

## Chapter 391 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

The Smiths were not to be trifled with either!

If they had the ability, they could just come at them.

After saying that, he casually held Ian's wheelchair. Before Ian could speak, he slowly said, "Mr. Karl Moore, this is New York. Do you think this is a place where you can behave so atrociously?"

With this sentence, a few bodyguards and people from the dark forces hidden in the Smiths' servants slowly stood up and surged into the living room.

The group of people placed their hands on their waists. It was obvious what was inside.

Karl Moore narrowed his eyes.

He smiled without a trace of fear. "The entire assassin organization knows that I'm here. If I don't leave, do you think they will let the Smiths off?"

Joel was still smiling, but that smile did not reach his eyes.

Karl Moore sensed Ian and Joel's true killing intent and became vigilant. "Heh, we assassins will not be threatened by the small Smiths!"

As soon as he finished speaking, a deep voice suddenly sounded. "What if we include the Hunts?"

With that, the people in the room looked up in unison and saw Justin slowly walking down the corridor.

As he was at home, he did not wear a suit jacket.

He was wearing a black shirt and a black tie. Coupled with his black pants... he was dressed fully in black. He had one hand in his pocket and the other hanging casually by his side.

He looked arrogant as he came downstairs.

Joel and Ian looked at each other.

Karl Moore had come to the Smiths to settle Hillary's scores. It could be said that he was only here to look for Joel. However, because Joel was the head of the Smiths, it was inevitable that the family would be implicated.

The two of them knew that Justin was upstairs.

However, in this kind of direct confrontation with the assassin organization, they did not expect the Hunts to appear!

After all!

The Hunts were also a large family, and it did not belong to Justin alone!

Moreover, Justin was not engaged to Nora yet. Even if he interfered and became a messenger or a mediator between them, it was more appropriate for him not to offend Karl Moore directly.

However, neither Ian nor Joel expected that he would actually stand on their side and fight against Karl Moore!

Justin was not afraid of Karl Moore at all.

Or rather, Justin had a trump card, so he was not afraid of him.

Ian narrowed his eyes.

Joel's fox-like eyes revealed his deep thoughts.

They had long heard that Justin was just the head of the Hunts. Therefore, although the Smiths and Hunts were two large families with equal strength in New York, the Smiths had never had the intention to suppress the Hunts.

Someone had even warned them.

Even if they offended the Hunt Corporation, they shouldn't offend Justin!

As he was thinking, Karl Moore was stunned. "Mr. Hunt, why are you here?"

Justin went downstairs and walked to Ian and Joel's side step by step. He no longer had the arrogance he had when he faced Karl Moore earlier. He first called out, "Uncle Ian, Brother Joel."

Then, he looked at Karl Moore. "Because my fiancée is here."

Karl Moore was speechless.

Justin asked again, "Are you sure the assassin organization wants to become enemies with both the Smiths and the Hunts?"

Karl Moore thought about it carefully and frowned.

Of course, he did not want to make enemies of the two most powerful families in New York, but he had to return the favor for Jill.

After all, he was still someone who had tender feelings for the fairer sex.

Jill was crying like a pear blossom bathed in rain in front of his eyes. When he thought of how the two of them had been affectionate for a period of time many years ago, he snorted and looked up.

Seeing that he was about to say something that would shatter the relations between the three sides, Justin suddenly said, "Actually, Mr. Karl Moore, why don't we each take a step back?"

Karl Moore froze.

Justin glanced at Joel.

As the two men looked at each other, they understood each other's thoughts.

It turned out that they had thought of the same thing.

Joel nodded imperceptibly. Justin took a step forward and said, "The face of the Hunts and Smiths is enough to make Mr. Karl Moore take a step back, right?"

Karl Moore thought for a moment. "What do you propose?"

Justin said, "Why don't we leave this case over to the court to handle? Our two families promise not to use our power. We'll hire the best lawyers and fight a fair lawsuit in court! In the end, the court will determine who the child belongs to. Of course, this way, the Joneses will definitely have the right to visit."

Karl Moore pondered this for a moment.

He had come here today because Jill had said that the Smiths had suppressed them with their power, so they did not even have a chance to sue them.

Justin's words made sense.

He picked up the gun on the table. "Alright, let's do that! But even in New York, the influence of an assassin is unimaginable to you. Mr. Smith, Mr. Hunt, I hope you keep your word! I'll go back now and get Hillary to return to the country to prepare for a lawsuit."

Karl Moore came and went quickly.

He had always been an energetic man. He had the loyalty of one from the pugilistic world, and he was also frank and domineering. Being able to become the leader of the assassin organization was enough to prove his personal charm.

Actually, if he did not go against the Smiths, he would still be a respected big shot.

After he left, Joel looked at Justin and the two of them smiled at each other.

Ian looked at them and suddenly smiled. "The two brats are starting to scheme with each other!"

Joel smiled awkwardly. "Uncle Ian, it's not really a scheme."

Justin smiled faintly. The mole at the corner of his eye was glistening, and his appearance gave Ian a headache.

Why was the man so arrogant?

No wonder Nora had even given birth to his child. He indeed had the right to be proud of his looks. Sigh!

As he thought about this, Justin said, "Hillary is overseas. Switzerland is Karl Moore's territory. Only by bringing her back can she be executed."

Karl Moore was an unreasonable person.

Even if Joel told him the truth, he would protect the person he wanted to protect until the end.

Therefore, he might as well beat them at their own game!

As for offending the assassin organization... Ha, Joel and Justin had never considered that!

Hillary had to pay for bullying Mia and Tanya!

Joel smiled at Justin. This smile dispelled all his prejudices and he said directly, "Thank you."

Earlier, if Joel had said to take a step back, Karl Moore might have wondered if he had any suspicious intentions.

However, it was different when Justin suggested it. It was very easy for Karl Moore to trust him.

Justin smiled faintly, hiding his achievements and fame. "You're welcome."

The two men who had competed in the business industry many times had completely reconciled at this moment.

Ian glared at his nephew and could not help but cry in his heart. It's over. The Smiths have been conquered by this man again!

After Karl Moore left the Smiths, a row of people walked into a black car.

On the way, someone asked, "Boss, do you want to show the Smiths and Hunts some face? They actually dare to challenge you?"

Karl Moore instantly slapped the guy's head. "Kid, underestimating your enemy is your greatest mistake! Otherwise, you won't even know what hit you."

The guy shrank his neck and scratched his head. "Aren't they just two very rich families? With Black Cat on our side, we can just make a move and kill the two leaders!"

When Karl Moore heard this, he missed Black Cat a little. "Without Black Cat, I don't even have the confidence to challenge others. Seriously, where did Black Cat go?"

The subordinate was speechless.

They arrived at the hotel where Karl Moore was temporarily staying. As soon as they entered, they saw Jill running around the lobby anxiously.

When she saw him, she immediately walked forward. When she saw the people behind him, her eyes shook. But for her daughter... she mustered up the courage to ask, "How was it?"

Karl Moore said, "Hillary can return to the country. They promised to fight a court case fair and square in the country!"

A court case?

Jill heaved a sigh of relief and then became worried. "Why must we stay here? Isn't it your territory overseas?"

Karl Moore sneered. "It's indeed my territory overseas, but you will receive a court summons here. Whether you go or not is still a question. Anyway, don't worry. They have agreed not to use any tricks or power this time."

With that, he looked at Jill. "As long as it's a fair lawsuit, what are you afraid of? Isn't it only right and proper for a mother to get her child back? Even if the court takes into account the financial power of the Smiths, don't worry. With me around, nothing will happen to the Joneses' financial situation in the future!"

Upon hearing his words, Jill was relieved. "You're right. Hillary wants to return to the country. We can't let that adulterous couple live happily!"

Upon hearing this, Karl Moore looked at Jill and asked, "I heard that Tanya is also your daughter?"

Jill's eyes flickered. "No, she's my elder brother's illegitimate daughter. Back then, no one cared about her, so I adopted her. I didn't expect to raise such an ingrate! Hillary is my biological daughter!"

Karl Moore was enlightened when he heard this.

He had actually investigated Jill. There was less than a year between Tanya and Hillary's birth. Her pregnancy would take ten months, and with a month of confinement, this was too close!

It turned out that Tanya was not her biological daughter. That made sense.

Karl Moore did not care about these questions. Instead, he said, "I've already arranged for someone to bring Hillary back."

He looked at the time. "Your family will be reunited tonight. You don't have to be afraid of the Smiths. Since they promised me, they won't do anything to your family!"

Jill nodded and looked up at Karl Moore pitifully. Her eyes were filled with tears. "Thank you, thank you... Otherwise, we would really be bullied this time. I don't even know what to do..."

Jill was old, but she still had her own way of acting coquettishly.

Karl Moore found it a little strange.

The way she looked when she was young made people dote on her. When she became older, it was a little... disgusting.

Cough.

Karl Moore moved his gaze away. "Alright, you can go back. Contact me if there's anything! Don't worry, I won't ignore you."

Jill nodded.

At night, Hillary returned home.

As soon as she arrived at the residence, she saw Mr. Jones pacing around anxiously in the living room. When he saw her, he instantly said, "What are you messing around for? For Mia's sake, the Smiths will always take care of our family! If you go against them like this, what will happen in the future if you lose?"

Hillary was scolded by him loudly.

Madam Jones scolded Mr. Jones, "What are you saying about the child? This is our daughter. Are you even human? If you don't care about her, I'll find someone who can compete with the Smiths. I won't let my daughter suffer!"

When Hillary heard this, she threw herself into Madam Jones's arms and cried. "Mom..."

Madam Jones touched Hillary's head. "Alright, alright. After you snatch the child back, go overseas. I believe he can help you."

Hillary nodded, but she was a little anxious. "But Mom, what if we lose this case?"

"Lose?"

Jill shook her head. "How could we lose? After all, we already have the upper hand in public opinion!"

Hillary was taken aback.

Public opinion?

Tanya did not know about Karl Moore.

She only knew that they were about to go to court with Hillary.

The next day was Monday. She brought Mia and Brandon to school as usual... As she had stayed with the Smiths last night, Joel personally took the three of them to kindergarten this morning.

At the door, Tanya was a little nervous. "I'll get out of the car first. Don't let the teachers see me!"

Joel stared at her in the driver's seat. "What are you afraid of? Or do you not want to be seen with Mia?"

Upon hearing this, Tanya immediately shook her head. "How could that be?!"

She had just acknowledged her daughter, and she did not want to be separated from her for even a moment.

Joel said, "Then be magnanimous and take your daughter to kindergarten!"

"Alright, then."

Tanya nodded.

The car arrived at the entrance of the kindergarten. Brandon got out of the car first and followed their teacher into the kindergarten. Tanya held Mia's hand and walked in.



When the teachers in the kindergarten saw them, their expressions changed. Someone asked awkwardly, “Ms. Turner, why are you here with Mia?”

Before Tanya could say anything, Mia answered timidly, “Mommy was at my house yesterday!”

‘Mommy’...

This greeting made the other teachers even more puzzled.

They looked at each other and then came to a realization. They forced a smile at Tanya. “Okay, go in.”

Tanya thought that the other party’s gaze was too ambiguous. She lowered her head and brought Mia into the kindergarten.

Then, she sent Mia to her class and went to the dance studio.

Mia sat in her seat after entering the class.

Pete was worried about Nora, so he did not come to school. Mia sat alone in the corner, small and timid.

The other children kept their distance from her.

The adults at home had told them that Mia was weak and that they definitely couldn’t bully her in the kindergarten or get too close.

If anything happened to Mia and her illness acted up, they would be blamed.

Therefore, Mia had always been alone.

It was just that recently, Pete had been closer to her and would bring her along every time they played. Cherry was the class’s favorite, and everyone played around her. Therefore, Mia gradually got to play with everyone.

But today, the children were far away from her.

Mia looked at Fawn sitting beside her and said, “Fawn, let’s go...”

Before she finished, Fawn waved her hand. “I don’t want to. I don’t want to play with you. My mother said that you are an ingrate!”

Mia: “???”

She was stunned and looked around in confusion.

All the children seemed to have heard this and began to point at Mia with disdain.

Someone even asked her, “Mia, don’t you want your mother anymore? Do you want Ms. Turner to be your mother? Isn’t your mother sad to see you like this?”

Mia bit her lip. “But Ms. Turner is my mother...”

However, the five-year-olds could not differentiate the truth at all. They only believed whatever their parents said.

They all began to isolate Mia.

On Mia’s side, she was isolated from everyone. After all, she was a child of the Smiths and they didn’t dare to bully her. However, Tanya’s situation wasn’t much better than hers.

After one class in the dance studio, she had no classes for the day, so she went to the office to rest.

Before she could enter, she heard voices coming from inside.

“She looks like a straightforward person. Why is she interfering in someone else’s family?”

“Yes, you can’t tell from her appearance that she’s such a person...”

“Tsk, can a mistress carve the words “mistress” on her face? But Ms. Turner is indeed good-looking. She has the capital...”

“But Mr. Smith is too much. It’s bad enough that he cheated on her, but he didn’t even let the child’s mother see her child. That’s too much! Indeed, there are no good people in wealthy families.”

“Look, it’s on the trending searches again! Hillary has posted on Facebook!”

Tanya narrowed her eyes when she heard this.

She lowered her head and opened Facebook on her phone.

The top trending topic was indeed a long post on Hillary's Facebook. Tanya browsed through it. The other party's general meaning was that Joel had been two-timing back then. After she got pregnant and gave birth to a child, she finally got together with Joel. However, she did not expect the mistress to return and ruin her family. After the man changed his attitude, he became even more ruthless and asked her to go overseas and not meet his daughter again. Tanya even coaxed her daughter to call her "Mommy." Her only request now is to take her daughter away... She only hoped that the court would give her justice.

If someone not in the know saw this, they would definitely scold Tanya and Joel!

Furthermore, as a famous dancer and an artist, Tanya had her own Facebook. She already had more than a million followers.

Hillary had even tagged her, causing many people to privately message her. Some even cursed her to die a horrible death.

Tanya lowered her eyes at the various vicious words.

At that moment, a voice sounded from behind. "Ms. Turner, what are you standing here for?"

With this sentence, the female teachers in the room who had gathered together and were whispering suddenly stopped and looked at the door in surprise.

Seeing that she had been seen through, Tanya walked into the office.

She looked at the female teachers who were talking and their condemning gazes and said directly, "Sometimes, what you see isn't everything. Before you know the truth, I hope you can maintain your rationality. Furthermore, the case is about to start. There will always be an explanation!"

However, it would have been fine if she had not spoken. The moment she did, the righteous teachers began to attack her.

"Ms. Turner, I don't know what kind of emotional entanglements you had with Mr. Smith in the past, and it's true that Mia's mother and Mr. Smith are not

married. If you get involved, calling you a third wheel is a little too much. But! You shouldn't have stopped the child's mother from seeing the child!"

"Yes, the child is still young. Do you think you can hide the truth by making her call you Mommy? When she grows up, she'll know who her biological mother is sooner or later."

"Yeah, this is too much..."

"The men in wealthy families are really heartless. If Mr. Smith can treat Mia's mother like this today, wouldn't he treat you like this too in the future when he finds someone else to love?"

"Ms. Turner, it's best to have a conscience."

"..."

Hearing those words, Tanya sneered. "Then do you know what the truth is?"

The truth?

Who would care about the truth at this point?

The teachers curled their lips disdainfully and said nothing

After all, they had interacted with Mia a lot in school in the past, and Hillary had seemed like a good mother to outsiders.

Hillary hadn't dared to do anything too obvious all these years. At the very least, there was still Joel who had been keeping an eye on her. How would she possibly dare to abuse Mia?

Thus, no one had ever considered that Mia might not be her daughter.

However, these were the wealthy's private affairs. The teachers didn't dare to make overly-arrogant comments, either. After all, Mr. Smith could easily just make them lose their jobs.

Seeing that no one was saying anything anymore, Tanya didn't bother explaining anything else. After all, the fact that Mia was her daughter was a trump card that Joel was saving for the confrontation in court. Should they reveal it now, Karl might make other arrangements, or even straight-up send Hillary away.

Since no one was saying anything anymore, both parties could just live in peace.

In the afternoon, the principal of the kindergarten came up to them. With a worried look on his face, he said, “Ms. Turner, there are a few reporters outside...”

Reporters?

Tanya narrowed her eyes. In the end, she sighed and said, “Forget it. I’ll go on leave for the next few days.”

The principal was relieved. “Okay. Will you and Mia be leaving together? Or separately?”

Tanya thought for a while. She couldn’t rest assured leaving her five-year-old daughter here. Moreover, the two had only just acknowledged each other, so it would be nice to stay at home together for a few days to bond with each other.

Therefore, Tanya replied, “I will leave with Mia.”

She entered the classroom and told Mia to come out. Then, she decided to leave quietly from the back door to avoid attracting the attention of the reporters at the front door.

Unexpectedly, the moment she exited the back door, another group of reporters came forward and surrounded her and Mia.

“Ms. Turner, what are your thoughts about being called a mistress on the Internet?”

“Ms. Turner, are you really a third wheel in someone else’s relationship?”

“Why are you forbidding the child’s mother from visiting her? Don’t you think it’s too much of you guys to do that?!” “Ms. Turner, a mother’s relationship with her daughter is something you cannot stop or destroy. Mistresses can never completely take the position of a lawful wife! This will not end well for the two of you!”

Tanya frowned and pressed Mia’s head against her chest as she hugged her tightly.

In spite of that, a sharp-eyed reporter still spotted her. She immediately pointed the microphone at the child in Tanya's arms, and even reached out and tapped the little girl. "You must be little Mia, right? Little girl, do you not want your mother anymore?"

Mia received a huge fright. There was a timid look in her eyes.

She looked over and glanced at the reporter, but Tanya pressed her head back against her chest. Tanya gave the reporter a warning look and said, "She is just a child. Don't target her!"

The rest of the reporters had moral boundaries to some extent, but that particular reporter remained aggressive. It was obvious at one glance that she had been bribed by Hillary. She sneered, "Are you afraid that the girl will say that she wants her mother if we ask her questions? Is that why you're not even letting her speak? Ms. Turner, you're too arrogant for a mistress!"

Tanya wanted to speak, but Mia, who was in her arms, suddenly lifted her head.

The little girl had always been timid and a pushover, but in this instant, she wanted to protect her mother. She shouted, "I want Daddy and Mommy Tanya! You're not allowed to badmouth Mommy Tanya!"

A child's reaction was the most genuine.

The rest of the reporters were stunned.

However, the same reporter said, "Little girl, where's your conscience? Your mom went through so much to give birth to you after ten months of pregnancy. Are you going to be an ingrate? What exactly did Tanya Turner give you for you to protect her like this?! Or is it because you think that your father is richer and more powerful than your mother, so you want to stay with your father instead? How can you be so practical when you're still a child? Or perhaps, you are being threatened by your father or Ms. Turner?"

Mia had never been questioned like that before. The reporter's questions made her dumbfounded.

Mist formed in her eyes, and she cried out while in tears, "Sob! Don't scold Mommy Tanya anymore!"

Tanya was infuriated.

Seeing that the reporter's microphone was about to jab right into Mia's face, and that there was even a camera filming Mia, she pushed the reporter angrily. Then, she grabbed the camera and smashed it onto the ground!

Smash!

The camera shattered all over the ground.

At this point, in the distance, the bodyguards and kindergarten security guards, who had sensed something wrong, rushed over and separated Tanya from the reporters.

Tanya stared at the reporter and said, "Don't drag the children in the adults' affairs! I've already said that just now! As for the camera, I will compensate you for it!"

With Mia in her arms, Tanya strode toward the van nearby.

It was only after they got in the car that Tanya finally put Mia down.

The little girl was shaking. Her eyes were all red, and she had tears in them. She asked weakly, "Mommy, did I do something wrong? Why are those people being so fierce to me?"

Her words made Tanya's heart ache.

She thought of the situation just now, and she became so angry that she felt like she was about to explode.

She picked up her phone and dialed Joel's number at once. "Goddammit, I'm going to sue that reporter!"

When Joel heard her swearing, he asked, "What's the matter?"

After Tanya explained what had happened, Joel's voice was even colder than hers. "That reporter is going to jail for life!"

Joel hurried home and arrived just as Tanya and Mia reached home.

It was only when he saw that the two women were safe and sound that he finally breathed a sigh of relief. However, when he saw that both Tanya's and

Mia's eyes were all red, Joel's eyes narrowed. Fortunately, the trial would be commencing the next day, so his wife and daughter would no longer have to suffer such grievances.

He took a deep breath, took a step forward, and put his arms around Tanya's and Mia's shoulders.

He didn't expect the matter to ferment further in the evening, though.

His assistant handed his phone to Joel and showed him the news. When he looked at it, he found that the number one trending topic on social media right now was about that reporter. The reporter was crying as she looked into the camera. "To cameramen and photographers, the camera is tantamount to their life, as well as their most precious partner. But Ms. Turner smashed my camera so arrogantly. She also said that the Smiths would compensate me for it...

"But they instead sued me after that. If it weren't for a certain someone who helped me out, I would probably be under investigation in the police station right now!

"Even so, I have received a lot of bloody packages in the mail. It is clear that they are threatening me! I am not afraid of threats, and I will fight against the power they hold to the death! I will not succumb to their threats! Even if the power they wield is too arrogant and too fearsome.

"My friends, if you don't see me tomorrow, then it must be because I've been attacked. I don't want to die! Please help me!"

The video's comments section was full of curses.

The wealthy were generally fastidious about handling things in a low-key fashion. Very few would kick up a huge fuss.

Hillary was intending to fight a battle of public opinion so that the judge would sympathize with her more when they went to court. One could say that she was resorting to very unscrupulous means just to win the lawsuit.

To think the reporter had been released, though... From the looks of it, it was Karl who had done something about it. Joel was rather troubled.



The amount of influence that Karl had in the States had exceeded his expectations a little.

He wasn't really bothered, though. As the head of the Smiths, this bit of trouble was nothing to him. He was just a little worried that Tanya would not be able to take it if she saw the comments.

Joel put down the phone and entered the room.

The moment he did, he heard Tanya reading out the private messages that random people had sent her. "This person says that third wheels in relationships always end up miserable! He's right, a third wheel like Hillary certainly won't have any happiness left!

"This one says that we bullied the little reporter. Tsk, how blind is he? Didn't he see the reporter forcing a kid to answer her questions?

"And this one, too. He says that I don't have any class because I hit the reporter. Hah, he's right. Compared to someone like her who reprimands others when she doesn't even know the truth, I certainly don't have that much class. But I at least don't have such a high level of ideological consciousness that I would interfere in other people's matters..."

Joel: "..."

He had almost forgotten what kind of family Tanya had grown up in. She had already experienced several flaming wars a long time ago, so she didn't give two hoots about it anymore.

Cherry was seated opposite her. "Do you need me to scold them for you, God-mom? I'm really good at dissing people!"

"Do you know how to spell what you want to write?" asked Pete.

Cherry: "..."

Pete took the opportunity to persuade her. "You should practice your spelling when you have time! We have to study hard, okay?"

At the mention of studying, Cherry pouted and said, "You are not lovable anymore, Pete!"

Pete sighed.

The tyrant was strict with him, but he simply spoiled Cherry too much. This led to Cherry not knowing how to spell a lot of words, even though she was already five. He looked down at his Mathematical Olympiad problems that were nearly at high school-level, and felt that his sister was simply too stupid!

Tanya laughed when she saw the two children bicker. “The two of you are so... but it’s true that you should practice your spellings properly, Cherry. Mia can already spell more than 500 words!”

Cherry curled her lips disdainfully. “If I really wanted to do it, I could memorize 500 spellings in a minute. I just don’t want to, that’s all! Besides, Daddy said that I am a girl, so I don’t have to tire myself out like that!”

Tanya: “...”

She quickly put her arms around Mia and said to her, “Don’t follow what Cherry does, okay?” Mia nodded sensibly. “Okay, Mommy!” Every time she heard Mia calling her ‘Mommy’, Tanya’s heart would melt a little. She smiled and said, “My little baby Mia is so well-behaved~”

Mia’s cheeks flushed at once.

Next to them, Cherry stuck out her tongue. “You’re calling her a little baby when she’s already five? God-mom, you are too mushy!” Tanya looked up at her. “No matter how old you become, to your mothers, all of you will always be children!”

Cherry tilted her head but didn’t refute her this time.

At this point, Joel came in and said, “Mia is also a girl, so she doesn’t need to study that hard.”

Tanya glared at him. “Don’t be a slave to your daughter like Mr. Hunt! Besides, Mia is different from Cherry...”

Cherry was always filled with confidence.

Although Nora hadn’t said anything about it before, Tanya had nevertheless discovered that the little girl was very smart, and could quickly master anything she was learning. As for Mia, perhaps because she had been brought up by Hillary, she was always lacking in confidence. She was always

afraid that other people would dislike her, or that she wouldn't perform well enough.

A person like her would only be confident and have a better future if she became strong. Every child was different.

Tanya had specially taken psychology classes before she joined the kindergarten as a teacher.

Joel, who had been lectured, touched his nose. Then, he said, "Don't look at the news on the Internet anymore."

Tanya nodded and tossed the phone aside. "I find them very ignorant, too. I read it just now because I wanted to strengthen Mia's mental resilience. Say, why are they so childish, though? Is it actually that easy to make them think a certain way?"

Joel replied, "They are just a bunch of trolls on the Internet. Don't bother yourself with them."

Tanya nodded again and said with a smile, "There are still people who are supportive of me! For example..."

"For example, the young and popular singer, Clement Carter?"

Joel suddenly raised his eyebrows as he stared at the trending topics on social media on the phone before he shifted his gaze to Tanya.

Tanya was taken aback. "What's up with Clement?"

Joel handed her the phone. Only then did Tanya notice that the hashtag #ClementCarterSpeaksUpForTanyaTheThirdWheel was trending

Tanya: "?"

When she tapped on the hashtag, she found out that Clement's latest tweet was:

Clement Carter: "Don't just follow the herd. To me, Ms. Turner has always been an open and straightforward person. She would never do that sort of thing. I trust her. @TanyaDances"

Tanya: "..."

Clement wasn't a pop star. Rather, he was a singer and music artist. His voice was said to hail from the heavens, and he could switch between high pitch and low pitch very easily.

Clement enjoyed extremely high international acclaim.

He had a rich voice and a very wide vocal range. No matter how difficult the song was, he could easily handle it.

At the same time, he was also part of the Carters in New York. The family itself had a very strong artistic background and was a true family of artists.

When Tanya saw the verbal abuse he was suffering because he had spoken up for her, she couldn't help but ask, "Why is he sticking his head out at such a time?"

The way she spoke sounded as if she was very close to him.

Joel asked sourly, "Does your heart ache because he was scolded?"

Tanya: "..."

She finally noticed the jealous lover in front of her. Tanya burst out laughing and said, "It's Clement, you know. It's not like you don't know him. Didn't we play a lot with one another when we were kids?"

Joel snorted. Tanya said, "When I left the country, he also went abroad for further studies. We once had a cross-industry artistic collaboration where he sang and I danced, so we got to know each other better."

"Tsk."

Joel couldn't help but say, "He sings while you dance. That sounds lovely."

Tanya burst into loud laughter again. She knew that Joel was not really jealous. Rather, he was just teasing her because he was worried that she would be affected by the remarks on the internet.

She pointed at Joel and asked, "Did someone fill you up with jealousy today?" Joel was relieved to see that she was really alright.

In the evening, the two of them watched over Mia.

As they lay on either side of Mia, Joel looked at Tanya and suddenly asked, "Are you nervous about going to court tomorrow?"

With Mia in between, Tanya looked back at him. Fearing that she might wake Mia, her voice was very low and soft as she replied, "No, I'm not."

Joel made a sound of acknowledgment.

Tanya thought that he was going to sleep, so she pulled the quilt over herself and closed her eyes.

It was summer, so the air conditioner in the room was turned very low. Tanya and Mia shared a quilt while Joel used another quilt.

When Tanya was about to fall asleep, Joel's soft voice reached her. "Don't worry, Tanya. I will definitely make Hillary pay for what she did."

Surprised, Tanya turned to Joel. In the dark, she could see a cold look in his eyes. He didn't raise his voice, but it was as if there was power in his words. "I won't let anyone bully the two of you anymore."

Tanya pressed her lips together. Her eyes reddened and sorrow welled up in her.

When she was young, she had tried her best and given her all for love, but she hadn't known how to love. She would kick up a huge fuss whenever she met with the slightest bit of unhappiness and often threatened to break up whenever they quarreled.

It was as if she was fearless.

It's only when one recovers what they have lost that they finally discover how precious the love is.

She suddenly hated her past self. Why had she called Joel when she saw the photo? Why hadn't she gone to him with the photo and asked him for a clear explanation?

If she had asked him for an explanation, and if he hadn't said those hurtful words in a flash of anger, the two of them might not have let these five years pass them by like that.

Mia probably would not have been lost, either. Tanya suddenly reached over past Mia. She fumbled around and then held Joel's hand. This time, she would never let go.

When they exited the bedroom after waking up the next day, they saw Justin coming out of Nora's bedroom.

Joel subconsciously asked, "Last night, you..." "I slept in the guest room."

The beauty mark at the corner of Justin's eye shimmered as he replied politely, "I just went in to see if she is awake."

Joel breathed a sigh of relief. Sensing that he had made a mountain out of a molehill just now, he coughed and said, "Oh, I wasn't suspecting you of taking the opportunity to take advantage of her. I just wanted to ask if you slept well last night."

Justin glanced at him but didn't expose his brother-in-law's thoughts. After all, his father-in-law still disliked him for some strange reason at the moment.

He needed his brother-in-law's help.

Justin nodded. "I slept pretty well. I'll come to the court with you guys later." Joel said, "Actually, you don't have to go to so much trouble. We've already prepared everything we need in court today." Justin coughed. "I'm going for Nora, lest she gets angry when she wakes up and finds out that I haven't shown enough concern."

Joel: "..."

The corners of his lips spasmed a little. He suddenly felt that his brother-in-law was getting more and more thick-skinned.

The group of people left the house, split up, and got into a few cars. Soon, they arrived at the court entrance.

As soon as they got out of the car, Hillary rushed out from somewhere and went straight up to the two of them before they even entered the court.

Behind Hillary was a large number of reporters.

Thud!

Hillary knelt right in front of Tanya and Joel. Her eyes were red as she said, “Mr. Smith, Tanya. I can give the two of you my blessing and withdraw from the relationship, but you can’t do this to me. Please, I beg you. Give my daughter back to me! Mia is everything to me!”

The reporters whipped out their cameras and started snapping away.

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

Joel said, “Ms. Jones, the court has the final say today, so please get up.” Hillary, however, was crying very badly. “I was wrong, Mr. Smith. I shouldn’t have pestered you, and I should have withdrawn from the relationship myself, but you can’t just drive me out of the country. Mia was once part of my body, you can’t just separate me from my daughter like this! I believe that Mia wouldn’t be willing to leave her mother, either. Where’s Mia? Mia?”

She looked behind the two of them.

Some of the reporters also looked behind them. They immediately asked: “Where’s the child?”

“Yeah, Mr. Smith, the court instructed you to bring Ms. Smith with you because they may ask the child some questions.” “Did you not bring the child with you? You’re too much!”

Hillary cried even harder. “I haven’t seen Mia for a week, Mr. Smith! I just want to see the girl! Just a look would do!”

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look. Tanya lowered her gaze. When she thought of all the pain she had suffered during those five years, and how reserved and timid Mia was every time she mentioned her mother, a wave of anger surged up in her.

How she wished she could rip Hillary’s face apart and cut her into shreds!

To think she still had the cheek to mention the child...

Tanya slowly said, “Hillary, you’ll never see the child ever again for the rest of your life!”

After saying that, she held Joel’s arm, and the two of them walked straight into the court!

Hillary's tragic and miserable sobs rang out outside. "Tanya, how can you do this to me?! How can you?! My daughter! I just want my daughter!"

The reporters around them did not dare to approach Tanya and Joel-after all, they were outside the court. Thus, they surrounded Hillary.

"Ms. Jones, how confident of winning the lawsuit are you?"

"Ms. Jones, did you file a lawsuit for money or for your daughter?"

Hillary got up. She wiped the tears from her eyes and wept as she said to the camera, "I don't want money! I don't want anything except my daughter!"

With a sad and pitiful look in her eyes, she said, "I know I'm unemployed at the moment, but the Joneses are also rich. I receive dividends from the Joneses' company. I am also willing to work for my daughter's sake!

"My daughter is everything to me!

"I can withdraw from the love triangle, but my daughter is innocent!"

She burst into tears. "Please, everyone, help me! Help me get my daughter back!" She wept fiercely. Her tears made the audience watching the live broadcast full of pity and heartache for her.

For a time, public opinion completely took her side.

Everyone was cursing Tanya and Joel in the comments of the live-stream.

"What makes Tanya think she can take such an aggressive attitude against Hillary? She's so shameless!"

"Ahhhh!! That sight pisses me off so much! Hillary must win this lawsuit! Otherwise, none of us will accept the outcome!" "Yes, the judiciary should not outweigh feelings. We will fight alongside you in this lawsuit!"

Hillary cried so badly that she had to be helped into the court in the end.

Outsiders were not allowed to enter the lounge at the back.

As soon as Hillary entered, she ran head-on into Tanya.



She cast her eyes down and said sadly, “Tanya, I can give you Joel, but not Mia. I will definitely win the lawsuit!”

Because she already had the upper hand in public opinion!!

Tanya stared at Hillary.

Never would she have ever expected that the woman, who had merely bullied and humiliated her a little five years ago, would actually go as far as to steal her child!

She had only been slightly under twenty years old at that time.

Hillary resembled Jill a lot, but she and Tanya didn’t really look alike. Her temper and personality were also similar to Jill’s. This must be one of the reasons why Jill had preferred Hillary and disliked Tanya ever since they were kids, right?

With that in mind, Tanya sneered, “We won’t know until we reach the end.”

Hillary’s eyes flickered.

At this moment, Jill, who had entered a moment later than Hillary, spotted the two of them. She immediately charged over, stretched out her arm, and slapped Tanya across her cheek. “You little bitch! Who told you you could come back to the States? It’s all your fault that things have come to this point!”

Tanya took a step back.

She was no longer the little girl from the past who couldn’t fight back.

She sneered, “We’re at the court, Mrs. Jones. Please show some respect, or else I will sue you!”

Jill was furious. “Who are you calling Mrs. Jones? I am your mother!”

Tanya gave her a mocking smile. “Really? But didn’t you already tell me a long time ago that you’ve severed ties with me?”

She took out her cell phone and played an audio recording. It was from five years ago when she was pregnant overseas. It was hard for her to find a job at that time, so she had bitten the bullet and approached Jill to ask for a bit of money for living expenses.

Jill's voice was very calm in the recording.

