

Chapter 331 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Justin and Joel looked down on the power of public opinion, but they did not know that sometimes, the power of public opinion could suppress others!

She had prepared everything that the reporter had said.

Wasn't Nora's appearance in the hospital caused by the Hunts and Smiths?

Justin had found Anti and given all the credit to Nora. Yvonne would not allow such a thing to exist!

As she was thinking about this, she saw Morris say in the live stream, "You guys are talking nonsense! I let Miss Nora come over because only she can treat Old Maddy's illness!"

The reporter sneered. "As far as I know, only Anti can treat it!"

"Yes, only Anti can treat it."

Nora rubbed her temples. At this moment, she only wanted to sleep. She frowned and looked at the reporter impatiently. "Then do you know who I am?"

"Who are you?" The reporter sneered. "You can't be better than Anti in terms of medical skills, right? Is that why you dare to snatch Anti's credit? We want to see Old Maddy's medical records!"

The others echoed and shouted, "Yes, we want to see Old Maddy's medical records! We want to see who the attending doctor is!"

Nora said slowly, "The attending doctor is indeed Anti."

The reporter heaved a sigh of relief. "Then this has nothing to do with you! You're still the one who treated him badly! You're still going to be pursued by the law! You can't be acquitted just because your family invited Anti to save the patient! Anti is Anti, and you're you!"

Nora's eyes were cold. She looked at him and said slowly, "But what if I'm Anti?"

All the reporters outside and the audience in front of the screen fell silent at once, as if someone had suddenly pressed a mute button.

Everyone stared at Nora in disbelief.

She was Anti?

This young woman looked to be in her early twenties, right? She was actually Anti? It was unbelievable!

The reporter gulped. "You... you're joking, right?"

Nora did not say anything else.

However, the person beside him poked him. "Can this be said as a joke? This kind of thing can be checked with a simple investigation! Many people overseas have undergone surgeries by Anti. If we broadcast it like this now, everyone will know about this. She won't dare to fake it!"

"Anti only takes two operations a month. I used to think that this doctor was too arrogant. Did Anti not need to feed her family? Now, I suddenly understand. Anti really doesn't need money!"

"...So, when she said she was treating Old Maddy, she was really treating him! She wasn't fishing for fame?"

"Does Anti still need to rely on others to increase her reputation?"

"Then what's going on?"

"Why did your helper, the one called Old Maddy, suddenly almost die? Besides, why did the police arrest you?"

Before Nora could answer, Morris had already spoken up for her. "Old Maddy was poisoned by someone. We have already found some unknown components in his blood, so we invited Miss Nora to the police station to cooperate with the investigation."

Old Maddy was poisoned and she was only there to cooperate with the investigation...

As soon as these words were out, someone sensible said, "Captain Ford, then your police station is in the wrong. As a doctor, why would she poison her own patient?"

“Yeah, she’s not stupid... If she had a grudge against the servant, would she still need to treat him?”

“...”

The reporters were all smart people. With just a few words, they could guess what had happened. At this moment, they all began to criticize Morris.

“Aren’t they arresting a good person?”

“That’s right. How can they start arresting people without investigating clearly?”

The reporters who spoke up for Nora looked at Nora after saying that. They said ingratiatingly, “Miss Nora, I’m a reporter from the New Daily. May I look for you if I need to see a doctor in the future?”

“Miss Nora, I’m...”

Morris was speechless.

He thought that the reporters were really understanding and rational, but they suddenly changed their opinions faster than light. After all this, they were trying to curry favor with her because she was a famous doctor!

That made sense. Who could guarantee that they would not get sick forever?

When he figured it out, the bodyguards and police around him also thought of it. The way everyone looked at Nora instantly changed.

The police officers who were originally surrounding Nora to prevent her from escaping now had a much kinder attitude. “Miss Nora, come this way. Don’t get squeezed...”

Morris was speechless!

The lackeys’ current behavior was unbearable to look at!

He waved his hand. “Alright, we’re not imprisoning Miss Nora. We’re bringing her back to make a statement. If there’s nothing else, please leave!”

Initially, they thought it was a drama where the eldest daughter of a wealthy family treated human lives like grass. In the end, they did not expect the big news about Nora being Anti to be exposed!

The reporters who had come over had material to broadcast. They were all excited and agitated. At this moment, their attitudes had changed drastically. They were no longer aggressive and obediently made way.

Nora, Justin, and Joel seemed to be surrounded by everyone as they got into... a police car.

In the hospital.

When Yvonne saw this news in the live stream, she clenched her fists tightly. Her usually elegant face had become even more ferocious and terrifying.

She had planned so much, but she did not expect that Nora was actually Anti! That internationally renowned surgeon!

If she had known, she would not have made such a foolish arrangement.

At this moment, she was looking at every news platform on the Internet. Every single one of them had the words: Shocking! The eldest daughter of the Smiths is actually Anti!

Every news outlet sang immense praises of her.

The daughter of a wealthy family was actually a medical genius!

This persona allowed her to smoothly gain a foothold in wealthy families.

Yvonne took a deep breath and wished she could slap herself.

This fool had such a high status, but she was still hiding it. Now, she had been forced to reveal it. Yvonne had even helped her hire reporters and spent money to buy her popularity. She had actually become the center of attention!

She punched the wall beside her angrily, feeling as if she had shot herself in the foot.

Beside her, Florence nagged, "How could Old Maddy be poisoned?"

Hearing this, Yvonne froze.

Yes, Morris was famous for being quick at investigating cases. Was she going to be exposed too?

Joel had been following behind the police car.

On the way, he lowered his fox-like eyes and no longer had the smile on his face.

After Nora was arrested, he actually hesitated about whether to bail her out because of his uncle. Now, he felt a little guilty.

His slender fingers tapped the armrest of the leather seat as he turned to look out the window.

Although he had a gentle temperament, he had always been swift and decisive. He had never been so conflicted and hesitant.

Ian was closer to him than his father. Although he had always called him Uncle Ian, he was the most important family member in his heart.

Ever since he acknowledged Nora, Ian had been in a coma.

The doctor said that he was depressed.

He was depressed because he knew that the woman he loved the most had been with his brother?

Nora's existence was his greatest worry.

Therefore, he was hesitant and indecisive.

On one side was his cousin from the Smiths, and on the other was his third uncle who was like a biological father. This caused him to hold back his concern for Nora.

As he thought about this, they arrived at the police station. He got out and walked to the police car.

The car had stopped a long time ago but no one got off. Just as he was feeling puzzled, he saw the back door open. Justin made a silencing gesture.

Joel: “?”

While he was in a daze, he saw Justin walking out of the car with Nora in his arms.

Nora had already fallen asleep.

Justin protected her carefully and walked very softly.

Morris was about to speak. "Mr..."

Before he could finish, Justin glared at him coldly. His viciousness made Morris subconsciously swallow his words.

Then, Justin carried her into the police station.

On the way, when everyone looked over, they were all frightened by Justin's gaze and did not dare to speak.

After entering the interrogation room, Justin carefully placed Nora on the bench. The woman turned over and fell asleep again.

At the door, Morris was speechless.

At this moment, someone walked over. "Sir!"

Morris subconsciously asked in a soft voice, "What's wrong?"

"I found out who poisoned Old Maddy."

When Morris heard this, a fierce look flashed across his dark eyes.

He took a look at the situation in the interrogation room.

After placing Nora on the bench inside, Justin stood guard there. Although he did not speak, it was obvious that no one could disturb him.

He could only take two steps to the side and walk around the interrogation room before asking, "Who is it?"

After the person reported, Morris lowered his eyes.

Finally, he nodded. "Okay, I understand."

With that, he walked toward the interrogation room. As he walked over, he saw a bodyguard in a black suit walking in with a blanket.

Morris: “?”

While he was in a daze, he saw another bodyguard walk in with a single mattress. Then, someone walked in with a pillow.

Morris: !!

The corners of his lips twitched. He stood at the door and realized that the hard bench in the interrogation room had already been set up as a soft bed. Nora mumbled something and turned around to continue sleeping.

Justin wrapped her in a blanket.

Morris was speechless.

He took a deep breath and walked in after building up his thoughts. He lowered his voice and said, “I’ve already found out that this has nothing to do with Miss Nora. She can go home and sleep.”

“Shh.”

Justin gestured for him to keep quiet and said, “We’ll leave after she wakes up.”

Morris: “?”

That’s enough! What kind of place did he think this was? They would leave after she wakes up?

It was too humiliating!

As Morris thought about this, he turned around and walked out with a dark expression. When he reached the door, he paused for a moment and closed it.

The soundproofing in the interrogation room was very good. After the door was closed, it isolated all sound from the outside world. It was quieter inside, and it was more suitable for sleeping.

Justin was very satisfied.

At the Smiths.

Old Maddy's life was no longer in danger for the time being. He had been transferred to the intensive care unit to be guarded, and the people who stayed in the hospital left one after another.

After all, Old Maddy was only a servant at home.

After returning home, Yvonne entered his room in a daze. Just as she was about to close the door, someone pushed the door open and Florence walked in.

She frowned and said with a slightly angry expression, "Miss Yvonne, that illegitimate daughter is actually a very famous divine doctor! It's unbelievable! But so what? She's just a doctor. Someone who serves others can't be shown off! Which wealthy family cares about a doctor?"

As she spoke, she mumbled indignantly, "I really don't know how Yvette gave birth to this child. She actually inherited her mother's medical talent. She became the most famous surgeon at such a young age. I think she was also carved out from the same mold as her mother. She's a b*tch deep down! Otherwise, why would she get pregnant before marriage? I don't know what kind of drug she used on Mr. Hunt to make him fall in love with this kind of woman with a burden! How can a man raise someone else's child? Just like the old sir, why did he soften his heart and acknowledge Nora back into the Smiths? Her existence is a humiliation to him!"

Hearing this, Yvonne lowered her eyes and said indifferently, "It's because Mr. Hunt and Nora like each other! The Smiths and Hunts need a marriage alliance, so even if dad is forced to lower his head, he'll still acknowledge her."

These words made Florence's eyes turn red again. "Old Sir has really sacrificed too much for the Smiths!"

As she spoke, she almost cried. "Back then, Yvette ran away and left the old sir alone. He was unmarried throughout his life, and his family forced him to adopt a child. The old sir disagreed and asked Joel to come over, but he had never changed his name on the genealogy. The old sir even said that after he died, his ashes would be scattered into the sea so that he could look for Yvette... But the old sir was so devoted. How could Yvette betray him?"

Florence wiped her tears. "I'm just angry at Yvette. Why did she betray the old sir? The old sir's body that she messed with back then has now collapsed. Now that her daughter is back, she has caused chaos in the Smiths!"

"Old sir personally ordered Old Maddy to stay behind. Who in our family doesn't take care of Old Maddy? But she actually attacked Old Maddy... This is too much!"

"So is that Captain Ford. He said that Old Maddy was poisoned by someone. Old Maddy eats and wears the same as us. How could he be the only one who was poisoned?"

As Florence spoke, she sneered. "I think she might have been the one who poisoned him. She planned to save Old Maddy at the critical moment and increase her reputation!"

As soon as she finished speaking, there was a sudden movement downstairs.

Yvonne and Florence looked at each other and left the room. When they went downstairs, they saw the police chief standing there with a few police officers.

The butler's expression was dark. "Isn't Miss Nora at the police station? Why are you guys here again?"

The captain took out a search warrant. "We have detected pesticides in Old Maddy's blood. By monitoring his diet during this period, we determined that Old Maddy had taken this drug!"

With that, he took out a pill. "This pill looks like traditional medicine, but it's actually a pesticide! So, we need to investigate who gave this pill to Old Maddy."

The butler was stunned and looked at the pill.

Immediately, he turned around and looked at Florence!

One night, Florence secretly went to Old Maddy's room and fed him this pill. The butler had seen it with his own eyes!

Florence widened her eyes in shock. She even subconsciously shouted, "Isn't... isn't this the Carefree Pill?"

The police instantly turned towards her. “Did you feed Old Maddy this medicine?”

Florence nodded in a daze.

She then explained in a shaking voice, “Police officers, you’re mistaken. This is a Carefree Pill. It’s for treating Old Maddy. This pill was invented by the Harmonia Pharmacy! It’s more than 3,000 dollars. It’s very expensive!”

As she spoke, she took a step forward. “How is this some pesticide? It’s really a Carefree Pill! It was invented by the Andersons. Nora knows about it! At that time, she was treating Old Maddy’s illness. I saw that Old Maddy was unconscious every day and was worried that something would happen to him, so I fed him this pill...”

The more she spoke, the paler her face became.

Florence was not stupid. As an internal butler, she had handled many things. At this moment, she seemed to have understood something and looked at Yvonne in disbelief!

The policeman frowned. “Where did you get this pill?”

Florence stretched out her trembling hand and pointed at Yvonne.. “I, I took it from Miss Yvonne’s room.”

As soon as she said that, all the servants in the room looked at Yvonne.

Yvonne’s eyes widened and she tensed up nervously. Then, she took a deep breath and said steadily, “Isn’t that my mosquito repellent, Mdm. Florence? Why did you take it?”

Mosquito repellent?

Florence was stunned.

In a split second, she understood everything!

She looked at the pill in shock and then at Yvonne again. She felt as if her mind had become totally blank in this instant.

Was the woman standing in front of her really the Ms. Yvonne she had always thought of as gentle, generous, and understanding?

How could she lie... How could she lie?!

She had clearly told her that it was a Carefree Pill and told her to give it to Old Maddy, causing him to almost die!

Yvonne, however, took a step back. "Mdm. Florence, w-why are you looking at me like that?"

Why she was looking at her like that...?

Florence took a deep breath, and she suddenly made a decision.

By the time Nora woke up, it was already bright outside.

She opened her eyes slowly, feeling as if there were needles stabbing her in the head. Her brows drew together, and she reached out her fingers and pressed them against her head. She was about to say something when a pair of strong, warm hands pressed against her head and gently massaged her temples.

The pain slowly eased, and her tightly-knitted brows finally relaxed. She looked at the man giving her a massage.

Justin was still wearing the same clothes he wore the day before. From the looks of it, he hadn't left the whole night?

Despite not having slept a wink all night, the man didn't look dispirited at all. Only the corners of his eyes revealed some fatigue.

Under the dim light of the interrogation room, his beauty mark lost some of its usual fierceness and became a little more alluring.

She unwittingly thought of how the man had held Morris hostage and told her to leave the day before. She stretched, stood up, and asked casually, "Weren't you afraid that I would flee?"

A smiling Justin looked at her and replied, "You wouldn't."

Nora paused in her stretching and asked, "Why? Because of the children?"

"Of course not," Justin took out a handkerchief and handed it to her, "It's because you said that you're in love with me."

Nora: "..."

The corners of her lips spasmed. She took the handkerchief from him and wiped her face casually. Then, she heard him say, "Just kidding. It's because I know you're not someone like that."

She froze again.

To be honest, the two of them hadn't really spent that much time together ever since her return to the States. In fact, the man wasn't even aware of many of her mysterious identities.

In spite of that, he had trusted her even in a situation like this.

She put down the handkerchief that she was wiping her face with. For some reason, as she gazed at the man's handsome face, her heart suddenly skipped a beat.

She hastily turned away and asked, "Is there anything to eat?"

She had slept all the way till now after she came back the night before, and had been asleep for a full fourteen hours. Although she was still sleepy, she had to get up and replenish some energy. Otherwise, her body wouldn't be able to take it.

"Yes, there is."

The man replied calmly. After taking out his cell phone and sending a message, someone opened the door and came in with a cart of food.

Morris, who had hurried over upon hearing that Nora had awakened, seemed trouble as his lip corners spasmed at the sight.

Those two... They were totally treating the interrogation room like it was a hotel, weren't they?

Not only had the man prepared bedding, but he had brought a washbasin and toiletries over when Nora was still asleep. In fact, he had even brought carts of piping hot food into the room early in the morning.

Every half an hour as the food turned cold, he would distribute them to the people in the police station.

Justin was doing this so that Nora would have fresh food to eat whenever she woke up!

Morris had never seen anyone who spoiled their wife more than Justin did!

He entered the room. He was about to speak when Justin suddenly held his hand up and stopped him. He said, "Captain Ford, wait till she's done eating if you have something to say, lest she gets indigestion."

Morris: "..."

He pulled a chair over and sat on it.

The interrogation room was clearly his home ground, yet the two of them were so relaxed that it was as if they were in a hotel instead. After finishing her breakfast leisurely, Nora finally looked at Morris and asked, "Captain Ford, is there any progress in the case?"

"Yes, there is."

Morris said, "The person who poisoned Old Maddy is Florence Stone. We have brought her back with us. She's in the interrogation room next door."

As soon as he said that, Justin said, "That poison isn't something an ordinary servant can easily obtain, is it?"

Morris nodded. "You're right. She took the medicine from Yvonne Smith's room."

Nora frowned. "And then?"

Morris said, "It's relatively difficult to convict Yvonne Smith of the crime. As there is no real evidence to prove that it was Yvonne Smith who made Florence Stone poison Old Maddy, what she did was, at best, tricking someone into committing a crime. Also, Stone... has admitted to doing it on her own."

She had admitted to it?

Nora suddenly said, "I'll go and talk to Florence."

"Okay."

In the interrogation room.

Nora saw Florence, who had been detained.

She looked tired and haggard as if she hadn't slept a wink all night because of fright. However, when she saw Nora, the look in her eyes suddenly became fierce and savage.

Nora went straight to the point. She merely asked, "Why?"

Why was she taking the rap for Yvonne?

Florence definitely wasn't the one who had poisoned Old Maddy.

The woman displayed all her emotions in the open and was also a direct and straightforward person who had ridiculed and mocked Nora at home. She was very protective of Ian in everything she said, so there was absolutely no way she would do anything to bring shame to the Smiths.

Florence understood what she meant.

She sneered, "Because she's the old sir's daughter. Even if she's just an adopted daughter, she's still his daughter, whereas you bring shame to him!"

Florence lowered her head. "I am indebted to the old sir. There's nothing I can do to repay him except for this."

Nora frowned. "But she's not a good person."

"So what if she's a good person? And so what even if she's a bad person?!" Florence became agitated. Her eyes reddened as she stared at Nora. "Back then, your mother was also a good person! She saved so many people! I had also thought she was a good person, so why did she betray the old sir? Do you have any idea how he lived all these years?!"

The Smiths didn't know anything about the conversation between Florence and Nora in the police station.

Joel was sitting in the study with his gaze lowered.

The door opened, and Yvonne walked in uneasily. "Were you asking for me, Joel?"

Joel looked up. “There’s no way Mdm. Florence would poison Old Maddy. Both you and I know that very well.”

Yvonne bit her lip and simply refused to admit to it. She said, “What do you mean by that, Joel? I don’t understand what you’re saying. Even Mdm. Florence herself has already admitted to it. I—”

But before she could finish, Joel had already cut her off. He said, “Uncle Ian hates people who violate the law and break rules the most.. Even if you’re his daughter, you’re not allowed to do that! Mdm. Florence may not expose you, but the Smiths will never tolerate and condone such vileness!”

Yvonne bit her lip when she heard him.

She looked at Joel.

The man sat leisurely behind the desk with his hands on it. However, his eyes, which were always smiling, were deep and bottomless.

He stared at Yvonne, making her feel as if all her clothes had been stripped off. Those eyes seemed to be able to see right through one, yet others couldn’t tell what he was thinking.

Yvonne lowered her head. “I admit that I made a mistake, Joel. I shouldn’t have bought a pill like that and left it in the room, thereby giving Mdm. Florence a chance to steal it. But I really didn’t break the law. Surely you can’t say that I broke the law just because someone stole the pill I bought and poisoned another person with it, right?”

Joel narrowed his fox-like eyes.

He sneered, “Yvonne, do you think I asked you here to force you to admit to your mistakes? You’re wrong.”

Yvonne was taken aback. Then, she heard the man’s rich and mellow voice. He said slowly, “I’m not a police officer who needs evidence in order to convict someone of a crime. Neither do I need you to admit to anything. Both you and I know that very well.”

His voice was gentle, yet it also seemed like a voice straight out of hell, causing Yvonne’s heart to sink little by little.

Joel stood up. "Since there isn't any evidence, I won't hand you over to the police. Besides, you're Uncle Ian's daughter. How you should be dealt with will have to wait until Uncle Ian wakes up. However, you don't have to manage the family matters anymore during this time."

His words made Yvonne suddenly look up at him.

As Ian's one and only lawful daughter, Yvonne had always enjoyed a very high status in the family.

In fact, legally, she had a closer relationship with Ian than what Joel, Ian's nephew, had with him.

Therefore, while Joel managed the company's affairs, Yvonne was in charge of the family's affairs. Even Florence, the housekeeper in charge of the family's internal affairs, was just her helper.

Why did Louis keep suffering in her hands despite loathing her so much? It was thanks to the fact that she was the one in control of the finances!

Yet, Joel was going to deprive her of her authority?

Yvonne couldn't stop herself from retorting, "Who do you intend to put in charge of managing the family's affairs, if not me? Nora? You can't do that. I'm Dad's only daughter while she's nothing more than a shameful product of that woman's betrayal of Dad. Aren't you embarrassing Dad if you do that?"

Seeing that she was still arguing even now, Joel slowly cast his eyes down and said, "You can go now."

Yvonne wanted to argue some more, but she knew that Joel never changed his mind once he made a decision.

She clenched her fists, took a deep breath, and walked out of the study.

After she left, Quentin popped out of somewhere, went to Joel, and asked, "Are you really going to let her off just like that, Joel?"

Joel rubbed his temples, feeling a headache coming on.

He sighed and said, "Uncle Ian is still in a coma. As his only daughter, it's best that nothing happens to her for now. If Uncle Ian pulls through, he will deal with her himself."

Joel, who had been brought up by Ian himself, knew Ian's character all too well.

He hated schemes and conspiracies like these the most.

Besides, he felt that Uncle Ian didn't really seem to dislike Nora that much...

Quentin couldn't help asking, "What if Uncle Ian doesn't make it?"

The look in Joel's eyes suddenly turned cold. "Then it'll be the time that she gets married once she finishes two years of mourning for Uncle Ian."

As for who she'll marry and how much money to give her once she does, Joel had the final say!

Quentin nodded.

He and Joel were of the same opinion with regard to Nora—neither of them liked her very much. After all, he was someone constantly in the shadows. Nora's thoughts were just like his—unfit to be brought into the light.

While he was thinking about it, Joel asked, "Has Nora woken up?"

The sensitive Quentin discovered that Joel's term of address for Nora had changed. From the distant and alienated 'Ms. Smith', it had now become 'Nora'... Ahem!

Quentin straightened his back and replied, "I don't know. She was still asleep when I left. She had looked so lazy, didn't even work, and only knew to sleep every day in the past. But unexpectedly, she's actually the famous Anti... Thinking about it again, it's no wonder she's so rich!"

"... Rich?"

Quentin nodded. "Yeah. Don't you know? Louis has already become her fan just because she's rich!"

Joel couldn't help remarking dryly, "What a promising future that fellow has."

"I know, right?"

Quentin curled his lips disdainfully. “I, for one, won’t bend over just because she’s rich. If she wants my recognition... only if she’s the Quinn School of Martial Arts’ Big Sister!”

Joel: “...”

Quentin looked at him again. “What does our little cousin have to do in order to gain your recognition, Joel?”

Joel glanced at him, picked up company documents from the table, and said, “What a meaningless question.”

Quentin curled his lips disdainfully.

Joel’s phone vibrated at this point. He glanced at it and found that it was a text message from Tanya: ‘Please let me know when Nora returns.’

Joel sent her a question mark.

Tanya immediately replied. As if she was eager to distance herself from him, she wrote: ‘Nora isn’t picking up my calls, so I reckon she’s still being detained! Cherry misses her mom. Tell her to pick up her daughter once she returns.’

At the sight of the message, Joel immediately got up, picked up the car key, and walked out.

Quentin was taken aback. “Where are you going, Joel? Aren’t you going to wait for our little cousin to come home?”

Joel didn’t stop. He replied, “I’m picking up the child and bringing her home.”

Quentin: “?”

‘Child’?

Wasn’t it the weekend? It didn’t seem like Mia had gone to school, though?!

Nora only came out of the room after she was done talking to Florence.

She didn’t really blame Florence. In fact, her loyalty to Ian made her sigh in admiration. What kind of age were they already in? Yet there were still people who could go to that extent for their masters.

No wonder Joel hadn't driven her away after he took over the family.

Morris asked, "How was it, Ms. Smith?"

Nora gave him her serious feedback. "The interrogation room's soundproofing is indeed pretty good. You can try using it if you ever have insomnia in the future."

Morris: "..."

He was asking if Florence had said anything! He wasn't asking about the interrogation room!!

But as he watched the unaffected woman in front of him, he fell silent for a moment before he finally said, "I apologize for my actions previously, Ms. Smith. I'm sorry."

Nora raised her eyebrows when she heard him.

Her lips curled into a smile and she suddenly said, "Apology accepted, Captain Ford, but I'd still like to ask you to do me a favor."

"What is it?"

Nora cast her eyes down and asked, "Can you tell me just what kind of case am I involved in?"

Her head had cleared up after she woke up.

Morris kept quiet for a while. He looked up and stared at her for very long, seemingly considering whether he could tell her about it. At last, he stepped aside and said, "Let's talk over there, Ms. Smith."

There were indeed some things he didn't need to hide from her anymore.

Nora nodded.. She gave Justin a comforting look and followed Morris into the confidential room next door.

Justin stood there and watched helplessly as Morris took her into the secret room. He frowned.

The confidentiality room was a room used for important cases in the country. No conversations inside would be recorded.

Therefore, be it discussing the case or presenting the case, it would be inside.

Back when Morris took Nora away forcefully and did not allow her to be bailed out, he knew that Nora might have been involved in a case.

Now, the mystery was finally going to be solved, right?

He lowered his eyes. His eyes were dark, and the mole at the corner of his eye seemed to be flickering. From his appearance, it seemed like he already knew what that secret was.

Nora originally thought that the soundproofing in the interrogation room was good enough, but when she entered the room and Morris closed the door, her heart skipped a beat.

All the sounds outside were blocked by a door, making her feel as if she was isolated from the entire world.

When she looked at Morris again, he was still as cold as ever. He pointed at the chair and motioned for her to sit down before sitting opposite her.

The two chairs were the same. He did not look like he was interrogating a criminal and it was like they were talking fairly.

While Morris was still struggling with his choice of words, Nora asked, "Is it about illegal drugs and human trials?"

Morris paused. "I didn't expect Miss Nora to be so perceptive."

Nora rolled her eyes.

How could she still not understand at this point!

After Old Maddy's incident, Morris had kept asking her if she had given Old Maddy any drugs. Then, he had detected some unknown components in Old Maddy's blood. He immediately became nervous and his attitude became worse.

At that time, Morris was certain that she had fed Old Maddy something.

Later on, when he realized that Old Maddy's blood contained drugs commonly used to poison rats and mosquitoes, Morris relaxed. He did not even participate in the arrest of Florence.

If she still could not detect anything, she was too slow.

Nora thought about this and asked, "Captain Ford, should we talk about this properly now?"

Morris nodded and crossed his arms on the table. His posture seemed more like he was testing and wary. "Miss Nora, do you know that there is a mysterious organization in this world that outsiders don't know about?"

A mysterious organization?

Nora's first reaction was Imperial League.

She lowered her eyes and looked calm, but her heart felt as if it had been scalded.

Imperial League was indeed a dangerous existence to be able to control the global economy. But according to what she knew, it didn't do human experiments or illegal drugs.

So it wasn't Imperial League.

She looked up at Morris and did not answer his question. "Please elaborate."

Morris observed the girl in front of him.

She had just woken up. Perhaps it was because she had slept for too long, but her almond-shaped eyes were a little swollen. Although she had eaten, her voice was still a little hoarse.

No one could guess what she was thinking.

Actually, Morris had been observing her for a long time, but he felt like this girl was covered in a veil. Every time he felt that she was just an ordinary person, she would do something that surprised him.

For example, her identity as Anti...

At the thought of this, Morris lowered his eyes. "We still don't know what that mysterious organization is called. We only know that they're doing human experiments and illegal pharmaceuticals. Moreover, the drugs they create are very dangerous and will cause a destructive blow to the entire human race!"

When Nora heard this, she slowly sat up straight. Her eyes became more serious. "A destructive blow?"

"Yes," Morris said slowly. "We've always guessed that they're creating a virus and they've already started human trials more than twenty years ago!"

20 years ago?

Nora frowned. "Is my mother related to this organization?"

Morris was silent for a long time before he said slowly, "We suspect that your mother was from this organization, so we secretly arrested her back then."

At this point, he lowered his eyes. "At that time, my mother was the leader of the operation team. After her arrest, your mother said that she had a patient waiting for her to treat. Otherwise, that patient would die. She even said that only she could treat that illness."

Nora suddenly understood. "Your mother let my mother go and my mother ran away. That's why you refused to let me go this time. You didn't believe what I said?"

Morris was speechless.

What did she mean by refusing to let her go...

He grimaced, ignoring her choice of words, and nodded. "Yes."

Nora suddenly understood his neurotic way of doing things. If it involved such a high-level case, forcing her to stay was understandable.

After saying everything, Morris stood up and extended his hand to her. "So, please understand my actions again."

"Sure."

Nora did not shake his hand and just waved it casually.

As they walked out, Morris took the opportunity to say, "Florence's poison was stolen from Yvonne's room, but if Florence doesn't say anything, we won't be able to hold Yvonne responsible. If Miss Nora wants to bring the real criminal to justice, you'd better think of a way to convince Florence."

Nora stretched lazily. When she thought of Florence's complaints about her, she lowered her eyes and said, "Unless I'm Ian's biological daughter, it's impossible to convince her!"

Morris was speechless.

Nora dragged her feet and lazily walked out the door. After meeting up with Justin, the two of them left the police station.

As soon as she went out, Lily appeared in front of her. She wanted to say something, but she glanced at Justin and pulled Nora to the side. She asked nervously, "Anti, are you okay?"

Nora nodded. "I'm fine."

Lily said indignantly, "What's wrong with the Smiths? Is this how they treat you? It's too much! Moreover, your DNA mutated a little in the later stages. No one can say for sure if you're really Ryan's daughter. I think your father is Ian!"

Nora patted her shoulder. "If you don't have evidence, don't talk nonsense."

Whether she was Ryan's daughter or Ian's, there was no accurate news for now. Unless they got real evidence, Nora would not say anything to the Smiths.

Otherwise, wouldn't it be awkward if she was really Ryan's daughter?

Lily was so angry that she blew raspberries. "Evidence? How can we get evidence now? Unless we go back more than twenty years ago and save some DNA samples from your birth, where else can we find evidence?"

20 years ago... DNA samples?

Nora suddenly thought of the manager who was protecting Idealian Pharmaceuticals for her mother.. Her eyes lit up.

Although Nora had been in New York for two to three months, Idealian Pharmaceuticals would send the dividends to her account on time in the past few months.

She just had a lot of money and never cared about it.

However, now that she thought about it, Wayne was the manager her mother had personally chosen. He also managed Idealian Pharmaceuticals and did not let Henry interfere to snatch it away. He definitely had his own means!

She nodded at Lily, picked up her phone, and walked to the side to call Wayne.

As soon as the call connected, Wayne's excited voice was heard. "Miss Nora, you've finally thought it through. Are you coming back to inherit the company?"

Nora: "..."

Why did this fellow seem so enthusiastic?

How unwilling was he to manage the company!

She grimaced and asked, "No, I just want to ask you a question."

The other party's voice immediately lowered as he said listlessly, "Okay, ask away."

Nora asked, "Did my mother leave anything for me at your place?"

"Yes!"

Before the other party could speak, Nora interrupted him. "Other than companionship and love, is there anything else?"

"...About that!" Wayne dragged out his words and sighed. "What specifically do you want?"

Nora asked tentatively, "For example, fetal hair? Or a blood sample?"

Wayne: "Of course not. Miss Nora, why would your mom leave your fetal hair for me? I'm not a pervert. I don't have a fetish for collecting hair!"

Nora: "..."

Wayne asked, "Miss Nora, are you busy?"

Nora: "No, what's wrong? Is there something wrong with the company?"

“Not really. After all, our small company relied on the formula your mother left behind. It’s not a problem for us to prescribe some medicine. It can also ensure that you have no financial worries in your life.” Wayne began to nag. “I just want to say, when are you coming back to manage the company? I’m really too busy alone! You don’t even know that there are many miscellaneous matters in the company. As the chairman of Idealian Pharmaceuticals, you have to be responsible. You can’t leave everything to me alone. I’m already old... blah, blah...”

Nora listened for a full minute. When she saw that he was still not stopping, she said, “By the way, what did you ask me just now?”

Wayne: “... If you were busy?”

Nora immediately said, “I’m very busy. I’m hanging up... Beep, beep, beep...”

Wayne was speechless.

Hearing the busy tone on the phone, Nora pouted. She really couldn’t listen to a naggy person.

She looked at Lily. “I might be busy for a while. Stay in the country for now.”

“Okay.”

As her first assistant, Lily was very competent. “Where do I stay?”

Nora thought for a moment. “Stay with me in the Smiths.”

After her identity was exposed, there would definitely be many people looking for her. It was very troublesome. This would require Lily to handle it. If there were problems that other doctors could resolve, Lily would help recommend them. If Nora had to do it, Lily would arrange a schedule for her.

At the thought of this, Nora felt a headache coming on.

She rubbed her temples and walked with Lily to Justin’s car.

Justin stood at the side. When he saw the two of them walk over, he opened the back door, and Nora got into the car. Lily wanted to follow them, but she realized that Justin was blocking the door.

Lily was stunned. She looked up and saw Justin glance at the front passenger seat.

Lily immediately understood and stuck out her tongue. "I'll be in the front passenger seat! I'm not an insensitive person, Anti's boyfriend."

Anti's boyfriend?

Justin was a little stunned when he heard this title.

Usually, when he was outside, people would call him Mr. Hunt or Justin. This was the first time he was called Nora's boyfriend.

He suddenly liked this nickname.

He lowered his head slightly and got into the car. He entered the backseat and sat with Nora.

The journey was silent. After Justin took the two of them to the Smiths, he did not stay any longer. After all, he had not slept the entire night. He wanted to go back and recuperate.

Besides, Cherry was still waiting for him at the Hunts.

Nora brought Lily into the house. Just as they entered, the butler welcomed them. "Miss Nora, you're back!"

His attitude became much more respectful.

Nora was taken aback for a moment.

The butler bowed deeply to her. "Miss Nora, I was wrong to have misunderstood that you were trying to harm Old Maddy. I didn't expect you to be the famous Anti. I was blind!"

"Miss Nora, we misunderstood you!"

When the other servants heard that she was back, they immediately walked out and bowed to her.

Those who could work in wealthy families were not fools.

Initially, they thought that Nora was going to use Old Maddy to make a name for herself. They did not expect that she was really going to treat him!

On the other hand, Florence had stolen poison from Miss Yvonne's study and almost killed Old Maddy!

It was obvious at a glance which young lady did not care about their lives!

Initially, when Nora had come to live with the Smiths, everyone still felt some disdain for her. They felt that she was just a wild chicken who had become a phoenix thanks to her background. However, at this moment, everyone admired her from the bottom of their hearts.

On the way back to her room, all the servants who saw her stood at a distance and bowed to her to express their apologies.

The servants in the entire manor had a 180-degree change in attitude toward her!

Nora entered the living room. The housekeeper, Lucy, who had just been promoted by Joel, hurried over. "Miss Nora, you're finally back! Do you have any orders for me?"

Nora glanced at him.

Lucy was in her thirties. She looked very young and energetic. Her attitude toward her was very respectful.

Nora pointed at Lily. "This is my assistant. She will be staying here for a period of time. Please arrange a guest room for her."

"No problem!"

Lucy immediately said, "Miss Lily, you can wait in the living room and tell me the style of the room you like. I'll choose a guest room that you like."

Nora was going upstairs to take a shower, so she went up first.

Lily sat in the living room. After choosing a guest room, Lucy arranged for someone to tidy it up and accompany her.

At this moment, Yvonne suddenly walked down and casually instructed, "Lucy, come over. I have something to tell you."

Lucy was stunned and looked at Lily. "Miss Yvonne, there's... a guest here."

Yvonne's gaze instantly turned sharp as she stared at Lucy. "Lucy, since you're in this family, you should understand who the real daughter of this family is! The entire Smiths belong to my father!"

Lucy was Joel's caretaker.

It could be said that she was the nanny who had taken care of Joel since he was young. Because she was meticulous and smart, she had always worked for the Smiths.

As Joel grew up, Lucy had also slowly been promoted and given a raise from taking care of him. Before Florence was taken away by the police, her words at home already carried a lot of weight.

Even Florence and Yvonne were polite to her because of Joel.

After all, Florence was already old, and Joel was the new head of the Smiths. Her future status could be imagined.

Lucy had watched Yvonne grow up. She was loyal to Joel, so she naturally disliked Yvonne.

After all... Joel was the one Ian had chosen. Yvonne was Ian's adopted daughter, but she had a high status at home and always suppressed others.

In the past, when she saw Maureen giving in to Yvonne, she couldn't help but wonder if Joel would give in to her at home when he got married in the future.

However, Joel's wife would be the madam of the Smiths! She would also be the future matriarch of the Smiths!

