

Jaycendiana Yeong

Jaycendiana Yeong, weary-eyed, turns over to look at the clock. 6:56. In four minutes her head servant will come in with her butterfly pea tea and biscuits served in a tea set gifted to her from her mother. Then she will be whisked off to shower, to get ready, and to get dressed for her upcoming spa day, with her mother. They will go to one of the newest spa resorts that just opened in Singapore. After that who knows what will happen.

J.C's mother is always unpredictable when it comes to shopping and luxury experiences. J.C remembers vividly when they traveled to Dubai, and her mother couldn't resist spending over \$6,000 on a white couture Zuhair Murad dress to wear to Chloe Long's wedding.* Her own best friend!

All the kids at GEM International Academy** were always envious of J.C's mother. She would walk in and command an entire room. With her extravagant outfits, expensive jewelry, and piercing stare, she was hard to miss.

One thing that no dress can ever show, is the cold heart masked with a smile that J.C faces everyday.

Jaycendiana?..... Here is your tea, and biscuits. Should I draw your bath?

Yes, that would be fine. Thank you. J.C responded while climbing out of bed. Almost grateful to be interrupted for her thoughts about her mother and secondary school were giving her anxiety about the evening that waits ahead.

Of course, ma'am. I'll have your outfit prepared. Nian, J.C's personal servant replied. As she softly opens the velvet curtains, you can see the beautiful green garden that sits right in front of a tall 9-foot marble fountain. With gold tripping and intricate detailing, the fountain was shipped in from Spain to her mother's request. In the garden, there are rosas, flame lilies, franklinias, and catch flies. Some of the rarest flowers in the world. Against the backdrop of the sunny sky, faint city skyline in the back, and a few rolling hills, waking up to this view is like a dream.

Um....Are you almost ready, Ma'am? The bath has been drawn.

*As one can suspect, us rich people love our clothes. I'm surprised that all she spent! I would have spent more than that personally, but who cares about me right?! Anyway, yeah the rich in Singapore are only getting richer. It is estimated that 2.18 million people in Singapore were part of the top 10 percent of the global wealth population. With all the scamming that the Tan family has done I'm surprised they can even sit at the top with us elites.

** I also went to GEMIA. You see, the extremely rich only send their kids to the top schools. Mostly boarding schools. One thing that is hilarious though is that they send us off for school and then are appalled when we come back Westernized! Anyway, yeah, it's no surprise to me that darling J.C *rolls eyes* went to one of the top schools in Singapore!

Oh, sorry! Replies J.C as scurries towards the bathroom. Lately, spacing out has been almost a coping mechanism for J.C. Almost everyday her anxiety gets worse, so she spaces out thinking about everything but the present. Ever since the family found out that Aston Tan, her mother's brother, was arrested in Germany for alleged drug trafficking charges, the family has been a wreck.*

J.C's grandmother refuses to talk to her daughter-in-law causing a big issue between the marriage of Aakara Cathleen Tan and William Charles Shang Yeong III, J.C's father to grow bigger.**

Ah Ma never approved of the Tan family. Always thought her son was settling for the model. And she never hid her disapproval. However, in the past couple of years, Ah Ma and her mother went from wanting each other arrested to being able to sit in a room together. It has been a really great improvement especially considering what happened at J.C's tenth birthday party at the Eiffel Tower in France.

Has mother waked up yet?

Yes, she has. Replied Nain. *However, it is "woken" not "waken". Ma'am.*

My apologies. Woken.

*I must warn you that she is in one of her modes today. She just got a call this morning that Kaspar von Margenlatte has pardoned your uncle, and that he is staying here with his family for the next 2 weeks. His mother banished him from their home.****

Well isn't that a good thing? I mean, not that he got banished, but shouldn't mother be glad that her brother is coming to visit? J.C asks, almost afraid of the answer.

Oh, lah, you haven't forgotten have you? Your grandmother is staying this week as well.

A wave of panic rushed over J.C.

*Lah! Please! Sit down. You look faint!*****

*Wow! ANOTHER Tan scandal. I know William is fuming right now! That's a shame really because not many of the super-rich gain their wealth from doing illegal activities. (But then again, what else can you expect from the Tan family?!) Well, at least they are not dumb enough to get caught. The main ways to get rich are through real estate, old money being passed down, investments, properties, and marrying into the rich.

** Marriages are big in our community. Like I said, one of the main ways to get rich is to marry rich so everyone (and mean everyone!) wants to know who is getting married to who!