"\$3,000? What are you thinking? I can buy a handbag with that money! Besides, you are already an adult, so I am not obligated to pay for your tuition fees. Think of a solution yourself! Didn't you work part-time during college for your tuition fees? Didn't you say that you will never use even a cent of my money when you were a kid? Heh... "From now on, I will take it that I have never had a daughter like you, while you have never had me as a mother. I hope we will never see each other ever again!"

Those few lines of hers had severed the mother-daughter relationship between Tanya and her. This was also why Tanya had never been to the Joneses despite so much time passing since her return to the States.

When Jill heard the recording, she sneered, "Hah, what an ingrate you are. To think you remember those things I said so clearly. Never mind if you don't want to bear the responsibility of supporting me in old age, because I have never once counted on you to do that, either! But how could you turn around and bully us so maliciously?"

Tanya looked at her and Hillary. She couldn't help but retort, "Who exactly is bullying whom here?"

Her simple one-liner made Hillary and Jill exchange a look. Jill then yelled angrily, "Does it matter who the one bullying the other is? You are the one who's targeting the Joneses now! You'd best agree to settle in private while the trial has yet to start. Otherwise, I will make you pay!"

No one knew what gave her the confidence to say something like that.

When Tanya wanted to reply, Joel asked, "How do you intend to make her pay?" His words made Jill choke

Joel came over, put his arm around Tanya's shoulder, and looked at Jill. "Mrs. Jones, may I ask, what are you planning to do to my fiancée?"

Jill was shocked. "When did the two of you get engaged?"

Joel cast his eyes down. "You don't have to bother yourself with that, Mrs. Jones. I think the two of you should use this time to discuss the case with each other instead of glaring at and saying mean things to my fiancée."

When Jill wanted to reply, Mr. Jones strode over and grabbed both Jill and Hillary. He smiled and said to Joel, "Look at how big a fuss this has become, Mr. Smith... It's all because the kids are so insensible. Please forgive us!"

Joel did not say any more. He dragged Tanya back to the lounge.

After the two of them went in, Mr. Jones flew into a rage as he stared at Jill and Hillary. "Can the two of you stop creating so much trouble?! We are already about to go to court, so stop provoking them and making trouble in private!"

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. "Dad, all you know is to blame me whenever we run into trouble! They are obviously the ones in the wrong! You're just afraid of Mr. Smith's power, right? But you don't have to be anymore!"

Jill raised her chin slightly at Hillary's words, and she also said impatiently to Mr. Jones, "Alright, that's enough. Karl has already agreed to intervene, so nothing will go wrong!"

Mr. Jones stared at the two women and pointed at them angrily. "Karl will eventually leave. Once he leaves, the Smiths have a thousand and one ways to make us pay! The two of you have created so much trouble for the Joneses!"

However, Jill and Hillary completely ignored him and even curled their lips disdainfully.

Jill even said, "If worse comes to worst, the whole family can just migrate to Switzerland. Karl has both power and authority over there, so he can protect us!"

Mr. Jones: "!!"

He stared at Jill and shouted angrily, "Migrate to Switzerland? The way I see it, it's more like you and him are still in love, isn't it?!"

Afraid that others would overhear what he had said, Mr. Jones turned and left angrily.

Hillary stared at him from the back and pursed her lips. She said, "Look at him, Mom. Why do I have such a pushover of a father?! He doesn't even have the courage to stand up for his daughter! If only Karl was my father!"

Jill's eyes flickered the moment she said that.

She patted Hillary and said, "Don't talk nonsense!"

Then, she and Hillary entered the lounge.

Soon, it was time for the trial.

Both parties entered the courtroom and sat opposite each other.

Karl had found a very famous lawyer for Hillary. After both parties took their seats, the judge asked the plaintiff to speak. The attorney immediately stood up and said reproachfully,

"Mr. Smith, where is Ms. Mia Smith? The court had instructed you to bring her here so that she can be asked whether she wants to stay with her father or her mother. Why didn't you bring her?"

He looked at the judge and went on. "Or is it because you have no respect for the court at all? And think you can do whatever you want because of the Smiths' power?"

"It has been very long since my client last saw her daughter. By separating mother and daughter from each other, and showing no respect for the court, your actions are simply atrocious!"

As Hillary had made a huge fuss and blown up the lawsuit before the trial, everyone was afraid that the Smiths would bribe the judge, so they had vehemently demanded a live-stream of the court proceedings.

After giving it some thought, the court had agreed to the public's request.

Therefore, the trial was currently being broadcast live.

People were commenting fiercely in the live-stream:

"Isn't he showing too little respect to the law?"

“He’s so arrogant! But with so many of us watching, the court won’t cover up for the Smiths!”

Amid the discussion, the judge frowned. After all, the fact that Joel had not brought Mia along had gone against their wishes. His actions were indeed rather disrespectful of the court.

He frowned. At this point, the defendant’s attorney stood up.

When the people watching the live-stream saw the lawyer stand, all of them started ranting in the comments.

“That lawyer has no conscience! How can he help the Smiths in this lawsuit? Who knows how much money the Smiths have given him?”

“I heard that lawyer has never lost any of his cases. He’s definitely gonna lose the one today,

right?”

“Mr. Lawyer, can you have a bit of a conscience? How can you help the Smiths bully a weak and helpless woman? I am so disappointed in you!”

“I hope the lawyer dies together with his whole family!”

Hillary and her attorney next to her were also paying attention to the happenings online.

In addition, there were also people constantly keeping the judge up-to-date about the people’s opinions. After all, he had to take the people’s opinions into consideration, too.

The judge sighed when he heard that everyone was taking the plaintiff’s side.

It would probably be very difficult for the defendant to win the case this time!

While he was thinking about it, the defendant’s attorney said, “Your Honor, members of the jury. First of all, I would like to explain the relationship between my client and the plaintiff.”

He walked out from behind the desk, looked at Hillary, and said, “According to my investigations, Mr. Joel Smith and Ms. Tanya Turner have been in love since they were in junior high, and their relationship continued even after they

entered college. They are recognized by everyone as a model couple. Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner's classmates can testify to this. The plaintiff will not deny this, right?"

Hillary narrowed her eyes.

Her attorney stood up and said, "That has nothing to do with the case. After all, a lot of people's first relationships do not last. Does every spouse have to give way to their partner's first love just because they have returned? Be it true love or his inability to forget his previous lover, it is no reason or excuse for Mr. Smith to cheat on and betray Ms. Jones!"

His answer was very well-worded. A whole row of thumbs-ups appeared in the comments.

"That lawyer said it! No matter what, they have already broken up back then. To put it bluntly, even if Jones was the third wheel in Turner and Smith's relationship back then, the two of them have already had a child together. Tanya Turner shouldn't have come back!"

"I've just imagined a big story about Turner coming back for revenge!"

"Don't say any more. Let's listen to them instead. What if the reason for Turner and Smith's breakup back then wasn't Jones?"

Almost at the same time the comment appeared, the defendant's attorney said, "Of course. My client requested that I make this clear in the courtroom in front of the judge and everyone in the country because he doesn't want Ms. Turner to be called a third wheel."

The plaintiff's lawyer couldn't help but laugh when he heard what he said. He looked straight at the judge and said, "Objection, Your Honor. That has nothing to do with the case. What we are here to talk about is Ms. Mia Smith's custody, and not who the real third wheel of their relationship is!"

Tanya, who was seated in the defendant's dock, was surprised.

She turned and looked at Joel.

The two of them had agreed that they would immediately lay out sufficient evidence at the beginning of the trial, and change her status from the

defendant to the plaintiff. She hadn't expected her attorney to actually walk out and say something like that.

Was Joel... trying to clear her name?

The plaintiff's attorney looked at the defendant's attorney, as well as Joel and Tanya who were seated in the dock. He said, "Even if my client had been the third wheel in your relationship back then, she did not break the law! Moreover, she even gave birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith. As a mother, she has the right and duty to raise her child!"

The defendant's attorney looked straight at the judge. "Your Honor, I mentioned the past because this case can no longer be looked at normally. Humans are creatures of emotion. When everyone is censuring my client, I have the right to defend them. I ask the court for permission to explain things clearly to everyone."

The judge looked at Hillary, and then at Tanya and Joel. At last, he nodded. "Permission granted."

The defendant's attorney looked straight at Hillary. "You were the third wheel in Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner's relationship back then. Do you admit to this?"

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. "They were just dating back then. It's not like they were married, so you can't say that I was the third wheel at all! Mr. Smith and I were also really in love back then!"

"Is that so?" The defendant's attorney couldn't help but smile. "But as far as I know, even though you claim that you have given birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith, the two of you did not become engaged or hold a wedding. Moreover, Mr. Smith also signed an agreement with you back then. The agreement says that once Ms. Mia Smith is five years old, Mr. Smith will terminate his marriage agreement with you, and the two of you will regain your respective freedom. Accordingly, the Smiths will take care of the Joneses' business during those five years. Once the agreement is terminated, Ms. Mia Smith's custody is to go to Mr. Smith. Therefore, can I interpret this as a transaction, except that Ms. Jones intends to go back on her word?!"

Hillary was rendered speechless.

The people in support of Hillary in the comments were also stunned. For a while, they didn't quite know what to say.

“In that case, it seems that the Smiths aren’t in the wrong?”

“But isn’t it too much to prevent the mother from seeing her daughter?”

The plaintiff’s attorney stood up. “The relationship between a mother and her daughter cannot be described as a transaction. Ms. Jones is not a surrogate mother! That agreement was illegal from the start! Besides, as Ms. Smith’s mother, Ms. Jones has visitation rights!”

He glanced at Hillary.

Hillary immediately got the hint.

Before they came here, the two of them had already discussed how they should deal with the agreement. Hillary immediately started to weep. “Yes, that’s why I want to ask the court for help in mediation. It was my first time being a mother back then. The Smiths are too powerful, so I had no other choice. But during the last five years where my daughter and I were dependent on each other, we have already developed strong feelings for each other. How can one control their own emotions? Your Honor, what kind of agreement can stop a mother from seeing her own children?”

She then started to cry bitterly. “Please, Mr. Smith, give me a way out! I’ve already fallen into depression because I can’t see my daughter!”

The plaintiff’s lawyer immediately produced a diagnostic report for depression. “This is my client’s diagnostic report. She misses her daughter too much. I hope the court can be considerate toward her difficulties.”

At the sight, everyone in the courtroom suddenly started to sympathize with Hillary again.

“The Smiths are simply too cold-blooded! The richer people are, the more domineering they become! They don’t care for people’s feelings at all! How can they let the child grow up in a family like that?!”

“Exactly! It is not right to stop a mother from meeting her daughter! How can they do that?!”

“The Smiths are too much!” “The child’s mother is already depressed. She’s so pitiful. She just wants to see her child, what’s so wrong about that?”



“Who knows, maybe the Smiths had threatened her into signing the agreement back then!”

“My god, look at where the defendants are! Turner and Smith are completely expressionless even when they saw Jones crying so badly! They are so heartless! Capitalists are the worst!”

“Yes, they are too inhumane! The child may not understand anything right now, but she will hate them once she grows up and realizes the truth!”

Everyone’s words and the stances they took were conveyed to the judge.

The judge glanced at the defendants. They had completely lost the public’s support.

However, at the defendant’s dock, Tanya was still glaring at Hillary furiously while Joel was expressionless. Even their attorney looked completely calm as if he was not moved by Hillary’s cries at all.

He lowered his gaze and asked, “The defendants, what else do you have to say?”

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look.

Tanya had a firm look in her eyes, but her eyes were gradually turning red.

Joel turned to the attorney and nodded at him.

Following the nod, the defendant’s attorney suddenly walked out from behind the desk and looked at the judge. “Your Honor, I have a piece of evidence I’d like to submit.”

The judge nodded.

The defendant’s lawyer handed over two documents.

The judge was shocked when he saw the documents, and his expression changed drastically. He glanced at Tanya with a complicated look in his eyes, and then looked at Hillary with a frown. Disgust flashed across his eyes.

In the comments, everyone was speculating. “What evidence is that? It actually made the judge’s expression totally change.” “Oh no, the way he’s looking at Smith and Turner isn’t that cold anymore. Could it be that they

didn't submit evidence but a check just now?" "How can they bribe the judge so openly? They are too much!"

Hillary glanced at the comments out of the corner of her eye. When she saw that all the comments were siding with her, the corners of her lips curled up slightly.

However, it was at this moment that the defendant's attorney slowly said, "Your Honor, members of the jury. On behalf of my client Ms. Tanya Turner, I shall now file a lawsuit against Ms. Hillary Jones for maliciously stealing Ms. Turner's child five years ago!! This led to my client being separated from her daughter for as long as five years. May the law impose the most severe sanction on Ms. Jones! I demand that Ms. Jones compensate my client for emotional damages, as well as damages for material losses incurred while searching for her daughter for the last five years!"

His words caused a furor to go through everyone!!

Hillary got up abruptly and looked at them in disbelief.

What did they say just now?

How could this be?!

How did she know?!

She understood Tanya very well. Because she loved Joel too much, she would never tell him that she had lost her child. After all, who wouldn't be miserable about losing their child?

But if it wasn't her who had brought it up, Joel would never imagine that Mia might be Tanya's daughter... So, how did they realize the truth?!

Terribly shocked, she stared in front of her in astonishment.

At the same time, countless question marks also flashed across the comments.

"???"

"?????" "???"

The plaintiff's attorney was dumbfounded while the comments were being filled with question marks. He asked, "What nonsense are you saying?"

The defendant's... no, the defendant had already turned into the plaintiff at this point. The attorney looked straight at Hillary. As a lawyer, he had always been calm when handling cases, but when he realized the truth, even he couldn't help but subconsciously become angry when he looked at the woman. He spoke loudly and forcefully. "The evidence in the judge's and the jury's hands can prove whether I'm talking nonsense or not! The evidence consists of two reports, one is a DNA test report conducted for Ms. Turner and Ms. Mia Smith, and the other is proof that Ms. Jones had stolen the baby! On the day that Ms. Turner gave birth, Ms. Jones had booked a return ticket from Switzerland! Even though she went there by herself, she had returned with a baby!"

His words made Hillary's attorney dumbfounded.

Before the trial, attorneys would typically probe into their client's private affairs in order to prevent the other party from producing surprise evidence that they weren't prepared for.

Therefore, Hillary had even told her attorney the truth about her being the third wheel in Joel and Tanya's relationship beforehand. That was why the attorney hadn't even once accused Tanya of being the third wheel in Hillary's family, for fear that the other party would take advantage of it to counterattack.

Never would he have ever expected such an unbelievable plot twist!

The plot twist was simply too big. The lawsuit between Hillary and Joel had turned straight into one about Hillary's crime!!

They had evidence that she had stolen their child!

He didn't doubt the authenticity of the evidence because the judge and the others would undoubtedly verify it. He was just staring at Hillary in shock, astonishment, and disbelief.

In this instant, he could even feel his career as an attorney ending!

Seeing that her attorney wasn't saying anything but just staring at her, Hillary panicked. She suddenly stood up. "I didn't do anything like that! That's total nonsense!"

Tanya's eyes narrowed as she looked at her. "The evidence can prove whether or not I am talking nonsense! The DNA test shows that Mia and I have a 99% DNA match!! These numbers could never lie!" Hillary swallowed and looked at the gallery.

Karl and Jill were seated in the gallery.

A somewhat incredulous Jill stood up abruptly when the plot twist came. She subconsciously looked at Karl.

Karl, who also seemed stunned by the plot twist, looked at Jill with a puzzled look.

Jill swallowed. She was about to say something when Justin, who was sitting behind Karl, suddenly said, "Mr. Moore, I'm sure you must know the truth of the matter by now. Wouldn't it be rather unreasonable if you continue to help Hillary Jones fight for the child's custody?"

Karl choked.

He had only helped Jill and stood up for her on account of their past relationship. After all, if Hillary was Mia's mother, the Smiths' actions would indeed be going too far.

But now...

If he continued to help Hillary fight for the child, then wouldn't he just be making trouble for no reason?

He coughed and replied, "Of course. The Assassin Organization is not unreasonable."

Justin nodded. Then, he immediately looked at Mr. Jones, who was seated nearby Jill. The astonishment in his eyes didn't seem to be fake, and he looked like he wasn't aware of his daughter's actions at all. He slowly said, "Mr. Jones, are the Joneses still supportive of Hillary's fight for the child's custody?"

Given how even Karl wasn't going to help anymore, there was no way Mr. Jones would have the guts to step forward, either. He shook his head and stammered, "M-Mr. Hunt, I really didn't know about what Hillary did! She did it all by herself! It has nothing to do with the Joneses!" Jill looked at Mr. Jones

furiously. “How can you say that? She’s your daughter! Is that how you should be treating Hillary?!”

An annoyed Mr. Jones retorted, “Even if she’s my daughter, I still didn’t expect her to actually do something like that! She stole someone else’s child! How can she do that?!” The furious Jill panicked. “Even so, you can’t just ignore her! Surely you can’t just watch as she goes to jail?!”

Justin didn’t say anything else. Instead, he looked at the stand.

From the looks of it, it seemed that neither Karl nor Mr. Jones were intending to help anymore. In that case, Jill and Hillary would no longer be able to make any more trouble.

On the judge’s bench.

The judge and the jury were already looking at one another. The judge then looked at Hillary. “There is substantial evidence in my hands, and there are both witnesses and physical evidence against you. What else do you have to say?!”

Hillary knew that what’s done is done at this point and that there was nothing she could do anymore to save herself.

She looked straight at Tanya. In the end, she yelled shamelessly, “I... I didn’t steal the child! I did go abroad, and I did go to Switzerland, but I found the child somewhere! It... It was... It was Tanya who abandoned her child! Yes, that’s it! Your Honor, you can’t convict me. I saved that child’s life! In fact, you should be holding Tanya responsible for abandoning her newborn baby!”

Everyone was stunned. They hadn’t expected that Hillary would still say such things at this point.

Even her attorney had shut up and was unwilling to defend her anymore.

The judge looked at Tanya and Joel.

Tanya’s eyes were red and she did not speak.

Joel’s jaw was clenched tightly and he had lost the usual smile on his face.

Their attorney stood where he was and sneered, “Ms. Jones, I didn’t expect you to be so stubborn. It seems like you’re someone who holds out hope until faced with the grim reality!

“Your Honor, I have a few pieces of evidence here that will prove that she had indeed stolen the baby! That day, she went to the hospital where Ms. Turner had given birth and bribed two nurses in the hospital. That was how she had successfully stolen the baby from the hospital!

“Also! Your Honor, these are financial accounts detailing how much money and effort my client, Ms. Tanya Turner, spent in order to search for her child over the years.

“Your Honor, as you can see, Ms. Jones shows no sign of taking the initiative to plead guilty even now! I implore you to punish her severely in accordance with the law!!”

The more Hillary refused to plead guilty in the case where evidence was conclusive, the less likely she would receive mercy in court.

Her stubbornness was, on the contrary, a positive for Tanya.

The judge frowned, and the way he looked at Hillary changed.

Hillary’s legs went limp and she fell onto the chair. She hadn’t expected them to still be able to find evidence of her bribing the nurses when two years had already gone by. On top of that, they even managed to get the two nurses to testify as witnesses!

It was all over.

Everything was over!

Tanya’s attorney was still speaking. He said, “Your Honor, my client is a dancer with a sizable income, but every year, she pays most of her money to private detectives to engage them in search for her child...

“The millions of dollars she spends on the search each year are nearly the entirety of her income. If she had really abandoned the child, why would she spend that much money searching for her child?!”

“Ms. Jones is still slandering my client even at this point. Not only that, but she even bribed reporters to create public pressure on my client in an attempt to reverse the lawsuit’s outcome!

“I implore the judge to take serious action against her!”

As the attorney’s loud and powerful words rang out, the courtroom fell silent.

After discussion, the judge finally announced, “Given the severity of Ms. Hillary Jones’ crime in stealing the child, and the fact that she shows no intention of pleading guilty, let alone any sign of remorse, we will submit the case to the judiciary and have the Attorney-General’s Office bring charges against her, so that they may give her the maximum sentence possible!”

Upon hearing that, Hillary slumped onto the chair.

The maximum sentence was thirty years of imprisonment!!

Thirty years!

By the time she came out of prison thirty years later, she would be old!

No, she didn’t want to go to jail!!

The court had its own procedures. The court hearing today was for Joel and Hillary’s fight for the custody of their daughter. Therefore, the case was closed without even the need for a full trial.

Hillary was arrested on the spot. She would be under the judiciary’s supervision while she waited for her next court hearing.

The comments in the live-stream had undergone a complete reversal. Everyone was censuring Hillary.

“My god, that’s so disgusting! She is so wicked!”

“Let me give everyone a summary of what happened. Not only was Jones the third wheel in their relationship, but she even stole their baby and claimed that she had given birth to her. And now, she is actually fighting them for custody of the girl? She’s so wicked! That woman is beyond salvation!”

“The fact that Turner has been searching for her daughter for so many years has suddenly moved me so much. I apologize for the derogatory remarks I made against Turner when I wasn’t aware of the truth.”

“I also apologize!”.

“A woman like Hillary Jones should be sentenced to death!”

“Yes, not only did she steal a child, but she even thinks that she’s right in doing so. She shows no signs of repentance at all. If she isn’t sentenced to the death penalty, then she should at least be sentenced to life imprisonment! People like her should spend the rest of their life in jail!”

“I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!”

“Thirty years is too little. I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!”

“Agree with the previous comment!”

“+1!”

“+(my cell phone number)!” “+(my ID number)!”

The public opinion reversed in an instant, and the people took Tanya’s side.

When the handcuffed Hillary was being led away, Jill rushed over and hugged her. “Let go of my daughter! Let go of her!”

The sobbing Hillary yelled, “Mom, save me! Save me! I don’t wanna go to jail!! Sob, Dad, save me!”

However, even after the two of them cried their eyes out, none of the police officers were moved. They dragged Hillary out.

Jill was stunned to the spot. The next moment, she grabbed Hillary’s attorney and shouted furiously, “Why didn’t you say anything just now? We paid money to hire you! Why didn’t you defend my daughter?!” The attorney said with a sense of resignation, “Mrs. Jones, it was stated clearly in our contract that the client is not to conceal any information related to the case. Are you actually demanding an explanation from me when your daughter hid such an important matter from me?!”



He was also rather angry. “Besides, if I had known that the child was stolen from someone else, I would never have taken up the case! I have children, too. People like her should go to jail!”

Jill retorted furiously, “You’re the one who should go to jail, you trash lawyer!”

The attorney sighed and said, “Alright, I’m not going to argue with you anymore. I just want to tell you this now—you and Hillary were the ones who directed public opinion on the case, right? Now, she shall have to undergo the backlash!”

Jill was taken aback. “What do you mean?”

“Previously, the two of you created a buzz to make people take your side in order to put pressure on the court, but all of those people are furious now! They are now strongly demanding that your daughter be sentenced to death! Under such circumstances, I’m afraid your daughter will be sentenced to life imprisonment, at the least, for her malicious actions!”

“Life imprisonment...”

Jill stared straight ahead of her blankly when she heard those two words. She stared at the lawyer incredulously. “She just stole a child, that’s all! What kind of nonsense are you spouting?!”

Seeing that she was being so unreasonable, the attorney didn’t want to talk to her anymore. He merely shook his head and turned to leave.

At the sight, Jill grabbed his arm and said, “Don’t go! Tell me how I can save my daughter! Tell me!”

The attorney sneered, “Is there even any hope of salvation left for someone like your daughter? What’s the point of saving her and bringing her out of prison? So that she can steal other people’s children? Even if you offer three times the remuneration, no one will take up your case anymore, let alone me! Unless they don’t wish to work in this line of business anymore and wish to be attacked instead!”

Jill didn’t dare to lose her temper anymore. She held on to the attorney and said, “D-don’t go, I won’t lose my temper with you anymore. I won’t ask for a refund on the legal fees, either. Just tell me what I should do now. I can’t just watch as my daughter is sentenced to life imprisonment!”

Seeing that she had taken a step back, and thinking of how he needn't return the exorbitant legal fees anymore, the attorney looked around. He lowered his voice and said, "There is only one way to lighten your daughter's sentence." "What is it?"

"Beg for the victim's forgiveness! If the victim can forgive her, she may still have a chance of a reduced sentence."

The victim's... forgiveness...

Jill's head turned abruptly to Tanya, who was about to leave with Joel.

He was right. Tanya was the plaintiff of the case now, which meant that she was the victim.

Jill let go of the attorney and went straight to Tanya. When she came up to her, she grabbed Tanya's arm and said, "Tanya, my daughter, don't go. Help Mom out. You're the only one who can help Mom now. Go to the judge and tell him that you've forgiven Hillary. Tell him that you don't hold it against her anymore! Go and tell him now! Immediately! Right away!"

Her words made Tanya sneer. All she could feel at the moment was just incredulity.

Tanya stared at Jill. Little by little, she pulled her arm out of Jill's grasp. She looked at Jill coldly and slowly said, "Did you know? I've always wanted to ask you something ever since I was a child."

Jill was taken aback. "What?"

"Am I really your daughter?"

Tanya's eyes were a little red. "How is it that you can do so much and go so far for Hillary, yet be so cruel to me?!"

Jill was stunned. But immediately after that, she said angrily, "What did I do to you? Did I bring you up and keep you alive so that you can bully me later in life? You are too much! You have to go to the judge right away and tell him that you've forgiven Hillary! Or else—"

"Or else what? What will you do?"

Tanya stared at her, but there was no fluctuation of emotions in her voice at all.

Jill was shocked by her reaction. For a moment, she couldn't say anything.

“Or else you won't acknowledge me as your daughter anymore? Didn't you already sever ties with me a long time ago?”

“Or perhaps, you won't pay for my tuition fees anymore? But have you ever given me any money? “Or perhaps, you won't give me any food? That worked very well when I was young. I was indeed scared when you locked me up in that dark room and didn't give me any food or water. But I'm no longer the four-year-old kid anymore!! Jill, you can't control me anymore!”

The more Tanya spoke, the colder her voice became. “As for Hillary...” Suddenly she bent down, lowered her head, and leaned into Jill's ear. “Why do you think the Smiths didn't bother with damage control and allowed public opinion to get to this state? It's precisely so that she could have a taste of her own medicine!”

Jill was dumbfounded.

When the lawyer mentioned it, she had thought that it was just a coincidence, but from the way it sounded now... It was actually a conspiracy by Tanya and Joel!! The fiercer the people scolded them, the guiltier they would feel once the truth was revealed!

No wonder they hadn't explained anything the whole time, and even assaulted the reporter!!

Jill's eyes widened as she stared at the daughter who seemed so foreign to her now. Tanya straightened her back and, with an extremely cold look in her eyes, said, “She stole my daughter and my boyfriend, and even abused my daughter for as long as five years. Jill, even if you kneel here for the rest of your life, I will never forgive her!

“You want me to write a letter of forgiveness? Over my dead body!!”

She turned, took Joel's hand, and got ready to leave.

However, the furious Jill suddenly rushed towards her and grabbed her. “Why did I give birth to a bastard like you?! You’re a bane to the world! I should have killed you when you were a child! I should have starved you to death!”

Neither Tanya nor Joel had expected her to actually jump up and attack them in the courtroom. She caught Tanya by her hair.

She reached out and tried to scratch Tanya’s cheek, but Joel already had her wrist in a tight grip. He pushed her away with great force, making her fall onto the floor behind her.

Joel looked down at her from above and said, “Please treat my fiancée with courtesy, Mrs. Jones.”

After speaking, he glanced at Mr. Jones, who was in the gallery.

Mr. Jones immediately got the hint. He came over hastily and held Jill back.

Only then did Tanya and Joel leave the courtroom.

As soon as they exited, they ran into Justin in the car park. As the three looked at one another, Joel asked, “How did it go?”

One of the reasons Justin had to be present today was so that he could convince Karl not to take any further action in the gallery.

Justin replied, “No big issues. Karl is an underworld figure and has a very strong aura of one from the underworld around him. With the truth publicly exposed and Hillary Jones arrested, there’s nothing he can say anymore. Besides, the Assassin Organization probably doesn’t want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, either.” His voice turned cold as he added, “Otherwise, I wouldn’t have given him a chance to leave the country!”

Joel nodded. “He has already done enough to pay back the favor he owes his old lover. Unless Hillary is his daughter, that guy probably won’t do anything for them anymore.”

His daughter?

The moment he said that, both Justin and Joel suddenly thought of something, and they both abruptly turned to Tanya.

The two clan leaders' gazes made Tanya a little uncomfortable. She glanced down at herself and asked, "What's the matter? Is there something wrong with my clothes?" Nothing was wrong with them, though! Her clothes were very suitable for the occasion, and nothing was dirty... While she was wondering about it, Joel suddenly asked, "Tanya, have you ever wondered who your father is?"

Tanya: "..."

She sighed and replied, "Of course I have. But every time I asked Jill about it, she would always say that he's a scumbag and a hooligan who deceived her and made her pregnant..."

A hooligan...

The word made Justin and Joel suddenly glance at each other.

A short while later, Joel suddenly said, "Don't you find that Karl Moore actually has... a bit of a hooligan-like air around him?"

Tanya: "??"

In the courtroom.

Even after everyone else had left, Jill was still laying on the floor and making a scene. "I'm not going to get up if you don't save my daughter! You're a good-for-nothing! What's the use of a father like you?!"

Mr. Jones was standing next to her. At last, he said, "Stay on the floor if that's what you want. Who cares?!"

He left right away.

Karl, who was still in the gallery, looked at Jill who was on the floor. He scratched his head.

His subordinate behind him couldn't help but ask, "Boss, what did you see in her in your younger days?"

Karl also felt a little embarrassed.

He coughed. "Maybe I was blind back then."

The subordinate was speechless.

He got up and walked toward Jill. Just as he was about to say something, Jill got up by herself and patted the dust off herself. There was none of the shrewish behavior she had just exhibited around her anymore. Instead, she looked at Karl calmly.

Karl coughed, “Are you okay?”

“I’m fine.”

Jill stared at Karl and said, “You have to help me save my daughter!”

Karl cast his eyes down. “You’re not in the right with regard to this matter. Neither can I bring myself to do something like that.”

Wouldn’t he be thoroughly embarrassed if outsiders were to learn of it?

Unexpectedly, as soon as he said that, Jill immediately asked, “Do you know why I chose to beg you instead of Hillary’s father for help?”

Karl shook his head.

Jill said solemnly, “Because Hillary is not his daughter but yours!”

Karl: “!!!!”

He was astounded. “What did you say?”

Jill stretched out her fingers—there were two strands of hair gripped tightly between them. “I plucked Hillary’s hair off her when I made contact with her just now. You can do a DNA test for you and her.”

Karl was dumbfounded.

He stared at Jill incredulously. His gaze landed on the strands of hair she was holding and he swallowed hard, feeling that his ears must be playing tricks on him. “What did you say?”

Jill sighed. “You can put the timeline together yourself. When I married into the Joneses, I was already four months pregnant! Think about it, isn’t the child yours if I was already four months pregnant at that time?” Karl swallowed. “But Hillary Jones’ birth date doesn’t match!”

Jill sighed. "That's because I delayed registering her birth for four months. After all, I couldn't bring shame to the Joneses. You can look into it. I gave birth to my daughter in a private clinic, so they may still have records! Also, no matter what, you should have a DNA test done first."

Jill handed the strands of hair to Karl. "Only hair with the follicles intact can be used in a DNA test. Be careful not to damage them. By the way, my daughter doesn't know that she is not my husband's child..."

Jill said that because she was afraid that Karl would send someone to the prison to sound Hillary out.

After saying that, she started to head toward the exit. Before she left, she added, "No matter what, you should still make sure that your daughter stays alive, right?"

Karl looked at her and narrowed his eyes. "Don't worry, if she really is my daughter, no one will be able to take her life!"

Jill breathed a sigh of relief.

She lowered her head and said, "I won't ask for that child from the Smiths anymore. All I ask for now is just for you to rescue my daughter, get her out of prison and take her abroad! I hope you can treat her well for the rest of her life after that!"

Karl hesitated for a moment. Then, he asked tentatively, "If she is my daughter, why didn't you tell me that from the start?"

Jill stared at Karl. After a long silence, she finally heaved a deep sigh and said, "I only wanted to borrow your authority in the beginning. I don't wish for anything beyond that anymore. Besides, my daughter wasn't having any problems at that time, and you were also willing to help me, so it didn't matter whether or not I told you the truth. But now that I know that you don't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, I can only tell the truth!"

Karl kept quiet for a long while. Suddenly, he broke into a grin and said, "Jill, you should know that I am an outlaw. You know it won't end well for people who lie to me, right?"

Jill was so frightened by the way he spoke that she shuddered. However, she then said resolutely, "Go and have a DNA test done."

Karl nodded.

After Jill left, his subordinate behind him asked, "Boss, surely not, right? Is that child-stealing woman really your daughter?"

Karl, however, frowned and said nothing. In the end, he suddenly sighed and instructed, "Send someone to the prison and protect Hillary Jones for now!" "Understood."

He turned, exited, and walked toward the car.

The subordinate asked, "Boss, where are you going?"

Karl replied, "A DNA testing lab. Find me a reliable one!" "Yes, sir!"

Justin, Joel, and Tanya returned to the Smiths' manor.

As soon as they entered the manor, someone came forward and whispered something to Joel.

Joel frowned.

The sensitive Tanya asked, "What's wrong?"

Joel didn't hide anything from her. After letting five years pass them by, both of them cherished each other very much now. When he heard her question, he replied, "I sent someone to the jail to teach Hillary a lesson, but I just received news that someone has interfered on her behalf."

Tanya immediately asked, "Who did it?"

Joel replied, "Karl Moore."

Tanya frowned at the name.

Ever since Joel and Justin voiced their guess, Tanya had been feeling a little uncomfortable. Surely Karl wasn't really her father, right?

She frowned and did some calculations of the timeline around her birth date. However, she didn't think it matched.

It seemed like her date of birth was half a year too early?



Besides, it was impossible for her date of birth to be wrong because Hillary was born a year later than her. It couldn't possibly be that Jill became pregnant with Hillary when she was pregnant with her, right? The age difference between the two of them was only one year anyway! While she was thinking about it, Justin said, "It doesn't make sense."

Joel nodded. "If it's just because of an old lover, Moore is unlikely to help Hillary further. After all, the Smiths and the Hunts can control almost the entire United States. Karl's assassins may be powerful, but he may not necessarily be willing to offend two big families at the same time!"

This was also why Justin had the confidence to threaten Karl when they were in the courtroom!

Justin said, "How strange. Something we are unaware of must have happened."

He took out his cell phone and sent messages to both Sean and Lawrence: 'Investigate why Karl Moore helped Hillary Jones in prison.'

Joel also said, "I'll get my men to investigate, too."

With the leaders of the two big families simultaneously investigating the same thing, they would surely get results very soon.

After sending the messages, Justin glanced at Tanya again and suddenly said, "I still find you and Karl Moore somewhat similar."

Joel also stared at Tanya for a while. "Why don't we do a DNA test, after all? It's safer that way."

The two men's gazes made Tanya's lip corners spasm a little, and she became a little hesitant.

She had originally been very resistant to the idea.

