

Timeless 241

CHAPTER 241 ENTANGLEMEN

Ten minutes after Carl's call, Hathaway received another call from Cynthia.

Cynthia said in an exasperated tone, "Hathaway, persuade your father. He didn't want me to go back to Hong Kong, so he hid all my papers and even now he's lying in bed pretending to be sick. He's not sick, and I know best how healthy he is."

No, Carl's body could not be described as healthy but as robust.

Hathaway was distressed. In other families, parents worried about their children, but in her case, she had to handle her parents' relationship.

But she still conformed Cynthia, "He's too childish."

"Yes," Cynthia said even more excitedly, "he even asked me to get a marriage license with him, and after that, he would agree to my return to Hong Kong. What is he doing?"

Hathaway, "..."

How speechless she was now! Why were these men more childish than one another? Leon was like this, and so was Carl.

"That ... " As a daughter, Carl and Cynthia were both important to her, and she wanted to defend both of them, so she warmly persuade Cynthia, "Getting a marriage license should be voluntary. It was inappropriate for him to threaten you in such a way, but I don't think he's so unreasonable. Maybe he's in a blind alley now. Wait for him to get over it. It's just because he cares about you too much and wants to be with you in name."

Hathaway's comforting words soothed Cynthia's anger a little.

Cynthia knew how much Carl cared for her, but she was annoyed that he was forcing her to get a certificate with him in this way.

Was the certificate important? She was not so eager to get it as a woman, so why was he rushing it? Besides, it didn't matter if they had a marriage certificate at their age.

After finishing the call with Hathaway, Cynthia turned around and went back to the house from the courtyard. Carl was still lying under the blanket and pretending to be sick in the bedroom, while Cynthia ignored him and left with her bag. Upon hearing the sound, Carl quickly got up from the bed and rushed over to grab her wrist, "Where are you going?"

Cynthia didn't look back at him and said coldly, "I'm going out to get some air, so I won't sulk here."

"No!" Carl offered nervously, "I'll go out with you."

Carl did not want Cynthia to go out alone because he was afraid that Cynthia would meet Merlin. Merlin had divorced from Adeline, while he hadn't got his marriage certificate with Cynthia. What if Merlin came to pester Cynthia?

In South City, he took Cynthia out to show his affection these days, just to warn Merlin not to covet Cynthia anymore because he was out of the game a long time ago.

Cynthia took a look at her hand being held by Carl and said indifferently, "Aren't you feeling sick? You'd better rest at home."

Carl slapped himself in the face for pretending to be sick, but he didn't show a bit of embarrassment, held Cynthia's hand tightly, and insisted on going out with her.

Cynthia sneered, "But I'm going out for air because I don't want to see you. If you follow me around, I'll be unhappy."

Cynthia's words were full of dislike for Carl, but he didn't mind at all and came up to her with a smile, "You can put me as the air and your driver."

Cynthia was angry at his shamelessness, ignored him, and turned around to leave the house, while Carl followed with the car key.

Cynthia was going to the villa she had bought last time. The villa was now under renovation, and she had come to see the construction situation. Carl followed behind her, fearing that she would run away from him in anger. On second thought, her papers were all hidden by him, she could not escape anywhere.

During the half morning at the construction site, Cynthia didn't say a word to Carl.

Carl panicked and realized that Cynthia was really angry, so he hurriedly took her out of there and wrapped her in his arms to coax her, "I was wrong."

Seeing Cynthia looking down, Carl continued to apologize without dignity, "I won't dare to do this again. I'll listen to whatever you say. Since you don't want to get a license, we won't."

Cynthia remained silent with her lips pursed. At this point, Carl regretted what he had done.

He knew that it was too hasty to force her to get a license, but he wanted to be legally married to her.

"I'll go home right away to find all your papers and return them to you." Carl's trembled with nervousness. What if she were to break up with him in anger? Then he would lose more than he gained.

In the end, Carl had to compromise unconditionally and would never ask her to get a license again. As long as she stayed by his side, he would be satisfied.

After watching Carl panic for quite a long time, Cynthia looked up at him and said faintly, "Let's go get a license as you said."

"What?" Carl froze there, looking comical from being too shocked.

He would never have imagined that one moment he was regretful and wanted to show her his heart to beg for her forgiveness, but the next moment she agreed to get a license with him. This huge difference shocked Carl for a while, and he thought that she had misheard.

Cynthia snorted, "Forget it if you don't."

After saying that, she deliberately turned around and walked away, while Carl came back to his senses and dragged her into his arms, "I do! How can we not get a license? Let's go home right now to take our papers and then go get the marriage license with it!"

Because he was so happy, he suddenly picked her up and spun her around in place, "Eve, I found you've become cunning. You scared me on purpose."

When he saw Cynthia keep her cold face in silence, he was so frightened that he almost had a heart attack.

When Carl hugged her and spun her around, Cynthia's face turned red because her villa was now under renovation, and many workers were busy working in and out of the site, or some could see them through the window. Cynthia buried herself in Carl's arms out of shame and pinched him hard.

Half the morning passed, and she calmed down a lot. She was involved with him in this life anyway, so she might as well be entangled with him forever.

CHAPTER 242 WE WON'T BE INAPPROPRIATE!

When Hathaway hesitated to ask Carl and Cynthia out for lunch to help them ease their relationship, she received a call from Carl. He said that he and Cynthia had gotten their marriage license and asked her to go to their place for dinner tonight to celebrate. He also asked Albert and Jessica to join them, so they would have a family celebration.

Hathaway didn't get it at the moment and asked in confusion, "What? Did you ... got a license? My mum ... isn't she angry?"

Hathaway couldn't keep pace with her parents. Cynthia had called her earlier to complain about Carl forcing her to get a license, but why did they suddenly get a license now?

"Alright, talk to you later, I'm going to buy a ring with your mum. Remember to come back on time and

celebrate for us tonight." Carl said excitedly, without any intention of giving her a detailed explanation, and hung up the phone after saying that. Hathaway sat holding her phone for a while and laughed helplessly. However, she was overjoyed. For Carl and Cynthia's marriage, she should be the happiest one apart from the two people involved, because it meant that she had another complete and warm family.

Hathaway was often grateful to God for allowing her to have the warmth of two families, the love of two sets of parents, and so many family members on both the Taylors and the Feyrers.

She and Carl were surprisingly similar in this regard. They both liked to look forward rather than dwell on the unnecessary past. Carl didn't care about being separated from Cynthia for so many years, and Hathaway also didn't care about their absence from her life during those years. It was enough for their father and daughter to know that they would be happy in the future.

Near the end of the working day, Leon called Hathaway and asked her to have dinner together tonight, "We had lunch together yesterday, so it's not too tiresome to have dinner together tonight, right?"

Hathaway sighed, "But I'm going to eat at home tonight. It's a must because my parents have gotten their marriage license and need us back to celebrate for them."

