

Chapter 381 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

He crawled over to Morris.

However, halfway through, Nora stepped on his leg hard.

Victor looked at Morris with tears in his eyes.

Morris was silent for a moment before saying, "Big Sister, count it as me owing you a favor this time. In the future, I can help you do anything you want!"

Nora looked at him fixedly.

Morris looked at Antoine and Shaun again and said slowly, "I'll get someone to bury this matter here."

Nora knew that since she had killed two people here, it was a very troublesome matter.

Justin said that he could handle it, but he couldn't handle it as well as Morris.

She pondered for a moment and looked at Victor again.

Victor trembled in fear from her gaze.

Nora lowered her eyes. "Where is your teacher?"

When Victor heard this, he heaved a sigh of relief. "In Benevolence Hall, its location is..."

He clearly told Nora the location of Benevolence Hall in New York.

Nora narrowed her eyes and kicked him, sending him flying under Morris's feet. Then, she looked at Morris and said, "Remember to return him to me."

In other words, she meant: Once you've interrogated him, he still has to be dealt with!

She could not forgive Victor.

If Victor had not mentioned teaching Quentin a lesson first, Quentin would not have ended up like this.

Those who bullied Quentin had to pay the price!!!

After saying this, Nora jumped off the stage and walked out.

Justin followed closely behind her and asked, "Where are you going?"

"Benevolence Hall."

In the thick air of the arena, only these two light words were left.

At Benevolence Hall.

The girl stood there at the door, exhausted. Her body had already reached its limit, but her gaze was still firm. "Don't you want to know who I am?"

Abigail stood in the courtyard and stared at the girl in front of her. "You're not my match. Let your teacher do it."

Nora lowered her eyes. "Then let's give this a try."

Half an hour later.

Abigail looked at his softened fist and knew that the girl did not kill him because this was in New York. Had they been overseas... He was uncertain what could've happened.

After seeing that the girl had defeated him, he walked to the side and picked up a ladder. Then, he climbed up and took down the plaque of Benevolence Hall.

He used his knee to hit the plaque hard, splitting it in two.

This was the consequence of losing a fight.

From then on, Benevolence Hall would never be able to raise its head in front of Nora.

Nora threw the plaque on the ground casually.

Abigail looked at the girl and mumbled, "Impossible, this is impossible... A little girl like you can't possibly have such strength and power!"

At this moment, the alarm outside rang.

Morris had interrogated Victor and found out about the human experiments from him. How could he not come and arrest Abigail?

As he watched the people from the special department wearing casual clothes enter the courtyard, Nora casually walked out.

Abigail suddenly shouted from behind, "I get it. You're the same kind of person as me! Hahaha, we're the same kind of people!"

Nora suddenly stopped in her tracks and slowly turned back.

Abigail stared at her, a vicious look in his eyes. Because his fists had been crippled, and his fingers were broken inch by inch, he was captured without any resistance. His head was pressed to the ground, and his hands were behind his back.

Abigail continued to stare at Nora. "They will find you. They will find you sooner or later. Hahahahahaha..."

His laughter suddenly stopped.

Nora frowned. The others immediately went forward and saw that Abigail was already bleeding from his mouth, nose, and eyes. He had stopped breathing.

Nora walked forward quickly. After checking his body, she shook her head at the people from the special department. "This is a lethal poison. It will act up in thirty seconds. We can't save him."

With that, Morris walked in.

He said with a serious expression, "Victor is crazy."

Nora was taken aback. "What's the matter?"

Morris shook his head. "I don't know why. After they were arrested, the disciples recruited by Abigail all took some drugs to improve their genes. That's why they became so strong. Then they suddenly went crazy. Our leads were cut off again."

Nora lowered her eyes slightly and only said coldly to Morris, "That is your business."

With that, she strode out.

Outside the door.

Justin and Joel stood silently in the night as if waiting for her return.

Nora walked towards them step by step.

Her footsteps were as heavy as lead. When she finally reached them, she looked at them. "I've taken revenge for Quentin."

Joel nodded.

Justin held her arm.

However, Nora suddenly thought of something and looked at Joel. "By the way, my email..."

"... is a very important email."

It was at this point that Nora finally realized that she had immediately gone with them to search for Quentin after she woke up that morning, so she still hadn't seen the DNA test results.

She wanted to take out her cell phone to take a look, but as soon as she lowered her head, she blacked out.

Fortunately, Justin had already sensed her condition a long time ago, so he immediately held her waist and caught her. Otherwise, Nora might have fallen straight onto the ground the moment she lowered her head!

"Nora!"

"Nora!"

The two men exclaimed. Justin immediately picked up Nora in his arms while Joel took over the car from the chauffeur and sat in the driver's seat.

Justin got into the car. Joel stepped on the gas pedal and the car sped off. It usually took twenty minutes to get to the hospital, but Joel arrived in just five minutes.

Despite that, Justin was still urging him to go faster while they were on the way there.

When they arrived at the hospital, before the car even stopped, the doctors that Justin had assembled with a phone call were already waiting for them at the door.

Justin brought Nora out of the car in his arms and put her on the stretcher. It was only when they were taking her to the operating room that everyone discovered that her red dress was already covered in blood a long time ago!

She... Was she injured?!

Justin and Joel were awfully worried. They shouted at the doctor furiously, "Hurry up and check her injuries!"

At this point, Lily, who was watching over Quentin, came over. The woman wearing a white lab coat squeezed into the crowd and said, "Please step aside! Let me have a look at my boss!"

Justin gave a wave. The others stepped aside at once.

Lily stood in front of Nora. When she saw the bloodstains on her, she became even more anxious. "Why is she bleeding so much? Quick, take her to the operating room!"

The group of people entered the operating room with great momentum.

Five minutes later.

Lily walked out of the operating room. The moment she came out, Justin and Joel stood up and rushed up to her. "How is she?"

The corners of Lily's lips spasmed, seemingly not quite sure how she should answer him.

Justin became even more anxious. "What kind of injuries did she suffer? What are you in a daze for? Go and save her!"

“... She isn’t hurt,” said Lily.

Justin was taken aback.

Joel asked, “Then the blood on her is...?”

Lily’s lip corners spasmed again as she answered, “She has bruises on her hands, likely from hitting people. But the blood on her dress is indeed someone else’s.”

“?? Then why did she faint?” asked Justin.

Lily was rendered speechless again. Then, she replied, “Boss fell asleep.”

“...”

She thought back to the awkward scene in the operating room.

When she took out a pair of scissors and cut open her boss’ clothes, she saw that the woman’s skin was clean, fair, and delicate. There weren’t any wounds on her at all.

In the end... she gave her boss a bath instead.

Yep.

Her boss was a very clean person. How would she be able to sleep peacefully without taking a bath?

Justin: “...”

Joel: “...”

The way she fell asleep was simply too abrupt. Who would suddenly fall asleep while talking?

Seemingly because she saw that the two men were perplexed, Lily coughed and explained, “She’s out of energy. This has happened to her before, too, when we were abroad. This one time she performed a 15-hour-long operation, which ended way beyond her usual sleeping hours. After she came out of the operating room, it seemed like something had gone wrong with Cherry’s grandaunt, so she stayed up for another long period of time. In the end, she fainted and fell asleep.”

Upon hearing that it had happened before, Joel breathed a sigh of relief.

Justin, however, was still worried. “How long will she be asleep for?”

Lily thought about it and said, “My conservative estimate is two days.”

Justin frowned. “What about sustenance? She can’t stay hungry, right?”

Lily sighed. “You won’t be able to wake her up, especially when her exhaustion is even more serious this time. Her muscles didn’t relax even once. She’ll be out for at least two days. As for food, you don’t have to worry. I will transfuse nutritional supplements to her drip regularly.”

Justin: “...”

Joel: “...”

“Oh, there’s a piece of good news, by the way.” Lily said, “The person in the ICU that Boss asked me to observe is out of danger now. However, it will be difficult for him to ever stand up again in the future.”

How was one going to stand when all their bones were broken?

He was still alive only because Anti had personally operated on him, merged modern and traditional medicine during the treatment process, and given him medical treatment in time!

When Joel heard this, he lowered his gaze and heaved a heavy sigh.

This huge incident in the martial arts circle in New York was earth-shattering.

However, it didn’t impact the lives of ordinary people—or at least, only a handful of ordinary people were aware that Big Sister and Big Brother had defended the dignity of the martial arts scene in the States that night.

Even Tanya, Nora’s friend, didn’t know what had happened. As usual, she gave children classes in school, and also gave Mia an extra dance lesson in private.

When the Smiths came to pick up the three children from school in the evening after classes were over, there was no sign of Joel in the car. It was then that she finally realized that Joel hadn’t contacted her at all the whole day.

Was it because she... had refused to be Mia's mother the night before?

Tanya lowered her gaze, her imagination running wild. Pete and Brandon got into the car and returned to the Smiths' manor.

Tanya took Mia to her place and gave her dance lessons.

At 9 pm, despite it already having reached Mia's bedtime, Joel still hadn't come over to pick her up.

Tanya left Joel a message.

Joel seemed busy at the moment. At last, he sent her the first message of the day: 'I have something to do today. Can Mia stay with you for a night?'

'Something to do'...

The man had never been one to force her to do anything against her will. Since he had said so, then something big must have happened.

Tanya hurriedly replied: 'No problem.'

She coaxed Mia to rest with her, and they fell asleep.

In the middle of the night, she suddenly felt like the area beside her was very hot.

She slowly opened her eyes and woke up. When she touched Mia's forehead, the burning heat made her realize that Mia was having a fever.

Tanya woke up in shock. Without saying anything, she picked up Mia, got into the car, and went straight to the hospital.

The doctor said it was a minor problem, and prescribed Mia medicine to bring the fever down. After Mia sweated it out, the fever gradually subsided. Tanya then sent a text message to Joel and told him the name of the hospital they were at.

Tanya watched over Mia the whole night in the VIP ward.

She waited until her fever subsided before she finally fell asleep on the edge of the bed.

Hillary and her mother were at the hospital for a checkup. While passing by a ward after the checkup, she noticed Tanya and the child on the bed.

Her eyes instantly widened. She charged into the ward and grabbed Tanya at once. “Tanya, what did you do to my daughter?! Why is she in the hospital? Are you trying to steal my daughter?!”

While speaking, she pushed Tanya, who had just woken up, and tried to drive her out of the ward. “I am the girl’s mother! Get lost!”

At this point, Joel, who had finally finished all the matters he had to deal with, arrived at last!

As soon as he went upstairs, he was greeted by the sight of Hillary pushing Tanya out the door.

Tanya was still dazed when Hillary’s shout woke her up.

She hadn’t slept all night because she was watching over Mia. She had only just started having some shuteye in the morning when she was woken up. After that, she was pushed out of the ward.

It wasn’t until she was outside the ward—and when the doctors and nurses, both inside and outside, as well as the patients’ family members all cast strange looks at her—that she finally reacted.

Hillary did not go to Mia right away. Instead, she continued to verbally abuse Tanya.

“Are you also going to steal my daughter when you’ve already stolen my man? Tanya, why are you so shameless?!”

“Don’t you even think about taking my daughter from me!”

“She’s my daughter! Mine!”

Her words made people who didn’t know the full story look at them. Everyone looked at Tanya reproachfully.

Some people even pointed at her as they spoke.

“She must be someone’s mistress, right?”

“Ugh, people who destroy someone else’s family are so shameless!!”

Of course, there were also some reasonable people who spoke up for Tanya.

“... It’s not easy to be someone’s stepmother these days!”

“Yeah, she watched over that little girl the whole night. I thought they were mother and daughter, but as it turns out, she’s actually her stepmother?”

“... It’s pretty nice that a stepmother can do as much as she did!”

“...”

Be it positive or negative, all the comments made Tanya feel as if her cheeks were burning, and she subconsciously wanted to flee.

But she couldn’t.

Mia was still here. Joel had entrusted her with Mia. She didn’t know what exactly had happened between Joel and Hillary, but she knew that Mia didn’t like Hillary, and was wanted to stay with Joel instead.

She looked into the ward.

Hillary’s loud yells had woken Mia up. The little girl rubbed her eyes and sat up. When she saw Hillary, she tensed up.

She was so scared that she turned as pale as a sheet. She called out weakly, “Mommy, don’t be angry... My teacher is not a bad person...”

Her eyes were all red. She wanted to explain on behalf of Tanya, but she looked terrified.

However, Hillary ignored her and continued yelling at Tanya. “Do you feel a great sense of accomplishment because you stole someone else’s man? Why are you so shameless? You’ll die a terrible death! Your whole family will die terrible deaths!”

Her whole family?

The look in Tanya’s eyes sharpened. “Don’t forget that the person next to you is also part of my ‘whole family’.”

That's right, the person next to Hillary was none other than Tanya and Hillary's mother, Mrs. Jones.

Mrs. Jones, who was holding Hillary, was also glaring at Tanya. Upon hearing what she said, she snapped, "I don't have a daughter like you!"

Hillary sneered, "Look at how abominable the things you did are, Tanya! Even your mother won't acknowledge you anymore! If you have even the slightest bit of morals and ethics, then leave this place and leave Joel alone! Give him back to me!"

Tanya looked at the terribly anxious Mia on the bed. She didn't want to argue with Hillary here, so she said, "If there's anything you want to say, then say it at home. Let's stop for now."

However, this only made Hillary think that she was scared. She shouted furiously, "Why should we talk about it at home? I didn't do anything shameful that I need to hide. Is it because you also find your own actions shameful? Why didn't you think of how shameful your actions were when you did it? Why didn't you think of how your actions are not fit to be brought up in public when you stole my husband?"

Tanya clenched her fists. "Hillary, who exactly took him away from whom?!"

Her words made Hillary choke.

However, Mrs. Jones spoke up at this point. "Tanya, how can you make up such lies? Hillary was obviously also in a relationship with Joel back then! Our families were already planning to let them bond with each other! Who do you think you are? Hillary is the Joneses' eldest daughter while your father is a piece of trash! He's a bastard! You and Mr. Smith are from two different worlds right from the start!"

"..."

Tanya stared at the woman in front of her.

It had been five to six years since she last saw her. She looked as charming as ever and didn't seem to have changed much. Even the way she defended and protected Hillary so indiscriminately was still the same as before.

She smiled wryly and lowered her head.

She had never understood why a mother like her existed.

It was almost as if she found pleasure in belittling her own daughter.

In fact, she was even dubious about whether she really was her daughter or not?!

Tanya clenched her fists. She suddenly raised her head and looked at her again. Just as she was about to say something, Joel's sharp, icy-cold voice traveled over. "Is that so? How come I didn't know that there's a marriage agreement between the Smiths and the Joneses?"

As his voice rang out, he finally strode over quickly and stood beside Tanya.

He had waited anxiously outside the operating room during Quentin's operation in the day, and also accompanied Nora when she went to take revenge the night before. As a result, he hadn't had any shuteye for a whole thirty hours. The whites of his eyes were all bloodshot at the moment.

The violent aura around him because of Quentin's accident had yet to dissipate. Thus, despite just simply standing there, there was a bloodthirsty and murderous aura all around him, which made everyone around him fall silent and not dare to speak.

The way he looked frightened Mrs. Jones, who blanked out for a moment. Then, she stammered, "M-Mr. Smith, why are you here?"

Joel looked down at Hillary and stared at her. "You should have been abroad by now, shouldn't you?"

Mrs. Jones hurriedly explained, "Hillary was unwell, so I brought her here to the hospital for consultation. We're thinking of sending her abroad once she recovers."

Joel sneered, "There are hospitals abroad, too. Of course, if the Joneses don't have such connections abroad, the Smiths are very willing to help."

After speaking, he glanced at Tanya, who was next to him. Her eyes were all red. Then, he glanced at Mia, who was looking at him from the bed a distance away with Hillary standing in between them.

The little girl's eyes had turned all red from fear. The way she looked so helpless and at a loss as she sat on the bed made his heart ache.

Even Tanya knew that they shouldn't be disturbing Mia's rest at the moment.

That was why she had been saying that they should talk at home instead.

Yet Hillary, Mia's mother, hadn't noticed Mia's emotions and reactions—because her attention was fully on Tanya!

A mother like her... The look in Joel's eyes turned even colder.

He turned to his secretary and assistant beside him and said, "Since the Joneses are so tardy in this matter, you guys can provide Ms. Jones some assistance. She should be out of the country within an hour. I don't want to see her in New York ever again."

His assistant nodded at once. "Yes, sir."

Joel then walked straight into the ward.

Hillary and Mrs. Jones had the guts to get physical with Tanya, but they didn't dare to stop Joel. Both of them gave way to him in silence.

Hillary watched as Joel picked Mia up and carried her in his arms. She stared at how resolute the man was, and how handsome he still was, just like how he had been back then. She watched how he didn't cast even a single glance at her...

Despair suddenly welled up from the depths of her heart.

Yes.

Despair.

From beginning to end, the man had never once loved her.

The realization made fury overwhelm her rationale. Hillary suddenly screamed, "Tanya, haven't you always disliked me since we were kids? You hate me, don't you? Are you willing to raise my child for me now?! Hahahaha! What a joke you are!"

Her words couldn't get any more hurtful.

Joel paused and looked at her in astonishment.

Hillary looked like she had lost her mind. The savage look on her face made her look just like a beast in captivity putting up one last fight. She said, “How about this? Give me Mia, the two of you can have your own children instead. Isn’t that a good idea? This way, I won’t pester you ever again in the future!”

Joel looked at Tanya hastily.

By asking her to be Mia’s stepmother, he was actually letting Tanya down.

Tanya had also been resistant to the idea.

Just two days ago, she had even driven him away because of it.

Joel thought that this was something that Tanya couldn’t get over.

Tanya’s gaze, however, landed on Mia when she heard what Hillary said.

The words ‘have your own children’ was a blow that made her heart ache.

Nevertheless, she had noticed Mia reaching out with her little hand and grasping Joel’s sleeve tightly upon hearing what Hillary said. In addition, her timid eyes also looked at her as though she was asking her for help—or begging her for mercy.

Mia didn’t want to go with Hillary.

She was very resistant to the idea.

Seeing that neither she nor Joel was speaking, Hillary stretched out her hand to Mia and said, “Come here, Mia. Come with Mommy. They are all bad people. Do you know? They are all bad people! Once your teacher and your father have their own children in the future, they will abuse and bully you. Come with Mommy. Mommy will never bully you, right?”

Mia shrank back further into Joel’s arms.

Joel’s gaze, however, was on Tanya the whole time.

He would never give Mia to Hillary, no matter what.

But he wanted Tanya to say something right now...

However, Tanya merely stared at Mia. The emotions in her eyes were so complicated that even Joel couldn't read them at all.

Joel's heart slowly sank.

Tanya probably couldn't bring herself to accept Mia yet.

Well, that made sense.

What made him think that he could ask her to treat the child born to the man she loved the most and the sister she hated the most as her own?!

Besides, Tanya was someone with a straightforward and decisive character. She had never been one to do such saintly things...

However, Joel had no choice but to be selfish this once.

He would never let go of Mia, nor would he let go of Tanya.

They were the two most important women in his life.

With that in mind, the look in Joel's eyes became cold and unfathomable. He looked at Hillary and held Mia further away from her.

Just as he was about to speak, Tanya, who was behind him, said, "If I say that I don't mind, will you believe me?"

Her words stunned everyone.

Hillary looked at her incredulously.

Even Joel was shocked.

Tanya looked at Mia and slowly stretched out her arms to her. "I like Mia. Although she is your daughter, she is not like you at all. The two of you are completely different!"

Tanya lowered her head.

She couldn't even make herself dislike Mia, because the sight of her made her think of her own child.

Any woman who had had children before would be somewhat accommodating toward and forgiving of children. She wanted to make Mia happy.

When Mia saw Tanya stretching her arms out to her, for some reason, she suddenly felt warmth in the icy-cold world.

She reached out her own short little arms and went into Tanya's arms.

When Tanya said what she did, she had let go of her negative feelings.

She believed that her child would be like her, and also hoped that all the children in the world could live happy and worry-free.

Tanya, who had let go of her negative feelings toward Mia, suddenly lifted her head. Her lips curled into a smile as she turned to Hillary. She said shamelessly, "Also, Mia is Joel's daughter. Considering how much I love him, I would also love his daughter, so why wouldn't I like Mia? You're worrying too much about it.

"Oh, by the way, you don't have to worry too much about Mia after you go abroad, because I will take good care of her. After all, we are a family of three. We are going to live happily together!"

Sure enough, Hillary became so furious that she started shaking all over.

For some reason, though, Tanya felt that Hillary's emotions were a little odd. It was as if she was furious, yet also afraid of something. "You...! That's utter nonsense! I am Mia's mother!"

Tanya didn't understand why she was emphasizing that over and over, but she nevertheless asked, "Mia, do you want me to be your mom?"

Mia's eyes lit up and she nodded. "Yes!"

Tanya then looked at Hillary. "Mia is only five now. Say, five—or even ten—years later, will she still remember you, her biological mother?"

She let out an icy laugh after she spoke.

Immediately after, as if she were one of those bad-natured women who flaunted their power after doing bad things, amidst everyone gesturing at her and talking about her, and without any regard for anything, Tanya walked

toward the exit with Mia in her arms. "Alright, Mia, your fever is gone. Shall we go home?"

"..."

Hillary was still shaking even after Tanya had left. Mrs. Jones, who was frowning, looked as if she didn't know what she should do.

A short while later, Joel's assistant walked up to Hillary. "Ms. Jones, your air ticket has been booked. Your flight is in an hour. You may come with me now."

Hillary clenched her fists.

Yet she was at a loss for words as she stared at the assistant in front of her.

With a mighty momentum around her, Tanya went to the car park with Mia in her arms.

Joel followed behind her. As he watched the woman in front of him take firm and determined steps, a dazzling smile formed at the corners of his lips.

When they reached the car, he took two quick steps forward to Tanya's side.

Tanya turned to him and smiled triumphantly. "Did you see how Hillary looked just now? Hahaha! That felt so good! I haven't been this happy in so many years!"

Joel: "..."

A very self-aware Tanya sat in the backseat with Mia and left the driver's seat to Joel. She had a smile on her lips the whole time. "Mia, I made your Mommy really angry just now. Do you mind?"

Mia blinked at once. "No, I don't, Mommy!"

Tanya: "?!"

She suddenly choked on her saliva. After a few violent coughs, the astounded woman looked at Mia. "Y-you... What did you just call me?"

Even though Mia was looking at her timidly, she spoke very firmly. "You were the one who asked me to call you Mommy..."

Tanya: "..."

The corners of her lips spasmed in embarrassment. "No, I said that just now just to make Hillary angry. You... you... Don't take it seriously."

"Okay, Mommy," said Mia.

Tanya: "..."

She immediately looked at Joel, who was in the driver's seat. "What are you laughing at?! Aren't you going to do something about the little fellow?!"

The extremely thick-skinned Joel said, "We already agreed back then that when we have a daughter in the future, I'd be in charge of spoiling her while you're in charge of disciplining her."

Tanya: "!!"

It was only when the car started that she finally asked, "Where are we going?"

"The Smith manor." Tanya flushed crimson after he spoke.. Joel, who saw that she was about to refuse, immediately added, "Nora is injured. Before she fainted, she was talking about some email..."

As expected, it diverted Tanya's attention. "Nora is injured? How did she become injured? Were you busy the whole day yesterday because of this? What exactly happened? What email are you talking about?"

Seeing that she wasn't refusing to go to the Smiths' anymore, Joel breathed a silent sigh of relief. Then, he slowly recounted what had happened the day before.

He didn't hide the truth from Tanya just because she wasn't part of their world.

Now that Tanya was going to be with him, she would have to face these issues sooner or later.

Upon hearing about the martial arts tournament, upon hearing how all of Quentin's bones had shattered, and upon hearing about how Nora had challenged the Benevolence Hall all by herself; Tanya frowned and ranted angrily. "They are too much! Nora did great by beating them all up! If I had practiced martial arts, I would definitely have gone with her to give them trouble, too!"

Then, she asked Joel accusingly, “Did you help her?”

Joel’s lip corners spasmed. “I wanted to, but Justin stopped me.”

Tanya was taken aback.

Joel thought back to the events from the day before. When Nora challenged the Benevolence Hall all by herself the day before, he had wanted to go in and help, but Justin had stopped him.

Justin had said, “She has a lot of pent-up anger right now, and needs to vent it out. Otherwise, she would feel very awful.”

Therefore, Justin had only kept Shaun occupied in the arena so that Nora could kill him herself, and thereby vent her anger.

Joel had been rendered speechless at that time.

The one who had been beaten up was his younger brother, too!! He also had a whole load of pent-up anger that he had nowhere to vent!!

However, he had still given the chance to vent to Nora.

He’d thought that Tanya would praise him after he explained what had happened, but unexpectedly, Tanya instead said, “Mr. Hunt did the right thing! Nora is not in good health. If she doesn’t vent her anger, it will definitely affect her health. Why are you fighting with her for it when you’re so strong and muscular?”

Joel: “??”

Suddenly, he felt like his status in the family in the future was now clear at a glance.

Tanya then asked, “Is Quentin really unable to stand anymore?”

Joel’s expression darkened at the question. “That’s what Lily said. I have contacted all the orthopedic specialists in the country, as well as the Hunts’ medical experts last night, but all of them said they couldn’t do anything about it after they came and saw Quentin’s condition.”

Tanya didn’t quite agree, though. “In my opinion, that may not necessarily be the case.”

Joel was surprised.

Tanya then said, "Ask Nora about it after she wakes up! Only she can give you the most accurate answer."

Joel was puzzled. "Why do you say that?"

Tanya kept quiet for a while before she finally replied, "There was once someone broke my leg when I was abroad. All the doctors said that the bones were shattered, so I won't be able to ever dance again. It was Nora who cured me."

Joel was taken aback by her calm voice.

Joel had always known that Tanya's life abroad during the past five years wasn't a peaceful one. However, he never knew that someone had even broken her leg.

He suddenly thought of how deeply in despair Tanya, who loved dancing so much, must have been when she was told that she could not dance anymore.

But what had he been doing at that time?

He had probably been busy changing his daughter's diapers at home!

It was Nora who had stayed by Tanya's side, cured her, and gave her hope at that time!

When Joel thought of that, he suddenly felt that he still wasn't treating Nora well enough. He should be treating her even better!

In the midst of his thoughts, Tanya asked, "By the way, what email were you talking about just now?"

Joel smiled and replied, "I don't know. Before she fell asleep, she looked at me and said something about her email inbox. She didn't say what was in it, though."

Tanya instantly curled her lips disdainfully. "Tsk, to think she can't even relay information properly! Besides, how would we know what her email account password is?! Sigh!"

The two of them arrived at the Smiths' while they were talking.

The car had only just passed through the gates when they noticed a small van parking at the front. A few nurses and medical personnel got out of the van, and carefully helped Ian down.

Ian was too weak. He had only just returned from the jaws of death, so he couldn't even walk. After getting out of the van, the medical personnel helped him onto a wheelchair.

Joel got a huge shock and exchanged a look with Tanya. He hurriedly stopped the car, walked over, and called out, "Uncle Ian! Why are you back?"

Ian then noticed him. He sounded a little weak, but he pressed on and said, "How can you keep it from me when something so serious has happened?! I can't rest peacefully in the hospital when Nora is still unconscious, so I decided to come back and have a look at her!"

Joel glared at the people next to Ian.

Ian immediately said, "Don't look at them. I sensed something amiss because Quentin didn't visit me for so long, so I forced them to talk."

Ever since he knew that Nora was his daughter, he had specially instructed Quentin to follow Nora every day, and also give him a report of everyone else who was following her.

When Quentin simply didn't show up the day before, he had immediately sensed something. The people around him weren't the wily old fox's match at all, so he had easily sounded them out!

Upon knowing that Quentin had been hospitalized, he hastily went to visit Quentin.

Quentin hadn't woken up yet. Given the severity of his injuries, he wouldn't be waking up for quite a while, either.

After visiting Quentin, he became worried that the news about how Nora was sleeping was just their way of trying to comfort him. Thus, he had forcefully requested to come home. He would only be able to rest assured once he saw Nora with his own eyes.

Ian had always been a stubborn man. Joel knew that no one around him could talk him out of something he wanted to do.

It was just like how no one could do anything about him when he was determined to die.

Once he made up his mind, the decisions and beliefs often lasted a lifetime.

For example, Yvette.

Joel didn't say anything else. At this point, Tanya came over with Mia in her arms. When Ian glanced over and saw that it was Tanya, he made a sound of surprise and asked, "That girl has returned to the States?"

Tanya had often visited the Smiths when she was dating Joel back then, so it was very normal that Ian would know her.

Tanya greeted him respectfully. "Hi, Uncle Ian."

Ian nodded at her. Then, he looked at Joel and said, "Although you and I are not father and son, we have very similar personalities. This kid here has stayed single all these years because he was waiting for you." Ian then looked at Tanya and added, "Cherish him, girl!"

After he said that, seemingly because he had thought of himself, a contemplative look formed in his eyes.

Tanya looked at Joel, who had blushed a little.

To outsiders, he was the head of the Smiths whom everyone feared. But in the eyes of Ian, he would always be a junior. He even called him a 'kid'...

Joel touched his nose.

Tanya, who had sensed how embarrassed he was, smiled and nodded. "Okay."

With Joel pushing the wheelchair and Tanya carrying Mia in her arms, the four of them walked toward the living room.

Ian, however, suddenly became nervous. "Nora's little girl is also at home, right? This is the first time we're meeting. Should I give her a gift or something?"

The thought had only just formed when a familiar young and tender voice traveled over from the living room.

“Jumbo, does your name actually start with a ‘D’ instead? Do you really know how to play?”

“What? Stop calling you names? It’s because I keep dissing people that Sponsor Grandpa has stopped coming to my live-streams?”

When Nora fell unconscious, Cherry lost her sense of security.

She didn’t want to stay with her father at the Hunts’ anymore and insisted on staying by Nora’s side no matter what. She wheedled and acted cute, and even kicked up a fuss and rolled about on the floor in the Smiths’ manor in the end. She simply refused to go with Justin.

Pete didn’t say anything, either. He merely looked at him in silence, his intentions obvious:

‘I am not leaving until Mommy wakes up!’

In the end, Justin had no choice but to ask Joel for permission to stay in a guest room at the Smiths’ temporarily, so that he could work there and watch over the two children.

Joel’s lip corners had spasmed when he received the call from the butler.

Justin was simply too devious.

Joel simply didn’t believe it. Why wouldn’t Justin be able to make a child do as he says? Besides, even if he really couldn’t, why couldn’t he just tell the Hunts that the little mister had come to the Smiths’ to play?

Moreover!

As the head of the Hunts, Justin didn’t need to report his whereabouts to anyone at all!

He remembered that Pete and Justin had once lived in a villa elsewhere before.

Why would the butler dare to refuse Justin, though? Thus, by the time Joel heard about it, Justin had already moved in.

He was pretty much just using the children for his own gains! How utterly shameless!

They weren't even married yet! It wasn't appropriate for them to be living together!

He had also come back with the intention to drive Justin out.

However, Cherry was currently seated on the sofa with her legs crossed, her mockery mode at full force.

Behind her were the two butlers in charge of external and internal affairs. They were standing there and looking at her.

"Ms. Cherry, you're so good at the game!"

"The way you diss people is such a work of art!"

"Huh? To think you can insult someone like that! Jumbo with a 'D'... that's Dumbo! Hahaha!"

The two of them had clearly become fans of Cherry.

Justin was seated on the sofa at the side, seemingly dealing with some documents. That leisurely appearance of his was practically as if he was in his own home!

The corners of Joel's lips spasmed.

He then looked at Pete. He was working seriously on his Mathematical Olympiad problems at the side, seeming completely unaffected by Cherry.

Cherry was reading the comments in her live-stream. Her brows knitted together and she said, "Daddy, all of them are saying that Sponsor Grandpa hasn't come to my live-stream for so long because I was dissing people, so he doesn't like me anymore. Sob, is that true?"

Justin was actually feeling very nervous.

Because he had just received news that Ian had come home.

His attitude toward the old man was merely respectful in the past. However, things were completely different now. Ian was Nora's father!

As a son-in-law, he mustn't embarrass himself in front of him.

He was racking his brains for a way to make Ian happy when he heard Cherry. As a slave to his daughter, he replied without any hesitation, "How can that be? You are so cute when you diss people!"

Cherry breathed a sigh of relief. However, she still said aggrievedly, "Then why isn't Sponsor Grandpa talking to me anymore? We haven't contacted each other on Messenger for so long. I asked Mommy to look for him, but she couldn't find him... Daddy, are you really not a hacker?"

Justin coughed.

He was Y. Of course he was a hacker.

But he didn't want to look for him.

Sponsor Grandpa? What the heck? How dare he fight with him for his daughter's love? Additionally, during the period Sponsor Grandpa was away, he had finally reached number one on the virtual gifts ranking!

Justin said, "I'm really not one. Daddy is a good, law-abiding citizen. Daddy's company also acts in accordance with the law."

Cherry sighed and lowered her head.

Next to them, Pete looked up and heaved a silent sigh. His father was simply too shameless!

He was lying to even his five-year-old younger sister!

Justin then said, "Why are you so insistent on looking for Sponsor Grandpa? The way I see it, his affection for you was only temporary. Otherwise, why would he suddenly disappear without a word? That's very rude behavior."

He secretly badmouthed Sponsor Grandpa and said, "Let's ignore him in the future, Cherry!"

Cherry asked, "... But what if Sponsor Grandpa was sick?"

"That's impossible. Considering how rich he is, it's impossible that he would suddenly disappear, no matter what kind of illness it is."

"Yeah, you're right, Daddy. I won't talk to Sponsor Grandpa ever again!"

At the door, Ian, who had immediately recognized that Cherry was sweetcherry, was bewildered.

When he'd first recognized Cherry, he had felt joy and anxiety from meeting an online friend for the first time. However, there was only anger left in him now.

What was Justin teaching the kids?

Ian entered the living room with mighty momentum.