After all, Karl had helped Jill to bully her. However, given how the two men were staring at her, it seemed like she had no choice but to do the DNA test, after all?

In the end, she could only nod.

Lily walked down from upstairs at this point.

At the sight of Lily, Justin got a shock. He hurriedly asked, "What's the matter with Nora?"

Joel also looked over with concern.

Lily hurriedly replied, "Relax, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Smith. Boss is fine. She has been sleeping the last two days, so I was afraid that she would have low blood sugar. I just gave her some nutritional fluids." The two men relaxed upon hearing her explanation.

Lily then said, "Boss is sleeping really soundly. Don't worry!"

## Chapter 392 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Upon hearing his words, Jill was relieved. "You're right. Hillary wants to return to the country. We can't let that adulterous couple live happily!"

Upon hearing this, Karl Moore looked at Jill and asked, "I heard that Tanya is also your daughter?"

Jill's eyes flickered. "No, she's my elder brother's illegitimate daughter. Back then, no one cared about her, so I adopted her. I didn't expect to raise such an ingrate! Hillary is my biological daughter!"

Karl Moore was enlightened when he heard this.

He had actually investigated Jill. There was less than a year between Tanya and Hillary's birth. Her pregnancy would take ten months, and with a month of confinement, this was too close!

It turned out that Tanya was not her biological daughter. That made sense.

Karl Moore did not care about these questions. Instead, he said, "I've already arranged for someone to bring Hillary back."

He looked at the time. "Your family will be reunited tonight. You don't have to be afraid of the Smiths. Since they promised me, they won't do anything to your family!"

Jill nodded and looked up at Karl Moore pitifully. Her eyes were filled with tears. "Thank you, thank you... Otherwise, we would really be bullied this time. I don't even know what to do..."

Jill was old, but she still had her own way of acting coquettishly.

Karl Moore found it a little strange.

The way she looked when she was young made people dote on her. When she became older, it was a little... disgusting.

Cough.

Karl Moore moved his gaze away. "Alright, you can go back. Contact me if there's anything! Don't worry, I won't ignore you."

Jill nodded.

At night, Hillary returned home.

As soon as she arrived at the residence, she saw Mr. Jones pacing around anxiously in the living room. When he saw her, he instantly said, "What are you messing around for? For Mia's sake, the Smiths will always take care of our family! If you go against them like this, what will happen in the future if you lose?"

Hillary was scolded by him loudly.

Madam Jones scolded Mr. Jones, "What are you saying about the child? This is our daughter. Are you even human? If you don't care about her, I'll find someone who can compete with the Smiths. I won't let my daughter suffer!"

When Hillary heard this, she threw herself into Madam Jones's arms and cried. "Mom..."

Madam Jones touched Hillary's head. "Alright, alright. After you snatch the child back, go overseas. I believe he can help you."

Hillary nodded, but she was a little anxious. "But Mom, what if we lose this case?"

"Lose?"

Jill shook her head. "How could we lose? After all, we already have the upper hand in public opinion!"

Hillary was taken aback.

Public opinion?

Tanya did not know about Karl Moore.

She only knew that they were about to go to court with Hillary.

The next day was Monday. She brought Mia and Brandon to school as usual... As she had stayed with the Smiths last night, Joel personally took the three of them to kindergarten this morning.

At the door, Tanya was a little nervous. "I'll get out of the car first. Don't let the teachers see me!"

Joel stared at her in the driver's seat. "What are you afraid of? Or do you not want to be seen with Mia?"

Upon hearing this, Tanya immediately shook her head. "How could that be?!"

She had just acknowledged her daughter, and she did not want to be separated from her for even a moment.

Joel said, "Then be magnanimous and take your daughter to kindergarten!"

"Alright, then."

Tanya nodded.

The car arrived at the entrance of the kindergarten. Brandon got out of the car first and followed their teacher into the kindergarten. Tanya held Mia's hand and walked in.

When the teachers in the kindergarten saw them, their expressions changed. Someone asked awkwardly, "Ms. Turner, why are you here with Mia?"

Before Tanya could say anything, Mia answered timidly, "Mommy was at my house yesterday!"

'Mommy'...

This greeting made the other teachers even more puzzled.

They looked at each other and then came to a realization. They forced a smile at Tanya. "Okay, go in."

Tanya thought that the other party's gaze was too ambiguous. She lowered her head and brought Mia into the kindergarten.

Then, she sent Mia to her class and went to the dance studio.

Mia sat in her seat after entering the class.

Pete was worried about Nora, so he did not come to school. Mia sat alone in the corner, small and timid.

The other children kept their distance from her.

The adults at home had told them that Mia was weak and that they definitely couldn't bully her in the kindergarten or get too close.

If anything happened to Mia and her illness acted up, they would be blamed.

Therefore, Mia had always been alone.

It was just that recently, Pete had been closer to her and would bring her along every time they played. Cherry was the class's favorite, and everyone played around her. Therefore, Mia gradually got to play with everyone.

But today, the children were far away from her.

Mia looked at Fawn sitting beside her and said, "Fawn, let's go..."

Before she finished, Fawn waved her hand. "I don't want to. I don't want to play with you. My mother said that you are an ingrate!"

Mia: "???"

She was stunned and looked around in confusion.

All the children seemed to have heard this and began to point at Mia with disdain.

Someone even asked her, "Mia, don't you want your mother anymore? Do you want Ms. Turner to be your mother? Isn't your mother sad to see you like this?"

Mia bit her lip. "But Ms. Turner is my mother..."

However, the five-year-olds could not differentiate the truth at all. They only believed whatever their parents said.

They all began to isolate Mia.

On Mia's side, she was isolated from everyone. After all, she was a child of the Smiths and they didn't dare to bully her. However, Tanya's situation wasn't much better than hers.

After one class in the dance studio, she had no classes for the day, so she went to the office to rest.

Before she could enter, she heard voices coming from inside.

"She looks like a straightforward person. Why is she interfering in someone else's family?"

"Yes, you can't tell from her appearance that she's such a person..."

"Tsk, can a mistress carve the words 'mistress' on her face? But Ms. Turner is indeed good-looking. She has the capital..."

"But Mr. Smith is too much. It's bad enough that he cheated on her, but he didn't even let the child's mother see her child. That's too much! Indeed, there are no good people in wealthy families."

"Look, it's on the trending searches again! Hillary has posted on Facebook!"

Tanya narrowed her eyes when she heard this.

She lowered her head and opened Facebook on her phone.

The top trending topic was indeed a long post on Hillary's Facebook. Tanya browsed through it. The other party's general meaning was that Joel had been two-timing back then. After she got pregnant and gave birth to a child, she finally got together with Joel. However, she did not expect the mistress to return and ruin her family. After the man changed his attitude, he became even more ruthless and asked her to go overseas and not meet his daughter again. Tanya even coaxed her daughter to call her "Mommy." Her only request now is to take her daughter away... She only hoped that the court would give her justice.

If someone not in the know saw this, they would definitely scold Tanya and Joel!

Furthermore, as a famous dancer and an artist, Tanya had her own Facebook. She already had more than a million followers.

Hillary had even tagged her, causing many people to privately message her. Some even cursed her to die a horrible death.

Tanya lowered her eyes at the various vicious words.

At that moment, a voice sounded from behind. "Ms. Turner, what are you standing here for?"

With this sentence, the female teachers in the room who had gathered together and were whispering suddenly stopped and looked at the door in surprise.

Seeing that she had been seen through, Tanya walked into the office.

She looked at the female teachers who were talking and their condemning gazes and said directly, "Sometimes, what you see isn't everything. Before you know the truth, I hope you can maintain your rationality. Furthermore, the case is about to start. There will always be an explanation!"

However, it would have been fine if she had not spoken. The moment she did, the righteous teachers began to attack her.

"Ms. Turner, I don't know what kind of emotional entanglements you had with Mr. Smith in the past, and it's true that Mia's mother and Mr. Smith are not married. If you get involved, calling you a third wheel is a little too much. But! You shouldn't have stopped the child's mother from seeing the child!"

"Yes, the child is still young. Do you think you can hide the truth by making her call you Mommy? When she grows up, she'll know who her biological mother is sooner or later."

"Yeah, this is too much..."

"The men in wealthy families are really heartless. If Mr. Smith can treat Mia's mother like this today, wouldn't he treat you like this too in the future when he finds someone else to love?"

“Ms. Turner, it’s best to have a conscience.”

“ ... ”

Hearing those words, Tanya sneered. “Then do you know what the truth is?”

The truth?

Who would care about the truth at this point?

The teachers curled their lips disdainfully and said nothing

After all, they had interacted with Mia a lot in school in the past, and Hillary had seemed like a good mother to outsiders.

Hillary hadn’t dared to do anything too obvious all these years. At the very least, there was still Joel who had been keeping an eye on her. How would she possibly dare to abuse Mia?

Thus, no one had ever considered that Mia might not be her daughter.

However, these were the wealthy’s private affairs. The teachers didn’t dare to make overly-arrogant comments, either. After all, Mr. Smith could easily just make them lose their jobs.

Seeing that no one was saying anything anymore, Tanya didn’t bother explaining anything else. After all, the fact that Mia was her daughter was a trump card that Joel was saving for the confrontation in court. Should they reveal it now, Karl might make other arrangements, or even straight-up send Hillary away.

Since no one was saying anything anymore, both parties could just live in peace.

In the afternoon, the principal of the kindergarten came up to them. With a worried look on his face, he said, “Ms. Turner, there are a few reporters outside...”

Reporters?

Tanya narrowed her eyes. In the end, she sighed and said, “Forget it. I’ll go on leave for the next few days.”



The principal was relieved. “Okay. Will you and Mia be leaving together? Or separately?”

Tanya thought for a while. She couldn’t rest assured leaving her five-year-old daughter here. Moreover, the two had only just acknowledged each other, so it would be nice to stay at home together for a few days to bond with each other.

Therefore, Tanya replied, “I will leave with Mia.”

She entered the classroom and told Mia to come out. Then, she decided to leave quietly from the back door to avoid attracting the attention of the reporters at the front door.

Unexpectedly, the moment she exited the back door, another group of reporters came forward and surrounded her and Mia.

“Ms. Turner, what are your thoughts about being called a mistress on the Internet?”

“Ms. Turner, are you really a third wheel in someone else’s relationship?”

“Why are you forbidding the child’s mother from visiting her? Don’t you think it’s too much of you guys to do that?!” “Ms. Turner, a mother’s relationship with her daughter is something you cannot stop or destroy. Mistresses can never completely take the position of a lawful wife! This will not end well for the two of you!”

Tanya frowned and pressed Mia’s head against her chest as she hugged her tightly.

In spite of that, a sharp-eyed reporter still spotted her. She immediately pointed the microphone at the child in Tanya’s arms, and even reached out and tapped the little girl. “You must be little Mia, right? Little girl, do you not want your mother anymore?”

Mia received a huge fright. There was a timid look in her eyes.

She looked over and glanced at the reporter, but Tanya pressed her head back against her chest. Tanya gave the reporter a warning look and said, “She is just a child. Don’t target her!”

The rest of the reporters had moral boundaries to some extent, but that particular reporter remained aggressive. It was obvious at one glance that she had been bribed by Hillary. She sneered, "Are you afraid that the girl will say that she wants her mother if we ask her questions? Is that why you're not even letting her speak? Ms. Turner, you're too arrogant for a mistress!"

Tanya wanted to speak, but Mia, who was in her arms, suddenly lifted her head.

The little girl had always been timid and a pushover, but in this instant, she wanted to protect her mother. She shouted, "I want Daddy and Mommy Tanya! You're not allowed to badmouth Mommy Tanya!"

A child's reaction was the most genuine.

The rest of the reporters were stunned.

However, the same reporter said, "Little girl, where's your conscience? Your mom went through so much to give birth to you after ten months of pregnancy. Are you going to be an ingrate? What exactly did Tanya Turner give you for you to protect her like this?! Or is it because you think that your father is richer and more powerful than your mother, so you want to stay with your father instead? How can you be so practical when you're still a child? Or perhaps, you are being threatened by your father or Ms. Turner?"

Mia had never been questioned like that before. The reporter's questions made her dumbfounded.

Mist formed in her eyes, and she cried out while in tears, "Sob! Don't scold Mommy Tanya anymore!"

Tanya was infuriated.

Seeing that the reporter's microphone was about to jab right into Mia's face, and that there was even a camera filming Mia, she pushed the reporter angrily. Then, she grabbed the camera and smashed it onto the ground!

Smash!

The camera shattered all over the ground.

At this point, in the distance, the bodyguards and kindergarten security guards, who had sensed something wrong, rushed over and separated Tanya from the reporters.

Tanya stared at the reporter and said, “Don’t drag the children in the adults’ affairs! I’ve already said that just now! As for the camera, I will compensate you for it!”

With Mia in her arms, Tanya strode toward the van nearby.

It was only after they got in the car that Tanya finally put Mia down.

The little girl was shaking. Her eyes were all red, and she had tears in them. She asked weakly, “Mommy, did I do something wrong? Why are those people being so fierce to me?”

Her words made Tanya’s heart ache.

She thought of the situation just now, and she became so angry that she felt like she was about to explode.

She picked up her phone and dialed Joel’s number at once. “Goddammit, I’m going to sue that reporter!”

When Joel heard her swearing, he asked, “What’s the matter?”

After Tanya explained what had happened, Joel’s voice was even colder than hers. “That reporter is going to jail for life!”

Joel hurried home and arrived just as Tanya and Mia reached home.

It was only when he saw that the two women were safe and sound that he finally breathed a sigh of relief. However, when he saw that both Tanya’s and Mia’s eyes were all red, Joel’s eyes narrowed. Fortunately, the trial would be commencing the next day, so his wife and daughter would no longer have to suffer such grievances.

He took a deep breath, took a step forward, and put his arms around Tanya’s and Mia’s shoulders.

He didn’t expect the matter to ferment further in the evening, though.

His assistant handed his phone to Joel and showed him the news. When he looked at it, he found that the number one trending topic on social media right now was about that reporter. The reporter was crying as she looked into the camera. “To cameramen and photographers, the camera is tantamount to their life, as well as their most precious partner. But Ms. Turner smashed my camera so arrogantly. She also said that the Smiths would compensate me for it...

“But they instead sued me after that. If it weren’t for a certain someone who helped me out, I would probably be under investigation in the police station right now!

“Even so, I have received a lot of bloody packages in the mail. It is clear that they are threatening me! I am not afraid of threats, and I will fight against the power they hold to the death! I will not succumb to their threats! Even if the power they wield is too arrogant and too fearsome.

“My friends, if you don’t see me tomorrow, then it must be because I’ve been attacked. I don’t want to die! Please help me!”

The video’s comments section was full of curses.

The wealthy were generally fastidious about handling things in a low-key fashion. Very few would kick up a huge fuss.

Hillary was intending to fight a battle of public opinion so that the judge would sympathize with her more when they went to court. One could say that she was resorting to very unscrupulous means just to win the lawsuit.

To think the reporter had been released, though... From the looks of it, it was Karl who had done something about it. Joel was rather troubled.

The amount of influence that Karl had in the States had exceeded his expectations a little.

He wasn’t really bothered, though. As the head of the Smiths, this bit of trouble was nothing to him. He was just a little worried that Tanya would not be able to take it if she saw the comments.

Joel put down the phone and entered the room.

The moment he did, he heard Tanya reading out the private messages that random people had sent her. “This person says that third wheels in relationships always end up miserable! He’s right, a third wheel like Hillary certainly won’t have any happiness left!

“This one says that we bullied the little reporter. Tsk, how blind is he? Didn’t he see the reporter forcing a kid to answer her questions?

“And this one, too. He says that I don’t have any class because I hit the reporter. Hah, he’s right. Compared to someone like her who reprimands others when she doesn’t even know the truth, I certainly don’t have that much class. But I at least don’t have such a high level of ideological consciousness that I would interfere in other people’s matters...”

Joel: “...”

He had almost forgotten what kind of family Tanya had grown up in. She had already experienced several flaming wars a long time ago, so she didn’t give two hoots about it anymore.

Cherry was seated opposite her. “Do you need me to scold them for you, God-mom? I’m really good at dissing people!”

“Do you know how to spell what you want to write?” asked Pete.

Cherry: “...”

Pete took the opportunity to persuade her. “You should practice your spelling when you have time! We have to study hard, okay?”

At the mention of studying, Cherry pouted and said, “You are not lovable anymore, Pete!”

Pete sighed.

The tyrant was strict with him, but he simply spoiled Cherry too much. This led to Cherry not knowing how to spell a lot of words, even though she was already five. He looked down at his Mathematical Olympiad problems that were nearly at high school-level, and felt that his sister was simply too stupid!

Tanya laughed when she saw the two children bicker. “The two of you are so... but it’s true that you should practice your spellings properly, Cherry. Mia can already spell more than 500 words!”

Cherry curled her lips disdainfully. “If I really wanted to do it, I could memorize 500 spellings in a minute. I just don’t want to, that’s all! Besides, Daddy said that I am a girl, so I don’t have to tire myself out like that!”

Tanya: “...”

She quickly put her arms around Mia and said to her, “Don’t follow what Cherry does, okay?” Mia nodded sensibly. “Okay, Mommy!” Every time she heard Mia calling her ‘Mommy’, Tanya’s heart would melt a little. She smiled and said, “My little baby Mia is so well-behaved~”

Mia’s cheeks flushed at once.

Next to them, Cherry stuck out her tongue. “You’re calling her a little baby when she’s already five? God-mom, you are too mushy!” Tanya looked up at her. “No matter how old you become, to your mothers, all of you will always be children!”

Cherry tilted her head but didn’t refute her this time.

At this point, Joel came in and said, “Mia is also a girl, so she doesn’t need to study that hard.”

Tanya glared at him. “Don’t be a slave to your daughter like Mr. Hunt! Besides, Mia is different from Cherry...”

Cherry was always filled with confidence.

Although Nora hadn’t said anything about it before, Tanya had nevertheless discovered that the little girl was very smart, and could quickly master anything she was learning. As for Mia, perhaps because she had been brought up by Hillary, she was always lacking in confidence. She was always afraid that other people would dislike her, or that she wouldn’t perform well enough.

A person like her would only be confident and have a better future if she became strong. Every child was different.

Tanya had specially taken psychology classes before she joined the kindergarten as a teacher.

Joel, who had been lectured, touched his nose. Then, he said, “Don’t look at the news on the Internet anymore.”

Tanya nodded and tossed the phone aside. “I find them very ignorant, too. I read it just now because I wanted to strengthen Mia’s mental resilience. Say, why are they so childish, though? Is it actually that easy to make them think a certain way?”

Joel replied, “They are just a bunch of trolls on the Internet. Don’t bother yourself with them.”

Tanya nodded again and said with a smile, “There are still people who are supportive of me! For example...”

“For example, the young and popular singer, Clement Carter?”

Joel suddenly raised his eyebrows as he stared at the trending topics on social media on the phone before he shifted his gaze to Tanya.

Tanya was taken aback. “What’s up with Clement?”

Joel handed her the phone. Only then did Tanya notice that the hashtag #ClementCarterSpeaksUpForTanyaTheThirdWheel was trending

Tanya: “?”

When she tapped on the hashtag, she found out that Clement’s latest tweet was:

Clement Carter: “Don’t just follow the herd. To me, Ms. Turner has always been an open and straightforward person. She would never do that sort of thing. I trust her. @TanyaDances”

Tanya: “...”

Clement wasn’t a pop star. Rather, he was a singer and music artist. His voice was said to hail from the heavens, and he could switch between high pitch and low pitch very easily.

Clement enjoyed extremely high international acclaim.

He had a rich voice and a very wide vocal range. No matter how difficult the song was, he could easily handle it.

At the same time, he was also part of the Carters in New York. The family itself had a very strong artistic background and was a true family of artists.

When Tanya saw the verbal abuse he was suffering because he had spoken up for her, she couldn't help but ask, "Why is he sticking his head out at such a time?"

The way she spoke sounded as if she was very close to him.

Joel asked sourly, "Does your heart ache because he was scolded?"

Tanya: "..."

She finally noticed the jealous lover in front of her. Tanya burst out laughing and said, "It's Clement, you know. It's not like you don't know him. Didn't we play a lot with one another when we were kids?"

Joel snorted. Tanya said, "When I left the country, he also went abroad for further studies. We once had a cross-industry artistic collaboration where he sang and I danced, so we got to know each other better."

"Tsk."

Joel couldn't help but say, "He sings while you dance. That sounds lovely."

Tanya burst into loud laughter again. She knew that Joel was not really jealous. Rather, he was just teasing her because he was worried that she would be affected by the remarks on the internet.

She pointed at Joel and asked, "Did someone fill you up with jealousy today?" Joel was relieved to see that she was really alright.

In the evening, the two of them watched over Mia.

As they lay on either side of Mia, Joel looked at Tanya and suddenly asked, "Are you nervous about going to court tomorrow?"

With Mia in between, Tanya looked back at him. Fearing that she might wake Mia, her voice was very low and soft as she replied, "No, I'm not."



Joel made a sound of acknowledgment.

Tanya thought that he was going to sleep, so she pulled the quilt over herself and closed her eyes.

It was summer, so the air conditioner in the room was turned very low. Tanya and Mia shared a quilt while Joel used another quilt.

When Tanya was about to fall asleep, Joel's soft voice reached her. "Don't worry, Tanya. I will definitely make Hillary pay for what she did."

Surprised, Tanya turned to Joel. In the dark, she could see a cold look in his eyes. He didn't raise his voice, but it was as if there was power in his words. "I won't let anyone bully the two of you anymore."

Tanya pressed her lips together. Her eyes reddened and sorrow welled up in her.

When she was young, she had tried her best and given her all for love, but she hadn't known how to love. She would kick up a huge fuss whenever she met with the slightest bit of unhappiness and often threatened to break up whenever they quarreled.

It was as if she was fearless.

It's only when one recovers what they have lost that they finally discover how precious the love is.

She suddenly hated her past self. Why had she called Joel when she saw the photo? Why hadn't she gone to him with the photo and asked him for a clear explanation?

If she had asked him for an explanation, and if he hadn't said those hurtful words in a flash of anger, the two of them might not have let these five years pass them by like that.

Mia probably would not have been lost, either. Tanya suddenly reached over past Mia. She fumbled around and then held Joel's hand. This time, she would never let go.

When they exited the bedroom after waking up the next day, they saw Justin coming out of Nora's bedroom.

Joel subconsciously asked, “Last night, you...” “I slept in the guest room.”

The beauty mark at the corner of Justin’s eye shimmered as he replied politely, “I just went in to see if she is awake.”

Joel breathed a sigh of relief. Sensing that he had made a mountain out of a molehill just now, he coughed and said, “Oh, I wasn’t suspecting you of taking the opportunity to take advantage of her. I just wanted to ask if you slept well last night.”

Justin glanced at him but didn’t expose his brother-in-law’s thoughts. After all, his father-in-law still disliked him for some strange reason at the moment.

He needed his brother-in-law’s help.

Justin nodded. “I slept pretty well. I’ll come to the court with you guys later.” Joel said, “Actually, you don’t have to go to so much trouble. We’ve already prepared everything we need in court today.” Justin coughed. “I’m going for Nora, lest she gets angry when she wakes up and finds out that I haven’t shown enough concern.”

Joel: “...”

The corners of his lips spasmed a little. He suddenly felt that his brother-in-law was getting more and more thick-skinned.

The group of people left the house, split up, and got into a few cars. Soon, they arrived at the court entrance.

As soon as they got out of the car, Hillary rushed out from somewhere and went straight up to the two of them before they even entered the court.

Behind Hillary was a large number of reporters.

Thud!

Hillary knelt right in front of Tanya and Joel. Her eyes were red as she said, “Mr. Smith, Tanya. I can give the two of you my blessing and withdraw from the relationship, but you can’t do this to me. Please, I beg you. Give my daughter back to me! Mia is everything to me!”

The reporters whipped out their cameras and started snapping away.

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

Joel said, "Ms. Jones, the court has the final say today, so please get up." Hillary, however, was crying very badly. "I was wrong, Mr. Smith. I shouldn't have pestered you, and I should have withdrawn from the relationship myself, but you can't just drive me out of the country. Mia was once part of my body, you can't just separate me from my daughter like this! I believe that Mia wouldn't be willing to leave her mother, either. Where's Mia? Mia?"

She looked behind the two of them.

Some of the reporters also looked behind them. They immediately asked: "Where's the child?"

"Yeah, Mr. Smith, the court instructed you to bring Ms. Smith with you because they may ask the child some questions." "Did you not bring the child with you? You're too much!"

Hillary cried even harder. "I haven't seen Mia for a week, Mr. Smith! I just want to see the girl! Just a look would do!"

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look. Tanya lowered her gaze. When she thought of all the pain she had suffered during those five years, and how reserved and timid Mia was every time she mentioned her mother, a wave of anger surged up in her.

How she wished she could rip Hillary's face apart and cut her into shreds!

To think she still had the cheek to mention the child...

Tanya slowly said, "Hillary, you'll never see the child ever again for the rest of your life!"

After saying that, she held Joel's arm, and the two of them walked straight into the court!

Hillary's tragic and miserable sobs rang out outside. "Tanya, how can you do this to me?! How can you?! My daughter! I just want my daughter!"

The reporters around them did not dare to approach Tanya and Joel-after all, they were outside the court. Thus, they surrounded Hillary.

"Ms. Jones, how confident of winning the lawsuit are you?"

“Ms. Jones, did you file a lawsuit for money or for your daughter?”

Hillary got up. She wiped the tears from her eyes and wept as she said to the camera, “I don’t want money! I don’t want anything except my daughter!”

With a sad and pitiful look in her eyes, she said, “I know I’m unemployed at the moment, but the Joneses are also rich. I receive dividends from the Joneses’ company. I am also willing to work for my daughter’s sake!

“My daughter is everything to me!

“I can withdraw from the love triangle, but my daughter is innocent!”

She burst into tears. “Please, everyone, help me! Help me get my daughter back!” She wept fiercely. Her tears made the audience watching the live broadcast full of pity and heartache for her.

For a time, public opinion completely took her side.

Everyone was cursing Tanya and Joel in the comments of the live-stream.

“What makes Tanya think she can take such an aggressive attitude against Hillary? She’s so shameless!”

“Ahhhh!! That sight pisses me off so much! Hillary must win this lawsuit! Otherwise, none of us will accept the outcome!” “Yes, the judiciary should not outweigh feelings. We will fight alongside you in this lawsuit!”

Hillary cried so badly that she had to be helped into the court in the end.

Outsiders were not allowed to enter the lounge at the back.

As soon as Hillary entered, she ran head-on into Tanya.

She cast her eyes down and said sadly, “Tanya, I can give you Joel, but not Mia. I will definitely win the lawsuit!”

Because she already had the upper hand in public opinion!!

Tanya stared at Hillary.

Never would she have ever expected that the woman, who had merely bullied and humiliated her a little five years ago, would actually go as far as to steal her child!

She had only been slightly under twenty years old at that time.

Hillary resembled Jill a lot, but she and Tanya didn't really look alike. Her temper and personality were also similar to Jill's. This must be one of the reasons why Jill had preferred Hillary and disliked Tanya ever since they were kids, right?

With that in mind, Tanya sneered, "We won't know until we reach the end."

Hillary's eyes flickered.

At this moment, Jill, who had entered a moment later than Hillary, spotted the two of them. She immediately charged over, stretched out her arm, and slapped Tanya across her cheek. "You little bitch! Who told you you could come back to the States? It's all your fault that things have come to this point!"

Tanya took a step back.

She was no longer the little girl from the past who couldn't fight back.

She sneered, "We're at the court, Mrs. Jones. Please show some respect, or else I will sue you!"

Jill was furious. "Who are you calling Mrs. Jones? I am your mother!"

Tanya gave her a mocking smile. "Really? But didn't you already tell me a long time ago that you've severed ties with me?"

She took out her cell phone and played an audio recording. It was from five years ago when she was pregnant overseas. It was hard for her to find a job at that time, so she had bitten the bullet and approached Jill to ask for a bit of money for living expenses.

Jill's voice was very calm in the recording.

"\$3,000? What are you thinking? I can buy a handbag with that money! Besides, you are already an adult, so I am not obligated to pay for your tuition fees. Think of a solution yourself! Didn't you work part-time during college for your tuition fees? Didn't you say that you will never use even a cent of my

money when you were a kid? Heh... “From now on, I will take it that I have never had a daughter like you, while you have never had me as a mother. I hope we will never see each other ever again!”

Those few lines of hers had severed the mother-daughter relationship between Tanya and her. This was also why Tanya had never been to the Joneses despite so much time passing since her return to the States.

When Jill heard the recording, she sneered, “Hah, what an ingrate you are. To think you remember those things I said so clearly. Never mind if you don’t want to bear the responsibility of supporting me in old age, because I have never once counted on you to do that, either! But how could you turn around and bully us so maliciously?”

Tanya looked at her and Hillary. She couldn’t help but retort, “Who exactly is bullying whom here?”

Her simple one-liner made Hillary and Jill exchange a look. Jill then yelled angrily, “Does it matter who the one bullying the other is? You are the one who’s targeting the Joneses now! You’d best agree to settle in private while the trial has yet to start. Otherwise, I will make you pay!”

No one knew what gave her the confidence to say something like that.

When Tanya wanted to reply, Joel asked, “How do you intend to make her pay?” His words made Jill choke

Joel came over, put his arm around Tanya’s shoulder, and looked at Jill. “Mrs. Jones, may I ask, what are you planning to do to my fiancée?”

Jill was shocked. “When did the two of you get engaged?”

Joel cast his eyes down. “You don’t have to bother yourself with that, Mrs. Jones. I think the two of you should use this time to discuss the case with each other instead of glaring at and saying mean things to my fiancée.”

When Jill wanted to reply, Mr. Jones strode over and grabbed both Jill and Hillary. He smiled and said to Joel, “Look at how big a fuss this has become, Mr. Smith... It’s all because the kids are so insensible. Please forgive us!”

Joel did not say any more. He dragged Tanya back to the lounge.

After the two of them went in, Mr. Jones flew into a rage as he stared at Jill and Hillary. “Can the two of you stop creating so much trouble?! We are already about to go to court, so stop provoking them and making trouble in private!”

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. “Dad, all you know is to blame me whenever we run into trouble! They are obviously the ones in the wrong! You’re just afraid of Mr. Smith’s power, right? But you don’t have to be anymore!”

Jill raised her chin slightly at Hillary’s words, and she also said impatiently to Mr. Jones, “Alright, that’s enough. Karl has already agreed to intervene, so nothing will go wrong!”

Mr. Jones stared at the two women and pointed at them angrily. “Karl will eventually leave. Once he leaves, the Smiths have a thousand and one ways to make us pay! The two of you have created so much trouble for the Joneses!”

However, Jill and Hillary completely ignored him and even curled their lips disdainfully.

Jill even said, “If worse comes to worst, the whole family can just migrate to Switzerland. Karl has both power and authority over there, so he can protect us!”

Mr. Jones: “!!”

He stared at Jill and shouted angrily, “Migrate to Switzerland? The way I see it, it’s more like you and him are still in love, isn’t it?!”

Afraid that others would overhear what he had said, Mr. Jones turned and left angrily.

Hillary stared at him from the back and pursed her lips. She said, “Look at him, Mom. Why do I have such a pushover of a father?! He doesn’t even have the courage to stand up for his daughter! If only Karl was my father!”

Jill’s eyes flickered the moment she said that.

She patted Hillary and said, “Don’t talk nonsense!”

Then, she and Hillary entered the lounge.

Soon, it was time for the trial.

Both parties entered the courtroom and sat opposite each other.

Karl had found a very famous lawyer for Hillary. After both parties took their seats, the judge asked the plaintiff to speak. The attorney immediately stood up and said reproachfully,

“Mr. Smith, where is Ms. Mia Smith? The court had instructed you to bring her here so that she can be asked whether she wants to stay with her father or her mother. Why didn’t you bring her?”

He looked at the judge and went on. “Or is it because you have no respect for the court at all? And think you can do whatever you want because of the Smiths’ power?”

“It has been very long since my client last saw her daughter. By separating mother and daughter from each other, and showing no respect for the court, your actions are simply atrocious!”

As Hillary had made a huge fuss and blown up the lawsuit before the trial, everyone was afraid that the Smiths would bribe the judge, so they had vehemently demanded a live-stream of the court proceedings.

After giving it some thought, the court had agreed to the public’s request.

Therefore, the trial was currently being broadcast live.

People were commenting fiercely in the live-stream:

“Isn’t he showing too little respect to the law?”

“He’s so arrogant! But with so many of us watching, the court won’t cover up for the Smiths!”

Amid the discussion, the judge frowned. After all, the fact that Joel had not brought Mia along had gone against their wishes. His actions were indeed rather disrespectful of the court.

He frowned. At this point, the defendant’s attorney stood up.



When the people watching the live-stream saw the lawyer stand, all of them started ranting in the comments.

“That lawyer has no conscience! How can he help the Smiths in this lawsuit? Who knows how much money the Smiths have given him?”

“I heard that lawyer has never lost any of his cases. He’s definitely gonna lose the one today,

right?”

“Mr. Lawyer, can you have a bit of a conscience? How can you help the Smiths bully a weak and helpless woman? I am so disappointed in you!”

“I hope the lawyer dies together with his whole family!”

Hillary and her attorney next to her were also paying attention to the happenings online.

In addition, there were also people constantly keeping the judge up-to-date about the people’s opinions. After all, he had to take the people’s opinions into consideration, too.

The judge sighed when he heard that everyone was taking the plaintiff’s side.

It would probably be very difficult for the defendant to win the case this time!

While he was thinking about it, the defendant’s attorney said, “Your Honor, members of the jury. First of all, I would like to explain the relationship between my client and the plaintiff.”

He walked out from behind the desk, looked at Hillary, and said, “According to my investigations, Mr. Joel Smith and Ms. Tanya Turner have been in love since they were in junior high, and their relationship continued even after they entered college. They are recognized by everyone as a model couple. Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner’s classmates can testify to this. The plaintiff will not deny this, right?”

Hillary narrowed her eyes.

Her attorney stood up and said, “That has nothing to do with the case. After all, a lot of people’s first relationships do not last. Does every spouse have to give way to their partner’s first love just because they have returned? Be it

true love or his inability to forget his previous lover, it is no reason or excuse for Mr. Smith to cheat on and betray Ms. Jones!”

His answer was very well-worded. A whole row of thumbs-ups appeared in the comments.

“That lawyer said it! No matter what, they have already broken up back then. To put it bluntly, even if Jones was the third wheel in Turner and Smith’s relationship back then, the two of them have already had a child together. Tanya Turner shouldn’t have come back!”

“I’ve just imagined a big story about Turner coming back for revenge!”

“Don’t say any more. Let’s listen to them instead. What if the reason for Turner and Smith’s breakup back then wasn’t Jones?”

