

Timeless 221

CHAPTER 221 ACT ACCORDING TO CIRCUMSTANCES

Before she left for the airport from the Taylor's, she deliberately took out her clothes just to spite Leon now.

She didn't mean to ask Leon to spend money on her clothes. She was not short of money to buy clothes, and for a rich man like Leon, not to mention buying a few pieces of clothes, it was even not a problem for him to acquire a few clothing brands. She wanted Leon to buy clothes for her in person, and the most important thing was to buy the right size and choose the right suitable style for her, otherwise, she would be picky and ask him to return it for an exchange.

Leon was tidying up his luggage with his head down and responded to her gently after hearing her words, "Well, I'll take you to buy it later."

Hathaway felt that Leon's tone was harsh, because ... it sounded charming and indulgent as if he liked her a lot and doted on her.

Then she raised her hand to cover her mouth, gave a big yawn, and showed her tired face, "I won't go. I got up early in the morning to catch the flight, so I'm tired and sleepy now and just want to sleep. You go buy it for me alone."

After saying that, she blinked her beautiful eyes at him and said provocatively, "After all, we have slept together a few times. You should know my size, right?"

Hathaway had never been a reserved and bashful woman, so she was not ashamed of saying these words now.

On the contrary, Leon paused to look at her for a while, averted his eyes, and said without changing countenance, "I know..."

It would be strange if he knew!

The men could know what size clothes a woman wore after sleeping with her a few times were most lady-killers who had love affairs with many women. However, he hadn't had any relationship with any woman before her and didn't even know what models of ladies' clothes, so how could he possibly know what size clothes she wore?

As the president of the Davis Group, he was too busy with work every day to be preoccupied with such miscellaneous matters. Even his clothes were from the same brands he was used to wearing. Every season they sent him a sample book of the new clothes in advance, and he chose the ones he liked. When the new clothes came out, they would send them to him.

So far he hadn't bought clothes for anyone. Maybe it wasn't a tricky thing for most people but not him.

However, he would satisfy Hathaway.

Hathaway gave him a look, turned into the bedroom, and locked the door.

In the bedroom, Hathaway heard Leon answer a few more phone calls after he finished tidying up his luggage, and then the door closed. To her surprise, he really went out.

Hathaway lay on the comfortable and soft bed and fell asleep with boredom.

Awakened by Leon's knock on the door, Hathaway went to open the door in a daze and saw the living room outside filled with bags of all sizes, which were probably all the items bought by him. But it was too much, and Hathaway was momentarily wide-awake.

Leon beckoned to her, "Come out and try it on to see if you are satisfied."

Hathaway walked over and took out a dress. It was a long dress with a small stand-up collar, and its fresh and light beige background was covered with florals in pastel colors. The moment she held it in her hand, she felt her heart softening.

It was the height of summer and should be a popular time for florals. With such a floral dress on her, she would look fresh, elegant, and sweet.

Hathaway, who was supposed to be picky about the style as a fashion designer, liked this dress at first sight, but she still teased Leon with disgust, "So you like women to dress like this."

Upon hearing this, Leon frowned slightly, "What?"

Hathaway waved the dress in her hand at him, "You like a gentle and lovely woman. Which girl in a floral dress isn't as gentle as a lamb?"

After that, Hathaway reached out to stroke her chest and breathed a sigh of relief, "Luckily, I'm not this kind of girl, so don't like me anymore."

As long as there was a chance to make Leon dislike her, Hathaway would grab it.

Leon's frown deepened as if he was displeased with her words, "Aren't you gentle and lovely?"

Hathaway couldn't help laughing and asked rhetorically, "Do you think I am?"

Hathaway thought to herself, 'You must not nod, or else you ... have a problem with your vision.'

However, Leon replied to her without hesitation, "I think you're gentle and also lovely when you don't make other people angry."

Hathaway rested her arms on her hips in anger, "..."

His answer left her speechless. He said that she was lovely when she didn't make other people angry, and on the contrary, she was not. In that case, he should think more about her irritating state and dislike her.

Then she took out the dress size and found that it was exactly the size she usually wore.

When Leon easily saw Hathaway blushing because she couldn't pick a fault, he wanted to laugh but held it back

Of course, Hathaway was not easy to deal with. After seeing the right size, she clutched the dress and smiled ambiguously at Leon, "I didn't expect you to be quite knowledgeable about women's figures. As the saying goes, skill comes from practice. I can understand that."

This implied that Leon had developed such skill because he was usually surrounded by many women.

After finishing her words, Hathaway waited for Leon to get annoyed, but he explained, "Vivian is about the same height and figure as you, so I asked her about it. I wasn't quite sure what size you'd wear, so I bought two pieces. You choose the right clothes, and I'll return the unsuitable one later."

Hathaway remembered that she had met Vivian once. Although Vivian mainly served both her husband and children in her daily life, she kept a good figure. Her figure was indeed similar to hers. Hathaway did not expect that Leon would ask Vivian about it...

From Leon back to now, she had several arguments with Leon, both explicitly and implicitly, but she didn't get a bit of advantage and was a little annoyed.

She threw the dress aside and turned to look through the other clothes and shoes. Then she didn't even bother to appreciate them carefully, instead, she pulled one out and made random comments about what she didn't like without thinking. Either the style was too old-fashioned, or the color was too rustic. In short, she was not satisfied with any of the clothes in the living room.

After this, Hathaway felt tired and threw herself lazily into the sofa, "That's it. I'm not satisfied with any of these clothes. Let me be clear, I have high requirements for dressing, so I won't go out if you can't buy the clothes I like."

Leon took a look at the mess on the ground and stepped over towards Hathaway on the sofa.

CHAPTER 222 JUST BE YOURSELF

Hathaway, who was nestled on the sofa waiting for Leon to get angry, saw Leon walking towards her and felt a strange sense of danger.

When she wanted to get up and leave the sofa, Leon came and bent over her. In an instant, he controlled her on the sofa with his tall and strong body. Hathaway leaned back a little against the back of the sofa, and then Leon pressed his face over, followed by the heat of his breath, causing her heart to jump fast a few times.

"You can't tell if a dress fits you until you've tried it on. As a fashion designer, you don't even understand that, do you?" Leon pressed his cheek against Hathaway's and asked her unhurriedly.

Hathaway reached out to push him while replying to him, "But I don't even want to take a look at these clothes you chose. Leon, you have bad taste."

At this time, Hathaway could barely hold on to a trace of calmness.

Leon was displeased with her words and chuckled, "Do I have bad taste? I think I have good taste. All I like are the best ones, such as you."

Hathaway paused and stared at him in a daze.

Was she the best in his mind?

Didn't he care even if she had such a notorious reputation?

Didn't he care that she first approached him with an impure motive?

Didn't he care that she was disliked by his mother?

Didn't he care that she didn't have a hint of the reserve, modesty, and virtue that a wealthy debutante should have?

