

Chapter 266 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Yvonne was speechless.

This Rachel was too annoying!

She took a deep breath and suppressed the anger in her heart. She smiled and said, "Every father has a different personality."

Rachel nodded. "My father only knows how to scold me!"

Yvonne lowered her head when she heard this.

She had never been scolded since she was young, but actually, she also wanted to be scolded by her father.

Yvonne's eyes flickered. "Actually, you should have learned from Nora. After all, she has already become Mr. Hunt's girlfriend. Your father said that about you for your own good."

Rachel was exasperated by her words. "Why do you say that, too? What's so good about her?"

On the balcony.

After Nora pushed Ian over, she closed the sliding door on the balcony. After blocking out the noise in the hall, only the sound of cars honking could be heard from the balcony.

She looked at him and saw that he did not seem to have any intention of speaking. She coughed and said, "What are you planning to say, Mr. Smith?"

Ian was silent for a long time before he suddenly asked, "Did your mother say anything before she passed away?"

Nora: "..."

Ian had called her over so openly just to ask this question?

He wanted to know if her mother had left any words for him before she died.

What did he want her mother to say? That she regretted it? That she loved him? Or something else?

Sensing that she did not speak for a long time, Ian laughed dryly and said, "What was I thinking? You were only half a year old when she passed away. How could you know?"

Nora: "..."

He has already answered his own question. Why does he still want her to answer?

She did not say anything else and waited for him to ask her to bring him back.

However, after a moment of hesitation, Ian said, "You can go back first."

Nora: "??"

She nodded and opened the sliding door, returning to the hall.

Looking at her back, Ian was silent for a long time.

He felt like he was looking at Yvette from more than twenty years ago.

Not only did the mother and daughter look alike, but their temperaments were also similar. They were the kind of people who did whatever they wanted and did not care about how others looked at them.

Back then, Yvette had offended many people because of this personality.

She had become the public enemy of many women.

However, she never cared about what others said about her behind her back. The words she often said were: "Will I lose a pound of flesh if they say a few words about me? Since I won't, why should I care?"

"They're talking about me behind my back because they're jealous of me."

"It's all my fault for being so outstanding that I became the topic of conversation. Sigh, I, with my beauty and intelligence coexisting together am simply too perfect. I'm afraid it's only because I'm too impressive!"

"..."

She was narcissistic and mockingly snobbish.

However, the mother and daughter were different.

Yvette was a talkative woman, and although she looked very graceful, that image was broken once she spoke. On the other hand, Nora was very quiet. It was as if she could not even bring herself to talk.

Ian was immersed in his own thoughts and could not extricate himself.

When Nora walked out of the balcony, Yvonne caught her immediately.

Seeing her calm expression, Ian did not seem to have said anything overboard.

That made sense. No matter how much money her father gave her, was it worth as much as the Hunt Corporation?

Any woman would choose Justin.

She lowered her gaze, her eyes glinting.

Nora yawned. Just as she was about to look for Cherry, she turned around and accidentally bumped into someone. She looked over and saw a familiar face. It was Rachel.

Nora was stunned. She subconsciously said, "I'm sorry."

When she said this, her tone was cold and arrogant.

With that, she lowered her head slightly and planned to walk around Rachel. However, after taking two steps, she was stopped by the other party. "You bumped into me. Is it over just by apologizing?"

Nora: "?"

She was a little confused for a moment as her lips curled into a mocking smile. "Should I kneel and beg for mercy?"

It was just a bump. It did not hurt her... Nora really did not know how to apologize.

Rachel was furious. "What kind of attitude is that?"

Nora: "..."

What was wrong with her attitude?

She was about to say something when Yvonne grabbed Rachel and smiled apologetically at Nora. "Miss Smith, it's nothing."

After saying that, she whispered to Rachel, "Rachel, take it easy. She's Mr. Hunt's girlfriend. Under such circumstances, don't be so rude to her!"

Rachel instantly exploded.

When she was at home, her father would often scold her, saying that she was wrong in this and was not good at that. He would say she could not compare to Nora and even asked her to contact Nora more often when she was free.

Yeah right!

Nora was a country bumpkin from the countryside. Why should she curry favors with her?

That was why she looked for Yvonne. In the entire New York, other than Miss Hunt, who had studied abroad, Yvonne was probably the most respected.

But why was even Yvonne afraid of Nora now?

Rachel panicked and pushed Yvonne away. "What are you afraid of? She's just an illegitimate daughter. How can she compare to you?"

Yvonne panicked. "Don't talk nonsense..."

At this moment, Rachel spoke without thinking. Her voice instantly rose. "How am I talking nonsense? Am I wrong? Didn't you see it during the last live broadcast? Her father isn't even her biological father! Her mother was pregnant before she even got married. She got her father to be a spare tire and take over!"

At this moment, Ian turned his head when he heard this.

Rachel's voice was so loud that everyone in the banquet hall looked over.

Justin had been paying attention to Nora's situation, so he caught the argument immediately and hurriedly walked over.

Nora had already narrowed her almond-shaped eyes. Her cold eyes were filled with anger. "What did you say?"

Although she had never experienced motherly love, her mother had given her life, and she would not allow anyone to insult her mother.

Rachel's voice spread clearly throughout the entire venue. "Why? She has always been an unclean person. Why can't she be told off? Back then, everyone knew that she betrayed Mr. Smith and eloped with someone else! I guess the other party didn't want her anymore, right? That's why she found such a money-loving person to be her scapegoat."

"As the saying goes, if the upper beam is not straight, the lower beam will be crooked. Your mother was pregnant before marriage, and so were you. Didn't she also have a daughter with another hooligan? But you're better than your mother. At the very least, your designated driver to be the spare tire is Mr. Hunt!"

"At the end of the day, you're just an illegitimate daughter who doesn't even know who her biological father is. You're just like your daughter. Why? I'm afraid your daughter will also be a beauty when she grows up, right? When the time comes, will she also have to find someone to get pregnant before she gets married? I just don't know if there will be a good match like Mr. Hunt then!"

Nora clenched her hands into fists.

Her anger rose as she took a step forward, preparing to beat her up.

In the distance, Justin had already arrived in front of her. His expression became even uglier, and he looked like he wanted to kill someone.

However, before the two of them could make a move, Farrell had already rushed over and slapped Rachel's face. "Shut up!"

Rachel was stunned by this slap and fell to the ground.

When Miranda saw this, she went mad as well. She rushed forward and hugged Rachel. "Farrell, what are you doing?!"

Farrell was furious. He pointed at her with trembling hands. "Move aside. I'm going to break her mouth today!"

There were two reasons why he was so agitated.

First, he was really angry. He did not expect his daughter to have already reached this stage. In this kind of situation, she kept talking about Nora being an illegitimate daughter and Mr. Hunt being a spare tire. She was simply speaking dirty words and had lost all face for the Woods. Secondly, he could already see Mr. Hunt walking over with an angry expression. If he did not make a move, Mr. Hunt would probably make Rachel suffer even more!

Rachel had done something wrong. She should be educated and beaten when necessary. However, she was still his daughter. He still wanted to give her a way out.

That was why he had hit her personally.

Indeed, after he made his move, Nora and Justin both stopped in their tracks and did not come forward.

Unfortunately, the current Rachel did not understand his intentions at all. Instead, she covered her face and roared, "You hit me? You actually hit me because of her! Dad, tell me, what kind of bewitching potion did she give you to make you protect her so much? Is it because she's good-looking?"

Farrell was already stunned.

He did not expect his daughter to go so overboard with her words. How did he educate her all these years to make her say such shrewish words?!

His hands trembled. "Your... your aunt has never said such ugly words in her life!"

Rachel sensed his anger and was so frightened that she did not dare to speak.

However, Miranda was furious. "Her aunt, her aunt... Your heart is biased toward Melissa, right? In that case, why don't you live with your sister? Why do you want to live with us?! I've never seen such good siblings! Where's Melissa? Come out. I want to ask you what your relationship with your brother is. What kind of family is the Andersons?!"

Farrell: "!!!"

Melissa, who was rushing over, was speechless.

Melissa's eyes were red from anger. She pointed at her with trembling hands and screamed, "Sister-in-law!!"

How could she slander her in public!

It had to be known that no one wanted to believe the truth. Everyone was willing to believe in explosive topics.

Even if she had a clear conscience, Miranda's words would become a topic for everyone to talk about after meals!

She, Melissa, had always been noble and pure. Ever since her eldest sister-in-law had entered the family, she realized that Miranda hated her. Hence, she rarely returned to her mother's house. In the past twenty years, she had only met Farrell a little more than twenty times!

Not to mention being intimate, even the relationship between ordinary siblings was not as bad.

When she was young, her mother often said that when a girl got married, she would have no home. At that time, she did not believe it, but later on, she really did.

How did Sister-in-law come up with such a lie?!

Farrell's body swayed as he stared at Miranda and Rachel. This pair of mother and daughter usually curried favor and flattered him, but he had never seen their ugly faces before.

Just a moment ago, in order to save his daughter, he had risked offending Mr. Hunt. But now... he felt that everything that had just happened was ridiculous.

Children were indeed here to collect debts!

Farrell looked at Justin and cupped his hands in apology. "Mr. Hunt, I'm sorry to have disturbed your birthday banquet. I'll take the two of them back first and visit you another day to apologize! I'll definitely give you a satisfactory answer!"

Justin pursed his lips tightly.

Farrell was Melissa's elder brother, and Melissa was Nora's aunt. Nora had always been very respectful to this aunt.

Therefore, he could not go overboard.

He nodded lightly. "Please do as you wish, Uncle Farrell. However, Miss Wood's upbringing is indeed worrying. A kind father will often spoil his children. Uncle Farrell, you should understand this logic."

Farrell nodded. "I understand. When we get back, I'll send Rachel overseas and never let her return!"

He would never let her come back...

Rachel's pupils shrank as she screamed, "Dad, you can't do this to me. You can't..."

Unfortunately, Farrell had already grabbed her hand and called for the Wood family's bodyguards to drag her and Miranda out.

Rachel knew that it was hopeless.

She was done for.

When she was dragged past Nora, she suddenly laughed out loud. "Nora, aren't you very proud to see me like this? But don't forget! Even if I go overseas, I'm still the eldest daughter of the Woods. On the other hand, you don't even know who your biological father is. You're just an illegitimate child! With your status, you're not worthy of the Hunts at all! Without a strong family to support you, you'll be hated by the Hunts sooner or later and will be divorced!"

At this moment, the entire hall was silent as her voice resounded in everyone's ears.

Everyone looked at Nora.

Yes, she was from a small family. Could she really last long with Mr. Hunt?

At this moment, Ian, who had been sitting at the side, said, "Who said she doesn't have a strong family?"

Ian's voice was very low, but his dispassionate words reached everyone's ears clearly.

The entire hall suddenly quietened again.

Everyone looked at Ian incredulously, only to see him pushing his wheelchair forward slowly until he reached the few of them.

Upstairs.

An anxious Mrs. Hunt was going down the stairs. As she did, she complained to Mrs. Lewis, "I knew Justin's girlfriend would be terrible. People from poor, humble families just aren't presentable enough. Look at that outrageous scene they made!

"Why can't she even get along with her cousin? It's to the extent that she would even embarrass her like that in public!

