

Dumped 141

Chapter 141

Joel was using Happiness, a song by one of his and Tanya 's favorite singers back then, as his cell phone ringtone.

However, when he was about to take out his phone, he instead saw Tanya taking out her own cell phone and picking up a call.

It was then that he realized that Tanya was also using Happiness as her ringtone.

If so, then did that mean that she, like him, also couldn't forget the other party even after so many years? But as soon as he started indulging in his wishful thinking, in front, Tanya's eyes lit up and she said excitedly, "Darling ! So it was you who helped me out! "Of course, I'll reward you.

Shall I give you a kiss? Or perhaps, I'll give myself to you and sleep with you for a few nights?"

"Oh, don't be shy! Here, I'll give you a big kiss! Mwah-!"

"...Dinner? No problem, of course! Text me the location!"

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Tanya hung up after that.

Then, she immediately got up, turned around, and walked away excitedly.

After she left, Joel walked out from behind the big pillar at the school gates.

He stared at the direction in which she had driven away, his upturned eyes flickering dimly.

“Darling”...

“Give myself to you”...

“A big kiss”...

The phrases made him feel uncomfortable all over.

It was as if there was a time bomb ticking away in his body, ready to explode.

He didn't even know what he was doing, but without even a second thought, the man, who had always been calm and self-disciplined, suddenly got into his car and followed behind her.

He was going to see...just where she was going! Tanya drove the jeep leisurely to Club Prism.

After parking, she looked up and gazed at the familiar place.

This was a club that the wealthy and prestigious often visited to have some fun, and had been around for many years.

When she was still a child, she was the baggage that her mother had brought with her when she married into a wealthy family.

What Hillary loved doing the most was bringing her here to have some fun- Because she couldn't go in.

She wasn't of high social status and didn't own a VIP card.

Thus, all she could do was stand at the door anxiously and wait for Hillary to remember that she was there.

Later, she stopped coming.

While she was staring at the place, inside Club Prism, Hillary was also coincidentally there for dinner.

She had already parked her car and was about to enter the main hall.

When she turned her head and noticed Tanya, she bit her lip at once.

To think Tanya had actually followed her here! Was she haunting her or what? She narrowed her eyes and beckoned the lobby manager over.

Then, she pointed at Tanya outside and said, "Don't let that woman in!"

The lobby manager glanced at Hillary and retorted, "Ms.

Jones, I have no right to refuse her entry if she's a legit customer: Seeing that her words weren't working on the lobby manager, a look of displeasure came over her countenance and she said, "You may not care about my identity as Ms.Jones, but what about my identity as Mrs.Smith?"

The lobby manager was taken aback.

Hillary cast her eyes down and said, "Although Joel and I aren't married yet, I've already moved into the Smiths' residence.You should know that, right?"

The lobby manager frowned.

A smirking Hillary said, "Or perhaps you aren't afraid of Mrs. Smith, either. In that case, what about Joel?"

The lobby manager was stunned.

Hillary pointed to the area outside and said, "That woman is a dance teacher at the kindergarten who injured Joel's and my daughter. She followed me here because she wants to apologize. I don't want to see her, and neither do I think Joel would want to, either. Understand?"

The lobby manager frowned.

Although Club Prism wasn't afraid of anyone, they nevertheless still had to show Joel some respect.

Thus, he nodded and said, "Alright, Ms. Jones."

Resentment welled up in Hillary when she heard the words 'Ms. Jones'. This was all Mia's fault.

Had she been a boy instead, she would've been married to Joel a long time ago! Speaking of which, it was all because Tanya's womb was so useless to actually give birth to a little wench instead! She took a deep breath and entered a private room.

At the entrance.

Tanya was about to enter when someone stopped her.

"Excuse me, miss. Do you have an appointment?"

Club Prism's customers were all either rich or prestigious.

The diners here were either guests who owned their VIP cards like Hillary, or people with high social status like Justin or Joel.

Even though they hadn't applied for VIP cards, they were tacitly recognized as gold card VIPs.

There was also one last type of customer guests of the above-mentioned.

Tanya replied, "Yes, the room number is"

But before she could finish, the lobby manager's voice reached her.

"I'm sorry, miss, but I can't let you in"

Tanya: "???"

The polite lobby manager said apologetically, "Ms.Jones said just now that Mr.Smith has refused to let you in."

Ms.Jones and Mr.Smith...Tanya felt an ache in her heart at the mention of the names.

She narrowed her eyes and said, "I'm not here for them.I have an appointment with someone else here."

The lobby manager sighed and said, "By right, we should not be denying you entry, miss, but Ms.Jones said that Mr.Smith has instructed that you're not allowed to be anywhere that she is.If I let you in, I'll end up offending Mr.Smith..."

The lobby manager wasn't a social climber, but for the sake of his own livelihood, he could only say, "How about this? Is it alright if I get someone to bring a chair here for you and let you wait outside?"

Tanya narrowed her eyes as her chest tightened.

She could give Nora a call and ask her to come out and pick her up, of course, but if this was really an order from Joel, then wouldn't that mean Nora would end up offending him because of her? Although she had resolved the issue at the kindergarten for her, Tanya was unwilling to keep giving others trouble.

She clenched her fists, utterly humiliated.

Many years ago, she hadn't been able to enter the club.

Later, it was Joel who had taken her inside.

Many years later, she still couldn't enter the club, but she didn't have Joel with her anymore.

Sorrow filled her heart, but she could only lower her head and smile wryly as she said, "No, it's fine. I'll leave"

She would have to leave the treat for another day instead.

When she turned to leave, she happened to see another car stopping at the entrance.

Joel opened the door at the driver's seat and got out.

Tanya paused in her tracks.

Then, she immediately broke into a wry smile.

No wonder they didn't let her in...

She lowered her head and looked straight in front of her as if she didn't see Joel.

She walked straight past him to the side and said to the parking valet, "Please get my car, thanks."

"Yes, ma'am" Although Joel didn't look at Tanya, he watched her out of the corner of his eye the whole time.

At the sight of her leaving, he was instead relieved.

However, since he was already here, he decided to enter the lobby.

Just as he was wondering why she hadn't met her darling for dinner, the lobby manager came forward and said, "You're really here, Mr. Smith! As per your instructions, we've prevented that lady from coming in. Rest assured that we definitely won't allow her to bother you."

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Joel stopped in his tracks and suddenly looked at the lobby manager.

He repeated, "What do you mean you won't allow her to bother me?"

The lobby manager was very shrewd.

At the sight of Joel's reaction, something immediately clicked and he replied, "Yes, that's right. Mrs. Smith told us just now not to allow the lady at the entrance to come in. She said that this was your instruction."

He lowered his head. What he said next sounded as if he was claiming credit, but in truth, he was actually lodging a complaint.

He said, "We don't have a rule like that at Club Prism, but Mrs. Smith said that this was an instruction from you, so we had to do as requested, of course."

Instructions from him...Joel's amicable expression faded and he said dispassionately, "She's not Mrs. Smith yet."

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The lobby manager put on a show of looking scared and said, "Apologies, Mr. Smith. I've always addressed her as Ms. Jones, but she demanded that we change the term of address today..."

Joel didn't look angry.

However, when he turned and saw Tanya, his eyes darkened a little.

Just as the lobby manager was about to say something, Joel looked away from Tanya and said detachedly, "We'll leave it at that, then. For some reason, he didn't feel like letting her come in and go for her dinner appointment. The lobby manager was dumbfounded. For over ten years, he had always been skilled at reading people's body language and had never made any mistakes before. Had he guessed wrongly this time? Hillary was clearly acting like a donkey in a lion's skin just now, yet Mr. Smith was actually giving her actions tacit approval now? He withdrew his gaze and became a lot more respectful."

"Alright, Mr. Smith"

At the entrance.

Tanya waited idly for the parking valet to bring her car over Suddenly, a few people came toward her.

“Hey, is that who I think it is? Isn’t she Tanya?”

Tanya turned and saw a few people who used to hang out with Hillary walking toward her.

They were her high school classmates.

Hillary and the Joneses were considered a moderately wealthy family, so all of them had curried favor with her back then.

Why were they here though? Were Hillary and Joel...

here for dinner with them? Tanya clenched her jaw.

Joel had despised them when he and Tanya were dating back then.

Hillary had brought them over to greet Joel, but he couldn’t even be bothered to pay them any attention at that time.

