

She Made a Comeback as a Renowned Doctor

#Chapter 594: 600

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Chapter 594: Chapter 594: Come into Daddy's Arms

Luna Williams sneered coldly, "What are you doing? Not letting anyone leave?"

"You can leave, but you're not allowed to get close to our madam."

Luna was furious, "The road is only this wide!"

Wesley Ruiz was expressionless, "That's your problem."

Wesley and his people refused to budge, making Luna grit her teeth in anger. She turned to Hope Williams behind her, shouting, "Hope, what do your people mean by this?"

Hope looked at Luna coldly, "Why are you here? Haven't you done enough harm to Grandma?"

"Wasn't it you who harmed Grandma? I'm here to protect her, to ensure you won't hurt her again." Luna crossed her arms and replied coldly.

"I think you're feeling guilty, afraid that Grandma might recover and say something unfavorable about you."

Having her intentions exposed by Hope, Luna bit her lip secretly and denied vehemently, "I told you, I didn't do it. Don't try to slander me. Get your dogs out of the way."

Hope's beautiful eyes grew even colder, and she chose not to argue further with Luna, "Please escort her out."

With Hope's permission, Wesley and his people immediately stepped forward to "escort" her out!

"Do you really think you four can take on my ten?" Luna Williams scoffed, emboldened by the ten men behind her.

Who ends up driving whom out is still uncertain!

"Get them!"

As soon as she finished speaking, the sound of fists meeting flesh and the thuds of bodies hitting the ground filled the air.

Luna felt a chill run down her spine, followed by the sound of something heavy being thrown down.

She turned her head in horror.

The silver-haired man clapped casually, a bloodthirsty smile on his lips, "It seems you're the only one left now."

Luna's face changed drastically as she saw people sprawled all over the ground. She instinctively raised her hand to cover her mouth, caught in overwhelming fear.

"You..."

She looked up and met his icy, terrifying gaze, making cold sweat break out as she stumbled back two steps.

"Do you want to spar with me for a bit?"

Luna trembled, "I... I don't want to..."

Before she could finish, she was knocked unconscious with a kick.

Liam Cloud clicked his tongue in disgust, "Such an eyesore, throw them all out."

Wesley blinked, "Big Boss, where should we throw them?"

"Trash goes where it belongs. Do I need to teach you that?"

Wesley couldn't help but laugh, "Understood."

After receiving the order, Wesley glanced at the mess of bodies...

Hmm, quite a lot!

"Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility. How about you guys lend a hand?" Wesley called out to the burly men.

Wesley hesitated and glanced at Hope Williams.

Wesley chuckled, "With our Big Boss here, even if Lord Blake comes, he can't take Sister Hope away. What are you afraid of?"

After speaking, he got kicked in the leg.

Wesley gasped in pain, turning to meet his master's cold stare.

"What nonsense are you spouting?"

Wesley laughed twice, "It was just hypothetical, hypothetical."

Hope smiled faintly, "You guys can go ahead."

Only then did Wesley and the others help Wesley to 'take out the trash.'

Hope restrained some of her coldness as she watched the person stride to her side and lazily sit down. She raised an eyebrow slightly.

"How did you know I was here?"

Liam Cloud's handsome face was full of nonchalance, "Someone as capable as me, finding out where you are is easy, isn't it?"

Hope pulled at her lips.

Liam Cloud, seeing her expression, smiled, "What? Never heard such shameless self-praise before?"

Hope smiled faintly, "No, it suits you well."

"Hmm, thank you for the compliment."

"..."

Liam Cloud's dark eyes scanned the room, "Where did the most annoying one go?"

Hope had no doubt that the 'most annoying one' in his mouth was Waylon Lewis.

She subconsciously replied, "Had something to do, went back to the Emperor Capital."

"So, you're finally admitting he's the most annoying one."

Hope's brow twitched violently. She was actually led around by this guy, indirectly admitting Waylon Lewis was the most annoying one.

If Waylon Lewis were here, the two would probably start a verbal exchange again.

"He's not the most annoying one."

Seeing Hope's expression, Liam Cloud chuckled softly twice.

Hope also tugged at her lips helplessly.

Because of Liam Cloud's presence, the previously oppressive atmosphere eased considerably.

Hope glanced at her watch, then looked towards the emergency room door. This kind of waiting was always the most torturous.

Liam Cloud propped his head, glancing at her, noticing her weary look, and spoke again, "Want to take a nap? Time might pass faster. I'll wake you when it's over."

Hope blinked, looking around her surroundings, "Here?"

"You could also consider my embrace." Liam Cloud sat up, opening his arms, "Come, into Daddy's arms."

Hope, "...Get lost."

...

The Williams Family!

Ted Williams and Harry Williams, one sitting and one standing, with a faint smell of smoke lingering in the study, the smoke mixed with a sense of suffocation.

Ted finished his last cigarette, snuffed out the butt in the ashtray, and spoke slowly, "Didn't you have a question? Go ahead and ask."

In Harry's eyes, there was a mix of intense curiosity and anger.