"Look at how cultivated and refined Ms. Smith is instead. None of the girls in the hall can say she's not good enough. Whether it's because they fear the Smiths or because of Ms. Smith's personal charm, this is undeniably what she's capable of! If only Justin were getting engaged with a young lady of the Smiths instead! I won't even ask for her to be related by blood anymore. Yvonne Smith would do just fine!"

Mrs. Hunt went on and on. "Look at how I have to mediate for her despite how much I dislike her. What else can I do when Justin has already acknowledged her status?! Her embarrassing herself is equivalent to embarrassing Justin, which is equivalent to embarrassing the Hunts!"

Mrs. Lewis held Mrs. Hunt's arm and said, "Slow down a little. I told you to take the elevator, but you simply refused to. Can you go down the stairs with your knees like that?"

Mrs. Hunt replied huffily, "Considering the situation in the hall, it'll take even longer for me to reach if I take the elevator!"

The out-of-breath woman reached the lower floor just in time to hear Rachel saying, "Without a strong family to support you, you'll be hated by the Hunts sooner or later and will be divorced!"

She panicked at once. She was about to speak when she heard Ian's comment.

Mrs. Hunt was stunned.

Justin looked at Nora—although her brows were raised slightly, and she was a little surprised, she didn't look greatly astonished. He knew right away that she must already have guessed something a long time ago.

Nora had already given it a lot of thought.

After realizing that Henry Smith was not her real father, she had started to wonder why her mother had picked him out of all the ordinary men out there.

After she came to New York, she had come to understand the way her mother did things. She was likely someone not to be trifled with, in which case, she would definitely know what kind of person Henry was.

Therefore, her mother must have had her reasons for picking him.

She had thought about it over and over and even gone through all the events from back then. The Henry of that time couldn't get any more ordinary than what he had been.

If there was anything unusual about him, it was the fact that his last name was Smith.

After all, there weren't that many people with the last name Smith.

His last name was Smith...

In that case, did that mean that her father was Ian?

She had already suspected that a long time ago, which was why she had paid special attention to Ian's condition. That was also why she had followed him when he asked her to go to the balcony with him just now. She had even planned to find an opportunity to take a DNA sample from him and get Lily to do a test.

Therefore, she wasn't very surprised when Ian said what he did.

Rachel, however, was dumbfounded. "W-what do you mean?"

Yvonne also looked at Ian in shock and astonishment. When she saw him staring at Nora, she suddenly panicked...

Ian slowly lowered his head and said dispassionately, "She is a child of the Smiths."

"..."

The whole hall was silent.

Everyone stared at Ian in disbelief. Yvonne was also astonished and bewildered. She looked at Nora, and then at Ian...

One must admit that Nora took after Yvette a great deal, but the parts that didn't did indeed resemble Ian!

Her legs went limp and she staggered.

Even Rachel was utterly stunned. "What? T-that's impossible!"

She was just a hillbilly! It was impossible for her to suddenly become Cinderella!

Ian must be lying!

Warren was also dumbfounded.

He had been arguing with his wife just a moment ago.

His wife had been unhappy at him for making things difficult for Nora and had given him a warning in private, so he had been very angry. He said, "I don't care whether she did anything wrong or not. Yvonne is my sister. Am I supposed to abandon my sister and take her side instead? No way!"

Maureen was furious when she heard that. "Can you be reasonable? Besides, Yvonne is not related to you by blood anyway. How is she even your sister?!"

Warren reprimanded her. "How can you say that? She is Uncle Ian's adopted daughter, and she grew up in the Smiths. That makes her my sister! I look only at family ties, not reason! Hmph, Nora can only blame herself for not being a daughter of the Smiths!"

Maureen was so mad that she was about to go berserk.

But unexpectedly, things had suddenly taken a huge turn!

Warren was also dumbfounded. When Rachel said what she did, he subconsciously also asked, "Is Uncle Ian's illness making him muddleheaded?"

Joel's gentle but stern voice reached him. "Uncle Ian would never take matters about the Smiths' bloodline lightly. Nora does indeed have blood relations with the Smiths! She's our cousin!"

Warren: "!!"

Everyone: "!!!"

This piece of news was simply too sensational!!

As it turned out, Yvette Anderson's daughter was actually Ian Smith's daughter?

Then why did she run away when she became pregnant?

Hadn't they been in love?

Didn't they say that Yvette had betrayed Ian?

However!

The hillbilly's sudden transformation into a young lady of the Smiths sure was dramatic! No wonder Yvonne had stopped competing with her.

And no wonder Nora could catch Justin's eye!

Just as everyone was speculating, Nora suddenly asked, "Why do you say that? Do you have any evidence?"

Everyone: "??"

Why did it look like Nora wasn't very happy about it?

Had they been in her shoes, they would have just acknowledged the Smiths as family first and left the talk for later! Who cared about evidence or whatnot?!

They were the Smiths!

Yet, Nora had asked about it. Joel answered seriously, "We did a DNA test."

It was just like what she had thought.

Nora thought back to the other time at the medical university when someone had tugged a few strands of hair off her head. Was he sent by the Smiths?

No... The Smiths would never send someone to kill her.

In the midst of her thoughts, Justin smiled and said, "Uncle Ian, Joel, let's go upstairs, find a quiet place, and have a good talk. I think Nora also wants to know what exactly is going on."

It wasn't appropriate to talk about the details in public.

Joel looked at Ian. When he saw him nodding, he replied, "Okay."

Justin led the way. Nora followed beside him. Joel pushed Ian's wheelchair and followed behind them. The four of them went upstairs and entered a meeting room.

As soon as they entered, Joel took the initiative to take out the results of the DNA test they did the other time. He handed it to Nora and said, "This is the evidence."

Nora took it from him casually. She glanced at Ian but didn't see any traces of joy on him. When she looked down at the report in her hand, her eyes widened in astonishment...

This... How could this be?!

Nora hadn't been surprised even when Ian said that she was a Smith, but she found herself greatly surprised in this instant.

Justin also broke into a frown when he noticed her expression. He took a step forward and looked at the DNA test result with her.

When he looked over, he also found himself stunned.

The two exchanged a look. Obviously, they hadn't expected such a result.

The DNA test was done for Nora and Ian to verify whether they were father and daughter. Neither of them was surprised to see that.

However, the results stated that the two shared a 99.8% DNA similarity. Therefore, they were scientifically recognized as uncle and niece.

DNA similarity between a father and daughter was as high as 99.99%. Nora and Ian's parent-child DNA test results were very close, yet fell outside the range. Therefore, they were classified as uncle and niece instead.

In other words, Nora's father wasn't Ian but one of his brothers instead?

Nora's eyes widened, and she looked at Ian in disbelief. He had a very awful look on his face at the moment, and he gave off an air of despondence.

When Yvette left back then, she had told him that she didn't love him anymore. She said that she had fallen in love with someone else, and asked him to forget her.

She had left after that.

He hadn't believed her at first, but when he saw the DNA test report, he had suddenly understood something.

As it turned out, the other man had been none other than one of his brothers!

Was it also for that reason that Yvette had chosen to leave? Because she felt that she couldn't face him anymore?

If it were someone else instead, she wouldn't have run away. Neither would there be a need for her to.

Ian clenched his fists.

The feeling of being betrayed by his brother and lover at the same time made his chest rise and fall rapidly. Suddenly, his eyes closed and he lost consciousness.

"Uncle Ian!"

A shocked Joel hastily went toward him. He was about to call for help when a figure faster than he was stopped in front of him.

Nora bent over and checked Ian's condition. "He fainted because he was too agitated from pent-up anger and sadness. He's very weak now, so it's not advisable to transport him elsewhere!"

Joel frowned. "What do we do?"

Nora looked straight at Justin and said, "Get him medicine. Give him the Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill."

She had just given Mrs. Hunt a box of it. There were about 64 pills in there.

Justin immediately understood. He went out at once.

He went to Mrs. Hunt's study. As soon as he entered, Mrs. Hunt asked, "What's the matter?"

Justin didn't go into details. Instead, he simply replied, "Mr. Smith fainted because he was too agitated. Grandma, give me a Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill."

Mrs. Hunt: "!!"

Mrs. Lewis couldn't bear to part with the pill, either. She wanted to say something, but Mrs. Hunt stopped her and said, "Give it to him."

Mrs. Lewis glanced at Mrs. Hunt before she finally walked over, took out the pill that Yvonne had given them, and handed it to Justin.

Justin took Yvonne's pillbox, walked out, and quickly went to the meeting room next door.

As soon as he exited the room, he saw Yvonne standing outside. She was shocked when she saw the pillbox in his hand. "What happened to Dad? Did he faint again?"

Justin nodded but said nothing.

Yvonne followed Justin into the meeting room next door.

After they entered, Justin opened the exquisite box in his hand, took out the pill, and handed it to Nora.

Nora looked at Ian and said, "Put the pill into half a glass of water and dissolve it."

Yvonne, however, panicked. She said, "Ms. Smith! That pill is very rare. It's better to consume it as is. If you dissolve it in water, its effect will be halved!"

Nora: "?"

How was the patient supposed to consume it when he had already lost consciousness?

Besides, even if its effect was halved, it would still be effective on Ian. What was that woman interfering for?

Yvonne looked at Joel. "That pill doesn't come by easy, Joel. Don't let its effects go to waste!"

Joel looked at her abruptly.

His sharp eyes made Yvonne stammer as she said, "It's not like I can't bear to part with the pill. Saving Dad is what matters the most. I just wanted the pill's effects to be used to the fullest."

Joel took a deep breath and asked, "Did Dr. Zabe ever say how the pill should be consumed?"

Yvonne hastily nodded. "He did. It just needs to be put into the mouth."

Nora immediately said, "His condition isn't that serious. Drinking it after diluting it would do."

To be honest, she could also save Ian without the Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill. After all, Ian's illness wasn't a brain disease. He had only fainted from anger just now.

However, it was best if they could use it.

Yvonne's eyes flickered when she heard what she said. She understood now—her father's condition was not that serious, yet she had used the pill that she gave Mrs. Hunt. She was obviously doing it on purpose!

Joel frowned.

While hesitating over who to listen to, someone suddenly took away the pill. When he looked up again, he saw that Justin had already dissolved the pill in the half-full glass of water he had just poured.

The pill dissolved immediately upon contact with water and soon disappeared.

Justin handed the glass to Nora.

Nora held Ian's face, opened his mouth, and poured the medicine into his mouth roughly.

The two of them matched each other's actions seamlessly as if they had always been working together like that. By the time Joel and Yvonne reacted, Ian had already finished the medicine.

Joel: "!"

Yvonne balled up her fists. "Mr. Hunt, Ms. Smith! You... That's such a waste of the pill's effects!"

In Mrs. Hunt's study.

After Justin left, Mrs. Hunt held her chest and sighed deeply.

Although she knew Justin was correct in doing what he did just now, he had taken the pill to save his father-in-law but forgotten that she also needed the life-saving medicine the most. Mrs. Hunt ultimately still felt rather uncomfortable about that.

Next to her, Mrs. Lewis nagged, "Why did you give it to him, Ma'am? The pill was a gift for you! You really need that pill!"

Mrs. Hunt sighed. "Yvonne was the one who gave it to me in the first place anyway. I'll just think of it as returning it to them!"

Mrs. Lewis sneered, "You can't put it that way. Since they've already given you the pill, it belongs to you now. They can't just bask in the limelight out there and then use it on their own in the end, right? I asked about it just now, though. This was Nora's suggestion. She must be worried that you would favor Yvonne over her, so she deliberately did it."