After Hathaway finished her words, Leon didn't say anything for no other reason than the fact that Carl and Cynthia had gotten their marriage license. This was a big blow to Leon. He desperately wished that he could get a license with Hathaway soon as well.

Hathaway thought that he was depressed because she couldn't have dinner with him and said apologetically, "I'm sorry, but I have to attend such an occasion as a daughter."

After Hathaway said that, Leon couldn't say anything else, so he responded in a low voice and asked her, "Where is your ring? Since we have made up now, would it be more appropriate for you to wear it?"

Hathaway couldn't help but smile, "Only people who are engaged or married wear rings. We're just in love now."

Hathaway didn't want to discourage him, but that was the reality.

Leon protested discontentedly, "The ultimate goal of our reconciliation is to get married, so feel free to wear the ring."

Hearing his words, Hathaway, who wanted to change the waistline design of one of Ashley's dresses, put down her sketching pen and answered him seriously, "Plans always fall behind changes. We can't be sure we'll get to the point of marriage. Perhaps you can't stand me soon or I can't stand you. Then we will go our separate ways."

Hathaway was not being alarmist. They might not make it to the end.

They used to be lovers based on many factors. In reality, they hadn't spent much time with each other and didn't know much about each other's daily habits, so they might find that they couldn't get along in many ways after this serious love relationship. In that case, a breakup was inevitable.

How many unforgettable love affairs in this world had been lost in the day-to-day plain life?

Hathaway had always been open-minded. It was not that she was heartless towards Leon. On the contrary, she had a deep love for him and also wanted them to be together forever. However, she felt that if they had no chance to be together one day, they shouldn't make a big fuss to hate each other but break up peacefully.

Leon wasn't that open-minded and gritted his teeth in anger, "You're trying to piss me off, aren't you?"

Hathaway explained, "Leon, since I agreed to be with you, I hope we're better off, but also I think we should be sensible about our relationship. In case we are not suitable—"

Before Hathaway could finish her words, Leon interrupted her in a firm tone, "We won't be inappropriate!"

Leon's attitude made Hathaway speechless for a moment, and he insisted, "Take out your ring and wear it, or I will buy you a new one."

Hearing this, Hathaway quickly compromised, "Okay, I'll wear my ring."

She felt helpless towards him. Given what she knew about his sultry disposition, she was afraid he would give her another huge diamond ring like the one Carl gave her if he bought her a ring.

She didn't want it because she couldn't wear it out daily.

Leon made another request, "Tomorrow we have to meet for dinner anyway."

They hadn't seen each other all day, and Leon felt that today was like a year.

He had a stance of not hanging up until she agreed to him, so Hathaway had to comply with him.

As soon as Cynthia agreed to get the license, Carl drove her home to get their papers and then went straight to the Civil Affairs Bureau to get their marriage license before the staff got off work at noon.

Carl first informed his children to go home to celebrate with them at night and then took Cynthia to buy a ring, but Cynthia didn't want to go, "You don't need to buy a new ring. Didn't you give me one before?"

Cynthia was not a person who paid much attention to these things, and since she had decided to marry him, she would care less about these.

But Carl disagreed, "That ring was for a proposal, and my proposal failed, so it can't be considered a wedding ring."

Carl took a look at her slender fingers and said, "Besides, you don't usually wear that ring. Let's go and buy one for your daily wear, and you'll choose it yourself this time."

Before Cynthia could say anything, Carl started the car and drove her to the mall.

Cynthia was helpless about it, but the final shopping result made her even more helpless. Carl not only bought her a ring, but also a full set of other jewelry. He almost moved the entire jewelry shop to her. In the end, Cynthia almost fled amidst the envious gazes of the shop assistants. If she had known that he was so excited, she wouldn't have gotten a license with him.

CHAPTER 243 UNTIL FINALLY YOU

As their daughter, Hathaway prepared a gift for them. It wasn't something expensive but a video clip she had made about Carl and Cynthia.

Since she met them, Hathaway had a lot of sweet and loving pictures of them on her phone, as well as selfies with them. She even tried to ask Albert for some old photos, but she didn't expect Albert to give her so many photos. Once she saw them, she knew that they were pictures of Evelyn (Cynthia's former name) taken secretly by Carl many years ago, with all kinds of expressions.

The photos recorded her happiness, loss, and sadness, so it could be said that Evelyn's daily emotions were all under his control. Looking at those photos, Hathaway could feel Carl's deep love for Evelyn, and a warm rose on her heart.

If Carl did not have such a deep love for Cynthia, if Cynthia had hated and loathed Carl after their reunion, and if they were not together so sweetly now, she would not have such warm feelings for them as their daughter. But now that they loved each other and also loved her so much, what else could she be picky about?

Hathaway spent most of the afternoon editing the video and thinking of a name for it "Until Finally You".

Until finally I didn't give up on you

Happiness doesn't come easily

More people will cherish

Hathaway didn't expect that the video she brought would cause Cynthia and Jessica to cry on the spot. Carl was surprised to see the photos he had secretly taken of Cynthia and then glared at his son, while Albert rubbed his nose embarrassedly and reached out to hug Jessica, who was moved to tears and her makeup was smudged.

Hathaway was moved during the video editing, but she didn't expect Cynthia and Jessica to cry.

Jessica nestled in Albert's arms and sobbed, "Daddy and Aunt Cynthia's story is so touching."

Then she complained about Hathaway, "It's all your fault. I put on beautiful make-up today, but now it's smudged."

As she was here to celebrate Carl and Cynthia's marriage license, Jessica thought she should solemnly put on makeup to show her respect to them, but she was moved to tears by Hathaway's video and her makeup was ruined as soon as she arrived here.

Albert glanced down at the girl crying like a little cat in his arms and said, "Hurry up and wash it all off. You are beautiful without makeup."

Hathaway spread her hands helplessly. Did they consider her feelings when they showed their love?

Cynthia's eyes were red from crying, but she thanked Hathaway feelingly, "Hathaway, thank you. I like this gift."

After saying that, she pretended to look at Carl with dissatisfaction, "You had someone follow me and snapped pictures of me before!"

It was only when Cynthia saw her old photos that she first learned that Carl had done such a thing. Those photos took her back to the past, and she couldn't help but shed tears when she looked at herself with various expressions in the photos. Perhaps it wasn't aboveboard for him to secretly photograph of her, but now she only knew that she was so sweet to see those pictures.

The feeling of being genuinely cared about was beautiful.

Carl's heart said guiltily, "I was afraid that you were in danger..."

At that time, he came to her and she ignored him. She even cried in fear when he pestered her too much. He didn't want her to cry every day, but he wanted to see her every day, so he asked his men to help him take pictures of her daily routine and also ensure her safety. She had just broken up then, devoted herself to her work, and often worked overtime to go home late, so how could he feel at ease?