Yet he was actually willing to dine with them for Hillary’s sake now? Heh.

People did change, after all.

Right? While she was inwardly mocking Joel, her ex-classmates started to taunt her.

“Tanya? Are you thinking of going in for dinner? Why don’t you ask Hillary, then?”

“That’s right. What are you standing around here for? Didn’ t they say that you were the champion in an international dance competition? Why aren’t you able to even enter a small club like this?”

“Man, what’s the big deal about being a world champion? Did you win any prize money? Have you spent it all?? “ Tanya’s eyes narrowed at their mockery of her.

She sneered, “Tsk, I’ve finally witnessed today what it means to ride on someone’s coattails!”

Her choice of words was too artful, so it took a while for them to understand what she was saying.

They became angry right away, and a man from among them even stepped forward and pushed her while demanding, “Is that how you should be talking, Tanya?!”

“Exactly. Do you really think you’re that great just because the wealthy are being polite and inviting you to teach them dancing after you won a championship? At the bottom of it all, you’re still just a dance teacher! Oh, look at the situation you’re in now. Why don’t you give one of your students’ parents a call and ask them to bring you in?”

“She probably can’t get them to! At least we can still enter because of Hillary, but what about you?”

Tanya was highly sought after among the wealthy.

Given her current status, it wasn’t hard for her to enter the club if she wanted to – in fact, she could even easily get a VIP card.

However, the problem was that Joel had forbidden her from going in.

In the whole of New York, the Hunts were the only ones who didn’t fear offending Joel.

However, she didn’t want to trouble the Hunts.

Tanya lowered her gaze.

At this point, the parking valet brought her car over.

She walked around the group of people to the car, but just as she was about to get in, they stopped her again.

“Oh hey, that’s a pretty impressive car you’re driving! Only the rich can afford to drive a jeep like this!”

“Is this car a present from one of your students’ parents?”

“I heard that there are some dance teachers who use the excuse of giving dance lessons to fool around with the masters of the households instead...Hahaha!”

Their comments were becoming increasingly ridiculous, causing the look on Tanya’s face to turn even colder.

She couldn’t tolerate it anymore.

She was about to step forward and teach the foul-mouthed guy a lesson when a tall and slender figure suddenly rushed over.

He moved extremely quickly and grabbed the guy by his collar.

Before anyone could even react, he socked him right in the face! As a loud bam rang out, the guy stumbled a few steps backward and spat out a couple of teeth.

His head whipped up as he shouted, “Who the hell...”

However, when he saw Joel and the frosty look on his face, his words came to an abrupt stop! The people around them were also dumbfounded.

They hastily took a step back and stammered, “M-Mr.Smith...”

Joel's frigid gaze swept across the few of them.

At last, he ordered coldly, "Get lost!"

Frightened out of their wits, the few of them immediately fled.

After all of them left, the people around them started to point at them as they speculated among themselves.

Someone could be heard faintly commenting, "That woman's making a scene just because she can't enter the club...How terrible!"

Joel abruptly turned to Tanya.

He grabbed her wrist and walked straight to the lobby entrance.

Then, to the lobby manager who was standing there respectfully, he said, "Remember what she looks like. From now on, no one is allowed to stop her any time she comes here!"

The manager nodded.

"Yes, Mr. Smith!"

Tanya's expression changed a little when she heard what Joel said after being dragged into the club by him.

Was that man sick in the head? He was the one who didn't let her in just now, yet he was acting like a hero saving a damsel in distress now? Seemingly sensing her emotions, Joel left the club without looking back after leaving those instructions.

At the Smiths.

Hillary, upon hearing the news from her cronies, didn't have the leisure of having dinner anymore.

She hurriedly went home.

As soon as she entered, she said, "I'm sorry, Joel...I didn't know that my friends would do that...I went to the kindergarten this morning to thank Tanya, but not only did she not appreciate my gesture, but she even hit me..."

Hillary held her cheek that was still red and lowered her head.

She said pitifully, "When my friends heard what happened, they asked me out to Club Prism, so I headed over. I really didn't expect that they would try to seek revenge for me...and even use your name to stop Tanya from entering..."

She lifted her head with her eyes reddened and said, "It's fortunate that you were there. Otherwise, Tanya would have suffered injustice this time. I'm sorry, Joel...She had only just said that when Joel raised his head calmly, scoffed, and pointed to the things on the table. Hillary was taken aback.

However, her expression immediately changed when she picked up the things on the table. It was actually evidence against her that Joel had found after conducting an investigation!

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Hillary held the few pages of evidence.

The first page was about her conflict with Tanya in the kindergarten.

The photo clearly showed that she had provoked Tanya first.

The humiliated Tanya had then counterattacked.

The second page was photos of her speaking with the lobby manager in Club Prism's lobby.

Her facial expression in the photo was exceptionally smug.

Hillary balled up her fists.

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She wanted to say something, but before she could, Joel said unhurriedly, "There are surveillance cameras in both the kindergarten and the club.If you continue to deny it, I can ask for the video footage for you."

Ms.Jones, allow me to remind you that surveillance camera footage comes with audio nowadays.

Hillary's retort instantly got stuck in her throat.

She stared at Joel in shock.

A moment later, she finally hung her head dejectedly and said, "It's my fault this time, Joel...I only did that because I panicked when I saw that Tanya was back.I was afraid that she would take you away from me...Joel, she told me that she's back this time so that she can take revenge on me and take everything from me"

Hillary, whose head was lowered, started to cry.

She said, "As you know, Tanya has been fighting with me over everything ever since we were kids. I had no other choice. I just wanted her to leave. I just wanted to protect everything that's mine!"

She looked at Joel again and said, "There's Mia, too. Of all the kindergartens around, why did she go to that one? It's definitely because she knows that Mia is our daughter, so she especially went there for her. Joel, she must be planning to start her revenge with Mia. I don't know how she did it, but she's already bribed Mia. It's only been a day, but Mia's already asking for her..."

She stared at Joel and went on.

"There's no way someone like Tanya would be content. Back then, for the sake of dancing, she abandoned you. Even though she won the championship, her life abroad all these years must not have been that great either, right? That's why she wanted to come back. She must be thinking of pestering you..."

'For the sake of dancing, she abandoned you...' The words stabbed brutally into Joel's heart like a knife.

He lowered his eyes and let out a cold chuckle.

Perhaps that woman would give up glory and wealth for the sake of dancing, but there was no way he would ever believe that she would pester him for the sake of glory and wealth...

No matter how people might change, the pride embedded in one's bones would never change.

Besides...

She had gone to that kindergarten for her son.

Now that she had Justin Hunt, there was no need for her to pester him anymore.

The icy smile at Joel's lips became tinged with a bit of bitterness- he'd rather she pester him instead.

“Joel, I really am repentant. I won’t do anything anymore, no matter how Tanya provokes me again in the future. Don’t worry. Even though she betrayed you back then, the two of you are ultimately still friends, so...”

Before Hillary could continue sowing discord, Joel said detachedly, “What did I say back then, when you came to me with your child?”

What he had said? Hillary bit her lip.

Back then, she had wormed her way into the Smiths by relying on her daughter.

However, Joel had refused to marry her no matter what, and only gave her the title of his fiancée.

She was the one who moved into the Smiths with the excuse that her daughter needed her mother.

She cared for and fussed over Mia greatly ever since, thereby stopping Joel from driving her away.

However, on the night that she moved in, an icy-cold Joel had said, “If you stay content with your lot and behave, I don’t mind turning a blind eye to most of your actions. However, you’re not allowed to publicize that you’re Mrs. Smith. I won’t let you off if I ever find out.”

Why would Hillary even care about that at that time? She had agreed to his terms right away.

In the years that followed, she waited on Mia carefully, in hopes that once enough time passed, Joel would officially register their marriage in order to give the girl a mother.

This way, even if they didn’t hold a wedding ceremony, she would still become the veritable Mrs. Smith! However, apart from when she was picking up and dropping off Mia, she actually didn’t have any chance to meet Joel at all after she moved in.

It was no exaggeration to say that they were strangers with the closest relationship with each other.

At this point of Hillary's inner thoughts, Joel said, "Since you've broken the rules...Get lost"

Get lost? Hillary's head whipped up and she stared at him incredulously.

Even when he was telling her to get lost, Joel's upturned eyes still felt mild-mannered, despite him being expressionless.

Astonished, she asked, "What did you say?"

