

I BOUGHT MY CANCELLED CLASSMATE

Written by

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Logline: Once mocked as the maid's daughter, Maya Hall is now the secret billionaire behind a \$120 billion tech empire. When she buys the collapsing company of Theo Reyes—the golden boy who once saved her life, then helped destroy it—his family mistakes her for the help all over again. Now, with cancelled Theo begging her to become his handler, Maya must decide what to do with the man she owns: save him—or ruin him.

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INT. TREATY GALA — GRAND BALLROOM — NIGHT

A phone livestreams THEO REYES, 27, beautiful, reckless and born knowing where the camera is. He raises a saber over a giant champagne magnum.

Behind him: REYES LIVE × SOLENNE MEDIA — SIGNING LIVE.

THEO
(on livestream)
To the first merger in history
negotiated entirely through thirst
traps.

The crowd LAUGHS. Even the PRINCESS OF SOLENNE, 30's, Grace Kelly beauty, almost smiles.

Theo swings. The cork rockets. Champagne erupts.

A BLACK-GLOVED HAND flashes between bodies — and SHOVES him.

Theo pitches forward. He grabs the Princess's gown to stop himself. The dress tears away in his fist as they crash through the champagne tower.

Glass. Screams. The Princess's tiara skids across the marble.

A hundred phones rise before anyone helps.

THEO (CONT'D)
I was pushed—

Too late. The livestream loops the worst half-second: Theo ripping the gown. Theo on top of the Princess. Theo looking guilty.

#CANCELTHEO. SOLENNE KILLS THE MERGER. REYES STOCK -71%.

INT. ASTER COMMAND CENTER — NIGHT

The scandal detonates across a wall of screens.

MAYA HALL, 27, sits alone at the center of it. All business. All alone.

She scrubs backward one frame at a time.

ON SCREEN: Theo turns. A shoulder enters frame. Then — a jump.

MAYA
Four frames are missing.

EVELYN CHO, 30s, Aster's general counsel, enters with a tablet.

EVELYN
Reyes Live misses payroll Friday.
Victor wants two hundred million. A
vulture fund offered forty.

MAYA
Offer eighty. Cash.

EVELYN
Twice the only bid? For the family
that cost you your scholarship?

Maya freezes on Theo's face just after the shove – not drunk.
Terrified.

MAYA
I'm not buying the family.

She opens an acquisition bid.

MAYA (CONT'D)
I'm buying the truth.

She signs: M.H., FOUNDER – ASTER HOLDINGS.

Every screen flashes gold.

**ASTER ACQUISITION ACCEPTED – \$80,000,000 VALUE VOTING
CONTROL: 58%.**

**NEWS ANCHOR (O.S.)
Aster Corp, a privately held
company has acquired the Reyes
empire—**

**Maya lifts her coat. Beside it is a tiny RED ROBOT HEAD,
cracked with age, one eye missing.**

**MAYA (V.O.)
Seventeen years ago, Theo Reyes
saved my life.**

She pockets the one-eyed robot head.

EPISODE 2 – EXT. REYES ESTATE – DAY – FLASHBACK

YOUNG THEO, 10, rich, golden and surrounded by friends, dumps
two broken battle robots on a patio table.

Nearby, LILA HALL scrubs tile in her housekeeper's uniform.

YOUNG MAYA, 10, examines the robots.

YOUNG THEO
They're trash.

YOUNG MAYA
They're wired wrong.

Theo laughs.

YOUNG THEO
Then fix one. We'll fight.

Maya swaps two wires. Her robot ROARS to life.

The robots collide. Theo's spins helplessly. Maya's drives it straight off the table.

The kids erupt.

FRIEND
The maid's kid smoked you!

Theo flushes. He snatches a Super Soaker.

YOUNG THEO
Rematch.

He blasts Maya. She slips—

SPLASH!

Maya falls into the pool.

Theo's smile vanishes. He dives in and hauls her to the steps.

Victor storms outside and jerks Theo away from her.

VICTOR
Theo!

Theo hands the robot to Maya. Victor jerks him back.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
You do not play with the help's daughter.

Victor looks at the robot in Theo's hand.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
And keep her away from my son's things.