Then Albert presented them with a gift from him and Jessica. It was a Maldives luxury honeymoon tour package.

Cynthia blushed at the sound of the word "honeymoon", but Carl was overjoyed and immediately looked at Albert with fondness, not caring that he had privately exposed his photos and caused him to be worried. He took the tickets and patted Albert's shoulder, "Thank you."

Albert's arrangement was very considerate. He bought them tickets with a connecting flight through Hong Kong, so Cynthia could stay in Hong Kong for a while and deal with some work there. After her work was all settled, she would go out on her honeymoon with Carl without any worries.

Cynthia was touched and did not expect a man like Albert to be so considerate. Speaking of it, he was like his father, Carl. They were the kind of people who look broad-brush but were gentle and considerate. She could see that Carl had taught him well.

The five of them sat down at the table and began to eat. Carl valued Cynthia most, kept adding dishes to her, and asked her if she tasted right because all the dishes on the table were cooked by Carl. Next, he started to treat his daughter Hathaway and his lovely daughter-in-law with care and hospitality.

As for his son, Albert, he was completely forgotten. He poured water, wine, and soup for himself throughout the meal.

He was depressed and wondered if he had a daughter with Jessica and Hathaway also gave birth to a daughter after marriage, would he not completely worthless in this family?

So Albert felt that he was going to ask for a few prescriptions for a son, not for the sake of carrying on the family line, but just to have a son out to be ignored with him.

When dinner was almost finished, Carl thought that he would leave South City for a while and turned to ask Hathaway seriously, "Leon isn't pestering you anymore, is he?"

Hathaway was vain for a moment and then reached to stroke her hair on her forehead to hide her guilty, "No, he goes his way, and I'll go mine."

Hathaway was lying through her teeth. Now the message that Leon sent to her ten minutes ago was still on her phone. Because Leon was not satisfied that he had not seen her all day today, he had just asked her in the message to tell him when she left after dinner. Then he was going to find her for a date.

He didn't dare to go straight here and would meet her halfway.

Hathaway felt that they were like an underground meeting, and why did he want to date in the middle of the night?

Carl grunted, "That's good."

Then he added, "If Leon dares to pester you again, tell your brother to break his legs, and he will dare not to pester you."

Hathaway, "..."

Albert was drinking his soup and choked at the sound of this. Leon was now very influential in South

City, so he didn't want to be at loggerheads with him. In the long run, he thought he had better get along with Leon.

Of course, it would be better if they could be doubly related by marriage between Leon and Hathaway.

CHAPTER 244 MIDNIGHT DATE

After dinner, everyone was laughing and joking in the living room, while Hathaway's mobile phone rang again and again.

Hathaway deliberately pretended not to hear it. When it first rang, she glanced at it and knew that Leon sent her a text message urging her on, "Have you finished eating? When are you coming out?"

Hathaway hurriedly texted him to wait, and then Leon started urging her after not seeing her for a long time.

But Hathaway couldn't reply to him, as several pairs of eyes were fixing on her, and they were talking about the important topic of whether Carl and Cynthia should have a wedding.

According to Carl's intention, he wanted to hold a big wedding and let the whole world know that he married his beloved woman, but Cynthia did not want to.

Cynthia felt that what she had now was enough and didn't want to make a big deal out of having a wedding at this age. Besides, she had always been a low-key and subtle person, so she thought that a license was enough. If Carl hadn't cared so much about it, she wouldn't have even considered getting a license.

Albert and Hathaway both thought that Carl would insist on holding a wedding with his flamboyant personality, but Carl pondered for a while and made a decision, "We won't hold it."

Albert, Hathaway, and Jessica were all surprised to hear it, while Carl put his arm around Cynthia and explained to them with a smile, "Marriage and wedding is the biggest event in our life, so it depends on your mother's will. Since she doesn't want to, we won't hold it, as long as she's happy."

Hathaway kindly reminded him, "It's also your wedding, and your will is also important."

Carl waved his hand and replied, "My will is not important. I'm very lucky to marry your mother. As long as she's happy, I'm willing to be subservient to her and do as she wishes for the rest of my life."

When Carl's sweet words popped out, several people other than himself were shocked.

Cynthia seemed calm. After all, they had lived together for some time after she reunited with Albert, and she was slowly getting used to Carl's affectionate, fleshy, and sweet words.

But the youngsters couldn't take it anymore. Jessica was the first to speak, stared at Albert with a grimace, and protested, "It's so unfair. Why does Daddy have a high emotional quotient and can say sweet words? Why is Daddy so good at loving and coaxing Aunt Cynthia? But how come all you do is yell at me?"

Albert's head was about to explode. Could people be the same?

Besides, when had he ever yell at her? Didn't he treat her like a treasure most of the time? Sometimes she had to challenge his authority to make him angry, wasn't he allowed to be angry?

Hathaway spread her hands helplessly, "Dad, I think if you continue like this, I might not be able to get married in my life, because you are my reference for finding a husband. If he is not as good as you, I will not agree to marry him."

Then she turned to look at Jessica with a smile, "You are trying to ruin the lifelong happiness of your son and daughter."

Albert agreed with Hathaway's words, but Carl had his arm around Cynthia and waved his hand, "I can't care about you guys. I'm only responsible for myself and your mother."

Hathaway and Albert glanced at each other in depression and read each other's inner despair. Maybe they were the children Carl had picked up.

Hathaway took this opportunity to get up and said, "I'm going back. I don't want to watch you show your love."

Seeing her get up to say goodbye, Albert and Jessica also left together. Irritated by Carl's behavior, Jessica angrily shook off Albert's hand and went out first after saying goodbye to Carl and Cynthia.

Albert reached out to pinch his forehead and thought to himself that he would teach her a lesson when they returned home later.

After Hathaway drove away from Carl's place, she first called Leon, and he asked her to go to the beach. He was waiting there and then warned her, "I've waited for you most of the night. If you don't treat me well later, I'll punish you."

This was a hint to Hathaway that he would not spare her if she did not give him a hot kiss.

Hathaway drove and replied to him sullenly, "Leon, you are so childish?"

Leon chuckled, "In my thirty-two years of life, the word 'childish' has never been associated with me."

Leon didn't intentionally make jokes. He indeed had a mature-minded and calm personality from childhood to adulthood. Even as a kid he was still stable, and no one around him had ever called him

childish for so many years.

Whether in his private life or at work, outsiders would use the term "calm and wise" to describe his behavior and his style of handling things.

This was the first time Leon heard the comment of being childish.

Hathaway burst into laughter, "Does the word 'childish' not fit you? But do I think you're just childish?"

Leon insisted, "You must have had an illusion."

Hathaway didn't bother to argue with him, "Hang up first. I'll be right there."

After ending the call, Leon put his phone away and smiled. He admitted that his behavior was biased in front of Hathaway and different from his usual calm and restrained appearance in front of outsiders, but he only behaved this way with her.