They were in a very ambiguous position on the sofa at the moment. Hathaway was dressed conservatively today, with the simplest white T-shirt and a pair of ordinary trousers, so that Leon wouldn't have an improper thought about her. But now, Hathaway felt that it couldn't block Leon's burning eyes even if she had more clothes on her.

Just as Hathaway was in a flutter, Leon put his hand on her waist through her clothes, "Do you want to try on the clothes yourself, or should I do it for you?"

Leon's deep and pleasant voice tugged at Hathaway's heartstrings. She snapped back to her senses, pushed him away, and said with annoyance, "I'll try it myself!"

After saying that, Hathaway randomly chose a piece of clothing and rushed into the bathroom with it. She had to admit that Leon was too cunning, quietly resolving her various nitpicks about the clothes he bought by forcing her to try them on.

Like Leon said, he had good taste. As a fashion designer, how could Hathaway not see that the clothes he had chosen suited her very well?

So she deliberately picked on him without even trying them on. As a result, he threatened her to come in and try on her clothes.

He had threatened her by taking off her clothes, how could he not be cunning?

The result of her clothes fitting was naturally good, which made Leon feel more and more confident about his taste. After trying on two pieces of clothes, Hathaway stopped and put them away perfunctorily, because she was afraid that Leon would eat her up if she kept trying on.

In the evening, Leon had a dinner gathering and invited Hathaway to go with him.

Hathaway righteously refused, "No, I won't go. I'm not your companion and refuse to attend such social occasions with you. Besides, I'm only responsible for taking notes for you during your meeting tomorrow."

Throughout the day Hathaway's situation was getting more and more passive and she was annoyed about it.

She didn't expect Leon to be so difficult to deal with. She thought that with Leon's past character, he would get annoyed and kick her out if she made things difficult for him. Surprisingly, after these contests, he was not annoyed at all, but she was.

Hathaway had never been one to take a loss. Now that she had suffered a defeat from Leon, and she was the one who started every provocation, but Leon just followed her rhythm and easily deciphered her unreasonable behavior. This infuriated Hathaway.

So she didn't want to go out to dinner with Leon. She was forced to come here by him, and it was her compromise to be his secretary and take notes of the meeting.

Leon was fully dressed in a tailored black suit, which showed off his elegance and dignity.

Hathaway felt even more annoyed, so she turned to the bedroom to put on heavy make-up, came out in a nightclub outfit, and stood before Leon valiantly, "Leon, we are two worlds apart, why do you have to be pushing so hard? Look, I don't like those social gatherings where everyone has a fake smile on their face. I just like to drink and dance in a bar and be free to be myself."

Hathaway said a lot in one breath, "Even if we don't care about our parents' grudges and get back together, we don't have the same outlook. You have your elegant world, and I have my free circle. As the president of the Davis Group, do you want your wife to be spotted hanging out in bars and nightclubs regularly in the future?"

"I'm lazy and don't like housework or cooking. I don't want to do anything other than designing clothes. I won't give you a warm and comfortable home, nor will I be a good wife for you to fight outside without any worries. Leon, do you see me clearly? I'm simply not the kind of woman a man in your position should marry!"

Hathaway tried desperately to make herself sound bad, yet Leon looked calm throughout.

When Hathaway finished speaking, Leon said leisurely, "Finished?"

Hathaway looked away in displeasure.

Then Leon asked her unhurriedly, "Hathaway, did I force you to have to be a virtuous woman when you used to be with me?"

Hathaway stared back at him and bit her lip in silence.

During the time they were together, he had never said anything about her even if she was notorious, nor did he ask her to pretend to be virtuous to win favor from Adeline, or he forced her to stop causing trouble for the sake of his reputation.

She was still being herself, bright, flamboyant, and unrestrained.

Leon gazed into her eyes and continued, "I didn't push you before, and I won't do it in the future. You just need to be yourself when you're with me. You can continue to kill time in a bar, smoke, and drink, or not do housework. You just do what you used to be."

If she became virtuous, she would no longer be vivid and bright but like a pretentious woman like Abby and Bella.

CHAPTER 223 NONE OF THEM ARE AS IMPORTANT AS YOU.

"Hathaway, you just do what you used to be."

When Hathaway heard Leon's words, it was as if something exploded in her mind.

She had known Leon for so long and even had been with him, but Leon had never said sweet words as he loved her. Now Hathaway felt that this sentence was comparable to the sweet words like I loved you that shook her.

Many people in a love relationship tended to unconsciously accommodate each other or make changes, and in the end, they were not who they used to be.

But now Leon told her to be herself.

Paul had never given her any strict rules since she was a child, so her personality had never been suppressed. A person like her, who was used to freedom, could not accept too many rules set by others. Hence, Leon's indulgence was like poison to her, touching her heart deeply and making her suffer at the same time.

It was because she couldn't afford his deep love.

Moreover, Hathaway had never thought that a cold man like Leon would show such a thick and deep affection, and she even could not dump him once he was stuck to her.

"I don't bother with you," Hathaway looked away with a rush, pretended to be calm, and said, "I'm going to the bar, and you'll go to the banquet by yourself."

With that, she turned to leave and intended to run away from the great tenderness and indulgence radiating from Leon.

They couldn't go on like this, and if continued, Hathaway felt that she would be moved by Leon's deep affection.

Leon grabbed Hathaway's slender wrist once again and said helplessly, "I'll go to the bar with you."

She looked so bright and charming in her dress, how could he let her go to the bar alone?

Hathaway was depressed and tried to shake off his hand, "Aren't you going to the banquet?"

He was following her around like a ghost.

Besides, shouldn't the dinner he was going to on such occasions supposed to be very important? They must all be the presidents of different companies and the like. Was it appropriate for him not to attend?

Leon said indifferently, "I won't go. None of them are important."

Leon wanted to directly say that none of them were as important as her, but he was afraid that too many sweet words would turn her off, so he temporarily swallowed back the words on the tip of his tongue.

She was not the kind of person who liked to be manipulated. If she got annoyed and pushed, she might just leave.

That was not worth the candle. He finally had the chance to get along with her alone, so he must keep her by his side.

Then Hathaway was carried into the car by Leon and went to the bar together.

She was dressed like a nightclub girl, while Leon was dressed in a suit for a dinner party. They looked so incongruous.

In the car, Hathaway in the back seat turned to look at Leon beside her and went straight to the point, "Leon, when did you fall in love with me?"

Leon was surprised by her blunt question and replied frankly after a pause, "I don't know."

Hathaway glared at him.

What a nonsensical answer! Shouldn't he have made a long and heartfelt confession at this point? As a result, he told her that he didn't know.

"I have no idea," Leon gave an innocent explanation, "Who can say when love begins?"

Seeing that Hathaway seemed to be dissatisfied with his answer, Leon gazed at her and whispered, "Love once begun, will never end."

That should be enough to give her a good explanation.

Hearing this, Hathaway stopped to glare at him and then looked away.

Hathaway found that she was now more and more afraid to look straight at Leon without scruples.

If she had no feelings for Leon, Leon's tender attack would not be able to sway her, and she would be not afraid to meet his eyes.

