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"Ms. Wand, are you going to visit your Uncle Jackson? Mr. Hayes has instructed me to wait for you here."

As soon as she stepped foot out of Royal Court One, an extremely well-built young man greeted her. He introduced himself and opened the car door for her.

Sasha could not be bothered. Nodding wordlessly, she got into the car.

Though the rumor was not widely spread, she had to remain alert.

It was definitely not a good omen. Nobody must know that the character was based on an actual person with a reputation to maintain. But this was how things were looking at the moment.

What is going to happen?

If this ruined Sebastian's reputation, it would be disastrous. He would never forgive her.

Throughout the journey, Sasha sat quietly as if she was encased in a layer of snow.

"Sasha, you're here? Where are the kids?" Her uncle greeted her as she exited the vehicle. He was surprised at her arrival. He thought something had happened between her and Sebastian.

Sasha shook her head. Glancing at the bodyguard assigned to her by Sebastian, she led her uncle into the living room, out of sight. "Uncle Jackson, I'm going on a little trip."

"Trip? Where to?"

Sasha lowered her eyes to avoid his gaze. "To look for Brandon. He said that the birthday party was not arranged by the Emmanuels. There is another person who he wants me to meet."

Sasha did not feel the need to lie to her uncle. He was well aware of the situation.

But then again, it is Brandon Emmanuel of all people!

Jackson was not pleased. "His name is Emmanuel. Why do you still trust him?"

"I believe he is not like his family," Sasha replied stubbornly. She was confident in her evaluation of Brandon's character.

He was more decent that most of his family.

Jackson could not persuade his niece otherwise, so he had no choice but to agree.

The guard outside had no idea that his charge had slipped out the back door to attend the Sanders' wedding.

Unbeknownst to Sasha, Sebastian had eyes at the venue, too.

"Hold on a second. If you go like that and Kelly recognizes you, we won't be able to proceed with our plan." Brandon said.

Sasha did not foresee this problem becoming a reality.

After considering the matter, she was forced to agree with him.

"So what do we do now?"

"Wait here, let me speak to my makeup artist." said Brandon, as he dialed her number.

The makeup artist did not turn Sasha into an attention-grabbing stunner again. This time, she was disguised as a woman in her forties.

Sasha was speechless, hardly able to recognize herself.

Is this really necessary?

Brandon laughed. "This is good, you'll be much safer. You don't know Kelly. She's always jealous of all the women younger and more beautiful than her. If you look good, you will draw attention to yourself."

"Then what role am I playing today? Your mother?" Sasha was in disbelief.

Brandon was flabbergasted.

What is she talking about?

She could have gone as his housemaid!

Brandon and Sasha set off cheerfully. After ten minutes, the entrance to the Sanders villa came into view. Brandon, looking smart in his suit and leather shoes, handed his invitation to the receptionist, and the pair entered, looking dignified.

In Avenport, the Sanders were not considered a very powerful family. Which was why the wedding wasn't on a spectacular scale.

The ceremony took place in the garden. As it was not spacious enough, the guests remained in the villa.

"I'll go in and have a look."

Brandon left Sasha outside and sneaked into the villa.

She nodded and wandered towards the garden.

"What are you still doing here? Don't you have work to do?"

"Huh?"

Sasha turned and found a maid in front of her, with a puzzled expression on her face.

The maid got even angrier at Sasha's confusion. She shoved the tray of champagne into the latter's hands. "Goodness knows where they found lousy maids like you."

Maid?

Even this maid treats me like a maid?

Sasha didn't know what to say.

At this moment, she caught sight of a familiar figure in the midst of a group of chattering middle-aged women. Seizing the opportunity, she carried the tray over to them.

"Let me introduce you. This here is my dear friend Mdm. Green, without whom this wedding would be impossible."

"Pleased to meet you, Mdm. Green."

At the praise the hostess had lavished onto Kelly, the other ladies began voicing their reverence.