Because he knew that she cared and cherished him, he could be reckless, capricious, and childish.

Of course, she could also do the same in front of him, and he would tolerate and accept all of it.

She was the woman he would be with for the rest of his life, so he had to show her his true self.

A while later, Hathaway arrived here. It was quite late at night and there were not many people in the car park. She found Leon's car and parked it in the space next to his. As the light was a bit dim at night, Leon got out of his car with a cigarette in his mouth and stood by to help her see if she parked properly.

After turning off the engine, Hathaway pulled out her car key briskly, got out of the car, and walked towards him, while Leon opened his arms towards her.

Hathaway didn't expect him to shamelessly ask for a hug, but she couldn't bear to let him down, walked over to snuggle into his arms and let him hold her firmly. It was summer but the beach was a bit cold at night. After pressing herself against Leon, Hathaway sighed comfortably that the temperature of the man's body was so warm.

When she looked up at him and was about to say something, he lowered his head and kissed her soft lips.

CHAPTER 245 MIDNIGHT DATE 02

Leon released Hathaway after the kiss. Hathaway felt the faint taste of tobacco in her lips and couldn't help but glance at the cigarette burning in Leon's hand, but she didn't say anything.

She was not a picky person and knew how to respect other people's habits.

But Leon saw her subtle expression and immediately let go of her and turn to walk to the nearby bin to put out the cigarette. After that, he walked back seriously apologized to her, "I'm sorry for not taking your feelings into consideration just now."

As he said this, he reached out to embrace her apologetically and sighed, "I just missed you so much that I couldn't help myself..."

He forgot that he was smoking a cigarette and went straight to kiss her, just because he wanted to relieve his longing for her after not seeing her for a day with such a kiss.

His explanation and sincere apology instantly removed the unpleasantness from her mind. He was too selfish and egotistical if he didn't even notice her discomfort.

So she smiled and shook her head, "It's okay."

"Hathaway." Leon looked down at her and said seriously, "If you don't like me smoking, I can quit it. But I am under too much pressure from so many work affairs to face every day and sometimes I need to smoke a cigarette to relieve stress or to calm myself down, so this may be a difficult project. Please ... give me some time."

At this point, Leon wore a grave expression as if he had made a difficult but firm decision. Looking at his expression, Hathaway couldn't help but laugh in surprise and then said to him helplessly, "You don't need to be so nervous. I didn't say I disliked you smoking, nor do I intend to ask you to quit smoking."

She could accept him kissing her after he smoked, but the smell of cigarettes was a bit strong when he was smoking one minute and kissing her the next. If he could take a break before kissing her later, she had no problem with that.

As the president of the Davis Group, Leon smoked not only to release stress but also to socialize with men in the business circle, including drinking, so Hathaway never wanted to interfere with these aspects of Leon's life. Besides, she thought that Lu Nancheng would not smoke too much and get drunk all day as a tactful man.

Leon had a good grasp of the balance, and Hathaway admitted that he was sensible, restrained, and mature in this regard, so he did not have to be nervous to say that he wanted to quit smoking because of the look she just gave him.

Leon was surprised by Hathaway's attitude, and at the same time, he felt that she was too sensible and reasonable.

At first, he thought that Hathaway was a girl who had nothing but beauty, like most of the celebrity girls he knew in South City. But after getting along with her, he realized that she not only had a beautiful face and talent, but also a delicate heart.

She enjoyed crowds but was never high-profile, and she was saucy and vivacious but never out of place.

She was like a good book that you couldn't stop reading after one page.

For example, in this case of tonight, if it were any other girl, she would have made a fuss with him, or taken the opportunity to him not to smoke any more.

But she didn't do that. She just said with a faint smile that it didn't matter and reassured him that he didn't have to quit smoking.

How could he not love such a girl deeply?

So he insisted, "I have to quit when we're ready to have children later, I might as well start getting used to it slowly no. I will smoke less."

Leon did not want to say that he would quit soon to make her happy. That was unrealistic, and he was not willing to cajole her.

After they lost their child last time, Leon was sad and looked to himself for reasons at the same time. He thought that maybe because he didn't stop smoking and drinking, the fetus was not strong enough in her body and then aborted when she fell.

If it were another pregnant woman, she would have lost the baby after being pushed down like this. It had nothing to do with his or Hathaway's body. But because Leon cared too much, he started to be careful and think that he must quit smoking and drinking in advance if they were going to have a child next time.

Hearing him suddenly mention having a child, Hathaway paused, and after coming to her senses, she looked away and whispered, "It's a bit early to mention this..."

The loss of her last child had left a heavy shadow in her heart, so she was a bit reluctant to talk about it.

Leon understood her sorrow and stopped the topic at the right time, but his grip on Hathaway's hand tightened a bit.

He was also sad at the mention of this topic, so he would never let this happen to them again anyway.

They then walked along the beach holding hands, and Leon broke the silence, "I've taken my mother home. If you are free tomorrow, let's go back and have dinner with her, okay?"

Because Leon had told Hathaway about arranging a dinner with Adeline, she didn't feel repulsed when she heard Leon say that and readily agreed, "Sure."

"Noon or evening?" Leon asked her, and Hathaway thought about it, "Noon."

"Can't it be in the evening?" Leon preferred the evening. After pausing in his steps, he turned to look at her and said in a warm tone, "If it's in the evening, we can spend more time together after dinner."

Hathaway explained, "I'll go to attend a banquet with Ashley in the evening..."

Leon stood there with his lips pursed and stared at her unhappily, "Hathaway, I feel like I'm the least important one in your heart right now."

Tonight she said that she was going to celebrate his parents' marriage license by running off to dinner with them. And she also said that she was going to a party with Ashley tomorrow night. When could her time belong to him as her boyfriend?

Hathaway smiled guiltily, "How can you be the least important?"

Hathaway was indeed going to a party with Ashley tomorrow night. Jasmine had helped Ashley get the chance and brought her into the business by this.

Of course, the reason why Hathaway chose to have dinner with Leon and Adeline at noon tomorrow was that she had her thoughts in mind. She felt that it was too dangerous to stay with Leon for a long time at night. Wasn't she almost bullied by him when he asked her to sleep with him for a while?

To quickly divert Leon's attention, she reached out to hook her hand around Leon's neck and coaxed him, "Let me tell you good news. My parents are leaving South City tomorrow to prepare for their honeymoon trip, so it will be easier for us to see each other."

(To be continued)

CHAPTER 246 REGULATING HIMSELF

Once Carl left South City, the probability of her and Leon being found together was reduced by 50 percent, so Hathaway only would have to deal with Paul during this time.

Because Paul was just recovering from a serious illness, he didn't have much energy to pay attention to these things. However, Carl was in good health and always took Cynthia to party with his friends, so he might catch her dating Leon one day.