Almost at the same time the comment appeared, the defendant’s attorney said, “Of course. My client requested that I make this clear in the courtroom in front of the judge and everyone in the country because he doesn’t want Ms. Turner to be called a third wheel.”

The plaintiff’s lawyer couldn’t help but laugh when he heard what he said. He looked straight at the judge and said, “Objection, Your Honor. That has nothing to do with the case. What we are here to talk about is Ms. Mia Smith’s custody, and not who the real third wheel of their relationship is!”

Tanya, who was seated in the defendant’s dock, was surprised.

She turned and looked at Joel.

The two of them had agreed that they would immediately lay out sufficient evidence at the beginning of the trial, and change her status from the defendant to the plaintiff. She hadn’t expected her attorney to actually walk out and say something like that.

Was Joel... trying to clear her name?

The plaintiff’s attorney looked at the defendant’s attorney, as well as Joel and Tanya who were seated in the dock. He said, “Even if my client had been the third wheel in your relationship back then, she did not break the law! Moreover, she even gave birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith. As a mother, she has the right and duty to raise her child!”

The defendant's attorney looked straight at the judge. "Your Honor, I mentioned the past because this case can no longer be looked at normally. Humans are creatures of emotion. When everyone is censuring my client, I have the right to defend them. I ask the court for permission to explain things clearly to everyone."

The judge looked at Hillary, and then at Tanya and Joel. At last, he nodded. "Permission granted."

The defendant's attorney looked straight at Hillary. "You were the third wheel in Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner's relationship back then. Do you admit to this?"

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. "They were just dating back then. It's not like they were married, so you can't say that I was the third wheel at all! Mr. Smith and I were also really in love back then!"

"Is that so?" The defendant's attorney couldn't help but smile. "But as far as I know, even though you claim that you have given birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith, the two of you did not become engaged or hold a wedding. Moreover, Mr. Smith also signed an agreement with you back then. The agreement says that once Ms. Mia Smith is five years old, Mr. Smith will terminate his marriage agreement with you, and the two of you will regain your respective freedom. Accordingly, the Smiths will take care of the Joneses' business during those five years. Once the agreement is terminated, Ms. Mia Smith's custody is to go to Mr. Smith. Therefore, can I interpret this as a transaction, except that Ms. Jones intends to go back on her word?!"

Hillary was rendered speechless.

The people in support of Hillary in the comments were also stunned. For a while, they didn't quite know what to say.

"In that case, it seems that the Smiths aren't in the wrong?"

"But isn't it too much to prevent the mother from seeing her daughter?"

The plaintiff's attorney stood up. "The relationship between a mother and her daughter cannot be described as a transaction. Ms. Jones is not a surrogate mother! That agreement was illegal from the start! Besides, as Ms. Smith's mother, Ms. Jones has visitation rights!"

He glanced at Hillary.

Hillary immediately got the hint.

Before they came here, the two of them had already discussed how they should deal with the agreement. Hillary immediately started to weep. “Yes, that’s why I want to ask the court for help in mediation. It was my first time being a mother back then. The Smiths are too powerful, so I had no other choice. But during the last five years where my daughter and I were dependent on each other, we have already developed strong feelings for each other. How can one control their own emotions? Your Honor, what kind of agreement can stop a mother from seeing her own children?”

She then started to cry bitterly. “Please, Mr. Smith, give me a way out! I’ve already fallen into depression because I can’t see my daughter!”

The plaintiff’s lawyer immediately produced a diagnostic report for depression. “This is my client’s diagnostic report. She misses her daughter too much. I hope the court can be considerate toward her difficulties.”

At the sight, everyone in the comments suddenly started to sympathize with Hillary again.

“The Smiths are simply too cold-blooded! The richer people are, the more domineering they become! They don’t care for people’s feelings at all! How can they let the child grow up in a family like that?!”

“Exactly! It is not right to stop a mother from meeting her daughter! How can they do that?!”

“The Smiths are too much!” “The child’s mother is already depressed. She’s so pitiful. She just wants to see her child, what’s so wrong about that?”

“Who knows, maybe the Smiths had threatened her into signing the agreement back then!”

“My god, look at where the defendants are! Turner and Smith are completely expressionless even when they saw Jones crying so badly! They are so heartless! Capitalists are the worst!”

“Yes, they are too inhumane! The child may not understand anything right now, but she will hate them once she grows up and realizes the truth!”

Everyone’s words and the stances they took were conveyed to the judge.

The judge glanced at the defendants. They had completely lost the public's support.

However, at the defendant's dock, Tanya was still glaring at Hillary furiously while Joel was expressionless. Even their attorney looked completely calm as if he was not moved by Hillary's cries at all.

He lowered his gaze and asked, "The defendants, what else do you have to say?"

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look.

Tanya had a firm look in her eyes, but her eyes were gradually turning red.

Joel turned to the attorney and nodded at him.

Following the nod, the defendant's attorney suddenly walked out from behind the desk and looked at the judge. "Your Honor, I have a piece of evidence I'd like to submit."

The judge nodded.

The defendant's lawyer handed over two documents.

The judge was shocked when he saw the documents, and his expression changed drastically. He glanced at Tanya with a complicated look in his eyes, and then looked at Hillary with a frown. Disgust flashed across his eyes.

In the comments, everyone was speculating. "What evidence is that? It actually made the judge's expression totally change." "Oh no, the way he's looking at Smith and Turner isn't that cold anymore. Could it be that they didn't submit evidence but a check just now?" "How can they bribe the judge so openly? They are too much!"

Hillary glanced at the comments out of the corner of her eye. When she saw that all the comments were siding with her, the corners of her lips curled up slightly.

However, it was at this moment that the defendant's attorney slowly said, "Your Honor, members of the jury. On behalf of my client Ms. Tanya Turner, I shall now file a lawsuit against Ms. Hillary Jones for maliciously stealing Ms. Turner's child five years ago!! This led to my client being separated from her

daughter for as long as five years. May the law impose the most severe sanction on Ms. Jones! I demand that Ms. Jones compensate my client for emotional damages, as well as damages for material losses incurred while searching for her daughter for the last five years!”

His words caused a furor to go through everyone!!

Hillary got up abruptly and looked at them in disbelief.

What did they say just now?

How could this be?!

How did she know?!

She understood Tanya very well. Because she loved Joel too much, she would never tell him that she had lost her child. After all, who wouldn't be miserable about losing their child?

But if it wasn't her who had brought it up, Joel would never imagine that Mia might be Tanya's daughter... So, how did they realize the truth?!

Terribly shocked, she stared in front of her in astonishment.

At the same time, countless question marks also flashed across the comments.

“???”

“????” “???”

The plaintiff's attorney was dumbfounded while the comments were being filled with question marks. He asked, “What nonsense are you saying?”

The defendant's... no, the defendant had already turned into the plaintiff at this point. The attorney looked straight at Hillary. As a lawyer, he had always been calm when handling cases, but when he realized the truth, even he couldn't help but subconsciously become angry when he looked at the woman. He spoke loudly and forcefully. “The evidence in the judge's and the jury's hands can prove whether I'm talking nonsense or not! The evidence consists of two reports, one is a DNA test report conducted for Ms. Turner and Ms. Mia Smith, and the other is proof that Ms. Jones had stolen the baby! On the day that Ms. Turner gave birth, Ms. Jones had booked a return ticket from

Switzerland! Even though she went there by herself, she had returned with a baby!”

His words made Hillary’s attorney dumbfounded.

Before the trial, attorneys would typically probe into their client’s private affairs in order to prevent the other party from producing surprise evidence that they weren’t prepared for.

Therefore, Hillary had even told her attorney the truth about her being the third wheel in Joel and Tanya’s relationship beforehand. That was why the attorney hadn’t even once accused Tanya of being the third wheel in Hillary’s family, for fear that the other party would take advantage of it to counterattack.

Never would he have ever expected such an unbelievable plot twist!

The plot twist was simply too big. The lawsuit between Hillary and Joel had turned straight into one about Hillary’s crime!!

They had evidence that she had stolen their child!

He didn’t doubt the authenticity of the evidence because the judge and the others would undoubtedly verify it. He was just staring at Hillary in shock, astonishment, and disbelief.

In this instant, he could even feel his career as an attorney ending!

Seeing that her attorney wasn’t saying anything but just staring at her, Hillary panicked. She suddenly stood up. “I didn’t do anything like that! That’s total nonsense!”

Tanya’s eyes narrowed as she looked at her. “The evidence can prove whether or not I am talking nonsense! The DNA test shows that Mia and I have a 99% DNA match!! These numbers could never lie!” Hillary swallowed and looked at the gallery.

Karl and Jill were seated in the gallery.

A somewhat incredulous Jill stood up abruptly when the plot twist came. She subconsciously looked at Karl.

Karl, who also seemed stunned by the plot twist, looked at Jill with a puzzled look.

Jill swallowed. She was about to say something when Justin, who was sitting behind Karl, suddenly said, “Mr. Moore, I’m sure you must know the truth of the matter by now. Wouldn’t it be rather unreasonable if you continue to help Hillary Jones fight for the child’s custody?”

Karl choked.

He had only helped Jill and stood up for her on account of their past relationship. After all, if Hillary was Mia’s mother, the Smiths’ actions would indeed be going too far.

But now...

If he continued to help Hillary fight for the child, then wouldn’t he just be making trouble for no reason?

He coughed and replied, “Of course. The Assassin Organization is not unreasonable.”

Justin nodded. Then, he immediately looked at Mr. Jones, who was seated nearby Jill. The astonishment in his eyes didn’t seem to be fake, and he looked like he wasn’t aware of his daughter’s actions at all. He slowly said, “Mr. Jones, are the Joneses still supportive of Hillary’s fight for the child’s custody?”

Given how even Karl wasn’t going to help anymore, there was no way Mr. Jones would have the guts to step forward, either. He shook his head and stammered, “M-Mr. Hunt, I really didn’t know about what Hillary did! She did it all by herself! It has nothing to do with the Joneses!” Jill looked at Mr. Jones furiously. “How can you say that? She’s your daughter! Is that how you should be treating Hillary?!”

An annoyed Mr. Jones retorted, “Even if she’s my daughter, I still didn’t expect her to actually do something like that! She stole someone else’s child! How can she do that?!” The furious Jill panicked. “Even so, you can’t just ignore her! Surely you can’t just watch as she goes to jail?!”

Justin didn’t say anything else. Instead, he looked at the stand.

From the looks of it, it seemed that neither Karl nor Mr. Jones were intending to help anymore. In that case, Jill and Hillary would no longer be able to make any more trouble.



On the judge's bench.

The judge and the jury were already looking at one another. The judge then looked at Hillary. "There is substantial evidence in my hands, and there are both witnesses and physical evidence against you. What else do you have to say?!"

Hillary knew that what's done is done at this point and that there was nothing she could do anymore to save herself.

She looked straight at Tanya. In the end, she yelled shamelessly, "I... I didn't steal the child! I did go abroad, and I did go to Switzerland, but I found the child somewhere! It... It was... It was Tanya who abandoned her child! Yes, that's it! Your Honor, you can't convict me. I saved that child's life! In fact, you should be holding Tanya responsible for abandoning her newborn baby!"

Everyone was stunned. They hadn't expected that Hillary would still say such things at this point.

Even her attorney had shut up and was unwilling to defend her anymore.

The judge looked at Tanya and Joel.

Tanya's eyes were red and she did not speak.

Joel's jaw was clenched tightly and he had lost the usual smile on his face.

Their attorney stood where he was and sneered, "Ms. Jones, I didn't expect you to be so stubborn. It seems like you're someone who holds out hope until faced with the grim reality!"

"Your Honor, I have a few pieces of evidence here that will prove that she had indeed stolen the baby! That day, she went to the hospital where Ms. Turner had given birth and bribed two nurses in the hospital. That was how she had successfully stolen the baby from the hospital!"

"Also! Your Honor, these are financial accounts detailing how much money and effort my client, Ms. Tanya Turner, spent in order to search for her child over the years."

“Your Honor, as you can see, Ms. Jones shows no sign of taking the initiative to plead guilty even now! I implore you to punish her severely in accordance with the law!!”

The more Hillary refused to plead guilty in the case where evidence was conclusive, the less likely she would receive mercy in court.

Her stubbornness was, on the contrary, a positive for Tanya.

The judge frowned, and the way he looked at Hillary changed.

Hillary’s legs went limp and she fell onto the chair. She hadn’t expected them to still be able to find evidence of her bribing the nurses when two years had already gone by. On top of that, they even managed to get the two nurses to testify as witnesses!

It was all over.

Everything was over!

Tanya’s attorney was still speaking. He said, “Your Honor, my client is a dancer with a sizable income, but every year, she pays most of her money to private detectives to engage them in search for her child...

“The millions of dollars she spends on the search each year are nearly the entirety of her income. If she had really abandoned the child, why would she spend that much money searching for her child?!”

“Ms. Jones is still slandering my client even at this point. Not only that, but she even bribed reporters to create public pressure on my client in an attempt to reverse the lawsuit’s outcome!

“I implore the judge to take serious action against her!”

As the attorney’s loud and powerful words rang out, the courtroom fell silent.

After discussion, the judge finally announced, “Given the severity of Ms. Hillary Jones’ crime in stealing the child, and the fact that she shows no intention of pleading guilty, let alone any sign of remorse, we will submit the case to the judiciary and have the Attorney-General’s Office bring charges against her, so that they may give her the maximum sentence possible!”

Upon hearing that, Hillary slumped onto the chair.

The maximum sentence was thirty years of imprisonment!!

Thirty years!

By the time she came out of prison thirty years later, she would be old!

No, she didn't want to go to jail!!

The court had its own procedures. The court hearing today was for Joel and Hillary's fight for the custody of their daughter. Therefore, the case was closed without even the need for a full trial.

Hillary was arrested on the spot. She would be under the judiciary's supervision while she waited for her next court hearing.

The comments in the live-stream had undergone a complete reversal. Everyone was censuring Hillary.

"My god, that's so disgusting! She is so wicked!"

"Let me give everyone a summary of what happened. Not only was Jones the third wheel in their relationship, but she even stole their baby and claimed that she had given birth to her. And now, she is actually fighting them for custody of the girl? She's so wicked! That woman is beyond salvation!"

"The fact that Turner has been searching for her daughter for so many years has suddenly moved me so much. I apologize for the derogatory remarks I made against Turner when I wasn't aware of the truth."

"I also apologize!"

"A woman like Hillary Jones should be sentenced to death!"

"Yes, not only did she steal a child, but she even thinks that she's right in doing so. She shows no signs of repentance at all. If she isn't sentenced to the death penalty, then she should at least be sentenced to life imprisonment! People like her should spend the rest of their life in jail!"

"I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!"

"Thirty years is too little. I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!"

"Agree with the previous comment!"

“+1!”

“+(my cell phone number)!” “+(my ID number)!”

The public opinion reversed in an instant, and the people took Tanya’s side.

When the handcuffed Hillary was being led away, Jill rushed over and hugged her. “Let go of my daughter! Let go of her!”

The sobbing Hillary yelled, “Mom, save me! Save me! I don’t wanna go to jail!! Sob, Dad, save me!”

However, even after the two of them cried their eyes out, none of the police officers were moved. They dragged Hillary out.

Jill was stunned to the spot. The next moment, she grabbed Hillary’s attorney and shouted furiously, “Why didn’t you say anything just now? We paid money to hire you! Why didn’t you defend my daughter?!” The attorney said with a sense of resignation, “Mrs. Jones, it was stated clearly in our contract that the client is not to conceal any information related to the case. Are you actually demanding an explanation from me when your daughter hid such an important matter from me?!”

He was also rather angry. “Besides, if I had known that the child was stolen from someone else, I would never have taken up the case! I have children, too. People like her should go to jail!”

Jill retorted furiously, “You’re the one who should go to jail, you trash lawyer!”

The attorney sighed and said, “Alright, I’m not going to argue with you anymore. I just want to tell you this now-you and Hillary were the ones who directed public opinion on the case, right? Now, she shall have to undergo the backlash!”

Jill was taken aback. “What do you mean?”

“Previously, the two of you created a buzz to make people take your side in order to put pressure on the court, but all of those people are furious now! They are now strongly demanding that your daughter be sentenced to death! Under such circumstances, I’m afraid your daughter will be sentenced to life imprisonment, at the least, for her malicious actions!”

“Life imprisonment...”

Jill stared straight ahead of her blankly when she heard those two words. She stared at the lawyer incredulously. “She just stole a child, that’s all! What kind of nonsense are you spouting?!”

Seeing that she was being so unreasonable, the attorney didn’t want to talk to her anymore. He merely shook his head and turned to leave.

At the sight, Jill grabbed his arm and said, “Don’t go! Tell me how I can save my daughter! Tell me!”

The attorney sneered, “Is there even any hope of salvation left for someone like your daughter? What’s the point of saving her and bringing her out of prison? So that she can steal other people’s children? Even if you offer three times the remuneration, no one will take up your case anymore, let alone me! Unless they don’t wish to work in this line of business anymore and wish to be attacked instead!”

Jill didn’t dare to lose her temper anymore. She held on to the attorney and said, “D-don’t go, I won’t lose my temper with you anymore. I won’t ask for a refund on the legal fees, either. Just tell me what I should do now. I can’t just watch as my daughter is sentenced to life imprisonment!”

Seeing that she had taken a step back, and thinking of how he needn’t return the exorbitant legal fees anymore, the attorney looked around. He lowered his voice and said, “There is only one way to lighten your daughter’s sentence.” “What is it?”

“Beg for the victim’s forgiveness! If the victim can forgive her, she may still have a chance of a reduced sentence.”

The victim’s... forgiveness...

Jill’s head turned abruptly to Tanya, who was about to leave with Joel.

He was right. Tanya was the plaintiff of the case now, which meant that she was the victim.

Jill let go of the attorney and went straight to Tanya. When she came up to her, she grabbed Tanya’s arm and said, “Tanya, my daughter, don’t go. Help Mom out. You’re the only one who can help Mom now. Go to the judge and

tell him that you've forgiven Hillary. Tell him that you don't hold it against her anymore! Go and tell him now! Immediately! Right away!"

Her words made Tanya sneer. All she could feel at the moment was just incredulity.

Tanya stared at Jill. Little by little, she pulled her arm out of Jill's grasp. She looked at Jill coldly and slowly said, "Did you know? I've always wanted to ask you something ever since I was a child."

Jill was taken aback. "What?"

"Am I really your daughter?"

Tanya's eyes were a little red. "How is it that you can do so much and go so far for Hillary, yet be so cruel to me?!"

Jill was stunned. But immediately after that, she said angrily, "What did I do to you? Did I bring you up and keep you alive so that you can bully me later in life? You are too much! You have to go to the judge right away and tell him that you've forgiven Hillary! Or else—"

"Or else what? What will you do?"

Tanya stared at her, but there was no fluctuation of emotions in her voice at all.

Jill was shocked by her reaction. For a moment, she couldn't say anything.

"Or else you won't acknowledge me as your daughter anymore? Didn't you already sever ties with me a long time ago?"

"Or perhaps, you won't pay for my tuition fees anymore? But have you ever given me any money? Or perhaps, you won't give me any food? That worked very well when I was young. I was indeed scared when you locked me up in that dark room and didn't give me any food or water. But I'm no longer the four-year-old kid anymore!! Jill, you can't control me anymore!"

The more Tanya spoke, the colder her voice became. "As for Hillary..." Suddenly she bent down, lowered her head, and leaned into Jill's ear. "Why do you think the Smiths didn't bother with damage control and allowed public

opinion to get to this state? It's precisely so that she could have a taste of her own medicine!"

Jill was dumbfounded.

When the lawyer mentioned it, she had thought that it was just a coincidence, but from the way it sounded now... It was actually a conspiracy by Tanya and Joel!! The fiercer the people scolded them, the guiltier they would feel once the truth was revealed!

No wonder they hadn't explained anything the whole time, and even assaulted the reporter!!

Jill's eyes widened as she stared at the daughter who seemed so foreign to her now. Tanya straightened her back and, with an extremely cold look in her eyes, said, "She stole my daughter and my boyfriend, and even abused my daughter for as long as five years. Jill, even if you kneel here for the rest of your life, I will never forgive her!

"You want me to write a letter of forgiveness? Over my dead body!!"

She turned, took Joel's hand, and got ready to leave.

However, the furious Jill suddenly rushed towards her and grabbed her. "Why did I give birth to a bastard like you?! You're a bane to the world! I should have killed you when you were a child! I should have starved you to death!"

Neither Tanya nor Joel had expected her to actually jump up and attack them in the courtroom. She caught Tanya by her hair.

She reached out and tried to scratch Tanya's cheek, but Joel already had her wrist in a tight grip. He pushed her away with great force, making her fall onto the floor behind her.

Joel looked down at her from above and said, "Please treat my fiancée with courtesy, Mrs. Jones."

After speaking, he glanced at Mr. Jones, who was in the gallery.

Mr. Jones immediately got the hint. He came over hastily and held Jill back.

Only then did Tanya and Joel leave the courtroom.

As soon as they exited, they ran into Justin in the car park. As the three looked at one another, Joel asked, "How did it go?"

One of the reasons Justin had to be present today was so that he could convince Karl not to take any further action in the gallery.

Justin replied, "No big issues. Karl is an underworld figure and has a very strong aura of one from the underworld around him. With the truth publicly exposed and Hillary Jones arrested, there's nothing he can say anymore. Besides, the Assassin Organization probably doesn't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, either." His voice turned cold as he added, "Otherwise, I wouldn't have given him a chance to leave the country!"

Joel nodded. "He has already done enough to pay back the favor he owes his old lover. Unless Hillary is his daughter, that guy probably won't do anything for them anymore."

His daughter?

The moment he said that, both Justin and Joel suddenly thought of something, and they both abruptly turned to Tanya.

The two clan leaders' gazes made Tanya a little uncomfortable. She glanced down at herself and asked, "What's the matter? Is there something wrong with my clothes?" Nothing was wrong with them, though! Her clothes were very suitable for the occasion, and nothing was dirty... While she was wondering about it, Joel suddenly asked, "Tanya, have you ever wondered who your father is?"

Tanya: "..."

She sighed and replied, "Of course I have. But every time I asked Jill about it, she would always say that he's a scumbag and a hooligan who deceived her and made her pregnant..."

A hooligan...

The word made Justin and Joel suddenly glance at each other.

A short while later, Joel suddenly said, "Don't you find that Karl Moore actually has... a bit of a hooligan-like air around him?"



Tanya: “??”

In the courtroom.

Even after everyone else had left, Jill was still laying on the floor and making a scene. “I’m not going to get up if you don’t save my daughter! You’re a good-for-nothing! What’s the use of a father like you?!”

Mr. Jones was standing next to her. At last, he said, “Stay on the floor if that’s what you want. Who cares?!”

He left right away.

Karl, who was still in the gallery, looked at Jill who was on the floor. He scratched his head.

His subordinate behind him couldn’t help but ask, “Boss, what did you see in her in your younger days?”

Karl also felt a little embarrassed.

He coughed. “Maybe I was blind back then.”

The subordinate was speechless.

He got up and walked toward Jill. Just as he was about to say something, Jill got up by herself and patted the dust off herself. There was none of the shrewish behavior she had just exhibited around her anymore. Instead, she looked at Karl calmly.

Karl coughed, “Are you okay?”

“I’m fine.”

Jill stared at Karl and said, “You have to help me save my daughter!”

Karl cast his eyes down. “You’re not in the right with regard to this matter. Neither can I bring myself to do something like that.”

Wouldn’t he be thoroughly embarrassed if outsiders were to learn of it?

Unexpectedly, as soon as he said that, Jill immediately asked, “Do you know why I chose to beg you instead of Hillary’s father for help?”

Karl shook his head.

Jill said solemnly, “Because Hillary is not his daughter but yours!”

Karl: “!!!!”

He was astounded. “What did you say?”

Jill stretched out her fingers—there were two strands of hair gripped tightly between them. “I plucked Hillary’s hair off her when I made contact with her just now. You can do a DNA test for you and her.”

Karl was dumbfounded.

He stared at Jill incredulously. His gaze landed on the strands of hair she was holding and he swallowed hard, feeling that his ears must be playing tricks on him. “What did you say?”

Jill sighed. “You can put the timeline together yourself. When I married into the Joneses, I was already four months pregnant! Think about it, isn’t the child yours if I was already four months pregnant at that time?” Karl swallowed. “But Hillary Jones’ birth date doesn’t match!”

Jill sighed. “That’s because I delayed registering her birth for four months. After all, I couldn’t bring shame to the Joneses. You can look into it. I gave birth to my daughter in a private clinic, so they may still have records! Also, no matter what, you should have a DNA test done first.”

Jill handed the strands of hair to Karl. “Only hair with the follicles intact can be used in a DNA test. Be careful not to damage them. By the way, my daughter doesn’t know that she is not my husband’s child...”

Jill said that because she was afraid that Karl would send someone to the prison to sound Hillary out.

After saying that, she started to head toward the exit. Before she left, she added, “No matter what, you should still make sure that your daughter stays alive, right?”

Karl looked at her and narrowed his eyes. “Don’t worry, if she really is my daughter, no one will be able to take her life!”

Jill breathed a sigh of relief.

She lowered her head and said, "I won't ask for that child from the Smiths anymore. All I ask for now is just for you to rescue my daughter, get her out of prison and take her abroad! I hope you can treat her well for the rest of her life after that!"

Karl hesitated for a moment. Then, he asked tentatively, "If she is my daughter, why didn't you tell me that from the start?"

Jill stared at Karl. After a long silence, she finally heaved a deep sigh and said, "I only wanted to borrow your authority in the beginning. I don't wish for anything beyond that anymore. Besides, my daughter wasn't having any problems at that time, and you were also willing to help me, so it didn't matter whether or not I told you the truth. But now that I know that you don't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, I can only tell the truth!"

Karl kept quiet for a long while. Suddenly, he broke into a grin and said, "Jill, you should know that I am an outlaw. You know it won't end well for people who lie to me, right?"

Jill was so frightened by the way he spoke that she shuddered. However, she then said resolutely, "Go and have a DNA test done."

Karl nodded.

After Jill left, his subordinate behind him asked, "Boss, surely not, right? Is that child-stealing woman really your daughter?"

Karl, however, frowned and said nothing. In the end, he suddenly sighed and instructed, "Send someone to the prison and protect Hillary Jones for now!" "Understood."

He turned, exited, and walked toward the car.

The subordinate asked, "Boss, where are you going?"

Karl replied, "A DNA testing lab. Find me a reliable one!" "Yes, sir!"

Justin, Joel, and Tanya returned to the Smiths' manor.

As soon as they entered the manor, someone came forward and whispered something to Joel.

Joel frowned.

The sensitive Tanya asked, "What's wrong?"

Joel didn't hide anything from her. After letting five years pass them by, both of them cherished each other very much now. When he heard her question, he replied, "I sent someone to the jail to teach Hillary a lesson, but I just received news that someone has interfered on her behalf."

Tanya immediately asked, "Who did it?"

Joel replied, "Karl Moore."

Tanya frowned at the name.

Ever since Joel and Justin voiced their guess, Tanya had been feeling a little uncomfortable. Surely Karl wasn't really her father, right?

She frowned and did some calculations of the timeline around her birth date. However, she didn't think it matched.

It seemed like her date of birth was half a year too early?

Besides, it was impossible for her date of birth to be wrong because Hillary was born a year later than her. It couldn't possibly be that Jill became pregnant with Hillary when she was pregnant with her, right? The age difference between the two of them was only one year anyway! While she was thinking about it, Justin said, "It doesn't make sense."

Joel nodded. "If it's just because of an old lover, Moore is unlikely to help Hillary further. After all, the Smiths and the Hunts can control almost the entire United States. Karl's assassins may be powerful, but he may not necessarily be willing to offend two big families at the same time!"

This was also why Justin had the confidence to threaten Karl when they were in the courtroom!

Justin said, "How strange. Something we are unaware of must have happened."

He took out his cell phone and sent messages to both Sean and Lawrence: 'Investigate why Karl Moore helped Hillary Jones in prison.'

Joel also said, "I'll get my men to investigate, too."

With the leaders of the two big families simultaneously investigating the same thing, they would surely get results very soon.

After sending the messages, Justin glanced at Tanya again and suddenly said, "I still find you and Karl Moore somewhat similar."

Joel also stared at Tanya for a while. "Why don't we do a DNA test, after all? It's safer that way."

The two men's gazes made Tanya's lip corners spasm a little, and she became a little hesitant.

She had originally been very resistant to the idea.

After all, Karl had helped Jill to bully her. However, given how the two men were staring at her, it seemed like she had no choice but to do the DNA test, after all?

In the end, she could only nod.

Lily walked down from upstairs at this point.

At the sight of Lily, Justin got a shock. He hurriedly asked, "What's the matter with Nora?"

Joel also looked over with concern.

Lily hurriedly replied, "Relax, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Smith. Boss is fine. She has been sleeping the last two days, so I was afraid that she would have low blood sugar. I just gave her some nutritional fluids." The two men relaxed upon hearing her explanation.

Lily then said, "Boss is sleeping really soundly. Don't worry!"

## Chapter 393 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

The truth?

Who would care about the truth at this point?

The teachers curled their lips disdainfully and said nothing

After all, they had interacted with Mia a lot in school in the past, and Hillary had seemed like a good mother to outsiders.

Hillary hadn't dared to do anything too obvious all these years. At the very least, there was still Joel who had been keeping an eye on her. How would she possibly dare to abuse Mia?

Thus, no one had ever considered that Mia might not be her daughter.

However, these were the wealthy's private affairs. The teachers didn't dare to make overly-arrogant comments, either. After all, Mr. Smith could easily just make them lose their jobs.

Seeing that no one was saying anything anymore, Tanya didn't bother explaining anything else. After all, the fact that Mia was her daughter was a trump card that Joel was saving for the confrontation in court. Should they reveal it now, Karl might make other arrangements, or even straight-up send Hillary away.

Since no one was saying anything anymore, both parties could just live in peace.

In the afternoon, the principal of the kindergarten came up to them. With a worried look on his face, he said, "Ms. Turner, there are a few reporters outside..."

Reporters?

Tanya narrowed her eyes. In the end, she sighed and said, "Forget it. I'll go on leave for the next few days."

The principal was relieved. "Okay. Will you and Mia be leaving together? Or separately?"

Tanya thought for a while. She couldn't rest assured leaving her five-year-old daughter here. Moreover, the two had only just acknowledged each other, so it would be nice to stay at home together for a few days to bond with each other.

Therefore, Tanya replied, "I will leave with Mia."

She entered the classroom and told Mia to come out. Then, she decided to leave quietly from the back door to avoid attracting the attention of the reporters at the front door.

Unexpectedly, the moment she exited the back door, another group of reporters came forward and surrounded her and Mia.

“Ms. Turner, what are your thoughts about being called a mistress on the Internet?”

“Ms. Turner, are you really a third wheel in someone else’s relationship?”

“Why are you forbidding the child’s mother from visiting her? Don’t you think it’s too much of you guys to do that?!” “Ms. Turner, a mother’s relationship with her daughter is something you cannot stop or destroy. Mistresses can never completely take the position of a lawful wife! This will not end well for the two of you!”

Tanya frowned and pressed Mia’s head against her chest as she hugged her tightly.

In spite of that, a sharp-eyed reporter still spotted her. She immediately pointed the microphone at the child in Tanya’s arms, and even reached out and tapped the little girl. “You must be little Mia, right? Little girl, do you not want your mother anymore?”

Mia received a huge fright. There was a timid look in her eyes.

She looked over and glanced at the reporter, but Tanya pressed her head back against her chest. Tanya gave the reporter a warning look and said, “She is just a child. Don’t target her!”

The rest of the reporters had moral boundaries to some extent, but that particular reporter remained aggressive. It was obvious at one glance that she had been bribed by Hillary. She sneered, “Are you afraid that the girl will say that she wants her mother if we ask her questions? Is that why you’re not even letting her speak? Ms. Turner, you’re too arrogant for a mistress!”

Tanya wanted to speak, but Mia, who was in her arms, suddenly lifted her head.

The little girl had always been timid and a pushover, but in this instant, she wanted to protect her mother. She shouted, "I want Daddy and Mommy Tanya! You're not allowed to badmouth Mommy Tanya!"

A child's reaction was the most genuine.

The rest of the reporters were stunned.

However, the same reporter said, "Little girl, where's your conscience? Your mom went through so much to give birth to you after ten months of pregnancy. Are you going to be an ingrate? What exactly did Tanya Turner give you for you to protect her like this?! Or is it because you think that your father is richer and more powerful than your mother, so you want to stay with your father instead? How can you be so practical when you're still a child? Or perhaps, you are being threatened by your father or Ms. Turner?"

Mia had never been questioned like that before. The reporter's questions made her dumbfounded.

Mist formed in her eyes, and she cried out while in tears, "Sob! Don't scold Mommy Tanya anymore!"

Tanya was infuriated.

Seeing that the reporter's microphone was about to jab right into Mia's face, and that there was even a camera filming Mia, she pushed the reporter angrily. Then, she grabbed the camera and smashed it onto the ground!

Smash!

The camera shattered all over the ground.

At this point, in the distance, the bodyguards and kindergarten security guards, who had sensed something wrong, rushed over and separated Tanya from the reporters.

Tanya stared at the reporter and said, "Don't drag the children in the adults' affairs! I've already said that just now! As for the camera, I will compensate you for it!"

With Mia in her arms, Tanya strode toward the van nearby.

It was only after they got in the car that Tanya finally put Mia down.



The little girl was shaking. Her eyes were all red, and she had tears in them. She asked weakly, "Mommy, did I do something wrong? Why are those people being so fierce to me?"

Her words made Tanya's heart ache.

She thought of the situation just now, and she became so angry that she felt like she was about to explode.

She picked up her phone and dialed Joel's number at once. "Goddammit, I'm going to sue that reporter!"

When Joel heard her swearing, he asked, "What's the matter?"

After Tanya explained what had happened, Joel's voice was even colder than hers. "That reporter is going to jail for life!"

Joel hurried home and arrived just as Tanya and Mia reached home.

It was only when he saw that the two women were safe and sound that he finally breathed a sigh of relief. However, when he saw that both Tanya's and Mia's eyes were all red, Joel's eyes narrowed. Fortunately, the trial would be commencing the next day, so his wife and daughter would no longer have to suffer such grievances.

He took a deep breath, took a step forward, and put his arms around Tanya's and Mia's shoulders.

He didn't expect the matter to ferment further in the evening, though.

His assistant handed his phone to Joel and showed him the news. When he looked at it, he found that the number one trending topic on social media right now was about that reporter. The reporter was crying as she looked into the camera. "To cameramen and photographers, the camera is tantamount to their life, as well as their most precious partner. But Ms. Turner smashed my camera so arrogantly. She also said that the Smiths would compensate me for it..."

"But they instead sued me after that. If it weren't for a certain someone who helped me out, I would probably be under investigation in the police station right now!"

“Even so, I have received a lot of bloody packages in the mail. It is clear that they are threatening me! I am not afraid of threats, and I will fight against the power they hold to the death! I will not succumb to their threats! Even if the power they wield is too arrogant and too fearsome.

