

## Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 21-30

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 21-Timothy interrupted Sharon by saying, "Let's just enjoy our dinner." Laura looked at Mia with a kind smile and said, "I had them prepare your favorite soup-clam chowder. Timothy, fill your wife's bowl for her." Mia's eyelids twitched. She wanted to reach out for the ladle herself, but Timothy beat her to it. He took her bowl and filled it for her.

As she stared at the creamy soup, she suddenly lost her appetite.

"What's the matter?" Sharon scoffed. "My son personally served you that bowl of clam chowder. Are you turning your nose up at it?" Laura gazed at Mia in concern. "Do you not like it, Mia?" "That's not it, Grandma. I quite like the soup." As Mia picked up a spoonful of soup, she felt a pair of eyes on her. When she smelled the soup, she instinctively frowned.

She forced herself to take a mouthful but couldn't bear to swallow the second mouthful.

A few seconds later, Mia set down her spoon and heaved like she was about to vomit.

It was strange. Mia had always liked clam chowder, so why was it making her nauseous today?

"Mia, could it be that you're pregnant?" Laura exclaimed in joy.

In an instant, two pairs of disbelieving eyes fell on Mia.

Mia widened her eyes in shock. She was a little panicked. How did Laura figure it out?

The sudden lurch in emotions made her feel even more nauseated. She ran to the bathroom and vomited the clam chowder she had eaten.

She felt as if she had emptied out all the gastric acid in her stomach as well. The feeling was rather unbearable.

When Mia raised her hand to get some tissue, someone passed it to her. She quickly wiped her mouth. "Thank After turning around and spotting Timothy, she faltered and didn't finish her sentence.

She averted her gaze and said, "I think I must've gotten a cold. I've been very stressed lately." Timothy's deep voice rang out above her. "Since you have a cold, let Dr. Levin take a look at you." Mia's heart rate sped up. She hastily said, "It's just a minor cold. I don't need to see a doctor. I'll be fine in a few days." "Is that so?" Timothy stepped forward and kept Mia caged in front of the sink. She couldn't back away from him.

Mia looked at the blue striped tie he was wearing. He had decided to go with it after all.

"Look at me. Mia." Mia slowly raised her head, but Timothy got impatient and grabbed her by the chin forcefully.

With a scrutinizing gaze in his dark eyes, he asked, "Are you hiding something from me?" Mia's breath caught in her throat. "What are you trying to ask me, Mr. Barrett?" Mr. Barrett?

In the past, she always called him Timothy in that timid and careful tone of hers. Now that she had a new boyfriend, she had become a lot bolder.

Timothy leaned in with a furious gaze. "What do you think I'm asking about?" Mia slowly balled her fists and tried her best to compose herself. She replied, "I'm not pregnant. If you don't believe me-" "Why wouldn't I believe you?" Startled, Mia looked up into Timothy's cryptic gaze. She was a little confused by what he just said.

When had he ever had so much trust in her?

Timothy continued sarcastically, "You were even getting it on with a man in a hotel last night. If you were really pregnant, how can the baby survive your night of passion?" All the color drained out of Mia's face. For a brief second, she had mistakenly thought that Timothy trusted her. It turned out she simply overestimated his regard for her.

She lowered her gaze to hide her disappointment.

Timothy's voice rang out again. "Answer me. Are you keeping quiet because you feel guilty? Who were you with last night?" Mia exhaled ever so slightly. As long as he didn't suspect she was pregnant, she didn't care what he thought. She responded calmly, "We're getting a divorce now, so I don't think I need to tell you who I spend my time with." Timothy tugged on his tie in frustration. "Mia, which of the things you say are true? Which ones are lies?"

Back then, you claimed you married me because you liked me. What's this now? Have your feelings changed so quickly?"

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 22-"I did say I liked you, Mr. Barrett, but I didn't say forever." "Mia Bowen! Do you know what you're saying?" Clutching Mia by the chin, Timothy continued to stare deep into her eyes. He had suddenly realized just how little he understood her.

All this time, she remained by his side and took care of all his daily needs. It was as if she could instantly pick up on his thoughts or feelings and do what was necessary to cater to him.

Her gaze had been simple enough to read as well. She looked at him with love and adoration.

Yet, all of a sudden, that gaze had disappeared.

Timothy felt extremely displeased. The thought of her treating another man the way she used to treat him made him want to punch someone. He really wanted to find the man she was with at the hotel and beat him up!

Mia didn't back down or retreat from Timothy. They were so close that their noses were nearly touching.

Even their breaths mingled in the air between them. The atmosphere became a little strange.

"Hey! What are you two doing in there? Mia's pregnant, you brat. Behave yourself. Don't get handsy with her." Laura had been waiting for them. They were taking too long, so she couldn't resist coming over to check up on them, only to find them kissing in front of the sink.

Mia blushed at Laura's remarks.

