

# Hate To Love You

## Chapter 23

After wandering around, Talia returned to the small town where she lived with her mother before she turned five years old.

Far from the bustling city, the sky was blue, and the air was fresh. It was as if everything was still the same as before.

After her mother died, her ashes were buried here. That was her mother's wish when she was alive. This was also the birthplace of both the mother and daughter, and it was also where her mother began to face disappointment.

Returning to the starting point meant that she might never see Jasper again, and it also meant that she had to abandon nearly two decades of her past and regard it as an old dream. But, waking up completely from that dream was easier said than done.

Fortunately, the house with the yard that she and her mother rented in the past was still there. It had been renovated over the years, but the owner had changed, and the house was currently occupied.

As the house was quite large, it could be rented out. She harbored a special affection toward this house, so she managed to get the contact information of the new owner and called to ask about the rental options.

After obtaining the permission of the other party, she went to the house to negotiate.

When she arrived, the courtyard door wasn't closed. She yelled a few times, but no one answered, so she entered after hesitating for a while.

The yard was still roughly the same size as before, with the grapevines and the garden full of greenery being more lush than before. She discovered that the rosebush she planted when she was a child was still alive. The branches and leaves had been pruned, but they had also grown old and tall. Now, it was blooming season.

She had liked flowers and plants since she was a child, and as funny as it was, she once fantasized that she could be with Jasper and create the perfect garden for him.

As she looked back on it now, it just seemed childish.

When she came to her senses, a clear male voice sounded from behind. "Are you here to rent a room?"

She turned and met a pair of stunning eyes.

The man was dressed casually in a light gray tank top and sweatpants, his slightly long hair combed back and tied up. He had a long figure and looked like he had just woken up. There was even a cup of water and a toothbrush topped with toothpaste in his hands.

However, this guy didn't give off a sloven feeling; it was probably thanks to his appearance. Talia had to admit that this new landlord was rather handsome.

She politely introduced herself. "Yes, I'm the one who called you before about renting a room. Do you live here now? Can you rent a room to me? I'm here alone."

The man walked to the faucet in the yard, then turned on the water supply and began to wash up as if there was no one else around.

With toothpaste foam in his mouth, he answered in a muffled voice, "I rent the place based on attractiveness. I only rent to beautiful women."

As he spoke, the man turned his head and winked at her. "You meet the requirements."

The corner of Talia's mouth twitched. Why does this guy seem a bit unorthodox?

She was already considering saying that she would take a look elsewhere when the guy suddenly changed his tone and became serious. "800 a month. One month deposit, plus three months of advance rent payment. You'll have to stay for at least three months, and there'll be no refund for the deposit if you stop renting midway."

Over the years, the town had been developing, seemingly turning into a scenic area with quite a lot of traffic, so this price was appropriate.

Talia stubbornly repeated her question. "Then... have you always lived here?"

After the man rinsed his mouth, he casually retrieved a towel to wipe the water on the corners of his mouth. "No. I am just staying here for the time being, so you're practically spending 800 on renting the whole house, which is a good deal."

Talia breathed a sigh of relief. "Thank you. I'll move in as soon as possible."

While signing the lease contract, Talia thought of asking for the landlord's name. "Uh... What's your name? We'll be neighbors from now on."

Looking at her, the man slightly narrowed his eyes. "Cassius."

Talia inexplicably felt that the name sounded familiar, but she couldn't remember where she had heard it for a while. After signing the contract, she went back to the hotel she was staying in temporarily to get her luggage.

Cassius watched her leave, then picked up his phone and sent a message. 'Jasper, your woman is in my hands.'

At the end of the message, a sneering emoji was attached.

At this moment, in Creekvale, Jasper was in a meeting when he caught a glimpse of the phone screen lighting up. He opened the text message and read the contents. There was an almost imperceptible smile playing on his lips, and he wasn't surprised at all.