Joel stood up and said mercilessly, "You violated our agreement"

She had violated their agreement...Hillary started to tremble all over.

To be honest, this wasn't the first time she had violated it during all these years.

The Joneses had already tacitly recognized them as husband and wife when she moved into the Smiths.

It was also thanks to this that the Joneses' businesses started to do better and better.

Hillary was even on tenterhooks when the Joneses first used the Smiths' name in their business dealings.

However, she had later discovered that Joel didn't care at all even when he did find out.

After that, she had let down her vigilance.

Yet he was bringing up their agreement now? Hillary reached out and clutched Joel's sleeves.

She said, "Joel, I was wrong. I've really seen the error of my ways..."

Joel pulled his sleeve out of her grip.

There was no trace of emotion at all in those eyes on his expressionless countenance.

He asked coldly, "Are you going to leave by yourself, or should I get someone to throw you out?"

Hillary's legs went limp and she almost fell onto the floor.

Five years! She had lived here for a whole five years! How cruel and unfeeling must a person be, in order for them to hold not even the slightest bit of feelings for her? She regained sobriety at once.

Counting on Joel's sympathy or feelings for her would get her nowhere.

That little bastard was the only thing she could count on now! Hillary's eyes reddened.

She gazed at Joel earnestly and said, "I was wrong, Joel. I'll leave, but can you let me see Mia before I go?"

Joel stared hard at her.

"Okay. But when you see her... Surely you don't need me to tell you what you can say in front of her and what you can't right?"

Hillary's gaze flickered.

She lowered her head and replied, "No, I'm aware."

Only then did Joel instruct the nanny, "Bring Mia over."

Mia was resting at home today and hadn't gone to school after suffering an allergic reaction the day before.

She was currently playing by herself in her bedroom.

When the nanny brought her over, she asked timidly, "Mommy, Daddy...What's the matter?"

Hillary immediately put on an affectionate and devoted act .

She hugged Mia and said, "Mia, Mommy will be away for a while. You must behave at home, okay?"

She had already thought about it.

Joel had a thousand and one ways he could drive her away if she kicked up a fuss in front of her daughter.

Her only option at the moment was to make Mia reluctant to leave her, and make her cry her eyes out in her arms...

That was the only way Joel would let her stay.

She was confident that she had treated Mia well enough all these years.

Besides, she was her mother; Mia definitely wouldn't bear to leave her side.

She stared at Mia and asked, "Will you miss Mommy, Mia? However, an anticipative Hillary never expected that Mia would instead nod and reply timidly, "Go ahead, Mommy. I'll be a good girl"

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Hillary stared at Mia incredulously.

She even suspected whether she had misheard just now.

What was that heartless little wench saying? Did she not feel even the slightest bit of reluctance to part with her? She clenched her fists.

“What did you say, Mia?”

Mia met her eyes and repeated timidly, “I’ll be a good girl, Mommy. You don’t have to worry about me.”

Hillary felt a wave of frustration that she simply couldn’t get off her chest.

The look in her eyes gradually turned menacing.

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She wanted to lose her temper and make a scene, but when she saw the man seated on the sofa, she ultimately suppressed the urge.

As expected, those unrelated by blood would never be faithful! She had never dared to treat her unkindly all these years or at least, she hadn’t dared to abuse her, lest Joel discovers it.

All she had done was complain that Mia wasn’t a boy and even so, Joel had given her a warning.

Hillary wanted to say more, but Joel looked over dispassionately and said, "Aren't you in a hurry? You can leave after you say goodbye to Mia.'

"Okay."

Hillary didn't dare to say any more.

She nodded, took a deep breath, and went upstairs.

After doing a simple packing of her things, she came back down and said, "I only took some of the clothes that I usually wear, Joel. I'll go home for a few days for now...I'll come back again when you aren't this mad anymore, okay?"

Joel neither agreed nor disagreed.

He merely gave her a small smile.

Hillary couldn't help but become lost in his smile.

Who wouldn't fall in love with such a handsome and gentle man? She left the house with her suitcase.

After she left, Joel turned to Mia.

He picked up his daughter and looked at her little oval-shaped face.

Her big eyes were filled with puzzlement.

He suddenly asked, "Mia, let's not allow Mommy to come back anymore. Is that okay?"

Mia was still young, so she didn't understand any of this.

Her eyes merely flickered a little when she heard what her father said.

To be honest, her mother treated her alright.

Although she had a nanny taking care of her daily needs ever since she was a baby, her mother had still taken her to school in the morning and picked her up in the evening every day.

She even slept together with her.

However, she had never told anyone that she was afraid of her mother.

There was no love in her mother's eyes whenever she looked at her.

The way she smiled when she looked at her seemed more like how she looked when she was inspecting the jewelry that she had bought...

Her mother often told her to make her father happy.

She wanted her to be obedient and forbade her from making any noise and making trouble unreasonably.

She forbade her from doing this and doing that, making the timid girl even timider than she originally was...

Later, she even occasionally complained resentfully, "It's all because you're not a boy. That's why your father doesn't want to marry me..."

After hearing too much of that, she had become a little afraid of her mother before she even realized it.

When she said that she was leaving, Mia had actually breathed a sigh of relief inwardly.

She stretched out her little arms and put them around Joel 's neck.

She sounded as timid as ever as she said, '...Okay.'

As soon as she said that, Joel called out to the butler.

The butler immediately walked over respectfully and asked, "Is there something you need, sir?"

Joel looked up at the second floor with his upturned eyes and said, "Pack up the things in that woman's bedroom and send them to the Joneses. Do not allow her to ever enter the house again."

"Yes, sir.'

At the sight of the butler going upstairs and getting people to pack up the things in the bedroom, Mia felt inexplicably relieved.

At Club Prism.

Justin was currently ordering food in the private room.

As the head of the Hunts, he actually had nutritionists especially in charge of managing his diet.

Justin had always preferred mild-tasting food and didn't particularly hold any desire for good food.

He was equally strict on Pete.

However, he looked at Cherry in this instant and said, "You can order whatever you want." Cherry pointed to the ice cream and said, "Daddy, this looks delicious, yeah!"

The weather hadn't completely become warm yet.

Having ice cream during this period easily gave one the runs, so Justin was rather hesitant.

However, when he made eye contact with his daughter's big innocent eyes, he nodded and said, "...Okay, we'll order it!"

Cherry pointed at the French fries.

"Daddy, I wanna eat this!"

Fried, greasy foods like French fries were obviously unhealthy.

Justin never ate such things, but he nevertheless said, "Okay, we'll order it!"

"Daddy, I want this, too!"

"Okay, we'll order it!"

"Okay, we'll order it!"

"Okay, we'll order it!"

As a result, the table was filled with messy, random dishes before Nora even arrived.

The table was full of food, but both of them merely stared at the food without touching it.

Cherry swallowed.

“Why isn’t Mommy here yet?”

Justin also raised his eyebrows.

He was about to reply when the thudding of footsteps suddenly reached them from the door.

Justin couldn’t help but say, “Your Mommy likes being late quite a bit, huh.”

Cherry nodded.

She was already holding the ice cream and ready to dig in the moment Mommy sat down.

Click! Clack! Click! Clack! The footsteps got closer and closer.

Something suddenly occurred to Justin and he remarked, “I don’t think I’ve ever seen your Mommy wearing high heels?”

He couldn’t help breaking into a smile the moment he said that.

The woman had always worn flat-heeled shoes whenever he saw her in the past, yet she had suddenly put on high heels for the date today.

Had she put on makeup and specially dressed up for it? It seemed that he wasn’t the only one who was looking forward to the meal after all! However, Cherry blinked and tilted her head to the side hesitantly.

She replied, “But Mommy doesn’t ever buy high heels!”

She didn’t ever buy high heels? The moment Justin heard what she said, someone suddenly pushed the door open.

At once, a tall and slender woman with long arms and legs appeared at the door.

Before she even entered, her loud voice had already reached them.

“Nora, how can you pick a good place like this when you’re asking me to treat you to dinner? I’ll say this in advance you’ll also have to fork out some money if it’s too expensive...No, wait, what the f*ck?”

A shocked Tanya stared at the two people in the room and subconsciously said, “Am I in the wrong room?”

But that didn’t make sense! Cherry was in the room! She swallowed, picked up her cell phone, and called Nora.

“Where are you?”

Nora’s lazy voice rang out on the phone.