Timothy shifted to the side to look at Laura. "She's not pregnant, Grandma." "How would you know, you brat?" "She just had her period." Taken aback, Mia eyed Timothy. Did he remember her period cycle?

She was indeed supposed to get her period a few days ago, but it had been delayed this time.

That was why she felt like something was off and went to the hospital for a checkup. True enough, she was pregnant, though she was still in the first trimester.

Laura was somewhat disappointed. “She’s not pregnant?” Sharon, who was standing beside Laura, scoffed, “It’s been three years since you two got married, and she’s still not pregnant. For all we know, there’s probably something wrong.” Laura nodded. “You have a point.” Sharon immediately jumped on the opportunity. “You agree with me, right, Mom? In my opinion, a full body checkup at the hospital is a must. Maybe it’s some kind of infertility.” She figured that if Mia did indeed have some kind of health issue, Timothy should divorce her as soon as possible.

“That’s right. Go to the hospital and get a checkup tomorrow, brat. See if there’s something wrong with your body. Why isn’t Mia pregnant yet, even though you’ve been married for three years? Are you sure you’re doing your job as a man?” Laura questioned, to everyone’s shock.

Mia was staring wide-eyed at Laura. She didn’t know how to react.

On the other hand, Sharon’s expression instantly soured. “Mom, how can you say that about your own grandson? He’s perfectly healthy. We fed him well all these years. He’s healthier than any other man! How could he have any issues?” Timothy’s lips twitched as he said exasperatedly, “Stop talking, Mom!” This was only making him even more embarrassed.

Sharon refused to give up. “Tell us, Mia. Who’s the reason why you haven’t gotten pregnant in three years? Is Tim performing as a man or not?” Mia didn’t expect Sharon to make her talk on this touchy subject. How was she supposed to answer those questions?

She couldn’t possibly tell them that she and Timothy had been sleeping in separate bedrooms all the years, could she?

Timothy never tried to have any kind of physical intimacy with her, and she couldn’t bring herself to initiate such things either. So, despite being married for three years, they never engaged in physical activities that were expected of a married couple.

The only exception was that incident a month ago. Timothy had been drunk at the time, and he had made the first move.

They did it in total darkness. Mia had been an anxious and inexperienced participant. It was her first time, and she didn't get to see anything.

How was she supposed to determine whether his performance could be considered good enough?

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 23-“Mia, why aren't you answering the question? Say something.” Mia cast an awkward glance at Timothy before muttering, “W-What am I supposed to say? You should ask Timothy about it.” novelbin Why were they making things difficult for her?

Save for that one time, Timothy never slept with her, so how was she supposed to get pregnant?

Timothy cleared his throat before responding. “Why're you asking about such things, Mom? We've been using contraception. That's why she hasn't gotten pregnant. I don't plan on having any kids yet.” When Mia heard his last sentence, she looked down at her abdomen. It seemed like she truly needed to protect this baby of hers.

Laura chimed in anxiously, “You're already 30 years old. Why don't you want to have kids yet? I'm afraid I'm going to die before I get to see you become a father.” “Grandma, as long as you agree to get the surgery, you'll definitely live enough to see that happening,” Timothy said.

“Hah! Don't even try to use that on me. You want me to agree to the surgery? Sure. I will when Mia's pregnant. Otherwise, I won't even consider it.” Once Laura finished speaking, she turned around and left.

While following her out, Martha quietly assured, “Ms. Mia and Mr. Barrett have a good relationship. I'm sure it's only a matter of time before they have a child.” Once Laura left, Sharon side-eyed Mia. “It's good that she isn't pregnant. Once Ms. Lane marries into the family, she'll give birth to your children, Timothy.

“After all, she's the daughter of the Lane family. Someone with an elite background like hers wouldn't want to be a stepmother.” Sharon walked away after saying her piece.

Mia's eyes flashed with mockery. Well, only someone of Maya's social standing was worthy of giving birth to the Lane family's future heir. A commoner like her was unqualified to do so.

She looked at Timothy, who was standing before her. "I never knew you were capable of lying, Mr. Barrett. When have you ever used contraception?" Timothy was briefly startled, but he soon smirked and asked, "Can I take that as a hint from you?" What hint?

Mia didn't expect the stoic and serious Timothy to make such a sleazy comment.

She swiftly shifted her gaze. "You shouldn't read too much into things, Mr. Barrett." 415 BONUS Mia wanted to leave, but Timothy stood in her path, Peering down at her, he asked, "Where are you going?"

"Home." Timothy's eyes narrowed slightly. "Home? Or do you mean the hotel?" Mia scoffed on the inside. Was the bastard mocking her?

She took a deep breath and looked at him with an insincere smile, "Why are you asking so many questions, Mr. Barrett? Are you jealous? I suggest you take your mother's advice and get a medical checkup tomoTION?"