Mrs. Hunt heaved a huge sigh. “She grew up in the countryside, after all, so she’s too narrow-minded. To think she’s used all her smarts on things like that! Discard the medicine she gave me!”

Mrs. Lewis picked up the box of pills that Nora had given Mrs. Hunt. She said, “Before I throw it away, let me take a look at what so many Carefree Pills put together look like...”

She opened the box after saying that, but the moment she did, she suddenly found herself stunned.

Mrs. Hunt scoffed at her reaction. “Look at how ignorant you look. Even if there are 50 Carefree Pills in there, they are only worth \$150,000. Am I paying you so little that you react that way at a mere \$150,000?”

As soon as she said that, a dazed Mrs.. Lewis lifted her head and replied, “M-Ma’am, these... these are not Carefree Pills. They are... they are...”

Mrs. Lewis had worked as a servant for Mrs. Hunt’s family back then, so she was on very good terms with Mrs. Hunt. When Mrs. Hunt got married, she had also followed her to the Hunts. After so many years of working as a housekeeper, she had already reached an annual income of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Therefore, \$150,000 wasn’t really an amount that would shock her this badly.

She looked at the pills in the metal box and swallowed again. “Ma’am, these don’t look like Carefree Pills to me. Why do they look so much like Calming Pills?”

Mrs. Hunt was taken aback when she heard that they were Calming Pills. After falling silent for a moment, she said, “They’ve done the right thing by giving me Calming Pills since they are suitable for my condition. It’s not like the Andersons can’t afford to give me Carefree Pills, yet they still gave me Calming Pills instead. I suppose they are still rather considerate. What’s there to kick up a fuss over Calming Pills, though? They are cheap. Besides, no matter how amazing their Calming Pills are, they can’t be worth as much as Carefree Pills, right?”

A dumbfounded Mrs. Lewis looked at her. “They are... Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pills.”

Thud.

The water glass in Mrs. Hunt's hand fell on the table. She looked at Mrs. Lewis in astonishment. "What?"

Mrs. Lewis looked at the box in her hand. "These are Zabe Corporation's Calming Pills. The smell and all that are very similar, and their name is also written on the pills. Also! There are 64 of them here!!"

Everyone had already sung so many praises of Yvonne just because she gave one, but Nora had actually given a full 64 of them?!

Mrs. Hunt got up at once. The elderly woman walked up to Mrs. Lewis in just a few steps. She grabbed the box in her hand and said, "Let me have a look!"

Mrs. Hunt was a very well-informed woman. She examined the pills closely. Then, she broke off a small piece from one of them and put it in her mouth to taste it. At last, she confirmed it. "These are indeed Zabe Corporation's Calming Pills."

She and Mrs. Lewis looked at each other after she spoke, and both of them were dazed for a while.

After waiting for a whole ten seconds, Mrs. Hunt finally asked, "How did the Andersons get their hands on such expensive pills?"

Mrs. Lewis was utterly stunned. "The Andersons have been dealing in traditional medicine for many generations. When you think about it carefully, it's actually not that surprising that they would have these pills. After all, they are also a family with a solid foundation. But if that's the case, then why didn't Ms. Smith just say so in front of everyone just now? Because of that, they ended up secretly being mocked for nothing."

Mrs. Hunt frowned at her words. "Either she really doesn't care about things like reputation and so on—it has long been said that Melissa Anderson is indifferent to fame and fortune, and is very humble—or... these pills may not be the Andersons', so they have to be low-key about it."

Mrs. Lewis understood at once. "They aren't the Andersons'? That means Mr. Hunt gave them to her so that she can give them to you without embarrassing herself?"

Mrs. Hunt had already thought of that when Mrs. Lewis was speaking. She realized something and said, "No wonder Justin didn't show any sign of hesitation or apology when he came to me for the pill just now. He already knows!"

She felt a lot better now and felt that her grandson was still her grandson, after all. He hadn't changed just because he had a girlfriend now.

She looked at Mrs. Lewis with some relief. Then, she sighed and said, "Justin sure is going through such pains for her! Say, am I being too harsh on her?"

Mrs. Lewis comforted her. "It's mainly because you don't understand her character."

A lot of people resorted to unscrupulous means in order to marry into a wealthy family. They feigned purity, acted innocent, and put up all kinds of pretenses. Mrs. Hunt had also been through it all and had seen many like that.

When a stray girl from the countryside suddenly appeared with an illegitimate daughter she had with someone else, how would Mrs. Hunt possibly not have anything against her?

Mrs. Lewis said, "What you care about the most is actually still Mr. Hunt. It's because you're indignant on his behalf. After all, he's so outstanding. There are so many outstanding women from good families who want to marry him, so why did he simply have to choose a woman like that..."

Mrs. Hunt sighed. "Let's observe her for a while more! If her character is passable, for Justin's sake, I'll still show her some courtesy when we're in front of outsiders, even though I don't like her! But if she doesn't have a good character, or if she mistreats Pete, I definitely won't let her marry into the family! Pete is the Hunts' future!"

Mrs. Lewis nodded. "You're right."

Ian gradually regained consciousness after taking the Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill.

In order to prevent him from having another emotional breakdown, Joel left in advance and took Ian back to the hospital. After all, the doctors and nurses in the hospital would be able to keep his bodily functions alive for sure.

By the time Justin and Nora went back downstairs, the way everyone looked at Nora had already changed.

All of them were talking about the woman who became Cinderella. She was so lucky! To think she actually turned out to be Ian's daughter!

No one thought otherwise.

After all, Yvette had been in a relationship with Ian back then. On top of that, he even stayed single for life because of her, so everyone naturally brought Ian into the picture.

They completely didn't notice that Ian had said just now that she was a daughter of the Smiths.

Nora didn't know any of this, though. She was still frowning and thinking about what had happened back then.

She hadn't just been sleeping all this time she was at the Andersons'.

Occasionally, she would look through what her mother had left behind.

Some of the books even contained notes and interpretations that her mother had made.

Through those writings, she had gained a general understanding of Yvette's character.

The woman was aggressive and stubborn by nature. In the patriarchal environment back then, it was definitely no easy feat to rise to the challenge and become the head of the Andersons.

How would a woman like that possibly get together with Ian's brother while she was in a relationship with him?

If she had really fallen in love with Ian's brother... Given her personality, she would have simply gotten together with that man instead, and been as decisive as how she had rejected Justin's father. Why would she run away from home after she became pregnant and flee New York?

She couldn't help feeling that her mother didn't seem like someone who would do that.

When the party came to an end, Nora got Melissa to take Cherry home while she followed Justin to the hospital to visit Ian.

After all, they hadn't sorted out the issues they were talking about just now. They hadn't told her which of Ian's brothers her father was yet.

It was already late when they arrived at the hospital.

Joel sat quietly in the hallway late at night. He seemed to know that the two of them would come over, so he was waiting for them.

Ian was already asleep.

Joel said, "You can just ask me if you have any questions because I was the one who handled everything."

Nora lowered her head. "I want to know how you got my DNA samples."

Joel said unhurriedly, "Someone took a few strands of your hair when you were at the medical university the other time. The person I sent to protect you happened to be nearby, so he chased after the person and snatched the hair from him."

"... Then have you guys ever considered that the hair might have been switched?" asked Nora.

Joel was a little taken aback by her suggestion.

Nora looked at the ward and said slowly but firmly, "I want to redo the DNA test."

This particular floor was where the VIP wards were. Joel had booked the whole floor so that Ian could rest and recover better, so there was no one else in the quiet hospital corridor at the moment.

Right after Nora spoke firmly, a sinister and displeased voice reached them. "There's no way the hair could have been switched. My professionalism is not to be doubted!"

Nora looked up to see someone slowly walking toward them from the darkness in front

There was no way Nora would have noticed him while he stood there. It was as if he had blended into the darkness.

But the moment he appeared, Nora immediately sensed his presence.

The man was very skinny. He was fully dressed in black and was wearing a black baseball cap. His face was very small and thin. Perhaps because he was rarely exposed to the sun, he was very pale. He had a metal stud on his left earlobe, and there was a sort of androgynous beauty to him.

He kept his head lowered habitually and walked over to Joel while touching his baseball cap.

Joel introduced the man to Nora. "This is Quentin, your second cousin."

Since he was her cousin, then that meant that they didn't share the same father.

Nora nodded. She observed the two men's faces carefully, feeling like Quentin and Joel looked nothing alike.

Joel looked gentler. His fox-like eyes had a sly and wily look in them, and he looked like he was smiling. Even when he didn't smile, he still gave off a very gentle feeling.

Not only did Quentin look different, but the aura around him also felt colder and more sinister.

While Nora was curiously observing them, Quentin glared at her and said, "What are you staring at? I'll dig out your eyeballs if you continue to stare."

Nora: "..."

Why did she feel like that second cousin of hers felt a little like a teen with delusions of grandeur?

The corners of her lips spasmed a little. Before she could speak, Quentin said, "Don't think I'll treat you differently just because you're my cousin. I'm different from the other Smiths. They may want a younger sister, but I don't! Also, Uncle Ian is like a father to me. If you make him unhappy, I won't betray him, let alone like you!"

Nora: "..."

After speaking as though he was swearing an oath, Quentin finally got to the point and said, “Also, it’s impossible that your hair was switched. That man was constantly under my watch from the point he took your hair to the end of his escape that day!”

He stretched out two fingers and jabbed them forward. “It’s impossible for any of his actions to escape my eyes!”

Nora: “...”

She silently looked at Joel and asked with her eyes: ‘Is Quentin a loony?’

Joel: ‘... That’s the way he is.’

Nora retracted her gaze and said, “Alright. Assuming the hair is correct and hasn’t been switched, why not do another paternity test for me and my so-called father?”

No matter what, she didn’t find the DNA report saying they were uncle and niece believable.

Quentin sneered, “What do you mean by ‘assuming’? I told you, it’s impossible that the hair was switched! Are you still doubting my abilities?”

Nora: “...”

She straight-up ignored him and looked at Joel instead.

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he finally said, “It’s because your father may be Ryan Smith, our second uncle.”

Nora caught a keyword. “May be?”

Joel coughed and replied, “Uncle Ryan also disappeared half a year after your mother. It was later confirmed that your mother had died, but Uncle Ryan remains missing even today. We have already checked my other uncles. You aren’t their daughter, so the only remaining possibility is Uncle Ryan. Moreover, Uncle Ryan and your mother ran away from home one after the other. Before he left, he even said that he was going to search for your mother, so...”

Even if Ian didn’t believe that Yvette was such a person, the DNA test report was right in front of him. Everything that had happened back then was also

fresh in his memory. One said that she had fallen in love with someone else and wanted to leave, while the other said that he wanted to look for her. With all these put together, he had no choice but to believe it.

Nora: "..."

The previous generation's story sure was cheesy!

However, she still didn't believe it.

She mused for a moment and asked, "Did Uncle Ryan leave anything behind? Doesn't he have any children?"

Joel shook his head. "No, he doesn't."

Nora glanced at him.

Joel explained, "I'm the eldest brother's son. Quentin and Warren are my fourth uncle's sons. The rest of my siblings are my fifth uncle's children."

The previous generation of the Smiths had six sons and no daughters.

The current generation had seven sons and still no daughters, except for Yvonne, who was adopted.

Nora suggested, "... In that case, let's do a retest for me and... Uncle Ian?"