Justin hurriedly stood up when he heard the sounds coming from the door. At the sight of him, he took a step forward earnestly and greeted him. "Hello, Uncle Ian," he said.

Ian stared at him with disdain all over his good-looking face. "I think you should call me Mr. Smith instead."

Justin: "?"

He was calling him Uncle Ian because he was Nora's fiancé!

He was stunned for a moment. Then, he said, "You must be joking, Uncle Ian. Nora will beat me up if she hears me addressing you as Mr. Smith."

Ian snorted. "Mr. Hunt, I, Ian Smith, have never been one to joke around. What kind of relationship do you share with Nora for you to be calling me Uncle Ian?"

"... We are engaged," said Justin.

"Engaged?"

Ian was very surprised. "How come I'm not aware that my daughter is engaged? When did the two of you hold the engagement ceremony?"

Justin: "???"

He had publicly announced that Nora was his fiancée at the Hunts' party the other time, so their relationship was already confirmed.

Why was Ian refusing to acknowledge it?

However, he soon felt that he had figured it out. “You are right, Uncle Ian. I will get it done.”

Ian didn't look at him anymore. Instead, he looked at Cherry sitting on the sofa.

Cherry was also staring at him with her big dark eyes.

At the sight, Joel pushed Ian's wheelchair toward Cherry and said, “Uncle Ian, this is Nora's daughter. Her nickname is Cherry.”

Ian's eyes reddened at once. His voice was even trembling a little as he called out, “Cherry?”

Cherry blinked. Then, she called out sweetly, “Grandpa~”

Ian instantly felt like his heart had been coated in honey.

In the past, when Cherry called him Sponsor Grandpa on Messenger, he had merely found her a sweet child. It was only now that he realized that the sweetness reached all the way into his heart.

He nodded. “Hello!”

As soon as he said that, Chester, who was also logged into the game, said, “Boss, look at your live-stream! They are all mocking you!”

Cherry immediately lowered her head when she heard him. She saw in the comments in the live-stream that everyone was laughing at her and saying that Sponsor Grandpa had abandoned her.

“ ... ”

Everyone in the comments was laughing at her.

“Your wealthy grandfather must have found another dog. He doesn't love you anymore!”

“Hahaha, I'm suddenly very happy to see the host down.”

“Sponsor Grandpa must be tired of you, right? All the big bosses are like this.”

...

Cherry wilted. She pouted and stopped talking.

When Ian saw her like this, his heart ached badly. He quickly took out his phone and secretly charged it. Then, while the others were not paying attention, he quickly went to Cherry's live-stream and sent her gifts.

The overwhelming gifts suddenly covered the entire screen.

When Cherry saw that the person giving the gift was her Sponsor Grandpa, her eyes lit up.

She shouted happily, "My Sponsor Grandpa is here!"

Ian had surpassed second place and become first. He was satisfied.

However, just as he put down his phone, Justin, who was standing behind him, suddenly took out his phone and tipped a hundred gifts. The rankings instantly changed again.

Ian: "..."

Justin said, "Cherry, you can't let an outsider control your emotions. Whatever others have, Daddy will give it to you."

Cherry immediately looked up at him. "Thank you, Daddy!"

"..."

After Justin tipped the gifts, he put down his phone. For some reason, he suddenly felt that the atmosphere in the living room seemed a little off.

How much colder was it?

He composed himself and looked over. He realized that Ian was emitting coldness and looking at him gloomily.

Justin: "?"

He hesitated for a moment and asked, "Uncle Ian, what's wrong?"

Ian sneered. "Mr. Hunt, are you very free today?"

Justin: "...So-so, I guess."

Ian said, "Butler, Mr. Hunt still has to handle the company's matters. How can we keep him here at home for such a small matter? Quickly take him to work!"

Justin: !!

Confused, he looked at Joel pleadingly. However, not only did his brother-in-law not help, he even turned his head to look elsewhere. His eyes, which were usually smiling, were now gloating?

Joel really felt good.

He and Justin governed New York's economic lifeline. The two of them often interacted with each other and were both powerful people.

When had he ever seen him so aggrieved?

It felt... good.

When Justin saw that he was silent, and since Ian was the head of this family, he had to listen.

After confirming that there was nothing wrong with Nora's body, he simply said, "Alright, I'll come and see Nora again tonight."

Ian snorted. "Nora is fine. You don't have to visit her so often. When she wakes up, she will contact you!"

Justin: "..."

He grimaced and looked at Pete. "Then I'll come and see Pete tonight."

Pete?

Ian was stunned when he heard this. He turned to look at Pete, who had been sitting quietly the entire time. When he saw his face, he was stunned.

Why did Pete look exactly like Cherry?

While he was in a daze, Justin smiled brightly. "Uncle Ian, I forgot to tell you that Pete and Cherry are my and Nora's children."

He paused and added, "They're twins."

Ian: "..."

Justin, who finally had the upper hand, walked out when he saw his stunned look. "Uncle Ian, I'll take my leave then."

He should give his father-in-law more time to accept it!

After Justin left, Ian looked at Joel. "So these two kids have been together for a long time?"

He was talking about Nora and Justin.

Joel nodded. "The children are already five years old."

Ian paused. "He's better than you!"

Joel: "..."

He glanced at Mia silently. He was about to say that his child was five years old too, but when he saw Tanya standing beside him, he didn't say anything.

His child was not hers.

This might become his lifelong regret.

Ian went upstairs to look at Nora. After confirming that she was really asleep, he then went downstairs in relief.

Joel let him rest. He glanced at Cherry and nodded. After entering the bedroom, Ian let everyone out and secretly opened Cherry's live-stream.

Cherry had said earlier that she did not want to talk to her Sponsor Grandpa anymore, so he chose not to acknowledge her first. They could reunite after maintaining a peaceful relationship on the Internet!

Time passed very quickly. Soon, it was nighttime. Suddenly, two little cuties appeared at home, and the entire family became lively.

Joel realized that even Ian had a smile on his face.

Such happy times were always easily disturbed.

After dinner, the sky darkened.

He was about to call his assistant to ask if Hillary had gone overseas when his assistant's call arrived first. "Mr. Smith, something has happened."

Joel was stunned. "What?"

The assistant said, "After going overseas, Hillary sued you in Switzerland!"

Sued him?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

The assistant coughed. "She has filed a request for the custody of the child!"

Joel's voice instantly turned cold. "How dare she? Where are the Joneses?"

The assistant said, "Mr. Jones contacted her and asked her to withdraw the lawsuit, but she refused to listen. She insisted that the child is hers and only hers. Even if she can't be with you, she will still sue you for the child's custody!"

With that, the assistant coughed. "If this was in the country, we would definitely have been able to resolve it easily. But now, she's suing from overseas. It's not convenient for us to make a move there."

Of course, Joel understood this, but the problem was...

He narrowed his eyes and asked, "If she's not from Switzerland, how did she manage to press charges there? Why would the courts in Switzerland take on such a case?"

The assistant said, "We're still investigating that, but the court seems to be taking this case very seriously. They're already preparing to send you a subpoena!"

Joel vaguely felt that something was wrong. "Investigate properly!"

"Understood."

After hanging up, Joel looked at Mia.

The case was actually not complicated. If he didn't go overseas, there was nothing they could do about it. But Mia couldn't possibly stay in the country forever, right?

It had only been a day. Where did Hillary find the guts to sue him?!

Outside.

Justin looked at the brightly lit Smith villa and was especially envious.

He really wanted to go in, but after getting the butler to inform him, his father-in-law refused to let him in. He even said that it was getting too late and he would not keep him as a guest.

Justin did not want to be ostracized.

Ian was not someone he could handle unless his future brother-in-law helped.

But to get his future brother-in-law to help him? He had to give him something powerful...

Something powerful...

Justin suddenly thought of the DNA test between Tanya and Mia...

His lips curled up slightly. He had it!

In the limousine.

As Lawrence drove, he looked at his boss in the rearview mirror and vaguely felt that he was a little pitiful.

When had the famous Justin ever been rejected?

He sighed silently.

Ever since he got together with Miss Smith, Mr. Hunt had shown him his most patient side.

At this moment, Mr. Hunt was not in a hurry. He was still playing with his phone.

Lawrence almost couldn't help it and drove away!

It was so embarrassing to wait outside the door!

How could he know that Justin was hacking into Nora's email?

His slender fingers pressed on his phone with agility. He was about to enter Nora's email when he was suddenly blocked. The screen almost turned black.

Tsk.

Justin stared at the arrogant red words "get lost" and couldn't help but laugh.

Very good. It was her style.

However, the encryption measures in her inbox were really impressive. Perhaps only Q could do it.

He could not guess how she knew Q. How could she get Q to encrypt one of her mailboxes?

Justin smiled and decided to give up on attacking her email.

Otherwise, she would probably be angry when she woke up and realized that her email had been hacked.

He picked up his phone and called Lily.

The call was picked up quickly. Lily's formulaic voice came through. "Hello, this is Lily. May I know who you are?"

"Justin."

Lily was startled. "Boss's husband?"

Justin: "???"

Lily coughed and corrected him. "No, it's Mr. Hunt. It's so late, why are you calling?"

Justin raised his eyebrows.

Boss's husband? Was this his nickname now?

It actually made him a little happy.

Joy flashed across his deep eyes. He felt that Nora's assistant was very perceptive. He said slowly, "Nora asked you to produce a DNA report two days ago. What was the result?"

Lily subconsciously said, "I'll only report to Boss."

Justin: "?"

Just as he frowned, he heard Lily's tone change. "But your identity is special, so I can tell you. I'll only tell you~"

Justin smiled. "... Go ahead."

"The DNA results show that the two test subjects are confirmed to be mother and daughter."

Justin raised his eyebrows.

He didn't expect Nora to be right.

He lowered his eyes and said slowly, "Thank you."

"You're welcome, Mr. Hunt. Just let me know if you need anything."

After hanging up, Justin thought for a moment and called Sean again. "Five years ago, how was the investigation going on overseas?"

Back then, Nora had investigated her DNA and when he found out about her suspicions, he had said that he could help her investigate Hillary from five years ago.

Even if the DNA showed that Tanya and Mia were mother and daughter, they still had to provide enough evidence to prove that Hillary had stolen the child.

Justin handed the matter to Sean.

After all, it was five years ago. Furthermore, it was in Switzerland, so it was not as fast as investigating in the country.

Sean replied, "Give me another 12 hours and I'll have the answers."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Justin played with his phone.

He could not wait 12 hours to tell Joel such important news. Otherwise, how could he use it as a tactic?

Moreover, judging him by his own standards, it was as if he did not know that he had a daughter back then. He would definitely want to hear this news as soon as possible.

Therefore, he sent Joel a message: "Brother-in-law, let me in. I have an important message for you and Miss Tanya."

"Mr. Smith, we found some clues!"

Joel was on the phone at this moment. The assistant opposite him was in Switzerland, so the investigation was a little slow.

His eyes were cold, and his usual smile was gone. He glanced at Tanya, who was playing with Mia, and said simply, "Speak."

"Hillary did indeed receive help from others to sue you in Switzerland. Moreover, the Joneses' attitude suddenly became domineering after going overseas. They said that they will fight this lawsuit to the end with us!"

Joel's gaze turned even colder. "Whose help did they receive?"

The assistant said a name. "Karl Moore."

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Of course, he knew this person.

Karl Moore was an American Chinese.

Currently, the underground forces in Switzerland were very large, so he was very famous overseas. His name was often heard in the country.

Although the Smiths and Hunts were the top families which controlled the economic lifeline in the country, internationally, their impacts were still a little small.

But Karl Moore was different.

They were mercenaries, and the people in their team were all retired special forces from Switzerland. They privately accepted difficult missions, such as assassinations.

The name of their organization could be translated to "Assassin."

Ever since the organization was established, none of the assassination plans had failed!

They were an assassin alliance exceptionally vigilant in the world!

Therefore, the Swiss people maintained a good relationship with them. Even the major families in the country were wary of this organization.

Karl Moore was the leader of the organization. Whether the organization accepted the assassination mission or not was entirely up to him.

The Joneses had nothing to do with such a person. Why was he suddenly protecting them?

Joel frowned. "Why is he helping them?"

The other party might not even take a liking to the Joneses if they packed all their assets and gave them to Karl Moore. Furthermore, they were going against the Smiths. Karl Moore had always shown the Smiths respect.

The assistant said, "I'm still investigating."

Joel's gaze turned colder. "Yes. Investigate all that you can. If you can't, tell Karl Moore that the Smiths respect him, but we're not afraid of him! There's no room for negotiation regarding the child!"

The assistant took a deep breath. "Yes!"

After hanging up, Joel saw Justin's message and slowly frowned.

He had important news to tell him and Tanya?

He was probably telling him that he wanted to enter the house.

But if he was including Tanya... then something must have happened.

Could it be related to the email Nora had mentioned before she fainted?

He looked at Ian and said, "Uncle Ian, let's allow Mr. Hunt in."

Ian said unhappily, "No."

In the afternoon, when he gave Cherry tips, Justin had been suppressing him and had insisted on competing with him for the first place on the list. This made him even more unhappy.

Does he want to marry his daughter? Ha.

Joel looked at Cherry, and the little fellow immediately ran to Ian. "Grandpa, Grandpa~ Let Daddy in. I miss Daddy~"

Ian: "..."

Could he reject his obedient granddaughter's request?

The answer was no.

Ian's lips twitched as he glared at Joel.

The news of Justin standing outside the door was reported to him by the butler when he came in. Cherry and Pete did not know at all.

During dinner, Cherry even looked at the door curiously and asked, "Why isn't Daddy here yet?"

Ian said coldly, "He's probably busy with work."

Cherry was still a little unhappy. "Okay~"

Ian took the opportunity to brainwash her. "It's most irresponsible of a parent to ignore the child when they're busy. Let's not like him anymore, okay?"

Cherry's eyes widened when she heard this.

Then, she looked at Ian and retorted, "Grandpa, I can't do that."

Ian was curious. "Why?"

Cherry sighed. "Mommy has been busy sleeping since we were young. She's even more irresponsible. At least Daddy spends twice as much time with me every day than Mommy does!"

Ian: "!!"

He had never seen the way Nora interacted with the two children. He did not expect that he would also have to bring his daughter into this.

At that time, he could only change the topic forcefully. "Yes, what I said just now was just a test for you. I didn't expect our Cherry to be so smart. You actually passed Grandpa's test."

Cherry immediately looked up and smiled. Her big black eyes swept past Pete. "Pete, did you see that? Grandpa doesn't like Daddy and wants to badmouth Daddy. I'm the best! He can't even say anything about Daddy!"

Pete: "..."

He sighed silently. He kept wondering ever since Cherry came home, why had the tyrant and this grandfather, who was rumored to be very serious, become so childish?

Ian had been hiding it from Cherry and did not tell her.

Moreover, he did not feel guilty at all. How dare Justin secretly tell her not to like her Sponsor Grandpa?!

However, now that Cherry had heard Joel's words, Ian could not stop her. Otherwise, wouldn't he become a bad grandfather?

Ian could only say to the butler indignantly, "Invite him in."

The butler glanced at Joel and left with a smile.

Joel was already the head of the Smiths now. After all, Ian had been on his deathbed in the past and had not cared about the family's matters at all.

However, Ian's wish was Joel's command.

When everyone saw how respectful Joel was to Ian, they did not dare to disrespect Ian either.

Soon, Justin entered.

Wearing a black suit, he walked in steadily. After entering, he greeted Ian respectfully, "Uncle Ian."

Ian snorted and looked at Joel. "Joel, the guest is here. Treat him well."

He looked like he wanted to ignore him.

Justin rubbed his nose awkwardly and looked at Cherry.

Cherry had already run over excitedly and hugged his leg. “Daddy, why are you just getting here now?! Didn’t you agree to sleep here tonight? I’m still waiting for you to tuck me in!”

When she said this, Justin looked at Ian. When he saw Ian’s eyes flicker, he chuckled softly and said, “Yes, Daddy was busy with work.”

He did not expose Ian’s lie.

This made Ian feel a little better. Then, he saw Justin looking at him mischievously. “As for sleeping with you tonight...”

He drawled, his eyes questioning.

Ian coughed and looked at the butler. “Have you prepared the guest room?”

The butler held in his laughter. “I’ve already prepared it. It’s next to Miss Nora’s room. The room is very big and comfortable.”

Ever since Yvonne was arrested and Nora’s identity as Ian’s daughter was exposed, the people in the family had accepted Nora as the eldest daughter.

Ian waved her hand. “Alright, Joel. Take the guest upstairs to have a look.”

Joel smiled as well. He let Mia play downstairs and took Justin upstairs. Halfway there, he looked at Tanya. “Tanya, you come too.”

Tanya looked up in confusion and subconsciously stood up to follow him upstairs.

Ian couldn’t help but say, “You guys have just reunited. Aren’t you two being too mushy?”

Tanya’s face couldn’t help but turn red.

Joel coughed and smiled. “Uncle Ian, please understand.”

Ian: “...”

Why was this kid's skin so thick?!

When the three of them went upstairs, Justin did not go to the guest room immediately.

Joel pointed to his study. "Chat in the study?"

Justin nodded. When they passed by Nora's room, he suddenly gestured for them to keep quiet and then gently opened the door.

The curtains in the room were drawn, and the light was dim.

The temperature in the room had also been adjusted very well. The woman on the bed was still asleep and did not move at all.

Justin approached her and checked her breathing and pulse. After confirming that Nora was fine, he heaved a sigh of relief.

He covered her with a blanket and went out.

Seeing him tiptoeing as if he was afraid of waking Nora up, Joel and Tanya at the door were speechless.

The corners of Tanya's mouth twitched. "Mr. Hunt, Nora is sleeping so well. Even if the sky collapses, it probably won't wake her up. You don't have to be so... cautious?"

Justin didn't mind. "It's better to be gentle. Otherwise, she'll hear the noise in her sleep."

Tanya: "..."

Alright, he was of noble status. Whatever he says.

The three of them then followed Joel to the study.

In the study.

The housekeeper, Lucy, had already prepared tea. Joel looked at Justin. "Have you eaten dinner?"

Justin looked at him silently.

Brother-in-law, he had come over during lunchtime and had been kept outside the door. Didn't Joel know if he had eaten dinner or not?!

Joel coughed. "Go prepare some food for Mr. Hunt."

Lucy nodded.

After Lucy left, Joel saw Justin drinking tea and couldn't help but ask anxiously, "Tell me quickly. What's the matter?"

Tanya looked at him in confusion.

Justin drank a cup of tea before saying slowly, "Miss Tanya, you had a child overseas, right?"

His words were like a tidal wave. Joel looked at Tanya in disbelief, only to see that Tanya's eyes had also widened in shock.

She clenched her fists tightly.

This was her secret. Why did Justin say it out loud?

When he saw her like this, Joel's mind instantly started racing.

He lowered his eyes and smiled bitterly.

So in the past five years, Tanya had already had a boyfriend overseas?

However, he had no intention of blaming her.

After all, he had a child too, didn't he?

When he forced Tanya to accept Mia, he no longer had the right to criticize her.

Even if he had never let any woman near him in the past five years!

He suddenly felt frustrated.

At this moment, he wanted to know who this man was who had been with Tanya. He wished he could capture him and beat him up.

With this thought in mind, he looked at Tanya.

He suddenly understood how Tanya must have felt when he and Hillary had gotten together back then.

After five years, he was with Tanya again and was still so sad and jealous, let alone her back then.

That was why she had decided to leave and go overseas, right?

Perhaps she had not gone overseas simply to pursue her dream of dancing. She had been hurt by him!

When Joel thought of this, his chest tightened even more.

He had been with her through junior high, high school, and university...

He had originally thought that the two of them would walk from their school uniforms to their wedding gowns, from their black hair to their white hair. He did not expect that they would go off track halfway.

When they returned to the same path, he had Mia, and she had another child.

Their love was no longer as perfect as before.

But he couldn't mind.

He did not even dare to ask Tanya if she had liked that man when she had a change of heart midway, only to like him again now.

He did not dare to ask, afraid that he would be dissatisfied with the answer.

He only knew that they had to be together, no matter what.

With this in mind, he walked towards Tanya.

Tanya was also in a daze. When she saw Joel walking over, her expression turned grave and she felt even more guilty. However, just as she thought Joel would question her, she heard him say, "Who is that man?"

Tanya: "?"

She was stunned and looked at Joel in confusion.

Joel sighed. "If you don't want to say it, then forget it. I'll try my best not to mind."

At this point, he turned his head away and did not look into Tanya's eyes. "Where is your child...? You can bring him over. I'll treat him as my own, just like... how you treat Mia... Even if I can't be sincere, I'll still work hard..."

Tanya: "!!!"

She finally understood what Joel meant and could not help but laugh.

As she smiled, tears welled up in her eyes.

This man, this silly man, actually thought that she had another man?

She thought of the past five years. Although she was alone overseas, she had interacted with many aristocrats because she was a dancer.

She did not lack suitors among those people.

But she had never accepted any of them.

At first, she had told herself, she had lost her child and had no right to start a new life. It was a form of punishment.

But it was only now that she realized that it was not because she did not want to look for a man. It was because, with someone in her heart, she could no longer look at anyone else.

Those aristocrats were all very outstanding, but she was blinded by Joel and could not see anyone else.

She looked at Joel with red eyes.

When Joel saw her like this, his heart ached even more.

How did that man hurt her? Was it so painful to recall?

He grabbed Tanya's arm and said in pain and anger, "Why did you split up? Did he hurt you?"

Tanya shook her head.

“Did he have a change of heart?”

Tanya continued to shake her head.

Joel was anxious. “Did you have a change of heart? What happened? Did he bully you? Tell me who he is and I’ll kill him!”

Tanya still shook her head, but the smile on her face grew wider.

She said, “No, no. There’s no such person.”

Her voice was choked.

Joel was stunned. “There’s no such person? Then your child...”

Tanya’s cries became even louder. She looked at Joel and knew that she could no longer hide the child’s existence.

However, she did not want to make Joel sad with her.

She clenched her fists. “Calm down. Listen to me.”

Joel was extremely anxious, but when he saw Tanya’s tear-stained face, he knew that he could not be anxious. He took a deep breath. “Okay, I’ll calm down. Tell me, what’s going on with that man and the child?”

Tanya looked at him and lowered her head again. She slowly said, “There’s no other man... It’s you. It has always been you!”

Joel froze on the spot.

He looked at Tanya in a daze.

A ridiculous thought suddenly occurred to him. “If it’s me, then that child...”

Tanya looked at him and closed her eyes. Large tears rolled down her face again. “The child is yours.”

It was his...

These three words stunned Joel.

Surprise surged in his heart as he grabbed Tanya. “You gave birth to my child? Our child?”

At this moment, he was as happy as a child.

He asked anxiously, “Where’s the child? Where is he?”

When the two of them were together back then, they had once imagined what would happen if they had a child in the future. As it turned out, they really had a child!

But he did not expect that while he was wild with joy, Tanya would still have her eyes closed. Her tears rolled down her face like broken pearls. She did not speak.

Joel’s ecstasy gradually calmed down. He looked at Tanya and finally sensed something strange.

They were already together. Why didn’t Tanya tell him they had a child?

Also, when he asked if she could be Mia’s mother, why did she resist and not say anything...

He pursed his lips and his heart suddenly sank. “That child...”

“...I lost our child.”

Tanya said those words with difficulty as her tears flowed even more violently. She opened her eyes and sobbed as she shouted, “After I gave birth, I lost the child before I could even see the child clearly. I don’t even know if our child is a girl or a boy!”

“I’m sorry... I didn’t protect our child well! I feel guilty when I’m with you! Why should I be happy? I don’t even know if my child is dead or alive...”

Following her words, Joel suddenly reached out and hugged her.

At this moment, Joel felt his heart ache so much that he could barely breathe.

How painful Tanya must have been all these years!

It was one thing to suffer through the pain of looking for her child every day, but to have to face his and Hillary’s daughter after returning to the country.

Especially when he said that he wanted Tanya to become Mia's mother.

Mia's mother...

Joel suddenly thought of something and looked at Justin.

Justin had said that he had important information to tell Joel and Tanya.

Furthermore, the moment he entered, he pointed out that Tanya had been hiding something from Joel. Then, was that important matter the whereabouts of their child?!

Joel suddenly understood.

Justin sat by the side and watched the two of them confess to each other.

He did not know what had happened. He could only resolve the misunderstanding between Tanya and Joel before speaking the truth.

Seeing that the two of them were almost done talking and that Tanya was crying so badly, Justin touched his nose and hurriedly said, "Don't be in a hurry to cry... I have good news here."

If Nora woke up and found out that he had made her best friend cry for so long, she would definitely beat him up.

Tanya and Joel were still in a sad state. They opened their eyes and looked at him in confusion.

Justin coughed. "It was Nora who felt that something was wrong. She secretly took Tanya's DNA samples to compare with Mia's DNA..."

Joel and Tanya widened their eyes.

At this moment, Joel finally understood Justin's meaning!

Tanya was also surprised and anxious. Why was Nora comparing her and Mia's DNA?!

As she was thinking about this, she heard Justin continue, "You two are mother and daughter."

" ... "

Tanya's mind exploded.

She looked at Justin in disbelief and felt that she recognized every word he said, but when she put them together, why could she suddenly not understand?

Wasn't Mia Hillary's daughter?

How could she be her daughter?

While she was in a daze, Joel narrowed his eyes and said sternly, "No wonder Hillary didn't appear when she was pregnant back then. In the end, she suddenly appeared in front of me with a child."

He looked at Tanya and said, "That night, I was the one who had drunk too much and was schemed against! In the hotel, she insisted that I had sex with her... In my head, the person that night was actually you... But when I woke up, Hillary was by my side instead."

Before he could finish, Tanya suddenly reacted. "Are you talking about October 25, six years ago?"

Joel was stunned and nodded. "Yes."

Tanya bit her lip. "That night, it was me..."

Joel was surprised.

Tanya's expression was a little unnatural when she mentioned that night. "Later on, when you were still asleep in the morning, my mother sent me a message asking me to come home. She said she had something to tell me, so I went back..."

When she returned home, she realized that it was a foreign acceptance letter.

Immediately after, she had taken out a photo of Tanya and Joel sleeping together and handed it to her. She had told her, "I told you long ago that your identity is not suitable for you to be with Mr. Smith! Only the eldest daughter of the Joneses has the right to become Mrs. Smith! Mr. Smith is just playing with you! Since you're my daughter, I'll remind you not to be treated as a plaything!"

At that time, she was stunned when she saw the photo. She called Joel, but she did not expect that Hillary would pick up his phone. "What are you doing? He's still sleeping."

Tanya was furious.

Two hours later, she called Joel, but his attitude was very cold.

She asked, "What am I to you?"

He sneered. "What am I to you? Tanya, we both know that you're not that important to me!"

At that time, Tanya's heart was in ashes as she left the country.

Joel was stunned. He thought about it carefully and knew that he had fallen into a trap. "When I woke up and realized that the person beside me was Hillary, I was shocked. I wanted to look for you and explain everything, but I saw the application form for your overseas study on Hillary's phone."

He was silent for a moment before saying, "Hillary told me that everything you did was to use me to go overseas."

At that time, he was young and impulsive. Just as he was looking at the application, he received a call from Tanya.

However, he had not expected Tanya to question her position in his heart so confidently over a phone call.

He also wanted to ask this question!

Later on, he watched helplessly as Tanya left the country without turning back. He believed Hillary even more and did not look for Tanya over the years.

Now that he thought about it...

It was obvious that he and Tanya had fallen into the other party's trap!!

Joel was momentarily vexed. How could he be so easily deceived? However, he did not expect that Hillary, who was only twenty years old back then, would do such a thing!

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

After a moment, Tanya suddenly pushed him away and ran downstairs.

Joel knew what she was going to do, so he looked at Justin first and said slowly, "I'll remember this favor."

If it weren't for Justin, Tanya would have been afraid that Joel would be sad because of the child and would not have told him. But if Tanya hadn't told him, he probably wouldn't have imagined in his life that Mia was his and Tanya's daughter!

After all, how could he know that Tanya had given birth to a child for him?!

Justin nodded and Joel followed him downstairs.

Sure enough, he could already hear the cries downstairs. He went downstairs and saw Ian watching by the side. "Little brat, did you bully the little girl? Why is she suddenly crying so miserably while hugging Mia?"

Joel looked at the mother and daughter hugging each other.

Tanya was crying so hard that she couldn't speak. Mia, on the other hand, was frightened by her appearance. She looked at her with wide eyes, but she still reached out and patted her back, feeling helpless.

Joel's eyes turned red as well.

He took a step forward and said to Mia, "Mia, this is your mother."

Mia was stunned for a moment before nodding. "I know. Ms. Tanya will be my mother from now on."

When Joel saw the child's ignorance, his heart ached even more.

He reached out and hugged Tanya and Mia. "No, she's the mother who gave birth to you! Your biological mother!"

Mia didn't really understand this, but she still cried. "Mommy, don't cry. Don't cry..."

When she started crying, Tanya stopped crying immediately. She hugged Mia and said with tears in her eyes, "I won't cry. Mia, don't cry. I'm Mommy. Mommy loves you..."

She gently kissed Mia's cheek.

Ian was confused.

That night, Tanya hugged Mia and fell asleep. Joel was guarding the sofa in the room worriedly. He could see Tanya suddenly waking up in the middle of the night and staring at Mia for a while before hugging her tightly and falling asleep again...

It was a fear and unease of again losing what she had regained after so many hardships.

The next day, Joel was woken up by a soft knock on the door.

He walked out gently and heard the butler say, "Sir, Mr. Karl Moore is here!"

Karl Moore?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Even if he had not come himself today, Joel was going to look for him!

Hillary had stolen his child. She had to pay the price!

Joel glanced at the mother and daughter sleeping on the bed. At this moment, the anger in his heart had reached its peak.

Last night, he counted that Tanya had woken up six times. Each time, it took more than half an hour before she could fall asleep again.

Compared to her... Mia had always been by his side, and he had never been neglected.

But what about Tanya?

How painful must her five years of psychological torture have been?!

Joel clenched his fists tightly. He regretted sending Hillary overseas yesterday, causing her to fall into Karl Moore's hands. Otherwise, she would be living a life worse than death right now.

He retracted his gaze and gently went out. After closing the door, he went downstairs.

In the living room downstairs.

Karl Moore was sitting on the sofa in a black suit. There was a tattoo on the back of his hand, and it was obvious that it spread up to his arm.

He was wearing sunglasses and was tall and strong. One could tell with just a look that he was from the mafia.

At this moment, he was sizing up the Smiths' house and said to the person beside him, "No wonder Black Cat insisted on returning to the country. Look, it's still better in the country. The renovations are very exquisite!"

Black Cat was the top mysterious expert in their assassin organization.

Karl Moore had never seen Black Cat before. He had only posted assassination missions on the Internet. Black Cat had very high requirements for assassination missions.

Black Cat would not kill if it was inconvenient.

The troublesome ones were not killed.

Those who did not commit heinous crimes were not killed.

Black Cat would not kill those who did not deserve to die.

Whether the person should die depended on Black Cat's personal judgment.

If it were anyone else, Karl Moore would have tamed such a troublesome killer long ago. But this person was Black Cat, the number one killer in their organization.

Three years ago, a triad organization appeared in Burundi. Wherever they went, not a blade of grass survived. They raped, killed, and plundered. They did not even let women and children off. It could be said that they committed all kinds of crimes!

They had a powerful armed force and occupied the land of kings. The people in that area were suffering.

At that time, the government was at a loss about this powerful armed force. They had tried to attack it a few times but were defeated. In the end, they had no choice but to post a kill order on the assassination network.

The reward for killing the organization's leader was in millions.

It was not much money, but it had attracted many people to go on missions. However, none of them returned.

At that time, Karl Moore had not planned to take on the mission in the Assassin Organization. After all, the mission was too difficult and almost impossible to complete. However, Black Cat in their organization had privately accepted this mission.

Karl Moore felt that Black Cat was dead meat.

In the end! Black Cat entered that organization alone, took the other party's head, and then retreated unscathed! Furthermore, even now, that assassination was a mysterious affair.

That was because no one knew how Black Cat had killed the other party. They only vaguely heard from the other party that Black Cat was American.

As for whether it was a man or a woman, they did not see clearly.

It was also the battle with Black Cat that allowed the assassins to gain a foothold internationally!

From then on, although Karl Moore was an honorary leader, he was extremely respectful to Black Cat. The entire organization followed his orders.

That was... until three months ago, when Black Cat suddenly said that they wanted to return to the country to settle some matters, and told everyone not to disturb them. Then, Black Cat disappeared without a trace.

Karl Moore decided to bring his subordinates back to New York. Firstly, he wanted to see if he could find out who Black Cat was. Secondly, he wanted to tour his hometown again.

Unexpectedly, they bumped into Hillary...

As he was thinking, Joel and Ian walked out at the same time.

When he saw Ian, Joel consciously stood behind him. Karl Moore was also stunned. "You're still alive?"

This familiar tone...

Joel looked at Ian and saw that although Uncle Ian looked thin, his aura was astonishing. He sat steadily in the wheelchair and retorted, "You're not even dead yet. How would I dare to die? How dare you bully us Smiths?"

When he heard this, Karl Moore chuckled. "What are you talking about? What bullying? I'm just stepping up for the Joneses. You guys are too much. Why can't they see their child?"

Ian did not answer. It was obvious that he already knew everything.

He said slowly, "Why are you helping them?"

When Karl Moore heard this, he frowned. "Ah, because I owe Jill a favor."

Jill was Hillary and Tanya's mother.

Because after she married the Joneses, everyone had always called her Madam Jones. Therefore, Joel only realized who this person was after a while.

He frowned and heard Ian laugh. "Love debt?"

Karl Moore coughed. "Damn, I was just playing back then. Who knew that she would take it seriously? Since I broke her innocence and left, I have to help my old lover this time."

Ian's lips twitched. "You're giving face to your old lover, but not to me?"

Karl Moore immediately said, "Over the years, I've given you a lot of face. Over the years, I've never touched the Smiths. Even if someone offered a high price, I never accepted an assassination! Now, give me some face and sit down to discuss this matter!"

