

## **A Spoonful of Sugar: Don't Beg for Love Chapter 11 - 15**

### **Chapter 11**

Rickard stepped forward abruptly and grabbed Julian by his collar. "Hesper is a member of the Duvals, and she will be with the Duvals even if she dies. Trying to get her to start her life again? Dream on!"

As he was speaking, he swung a punch at Julian's face ferociously.

Hesper watched the scene incredulously. "Rickard! Have you lost your mind? Why are you beating him?"

Rickard grew even more furious after noticing how she defended Julian. "Why? Does it hurt you to watch?"

As he was speaking, he threw a few more punches.

Julian was a practicing doctor, so he was no match for Rickard. His face bruised and swelled up from the beating quickly.

"Stop it! Stop it, quick!"

Hesper's eyes reddened with anger. Julian was the family that she did not have much of in the world, but he was beaten up ferociously by Rickard now.

"Rickard, if you hit him one more time, you can forget about working on grandfather's matter together!" Hesper stretched her arms and defended Julian in anger.

Upon hearing her remark, the furious man gradually stopped.

Rickard narrowed his eyes in a dangerous manner. "What did you say?"

Hesper did not wish to threaten Rickard with Mr. Duval Sr., but there was nothing else she could do to stop him from hitting Julian. She could only brace herself to say,

"Rickard, you can come at me if you hate me, don't implicate others! I'm only staying with the Duvals for the sake of grandfather's health. I'm not staying so your family can treat me inhumanely!"

"Good, very well. You've learned to talk back." Rickard's eyes were bloodshot from anger, and the veins on the back of his hands throbbed. He kicked over a rack next to him. "Hesper, how dare you threaten me for this man!"

"Who do you think you are, and how dare you!"

Rickard stretched out his arms in an attempt to grab her out of rage.

However, as soon as Rickard moved, Julian used his body to shield Hesper and wrapped his arms around her.

Rickard's anger soared to its max when witnessing the scene. In fact, he felt like he wanted to tear up the people before him so he could let them experience the consequences of going against him.

"What's going on?"

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Juniper's voice was heard coming from the door.

Rickard turned around and glanced at her. "Why are you here?"

Juniper was startled by the sight of the anger in his bloodshot eyes, but she feigned her calmness with great effort and said, "I went to meet Sophia at the Duvals' residence and heard that Hesper was hospitalized, so I came to visit her with some healthy snacks."

As she was speaking, she raised the box in her hands to show him.

The snacks in the box were all of superior quality food; she brought it to showcase her gentleness and thoughtfulness.

Rickard sneered. "That's very kind of you, but it's a shame that she doesn't deserve it."

"Huh, what do you mean?"

Juniper appeared to be dumbfounded, but in reality, she heard the loud quarrel from outside.

Rickard did not wish to continue fussing over the matter anymore, so he turned around nonchalantly and said, "Nothing. Let's go."

Juniper followed after him obediently and willingly.

Julian loosened his grip over Hesper and noticed that there was a blood backflow in the infusion tube on her arm. Her blood filled the whole tube, turning it bright red.

"Lie down, Hesper!"

Hesper was in pain as well, but she held back from talking about it earlier.

When everything was settled down, she said to Julian with fatigue, "I'm sorry that I got you beaten up for no reason earlier, Ian."

"I'm fine. This trivial injury is nothing for a man. You, on the other hand... Is this how Rickard treats you at home too?"

Hesper turned her face to the side and did not answer.

How would he treat me like this at home?

At home, Rickard ignores me as if I don't exist. He disregards my concern and favor, and doesn't even look me in the eyes.

"B\*st\*rd!" Julian was furious. "Who was the woman earlier? Was she his mistress?"

"No, she's Juniper Wight..." Hesper told him about the situation briefly before she said in all apparent seriousness in the end, "I know that you care about me, Ian, but I'm scared of Rickard bearing grudges against you, so it would be best if you could stay away from me."

"What's that supposed to mean? You're my sister! How could I possibly not care about you?" Julian patted her shoulder and said sincerely, "Listen to my advice, Hesper. Your place is not with the Duval family or with Rickard. Will you leave him?"

"I know. Just hold on. We'll get a divorce once grandfather has recovered."