“My friends, if you don’t see me tomorrow, then it must be because I’ve been attacked. I don’t want to die! Please help me!”

The video’s comments section was full of curses.

The wealthy were generally fastidious about handling things in a low-key fashion. Very few would kick up a huge fuss.

Hillary was intending to fight a battle of public opinion so that the judge would sympathize with her more when they went to court. One could say that she was resorting to very unscrupulous means just to win the lawsuit.

To think the reporter had been released, though... From the looks of it, it was Karl who had done something about it. Joel was rather troubled.

The amount of influence that Karl had in the States had exceeded his expectations a little.

He wasn’t really bothered, though. As the head of the Smiths, this bit of trouble was nothing to him. He was just a little worried that Tanya would not be able to take it if she saw the comments.

Joel put down the phone and entered the room.

The moment he did, he heard Tanya reading out the private messages that random people had sent her. “This person says that third wheels in relationships always end up miserable! He’s right, a third wheel like Hillary certainly won’t have any happiness left!

“This one says that we bullied the little reporter. Tsk, how blind is he? Didn’t he see the reporter forcing a kid to answer her questions?

“And this one, too. He says that I don’t have any class because I hit the reporter. Hah, he’s right. Compared to someone like her who reprimands others when she doesn’t even know the truth, I certainly don’t have that much class. But I at least don’t have such a high level of ideological consciousness that I would interfere in other people’s matters...”

Joel: "..."

He had almost forgotten what kind of family Tanya had grown up in. She had already experienced several flaming wars a long time ago, so she didn't give two hoots about it anymore.

Cherry was seated opposite her. "Do you need me to scold them for you, God-mom? I'm really good at dissing people!"

"Do you know how to spell what you want to write?" asked Pete.

Cherry: "..."

Pete took the opportunity to persuade her. "You should practice your spelling when you have time! We have to study hard, okay?"

At the mention of studying, Cherry pouted and said, "You are not lovable anymore, Pete!"

Pete sighed.

The tyrant was strict with him, but he simply spoiled Cherry too much. This led to Cherry not knowing how to spell a lot of words, even though she was already five. He looked down at his Mathematical Olympiad problems that were nearly at high school-level, and felt that his sister was simply too stupid!

Tanya laughed when she saw the two children bicker. "The two of you are so... but it's true that you should practice your spellings properly, Cherry. Mia can already spell more than 500 words!"

Cherry curled her lips disdainfully. "If I really wanted to do it, I could memorize 500 spellings in a minute. I just don't want to, that's all! Besides, Daddy said that I am a girl, so I don't have to tire myself out like that!"

Tanya: "..."

She quickly put her arms around Mia and said to her, "Don't follow what Cherry does, okay?" Mia nodded sensibly. "Okay, Mommy!" Every time she heard Mia calling her 'Mommy', Tanya's heart would melt a little. She smiled and said, "My little baby Mia is so well-behaved~"

Mia's cheeks flushed at once.

Next to them, Cherry stuck out her tongue. “You’re calling her a little baby when she’s already five? God-mom, you are too mushy!” Tanya looked up at her. “No matter how old you become, to your mothers, all of you will always be children!”

Cherry tilted her head but didn’t refute her this time.

At this point, Joel came in and said, “Mia is also a girl, so she doesn’t need to study that hard.”

Tanya glared at him. “Don’t be a slave to your daughter like Mr. Hunt! Besides, Mia is different from Cherry...”

Cherry was always filled with confidence.

Although Nora hadn’t said anything about it before, Tanya had nevertheless discovered that the little girl was very smart, and could quickly master anything she was learning. As for Mia, perhaps because she had been brought up by Hillary, she was always lacking in confidence. She was always afraid that other people would dislike her, or that she wouldn’t perform well enough.

A person like her would only be confident and have a better future if she became strong. Every child was different.

Tanya had specially taken psychology classes before she joined the kindergarten as a teacher.

Joel, who had been lectured, touched his nose. Then, he said, “Don’t look at the news on the Internet anymore.”

Tanya nodded and tossed the phone aside. “I find them very ignorant, too. I read it just now because I wanted to strengthen Mia’s mental resilience. Say, why are they so childish, though? Is it actually that easy to make them think a certain way?”

Joel replied, “They are just a bunch of trolls on the Internet. Don’t bother yourself with them.”

Tanya nodded again and said with a smile, “There are still people who are supportive of me! For example...”

“For example, the young and popular singer, Clement Carter?”

Joel suddenly raised his eyebrows as he stared at the trending topics on social media on the phone before he shifted his gaze to Tanya.

Tanya was taken aback. “What’s up with Clement?”

Joel handed her the phone. Only then did Tanya notice that the hashtag #ClementCarterSpeaksUpForTanyaTheThirdWheel was trending

Tanya: “?”

When she tapped on the hashtag, she found out that Clement’s latest tweet was:

Clement Carter: “Don’t just follow the herd. To me, Ms. Turner has always been an open and straightforward person. She would never do that sort of thing. I trust her. @TanyaDances”

Tanya: “...”

Clement wasn’t a pop star. Rather, he was a singer and music artist. His voice was said to hail from the heavens, and he could switch between high pitch and low pitch very easily.

Clement enjoyed extremely high international acclaim.

He had a rich voice and a very wide vocal range. No matter how difficult the song was, he could easily handle it.

At the same time, he was also part of the Carters in New York. The family itself had a very strong artistic background and was a true family of artists.

When Tanya saw the verbal abuse he was suffering because he had spoken up for her, she couldn’t help but ask, “Why is he sticking his head out at such a time?”

The way she spoke sounded as if she was very close to him.

Joel asked sourly, “Does your heart ache because he was scolded?”

Tanya: “...”

She finally noticed the jealous lover in front of her. Tanya burst out laughing and said, "It's Clement, you know. It's not like you don't know him. Didn't we play a lot with one another when we were kids?"

Joel snorted. Tanya said, "When I left the country, he also went abroad for further studies. We once had a cross-industry artistic collaboration where he sang and I danced, so we got to know each other better."

"Tsk."

Joel couldn't help but say, "He sings while you dance. That sounds lovely."

Tanya burst into loud laughter again. She knew that Joel was not really jealous. Rather, he was just teasing her because he was worried that she would be affected by the remarks on the internet.

She pointed at Joel and asked, "Did someone fill you up with jealousy today?" Joel was relieved to see that she was really alright.

In the evening, the two of them watched over Mia.

As they lay on either side of Mia, Joel looked at Tanya and suddenly asked, "Are you nervous about going to court tomorrow?"

With Mia in between, Tanya looked back at him. Fearing that she might wake Mia, her voice was very low and soft as she replied, "No, I'm not."

Joel made a sound of acknowledgment.

Tanya thought that he was going to sleep, so she pulled the quilt over herself and closed her eyes.

It was summer, so the air conditioner in the room was turned very low. Tanya and Mia shared a quilt while Joel used another quilt.

When Tanya was about to fall asleep, Joel's soft voice reached her. "Don't worry, Tanya. I will definitely make Hillary pay for what she did."

Surprised, Tanya turned to Joel. In the dark, she could see a cold look in his eyes. He didn't raise his voice, but it was as if there was power in his words. "I won't let anyone bully the two of you anymore."

Tanya pressed her lips together. Her eyes reddened and sorrow welled up in her.

When she was young, she had tried her best and given her all for love, but she hadn't known how to love. She would kick up a huge fuss whenever she met with the slightest bit of unhappiness and often threatened to break up whenever they quarreled.

It was as if she was fearless.

It's only when one recovers what they have lost that they finally discover how precious the love is.

She suddenly hated her past self. Why had she called Joel when she saw the photo? Why hadn't she gone to him with the photo and asked him for a clear explanation?

If she had asked him for an explanation, and if he hadn't said those hurtful words in a flash of anger, the two of them might not have let these five years pass them by like that.

Mia probably would not have been lost, either. Tanya suddenly reached over past Mia. She fumbled around and then held Joel's hand. This time, she would never let go.

When they exited the bedroom after waking up the next day, they saw Justin coming out of Nora's bedroom.

Joel subconsciously asked, "Last night, you..." "I slept in the guest room."

The beauty mark at the corner of Justin's eye shimmered as he replied politely, "I just went in to see if she is awake."

Joel breathed a sigh of relief. Sensing that he had made a mountain out of a molehill just now, he coughed and said, "Oh, I wasn't suspecting you of taking the opportunity to take advantage of her. I just wanted to ask if you slept well last night."

Justin glanced at him but didn't expose his brother-in-law's thoughts. After all, his father-in-law still disliked him for some strange reason at the moment.

He needed his brother-in-law's help.

Justin nodded. "I slept pretty well. I'll come to the court with you guys later." Joel said, "Actually, you don't have to go to so much trouble. We've already prepared everything we need in court today." Justin coughed. "I'm going for Nora, lest she gets angry when she wakes up and finds out that I haven't shown enough concern."

Joel: "..."

The corners of his lips spasmed a little. He suddenly felt that his brother-in-law was getting more and more thick-skinned.

The group of people left the house, split up, and got into a few cars. Soon, they arrived at the court entrance.

As soon as they got out of the car, Hillary rushed out from somewhere and went straight up to the two of them before they even entered the court.

Behind Hillary was a large number of reporters.

Thud!

Hillary knelt right in front of Tanya and Joel. Her eyes were red as she said, "Mr. Smith, Tanya. I can give the two of you my blessing and withdraw from the relationship, but you can't do this to me. Please, I beg you. Give my daughter back to me! Mia is everything to me!"

The reporters whipped out their cameras and started snapping away.

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

Joel said, "Ms. Jones, the court has the final say today, so please get up." Hillary, however, was crying very badly. "I was wrong, Mr. Smith. I shouldn't have pestered you, and I should have withdrawn from the relationship myself, but you can't just drive me out of the country. Mia was once part of my body, you can't just separate me from my daughter like this! I believe that Mia wouldn't be willing to leave her mother, either. Where's Mia? Mia?"

She looked behind the two of them.

Some of the reporters also looked behind them. They immediately asked: "Where's the child?"



“Yeah, Mr. Smith, the court instructed you to bring Ms. Smith with you because they may ask the child some questions.” “Did you not bring the child with you? You’re too much!”

Hillary cried even harder. “I haven’t seen Mia for a week, Mr. Smith! I just want to see the girl! Just a look would do!”

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look. Tanya lowered her gaze. When she thought of all the pain she had suffered during those five years, and how reserved and timid Mia was every time she mentioned her mother, a wave of anger surged up in her.

How she wished she could rip Hillary’s face apart and cut her into shreds!

To think she still had the cheek to mention the child...

Tanya slowly said, “Hillary, you’ll never see the child ever again for the rest of your life!”

After saying that, she held Joel’s arm, and the two of them walked straight into the court!

Hillary’s tragic and miserable sobs rang out outside. “Tanya, how can you do this to me?! How can you?! My daughter! I just want my daughter!”

The reporters around them did not dare to approach Tanya and Joel-after all, they were outside the court. Thus, they surrounded Hillary.

“Ms. Jones, how confident of winning the lawsuit are you?”

“Ms. Jones, did you file a lawsuit for money or for your daughter?”

Hillary got up. She wiped the tears from her eyes and wept as she said to the camera, “I don’t want money! I don’t want anything except my daughter!”

With a sad and pitiful look in her eyes, she said, “I know I’m unemployed at the moment, but the Joneses are also rich. I receive dividends from the Joneses’ company. I am also willing to work for my daughter’s sake!

“My daughter is everything to me!

“I can withdraw from the love triangle, but my daughter is innocent!”

She burst into tears. “Please, everyone, help me! Help me get my daughter back!” She wept fiercely. Her tears made the audience watching the live broadcast full of pity and heartache for her.

For a time, public opinion completely took her side.

Everyone was cursing Tanya and Joel in the comments of the live-stream.

“What makes Tanya think she can take such an aggressive attitude against Hillary? She’s so shameless!”

“Ahhhh!! That sight pisses me off so much! Hillary must win this lawsuit! Otherwise, none of us will accept the outcome!” “Yes, the judiciary should not outweigh feelings. We will fight alongside you in this lawsuit!”

Hillary cried so badly that she had to be helped into the court in the end.

Outsiders were not allowed to enter the lounge at the back.

As soon as Hillary entered, she ran head-on into Tanya.

She cast her eyes down and said sadly, “Tanya, I can give you Joel, but not Mia. I will definitely win the lawsuit!”

Because she already had the upper hand in public opinion!!

Tanya stared at Hillary.

Never would she have ever expected that the woman, who had merely bullied and humiliated her a little five years ago, would actually go as far as to steal her child!

She had only been slightly under twenty years old at that time.

Hillary resembled Jill a lot, but she and Tanya didn’t really look alike. Her temper and personality were also similar to Jill’s. This must be one of the reasons why Jill had preferred Hillary and disliked Tanya ever since they were kids, right?

With that in mind, Tanya sneered, “We won’t know until we reach the end.”

Hillary’s eyes flickered.

At this moment, Jill, who had entered a moment later than Hillary, spotted the two of them. She immediately charged over, stretched out her arm, and slapped Tanya across her cheek. "You little bitch! Who told you you could come back to the States? It's all your fault that things have come to this point!"

Tanya took a step back.

She was no longer the little girl from the past who couldn't fight back.

She sneered, "We're at the court, Mrs. Jones. Please show some respect, or else I will sue you!"

Jill was furious. "Who are you calling Mrs. Jones? I am your mother!"

Tanya gave her a mocking smile. "Really? But didn't you already tell me a long time ago that you've severed ties with me?"

She took out her cell phone and played an audio recording. It was from five years ago when she was pregnant overseas. It was hard for her to find a job at that time, so she had bitten the bullet and approached Jill to ask for a bit of money for living expenses.

Jill's voice was very calm in the recording.

"\$3,000? What are you thinking? I can buy a handbag with that money! Besides, you are already an adult, so I am not obligated to pay for your tuition fees. Think of a solution yourself! Didn't you work part-time during college for your tuition fees? Didn't you say that you will never use even a cent of my money when you were a kid? Heh... "From now on, I will take it that I have never had a daughter like you, while you have never had me as a mother. I hope we will never see each other ever again!"

Those few lines of hers had severed the mother-daughter relationship between Tanya and her. This was also why Tanya had never been to the Joneses despite so much time passing since her return to the States.

When Jill heard the recording, she sneered, "Hah, what an ingrate you are. To think you remember those things I said so clearly. Never mind if you don't want to bear the responsibility of supporting me in old age, because I have never once counted on you to do that, either! But how could you turn around and bully us so maliciously?"

Tanya looked at her and Hillary. She couldn't help but retort, "Who exactly is bullying whom here?"

Her simple one-liner made Hillary and Jill exchange a look. Jill then yelled angrily, "Does it matter who the one bullying the other is? You are the one who's targeting the Joneses now! You'd best agree to settle in private while the trial has yet to start. Otherwise, I will make you pay!"

No one knew what gave her the confidence to say something like that.

When Tanya wanted to reply, Joel asked, "How do you intend to make her pay?" His words made Jill choke

Joel came over, put his arm around Tanya's shoulder, and looked at Jill. "Mrs. Jones, may I ask, what are you planning to do to my fiancée?"

Jill was shocked. "When did the two of you get engaged?"

Joel cast his eyes down. "You don't have to bother yourself with that, Mrs. Jones. I think the two of you should use this time to discuss the case with each other instead of glaring at and saying mean things to my fiancée."

When Jill wanted to reply, Mr. Jones strode over and grabbed both Jill and Hillary. He smiled and said to Joel, "Look at how big a fuss this has become, Mr. Smith... It's all because the kids are so insensible. Please forgive us!"

Joel did not say any more. He dragged Tanya back to the lounge.

After the two of them went in, Mr. Jones flew into a rage as he stared at Jill and Hillary. "Can the two of you stop creating so much trouble?! We are already about to go to court, so stop provoking them and making trouble in private!"

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. "Dad, all you know is to blame me whenever we run into trouble! They are obviously the ones in the wrong! You're just afraid of Mr. Smith's power, right? But you don't have to be anymore!"

Jill raised her chin slightly at Hillary's words, and she also said impatiently to Mr. Jones, "Alright, that's enough. Karl has already agreed to intervene, so nothing will go wrong!"

Mr. Jones stared at the two women and pointed at them angrily. “Karl will eventually leave. Once he leaves, the Smiths have a thousand and one ways to make us pay! The two of you have created so much trouble for the Joneses!”

However, Jill and Hillary completely ignored him and even curled their lips disdainfully.

Jill even said, “If worse comes to worst, the whole family can just migrate to Switzerland. Karl has both power and authority over there, so he can protect us!”

Mr. Jones: “!!”

He stared at Jill and shouted angrily, “Migrate to Switzerland? The way I see it, it’s more like you and him are still in love, isn’t it?!”

Afraid that others would overhear what he had said, Mr. Jones turned and left angrily.

Hillary stared at him from the back and pursed her lips. She said, “Look at him, Mom. Why do I have such a pushover of a father?! He doesn’t even have the courage to stand up for his daughter! If only Karl was my father!”

Jill’s eyes flickered the moment she said that.

She patted Hillary and said, “Don’t talk nonsense!”

Then, she and Hillary entered the lounge.

Soon, it was time for the trial.

Both parties entered the courtroom and sat opposite each other.

Karl had found a very famous lawyer for Hillary. After both parties took their seats, the judge asked the plaintiff to speak. The attorney immediately stood up and said reproachfully,

“Mr. Smith, where is Ms. Mia Smith? The court had instructed you to bring her here so that she can be asked whether she wants to stay with her father or her mother. Why didn’t you bring her?”

He looked at the judge and went on. "Or is it because you have no respect for the court at all? And think you can do whatever you want because of the Smiths' power?"

"It has been very long since my client last saw her daughter. By separating mother and daughter from each other, and showing no respect for the court, your actions are simply atrocious!"

As Hillary had made a huge fuss and blown up the lawsuit before the trial, everyone was afraid that the Smiths would bribe the judge, so they had vehemently demanded a live-stream of the court proceedings.

After giving it some thought, the court had agreed to the public's request.

Therefore, the trial was currently being broadcast live.

People were commenting fiercely in the live-stream:

"Isn't he showing too little respect to the law?"

"He's so arrogant! But with so many of us watching, the court won't cover up for the Smiths!"

Amid the discussion, the judge frowned. After all, the fact that Joel had not brought Mia along had gone against their wishes. His actions were indeed rather disrespectful of the court.

He frowned. At this point, the defendant's attorney stood up.

When the people watching the live-stream saw the lawyer stand, all of them started ranting in the comments.

"That lawyer has no conscience! How can he help the Smiths in this lawsuit? Who knows how much money the Smiths have given him?"

"I heard that lawyer has never lost any of his cases. He's definitely gonna lose the one today,

right?"

"Mr. Lawyer, can you have a bit of a conscience? How can you help the Smiths bully a weak and helpless woman? I am so disappointed in you!"

“I hope the lawyer dies together with his whole family!”

Hillary and her attorney next to her were also paying attention to the happenings online.

In addition, there were also people constantly keeping the judge up-to-date about the people’s opinions. After all, he had to take the people’s opinions into consideration, too.

The judge sighed when he heard that everyone was taking the plaintiff’s side.

It would probably be very difficult for the defendant to win the case this time!

While he was thinking about it, the defendant’s attorney said, “Your Honor, members of the jury. First of all, I would like to explain the relationship between my client and the plaintiff.”

He walked out from behind the desk, looked at Hillary, and said, “According to my investigations, Mr. Joel Smith and Ms. Tanya Turner have been in love since they were in junior high, and their relationship continued even after they entered college. They are recognized by everyone as a model couple. Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner’s classmates can testify to this. The plaintiff will not deny this, right?”

Hillary narrowed her eyes.

Her attorney stood up and said, “That has nothing to do with the case. After all, a lot of people’s first relationships do not last. Does every spouse have to give way to their partner’s first love just because they have returned? Be it true love or his inability to forget his previous lover, it is no reason or excuse for Mr. Smith to cheat on and betray Ms. Jones!”

His answer was very well-worded. A whole row of thumbs-ups appeared in the comments.

“That lawyer said it! No matter what, they have already broken up back then. To put it bluntly, even if Jones was the third wheel in Turner and Smith’s relationship back then, the two of them have already had a child together. Tanya Turner shouldn’t have come back!”

“I’ve just imagined a big story about Turner coming back for revenge!”

“Don’t say any more. Let’s listen to them instead. What if the reason for Turner and Smith’s breakup back then wasn’t Jones?”

Almost at the same time the comment appeared, the defendant’s attorney said, “Of course. My client requested that I make this clear in the courtroom in front of the judge and everyone in the country because he doesn’t want Ms. Turner to be called a third wheel.”

The plaintiff’s lawyer couldn’t help but laugh when he heard what he said. He looked straight at the judge and said, “Objection, Your Honor. That has nothing to do with the case. What we are here to talk about is Ms. Mia Smith’s custody, and not who the real third wheel of their relationship is!”

Tanya, who was seated in the defendant’s dock, was surprised.

She turned and looked at Joel.

The two of them had agreed that they would immediately lay out sufficient evidence at the beginning of the trial, and change her status from the defendant to the plaintiff. She hadn’t expected her attorney to actually walk out and say something like that.

Was Joel... trying to clear her name?

The plaintiff’s attorney looked at the defendant’s attorney, as well as Joel and Tanya who were seated in the dock. He said, “Even if my client had been the third wheel in your relationship back then, she did not break the law! Moreover, she even gave birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith. As a mother, she has the right and duty to raise her child!”

The defendant’s attorney looked straight at the judge. “Your Honor, I mentioned the past because this case can no longer be looked at normally. Humans are creatures of emotion. When everyone is censuring my client, I have the right to defend them. I ask the court for permission to explain things clearly to everyone.”

The judge looked at Hillary, and then at Tanya and Joel. At last, he nodded. “Permission granted.”

The defendant’s attorney looked straight at Hillary. “You were the third wheel in Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner’s relationship back then. Do you admit to this?”



Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. “They were just dating back then. It’s not like they were married, so you can’t say that I was the third wheel at all! Mr. Smith and I were also really in love back then!”

“Is that so?” The defendant’s attorney couldn’t help but smile. “But as far as I know, even though you claim that you have given birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith, the two of you did not become engaged or hold a wedding. Moreover, Mr. Smith also signed an agreement with you back then. The agreement says that once Ms. Mia Smith is five years old, Mr. Smith will terminate his marriage agreement with you, and the two of you will regain your respective freedom. Accordingly, the Smiths will take care of the Joneses’ business during those five years. Once the agreement is terminated, Ms. Mia Smith’s custody is to go to Mr. Smith. Therefore, can I interpret this as a transaction, except that Ms. Jones intends to go back on her word?!”

Hillary was rendered speechless.

The people in support of Hillary in the comments were also stunned. For a while, they didn’t quite know what to say.

“In that case, it seems that the Smiths aren’t in the wrong?”

“But isn’t it too much to prevent the mother from seeing her daughter?”

The plaintiff’s attorney stood up. “The relationship between a mother and her daughter cannot be described as a transaction. Ms. Jones is not a surrogate mother! That agreement was illegal from the start! Besides, as Ms. Smith’s mother, Ms. Jones has visitation rights!”

He glanced at Hillary.

Hillary immediately got the hint.

Before they came here, the two of them had already discussed how they should deal with the agreement. Hillary immediately started to weep. “Yes, that’s why I want to ask the court for help in mediation. It was my first time being a mother back then. The Smiths are too powerful, so I had no other choice. But during the last five years where my daughter and I were dependent on each other, we have already developed strong feelings for each other. How can one control their own emotions? Your Honor, what kind of agreement can stop a mother from seeing her own children?”

She then started to cry bitterly. "Please, Mr. Smith, give me a way out! I've already fallen into depression because I can't see my daughter!"

The plaintiff's lawyer immediately produced a diagnostic report for depression. "This is my client's diagnostic report. She misses her daughter too much. I hope the court can be considerate toward her difficulties."

At the sight, everyone in the comments suddenly started to sympathize with Hillary again.

"The Smiths are simply too cold-blooded! The richer people are, the more domineering they become! They don't care for people's feelings at all! How can they let the child grow up in a family like that?!"

"Exactly! It is not right to stop a mother from meeting her daughter! How can they do that?!"

"The Smiths are too much!" "The child's mother is already depressed. She's so pitiful. She just wants to see her child, what's so wrong about that?"

"Who knows, maybe the Smiths had threatened her into signing the agreement back then!"

"My god, look at where the defendants are! Turner and Smith are completely expressionless even when they saw Jones crying so badly! They are so heartless! Capitalists are the worst!"

"Yes, they are too inhumane! The child may not understand anything right now, but she will hate them once she grows up and realizes the truth!"

Everyone's words and the stances they took were conveyed to the judge.

The judge glanced at the defendants. They had completely lost the public's support.

However, at the defendant's dock, Tanya was still glaring at Hillary furiously while Joel was expressionless. Even their attorney looked completely calm as if he was not moved by Hillary's cries at all.

He lowered his gaze and asked, "The defendants, what else do you have to say?"

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look.

Tanya had a firm look in her eyes, but her eyes were gradually turning red.

Joel turned to the attorney and nodded at him.

Following the nod, the defendant's attorney suddenly walked out from behind the desk and looked at the judge. "Your Honor, I have a piece of evidence I'd like to submit."

The judge nodded.

The defendant's lawyer handed over two documents.

The judge was shocked when he saw the documents, and his expression changed drastically. He glanced at Tanya with a complicated look in his eyes, and then looked at Hillary with a frown. Disgust flashed across his eyes.

In the comments, everyone was speculating. "What evidence is that? It actually made the judge's expression totally change." "Oh no, the way he's looking at Smith and Turner isn't that cold anymore. Could it be that they didn't submit evidence but a check just now?" "How can they bribe the judge so openly? They are too much!"

Hillary glanced at the comments out of the corner of her eye. When she saw that all the comments were siding with her, the corners of her lips curled up slightly.

However, it was at this moment that the defendant's attorney slowly said, "Your Honor, members of the jury. On behalf of my client Ms. Tanya Turner, I shall now file a lawsuit against Ms. Hillary Jones for maliciously stealing Ms. Turner's child five years ago!! This led to my client being separated from her daughter for as long as five years. May the law impose the most severe sanction on Ms. Jones! I demand that Ms. Jones compensate my client for emotional damages, as well as damages for material losses incurred while searching for her daughter for the last five years!"

His words caused a furor to go through everyone!!

Hillary got up abruptly and looked at them in disbelief.

What did they say just now?

How could this be?!

How did she know?!

She understood Tanya very well. Because she loved Joel too much, she would never tell him that she had lost her child. After all, who wouldn't be miserable about losing their child?

But if it wasn't her who had brought it up, Joel would never imagine that Mia might be Tanya's daughter... So, how did they realize the truth?!

Terribly shocked, she stared in front of her in astonishment.

At the same time, countless question marks also flashed across the comments.

“???”

“????” “???”

The plaintiff's attorney was dumbfounded while the comments were being filled with question marks. He asked, “What nonsense are you saying?”

The defendant's... no, the defendant had already turned into the plaintiff at this point. The attorney looked straight at Hillary. As a lawyer, he had always been calm when handling cases, but when he realized the truth, even he couldn't help but subconsciously become angry when he looked at the woman. He spoke loudly and forcefully. “The evidence in the judge's and the jury's hands can prove whether I'm talking nonsense or not! The evidence consists of two reports, one is a DNA test report conducted for Ms. Turner and Ms. Mia Smith, and the other is proof that Ms. Jones had stolen the baby! On the day that Ms. Turner gave birth, Ms. Jones had booked a return ticket from Switzerland! Even though she went there by herself, she had returned with a baby!”

His words made Hillary's attorney dumbfounded.

Before the trial, attorneys would typically probe into their client's private affairs in order to prevent the other party from producing surprise evidence that they weren't prepared for.

Therefore, Hillary had even told her attorney the truth about her being the third wheel in Joel and Tanya's relationship beforehand. That was why the attorney

hadn't even once accused Tanya of being the third wheel in Hillary's family, for fear that the other party would take advantage of it to counterattack.

Never would he have ever expected such an unbelievable plot twist!

The plot twist was simply too big. The lawsuit between Hillary and Joel had turned straight into one about Hillary's crime!!

They had evidence that she had stolen their child!

He didn't doubt the authenticity of the evidence because the judge and the others would undoubtedly verify it. He was just staring at Hillary in shock, astonishment, and disbelief.

In this instant, he could even feel his career as an attorney ending!

Seeing that her attorney wasn't saying anything but just staring at her, Hillary panicked. She suddenly stood up. "I didn't do anything like that! That's total nonsense!"

Tanya's eyes narrowed as she looked at her. "The evidence can prove whether or not I am talking nonsense! The DNA test shows that Mia and I have a 99% DNA match!! These numbers could never lie!" Hillary swallowed and looked at the gallery.

Karl and Jill were seated in the gallery.

A somewhat incredulous Jill stood up abruptly when the plot twist came. She subconsciously looked at Karl.

Karl, who also seemed stunned by the plot twist, looked at Jill with a puzzled look.

Jill swallowed. She was about to say something when Justin, who was sitting behind Karl, suddenly said, "Mr. Moore, I'm sure you must know the truth of the matter by now. Wouldn't it be rather unreasonable if you continue to help Hillary Jones fight for the child's custody?"

Karl choked.

He had only helped Jill and stood up for her on account of their past relationship. After all, if Hillary was Mia's mother, the Smiths' actions would indeed be going too far.

But now...

If he continued to help Hillary fight for the child, then wouldn't he just be making trouble for no reason?

He coughed and replied, "Of course. The Assassin Organization is not unreasonable."

Justin nodded. Then, he immediately looked at Mr. Jones, who was seated nearby Jill. The astonishment in his eyes didn't seem to be fake, and he looked like he wasn't aware of his daughter's actions at all. He slowly said, "Mr. Jones, are the Joneses still supportive of Hillary's fight for the child's custody?"

Given how even Karl wasn't going to help anymore, there was no way Mr. Jones would have the guts to step forward, either. He shook his head and stammered, "M-Mr. Hunt, I really didn't know about what Hillary did! She did it all by herself! It has nothing to do with the Joneses!" Jill looked at Mr. Jones furiously. "How can you say that? She's your daughter! Is that how you should be treating Hillary?!"

An annoyed Mr. Jones retorted, "Even if she's my daughter, I still didn't expect her to actually do something like that! She stole someone else's child! How can she do that?!" The furious Jill panicked. "Even so, you can't just ignore her! Surely you can't just watch as she goes to jail?!"

Justin didn't say anything else. Instead, he looked at the stand.

From the looks of it, it seemed that neither Karl nor Mr. Jones were intending to help anymore. In that case, Jill and Hillary would no longer be able to make any more trouble.

On the judge's bench.

The judge and the jury were already looking at one another. The judge then looked at Hillary. "There is substantial evidence in my hands, and there are both witnesses and physical evidence against you. What else do you have to say?!"

Hillary knew that what's done is done at this point and that there was nothing she could do anymore to save herself.

She looked straight at Tanya. In the end, she yelled shamelessly, "I... I didn't steal the child! I did go abroad, and I did go to Switzerland, but I found the child somewhere! It... It was... It was Tanya who abandoned her child! Yes, that's it! Your Honor, you can't convict me. I saved that child's life! In fact, you should be holding Tanya responsible for abandoning her newborn baby!"

Everyone was stunned. They hadn't expected that Hillary would still say such things at this point.

Even her attorney had shut up and was unwilling to defend her anymore.

The judge looked at Tanya and Joel.

Tanya's eyes were red and she did not speak.

Joel's jaw was clenched tightly and he had lost the usual smile on his face.

Their attorney stood where he was and sneered, "Ms. Jones, I didn't expect you to be so stubborn. It seems like you're someone who holds out hope until faced with the grim reality!"

"Your Honor, I have a few pieces of evidence here that will prove that she had indeed stolen the baby! That day, she went to the hospital where Ms. Turner had given birth and bribed two nurses in the hospital. That was how she had successfully stolen the baby from the hospital!"

"Also! Your Honor, these are financial accounts detailing how much money and effort my client, Ms. Tanya Turner, spent in order to search for her child over the years.

"Your Honor, as you can see, Ms. Jones shows no sign of taking the initiative to plead guilty even now! I implore you to punish her severely in accordance with the law!!"

The more Hillary refused to plead guilty in the case where evidence was conclusive, the less likely she would receive mercy in court.

Her stubbornness was, on the contrary, a positive for Tanya.

The judge frowned, and the way he looked at Hillary changed.

Hillary's legs went limp and she fell onto the chair. She hadn't expected them to still be able to find evidence of her bribing the nurses when two years had

already gone by. On top of that, they even managed to get the two nurses to testify as witnesses!

It was all over.

Everything was over!

Tanya's attorney was still speaking. He said, "Your Honor, my client is a dancer with a sizable income, but every year, she pays most of her money to private detectives to engage them in search for her child...

"The millions of dollars she spends on the search each year are nearly the entirety of her income. If she had really abandoned the child, why would she spend that much money searching for her child?!"

"Ms. Jones is still slandering my client even at this point. Not only that, but she even bribed reporters to create public pressure on my client in an attempt to reverse the lawsuit's outcome!

"I implore the judge to take serious action against her!"

As the attorney's loud and powerful words rang out, the courtroom fell silent.

After discussion, the judge finally announced, "Given the severity of Ms. Hillary Jones' crime in stealing the child, and the fact that she shows no intention of pleading guilty, let alone any sign of remorse, we will submit the case to the judiciary and have the Attorney-General's Office bring charges against her, so that they may give her the maximum sentence possible!"

Upon hearing that, Hillary slumped onto the chair.

The maximum sentence was thirty years of imprisonment!!

Thirty years!

By the time she came out of prison thirty years later, she would be old!

No, she didn't want to go to jail!!

The court had its own procedures. The court hearing today was for Joel and Hillary's fight for the custody of their daughter. Therefore, the case was closed without even the need for a full trial.



Hillary was arrested on the spot. She would be under the judiciary's supervision while she waited for her next court hearing.

The comments in the live-stream had undergone a complete reversal. Everyone was censuring Hillary.

"My god, that's so disgusting! She is so wicked!"

"Let me give everyone a summary of what happened. Not only was Jones the third wheel in their relationship, but she even stole their baby and claimed that she had given birth to her. And now, she is actually fighting them for custody of the girl? She's so wicked! That woman is beyond salvation!"

"The fact that Turner has been searching for her daughter for so many years has suddenly moved me so much. I apologize for the derogatory remarks I made against Turner when I wasn't aware of the truth."

"I also apologize!"

"A woman like Hillary Jones should be sentenced to death!"

"Yes, not only did she steal a child, but she even thinks that she's right in doing so. She shows no signs of repentance at all. If she isn't sentenced to the death penalty, then she should at least be sentenced to life imprisonment! People like her should spend the rest of their life in jail!"

"I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!"

"Thirty years is too little. I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!"