Therefore, Lucy and Yvonne were born to be enemies.

Coupled with the fact that Old Maddy had been poisoned, everyone knew that Florence was either under Yvonne's orders or had been deceived. Therefore, they felt even more disdain for Yvonne.

Yvonne had lost control of the family, and Lucy was now in charge of the family's matters.

Lucy did not feel threatened by her words. She only smiled and said, “Miss Yvonne, from what you’re saying, you’re older than Miss Nora. Of course, you’re the eldest daughter of the Smiths! It’s just that I still have a guest here. Furthermore, Mr. Joel has just handed the house to me. I have all kinds of miscellaneous matters to deal with here. I’m a quiet person and I’m cautious in my actions. I don’t dare to make any mistakes or embarrass myself in front of a guest. If news of this gets out, no one will scold me. They will only say that the Smiths’ upbringing is bad. Don’t you think so?”

Yvonne: “!!”

She had long known that Lucy was not a pushover, but she did not expect her to rebut her like this.

Yvonne’s face turned red and white.

The surrounding servants were clearly working, but Yvonne knew that they must have strained their ears to eavesdrop on their conversation.

After Joel fired the housekeeper, Yvonne knew that Lucy would definitely hit her while she was down. When she made things difficult for Lucy earlier, she wanted everyone to see that even if she had done something wrong, she was still the owner of the Smiths!

However, she did not expect to meet a wall with Lucy.

She took a deep breath. She knew that at this moment, she had to turn the situation around. Otherwise, she would really be looked down upon.

She lowered her eyes. “Lucy, I only called you over to tell you how to entertain the guest. Why are you making it sound so grand? Or do you think that I, as the eldest daughter, have no right to give you instructions?”

With that, she sneered. “Dad is indeed in the hospital. Joel is in charge of the family now, but Dad is still around. Do you think he’ll be happy to know that you’re talking to me like this after he wakes up?”

Lucy choked.

Ian was equivalent to the emperor emeritus in the family. Everyone knew that he had the ability to take back control of the family. It was just that Joel was very filial and Ian was very satisfied with him!

Lucy did not dare to say such words. She immediately stood up. “Miss Yvonne, what do you want to say?”

Yvonne glanced at Lily and said, “Since there’s a guest at home, let’s add a few dishes tonight! This lady must have returned from overseas. She must be very interested in the delicacies in New York. We can prepare a sweet and sour fish.”

The list of dishes prepared in the kitchen had long been prepared. If Yvonne suddenly added more dishes, the chef would definitely have to rush out to buy ingredients. This would make things difficult for the kitchen.

However, Lucy still agreed with a smile. “Miss Yvonne is right. I’ll get someone to prepare it right away.”

Yvonne nodded.

When she turned around and walked upstairs, she sensitively saw Lucy purse her lips and make a disdainful expression.

Yvonne forcefully suppressed the anger in her heart.

She was just a servant, yet she dared to be rude to her!

Furthermore, the rest of the family’s attitude toward her had clearly changed. There was coldness in their distance, just like how they treated Nora in the past.

But so what?

Nora was the daughter of the second branch. She was basically from the side family! Now, the Smiths’ direct line of descent was her!

As long as she was still Ian’s legal daughter, then she would have a share of his family fortune! Even if she was an adopted daughter, she was still better than Nora, the legitimate cousin of the Smiths!

After all, how could a niece get an uncle’s inheritance?

In the Smiths, her identity as Yvonne would forever suppress Nora!

At this moment, outside the door.

Lisa stood there and was answering a call. It was Nora's aunt, Irene. "...I wonder how Nora is now. Go and take a look. Why is she suspected of medical malpractice? This child didn't say anything either. If I hadn't seen the news, I wouldn't have known! Sigh!"

Lisa stood at the door, feeling a little conflicted. "Mom, Nora isn't Henry's biological daughter. Isn't it bad for me to go looking for her like this?"

Ever since she found out that Nora was not Henry's biological daughter, Lisa did not dare to visit her again.

Now that she knew Nora was her mentor, Anti, she became even more fearful!

However, after watching the live broadcast and the news, she was the same as her mother. She was very worried about Nora's comfort in the Smiths. Did the Smiths not treat her well enough?

Lisa looked at the imposing door in front of her and became even more hesitant.

She did not expect Nora to be this family's daughter...

As she was feeling ashamed of herself, Irene's voice was heard. "What's wrong with that? I believe Nora isn't that kind of person! She'll acknowledge us!"

Lisa nodded and took a deep breath. "Alright."

At this moment, Lisa's father, Bobby, said, "Honey, do you remember Lisa's umbilical cord blood?"

Irene was stunned. "What's wrong?"

Bobby said, "Back then, when you gave birth to Lisa, we spent about 3,000 dollars to keep her umbilical cord blood for more than twenty years. The hospital called me just now and asked if we wanted to keep it for a while longer."

Irene immediately said, "Is it expired? Then you can renew the fees."

With that, she sighed. "Speaking of which, I learned how to store umbilical cord blood from Nora's mother. When she gave birth to Nora, she had kept

her umbilical cord blood for her. Now, it should still be in the hospital's freezer.. By the way, Lisa, when you see Nora, remember to tell her. She definitely doesn't know about this yet! If it's useful in the future..."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Bobby interrupted Irene. "When would you need the umbilical cord blood? I hope she won't need to use it for the rest of her life!"

Cord blood was mainly used to treat blood diseases, such as leukemia. Under normal circumstances, it would definitely not be needed.

Irene immediately snorted. "Yes, Nora definitely won't need it. But we still have to tell her."

The disappointing brother at home had already disappeared for a long time. The Blacks in California were living more comfortably than before.

Especially since Bobby had recently been in a few big business deals with the company.

Although Bobby did not know who had helped him, he had a feeling that it might be related to Nora.

He was a good kid who knew how to repay kindness. Back then, he had misunderstood that Nora did not care about his wife's life. However, when he saw the live broadcast, he finally understood why Nora was so indifferent back then.

It turned out that the doctor she had found for the Blacks was herself!

Bobby was feeling guilty about chasing her out of the hospital back then, so he snatched the phone away and said to Lisa, "When you see Nora, remember to help me bring her home. Ask her to bring the child over to play when she's free. I'll make her favorite brown sugar rice cake!"

"...Okay." Lisa hung up the phone and looked at the luxurious door in front of her again. She thought for a long time before knocking on the door.

The door opened quickly. The guard asked, "Who are you looking for?"

Lisa: "...I'm looking for Nora."

The guard looked her up and down. "Wait a minute."

“Okay.”

The guard called and entered the hall. The housekeeper, Lucy, had just tidied up the guest room for Lily. After receiving the call, she was about to call Nora to ask if she should come in when she was stopped by Lily. “Let Miss Lisa in first. An... Miss Nora should be sleeping right now. Don’t disturb her.”

Lily knew Nora’s body very well. She had spent the entire day at the police station yesterday and went to treat Old Maddy at night. Even though she had slept for a while, her energy had not recovered yet. She must be sleeping right now!

Lucy listened to Lily and let the guard bring Lisa in.

Upstairs, Yvonne listened to their conversation and bit her lip in anger. She was just a servant, and she would chatter away after saying a few words. However, when Nora’s assistant spoke, she was as obedient as anything. She simply did not take her seriously!

How infuriating!

When Lisa was led into the Smiths’ residence, she was first stunned by the lavish courtyard.

This was New York!

In places where every inch of land was worth money, they actually had such a large manor. Furthermore, she was perceptive to the fact that some places had flowers planted and some places had vegetables. This was the first time Lisa experienced the difference between her and a truly wealthy family!

She was already so terrified. No wonder Nora was being bullied here!

Yes, she was certain that Nora had suffered in the Smiths.

It was just medical malpractice. Even in California, if Henry did not appear, her parents could still bail her out. But in New York, the Smiths actually allowed Nora to be detained for 24 hours!

Wasn’t it just because they were rich?

As Lisa thought about this, she became even more furious.

At this moment, a playful voice was heard. "Hey, who is this?"

Lisa turned around and saw a man around her age with blond hair... To be precise, it was a young man walking over. She frowned when she heard the housekeeper say, "Mr. Louis, this is Miss Nora's cousin from California."

Louis immediately sized up Lisa when he heard this.

Was this his cousin's trash family in California?

Ever since Nora became his idol, he had asked around about her. When he asked around, he was instantly furious. He did not expect his cousin to live like that in California!

Especially that shameless cheap father of hers. He had taken her mother's money and still treated her so badly!

Therefore, Louis did not have a good impression of the family in California. When he saw Lisa, he immediately sneered. "Tsk, are you here to take advantage of Nora now that she has become a phoenix?"

Taking advantage of Nora?

Lisa felt Louis's disdain and was instantly infuriated.

She was still a guest, yet he was already being so rude. Wouldn't the Smiths be even more rude to Nora?

The soft person had also lost her temper. She was so angry that her face was red and her voice was trembling. "What's so great about you? Do you have to look down on me?"

Louis raised his head and placed his hands on his hips. "The Smiths are very impressive. Country bumpkin, you must have never seen such a big courtyard, right?"

Country bumpkin?

Did they scold Nora like that too?

Lisa kicked the flower bed beside her in anger. "Who are you calling a country bumpkin?"

Louis made a face. “Whoever cares about it is the country bumpkin! What do you think your family is? Tsk, little girl, I advise you to be careful. Do you know how much this jar of flowers costs? Any one of them is worth thousands of dollars! If you broke it, can you afford to pay?”

Lisa: “!!”

Her eyes were red as she glared at the jar of flowers. She walked to the other side and planned to kick the grass, but Louis said proudly, “The grass over there is no ordinary grass. It’s orchid! One stalk is worth tens of thousands! Are you sure you want to kick it?”

Lisa paused again and looked to the side.

Louis clicked his tongue and showed a disdainful expression. “Little girl, the piece of land you’re standing on is worth hundreds of thousands per square meter. Our family is rich, what can you say?”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “Even if you have a lot of money, you can’t buy kinship. Why are you looking down on us?”

Louis didn’t notice this “us” and thought that she was talking about the family in California. Therefore, he stuck out his tongue. “I’m just looking down on you. Hit me if you dare!”

As soon as he said this, Lisa had already raised her little fist and punched him in the face. “I’m so angry! I’ll let you know today that money is not everything. There are some people you can’t afford to offend!”

Louis took a nimble step back and Lisa chased after him.

The two of them immediately started fighting.

This was what Lily saw when she went out.

Both of them had their hands on their hips.

Louis said annoyingly, “Hmph, your family bullied my cousin. Now, it’s my turn to bully you!”

Lisa's face was also red as she roared angrily, "The Smiths are bullying my cousin. Let me tell you, my cousin and the Blacks are not people who can be bullied easily!"

At this moment, Lisa was pinching Louis's face while Louis was pushing Lisa's neck to prevent her from getting too close to him. Louis did not dare to make a move. After all, the other party was a girl and he was still merciful.

The two of them were stunned when they heard each other.

Lisa's grip loosened. "What did you say?"

Louis was stunned too. "What did you say? The Blacks? Aren't you the Smiths from California?"

Lisa: "?"

Louis thought for a moment and coughed. "I think we misunderstood. Let go and talk things out."

Lisa was furious. "No, let go of me first."

Louis: "...Why don't I call out 'one, two, three' and we'll let go together?"

"Okay."

"One, two, three..."

Even after he finished counting, they were still intertwined.

Louis said, "Let go!"

Lisa: "Let go of me first!"

Lily was speechless.

The two of them were already 20 years old. Together, they were already 40! Yet, they were still so childish!

The corners of her lips twitched. She took a step forward and said, "Louis, Lisa, you've misunderstood! You're both Nora's best relatives! Let go of each other quickly!"

Louis asked hesitantly, "What are you talking about? Didn't you say that the Smiths in California treated her badly?"

"...It's the Smiths' fault. Lisa is the daughter of Nora's aunt. If it weren't for Nora's aunt, she might have starved to death when she was young!"

Louis let go of her immediately when he heard that. "It's a misunderstanding. Why aren't you letting go? It hurts!"

Lisa looked at Lily. "Who are you? Are you treating Nora badly like the Smiths?"

Lily: "...I'm Lily! Anti's assistant! Lisa, please let go. The Smiths have never treated Nora badly!"

As medical students, Anti was a God to them. And Anti's assistant, Lily, was also a legend. After all, those who could be Anti's assistants definitely had good medical skills!

Even Lily was an outstanding surgeon!

Lisa felt a sense of respect for her and hurriedly let go of Louis. Her face was red with embarrassment. "Miss Lily! I'm, I'm sorry... I didn't know..."

She lowered her head and stammered sheepishly.

Louis pointed at her angrily. "Why are you acting weak here? I think you did it on purpose!"

Lisa immediately lost her earlier cautiousness and raised her chin like a fighting chicken. "You were the one who started talking bad about me the moment you entered!"

"You even beat me up! I'll tell Nora later how savage this little cousin of hers is! What a yellow-haired brat!"

Lisa: "!!"

She was furious. "You, you're the real yellow-haired brat!"

Louis: "??"

He touched his blond hair and was furious. He hated it when people pointed out his yellow hair. He looked at Lisa and roared, "Say that again if you dare!"

Lisa: "You're already a yellow-haired brat. Why can't you let others say it?"

Louis took a step forward and was about to scare her when he tripped and suddenly pounced at Lisa.

Lisa was not as agile and was immediately pinned under him.

Fortunately, there was a big lawn beneath them. It did not hurt much, but coincidentally, Louis's lips were on Lisa's.

Everyone: "!!"

After 10 seconds of silence, Louis stood up with his hands on the grass in a daze.

Lisa's eyes widened as she wiped her mouth with all her might. "Ah, you pervert!"

Seeing her look of disdain, Louis pouted. "I don't have an infectious disease. Aren't you overreacting?"

He touched his lips, and for some reason, he suddenly recalled that soft feeling from earlier. His face turned a little red. At this moment, he saw Lisa turn to look at the ground. Her eyes immediately turned red, and large tears rolled down her face.

Louis was shocked. "Hey, what are you doing? Isn't it just a kiss? Is it worth crying and making a scene?"

Lisa cried, "Of course you don't feel anything! But... I can't afford to pay for these lawns!"

Louis: "!!"

It turned out that this was the reason!

He scratched his head and coughed. "Don't cry. These lawns are not expensive."

Another tear fell from Lisa's eye. "Didn't you just say that a single orchid cost hundreds of thousands?"

Louis: "...I lied to you."

"..."

Lisa wiped her tears and was so angry that her heart hurt. What kind of family did Nora live in?! The people here were all too perverted!

She followed Lily into the living room angrily.

Louis followed her in and sat on the sofa. He had his hands behind his head and glanced at Lisa from time to time.

At this moment, Yvonne walked down from upstairs and smiled. "There's another guest at home?"

Her behavior was still magnanimous and appropriate. She looked like someone from a noble family, and Lisa immediately sat up straight and felt restrained.

Lucy replied, "Miss Yvonne, she's Miss Nora's cousin."

Yvonne smiled. "Nora really has a lot of friends and relatives!"

Her words were filled with mockery.

Lisa bit her lip. She had always been a sensitive and suspicious girl. It was obvious that she could sense Yvonne's hostility.

Especially when Yvonne looked at her from head to toe, her eyes filled with disdain.

Lisa didn't even know where to put her hands and feet.

At this moment, Louis said, "Tsk, why are you acting as the mistress here? I heard that Joel has taken away all your rights! I should really buy some firecrackers to celebrate!"

Yvonne clenched her fists and smiled. "Louis, there's a guest here. Speak properly."

She looked like a good sister.

Louis pouted. “She’s not a guest. She’s Nora’s cousin, which means she’s also my cousin.”

Yvonne smiled. “But isn’t Nora unrelated to the Smiths in California? I heard that she broke off ties with them during the last live broadcast.”

These words made Lisa even more embarrassed. It was as if she was pestering them right now.

She stood up suddenly and was about to say goodbye when she heard Louis laugh.

Yvonne asked, “What are you laughing about?”

Louis touched his hair. “I’m laughing at you.. Anyone else can talk about blood relations, but can you? You’re not related to our family by blood. According to your logic, you’re not a member of the Smiths?”

“You—”

He dissed Yvonne to the point that she was rendered speechless.

She turned and went upstairs in a huff.

Louis curled his lips disdainfully behind her and said to Lisa, “Don’t bother with her. She’s just spoiled.”

Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. “She looks pretty graceful to me, though.”

Louis gnashed his teeth in fury and said, “It’s all an act. I know that woman the best, we grew up together. She does one thing in front of other people and another altogether behind their backs, and is the most hypocritical person ever. She has no blood relation to the Smiths. She’d be nothing at all if Uncle Ian hadn’t adopted her.”

“... Oh,” said Lisa.

After saying that, Louis realized that it wasn't appropriate for him to badmouth his family to an outsider, so he said, "Just keep waiting here. I'll go up for now."

He had a bedroom in the Smiths' manor. When Louis heard that Yvonne was no longer taking charge at home, he had come back excitedly, hoping to see her down and out.

He had made up his mind—he was going to move back to the Smiths' from this day on!

In the suburbs of New York.

Tanya was playing games with Pete in the villa. She had specially bought a jigsaw puzzle meant for twelve-year-olds and above, which had a higher level of difficulty, so that she could keep Pete company.

But unexpectedly, a brief two minutes later, Tanya looked at the completed jigsaw puzzle on the floor, and then at Pete, who sighed and said, "It's too easy."

Tanya: "..."

She asked tentatively: "Shall I buy you a jigsaw puzzle meant for grown-ups next time?"

"... God-mom, do you like jigsaw puzzles a lot?"

Tanya: "?"

Pete sighed and said, "I've already played with you for so long. Can I go and do my Olympiad assignments now?"

Tanya: "!!"

So, to Pete, doing jigsaw puzzles with her was actually a waste of time and energy?!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. "Go ahead."

Only then did a satisfied Pete walk over to the desk next to them and take out his Mathematical Olympiad workbook from his schoolbag. Before he started

working on the problems, he suddenly looked at Tanya and asked, "Is Mommy really okay?"

Tanya was taken aback.

She had brought Pete back with her after school the day before. Pete had followed her home without saying anything at that time. She'd thought that he wouldn't ask about it, but unexpectedly, he was actually such a perceptive boy.

Tanya said, "She'll be fine."

Pete kept quiet for a while before he asked, "Mommy will come and pick me up, right?"

Tanya: "..."

The way he was asking those questions so seriously and with such a tense look on his face broke Tanya's heart.

It was only then that Tanya realized that even though Nora had found Pete, and that even though he was sleeping on the same bed as his mother every day these days, Pete was actually still very insecure at heart.

She walked over, hugged Pete, and kissed him on the cheek. "Don't worry, she'll definitely come. Your mom loves you very, very much. When we were looking for our children abroad back then, she was really crazy about it."

Her words piqued Pete's interest all of a sudden. He asked, "How so?"

Tanya: "?????"

Pete put down the workbook in his hand and looked at her seriously, his eyes full of interest. He really wanted to know all the details!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. She had gotten him so many toys, yet none of them had aroused Pete's interest at all. Instead, a simple one-liner from her had unexpectedly made the boy so fixated on something.

She could only say, "Your mom was in poor health when she first went overseas. Even so, she insisted on coming to our meetings every week and listened to us share our experiences in looking for our children. After that, she would try again and again to return to the States. At that time, she was falling

comatose for a while almost every day, so your grand-aunt never allowed her to come back. Thus, she got people to look for you in the country instead.

“I remember that there was once a liar who called your mom and told her that he had found clues about your whereabouts. We all knew he was a liar, but your mom believed him. I tried to talk her out of it when she was giving him money, but she instead said, ‘I know he’s a liar, but what if he really has news about my son? I won’t allow myself to miss out on any possibility.’

“There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs...”

Tanya’s eyes reddened as she spoke.

It hadn’t been easy for her and Nora during all those years back then.

Nora’s suffering had already come to an end, but what about her?

There was still no news about her child even now.

Tanya lowered her head. She didn’t notice Pete’s eyes flickering.

Even though Pete now had a mother, he had still felt insecure all this time. After all, his family was incomplete, and Mommy was always finding Daddy too troublesome.

He had actually had nightmares quite a few times.

He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn’t want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn’t catch up to them at all.

His feet were so heavy in the dream.

He was afraid that Mommy would suddenly separate from Daddy one day and leave him.

Listening to Tanya talk about how Mommy had looked for him so painstakingly back then made him distressed, but also relieved at the same time.

What Cherry said was true—Mommy had never given up on him before.

After Tanya talked about the past for a while, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Pete got up at once. "It must be Mommy!"

Tanya stared at him, caught between laughter and tears. It was only at times like this that Pete looked like what a boy his age should look like.

She smiled and went to open the door. "You're finally here! Your little brat is already sick of me by now!"

She opened the door as she spoke intimately, only to see Joel standing outside instead.

Tanya was stunned. "Why are you here?"

Joel's fox-like eyes, which easily made one feel as though he was deeply in love with them, were fixed on her.

But Tanya knew exactly how heartless the man was.

Seeing her expression go from joy to wariness, Joel lowered his gaze, acerbity filling his heart.

He said softly, "Nora is fine now. I came to take the child home."

Tanya was a little taken aback when she heard his term of address for Nora. Then, she looked away and uttered, "Oh."

She then glanced at Pete and asked, "Has she gone home yet?"

"No, but she'll be home soon."

Tanya was very wary. She said, "You can't take the child if she isn't home. Let's wait until she's home."

"Okay." Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, "Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?"

Tanya: "..."

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, "It's not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?"

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he said, "Isn't the child also at home?"

The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

Tanya sneered and said, "The child is still young, so it's still inappropriate. You'd better go back to the car and wait there instead, Mr. Smith.. I'll let you take the child once Nora gets home and retrieves her cell phone, and I confirm things with her."

Bam!

Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: "..."

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, "Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?"

"Oh, just an annoying fly," replied Tanya.

Joel: "..."

Half an hour later.

The perturbed and distracted Tanya glanced at the window.

The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

"Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?"

Pete's words interrupted Tanya's thoughts.

She said coldly, "It has nothing to do with me even if he's dead."

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn't help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel's legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn't putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, "I knew you wouldn't ignore me, Tanya."

"..."

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya's eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. "Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?"

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, "I don't want to go to the hospital." Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn't want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel's assistant.

The assistant said, "The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!"

The bodyguard retorted, "Even so, we can't just watch as someone hits him!"

"She won't."

"What?"

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya's foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, "Did he really not bring his assistant with him?"

"What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?"

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, "And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!"

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say 'elder brother', though?

Nora didn't realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, "Which brother?"

"... How many elder brothers do you have?!"

Chapter 332 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Nora's existence was his greatest worry.

Therefore, he was hesitant and indecisive.

On one side was his cousin from the Smiths, and on the other was his third uncle who was like a biological father. This caused him to hold back his concern for Nora.

As he thought about this, they arrived at the police station. He got out and walked to the police car.

The car had stopped a long time ago but no one got off. Just as he was feeling puzzled, he saw the back door open. Justin made a silencing gesture.

Joel: "?"

While he was in a daze, he saw Justin walking out of the car with Nora in his arms.

Nora had already fallen asleep.

Justin protected her carefully and walked very softly.

Morris was about to speak. "Mr..."

Before he could finish, Justin glared at him coldly. His viciousness made Morris subconsciously swallow his words.

Then, Justin carried her into the police station.

On the way, when everyone looked over, they were all frightened by Justin's gaze and did not dare to speak.

After entering the interrogation room, Justin carefully placed Nora on the bench. The woman turned over and fell asleep again.

At the door, Morris was speechless.

At this moment, someone walked over. "Sir!"

Morris subconsciously asked in a soft voice, "What's wrong?"

"I found out who poisoned Old Maddy."

When Morris heard this, a fierce look flashed across his dark eyes.

He took a look at the situation in the interrogation room.

After placing Nora on the bench inside, Justin stood guard there. Although he did not speak, it was obvious that no one could disturb him.

He could only take two steps to the side and walk around the interrogation room before asking, "Who is it?"

After the person reported, Morris lowered his eyes.

Finally, he nodded. "Okay, I understand."

With that, he walked toward the interrogation room. As he walked over, he saw a bodyguard in a black suit walking in with a blanket.

Morris: "?"

While he was in a daze, he saw another bodyguard walk in with a single mattress. Then, someone walked in with a pillow.

Morris: !!

The corners of his lips twitched. He stood at the door and realized that the hard bench in the interrogation room had already been set up as a soft bed. Nora mumbled something and turned around to continue sleeping.

Justin wrapped her in a blanket.

Morris was speechless.

He took a deep breath and walked in after building up his thoughts. He lowered his voice and said, "I've already found out that this has nothing to do with Miss Nora. She can go home and sleep."

"Shh."

Justin gestured for him to keep quiet and said, "We'll leave after she wakes up."

Morris: "?"

That's enough! What kind of place did he think this was? They would leave after she wakes up?

It was too humiliating!

As Morris thought about this, he turned around and walked out with a dark expression. When he reached the door, he paused for a moment and closed it.

The soundproofing in the interrogation room was very good. After the door was closed, it isolated all sound from the outside world. It was quieter inside, and it was more suitable for sleeping.

Justin was very satisfied.

At the Smiths.

Old Maddy's life was no longer in danger for the time being. He had been transferred to the intensive care unit to be guarded, and the people who stayed in the hospital left one after another.

After all, Old Maddy was only a servant at home.

After returning home, Yvonne entered his room in a daze. Just as she was about to close the door, someone pushed the door open and Florence walked in.

She frowned and said with a slightly angry expression, "Miss Yvonne, that illegitimate daughter is actually a very famous divine doctor! It's unbelievable! But so what? She's just a doctor. Someone who serves others can't be shown off! Which wealthy family cares about a doctor?"

As she spoke, she mumbled indignantly, "I really don't know how Yvette gave birth to this child. She actually inherited her mother's medical talent. She became the most famous surgeon at such a young age. I think she was also carved out from the same mold as her mother. She's a b*tch deep down! Otherwise, why would she get pregnant before marriage? I don't know what kind of drug she used on Mr. Hunt to make him fall in love with this kind of woman with a burden! How can a man raise someone else's child? Just like the old sir, why did he soften his heart and acknowledge Nora back into the Smiths? Her existence is a humiliation to him!"

Hearing this, Yvonne lowered her eyes and said indifferently, "It's because Mr. Hunt and Nora like each other! The Smiths and Hunts need a marriage alliance, so even if dad is forced to lower his head, he'll still acknowledge her."

These words made Florence's eyes turn red again. "Old Sir has really sacrificed too much for the Smiths!"

As she spoke, she almost cried. "Back then, Yvette ran away and left the old sir alone. He was unmarried throughout his life, and his family forced him to adopt a child. The old sir disagreed and asked Joel to come over, but he had never changed his name on the genealogy. The old sir even said that after he died, his ashes would be scattered into the sea so that he could look for Yvette... But the old sir was so devoted. How could Yvette betray him?"

Florence wiped her tears. "I'm just angry at Yvette. Why did she betray the old sir? The old sir's body that she messed with back then has now collapsed. Now that her daughter is back, she has caused chaos in the Smiths!"

"Old sir personally ordered Old Maddy to stay behind. Who in our family doesn't take care of Old Maddy? But she actually attacked Old Maddy... This is too much!"

"So is that Captain Ford. He said that Old Maddy was poisoned by someone. Old Maddy eats and wears the same as us. How could he be the only one who was poisoned?"

As Florence spoke, she sneered. "I think she might have been the one who poisoned him. She planned to save Old Maddy at the critical moment and increase her reputation!"

As soon as she finished speaking, there was a sudden movement downstairs.

Yvonne and Florence looked at each other and left the room. When they went downstairs, they saw the police chief standing there with a few police officers.

The butler's expression was dark. "Isn't Miss Nora at the police station? Why are you guys here again?"

The captain took out a search warrant. "We have detected pesticides in Old Maddy's blood. By monitoring his diet during this period, we determined that Old Maddy had taken this drug!"

With that, he took out a pill. "This pill looks like traditional medicine, but it's actually a pesticide! So, we need to investigate who gave this pill to Old Maddy."

The butler was stunned and looked at the pill.

Immediately, he turned around and looked at Florence!

One night, Florence secretly went to Old Maddy's room and fed him this pill. The butler had seen it with his own eyes!

Florence widened her eyes in shock. She even subconsciously shouted, "Isn't... isn't this the Carefree Pill?"

The police instantly turned towards her. "Did you feed Old Maddy this medicine?"

Florence nodded in a daze.

She then explained in a shaking voice, "Police officers, you're mistaken. This is a Carefree Pill. It's for treating Old Maddy. This pill was invented by the Harmonia Pharmacy! It's more than 3,000 dollars. It's very expensive!"

As she spoke, she took a step forward. "How is this some pesticide? It's really a Carefree Pill! It was invented by the Andersons. Nora knows about it! At that time, she was treating Old Maddy's illness. I saw that Old Maddy was unconscious every day and was worried that something would happen to him, so I fed him this pill..."

The more she spoke, the paler her face became.

Florence was not stupid. As an internal butler, she had handled many things. At this moment, she seemed to have understood something and looked at Yvonne in disbelief!

The policeman frowned. "Where did you get this pill?"

Florence stretched out her trembling hand and pointed at Yvonne.. "I, I took it from Miss Yvonne's room."

As soon as she said that, all the servants in the room looked at Yvonne.

Yvonne's eyes widened and she tensed up nervously. Then, she took a deep breath and said steadily, "Isn't that my mosquito repellent, Mdm. Florence? Why did you take it?"

Mosquito repellent?

Florence was stunned.

In a split second, she understood everything!

She looked at the pill in shock and then at Yvonne again. She felt as if her mind had become totally blank in this instant.

Was the woman standing in front of her really the Ms. Yvonne she had always thought of as gentle, generous, and understanding?

How could she lie... How could she lie?!

She had clearly told her that it was a Carefree Pill and told her to give it to Old Maddy, causing him to almost die!

Yvonne, however, took a step back. "Mdm. Florence, w-why are you looking at me like that?"

Why she was looking at her like that...?

Florence took a deep breath, and she suddenly made a decision.

By the time Nora woke up, it was already bright outside.

She opened her eyes slowly, feeling as if there were needles stabbing her in the head. Her brows drew together, and she reached out her fingers and

pressed them against her head. She was about to say something when a pair of strong, warm hands pressed against her head and gently massaged her temples.

The pain slowly eased, and her tightly-knitted brows finally relaxed. She looked at the man giving her a massage.

Justin was still wearing the same clothes he wore the day before. From the looks of it, he hadn't left the whole night?

Despite not having slept a wink all night, the man didn't look dispirited at all. Only the corners of his eyes revealed some fatigue.

Under the dim light of the interrogation room, his beauty mark lost some of its usual fierceness and became a little more alluring.

She unwittingly thought of how the man had held Morris hostage and told her to leave the day before. She stretched, stood up, and asked casually, "Weren't you afraid that I would flee?"

A smiling Justin looked at her and replied, "You wouldn't."

Nora paused in her stretching and asked, "Why? Because of the children?"

"Of course not," Justin took out a handkerchief and handed it to her, "It's because you said that you're in love with me."

Nora: "..."

The corners of her lips spasmed. She took the handkerchief from him and wiped her face casually. Then, she heard him say, "Just kidding. It's because I know you're not someone like that."

She froze again.

To be honest, the two of them hadn't really spent that much time together ever since her return to the States. In fact, the man wasn't even aware of many of her mysterious identities.

In spite of that, he had trusted her even in a situation like this.

She put down the handkerchief that she was wiping her face with. For some reason, as she gazed at the man's handsome face, her heart suddenly skipped a beat.

She hastily turned away and asked, "Is there anything to eat?"

She had slept all the way till now after she came back the night before, and had been asleep for a full fourteen hours. Although she was still sleepy, she had to get up and replenish some energy. Otherwise, her body wouldn't be able to take it.

"Yes, there is."

The man replied calmly. After taking out his cell phone and sending a message, someone opened the door and came in with a cart of food.

Morris, who had hurried over upon hearing that Nora had awakened, seemed trouble as his lip corners spasmed at the sight.

Those two... They were totally treating the interrogation room like it was a hotel, weren't they?

Not only had the man prepared bedding, but he had brought a washbasin and toiletries over when Nora was still asleep. In fact, he had even brought carts of piping hot food into the room early in the morning.

Every half an hour as the food turned cold, he would distribute them to the people in the police station.

Justin was doing this so that Nora would have fresh food to eat whenever she woke up!

Morris had never seen anyone who spoiled their wife more than Justin did!

He entered the room. He was about to speak when Justin suddenly held his hand up and stopped him. He said, "Captain Ford, wait till she's done eating if you have something to say, lest she gets indigestion."

Morris: "..."

He pulled a chair over and sat on it.

The interrogation room was clearly his home ground, yet the two of them were so relaxed that it was as if they were in a hotel instead. After finishing her breakfast leisurely, Nora finally looked at Morris and asked, "Captain Ford, is there any progress in the case?"

"Yes, there is."

Morris said, "The person who poisoned Old Maddy is Florence Stone. We have brought her back with us. She's in the interrogation room next door."

As soon as he said that, Justin said, "That poison isn't something an ordinary servant can easily obtain, is it?"

Morris nodded. "You're right. She took the medicine from Yvonne Smith's room."

Nora frowned. "And then?"

Morris said, "It's relatively difficult to convict Yvonne Smith of the crime. As there is no real evidence to prove that it was Yvonne Smith who made Florence Stone poison Old Maddy, what she did was, at best, tricking someone into committing a crime. Also, Stone... has admitted to doing it on her own."

She had admitted to it?

Nora suddenly said, "I'll go and talk to Florence."

"Okay."

In the interrogation room.

Nora saw Florence, who had been detained.

She looked tired and haggard as if she hadn't slept a wink all night because of fright. However, when she saw Nora, the look in her eyes suddenly became fierce and savage.

Nora went straight to the point. She merely asked, "Why?"

Why was she taking the rap for Yvonne?

Florence definitely wasn't the one who had poisoned Old Maddy.

The woman displayed all her emotions in the open and was also a direct and straightforward person who had ridiculed and mocked Nora at home. She was very protective of Ian in everything she said, so there was absolutely no way she would do anything to bring shame to the Smiths.

Florence understood what she meant.

She sneered, "Because she's the old sir's daughter. Even if she's just an adopted daughter, she's still his daughter, whereas you bring shame to him!"

Florence lowered her head. "I am indebted to the old sir. There's nothing I can do to repay him except for this."

Nora frowned. "But she's not a good person."

"So what if she's a good person? And so what even if she's a bad person?!" Florence became agitated. Her eyes reddened as she stared at Nora. "Back then, your mother was also a good person! She saved so many people! I had also thought she was a good person, so why did she betray the old sir? Do you have any idea how he lived all these years?!"

The Smiths didn't know anything about the conversation between Florence and Nora in the police station.

Joel was sitting in the study with his gaze lowered.

The door opened, and Yvonne walked in uneasily. "Were you asking for me, Joel?"

Joel looked up. "There's no way Mdm. Florence would poison Old Maddy. Both you and I know that very well."

Yvonne bit her lip and simply refused to admit to it. She said, "What do you mean by that, Joel? I don't understand what you're saying. Even Mdm. Florence herself has already admitted to it. I—"

But before she could finish, Joel had already cut her off. He said, "Uncle Ian hates people who violate the law and break rules the most.. Even if you're his daughter, you're not allowed to do that! Mdm. Florence may not expose you, but the Smiths will never tolerate and condone such vileness!"

Yvonne bit her lip when she heard him.

She looked at Joel.

The man sat leisurely behind the desk with his hands on it. However, his eyes, which were always smiling, were deep and bottomless.

He stared at Yvonne, making her feel as if all her clothes had been stripped off. Those eyes seemed to be able to see right through one, yet others couldn't tell what he was thinking.

Yvonne lowered her head. "I admit that I made a mistake, Joel. I shouldn't have bought a pill like that and left it in the room, thereby giving Mdm. Florence a chance to steal it. But I really didn't break the law. Surely you can't say that I broke the law just because someone stole the pill I bought and poisoned another person with it, right?"

Joel narrowed his fox-like eyes.

He sneered, "Yvonne, do you think I asked you here to force you to admit to your mistakes? You're wrong."

Yvonne was taken aback. Then, she heard the man's rich and mellow voice. He said slowly, "I'm not a police officer who needs evidence in order to convict someone of a crime. Neither do I need you to admit to anything. Both you and I know that very well."

His voice was gentle, yet it also seemed like a voice straight out of hell, causing Yvonne's heart to sink little by little.

Joel stood up. "Since there isn't any evidence, I won't hand you over to the police. Besides, you're Uncle Ian's daughter. How you should be dealt with will have to wait until Uncle Ian wakes up. However, you don't have to manage the family matters anymore during this time."

His words made Yvonne suddenly look up at him.

As Ian's one and only lawful daughter, Yvonne had always enjoyed a very high status in the family.

In fact, legally, she had a closer relationship with Ian than what Joel, Ian's nephew, had with him.

Therefore, while Joel managed the company's affairs, Yvonne was in charge of the family's affairs. Even Florence, the housekeeper in charge of the family's internal affairs, was just her helper.

Why did Louis keep suffering in her hands despite loathing her so much? It was thanks to the fact that she was the one in control of the finances!

Yet, Joel was going to deprive her of her authority?