"Why do I need one?" "Why do you need to ask why? It's not like you're unaware whether or not I'm the reason why we don't have a child. I think you need to see a doctor," Mia remarked, Timothy's gaze hardened. "You know full well whether or not I'm perfectly healthy. Didn't you experience it the night?" Mia stiffened, but she stood her ground and replied, "I did, so that's why I suggest you head to the hospital for a checkup. After all what I experienced was pretty forgettable." ... As soon as she finished speaking, she walked out of the bathroom, but she noticed that Timothy's expression had turned a little unpleasant.

No man would feel good about being insulted in that regard.

On the other hand, Mia was feeling great. She realized how easy it was to relish in someone else's suffering.

However, she had only taken a few steps when someone hauled her up and threw her over the shoulder. Her world turned upside down.

Flustered, Mia grabbed Timothy's arm. "Put me down, Timothy." "You need to take responsibility for your words, Mia. You know that, right?" Timothy felt a ball of flames burning in his chest. Mia kept pushing all of his buttons!

Last night, she slept with another man at the hotel, and just now, she mocked him for having issues with his manhood. She was getting too bold.

During that incident a month ago, Timothy had too much to drink.

It had also been his first time, so he lacked experience, but that didn't mean he had any problems performing in that aspect!

Was he supposed to tolerate such an insinuation?

Worried about the baby, Mia tried to get away from Timothy, but he tapped her thighs and said, "Stop moving."

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 24-Mia had never been treated this way before. She was furious and mortified.

Once Timothy had unceremoniously brought her into the bedroom, he tossed her roughly onto the bed.

Gritting her teeth, Mia snarled, "Timothy, you bastard! What are you trying to do?" Timothy propped himself up on the bed and looked down at her. "What do you think? I'll let you see whether you'd find the experience forgettable." Mia's eyes flashed. "I refuse." "Now you refuse? You were having so much fun riling me up just now!" Timothy threw his tie aside and untucked his shirt. His gaze darkened as he said, "Go on. Tell me what kind of position you'd like to try this time." Mia felt like she had been insulted!

What had gotten into Timothy?

With an icy expression, she retorted, "Why are you acting like a raging jerk just because you're embarrassed?" "I'm not!" "See? You're furious. You can't even take a joke!" Timothy was speechless.

He gripped Mia's chin and said, "Mia, you seem to have changed into an entirely different person. All this while, it must've been so hard for you to keep up the pretense of being a gentle and well-mannered young woman, huh?"

“That’s right, but since I was getting paid to do a job, I needed to put on a good show,” Mia shot back.

Timothy felt like his heart had been pricked. Clenching his jaw, he asked, “Why aren’t you keeping the act then?”

“Have you ever seen someone who bothers to entertain their ex-boss once they’ve left their job?” “You’ve got quite the nerve, Mia.” “Thanks for the compliment. I’m aware of that,” Mia retorted.

“When given an inch, you sure know how to take a mile. Tell me. How much money do you want to continue with the job?” Timothy sneered.

Mia felt a sting in her eyes. “What do you mean by that?” “Well, if you can sleep with that man at the hotel, how is it any different from sleeping with me? I’ll pay you more than him. You’ll be making a killing!” Mia scoffed to herself. Did Timothy actually think she was selling herself?

+15 BONUS Her gaze filled with disappointment. “Timothy, even if you give me a mountain of gold, I refuse to sleep with you.” She wanted to shove Timothy away, but he grabbed her wrists. “It’s all just for money. How is it any different?” “It’s because you suck at it,” Mia fired back.

Seething with rage, Timothy blurted out. “It’s normal for a guy to underperform when it’s only his first time!” All at once, the bedroom fell silent.

Mia blinked. Did she mishear him?

His first time?

Had it been Timothy’s first time?

Did that mean he had been a virgin all along?

Mia never thought she would ever find out such a huge secret. It was something she couldn’t have come up with, not even in her wildest imagination!

Timothy’s eyes flickered awkwardly. He quickly got off the bed and stood aside to adjust his clothes. Once his shirt was all buttoned up again, he was back to his stern and serious self.



Mia sat up and cleared her throat stiffly. She didn't know what to say to ease the awkwardness.

In the past three years, she came to understand Timothy's lifestyle habits very well.

He was a clean freak with a compulsive streak.

Timothy had a routine. He woke up at the same time every morning. After going on a half-hour run, he would shower and have breakfast before heading into the office. In the evening, he would come home from work, have dinner, and carry on working in his study before sleeping at 11:00 pm sharp.

He maintained this schedule to the letter.

All of the fixtures and decor in the rooms had to be to his strict preferences. They couldn't be moved around at random. Everything had to be symmetrical. If not, he would feel uncomfortable.

Timothy lived like a monk-it was a rigidly organized and rather dull life.

Once upon a time, Mia was attracted by his extraordinary amount of self-control. He was a handsome man who lived a disciplined life.

Similarly, she spent three years living like a nun.

After marrying into the Barrett family, instead of experiencing married life, she experienced a life of celibacy instead.