“Mr.Hunt was the one who did you the favor.Why do I have to be present when you’re the one treating him to dinner?”

Tanya: “???”

Justin: “???”

Cherry was the only one who suddenly relaxed completely.

She happily dug into her ice cream with a spoon.

The private room suddenly fell into a strange silence.

In the end, after Tanya hung up, she smiled awkwardly and said, "I'll take care of the bill, Mr.Hunt.Please enjoy your meal with Cherry...Pit."

Tanya quickly slipped away.

With Nora absent and Justin indulging her, Cherry finally had her fill of food.

It was only when her belly was all round and bulging that she finally went home with her sullen-faced father.

As the villa was under renovation, the two of them stayed at the Hunt manor that night.

It was already late, so they didn't see the other Hunts there.

Cherry obediently went to bed after Justin sent her to her room.

At one o'clock in the morning.

For some reason, Justin suddenly woke up.

He went next door uneasily, intending to pull up the covers for Cherry.

However, as soon as he opened the door, he saw his daughter holding her belly with her hands, her forehead covered in perspiration...

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Justin's eyes widened in shock.He hastily went over and picked up his daughter, who broke into a frown.

In her dazed state, she saw Justin and said, “Daddy, Cherry’s stomach hurts so much...A stomachache...”

Justin hastily carried her downstairs, but Cherry instead cried out, “I want Mommy...Mommy...Mommy...”

On the way to the hospital, Justin took out his cell phone and called Nora in the end.

The phone rang for a very long time before it was finally picked up.

The recipient also sounded displeased as she said, “You’d best have something important to say.”

Justin said...“Pete’s having a stomachache.I’m taking him to the hospital now.”

There was only a one-second pause before her voice became much clearer—obviously, she had woken up.

She said, “I’ll come over right away.” At the VIP ward in Hospital Finest. Justin sat on the edge of the bed and looked at the tiny little child lying down. IV fluid was flowing into her body through the needle on her hand.

Cherry, who finally wasn’t hurting anymore, had fallen asleep.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open and a figure rushed over in front of him like the wind.

Justin saw Nora come up to Cherry slickly but anxiously.

She reached out her hand and checked her pupils.

Then, she held her other hand as if she was checking her pulse.

After that, she stood up and took a look at the IV fluid prescribed to Cherry.

After checking all these, the woman, who had a chilly look on her face, finally said, "It's normal stomach flu"

However, she didn't relax much even after saying that.

Cherry was born prematurely.

She might look stronger and sturdier than Pete, but that was only because Nora had spent a lot of hard work and effort nursing her back then.

Compared to most people, things were more troublesome when she fell sick.

Nora took out a bag of pills from her pocket, took one out, and stuffed it into Cherry's mouth.

The action woke Cherry up, and she opened her eyes in a daze.

When she saw Nora, she let out a soft mew of 'Mommy' like a kitten.

After that, she swallowed the pill, which had melted in her mouth the moment it entered, and fell asleep again.

This time, however, she looked much better.

After Cherry's condition stabilized, Nora, who was dressed completely in black, suddenly stood up, hooked her finger at Justin, and walked out.

Justin stood up slowly.

The corners of his lips curled upward slightly and the beauty mark at the corner of his eye exuded an alluring charm.

He followed Nora out of the ward and saw her turning into the stairway at the side.

Before she went in, she even specially looked back at him.

Her almond-shaped eyes were warm and inviting.

Justin walked over again.

He had only just turned the corner when someone suddenly grabbed him by the shoulder and pushed him toward the wall.

By the time he was held against the wall, the woman had already come right up to him.

She gripped his collar with one hand and held him down forcefully while also holding his hands down with her other hand, thereby trapping him in place.

Justin didn't resist.

He leaned against the wall docilely and looked at the woman in front of him with a smile.

Although she was half a head shorter than him, the look in her eyes was wild and untamed as she lifted her head and stared at him.

She asked, "Mr.Hunt, why did you come to me when your son fell sick?"

The mirth in Justin's eyes intensified.

Was she suspecting that he knew the truth? He asked calmly, "Aren't you a doctor?"

Nora was dubious of his claim, but not only did the man look calm, but his eyes were also dark and unreadable.

She couldn't tell what he was thinking at all.

She went on and asked, "There are many good doctors in the hospital.'

Justin's voice was low and deep.

Nora could even feel the vibrations in his chest when he spoke.

"But none of them are you..."

So, it was because he knew she was Anti? That was obviously what he meant, yet he made it sound as if he was whispering sweet nothings to her.

That man really was trying to flirt with her every moment of the day.

The look on Nora's countenance flickered a little.

It was only then that she noticed that the domineering vanilla scent on the man had filled her nose as they were in such close proximity to each other.

Her grip on his collar loosened slightly and she pulled away from him.

However, there was still some resentment in her eyes as she asked, "What did Pete eat in the evening?"

Justin didn't dare to be careless about this, so he listed the dishes one by one.

"Ice cream, French fries, mousse cake, iced watermelon juice, and..."

As she listened to the menu that he was casually relaying, Nora's lip corners spasmed and she said sharply, "Children have weak digestive systems, so they can't eat too much at night, especially when there's both hot and cold food agitating the stomach. Even adults wouldn't be able to take it, let alone children? How exactly did you raise your son to his current age, Mr. Hunt?"

As Pete was staying with her lately, she had taken the opportunity to conduct a full-body check-up on him.

Apart from being a little thinner than most, there was nothing really wrong with him.

However, at the sight of how casual Justin was about this, she really couldn't help doubting whether he was qualified as a father or not! The lectured Justin touched his nose awkwardly.

Of course, he was strict about that little brat's diet, but whenever he was facing Cherry, the moment she called out 'Daddy' in that soft and tender voice of hers, he simply couldn't bring himself to harden his heart, alright? However, this was indeed his fault.

The usually domineering man backed down and said sincerely, "It's my fault. Only then did Nora return to a straight posture."

However, the next moment, Justin let out a soft chuckle and added, "We originally ordered those dishes for Ms. Smith though. Since you didn't come, Pete and I could only eat them ourselves. After all, it's not good to waste food."

Nora: “???”

Was that guy blaming her for bailing on him? At the other end of the hallway connecting the hospital’s VIP wards.

Joel, who was in the hallway, was talking to the doctor.

He asked, “My third uncle’s condition had already been brought under control recently. Why did he suddenly faint?” The doctor touched his glasses and sighed.

He replied, “We did a CT scan on Mr. Smith and found a tumor in his neck. The concrete details remain to be seen, but we will expedite the process and check if it’s malignant or benign Joel nodded. There was a bit of anxiety on his usually gentle countenance.

He asked, “What happens if it’s malignant? And what happens if it’s benign?”

The doctor heaved a sigh and replied, “Mr. Smith’s tumor is located too close to the arteries and is very dangerous. Most hemangiomas are benign. As long as the patient is nursed well, there usually aren’t any major problems. However, if it’s malignant, there’ll be some difficulties removing it via surgery.’

As the tumor was very close to the arteries, the moment one showed even the slightest bit of carelessness, even an unsteady hand could lead to the patient’s death.

Anti was probably the only one in the world who would dare to take on an operation like that.

The doctor didn’t dare to voice that out loud though.

He could only hope that the tumor would turn out to be benign and have the patient undergo conservative treatment.

After the doctor finished talking to Joel about Ian’s condition, he left for consultation.

A frowning Joel walked toward the ward.

His frown deepened when he saw the lights in the other VIP ward on the same floor.

Someone immediately explained, "It's the Hunts' little mister. He's down with stomach flu, so they brought him here to put him on the drip"

The Hunts' little mister...In other words, Tanya's son? It was already so late.

Tanya would probably also be there, right? Joel, who wanted to see her, walked toward the other ward impulsively.

However, when he passed by the stairs, he suddenly sensed something and quickly turned his head.

Through the glass window on the door to the stairway, he could see a man and a woman sharing a passionate kiss inside...The man was Justin Hunt.

As for the woman, she was...Nora Smith from the Andersons? As though he had been petrified, Joel froze where he was!

Chapter 146

Joel stopped abruptly in his tracks, a touch of surprise forming in his upturned eyes.

Justin Hunt was with Nora Smith? What was the relationship between the two of them? Suddenly, the people inside seemingly noticed the movement outside, and Justin's razor-sharp gaze penetrated through the window.