"Agree with the previous comment!"

"+1!"

"+(my cell phone number)!" "+(my ID number)!"

The public opinion reversed in an instant, and the people took Tanya's side.

When the handcuffed Hillary was being led away, Jill rushed over and hugged her. "Let go of my daughter! Let go of her!"

The sobbing Hillary yelled, "Mom, save me! Save me! I don't wanna go to jail!! Sob, Dad, save me!"

However, even after the two of them cried their eyes out, none of the police officers were moved. They dragged Hillary out.

Jill was stunned to the spot. The next moment, she grabbed Hillary's attorney and shouted furiously, "Why didn't you say anything just now? We paid money to hire you! Why didn't you defend my daughter?!" The attorney said with a sense of resignation, "Mrs. Jones, it was stated clearly in our contract that the client is not to conceal any information related to the case. Are you actually demanding an explanation from me when your daughter hid such an important matter from me?!"

He was also rather angry. "Besides, if I had known that the child was stolen from someone else, I would never have taken up the case! I have children, too. People like her should go to jail!"

Jill retorted furiously, "You're the one who should go to jail, you trash lawyer!"

The attorney sighed and said, "Alright, I'm not going to argue with you anymore. I just want to tell you this now-you and Hillary were the ones who directed public opinion on the case, right? Now, she shall have to undergo the backlash!"

Jill was taken aback. "What do you mean?"

"Previously, the two of you created a buzz to make people take your side in order to put pressure on the court, but all of those people are furious now! They are now strongly demanding that your daughter be sentenced to death! Under such circumstances, I'm afraid your daughter will be sentenced to life imprisonment, at the least, for her malicious actions!"

"Life imprisonment..."

Jill stared straight ahead of her blankly when she heard those two words. She stared at the lawyer incredulously. "She just stole a child, that's all! What kind of nonsense are you spouting?!"

Seeing that she was being so unreasonable, the attorney didn't want to talk to her anymore. He merely shook his head and turned to leave.

At the sight, Jill grabbed his arm and said, "Don't go! Tell me how I can save my daughter! Tell me!"

The attorney sneered, "Is there even any hope of salvation left for someone like your daughter? What's the point of saving her and bringing her out of prison? So that she can steal other people's children? Even if you offer three times the remuneration, no one will take up your case anymore, let alone me! Unless they don't wish to work in this line of business anymore and wish to be attacked instead!"

Jill didn't dare to lose her temper anymore. She held on to the attorney and said, "D-don't go, I won't lose my temper with you anymore. I won't ask for a refund on the legal fees, either. Just tell me what I should do now. I can't just watch as my daughter is sentenced to life imprisonment!"

Seeing that she had taken a step back, and thinking of how he needn't return the exorbitant legal fees anymore, the attorney looked around. He lowered his voice and said, "There is only one way to lighten your daughter's sentence." "What is it?"

"Beg for the victim's forgiveness! If the victim can forgive her, she may still have a chance of a reduced sentence."

The victim's... forgiveness...

Jill's head turned abruptly to Tanya, who was about to leave with Joel.

He was right. Tanya was the plaintiff of the case now, which meant that she was the victim.

Jill let go of the attorney and went straight to Tanya. When she came up to her, she grabbed Tanya's arm and said, "Tanya, my daughter, don't go. Help Mom out. You're the only one who can help Mom now. Go to the judge and tell him that you've forgiven Hillary. Tell him that you don't hold it against her anymore! Go and tell him now! Immediately! Right away!"

Her words made Tanya sneer. All she could feel at the moment was just incredulity.

Tanya stared at Jill. Little by little, she pulled her arm out of Jill's grasp. She looked at Jill coldly and slowly said, "Did you know? I've always wanted to ask you something ever since I was a child."

Jill was taken aback. "What?"

“Am I really your daughter?”

Tanya’s eyes were a little red. “How is it that you can do so much and go so far for Hillary, yet be so cruel to me?!”

Jill was stunned. But immediately after that, she said angrily, “What did I do to you? Did I bring you up and keep you alive so that you can bully me later in life? You are too much! You have to go to the judge right away and tell him that you’ve forgiven Hillary! Or els—”

“Or else what? What will you do?”

Tanya stared at her, but there was no fluctuation of emotions in her voice at all.

Jill was shocked by her reaction. For a moment, she couldn’t say anything.

“Or else you won’t acknowledge me as your daughter anymore? Didn’t you already sever ties with me a long time ago?”

“Or perhaps, you won’t pay for my tuition fees anymore? But have you ever given me any money? “Or perhaps, you won’t give me any food? That worked very well when I was young. I was indeed scared when you locked me up in that dark room and didn’t give me any food or water. But I’m no longer the four-year-old kid anymore!! Jill, you can’t control me anymore!”

The more Tanya spoke, the colder her voice became. “As for Hillary...” Suddenly she bent down, lowered her head, and leaned into Jill’s ear. “Why do you think the Smiths didn’t bother with damage control and allowed public opinion to get to this state? It’s precisely so that she could have a taste of her own medicine!”

Jill was dumbfounded.

When the lawyer mentioned it, she had thought that it was just a coincidence, but from the way it sounded now... It was actually a conspiracy by Tanya and Joel!! The fiercer the people scolded them, the guiltier they would feel once the truth was revealed!

No wonder they hadn’t explained anything the whole time, and even assaulted the reporter!!

Jill's eyes widened as she stared at the daughter who seemed so foreign to her now. Tanya straightened her back and, with an extremely cold look in her eyes, said, "She stole my daughter and my boyfriend, and even abused my daughter for as long as five years. Jill, even if you kneel here for the rest of your life, I will never forgive her!"

"You want me to write a letter of forgiveness? Over my dead body!!"

She turned, took Joel's hand, and got ready to leave.

However, the furious Jill suddenly rushed towards her and grabbed her. "Why did I give birth to a bastard like you?! You're a bane to the world! I should have killed you when you were a child! I should have starved you to death!"

Neither Tanya nor Joel had expected her to actually jump up and attack them in the courtroom. She caught Tanya by her hair.

She reached out and tried to scratch Tanya's cheek, but Joel already had her wrist in a tight grip. He pushed her away with great force, making her fall onto the floor behind her.

Joel looked down at her from above and said, "Please treat my fiancée with courtesy, Mrs. Jones."

After speaking, he glanced at Mr. Jones, who was in the gallery.

Mr. Jones immediately got the hint. He came over hastily and held Jill back.

Only then did Tanya and Joel leave the courtroom.

As soon as they exited, they ran into Justin in the car park. As the three looked at one another, Joel asked, "How did it go?"

One of the reasons Justin had to be present today was so that he could convince Karl not to take any further action in the gallery.

Justin replied, "No big issues. Karl is an underworld figure and has a very strong aura of one from the underworld around him. With the truth publicly exposed and Hillary Jones arrested, there's nothing he can say anymore. Besides, the Assassin Organization probably doesn't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, either." His voice turned cold as he added, "Otherwise, I wouldn't have given him a chance to leave the country!"

Joel nodded. "He has already done enough to pay back the favor he owes his old lover. Unless Hillary is his daughter, that guy probably won't do anything for them anymore."

His daughter?

The moment he said that, both Justin and Joel suddenly thought of something, and they both abruptly turned to Tanya.

The two clan leaders' gazes made Tanya a little uncomfortable. She glanced down at herself and asked, "What's the matter? Is there something wrong with my clothes?" Nothing was wrong with them, though! Her clothes were very suitable for the occasion, and nothing was dirty... While she was wondering about it, Joel suddenly asked, "Tanya, have you ever wondered who your father is?"

Tanya: "..."

She sighed and replied, "Of course I have. But every time I asked Jill about it, she would always say that he's a scumbag and a hooligan who deceived her and made her pregnant..."

A hooligan...

The word made Justin and Joel suddenly glance at each other.

A short while later, Joel suddenly said, "Don't you find that Karl Moore actually has... a bit of a hooligan-like air around him?"

Tanya: "??"

In the courtroom.

Even after everyone else had left, Jill was still laying on the floor and making a scene. "I'm not going to get up if you don't save my daughter! You're a good-for-nothing! What's the use of a father like you?!"

Mr. Jones was standing next to her. At last, he said, "Stay on the floor if that's what you want. Who cares?!"

He left right away.

Karl, who was still in the gallery, looked at Jill who was on the floor. He scratched his head.

His subordinate behind him couldn't help but ask, "Boss, what did you see in her in your younger days?"

Karl also felt a little embarrassed.

He coughed. "Maybe I was blind back then."

The subordinate was speechless.

He got up and walked toward Jill. Just as he was about to say something, Jill got up by herself and patted the dust off herself. There was none of the shrewish behavior she had just exhibited around her anymore. Instead, she looked at Karl calmly.

Karl coughed, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine."

Jill stared at Karl and said, "You have to help me save my daughter!"

Karl cast his eyes down. "You're not in the right with regard to this matter. Neither can I bring myself to do something like that."

Wouldn't he be thoroughly embarrassed if outsiders were to learn of it?

Unexpectedly, as soon as he said that, Jill immediately asked, "Do you know why I chose to beg you instead of Hillary's father for help?"

Karl shook his head.

Jill said solemnly, "Because Hillary is not his daughter but yours!"

Karl: "!!!!"

He was astounded. "What did you say?"

Jill stretched out her fingers—there were two strands of hair gripped tightly between them. "I plucked Hillary's hair off her when I made contact with her just now. You can do a DNA test for you and her."

Karl was dumbfounded.

He stared at Jill incredulously. His gaze landed on the strands of hair she was holding and he swallowed hard, feeling that his ears must be playing tricks on him. "What did you say?"

Jill sighed. "You can put the timeline together yourself. When I married into the Joneses, I was already four months pregnant! Think about it, isn't the child yours if I was already four months pregnant at that time?" Karl swallowed. "But Hillary Jones' birth date doesn't match!"

Jill sighed. "That's because I delayed registering her birth for four months. After all, I couldn't bring shame to the Joneses. You can look into it. I gave birth to my daughter in a private clinic, so they may still have records! Also, no matter what, you should have a DNA test done first."

Jill handed the strands of hair to Karl. "Only hair with the follicles intact can be used in a DNA test. Be careful not to damage them. By the way, my daughter doesn't know that she is not my husband's child..."

Jill said that because she was afraid that Karl would send someone to the prison to sound Hillary out.

After saying that, she started to head toward the exit. Before she left, she added, "No matter what, you should still make sure that your daughter stays alive, right?"

Karl looked at her and narrowed his eyes. "Don't worry, if she really is my daughter, no one will be able to take her life!"

Jill breathed a sigh of relief.

She lowered her head and said, "I won't ask for that child from the Smiths anymore. All I ask for now is just for you to rescue my daughter, get her out of prison and take her abroad! I hope you can treat her well for the rest of her life after that!"

Karl hesitated for a moment. Then, he asked tentatively, "If she is my daughter, why didn't you tell me that from the start?"

Jill stared at Karl. After a long silence, she finally heaved a deep sigh and said, "I only wanted to borrow your authority in the beginning. I don't wish for



anything beyond that anymore. Besides, my daughter wasn't having any problems at that time, and you were also willing to help me, so it didn't matter whether or not I told you the truth. But now that I know that you don't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, I can only tell the truth!"

Karl kept quiet for a long while. Suddenly, he broke into a grin and said, "Jill, you should know that I am an outlaw. You know it won't end well for people who lie to me, right?"

Jill was so frightened by the way he spoke that she shuddered. However, she then said resolutely, "Go and have a DNA test done."

Karl nodded.

After Jill left, his subordinate behind him asked, "Boss, surely not, right? Is that child-stealing woman really your daughter?"

Karl, however, frowned and said nothing. In the end, he suddenly sighed and instructed, "Send someone to the prison and protect Hillary Jones for now!" "Understood."

He turned, exited, and walked toward the car.

The subordinate asked, "Boss, where are you going?"

Karl replied, "A DNA testing lab. Find me a reliable one!" "Yes, sir!"

Justin, Joel, and Tanya returned to the Smiths' manor.

As soon as they entered the manor, someone came forward and whispered something to Joel.

Joel frowned.

The sensitive Tanya asked, "What's wrong?"

Joel didn't hide anything from her. After letting five years pass them by, both of them cherished each other very much now. When he heard her question, he replied, "I sent someone to the jail to teach Hillary a lesson, but I just received news that someone has interfered on her behalf."

Tanya immediately asked, "Who did it?"

Joel replied, "Karl Moore."

Tanya frowned at the name.

Ever since Joel and Justin voiced their guess, Tanya had been feeling a little uncomfortable. Surely Karl wasn't really her father, right?

She frowned and did some calculations of the timeline around her birth date. However, she didn't think it matched.

It seemed like her date of birth was half a year too early?

Besides, it was impossible for her date of birth to be wrong because Hillary was born a year later than her. It couldn't possibly be that Jill became pregnant with Hillary when she was pregnant with her, right? The age difference between the two of them was only one year anyway! While she was thinking about it, Justin said, "It doesn't make sense."

Joel nodded. "If it's just because of an old lover, Moore is unlikely to help Hillary further. After all, the Smiths and the Hunts can control almost the entire United States. Karl's assassins may be powerful, but he may not necessarily be willing to offend two big families at the same time!"

This was also why Justin had the confidence to threaten Karl when they were in the courtroom!

Justin said, "How strange. Something we are unaware of must have happened."

He took out his cell phone and sent messages to both Sean and Lawrence: 'Investigate why Karl Moore helped Hillary Jones in prison.'

Joel also said, "I'll get my men to investigate, too."

With the leaders of the two big families simultaneously investigating the same thing, they would surely get results very soon.

After sending the messages, Justin glanced at Tanya again and suddenly said, "I still find you and Karl Moore somewhat similar."

Joel also stared at Tanya for a while. "Why don't we do a DNA test, after all? It's safer that way."

The two men's gazes made Tanya's lip corners spasm a little, and she became a little hesitant.

She had originally been very resistant to the idea.

After all, Karl had helped Jill to bully her. However, given how the two men were staring at her, it seemed like she had no choice but to do the DNA test, after all?

In the end, she could only nod.

Lily walked down from upstairs at this point.

At the sight of Lily, Justin got a shock. He hurriedly asked, "What's the matter with Nora?"

Joel also looked over with concern.

Lily hurriedly replied, "Relax, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Smith. Boss is fine. She has been sleeping the last two days, so I was afraid that she would have low blood sugar. I just gave her some nutritional fluids." The two men relaxed upon hearing her explanation.

Lily then said, "Boss is sleeping really soundly. Don't worry!"

## Chapter 394 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

"This one says that we bullied the little reporter. Tsk, how blind is he? Didn't he see the reporter forcing a kid to answer her questions?"

"And this one, too. He says that I don't have any class because I hit the reporter. Hah, he's right. Compared to someone like her who reprimands others when she doesn't even know the truth, I certainly don't have that much class. But I at least don't have such a high level of ideological consciousness that I would interfere in other people's matters..."

Joel: "..."

He had almost forgotten what kind of family Tanya had grown up in. She had already experienced several flaming wars a long time ago, so she didn't give two hoots about it anymore.

Cherry was seated opposite her. “Do you need me to scold them for you, God-mom? I’m really good at dissing people!”

“Do you know how to spell what you want to write?” asked Pete.

Cherry: “...”

Pete took the opportunity to persuade her. “You should practice your spelling when you have time! We have to study hard, okay?”

At the mention of studying, Cherry pouted and said, “You are not lovable anymore, Pete!”

Pete sighed.

The tyrant was strict with him, but he simply spoiled Cherry too much. This led to Cherry not knowing how to spell a lot of words, even though she was already five. He looked down at his Mathematical Olympiad problems that were nearly at high school-level, and felt that his sister was simply too stupid!

Tanya laughed when she saw the two children bicker. “The two of you are so... but it’s true that you should practice your spellings properly, Cherry. Mia can already spell more than 500 words!”

Cherry curled her lips disdainfully. “If I really wanted to do it, I could memorize 500 spellings in a minute. I just don’t want to, that’s all! Besides, Daddy said that I am a girl, so I don’t have to tire myself out like that!”

Tanya: “...”

She quickly put her arms around Mia and said to her, “Don’t follow what Cherry does, okay?” Mia nodded sensibly. “Okay, Mommy!” Every time she heard Mia calling her ‘Mommy’, Tanya’s heart would melt a little. She smiled and said, “My little baby Mia is so well-behaved~”

Mia’s cheeks flushed at once.

Next to them, Cherry stuck out her tongue. “You’re calling her a little baby when she’s already five? God-mom, you are too mushy!” Tanya looked up at her. “No matter how old you become, to your mothers, all of you will always be children!”

Cherry tilted her head but didn’t refute her this time.

At this point, Joel came in and said, “Mia is also a girl, so she doesn’t need to study that hard.”

Tanya glared at him. “Don’t be a slave to your daughter like Mr. Hunt! Besides, Mia is different from Cherry...”

Cherry was always filled with confidence.

Although Nora hadn’t said anything about it before, Tanya had nevertheless discovered that the little girl was very smart, and could quickly master anything she was learning. As for Mia, perhaps because she had been brought up by Hillary, she was always lacking in confidence. She was always afraid that other people would dislike her, or that she wouldn’t perform well enough.

A person like her would only be confident and have a better future if she became strong. Every child was different.

Tanya had specially taken psychology classes before she joined the kindergarten as a teacher.

Joel, who had been lectured, touched his nose. Then, he said, “Don’t look at the news on the Internet anymore.”

Tanya nodded and tossed the phone aside. “I find them very ignorant, too. I read it just now because I wanted to strengthen Mia’s mental resilience. Say, why are they so childish, though? Is it actually that easy to make them think a certain way?”

Joel replied, “They are just a bunch of trolls on the Internet. Don’t bother yourself with them.”

Tanya nodded again and said with a smile, “There are still people who are supportive of me! For example...”

“For example, the young and popular singer, Clement Carter?”

Joel suddenly raised his eyebrows as he stared at the trending topics on social media on the phone before he shifted his gaze to Tanya.

Tanya was taken aback. “What’s up with Clement?”

Joel handed her the phone. Only then did Tanya notice that the hashtag #ClementCarterSpeaksUpForTanyaTheThirdWheel was trending

Tanya: “?”

When she tapped on the hashtag, she found out that Clement’s latest tweet was:

Clement Carter: “Don’t just follow the herd. To me, Ms. Turner has always been an open and straightforward person. She would never do that sort of thing. I trust her. @TanyaDances”

Tanya: “...”

Clement wasn’t a pop star. Rather, he was a singer and music artist. His voice was said to hail from the heavens, and he could switch between high pitch and low pitch very easily.

Clement enjoyed extremely high international acclaim.

He had a rich voice and a very wide vocal range. No matter how difficult the song was, he could easily handle it.

At the same time, he was also part of the Carters in New York. The family itself had a very strong artistic background and was a true family of artists.

When Tanya saw the verbal abuse he was suffering because he had spoken up for her, she couldn’t help but ask, “Why is he sticking his head out at such a time?”

The way she spoke sounded as if she was very close to him.

Joel asked sourly, “Does your heart ache because he was scolded?”

Tanya: “...”

She finally noticed the jealous lover in front of her. Tanya burst out laughing and said, “It’s Clement, you know. It’s not like you don’t know him. Didn’t we play a lot with one another when we were kids?”

Joel snorted. Tanya said, “When I left the country, he also went abroad for further studies. We once had a cross-industry artistic collaboration where he sang and I danced, so we got to know each other better.”

“Tsk.”

Joel couldn't help but say, “He sings while you dance. That sounds lovely.”

Tanya burst into loud laughter again. She knew that Joel was not really jealous. Rather, he was just teasing her because he was worried that she would be affected by the remarks on the internet.

She pointed at Joel and asked, “Did someone fill you up with jealousy today?” Joel was relieved to see that she was really alright.

In the evening, the two of them watched over Mia.

As they lay on either side of Mia, Joel looked at Tanya and suddenly asked, “Are you nervous about going to court tomorrow?”

With Mia in between, Tanya looked back at him. Fearing that she might wake Mia, her voice was very low and soft as she replied, “No, I'm not.”

Joel made a sound of acknowledgment.

Tanya thought that he was going to sleep, so she pulled the quilt over herself and closed her eyes.

It was summer, so the air conditioner in the room was turned very low. Tanya and Mia shared a quilt while Joel used another quilt.

When Tanya was about to fall asleep, Joel's soft voice reached her. “Don't worry, Tanya. I will definitely make Hillary pay for what she did.”

Surprised, Tanya turned to Joel. In the dark, she could see a cold look in his eyes. He didn't raise his voice, but it was as if there was power in his words. “I won't let anyone bully the two of you anymore.”

Tanya pressed her lips together. Her eyes reddened and sorrow welled up in her.

When she was young, she had tried her best and given her all for love, but she hadn't known how to love. She would kick up a huge fuss whenever she met with the slightest bit of unhappiness and often threatened to break up whenever they quarreled.

It was as if she was fearless.

It's only when one recovers what they have lost that they finally discover how precious the love is.

She suddenly hated her past self. Why had she called Joel when she saw the photo? Why hadn't she gone to him with the photo and asked him for a clear explanation?

If she had asked him for an explanation, and if he hadn't said those hurtful words in a flash of anger, the two of them might not have let these five years pass them by like that.

Mia probably would not have been lost, either. Tanya suddenly reached over past Mia. She fumbled around and then held Joel's hand. This time, she would never let go.

When they exited the bedroom after waking up the next day, they saw Justin coming out of Nora's bedroom.

Joel subconsciously asked, "Last night, you..." "I slept in the guest room."

The beauty mark at the corner of Justin's eye shimmered as he replied politely, "I just went in to see if she is awake."

Joel breathed a sigh of relief. Sensing that he had made a mountain out of a molehill just now, he coughed and said, "Oh, I wasn't suspecting you of taking the opportunity to take advantage of her. I just wanted to ask if you slept well last night."

Justin glanced at him but didn't expose his brother-in-law's thoughts. After all, his father-in-law still disliked him for some strange reason at the moment.

He needed his brother-in-law's help.

Justin nodded. "I slept pretty well. I'll come to the court with you guys later." Joel said, "Actually, you don't have to go to so much trouble. We've already prepared everything we need in court today." Justin coughed. "I'm going for Nora, lest she gets angry when she wakes up and finds out that I haven't shown enough concern."

Joel: "..."



The corners of his lips spasmed a little. He suddenly felt that his brother-in-law was getting more and more thick-skinned.

The group of people left the house, split up, and got into a few cars. Soon, they arrived at the court entrance.

As soon as they got out of the car, Hillary rushed out from somewhere and went straight up to the two of them before they even entered the court.

Behind Hillary was a large number of reporters.

Thud!

Hillary knelt right in front of Tanya and Joel. Her eyes were red as she said, "Mr. Smith, Tanya. I can give the two of you my blessing and withdraw from the relationship, but you can't do this to me. Please, I beg you. Give my daughter back to me! Mia is everything to me!"

The reporters whipped out their cameras and started snapping away.

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

Joel said, "Ms. Jones, the court has the final say today, so please get up." Hillary, however, was crying very badly. "I was wrong, Mr. Smith. I shouldn't have pestered you, and I should have withdrawn from the relationship myself, but you can't just drive me out of the country. Mia was once part of my body, you can't just separate me from my daughter like this! I believe that Mia wouldn't be willing to leave her mother, either. Where's Mia? Mia?"

She looked behind the two of them.

Some of the reporters also looked behind them. They immediately asked: "Where's the child?"

"Yeah, Mr. Smith, the court instructed you to bring Ms. Smith with you because they may ask the child some questions." "Did you not bring the child with you? You're too much!"

Hillary cried even harder. "I haven't seen Mia for a week, Mr. Smith! I just want to see the girl! Just a look would do!"

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look. Tanya lowered her gaze. When she thought of all the pain she had suffered during those five years, and how

reserved and timid Mia was every time she mentioned her mother, a wave of anger surged up in her.

How she wished she could rip Hillary's face apart and cut her into shreds!

To think she still had the cheek to mention the child...

Tanya slowly said, "Hillary, you'll never see the child ever again for the rest of your life!"

After saying that, she held Joel's arm, and the two of them walked straight into the court!

Hillary's tragic and miserable sobs rang out outside. "Tanya, how can you do this to me?! How can you?! My daughter! I just want my daughter!"

The reporters around them did not dare to approach Tanya and Joel-after all, they were outside the court. Thus, they surrounded Hillary.

"Ms. Jones, how confident of winning the lawsuit are you?"

"Ms. Jones, did you file a lawsuit for money or for your daughter?"

Hillary got up. She wiped the tears from her eyes and wept as she said to the camera, "I don't want money! I don't want anything except my daughter!"

With a sad and pitiful look in her eyes, she said, "I know I'm unemployed at the moment, but the Joneses are also rich. I receive dividends from the Joneses' company. I am also willing to work for my daughter's sake!

"My daughter is everything to me!

"I can withdraw from the love triangle, but my daughter is innocent!"

She burst into tears. "Please, everyone, help me! Help me get my daughter back!" She wept fiercely. Her tears made the audience watching the live broadcast full of pity and heartache for her.

For a time, public opinion completely took her side.

Everyone was cursing Tanya and Joel in the comments of the live-stream.

“What makes Tanya think she can take such an aggressive attitude against Hillary? She’s so shameless!”

“Ahhhh!! That sight pisses me off so much! Hillary must win this lawsuit! Otherwise, none of us will accept the outcome!” “Yes, the judiciary should not outweigh feelings. We will fight alongside you in this lawsuit!”

Hillary cried so badly that she had to be helped into the court in the end.

Outsiders were not allowed to enter the lounge at the back.

As soon as Hillary entered, she ran head-on into Tanya.

She cast her eyes down and said sadly, “Tanya, I can give you Joel, but not Mia. I will definitely win the lawsuit!”

Because she already had the upper hand in public opinion!!

Tanya stared at Hillary.

Never would she have ever expected that the woman, who had merely bullied and humiliated her a little five years ago, would actually go as far as to steal her child!

She had only been slightly under twenty years old at that time.

Hillary resembled Jill a lot, but she and Tanya didn’t really look alike. Her temper and personality were also similar to Jill’s. This must be one of the reasons why Jill had preferred Hillary and disliked Tanya ever since they were kids, right?

With that in mind, Tanya sneered, “We won’t know until we reach the end.”

Hillary’s eyes flickered.

At this moment, Jill, who had entered a moment later than Hillary, spotted the two of them. She immediately charged over, stretched out her arm, and slapped Tanya across her cheek. “You little bitch! Who told you you could come back to the States? It’s all your fault that things have come to this point!”

Tanya took a step back.

She was no longer the little girl from the past who couldn’t fight back.

She sneered, "We're at the court, Mrs. Jones. Please show some respect, or else I will sue you!"

Jill was furious. "Who are you calling Mrs. Jones? I am your mother!"

Tanya gave her a mocking smile. "Really? But didn't you already tell me a long time ago that you've severed ties with me?"

She took out her cell phone and played an audio recording. It was from five years ago when she was pregnant overseas. It was hard for her to find a job at that time, so she had bitten the bullet and approached Jill to ask for a bit of money for living expenses.

Jill's voice was very calm in the recording.

"\$3,000? What are you thinking? I can buy a handbag with that money! Besides, you are already an adult, so I am not obligated to pay for your tuition fees. Think of a solution yourself! Didn't you work part-time during college for your tuition fees? Didn't you say that you will never use even a cent of my money when you were a kid? Heh... "From now on, I will take it that I have never had a daughter like you, while you have never had me as a mother. I hope we will never see each other ever again!"

Those few lines of hers had severed the mother-daughter relationship between Tanya and her. This was also why Tanya had never been to the Joneses despite so much time passing since her return to the States.

When Jill heard the recording, she sneered, "Hah, what an ingrate you are. To think you remember those things I said so clearly. Never mind if you don't want to bear the responsibility of supporting me in old age, because I have never once counted on you to do that, either! But how could you turn around and bully us so maliciously?"

Tanya looked at her and Hillary. She couldn't help but retort, "Who exactly is bullying whom here?"

Her simple one-liner made Hillary and Jill exchange a look. Jill then yelled angrily, "Does it matter who the one bullying the other is? You are the one who's targeting the Joneses now! You'd best agree to settle in private while the trial has yet to start. Otherwise, I will make you pay!"

No one knew what gave her the confidence to say something like that.

When Tanya wanted to reply, Joel asked, "How do you intend to make her pay?" His words made Jill choke

Joel came over, put his arm around Tanya's shoulder, and looked at Jill. "Mrs. Jones, may I ask, what are you planning to do to my fiancée?"

Jill was shocked. "When did the two of you get engaged?"

Joel cast his eyes down. "You don't have to bother yourself with that, Mrs. Jones. I think the two of you should use this time to discuss the case with each other instead of glaring at and saying mean things to my fiancée."

When Jill wanted to reply, Mr. Jones strode over and grabbed both Jill and Hillary. He smiled and said to Joel, "Look at how big a fuss this has become, Mr. Smith... It's all because the kids are so insensible. Please forgive us!"

Joel did not say any more. He dragged Tanya back to the lounge.

After the two of them went in, Mr. Jones flew into a rage as he stared at Jill and Hillary. "Can the two of you stop creating so much trouble?! We are already about to go to court, so stop provoking them and making trouble in private!"

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. "Dad, all you know is to blame me whenever we run into trouble! They are obviously the ones in the wrong! You're just afraid of Mr. Smith's power, right? But you don't have to be anymore!"

Jill raised her chin slightly at Hillary's words, and she also said impatiently to Mr. Jones, "Alright, that's enough. Karl has already agreed to intervene, so nothing will go wrong!"

Mr. Jones stared at the two women and pointed at them angrily. "Karl will eventually leave. Once he leaves, the Smiths have a thousand and one ways to make us pay! The two of you have created so much trouble for the Joneses!"

However, Jill and Hillary completely ignored him and even curled their lips disdainfully.

Jill even said, “If worse comes to worst, the whole family can just migrate to Switzerland. Karl has both power and authority over there, so he can protect us!”

Mr. Jones: “!!”

He stared at Jill and shouted angrily, “Migrate to Switzerland? The way I see it, it’s more like you and him are still in love, isn’t it?!”

Afraid that others would overhear what he had said, Mr. Jones turned and left angrily.

Hillary stared at him from the back and pursed her lips. She said, “Look at him, Mom. Why do I have such a pushover of a father?! He doesn’t even have the courage to stand up for his daughter! If only Karl was my father!”

Jill’s eyes flickered the moment she said that.

She patted Hillary and said, “Don’t talk nonsense!”

Then, she and Hillary entered the lounge.

Soon, it was time for the trial.

Both parties entered the courtroom and sat opposite each other.

Karl had found a very famous lawyer for Hillary. After both parties took their seats, the judge asked the plaintiff to speak. The attorney immediately stood up and said reproachfully,

“Mr. Smith, where is Ms. Mia Smith? The court had instructed you to bring her here so that she can be asked whether she wants to stay with her father or her mother. Why didn’t you bring her?”

He looked at the judge and went on. “Or is it because you have no respect for the court at all? And think you can do whatever you want because of the Smiths’ power?”

“It has been very long since my client last saw her daughter. By separating mother and daughter from each other, and showing no respect for the court, your actions are simply atrocious!”

As Hillary had made a huge fuss and blown up the lawsuit before the trial, everyone was afraid that the Smiths would bribe the judge, so they had vehemently demanded a live-stream of the court proceedings.

After giving it some thought, the court had agreed to the public's request.

Therefore, the trial was currently being broadcast live.

People were commenting fiercely in the live-stream:

"Isn't he showing too little respect to the law?"

"He's so arrogant! But with so many of us watching, the court won't cover up for the Smiths!"

Amid the discussion, the judge frowned. After all, the fact that Joel had not brought Mia along had gone against their wishes. His actions were indeed rather disrespectful of the court.

He frowned. At this point, the defendant's attorney stood up.

When the people watching the live-stream saw the lawyer stand, all of them started ranting in the comments.

"That lawyer has no conscience! How can he help the Smiths in this lawsuit? Who knows how much money the Smiths have given him?"

"I heard that lawyer has never lost any of his cases. He's definitely gonna lose the one today, right?"

"Mr. Lawyer, can you have a bit of a conscience? How can you help the Smiths bully a weak and helpless woman? I am so disappointed in you!"

"I hope the lawyer dies together with his whole family!"

Hillary and her attorney next to her were also paying attention to the happenings online.

In addition, there were also people constantly keeping the judge up-to-date about the people's opinions. After all, he had to take the people's opinions into consideration, too.

The judge sighed when he heard that everyone was taking the plaintiff's side.

It would probably be very difficult for the defendant to win the case this time!

While he was thinking about it, the defendant's attorney said, "Your Honor, members of the jury. First of all, I would like to explain the relationship between my client and the plaintiff."

He walked out from behind the desk, looked at Hillary, and said, "According to my investigations, Mr. Joel Smith and Ms. Tanya Turner have been in love since they were in junior high, and their relationship continued even after they entered college. They are recognized by everyone as a model couple. Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner's classmates can testify to this. The plaintiff will not deny this, right?"

Hillary narrowed her eyes.

Her attorney stood up and said, "That has nothing to do with the case. After all, a lot of people's first relationships do not last. Does every spouse have to give way to their partner's first love just because they have returned? Be it true love or his inability to forget his previous lover, it is no reason or excuse for Mr. Smith to cheat on and betray Ms. Jones!"

His answer was very well-worded. A whole row of thumbs-ups appeared in the comments.

"That lawyer said it! No matter what, they have already broken up back then. To put it bluntly, even if Jones was the third wheel in Turner and Smith's relationship back then, the two of them have already had a child together. Tanya Turner shouldn't have come back!"

"I've just imagined a big story about Turner coming back for revenge!"

"Don't say any more. Let's listen to them instead. What if the reason for Turner and Smith's breakup back then wasn't Jones?"

Almost at the same time the comment appeared, the defendant's attorney said, "Of course. My client requested that I make this clear in the courtroom in front of the judge and everyone in the country because he doesn't want Ms. Turner to be called a third wheel."



The plaintiff's lawyer couldn't help but laugh when he heard what he said. He looked straight at the judge and said, "Objection, Your Honor. That has nothing to do with the case. What we are here to talk about is Ms. Mia Smith's custody, and not who the real third wheel of their relationship is!"

Tanya, who was seated in the defendant's dock, was surprised.

She turned and looked at Joel.

The two of them had agreed that they would immediately lay out sufficient evidence at the beginning of the trial, and change her status from the defendant to the plaintiff. She hadn't expected her attorney to actually walk out and say something like that.

Was Joel... trying to clear her name?

The plaintiff's attorney looked at the defendant's attorney, as well as Joel and Tanya who were seated in the dock. He said, "Even if my client had been the third wheel in your relationship back then, she did not break the law! Moreover, she even gave birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith. As a mother, she has the right and duty to raise her child!"

The defendant's attorney looked straight at the judge. "Your Honor, I mentioned the past because this case can no longer be looked at normally. Humans are creatures of emotion. When everyone is censuring my client, I have the right to defend them. I ask the court for permission to explain things clearly to everyone."