Victor crushes the robot beneath his shoe. Its two red eyes scatter.

Maya picks up the crushed head, one eye dangling. The other one scattered.

MAYA (V.O.)
That was the last time I waited for
Theo Reyes to save me.

Seven years later, they made me responsible for saving him.

EPISODE 3 — INT. WESTLAKE ACADEMY — PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE —
SEVEN YEARS LATER

TEEN THEO, 17, sprawls in a chair, used being in the principal's office. TEEN MAYA, 17, sits upright beside him with a laptop full of code.

Behind a desk, PRINCIPAL BROWN (40s), weary.

PRINCIPAL BROWN
Mr. Reyes has been expelled from
two schools. Westlake is his last
chance.

THEO
Third chance. Last sounds punitive.

PRINCIPAL BROWN
Maya is our top student. She will
keep you on schedule and out of
trouble through graduation.

MAYA
I tutor calculus. I don't perform
miracles.

PRINCIPAL BROWN
Theo stays on schedule, you keep
your scholarship.

MAYA
And if he doesn't?

PRINCIPAL BROWN
Your scholarship depends on it.

Maya swallows the objection. Theo studies her — almost recognizes her.

THEO
Have we met?

MAYA
You'd remember if you looked at
people when a camera wasn't on.

Theo grins and raises his phone.

THEO
Now I'll remember.

INT. WESTLAKE ACADEMY — HALLWAY — MOMENTS LATER

Theo lifts his phone and goes LIVE.

THEO (TO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Westlake gave me a babysitter. Say
hi, Mary Poppins.

MAYA
Turn that off.

She reaches for the phone. Theo dodges, laughing.

THEO
Catch me first.

He bolts into the hall.

Maya's phone begins to vibrate. Then vibrate again. Then continuously.

She looks down.

#THEOSBABYSITTER — 48,000 POSTS

Someone has frozen her reaching for the phone into a humiliating meme.

BLAIR WHITMORE, 17, polished, rich and already dangerous, with Theo.

BLAIR
Want me to handle your babysitter.

THEO
Just get her off my back.

Maya catches up. Theo lowers his phone. For the first time, he really looks at Maya.

THEO (CONT'D)
Wait. The pool—

Maya turns her laptop toward him.

Onscreen: LIVESTREAM ADMIN OVERRIDE.

She hits ENTER. His feed dies. So do all the hallway screens.

MAYA

**Rule one: I decide when the
camera's off.**

**She walks away. Theo stares after her, delighted despite
himself.**

THEO

Yeah. We've definitely met.

EPISODE 4 — INT. WESTLAKE ACADEMY — CAFETERIA — DAY

Maya works alone. Equations, code and scholarship forms cover
the table.

Blair arrives with two girls.

BLAIR

Being Theo's babysitter doesn't
make you his type.

MAYA

Good. He's not mine.

BLAIR

Then you won't mind cleaning up
after him.

Blair dumps her lunch across Maya's laptop.

Milk runs into the keyboard. Phones rise. Students laugh.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Maids clean. Get to it.

Phones rise. Students laugh.

Theo pushes through the crowd, phone already recording. He
sees Maya's face.

Slowly, he lowers the phone.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

(to Theo)

You said make her quit.

Maya looks at Theo.

THEO
I didn't say ruin her stuff.

INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM – LATER

Maya dries her laptop beneath a fan. Theo places a new one beside her.

MAYA
I don't want your money.

He opens a charity livestream deck.

THEO
My father says one more scandal and I'm finished. Help me run this tomorrow. Every dollar goes to Westlake scholarships.

MAYA
So you can film yourself pretending to care?

THEO
Help me build Friday's stream. The laptop's yours.

That stops her.

MAYA
You helped destroy the first one.

THEO
You keep the donations secure. I stay out of trouble. You get a brand new laptop. Everybody wins.

Outside the door, Blair hears everything. She spots the auditorium access card. Takes it.

Inside, Theo offers Maya his hand.

THEO (CONT'D)
One chance.

Maya takes it.

MAYA
One. And if you waste it, I bury you.

EPISODE 5 — INT. WESTLAKE AUDITORIUM — DAY

Theo's charity stream is live. Donations race upward.

\$12,400. \$19,800. \$31,000.

