

## Chapter 713 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother

“Forensics doesn’t charge into battle. Besides, we’re here to catch people today, not to see a doctor. Are you kidding me? People should know their limits. Keep her here obediently, lest she pisses her pants in fear and blames me later!”

Brenda was furious. “If Justin wants to bring her, what can you do about it? Or do you want to rebut his decision too? Are you disobedient? Besides, as a man, shouldn’t he protect his woman? Justin, tell me, should I let Nora in?”

Justin watched as the two of them argued. Howard’s words were simply laughable. He raised his eyebrows and said, “Okay, I’ll protect Nora.”

Nora: “...”

What kind of stupidity was this?

She raised her almond-shaped eyes slightly but did not speak. She could not be bothered to argue with this retard.

However, Howard did not give up. “See, Justin? You should find a wife like Quinn School of Martial Arts’ Big Sister. No matter what you do in the future, she won’t hold you back! Even if this woman can’t compare to her, she should at least learn some fancy martial arts, right?”

Nora: “???”

Howard took a deep breath and walked to Justin and Nora’s side. He waved his hand. “Let’s go!”

Forget it. He would help protect the person his brother liked!

He would have to take the opportunity to take a photo of this woman’s frightened and crying appearance and make his brother despise her!

With great momentum, the group infiltrated the abandoned steel factory ahead of them.

Their mission that evening was actually a little difficult.

The hundred or so men were all ordinary people, whereas some of the men under Jude's command had taken the gene-improvement solution. In comparison, it seemed that ordinary people were relatively at a disadvantage.

Fortunately, Howard had gathered a relatively large group of people, and they were also launching a surprise attack. Most of Jude's subordinates were not there.

There were only about thirty people there.

Therefore, Howard was full of confidence and felt that he would definitely win.

"You guys, go in through this door. You guys over there, go in through that door..."

Howard gave the men instructions for the formation so that they could prevent the enemy from escaping.

They not only had to capture Jude today, but they also had to prevent news of their attack from getting out. Otherwise, Jude's subordinates would never come over again. Should that happen, they wouldn't be able to capture them all. Those men didn't do anything wrong, though. Rather, it was because they had been injected with the gene-improvement solution, so they only had two years left to live.

Morris would definitely want to save them.

After all, most of them weren't aware of the truth and didn't know what exactly Jude was doing. Their desire to become stronger was the only reason why they were under his control. They didn't deserve to die.

The special department officers would come over immediately once they arrived. As the main force and the vanguard, Morris and Brenda took the lead and rushed in first.

They were professionals, after all.

Morris and Brenda led their respective men and attacked an entrance each.

The steel factory had three entrances. Howard, Justin, and Nora were in charge of attacking the last entrance.

Howard took the lead and snorted at Nora. "Stay behind me and don't be a hindrance to Justin, understand?"

Nora ignored him, merely following him at the back leisurely.

Seeing her lazy appearance, Howard couldn't help but say, "Are you here for shopping, or are you here to capture someone?" Did she have any idea at all just how cruel and savage the people whom they were about to face in there were?

Despite that, Nora merely glanced at him leisurely again and slowly uttered, "Oh."

Howard felt as if his punch had landed on a wad of cotton, his attack totally negated.

Infuriated, he muttered, "Pete must have inherited his invalidity from you! No matter what you do, you just can't keep your spirits up. What a weakling!"

Nora glanced at him. "Do you believe me when I say that he'll be able to beat you in a fight ten years later?"

No matter how strong a five-year-old was, it was impossible for them to beat a trained martial artist like Howard.

But that might not necessarily be the case ten years from now.

Howard sneered and said, "Of course I do, he is Mr. Quinn's disciple after all! What are you proud of, though? Even if Mr. Quinn's disciple was just a block of wood, it would still be able to beat me in a fight! Besides, it's entirely because of Justin that Mr. Quinn decided to take him as his disciple!"

"Really?"

Nora countered sarcastically. However, it was exactly that simple sentence of hers that annoyed Howard a little. He snapped, "What kind of attitude is that? Are you looking down on Justin?"

Nora's lips hooked into a smile. "Why couldn't he have taken Pete as a disciple because of me?"

Howard sneered, "You? Do you think you are the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister? Do you think you can get Mr. Quinn to take a disciple so easily?"

Well, she really was, though.

Nora touched her nose and glanced at Justin.

Justin's lips curled into a smile.

What a dimwit. He was in for a surprise later!

Justin wanted Howard to experience social death for despising Nora and Pete all the time. The nastier the things he said at this moment, the more the slap to his face would hurt.

Therefore, Justin did not bother explaining Nora's identity to him.

Amidst Howard's complaints, the group finally charged into the factory.

At the sight of them, someone immediately shouted, "Who are you people? What do you want?"

He'd only just spoken when Howard rushed over, his fist striking the man and putting him in a daze. Even his teeth had come loose and he spat out a few.

After he punched the man, Howard deliberately turned around to reveal the man's miserable appearance to Nora. He'd thought that the woman would be terrified at the sight, or at the very least, turn pale, right?

Unexpectedly...

Nora glanced at the man and then... she yawned???

What kind of joke was this?!

Should she be yawning even at an exciting moment like this?!

Howard was stunned.

But the next moment, he understood.

The woman must have incredible mental resilience, otherwise, Justin would not have brought her here, either. Hmph, she wasn't that useless after all. At least she didn't burst into tears like other women.

When Howard thought of this, he continued to rush forward.

Over at where Brenda and Morris were, their siege advanced rather quickly, causing Judewho was in the abandoned steel factory-to rush towards Howard's group with a few of his martial arts experts. He was planning to break through them and fight his way out. When Nora followed behind Justin leisurely while Howard and his men were clearing the way, they encountered a group of people in a corridor.

There were eight of them in total. The one surrounded by the others was obviously Jude, who had long hair and blue eyes.

He was big and stout and had bulging muscles all over his body, making him look very fierce.

"Damn!" Howard said, "Why did we have to run into the eight of them?"

"What's wrong?" Justin asked.

Howard replied, "Those eight men are known for their fighting skills, especially Jude. I thought they would split up and flee separately, but unexpectedly, they stayed together... and we even ran into each other. Justin, my men are no match for them. If we force our way through, they will probably become injured."

Howard didn't want his comrades, who saw him as their leader, to die for nothing. Those eight men were simply too strong, his brothers would only end up as cannon fodder.

Therefore, Howard wanted Justin to take action. Justin slowly said, "Okay. Stand back, all of you."

Following his instructions, Howard led his men to stand behind Justin.

Seeing this, Jude laughed and said, "Not bad, that's pretty gutsy of you. In that case, today, I shall show you how powerful I am!"

Then, he said, "That guy should be the strongest among them. I'll keep him occupied while the seven of you rush out!"

"Yes, sir!"

Justin said to Nora behind him, "I will deal with Jude. I'll leave the rest to you."

Nora nodded.

Among the eight people, Jude was the only one who was a little troublesome. The rest were no big deal.

Just as she was about to reply, Howard, who mistakenly thought that Justin was speaking to him, said loudly, "Don't worry, Justin, leave the rest of them to me! Even if I die, I will never give them a chance to leave!"

Nora: "..."

Those were just a few insignificant riff-raff. Did he really need to be so dramatic?

Justin took a step forward. Jude was indeed rather skilled, though it was also possible that his skills and great physical strength were all thanks to the gene serum, making him a little difficult to deal with.

When Jude started exchanging blows with him, he knew at once that he was in trouble. He'd originally thought that the people at this entrance would be easier to deal with since those at the other two entrances were all professional police officers, but it seemed that he'd made the wrong choice!

He immediately said to the people behind him, "You guys, break your way through first!"

Only when they left would Justin be distracted, thereby giving him the chance to escape.

The few men behind him were all subordinates whom he'd taken a lot of care to groom. They were the strongest in their circle and had also shown the best results after taking the gene-improvement solution.

Even Howard was no match for them, which went to show how strong they were.

The men nodded immediately. They bypassed Jude and Justin and rushed towards Nora and Howard.

Justin didn't intercept them.

It seemed like he trusted the people behind him very much.

At the sight, Howard was terribly moved.

In the past, Justin had always called him a good-for-nothing because he didn't make any progress despite practicing martial arts for so long. All of his moves were just fancy, without any real substance. Yet Justin was putting so much trust in him at this moment.

There were eight of them in total. They might not be as strong as Jude, but they had numbers on their side!

He must not let Justin down!

With that in mind, lofty ambitions suddenly surged up in Howard. He bit the bullet and stepped forward at once. "I can do it, Justin! Don't worry!"

As he let out a roar, he attacked one of the eight men at once!

Howard felt that this must be the highlight of his life. He followed after Justin, using his bare hands to deal with Jude's seven henchmen... well, one of them.

He used everything he had to dodge his opponent's attack, and then he punched and kicked them.

They exchanged numerous blows without any pause.

The two of them delivered kicks at each other with great force, as though they wanted to beat all the dust off their clothes. Wherever he was hit, Howard felt as if his bones were close to breaking. The pain was so great that he was close to losing all his strength.

But he mustn't admit defeat!

He mustn't bring shame to Justin!

Thus, Howard gritted his teeth and continued to strike the opponent hard!

"Haaaaah!"

With a great shout, Howard finally knocked the man down onto the ground!

The two of them were pretty much equally matched, but with his determination, he had beat him!

When he held the man under him, Howard felt that he had done it! He had succeeded!

He raised his head excitedly, only to suddenly realize that he had only stopped one of them and there were six left!

The people behind him only knew fancy moves without any substance. They could handle ordinary people, but not any of these eight opponents.

The six men must have already sent all the people behind him flying by then, right?

While not fatal, they would definitely suffer injuries.

No, wait...

That woman!

Howard hurriedly looked behind him to check on Nora and see if she was hiding in the corner and shaking in her boots.

He wondered if Justin would be mad at him for not protecting Nora well.

While he was thinking about it, he turned his head to the side, only to see...

The six men, whom he'd thought of as incredibly powerful, had all collapsed onto the floor beside him?

All of them lay there, unable to get up.

Nora stood beside them and dusted off her hands leisurely, as though she was the one who had defeated the seven men.

Howard looked at the people behind him and praised them. "Not bad, guys! Out of those seven tyrants, I didn't expect you guys to actually be able to stop six of them! Who's the one that's so impressive?"

As soon as he said that, his men all looked at one another. At last, all of them looked at Nora.

Howard: "??"

What was that supposed to mean?

But when he looked at the men again, they looked like they had absolutely no intention to do anything...

Howard was not like the brainless Chester. He couldn't help but frown and think.

Half a beat later, he stared at his men incredulously and said, "What are you guys looking at her for? Surely it can't be her who did this, right? Did she beat them all with her beauty? What kind of joke is that?!"

The men nodded in unison.

Then, they looked at Nora in shock again.

They'd originally thought that she was a girl with a weak personality. After all, she had such a good temper. Howard had scolded her for so long, yet she hadn't retorted at all.

But when they thought of the brutal scene just now...

They felt like their worldviews had been totally subverted! Who would have thought that a delicate woman like her would be a master martial artist?

Stunned, Howard frowned. "No way, you guys..."

Before he could finish speaking, the man under him suddenly pushed Howard away and ran out.

"Stop him!"

Howard shouted. The next moment, he saw the man running up to Nora.

Howard was greatly alarmed. In his opinion, the person whom he had intercepted was likely the strongest among the seven.

Although he didn't like his sister-in-law very much, for Justin's sake, he couldn't let her get hurt either.

Was that guy running up to Nora to take her hostage and force everyone into retreating?

What bad luck!

He knew it, women were trouble. Why did she have to come?

As soon as the thought formed, he stepped forward to rush over. But his leg had only just reached out when he saw the man reaching towards Nora.

At some point, there was already a dagger in his hand. He jabbed it right at Nora's neck.

“Don't move! Or I'll—”.

But before he could say “kill her”, Nora had suddenly stretched out her hand, grabbed his wrist, and exerted a little force.

Crack!

The dagger in the man's hand fell to the ground, and his wrist emitted a crisp snap.

Howard had just beaten up the man, but even all the pain he'd suffered just now couldn't compare to the sharp pain he was currently feeling. The pain made him turn limp, and he slumped onto his knees in front of Nora.

To everyone, Nora seemed to just be holding his wrist lightly. With her eyes slightly raised, she slowly asked in a low voice, “Are you getting down on your knees to beg me for mercy? That's not quite appropriate, is it?”

The whole place was quiet.

Even the thug had fallen into a daze from the pain. He looked at Nora in astonishment. Where on earth did the delicate woman get all that physical strength from?

On the other side, Howard looked at them in astonishment. He swallowed and looked at his men. “... So, she really was the one who... beat all those men just now?”

His men, who only knew fancy moves, lined up in a row and then silently took a step back in unison so that they were all one step further away from Nora. Then, they nodded together.

Howard: “...”

By the time the situation here was resolved, Justin had also finished dealing with Jude. At this time, Morris and Brenda also rushed over from the other two entrances.

By then, Nora had already let go of the last man's hand. The man's wrist was drooping limply, his bones obviously fractured.

Upon seeing the men collapsed on the floor beside Nora, Brenda raced towards her at once and sent the man with the limp wrist flying with a kick. She glared at Howard furiously and demanded, "What's wrong with you? How can you let him rush all the way up to Nora? What if he scared her?"

She held Nora's hand and said, "Don't be afraid, Nora! I'm here!"

Howard: "..."

His lips moved. He wanted to explain, but before he could say anything, Nora glanced over at him, scaring Howard so badly that he shut up at once.

Nora didn't want Brenda to know that she was very strong. After all, she found Brenda's protection of her very heartwarming.

Howard, who looked like he was in a huge dilemma, shouldered the "blame" and said, "It... it was my mistake!"

Brenda: "?"

She and Howard had always been fighting with each other. Why was he suddenly giving in this time?

However, she didn't want to spare too much thought on those issues at the moment. After she held Nora's hand, she looked at Justin and complained, "Justin, why didn't you stop him?"

Justin: "..."

"Alright, alright." Nora patted Brenda's hand comfortingly. After she calmed her sister-in-law down, her gaze swept across the people present. Howard's men immediately straightened their backs and shivered in unison.

Nora's gaze then swept across the people on the floor. Her little sidekicks immediately reacted and they walked over to arrest everyone lying on the floor and escort them out.

After tying them all up, Brenda said, “Nora, we’ve found their R&D base. I will take you there now.”

Nora nodded.

To be honest, she’d always wanted to see how these gene-improvement solutions with unknown chemical components were made. But when she entered their laboratory with Brenda, she found that everything there was very plain and crude.

This was no R&D base at all!

“What’s going on?”

Brenda turned to the side and grabbed Jude.

After Jude was arrested, he had known right away that there was no escape for him. He immediately explained, “We actually don’t have a base or anything like that. These gene-improvement solutions are just diluted versions of the gene serum!”

Nora: “...”

Everyone: “...”

After they had put in so much time and effort, the truth was actually so dull?

And here they thought they had caught a den of thieves that manufactured gene serums!

“Where did you get the gene serum from?” Morris asked, his voice low and serious.

An honest and obedient Jude explained, “I bought it. We have a sales channel abroad where we can buy pure gene serums. The diluted serums don’t cause too much harm to ordinary people’s bodies.”

“They only have two years left to live, yet you’re saying the serums don’t cause too much harm to the body?”

Morris frowned.

Jude said cautiously, “The gene serum can only be used on children. Adults can’t withstand it at all, they will explode and die immediately. But once it’s diluted, their genes can still be improved a little... Besides, there are statistics that show that some people have survived past two years...”

“What happened after the two years?”

“... They lived for another half a month.”

Brenda sneered, “You are pretty smart, aren’t you? Using the gene serum on yourself while giving others the gene-improvement solution instead. You’re purely just harming people!”

“No, no!” Jude was very honest. “How would I be worthy of using the gene serum? I’m also using the diluted gene-improvement solution. I... need money, my child has a terminal illness, but the medical fees cost more than one hundred thousand dollars. Only if I used the gene-improvement solution on myself would I have been able to convince the others that I have become stronger, and only then could I sell the gene-improvement solution... I didn’t have any other choice...”

His words stunned everyone present. All of them looked at him in disbelief.

Even Nora and Justin exchanged a look.

They’d initially thought that Jude was likely one of the five children who had survived the experiments back then, but little did they expect that he actually wasn’t?

No wonder he was so easygoing!

Jude’s martial arts prowess just now, though... He had kept Justin occupied for three minutes all by himself!

At present, there were actually large skill gaps in martial artists in the country.

Apart from Irvin and Quinn, the strongest were Big Brother and Big Sister. The other disciples didn’t have bodies well-suited for martial arts. Moreover, in these modern times, no one would work that hard to practice martial arts, either.

As a result, apart from a few top martial artists, the rest were all rather mediocre.

This was also the reason why Big Brother and Big Sister were so popular in the circle, as well as why their statuses were unopposed!

Because there were very few in America who could even last ten moves with Justin!

The diluted gene-improvement solution alone could improve a person's physical constitution this much. In that case, just how strong would people who had been injected with gene serums, and whose genes had truly been improved, be?

Nora and Justin suddenly felt that even they might not be their opponents' match should they encounter them!

Their hearts sank.

It was also in this instant, in the face of absolute power, that Nora finally realized how terrifying the gene serum was.

No wonder even her mother had been driven into a corner and chose to die back then.

Her expression darkened. When she thought of how those five people were after the V16 that Xander needed, she suddenly felt rather panicked, scared, and at a loss.

The V15 gene serum was already so powerful. Should they be injected with the V16, wouldn't they all become superhumans?!

While she was thinking, at some point, Howard had already sneaked over to her. Earlier, he had been overbearing and arrogant towards her and had also reprimanded her as and when he wanted to, but he was now very cautious around her.

He asked softly, "Um, Nora... You must be from the Quinn School of Martial Arts, right?"

The Irvin School of Martial Arts didn't try to win by physical strength. It was just like how Justin hadn't subdued Jude with just one move.

Only the Quinn School of Martial Arts would use such open and aboveboard moves.

Nora admitted to it with a grunt.

As soon as she did, Howard spoke again. "Then are you Linda from the Quinn School of Martial Arts? Have you met Big Sister before?"

The martial arts-obsessed teenager scratched his head. "I... I want to ask Big Sister to be my teacher! Do you know where she is? What does she like? How can I please her?"

Nora looked at the young man's pious attitude and sighed silently. "I don't need pleasing."

After saying that, Nora walked past him and walked out with Justin.

There was no point in staying any longer in the laboratory. They were going to interrogate Jude to find out who was giving him the orders so that they could find the mastermind hiding behind everything.

It was only when the two of them reached the entrance that Howard finally realized what Nora meant. His eyes widened in disbelief and he stared at Nora from the back in shock and astonishment.

When he did, he saw that, because the door was a little narrow and two people could not pass through it at the same time, Justin subconsciously took half a step back while Nora walked out calmly without feeling like anything was wrong. Howard: "..."

Since when did Justin ever give way to others?

He had always been the leader of the family, yet he was naturally giving way to someone else now.

In addition to being in love with her, it was even more so because that person was worthy of him doing so!

So, she really was Big Sister!

No wonder Justin, who had always been very protective of his own, didn't even say a word when he badmouthed Nora. On top of that, he'd even given him a seemingly half-amused look.

At that time, he'd thought that it was because Justin liked Big Sister, but he finally realized why now!

Howard felt like he had been slapped in the face, and he was distressed.

He had actually mocked Big Sister!

Was it too late for him to apologize?

With that in mind, Howard hurriedly followed after them.

On the way out, Nora kept thinking about the problem she was facing, wanting to know the specifics of the clue to the V16. After the incident just now with Jude, she couldn't quite wait anymore.

Her gait couldn't help but speed up. Justin followed closely behind her.

When the two came to the car, Justin was about to open the car door for Nora when a figure darted over, opened the car door, and said humbly, "Nora, be careful not to knock yourself against the top of the door!"

Nora: "..."

Justin: "..."

Howard looked at Nora ingratiatingly with a smile. "Nora, what do you think of my martial arts? Do I have any hope of entering the Quinn School of Martial Arts and becoming your disciple?"

Nora thought for a while. Suddenly, she sighed and said, "Let's get the old man to teach you instead."

She then picked up her cell phone and called Quinn.

Quinn was very loud. He hollered, "What's up, Sleepyhead?"

Nora touched her nose, not quite used to someone calling her by a nickname. She coughed and said, "I've found you a disciple."

"... You took a disciple for me? Have I agreed to it? Yet you took them in so casually? If you want to take a disciple, then take one for yourself!" Quinn retorted.

Next to Nora, Howard felt as if his heart was in his throat when he heard Quinn.

He had met Quinn before. Back then, when he was in New York, Quinn hadn't even shown Justin any courtesy. Wasn't Nora being a little too impolite with him?

Would Quinn expel her in a fit of rage?

Just as he was thinking about it, he heard Nora say calmly, "I've already told him to go to New York to look for you."

"... He'd better bring a present!"

"Okay."

"... Okay? What do you mean 'okay'? You no-good disciple, you..."

Before Quinn could finish, Nora hung up the phone and looked at Howard silently. "Quinn is old, so he's a little long-winded. Don't mind him."

Howard was already frozen on the spot like a statue.

He'd never imagined that Quinn would actually agree to it just like that! Additionally, Nora completely had the upper hand in her talks with Quinn!

While he was in a daze, Nora and Justin got into the car, left the place, and headed straight to the Hunts' family home.

Even if outsiders were tailing them, they wouldn't be able to enter the residence.

Jude was taken away by Morris and Brenda.

After returning to the family home, Howard asked, "Nora, why didn't you bring Jude back?"

Nora was puzzled. "For what? Interrogation?"

Howard frowned and replied, "Yeah, didn't you catch him to find out who was the one giving him the orders?"

“... Aren’t Morris and the others more apt when it comes to interrogating prisoners?”

So, why should she bring the prisoner back and do it herself instead?

If she was that free, she might as well make up for lost sleep instead!

Thinking of this, Nora curled her lips disdainfully.

Howard: “...”

By the time they arrived at the family home, it was already 10 PM. After entering, Nora and Justin steadfastly ate dinner without rushing, and then went to their room to rest.

After the two of them entered, a servant in the Hunts’ family home quietly walked to an inconspicuous corner, took out a cell phone, and made a call.

“Doesn’t seem like they have found the codebook. Or else they would have been in a hurry to see read it.”

The person on the other end of the call said something and the servant replied, “Okay, I understand, sir.”

After saying this, he hung up the phone, quietly made up an excuse, and went up to the door of the room Justin and Nora were in. While no one else was around, he pressed his ear against the door and listened to the voices inside.

Nora said, “Don’t be so anxious... Slow down...”

“Nora, don’t move. Let me do it...”

Creak...

“Are you satisfied?”

What followed were suggestive sounds, which even made the eavesdropping man blush.

After the man listened for a while more, he finally turned and left. He then took out his cell phone and sent a text message: “I am certain that they didn’t find the codebook.”

Inside the room.

Nora sat steadily on the sofa with the ledger, and codebook she'd found, in her hand and read it leisurely.

At the edge of the bed, Justin had put one hand on the bed and was pressing down hard, causing it to creak.

He continued his performance.

"Nora, does it feel good?"

"Nora, do you want more?"

"Nora, let's do it again?"

"What? One more time? Are you really trying to squeeze your husband dry?"

Nora: "..."

That man was simply too shameless. Although he was just acting, wasn't he going a bit too far?

The corners of her lips spasmed. "Did you take some kind of drug? How many times do you plan to do it in one night?"

Justin chuckled. "I'm very strong. Why don't you try me?"

Nora: "..."

The man was really becoming more and more explicit after the two of them got together.

She lowered her head and continued to look at the codebook in her hand.

Five minutes later, the code was deciphered.

As she stared at the revealed information, Nora held her forehead in surprise.

Seemingly having sensed her peculiar reaction, Justin finally ended his solo "exercise" on the bed and strode over to her. When he saw the Morse code translations recorded in her notebook, he also frowned. "That's it?"

Nora heaved a quiet sigh. "I knew it, Mom must have set up another trap for us! What should we do?"

Nora and Justin stared at the Morse code translation, both a little speechless.

There was only a string of numbers in the translation, which looked like some kind of code. Apart from that was the name of a bank and the vault number of a safe deposit box.

This showed that her mother had left something in the safe back then. Could it be the V16?

Nora's brows drew together as she pondered about it.

Justin asked, "When are you going over to retrieve the contents?"

Nora looked at him and then back at the bank name.

The safe deposit box her mother had set up was in the Bank of New York, but if they returned and went to the Bank of New York so rashly, the people tailing them would surely realize that something was amiss.

But if they don't go in person... Should they send someone else to retrieve the contents instead, Nora was concerned that her mother might have left some kind of trap behind which would cause the person to fall into the trap if they didn't notice anything.

Therefore, their biggest problem at the moment was to find out exactly how many people were tailing and monitoring them, as well as how to avoid them...

In other words, they needed to find a suitable excuse to go to the Bank of New York.

Nora sighed silently.

She tossed the ledger aside and thought for a moment before she said, "Let's find a suitable opportunity."

"Okay."

That night, both of them were a little troubled.

They weren't in the mood to do anything else even when they were lying on the bed. Nora also had insomnia for once. After mulling over something for a long time with her eyes closed in the dark, she suddenly turned to Justin and asked, "How was Jude's martial arts prowess?"

Although Justin's breathing was steady the whole time, Nora could sense that he was still awake. Sure enough, as soon as she spoke, Justin's voice came over.

"It was alright. The gene serum is actually not as scary as we imagined."  
"Really?"

Nora was a little dubious.

If Jude's martial arts prowess was only "alright", then how come Justin only managed to subdue him after she defeated eight people?

However, the Irvin School of Martial Arts' moves were light and nimble, and they were known for their strategies instead. Perhaps it did take that much time for them to deal with such people.

Nora breathed a sigh of relief when she thought of that.

She'd originally thought that since Jude was so strong, then the mastermind would surely be even stronger. But if Jude's skills were just alright, then perhaps the gene serum's effect wasn't that great after all.

All her worries were unnecessary.

With that in mind, Nora turned around and finally fell asleep peacefully.

Upon hearing her even breathing, Justin suddenly stood up.

He strode to the bathroom, opened the door, and then took out a first aid box in a practiced manner.

Then, he lifted his gray silk pajama pants.

There was a large bruise on his thigh. He applied some ice and lightly massaged the bruise.

After the massage, he took off his shirt.

He looked in the mirror and turned around in silence.

On Justin's back was another large patch of bruises. On top of that, there was also a bit of blood. His injuries were a shocking sight.

Had he been an ordinary person, he probably would have been in so much pain that he could not even walk or move. Yet Justin hadn't shown even the slightest sign of that.

He applied some more ice to the bruises on his back with nary a frown.

He had gotten all these bruises from Jude during his fight with him that day. Of course, Jude had also suffered very serious injuries.

Even so, just how terrifying was it that someone could fight on par with him just because they had taken the gene serum?!

On top of that, Jude was really just a nobody underling!

This showed that the person who had sent Jude had at least ten Judes under his command!

Justin could beat one or two Judes, but what about eight or ten?

Even he and Nora together probably wouldn't be a match for them.

Justin sat in the bathroom after he treated his wounds, his brows slightly furrowed. His expression also became extraordinarily grave.

Their enemy was too powerful and too terrifying

The gene serum had been around for more than twenty years ago. It was unknown how great a force they had built all these years. No wonder Yvette had chosen to die back then, and no wonder the special department still hadn't obtained any substantial leads despite so many years of investigation.

Justin frowned. Suddenly, he took out his cell phone and sent a message to Lawrence and Sean: 'Enhance our security measures! And summon all our men back.'

Sean quickly replied: 'Yes, sir.'

Lawrence's reply came half a beat slower: 'Got it, Boss. Has something happened?'

Justin took a deep breath and wrote: 'Protect the three children and Nora.'

'Yes, sir.'

After sending the messages, he made more arrangements on his cell phone before he gently returned to the bed and lay down beside Nora.

The next day, by the time Nora woke up, Justin was already awake. He seemed to have already washed up and changed. He stood at the head of the bed and looked at her. "Let's return to New York?"

"Okay."

Then, Nora added, "But before I go back, there's one thing I need to do."

An hour later.

At the Blacks.

Nora handed the key to the Smiths' villa to Irene. "Aunt Irene, why don't you guys move to the villa?"

Irene was about to refuse when Justin said, "The villa will become abandoned if it stays unoccupied year-round. Nora grew up there after all. If your family moves in, you guys can also help take care of it."

As soon as he said that, Irene and Will looked at each other. Then, they nodded.

Nora then handed Idealian Pharmaceuticals' management rights to Will. "Uncle Will, I'll have to trouble you to take care of the company while we're in New York."

Will nodded.

After handling all this, Nora and Justin finally set off for New York.

At the same time.

Far away in Switzerland, a cruise ship drifted on the sea.

The cruise ship was huge and had all kinds of facilities on it, including even luxury shops. However, there were no guests on board, and it seemed like someone had reserved the whole ship.

In a room.

Iris lay there quietly.

A tall man stood quietly beside her.

The man reached out and gently stroked the woman's cheek. He whispered, "Iris, it's time to get up and eat."

He'd had her favorite morning tea prepared.

The woman on the bed was motionless.

She was so pale that her skin looked almost transparent.

She looked like she had already lost all signs of life...

However, Philip was not panicked at all. He continued to gently stroke Iris' cheek with his fingertips.

He persisted like that for ten minutes until Iris finally let out a long sigh. She slowly opened her eyes, meeting Philip's head-on. Underneath Iris' long eyelashes, her eyes were filled with a sense of resignation. "Why are you doing this?"

That day, when she went into shock from Philip's strangling, Iris had nearly died.

At that moment, she had really stopped breathing

But when Philip saw that she really wasn't breathing anymore, he'd panicked and hurriedly performed CPR on her, bringing her back to life.

At the same time, Philip had also been informed that Nora was Q. Only then did he realize that he had ultimately still lost the bet with Justin.

Iris hadn't struggled at that time but merely looked at him quietly.

Her gaze had terrified Philip, and he couldn't help but ask, "What are you looking at me for?"

Iris replied, "I have already given you a life back. Is this enough as repayment for the love between us back then?"

Was it enough?

Iris had become utterly disappointed in him a long time ago.

Back then, Iris asked him for help, yet he'd continued to test her feelings for him. During that time, Iris had given up on the man.

If one asked her whether she loved him?

Iris' love for Philip was certainly not as deep as the latter's love for her.

After all, to Philip, love was everything.

However, that was not the case for her. She had never been someone obsessed over love. Compared to romantic love family affection, friendship, and even her life itself were more important.

Yet if one were to say that she did not love him?

Philip was someone whom she found hard to forget and let go of.

Despite five years passing since her marriage to Herman and even after having Justin, Iris had still been shocked at that moment where she met Philip once more.

After all, he was her unforgettable first love, how could she possibly not have loved him?

However, Iris had already made her choice.

She had sealed her heart and would never give herself and Philip another chance.

She and Philip both owed each other.

Philip owed her a debt of trust, whereas she owed him unwavering love. Only with much difficulty had he finally seen true love in her, yet in the end, it had still turned into a sham, causing him to lose his trust in the world.

In that instant, Iris felt like she had been freed.

Philip's expression, which had been full of guilt, had also shown his regret and fear.

In that instant where his emotions had gotten the better of him, he had hardly been able to control his emotions. That was why he'd done something so ruthless. Philip regretted his actions.

The moment he saw Iris' head hanging and her losing all signs of life, he knew that he had made a mistake.

True love for someone was to watch them live happily, not constant tests and destruction!

In the past twenty years, he had watched Iris from a distance and watched how she'd rather take care of flowers in the suburban villa than leave with him. That had indeed been torturous, but compared to that, he couldn't accept Iris leaving this world for good even more!

It could be said that Philip's bout of venting had allowed him to finally realize his true feelings—he was afraid of losing Iris!

Yet, Iris had completely let go of the relationship after her close brush with death.

She didn't owe him anything anymore.

Unfortunately, when Iris wanted to leave, Philip hadn't agreed to it and had forcibly taken her to the cruise ship.

Only on the ship, and only at sea, would that man be unable to find them.

Iris wanted to escape, but in the vast sea, where could she go?

She could only ignore him and try her best to persevere.

At this time, seeing that she had finally spoken, Philip hurriedly said, "It's enough, it's enough! Iris, everything you say is correct. Let's have something to eat first, okay?"

