

Insufferable

Grace

As expected, the door is opened again after an hour. It almost comes off its hinges due to the force behind the push.

" Grace Whitlock! " Mom fumes, strolling inside.

Like an angry bull, she makes a beeline for me and grabs my hair. I stand up calmly and let her drag me forth.

" What do you want from us? From your sister?! Why won't you let us breathe in relief?! " She shrieks in my face, her eyes spitting fire.

" What did I do this time, Mom? " I whisper in a composed voice. 1

" You?! " Her face turns red. " You are asking me what you did wrong?! "

" Honey, leave her. " Dad is quick to come inside and grab her shoulders. " Don't stress over an abomination like her. Your health is worth more than her. "

" Leave me, James. I am going to kill this girl today! " Mom jerks free and grips my hair harder. 1

" Mom, you are hurting me. " I wince.

" You are here to take your sister's man again? How can you be my daughter? How is that possible?! " She screams, shaking me by my hair.

" He is my husband Mom. " I snifle, grabbing her hand to take it off. "

he is my man. My husband. Lily is here to take him from me. She is the other woman. "

" Shut your mouth! She left because of you back then. Now that she has returned, you must divorce Ethan and return him to your sister. You are the other woman. " Dad yells, veins appearing on his forehead.

" You asked me to marry him, Dad. The day she ran from the wedding and ruined your reputation, you made me marry Ethan. " I remind him.

" Now, I am asking you to divorce him. It's not like you have been faithful to him. " Hatred drips from Dad's eyes as if he can't wait to murder me.

It doesn't affect me one bit. It just leaves my heart cold and my body burning with anger.

" I have been faithful to him. Lily framed me and made everyone believe that I was not. " I shake my head.

Slap!

Mom's palm lands on my cheek, turning my head to the side. I poke my inner cheek with my tongue and sigh.

" Mrs. Whitlock! " Ethan's booming voice cuts the air.

Mom releases my hair and turns to him. I touch my burning scalp and wince quietly.

" What are you two doing in my bedroom? " He questions in an icy tone.

“ Ethan, son, you need to get rid of this filth. We are here to do that for you. She won’t pester you anymore. ” Mom’s voice becomes sickly sweet as she addresses him.

“ He kidnapped me! ” I reveal, picking up my head to look at Ethan. “ He brought me here against my will. ”

He shoots me a murderous glare. I smirk, my eyes shining with a wicked glint.

This is just the beginning, Ethan. You should have for what’s to come your way.

“ That can’t be true! Why would Ethan want a dirty woman like you? ” Mom’s words are harsh but they don’t hurt me anymore.

“ You can ask him. ” I state.

It’s about time. My gaze flickers towards the clock.

He said he would be here in an hour. He won’t ditch me, right?

“ Ethan. ” Lily calls out softly.

I roll my eyes. She is the last piece of this chaotic puzzle. Now, it’s going to become a true disaster—just the way I want it.

“ Get out. ” Ethan states coldly.

“ What? ” Mom sounds shocked.

Dad’s shoulders stiffen as he stares at Ethan. “ You can’t talk to us like this. We are your elders. ”

“ Get out of my house right this instant! ” Ethan repeats with more iciness in his voice.

Lily flinches, as her eyes go round. She exchanges a look with Mom, silently asking her to retreat.

I roll my eyes again. The sneaky gestures and planned schemes—it’s all so normal in my family. Ethan is the only idiot who doesn’t know that.

“ Ethan, son, if you didn’t like us coming here, we will leave right now. Please don’t be angry. ” Mom changes her tone and rushes to the door.

“ Boss! ” Before she can go, Josh rushes inside.

Everyone freezes when they see the serious look painted across his face. He glances my way, his eyes showing a hint of disbelief.

“ I guess, it’s time for me to leave. ” I run a hand down my black nightie and walk towards the bed.

I hid the phone behind the pillow, with the camera on and ready to record this pretty encounter.

I am sure my performance was worth it.

“ What is it? ” Ethan snarls.