Maya monitors the system from the control board. Theo steps beside her, suddenly sincere.

THEO (TO CAMERA)
Westlake gave me a babysitter, so I
put her to work. Maya Hall built
the entire system.

Applause. Maya almost smiles.

THEO (CONT'D)
Turns out she's useful.

Laughter. Her smile disappears.

The crowd laughs with him, not at her. Donations surge past fifty thousand. Theo notices Blair walking toward the backstage area, a puzzled look.

Backstage, Blair uses the stolen card. She loosens a power cable, then yanks it free.

The projector CRASHES. Sparks spit across the rig. Students scream.

A lighting bar drops. Maya dives clear.

The bar CRASHES where she stood.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL BROWN'S OFFICE — LATER

Maya's sleeve is singed. Lila sits beside her. Victor towers over Maya, Theo and Principal Brown.

VICTOR
She used my son's audience to
promote herself, damaged school
property and endangered students.

MAYA
Blair was backstage. Theo saw her.

VICTOR
Theo?

Theo looks a Blair. Then at Maya.

THEO
Maya was at the controls.

MAYA
I can't control the rigging
equipment!

THEO
That's just what I saw.

Victor grips the back of his neck.

VICTOR
(low)
Do not throw away your future for
the help's daughter.

Maya waits. Theo drops his eyes.

PRINCIPAL BROWN
The Reyes Foundation has withdrawn
its scholarship award, effective
immediately.

LILA
She did nothing wrong.

VICTOR
Then she should have no trouble
succeeding without us.

Maya closes her laptop. Her face goes still.

MAYA
I'm keeping the laptop and the code
I wrote.

VICTOR
Keep your little project.

INT. ASTER COMMAND CENTER – PRESENT

The same code scrolls across Maya's wall – now the spine of a
global identity platform.

On the wall: ASTER VALUATION – \$120.4 BILLION.

MAYA (V.O.)
**I kept the code. I kept the
receipts. And I never needed their
permission again.**

She takes the invitation to tomorrow's Reyes Live gala.

EPISODE 6 — INT. REYES LIVE RELAUNCH GALA — NIGHT

Creators, investors and press crowd a glittering ballroom.

A massive screen reads: REYES LIVE + ASTER A NEW ERA

Victor holds court beneath it.

VICTOR

Aster's acquisition has saved every
job in this company. Its founder,
M.H., will be joining us shortly.

Applause.

At the entrance, adult Maya gives her name to a hostess.

Blair, now Reyes Live's head of PR, intercepts her.

BLAIR

Staff entrance is around back.

MAYA

I'm Maya Hall. I'm not staff.

BLAIR

Yes, I know who you are.

Blair takes in Maya's simple black dress.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Right. You're catering.

She shoves a champagne tray into Maya's hands.

Maya looks at the tray. Then at Blair.

Maya's phone lights beneath the tray: EVELYN — WANT ME TO
CORRECT HER? Maya types one word: NO.

She takes the tray.

MAYA

Lead the way.

BLAIR

Try not to spill. I remember what
happens when you touch expensive
equipment.

Maya clocks the cameras, the exits, the board members – and a security feed with the same four-frame jump.

Across the room, Theo turns from a bank of cameras.

He sees Maya carrying drinks. His practiced smile vanishes.

THEO

Maya?

EPISODE 7 – INT. REYES LIVE RELAUNCH GALA – CONTINUOUS

Theo crosses the ballroom without seeing anyone else.

THEO

You vanished.

MAYA

You watched it happen.

THEO

I looked for you.

MAYA

Your family owned three search engines.

That lands.

THEO

I was seventeen.

MAYA

So was I.

Blair slips between them and raises her phone. She is already streaming.

BLAIR

(to phone)

Theo's little babysitter. Back for another fifteen minutes.

Comments race. Victor arrives and takes a champagne flute from Maya's tray.

VICTOR

Maya Hall. I suppose service runs in the family.

He sets his empty glass on her tray.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
How is your mother?

MAYA
Retired.

VICTOR
On what I paid her?

MAYA
On what I paid her.

Victor's smile tightens.

VICTOR
Remove her before M.H. arrives.