Yet, there were plenty of women who threw themselves at the feet of wealthy scions. Mia never thought Timothy kept himself away from women entirely-so much so that he had been a virgin!

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 25-Mia thought that if she ever told anyone else about it, she would probably get snuffed out!

Timothy pursed his lips and scoffed, "Don't get ahead of yourself. I was just pretending for Grandma's sake, I'm not interested in you." Mia stood up. "That means I can leave now, right?" "Hold it. What if Grandma finds out you leave alone in the middle of the night? How am I supposed to explain things to her?" Mia thought about Laura's chilly hands. Hesitating, she asked, "When is

Grandma going to get surgery?" "Didn't you hear her? She refuses to get one." Frowning, Timothy added, "Before she agrees to get the surgery, don't tell her about our divorce." "Alright," Mia agreed without hesitation. "I'll try my best to get Grandma to agree to the surgery." Timothy's expression improved. "Let's sleep." Mia took out her phone and sent Patricia a text. "Aunt Patricia, I won't be coming back tonight. Help me inform Dominic." She had promised to head back tonight, but there was no way she could leave now.

Laura's health had deteriorated. Mia couldn't let Laura worry about other things before she got the surgery.

After all, she had put up with everything for three years, so what was the harm in waiting for a few more days?

Once Mia finished texting, she looked around for a couch but couldn't find one. There was only one bed in the room.

She walked into the closet. "I remember seeing some extra bedding in here. I'll sleep on the floor. It's summer anyway." Alas, when Mia opened the drawers, she didn't find any bedding.

It didn't make sense to her. She knew there used to be extra sets in here.

Timothy's voice rang out behind her. "Grandma arranged everything on purpose." The situation dawned on Mia as well. She realized that Laura genuinely wanted her to have a baby. Unfortunately, she couldn't tell Laura about the divorce yet.

Feeling a little awkward, Mia looked at the only set of bedding that was covering the only bed in the room. She felt conflicted. "What now?" "Let's just sleep like that. Don't worry. If I wanted to do anything to you, I wouldn't have waited this long to do it." Mia's eyes flashed mockingly. He was right, of course.

She lay down on one side of the bed, but there was no blanket. It would be a little cold with the air-conditioning on.

Timothy passed the blanket to Mia and said, "Take it. I'm not cold." Mia didn't try to be courteous with him. She was pregnant, so she couldn't afford to get a cold.

As Timothy lay on the other side of the bed, he found himself unable to fall asleep.

He looked at the woman who lay with her back toward him. His gaze was a little complicated. He couldn't describe what he felt.

After a while, Timothy closed his eyes. Soon, he felt something warm snuggling against him and nuzzling against his chest.

Timothy looked at the woman who had rolled into his arms on her own accord. Now that she was no longer making biting remarks, she looked a lot more docile.

He preferred this side of her.

The next day, Mia woke up alone in bed.

She checked the time and figured Timothy was completing his morning exercise routine. Having lived with him for three years, she knew his schedule like the back of her hand.

Mia didn't feel the urge to go back to sleep. In fact, she felt a little hungry, so she went downstairs to make herself some lemonade and prepare a snack.

When she was done, she saw Timothy coming out of the home gym. He instinctively walked toward her.

When Timothy saw the lemonade and a familiar-looking pastry on the kitchen counter, his expression softened a little. He assumed that Mia had simply been putting on an act and going against him the last two days just to get his attention.

Well, she was now obediently preparing a snack for him like she always did.

As he approached Mia with an aloof expression, she picked up the plate as well as the glass of lemonade and walked off.

She didn't even look at him or leave anything for him.

Timothy stood in front of the kitchen counter. Staring at the empty glass before him, he poured himself some warm water. When he looked down and saw the pieces of lemon on the counter, the water in his mouth suddenly tasted terrible.

In the past, Mia would prepare lemonade and some energy-boosting snacks for him after his exercise.

When Timothy looked to the side, he saw her munching on something while sitting on the couch. His gaze grew rather complicated.

Mia felt his eyes on her, but she forced herself to stay calm and not back down.

soon, Laura woke up.

Mia ate breakfast with Laura. Her appetite had gotten a lot better, and she ate far more than she usually did,

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 26-Timothy noticed that Mia ended up eating four pancakes, two slices of toast, and a bowl of cereal.

Did she always have such a hearty appetite?

Once breakfast was over, Laura abruptly held out an invitation. "Mia, I got you a spot as a contestant in this competition." Mia looked at the invitation. It was for the Fleur International Design Competition.

Startled, she asked Laura, "When did you do this, Grandma?" "Well, you sent me some interior design sketches a while back, and I just so happened to hear about this competition, so I got you a spot," Laura explained. "Give it a try. Mia. I think you'll do a great job." Mia stared at the invitation with a look of melancholy. She considered joining this competition years ago, but after marrying into the Barrett family, she devoted all of her time and attention to Timothy. In doing so, she neglected all of her past interests.