Yvonne couldn't stop herself from retorting, "Who do you intend to put in charge of managing the family's affairs, if not me? Nora? You can't do that. I'm Dad's only daughter while she's nothing more than a shameful product of that woman's betrayal of Dad. Aren't you embarrassing Dad if you do that?"

Seeing that she was still arguing even now, Joel slowly cast his eyes down and said, "You can go now."

Yvonne wanted to argue some more, but she knew that Joel never changed his mind once he made a decision.

She clenched her fists, took a deep breath, and walked out of the study.

After she left, Quentin popped out of somewhere, went to Joel, and asked, "Are you really going to let her off just like that, Joel?"

Joel rubbed his temples, feeling a headache coming on.

He sighed and said, "Uncle Ian is still in a coma. As his only daughter, it's best that nothing happens to her for now. If Uncle Ian pulls through, he will deal with her himself."

Joel, who had been brought up by Ian himself, knew Ian's character all too well.

He hated schemes and conspiracies like these the most.

Besides, he felt that Uncle Ian didn't really seem to dislike Nora that much...

Quentin couldn't help asking, "What if Uncle Ian doesn't make it?"

The look in Joel's eyes suddenly turned cold. "Then it'll be the time that she gets married once she finishes two years of mourning for Uncle Ian."

As for who she'll marry and how much money to give her once she does, Joel had the final say!

Quentin nodded.

He and Joel were of the same opinion with regard to Nora—neither of them liked her very much. After all, he was someone constantly in the shadows. Nora's thoughts were just like his—unfit to be brought into the light.

While he was thinking about it, Joel asked, "Has Nora woken up?"

The sensitive Quentin discovered that Joel's term of address for Nora had changed. From the distant and alienated 'Ms. Smith', it had now become 'Nora'... Ahem!

Quentin straightened his back and replied, "I don't know. She was still asleep when I left. She had looked so lazy, didn't even work, and only knew to sleep every day in the past. But unexpectedly, she's actually the famous Anti... Thinking about it again, it's no wonder she's so rich!"

"... Rich?"

Quentin nodded. "Yeah. Don't you know? Louis has already become her fan just because she's rich!"

Joel couldn't help remarking dryly, "What a promising future that fellow has."

"I know, right?"

Quentin curled his lips disdainfully. "I, for one, won't bend over just because she's rich. If she wants my recognition... only if she's the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister!"

Joel: "..."

Quentin looked at him again. "What does our little cousin have to do in order to gain your recognition, Joel?"

Joel glanced at him, picked up company documents from the table, and said, "What a meaningless question."

Quentin curled his lips disdainfully.

Joel's phone vibrated at this point. He glanced at it and found that it was a text message from Tanya: 'Please let me know when Nora returns.'

Joel sent her a question mark.

Tanya immediately replied. As if she was eager to distance herself from him, she wrote: 'Nora isn't picking up my calls, so I reckon she's still being detained! Cherry misses her mom. Tell her to pick up her daughter once she returns.'

At the sight of the message, Joel immediately got up, picked up the car key, and walked out.

Quentin was taken aback. "Where are you going, Joel? Aren't you going to wait for our little cousin to come home?"

Joel didn't stop. He replied, "I'm picking up the child and bringing her home."

Quentin: "?"

'Child'?

Wasn't it the weekend? It didn't seem like Mia had gone to school, though?!

Nora only came out of the room after she was done talking to Florence.

She didn't really blame Florence. In fact, her loyalty to Ian made her sigh in admiration. What kind of age were they already in? Yet there were still people who could go to that extent for their masters.

No wonder Joel hadn't driven her away after he took over the family.

Morris asked, "How was it, Ms. Smith?"

Nora gave him her serious feedback. "The interrogation room's soundproofing is indeed pretty good. You can try using it if you ever have insomnia in the future."

Morris: "..."

He was asking if Florence had said anything! He wasn't asking about the interrogation room!!

But as he watched the unaffected woman in front of him, he fell silent for a moment before he finally said, "I apologize for my actions previously, Ms. Smith. I'm sorry."

Nora raised her eyebrows when she heard him.

Her lips curled into a smile and she suddenly said, "Apology accepted, Captain Ford, but I'd still like to ask you to do me a favor."

"What is it?"

Nora cast her eyes down and asked, "Can you tell me just what kind of case am I involved in?"

Her head had cleared up after she woke up.

Morris kept quiet for a while. He looked up and stared at her for very long, seemingly considering whether he could tell her about it. At last, he stepped aside and said, "Let's talk over there, Ms. Smith."

There were indeed some things he didn't need to hide from her anymore.

Nora nodded.. She gave Justin a comforting look and followed Morris into the confidential room next door.

Justin stood there and watched helplessly as Morris took her into the secret room. He frowned.

The confidentiality room was a room used for important cases in the country. No conversations inside would be recorded.

Therefore, be it discussing the case or presenting the case, it would be inside.

Back when Morris took Nora away forcefully and did not allow her to be bailed out, he knew that Nora might have been involved in a case.

Now, the mystery was finally going to be solved, right?

He lowered his eyes. His eyes were dark, and the mole at the corner of his eye seemed to be flickering. From his appearance, it seemed like he already knew what that secret was.

Nora originally thought that the soundproofing in the interrogation room was good enough, but when she entered the room and Morris closed the door, her heart skipped a beat.

All the sounds outside were blocked by a door, making her feel as if she was isolated from the entire world.

When she looked at Morris again, he was still as cold as ever. He pointed at the chair and motioned for her to sit down before sitting opposite her.

The two chairs were the same. He did not look like he was interrogating a criminal and it was like they were talking fairly.

While Morris was still struggling with his choice of words, Nora asked, "Is it about illegal drugs and human trials?"

Morris paused. "I didn't expect Miss Nora to be so perceptive."

Nora rolled her eyes.

How could she still not understand at this point!

After Old Maddy's incident, Morris had kept asking her if she had given Old Maddy any drugs. Then, he had detected some unknown components in Old Maddy's blood. He immediately became nervous and his attitude became worse.

At that time, Morris was certain that she had fed Old Maddy something.

Later on, when he realized that Old Maddy's blood contained drugs commonly used to poison rats and mosquitoes, Morris relaxed. He did not even participate in the arrest of Florence.

If she still could not detect anything, she was too slow.

Nora thought about this and asked, "Captain Ford, should we talk about this properly now?"

Morris nodded and crossed his arms on the table. His posture seemed more like he was testing and wary. "Miss Nora, do you know that there is a mysterious organization in this world that outsiders don't know about?"

A mysterious organization?

Nora's first reaction was Imperial League.

She lowered her eyes and looked calm, but her heart felt as if it had been scalded.

Imperial League was indeed a dangerous existence to be able to control the global economy. But according to what she knew, it didn't do human experiments or illegal drugs.

So it wasn't Imperial League.

She looked up at Morris and did not answer his question. "Please elaborate."

Morris observed the girl in front of him.

She had just woken up. Perhaps it was because she had slept for too long, but her almond-shaped eyes were a little swollen. Although she had eaten, her voice was still a little hoarse.

No one could guess what she was thinking.

Actually, Morris had been observing her for a long time, but he felt like this girl was covered in a veil. Every time he felt that she was just an ordinary person, she would do something that surprised him.

For example, her identity as Anti...

At the thought of this, Morris lowered his eyes. "We still don't know what that mysterious organization is called. We only know that they're doing human experiments and illegal pharmaceuticals. Moreover, the drugs they create are very dangerous and will cause a destructive blow to the entire human race!"

When Nora heard this, she slowly sat up straight. Her eyes became more serious. "A destructive blow?"

"Yes," Morris said slowly. "We've always guessed that they're creating a virus and they've already started human trials more than twenty years ago!"

20 years ago?

Nora frowned. "Is my mother related to this organization?"

Morris was silent for a long time before he said slowly, "We suspect that your mother was from this organization, so we secretly arrested her back then."

At this point, he lowered his eyes. "At that time, my mother was the leader of the operation team. After her arrest, your mother said that she had a patient waiting for her to treat. Otherwise, that patient would die. She even said that only she could treat that illness."

Nora suddenly understood. "Your mother let my mother go and my mother ran away. That's why you refused to let me go this time. You didn't believe what I said?"

Morris was speechless.

What did she mean by refusing to let her go...

He grimaced, ignoring her choice of words, and nodded. "Yes."

Nora suddenly understood his neurotic way of doing things. If it involved such a high-level case, forcing her to stay was understandable.

After saying everything, Morris stood up and extended his hand to her. "So, please understand my actions again."

"Sure."

Nora did not shake his hand and just waved it casually.

As they walked out, Morris took the opportunity to say, "Florence's poison was stolen from Yvonne's room, but if Florence doesn't say anything, we won't be able to hold Yvonne responsible. If Miss Nora wants to bring the real criminal to justice, you'd better think of a way to convince Florence."

Nora stretched lazily. When she thought of Florence's complaints about her, she lowered her eyes and said, "Unless I'm Ian's biological daughter, it's impossible to convince her!"

Morris was speechless.

Nora dragged her feet and lazily walked out the door. After meeting up with Justin, the two of them left the police station.

As soon as she went out, Lily appeared in front of her. She wanted to say something, but she glanced at Justin and pulled Nora to the side. She asked nervously, "Anti, are you okay?"

Nora nodded. "I'm fine."

Lily said indignantly, "What's wrong with the Smiths? Is this how they treat you? It's too much! Moreover, your DNA mutated a little in the later stages. No one can say for sure if you're really Ryan's daughter. I think your father is Ian!"

Nora patted her shoulder. "If you don't have evidence, don't talk nonsense."

Whether she was Ryan's daughter or Ian's, there was no accurate news for now. Unless they got real evidence, Nora would not say anything to the Smiths.

Otherwise, wouldn't it be awkward if she was really Ryan's daughter?

Lily was so angry that she blew raspberries. "Evidence? How can we get evidence now? Unless we go back more than twenty years ago and save some DNA samples from your birth, where else can we find evidence?"

20 years ago... DNA samples?

Nora suddenly thought of the manager who was protecting Idealian Pharmaceuticals for her mother.. Her eyes lit up.

Although Nora had been in New York for two to three months, Idealian Pharmaceuticals would send the dividends to her account on time in the past few months.

She just had a lot of money and never cared about it.

However, now that she thought about it, Wayne was the manager her mother had personally chosen. He also managed Idealian Pharmaceuticals and did not let Henry interfere to snatch it away. He definitely had his own means!

She nodded at Lily, picked up her phone, and walked to the side to call Wayne.

As soon as the call connected, Wayne's excited voice was heard. "Miss Nora, you've finally thought it through. Are you coming back to inherit the company?"

Nora: "..."

Why did this fellow seem so enthusiastic?

How unwilling was he to manage the company!

She grimaced and asked, "No, I just want to ask you a question."

The other party's voice immediately lowered as he said listlessly, "Okay, ask away."

Nora asked, "Did my mother leave anything for me at your place?"

"Yes!"

Before the other party could speak, Nora interrupted him. "Other than companionship and love, is there anything else?"

"...About that!" Wayne dragged out his words and sighed. "What specifically do you want?"

Nora asked tentatively, "For example, fetal hair? Or a blood sample?"

Wayne: "Of course not. Miss Nora, why would your mom leave your fetal hair for me? I'm not a pervert. I don't have a fetish for collecting hair!"

Nora: "..."

Wayne asked, "Miss Nora, are you busy?"

Nora: "No, what's wrong? Is there something wrong with the company?"

"Not really. After all, our small company relied on the formula your mother left behind. It's not a problem for us to prescribe some medicine. It can also ensure that you have no financial worries in your life." Wayne began to nag. "I just want to say, when are you coming back to manage the company? I'm really too busy alone! You don't even know that there are many miscellaneous matters in the company. As the chairman of Idealian Pharmaceuticals, you have to be responsible. You can't leave everything to me alone. I'm already old... blah, blah..."

Nora listened for a full minute. When she saw that he was still not stopping, she said, "By the way, what did you ask me just now?"

Wayne: "... If you were busy?"

Nora immediately said, "I'm very busy. I'm hanging up... Beep, beep, beep..."

Wayne was speechless.

Hearing the busy tone on the phone, Nora pouted. She really couldn't listen to a naggy person.

She looked at Lily. "I might be busy for a while. Stay in the country for now."

"Okay."

As her first assistant, Lily was very competent. "Where do I stay?"

Nora thought for a moment. "Stay with me in the Smiths."

After her identity was exposed, there would definitely be many people looking for her. It was very troublesome. This would require Lily to handle it. If there were problems that other doctors could resolve, Lily would help recommend them. If Nora had to do it, Lily would arrange a schedule for her.

At the thought of this, Nora felt a headache coming on.

She rubbed her temples and walked with Lily to Justin's car.

Justin stood at the side. When he saw the two of them walk over, he opened the back door, and Nora got into the car. Lily wanted to follow them, but she realized that Justin was blocking the door.

Lily was stunned. She looked up and saw Justin glance at the front passenger seat.

Lily immediately understood and stuck out her tongue. "I'll be in the front passenger seat! I'm not an insensitive person, Anti's boyfriend."

Anti's boyfriend?

Justin was a little stunned when he heard this title.

Usually, when he was outside, people would call him Mr. Hunt or Justin. This was the first time he was called Nora's boyfriend.

He suddenly liked this nickname.

He lowered his head slightly and got into the car. He entered the backseat and sat with Nora.

The journey was silent. After Justin took the two of them to the Smiths, he did not stay any longer. After all, he had not slept the entire night. He wanted to go back and recuperate.

Besides, Cherry was still waiting for him at the Hunts.

Nora brought Lily into the house. Just as they entered, the butler welcomed them. "Miss Nora, you're back!"

His attitude became much more respectful.

Nora was taken aback for a moment.

The butler bowed deeply to her. "Miss Nora, I was wrong to have misunderstood that you were trying to harm Old Maddy. I didn't expect you to be the famous Anti. I was blind!"

"Miss Nora, we misunderstood you!"

When the other servants heard that she was back, they immediately walked out and bowed to her.

Those who could work in wealthy families were not fools.

Initially, they thought that Nora was going to use Old Maddy to make a name for herself. They did not expect that she was really going to treat him!

On the other hand, Florence had stolen poison from Miss Yvonne's study and almost killed Old Maddy!

It was obvious at a glance which young lady did not care about their lives!

Initially, when Nora had come to live with the Smiths, everyone still felt some disdain for her. They felt that she was just a wild chicken who had become a phoenix thanks to her background. However, at this moment, everyone admired her from the bottom of their hearts.

On the way back to her room, all the servants who saw her stood at a distance and bowed to her to express their apologies.

The servants in the entire manor had a 180-degree change in attitude toward her!

Nora entered the living room. The housekeeper, Lucy, who had just been promoted by Joel, hurried over. "Miss Nora, you're finally back! Do you have any orders for me?"

Nora glanced at him.

Lucy was in her thirties. She looked very young and energetic. Her attitude toward her was very respectful.

Nora pointed at Lily. "This is my assistant. She will be staying here for a period of time. Please arrange a guest room for her."

"No problem!"

Lucy immediately said, "Miss Lily, you can wait in the living room and tell me the style of the room you like. I'll choose a guest room that you like."

Nora was going upstairs to take a shower, so she went up first.

Lily sat in the living room. After choosing a guest room, Lucy arranged for someone to tidy it up and accompany her.

At this moment, Yvonne suddenly walked down and casually instructed, "Lucy, come over. I have something to tell you."

Lucy was stunned and looked at Lily. "Miss Yvonne, there's... a guest here."

Yvonne's gaze instantly turned sharp as she stared at Lucy. "Lucy, since you're in this family, you should understand who the real daughter of this family is! The entire Smiths belong to my father!"

Lucy was Joel's caretaker.

It could be said that she was the nanny who had taken care of Joel since he was young. Because she was meticulous and smart, she had always worked for the Smiths.

As Joel grew up, Lucy had also slowly been promoted and given a raise from taking care of him. Before Florence was taken away by the police, her words at home already carried a lot of weight.

Even Florence and Yvonne were polite to her because of Joel.

After all, Florence was already old, and Joel was the new head of the Smiths. Her future status could be imagined.

Lucy had watched Yvonne grow up. She was loyal to Joel, so she naturally disliked Yvonne.

After all... Joel was the one Ian had chosen. Yvonne was Ian's adopted daughter, but she had a high status at home and always suppressed others.

In the past, when she saw Maureen giving in to Yvonne, she couldn't help but wonder if Joel would give in to her at home when he got married in the future.

However, Joel's wife would be the madam of the Smiths! She would also be the future matriarch of the Smiths!

Therefore, Lucy and Yvonne were born to be enemies.

Coupled with the fact that Old Maddy had been poisoned, everyone knew that Florence was either under Yvonne's orders or had been deceived. Therefore, they felt even more disdain for Yvonne.

Yvonne had lost control of the family, and Lucy was now in charge of the family's matters.

Lucy did not feel threatened by her words. She only smiled and said, "Miss Yvonne, from what you're saying, you're older than Miss Nora. Of course, you're the eldest daughter of the Smiths! It's just that I still have a guest here. Furthermore, Mr. Joel has just handed the house to me. I have all kinds of miscellaneous matters to deal with here. I'm a quiet person and I'm cautious in my actions. I don't dare to make any mistakes or embarrass myself in front of a guest. If news of this gets out, no one will scold me. They will only say that the Smiths' upbringing is bad. Don't you think so?"

Yvonne: "!!"

She had long known that Lucy was not a pushover, but she did not expect her to rebut her like this.

Yvonne's face turned red and white.

The surrounding servants were clearly working, but Yvonne knew that they must have strained their ears to eavesdrop on their conversation.

After Joel fired the housekeeper, Yvonne knew that Lucy would definitely hit her while she was down. When she made things difficult for Lucy earlier, she wanted everyone to see that even if she had done something wrong, she was still the owner of the Smiths!

However, she did not expect to meet a wall with Lucy.

She took a deep breath. She knew that at this moment, she had to turn the situation around. Otherwise, she would really be looked down upon.

She lowered her eyes. "Lucy, I only called you over to tell you how to entertain the guest. Why are you making it sound so grand? Or do you think that I, as the eldest daughter, have no right to give you instructions?"

With that, she sneered. "Dad is indeed in the hospital. Joel is in charge of the family now, but Dad is still around. Do you think he'll be happy to know that you're talking to me like this after he wakes up?"

Lucy choked.

Ian was equivalent to the emperor emeritus in the family. Everyone knew that he had the ability to take back control of the family. It was just that Joel was very filial and Ian was very satisfied with him!

Lucy did not dare to say such words. She immediately stood up. "Miss Yvonne, what do you want to say?"

Yvonne glanced at Lily and said, "Since there's a guest at home, let's add a few dishes tonight! This lady must have returned from overseas. She must be very interested in the delicacies in New York. We can prepare a sweet and sour fish."

The list of dishes prepared in the kitchen had long been prepared. If Yvonne suddenly added more dishes, the chef would definitely have to rush out to buy ingredients. This would make things difficult for the kitchen.

However, Lucy still agreed with a smile. “Miss Yvonne is right. I’ll get someone to prepare it right away.”

Yvonne nodded.

When she turned around and walked upstairs, she sensitively saw Lucy purse her lips and make a disdainful expression.

Yvonne forcefully suppressed the anger in her heart.

She was just a servant, yet she dared to be rude to her!

Furthermore, the rest of the family’s attitude toward her had clearly changed. There was coldness in their distance, just like how they treated Nora in the past.

But so what?

Nora was the daughter of the second branch. She was basically from the side family! Now, the Smiths’ direct line of descent was her!

As long as she was still Ian’s legal daughter, then she would have a share of his family fortune! Even if she was an adopted daughter, she was still better than Nora, the legitimate cousin of the Smiths!

After all, how could a niece get an uncle’s inheritance?

In the Smiths, her identity as Yvonne would forever suppress Nora!

At this moment, outside the door.

Lisa stood there and was answering a call. It was Nora’s aunt, Irene. “...I wonder how Nora is now. Go and take a look. Why is she suspected of medical malpractice? This child didn’t say anything either. If I hadn’t seen the news, I wouldn’t have known! Sigh!”

Lisa stood at the door, feeling a little conflicted. “Mom, Nora isn’t Henry’s biological daughter. Isn’t it bad for me to go looking for her like this?”

Ever since she found out that Nora was not Henry's biological daughter, Lisa did not dare to visit her again.

Now that she knew Nora was her mentor, Anti, she became even more fearful!

However, after watching the live broadcast and the news, she was the same as her mother. She was very worried about Nora's comfort in the Smiths. Did the Smiths not treat her well enough?

Lisa looked at the imposing door in front of her and became even more hesitant.

She did not expect Nora to be this family's daughter...

As she was feeling ashamed of herself, Irene's voice was heard. "What's wrong with that? I believe Nora isn't that kind of person! She'll acknowledge us!"

Lisa nodded and took a deep breath. "Alright."

At this moment, Lisa's father, Bobby, said, "Honey, do you remember Lisa's umbilical cord blood?"

Irene was stunned. "What's wrong?"

Bobby said, "Back then, when you gave birth to Lisa, we spent about 3,000 dollars to keep her umbilical cord blood for more than twenty years. The hospital called me just now and asked if we wanted to keep it for a while longer."

Irene immediately said, "Is it expired? Then you can renew the fees."

With that, she sighed. "Speaking of which, I learned how to store umbilical cord blood from Nora's mother. When she gave birth to Nora, she had kept her umbilical cord blood for her. Now, it should still be in the hospital's freezer.. By the way, Lisa, when you see Nora, remember to tell her. She definitely doesn't know about this yet! If it's useful in the future..."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Bobby interrupted Irene. "When would you need the umbilical cord blood? I hope she won't need to use it for the rest of her life!"

Cord blood was mainly used to treat blood diseases, such as leukemia. Under normal circumstances, it would definitely not be needed.

Irene immediately snorted. "Yes, Nora definitely won't need it. But we still have to tell her."

The disappointing brother at home had already disappeared for a long time. The Blacks in California were living more comfortably than before.

Especially since Bobby had recently been in a few big business deals with the company.

Although Bobby did not know who had helped him, he had a feeling that it might be related to Nora.

He was a good kid who knew how to repay kindness. Back then, he had misunderstood that Nora did not care about his wife's life. However, when he saw the live broadcast, he finally understood why Nora was so indifferent back then.

It turned out that the doctor she had found for the Blacks was herself!

Bobby was feeling guilty about chasing her out of the hospital back then, so he snatched the phone away and said to Lisa, "When you see Nora, remember to help me bring her home. Ask her to bring the child over to play when she's free. I'll make her favorite brown sugar rice cake!"

"...Okay." Lisa hung up the phone and looked at the luxurious door in front of her again. She thought for a long time before knocking on the door.

The door opened quickly. The guard asked, "Who are you looking for?"

Lisa: "...I'm looking for Nora."

The guard looked her up and down. "Wait a minute."

"Okay."

The guard called and entered the hall. The housekeeper, Lucy, had just tidied up the guest room for Lily. After receiving the call, she was about to call Nora to ask if she should come in when she was stopped by Lily. "Let Miss Lisa in first. An... Miss Nora should be sleeping right now. Don't disturb her."

Lily knew Nora's body very well. She had spent the entire day at the police station yesterday and went to treat Old Maddy at night. Even though she had slept for a while, her energy had not recovered yet. She must be sleeping right now!

Lucy listened to Lily and let the guard bring Lisa in.

Upstairs, Yvonne listened to their conversation and bit her lip in anger. She was just a servant, and she would chatter away after saying a few words. However, when Nora's assistant spoke, she was as obedient as anything. She simply did not take her seriously!

How infuriating!

When Lisa was led into the Smiths' residence, she was first stunned by the lavish courtyard.

This was New York!

In places where every inch of land was worth money, they actually had such a large manor. Furthermore, she was perceptive to the fact that some places had flowers planted and some places had vegetables. This was the first time Lisa experienced the difference between her and a truly wealthy family!

She was already so terrified. No wonder Nora was being bullied here!

Yes, she was certain that Nora had suffered in the Smiths.

It was just medical malpractice. Even in California, if Henry did not appear, her parents could still bail her out. But in New York, the Smiths actually allowed Nora to be detained for 24 hours!

Wasn't it just because they were rich?

As Lisa thought about this, she became even more furious.

At this moment, a playful voice was heard. "Hey, who is this?"

Lisa turned around and saw a man around her age with blond hair... To be precise, it was a young man walking over. She frowned when she heard the housekeeper say, "Mr. Louis, this is Miss Nora's cousin from California."

Louis immediately sized up Lisa when he heard this.

Was this his cousin's trash family in California?

Ever since Nora became his idol, he had asked around about her. When he asked around, he was instantly furious. He did not expect his cousin to live like that in California!

Especially that shameless cheap father of hers. He had taken her mother's money and still treated her so badly!

Therefore, Louis did not have a good impression of the family in California. When he saw Lisa, he immediately sneered. "Tsk, are you here to take advantage of Nora now that she has become a phoenix?"

Taking advantage of Nora?

Lisa felt Louis's disdain and was instantly infuriated.

She was still a guest, yet he was already being so rude. Wouldn't the Smiths be even more rude to Nora?

The soft person had also lost her temper. She was so angry that her face was red and her voice was trembling. "What's so great about you? Do you have to look down on me?"

Louis raised his head and placed his hands on his hips. "The Smiths are very impressive. Country bumpkin, you must have never seen such a big courtyard, right?"

Country bumpkin?

Did they scold Nora like that too?

Lisa kicked the flower bed beside her in anger. "Who are you calling a country bumpkin?"

Louis made a face. "Whoever cares about it is the country bumpkin! What do you think your family is? Tsk, little girl, I advise you to be careful. Do you know how much this jar of flowers costs? Any one of them is worth thousands of dollars! If you broke it, can you afford to pay?"

Lisa: "!!"

Her eyes were red as she glared at the jar of flowers. She walked to the other side and planned to kick the grass, but Louis said proudly, “The grass over there is no ordinary grass. It’s orchid! One stalk is worth tens of thousands! Are you sure you want to kick it?”

Lisa paused again and looked to the side.

Louis clicked his tongue and showed a disdainful expression. “Little girl, the piece of land you’re standing on is worth hundreds of thousands per square meter. Our family is rich, what can you say?”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “Even if you have a lot of money, you can’t buy kinship. Why are you looking down on us?”

Louis didn’t notice this “us” and thought that she was talking about the family in California. Therefore, he stuck out his tongue. “I’m just looking down on you. Hit me if you dare!”

As soon as he said this, Lisa had already raised her little fist and punched him in the face. “I’m so angry! I’ll let you know today that money is not everything. There are some people you can’t afford to offend!”

Louis took a nimble step back and Lisa chased after him.

The two of them immediately started fighting.

This was what Lily saw when she went out.

Both of them had their hands on their hips.

Louis said annoyingly, “Hmph, your family bullied my cousin. Now, it’s my turn to bully you!”

Lisa’s face was also red as she roared angrily, “The Smiths are bullying my cousin. Let me tell you, my cousin and the Blacks are not people who can be bullied easily!”

At this moment, Lisa was pinching Louis’s face while Louis was pushing Lisa’s neck to prevent her from getting too close to him. Louis did not dare to make a move. After all, the other party was a girl and he was still merciful.

The two of them were stunned when they heard each other.

Lisa's grip loosened. "What did you say?"

Louis was stunned too. "What did you say? The Blacks? Aren't you the Smiths from California?"

Lisa: "?"

Louis thought for a moment and coughed. "I think we misunderstood. Let go and talk things out."

Lisa was furious. "No, let go of me first."

Louis: "...Why don't I call out 'one, two, three' and we'll let go together?"

"Okay."

"One, two, three..."

Even after he finished counting, they were still intertwined.

Louis said, "Let go!"

Lisa: "Let go of me first!"

Lily was speechless.

The two of them were already 20 years old. Together, they were already 40! Yet, they were still so childish!

The corners of her lips twitched. She took a step forward and said, "Louis, Lisa, you've misunderstood! You're both Nora's best relatives! Let go of each other quickly!"

Louis asked hesitantly, "What are you talking about? Didn't you say that the Smiths in California treated her badly?"

"...It's the Smiths' fault. Lisa is the daughter of Nora's aunt. If it weren't for Nora's aunt, she might have starved to death when she was young!"

Louis let go of her immediately when he heard that. "It's a misunderstanding. Why aren't you letting go? It hurts!"

Lisa looked at Lily. “Who are you? Are you treating Nora badly like the Smiths?”

Lily: “...I’m Lily! Anti’s assistant! Lisa, please let go. The Smiths have never treated Nora badly!”

As medical students, Anti was a God to them. And Anti’s assistant, Lily, was also a legend. After all, those who could be Anti’s assistants definitely had good medical skills!

Even Lily was an outstanding surgeon!

Lisa felt a sense of respect for her and hurriedly let go of Louis. Her face was red with embarrassment. “Miss Lily! I’m, I’m sorry... I didn’t know...”

She lowered her head and stammered sheepishly.

Louis pointed at her angrily. “Why are you acting weak here? I think you did it on purpose!”

Lisa immediately lost her earlier cautiousness and raised her chin like a fighting chicken. “You were the one who started talking bad about me the moment you entered!”

“You even beat me up! I’ll tell Nora later how savage this little cousin of hers is! What a yellow-haired brat!”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “You, you’re the real yellow-haired brat!”

Louis: “??”

He touched his blond hair and was furious. He hated it when people pointed out his yellow hair. He looked at Lisa and roared, “Say that again if you dare!”

Lisa: “You’re already a yellow-haired brat. Why can’t you let others say it?”

Louis took a step forward and was about to scare her when he tripped and suddenly pounced at Lisa.

Lisa was not as agile and was immediately pinned under him.

Fortunately, there was a big lawn beneath them. It did not hurt much, but coincidentally, Louis's lips were on Lisa's.

Everyone: "!!"

After 10 seconds of silence, Louis stood up with his hands on the grass in a daze.

Lisa's eyes widened as she wiped her mouth with all her might. "Ah, you pervert!"

Seeing her look of disdain, Louis pouted. "I don't have an infectious disease. Aren't you overreacting?"

He touched his lips, and for some reason, he suddenly recalled that soft feeling from earlier. His face turned a little red. At this moment, he saw Lisa turn to look at the ground. Her eyes immediately turned red, and large tears rolled down her face.

Louis was shocked. "Hey, what are you doing? Isn't it just a kiss? Is it worth crying and making a scene?"

Lisa cried, "Of course you don't feel anything! But... I can't afford to pay for these lawns!"

Louis: "!!"

It turned out that this was the reason!

He scratched his head and coughed. "Don't cry. These lawns are not expensive."

Another tear fell from Lisa's eye. "Didn't you just say that a single orchid cost hundreds of thousands?"

Louis: "...I lied to you."

"..."

Lisa wiped her tears and was so angry that her heart hurt. What kind of family did Nora live in?! The people here were all too perverted!

She followed Lily into the living room angrily.

Louis followed her in and sat on the sofa. He had his hands behind his head and glanced at Lisa from time to time.

At this moment, Yvonne walked down from upstairs and smiled. "There's another guest at home?"

Her behavior was still magnanimous and appropriate. She looked like someone from a noble family, and Lisa immediately sat up straight and felt restrained.

Lucy replied, "Miss Yvonne, she's Miss Nora's cousin."

Yvonne smiled. "Nora really has a lot of friends and relatives!"

Her words were filled with mockery.

Lisa bit her lip. She had always been a sensitive and suspicious girl. It was obvious that she could sense Yvonne's hostility.

Especially when Yvonne looked at her from head to toe, her eyes filled with disdain.

Lisa didn't even know where to put her hands and feet.

At this moment, Louis said, "Tsk, why are you acting as the mistress here? I heard that Joel has taken away all your rights! I should really buy some firecrackers to celebrate!"

Yvonne clenched her fists and smiled. "Louis, there's a guest here. Speak properly."

She looked like a good sister.

Louis pouted. "She's not a guest. She's Nora's cousin, which means she's also my cousin."

Yvonne smiled. "But isn't Nora unrelated to the Smiths in California? I heard that she broke off ties with them during the last live broadcast."

These words made Lisa even more embarrassed. It was as if she was pestering them right now.

She stood up suddenly and was about to say goodbye when she heard Louis laugh.

Yvonne asked, "What are you laughing about?"

Louis touched his hair. "I'm laughing at you.. Anyone else can talk about blood relations, but can you? You're not related to our family by blood. According to your logic, you're not a member of the Smiths?"

"You—"

He dissed Yvonne to the point that she was rendered speechless.

She turned and went upstairs in a huff.

Louis curled his lips disdainfully behind her and said to Lisa, "Don't bother with her. She's just spoiled."

Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. "She looks pretty graceful to me, though."

Louis gnashed his teeth in fury and said, "It's all an act. I know that woman the best, we grew up together. She does one thing in front of other people and another altogether behind their backs, and is the most hypocritical person ever. She has no blood relation to the Smiths. She'd be nothing at all if Uncle Ian hadn't adopted her."

"... Oh," said Lisa.

After saying that, Louis realized that it wasn't appropriate for him to badmouth his family to an outsider, so he said, "Just keep waiting here. I'll go up for now."

He had a bedroom in the Smiths' manor. When Louis heard that Yvonne was no longer taking charge at home, he had come back excitedly, hoping to see her down and out.

He had made up his mind—he was going to move back to the Smiths' from this day on!

In the suburbs of New York.

Tanya was playing games with Pete in the villa. She had specially bought a jigsaw puzzle meant for twelve-year-olds and above, which had a higher level of difficulty, so that she could keep Pete company.

But unexpectedly, a brief two minutes later, Tanya looked at the completed jigsaw puzzle on the floor, and then at Pete, who sighed and said, "It's too easy."

Tanya: "..."

She asked tentatively: "Shall I buy you a jigsaw puzzle meant for grown-ups next time?"

"... God-mom, do you like jigsaw puzzles a lot?"

Tanya: "?"

Pete sighed and said, "I've already played with you for so long. Can I go and do my Olympiad assignments now?"

Tanya: "!!"

So, to Pete, doing jigsaw puzzles with her was actually a waste of time and energy?!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. "Go ahead."

Only then did a satisfied Pete walk over to the desk next to them and take out his Mathematical Olympiad workbook from his schoolbag. Before he started working on the problems, he suddenly looked at Tanya and asked, "Is Mommy really okay?"

Tanya was taken aback.

She had brought Pete back with her after school the day before. Pete had followed her home without saying anything at that time. She'd thought that he wouldn't ask about it, but unexpectedly, he was actually such a perceptive boy.

Tanya said, "She'll be fine."

Pete kept quiet for a while before he asked, "Mommy will come and pick me up, right?"

Tanya: "..."

The way he was asking those questions so seriously and with such a tense look on his face broke Tanya's heart.

It was only then that Tanya realized that even though Nora had found Pete, and that even though he was sleeping on the same bed as his mother every day these days, Pete was actually still very insecure at heart.

She walked over, hugged Pete, and kissed him on the cheek. "Don't worry, she'll definitely come. Your mom loves you very, very much. When we were looking for our children abroad back then, she was really crazy about it."

Her words piqued Pete's interest all of a sudden. He asked, "How so?"

Tanya: "????"

Pete put down the workbook in his hand and looked at her seriously, his eyes full of interest. He really wanted to know all the details!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. She had gotten him so many toys, yet none of them had aroused Pete's interest at all. Instead, a simple one-liner from her had unexpectedly made the boy so fixated on something.

She could only say, "Your mom was in poor health when she first went overseas. Even so, she insisted on coming to our meetings every week and listened to us share our experiences in looking for our children. After that, she would try again and again to return to the States. At that time, she was falling comatose for a while almost every day, so your grand-aunt never allowed her to come back. Thus, she got people to look for you in the country instead.

"I remember that there was once a liar who called your mom and told her that he had found clues about your whereabouts. We all knew he was a liar, but your mom believed him. I tried to talk her out of it when she was giving him money, but she instead said, 'I know he's a liar, but what if he really has news about my son? I won't allow myself to miss out on any possibility.'

"There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs..."

Tanya's eyes reddened as she spoke.

It hadn't been easy for her and Nora during all those years back then.

Nora's suffering had already come to an end, but what about her?

There was still no news about her child even now.

Tanya lowered her head. She didn't notice Pete's eyes flickering.

Even though Pete now had a mother, he had still felt insecure all this time. After all, his family was incomplete, and Mommy was always finding Daddy too troublesome.

He had actually had nightmares quite a few times.

He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn't want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn't catch up to them at all.

His feet were so heavy in the dream.

He was afraid that Mommy would suddenly separate from Daddy one day and leave him.

Listening to Tanya talk about how Mommy had looked for him so painstakingly back then made him distressed, but also relieved at the same time.

What Cherry said was true—Mommy had never given up on him before.

After Tanya talked about the past for a while, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Pete got up at once. "It must be Mommy!"

Tanya stared at him, caught between laughter and tears. It was only at times like this that Pete looked like what a boy his age should look like.

She smiled and went to open the door. "You're finally here! Your little brat is already sick of me by now!"

She opened the door as she spoke intimately, only to see Joel standing outside instead.

Tanya was stunned. "Why are you here?"

Joel's fox-like eyes, which easily made one feel as though he was deeply in love with them, were fixed on her.

But Tanya knew exactly how heartless the man was.

Seeing her expression go from joy to wariness, Joel lowered his gaze, acerbity filling his heart.