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Kelly was awfully pleased.

But on the surface, she maintained a facade of humility. "Oh, you flatter me," she exclaimed. "I'm just here to show my support."

"Mdm. Green, you delightful creature." The ladies were still praising her.

Sasha toyed with the idea of spilling the champagne on her tray onto Kelly. And while she changed out of her soiled dress, Sasha would steal her phone.

Before she could carry out her plan, the butler emerged from the villa.

"Madam, Mr. Frederick says it's almost time. I'm here to escort you to see the young lady."

"Very well, I will go now." Mrs. Sanders went promptly.

Without her, the ladies who remained were scarcely worth Kelly's time. After excusing herself, she headed towards the second floor and disappeared behind a door. Sasha tailed her cautiously.

"How did it go? Did she agree to lend you the money?"

Sasha froze in surprise. It was the voice of Xandra. She is here too!

"No, not yet," Kelly replied. "There are many guests today; it's not a good time. Perhaps later tonight."

She sounded impatient. Sasha heard the clink of glass as she poured herself tea.

Xandra noticed her aunt's temper. "Would she refuse to?" she asked nervously. "I'm telling you, I've posted the rumor online hours ago. If Sebastian finds out, he will not forgive us."

Her voice was shrill with panic.

Outside, Sasha's mind went blank with shock as she heard Xandra's confession.

It's really them!

But why? How did they know about this? Who told them?

That book, what did they have to do with it?

Sasha's brain swam with one question after another. She was furious, not daring to believe that her theory actually became a reality. Her heart sank again with the familiar sense of dread.

What do these two b*tches want?

If they hired the psychologist to hypnotize me, it means that they really wanted me dead.

What about now?

What are they planning to do now?

Don't they care about ruining a man's reputation by exposing those details?

Sasha felt trapped. She made up her mind. Even if she were to die, she would not allow these two to succeed.

She left quickly before they had a chance to see her outside.

Ten minutes later, Kelly reappeared downstairs in search of Mrs. Sanders. Sasha slipped back upstairs to Xandra's room.

She opened the door and entered.

"Who said you can come in? I already told you, I don't need anything. Without my permission, no one is allowed in!"

Xandra had a white veil over her face. At the sight of the middle-aged housemaid, she lost her temper.

Hang on, this maid is unusual.

Sasha did not utter a sound or showed any indication that she was upset. She locked the door and approached Xandra.

"What do you want?" the latter asked, suddenly feeling uneasy. She stumbled backward as Sasha approached her with a thin and long needle.

"Sasha, is that you?" Xandra cried in recognition.

She turned even paler than her veil.

Sasha looked at her without expression nonchalantly. Her gaze was as deep and calm as an old well.

"How did you know about the secret?"

"What secret?"

"Was it because of that book? Who gave it to you?" Sasha asked. "You'd better tell me what I want to know. I won't hesitate to finish you off with this." She showed her needle.

Her tone was even, betraying no sign of anger.

There are people in the world who were more frightening than those with terrible tempers, like Sasha. Her murderous air was as light as a cloud on a sunny day.

She did not make threats; she promised consequences.

It was a shame that Xandra did not know that before it was too late.

She did not for a moment to believe that Sasha would be capable of such a thing.

"Finish me off?" Xandra scoffed. "Are you intimidating me, Sasha? Fine, I'll tell you. I found out about the secret from the book. But I'm not telling you who gave it to me. Are you going to finish me now?"

Sasha's smile was devoid of warmth and mirth. The next moment, her lust for murder became overpowering. As if by instinct, the needle flew out of her hand towards Xandra.

The woman saw the glint for a split second under the light from the window. Before she had time to retreat, she sank to the floor in a dead faint.

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Xandra burst into a laugh. "Sasha Wand. Is this your trump card?"

"Definitely not."

"What?" Xandra was taken aback, but it was already too late.

The woman in front of her was already closing in on her at a rapid pace.