The judge looked at Hillary, and then at Tanya and Joel. At last, he nodded. "Permission granted."

The defendant's attorney looked straight at Hillary. "You were the third wheel in Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner's relationship back then. Do you admit to this?"

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. "They were just dating back then. It's not like they were married, so you can't say that I was the third wheel at all! Mr. Smith and I were also really in love back then!"

"Is that so?" The defendant's attorney couldn't help but smile. "But as far as I know, even though you claim that you have given birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith, the two of you did not become engaged or hold a wedding. Moreover, Mr. Smith also signed an agreement with you back then. The agreement says

that once Ms. Mia Smith is five years old, Mr. Smith will terminate his marriage agreement with you, and the two of you will regain your respective freedom. Accordingly, the Smiths will take care of the Joneses' business during those five years. Once the agreement is terminated, Ms. Mia Smith's custody is to go to Mr. Smith. Therefore, can I interpret this as a transaction, except that Ms. Jones intends to go back on her word?!"

Hillary was rendered speechless.

The people in support of Hillary in the comments were also stunned. For a while, they didn't quite know what to say.

"In that case, it seems that the Smiths aren't in the wrong?"

"But isn't it too much to prevent the mother from seeing her daughter?"

The plaintiff's attorney stood up. "The relationship between a mother and her daughter cannot be described as a transaction. Ms. Jones is not a surrogate mother! That agreement was illegal from the start! Besides, as Ms. Smith's mother, Ms. Jones has visitation rights!"

He glanced at Hillary.

Hillary immediately got the hint.

Before they came here, the two of them had already discussed how they should deal with the agreement. Hillary immediately started to weep. "Yes, that's why I want to ask the court for help in mediation. It was my first time being a mother back then. The Smiths are too powerful, so I had no other choice. But during the last five years where my daughter and I were dependent on each other, we have already developed strong feelings for each other. How can one control their own emotions? Your Honor, what kind of agreement can stop a mother from seeing her own children?"

She then started to cry bitterly. "Please, Mr. Smith, give me a way out! I've already fallen into depression because I can't see my daughter!"

The plaintiff's lawyer immediately produced a diagnostic report for depression. "This is my client's diagnostic report. She misses her daughter too much. I hope the court can be considerate toward her difficulties."

At the sight, everyone in the comments suddenly started to sympathize with Hillary again.

“The Smiths are simply too cold-blooded! The richer people are, the more domineering they become! They don’t care for people’s feelings at all! How can they let the child grow up in a family like that?!”

“Exactly! It is not right to stop a mother from meeting her daughter! How can they do that?!”

“The Smiths are too much!” “The child’s mother is already depressed. She’s so pitiful. She just wants to see her child, what’s so wrong about that?”

“Who knows, maybe the Smiths had threatened her into signing the agreement back then!”

“My god, look at where the defendants are! Turner and Smith are completely expressionless even when they saw Jones crying so badly! They are so heartless! Capitalists are the worst!”

“Yes, they are too inhumane! The child may not understand anything right now, but she will hate them once she grows up and realizes the truth!”

Everyone’s words and the stances they took were conveyed to the judge.

The judge glanced at the defendants. They had completely lost the public’s support.

However, at the defendant’s dock, Tanya was still glaring at Hillary furiously while Joel was expressionless. Even their attorney looked completely calm as if he was not moved by Hillary’s cries at all.

He lowered his gaze and asked, “The defendants, what else do you have to say?”

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look.

Tanya had a firm look in her eyes, but her eyes were gradually turning red.

Joel turned to the attorney and nodded at him.

Following the nod, the defendant's attorney suddenly walked out from behind the desk and looked at the judge. "Your Honor, I have a piece of evidence I'd like to submit."

The judge nodded.

The defendant's lawyer handed over two documents.

The judge was shocked when he saw the documents, and his expression changed drastically. He glanced at Tanya with a complicated look in his eyes, and then looked at Hillary with a frown. Disgust flashed across his eyes.

In the comments, everyone was speculating. "What evidence is that? It actually made the judge's expression totally change." "Oh no, the way he's looking at Smith and Turner isn't that cold anymore. Could it be that they didn't submit evidence but a check just now?" "How can they bribe the judge so openly? They are too much!"

Hillary glanced at the comments out of the corner of her eye. When she saw that all the comments were siding with her, the corners of her lips curled up slightly.

However, it was at this moment that the defendant's attorney slowly said, "Your Honor, members of the jury. On behalf of my client Ms. Tanya Turner, I shall now file a lawsuit against Ms. Hillary Jones for maliciously stealing Ms. Turner's child five years ago!! This led to my client being separated from her daughter for as long as five years. May the law impose the most severe sanction on Ms. Jones! I demand that Ms. Jones compensate my client for emotional damages, as well as damages for material losses incurred while searching for her daughter for the last five years!"

His words caused a furor to go through everyone!!

Hillary got up abruptly and looked at them in disbelief.

What did they say just now?

How could this be?!

How did she know?!

She understood Tanya very well. Because she loved Joel too much, she would never tell him that she had lost her child. After all, who wouldn't be miserable about losing their child?

But if it wasn't her who had brought it up, Joel would never imagine that Mia might be Tanya's daughter... So, how did they realize the truth?!

Terribly shocked, she stared in front of her in astonishment.

At the same time, countless question marks also flashed across the comments.

“???”

“????” “???”

The plaintiff's attorney was dumbfounded while the comments were being filled with question marks. He asked, “What nonsense are you saying?”

The defendant's... no, the defendant had already turned into the plaintiff at this point. The attorney looked straight at Hillary. As a lawyer, he had always been calm when handling cases, but when he realized the truth, even he couldn't help but subconsciously become angry when he looked at the woman. He spoke loudly and forcefully. “The evidence in the judge's and the jury's hands can prove whether I'm talking nonsense or not! The evidence consists of two reports, one is a DNA test report conducted for Ms. Turner and Ms. Mia Smith, and the other is proof that Ms. Jones had stolen the baby! On the day that Ms. Turner gave birth, Ms. Jones had booked a return ticket from Switzerland! Even though she went there by herself, she had returned with a baby!”

His words made Hillary's attorney dumbfounded.

Before the trial, attorneys would typically probe into their client's private affairs in order to prevent the other party from producing surprise evidence that they weren't prepared for.

Therefore, Hillary had even told her attorney the truth about her being the third wheel in Joel and Tanya's relationship beforehand. That was why the attorney hadn't even once accused Tanya of being the third wheel in Hillary's family, for fear that the other party would take advantage of it to counterattack.

Never would he have ever expected such an unbelievable plot twist!

The plot twist was simply too big. The lawsuit between Hillary and Joel had turned straight into one about Hillary's crime!!

They had evidence that she had stolen their child!

He didn't doubt the authenticity of the evidence because the judge and the others would undoubtedly verify it. He was just staring at Hillary in shock, astonishment, and disbelief.

In this instant, he could even feel his career as an attorney ending!

Seeing that her attorney wasn't saying anything but just staring at her, Hillary panicked. She suddenly stood up. "I didn't do anything like that! That's total nonsense!"

Tanya's eyes narrowed as she looked at her. "The evidence can prove whether or not I am talking nonsense! The DNA test shows that Mia and I have a 99% DNA match!! These numbers could never lie!" Hillary swallowed and looked at the gallery.

Karl and Jill were seated in the gallery.

A somewhat incredulous Jill stood up abruptly when the plot twist came. She subconsciously looked at Karl.

Karl, who also seemed stunned by the plot twist, looked at Jill with a puzzled look.

Jill swallowed. She was about to say something when Justin, who was sitting behind Karl, suddenly said, "Mr. Moore, I'm sure you must know the truth of the matter by now. Wouldn't it be rather unreasonable if you continue to help Hillary Jones fight for the child's custody?"

Karl choked.

He had only helped Jill and stood up for her on account of their past relationship. After all, if Hillary was Mia's mother, the Smiths' actions would indeed be going too far.

But now...

If he continued to help Hillary fight for the child, then wouldn't he just be making trouble for no reason?

He coughed and replied, "Of course. The Assassin Organization is not unreasonable."

Justin nodded. Then, he immediately looked at Mr. Jones, who was seated nearby Jill. The astonishment in his eyes didn't seem to be fake, and he looked like he wasn't aware of his daughter's actions at all. He slowly said, "Mr. Jones, are the Joneses still supportive of Hillary's fight for the child's custody?"

Given how even Karl wasn't going to help anymore, there was no way Mr. Jones would have the guts to step forward, either. He shook his head and stammered, "M-Mr. Hunt, I really didn't know about what Hillary did! She did it all by herself! It has nothing to do with the Joneses!" Jill looked at Mr. Jones furiously. "How can you say that? She's your daughter! Is that how you should be treating Hillary?!"

An annoyed Mr. Jones retorted, "Even if she's my daughter, I still didn't expect her to actually do something like that! She stole someone else's child! How can she do that?!" The furious Jill panicked. "Even so, you can't just ignore her! Surely you can't just watch as she goes to jail?!"

Justin didn't say anything else. Instead, he looked at the stand.

From the looks of it, it seemed that neither Karl nor Mr. Jones were intending to help anymore. In that case, Jill and Hillary would no longer be able to make any more trouble.

On the judge's bench.

The judge and the jury were already looking at one another. The judge then looked at Hillary. "There is substantial evidence in my hands, and there are both witnesses and physical evidence against you. What else do you have to say?!"

Hillary knew that what's done is done at this point and that there was nothing she could do anymore to save herself.

She looked straight at Tanya. In the end, she yelled shamelessly, "I... I didn't steal the child! I did go abroad, and I did go to Switzerland, but I found the

child somewhere! It... It was... It was Tanya who abandoned her child! Yes, that's it! Your Honor, you can't convict me. I saved that child's life! In fact, you should be holding Tanya responsible for abandoning her newborn baby!"

Everyone was stunned. They hadn't expected that Hillary would still say such things at this point.

Even her attorney had shut up and was unwilling to defend her anymore.

The judge looked at Tanya and Joel.

Tanya's eyes were red and she did not speak.

Joel's jaw was clenched tightly and he had lost the usual smile on his face.

Their attorney stood where he was and sneered, "Ms. Jones, I didn't expect you to be so stubborn. It seems like you're someone who holds out hope until faced with the grim reality!"

"Your Honor, I have a few pieces of evidence here that will prove that she had indeed stolen the baby! That day, she went to the hospital where Ms. Turner had given birth and bribed two nurses in the hospital. That was how she had successfully stolen the baby from the hospital!"

"Also! Your Honor, these are financial accounts detailing how much money and effort my client, Ms. Tanya Turner, spent in order to search for her child over the years.

"Your Honor, as you can see, Ms. Jones shows no sign of taking the initiative to plead guilty even now! I implore you to punish her severely in accordance with the law!!"

The more Hillary refused to plead guilty in the case where evidence was conclusive, the less likely she would receive mercy in court.

Her stubbornness was, on the contrary, a positive for Tanya.

The judge frowned, and the way he looked at Hillary changed.

Hillary's legs went limp and she fell onto the chair. She hadn't expected them to still be able to find evidence of her bribing the nurses when two years had already gone by. On top of that, they even managed to get the two nurses to testify as witnesses!



It was all over.

Everything was over!

Tanya's attorney was still speaking. He said, "Your Honor, my client is a dancer with a sizable income, but every year, she pays most of her money to private detectives to engage them in search for her child...

"The millions of dollars she spends on the search each year are nearly the entirety of her income. If she had really abandoned the child, why would she spend that much money searching for her child?!"

"Ms. Jones is still slandering my client even at this point. Not only that, but she even bribed reporters to create public pressure on my client in an attempt to reverse the lawsuit's outcome!"

"I implore the judge to take serious action against her!"

As the attorney's loud and powerful words rang out, the courtroom fell silent.

After discussion, the judge finally announced, "Given the severity of Ms. Hillary Jones' crime in stealing the child, and the fact that she shows no intention of pleading guilty, let alone any sign of remorse, we will submit the case to the judiciary and have the Attorney-General's Office bring charges against her, so that they may give her the maximum sentence possible!"

Upon hearing that, Hillary slumped onto the chair.

The maximum sentence was thirty years of imprisonment!!

Thirty years!

By the time she came out of prison thirty years later, she would be old!

No, she didn't want to go to jail!!

The court had its own procedures. The court hearing today was for Joel and Hillary's fight for the custody of their daughter. Therefore, the case was closed without even the need for a full trial.

Hillary was arrested on the spot. She would be under the judiciary's supervision while she waited for her next court hearing.

The comments in the live-stream had undergone a complete reversal. Everyone was censuring Hillary.

“My god, that’s so disgusting! She is so wicked!”

“Let me give everyone a summary of what happened. Not only was Jones the third wheel in their relationship, but she even stole their baby and claimed that she had given birth to her. And now, she is actually fighting them for custody of the girl? She’s so wicked! That woman is beyond salvation!”

“The fact that Turner has been searching for her daughter for so many years has suddenly moved me so much. I apologize for the derogatory remarks I made against Turner when I wasn’t aware of the truth.”

“I also apologize!”.

“A woman like Hillary Jones should be sentenced to death!”

“Yes, not only did she steal a child, but she even thinks that she’s right in doing so. She shows no signs of repentance at all. If she isn’t sentenced to the death penalty, then she should at least be sentenced to life imprisonment! People like her should spend the rest of their life in jail!”

“I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!”

“Thirty years is too little. I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!”

“Agree with the previous comment!”

“+1!”

“+(my cell phone number)!” “+(my ID number)!”

The public opinion reversed in an instant, and the people took Tanya’s side.

When the handcuffed Hillary was being led away, Jill rushed over and hugged her. “Let go of my daughter! Let go of her!”

The sobbing Hillary yelled, “Mom, save me! Save me! I don’t wanna go to jail!! Sob, Dad, save me!”

However, even after the two of them cried their eyes out, none of the police officers were moved. They dragged Hillary out.

Jill was stunned to the spot. The next moment, she grabbed Hillary's attorney and shouted furiously, "Why didn't you say anything just now? We paid money to hire you! Why didn't you defend my daughter?!" The attorney said with a sense of resignation, "Mrs. Jones, it was stated clearly in our contract that the client is not to conceal any information related to the case. Are you actually demanding an explanation from me when your daughter hid such an important matter from me?!"

He was also rather angry. "Besides, if I had known that the child was stolen from someone else, I would never have taken up the case! I have children, too. People like her should go to jail!"

Jill retorted furiously, "You're the one who should go to jail, you trash lawyer!"

The attorney sighed and said, "Alright, I'm not going to argue with you anymore. I just want to tell you this now-you and Hillary were the ones who directed public opinion on the case, right? Now, she shall have to undergo the backlash!"

Jill was taken aback. "What do you mean?"

"Previously, the two of you created a buzz to make people take your side in order to put pressure on the court, but all of those people are furious now! They are now strongly demanding that your daughter be sentenced to death! Under such circumstances, I'm afraid your daughter will be sentenced to life imprisonment, at the least, for her malicious actions!"

"Life imprisonment..."

Jill stared straight ahead of her blankly when she heard those two words. She stared at the lawyer incredulously. "She just stole a child, that's all! What kind of nonsense are you spouting?!"

Seeing that she was being so unreasonable, the attorney didn't want to talk to her anymore. He merely shook his head and turned to leave.

At the sight, Jill grabbed his arm and said, "Don't go! Tell me how I can save my daughter! Tell me!"

The attorney sneered, "Is there even any hope of salvation left for someone like your daughter? What's the point of saving her and bringing her out of prison? So that she can steal other people's children? Even if you offer three

times the remuneration, no one will take up your case anymore, let alone me! Unless they don't wish to work in this line of business anymore and wish to be attacked instead!"

Jill didn't dare to lose her temper anymore. She held on to the attorney and said, "D-don't go, I won't lose my temper with you anymore. I won't ask for a refund on the legal fees, either. Just tell me what I should do now. I can't just watch as my daughter is sentenced to life imprisonment!"

Seeing that she had taken a step back, and thinking of how he needn't return the exorbitant legal fees anymore, the attorney looked around. He lowered his voice and said, "There is only one way to lighten your daughter's sentence." "What is it?"

"Beg for the victim's forgiveness! If the victim can forgive her, she may still have a chance of a reduced sentence."

The victim's... forgiveness...

Jill's head turned abruptly to Tanya, who was about to leave with Joel.

He was right. Tanya was the plaintiff of the case now, which meant that she was the victim.

Jill let go of the attorney and went straight to Tanya. When she came up to her, she grabbed Tanya's arm and said, "Tanya, my daughter, don't go. Help Mom out. You're the only one who can help Mom now. Go to the judge and tell him that you've forgiven Hillary. Tell him that you don't hold it against her anymore! Go and tell him now! Immediately! Right away!"

Her words made Tanya sneer. All she could feel at the moment was just incredulity.

Tanya stared at Jill. Little by little, she pulled her arm out of Jill's grasp. She looked at Jill coldly and slowly said, "Did you know? I've always wanted to ask you something ever since I was a child."

Jill was taken aback. "What?"

"Am I really your daughter?"

Tanya's eyes were a little red. "How is it that you can do so much and go so far for Hillary, yet be so cruel to me?!"

Jill was stunned. But immediately after that, she said angrily, "What did I do to you? Did I bring you up and keep you alive so that you can bully me later in life? You are too much! You have to go to the judge right away and tell him that you've forgiven Hillary! Or else—"

"Or else what? What will you do?"

Tanya stared at her, but there was no fluctuation of emotions in her voice at all.

Jill was shocked by her reaction. For a moment, she couldn't say anything.

"Or else you won't acknowledge me as your daughter anymore? Didn't you already sever ties with me a long time ago?"

"Or perhaps, you won't pay for my tuition fees anymore? But have you ever given me any money? "Or perhaps, you won't give me any food? That worked very well when I was young. I was indeed scared when you locked me up in that dark room and didn't give me any food or water. But I'm no longer the four-year-old kid anymore!! Jill, you can't control me anymore!"

The more Tanya spoke, the colder her voice became. "As for Hillary..." Suddenly she bent down, lowered her head, and leaned into Jill's ear. "Why do you think the Smiths didn't bother with damage control and allowed public opinion to get to this state? It's precisely so that she could have a taste of her own medicine!"

Jill was dumbfounded.

When the lawyer mentioned it, she had thought that it was just a coincidence, but from the way it sounded now... It was actually a conspiracy by Tanya and Joel!! The fiercer the people scolded them, the guiltier they would feel once the truth was revealed!

No wonder they hadn't explained anything the whole time, and even assaulted the reporter!!

Jill's eyes widened as she stared at the daughter who seemed so foreign to her now. Tanya straightened her back and, with an extremely cold look in her

eyes, said, "She stole my daughter and my boyfriend, and even abused my daughter for as long as five years. Jill, even if you kneel here for the rest of your life, I will never forgive her!

"You want me to write a letter of forgiveness? Over my dead body!!"

She turned, took Joel's hand, and got ready to leave.

However, the furious Jill suddenly rushed towards her and grabbed her. "Why did I give birth to a bastard like you?! You're a bane to the world! I should have killed you when you were a child! I should have starved you to death!"

Neither Tanya nor Joel had expected her to actually jump up and attack them in the courtroom. She caught Tanya by her hair.

She reached out and tried to scratch Tanya's cheek, but Joel already had her wrist in a tight grip. He pushed her away with great force, making her fall onto the floor behind her.

Joel looked down at her from above and said, "Please treat my fiancée with courtesy, Mrs. Jones."

After speaking, he glanced at Mr. Jones, who was in the gallery.

Mr. Jones immediately got the hint. He came over hastily and held Jill back.

Only then did Tanya and Joel leave the courtroom.

As soon as they exited, they ran into Justin in the car park. As the three looked at one another, Joel asked, "How did it go?"

One of the reasons Justin had to be present today was so that he could convince Karl not to take any further action in the gallery.

Justin replied, "No big issues. Karl is an underworld figure and has a very strong aura of one from the underworld around him. With the truth publicly exposed and Hillary Jones arrested, there's nothing he can say anymore. Besides, the Assassin Organization probably doesn't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, either." His voice turned cold as he added, "Otherwise, I wouldn't have given him a chance to leave the country!"

Joel nodded. "He has already done enough to pay back the favor he owes his old lover. Unless Hillary is his daughter, that guy probably won't do anything for them anymore."

His daughter?

The moment he said that, both Justin and Joel suddenly thought of something, and they both abruptly turned to Tanya.

The two clan leaders' gazes made Tanya a little uncomfortable. She glanced down at herself and asked, "What's the matter? Is there something wrong with my clothes?" Nothing was wrong with them, though! Her clothes were very suitable for the occasion, and nothing was dirty... While she was wondering about it, Joel suddenly asked, "Tanya, have you ever wondered who your father is?"

Tanya: "..."

She sighed and replied, "Of course I have. But every time I asked Jill about it, she would always say that he's a scumbag and a hooligan who deceived her and made her pregnant..."

A hooligan...

The word made Justin and Joel suddenly glance at each other.

A short while later, Joel suddenly said, "Don't you find that Karl Moore actually has... a bit of a hooligan-like air around him?"

Tanya: "??"

In the courtroom.

Even after everyone else had left, Jill was still laying on the floor and making a scene. "I'm not going to get up if you don't save my daughter! You're a good-for-nothing! What's the use of a father like you?!"

Mr. Jones was standing next to her. At last, he said, "Stay on the floor if that's what you want. Who cares?!"

He left right away.

Karl, who was still in the gallery, looked at Jill who was on the floor. He scratched his head.

His subordinate behind him couldn't help but ask, "Boss, what did you see in her in your younger days?"

Karl also felt a little embarrassed.

He coughed. "Maybe I was blind back then."

The subordinate was speechless.

He got up and walked toward Jill. Just as he was about to say something, Jill got up by herself and patted the dust off herself. There was none of the shrewish behavior she had just exhibited around her anymore. Instead, she looked at Karl calmly.

Karl coughed, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine."

Jill stared at Karl and said, "You have to help me save my daughter!"

Karl cast his eyes down. "You're not in the right with regard to this matter. Neither can I bring myself to do something like that."

Wouldn't he be thoroughly embarrassed if outsiders were to learn of it?

Unexpectedly, as soon as he said that, Jill immediately asked, "Do you know why I chose to beg you instead of Hillary's father for help?"

Karl shook his head.

Jill said solemnly, "Because Hillary is not his daughter but yours!"

Karl: "!!!!"

He was astounded. "What did you say?"

Jill stretched out her fingers—there were two strands of hair gripped tightly between them. "I plucked Hillary's hair off her when I made contact with her just now. You can do a DNA test for you and her."



Karl was dumbfounded.

He stared at Jill incredulously. His gaze landed on the strands of hair she was holding and he swallowed hard, feeling that his ears must be playing tricks on him. "What did you say?"

Jill sighed. "You can put the timeline together yourself. When I married into the Joneses, I was already four months pregnant! Think about it, isn't the child yours if I was already four months pregnant at that time?" Karl swallowed. "But Hillary Jones' birth date doesn't match!"

Jill sighed. "That's because I delayed registering her birth for four months. After all, I couldn't bring shame to the Joneses. You can look into it. I gave birth to my daughter in a private clinic, so they may still have records! Also, no matter what, you should have a DNA test done first."

Jill handed the strands of hair to Karl. "Only hair with the follicles intact can be used in a DNA test. Be careful not to damage them. By the way, my daughter doesn't know that she is not my husband's child..."

Jill said that because she was afraid that Karl would send someone to the prison to sound Hillary out.

After saying that, she started to head toward the exit. Before she left, she added, "No matter what, you should still make sure that your daughter stays alive, right?"

Karl looked at her and narrowed his eyes. "Don't worry, if she really is my daughter, no one will be able to take her life!"

Jill breathed a sigh of relief.

She lowered her head and said, "I won't ask for that child from the Smiths anymore. All I ask for now is just for you to rescue my daughter, get her out of prison and take her abroad! I hope you can treat her well for the rest of her life after that!"

Karl hesitated for a moment. Then, he asked tentatively, "If she is my daughter, why didn't you tell me that from the start?"

Jill stared at Karl. After a long silence, she finally heaved a deep sigh and said, "I only wanted to borrow your authority in the beginning. I don't wish for

anything beyond that anymore. Besides, my daughter wasn't having any problems at that time, and you were also willing to help me, so it didn't matter whether or not I told you the truth. But now that I know that you don't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, I can only tell the truth!"

Karl kept quiet for a long while. Suddenly, he broke into a grin and said, "Jill, you should know that I am an outlaw. You know it won't end well for people who lie to me, right?"

Jill was so frightened by the way he spoke that she shuddered. However, she then said resolutely, "Go and have a DNA test done."

Karl nodded.

After Jill left, his subordinate behind him asked, "Boss, surely not, right? Is that child-stealing woman really your daughter?"

Karl, however, frowned and said nothing. In the end, he suddenly sighed and instructed, "Send someone to the prison and protect Hillary Jones for now!" "Understood."

He turned, exited, and walked toward the car.

The subordinate asked, "Boss, where are you going?"

Karl replied, "A DNA testing lab. Find me a reliable one!" "Yes, sir!"

Justin, Joel, and Tanya returned to the Smiths' manor.

As soon as they entered the manor, someone came forward and whispered something to Joel.

Joel frowned.

The sensitive Tanya asked, "What's wrong?"

Joel didn't hide anything from her. After letting five years pass them by, both of them cherished each other very much now. When he heard her question, he replied, "I sent someone to the jail to teach Hillary a lesson, but I just received news that someone has interfered on her behalf."

Tanya immediately asked, "Who did it?"

Joel replied, "Karl Moore."

Tanya frowned at the name.

Ever since Joel and Justin voiced their guess, Tanya had been feeling a little uncomfortable. Surely Karl wasn't really her father, right?

She frowned and did some calculations of the timeline around her birth date. However, she didn't think it matched.

It seemed like her date of birth was half a year too early?

Besides, it was impossible for her date of birth to be wrong because Hillary was born a year later than her. It couldn't possibly be that Jill became pregnant with Hillary when she was pregnant with her, right? The age difference between the two of them was only one year anyway! While she was thinking about it, Justin said, "It doesn't make sense."

Joel nodded. "If it's just because of an old lover, Moore is unlikely to help Hillary further. After all, the Smiths and the Hunts can control almost the entire United States. Karl's assassins may be powerful, but he may not necessarily be willing to offend two big families at the same time!"

This was also why Justin had the confidence to threaten Karl when they were in the courtroom!

Justin said, "How strange. Something we are unaware of must have happened."

He took out his cell phone and sent messages to both Sean and Lawrence: 'Investigate why Karl Moore helped Hillary Jones in prison.'

Joel also said, "I'll get my men to investigate, too."

With the leaders of the two big families simultaneously investigating the same thing, they would surely get results very soon.

After sending the messages, Justin glanced at Tanya again and suddenly said, "I still find you and Karl Moore somewhat similar."

Joel also stared at Tanya for a while. "Why don't we do a DNA test, after all? It's safer that way."

The two men's gazes made Tanya's lip corners spasm a little, and she became a little hesitant.

She had originally been very resistant to the idea.

After all, Karl had helped Jill to bully her. However, given how the two men were staring at her, it seemed like she had no choice but to do the DNA test, after all?

In the end, she could only nod.

Lily walked down from upstairs at this point.

At the sight of Lily, Justin got a shock. He hurriedly asked, "What's the matter with Nora?"

Joel also looked over with concern.

Lily hurriedly replied, "Relax, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Smith. Boss is fine. She has been sleeping the last two days, so I was afraid that she would have low blood sugar. I just gave her some nutritional fluids." The two men relaxed upon hearing her explanation.

Lily then said, "Boss is sleeping really soundly. Don't worry!"

## Chapter 395 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

She suddenly hated her past self. Why had she called Joel when she saw the photo? Why hadn't she gone to him with the photo and asked him for a clear explanation?

If she had asked him for an explanation, and if he hadn't said those hurtful words in a flash of anger, the two of them might not have let these five years pass them by like that.

Mia probably would not have been lost, either. Tanya suddenly reached over past Mia. She fumbled around and then held Joel's hand. This time, she would never let go.

When they exited the bedroom after waking up the next day, they saw Justin coming out of Nora's bedroom.

Joel subconsciously asked, “Last night, you...” “I slept in the guest room.”

The beauty mark at the corner of Justin’s eye shimmered as he replied politely, “I just went in to see if she is awake.”

Joel breathed a sigh of relief. Sensing that he had made a mountain out of a molehill just now, he coughed and said, “Oh, I wasn’t suspecting you of taking the opportunity to take advantage of her. I just wanted to ask if you slept well last night.”

Justin glanced at him but didn’t expose his brother-in-law’s thoughts. After all, his father-in-law still disliked him for some strange reason at the moment.

He needed his brother-in-law’s help.

Justin nodded. “I slept pretty well. I’ll come to the court with you guys later.” Joel said, “Actually, you don’t have to go to so much trouble. We’ve already prepared everything we need in court today.” Justin coughed. “I’m going for Nora, lest she gets angry when she wakes up and finds out that I haven’t shown enough concern.”

Joel: “...”

The corners of his lips spasmed a little. He suddenly felt that his brother-in-law was getting more and more thick-skinned.

The group of people left the house, split up, and got into a few cars. Soon, they arrived at the court entrance.

As soon as they got out of the car, Hillary rushed out from somewhere and went straight up to the two of them before they even entered the court.

Behind Hillary was a large number of reporters.

Thud!

Hillary knelt right in front of Tanya and Joel. Her eyes were red as she said, “Mr. Smith, Tanya. I can give the two of you my blessing and withdraw from the relationship, but you can’t do this to me. Please, I beg you. Give my daughter back to me! Mia is everything to me!”

The reporters whipped out their cameras and started snapping away.

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

Joel said, "Ms. Jones, the court has the final say today, so please get up." Hillary, however, was crying very badly. "I was wrong, Mr. Smith. I shouldn't have pestered you, and I should have withdrawn from the relationship myself, but you can't just drive me out of the country. Mia was once part of my body, you can't just separate me from my daughter like this! I believe that Mia wouldn't be willing to leave her mother, either. Where's Mia? Mia?"

She looked behind the two of them.

Some of the reporters also looked behind them. They immediately asked: "Where's the child?"

"Yeah, Mr. Smith, the court instructed you to bring Ms. Smith with you because they may ask the child some questions." "Did you not bring the child with you? You're too much!"

Hillary cried even harder. "I haven't seen Mia for a week, Mr. Smith! I just want to see the girl! Just a look would do!"

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look. Tanya lowered her gaze. When she thought of all the pain she had suffered during those five years, and how reserved and timid Mia was every time she mentioned her mother, a wave of anger surged up in her.

How she wished she could rip Hillary's face apart and cut her into shreds!

To think she still had the cheek to mention the child...

Tanya slowly said, "Hillary, you'll never see the child ever again for the rest of your life!"

After saying that, she held Joel's arm, and the two of them walked straight into the court!

Hillary's tragic and miserable sobs rang out outside. "Tanya, how can you do this to me?! How can you?! My daughter! I just want my daughter!"

The reporters around them did not dare to approach Tanya and Joel-after all, they were outside the court. Thus, they surrounded Hillary.

"Ms. Jones, how confident of winning the lawsuit are you?"

“Ms. Jones, did you file a lawsuit for money or for your daughter?”

Hillary got up. She wiped the tears from her eyes and wept as she said to the camera, “I don’t want money! I don’t want anything except my daughter!”

With a sad and pitiful look in her eyes, she said, “I know I’m unemployed at the moment, but the Joneses are also rich. I receive dividends from the Joneses’ company. I am also willing to work for my daughter’s sake!

“My daughter is everything to me!

“I can withdraw from the love triangle, but my daughter is innocent!”

She burst into tears. “Please, everyone, help me! Help me get my daughter back!” She wept fiercely. Her tears made the audience watching the live broadcast full of pity and heartache for her.

For a time, public opinion completely took her side.

Everyone was cursing Tanya and Joel in the comments of the live-stream.

“What makes Tanya think she can take such an aggressive attitude against Hillary? She’s so shameless!”

“Ahhhh!! That sight pisses me off so much! Hillary must win this lawsuit! Otherwise, none of us will accept the outcome!” “Yes, the judiciary should not outweigh feelings. We will fight alongside you in this lawsuit!”

Hillary cried so badly that she had to be helped into the court in the end.

Outsiders were not allowed to enter the lounge at the back.

As soon as Hillary entered, she ran head-on into Tanya.

She cast her eyes down and said sadly, “Tanya, I can give you Joel, but not Mia. I will definitely win the lawsuit!”

Because she already had the upper hand in public opinion!!

Tanya stared at Hillary.

Never would she have ever expected that the woman, who had merely bullied and humiliated her a little five years ago, would actually go as far as to steal her child!

She had only been slightly under twenty years old at that time.

Hillary resembled Jill a lot, but she and Tanya didn't really look alike. Her temper and personality were also similar to Jill's. This must be one of the reasons why Jill had preferred Hillary and disliked Tanya ever since they were kids, right?

With that in mind, Tanya sneered, "We won't know until we reach the end."

Hillary's eyes flickered.

At this moment, Jill, who had entered a moment later than Hillary, spotted the two of them. She immediately charged over, stretched out her arm, and slapped Tanya across her cheek. "You little bitch! Who told you you could come back to the States? It's all your fault that things have come to this point!"

Tanya took a step back.

She was no longer the little girl from the past who couldn't fight back.

She sneered, "We're at the court, Mrs. Jones. Please show some respect, or else I will sue you!"

Jill was furious. "Who are you calling Mrs. Jones? I am your mother!"

Tanya gave her a mocking smile. "Really? But didn't you already tell me a long time ago that you've severed ties with me?"

She took out her cell phone and played an audio recording. It was from five years ago when she was pregnant overseas. It was hard for her to find a job at that time, so she had bitten the bullet and approached Jill to ask for a bit of money for living expenses.

Jill's voice was very calm in the recording.

"\$3,000? What are you thinking? I can buy a handbag with that money! Besides, you are already an adult, so I am not obligated to pay for your tuition fees. Think of a solution yourself! Didn't you work part-time during college for your tuition fees? Didn't you say that you will never use even a cent of my



money when you were a kid? Heh... “From now on, I will take it that I have never had a daughter like you, while you have never had me as a mother. I hope we will never see each other ever again!”

Those few lines of hers had severed the mother-daughter relationship between Tanya and her. This was also why Tanya had never been to the Joneses despite so much time passing since her return to the States.

When Jill heard the recording, she sneered, “Hah, what an ingrate you are. To think you remember those things I said so clearly. Never mind if you don’t want to bear the responsibility of supporting me in old age, because I have never once counted on you to do that, either! But how could you turn around and bully us so maliciously?”

Tanya looked at her and Hillary. She couldn’t help but retort, “Who exactly is bullying whom here?”

Her simple one-liner made Hillary and Jill exchange a look. Jill then yelled angrily, “Does it matter who the one bullying the other is? You are the one who’s targeting the Joneses now! You’d best agree to settle in private while the trial has yet to start. Otherwise, I will make you pay!”