He said softly, "Nora is fine now. I came to take the child home."

Tanya was a little taken aback when she heard his term of address for Nora. Then, she looked away and uttered, "Oh."

She then glanced at Pete and asked, "Has she gone home yet?"

"No, but she'll be home soon."

Tanya was very wary. She said, "You can't take the child if she isn't home. Let's wait until she's home."

"Okay." Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, "Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?"

Tanya: "..."

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, "It's not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?"

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he said, "Isn't the child also at home?"

The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

Tanya sneered and said, "The child is still young, so it's still inappropriate. You'd better go back to the car and wait there instead, Mr. Smith.. I'll let you take the child once Nora gets home and retrieves her cell phone, and I confirm things with her."

Bam!

Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: "..."

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, "Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?"

"Oh, just an annoying fly," replied Tanya.

Joel: "..."

Half an hour later.

The perturbed and distracted Tanya glanced at the window.

The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

"Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?"

Pete's words interrupted Tanya's thoughts.

She said coldly, "It has nothing to do with me even if he's dead."

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn't help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel's legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn't putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, "I knew you wouldn't ignore me, Tanya."

"..."

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya's eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. "Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?"

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, "I don't want to go to the hospital." Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn't want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel's assistant.

The assistant said, "The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!"

The bodyguard retorted, "Even so, we can't just watch as someone hits him!"

"She won't."

"What?"

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya's foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, "Did he really not bring his assistant with him?"

"What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?"

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, "And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!"

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say 'elder brother', though?

Nora didn't realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, "Which brother?"

"... How many elder brothers do you have?!"

Chapter 333 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

As soon as she said that, all the servants in the room looked at Yvonne.

Yvonne's eyes widened and she tensed up nervously. Then, she took a deep breath and said steadily, "Isn't that my mosquito repellent, Mdm. Florence? Why did you take it?"

Mosquito repellent?

Florence was stunned.

In a split second, she understood everything!

She looked at the pill in shock and then at Yvonne again. She felt as if her mind had become totally blank in this instant.

Was the woman standing in front of her really the Ms. Yvonne she had always thought of as gentle, generous, and understanding?

How could she lie... How could she lie?!

She had clearly told her that it was a Carefree Pill and told her to give it to Old Maddy, causing him to almost die!

Yvonne, however, took a step back. "Mdm. Florence, w-why are you looking at me like that?"

Why she was looking at her like that...?

Florence took a deep breath, and she suddenly made a decision.

By the time Nora woke up, it was already bright outside.

She opened her eyes slowly, feeling as if there were needles stabbing her in the head. Her brows drew together, and she reached out her fingers and pressed them against her head. She was about to say something when a pair of strong, warm hands pressed against her head and gently massaged her temples.

The pain slowly eased, and her tightly-knitted brows finally relaxed. She looked at the man giving her a massage.

Justin was still wearing the same clothes he wore the day before. From the looks of it, he hadn't left the whole night?

Despite not having slept a wink all night, the man didn't look dispirited at all. Only the corners of his eyes revealed some fatigue.

Under the dim light of the interrogation room, his beauty mark lost some of its usual fierceness and became a little more alluring.

She unwittingly thought of how the man had held Morris hostage and told her to leave the day before. She stretched, stood up, and asked casually, "Weren't you afraid that I would flee?"

A smiling Justin looked at her and replied, "You wouldn't."

Nora paused in her stretching and asked, "Why? Because of the children?"

"Of course not," Justin took out a handkerchief and handed it to her, "It's because you said that you're in love with me."

Nora: "..."

The corners of her lips spasmed. She took the handkerchief from him and wiped her face casually. Then, she heard him say, "Just kidding. It's because I know you're not someone like that."

She froze again.

To be honest, the two of them hadn't really spent that much time together ever since her return to the States. In fact, the man wasn't even aware of many of her mysterious identities.

In spite of that, he had trusted her even in a situation like this.

She put down the handkerchief that she was wiping her face with. For some reason, as she gazed at the man's handsome face, her heart suddenly skipped a beat.

She hastily turned away and asked, "Is there anything to eat?"

She had slept all the way till now after she came back the night before, and had been asleep for a full fourteen hours. Although she was still sleepy, she had to get up and replenish some energy. Otherwise, her body wouldn't be able to take it.

"Yes, there is."

The man replied calmly. After taking out his cell phone and sending a message, someone opened the door and came in with a cart of food.

Morris, who had hurried over upon hearing that Nora had awakened, seemed trouble as his lip corners spasmed at the sight.

Those two... They were totally treating the interrogation room like it was a hotel, weren't they?

Not only had the man prepared bedding, but he had brought a washbasin and toiletries over when Nora was still asleep. In fact, he had even brought carts of piping hot food into the room early in the morning.

Every half an hour as the food turned cold, he would distribute them to the people in the police station.

Justin was doing this so that Nora would have fresh food to eat whenever she woke up!

Morris had never seen anyone who spoiled their wife more than Justin did!

He entered the room. He was about to speak when Justin suddenly held his hand up and stopped him. He said, "Captain Ford, wait till she's done eating if you have something to say, lest she gets indigestion."

Morris: "..."

He pulled a chair over and sat on it.

The interrogation room was clearly his home ground, yet the two of them were so relaxed that it was as if they were in a hotel instead. After finishing her breakfast leisurely, Nora finally looked at Morris and asked, "Captain Ford, is there any progress in the case?"

"Yes, there is."

Morris said, "The person who poisoned Old Maddy is Florence Stone. We have brought her back with us. She's in the interrogation room next door."

As soon as he said that, Justin said, "That poison isn't something an ordinary servant can easily obtain, is it?"

Morris nodded. "You're right. She took the medicine from Yvonne Smith's room."

Nora frowned. "And then?"

Morris said, "It's relatively difficult to convict Yvonne Smith of the crime. As there is no real evidence to prove that it was Yvonne Smith who made

Florence Stone poison Old Maddy, what she did was, at best, tricking someone into committing a crime. Also, Stone... has admitted to doing it on her own."

She had admitted to it?

Nora suddenly said, "I'll go and talk to Florence."

"Okay."

In the interrogation room.

Nora saw Florence, who had been detained.

She looked tired and haggard as if she hadn't slept a wink all night because of fright. However, when she saw Nora, the look in her eyes suddenly became fierce and savage.

Nora went straight to the point. She merely asked, "Why?"

Why was she taking the rap for Yvonne?

Florence definitely wasn't the one who had poisoned Old Maddy.

The woman displayed all her emotions in the open and was also a direct and straightforward person who had ridiculed and mocked Nora at home. She was very protective of Ian in everything she said, so there was absolutely no way she would do anything to bring shame to the Smiths.

Florence understood what she meant.

She sneered, "Because she's the old sir's daughter. Even if she's just an adopted daughter, she's still his daughter, whereas you bring shame to him!"

Florence lowered her head. "I am indebted to the old sir. There's nothing I can do to repay him except for this."

Nora frowned. "But she's not a good person."

"So what if she's a good person? And so what even if she's a bad person?!" Florence became agitated. Her eyes reddened as she stared at Nora. "Back then, your mother was also a good person! She saved so many people! I had

also thought she was a good person, so why did she betray the old sir? Do you have any idea how he lived all these years?!”

The Smiths didn't know anything about the conversation between Florence and Nora in the police station.

Joel was sitting in the study with his gaze lowered.

The door opened, and Yvonne walked in uneasily. “Were you asking for me, Joel?”

Joel looked up. “There's no way Mdm. Florence would poison Old Maddy. Both you and I know that very well.”

Yvonne bit her lip and simply refused to admit to it. She said, “What do you mean by that, Joel? I don't understand what you're saying. Even Mdm. Florence herself has already admitted to it. I—”

But before she could finish, Joel had already cut her off. He said, “Uncle Ian hates people who violate the law and break rules the most.. Even if you're his daughter, you're not allowed to do that! Mdm. Florence may not expose you, but the Smiths will never tolerate and condone such vileness!”

Yvonne bit her lip when she heard him.

She looked at Joel.

The man sat leisurely behind the desk with his hands on it. However, his eyes, which were always smiling, were deep and bottomless.

He stared at Yvonne, making her feel as if all her clothes had been stripped off. Those eyes seemed to be able to see right through one, yet others couldn't tell what he was thinking.

Yvonne lowered her head. “I admit that I made a mistake, Joel. I shouldn't have bought a pill like that and left it in the room, thereby giving Mdm. Florence a chance to steal it. But I really didn't break the law. Surely you can't say that I broke the law just because someone stole the pill I bought and poisoned another person with it, right?”

Joel narrowed his fox-like eyes.

He sneered, "Yvonne, do you think I asked you here to force you to admit to your mistakes? You're wrong."

Yvonne was taken aback. Then, she heard the man's rich and mellow voice. He said slowly, "I'm not a police officer who needs evidence in order to convict someone of a crime. Neither do I need you to admit to anything. Both you and I know that very well."

His voice was gentle, yet it also seemed like a voice straight out of hell, causing Yvonne's heart to sink little by little.

Joel stood up. "Since there isn't any evidence, I won't hand you over to the police. Besides, you're Uncle Ian's daughter. How you should be dealt with will have to wait until Uncle Ian wakes up. However, you don't have to manage the family matters anymore during this time."

His words made Yvonne suddenly look up at him.

As Ian's one and only lawful daughter, Yvonne had always enjoyed a very high status in the family.

In fact, legally, she had a closer relationship with Ian than what Joel, Ian's nephew, had with him.

Therefore, while Joel managed the company's affairs, Yvonne was in charge of the family's affairs. Even Florence, the housekeeper in charge of the family's internal affairs, was just her helper.

Why did Louis keep suffering in her hands despite loathing her so much? It was thanks to the fact that she was the one in control of the finances!

Yet, Joel was going to deprive her of her authority?

Yvonne couldn't stop herself from retorting, "Who do you intend to put in charge of managing the family's affairs, if not me? Nora? You can't do that. I'm Dad's only daughter while she's nothing more than a shameful product of that woman's betrayal of Dad. Aren't you embarrassing Dad if you do that?"

Seeing that she was still arguing even now, Joel slowly cast his eyes down and said, "You can go now."

Yvonne wanted to argue some more, but she knew that Joel never changed his mind once he made a decision.

She clenched her fists, took a deep breath, and walked out of the study.

After she left, Quentin popped out of somewhere, went to Joel, and asked, “Are you really going to let her off just like that, Joel?”

Joel rubbed his temples, feeling a headache coming on.

He sighed and said, “Uncle Ian is still in a coma. As his only daughter, it’s best that nothing happens to her for now. If Uncle Ian pulls through, he will deal with her himself.”

Joel, who had been brought up by Ian himself, knew Ian’s character all too well.

He hated schemes and conspiracies like these the most.

Besides, he felt that Uncle Ian didn’t really seem to dislike Nora that much...

Quentin couldn’t help asking, “What if Uncle Ian doesn’t make it?”

The look in Joel’s eyes suddenly turned cold. “Then it’ll be the time that she gets married once she finishes two years of mourning for Uncle Ian.”

As for who she’ll marry and how much money to give her once she does, Joel had the final say!

Quentin nodded.

He and Joel were of the same opinion with regard to Nora—neither of them liked her very much. After all, he was someone constantly in the shadows. Nora’s thoughts were just like his—unfit to be brought into the light.

While he was thinking about it, Joel asked, “Has Nora woken up?”

The sensitive Quentin discovered that Joel’s term of address for Nora had changed. From the distant and alienated ‘Ms. Smith’, it had now become ‘Nora’... Ahem!

Quentin straightened his back and replied, “I don’t know. She was still asleep when I left. She had looked so lazy, didn’t even work, and only knew to sleep

every day in the past. But unexpectedly, she's actually the famous Anti... Thinking about it again, it's no wonder she's so rich!"

"... Rich?"

Quentin nodded. "Yeah. Don't you know? Louis has already become her fan just because she's rich!"

Joel couldn't help remarking dryly, "What a promising future that fellow has."

"I know, right?"

Quentin curled his lips disdainfully. "I, for one, won't bend over just because she's rich. If she wants my recognition... only if she's the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister!"

Joel: "..."

Quentin looked at him again. "What does our little cousin have to do in order to gain your recognition, Joel?"

Joel glanced at him, picked up company documents from the table, and said, "What a meaningless question."

Quentin curled his lips disdainfully.

Joel's phone vibrated at this point. He glanced at it and found that it was a text message from Tanya: 'Please let me know when Nora returns.'

Joel sent her a question mark.

Tanya immediately replied. As if she was eager to distance herself from him, she wrote: 'Nora isn't picking up my calls, so I reckon she's still being detained! Cherry misses her mom. Tell her to pick up her daughter once she returns.'

At the sight of the message, Joel immediately got up, picked up the car key, and walked out.

Quentin was taken aback. "Where are you going, Joel? Aren't you going to wait for our little cousin to come home?"

Joel didn't stop. He replied, "I'm picking up the child and bringing her home."

Quentin: “?”

‘Child’?

Wasn’t it the weekend? It didn’t seem like Mia had gone to school, though?!

Nora only came out of the room after she was done talking to Florence.

She didn’t really blame Florence. In fact, her loyalty to Ian made her sigh in admiration. What kind of age were they already in? Yet there were still people who could go to that extent for their masters.

No wonder Joel hadn’t driven her away after he took over the family.

Morris asked, “How was it, Ms. Smith?”

Nora gave him her serious feedback. “The interrogation room’s soundproofing is indeed pretty good. You can try using it if you ever have insomnia in the future.”

Morris: “...”

He was asking if Florence had said anything! He wasn’t asking about the interrogation room!!

But as he watched the unaffected woman in front of him, he fell silent for a moment before he finally said, “I apologize for my actions previously, Ms. Smith. I’m sorry.”

Nora raised her eyebrows when she heard him.

Her lips curled into a smile and she suddenly said, “Apology accepted, Captain Ford, but I’d still like to ask you to do me a favor.”

“What is it?”

Nora cast her eyes down and asked, “Can you tell me just what kind of case am I involved in?”

Her head had cleared up after she woke up.

Morris kept quiet for a while. He looked up and stared at her for very long, seemingly considering whether he could tell her about it. At last, he stepped aside and said, "Let's talk over there, Ms. Smith."

There were indeed some things he didn't need to hide from her anymore.

Nora nodded.. She gave Justin a comforting look and followed Morris into the confidential room next door.

Justin stood there and watched helplessly as Morris took her into the secret room. He frowned.

The confidentiality room was a room used for important cases in the country. No conversations inside would be recorded.

Therefore, be it discussing the case or presenting the case, it would be inside.

Back when Morris took Nora away forcefully and did not allow her to be bailed out, he knew that Nora might have been involved in a case.

Now, the mystery was finally going to be solved, right?

He lowered his eyes. His eyes were dark, and the mole at the corner of his eye seemed to be flickering. From his appearance, it seemed like he already knew what that secret was.

Nora originally thought that the soundproofing in the interrogation room was good enough, but when she entered the room and Morris closed the door, her heart skipped a beat.

All the sounds outside were blocked by a door, making her feel as if she was isolated from the entire world.

When she looked at Morris again, he was still as cold as ever. He pointed at the chair and motioned for her to sit down before sitting opposite her.

The two chairs were the same. He did not look like he was interrogating a criminal and it was like they were talking fairly.

While Morris was still struggling with his choice of words, Nora asked, "Is it about illegal drugs and human trials?"

Morris paused. "I didn't expect Miss Nora to be so perceptive."

Nora rolled her eyes.

How could she still not understand at this point!

After Old Maddy's incident, Morris had kept asking her if she had given Old Maddy any drugs. Then, he had detected some unknown components in Old Maddy's blood. He immediately became nervous and his attitude became worse.

At that time, Morris was certain that she had fed Old Maddy something.

Later on, when he realized that Old Maddy's blood contained drugs commonly used to poison rats and mosquitoes, Morris relaxed. He did not even participate in the arrest of Florence.

If she still could not detect anything, she was too slow.

Nora thought about this and asked, "Captain Ford, should we talk about this properly now?"

Morris nodded and crossed his arms on the table. His posture seemed more like he was testing and wary. "Miss Nora, do you know that there is a mysterious organization in this world that outsiders don't know about?"

A mysterious organization?

Nora's first reaction was Imperial League.

She lowered her eyes and looked calm, but her heart felt as if it had been scalded.

Imperial League was indeed a dangerous existence to be able to control the global economy. But according to what she knew, it didn't do human experiments or illegal drugs.

So it wasn't Imperial League.

She looked up at Morris and did not answer his question. "Please elaborate."

Morris observed the girl in front of him.

She had just woken up. Perhaps it was because she had slept for too long, but her almond-shaped eyes were a little swollen. Although she had eaten, her voice was still a little hoarse.

No one could guess what she was thinking.

Actually, Morris had been observing her for a long time, but he felt like this girl was covered in a veil. Every time he felt that she was just an ordinary person, she would do something that surprised him.

For example, her identity as Anti...

At the thought of this, Morris lowered his eyes. "We still don't know what that mysterious organization is called. We only know that they're doing human experiments and illegal pharmaceuticals. Moreover, the drugs they create are very dangerous and will cause a destructive blow to the entire human race!"

When Nora heard this, she slowly sat up straight. Her eyes became more serious. "A destructive blow?"

"Yes," Morris said slowly. "We've always guessed that they're creating a virus and they've already started human trials more than twenty years ago!"

20 years ago?

Nora frowned. "Is my mother related to this organization?"

Morris was silent for a long time before he said slowly, "We suspect that your mother was from this organization, so we secretly arrested her back then."

At this point, he lowered his eyes. "At that time, my mother was the leader of the operation team. After her arrest, your mother said that she had a patient waiting for her to treat. Otherwise, that patient would die. She even said that only she could treat that illness."

Nora suddenly understood. "Your mother let my mother go and my mother ran away. That's why you refused to let me go this time. You didn't believe what I said?"

Morris was speechless.

What did she mean by refusing to let her go...

He grimaced, ignoring her choice of words, and nodded. "Yes."

Nora suddenly understood his neurotic way of doing things. If it involved such a high-level case, forcing her to stay was understandable.

After saying everything, Morris stood up and extended his hand to her. "So, please understand my actions again."

"Sure."

Nora did not shake his hand and just waved it casually.

As they walked out, Morris took the opportunity to say, "Florence's poison was stolen from Yvonne's room, but if Florence doesn't say anything, we won't be able to hold Yvonne responsible. If Miss Nora wants to bring the real criminal to justice, you'd better think of a way to convince Florence."

Nora stretched lazily. When she thought of Florence's complaints about her, she lowered her eyes and said, "Unless I'm Ian's biological daughter, it's impossible to convince her!"

Morris was speechless.

Nora dragged her feet and lazily walked out the door. After meeting up with Justin, the two of them left the police station.

As soon as she went out, Lily appeared in front of her. She wanted to say something, but she glanced at Justin and pulled Nora to the side. She asked nervously, "Anti, are you okay?"

Nora nodded. "I'm fine."

Lily said indignantly, "What's wrong with the Smiths? Is this how they treat you? It's too much! Moreover, your DNA mutated a little in the later stages. No one can say for sure if you're really Ryan's daughter. I think your father is Ian!"

Nora patted her shoulder. "If you don't have evidence, don't talk nonsense."

Whether she was Ryan's daughter or Ian's, there was no accurate news for now. Unless they got real evidence, Nora would not say anything to the Smiths.

Otherwise, wouldn't it be awkward if she was really Ryan's daughter?

Lily was so angry that she blew raspberries. "Evidence? How can we get evidence now? Unless we go back more than twenty years ago and save some DNA samples from your birth, where else can we find evidence?"

20 years ago... DNA samples?

Nora suddenly thought of the manager who was protecting Idealian Pharmaceuticals for her mother.. Her eyes lit up.

Although Nora had been in New York for two to three months, Idealian Pharmaceuticals would send the dividends to her account on time in the past few months.

She just had a lot of money and never cared about it.

However, now that she thought about it, Wayne was the manager her mother had personally chosen. He also managed Idealian Pharmaceuticals and did not let Henry interfere to snatch it away. He definitely had his own means!

She nodded at Lily, picked up her phone, and walked to the side to call Wayne.

As soon as the call connected, Wayne's excited voice was heard. "Miss Nora, you've finally thought it through. Are you coming back to inherit the company?"

Nora: "..."

Why did this fellow seem so enthusiastic?

How unwilling was he to manage the company!

She grimaced and asked, "No, I just want to ask you a question."

The other party's voice immediately lowered as he said listlessly, "Okay, ask away."

Nora asked, "Did my mother leave anything for me at your place?"

"Yes!"

Before the other party could speak, Nora interrupted him. "Other than companionship and love, is there anything else?"

“...About that!” Wayne dragged out his words and sighed. “What specifically do you want?”

Nora asked tentatively, “For example, fetal hair? Or a blood sample?”

Wayne: “Of course not. Miss Nora, why would your mom leave your fetal hair for me? I’m not a pervert. I don’t have a fetish for collecting hair!”

Nora: “...”

Wayne asked, “Miss Nora, are you busy?”

Nora: “No, what’s wrong? Is there something wrong with the company?”

“Not really. After all, our small company relied on the formula your mother left behind. It’s not a problem for us to prescribe some medicine. It can also ensure that you have no financial worries in your life.” Wayne began to nag. “I just want to say, when are you coming back to manage the company? I’m really too busy alone! You don’t even know that there are many miscellaneous matters in the company. As the chairman of Idealian Pharmaceuticals, you have to be responsible. You can’t leave everything to me alone. I’m already old... blah, blah...”

Nora listened for a full minute. When she saw that he was still not stopping, she said, “By the way, what did you ask me just now?”

Wayne: “... If you were busy?”

Nora immediately said, “I’m very busy. I’m hanging up... Beep, beep, beep...”

Wayne was speechless.

Hearing the busy tone on the phone, Nora pouted. She really couldn’t listen to a naggy person.

She looked at Lily. “I might be busy for a while. Stay in the country for now.”

“Okay.”

As her first assistant, Lily was very competent. “Where do I stay?”

Nora thought for a moment. “Stay with me in the Smiths.”

After her identity was exposed, there would definitely be many people looking for her. It was very troublesome. This would require Lily to handle it. If there were problems that other doctors could resolve, Lily would help recommend them. If Nora had to do it, Lily would arrange a schedule for her.

At the thought of this, Nora felt a headache coming on.

She rubbed her temples and walked with Lily to Justin's car.

Justin stood at the side. When he saw the two of them walk over, he opened the back door, and Nora got into the car. Lily wanted to follow them, but she realized that Justin was blocking the door.

Lily was stunned. She looked up and saw Justin glance at the front passenger seat.

Lily immediately understood and stuck out her tongue. "I'll be in the front passenger seat! I'm not an insensitive person, Anti's boyfriend."

Anti's boyfriend?

Justin was a little stunned when he heard this title.

Usually, when he was outside, people would call him Mr. Hunt or Justin. This was the first time he was called Nora's boyfriend.

He suddenly liked this nickname.

He lowered his head slightly and got into the car. He entered the backseat and sat with Nora.

The journey was silent. After Justin took the two of them to the Smiths, he did not stay any longer. After all, he had not slept the entire night. He wanted to go back and recuperate.

Besides, Cherry was still waiting for him at the Hunts.

Nora brought Lily into the house. Just as they entered, the butler welcomed them. "Miss Nora, you're back!"

His attitude became much more respectful.

Nora was taken aback for a moment.

The butler bowed deeply to her. "Miss Nora, I was wrong to have misunderstood that you were trying to harm Old Maddy. I didn't expect you to be the famous Anti. I was blind!"

"Miss Nora, we misunderstood you!"

When the other servants heard that she was back, they immediately walked out and bowed to her.

Those who could work in wealthy families were not fools.

Initially, they thought that Nora was going to use Old Maddy to make a name for herself. They did not expect that she was really going to treat him!

On the other hand, Florence had stolen poison from Miss Yvonne's study and almost killed Old Maddy!

It was obvious at a glance which young lady did not care about their lives!

Initially, when Nora had come to live with the Smiths, everyone still felt some disdain for her. They felt that she was just a wild chicken who had become a phoenix thanks to her background. However, at this moment, everyone admired her from the bottom of their hearts.

On the way back to her room, all the servants who saw her stood at a distance and bowed to her to express their apologies.

The servants in the entire manor had a 180-degree change in attitude toward her!

Nora entered the living room. The housekeeper, Lucy, who had just been promoted by Joel, hurried over. "Miss Nora, you're finally back! Do you have any orders for me?"

Nora glanced at him.

Lucy was in her thirties. She looked very young and energetic. Her attitude toward her was very respectful.

Nora pointed at Lily. "This is my assistant. She will be staying here for a period of time. Please arrange a guest room for her."

"No problem!"

Lucy immediately said, "Miss Lily, you can wait in the living room and tell me the style of the room you like. I'll choose a guest room that you like."

Nora was going upstairs to take a shower, so she went up first.

Lily sat in the living room. After choosing a guest room, Lucy arranged for someone to tidy it up and accompany her.

At this moment, Yvonne suddenly walked down and casually instructed, "Lucy, come over. I have something to tell you."

Lucy was stunned and looked at Lily. "Miss Yvonne, there's... a guest here."

Yvonne's gaze instantly turned sharp as she stared at Lucy. "Lucy, since you're in this family, you should understand who the real daughter of this family is! The entire Smiths belong to my father!"

Lucy was Joel's caretaker.

It could be said that she was the nanny who had taken care of Joel since he was young. Because she was meticulous and smart, she had always worked for the Smiths.

As Joel grew up, Lucy had also slowly been promoted and given a raise from taking care of him. Before Florence was taken away by the police, her words at home already carried a lot of weight.

Even Florence and Yvonne were polite to her because of Joel.

After all, Florence was already old, and Joel was the new head of the Smiths. Her future status could be imagined.

Lucy had watched Yvonne grow up. She was loyal to Joel, so she naturally disliked Yvonne.

After all... Joel was the one Ian had chosen. Yvonne was Ian's adopted daughter, but she had a high status at home and always suppressed others.

In the past, when she saw Maureen giving in to Yvonne, she couldn't help but wonder if Joel would give in to her at home when he got married in the future.

However, Joel's wife would be the madam of the Smiths! She would also be the future matriarch of the Smiths!

Therefore, Lucy and Yvonne were born to be enemies.

Coupled with the fact that Old Maddy had been poisoned, everyone knew that Florence was either under Yvonne's orders or had been deceived. Therefore, they felt even more disdain for Yvonne.

Yvonne had lost control of the family, and Lucy was now in charge of the family's matters.

Lucy did not feel threatened by her words. She only smiled and said, "Miss Yvonne, from what you're saying, you're older than Miss Nora. Of course, you're the eldest daughter of the Smiths! It's just that I still have a guest here. Furthermore, Mr. Joel has just handed the house to me. I have all kinds of miscellaneous matters to deal with here. I'm a quiet person and I'm cautious in my actions. I don't dare to make any mistakes or embarrass myself in front of a guest. If news of this gets out, no one will scold me. They will only say that the Smiths' upbringing is bad. Don't you think so?"

Yvonne: "!!"

She had long known that Lucy was not a pushover, but she did not expect her to rebut her like this.

Yvonne's face turned red and white.

The surrounding servants were clearly working, but Yvonne knew that they must have strained their ears to eavesdrop on their conversation.

After Joel fired the housekeeper, Yvonne knew that Lucy would definitely hit her while she was down. When she made things difficult for Lucy earlier, she wanted everyone to see that even if she had done something wrong, she was still the owner of the Smiths!

However, she did not expect to meet a wall with Lucy.

She took a deep breath. She knew that at this moment, she had to turn the situation around. Otherwise, she would really be looked down upon.

She lowered her eyes. "Lucy, I only called you over to tell you how to entertain the guest. Why are you making it sound so grand? Or do you think that I, as the eldest daughter, have no right to give you instructions?"

With that, she sneered. “Dad is indeed in the hospital. Joel is in charge of the family now, but Dad is still around. Do you think he’ll be happy to know that you’re talking to me like this after he wakes up?”

Lucy choked.

Ian was equivalent to the emperor emeritus in the family. Everyone knew that he had the ability to take back control of the family. It was just that Joel was very filial and Ian was very satisfied with him!

Lucy did not dare to say such words. She immediately stood up. “Miss Yvonne, what do you want to say?”

Yvonne glanced at Lily and said, “Since there’s a guest at home, let’s add a few dishes tonight! This lady must have returned from overseas. She must be very interested in the delicacies in New York. We can prepare a sweet and sour fish.”

The list of dishes prepared in the kitchen had long been prepared. If Yvonne suddenly added more dishes, the chef would definitely have to rush out to buy ingredients. This would make things difficult for the kitchen.

However, Lucy still agreed with a smile. “Miss Yvonne is right. I’ll get someone to prepare it right away.”

Yvonne nodded.

When she turned around and walked upstairs, she sensitively saw Lucy purse her lips and make a disdainful expression.

Yvonne forcefully suppressed the anger in her heart.

She was just a servant, yet she dared to be rude to her!

Furthermore, the rest of the family’s attitude toward her had clearly changed. There was coldness in their distance, just like how they treated Nora in the past.

But so what?

Nora was the daughter of the second branch. She was basically from the side family! Now, the Smiths’ direct line of descent was her!

As long as she was still Ian's legal daughter, then she would have a share of his family fortune! Even if she was an adopted daughter, she was still better than Nora, the legitimate cousin of the Smiths!

After all, how could a niece get an uncle's inheritance?

In the Smiths, her identity as Yvonne would forever suppress Nora!

At this moment, outside the door.

Lisa stood there and was answering a call. It was Nora's aunt, Irene. "...I wonder how Nora is now. Go and take a look. Why is she suspected of medical malpractice? This child didn't say anything either. If I hadn't seen the news, I wouldn't have known! Sigh!"

Lisa stood at the door, feeling a little conflicted. "Mom, Nora isn't Henry's biological daughter. Isn't it bad for me to go looking for her like this?"

Ever since she found out that Nora was not Henry's biological daughter, Lisa did not dare to visit her again.

Now that she knew Nora was her mentor, Anti, she became even more fearful!

However, after watching the live broadcast and the news, she was the same as her mother. She was very worried about Nora's comfort in the Smiths. Did the Smiths not treat her well enough?

Lisa looked at the imposing door in front of her and became even more hesitant.

She did not expect Nora to be this family's daughter...

As she was feeling ashamed of herself, Irene's voice was heard. "What's wrong with that? I believe Nora isn't that kind of person! She'll acknowledge us!"

Lisa nodded and took a deep breath. "Alright."

At this moment, Lisa's father, Bobby, said, "Honey, do you remember Lisa's umbilical cord blood?"

Irene was stunned. "What's wrong?"

Bobby said, "Back then, when you gave birth to Lisa, we spent about 3,000 dollars to keep her umbilical cord blood for more than twenty years. The hospital called me just now and asked if we wanted to keep it for a while longer."

Irene immediately said, "Is it expired? Then you can renew the fees."

With that, she sighed. "Speaking of which, I learned how to store umbilical cord blood from Nora's mother. When she gave birth to Nora, she had kept her umbilical cord blood for her. Now, it should still be in the hospital's freezer.. By the way, Lisa, when you see Nora, remember to tell her. She definitely doesn't know about this yet! If it's useful in the future..."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Bobby interrupted Irene. "When would you need the umbilical cord blood? I hope she won't need to use it for the rest of her life!"

Cord blood was mainly used to treat blood diseases, such as leukemia. Under normal circumstances, it would definitely not be needed.

Irene immediately snorted. "Yes, Nora definitely won't need it. But we still have to tell her."

The disappointing brother at home had already disappeared for a long time. The Blacks in California were living more comfortably than before.

Especially since Bobby had recently been in a few big business deals with the company.

Although Bobby did not know who had helped him, he had a feeling that it might be related to Nora.

He was a good kid who knew how to repay kindness. Back then, he had misunderstood that Nora did not care about his wife's life. However, when he saw the live broadcast, he finally understood why Nora was so indifferent back then.

It turned out that the doctor she had found for the Blacks was herself!

Bobby was feeling guilty about chasing her out of the hospital back then, so he snatched the phone away and said to Lisa, "When you see Nora,

remember to help me bring her home. Ask her to bring the child over to play when she's free. I'll make her favorite brown sugar rice cake!"

"...Okay." Lisa hung up the phone and looked at the luxurious door in front of her again. She thought for a long time before knocking on the door.

The door opened quickly. The guard asked, "Who are you looking for?"

Lisa: "...I'm looking for Nora."

The guard looked her up and down. "Wait a minute."

"Okay."

The guard called and entered the hall. The housekeeper, Lucy, had just tidied up the guest room for Lily. After receiving the call, she was about to call Nora to ask if she should come in when she was stopped by Lily. "Let Miss Lisa in first. An... Miss Nora should be sleeping right now. Don't disturb her."

Lily knew Nora's body very well. She had spent the entire day at the police station yesterday and went to treat Old Maddy at night. Even though she had slept for a while, her energy had not recovered yet. She must be sleeping right now!

Lucy listened to Lily and let the guard bring Lisa in.

Upstairs, Yvonne listened to their conversation and bit her lip in anger. She was just a servant, and she would chatter away after saying a few words. However, when Nora's assistant spoke, she was as obedient as anything. She simply did not take her seriously!

How infuriating!

When Lisa was led into the Smiths' residence, she was first stunned by the lavish courtyard.

This was New York!

In places where every inch of land was worth money, they actually had such a large manor. Furthermore, she was perceptive to the fact that some places had flowers planted and some places had vegetables. This was the first time Lisa experienced the difference between her and a truly wealthy family!

She was already so terrified. No wonder Nora was being bullied here!

Yes, she was certain that Nora had suffered in the Smiths.

It was just medical malpractice. Even in California, if Henry did not appear, her parents could still bail her out. But in New York, the Smiths actually allowed Nora to be detained for 24 hours!

Wasn't it just because they were rich?

As Lisa thought about this, she became even more furious.

At this moment, a playful voice was heard. "Hey, who is this?"

Lisa turned around and saw a man around her age with blond hair... To be precise, it was a young man walking over. She frowned when she heard the housekeeper say, "Mr. Louis, this is Miss Nora's cousin from California."

Louis immediately sized up Lisa when he heard this.

Was this his cousin's trash family in California?

Ever since Nora became his idol, he had asked around about her. When he asked around, he was instantly furious. He did not expect his cousin to live like that in California!

Especially that shameless cheap father of hers. He had taken her mother's money and still treated her so badly!

Therefore, Louis did not have a good impression of the family in California. When he saw Lisa, he immediately sneered. "Tsk, are you here to take advantage of Nora now that she has become a phoenix?"

Taking advantage of Nora?

Lisa felt Louis's disdain and was instantly infuriated.

She was still a guest, yet he was already being so rude. Wouldn't the Smiths be even more rude to Nora?

The soft person had also lost her temper. She was so angry that her face was red and her voice was trembling. "What's so great about you? Do you have to look down on me?"

Louis raised his head and placed his hands on his hips. “The Smiths are very impressive. Country bumpkin, you must have never seen such a big courtyard, right?”

Country bumpkin?

Did they scold Nora like that too?

Lisa kicked the flower bed beside her in anger. “Who are you calling a country bumpkin?”

Louis made a face. “Whoever cares about it is the country bumpkin! What do you think your family is? Tsk, little girl, I advise you to be careful. Do you know how much this jar of flowers costs? Any one of them is worth thousands of dollars! If you broke it, can you afford to pay?”

Lisa: “!!”

Her eyes were red as she glared at the jar of flowers. She walked to the other side and planned to kick the grass, but Louis said proudly, “The grass over there is no ordinary grass. It’s orchid! One stalk is worth tens of thousands! Are you sure you want to kick it?”

Lisa paused again and looked to the side.

Louis clicked his tongue and showed a disdainful expression. “Little girl, the piece of land you’re standing on is worth hundreds of thousands per square meter. Our family is rich, what can you say?”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “Even if you have a lot of money, you can’t buy kinship. Why are you looking down on us?”

Louis didn’t notice this “us” and thought that she was talking about the family in California. Therefore, he stuck out his tongue. “I’m just looking down on you. Hit me if you dare!”

As soon as he said this, Lisa had already raised her little fist and punched him in the face. “I’m so angry! I’ll let you know today that money is not everything. There are some people you can’t afford to offend!”

Louis took a nimble step back and Lisa chased after him.

The two of them immediately started fighting.

This was what Lily saw when she went out.

Both of them had their hands on their hips.

Louis said annoyingly, “Hmph, your family bullied my cousin. Now, it’s my turn to bully you!”

Lisa’s face was also red as she roared angrily, “The Smiths are bullying my cousin. Let me tell you, my cousin and the Blacks are not people who can be bullied easily!”

At this moment, Lisa was pinching Louis’s face while Louis was pushing Lisa’s neck to prevent her from getting too close to him. Louis did not dare to make a move. After all, the other party was a girl and he was still merciful.

The two of them were stunned when they heard each other.

Lisa’s grip loosened. “What did you say?”

Louis was stunned too. “What did you say? The Blacks? Aren’t you the Smiths from California?”

Lisa: “?”

Louis thought for a moment and coughed. “I think we misunderstood. Let go and talk things out.”

Lisa was furious. “No, let go of me first.”

Louis: “...Why don’t I call out ‘one, two, three’ and we’ll let go together?”

“Okay.”

“One, two, three...”

Even after he finished counting, they were still intertwined.

Louis said, “Let go!”