He leaned forward and said, "The Joneses aren't a wealthy family. You gave them a way out. So what? If you ask me, let your nephew marry her daughter! What love? Young man, at my age, you'll realize that love is useless!"

Joel: "...That's impossible."

Karl Moore hesitated for a moment. "Then... worst-case scenario—you give her the child. At least she'll have someone to rely on."

Joel explained, "There's something else going on. Listen to me..."

"Slam!" Almost as soon as he said this, Karl Moore slapped the table, revealing a gun. He said aggressively, "What? I don't have time to listen to your chatter. Let me ask you something. Do the Smiths not intend to give face to the Assassin Organization?"

After offending such a person, their safety in the future would be uncertain.

Joel narrowed his eyes. Before they could collide, Ian sneered. "Karl Moore, you're so arrogant. Do you think I can't use my gun because I'm weak now?"

Karl Moore was not afraid at all. "Brother, I'm sorry this time! There's nothing I can do about it. I really owe Jill too much, so she asked me to do this. I don't care what secrets you have, but you have to give me face today!

Unless Black Cat is here, there's no room for negotiation!!"

In the bedroom upstairs.

Perhaps it was because the commotion downstairs was a little loud, but Nora frowned slightly in her sleep.

Black Cat...

Who the hell was shouting her code name non-stop?! It was so annoying! How could she sleep!

Nora flipped over in annoyance. She buried her head in the pillow angrily and covered her ears.

Cherry and Pete, who were sitting on the sofa in the room, instantly fell silent.

The characters in Cherry's game didn't dare to move anymore, as if they were afraid of disturbing her.

In fact, Pete did not even dare to write the Mathematical Olympiad questions as he was afraid that the sound of the pen rubbing against the paper would disturb his mother.

When Justin, who was sitting beside the two children, saw this scene, he lowered his eyes and suddenly stood up.

When he stood up, Cherry and Pete looked at him simultaneously and immediately made a “shh” gesture. It was as if even Justin’s action of standing up would disturb Nora.

Justin did not think that the two children’s performance was too exaggerated. Instead, he lightened his footsteps and slowly walked to the door. He bent down and opened the door before closing it again.

They did not know how he did it, but he did not make a sound at all.

After he left, the noise outside became even louder.

Karl Moore’s voice was very loud, and the people standing behind him were all very powerful. They all stared at him.

Ian and Joel’s expressions stiffened.

Ian said slowly, “Are you sure you want to fall out?”

Karl Moore snorted. “You’re the ones who didn’t give me face!”

Joel’s voice became even colder. “I can give you face in other matters, but not in this matter!”

Tanya and Mia had just reunited. How could he give Mia to Hillary?!

Chapter 382 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Justin frowned. “What about sustenance? She can’t stay hungry, right?”

Lily sighed. “You won’t be able to wake her up, especially when her exhaustion is even more serious this time. Her muscles didn’t relax even once. She’ll be out for at least two days. As for food, you don’t have to worry. I will transfuse nutritional supplements to her drip regularly.”

Justin: "..."

Joel: "..."

"Oh, there's a piece of good news, by the way." Lily said, "The person in the ICU that Boss asked me to observe is out of danger now. However, it will be difficult for him to ever stand up again in the future."

How was one going to stand when all their bones were broken?

He was still alive only because Anti had personally operated on him, merged modern and traditional medicine during the treatment process, and given him medical treatment in time!

When Joel heard this, he lowered his gaze and heaved a heavy sigh.

This huge incident in the martial arts circle in New York was earth-shattering.

However, it didn't impact the lives of ordinary people—or at least, only a handful of ordinary people were aware that Big Sister and Big Brother had defended the dignity of the martial arts scene in the States that night.

Even Tanya, Nora's friend, didn't know what had happened. As usual, she gave children classes in school, and also gave Mia an extra dance lesson in private.

When the Smiths came to pick up the three children from school in the evening after classes were over, there was no sign of Joel in the car. It was then that she finally realized that Joel hadn't contacted her at all the whole day.

Was it because she... had refused to be Mia's mother the night before?

Tanya lowered her gaze, her imagination running wild. Pete and Brandon got into the car and returned to the Smiths' manor.

Tanya took Mia to her place and gave her dance lessons.

At 9 pm, despite it already having reached Mia's bedtime, Joel still hadn't come over to pick her up.

Tanya left Joel a message.

Joel seemed busy at the moment. At last, he sent her the first message of the day: 'I have something to do today. Can Mia stay with you for a night?'

'Something to do'...

The man had never been one to force her to do anything against her will. Since he had said so, then something big must have happened.

Tanya hurriedly replied: 'No problem.'

She coaxed Mia to rest with her, and they fell asleep.

In the middle of the night, she suddenly felt like the area beside her was very hot.

She slowly opened her eyes and woke up. When she touched Mia's forehead, the burning heat made her realize that Mia was having a fever.

Tanya woke up in shock. Without saying anything, she picked up Mia, got into the car, and went straight to the hospital.

The doctor said it was a minor problem, and prescribed Mia medicine to bring the fever down. After Mia sweated it out, the fever gradually subsided. Tanya then sent a text message to Joel and told him the name of the hospital they were at.

Tanya watched over Mia the whole night in the VIP ward.

She waited until her fever subsided before she finally fell asleep on the edge of the bed.

Hillary and her mother were at the hospital for a checkup. While passing by a ward after the checkup, she noticed Tanya and the child on the bed.

Her eyes instantly widened. She charged into the ward and grabbed Tanya at once. "Tanya, what did you do to my daughter?! Why is she in the hospital? Are you trying to steal my daughter?!"

While speaking, she pushed Tanya, who had just woken up, and tried to drive her out of the ward. "I am the girl's mother! Get lost!"

At this point, Joel, who had finally finished all the matters he had to deal with, arrived at last!

As soon as he went upstairs, he was greeted by the sight of Hillary pushing Tanya out the door.

Tanya was still dazed when Hillary's shout woke her up.

She hadn't slept all night because she was watching over Mia. She had only just started having some shuteye in the morning when she was woken up. After that, she was pushed out of the ward.

It wasn't until she was outside the ward—and when the doctors and nurses, both inside and outside, as well as the patients' family members all cast strange looks at her—that she finally reacted.

Hillary did not go to Mia right away. Instead, she continued to verbally abuse Tanya.

“Are you also going to steal my daughter when you've already stolen my man? Tanya, why are you so shameless?!”

“Don't you even think about taking my daughter from me!”

“She's my daughter! Mine!”

Her words made people who didn't know the full story look at them. Everyone looked at Tanya reproachfully.

Some people even pointed at her as they spoke.

“She must be someone's mistress, right?”

“Ugh, people who destroy someone else's family are so shameless!!”

Of course, there were also some reasonable people who spoke up for Tanya.

“... It's not easy to be someone's stepmother these days!”

“Yeah, she watched over that little girl the whole night. I thought they were mother and daughter, but as it turns out, she's actually her stepmother?”

“... It's pretty nice that a stepmother can do as much as she did!”

“ ... ”

Be it positive or negative, all the comments made Tanya feel as if her cheeks were burning, and she subconsciously wanted to flee.

But she couldn't.

Mia was still here. Joel had entrusted her with Mia. She didn't know what exactly had happened between Joel and Hillary, but she knew that Mia didn't like Hillary, and was wanted to stay with Joel instead.

She looked into the ward.

Hillary's loud yells had woken Mia up. The little girl rubbed her eyes and sat up. When she saw Hillary, she tensed up.

She was so scared that she turned as pale as a sheet. She called out weakly, "Mommy, don't be angry... My teacher is not a bad person..."

Her eyes were all red. She wanted to explain on behalf of Tanya, but she looked terrified.

However, Hillary ignored her and continued yelling at Tanya. "Do you feel a great sense of accomplishment because you stole someone else's man? Why are you so shameless? You'll die a terrible death! Your whole family will die terrible deaths!"

Her whole family?

The look in Tanya's eyes sharpened. "Don't forget that the person next to you is also part of my 'whole family'."

That's right, the person next to Hillary was none other than Tanya and Hillary's mother, Mrs. Jones.

Mrs. Jones, who was holding Hillary, was also glaring at Tanya. Upon hearing what she said, she snapped, "I don't have a daughter like you!"

Hillary sneered, "Look at how abominable the things you did are, Tanya! Even your mother won't acknowledge you anymore! If you have even the slightest bit of morals and ethics, then leave this place and leave Joel alone! Give him back to me!"

Tanya looked at the terribly anxious Mia on the bed. She didn't want to argue with Hillary here, so she said, "If there's anything you want to say, then say it at home. Let's stop for now."

However, this only made Hillary think that she was scared. She shouted furiously, "Why should we talk about it at home? I didn't do anything shameful that I need to hide. Is it because you also find your own actions shameful? Why didn't you think of how shameful your actions were when you did it? Why didn't you think of how your actions are not fit to be brought up in public when you stole my husband?"

Tanya clenched her fists. "Hillary, who exactly took him away from whom?!"

Her words made Hillary choke.

However, Mrs. Jones spoke up at this point. "Tanya, how can you make up such lies? Hillary was obviously also in a relationship with Joel back then! Our families were already planning to let them bond with each other! Who do you think you are? Hillary is the Joneses' eldest daughter while your father is a piece of trash! He's a bastard! You and Mr. Smith are from two different worlds right from the start!"

"..."

Tanya stared at the woman in front of her.

It had been five to six years since she last saw her. She looked as charming as ever and didn't seem to have changed much. Even the way she defended and protected Hillary so indiscriminately was still the same as before.

She smiled wryly and lowered her head.

She had never understood why a mother like her existed.

It was almost as if she found pleasure in belittling her own daughter.

In fact, she was even dubious about whether she really was her daughter or not?!

Tanya clenched her fists. She suddenly raised her head and looked at her again. Just as she was about to say something, Joel's sharp, icy-cold voice

traveled over. “Is that so? How come I didn’t know that there’s a marriage agreement between the Smiths and the Joneses?”

As his voice rang out, he finally strode over quickly and stood beside Tanya.

He had waited anxiously outside the operating room during Quentin’s operation in the day, and also accompanied Nora when she went to take revenge the night before. As a result, he hadn’t had any shuteye for a whole thirty hours. The whites of his eyes were all bloodshot at the moment.

The violent aura around him because of Quentin’s accident had yet to dissipate. Thus, despite just simply standing there, there was a bloodthirsty and murderous aura all around him, which made everyone around him fall silent and not dare to speak.

The way he looked frightened Mrs. Jones, who blanked out for a moment. Then, she stammered, “M-Mr. Smith, why are you here?”

Joel looked down at Hillary and stared at her. “You should have been abroad by now, shouldn’t you?”

Mrs. Jones hurriedly explained, “Hillary was unwell, so I brought her here to the hospital for consultation. We’re thinking of sending her abroad once she recovers.”

Joel sneered, “There are hospitals abroad, too. Of course, if the Joneses don’t have such connections abroad, the Smiths are very willing to help.”

After speaking, he glanced at Tanya, who was next to him. Her eyes were all red. Then, he glanced at Mia, who was looking at him from the bed a distance away with Hillary standing in between them.

The little girl’s eyes had turned all red from fear. The way she looked so helpless and at a loss as she sat on the bed made his heart ache.

Even Tanya knew that they shouldn’t be disturbing Mia’s rest at the moment.

That was why she had been saying that they should talk at home instead.

Yet Hillary, Mia’s mother, hadn’t noticed Mia’s emotions and reactions—because her attention was fully on Tanya!

A mother like her... The look in Joel’s eyes turned even colder.

He turned to his secretary and assistant beside him and said, "Since the Joneses are so tardy in this matter, you guys can provide Ms. Jones some assistance. She should be out of the country within an hour. I don't want to see her in New York ever again."

His assistant nodded at once. "Yes, sir."

Joel then walked straight into the ward.

Hillary and Mrs. Jones had the guts to get physical with Tanya, but they didn't dare to stop Joel. Both of them gave way to him in silence.

Hillary watched as Joel picked Mia up and carried her in his arms. She stared at how resolute the man was, and how handsome he still was, just like how he had been back then. She watched how he didn't cast even a single glance at her...

Despair suddenly welled up from the depths of her heart.

Yes.

Despair.

From beginning to end, the man had never once loved her.

The realization made fury overwhelm her rationale. Hillary suddenly screamed, "Tanya, haven't you always disliked me since we were kids? You hate me, don't you? Are you willing to raise my child for me now?! Hahahaha! What a joke you are!"

Her words couldn't get any more hurtful.

Joel paused and looked at her in astonishment.

Hillary looked like she had lost her mind. The savage look on her face made her look just like a beast in captivity putting up one last fight. She said, "How about this? Give me Mia, the two of you can have your own children instead. Isn't that a good idea? This way, I won't pester you ever again in the future!"

Joel looked at Tanya hastily.

By asking her to be Mia's stepmother, he was actually letting Tanya down.

Tanya had also been resistant to the idea.

Just two days ago, she had even driven him away because of it.

Joel thought that this was something that Tanya couldn't get over.

Tanya's gaze, however, landed on Mia when she heard what Hillary said.

The words 'have your own children' was a blow that made her heart ache.

Nevertheless, she had noticed Mia reaching out with her little hand and grasping Joel's sleeve tightly upon hearing what Hillary said. In addition, her timid eyes also looked at her as though she was asking her for help—or begging her for mercy.

Mia didn't want to go with Hillary.

She was very resistant to the idea.

Seeing that neither she nor Joel was speaking, Hillary stretched out her hand to Mia and said, "Come here, Mia. Come with Mommy. They are all bad people. Do you know? They are all bad people! Once your teacher and your father have their own children in the future, they will abuse and bully you. Come with Mommy. Mommy will never bully you, right?"

Mia shrank back further into Joel's arms.

Joel's gaze, however, was on Tanya the whole time.

He would never give Mia to Hillary, no matter what.

But he wanted Tanya to say something right now...

However, Tanya merely stared at Mia. The emotions in her eyes were so complicated that even Joel couldn't read them at all.

Joel's heart slowly sank.

Tanya probably couldn't bring herself to accept Mia yet.

Well, that made sense.

What made him think that he could ask her to treat the child born to the man she loved the most and the sister she hated the most as her own?!

Besides, Tanya was someone with a straightforward and decisive character. She had never been one to do such saintly things...

However, Joel had no choice but to be selfish this once.

He would never let go of Mia, nor would he let go of Tanya.

They were the two most important women in his life.

With that in mind, the look in Joel's eyes became cold and unfathomable. He looked at Hillary and held Mia further away from her.

Just as he was about to speak, Tanya, who was behind him, said, "If I say that I don't mind, will you believe me?"

Her words stunned everyone.

Hillary looked at her incredulously.

Even Joel was shocked.

Tanya looked at Mia and slowly stretched out her arms to her. "I like Mia. Although she is your daughter, she is not like you at all. The two of you are completely different!"

Tanya lowered her head.

She couldn't even make herself dislike Mia, because the sight of her made her think of her own child.

Any woman who had had children before would be somewhat accommodating toward and forgiving of children. She wanted to make Mia happy.

When Mia saw Tanya stretching her arms out to her, for some reason, she suddenly felt warmth in the icy-cold world.

She reached out her own short little arms and went into Tanya's arms.

When Tanya said what she did, she had let go of her negative feelings.

She believed that her child would be like her, and also hoped that all the children in the world could live happy and worry-free.

Tanya, who had let go of her negative feelings toward Mia, suddenly lifted her head. Her lips curled into a smile as she turned to Hillary. She said shamelessly, “Also, Mia is Joel’s daughter. Considering how much I love him, I would also love his daughter, so why wouldn’t I like Mia? You’re worrying too much about it.

“Oh, by the way, you don’t have to worry too much about Mia after you go abroad, because I will take good care of her. After all, we are a family of three. We are going to live happily together!”

Sure enough, Hillary became so furious that she started shaking all over.

For some reason, though, Tanya felt that Hillary’s emotions were a little odd. It was as if she was furious, yet also afraid of something. “You...! That’s utter nonsense! I am Mia’s mother!”

Tanya didn’t understand why she was emphasizing that over and over, but she nevertheless asked, “Mia, do you want me to be your mom?”

Mia’s eyes lit up and she nodded. “Yes!”

Tanya then looked at Hillary. “Mia is only five now. Say, five—or even ten—years later, will she still remember you, her biological mother?”

She let out an icy laugh after she spoke.

Immediately after, as if she were one of those bad-natured women who flaunted their power after doing bad things, amidst everyone gesturing at her and talking about her, and without any regard for anything, Tanya walked toward the exit with Mia in her arms. “Alright, Mia, your fever is gone. Shall we go home?”

“...”

Hillary was still shaking even after Tanya had left. Mrs. Jones, who was frowning, looked as if she didn’t know what she should do.

A short while later, Joel's assistant walked up to Hillary. "Ms. Jones, your air ticket has been booked. Your flight is in an hour. You may come with me now."

Hillary clenched her fists.

Yet she was at a loss for words as she stared at the assistant in front of her.

With a mighty momentum around her, Tanya went to the car park with Mia in her arms.

Joel followed behind her. As he watched the woman in front of him take firm and determined steps, a dazzling smile formed at the corners of his lips.

When they reached the car, he took two quick steps forward to Tanya's side.

Tanya turned to him and smiled triumphantly. "Did you see how Hillary looked just now? Hahaha! That felt so good! I haven't been this happy in so many years!"

Joel: "..."

A very self-aware Tanya sat in the backseat with Mia and left the driver's seat to Joel. She had a smile on her lips the whole time. "Mia, I made your Mommy really angry just now. Do you mind?"

Mia blinked at once. "No, I don't, Mommy!"

Tanya: "?!"

She suddenly choked on her saliva. After a few violent coughs, the astounded woman looked at Mia. "Y-you... What did you just call me?"

Even though Mia was looking at her timidly, she spoke very firmly. "You were the one who asked me to call you Mommy..."

Tanya: "..."

The corners of her lips spasmed in embarrassment. "No, I said that just now just to make Hillary angry. You... you... Don't take it seriously."

"Okay, Mommy," said Mia.

Tanya: "..."

She immediately looked at Joel, who was in the driver's seat. "What are you laughing at?! Aren't you going to do something about the little fellow?!"

The extremely thick-skinned Joel said, "We already agreed back then that when we have a daughter in the future, I'd be in charge of spoiling her while you're in charge of disciplining her."

Tanya: "!!"

It was only when the car started that she finally asked, "Where are we going?"

"The Smith manor." Tanya flushed crimson after he spoke.. Joel, who saw that she was about to refuse, immediately added, "Nora is injured. Before she fainted, she was talking about some email..."

As expected, it diverted Tanya's attention. "Nora is injured? How did she become injured? Were you busy the whole day yesterday because of this? What exactly happened? What email are you talking about?"

Seeing that she wasn't refusing to go to the Smiths' anymore, Joel breathed a silent sigh of relief. Then, he slowly recounted what had happened the day before.

He didn't hide the truth from Tanya just because she wasn't part of their world.

Now that Tanya was going to be with him, she would have to face these issues sooner or later.

Upon hearing about the martial arts tournament, upon hearing how all of Quentin's bones had shattered, and upon hearing about how Nora had challenged the Benevolence Hall all by herself; Tanya frowned and ranted angrily. "They are too much! Nora did great by beating them all up! If I had practiced martial arts, I would definitely have gone with her to give them trouble, too!"

Then, she asked Joel accusingly, "Did you help her?"

Joel's lip corners spasmed. "I wanted to, but Justin stopped me."

Tanya was taken aback.

Joel thought back to the events from the day before. When Nora challenged the Benevolence Hall all by herself the day before, he had wanted to go in and help, but Justin had stopped him.

Justin had said, “She has a lot of pent-up anger right now, and needs to vent it out. Otherwise, she would feel very awful.”

Therefore, Justin had only kept Shaun occupied in the arena so that Nora could kill him herself, and thereby vent her anger.

Joel had been rendered speechless at that time.

The one who had been beaten up was his younger brother, too!! He also had a whole load of pent-up anger that he had nowhere to vent!!

However, he had still given the chance to vent to Nora.

He’d thought that Tanya would praise him after he explained what had happened, but unexpectedly, Tanya instead said, “Mr. Hunt did the right thing! Nora is not in good health. If she doesn’t vent her anger, it will definitely affect her health. Why are you fighting with her for it when you’re so strong and muscular?”

Joel: “??”

Suddenly, he felt like his status in the family in the future was now clear at a glance.

Tanya then asked, “Is Quentin really unable to stand anymore?”

Joel’s expression darkened at the question. “That’s what Lily said. I have contacted all the orthopedic specialists in the country, as well as the Hunts’ medical experts last night, but all of them said they couldn’t do anything about it after they came and saw Quentin’s condition.”

Tanya didn’t quite agree, though. “In my opinion, that may not necessarily be the case.”

Joel was surprised.

Tanya then said, “Ask Nora about it after she wakes up! Only she can give you the most accurate answer.”

Joel was puzzled. "Why do you say that?"

Tanya kept quiet for a while before she finally replied, "There was once someone broke my leg when I was abroad. All the doctors said that the bones were shattered, so I won't be able to ever dance again. It was Nora who cured me."

Joel was taken aback by her calm voice.

Joel had always known that Tanya's life abroad during the past five years wasn't a peaceful one. However, he never knew that someone had even broken her leg.

He suddenly thought of how deeply in despair Tanya, who loved dancing so much, must have been when she was told that she could not dance anymore.

But what had he been doing at that time?

He had probably been busy changing his daughter's diapers at home!

It was Nora who had stayed by Tanya's side, cured her, and gave her hope at that time!

When Joel thought of that, he suddenly felt that he still wasn't treating Nora well enough. He should be treating her even better!

In the midst of his thoughts, Tanya asked, "By the way, what email were you talking about just now?"

Joel smiled and replied, "I don't know. Before she fell asleep, she looked at me and said something about her email inbox. She didn't say what was in it, though."

Tanya instantly curled her lips disdainfully. "Tsk, to think she can't even relay information properly! Besides, how would we know what her email account password is?! Sigh!"

The two of them arrived at the Smiths' while they were talking.

The car had only just passed through the gates when they noticed a small van parking at the front. A few nurses and medical personnel got out of the van, and carefully helped Ian down.

Ian was too weak. He had only just returned from the jaws of death, so he couldn't even walk. After getting out of the van, the medical personnel helped him onto a wheelchair.

Joel got a huge shock and exchanged a look with Tanya. He hurriedly stopped the car, walked over, and called out, "Uncle Ian! Why are you back?"

Ian then noticed him. He sounded a little weak, but he pressed on and said, "How can you keep it from me when something so serious has happened?! I can't rest peacefully in the hospital when Nora is still unconscious, so I decided to come back and have a look at her!"

Joel glared at the people next to Ian.

Ian immediately said, "Don't look at them. I sensed something amiss because Quentin didn't visit me for so long, so I forced them to talk."

Ever since he knew that Nora was his daughter, he had specially instructed Quentin to follow Nora every day, and also give him a report of everyone else who was following her.

When Quentin simply didn't show up the day before, he had immediately sensed something. The people around him weren't the wily old fox's match at all, so he had easily sounded them out!

Upon knowing that Quentin had been hospitalized, he hastily went to visit Quentin.

Quentin hadn't woken up yet. Given the severity of his injuries, he wouldn't be waking up for quite a while, either.

After visiting Quentin, he became worried that the news about how Nora was sleeping was just their way of trying to comfort him. Thus, he had forcefully requested to come home. He would only be able to rest assured once he saw Nora with his own eyes.

Ian had always been a stubborn man. Joel knew that no one around him could talk him out of something he wanted to do.

It was just like how no one could do anything about him when he was determined to die.

Once he made up his mind, the decisions and beliefs often lasted a lifetime.

For example, Yvette.

Joel didn't say anything else. At this point, Tanya came over with Mia in her arms. When Ian glanced over and saw that it was Tanya, he made a sound of surprise and asked, "That girl has returned to the States?"

Tanya had often visited the Smiths when she was dating Joel back then, so it was very normal that Ian would know her.

Tanya greeted him respectfully. "Hi, Uncle Ian."

Ian nodded at her. Then, he looked at Joel and said, "Although you and I are not father and son, we have very similar personalities. This kid here has stayed single all these years because he was waiting for you." Ian then looked at Tanya and added, "Cherish him, girl!"

After he said that, seemingly because he had thought of himself, a contemplative look formed in his eyes.

Tanya looked at Joel, who had blushed a little.

To outsiders, he was the head of the Smiths whom everyone feared. But in the eyes of Ian, he would always be a junior. He even called him a 'kid'...

Joel touched his nose.

Tanya, who had sensed how embarrassed he was, smiled and nodded. "Okay."

With Joel pushing the wheelchair and Tanya carrying Mia in her arms, the four of them walked toward the living room.

Ian, however, suddenly became nervous. "Nora's little girl is also at home, right? This is the first time we're meeting. Should I give her a gift or something?"

The thought had only just formed when a familiar young and tender voice traveled over from the living room.

"Jumbo, does your name actually start with a 'D' instead? Do you really know how to play?"

“What? Stop calling you names? It’s because I keep dissing people that Sponsor Grandpa has stopped coming to my live-streams?”

When Nora fell unconscious, Cherry lost her sense of security.

She didn’t want to stay with her father at the Hunts’ anymore and insisted on staying by Nora’s side no matter what. She wheedled and acted cute, and even kicked up a fuss and rolled about on the floor in the Smiths’ manor in the end. She simply refused to go with Justin.

Pete didn’t say anything, either. He merely looked at him in silence, his intentions obvious:

‘I am not leaving until Mommy wakes up!’

In the end, Justin had no choice but to ask Joel for permission to stay in a guest room at the Smiths’ temporarily, so that he could work there and watch over the two children.

Joel’s lip corners had spasmed when he received the call from the butler.

Justin was simply too devious.

Joel simply didn’t believe it. Why wouldn’t Justin be able to make a child do as he says? Besides, even if he really couldn’t, why couldn’t he just tell the Hunts that the little mister had come to the Smiths’ to play?

Moreover!

As the head of the Hunts, Justin didn’t need to report his whereabouts to anyone at all!

He remembered that Pete and Justin had once lived in a villa elsewhere before.

Why would the butler dare to refuse Justin, though? Thus, by the time Joel heard about it, Justin had already moved in.

He was pretty much just using the children for his own gains! How utterly shameless!

They weren’t even married yet! It wasn’t appropriate for them to be living together!

He had also come back with the intention to drive Justin out.

However, Cherry was currently seated on the sofa with her legs crossed, her mockery mode at full force.

Behind her were the two butlers in charge of external and internal affairs. They were standing there and looking at her.

“Ms. Cherry, you’re so good at the game!”

“The way you diss people is such a work of art!”

“Huh? To think you can insult someone like that! Jumbo with a ‘D’... that’s Dumbo! Hahaha!”

The two of them had clearly become fans of Cherry.

Justin was seated on the sofa at the side, seemingly dealing with some documents. That leisurely appearance of his was practically as if he was in his own home!

The corners of Joel’s lips spasmed.

He then looked at Pete. He was working seriously on his Mathematical Olympiad problems at the side, seeming completely unaffected by Cherry.

Cherry was reading the comments in her live-stream. Her brows knitted together and she said, “Daddy, all of them are saying that Sponsor Grandpa hasn’t come to my live-stream for so long because I was dissing people, so he doesn’t like me anymore. Sob, is that true?”

Justin was actually feeling very nervous.

Because he had just received news that Ian had come home.

His attitude toward the old man was merely respectful in the past. However, things were completely different now. Ian was Nora’s father!

As a son-in-law, he mustn’t embarrass himself in front of him.

He was racking his brains for a way to make Ian happy when he heard Cherry. As a slave to his daughter, he replied without any hesitation, “How can that be? You are so cute when you diss people!”

Cherry breathed a sigh of relief. However, she still said aggrievedly, “Then why isn’t Sponsor Grandpa talking to me anymore? We haven’t contacted each other on Messenger for so long. I asked Mommy to look for him, but she couldn’t find him... Daddy, are you really not a hacker?”

Justin coughed.

He was Y. Of course he was a hacker.

But he didn’t want to look for him.

Sponsor Grandpa? What the heck? How dare he fight with him for his daughter’s love? Additionally, during the period Sponsor Grandpa was away, he had finally reached number one on the virtual gifts ranking!

Justin said, “I’m really not one. Daddy is a good, law-abiding citizen. Daddy’s company also acts in accordance with the law.”

Cherry sighed and lowered her head.

Next to them, Pete looked up and heaved a silent sigh. His father was simply too shameless!

He was lying to even his five-year-old younger sister!

Justin then said, “Why are you so insistent on looking for Sponsor Grandpa? The way I see it, his affection for you was only temporary. Otherwise, why would he suddenly disappear without a word? That’s very rude behavior.”

He secretly badmouthed Sponsor Grandpa and said, “Let’s ignore him in the future, Cherry!”

Cherry asked, “... But what if Sponsor Grandpa was sick?”

“That’s impossible. Considering how rich he is, it’s impossible that he would suddenly disappear, no matter what kind of illness it is.”

“Yeah, you’re right, Daddy. I won’t talk to Sponsor Grandpa ever again!”

At the door, Ian, who had immediately recognized that Cherry was sweetcherry, was bewildered.

When he'd first recognized Cherry, he had felt joy and anxiety from meeting an online friend for the first time. However, there was only anger left in him now.

What was Justin teaching the kids?

Ian entered the living room with mighty momentum.

Justin hurriedly stood up when he heard the sounds coming from the door. At the sight of him, he took a step forward earnestly and greeted him. "Hello, Uncle Ian," he said.

Ian stared at him with disdain all over his good-looking face. "I think you should call me Mr. Smith instead."

Justin: "?"

He was calling him Uncle Ian because he was Nora's fiancé!

He was stunned for a moment. Then, he said, "You must be joking, Uncle Ian. Nora will beat me up if she hears me addressing you as Mr. Smith."

Ian snorted. "Mr. Hunt, I, Ian Smith, have never been one to joke around. What kind of relationship do you share with Nora for you to be calling me Uncle Ian?"

"... We are engaged," said Justin.

"Engaged?"

Ian was very surprised. "How come I'm not aware that my daughter is engaged? When did the two of you hold the engagement ceremony?"

Justin: "???"

He had publicly announced that Nora was his fiancée at the Hunts' party the other time, so their relationship was already confirmed.

Why was Ian refusing to acknowledge it?

However, he soon felt that he had figured it out. "You are right, Uncle Ian. I will get it done."

Ian didn't look at him anymore. Instead, he looked at Cherry sitting on the sofa.

Cherry was also staring at him with her big dark eyes.

At the sight, Joel pushed Ian's wheelchair toward Cherry and said, "Uncle Ian, this is Nora's daughter. Her nickname is Cherry."

Ian's eyes reddened at once. His voice was even trembling a little as he called out, "Cherry?"

Cherry blinked. Then, she called out sweetly, "Grandpa~"

Ian instantly felt like his heart had been coated in honey.

In the past, when Cherry called him Sponsor Grandpa on Messenger, he had merely found her a sweet child. It was only now that he realized that the sweetness reached all the way into his heart.

He nodded. "Hello!"

As soon as he said that, Chester, who was also logged into the game, said, "Boss, look at your live-stream! They are all mocking you!"

Cherry immediately lowered her head when she heard him. She saw in the comments in the live-stream that everyone was laughing at her and saying that Sponsor Grandpa had abandoned her.

"..."

Everyone in the comments was laughing at her.

"Your wealthy grandfather must have found another dog. He doesn't love you anymore!"

"Hahaha, I'm suddenly very happy to see the host down."

"Sponsor Grandpa must be tired of you, right? All the big bosses are like this."

...

Cherry wilted. She pouted and stopped talking.

When Ian saw her like this, his heart ached badly. He quickly took out his phone and secretly charged it. Then, while the others were not paying attention, he quickly went to Cherry's live-stream and sent her gifts.

The overwhelming gifts suddenly covered the entire screen.

When Cherry saw that the person giving the gift was her Sponsor Grandpa, her eyes lit up.

She shouted happily, "My Sponsor Grandpa is here!"

Ian had surpassed second place and become first. He was satisfied.

However, just as he put down his phone, Justin, who was standing behind him, suddenly took out his phone and tipped a hundred gifts. The rankings instantly changed again.

Ian: "..."

Justin said, "Cherry, you can't let an outsider control your emotions. Whatever others have, Daddy will give it to you."

Cherry immediately looked up at him. "Thank you, Daddy!"

"..."

After Justin tipped the gifts, he put down his phone. For some reason, he suddenly felt that the atmosphere in the living room seemed a little off.

How much colder was it?

He composed himself and looked over. He realized that Ian was emitting coldness and looking at him gloomily.

Justin: "?"

He hesitated for a moment and asked, "Uncle Ian, what's wrong?"

Ian sneered. "Mr. Hunt, are you very free today?"

Justin: "...So-so, I guess."

Ian said, "Butler, Mr. Hunt still has to handle the company's matters. How can we keep him here at home for such a small matter? Quickly take him to work!"

Justin: !!

Confused, he looked at Joel pleadingly. However, not only did his brother-in-law not help, he even turned his head to look elsewhere. His eyes, which were usually smiling, were now gloating?

Joel really felt good.

He and Justin governed New York's economic lifeline. The two of them often interacted with each other and were both powerful people.

When had he ever seen him so aggrieved?

It felt... good.

When Justin saw that he was silent, and since Ian was the head of this family, he had to listen.

After confirming that there was nothing wrong with Nora's body, he simply said, "Alright, I'll come and see Nora again tonight."

Ian snorted. "Nora is fine. You don't have to visit her so often. When she wakes up, she will contact you!"

Justin: "..."

He grimaced and looked at Pete. "Then I'll come and see Pete tonight."

Pete?

Ian was stunned when he heard this. He turned to look at Pete, who had been sitting quietly the entire time. When he saw his face, he was stunned.

Why did Pete look exactly like Cherry?

While he was in a daze, Justin smiled brightly. "Uncle Ian, I forgot to tell you that Pete and Cherry are my and Nora's children."