Julian, rendered speechless, heaved a sigh.

It did not take long before Rickard's assistant came rushing over suddenly.

"Mrs. Duval, is my boss here?"

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Hesper nodded after noticing how anxious he looked. "He was, but he left."  
"Left?" The assistant looked as if he feared for his life. They were supposed to have a discussion with the Haven Group that day, but when Rickard received information from the hospital, he came over without the slightest hesitation.  
The discussion was about to begin, but the assistant was unable to locate Rickard. The assistant was troubled, but before he left, he seemed to remember something and pulled out a new phone from his bag.  
"Mrs. Duval, this the phone my boss ordered me to get for you. Your sim card is inside. Frankly, Mr. Duval...cares about you."  
Hesper did not appreciate Rickard's concern.  
If he really cared about me, why would he humiliate me?  
If this is how he shows his care, I would rather not have it!  
Meanwhile, Juniper was also provoking Rickard casually by saying, "Who was that man protecting Hesper in the hospital earlier, Rickard? Why haven't I seen him before?"  
"Don't mention them to me anymore. They disgust me."  
Rickard waved his hand impatiently and picked up the glass before him to down the alcoholic.  
Juniper's eyes glistened. "It's boring to drink alone, so I'll drink with you."  
Soon, an exchange of glasses quickly happened, and Rickard drank more and more out of anger.  
He began to gradually grow tipsy.  
Juniper seized the opportunity to take an intimate selfie with Rickard and sent it to Hesper right away. "Don't worry. Rickard is with me tonight. I'll take good care of him."  
The interpretation of what her care meant was up to Hesper.  
Hesper stared at the photo for three full seconds before finally sneering.  
So, he was kind enough got me a new phone just so he could show off their loving relationship. Thank you for the trouble you've taken and your consideration!  
"Thank you for taking the trouble. Although, I'm afraid there's nothing impressive about Rickard's performance when he's drunk. You might not be able to fully enjoy yourself."  
Hesper turned off the phone right after sending the provocative message.  
All I have to do is disgust her, right? Anyone can do that.  
Not having expected Hesper to actually reply to her text message, Juniper turned green with rage.  
She could not suppress her jealousy at the thought of how they had once been so intimate that they had a child together.  
Let's wait and see, Hesper!

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## Chapter 12

Hesper's fever broke the next day. She was not severely ill to begin with; she just caught a cold after bowing down for a night in her malnourished state.

It was fortunate that she was sent to the hospital in time and received an intravenous infusion, which allowed her body to gradually recover its functions.

It was quite amusing, really. She risked her life to give birth to the Duvals' eldest grandchild, yet she could only replenish her nutrition in the hospital. No one would believe her if she were to tell them what happened.

Hesper consumed her chicken soup in small sips when someone kicked open the door of her room all of a sudden. The elegantly-dressed Madam Duval walked into the room with two other women.

"Yikes, look at you having the appetite to eat chicken soup. It seems that you're not all that seriously ill."

Hesper coldly glanced at her. She did not have a favorable impression toward the Duvals after experiencing the recent ordeals. She replied in a mocking tone, "I'm sorry for disappointing you by not dying from the illness."

"Stop your smart-mouthing!"

Madam Duval looked like she was about to lose her temper when she suddenly caught herself and cracked a ghastly smile. "Judging from how stubborn you are, it seems you still haven't learned your lesson. Then I'll fulfill your wish to endure more hardships!"

"Come!" She waved her hand with a sneer. "Since Mrs. Duval is hospitalized, she can't feed breastmilk to the baby, who is at home. Go ahead and help her!"

"What are you doing!"

Before Hesper could respond to the situation, the two women were already surrounding her with a ghastly grin on their faces. They grabbed her hospital gown and tugged at it to remove it.

"What are we doing? You should know how to pump breast milk by now. There's no need for us to explain anymore, right?"

The button of Hesper's hospital gown was forcefully removed, revealing a large area of her fair skin. One of the women stretched out her hands and squeezed Hesper's breasts ferociously.

Hesper's eyes widened in shock. She thought that Madam Duval's previous tricks were obscene enough, but Madam Duval was able to stoop even lower!

"Go away! Don't you dare touch me!"