Before Xandra could react, she felt a sharp pain in her chest and cried out in agony. She looked down and saw a knife stabbed into it.

"You."

"I told you. I'm ending you if you misbehave. How is it? How does it feel?"

Sasha let go of her hold on the knife. There was not the slightest change in her expression, even when faced with such a bloody sight. There was even blood splattered on her face from the stab, but she was still smiling.

She's a devil! She's crazy!

Xandra was in shock, backing away with her hands pressed on her chest. She was about to scream from the immense pain before Sasha picked the silver needle up from the floor.

"You want to scream? That's impossible. Have you forgotten who I was? I'm Nancy, the renowned TCM practitioner in Clear. You see, I can make you do anything with this needle here."

As soon as she finished, she slowly stuck the needle right onto Xandra's neck.

As soon as that happened, Xandra felt an excruciating pain erupting from her throat. After that, she could no longer make a sound.

She fell to the floor and groaned like a beast.

"Ughh..."

She finally realized how horrifying Sasha was.

Sasha looked like a hell-spawn to her, a demon that crawled up from below. Xandra was nothing close in comparison.

"Don't worry. I'm not going to let you die. As long as you tell me... oh wait, that won't work. You can only write it out at this point. So, as long as you write it out for me, I'll let you go. How does that sound?" Sasha was in a good mood.

After that, she got a piece of paper and dropped it in front of Xandra. She then grabbed hold of one of Xandra's fingers and stuck it into the blood, using it as ink.

Sasha waited for Xandra to write something.

She figured that it would look the most fitting of the situation.

Xandra, on the other hand, was twitching profusely on the floor. She felt like she was being skinned alive. But despite the excruciating pain, Xandra was not actually bleeding out as Sasha made sure to avoid any of her vital arteries when she stabbed her.

Hence, Xandra continued to suffer in the immense pain without blacking out.

"One, two, three... " Sasha started counting.

"Ughh." Xandra, who was wriggling on the floor, finally raised her hand covered in blood.

Her finger moved across the piece of paper to the best of her abilities and wrote down one single line of words.

"I don't know. It was sent to me anonymously."

"You don't know? Do you take me for a fool?" Sasha's gaze sharpened, instilling fear into Xandra's very bone.

"No, I'm searching too, but she's gone. I couldn't find her." Xandra scribbled down a reply as quickly as possible.

She was finally spilling under the tremendous agony.

With that, Sasha fell into a deep thought.

So, she's not even the mastermind behind everything. Who could it be, then? Who was the one who exposed the secret? Who was it that knew about the secrets of my book? And who gave it to her?

A sense of urgency crept up on Sasha once again.

It was like everything she did was for naught at that point, and things were once again spiraling out of control. In that brief moment in time, Sasha was at a loss.

And it was within that brief moment, Xandra was able to push through the pain and stood back up.

She immediately dived towards the door and burst through, doing all she could to grab people's attention as she tried shouting.

"Oh, Lord! What happened? Everyone, look! Why is that woman covered in blood?"

"There's a knife on her!"

"Murder!"

Screams erupted throughout the villa. In an instant, the whole building was in chaos.

Before that, Brandon was actually looking for Sasha.

After they split up, Brandon went to the living room and quickly found out where Kelly was.

However, when he went back for Sasha, she was gone. He searched for her everywhere, right until the sudden appearance of the woman with a knife in her chest, covered in blood.

"Sasha-"

Brandon's mind went blank, and he sprinted straight towards the stairs.

Nonetheless, Kelly had already come down. When she saw what happened to her niece, she took no time and shouted, "There's a murderer! Grab her!"

As soon as she gave out the order, two henchmen that were close by immediately rushed over. And when Sasha came out, one of them kicked her right on the chest.

"Oof."

"Sasha!" Brandon roared as he saw what went on and pried through the crowd, rushing over.

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Brandon lunged at the henchman and swung a punch right into his face.