But she had feelings for Leon...

So she had no choice but to escape.

They made their way to the bar. As soon as Hathaway entered, she attracted the attention of the men in the bar. It was not strange for her to attract men with her good appearance, temperament, and figure. But because a cold man like Leon followed behind her, no one dared to provoke her.

It was not fun. Such a beauty came to the bar with an escort, was it not obvious to make these men envious-jealous-hateful?

As soon as they sat down, Leon put his suit jacket over Hathaway's shoulders, wrapped her up, and explained with a serious face, "The air conditioner is too cold here. Don't catch a cold."

Hathaway rolled her eyes at him.

Couldn't she see what he had in mind? Didn't he just wrap her up on purpose because she wore low-cut

clothes?

"Would you like something to drink?" Leon asked Hathaway. Hearing this, she wrapped herself in his jacket and said with her hands on her chin dully, "Enjoy yourself. I don't want to drink."

Considering the drunken mistake, she wouldn't drink. Now she stayed with Leon in a hotel room, what if something happens to them later when she was drunk?

So she would rather not drink.

Leon sat opposite her and laughed at her words, "Don't you drink? Then why did you come to the bar?"

Hathaway snorted and looked around at the men in the bar, "I'm here to see handsome men. Young hunks or old men are my types. I can feast my eyes."

Leon, "..."

He admitted that he had been in control of the initiative all day and was crushed by her words and the admiring look she gave the other men.

She pissed him off this round.

However, he didn't get angry with her and beckoned the waiter to order two glasses of wine, one for each of them.

Leon wanted Hathaway to drink, preferably drunk.

However, she kept her cool and refused to drink. He wouldn't force her because getting drunk was not a comfortable thing after all.

Hathaway didn't take a sip, looked at the beautiful cocktail in front of her for a while, and sighed, "This wine is so beautiful that I can't bear to drink it."

After that, she reached out to push it aside and continued to seriously admire the men in the bar by cupping her cheeks.

By the way, she pointed one out to Leon, "Look at that young hunk over the bar. Wow, he's so hot. He is handsome and has a good figure. What a perfect man he is!"

Hathaway just discovered that Leon lost control of himself because of her admiration for other men, so she deliberately said this to ruin his mood.

Leon remained calm, took a sip of wine, and said, "What's the point of thinking about those men? It's not realistic at all. They won't be with you, why not think about something realistic?"

CHAPTER 224 PROTECTING HER

Leon's words indirectly implied that instead of unrealistically admiring those men, Hathaway should appreciate him in front of her.

Hathaway knew what he meant, but she deliberately played dumb and snorted angrily, "President Davis, you don't see that I have the charm to get them to be with me, do you?"

With that, she made a gesture to get up to tease the youth, and Leon warned her with a sullen face, "If you dare take a step away from here, I'll break your legs."

Leon could not keep his calm, because he knew how charming and beautiful the girl in front of him was.

Hathaway sat back in her chair with a giggle, stretched out her slender legs towards the edge of the table to show Leon, and said in an injured tone, "You are too rude. I think my most beautiful part is my long legs, but you want to break them."

Leon took a look at her long legs sulkily, and his eyes deepened after taking a sip of wine.

Maybe it was because of the hotness in his heart from drinking wine, he was thinking about the image of her long legs coiled around his waist...

With Leon by her side, Hathaway lost all interest. What else could she be excited about? She couldn't drink wine or flirt with men and only sit here bored, so she suggested after a while, "Let's go back."

Leon raised his eyebrows and asked, "Are you sure?"

"Yes," Hathaway responded briskly and took the lead to get up and leave.

After Hathaway got up, Leon's eyes instantly turned cold, and then he swept a few insidious glances at the men who had been coveting Hathaway's beauty not far away until they looked away guiltily. Then he withdrew his gaze and left after her.

Leon knew that with him by Hathaway's side, those men did not dare to come up to her even if they coveted her, but he felt that their covetous mind disgusted and annoyed him. Hence, he warned them severely with his eyes before leaving.

Hathaway walked ahead and shrank back as soon as she left the bar door, exclaiming, "It's raining!"

Leon, who followed Hathaway out, happened to take her into his arms. Because of the sudden rain, she had not time to care about being embraced by Leon and asked him, "What should we do now? We don't even have an umbrella."

The weather was fine when they just came out of the hotel. How came it was raining heavily after they had been in the bar for a short time?

Even if they were to take a taxi, they would have to rush from the entrance of the bar to the road, and their clothes would be soaked in an instant with the heavy rain.

Leon wrapped up Hathaway's suit jacket and whispered, "I'm going to get a taxi. Wait for me here."

After that, Leon headed into the rain, but was suddenly pulled by Hathaway, "Wait a minute."

Leon stopped to look at Hathaway, while she stared at him with a provocative smile, "I remember this bar is not far from our hotel, why don't we take a walk back in the rain?"

Hathaway was giving Leon a hard time. They would be soaked through in the rain all the way back. She could care less about her image, but for Leon, who was always dressed in a suit and meticulous, she would like to see how embarrassed he would be if he was drenched in the rain.

Of course, she wasn't completely unreasonable. Now it was the height of summer, and they wouldn't catch a cold if they were exposed to the rain for a while.

Hearing her proposal, Leon squinted at her and didn't say anything for a moment. Then Hathaway continued to say provocatively, "What? Don't you have the guts?"

Leon laughed and took a look at her face with heavy make-up, "How could I dare not? As long as you're not afraid of your makeup getting smudged, I can walk with you in the rain."

Hathaway, "..."

She had actually forgotten about this important issue. As she almost always wore light make-up, so she didn't think that her make-up would get smudged. Now that Leon reminded her of this, she remembered that she had put on heavy make-up to come to the bar tonight, and if she got wet later, her make-up would be smudged.

She wanted to see Leon drenched in the rain, but not to see herself in a mess with her make-up smudged.

Just when she wanted to withdraw her proposal, Leon grasped her hand and dragged her into the rain with a bad intention. Hathaway squealed and instinctively pulled up Leon's suit to cover her face.

She could be rained on, but her makeup could not be ruined.

Her current appearance amused Leon. His deep and cheerful voice rang out above her head, which infuriated Hathaway.

After that, Leon reached over to help her tidy up her suit so that it could cover her head, and then put his arm around her, "Watch your step."

Hathaway was embraced by Leon walked quickly. He protected her tightly and steadily.

Not only did he cover her head with his suit, but he also used his palm to keep her out of the rain from time to time. After hurrying back to the hotel, Leon looked like a drenched chicken that Hathaway wanted to see, but her makeup was not ruined. Of course, her clothes were soaked through.

Standing under the hotel's veranda, Leon helped her take off the suit jacket on her and shook off the water on it, while Hathaway let out a sigh of relief and looked at Leon who was shaking his suit next to her with a complicated look.

How could the heavens be so unfair? He was soaked through and his hair was messed up, yet he did not look embarrassed but had a different kind of sexiness.