Iris had not eaten for three days.

Without food or water, the body wouldn't be able to take it.

However, Iris shook her head. "I told you, I'm not going to eat if you don't free me. Philip, I don't owe you anything anymore, you have no right to put me under house arrest."

Philip sighed silently when he heard this. He said, "I'm not putting you under house arrest. I just want to start over with you."

"That's impossible."

Iris was weak, so her voice was a little low.

She sighed. "Nothing can happen between us anymore. There are no longer any ties or debts between us."

Her firmness made Philip panic.

He wanted to say more, but Iris closed her eyes, turned over, and continued to rest on the bed as if she had fallen asleep.

Philip stared at her back, at a loss as to what to say. He could only back away quietly and leave the room in silence.

Upon hearing him leave, Iris breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

However, not even five minutes later, the door was opened again. Philip said a little joyfully, "Iris, I've thought of a solution." Iris opened her eyes. The moment she looked over, she was stunned. "What are you doing?!"

Iris was stunned.

Philip had found someone to carry a large fish tank into the room. The fish tank was half a person's height and nearly three feet long. With a basin in his hand, someone poured water into it.

After doing it a few times, the tank was full.

Iris couldn't understand what Philip wanted to do. However, the servants left after filling the tank with water, leaving only Philip and Iris in the room.

Philip gazed at her with his deep and bottomless eyes. Inside his eyes was love so strong that it was nearly crazy. He suddenly said, "Iris, I know you are angry at me for almost strangling you to death, so I will take revenge for you now."

After he spoke, he suddenly lowered his head and plunged it into the water!

Iris' pupils shrank and she sat up abruptly.

As she hadn't eaten for three days, the violent movement made her vision blackout. She shook her head. After regaining a bit of light in her eyes, she looked at the room again.

Philip's hands were grasping both sides of the fish tank tightly, and his head was still immersed in the water!

Iris shouted, "Are you crazy?!"

She rushed up to Philip and grabbed his collar to pull him out. However, Philip was very strong, Iris couldn't make him budge in the slightest.

Iris hurriedly got down beside him and started to bang on the fish tank!

In the water, Philip opened his eyes, which were a little red from holding his breath. He stared at Iris, his lips moving. Although there was no sound, Iris understood what he was saying: "Are you still angry?"

Iris was utterly stunned.

She stared at Philip in disbelief. The man's eyes were firm and determined as if saying that if she continued being angry, then he would really suffocate himself to death!

Iris hurriedly nodded to express that she was no longer angry.

She really was not angry.

She merely felt freed.

Despite that, Philip didn't get out of the water. His lips were still moving. He asked, "Will you eat?"

Iris clenched her jaw, not sure how she should answer.

If she ate, she would be compromising.

But she didn't want to continue her relationship with Philip. Now that she had gotten on in years, she felt that enjoying family life and playing with her grandchildren at home was the best outcome she could ever have.

While she was hesitating, she noticed that Philip's eyes were starting to roll up, indicating that he was about to pass out.

Iris yelled, "Come out of there! Come out!"

But Philip did not move.

It was as though he would never come out unless she answered him.

Seeing that the man was really about to suffocate himself to death—a minute had already passed since he went into the water—Iris did not dare to waste any more time. She hurriedly shouted, "I'll eat, I'll eat!"

When Philip heard this, he finally let go...

However, by then, he was already exhausted and couldn't climb out at all and he fell into the fish tank instead.

Iris tried to pull him out again. As the man wasn't resisting anymore, she managed to pull him out after putting every bit of her strength into it.

Splash!

Water splashed onto the ground, wetting the entire deck...

Philip lay there, his arms limp beside him. As he took gulps of air, he slowly opened his eyes.

Iris rushed up to him and gave him a slap across the cheek!

Smack!

Iris stared at him and snapped furiously, "You lunatic! You are a lunatic!"

Philip, however, merely stared at her with a smile. His simple and naive appearance suddenly reminded Iris of their first date.

He was introverted at that time. To be honest, among all the people courting Iris, he was neither eye-catching nor outstanding, yet she had chosen to date him.

He didn't know where to take her or how to be nice to her, so he had stood below her dormitory and waited for her. After she got dressed and came downstairs, he could only give her a silly smile.

The faces of that boy from back then and the man in front of her gradually overlapped.

Iris cast her eyes down and said nothing.

The servants outside had already entered, and they started to clean up everything in the room.

Soon, the water on the floor was gone and the fish tank was also carried away. The room became clean and spotless. They even prepared a change of clothes for Iris, whose clothes had gotten wet when she pulled Philip out of the water.

Iris went to the bathroom and changed.

After she came out, she found that Philip had also changed into a set of clean clothes with the help of the servants. He had calmed down somewhat by then. The table was also full of her favorite breakfast foods.

Iris walked over. Before she could do anything, Philip pulled out the chair for her, his behavior extremely gentlemanly.

Iris sighed.

She lowered her head.

If she didn't eat, she didn't know what else Philip might do...

Never mind.

She would just take it that all her years of growing flowers in the suburban villa were just a vacation. She made up her mind to eat and drink properly from now on. Otherwise, if her health suffered, how was she going to go back, enjoy family life, and play with her grandchildren?

As for Philip... She lowered her eyes.

She'd just treat him like a stranger.

Seeing that she was willing to eat, Philip broke into a grin excitedly. He sat opposite her and kept offering her different dishes. However, she didn't eat any of the food he served her.

Philip sighed silently and put down his cutlery. "Iris, I know you still blame me for everything that has happened, but I will slowly make up for what I've done. We will definitely be able to return to what we were like in the past."

Iris wanted to say that it was impossible, but when she looked up, she saw Philip staring at her and saying, "It'll definitely be possible. Definitely, absolutely."

Iris decided to shut up.

After she finished eating, she felt a little more energetic. Although she was still rather weak, she didn't want to lie down in the room anymore, yet she didn't want to be alone if she were to go out for a walk, either.

She wanted even less to be with Philip.

While she was deep in thought, Philip smiled and said, "Iris, look who's here?"

Iris turned to see Mrs. Landis walking in. At the sight of Iris, Mrs. Landis stepped forward and called out, "Ma'am!"

Iris was surprised.

Philip sighed. "We're going to have to drift at sea for a while. I was afraid that you would be lonely, so I brought her here too. With her accompanying you, you would probably have a very good time here. By the way, you can go shopping. The cruise ship has everything, and there isn't any limit to your purchases at all."

They were on a tourist cruise ship. Even a single ticket cost thousands of dollars, yet Philip had reserved the entire ship.

The cruise ship was huge and lavish.

The cruise ship was just like a large shopping mall. There were all kinds of luxury goods there, so one wouldn't find it boring even if they stayed here for a month.

As Iris listened to what he said, she lowered her eyes, patted Mrs. Landis' hand, and said, "Then let's go out for a walk."

If she stayed in the room, she'd have to face Philip. If so, she might as well relax, calm down, and protect herself well. They would eventually dock one day. After Iris and Mrs. Landis went out, Jason quietly came in and walked up to Philip. He said, "Boss, King is calling again. What do you think his relationship with Justin Hunt really is?"

Philip narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

To be honest, when he abducted Iris, he'd initially planned to take her away, but he hadn't expected the Hunts to be so capable. On top of that, Justin was not as simple as it seemed.

Justin had driven them into such a corner that they nearly couldn't leave New York.

After that, when Philip wanted to return to his turf, he'd received a call from King, asking him to send Iris back home safely.

Philip realized it then.

No wonder King had sold him the shares at such a high price. King had already taken the Hunts' side a long time ago, everything he did was to help the Hunts.

He couldn't figure out the relationship between King and the Hunts, but he didn't dare to offend him, either. Thus, he had put on an obedient front and pretended to obey his instructions, but taken Iris to the cruise ship the next moment.

As long as they were at sea, King wouldn't be able to find them. Even if they found their location, they wouldn't be able to do anything

This was also why he'd taken Iris to the ship.

Of course, there was also another reason.

When they were in college, he'd once asked Iris where she wanted to go on a vacation the most. Iris had replied, "I don't like sports. Mountain climbing and all that makes people sweat and it stinks. I like ferry vacations. I can travel around the whole world on a cruise and it won't tire me out either."

This most elegant way of travel was her favorite.

At that time, Philip had said that he would take her there in the future.

He was just fulfilling the promise he'd made back then.

Thinking of this, Philip took the satellite phone from Jason. King's deep voice came from the other end.

"Philip, Iris hasn't returned home yet."

Philip replied, "Yeah, she and I still have some old promises that we have not fulfilled. We are having a lot of fun, so please don't worry, Mr. King."

King fell silent for a while. Finally, he said, "If anything happens to her, I will make you die a terrible death!"

The other party's harsh words shocked Philip.

The main reason why no one dared to refute King in the group was that he really was just like a king. When Philip inherited his Imperial League account as a child, King had already been in the group for as long as forty years.

He could remember like it was just yesterday that someone in the group had questioned King's position and actions thirty years ago. Their century-old business empire had gone bankrupt within a month.

King had used actions to prove his position and status.

Since then, no one in the group dared to ever go against him again.

Philip was a fierce and savage man through and through, but even he was afraid of King. He thought for a while, but still decided to ask, "May I know how you are related to Justin Hunt? Why do you protect them so much?"

King sneered, "Don't ask things you shouldn't be asking. You just need to know that Iris is a relative of mine. Anyone who hurts her will have to pay the price."

His relative...

That meant that they were related by blood!

Philip was stunned. He'd thought that as long as he got over his own issues, he would be able to be with Iris again; just like how Herman had obediently divorced Iris when he casually manipulated the Hunts a little.

Iris had also stayed in the suburbs for more than twenty years and never remarried.

Little did he expect that Iris had such a powerful background?

But if Iris knew King, then shouldn't she have sought help from King instead of him when Justin was kidnapped?!

What exactly was going on?

Philip was puzzled, but when he wanted to ask further, King had already hung up.

This gave Philip some reservations.

He suddenly looked at Jason. "Get our men to thoroughly investigate Iris's background."

Although Jason didn't understand, he nonetheless said respectfully, "Yes, sir."

At the Hunts' residence in New York.

Justin lowered his gaze and went into deep thought after he hung up the phone.

Philip was a little crazy, and he also had an unyielding aura etched deeply in him. Therefore, he mustn't push him too hard; it was very likely that Philip would otherwise kill both himself and Iris.

Justin had exposed his family ties with Iris just so Philip would hesitate to do anything rash.

Of course, Justin was also now certain that he understood Philip very well. The man loved Iris very much and was reluctant to hurt her. Or else why would he hold back for more than twenty years?

"Boss, we have found their whereabouts. Philip owns a cruise ship that left shore three days ago. Those who had booked tickets have all received refunds and information about compensation from the cruise ship. Therefore, we are guessing that Mdm. Iris is on the cruise ship."

Sean reported his findings. "We have contacted the people on the cruise ship. We have an informant there, and he has passed us a message saying that Mdm. Iris is fine. On the contrary, Philip has been begging her for forgiveness."

He frowned and went on. "The troublesome part is, although we have pinpointed the cruise ship's location, there are too many of Philip's men on board while we only have one informant, so we have no way of snatching her back. Additionally, if we dispatch a helicopter or a ferry to take her back, given the commotion it would cause, we won't be able to completely guarantee Mdm. Iris' safety at sea. Therefore, we may still need to wait for her to return safely by herself after she and Philip resolve the issues between them."

After confirming that Iris was safe for now, Justin was relieved.

He lowered his head and looked at the map on the table. "Just get someone to monitor them at all times. Dispatch a ship to follow them from a distance and make sure they don't discover the ship. But if any problem arises, they are allowed to immediately approach and carry out a rescue operation!"

"Yes, sir."

Sean took out his cell phone and made arrangements.

After the arrangements were made, he looked at Justin, only to see him staring at the location of a certain bank on the map.

Sean asked, "Boss, what's wrong?"

Justin was silent for a moment. Suddenly, he said, "Station all our men in New York near this bank. Nora and I will be going there within the next two days."

"Yes, sir."

Sean turned to leave, but before he stepped out, Justin suddenly stopped him. "Get a few of our men to follow me out tonight."

Sean's heart sank.

Justin was the Irvin School of Martial Arts' Big Brother. To be honest, he was fully capable of protecting himself in most typical dangerous situations. The reason why he brought so many bodyguards with him was just so he could weaken the enemy's attention on him.

Yet he was specially bringing their own men with him this time? What kind of dangerous mission was he going on?

He lowered his head and said, "I'll go with you."

"No, it's fine."

Justin suddenly looked at him. "The Hunts and the Imperial League need you."

Sean: "..."

Suddenly, it felt a little like Justin was leaving his last words, which made him feel rather uneasy.

He called a few of their most skilled men over. Then, he watched as Justin led the men and entered the darkness.

At the same time, Nora also quietly left the Hunt Manor.

She was going to the bank to see what on earth her mother had left her!

Nora couldn't wait anymore.

Perhaps it wasn't the V16 but clues to it in the safe deposit box, but there were only two months and twenty days left until Xander had to take the V16.

Every passing day was torture for her. This was especially true when she saw the terrible atmosphere at home upon returning from California earlier in the afternoon. Cherry was not playing games, neither was Pete working on his Mathematical Olympiad. Instead, both of them were circling around Xander.

Cherry had taken out all her favorite Barbie dolls and princess dresses and wanted to give them to him.

Xander hadn't taken them.

As for Pete, he also hinted that he could give him all the Mathematical Olympiad worksheets he had bought.

Xander hadn't taken those either.

The little fellow slumped on the sofa and waved as he said, "I don't like your stuff! I only like animals!"

When Cherry heard this, she immediately suggested, "I have an uncle who also loves animals a lot. He has a lot of stray cats and dogs. Why don't we get Uncle Louis to send us a few?!"

But Xander had waved and said, "No, I don't want them. Those animals are your uncle's friends, not mine."

Cherry corrected him. "Xander, he's also your uncle. He is very generous. Besides, he also needs money to feed that many cats and dogs, but he doesn't have any. He will definitely thank us if we help him raise a few!"

Pete also nodded and said, "Yes, he also has a dog whose coat has a mix of colors."

As soon as he said that, Xander replied, "So what? Even if he does, it's still not Rainbow."

Rainbow was Dog No. 3. As its coat was a mix of different colors, Xander had named it Rainbow. The name was too cliché, and even Rainbow itself disliked it. However, that was what Xander called it, so it had no other choice.

Rainbow was also the healthiest among the dogs there.

However, just this morning, Rainbow lay down on the floor and never woke up again.

Xander, who had become accustomed to death and parting, had dug a hole in the garden together with Cherry and Pete and buried Rainbow there.

There were now several more mounds in the garden, all of which contained Xander's friends.

Every time they went to the garden, their hearts would be exceptionally heavy.

As soon as Xander said that, Cherry and Pete looked at each other, neither of them daring to continue. Cherry changed the subject and said, "Xander, have you decided yet? Are you going to take the same last name as me or Pete?"

Neither Cherry nor Pete would be changing their names.

But surely Xander couldn't keep using Yale as his last name, right?

While Cherry and Pete were thinking about it, Xander waved and said, "Nah, I haven't."

Cherry said, "Why don't you take Smith as your last name like me? Grandpa will like you a lot!"

Pete said, "Boys should take Hunt as their last name, of course. It's better to have the same last name as Daddy."

Cherry then said, "But if Xander's last name is Hunt, then wouldn't he end up competing with you over family assets? Let's have Xander take Smith as his last name and inherit Grandpa's assets instead!"

Pete and Xander both looked at her. "What about you?"

Cherry grinned. "I have Grandaunt!"

Pete: "?"

Xander: "??"

Cherry tilted her head and said, "Grandaunt doesn't have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!"

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts' ever since she came to celebrate Cherry's birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, "I miss Grandaunt!"

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn't let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

The three little fellows were still very young. Coupled with the fact that she was around that night, they had all clamored to sleep with her. Thus, all of them lay down together on the bed.

The heartless Cherry fell asleep very quickly.

Pete looked at Xander worriedly.

Nora patted his head.

Pete was simply too sensitive. On top of that, he even knew to be mindful of other people's emotions. He was so sensible that it made one's heart ache.

On the contrary, it was Xander the little devil who couldn't fall asleep. It was only after Nora lit the calming incense she had developed that Pete and Xander finally fell asleep.

She got up to check on Justin and see what he was doing

But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, “Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don’t wanna die. Sniff...”

“Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?”

“Does it hurt when you die?”

“Do you still feel anything after death?”

Nora was frozen in place.

She had lit the calming incense, so despite Xander’s extreme unease, he didn’t wake up. However, his words pierced Nora’s heart like a dagger.

As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn’t be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn’t go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn’t wait anymore.

After Justin’s fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

The bank was closed and locked up at night. This was not an issue for Nora, though.

She took out her cell phone casually and tapped away on it quickly.

Click!

The door to the bank opened and Nora slipped inside.

It was pitch black inside the hall.

Nora turned on her cell phone immediately after she entered. On the screen was the layout of the bank.

Although her mother had deposited the things in the bank more than twenty years ago, the location of the safes was still the same despite the layout of the bank changing over the years.

Thus, her mother's things were still there.

Nora remembered clearly that it was safe no. 06 and the password was her birthday.

She walked soundlessly towards the safe deposit boxes.

There was no staff inside, only security officers patrolling back and forth. However, it was very difficult for them to spot her.

Nora was in full black clothing, so she completely blended with the darkness.

Light-footed and nimble, she headed straight to the safe deposit boxes. But after she passed by two rooms, she suddenly heard footsteps behind her.

Nora's pupils shrank and she suddenly darted into the corner next to her. When she looked behind her, she caught a shadow flashing past.

It seemed that it was very unsafe here tonight.

And she wasn't alone here!

The thought made Nora bite her lip. Her first thought was that she hadn't managed to avoid the people tailing her and had been followed!

Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

It could only be one of them!

Nora broke into a big frown.

Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

Since he had followed her here, he must already know by now that something was up with the bank. Even if she turned around and left, it would be difficult for her to dispel the other party's suspicions.

Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

Bam!

The moment she launched her attack, the two got into a fight. The other party responded very quickly. Before her fist could connect, he was already blocking her attack and counterattacking.

In just a single exchange of blows, Nora concluded that he was most definitely someone whose genes had been modified with the gene serum!

Because his physical strength was too great!

Nora had been practicing martial arts for a very long time. Since she was a child, she had been relying on her natural talent to come this far. On top of that, she even became the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister.

This was the first person in her life to give her a foreboding pressure.

Her almond-shaped eyes were widened big and round as she stared at the person in front of her.

In the darkness, the man's eyes shone green. He wore a baseball cap and a facial mask, revealing only his eyes. The way he stared at Nora was as if he had just spotted his prey.

When he was blocking Nora's attack, the man chuckled and said, "Is that all you've got?"

He had an accent. It was obvious that he was a foreigner.

In this instant, Nora felt a little angry at herself for not training properly. If she had been a little more diligent, then she might have had a chance if she went at her opponent with full force.

She took a deep breath. "Who are you?"

"You don't need to know that. Just hand over the V16 obediently and I will spare your life."

The man moved toward her one step at a time. "Resistance is futile. All my genes have been improved and I have no flaws. I am the most powerful fighter on earth now. Without any firearms, you won't be a match for me at all."

The man spoke confidently and arrogantly.

How could she use firearms here, though? If she did, all the security officers would come running in an instant!

Nora was in a half-squat, ready to attack.

She knew that she was not the man's match, but she couldn't just go down without a fight.

The V16 was Xander's, she would never relinquish it to anyone else!

She took a deep breath and sneered, "Try me."

The man seemed a little surprised at her reaction. Nevertheless, he let out a low chuckle and said, "Trueman is right, you are indeed too stubborn. You hold out hope until you're faced with the grim reality. In that case, I shall show you how strong I am!"

The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

## **Chapter 714 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

Justin took a step forward. Jude was indeed rather skilled, though it was also possible that his skills and great physical strength were all thanks to the gene serum, making him a little difficult to deal with.

When Jude started exchanging blows with him, he knew at once that he was in trouble. He'd originally thought that the people at this entrance would be easier to deal with since those at the other two entrances were all professional police officers, but it seemed that he'd made the wrong choice!

He immediately said to the people behind him, "You guys, break your way through first!"

Only when they left would Justin be distracted, thereby giving him the chance to escape.

The few men behind him were all subordinates whom he'd taken a lot of care to groom. They were the strongest in their circle and had also shown the best results after taking the gene-improvement solution.

Even Howard was no match for them, which went to show how strong they were.

The men nodded immediately. They bypassed Jude and Justin and rushed towards Nora and Howard.

Justin didn't intercept them.

It seemed like he trusted the people behind him very much.

At the sight, Howard was terribly moved.

In the past, Justin had always called him a good-for-nothing because he didn't make any progress despite practicing martial arts for so long. All of his moves were just fancy, without any real substance. Yet Justin was putting so much trust in him at this moment.

There were eight of them in total. They might not be as strong as Jude, but they had numbers on their side!

He must not let Justin down!

With that in mind, lofty ambitions suddenly surged up in Howard. He bit the bullet and stepped forward at once. "I can do it, Justin! Don't worry!"

As he let out a roar, he attacked one of the eight men at once!

Howard felt that this must be the highlight of his life. He followed after Justin, using his bare hands to deal with Jude's seven henchmen... well, one of them.

He used everything he had to dodge his opponent's attack, and then he punched and kicked them.

They exchanged numerous blows without any pause.

The two of them delivered kicks at each other with great force, as though they wanted to beat all the dust off their clothes. Wherever he was hit, Howard felt as if his bones were close to breaking. The pain was so great that he was close to losing all his strength.

But he mustn't admit defeat!

He mustn't bring shame to Justin!

Thus, Howard gritted his teeth and continued to strike the opponent hard!

“Haaaaah!”

With a great shout, Howard finally knocked the man down onto the ground!

The two of them were pretty much equally matched, but with his determination, he had beat him!

When he held the man under him, Howard felt that he had done it! He had succeeded!

He raised his head excitedly, only to suddenly realize that he had only stopped one of them and there were six left!

The people behind him only knew fancy moves without any substance. They could handle ordinary people, but not any of these eight opponents.

The six men must have already sent all the people behind him flying by then, right?

While not fatal, they would definitely suffer injuries.

No, wait...

That woman!

Howard hurriedly looked behind him to check on Nora and see if she was hiding in the corner and shaking in her boots.

He wondered if Justin would be mad at him for not protecting Nora well.

While he was thinking about it, he turned his head to the side, only to see...

The six men, whom he'd thought of as incredibly powerful, had all collapsed onto the floor beside him?

All of them lay there, unable to get up.

Nora stood beside them and dusted off her hands leisurely, as though she was the one who had defeated the seven men.

Howard looked at the people behind him and praised them. "Not bad, guys! Out of those seven tyrants, I didn't expect you guys to actually be able to stop six of them! Who's the one that's so impressive?"

As soon as he said that, his men all looked at one another. At last, all of them looked at Nora.

Howard: "??"

What was that supposed to mean?

But when he looked at the men again, they looked like they had absolutely no intention to do anything...

Howard was not like the brainless Chester. He couldn't help but frown and think.

Half a beat later, he stared at his men incredulously and said, "What are you guys looking at her for? Surely it can't be her who did this, right? Did she beat them all with her beauty? What kind of joke is that?!"

The men nodded in unison.

Then, they looked at Nora in shock again.

They'd originally thought that she was a girl with a weak personality. After all, she had such a good temper. Howard had scolded her for so long, yet she hadn't retorted at all.

But when they thought of the brutal scene just now...

They felt like their worldviews had been totally subverted! Who would have thought that a delicate woman like her would be a master martial artist?

Stunned, Howard frowned. “No way, you guys...”

Before he could finish speaking, the man under him suddenly pushed Howard away and ran out.

“Stop him!”

Howard shouted. The next moment, he saw the man running up to Nora.

Howard was greatly alarmed. In his opinion, the person whom he had intercepted was likely the strongest among the seven.

Although he didn't like his sister-in-law very much, for Justin's sake, he couldn't let her get hurt either.

Was that guy running up to Nora to take her hostage and force everyone into retreating?

What bad luck!

He knew it, women were trouble. Why did she have to come?

As soon as the thought formed, he stepped forward to rush over. But his leg had only just reached out when he saw the man reaching towards Nora.

At some point, there was already a dagger in his hand. He jabbed it right at Nora's neck.

“Don't move! Or I'll—”.

But before he could say “kill her”, Nora had suddenly stretched out her hand, grabbed his wrist, and exerted a little force.

Crack!

The dagger in the man's hand fell to the ground, and his wrist emitted a crisp snap.

Howard had just beaten up the man, but even all the pain he'd suffered just now couldn't compare to the sharp pain he was currently feeling. The pain made him turn limp, and he slumped onto his knees in front of Nora.

To everyone, Nora seemed to just be holding his wrist lightly. With her eyes slightly raised, she slowly asked in a low voice, "Are you getting down on your knees to beg me for mercy? That's not quite appropriate, is it?"

The whole place was quiet.

Even the thug had fallen into a daze from the pain. He looked at Nora in astonishment. Where on earth did the delicate woman get all that physical strength from?

On the other side, Howard looked at them in astonishment. He swallowed and looked at his men. "... So, she really was the one who... beat all those men just now?"

His men, who only knew fancy moves, lined up in a row and then silently took a step back in unison so that they were all one step further away from Nora. Then, they nodded together.

Howard: "..."

By the time the situation here was resolved, Justin had also finished dealing with Jude. At this time, Morris and Brenda also rushed over from the other two entrances.

By then, Nora had already let go of the last man's hand. The man's wrist was drooping limply, his bones obviously fractured.

Upon seeing the men collapsed on the floor beside Nora, Brenda raced towards her at once and sent the man with the limp wrist flying with a kick. She glared at Howard furiously and demanded, "What's wrong with you? How can you let him rush all the way up to Nora? What if he scared her?"

She held Nora's hand and said, "Don't be afraid, Nora! I'm here!"

Howard: "..."

His lips moved. He wanted to explain, but before he could say anything, Nora glanced over at him, scaring Howard so badly that he shut up at once.

Nora didn't want Brenda to know that she was very strong. After all, she found Brenda's protection of her very heartwarming.

Howard, who looked like he was in a huge dilemma, shouldered the “blame” and said, “It... it was my mistake!”

Brenda: “?”

She and Howard had always been fighting with each other. Why was he suddenly giving in this time?

However, she didn’t want to spare too much thought on those issues at the moment. After she held Nora’s hand, she looked at Justin and complained, “Justin, why didn’t you stop him?”

Justin: “...”

“Alright, alright.” Nora patted Brenda’s hand comfortingly. After she calmed her sister-in-law down, her gaze swept across the people present. Howard’s men immediately straightened their backs and shivered in unison.

Nora’s gaze then swept across the people on the floor. Her little sidekicks immediately reacted and they walked over to arrest everyone lying on the floor and escort them out.

After tying them all up, Brenda said, “Nora, we’ve found their R&D base. I will take you there now.”

Nora nodded.

To be honest, she’d always wanted to see how these gene-improvement solutions with unknown chemical components were made. But when she entered their laboratory with Brenda, she found that everything there was very plain and crude.

This was no R&D base at all!

“What’s going on?”

Brenda turned to the side and grabbed Jude.

After Jude was arrested, he had known right away that there was no escape for him. He immediately explained, “We actually don’t have a base or anything like that. These gene-improvement solutions are just diluted versions of the gene serum!”

Nora: "..."

Everyone: "..."

After they had put in so much time and effort, the truth was actually so dull?

And here they thought they had caught a den of thieves that manufactured gene serums!

"Where did you get the gene serum from?" Morris asked, his voice low and serious.

An honest and obedient Jude explained, "I bought it. We have a sales channel abroad where we can buy pure gene serums. The diluted serums don't cause too much harm to ordinary people's bodies."

"They only have two years left to live, yet you're saying the serums don't cause too much harm to the body?"

Morris frowned.

Jude said cautiously, "The gene serum can only be used on children. Adults can't withstand it at all, they will explode and die immediately. But once it's diluted, their genes can still be improved a little... Besides, there are statistics that show that some people have survived past two years..."

"What happened after the two years?"

"... They lived for another half a month."

Brenda sneered, "You are pretty smart, aren't you? Using the gene serum on yourself while giving others the gene-improvement solution instead. You're purely just harming people!"

"No, no!" Jude was very honest. "How would I be worthy of using the gene serum? I'm also using the diluted gene-improvement solution. I... need money, my child has a terminal illness, but the medical fees cost more than one hundred thousand dollars. Only if I used the gene-improvement solution on myself would I have been able to convince the others that I have become stronger, and only then could I sell the gene-improvement solution... I didn't have any other choice..."

His words stunned everyone present. All of them looked at him in disbelief.

Even Nora and Justin exchanged a look.

They'd initially thought that Jude was likely one of the five children who had survived the experiments back then, but little did they expect that he actually wasn't?

No wonder he was so easygoing!

Jude's martial arts prowess just now, though... He had kept Justin occupied for three minutes all by himself!

At present, there were actually large skill gaps in martial artists in the country.

Apart from Irvin and Quinn, the strongest were Big Brother and Big Sister. The other disciples didn't have bodies well-suited for martial arts. Moreover, in these modern times, no one would work that hard to practice martial arts, either.

As a result, apart from a few top martial artists, the rest were all rather mediocre.

This was also the reason why Big Brother and Big Sister were so popular in the circle, as well as why their statuses were unopposed!

Because there were very few in America who could even last ten moves with Justin!

The diluted gene-improvement solution alone could improve a person's physical constitution this much. In that case, just how strong would people who had been injected with gene serums, and whose genes had truly been improved, be?

Nora and Justin suddenly felt that even they might not be their opponents' match should they encounter them!

Their hearts sank.

It was also in this instant, in the face of absolute power, that Nora finally realized how terrifying the gene serum was.

No wonder even her mother had been driven into a corner and chose to die back then.

Her expression darkened. When she thought of how those five people were after the V16 that Xander needed, she suddenly felt rather panicked, scared, and at a loss.

The V15 gene serum was already so powerful. Should they be injected with the V16, wouldn't they all become superhumans?!

While she was thinking, at some point, Howard had already sneaked over to her. Earlier, he had been overbearing and arrogant towards her and had also reprimanded her as and when he wanted to, but he was now very cautious around her.

He asked softly, "Um, Nora... You must be from the Quinn School of Martial Arts, right?"

The Irvin School of Martial Arts didn't try to win by physical strength. It was just like how Justin hadn't subdued Jude with just one move.

Only the Quinn School of Martial Arts would use such open and aboveboard moves.

Nora admitted to it with a grunt.

As soon as she did, Howard spoke again. "Then are you Linda from the Quinn School of Martial Arts? Have you met Big Sister before?"

The martial arts-obsessed teenager scratched his head. "I... I want to ask Big Sister to be my teacher! Do you know where she is? What does she like? How can I please her?"

Nora looked at the young man's pious attitude and sighed silently. "I don't need pleasing."

After saying that, Nora walked past him and walked out with Justin.

There was no point in staying any longer in the laboratory. They were going to interrogate Jude to find out who was giving him the orders so that they could find the mastermind hiding behind everything.

It was only when the two of them reached the entrance that Howard finally realized what Nora meant. His eyes widened in disbelief and he stared at Nora from the back in shock and astonishment.

When he did, he saw that, because the door was a little narrow and two people could not pass through it at the same time, Justin subconsciously took half a step back while Nora walked out calmly without feeling like anything was wrong. Howard: "..."

Since when did Justin ever give way to others?

He had always been the leader of the family, yet he was naturally giving way to someone else now.

In addition to being in love with her, it was even more so because that person was worthy of him doing so!

So, she really was Big Sister!

No wonder Justin, who had always been very protective of his own, didn't even say a word when he badmouthed Nora. On top of that, he'd even given him a seemingly half-amused look.

At that time, he'd thought that it was because Justin liked Big Sister, but he finally realized why now!

Howard felt like he had been slapped in the face, and he was distressed.

He had actually mocked Big Sister!

Was it too late for him to apologize?

With that in mind, Howard hurriedly followed after them.

On the way out, Nora kept thinking about the problem she was facing, wanting to know the specifics of the clue to the V16. After the incident just now with Jude, she couldn't quite wait anymore.

Her gait couldn't help but speed up. Justin followed closely behind her.