Shelly strutted into the dining room and said casually, "Mia, that's no ordinary competition. Considering how unskilled you are, you shouldn't bother joining.

"You'll just be embarrassing yourself. Don't humiliate the entire Barrett family along with you." novelbin Laura immediately snapped, "Shelly, you didn't even graduate from college, so keep quiet!" Ashamed that her own failures had been exposed, Shelly ran off in anger.

She recalled that the Lanes were the ones who organized the competition, so she quickly called Maya.

“Maya, are you in charge of the Fleur International Design Competition?” Shelly asked.

“That’s right. I’m in charge of a few things in the competition. Why do you ask?” “Maya, Grandma got Mia a spot in the competition,” Shelly informed. “She’s so biased. You need to try and find a way to stop Mia from joining the competition.” Upon hearing that, Maya’s gaze turned cold. “That’s easy. Tomorrow’s the final day to register for the competition. I’ll tell them to end registrations a day early.” Shelly instantly smirked smugly. “That’d be great. I’ll head over there tomorrow to enjoy the show in person. What’ll it be like to see the excited Mia being disappointed once she finds out the registration is over? It’s going to be so much fun!” Maya was smiling tauntingly as well.

“Go ahead. Remember to give me a play-by-play afterward,” Maya said before ending the call.

How could a woman like Mia, who came from a poor background, be worthy of competing against her for Timothy?

After saying goodbye to Laura, Mia left the Barrett residence with the invitation in hand.

She heard Timothy’s footsteps coming from behind. It was followed by his voice as he asked in a surprised tone. “You know how to do interior designing?” This explained why Laura had approached him in secret a few days ago. She had asked him to get a spot in the competition for her, and he complied without giving it much thought.

He didn’t expect it to be for Mia, Mia lowered her eyes and said nothing. Timothy barely knew anything about her, so she wasn’t surprised that he was unaware of her interest in interior design.

“Cat got your tongue, Mia?” Mia tucked her hair behind her ear and answered, “Nope, I don’t.” “You’re lying.” “Bingo! I’m not interested in telling you anything.” Mia retorted before getting into a cab and leaving.

Timothy was left standing alone. He tugged at his tie as he complained over Mia’s audacity for the umpteenth time.

Heath got out of the car. "If we don't leave now, you might be late for work, Mr. Barrett." Timothy stared in the direction where the cab had left. "Do you think she's been provoking me on purpose lately just to get my attention?" After a pause, Heath responded hesitantly, "I think-" "You think so, too, right? Well, same here," Timothy stated.

He climbed into the car. It seemed like he had been wasting too much of his attention on Mia. It was unusual of him.

Heath's expression was a little complicated. He didn't think Mia was putting on an act to get Timothy's attention at all.

Sitting in the front passenger seat, Heath said, "Sir, if we stop paying for Mrs. Barrett's uncle's medical bills, his life might be in danger. Are you sure you want to halt the payment?" Timothy's eyelids twitched. "Did I ask you to actually stop paying? Did you leave your brain at home or something?" He merely wanted to teach Mia a lesson.

Heath was speechless. Well, Timothy was the boss, so his word was the law.

Mia was still in the cab when she got a phone call from the hospital.

Nervous, she answered the call, "Hello? Did my uncle's condition worsen?" The voice on the other end of the line said, "No, that's not it. It's been days since you've made payment for the medical bills. Please come over to settle the payment for the upcoming month." The payment for the medical bills had been cut off?

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 27-Mia rushed to the hospital and took out her three years' worth of savings to pay for the hospital bills.

It was a private hospital, but even though it was expensive, it provided the best care for James, giving him a higher chance of recovery.

That being said, the medical fees were 100,000 dollars a month!

Mia massaged her forehead. She had forgotten that the Barretts had been paying for James' medical expenses. Now that they were getting a divorce, Timothy no longer had any reason to continue footing the bill.

She took out the competition invitation. If she won first place, she would be getting a million in prize money.

Then, she sent a message to her friend, Gina Palmer. "Gigi, you mentioned the Fleur International Design Competition's setup a while back. Can you send me a copy of the information? I plan on taking part this year." Gina's reply came soon after. "Of course. You're finally making a comeback, huh? If you join the competition, I'm sure you'll come out on top. Everyone idolized the alternate identity you were using back then." Mia rubbed her fingers against the invitation she was holding.

It was time for her to start a new life.

When Mia went back, she found a group of people with Dominic. There was a woman and five other handsome young men. Were they her brothers and cousins?

Dominic spoke up, "Mia, allow me to introduce them to you. This is Eva, my wife and your sister-in-law. These two are Nathan and Connor, your older brothers. The other three are your older cousins." Mia had mixed emotions. She simply nodded lightly in response as she didn't know what to say to them. For some reason, she felt awkward around them.

