachel's hand tight and bit her tongue.



"I'm here to do my internship. Do you think everyone's like you-unemployed and living off the elderly?" Amber mocked Rachel nastily.

*Internship?*

Rachel stared at Amber in shock.

Indeed, Amber was dressed in a white robe of Riverdale General Hospital. Holding the patients' record book, she entered the ward and walked up to Rachel and Nancy. "What a coincidence. I'm assigned to do a checkup for your grandma on the first day of my job."

Rachel instinctively put her guard up and stood in front of Nancy protectively.

"Rae." Nancy patted Rachel's shoulder before looking at Amber and said calmly, "I've never thought that the second daughter of the Hudson Family would leave the family business aside to work in a hospital. What an ambitious girl."

Amber had an arrogant look on her face. "The elderly sure know how to speak appropriately. Unlike someone, who's not only a mute but even irritates the others."

Truth was, Amber had arrived at the hospital early in the morning and the director received her personally. Besides that, everyone in the hospital treated her respectfully.

Hearing that, Nancy snorted, "But alas, a person with an evil heart can never be a good doctor. Amber Hudson, I don't need you to do my checkup. Please ask another medical staff to come."

"What did you say?" Amber's expression changed. "Who are you calling evil hearted?"

"The one who attacks others like a mad dog."

All this while, Nancy's temper wasn't the best thanks to the hostile treatment she had received during the early years when she raised Rachel on her own.

Moreover, she had seen the doings of Jefferey and Amber over the years. If it wasn't that she wished for Rachel to receive adequate education, she wouldn't allow Rachel to stay in the Hudson Family.

Amber had never been provoked like this before, so she immediately yelled, "You old hag, don't you be ungrateful! It's your honor to have me do a checkup for you, yet you call me evil-hearted?! The evil ones here are you and your daughter who passed away at a young age. She was a mistress and still wanted to retain a good reputation? Serves her right to give birth to a daughter who is a mute. All these are retributions!"

"You..." Nancy was so annoyed that her face turned pale. With her hand placed at her chest, she was at a loss for words.

Meanwhile, Rachel was stirred up. She quickly helped Nancy with her breathing while waving her hands at Amber, gesturing for her to stop going on.

"What? Did I hit on the nail and make you feel embarrassed? Rachel. You, your mother and your grandma are all the same. Do you think very highly of yourselves? I'm warning you-you better stay away from Julian and stop having wishful thoughts."

Rachel was worried that Nancy would be provoked again, so she shoved Amber to drive her out

"How dare you touch me? Let go of me! What are you doing?" Amber pushed Rachel forcefully, which caused the latter to stumble backward with a bang and slump onto the ground. Her back hit the edge of the bed, and it was so painful that she almost couldn't breathe.

"What happened?" A male voice emerged from the entrance.

"Julian." Amber quickly changed her expression. Initially, she still wanted to continue humiliating Rachel, but she immediately feigned a pitiful look the moment she saw Julian. "Julian, she pushed me first."

However, Julian couldn't be bothered to talk to her and quickly went up to help

Rachel get up. "Are you okay? Did you hurt yourself?"

Rachel was in so much pain that even her tears rolled down, but she shook her head and looked toward Nancy, who was lying on the bed.

Julian understood her intention. After helping Rachel to sit down at the side, he quickly did a checkup for Nancy with his stethoscope. "Take a deep breath, ma'am. Lie down first and don't think of anything else. Try to control your breathing."

On the other hand, Amber was pissed off. "Julian, 1--"

"Shut up!" With the stethoscope in his hand, Julian turned around and shot a fierce glare at Amber. "Who allowed you to come here? Get out!"

It was just her first day in the hospital as an intern, but she actually came to the ward without any doctor's permission and proper training. Worst of all, she hurled insults at the patient. After the situation was settled, Julian reckoned he had to have a talk with the chief doctor who allowed Amber to barge in the ward.

After some time, Nancy finally calmed down and her heart rate went back to normal. She lay on the bed and rested while Rachel sat beside her, holding her hands tight.

"Your grandma is fine. Don't worry," Julian cooed Rachel.

Rachel nodded.

'Is Amber going to work here? Can you not let her be in-charge of Grandma's case?'

Julian's face turned gloomy when Rachel brought this up. "Leave this matter to me. Don't worry."

With that, he immediately turned and walked out.

Meanwhile, Amber was still waiting outside the ward. The moment she saw Julian walk out, she quickly walked up to him and explained, "Julian, it's really not like what you've seen. It's her who pushed me first."