*** Kapsar von Margenlatte is a dictator. Realllllyyyy bad look for the Yeong family! And yes, the rich do work with different governments but well touch on that later!

**** *Lah* is just a common expression in Singapore.

Nain has been taking care of J.C since she was born.* Even though Nain is the servant, she was always like a mother to J.C. She knew of all the family drama and has helped J.C cope through some of the messiest scandals that the family has faced. Especially, since J.C's anxiety has been getting worse over the years and her mother refuses to take her to the doctor out of disbelief in "mental health issues".**

Now, look at me. Nain takes J.C's face in her hands and wipes away a single tear that managed to escape.

*It will be ok. Just remember to have good manners, be polite, and use correct grammar! You know how much your grandmother hates that American dialect.*** Or any slang for that matter. Ok? It's "woken". Has she "woken".*

Ok.....ok. Says, J.C through short breaths of air. *Woken.....woken....woken.* She whispers under her breath as she stands.

Now let's finish getting ready. Ushers Nain, and they head towards the 8-foot door that leads to the closet. Arm in arm.

Aakara Tan

..... Ok, so what did he say?..... How much money? Be more specific? Is it 8 million or 10?.....

Would you like your tea now? Asks one of the Taiwanese servants in a thick accent.

Not. Now! I'm on the phone! Snaps Aakara Tan, even though she ordered the maidservant to bring her the tea not only 5 minutes prior. But, she was busy. Her brother had called for the third time in under 2 hours with more information. Ever since his arrest, the media has been buzzing with lies about the Tan family. Aakara has been working desperately to try to keep the news of the arrest from the press, but the news got out anyway. Aakara suspects that her despicable mother-in-law was able to pry the information from her weak husband to leak to the press just to pay for her exclusive vacations to Bora Bora and British tea.

*Having a main servant is very common among the rich. In Singapore and all around the world. Especially when the parents are busy and they have children.

** Sounds like your typical "Tiger Mom". A "Tiger Mom" is a mother that wants to assume strength in their children so they treat them harshly. In a study of 50 Western American mothers and 48 Chinese immigrant mothers, almost 70% of the Western mothers said that forcing their kids to be academically successful is not good for their children. Surprisingly, 0% of the Chinese mothers felt the same way.

*** Cultural Assimilation is what is happening here and it is when immigrants move to a different country and either choose to or are forced to accept the country's culture. In the super-rich community, this is not taken well at all! You actually become annoying or bothersome to people when you are too Westernized. I'll explain that some more later too, but if you are too Westernized you will get looked down upon.

Now, don't get her started on her husband! He has been complaining about the news giving him and his practice a bad image. Especially considering the fact that a dictator had to be the one to pardon him when he would have been found guilty, and charged to face 15 years in prison.* But, Aakara being the darling sister that she was, called her friend, Veronica Zeodong, to talk to her husband on her behalf.

The blogs have always suspected that Xi Zeodong paid his way into the Communist Party Congress. But, no one can pay to be in Congress. It's a lot more work than that. Aakara would know. She's the one that got him in**

I'll invite Kaspar to dinner too, to thank him for his kindness but mark my words we'll never work with him again! And you better not ever get arrested again!! He gives us Tan's a bad image, and I have a husband whose practice is on the line.

Well, it's not like I planned to get arrested! Cries Ashton through the phone as he sips a Rum and Coke from the inside of a private jet flying into Singapore. I was told that I would be able to get the drugs through the border without any problems! I had security details! It was only supposed to be a drop.

Why?! Ashton! Whyyyyy????!!! Aakara screeches. She was so loud the maid and the dog jumped.

Why? Yells Ashton in fury. Why? Because you married into old money, that's why. Also because mother is so frugal we won't be able to touch any of the money that dad left until we're collecting income support! I need to make a living somehow!

I thought you quit drugs, Ashton!

*Like I said, I did quit trafficking drugs! But, I just need the money from this drop to fund the start-up for my company. I had a buyer set up and everything! He was a government official that was willing to pay me \$200,000 for the drugs, but all of that fell through because was caught by the blogs in another scandal. So, to save face he alerted the KriPo***, and stopped my operation! What do you want me to do? Your husband refuses to give me money!*

*Told you!

** So this is what makes this family so special. The Communist Party Congress is the highest body within the Chinese Communist Party; they are also the founding and ruling party of modern China. They hold a meeting every five years and ever since 1987 they have held their meeting in the months of November or October. They were founded in 1921 on the beliefs of Marxism-Leninism, however, they did end up going into a civil war with the nationalist Kuomintang. The communist party was victorious. Now, there are some reports of the super-rich bribing and buying into power, but that is very rare! Most of the rich that are in power, got there fairly. Now, whether they are there for respectable reasons in another story, but with this family, I'm almost positive that they are up to no good.