When the two came to the car, Justin was about to open the car door for Nora when a figure darted over, opened the car door, and said humbly, "Nora, be careful not to knock yourself against the top of the door!"

Nora: "..."

Justin: "..."

Howard looked at Nora ingratiatingly with a smile. “Nora, what do you think of my martial arts? Do I have any hope of entering the Quinn School of Martial Arts and becoming your disciple?”

Nora thought for a while. Suddenly, she sighed and said, “Let’s get the old man to teach you instead.”

She then picked up her cell phone and called Quinn.

Quinn was very loud. He hollered, “What’s up, Sleepyhead?”

Nora touched her nose, not quite used to someone calling her by a nickname. She coughed and said, “I’ve found you a disciple.”

“... You took a disciple for me? Have I agreed to it? Yet you took them in so casually? If you want to take a disciple, then take one for yourself!” Quinn retorted.

Next to Nora, Howard felt as if his heart was in his throat when he heard Quinn.

He had met Quinn before. Back then, when he was in New York, Quinn hadn’t even shown Justin any courtesy. Wasn’t Nora being a little too impolite with him?

Would Quinn expel her in a fit of rage?

Just as he was thinking about it, he heard Nora say calmly, “I’ve already told him to go to New York to look for you.”

“... He’d better bring a present!”

“Okay.”

“... Okay? What do you mean ‘okay’? You no-good disciple, you...”

Before Quinn could finish, Nora hung up the phone and looked at Howard silently. “Quinn is old, so he’s a little long-winded. Don’t mind him.”

Howard was already frozen on the spot like a statue.

He’d never imagined that Quinn would actually agree to it just like that! Additionally, Nora completely had the upper hand in her talks with Quinn!

While he was in a daze, Nora and Justin got into the car, left the place, and headed straight to the Hunts' family home.

Even if outsiders were tailing them, they wouldn't be able to enter the residence.

Jude was taken away by Morris and Brenda.

After returning to the family home, Howard asked, "Nora, why didn't you bring Jude back?"

Nora was puzzled. "For what? Interrogation?"

Howard frowned and replied, "Yeah, didn't you catch him to find out who was the one giving him the orders?"

"... Aren't Morris and the others more apt when it comes to interrogating prisoners?"

So, why should she bring the prisoner back and do it herself instead?

If she was that free, she might as well make up for lost sleep instead!

Thinking of this, Nora curled her lips disdainfully.

Howard: "..."

By the time they arrived at the family home, it was already 10 PM. After entering, Nora and Justin steadfastly ate dinner without rushing, and then went to their room to rest.

After the two of them entered, a servant in the Hunts' family home quietly walked to an inconspicuous corner, took out a cell phone, and made a call.

"Doesn't seem like they have found the codebook. Or else they would have been in a hurry to see read it."

The person on the other end of the call said something and the servant replied, "Okay, I understand, sir."

After saying this, he hung up the phone, quietly made up an excuse, and went up to the door of the room Justin and Nora were in. While no one else was around, he pressed his ear against the door and listened to the voices inside.

Nora said, "Don't be so anxious... Slow down..."

"Nora, don't move. Let me do it..."

Creak...

"Are you satisfied?"

What followed were suggestive sounds, which even made the eavesdropping man blush.

After the man listened for a while more, he finally turned and left. He then took out his cell phone and sent a text message: "I am certain that they didn't find the codebook."

Inside the room.

Nora sat steadily on the sofa with the ledger, and codebook she'd found, in her hand and read it leisurely.

At the edge of the bed, Justin had put one hand on the bed and was pressing down hard, causing it to creak.

He continued his performance.

"Nora, does it feel good?"

"Nora, do you want more?"

"Nora, let's do it again?"

"What? One more time? Are you really trying to squeeze your husband dry?"

Nora: "..."

That man was simply too shameless. Although he was just acting, wasn't he going a bit too far?

The corners of her lips spasmed. "Did you take some kind of drug? How many times do you plan to do it in one night?"

Justin chuckled. "I'm very strong. Why don't you try me?"

Nora: "..."

The man was really becoming more and more explicit after the two of them got together.

She lowered her head and continued to look at the codebook in her hand.

Five minutes later, the code was deciphered.

As she stared at the revealed information, Nora held her forehead in surprise.

Seemingly having sensed her peculiar reaction, Justin finally ended his solo "exercise" on the bed and strode over to her. When he saw the Morse code translations recorded in her notebook, he also frowned. "That's it?"

Nora heaved a quiet sigh. "I knew it, Mom must have set up another trap for us! What should we do?"

Nora and Justin stared at the Morse code translation, both a little speechless.

There was only a string of numbers in the translation, which looked like some kind of code. Apart from that was the name of a bank and the vault number of a safe deposit box.

This showed that her mother had left something in the safe back then. Could it be the V16?

Nora's brows drew together as she pondered about it.

Justin asked, "When are you going over to retrieve the contents?"

Nora looked at him and then back at the bank name.

The safe deposit box her mother had set up was in the Bank of New York, but if they returned and went to the Bank of New York so rashly, the people tailing them would surely realize that something was amiss.

But if they don't go in person... Should they send someone else to retrieve the contents instead, Nora was concerned that her mother might have left some kind of trap behind which would cause the person to fall into the trap if they didn't notice anything.

Therefore, their biggest problem at the moment was to find out exactly how many people were tailing and monitoring them, as well as how to avoid them...

In other words, they needed to find a suitable excuse to go to the Bank of New York.

Nora sighed silently.

She tossed the ledger aside and thought for a moment before she said, "Let's find a suitable opportunity."

"Okay."

That night, both of them were a little troubled.

They weren't in the mood to do anything else even when they were lying on the bed. Nora also had insomnia for once. After mulling over something for a long time with her eyes closed in the dark, she suddenly turned to Justin and asked, "How was Jude's martial arts prowess?"

Although Justin's breathing was steady the whole time, Nora could sense that he was still awake. Sure enough, as soon as she spoke, Justin's voice came over.

"It was alright. The gene serum is actually not as scary as we imagined."  
"Really?"

Nora was a little dubious.

If Jude's martial arts prowess was only "alright", then how come Justin only managed to subdue him after she defeated eight people?

However, the Irvin School of Martial Arts' moves were light and nimble, and they were known for their strategies instead. Perhaps it did take that much time for them to deal with such people.

Nora breathed a sigh of relief when she thought of that.

She'd originally thought that since Jude was so strong, then the mastermind would surely be even stronger. But if Jude's skills were just alright, then perhaps the gene serum's effect wasn't that great after all.

All her worries were unnecessary.

With that in mind, Nora turned around and finally fell asleep peacefully.

Upon hearing her even breathing, Justin suddenly stood up.

He strode to the bathroom, opened the door, and then took out a first aid box in a practiced manner.

Then, he lifted his gray silk pajama pants.

There was a large bruise on his thigh. He applied some ice and lightly massaged the bruise.

After the massage, he took off his shirt.

He looked in the mirror and turned around in silence.

On Justin's back was another large patch of bruises. On top of that, there was also a bit of blood. His injuries were a shocking sight.

Had he been an ordinary person, he probably would have been in so much pain that he could not even walk or move. Yet Justin hadn't shown even the slightest sign of that.

He applied some more ice to the bruises on his back with nary a frown.

He had gotten all these bruises from Jude during his fight with him that day. Of course, Jude had also suffered very serious injuries.

Even so, just how terrifying was it that someone could fight on par with him just because they had taken the gene serum?!

On top of that, Jude was really just a nobody underling!

This showed that the person who had sent Jude had at least ten Judes under his command!

Justin could beat one or two Judes, but what about eight or ten?

Even he and Nora together probably wouldn't be a match for them.

Justin sat in the bathroom after he treated his wounds, his brows slightly furrowed. His expression also became extraordinarily grave.

Their enemy was too powerful and too terrifying

The gene serum had been around for more than twenty years ago. It was unknown how great a force they had built all these years. No wonder Yvette had chosen to die back then, and no wonder the special department still hadn't obtained any substantial leads despite so many years of investigation.

Justin frowned. Suddenly, he took out his cell phone and sent a message to Lawrence and Sean: 'Enhance our security measures! And summon all our men back.'

Sean quickly replied: 'Yes, sir.'

Lawrence's reply came half a beat slower: 'Got it, Boss. Has something happened?'

Justin took a deep breath and wrote: 'Protect the three children and Nora.'

'Yes, sir.'

After sending the messages, he made more arrangements on his cell phone before he gently returned to the bed and lay down beside Nora.

The next day, by the time Nora woke up, Justin was already awake. He seemed to have already washed up and changed. He stood at the head of the bed and looked at her. "Let's return to New York?"

"Okay."

Then, Nora added, "But before I go back, there's one thing I need to do."

An hour later.

At the Blacks.

Nora handed the key to the Smiths' villa to Irene. "Aunt Irene, why don't you guys move to the villa?"

Irene was about to refuse when Justin said, “The villa will become abandoned if it stays unoccupied year-round. Nora grew up there after all. If your family moves in, you guys can also help take care of it.”

As soon as he said that, Irene and Will looked at each other. Then, they nodded.

Nora then handed Idealian Pharmaceuticals’ management rights to Will. “Uncle Will, I’ll have to trouble you to take care of the company while we’re in New York.”

Will nodded.

After handling all this, Nora and Justin finally set off for New York.

At the same time.

Far away in Switzerland, a cruise ship drifted on the sea.

The cruise ship was huge and had all kinds of facilities on it, including even luxury shops. However, there were no guests on board, and it seemed like someone had reserved the whole ship.

In a room.

Iris lay there quietly.

A tall man stood quietly beside her.

The man reached out and gently stroked the woman’s cheek. He whispered, “Iris, it’s time to get up and eat.”

He’d had her favorite morning tea prepared.

The woman on the bed was motionless.

She was so pale that her skin looked almost transparent.

She looked like she had already lost all signs of life...

However, Philip was not panicked at all. He continued to gently stroke Iris’ cheek with his fingertips.

He persisted like that for ten minutes until Iris finally let out a long sigh. She slowly opened her eyes, meeting Philip's head-on. Underneath Iris' long eyelashes, her eyes were filled with a sense of resignation. "Why are you doing this?"

That day, when she went into shock from Philip's strangling, Iris had nearly died.

At that moment, she had really stopped breathing

But when Philip saw that she really wasn't breathing anymore, he'd panicked and hurriedly performed CPR on her, bringing her back to life.

At the same time, Philip had also been informed that Nora was Q. Only then did he realize that he had ultimately still lost the bet with Justin.

Iris hadn't struggled at that time but merely looked at him quietly.

Her gaze had terrified Philip, and he couldn't help but ask, "What are you looking at me for?"

Iris replied, "I have already given you a life back. Is this enough as repayment for the love between us back then?"

Was it enough?

Iris had become utterly disappointed in him a long time ago.

Back then, Iris asked him for help, yet he'd continued to test her feelings for him. During that time, Iris had given up on the man.

If one asked her whether she loved him?

Iris' love for Philip was certainly not as deep as the latter's love for her.

After all, to Philip, love was everything.

However, that was not the case for her. She had never been someone obsessed over love. Compared to romantic love family affection, friendship, and even her life itself were more important.

Yet if one were to say that she did not love him?

Philip was someone whom she found hard to forget and let go of.

Despite five years passing since her marriage to Herman and even after having Justin, Iris had still been shocked at that moment where she met Philip once more.

After all, he was her unforgettable first love, how could she possibly not have loved him?

However, Iris had already made her choice.

She had sealed her heart and would never give herself and Philip another chance.

She and Philip both owed each other.

Philip owed her a debt of trust, whereas she owed him unwavering love. Only with much difficulty had he finally seen true love in her, yet in the end, it had still turned into a sham, causing him to lose his trust in the world.

In that instant, Iris felt like she had been freed.

Philip's expression, which had been full of guilt, had also shown his regret and fear.

In that instant where his emotions had gotten the better of him, he had hardly been able to control his emotions. That was why he'd done something so ruthless. Philip regretted his actions.

The moment he saw Iris' head hanging and her losing all signs of life, he knew that he had made a mistake.

True love for someone was to watch them live happily, not constant tests and destruction!

In the past twenty years, he had watched Iris from a distance and watched how she'd rather take care of flowers in the suburban villa than leave with him. That had indeed been torturous, but compared to that, he couldn't accept Iris leaving this world for good even more!

It could be said that Philip's bout of venting had allowed him to finally realize his true feelings—he was afraid of losing Iris!

Yet, Iris had completely let go of the relationship after her close brush with death.

She didn't owe him anything anymore.

Unfortunately, when Iris wanted to leave, Philip hadn't agreed to it and had forcibly taken her to the cruise ship.

Only on the ship, and only at sea, would that man be unable to find them.

Iris wanted to escape, but in the vast sea, where could she go?

She could only ignore him and try her best to persevere.

At this time, seeing that she had finally spoken, Philip hurriedly said, "It's enough, it's enough! Iris, everything you say is correct. Let's have something to eat first, okay?"

Iris had not eaten for three days.

Without food or water, the body wouldn't be able to take it.

However, Iris shook her head. "I told you, I'm not going to eat if you don't free me. Philip, I don't owe you anything anymore, you have no right to put me under house arrest."

Philip sighed silently when he heard this. He said, "I'm not putting you under house arrest. I just want to start over with you."

"That's impossible."

Iris was weak, so her voice was a little low.

She sighed. "Nothing can happen between us anymore. There are no longer any ties or debts between us."

Her firmness made Philip panic.

He wanted to say more, but Iris closed her eyes, turned over, and continued to rest on the bed as if she had fallen asleep.

Philip stared at her back, at a loss as to what to say. He could only back away quietly and leave the room in silence.

Upon hearing him leave, Iris breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

However, not even five minutes later, the door was opened again. Philip said a little joyfully, "Iris, I've thought of a solution." Iris opened her eyes. The moment she looked over, she was stunned. "What are you doing?!"

Iris was stunned.

Philip had found someone to carry a large fish tank into the room. The fish tank was half a person's height and nearly three feet long. With a basin in his hand, someone poured water into it.

After doing it a few times, the tank was full.

Iris couldn't understand what Philip wanted to do. However, the servants left after filling the tank with water, leaving only Philip and Iris in the room.

Philip gazed at her with his deep and bottomless eyes. Inside his eyes was love so strong that it was nearly crazy. He suddenly said, "Iris, I know you are angry at me for almost strangling you to death, so I will take revenge for you now."

After he spoke, he suddenly lowered his head and plunged it into the water!

Iris' pupils shrank and she sat up abruptly.

As she hadn't eaten for three days, the violent movement made her vision blackout. She shook her head. After regaining a bit of light in her eyes, she looked at the room again.

Philip's hands were grasping both sides of the fish tank tightly, and his head was still immersed in the water!

Iris shouted, "Are you crazy?!"

She rushed up to Philip and grabbed his collar to pull him out. However, Philip was very strong, Iris couldn't make him budge in the slightest.

Iris hurriedly got down beside him and started to bang on the fish tank!

In the water, Philip opened his eyes, which were a little red from holding his breath. He stared at Iris, his lips moving. Although there was no sound, Iris understood what he was saying: "Are you still angry?"

Iris was utterly stunned.

She stared at Philip in disbelief. The man's eyes were firm and determined as if saying that if she continued being angry, then he would really suffocate himself to death!

Iris hurriedly nodded to express that she was no longer angry.

She really was not angry.

She merely felt freed.

Despite that, Philip didn't get out of the water. His lips were still moving. He asked, "Will you eat?"

Iris clenched her jaw, not sure how she should answer.

If she ate, she would be compromising.

But she didn't want to continue her relationship with Philip. Now that she had gotten on in years, she felt that enjoying family life and playing with her grandchildren at home was the best outcome she could ever have.

While she was hesitating, she noticed that Philip's eyes were starting to roll up, indicating that he was about to pass out.

Iris yelled, "Come out of there! Come out!"

But Philip did not move.

It was as though he would never come out unless she answered him.

Seeing that the man was really about to suffocate himself to death-a minute had already passed since he went into the water Iris did not dare to waste any more time. She hurriedly shouted, "I'll eat, I'll eat!"

When Philip heard this, he finally let go...

However, by then, he was already exhausted and couldn't climb out at all and he fell into the fish tank instead.

Iris tried to pull him out again. As the man wasn't resisting anymore, she managed to pull him out after putting every bit of her strength into it.

Splash!

Water splashed onto the ground, wetting the entire deck...

Philip lay there, his arms limp beside him. As he took gulps of air, he slowly opened his eyes.

Iris rushed up to him and gave him a slap across the cheek!

Smack!

Iris stared at him and snapped furiously, "You lunatic! You are a lunatic!"

Philip, however, merely stared at her with a smile. His simple and naive appearance suddenly reminded Iris of their first date.

He was introverted at that time. To be honest, among all the people courting Iris, he was neither eye-catching nor outstanding, yet she had chosen to date him.

He didn't know where to take her or how to be nice to her, so he had stood below her dormitory and waited for her. After she got dressed and came downstairs, he could only give her a silly smile.

The faces of that boy from back then and the man in front of her gradually overlapped.

Iris cast her eyes down and said nothing.

The servants outside had already entered, and they started to clean up everything in the room.

Soon, the water on the floor was gone and the fish tank was also carried away. The room became clean and spotless. They even prepared a change of clothes for Iris, whose clothes had gotten wet when she pulled Philip out of the water.

Iris went to the bathroom and changed.

After she came out, she found that Philip had also changed into a set of clean clothes with the help of the servants. He had calmed down somewhat by then. The table was also full of her favorite breakfast foods.

Iris walked over. Before she could do anything, Philip pulled out the chair for her, his behavior extremely gentlemanly.

Iris sighed.

She lowered her head.

If she didn't eat, she didn't know what else Philip might do...

Never mind.

She would just take it that all her years of growing flowers in the suburban villa were just a vacation. She made up her mind to eat and drink properly from now on. Otherwise, if her health suffered, how was she going to go back, enjoy family life, and play with her grandchildren?

As for Philip... She lowered her eyes.

She'd just treat him like a stranger.

Seeing that she was willing to eat, Philip broke into a grin excitedly. He sat opposite her and kept offering her different dishes. However, she didn't eat any of the food he served her.

Philip sighed silently and put down his cutlery. "Iris, I know you still blame me for everything that has happened, but I will slowly make up for what I've done. We will definitely be able to return to what we were like in the past."

Iris wanted to say that it was impossible, but when she looked up, she saw Philip staring at her and saying, "It'll definitely be possible. Definitely, absolutely."

Iris decided to shut up.

After she finished eating, she felt a little more energetic. Although she was still rather weak, she didn't want to lie down in the room anymore, yet she didn't want to be alone if she were to go out for a walk, either.

She wanted even less to be with Philip.

While she was deep in thought, Philip smiled and said, "Iris, look who's here?"

Iris turned to see Mrs. Landis walking in. At the sight of Iris, Mrs. Landis stepped forward and called out, "Ma'am!"

Iris was surprised.

Philip sighed. "We're going to have to drift at sea for a while. I was afraid that you would be lonely, so I brought her here too. With her accompanying you, you would probably have a very good time here. By the way, you can go shopping. The cruise ship has everything, and there isn't any limit to your purchases at all."

They were on a tourist cruise ship. Even a single ticket cost thousands of dollars, yet Philip had reserved the entire ship.

The cruise ship was huge and lavish.

The cruise ship was just like a large shopping mall. There were all kinds of luxury goods there, so one wouldn't find it boring even if they stayed here for a month.

As Iris listened to what he said, she lowered her eyes, patted Mrs. Landis' hand, and said, "Then let's go out for a walk."

If she stayed in the room, she'd have to face Philip. If so, she might as well relax, calm down, and protect herself well. They would eventually dock one day. After Iris and Mrs. Landis went out, Jason quietly came in and walked up to Philip. He said, "Boss, King is calling again. What do you think his relationship with Justin Hunt really is?"

Philip narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

To be honest, when he abducted Iris, he'd initially planned to take her away, but he hadn't expected the Hunts to be so capable. On top of that, Justin was not as simple as it seemed.

Justin had driven them into such a corner that they nearly couldn't leave New York.

After that, when Philip wanted to return to his turf, he'd received a call from King, asking him to send Iris back home safely.

Philip realized it then.

No wonder King had sold him the shares at such a high price. King had already taken the Hunts' side a long time ago, everything he did was to help the Hunts.

He couldn't figure out the relationship between King and the Hunts, but he didn't dare to offend him, either. Thus, he had put on an obedient front and pretended to obey his instructions, but taken Iris to the cruise ship the next moment.

As long as they were at sea, King wouldn't be able to find them. Even if they found their location, they wouldn't be able to do anything

This was also why he'd taken Iris to the ship.

Of course, there was also another reason.

When they were in college, he'd once asked Iris where she wanted to go on a vacation the most. Iris had replied, "I don't like sports. Mountain climbing and all that makes people sweat and it stinks. I like ferry vacations. I can travel around the whole world on a cruise and it won't tire me out either."

This most elegant way of travel was her favorite.

At that time, Philip had said that he would take her there in the future.

He was just fulfilling the promise he'd made back then.

Thinking of this, Philip took the satellite phone from Jason. King's deep voice came from the other end.

"Philip, Iris hasn't returned home yet."

Philip replied, "Yeah, she and I still have some old promises that we have not fulfilled. We are having a lot of fun, so please don't worry, Mr. King."

King fell silent for a while. Finally, he said, "If anything happens to her, I will make you die a terrible death!"

The other party's harsh words shocked Philip.

The main reason why no one dared to refute King in the group was that he really was just like a king. When Philip inherited his Imperial League account as a child, King had already been in the group for as long as forty years.

He could remember like it was just yesterday that someone in the group had questioned King's position and actions thirty years ago. Their century-old business empire had gone bankrupt within a month.

King had used actions to prove his position and status.

Since then, no one in the group dared to ever go against him again.

Philip was a fierce and savage man through and through, but even he was afraid of King. He thought for a while, but still decided to ask, "May I know how you are related to Justin Hunt? Why do you protect them so much?"

King sneered, "Don't ask things you shouldn't be asking. You just need to know that Iris is a relative of mine. Anyone who hurts her will have to pay the price."

His relative...

That meant that they were related by blood!

Philip was stunned. He'd thought that as long as he got over his own issues, he would be able to be with Iris again; just like how Herman had obediently divorced Iris when he casually manipulated the Hunts a little.

Iris had also stayed in the suburbs for more than twenty years and never remarried.

Little did he expect that Iris had such a powerful background?

But if Iris knew King, then shouldn't she have sought help from King instead of him when Justin was kidnapped?!

What exactly was going on?

Philip was puzzled, but when he wanted to ask further, King had already hung up.

This gave Philip some reservations.

He suddenly looked at Jason. "Get our men to thoroughly investigate Iris's background."

Although Jason didn't understand, he nonetheless said respectfully, "Yes, sir."

At the Hunts' residence in New York.

Justin lowered his gaze and went into deep thought after he hung up the phone.

Philip was a little crazy, and he also had an unyielding aura etched deeply in him. Therefore, he mustn't push him too hard; it was very likely that Philip would otherwise kill both himself and Iris.

Justin had exposed his family ties with Iris just so Philip would hesitate to do anything rash.

Of course, Justin was also now certain that he understood Philip very well. The man loved Iris very much and was reluctant to hurt her. Or else why would he hold back for more than twenty years?

"Boss, we have found their whereabouts. Philip owns a cruise ship that left shore three days ago. Those who had booked tickets have all received refunds and information about compensation from the cruise ship. Therefore, we are guessing that Mdm. Iris is on the cruise ship."

Sean reported his findings. "We have contacted the people on the cruise ship. We have an informant there, and he has passed us a message saying that Mdm. Iris is fine. On the contrary, Philip has been begging her for forgiveness."

He frowned and went on. "The troublesome part is, although we have pinpointed the cruise ship's location, there are too many of Philip's men on board while we only have one informant, so we have no way of snatching her back. Additionally, if we dispatch a helicopter or a ferry to take her back, given the commotion it would cause, we won't be able to completely guarantee Mdm. Iris' safety at sea. Therefore, we may still need to wait for her to return safely by herself after she and Philip resolve the issues between them."

After confirming that Iris was safe for now, Justin was relieved.

He lowered his head and looked at the map on the table. "Just get someone to monitor them at all times. Dispatch a ship to follow them from a distance and make sure they don't discover the ship. But if any problem arises, they are allowed to immediately approach and carry out a rescue operation!"

"Yes, sir."

Sean took out his cell phone and made arrangements.

After the arrangements were made, he looked at Justin, only to see him staring at the location of a certain bank on the map.

Sean asked, "Boss, what's wrong?"

Justin was silent for a moment. Suddenly, he said, "Station all our men in New York near this bank. Nora and I will be going there within the next two days."

"Yes, sir."

Sean turned to leave, but before he stepped out, Justin suddenly stopped him. "Get a few of our men to follow me out tonight."

Sean's heart sank.

Justin was the Irvin School of Martial Arts' Big Brother. To be honest, he was fully capable of protecting himself in most typical dangerous situations. The reason why he brought so many bodyguards with him was just so he could weaken the enemy's attention on him.

Yet he was specially bringing their own men with him this time? What kind of dangerous mission was he going on?

He lowered his head and said, "I'll go with you."

"No, it's fine."

Justin suddenly looked at him. "The Hunts and the Imperial League need you."

Sean: "..."

Suddenly, it felt a little like Justin was leaving his last words, which made him feel rather uneasy.

He called a few of their most skilled men over. Then, he watched as Justin led the men and entered the darkness.

At the same time, Nora also quietly left the Hunt Manor.

She was going to the bank to see what on earth her mother had left her!

Nora couldn't wait anymore.

Perhaps it wasn't the V16 but clues to it in the safe deposit box, but there were only two months and twenty days left until Xander had to take the V16.

Every passing day was torture for her. This was especially true when she saw the terrible atmosphere at home upon returning from California earlier in the afternoon. Cherry was not playing games, neither was Pete working on his Mathematical Olympiad. Instead, both of them were circling around Xander.

Cherry had taken out all her favorite Barbie dolls and princess dresses and wanted to give them to him.

Xander hadn't taken them.

As for Pete, he also hinted that he could give him all the Mathematical Olympiad worksheets he had bought.

Xander hadn't taken those either.

The little fellow slumped on the sofa and waved as he said, "I don't like your stuff! I only like animals!"

When Cherry heard this, she immediately suggested, "I have an uncle who also loves animals a lot. He has a lot of stray cats and dogs. Why don't we get Uncle Louis to send us a few?!"

But Xander had waved and said, "No, I don't want them. Those animals are your uncle's friends, not mine."

Cherry corrected him. "Xander, he's also your uncle. He is very generous. Besides, he also needs money to feed that many cats and dogs, but he doesn't have any. He will definitely thank us if we help him raise a few!"

Pete also nodded and said, "Yes, he also has a dog whose coat has a mix of colors."

As soon as he said that, Xander replied, "So what? Even if he does, it's still not Rainbow."

Rainbow was Dog No. 3. As its coat was a mix of different colors, Xander had named it Rainbow. The name was too cliché, and even Rainbow itself disliked it. However, that was what Xander called it, so it had no other choice.

Rainbow was also the healthiest among the dogs there.

However, just this morning, Rainbow lay down on the floor and never woke up again.

Xander, who had become accustomed to death and parting, had dug a hole in the garden together with Cherry and Pete and buried Rainbow there.

There were now several more mounds in the garden, all of which contained Xander's friends.

Every time they went to the garden, their hearts would be exceptionally heavy.

As soon as Xander said that, Cherry and Pete looked at each other, neither of them daring to continue. Cherry changed the subject and said, "Xander, have you decided yet? Are you going to take the same last name as me or Pete?"

Neither Cherry nor Pete would be changing their names.

But surely Xander couldn't keep using Yale as his last name, right?

While Cherry and Pete were thinking about it, Xander waved and said, "Nah, I haven't."

Cherry said, "Why don't you take Smith as your last name like me? Grandpa will like you a lot!"

Pete said, "Boys should take Hunt as their last name, of course. It's better to have the same last name as Daddy."

Cherry then said, "But if Xander's last name is Hunt, then wouldn't he end up competing with you over family assets? Let's have Xander take Smith as his last name and inherit Grandpa's assets instead!"

Pete and Xander both looked at her. "What about you?"

Cherry grinned. "I have Grand aunt!"

Pete: "?"

Xander: "??"

Cherry tilted her head and said, “Grandaunt doesn’t have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!”

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts’ ever since she came to celebrate Cherry’s birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, “I miss Grandaunt!”

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn’t let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

The three little fellows were still very young. Coupled with the fact that she was around that night, they had all clamored to sleep with her. Thus, all of them lay down together on the bed.

The heartless Cherry fell asleep very quickly.

Pete looked at Xander worriedly.

Nora patted his head.

Pete was simply too sensitive. On top of that, he even knew to be mindful of other people’s emotions. He was so sensible that it made one’s heart ache.

On the contrary, it was Xander the little devil who couldn’t fall asleep. It was only after Nora lit the calming incense she had developed that Pete and Xander finally fell asleep.

She got up to check on Justin and see what he was doing

But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, “Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don’t wanna die. Sniff...”

“Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?”

“Does it hurt when you die?”

“Do you still feel anything after death?”

Nora was frozen in place.

She had lit the calming incense, so despite Xander’s extreme unease, he didn’t wake up. However, his words pierced Nora’s heart like a dagger.

As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn’t be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn’t go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn’t wait anymore.

After Justin’s fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

The bank was closed and locked up at night. This was not an issue for Nora, though.

She took out her cell phone casually and tapped away on it quickly.

Click!

The door to the bank opened and Nora slipped inside.

It was pitch black inside the hall.

Nora turned on her cell phone immediately after she entered. On the screen was the layout of the bank.

Although her mother had deposited the things in the bank more than twenty years ago, the location of the safes was still the same despite the layout of the bank changing over the years.

Thus, her mother's things were still there.

Nora remembered clearly that it was safe no. 06 and the password was her birthday.

She walked soundlessly towards the safe deposit boxes.

There was no staff inside, only security officers patrolling back and forth. However, it was very difficult for them to spot her.

Nora was in full black clothing, so she completely blended with the darkness.

Light-footed and nimble, she headed straight to the safe deposit boxes. But after she passed by two rooms, she suddenly heard footsteps behind her.

Nora's pupils shrank and she suddenly darted into the corner next to her. When she looked behind her, she caught a shadow flashing past.

It seemed that it was very unsafe here tonight.

And she wasn't alone here!

The thought made Nora bite her lip. Her first thought was that she hadn't managed to avoid the people tailing her and had been followed!

Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

It could only be one of them!

Nora broke into a big frown.

Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

Since he had followed her here, he must already know by now that something was up with the bank. Even if she turned around and left, it would be difficult for her to dispel the other party's suspicions.

Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

Bam!

The moment she launched her attack, the two got into a fight. The other party responded very quickly. Before her fist could connect, he was already blocking her attack and counterattacking.

In just a single exchange of blows, Nora concluded that he was most definitely someone whose genes had been modified with the gene serum!

Because his physical strength was too great!

Nora had been practicing martial arts for a very long time. Since she was a child, she had been relying on her natural talent to come this far. On top of that, she even became the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister.

This was the first person in her life to give her a foreboding pressure.

Her almond-shaped eyes were widened big and round as she stared at the person in front of her.

In the darkness, the man's eyes shone green. He wore a baseball cap and a facial mask, revealing only his eyes. The way he stared at Nora was as if he had just spotted his prey.

When he was blocking Nora's attack, the man chuckled and said, "Is that all you've got?"

He had an accent. It was obvious that he was a foreigner.

In this instant, Nora felt a little angry at herself for not training properly. If she had been a little more diligent, then she might have had a chance if she went at her opponent with full force.

She took a deep breath. "Who are you?"

"You don't need to know that. Just hand over the V16 obediently and I will spare your life."

The man moved toward her one step at a time. "Resistance is futile. All my genes have been improved and I have no flaws. I am the most powerful fighter on earth now. Without any firearms, you won't be a match for me at all."

The man spoke confidently and arrogantly.

How could she use firearms here, though? If she did, all the security officers would come running in an instant!

Nora was in a half-squat, ready to attack.

She knew that she was not the man's match, but she couldn't just go down without a fight.

The V16 was Xander's, she would never relinquish it to anyone else!

She took a deep breath and sneered, "Try me."