Security grabs Maya's arm. Theo tears the guard's hand away.

THEO
Don't touch her.

VICTOR
Do not ruin your future for the
help.

THEO
Then cancel me.

Maya's phone lights beneath the tray:

EVELYN – EXECUTE MORALS CLAUSE?

Maya types: HOLD.

EPISODE 8 – INT. REYES LIVE RELAUNCH GALA – CONTINUOUS

The doors open.

Evelyn Cho enters with two attorneys.

Victor rushes to greet her.

VICTOR
M.H. Welcome to Reyes Live.

EVELYN
I'm Evelyn Cho. General counsel.

Victor falters.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

M.H. doesn't want to take any of the spotlight from you. It's your show. The live feed is getting all of it.

Maya and Evelyn exchange the smallest glance. Blair notices.

Victor gestures grandly toward the stage.

VICTOR

Then let's begin the live demonstration.

Blair taps the launch control.

The giant screen flashes:

ASTER IDENTITY ENGINE — SYSTEM LOCKED

OWNER AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED

Victor turn to the technician.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Fix it!

TECHNICIAN

Only Aster's founder has root access.

Blair looks at Maya.

BLAIR

She was standing by the control panel. She sabotaged it. Just like in high school.

Security closes in again.

Maya sets down the champagne tray.

She walks to the biometric reader.

VICTOR

Get away from that.

Maya raises her thumb to the reader.

EVELYN

Ms. Hall, that is not appropriate.

Maya looks at Victor. Blair. Theo.

Her thumb stops inches from the glass.

Then she lowers her hand.

EPISODE 9 – INT. REYES LIVE RELAUNCH GALA – CONTINUOUS

The screen stays locked. The room laughs at Maya.

Blair's clip of Theo shielding "the maid's daughter" is already viral.

#THEOAGAIN. #CANCELLEDCLASSMATE.

Victor seizes the microphone to save the company by sacrificing his son.

VICTOR
(to the room)
Reyes Live disavows Theo's conduct.
His contract is suspended pending
Aster's review.

Cameras swing to Theo.

THEO
You never complained about me being
front of the cameras when it built
the company.

VICTOR
You don't know how to

Maya remotely triggers the demo to start.

Evelyn's tablet chimes.

EVELYN
M.H. has reviewed the morals
clause.

Victor smiles, certain.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Aster may terminate Theo tonight –
or place him under a ninety-day
conduct order supervised by a
handler of the owner's choosing.

VICTOR
Terminate him.

Maya stands ten feet away, still holding the tray Blair gave her.

On the tray: a cocktail napkin and a pen.

Maya writes two words and hands the napkin to a passing server.

The server carries it to Evelyn.

One the screen: ONE CHANCE.

Evelyn reads it. Looks to Maya. Then addresses the room.

EVELYN

M.H. chooses probation.

Victor's smile dies.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Ninety days. One violation and the contract is gone. Refuse tonight and the termination is immediate.

THEO

Who is the handler?

EVELYN

You may propose one. M.H. makes the final decision.

Theo eyes move across the ballroom — and land on Maya.

THEO

Maya Hall.

EPISODE 10 — INT. REYES LIVE RELAUNCH GALA SERVICE HALL —
LATER

The party roars behind a closed door.

Theo places the cracked RED ROBOT EYE in Maya's palm.

She pulls the one-eyed robot head from her bag.

THEO

I kept it because it was the last time I chose you.

MAYA

You chose me tonight.

THEO

Then choose me now.

(beat)

Be my handler.

MAYA
Ninety days. No livestreams. No
disappearing. No lies—

BLAIR (O.S.)
Then he's already violated
probation.

Blair approaches.

BLAIR (CONT'D)
Before you babysit him again, ask
who told me to get rid of you the
first time. At Westlake.

Maya turns to Theo.

MAYA
You asked her to frame me?

THEO
I said I wanted you off my back. I
never asked her to hurt you.

BLAIR
You didn't object when it worked.

That lands.

BLAIR (CONT'D)
I've handled Theo's scandals for
ten years.
(to Evelyn)
Tell M.H. I volunteer.

THEO
Maya—

Evelyn looks at Maya.

Maya closes her fist around the robot.

FADE TO BLACK.