Upon hearing that Carl was leaving, he was distracted, but when he heard that Carl was leaving for his honeymoon with Cynthia, he was instantly unhappy.

His future father-in-law was enjoying love sweetly and happily, first getting his license and now going on his honeymoon. However, he even could not disclose his relationship with Hathaway. The difference in their treatment was too great, who else could be happy standing in his position?

Now even Nick was treated better than him. At least Nick had the approval of Paul and the others, while he...

Hathaway didn't expect Leon to be thinking about this and asked him in confusion, "Why aren't you happy to hear this good news at all?"

Hathaway was joyful when she heard Albert say that he gave Carl and Cynthia a Maldives luxury honeymoon tour package. Now she first told Leon the good news, but he didn't react.

Suddenly, Leon looked at her, raised his eyebrows, and asked, "Shall I pick you up and take you to my place after dinner tomorrow?"

Hathaway glared at him and said hurriedly, "I'm living in Taylor's now. My dad will interfere if I stay out at night."

It wasn't like before when she had deliberately approached him and Paul had turned a blind eye to what she was doing. After all that had happened, Paul rejected him as much as Carl did, so she wouldn't dare stay out at night. Although Paul was gentle and loved her, he would break her legs when he got angry.

Leon snorted, "It's the same whether they leave or not."

Hathaway couldn't see the original cold and aristocratic man being so childish in front of her now, so she came up with a mischievous idea. She frivolously hooked the man's chin with her slender hand and deliberately teased, "President Davis, is there any point in thinking about those things in your mind all day?"

Leon couldn't help laughing at her sudden molestation, but he still asked her in an innocent tone, "What am I thinking about?"

Hathaway was embarrassed to say those impure thoughts in his mind, "Just those things."

Leon continued to play innocent, "What?"

Hathaway glared at him in anger, while Leon chuckled and held her hand that was put under his chin, "Can't you stay with me alone? Even if we don't do anything, just stay together."

Hathaway pursed her lips and said, "I don't believe you're so pure."

Leon answered, "I once had a pure conversation with you under a blanket."

When they shared a room in X City, and he once sent her home for a nap, they hadn't done anything, had they?

Hearing this, Hathaway didn't know what to say.

But she felt that it was kind of fun and warm for them to argue like this.

Otherwise, how boring it would be if they stayed together without communication.

For Leon, the only occasion that he could talk a lot before this was at the business negotiation table, but he talked less at any other time because he wasn't a talker and found it pointless to talk to those people. Now there was one more occasion for him to talk a lot when he was with Hathaway.

After they strolled along the nearby beach, it was getting late, so Hathaway had to hurry back.

Before leaving, Leon wrapped his arm around her waist to kiss her and then let her go back to her car. Through her rolled down car glass, Leon stood there with deep eyes and declared, "If I can't take it anymore One day, I will disclose our relationship."

Hathaway ignored him, rolled up the window, and drive away. Leon drove after her until he saw her return to the Taylor's safely, and only then did he return to his home, the original Davis', where Adeline had been living since her divorce. As Adeline was now in such a state, Leon decided to stay with her.

After all, she didn't have much time left. Leon got over it, since the ending cannot be changed, he would try his best to meet all of Adeline's demands during the last days of her life, so that she could leave without any regrets. This way he did not fail them as mother and son.

Leon had hired a 24-hour caregiver for Adeline at home. To avoid suspicion, he specially asked Nick to help him hire a middle-aged female caregiver who was about Adeline's age. On the one hand, this caregiver could talk to Adeline, and on the other hand, and she could avoid unnecessary troubles caused by those young caregivers staying in the house and having inappropriate thoughts about him.

Nick teased him, " You want not even a female mosquito around you."

Leon's assistant was Warren, a man, and in the secretary's office, all the other employees were men except for a few older women.

The reason why he chose a middle-aged caregiver this time was not all for Hathaway's sake. He had always lea an honest and clean life before, and now that he had reconnected with Hathaway, he would try his best to avoid any flirtation with other women.

If a man liked a girl and wanted to be with her for a lifetime, he would not need others to regulate his behavior but instinctively regulate himself. Of course, those men who are double-minded would not consciously do so.

Some men wanted to sleep with as many women as possible in their lives, Some men were with women just to relieve their loneliness, and some men get married just to complete the task of starting a family.

There was one kind of man who married a woman because he loved her. After falling in love with her, he felt that she was the best in the world, and all other women paled in comparison to her.

Leon belonged to the latter, so he would never look at another woman after he fell in love with Hathaway.

Nick sighed, "I would like to learn from you and stay away from those annoying women around me, but reality doesn't allow it. People in our hospital can't be all men, right?"

Hospitals were different from companies. The company was a little more personalized. Although it was unrealistic to have no women in the whole company, at least Leon could replace all the people around him with male staff or some older women. He was different in the hospital because he couldn't replace all his colleagues around him with men.

Hospitals were for curing the sickness and saving the patient. As long as they were the best in each department, he had to keep them regardless of gender. The worst part was that nurses were the mainstay of the hospital.

Therefore, Nick envied Leon for not having other women around to disturb him.

CHAPTER 247 HATHAWAY THINKS LEON IS A PERFECT MAN.

Leon returned home and heard the caregiver say that Adeline had gone to bed, so he turned upstairs and went back to his room.

When he came out from the shower, Merlin called him and said in an obscure tone, "I heard ... that your mother is sick, is that true?"

Leon didn't tell anyone about Adeline's illness, including Merlin and Hale.

"Yes," Leon responded indifferently and truthfully, "the doctor said she doesn't have much time left."

Merlin fell into silence on the other end of the line.

A while later, he murmured to himself, "I am sorry for her..."

Leon said lightly, "A man's character is destiny, so you don't need to feel sorry for her. Your character and hers predestined you to end up like this together."

If Merlin hadn't been indecisive and couldn't bear the pressure from his family to marry Adeline, whom he didn't love, and if Adeline hadn't stubbornly insisted on this marriage, they would have ended up in a different place now. It was not one person's fault that they had come to this point, so Adeline didn't need to feel sorry.

Leon was not consoling Merlin, but just telling the truth.

Merlin asked Leon tentatively, "Do you think she can accept it if I go to see her?"

"If you want to see her, come over tomorrow at noon. Hathaway will also be here, and we will have lunch together." Leon said this to indirectly tell Merlin that since Adeline could even accept Hathaway now, she could also accept his visit.

Merlin asked in surprise, "Has your mother accepted Hathaway?"

No wonder Merlin was shocked by Adeline's acceptance of Hathaway, it was because he knew better than anyone how paranoid Adeline was after living with her for so many years. It was more painful for her to accept Hathaway, Evelyn's daughter than to kill her, but now she accepted...

"Yes." Leon made only a curt reply and didn't explain much.

"Okay, I will come to you tomorrow at noon," Merlin replied to him and then ended the call.