Joel quickly stepped backward and hid to the side.

He didn't look inside anymore.

However, he could hear violent thuds and thumps coming from within.

There were sounds of their bodies hitting the wall, as well as muffled grunts from colliding against each other.

He could also hear gasps in between...

PlayvolumeAd

The intense activity made even Joel blush.

He took another step back and slipped away quietly as if he was afraid that they would discover him.

Now, that would be awkward.

The last time he could remember hearing such children-inappropriate sounds was back when he was still with Tanya five years ago.

As for Hillary, it was because he had been drunk one night.

He clearly remembered that the person he was with in bed was Tanya, yet when he woke up, it became Hillary instead...

In his memories, he had never slept with Hillary before.

Not in the past, let alone during the last five years.

Joel didn't continue going to the ward in front but returned to Ian's ward instead.

In the stairwell.

With her leg blocked, Nora's fist came into play.

Spying an opening, she threw a punch at his left shoulder.

After succeeding, she finally ended the fight and took a step back, pulling away from him.

She said coldly, "Mr.Hunt, please keep an appropriate distance from me."

Justin held his shoulder.

From the look of it, his injury seemed pretty serious.

He gave her a wry smile and said, "You seem to be the one who approached me first, Ms.Smith..." Nora was still pulling a long face.Her gaze was sharp and her eyes misty from anger.The tips of her ears were also a little red.

She was only planning to teach Justin a small lesson just now, but the moment they finished talking and she let go of him, he immediately reached out and held her by her waist, bringing her toward him.

Then, he leaned down and kissed her...

Kissed her...

Damn it! Nora had thrown a punch at him the very next moment.

Unfortunately, the man had the audacity to actually duck.

The two of them had fought for a full ten minutes before she finally found an opening and hit him, thereby taking her revenge on him.

Nora looked at him coldly and clenched her fists.

“If this ever happens again, Mr.Hunt, I’ll kill you!”

Then, she pushed the door to the stairwell open and left at once, leaving Justin there as he touched his nose in embarrassment.

He thought back to the scene just now.

The stairwell was dimly lit.

The girl’s head was raised as she stared at him with her cold, sharp eyes.

On her small, palm-sized face were a pair of delicate eyebrows and eyes ,a sharp and pert nose, and moist, rosy lips...

Unable to hold back, he had acted on impulse and kissed her.

Although the kiss had lasted only a brief moment, the girl’ s soft and tender lips lingered in his memory even now.

As he touched his dislocated left shoulder again, a smile suddenly appeared at the corners of his lips.

She was wild enough for his tastes indeed.

Ten minutes later.

The family doctor came over to pop his shoulder back into place.

When he saw how Justin couldn't exert much force, he couldn't help but find himself a little dumbfounded.

"Who beat you up, Mr.Hunt?"

After all, there were only a few people in New York—in fact, in the whole of the United States—who could beat Justin in a fight! The family doctor had always just been treating Pete and Justin's mother whenever they were unwell.

This was the very first time he was treating Justin in all these years! However, the moment the question left his mouth, he secretly regretted his actions.

He shouldn't be asking that much about his employer's affairs, especially when it was about Justin.

On the surface, the man seemed like the head of the Hunts.

However, he knew his identity was by no means simple.

He had never said anything more than what he should during all these years.

Now that he had suddenly asked such a question, would Mr.Hunt get mad at him? The family doctor observed Justin carefully while he kneaded his shoulder.

However, not only was the man not annoyed, but the corners of his lips were even slightly lifted.

The beauty mark at his eye that usually exuded a chilly and ruthless aura actually even seemed to be shimmering a little at the moment.

Justin, who was obviously in a fantastic mood, even replied to his question from just now, “It was worth the fight.”

The family doctor, Why were there people who actually liked being beaten up ? Surely his boss wasn't a closet masochist, right? Should he prescribe him some medicine for his mental health? After having his joint popped back into place, Justin started walking back to Cherry's ward while moving his shoulder.

As expected, he saw that the woman was still there.

She had fallen asleep on the sofa at the side.

Her eyes were closed, and her long silky and glossy hair was spread out behind her.

Her small pert nose made her look quiet and docile.

Coupled with how thin she was, it made one want to protect and take care of her because they couldn't help but feel that she looked so weak and frail.

Yet, once she opened her eyes, she would change into a completely different person.

Justin softened his steps.

He checked on Cherry first— she was sleeping soundly with her little mouth open and was even talking in her sleep.

She mumbled, “Stinky Daddy! How dare you delete me from your Facebook account. I'm never talking to you ever again!”

Justin: “...”

He let out a soft chuckle and pulled up the covers for her.

Then, he heaved a sigh.

Had he known that Cherry was his daughter, he would have been delirious with joy a long time ago.

He would never have done all those things that were no different from slapping himself in the face.

After pulling up the covers for Cherry, he looked at the woman on the sofa again.

Then, he took off his jacket, walked over, and gently covered her with it.

The next day.

It was already bright and sunny by the time Nora woke up.

Cherry was eating her cereal obediently on the bed in silence.

Nora got ready to get up.

However, when she shifted, the jacket on her shoulders immediately slipped off.

Her gaze swept toward it—when she saw the black custom-made suit jacket, she raised her eyebrows.

She yawned and stood up.

Cherry said, “Daddy has a meeting in the morning, so he went off for it. Where are you going now, Mommy?”

Nora stretched and shuffled toward the door as she replied, "I'm going home"

Cherry gave her a pitiful look.

"...Mommy, can you bear to leave me all alone in the hospital?"

Nora glanced at her and said coolly, "Don't be so fake"

Then, Cherry giggled and said, "Take care, Mommy-"

Now that Mommy was gone, she could play all the games she wanted! As she hadn't live-streamed the previous evening, she couldn't help but wonder how Sponsor Grandpa was.

She had sent him a text message on Messenger in the morning, but he hadn't replied to her.

Sigh! A troubled Cherry rested her chin on her hand.

What was the matter with Sponsor Grandpa? She picked up her cell phone again and sent him another message on Messenger: 'Sponsor Grandpa, I was hospitalized because of stomach flu last night. Have you had your lunch today?'

It was just a pity that the text message still went unanswered even after she sent it out.

Nora left the ward, dragging her feet loudly as she shuffled out.

She had just turned the corner when she saw a figure there looking at her.

"Are you free for a quick chat, Ms. Smith?"

Nora raised her eyebrows.

She thought that Joel was approaching her because of Ian—after all, the Andersons were the only ones with Carefree Pills—so she nodded.

Unexpectedly, the next moment, Joel instead asked, “What’s your relationship with Mr.Hunt, Ms.Smith?”

Nora: “???”

Chapter 147

The man in front of her was gentle and mild-mannered.

His eyes were slightly upturned and he looked rather polite.However, the way he was speaking sounded a little strange.

Nora found his question rather ridiculous.

This was only the second time they were meeting, yet he was already starting to take note of her private life? Even though she found him rather likable, she nevertheless couldn’t be bothered to talk to him about such things.

She raised her brows slightly and said coldly, “It seems like you’re minding more than just your own business, Mr.Smith?”

She’d had a pretty good impression of him when she first met him back then.

However, when she realized that his wife was the one who was bullying Tanya, Nora couldn’t be bothered to be civil with him anymore.

She left straightaway.

Joel broke into a frown as he stared at her from the back.

He couldn't help but go after her and say, "Ms. Smith, allow me to remind you that Mr. Hunt already has a child!"

Nora: "???"

She looked back and raised an eyebrow.

"So?"

After a long silence, Joel finally smiled bitterly and said, "As far as I understand, Mr. Hunt intends to marry the child's mother. It doesn't seem like a good idea for you to get in between them like that"

"The child's mother?"

"Yes, that's right. The child ultimately still needs a mother..." said Joel with some difficulty.

Back then, it was exactly because he felt that Mia needed a mother—as well as the fact that he didn't intend to remarry—that he had allowed Hillary to move in.

Now that he thought about it again though, that wasn't true at all.

At the sight of Joel in such an internal struggle, something seemed to click in Nora's mind.

The corners of her lips curled upward as she raised her eyebrows and asked, "Is the child's mother whom you're referring to, Tanya?"

From the look of it, Nora also knew of Tanya's existence.

Joel nodded.

"Yes, that's right."