He paused and added, "They're twins."

Ian: "..."

Justin, who finally had the upper hand, walked out when he saw his stunned look. "Uncle Ian, I'll take my leave then."

He should give his father-in-law more time to accept it!

After Justin left, Ian looked at Joel. "So these two kids have been together for a long time?"

He was talking about Nora and Justin.

Joel nodded. "The children are already five years old."

Ian paused. "He's better than you!"

Joel: "..."

He glanced at Mia silently. He was about to say that his child was five years old too, but when he saw Tanya standing beside him, he didn't say anything.

His child was not hers.

This might become his lifelong regret.

Ian went upstairs to look at Nora. After confirming that she was really asleep, he then went downstairs in relief.

Joel let him rest. He glanced at Cherry and nodded. After entering the bedroom, Ian let everyone out and secretly opened Cherry's live-stream.

Cherry had said earlier that she did not want to talk to her Sponsor Grandpa anymore, so he chose not to acknowledge her first. They could reunite after maintaining a peaceful relationship on the Internet!

Time passed very quickly. Soon, it was nighttime. Suddenly, two little cuties appeared at home, and the entire family became lively.

Joel realized that even Ian had a smile on his face.

Such happy times were always easily disturbed.

After dinner, the sky darkened.

He was about to call his assistant to ask if Hillary had gone overseas when his assistant's call arrived first. "Mr. Smith, something has happened."

Joel was stunned. "What?"

The assistant said, "After going overseas, Hillary sued you in Switzerland!"

Sued him?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

The assistant coughed. "She has filed a request for the custody of the child!"

Joel's voice instantly turned cold. "How dare she? Where are the Joneses?"

The assistant said, "Mr. Jones contacted her and asked her to withdraw the lawsuit, but she refused to listen. She insisted that the child is hers and only hers. Even if she can't be with you, she will still sue you for the child's custody!"

With that, the assistant coughed. "If this was in the country, we would definitely have been able to resolve it easily. But now, she's suing from overseas. It's not convenient for us to make a move there."

Of course, Joel understood this, but the problem was...

He narrowed his eyes and asked, "If she's not from Switzerland, how did she manage to press charges there? Why would the courts in Switzerland take on such a case?"

The assistant said, "We're still investigating that, but the court seems to be taking this case very seriously. They're already preparing to send you a subpoena!"

Joel vaguely felt that something was wrong. "Investigate properly!"

"Understood."

After hanging up, Joel looked at Mia.

The case was actually not complicated. If he didn't go overseas, there was nothing they could do about it. But Mia couldn't possibly stay in the country forever, right?

It had only been a day. Where did Hillary find the guts to sue him?!

Outside.

Justin looked at the brightly lit Smith villa and was especially envious.

He really wanted to go in, but after getting the butler to inform him, his father-in-law refused to let him in. He even said that it was getting too late and he would not keep him as a guest.

Justin did not want to be ostracized.

Ian was not someone he could handle unless his future brother-in-law helped.

But to get his future brother-in-law to help him? He had to give him something powerful...

Something powerful...

Justin suddenly thought of the DNA test between Tanya and Mia...

His lips curled up slightly. He had it!

In the limousine.

As Lawrence drove, he looked at his boss in the rearview mirror and vaguely felt that he was a little pitiful.

When had the famous Justin ever been rejected?

He sighed silently.

Ever since he got together with Miss Smith, Mr. Hunt had shown him his most patient side.

At this moment, Mr. Hunt was not in a hurry. He was still playing with his phone.

Lawrence almost couldn't help it and drove away!

It was so embarrassing to wait outside the door!

How could he know that Justin was hacking into Nora's email?

His slender fingers pressed on his phone with agility. He was about to enter Nora's email when he was suddenly blocked. The screen almost turned black.

Tsk.

Justin stared at the arrogant red words "get lost" and couldn't help but laugh.

Very good. It was her style.

However, the encryption measures in her inbox were really impressive. Perhaps only Q could do it.

He could not guess how she knew Q. How could she get Q to encrypt one of her mailboxes?

Justin smiled and decided to give up on attacking her email.

Otherwise, she would probably be angry when she woke up and realized that her email had been hacked.

He picked up his phone and called Lily.

The call was picked up quickly. Lily's formulaic voice came through. "Hello, this is Lily. May I know who you are?"

"Justin."

Lily was startled. "Boss's husband?"

Justin: "???"

Lily coughed and corrected him. "No, it's Mr. Hunt. It's so late, why are you calling?"

Justin raised his eyebrows.

Boss's husband? Was this his nickname now?

It actually made him a little happy.

Joy flashed across his deep eyes. He felt that Nora's assistant was very perceptive. He said slowly, "Nora asked you to produce a DNA report two days ago. What was the result?"

Lily subconsciously said, "I'll only report to Boss."

Justin: "?"

Just as he frowned, he heard Lily's tone change. "But your identity is special, so I can tell you. I'll only tell you~"

Justin smiled. "... Go ahead."

"The DNA results show that the two test subjects are confirmed to be mother and daughter."

Justin raised his eyebrows.

He didn't expect Nora to be right.

He lowered his eyes and said slowly, "Thank you."

"You're welcome, Mr. Hunt. Just let me know if you need anything."

After hanging up, Justin thought for a moment and called Sean again. "Five years ago, how was the investigation going on overseas?"

Back then, Nora had investigated her DNA and when he found out about her suspicions, he had said that he could help her investigate Hillary from five years ago.

Even if the DNA showed that Tanya and Mia were mother and daughter, they still had to provide enough evidence to prove that Hillary had stolen the child.

Justin handed the matter to Sean.

After all, it was five years ago. Furthermore, it was in Switzerland, so it was not as fast as investigating in the country.

Sean replied, "Give me another 12 hours and I'll have the answers."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Justin played with his phone.

He could not wait 12 hours to tell Joel such important news. Otherwise, how could he use it as a tactic?

Moreover, judging him by his own standards, it was as if he did not know that he had a daughter back then. He would definitely want to hear this news as soon as possible.

Therefore, he sent Joel a message: "Brother-in-law, let me in. I have an important message for you and Miss Tanya."

"Mr. Smith, we found some clues!"

Joel was on the phone at this moment. The assistant opposite him was in Switzerland, so the investigation was a little slow.

His eyes were cold, and his usual smile was gone. He glanced at Tanya, who was playing with Mia, and said simply, "Speak."

"Hillary did indeed receive help from others to sue you in Switzerland. Moreover, the Joneses' attitude suddenly became domineering after going overseas. They said that they will fight this lawsuit to the end with us!"

Joel's gaze turned even colder. "Whose help did they receive?"

The assistant said a name. "Karl Moore."

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Of course, he knew this person.

Karl Moore was an American Chinese.

Currently, the underground forces in Switzerland were very large, so he was very famous overseas. His name was often heard in the country.

Although the Smiths and Hunts were the top families which controlled the economic lifeline in the country, internationally, their impacts were still a little small.

But Karl Moore was different.

They were mercenaries, and the people in their team were all retired special forces from Switzerland. They privately accepted difficult missions, such as assassinations.

The name of their organization could be translated to "Assassin."

Ever since the organization was established, none of the assassination plans had failed!

They were an assassin alliance exceptionally vigilant in the world!

Therefore, the Swiss people maintained a good relationship with them. Even the major families in the country were wary of this organization.

Karl Moore was the leader of the organization. Whether the organization accepted the assassination mission or not was entirely up to him.

The Joneses had nothing to do with such a person. Why was he suddenly protecting them?

Joel frowned. "Why is he helping them?"

The other party might not even take a liking to the Joneses if they packed all their assets and gave them to Karl Moore. Furthermore, they were going against the Smiths. Karl Moore had always shown the Smiths respect.

The assistant said, "I'm still investigating."

Joel's gaze turned colder. "Yes. Investigate all that you can. If you can't, tell Karl Moore that the Smiths respect him, but we're not afraid of him! There's no room for negotiation regarding the child!"

The assistant took a deep breath. "Yes!"

After hanging up, Joel saw Justin's message and slowly frowned.

He had important news to tell him and Tanya?

He was probably telling him that he wanted to enter the house.

But if he was including Tanya... then something must have happened.

Could it be related to the email Nora had mentioned before she fainted?

He looked at Ian and said, "Uncle Ian, let's allow Mr. Hunt in."

Ian said unhappily, "No."

In the afternoon, when he gave Cherry tips, Justin had been suppressing him and had insisted on competing with him for the first place on the list. This made him even more unhappy.

Does he want to marry his daughter? Ha.

Joel looked at Cherry, and the little fellow immediately ran to Ian. "Grandpa, Grandpa~ Let Daddy in. I miss Daddy~"

Ian: "..."

Could he reject his obedient granddaughter's request?

The answer was no.

Ian's lips twitched as he glared at Joel.

The news of Justin standing outside the door was reported to him by the butler when he came in. Cherry and Pete did not know at all.

During dinner, Cherry even looked at the door curiously and asked, "Why isn't Daddy here yet?"

Ian said coldly, "He's probably busy with work."

Cherry was still a little unhappy. "Okay~"

Ian took the opportunity to brainwash her. "It's most irresponsible of a parent to ignore the child when they're busy. Let's not like him anymore, okay?"

Cherry's eyes widened when she heard this.

Then, she looked at Ian and retorted, "Grandpa, I can't do that."

Ian was curious. "Why?"

Cherry sighed. "Mommy has been busy sleeping since we were young. She's even more irresponsible. At least Daddy spends twice as much time with me every day than Mommy does!"

Ian: "!!"

He had never seen the way Nora interacted with the two children. He did not expect that he would also have to bring his daughter into this.

At that time, he could only change the topic forcefully. “Yes, what I said just now was just a test for you. I didn’t expect our Cherry to be so smart. You actually passed Grandpa’s test.”

Cherry immediately looked up and smiled. Her big black eyes swept past Pete. “Pete, did you see that? Grandpa doesn’t like Daddy and wants to badmouth Daddy. I’m the best! He can’t even say anything about Daddy!”

Pete: “...”

He sighed silently. He kept wondering ever since Cherry came home, why had the tyrant and this grandfather, who was rumored to be very serious, become so childish?

Ian had been hiding it from Cherry and did not tell her.

Moreover, he did not feel guilty at all. How dare Justin secretly tell her not to like her Sponsor Grandpa?!

However, now that Cherry had heard Joel’s words, Ian could not stop her. Otherwise, wouldn’t he become a bad grandfather?

Ian could only say to the butler indignantly, “Invite him in.”

The butler glanced at Joel and left with a smile.

Joel was already the head of the Smiths now. After all, Ian had been on his deathbed in the past and had not cared about the family’s matters at all.

However, Ian’s wish was Joel’s command.

When everyone saw how respectful Joel was to Ian, they did not dare to disrespect Ian either.

Soon, Justin entered.

Wearing a black suit, he walked in steadily. After entering, he greeted Ian respectfully, “Uncle Ian.”

Ian snorted and looked at Joel. “Joel, the guest is here. Treat him well.”

He looked like he wanted to ignore him.

Justin rubbed his nose awkwardly and looked at Cherry.

Cherry had already run over excitedly and hugged his leg. “Daddy, why are you just getting here now?! Didn’t you agree to sleep here tonight? I’m still waiting for you to tuck me in!”

When she said this, Justin looked at Ian. When he saw Ian’s eyes flicker, he chuckled softly and said, “Yes, Daddy was busy with work.”

He did not expose Ian’s lie.

This made Ian feel a little better. Then, he saw Justin looking at him mischievously. “As for sleeping with you tonight...”

He drawled, his eyes questioning.

Ian coughed and looked at the butler. “Have you prepared the guest room?”

The butler held in his laughter. “I’ve already prepared it. It’s next to Miss Nora’s room. The room is very big and comfortable.”

Ever since Yvonne was arrested and Nora’s identity as Ian’s daughter was exposed, the people in the family had accepted Nora as the eldest daughter.

Ian waved her hand. “Alright, Joel. Take the guest upstairs to have a look.”

Joel smiled as well. He let Mia play downstairs and took Justin upstairs. Halfway there, he looked at Tanya. “Tanya, you come too.”

Tanya looked up in confusion and subconsciously stood up to follow him upstairs.

Ian couldn’t help but say, “You guys have just reunited. Aren’t you two being too mushy?”

Tanya’s face couldn’t help but turn red.

Joel coughed and smiled. “Uncle Ian, please understand.”

Ian: “...”

Why was this kid's skin so thick?!

When the three of them went upstairs, Justin did not go to the guest room immediately.

Joel pointed to his study. "Chat in the study?"

Justin nodded. When they passed by Nora's room, he suddenly gestured for them to keep quiet and then gently opened the door.

The curtains in the room were drawn, and the light was dim.

The temperature in the room had also been adjusted very well. The woman on the bed was still asleep and did not move at all.

Justin approached her and checked her breathing and pulse. After confirming that Nora was fine, he heaved a sigh of relief.

He covered her with a blanket and went out.

Seeing him tiptoeing as if he was afraid of waking Nora up, Joel and Tanya at the door were speechless.

The corners of Tanya's mouth twitched. "Mr. Hunt, Nora is sleeping so well. Even if the sky collapses, it probably won't wake her up. You don't have to be so... cautious?"

Justin didn't mind. "It's better to be gentle. Otherwise, she'll hear the noise in her sleep."

Tanya: "..."

Alright, he was of noble status. Whatever he says.

The three of them then followed Joel to the study.

In the study.

The housekeeper, Lucy, had already prepared tea. Joel looked at Justin. "Have you eaten dinner?"

Justin looked at him silently.

Brother-in-law, he had come over during lunchtime and had been kept outside the door. Didn't Joel know if he had eaten dinner or not?!

Joel coughed. "Go prepare some food for Mr. Hunt."

Lucy nodded.

After Lucy left, Joel saw Justin drinking tea and couldn't help but ask anxiously, "Tell me quickly. What's the matter?"

Tanya looked at him in confusion.

Justin drank a cup of tea before saying slowly, "Miss Tanya, you had a child overseas, right?"

His words were like a tidal wave. Joel looked at Tanya in disbelief, only to see that Tanya's eyes had also widened in shock.

She clenched her fists tightly.

This was her secret. Why did Justin say it out loud?

When he saw her like this, Joel's mind instantly started racing.

He lowered his eyes and smiled bitterly.

So in the past five years, Tanya had already had a boyfriend overseas?

However, he had no intention of blaming her.

After all, he had a child too, didn't he?

When he forced Tanya to accept Mia, he no longer had the right to criticize her.

Even if he had never let any woman near him in the past five years!

He suddenly felt frustrated.

At this moment, he wanted to know who this man was who had been with Tanya. He wished he could capture him and beat him up.

With this thought in mind, he looked at Tanya.

He suddenly understood how Tanya must have felt when he and Hillary had gotten together back then.

After five years, he was with Tanya again and was still so sad and jealous, let alone her back then.

That was why she had decided to leave and go overseas, right?

Perhaps she had not gone overseas simply to pursue her dream of dancing. She had been hurt by him!

When Joel thought of this, his chest tightened even more.

He had been with her through junior high, high school, and university...

He had originally thought that the two of them would walk from their school uniforms to their wedding gowns, from their black hair to their white hair. He did not expect that they would go off track halfway.

When they returned to the same path, he had Mia, and she had another child.

Their love was no longer as perfect as before.

But he couldn't mind.

He did not even dare to ask Tanya if she had liked that man when she had a change of heart midway, only to like him again now.

He did not dare to ask, afraid that he would be dissatisfied with the answer.

He only knew that they had to be together, no matter what.

With this in mind, he walked towards Tanya.

Tanya was also in a daze. When she saw Joel walking over, her expression turned grave and she felt even more guilty. However, just as she thought Joel would question her, she heard him say, "Who is that man?"

Tanya: "?"

She was stunned and looked at Joel in confusion.

Joel sighed. "If you don't want to say it, then forget it. I'll try my best not to mind."

At this point, he turned his head away and did not look into Tanya's eyes. "Where is your child...? You can bring him over. I'll treat him as my own, just like... how you treat Mia... Even if I can't be sincere, I'll still work hard..."

Tanya: "!!!"

She finally understood what Joel meant and could not help but laugh.

As she smiled, tears welled up in her eyes.

This man, this silly man, actually thought that she had another man?

She thought of the past five years. Although she was alone overseas, she had interacted with many aristocrats because she was a dancer.

She did not lack suitors among those people.

But she had never accepted any of them.

At first, she had told herself, she had lost her child and had no right to start a new life. It was a form of punishment.

But it was only now that she realized that it was not because she did not want to look for a man. It was because, with someone in her heart, she could no longer look at anyone else.

Those aristocrats were all very outstanding, but she was blinded by Joel and could not see anyone else.

She looked at Joel with red eyes.

When Joel saw her like this, his heart ached even more.

How did that man hurt her? Was it so painful to recall?

He grabbed Tanya's arm and said in pain and anger, "Why did you split up? Did he hurt you?"

Tanya shook her head.

“Did he have a change of heart?”

Tanya continued to shake her head.

Joel was anxious. “Did you have a change of heart? What happened? Did he bully you? Tell me who he is and I’ll kill him!”

Tanya still shook her head, but the smile on her face grew wider.

She said, “No, no. There’s no such person.”

Her voice was choked.

Joel was stunned. “There’s no such person? Then your child...”

Tanya’s cries became even louder. She looked at Joel and knew that she could no longer hide the child’s existence.

However, she did not want to make Joel sad with her.

She clenched her fists. “Calm down. Listen to me.”

Joel was extremely anxious, but when he saw Tanya’s tear-stained face, he knew that he could not be anxious. He took a deep breath. “Okay, I’ll calm down. Tell me, what’s going on with that man and the child?”

Tanya looked at him and lowered her head again. She slowly said, “There’s no other man... It’s you. It has always been you!”

Joel froze on the spot.

He looked at Tanya in a daze.

A ridiculous thought suddenly occurred to him. “If it’s me, then that child...”

Tanya looked at him and closed her eyes. Large tears rolled down her face again. “The child is yours.”

It was his...

These three words stunned Joel.

Surprise surged in his heart as he grabbed Tanya. “You gave birth to my child? Our child?”

At this moment, he was as happy as a child.

He asked anxiously, “Where’s the child? Where is he?”

When the two of them were together back then, they had once imagined what would happen if they had a child in the future. As it turned out, they really had a child!

But he did not expect that while he was wild with joy, Tanya would still have her eyes closed. Her tears rolled down her face like broken pearls. She did not speak.

Joel’s ecstasy gradually calmed down. He looked at Tanya and finally sensed something strange.

They were already together. Why didn’t Tanya tell him they had a child?

Also, when he asked if she could be Mia’s mother, why did she resist and not say anything...

He pursed his lips and his heart suddenly sank. “That child...”

“...I lost our child.”

Tanya said those words with difficulty as her tears flowed even more violently. She opened her eyes and sobbed as she shouted, “After I gave birth, I lost the child before I could even see the child clearly. I don’t even know if our child is a girl or a boy!”

“I’m sorry... I didn’t protect our child well! I feel guilty when I’m with you! Why should I be happy? I don’t even know if my child is dead or alive...”

Following her words, Joel suddenly reached out and hugged her.

At this moment, Joel felt his heart ache so much that he could barely breathe.

How painful Tanya must have been all these years!

It was one thing to suffer through the pain of looking for her child every day, but to have to face his and Hillary’s daughter after returning to the country.

Especially when he said that he wanted Tanya to become Mia's mother.

Mia's mother...

Joel suddenly thought of something and looked at Justin.

Justin had said that he had important information to tell Joel and Tanya.

Furthermore, the moment he entered, he pointed out that Tanya had been hiding something from Joel. Then, was that important matter the whereabouts of their child?!

Joel suddenly understood.

Justin sat by the side and watched the two of them confess to each other.

He did not know what had happened. He could only resolve the misunderstanding between Tanya and Joel before speaking the truth.

Seeing that the two of them were almost done talking and that Tanya was crying so badly, Justin touched his nose and hurriedly said, "Don't be in a hurry to cry... I have good news here."

If Nora woke up and found out that he had made her best friend cry for so long, she would definitely beat him up.

Tanya and Joel were still in a sad state. They opened their eyes and looked at him in confusion.

Justin coughed. "It was Nora who felt that something was wrong. She secretly took Tanya's DNA samples to compare with Mia's DNA..."

Joel and Tanya widened their eyes.

At this moment, Joel finally understood Justin's meaning!

Tanya was also surprised and anxious. Why was Nora comparing her and Mia's DNA?!

As she was thinking about this, she heard Justin continue, "You two are mother and daughter."

" ... "

Tanya's mind exploded.

She looked at Justin in disbelief and felt that she recognized every word he said, but when she put them together, why could she suddenly not understand?

Wasn't Mia Hillary's daughter?

How could she be her daughter?

While she was in a daze, Joel narrowed his eyes and said sternly, "No wonder Hillary didn't appear when she was pregnant back then. In the end, she suddenly appeared in front of me with a child."

He looked at Tanya and said, "That night, I was the one who had drunk too much and was schemed against! In the hotel, she insisted that I had sex with her... In my head, the person that night was actually you... But when I woke up, Hillary was by my side instead."

Before he could finish, Tanya suddenly reacted. "Are you talking about October 25, six years ago?"

Joel was stunned and nodded. "Yes."

Tanya bit her lip. "That night, it was me..."

Joel was surprised.

Tanya's expression was a little unnatural when she mentioned that night. "Later on, when you were still asleep in the morning, my mother sent me a message asking me to come home. She said she had something to tell me, so I went back..."

When she returned home, she realized that it was a foreign acceptance letter.

Immediately after, she had taken out a photo of Tanya and Joel sleeping together and handed it to her. She had told her, "I told you long ago that your identity is not suitable for you to be with Mr. Smith! Only the eldest daughter of the Joneses has the right to become Mrs. Smith! Mr. Smith is just playing with you! Since you're my daughter, I'll remind you not to be treated as a plaything!"

At that time, she was stunned when she saw the photo. She called Joel, but she did not expect that Hillary would pick up his phone. "What are you doing? He's still sleeping."

Tanya was furious.

Two hours later, she called Joel, but his attitude was very cold.

She asked, "What am I to you?"

He sneered. "What am I to you? Tanya, we both know that you're not that important to me!"

At that time, Tanya's heart was in ashes as she left the country.

Joel was stunned. He thought about it carefully and knew that he had fallen into a trap. "When I woke up and realized that the person beside me was Hillary, I was shocked. I wanted to look for you and explain everything, but I saw the application form for your overseas study on Hillary's phone."

He was silent for a moment before saying, "Hillary told me that everything you did was to use me to go overseas."

At that time, he was young and impulsive. Just as he was looking at the application, he received a call from Tanya.

However, he had not expected Tanya to question her position in his heart so confidently over a phone call.

He also wanted to ask this question!

Later on, he watched helplessly as Tanya left the country without turning back. He believed Hillary even more and did not look for Tanya over the years.

Now that he thought about it...

It was obvious that he and Tanya had fallen into the other party's trap!!

Joel was momentarily vexed. How could he be so easily deceived? However, he did not expect that Hillary, who was only twenty years old back then, would do such a thing!

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

After a moment, Tanya suddenly pushed him away and ran downstairs.

Joel knew what she was going to do, so he looked at Justin first and said slowly, "I'll remember this favor."

If it weren't for Justin, Tanya would have been afraid that Joel would be sad because of the child and would not have told him. But if Tanya hadn't told him, he probably wouldn't have imagined in his life that Mia was his and Tanya's daughter!

After all, how could he know that Tanya had given birth to a child for him?!

Justin nodded and Joel followed him downstairs.

Sure enough, he could already hear the cries downstairs. He went downstairs and saw Ian watching by the side. "Little brat, did you bully the little girl? Why is she suddenly crying so miserably while hugging Mia?"

Joel looked at the mother and daughter hugging each other.

Tanya was crying so hard that she couldn't speak. Mia, on the other hand, was frightened by her appearance. She looked at her with wide eyes, but she still reached out and patted her back, feeling helpless.

Joel's eyes turned red as well.

He took a step forward and said to Mia, "Mia, this is your mother."

Mia was stunned for a moment before nodding. "I know. Ms. Tanya will be my mother from now on."

When Joel saw the child's ignorance, his heart ached even more.

He reached out and hugged Tanya and Mia. "No, she's the mother who gave birth to you! Your biological mother!"

Mia didn't really understand this, but she still cried. "Mommy, don't cry. Don't cry..."

When she started crying, Tanya stopped crying immediately. She hugged Mia and said with tears in her eyes, "I won't cry. Mia, don't cry. I'm Mommy. Mommy loves you..."

She gently kissed Mia's cheek.

Ian was confused.

That night, Tanya hugged Mia and fell asleep. Joel was guarding the sofa in the room worriedly. He could see Tanya suddenly waking up in the middle of the night and staring at Mia for a while before hugging her tightly and falling asleep again...

It was a fear and unease of again losing what she had regained after so many hardships.

The next day, Joel was woken up by a soft knock on the door.

He walked out gently and heard the butler say, "Sir, Mr. Karl Moore is here!"

Karl Moore?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Even if he had not come himself today, Joel was going to look for him!

Hillary had stolen his child. She had to pay the price!

Joel glanced at the mother and daughter sleeping on the bed. At this moment, the anger in his heart had reached its peak.

Last night, he counted that Tanya had woken up six times. Each time, it took more than half an hour before she could fall asleep again.

Compared to her... Mia had always been by his side, and he had never been neglected.

But what about Tanya?

How painful must her five years of psychological torture have been?!

Joel clenched his fists tightly. He regretted sending Hillary overseas yesterday, causing her to fall into Karl Moore's hands. Otherwise, she would be living a life worse than death right now.

He retracted his gaze and gently went out. After closing the door, he went downstairs.

In the living room downstairs.

Karl Moore was sitting on the sofa in a black suit. There was a tattoo on the back of his hand, and it was obvious that it spread up to his arm.

He was wearing sunglasses and was tall and strong. One could tell with just a look that he was from the mafia.

At this moment, he was sizing up the Smiths' house and said to the person beside him, "No wonder Black Cat insisted on returning to the country. Look, it's still better in the country. The renovations are very exquisite!"

Black Cat was the top mysterious expert in their assassin organization.

Karl Moore had never seen Black Cat before. He had only posted assassination missions on the Internet. Black Cat had very high requirements for assassination missions.

Black Cat would not kill if it was inconvenient.

The troublesome ones were not killed.

Those who did not commit heinous crimes were not killed.

Black Cat would not kill those who did not deserve to die.

Whether the person should die depended on Black Cat's personal judgment.

If it were anyone else, Karl Moore would have tamed such a troublesome killer long ago. But this person was Black Cat, the number one killer in their organization.

Three years ago, a triad organization appeared in Burundi. Wherever they went, not a blade of grass survived. They raped, killed, and plundered. They did not even let women and children off. It could be said that they committed all kinds of crimes!

They had a powerful armed force and occupied the land of kings. The people in that area were suffering.

At that time, the government was at a loss about this powerful armed force. They had tried to attack it a few times but were defeated. In the end, they had no choice but to post a kill order on the assassination network.

The reward for killing the organization's leader was in millions.

It was not much money, but it had attracted many people to go on missions. However, none of them returned.

At that time, Karl Moore had not planned to take on the mission in the Assassin Organization. After all, the mission was too difficult and almost impossible to complete. However, Black Cat in their organization had privately accepted this mission.

Karl Moore felt that Black Cat was dead meat.

In the end! Black Cat entered that organization alone, took the other party's head, and then retreated unscathed! Furthermore, even now, that assassination was a mysterious affair.

That was because no one knew how Black Cat had killed the other party. They only vaguely heard from the other party that Black Cat was American.

As for whether it was a man or a woman, they did not see clearly.

It was also the battle with Black Cat that allowed the assassins to gain a foothold internationally!

From then on, although Karl Moore was an honorary leader, he was extremely respectful to Black Cat. The entire organization followed his orders.

That was... until three months ago, when Black Cat suddenly said that they wanted to return to the country to settle some matters, and told everyone not to disturb them. Then, Black Cat disappeared without a trace.

Karl Moore decided to bring his subordinates back to New York. Firstly, he wanted to see if he could find out who Black Cat was. Secondly, he wanted to tour his hometown again.

Unexpectedly, they bumped into Hillary...

As he was thinking, Joel and Ian walked out at the same time.

When he saw Ian, Joel consciously stood behind him. Karl Moore was also stunned. "You're still alive?"

This familiar tone...

Joel looked at Ian and saw that although Uncle Ian looked thin, his aura was astonishing. He sat steadily in the wheelchair and retorted, "You're not even dead yet. How would I dare to die? How dare you bully us Smiths?"

When he heard this, Karl Moore chuckled. "What are you talking about? What bullying? I'm just stepping up for the Joneses. You guys are too much. Why can't they see their child?"

Ian did not answer. It was obvious that he already knew everything.

He said slowly, "Why are you helping them?"

When Karl Moore heard this, he frowned. "Ah, because I owe Jill a favor."

Jill was Hillary and Tanya's mother.

Because after she married the Joneses, everyone had always called her Madam Jones. Therefore, Joel only realized who this person was after a while.

He frowned and heard Ian laugh. "Love debt?"

Karl Moore coughed. "Damn, I was just playing back then. Who knew that she would take it seriously? Since I broke her innocence and left, I have to help my old lover this time."

Ian's lips twitched. "You're giving face to your old lover, but not to me?"

Karl Moore immediately said, "Over the years, I've given you a lot of face. Over the years, I've never touched the Smiths. Even if someone offered a high price, I never accepted an assassination! Now, give me some face and sit down to discuss this matter!"

He leaned forward and said, "The Joneses aren't a wealthy family. You gave them a way out. So what? If you ask me, let your nephew marry her daughter! What love? Young man, at my age, you'll realize that love is useless!"

Joel: "...That's impossible."

Karl Moore hesitated for a moment. "Then... worst-case scenario—you give her the child. At least she'll have someone to rely on."

Joel explained, "There's something else going on. Listen to me..."

"Slam!" Almost as soon as he said this, Karl Moore slapped the table, revealing a gun. He said aggressively, "What? I don't have time to listen to your chatter. Let me ask you something. Do the Smiths not intend to give face to the Assassin Organization?"

After offending such a person, their safety in the future would be uncertain.

Joel narrowed his eyes. Before they could collide, Ian sneered. "Karl Moore, you're so arrogant. Do you think I can't use my gun because I'm weak now?"

Karl Moore was not afraid at all. "Brother, I'm sorry this time! There's nothing I can do about it. I really owe Jill too much, so she asked me to do this. I don't care what secrets you have, but you have to give me face today!

Unless Black Cat is here, there's no room for negotiation!!"

In the bedroom upstairs.

Perhaps it was because the commotion downstairs was a little loud, but Nora frowned slightly in her sleep.

Black Cat...

Who the hell was shouting her code name non-stop?! It was so annoying! How could she sleep!

Nora flipped over in annoyance. She buried her head in the pillow angrily and covered her ears.

Cherry and Pete, who were sitting on the sofa in the room, instantly fell silent.

The characters in Cherry's game didn't dare to move anymore, as if they were afraid of disturbing her.

In fact, Pete did not even dare to write the Mathematical Olympiad questions as he was afraid that the sound of the pen rubbing against the paper would disturb his mother.

When Justin, who was sitting beside the two children, saw this scene, he lowered his eyes and suddenly stood up.

When he stood up, Cherry and Pete looked at him simultaneously and immediately made a “shh” gesture. It was as if even Justin’s action of standing up would disturb Nora.

Justin did not think that the two children’s performance was too exaggerated. Instead, he lightened his footsteps and slowly walked to the door. He bent down and opened the door before closing it again.

They did not know how he did it, but he did not make a sound at all.

After he left, the noise outside became even louder.

Karl Moore’s voice was very loud, and the people standing behind him were all very powerful. They all stared at him.

Ian and Joel’s expressions stiffened.

Ian said slowly, “Are you sure you want to fall out?”

Karl Moore snorted. “You’re the ones who didn’t give me face!”

Joel’s voice became even colder. “I can give you face in other matters, but not in this matter!”

Tanya and Mia had just reunited. How could he give Mia to Hillary?!

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Her words couldn’t get any more hurtful.

Joel paused and looked at her in astonishment.

Hillary looked like she had lost her mind. The savage look on her face made her look just like a beast in captivity putting up one last fight. She said, “How

about this? Give me Mia, the two of you can have your own children instead. Isn't that a good idea? This way, I won't pester you ever again in the future!"

Joel looked at Tanya hastily.

By asking her to be Mia's stepmother, he was actually letting Tanya down.

Tanya had also been resistant to the idea.

Just two days ago, she had even driven him away because of it.

Joel thought that this was something that Tanya couldn't get over.

Tanya's gaze, however, landed on Mia when she heard what Hillary said.

The words 'have your own children' was a blow that made her heart ache.

Nevertheless, she had noticed Mia reaching out with her little hand and grasping Joel's sleeve tightly upon hearing what Hillary said. In addition, her timid eyes also looked at her as though she was asking her for help—or begging her for mercy.

Mia didn't want to go with Hillary.

She was very resistant to the idea.

Seeing that neither she nor Joel was speaking, Hillary stretched out her hand to Mia and said, "Come here, Mia. Come with Mommy. They are all bad people. Do you know? They are all bad people! Once your teacher and your father have their own children in the future, they will abuse and bully you. Come with Mommy. Mommy will never bully you, right?"

Mia shrank back further into Joel's arms.

Joel's gaze, however, was on Tanya the whole time.

He would never give Mia to Hillary, no matter what.

But he wanted Tanya to say something right now...

However, Tanya merely stared at Mia. The emotions in her eyes were so complicated that even Joel couldn't read them at all.

Joel's heart slowly sank.

Tanya probably couldn't bring herself to accept Mia yet.

Well, that made sense.

What made him think that he could ask her to treat the child born to the man she loved the most and the sister she hated the most as her own?!

Besides, Tanya was someone with a straightforward and decisive character. She had never been one to do such saintly things...

However, Joel had no choice but to be selfish this once.

He would never let go of Mia, nor would he let go of Tanya.