The man seemed a little surprised at her reaction. Nevertheless, he let out a low chuckle and said, "Trueman is right, you are indeed too stubborn. You hold out hope until you're faced with the grim reality. In that case, I shall show you how strong I am!"

The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

## **Chapter 715 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

Howard, who looked like he was in a huge dilemma, shouldered the "blame" and said, "It... it was my mistake!"

Brenda: "?"

She and Howard had always been fighting with each other. Why was he suddenly giving in this time?

However, she didn't want to spare too much thought on those issues at the moment. After she held Nora's hand, she looked at Justin and complained, "Justin, why didn't you stop him?"

Justin: "..."

"Alright, alright." Nora patted Brenda's hand comfortingly. After she calmed her sister-in-law down, her gaze swept across the people present. Howard's men immediately straightened their backs and shivered in unison.

Nora's gaze then swept across the people on the floor. Her little sidekicks immediately reacted and they walked over to arrest everyone lying on the floor and escort them out.

After tying them all up, Brenda said, "Nora, we've found their R&D base. I will take you there now."

Nora nodded.

To be honest, she'd always wanted to see how these gene-improvement solutions with unknown chemical components were made. But when she entered their laboratory with Brenda, she found that everything there was very plain and crude.

This was no R&D base at all!

"What's going on?"

Brenda turned to the side and grabbed Jude.

After Jude was arrested, he had known right away that there was no escape for him. He immediately explained, "We actually don't have a base or anything like that. These gene-improvement solutions are just diluted versions of the gene serum!"

Nora: "..."

Everyone: "..."

After they had put in so much time and effort, the truth was actually so dull?

And here they thought they had caught a den of thieves that manufactured gene serums!

“Where did you get the gene serum from?” Morris asked, his voice low and serious.

An honest and obedient Jude explained, “I bought it. We have a sales channel abroad where we can buy pure gene serums. The diluted serums don’t cause too much harm to ordinary people’s bodies.”

“They only have two years left to live, yet you’re saying the serums don’t cause too much harm to the body?”

Morris frowned.

Jude said cautiously, “The gene serum can only be used on children. Adults can’t withstand it at all, they will explode and die immediately. But once it’s diluted, their genes can still be improved a little... Besides, there are statistics that show that some people have survived past two years...”

“What happened after the two years?”

“... They lived for another half a month.”

Brenda sneered, “You are pretty smart, aren’t you? Using the gene serum on yourself while giving others the gene-improvement solution instead. You’re purely just harming people!”

“No, no!” Jude was very honest. “How would I be worthy of using the gene serum? I’m also using the diluted gene-improvement solution. I... need money, my child has a terminal illness, but the medical fees cost more than one hundred thousand dollars. Only if I used the gene-improvement solution on myself would I have been able to convince the others that I have become stronger, and only then could I sell the gene-improvement solution... I didn’t have any other choice...”

His words stunned everyone present. All of them looked at him in disbelief.

Even Nora and Justin exchanged a look.

They’d initially thought that Jude was likely one of the five children who had survived the experiments back then, but little did they expect that he actually wasn’t?

No wonder he was so easygoing!

Jude's martial arts prowess just now, though... He had kept Justin occupied for three minutes all by himself!

At present, there were actually large skill gaps in martial artists in the country.

Apart from Irvin and Quinn, the strongest were Big Brother and Big Sister. The other disciples didn't have bodies well-suited for martial arts. Moreover, in these modern times, no one would work that hard to practice martial arts, either.

As a result, apart from a few top martial artists, the rest were all rather mediocre.

This was also the reason why Big Brother and Big Sister were so popular in the circle, as well as why their statuses were unopposed!

Because there were very few in America who could even last ten moves with Justin!

The diluted gene-improvement solution alone could improve a person's physical constitution this much. In that case, just how strong would people who had been injected with gene serums, and whose genes had truly been improved, be?

Nora and Justin suddenly felt that even they might not be their opponents' match should they encounter them!

Their hearts sank.

It was also in this instant, in the face of absolute power, that Nora finally realized how terrifying the gene serum was.

No wonder even her mother had been driven into a corner and chose to die back then.

Her expression darkened. When she thought of how those five people were after the V16 that Xander needed, she suddenly felt rather panicked, scared, and at a loss.

The V15 gene serum was already so powerful. Should they be injected with the V16, wouldn't they all become superhumans?!

While she was thinking, at some point, Howard had already sneaked over to her. Earlier, he had been overbearing and arrogant towards her and had also reprimanded her as and when he wanted to, but he was now very cautious around her.

He asked softly, “Um, Nora... You must be from the Quinn School of Martial Arts, right?”

The Irvin School of Martial Arts didn't try to win by physical strength. It was just like how Justin hadn't subdued Jude with just one move.

Only the Quinn School of Martial Arts would use such open and aboveboard moves.

Nora admitted to it with a grunt.

As soon as she did, Howard spoke again. “Then are you Linda from the Quinn School of Martial Arts? Have you met Big Sister before?”

The martial arts-obsessed teenager scratched his head. “I... I want to ask Big Sister to be my teacher! Do you know where she is? What does she like? How can I please her?”

Nora looked at the young man's pious attitude and sighed silently. “I don't need pleasing.”

After saying that, Nora walked past him and walked out with Justin.

There was no point in staying any longer in the laboratory. They were going to interrogate Jude to find out who was giving him the orders so that they could find the mastermind hiding behind everything.

It was only when the two of them reached the entrance that Howard finally realized what Nora meant. His eyes widened in disbelief and he stared at Nora from the back in shock and astonishment.

When he did, he saw that, because the door was a little narrow and two people could not pass through it at the same time, Justin subconsciously took half a step back while Nora walked out calmly without feeling like anything was wrong. Howard: “...”

Since when did Justin ever give way to others?

He had always been the leader of the family, yet he was naturally giving way to someone else now.

In addition to being in love with her, it was even more so because that person was worthy of him doing so!

So, she really was Big Sister!

No wonder Justin, who had always been very protective of his own, didn't even say a word when he badmouthed Nora. On top of that, he'd even given him a seemingly half-amused look.

At that time, he'd thought that it was because Justin liked Big Sister, but he finally realized why now!

Howard felt like he had been slapped in the face, and he was distressed.

He had actually mocked Big Sister!

Was it too late for him to apologize?

With that in mind, Howard hurriedly followed after them.

On the way out, Nora kept thinking about the problem she was facing, wanting to know the specifics of the clue to the V16. After the incident just now with Jude, she couldn't quite wait anymore.

Her gait couldn't help but speed up. Justin followed closely behind her.

When the two came to the car, Justin was about to open the car door for Nora when a figure darted over, opened the car door, and said humbly, "Nora, be careful not to knock yourself against the top of the door!"

Nora: "..."

Justin: "..."

Howard looked at Nora ingratiatingly with a smile. "Nora, what do you think of my martial arts? Do I have any hope of entering the Quinn School of Martial Arts and becoming your disciple?"

Nora thought for a while. Suddenly, she sighed and said, "Let's get the old man to teach you instead."

She then picked up her cell phone and called Quinn.

Quinn was very loud. He hollered, "What's up, Sleepyhead?"

Nora touched her nose, not quite used to someone calling her by a nickname. She coughed and said, "I've found you a disciple."

"... You took a disciple for me? Have I agreed to it? Yet you took them in so casually? If you want to take a disciple, then take one for yourself!" Quinn retorted.

Next to Nora, Howard felt as if his heart was in his throat when he heard Quinn.

He had met Quinn before. Back then, when he was in New York, Quinn hadn't even shown Justin any courtesy. Wasn't Nora being a little too impolite with him?

Would Quinn expel her in a fit of rage?

Just as he was thinking about it, he heard Nora say calmly, "I've already told him to go to New York to look for you."

"... He'd better bring a present!"

"Okay."

"... Okay? What do you mean 'okay'? You no-good disciple, you..."

Before Quinn could finish, Nora hung up the phone and looked at Howard silently. "Quinn is old, so he's a little long-winded. Don't mind him."

Howard was already frozen on the spot like a statue.

He'd never imagined that Quinn would actually agree to it just like that! Additionally, Nora completely had the upper hand in her talks with Quinn!

While he was in a daze, Nora and Justin got into the car, left the place, and headed straight to the Hunts' family home.

Even if outsiders were tailing them, they wouldn't be able to enter the residence.

Jude was taken away by Morris and Brenda.

After returning to the family home, Howard asked, “Nora, why didn’t you bring Jude back?”

Nora was puzzled. “For what? Interrogation?”

Howard frowned and replied, “Yeah, didn’t you catch him to find out who was the one giving him the orders?”.

“... Aren’t Morris and the others more apt when it comes to interrogating prisoners?”

So, why should she bring the prisoner back and do it herself instead?

If she was that free, she might as well make up for lost sleep instead!

Thinking of this, Nora curled her lips disdainfully.

Howard: “...”

By the time they arrived at the family home, it was already 10 PM. After entering, Nora and Justin steadfastly ate dinner without rushing, and then went to their room to rest.

After the two of them entered, a servant in the Hunts’ family home quietly walked to an inconspicuous corner, took out a cell phone, and made a call.

“Doesn’t seem like they have found the codebook. Or else they would have been in a hurry to see read it.”

The person on the other end of the call said something and the servant replied, “Okay, I understand, sir.”

After saying this, he hung up the phone, quietly made up an excuse, and went up to the door of the room Justin and Nora were in. While no one else was around, he pressed his ear against the door and listened to the voices inside.

Nora said, “Don’t be so anxious... Slow down...”

“Nora, don’t move. Let me do it...”

Creak...

“Are you satisfied?”

What followed were suggestive sounds, which even made the eavesdropping man blush.

After the man listened for a while more, he finally turned and left. He then took out his cell phone and sent a text message: “I am certain that they didn’t find the codebook.”

Inside the room.

Nora sat steadily on the sofa with the ledger, and codebook she’d found, in her hand and read it leisurely.

At the edge of the bed, Justin had put one hand on the bed and was pressing down hard, causing it to creak.

He continued his performance.

“Nora, does it feel good?”

“Nora, do you want more?”

“Nora, let’s do it again?”

“What? One more time? Are you really trying to squeeze your husband dry?”.

Nora: “...”

That man was simply too shameless. Although he was just acting, wasn’t he going a bit too far?

The corners of her lips spasmed. “Did you take some kind of drug? How many times do you plan to do it in one night?”

Justin chuckled. “I’m very strong. Why don’t you try me?”

Nora: “...”

The man was really becoming more and more explicit after the two of them got together.

She lowered her head and continued to look at the codebook in her hand.

Five minutes later, the code was deciphered.

As she stared at the revealed information, Nora held her forehead in surprise.

Seemingly having sensed her peculiar reaction, Justin finally ended his solo “exercise” on the bed and strode over to her. When he saw the Morse code translations recorded in her notebook, he also frowned. “That’s it?”

Nora heaved a quiet sigh. “I knew it, Mom must have set up another trap for us! What should we do?”

Nora and Justin stared at the Morse code translation, both a little speechless.

There was only a string of numbers in the translation, which looked like some kind of code. Apart from that was the name of a bank and the vault number of a safe deposit box.

This showed that her mother had left something in the safe back then. Could it be the V16?

Nora’s brows drew together as she pondered about it.

Justin asked, “When are you going over to retrieve the contents?”

Nora looked at him and then back at the bank name.

The safe deposit box her mother had set up was in the Bank of New York, but if they returned and went to the Bank of New York so rashly, the people tailing them would surely realize that something was amiss.

But if they don’t go in person... Should they send someone else to retrieve the contents instead, Nora was concerned that her mother might have left some kind of trap behind which would cause the person to fall into the trap if they didn’t notice anything.

Therefore, their biggest problem at the moment was to find out exactly how many people were tailing and monitoring them, as well as how to avoid them...

In other words, they needed to find a suitable excuse to go to the Bank of New York.

Nora sighed silently.

She tossed the ledger aside and thought for a moment before she said, "Let's find a suitable opportunity."

"Okay."

That night, both of them were a little troubled.

They weren't in the mood to do anything else even when they were lying on the bed. Nora also had insomnia for once. After mulling over something for a long time with her eyes closed in the dark, she suddenly turned to Justin and asked, "How was Jude's martial arts prowess?"

Although Justin's breathing was steady the whole time, Nora could sense that he was still awake. Sure enough, as soon as she spoke, Justin's voice came over.

"It was alright. The gene serum is actually not as scary as we imagined."  
"Really?"

Nora was a little dubious.

If Jude's martial arts prowess was only "alright", then how come Justin only managed to subdue him after she defeated eight people?

However, the Irvin School of Martial Arts' moves were light and nimble, and they were known for their strategies instead. Perhaps it did take that much time for them to deal with such people.

Nora breathed a sigh of relief when she thought of that.

She'd originally thought that since Jude was so strong, then the mastermind would surely be even stronger. But if Jude's skills were just alright, then perhaps the gene serum's effect wasn't that great after all.

All her worries were unnecessary.

With that in mind, Nora turned around and finally fell asleep peacefully.

Upon hearing her even breathing, Justin suddenly stood up.

He strode to the bathroom, opened the door, and then took out a first aid box in a practiced manner.

Then, he lifted his gray silk pajama pants.

There was a large bruise on his thigh. He applied some ice and lightly massaged the bruise.

After the massage, he took off his shirt.

He looked in the mirror and turned around in silence.

On Justin's back was another large patch of bruises. On top of that, there was also a bit of blood. His injuries were a shocking sight.

Had he been an ordinary person, he probably would have been in so much pain that he could not even walk or move. Yet Justin hadn't shown even the slightest sign of that.

He applied some more ice to the bruises on his back with nary a frown.

He had gotten all these bruises from Jude during his fight with him that day. Of course, Jude had also suffered very serious injuries.

Even so, just how terrifying was it that someone could fight on par with him just because they had taken the gene serum?!

On top of that, Jude was really just a nobody underling!

This showed that the person who had sent Jude had at least ten Judes under his command!

Justin could beat one or two Judes, but what about eight or ten?

Even he and Nora together probably wouldn't be a match for them.

Justin sat in the bathroom after he treated his wounds, his brows slightly furrowed. His expression also became extraordinarily grave.

Their enemy was too powerful and too terrifying

The gene serum had been around for more than twenty years ago. It was unknown how great a force they had built all these years. No wonder Yvette had chosen to die back then, and no wonder the special department still hadn't obtained any substantial leads despite so many years of investigation.

Justin frowned. Suddenly, he took out his cell phone and sent a message to Lawrence and Sean: 'Enhance our security measures! And summon all our men back.'

Sean quickly replied: 'Yes, sir.'

Lawrence's reply came half a beat slower: 'Got it, Boss. Has something happened?'

Justin took a deep breath and wrote: 'Protect the three children and Nora.'

'Yes, sir.'

After sending the messages, he made more arrangements on his cell phone before he gently returned to the bed and lay down beside Nora.

The next day, by the time Nora woke up, Justin was already awake. He seemed to have already washed up and changed. He stood at the head of the bed and looked at her. "Let's return to New York?"

"Okay."

Then, Nora added, "But before I go back, there's one thing I need to do."

An hour later.

At the Blacks.

Nora handed the key to the Smiths' villa to Irene. "Aunt Irene, why don't you guys move to the villa?"

Irene was about to refuse when Justin said, "The villa will become abandoned if it stays unoccupied year-round. Nora grew up there after all. If your family moves in, you guys can also help take care of it."

As soon as he said that, Irene and Will looked at each other. Then, they nodded.

Nora then handed Idealian Pharmaceuticals' management rights to Will. "Uncle Will, I'll have to trouble you to take care of the company while we're in New York."

Will nodded.

After handling all this, Nora and Justin finally set off for New York.

At the same time.

Far away in Switzerland, a cruise ship drifted on the sea.

The cruise ship was huge and had all kinds of facilities on it, including even luxury shops. However, there were no guests on board, and it seemed like someone had reserved the whole ship.

In a room.

Iris lay there quietly.

A tall man stood quietly beside her.

The man reached out and gently stroked the woman's cheek. He whispered, "Iris, it's time to get up and eat."

He'd had her favorite morning tea prepared.

The woman on the bed was motionless.

She was so pale that her skin looked almost transparent.

She looked like she had already lost all signs of life...

However, Philip was not panicked at all. He continued to gently stroke Iris' cheek with his fingertips.

He persisted like that for ten minutes until Iris finally let out a long sigh. She slowly opened her eyes, meeting Philip's head-on. Underneath Iris' long eyelashes, her eyes were filled with a sense of resignation. "Why are you doing this?"

That day, when she went into shock from Philip's strangling, Iris had nearly died.

At that moment, she had really stopped breathing

But when Philip saw that she really wasn't breathing anymore, he'd panicked and hurriedly performed CPR on her, bringing her back to life.

At the same time, Philip had also been informed that Nora was Q. Only then did he realize that he had ultimately still lost the bet with Justin.

Iris hadn't struggled at that time but merely looked at him quietly.

Her gaze had terrified Philip, and he couldn't help but ask, "What are you looking at me for?"

Iris replied, "I have already given you a life back. Is this enough as repayment for the love between us back then?"

Was it enough?

Iris had become utterly disappointed in him a long time ago.

Back then, Iris asked him for help, yet he'd continued to test her feelings for him. During that time, Iris had given up on the man.

If one asked her whether she loved him?

Iris' love for Philip was certainly not as deep as the latter's love for her.

After all, to Philip, love was everything.

However, that was not the case for her. She had never been someone obsessed over love. Compared to romantic love family affection, friendship, and even her life itself were more important.

Yet if one were to say that she did not love him?

Philip was someone whom she found hard to forget and let go of.

Despite five years passing since her marriage to Herman and even after having Justin, Iris had still been shocked at that moment where she met Philip once more.

After all, he was her unforgettable first love, how could she possibly not have loved him?

However, Iris had already made her choice.

She had sealed her heart and would never give herself and Philip another chance.

She and Philip both owed each other.

Philip owed her a debt of trust, whereas she owed him unwavering love. Only with much difficulty had he finally seen true love in her, yet in the end, it had still turned into a sham, causing him to lose his trust in the world.

In that instant, Iris felt like she had been freed.

Philip's expression, which had been full of guilt, had also shown his regret and fear.

In that instant where his emotions had gotten the better of him, he had hardly been able to control his emotions. That was why he'd done something so ruthless. Philip regretted his actions.

The moment he saw Iris' head hanging and her losing all signs of life, he knew that he had made a mistake.

True love for someone was to watch them live happily, not constant tests and destruction!

In the past twenty years, he had watched Iris from a distance and watched how she'd rather take care of flowers in the suburban villa than leave with him. That had indeed been torturous, but compared to that, he couldn't accept Iris leaving this world for good even more!

It could be said that Philip's bout of venting had allowed him to finally realize his true feelings—he was afraid of losing Iris!

Yet, Iris had completely let go of the relationship after her close brush with death.

She didn't owe him anything anymore.

Unfortunately, when Iris wanted to leave, Philip hadn't agreed to it and had forcibly taken her to the cruise ship.

Only on the ship, and only at sea, would that man be unable to find them.

Iris wanted to escape, but in the vast sea, where could she go?

She could only ignore him and try her best to persevere.

At this time, seeing that she had finally spoken, Philip hurriedly said, "It's enough, it's enough! Iris, everything you say is correct. Let's have something to eat first, okay?"

Iris had not eaten for three days.

Without food or water, the body wouldn't be able to take it.

However, Iris shook her head. "I told you, I'm not going to eat if you don't free me. Philip, I don't owe you anything anymore, you have no right to put me under house arrest."

Philip sighed silently when he heard this. He said, "I'm not putting you under house arrest. I just want to start over with you."

"That's impossible."

Iris was weak, so her voice was a little low.

She sighed. "Nothing can happen between us anymore. There are no longer any ties or debts between us."

Her firmness made Philip panic.

He wanted to say more, but Iris closed her eyes, turned over, and continued to rest on the bed as if she had fallen asleep.

Philip stared at her back, at a loss as to what to say. He could only back away quietly and leave the room in silence.

Upon hearing him leave, Iris breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

However, not even five minutes later, the door was opened again. Philip said a little joyfully, "Iris, I've thought of a solution." Iris opened her eyes. The moment she looked over, she was stunned. "What are you doing?!"

Iris was stunned.

Philip had found someone to carry a large fish tank into the room. The fish tank was half a person's height and nearly three feet long. With a basin in his hand, someone poured water into it.

After doing it a few times, the tank was full.

Iris couldn't understand what Philip wanted to do. However, the servants left after filling the tank with water, leaving only Philip and Iris in the room.

Philip gazed at her with his deep and bottomless eyes. Inside his eyes was love so strong that it was nearly crazy. He suddenly said, "Iris, I know you are angry at me for almost strangling you to death, so I will take revenge for you now."

After he spoke, he suddenly lowered his head and plunged it into the water!

Iris' pupils shrank and she sat up abruptly.

As she hadn't eaten for three days, the violent movement made her vision blackout. She shook her head. After regaining a bit of light in her eyes, she looked at the room again.

Philip's hands were grasping both sides of the fish tank tightly, and his head was still immersed in the water!

Iris shouted, "Are you crazy?!"

She rushed up to Philip and grabbed his collar to pull him out. However, Philip was very strong, Iris couldn't make him budge in the slightest.

Iris hurriedly got down beside him and started to bang on the fish tank!

In the water, Philip opened his eyes, which were a little red from holding his breath. He stared at Iris, his lips moving. Although there was no sound, Iris understood what he was saying: "Are you still angry?"

Iris was utterly stunned.

She stared at Philip in disbelief. The man's eyes were firm and determined as if saying that if she continued being angry, then he would really suffocate himself to death!

Iris hurriedly nodded to express that she was no longer angry.

She really was not angry.

She merely felt freed.

Despite that, Philip didn't get out of the water. His lips were still moving. He asked, "Will you eat?"

Iris clenched her jaw, not sure how she should answer.

If she ate, she would be compromising.

But she didn't want to continue her relationship with Philip. Now that she had gotten on in years, she felt that enjoying family life and playing with her grandchildren at home was the best outcome she could ever have.

While she was hesitating, she noticed that Philip's eyes were starting to roll up, indicating that he was about to pass out.

Iris yelled, "Come out of there! Come out!"

But Philip did not move.

It was as though he would never come out unless she answered him.

Seeing that the man was really about to suffocate himself to death—a minute had already passed since he went into the water—Iris did not dare to waste any more time. She hurriedly shouted, "I'll eat, I'll eat!"

When Philip heard this, he finally let go...

However, by then, he was already exhausted and couldn't climb out at all and he fell into the fish tank instead.

Iris tried to pull him out again. As the man wasn't resisting anymore, she managed to pull him out after putting every bit of her strength into it.

Splash!

Water splashed onto the ground, wetting the entire deck...

Philip lay there, his arms limp beside him. As he took gulps of air, he slowly opened his eyes.

Iris rushed up to him and gave him a slap across the cheek!

Smack!

Iris stared at him and snapped furiously, "You lunatic! You are a lunatic!"

Philip, however, merely stared at her with a smile. His simple and naive appearance suddenly reminded Iris of their first date.

He was introverted at that time. To be honest, among all the people courting Iris, he was neither eye-catching nor outstanding, yet she had chosen to date him.

He didn't know where to take her or how to be nice to her, so he had stood below her dormitory and waited for her. After she got dressed and came downstairs, he could only give her a silly smile.

The faces of that boy from back then and the man in front of her gradually overlapped.

Iris cast her eyes down and said nothing.

The servants outside had already entered, and they started to clean up everything in the room.

Soon, the water on the floor was gone and the fish tank was also carried away. The room became clean and spotless. They even prepared a change of clothes for Iris, whose clothes had gotten wet when she pulled Philip out of the water.

Iris went to the bathroom and changed.

After she came out, she found that Philip had also changed into a set of clean clothes with the help of the servants. He had calmed down somewhat by then. The table was also full of her favorite breakfast foods.

Iris walked over. Before she could do anything, Philip pulled out the chair for her, his behavior extremely gentlemanly.

Iris sighed.

She lowered her head.

If she didn't eat, she didn't know what else Philip might do...

Never mind.

She would just take it that all her years of growing flowers in the suburban villa were just a vacation. She made up her mind to eat and drink properly from now on. Otherwise, if her health suffered, how was she going to go back, enjoy family life, and play with her grandchildren?

As for Philip... She lowered her eyes.

She'd just treat him like a stranger.

Seeing that she was willing to eat, Philip broke into a grin excitedly. He sat opposite her and kept offering her different dishes. However, she didn't eat any of the food he served her.

Philip sighed silently and put down his cutlery. "Iris, I know you still blame me for everything that has happened, but I will slowly make up for what I've done. We will definitely be able to return to what we were like in the past."

Iris wanted to say that it was impossible, but when she looked up, she saw Philip staring at her and saying, "It'll definitely be possible. Definitely, absolutely."

Iris decided to shut up.

After she finished eating, she felt a little more energetic. Although she was still rather weak, she didn't want to lie down in the room anymore, yet she didn't want to be alone if she were to go out for a walk, either.

She wanted even less to be with Philip.

While she was deep in thought, Philip smiled and said, "Iris, look who's here?"

Iris turned to see Mrs. Landis walking in. At the sight of Iris, Mrs. Landis stepped forward and called out, "Ma'am!"

Iris was surprised.

Philip sighed. "We're going to have to drift at sea for a while. I was afraid that you would be lonely, so I brought her here too. With her accompanying you, you would probably have a very good time here. By the way, you can go shopping. The cruise ship has everything, and there isn't any limit to your purchases at all."

They were on a tourist cruise ship. Even a single ticket cost thousands of dollars, yet Philip had reserved the entire ship.

The cruise ship was huge and lavish.

The cruise ship was just like a large shopping mall. There were all kinds of luxury goods there, so one wouldn't find it boring even if they stayed here for a month.

As Iris listened to what he said, she lowered her eyes, patted Mrs. Landis' hand, and said, "Then let's go out for a walk."

If she stayed in the room, she'd have to face Philip. If so, she might as well relax, calm down, and protect herself well. They would eventually dock one day. After Iris and Mrs. Landis went out, Jason quietly came in and walked up to Philip. He said, "Boss, King is calling again. What do you think his relationship with Justin Hunt really is?"

Philip narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

To be honest, when he abducted Iris, he'd initially planned to take her away, but he hadn't expected the Hunts to be so capable. On top of that, Justin was not as simple as it seemed.

Justin had driven them into such a corner that they nearly couldn't leave New York.

After that, when Philip wanted to return to his turf, he'd received a call from King, asking him to send Iris back home safely.

Philip realized it then.

No wonder King had sold him the shares at such a high price. King had already taken the Hunts' side a long time ago, everything he did was to help the Hunts.

He couldn't figure out the relationship between King and the Hunts, but he didn't dare to offend him, either. Thus, he had put on an obedient front and pretended to obey his instructions, but taken Iris to the cruise ship the next moment.

As long as they were at sea, King wouldn't be able to find them. Even if they found their location, they wouldn't be able to do anything

This was also why he'd taken Iris to the ship.

Of course, there was also another reason.

When they were in college, he'd once asked Iris where she wanted to go on a vacation the most. Iris had replied, "I don't like sports. Mountain climbing and all that makes people sweat and it stinks. I like ferry vacations. I can travel around the whole world on a cruise and it won't tire me out either."

This most elegant way of travel was her favorite.

At that time, Philip had said that he would take her there in the future.

He was just fulfilling the promise he'd made back then.

Thinking of this, Philip took the satellite phone from Jason. King's deep voice came from the other end.

"Philip, Iris hasn't returned home yet."

Philip replied, "Yeah, she and I still have some old promises that we have not fulfilled. We are having a lot of fun, so please don't worry, Mr. King."

King fell silent for a while. Finally, he said, "If anything happens to her, I will make you die a terrible death!"

The other party's harsh words shocked Philip.

The main reason why no one dared to refute King in the group was that he really was just like a king. When Philip inherited his Imperial League account as a child, King had already been in the group for as long as forty years.

He could remember like it was just yesterday that someone in the group had questioned King's position and actions thirty years ago. Their century-old business empire had gone bankrupt within a month.

King had used actions to prove his position and status.

Since then, no one in the group dared to ever go against him again.

Philip was a fierce and savage man through and through, but even he was afraid of King. He thought for a while, but still decided to ask, "May I know how you are related to Justin Hunt? Why do you protect them so much?"

King sneered, "Don't ask things you shouldn't be asking. You just need to know that Iris is a relative of mine. Anyone who hurts her will have to pay the price."

His relative...

That meant that they were related by blood!

Philip was stunned. He'd thought that as long as he got over his own issues, he would be able to be with Iris again; just like how Herman had obediently divorced Iris when he casually manipulated the Hunts a little.

Iris had also stayed in the suburbs for more than twenty years and never remarried.

Little did he expect that Iris had such a powerful background?

But if Iris knew King, then shouldn't she have sought help from King instead of him when Justin was kidnapped?!

What exactly was going on?

Philip was puzzled, but when he wanted to ask further, King had already hung up.

This gave Philip some reservations.

He suddenly looked at Jason. "Get our men to thoroughly investigate Iris's background."

Although Jason didn't understand, he nonetheless said respectfully, "Yes, sir."

At the Hunts' residence in New York.

Justin lowered his gaze and went into deep thought after he hung up the phone.

Philip was a little crazy, and he also had an unyielding aura etched deeply in him. Therefore, he mustn't push him too hard; it was very likely that Philip would otherwise kill both himself and Iris.

Justin had exposed his family ties with Iris just so Philip would hesitate to do anything rash.

Of course, Justin was also now certain that he understood Philip very well. The man loved Iris very much and was reluctant to hurt her. Or else why would he hold back for more than twenty years?

"Boss, we have found their whereabouts. Philip owns a cruise ship that left shore three days ago. Those who had booked tickets have all received refunds and information about compensation from the cruise ship. Therefore, we are guessing that Mdm. Iris is on the cruise ship."

Sean reported his findings. "We have contacted the people on the cruise ship. We have an informant there, and he has passed us a message saying that Mdm. Iris is fine. On the contrary, Philip has been begging her for forgiveness."

He frowned and went on. "The troublesome part is, although we have pinpointed the cruise ship's location, there are too many of Philip's men on board while we only have one informant, so we have no way of snatching her back. Additionally, if we dispatch a helicopter or a ferry to take her back, given the commotion it would cause, we won't be able to completely guarantee Mdm. Iris' safety at sea. Therefore, we may still need to wait for her to return safely by herself after she and Philip resolve the issues between them."

After confirming that Iris was safe for now, Justin was relieved.

He lowered his head and looked at the map on the table. "Just get someone to monitor them at all times. Dispatch a ship to follow them from a distance and make sure they don't discover the ship. But if any problem arises, they are allowed to immediately approach and carry out a rescue operation!"

"Yes, sir."

Sean took out his cell phone and made arrangements.

After the arrangements were made, he looked at Justin, only to see him staring at the location of a certain bank on the map.

Sean asked, "Boss, what's wrong?"

Justin was silent for a moment. Suddenly, he said, "Station all our men in New York near this bank. Nora and I will be going there within the next two days."

"Yes, sir."

Sean turned to leave, but before he stepped out, Justin suddenly stopped him. "Get a few of our men to follow me out tonight."

Sean's heart sank.

Justin was the Irvin School of Martial Arts' Big Brother. To be honest, he was fully capable of protecting himself in most typical dangerous situations. The reason why he brought so many bodyguards with him was just so he could weaken the enemy's attention on him.

Yet he was specially bringing their own men with him this time? What kind of dangerous mission was he going on?

He lowered his head and said, "I'll go with you."

"No, it's fine."

Justin suddenly looked at him. "The Hunts and the Imperial League need you."

Sean: "..."

Suddenly, it felt a little like Justin was leaving his last words, which made him feel rather uneasy.

He called a few of their most skilled men over. Then, he watched as Justin led the men and entered the darkness.

At the same time, Nora also quietly left the Hunt Manor.

She was going to the bank to see what on earth her mother had left her!

Nora couldn't wait anymore.

Perhaps it wasn't the V16 but clues to it in the safe deposit box, but there were only two months and twenty days left until Xander had to take the V16.

Every passing day was torture for her. This was especially true when she saw the terrible atmosphere at home upon returning from California earlier in the afternoon. Cherry was not playing games, neither was Pete working on his Mathematical Olympiad. Instead, both of them were circling around Xander.

Cherry had taken out all her favorite Barbie dolls and princess dresses and wanted to give them to him.