If Nora became close to Justin, going by Tanya's character, she would definitely be sad, right? Or perhaps she would compromise for the child's sake? Therefore, the best solution was to have Nora take the initiative to withdraw from the relationship.

This way, he would also be fulfilling Tanya's wishes somewhat, right? A wave of irritability surged up within Joel.

Going by his character, he'd rather drag Tanya back with him and keep her by his side.

Just like what he had done back then...

But he knew Tanya too well.

That woman would never allow herself to be controlled by him.

He looked at Nora and said, "As long as you're willing to leave Justin Hunt, I can fulfill one of your wishes for you"

Nora: "???"

She suddenly smiled and said, "You're going to make me misunderstand something if you do that, Mr. Smith" Joel's heart sank.

If she found out that Tanya used to be involved with him and told Justin about it, Tanya would probably have a hard time in the future.

Joel's expression turned a little cold.

Just as he was deep in thought, he heard the girl's cool and crisp voice.

"Are you interested in Mr.Hunt, Mr.Smith?"

Joel: "???"

"If so, I'm willing to pull out from the relationship and fulfill the two of you."

Nora's bright and clear eyes were full of mirth as she took in Joel's facial expression, which looked as if it was about to crack.

Then, she walked around him and headed to the car park.

That guy must have misunderstood Tanya, right? Yet, in spite of that, he was still willing to go to that extent for her.

Not bad.

After Nora took a few steps forward, the man at the back came after her again.

After seemingly letting out a sigh, he said in resignation, "Even though you didn't agree to my request, I can still fulfill one of your wishes for you, Ms.Smith"

Nora was a little taken aback.

“Why?”

Since he hadn't allowed her to treat Ian's illness, then that meant they must still harbor resentment toward the Andersons.

What was Joel suddenly approaching her for? Joel, however, stared at her for a while before he slowly replied, “It's because you've done me a favor” Nora was puzzled.

“What favor did I do for you?”

However, Joel didn't explain any further.

He took a step back and said, “I'm a man of my word. Goodbye” Nora was rendered speechless.

Joel went upstairs after that.

As he hadn't slept a wink the previous night, he rested sleepily on the sofa in Ian's ward and closed his eyes.

His executive assistant-cum-bodyguard, who had been with Joel the whole time, couldn't stop himself from asking, “Has Ms. Smith helped you out in some way, Mr. Smith?”

Joel opened his eyes.

The deep look in his eyes made people unable to guess what he was thinking.

He glanced at Ian on the bed and slowly replied, “Of course. She saved Uncle Ian's life.”

The executive assistant: “???”

He was confused by Joel's reply.

Wasn't Tina York the one who saved Mr. Ian? Why did it suddenly become Ms.

Smith instead? However, Joel clearly didn't have any intentions of explaining any further, so he simply shut up.

After resting for a while, Joel finally instructed, "Find Anti."

The assistant nodded.

"We've already started investigating Anti's whereabouts last night, but we couldn't find anything so far. We've also put up a reward for his whereabouts in international forums. So far, what we've found out is that Anti once treated the elderly Mrs. Hunt in the past. It seemed like Justin Hunt was the one who found him that time'

At the mention of Justin, a competitive look appeared in Joel's eyes and he said coldly, "Do you think I can't find someone that Justin Hunt could?"

All the warmth and mildness around Joel disappeared in this instant, and his entire self seemed to be dyed with a layer of black, making him look like a demon from hell itself.

At this point, they heard slight movement at the bed.

Joel, who had sensed it right away, hurried over.

Sure enough, he saw Ian slowly opening his eyes.

An anxious Joel said, "Uncle Ian."

Ian glanced at him.

When he saw the shadows under his eyes—obviously, he hadn't slept all night—he said, "It must have been tough on you."

Joel shook his head.

"Don't worry, Uncle Ian, I will definitely find Anti. I'll drag him here and make him treat your illness even if he's unwilling to!"

Ian sighed and said, "If I'm gone, then so be it. What's the use of doing all this?"

Determination filled Joel's eyes as he held Ian's shoulders.

He said, "No, Uncle Ian, you have to live on..."

He paused for a moment before he went on and said, "You 're my only kin now."

His only kin...

Should outsiders hear what he said, they would definitely find his words very strange because there were still so many members of the Smiths.

By right, based on blood relations, he still had a lot of relatives.

However, Ian seemed to understand what he meant.

His jaw tensed up as though he wanted to say something, but in the end, he didn't.

He merely heaved a deep sigh instead.

On the way back to the Andersons, Nora gave Tanya a call after thinking about it a little.

Tanya answered very quickly.

She sounded very anxious as she asked, "How is Cherry? Why did they ask you to go over in the middle of the night? Is it serious?"

Nora looked ahead and replied concisely, "It's not gonna kill her? 'Not gonna kill her'..."

Tanya panicked.

"That means it's very serious, right? Is she at Hospital Finest? Which ward is she in? I'm going over now!"

Nora lazily told her the ward number and hung up.

Joel had obviously misunderstood.

In that case, she would let Tanya resolve the misunderstanding herself.

Nora hated misunderstandings the most.

After resolving the misunderstanding, if it was still possible between the two of them, then they could just get together.

If not, then they could break up properly...

Upon receiving the news, Tanya hailed a cab and rushed to the hospital.

As soon as she went upstairs, she immediately saw Joel walking out of Ian's ward...

Chapter 148

The premium VIP wards were on the top floor of the inpatient department.

The lift was full, but Tanya was simply too anxious, so she had taken the stairs instead.

Therefore, she didn't expect to run into Joel.

Joel, who had something urgent to attend to, had to go downstairs, so he also took the stairs.

Joel was currently standing on higher ground and looking down at Tanya, while Tanya was standing on lower ground and looking up at him.

The two looked at each other.

For a while, neither of them spoke.

PlayvolumeAd

Tanya had rushed all the way here, for fear that Cherry was seriously ill.

At the sight of Joel's familiar face, she subconsciously felt even sadder and her eyes instantly reddened.

Five years ago, she could have made that man her pillar of support.

But five years later, he had already become another woman's pillar of support.

The thought made Tanya hold back the tears about to gush out of her eyes.

She cast her eyes down and walked around Joel so that she could go up.

Joel was watching her.

When the woman first saw him, there had been some lingering affection in her expression.

It reminded him of how she had always come to him immediately whenever she was lectured by a professor or whenever she encountered some kind of difficulty.

She would hug him and cry, or hug him and laugh.

She always shared all her feelings with him.

Just now, she had looked as if she wanted to rush forward and hug him.

Yet it had taken only an instant for the woman to change her mind.

The look in her eyes became distant, and she even wanted to walk past him.

The rose-scented shower gel on her wafted over to him.

The scent was so familiar and so long-lost that it made a lump form in his throat.

Tanya wanted to walk past the man quickly and hurry to the ward.

There was no one else in the stairwell, and the door had shut out all the noise in the hallway outside.

She felt like she could even hear the man's heartbeat in the small, closed-off environment.

The stairs were relatively narrow, so Tanya turned sideways when she passed him by.

It was at this point that the man suddenly grabbed her arm .

He asked, "Tanya, do you know that there's something going on between Justin Hunt and Nora Smith?"

Tanya didn't immediately understand what he meant, so she frowned and said, "Their relationship can't be made public yet. What's the matter?"

'Can't be made public yet' ...

In other words, she knew? Since she knew that man was two-timing her, then why was she still staying with him? Five years ago, when she realized what had happened between him and Hillary, hadn't she immediately left him so firmly and resolutely? Was it because she loved that man more than she loved him? Joel felt terribly frustrated.

He asked, "Therefore, you're willing to turn a blind eye to their relationship? Or are you actually the mistress instead?"

Although he hadn't interacted much with Nora before, he could tell that she was a very prideful woman.

Joel would never believe that she would become someone's mistress.

But if it wasn't Nora, then the real mistress was...

Tanya? Anger surged up in Tanya when she heard what he said, and she let out a sarcastic laugh.

So, was she actually someone like that in his eyes? She looked down and pushed Joel away at once.

Then, she said distantly, "There's nothing between the two of us anymore, Mr. Smith. It's none of your business whether I'm someone's mistress or not, right?"

Tanya wanted to leave after saying that, but Joel held on to her arm, pulled her toward him again, and slammed her against the wall at the back! Tanya's words just now were tantamount to a tacit admission to Joel.

The look in his eyes turned dark and the aura around him also turned oppressive.