They were the two most important women in his life.

With that in mind, the look in Joel's eyes became cold and unfathomable. He looked at Hillary and held Mia further away from her.

Just as he was about to speak, Tanya, who was behind him, said, "If I say that I don't mind, will you believe me?"

Her words stunned everyone.

Hillary looked at her incredulously.

Even Joel was shocked.

Tanya looked at Mia and slowly stretched out her arms to her. "I like Mia. Although she is your daughter, she is not like you at all. The two of you are completely different!"

Tanya lowered her head.

She couldn't even make herself dislike Mia, because the sight of her made her think of her own child.

Any woman who had had children before would be somewhat accommodating toward and forgiving of children. She wanted to make Mia happy.

When Mia saw Tanya stretching her arms out to her, for some reason, she suddenly felt warmth in the icy-cold world.

She reached out her own short little arms and went into Tanya's arms.

When Tanya said what she did, she had let go of her negative feelings.

She believed that her child would be like her, and also hoped that all the children in the world could live happy and worry-free.

Tanya, who had let go of her negative feelings toward Mia, suddenly lifted her head. Her lips curled into a smile as she turned to Hillary. She said shamelessly, "Also, Mia is Joel's daughter. Considering how much I love him, I would also love his daughter, so why wouldn't I like Mia? You're worrying too much about it.

"Oh, by the way, you don't have to worry too much about Mia after you go abroad, because I will take good care of her. After all, we are a family of three. We are going to live happily together!"

Sure enough, Hillary became so furious that she started shaking all over.

For some reason, though, Tanya felt that Hillary's emotions were a little odd. It was as if she was furious, yet also afraid of something. "You...! That's utter nonsense! I am Mia's mother!"

Tanya didn't understand why she was emphasizing that over and over, but she nevertheless asked, "Mia, do you want me to be your mom?"

Mia's eyes lit up and she nodded. "Yes!"

Tanya then looked at Hillary. "Mia is only five now. Say, five—or even ten—years later, will she still remember you, her biological mother?"

She let out an icy laugh after she spoke.

Immediately after, as if she were one of those bad-natured women who flaunted their power after doing bad things, amidst everyone gesturing at her and talking about her, and without any regard for anything, Tanya walked toward the exit with Mia in her arms. "Alright, Mia, your fever is gone. Shall we go home?"

"..."

Hillary was still shaking even after Tanya had left. Mrs. Jones, who was frowning, looked as if she didn't know what she should do.

A short while later, Joel's assistant walked up to Hillary. "Ms. Jones, your air ticket has been booked. Your flight is in an hour. You may come with me now."

Hillary clenched her fists.

Yet she was at a loss for words as she stared at the assistant in front of her.

With a mighty momentum around her, Tanya went to the car park with Mia in her arms.

Joel followed behind her. As he watched the woman in front of him take firm and determined steps, a dazzling smile formed at the corners of his lips.

When they reached the car, he took two quick steps forward to Tanya's side.

Tanya turned to him and smiled triumphantly. "Did you see how Hillary looked just now? Hahaha! That felt so good! I haven't been this happy in so many years!"

Joel: "..."

A very self-aware Tanya sat in the backseat with Mia and left the driver's seat to Joel. She had a smile on her lips the whole time. "Mia, I made your Mommy really angry just now. Do you mind?"

Mia blinked at once. "No, I don't, Mommy!"

Tanya: "?!"

She suddenly choked on her saliva. After a few violent coughs, the astounded woman looked at Mia. "Y-you... What did you just call me?"

Even though Mia was looking at her timidly, she spoke very firmly. "You were the one who asked me to call you Mommy..."

Tanya: "..."

The corners of her lips spasmed in embarrassment. "No, I said that just now just to make Hillary angry. You... you... Don't take it seriously."

“Okay, Mommy,” said Mia.

Tanya: “...”

She immediately looked at Joel, who was in the driver’s seat. “What are you laughing at?! Aren’t you going to do something about the little fellow?!”

The extremely thick-skinned Joel said, “We already agreed back then that when we have a daughter in the future, I’d be in charge of spoiling her while you’re in charge of disciplining her.”

Tanya: “!!”

It was only when the car started that she finally asked, “Where are we going?”

“The Smith manor.” Tanya flushed crimson after he spoke.. Joel, who saw that she was about to refuse, immediately added, “Nora is injured. Before she fainted, she was talking about some email...”

As expected, it diverted Tanya’s attention. “Nora is injured? How did she become injured? Were you busy the whole day yesterday because of this? What exactly happened? What email are you talking about?”

Seeing that she wasn’t refusing to go to the Smiths’ anymore, Joel breathed a silent sigh of relief. Then, he slowly recounted what had happened the day before.

He didn’t hide the truth from Tanya just because she wasn’t part of their world.

Now that Tanya was going to be with him, she would have to face these issues sooner or later.

Upon hearing about the martial arts tournament, upon hearing how all of Quentin’s bones had shattered, and upon hearing about how Nora had challenged the Benevolence Hall all by herself; Tanya frowned and ranted angrily. “They are too much! Nora did great by beating them all up! If I had practiced martial arts, I would definitely have gone with her to give them trouble, too!”

Then, she asked Joel accusingly, “Did you help her?”

Joel’s lip corners spasmed. “I wanted to, but Justin stopped me.”

Tanya was taken aback.

Joel thought back to the events from the day before. When Nora challenged the Benevolence Hall all by herself the day before, he had wanted to go in and help, but Justin had stopped him.

Justin had said, “She has a lot of pent-up anger right now, and needs to vent it out. Otherwise, she would feel very awful.”

Therefore, Justin had only kept Shaun occupied in the arena so that Nora could kill him herself, and thereby vent her anger.

Joel had been rendered speechless at that time.

The one who had been beaten up was his younger brother, too!! He also had a whole load of pent-up anger that he had nowhere to vent!!

However, he had still given the chance to vent to Nora.

He’d thought that Tanya would praise him after he explained what had happened, but unexpectedly, Tanya instead said, “Mr. Hunt did the right thing! Nora is not in good health. If she doesn’t vent her anger, it will definitely affect her health. Why are you fighting with her for it when you’re so strong and muscular?”

Joel: “??”

Suddenly, he felt like his status in the family in the future was now clear at a glance.

Tanya then asked, “Is Quentin really unable to stand anymore?”

Joel’s expression darkened at the question. “That’s what Lily said. I have contacted all the orthopedic specialists in the country, as well as the Hunts’ medical experts last night, but all of them said they couldn’t do anything about it after they came and saw Quentin’s condition.”

Tanya didn’t quite agree, though. “In my opinion, that may not necessarily be the case.”

Joel was surprised.

Tanya then said, "Ask Nora about it after she wakes up! Only she can give you the most accurate answer."

Joel was puzzled. "Why do you say that?"

Tanya kept quiet for a while before she finally replied, "There was once someone broke my leg when I was abroad. All the doctors said that the bones were shattered, so I won't be able to ever dance again. It was Nora who cured me."

Joel was taken aback by her calm voice.

Joel had always known that Tanya's life abroad during the past five years wasn't a peaceful one. However, he never knew that someone had even broken her leg.

He suddenly thought of how deeply in despair Tanya, who loved dancing so much, must have been when she was told that she could not dance anymore.

But what had he been doing at that time?

He had probably been busy changing his daughter's diapers at home!

It was Nora who had stayed by Tanya's side, cured her, and gave her hope at that time!

When Joel thought of that, he suddenly felt that he still wasn't treating Nora well enough. He should be treating her even better!

In the midst of his thoughts, Tanya asked, "By the way, what email were you talking about just now?"

Joel smiled and replied, "I don't know. Before she fell asleep, she looked at me and said something about her email inbox. She didn't say what was in it, though."

Tanya instantly curled her lips disdainfully. "Tsk, to think she can't even relay information properly! Besides, how would we know what her email account password is?! Sigh!"

The two of them arrived at the Smiths' while they were talking.

The car had only just passed through the gates when they noticed a small van parking at the front. A few nurses and medical personnel got out of the van, and carefully helped Ian down.

Ian was too weak. He had only just returned from the jaws of death, so he couldn't even walk. After getting out of the van, the medical personnel helped him onto a wheelchair.

Joel got a huge shock and exchanged a look with Tanya. He hurriedly stopped the car, walked over, and called out, "Uncle Ian! Why are you back?"

Ian then noticed him. He sounded a little weak, but he pressed on and said, "How can you keep it from me when something so serious has happened?! I can't rest peacefully in the hospital when Nora is still unconscious, so I decided to come back and have a look at her!"

Joel glared at the people next to Ian.

Ian immediately said, "Don't look at them. I sensed something amiss because Quentin didn't visit me for so long, so I forced them to talk."

Ever since he knew that Nora was his daughter, he had specially instructed Quentin to follow Nora every day, and also give him a report of everyone else who was following her.

When Quentin simply didn't show up the day before, he had immediately sensed something. The people around him weren't the wily old fox's match at all, so he had easily sounded them out!

Upon knowing that Quentin had been hospitalized, he hastily went to visit Quentin.

Quentin hadn't woken up yet. Given the severity of his injuries, he wouldn't be waking up for quite a while, either.

After visiting Quentin, he became worried that the news about how Nora was sleeping was just their way of trying to comfort him. Thus, he had forcefully requested to come home. He would only be able to rest assured once he saw Nora with his own eyes.

Ian had always been a stubborn man. Joel knew that no one around him could talk him out of something he wanted to do.

It was just like how no one could do anything about him when he was determined to die.

Once he made up his mind, the decisions and beliefs often lasted a lifetime.

For example, Yvette.

Joel didn't say anything else. At this point, Tanya came over with Mia in her arms. When Ian glanced over and saw that it was Tanya, he made a sound of surprise and asked, "That girl has returned to the States?"

Tanya had often visited the Smiths when she was dating Joel back then, so it was very normal that Ian would know her.

Tanya greeted him respectfully. "Hi, Uncle Ian."

Ian nodded at her. Then, he looked at Joel and said, "Although you and I are not father and son, we have very similar personalities. This kid here has stayed single all these years because he was waiting for you." Ian then looked at Tanya and added, "Cherish him, girl!"

After he said that, seemingly because he had thought of himself, a contemplative look formed in his eyes.

Tanya looked at Joel, who had blushed a little.

To outsiders, he was the head of the Smiths whom everyone feared. But in the eyes of Ian, he would always be a junior. He even called him a 'kid'...

Joel touched his nose.

Tanya, who had sensed how embarrassed he was, smiled and nodded. "Okay."

With Joel pushing the wheelchair and Tanya carrying Mia in her arms, the four of them walked toward the living room.

Ian, however, suddenly became nervous. "Nora's little girl is also at home, right? This is the first time we're meeting. Should I give her a gift or something?"

The thought had only just formed when a familiar young and tender voice traveled over from the living room.

“Jumbo, does your name actually start with a ‘D’ instead? Do you really know how to play?”

“What? Stop calling you names? It’s because I keep dissing people that Sponsor Grandpa has stopped coming to my live-streams?”

When Nora fell unconscious, Cherry lost her sense of security.

She didn’t want to stay with her father at the Hunts’ anymore and insisted on staying by Nora’s side no matter what. She wheedled and acted cute, and even kicked up a fuss and rolled about on the floor in the Smiths’ manor in the end. She simply refused to go with Justin.

Pete didn’t say anything, either. He merely looked at him in silence, his intentions obvious:

‘I am not leaving until Mommy wakes up!’

In the end, Justin had no choice but to ask Joel for permission to stay in a guest room at the Smiths’ temporarily, so that he could work there and watch over the two children.

Joel’s lip corners had spasmed when he received the call from the butler.

Justin was simply too devious.

Joel simply didn’t believe it. Why wouldn’t Justin be able to make a child do as he says? Besides, even if he really couldn’t, why couldn’t he just tell the Hunts that the little mister had come to the Smiths’ to play?

Moreover!

As the head of the Hunts, Justin didn’t need to report his whereabouts to anyone at all!

He remembered that Pete and Justin had once lived in a villa elsewhere before.

Why would the butler dare to refuse Justin, though? Thus, by the time Joel heard about it, Justin had already moved in.

He was pretty much just using the children for his own gains! How utterly shameless!

They weren't even married yet! It wasn't appropriate for them to be living together!

He had also come back with the intention to drive Justin out.

However, Cherry was currently seated on the sofa with her legs crossed, her mockery mode at full force.

Behind her were the two butlers in charge of external and internal affairs. They were standing there and looking at her.

"Ms. Cherry, you're so good at the game!"

"The way you diss people is such a work of art!"

"Huh? To think you can insult someone like that! Jumbo with a 'D'... that's Dumbo! Hahaha!"

The two of them had clearly become fans of Cherry.

Justin was seated on the sofa at the side, seemingly dealing with some documents. That leisurely appearance of his was practically as if he was in his own home!

The corners of Joel's lips spasmed.

He then looked at Pete. He was working seriously on his Mathematical Olympiad problems at the side, seeming completely unaffected by Cherry.

Cherry was reading the comments in her live-stream. Her brows knitted together and she said, "Daddy, all of them are saying that Sponsor Grandpa hasn't come to my live-stream for so long because I was dissing people, so he doesn't like me anymore. Sob, is that true?"

Justin was actually feeling very nervous.

Because he had just received news that Ian had come home.

His attitude toward the old man was merely respectful in the past. However, things were completely different now. Ian was Nora's father!

As a son-in-law, he mustn't embarrass himself in front of him.

He was racking his brains for a way to make Ian happy when he heard Cherry. As a slave to his daughter, he replied without any hesitation, "How can that be? You are so cute when you diss people!"

Cherry breathed a sigh of relief. However, she still said aggrievedly, "Then why isn't Sponsor Grandpa talking to me anymore? We haven't contacted each other on Messenger for so long. I asked Mommy to look for him, but she couldn't find him... Daddy, are you really not a hacker?"

Justin coughed.

He was Y. Of course he was a hacker.

But he didn't want to look for him.

Sponsor Grandpa? What the heck? How dare he fight with him for his daughter's love? Additionally, during the period Sponsor Grandpa was away, he had finally reached number one on the virtual gifts ranking!

Justin said, "I'm really not one. Daddy is a good, law-abiding citizen. Daddy's company also acts in accordance with the law."

Cherry sighed and lowered her head.

Next to them, Pete looked up and heaved a silent sigh. His father was simply too shameless!

He was lying to even his five-year-old younger sister!

Justin then said, "Why are you so insistent on looking for Sponsor Grandpa? The way I see it, his affection for you was only temporary. Otherwise, why would he suddenly disappear without a word? That's very rude behavior."

He secretly badmouthed Sponsor Grandpa and said, "Let's ignore him in the future, Cherry!"

Cherry asked, "... But what if Sponsor Grandpa was sick?"

"That's impossible. Considering how rich he is, it's impossible that he would suddenly disappear, no matter what kind of illness it is."

"Yeah, you're right, Daddy. I won't talk to Sponsor Grandpa ever again!"

At the door, Ian, who had immediately recognized that Cherry was sweetcherry, was bewildered.

When he'd first recognized Cherry, he had felt joy and anxiety from meeting an online friend for the first time. However, there was only anger left in him now.

What was Justin teaching the kids?

Ian entered the living room with mighty momentum.

Justin hurriedly stood up when he heard the sounds coming from the door. At the sight of him, he took a step forward earnestly and greeted him. "Hello, Uncle Ian," he said.

Ian stared at him with disdain all over his good-looking face. "I think you should call me Mr. Smith instead."

Justin: "?"

He was calling him Uncle Ian because he was Nora's fiancé!

He was stunned for a moment. Then, he said, "You must be joking, Uncle Ian. Nora will beat me up if she hears me addressing you as Mr. Smith."

Ian snorted. "Mr. Hunt, I, Ian Smith, have never been one to joke around. What kind of relationship do you share with Nora for you to be calling me Uncle Ian?"

"... We are engaged," said Justin.

"Engaged?"

Ian was very surprised. "How come I'm not aware that my daughter is engaged? When did the two of you hold the engagement ceremony?"

Justin: "???"

He had publicly announced that Nora was his fiancée at the Hunts' party the other time, so their relationship was already confirmed.

Why was Ian refusing to acknowledge it?

However, he soon felt that he had figured it out. “You are right, Uncle Ian. I will get it done.”

Ian didn't look at him anymore. Instead, he looked at Cherry sitting on the sofa.

Cherry was also staring at him with her big dark eyes.

At the sight, Joel pushed Ian's wheelchair toward Cherry and said, “Uncle Ian, this is Nora's daughter. Her nickname is Cherry.”

Ian's eyes reddened at once. His voice was even trembling a little as he called out, “Cherry?”

Cherry blinked. Then, she called out sweetly, “Grandpa~”

Ian instantly felt like his heart had been coated in honey.

In the past, when Cherry called him Sponsor Grandpa on Messenger, he had merely found her a sweet child. It was only now that he realized that the sweetness reached all the way into his heart.

He nodded. “Hello!”

As soon as he said that, Chester, who was also logged into the game, said, “Boss, look at your live-stream! They are all mocking you!”

Cherry immediately lowered her head when she heard him. She saw in the comments in the live-stream that everyone was laughing at her and saying that Sponsor Grandpa had abandoned her.

“ ... ”

Everyone in the comments was laughing at her.

“Your wealthy grandfather must have found another dog. He doesn't love you anymore!”

“Hahaha, I'm suddenly very happy to see the host down.”

“Sponsor Grandpa must be tired of you, right? All the big bosses are like this.”

...

Cherry wilted. She pouted and stopped talking.

When Ian saw her like this, his heart ached badly. He quickly took out his phone and secretly charged it. Then, while the others were not paying attention, he quickly went to Cherry's live-stream and sent her gifts.

The overwhelming gifts suddenly covered the entire screen.

When Cherry saw that the person giving the gift was her Sponsor Grandpa, her eyes lit up.

She shouted happily, "My Sponsor Grandpa is here!"

Ian had surpassed second place and become first. He was satisfied.

However, just as he put down his phone, Justin, who was standing behind him, suddenly took out his phone and tipped a hundred gifts. The rankings instantly changed again.

Ian: "..."

Justin said, "Cherry, you can't let an outsider control your emotions. Whatever others have, Daddy will give it to you."

Cherry immediately looked up at him. "Thank you, Daddy!"

"..."

After Justin tipped the gifts, he put down his phone. For some reason, he suddenly felt that the atmosphere in the living room seemed a little off.

How much colder was it?

He composed himself and looked over. He realized that Ian was emitting coldness and looking at him gloomily.

Justin: "?"

He hesitated for a moment and asked, "Uncle Ian, what's wrong?"

Ian sneered. "Mr. Hunt, are you very free today?"

Justin: "...So-so, I guess."

Ian said, "Butler, Mr. Hunt still has to handle the company's matters. How can we keep him here at home for such a small matter? Quickly take him to work!"

Justin: !!

Confused, he looked at Joel pleadingly. However, not only did his brother-in-law not help, he even turned his head to look elsewhere. His eyes, which were usually smiling, were now gloating?

Joel really felt good.

He and Justin governed New York's economic lifeline. The two of them often interacted with each other and were both powerful people.

When had he ever seen him so aggrieved?

It felt... good.

When Justin saw that he was silent, and since Ian was the head of this family, he had to listen.

After confirming that there was nothing wrong with Nora's body, he simply said, "Alright, I'll come and see Nora again tonight."

Ian snorted. "Nora is fine. You don't have to visit her so often. When she wakes up, she will contact you!"

Justin: "..."

He grimaced and looked at Pete. "Then I'll come and see Pete tonight."

Pete?

Ian was stunned when he heard this. He turned to look at Pete, who had been sitting quietly the entire time. When he saw his face, he was stunned.

Why did Pete look exactly like Cherry?

While he was in a daze, Justin smiled brightly. "Uncle Ian, I forgot to tell you that Pete and Cherry are my and Nora's children."

He paused and added, "They're twins."

Ian: "..."

Justin, who finally had the upper hand, walked out when he saw his stunned look. "Uncle Ian, I'll take my leave then."

He should give his father-in-law more time to accept it!

After Justin left, Ian looked at Joel. "So these two kids have been together for a long time?"

He was talking about Nora and Justin.

Joel nodded. "The children are already five years old."

Ian paused. "He's better than you!"

Joel: "..."

He glanced at Mia silently. He was about to say that his child was five years old too, but when he saw Tanya standing beside him, he didn't say anything.

His child was not hers.

This might become his lifelong regret.

Ian went upstairs to look at Nora. After confirming that she was really asleep, he then went downstairs in relief.

Joel let him rest. He glanced at Cherry and nodded. After entering the bedroom, Ian let everyone out and secretly opened Cherry's live-stream.

Cherry had said earlier that she did not want to talk to her Sponsor Grandpa anymore, so he chose not to acknowledge her first. They could reunite after maintaining a peaceful relationship on the Internet!

Time passed very quickly. Soon, it was nighttime. Suddenly, two little cuties appeared at home, and the entire family became lively.

Joel realized that even Ian had a smile on his face.

Such happy times were always easily disturbed.

After dinner, the sky darkened.

He was about to call his assistant to ask if Hillary had gone overseas when his assistant's call arrived first. "Mr. Smith, something has happened."

Joel was stunned. "What?"

The assistant said, "After going overseas, Hillary sued you in Switzerland!"

Sued him?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

The assistant coughed. "She has filed a request for the custody of the child!"

Joel's voice instantly turned cold. "How dare she? Where are the Joneses?"

The assistant said, "Mr. Jones contacted her and asked her to withdraw the lawsuit, but she refused to listen. She insisted that the child is hers and only hers. Even if she can't be with you, she will still sue you for the child's custody!"

With that, the assistant coughed. "If this was in the country, we would definitely have been able to resolve it easily. But now, she's suing from overseas. It's not convenient for us to make a move there."

Of course, Joel understood this, but the problem was...

He narrowed his eyes and asked, "If she's not from Switzerland, how did she manage to press charges there? Why would the courts in Switzerland take on such a case?"

The assistant said, "We're still investigating that, but the court seems to be taking this case very seriously. They're already preparing to send you a subpoena!"

Joel vaguely felt that something was wrong. "Investigate properly!"

"Understood."

After hanging up, Joel looked at Mia.

The case was actually not complicated. If he didn't go overseas, there was nothing they could do about it. But Mia couldn't possibly stay in the country forever, right?

It had only been a day. Where did Hillary find the guts to sue him?!

Outside.

Justin looked at the brightly lit Smith villa and was especially envious.

He really wanted to go in, but after getting the butler to inform him, his father-in-law refused to let him in. He even said that it was getting too late and he would not keep him as a guest.

Justin did not want to be ostracized.

Ian was not someone he could handle unless his future brother-in-law helped.

But to get his future brother-in-law to help him? He had to give him something powerful...

Something powerful...

Justin suddenly thought of the DNA test between Tanya and Mia...

His lips curled up slightly. He had it!

In the limousine.

As Lawrence drove, he looked at his boss in the rearview mirror and vaguely felt that he was a little pitiful.

When had the famous Justin ever been rejected?

He sighed silently.

Ever since he got together with Miss Smith, Mr. Hunt had shown him his most patient side.

At this moment, Mr. Hunt was not in a hurry. He was still playing with his phone.

Lawrence almost couldn't help it and drove away!

It was so embarrassing to wait outside the door!

How could he know that Justin was hacking into Nora's email?

His slender fingers pressed on his phone with agility. He was about to enter Nora's email when he was suddenly blocked. The screen almost turned black.

Tsk.

Justin stared at the arrogant red words "get lost" and couldn't help but laugh.

Very good. It was her style.

However, the encryption measures in her inbox were really impressive. Perhaps only Q could do it.

He could not guess how she knew Q. How could she get Q to encrypt one of her mailboxes?

Justin smiled and decided to give up on attacking her email.

Otherwise, she would probably be angry when she woke up and realized that her email had been hacked.

He picked up his phone and called Lily.

The call was picked up quickly. Lily's formulaic voice came through. "Hello, this is Lily. May I know who you are?"

"Justin."

Lily was startled. "Boss's husband?"

Justin: "???"

Lily coughed and corrected him. "No, it's Mr. Hunt. It's so late, why are you calling?"

Justin raised his eyebrows.

Boss's husband? Was this his nickname now?

It actually made him a little happy.

Joy flashed across his deep eyes. He felt that Nora's assistant was very perceptive. He said slowly, "Nora asked you to produce a DNA report two days ago. What was the result?"

Lily subconsciously said, "I'll only report to Boss."

Justin: "?"

Just as he frowned, he heard Lily's tone change. "But your identity is special, so I can tell you. I'll only tell you~"

Justin smiled. "... Go ahead."

"The DNA results show that the two test subjects are confirmed to be mother and daughter."

Justin raised his eyebrows.

He didn't expect Nora to be right.

He lowered his eyes and said slowly, "Thank you."

"You're welcome, Mr. Hunt. Just let me know if you need anything."

After hanging up, Justin thought for a moment and called Sean again. "Five years ago, how was the investigation going on overseas?"

Back then, Nora had investigated her DNA and when he found out about her suspicions, he had said that he could help her investigate Hillary from five years ago.

Even if the DNA showed that Tanya and Mia were mother and daughter, they still had to provide enough evidence to prove that Hillary had stolen the child.

Justin handed the matter to Sean.

After all, it was five years ago. Furthermore, it was in Switzerland, so it was not as fast as investigating in the country.

Sean replied, "Give me another 12 hours and I'll have the answers."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Justin played with his phone.

He could not wait 12 hours to tell Joel such important news. Otherwise, how could he use it as a tactic?

Moreover, judging him by his own standards, it was as if he did not know that he had a daughter back then. He would definitely want to hear this news as soon as possible.

Therefore, he sent Joel a message: "Brother-in-law, let me in. I have an important message for you and Miss Tanya."

"Mr. Smith, we found some clues!"

Joel was on the phone at this moment. The assistant opposite him was in Switzerland, so the investigation was a little slow.

His eyes were cold, and his usual smile was gone. He glanced at Tanya, who was playing with Mia, and said simply, "Speak."

"Hillary did indeed receive help from others to sue you in Switzerland. Moreover, the Joneses' attitude suddenly became domineering after going overseas. They said that they will fight this lawsuit to the end with us!"

Joel's gaze turned even colder. "Whose help did they receive?"

The assistant said a name. "Karl Moore."

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Of course, he knew this person.

Karl Moore was an American Chinese.

Currently, the underground forces in Switzerland were very large, so he was very famous overseas. His name was often heard in the country.

Although the Smiths and Hunts were the top families which controlled the economic lifeline in the country, internationally, their impacts were still a little small.

But Karl Moore was different.

They were mercenaries, and the people in their team were all retired special forces from Switzerland. They privately accepted difficult missions, such as assassinations.

The name of their organization could be translated to "Assassin."

Ever since the organization was established, none of the assassination plans had failed!

They were an assassin alliance exceptionally vigilant in the world!

Therefore, the Swiss people maintained a good relationship with them. Even the major families in the country were wary of this organization.

Karl Moore was the leader of the organization. Whether the organization accepted the assassination mission or not was entirely up to him.

The Joneses had nothing to do with such a person. Why was he suddenly protecting them?

Joel frowned. "Why is he helping them?"

The other party might not even take a liking to the Joneses if they packed all their assets and gave them to Karl Moore. Furthermore, they were going against the Smiths. Karl Moore had always shown the Smiths respect.

The assistant said, "I'm still investigating."

Joel's gaze turned colder. "Yes. Investigate all that you can. If you can't, tell Karl Moore that the Smiths respect him, but we're not afraid of him! There's no room for negotiation regarding the child!"

The assistant took a deep breath. "Yes!"

After hanging up, Joel saw Justin's message and slowly frowned.

He had important news to tell him and Tanya?

He was probably telling him that he wanted to enter the house.

But if he was including Tanya... then something must have happened.

Could it be related to the email Nora had mentioned before she fainted?

He looked at Ian and said, "Uncle Ian, let's allow Mr. Hunt in."

Ian said unhappily, "No."

In the afternoon, when he gave Cherry tips, Justin had been suppressing him and had insisted on competing with him for the first place on the list. This made him even more unhappy.

Does he want to marry his daughter? Ha.

Joel looked at Cherry, and the little fellow immediately ran to Ian. "Grandpa, Grandpa~ Let Daddy in. I miss Daddy~"

Ian: "..."

Could he reject his obedient granddaughter's request?

The answer was no.

Ian's lips twitched as he glared at Joel.

The news of Justin standing outside the door was reported to him by the butler when he came in. Cherry and Pete did not know at all.

During dinner, Cherry even looked at the door curiously and asked, "Why isn't Daddy here yet?"

Ian said coldly, "He's probably busy with work."

Cherry was still a little unhappy. "Okay~"

Ian took the opportunity to brainwash her. "It's most irresponsible of a parent to ignore the child when they're busy. Let's not like him anymore, okay?"

Cherry's eyes widened when she heard this.

Then, she looked at Ian and retorted, "Grandpa, I can't do that."

Ian was curious. "Why?"

Cherry sighed. "Mommy has been busy sleeping since we were young. She's even more irresponsible. At least Daddy spends twice as much time with me every day than Mommy does!"

Ian: "!!"

He had never seen the way Nora interacted with the two children. He did not expect that he would also have to bring his daughter into this.

At that time, he could only change the topic forcefully. "Yes, what I said just now was just a test for you. I didn't expect our Cherry to be so smart. You actually passed Grandpa's test."

Cherry immediately looked up and smiled. Her big black eyes swept past Pete. "Pete, did you see that? Grandpa doesn't like Daddy and wants to badmouth Daddy. I'm the best! He can't even say anything about Daddy!"

Pete: "..."

He sighed silently. He kept wondering ever since Cherry came home, why had the tyrant and this grandfather, who was rumored to be very serious, become so childish?

Ian had been hiding it from Cherry and did not tell her.

Moreover, he did not feel guilty at all. How dare Justin secretly tell her not to like her Sponsor Grandpa?!

However, now that Cherry had heard Joel's words, Ian could not stop her. Otherwise, wouldn't he become a bad grandfather?

Ian could only say to the butler indignantly, "Invite him in."

The butler glanced at Joel and left with a smile.

Joel was already the head of the Smiths now. After all, Ian had been on his deathbed in the past and had not cared about the family's matters at all.

However, Ian's wish was Joel's command.

When everyone saw how respectful Joel was to Ian, they did not dare to disrespect Ian either.

Soon, Justin entered.

Wearing a black suit, he walked in steadily. After entering, he greeted Ian respectfully, "Uncle Ian."

Ian snorted and looked at Joel. "Joel, the guest is here. Treat him well."

He looked like he wanted to ignore him.

Justin rubbed his nose awkwardly and looked at Cherry.

Cherry had already run over excitedly and hugged his leg. “Daddy, why are you just getting here now?! Didn’t you agree to sleep here tonight? I’m still waiting for you to tuck me in!”

When she said this, Justin looked at Ian. When he saw Ian’s eyes flicker, he chuckled softly and said, “Yes, Daddy was busy with work.”

He did not expose Ian’s lie.

This made Ian feel a little better. Then, he saw Justin looking at him mischievously. “As for sleeping with you tonight...”

He drawled, his eyes questioning.

Ian coughed and looked at the butler. “Have you prepared the guest room?”

The butler held in his laughter. “I’ve already prepared it. It’s next to Miss Nora’s room. The room is very big and comfortable.”

Ever since Yvonne was arrested and Nora’s identity as Ian’s daughter was exposed, the people in the family had accepted Nora as the eldest daughter.

Ian waved her hand. “Alright, Joel. Take the guest upstairs to have a look.”

Joel smiled as well. He let Mia play downstairs and took Justin upstairs. Halfway there, he looked at Tanya. “Tanya, you come too.”

Tanya looked up in confusion and subconsciously stood up to follow him upstairs.

Ian couldn’t help but say, “You guys have just reunited. Aren’t you two being too mushy?”

Tanya’s face couldn’t help but turn red.

Joel coughed and smiled. “Uncle Ian, please understand.”

Ian: “...”

Why was this kid's skin so thick?!

When the three of them went upstairs, Justin did not go to the guest room immediately.

Joel pointed to his study. "Chat in the study?"

Justin nodded. When they passed by Nora's room, he suddenly gestured for them to keep quiet and then gently opened the door.

The curtains in the room were drawn, and the light was dim.

The temperature in the room had also been adjusted very well. The woman on the bed was still asleep and did not move at all.

Justin approached her and checked her breathing and pulse. After confirming that Nora was fine, he heaved a sigh of relief.

He covered her with a blanket and went out.

Seeing him tiptoeing as if he was afraid of waking Nora up, Joel and Tanya at the door were speechless.

The corners of Tanya's mouth twitched. "Mr. Hunt, Nora is sleeping so well. Even if the sky collapses, it probably won't wake her up. You don't have to be so... cautious?"

Justin didn't mind. "It's better to be gentle. Otherwise, she'll hear the noise in her sleep."

Tanya: "..."

Alright, he was of noble status. Whatever he says.

The three of them then followed Joel to the study.

In the study.

The housekeeper, Lucy, had already prepared tea. Joel looked at Justin. "Have you eaten dinner?"

Justin looked at him silently.

Brother-in-law, he had come over during lunchtime and had been kept outside the door. Didn't Joel know if he had eaten dinner or not?!

Joel coughed. "Go prepare some food for Mr. Hunt."

Lucy nodded.

After Lucy left, Joel saw Justin drinking tea and couldn't help but ask anxiously, "Tell me quickly. What's the matter?"

Tanya looked at him in confusion.

Justin drank a cup of tea before saying slowly, "Miss Tanya, you had a child overseas, right?"

His words were like a tidal wave. Joel looked at Tanya in disbelief, only to see that Tanya's eyes had also widened in shock.

She clenched her fists tightly.

This was her secret. Why did Justin say it out loud?

When he saw her like this, Joel's mind instantly started racing.

He lowered his eyes and smiled bitterly.

So in the past five years, Tanya had already had a boyfriend overseas?

However, he had no intention of blaming her.

After all, he had a child too, didn't he?

When he forced Tanya to accept Mia, he no longer had the right to criticize her.