Hesper struggled with all her might, but she could not move because of the two women's strength.

They squeezed her breasts strenuously with their large, coarse hands...

"Gah! It hurts!"

Hesper's forehead instantly drenched in cold sweat. Her breasts were weak and

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sensitive since the delivery, so she felt as if her blood vessels were about to burst when abused by them in this manner.

Her eyes reddened with tears, and hateful, humiliating thoughts filled her head. In the end, Hesper could not bear it anymore and pulled out a fork that she hid under the pillow before stabbing the person next to her viciously.

“Gah!”

A bitter, agonizing roar rang in the room. The woman grabbed her arm and said with an agonizing expression, “Madam, blood... I’m bleeding...”

The other woman was so startled that she loosened her grip upon noticing the situation, leaving Hesper slumped down on the bed weakly.

Her hair was messy and she was in a disheveled state. Only her eyes were filled with sarcasm and hatred.

Madam Duval was startled by Hesper’s gaze, but she feigned calmness by saying, “You were prepared, Hesper. Very well. Did you prepare the fork so you could stab me? Aren’t you afraid that Rickard will leave you when he finds out about this?”

“Make him leave then!”

Hesper’s patience had run out despite her good temperament. She glared at Madam Duval as if she was looking at a dead man. “You are more than welcome to convince him!”

“You you you...” Madam Duval was at a loss for words to refute, not having expected that Hesper would make a remark like this in view of how much she loved Rickard. Meanwhile, the sound of a man’s leather shoes walking on the ground was heard coming from outside.

Rickard’s eyebrows tightly furrowed when he saw the scene before his eyes. “What the heck is going on this time?”

“You’re here, my son!” Madam Duval looked at Rickard as if he was her savior. She immediately told him about the incident earlier with exaggerated embellishments.

“I was only worried that she would suffer from clogged milk ducts, so I kindly hired two experienced masseuses to help her. Not only was she unappreciative, but she injured the masseuse. Look at that poor, bleeding woman. I have no idea how I’m supposed to deal with Hesper anymore!”

“Is that so?” Rickard looked toward Hesper suspiciously.

She smirked in a mocking manner. “Would you believe me if I told you that’s not what happened?”

“Indeed.” Rickard’s eyes were gloomy. There were only the three of them in the room now. Who else would do something like this if not Hesper?

Noticing that Rickard was on her side, Madam Duval grew fearless. “Son, don’t let Hesper off so easily in view of how sinister she is. Otherwise, there’s no telling who she’ll attack next time.”

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“I understand. Take the woman and get her wound dressed first.”

Rickard spoke in a cold tone. Green veins could be seen bulging on his forehead.

“Son...” Madam Duval wanted to instigate further but was startled by his icy cold gaze.

She hastily shut her mouth and left with the two women.

As soon as the door was shut, Rickard revealed his true self.

“So, you think you’re capable now and have become lawless?”

He took a step forward with each word he said. He rolled up his sleeves, revealing his muscular, fair-complexion arms.

Hesper could feel the incoming danger, but she forced herself to calm down and braced his cold gaze. At the very moment he got close to her, she said coldly, “Rickard, if you dare lay a hand on me, I’ll make you regret it.”

The usually arrogant, aloof Rickard would never be bothered by a lowly threat like this. However, seeing the determination in her eyes, he stopped for no apparent reason. His gaze was as deep as the sea.

“What are you doing? Are you threatening me?”

“No.” Hesper inhaled a deep breath and enunciated her words clearly with a determined tone when she said, “I’m negotiating a deal with you.”

Under the man’s slightly puzzled gaze, she narrated a statement that she composed,

“Although I proposed a divorce, I agreed to stay and put on an act with you out of consideration for grandfather’s health. However, I can’t put up with you and your family’s doings anymore. Let’s have a one-off conversation today, and if you can’t accept my condition, I’m sorry but I’ll have to forfeit what I agreed to do.”

“Heh.” Rickard chuckled in anger.

Who does she think she is to say something like that? Was it not her who plotted so that she could marry me in the past? Now that she got her wish fulfilled to become Mrs.

Duval, why is she still acting like she’s been treated wrongly?

I’d like to see what trick this woman still has up her sleeve!