His well-manicured hairstyle fell out due to the rain. After wringing out his suit, he casually plucked his hair with his hands and threw his head, which caused the female hotel guests passing by to throw several glances at him.

However, Leon was unaware of this. He rewrapped the non-dripping suit around Hathaway, embraced her into the lobby, and back to their room.

Her clothes were a bit revealing and now they were soaked through, making her look curvier, so he had to wrap her up with his suit.

After returning to their room, Leon pushed Hathaway into the bathroom and followed suit, "Take off your wet clothes and have a hot shower. Don't catch a cold."

Leon said and raised his hand to unbutton his shirt, trying to take off his wet clothes to prevent him from catching a cold.

He quickly took off his shirt while Hathaway was startled. Then he reached out to undo his belt, but Hathaway stopped him, "What are you doing?"

Leon answered her, "Of course I'm undressing, or do you want us to stay in wet clothes?"

Hathaway froze there and sputtered, "You—"

She wanted to say, was he going to strip naked in front of her?

CHAPTER 225 HE'S WILLING TO DO IT.

Seeing her nervous face, Leon could not help laughing, paused in his movement, and rested his hands on his belt, "Where else do you want me to undress? We're both dripping now, and I'll mess up the whole room when I go in."

Hathaway took one look at his dripping trouser legs, turned around, and hurriedly said, "Okay. Take off your wet clothes first. After that, go out quickly."

The sound of a metal belt buckle came from behind her, followed by the man's teasing voice, "You've seen me like this before, what are you shy about?"

Hathaway pursed her lips in silence and made up her mind to wait until he left.

Leon continued, "Hurry up and take off your wet clothes, or you'll catch a cold."

Before Hathaway could say anything, he took away the suit on her shoulders, and then her hot figure wet from the rain was exposed to him, which made Leon's eyes deepen. He reached out to pull the bath towel next to him, tied it around his waist, and turned to leave the bathroom, "Take a bath yourself."

He had to leave quickly. If not, he was afraid that he would lose control.

Only after Leon left the bathroom did Hathaway breathe a sigh of relief. She took off her wet clothes, put them in the laundry basket along with Leon's, and then turned on the shower to wash.

Thinking back on what had just happened, Hathaway felt embarrassed.

She wanted to embarrass Leon, but she ended up being escorted all the way back by him.

She did not expect that Leon would take good care of her like this.

Her make-up wasn't smudged, nor was she in a mess. Although she was not completely untouched by the rain, at least he tried his best to protect her.

Besides, Hathaway never thought that Leon would be full of affection and tenderness towards her.

When she first approached Leon, she did not expect that he would be good to her. Before that, she searched for information about him and knew how cold and heartless he was...

After taking a shower casually, Hathaway hurriedly wrapped up her bathrobe and went out so that Leon could take a quick bath because she was worried about him catching a cold.

As soon as Leon went into the bathroom, Hathaway hurried back to the bedroom, locked the door, and lay alone in bed with her mind in turmoil. Leon's warmth made her more and more confused.

She didn't know how long it took when she heard a gentleman's knock on the door, "I made ginger tea. Come out and drink it to ward off the cold."

Hathaway was startled and got up to walk out after a response.

Leon was standing at the bar with his outfit on and handed her a cup of tea when he saw her come out. Hathaway looked at the brewed ginger tea, took it, and whispered, "Thank you..."

Leon said casually, "It's nothing."

The atmosphere quieted down. They stood there drinking their warm ginger tea.

After a while, Hathaway broke the silence, "Where did you get the ginger tea?"

Leon caressed the edge of the white teacup with his slender fingers, "I bought it from the supermarket outside."

Then he looked at her and continued, "Although we've only been in the rain for a short while, we'd better have some ginger tea to ward off the cold just in case. It's too much suffering to catch a cold."

Hathaway looked at him and bowed her head to drink her tea.

Hathaway had never thought that Leon would be such a caring man.

In fact, no one was born to be gentle and considerate, or perhaps Leon was only considerate for her.

If it were any other woman, he wouldn't have had the leisure care about them. It was only because that person was her that he took it to heart.

Because he cared for her, he took every bit of her to heart and instinctively became a gentle and considerate man.

Hathaway finished a cup of ginger tea and felt warm all over. After putting down her cup, she looked up at the tall man in front of her and frankly apologized, "I'm sorry for just causing you to get wet..."

Hearing this, Leon looked at her, and Hathaway continued, "I just wanted you to get wet on purpose to see you in a mess, but now I regret it. I shouldn't have tossed our health around."

Hathaway was a brave and responsible girl. She admitted that her previous behavior went too far, but she could confess it openly and bravely now.

Leon said calmly, "I know."

Immediately he raised her eyebrows and added, "Isn't your goal to make me hate you? We both did it willingly, so you don't need to apologize to me for that."

How could he not see what she was thinking?

From the moment she said the harsh words that she would make him dislike her, she had been sparing

no effort to make trouble.

However, Leon did not expect her to suddenly apologize for her behaviors.

Hathaway stared at him and asked, "I've gone too far. Don't you hate me?"

Leon laughed, "If you were like that, you wouldn't have apologized to me."

No matter how much trouble she caused, she was gentle and kind after all. If not, why did she apologize to him with an uneasy conscience?

At this point, Leon put down his teacup, leaned over to Hathaway, and said in a deep and firm voice, "Or maybe you are moved by me. Are you feeling sorry for me? You don't want to make things difficult for me anymore, do you?"

Hathaway did not want to admit that Leon had guessed what was on her mind, but it was true.

She glared at Leon in annoyance and wanted to turn to leave. At this moment, Leon grabbed her wrist again, pulled her into his arms with a little force, and clasped her waist tightly with his strong arms at the same time.

"Hathaway..." Leon embraced her and whispered her name. It made Hathaway feel soft all over.

"Release me." She tried to keep calm, but she did not dare to meet Leon's eyes.

"Release you?" Leon repeated her words and chuckled, "From the moment I walked into the trap you set up, I never wanted to let you go."

Hathaway was taken aback and looked up at him.

Leon continued to speak word by word, "Do you think that I am a man who can be casually titillated by a woman? Do you think I can't see through your purpose for approaching me? I know all of your attempts, yet I still do what you want. What do you think the reason is for that? It's just because I am ... willing to do it."

Hathaway breathed a little harder out of shock, "Did you want to be with me forever from the start?"

"What else?" Leon leaned over to her lips and said, "I've been aiming for marriage from the beginning."

Hathaway was surprised to lose the strength to resist and just let him kiss her lips like this.

She thought that Leon was trifling with her affections...

She thought that Leon would later agree to marry her only because she was pregnant, but she didn't

expect him to play along with her with sincerity...

CHAPTER 226 DON'T ANSWER THE PHONE.

With a faint taste of ginger tea between his lips and teeth, Leon devoured all of Hathaway's breath step by step. His hot body pressed against her and caused her to tremble.

Hathaway felt that the person in Leon's arms was not herself.