Merlin learned of Adeline's serious illness through his friend in the hospital. After all, they had been husband and wife. No matter how much he disliked Adeline, he had never thought that she would suddenly not have much time left, so he thought about it and decided to visit her.

Perhaps it was true that people would let go of many things instantly in the face of life and death.

The grudges and hatreds that you once thought you would never let go of in this life would disintegrate with death. After all, these were trivial matters when compared to life and death, weren't they?

For example, Adeline disliked Cynthia and Hathaway, and Merlin resented Adeline.

The next morning Leon told Adeline that Merlin wanted to see her, she gave a self-deprecating smile but then agreed, "Let him come here. This is sort of you taking Hathaway to formally meet your parents."

When Leon brought Hathaway to meet them last time, she had a cold face all through. That was not an unpleasant memory.

If she didn't make up for it while she was alive, she was afraid that he would have regrets at the thought of the experience later.

In the morning, Hathaway sent Carl and Cynthia to the airport with Albert, while Jessica had to go to school and could not go with them. Cynthia had nothing to say to Hathaway because she knew that she didn't need to worry about Hathaway living in the Taylor's. She had been living happily in that warm home for more than 20 years, so why should she say more?

On the contrary, Carl uneasily admonished Albert, "Keep an eye on Leon, and don't let him get close to

Hathaway."

As soon as Albert received this task, he gave Hathaway a sly glance. Immediately, she guiltily hastened to tug on Carl's arm and pouted, "Why are you giving him a hard time? His task is not to keep an eye on me but Jessica."

Judging from the way Albert looked at her, Hathaway deeply suspected that he knew something.

Carl wanted to say more, but Cynthia interrupted and urged him, so Carl had to leave with her.

What Cynthia didn't understand was that Carl always talked about giving freedom to the two children, but she didn't see him giving freedom to Hathaway, instead, he forbade her to have any contact with Leon. According to her sixth sense as a woman, Cynthia felt that Hathaway and Leon would probably not break their connection.

Here was the question, wouldn't he be furious if Hathaway made up with Leon?

After sending off his parents, Albert drove Hathaway back.

Hathaway felt guilty and looked down at her phone.

While driving, Albert suddenly asked her, "Where were you between 9:00 and 9:40 last night?"

Upon hearing this, Hathaway, who was playing her phone, shook her hand in shock. Then she burst into a laugh, turned to look at Albert, and protested, "Do you think you are interrogating a prisoner?"

However, she knew that since Albert had asked this question, he must have known about her date with Leon last night, so she admitted it generously, "Now that you know it, why are you asking me?"

Albert did know about her date with Leon last night and easily guessed that they were now having an underground affair without the knowledge of their families.

But Albert was quite surprised by this. Was Leon so charming that she dared to hide it from her family to be with him?

As a man, he was unconvinced and continued to ask, "What attracted you to him?"

Without thinking, Hathaway replied, "He is a perfect man."

Albert, "..."

He took a deep breath and teased her, "Did you inherit our father's cheekiness?"

Hathaway argued disapprovingly, "Do you think you're reserved? If you weren't cheeky, could you have

gotten Jessica, a college girl, to be your wife?"

Albert was choked with anger and thought to herself, 'I married Jessica not because of my cheekiness but my charm, do you know?'

When Hathaway succeeded in deflating Albert, she laughed happily and then explained why she liked Leon in a brisk tone, "The premise is that he is handsome, well-built, and rich. As for his personality, he can be salty or sweet."

Albert couldn't hear her last sentence and protested in disgust, "What does 'salty or sweet' mean? Talk properly."

"Are you kidding me?" Hathaway laughed in surprise, "You have a two-dimensional wife, but don't you even know what that means?"

Albert didn't want to admit that he didn't know what "two-dimensional" meant either and just gave Hathaway a cool look, while Hathaway kindly explained, "The meaning of 'salty or sweet' is that a man is not only handsome, cool, and domineering, but also cute and soft."

Albert exclaimed, "Do you think Leon is like that?"

"Of course." Hathaway thought that this word was very suitable for Leon. He was cold and domineering in public but pretentious and cute in private.

She liked the way he behaved. Although he was a bit childish, this was who he was.

CHAPTER 248 SHE WANTS TO LOVE HIM WITH HER HEART.

Looking at Hathaway's convinced expression, Albert suspected that his old acquaintance, Leon, might be an impostor.

In his impression, Leon was one of the most outstanding young talents in South City, and his excellence was based on certain means. As for Leon's tactics in the business, Albert felt that the words "decisive" or even "ruthless" were not enough to describe it. But now Hathaway said he was cute and soft...

Not to mention this, Albert had never seen Leon smile in all the years he had known him. What he said was a heartfelt and genuine smile an official and false smile.

After calming down, Albert asked the most crucial question, "Did his mother agree?"

Although Albert just argued with Hathaway, he was very concerned about Hathaway as an older brother and didn't want her to be aggrieved in the matter of marriage. He knew well what Adeline used to do to Hathaway, so he cared about Adeline's attitude now.

Hathaway nodded and said, "Yes. Because his mother agreed, I decided to make up with him."

Albert remembered how mean Adeline had been and couldn't help but give a mocking smile, "When pigs fly?"

Hathaway explained, "She is seriously ill, and the doctor said she doesn't have many days left. Maybe she doesn't want her son to leave regrets because of this."

Albert was surprised at the news, then shook his head and sighed, "So that explains it. Death is truly a horrible thing."

It was so horrible that people could let go of years of grudges.

Albert continued to ask Hathaway, "I can keep your secret, but do you plan to keep it from our mom and dad?"

Hathaway threw herself into her seat in distress, "Alas, it came so suddenly that I haven't thought of what to tell them. Besides, our dad has just got married at a happy time. If I tell him about it, he will get angry and his happiness will be abated."

"If I'm going to say it, I'll wait until they come back from their honeymoon." Hathaway could only do this now and hid it for as long as she could

Albert thought Hathaway's words made sense. Carl was newly married, while Paul had just recovered from a serious illness. It was not appropriate for either of them to know this news at this time.

After returning to downtown, Leon waited for Hathaway at an intersection and picked her up to go to his house for dinner.

Albert rolled down his car window and said hello to Leon, "President Davis, come on. I'm waiting for the day when you call me brother."

After saying this, Albert laughed and drove away, while Leon's expression was simply ... complicated.

Hathaway took a look at his long face after sitting in his car and couldn't help but gloat, "Nick is your future brother-in-law, and now you're going to call Albert brother."

"The worst thing is that you'll have to call Jessica sister-in-law..." Hathaway couldn't control her laughter.

Leon sullenly looked back at her smiling face, "When you say that, are you indirectly telling me that you will marry me? How can I call them as you do if we don't get married?"

Hathaway, "..."

As the saying went—great joy led to sadness.