“Firstly, we’ll live out our lives separately from now on. I won’t regard you as my husband, and you don’t need to regard me as your wife to others. I won’t get in the way of you dating Juniper, and you’re not allowed to meddle with my personal affairs either. We’ll only need to play the roles of husband and wife in grandfather’s presence.”

“Secondly, I’m only living in the Duvals’ residence temporarily. When grandfather is back, I’ll leave. So, I’m officially informing you now that if anyone in your family continues to make things difficult for me, I’ll return what’s done to me ten fold. It would be best for us to mind our own business.”

Rickard’s expression grew more unpleasant with every remark she made. In the end, he was almost clenching his teeth in rage when he said, “When did you have this thought out? What could you do if I don’t agree to your conditions?”

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## Chapter 13

Hesper was mentally prepared for this. If Rickard were such an amiable person, she would not have to endure contempt, humiliation, and disgrace for so many years.

However, she should not be the only one to endure pain. Hesper said in nonchalant tone, "If you don't agree to my conditions, it's meaningless for me to live anyway. I wonder if grandfather will ever forgive you and the others if I die."

Rickard's body shook.

It was not because she used grandfather's name but because he saw the surging despair in her eyes. She was so desperate that she did not mind negotiating a deal with her death.

Is she really suffering that much living with the Duvals?

But she has already gotten everything that she wanted. She got the position of Mrs. Duval and she has already gotten a child as well. How is she not satisfied yet?

Rickard could not figure it out. Enshrouded in overbearingness, a few seconds later, he sniggered. "Sure, let's do as you said. I hope you won't continue to stay when the time comes and refuse to leave!"

"Don't worry. I would rather die than stay."

Rickard took a deep glance at her and turned around to leave without uttering a word. Noticing that he was leaving, his assistant waiting for him outside immediately opened the door.

Rickard's face was green with rage, and he said coldly after a long time, "Is it that difficult to get along with me, Benji?"

Benji had no idea why Rickard would suddenly ask such a question. He subconsciously answered, "You have to deal with a host of affairs every day, and you're used to executing orders. However, you treat your subordinates well."

"If that's the case, why...would she rather die than be with me?"

"What?"

Benji did not hear Rickard clearly, but Rickard had already shut his eyes and stopped speaking.

In the hospital, Hesper looked out the window absentmindedly.

"I'm sorry for using you as my bargaining chip, grandfather... However, if I don't, I won't be able to continue on anymore."

She teared up in agony, feeling sad and guilty.

Meanwhile, Julian came to visit her with a basket of fresh fruits.

"Hesper, why are you crying again?" Julian took two steps forward and wiped her tears with a tissue. "How many times have I told you not to cry when you're sick? Otherwise, you're going to have long-term effects in the future."

"I'm fine." Hesper forced a smile and thought about how Julian was the only person who still cared about details like this when it came to her.

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Noticing that she was calming down, Julian told her about the purpose of visit. "I've already asked the lawyer regarding the matter you told me previously. If you can get the evidence of Rickard cheating on you, it's highly possible that you will get custody of the child in view of your current situation. What do you think about that, Hesper?"

"I could get custody of the baby?"

Hesper had never raised her hope about getting custody. In fact, she was already mentally prepared to lose custody of the child, but Julian's remark ignited her hope once again.

"Let me think about it..."

"Sure, take your time to think. I'll help you regardless."

"Thank you, Ian."

The unexpected information disrupted Hesper's plan. She was distracted through her hospital discharge and return to the Duvals' residence.

Madam Duval and Sophia, who were eating imported fruits in the living room, frowned when Hesper walked into the house without greeting them.

"Hesper, are you blind or something? Can't you see that we're here?"

Hesper was jolted back to reality and she said in an extremely indifferent tone, "Oh, I can see that. So?"

"Yikes, watch your tone, woman. Are you looking to be taught a lesson?"

Sophia was about to stand up while she was speaking, but remembering how Hesper injured the woman in the hospital, Madam Duval was afraid that Sophia would be at a disadvantage. She hastily said, "You're really disrespectful for not greeting us upon your return. Since you're already discharged from the hospital, you'll be cooking all the meals at home from today onward. I'm hungry now and would like to have a steak. Go and prepare it, quick!"