Joel knew that she was no simple woman, and had already interacted with her before. She probably wouldn't believe it unless she did the test herself.

Therefore, he nodded.

As soon as he did, a dissatisfied voice reached them. "Are you also doubting me, Joel?"

Joel: "..."

Quentin let out a cold snort. "When have I ever made a mistake all these years I worked for you?"

Joel: "..."

Quentin turned and walked away.

Chapter 267 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Her anger rose as she took a step forward, preparing to beat her up.

In the distance, Justin had already arrived in front of her. His expression became even uglier, and he looked like he wanted to kill someone.

However, before the two of them could make a move, Farrell had already rushed over and slapped Rachel's face. "Shut up!"

Rachel was stunned by this slap and fell to the ground.

When Miranda saw this, she went mad as well. She rushed forward and hugged Rachel. "Farrell, what are you doing?!"

Farrell was furious. He pointed at her with trembling hands. "Move aside. I'm going to break her mouth today!"

There were two reasons why he was so agitated.

First, he was really angry. He did not expect his daughter to have already reached this stage. In this kind of situation, she kept talking about Nora being an illegitimate daughter and Mr. Hunt being a spare tire. She was simply speaking dirty words and had lost all face for the Woods. Secondly, he could already see Mr. Hunt walking over with an angry expression. If he did not make a move, Mr. Hunt would probably make Rachel suffer even more!

Rachel had done something wrong. She should be educated and beaten when necessary. However, she was still his daughter. He still wanted to give her a way out.

That was why he had hit her personally.

Indeed, after he made his move, Nora and Justin both stopped in their tracks and did not come forward.

Unfortunately, the current Rachel did not understand his intentions at all. Instead, she covered her face and roared, "You hit me? You actually hit me because of her! Dad, tell me, what kind of bewitching potion did she give you to make you protect her so much? Is it because she's good-looking?"

Farrell was already stunned.

He did not expect his daughter to go so overboard with her words. How did he educate her all these years to make her say such shrewish words?!

His hands trembled. "Your... your aunt has never said such ugly words in her life!"

Rachel sensed his anger and was so frightened that she did not dare to speak.

However, Miranda was furious. "Her aunt, her aunt... Your heart is biased toward Melissa, right? In that case, why don't you live with your sister? Why do you want to live with us?! I've never seen such good siblings! Where's Melissa? Come out. I want to ask you what your relationship with your brother is. What kind of family is the Andersons?!"

Farrell: "!!!"

Melissa, who was rushing over, was speechless.

Melissa's eyes were red from anger. She pointed at her with trembling hands and screamed, "Sister-in-law!!"

How could she slander her in public!

It had to be known that no one wanted to believe the truth. Everyone was willing to believe in explosive topics.

Even if she had a clear conscience, Miranda's words would become a topic for everyone to talk about after meals!

She, Melissa, had always been noble and pure. Ever since her eldest sister-in-law had entered the family, she realized that Miranda hated her. Hence, she rarely returned to her mother's house. In the past twenty years, she had only met Farrell a little more than twenty times!

Not to mention being intimate, even the relationship between ordinary siblings was not as bad.

When she was young, her mother often said that when a girl got married, she would have no home. At that time, she did not believe it, but later on, she really did.

How did Sister-in-law come up with such a lie?!

Farrell's body swayed as he stared at Miranda and Rachel. This pair of mother and daughter usually carried favor and flattered him, but he had never seen their ugly faces before.

Just a moment ago, in order to save his daughter, he had risked offending Mr. Hunt. But now... he felt that everything that had just happened was ridiculous.

Children were indeed here to collect debts!

Farrell looked at Justin and cupped his hands in apology. "Mr. Hunt, I'm sorry to have disturbed your birthday banquet. I'll take the two of them back first and visit you another day to apologize! I'll definitely give you a satisfactory answer!"

Justin pursed his lips tightly.

Farrell was Melissa's elder brother, and Melissa was Nora's aunt. Nora had always been very respectful to this aunt.

Therefore, he could not go overboard.

He nodded lightly. "Please do as you wish, Uncle Farrell. However, Miss Wood's upbringing is indeed worrying. A kind father will often spoil his children. Uncle Farrell, you should understand this logic."

Farrell nodded. "I understand. When we get back, I'll send Rachel overseas and never let her return!"

He would never let her come back...

Rachel's pupils shrank as she screamed, "Dad, you can't do this to me. You can't..."

Unfortunately, Farrell had already grabbed her hand and called for the Wood family's bodyguards to drag her and Miranda out.

Rachel knew that it was hopeless.

She was done for.

When she was dragged past Nora, she suddenly laughed out loud. "Nora, aren't you very proud to see me like this? But don't forget! Even if I go overseas, I'm still the eldest daughter of the Woods. On the other hand, you

don't even know who your biological father is. You're just an illegitimate child! With your status, you're not worthy of the Hunts at all! Without a strong family to support you, you'll be hated by the Hunts sooner or later and will be divorced!"

At this moment, the entire hall was silent as her voice resounded in everyone's ears.

Everyone looked at Nora.

Yes, she was from a small family. Could she really last long with Mr. Hunt?

At this moment, Ian, who had been sitting at the side, said, "Who said she doesn't have a strong family?"

Ian's voice was very low, but his dispassionate words reached everyone's ears clearly.

The entire hall suddenly quietened again.

Everyone looked at Ian incredulously, only to see him pushing his wheelchair forward slowly until he reached the few of them.

Upstairs.

An anxious Mrs. Hunt was going down the stairs. As she did, she complained to Mrs. Lewis, "I knew Justin's girlfriend would be terrible. People from poor, humble families just aren't presentable enough. Look at that outrageous scene they made!"

"Why can't she even get along with her cousin? It's to the extent that she would even embarrass her like that in public!"

"Look at how cultivated and refined Ms. Smith is instead. None of the girls in the hall can say she's not good enough. Whether it's because they fear the Smiths or because of Ms. Smith's personal charm, this is undeniably what she's capable of! If only Justin were getting engaged with a young lady of the Smiths instead! I won't even ask for her to be related by blood anymore. Yvonne Smith would do just fine!"

Mrs. Hunt went on and on. "Look at how I have to mediate for her despite how much I dislike her. What else can I do when Justin has already acknowledged

her status?! Her embarrassing herself is equivalent to embarrassing Justin, which is equivalent to embarrassing the Hunts!”

Mrs. Lewis held Mrs. Hunt’s arm and said, “Slow down a little. I told you to take the elevator, but you simply refused to. Can you go down the stairs with your knees like that?”

Mrs. Hunt replied huffily, “Considering the situation in the hall, it’ll take even longer for me to reach if I take the elevator!”

The out-of-breath woman reached the lower floor just in time to hear Rachel saying, “Without a strong family to support you, you’ll be hated by the Hunts sooner or later and will be divorced!”

She panicked at once. She was about to speak when she heard Ian’s comment.

Mrs. Hunt was stunned.

Justin looked at Nora—although her brows were raised slightly, and she was a little surprised, she didn’t look greatly astonished. He knew right away that she must already have guessed something a long time ago.

Nora had already given it a lot of thought.

After realizing that Henry Smith was not her real father, she had started to wonder why her mother had picked him out of all the ordinary men out there.

After she came to New York, she had come to understand the way her mother did things. She was likely someone not to be trifled with, in which case, she would definitely know what kind of person Henry was.

Therefore, her mother must have had her reasons for picking him.

She had thought about it over and over and even gone through all the events from back then. The Henry of that time couldn’t get any more ordinary than what he had been.

If there was anything unusual about him, it was the fact that his last name was Smith.

After all, there weren’t that many people with the last name Smith.

His last name was Smith...

In that case, did that mean that her father was Ian?

She had already suspected that a long time ago, which was why she had paid special attention to Ian's condition. That was also why she had followed him when he asked her to go to the balcony with him just now. She had even planned to find an opportunity to take a DNA sample from him and get Lily to do a test.

Therefore, she wasn't very surprised when Ian said what he did.

Rachel, however, was dumbfounded. "W-what do you mean?"

Yvonne also looked at Ian in shock and astonishment. When she saw him staring at Nora, she suddenly panicked...

Ian slowly lowered his head and said dispassionately, "She is a child of the Smiths."

"..."

The whole hall was silent.

Everyone stared at Ian in disbelief. Yvonne was also astonished and bewildered. She looked at Nora, and then at Ian...

One must admit that Nora took after Yvette a great deal, but the parts that didn't did indeed resemble Ian!

Her legs went limp and she staggered.

Even Rachel was utterly stunned. "What? T-that's impossible!"

She was just a hillbilly! It was impossible for her to suddenly become Cinderella!

Ian must be lying!

Warren was also dumbfounded.

He had been arguing with his wife just a moment ago.

His wife had been unhappy at him for making things difficult for Nora and had given him a warning in private, so he had been very angry. He said, "I don't care whether she did anything wrong or not. Yvonne is my sister. Am I supposed to abandon my sister and take her side instead? No way!"

Maureen was furious when she heard that. "Can you be reasonable? Besides, Yvonne is not related to you by blood anyway. How is she even your sister?!"

Warren reprimanded her. "How can you say that? She is Uncle Ian's adopted daughter, and she grew up in the Smiths. That makes her my sister! I look only at family ties, not reason! Hmph, Nora can only blame herself for not being a daughter of the Smiths!"

Maureen was so mad that she was about to go berserk.

But unexpectedly, things had suddenly taken a huge turn!

Warren was also dumbfounded. When Rachel said what she did, he subconsciously also asked, "Is Uncle Ian's illness making him muddleheaded?"

Joel's gentle but stern voice reached him. "Uncle Ian would never take matters about the Smiths' bloodline lightly. Nora does indeed have blood relations with the Smiths! She's our cousin!"

Warren: "!!"

Everyone: "!!!"

This piece of news was simply too sensational!!

As it turned out, Yvette Anderson's daughter was actually Ian Smith's daughter?

Then why did she run away when she became pregnant?

Hadn't they been in love?

Didn't they say that Yvette had betrayed Ian?

However!

The hillbilly's sudden transformation into a young lady of the Smiths sure was dramatic! No wonder Yvonne had stopped competing with her.

And no wonder Nora could catch Justin's eye!

Just as everyone was speculating, Nora suddenly asked, "Why do you say that? Do you have any evidence?"

Everyone: "??"

Why did it look like Nora wasn't very happy about it?

Had they been in her shoes, they would have just acknowledged the Smiths as family first and left the talk for later! Who cared about evidence or whatnot?!

They were the Smiths!

Yet, Nora had asked about it. Joel answered seriously, "We did a DNA test."

It was just like what she had thought.

Nora thought back to the other time at the medical university when someone had tugged a few strands of hair off her head. Was he sent by the Smiths?

No... The Smiths would never send someone to kill her.

In the midst of her thoughts, Justin smiled and said, "Uncle Ian, Joel, let's go upstairs, find a quiet place, and have a good talk. I think Nora also wants to know what exactly is going on."

It wasn't appropriate to talk about the details in public.

Joel looked at Ian. When he saw him nodding, he replied, "Okay."

Justin led the way. Nora followed beside him. Joel pushed Ian's wheelchair and followed behind them. The four of them went upstairs and entered a meeting room.

As soon as they entered, Joel took the initiative to take out the results of the DNA test they did the other time. He handed it to Nora and said, "This is the evidence."

Nora took it from him casually. She glanced at Ian but didn't see any traces of joy on him. When she looked down at the report in her hand, her eyes widened in astonishment...