At this moment, she lost her mind and her head was in a mess.

She had done the most intimate things with Leon before, but this kiss flustered her. Last time she sent Leon home and was forcefully kissed by him in the car, but she was not so flustered. What was wrong with her now?

She could even foresee the more intimate things that would happen next if Leon continued like this, but she would not reject it.

Leon's kiss made Hathaway weak and annoyed. She was asking for trouble.

She tried to cause trouble to make Leon disgust her, but she ended up falling deeper and deeper into Leon's warmth after that. She was a good illustration of the saying "never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you".

Just when they were about to do something more intimate, Hathaway's mobile phone in her bathrobe pocket suddenly rang.

Hathaway instantly froze and instinctively tried to push away the man in front of her, but Leon pressed her hard, released her lips, and said in a hoarse voice, "Don't answer it..."

After saying that, he continued to kiss her and didn't give her any chance to resist.

However, her mobile phone kept ringing. Hathaway was worried that it was something important, so she reached out to push Leon again. Not many people knew her new phone number, only those who were close to her.

After such a kiss, Leon's desire burned up. At this moment, he didn't want to release Hathaway or let her answer the phone. He only continued with her like this, so he forcefully pressed Hathaway's hand to stop her from pushing him and pulled her back into his arms, and at the same time, he took out Hathaway's phone with his free hand to look.

He intended to throw her phone aside after one look, but instead, he saw Ashley's name displayed on the screen. Hathaway also saw it, so now she had to push Leon away. She was grateful that Ashley called her at this time to give her a reason to terminate what was going to happen between her and Leon.

Otherwise, she would not have been able to successfully refuse.

Leon let go of Hathaway because he knew how important Ashley was to Hathaway.

When Hathaway got on the phone, Leon turned to the next fridge and got ice water out to cool himself down.

"Ashley, what's wrong?" Hathaway picked up Ashley's phone with a sort of gasp. It was a little embarrassing for her, but she had tried her best to calm her breath.

Ashley heard the difference in her voice and hastily asked her, "Is it convenient for you to answer my phone now?"

Hathaway laughed and comforted Ashley, "Of course, I'm convenient."

After saying this, Hathaway could feel the discontented look from Leon next to the refrigerator not far away.

However, Hathaway secretly sighed with relief and asked Ashley, "Ashley, why are you calling me?"

Ashley spoke with hesitation, "Hathaway, I need your help..."

"Ashley, don't be polite to me. Your business is my business, so don't give me any more courtesies." Hathaway leaned against the edge of the bar and said cheerfully.

Hearing this, Ashley smiled gently, "Okay, I'll be straightforward. Jasmine has just got me a small role in a movie, but since I'm a newcomer in the entertainment circle and I'm not young, no one is willing to style me or the like. After the film starts shooting or is released later, I'll have to attend some big and small events with the crew, so I'd like to ask you to help me with the styling."

Every circle was snobbish, not to mention the entertainment circle.

Ashley was a newcomer in the entertainment circle and not at her prime as an actress. Besides, the Taylors were now in the doldrums, so no one was willing to take on her styling jobs. The crew would style her for the film, but no one would be responsible for it if she attended events in her daily life.

Moreover, if Jasmine hadn't been willing to be her agent, perhaps no agent would have wanted to sign her. It was said that Jasmine had been ridiculed for signing her.

When Nick heard those rumors, he was furious and looked as if he wanted to smash those who mocked her with money, but Ashley soothed him calmly.

This was the path she had chosen. No matter how hard it was, she would go on and make it work, both

for herself and Jasmine.

Hathaway said in surprise, "Ashley, but I've never done styling before. I just specialize in fashion design."

A stylist was a different profession from a fashion designer. A stylist had to be well versed in all aspects, including the hairstyle, make-up, and matching clothes. Hathaway majored in costume design, so she was not confident in styling.

However, Ashley encouraged Hathaway trustingly, "Hathaway, although you haven't done any styling before, you have always had good taste since you were a child. Do you still remember? You used to choose my dresses for every party I attended or for some important occasions, as well as most of the clothes in my wardrobe. Besides, it's all thanks to you that I've never been criticized for the way I dress for so many years, so I'm sure you'll be able to handle the role of stylist now too."

Ashley was telling the truth. Perhaps because Hathaway inherited Cynthia's artistic talent, she had been good at dressing since she was young. Sometimes the clothes that Mrs. Taylor bought for them did not fit them very well, but with Hathaway's skillful hands they were able to transform an ordinary dress into something that would make their sisters stand out.

After Mrs. Taylor discovered Hathaway's talent later, she took them shopping for clothes together and asked Hathaway to choose her clothes, as well as helping Ashley make outfit selections.

This made Abby become more and more jealous of Hathaway. Abby had made mistakes in dressing more than once, but Hathaway and Ashley had always had good taste without being criticized.

That was why when Ashley heard Jasmine apologetically tell her that no one was willing to style her, she thought of Hathaway first.

Because Ashley thought of Hathaway, she didn't want to use anyone else at all. In her eyes, Hathaway was much better than those professional stylists.

Hathaway was embarrassed by Ashley's praise, "But I used to just match our clothes casually, and the occasions you used to attend are different from those in the entertainment circle..."

Ashley was previously a celebrity in the South City. The occasions she attended were limited to those in the business circle or celebrities' gatherings, which were rarely publicized. But every detail would be magnified in the entertainment circle, and Hathaway was not confident enough about this.

CHAPTER 227 BECAUSE OF LOVE

Hathaway could imagine the situation Ashley was in now.

Nowadays, actresses started their careers at a very young age, and many of them were either child stars or came from professional schools, but Ashley had nothing. She could have enrolled in an art school back then, but she had to study economics and finance for the sake of Paul.

Even though she had learned to dance and practice the piano since she was a child, she had never had any experience in playing a role before. It was no wonder that no one paid attention to her when she entered the entertainment circle. What was more, Ashley didn't want to have an open relationship with Nick now, and without the support of his strong financial resources, her path to acting would be even more difficult.

Hathaway wondered how much effort Jasmine had gone through to get Ashley this role and quite admired Jasmine.

So now even though Hathaway didn't have full confidence, she agreed, "Ashley, since you believe in me, I'm willing to be your stylist."

At least she majored in fashion design and had a good sense of fashion and aesthetics, so she should be able to handle it if she took more time to study and train later.

Ashley was happy to hear that, "Hathaway, that's great. I feel more confident at the thought of having you by my side to walk this path with me in the future."

Then Ashley added, "Can you come back in the next few days? Jasmine said there will be an opening ceremony. Although I'm playing a small role, I might have to attend it."

Hathaway couldn't refuse, so she agreed right away, "Okay, I won't go back to Hong Kong but to South City."

After communicating with Ashley about the trip, Hathaway hung up the phone and then leaned against the bar to digest the task ahead of her.

To be honest, Hathaway had never thought of herself as a stylist because her major was only in fashion design. She felt unbelievable that she was invited by Ashley to do her stylist.