Just then, Patricia said, "Mia, the hospital called me just now. They said we need to make payment." "I've already paid the hospital bills, Aunt Patricia. Don't worry about it," Mia assured.

Nathan chimed in, "How much more do you need for the hospital bills, Mia? We can help.

Mia found six pairs of eyes on her. They were all filled with some kind of longing.

The six men were desperately hoping that Mia would ask them for money.

They had more than enough to spare!

Mia shook her head. "That won't be necessary. I have enough money for now." She figured it wasn't easy for them to make a living, so she didn't want to burden them.

As long as she joined the competition, she would be able to get a source of income.

Alas, Mia's six brothers and cousins had been ready to brandish the debit cards in their pockets, but to their dismay, she had rejected their offer.

They couldn't even spend money on her! How useless of them!

Liam hastily broke the silence. "You're incredible, Mia. If you need money, make sure you tell us, okay? You're not alone anymore. You have a family now. You have us." Mia nodded. "I got it." It was precisely because she now had a family that she felt the need to work hard and earn a living.

As Mia looked at her brothers and cousins, she finally voiced the question that had been brewing inside her mind, "Why did the family abandon me back then? Was it because I'm female?" In an instant, all was silent.

Dominic lifted his head and cupped his face. After a while, he said hoarsely, "Mia, you're the only daughter in the family. Every single one of us loved you and cherished you. We didn't abandon you!" Mia froze a little. "How did I end up an orphan then?" At last, she was asking the burning question.

It was something she wanted to know from the start, but the negative thoughts that gnawed at her heart held her back. She assumed her biological family was rich, so she didn't want to ask that question. She was afraid she would hear a disappointing answer.

However, she now knew that the family wasn't a wealthy one, and all six of her brothers and cousins had been treating her very well, so she decided to ask the question after all.

Dominic couldn't take his hands off his face. His eyes were a little reddened. In the end, he said, "You explain, Jason." Jason was a lawyer. He would certainly be able to give a clear explanation that would dispel any chances of Mia misunderstanding them.

After adjusting his glasses, Mia's cousin, Jason, explained, "Back then, your parents both got into a car accident and passed away. Their business rivals had plotted against the family's company, so the family went bankrupt and fell into a huge debt.



“Without someone to lead the family, we all became poor. You were very young then, and the nanny was very careless with you. She accidentally lost you. We’ve spent the last two decades or so looking for you.”

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 28-After hearing everything, the sore spot in Mia’s heart slowly began to heal. Her family hadn’t abandoned her on purpose.

Dominic finally managed to pull himself together, though his eyes were still red. “Mia, it’s all my fault. I didn’t do a proper background check to ensure that the nanny was a good one. I’m the reason why you were separated from the family for so many years.” Mia’s eyes reddened as well, and Patricia was sobbing harder than her. “Mia, at last, you’ve found your family. This is wonderful.” Though Mia hadn’t been on the verge of tears, Patricia’s crying made her burst into tears as well.

The six men nodded to themselves. The first step of the plan was a success.

They needed to slowly heal Mia’s heart and undo the hurt she felt.

Dominic secretly sent his assistant a message to settle the hospital bills on Mia’s behalf.

The next morning, Mia was once again woken up by a phone call.

Still half-asleep, she answered the call, “Hello?” “Mia, where’s my watch? Where did you put it?” Timothy’s curt voice dispelled all of Mia’s drowsiness.

She sat up in bed and replied, “I don’t know. Don’t ask me.” (

Once she finished speaking, she ended the call.

Maya had moved in with Timothy, right? Why was he not asking Maya to help him look for his watch instead?

Mia figured that bastard Timothy was doing it on purpose.

Meanwhile, Timothy pursed his lips. He couldn’t believe that Mia had hung up on him!

He picked up the watch nearby and marched out of the house. He was so furious that he didn't even stick around for breakfast.

When Timothy got into the car, he immediately asked Heath, "Did the hospital call her?" "They did," Heath replied.

"Are you sure?" Since Mia knew that the payments for James' medical fees had been halted, what gave her the audacity to be rude to him?

Whatever money she had wouldn't be enough to cover the hospital bills.

Timothy had specifically called Mia today to give her a chance to give in to him first, but on the contrary, she had the nerve to drop his call!

Heath spoke up hesitantly, "I had someone look into the situation. Her uncle's medical fees have been paid off.

"Hah," Timothy scoffed. "She can probably only afford a month's payment." "No, the medical fees have been paid off for the next ten years." Heath clarified.

Ten years?

Timothy tugged on his necktie. "Where did she get that kind of money?" Heath reported, "According to the records, she only made payment for one month. It was someone else who came along later to pay for the next ten years. But the person used an anonymous account, so we couldn't find out who it was." Timothy lowered the car window. The morning breeze came in.

With knitted brows, he asked Heath, "Who do you think did it?" "Perhaps the man who took her away in a helicopter the other day?" Heath suggested tentatively.