This... How could this be?!

Nora hadn't been surprised even when Ian said that she was a Smith, but she found herself greatly surprised in this instant.

Justin also broke into a frown when he noticed her expression. He took a step forward and looked at the DNA test result with her.

When he looked over, he also found himself stunned.

The two exchanged a look. Obviously, they hadn't expected such a result.

The DNA test was done for Nora and Ian to verify whether they were father and daughter. Neither of them was surprised to see that.

However, the results stated that the two shared a 99.8% DNA similarity. Therefore, they were scientifically recognized as uncle and niece.

DNA similarity between a father and daughter was as high as 99.99%. Nora and Ian's parent-child DNA test results were very close, yet fell outside the range. Therefore, they were classified as uncle and niece instead.

In other words, Nora's father wasn't Ian but one of his brothers instead?

Nora's eyes widened, and she looked at Ian in disbelief. He had a very awful look on his face at the moment, and he gave off an air of despondence.

When Yvette left back then, she had told him that she didn't love him anymore. She said that she had fallen in love with someone else, and asked him to forget her.

She had left after that.

He hadn't believed her at first, but when he saw the DNA test report, he had suddenly understood something.

As it turned out, the other man had been none other than one of his brothers!

Was it also for that reason that Yvette had chosen to leave? Because she felt that she couldn't face him anymore?

If it were someone else instead, she wouldn't have run away. Neither would there be a need for her to.

Ian clenched his fists.

The feeling of being betrayed by his brother and lover at the same time made his chest rise and fall rapidly. Suddenly, his eyes closed and he lost consciousness.

"Uncle Ian!"

A shocked Joel hastily went toward him. He was about to call for help when a figure faster than he was stopped in front of him.

Nora bent over and checked Ian's condition. "He fainted because he was too agitated from pent-up anger and sadness. He's very weak now, so it's not advisable to transport him elsewhere!"

Joel frowned. "What do we do?"

Nora looked straight at Justin and said, "Get him medicine. Give him the Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill."

She had just given Mrs. Hunt a box of it. There were about 64 pills in there.

Justin immediately understood. He went out at once.

He went to Mrs. Hunt's study. As soon as he entered, Mrs. Hunt asked, "What's the matter?"

Justin didn't go into details. Instead, he simply replied, "Mr. Smith fainted because he was too agitated. Grandma, give me a Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill."

Mrs. Hunt: "!!"

Mrs. Lewis couldn't bear to part with the pill, either. She wanted to say something, but Mrs. Hunt stopped her and said, "Give it to him."

Mrs. Lewis glanced at Mrs. Hunt before she finally walked over, took out the pill that Yvonne had given them, and handed it to Justin.

Justin took Yvonne's pillbox, walked out, and quickly went to the meeting room next door.

As soon as he exited the room, he saw Yvonne standing outside. She was shocked when she saw the pillbox in his hand. "What happened to Dad? Did he faint again?"

Justin nodded but said nothing.

Yvonne followed Justin into the meeting room next door.

After they entered, Justin opened the exquisite box in his hand, took out the pill, and handed it to Nora.

Nora looked at Ian and said, "Put the pill into half a glass of water and dissolve it."

Yvonne, however, panicked. She said, "Ms. Smith! That pill is very rare. It's better to consume it as is. If you dissolve it in water, its effect will be halved!"

Nora: "?"

How was the patient supposed to consume it when he had already lost consciousness?

Besides, even if its effect was halved, it would still be effective on Ian. What was that woman interfering for?

Yvonne looked at Joel. "That pill doesn't come by easy, Joel. Don't let its effects go to waste!"

Joel looked at her abruptly.

His sharp eyes made Yvonne stammer as she said, "It's not like I can't bear to part with the pill. Saving Dad is what matters the most. I just wanted the pill's effects to be used to the fullest."

Joel took a deep breath and asked, "Did Dr. Zabe ever say how the pill should be consumed?"

Yvonne hastily nodded. “He did. It just needs to be put into the mouth.”

Nora immediately said, “His condition isn’t that serious. Drinking it after diluting it would do.”

To be honest, she could also save Ian without the Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pill. After all, Ian’s illness wasn’t a brain disease. He had only fainted from anger just now.

However, it was best if they could use it.

Yvonne’s eyes flickered when she heard what she said. She understood now—her father’s condition was not that serious, yet she had used the pill that she gave Mrs. Hunt. She was obviously doing it on purpose!

Joel frowned.

While hesitating over who to listen to, someone suddenly took away the pill. When he looked up again, he saw that Justin had already dissolved the pill in the half-full glass of water he had just poured.

The pill dissolved immediately upon contact with water and soon disappeared.

Justin handed the glass to Nora.

Nora held Ian’s face, opened his mouth, and poured the medicine into his mouth roughly.

The two of them matched each other’s actions seamlessly as if they had always been working together like that. By the time Joel and Yvonne reacted, Ian had already finished the medicine.

Joel: “!”

Yvonne balled up her fists. “Mr. Hunt, Ms. Smith! You... That’s such a waste of the pill’s effects!”

In Mrs. Hunt’s study.

After Justin left, Mrs. Hunt held her chest and sighed deeply.

Although she knew Justin was correct in doing what he did just now, he had taken the pill to save his father-in-law but forgotten that she also needed the

life-saving medicine the most. Mrs. Hunt ultimately still felt rather uncomfortable about that.

Next to her, Mrs. Lewis nagged, “Why did you give it to him, Ma’am? The pill was a gift for you! You really need that pill!”

Mrs. Hunt sighed. “Yvonne was the one who gave it to me in the first place anyway. I’ll just think of it as returning it to them!”

Mrs. Lewis sneered, “You can’t put it that way. Since they’ve already given you the pill, it belongs to you now. They can’t just bask in the limelight out there and then use it on their own in the end, right? I asked about it just now, though. This was Nora’s suggestion. She must be worried that you would favor Yvonne over her, so she deliberately did it.”

Mrs. Hunt heaved a huge sigh. “She grew up in the countryside, after all, so she’s too narrow-minded. To think she’s used all her smarts on things like that! Discard the medicine she gave me!”

Mrs. Lewis picked up the box of pills that Nora had given Mrs. Hunt. She said, “Before I throw it away, let me take a look at what so many Carefree Pills put together look like...”

She opened the box after saying that, but the moment she did, she suddenly found herself stunned.

Mrs. Hunt scoffed at her reaction. “Look at how ignorant you look. Even if there are 50 Carefree Pills in there, they are only worth \$150,000. Am I paying you so little that you react that way at a mere \$150,000?”

As soon as she said that, a dazed Mrs.. Lewis lifted her head and replied, “M-Ma’am, these... these are not Carefree Pills. They are... they are...”

Mrs. Lewis had worked as a servant for Mrs. Hunt’s family back then, so she was on very good terms with Mrs. Hunt. When Mrs. Hunt got married, she had also followed her to the Hunts. After so many years of working as a housekeeper, she had already reached an annual income of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Therefore, \$150,000 wasn’t really an amount that would shock her this badly.

She looked at the pills in the metal box and swallowed again. “Ma’am, these don’t look like Carefree Pills to me. Why do they look so much like Calming Pills?”

Mrs. Hunt was taken aback when she heard that they were Calming Pills. After falling silent for a moment, she said, “They’ve done the right thing by giving me Calming Pills since they are suitable for my condition. It’s not like the Andersons can’t afford to give me Carefree Pills, yet they still gave me Calming Pills instead. I suppose they are still rather considerate. What’s there to kick up a fuss over Calming Pills, though? They are cheap. Besides, no matter how amazing their Calming Pills are, they can’t be worth as much as Carefree Pills, right?”

A dumbfounded Mrs. Lewis looked at her. “They are... Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pills.”

Thud.

The water glass in Mrs. Hunt’s hand fell on the table. She looked at Mrs. Lewis in astonishment. “What?”

Mrs. Lewis looked at the box in her hand. “These are Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pills. The smell and all that are very similar, and their name is also written on the pills. Also! There are 64 of them here!!”

Everyone had already sung so many praises of Yvonne just because she gave one, but Nora had actually given a full 64 of them?!

Mrs. Hunt got up at once. The elderly woman walked up to Mrs. Lewis in just a few steps. She grabbed the box in her hand and said, “Let me have a look!”

Mrs. Hunt was a very well-informed woman. She examined the pills closely. Then, she broke off a small piece from one of them and put it in her mouth to taste it. At last, she confirmed it. “These are indeed Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pills.”

She and Mrs. Lewis looked at each other after she spoke, and both of them were dazed for a while.

After waiting for a whole ten seconds, Mrs. Hunt finally asked, “How did the Andersons get their hands on such expensive pills?”

Mrs. Lewis was utterly stunned. “The Andersons have been dealing in traditional medicine for many generations. When you think about it carefully, it’s actually not that surprising that they would have these pills. After all, they are also a family with a solid foundation. But if that’s the case, then why didn’t Ms. Smith just say so in front of everyone just now? Because of that, they ended up secretly being mocked for nothing.”

Mrs. Hunt frowned at her words. “Either she really doesn’t care about things like reputation and so on—it has long been said that Melissa Anderson is indifferent to fame and fortune, and is very humble—or... these pills may not be the Andersons’, so they have to be low-key about it.”

Mrs. Lewis understood at once. “They aren’t the Andersons’? That means Mr. Hunt gave them to her so that she can give them to you without embarrassing herself?”

Mrs. Hunt had already thought of that when Mrs. Lewis was speaking. She realized something and said, “No wonder Justin didn’t show any sign of hesitation or apology when he came to me for the pill just now. He already knows!”

She felt a lot better now and felt that her grandson was still her grandson, after all. He hadn’t changed just because he had a girlfriend now.

She looked at Mrs. Lewis with some relief. Then, she sighed and said, “Justin sure is going through such pains for her! Say, am I being too harsh on her?”

Mrs. Lewis comforted her. “It’s mainly because you don’t understand her character.”

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Mrs. Lewis said, “What you care about the most is actually still Mr. Hunt. It’s because you’re indignant on his behalf. After all, he’s so outstanding. There are so many outstanding women from good families who want to marry him, so why did he simply have to choose a woman like that...”

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All of them were talking about the woman who became Cinderella. She was so lucky! To think she actually turned out to be Ian's daughter!

No one thought otherwise.

After all, Yvette had been in a relationship with Ian back then. On top of that, he even stayed single for life because of her, so everyone naturally brought Ian into the picture.

They completely didn't notice that Ian had said just now that she was a daughter of the Smiths.

Nora didn't know any of this, though. She was still frowning and thinking about what had happened back then.

She hadn't just been sleeping all this time she was at the Andersons'.

Occasionally, she would look through what her mother had left behind.

Some of the books even contained notes and interpretations that her mother had made.

Through those writings, she had gained a general understanding of Yvette's character.

The woman was aggressive and stubborn by nature. In the patriarchal environment back then, it was definitely no easy feat to rise to the challenge and become the head of the Andersons.

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After all, they hadn't sorted out the issues they were talking about just now. They hadn't told her which of Ian's brothers her father was yet.

It was already late when they arrived at the hospital.

Joel sat quietly in the hallway late at night. He seemed to know that the two of them would come over, so he was waiting for them.

Ian was already asleep.

Joel said, "You can just ask me if you have any questions because I was the one who handled everything."

Nora lowered her head. "I want to know how you got my DNA samples."