With a darkened face, Julian wore a rare, cold expression. "Amber Hudson, do you really think the other patients have not heard what you said to Rachel and Grandma?"

There were other patients in the ward too, so Julian could find out the truth by just asking them.

Amber's face turned pale. The process of her getting into the hospital was so easy with Justin's help that she got too carried away. She merely wanted to humiliate Rachel but had never expected things to turn out this way.

She was even more aggrieved to see Julian siding with Rachel. Gritting her teeth, she said, "Julian, why are you always protecting her? Don't forget that she's your in-law."

With an indifferent look, Julian said, "We're in a hospital and she's the family of a patient. What does it have to do with what you said?"

Amber was rendered speechless. Blood boiled, she stomped and snapped, "I'm going to tell Madam Parham!"

With that, she ran away angrily.

Standing in the corridor, Julian frowned with an impatient look as he watched Amber run away.

Both Rachel and Amber were the daughters of the Hudson Family, yet there was a world of difference between them. Rachel couldn't even afford Nancy's medical fee, so it wasn't hard to imagine how much suffering she had gone through at home since young

After coaxing Nancy to rest, Rachel followed Julian to his office to treat the wound.

Rachel's ankle was scratched as a result of being pushed by Amber. Actually, the bleeding had stopped and she wasn't affected too badly, but Julian still insisted on treating her wound.

"Done. Try to stay away from water these few days."

"Thank you." Rachel wrote the two words and showed them to Julian.

Seeing Rachel's neat handwriting in the notebook, Julian asked out of the blue, "Before this, I've heard from your grandma that you were not born mute. Have you thought of treating it?"

Startled, Rachel then shook her head.

Indeed, she wasn't born mute. Back then, a fire accident caused her to lose her voice. Initially, the doctor said it could be cured, but after so many years, she had missed the best timing to treat it. Besides, she couldn't afford the medical fee, so she had never thought about getting it healed at all.

"It's okay. I can talk to you about this later. Did you hurt your back too? Let me have a look."

At that moment, Julian's office door was left ajar. None of them had realized that someone from the outside was taking pictures of them being alone in the room. *Snap!* A scene of them which could easily cause misunderstanding was captured.

## My Mute Bride Chapter 30

[/ My Mute Bride](#)

### My Mute Bride Chapter 30

In the office of Burton Group, Justin was reading the plans of a project from his laptop.

"Mr. Burton, our greatest competitor for the East Pearl Project this time is Imperial Group. They've already negotiated the terms for the piece of land, so it's quite difficult for us to overtake them at this moment."

Frankie's voice, which was filled with worry, came forth from behind the laptop.

Justin said, "Easy doesn't exist in building a business."

Frankie chewed on Justin's words.

Burton Group was an established company, so their competitors would naturally be powerful too. Moreover, an insignificant competitor would not possibly show up in front of Justin.

Just as they were talking, Justin's eyes darkened as he saw something on the laptop screen.

"What's wrong, Mr. Burton?" Frankie's heart skipped a beat as he started worrying for the staff in the engineering department. "Is there a problem with the plan?"

It was only after seeing the laptop screen, which was turned around by Justin, did Frankie come to a sudden realization.

The screen showed Justin's mailbox. Half a minute ago, he received an anonymous email that only contained a picture, and the content of the picture was...

Frankie's expression turned sullen. "Mr. Burton, this picture..."

Rachel and Julian were visibly seen in the picture, and the pair was in a treatment room. Julian was holding Rachel's hand while checking on her with his head lowered.

Justin stared fixedly at their hands which were held together and ordered coldly, "Look into the IP address and find the sender."

Frankie shivered as a chill ran down his spine. "Yes, sir."

Staring at the picture, Justin tapped the table with his finger. His eyes darkened more at the thought of the incidents that happened recently.

Although the Hudson Family had successfully swapped Rachel with Amber and made the former marry into the Burton Family, the outcome was not as well as they had expected

On the other hand, Rachel's eyelids had been twitching the whole afternoon, and she felt perturbed for some reason.

She stayed in the hospital until the evening. Just so happened, Julian was about to get off from work, so he fetched her home too.

The moment they arrived at the Burton Residence, Sue stopped them.

With a displeased look, Sue darted a glance at Rachel and said, "Julian, why did you guys come back together?"

Before Rachel could write something in her notebook, Julian had already spoken up to explain. "Coincidentally, I was done with work, so I drove her back. It's just a small favor since we're relatives."

"Who says she's our relative?" Sue cast a disdainful glance at Rachel. "No one knows how long more she will be able to stay at ours. I—"

"Mom." Julian immediately interrupted Sue with a slightly sullen look.