Even if he had never let any woman near him in the past five years!

He suddenly felt frustrated.

At this moment, he wanted to know who this man was who had been with Tanya. He wished he could capture him and beat him up.

With this thought in mind, he looked at Tanya.

He suddenly understood how Tanya must have felt when he and Hillary had gotten together back then.

After five years, he was with Tanya again and was still so sad and jealous, let alone her back then.

That was why she had decided to leave and go overseas, right?

Perhaps she had not gone overseas simply to pursue her dream of dancing. She had been hurt by him!

When Joel thought of this, his chest tightened even more.

He had been with her through junior high, high school, and university...

He had originally thought that the two of them would walk from their school uniforms to their wedding gowns, from their black hair to their white hair. He did not expect that they would go off track halfway.

When they returned to the same path, he had Mia, and she had another child.

Their love was no longer as perfect as before.

But he couldn't mind.

He did not even dare to ask Tanya if she had liked that man when she had a change of heart midway, only to like him again now.

He did not dare to ask, afraid that he would be dissatisfied with the answer.

He only knew that they had to be together, no matter what.

With this in mind, he walked towards Tanya.

Tanya was also in a daze. When she saw Joel walking over, her expression turned grave and she felt even more guilty. However, just as she thought Joel would question her, she heard him say, "Who is that man?"

Tanya: "?"

She was stunned and looked at Joel in confusion.

Joel sighed. "If you don't want to say it, then forget it. I'll try my best not to mind."

At this point, he turned his head away and did not look into Tanya's eyes. "Where is your child...? You can bring him over. I'll treat him as my own, just like... how you treat Mia... Even if I can't be sincere, I'll still work hard..."

Tanya: "!!!"

She finally understood what Joel meant and could not help but laugh.

As she smiled, tears welled up in her eyes.

This man, this silly man, actually thought that she had another man?

She thought of the past five years. Although she was alone overseas, she had interacted with many aristocrats because she was a dancer.

She did not lack suitors among those people.

But she had never accepted any of them.

At first, she had told herself, she had lost her child and had no right to start a new life. It was a form of punishment.

But it was only now that she realized that it was not because she did not want to look for a man. It was because, with someone in her heart, she could no longer look at anyone else.

Those aristocrats were all very outstanding, but she was blinded by Joel and could not see anyone else.

She looked at Joel with red eyes.

When Joel saw her like this, his heart ached even more.

How did that man hurt her? Was it so painful to recall?

He grabbed Tanya's arm and said in pain and anger, "Why did you split up? Did he hurt you?"

Tanya shook her head.

“Did he have a change of heart?”

Tanya continued to shake her head.

Joel was anxious. “Did you have a change of heart? What happened? Did he bully you? Tell me who he is and I’ll kill him!”

Tanya still shook her head, but the smile on her face grew wider.

She said, “No, no. There’s no such person.”

Her voice was choked.

Joel was stunned. “There’s no such person? Then your child...”

Tanya’s cries became even louder. She looked at Joel and knew that she could no longer hide the child’s existence.

However, she did not want to make Joel sad with her.

She clenched her fists. “Calm down. Listen to me.”

Joel was extremely anxious, but when he saw Tanya’s tear-stained face, he knew that he could not be anxious. He took a deep breath. “Okay, I’ll calm down. Tell me, what’s going on with that man and the child?”

Tanya looked at him and lowered her head again. She slowly said, “There’s no other man... It’s you. It has always been you!”

Joel froze on the spot.

He looked at Tanya in a daze.

A ridiculous thought suddenly occurred to him. “If it’s me, then that child...”

Tanya looked at him and closed her eyes. Large tears rolled down her face again. “The child is yours.”

It was his...

These three words stunned Joel.

Surprise surged in his heart as he grabbed Tanya. “You gave birth to my child? Our child?”

At this moment, he was as happy as a child.

He asked anxiously, “Where’s the child? Where is he?”

When the two of them were together back then, they had once imagined what would happen if they had a child in the future. As it turned out, they really had a child!

But he did not expect that while he was wild with joy, Tanya would still have her eyes closed. Her tears rolled down her face like broken pearls. She did not speak.

Joel’s ecstasy gradually calmed down. He looked at Tanya and finally sensed something strange.

They were already together. Why didn’t Tanya tell him they had a child?

Also, when he asked if she could be Mia’s mother, why did she resist and not say anything...

He pursed his lips and his heart suddenly sank. “That child...”

“...I lost our child.”

Tanya said those words with difficulty as her tears flowed even more violently. She opened her eyes and sobbed as she shouted, “After I gave birth, I lost the child before I could even see the child clearly. I don’t even know if our child is a girl or a boy!”

“I’m sorry... I didn’t protect our child well! I feel guilty when I’m with you! Why should I be happy? I don’t even know if my child is dead or alive...”

Following her words, Joel suddenly reached out and hugged her.

At this moment, Joel felt his heart ache so much that he could barely breathe.

How painful Tanya must have been all these years!

It was one thing to suffer through the pain of looking for her child every day, but to have to face his and Hillary’s daughter after returning to the country.

Especially when he said that he wanted Tanya to become Mia's mother.

Mia's mother...

Joel suddenly thought of something and looked at Justin.

Justin had said that he had important information to tell Joel and Tanya.

Furthermore, the moment he entered, he pointed out that Tanya had been hiding something from Joel. Then, was that important matter the whereabouts of their child?!

Joel suddenly understood.

Justin sat by the side and watched the two of them confess to each other.

He did not know what had happened. He could only resolve the misunderstanding between Tanya and Joel before speaking the truth.

Seeing that the two of them were almost done talking and that Tanya was crying so badly, Justin touched his nose and hurriedly said, "Don't be in a hurry to cry... I have good news here."

If Nora woke up and found out that he had made her best friend cry for so long, she would definitely beat him up.

Tanya and Joel were still in a sad state. They opened their eyes and looked at him in confusion.

Justin coughed. "It was Nora who felt that something was wrong. She secretly took Tanya's DNA samples to compare with Mia's DNA..."

Joel and Tanya widened their eyes.

At this moment, Joel finally understood Justin's meaning!

Tanya was also surprised and anxious. Why was Nora comparing her and Mia's DNA?!

As she was thinking about this, she heard Justin continue, "You two are mother and daughter."

" ... "

Tanya's mind exploded.

She looked at Justin in disbelief and felt that she recognized every word he said, but when she put them together, why could she suddenly not understand?

Wasn't Mia Hillary's daughter?

How could she be her daughter?

While she was in a daze, Joel narrowed his eyes and said sternly, "No wonder Hillary didn't appear when she was pregnant back then. In the end, she suddenly appeared in front of me with a child."

He looked at Tanya and said, "That night, I was the one who had drunk too much and was schemed against! In the hotel, she insisted that I had sex with her... In my head, the person that night was actually you... But when I woke up, Hillary was by my side instead."

Before he could finish, Tanya suddenly reacted. "Are you talking about October 25, six years ago?"

Joel was stunned and nodded. "Yes."

Tanya bit her lip. "That night, it was me..."

Joel was surprised.

Tanya's expression was a little unnatural when she mentioned that night. "Later on, when you were still asleep in the morning, my mother sent me a message asking me to come home. She said she had something to tell me, so I went back..."

When she returned home, she realized that it was a foreign acceptance letter.

Immediately after, she had taken out a photo of Tanya and Joel sleeping together and handed it to her. She had told her, "I told you long ago that your identity is not suitable for you to be with Mr. Smith! Only the eldest daughter of the Joneses has the right to become Mrs. Smith! Mr. Smith is just playing with you! Since you're my daughter, I'll remind you not to be treated as a plaything!"

At that time, she was stunned when she saw the photo. She called Joel, but she did not expect that Hillary would pick up his phone. "What are you doing? He's still sleeping."

Tanya was furious.

Two hours later, she called Joel, but his attitude was very cold.

She asked, "What am I to you?"

He sneered. "What am I to you? Tanya, we both know that you're not that important to me!"

At that time, Tanya's heart was in ashes as she left the country.

Joel was stunned. He thought about it carefully and knew that he had fallen into a trap. "When I woke up and realized that the person beside me was Hillary, I was shocked. I wanted to look for you and explain everything, but I saw the application form for your overseas study on Hillary's phone."

He was silent for a moment before saying, "Hillary told me that everything you did was to use me to go overseas."

At that time, he was young and impulsive. Just as he was looking at the application, he received a call from Tanya.

However, he had not expected Tanya to question her position in his heart so confidently over a phone call.

He also wanted to ask this question!

Later on, he watched helplessly as Tanya left the country without turning back. He believed Hillary even more and did not look for Tanya over the years.

Now that he thought about it...

It was obvious that he and Tanya had fallen into the other party's trap!!

Joel was momentarily vexed. How could he be so easily deceived? However, he did not expect that Hillary, who was only twenty years old back then, would do such a thing!

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

After a moment, Tanya suddenly pushed him away and ran downstairs.

Joel knew what she was going to do, so he looked at Justin first and said slowly, "I'll remember this favor."

If it weren't for Justin, Tanya would have been afraid that Joel would be sad because of the child and would not have told him. But if Tanya hadn't told him, he probably wouldn't have imagined in his life that Mia was his and Tanya's daughter!

After all, how could he know that Tanya had given birth to a child for him?!

Justin nodded and Joel followed him downstairs.

Sure enough, he could already hear the cries downstairs. He went downstairs and saw Ian watching by the side. "Little brat, did you bully the little girl? Why is she suddenly crying so miserably while hugging Mia?"

Joel looked at the mother and daughter hugging each other.

Tanya was crying so hard that she couldn't speak. Mia, on the other hand, was frightened by her appearance. She looked at her with wide eyes, but she still reached out and patted her back, feeling helpless.

Joel's eyes turned red as well.

He took a step forward and said to Mia, "Mia, this is your mother."

Mia was stunned for a moment before nodding. "I know. Ms. Tanya will be my mother from now on."

When Joel saw the child's ignorance, his heart ached even more.

He reached out and hugged Tanya and Mia. "No, she's the mother who gave birth to you! Your biological mother!"

Mia didn't really understand this, but she still cried. "Mommy, don't cry. Don't cry..."

When she started crying, Tanya stopped crying immediately. She hugged Mia and said with tears in her eyes, "I won't cry. Mia, don't cry. I'm Mommy. Mommy loves you..."

She gently kissed Mia's cheek.

Ian was confused.

That night, Tanya hugged Mia and fell asleep. Joel was guarding the sofa in the room worriedly. He could see Tanya suddenly waking up in the middle of the night and staring at Mia for a while before hugging her tightly and falling asleep again...

It was a fear and unease of again losing what she had regained after so many hardships.

The next day, Joel was woken up by a soft knock on the door.

He walked out gently and heard the butler say, "Sir, Mr. Karl Moore is here!"

Karl Moore?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Even if he had not come himself today, Joel was going to look for him!

Hillary had stolen his child. She had to pay the price!

Joel glanced at the mother and daughter sleeping on the bed. At this moment, the anger in his heart had reached its peak.

Last night, he counted that Tanya had woken up six times. Each time, it took more than half an hour before she could fall asleep again.

Compared to her... Mia had always been by his side, and he had never been neglected.

But what about Tanya?

How painful must her five years of psychological torture have been?!

Joel clenched his fists tightly. He regretted sending Hillary overseas yesterday, causing her to fall into Karl Moore's hands. Otherwise, she would be living a life worse than death right now.

He retracted his gaze and gently went out. After closing the door, he went downstairs.

In the living room downstairs.

Karl Moore was sitting on the sofa in a black suit. There was a tattoo on the back of his hand, and it was obvious that it spread up to his arm.

He was wearing sunglasses and was tall and strong. One could tell with just a look that he was from the mafia.

At this moment, he was sizing up the Smiths' house and said to the person beside him, "No wonder Black Cat insisted on returning to the country. Look, it's still better in the country. The renovations are very exquisite!"

Black Cat was the top mysterious expert in their assassin organization.

Karl Moore had never seen Black Cat before. He had only posted assassination missions on the Internet. Black Cat had very high requirements for assassination missions.

Black Cat would not kill if it was inconvenient.

The troublesome ones were not killed.

Those who did not commit heinous crimes were not killed.

Black Cat would not kill those who did not deserve to die.

Whether the person should die depended on Black Cat's personal judgment.

If it were anyone else, Karl Moore would have tamed such a troublesome killer long ago. But this person was Black Cat, the number one killer in their organization.

Three years ago, a triad organization appeared in Burundi. Wherever they went, not a blade of grass survived. They raped, killed, and plundered. They did not even let women and children off. It could be said that they committed all kinds of crimes!

They had a powerful armed force and occupied the land of kings. The people in that area were suffering.

At that time, the government was at a loss about this powerful armed force. They had tried to attack it a few times but were defeated. In the end, they had no choice but to post a kill order on the assassination network.

The reward for killing the organization's leader was in millions.

It was not much money, but it had attracted many people to go on missions. However, none of them returned.

At that time, Karl Moore had not planned to take on the mission in the Assassin Organization. After all, the mission was too difficult and almost impossible to complete. However, Black Cat in their organization had privately accepted this mission.

Karl Moore felt that Black Cat was dead meat.

In the end! Black Cat entered that organization alone, took the other party's head, and then retreated unscathed! Furthermore, even now, that assassination was a mysterious affair.

That was because no one knew how Black Cat had killed the other party. They only vaguely heard from the other party that Black Cat was American.

As for whether it was a man or a woman, they did not see clearly.

It was also the battle with Black Cat that allowed the assassins to gain a foothold internationally!

From then on, although Karl Moore was an honorary leader, he was extremely respectful to Black Cat. The entire organization followed his orders.

That was... until three months ago, when Black Cat suddenly said that they wanted to return to the country to settle some matters, and told everyone not to disturb them. Then, Black Cat disappeared without a trace.

Karl Moore decided to bring his subordinates back to New York. Firstly, he wanted to see if he could find out who Black Cat was. Secondly, he wanted to tour his hometown again.

Unexpectedly, they bumped into Hillary...

As he was thinking, Joel and Ian walked out at the same time.

When he saw Ian, Joel consciously stood behind him. Karl Moore was also stunned. "You're still alive?"

This familiar tone...

Joel looked at Ian and saw that although Uncle Ian looked thin, his aura was astonishing. He sat steadily in the wheelchair and retorted, "You're not even dead yet. How would I dare to die? How dare you bully us Smiths?"

When he heard this, Karl Moore chuckled. "What are you talking about? What bullying? I'm just stepping up for the Joneses. You guys are too much. Why can't they see their child?"

Ian did not answer. It was obvious that he already knew everything.

He said slowly, "Why are you helping them?"

When Karl Moore heard this, he frowned. "Ah, because I owe Jill a favor."

Jill was Hillary and Tanya's mother.

Because after she married the Joneses, everyone had always called her Madam Jones. Therefore, Joel only realized who this person was after a while.

He frowned and heard Ian laugh. "Love debt?"

Karl Moore coughed. "Damn, I was just playing back then. Who knew that she would take it seriously? Since I broke her innocence and left, I have to help my old lover this time."

Ian's lips twitched. "You're giving face to your old lover, but not to me?"

Karl Moore immediately said, "Over the years, I've given you a lot of face. Over the years, I've never touched the Smiths. Even if someone offered a high price, I never accepted an assassination! Now, give me some face and sit down to discuss this matter!"

He leaned forward and said, "The Joneses aren't a wealthy family. You gave them a way out. So what? If you ask me, let your nephew marry her daughter! What love? Young man, at my age, you'll realize that love is useless!"

Joel: "...That's impossible."

Karl Moore hesitated for a moment. "Then... worst-case scenario—you give her the child. At least she'll have someone to rely on."

Joel explained, "There's something else going on. Listen to me..."

"Slam!" Almost as soon as he said this, Karl Moore slapped the table, revealing a gun. He said aggressively, "What? I don't have time to listen to your chatter. Let me ask you something. Do the Smiths not intend to give face to the Assassin Organization?"

After offending such a person, their safety in the future would be uncertain.

Joel narrowed his eyes. Before they could collide, Ian sneered. "Karl Moore, you're so arrogant. Do you think I can't use my gun because I'm weak now?"

Karl Moore was not afraid at all. "Brother, I'm sorry this time! There's nothing I can do about it. I really owe Jill too much, so she asked me to do this. I don't care what secrets you have, but you have to give me face today!

Unless Black Cat is here, there's no room for negotiation!!"

In the bedroom upstairs.

Perhaps it was because the commotion downstairs was a little loud, but Nora frowned slightly in her sleep.

Black Cat...

Who the hell was shouting her code name non-stop?! It was so annoying! How could she sleep!

Nora flipped over in annoyance. She buried her head in the pillow angrily and covered her ears.

Cherry and Pete, who were sitting on the sofa in the room, instantly fell silent.

The characters in Cherry's game didn't dare to move anymore, as if they were afraid of disturbing her.

In fact, Pete did not even dare to write the Mathematical Olympiad questions as he was afraid that the sound of the pen rubbing against the paper would disturb his mother.

When Justin, who was sitting beside the two children, saw this scene, he lowered his eyes and suddenly stood up.

When he stood up, Cherry and Pete looked at him simultaneously and immediately made a “shh” gesture. It was as if even Justin’s action of standing up would disturb Nora.

Justin did not think that the two children’s performance was too exaggerated. Instead, he lightened his footsteps and slowly walked to the door. He bent down and opened the door before closing it again.

They did not know how he did it, but he did not make a sound at all.

After he left, the noise outside became even louder.

Karl Moore’s voice was very loud, and the people standing behind him were all very powerful. They all stared at him.

Ian and Joel’s expressions stiffened.

Ian said slowly, “Are you sure you want to fall out?”

Karl Moore snorted. “You’re the ones who didn’t give me face!”

Joel’s voice became even colder. “I can give you face in other matters, but not in this matter!”

Tanya and Mia had just reunited. How could he give Mia to Hillary?!

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Joel had been rendered speechless at that time.

The one who had been beaten up was his younger brother, too!! He also had a whole load of pent-up anger that he had nowhere to vent!!

However, he had still given the chance to vent to Nora.

He'd thought that Tanya would praise him after he explained what had happened, but unexpectedly, Tanya instead said, "Mr. Hunt did the right thing! Nora is not in good health. If she doesn't vent her anger, it will definitely affect her health. Why are you fighting with her for it when you're so strong and muscular?"

Joel: "??"

Suddenly, he felt like his status in the family in the future was now clear at a glance.

Tanya then asked, "Is Quentin really unable to stand anymore?"

Joel's expression darkened at the question. "That's what Lily said. I have contacted all the orthopedic specialists in the country, as well as the Hunts' medical experts last night, but all of them said they couldn't do anything about it after they came and saw Quentin's condition."

Tanya didn't quite agree, though. "In my opinion, that may not necessarily be the case."

Joel was surprised.

Tanya then said, "Ask Nora about it after she wakes up! Only she can give you the most accurate answer."

Joel was puzzled. "Why do you say that?"

Tanya kept quiet for a while before she finally replied, "There was once someone broke my leg when I was abroad. All the doctors said that the bones were shattered, so I won't be able to ever dance again. It was Nora who cured me."

Joel was taken aback by her calm voice.

Joel had always known that Tanya's life abroad during the past five years wasn't a peaceful one. However, he never knew that someone had even broken her leg.

He suddenly thought of how deeply in despair Tanya, who loved dancing so much, must have been when she was told that she could not dance anymore.

But what had he been doing at that time?

He had probably been busy changing his daughter's diapers at home!

It was Nora who had stayed by Tanya's side, cured her, and gave her hope at that time!

When Joel thought of that, he suddenly felt that he still wasn't treating Nora well enough. He should be treating her even better!

In the midst of his thoughts, Tanya asked, "By the way, what email were you talking about just now?"

Joel smiled and replied, "I don't know. Before she fell asleep, she looked at me and said something about her email inbox. She didn't say what was in it, though."

Tanya instantly curled her lips disdainfully. "Tsk, to think she can't even relay information properly! Besides, how would we know what her email account password is?! Sigh!"

The two of them arrived at the Smiths' while they were talking.

The car had only just passed through the gates when they noticed a small van parking at the front. A few nurses and medical personnel got out of the van, and carefully helped Ian down.

Ian was too weak. He had only just returned from the jaws of death, so he couldn't even walk. After getting out of the van, the medical personnel helped him onto a wheelchair.

Joel got a huge shock and exchanged a look with Tanya. He hurriedly stopped the car, walked over, and called out, "Uncle Ian! Why are you back?"

Ian then noticed him. He sounded a little weak, but he pressed on and said, "How can you keep it from me when something so serious has happened?! I can't rest peacefully in the hospital when Nora is still unconscious, so I decided to come back and have a look at her!"

Joel glared at the people next to Ian.

Ian immediately said, "Don't look at them. I sensed something amiss because Quentin didn't visit me for so long, so I forced them to talk."

Ever since he knew that Nora was his daughter, he had specially instructed Quentin to follow Nora every day, and also give him a report of everyone else who was following her.

When Quentin simply didn't show up the day before, he had immediately sensed something. The people around him weren't the wily old fox's match at all, so he had easily sounded them out!

Upon knowing that Quentin had been hospitalized, he hastily went to visit Quentin.

Quentin hadn't woken up yet. Given the severity of his injuries, he wouldn't be waking up for quite a while, either.

After visiting Quentin, he became worried that the news about how Nora was sleeping was just their way of trying to comfort him. Thus, he had forcefully requested to come home. He would only be able to rest assured once he saw Nora with his own eyes.

Ian had always been a stubborn man. Joel knew that no one around him could talk him out of something he wanted to do.

It was just like how no one could do anything about him when he was determined to die.

Once he made up his mind, the decisions and beliefs often lasted a lifetime.

For example, Yvette.

Joel didn't say anything else. At this point, Tanya came over with Mia in her arms. When Ian glanced over and saw that it was Tanya, he made a sound of surprise and asked, "That girl has returned to the States?"

Tanya had often visited the Smiths when she was dating Joel back then, so it was very normal that Ian would know her.

Tanya greeted him respectfully. "Hi, Uncle Ian."

Ian nodded at her. Then, he looked at Joel and said, "Although you and I are not father and son, we have very similar personalities. This kid here has stayed single all these years because he was waiting for you." Ian then looked at Tanya and added, "Cherish him, girl!"

After he said that, seemingly because he had thought of himself, a contemplative look formed in his eyes.

Tanya looked at Joel, who had blushed a little.

To outsiders, he was the head of the Smiths whom everyone feared. But in the eyes of Ian, he would always be a junior. He even called him a 'kid'...

Joel touched his nose.

Tanya, who had sensed how embarrassed he was, smiled and nodded. "Okay."

With Joel pushing the wheelchair and Tanya carrying Mia in her arms, the four of them walked toward the living room.

Ian, however, suddenly became nervous. "Nora's little girl is also at home, right? This is the first time we're meeting. Should I give her a gift or something?"

The thought had only just formed when a familiar young and tender voice traveled over from the living room.

"Jumbo, does your name actually start with a 'D' instead? Do you really know how to play?"

"What? Stop calling you names? It's because I keep dissing people that Sponsor Grandpa has stopped coming to my live-streams?"

When Nora fell unconscious, Cherry lost her sense of security.

She didn't want to stay with her father at the Hunts' anymore and insisted on staying by Nora's side no matter what. She wheedled and acted cute, and even kicked up a fuss and rolled about on the floor in the Smiths' manor in the end. She simply refused to go with Justin.

Pete didn't say anything, either. He merely looked at him in silence, his intentions obvious:

'I am not leaving until Mommy wakes up!'

In the end, Justin had no choice but to ask Joel for permission to stay in a guest room at the Smiths' temporarily, so that he could work there and watch over the two children.

Joel's lip corners had spasmed when he received the call from the butler.

Justin was simply too devious.

Joel simply didn't believe it. Why wouldn't Justin be able to make a child do as he says? Besides, even if he really couldn't, why couldn't he just tell the Hunts that the little mister had come to the Smiths' to play?

Moreover!

As the head of the Hunts, Justin didn't need to report his whereabouts to anyone at all!

He remembered that Pete and Justin had once lived in a villa elsewhere before.

Why would the butler dare to refuse Justin, though? Thus, by the time Joel heard about it, Justin had already moved in.

He was pretty much just using the children for his own gains! How utterly shameless!

They weren't even married yet! It wasn't appropriate for them to be living together!

He had also come back with the intention to drive Justin out.

However, Cherry was currently seated on the sofa with her legs crossed, her mockery mode at full force.

Behind her were the two butlers in charge of external and internal affairs. They were standing there and looking at her.

"Ms. Cherry, you're so good at the game!"

"The way you diss people is such a work of art!"

"Huh? To think you can insult someone like that! Jumbo with a 'D'... that's Dumbo! Hahaha!"

The two of them had clearly become fans of Cherry.

Justin was seated on the sofa at the side, seemingly dealing with some documents. That leisurely appearance of his was practically as if he was in his own home!

The corners of Joel's lips spasmed.

He then looked at Pete. He was working seriously on his Mathematical Olympiad problems at the side, seeming completely unaffected by Cherry.

Cherry was reading the comments in her live-stream. Her brows knitted together and she said, "Daddy, all of them are saying that Sponsor Grandpa hasn't come to my live-stream for so long because I was dissing people, so he doesn't like me anymore. Sob, is that true?"

Justin was actually feeling very nervous.

Because he had just received news that Ian had come home.

His attitude toward the old man was merely respectful in the past. However, things were completely different now. Ian was Nora's father!

As a son-in-law, he mustn't embarrass himself in front of him.

He was racking his brains for a way to make Ian happy when he heard Cherry. As a slave to his daughter, he replied without any hesitation, "How can that be? You are so cute when you diss people!"

Cherry breathed a sigh of relief. However, she still said aggrievedly, "Then why isn't Sponsor Grandpa talking to me anymore? We haven't contacted each other on Messenger for so long. I asked Mommy to look for him, but she couldn't find him... Daddy, are you really not a hacker?"

Justin coughed.

He was Y. Of course he was a hacker.

But he didn't want to look for him.

Sponsor Grandpa? What the heck? How dare he fight with him for his daughter's love? Additionally, during the period Sponsor Grandpa was away, he had finally reached number one on the virtual gifts ranking!

Justin said, "I'm really not one. Daddy is a good, law-abiding citizen. Daddy's company also acts in accordance with the law."

Cherry sighed and lowered her head.

Next to them, Pete looked up and heaved a silent sigh. His father was simply too shameless!

He was lying to even his five-year-old younger sister!

Justin then said, "Why are you so insistent on looking for Sponsor Grandpa? The way I see it, his affection for you was only temporary. Otherwise, why would he suddenly disappear without a word? That's very rude behavior."

He secretly badmouthed Sponsor Grandpa and said, "Let's ignore him in the future, Cherry!"

Cherry asked, "... But what if Sponsor Grandpa was sick?"

"That's impossible. Considering how rich he is, it's impossible that he would suddenly disappear, no matter what kind of illness it is."

"Yeah, you're right, Daddy. I won't talk to Sponsor Grandpa ever again!"

At the door, Ian, who had immediately recognized that Cherry was sweetcherry, was bewildered.

When he'd first recognized Cherry, he had felt joy and anxiety from meeting an online friend for the first time. However, there was only anger left in him now.

What was Justin teaching the kids?

Ian entered the living room with mighty momentum.

Justin hurriedly stood up when he heard the sounds coming from the door. At the sight of him, he took a step forward earnestly and greeted him. "Hello, Uncle Ian," he said.

Ian stared at him with disdain all over his good-looking face. "I think you should call me Mr. Smith instead."

Justin: "?"

He was calling him Uncle Ian because he was Nora's fiancé!

He was stunned for a moment. Then, he said, "You must be joking, Uncle Ian. Nora will beat me up if she hears me addressing you as Mr. Smith."

Ian snorted. "Mr. Hunt, I, Ian Smith, have never been one to joke around. What kind of relationship do you share with Nora for you to be calling me Uncle Ian?"

"... We are engaged," said Justin.

"Engaged?"

Ian was very surprised. "How come I'm not aware that my daughter is engaged? When did the two of you hold the engagement ceremony?"

Justin: "???"

He had publicly announced that Nora was his fiancée at the Hunts' party the other time, so their relationship was already confirmed.

Why was Ian refusing to acknowledge it?

However, he soon felt that he had figured it out. "You are right, Uncle Ian. I will get it done."

Ian didn't look at him anymore. Instead, he looked at Cherry sitting on the sofa.

Cherry was also staring at him with her big dark eyes.

At the sight, Joel pushed Ian's wheelchair toward Cherry and said, "Uncle Ian, this is Nora's daughter. Her nickname is Cherry."

Ian's eyes reddened at once. His voice was even trembling a little as he called out, "Cherry?"

Cherry blinked. Then, she called out sweetly, "Grandpa~"

Ian instantly felt like his heart had been coated in honey.

In the past, when Cherry called him Sponsor Grandpa on Messenger, he had merely found her a sweet child. It was only now that he realized that the sweetness reached all the way into his heart.

He nodded. "Hello!"

As soon as he said that, Chester, who was also logged into the game, said, "Boss, look at your live-stream! They are all mocking you!"

Cherry immediately lowered her head when she heard him. She saw in the comments in the live-stream that everyone was laughing at her and saying that Sponsor Grandpa had abandoned her.

"..."

Everyone in the comments was laughing at her.

"Your wealthy grandfather must have found another dog. He doesn't love you anymore!"

"Hahaha, I'm suddenly very happy to see the host down."

"Sponsor Grandpa must be tired of you, right? All the big bosses are like this."

...

Cherry wilted. She pouted and stopped talking.

When Ian saw her like this, his heart ached badly. He quickly took out his phone and secretly charged it. Then, while the others were not paying attention, he quickly went to Cherry's live-stream and sent her gifts.

The overwhelming gifts suddenly covered the entire screen.

When Cherry saw that the person giving the gift was her Sponsor Grandpa, her eyes lit up.

She shouted happily, "My Sponsor Grandpa is here!"

Ian had surpassed second place and become first. He was satisfied.

However, just as he put down his phone, Justin, who was standing behind him, suddenly took out his phone and tipped a hundred gifts. The rankings instantly changed again.

Ian: "..."

Justin said, "Cherry, you can't let an outsider control your emotions. Whatever others have, Daddy will give it to you."

Cherry immediately looked up at him. "Thank you, Daddy!"

"..."

After Justin tipped the gifts, he put down his phone. For some reason, he suddenly felt that the atmosphere in the living room seemed a little off.

How much colder was it?

He composed himself and looked over. He realized that Ian was emitting coldness and looking at him gloomily.

Justin: "?"

He hesitated for a moment and asked, "Uncle Ian, what's wrong?"

Ian sneered. "Mr. Hunt, are you very free today?"

Justin: "...So-so, I guess."

Ian said, "Butler, Mr. Hunt still has to handle the company's matters. How can we keep him here at home for such a small matter? Quickly take him to work!"

Justin: !!

Confused, he looked at Joel pleadingly. However, not only did his brother-in-law not help, he even turned his head to look elsewhere. His eyes, which were usually smiling, were now gloating?

Joel really felt good.

He and Justin governed New York's economic lifeline. The two of them often interacted with each other and were both powerful people.

When had he ever seen him so aggrieved?

It felt... good.

When Justin saw that he was silent, and since Ian was the head of this family, he had to listen.

After confirming that there was nothing wrong with Nora's body, he simply said, "Alright, I'll come and see Nora again tonight."

Ian snorted. "Nora is fine. You don't have to visit her so often. When she wakes up, she will contact you!"

Justin: "..."

He grimaced and looked at Pete. "Then I'll come and see Pete tonight."

Pete?

Ian was stunned when he heard this. He turned to look at Pete, who had been sitting quietly the entire time. When he saw his face, he was stunned.

Why did Pete look exactly like Cherry?

While he was in a daze, Justin smiled brightly. "Uncle Ian, I forgot to tell you that Pete and Cherry are my and Nora's children."

He paused and added, "They're twins."

Ian: "..."

Justin, who finally had the upper hand, walked out when he saw his stunned look. "Uncle Ian, I'll take my leave then."

He should give his father-in-law more time to accept it!

After Justin left, Ian looked at Joel. "So these two kids have been together for a long time?"

He was talking about Nora and Justin.

Joel nodded. "The children are already five years old."

Ian paused. "He's better than you!"

Joel: "..."

He glanced at Mia silently. He was about to say that his child was five years old too, but when he saw Tanya standing beside him, he didn't say anything.

His child was not hers.

This might become his lifelong regret.

Ian went upstairs to look at Nora. After confirming that she was really asleep, he then went downstairs in relief.

Joel let him rest. He glanced at Cherry and nodded. After entering the bedroom, Ian let everyone out and secretly opened Cherry's live-stream.

Cherry had said earlier that she did not want to talk to her Sponsor Grandpa anymore, so he chose not to acknowledge her first. They could reunite after maintaining a peaceful relationship on the Internet!

Time passed very quickly. Soon, it was nighttime. Suddenly, two little cuties appeared at home, and the entire family became lively.

Joel realized that even Ian had a smile on his face.

Such happy times were always easily disturbed.

After dinner, the sky darkened.

He was about to call his assistant to ask if Hillary had gone overseas when his assistant's call arrived first. "Mr. Smith, something has happened."

Joel was stunned. "What?"

The assistant said, "After going overseas, Hillary sued you in Switzerland!"

Sued him?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

The assistant coughed. "She has filed a request for the custody of the child!"

Joel's voice instantly turned cold. "How dare she? Where are the Joneses?"

The assistant said, "Mr. Jones contacted her and asked her to withdraw the lawsuit, but she refused to listen. She insisted that the child is hers and only hers. Even if she can't be with you, she will still sue you for the child's custody!"

With that, the assistant coughed. "If this was in the country, we would definitely have been able to resolve it easily. But now, she's suing from overseas. It's not convenient for us to make a move there."

Of course, Joel understood this, but the problem was...

He narrowed his eyes and asked, "If she's not from Switzerland, how did she manage to press charges there? Why would the courts in Switzerland take on such a case?"