Then she thought that a stylist must first dress well herself before she could successfully style others. With her background in fashion design, she would not be a bad stylist. She has a background in fashion design, so it's natural for her to be a good stylist. This thought gave Hathaway confidence. And she hadn't made any mistakes with her dress over the years, which made her more confident.

Leon walked over to pull her into his arms smoothly, looked down at her, and asked softly, "Are you going to be Ashley's stylist?"

Hathaway stiffened in his arms, pushed him away violently, and answered him unnaturally with a step back, "Yes..."

Hathaway had been restored to reason from his kiss earlier, so now Leon's intimate approach made her embarrassed and repelled, "Well, it's getting late. I'm going to bed."

After saying that, she turned to walk towards the bedroom, while Leon called to her from behind, "Hathaway."

Hathaway stopped and heard Leon say steadily, "You are clear about my attitude tonight. I hope you can give it some serious consideration."

After he finished speaking, Hathaway darted into the bedroom without looking back. What did she have to consider? There was nothing for her to consider.

The crux of their relationship had never been about them, but about their parents' feud, especially about Adeline.

He had only spoken of his feelings for her, but he had not said what Adeline would do.

Hathaway lay on the bed for a long time and did not feel sleepy, so she took her phone and sent a message to Leon. They were only separated by a door, but they had to communicate in such a way on this matter.

The night was so quiet that Hathaway could hear Leon's phone ringing outside after her message had passed. She asked him, "What are we going to do now that your mother doesn't like me?"

Leon replied quickly, "As long as I like you."

Hathaway held her phone, pursed her lips, and tried to suppress the throb of her heart.

Before she could make a reply, Leon's text message came, "Her attitude has eased up significantly. Don't worry. Come back to me and I won't let anyone hurt you."

Hathaway threw the phone aside and rolled over on the bed with her hand covering her face.

If another man had given her such a promise, she might not have believed it. But when these words came from Leon's mouth, she believed him that he wouldn't let her be wronged again. She didn't know why, but he had this inexplicable magic that made her trust him.

Because she didn't make a reply, Leon simply knocked on her door, "Hathaway..."

Upon hearing his voice, Hathaway sat up in bed with a sudden jolt and felt her ears going numb from his call of "Hathaway".

She couldn't bear to hear him call her name in a deep and pleasant voice.

"You don't need to give me an answer now, just reply to me when you've thought it over." After that, Leon added, "Go to bed early. Tomorrow's meeting is very intense and you may not be able to adapt."

Leon didn't push Hathaway too much. He had waited for so long, so it wasn't a matter of time.

Perhaps because of Leon's comfort, Hathaway felt less pressure and slept well during the night. However, the next day's full schedule of meetings made her deeply appreciate the hardship and sorrow of people like Leon and the others. From morning to evening, they had been so busy that they barely had the strength to take a sip of water.

Hathaway regretted very much for agreeing to be Leon's assistant secretary and would never do such a thing again in her life.

Taking advantage of the break between rushing from one meeting to another, Hathaway rubbed her forehead that was about to explode and asked Leon, "Don't you feel tired?"

Leon looked at her and replied, "I'm used to it. And I like these, so I won't feel tired anymore."

Before Hathaway could say anything, Leon continued, "It's the same as liking someone. Because of love, I don't feel hard but happy."

Hathaway took a look at him and only wanted to respond with a smile.

He looked like a master of love.

However, she found his words reasonable. Because of love, so he didn't feel hard.

It was just like her love of fashion design. When she was inspired before, she never felt tired even after drawing all night, instead, she only felt a sense of happiness and achievement looking at the drafts she had drawn.

While she was lost in thought, Leon suddenly leaned over. He wrapped his arms around her slender waist, pressed her into his arms, and bowed his head to kiss her.

Hathaway, "..."

Did she promise to be with him again? How could he be so reckless and flirtatious with her?

Besides, they were in a taxi. He was kissing her openly. Didn't he care about his image anymore?

Most importantly, the driver must have thought of them as a kind of nasty and far-fetched illicit relationship between the secretary and the president, right?

CHAPTER 228 HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T HE

Because they were in a taxi, Leon restrained himself a lot and released her after the kiss.

Hathaway was furious, but she couldn't argue with him in front of outsiders and had to hold back her anger until she got out of the car. As soon as she landed on her feet, she glared at Leon, gritted her teeth in anger, and growled, "Leon, I'm warning you. Don't ever make a pass at me like that again. I didn't promise to make up with you."

"Watch out!" Just as Hathaway finished speaking, she heard Leon whisper. Immediately afterward, he reached out to wrap his arms around her waist and pressed her into his arms.

Hathaway, "..."

She had just told him not to make physical contact with her, but now he was hugging her. He did that on purpose, didn't he?

After pushing him away angrily, Hathaway found out that there was water on the road due to the rain last night. They were standing on the roadside, and it splashed a lot of muddy water when a car drove past. Leon hugged her to prevent her from being splashed with water. After all, she wore a white suit today...

Hathaway took a look at the water stains on Leon's leather shoes, and whispered to him awkwardly, "Thank you..."

Then she took out the tissue from her bag and handed it to Leon. It turned out that she gauged Leon's heart with her own mean measure. He didn't mean to hug her.

Leon took a look at her and took the tissue. With one foot on the stone pier next to him, he pulled out a tissue to wipe his shoes and trouser legs. After that, they walked into the conference hall together.

In the evening, Leon had a dinner party, but Hathaway did not have any energy to go to dinner with him. Seeing this, Leon simply said, "I won't go either."

Hathaway felt speechless and asked, "It's not appropriate for you not to go tonight, is it?"

He didn't go to the private party between their businessmen last night, but tonight was a dinner party organized by the mayor of X City, bringing together all the company bosses who had attended the meeting. There was no reason for him not to go. Besides, she heard Leon say that he had booked a flight back to South City tomorrow afternoon, including her ticket.

In that case, he would leave X City tomorrow night, so he couldn't come here and not attend a single dinner.

Hathaway was born in Taylor's and knew how important men's social engagements were in the business circle, so she would not fail to understand Leon's social engagements.

For fear that Leon wouldn't go to the dinner party and she would become "Helen of Troy", she hastened

to persuade him, "Don't worry about me. I'll eat myself."

After saying this, Hathaway was depressed to death. She wanted to take this opportunity to make things difficult for Leon and spoil his project, but now she was worried about his image. She should be pestering him not to go to the dinner party and stay with her in the hotel so that he would leave an impression of being unapproachable to the Mayor of X City and other company bosses.

She was still too kind.

In other words, she cared too much about Leon. Although she kept saying that she wanted to mess with his work, she instinctively chooses to do what was best for him.

Hearing Hathaway's words, Leon stared at her and said, "You're so weak. It's only been one day of intense work, but you're in this state."

Hathaway looked at Leon with wide eyes and was speechless.

His words were too ambiguous, but she couldn't find the words to refuse him even if she was annoyed, simply because it was work-related.