He said coldly, "Since you're willing to be someone's mistress, then...why don't you be mine?"

An angry Tanya snapped, "Joel Smith, can you get any more shameless?!"

Joel gripped her chin and forced her to look up at him.

He said, "How much is Mr. Hunt giving you? How about I double the amount? Or is it because of the child? In that case, if you bear me a child, I'll give you the position of Mrs. Smith. Isn't that better?"

Child ...

Tanya was so furious that she was shaking all over.

She sneered, "Your behavior is going to make me think you still have feelings for me, Mr. Smith."

Taunts had been the most effective on him in the past.

Her words indeed made Joel's expression change, but right after that, he leaned in close.

She could feel his breath on her neck as he spoke. "I wouldn't call it feelings, but I do miss your body very much. I wonder if it's become even more alluring after five years of separation?"

His words were as if a hard slap across Tanya's cheek.

She shouted angrily, "What, is Hillary not satisfying your needs?"

Joel's voice also became a little harsher.

He said, "She was never as curvy as you right from the start. After all, a dancer's body is softer and more flexible, so you can better match me and get into all kinds of positions with me!"

"...Joel Smith, you're so shameless!"

"Shameless? I can be even more shameless, Ms. Turner. Do you want a taste of it?"

Joel started to kiss Tanya right after he said that! A furious Tanya struggled to get away from him, only to find that the more she struggled, the more fiercely the man kissed her.

It was as if he wanted to swallow her whole...

She simply couldn't push him away, no matter what she did.

Tanya slowly gave up struggling.

Joel felt like he had gone crazy.

Originally, he had said all those things and provoked her just for a momentary thrill, but when he saw her admitting to it without denying anything, he found his heart hurting even more, and felt even sadder.

He allowed himself to vent all the yearning he had toward her during the last five years, but suddenly, something warm dripped onto the back of his hand.

The warm current felt as though it was scalding hot, causing his movements to suddenly stop.

Joel looked at Tanya and saw that she was really crying.

For a moment, he actually felt somewhat at a loss.

Smack! Tanya slapped him across the cheek.

Then, she pushed him away and rushed upstairs.

In the ward upstairs.

When Tanya entered, she found an alive and kicking Cherry playing games.

It was then that she realized that she had been tricked.

After comforting Cherry a little, she left with flustered emotions...

Joel was the only one left in the empty stairwell.

Joel clenched his fists.

When he thought of Tanya's tears just now, he suddenly gave himself a slap.

He had been a real scumbag just now.

But he really couldn't bear to see her disrespect herself like that.

Joel leaned against the wall and closed his eyes.

After a long period of silent contemplation, he suddenly heaved a huge sigh.

He stood up suddenly.

However, instead of going down, he went back up.

He stood at the door and hesitated for a long time before he finally turned and walked toward the young Mr.Hunt's VIP ward.

When he reached, he stood at the door for a long time again...

At last, he pushed the door open.

However, he only saw two bodyguards and two nurses there.

Tanya wasn't there.

His brows drew together.

Then, Cherry raised her head and looked at him in puzzlement.

She asked, "Handsome mister, why are you here?"

Joel was about to speak when Cherry pursed her lips and said, "I don't like you! It must've been you who bullied God-mom Tanya and made her cry!"

Joel was utterly stunned when he heard what she said.

He asked, "What did you say?"

God-mom...Tanya?

Chapter 149

Cherry had been part of Operation Complain To Daddy, so she naturally knew that it was Mia's father who had bullied God-mom Tanya.

However, she was still young, so she didn't understand the complicated relationship between the two.

With her hands on her hips, she looked at Joel and said, "Handsome mister, how can you bully a girl when you're so good-looking? God-mom Tanya was crying!"

Crying...He thought of her tears that had fallen onto the back of his hand...

Joel suddenly stepped forward.

"She's your godmother? And not your mother? So, she's not related to Justin Hunt at all?"

Cherry straightened her back at once.

“Why wouldn’t she be related to him?!”

Joel’s heart sank, but the next moment, he heard Cherry continue: “My godmother is Mommy’s good friend. Since Mommy and Daddy have given birth to me, then my godmother will definitely be related to Daddy, yeah! Don’t you dare bully God-mom anymore. Otherwise, I’ll get Daddy to beat you up, yeah!”

After saying that, the little fellow even got off the bed, came up to Joel, and kicked him in the calf.

Although she had kicked him with all her strength, to Joel, it was nevertheless still just a very light kick.

He lowered his head and looked at the tiny fellow in front of him who was about the same age as Mia.

He suddenly rubbed her head and said, “You’re right. I’m a bad person. I shouldn’t have bullied your godmother... How do you think I should apologize to her?”

Cherry: “???”

Eh? The young mister surprisingly owned up to his mistakes very quickly.

Cherry thought for a moment and replied, “A fault confessed is one half-redressed, mister. You’re a pretty good man!”

Joel tried to sound her out and asked, “Do you know what your godmother likes the most?”

Cherry tilted her head and thought for a while.

Suddenly, her eyes lit up and she replied, “I know! There’s nothing that God-mom has lacked during all these years—except for one thing!”

“What is it?”

“Nora! Smith! What the hell do you think you’re doing?”

Nora was driving when she heard Tanya’s roar over the phone.

She looked ahead lazily and asked casually, “How does it feel to meet your old flame, Ms.Turner?”

The other woman’s voice instantly became dejected and she replied, “Not so good”

Nora chuckled softly and asked, “Did you guys manage to resolve the misunderstanding?”

Tanya didn’t reply.

Nora raised her eyebrows.

“You can’t be serious, right? Are you going to let the misunderstanding continue when I’ve already created an opportunity for you?”

Tanya let out a wry laugh and said, “It’s not about that.It’s mainly because...

Even if we resolve the misunderstanding, so what? The two of us can’t go back to what we used to be anymore’

“Why?”

Tanya sighed.

“He’s already in a relationship with Hillary.

What would that make me, if I involve myself with them? Besides, they already have a child..."

The conversation suddenly became a little depressing.

Nora fell silent for a moment.

Then, she suggested, "How about...we make him a widower?"

Tanya: "???"

She received a huge shock and quickly said, "There's no need for that at all! Even if he becomes a widower, I still don't like it that he was once in a relationship with Hillary. He clearly knows that she is the one person I hate the most..."

Nora was rather disappointed"...Okay, then."

Tanya, '..."

Then, she said, "How about a drink tonight, Nora? We'll drink till we dro—"

Beep...

beep...

beep...

Tanya; '???"

As Tanya listened to the disconnected tone on the phone, she couldn't help but feel that she and Nora must be fair-weather friends for sure! Nora tossed her cell phone aside casually after she hung up, and drove to the New York University School of Medicine.

The guards had already been notified beforehand, so they let her in immediately when she reached the gates.

She drove one round around the campus.

Then, she followed the GPS navigator and arrived in front of the office building.

After she parked the car, she entered the building.

As soon as she entered, she saw Director Shaw, who was nearly fifty years old, standing at the entrance.

He looked at her respectfully and said, "You're here!"

Nora nodded slightly. The few people behind Director Shaw were shocked.

One must know that Director Shaw was hailed as a master neurosurgeon in the school! Not only was he the head of the Department of Neurosurgery, but he was also a director in the New York Hospital, and held an important position in the field of medicine.

Why would someone like him be so respectful and deferential toward a girl who looked like she was only about twenty years old? While everyone was hesitating, Director Shaw held his hand out and guided her toward the front.

He said, "This way, please."

Nora followed Director Shaw to his office.

Director Shaw said to his assistants, "Hurry and make some coffee. Use the premium beans in my collection. Remember to make it stronger, so that it's more refreshing!"

The assistants were dumbfounded.

Director Shaw usually treated those premium beans like they were his baby, yet he was actually taking them out today and serving them to a girl who looked like she was much younger than he was? Director Shaw ignored his assistants' questioning gazes, entered the room, and closed the door.

When he looked behind him, he saw that the big boss had already taken a seat on the sofa and was leaning back against it.

The girl wore a pair of black skinny jeans that made her legs look long and slender.

She leaned against the sofa lazily with her cat-like eyes raised, but there was no warmth within them.

She asked, "Why did you ask me over so urgently, Mr. Shaw?"

Director Shaw immediately waved and said, "How am I worthy of having you use honorifics for me? Anti, I asked you over because there's an operation that requires your expertise."

Nora raised her eyebrows.