The assistant said, "We're still investigating that, but the court seems to be taking this case very seriously. They're already preparing to send you a subpoena!"

Joel vaguely felt that something was wrong. "Investigate properly!"

"Understood."

After hanging up, Joel looked at Mia.

The case was actually not complicated. If he didn't go overseas, there was nothing they could do about it. But Mia couldn't possibly stay in the country forever, right?

It had only been a day. Where did Hillary find the guts to sue him?!

Outside.

Justin looked at the brightly lit Smith villa and was especially envious.

He really wanted to go in, but after getting the butler to inform him, his father-in-law refused to let him in. He even said that it was getting too late and he would not keep him as a guest.

Justin did not want to be ostracized.

Ian was not someone he could handle unless his future brother-in-law helped.

But to get his future brother-in-law to help him? He had to give him something powerful...

Something powerful...

Justin suddenly thought of the DNA test between Tanya and Mia...

His lips curled up slightly. He had it!

In the limousine.

As Lawrence drove, he looked at his boss in the rearview mirror and vaguely felt that he was a little pitiful.

When had the famous Justin ever been rejected?

He sighed silently.

Ever since he got together with Miss Smith, Mr. Hunt had shown him his most patient side.

At this moment, Mr. Hunt was not in a hurry. He was still playing with his phone.

Lawrence almost couldn't help it and drove away!

It was so embarrassing to wait outside the door!

How could he know that Justin was hacking into Nora's email?

His slender fingers pressed on his phone with agility. He was about to enter Nora's email when he was suddenly blocked. The screen almost turned black.

Tsk.

Justin stared at the arrogant red words "get lost" and couldn't help but laugh.

Very good. It was her style.

However, the encryption measures in her inbox were really impressive. Perhaps only Q could do it.

He could not guess how she knew Q. How could she get Q to encrypt one of her mailboxes?

Justin smiled and decided to give up on attacking her email.

Otherwise, she would probably be angry when she woke up and realized that her email had been hacked.

He picked up his phone and called Lily.

The call was picked up quickly. Lily's formulaic voice came through. "Hello, this is Lily. May I know who you are?"

"Justin."

Lily was startled. "Boss's husband?"

Justin: "???"

Lily coughed and corrected him. "No, it's Mr. Hunt. It's so late, why are you calling?"

Justin raised his eyebrows.

Boss's husband? Was this his nickname now?

It actually made him a little happy.

Joy flashed across his deep eyes. He felt that Nora's assistant was very perceptive. He said slowly, "Nora asked you to produce a DNA report two days ago. What was the result?"

Lily subconsciously said, "I'll only report to Boss."

Justin: "?"

Just as he frowned, he heard Lily's tone change. "But your identity is special, so I can tell you. I'll only tell you~"

Justin smiled. "... Go ahead."

"The DNA results show that the two test subjects are confirmed to be mother and daughter."

Justin raised his eyebrows.

He didn't expect Nora to be right.

He lowered his eyes and said slowly, "Thank you."

"You're welcome, Mr. Hunt. Just let me know if you need anything."

After hanging up, Justin thought for a moment and called Sean again. "Five years ago, how was the investigation going on overseas?"

Back then, Nora had investigated her DNA and when he found out about her suspicions, he had said that he could help her investigate Hillary from five years ago.

Even if the DNA showed that Tanya and Mia were mother and daughter, they still had to provide enough evidence to prove that Hillary had stolen the child.

Justin handed the matter to Sean.

After all, it was five years ago. Furthermore, it was in Switzerland, so it was not as fast as investigating in the country.

Sean replied, "Give me another 12 hours and I'll have the answers."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Justin played with his phone.

He could not wait 12 hours to tell Joel such important news. Otherwise, how could he use it as a tactic?

Moreover, judging him by his own standards, it was as if he did not know that he had a daughter back then. He would definitely want to hear this news as soon as possible.

Therefore, he sent Joel a message: "Brother-in-law, let me in. I have an important message for you and Miss Tanya."

"Mr. Smith, we found some clues!"

Joel was on the phone at this moment. The assistant opposite him was in Switzerland, so the investigation was a little slow.

His eyes were cold, and his usual smile was gone. He glanced at Tanya, who was playing with Mia, and said simply, "Speak."

"Hillary did indeed receive help from others to sue you in Switzerland. Moreover, the Joneses' attitude suddenly became domineering after going overseas. They said that they will fight this lawsuit to the end with us!"

Joel's gaze turned even colder. "Whose help did they receive?"

The assistant said a name. "Karl Moore."

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Of course, he knew this person.

Karl Moore was an American Chinese.

Currently, the underground forces in Switzerland were very large, so he was very famous overseas. His name was often heard in the country.

Although the Smiths and Hunts were the top families which controlled the economic lifeline in the country, internationally, their impacts were still a little small.

But Karl Moore was different.

They were mercenaries, and the people in their team were all retired special forces from Switzerland. They privately accepted difficult missions, such as assassinations.

The name of their organization could be translated to "Assassin."

Ever since the organization was established, none of the assassination plans had failed!

They were an assassin alliance exceptionally vigilant in the world!

Therefore, the Swiss people maintained a good relationship with them. Even the major families in the country were wary of this organization.

Karl Moore was the leader of the organization. Whether the organization accepted the assassination mission or not was entirely up to him.

The Joneses had nothing to do with such a person. Why was he suddenly protecting them?

Joel frowned. "Why is he helping them?"

The other party might not even take a liking to the Joneses if they packed all their assets and gave them to Karl Moore. Furthermore, they were going against the Smiths. Karl Moore had always shown the Smiths respect.

The assistant said, "I'm still investigating."

Joel's gaze turned colder. "Yes. Investigate all that you can. If you can't, tell Karl Moore that the Smiths respect him, but we're not afraid of him! There's no room for negotiation regarding the child!"

The assistant took a deep breath. "Yes!"

After hanging up, Joel saw Justin's message and slowly frowned.

He had important news to tell him and Tanya?

He was probably telling him that he wanted to enter the house.

But if he was including Tanya... then something must have happened.

Could it be related to the email Nora had mentioned before she fainted?

He looked at Ian and said, "Uncle Ian, let's allow Mr. Hunt in."

Ian said unhappily, "No."

In the afternoon, when he gave Cherry tips, Justin had been suppressing him and had insisted on competing with him for the first place on the list. This made him even more unhappy.

Does he want to marry his daughter? Ha.

Joel looked at Cherry, and the little fellow immediately ran to Ian. "Grandpa, Grandpa~ Let Daddy in. I miss Daddy~"

Ian: "..."

Could he reject his obedient granddaughter's request?

The answer was no.

Ian's lips twitched as he glared at Joel.

The news of Justin standing outside the door was reported to him by the butler when he came in. Cherry and Pete did not know at all.

During dinner, Cherry even looked at the door curiously and asked, "Why isn't Daddy here yet?"

Ian said coldly, "He's probably busy with work."

Cherry was still a little unhappy. "Okay~"

Ian took the opportunity to brainwash her. "It's most irresponsible of a parent to ignore the child when they're busy. Let's not like him anymore, okay?"

Cherry's eyes widened when she heard this.

Then, she looked at Ian and retorted, "Grandpa, I can't do that."

Ian was curious. "Why?"

Cherry sighed. "Mommy has been busy sleeping since we were young. She's even more irresponsible. At least Daddy spends twice as much time with me every day than Mommy does!"

Ian: "!!"

He had never seen the way Nora interacted with the two children. He did not expect that he would also have to bring his daughter into this.

At that time, he could only change the topic forcefully. "Yes, what I said just now was just a test for you. I didn't expect our Cherry to be so smart. You actually passed Grandpa's test."

Cherry immediately looked up and smiled. Her big black eyes swept past Pete. "Pete, did you see that? Grandpa doesn't like Daddy and wants to badmouth Daddy. I'm the best! He can't even say anything about Daddy!"

Pete: "..."

He sighed silently. He kept wondering ever since Cherry came home, why had the tyrant and this grandfather, who was rumored to be very serious, become so childish?

Ian had been hiding it from Cherry and did not tell her.

Moreover, he did not feel guilty at all. How dare Justin secretly tell her not to like her Sponsor Grandpa?!

However, now that Cherry had heard Joel's words, Ian could not stop her. Otherwise, wouldn't he become a bad grandfather?

Ian could only say to the butler indignantly, "Invite him in."

The butler glanced at Joel and left with a smile.

Joel was already the head of the Smiths now. After all, Ian had been on his deathbed in the past and had not cared about the family's matters at all.

However, Ian's wish was Joel's command.

When everyone saw how respectful Joel was to Ian, they did not dare to disrespect Ian either.

Soon, Justin entered.

Wearing a black suit, he walked in steadily. After entering, he greeted Ian respectfully, "Uncle Ian."

Ian snorted and looked at Joel. "Joel, the guest is here. Treat him well."

He looked like he wanted to ignore him.

Justin rubbed his nose awkwardly and looked at Cherry.

Cherry had already run over excitedly and hugged his leg. "Daddy, why are you just getting here now?! Didn't you agree to sleep here tonight? I'm still waiting for you to tuck me in!"

When she said this, Justin looked at Ian. When he saw Ian's eyes flicker, he chuckled softly and said, "Yes, Daddy was busy with work."

He did not expose Ian's lie.

This made Ian feel a little better. Then, he saw Justin looking at him mischievously. “As for sleeping with you tonight...”

He drawled, his eyes questioning.

Ian coughed and looked at the butler. “Have you prepared the guest room?”

The butler held in his laughter. “I’ve already prepared it. It’s next to Miss Nora’s room. The room is very big and comfortable.”

Ever since Yvonne was arrested and Nora’s identity as Ian’s daughter was exposed, the people in the family had accepted Nora as the eldest daughter.

Ian waved her hand. “Alright, Joel. Take the guest upstairs to have a look.”

Joel smiled as well. He let Mia play downstairs and took Justin upstairs. Halfway there, he looked at Tanya. “Tanya, you come too.”

Tanya looked up in confusion and subconsciously stood up to follow him upstairs.

Ian couldn’t help but say, “You guys have just reunited. Aren’t you two being too mushy?”

Tanya’s face couldn’t help but turn red.

Joel coughed and smiled. “Uncle Ian, please understand.”

Ian: “...”

Why was this kid’s skin so thick?!

When the three of them went upstairs, Justin did not go to the guest room immediately.

Joel pointed to his study. “Chat in the study?”

Justin nodded. When they passed by Nora’s room, he suddenly gestured for them to keep quiet and then gently opened the door.

The curtains in the room were drawn, and the light was dim.

The temperature in the room had also been adjusted very well. The woman on the bed was still asleep and did not move at all.

Justin approached her and checked her breathing and pulse. After confirming that Nora was fine, he heaved a sigh of relief.

He covered her with a blanket and went out.

Seeing him tiptoeing as if he was afraid of waking Nora up, Joel and Tanya at the door were speechless.

The corners of Tanya's mouth twitched. "Mr. Hunt, Nora is sleeping so well. Even if the sky collapses, it probably won't wake her up. You don't have to be so... cautious?"

Justin didn't mind. "It's better to be gentle. Otherwise, she'll hear the noise in her sleep."

Tanya: "..."

Alright, he was of noble status. Whatever he says.

The three of them then followed Joel to the study.

In the study.

The housekeeper, Lucy, had already prepared tea. Joel looked at Justin. "Have you eaten dinner?"

Justin looked at him silently.

Brother-in-law, he had come over during lunchtime and had been kept outside the door. Didn't Joel know if he had eaten dinner or not?!

Joel coughed. "Go prepare some food for Mr. Hunt."

Lucy nodded.

After Lucy left, Joel saw Justin drinking tea and couldn't help but ask anxiously, "Tell me quickly. What's the matter?"

Tanya looked at him in confusion.

Justin drank a cup of tea before saying slowly, "Miss Tanya, you had a child overseas, right?"

His words were like a tidal wave. Joel looked at Tanya in disbelief, only to see that Tanya's eyes had also widened in shock.

She clenched her fists tightly.

This was her secret. Why did Justin say it out loud?

When he saw her like this, Joel's mind instantly started racing.

He lowered his eyes and smiled bitterly.

So in the past five years, Tanya had already had a boyfriend overseas?

However, he had no intention of blaming her.

After all, he had a child too, didn't he?

When he forced Tanya to accept Mia, he no longer had the right to criticize her.

Even if he had never let any woman near him in the past five years!

He suddenly felt frustrated.

At this moment, he wanted to know who this man was who had been with Tanya. He wished he could capture him and beat him up.

With this thought in mind, he looked at Tanya.

He suddenly understood how Tanya must have felt when he and Hillary had gotten together back then.

After five years, he was with Tanya again and was still so sad and jealous, let alone her back then.

That was why she had decided to leave and go overseas, right?

Perhaps she had not gone overseas simply to pursue her dream of dancing. She had been hurt by him!

When Joel thought of this, his chest tightened even more.

He had been with her through junior high, high school, and university...

He had originally thought that the two of them would walk from their school uniforms to their wedding gowns, from their black hair to their white hair. He did not expect that they would go off track halfway.

When they returned to the same path, he had Mia, and she had another child.

Their love was no longer as perfect as before.

But he couldn't mind.

He did not even dare to ask Tanya if she had liked that man when she had a change of heart midway, only to like him again now.

He did not dare to ask, afraid that he would be dissatisfied with the answer.

He only knew that they had to be together, no matter what.

With this in mind, he walked towards Tanya.

Tanya was also in a daze. When she saw Joel walking over, her expression turned grave and she felt even more guilty. However, just as she thought Joel would question her, she heard him say, "Who is that man?"

Tanya: "?"

She was stunned and looked at Joel in confusion.

Joel sighed. "If you don't want to say it, then forget it. I'll try my best not to mind."

At this point, he turned his head away and did not look into Tanya's eyes. "Where is your child...? You can bring him over. I'll treat him as my own, just like... how you treat Mia... Even if I can't be sincere, I'll still work hard..."

Tanya: "!!!"

She finally understood what Joel meant and could not help but laugh.

As she smiled, tears welled up in her eyes.

This man, this silly man, actually thought that she had another man?

She thought of the past five years. Although she was alone overseas, she had interacted with many aristocrats because she was a dancer.

She did not lack suitors among those people.

But she had never accepted any of them.

At first, she had told herself, she had lost her child and had no right to start a new life. It was a form of punishment.

But it was only now that she realized that it was not because she did not want to look for a man. It was because, with someone in her heart, she could no longer look at anyone else.

Those aristocrats were all very outstanding, but she was blinded by Joel and could not see anyone else.

She looked at Joel with red eyes.

When Joel saw her like this, his heart ached even more.

How did that man hurt her? Was it so painful to recall?

He grabbed Tanya's arm and said in pain and anger, "Why did you split up? Did he hurt you?"

Tanya shook her head.

"Did he have a change of heart?"

Tanya continued to shake her head.

Joel was anxious. "Did you have a change of heart? What happened? Did he bully you? Tell me who he is and I'll kill him!"

Tanya still shook her head, but the smile on her face grew wider.

She said, "No, no. There's no such person."

Her voice was choked.

Joel was stunned. "There's no such person? Then your child..."

Tanya's cries became even louder. She looked at Joel and knew that she could no longer hide the child's existence.

However, she did not want to make Joel sad with her.

She clenched her fists. "Calm down. Listen to me."

Joel was extremely anxious, but when he saw Tanya's tear-stained face, he knew that he could not be anxious. He took a deep breath. "Okay, I'll calm down. Tell me, what's going on with that man and the child?"

Tanya looked at him and lowered her head again. She slowly said, "There's no other man... It's you. It has always been you!"

Joel froze on the spot.

He looked at Tanya in a daze.

A ridiculous thought suddenly occurred to him. "If it's me, then that child..."

Tanya looked at him and closed her eyes. Large tears rolled down her face again. "The child is yours."

It was his...

These three words stunned Joel.

Surprise surged in his heart as he grabbed Tanya. "You gave birth to my child? Our child?"

At this moment, he was as happy as a child.

He asked anxiously, "Where's the child? Where is he?"

When the two of them were together back then, they had once imagined what would happen if they had a child in the future. As it turned out, they really had a child!

But he did not expect that while he was wild with joy, Tanya would still have her eyes closed. Her tears rolled down her face like broken pearls. She did not speak.

Joel's ecstasy gradually calmed down. He looked at Tanya and finally sensed something strange.

They were already together. Why didn't Tanya tell him they had a child?

Also, when he asked if she could be Mia's mother, why did she resist and not say anything...

He pursed his lips and his heart suddenly sank. "That child..."

"...I lost our child."

Tanya said those words with difficulty as her tears flowed even more violently. She opened her eyes and sobbed as she shouted, "After I gave birth, I lost the child before I could even see the child clearly. I don't even know if our child is a girl or a boy!"

"I'm sorry... I didn't protect our child well! I feel guilty when I'm with you! Why should I be happy? I don't even know if my child is dead or alive..."

Following her words, Joel suddenly reached out and hugged her.

At this moment, Joel felt his heart ache so much that he could barely breathe.

How painful Tanya must have been all these years!

It was one thing to suffer through the pain of looking for her child every day, but to have to face his and Hillary's daughter after returning to the country.

Especially when he said that he wanted Tanya to become Mia's mother.

Mia's mother...

Joel suddenly thought of something and looked at Justin.

Justin had said that he had important information to tell Joel and Tanya.

Furthermore, the moment he entered, he pointed out that Tanya had been hiding something from Joel. Then, was that important matter the whereabouts of their child?!

Joel suddenly understood.

Justin sat by the side and watched the two of them confess to each other.

He did not know what had happened. He could only resolve the misunderstanding between Tanya and Joel before speaking the truth.

Seeing that the two of them were almost done talking and that Tanya was crying so badly, Justin touched his nose and hurriedly said, "Don't be in a hurry to cry... I have good news here."

If Nora woke up and found out that he had made her best friend cry for so long, she would definitely beat him up.

Tanya and Joel were still in a sad state. They opened their eyes and looked at him in confusion.

Justin coughed. "It was Nora who felt that something was wrong. She secretly took Tanya's DNA samples to compare with Mia's DNA..."

Joel and Tanya widened their eyes.

At this moment, Joel finally understood Justin's meaning!

Tanya was also surprised and anxious. Why was Nora comparing her and Mia's DNA?!

As she was thinking about this, she heard Justin continue, "You two are mother and daughter."

"..."

Tanya's mind exploded.

She looked at Justin in disbelief and felt that she recognized every word he said, but when she put them together, why could she suddenly not understand?

Wasn't Mia Hillary's daughter?

How could she be her daughter?

While she was in a daze, Joel narrowed his eyes and said sternly, "No wonder Hillary didn't appear when she was pregnant back then. In the end, she suddenly appeared in front of me with a child."

He looked at Tanya and said, "That night, I was the one who had drunk too much and was schemed against! In the hotel, she insisted that I had sex with her... In my head, the person that night was actually you... But when I woke up, Hillary was by my side instead."

Before he could finish, Tanya suddenly reacted. "Are you talking about October 25, six years ago?"

Joel was stunned and nodded. "Yes."

Tanya bit her lip. "That night, it was me..."

Joel was surprised.

Tanya's expression was a little unnatural when she mentioned that night. "Later on, when you were still asleep in the morning, my mother sent me a message asking me to come home. She said she had something to tell me, so I went back..."

When she returned home, she realized that it was a foreign acceptance letter.

Immediately after, she had taken out a photo of Tanya and Joel sleeping together and handed it to her. She had told her, "I told you long ago that your identity is not suitable for you to be with Mr. Smith! Only the eldest daughter of the Joneses has the right to become Mrs. Smith! Mr. Smith is just playing with you! Since you're my daughter, I'll remind you not to be treated as a plaything!"

At that time, she was stunned when she saw the photo. She called Joel, but she did not expect that Hillary would pick up his phone. "What are you doing? He's still sleeping."

Tanya was furious.

Two hours later, she called Joel, but his attitude was very cold.

She asked, "What am I to you?"

He sneered. "What am I to you? Tanya, we both know that you're not that important to me!"

At that time, Tanya's heart was in ashes as she left the country.

Joel was stunned. He thought about it carefully and knew that he had fallen into a trap. "When I woke up and realized that the person beside me was Hillary, I was shocked. I wanted to look for you and explain everything, but I saw the application form for your overseas study on Hillary's phone."

He was silent for a moment before saying, "Hillary told me that everything you did was to use me to go overseas."

At that time, he was young and impulsive. Just as he was looking at the application, he received a call from Tanya.

However, he had not expected Tanya to question her position in his heart so confidently over a phone call.

He also wanted to ask this question!

Later on, he watched helplessly as Tanya left the country without turning back. He believed Hillary even more and did not look for Tanya over the years.

Now that he thought about it...

It was obvious that he and Tanya had fallen into the other party's trap!!

Joel was momentarily vexed. How could he be so easily deceived? However, he did not expect that Hillary, who was only twenty years old back then, would do such a thing!

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

After a moment, Tanya suddenly pushed him away and ran downstairs.

Joel knew what she was going to do, so he looked at Justin first and said slowly, "I'll remember this favor."

If it weren't for Justin, Tanya would have been afraid that Joel would be sad because of the child and would not have told him. But if Tanya hadn't told him, he probably wouldn't have imagined in his life that Mia was his and Tanya's daughter!

After all, how could he know that Tanya had given birth to a child for him?!

Justin nodded and Joel followed him downstairs.

Sure enough, he could already hear the cries downstairs. He went downstairs and saw Ian watching by the side. "Little brat, did you bully the little girl? Why is she suddenly crying so miserably while hugging Mia?"

Joel looked at the mother and daughter hugging each other.

Tanya was crying so hard that she couldn't speak. Mia, on the other hand, was frightened by her appearance. She looked at her with wide eyes, but she still reached out and patted her back, feeling helpless.

Joel's eyes turned red as well.

He took a step forward and said to Mia, "Mia, this is your mother."

Mia was stunned for a moment before nodding. "I know. Ms. Tanya will be my mother from now on."

When Joel saw the child's ignorance, his heart ached even more.

He reached out and hugged Tanya and Mia. "No, she's the mother who gave birth to you! Your biological mother!"

Mia didn't really understand this, but she still cried. "Mommy, don't cry. Don't cry..."

When she started crying, Tanya stopped crying immediately. She hugged Mia and said with tears in her eyes, "I won't cry. Mia, don't cry. I'm Mommy. Mommy loves you..."

She gently kissed Mia's cheek.

Ian was confused.

That night, Tanya hugged Mia and fell asleep. Joel was guarding the sofa in the room worriedly. He could see Tanya suddenly waking up in the middle of the night and staring at Mia for a while before hugging her tightly and falling asleep again...

It was a fear and unease of again losing what she had regained after so many hardships.

The next day, Joel was woken up by a soft knock on the door.

He walked out gently and heard the butler say, "Sir, Mr. Karl Moore is here!"

Karl Moore?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Even if he had not come himself today, Joel was going to look for him!

Hillary had stolen his child. She had to pay the price!

Joel glanced at the mother and daughter sleeping on the bed. At this moment, the anger in his heart had reached its peak.

Last night, he counted that Tanya had woken up six times. Each time, it took more than half an hour before she could fall asleep again.

Compared to her... Mia had always been by his side, and he had never been neglected.

But what about Tanya?

How painful must her five years of psychological torture have been?!

Joel clenched his fists tightly. He regretted sending Hillary overseas yesterday, causing her to fall into Karl Moore's hands. Otherwise, she would be living a life worse than death right now.

He retracted his gaze and gently went out. After closing the door, he went downstairs.

In the living room downstairs.

Karl Moore was sitting on the sofa in a black suit. There was a tattoo on the back of his hand, and it was obvious that it spread up to his arm.

He was wearing sunglasses and was tall and strong. One could tell with just a look that he was from the mafia.

At this moment, he was sizing up the Smiths' house and said to the person beside him, "No wonder Black Cat insisted on returning to the country. Look, it's still better in the country. The renovations are very exquisite!"

Black Cat was the top mysterious expert in their assassin organization.

Karl Moore had never seen Black Cat before. He had only posted assassination missions on the Internet. Black Cat had very high requirements for assassination missions.

Black Cat would not kill if it was inconvenient.

The troublesome ones were not killed.

Those who did not commit heinous crimes were not killed.

Black Cat would not kill those who did not deserve to die.

Whether the person should die depended on Black Cat's personal judgment.

If it were anyone else, Karl Moore would have tamed such a troublesome killer long ago. But this person was Black Cat, the number one killer in their organization.

Three years ago, a triad organization appeared in Burundi. Wherever they went, not a blade of grass survived. They raped, killed, and plundered. They did not even let women and children off. It could be said that they committed all kinds of crimes!

They had a powerful armed force and occupied the land of kings. The people in that area were suffering.

At that time, the government was at a loss about this powerful armed force. They had tried to attack it a few times but were defeated. In the end, they had no choice but to post a kill order on the assassination network.

The reward for killing the organization's leader was in millions.

It was not much money, but it had attracted many people to go on missions. However, none of them returned.

At that time, Karl Moore had not planned to take on the mission in the Assassin Organization. After all, the mission was too difficult and almost impossible to complete. However, Black Cat in their organization had privately accepted this mission.

Karl Moore felt that Black Cat was dead meat.

In the end! Black Cat entered that organization alone, took the other party's head, and then retreated unscathed! Furthermore, even now, that assassination was a mysterious affair.

That was because no one knew how Black Cat had killed the other party. They only vaguely heard from the other party that Black Cat was American.

As for whether it was a man or a woman, they did not see clearly.

It was also the battle with Black Cat that allowed the assassins to gain a foothold internationally!

From then on, although Karl Moore was an honorary leader, he was extremely respectful to Black Cat. The entire organization followed his orders.

That was... until three months ago, when Black Cat suddenly said that they wanted to return to the country to settle some matters, and told everyone not to disturb them. Then, Black Cat disappeared without a trace.

Karl Moore decided to bring his subordinates back to New York. Firstly, he wanted to see if he could find out who Black Cat was. Secondly, he wanted to tour his hometown again.

Unexpectedly, they bumped into Hillary...

As he was thinking, Joel and Ian walked out at the same time.

When he saw Ian, Joel consciously stood behind him. Karl Moore was also stunned. "You're still alive?"

This familiar tone...

Joel looked at Ian and saw that although Uncle Ian looked thin, his aura was astonishing. He sat steadily in the wheelchair and retorted, "You're not even dead yet. How would I dare to die? How dare you bully us Smiths?"

When he heard this, Karl Moore chuckled. "What are you talking about? What bullying? I'm just stepping up for the Joneses. You guys are too much. Why can't they see their child?"

Ian did not answer. It was obvious that he already knew everything.

He said slowly, "Why are you helping them?"

When Karl Moore heard this, he frowned. “Ah, because I owe Jill a favor.”

Jill was Hillary and Tanya’s mother.

Because after she married the Joneses, everyone had always called her Madam Jones. Therefore, Joel only realized who this person was after a while.

He frowned and heard Ian laugh. “Love debt?”

Karl Moore coughed. “Damn, I was just playing back then. Who knew that she would take it seriously? Since I broke her innocence and left, I have to help my old lover this time.”

Ian’s lips twitched. “You’re giving face to your old lover, but not to me?”

Karl Moore immediately said, “Over the years, I’ve given you a lot of face. Over the years, I’ve never touched the Smiths. Even if someone offered a high price, I never accepted an assassination! Now, give me some face and sit down to discuss this matter!”

He leaned forward and said, “The Joneses aren’t a wealthy family. You gave them a way out. So what? If you ask me, let your nephew marry her daughter! What love? Young man, at my age, you’ll realize that love is useless!”

Joel: “...That’s impossible.”

Karl Moore hesitated for a moment. “Then... worst-case scenario—you give her the child. At least she’ll have someone to rely on.”

Joel explained, “There’s something else going on. Listen to me...”

“Slam!” Almost as soon as he said this, Karl Moore slapped the table, revealing a gun. He said aggressively, “What? I don’t have time to listen to your chatter. Let me ask you something. Do the Smiths not intend to give face to the Assassin Organization?”

After offending such a person, their safety in the future would be uncertain.

Joel narrowed his eyes. Before they could collide, Ian sneered. “Karl Moore, you’re so arrogant. Do you think I can’t use my gun because I’m weak now?”

Karl Moore was not afraid at all. “Brother, I’m sorry this time! There’s nothing I can do about it. I really owe Jill too much, so she asked me to do this. I don’t care what secrets you have, but you have to give me face today!

Unless Black Cat is here, there’s no room for negotiation!!”

In the bedroom upstairs.

Perhaps it was because the commotion downstairs was a little loud, but Nora frowned slightly in her sleep.

Black Cat...

Who the hell was shouting her code name non-stop?! It was so annoying! How could she sleep!

Nora flipped over in annoyance. She buried her head in the pillow angrily and covered her ears.

Cherry and Pete, who were sitting on the sofa in the room, instantly fell silent.

The characters in Cherry’s game didn’t dare to move anymore, as if they were afraid of disturbing her.

In fact, Pete did not even dare to write the Mathematical Olympiad questions as he was afraid that the sound of the pen rubbing against the paper would disturb his mother.

When Justin, who was sitting beside the two children, saw this scene, he lowered his eyes and suddenly stood up.

When he stood up, Cherry and Pete looked at him simultaneously and immediately made a “shh” gesture. It was as if even Justin’s action of standing up would disturb Nora.

Justin did not think that the two children’s performance was too exaggerated. Instead, he lightened his footsteps and slowly walked to the door. He bent down and opened the door before closing it again.

They did not know how he did it, but he did not make a sound at all.

After he left, the noise outside became even louder.

Karl Moore's voice was very loud, and the people standing behind him were all very powerful. They all stared at him.

Ian and Joel's expressions stiffened.

Ian said slowly, "Are you sure you want to fall out?"

Karl Moore snorted. "You're the ones who didn't give me face!"

Joel's voice became even colder. "I can give you face in other matters, but not in this matter!"

Tanya and Mia had just reunited. How could he give Mia to Hillary?!

Chapter 385 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Justin coughed.

He was Y. Of course he was a hacker.

But he didn't want to look for him.

Sponsor Grandpa? What the heck? How dare he fight with him for his daughter's love? Additionally, during the period Sponsor Grandpa was away, he had finally reached number one on the virtual gifts ranking!

Justin said, "I'm really not one. Daddy is a good, law-abiding citizen. Daddy's company also acts in accordance with the law."

Cherry sighed and lowered her head.

Next to them, Pete looked up and heaved a silent sigh. His father was simply too shameless!

He was lying to even his five-year-old younger sister!

Justin then said, "Why are you so insistent on looking for Sponsor Grandpa? The way I see it, his affection for you was only temporary. Otherwise, why would he suddenly disappear without a word? That's very rude behavior."

He secretly badmouthed Sponsor Grandpa and said, "Let's ignore him in the future, Cherry!"

Cherry asked, "... But what if Sponsor Grandpa was sick?"

"That's impossible. Considering how rich he is, it's impossible that he would suddenly disappear, no matter what kind of illness it is."

"Yeah, you're right, Daddy. I won't talk to Sponsor Grandpa ever again!"

At the door, Ian, who had immediately recognized that Cherry was sweetcherry, was bewildered.

When he'd first recognized Cherry, he had felt joy and anxiety from meeting an online friend for the first time. However, there was only anger left in him now.

What was Justin teaching the kids?

Ian entered the living room with mighty momentum.

Justin hurriedly stood up when he heard the sounds coming from the door. At the sight of him, he took a step forward earnestly and greeted him. "Hello, Uncle Ian," he said.

Ian stared at him with disdain all over his good-looking face. "I think you should call me Mr. Smith instead."

Justin: "?"

He was calling him Uncle Ian because he was Nora's fiancé!

He was stunned for a moment. Then, he said, "You must be joking, Uncle Ian. Nora will beat me up if she hears me addressing you as Mr. Smith."

Ian snorted. "Mr. Hunt, I, Ian Smith, have never been one to joke around. What kind of relationship do you share with Nora for you to be calling me Uncle Ian?"

"... We are engaged," said Justin.

"Engaged?"

Ian was very surprised. "How come I'm not aware that my daughter is engaged? When did the two of you hold the engagement ceremony?"

Justin: “???”

He had publicly announced that Nora was his fiancée at the Hunts’ party the other time, so their relationship was already confirmed.

Why was Ian refusing to acknowledge it?

However, he soon felt that he had figured it out. “You are right, Uncle Ian. I will get it done.”

Ian didn’t look at him anymore. Instead, he looked at Cherry sitting on the sofa.

Cherry was also staring at him with her big dark eyes.

At the sight, Joel pushed Ian’s wheelchair toward Cherry and said, “Uncle Ian, this is Nora’s daughter. Her nickname is Cherry.”

Ian’s eyes reddened at once. His voice was even trembling a little as he called out, “Cherry?”

Cherry blinked. Then, she called out sweetly, “Grandpa~”

Ian instantly felt like his heart had been coated in honey.

In the past, when Cherry called him Sponsor Grandpa on Messenger, he had merely found her a sweet child. It was only now that he realized that the sweetness reached all the way into his heart.

He nodded. “Hello!”

As soon as he said that, Chester, who was also logged into the game, said, “Boss, look at your live-stream! They are all mocking you!”

Cherry immediately lowered her head when she heard him. She saw in the comments in the live-stream that everyone was laughing at her and saying that Sponsor Grandpa had abandoned her.

“ ... ”

Everyone in the comments was laughing at her.

“Your wealthy grandfather must have found another dog. He doesn’t love you anymore!”

“Hahaha, I’m suddenly very happy to see the host down.”

“Sponsor Grandpa must be tired of you, right? All the big bosses are like this.”

...

Cherry wilted. She pouted and stopped talking.

When Ian saw her like this, his heart ached badly. He quickly took out his phone and secretly charged it. Then, while the others were not paying attention, he quickly went to Cherry’s live-stream and sent her gifts.

The overwhelming gifts suddenly covered the entire screen.

When Cherry saw that the person giving the gift was her Sponsor Grandpa, her eyes lit up.

She shouted happily, “My Sponsor Grandpa is here!”

Ian had surpassed second place and become first. He was satisfied.