She had never experienced such intense work before. At most, she had stayed up all night to catch up on a manuscript, but after that, she would sleep all day the next day to recuperate, unlike now.

Seeing her speechless look, Leon chuckled and reached out to hold her hand, "I'll take you back to the hotel and order some food for you before leaving."

With that, he ordered the driver to drive them back to their hotel. Hathaway struggled to get her hand out but failed, so she just let him hold it.

After returning to his room, Leon got changed and then went downstairs to the restaurant to order food for Hathaway before going to the dinner party.

Hathaway finished her meal and then threw herself into the bathtub. While she enjoyed her bath, she thought about her relationship with Leon.

They are now ... getting more and more ambiguous.

She found that Leon was not following the rules and even ignored her warnings. She didn't promise him to make up, but he ended up kissing her, holding her hands, and caring for her. Now she had no idea how to deal with Leon, who was cheeky.

When she finished her bath and just got out of the bathtub, she received a call from Leon and heard him say in a deep voice, "Pack your luggage and mine. I'll be right back at the hotel. We'll go back to South City later."

Hathaway heard that he was in a bad mood and instinctively asked with concern, "Did something happen?"

Leon gave her a brief reply, "My mother is not in a good condition."

Hathaway didn't ask more, "I'll pack right away."

After hanging up the phone, Hathaway packed their luggage as soon as possible. About ten minutes later, Leon came back, and then they hurried to the airport with their luggage.

Only when they got into a taxi to the airport did Leon explain to Hathaway with a tired look, "I just received a call that my mother had a car accident."

At this point, Leon pursed his lips and continued, "The car accident did not cause any major injuries to her, but the doctor said she had something growing in her brain and the situation was not optimistic..."

Just when he was attending the dinner party, he received a call from the hospital. Adeline went out to dinner with her friends tonight and suddenly fell in a faint on her way to the car park after dinner. A car just happened to pass by and didn't have time to dodge before hitting her and then she was rushed to the hospital.

The result of the examination revealed that the car accident had only caused her some skin injuries, but the fatal one was something growing in her head.

The doctor's tone was not optimistic. After hanging up the phone, Leon was in no mood to stay at the dinner party, so he said goodbye to the others and hurried back. After all, she was his biological mother and he couldn't leave her alone. Hence, he took Hathaway and rushed back to South City overnight.

Hathaway didn't expect to hear such sad news about Adeline from Leon. Seeing at Leon's nervous face, she softly comforted him, "Don't think too much. We'll figure it out when we get back."

Leon nodded to Hathaway and said nothing more, but she could feel his dismay.

It occurred to her that he had told her bitterly in Hong Kong that he had no home, which made her chest so hard to breathe.

No matter what Adeline had done in the past, she was Leon's mother after all. Now that she was in such a bad state, Hathaway could understand Leon's sadness.

CHAPTER 229 EVEN IF IT'S SYMPATHY, I WANT IT.

On the way to the airport, Leon didn't say anything more, and Hathaway had the sense not to bother him.

She had faced the death of Mrs. Taylor and the hospitalization of Paul due to a stroke, so she could better understand how Leon was feeling at this time.

Such sadness could not be comforted with words, but he could only slowly digest and accept it by himself.

It was only after they boarded the plane that Leon calmed down and turned to look at Hathaway and spoke apologetically, "I'm sorry for dragging you to rush back with me late at night."

Leon knew how tired Hathaway was after following him to the meetings all day today, but if he left alone and let her stay in X City until tomorrow, he would not feel at ease.

Hathaway shook her head, "I'm fine..."

Although she was exhausted, she could not unreasonably say that she was too tired to go when such things happened to Leon.

Leon told her in a hoarse voice, "It's a two-hour flight. Take a nap if you can't hold on."

Hearing his voice, Hathaway could not help but feel distressed. He was still concerned about her even in such a state.

She didn't know what was wrong with her, grabbed Leon's hand, and placed it in her soft palm, "Let's take a nap together. You'll have a lot of things to deal with after you go to the hospital."

Leon looked down at her white hand resting upon him, then looked up at her and said in a self-deprecation tone, "Are you pitying me?"

Hathaway averted her eyes and also wanted to loosen her grip on his hand.

It was no wonder he had such thoughts when she concerned and comforted him at such a sad time. Hathaway was not angry but just felt a little inappropriate.

As a result, Leon clasped her hand tightly with his backhand and murmured, "Even if it's sympathy, I want it."

Hathaway looked up at him in shock. He was a man of high status and position, why did he have to make himself look so pitiful?

Leon did not look at her, just held her hand tightly and leaned back in the chair with his eyes closed, while Hathaway let him hold her hand and explained gently, "I am not sympathetic ... to you."

Hathaway couldn't bear to see him belittle himself like this, so she explained to him. Besides, she wasn't sympathizing with him.

Leon didn't open his eyes and smiled lightly, "You're distressed with me."

Hathaway, "..."

He was a good illustration of what was meant by the phrase "be a good boy after getting a good deal".

As it was getting late, the flight was quiet at night. Both Hathaway and Leon had a short sleep. It was fortunate that there was a flight back to South City tonight. Otherwise, Leon would have had to go back the next day even if he was worried about Adeline's condition.

After arriving at the airport, the driver picked them up and sent Hathaway to the Taylor's before driving Leon to the hospital.

It was late when Hathaway arrived at Taylor's. Paul had gone to bed, and Ashley opened the door for her. Ashley also knew that she went to X City with Leon. She only dared to tell Ashley and hid it from her elders. Ashley asked Hathaway in a low voice, "Why did you come back at midnight?"

Hathaway told her the truth, "Leon's mother had a car accident. He was worried, so we came back."

Then Hathaway added, "It seems like his mother's condition is not optimistic."

Ashley looked at Hathaway and said, "I heard Nick talk about his mother's car accident, but he didn't tell me that it was so serious."

Then she instructed Hathaway, "You should have a good rest anyway."

Hathaway nodded, "Tomorrow tell Dad that you were in a hurry to get styled, so I rushed back overnight."

Ashley laughed, "Don't worry. I've had a lot of experience covering for you since I was a kid, so you won't be exposed."

Hathaway had been naughty since childhood. Probably because her personality was different from the Taylors, and she tried to not upset Paul and his wife for the naughty things she had done, Ashley and Kenny helped her cover up many times, but Ashley didn't think that she would have to cover for Hathaway after they had grown up.

Otherwise, Paul would have been furious again if he found out that Hathaway had gone out with Leon for a few days.

After returned to her room, Hathaway wanted to give Leon a call, but she gave up because she thought that he must be in the hospital discussing Adeline's condition with the doctor and was not available to answer the phone.

When it came to Adeline, Hathaway had a lot of resentment towards her after knowing that she had framed Cynthia and humiliated herself more than once. But thinking about how sad Leon was before, she suddenly couldn't bear to see anything bad happen to Adeline because she didn't want Leon to be sad.

However, Adeline's life had been doomed to end like this.