Xander hadn't taken them.

As for Pete, he also hinted that he could give him all the Mathematical Olympiad worksheets he had bought.

Xander hadn't taken those either.

The little fellow slumped on the sofa and waved as he said, "I don't like your stuff! I only like animals!"

When Cherry heard this, she immediately suggested, "I have an uncle who also loves animals a lot. He has a lot of stray cats and dogs. Why don't we get Uncle Louis to send us a few?!"

But Xander had waved and said, "No, I don't want them. Those animals are your uncle's friends, not mine."

Cherry corrected him. "Xander, he's also your uncle. He is very generous. Besides, he also needs money to feed that many cats and dogs, but he doesn't have any. He will definitely thank us if we help him raise a few!"

Pete also nodded and said, "Yes, he also has a dog whose coat has a mix of colors."

As soon as he said that, Xander replied, "So what? Even if he does, it's still not Rainbow."

Rainbow was Dog No. 3. As its coat was a mix of different colors, Xander had named it Rainbow. The name was too cliché, and even Rainbow itself disliked it. However, that was what Xander called it, so it had no other choice.

Rainbow was also the healthiest among the dogs there.

However, just this morning, Rainbow lay down on the floor and never woke up again.

Xander, who had become accustomed to death and parting, had dug a hole in the garden together with Cherry and Pete and buried Rainbow there.

There were now several more mounds in the garden, all of which contained Xander's friends.

Every time they went to the garden, their hearts would be exceptionally heavy.

As soon as Xander said that, Cherry and Pete looked at each other, neither of them daring to continue. Cherry changed the subject and said, "Xander, have you decided yet? Are you going to take the same last name as me or Pete?"

Neither Cherry nor Pete would be changing their names.

But surely Xander couldn't keep using Yale as his last name, right?

While Cherry and Pete were thinking about it, Xander waved and said, "Nah, I haven't."

Cherry said, "Why don't you take Smith as your last name like me? Grandpa will like you a lot!"

Pete said, "Boys should take Hunt as their last name, of course. It's better to have the same last name as Daddy."

Cherry then said, "But if Xander's last name is Hunt, then wouldn't he end up competing with you over family assets? Let's have Xander take Smith as his last name and inherit Grandpa's assets instead!"

Pete and Xander both looked at her. "What about you?"

Cherry grinned. "I have Grandaunt!"

Pete: "?"

Xander: "??"

Cherry tilted her head and said, "Grandaunt doesn't have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!"

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts' ever since she came to celebrate Cherry's birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, "I miss Grandaunt!"

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn't let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

The three little fellows were still very young. Coupled with the fact that she was around that night, they had all clamored to sleep with her. Thus, all of them lay down together on the bed.

The heartless Cherry fell asleep very quickly.

Pete looked at Xander worriedly.

Nora patted his head.

Pete was simply too sensitive. On top of that, he even knew to be mindful of other people's emotions. He was so sensible that it made one's heart ache.

On the contrary, it was Xander the little devil who couldn't fall asleep. It was only after Nora lit the calming incense she had developed that Pete and Xander finally fell asleep.

She got up to check on Justin and see what he was doing

But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, “Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don’t wanna die. Sniff...”

“Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?”

“Does it hurt when you die?”

“Do you still feel anything after death?”

Nora was frozen in place.

She had lit the calming incense, so despite Xander’s extreme unease, he didn’t wake up. However, his words pierced Nora’s heart like a dagger.

As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn’t be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn’t go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn’t wait anymore.

After Justin’s fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

The bank was closed and locked up at night. This was not an issue for Nora, though.

She took out her cell phone casually and tapped away on it quickly.

Click!

The door to the bank opened and Nora slipped inside.

It was pitch black inside the hall.

Nora turned on her cell phone immediately after she entered. On the screen was the layout of the bank.

Although her mother had deposited the things in the bank more than twenty years ago, the location of the safes was still the same despite the layout of the bank changing over the years.

Thus, her mother's things were still there.

Nora remembered clearly that it was safe no. 06 and the password was her birthday.

She walked soundlessly towards the safe deposit boxes.

There was no staff inside, only security officers patrolling back and forth. However, it was very difficult for them to spot her.

Nora was in full black clothing, so she completely blended with the darkness.

Light-footed and nimble, she headed straight to the safe deposit boxes. But after she passed by two rooms, she suddenly heard footsteps behind her.

Nora's pupils shrank and she suddenly darted into the corner next to her. When she looked behind her, she caught a shadow flashing past.

It seemed that it was very unsafe here tonight.

And she wasn't alone here!

The thought made Nora bite her lip. Her first thought was that she hadn't managed to avoid the people tailing her and had been followed!

Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

It could only be one of them!

Nora broke into a big frown.

Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

Since he had followed her here, he must already know by now that something was up with the bank. Even if she turned around and left, it would be difficult for her to dispel the other party's suspicions.

Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

Bam!

The moment she launched her attack, the two got into a fight. The other party responded very quickly. Before her fist could connect, he was already blocking her attack and counterattacking.

In just a single exchange of blows, Nora concluded that he was most definitely someone whose genes had been modified with the gene serum!

Because his physical strength was too great!

Nora had been practicing martial arts for a very long time. Since she was a child, she had been relying on her natural talent to come this far. On top of that, she even became the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister.

This was the first person in her life to give her a foreboding pressure.

Her almond-shaped eyes were widened big and round as she stared at the person in front of her.

In the darkness, the man's eyes shone green. He wore a baseball cap and a facial mask, revealing only his eyes. The way he stared at Nora was as if he had just spotted his prey.

When he was blocking Nora's attack, the man chuckled and said, "Is that all you've got?"

He had an accent. It was obvious that he was a foreigner.

In this instant, Nora felt a little angry at herself for not training properly. If she had been a little more diligent, then she might have had a chance if she went at her opponent with full force.

She took a deep breath. "Who are you?"

"You don't need to know that. Just hand over the V16 obediently and I will spare your life."

The man moved toward her one step at a time. "Resistance is futile. All my genes have been improved and I have no flaws. I am the most powerful fighter on earth now. Without any firearms, you won't be a match for me at all."

The man spoke confidently and arrogantly.

How could she use firearms here, though? If she did, all the security officers would come running in an instant!

Nora was in a half-squat, ready to attack.

She knew that she was not the man's match, but she couldn't just go down without a fight.

The V16 was Xander's, she would never relinquish it to anyone else!

She took a deep breath and sneered, "Try me."

The man seemed a little surprised at her reaction. Nevertheless, he let out a low chuckle and said, "Trueman is right, you are indeed too stubborn. You hold out hope until you're faced with the grim reality. In that case, I shall show you how strong I am!"

The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

## **Chapter 716 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

Would Quinn expel her in a fit of rage?

Just as he was thinking about it, he heard Nora say calmly, "I've already told him to go to New York to look for you."

"... He'd better bring a present!"

"Okay."

“... Okay? What do you mean ‘okay’? You no-good disciple, you...”

Before Quinn could finish, Nora hung up the phone and looked at Howard silently. “Quinn is old, so he’s a little long-winded. Don’t mind him.”

Howard was already frozen on the spot like a statue.

He’d never imagined that Quinn would actually agree to it just like that! Additionally, Nora completely had the upper hand in her talks with Quinn!

While he was in a daze, Nora and Justin got into the car, left the place, and headed straight to the Hunts’ family home.

Even if outsiders were tailing them, they wouldn’t be able to enter the residence.

Jude was taken away by Morris and Brenda.

After returning to the family home, Howard asked, “Nora, why didn’t you bring Jude back?”

Nora was puzzled. “For what? Interrogation?”

Howard frowned and replied, “Yeah, didn’t you catch him to find out who was the one giving him the orders?”.

“... Aren’t Morris and the others more apt when it comes to interrogating prisoners?”

So, why should she bring the prisoner back and do it herself instead?

If she was that free, she might as well make up for lost sleep instead!

Thinking of this, Nora curled her lips disdainfully.

Howard: “...”

By the time they arrived at the family home, it was already 10 PM. After entering, Nora and Justin steadfastly ate dinner without rushing, and then went to their room to rest.

After the two of them entered, a servant in the Hunts’ family home quietly walked to an inconspicuous corner, took out a cell phone, and made a call.

“Doesn’t seem like they have found the codebook. Or else they would have been in a hurry to see read it.”

The person on the other end of the call said something and the servant replied, “Okay, I understand, sir.”

After saying this, he hung up the phone, quietly made up an excuse, and went up to the door of the room Justin and Nora were in. While no one else was around, he pressed his ear against the door and listened to the voices inside.

Nora said, “Don’t be so anxious... Slow down...”

“Nora, don’t move. Let me do it...”

Creak...

“Are you satisfied?”

What followed were suggestive sounds, which even made the eavesdropping man blush.

After the man listened for a while more, he finally turned and left. He then took out his cell phone and sent a text message: “I am certain that they didn’t find the codebook.”

Inside the room.

Nora sat steadily on the sofa with the ledger, and codebook she’d found, in her hand and read it leisurely.

At the edge of the bed, Justin had put one hand on the bed and was pressing down hard, causing it to creak.

He continued his performance.

“Nora, does it feel good?”

“Nora, do you want more?”

“Nora, let’s do it again?”

“What? One more time? Are you really trying to squeeze your husband dry?”.

Nora: "..."

That man was simply too shameless. Although he was just acting, wasn't he going a bit too far?

The corners of her lips spasmed. "Did you take some kind of drug? How many times do you plan to do it in one night?"

Justin chuckled. "I'm very strong. Why don't you try me?"

Nora: "..."

The man was really becoming more and more explicit after the two of them got together.

She lowered her head and continued to look at the codebook in her hand.

Five minutes later, the code was deciphered.

As she stared at the revealed information, Nora held her forehead in surprise.

Seemingly having sensed her peculiar reaction, Justin finally ended his solo "exercise" on the bed and strode over to her. When he saw the Morse code translations recorded in her notebook, he also frowned. "That's it?"

Nora heaved a quiet sigh. "I knew it, Mom must have set up another trap for us! What should we do?"

Nora and Justin stared at the Morse code translation, both a little speechless.

There was only a string of numbers in the translation, which looked like some kind of code. Apart from that was the name of a bank and the vault number of a safe deposit box.

This showed that her mother had left something in the safe back then. Could it be the V16?

Nora's brows drew together as she pondered about it.

Justin asked, "When are you going over to retrieve the contents?"

Nora looked at him and then back at the bank name.

The safe deposit box her mother had set up was in the Bank of New York, but if they returned and went to the Bank of New York so rashly, the people tailing them would surely realize that something was amiss.

But if they don't go in person... Should they send someone else to retrieve the contents instead, Nora was concerned that her mother might have left some kind of trap behind which would cause the person to fall into the trap if they didn't notice anything.

Therefore, their biggest problem at the moment was to find out exactly how many people were tailing and monitoring them, as well as how to avoid them...

In other words, they needed to find a suitable excuse to go to the Bank of New York.

Nora sighed silently.

She tossed the ledger aside and thought for a moment before she said, "Let's find a suitable opportunity."

"Okay."

That night, both of them were a little troubled.

They weren't in the mood to do anything else even when they were lying on the bed. Nora also had insomnia for once. After mulling over something for a long time with her eyes closed in the dark, she suddenly turned to Justin and asked, "How was Jude's martial arts prowess?"

Although Justin's breathing was steady the whole time, Nora could sense that he was still awake. Sure enough, as soon as she spoke, Justin's voice came over.

"It was alright. The gene serum is actually not as scary as we imagined."  
"Really?"

Nora was a little dubious.

If Jude's martial arts prowess was only "alright", then how come Justin only managed to subdue him after she defeated eight people?

However, the Irvin School of Martial Arts' moves were light and nimble, and they were known for their strategies instead. Perhaps it did take that much time for them to deal with such people.

Nora breathed a sigh of relief when she thought of that.

She'd originally thought that since Jude was so strong, then the mastermind would surely be even stronger. But if Jude's skills were just alright, then perhaps the gene serum's effect wasn't that great after all.

All her worries were unnecessary.

With that in mind, Nora turned around and finally fell asleep peacefully.

Upon hearing her even breathing, Justin suddenly stood up.

He strode to the bathroom, opened the door, and then took out a first aid box in a practiced manner.

Then, he lifted his gray silk pajama pants.

There was a large bruise on his thigh. He applied some ice and lightly massaged the bruise.

After the massage, he took off his shirt.

He looked in the mirror and turned around in silence.

On Justin's back was another large patch of bruises. On top of that, there was also a bit of blood. His injuries were a shocking sight.

Had he been an ordinary person, he probably would have been in so much pain that he could not even walk or move. Yet Justin hadn't shown even the slightest sign of that.

He applied some more ice to the bruises on his back with nary a frown.

He had gotten all these bruises from Jude during his fight with him that day. Of course, Jude had also suffered very serious injuries.

Even so, just how terrifying was it that someone could fight on par with him just because they had taken the gene serum?!

On top of that, Jude was really just a nobody underling!

This showed that the person who had sent Jude had at least ten Judes under his command!

Justin could beat one or two Judes, but what about eight or ten?

Even he and Nora together probably wouldn't be a match for them.

Justin sat in the bathroom after he treated his wounds, his brows slightly furrowed. His expression also became extraordinarily grave.

Their enemy was too powerful and too terrifying

The gene serum had been around for more than twenty years ago. It was unknown how great a force they had built all these years. No wonder Yvette had chosen to die back then, and no wonder the special department still hadn't obtained any substantial leads despite so many years of investigation.

Justin frowned. Suddenly, he took out his cell phone and sent a message to Lawrence and Sean: 'Enhance our security measures! And summon all our men back.'

Sean quickly replied: 'Yes, sir.'

Lawrence's reply came half a beat slower: 'Got it, Boss. Has something happened?'

Justin took a deep breath and wrote: 'Protect the three children and Nora.'

'Yes, sir.'

After sending the messages, he made more arrangements on his cell phone before he gently returned to the bed and lay down beside Nora.

The next day, by the time Nora woke up, Justin was already awake. He seemed to have already washed up and changed. He stood at the head of the bed and looked at her. "Let's return to New York?"

"Okay."

Then, Nora added, "But before I go back, there's one thing I need to do."

An hour later.

At the Blacks.

Nora handed the key to the Smiths' villa to Irene. "Aunt Irene, why don't you guys move to the villa?"

Irene was about to refuse when Justin said, "The villa will become abandoned if it stays unoccupied year-round. Nora grew up there after all. If your family moves in, you guys can also help take care of it."

As soon as he said that, Irene and Will looked at each other. Then, they nodded.

Nora then handed Idealian Pharmaceuticals' management rights to Will. "Uncle Will, I'll have to trouble you to take care of the company while we're in New York."

Will nodded.

After handling all this, Nora and Justin finally set off for New York.

At the same time.

Far away in Switzerland, a cruise ship drifted on the sea.

The cruise ship was huge and had all kinds of facilities on it, including even luxury shops. However, there were no guests on board, and it seemed like someone had reserved the whole ship.

In a room.

Iris lay there quietly.

A tall man stood quietly beside her.

The man reached out and gently stroked the woman's cheek. He whispered, "Iris, it's time to get up and eat."

He'd had her favorite morning tea prepared.

The woman on the bed was motionless.

She was so pale that her skin looked almost transparent.

She looked like she had already lost all signs of life...

However, Philip was not panicked at all. He continued to gently stroke Iris' cheek with his fingertips.

He persisted like that for ten minutes until Iris finally let out a long sigh. She slowly opened her eyes, meeting Philip's head-on. Underneath Iris' long eyelashes, her eyes were filled with a sense of resignation. "Why are you doing this?"

That day, when she went into shock from Philip's strangling, Iris had nearly died.

At that moment, she had really stopped breathing

But when Philip saw that she really wasn't breathing anymore, he'd panicked and hurriedly performed CPR on her, bringing her back to life.

At the same time, Philip had also been informed that Nora was Q. Only then did he realize that he had ultimately still lost the bet with Justin.

Iris hadn't struggled at that time but merely looked at him quietly.

Her gaze had terrified Philip, and he couldn't help but ask, "What are you looking at me for?"

Iris replied, "I have already given you a life back. Is this enough as repayment for the love between us back then?"

Was it enough?

Iris had become utterly disappointed in him a long time ago.

Back then, Iris asked him for help, yet he'd continued to test her feelings for him. During that time, Iris had given up on the man.

If one asked her whether she loved him?

Iris' love for Philip was certainly not as deep as the latter's love for her.

After all, to Philip, love was everything.

However, that was not the case for her. She had never been someone obsessed over love. Compared to romantic love family affection, friendship, and even her life itself were more important.

Yet if one were to say that she did not love him?

Philip was someone whom she found hard to forget and let go of.

Despite five years passing since her marriage to Herman and even after having Justin, Iris had still been shocked at that moment where she met Philip once more.

After all, he was her unforgettable first love, how could she possibly not have loved him?

However, Iris had already made her choice.

She had sealed her heart and would never give herself and Philip another chance.

She and Philip both owed each other.

Philip owed her a debt of trust, whereas she owed him unwavering love. Only with much difficulty had he finally seen true love in her, yet in the end, it had still turned into a sham, causing him to lose his trust in the world.

In that instant, Iris felt like she had been freed.

Philip's expression, which had been full of guilt, had also shown his regret and fear.

In that instant where his emotions had gotten the better of him, he had hardly been able to control his emotions. That was why he'd done something so ruthless. Philip regretted his actions.

The moment he saw Iris' head hanging and her losing all signs of life, he knew that he had made a mistake.

True love for someone was to watch them live happily, not constant tests and destruction!

In the past twenty years, he had watched Iris from a distance and watched how she'd rather take care of flowers in the suburban villa than leave with him.

That had indeed been torturous, but compared to that, he couldn't accept Iris leaving this world for good even more!

It could be said that Philip's bout of venting had allowed him to finally realize his true feelings—he was afraid of losing Iris!

Yet, Iris had completely let go of the relationship after her close brush with death.

She didn't owe him anything anymore.

Unfortunately, when Iris wanted to leave, Philip hadn't agreed to it and had forcibly taken her to the cruise ship.

Only on the ship, and only at sea, would that man be unable to find them.

Iris wanted to escape, but in the vast sea, where could she go?

She could only ignore him and try her best to persevere.

At this time, seeing that she had finally spoken, Philip hurriedly said, "It's enough, it's enough! Iris, everything you say is correct. Let's have something to eat first, okay?"

Iris had not eaten for three days.

Without food or water, the body wouldn't be able to take it.

However, Iris shook her head. "I told you, I'm not going to eat if you don't free me. Philip, I don't owe you anything anymore, you have no right to put me under house arrest."

Philip sighed silently when he heard this. He said, "I'm not putting you under house arrest. I just want to start over with you."

"That's impossible."

Iris was weak, so her voice was a little low.

She sighed. "Nothing can happen between us anymore. There are no longer any ties or debts between us."

Her firmness made Philip panic.

He wanted to say more, but Iris closed her eyes, turned over, and continued to rest on the bed as if she had fallen asleep.

Philip stared at her back, at a loss as to what to say. He could only back away quietly and leave the room in silence.

Upon hearing him leave, Iris breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

However, not even five minutes later, the door was opened again. Philip said a little joyfully, "Iris, I've thought of a solution." Iris opened her eyes. The moment she looked over, she was stunned. "What are you doing?!"

Iris was stunned.

Philip had found someone to carry a large fish tank into the room. The fish tank was half a person's height and nearly three feet long. With a basin in his hand, someone poured water into it.

After doing it a few times, the tank was full.

Iris couldn't understand what Philip wanted to do. However, the servants left after filling the tank with water, leaving only Philip and Iris in the room.

Philip gazed at her with his deep and bottomless eyes. Inside his eyes was love so strong that it was nearly crazy. He suddenly said, "Iris, I know you are angry at me for almost strangling you to death, so I will take revenge for you now."

After he spoke, he suddenly lowered his head and plunged it into the water!

Iris' pupils shrank and she sat up abruptly.

As she hadn't eaten for three days, the violent movement made her vision blackout. She shook her head. After regaining a bit of light in her eyes, she looked at the room again.

Philip's hands were grasping both sides of the fish tank tightly, and his head was still immersed in the water!

Iris shouted, "Are you crazy?!"

She rushed up to Philip and grabbed his collar to pull him out. However, Philip was very strong, Iris couldn't make him budge in the slightest.

Iris hurriedly got down beside him and started to bang on the fish tank!

In the water, Philip opened his eyes, which were a little red from holding his breath. He stared at Iris, his lips moving. Although there was no sound, Iris understood what he was saying: "Are you still angry?"

Iris was utterly stunned.

She stared at Philip in disbelief. The man's eyes were firm and determined as if saying that if she continued being angry, then he would really suffocate himself to death!

Iris hurriedly nodded to express that she was no longer angry.

She really was not angry.

She merely felt freed.

Despite that, Philip didn't get out of the water. His lips were still moving. He asked, "Will you eat?"

Iris clenched her jaw, not sure how she should answer.

If she ate, she would be compromising.

But she didn't want to continue her relationship with Philip. Now that she had gotten on in years, she felt that enjoying family life and playing with her grandchildren at home was the best outcome she could ever have.

While she was hesitating, she noticed that Philip's eyes were starting to roll up, indicating that he was about to pass out.

Iris yelled, "Come out of there! Come out!"

But Philip did not move.

It was as though he would never come out unless she answered him.

Seeing that the man was really about to suffocate himself to death-a minute had already passed since he went into the water-Iris did not dare to waste any more time. She hurriedly shouted, "I'll eat, I'll eat!"

When Philip heard this, he finally let go...

However, by then, he was already exhausted and couldn't climb out at all and he fell into the fish tank instead.

Iris tried to pull him out again. As the man wasn't resisting anymore, she managed to pull him out after putting every bit of her strength into it.

Splash!

Water splashed onto the ground, wetting the entire deck...

Philip lay there, his arms limp beside him. As he took gulps of air, he slowly opened his eyes.

Iris rushed up to him and gave him a slap across the cheek!

Smack!

Iris stared at him and snapped furiously, "You lunatic! You are a lunatic!"

Philip, however, merely stared at her with a smile. His simple and naive appearance suddenly reminded Iris of their first date.

He was introverted at that time. To be honest, among all the people courting Iris, he was neither eye-catching nor outstanding, yet she had chosen to date him.

He didn't know where to take her or how to be nice to her, so he had stood below her dormitory and waited for her. After she got dressed and came downstairs, he could only give her a silly smile.

The faces of that boy from back then and the man in front of her gradually overlapped.

Iris cast her eyes down and said nothing.

The servants outside had already entered, and they started to clean up everything in the room.

Soon, the water on the floor was gone and the fish tank was also carried away. The room became clean and spotless. They even prepared a change of clothes for Iris, whose clothes had gotten wet when she pulled Philip out of the water.

Iris went to the bathroom and changed.

After she came out, she found that Philip had also changed into a set of clean clothes with the help of the servants. He had calmed down somewhat by then. The table was also full of her favorite breakfast foods.

Iris walked over. Before she could do anything, Philip pulled out the chair for her, his behavior extremely gentlemanly.

Iris sighed.

She lowered her head.

If she didn't eat, she didn't know what else Philip might do...

Never mind.

She would just take it that all her years of growing flowers in the suburban villa were just a vacation. She made up her mind to eat and drink properly from now on. Otherwise, if her health suffered, how was she going to go back, enjoy family life, and play with her grandchildren?

As for Philip... She lowered her eyes.

She'd just treat him like a stranger.

Seeing that she was willing to eat, Philip broke into a grin excitedly. He sat opposite her and kept offering her different dishes. However, she didn't eat any of the food he served her.

Philip sighed silently and put down his cutlery. "Iris, I know you still blame me for everything that has happened, but I will slowly make up for what I've done. We will definitely be able to return to what we were like in the past."

Iris wanted to say that it was impossible, but when she looked up, she saw Philip staring at her and saying, "It'll definitely be possible. Definitely, absolutely."

Iris decided to shut up.

After she finished eating, she felt a little more energetic. Although she was still rather weak, she didn't want to lie down in the room anymore, yet she didn't want to be alone if she were to go out for a walk, either.

She wanted even less to be with Philip.

While she was deep in thought, Philip smiled and said, "Iris, look who's here?"

Iris turned to see Mrs. Landis walking in. At the sight of Iris, Mrs. Landis stepped forward and called out, "Ma'am!"

Iris was surprised.

Philip sighed. "We're going to have to drift at sea for a while. I was afraid that you would be lonely, so I brought her here too. With her accompanying you, you would probably have a very good time here. By the way, you can go shopping. The cruise ship has everything, and there isn't any limit to your purchases at all."

They were on a tourist cruise ship. Even a single ticket cost thousands of dollars, yet Philip had reserved the entire ship.

The cruise ship was huge and lavish.

The cruise ship was just like a large shopping mall. There were all kinds of luxury goods there, so one wouldn't find it boring even if they stayed here for a month.

As Iris listened to what he said, she lowered her eyes, patted Mrs. Landis' hand, and said, "Then let's go out for a walk."

If she stayed in the room, she'd have to face Philip. If so, she might as well relax, calm down, and protect herself well. They would eventually dock one day. After Iris and Mrs. Landis went out, Jason quietly came in and walked up to Philip. He said, "Boss, King is calling again. What do you think his relationship with Justin Hunt really is?"

Philip narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

To be honest, when he abducted Iris, he'd initially planned to take her away, but he hadn't expected the Hunts to be so capable. On top of that, Justin was not as simple as it seemed.

Justin had driven them into such a corner that they nearly couldn't leave New York.

After that, when Philip wanted to return to his turf, he'd received a call from King, asking him to send Iris back home safely.

Philip realized it then.

No wonder King had sold him the shares at such a high price. King had already taken the Hunts' side a long time ago, everything he did was to help the Hunts.

He couldn't figure out the relationship between King and the Hunts, but he didn't dare to offend him, either. Thus, he had put on an obedient front and pretended to obey his instructions, but taken Iris to the cruise ship the next moment.

As long as they were at sea, King wouldn't be able to find them. Even if they found their location, they wouldn't be able to do anything

This was also why he'd taken Iris to the ship.

Of course, there was also another reason.

When they were in college, he'd once asked Iris where she wanted to go on a vacation the most. Iris had replied, "I don't like sports. Mountain climbing and all that makes people sweat and it stinks. I like ferry vacations. I can travel around the whole world on a cruise and it won't tire me out either."

This most elegant way of travel was her favorite.

At that time, Philip had said that he would take her there in the future.

He was just fulfilling the promise he'd made back then.

Thinking of this, Philip took the satellite phone from Jason. King's deep voice came from the other end.

"Philip, Iris hasn't returned home yet."

Philip replied, "Yeah, she and I still have some old promises that we have not fulfilled. We are having a lot of fun, so please don't worry, Mr. King."

King fell silent for a while. Finally, he said, "If anything happens to her, I will make you die a terrible death!"

The other party's harsh words shocked Philip.

The main reason why no one dared to refute King in the group was that he really was just like a king. When Philip inherited his Imperial League account as a child, King had already been in the group for as long as forty years.

He could remember like it was just yesterday that someone in the group had questioned King's position and actions thirty years ago. Their century-old business empire had gone bankrupt within a month.

King had used actions to prove his position and status.

Since then, no one in the group dared to ever go against him again.

Philip was a fierce and savage man through and through, but even he was afraid of King. He thought for a while, but still decided to ask, "May I know how you are related to Justin Hunt? Why do you protect them so much?"

King sneered, "Don't ask things you shouldn't be asking. You just need to know that Iris is a relative of mine. Anyone who hurts her will have to pay the price."

His relative...

That meant that they were related by blood!

Philip was stunned. He'd thought that as long as he got over his own issues, he would be able to be with Iris again; just like how Herman had obediently divorced Iris when he casually manipulated the Hunts a little.

Iris had also stayed in the suburbs for more than twenty years and never remarried.

Little did he expect that Iris had such a powerful background?

But if Iris knew King, then shouldn't she have sought help from King instead of him when Justin was kidnapped?!

What exactly was going on?

Philip was puzzled, but when he wanted to ask further, King had already hung up.

This gave Philip some reservations.

He suddenly looked at Jason. "Get our men to thoroughly investigate Iris's background."

Although Jason didn't understand, he nonetheless said respectfully, "Yes, sir."

At the Hunts' residence in New York.

Justin lowered his gaze and went into deep thought after he hung up the phone.

Philip was a little crazy, and he also had an unyielding aura etched deeply in him. Therefore, he mustn't push him too hard; it was very likely that Philip would otherwise kill both himself and Iris.

Justin had exposed his family ties with Iris just so Philip would hesitate to do anything rash.

Of course, Justin was also now certain that he understood Philip very well. The man loved Iris very much and was reluctant to hurt her. Or else why would he hold back for more than twenty years?

"Boss, we have found their whereabouts. Philip owns a cruise ship that left shore three days ago. Those who had booked tickets have all received refunds and information about compensation from the cruise ship. Therefore, we are guessing that Mdm. Iris is on the cruise ship."

Sean reported his findings. "We have contacted the people on the cruise ship. We have an informant there, and he has passed us a message saying that Mdm. Iris is fine. On the contrary, Philip has been begging her for forgiveness."

He frowned and went on. "The troublesome part is, although we have pinpointed the cruise ship's location, there are too many of Philip's men on board while we only have one informant, so we have no way of snatching her back. Additionally, if we dispatch a helicopter or a ferry to take her back, given the commotion it would cause, we won't be able to completely guarantee Mdm. Iris' safety at sea. Therefore, we may still need to wait for her to return safely by herself after she and Philip resolve the issues between them."

After confirming that Iris was safe for now, Justin was relieved.

He lowered his head and looked at the map on the table. "Just get someone to monitor them at all times. Dispatch a ship to follow them from a distance and make sure they don't discover the ship. But if any problem arises, they are allowed to immediately approach and carry out a rescue operation!"

"Yes, sir."

Sean took out his cell phone and made arrangements.

After the arrangements were made, he looked at Justin, only to see him staring at the location of a certain bank on the map.

Sean asked, "Boss, what's wrong?"

Justin was silent for a moment. Suddenly, he said, "Station all our men in New York near this bank. Nora and I will be going there within the next two days."

"Yes, sir."

Sean turned to leave, but before he stepped out, Justin suddenly stopped him. "Get a few of our men to follow me out tonight."

Sean's heart sank.

Justin was the Irvin School of Martial Arts' Big Brother. To be honest, he was fully capable of protecting himself in most typical dangerous situations. The reason why he brought so many bodyguards with him was just so he could weaken the enemy's attention on him.

Yet he was specially bringing their own men with him this time? What kind of dangerous mission was he going on?

He lowered his head and said, "I'll go with you."

"No, it's fine."

Justin suddenly looked at him. "The Hunts and the Imperial League need you."

Sean: "..."

Suddenly, it felt a little like Justin was leaving his last words, which made him feel rather uneasy.

He called a few of their most skilled men over. Then, he watched as Justin led the men and entered the darkness.

At the same time, Nora also quietly left the Hunt Manor.

She was going to the bank to see what on earth her mother had left her!

Nora couldn't wait anymore.

Perhaps it wasn't the V16 but clues to it in the safe deposit box, but there were only two months and twenty days left until Xander had to take the V16.

Every passing day was torture for her. This was especially true when she saw the terrible atmosphere at home upon returning from California earlier in the afternoon. Cherry was not playing games, neither was Pete working on his Mathematical Olympiad. Instead, both of them were circling around Xander.

Cherry had taken out all her favorite Barbie dolls and princess dresses and wanted to give them to him.

Xander hadn't taken them.

As for Pete, he also hinted that he could give him all the Mathematical Olympiad worksheets he had bought.

Xander hadn't taken those either.

The little fellow slumped on the sofa and waved as he said, "I don't like your stuff! I only like animals!"

When Cherry heard this, she immediately suggested, "I have an uncle who also loves animals a lot. He has a lot of stray cats and dogs. Why don't we get Uncle Louis to send us a few?!"

But Xander had waved and said, "No, I don't want them. Those animals are your uncle's friends, not mine."

Cherry corrected him. "Xander, he's also your uncle. He is very generous. Besides, he also needs money to feed that many cats and dogs, but he doesn't have any. He will definitely thank us if we help him raise a few!"

Pete also nodded and said, "Yes, he also has a dog whose coat has a mix of colors."

As soon as he said that, Xander replied, "So what? Even if he does, it's still not Rainbow."