*** Criminal Police Office in Germany. In German, it is called Kriminalpolizei, but it is almost always abbreviated to KriPo.

He refuses to give you money because you do stuff like this. Aakara hisses through the phone.

Rubbing her head she addresses him again. *He doesn't want to be associated with a man who had a history of drug tracking, drug using, bribery, and any other illegal activities you managed to get your sticky hands into even though you are my brother-*

And that is wrong! Interrupted Ashton.

No! What is wrong is you smuggling drugs!! She says in a scream-whisper realizing that the maids are listening and that they might have been the ones to squeal to the media their family secrets.

As Ashton rants into her ear she writes down on a napkin:

Don't trust the servants

Talk to husband

Question that woman

Listen, listen..... Ashton!! Stop yelling and listen! Ok, I'll figure this out right now just come to the house and we'll have dinner and discuss your ar-

As Aakara looks up, J.C stands in the opening to the kitchen, staring at her mother.

I'll call you later. Bye. She abruptly hangs up the phone, leaving Ashton to yell to himself, and to whoever is trapped on that private jet with him.

J.C! Honey, hi! How are you? Did you sleep well? You look sick. Come sit down. Sings Aakara in a sweet voice as she gets up to pull out a chair. Her voice is such a contrast to the harsh tone she had on the phone with her brother.

The kitchen at Kairnhill Park is as big as some people's homes. Looking straight into the room, there are floor-to-ceiling windows looking out over the front grounds of Kairnhill Park. In front of the windows is a 15-foot dining table where Aakara has been since she got the call that her brother was arrested at 2 o'clock that morning. In the room to the left of the table, is a full restaurant-style industrial kitchen where servants and chefs are busy rushing to get breakfast prepared for the family. Scared to let the meal be even a minute late.

The eating room where Aakara is sitting was decorated in a modern yet sophisticated style. White, gold, cream, light grey, with light neutral toasted brown color scattered randomly around the space were the main colors. There were a few pops of color throughout the space, but the clean, and calm atmosphere that the room gives was exactly what Aakara needed to get through the third scandal to hit the blogs about the Tan family this year.

Hi Mom. I'm good. I slept ok. I'm not sick. Is it true that uncle got arrested? She says in a rush.

Well, don't worry about that ok. Your uncle is fine. As Aakara ushers her daughter to the closest chair near to her, J.C can sense her mother faking that "nice, nasty" act again. J.C can always tell when her mother is either stressed, angry, upset, sad or embarrassed no matter how hard her mother tries to hide any negative emotion. He is actually coming to visit us today. Are you excited about our spa day today? Asks Aakara trying to change the subject while also pulling her daughter's hair out of her face.

But isn't grandmother staying this week as well?

When you get older we should really look into getting you Botox. Replies Aakara distractedly.

*I was on my phone right before I got dressed and "Singapore Daily" said that he was arrested for drug trafficking, bribery, and assaulting a German government official.**

When we get to the spa, remind me to tell the lady to pluck your eyebrows. Also, have you been using the cream I gave you? Your skin looks darker than normal.

Mom! Snaps J.C as she was getting annoyed at her mother's comments, and lack of attention she was giving to the important matter at hand. If there was anybody that knows that Ah Ma does not like the Tan family, it should be the woman that married her son!

J.C sits up straight. And yes, your grandmother is coming and so is my brother. I really do not know why you are so worried. If your grandmother gets out of hand- I mean- if things were to go bad, just remember that there is a place for everyone..... Outside..... In their own homes, ok?

What does that even mean?

Don't worry about it, and don't roll your eyes at me, Jaycendiana. We're going to go to the spa and have a good time.

Aakara was really trying to be as convincing as possible, but that really was all she could come up with. Everyone who has been in the same room as her and her mother-in-law knows that they do not get along. J.C knows best. She has always been drawn to her grandmother no matter how hard Aakara tries to get her to go shopping and to do the things that she loved to do as a girl. She can never win over her daughter. Aakara can't stand it, and her mother-in-law knows it.