Joel said unhurriedly, "Someone took a few strands of your hair when you were at the medical university the other time. The person I sent to protect you happened to be nearby, so he chased after the person and snatched the hair from him."

"... Then have you guys ever considered that the hair might have been switched?" asked Nora.

Joel was a little taken aback by her suggestion.

Nora looked at the ward and said slowly but firmly, "I want to redo the DNA test."

This particular floor was where the VIP wards were. Joel had booked the whole floor so that Ian could rest and recover better, so there was no one else in the quiet hospital corridor at the moment.

Right after Nora spoke firmly, a sinister and displeased voice reached them. "There's no way the hair could have been switched. My professionalism is not to be doubted!"

Nora looked up to see someone slowly walking toward them from the darkness in front

There was no way Nora would have noticed him while he stood there. It was as if he had blended into the darkness.

But the moment he appeared, Nora immediately sensed his presence.

The man was very skinny. He was fully dressed in black and was wearing a black baseball cap. His face was very small and thin. Perhaps because he was rarely exposed to the sun, he was very pale. He had a metal stud on his left earlobe, and there was a sort of androgynous beauty to him.

He kept his head lowered habitually and walked over to Joel while touching his baseball cap.

Joel introduced the man to Nora. "This is Quentin, your second cousin."

Since he was her cousin, then that meant that they didn't share the same father.

Nora nodded. She observed the two men's faces carefully, feeling like Quentin and Joel looked nothing alike.

Joel looked gentler. His fox-like eyes had a sly and wily look in them, and he looked like he was smiling. Even when he didn't smile, he still gave off a very gentle feeling.

Not only did Quentin look different, but the aura around him also felt colder and more sinister.

While Nora was curiously observing them, Quentin glared at her and said, "What are you staring at? I'll dig out your eyeballs if you continue to stare."

Nora: "..."

Why did she feel like that second cousin of hers felt a little like a teen with delusions of grandeur?

The corners of her lips spasmed a little. Before she could speak, Quentin said, "Don't think I'll treat you differently just because you're my cousin. I'm different from the other Smiths. They may want a younger sister, but I don't! Also, Uncle Ian is like a father to me. If you make him unhappy, I won't betray him, let alone like you!"

Nora: "..."

After speaking as though he was swearing an oath, Quentin finally got to the point and said, "Also, it's impossible that your hair was switched. That man was constantly under my watch from the point he took your hair to the end of his escape that day!"

He stretched out two fingers and jabbed them forward. "It's impossible for any of his actions to escape my eyes!"

Nora: "..."

She silently looked at Joel and asked with her eyes: 'Is Quentin a loony?'

Joel: '... That's the way he is.'

Nora retracted her gaze and said, "Alright. Assuming the hair is correct and hasn't been switched, why not do another paternity test for me and my so-called father?"

No matter what, she didn't find the DNA report saying they were uncle and niece believable.

Quentin sneered, "What do you mean by 'assuming'? I told you, it's impossible that the hair was switched! Are you still doubting my abilities?"

Nora: "..."

She straight-up ignored him and looked at Joel instead.

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he finally said, "It's because your father may be Ryan Smith, our second uncle."

Nora caught a keyword. "May be?"

Joel coughed and replied, "Uncle Ryan also disappeared half a year after your mother. It was later confirmed that your mother had died, but Uncle Ryan remains missing even today. We have already checked my other uncles. You aren't their daughter, so the only remaining possibility is Uncle Ryan. Moreover, Uncle Ryan and your mother ran away from home one after the other. Before he left, he even said that he was going to search for your mother, so..."

Even if Ian didn't believe that Yvette was such a person, the DNA test report was right in front of him. Everything that had happened back then was also fresh in his memory. One said that she had fallen in love with someone else and wanted to leave, while the other said that he wanted to look for her. With all these put together, he had no choice but to believe it.

Nora: "..."

The previous generation's story sure was cheesy!

However, she still didn't believe it.

She mused for a moment and asked, "Did Uncle Ryan leave anything behind? Doesn't he have any children?"

Joel shook his head. "No, he doesn't."

Nora glanced at him.

Joel explained, "I'm the eldest brother's son. Quentin and Warren are my fourth uncle's sons. The rest of my siblings are my fifth uncle's children."

The previous generation of the Smiths had six sons and no daughters.

The current generation had seven sons and still no daughters, except for Yvonne, who was adopted.

Nora suggested, "... In that case, let's do a retest for me and... Uncle Ian?"

Joel knew that she was no simple woman, and had already interacted with her before. She probably wouldn't believe it unless she did the test herself.

Therefore, he nodded.

As soon as he did, a dissatisfied voice reached them. "Are you also doubting me, Joel?"

Joel: "..."

Quentin let out a cold snort. "When have I ever made a mistake all these years I worked for you?"

Joel: "..."

Quentin turned and walked away.

Chapter 268 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Rachel, however, was dumbfounded. "W-what do you mean?"

Yvonne also looked at Ian in shock and astonishment. When she saw him staring at Nora, she suddenly panicked...

Ian slowly lowered his head and said dispassionately, "She is a child of the Smiths."

"..."

The whole hall was silent.

Everyone stared at Ian in disbelief. Yvonne was also astonished and bewildered. She looked at Nora, and then at Ian...

One must admit that Nora took after Yvette a great deal, but the parts that didn't did indeed resemble Ian!

Her legs went limp and she staggered.

Even Rachel was utterly stunned. "What? T-that's impossible!"

She was just a hillbilly! It was impossible for her to suddenly become Cinderella!

Ian must be lying!

Warren was also dumbfounded.

He had been arguing with his wife just a moment ago.

His wife had been unhappy at him for making things difficult for Nora and had given him a warning in private, so he had been very angry. He said, "I don't care whether she did anything wrong or not. Yvonne is my sister. Am I supposed to abandon my sister and take her side instead? No way!"

Maureen was furious when she heard that. "Can you be reasonable? Besides, Yvonne is not related to you by blood anyway. How is she even your sister?!"

Warren reprimanded her. "How can you say that? She is Uncle Ian's adopted daughter, and she grew up in the Smiths. That makes her my sister! I look only at family ties, not reason! Hmph, Nora can only blame herself for not being a daughter of the Smiths!"

Maureen was so mad that she was about to go berserk.

But unexpectedly, things had suddenly taken a huge turn!

Warren was also dumbfounded. When Rachel said what she did, he subconsciously also asked, "Is Uncle Ian's illness making him muddleheaded?"

Joel's gentle but stern voice reached him. "Uncle Ian would never take matters about the Smiths' bloodline lightly. Nora does indeed have blood relations with the Smiths! She's our cousin!"

Warren: "!!"

Everyone: "!!!"

This piece of news was simply too sensational!!

As it turned out, Yvette Anderson's daughter was actually Ian Smith's daughter?

Then why did she run away when she became pregnant?

Hadn't they been in love?

Didn't they say that Yvette had betrayed Ian?

However!

The hillbilly's sudden transformation into a young lady of the Smiths sure was dramatic! No wonder Yvonne had stopped competing with her.

And no wonder Nora could catch Justin's eye!

Just as everyone was speculating, Nora suddenly asked, "Why do you say that? Do you have any evidence?"

Everyone: "??"

Why did it look like Nora wasn't very happy about it?

Had they been in her shoes, they would have just acknowledged the Smiths as family first and left the talk for later! Who cared about evidence or whatnot?!

They were the Smiths!

Yet, Nora had asked about it. Joel answered seriously, "We did a DNA test."

It was just like what she had thought.

Nora thought back to the other time at the medical university when someone had tugged a few strands of hair off her head. Was he sent by the Smiths?

No... The Smiths would never send someone to kill her.

In the midst of her thoughts, Justin smiled and said, "Uncle Ian, Joel, let's go upstairs, find a quiet place, and have a good talk. I think Nora also wants to know what exactly is going on."

It wasn't appropriate to talk about the details in public.

Joel looked at Ian. When he saw him nodding, he replied, "Okay."

Justin led the way. Nora followed beside him. Joel pushed Ian's wheelchair and followed behind them. The four of them went upstairs and entered a meeting room.

As soon as they entered, Joel took the initiative to take out the results of the DNA test they did the other time. He handed it to Nora and said, "This is the evidence."

Nora took it from him casually. She glanced at Ian but didn't see any traces of joy on him. When she looked down at the report in her hand, her eyes widened in astonishment...

This... How could this be?!

Nora hadn't been surprised even when Ian said that she was a Smith, but she found herself greatly surprised in this instant.

Justin also broke into a frown when he noticed her expression. He took a step forward and looked at the DNA test result with her.

When he looked over, he also found himself stunned.

The two exchanged a look. Obviously, they hadn't expected such a result.

The DNA test was done for Nora and Ian to verify whether they were father and daughter. Neither of them was surprised to see that.

However, the results stated that the two shared a 99.8% DNA similarity. Therefore, they were scientifically recognized as uncle and niece.

DNA similarity between a father and daughter was as high as 99.99%. Nora and Ian's parent-child DNA test results were very close, yet fell outside the range. Therefore, they were classified as uncle and niece instead.

In other words, Nora's father wasn't Ian but one of his brothers instead?

Nora's eyes widened, and she looked at Ian in disbelief. He had a very awful look on his face at the moment, and he gave off an air of despondence.

When Yvette left back then, she had told him that she didn't love him anymore. She said that she had fallen in love with someone else, and asked him to forget her.

She had left after that.

He hadn't believed her at first, but when he saw the DNA test report, he had suddenly understood something.

As it turned out, the other man had been none other than one of his brothers!

Was it also for that reason that Yvette had chosen to leave? Because she felt that she couldn't face him anymore?

If it were someone else instead, she wouldn't have run away. Neither would there be a need for her to.

Ian clenched his fists.

The feeling of being betrayed by his brother and lover at the same time made his chest rise and fall rapidly. Suddenly, his eyes closed and he lost consciousness.

"Uncle Ian!"

A shocked Joel hastily went toward him. He was about to call for help when a figure faster than he was stopped in front of him.

Nora bent over and checked Ian's condition. "He fainted because he was too agitated from pent-up anger and sadness. He's very weak now, so it's not advisable to transport him elsewhere!"

Joel frowned. "What do we do?"

Nora looked straight at Justin and said, "Get him medicine. Give him the Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill."

She had just given Mrs. Hunt a box of it. There were about 64 pills in there.

Justin immediately understood. He went out at once.

He went to Mrs. Hunt's study. As soon as he entered, Mrs. Hunt asked, "What's the matter?"

Justin didn't go into details. Instead, he simply replied, "Mr. Smith fainted because he was too agitated. Grandma, give me a Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill."

Mrs. Hunt: "!!"

Mrs. Lewis couldn't bear to part with the pill, either. She wanted to say something, but Mrs. Hunt stopped her and said, "Give it to him."

Mrs. Lewis glanced at Mrs. Hunt before she finally walked over, took out the pill that Yvonne had given them, and handed it to Justin.

Justin took Yvonne's pillbox, walked out, and quickly went to the meeting room next door.

As soon as he exited the room, he saw Yvonne standing outside. She was shocked when she saw the pillbox in his hand. "What happened to Dad? Did he faint again?"

Justin nodded but said nothing.

Yvonne followed Justin into the meeting room next door.

After they entered, Justin opened the exquisite box in his hand, took out the pill, and handed it to Nora.

Nora looked at Ian and said, "Put the pill into half a glass of water and dissolve it."