"Aren't you capable of cooking yourself?"

Hesper did not attempt to appease Sophia but rolled her eyes at her.

Sophia was so furious that she struggled free from her mother's restraint and made her way to Hesper quickly. "Are you feeling a sense of superiority over us after the fever? You used to cook all the meals at home in the past, so what are you putting on airs for now?"

"The past is the past. I did it willingly back then, but I don't want to do it anymore now. Is there a problem with that?"

Sophia could not bear to watch Hesper's unyielding mannerism. Her chest heaved constantly with her labored breathing. "Hesper! Are you done making a fuss? You're going to have to cook the meal even if you don't want to!"

She pulled Hesper toward the kitchen. At first, Hesper attempted to struggle, but then she refused to move. She stood sneering in the same spot.

"Sure, since you insist on me cooking, don't blame me if you die from eating my

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cooking.”

“What do you mean?”

Sophia was still confused, but Madam Duval came to understand Hesper’s remark. Her expression changed drastically and she pulled Sophia to her side. “Have you lost your mind, Hesper? Do you even know what you’re talking about? Rickard will never forgive you if he finds out about how you treated his mother and sister!”

“Is that so?”

Hesper was completely unbothered. In the past, she did her best and sacrificed herself for the family out of respect for Rickard. She would cook all sorts of cuisines that they enjoyed to appease them.

However, not only did they not remember her deeds, but they even felt entitled to her cooking. If that was the case, why should she make an effort?

She turned her head to the side and cracked a sweet smile at Madam Duval and Sophia. “Since you’re so displeased, go and complain to Rickard. The more you can exaggerate the situation, the better.”

“...”

A thought occurred to Madam Duval and Sophia as they looked at Hesper’s graceful, departing silhouette.

“Has Hesper lost her mind?”

In Duval Group’s CEO’s office, Rickard placed down his phone, his deep eyes filled with ineffable emotions.

The woman is getting more and more unfathomable to actually speak to my mother in that manner.

She used to be so obedient and sensible in the past, but everything about her has changed.

He loosened his tie in agitation and looked into the distance absentmindedly.

Meanwhile, Hesper was in a great mood after her public retaliation toward Madam Duval and her daughter. She refused to go downstairs no matter how much they clamored and instead took her liberty to get some sun on the balcony with her precious son.

All of a sudden, she saw a familiar figure quickly walking by in her peripheral vision.

Hesper paused for a moment and called out, “Wanda?”

Wanda’s entire body shook once when she heard Hesper’s calling, but she did not have the courage to turn to look at Hesper.

Hesper remembered clearly that Wanda gave her a bowl of hot soup when she was starving to death, and Wanda was also the first to find her when she was ill with fever. Had Wanda not helped her, perhaps she would have been tossed out of the house by Madam Duval and her daughter like a piece of trash.

“Wanda, I’ve been meaning to express my gratitude to you since the incident... What

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happened to your face?”

Halfway through her speech, Hesper noticed a few red marks on Wanda’s face, which was an apparent sign of being slapped.

Hesper flew into a great rage. “Who did this? Was it Madam Duval and her daughter?”  
“Don’t question, Mrs. Duval. I’m fine.”

Wanda covered her face so Hesper could not see. However, Hesper could see the red marks with bruises on Wanda’s face; she could tell that the person who did it was merciless.

Hesper felt a knot in the pit of her stomach. “Is it because you saved me? Is that why they hit you?”

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## Chapter 14

“Don’t question anymore, Mrs. Duval. I just happened to fall.”

How hard must one fall in order to be injured to this extent?

She should have expected this to happen. Madam Duval and Sophia loathed her, so it was only natural that they would discriminate against Wanda for saving her.

Perhaps Wanda was tormented so frequently by these people in the past two years when she was hospitalized that Wanda did not have the courage to talk about them.

Hesper was furious. “You’re in your current state because of me, so I’m going to uphold justice for you.”

“Don’t, Mrs. Duval!” Wanda pulled at Hesper strenuously with tears streaming down her face. “Madam Duval and Ms. Duval have always been domineering. If you uphold justice for me, it will only give them a reason to punish you even more. The baby is still young; think about him, and take care of yourself.”