Seeing Julian's reaction, Sue had no choice but to clam up reluctantly and bite her tongue. "Alright, I'll stop. It's rare that you come home this early, so let's spend some time together," Sue said kindly.

Considering Rachel's situation in the Burton Family, Julian nodded and turned to Rachel. "Rachel, go and have some rest first. I'll call you when it's time for dinner."

Rachel looked at Sue hesitantly.

"Go ahead." Sue wanted to talk to Julian and had no desire to be bothered with Rachel, so she waved her hands about and wanted Rachel to leave quickly as if she was a jinx.

Rachel was relieved.

After hearing the sound of the door closing from upstairs, Sue removed her disdainful look and peeled an apple for Julian, who was sitting across from her on the couch. After some small talk, she asked, "Julian, I heard Amber is now an intern in your hospital?"

"Mm-hmm." Julian was a little absent-minded.

"Amber is the second daughter of the Hudson Family. Not only is she educated with a good family background, but she's pretty and innocent too. I've met her before. She's a kind girl. Do take care of her more since she's working with you now."

Julian replied indifferently, "She doesn't work with me."

After seeing how Amber hurled insults at a patient in the morning, Julian decided that he would definitely not accept someone like her to become his assistant intern. Regardless of how she got into the hospital, he was determined to ask for Amber to be replaced.

"Did Rachel tell you something?" Sue furrowed her brows. "That mute, she can't talk yet she's good at gossiping. She just can't bear to see her sister doing better than her."

Julian wore a solemn expression. "Mom, can you stop judging a book by its cover?"

He was well aware that his mother was a mean woman. In addition to Justin's attitude, Julian knew Rachel's situation would be full of hardships in the Burton Family, so he felt sorry for her.

"I'm not judging a book by its cover. I've investigated it before," Sue explained to Julian patiently. "The mute's mother was a mistress and caused Amber's mother's death back then. A woman like her is a jinx."

Julian frowned. "Who told you that?"

"Amber told me personally." Sue sighed. "This afternoon, that girl came to me, weeping. She told me that an unpleasant incident happened in the hospital this morning and that you've misunderstood her. After hearing her explanation only did I realize how pitiful that girl is. She lost her mother at a young age. It must have been tough for her."

*So, it's Amber*

Julian's frown deepened as the guilty party was actually filing a complaint first. "Mom, you can't just listen to a story from one side."

"What's wrong with you?" Sue's expression changed all of a sudden seeing how Julian was still siding with Rachel after all that she had told him. "Did the mute bewitch you? Why do you keep siding with her?"

"I'm not siding with her; I'm just siding with the truth. Also, Mom, you should stop interfering with Justin's household matters. He has his life, and we have ours." Julian looked at Sue seriously,

"What do you mean? You"

"I'm tired, Mom. I'm going back to my room to have some rest first." Julian placed his mug forcefully on the table to interrupt Sue. Thereafter, he went straight back to his room.

Meanwhile, Sue was hot under the collar to see Julian leave.

Rachel was resting in her room and was shocked when she heard a bang from downstairs all of a sudden. Although the room door was closed, she could still hear Sue's angry yell from downstairs.

"After all these years of raising him, he started rebuking me now that he has some achievements?!"

"Please don't be angry, Madam. I'm sure that's not Young Master Julian's intention."

"How is it not? He thinks I'm shameless for staying in the Burton Residence, doesn't he? Even Justin, his cousin, has never complained about me, but he on the other hand-is he really my son?"

"Please calm down and have some tea, Madam."

Just then, another loud bang emerged, which sounded like ceramic shattering.

Rachel tightened her grip on the book, feeling puzzled.

In fact, she thought it was weird all this while. The Burton Family had an extensive family business. Even though Justin had lost his parents at a young age, he didn't necessarily have to be raised by Sue, his youngest aunt.

On the other hand, given Julian's attitude, it seemed like he didn't prefer Sué to stay in the Burton Family.

A while later, Rachel finally heaved a sigh of relief as the noise downstairs gradually ceased. Flipping to the next page of the book, she just had no intention to care about these matters of the Burton Family.

But alas, the peace did not last long. Before she could finish reading a page, someone flung her door open from the outside without even knocking on it.

Shocked, Rachel lifted her head in puzzlement.

Standing at the door was Sue, who was staring at her furiously as she had nowhere else to vent her anger but at her. "Stupid mute! Pack up your stuff and get out of the Burton Residence immediately!"

Rachel's heart skipped a beat as she gripped the page tight.