“ The police are here. ” Josh informs him.

“ Then get them the fuck off my estate. ”

“ They are here for Mrs. Calder. She reported you for kidnapping. ”

Josh states neutrally.

"Get. Them. The. Fuck. Out!" Ethan emphasizes each word as if he has had enough of this drama.

"I would have, Boss. But they are not alone." The poor Josh is sighing. I have rarely ever heard him do that.

My lips form an O as I play the video on my phone and turn it to silent. The video is quite nice. Mom, Dad, Ethan, and Lily—all of them are recorded with their true faces.

"Tristin Roberto is with them and by the looks of it, he won't leave without Mrs. Calder." Josh drops the bomb.

"What the fuck did you say?"

My heart misses a strange beat. He is actually here, in person. 1

Earlier, when I was wondering about the people I could ask for help, he was the only one I could think of.

Ethan can easily get rid of the police, and every other legal department but Tristin seems to hold some power.

I have yet to figure out who he is but I am glad I could reach out to him. I simply had to search for the contact number of the Seb Tower on the Internet and call them.

When they picked up, and I told them that I needed to talk to Tristin, they connected me to him without asking any questions.

It's not quite possible. But it became possible because Tristin must be waiting for my call. He knew I would call the reception.

" Tristin Roberto? How did he get here so fast? " Ethan hisses.

The temperature in the room drops. I clench the phone between my palm and turn around smugly.

" I called him. " I smile at Ethan.

His gaze snaps towards me. Anger burns in his eyes. He can't wait to strangle me, I can sense it.

" Grace. " Lily gasps, tears beginning to roll down her cheeks. " even after knowing how they treated me, why are you still contacting Tristin? Do you not care about me, your only sister? "

If it was the old me, she would have been scared of Mom and Dad's angry eyes. And Ethan's frown. I would have explained and pleaded with them to believe that I didn't want to hurt anyone of them.

But now—

" Of course. " My smile widens. " I don't give a damn about you. "

Now, I just don't care.

A look of surprise crosses my parents' faces and Lily snuffles, forgetting about crying.

" How dare you?! " Mom screams, lifting her hand to hit me again.

I catch her hand mid-air and glare down at her. " Enough! "

" Grace Whitlock. " Dad yells in disbelief.

" The next time you try to hit me or yell at me, I will forget you are my

mother... " I hiss, my jaw gritting as my gaze flickers towards Dad. " and I will forget you are my Dad! "

" Grace, how can you disrespect Mom and Dad like this? " Lily sobs dramatically.

I push Mom's hand aside and stroll towards the door.

" You are here to respect them. You are enough. Don't drag me into this circus. " I mumble.

I have to get out of here. As fast as I can. I don't want to risk giving Ethan enough time to get out of this situation.

Before I can step out, he snatches my wrist and pulls me back.

" Did I say you could leave? " His face inches closer angrily.

My breath hitches as I stare into his reddened eyes. " did I tell you that I care about your permission? "

" Grace, the more you rebel, the harder it will become for you. " His voice lowers, taking on a threatening note.

Heavy footsteps sound outside the door before it is slammed open again.

" Boss, the police..." Josh trails off.

" I am sending you to jail for what you did. But if you don't want it to be today, leave me, Ethan. " I whisper, shaking my arm free of his hold.

He refuses to let go, his eyes zeroed in on me dangerously. Lily is



calling out to him but it is like he can't hear her or see her, as if his sole mission is to keep me caged here.

"Ethan Calder." Tristin's voice sounds in the room, and the already freezing temperature becomes insufferable.

A big hand grabs my wrist from the other side and tugs me in. Ethan's grip loosens just slightly and I break free.

In front of my parents, and the pretentious sister, and the abusive husband, Tristin pulls me into his chest, hiding my face from their angry eyes.

"Was I too late, Little Butterfly?"

My heart skips a beat as I find myself tongue-tied.

"Don't worry. I am here now." His palm lands on my back, drawing me closer to him.



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