Yvonne, however, panicked. She said, "Ms. Smith! That pill is very rare. It's better to consume it as is. If you dissolve it in water, its effect will be halved!"

Nora: "?"

How was the patient supposed to consume it when he had already lost consciousness?

Besides, even if its effect was halved, it would still be effective on Ian. What was that woman interfering for?

Yvonne looked at Joel. "That pill doesn't come by easy, Joel. Don't let its effects go to waste!"

Joel looked at her abruptly.

His sharp eyes made Yvonne stammer as she said, "It's not like I can't bear to part with the pill. Saving Dad is what matters the most. I just wanted the pill's effects to be used to the fullest."

Joel took a deep breath and asked, "Did Dr. Zabe ever say how the pill should be consumed?"

Yvonne hastily nodded. “He did. It just needs to be put into the mouth.”

Nora immediately said, “His condition isn’t that serious. Drinking it after diluting it would do.”

To be honest, she could also save Ian without the Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pill. After all, Ian’s illness wasn’t a brain disease. He had only fainted from anger just now.

However, it was best if they could use it.

Yvonne’s eyes flickered when she heard what she said. She understood now—her father’s condition was not that serious, yet she had used the pill that she gave Mrs. Hunt. She was obviously doing it on purpose!

Joel frowned.

While hesitating over who to listen to, someone suddenly took away the pill. When he looked up again, he saw that Justin had already dissolved the pill in the half-full glass of water he had just poured.

The pill dissolved immediately upon contact with water and soon disappeared.

Justin handed the glass to Nora.

Nora held Ian’s face, opened his mouth, and poured the medicine into his mouth roughly.

The two of them matched each other’s actions seamlessly as if they had always been working together like that. By the time Joel and Yvonne reacted, Ian had already finished the medicine.

Joel: “!”

Yvonne balled up her fists. “Mr. Hunt, Ms. Smith! You... That’s such a waste of the pill’s effects!”

In Mrs. Hunt’s study.

After Justin left, Mrs. Hunt held her chest and sighed deeply.

Although she knew Justin was correct in doing what he did just now, he had taken the pill to save his father-in-law but forgotten that she also needed the

life-saving medicine the most. Mrs. Hunt ultimately still felt rather uncomfortable about that.

Next to her, Mrs. Lewis nagged, “Why did you give it to him, Ma’am? The pill was a gift for you! You really need that pill!”

Mrs. Hunt sighed. “Yvonne was the one who gave it to me in the first place anyway. I’ll just think of it as returning it to them!”

Mrs. Lewis sneered, “You can’t put it that way. Since they’ve already given you the pill, it belongs to you now. They can’t just bask in the limelight out there and then use it on their own in the end, right? I asked about it just now, though. This was Nora’s suggestion. She must be worried that you would favor Yvonne over her, so she deliberately did it.”

Mrs. Hunt heaved a huge sigh. “She grew up in the countryside, after all, so she’s too narrow-minded. To think she’s used all her smarts on things like that! Discard the medicine she gave me!”

Mrs. Lewis picked up the box of pills that Nora had given Mrs. Hunt. She said, “Before I throw it away, let me take a look at what so many Carefree Pills put together look like...”

She opened the box after saying that, but the moment she did, she suddenly found herself stunned.

Mrs. Hunt scoffed at her reaction. “Look at how ignorant you look. Even if there are 50 Carefree Pills in there, they are only worth \$150,000. Am I paying you so little that you react that way at a mere \$150,000?”

As soon as she said that, a dazed Mrs. Lewis lifted her head and replied, “M-Ma’am, these... these are not Carefree Pills. They are... they are...”

Mrs. Lewis had worked as a servant for Mrs. Hunt’s family back then, so she was on very good terms with Mrs. Hunt. When Mrs. Hunt got married, she had also followed her to the Hunts. After so many years of working as a housekeeper, she had already reached an annual income of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Therefore, \$150,000 wasn’t really an amount that would shock her this badly.

She looked at the pills in the metal box and swallowed again. “Ma’am, these don’t look like Carefree Pills to me. Why do they look so much like Calming Pills?”

Mrs. Hunt was taken aback when she heard that they were Calming Pills. After falling silent for a moment, she said, “They’ve done the right thing by giving me Calming Pills since they are suitable for my condition. It’s not like the Andersons can’t afford to give me Carefree Pills, yet they still gave me Calming Pills instead. I suppose they are still rather considerate. What’s there to kick up a fuss over Calming Pills, though? They are cheap. Besides, no matter how amazing their Calming Pills are, they can’t be worth as much as Carefree Pills, right?”

A dumbfounded Mrs. Lewis looked at her. “They are... Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pills.”

Thud.

The water glass in Mrs. Hunt’s hand fell on the table. She looked at Mrs. Lewis in astonishment. “What?”

Mrs. Lewis looked at the box in her hand. “These are Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pills. The smell and all that are very similar, and their name is also written on the pills. Also! There are 64 of them here!!”

Everyone had already sung so many praises of Yvonne just because she gave one, but Nora had actually given a full 64 of them?!

Mrs. Hunt got up at once. The elderly woman walked up to Mrs. Lewis in just a few steps. She grabbed the box in her hand and said, “Let me have a look!”

Mrs. Hunt was a very well-informed woman. She examined the pills closely. Then, she broke off a small piece from one of them and put it in her mouth to taste it. At last, she confirmed it. “These are indeed Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pills.”

She and Mrs. Lewis looked at each other after she spoke, and both of them were dazed for a while.

After waiting for a whole ten seconds, Mrs. Hunt finally asked, “How did the Andersons get their hands on such expensive pills?”

Mrs. Lewis was utterly stunned. “The Andersons have been dealing in traditional medicine for many generations. When you think about it carefully, it’s actually not that surprising that they would have these pills. After all, they are also a family with a solid foundation. But if that’s the case, then why didn’t Ms. Smith just say so in front of everyone just now? Because of that, they ended up secretly being mocked for nothing.”

Mrs. Hunt frowned at her words. “Either she really doesn’t care about things like reputation and so on—it has long been said that Melissa Anderson is indifferent to fame and fortune, and is very humble—or... these pills may not be the Andersons’, so they have to be low-key about it.”

Mrs. Lewis understood at once. “They aren’t the Andersons’? That means Mr. Hunt gave them to her so that she can give them to you without embarrassing herself?”

Mrs. Hunt had already thought of that when Mrs. Lewis was speaking. She realized something and said, “No wonder Justin didn’t show any sign of hesitation or apology when he came to me for the pill just now. He already knows!”

She felt a lot better now and felt that her grandson was still her grandson, after all. He hadn’t changed just because he had a girlfriend now.

She looked at Mrs. Lewis with some relief. Then, she sighed and said, “Justin sure is going through such pains for her! Say, am I being too harsh on her?”

Mrs. Lewis comforted her. “It’s mainly because you don’t understand her character.”

A lot of people resorted to unscrupulous means in order to marry into a wealthy family. They feigned purity, acted innocent, and put up all kinds of pretenses. Mrs. Hunt had also been through it all and had seen many like that.

When a stray girl from the countryside suddenly appeared with an illegitimate daughter she had with someone else, how would Mrs. Hunt possibly not have anything against her?

Mrs. Lewis said, “What you care about the most is actually still Mr. Hunt. It’s because you’re indignant on his behalf. After all, he’s so outstanding. There are so many outstanding women from good families who want to marry him, so why did he simply have to choose a woman like that...”

Mrs. Hunt sighed. "Let's observe her for a while more! If her character is passable, for Justin's sake, I'll still show her some courtesy when we're in front of outsiders, even though I don't like her! But if she doesn't have a good character, or if she mistreats Pete, I definitely won't let her marry into the family! Pete is the Hunts' future!"

Mrs. Lewis nodded. "You're right."

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All of them were talking about the woman who became Cinderella. She was so lucky! To think she actually turned out to be Ian's daughter!

No one thought otherwise.

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They completely didn't notice that Ian had said just now that she was a daughter of the Smiths.

Nora didn't know any of this, though. She was still frowning and thinking about what had happened back then.

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The woman was aggressive and stubborn by nature. In the patriarchal environment back then, it was definitely no easy feat to rise to the challenge and become the head of the Andersons.

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If she had really fallen in love with Ian's brother... Given her personality, she would have simply gotten together with that man instead, and been as decisive as how she had rejected Justin's father. Why would she run away from home after she became pregnant and flee New York?

She couldn't help feeling that her mother didn't seem like someone who would do that.

When the party came to an end, Nora got Melissa to take Cherry home while she followed Justin to the hospital to visit Ian.

After all, they hadn't sorted out the issues they were talking about just now. They hadn't told her which of Ian's brothers her father was yet.

It was already late when they arrived at the hospital.

Joel sat quietly in the hallway late at night. He seemed to know that the two of them would come over, so he was waiting for them.

Ian was already asleep.

Joel said, "You can just ask me if you have any questions because I was the one who handled everything."

Nora lowered her head. "I want to know how you got my DNA samples."

Joel said unhurriedly, "Someone took a few strands of your hair when you were at the medical university the other time. The person I sent to protect you happened to be nearby, so he chased after the person and snatched the hair from him."

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Justin didn't go into details. Instead, he simply replied, "Mr. Smith fainted because he was too agitated. Grandma, give me a Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill."

Mrs. Hunt: "!!"

Mrs. Lewis couldn't bear to part with the pill, either. She wanted to say something, but Mrs. Hunt stopped her and said, "Give it to him."

Mrs. Lewis glanced at Mrs. Hunt before she finally walked over, took out the pill that Yvonne had given them, and handed it to Justin.

Justin took Yvonne's pillbox, walked out, and quickly went to the meeting room next door.

As soon as he exited the room, he saw Yvonne standing outside. She was shocked when she saw the pillbox in his hand. "What happened to Dad? Did he faint again?"

Justin nodded but said nothing.

Yvonne followed Justin into the meeting room next door.

After they entered, Justin opened the exquisite box in his hand, took out the pill, and handed it to Nora.

Nora looked at Ian and said, “Put the pill into half a glass of water and dissolve it.”

Yvonne, however, panicked. She said, “Ms. Smith! That pill is very rare. It’s better to consume it as is. If you dissolve it in water, its effect will be halved!”

Nora: “?”

How was the patient supposed to consume it when he had already lost consciousness?

Besides, even if its effect was halved, it would still be effective on Ian. What was that woman interfering for?

Yvonne looked at Joel. “That pill doesn’t come by easy, Joel. Don’t let its effects go to waste!”

Joel looked at her abruptly.

His sharp eyes made Yvonne stammer as she said, “It’s not like I can’t bear to part with the pill. Saving Dad is what matters the most. I just wanted the pill’s effects to be used to the fullest.”

Joel took a deep breath and asked, “Did Dr. Zabe ever say how the pill should be consumed?”

Yvonne hastily nodded. “He did. It just needs to be put into the mouth.”

Nora immediately said, “His condition isn’t that serious. Drinking it after diluting it would do.”

To be honest, she could also save Ian without the Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pill. After all, Ian’s illness wasn’t a brain disease. He had only fainted from anger just now.

However, it was best if they could use it.

Yvonne’s eyes flickered when she heard what she said. She understood now—her father’s condition was not that serious, yet she had used the pill that she gave Mrs. Hunt. She was obviously doing it on purpose!

Joel frowned.

While hesitating over who to listen to, someone suddenly took away the pill. When he looked up again, he saw that Justin had already dissolved the pill in the half-full glass of water he had just poured.