Rainbow was Dog No. 3. As its coat was a mix of different colors, Xander had named it Rainbow. The name was too cliché, and even Rainbow itself disliked it. However, that was what Xander called it, so it had no other choice.

Rainbow was also the healthiest among the dogs there.

However, just this morning, Rainbow lay down on the floor and never woke up again.

Xander, who had become accustomed to death and parting, had dug a hole in the garden together with Cherry and Pete and buried Rainbow there.

There were now several more mounds in the garden, all of which contained Xander's friends.

Every time they went to the garden, their hearts would be exceptionally heavy.

As soon as Xander said that, Cherry and Pete looked at each other, neither of them daring to continue. Cherry changed the subject and said, "Xander, have you decided yet? Are you going to take the same last name as me or Pete?"

Neither Cherry nor Pete would be changing their names.

But surely Xander couldn't keep using Yale as his last name, right?

While Cherry and Pete were thinking about it, Xander waved and said, "Nah, I haven't."

Cherry said, "Why don't you take Smith as your last name like me? Grandpa will like you a lot!"

Pete said, "Boys should take Hunt as their last name, of course. It's better to have the same last name as Daddy."

Cherry then said, "But if Xander's last name is Hunt, then wouldn't he end up competing with you over family assets? Let's have Xander take Smith as his last name and inherit Grandpa's assets instead!"

Pete and Xander both looked at her. "What about you?"

Cherry grinned. "I have Grandaunt!"

Pete: "?"

Xander: "??"

Cherry tilted her head and said, "Grandaunt doesn't have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!"

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts' ever since she came to celebrate Cherry's birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, "I miss Grandaunt!"

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn't let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

The three little fellows were still very young. Coupled with the fact that she was around that night, they had all clamored to sleep with her. Thus, all of them lay down together on the bed.

The heartless Cherry fell asleep very quickly.

Pete looked at Xander worriedly.

Nora patted his head.

Pete was simply too sensitive. On top of that, he even knew to be mindful of other people's emotions. He was so sensible that it made one's heart ache.

On the contrary, it was Xander the little devil who couldn't fall asleep. It was only after Nora lit the calming incense she had developed that Pete and Xander finally fell asleep.

She got up to check on Justin and see what he was doing

But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, "Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don't wanna die. Sniff..."

"Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?"

"Does it hurt when you die?"

"Do you still feel anything after death?"

Nora was frozen in place.

She had lit the calming incense, so despite Xander's extreme unease, he didn't wake up. However, his words pierced Nora's heart like a dagger.

As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn't be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn't go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn't wait anymore.

After Justin's fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

The bank was closed and locked up at night. This was not an issue for Nora, though.

She took out her cell phone casually and tapped away on it quickly.

Click!

The door to the bank opened and Nora slipped inside.

It was pitch black inside the hall.

Nora turned on her cell phone immediately after she entered. On the screen was the layout of the bank.

Although her mother had deposited the things in the bank more than twenty years ago, the location of the safes was still the same despite the layout of the bank changing over the years.

Thus, her mother's things were still there.

Nora remembered clearly that it was safe no. 06 and the password was her birthday.

She walked soundlessly towards the safe deposit boxes.

There was no staff inside, only security officers patrolling back and forth. However, it was very difficult for them to spot her.

Nora was in full black clothing, so she completely blended with the darkness.

Light-footed and nimble, she headed straight to the safe deposit boxes. But after she passed by two rooms, she suddenly heard footsteps behind her.

Nora's pupils shrank and she suddenly darted into the corner next to her. When she looked behind her, she caught a shadow flashing past.

It seemed that it was very unsafe here tonight.

And she wasn't alone here!

The thought made Nora bite her lip. Her first thought was that she hadn't managed to avoid the people tailing her and had been followed!

Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

It could only be one of them!

Nora broke into a big frown.

Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

Since he had followed her here, he must already know by now that something was up with the bank. Even if she turned around and left, it would be difficult for her to dispel the other party's suspicions.

Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

Bam!

The moment she launched her attack, the two got into a fight. The other party responded very quickly. Before her fist could connect, he was already blocking her attack and counterattacking.

In just a single exchange of blows, Nora concluded that he was most definitely someone whose genes had been modified with the gene serum!

Because his physical strength was too great!

Nora had been practicing martial arts for a very long time. Since she was a child, she had been relying on her natural talent to come this far. On top of that, she even became the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister.

This was the first person in her life to give her a foreboding pressure.

Her almond-shaped eyes were widened big and round as she stared at the person in front of her.

In the darkness, the man's eyes shone green. He wore a baseball cap and a facial mask, revealing only his eyes. The way he stared at Nora was as if he had just spotted his prey.

When he was blocking Nora's attack, the man chuckled and said, "Is that all you've got?"

He had an accent. It was obvious that he was a foreigner.

In this instant, Nora felt a little angry at herself for not training properly. If she had been a little more diligent, then she might have had a chance if she went at her opponent with full force.

She took a deep breath. “Who are you?”

“You don’t need to know that. Just hand over the V16 obediently and I will spare your life.”

The man moved toward her one step at a time. “Resistance is futile. All my genes have been improved and I have no flaws. I am the most powerful fighter on earth now. Without any firearms, you won’t be a match for me at all.”

The man spoke confidently and arrogantly.

How could she use firearms here, though? If she did, all the security officers would come running in an instant!

Nora was in a half-squat, ready to attack.

She knew that she was not the man’s match, but she couldn’t just go down without a fight.

The V16 was Xander’s, she would never relinquish it to anyone else!

She took a deep breath and sneered, “Try me.”

The man seemed a little surprised at her reaction. Nevertheless, he let out a low chuckle and said, “Trueman is right, you are indeed too stubborn. You hold out hope until you’re faced with the grim reality. In that case, I shall show you how strong I am!”

The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

## **Chapter 717 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

On Justin’s back was another large patch of bruises. On top of that, there was also a bit of blood. His injuries were a shocking sight.

Had he been an ordinary person, he probably would have been in so much pain that he could not even walk or move. Yet Justin hadn't shown even the slightest sign of that.

He applied some more ice to the bruises on his back with nary a frown.

He had gotten all these bruises from Jude during his fight with him that day. Of course, Jude had also suffered very serious injuries.

Even so, just how terrifying was it that someone could fight on par with him just because they had taken the gene serum?!

On top of that, Jude was really just a nobody underling!

This showed that the person who had sent Jude had at least ten Judes under his command!

Justin could beat one or two Judes, but what about eight or ten?

Even he and Nora together probably wouldn't be a match for them.

Justin sat in the bathroom after he treated his wounds, his brows slightly furrowed. His expression also became extraordinarily grave.

Their enemy was too powerful and too terrifying

The gene serum had been around for more than twenty years ago. It was unknown how great a force they had built all these years. No wonder Yvette had chosen to die back then, and no wonder the special department still hadn't obtained any substantial leads despite so many years of investigation.

Justin frowned. Suddenly, he took out his cell phone and sent a message to Lawrence and Sean: 'Enhance our security measures! And summon all our men back.'

Sean quickly replied: 'Yes, sir.'

Lawrence's reply came half a beat slower: 'Got it, Boss. Has something happened?'

Justin took a deep breath and wrote: 'Protect the three children and Nora.'

'Yes, sir.'

After sending the messages, he made more arrangements on his cell phone before he gently returned to the bed and lay down beside Nora.

The next day, by the time Nora woke up, Justin was already awake. He seemed to have already washed up and changed. He stood at the head of the bed and looked at her. "Let's return to New York?"

"Okay."

Then, Nora added, "But before I go back, there's one thing I need to do."

An hour later.

At the Blacks.

Nora handed the key to the Smiths' villa to Irene. "Aunt Irene, why don't you guys move to the villa?"

Irene was about to refuse when Justin said, "The villa will become abandoned if it stays unoccupied year-round. Nora grew up there after all. If your family moves in, you guys can also help take care of it."

As soon as he said that, Irene and Will looked at each other. Then, they nodded.

Nora then handed Idealian Pharmaceuticals' management rights to Will. "Uncle Will, I'll have to trouble you to take care of the company while we're in New York."

Will nodded.

After handling all this, Nora and Justin finally set off for New York.

At the same time.

Far away in Switzerland, a cruise ship drifted on the sea.

The cruise ship was huge and had all kinds of facilities on it, including even luxury shops. However, there were no guests on board, and it seemed like someone had reserved the whole ship.

In a room.

Iris lay there quietly.

A tall man stood quietly beside her.

The man reached out and gently stroked the woman's cheek. He whispered, "Iris, it's time to get up and eat."

He'd had her favorite morning tea prepared.

The woman on the bed was motionless.

She was so pale that her skin looked almost transparent.

She looked like she had already lost all signs of life...

However, Philip was not panicked at all. He continued to gently stroke Iris' cheek with his fingertips.

He persisted like that for ten minutes until Iris finally let out a long sigh. She slowly opened her eyes, meeting Philip's head-on. Underneath Iris' long eyelashes, her eyes were filled with a sense of resignation. "Why are you doing this?"

That day, when she went into shock from Philip's strangling, Iris had nearly died.

At that moment, she had really stopped breathing

But when Philip saw that she really wasn't breathing anymore, he'd panicked and hurriedly performed CPR on her, bringing her back to life.

At the same time, Philip had also been informed that Nora was Q. Only then did he realize that he had ultimately still lost the bet with Justin.

Iris hadn't struggled at that time but merely looked at him quietly.

Her gaze had terrified Philip, and he couldn't help but ask, "What are you looking at me for?"

Iris replied, "I have already given you a life back. Is this enough as repayment for the love between us back then?"

Was it enough?

Iris had become utterly disappointed in him a long time ago.

Back then, Iris asked him for help, yet he'd continued to test her feelings for him. During that time, Iris had given up on the man.

If one asked her whether she loved him?

Iris' love for Philip was certainly not as deep as the latter's love for her.

After all, to Philip, love was everything.

However, that was not the case for her. She had never been someone obsessed over love. Compared to romantic love family affection, friendship, and even her life itself were more important.

Yet if one were to say that she did not love him?

Philip was someone whom she found hard to forget and let go of.

Despite five years passing since her marriage to Herman and even after having Justin, Iris had still been shocked at that moment where she met Philip once more.

After all, he was her unforgettable first love, how could she possibly not have loved him?

However, Iris had already made her choice.

She had sealed her heart and would never give herself and Philip another chance.

She and Philip both owed each other.

Philip owed her a debt of trust, whereas she owed him unwavering love. Only with much difficulty had he finally seen true love in her, yet in the end, it had still turned into a sham, causing him to lose his trust in the world.

In that instant, Iris felt like she had been freed.

Philip's expression, which had been full of guilt, had also shown his regret and fear.

In that instant where his emotions had gotten the better of him, he had hardly been able to control his emotions. That was why he'd done something so ruthless. Philip regretted his actions.

The moment he saw Iris' head hanging and her losing all signs of life, he knew that he had made a mistake.

True love for someone was to watch them live happily, not constant tests and destruction!

In the past twenty years, he had watched Iris from a distance and watched how she'd rather take care of flowers in the suburban villa than leave with him. That had indeed been torturous, but compared to that, he couldn't accept Iris leaving this world for good even more!

It could be said that Philip's bout of venting had allowed him to finally realize his true feelings—he was afraid of losing Iris!

Yet, Iris had completely let go of the relationship after her close brush with death.

She didn't owe him anything anymore.

Unfortunately, when Iris wanted to leave, Philip hadn't agreed to it and had forcibly taken her to the cruise ship.

Only on the ship, and only at sea, would that man be unable to find them.

Iris wanted to escape, but in the vast sea, where could she go?

She could only ignore him and try her best to persevere.

At this time, seeing that she had finally spoken, Philip hurriedly said, "It's enough, it's enough! Iris, everything you say is correct. Let's have something to eat first, okay?"

Iris had not eaten for three days.

Without food or water, the body wouldn't be able to take it.

However, Iris shook her head. "I told you, I'm not going to eat if you don't free me. Philip, I don't owe you anything anymore, you have no right to put me under house arrest."

Philip sighed silently when he heard this. He said, "I'm not putting you under house arrest. I just want to start over with you."

"That's impossible."

Iris was weak, so her voice was a little low.

She sighed. "Nothing can happen between us anymore. There are no longer any ties or debts between us."

Her firmness made Philip panic.

He wanted to say more, but Iris closed her eyes, turned over, and continued to rest on the bed as if she had fallen asleep.

Philip stared at her back, at a loss as to what to say. He could only back away quietly and leave the room in silence.

Upon hearing him leave, Iris breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

However, not even five minutes later, the door was opened again. Philip said a little joyfully, "Iris, I've thought of a solution." Iris opened her eyes. The moment she looked over, she was stunned. "What are you doing?!"

Iris was stunned.

Philip had found someone to carry a large fish tank into the room. The fish tank was half a person's height and nearly three feet long. With a basin in his hand, someone poured water into it.

After doing it a few times, the tank was full.

Iris couldn't understand what Philip wanted to do. However, the servants left after filling the tank with water, leaving only Philip and Iris in the room.

Philip gazed at her with his deep and bottomless eyes. Inside his eyes was love so strong that it was nearly crazy. He suddenly said, "Iris, I know you are angry at me for almost strangling you to death, so I will take revenge for you now."

After he spoke, he suddenly lowered his head and plunged it into the water!

Iris' pupils shrank and she sat up abruptly.

As she hadn't eaten for three days, the violent movement made her vision blackout. She shook her head. After regaining a bit of light in her eyes, she looked at the room again.

Philip's hands were grasping both sides of the fish tank tightly, and his head was still immersed in the water!

Iris shouted, "Are you crazy?!"

She rushed up to Philip and grabbed his collar to pull him out. However, Philip was very strong, Iris couldn't make him budge in the slightest.

Iris hurriedly got down beside him and started to bang on the fish tank!

In the water, Philip opened his eyes, which were a little red from holding his breath. He stared at Iris, his lips moving. Although there was no sound, Iris understood what he was saying: "Are you still angry?"

Iris was utterly stunned.

She stared at Philip in disbelief. The man's eyes were firm and determined as if saying that if she continued being angry, then he would really suffocate himself to death!

Iris hurriedly nodded to express that she was no longer angry.

She really was not angry.

She merely felt freed.

Despite that, Philip didn't get out of the water. His lips were still moving. He asked, "Will you eat?"

Iris clenched her jaw, not sure how she should answer.

If she ate, she would be compromising.

But she didn't want to continue her relationship with Philip. Now that she had gotten on in years, she felt that enjoying family life and playing with her grandchildren at home was the best outcome she could ever have.

While she was hesitating, she noticed that Philip's eyes were starting to roll up, indicating that he was about to pass out.

Iris yelled, "Come out of there! Come out!"

But Philip did not move.

It was as though he would never come out unless she answered him.

Seeing that the man was really about to suffocate himself to death-a minute had already passed since he went into the water Iris did not dare to waste any more time. She hurriedly shouted, "I'll eat, I'll eat!"

When Philip heard this, he finally let go...

However, by then, he was already exhausted and couldn't climb out at all and he fell into the fish tank instead.

Iris tried to pull him out again. As the man wasn't resisting anymore, she managed to pull him out after putting every bit of her strength into it.

Splash!

Water splashed onto the ground, wetting the entire deck...

Philip lay there, his arms limp beside him. As he took gulps of air, he slowly opened his eyes.

Iris rushed up to him and gave him a slap across the cheek!

Smack!

Iris stared at him and snapped furiously, "You lunatic! You are a lunatic!"

Philip, however, merely stared at her with a smile. His simple and naive appearance suddenly reminded Iris of their first date.

He was introverted at that time. To be honest, among all the people courting Iris, he was neither eye-catching nor outstanding, yet she had chosen to date him.

He didn't know where to take her or how to be nice to her, so he had stood below her dormitory and waited for her. After she got dressed and came downstairs, he could only give her a silly smile.

The faces of that boy from back then and the man in front of her gradually overlapped.

Iris cast her eyes down and said nothing.

The servants outside had already entered, and they started to clean up everything in the room.

Soon, the water on the floor was gone and the fish tank was also carried away. The room became clean and spotless. They even prepared a change of clothes for Iris, whose clothes had gotten wet when she pulled Philip out of the water.

Iris went to the bathroom and changed.

After she came out, she found that Philip had also changed into a set of clean clothes with the help of the servants. He had calmed down somewhat by then. The table was also full of her favorite breakfast foods.

Iris walked over. Before she could do anything, Philip pulled out the chair for her, his behavior extremely gentlemanly.

Iris sighed.

She lowered her head.

If she didn't eat, she didn't know what else Philip might do...

Never mind.

She would just take it that all her years of growing flowers in the suburban villa were just a vacation. She made up her mind to eat and drink properly from now on. Otherwise, if her health suffered, how was she going to go back, enjoy family life, and play with her grandchildren?

As for Philip... She lowered her eyes.

She'd just treat him like a stranger.

Seeing that she was willing to eat, Philip broke into a grin excitedly. He sat opposite her and kept offering her different dishes. However, she didn't eat any of the food he served her.

Philip sighed silently and put down his cutlery. "Iris, I know you still blame me for everything that has happened, but I will slowly make up for what I've done. We will definitely be able to return to what we were like in the past."

Iris wanted to say that it was impossible, but when she looked up, she saw Philip staring at her and saying, "It'll definitely be possible. Definitely, absolutely."

Iris decided to shut up.

After she finished eating, she felt a little more energetic. Although she was still rather weak, she didn't want to lie down in the room anymore, yet she didn't want to be alone if she were to go out for a walk, either.

She wanted even less to be with Philip.

While she was deep in thought, Philip smiled and said, "Iris, look who's here?"

Iris turned to see Mrs. Landis walking in. At the sight of Iris, Mrs. Landis stepped forward and called out, "Ma'am!"

Iris was surprised.

Philip sighed. "We're going to have to drift at sea for a while. I was afraid that you would be lonely, so I brought her here too. With her accompanying you, you would probably have a very good time here. By the way, you can go shopping. The cruise ship has everything, and there isn't any limit to your purchases at all."

They were on a tourist cruise ship. Even a single ticket cost thousands of dollars, yet Philip had reserved the entire ship.

The cruise ship was huge and lavish.

The cruise ship was just like a large shopping mall. There were all kinds of luxury goods there, so one wouldn't find it boring even if they stayed here for a month.

As Iris listened to what he said, she lowered her eyes, patted Mrs. Landis' hand, and said, "Then let's go out for a walk."

If she stayed in the room, she'd have to face Philip. If so, she might as well relax, calm down, and protect herself well. They would eventually dock one

day. After Iris and Mrs. Landis went out, Jason quietly came in and walked up to Philip. He said, "Boss, King is calling again. What do you think his relationship with Justin Hunt really is?"

Philip narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

To be honest, when he abducted Iris, he'd initially planned to take her away, but he hadn't expected the Hunts to be so capable. On top of that, Justin was not as simple as it seemed.

Justin had driven them into such a corner that they nearly couldn't leave New York.

After that, when Philip wanted to return to his turf, he'd received a call from King, asking him to send Iris back home safely.

Philip realized it then.

No wonder King had sold him the shares at such a high price. King had already taken the Hunts' side a long time ago, everything he did was to help the Hunts.

He couldn't figure out the relationship between King and the Hunts, but he didn't dare to offend him, either. Thus, he had put on an obedient front and pretended to obey his instructions, but taken Iris to the cruise ship the next moment.

As long as they were at sea, King wouldn't be able to find them. Even if they found their location, they wouldn't be able to do anything

This was also why he'd taken Iris to the ship.

Of course, there was also another reason.

When they were in college, he'd once asked Iris where she wanted to go on a vacation the most. Iris had replied, "I don't like sports. Mountain climbing and all that makes people sweat and it stinks. I like ferry vacations. I can travel around the whole world on a cruise and it won't tire me out either."

This most elegant way of travel was her favorite.

At that time, Philip had said that he would take her there in the future.

He was just fulfilling the promise he'd made back then.

Thinking of this, Philip took the satellite phone from Jason. King's deep voice came from the other end.

"Philip, Iris hasn't returned home yet."

Philip replied, "Yeah, she and I still have some old promises that we have not fulfilled. We are having a lot of fun, so please don't worry, Mr. King."

King fell silent for a while. Finally, he said, "If anything happens to her, I will make you die a terrible death!"

The other party's harsh words shocked Philip.

The main reason why no one dared to refute King in the group was that he really was just like a king. When Philip inherited his Imperial League account as a child, King had already been in the group for as long as forty years.

He could remember like it was just yesterday that someone in the group had questioned King's position and actions thirty years ago. Their century-old business empire had gone bankrupt within a month.

King had used actions to prove his position and status.

Since then, no one in the group dared to ever go against him again.

Philip was a fierce and savage man through and through, but even he was afraid of King. He thought for a while, but still decided to ask, "May I know how you are related to Justin Hunt? Why do you protect them so much?"

King sneered, "Don't ask things you shouldn't be asking. You just need to know that Iris is a relative of mine. Anyone who hurts her will have to pay the price."

His relative...

That meant that they were related by blood!

Philip was stunned. He'd thought that as long as he got over his own issues, he would be able to be with Iris again; just like how Herman had obediently divorced Iris when he casually manipulated the Hunts a little.

Iris had also stayed in the suburbs for more than twenty years and never remarried.

Little did he expect that Iris had such a powerful background?

But if Iris knew King, then shouldn't she have sought help from King instead of him when Justin was kidnapped?!

What exactly was going on?

Philip was puzzled, but when he wanted to ask further, King had already hung up.

This gave Philip some reservations.

He suddenly looked at Jason. "Get our men to thoroughly investigate Iris's background."

Although Jason didn't understand, he nonetheless said respectfully, "Yes, sir."

At the Hunts' residence in New York.

Justin lowered his gaze and went into deep thought after he hung up the phone.

Philip was a little crazy, and he also had an unyielding aura etched deeply in him. Therefore, he mustn't push him too hard; it was very likely that Philip would otherwise kill both himself and Iris.

Justin had exposed his family ties with Iris just so Philip would hesitate to do anything rash.

Of course, Justin was also now certain that he understood Philip very well. The man loved Iris very much and was reluctant to hurt her. Or else why would he hold back for more than twenty years?

"Boss, we have found their whereabouts. Philip owns a cruise ship that left shore three days ago. Those who had booked tickets have all received refunds and information about compensation from the cruise ship. Therefore, we are guessing that Mdm. Iris is on the cruise ship."

Sean reported his findings. "We have contacted the people on the cruise ship. We have an informant there, and he has passed us a message saying that

Mdm. Iris is fine. On the contrary, Philip has been begging her for forgiveness.”

He frowned and went on. “The troublesome part is, although we have pinpointed the cruise ship’s location, there are too many of Philip’s men on board while we only have one informant, so we have no way of snatching her back. Additionally, if we dispatch a helicopter or a ferry to take her back, given the commotion it would cause, we won’t be able to completely guarantee Mdm. Iris’ safety at sea. Therefore, we may still need to wait for her to return safely by herself after she and Philip resolve the issues between them.”

After confirming that Iris was safe for now, Justin was relieved.

He lowered his head and looked at the map on the table. “Just get someone to monitor them at all times. Dispatch a ship to follow them from a distance and make sure they don’t discover the ship. But if any problem arises, they are allowed to immediately approach and carry out a rescue operation!”

“Yes, sir.”

Sean took out his cell phone and made arrangements.

After the arrangements were made, he looked at Justin, only to see him staring at the location of a certain bank on the map.

Sean asked, “Boss, what’s wrong?”

Justin was silent for a moment. Suddenly, he said, “Station all our men in New York near this bank. Nora and I will be going there within the next two days.”

“Yes, sir.”

Sean turned to leave, but before he stepped out, Justin suddenly stopped him. “Get a few of our men to follow me out tonight.”

Sean’s heart sank.

Justin was the Irvin School of Martial Arts’ Big Brother. To be honest, he was fully capable of protecting himself in most typical dangerous situations. The reason why he brought so many bodyguards with him was just so he could weaken the enemy’s attention on him.

Yet he was specially bringing their own men with him this time? What kind of dangerous mission was he going on?

He lowered his head and said, "I'll go with you."

"No, it's fine."

Justin suddenly looked at him. "The Hunts and the Imperial League need you."

Sean: "..."

Suddenly, it felt a little like Justin was leaving his last words, which made him feel rather uneasy.

He called a few of their most skilled men over. Then, he watched as Justin led the men and entered the darkness.

At the same time, Nora also quietly left the Hunt Manor.

She was going to the bank to see what on earth her mother had left her!

Nora couldn't wait anymore.

Perhaps it wasn't the V16 but clues to it in the safe deposit box, but there were only two months and twenty days left until Xander had to take the V16.

Every passing day was torture for her. This was especially true when she saw the terrible atmosphere at home upon returning from California earlier in the afternoon. Cherry was not playing games, neither was Pete working on his Mathematical Olympiad. Instead, both of them were circling around Xander.

Cherry had taken out all her favorite Barbie dolls and princess dresses and wanted to give them to him.

Xander hadn't taken them.

As for Pete, he also hinted that he could give him all the Mathematical Olympiad worksheets he had bought.

Xander hadn't taken those either.

The little fellow slumped on the sofa and waved as he said, "I don't like your stuff! I only like animals!"

When Cherry heard this, she immediately suggested, "I have an uncle who also loves animals a lot. He has a lot of stray cats and dogs. Why don't we get Uncle Louis to send us a few?!"

But Xander had waved and said, "No, I don't want them. Those animals are your uncle's friends, not mine."

Cherry corrected him. "Xander, he's also your uncle. He is very generous. Besides, he also needs money to feed that many cats and dogs, but he doesn't have any. He will definitely thank us if we help him raise a few!"

Pete also nodded and said, "Yes, he also has a dog whose coat has a mix of colors."

As soon as he said that, Xander replied, "So what? Even if he does, it's still not Rainbow."

Rainbow was Dog No. 3. As its coat was a mix of different colors, Xander had named it Rainbow. The name was too cliché, and even Rainbow itself disliked it. However, that was what Xander called it, so it had no other choice.

Rainbow was also the healthiest among the dogs there.

However, just this morning, Rainbow lay down on the floor and never woke up again.

Xander, who had become accustomed to death and parting, had dug a hole in the garden together with Cherry and Pete and buried Rainbow there.

There were now several more mounds in the garden, all of which contained Xander's friends.

Every time they went to the garden, their hearts would be exceptionally heavy.

As soon as Xander said that, Cherry and Pete looked at each other, neither of them daring to continue. Cherry changed the subject and said, "Xander, have you decided yet? Are you going to take the same last name as me or Pete?"

Neither Cherry nor Pete would be changing their names.

But surely Xander couldn't keep using Yale as his last name, right?

While Cherry and Pete were thinking about it, Xander waved and said, "Nah, I haven't."

Cherry said, "Why don't you take Smith as your last name like me? Grandpa will like you a lot!"

Pete said, "Boys should take Hunt as their last name, of course. It's better to have the same last name as Daddy."

Cherry then said, "But if Xander's last name is Hunt, then wouldn't he end up competing with you over family assets? Let's have Xander take Smith as his last name and inherit Grandpa's assets instead!"

Pete and Xander both looked at her. "What about you?"

Cherry grinned. "I have Grandaunt!"

Pete: "?"

Xander: "??"

Cherry tilted her head and said, "Grandaunt doesn't have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!"

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts' ever since she came to celebrate Cherry's birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, "I miss Grandaunt!"

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn't let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

The three little fellows were still very young. Coupled with the fact that she was around that night, they had all clamored to sleep with her. Thus, all of them lay down together on the bed.

The heartless Cherry fell asleep very quickly.

Pete looked at Xander worriedly.

Nora patted his head.

Pete was simply too sensitive. On top of that, he even knew to be mindful of other people's emotions. He was so sensible that it made one's heart ache.

On the contrary, it was Xander the little devil who couldn't fall asleep. It was only after Nora lit the calming incense she had developed that Pete and Xander finally fell asleep.

She got up to check on Justin and see what he was doing

But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, "Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don't wanna die. Sniff..."

"Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?"

"Does it hurt when you die?"

"Do you still feel anything after death?"

Nora was frozen in place.

She had lit the calming incense, so despite Xander's extreme unease, he didn't wake up. However, his words pierced Nora's heart like a dagger.

As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn't be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn't go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn't wait anymore.

After Justin's fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

The bank was closed and locked up at night. This was not an issue for Nora, though.

She took out her cell phone casually and tapped away on it quickly.

Click!

The door to the bank opened and Nora slipped inside.

It was pitch black inside the hall.

Nora turned on her cell phone immediately after she entered. On the screen was the layout of the bank.

Although her mother had deposited the things in the bank more than twenty years ago, the location of the safes was still the same despite the layout of the bank changing over the years.

Thus, her mother's things were still there.

Nora remembered clearly that it was safe no. 06 and the password was her birthday.

She walked soundlessly towards the safe deposit boxes.

There was no staff inside, only security officers patrolling back and forth. However, it was very difficult for them to spot her.

Nora was in full black clothing, so she completely blended with the darkness.

Light-footed and nimble, she headed straight to the safe deposit boxes. But after she passed by two rooms, she suddenly heard footsteps behind her.

Nora's pupils shrank and she suddenly darted into the corner next to her. When she looked behind her, she caught a shadow flashing past.

It seemed that it was very unsafe here tonight.

And she wasn't alone here!

The thought made Nora bite her lip. Her first thought was that she hadn't managed to avoid the people tailing her and had been followed!

Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

It could only be one of them!

Nora broke into a big frown.

Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

Since he had followed her here, he must already know by now that something was up with the bank. Even if she turned around and left, it would be difficult for her to dispel the other party's suspicions.

Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

Bam!

The moment she launched her attack, the two got into a fight. The other party responded very quickly. Before her fist could connect, he was already blocking her attack and counterattacking.

In just a single exchange of blows, Nora concluded that he was most definitely someone whose genes had been modified with the gene serum!

Because his physical strength was too great!

Nora had been practicing martial arts for a very long time. Since she was a child, she had been relying on her natural talent to come this far. On top of that, she even became the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister.

This was the first person in her life to give her a foreboding pressure.

Her almond-shaped eyes were widened big and round as she stared at the person in front of her.

In the darkness, the man's eyes shone green. He wore a baseball cap and a facial mask, revealing only his eyes. The way he stared at Nora was as if he had just spotted his prey.

When he was blocking Nora's attack, the man chuckled and said, "Is that all you've got?"

He had an accent. It was obvious that he was a foreigner.

In this instant, Nora felt a little angry at herself for not training properly. If she had been a little more diligent, then she might have had a chance if she went at her opponent with full force.

She took a deep breath. "Who are you?"

"You don't need to know that. Just hand over the V16 obediently and I will spare your life."

The man moved toward her one step at a time. "Resistance is futile. All my genes have been improved and I have no flaws. I am the most powerful fighter on earth now. Without any firearms, you won't be a match for me at all."

The man spoke confidently and arrogantly.

How could she use firearms here, though? If she did, all the security officers would come running in an instant!

Nora was in a half-squat, ready to attack.

She knew that she was not the man's match, but she couldn't just go down without a fight.

The V16 was Xander's, she would never relinquish it to anyone else!

She took a deep breath and sneered, "Try me."

The man seemed a little surprised at her reaction. Nevertheless, he let out a low chuckle and said, "Trueman is right, you are indeed too stubborn. You hold out hope until you're faced with the grim reality. In that case, I shall show you how strong I am!"

The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

## **Chapter 718 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

Without food or water, the body wouldn't be able to take it.

However, Iris shook her head. "I told you, I'm not going to eat if you don't free me. Philip, I don't owe you anything anymore, you have no right to put me under house arrest."

Philip sighed silently when he heard this. He said, "I'm not putting you under house arrest. I just want to start over with you."

"That's impossible."

Iris was weak, so her voice was a little low.

She sighed. "Nothing can happen between us anymore. There are no longer any ties or debts between us."

Her firmness made Philip panic.

He wanted to say more, but Iris closed her eyes, turned over, and continued to rest on the bed as if she had fallen asleep.

Philip stared at her back, at a loss as to what to say. He could only back away quietly and leave the room in silence.

Upon hearing him leave, Iris breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

However, not even five minutes later, the door was opened again. Philip said a little joyfully, "Iris, I've thought of a solution." Iris opened her eyes. The moment she looked over, she was stunned. "What are you doing?!"

Iris was stunned.