After that, he hurried into the room and rushed towards Sasha, who got kicked to the floor. "Sasha, you okay? Are you hurt?"

However, Sasha could hardly say anything.

She was curled up on the floor and had her arms around her chest. Beads of sweat were rolling down her pale face.

"I... I'm fine. Go get them. Don't let them... get away."

Even in pain, the only thing on her mind was not letting the two women escape.

Brandon immediately turned around and stared at Kelly.

He noticed that Kelly did not seem worried at first, but when she saw him, her pupils constricted, and she shouted instantly, "She has an accomplice! Quick! Catch him too! Don't let him escape!"

Kelly recognized Brandon, so out of panic, she wanted to use the crowd there to slow Brandon and Sasha down so she could escape with her niece.

She was smart, so there was no way she could not figure out why the two were there.

With that, Brandon was soon surrounded by men, with Sasha in his arms. There was no way out.

"Leave... me. Go get them, Quick!"

Sasha kept pushing Brandon away, enraged.

So, Brandon eventually stood up and got ready to break through to chase after them.

Nonetheless, things were not as simple as he thought.

The people around him were all influenced by Kelly. On top of that, with Xandra covered in blood, it was going to be hard for him to protect himself, let alone escape.

"Ah!"

All of a sudden, someone smashed a chair onto Sasha out of nowhere.

Brandon heard the cry and turned around to find the woman behind him collapsed once again after just sitting back up. She was not moving.

"I'm going to kill you guys!"

Brandon went haywire.

He gave up on the notion of chasing after the two, clenched his fists, and threw himself into the crowd.

Total chaos ensued.

As soon as that happened, Kelly's lips curled into a smirk as she quickly dragged her niece out through the front door.

She had no more time to raise money. She needed to leave the town immediately as things were going to get problematic for her and Xandra.

That said, she would have never expected that the moment she stepped outside, there would be a bunch of black cars arriving. They were like beasts finally pouncing on their prey.

"Huh?"

Xandra, who was at her last leg, was shocked by the scene and almost blacked out then and there.

Kelly's expression also darkened.

Especially when she saw the cars stop right in front of them and a young man came out. He had the presence of an emperor, sending shivers down Kelly's spine.

"S-Sebastian?"

"Seize them!"

The look in Sebastian's eye grew cold. It was like he just climbed his way out of the hell, terrifying, to say the least.

He had a straight face, but the chills in his gaze emanated his frightening intent to kill. And after he gave out the order, he strode inside.

At the same time, Kelly blacked out and collapsed.

She was smart enough to know that if Sebastian was there at a time like that, he was definitely on to her from the very beginning.

So when she was reveling in the satisfaction of being able to toy around with the most prominent person in the industry, she was actually right in the palm of his hand.

Naturally, Kelly knew what was going to happen to her and that the tide had changed.

Meanwhile, inside the Sanders' residence, the fight on the second floor was still going on.

A lot more men came pouring in because of Kelly's slander and Brandon's savage counterattack.

They were all trying to capture the so-called murderers.

"Beat him! Beat him to death! As long as he's alive, the police won't say anything about it."

One of the men rallied more men to attack Sasha and Brandon.

So, they were trapped inside the room, getting beaten up. If it were not for Brandon shielding Sasha, she might have actually been beaten to death.

Bang!

There was a sudden gunshot in the living room while the men were conducting their heroic deed.

At that moment, no one realized it, but the guy that was rallying everyone got a bullet straight through his skull and collapsed.

"Ah!"

With that, everyone stopped what they were doing and started screaming with their hands over their heads.

Especially the women.

However, as soon as they started screaming, another two bangs sounded. This time, the gigantic chandelier was shot down, and the place turned dark.

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Boom! The chandelier shattered onto the floor and silenced everyone in the villa.

The floor was covered in a bed of crystal shards, and among the crystalline sparkles, they saw a man standing there in a black coat.