*Social media and blogs play a major role for the rich. Blogs can either make or break a person. Certain people, who are incredibly skilled, (I'm talking about me here, I'm "certain people"), know how to use the media to their advantage. For example, becoming a social media influencer, selling products on social media, using the media to portray a certain image of yourself, creating good publicity. However, like I said social media can break someone. Bad publicity can start to circulate, scandals, threats, old Tweets start popping up! Anything can happen, and social media can definitely ruin someone's career.

William Charles Shang Yeong III

When Caihong was growing up his mother raised him to work hard and to be a kind person. She would always tell him, "It does not matter what you have or what you don't have. Rather who you are on the inside." After she passed away, Caihong was lost. He knew he needed money because he was on his own now. However, knowing you need money is one thing, but getting it is another. Caihong always knew that he wanted a fair job, a good-paying, honest job. But, now he is here, helping dress William Charles Shang Yeong III. What would his family think of him?

Thank you, Caihong. Is breakfast prepared? I have a call in an hour. As William steps off the dressing platform and heads out of the massive closet, Caihong can't help the feeling of grief wash over him as it does every day. Grief for his mother and grief for who he has become.*

Your welcome sir, and yes, breakfast will be served in 10 minutes. I'll tell one of the servants to get your office ready. Would you like to work in the West wing office, the East wing office, the main office, or the office on the 4th level?

I'm actually going to go into the office building today, thank you. Replies William as he walks from the dressing room to the front of the closet then down the stairs to the connected Master bedroom. As he reaches the marble door, he opens it and walks into the 450 foot Master bedroom. The room is decorated in white marble with subtle gold accents sprinkled around the room. Connected to the Master Bedroom, is the 350 foot Master Sitting Room, then finally William reaches the hallway. All the rooms in Kairnhill Park are over 350 feet big, however, the Master Bedroom is something only the richest in Singapore can afford. Caihong has been the main servant for William Yeong for 4 years now and still can't stand how excessive he and his family are.

One thing that he doesn't know is that William can't stand it either.

Hello, yes, can I speak to Shawn Meiling please. Yes, this is Doctor Yeong. As William walks down the hallway to the grand staircase, he cannot help but to think about all the mess that he has to deal with that day.

*So, this one is a big one. The super-super rich families, like the Yeongs, are above the class status in Singapore. They are the 1% of the 1%. However, there are so many people in Singapore that suffer to make it day to day. The "working class" in Singapore accounts for a staggering 75% of the total population. They are the laborers, the craftsmen, shop assistants, service workers, drivers, and skilled/ unskilled laborers. Employment for the working class is usually irregular, daily-rated, and low-paying. Because there are so many in the working class, and so few in the super-rich that actually knows about the struggles of the ordinary people, there has become strife between the two classes. The super-rich class is taught to look down on these people and to not even mingle with them. While the working class is taught to have strong political and cultural antagonism against the super-rich class and Western values. (The upper class is mostly European and Chinese, plus they tend to embrace Western culture.)

Between his work, the government, his family, and the drama that Aakara tends to bring into his life, calling Shawn was the best decision he would make all day.

SHAWN!! BUDDY!! How are you?!

William!! I'm good, how are you? Haven't heard from you in a while.

Well, you know the job and everything, but I'm doing good. You know I was thinking earlier, it has been so long since we hung out together, right? When was the last time, Colin's fifth wedding right?

Yeah, yeah! When his mother slapped his bride in the face and it made headlines in the gossip columns. Laughs Shawn on the other end.

I remember that! And his cousin broke up with his supermodel girlfriend on Twitter hours before the wedding, so the Lang family and the Xeon family refused to sit next to one another! Good times, good times.

Wasn't your wife the one that found out that Colin's bride was actually from Mainland China, and she told the entire family during the reception?

Yep, that was my wife. William rolled his eyes so hard that Shawn could feel it through the phone. Shawn has always wondered why William married someone he couldn't stand. And Colin's mother and sneaky aunt Jacqueline passed out. His family has always been so dramatic.

Right! Replied Shawn laughing. Now, what did you want to talk to me about? I know you didn't just call to talk about Colin and his crazy family.

No, called to invite you to Geneva Domain next Saturday.

Geneva Domain? All the way in Switzerland? Has it really gotten that bad? Shawn and William both attended First Excellence Academy together, and have been best friends ever since. They both came from old money so they understood each other perfectly. Shawn's family has always been hard on him to take over the head of his father's business, and William's family has always been hard on him to fit into the ideal picture of the Yeong family. They would bond at lunch over French-imported caviar, and how no one understood them.*

**Again these private, and really preppy schools are very important to the rich culture. They need to make sure that their children are well educated. They need to be able to speak proper English, and they need to know how to mingle with rich people. Hence, these extremely prestigious schools. (Also Geneva Domain is a private country club that is so hard to get into, I heard that the waiting list is 5 years long! Additionally, any applicants need to be fluent in 3 different languages (why? I don't know, I couldn't get in) and they need to have a net worth of over \$35 million!)*

Even though they both fulfilled the wishes of their families, and are both now married with children, they still know when the other person is going through rough times.

