

The Three Little Guardian Angels
Chapter 1481

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Jenna felt confused and brought the fruit platter and tea upstairs again. When she saw Ian and Edward coming out of the study, she stopped on the spot and asked, "Have the both of you been in the study room all this while?" Ian nodded.

Edward stared at her.

"I was chatting with Ian in the study. What's wrong?"

"I just asked Elaine to bring you a fruit platter and some tea, but she told me she didn't see you two in the study..."

Edward's expression changed instantly, and he exchanged gazes with Ian.

'It seems that she's heard"

On the other end of the mansion...

Elaine was sitting alone by the pond in the backyard.

Ian followed a servant to the backyard.

The servant said something to him and left, and Ian walked toward Elaine.

Elaine threw the pebble in her hand into the pond, and no ripple could be seen due to the darkness.

She heard footsteps, stopped what she was doing, but did not look back.

"I know what you want to say, but it doesn't matter. I don't care."

Ian stopped behind her.

"You heard it all."

"If I didn't hear that, would you and my father continue to hide the truth from me?"

Elaine stood up slowly, turned around, and looked at him.

"Ian Saldana, you don't owe me anything. Our marriage has always been one of convenience."

Ian glanced at her and said nothing.

Elaine lowered her gaze.

"I did push you away and saved you, but I did so willingly. And don't forget that you protected me too, didn't you?" Ian pursed his lips.

"We're now even. We don't owe each other anything, so you don't have to blame yourself for this, let alone..."

Elaine lowered her head.

"You don't have to do so."

"What don't I have to do?"

She looked up at him.

"You don't have to make up for me." Ian frowned.

"Do you think I'm making up for you?"

"Aren't you?"

Elaine smiled.

"Just because I can no longer get pregnant, you plan to sacrifice your happiness to stay with me and compensate me? That's not necessary."

He approached her.

"I don't think so."

"Ian, we're different individuals."

"What's the difference that you see between us?"

She took a deep breath.

"I know it's not easy for you to get to where you are today. You need a genuine marriage more than I do. You need a complete family and a home, and these are things that I can't provide you with." You should know I have no confidence in marriage, and I've never thought about getting married.

Even if I can't have children in the future, it's still acceptable to me.

However, I don't want you to sacrifice your whole life just to compensate me.

"You've taken down Mr. Saldana, and we're only engaged at this moment. I'll even give up the shares that you offered me." Ian's cheeks bulged, and his eyes were fixed on her.

"So, are you saying you want to terminate the engagement?"

Elaine felt heavy and complicated deep down.

'I have to admit that I want to cancel the engagement. Perhaps I've been regretting my decision ever since we got engaged.

'I'm afraid that I'll fall for him during such a form of marriage as I'm too deeply immersed in this relationship. It's getting harder

and harder to forget the memories I've accumulated throughout this period.

'If this were to continue, we would surely suffer in this relationship.

'I don't want him to make up for it, and I don't have the confidence that I'll really be able not to care about anything after marrying

him. Not to mention that I might not even be able to conceive a child, so how can I provide him with a complete family?' After a

long while, she replied calmly, 'Yes, let's terminate the engagement.'

Ian stopped just a stone's throw away from her.

"Then have you asked me what I think about us?"

She froze in place and looked up at him suspiciously.

Ian had his back to the light.

The shadow covered his facial features, so all Elaine saw at this moment was his silhouette, not his expression.

"What if I were to tell you that I'm serious?"

Elaine was stunned, and her gaze betrayed she was in a daze.

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"Elaine Xavier, our feelings for each other can be cultivated. At least, what I just said was said with a sincere heart, and it has nothing to do with making up to you."

The evening breeze brushed against his collar, and the emotions that were overflowing from his eyes were blazing.

"If all I want is to make up to you, there are plenty more ways to make it happen. I don't have to go with this."

Elaine was stunned.

After a long time, she pursed her lips.

"Do you like me? Even if it's only a little." Ian looked down at her.

"At least I don't repel the feelings I have for you, nor do I hate them."

Her gaze shifted away from him, and she did not even utter a single word.

Ian lifted his hand and stroked her cheek while Elaine froze in place. Her heartbeat was getting more and more intense as her

heart beat along. She lowered her gaze and did not dare to move a muscle.

His thick and rough palms brushed across her cheeks and rubbed against the corner of her lips. He approached her slowly, and

Elaine's hands that were resting on both sides could not help but be tightly clenched.

Her eyelashes dropped and covered her eyes, and her labored breaths and undulating chest froze in time for a moment.

The moment he got close to her lips, he stopped abruptly and gave her a light peck on her forehead as if he cherished her more than anyone.

Elaine's heart skipped a beat. She opened her eyes and stared at him.

Ian pursed his lips and gave off a faint smile.

"You should go back and rest earlier."

Her ears were flushed, and she hurried past him and left the scene immediately.

Ian witnessed as she escaped him and laughed softly.

The next day, at Blackgold...