Looking at her depressed and vivid expression, Leon unconsciously smiled, flicked her forehead with his finger to warn her not to gloat again, and then started the car to drive her away silently.

Hathaway reached out to touch the place where he had flicked her and inexplicably felt her face blush and her heart pound.

His movements and eyes just now were so gentle that she felt like she was a little girl being indulged by him, and her sweetness was revealed.

They drove back to the Davis', and Leon told her that Merlin would also come on the way.

"There will be few opportunities to dine with my parents later, so I hope to take you to meet them formally once with pleasure and harmony," Leon said in a solemn and sad tone.

Hathaway knew why he was sad. Adeline didn't have much time left, so even if he wanted to take her to dinner with them in the future, he wouldn't have the chance. Now he had to make up for the regret that he took her to see to meet his parents last time before Adeline died.

Thinking of this, Hathaway almost cried out with sadness.

She was touched by Leon's feelings for her and was also heartbroken for him.

Her boy would soon lose his mother.

She was so heartbroken.

She wanted to love him with her heart.

Then she reached out to take his right hand gently and reassured him that he still had her by his side.

She would give him warmth in the future.

When they arrived at the Davis', Merlin was already there, and Adeline was preparing lunch in the kitchen. Upon hearing Hathaway's arrival, she took the initiative to come out and greet her. Although her attitude was not very warm, it was much better than her cold and mean look last time. A lot had happened between them in the past, so Hathaway could understand Adeline's feelings. It would be strange if Adeline suddenly became very nice and warm to her. It was a gradual process, wasn't it?

Hathaway graciously exchanged pleasantries with them, while Adeline went back to the kitchen after that.

Hathaway looked at Leon with some confusion, "Auntie Adeline is in poor health, why is she still

cooking?"

Leon glanced towards the kitchen and explained, "She said she could show her sincerity by cooking herself."

Leon didn't expect Adeline to insist on cooking for Hathaway herself and planned to hire a chef to make it because of Adeline's poor health

Hathaway was surprised by this. As she was an innocent and elegant girl, she immediately said, "I'll go help her in the kitchen, and it'll be faster."

Leon wanted to say something, but Hathaway looked at him and insisted seriously, "Let me go."

Hathaway had her reasons for choosing to help Adeline in the kitchen.

Firstly, she was quite touched that Adeline cooked for her while she was sick. Since Adeline was willing to treat her sincerely, she would return the same with her sincerity.

Secondly and most importantly, Hathaway wanted Adeline to know that she was not a girl who was beautiful but could not do anything. Besides, she wanted Adeline to leave her son to her with confidence. Even if Adeline could not take care of Leon anymore as a mother, she would take good care of him.

CHAPTER 249 NO WONDER HER SON WAS SO INFATUATED WITH HATHAWAY.

Adeline was a little surprised to see Hathaway follow her into the kitchen.

Hathaway said to her, "Let me help you, and it'll be faster."

Adeline looked at her and asked her in disbelief, "Can you cook?"

Hathaway nimbly rolled up her sleeves and replied, "Yes. When I studied in London and wanted to eat the food of South City, I had to study cooking and slowly got it."

From Adeline's words, Hathaway could feel that Adeline had underestimated her before. It was not surprising that Adeline had such thoughts, as she did not look like a good wife and mother based on her appearance and personality.

Looking at her skillfully helping her to wash the vegetables, Adeline fell into a trance and then came to her senses, "Help me cut up this vegetable, and I'll go do something else."

Adeline didn't expect Hathaway to come to help her, let alone that Hathaway could cook. Since Hathaway came in and insisted on helping her, she didn't make any more excuses to refuse. After all, she couldn't handle such a sumptuous lunch in her current state of health.

Yes, Adeline had prepared a sumptuous table of dishes, almost all of which were her specialties.

Leon saw her cooking so many dishes and advised her that she didn't need to make it so grand, but she insisted. Only she knew why she insisted on such a sumptuous meal because this might be the first and last time she entertained Hathaway as a mother-in-law.

With Hathaway's skillful help, the meal was not as difficult as Adeline had imagined. Even several dishes were cooked by Hathaway, who humbly asked her for advice, and then she guided her on what ingredients to use. Hathaway asked her for advice in a sincere and sad tone, "Leon must like your cooking the most after so many years. I'll learn from you and cook for him later so that he will always remember the taste of the food his mother made for him."

At that moment, Adeline almost shed tears and had to admit that Hathaway was a smart girl and extremely sweet-talking to please her.

Hathaway's words were a high compliment to her, a dying person, and she also said that she would make Leon remember her as his mother forever. Although it was sentimental, it brought Adeline more moving.

At the same time, Adeline felt that she could leave this world in peace.

No wonder her son was so infatuated with Hathaway.

For the first time in her life, Adeline disliked Bella because she thought about it and felt that Bella was nothing but sowing dissension and pretending to be a good person in front of her.

Given the change in Adeline's attitude towards Hathaway and the fact that Adeline did not have so many grudges against Merlin in her current physical condition, their dining atmosphere was quite pleasant.

During the meal, Adeline asked about Cynthia and Carl. Hathaway thought about it and told the truth, "They got their marriage license a few days ago. Now they are in Hong Kong and will go to the Maldives for their honeymoon in a few days."

Adeline and Merlin were both surprised when they heard that they got the license. Then Merlin looked down and continued to eat without saying anything, while Adeline gave a self-deprecating smile, "That's good. Your mother should have gotten her happiness long ago."

After saying this, Adeline asked Hathaway, "Can you give me your mother's phone number?"

Afraid that Hathaway might not give it to her, Adeline hurriedly explained, "Don't worry. What else can I do to your mother when I'm in such a state? I just want to apologize to her in person."

All the mistakes started with her, so let her end it.

Hearing Adeline's words, Hathaway couldn't refuse and gave her Cynthia's phone number. Adeline saved it and smiled at her, "Thank you."

After lunch, Adeline looked a little weak, so Hathaway got up to say goodbye, and Leon sent her home.

Merlin didn't leave for the time being, and after the two young people left, Adeline also got up from the table to leave. She didn't say a word to Merlin, but he called out to her from behind.

Without looking back, Merlin straightened her back to Merlin and said indifferently, "I know you came to see me today to say something to me, but I don't need that. Neither of us has done the other any wrong, and we've brought this on ourselves."

"Go back. I'm tired." Adeline threw the last words to Merlin and stepped upstairs.

Adeline knew that Merlin had come to say sorry to her today, but she didn't need it anymore.

Like she had just said, no one needed to say sorry to the other.

She brought it all on herself.

If there was an afterlife, she wanted to be a woman who put it down and go ahead like Cynthia and Hathaway.

After she initially stole Merlin from Cynthia, Cynthia didn't despair and fall flat on her face. Although she was sad and dejected for a while, she picked herself up later. At that time, Adeline didn't have the same mentality as Cynthia and only knew that she would die if she could not get Merlin, so she desperately used all means to get Merlin to marry her.