Lisa: “Let go of me first!”

Lily was speechless.

The two of them were already 20 years old. Together, they were already 40! Yet, they were still so childish!

The corners of her lips twitched. She took a step forward and said, "Louis, Lisa, you've misunderstood! You're both Nora's best relatives! Let go of each other quickly!"

Louis asked hesitantly, "What are you talking about? Didn't you say that the Smiths in California treated her badly?"

"...It's the Smiths' fault. Lisa is the daughter of Nora's aunt. If it weren't for Nora's aunt, she might have starved to death when she was young!"

Louis let go of her immediately when he heard that. "It's a misunderstanding. Why aren't you letting go? It hurts!"

Lisa looked at Lily. "Who are you? Are you treating Nora badly like the Smiths?"

Lily: "...I'm Lily! Anti's assistant! Lisa, please let go. The Smiths have never treated Nora badly!"

As medical students, Anti was a God to them. And Anti's assistant, Lily, was also a legend. After all, those who could be Anti's assistants definitely had good medical skills!

Even Lily was an outstanding surgeon!

Lisa felt a sense of respect for her and hurriedly let go of Louis. Her face was red with embarrassment. "Miss Lily! I'm, I'm sorry... I didn't know..."

She lowered her head and stammered sheepishly.

Louis pointed at her angrily. "Why are you acting weak here? I think you did it on purpose!"

Lisa immediately lost her earlier cautiousness and raised her chin like a fighting chicken. "You were the one who started talking bad about me the moment you entered!"

“You even beat me up! I’ll tell Nora later how savage this little cousin of hers is! What a yellow-haired brat!”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “You, you’re the real yellow-haired brat!”

Louis: “??”

He touched his blond hair and was furious. He hated it when people pointed out his yellow hair. He looked at Lisa and roared, “Say that again if you dare!”

Lisa: “You’re already a yellow-haired brat. Why can’t you let others say it?”

Louis took a step forward and was about to scare her when he tripped and suddenly pounced at Lisa.

Lisa was not as agile and was immediately pinned under him.

Fortunately, there was a big lawn beneath them. It did not hurt much, but coincidentally, Louis’s lips were on Lisa’s.

Everyone: “!!”

After 10 seconds of silence, Louis stood up with his hands on the grass in a daze.

Lisa’s eyes widened as she wiped her mouth with all her might. “Ah, you pervert!”

Seeing her look of disdain, Louis pouted. “I don’t have an infectious disease. Aren’t you overreacting?”

He touched his lips, and for some reason, he suddenly recalled that soft feeling from earlier. His face turned a little red. At this moment, he saw Lisa turn to look at the ground. Her eyes immediately turned red, and large tears rolled down her face.

Louis was shocked. “Hey, what are you doing? Isn’t it just a kiss? Is it worth crying and making a scene?”

Lisa cried, “Of course you don’t feel anything! But... I can’t afford to pay for these lawns!”

Louis: “!!”

It turned out that this was the reason!

He scratched his head and coughed. “Don’t cry. These lawns are not expensive.”

Another tear fell from Lisa’s eye. “Didn’t you just say that a single orchid cost hundreds of thousands?”

Louis: “...I lied to you.”

“ ... ”

Lisa wiped her tears and was so angry that her heart hurt. What kind of family did Nora live in?! The people here were all too perverted!

She followed Lily into the living room angrily.

Louis followed her in and sat on the sofa. He had his hands behind his head and glanced at Lisa from time to time.

At this moment, Yvonne walked down from upstairs and smiled. “There’s another guest at home?”

Her behavior was still magnanimous and appropriate. She looked like someone from a noble family, and Lisa immediately sat up straight and felt restrained.

Lucy replied, “Miss Yvonne, she’s Miss Nora’s cousin.”

Yvonne smiled. “Nora really has a lot of friends and relatives!”

Her words were filled with mockery.

Lisa bit her lip. She had always been a sensitive and suspicious girl. It was obvious that she could sense Yvonne’s hostility.

Especially when Yvonne looked at her from head to toe, her eyes filled with disdain.

Lisa didn’t even know where to put her hands and feet.

At this moment, Louis said, “Tsk, why are you acting as the mistress here? I heard that Joel has taken away all your rights! I should really buy some firecrackers to celebrate!”

Yvonne clenched her fists and smiled. “Louis, there’s a guest here. Speak properly.”

She looked like a good sister.

Louis pouted. “She’s not a guest. She’s Nora’s cousin, which means she’s also my cousin.”

Yvonne smiled. “But isn’t Nora unrelated to the Smiths in California? I heard that she broke off ties with them during the last live broadcast.”

These words made Lisa even more embarrassed. It was as if she was pestering them right now.

She stood up suddenly and was about to say goodbye when she heard Louis laugh.

Yvonne asked, “What are you laughing about?”

Louis touched his hair. “I’m laughing at you.. Anyone else can talk about blood relations, but can you? You’re not related to our family by blood. According to your logic, you’re not a member of the Smiths?”

“You—”

He dissed Yvonne to the point that she was rendered speechless.

She turned and went upstairs in a huff.

Louis curled his lips disdainfully behind her and said to Lisa, “Don’t bother with her. She’s just spoiled.”

Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. “She looks pretty graceful to me, though.”

Louis gnashed his teeth in fury and said, “It’s all an act. I know that woman the best, we grew up together. She does one thing in front of other people and another altogether behind their backs, and is the most hypocritical person

ever. She has no blood relation to the Smiths. She'd be nothing at all if Uncle Ian hadn't adopted her."

"... Oh," said Lisa.

After saying that, Louis realized that it wasn't appropriate for him to badmouth his family to an outsider, so he said, "Just keep waiting here. I'll go up for now."

He had a bedroom in the Smiths' manor. When Louis heard that Yvonne was no longer taking charge at home, he had come back excitedly, hoping to see her down and out.

He had made up his mind—he was going to move back to the Smiths' from this day on!

In the suburbs of New York.

Tanya was playing games with Pete in the villa. She had specially bought a jigsaw puzzle meant for twelve-year-olds and above, which had a higher level of difficulty, so that she could keep Pete company.

But unexpectedly, a brief two minutes later, Tanya looked at the completed jigsaw puzzle on the floor, and then at Pete, who sighed and said, "It's too easy."

Tanya: "..."

She asked tentatively: "Shall I buy you a jigsaw puzzle meant for grown-ups next time?"

"... God-mom, do you like jigsaw puzzles a lot?"

Tanya: "?"

Pete sighed and said, "I've already played with you for so long. Can I go and do my Olympiad assignments now?"

Tanya: "!!"

So, to Pete, doing jigsaw puzzles with her was actually a waste of time and energy?!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. "Go ahead."

Only then did a satisfied Pete walk over to the desk next to them and take out his Mathematical Olympiad workbook from his schoolbag. Before he started working on the problems, he suddenly looked at Tanya and asked, "Is Mommy really okay?"

Tanya was taken aback.

She had brought Pete back with her after school the day before. Pete had followed her home without saying anything at that time. She'd thought that he wouldn't ask about it, but unexpectedly, he was actually such a perceptive boy.

Tanya said, "She'll be fine."

Pete kept quiet for a while before he asked, "Mommy will come and pick me up, right?"

Tanya: "..."

The way he was asking those questions so seriously and with such a tense look on his face broke Tanya's heart.

It was only then that Tanya realized that even though Nora had found Pete, and that even though he was sleeping on the same bed as his mother every day these days, Pete was actually still very insecure at heart.

She walked over, hugged Pete, and kissed him on the cheek. "Don't worry, she'll definitely come. Your mom loves you very, very much. When we were looking for our children abroad back then, she was really crazy about it."

Her words piqued Pete's interest all of a sudden. He asked, "How so?"

Tanya: "????"

Pete put down the workbook in his hand and looked at her seriously, his eyes full of interest. He really wanted to know all the details!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. She had gotten him so many toys, yet none of them had aroused Pete's interest at all. Instead, a simple one-liner from her had unexpectedly made the boy so fixated on something.

She could only say, “Your mom was in poor health when she first went overseas. Even so, she insisted on coming to our meetings every week and listened to us share our experiences in looking for our children. After that, she would try again and again to return to the States. At that time, she was falling comatose for a while almost every day, so your grand-aunt never allowed her to come back. Thus, she got people to look for you in the country instead.

“I remember that there was once a liar who called your mom and told her that he had found clues about your whereabouts. We all knew he was a liar, but your mom believed him. I tried to talk her out of it when she was giving him money, but she instead said, ‘I know he’s a liar, but what if he really has news about my son? I won’t allow myself to miss out on any possibility.’

“There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs...”

Tanya’s eyes reddened as she spoke.

It hadn’t been easy for her and Nora during all those years back then.

Nora’s suffering had already come to an end, but what about her?

There was still no news about her child even now.

Tanya lowered her head. She didn’t notice Pete’s eyes flickering.

Even though Pete now had a mother, he had still felt insecure all this time. After all, his family was incomplete, and Mommy was always finding Daddy too troublesome.

He had actually had nightmares quite a few times.

He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn’t want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn’t catch up to them at all.

His feet were so heavy in the dream.

He was afraid that Mommy would suddenly separate from Daddy one day and leave him.

Listening to Tanya talk about how Mommy had looked for him so painstakingly back then made him distressed, but also relieved at the same time.

What Cherry said was true—Mommy had never given up on him before.

After Tanya talked about the past for a while, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Pete got up at once. “It must be Mommy!”

Tanya stared at him, caught between laughter and tears. It was only at times like this that Pete looked like what a boy his age should look like.

She smiled and went to open the door. “You’re finally here! Your little brat is already sick of me by now!”

She opened the door as she spoke intimately, only to see Joel standing outside instead.

Tanya was stunned. “Why are you here?”

Joel’s fox-like eyes, which easily made one feel as though he was deeply in love with them, were fixed on her.

But Tanya knew exactly how heartless the man was.

Seeing her expression go from joy to wariness, Joel lowered his gaze, acerbity filling his heart.

He said softly, “Nora is fine now. I came to take the child home.”

Tanya was a little taken aback when she heard his term of address for Nora. Then, she looked away and uttered, “Oh.”

She then glanced at Pete and asked, “Has she gone home yet?”

“No, but she’ll be home soon.”

Tanya was very wary. She said, “You can’t take the child if she isn’t home. Let’s wait until she’s home.”

“Okay.” Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, “Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?”

Tanya: "..."

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, "It's not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?"

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he said, "Isn't the child also at home?"

The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

Tanya sneered and said, "The child is still young, so it's still inappropriate. You'd better go back to the car and wait there instead, Mr. Smith.. I'll let you take the child once Nora gets home and retrieves her cell phone, and I confirm things with her."

Bam!

Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: "..."

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, "Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?"

"Oh, just an annoying fly," replied Tanya.

Joel: "..."

Half an hour later.

The perturbed and distracted Tanya glanced at the window.

The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

"Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?"

Pete's words interrupted Tanya's thoughts.

She said coldly, "It has nothing to do with me even if he's dead."

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn't help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel's legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn't putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, "I knew you wouldn't ignore me, Tanya."

"..."

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya's eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. "Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?"

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, "I don't want to go to the hospital." Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn't want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel's assistant.

The assistant said, "The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!"

The bodyguard retorted, "Even so, we can't just watch as someone hits him!"

"She won't."

"What?"

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya's foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, "Did he really not bring his assistant with him?"

"What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?"

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, “And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!”

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say ‘elder brother’, though?

Nora didn’t realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, “Which brother?”

“... How many elder brothers do you have?!”

Chapter 334 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Joel narrowed his fox-like eyes.

He sneered, “Yvonne, do you think I asked you here to force you to admit to your mistakes? You’re wrong.”

Yvonne was taken aback. Then, she heard the man’s rich and mellow voice. He said slowly, “I’m not a police officer who needs evidence in order to convict someone of a crime. Neither do I need you to admit to anything. Both you and I know that very well.”

His voice was gentle, yet it also seemed like a voice straight out of hell, causing Yvonne’s heart to sink little by little.

Joel stood up. “Since there isn’t any evidence, I won’t hand you over to the police. Besides, you’re Uncle Ian’s daughter. How you should be dealt with will have to wait until Uncle Ian wakes up. However, you don’t have to manage the family matters anymore during this time.”

His words made Yvonne suddenly look up at him.

As Ian’s one and only lawful daughter, Yvonne had always enjoyed a very high status in the family.

In fact, legally, she had a closer relationship with Ian than what Joel, Ian’s nephew, had with him.

Therefore, while Joel managed the company's affairs, Yvonne was in charge of the family's affairs. Even Florence, the housekeeper in charge of the family's internal affairs, was just her helper.

Why did Louis keep suffering in her hands despite loathing her so much? It was thanks to the fact that she was the one in control of the finances!

Yet, Joel was going to deprive her of her authority?

Yvonne couldn't stop herself from retorting, "Who do you intend to put in charge of managing the family's affairs, if not me? Nora? You can't do that. I'm Dad's only daughter while she's nothing more than a shameful product of that woman's betrayal of Dad. Aren't you embarrassing Dad if you do that?"

Seeing that she was still arguing even now, Joel slowly cast his eyes down and said, "You can go now."

Yvonne wanted to argue some more, but she knew that Joel never changed his mind once he made a decision.

She clenched her fists, took a deep breath, and walked out of the study.

After she left, Quentin popped out of somewhere, went to Joel, and asked, "Are you really going to let her off just like that, Joel?"

Joel rubbed his temples, feeling a headache coming on.

He sighed and said, "Uncle Ian is still in a coma. As his only daughter, it's best that nothing happens to her for now. If Uncle Ian pulls through, he will deal with her himself."

Joel, who had been brought up by Ian himself, knew Ian's character all too well.

He hated schemes and conspiracies like these the most.

Besides, he felt that Uncle Ian didn't really seem to dislike Nora that much...

Quentin couldn't help asking, "What if Uncle Ian doesn't make it?"

The look in Joel's eyes suddenly turned cold. "Then it'll be the time that she gets married once she finishes two years of mourning for Uncle Ian."

As for who she'll marry and how much money to give her once she does, Joel had the final say!

Quentin nodded.

He and Joel were of the same opinion with regard to Nora—neither of them liked her very much. After all, he was someone constantly in the shadows. Nora's thoughts were just like his—unfit to be brought into the light.

While he was thinking about it, Joel asked, "Has Nora woken up?"

The sensitive Quentin discovered that Joel's term of address for Nora had changed. From the distant and alienated 'Ms. Smith', it had now become 'Nora'... Ahem!

Quentin straightened his back and replied, "I don't know. She was still asleep when I left. She had looked so lazy, didn't even work, and only knew to sleep every day in the past. But unexpectedly, she's actually the famous Anti... Thinking about it again, it's no wonder she's so rich!"

"... Rich?"

Quentin nodded. "Yeah. Don't you know? Louis has already become her fan just because she's rich!"

Joel couldn't help remarking dryly, "What a promising future that fellow has."

"I know, right?"

Quentin curled his lips disdainfully. "I, for one, won't bend over just because she's rich. If she wants my recognition... only if she's the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister!"

Joel: "..."

Quentin looked at him again. "What does our little cousin have to do in order to gain your recognition, Joel?"

Joel glanced at him, picked up company documents from the table, and said, "What a meaningless question."

Quentin curled his lips disdainfully.

Joel's phone vibrated at this point. He glanced at it and found that it was a text message from Tanya: 'Please let me know when Nora returns.'

Joel sent her a question mark.

Tanya immediately replied. As if she was eager to distance herself from him, she wrote: 'Nora isn't picking up my calls, so I reckon she's still being detained! Cherry misses her mom. Tell her to pick up her daughter once she returns.'

At the sight of the message, Joel immediately got up, picked up the car key, and walked out.

Quentin was taken aback. "Where are you going, Joel? Aren't you going to wait for our little cousin to come home?"

Joel didn't stop. He replied, "I'm picking up the child and bringing her home."

Quentin: "?"

'Child'?

Wasn't it the weekend? It didn't seem like Mia had gone to school, though?!

Nora only came out of the room after she was done talking to Florence.

She didn't really blame Florence. In fact, her loyalty to Ian made her sigh in admiration. What kind of age were they already in? Yet there were still people who could go to that extent for their masters.

No wonder Joel hadn't driven her away after he took over the family.

Morris asked, "How was it, Ms. Smith?"

Nora gave him her serious feedback. "The interrogation room's soundproofing is indeed pretty good. You can try using it if you ever have insomnia in the future."

Morris: "..."

He was asking if Florence had said anything! He wasn't asking about the interrogation room!!

But as he watched the unaffected woman in front of him, he fell silent for a moment before he finally said, "I apologize for my actions previously, Ms. Smith. I'm sorry."

Nora raised her eyebrows when she heard him.

Her lips curled into a smile and she suddenly said, "Apology accepted, Captain Ford, but I'd still like to ask you to do me a favor."

"What is it?"

Nora cast her eyes down and asked, "Can you tell me just what kind of case am I involved in?"

Her head had cleared up after she woke up.

Morris kept quiet for a while. He looked up and stared at her for very long, seemingly considering whether he could tell her about it. At last, he stepped aside and said, "Let's talk over there, Ms. Smith."

There were indeed some things he didn't need to hide from her anymore.

Nora nodded.. She gave Justin a comforting look and followed Morris into the confidential room next door.

Justin stood there and watched helplessly as Morris took her into the secret room. He frowned.

The confidentiality room was a room used for important cases in the country. No conversations inside would be recorded.

Therefore, be it discussing the case or presenting the case, it would be inside.

Back when Morris took Nora away forcefully and did not allow her to be bailed out, he knew that Nora might have been involved in a case.

Now, the mystery was finally going to be solved, right?

He lowered his eyes. His eyes were dark, and the mole at the corner of his eye seemed to be flickering. From his appearance, it seemed like he already knew what that secret was.

Nora originally thought that the soundproofing in the interrogation room was good enough, but when she entered the room and Morris closed the door, her heart skipped a beat.

All the sounds outside were blocked by a door, making her feel as if she was isolated from the entire world.

When she looked at Morris again, he was still as cold as ever. He pointed at the chair and motioned for her to sit down before sitting opposite her.

The two chairs were the same. He did not look like he was interrogating a criminal and it was like they were talking fairly.

While Morris was still struggling with his choice of words, Nora asked, "Is it about illegal drugs and human trials?"

Morris paused. "I didn't expect Miss Nora to be so perceptive."

Nora rolled her eyes.

How could she still not understand at this point!

After Old Maddy's incident, Morris had kept asking her if she had given Old Maddy any drugs. Then, he had detected some unknown components in Old Maddy's blood. He immediately became nervous and his attitude became worse.

At that time, Morris was certain that she had fed Old Maddy something.

Later on, when he realized that Old Maddy's blood contained drugs commonly used to poison rats and mosquitoes, Morris relaxed. He did not even participate in the arrest of Florence.

If she still could not detect anything, she was too slow.

Nora thought about this and asked, "Captain Ford, should we talk about this properly now?"

Morris nodded and crossed his arms on the table. His posture seemed more like he was testing and wary. "Miss Nora, do you know that there is a mysterious organization in this world that outsiders don't know about?"

A mysterious organization?

Nora's first reaction was Imperial League.

She lowered her eyes and looked calm, but her heart felt as if it had been scalded.

Imperial League was indeed a dangerous existence to be able to control the global economy. But according to what she knew, it didn't do human experiments or illegal drugs.

So it wasn't Imperial League.

She looked up at Morris and did not answer his question. "Please elaborate."

Morris observed the girl in front of him.

She had just woken up. Perhaps it was because she had slept for too long, but her almond-shaped eyes were a little swollen. Although she had eaten, her voice was still a little hoarse.

No one could guess what she was thinking.

Actually, Morris had been observing her for a long time, but he felt like this girl was covered in a veil. Every time he felt that she was just an ordinary person, she would do something that surprised him.

For example, her identity as Anti...

At the thought of this, Morris lowered his eyes. "We still don't know what that mysterious organization is called. We only know that they're doing human experiments and illegal pharmaceuticals. Moreover, the drugs they create are very dangerous and will cause a destructive blow to the entire human race!"

When Nora heard this, she slowly sat up straight. Her eyes became more serious. "A destructive blow?"

"Yes," Morris said slowly. "We've always guessed that they're creating a virus and they've already started human trials more than twenty years ago!"

20 years ago?

Nora frowned. "Is my mother related to this organization?"

Morris was silent for a long time before he said slowly, "We suspect that your mother was from this organization, so we secretly arrested her back then."

At this point, he lowered his eyes. "At that time, my mother was the leader of the operation team. After her arrest, your mother said that she had a patient waiting for her to treat. Otherwise, that patient would die. She even said that only she could treat that illness."

Nora suddenly understood. "Your mother let my mother go and my mother ran away. That's why you refused to let me go this time. You didn't believe what I said?"

Morris was speechless.

What did she mean by refusing to let her go...

He grimaced, ignoring her choice of words, and nodded. "Yes."

Nora suddenly understood his neurotic way of doing things. If it involved such a high-level case, forcing her to stay was understandable.

After saying everything, Morris stood up and extended his hand to her. "So, please understand my actions again."

"Sure."

Nora did not shake his hand and just waved it casually.

As they walked out, Morris took the opportunity to say, "Florence's poison was stolen from Yvonne's room, but if Florence doesn't say anything, we won't be able to hold Yvonne responsible. If Miss Nora wants to bring the real criminal to justice, you'd better think of a way to convince Florence."

Nora stretched lazily. When she thought of Florence's complaints about her, she lowered her eyes and said, "Unless I'm Ian's biological daughter, it's impossible to convince her!"

Morris was speechless.

Nora dragged her feet and lazily walked out the door. After meeting up with Justin, the two of them left the police station.

As soon as she went out, Lily appeared in front of her. She wanted to say something, but she glanced at Justin and pulled Nora to the side. She asked nervously, "Anti, are you okay?"

Nora nodded. "I'm fine."

Lily said indignantly, "What's wrong with the Smiths? Is this how they treat you? It's too much! Moreover, your DNA mutated a little in the later stages. No one can say for sure if you're really Ryan's daughter. I think your father is Ian!"

Nora patted her shoulder. "If you don't have evidence, don't talk nonsense."

Whether she was Ryan's daughter or Ian's, there was no accurate news for now. Unless they got real evidence, Nora would not say anything to the Smiths.

Otherwise, wouldn't it be awkward if she was really Ryan's daughter?

Lily was so angry that she blew raspberries. "Evidence? How can we get evidence now? Unless we go back more than twenty years ago and save some DNA samples from your birth, where else can we find evidence?"

20 years ago... DNA samples?

Nora suddenly thought of the manager who was protecting Idealian Pharmaceuticals for her mother.. Her eyes lit up.

Although Nora had been in New York for two to three months, Idealian Pharmaceuticals would send the dividends to her account on time in the past few months.

She just had a lot of money and never cared about it.

However, now that she thought about it, Wayne was the manager her mother had personally chosen. He also managed Idealian Pharmaceuticals and did not let Henry interfere to snatch it away. He definitely had his own means!

She nodded at Lily, picked up her phone, and walked to the side to call Wayne.

As soon as the call connected, Wayne's excited voice was heard. "Miss Nora, you've finally thought it through. Are you coming back to inherit the company?"

Nora: "..."

Why did this fellow seem so enthusiastic?

How unwilling was he to manage the company!

She grimaced and asked, "No, I just want to ask you a question."

The other party's voice immediately lowered as he said listlessly, "Okay, ask away."

Nora asked, "Did my mother leave anything for me at your place?"

"Yes!"

Before the other party could speak, Nora interrupted him. "Other than companionship and love, is there anything else?"

"...About that!" Wayne dragged out his words and sighed. "What specifically do you want?"

Nora asked tentatively, "For example, fetal hair? Or a blood sample?"

Wayne: "Of course not. Miss Nora, why would your mom leave your fetal hair for me? I'm not a pervert. I don't have a fetish for collecting hair!"

Nora: "..."

Wayne asked, "Miss Nora, are you busy?"

Nora: "No, what's wrong? Is there something wrong with the company?"

"Not really. After all, our small company relied on the formula your mother left behind. It's not a problem for us to prescribe some medicine. It can also ensure that you have no financial worries in your life." Wayne began to nag. "I just want to say, when are you coming back to manage the company? I'm really too busy alone! You don't even know that there are many miscellaneous matters in the company. As the chairman of Idealian Pharmaceuticals, you have to be responsible. You can't leave everything to me alone. I'm already old... blah, blah..."

Nora listened for a full minute. When she saw that he was still not stopping, she said, "By the way, what did you ask me just now?"

Wayne: "... If you were busy?"

Nora immediately said, "I'm very busy. I'm hanging up... Beep, beep, beep..."

Wayne was speechless.

Hearing the busy tone on the phone, Nora pouted. She really couldn't listen to a naggy person.

She looked at Lily. "I might be busy for a while. Stay in the country for now."

"Okay."

As her first assistant, Lily was very competent. "Where do I stay?"

Nora thought for a moment. "Stay with me in the Smiths."

After her identity was exposed, there would definitely be many people looking for her. It was very troublesome. This would require Lily to handle it. If there were problems that other doctors could resolve, Lily would help recommend them. If Nora had to do it, Lily would arrange a schedule for her.

At the thought of this, Nora felt a headache coming on.

She rubbed her temples and walked with Lily to Justin's car.

Justin stood at the side. When he saw the two of them walk over, he opened the back door, and Nora got into the car. Lily wanted to follow them, but she realized that Justin was blocking the door.

Lily was stunned. She looked up and saw Justin glance at the front passenger seat.

Lily immediately understood and stuck out her tongue. "I'll be in the front passenger seat! I'm not an insensitive person, Anti's boyfriend."

Anti's boyfriend?

Justin was a little stunned when he heard this title.

Usually, when he was outside, people would call him Mr. Hunt or Justin. This was the first time he was called Nora's boyfriend.

He suddenly liked this nickname.

He lowered his head slightly and got into the car. He entered the backseat and sat with Nora.

The journey was silent. After Justin took the two of them to the Smiths, he did not stay any longer. After all, he had not slept the entire night. He wanted to go back and recuperate.

Besides, Cherry was still waiting for him at the Hunts.

Nora brought Lily into the house. Just as they entered, the butler welcomed them. "Miss Nora, you're back!"

His attitude became much more respectful.

Nora was taken aback for a moment.

The butler bowed deeply to her. "Miss Nora, I was wrong to have misunderstood that you were trying to harm Old Maddy. I didn't expect you to be the famous Anti. I was blind!"

"Miss Nora, we misunderstood you!"

When the other servants heard that she was back, they immediately walked out and bowed to her.

Those who could work in wealthy families were not fools.

Initially, they thought that Nora was going to use Old Maddy to make a name for herself. They did not expect that she was really going to treat him!

On the other hand, Florence had stolen poison from Miss Yvonne's study and almost killed Old Maddy!

It was obvious at a glance which young lady did not care about their lives!

Initially, when Nora had come to live with the Smiths, everyone still felt some disdain for her. They felt that she was just a wild chicken who had become a phoenix thanks to her background. However, at this moment, everyone admired her from the bottom of their hearts.

On the way back to her room, all the servants who saw her stood at a distance and bowed to her to express their apologies.

The servants in the entire manor had a 180-degree change in attitude toward her!

Nora entered the living room. The housekeeper, Lucy, who had just been promoted by Joel, hurried over. "Miss Nora, you're finally back! Do you have any orders for me?"

Nora glanced at him.

Lucy was in her thirties. She looked very young and energetic. Her attitude toward her was very respectful.

Nora pointed at Lily. "This is my assistant. She will be staying here for a period of time. Please arrange a guest room for her."

"No problem!"

Lucy immediately said, "Miss Lily, you can wait in the living room and tell me the style of the room you like. I'll choose a guest room that you like."

Nora was going upstairs to take a shower, so she went up first.

Lily sat in the living room. After choosing a guest room, Lucy arranged for someone to tidy it up and accompany her.

At this moment, Yvonne suddenly walked down and casually instructed, "Lucy, come over. I have something to tell you."

Lucy was stunned and looked at Lily. "Miss Yvonne, there's... a guest here."

Yvonne's gaze instantly turned sharp as she stared at Lucy. "Lucy, since you're in this family, you should understand who the real daughter of this family is! The entire Smiths belong to my father!"

Lucy was Joel's caretaker.

It could be said that she was the nanny who had taken care of Joel since he was young. Because she was meticulous and smart, she had always worked for the Smiths.

As Joel grew up, Lucy had also slowly been promoted and given a raise from taking care of him. Before Florence was taken away by the police, her words at home already carried a lot of weight.

Even Florence and Yvonne were polite to her because of Joel.

After all, Florence was already old, and Joel was the new head of the Smiths. Her future status could be imagined.

Lucy had watched Yvonne grow up. She was loyal to Joel, so she naturally disliked Yvonne.

After all... Joel was the one Ian had chosen. Yvonne was Ian's adopted daughter, but she had a high status at home and always suppressed others.

In the past, when she saw Maureen giving in to Yvonne, she couldn't help but wonder if Joel would give in to her at home when he got married in the future.

However, Joel's wife would be the madam of the Smiths! She would also be the future matriarch of the Smiths!

Therefore, Lucy and Yvonne were born to be enemies.

Coupled with the fact that Old Maddy had been poisoned, everyone knew that Florence was either under Yvonne's orders or had been deceived. Therefore, they felt even more disdain for Yvonne.

Yvonne had lost control of the family, and Lucy was now in charge of the family's matters.

Lucy did not feel threatened by her words. She only smiled and said, "Miss Yvonne, from what you're saying, you're older than Miss Nora. Of course, you're the eldest daughter of the Smiths! It's just that I still have a guest here. Furthermore, Mr. Joel has just handed the house to me. I have all kinds of miscellaneous matters to deal with here. I'm a quiet person and I'm cautious in my actions. I don't dare to make any mistakes or embarrass myself in front of a guest. If news of this gets out, no one will scold me. They will only say that the Smiths' upbringing is bad. Don't you think so?"

Yvonne: "!!"

She had long known that Lucy was not a pushover, but she did not expect her to rebut her like this.

Yvonne's face turned red and white.

The surrounding servants were clearly working, but Yvonne knew that they must have strained their ears to eavesdrop on their conversation.

After Joel fired the housekeeper, Yvonne knew that Lucy would definitely hit her while she was down. When she made things difficult for Lucy earlier, she wanted everyone to see that even if she had done something wrong, she was still the owner of the Smiths!

However, she did not expect to meet a wall with Lucy.

She took a deep breath. She knew that at this moment, she had to turn the situation around. Otherwise, she would really be looked down upon.

She lowered her eyes. "Lucy, I only called you over to tell you how to entertain the guest. Why are you making it sound so grand? Or do you think that I, as the eldest daughter, have no right to give you instructions?"

With that, she sneered. "Dad is indeed in the hospital. Joel is in charge of the family now, but Dad is still around. Do you think he'll be happy to know that you're talking to me like this after he wakes up?"

Lucy choked.

Ian was equivalent to the emperor emeritus in the family. Everyone knew that he had the ability to take back control of the family. It was just that Joel was very filial and Ian was very satisfied with him!

Lucy did not dare to say such words. She immediately stood up. "Miss Yvonne, what do you want to say?"

Yvonne glanced at Lily and said, "Since there's a guest at home, let's add a few dishes tonight! This lady must have returned from overseas. She must be very interested in the delicacies in New York. We can prepare a sweet and sour fish."

The list of dishes prepared in the kitchen had long been prepared. If Yvonne suddenly added more dishes, the chef would definitely have to rush out to buy ingredients. This would make things difficult for the kitchen.

However, Lucy still agreed with a smile. “Miss Yvonne is right. I’ll get someone to prepare it right away.”

Yvonne nodded.

When she turned around and walked upstairs, she sensitively saw Lucy purse her lips and make a disdainful expression.

Yvonne forcefully suppressed the anger in her heart.

She was just a servant, yet she dared to be rude to her!

Furthermore, the rest of the family’s attitude toward her had clearly changed. There was coldness in their distance, just like how they treated Nora in the past.

But so what?

Nora was the daughter of the second branch. She was basically from the side family! Now, the Smiths’ direct line of descent was her!

As long as she was still Ian’s legal daughter, then she would have a share of his family fortune! Even if she was an adopted daughter, she was still better than Nora, the legitimate cousin of the Smiths!

After all, how could a niece get an uncle’s inheritance?

In the Smiths, her identity as Yvonne would forever suppress Nora!

At this moment, outside the door.

Lisa stood there and was answering a call. It was Nora’s aunt, Irene. “...I wonder how Nora is now. Go and take a look. Why is she suspected of medical malpractice? This child didn’t say anything either. If I hadn’t seen the news, I wouldn’t have known! Sigh!”

Lisa stood at the door, feeling a little conflicted. “Mom, Nora isn’t Henry’s biological daughter. Isn’t it bad for me to go looking for her like this?”

Ever since she found out that Nora was not Henry's biological daughter, Lisa did not dare to visit her again.

Now that she knew Nora was her mentor, Anti, she became even more fearful!

However, after watching the live broadcast and the news, she was the same as her mother. She was very worried about Nora's comfort in the Smiths. Did the Smiths not treat her well enough?

Lisa looked at the imposing door in front of her and became even more hesitant.

She did not expect Nora to be this family's daughter...

As she was feeling ashamed of herself, Irene's voice was heard. "What's wrong with that? I believe Nora isn't that kind of person! She'll acknowledge us!"

Lisa nodded and took a deep breath. "Alright."

At this moment, Lisa's father, Bobby, said, "Honey, do you remember Lisa's umbilical cord blood?"

Irene was stunned. "What's wrong?"

Bobby said, "Back then, when you gave birth to Lisa, we spent about 3,000 dollars to keep her umbilical cord blood for more than twenty years. The hospital called me just now and asked if we wanted to keep it for a while longer."

Irene immediately said, "Is it expired? Then you can renew the fees."

With that, she sighed. "Speaking of which, I learned how to store umbilical cord blood from Nora's mother. When she gave birth to Nora, she had kept her umbilical cord blood for her. Now, it should still be in the hospital's freezer.. By the way, Lisa, when you see Nora, remember to tell her. She definitely doesn't know about this yet! If it's useful in the future..."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Bobby interrupted Irene. "When would you need the umbilical cord blood? I hope she won't need to use it for the rest of her life!"

Cord blood was mainly used to treat blood diseases, such as leukemia. Under normal circumstances, it would definitely not be needed.

Irene immediately snorted. “Yes, Nora definitely won’t need it. But we still have to tell her.”

The disappointing brother at home had already disappeared for a long time. The Blacks in California were living more comfortably than before.

Especially since Bobby had recently been in a few big business deals with the company.

Although Bobby did not know who had helped him, he had a feeling that it might be related to Nora.

He was a good kid who knew how to repay kindness. Back then, he had misunderstood that Nora did not care about his wife’s life. However, when he saw the live broadcast, he finally understood why Nora was so indifferent back then.

It turned out that the doctor she had found for the Blacks was herself!

Bobby was feeling guilty about chasing her out of the hospital back then, so he snatched the phone away and said to Lisa, “When you see Nora, remember to help me bring her home. Ask her to bring the child over to play when she’s free. I’ll make her favorite brown sugar rice cake!”

“...Okay.” Lisa hung up the phone and looked at the luxurious door in front of her again. She thought for a long time before knocking on the door.

The door opened quickly. The guard asked, “Who are you looking for?”

Lisa: “...I’m looking for Nora.”

The guard looked her up and down. “Wait a minute.”

“Okay.”

The guard called and entered the hall. The housekeeper, Lucy, had just tidied up the guest room for Lily. After receiving the call, she was about to call Nora to ask if she should come in when she was stopped by Lily. “Let Miss Lisa in first. An... Miss Nora should be sleeping right now. Don’t disturb her.”

Lily knew Nora's body very well. She had spent the entire day at the police station yesterday and went to treat Old Maddy at night. Even though she had slept for a while, her energy had not recovered yet. She must be sleeping right now!

Lucy listened to Lily and let the guard bring Lisa in.

Upstairs, Yvonne listened to their conversation and bit her lip in anger. She was just a servant, and she would chatter away after saying a few words. However, when Nora's assistant spoke, she was as obedient as anything. She simply did not take her seriously!

How infuriating!

When Lisa was led into the Smiths' residence, she was first stunned by the lavish courtyard.

This was New York!

In places where every inch of land was worth money, they actually had such a large manor. Furthermore, she was perceptive to the fact that some places had flowers planted and some places had vegetables. This was the first time Lisa experienced the difference between her and a truly wealthy family!

She was already so terrified. No wonder Nora was being bullied here!

Yes, she was certain that Nora had suffered in the Smiths.

It was just medical malpractice. Even in California, if Henry did not appear, her parents could still bail her out. But in New York, the Smiths actually allowed Nora to be detained for 24 hours!

Wasn't it just because they were rich?

As Lisa thought about this, she became even more furious.

At this moment, a playful voice was heard. "Hey, who is this?"

Lisa turned around and saw a man around her age with blond hair... To be precise, it was a young man walking over. She frowned when she heard the housekeeper say, "Mr. Louis, this is Miss Nora's cousin from California."

Louis immediately sized up Lisa when he heard this.

Was this his cousin's trash family in California?

Ever since Nora became his idol, he had asked around about her. When he asked around, he was instantly furious. He did not expect his cousin to live like that in California!

Especially that shameless cheap father of hers. He had taken her mother's money and still treated her so badly!