Philip had found someone to carry a large fish tank into the room. The fish tank was half a person's height and nearly three feet long. With a basin in his hand, someone poured water into it.

After doing it a few times, the tank was full.

Iris couldn't understand what Philip wanted to do. However, the servants left after filling the tank with water, leaving only Philip and Iris in the room.

Philip gazed at her with his deep and bottomless eyes. Inside his eyes was love so strong that it was nearly crazy. He suddenly said, "Iris, I know you are angry at me for almost strangling you to death, so I will take revenge for you now."

After he spoke, he suddenly lowered his head and plunged it into the water!

Iris' pupils shrank and she sat up abruptly.

As she hadn't eaten for three days, the violent movement made her vision blackout. She shook her head. After regaining a bit of light in her eyes, she looked at the room again.

Philip's hands were grasping both sides of the fish tank tightly, and his head was still immersed in the water!

Iris shouted, "Are you crazy?!"

She rushed up to Philip and grabbed his collar to pull him out. However, Philip was very strong, Iris couldn't make him budge in the slightest.

Iris hurriedly got down beside him and started to bang on the fish tank!

In the water, Philip opened his eyes, which were a little red from holding his breath. He stared at Iris, his lips moving. Although there was no sound, Iris understood what he was saying: "Are you still angry?"

Iris was utterly stunned.

She stared at Philip in disbelief. The man's eyes were firm and determined as if saying that if she continued being angry, then he would really suffocate himself to death!

Iris hurriedly nodded to express that she was no longer angry.

She really was not angry.

She merely felt freed.

Despite that, Philip didn't get out of the water. His lips were still moving. He asked, "Will you eat?"

Iris clenched her jaw, not sure how she should answer.

If she ate, she would be compromising.

But she didn't want to continue her relationship with Philip. Now that she had gotten on in years, she felt that enjoying family life and playing with her grandchildren at home was the best outcome she could ever have.

While she was hesitating, she noticed that Philip's eyes were starting to roll up, indicating that he was about to pass out.

Iris yelled, "Come out of there! Come out!"

But Philip did not move.

It was as though he would never come out unless she answered him.

Seeing that the man was really about to suffocate himself to death-a minute had already passed since he went into the water-Iris did not dare to waste any more time. She hurriedly shouted, "I'll eat, I'll eat!"

When Philip heard this, he finally let go...

However, by then, he was already exhausted and couldn't climb out at all and he fell into the fish tank instead.

Iris tried to pull him out again. As the man wasn't resisting anymore, she managed to pull him out after putting every bit of her strength into it.

Splash!

Water splashed onto the ground, wetting the entire deck...

Philip lay there, his arms limp beside him. As he took gulps of air, he slowly opened his eyes.

Iris rushed up to him and gave him a slap across the cheek!

Smack!

Iris stared at him and snapped furiously, "You lunatic! You are a lunatic!"

Philip, however, merely stared at her with a smile. His simple and naive appearance suddenly reminded Iris of their first date.

He was introverted at that time. To be honest, among all the people courting Iris, he was neither eye-catching nor outstanding, yet she had chosen to date him.

He didn't know where to take her or how to be nice to her, so he had stood below her dormitory and waited for her. After she got dressed and came downstairs, he could only give her a silly smile.

The faces of that boy from back then and the man in front of her gradually overlapped.

Iris cast her eyes down and said nothing.

The servants outside had already entered, and they started to clean up everything in the room.

Soon, the water on the floor was gone and the fish tank was also carried away. The room became clean and spotless. They even prepared a change of clothes for Iris, whose clothes had gotten wet when she pulled Philip out of the water.

Iris went to the bathroom and changed.

After she came out, she found that Philip had also changed into a set of clean clothes with the help of the servants. He had calmed down somewhat by then. The table was also full of her favorite breakfast foods.

Iris walked over. Before she could do anything, Philip pulled out the chair for her, his behavior extremely gentlemanly.

Iris sighed.

She lowered her head.

If she didn't eat, she didn't know what else Philip might do...

Never mind.

She would just take it that all her years of growing flowers in the suburban villa were just a vacation. She made up her mind to eat and drink properly from now on. Otherwise, if her health suffered, how was she going to go back, enjoy family life, and play with her grandchildren?

As for Philip... She lowered her eyes.

She'd just treat him like a stranger.

Seeing that she was willing to eat, Philip broke into a grin excitedly. He sat opposite her and kept offering her different dishes. However, she didn't eat any of the food he served her.

Philip sighed silently and put down his cutlery. "Iris, I know you still blame me for everything that has happened, but I will slowly make up for what I've done. We will definitely be able to return to what we were like in the past."

Iris wanted to say that it was impossible, but when she looked up, she saw Philip staring at her and saying, "It'll definitely be possible. Definitely, absolutely."

Iris decided to shut up.

After she finished eating, she felt a little more energetic. Although she was still rather weak, she didn't want to lie down in the room anymore, yet she didn't want to be alone if she were to go out for a walk, either.

She wanted even less to be with Philip.

While she was deep in thought, Philip smiled and said, "Iris, look who's here?"

Iris turned to see Mrs. Landis walking in. At the sight of Iris, Mrs. Landis stepped forward and called out, "Ma'am!"

Iris was surprised.

Philip sighed. "We're going to have to drift at sea for a while. I was afraid that you would be lonely, so I brought her here too. With her accompanying you, you would probably have a very good time here. By the way, you can go shopping. The cruise ship has everything, and there isn't any limit to your purchases at all."

They were on a tourist cruise ship. Even a single ticket cost thousands of dollars, yet Philip had reserved the entire ship.

The cruise ship was huge and lavish.

The cruise ship was just like a large shopping mall. There were all kinds of luxury goods there, so one wouldn't find it boring even if they stayed here for a month.

As Iris listened to what he said, she lowered her eyes, patted Mrs. Landis' hand, and said, "Then let's go out for a walk."

If she stayed in the room, she'd have to face Philip. If so, she might as well relax, calm down, and protect herself well. They would eventually dock one day. After Iris and Mrs. Landis went out, Jason quietly came in and walked up to Philip. He said, "Boss, King is calling again. What do you think his relationship with Justin Hunt really is?"

Philip narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

To be honest, when he abducted Iris, he'd initially planned to take her away, but he hadn't expected the Hunts to be so capable. On top of that, Justin was not as simple as it seemed.

Justin had driven them into such a corner that they nearly couldn't leave New York.

After that, when Philip wanted to return to his turf, he'd received a call from King, asking him to send Iris back home safely.

Philip realized it then.

No wonder King had sold him the shares at such a high price. King had already taken the Hunts' side a long time ago, everything he did was to help the Hunts.

He couldn't figure out the relationship between King and the Hunts, but he didn't dare to offend him, either. Thus, he had put on an obedient front and pretended to obey his instructions, but taken Iris to the cruise ship the next moment.

As long as they were at sea, King wouldn't be able to find them. Even if they found their location, they wouldn't be able to do anything

This was also why he'd taken Iris to the ship.

Of course, there was also another reason.

When they were in college, he'd once asked Iris where she wanted to go on a vacation the most. Iris had replied, "I don't like sports. Mountain climbing and all that makes people sweat and it stinks. I like ferry vacations. I can travel around the whole world on a cruise and it won't tire me out either."

This most elegant way of travel was her favorite.

At that time, Philip had said that he would take her there in the future.

He was just fulfilling the promise he'd made back then.

Thinking of this, Philip took the satellite phone from Jason. King's deep voice came from the other end.

"Philip, Iris hasn't returned home yet."

Philip replied, "Yeah, she and I still have some old promises that we have not fulfilled. We are having a lot of fun, so please don't worry, Mr. King."

King fell silent for a while. Finally, he said, "If anything happens to her, I will make you die a terrible death!"

The other party's harsh words shocked Philip.

The main reason why no one dared to refute King in the group was that he really was just like a king. When Philip inherited his Imperial League account as a child, King had already been in the group for as long as forty years.

He could remember like it was just yesterday that someone in the group had questioned King's position and actions thirty years ago. Their century-old business empire had gone bankrupt within a month.

King had used actions to prove his position and status.

Since then, no one in the group dared to ever go against him again.

Philip was a fierce and savage man through and through, but even he was afraid of King. He thought for a while, but still decided to ask, "May I know how you are related to Justin Hunt? Why do you protect them so much?"

King sneered, "Don't ask things you shouldn't be asking. You just need to know that Iris is a relative of mine. Anyone who hurts her will have to pay the price."

His relative...

That meant that they were related by blood!

Philip was stunned. He'd thought that as long as he got over his own issues, he would be able to be with Iris again; just like how Herman had obediently divorced Iris when he casually manipulated the Hunts a little.

Iris had also stayed in the suburbs for more than twenty years and never remarried.

Little did he expect that Iris had such a powerful background?

But if Iris knew King, then shouldn't she have sought help from King instead of him when Justin was kidnapped?!

What exactly was going on?

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This gave Philip some reservations.

He suddenly looked at Jason. "Get our men to thoroughly investigate Iris's background."

Although Jason didn't understand, he nonetheless said respectfully, "Yes, sir."

At the Hunts' residence in New York.

Justin lowered his gaze and went into deep thought after he hung up the phone.

Philip was a little crazy, and he also had an unyielding aura etched deeply in him. Therefore, he mustn't push him too hard; it was very likely that Philip would otherwise kill both himself and Iris.

Justin had exposed his family ties with Iris just so Philip would hesitate to do anything rash.

Of course, Justin was also now certain that he understood Philip very well. The man loved Iris very much and was reluctant to hurt her. Or else why would he hold back for more than twenty years?

"Boss, we have found their whereabouts. Philip owns a cruise ship that left shore three days ago. Those who had booked tickets have all received refunds and information about compensation from the cruise ship. Therefore, we are guessing that Mdm. Iris is on the cruise ship."

Sean reported his findings. "We have contacted the people on the cruise ship. We have an informant there, and he has passed us a message saying that Mdm. Iris is fine. On the contrary, Philip has been begging her for forgiveness."

He frowned and went on. "The troublesome part is, although we have pinpointed the cruise ship's location, there are too many of Philip's men on board while we only have one informant, so we have no way of snatching her back. Additionally, if we dispatch a helicopter or a ferry to take her back, given the commotion it would cause, we won't be able to completely guarantee Mdm. Iris' safety at sea. Therefore, we may still need to wait for her to return safely by herself after she and Philip resolve the issues between them."

After confirming that Iris was safe for now, Justin was relieved.

He lowered his head and looked at the map on the table. "Just get someone to monitor them at all times. Dispatch a ship to follow them from a distance and make sure they don't discover the ship. But if any problem arises, they are allowed to immediately approach and carry out a rescue operation!"

"Yes, sir."

Sean took out his cell phone and made arrangements.

After the arrangements were made, he looked at Justin, only to see him staring at the location of a certain bank on the map.

Sean asked, "Boss, what's wrong?"

Justin was silent for a moment. Suddenly, he said, "Station all our men in New York near this bank. Nora and I will be going there within the next two days."

"Yes, sir."

Sean turned to leave, but before he stepped out, Justin suddenly stopped him. "Get a few of our men to follow me out tonight."

Sean's heart sank.

Justin was the Irvin School of Martial Arts' Big Brother. To be honest, he was fully capable of protecting himself in most typical dangerous situations. The reason why he brought so many bodyguards with him was just so he could weaken the enemy's attention on him.

Yet he was specially bringing their own men with him this time? What kind of dangerous mission was he going on?

He lowered his head and said, "I'll go with you."

"No, it's fine."

Justin suddenly looked at him. "The Hunts and the Imperial League need you."

Sean: "..."

Suddenly, it felt a little like Justin was leaving his last words, which made him feel rather uneasy.

He called a few of their most skilled men over. Then, he watched as Justin led the men and entered the darkness.

At the same time, Nora also quietly left the Hunt Manor.

She was going to the bank to see what on earth her mother had left her!

Nora couldn't wait anymore.

Perhaps it wasn't the V16 but clues to it in the safe deposit box, but there were only two months and twenty days left until Xander had to take the V16.

Every passing day was torture for her. This was especially true when she saw the terrible atmosphere at home upon returning from California earlier in the afternoon. Cherry was not playing games, neither was Pete working on his Mathematical Olympiad. Instead, both of them were circling around Xander.

Cherry had taken out all her favorite Barbie dolls and princess dresses and wanted to give them to him.

Xander hadn't taken them.

As for Pete, he also hinted that he could give him all the Mathematical Olympiad worksheets he had bought.

Xander hadn't taken those either.

The little fellow slumped on the sofa and waved as he said, "I don't like your stuff! I only like animals!"

When Cherry heard this, she immediately suggested, "I have an uncle who also loves animals a lot. He has a lot of stray cats and dogs. Why don't we get Uncle Louis to send us a few?!"

But Xander had waved and said, "No, I don't want them. Those animals are your uncle's friends, not mine."

Cherry corrected him. "Xander, he's also your uncle. He is very generous. Besides, he also needs money to feed that many cats and dogs, but he doesn't have any. He will definitely thank us if we help him raise a few!"

Pete also nodded and said, "Yes, he also has a dog whose coat has a mix of colors."

As soon as he said that, Xander replied, "So what? Even if he does, it's still not Rainbow."

Rainbow was Dog No. 3. As its coat was a mix of different colors, Xander had named it Rainbow. The name was too cliché, and even Rainbow itself disliked it. However, that was what Xander called it, so it had no other choice.

Rainbow was also the healthiest among the dogs there.

However, just this morning, Rainbow lay down on the floor and never woke up again.

Xander, who had become accustomed to death and parting, had dug a hole in the garden together with Cherry and Pete and buried Rainbow there.

There were now several more mounds in the garden, all of which contained Xander's friends.

Every time they went to the garden, their hearts would be exceptionally heavy.

As soon as Xander said that, Cherry and Pete looked at each other, neither of them daring to continue. Cherry changed the subject and said, "Xander, have you decided yet? Are you going to take the same last name as me or Pete?"

Neither Cherry nor Pete would be changing their names.

But surely Xander couldn't keep using Yale as his last name, right?

While Cherry and Pete were thinking about it, Xander waved and said, "Nah, I haven't."

Cherry said, "Why don't you take Smith as your last name like me? Grandpa will like you a lot!"

Pete said, "Boys should take Hunt as their last name, of course. It's better to have the same last name as Daddy."

Cherry then said, "But if Xander's last name is Hunt, then wouldn't he end up competing with you over family assets? Let's have Xander take Smith as his last name and inherit Grandpa's assets instead!"

Pete and Xander both looked at her. "What about you?"

Cherry grinned. "I have Grandaunt!"

Pete: "?"

Xander: "??"

Cherry tilted her head and said, "Grandaunt doesn't have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!"

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts' ever since she came to celebrate Cherry's birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, "I miss Grandaunt!"

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn't let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

The three little fellows were still very young. Coupled with the fact that she was around that night, they had all clamored to sleep with her. Thus, all of them lay down together on the bed.

The heartless Cherry fell asleep very quickly.

Pete looked at Xander worriedly.

Nora patted his head.

Pete was simply too sensitive. On top of that, he even knew to be mindful of other people's emotions. He was so sensible that it made one's heart ache.

On the contrary, it was Xander the little devil who couldn't fall asleep. It was only after Nora lit the calming incense she had developed that Pete and Xander finally fell asleep.

She got up to check on Justin and see what he was doing

But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, “Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don’t wanna die. Sniff...”

“Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?”

“Does it hurt when you die?”

“Do you still feel anything after death?”

Nora was frozen in place.

She had lit the calming incense, so despite Xander’s extreme unease, he didn’t wake up. However, his words pierced Nora’s heart like a dagger.

As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn’t be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn’t go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn’t wait anymore.

After Justin’s fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

The bank was closed and locked up at night. This was not an issue for Nora, though.

She took out her cell phone casually and tapped away on it quickly.

Click!

The door to the bank opened and Nora slipped inside.

It was pitch black inside the hall.

Nora turned on her cell phone immediately after she entered. On the screen was the layout of the bank.

Although her mother had deposited the things in the bank more than twenty years ago, the location of the safes was still the same despite the layout of the bank changing over the years.

Thus, her mother's things were still there.

Nora remembered clearly that it was safe no. 06 and the password was her birthday.

She walked soundlessly towards the safe deposit boxes.

There was no staff inside, only security officers patrolling back and forth. However, it was very difficult for them to spot her.

Nora was in full black clothing, so she completely blended with the darkness.

Light-footed and nimble, she headed straight to the safe deposit boxes. But after she passed by two rooms, she suddenly heard footsteps behind her.

Nora's pupils shrank and she suddenly darted into the corner next to her. When she looked behind her, she caught a shadow flashing past.

It seemed that it was very unsafe here tonight.

And she wasn't alone here!

The thought made Nora bite her lip. Her first thought was that she hadn't managed to avoid the people tailing her and had been followed!

Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

It could only be one of them!

Nora broke into a big frown.

Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

Since he had followed her here, he must already know by now that something was up with the bank. Even if she turned around and left, it would be difficult for her to dispel the other party's suspicions.

Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

Bam!

The moment she launched her attack, the two got into a fight. The other party responded very quickly. Before her fist could connect, he was already blocking her attack and counterattacking.

In just a single exchange of blows, Nora concluded that he was most definitely someone whose genes had been modified with the gene serum!

Because his physical strength was too great!

Nora had been practicing martial arts for a very long time. Since she was a child, she had been relying on her natural talent to come this far. On top of that, she even became the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister.

This was the first person in her life to give her a foreboding pressure.

Her almond-shaped eyes were widened big and round as she stared at the person in front of her.

In the darkness, the man's eyes shone green. He wore a baseball cap and a facial mask, revealing only his eyes. The way he stared at Nora was as if he had just spotted his prey.

When he was blocking Nora's attack, the man chuckled and said, "Is that all you've got?"

He had an accent. It was obvious that he was a foreigner.

In this instant, Nora felt a little angry at herself for not training properly. If she had been a little more diligent, then she might have had a chance if she went at her opponent with full force.

She took a deep breath. “Who are you?”

“You don’t need to know that. Just hand over the V16 obediently and I will spare your life.”

The man moved toward her one step at a time. “Resistance is futile. All my genes have been improved and I have no flaws. I am the most powerful fighter on earth now. Without any firearms, you won’t be a match for me at all.”

The man spoke confidently and arrogantly.

How could she use firearms here, though? If she did, all the security officers would come running in an instant!

Nora was in a half-squat, ready to attack.

She knew that she was not the man’s match, but she couldn’t just go down without a fight.

The V16 was Xander’s, she would never relinquish it to anyone else!

She took a deep breath and sneered, “Try me.”

The man seemed a little surprised at her reaction. Nevertheless, he let out a low chuckle and said, “Trueman is right, you are indeed too stubborn. You hold out hope until you’re faced with the grim reality. In that case, I shall show you how strong I am!”

The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

## **Chapter 719 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

Philip narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

To be honest, when he abducted Iris, he’d initially planned to take her away, but he hadn’t expected the Hunts to be so capable. On top of that, Justin was not as simple as it seemed.

Justin had driven them into such a corner that they nearly couldn’t leave New York.

After that, when Philip wanted to return to his turf, he'd received a call from King, asking him to send Iris back home safely.

Philip realized it then.

No wonder King had sold him the shares at such a high price. King had already taken the Hunts' side a long time ago, everything he did was to help the Hunts.

He couldn't figure out the relationship between King and the Hunts, but he didn't dare to offend him, either. Thus, he had put on an obedient front and pretended to obey his instructions, but taken Iris to the cruise ship the next moment.

As long as they were at sea, King wouldn't be able to find them. Even if they found their location, they wouldn't be able to do anything

This was also why he'd taken Iris to the ship.

Of course, there was also another reason.

When they were in college, he'd once asked Iris where she wanted to go on a vacation the most. Iris had replied, "I don't like sports. Mountain climbing and all that makes people sweat and it stinks. I like ferry vacations. I can travel around the whole world on a cruise and it won't tire me out either."

This most elegant way of travel was her favorite.

At that time, Philip had said that he would take her there in the future.

He was just fulfilling the promise he'd made back then.

Thinking of this, Philip took the satellite phone from Jason. King's deep voice came from the other end.

"Philip, Iris hasn't returned home yet."

Philip replied, "Yeah, she and I still have some old promises that we have not fulfilled. We are having a lot of fun, so please don't worry, Mr. King."

King fell silent for a while. Finally, he said, "If anything happens to her, I will make you die a terrible death!"

The other party's harsh words shocked Philip.

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King sneered, "Don't ask things you shouldn't be asking. You just need to know that Iris is a relative of mine. Anyone who hurts her will have to pay the price."

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As soon as Xander said that, Cherry and Pete looked at each other, neither of them daring to continue. Cherry changed the subject and said, "Xander, have you decided yet? Are you going to take the same last name as me or Pete?"

Neither Cherry nor Pete would be changing their names.

But surely Xander couldn't keep using Yale as his last name, right?

While Cherry and Pete were thinking about it, Xander waved and said, "Nah, I haven't."

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Pete and Xander both looked at her. "What about you?"

Cherry grinned. "I have Grandaunt!"

Pete: "?"

Xander: "??"

Cherry tilted her head and said, "Grandaunt doesn't have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!"

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts' ever since she came to celebrate Cherry's birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, "I miss Grandaunt!"

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn't let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

The three little fellows were still very young. Coupled with the fact that she was around that night, they had all clamored to sleep with her. Thus, all of them lay down together on the bed.

The heartless Cherry fell asleep very quickly.

Pete looked at Xander worriedly.

Nora patted his head.

Pete was simply too sensitive. On top of that, he even knew to be mindful of other people's emotions. He was so sensible that it made one's heart ache.

On the contrary, it was Xander the little devil who couldn't fall asleep. It was only after Nora lit the calming incense she had developed that Pete and Xander finally fell asleep.

She got up to check on Justin and see what he was doing

But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, "Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don't wanna die. Sniff..."

"Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?"

"Does it hurt when you die?"

"Do you still feel anything after death?"

Nora was frozen in place.

She had lit the calming incense, so despite Xander's extreme unease, he didn't wake up. However, his words pierced Nora's heart like a dagger.

As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn't be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn't go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn't wait anymore.

After Justin's fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

The bank was closed and locked up at night. This was not an issue for Nora, though.

She took out her cell phone casually and tapped away on it quickly.

Click!

The door to the bank opened and Nora slipped inside.

It was pitch black inside the hall.

Nora turned on her cell phone immediately after she entered. On the screen was the layout of the bank.

Although her mother had deposited the things in the bank more than twenty years ago, the location of the safes was still the same despite the layout of the bank changing over the years.

Thus, her mother's things were still there.

Nora remembered clearly that it was safe no. 06 and the password was her birthday.

She walked soundlessly towards the safe deposit boxes.

There was no staff inside, only security officers patrolling back and forth. However, it was very difficult for them to spot her.

Nora was in full black clothing, so she completely blended with the darkness.

Light-footed and nimble, she headed straight to the safe deposit boxes. But after she passed by two rooms, she suddenly heard footsteps behind her.

Nora's pupils shrank and she suddenly darted into the corner next to her. When she looked behind her, she caught a shadow flashing past.

It seemed that it was very unsafe here tonight.

And she wasn't alone here!

The thought made Nora bite her lip. Her first thought was that she hadn't managed to avoid the people tailing her and had been followed!

Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

It could only be one of them!

Nora broke into a big frown.

Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

Since he had followed her here, he must already know by now that something was up with the bank. Even if she turned around and left, it would be difficult for her to dispel the other party's suspicions.

Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

Bam!

The moment she launched her attack, the two got into a fight. The other party responded very quickly. Before her fist could connect, he was already blocking her attack and counterattacking.

In just a single exchange of blows, Nora concluded that he was most definitely someone whose genes had been modified with the gene serum!

Because his physical strength was too great!

Nora had been practicing martial arts for a very long time. Since she was a child, she had been relying on her natural talent to come this far. On top of that, she even became the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister.

This was the first person in her life to give her a foreboding pressure.

Her almond-shaped eyes were widened big and round as she stared at the person in front of her.

In the darkness, the man's eyes shone green. He wore a baseball cap and a facial mask, revealing only his eyes. The way he stared at Nora was as if he had just spotted his prey.

When he was blocking Nora's attack, the man chuckled and said, "Is that all you've got?"

He had an accent. It was obvious that he was a foreigner.

In this instant, Nora felt a little angry at herself for not training properly. If she had been a little more diligent, then she might have had a chance if she went at her opponent with full force.

She took a deep breath. “Who are you?”

“You don’t need to know that. Just hand over the V16 obediently and I will spare your life.”

The man moved toward her one step at a time. “Resistance is futile. All my genes have been improved and I have no flaws. I am the most powerful fighter on earth now. Without any firearms, you won’t be a match for me at all.”

The man spoke confidently and arrogantly.

How could she use firearms here, though? If she did, all the security officers would come running in an instant!

Nora was in a half-squat, ready to attack.

She knew that she was not the man’s match, but she couldn’t just go down without a fight.

The V16 was Xander’s, she would never relinquish it to anyone else!

She took a deep breath and sneered, “Try me.”

The man seemed a little surprised at her reaction. Nevertheless, he let out a low chuckle and said, “Trueman is right, you are indeed too stubborn. You hold out hope until you’re faced with the grim reality. In that case, I shall show you how strong I am!”

The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

## **Chapter 720 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

Pete: “?”

Xander: “??”

Cherry tilted her head and said, “Grandaunt doesn’t have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!”

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts’ ever since she came to celebrate Cherry’s birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, “I miss Grandaunt!”

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn’t let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

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But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, "Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don't wanna die. Sniff..."

"Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?"

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As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn't be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn't go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn't wait anymore.

After Justin's fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

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Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

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Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

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Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

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She knew that she was not the man’s match, but she couldn’t just go down without a fight.

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The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

## **Chapter 721 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

Nora had just exchanged a punch with the man, so her fingers were still hurting. How would she possibly dare to still fight him head-on?

Thus, the moment the man got near, Nora tucked and rolled. A scalpel suddenly appeared in her hand, going straight for the man’s throat!

The scalpel was her weapon.

She had always been a tough woman who met challenges head-on. She didn't believe that the man was really stronger than her!

But the next moment...

Clang!

Not only did the man evade her attack, but he even struck her wrist. Nora had always had a lot of physical strength, but her hand was in severe pain at this moment as she lost all the strength in her hand instantly.

The scalpel fell right onto the ground!

She really couldn't beat him!

The thought flashed through Nora's mind. By then, the man behind her had already come close again. When it looked like he was about to catch her, a contemptuous sneer flashed across Nora's lips. At once, she turned back and brandished her hand!

A blast of white smoke erupted in the air.

It was a drug to knock one out!

The man froze for a moment.

However, Nora didn't take the opportunity to attack. It wasn't like she could beat him anyway. Also, her objective today was not to kill the opponent but to find the V16.

So... If she couldn't beat him, then she would just run. There was no problem with that whatsoever.

She did a tuck-and-roll and slipped into the corridor next to her. Then, she raced forward.

She didn't look back, but she could sense that the man was catching up to her.

The gene serum had improved his body, so his physical abilities surpassed that of ordinary people. The drug just now only had minimal effect on him. There was no way it would subdue him.

Therefore, Nora ran like the wind. The tables and chairs in the bank also hindered the man during the pursuit.

The man got closer and closer to her. Just as he was about to catch her, Nora dodged and ran into the room where the safe deposit boxes were.

Then, she locked the door!

At once, the sound of someone trying to break the lock rang out at the door. However, Nora's objective was precisely psychological warfare.

She raced towards safe no. 06 to get her hands on the V16 before the man could rush in!

Click!

When Nora opened the safe, the sound of the door opening also rang out.

She looked behind her abruptly and saw the man in black entering. His hand was on the light switch, and with a snap, the room became as bright as day.

Nora's eyes narrowed.

For the first time in her life, Nora, who had been leading in every field no matter what it was since she was a child, felt a sense of powerlessness.

The man was too strong.

To be honest, she didn't get that feeling even when she fought with Justin. While she was thinking, the man said again in broken English, "Give me that thing. I spare your life."

Nora didn't move, keeping her hand in the same position ready to open the safe. She tried to stall for time. "You are only strong because you took the gene serum. Artificial strength like that won't deter or intimidate anyone."

The man sneered, "Justin Hunt can say that but what makes you think you can too? Haven't you also been injected with the gene serum?"

Nora frowned.

His words didn't mislead her, nor did she feel like she was not as strong as she'd thought herself to be, but was instead very annoyed because of what he

said. Nora knew very well that what her mother had only injected into her a minuscule amount of IQ gene-improving serum. All her achievements to date were to her own credit!

She wanted to say more, but the man had come right up to her in a flash and delivered a kick right to her face!

His movements were ruthless, merciless, and icy-cold.

Should the kick strike Nora, she would very likely die on the spot.

She didn't have time to look at the safe, she could only dodge.

She'd only just dodged the attack when the man's other leg came at her with another kick. The look in his eyes was icy and carried disgust for Nora.

"I gave you a chance. Since you don't cherish it, then forget it!"

He swung his fist again.

Nora dodged awkwardly and asked, "Do you have a grudge against me?"

She was trying to guess his identity by talking to him.

The man sneered. "Don't bother guessing, you don't know me. But I know your mother! If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be in this state today!"

Nora frowned. "Weren't you only a few years old when my mother died?"

"Heh, if she hadn't developed the gene serum, would we have become tools for their experiments? I hate sanctimonious hypocrites like you! You say that we are wicked and that the world should lock us up but in reality? Was it our choice that we became like this?!"

The man was speaking more, but every word of his was cold and frosty. He stared at Nora and said, "So, you all deserve to die!"

Almost as soon as he said that, he threw another punch!

Nora retreated again, only to find that her back was already against the wall. As the man attacked her again and again and she took step after step backward, she had been forced into a dead end.

Nora could only raise her arm to block his attack.

... Even if she knew that the man was strong enough to break her arm! And crush it!

She closed her eyes and listened to the man coming nearer and nearer to her.

The moment the man was about to strike her, she suddenly opened her eyes.

The best form of defense was the offense.

How could Nora possibly sit around and do nothing?!

Without even thinking about it, she put all her strength into her leg and kicked the man's abdomen!

The man had only two choices-either he pulled back his arm, thereby allowing her to dodge the bullet, or continued to attack and she fought him to the death, even if it meant that she would suffer an even more serious injury herself!

Now that the lights were on, the security guards would discover the situation here in no time. If she stalled for enough time, someone would eventually come. As long as the V16 did not fall into the man's hands, Justin would still have a chance of obtaining it for Xander.

Nora narrowed her eyes, but little did she expect that the man would choose the second option without any hesitation.

Thud!

Nora's leg connected with his abdomen.

In spite of that, the man didn't stop and his fist went straight for Nora's arm!

Thud!

Another thud rang out.

However, the pain of having an arm broken didn't come, which took Nora aback. When she regained her senses, she realized that someone's leg had intercepted the black-clad man's fist from the side.

The blow made the man in black finally take a step back.

Before Nora could see who her rescuer was, she was pulled back by her shoulders. A solid and strong figure then stood in front of her, blocking her from the man in black.

Nora stared at the person in front of her.

Even though he was dressed in black clothes, suitable for moving around in the dark, and a baseball cap, she still recognized at a glance that he was Justin!

The man in black had put all his strength into the punch just now. Although Justin kicked at his fist, it stood to reason to he shouldn't have been able to withstand the punch, yet it seemed like Justin's leg was completely fine.

Nora suddenly thought of how Justin was always forced into fleeing around the room whenever she fought with him.

Now that she thought about it again, though, the man had been going easy on her all this time!

He was obviously stronger than her!

Nora looked at the man in black again. Even though he had been kicked by her and had also exchanged a blow with Justin, the man merely took a few steps back as if he was completely fine.

The man looked at the two of them and chuckled softly. "Hah, you overestimate yourselves."

Then, without saying anything else, he stepped forward without hesitation. Justin and Nora looked at each other. The two of them tacitly took a step forward and fought with the man.

Despite fighting two-on-one, the man still seemed to be having an easy time.

They mustn't continue fighting with him like this.

The thought had only just flashed past Nora's mind when Justin grabbed her arm and pushed her to the safe.

"Hurry!"

Justin had only uttered a word but Nora immediately understood what he meant. At once, she reached towards the safe.

The man was infuriated when he saw this. He bypassed Justin and attacked Nora.

Nora didn't care. With full assurance, she entrusted Justin with her safety and opened the safe!