However, just as he put down his phone, Justin, who was standing behind him, suddenly took out his phone and tipped a hundred gifts. The rankings instantly changed again.

Ian: “...”

Justin said, “Cherry, you can’t let an outsider control your emotions. Whatever others have, Daddy will give it to you.”

Cherry immediately looked up at him. “Thank you, Daddy!”

“...”

After Justin tipped the gifts, he put down his phone. For some reason, he suddenly felt that the atmosphere in the living room seemed a little off.

How much colder was it?

He composed himself and looked over. He realized that Ian was emitting coldness and looking at him gloomily.

Justin: “?”

He hesitated for a moment and asked, “Uncle Ian, what’s wrong?”

Ian sneered. “Mr. Hunt, are you very free today?”

Justin: “...So-so, I guess.”

Ian said, “Butler, Mr. Hunt still has to handle the company’s matters. How can we keep him here at home for such a small matter? Quickly take him to work!”

Justin: !!

Confused, he looked at Joel pleadingly. However, not only did his brother-in-law not help, he even turned his head to look elsewhere. His eyes, which were usually smiling, were now gloating?

Joel really felt good.

He and Justin governed New York’s economic lifeline. The two of them often interacted with each other and were both powerful people.

When had he ever seen him so aggrieved?

It felt... good.

When Justin saw that he was silent, and since Ian was the head of this family, he had to listen.

After confirming that there was nothing wrong with Nora’s body, he simply said, “Alright, I’ll come and see Nora again tonight.”

Ian snorted. “Nora is fine. You don’t have to visit her so often. When she wakes up, she will contact you!”

Justin: “...”

He grimaced and looked at Pete. “Then I’ll come and see Pete tonight.”

Pete?

Ian was stunned when he heard this. He turned to look at Pete, who had been sitting quietly the entire time. When he saw his face, he was stunned.

Why did Pete look exactly like Cherry?

While he was in a daze, Justin smiled brightly. "Uncle Ian, I forgot to tell you that Pete and Cherry are my and Nora's children."

He paused and added, "They're twins."

Ian: "..."

Justin, who finally had the upper hand, walked out when he saw his stunned look. "Uncle Ian, I'll take my leave then."

He should give his father-in-law more time to accept it!

After Justin left, Ian looked at Joel. "So these two kids have been together for a long time?"

He was talking about Nora and Justin.

Joel nodded. "The children are already five years old."

Ian paused. "He's better than you!"

Joel: "..."

He glanced at Mia silently. He was about to say that his child was five years old too, but when he saw Tanya standing beside him, he didn't say anything.

His child was not hers.

This might become his lifelong regret.

Ian went upstairs to look at Nora. After confirming that she was really asleep, he then went downstairs in relief.

Joel let him rest. He glanced at Cherry and nodded. After entering the bedroom, Ian let everyone out and secretly opened Cherry's live-stream.

Cherry had said earlier that she did not want to talk to her Sponsor Grandpa anymore, so he chose not to acknowledge her first. They could reunite after maintaining a peaceful relationship on the Internet!

Time passed very quickly. Soon, it was nighttime. Suddenly, two little cuties appeared at home, and the entire family became lively.

Joel realized that even Ian had a smile on his face.

Such happy times were always easily disturbed.

After dinner, the sky darkened.

He was about to call his assistant to ask if Hillary had gone overseas when his assistant's call arrived first. "Mr. Smith, something has happened."

Joel was stunned. "What?"

The assistant said, "After going overseas, Hillary sued you in Switzerland!"

Sued him?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

The assistant coughed. "She has filed a request for the custody of the child!"

Joel's voice instantly turned cold. "How dare she? Where are the Joneses?"

The assistant said, "Mr. Jones contacted her and asked her to withdraw the lawsuit, but she refused to listen. She insisted that the child is hers and only hers. Even if she can't be with you, she will still sue you for the child's custody!"

With that, the assistant coughed. "If this was in the country, we would definitely have been able to resolve it easily. But now, she's suing from overseas. It's not convenient for us to make a move there."

Of course, Joel understood this, but the problem was...

He narrowed his eyes and asked, "If she's not from Switzerland, how did she manage to press charges there? Why would the courts in Switzerland take on such a case?"

The assistant said, "We're still investigating that, but the court seems to be taking this case very seriously. They're already preparing to send you a subpoena!"

Joel vaguely felt that something was wrong. "Investigate properly!"

"Understood."

After hanging up, Joel looked at Mia.

The case was actually not complicated. If he didn't go overseas, there was nothing they could do about it. But Mia couldn't possibly stay in the country forever, right?

It had only been a day. Where did Hillary find the guts to sue him?!

Outside.

Justin looked at the brightly lit Smith villa and was especially envious.

He really wanted to go in, but after getting the butler to inform him, his father-in-law refused to let him in. He even said that it was getting too late and he would not keep him as a guest.

Justin did not want to be ostracized.

Ian was not someone he could handle unless his future brother-in-law helped.

But to get his future brother-in-law to help him? He had to give him something powerful...

Something powerful...

Justin suddenly thought of the DNA test between Tanya and Mia...

His lips curled up slightly. He had it!

In the limousine.

As Lawrence drove, he looked at his boss in the rearview mirror and vaguely felt that he was a little pitiful.

When had the famous Justin ever been rejected?

He sighed silently.

Ever since he got together with Miss Smith, Mr. Hunt had shown him his most patient side.

At this moment, Mr. Hunt was not in a hurry. He was still playing with his phone.

Lawrence almost couldn't help it and drove away!

It was so embarrassing to wait outside the door!

How could he know that Justin was hacking into Nora's email?

His slender fingers pressed on his phone with agility. He was about to enter Nora's email when he was suddenly blocked. The screen almost turned black.

Tsk.

Justin stared at the arrogant red words "get lost" and couldn't help but laugh.

Very good. It was her style.

However, the encryption measures in her inbox were really impressive. Perhaps only Q could do it.

He could not guess how she knew Q. How could she get Q to encrypt one of her mailboxes?

Justin smiled and decided to give up on attacking her email.

Otherwise, she would probably be angry when she woke up and realized that her email had been hacked.

He picked up his phone and called Lily.

The call was picked up quickly. Lily's formulaic voice came through. "Hello, this is Lily. May I know who you are?"

"Justin."

Lily was startled. "Boss's husband?"

Justin: “???”

Lily coughed and corrected him. “No, it’s Mr. Hunt. It’s so late, why are you calling?”

Justin raised his eyebrows.

Boss’s husband? Was this his nickname now?

It actually made him a little happy.

Joy flashed across his deep eyes. He felt that Nora’s assistant was very perceptive. He said slowly, “Nora asked you to produce a DNA report two days ago. What was the result?”

Lily subconsciously said, “I’ll only report to Boss.”

Justin: “?”

Just as he frowned, he heard Lily’s tone change. “But your identity is special, so I can tell you. I’ll only tell you~”

Justin smiled. “... Go ahead.”

“The DNA results show that the two test subjects are confirmed to be mother and daughter.”

Justin raised his eyebrows.

He didn’t expect Nora to be right.

He lowered his eyes and said slowly, “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome, Mr. Hunt. Just let me know if you need anything.”

After hanging up, Justin thought for a moment and called Sean again. “Five years ago, how was the investigation going on overseas?”

Back then, Nora had investigated her DNA and when he found out about her suspicions, he had said that he could help her investigate Hillary from five years ago.

Even if the DNA showed that Tanya and Mia were mother and daughter, they still had to provide enough evidence to prove that Hillary had stolen the child.

Justin handed the matter to Sean.

After all, it was five years ago. Furthermore, it was in Switzerland, so it was not as fast as investigating in the country.

Sean replied, "Give me another 12 hours and I'll have the answers."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Justin played with his phone.

He could not wait 12 hours to tell Joel such important news. Otherwise, how could he use it as a tactic?

Moreover, judging him by his own standards, it was as if he did not know that he had a daughter back then. He would definitely want to hear this news as soon as possible.

Therefore, he sent Joel a message: "Brother-in-law, let me in. I have an important message for you and Miss Tanya."

"Mr. Smith, we found some clues!"

Joel was on the phone at this moment. The assistant opposite him was in Switzerland, so the investigation was a little slow.

His eyes were cold, and his usual smile was gone. He glanced at Tanya, who was playing with Mia, and said simply, "Speak."

"Hillary did indeed receive help from others to sue you in Switzerland. Moreover, the Joneses' attitude suddenly became domineering after going overseas. They said that they will fight this lawsuit to the end with us!"

Joel's gaze turned even colder. "Whose help did they receive?"

The assistant said a name. "Karl Moore."

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Of course, he knew this person.

Karl Moore was an American Chinese.

Currently, the underground forces in Switzerland were very large, so he was very famous overseas. His name was often heard in the country.

Although the Smiths and Hunts were the top families which controlled the economic lifeline in the country, internationally, their impacts were still a little small.

But Karl Moore was different.

They were mercenaries, and the people in their team were all retired special forces from Switzerland. They privately accepted difficult missions, such as assassinations.

The name of their organization could be translated to “Assassin.”

Ever since the organization was established, none of the assassination plans had failed!

They were an assassin alliance exceptionally vigilant in the world!

Therefore, the Swiss people maintained a good relationship with them. Even the major families in the country were wary of this organization.

Karl Moore was the leader of the organization. Whether the organization accepted the assassination mission or not was entirely up to him.

The Joneses had nothing to do with such a person. Why was he suddenly protecting them?

Joel frowned. “Why is he helping them?”

The other party might not even take a liking to the Joneses if they packed all their assets and gave them to Karl Moore. Furthermore, they were going against the Smiths. Karl Moore had always shown the Smiths respect.

The assistant said, “I’m still investigating.”

Joel’s gaze turned colder. “Yes. Investigate all that you can. If you can’t, tell Karl Moore that the Smiths respect him, but we’re not afraid of him! There’s no room for negotiation regarding the child!”

The assistant took a deep breath. "Yes!"

After hanging up, Joel saw Justin's message and slowly frowned.

He had important news to tell him and Tanya?

He was probably telling him that he wanted to enter the house.

But if he was including Tanya... then something must have happened.

Could it be related to the email Nora had mentioned before she fainted?

He looked at Ian and said, "Uncle Ian, let's allow Mr. Hunt in."

Ian said unhappily, "No."

In the afternoon, when he gave Cherry tips, Justin had been suppressing him and had insisted on competing with him for the first place on the list. This made him even more unhappy.

Does he want to marry his daughter? Ha.

Joel looked at Cherry, and the little fellow immediately ran to Ian. "Grandpa, Grandpa~ Let Daddy in. I miss Daddy~"

Ian: "..."

Could he reject his obedient granddaughter's request?

The answer was no.

Ian's lips twitched as he glared at Joel.

The news of Justin standing outside the door was reported to him by the butler when he came in. Cherry and Pete did not know at all.

During dinner, Cherry even looked at the door curiously and asked, "Why isn't Daddy here yet?"

Ian said coldly, "He's probably busy with work."

Cherry was still a little unhappy. "Okay~"

Ian took the opportunity to brainwash her. “It’s most irresponsible of a parent to ignore the child when they’re busy. Let’s not like him anymore, okay?”

Cherry’s eyes widened when she heard this.

Then, she looked at Ian and retorted, “Grandpa, I can’t do that.”

Ian was curious. “Why?”

Cherry sighed. “Mommy has been busy sleeping since we were young. She’s even more irresponsible. At least Daddy spends twice as much time with me every day than Mommy does!”

Ian: “!!”

He had never seen the way Nora interacted with the two children. He did not expect that he would also have to bring his daughter into this.

At that time, he could only change the topic forcefully. “Yes, what I said just now was just a test for you. I didn’t expect our Cherry to be so smart. You actually passed Grandpa’s test.”

Cherry immediately looked up and smiled. Her big black eyes swept past Pete. “Pete, did you see that? Grandpa doesn’t like Daddy and wants to badmouth Daddy. I’m the best! He can’t even say anything about Daddy!”

Pete: “...”

He sighed silently. He kept wondering ever since Cherry came home, why had the tyrant and this grandfather, who was rumored to be very serious, become so childish?

Ian had been hiding it from Cherry and did not tell her.

Moreover, he did not feel guilty at all. How dare Justin secretly tell her not to like her Sponsor Grandpa?!

However, now that Cherry had heard Joel’s words, Ian could not stop her. Otherwise, wouldn’t he become a bad grandfather?

Ian could only say to the butler indignantly, “Invite him in.”

The butler glanced at Joel and left with a smile.

Joel was already the head of the Smiths now. After all, Ian had been on his deathbed in the past and had not cared about the family's matters at all.

However, Ian's wish was Joel's command.

When everyone saw how respectful Joel was to Ian, they did not dare to disrespect Ian either.

Soon, Justin entered.

Wearing a black suit, he walked in steadily. After entering, he greeted Ian respectfully, "Uncle Ian."

Ian snorted and looked at Joel. "Joel, the guest is here. Treat him well."

He looked like he wanted to ignore him.

Justin rubbed his nose awkwardly and looked at Cherry.

Cherry had already run over excitedly and hugged his leg. "Daddy, why are you just getting here now?! Didn't you agree to sleep here tonight? I'm still waiting for you to tuck me in!"

When she said this, Justin looked at Ian. When he saw Ian's eyes flicker, he chuckled softly and said, "Yes, Daddy was busy with work."

He did not expose Ian's lie.

This made Ian feel a little better. Then, he saw Justin looking at him mischievously. "As for sleeping with you tonight..."

He drawled, his eyes questioning.

Ian coughed and looked at the butler. "Have you prepared the guest room?"

The butler held in his laughter. "I've already prepared it. It's next to Miss Nora's room. The room is very big and comfortable."

Ever since Yvonne was arrested and Nora's identity as Ian's daughter was exposed, the people in the family had accepted Nora as the eldest daughter.

Ian waved her hand. "Alright, Joel. Take the guest upstairs to have a look."

Joel smiled as well. He let Mia play downstairs and took Justin upstairs. Halfway there, he looked at Tanya. "Tanya, you come too."

Tanya looked up in confusion and subconsciously stood up to follow him upstairs.

Ian couldn't help but say, "You guys have just reunited. Aren't you two being too mushy?"

Tanya's face couldn't help but turn red.

Joel coughed and smiled. "Uncle Ian, please understand."

Ian: "..."

Why was this kid's skin so thick?!

When the three of them went upstairs, Justin did not go to the guest room immediately.

Joel pointed to his study. "Chat in the study?"

Justin nodded. When they passed by Nora's room, he suddenly gestured for them to keep quiet and then gently opened the door.

The curtains in the room were drawn, and the light was dim.

The temperature in the room had also been adjusted very well. The woman on the bed was still asleep and did not move at all.

Justin approached her and checked her breathing and pulse. After confirming that Nora was fine, he heaved a sigh of relief.

He covered her with a blanket and went out.

Seeing him tiptoeing as if he was afraid of waking Nora up, Joel and Tanya at the door were speechless.

The corners of Tanya's mouth twitched. "Mr. Hunt, Nora is sleeping so well. Even if the sky collapses, it probably won't wake her up. You don't have to be so... cautious?"

Justin didn't mind. "It's better to be gentle. Otherwise, she'll hear the noise in her sleep."

Tanya: "..."

Alright, he was of noble status. Whatever he says.

The three of them then followed Joel to the study.

In the study.

The housekeeper, Lucy, had already prepared tea. Joel looked at Justin. "Have you eaten dinner?"

Justin looked at him silently.

Brother-in-law, he had come over during lunchtime and had been kept outside the door. Didn't Joel know if he had eaten dinner or not?!

Joel coughed. "Go prepare some food for Mr. Hunt."

Lucy nodded.

After Lucy left, Joel saw Justin drinking tea and couldn't help but ask anxiously, "Tell me quickly. What's the matter?"

Tanya looked at him in confusion.

Justin drank a cup of tea before saying slowly, "Miss Tanya, you had a child overseas, right?"

His words were like a tidal wave. Joel looked at Tanya in disbelief, only to see that Tanya's eyes had also widened in shock.

She clenched her fists tightly.

This was her secret. Why did Justin say it out loud?

When he saw her like this, Joel's mind instantly started racing.

He lowered his eyes and smiled bitterly.

So in the past five years, Tanya had already had a boyfriend overseas?

However, he had no intention of blaming her.

After all, he had a child too, didn't he?

When he forced Tanya to accept Mia, he no longer had the right to criticize her.

Even if he had never let any woman near him in the past five years!

He suddenly felt frustrated.

At this moment, he wanted to know who this man was who had been with Tanya. He wished he could capture him and beat him up.

With this thought in mind, he looked at Tanya.

He suddenly understood how Tanya must have felt when he and Hillary had gotten together back then.

After five years, he was with Tanya again and was still so sad and jealous, let alone her back then.

That was why she had decided to leave and go overseas, right?

Perhaps she had not gone overseas simply to pursue her dream of dancing. She had been hurt by him!

When Joel thought of this, his chest tightened even more.

He had been with her through junior high, high school, and university...

He had originally thought that the two of them would walk from their school uniforms to their wedding gowns, from their black hair to their white hair. He did not expect that they would go off track halfway.

When they returned to the same path, he had Mia, and she had another child.

Their love was no longer as perfect as before.

But he couldn't mind.

He did not even dare to ask Tanya if she had liked that man when she had a change of heart midway, only to like him again now.

He did not dare to ask, afraid that he would be dissatisfied with the answer.

He only knew that they had to be together, no matter what.

With this in mind, he walked towards Tanya.

Tanya was also in a daze. When she saw Joel walking over, her expression turned grave and she felt even more guilty. However, just as she thought Joel would question her, she heard him say, "Who is that man?"

Tanya: "?"

She was stunned and looked at Joel in confusion.

Joel sighed. "If you don't want to say it, then forget it. I'll try my best not to mind."

At this point, he turned his head away and did not look into Tanya's eyes. "Where is your child...? You can bring him over. I'll treat him as my own, just like... how you treat Mia... Even if I can't be sincere, I'll still work hard..."

Tanya: "!!!"

She finally understood what Joel meant and could not help but laugh.

As she smiled, tears welled up in her eyes.

This man, this silly man, actually thought that she had another man?

She thought of the past five years. Although she was alone overseas, she had interacted with many aristocrats because she was a dancer.

She did not lack suitors among those people.

But she had never accepted any of them.

At first, she had told herself, she had lost her child and had no right to start a new life. It was a form of punishment.

But it was only now that she realized that it was not because she did not want to look for a man. It was because, with someone in her heart, she could no longer look at anyone else.

Those aristocrats were all very outstanding, but she was blinded by Joel and could not see anyone else.

She looked at Joel with red eyes.

When Joel saw her like this, his heart ached even more.

How did that man hurt her? Was it so painful to recall?

He grabbed Tanya's arm and said in pain and anger, "Why did you split up? Did he hurt you?"

Tanya shook her head.

"Did he have a change of heart?"

Tanya continued to shake her head.

Joel was anxious. "Did you have a change of heart? What happened? Did he bully you? Tell me who he is and I'll kill him!"

Tanya still shook her head, but the smile on her face grew wider.

She said, "No, no. There's no such person."

Her voice was choked.

Joel was stunned. "There's no such person? Then your child..."

Tanya's cries became even louder. She looked at Joel and knew that she could no longer hide the child's existence.

However, she did not want to make Joel sad with her.

She clenched her fists. "Calm down. Listen to me."

Joel was extremely anxious, but when he saw Tanya's tear-stained face, he knew that he could not be anxious. He took a deep breath. "Okay, I'll calm down. Tell me, what's going on with that man and the child?"

Tanya looked at him and lowered her head again. She slowly said, "There's no other man... It's you. It has always been you!"

Joel froze on the spot.

He looked at Tanya in a daze.

A ridiculous thought suddenly occurred to him. "If it's me, then that child..."

Tanya looked at him and closed her eyes. Large tears rolled down her face again. "The child is yours."

It was his...

These three words stunned Joel.

Surprise surged in his heart as he grabbed Tanya. "You gave birth to my child? Our child?"

At this moment, he was as happy as a child.

He asked anxiously, "Where's the child? Where is he?"

When the two of them were together back then, they had once imagined what would happen if they had a child in the future. As it turned out, they really had a child!

But he did not expect that while he was wild with joy, Tanya would still have her eyes closed. Her tears rolled down her face like broken pearls. She did not speak.

Joel's ecstasy gradually calmed down. He looked at Tanya and finally sensed something strange.

They were already together. Why didn't Tanya tell him they had a child?

Also, when he asked if she could be Mia's mother, why did she resist and not say anything...

He pursed his lips and his heart suddenly sank. "That child..."

"...I lost our child."

Tanya said those words with difficulty as her tears flowed even more violently. She opened her eyes and sobbed as she shouted, "After I gave birth, I lost the

child before I could even see the child clearly. I don't even know if our child is a girl or a boy!"

"I'm sorry... I didn't protect our child well! I feel guilty when I'm with you! Why should I be happy? I don't even know if my child is dead or alive..."

Following her words, Joel suddenly reached out and hugged her.

At this moment, Joel felt his heart ache so much that he could barely breathe.

How painful Tanya must have been all these years!

It was one thing to suffer through the pain of looking for her child every day, but to have to face his and Hillary's daughter after returning to the country.

Especially when he said that he wanted Tanya to become Mia's mother.

Mia's mother...

Joel suddenly thought of something and looked at Justin.

Justin had said that he had important information to tell Joel and Tanya.

Furthermore, the moment he entered, he pointed out that Tanya had been hiding something from Joel. Then, was that important matter the whereabouts of their child?!

Joel suddenly understood.

Justin sat by the side and watched the two of them confess to each other.

He did not know what had happened. He could only resolve the misunderstanding between Tanya and Joel before speaking the truth.

Seeing that the two of them were almost done talking and that Tanya was crying so badly, Justin touched his nose and hurriedly said, "Don't be in a hurry to cry... I have good news here."

If Nora woke up and found out that he had made her best friend cry for so long, she would definitely beat him up.

Tanya and Joel were still in a sad state. They opened their eyes and looked at him in confusion.

Justin coughed. "It was Nora who felt that something was wrong. She secretly took Tanya's DNA samples to compare with Mia's DNA..."

Joel and Tanya widened their eyes.

At this moment, Joel finally understood Justin's meaning!

Tanya was also surprised and anxious. Why was Nora comparing her and Mia's DNA?!

As she was thinking about this, she heard Justin continue, "You two are mother and daughter."

"..."

Tanya's mind exploded.

She looked at Justin in disbelief and felt that she recognized every word he said, but when she put them together, why could she suddenly not understand?

Wasn't Mia Hillary's daughter?

How could she be her daughter?

While she was in a daze, Joel narrowed his eyes and said sternly, "No wonder Hillary didn't appear when she was pregnant back then. In the end, she suddenly appeared in front of me with a child."

He looked at Tanya and said, "That night, I was the one who had drunk too much and was schemed against! In the hotel, she insisted that I had sex with her... In my head, the person that night was actually you... But when I woke up, Hillary was by my side instead."

Before he could finish, Tanya suddenly reacted. "Are you talking about October 25, six years ago?"

Joel was stunned and nodded. "Yes."

Tanya bit her lip. "That night, it was me..."

Joel was surprised.

Tanya's expression was a little unnatural when she mentioned that night. "Later on, when you were still asleep in the morning, my mother sent me a message asking me to come home. She said she had something to tell me, so I went back..."

When she returned home, she realized that it was a foreign acceptance letter.

Immediately after, she had taken out a photo of Tanya and Joel sleeping together and handed it to her. She had told her, "I told you long ago that your identity is not suitable for you to be with Mr. Smith! Only the eldest daughter of the Joneses has the right to become Mrs. Smith! Mr. Smith is just playing with you! Since you're my daughter, I'll remind you not to be treated as a plaything!"

At that time, she was stunned when she saw the photo. She called Joel, but she did not expect that Hillary would pick up his phone. "What are you doing? He's still sleeping."

Tanya was furious.

Two hours later, she called Joel, but his attitude was very cold.

She asked, "What am I to you?"

He sneered. "What am I to you? Tanya, we both know that you're not that important to me!"

At that time, Tanya's heart was in ashes as she left the country.

Joel was stunned. He thought about it carefully and knew that he had fallen into a trap. "When I woke up and realized that the person beside me was Hillary, I was shocked. I wanted to look for you and explain everything, but I saw the application form for your overseas study on Hillary's phone."

He was silent for a moment before saying, "Hillary told me that everything you did was to use me to go overseas."

At that time, he was young and impulsive. Just as he was looking at the application, he received a call from Tanya.

However, he had not expected Tanya to question her position in his heart so confidently over a phone call.

He also wanted to ask this question!

Later on, he watched helplessly as Tanya left the country without turning back. He believed Hillary even more and did not look for Tanya over the years.

Now that he thought about it...

It was obvious that he and Tanya had fallen into the other party's trap!!

Joel was momentarily vexed. How could he be so easily deceived? However, he did not expect that Hillary, who was only twenty years old back then, would do such a thing!

Tanya and Joel looked at each other.

After a moment, Tanya suddenly pushed him away and ran downstairs.

Joel knew what she was going to do, so he looked at Justin first and said slowly, "I'll remember this favor."

If it weren't for Justin, Tanya would have been afraid that Joel would be sad because of the child and would not have told him. But if Tanya hadn't told him, he probably wouldn't have imagined in his life that Mia was his and Tanya's daughter!

After all, how could he know that Tanya had given birth to a child for him?!

Justin nodded and Joel followed him downstairs.

Sure enough, he could already hear the cries downstairs. He went downstairs and saw Ian watching by the side. "Little brat, did you bully the little girl? Why is she suddenly crying so miserably while hugging Mia?"

Joel looked at the mother and daughter hugging each other.

Tanya was crying so hard that she couldn't speak. Mia, on the other hand, was frightened by her appearance. She looked at her with wide eyes, but she still reached out and patted her back, feeling helpless.

Joel's eyes turned red as well.

He took a step forward and said to Mia, "Mia, this is your mother."

Mia was stunned for a moment before nodding. "I know. Ms. Tanya will be my mother from now on."

When Joel saw the child's ignorance, his heart ached even more.

He reached out and hugged Tanya and Mia. "No, she's the mother who gave birth to you! Your biological mother!"

Mia didn't really understand this, but she still cried. "Mommy, don't cry. Don't cry..."

When she started crying, Tanya stopped crying immediately. She hugged Mia and said with tears in her eyes, "I won't cry. Mia, don't cry. I'm Mommy. Mommy loves you..."

She gently kissed Mia's cheek.

Ian was confused.

That night, Tanya hugged Mia and fell asleep. Joel was guarding the sofa in the room worriedly. He could see Tanya suddenly waking up in the middle of the night and staring at Mia for a while before hugging her tightly and falling asleep again...

It was a fear and unease of again losing what she had regained after so many hardships.

The next day, Joel was woken up by a soft knock on the door.

He walked out gently and heard the butler say, "Sir, Mr. Karl Moore is here!"

Karl Moore?

Joel narrowed his eyes.

Even if he had not come himself today, Joel was going to look for him!

Hillary had stolen his child. She had to pay the price!

Joel glanced at the mother and daughter sleeping on the bed. At this moment, the anger in his heart had reached its peak.

Last night, he counted that Tanya had woken up six times. Each time, it took more than half an hour before she could fall asleep again.

Compared to her... Mia had always been by his side, and he had never been neglected.

But what about Tanya?

How painful must her five years of psychological torture have been?!

Joel clenched his fists tightly. He regretted sending Hillary overseas yesterday, causing her to fall into Karl Moore's hands. Otherwise, she would be living a life worse than death right now.

He retracted his gaze and gently went out. After closing the door, he went downstairs.

In the living room downstairs.

Karl Moore was sitting on the sofa in a black suit. There was a tattoo on the back of his hand, and it was obvious that it spread up to his arm.

He was wearing sunglasses and was tall and strong. One could tell with just a look that he was from the mafia.

At this moment, he was sizing up the Smiths' house and said to the person beside him, "No wonder Black Cat insisted on returning to the country. Look, it's still better in the country. The renovations are very exquisite!"

Black Cat was the top mysterious expert in their assassin organization.

Karl Moore had never seen Black Cat before. He had only posted assassination missions on the Internet. Black Cat had very high requirements for assassination missions.

Black Cat would not kill if it was inconvenient.

The troublesome ones were not killed.

Those who did not commit heinous crimes were not killed.

Black Cat would not kill those who did not deserve to die.

Whether the person should die depended on Black Cat's personal judgment.

If it were anyone else, Karl Moore would have tamed such a troublesome killer long ago. But this person was Black Cat, the number one killer in their organization.

Three years ago, a triad organization appeared in Burundi. Wherever they went, not a blade of grass survived. They raped, killed, and plundered. They did not even let women and children off. It could be said that they committed all kinds of crimes!

They had a powerful armed force and occupied the land of kings. The people in that area were suffering.

At that time, the government was at a loss about this powerful armed force. They had tried to attack it a few times but were defeated. In the end, they had no choice but to post a kill order on the assassination network.

The reward for killing the organization's leader was in millions.

It was not much money, but it had attracted many people to go on missions. However, none of them returned.

At that time, Karl Moore had not planned to take on the mission in the Assassin Organization. After all, the mission was too difficult and almost impossible to complete. However, Black Cat in their organization had privately accepted this mission.

Karl Moore felt that Black Cat was dead meat.

In the end! Black Cat entered that organization alone, took the other party's head, and then retreated unscathed! Furthermore, even now, that assassination was a mysterious affair.

That was because no one knew how Black Cat had killed the other party. They only vaguely heard from the other party that Black Cat was American.

As for whether it was a man or a woman, they did not see clearly.

It was also the battle with Black Cat that allowed the assassins to gain a foothold internationally!

From then on, although Karl Moore was an honorary leader, he was extremely respectful to Black Cat. The entire organization followed his orders.

That was... until three months ago, when Black Cat suddenly said that they wanted to return to the country to settle some matters, and told everyone not to disturb them. Then, Black Cat disappeared without a trace.

Karl Moore decided to bring his subordinates back to New York. Firstly, he wanted to see if he could find out who Black Cat was. Secondly, he wanted to tour his hometown again.

Unexpectedly, they bumped into Hillary...

As he was thinking, Joel and Ian walked out at the same time.

When he saw Ian, Joel consciously stood behind him. Karl Moore was also stunned. "You're still alive?"

This familiar tone...

Joel looked at Ian and saw that although Uncle Ian looked thin, his aura was astonishing. He sat steadily in the wheelchair and retorted, "You're not even dead yet. How would I dare to die? How dare you bully us Smiths?"

When he heard this, Karl Moore chuckled. "What are you talking about? What bullying? I'm just stepping up for the Joneses. You guys are too much. Why can't they see their child?"

Ian did not answer. It was obvious that he already knew everything.

He said slowly, "Why are you helping them?"

When Karl Moore heard this, he frowned. "Ah, because I owe Jill a favor."

Jill was Hillary and Tanya's mother.

Because after she married the Joneses, everyone had always called her Madam Jones. Therefore, Joel only realized who this person was after a while.

He frowned and heard Ian laugh. "Love debt?"

Karl Moore coughed. “Damn, I was just playing back then. Who knew that she would take it seriously? Since I broke her innocence and left, I have to help my old lover this time.”

Ian’s lips twitched. “You’re giving face to your old lover, but not to me?”

Karl Moore immediately said, “Over the years, I’ve given you a lot of face. Over the years, I’ve never touched the Smiths. Even if someone offered a high price, I never accepted an assassination! Now, give me some face and sit down to discuss this matter!”

He leaned forward and said, “The Joneses aren’t a wealthy family. You gave them a way out. So what? If you ask me, let your nephew marry her daughter! What love? Young man, at my age, you’ll realize that love is useless!”

Joel: “...That’s impossible.”

Karl Moore hesitated for a moment. “Then... worst-case scenario—you give her the child. At least she’ll have someone to rely on.”

Joel explained, “There’s something else going on. Listen to me...”

“Slam!” Almost as soon as he said this, Karl Moore slapped the table, revealing a gun. He said aggressively, “What? I don’t have time to listen to your chatter. Let me ask you something. Do the Smiths not intend to give face to the Assassin Organization?”

After offending such a person, their safety in the future would be uncertain.

Joel narrowed his eyes. Before they could collide, Ian sneered. “Karl Moore, you’re so arrogant. Do you think I can’t use my gun because I’m weak now?”

Karl Moore was not afraid at all. “Brother, I’m sorry this time! There’s nothing I can do about it. I really owe Jill too much, so she asked me to do this. I don’t care what secrets you have, but you have to give me face today!

Unless Black Cat is here, there’s no room for negotiation!!”

In the bedroom upstairs.

Perhaps it was because the commotion downstairs was a little loud, but Nora frowned slightly in her sleep.

Black Cat...

Who the hell was shouting her code name non-stop?! It was so annoying!
How could she sleep!

Nora flipped over in annoyance. She buried her head in the pillow angrily and covered her ears.

Cherry and Pete, who were sitting on the sofa in the room, instantly fell silent.

The characters in Cherry's game didn't dare to move anymore, as if they were afraid of disturbing her.

In fact, Pete did not even dare to write the Mathematical Olympiad questions as he was afraid that the sound of the pen rubbing against the paper would disturb his mother.

When Justin, who was sitting beside the two children, saw this scene, he lowered his eyes and suddenly stood up.

When he stood up, Cherry and Pete looked at him simultaneously and immediately made a "shh" gesture. It was as if even Justin's action of standing up would disturb Nora.

Justin did not think that the two children's performance was too exaggerated. Instead, he lightened his footsteps and slowly walked to the door. He bent down and opened the door before closing it again.

They did not know how he did it, but he did not make a sound at all.

After he left, the noise outside became even louder.

Karl Moore's voice was very loud, and the people standing behind him were all very powerful. They all stared at him.

Ian and Joel's expressions stiffened.

Ian said slowly, "Are you sure you want to fall out?"

Karl Moore snorted. "You're the ones who didn't give me face!"

Joel's voice became even colder. "I can give you face in other matters, but not in this matter!"

Tanya and Mia had just reunited. How could he give Mia to Hillary?!