"What kind of operation is it?"

Director Shaw sighed and replied, "It's a five-year-old child with a tumor in his brain. The tumor's location is very tricky, and there's a high likelihood that it's in contact with neural nerves. If one isn't careful, it'll affect the child's future intelligence development, so I'm thinking of asking you to do it"

Director Shaw looked at her and said, "I know you only take on two operations a month and this month is already fully booked. But that child is really very pitiful, so I decided to ask you for help. Anti, I "

Director Shaw was about to appeal to her through emotions and reason when Nora raised her eyebrows and asked, "Is that all?"

Director Shaw: "???"

Nora stood up, yawned, and said, "Couldn't you have just called? Instead, you made me come down here specially...You can just send me the time and location of the operation." Then, she waved dismissively and walked out.

"I'm going 'Director Shaw' ??"

It was notoriously difficult to make surgery appointments with Anti.

There were countless wealthy and powerful people begging for her help, yet they couldn't even find her.

The Hunts and the Smiths had gone to a lot of effort to search for her, and even promised to pay astronomical consultation fees, but even so, she hadn't agreed! He'd thought that it would take a lot of convincing before she would agree! He hesitated for a moment and said, "Anti, that child doesn't come from a notable background..."

But don't worry.If you take on the operation, you can take it that I owe you a favor.

Nora responded with an 'Okay' and left the room.

The assistants outside didn't dare to stop her when they saw her and even gave way to her.

Nora went to the car park.

When she was about to leave, she suddenly heard someone saying in surprise, "Nora? Why are you here?"

She looked behind her to see Angela Smith and Lisa Black, whom she hadn't seen for a long time, walking toward her. Angela looked at her car, and then at the office building.

Her brows drew together and she asked in surprise, "Surely you can't be here to apply for postgraduate studies, right?"

Chapter 150

Nora was a little taken aback.

Ever since she came to New York, she hadn't paid any attention to the ongoings in California anymore.

Although Angela was her half-sister, there was tension between them, so she didn't want to bother with her at all.

Lisa did mention that they were coming to New York for their postgraduate studies' entrance exams, though.

She didn't expect to bump into them here.

She ignored Angela.

Instead, she looked at Lisa and asked, "Which professor are you intending to apply for?"

Lisa glanced at Angela timidly and replied, "I'm still thinking about it. I'm planning to apply for someone who's easier..."

"Heh."

Angela scoffed and said, "How ambitious of you. Well, I'm a completely different story. I came here with a clear goal, and that is Director Shaw!"

She looked at Nora and said, "Do you know who Director Shaw is? He only accepts four to five students every year. A tiny little unorthodox doctor like you probably won't be able to pass the exams at all though." To Angela, Nora had never attended college before.

The reason why she had some medical skills was that she had picked up some unorthodox skills abroad.

How would a woman who had never properly attended university before possibly be qualified to apply for postgraduate studies? Nora, however, ignored her completely.

In fact, she didn't even exist in her eyes.

She looked at Lisa instead and asked, "Where are you currently staying?"

"At the hotel next to the school. The lodging there is very cheap... You don't have to worry about me, Nora"

Lisa glanced at Angela after she answered.

She quickly said, "You can just go, Nora. We have to go in and ask around to find out what the professors' preferences are like anyway..."

"Go? What nonsense. Tell me what exactly you're here for, Nora."

Angela demanded persistently, her voice as noisy as a frog's croaking.

Nora, however, continued to ignore her.

She said, "Okay. Give me a call if anything comes up, or if you run out of money."

She got in the car.

Angela went in front of the car and blocked her path.

She said, "Get out here, Nora. Didn't you hear me? You "

Nora stepped on the gas pedal and raced toward her! The car suddenly sped up, causing Angela to shudder all over in fright, and she screamed.

Screeeeech! The car stopped barely one centimeter away from her.

Angela could even feel the car's momentum! She turned pale with fright.

The woman rested an arm on the car window, poked her head out, and said coolly, "Get out of my way."

A badly frightened Angela stepped aside in a daze.

She had only just taken a couple of steps when the car started again and sped past her with a whoosh.

Its speed was as if Nora was driving a sports car! Angela swallowed hard.

It was only when the car disappeared into the distance that she finally regained her senses.

She cursed angrily, "She wanted to run me over! That little bitch! Fatty! Ugly woman! How dare she think of running me over! She must be jealous that I got engaged to Anthony!"

After Nora left California, the Grays and the Smiths were embroiled with each other for some time.

In the end, Anthony had still become engaged with Angela.

Lisa couldn't bring herself to listen anymore.

She said, "Nora doesn't even know that you're engaged, Angela. None of us even told her about it..."

"Shut up!"

Angela glared at her viciously.

"From what I see, all you care about is Nora, right? Why don't you stay with her instead of sticking to me, then?"

Lisa bit her lip.

"In that case, give me back the money that Uncle Henry lent me." Their family had used up all of their savings on her mother's illness.

Her mother had borrowed money from Angela's father, Henry Smith, for all her travel and accommodation expenses during her trip to New York for her postgraduate studies application.

However, Henry had transferred all the money to Angela, causing Lisa to be bullied by her the whole way here.

Angela pursed her lips and said, "You're borrowing money from Dad, which makes you borrowing money from me, Lisa. Considering that you're indebted to me, I hope you know what you should be saying!"

She frowned again after saying that.

“Nora was driving a jeep just now, right? I didn’t expect the Andersons to treat her so well...Do you think that she was here because the Andersons are intending to let her pursue postgraduate studies?”

Angela’s eyes lit up at the thought, and she picked up her cell phone and called Henry, who was in California.

She said, “Dad, I think Nora definitely has a way to get Director Shaw to do what she wants! Can you ask her to help me?”

Henry replied, “Okay!”

When Nora was about to reach home, her cell phone suddenly rang.

It was an unregistered number.

She wasn’t planning to answer, but because she was driving, she pressed the wrong button and accidentally picked up the call.

Henry’s voice immediately reached her from the other end of the call.

“Nora, I’m your father. I was the one who raised you, so you’re obligated to support me during old age! We’ll put aside the issue about your mother’s company’s profits for now, so get the Andersons to use their connections to get your younger sister acquainted with Director Shaw at once!”

Nora: “?”

How had she set that mad dog free? She was about to hang up when her stepmother Wendy’s voice also reached her.

She said, “Nora, I know you don’t want to come back anymore because you’re now living in the lap of luxury after you went to the Andersons. You’ve also taken away your mother’s company and are not

intending to give it to us, but we're still family, at any rate. Blood is thicker than water; Angela is your sister after all. Help her out; if she becomes a famous surgeon and makes money in the future, we won't have to pester you when we're old, either, right? Don't you agree?"

Nora suddenly smiled.

"Blood is thicker than water?"

Wendy replied, "Yes, that's right. You and your younger sister share the same father, so the same blood flows through your veins. You mustn't forget your roots after you've climbed up the social ladder!"

The same father...

If they hadn't reminded her, she would have almost slept herself into a daze and forgotten that she had a father.

That father of hers was a really weird one though.

One couldn't say that he didn't treat his daughter well, because he took care of all of Angela's needs properly.

Yet at the same time, he was cold and frosty toward Nora.

It was as if it would do as long as she didn't starve to death.

Nora cast her eyes down and suddenly raised her eyebrows.

"I see."

"Huh? What do you mean by 'I see'? Nora, you "

Before Wendy could finish, Nora had already hung up. She called Lisa.

“Where are you?”

A surprised Lisa replied, “I’m still at the school.”

“Okay. I’m coming to you now “ Lisa was dumbfounded.

“Why are you looking for me, Nora ”

Nora’s eyes narrowed and the corners of her lips curled upward a little.

She replied, “Oh. I want to see if blood is indeed thicker than water between Angela and me.”

Lisa?

She hung up on an utterly confused Lisa.

The car turned around at the intersection and went straight to the New York University School of Medicine.

Ten minutes later, the jeep stopped in front of the office building.

Nora hopped off the car slickly and walked straight over to Angela and Lisa.

Angela smiled triumphantly and said, “Hah, did Dad call you? Nora, I’ll tell you this...”

Before she could finish, however, Nora suddenly grabbed her hair.

She felt a jolt of pain at once.

The next moment, she saw that Nora had plucked out a few strands of her hair.

Her voice was lazy as she said: "Let me borrow this for a sec"