Hesper, however, could not make peace with the fact that she involved the aging Wanda in her matter after she had endured so many hardships. There was a determined expression on Hesper’s face.

“You should leave this matter be. It’s my idea. Keep a distance from me so they won’t have a reason to seek revenge on you from now on.”

As she was speaking, she took the liberty to walk to Sophia’s room.

In the pink room, Sophia was humming to herself as she put on makeup. She was going to dress herself up for a date that night with a good-looking man at the bar.

Without any hesitation, Hesper gave her a slap.

A clap was heard, loud and clear.

Sophia was dumbfounded by the slap. She only came to realize the situation after a few seconds. She covered her face and shrieked loudly, “Are you sick in the head or something? How dare you hit me!”

Hesper did not waste time making small talk either. Sophia had never seen Hesper’s expression look so cold.

“Was it you who caused the injury on Wanda’s face?”

How would the ever-obstinate Sophia put up with Hesper standing up for a lowly servant?

“So what if I hit her? You actually slapped me for a lowly servant. Trust me when I say I’ll kill you!”

Her expression distorted from anger, and she tried to beat up Hesper.

Hesper stood further away and grabbed Sophia with her arms so that Sophia could not budge anymore. Hesper said with a cold expression, “You set my mind at ease for admitting it.”

Upon saying that, she delivered two more slaps.

She struck Sophia so hard that it felt as if she was venting all her past resentment on

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Sophia. Sophia's face immediately swelled up, and she squalled in anger.

"I'm going to kill you, Hesper. I'm going to make my brother kill you!"

"Oh, is that so?"

Hesper chuckled in a mocking tone. "Wanda saved my life, yet you punished her. Was that not because you bear grudges against her? Or was it because I was supposed to die after giving birth to your family's eldest grandchild?"

As she spoke, she clutched Sophia's lower jaw gently and said in ridicule, "Aren't you going to tell Rickard about this? Go ahead, quickly. I would like to know if he is willing to let the child's biological mother die and if your family can withstand the bad reputation that results from this!"

"Mad, you're mad."

Sophia was furious and her expression continued to distort from anger. After Hesper left, she immediately called up Juniper and spoke in a crying, nasal voice.

"Juni, come quickly. I can't stand it for a minute longer..."

Hesper was aware of Juniper's visit to the Duvals' residence. She was carrying her child when she saw Juniper's car through the window.

It was a red limited edition Porsche, a car worthy of her heiress status.

When she was walking to the door, their eyes met across the air momentarily.

Hesper quickly looked away, her lips seeming to curl into a smirk.

Juniper furrowed her eyebrows and felt an ineffable feeling. However, she did not put much thought into it and met Sophia soon. She asked, "What's going on, Soph? What happened to you?"

"It's all that b\*tch Hesper's fault!" Madam Duval said.

She found out about the sequence of events that took place after Sophia lost her temper in the house. They wanted to punish Hesper, but they were afraid that Hesper would risk her life and fight with them.

They called up Rickard but all he replied was 'noted' so they could only wait for Juniper's arrival with their pent up anger.

Sophia acted as if she found her mainstay when Juniper showed up. She cried and said, "Juni, you're my brother's childhood best friend, so you know him best. What do you think is on his mind? He loathes the b\*tch so much, yet he chooses to put up with her over and over again. Is he going to let Hesper lord over us and abuse her power?"

"No, of course not." Juniper would never allow something like that to happen. An idea came to her. "I believe that Rickard is being more lenient with Hesper since she's just given birth to the family's eldest grandchild. After all, Hesper risked her life during the delivery process. If the family members were to make things difficult for her right after her delivery and rumor of this incident were to spread, outsiders would think that the Duvals are mean."

"B\*llsh\*t!" Madam Duval was the first to reject the remark. "There are plenty of women

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willing to bear children for the Duvals. It's so unfortunate that she had to be the one who did it! Does she think that she's some hot sh\*t because of her child?"

Sophia sobbed to the side. "Juni, please reconcile your relationship with my brother soon. Get rid of this b\*tch as soon as possible. You're the only sister-in-law I recognize!"