William was the first person Shawn called when he needed to talk to someone when Ann left him for America after being chased away by his mother. William was also the only person who knows about the money that Shawn had invested into SGX*. If need be Shawn has enough money in a private account to run away to Africa and start a new life.

Recently, Shawn has been the one William has been calling on. Ever since that one evening, William has never really recovered. He has taken a habit of calling Shawn two or three times a year to go on spontaneous adventures like leaving Singapore to go to one of the most prestigious country clubs in Switzerland.

It has been getting pretty bad. Replies William sighing as he walked down the main staircase into the grand foyer.

Aakara's brother was arrested for drug trafficking again, and because of the lies that the blogs have been spreading some of the investors in the hospital believe that it would be a bad image for them to continue their support.

Just because of one arrest?

No, because this is the third or fourth scandal that my wife's family has been caught in this year alone! I cannot risk my business, and my daughter's life because of her family's desperation for money!

Well, you have got to understand that Aakara has really been going through it for the past couple of years. Your hospital really started to gain media attention in the past 5 years, and with that came a lot of backlash against Aakara. The media tore her into spreads last year when they found out that her family was poor before her father and mother. Aakara and her siblings are just trying to get as much money as they can to fit in. That's it.

Yeah but at my expense! My mother feels pressured as well. You know how private my family is.

Well, your mother is one of the meanest people I know so I think you REALLY need to give Aakara some slack on that one.

*I guess. She's coming tomorrow to stay with us, and Aakara's brother is coming today. As William walks into the kitchen and sees Aakara and J.C he immediately is reminded about how messy everything is about to get.***

*Stock market in Singapore

*Oh, he has no idea! I haven't even introduced myself properly yet! They don't even know I'm coming!!

Oh no!! Yeah! Geneva Domain for sure! I'll be there on Friday to pick you up from the airport on Saturday. You'll definitely need this to regain your sanity.

Thanks, Shawn! Good to hear from you. See you on Saturday.

Good to hear from you too. See you then. Don't lose your mind too much, ok?

Ok! William laughs. Bye Shawn.

What is happening on Saturday? Aks Aakara with a level of suction that makes William wonder why he thought it was a smart idea to bring his conversation into the kitchen.

I'm going to Switzerland with Shawn on Saturday. I won't be back for 2 weeks.

J.C and Aakara both look up in fear.

Jaycendiana Yeong

With her mother and father sitting across from her, J.C can already tell how the next couple of weeks are going to be.

Why do we always have to go through this

What do you mean?

Grandma is coming tomorrow, uncle is coming today and they hate each other! It's obvious! Our families do not get along so why do we try to force everyone together to save face. It's never going to work. It's just going to lead to more problems.

J.C, this is family whether or not we get along is not important, ok we still have to open our doors to everyone. Responded Aakara.

Looking back, J.C never really understood the environment that her family created. Her father is either always leaving or at work, and her mother has become more malevolent over the years.

But, no one does anything to fix it. There is no therapist, no specialist, no one there to help the family think about the issues that they are going through. J.C however, knows to be careful talking about things, especially around her mother. The women that used to love bike rides, and walks on the beach turned into the woman that can waste \$100,000 in one night in France. She calls it "paying her dues to society."

How about we don't go to the spa today? We should stay here to get the house ready. And to prepare ourselves for the hot mess that is for sure going to reach social media said J.C in her mind.

*No, J.C we are going to the spa, I paid over \$4,000 for this day and we are not going to waste it. There are children in America that would love to be in your shoes, so be grateful. Also, why in the world would we clean and prepare the house. We hired all of these unsightly servants for a reason. They clean, we don't.**

J.C just stared open-mouthed at her mother. She also saw her father cringe out of embarrassment.

Ma, how could you say that? They are literally in the other room!

She always knew that in desperate situations and under a lot of stress, her mother can be no short of vicious. But, this was a new low! Usually, she talks behind people's back, but today J.C guesses that all dignity went out the window.