The pill dissolved immediately upon contact with water and soon disappeared.

Justin handed the glass to Nora.

Nora held Ian's face, opened his mouth, and poured the medicine into his mouth roughly.

The two of them matched each other's actions seamlessly as if they had always been working together like that. By the time Joel and Yvonne reacted, Ian had already finished the medicine.

Joel: "!"

Yvonne balled up her fists. "Mr. Hunt, Ms. Smith! You... That's such a waste of the pill's effects!"

In Mrs. Hunt's study.

After Justin left, Mrs. Hunt held her chest and sighed deeply.

Although she knew Justin was correct in doing what he did just now, he had taken the pill to save his father-in-law but forgotten that she also needed the life-saving medicine the most. Mrs. Hunt ultimately still felt rather uncomfortable about that.

Next to her, Mrs. Lewis nagged, "Why did you give it to him, Ma'am? The pill was a gift for you! You really need that pill!"

Mrs. Hunt sighed. "Yvonne was the one who gave it to me in the first place anyway. I'll just think of it as returning it to them!"

Mrs. Lewis sneered, "You can't put it that way. Since they've already given you the pill, it belongs to you now. They can't just bask in the limelight out there and then use it on their own in the end, right? I asked about it just now, though. This was Nora's suggestion. She must be worried that you would favor Yvonne over her, so she deliberately did it."

Mrs. Hunt heaved a huge sigh. “She grew up in the countryside, after all, so she’s too narrow-minded. To think she’s used all her smarts on things like that! Discard the medicine she gave me!”

Mrs. Lewis picked up the box of pills that Nora had given Mrs. Hunt. She said, “Before I throw it away, let me take a look at what so many Carefree Pills put together look like...”

She opened the box after saying that, but the moment she did, she suddenly found herself stunned.

Mrs. Hunt scoffed at her reaction. “Look at how ignorant you look. Even if there are 50 Carefree Pills in there, they are only worth \$150,000. Am I paying you so little that you react that way at a mere \$150,000?”

As soon as she said that, a dazed Mrs.. Lewis lifted her head and replied, “M-Ma’am, these... these are not Carefree Pills. They are... they are...”

Mrs. Lewis had worked as a servant for Mrs. Hunt’s family back then, so she was on very good terms with Mrs. Hunt. When Mrs. Hunt got married, she had also followed her to the Hunts. After so many years of working as a housekeeper, she had already reached an annual income of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Therefore, \$150,000 wasn’t really an amount that would shock her this badly.

She looked at the pills in the metal box and swallowed again. “Ma’am, these don’t look like Carefree Pills to me. Why do they look so much like Calming Pills?”

Mrs. Hunt was taken aback when she heard that they were Calming Pills. After falling silent for a moment, she said, “They’ve done the right thing by giving me Calming Pills since they are suitable for my condition. It’s not like the Andersons can’t afford to give me Carefree Pills, yet they still gave me Calming Pills instead. I suppose they are still rather considerate. What’s there to kick up a fuss over Calming Pills, though? They are cheap. Besides, no matter how amazing their Calming Pills are, they can’t be worth as much as Carefree Pills, right?”

A dumbfounded Mrs. Lewis looked at her. “They are... Zabe Corporation’s Calming Pills.”

Thud.

The water glass in Mrs. Hunt's hand fell on the table. She looked at Mrs. Lewis in astonishment. "What?"

Mrs. Lewis looked at the box in her hand. "These are Zabe Corporation's Calming Pills. The smell and all that are very similar, and their name is also written on the pills. Also! There are 64 of them here!!"

Everyone had already sung so many praises of Yvonne just because she gave one, but Nora had actually given a full 64 of them?!

Mrs. Hunt got up at once. The elderly woman walked up to Mrs. Lewis in just a few steps. She grabbed the box in her hand and said, "Let me have a look!"

Mrs. Hunt was a very well-informed woman. She examined the pills closely. Then, she broke off a small piece from one of them and put it in her mouth to taste it. At last, she confirmed it. "These are indeed Zabe Corporation's Calming Pills."

She and Mrs. Lewis looked at each other after she spoke, and both of them were dazed for a while.

After waiting for a whole ten seconds, Mrs. Hunt finally asked, "How did the Andersons get their hands on such expensive pills?"

Mrs. Lewis was utterly stunned. "The Andersons have been dealing in traditional medicine for many generations. When you think about it carefully, it's actually not that surprising that they would have these pills. After all, they are also a family with a solid foundation. But if that's the case, then why didn't Ms. Smith just say so in front of everyone just now? Because of that, they ended up secretly being mocked for nothing."

Mrs. Hunt frowned at her words. "Either she really doesn't care about things like reputation and so on—it has long been said that Melissa Anderson is indifferent to fame and fortune, and is very humble—or... these pills may not be the Andersons', so they have to be low-key about it."

Mrs. Lewis understood at once. "They aren't the Andersons'? That means Mr. Hunt gave them to her so that she can give them to you without embarrassing herself?"

Mrs. Hunt had already thought of that when Mrs. Lewis was speaking. She realized something and said, "No wonder Justin didn't show any sign of hesitation or apology when he came to me for the pill just now. He already knows!"

She felt a lot better now and felt that her grandson was still her grandson, after all. He hadn't changed just because he had a girlfriend now.

She looked at Mrs. Lewis with some relief. Then, she sighed and said, "Justin sure is going through such pains for her! Say, am I being too harsh on her?"

Mrs. Lewis comforted her. "It's mainly because you don't understand her character."

A lot of people resorted to unscrupulous means in order to marry into a wealthy family. They feigned purity, acted innocent, and put up all kinds of pretenses. Mrs. Hunt had also been through it all and had seen many like that.

When a stray girl from the countryside suddenly appeared with an illegitimate daughter she had with someone else, how would Mrs. Hunt possibly not have anything against her?

Mrs. Lewis said, "What you care about the most is actually still Mr. Hunt. It's because you're indignant on his behalf. After all, he's so outstanding. There are so many outstanding women from good families who want to marry him, so why did he simply have to choose a woman like that..."

Mrs. Hunt sighed. "Let's observe her for a while more! If her character is passable, for Justin's sake, I'll still show her some courtesy when we're in front of outsiders, even though I don't like her! But if she doesn't have a good character, or if she mistreats Pete, I definitely won't let her marry into the family! Pete is the Hunts' future!"

Mrs. Lewis nodded. "You're right."

Ian gradually regained consciousness after taking the Zabe Corporation's Calming Pill.

In order to prevent him from having another emotional breakdown, Joel left in advance and took Ian back to the hospital. After all, the doctors and nurses in the hospital would be able to keep his bodily functions alive for sure.

By the time Justin and Nora went back downstairs, the way everyone looked at Nora had already changed.

All of them were talking about the woman who became Cinderella. She was so lucky! To think she actually turned out to be Ian's daughter!

No one thought otherwise.

After all, Yvette had been in a relationship with Ian back then. On top of that, he even stayed single for life because of her, so everyone naturally brought Ian into the picture.

They completely didn't notice that Ian had said just now that she was a daughter of the Smiths.

Nora didn't know any of this, though. She was still frowning and thinking about what had happened back then.

She hadn't just been sleeping all this time she was at the Andersons'.

Occasionally, she would look through what her mother had left behind.

Some of the books even contained notes and interpretations that her mother had made.

Through those writings, she had gained a general understanding of Yvette's character.

The woman was aggressive and stubborn by nature. In the patriarchal environment back then, it was definitely no easy feat to rise to the challenge and become the head of the Andersons.

How would a woman like that possibly get together with Ian's brother while she was in a relationship with him?

If she had really fallen in love with Ian's brother... Given her personality, she would have simply gotten together with that man instead, and been as decisive as how she had rejected Justin's father. Why would she run away from home after she became pregnant and flee New York?

She couldn't help feeling that her mother didn't seem like someone who would do that.

When the party came to an end, Nora got Melissa to take Cherry home while she followed Justin to the hospital to visit Ian.

After all, they hadn't sorted out the issues they were talking about just now. They hadn't told her which of Ian's brothers her father was yet.

It was already late when they arrived at the hospital.

Joel sat quietly in the hallway late at night. He seemed to know that the two of them would come over, so he was waiting for them.

Ian was already asleep.

Joel said, "You can just ask me if you have any questions because I was the one who handled everything."

Nora lowered her head. "I want to know how you got my DNA samples."

Joel said unhurriedly, "Someone took a few strands of your hair when you were at the medical university the other time. The person I sent to protect you happened to be nearby, so he chased after the person and snatched the hair from him."

"... Then have you guys ever considered that the hair might have been switched?" asked Nora.

Joel was a little taken aback by her suggestion.

Nora looked at the ward and said slowly but firmly, "I want to redo the DNA test."

This particular floor was where the VIP wards were. Joel had booked the whole floor so that Ian could rest and recover better, so there was no one else in the quiet hospital corridor at the moment.

Right after Nora spoke firmly, a sinister and displeased voice reached them. "There's no way the hair could have been switched. My professionalism is not to be doubted!"

Nora looked up to see someone slowly walking toward them from the darkness in front

There was no way Nora would have noticed him while he stood there. It was as if he had blended into the darkness.

But the moment he appeared, Nora immediately sensed his presence.

The man was very skinny. He was fully dressed in black and was wearing a black baseball cap. His face was very small and thin. Perhaps because he was rarely exposed to the sun, he was very pale. He had a metal stud on his left earlobe, and there was a sort of androgynous beauty to him.

He kept his head lowered habitually and walked over to Joel while touching his baseball cap.

Joel introduced the man to Nora. "This is Quentin, your second cousin."

Since he was her cousin, then that meant that they didn't share the same father.

Nora nodded. She observed the two men's faces carefully, feeling like Quentin and Joel looked nothing alike.

Joel looked gentler. His fox-like eyes had a sly and wily look in them, and he looked like he was smiling. Even when he didn't smile, he still gave off a very gentle feeling.

Not only did Quentin look different, but the aura around him also felt colder and more sinister.

While Nora was curiously observing them, Quentin glared at her and said, "What are you staring at? I'll dig out your eyeballs if you continue to stare."

Nora: "..."

Why did she feel like that second cousin of hers felt a little like a teen with delusions of grandeur?

The corners of her lips spasmed a little. Before she could speak, Quentin said, "Don't think I'll treat you differently just because you're my cousin. I'm different from the other Smiths. They may want a younger sister, but I don't! Also, Uncle Ian is like a father to me. If you make him unhappy, I won't betray him, let alone like you!"

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After speaking as though he was swearing an oath, Quentin finally got to the point and said, “Also, it’s impossible that your hair was switched. That man was constantly under my watch from the point he took your hair to the end of his escape that day!”

He stretched out two fingers and jabbed them forward. “It’s impossible for any of his actions to escape my eyes!”

Nora: “...”

She silently looked at Joel and asked with her eyes: ‘Is Quentin a loony?’

Joel: ‘... That’s the way he is.’

Nora retracted her gaze and said, “Alright. Assuming the hair is correct and hasn’t been switched, why not do another paternity test for me and my so-called father?”

No matter what, she didn’t find the DNA report saying they were uncle and niece believable.

Quentin sneered, “What do you mean by ‘assuming’? I told you, it’s impossible that the hair was switched! Are you still doubting my abilities?”

Nora: “...”

She straight-up ignored him and looked at Joel instead.

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Nora caught a keyword. “May be?”

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