He had a handsome face with exquisite features and an outstanding air of elegance around him.

That said, he was emitting an intense amount of killing intent, enough to make everyone there peed in their pants.

All because the gun was in his hand.

"If I hear anything from any one of you. This man dies next!" Sebastian pointed the gun towards the second floor.

His eyes red with blood lust as it gave everyone there goosebumps.

Hearing that, everyone upstairs immediately covered their mouths with their hands.

At that moment, Brandon heard Sebastian's voice and quickly crawled out with his beat-up face. "Sebastian! It's about time! Get up here!"

He was crying, even though he was more than twenty years old.

Sebastian's eyes narrowed when he saw that. He had a dark expression on him as he hurried upstairs with the gun.

As expected, the situation was worse than he had imagined.

The room was in disarray. Chairs and vases smashed, shards of glass littered everywhere with blood all over the floor. It was so horrifying that even his pupils constricted, his eyes more crimson than it was a moment ago.

On the other hand, Sasha, though barely, just picked herself up from the floor. But when she saw those eyes, she actually backed away.

She was supposed to be happy.

Sebastian appearing before her at that particular moment was a godsend, and Sasha should be happy about it.

But she was not.

She was shocked, panicked, and fearful. Those feelings were so strong that they were able to overwhelm the pain all over the body.

Why is he here now? Did he know about it?

A sense of dread started creeping up on her. Sasha felt as though she was caught in a whirlpool. Her head was going numb and she started shivering, forgetting all about the pain.

"Why are you here?" Sebastian spoke.

The words came out between his gritting teeth as he clenched his fist so tight that it made crackling sounds.

Sasha shuddered.

At that very second, it felt like she got dropped into the depths of hell. She was struggling to breathe as there was no hope left.

I'm here for one thing, and one thing only. Did he know about it from the start? Did he set this whole thing up so he could fish those two out of the water? And I'm just the icing on the cake?

There was nothing more she could do.

"Y-You know why I'm here, don't you?"

"What did you just say?" Sebastian narrowed his angry gaze. He did not expect her to behave that way.

"You're being awfully confident here."

"I'm not. I-I'm just admitting it to you so that it's less of a hassle."

Sasha was upset and felt the pressure rushing to her head. She needed to keep it in and calm down.

Sebastian was infuriated. "So? You want me to kill you now? Are you proud of it?"

Sasha's face went pale after hearing that.

Why would I be proud of this?

Sasha wanted to kill herself then and there.

Back then, because of her naivety, he was locked up for six years, suffered for six years. After all those years, she made the same mistake yet again. This time, if things went beyond repair, she would be doomed.

She could never feel proud of that.

Even if Sebastian really did slay her right there, Sasha would have no complaints.

"No. I feel sorry for you, Sebastian." Sasha looked at the man in a calm manner. "I owe you too much. So no matter what you want to do to me, I deserve it."

Sebastian went quiet.

"I-I only have one simple request. Please take good care of the kids if I'm gone."

Sasha could no longer bear with the stench of the blood and started coughing.

Her eyes were red and watery, looking like she was being choked. She was in so much pain that she had to bend down. Not long after, blood started flowing out from her mouth.

Sebastian's expression immediately changed.

However, before he could do anything, Brandon came rushing inside. "What are you doing, Sebastian? Are you out of your mind? Why are you chastising her the moment you saw her?"

He went and supported Sasha up.

That said, in a swift motion, Sebastian scooped Sasha away and held her tightly in his arms.

"You listen here. If you ever drag her out like this again, I will cut you down!" Sebastian left one last warning as he left, still gritting his teeth.

A warning mainly targeted at Brandon than Sasha.

Thus, when he and the lot left with Sasha, who had blacked out. The Sanders residence was in shambles. Brandon was the only one left, with a severely injured face.

Cut me down? Try me! You're just an ex-husband! What right do you have to act tough in front of me?