Quincy held onto a stack of documents, stood in front of the desk, and reported,

"Mr. Goldmann, Mr. Saldana's trial is over, and

his sentencing has been published. He'll at least be imprisoned for 20 years, so he will be an old geezer who's in his 80s by the

time he's released. He won't have the spirit to cause any more trouble."

Nolan narrowed his eyes.

"Isn't that rather quick for the sentencing to be fixed?"

"How can it not be quick? His ex-wife has completely fallen out with him because of Marco. She's been getting all her

connections to facilitate and accelerate the procedures as much as they can."

Quincy sighed and continued after saying that.

"Now that I've mentioned the ex-wife, she's not someone to be trifled with. She'd do anything in her power to bring us down if she were to fall out with us."

Juan had transferred all his illicit money into his son's account behind his ex-wife's back, trying to use him as his cover-up.

After all, Marco had a mental illness, so who would track the money back to him? Juan had extended his arms toward his

mentally ill son and got him implicated in his filthy business.

He had truly crossed the line this time around.

No wonder the ex-wife would retaliate against him so harshly after finding out about it.

Someone knocked on the door at this moment, and Nolan lifted his gaze.

"Come in."

Kevin walked into the office, nodded at Nolan, and smiled.

"Mr. Goldmann."

Nolan's tapped on the desk rhythmically.

"It seems that the project of the delta of Hewston's Hydra Lake has been successfully secured."

"Thanks to you, Mr. Goldmann, we've taken over half of the projects in Hewston's Hydra Lake.."

Nolan got up, walked to the couch, and sat down with him.

"Have you met Young Master Saldana?" Kevin was startled.

"Which Young Master Saldana are you talking about?"

Quincy answered, "He's Mr. Edward Xavier's son-in-law, Ian Saldana."

Kevin was surprised.

"So, that's the legendary Young Master Saldana?"

He had met Ian before this, but he did not know that Ian was Juan's son.

"I thought Mr. Juan Saldana's son is mentally ill?"

Nolan responded lightly, "He's Mr. Saldana's illegitimate child."

Kevin understood something.

"I see."

Kevin had met with Ian before.

Using his title as Mr. Xavier's son-in-law, Ian had gotten connected with the people in Hewston and had been inquiring about and investigating Juan everywhere.

Kevin was quite puzzled.

"That Mr. Saldana is quite capable. I wonder how he managed to convince the senior management of Cloud Capital Inc.."

Nolan chuckled.

"He works for the ministry, so he's able to obtain information that others can't get their hands on. Moreover, Cloud Capital Inc. has

a history with the Synergy Group, but Cloud Capital didn't dare to go against Synergy all this while. It's not surprising that he persuaded them into cooperating with him."

Business and politics might have nothing to do with each other.

Still, if Ian had information unfavorable to Cloud Capital, the company's top management could only cooperate with him.

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Compared with the despicable tactics that Juan used in the business circle, Ian's close relationship with the higher-ups had already won him a lot of opportunities.

Kevin was relieved.

"Luckily, he's not working with Mr. Saldana."

Otherwise, Synergy would only become more aggressive.

After chatting for a short while, Kevin left.

Nolan poured a cup of tea slowly and calmly.

"So, is he taking over Synergy now?"

Quincy shook his head.

"No, Ian only took the shares but did not take over Synergy. He gave it to Mrs. Saldana."

Nolan placed the teacup against his lower lip.

'Ian gave Synergy to Mrs. Saldana. It seems he's the one who informed Mrs. Saldana about the stolen money.

'He didn't make a move by himself, hid behind the curtains, diverted Juan's attention, and used Mrs. Saldana to go against him. If

Ian were to be my rival, then he'd be a difficult man to deal with"

At that moment, at Synergy...

Ian and Mrs. Saldana were sitting in the office drinking tea and talking to each other. She did not like the illegitimate child that her

ex-husband had with his mistress.

After all, his mother gave birth to him to use his identity to get rid of her and Marco.

However, that was all in the past.

Mrs. Saldana held the teacup with her unchanged expression.

"I thought you dealt with your father only to acquire all the properties and assets under his name, but you gave Synergy to me."

Ian gave off a faint smile.

"I'm not that interested in the Saldanas' properties."

"Oh, if your mother was half as sober as you back then, she wouldn't have ended up like that."

He lowered his gaze and said nothing.

His mother, Eunice, had wanted to secure her position in a wealthy family back then in order to change her status, so she gave

birth to him without Juan knowing and brought him back to the Saldanas in an attempt to force Juan into accepting them.

However, Juan drove them out of the family in the end.

After that incident, Eunice had always despised Ian, thinking that everything was his fault and that he could not please his father

and earn her a spot in the Saldanas.

A father had never brought up Ian since he was a child, and he had never received any motherly love from his mother.

Eunice would beat him up when she was in a bad mood and would only stop after beating him to a pulp.

She would even lock him in the closet and starve him for one whole day.

He also could not get the memories of her chasing him out of the house during winters off his mind. He once had had no shoes

on, no coat, and had been left in the cold street—it had been so cold that he fainted for a while.

It was a kindhearted person who saved him.