However, it was all in vain in the end.

Leon sent Hathaway home but stopped the car at the gate outside the Taylor's because Hathaway was afraid of being seen by Paul.

When Hathaway was about to get out of the car, Leon held her hand tightly, stared at her deeply, and whispered, "Hathaway, thank you..."

He was grateful that she was willing to open her mind so soon to forgive his mother for all the mean things she had done to her and for what she had done at this meal today. Even though Hathaway didn't tell him the reason for many things, he could see through her intentions at a glance.

She was trying to make Adeline feel that she could take care of him so that Adeline could leave this world at ease.

He understood her good intentions.

Hathaway smiled brightly, "Alright, don't keep thanking me."

He was good, wasn't he? Without explanation, he understood what she was doing, and Hathaway felt more and more comfortable with Leon.

And she knew that Leon was willing to feel her with his heart because he loved her, right?

Love was mutual. If only one person was giving, two people would not last long together. After all, if there was no response all the time, the other person would be exhausted.

After seeing Hathaway's figure leave, Leon drove back.

He had once said that he wanted Hathaway to make up with him to rely on the sweetness of love to dull the pain of his soon-to-be-lost loved one. Now he felt less uncomfortable in his heart.

After learning about Adeline's condition, he wondered what it would have been like if Hathaway hadn't gotten back together with him.

CHAPTER 250 A FINGER HEART FOR YOU

When Hathaway went to the dinner party with Ashley in the evening, Leon and Nick were also there, but the four of them could only pretend not to know each other.

Then Hathaway secretly called Leon. They two made eyes at each other through the crowd, and Hathaway deliberately asked him with a smile, "This is a gathering for the film and television circle, why did you guys come as a doctor and a businessman?"

Leon leaned on the pillar behind him, squinted at Hathaway in a dazzling peacock blue dress not far away, and asked her sullenly, "Why do you think we are here?"

Tonight she looked pretty but too eye-catching in this dress.

Moreover, she was now Carl's daughter and Albert's young sister, so men went up to her to strike up a conversation one after another. Leon felt that he might have to smash the venue if this continued.

Nick was also in a bad mood. Hathaway was a competent stylist for Ashley. She gave Ashley a long black dress, revealing nothing except the magnificent silver embroidery on the collar, cuffs, and hem. Ashley had a tall and slim figure. When she smiled and walked in, it was as if the Milky Way was spreading around her, looking beautiful and overpowering the other scantily clad actresses at the party

Because the dress was very impressive, Hathaway gave Ashley a simple and natural hairstyle and make-up, which brought out Ashley's clean and gentle temperament.

The two sisters had a serious and in-depth discussion about Ashley's future styling. As a half-way actress who missed her prime, it was important for Ashley to show her temperament to the crowd. After all, she didn't have the capital of being young, nor was she willing to dress in a revealing way, so she had to rely on her temperament to win.

Therefore, every styling Hathaway prepared for Ashley was focused on highlighting Ashley's temperament during this time. Tonight's party was a small test run for Hathaway, but it was very successful judging from the reaction of the crowd.

This brought Hathaway in a good mood. After hearing Leon's rhetorical question, she laughed briskly, "Are you guys here to be the escorts? Ashley and I are a big face to get President Davis and the future Dean Jackson to be here to escort us. It's so touching."

Leon took the opportunity to make his request, "I don't want to listen to your compliments. Show it with practical actions if you are moved."

"Sure," Hathaway promised with alacrity. Just when Leon was expecting what practical action she would give him, he saw the girl not far away smiling radiantly and charmingly and making a finger heart towards him across the crowd, while she reported mischievously, "A finger heart for you."

Leon, "..."

He was so angry with her.

Even from a certain distance, Hathaway could feel Leon's poker face and hurriedly smiled, "Alright, let's stop for now. I'm going to find Ashley."

One of the most important reasons why Hathaway came to the party with Ashley tonight was to protect her. As Ashley's character was gentle, Hathaway was afraid that she would be bullied. The entertainment circle was a mixed bag, and with Ashley's show-off appearance tonight, there were bound to be some people looking for trouble.

Many times the human heart was sinister, and some people never wanted to see others better than themselves.

As Hathaway had guessed, She found Ashley and heard a few actresses whispering around Ashley. It was a whisper, but the sound allowed Ashley to hear their conversation clearly.

One woman stood there with her arms wrapped around her, looking Ashley up and down with disdain and disgust, and then whispered to her companion, "What a cheeky woman to be entering the entertainment circle at her age."

Then the second woman gloated, "She must be twenty-six or seven years old, right, why would an older

woman like her not marry and have children instead of taking our jobs?"

All of a sudden, the third woman came close to them and whispered mysteriously, "I heard that her ex-fiancé got a woman pregnant, so he backed out of the marriage with her."

These women finished speaking and laughed unrestrainedly.

On normal days, these actresses did not dare to criticize other actresses like this because they were all in the same circle and it wasn't appropriate for them to make a strained relationship.

But because Ashley was an unknown newcomer and everyone knew that the Taylors were now owned by Andrew, while Ashley, Kenny, and Paul had nothing left, these actresses arrogantly trampled on Ashley, who had stolen their thunder tonight.

They also knew how powerful Hathaway was, but they thought that Hathaway was adopted by the Taylors and would not have any deeper ties to the Taylors after recognizing her powerful biological parents. Even sisters by birth were cut off from each other, let alone unrelated sisters like them, so these women automatically speculated Ashley's relationship with Hathaway as a hypocritical sisterhood.

Hathaway looked at those women's ugly mugs and wanted to beat them up, but Ashley gently stopped her.

Ashley gave her a look and shook her head. With just one look from Ashley, Hathaway knew that she wanted to solve these things by herself and then stopped there because she also knew that she couldn't always follow Ashley around to protect her. Since Ashley had decided to take the path of the entertainment circle, she should face these bad guys on her own.

Like Hathaway, Nick wanted to stand up for Ashley.

That beautiful and generous woman was the one he loved the most, so how could he bear to see others talking and pointing at her?

But after seeing Ashley stop Hathaway, Nick also stopped in his tracks and stepped back, shaking his glass of wine and looking at her through the crowd.

Nick knew better than anyone else how stubborn Ashley was. He once thought she was as gentle and talkative as she looked, but he realized that she was soft outside and tough-minded inside after a long time of contact.

Because he understands her, he chose to let her handle it herself and believed that she could handle it well.

Ashley met those women's eyes and said calmly and elegantly, "I am twenty-six years old, and I'll be twenty-seven in three months."

Once she said this, these women who had been mocking her froze there in embarrassment because they didn't expect Ashley to be so generous with her age and even went on to say in detail that she would be twenty-seven in three months.

They thought that age would be Ashley's biggest weakness, and her "advanced age" was enough to make her embarrassed...