Timothy's expression darkened. He had underestimated Mia. Now that she couldn't get anything from him, she immediately threw herself into another man's arms.

After thinking for a while, Timothy instructed Heath, "Gather all the information you can find on the Fleur International Design Competition." After being rudely woken up by the call this morning, Mia couldn't fall back asleep.

When she came out of the room, she saw a handsome man sitting on the couch-it was her cousin, Liam, She remarked, "Liam, you look like that movie star, Linden Lane." Liam cleared his throat and said, "A lot of people say that. Well, I do work as his stand-in." He stood up and hastily changed the subject. "Mia, I bought you breakfast. I don't have anything to do today, so I can go out with you. If you need to get anything, just let me know." From today onward, he was going to follow Mia everywhere! After all, he was the one with the most time on his hands-and the most bored, too!

To him, shooting a film was nowhere near as interesting as spending time with Mia.

Mia showed him the competition invitation she was holding. "Liam, I need to head to this place to register for a competition." Though Laura had helped her get a spot as a contestant, she needed to be there in person to officially register Liam glanced at the invitation. It looked familiar to him. Was it not the competition that Dominic's company organized once every three years?

As Dominic was a real estate mogul, his company would organize interior design competitions. The winning designs would be used for their residential properties.

Liam was surprised to find that Mia was also joining the competition!

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 29-Liam sensed how good of an opportunity this was for the family.

He cleared his throat and asked, "Mia, do you like interior designing?" "That's right," Mia replied. "That was my major at college. At the time, I really wanted a home of my own. Plus, it's a well-paid career, so that's why I chose it back then." After hearing that Mia made her choice partly because of money, Liam felt an ache in his heart. "From now on, you have us. You don't need to worry about money." "Well, I can't rely on you guys forever. I got used to being independent a long time ago," Mia said.

She didn't dwell on Liam's words. The two of them were currently in a car headed for the competition venue.

Liam calmly took out his phone and gave a report in the group chat. "I've got news. Dominic, Mia wants to join the Fleur International Design Competition

your company's organizing." Dominic shot back a reply. "Ask Mia if she likes being the winner." He was being serious.

Liam was speechless.

Dominic swiftly got someone to make all the necessary arrangements for the competition.

Just then, Eva piped up, "Honey, today's the last day to register for the competition, right? When I asked the person in charge of the competition, he said the registration was closed a day early.

"If that's true, Mia will be disappointed if she's going to register for the competition today." Dominic frowned. "Who told them to change the registration period at the last minute?" "I heard it was Maya who told them to move it up a day. It seems strange to me," Eva commented.

Dominic immediately called his assistant. "Get the ones handling the competition to extend the registration period until today. From now on, no one is allowed to change the schedule without my permission!" It didn't matter if the registration period had ended a day early. Even if it had passed weeks ago, he was still going to reopen for registrations.

He would make sure Mia got to register for the competition!

Meanwhile, Mia and Liam had taken a cab to the competition venue.

When Mia entered the place, she saw quite a lot of posters around. After seeing one of the ones plastered outside, she said, "Liam, in the past, it was my dream to work for Vista Properties." Vista Properties?

That was Dominic's company. However, Liam didn't think there was any fun in being the president of a company.

He calmly suggested, "Mia, It's so boring to work for a property developer. Why don't you join the entertainment industry? I'm sure you'll become a top celebrity." Liam wanted to convince Mia to join him in the entertainment Industry.

Also, he knew he couldn't tell Dominic about her dream for fear he would talk her into working at the company.

“I’d rather not. I don’t think the entertainment industry suits me.” Mia said.

When Mia walked to the front desk to hand over the necessary documents, Shelly came over. “I can’t believe you dared to come here, Mia.” Mia was calm as she retorted, “Even you dared to come here, so why wouldn’t I?” “That’s right! Shut up, you ugly woman with a bunch of botched plastic surgery procedures,” Liam snapped.

Shelly was then furious. “Who are you calling an ugly woman? What botched plastic surgery procedures?” “Well, if the shoe fits .....’ Liam’s face was hidden behind a mask and a hat, but his tongue was as sharp as ever. Anyone who had the gall to insult Mia was going to pay for it!

Shelly scoffed, “I suppose you haven’t found out yet, Mia. Well, the competition ended the registration period a day early. The cutoff date for handing in your registration information was yesterday.” “Yesterday? That’s impossible. It’s clearly stated that today’s the last day.” Mia had gone through the registration information. She was sure that the deadline was today.

“If you don’t believe me, go ahead and try to register.” Shelly looked like she was in for a good show. She had spoken to Maya about this competition yesterday.

Since Maya’s older brother owned the company that organized the competition, it was a piece of cake for Maya, his younger sister, to get the organizing committee to do as she instructed.

Therefore, Shelly came over specifically to watch as Mia became the laughingstock.

Mia wouldn’t get the chance to join the competition!