From the moment he learned to be sensible until he was 12 years old, when every kid around him was about to graduate from

elementary school, he had never even attended school, and he had done all kinds of dirty and tiring work.

Later on, when the police shut down the factory that employed children as its laborers, he was brought into the precinct.

However, Eunice did not even show up.

At that time, he also met the savior who changed my life, Michael Chase. He was Barbara's father and the deputy director of that particular precinct at the time.

Upon learning about his situation, Michael had asked him if he would like to follow him around in life.

And he had told him that he would do whatever it would take to be able to seize that opportunity.

It was also because of these words that Michael had seen the resolution in him and felt that he was a boy full of potential.

This was why he had chosen to bring him up and send him to school.

Ian managed to live up to his expectations in the end when he was admitted to the police academy.

His mother had not contacted him since then.

It was not until he graduated from the police academy and returned to his original home that he learned his mother had found

herself another rich man and had long forgotten about her son.

When he joined the police as a detective, the first murder case he had taken over was his mother's.

His mother had died tragically in the apartment—the murderer had dismembered her.

All her body parts had been abandoned in different places in the city.

The murderer had not left behind any fingerprints and even avoided all the surveillance cameras when he chose the route to discard the body parts.

The local police had had a very difficult time solving the case, so they invited him over to help them out.

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It had taken Ian two months only to find a clue because he knew his mother better than other police officers.

His mother had died because of her greed.

The same thing had repeated itself—she had used some despicable means to attain superiority, and it threatened the other party's interests.

That was how she had gotten killed.

Ian took a sip of tea unconcernedly.

"It's all in the past."

His mother's death did not sadden him.

Even if it was mentioned again in his life, his heart had long gotten numb over this matter.

Mrs.Saldana stared at him.

After all, she was also a mother.

It was impossible for Ian not to have experienced distress throughout his childhood.

"It's not your fault that you have such a mother."

Ian paused for a bit, then laughed out loud.

'Are you comforting me?'"

"I'm not comforting you.I've always been an unbiased person when it comes to separating private matters from businesses.I

won't transfer the grudges that I have for your mother onto you."

Mrs.Saldana said lightly, "Your mother would even use her own child to achieve what she wanted in her life.She's not so different

from Juan.I divorced Juan only because I saw through him clearly very early on i n life.So, even if your mother were to have

succeeded i n securing her position as the new Mrs.Saldana, she wouldn't have had a better life than I did either."

Mrs.Saldana had always been confident due to her family background.

Meanwhile, Eunice had had nothing, so she could only rely on men and gain benefits through pleasing men.

Thus, even if she were to have succeeded in becoming the new Mrs.Saldana, it would not have lasted.

Juan had always been a person who only cared about the profit he could gain from everything in life.

As such, if a woman could not provide him with benefits, Juan would kick her away in a blink of an eye.

This was the truth.

Meanwhile...

Elaine had been sitting in Ian's cafe for a short while.

The manager brewed a cup of coffee, brought it to her table, sat down in front of her, and grinned.

"Are you here to wait for Mr.Saldana?"

Elaine was astonished and explained with a smile, "No, I've come over only for a cup of coffee."

She lowered her head and drank slowly.

In fact, she had insomnia last night.

As soon as she closed her eyes, the scene of Ian kissing her forehead would appear in her mind.

And she could still feel the warmth that came from his lips —it felt so hot that it seemed that they would ignite instantly if she were to touch them at that moment.

Every time she thought of it, a strange feeling would surge deep down, and her legs would feel wobbly and weak without her realizing it.

The manager did not notice anything unusual about her, so he laughed.

"Mr.Saldana has gone out.I guess he should've gone to Synergy."

She returned to her senses.

"Is he going to take over the company?"

"That's not it. If Mr. Saldana were interested in the company, he would've been sitting in the office long ago."

"You seem to know him very well."

"How could I not?"

The store manager then continued.

"Mr. Saldana isn't interested in power or anything. Otherwise, why would he resign from the ministry? "

"He's a person who likes to do things his own way. Take this cafe as an example. It started only because of his personal liking. It

doesn't matter to him if it makes him money or not. The important thing is that he likes it."

Elaine chuckled.

"That's not too bad. At least, he gets to do what he likes."

The manager's gaze shifted away from her and looked at the person approaching them.

"Yo, Mr. Saldana, you're back so soon?"

Elaine could not help but turn her head around.

Ian was dressed more formally than he used to, and the well-ironed suit made him look a lot more solemn.

His hair was styled as well.

His usual appearance looked rather mature and calm, but the overall look that he had on at this moment made him look sterner.

He stopped beside Elaine and glanced at the manager, who consciously got up and moved away from the table.

"I don't think I should be third-wheeling here. I should go back to work already."

Elaine returned to her senses subconsciously and looked away embarrassedly.

"Did you just go to Synergy?"

"I went there for a short chat."

He smiled and then asked, "Do you want to come upstairs?"

Elaine was astounded for a while and then followed him upstairs with her cup of coffee in a confused manner.

Seeing that she was still holding the coffee, he laughed.

"I'll make you another cup."

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