Juniper was delighted but pretended to be troubled. "I would like that too. However, Hesper is a benefactor of your family now, as I've mentioned earlier. Rickard will always give her special treatment as long as the child is here..."

"It's always the child! I'd like to see if she can still be so rampant without her child!"

Sophia's eyes glistened with a sinister glow as a plan quickly took form in her head.

Hesper was still unaware of the impending crisis. She stayed by her son's side all day long, touching his soft little hands and playing with him occasionally. The mother and son spent a peaceful, loving night together.

However, news of the baby becoming sick traveled from the nursery the next morning.

"How could this happen? He was completely fine yesterday!"

Hesper ran to the room in such a rush without even putting on her shoes, but she was stopped from entering the nursery when Madam Duval arrived.

"What are you doing here? Your child is sick today because you stayed with him all day yesterday. Hesper, you're a jinx!"

"Let me in, I want to see my baby!"

Hesper tried to squeeze her way into the room with all her might but was pushed out of the room again and again.

Rickard had watched on coldly the whole time, but he could no longer bear it. He said in a cold voice, "I agreed to your requests, Hesper, but you don't seem to know how to be a good mother. It'll be fine if the baby is okay, but if anything bad happens to him, you'll have to bear the consequences yourself."

"But I didn't do anything wrong. He was fine when we were together yesterday. Let me in, Rickard!"

Next to her, Sophia heard the conversation and said in a sarcastic tone, "What do you mean, Hesper? Could it be that you think we caused the child's illness? You held the child all day long yesterday. All the servants in the family could attest to that. What reason could it be other than you being a jinx?"

"That's not what I'm implying." Hesper's gaze turned cold. She refused to believe in the superstitious belief of jinx, but she had no evidence to refute. She just wanted to see her baby quickly.

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## Chapter 15

Madam Duval and Sophie refused to drop the matter.

“So now you know how to behave yourself? Weren’t you so formidable yesterday that you beat up someone? Maybe karma struck and the baby is sick because of his troublemaking mother!”

“Criticize me all you want but not my baby.”

Hesper bit her lower lip tightly, anxious and panic-stricken from thinking about her child’s condition.

Madam Duval squalled from the side. “Yikes, yikes, yikes. Look at you scowling at me after being criticized. Yesterday, you hit Sophia. Are you going to hit me today?”

Hesper knew that now was not the time for quarreling. She clenched her fists tightly and told herself to put up with it. Then she turned around to say to Rickard, “I’m the child’s mother, so no matter what, I have the right to check on him.”

“No. What if the baby’s illness deteriorates further when she enters the room?”

Sophia’s remark reminded Rickard. Even though he did not buy into superstition, it was better to be safe than sorry since the baby could easily get an infection due to his low immunity while he was sick.

“The baby is receiving treatment from a doctor right now. I’ll send someone to update you if there’s any information.”

Hesper’s gaze turned dim bit by bit. She took a glance at the faces of the Duvals in silence.

She saw Madam Duval and Sophia’s provocative expressions and Rickard’s ignorance. How could they do this? Is this family really able to take care of my child...

She waited until noon and seized the opportunity when Rickard was out to handle some affairs to come to the nursery once again.

However, just as she was about to open the door, a mocking voice was heard coming from her side. “Trying to get inside? Beg me then. Beg me until I’m satisfied, and I’ll let you in to check if your son is still alive.”

She turned around to find Sophia and Juniper.

Both of them had their chins lifted arrogantly as if they were trying to get even after yesterday’s incident.

However, did Hesper have any other choice?

Her precious child was sick in the nursery, separated from her by a door. As the child’s mother, how could she set her mind at ease?

“Take it as me begging you. Just let me take one look at him, just a look will do.”

Hesper suppressed the feeling of humiliation in her heart and behaved submissively.

Sophia and Juniper immediately burst out laughing in a reckless manner. As they were laughing, Sophia suddenly slapped Hesper. “Is this how you beg someone?”

Hesper stood there without budging. She knew that if she were to move, it was highly

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possible that she would not get to see her baby.

"If the act of hitting me will allow me to see the child, you can hit me."

"Bah, knock it off. I'm hitting you because you deserve it for being disrespectful yesterday." Sophia fiddled with her freshly-manicured nails leisurely and smiled maliciously. "As for your child, you can bow down and beg me. Maybe then I'll think about letting you see your child."