Meanwhile, Mia handed her registration form and other documents to the employee at the front desk.

The employee checked the information before asking, “Are you Mia Bowen?” “Yes, that’s me.” Mia was a little nervous.

The employee stood up and passed her documents back to her. “I’ve checked the information. Everything’s in order. Please hand in your design on time.” “Thank you,” Mia replied.

Mia had assumed that Shelly had been right. She didn't expect the registration process to go so smoothly!

Shelly was in utter disbelief. "That's impossible. The registration period ended yesterday. Why did you accept her registration?" Maya had told Shelly that she had already spoken to the head of the organizing committee.

The employee calmly replied, "I apologize, but we didn't receive any instructions to end the registration period a day early. Ms. Bowen here has fulfilled the requirements, so she can register for the competition." Shelly stomped her foot in anger. The employees were all useless! Why did they fail to complete such a simple task?

Meet My Brothers by Red Thirteen chapter 30-As Mia put away her documents, she tutted and remarked, "Shelly, how is there no limit to your stupidity? Haven't you learned your lesson from the last time?"

"Did you come here so that I can give you a sound beating again? This explains the comments people make behind your back. I get it now." Shelly stomped her feet in rage. "I'm going to kill you, Mia!" Liam glared menacingly at Shelly as he growled, "Go on. Let's see if you dare. Do it, and I'll see if I can give your plastic surgeon another chance to give you a new nose." Terrified, Shelly shielded her nose and shut her mouth.

Mia said to Liam, "Let's go. Aunt Patricia told me not to spend time with fools." Smoke was coming out of Shelly's ears. She secretly took a photo of Mia and Liam from behind before calling Maya. "Maya, didn't you tell the head of the organizing committee to close registrations a day early to stop Mia from joining?" "That's right," Maya replied. "I spoke to the head of the committee. The registration period should've closed yesterday." "Well, I came over today just so I could laugh at Mia, but guess what I saw?" Shelly huffed. "The registration period didn't end yesterday. Today's the last day, and because of that, that bitch Mia got to ridicule me! I was so humiliated!" "That's impossible." Maya frowned. How could this be? She had already given her instructions to the person in charge.

"Maya, you should check to see what went wrong. Get the guy to reject Mia's application and ban her from joining the competition. I must get even with her!" Shelly insisted.

After ending the call, Maya called the head of the organizing committee and asked sternly, "Didn't I tell you to close the registrations for the competition yesterday?" "I was going to do as you instructed, Ms. Lane, but Mr. Lane specifically said we're not allowed to close the registrations a day early.

"We're to follow the deadline that had been set in advance. We had no choice but to comply with the order," the person explained.

After hearing that, Maya ended the call and threw the document she was holding onto the floor.

She cursed to herself. Everything had been going so smoothly. Why did something happen at the last minute to ruin her plan?

All she could do was seethe in rage at how lucky Mia was.

Maya knew that Dominic didn't like other people messing around at work, so she dared not do anything too. She had no choice but to swallow her anger and accept this outcome. She called Shelly and explained the situation.

Shelly was furious. "Well, it's whatever. After all, Mia barely knows anything about interior design anyway. Even if she manages to register for the competition, she won't make it past the first round!" Maya agreed with Shelly, "Plus, she would keep a close eye on the first round and make sure Mia had no chance to stand out from other contestants.

She wanted Mia to spend the rest of her life in poverty!

"Maya, I've got something to tell you. A man accompanied Mia to the venue just now. It seemed like they were pretty close. Maybe he's Mia's new boyfriend," Shelly speculated.

Maya's eyes lit up. "What did he look like?" Shelly said "I took a photo of them from behind. The man was wearing a mask and a hat. He was being so secretive-just like a celebrity in disguise-but I'm sure it's because he's not fit to be seen in public. Do you want to take a look at the photo?" "No need, but make sure you don't let Timothy see this photo. Otherwise, he'll definitely misunderstand Mia," Maya said meaningfully before ending the call.

She figured the foolish Shelly would've gotten the hint.

True enough, Shelly was pondering Maya's words. If Timothy found out about the photo, he would be infuriated!

That would mean hell for Mia, right?

Shelly's eyes flashed viciously. She immediately sent the photo to Timothy. "Timothy, Mia came to register for the competition today, and I saw her being very intimate with a man! I doubt they're just ordinary friends!" Once that was done, Shelly scoffed. She was sure Mia was done for now.

Timothy had been busy with work when he received the message from Shelly. When he saw the photo, his eyes darkened.

After staring at it for quite some time, he couldn't figure out who the man was.

He sent the photo to Heath before setting his phone down and saying, "Find out who that man is." Heath glanced at the photo. "Mr. Barrett, it's not going to be easy to identify him with just a photo of him from behind." "Just check the security footage. Must I teach you these things?" Timothy snapped.

He took another look at the photo. Mia was smiling as she looked at the man beside her.

The smile on her face made Timothy feel quite annoyed.