Therefore, Louis did not have a good impression of the family in California. When he saw Lisa, he immediately sneered. "Tsk, are you here to take advantage of Nora now that she has become a phoenix?"

Taking advantage of Nora?

Lisa felt Louis's disdain and was instantly infuriated.

She was still a guest, yet he was already being so rude. Wouldn't the Smiths be even more rude to Nora?

The soft person had also lost her temper. She was so angry that her face was red and her voice was trembling. "What's so great about you? Do you have to look down on me?"

Louis raised his head and placed his hands on his hips. "The Smiths are very impressive. Country bumpkin, you must have never seen such a big courtyard, right?"

Country bumpkin?

Did they scold Nora like that too?

Lisa kicked the flower bed beside her in anger. "Who are you calling a country bumpkin?"

Louis made a face. "Whoever cares about it is the country bumpkin! What do you think your family is? Tsk, little girl, I advise you to be careful. Do you know how much this jar of flowers costs? Any one of them is worth thousands of dollars! If you broke it, can you afford to pay?"

Lisa: "!!"

Her eyes were red as she glared at the jar of flowers. She walked to the other side and planned to kick the grass, but Louis said proudly, “The grass over there is no ordinary grass. It’s orchid! One stalk is worth tens of thousands! Are you sure you want to kick it?”

Lisa paused again and looked to the side.

Louis clicked his tongue and showed a disdainful expression. “Little girl, the piece of land you’re standing on is worth hundreds of thousands per square meter. Our family is rich, what can you say?”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “Even if you have a lot of money, you can’t buy kinship. Why are you looking down on us?”

Louis didn’t notice this “us” and thought that she was talking about the family in California. Therefore, he stuck out his tongue. “I’m just looking down on you. Hit me if you dare!”

As soon as he said this, Lisa had already raised her little fist and punched him in the face. “I’m so angry! I’ll let you know today that money is not everything. There are some people you can’t afford to offend!”

Louis took a nimble step back and Lisa chased after him.

The two of them immediately started fighting.

This was what Lily saw when she went out.

Both of them had their hands on their hips.

Louis said annoyingly, “Hmph, your family bullied my cousin. Now, it’s my turn to bully you!”

Lisa’s face was also red as she roared angrily, “The Smiths are bullying my cousin. Let me tell you, my cousin and the Blacks are not people who can be bullied easily!”

At this moment, Lisa was pinching Louis’s face while Louis was pushing Lisa’s neck to prevent her from getting too close to him. Louis did not dare to make a move. After all, the other party was a girl and he was still merciful.

The two of them were stunned when they heard each other.

Lisa's grip loosened. "What did you say?"

Louis was stunned too. "What did you say? The Blacks? Aren't you the Smiths from California?"

Lisa: "?"

Louis thought for a moment and coughed. "I think we misunderstood. Let go and talk things out."

Lisa was furious. "No, let go of me first."

Louis: "...Why don't I call out 'one, two, three' and we'll let go together?"

"Okay."

"One, two, three..."

Even after he finished counting, they were still intertwined.

Louis said, "Let go!"

Lisa: "Let go of me first!"

Lily was speechless.

The two of them were already 20 years old. Together, they were already 40! Yet, they were still so childish!

The corners of her lips twitched. She took a step forward and said, "Louis, Lisa, you've misunderstood! You're both Nora's best relatives! Let go of each other quickly!"

Louis asked hesitantly, "What are you talking about? Didn't you say that the Smiths in California treated her badly?"

"...It's the Smiths' fault. Lisa is the daughter of Nora's aunt. If it weren't for Nora's aunt, she might have starved to death when she was young!"

Louis let go of her immediately when he heard that. "It's a misunderstanding. Why aren't you letting go? It hurts!"

Lisa looked at Lily. “Who are you? Are you treating Nora badly like the Smiths?”

Lily: “...I’m Lily! Anti’s assistant! Lisa, please let go. The Smiths have never treated Nora badly!”

As medical students, Anti was a God to them. And Anti’s assistant, Lily, was also a legend. After all, those who could be Anti’s assistants definitely had good medical skills!

Even Lily was an outstanding surgeon!

Lisa felt a sense of respect for her and hurriedly let go of Louis. Her face was red with embarrassment. “Miss Lily! I’m, I’m sorry... I didn’t know...”

She lowered her head and stammered sheepishly.

Louis pointed at her angrily. “Why are you acting weak here? I think you did it on purpose!”

Lisa immediately lost her earlier cautiousness and raised her chin like a fighting chicken. “You were the one who started talking bad about me the moment you entered!”

“You even beat me up! I’ll tell Nora later how savage this little cousin of hers is! What a yellow-haired brat!”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “You, you’re the real yellow-haired brat!”

Louis: “??”

He touched his blond hair and was furious. He hated it when people pointed out his yellow hair. He looked at Lisa and roared, “Say that again if you dare!”

Lisa: “You’re already a yellow-haired brat. Why can’t you let others say it?”

Louis took a step forward and was about to scare her when he tripped and suddenly pounced at Lisa.

Lisa was not as agile and was immediately pinned under him.

Fortunately, there was a big lawn beneath them. It did not hurt much, but coincidentally, Louis's lips were on Lisa's.

Everyone: "!!"

After 10 seconds of silence, Louis stood up with his hands on the grass in a daze.

Lisa's eyes widened as she wiped her mouth with all her might. "Ah, you pervert!"

Seeing her look of disdain, Louis pouted. "I don't have an infectious disease. Aren't you overreacting?"

He touched his lips, and for some reason, he suddenly recalled that soft feeling from earlier. His face turned a little red. At this moment, he saw Lisa turn to look at the ground. Her eyes immediately turned red, and large tears rolled down her face.

Louis was shocked. "Hey, what are you doing? Isn't it just a kiss? Is it worth crying and making a scene?"

Lisa cried, "Of course you don't feel anything! But... I can't afford to pay for these lawns!"

Louis: "!!"

It turned out that this was the reason!

He scratched his head and coughed. "Don't cry. These lawns are not expensive."

Another tear fell from Lisa's eye. "Didn't you just say that a single orchid cost hundreds of thousands?"

Louis: "...I lied to you."

"..."

Lisa wiped her tears and was so angry that her heart hurt. What kind of family did Nora live in?! The people here were all too perverted!

She followed Lily into the living room angrily.

Louis followed her in and sat on the sofa. He had his hands behind his head and glanced at Lisa from time to time.

At this moment, Yvonne walked down from upstairs and smiled. "There's another guest at home?"

Her behavior was still magnanimous and appropriate. She looked like someone from a noble family, and Lisa immediately sat up straight and felt restrained.

Lucy replied, "Miss Yvonne, she's Miss Nora's cousin."

Yvonne smiled. "Nora really has a lot of friends and relatives!"

Her words were filled with mockery.

Lisa bit her lip. She had always been a sensitive and suspicious girl. It was obvious that she could sense Yvonne's hostility.

Especially when Yvonne looked at her from head to toe, her eyes filled with disdain.

Lisa didn't even know where to put her hands and feet.

At this moment, Louis said, "Tsk, why are you acting as the mistress here? I heard that Joel has taken away all your rights! I should really buy some firecrackers to celebrate!"

Yvonne clenched her fists and smiled. "Louis, there's a guest here. Speak properly."

She looked like a good sister.

Louis pouted. "She's not a guest. She's Nora's cousin, which means she's also my cousin."

Yvonne smiled. "But isn't Nora unrelated to the Smiths in California? I heard that she broke off ties with them during the last live broadcast."

These words made Lisa even more embarrassed. It was as if she was pestering them right now.

She stood up suddenly and was about to say goodbye when she heard Louis laugh.

Yvonne asked, "What are you laughing about?"

Louis touched his hair. "I'm laughing at you.. Anyone else can talk about blood relations, but can you? You're not related to our family by blood. According to your logic, you're not a member of the Smiths?"

"You—"

He dissed Yvonne to the point that she was rendered speechless.

She turned and went upstairs in a huff.

Louis curled his lips disdainfully behind her and said to Lisa, "Don't bother with her. She's just spoiled."

Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. "She looks pretty graceful to me, though."

Louis gnashed his teeth in fury and said, "It's all an act. I know that woman the best, we grew up together. She does one thing in front of other people and another altogether behind their backs, and is the most hypocritical person ever. She has no blood relation to the Smiths. She'd be nothing at all if Uncle Ian hadn't adopted her."

"... Oh," said Lisa.

After saying that, Louis realized that it wasn't appropriate for him to badmouth his family to an outsider, so he said, "Just keep waiting here. I'll go up for now."

He had a bedroom in the Smiths' manor. When Louis heard that Yvonne was no longer taking charge at home, he had come back excitedly, hoping to see her down and out.

He had made up his mind—he was going to move back to the Smiths' from this day on!

In the suburbs of New York.

Tanya was playing games with Pete in the villa. She had specially bought a jigsaw puzzle meant for twelve-year-olds and above, which had a higher level of difficulty, so that she could keep Pete company.

But unexpectedly, a brief two minutes later, Tanya looked at the completed jigsaw puzzle on the floor, and then at Pete, who sighed and said, "It's too easy."

Tanya: "..."

She asked tentatively: "Shall I buy you a jigsaw puzzle meant for grown-ups next time?"

"... God-mom, do you like jigsaw puzzles a lot?"

Tanya: "?"

Pete sighed and said, "I've already played with you for so long. Can I go and do my Olympiad assignments now?"

Tanya: "!!"

So, to Pete, doing jigsaw puzzles with her was actually a waste of time and energy?!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. "Go ahead."

Only then did a satisfied Pete walk over to the desk next to them and take out his Mathematical Olympiad workbook from his schoolbag. Before he started working on the problems, he suddenly looked at Tanya and asked, "Is Mommy really okay?"

Tanya was taken aback.

She had brought Pete back with her after school the day before. Pete had followed her home without saying anything at that time. She'd thought that he wouldn't ask about it, but unexpectedly, he was actually such a perceptive boy.

Tanya said, "She'll be fine."

Pete kept quiet for a while before he asked, "Mommy will come and pick me up, right?"

Tanya: "..."

The way he was asking those questions so seriously and with such a tense look on his face broke Tanya's heart.

It was only then that Tanya realized that even though Nora had found Pete, and that even though he was sleeping on the same bed as his mother every day these days, Pete was actually still very insecure at heart.

She walked over, hugged Pete, and kissed him on the cheek. "Don't worry, she'll definitely come. Your mom loves you very, very much. When we were looking for our children abroad back then, she was really crazy about it."

Her words piqued Pete's interest all of a sudden. He asked, "How so?"

Tanya: "????"

Pete put down the workbook in his hand and looked at her seriously, his eyes full of interest. He really wanted to know all the details!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. She had gotten him so many toys, yet none of them had aroused Pete's interest at all. Instead, a simple one-liner from her had unexpectedly made the boy so fixated on something.

She could only say, "Your mom was in poor health when she first went overseas. Even so, she insisted on coming to our meetings every week and listened to us share our experiences in looking for our children. After that, she would try again and again to return to the States. At that time, she was falling comatose for a while almost every day, so your grand-aunt never allowed her to come back. Thus, she got people to look for you in the country instead.

"I remember that there was once a liar who called your mom and told her that he had found clues about your whereabouts. We all knew he was a liar, but your mom believed him. I tried to talk her out of it when she was giving him money, but she instead said, 'I know he's a liar, but what if he really has news about my son? I won't allow myself to miss out on any possibility.'

"There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs..."

Tanya's eyes reddened as she spoke.

It hadn't been easy for her and Nora during all those years back then.

Nora's suffering had already come to an end, but what about her?

There was still no news about her child even now.

Tanya lowered her head. She didn't notice Pete's eyes flickering.

Even though Pete now had a mother, he had still felt insecure all this time. After all, his family was incomplete, and Mommy was always finding Daddy too troublesome.

He had actually had nightmares quite a few times.

He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn't want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn't catch up to them at all.

His feet were so heavy in the dream.

He was afraid that Mommy would suddenly separate from Daddy one day and leave him.

Listening to Tanya talk about how Mommy had looked for him so painstakingly back then made him distressed, but also relieved at the same time.

What Cherry said was true—Mommy had never given up on him before.

After Tanya talked about the past for a while, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Pete got up at once. "It must be Mommy!"

Tanya stared at him, caught between laughter and tears. It was only at times like this that Pete looked like what a boy his age should look like.

She smiled and went to open the door. "You're finally here! Your little brat is already sick of me by now!"

She opened the door as she spoke intimately, only to see Joel standing outside instead.

Tanya was stunned. "Why are you here?"

Joel's fox-like eyes, which easily made one feel as though he was deeply in love with them, were fixed on her.

But Tanya knew exactly how heartless the man was.

Seeing her expression go from joy to wariness, Joel lowered his gaze, acerbity filling his heart.

He said softly, "Nora is fine now. I came to take the child home."

Tanya was a little taken aback when she heard his term of address for Nora. Then, she looked away and uttered, "Oh."

She then glanced at Pete and asked, "Has she gone home yet?"

"No, but she'll be home soon."

Tanya was very wary. She said, "You can't take the child if she isn't home. Let's wait until she's home."

"Okay." Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, "Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?"

Tanya: "..."

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, "It's not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?"

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he said, "Isn't the child also at home?"

The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

Tanya sneered and said, "The child is still young, so it's still inappropriate. You'd better go back to the car and wait there instead, Mr. Smith.. I'll let you take the child once Nora gets home and retrieves her cell phone, and I confirm things with her."

Bam!

Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: "..."

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, "Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?"

"Oh, just an annoying fly," replied Tanya.

Joel: "..."

Half an hour later.

The perturbed and distracted Tanya glanced at the window.

The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

"Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?"

Pete's words interrupted Tanya's thoughts.

She said coldly, "It has nothing to do with me even if he's dead."

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn't help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel's legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn't putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, "I knew you wouldn't ignore me, Tanya."

"..."

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya's eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. "Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?"

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, "I don't want to go to the hospital." Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn't want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel's assistant.

The assistant said, "The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!"

The bodyguard retorted, "Even so, we can't just watch as someone hits him!"

"She won't."

"What?"

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya's foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, "Did he really not bring his assistant with him?"

"What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?"

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, "And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!"

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say 'elder brother', though?

Nora didn't realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, "Which brother?"

"... How many elder brothers do you have?!"

Chapter 335 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Morris paused. "I didn't expect Miss Nora to be so perceptive."

Nora rolled her eyes.

How could she still not understand at this point!

After Old Maddy's incident, Morris had kept asking her if she had given Old Maddy any drugs. Then, he had detected some unknown components in Old Maddy's blood. He immediately became nervous and his attitude became worse.

At that time, Morris was certain that she had fed Old Maddy something.

Later on, when he realized that Old Maddy's blood contained drugs commonly used to poison rats and mosquitoes, Morris relaxed. He did not even participate in the arrest of Florence.

If she still could not detect anything, she was too slow.

Nora thought about this and asked, "Captain Ford, should we talk about this properly now?"

Morris nodded and crossed his arms on the table. His posture seemed more like he was testing and wary. "Miss Nora, do you know that there is a mysterious organization in this world that outsiders don't know about?"

A mysterious organization?

Nora's first reaction was Imperial League.

She lowered her eyes and looked calm, but her heart felt as if it had been scalded.

Imperial League was indeed a dangerous existence to be able to control the global economy. But according to what she knew, it didn't do human experiments or illegal drugs.

So it wasn't Imperial League.

She looked up at Morris and did not answer his question. "Please elaborate."

Morris observed the girl in front of him.

She had just woken up. Perhaps it was because she had slept for too long, but her almond-shaped eyes were a little swollen. Although she had eaten, her voice was still a little hoarse.

No one could guess what she was thinking.

Actually, Morris had been observing her for a long time, but he felt like this girl was covered in a veil. Every time he felt that she was just an ordinary person, she would do something that surprised him.

For example, her identity as Anti...

At the thought of this, Morris lowered his eyes. "We still don't know what that mysterious organization is called. We only know that they're doing human experiments and illegal pharmaceuticals. Moreover, the drugs they create are very dangerous and will cause a destructive blow to the entire human race!"

When Nora heard this, she slowly sat up straight. Her eyes became more serious. "A destructive blow?"

"Yes," Morris said slowly. "We've always guessed that they're creating a virus and they've already started human trials more than twenty years ago!"

20 years ago?

Nora frowned. "Is my mother related to this organization?"

Morris was silent for a long time before he said slowly, "We suspect that your mother was from this organization, so we secretly arrested her back then."

At this point, he lowered his eyes. "At that time, my mother was the leader of the operation team. After her arrest, your mother said that she had a patient waiting for her to treat. Otherwise, that patient would die. She even said that only she could treat that illness."

Nora suddenly understood. "Your mother let my mother go and my mother ran away. That's why you refused to let me go this time. You didn't believe what I said?"

Morris was speechless.

What did she mean by refusing to let her go...

He grimaced, ignoring her choice of words, and nodded. "Yes."

Nora suddenly understood his neurotic way of doing things. If it involved such a high-level case, forcing her to stay was understandable.

After saying everything, Morris stood up and extended his hand to her. "So, please understand my actions again."

"Sure."

Nora did not shake his hand and just waved it casually.

As they walked out, Morris took the opportunity to say, "Florence's poison was stolen from Yvonne's room, but if Florence doesn't say anything, we won't be able to hold Yvonne responsible. If Miss Nora wants to bring the real criminal to justice, you'd better think of a way to convince Florence."

Nora stretched lazily. When she thought of Florence's complaints about her, she lowered her eyes and said, "Unless I'm Ian's biological daughter, it's impossible to convince her!"

Morris was speechless.

Nora dragged her feet and lazily walked out the door. After meeting up with Justin, the two of them left the police station.

As soon as she went out, Lily appeared in front of her. She wanted to say something, but she glanced at Justin and pulled Nora to the side. She asked nervously, "Anti, are you okay?"

Nora nodded. "I'm fine."

Lily said indignantly, "What's wrong with the Smiths? Is this how they treat you? It's too much! Moreover, your DNA mutated a little in the later stages. No one can say for sure if you're really Ryan's daughter. I think your father is Ian!"

Nora patted her shoulder. "If you don't have evidence, don't talk nonsense."

Whether she was Ryan's daughter or Ian's, there was no accurate news for now. Unless they got real evidence, Nora would not say anything to the Smiths.

Otherwise, wouldn't it be awkward if she was really Ryan's daughter?

Lily was so angry that she blew raspberries. "Evidence? How can we get evidence now? Unless we go back more than twenty years ago and save some DNA samples from your birth, where else can we find evidence?"

20 years ago... DNA samples?

Nora suddenly thought of the manager who was protecting Idealian Pharmaceuticals for her mother.. Her eyes lit up.

Although Nora had been in New York for two to three months, Idealian Pharmaceuticals would send the dividends to her account on time in the past few months.

She just had a lot of money and never cared about it.

However, now that she thought about it, Wayne was the manager her mother had personally chosen. He also managed Idealian Pharmaceuticals and did not let Henry interfere to snatch it away. He definitely had his own means!

She nodded at Lily, picked up her phone, and walked to the side to call Wayne.

As soon as the call connected, Wayne's excited voice was heard. "Miss Nora, you've finally thought it through. Are you coming back to inherit the company?"

Nora: "..."

Why did this fellow seem so enthusiastic?

How unwilling was he to manage the company!

She grimaced and asked, "No, I just want to ask you a question."

The other party's voice immediately lowered as he said listlessly, "Okay, ask away."

Nora asked, "Did my mother leave anything for me at your place?"

"Yes!"

Before the other party could speak, Nora interrupted him. "Other than companionship and love, is there anything else?"

"...About that!" Wayne dragged out his words and sighed. "What specifically do you want?"

Nora asked tentatively, "For example, fetal hair? Or a blood sample?"

Wayne: "Of course not. Miss Nora, why would your mom leave your fetal hair for me? I'm not a pervert. I don't have a fetish for collecting hair!"

Nora: "..."

Wayne asked, "Miss Nora, are you busy?"

Nora: "No, what's wrong? Is there something wrong with the company?"

"Not really. After all, our small company relied on the formula your mother left behind. It's not a problem for us to prescribe some medicine. It can also ensure that you have no financial worries in your life." Wayne began to nag. "I just want to say, when are you coming back to manage the company? I'm really too busy alone! You don't even know that there are many miscellaneous matters in the company. As the chairman of Idealian Pharmaceuticals, you have to be responsible. You can't leave everything to me alone. I'm already old... blah, blah..."

Nora listened for a full minute. When she saw that he was still not stopping, she said, "By the way, what did you ask me just now?"

Wayne: "... If you were busy?"

Nora immediately said, "I'm very busy. I'm hanging up... Beep, beep, beep..."

Wayne was speechless.

Hearing the busy tone on the phone, Nora pouted. She really couldn't listen to a naggy person.

She looked at Lily. "I might be busy for a while. Stay in the country for now."

"Okay."

As her first assistant, Lily was very competent. "Where do I stay?"

Nora thought for a moment. "Stay with me in the Smiths."

After her identity was exposed, there would definitely be many people looking for her. It was very troublesome. This would require Lily to handle it. If there

were problems that other doctors could resolve, Lily would help recommend them. If Nora had to do it, Lily would arrange a schedule for her.

At the thought of this, Nora felt a headache coming on.

She rubbed her temples and walked with Lily to Justin's car.

Justin stood at the side. When he saw the two of them walk over, he opened the back door, and Nora got into the car. Lily wanted to follow them, but she realized that Justin was blocking the door.

Lily was stunned. She looked up and saw Justin glance at the front passenger seat.

Lily immediately understood and stuck out her tongue. "I'll be in the front passenger seat! I'm not an insensitive person, Anti's boyfriend."

Anti's boyfriend?

Justin was a little stunned when he heard this title.

Usually, when he was outside, people would call him Mr. Hunt or Justin. This was the first time he was called Nora's boyfriend.

He suddenly liked this nickname.

He lowered his head slightly and got into the car. He entered the backseat and sat with Nora.

The journey was silent. After Justin took the two of them to the Smiths, he did not stay any longer. After all, he had not slept the entire night. He wanted to go back and recuperate.

Besides, Cherry was still waiting for him at the Hunts.

Nora brought Lily into the house. Just as they entered, the butler welcomed them. "Miss Nora, you're back!"

His attitude became much more respectful.

Nora was taken aback for a moment.

The butler bowed deeply to her. "Miss Nora, I was wrong to have misunderstood that you were trying to harm Old Maddy. I didn't expect you to be the famous Anti. I was blind!"

"Miss Nora, we misunderstood you!"

When the other servants heard that she was back, they immediately walked out and bowed to her.

Those who could work in wealthy families were not fools.

Initially, they thought that Nora was going to use Old Maddy to make a name for herself. They did not expect that she was really going to treat him!

On the other hand, Florence had stolen poison from Miss Yvonne's study and almost killed Old Maddy!

It was obvious at a glance which young lady did not care about their lives!

Initially, when Nora had come to live with the Smiths, everyone still felt some disdain for her. They felt that she was just a wild chicken who had become a phoenix thanks to her background. However, at this moment, everyone admired her from the bottom of their hearts.

On the way back to her room, all the servants who saw her stood at a distance and bowed to her to express their apologies.

The servants in the entire manor had a 180-degree change in attitude toward her!

Nora entered the living room. The housekeeper, Lucy, who had just been promoted by Joel, hurried over. "Miss Nora, you're finally back! Do you have any orders for me?"

Nora glanced at him.

Lucy was in her thirties. She looked very young and energetic. Her attitude toward her was very respectful.

Nora pointed at Lily. "This is my assistant. She will be staying here for a period of time. Please arrange a guest room for her."

"No problem!"

Lucy immediately said, "Miss Lily, you can wait in the living room and tell me the style of the room you like. I'll choose a guest room that you like."

Nora was going upstairs to take a shower, so she went up first.

Lily sat in the living room. After choosing a guest room, Lucy arranged for someone to tidy it up and accompany her.

At this moment, Yvonne suddenly walked down and casually instructed, "Lucy, come over. I have something to tell you."

Lucy was stunned and looked at Lily. "Miss Yvonne, there's... a guest here."

Yvonne's gaze instantly turned sharp as she stared at Lucy. "Lucy, since you're in this family, you should understand who the real daughter of this family is! The entire Smiths belong to my father!"

Lucy was Joel's caretaker.

It could be said that she was the nanny who had taken care of Joel since he was young. Because she was meticulous and smart, she had always worked for the Smiths.

As Joel grew up, Lucy had also slowly been promoted and given a raise from taking care of him. Before Florence was taken away by the police, her words at home already carried a lot of weight.

Even Florence and Yvonne were polite to her because of Joel.

After all, Florence was already old, and Joel was the new head of the Smiths. Her future status could be imagined.

Lucy had watched Yvonne grow up. She was loyal to Joel, so she naturally disliked Yvonne.

After all... Joel was the one Ian had chosen. Yvonne was Ian's adopted daughter, but she had a high status at home and always suppressed others.

In the past, when she saw Maureen giving in to Yvonne, she couldn't help but wonder if Joel would give in to her at home when he got married in the future.

However, Joel's wife would be the madam of the Smiths! She would also be the future matriarch of the Smiths!

Therefore, Lucy and Yvonne were born to be enemies.

Coupled with the fact that Old Maddy had been poisoned, everyone knew that Florence was either under Yvonne's orders or had been deceived. Therefore, they felt even more disdain for Yvonne.

Yvonne had lost control of the family, and Lucy was now in charge of the family's matters.

Lucy did not feel threatened by her words. She only smiled and said, "Miss Yvonne, from what you're saying, you're older than Miss Nora. Of course, you're the eldest daughter of the Smiths! It's just that I still have a guest here. Furthermore, Mr. Joel has just handed the house to me. I have all kinds of miscellaneous matters to deal with here. I'm a quiet person and I'm cautious in my actions. I don't dare to make any mistakes or embarrass myself in front of a guest. If news of this gets out, no one will scold me. They will only say that the Smiths' upbringing is bad. Don't you think so?"

Yvonne: "!!"

She had long known that Lucy was not a pushover, but she did not expect her to rebut her like this.

Yvonne's face turned red and white.

The surrounding servants were clearly working, but Yvonne knew that they must have strained their ears to eavesdrop on their conversation.

After Joel fired the housekeeper, Yvonne knew that Lucy would definitely hit her while she was down. When she made things difficult for Lucy earlier, she wanted everyone to see that even if she had done something wrong, she was still the owner of the Smiths!

However, she did not expect to meet a wall with Lucy.

She took a deep breath. She knew that at this moment, she had to turn the situation around. Otherwise, she would really be looked down upon.

She lowered her eyes. "Lucy, I only called you over to tell you how to entertain the guest. Why are you making it sound so grand? Or do you think that I, as the eldest daughter, have no right to give you instructions?"

With that, she sneered. “Dad is indeed in the hospital. Joel is in charge of the family now, but Dad is still around. Do you think he’ll be happy to know that you’re talking to me like this after he wakes up?”

Lucy choked.

Ian was equivalent to the emperor emeritus in the family. Everyone knew that he had the ability to take back control of the family. It was just that Joel was very filial and Ian was very satisfied with him!

Lucy did not dare to say such words. She immediately stood up. “Miss Yvonne, what do you want to say?”

Yvonne glanced at Lily and said, “Since there’s a guest at home, let’s add a few dishes tonight! This lady must have returned from overseas. She must be very interested in the delicacies in New York. We can prepare a sweet and sour fish.”

The list of dishes prepared in the kitchen had long been prepared. If Yvonne suddenly added more dishes, the chef would definitely have to rush out to buy ingredients. This would make things difficult for the kitchen.

However, Lucy still agreed with a smile. “Miss Yvonne is right. I’ll get someone to prepare it right away.”

Yvonne nodded.

When she turned around and walked upstairs, she sensitively saw Lucy purse her lips and make a disdainful expression.

Yvonne forcefully suppressed the anger in her heart.

She was just a servant, yet she dared to be rude to her!

Furthermore, the rest of the family’s attitude toward her had clearly changed. There was coldness in their distance, just like how they treated Nora in the past.

But so what?

Nora was the daughter of the second branch. She was basically from the side family! Now, the Smiths’ direct line of descent was her!

As long as she was still Ian's legal daughter, then she would have a share of his family fortune! Even if she was an adopted daughter, she was still better than Nora, the legitimate cousin of the Smiths!

After all, how could a niece get an uncle's inheritance?

In the Smiths, her identity as Yvonne would forever suppress Nora!

At this moment, outside the door.

Lisa stood there and was answering a call. It was Nora's aunt, Irene. "...I wonder how Nora is now. Go and take a look. Why is she suspected of medical malpractice? This child didn't say anything either. If I hadn't seen the news, I wouldn't have known! Sigh!"

Lisa stood at the door, feeling a little conflicted. "Mom, Nora isn't Henry's biological daughter. Isn't it bad for me to go looking for her like this?"

Ever since she found out that Nora was not Henry's biological daughter, Lisa did not dare to visit her again.

Now that she knew Nora was her mentor, Anti, she became even more fearful!

However, after watching the live broadcast and the news, she was the same as her mother. She was very worried about Nora's comfort in the Smiths. Did the Smiths not treat her well enough?

Lisa looked at the imposing door in front of her and became even more hesitant.

She did not expect Nora to be this family's daughter...

As she was feeling ashamed of herself, Irene's voice was heard. "What's wrong with that? I believe Nora isn't that kind of person! She'll acknowledge us!"

Lisa nodded and took a deep breath. "Alright."

At this moment, Lisa's father, Bobby, said, "Honey, do you remember Lisa's umbilical cord blood?"

Irene was stunned. "What's wrong?"

Bobby said, "Back then, when you gave birth to Lisa, we spent about 3,000 dollars to keep her umbilical cord blood for more than twenty years. The hospital called me just now and asked if we wanted to keep it for a while longer."

Irene immediately said, "Is it expired? Then you can renew the fees."

With that, she sighed. "Speaking of which, I learned how to store umbilical cord blood from Nora's mother. When she gave birth to Nora, she had kept her umbilical cord blood for her. Now, it should still be in the hospital's freezer.. By the way, Lisa, when you see Nora, remember to tell her. She definitely doesn't know about this yet! If it's useful in the future..."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Bobby interrupted Irene. "When would you need the umbilical cord blood? I hope she won't need to use it for the rest of her life!"

Cord blood was mainly used to treat blood diseases, such as leukemia. Under normal circumstances, it would definitely not be needed.

Irene immediately snorted. "Yes, Nora definitely won't need it. But we still have to tell her."

The disappointing brother at home had already disappeared for a long time. The Blacks in California were living more comfortably than before.

Especially since Bobby had recently been in a few big business deals with the company.

Although Bobby did not know who had helped him, he had a feeling that it might be related to Nora.

He was a good kid who knew how to repay kindness. Back then, he had misunderstood that Nora did not care about his wife's life. However, when he saw the live broadcast, he finally understood why Nora was so indifferent back then.

It turned out that the doctor she had found for the Blacks was herself!

Bobby was feeling guilty about chasing her out of the hospital back then, so he snatched the phone away and said to Lisa, "When you see Nora,

remember to help me bring her home. Ask her to bring the child over to play when she's free. I'll make her favorite brown sugar rice cake!"

"...Okay." Lisa hung up the phone and looked at the luxurious door in front of her again. She thought for a long time before knocking on the door.

The door opened quickly. The guard asked, "Who are you looking for?"

Lisa: "...I'm looking for Nora."

The guard looked her up and down. "Wait a minute."

"Okay."

The guard called and entered the hall. The housekeeper, Lucy, had just tidied up the guest room for Lily. After receiving the call, she was about to call Nora to ask if she should come in when she was stopped by Lily. "Let Miss Lisa in first. An... Miss Nora should be sleeping right now. Don't disturb her."

Lily knew Nora's body very well. She had spent the entire day at the police station yesterday and went to treat Old Maddy at night. Even though she had slept for a while, her energy had not recovered yet. She must be sleeping right now!

Lucy listened to Lily and let the guard bring Lisa in.

Upstairs, Yvonne listened to their conversation and bit her lip in anger. She was just a servant, and she would chatter away after saying a few words. However, when Nora's assistant spoke, she was as obedient as anything. She simply did not take her seriously!

How infuriating!

When Lisa was led into the Smiths' residence, she was first stunned by the lavish courtyard.

This was New York!

In places where every inch of land was worth money, they actually had such a large manor. Furthermore, she was perceptive to the fact that some places had flowers planted and some places had vegetables. This was the first time Lisa experienced the difference between her and a truly wealthy family!

She was already so terrified. No wonder Nora was being bullied here!

Yes, she was certain that Nora had suffered in the Smiths.

It was just medical malpractice. Even in California, if Henry did not appear, her parents could still bail her out. But in New York, the Smiths actually allowed Nora to be detained for 24 hours!

Wasn't it just because they were rich?

As Lisa thought about this, she became even more furious.

At this moment, a playful voice was heard. "Hey, who is this?"

Lisa turned around and saw a man around her age with blond hair... To be precise, it was a young man walking over. She frowned when she heard the housekeeper say, "Mr. Louis, this is Miss Nora's cousin from California."

Louis immediately sized up Lisa when he heard this.

Was this his cousin's trash family in California?

Ever since Nora became his idol, he had asked around about her. When he asked around, he was instantly furious. He did not expect his cousin to live like that in California!

Especially that shameless cheap father of hers. He had taken her mother's money and still treated her so badly!

Therefore, Louis did not have a good impression of the family in California. When he saw Lisa, he immediately sneered. "Tsk, are you here to take advantage of Nora now that she has become a phoenix?"

Taking advantage of Nora?

Lisa felt Louis's disdain and was instantly infuriated.

She was still a guest, yet he was already being so rude. Wouldn't the Smiths be even more rude to Nora?

The soft person had also lost her temper. She was so angry that her face was red and her voice was trembling. "What's so great about you? Do you have to look down on me?"

Louis raised his head and placed his hands on his hips. “The Smiths are very impressive. Country bumpkin, you must have never seen such a big courtyard, right?”

Country bumpkin?

Did they scold Nora like that too?

Lisa kicked the flower bed beside her in anger. “Who are you calling a country bumpkin?”

Louis made a face. “Whoever cares about it is the country bumpkin! What do you think your family is? Tsk, little girl, I advise you to be careful. Do you know how much this jar of flowers costs? Any one of them is worth thousands of dollars! If you broke it, can you afford to pay?”

Lisa: “!!”

Her eyes were red as she glared at the jar of flowers. She walked to the other side and planned to kick the grass, but Louis said proudly, “The grass over there is no ordinary grass. It’s orchid! One stalk is worth tens of thousands! Are you sure you want to kick it?”

Lisa paused again and looked to the side.

Louis clicked his tongue and showed a disdainful expression. “Little girl, the piece of land you’re standing on is worth hundreds of thousands per square meter. Our family is rich, what can you say?”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “Even if you have a lot of money, you can’t buy kinship. Why are you looking down on us?”

Louis didn’t notice this “us” and thought that she was talking about the family in California. Therefore, he stuck out his tongue. “I’m just looking down on you. Hit me if you dare!”

As soon as he said this, Lisa had already raised her little fist and punched him in the face. “I’m so angry! I’ll let you know today that money is not everything. There are some people you can’t afford to offend!”

Louis took a nimble step back and Lisa chased after him.

The two of them immediately started fighting.

This was what Lily saw when she went out.

Both of them had their hands on their hips.

Louis said annoyingly, “Hmph, your family bullied my cousin. Now, it’s my turn to bully you!”

Lisa’s face was also red as she roared angrily, “The Smiths are bullying my cousin. Let me tell you, my cousin and the Blacks are not people who can be bullied easily!”

At this moment, Lisa was pinching Louis’s face while Louis was pushing Lisa’s neck to prevent her from getting too close to him. Louis did not dare to make a move. After all, the other party was a girl and he was still merciful.

The two of them were stunned when they heard each other.

Lisa’s grip loosened. “What did you say?”

Louis was stunned too. “What did you say? The Blacks? Aren’t you the Smiths from California?”

Lisa: “?”

Louis thought for a moment and coughed. “I think we misunderstood. Let go and talk things out.”

Lisa was furious. “No, let go of me first.”

Louis: “...Why don’t I call out ‘one, two, three’ and we’ll let go together?”

“Okay.”

“One, two, three...”

Even after he finished counting, they were still intertwined.

Louis said, “Let go!”

Lisa: “Let go of me first!”

Lily was speechless.

The two of them were already 20 years old. Together, they were already 40! Yet, they were still so childish!

The corners of her lips twitched. She took a step forward and said, "Louis, Lisa, you've misunderstood! You're both Nora's best relatives! Let go of each other quickly!"

Louis asked hesitantly, "What are you talking about? Didn't you say that the Smiths in California treated her badly?"

"...It's the Smiths' fault. Lisa is the daughter of Nora's aunt. If it weren't for Nora's aunt, she might have starved to death when she was young!"

Louis let go of her immediately when he heard that. "It's a misunderstanding. Why aren't you letting go? It hurts!"

Lisa looked at Lily. "Who are you? Are you treating Nora badly like the Smiths?"

Lily: "...I'm Lily! Anti's assistant! Lisa, please let go. The Smiths have never treated Nora badly!"

As medical students, Anti was a God to them. And Anti's assistant, Lily, was also a legend. After all, those who could be Anti's assistants definitely had good medical skills!

Even Lily was an outstanding surgeon!