Hesper could not stand it anymore. "You've gone too far!"

"I've gone too far?" Sophia acted as if she just heard the funniest joke and pretended as if she was walking away with Juniper. "Since you think I've gone too far, forget about it then. The child is not mine anyhow. Who knows if the doctor is putting in any effort to treat the child? If the child is almost dead, someone's going to have to bury him soon."

The remark hit Hesper's soft spot. This was precisely what she was worried about, which was why she insisted on checking on the baby herself.

Just as Sophia was about to leave, Hesper bit her lower lip tightly and bowed down.

"Can I enter the nursery now?"

"Look at you bowing down as you're told. What an obedient dog you are. Look, Juni.

How is a person like her worthy of being Mrs. Duval? I'm going to celebrate to my heart's content on the day of your wedding to my brother."

Hesper tried to turn a deaf ear to the remark, but her hands tightly clenched by her sides.

Sophia and Juniper exchanged a glance before they behaved as if they were showing mercy to Hesper. "Go in then. Are you waiting for me to go back on my own word?"

Hesper immediately ran to the cot and found the little baby furrowing his eyebrows tightly as if he was enduring great pain. His fair complexion was flushed from the fever, and he cried in a loud, heartbreaking manner.

After taking one look, Hesper felt as if her heart was torn up. Tears blurred her vision, and she said shakily, "Baby, baby. Open your eyes, and look at mommy. I'm here to see you."

She stretched out her arms in an attempt to hold him, but she was afraid that she would hurt him. She was so anxious that tears streamed down her face profusely, and she turned her head to query the people behind her.

"I thought you said that there's a doctor attending to him specifically! Where is the doctor? Why is the baby still feeling so unwell?"

"How would I know?"

Sophia glanced unconcernedly while the servant next to her said, "Ms. Duval, the doctor already left earlier. However, he gave instructions to bring down the baby's fever with medicine if his fever persists."

"Where is the medicine? Bring it quickly!"

The servant had never seen Hesper speaking so hysterically, so she was so startled

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that she was rendered speechless.

“Why are you roaring like that?” Sophia said. “The medicine available at home is for adults, so it’s unsuitable for children. You have to get it at the drugstore, of course!”

Hesper, whose mind was already clouded by worries, did not notice that something was off at all. She wiped her tears and got up with great effort before walking outside. “Fever medicine, I’ll get it. I’ll get it immediately. Call up the doctor to come quickly!”

She was certain that her baby was very uncomfortable. It was a pity that a child that young would need to endure the torment of illness.

Hesper wished that she could suffer in her baby’s place.

She ran outside like a madwoman, forgetting that she lived in a luxury residential area, so she had to run across three streets before she was finally able to buy fever medicine.

Her baby would be saved!

When she returned home, she heard Sophia and Juniper’s voice coming from upstairs.

“Hesper, come to the top floor if you want to save your son.”

She raised her head and took a glance to find Juniper cradling a bundle of a sky blue blanket in her arms.

It was the baby’s blanket!

She ran upstairs right away, gasping for air in a disheveled state. “I got the medicine. Hand the child to me quickly.”

“Heh... It’s a waste that you don’t need the medicine anymore.”

Juniper suddenly chuckled in a ghastly manner and stuck the tiny blanket bundle out of the balcony before Hesper’s eyes.

At the same time, she could hear the baby’s sad cry.

Hesper’s eyes widened in anger. “What are you doing, Juniper? Don’t touch my son!”

However, it was already too late. Juniper loosened her grip finger by finger before she tossed the blanket with the baby in it into the air.

“Don’t blame me, Hesper, but yourself for not knowing your limitations when you give birth to Rickard’s son!”

“No!”

Hesper let out a bitter, agonizing scream and leapt over the ledge in an attempt to grab the child without any concern for her own safety.

The blanket bundle dropped at such a high speed that Hesper did not manage to catch it no matter how hard she tried.

Rickard heard a loud bang as soon as he got home...

Hesper fell from above and crashed onto the ground next to him before his very eyes.

Fresh blood pooled under her body and stained his vision red. At that very moment, it felt as if the world was drowned in blood.

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