Aakara was starting to get frustrated. *J.C I don't have time for your foolishness. MAID!!! Hurry up with breakfast! How long does it take? I cannot believe I have to yell in my own home for service!*

You know what I think I might call Shawn back and move our trip to Wednesday. I don't think I can stay here for the rest of this week. Said William in sadness.

Absolutely not William! You cannot leave me here with your audacious mother!

Aakara! I cannot sit here and hear you speak about people this way! I'm leaving now to go to the office and I'm leaving Wednesday for Switzerland. As William gets up from the table, J.C can't help but wish that she could go to Switzerland with him. She doesn't think that she could handle the next two weeks either!

*Finally! We get to the "old money" versus "new money" debate. I could have brought this up earlier, but I thought that this was a great example. For a family to have old money, (a.k.a the Yeong family), means that the wealth that they have has been passed down for generations. Often the more recent generations don't know what it is like to live without such substantial amounts of money. People who have old money tend to be more frugal, they invest in long-lasting material goods, they like to keep the money in the family (which is why William's mom is so angry), they have old spending habits that they have maintained for generations, and they like to plan things. Families that come from new money (a.k.a the Tan family) are the exact opposite. They are often "self-made" and believe that they can work back all the money that they send so they tend to be spontaneous, they tend to enjoy networking, and they tend to spend their money freely. One of the biggest differences between the two is that "new money" tends to view their money as their own versus something that they need to save for future generations. "Old money" though sees their money as their family's money, so they want to keep as much money as they can and they want to remain as high on the social structure as they can.

Absolutely not William! Come back here!! Screams Aakara, chasing her husband through the kitchen, dining room, the first great room, the living room, and the great foyer leaving her daughter at the kitchen table.

Hearing her parents argue again, isn't new but J.C is more disappointed instead of sad. Usually hearing her parents would bring J.C to tears but today J.C is just fed up with her family!

Ma'am? Breakfast is ready.

Thank you! J.C responds to the maidservant. She takes her plate and goes upstairs to her room. There, finishing cleaning up was Nain.

Nain, you might want to quit after tomorrow!

Nain laughs and pats the seat next to her, directing J.C to sit down.

I'll never quit. You need me too much.

That is so true. Laughs J.C. Nothing has even happened and I already want to scream! I know the stress that my mother has gone through over the years with her family, and my dad's family but that does not qualify her to act like a child in primary school! We as a family need to get things together. We spend way too much time trying to ruin other people's lives and not enough time doing what is right. On Instagram, I saw a post that talked about the concentration camps in China! They are killing people, Nian and my parents could do something about it but all they care about is their money.*

Well, I don't know about that. Here is the thing, J.C, they care about you and they just want the best for you. Your mother does the majority of the things that she does to protect her and you from the media, the devious people in the family, and from being destroyed from all the money surrounding you.

Really, then why doesn't she show it. J.C turns to face Nain.

Sitting at the table she told me that I need to start using the skin-lightening creams that she gave me because my skin is becoming too dark.

That is because she knows that the family will talk if you have dark skin, lah.

*That's sick, that my own family will hate me because I'm not the color of Ah Ma's cream curtains.***

*Very real and an extremely serious situation that needs to be looked into!

** Also a very real situation. Colorism is worldwide and having fairer skin is viewed as being better. Some women I know even go as far as avoiding the sun at all costs. They won't even step in the sun to avoid their skin complexion getting darker. This is especially a big problem in India.

Your grandmother is not the person you think she is, lah. Says Nain in concern.

Her and your father's mother have been feuding for years. Your mother has become the woman that she is for protection. To protect her from the attacks in the family and from attacks from the world. She knows that your grandmother doesn't like her because she does not come from old money. Your grandmother has always thought that she was never good enough to marry your father. The last thing that she wants is for you to have to go through the same pain that she has. Don't look at your mother, or anyone for that matter, in evil spirits. Not everyone is who you think they are. Everybody has a battle that they are fighting.

Looking at Nian, J.C, really took in the wise words that Nian told her. In moments like these she loved talking to Nian. Nain always encouraged her to see the best in other people and herself.

Thank you, Nian. Says J.C giving Nian a hug.

For the next hour, J.C stayed in the room with Nian watching her clean, eating breakfast, and thinking about the things that she said. After she finished eating she went downstairs to thank the workers and to apologize for the harsh words she was sure they overheard her mother say earlier.

Right when she was about to head up the grand staircase to talk to her parents, the doorbell rang.

Suddenly, it felt as though the entire house got nervous. As if all the air was sucked out of the mansion.

Everyone knew that the craziness was about to begin.