No one knew what gave her the confidence to say something like that.

When Tanya wanted to reply, Joel asked, “How do you intend to make her pay?” His words made Jill choke

Joel came over, put his arm around Tanya’s shoulder, and looked at Jill. “Mrs. Jones, may I ask, what are you planning to do to my fiancée?”

Jill was shocked. “When did the two of you get engaged?”

Joel cast his eyes down. “You don’t have to bother yourself with that, Mrs. Jones. I think the two of you should use this time to discuss the case with each other instead of glaring at and saying mean things to my fiancée.”

When Jill wanted to reply, Mr. Jones strode over and grabbed both Jill and Hillary. He smiled and said to Joel, “Look at how big a fuss this has become, Mr. Smith... It’s all because the kids are so insensible. Please forgive us!”

Joel did not say any more. He dragged Tanya back to the lounge.

After the two of them went in, Mr. Jones flew into a rage as he stared at Jill and Hillary. “Can the two of you stop creating so much trouble?! We are already about to go to court, so stop provoking them and making trouble in private!”

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. “Dad, all you know is to blame me whenever we run into trouble! They are obviously the ones in the wrong! You’re just afraid of Mr. Smith’s power, right? But you don’t have to be anymore!”

Jill raised her chin slightly at Hillary’s words, and she also said impatiently to Mr. Jones, “Alright, that’s enough. Karl has already agreed to intervene, so nothing will go wrong!”

Mr. Jones stared at the two women and pointed at them angrily. “Karl will eventually leave. Once he leaves, the Smiths have a thousand and one ways to make us pay! The two of you have created so much trouble for the Joneses!”

However, Jill and Hillary completely ignored him and even curled their lips disdainfully.

Jill even said, “If worse comes to worst, the whole family can just migrate to Switzerland. Karl has both power and authority over there, so he can protect us!”

Mr. Jones: “!!”

He stared at Jill and shouted angrily, “Migrate to Switzerland? The way I see it, it’s more like you and him are still in love, isn’t it?!”

Afraid that others would overhear what he had said, Mr. Jones turned and left angrily.

Hillary stared at him from the back and pursed her lips. She said, “Look at him, Mom. Why do I have such a pushover of a father?! He doesn’t even have the courage to stand up for his daughter! If only Karl was my father!”

Jill’s eyes flickered the moment she said that.

She patted Hillary and said, “Don’t talk nonsense!”

Then, she and Hillary entered the lounge.

Soon, it was time for the trial.

Both parties entered the courtroom and sat opposite each other.

Karl had found a very famous lawyer for Hillary. After both parties took their seats, the judge asked the plaintiff to speak. The attorney immediately stood up and said reproachfully,

“Mr. Smith, where is Ms. Mia Smith? The court had instructed you to bring her here so that she can be asked whether she wants to stay with her father or her mother. Why didn’t you bring her?”

He looked at the judge and went on. “Or is it because you have no respect for the court at all? And think you can do whatever you want because of the Smiths’ power?”

“It has been very long since my client last saw her daughter. By separating mother and daughter from each other, and showing no respect for the court, your actions are simply atrocious!”

As Hillary had made a huge fuss and blown up the lawsuit before the trial, everyone was afraid that the Smiths would bribe the judge, so they had vehemently demanded a live-stream of the court proceedings.

After giving it some thought, the court had agreed to the public’s request.

Therefore, the trial was currently being broadcast live.

People were commenting fiercely in the live-stream:

“Isn’t he showing too little respect to the law?”

“He’s so arrogant! But with so many of us watching, the court won’t cover up for the Smiths!”

Amid the discussion, the judge frowned. After all, the fact that Joel had not brought Mia along had gone against their wishes. His actions were indeed rather disrespectful of the court.

He frowned. At this point, the defendant’s attorney stood up.

When the people watching the live-stream saw the lawyer stand, all of them started ranting in the comments.

“That lawyer has no conscience! How can he help the Smiths in this lawsuit? Who knows how much money the Smiths have given him?”

“I heard that lawyer has never lost any of his cases. He’s definitely gonna lose the one today,

right?”

“Mr. Lawyer, can you have a bit of a conscience? How can you help the Smiths bully a weak and helpless woman? I am so disappointed in you!”

“I hope the lawyer dies together with his whole family!”

Hillary and her attorney next to her were also paying attention to the happenings online.

In addition, there were also people constantly keeping the judge up-to-date about the people’s opinions. After all, he had to take the people’s opinions into consideration, too.

The judge sighed when he heard that everyone was taking the plaintiff’s side.

It would probably be very difficult for the defendant to win the case this time!

While he was thinking about it, the defendant’s attorney said, “Your Honor, members of the jury. First of all, I would like to explain the relationship between my client and the plaintiff.”

He walked out from behind the desk, looked at Hillary, and said, “According to my investigations, Mr. Joel Smith and Ms. Tanya Turner have been in love since they were in junior high, and their relationship continued even after they entered college. They are recognized by everyone as a model couple. Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner’s classmates can testify to this. The plaintiff will not deny this, right?”

Hillary narrowed her eyes.

Her attorney stood up and said, “That has nothing to do with the case. After all, a lot of people’s first relationships do not last. Does every spouse have to give way to their partner’s first love just because they have returned? Be it

true love or his inability to forget his previous lover, it is no reason or excuse for Mr. Smith to cheat on and betray Ms. Jones!”

His answer was very well-worded. A whole row of thumbs-ups appeared in the comments.

“That lawyer said it! No matter what, they have already broken up back then. To put it bluntly, even if Jones was the third wheel in Turner and Smith’s relationship back then, the two of them have already had a child together. Tanya Turner shouldn’t have come back!”

“I’ve just imagined a big story about Turner coming back for revenge!”

“Don’t say any more. Let’s listen to them instead. What if the reason for Turner and Smith’s breakup back then wasn’t Jones?”

Almost at the same time the comment appeared, the defendant’s attorney said, “Of course. My client requested that I make this clear in the courtroom in front of the judge and everyone in the country because he doesn’t want Ms. Turner to be called a third wheel.”

The plaintiff’s lawyer couldn’t help but laugh when he heard what he said. He looked straight at the judge and said, “Objection, Your Honor. That has nothing to do with the case. What we are here to talk about is Ms. Mia Smith’s custody, and not who the real third wheel of their relationship is!”

Tanya, who was seated in the defendant’s dock, was surprised.

She turned and looked at Joel.

The two of them had agreed that they would immediately lay out sufficient evidence at the beginning of the trial, and change her status from the defendant to the plaintiff. She hadn’t expected her attorney to actually walk out and say something like that.

Was Joel... trying to clear her name?

The plaintiff’s attorney looked at the defendant’s attorney, as well as Joel and Tanya who were seated in the dock. He said, “Even if my client had been the third wheel in your relationship back then, she did not break the law! Moreover, she even gave birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith. As a mother, she has the right and duty to raise her child!”

The defendant's attorney looked straight at the judge. "Your Honor, I mentioned the past because this case can no longer be looked at normally. Humans are creatures of emotion. When everyone is censuring my client, I have the right to defend them. I ask the court for permission to explain things clearly to everyone."

The judge looked at Hillary, and then at Tanya and Joel. At last, he nodded. "Permission granted."

The defendant's attorney looked straight at Hillary. "You were the third wheel in Mr. Smith and Ms. Turner's relationship back then. Do you admit to this?"

Hillary curled her lips disdainfully. "They were just dating back then. It's not like they were married, so you can't say that I was the third wheel at all! Mr. Smith and I were also really in love back then!"

"Is that so?" The defendant's attorney couldn't help but smile. "But as far as I know, even though you claim that you have given birth to a daughter for Mr. Smith, the two of you did not become engaged or hold a wedding. Moreover, Mr. Smith also signed an agreement with you back then. The agreement says that once Ms. Mia Smith is five years old, Mr. Smith will terminate his marriage agreement with you, and the two of you will regain your respective freedom. Accordingly, the Smiths will take care of the Joneses' business during those five years. Once the agreement is terminated, Ms. Mia Smith's custody is to go to Mr. Smith. Therefore, can I interpret this as a transaction, except that Ms. Jones intends to go back on her word?!"

Hillary was rendered speechless.

The people in support of Hillary in the comments were also stunned. For a while, they didn't quite know what to say.

"In that case, it seems that the Smiths aren't in the wrong?"

"But isn't it too much to prevent the mother from seeing her daughter?"

The plaintiff's attorney stood up. "The relationship between a mother and her daughter cannot be described as a transaction. Ms. Jones is not a surrogate mother! That agreement was illegal from the start! Besides, as Ms. Smith's mother, Ms. Jones has visitation rights!"

He glanced at Hillary.

Hillary immediately got the hint.

Before they came here, the two of them had already discussed how they should deal with the agreement. Hillary immediately started to weep. “Yes, that’s why I want to ask the court for help in mediation. It was my first time being a mother back then. The Smiths are too powerful, so I had no other choice. But during the last five years where my daughter and I were dependent on each other, we have already developed strong feelings for each other. How can one control their own emotions? Your Honor, what kind of agreement can stop a mother from seeing her own children?”

She then started to cry bitterly. “Please, Mr. Smith, give me a way out! I’ve already fallen into depression because I can’t see my daughter!”

The plaintiff’s lawyer immediately produced a diagnostic report for depression. “This is my client’s diagnostic report. She misses her daughter too much. I hope the court can be considerate toward her difficulties.”

At the sight, everyone in the comments suddenly started to sympathize with Hillary again.

“The Smiths are simply too cold-blooded! The richer people are, the more domineering they become! They don’t care for people’s feelings at all! How can they let the child grow up in a family like that?!”

“Exactly! It is not right to stop a mother from meeting her daughter! How can they do that?!”

“The Smiths are too much!” “The child’s mother is already depressed. She’s so pitiful. She just wants to see her child, what’s so wrong about that?”

“Who knows, maybe the Smiths had threatened her into signing the agreement back then!”

“My god, look at where the defendants are! Turner and Smith are completely expressionless even when they saw Jones crying so badly! They are so heartless! Capitalists are the worst!”

“Yes, they are too inhumane! The child may not understand anything right now, but she will hate them once she grows up and realizes the truth!”

Everyone’s words and the stances they took were conveyed to the judge.

The judge glanced at the defendants. They had completely lost the public's support.

However, at the defendant's dock, Tanya was still glaring at Hillary furiously while Joel was expressionless. Even their attorney looked completely calm as if he was not moved by Hillary's cries at all.

He lowered his gaze and asked, "The defendants, what else do you have to say?"

Joel and Tanya exchanged a look.

Tanya had a firm look in her eyes, but her eyes were gradually turning red.

Joel turned to the attorney and nodded at him.

Following the nod, the defendant's attorney suddenly walked out from behind the desk and looked at the judge. "Your Honor, I have a piece of evidence I'd like to submit."

The judge nodded.

The defendant's lawyer handed over two documents.

The judge was shocked when he saw the documents, and his expression changed drastically. He glanced at Tanya with a complicated look in his eyes, and then looked at Hillary with a frown. Disgust flashed across his eyes.

In the comments, everyone was speculating. "What evidence is that? It actually made the judge's expression totally change." "Oh no, the way he's looking at Smith and Turner isn't that cold anymore. Could it be that they didn't submit evidence but a check just now?" "How can they bribe the judge so openly? They are too much!"

Hillary glanced at the comments out of the corner of her eye. When she saw that all the comments were siding with her, the corners of her lips curled up slightly.

However, it was at this moment that the defendant's attorney slowly said, "Your Honor, members of the jury. On behalf of my client Ms. Tanya Turner, I shall now file a lawsuit against Ms. Hillary Jones for maliciously stealing Ms. Turner's child five years ago!! This led to my client being separated from her



daughter for as long as five years. May the law impose the most severe sanction on Ms. Jones! I demand that Ms. Jones compensate my client for emotional damages, as well as damages for material losses incurred while searching for her daughter for the last five years!”

His words caused a furor to go through everyone!!

Hillary got up abruptly and looked at them in disbelief.

What did they say just now?

How could this be?!

How did she know?!

She understood Tanya very well. Because she loved Joel too much, she would never tell him that she had lost her child. After all, who wouldn't be miserable about losing their child?

But if it wasn't her who had brought it up, Joel would never imagine that Mia might be Tanya's daughter... So, how did they realize the truth?!

Terribly shocked, she stared in front of her in astonishment.

At the same time, countless question marks also flashed across the comments.

“???”

“????” “???”

The plaintiff's attorney was dumbfounded while the comments were being filled with question marks. He asked, “What nonsense are you saying?”

The defendant's... no, the defendant had already turned into the plaintiff at this point. The attorney looked straight at Hillary. As a lawyer, he had always been calm when handling cases, but when he realized the truth, even he couldn't help but subconsciously become angry when he looked at the woman. He spoke loudly and forcefully. “The evidence in the judge's and the jury's hands can prove whether I'm talking nonsense or not! The evidence consists of two reports, one is a DNA test report conducted for Ms. Turner and Ms. Mia Smith, and the other is proof that Ms. Jones had stolen the baby! On the day that Ms. Turner gave birth, Ms. Jones had booked a return ticket from

Switzerland! Even though she went there by herself, she had returned with a baby!”

His words made Hillary’s attorney dumbfounded.

Before the trial, attorneys would typically probe into their client’s private affairs in order to prevent the other party from producing surprise evidence that they weren’t prepared for.

Therefore, Hillary had even told her attorney the truth about her being the third wheel in Joel and Tanya’s relationship beforehand. That was why the attorney hadn’t even once accused Tanya of being the third wheel in Hillary’s family, for fear that the other party would take advantage of it to counterattack.

Never would he have ever expected such an unbelievable plot twist!

The plot twist was simply too big. The lawsuit between Hillary and Joel had turned straight into one about Hillary’s crime!!

They had evidence that she had stolen their child!

He didn’t doubt the authenticity of the evidence because the judge and the others would undoubtedly verify it. He was just staring at Hillary in shock, astonishment, and disbelief.

In this instant, he could even feel his career as an attorney ending!

Seeing that her attorney wasn’t saying anything but just staring at her, Hillary panicked. She suddenly stood up. “I didn’t do anything like that! That’s total nonsense!”

Tanya’s eyes narrowed as she looked at her. “The evidence can prove whether or not I am talking nonsense! The DNA test shows that Mia and I have a 99% DNA match!! These numbers could never lie!” Hillary swallowed and looked at the gallery.

Karl and Jill were seated in the gallery.

A somewhat incredulous Jill stood up abruptly when the plot twist came. She subconsciously looked at Karl.

Karl, who also seemed stunned by the plot twist, looked at Jill with a puzzled look.

Jill swallowed. She was about to say something when Justin, who was sitting behind Karl, suddenly said, “Mr. Moore, I’m sure you must know the truth of the matter by now. Wouldn’t it be rather unreasonable if you continue to help Hillary Jones fight for the child’s custody?”

Karl choked.

He had only helped Jill and stood up for her on account of their past relationship. After all, if Hillary was Mia’s mother, the Smiths’ actions would indeed be going too far.

But now...

If he continued to help Hillary fight for the child, then wouldn’t he just be making trouble for no reason?

He coughed and replied, “Of course. The Assassin Organization is not unreasonable.”

Justin nodded. Then, he immediately looked at Mr. Jones, who was seated nearby Jill. The astonishment in his eyes didn’t seem to be fake, and he looked like he wasn’t aware of his daughter’s actions at all. He slowly said, “Mr. Jones, are the Joneses still supportive of Hillary’s fight for the child’s custody?”

Given how even Karl wasn’t going to help anymore, there was no way Mr. Jones would have the guts to step forward, either. He shook his head and stammered, “M-Mr. Hunt, I really didn’t know about what Hillary did! She did it all by herself! It has nothing to do with the Joneses!” Jill looked at Mr. Jones furiously. “How can you say that? She’s your daughter! Is that how you should be treating Hillary?!”

An annoyed Mr. Jones retorted, “Even if she’s my daughter, I still didn’t expect her to actually do something like that! She stole someone else’s child! How can she do that?!” The furious Jill panicked. “Even so, you can’t just ignore her! Surely you can’t just watch as she goes to jail?!”

Justin didn’t say anything else. Instead, he looked at the stand.

From the looks of it, it seemed that neither Karl nor Mr. Jones were intending to help anymore. In that case, Jill and Hillary would no longer be able to make any more trouble.

On the judge's bench.

The judge and the jury were already looking at one another. The judge then looked at Hillary. "There is substantial evidence in my hands, and there are both witnesses and physical evidence against you. What else do you have to say?!"

Hillary knew that what's done is done at this point and that there was nothing she could do anymore to save herself.

She looked straight at Tanya. In the end, she yelled shamelessly, "I... I didn't steal the child! I did go abroad, and I did go to Switzerland, but I found the child somewhere! It... It was... It was Tanya who abandoned her child! Yes, that's it! Your Honor, you can't convict me. I saved that child's life! In fact, you should be holding Tanya responsible for abandoning her newborn baby!"

Everyone was stunned. They hadn't expected that Hillary would still say such things at this point.

Even her attorney had shut up and was unwilling to defend her anymore.

The judge looked at Tanya and Joel.

Tanya's eyes were red and she did not speak.

Joel's jaw was clenched tightly and he had lost the usual smile on his face.

Their attorney stood where he was and sneered, "Ms. Jones, I didn't expect you to be so stubborn. It seems like you're someone who holds out hope until faced with the grim reality!"

"Your Honor, I have a few pieces of evidence here that will prove that she had indeed stolen the baby! That day, she went to the hospital where Ms. Turner had given birth and bribed two nurses in the hospital. That was how she had successfully stolen the baby from the hospital!"

"Also! Your Honor, these are financial accounts detailing how much money and effort my client, Ms. Tanya Turner, spent in order to search for her child over the years."

“Your Honor, as you can see, Ms. Jones shows no sign of taking the initiative to plead guilty even now! I implore you to punish her severely in accordance with the law!!”

The more Hillary refused to plead guilty in the case where evidence was conclusive, the less likely she would receive mercy in court.

Her stubbornness was, on the contrary, a positive for Tanya.

The judge frowned, and the way he looked at Hillary changed.

Hillary’s legs went limp and she fell onto the chair. She hadn’t expected them to still be able to find evidence of her bribing the nurses when two years had already gone by. On top of that, they even managed to get the two nurses to testify as witnesses!

It was all over.

Everything was over!

Tanya’s attorney was still speaking. He said, “Your Honor, my client is a dancer with a sizable income, but every year, she pays most of her money to private detectives to engage them in search for her child...

“The millions of dollars she spends on the search each year are nearly the entirety of her income. If she had really abandoned the child, why would she spend that much money searching for her child?!”

“Ms. Jones is still slandering my client even at this point. Not only that, but she even bribed reporters to create public pressure on my client in an attempt to reverse the lawsuit’s outcome!

“I implore the judge to take serious action against her!”

As the attorney’s loud and powerful words rang out, the courtroom fell silent.

After discussion, the judge finally announced, “Given the severity of Ms. Hillary Jones’ crime in stealing the child, and the fact that she shows no intention of pleading guilty, let alone any sign of remorse, we will submit the case to the judiciary and have the Attorney-General’s Office bring charges against her, so that they may give her the maximum sentence possible!”

Upon hearing that, Hillary slumped onto the chair.

The maximum sentence was thirty years of imprisonment!!

Thirty years!

By the time she came out of prison thirty years later, she would be old!

No, she didn't want to go to jail!!

The court had its own procedures. The court hearing today was for Joel and Hillary's fight for the custody of their daughter. Therefore, the case was closed without even the need for a full trial.

Hillary was arrested on the spot. She would be under the judiciary's supervision while she waited for her next court hearing.

The comments in the live-stream had undergone a complete reversal. Everyone was censuring Hillary.

"My god, that's so disgusting! She is so wicked!"

"Let me give everyone a summary of what happened. Not only was Jones the third wheel in their relationship, but she even stole their baby and claimed that she had given birth to her. And now, she is actually fighting them for custody of the girl? She's so wicked! That woman is beyond salvation!"

"The fact that Turner has been searching for her daughter for so many years has suddenly moved me so much. I apologize for the derogatory remarks I made against Turner when I wasn't aware of the truth."

"I also apologize!"

"A woman like Hillary Jones should be sentenced to death!"

"Yes, not only did she steal a child, but she even thinks that she's right in doing so. She shows no signs of repentance at all. If she isn't sentenced to the death penalty, then she should at least be sentenced to life imprisonment! People like her should spend the rest of their life in jail!"

"I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!"

"Thirty years is too little. I agree with the life imprisonment sentence!"

"Agree with the previous comment!"

“+1!”

“+(my cell phone number)!” “+(my ID number)!”

The public opinion reversed in an instant, and the people took Tanya’s side.

When the handcuffed Hillary was being led away, Jill rushed over and hugged her. “Let go of my daughter! Let go of her!”

The sobbing Hillary yelled, “Mom, save me! Save me! I don’t wanna go to jail!! Sob, Dad, save me!”

However, even after the two of them cried their eyes out, none of the police officers were moved. They dragged Hillary out.

Jill was stunned to the spot. The next moment, she grabbed Hillary’s attorney and shouted furiously, “Why didn’t you say anything just now? We paid money to hire you! Why didn’t you defend my daughter?!” The attorney said with a sense of resignation, “Mrs. Jones, it was stated clearly in our contract that the client is not to conceal any information related to the case. Are you actually demanding an explanation from me when your daughter hid such an important matter from me?!”

He was also rather angry. “Besides, if I had known that the child was stolen from someone else, I would never have taken up the case! I have children, too. People like her should go to jail!”

Jill retorted furiously, “You’re the one who should go to jail, you trash lawyer!”

The attorney sighed and said, “Alright, I’m not going to argue with you anymore. I just want to tell you this now-you and Hillary were the ones who directed public opinion on the case, right? Now, she shall have to undergo the backlash!”

Jill was taken aback. “What do you mean?”

“Previously, the two of you created a buzz to make people take your side in order to put pressure on the court, but all of those people are furious now! They are now strongly demanding that your daughter be sentenced to death! Under such circumstances, I’m afraid your daughter will be sentenced to life imprisonment, at the least, for her malicious actions!”

“Life imprisonment...”

Jill stared straight ahead of her blankly when she heard those two words. She stared at the lawyer incredulously. “She just stole a child, that’s all! What kind of nonsense are you spouting?!”

Seeing that she was being so unreasonable, the attorney didn’t want to talk to her anymore. He merely shook his head and turned to leave.

At the sight, Jill grabbed his arm and said, “Don’t go! Tell me how I can save my daughter! Tell me!”

The attorney sneered, “Is there even any hope of salvation left for someone like your daughter? What’s the point of saving her and bringing her out of prison? So that she can steal other people’s children? Even if you offer three times the remuneration, no one will take up your case anymore, let alone me! Unless they don’t wish to work in this line of business anymore and wish to be attacked instead!”

Jill didn’t dare to lose her temper anymore. She held on to the attorney and said, “D-don’t go, I won’t lose my temper with you anymore. I won’t ask for a refund on the legal fees, either. Just tell me what I should do now. I can’t just watch as my daughter is sentenced to life imprisonment!”

Seeing that she had taken a step back, and thinking of how he needn’t return the exorbitant legal fees anymore, the attorney looked around. He lowered his voice and said, “There is only one way to lighten your daughter’s sentence.” “What is it?”

“Beg for the victim’s forgiveness! If the victim can forgive her, she may still have a chance of a reduced sentence.”

The victim’s... forgiveness...

Jill’s head turned abruptly to Tanya, who was about to leave with Joel.

He was right. Tanya was the plaintiff of the case now, which meant that she was the victim.

Jill let go of the attorney and went straight to Tanya. When she came up to her, she grabbed Tanya’s arm and said, “Tanya, my daughter, don’t go. Help Mom out. You’re the only one who can help Mom now. Go to the judge and



tell him that you've forgiven Hillary. Tell him that you don't hold it against her anymore! Go and tell him now! Immediately! Right away!"

Her words made Tanya sneer. All she could feel at the moment was just incredulity.

Tanya stared at Jill. Little by little, she pulled her arm out of Jill's grasp. She looked at Jill coldly and slowly said, "Did you know? I've always wanted to ask you something ever since I was a child."

Jill was taken aback. "What?"

"Am I really your daughter?"

Tanya's eyes were a little red. "How is it that you can do so much and go so far for Hillary, yet be so cruel to me?!"

Jill was stunned. But immediately after that, she said angrily, "What did I do to you? Did I bring you up and keep you alive so that you can bully me later in life? You are too much! You have to go to the judge right away and tell him that you've forgiven Hillary! Or else—"

"Or else what? What will you do?"

Tanya stared at her, but there was no fluctuation of emotions in her voice at all.

Jill was shocked by her reaction. For a moment, she couldn't say anything.

"Or else you won't acknowledge me as your daughter anymore? Didn't you already sever ties with me a long time ago?"

"Or perhaps, you won't pay for my tuition fees anymore? But have you ever given me any money? "Or perhaps, you won't give me any food? That worked very well when I was young. I was indeed scared when you locked me up in that dark room and didn't give me any food or water. But I'm no longer the four-year-old kid anymore!! Jill, you can't control me anymore!"

The more Tanya spoke, the colder her voice became. "As for Hillary..." Suddenly she bent down, lowered her head, and leaned into Jill's ear. "Why do you think the Smiths didn't bother with damage control and allowed public

opinion to get to this state? It's precisely so that she could have a taste of her own medicine!"

Jill was dumbfounded.

When the lawyer mentioned it, she had thought that it was just a coincidence, but from the way it sounded now... It was actually a conspiracy by Tanya and Joel!! The fiercer the people scolded them, the guiltier they would feel once the truth was revealed!

No wonder they hadn't explained anything the whole time, and even assaulted the reporter!!

Jill's eyes widened as she stared at the daughter who seemed so foreign to her now. Tanya straightened her back and, with an extremely cold look in her eyes, said, "She stole my daughter and my boyfriend, and even abused my daughter for as long as five years. Jill, even if you kneel here for the rest of your life, I will never forgive her!

"You want me to write a letter of forgiveness? Over my dead body!!"

She turned, took Joel's hand, and got ready to leave.

However, the furious Jill suddenly rushed towards her and grabbed her. "Why did I give birth to a bastard like you?! You're a bane to the world! I should have killed you when you were a child! I should have starved you to death!"

Neither Tanya nor Joel had expected her to actually jump up and attack them in the courtroom. She caught Tanya by her hair.

She reached out and tried to scratch Tanya's cheek, but Joel already had her wrist in a tight grip. He pushed her away with great force, making her fall onto the floor behind her.

Joel looked down at her from above and said, "Please treat my fiancée with courtesy, Mrs. Jones."

After speaking, he glanced at Mr. Jones, who was in the gallery.

Mr. Jones immediately got the hint. He came over hastily and held Jill back.

Only then did Tanya and Joel leave the courtroom.

As soon as they exited, they ran into Justin in the car park. As the three looked at one another, Joel asked, "How did it go?"

One of the reasons Justin had to be present today was so that he could convince Karl not to take any further action in the gallery.

Justin replied, "No big issues. Karl is an underworld figure and has a very strong aura of one from the underworld around him. With the truth publicly exposed and Hillary Jones arrested, there's nothing he can say anymore. Besides, the Assassin Organization probably doesn't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, either." His voice turned cold as he added, "Otherwise, I wouldn't have given him a chance to leave the country!"

Joel nodded. "He has already done enough to pay back the favor he owes his old lover. Unless Hillary is his daughter, that guy probably won't do anything for them anymore."

His daughter?

The moment he said that, both Justin and Joel suddenly thought of something, and they both abruptly turned to Tanya.

The two clan leaders' gazes made Tanya a little uncomfortable. She glanced down at herself and asked, "What's the matter? Is there something wrong with my clothes?" Nothing was wrong with them, though! Her clothes were very suitable for the occasion, and nothing was dirty... While she was wondering about it, Joel suddenly asked, "Tanya, have you ever wondered who your father is?"

Tanya: "..."

She sighed and replied, "Of course I have. But every time I asked Jill about it, she would always say that he's a scumbag and a hooligan who deceived her and made her pregnant..."

A hooligan...

The word made Justin and Joel suddenly glance at each other.

A short while later, Joel suddenly said, "Don't you find that Karl Moore actually has... a bit of a hooligan-like air around him?"

Tanya: “??”

In the courtroom.

Even after everyone else had left, Jill was still laying on the floor and making a scene. “I’m not going to get up if you don’t save my daughter! You’re a good-for-nothing! What’s the use of a father like you?!”

Mr. Jones was standing next to her. At last, he said, “Stay on the floor if that’s what you want. Who cares?!”

He left right away.

Karl, who was still in the gallery, looked at Jill who was on the floor. He scratched his head.

His subordinate behind him couldn’t help but ask, “Boss, what did you see in her in your younger days?”

Karl also felt a little embarrassed.

He coughed. “Maybe I was blind back then.”

The subordinate was speechless.

He got up and walked toward Jill. Just as he was about to say something, Jill got up by herself and patted the dust off herself. There was none of the shrewish behavior she had just exhibited around her anymore. Instead, she looked at Karl calmly.

Karl coughed, “Are you okay?”

“I’m fine.”

Jill stared at Karl and said, “You have to help me save my daughter!”

Karl cast his eyes down. “You’re not in the right with regard to this matter. Neither can I bring myself to do something like that.”

Wouldn’t he be thoroughly embarrassed if outsiders were to learn of it?

Unexpectedly, as soon as he said that, Jill immediately asked, “Do you know why I chose to beg you instead of Hillary’s father for help?”

Karl shook his head.

Jill said solemnly, “Because Hillary is not his daughter but yours!”

Karl: “!!!!”

He was astounded. “What did you say?”

Jill stretched out her fingers—there were two strands of hair gripped tightly between them. “I plucked Hillary’s hair off her when I made contact with her just now. You can do a DNA test for you and her.”

Karl was dumbfounded.

He stared at Jill incredulously. His gaze landed on the strands of hair she was holding and he swallowed hard, feeling that his ears must be playing tricks on him. “What did you say?”

Jill sighed. “You can put the timeline together yourself. When I married into the Joneses, I was already four months pregnant! Think about it, isn’t the child yours if I was already four months pregnant at that time?” Karl swallowed. “But Hillary Jones’ birth date doesn’t match!”

Jill sighed. “That’s because I delayed registering her birth for four months. After all, I couldn’t bring shame to the Joneses. You can look into it. I gave birth to my daughter in a private clinic, so they may still have records! Also, no matter what, you should have a DNA test done first.”

Jill handed the strands of hair to Karl. “Only hair with the follicles intact can be used in a DNA test. Be careful not to damage them. By the way, my daughter doesn’t know that she is not my husband’s child...”

Jill said that because she was afraid that Karl would send someone to the prison to sound Hillary out.

After saying that, she started to head toward the exit. Before she left, she added, “No matter what, you should still make sure that your daughter stays alive, right?”

Karl looked at her and narrowed his eyes. “Don’t worry, if she really is my daughter, no one will be able to take her life!”

Jill breathed a sigh of relief.

She lowered her head and said, "I won't ask for that child from the Smiths anymore. All I ask for now is just for you to rescue my daughter, get her out of prison and take her abroad! I hope you can treat her well for the rest of her life after that!"

Karl hesitated for a moment. Then, he asked tentatively, "If she is my daughter, why didn't you tell me that from the start?"

Jill stared at Karl. After a long silence, she finally heaved a deep sigh and said, "I only wanted to borrow your authority in the beginning. I don't wish for anything beyond that anymore. Besides, my daughter wasn't having any problems at that time, and you were also willing to help me, so it didn't matter whether or not I told you the truth. But now that I know that you don't want to offend the Smiths and the Hunts, I can only tell the truth!"

Karl kept quiet for a long while. Suddenly, he broke into a grin and said, "Jill, you should know that I am an outlaw. You know it won't end well for people who lie to me, right?"

Jill was so frightened by the way he spoke that she shuddered. However, she then said resolutely, "Go and have a DNA test done."

Karl nodded.

After Jill left, his subordinate behind him asked, "Boss, surely not, right? Is that child-stealing woman really your daughter?"

Karl, however, frowned and said nothing. In the end, he suddenly sighed and instructed, "Send someone to the prison and protect Hillary Jones for now!" "Understood."

He turned, exited, and walked toward the car.

The subordinate asked, "Boss, where are you going?"

Karl replied, "A DNA testing lab. Find me a reliable one!" "Yes, sir!"

Justin, Joel, and Tanya returned to the Smiths' manor.

As soon as they entered the manor, someone came forward and whispered something to Joel.

Joel frowned.

The sensitive Tanya asked, "What's wrong?"

Joel didn't hide anything from her. After letting five years pass them by, both of them cherished each other very much now. When he heard her question, he replied, "I sent someone to the jail to teach Hillary a lesson, but I just received news that someone has interfered on her behalf."

Tanya immediately asked, "Who did it?"

Joel replied, "Karl Moore."

Tanya frowned at the name.

Ever since Joel and Justin voiced their guess, Tanya had been feeling a little uncomfortable. Surely Karl wasn't really her father, right?

She frowned and did some calculations of the timeline around her birth date. However, she didn't think it matched.

It seemed like her date of birth was half a year too early?

Besides, it was impossible for her date of birth to be wrong because Hillary was born a year later than her. It couldn't possibly be that Jill became pregnant with Hillary when she was pregnant with her, right? The age difference between the two of them was only one year anyway! While she was thinking about it, Justin said, "It doesn't make sense."

Joel nodded. "If it's just because of an old lover, Moore is unlikely to help Hillary further. After all, the Smiths and the Hunts can control almost the entire United States. Karl's assassins may be powerful, but he may not necessarily be willing to offend two big families at the same time!"

This was also why Justin had the confidence to threaten Karl when they were in the courtroom!

Justin said, "How strange. Something we are unaware of must have happened."

He took out his cell phone and sent messages to both Sean and Lawrence: 'Investigate why Karl Moore helped Hillary Jones in prison.'

Joel also said, "I'll get my men to investigate, too."

With the leaders of the two big families simultaneously investigating the same thing, they would surely get results very soon.

After sending the messages, Justin glanced at Tanya again and suddenly said, "I still find you and Karl Moore somewhat similar."

Joel also stared at Tanya for a while. "Why don't we do a DNA test, after all? It's safer that way."

The two men's gazes made Tanya's lip corners spasm a little, and she became a little hesitant.

She had originally been very resistant to the idea.

After all, Karl had helped Jill to bully her. However, given how the two men were staring at her, it seemed like she had no choice but to do the DNA test, after all?

In the end, she could only nod.

Lily walked down from upstairs at this point.

At the sight of Lily, Justin got a shock. He hurriedly asked, "What's the matter with Nora?"

Joel also looked over with concern.

Lily hurriedly replied, "Relax, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Smith. Boss is fine. She has been sleeping the last two days, so I was afraid that she would have low blood sugar. I just gave her some nutritional fluids." The two men relaxed upon hearing her explanation.

Lily then said, "Boss is sleeping really soundly. Don't worry!"