Lisa felt a sense of respect for her and hurriedly let go of Louis. Her face was red with embarrassment. "Miss Lily! I'm, I'm sorry... I didn't know..."

She lowered her head and stammered sheepishly.

Louis pointed at her angrily. "Why are you acting weak here? I think you did it on purpose!"

Lisa immediately lost her earlier cautiousness and raised her chin like a fighting chicken. "You were the one who started talking bad about me the moment you entered!"

“You even beat me up! I’ll tell Nora later how savage this little cousin of hers is! What a yellow-haired brat!”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “You, you’re the real yellow-haired brat!”

Louis: “??”

He touched his blond hair and was furious. He hated it when people pointed out his yellow hair. He looked at Lisa and roared, “Say that again if you dare!”

Lisa: “You’re already a yellow-haired brat. Why can’t you let others say it?”

Louis took a step forward and was about to scare her when he tripped and suddenly pounced at Lisa.

Lisa was not as agile and was immediately pinned under him.

Fortunately, there was a big lawn beneath them. It did not hurt much, but coincidentally, Louis’s lips were on Lisa’s.

Everyone: “!!”

After 10 seconds of silence, Louis stood up with his hands on the grass in a daze.

Lisa’s eyes widened as she wiped her mouth with all her might. “Ah, you pervert!”

Seeing her look of disdain, Louis pouted. “I don’t have an infectious disease. Aren’t you overreacting?”

He touched his lips, and for some reason, he suddenly recalled that soft feeling from earlier. His face turned a little red. At this moment, he saw Lisa turn to look at the ground. Her eyes immediately turned red, and large tears rolled down her face.

Louis was shocked. “Hey, what are you doing? Isn’t it just a kiss? Is it worth crying and making a scene?”

Lisa cried, “Of course you don’t feel anything! But... I can’t afford to pay for these lawns!”

Louis: “!!”

It turned out that this was the reason!

He scratched his head and coughed. “Don’t cry. These lawns are not expensive.”

Another tear fell from Lisa’s eye. “Didn’t you just say that a single orchid cost hundreds of thousands?”

Louis: “...I lied to you.”

“ ... ”

Lisa wiped her tears and was so angry that her heart hurt. What kind of family did Nora live in?! The people here were all too perverted!

She followed Lily into the living room angrily.

Louis followed her in and sat on the sofa. He had his hands behind his head and glanced at Lisa from time to time.

At this moment, Yvonne walked down from upstairs and smiled. “There’s another guest at home?”

Her behavior was still magnanimous and appropriate. She looked like someone from a noble family, and Lisa immediately sat up straight and felt restrained.

Lucy replied, “Miss Yvonne, she’s Miss Nora’s cousin.”

Yvonne smiled. “Nora really has a lot of friends and relatives!”

Her words were filled with mockery.

Lisa bit her lip. She had always been a sensitive and suspicious girl. It was obvious that she could sense Yvonne’s hostility.

Especially when Yvonne looked at her from head to toe, her eyes filled with disdain.

Lisa didn’t even know where to put her hands and feet.

At this moment, Louis said, “Tsk, why are you acting as the mistress here? I heard that Joel has taken away all your rights! I should really buy some firecrackers to celebrate!”

Yvonne clenched her fists and smiled. “Louis, there’s a guest here. Speak properly.”

She looked like a good sister.

Louis pouted. “She’s not a guest. She’s Nora’s cousin, which means she’s also my cousin.”

Yvonne smiled. “But isn’t Nora unrelated to the Smiths in California? I heard that she broke off ties with them during the last live broadcast.”

These words made Lisa even more embarrassed. It was as if she was pestering them right now.

She stood up suddenly and was about to say goodbye when she heard Louis laugh.

Yvonne asked, “What are you laughing about?”

Louis touched his hair. “I’m laughing at you.. Anyone else can talk about blood relations, but can you? You’re not related to our family by blood. According to your logic, you’re not a member of the Smiths?”

“You—”

He dissed Yvonne to the point that she was rendered speechless.

She turned and went upstairs in a huff.

Louis curled his lips disdainfully behind her and said to Lisa, “Don’t bother with her. She’s just spoiled.”

Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. “She looks pretty graceful to me, though.”

Louis gnashed his teeth in fury and said, “It’s all an act. I know that woman the best, we grew up together. She does one thing in front of other people and another altogether behind their backs, and is the most hypocritical person

ever. She has no blood relation to the Smiths. She'd be nothing at all if Uncle Ian hadn't adopted her."

"... Oh," said Lisa.

After saying that, Louis realized that it wasn't appropriate for him to badmouth his family to an outsider, so he said, "Just keep waiting here. I'll go up for now."

He had a bedroom in the Smiths' manor. When Louis heard that Yvonne was no longer taking charge at home, he had come back excitedly, hoping to see her down and out.

He had made up his mind—he was going to move back to the Smiths' from this day on!

In the suburbs of New York.

Tanya was playing games with Pete in the villa. She had specially bought a jigsaw puzzle meant for twelve-year-olds and above, which had a higher level of difficulty, so that she could keep Pete company.

But unexpectedly, a brief two minutes later, Tanya looked at the completed jigsaw puzzle on the floor, and then at Pete, who sighed and said, "It's too easy."

Tanya: "..."

She asked tentatively: "Shall I buy you a jigsaw puzzle meant for grown-ups next time?"

"... God-mom, do you like jigsaw puzzles a lot?"

Tanya: "?"

Pete sighed and said, "I've already played with you for so long. Can I go and do my Olympiad assignments now?"

Tanya: "!!"

So, to Pete, doing jigsaw puzzles with her was actually a waste of time and energy?!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. "Go ahead."

Only then did a satisfied Pete walk over to the desk next to them and take out his Mathematical Olympiad workbook from his schoolbag. Before he started working on the problems, he suddenly looked at Tanya and asked, "Is Mommy really okay?"

Tanya was taken aback.

She had brought Pete back with her after school the day before. Pete had followed her home without saying anything at that time. She'd thought that he wouldn't ask about it, but unexpectedly, he was actually such a perceptive boy.

Tanya said, "She'll be fine."

Pete kept quiet for a while before he asked, "Mommy will come and pick me up, right?"

Tanya: "..."

The way he was asking those questions so seriously and with such a tense look on his face broke Tanya's heart.

It was only then that Tanya realized that even though Nora had found Pete, and that even though he was sleeping on the same bed as his mother every day these days, Pete was actually still very insecure at heart.

She walked over, hugged Pete, and kissed him on the cheek. "Don't worry, she'll definitely come. Your mom loves you very, very much. When we were looking for our children abroad back then, she was really crazy about it."

Her words piqued Pete's interest all of a sudden. He asked, "How so?"

Tanya: "????"

Pete put down the workbook in his hand and looked at her seriously, his eyes full of interest. He really wanted to know all the details!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. She had gotten him so many toys, yet none of them had aroused Pete's interest at all. Instead, a simple one-liner from her had unexpectedly made the boy so fixated on something.

She could only say, “Your mom was in poor health when she first went overseas. Even so, she insisted on coming to our meetings every week and listened to us share our experiences in looking for our children. After that, she would try again and again to return to the States. At that time, she was falling comatose for a while almost every day, so your grand-aunt never allowed her to come back. Thus, she got people to look for you in the country instead.

“I remember that there was once a liar who called your mom and told her that he had found clues about your whereabouts. We all knew he was a liar, but your mom believed him. I tried to talk her out of it when she was giving him money, but she instead said, ‘I know he’s a liar, but what if he really has news about my son? I won’t allow myself to miss out on any possibility.’

“There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs...”

Tanya’s eyes reddened as she spoke.

It hadn’t been easy for her and Nora during all those years back then.

Nora’s suffering had already come to an end, but what about her?

There was still no news about her child even now.

Tanya lowered her head. She didn’t notice Pete’s eyes flickering.

Even though Pete now had a mother, he had still felt insecure all this time. After all, his family was incomplete, and Mommy was always finding Daddy too troublesome.

He had actually had nightmares quite a few times.

He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn’t want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn’t catch up to them at all.

His feet were so heavy in the dream.

He was afraid that Mommy would suddenly separate from Daddy one day and leave him.

Listening to Tanya talk about how Mommy had looked for him so painstakingly back then made him distressed, but also relieved at the same time.

What Cherry said was true—Mommy had never given up on him before.

After Tanya talked about the past for a while, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Pete got up at once. “It must be Mommy!”

Tanya stared at him, caught between laughter and tears. It was only at times like this that Pete looked like what a boy his age should look like.

She smiled and went to open the door. “You’re finally here! Your little brat is already sick of me by now!”

She opened the door as she spoke intimately, only to see Joel standing outside instead.

Tanya was stunned. “Why are you here?”

Joel’s fox-like eyes, which easily made one feel as though he was deeply in love with them, were fixed on her.

But Tanya knew exactly how heartless the man was.

Seeing her expression go from joy to wariness, Joel lowered his gaze, acerbity filling his heart.

He said softly, “Nora is fine now. I came to take the child home.”

Tanya was a little taken aback when she heard his term of address for Nora. Then, she looked away and uttered, “Oh.”

She then glanced at Pete and asked, “Has she gone home yet?”

“No, but she’ll be home soon.”

Tanya was very wary. She said, “You can’t take the child if she isn’t home. Let’s wait until she’s home.”

“Okay.” Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, “Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?”

Tanya: "..."

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, "It's not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?"

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he said, "Isn't the child also at home?"

The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

Tanya sneered and said, "The child is still young, so it's still inappropriate. You'd better go back to the car and wait there instead, Mr. Smith.. I'll let you take the child once Nora gets home and retrieves her cell phone, and I confirm things with her."

Bam!

Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: "..."

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, "Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?"

"Oh, just an annoying fly," replied Tanya.

Joel: "..."

Half an hour later.

The perturbed and distracted Tanya glanced at the window.

The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

"Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?"

Pete's words interrupted Tanya's thoughts.

She said coldly, "It has nothing to do with me even if he's dead."

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn't help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel's legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn't putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, "I knew you wouldn't ignore me, Tanya."

"..."

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya's eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. "Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?"

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, "I don't want to go to the hospital." Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn't want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel's assistant.

The assistant said, "The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!"

The bodyguard retorted, "Even so, we can't just watch as someone hits him!"

"She won't."

"What?"

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya's foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, "Did he really not bring his assistant with him?"

"What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?"

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, “And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!”

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say ‘elder brother’, though?

Nora didn’t realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, “Which brother?”

“... How many elder brothers do you have?!”

Chapter 336 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

“Okay.”

As her first assistant, Lily was very competent. “Where do I stay?”

Nora thought for a moment. “Stay with me in the Smiths.”

After her identity was exposed, there would definitely be many people looking for her. It was very troublesome. This would require Lily to handle it. If there were problems that other doctors could resolve, Lily would help recommend them. If Nora had to do it, Lily would arrange a schedule for her.

At the thought of this, Nora felt a headache coming on.

She rubbed her temples and walked with Lily to Justin’s car.

Justin stood at the side. When he saw the two of them walk over, he opened the back door, and Nora got into the car. Lily wanted to follow them, but she realized that Justin was blocking the door.

Lily was stunned. She looked up and saw Justin glance at the front passenger seat.

Lily immediately understood and stuck out her tongue. “I’ll be in the front passenger seat! I’m not an insensitive person, Anti’s boyfriend.”

Anti’s boyfriend?

Justin was a little stunned when he heard this title.

Usually, when he was outside, people would call him Mr. Hunt or Justin. This was the first time he was called Nora's boyfriend.

He suddenly liked this nickname.

He lowered his head slightly and got into the car. He entered the backseat and sat with Nora.

The journey was silent. After Justin took the two of them to the Smiths, he did not stay any longer. After all, he had not slept the entire night. He wanted to go back and recuperate.

Besides, Cherry was still waiting for him at the Hunts.

Nora brought Lily into the house. Just as they entered, the butler welcomed them. "Miss Nora, you're back!"

His attitude became much more respectful.

Nora was taken aback for a moment.

The butler bowed deeply to her. "Miss Nora, I was wrong to have misunderstood that you were trying to harm Old Maddy. I didn't expect you to be the famous Anti. I was blind!"

"Miss Nora, we misunderstood you!"

When the other servants heard that she was back, they immediately walked out and bowed to her.

Those who could work in wealthy families were not fools.

Initially, they thought that Nora was going to use Old Maddy to make a name for herself. They did not expect that she was really going to treat him!

On the other hand, Florence had stolen poison from Miss Yvonne's study and almost killed Old Maddy!

It was obvious at a glance which young lady did not care about their lives!

Initially, when Nora had come to live with the Smiths, everyone still felt some disdain for her. They felt that she was just a wild chicken who had become a

phoenix thanks to her background. However, at this moment, everyone admired her from the bottom of their hearts.

On the way back to her room, all the servants who saw her stood at a distance and bowed to her to express their apologies.

The servants in the entire manor had a 180-degree change in attitude toward her!

Nora entered the living room. The housekeeper, Lucy, who had just been promoted by Joel, hurried over. "Miss Nora, you're finally back! Do you have any orders for me?"

Nora glanced at him.

Lucy was in her thirties. She looked very young and energetic. Her attitude toward her was very respectful.

Nora pointed at Lily. "This is my assistant. She will be staying here for a period of time. Please arrange a guest room for her."

"No problem!"

Lucy immediately said, "Miss Lily, you can wait in the living room and tell me the style of the room you like. I'll choose a guest room that you like."

Nora was going upstairs to take a shower, so she went up first.

Lily sat in the living room. After choosing a guest room, Lucy arranged for someone to tidy it up and accompany her.

At this moment, Yvonne suddenly walked down and casually instructed, "Lucy, come over. I have something to tell you."

Lucy was stunned and looked at Lily. "Miss Yvonne, there's... a guest here."

Yvonne's gaze instantly turned sharp as she stared at Lucy. "Lucy, since you're in this family, you should understand who the real daughter of this family is! The entire Smiths belong to my father!"

Lucy was Joel's caretaker.

It could be said that she was the nanny who had taken care of Joel since he was young. Because she was meticulous and smart, she had always worked for the Smiths.

As Joel grew up, Lucy had also slowly been promoted and given a raise from taking care of him. Before Florence was taken away by the police, her words at home already carried a lot of weight.

Even Florence and Yvonne were polite to her because of Joel.

After all, Florence was already old, and Joel was the new head of the Smiths. Her future status could be imagined.

Lucy had watched Yvonne grow up. She was loyal to Joel, so she naturally disliked Yvonne.

After all... Joel was the one Ian had chosen. Yvonne was Ian's adopted daughter, but she had a high status at home and always suppressed others.

In the past, when she saw Maureen giving in to Yvonne, she couldn't help but wonder if Joel would give in to her at home when he got married in the future.

However, Joel's wife would be the madam of the Smiths! She would also be the future matriarch of the Smiths!

Therefore, Lucy and Yvonne were born to be enemies.

Coupled with the fact that Old Maddy had been poisoned, everyone knew that Florence was either under Yvonne's orders or had been deceived. Therefore, they felt even more disdain for Yvonne.

Yvonne had lost control of the family, and Lucy was now in charge of the family's matters.

Lucy did not feel threatened by her words. She only smiled and said, "Miss Yvonne, from what you're saying, you're older than Miss Nora. Of course, you're the eldest daughter of the Smiths! It's just that I still have a guest here. Furthermore, Mr. Joel has just handed the house to me. I have all kinds of miscellaneous matters to deal with here. I'm a quiet person and I'm cautious in my actions. I don't dare to make any mistakes or embarrass myself in front of a guest. If news of this gets out, no one will scold me. They will only say that the Smiths' upbringing is bad. Don't you think so?"

Yvonne: “!!”

She had long known that Lucy was not a pushover, but she did not expect her to rebut her like this.

Yvonne’s face turned red and white.

The surrounding servants were clearly working, but Yvonne knew that they must have strained their ears to eavesdrop on their conversation.

After Joel fired the housekeeper, Yvonne knew that Lucy would definitely hit her while she was down. When she made things difficult for Lucy earlier, she wanted everyone to see that even if she had done something wrong, she was still the owner of the Smiths!

However, she did not expect to meet a wall with Lucy.

She took a deep breath. She knew that at this moment, she had to turn the situation around. Otherwise, she would really be looked down upon.

She lowered her eyes. “Lucy, I only called you over to tell you how to entertain the guest. Why are you making it sound so grand? Or do you think that I, as the eldest daughter, have no right to give you instructions?”

With that, she sneered. “Dad is indeed in the hospital. Joel is in charge of the family now, but Dad is still around. Do you think he’ll be happy to know that you’re talking to me like this after he wakes up?”

Lucy choked.

Ian was equivalent to the emperor emeritus in the family. Everyone knew that he had the ability to take back control of the family. It was just that Joel was very filial and Ian was very satisfied with him!

Lucy did not dare to say such words. She immediately stood up. “Miss Yvonne, what do you want to say?”

Yvonne glanced at Lily and said, “Since there’s a guest at home, let’s add a few dishes tonight! This lady must have returned from overseas. She must be very interested in the delicacies in New York. We can prepare a sweet and sour fish.”

The list of dishes prepared in the kitchen had long been prepared. If Yvonne suddenly added more dishes, the chef would definitely have to rush out to buy ingredients. This would make things difficult for the kitchen.

However, Lucy still agreed with a smile. "Miss Yvonne is right. I'll get someone to prepare it right away."

Yvonne nodded.

When she turned around and walked upstairs, she sensitively saw Lucy purse her lips and make a disdainful expression.

Yvonne forcefully suppressed the anger in her heart.

She was just a servant, yet she dared to be rude to her!

Furthermore, the rest of the family's attitude toward her had clearly changed. There was coldness in their distance, just like how they treated Nora in the past.

But so what?

Nora was the daughter of the second branch. She was basically from the side family! Now, the Smiths' direct line of descent was her!

As long as she was still Ian's legal daughter, then she would have a share of his family fortune! Even if she was an adopted daughter, she was still better than Nora, the legitimate cousin of the Smiths!

After all, how could a niece get an uncle's inheritance?

In the Smiths, her identity as Yvonne would forever suppress Nora!

At this moment, outside the door.

Lisa stood there and was answering a call. It was Nora's aunt, Irene. "...I wonder how Nora is now. Go and take a look. Why is she suspected of medical malpractice? This child didn't say anything either. If I hadn't seen the news, I wouldn't have known! Sigh!"

Lisa stood at the door, feeling a little conflicted. "Mom, Nora isn't Henry's biological daughter. Isn't it bad for me to go looking for her like this?"

Ever since she found out that Nora was not Henry's biological daughter, Lisa did not dare to visit her again.

Now that she knew Nora was her mentor, Anti, she became even more fearful!

However, after watching the live broadcast and the news, she was the same as her mother. She was very worried about Nora's comfort in the Smiths. Did the Smiths not treat her well enough?

Lisa looked at the imposing door in front of her and became even more hesitant.

She did not expect Nora to be this family's daughter...

As she was feeling ashamed of herself, Irene's voice was heard. "What's wrong with that? I believe Nora isn't that kind of person! She'll acknowledge us!"

Lisa nodded and took a deep breath. "Alright."

At this moment, Lisa's father, Bobby, said, "Honey, do you remember Lisa's umbilical cord blood?"

Irene was stunned. "What's wrong?"

Bobby said, "Back then, when you gave birth to Lisa, we spent about 3,000 dollars to keep her umbilical cord blood for more than twenty years. The hospital called me just now and asked if we wanted to keep it for a while longer."

Irene immediately said, "Is it expired? Then you can renew the fees."

With that, she sighed. "Speaking of which, I learned how to store umbilical cord blood from Nora's mother. When she gave birth to Nora, she had kept her umbilical cord blood for her. Now, it should still be in the hospital's freezer.. By the way, Lisa, when you see Nora, remember to tell her. She definitely doesn't know about this yet! If it's useful in the future..."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Bobby interrupted Irene. "When would you need the umbilical cord blood? I hope she won't need to use it for the rest of her life!"

Cord blood was mainly used to treat blood diseases, such as leukemia. Under normal circumstances, it would definitely not be needed.

Irene immediately snorted. “Yes, Nora definitely won’t need it. But we still have to tell her.”

The disappointing brother at home had already disappeared for a long time. The Blacks in California were living more comfortably than before.

Especially since Bobby had recently been in a few big business deals with the company.

Although Bobby did not know who had helped him, he had a feeling that it might be related to Nora.

He was a good kid who knew how to repay kindness. Back then, he had misunderstood that Nora did not care about his wife’s life. However, when he saw the live broadcast, he finally understood why Nora was so indifferent back then.

It turned out that the doctor she had found for the Blacks was herself!

Bobby was feeling guilty about chasing her out of the hospital back then, so he snatched the phone away and said to Lisa, “When you see Nora, remember to help me bring her home. Ask her to bring the child over to play when she’s free. I’ll make her favorite brown sugar rice cake!”

“...Okay.” Lisa hung up the phone and looked at the luxurious door in front of her again. She thought for a long time before knocking on the door.

The door opened quickly. The guard asked, “Who are you looking for?”

Lisa: “...I’m looking for Nora.”

The guard looked her up and down. “Wait a minute.”

“Okay.”

The guard called and entered the hall. The housekeeper, Lucy, had just tidied up the guest room for Lily. After receiving the call, she was about to call Nora to ask if she should come in when she was stopped by Lily. “Let Miss Lisa in first. An... Miss Nora should be sleeping right now. Don’t disturb her.”

Lily knew Nora's body very well. She had spent the entire day at the police station yesterday and went to treat Old Maddy at night. Even though she had slept for a while, her energy had not recovered yet. She must be sleeping right now!

Lucy listened to Lily and let the guard bring Lisa in.

Upstairs, Yvonne listened to their conversation and bit her lip in anger. She was just a servant, and she would chatter away after saying a few words. However, when Nora's assistant spoke, she was as obedient as anything. She simply did not take her seriously!

How infuriating!

When Lisa was led into the Smiths' residence, she was first stunned by the lavish courtyard.

This was New York!

In places where every inch of land was worth money, they actually had such a large manor. Furthermore, she was perceptive to the fact that some places had flowers planted and some places had vegetables. This was the first time Lisa experienced the difference between her and a truly wealthy family!

She was already so terrified. No wonder Nora was being bullied here!

Yes, she was certain that Nora had suffered in the Smiths.

It was just medical malpractice. Even in California, if Henry did not appear, her parents could still bail her out. But in New York, the Smiths actually allowed Nora to be detained for 24 hours!

Wasn't it just because they were rich?

As Lisa thought about this, she became even more furious.

At this moment, a playful voice was heard. "Hey, who is this?"

Lisa turned around and saw a man around her age with blond hair... To be precise, it was a young man walking over. She frowned when she heard the housekeeper say, "Mr. Louis, this is Miss Nora's cousin from California."

Louis immediately sized up Lisa when he heard this.

Was this his cousin's trash family in California?

Ever since Nora became his idol, he had asked around about her. When he asked around, he was instantly furious. He did not expect his cousin to live like that in California!

Especially that shameless cheap father of hers. He had taken her mother's money and still treated her so badly!

Therefore, Louis did not have a good impression of the family in California. When he saw Lisa, he immediately sneered. "Tsk, are you here to take advantage of Nora now that she has become a phoenix?"

Taking advantage of Nora?

Lisa felt Louis's disdain and was instantly infuriated.

She was still a guest, yet he was already being so rude. Wouldn't the Smiths be even more rude to Nora?

The soft person had also lost her temper. She was so angry that her face was red and her voice was trembling. "What's so great about you? Do you have to look down on me?"

Louis raised his head and placed his hands on his hips. "The Smiths are very impressive. Country bumpkin, you must have never seen such a big courtyard, right?"

Country bumpkin?

Did they scold Nora like that too?

Lisa kicked the flower bed beside her in anger. "Who are you calling a country bumpkin?"

Louis made a face. "Whoever cares about it is the country bumpkin! What do you think your family is? Tsk, little girl, I advise you to be careful. Do you know how much this jar of flowers costs? Any one of them is worth thousands of dollars! If you broke it, can you afford to pay?"

Lisa: "!!"

Her eyes were red as she glared at the jar of flowers. She walked to the other side and planned to kick the grass, but Louis said proudly, “The grass over there is no ordinary grass. It’s orchid! One stalk is worth tens of thousands! Are you sure you want to kick it?”

Lisa paused again and looked to the side.

Louis clicked his tongue and showed a disdainful expression. “Little girl, the piece of land you’re standing on is worth hundreds of thousands per square meter. Our family is rich, what can you say?”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “Even if you have a lot of money, you can’t buy kinship. Why are you looking down on us?”

Louis didn’t notice this “us” and thought that she was talking about the family in California. Therefore, he stuck out his tongue. “I’m just looking down on you. Hit me if you dare!”

As soon as he said this, Lisa had already raised her little fist and punched him in the face. “I’m so angry! I’ll let you know today that money is not everything. There are some people you can’t afford to offend!”

Louis took a nimble step back and Lisa chased after him.

The two of them immediately started fighting.

This was what Lily saw when she went out.

Both of them had their hands on their hips.

Louis said annoyingly, “Hmph, your family bullied my cousin. Now, it’s my turn to bully you!”

Lisa’s face was also red as she roared angrily, “The Smiths are bullying my cousin. Let me tell you, my cousin and the Blacks are not people who can be bullied easily!”

At this moment, Lisa was pinching Louis’s face while Louis was pushing Lisa’s neck to prevent her from getting too close to him. Louis did not dare to make a move. After all, the other party was a girl and he was still merciful.

The two of them were stunned when they heard each other.

Lisa's grip loosened. "What did you say?"

Louis was stunned too. "What did you say? The Blacks? Aren't you the Smiths from California?"

Lisa: "?"

Louis thought for a moment and coughed. "I think we misunderstood. Let go and talk things out."

Lisa was furious. "No, let go of me first."

Louis: "...Why don't I call out 'one, two, three' and we'll let go together?"

"Okay."

"One, two, three..."

Even after he finished counting, they were still intertwined.

Louis said, "Let go!"

Lisa: "Let go of me first!"

Lily was speechless.

The two of them were already 20 years old. Together, they were already 40! Yet, they were still so childish!

The corners of her lips twitched. She took a step forward and said, "Louis, Lisa, you've misunderstood! You're both Nora's best relatives! Let go of each other quickly!"

Louis asked hesitantly, "What are you talking about? Didn't you say that the Smiths in California treated her badly?"

"...It's the Smiths' fault. Lisa is the daughter of Nora's aunt. If it weren't for Nora's aunt, she might have starved to death when she was young!"

Louis let go of her immediately when he heard that. "It's a misunderstanding. Why aren't you letting go? It hurts!"

Lisa looked at Lily. “Who are you? Are you treating Nora badly like the Smiths?”

Lily: “...I’m Lily! Anti’s assistant! Lisa, please let go. The Smiths have never treated Nora badly!”

As medical students, Anti was a God to them. And Anti’s assistant, Lily, was also a legend. After all, those who could be Anti’s assistants definitely had good medical skills!

Even Lily was an outstanding surgeon!

Lisa felt a sense of respect for her and hurriedly let go of Louis. Her face was red with embarrassment. “Miss Lily! I’m, I’m sorry... I didn’t know...”

She lowered her head and stammered sheepishly.

Louis pointed at her angrily. “Why are you acting weak here? I think you did it on purpose!”

Lisa immediately lost her earlier cautiousness and raised her chin like a fighting chicken. “You were the one who started talking bad about me the moment you entered!”

“You even beat me up! I’ll tell Nora later how savage this little cousin of hers is! What a yellow-haired brat!”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “You, you’re the real yellow-haired brat!”

Louis: “??”

He touched his blond hair and was furious. He hated it when people pointed out his yellow hair. He looked at Lisa and roared, “Say that again if you dare!”

Lisa: “You’re already a yellow-haired brat. Why can’t you let others say it?”

Louis took a step forward and was about to scare her when he tripped and suddenly pounced at Lisa.

Lisa was not as agile and was immediately pinned under him.

Fortunately, there was a big lawn beneath them. It did not hurt much, but coincidentally, Louis's lips were on Lisa's.

Everyone: "!!"

After 10 seconds of silence, Louis stood up with his hands on the grass in a daze.

Lisa's eyes widened as she wiped her mouth with all her might. "Ah, you pervert!"

Seeing her look of disdain, Louis pouted. "I don't have an infectious disease. Aren't you overreacting?"

He touched his lips, and for some reason, he suddenly recalled that soft feeling from earlier. His face turned a little red. At this moment, he saw Lisa turn to look at the ground. Her eyes immediately turned red, and large tears rolled down her face.

Louis was shocked. "Hey, what are you doing? Isn't it just a kiss? Is it worth crying and making a scene?"

Lisa cried, "Of course you don't feel anything! But... I can't afford to pay for these lawns!"

Louis: "!!"

It turned out that this was the reason!

He scratched his head and coughed. "Don't cry. These lawns are not expensive."

Another tear fell from Lisa's eye. "Didn't you just say that a single orchid cost hundreds of thousands?"

Louis: "...I lied to you."

"..."

Lisa wiped her tears and was so angry that her heart hurt. What kind of family did Nora live in?! The people here were all too perverted!

She followed Lily into the living room angrily.

Louis followed her in and sat on the sofa. He had his hands behind his head and glanced at Lisa from time to time.

At this moment, Yvonne walked down from upstairs and smiled. "There's another guest at home?"

Her behavior was still magnanimous and appropriate. She looked like someone from a noble family, and Lisa immediately sat up straight and felt restrained.

Lucy replied, "Miss Yvonne, she's Miss Nora's cousin."

Yvonne smiled. "Nora really has a lot of friends and relatives!"

Her words were filled with mockery.

Lisa bit her lip. She had always been a sensitive and suspicious girl. It was obvious that she could sense Yvonne's hostility.

Especially when Yvonne looked at her from head to toe, her eyes filled with disdain.

Lisa didn't even know where to put her hands and feet.

At this moment, Louis said, "Tsk, why are you acting as the mistress here? I heard that Joel has taken away all your rights! I should really buy some firecrackers to celebrate!"

Yvonne clenched her fists and smiled. "Louis, there's a guest here. Speak properly."

She looked like a good sister.

Louis pouted. "She's not a guest. She's Nora's cousin, which means she's also my cousin."

Yvonne smiled. "But isn't Nora unrelated to the Smiths in California? I heard that she broke off ties with them during the last live broadcast."

These words made Lisa even more embarrassed. It was as if she was pestering them right now.

She stood up suddenly and was about to say goodbye when she heard Louis laugh.

Yvonne asked, "What are you laughing about?"

Louis touched his hair. "I'm laughing at you.. Anyone else can talk about blood relations, but can you? You're not related to our family by blood. According to your logic, you're not a member of the Smiths?"

"You—"

He dissed Yvonne to the point that she was rendered speechless.

She turned and went upstairs in a huff.

Louis curled his lips disdainfully behind her and said to Lisa, "Don't bother with her. She's just spoiled."

Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. "She looks pretty graceful to me, though."

Louis gnashed his teeth in fury and said, "It's all an act. I know that woman the best, we grew up together. She does one thing in front of other people and another altogether behind their backs, and is the most hypocritical person ever. She has no blood relation to the Smiths. She'd be nothing at all if Uncle Ian hadn't adopted her."

"... Oh," said Lisa.

After saying that, Louis realized that it wasn't appropriate for him to badmouth his family to an outsider, so he said, "Just keep waiting here. I'll go up for now."

He had a bedroom in the Smiths' manor. When Louis heard that Yvonne was no longer taking charge at home, he had come back excitedly, hoping to see her down and out.

He had made up his mind—he was going to move back to the Smiths' from this day on!

In the suburbs of New York.

Tanya was playing games with Pete in the villa. She had specially bought a jigsaw puzzle meant for twelve-year-olds and above, which had a higher level of difficulty, so that she could keep Pete company.

But unexpectedly, a brief two minutes later, Tanya looked at the completed jigsaw puzzle on the floor, and then at Pete, who sighed and said, "It's too easy."

Tanya: "..."

She asked tentatively: "Shall I buy you a jigsaw puzzle meant for grown-ups next time?"

"... God-mom, do you like jigsaw puzzles a lot?"

Tanya: "?"

Pete sighed and said, "I've already played with you for so long. Can I go and do my Olympiad assignments now?"

Tanya: "!!"

So, to Pete, doing jigsaw puzzles with her was actually a waste of time and energy?!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. "Go ahead."

Only then did a satisfied Pete walk over to the desk next to them and take out his Mathematical Olympiad workbook from his schoolbag. Before he started working on the problems, he suddenly looked at Tanya and asked, "Is Mommy really okay?"

Tanya was taken aback.

She had brought Pete back with her after school the day before. Pete had followed her home without saying anything at that time. She'd thought that he wouldn't ask about it, but unexpectedly, he was actually such a perceptive boy.

Tanya said, "She'll be fine."

Pete kept quiet for a while before he asked, "Mommy will come and pick me up, right?"

Tanya: "..."

The way he was asking those questions so seriously and with such a tense look on his face broke Tanya's heart.

It was only then that Tanya realized that even though Nora had found Pete, and that even though he was sleeping on the same bed as his mother every day these days, Pete was actually still very insecure at heart.

She walked over, hugged Pete, and kissed him on the cheek. "Don't worry, she'll definitely come. Your mom loves you very, very much. When we were looking for our children abroad back then, she was really crazy about it."

Her words piqued Pete's interest all of a sudden. He asked, "How so?"

Tanya: "????"

Pete put down the workbook in his hand and looked at her seriously, his eyes full of interest. He really wanted to know all the details!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. She had gotten him so many toys, yet none of them had aroused Pete's interest at all. Instead, a simple one-liner from her had unexpectedly made the boy so fixated on something.

She could only say, "Your mom was in poor health when she first went overseas. Even so, she insisted on coming to our meetings every week and listened to us share our experiences in looking for our children. After that, she would try again and again to return to the States. At that time, she was falling comatose for a while almost every day, so your grand-aunt never allowed her to come back. Thus, she got people to look for you in the country instead.

"I remember that there was once a liar who called your mom and told her that he had found clues about your whereabouts. We all knew he was a liar, but your mom believed him. I tried to talk her out of it when she was giving him money, but she instead said, 'I know he's a liar, but what if he really has news about my son? I won't allow myself to miss out on any possibility.'

"There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs..."

Tanya's eyes reddened as she spoke.

It hadn't been easy for her and Nora during all those years back then.

Nora's suffering had already come to an end, but what about her?

There was still no news about her child even now.

Tanya lowered her head. She didn't notice Pete's eyes flickering.

Even though Pete now had a mother, he had still felt insecure all this time. After all, his family was incomplete, and Mommy was always finding Daddy too troublesome.

He had actually had nightmares quite a few times.

He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn't want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn't catch up to them at all.

His feet were so heavy in the dream.

He was afraid that Mommy would suddenly separate from Daddy one day and leave him.

Listening to Tanya talk about how Mommy had looked for him so painstakingly back then made him distressed, but also relieved at the same time.

What Cherry said was true—Mommy had never given up on him before.

After Tanya talked about the past for a while, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Pete got up at once. "It must be Mommy!"

Tanya stared at him, caught between laughter and tears. It was only at times like this that Pete looked like what a boy his age should look like.

She smiled and went to open the door. "You're finally here! Your little brat is already sick of me by now!"

She opened the door as she spoke intimately, only to see Joel standing outside instead.

Tanya was stunned. "Why are you here?"

Joel's fox-like eyes, which easily made one feel as though he was deeply in love with them, were fixed on her.

But Tanya knew exactly how heartless the man was.

Seeing her expression go from joy to wariness, Joel lowered his gaze, acerbity filling his heart.

He said softly, "Nora is fine now. I came to take the child home."

Tanya was a little taken aback when she heard his term of address for Nora. Then, she looked away and uttered, "Oh."

She then glanced at Pete and asked, "Has she gone home yet?"

"No, but she'll be home soon."

Tanya was very wary. She said, "You can't take the child if she isn't home. Let's wait until she's home."

"Okay." Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, "Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?"

Tanya: "..."

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, "It's not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?"

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he said, "Isn't the child also at home?"

The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

Tanya sneered and said, "The child is still young, so it's still inappropriate. You'd better go back to the car and wait there instead, Mr. Smith.. I'll let you take the child once Nora gets home and retrieves her cell phone, and I confirm things with her."

Bam!

Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: "..."

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, "Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?"

"Oh, just an annoying fly," replied Tanya.

Joel: "..."

Half an hour later.

The perturbed and distracted Tanya glanced at the window.

The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

"Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?"

Pete's words interrupted Tanya's thoughts.

She said coldly, "It has nothing to do with me even if he's dead."

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn't help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel's legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn't putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, "I knew you wouldn't ignore me, Tanya."

"..."

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya's eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. "Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?"

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, "I don't want to go to the hospital." Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn't want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel's assistant.

The assistant said, "The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!"

The bodyguard retorted, "Even so, we can't just watch as someone hits him!"

"She won't."

"What?"

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya's foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, "Did he really not bring his assistant with him?"

"What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?"

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, "And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!"

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say 'elder brother', though?

Nora didn't realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, "Which brother?"

"... How many elder brothers do you have?!"

Chapter 337 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Nora was the daughter of the second branch. She was basically from the side family! Now, the Smiths' direct line of descent was her!

As long as she was still Ian's legal daughter, then she would have a share of his family fortune! Even if she was an adopted daughter, she was still better than Nora, the legitimate cousin of the Smiths!