After Leon arrived at the hospital, Nick received him first and told him about Adeline's condition.

The tumor in Adeline's head was confirmed to be malignant after further tests and had started to spread.

In Nick's office, Leon pursed his lips without saying a word, and Nick continued, "After taking into account Aunt Adeline's physical condition, several authoritative experts unanimously agreed that she is not suitable for surgery anymore."

Adeline had an operation on her heart a few years ago and was admitted to hospital again some time ago. Her health was bad enough, and she was now old. If she were to be operated on again, it might instead destroy her body completely and in serious cases, she might not be able to get off the operating table.

If not, she might be able to survive for a few more months.

Leon was so upset that he took out his cigarette and wanted to smoke one, but he suddenly thought that smoking was banned in the hospital and had to dejectedly put it away. After that, he asked Nick in a hoarse voice, "How long will she live if she doesn't have an operation?"

Nick knew that he was having a hard time. Even though Adeline's previous relationship with Leon was close to a stalemate because of Hathaway, she was still his biological mother.

Moreover, Adeline was in a special situation. She divorced Merlin, and Merlin didn't treat her well, so he would not even come to show his concern for her at this time. All the pressure and pain was put on Leon alone. No one could share it with him, and he had no one to talk to.

Nick knew that Leon was sad now, but he had to say, "More than half a year, or less than a few months. It also depends on her state of mind."

If Adeline had a poor sense of survival, it wouldn't take long for her to pass away.

The disease was certainly scary, it was also important for the patient's will to be strong.

After hearing Nick's words, Leon fell silent again, and Nick reached out to pat him gently on the shoulder, "Go and see Aunt Adeline. Try not to make her angry during this period."

CHAPTER 230 YOU CAN STAY TOGETHER.

Nick's advice caused Leon to purse his lips.

Should he not make Adeline angry? The thing that made Adeline most angry was his entanglement with Hathaway.

Leon did not expect that such a thing happened to Adeline when his relationship with Hathaway had just eased. If Adeline now used her short life to force him to end his relationship with Hathaway, he did not know what he should do.

As Leon's good friend for many years, Nick knew how he felt.

So he added, "I think if Aunt still minds your relationship, you might as well be honest with Hathaway and tell her that you won't contact her for the time being. I believe that a nice girl like her will understand you."

Now Adeline was in such a state, Nick could only advise Leon in this way. Leon could not continue to annoy Adeline at this time, so Hathaway would have to bear the grievance. The reason why Nick said this was because he knew that Hathaway was a sensible girl and could understand why Leon would do this.

Leon felt depressed. He knew that Nick's idea had the best of both worlds, but he neither wanted to make Adeline angry nor did Hathaway bear the grievance.

Without saying a word, he eased his expression and walked towards Adeline's ward.

Adeline's mood was not as low as Leon imagined. After seeing him, she smiled weakly, "I'm sorry, Leon. You know I don't have anyone else to rely on, so I had to call you back overnight."

After she ended her relationship with Merlin, she only had her son to reply.

Adeline did not expect to have such bad luck. In the past, she had always thought that she would die of heart disease that she had once had surgery on, but what was unexpected was a brain tumor.

She had been suffering from headaches for a long time, but she never took it to heart. She only thought that it was caused by her anxiety and worry about Leon's case, and she would be fine as long as she rested well. It had been getting worse over the past few days, and she wanted to take time to go to the hospital for a check-up, but she didn't expect to faint today and then be diagnosed with a brain tumor.

At first, the doctor hid it from her, but she had a hunch that it wasn't a good thing and insisted that the doctor tell her the truth.

She thought she wouldn't be able to bear it, but she didn't feel much when she heard it, perhaps because she had no hope in life as Adeline.

She had done something bad to Cynthia. Recently Cynthia stayed with Carl in South City, while she heard about Cynthia's happiness everywhere. Carl's love for her was a naked irony of Merlin's ruthlessness towards her. Separated from Merlin and estranged from her son, she was a complete loser.

Death might be a relief for her.

Leon came over and sat down by her bedside, saying with a hint of sadness, "Don't say sorry to me. It's my responsibility."

Adeline looked into his tired eye and urged with a smile, "Go back and rest. The nurse will take good care of me."

"I'll stay." Leon insisted and then asked her, "Do you want some water?"

Adeline looked at him and nodded before averting his eyes.

She had always known that he seemed to have no desire, but he was the most stubborn, like in the case of Hathaway and his current insistence on staying to take care of her.

Leon poured a glass of water for Adeline, sat back down, and asked her, "Do you want surgery or conservative treatment?"

After all, life was Adeline's, so Leon had to listen to her opinion before finalizing the treatment plan with the doctor.

Adeline froze for a moment and then said weakly, "No more surgery. I'm afraid that I won't wake up. I have many regrets, like watching you start a family—"

At this point, Adeline suddenly paused, and the eyes of their mother and son met stiffly in mid-air.

Leon's marriage was one of the most acute confrontations they had for a long time, and neither of them would mention it unless absolutely compelled.

Leon was in a heavy mood and didn't want to bring up this topic, so he averted his eyes and comforted Adeline, "Now is not the time to talk about this. You should recuperate and cooperate with the doctor properly."

Adeline stared at Leon with a smile and asked, "Leon, if I force you to marry Bella now with my remaining months of life, will you hate me?"

Hearing this, Leon suddenly looked up at Adeline. Although he did not say a word, she could see the strong disappointment underneath his eyes.

Adeline closed her eyes in despair and slowly said, "If you only want Hathaway, you can be with her."

Leon's expression now changed from disappointment to shock. Adeline opened her eyes to look at him and continued, "Didn't you tell your grandfather that if you missed Hathaway, you might have to wait for the next thirty-two years to meet your true love? Not to mention I can't wait thirty-two years, I can't even wait three years."

Adeline looked down and said, "Leon, before ... it's my fault. You are my son after all, so I hope to see you get married, have children, and live happily before I die."

Adeline was speaking from her heart. After learning that she had such a disease, she had thought a lot.

Leon was her only concern. If he was all right, she would have no regrets even if she died.

When Adeline finished her words, Leon paused and smiled bitterly. Now that she agreed to him being with Hathaway, but he was afraid that Hathaway's family would not agree, especially Carl.

Because Adeline had hurt Cynthia, Carl hated Adeline even more than Cynthia.

Adeline did not force him to marry Bella as she had just said but agreed to him being with Hathaway, which was the best result for him.

He whispered arduously, "Thank you..."

It was not easy for him to wait for Adeline's consent.

Why did people have to change their stubbornness and prejudice when they are in such a desperate situation? If Adeline had agreed to him being with Hathaway from the very beginning, he and Hathaway would have gotten married and Hathaway might not have lost the child in her belly. If she stayed alive for a few more days, she might be able to wait to see her grandchildren born.

However, for now...

Before Adeline left the world, he only guaranteed that he would be able to be with Hathaway smoothly, but he couldn't ensure that Hathaway's family would agree to her marrying him, or that Adeline would see him married.