The man wanted to rush over, but Justin kept him occupied.

However, the moment Nora opened the safe, her pupils shrank!

Because!

Inside the safe was nothing but a bomb!

The bomb was triggered the moment she opened the safe, and it instantly started to display a countdown of twenty seconds!

Next to the bomb was a tiny box!

Was this... the trap that her mother had left her?

Had it been someone else who did not know the password, the bomb would probably have gone off the moment the door was pried open. Only when she used the password to open the door would she have time to escape.

Her mother had really... considered every possibility.

Even so, she probably never thought that her daughter would be trapped here, right?

Without any hesitation, Nora picked up the tiny box, turned around, and shouted, "Run!"

As soon as she shouted, the man in black rushed right up to her. He reached out to grab the box in her hand.

Nora dodged and shouted, "If we stay any longer, we will all die here!"

Despite that, the man stood right at the door and sneered, "You two can forget about leaving if you don't give me that!"

The countdown reached ten seconds!

The walls of the room with the safes were forged from steel to prevent people from breaking in and stealing things. There weren't any windows but only a metal door.

With the man standing guard at the door, it was impossible for the two of them to escape!

At the critical moment, Justin suddenly snatched the metal box from Nora and threw it to the left of the door. He shouted, "Here, you can have it!"

The man stepped aside without any hesitation to grab the box.

Nora frowned.

The timing was too tight, she didn't have any time to swap the box's contents at all. The metal box was still the one that she'd just taken out and the V16 might be in it.

She didn't dare to take any chances!

Just as she was about to rush over to grab it back, Justin grabbed her arm and she was thrown out the door with great force.

Thud!

By the time Nora fell to the ground, Justin had already grabbed the metal box before the other man. He flung it out the door without any hesitation!

And then...

Before Nora could get back up, both the man in black and Justin raced madly towards the door.

Justin looked at Nora.

They were out of time.

The countdown turned from one to zero.

Boom!

The room exploded.

Waves of heat spread swiftly from the metal safe to the door...

All Nora could see was the heat waves hit Justin and the man in black from the back. The two of them were only one step away from the metal door!

He wouldn't be able to get out in time...

Upon realizing this, Nora sprung off the floor and rushed straight to the metal door!

With the door in between them, she and Justin looked at each other.

Suddenly, the corners of Justin's lips curled upward. At the last moment, he suddenly slammed the metal door shut!

"Nooooo!"

Nora screamed!!

Justin... He was still in there!!!

He wasn't out yet!!

But the only thing that she heard was the click of the lock that came from beyond the big metal door, as well as the rumbling explosion inside...

A metal door separated the two worlds.

Nora used all her might to kick and stomp at the door, but she simply couldn't open it. She could only watch helplessly as the fire in the room got bigger and bigger.

The explosion also finally attracted the security officers' attention, who immediately called the firefighters.

Nora stared at the door.

Her countenance remained calm and collected the whole time. Even when people started rushing to the scene, she rationally slipped the metal box into her pocket.

Soon, the fire was put out. The firemen finally pried open the door and rushed in.

Everything inside had been blown up and burned to ashes. On the ground lay a charred, unrecognizable corpse with only the bones left.

There was only one corpse... This filled Nora with hope.

The man in black and Justin had both been inside, so how could there be only one corpse?

Right away, she looked at Morris, who had come over upon hearing the news, and said, "Do a DNA check."

Morris didn't have Justin's DNA data.

However, Nora did. In order to do a comparison with Xander's DNA, she had even retrieved samples again. Thus, Lily had accurate data of his DNA.

Morris nodded at her request.

Some people also came to investigate why they were in the bank late at night and even bombed it.

However, Sean promised to compensate the bank for all their losses while Morris also said that Nora was the special department's legal adviser, so it was perfectly normal for her to come over and conduct investigations.

With that, news of the incident was suppressed

Nora went straight to the special department together with the dead body.

When she returned once more to the familiar place, all the people around her who had once wronged her felt so guilty that they didn't dare to face her.

When Brenda heard the news, she rushed over and looked at her in disbelief. "Nora, i-is that Justin?"

"No, it isn't."

Nora sounded certain, but she didn't know whether she was saying that to Brenda or to herself. She said, "There's only one corpse, it can't be him..."

Brenda also nodded when she heard this. She said, "That's right, that's definitely not Justin, Nora. Justin has always been mysterious, and he's always so secretive about everything he does. Also, ever since he was abducted when he was five, he always brings more than twenty bodyguards with him. There's no way anything would happen to someone who fears death as much as he does..."

Despite saying that, her voice gradually became choked up.

Even Brenda didn't quite believe what she was saying

If that wasn't Justin, then where did he go? Didn't he know that Nora and his children were waiting for him to come back?

Why hadn't he shown up yet?

But she couldn't say that, much less did she dare to. In fact, she was just holding out a glimmer of hope that the body was not Justin's!

Upon hearing this, Morris glanced at Brenda.

The woman, who had always been exquisitely dressed, looked a little like she was in a mess at the moment, which went to show how flustered she was due to her involvement with the matter.

He took a deep breath and sent the bones to the lab.

While waiting for the result, in order to relieve some of the pressure on Nora and Brenda, Morris asked, "Nora, you said just now that the two of you met a man in black when you two went to the bank to take something. In order to save you, Mr. Hunt locked himself in the room with the man in black, right? If so, then why was there only one dead body at the scene?"

Nora looked at him.

Morris explained to her cautiously, "This can only point to one thing—there must be other passages out of that room! I have already gotten my men to look into it. If other passages exist, then Mr. Hunt should be fine."

Nora nodded. "Yes, that's exactly it."

Seeing that she looked somewhat flustered, Morris let out a soft sigh. Suddenly, he asked, "So, did you get what you wanted to take from the bank?"

Did she get it?

Nora raised her head slightly and stared at Morris. A while later, she shook her head lightly and replied, "It was taken away by the man in black. He was waiting at the bank precisely because he wanted to take it from us..."

Her voice became softer and softer toward the end. One could hear dejection in her voice.

At this moment, Morris' cell phone rang.

After he answered, a touch of joy came over his expression. He looked at Nora and said, "They really found a tunnel in the room! So, Mr. Hunt really may have left from that tunnel!"

However, Nora's heart instead sank when she heard him.

Sure enough, there really was a tunnel in the bank. In that case, who had dug the tunnel?

While she was contemplating, chaotic footsteps suddenly came from the door of the lab. Herman's furious roar then came over.

"What's going on? What exactly has happened to Justin?!"

Before Nora could speak, Lauren said reproachfully, "Ms. Smith, why did the two of you go to the bank in the middle of the night instead of sleeping? Why was there an explosion? I heard that this only happened to Justin because he wanted to save you? Who exactly have you offended? Why did this happen?!" Herman's eyes were all red. It was obvious that he was heartbroken and devastated over what had happened to Justin. He stared at Nora and demanded, "C'mon, talk! What's going on?!"

Nora clenched her jaw.

She did not explain, but Sean, who was next to her, said, "It's Mr. Hunt who invited Ms. Smith to the bank. He wanted to show her some of the things he'd prepared for their wedding, but he did not expect to encounter a robber..."

Sean also lowered his head. “Ms. Smith has nothing to do with any of it.”

“She doesn’t? How can it have nothing to do with her?!” Lauren yelled furiously, “If it wasn’t for the wedding, would he have gone to the bank in the middle of the night? And end up giving the robbers a chance? In my opinion, Nora jinxes the Hunts! Ever since she appeared, the Hunts have been really unlucky!”

Her words made Herman feel even worse.

Nora’s eyes were still lowered and she did not speak. She was still re-enacting in her mind everything that had happened earlier.

Everything had been such a blur that even now, she still hadn’t figured out what exactly had happened.

The man in black had only appeared at the bank because he followed her there. In that case, how come Justin also showed up at the bank? On top of that, he even happened to be in the room where the safe-deposit boxes were?

Had he done the same thing as her? Because he knew that it was dangerous, he didn’t want to drag Nora into it?

While she was thinking, Herman sat on the bench next to her.

Lauren supported Herman by the arm. “Herman, you must hang in there. Justin is no longer around. If something also happens to you, what are the Hunts going to do?”

Upon hearing this, Herman immediately understood something. He straightened his back abruptly and said, “You’re right, I mustn’t collapse. Now that Justin is gone, I’m the only one who can handle the Hunts now...”

Lauren nodded. “A kingdom mustn’t go without a king for a day. Similarly, the Hunts mustn’t be missing a president either. Now that Justin’s fate is unknown, you have to bear responsibility for the family and the company!”

They were clearly planning a coup d’état!

The sight filled Sean with anger.

It hadn't even been determined whose charred corpse it was, yet those two were already starting to think about the family inheritance? They didn't have a conscience at all!

He looked at Nora angrily, only to see the woman say coldly, "Justin's fate is not unknown. He's definitely still alive!"

"If he's alive, then why didn't he come back to look for us?" Lauren countered. "To be honest, we all know deep down that the corpse is most likely Justin! Nora Smith, it's all your fault, so stop pretending like you're that loyal and in love with him! Do you really think I don't know what you're thinking? You're just concerned about your position as Mrs. Hunt and how Justin's assets will be distributed, right? I'll tell you this—your children are still young, so don't even think about taking over the company! Herman is the most rightful successor to the company now!"

Nora clenched her fists.

She took a deep breath. Just as she was about to speak, the door to the lab suddenly opened and the doctor in charge of the DNA lab came out.

Nora went toward him at once while Brenda and Lauren also rushed over anxiously. The group of them surrounded the doctor.

Herman wanted to go forward, but he didn't dare to. Instead, he stood behind the crowd in a daze.

Before Nora could say anything, an anxious Lauren asked, "Doctor, the charred corpse, who is it? Are the results out? Is it Justin?"

Everyone looked at the doctor in unison.

Nora stood opposite the doctor. She stared at the doctor's lips, only to see him say word by word, "... Based on the DNA samples provided by Ms. Smith, we have confirmed that the body is indeed Mr. Justin Hunt's."

That one line of his caused the whole place to fall silent.

Everyone looked at the doctor in disbelief.

As for Nora, her expression was calm and her eyes cast down. It seemed like she was thinking about something...

The entrance to the Hunts' manor was jam-packed with people.

A few cars approached.

Nora was the first to get out of the car. Immediately, she saw Mrs. Hunt, who was at the entrance, take a step forward. Her hands shook as she asked, "Nora, where is Justin? The DNA result shows that the corpse isn't Justin's, right?"

Nora was silent.

Screech!

Another car came to a halt. Herman, Lauren, and the others got out of the car. As soon as they did, Herman looked at Mrs. Hunt. His knees gave way and he fell onto the ground.

In tears, he cried out, "Mom!"

His behavior made Mrs. Hunt suddenly realize something. Her eyes widened and she staggered backward. Her vision turned dark and she was about to faint.

Fortunately, Fanny carried the Zabe Corporation's Calming Pills with her at all times, so she hurriedly fed her a pill and stabilized her condition. As Mrs. Hunt gasped for breath, the perplexed old lady asked, "What on earth is going on?"

Herman was heartbroken.

Even if all he did were bad things when he was young, Justin was still his son and he had always been proud of him. Now that his son was dead... how could he possibly not be sad?

Lauren took the opportunity to speak. "It's all Nora's fault! She wanted Justin to show her what he'd prepared for their wedding in the middle of the night, so he took her to the bank. But they ended up being targeted by crooks, who took the valuables and even killed Justin in an explosion!"

Mrs. Hunt staggered backward again. She took a deep breath and looked at Nora.

Nora did not explain.

She couldn't blow up the matter about the gene serum. Besides, she was also very flustered and her mind was in a mess at the moment, so she didn't have anything she wanted to explain either. She merely stood where she was, her gaze in the direction of Justin's villa.

The three children were still there. She wondered how they were.

While she was thinking about it, Lauren came forward, pointed at her, and rebuked her. "It's obvious at a glance that you're from the boonies. How dare you ask for money and gifts in the middle of the night?! Is money all you can see?! Nora, you're the one who killed Justin!"

At once, the people around them started whispering to one another, and all of them pointed at and gestured to Nora.

Seeing that Nora had become the target of public criticism, Lauren looked at Mrs. Hunt with satisfaction. She walked over, held her arm, and said, "Mom, I'm sorry, but Justin is already dead! The Hunt Corporation mustn't be without a CEO, so in my opinion, why don't we let Herman..."

Before she could finish, Mrs. Hunt took a deep breath and looked straight at Fanny. She said, "Fetch my wooden walking stick!"

Fanny looked at Mrs. Hunt hesitantly.

Mrs. Hunt, however, stomped her foot angrily. "Go!"

Fanny could only hurry into the house. A while later, she came back out with a walking stick.

The walking stick was made of thick, solid wood, and it hurt a lot if used to hit someone

Mrs. Hunt took a deep breath and took the walking stick from Fanny.

The walking stick was very heavy. When she took it from Fanny, she paused for a while.

Brenda, who had followed closely behind the others back to the manor, had already parked the car by then. At the sight, she raced towards them in a panic and shouted, "Grandma, what are you doing?! This isn't Nora's fault, you mustn't hit her! If Justin was still here, he definitely won't let you do that!!"

Next to her, Lauren sneered, “Brenda, how can you be so insensible? If it wasn’t for her, Justin wouldn’t have died. Why are you still defending her? Do you have a conscience or not?”

Brenda, however, put herself in between Mrs. Hunt and Nora. She said, “Grandma, wake up! This really has nothing to do with Nora! No one expected an accident like that. Besides, Nora must be the most heartbroken among us all right now!”

Mrs. Hunt didn’t listen to her. Instead, she said to the security guard next to her, “Pull her away.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Someone stepped forward and held Brenda back. Although she could get physical with them, she didn’t want to make a huge scene.

She rolled up her sleeves and shouted to Nora, “Nora, hurry up and go! Don’t stay here stupidly to let her hit you!”

However, Mrs. Hunt had already raised the walking stick!

When Lauren saw this, her lips immediately curled into a smirk.

Justin was dead, and to make matters worse, Mrs. Hunt was about to hit Nora. Those three little bastards had lost their shield. From now on, the Hunts would belong only to Herman. She would see who else was going to fight with her!

She even looked at Nora and said, “Nora, Mom is already so old. If you still have even a bit of conscience in you, then just stay still and let her vent her anger. Otherwise, wouldn’t you be letting down Justin when he’s already dead??”

Nora stood where she was, showing no reaction to her words whatsoever.

Just as Lauren was feeling smug, the raised walking stick suddenly struck her hard instead!

Thwack!

The severe, burning pain stunned Lauren and she couldn't react for a while. She stared at Mrs. Hunt incredulously and shouted, "Mom, you're hitting the wrong person! Nora is over there!"

Right after she spoke, Mrs. Hunt's second blow landed on her fiercely. She said, "You're the one I'm beating up! Something has happened to Justin, yet you are not sad at all! Your entire mind is on the Hunts' assets! Why is Herman so blind that he would marry someone like you?!"

Thwack!

When the walking stick struck Lauren again, she finally started to dodge. However, the moment she moved, Brenda, who had been standing beside her utterly stunned, recovered. She said, "Grandma's getting old, are you planning to go against her? If anything happens to her because you made her angry, then you'll be a sinner!" Lauren: "!!"

That bitch was using what she had said just now against her!

Furious and panicked, Lauren could only look at Mrs. Hunt. "Mom, mom! Stop hitting me! Justin is already dead, you only have Herman now! He's your only son left! Isn't that right?"

"Who says I only have one son? Raymond and Spencer are also my sons! As for the successor to the Hunts, aside from Justin, I still have Pete!"

Mrs. Hunt shouted firmly and loudly.

Her words shocked everyone present, and all of them looked at Mrs. Hunt in disbelief.

What did Mrs. Hunt mean by that?

Was she planning to support Pete, who was only five years old, as the head of the Hunts?

Lauren bit her lip and shouted, "Mom, you're too biased! Pete is only five! What can he even do?"

Mrs. Hunt, however, lowered her head and said in a low voice, "He is certainly still young, but there's Nora! She is the young lady of the Smiths and also

Pete's mother. There is absolutely no problem with her temporarily taking over as CEO of the Hunt Corporation in Pete's stead!"

Lauren was even more stunned. "She? Does a woman like her even know how to do business?! You must be muddleheaded!"

"Hah, this matter is settled! Now, we'll see to Justin's funeral matters!"

Mrs. Hunt made the final decision.

After all, she had been in the Hunts for many years. Even now, she still held a lot of prestige in the family.

Seeing this, Brenda helped Nora towards the old lady. Then, she held Mrs. Hunt's arm and said, "Grandma, you totally saw the big picture this time!"

Mrs. Hunt glanced at her coldly and cast her eyes down.

After that, the Hunts made arrangements for Justin's wake.

Nora returned to Justin's villa. As soon as she entered, she saw the three children looking at her.

Cherry and Pete's identical faces showed similar anxiety.

Xander tried his best to disguise his concern with indifference, but the way his eyes flicked towards the door from time to time betrayed him.

The moment Nora entered, Cherry ran up to her. She raised her head and asked, "Mommy, is Daddy really dead?"

Faced with the three children and their three pairs of pure and innocent eyes, Nora found herself at a loss for words for a moment.

Suddenly, she felt a little angry. She lowered her head and replied calmly, "No, he just has something to do, so he went out for a while. He will be back in three months at the most."

Xander glanced outside the room. Then, he said, "You're lying!"

"No, she won't!" Cherry said firmly, "Mommy never lies to me! Mommy said that we mustn't run away from our difficulties, but face them head-on, so she will never lie. If she says that Daddy isn't dead, then he's definitely still alive!"

After saying that, an assured Cherry turned on her game on the cell phone.

Pete and Xander: "..."

The two boys glanced at each other, and then looked at Nora in unison.

Nora ruffled their hair and sighed. "Don't worry. I'll go upstairs and change first."

She had to attend the wake later, so she needed to change into formal clothes. She also needed to go upstairs to see what was in the metal box that Justin had "exchanged for with his life". Was it the V16? Or just a clue to its whereabouts?

Although the three children could sense something, they didn't dare to say anything, so they just nodded.

Nora went upstairs and gave Lily a call. "Are the test results of the bones out?"

Lily spoke very calmly, and her voice sounded very reassuring. She replied, "Yes, it's out, Boss. The results of the DNA comparison with Mr. Hunt's are..."

## **Chapter 722 - Revenge Journey of a Twins' Mother**

Even so, she probably never thought that her daughter would be trapped here, right?

Without any hesitation, Nora picked up the tiny box, turned around, and shouted, "Run!"

As soon as she shouted, the man in black rushed right up to her. He reached out to grab the box in her hand.

Nora dodged and shouted, "If we stay any longer, we will all die here!"

Despite that, the man stood right at the door and sneered, "You two can forget about leaving if you don't give me that!"

The countdown reached ten seconds!

The walls of the room with the safes were forged from steel to prevent people from breaking in and stealing things. There weren't any windows but only a metal door.

With the man standing guard at the door, it was impossible for the two of them to escape!

At the critical moment, Justin suddenly snatched the metal box from Nora and threw it to the left of the door. He shouted, "Here, you can have it!"

The man stepped aside without any hesitation to grab the box.

Nora frowned.

The timing was too tight, she didn't have any time to swap the box's contents at all. The metal box was still the one that she'd just taken out and the V16 might be in it.

She didn't dare to take any chances!

Just as she was about to rush over to grab it back, Justin grabbed her arm and she was thrown out the door with great force.

Thud!

By the time Nora fell to the ground, Justin had already grabbed the metal box before the other man. He flung it out the door without any hesitation!

And then...

Before Nora could get back up, both the man in black and Justin raced madly towards the door.

Justin looked at Nora.

They were out of time.

The countdown turned from one to zero.

Boom!

The room exploded.

Waves of heat spread swiftly from the metal safe to the door...

All Nora could see was the heat waves hit Justin and the man in black from the back. The two of them were only one step away from the metal door!

He wouldn't be able to get out in time...

Upon realizing this, Nora sprung off the floor and rushed straight to the metal door!

With the door in between them, she and Justin looked at each other.

Suddenly, the corners of Justin's lips curled upward. At the last moment, he suddenly slammed the metal door shut!

"Nooooo!"

Nora screamed!!

Justin... He was still in there!!!

He wasn't out yet!!

But the only thing that she heard was the click of the lock that came from beyond the big metal door, as well as the rumbling explosion inside...

A metal door separated the two worlds.

Nora used all her might to kick and stomp at the door, but she simply couldn't open it. She could only watch helplessly as the fire in the room got bigger and bigger.

The explosion also finally attracted the security officers' attention, who immediately called the firefighters.

Nora stared at the door.

Her countenance remained calm and collected the whole time. Even when people started rushing to the scene, she rationally slipped the metal box into her pocket.

Soon, the fire was put out. The firemen finally pried open the door and rushed in.

Everything inside had been blown up and burned to ashes. On the ground lay a charred, unrecognizable corpse with only the bones left.

There was only one corpse... This filled Nora with hope.

The man in black and Justin had both been inside, so how could there be only one corpse?

Right away, she looked at Morris, who had come over upon hearing the news, and said, "Do a DNA check."

Morris didn't have Justin's DNA data.

However, Nora did. In order to do a comparison with Xander's DNA, she had even retrieved samples again. Thus, Lily had accurate data of his DNA.

Morris nodded at her request.

Some people also came to investigate why they were in the bank late at night and even bombed it.

However, Sean promised to compensate the bank for all their losses while Morris also said that Nora was the special department's legal adviser, so it was perfectly normal for her to come over and conduct investigations.

With that, news of the incident was suppressed

Nora went straight to the special department together with the dead body.

When she returned once more to the familiar place, all the people around her who had once wronged her felt so guilty that they didn't dare to face her.

When Brenda heard the news, she rushed over and looked at her in disbelief. "Nora, i-is that Justin?"

"No, it isn't."

Nora sounded certain, but she didn't know whether she was saying that to Brenda or to herself. She said, "There's only one corpse, it can't be him..."

Brenda also nodded when she heard this. She said, "That's right, that's definitely not Justin, Nora. Justin has always been mysterious, and he's always so secretive about everything he does. Also, ever since he was

abducted when he was five, he always brings more than twenty bodyguards with him. There's no way anything would happen to someone who fears death as much as he does..."

Despite saying that, her voice gradually became choked up.

Even Brenda didn't quite believe what she was saying

If that wasn't Justin, then where did he go? Didn't he know that Nora and his children were waiting for him to come back?

Why hadn't he shown up yet?

But she couldn't say that, much less did she dare to. In fact, she was just holding out a glimmer of hope that the body was not Justin's!

Upon hearing this, Morris glanced at Brenda.

The woman, who had always been exquisitely dressed, looked a little like she was in a mess at the moment, which went to show how flustered she was due to her involvement with the matter.

He took a deep breath and sent the bones to the lab.

While waiting for the result, in order to relieve some of the pressure on Nora and Brenda, Morris asked, "Nora, you said just now that the two of you met a man in black when you two went to the bank to take something. In order to save you, Mr. Hunt locked himself in the room with the man in black, right? If so, then why was there only one dead body at the scene?"

Nora looked at him.

Morris explained to her cautiously, "This can only point to one thing—there must be other passages out of that room! I have already gotten my men to look into it. If other passages exist, then Mr. Hunt should be fine."

Nora nodded. "Yes, that's exactly it."

Seeing that she looked somewhat flustered, Morris let out a soft sigh. Suddenly, he asked, "So, did you get what you wanted to take from the bank?"

Did she get it?

Nora raised her head slightly and stared at Morris. A while later, she shook her head lightly and replied, "It was taken away by the man in black. He was waiting at the bank precisely because he wanted to take it from us..."

Her voice became softer and softer toward the end. One could hear dejection in her voice.

At this moment, Morris' cell phone rang.

After he answered, a touch of joy came over his expression. He looked at Nora and said, "They really found a tunnel in the room! So, Mr. Hunt really may have left from that tunnel!"

However, Nora's heart instead sank when she heard him.

Sure enough, there really was a tunnel in the bank. In that case, who had dug the tunnel?

While she was contemplating, chaotic footsteps suddenly came from the door of the lab. Herman's furious roar then came over.

"What's going on? What exactly has happened to Justin?!"

Before Nora could speak, Lauren said reproachfully, "Ms. Smith, why did the two of you go to the bank in the middle of the night instead of sleeping? Why was there an explosion? I heard that this only happened to Justin because he wanted to save you? Who exactly have you offended? Why did this happen?!" Herman's eyes were all red. It was obvious that he was heartbroken and devastated over what had happened to Justin. He stared at Nora and demanded, "C'mon, talk! What's going on?!"

Nora clenched her jaw.

She did not explain, but Sean, who was next to her, said, "It's Mr. Hunt who invited Ms. Smith to the bank. He wanted to show her some of the things he'd prepared for their wedding, but he did not expect to encounter a robber..."

Sean also lowered his head. "Ms. Smith has nothing to do with any of it."

"She doesn't? How can it have nothing to do with her?!" Lauren yelled furiously, "If it wasn't for the wedding, would he have gone to the bank in the middle of the night? And end up giving the robbers a chance? In my opinion,

Nora jinxes the Hunts! Ever since she appeared, the Hunts have been really unlucky!”

Her words made Herman feel even worse.

Nora’s eyes were still lowered and she did not speak. She was still re-enacting in her mind everything that had happened earlier.

Everything had been such a blur that even now, she still hadn’t figured out what exactly had happened.

The man in black had only appeared at the bank because he followed her there. In that case, how come Justin also showed up at the bank? On top of that, he even happened to be in the room where the safe-deposit boxes were?

Had he done the same thing as her? Because he knew that it was dangerous, he didn’t want to drag Nora into it?

While she was thinking, Herman sat on the bench next to her.

Lauren supported Herman by the arm. “Herman, you must hang in there. Justin is no longer around. If something also happens to you, what are the Hunts going to do?”

Upon hearing this, Herman immediately understood something. He straightened his back abruptly and said, “You’re right, I mustn’t collapse. Now that Justin is gone, I’m the only one who can handle the Hunts now...”

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They were clearly planning a coup d’état!

The sight filled Sean with anger.

It hadn’t even been determined whose charred corpse it was, yet those two were already starting to think about the family inheritance? They didn’t have a conscience at all!

He looked at Nora angrily, only to see the woman say coldly, “Justin’s fate is not unknown. He’s definitely still alive!”

“If he’s alive, then why didn’t he come back to look for us?” Lauren countered. “To be honest, we all know deep down that the corpse is most likely Justin! Nora Smith, it’s all your fault, so stop pretending like you’re that loyal and in love with him! Do you really think I don’t know what you’re thinking? You’re just concerned about your position as Mrs. Hunt and how Justin’s assets will be distributed, right? I’ll tell you this—your children are still young, so don’t even think about taking over the company! Herman is the most rightful successor to the company now!”

Nora clenched her fists.

She took a deep breath. Just as she was about to speak, the door to the lab suddenly opened and the doctor in charge of the DNA lab came out.

Nora went toward him at once while Brenda and Lauren also rushed over anxiously. The group of them surrounded the doctor.

Herman wanted to go forward, but he didn’t dare to. Instead, he stood behind the crowd in a daze.

Before Nora could say anything, an anxious Lauren asked, “Doctor, the charred corpse, who is it? Are the results out? Is it Justin?”

Everyone looked at the doctor in unison.

Nora stood opposite the doctor. She stared at the doctor’s lips, only to see him say word by word, “... Based on the DNA samples provided by Ms. Smith, we have confirmed that the body is indeed Mr. Justin Hunt’s.”

That one line of his caused the whole place to fall silent.

Everyone looked at the doctor in disbelief.

As for Nora, her expression was calm and her eyes cast down. It seemed like she was thinking about something...

The entrance to the Hunts’ manor was jam-packed with people.

A few cars approached.

Nora was the first to get out of the car. Immediately, she saw Mrs. Hunt, who was at the entrance, take a step forward. Her hands shook as she asked,

“Nora, where is Justin? The DNA result shows that the corpse isn’t Justin’s, right?”

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Another car came to a halt. Herman, Lauren, and the others got out of the car. As soon as they did, Herman looked at Mrs. Hunt. His knees gave way and he fell onto the ground.

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His behavior made Mrs. Hunt suddenly realize something. Her eyes widened and she staggered backward. Her vision turned dark and she was about to faint.

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Nora did not explain.

She couldn’t blow up the matter about the gene serum. Besides, she was also very flustered and her mind was in a mess at the moment, so she didn’t have anything she wanted to explain either. She merely stood where she was, her gaze in the direction of Justin’s villa.

The three children were still there. She wondered how they were.

While she was thinking about it, Lauren came forward, pointed at her, and rebuked her. “It’s obvious at a glance that you’re from the boonies. How dare you ask for money and gifts in the middle of the night?! Is money all you can see?! Nora, you’re the one who killed Justin!”

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an accident like that. Besides, Nora must be the most heartbroken among us all right now!”

Mrs. Hunt didn't listen to her. Instead, she said to the security guard next to her, “Pull her away.”

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When the walking stick struck Lauren again, she finally started to dodge. However, the moment she moved, Brenda, who had been standing beside her utterly stunned, recovered. She said, “Grandma’s getting old, are you planning to go against her? If anything happens to her because you made her angry, then you’ll be a sinner!” Lauren: “!!”

That bitch was using what she had said just now against her!

Furious and panicked, Lauren could only look at Mrs. Hunt. “Mom, mom! Stop hitting me! Justin is already dead, you only have Herman now! He’s your only son left! Isn’t that right?”

“Who says I only have one son? Raymond and Spencer are also my sons! As for the successor to the Hunts, aside from Justin, I still have Pete!”

Mrs. Hunt shouted firmly and loudly.

Her words shocked everyone present, and all of them looked at Mrs. Hunt in disbelief.

What did Mrs. Hunt mean by that?

Was she planning to support Pete, who was only five years old, as the head of the Hunts?

Lauren bit her lip and shouted, “Mom, you’re too biased! Pete is only five! What can he even do?”

Mrs. Hunt, however, lowered her head and said in a low voice, “He is certainly still young, but there’s Nora! She is the young lady of the Smiths and also Pete’s mother. There is absolutely no problem with her temporarily taking over as CEO of the Hunt Corporation in Pete’s stead!”

Lauren was even more stunned. “She? Does a woman like her even know how to do business?! You must be muddleheaded!”

“Hah, this matter is settled! Now, we’ll see to Justin’s funeral matters!”

Mrs. Hunt made the final decision.

After all, she had been in the Hunts for many years. Even now, she still held a lot of prestige in the family.

Seeing this, Brenda helped Nora towards the old lady. Then, she held Mrs. Hunt's arm and said, "Grandma, you totally saw the big picture this time!"

Mrs. Hunt glanced at her coldly and cast her eyes down.

After that, the Hunts made arrangements for Justin's wake.

Nora returned to Justin's villa. As soon as she entered, she saw the three children looking at her.

Cherry and Pete's identical faces showed similar anxiety.

Xander tried his best to disguise his concern with indifference, but the way his eyes flicked towards the door from time to time betrayed him.

The moment Nora entered, Cherry ran up to her. She raised her head and asked, "Mommy, is Daddy really dead?"

Faced with the three children and their three pairs of pure and innocent eyes, Nora found herself at a loss for words for a moment.

Suddenly, she felt a little angry. She lowered her head and replied calmly, "No, he just has something to do, so he went out for a while. He will be back in three months at the most."

Xander glanced outside the room. Then, he said, "You're lying!"

"No, she won't!" Cherry said firmly, "Mommy never lies to me! Mommy said that we mustn't run away from our difficulties, but face them head-on, so she will never lie. If she says that Daddy isn't dead, then he's definitely still alive!"

After saying that, an assured Cherry turned on her game on the cell phone.

Pete and Xander: "..."

The two boys glanced at each other, and then looked at Nora in unison.

Nora ruffled their hair and sighed. "Don't worry. I'll go upstairs and change first."

She had to attend the wake later, so she needed to change into formal clothes. She also needed to go upstairs to see what was in the metal box that Justin had “exchanged for with his life”. Was it the V16? Or just a clue to its whereabouts?

Although the three children could sense something, they didn’t dare to say anything, so they just nodded.

Nora went upstairs and gave Lily a call. “Are the test results of the bones out?”

Lily spoke very calmly, and her voice sounded very reassuring. She replied, “Yes, it’s out, Boss. The results of the DNA comparison with Mr. Hunt’s are...”