After all, how could a niece get an uncle's inheritance?

In the Smiths, her identity as Yvonne would forever suppress Nora!

At this moment, outside the door.

Lisa stood there and was answering a call. It was Nora's aunt, Irene. "...I wonder how Nora is now. Go and take a look. Why is she suspected of medical malpractice? This child didn't say anything either. If I hadn't seen the news, I wouldn't have known! Sigh!"

Lisa stood at the door, feeling a little conflicted. "Mom, Nora isn't Henry's biological daughter. Isn't it bad for me to go looking for her like this?"

Ever since she found out that Nora was not Henry's biological daughter, Lisa did not dare to visit her again.

Now that she knew Nora was her mentor, Anti, she became even more fearful!

However, after watching the live broadcast and the news, she was the same as her mother. She was very worried about Nora's comfort in the Smiths. Did the Smiths not treat her well enough?

Lisa looked at the imposing door in front of her and became even more hesitant.

She did not expect Nora to be this family's daughter...

As she was feeling ashamed of herself, Irene's voice was heard. "What's wrong with that? I believe Nora isn't that kind of person! She'll acknowledge us!"

Lisa nodded and took a deep breath. "Alright."

At this moment, Lisa's father, Bobby, said, "Honey, do you remember Lisa's umbilical cord blood?"

Irene was stunned. "What's wrong?"

Bobby said, "Back then, when you gave birth to Lisa, we spent about 3,000 dollars to keep her umbilical cord blood for more than twenty years. The hospital called me just now and asked if we wanted to keep it for a while longer."

Irene immediately said, "Is it expired? Then you can renew the fees."

With that, she sighed. "Speaking of which, I learned how to store umbilical cord blood from Nora's mother. When she gave birth to Nora, she had kept her umbilical cord blood for her. Now, it should still be in the hospital's freezer.. By the way, Lisa, when you see Nora, remember to tell her. She definitely doesn't know about this yet! If it's useful in the future..."

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Bobby interrupted Irene. "When would you need the umbilical cord blood? I hope she won't need to use it for the rest of her life!"

Cord blood was mainly used to treat blood diseases, such as leukemia. Under normal circumstances, it would definitely not be needed.

Irene immediately snorted. "Yes, Nora definitely won't need it. But we still have to tell her."

The disappointing brother at home had already disappeared for a long time. The Blacks in California were living more comfortably than before.

Especially since Bobby had recently been in a few big business deals with the company.

Although Bobby did not know who had helped him, he had a feeling that it might be related to Nora.

He was a good kid who knew how to repay kindness. Back then, he had misunderstood that Nora did not care about his wife's life. However, when he saw the live broadcast, he finally understood why Nora was so indifferent back then.

It turned out that the doctor she had found for the Blacks was herself!

Bobby was feeling guilty about chasing her out of the hospital back then, so he snatched the phone away and said to Lisa, "When you see Nora,

remember to help me bring her home. Ask her to bring the child over to play when she's free. I'll make her favorite brown sugar rice cake!"

"...Okay." Lisa hung up the phone and looked at the luxurious door in front of her again. She thought for a long time before knocking on the door.

The door opened quickly. The guard asked, "Who are you looking for?"

Lisa: "...I'm looking for Nora."

The guard looked her up and down. "Wait a minute."

"Okay."

The guard called and entered the hall. The housekeeper, Lucy, had just tidied up the guest room for Lily. After receiving the call, she was about to call Nora to ask if she should come in when she was stopped by Lily. "Let Miss Lisa in first. An... Miss Nora should be sleeping right now. Don't disturb her."

Lily knew Nora's body very well. She had spent the entire day at the police station yesterday and went to treat Old Maddy at night. Even though she had slept for a while, her energy had not recovered yet. She must be sleeping right now!

Lucy listened to Lily and let the guard bring Lisa in.

Upstairs, Yvonne listened to their conversation and bit her lip in anger. She was just a servant, and she would chatter away after saying a few words. However, when Nora's assistant spoke, she was as obedient as anything. She simply did not take her seriously!

How infuriating!

When Lisa was led into the Smiths' residence, she was first stunned by the lavish courtyard.

This was New York!

In places where every inch of land was worth money, they actually had such a large manor. Furthermore, she was perceptive to the fact that some places had flowers planted and some places had vegetables. This was the first time Lisa experienced the difference between her and a truly wealthy family!

She was already so terrified. No wonder Nora was being bullied here!

Yes, she was certain that Nora had suffered in the Smiths.

It was just medical malpractice. Even in California, if Henry did not appear, her parents could still bail her out. But in New York, the Smiths actually allowed Nora to be detained for 24 hours!

Wasn't it just because they were rich?

As Lisa thought about this, she became even more furious.

At this moment, a playful voice was heard. "Hey, who is this?"

Lisa turned around and saw a man around her age with blond hair... To be precise, it was a young man walking over. She frowned when she heard the housekeeper say, "Mr. Louis, this is Miss Nora's cousin from California."

Louis immediately sized up Lisa when he heard this.

Was this his cousin's trash family in California?

Ever since Nora became his idol, he had asked around about her. When he asked around, he was instantly furious. He did not expect his cousin to live like that in California!

Especially that shameless cheap father of hers. He had taken her mother's money and still treated her so badly!

Therefore, Louis did not have a good impression of the family in California. When he saw Lisa, he immediately sneered. "Tsk, are you here to take advantage of Nora now that she has become a phoenix?"

Taking advantage of Nora?

Lisa felt Louis's disdain and was instantly infuriated.

She was still a guest, yet he was already being so rude. Wouldn't the Smiths be even more rude to Nora?

The soft person had also lost her temper. She was so angry that her face was red and her voice was trembling. "What's so great about you? Do you have to look down on me?"

Louis raised his head and placed his hands on his hips. “The Smiths are very impressive. Country bumpkin, you must have never seen such a big courtyard, right?”

Country bumpkin?

Did they scold Nora like that too?

Lisa kicked the flower bed beside her in anger. “Who are you calling a country bumpkin?”

Louis made a face. “Whoever cares about it is the country bumpkin! What do you think your family is? Tsk, little girl, I advise you to be careful. Do you know how much this jar of flowers costs? Any one of them is worth thousands of dollars! If you broke it, can you afford to pay?”

Lisa: “!!”

Her eyes were red as she glared at the jar of flowers. She walked to the other side and planned to kick the grass, but Louis said proudly, “The grass over there is no ordinary grass. It’s orchid! One stalk is worth tens of thousands! Are you sure you want to kick it?”

Lisa paused again and looked to the side.

Louis clicked his tongue and showed a disdainful expression. “Little girl, the piece of land you’re standing on is worth hundreds of thousands per square meter. Our family is rich, what can you say?”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “Even if you have a lot of money, you can’t buy kinship. Why are you looking down on us?”

Louis didn’t notice this “us” and thought that she was talking about the family in California. Therefore, he stuck out his tongue. “I’m just looking down on you. Hit me if you dare!”

As soon as he said this, Lisa had already raised her little fist and punched him in the face. “I’m so angry! I’ll let you know today that money is not everything. There are some people you can’t afford to offend!”

Louis took a nimble step back and Lisa chased after him.

The two of them immediately started fighting.

This was what Lily saw when she went out.

Both of them had their hands on their hips.

Louis said annoyingly, “Hmph, your family bullied my cousin. Now, it’s my turn to bully you!”

Lisa’s face was also red as she roared angrily, “The Smiths are bullying my cousin. Let me tell you, my cousin and the Blacks are not people who can be bullied easily!”

At this moment, Lisa was pinching Louis’s face while Louis was pushing Lisa’s neck to prevent her from getting too close to him. Louis did not dare to make a move. After all, the other party was a girl and he was still merciful.

The two of them were stunned when they heard each other.

Lisa’s grip loosened. “What did you say?”

Louis was stunned too. “What did you say? The Blacks? Aren’t you the Smiths from California?”

Lisa: “?”

Louis thought for a moment and coughed. “I think we misunderstood. Let go and talk things out.”

Lisa was furious. “No, let go of me first.”

Louis: “...Why don’t I call out ‘one, two, three’ and we’ll let go together?”

“Okay.”

“One, two, three...”

Even after he finished counting, they were still intertwined.

Louis said, “Let go!”

Lisa: “Let go of me first!”

Lily was speechless.

The two of them were already 20 years old. Together, they were already 40! Yet, they were still so childish!

The corners of her lips twitched. She took a step forward and said, "Louis, Lisa, you've misunderstood! You're both Nora's best relatives! Let go of each other quickly!"

Louis asked hesitantly, "What are you talking about? Didn't you say that the Smiths in California treated her badly?"

"...It's the Smiths' fault. Lisa is the daughter of Nora's aunt. If it weren't for Nora's aunt, she might have starved to death when she was young!"

Louis let go of her immediately when he heard that. "It's a misunderstanding. Why aren't you letting go? It hurts!"

Lisa looked at Lily. "Who are you? Are you treating Nora badly like the Smiths?"

Lily: "...I'm Lily! Anti's assistant! Lisa, please let go. The Smiths have never treated Nora badly!"

As medical students, Anti was a God to them. And Anti's assistant, Lily, was also a legend. After all, those who could be Anti's assistants definitely had good medical skills!

Even Lily was an outstanding surgeon!

Lisa felt a sense of respect for her and hurriedly let go of Louis. Her face was red with embarrassment. "Miss Lily! I'm, I'm sorry... I didn't know..."

She lowered her head and stammered sheepishly.

Louis pointed at her angrily. "Why are you acting weak here? I think you did it on purpose!"

Lisa immediately lost her earlier cautiousness and raised her chin like a fighting chicken. "You were the one who started talking bad about me the moment you entered!"

“You even beat me up! I’ll tell Nora later how savage this little cousin of hers is! What a yellow-haired brat!”

Lisa: “!!”

She was furious. “You, you’re the real yellow-haired brat!”

Louis: “??”

He touched his blond hair and was furious. He hated it when people pointed out his yellow hair. He looked at Lisa and roared, “Say that again if you dare!”

Lisa: “You’re already a yellow-haired brat. Why can’t you let others say it?”

Louis took a step forward and was about to scare her when he tripped and suddenly pounced at Lisa.

Lisa was not as agile and was immediately pinned under him.

Fortunately, there was a big lawn beneath them. It did not hurt much, but coincidentally, Louis’s lips were on Lisa’s.

Everyone: “!!”

After 10 seconds of silence, Louis stood up with his hands on the grass in a daze.

Lisa’s eyes widened as she wiped her mouth with all her might. “Ah, you pervert!”

Seeing her look of disdain, Louis pouted. “I don’t have an infectious disease. Aren’t you overreacting?”

He touched his lips, and for some reason, he suddenly recalled that soft feeling from earlier. His face turned a little red. At this moment, he saw Lisa turn to look at the ground. Her eyes immediately turned red, and large tears rolled down her face.

Louis was shocked. “Hey, what are you doing? Isn’t it just a kiss? Is it worth crying and making a scene?”

Lisa cried, “Of course you don’t feel anything! But... I can’t afford to pay for these lawns!”

Louis: “!!”

It turned out that this was the reason!

He scratched his head and coughed. “Don’t cry. These lawns are not expensive.”

Another tear fell from Lisa’s eye. “Didn’t you just say that a single orchid cost hundreds of thousands?”

Louis: “...I lied to you.”

“ ... ”

Lisa wiped her tears and was so angry that her heart hurt. What kind of family did Nora live in?! The people here were all too perverted!

She followed Lily into the living room angrily.

Louis followed her in and sat on the sofa. He had his hands behind his head and glanced at Lisa from time to time.

At this moment, Yvonne walked down from upstairs and smiled. “There’s another guest at home?”

Her behavior was still magnanimous and appropriate. She looked like someone from a noble family, and Lisa immediately sat up straight and felt restrained.

Lucy replied, “Miss Yvonne, she’s Miss Nora’s cousin.”

Yvonne smiled. “Nora really has a lot of friends and relatives!”

Her words were filled with mockery.

Lisa bit her lip. She had always been a sensitive and suspicious girl. It was obvious that she could sense Yvonne’s hostility.

Especially when Yvonne looked at her from head to toe, her eyes filled with disdain.

Lisa didn’t even know where to put her hands and feet.

At this moment, Louis said, “Tsk, why are you acting as the mistress here? I heard that Joel has taken away all your rights! I should really buy some firecrackers to celebrate!”

Yvonne clenched her fists and smiled. “Louis, there’s a guest here. Speak properly.”

She looked like a good sister.

Louis pouted. “She’s not a guest. She’s Nora’s cousin, which means she’s also my cousin.”

Yvonne smiled. “But isn’t Nora unrelated to the Smiths in California? I heard that she broke off ties with them during the last live broadcast.”

These words made Lisa even more embarrassed. It was as if she was pestering them right now.

She stood up suddenly and was about to say goodbye when she heard Louis laugh.

Yvonne asked, “What are you laughing about?”

Louis touched his hair. “I’m laughing at you.. Anyone else can talk about blood relations, but can you? You’re not related to our family by blood. According to your logic, you’re not a member of the Smiths?”

“You—”

He dissed Yvonne to the point that she was rendered speechless.

She turned and went upstairs in a huff.

Louis curled his lips disdainfully behind her and said to Lisa, “Don’t bother with her. She’s just spoiled.”

Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. “She looks pretty graceful to me, though.”

Louis gnashed his teeth in fury and said, “It’s all an act. I know that woman the best, we grew up together. She does one thing in front of other people and another altogether behind their backs, and is the most hypocritical person

ever. She has no blood relation to the Smiths. She'd be nothing at all if Uncle Ian hadn't adopted her."

"... Oh," said Lisa.

After saying that, Louis realized that it wasn't appropriate for him to badmouth his family to an outsider, so he said, "Just keep waiting here. I'll go up for now."

He had a bedroom in the Smiths' manor. When Louis heard that Yvonne was no longer taking charge at home, he had come back excitedly, hoping to see her down and out.

He had made up his mind—he was going to move back to the Smiths' from this day on!

In the suburbs of New York.

Tanya was playing games with Pete in the villa. She had specially bought a jigsaw puzzle meant for twelve-year-olds and above, which had a higher level of difficulty, so that she could keep Pete company.

But unexpectedly, a brief two minutes later, Tanya looked at the completed jigsaw puzzle on the floor, and then at Pete, who sighed and said, "It's too easy."

Tanya: "..."

She asked tentatively: "Shall I buy you a jigsaw puzzle meant for grown-ups next time?"

"... God-mom, do you like jigsaw puzzles a lot?"

Tanya: "?"

Pete sighed and said, "I've already played with you for so long. Can I go and do my Olympiad assignments now?"

Tanya: "!!"

So, to Pete, doing jigsaw puzzles with her was actually a waste of time and energy?!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. "Go ahead."

Only then did a satisfied Pete walk over to the desk next to them and take out his Mathematical Olympiad workbook from his schoolbag. Before he started working on the problems, he suddenly looked at Tanya and asked, "Is Mommy really okay?"

Tanya was taken aback.

She had brought Pete back with her after school the day before. Pete had followed her home without saying anything at that time. She'd thought that he wouldn't ask about it, but unexpectedly, he was actually such a perceptive boy.

Tanya said, "She'll be fine."

Pete kept quiet for a while before he asked, "Mommy will come and pick me up, right?"

Tanya: "..."

The way he was asking those questions so seriously and with such a tense look on his face broke Tanya's heart.

It was only then that Tanya realized that even though Nora had found Pete, and that even though he was sleeping on the same bed as his mother every day these days, Pete was actually still very insecure at heart.

She walked over, hugged Pete, and kissed him on the cheek. "Don't worry, she'll definitely come. Your mom loves you very, very much. When we were looking for our children abroad back then, she was really crazy about it."

Her words piqued Pete's interest all of a sudden. He asked, "How so?"

Tanya: "????"

Pete put down the workbook in his hand and looked at her seriously, his eyes full of interest. He really wanted to know all the details!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. She had gotten him so many toys, yet none of them had aroused Pete's interest at all. Instead, a simple one-liner from her had unexpectedly made the boy so fixated on something.

She could only say, “Your mom was in poor health when she first went overseas. Even so, she insisted on coming to our meetings every week and listened to us share our experiences in looking for our children. After that, she would try again and again to return to the States. At that time, she was falling comatose for a while almost every day, so your grand-aunt never allowed her to come back. Thus, she got people to look for you in the country instead.

“I remember that there was once a liar who called your mom and told her that he had found clues about your whereabouts. We all knew he was a liar, but your mom believed him. I tried to talk her out of it when she was giving him money, but she instead said, ‘I know he’s a liar, but what if he really has news about my son? I won’t allow myself to miss out on any possibility.’

“There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs...”

Tanya’s eyes reddened as she spoke.

It hadn’t been easy for her and Nora during all those years back then.

Nora’s suffering had already come to an end, but what about her?

There was still no news about her child even now.

Tanya lowered her head. She didn’t notice Pete’s eyes flickering.

Even though Pete now had a mother, he had still felt insecure all this time. After all, his family was incomplete, and Mommy was always finding Daddy too troublesome.

He had actually had nightmares quite a few times.

He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn’t want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn’t catch up to them at all.

His feet were so heavy in the dream.

He was afraid that Mommy would suddenly separate from Daddy one day and leave him.

Listening to Tanya talk about how Mommy had looked for him so painstakingly back then made him distressed, but also relieved at the same time.

What Cherry said was true—Mommy had never given up on him before.

After Tanya talked about the past for a while, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Pete got up at once. “It must be Mommy!”

Tanya stared at him, caught between laughter and tears. It was only at times like this that Pete looked like what a boy his age should look like.

She smiled and went to open the door. “You’re finally here! Your little brat is already sick of me by now!”

She opened the door as she spoke intimately, only to see Joel standing outside instead.

Tanya was stunned. “Why are you here?”

Joel’s fox-like eyes, which easily made one feel as though he was deeply in love with them, were fixed on her.

But Tanya knew exactly how heartless the man was.

Seeing her expression go from joy to wariness, Joel lowered his gaze, acerbity filling his heart.

He said softly, “Nora is fine now. I came to take the child home.”

Tanya was a little taken aback when she heard his term of address for Nora. Then, she looked away and uttered, “Oh.”

She then glanced at Pete and asked, “Has she gone home yet?”

“No, but she’ll be home soon.”

Tanya was very wary. She said, “You can’t take the child if she isn’t home. Let’s wait until she’s home.”

“Okay.” Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, “Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?”

Tanya: "..."

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, "It's not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?"

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he said, "Isn't the child also at home?"

The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

Tanya sneered and said, "The child is still young, so it's still inappropriate. You'd better go back to the car and wait there instead, Mr. Smith.. I'll let you take the child once Nora gets home and retrieves her cell phone, and I confirm things with her."

Bam!

Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: "..."

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, "Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?"

"Oh, just an annoying fly," replied Tanya.

Joel: "..."

Half an hour later.

The perturbed and distracted Tanya glanced at the window.

The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

"Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?"

Pete's words interrupted Tanya's thoughts.

She said coldly, "It has nothing to do with me even if he's dead."

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn't help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel's legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn't putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, "I knew you wouldn't ignore me, Tanya."

"..."

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya's eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. "Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?"

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, "I don't want to go to the hospital." Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn't want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel's assistant.

The assistant said, "The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!"

The bodyguard retorted, "Even so, we can't just watch as someone hits him!"

"She won't."

"What?"

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya's foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, "Did he really not bring his assistant with him?"

"What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?"

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, “And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!”

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say ‘elder brother’, though?

Nora didn’t realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, “Which brother?”

“... How many elder brothers do you have?!”

Chapter 338 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Louis said annoyingly, “Hmph, your family bullied my cousin. Now, it’s my turn to bully you!”

Lisa’s face was also red as she roared angrily, “The Smiths are bullying my cousin. Let me tell you, my cousin and the Blacks are not people who can be bullied easily!”

At this moment, Lisa was pinching Louis’s face while Louis was pushing Lisa’s neck to prevent her from getting too close to him. Louis did not dare to make a move. After all, the other party was a girl and he was still merciful.

The two of them were stunned when they heard each other.

Lisa’s grip loosened. “What did you say?”

Louis was stunned too. “What did you say? The Blacks? Aren’t you the Smiths from California?”

Lisa: “?”

Louis thought for a moment and coughed. “I think we misunderstood. Let go and talk things out.”

Lisa was furious. “No, let go of me first.”

Louis: “...Why don’t I call out ‘one, two, three’ and we’ll let go together?”

“Okay.”

“One, two, three...”

Even after he finished counting, they were still intertwined.

Louis said, “Let go!”

Lisa: “Let go of me first!”

Lily was speechless.

The two of them were already 20 years old. Together, they were already 40! Yet, they were still so childish!

The corners of her lips twitched. She took a step forward and said, “Louis, Lisa, you’ve misunderstood! You’re both Nora’s best relatives! Let go of each other quickly!”

Louis asked hesitantly, “What are you talking about? Didn’t you say that the Smiths in California treated her badly?”

“...It’s the Smiths’ fault. Lisa is the daughter of Nora’s aunt. If it weren’t for Nora’s aunt, she might have starved to death when she was young!”

Louis let go of her immediately when he heard that. “It’s a misunderstanding. Why aren’t you letting go? It hurts!”

Lisa looked at Lily. “Who are you? Are you treating Nora badly like the Smiths?”

Lily: “...I’m Lily! Anti’s assistant! Lisa, please let go. The Smiths have never treated Nora badly!”

As medical students, Anti was a God to them. And Anti’s assistant, Lily, was also a legend. After all, those who could be Anti’s assistants definitely had good medical skills!

Even Lily was an outstanding surgeon!

Lisa felt a sense of respect for her and hurriedly let go of Louis. Her face was red with embarrassment. “Miss Lily! I’m, I’m sorry... I didn’t know...”

She lowered her head and stammered sheepishly.

Louis pointed at her angrily. “Why are you acting weak here? I think you did it on purpose!”

Lisa immediately lost her earlier cautiousness and raised her chin like a fighting chicken. “You were the one who started talking bad about me the moment you entered!”

“You even beat me up! I’ll tell Nora later how savage this little cousin of hers is! What a yellow-haired brat!”

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Fortunately, there was a big lawn beneath them. It did not hurt much, but coincidentally, Louis’s lips were on Lisa’s.

Everyone: “!!”

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turn to look at the ground. Her eyes immediately turned red, and large tears rolled down her face.

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Lisa cried, “Of course you don’t feel anything! But... I can’t afford to pay for these lawns!”

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He scratched his head and coughed. “Don’t cry. These lawns are not expensive.”

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Louis: “...I lied to you.”

“...”

Lisa wiped her tears and was so angry that her heart hurt. What kind of family did Nora live in?! The people here were all too perverted!

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Louis followed her in and sat on the sofa. He had his hands behind his head and glanced at Lisa from time to time.

At this moment, Yvonne walked down from upstairs and smiled. “There’s another guest at home?”

Her behavior was still magnanimous and appropriate. She looked like someone from a noble family, and Lisa immediately sat up straight and felt restrained.

Lucy replied, “Miss Yvonne, she’s Miss Nora’s cousin.”

Yvonne smiled. “Nora really has a lot of friends and relatives!”

Her words were filled with mockery.

Lisa bit her lip. She had always been a sensitive and suspicious girl. It was obvious that she could sense Yvonne's hostility.

Especially when Yvonne looked at her from head to toe, her eyes filled with disdain.

Lisa didn't even know where to put her hands and feet.

At this moment, Louis said, "Tsk, why are you acting as the mistress here? I heard that Joel has taken away all your rights! I should really buy some firecrackers to celebrate!"

Yvonne clenched her fists and smiled. "Louis, there's a guest here. Speak properly."

She looked like a good sister.

Louis pouted. "She's not a guest. She's Nora's cousin, which means she's also my cousin."

Yvonne smiled. "But isn't Nora unrelated to the Smiths in California? I heard that she broke off ties with them during the last live broadcast."

These words made Lisa even more embarrassed. It was as if she was pestering them right now.

She stood up suddenly and was about to say goodbye when she heard Louis laugh.

Yvonne asked, "What are you laughing about?"

Louis touched his hair. "I'm laughing at you.. Anyone else can talk about blood relations, but can you? You're not related to our family by blood. According to your logic, you're not a member of the Smiths?"

"You—"

He dissed Yvonne to the point that she was rendered speechless.

She turned and went upstairs in a huff.

Louis curled his lips disdainfully behind her and said to Lisa, "Don't bother with her. She's just spoiled."

Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. “She looks pretty graceful to me, though.”

Louis gnashed his teeth in fury and said, “It’s all an act. I know that woman the best, we grew up together. She does one thing in front of other people and another altogether behind their backs, and is the most hypocritical person ever. She has no blood relation to the Smiths. She’d be nothing at all if Uncle Ian hadn’t adopted her.”

“... Oh,” said Lisa.

After saying that, Louis realized that it wasn’t appropriate for him to badmouth his family to an outsider, so he said, “Just keep waiting here. I’ll go up for now.”

He had a bedroom in the Smiths’ manor. When Louis heard that Yvonne was no longer taking charge at home, he had come back excitedly, hoping to see her down and out.

He had made up his mind—he was going to move back to the Smiths’ from this day on!

In the suburbs of New York.

Tanya was playing games with Pete in the villa. She had specially bought a jigsaw puzzle meant for twelve-year-olds and above, which had a higher level of difficulty, so that she could keep Pete company.

But unexpectedly, a brief two minutes later, Tanya looked at the completed jigsaw puzzle on the floor, and then at Pete, who sighed and said, “It’s too easy.”

Tanya: “...”

She asked tentatively: “Shall I buy you a jigsaw puzzle meant for grown-ups next time?”

“... God-mom, do you like jigsaw puzzles a lot?”

Tanya: “?”

Pete sighed and said, "I've already played with you for so long. Can I go and do my Olympiad assignments now?"

Tanya: "!!"

So, to Pete, doing jigsaw puzzles with her was actually a waste of time and energy?!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. "Go ahead."

Only then did a satisfied Pete walk over to the desk next to them and take out his Mathematical Olympiad workbook from his schoolbag. Before he started working on the problems, he suddenly looked at Tanya and asked, "Is Mommy really okay?"

Tanya was taken aback.

She had brought Pete back with her after school the day before. Pete had followed her home without saying anything at that time. She'd thought that he wouldn't ask about it, but unexpectedly, he was actually such a perceptive boy.

Tanya said, "She'll be fine."

Pete kept quiet for a while before he asked, "Mommy will come and pick me up, right?"

Tanya: "..."

The way he was asking those questions so seriously and with such a tense look on his face broke Tanya's heart.

It was only then that Tanya realized that even though Nora had found Pete, and that even though he was sleeping on the same bed as his mother every day these days, Pete was actually still very insecure at heart.

She walked over, hugged Pete, and kissed him on the cheek. "Don't worry, she'll definitely come. Your mom loves you very, very much. When we were looking for our children abroad back then, she was really crazy about it."

Her words piqued Pete's interest all of a sudden. He asked, "How so?"

Tanya: "????"

Pete put down the workbook in his hand and looked at her seriously, his eyes full of interest. He really wanted to know all the details!

The corners of Tanya's lips spasmed. She had gotten him so many toys, yet none of them had aroused Pete's interest at all. Instead, a simple one-liner from her had unexpectedly made the boy so fixated on something.

She could only say, "Your mom was in poor health when she first went overseas. Even so, she insisted on coming to our meetings every week and listened to us share our experiences in looking for our children. After that, she would try again and again to return to the States. At that time, she was falling comatose for a while almost every day, so your grand-aunt never allowed her to come back. Thus, she got people to look for you in the country instead.

"I remember that there was once a liar who called your mom and told her that he had found clues about your whereabouts. We all knew he was a liar, but your mom believed him. I tried to talk her out of it when she was giving him money, but she instead said, 'I know he's a liar, but what if he really has news about my son? I won't allow myself to miss out on any possibility.'

"There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs..."

Tanya's eyes reddened as she spoke.

It hadn't been easy for her and Nora during all those years back then.

Nora's suffering had already come to an end, but what about her?

There was still no news about her child even now.

Tanya lowered her head. She didn't notice Pete's eyes flickering.

Even though Pete now had a mother, he had still felt insecure all this time. After all, his family was incomplete, and Mommy was always finding Daddy too troublesome.

He had actually had nightmares quite a few times.

He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn't want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn't catch up to them at all.

His feet were so heavy in the dream.

He was afraid that Mommy would suddenly separate from Daddy one day and leave him.

Listening to Tanya talk about how Mommy had looked for him so painstakingly back then made him distressed, but also relieved at the same time.

What Cherry said was true—Mommy had never given up on him before.

After Tanya talked about the past for a while, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Pete got up at once. "It must be Mommy!"

Tanya stared at him, caught between laughter and tears. It was only at times like this that Pete looked like what a boy his age should look like.

She smiled and went to open the door. "You're finally here! Your little brat is already sick of me by now!"

She opened the door as she spoke intimately, only to see Joel standing outside instead.

Tanya was stunned. "Why are you here?"

Joel's fox-like eyes, which easily made one feel as though he was deeply in love with them, were fixed on her.

But Tanya knew exactly how heartless the man was.

Seeing her expression go from joy to wariness, Joel lowered his gaze, acerbity filling his heart.

He said softly, "Nora is fine now. I came to take the child home."

Tanya was a little taken aback when she heard his term of address for Nora. Then, she looked away and uttered, "Oh."

She then glanced at Pete and asked, "Has she gone home yet?"

“No, but she’ll be home soon.”

Tanya was very wary. She said, “You can’t take the child if she isn’t home. Let’s wait until she’s home.”

“Okay.” Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, “Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?”

Tanya: “...”

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, “It’s not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?”

Joel kept quiet for a moment before he said, “Isn’t the child also at home?”

The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

Tanya sneered and said, “The child is still young, so it’s still inappropriate. You’d better go back to the car and wait there instead, Mr. Smith.. I’ll let you take the child once Nora gets home and retrieves her cell phone, and I confirm things with her.”

Bam!

Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: “...”

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, “Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?”

“Oh, just an annoying fly,” replied Tanya.

Joel: “...”

Half an hour later.

The perturbed and distracted Tanya glanced at the window.

The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

"Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?"

Pete's words interrupted Tanya's thoughts.

She said coldly, "It has nothing to do with me even if he's dead."

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn't help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel's legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn't putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, "I knew you wouldn't ignore me, Tanya."

"..."

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya's eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. "Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?"

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, "I don't want to go to the hospital." Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn't want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel's assistant.

The assistant said, "The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!"

The bodyguard retorted, "Even so, we can't just watch as someone hits him!"

"She won't."

"What?"

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya's foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, "Did he really not bring his assistant with him?"

"What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?"

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

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'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, "And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!"

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say 'elder brother', though?

Nora didn't realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, "Which brother?"

"... How many elder brothers do you have?!"

Chapter 339 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

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Spoiled?

Lisa bit her lip. "She looks pretty graceful to me, though."

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“There was also another time someone told her that they might have news about you. She had a fever at that time, but she still made herself go over. In the end, it also turned out to be fake news, but she passed out in the wilderness and was almost eaten by wild dogs...”

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He dreamed that Mommy had gone abroad with Cherry and didn’t want him anymore. He kept chasing after them, but he simply couldn’t catch up to them at all.

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She then glanced at Pete and asked, "Has she gone home yet?"

"No, but she'll be home soon."

Tanya was very wary. She said, "You can't take the child if she isn't home. Let's wait until she's home."

"Okay." Joel was unexpectedly agreeable. He asked, "Are you planning to have me wait outside, Ms. Turner?"

Tanya: "..."

Seeing that Joel was about to enter, Tanya stopped him at the door and said, "It's not quite appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together this late at night, is it, Mr. Smith?"

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The way he spoke sounded as if the child was theirs.

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Tanya closed the door right after saying that.

Joel: "..."

Joel could faintly hear Pete ask, "Was it not Mommy at the door, God-mom? Who was it, then?"

"Oh, just an annoying fly," replied Tanya.

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The moment she did, she found herself stunned.

Joel was standing at the door, his tall and straight figure casting a long, drawn-out shadow on the ground.

The dazed Tanya felt as if she had gone back a few years in time. Back then, she would always see a figure like that standing outside every time she walked out of the classroom after class.

At that time, the sight of the man had made her excited and happy.

But the figure instead seemed somewhat solitary and lonely now, making her sad.

Tanya withdrew her gaze, lowered her head, and looked at the floor. Complicated emotions churned in the depths of her heart.

Sometime later, when Tanya looked up once more, she found that the figure at the door was gone. An empty feeling welled up in her.

She couldn't tell what kind of feeling it was. She forced a smile, looked at Pete, and said, "Your mommy should be home soon."

Pete nodded. However, he then said, "Uncle Joel looks unwell to me, though."

Unwell?

Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

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Chapter 340 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

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Tanya followed his gaze and looked over to see that Joel had changed positions at some point. He was now standing in a corner visible from the living room window.

His head was down, and he had one hand pressed against his abdomen and the other against the wall for support.

She couldn't tell whether it was the lighting or because he really was unwell, but he looked as pale as a sheet. His lips were so pale that they were practically transparent, and there was cold sweat on his forehead.

“Uncle Joel must be in pain, right? Why not let him in, God-mom?”

Pete’s words interrupted Tanya’s thoughts.

She said coldly, “It has nothing to do with me even if he’s dead.”

Yet, despite saying that, she kept looking outside.

She couldn’t help but sneer deep down.

It was the same old trick.

He always acted weak and frail back when they were still in school. Every time he made her angry, he would always stand outside their dormitory. Even when it rained, he simply refused to leave.

He never apologized, but always stood there so stubbornly so that she would relent.

She had been so naive at that time.

When the sun was bright and glaring, she would worry that he would be sunburnt. When it rained, she would worry that he would get drenched...

He really had her wrapped around his little finger.

Her heart was as hard as iron now, though, so how would she possibly still be deceived by his little tricks?

Besides, it was impossible for him to leave the house without bodyguards or his personal assistant. After all, as the head of the Smiths, his status was awfully noble and prestigious!

The thought had only just formed when she saw Joel’s legs give in and he fell onto one knee on the ground.

Tanya subconsciously took a few steps toward him. Then, she opened the door and rushed out.

She went over to Joel. The man, who likely heard her footsteps, turned to look at her. He was very pale, so he probably wasn’t putting up an act. His voice was also very soft, and he sounded a little aggrieved as he said, “I knew you wouldn’t ignore me, Tanya.”

“ ... ”

For a moment, tears almost fell from Tanya’s eyes.

However, she held them back and looked around. “Where are your assistants? And your bodyguards?”

Joel seemed like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he merely said, “I don’t want to go to the hospital.” Then, his eyes closed and he fainted.

Tanya was dumbfounded.

There was a reason why Joel said that he didn’t want to go to the hospital. He had always refused to go even when they were still in school.

He had always toughed it out whenever he was sick, so he never went for checkups even when he had stomach problems.

What was he up to now, though? Was he staging an accident?

Tanya was so mad that she stretched out her foot, intending to give him a hard kick.

The bodyguard hiding in the distance wanted to rush forward but was stopped by Joel’s assistant.

The assistant said, “The gesture that Mr. Joel made before he fainted was telling us not to go over!”

The bodyguard retorted, “Even so, we can’t just watch as someone hits him!”

“She won’t.”

“What?”

The bodyguards looked over to see that Tanya’s foot had stopped less than an inch from him.

Tanya looked around hesitantly. She frowned and wondered out loud, “Did he really not bring his assistant with him?”

“What incompetent bodyguards! What if he was sick elsewhere instead? What are you gonna do if that happens?”

Even though she was complaining, she nevertheless bent over and held the man up.

Just like that, the bodyguards in the distance watched as their master was dragged into the house while the woman stumbled and bumped him about.

The rough girl also kept on swearing as she moved...

Nora slept right until the next day.

After making up for all her lost sleep, she got out of bed all refreshed and stretched. Then, she looked at her cell phone and noticed that Tanya had sent her several messages.

They seemed very urgent.

However, Tanya probably knew that she needed to make up for lost sleep, so she hadn't called and disturbed her rest, no matter how anxious she was.

She picked up the phone and took a look. Their chat was still at the point when she got home the day before. At that time, when she saw the messages that Tanya had sent, she had replied: 'I'm home now. You can send Pete back with Joel now.'

She had fallen into a deep sleep after that.

But why wasn't Pete by her side when she woke up?

She looked at the chat again. Tanya had been sending her the same thing:

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

'Are you awake?'

She had practically asked the same thing once every hour, which made that seven or eight times in total. It was enough to show how bad of a mental breakdown she was having.

Nora was rather hesitant. Pete was a very well-behaved boy. Surely he wasn't that hard to take care of, was he?

While wondering about it, she replied: 'I'm up.'

Tanya called the very next moment.

She picked it up. She'd only just said 'hello' when Tanya's loud voice reached her through the phone. "My goodness, you slept for twelve hours again! Didn't you wake up a little too late?!"

Nora rubbed her ears. "Yeah. What's up?"

"Hurry up and come over to pick up your son."

Nora uttered an 'okay'. Then, she asked, "Is that it?"

Tanya paused and then quietly added, "And! Your! Elder! Brother! Too!"

She seemed to be gnashing her teeth in fury with every word she said, which went to show just how angry and resentful she was.

Did she say 'elder brother', though?

Nora didn't realize what she was saying for a while there. She asked, "Which brother?"

"... How many elder brothers do you have?!"