"What have you been doing recently?" Harry asked directly.

"Fighting for the inheritance!" Ted didn't hold back.

"What have you done to fight for the inheritance?"

Upon hearing this question, Ted laughed slightly, "Harry, you never cared about the inheritance, why are you all of a sudden asking in such detail?"

"Because you've done something you shouldn't have."

"You've overheard things you shouldn't have." Ted narrowed his eyes at Harry.

Harry took a deep breath, "Brother, let it go. The Williams Family has given us so much already. We have no blood ties with the family..."

"No blood ties, so we can be trampled on?" Ted's tone suddenly became sharp.

Harry pressed his lips tightly together.

Maverick Williams indeed treated them both not as well as he treated Luna, but let's retreat ten thousand steps, without blood ties, how could they compare with someone who has?

Harry frowned deeply, "Brother, I know you resent Grandpa, but he also raised us. Over these twenty years, we've attended the best schools, received the best education, and obtained the best resources. Without Grandpa, without the Williams Family, we might just be ordinary people with no fame. We've gained from the Williams Family what ordinary people might never achieve in a lifetime. If the inheritance goes to Cousin Luna or Cousin Hope, it's only right, isn't it?"

Ted stared steadily at Harry, speaking coldly, "Since so much effort has been put into grooming me, it should be given to me. Hope doesn't want the group, Luna can't shoulder the group, and I'm the most suitable person."

Harry stepped forward two steps, his tone heavier, "Brother, you know Grandpa's character. He groomed you to help manage the group for the heir in the future, not to replace them as the heir."

"What's the difference?"

"Of course, there is!"

Ted shook his head, "I don't want to be the good guy. I want to be the master of the group, the Williams Family!"

Harry's hanging hand clenched into a fist, "Brother, what you're doing is no different from the farmer and the snake."

"Ha, say what you like."

Harry could see Ted was determined to take the Williams Family's inheritance. No matter how he tried to persuade, it was in vain.

"Alright, then tell me, have you made a move on Cousin Hope? What's your

Chapter 595: Chapter 595: No Other Choice

“Alright, then let me ask you, did you make a move against Hope, our cousin? What’s your plan?”

Harry thought back to the conversation he overheard at the door: ‘Do you even realize it’s because of you that you’ve messed up all my plans? Let me tell you, if I end up dead because of you this time, I’ll drag you down with me!’

Those words carried such gravity that Harry felt a deep sense of fear.

Because Luna, their cousin, disrupted his plan to harm Hope, and if discovered, he would die.

He had no doubt, his brother wasn’t exaggerating.

Waylon Lewis’s methods were beyond what ordinary people could endure. If pushed to the edge, he would never show mercy.

And this plan had likely already crossed Waylon’s line.

Ted’s expression shifted slightly. “Why are you prying so deeply? Are you planning to tip off Hope?”

“If I wanted to tip her off, I would’ve already told her.” Mentioning this, Harry felt another wave of guilt.

He blamed himself for hesitating in front of the phone earlier.

But he also knew he had no other choice.

Ted laughed twice. “I know you wouldn’t. Because we’re brothers.”

He knew Harry well; the bond of blood ensured he wouldn’t betray him.

Harry forced a bitter smile. “Precisely because we’re brothers, I’m here to urge you not to continue down this path. I don’t want you to hurt Hope, our cousin, nor do I want you hurt yourself. Stop now, brother!”

Ted stood up, his deep eyes fixed on Harry. He reached out to straighten Harry’s clothes and chuckled, “My foolish little brother, once it’s done, there’s no turning back. If Hope or Waylon Lewis discovers this, they won’t spare me. So if you don’t want me to get hurt, you should stand by me and keep quiet.”

“You can’t win against Waylon Lewis. Even grandpa couldn’t outmatch him.” Harry’s face was etched with tension. “Don’t you remember? When grandpa kidnapped Hope’s two children, despite all the meticulous preparation, he still failed.”

Ted's narrowed eyes gleamed with mystery as he sneered. "And how do you know I can't win?"

All these years in the Williams Family, he hadn't been idle for a moment. His power extended far beyond what they saw.

So he wasn't panicking just yet.

Harry's shoulders slumped as he looked at Ted's obstinate determination, feeling a profound sense of powerlessness.

"Brother, I hope you won't regret this."

With that, Harry strode towards the door, but as he was about to storm out, he nearly collided with someone who was about to knock and enter.

Harry furrowed his brows, sizing up this person. Their outfit was the standard clothing of a Williams Family guard, but when he locked eyes with them, he detected a trace of murderous intent.

Harry narrowed his eyes slightly.

This person was absolutely not just a simple family guard.

Harry was about to stop the man when Ted spoke up. "Come in."

The person in front slightly bowed their head, stepping aside to signal Harry to exit first.

Harry suspiciously glanced back at Ted, his brows furrowing even tighter.

The person in front, seeing Harry unmoving, simply turned sideways into the study and casually closed the door behind them.

With a "bang," Harry was directly shut outside.

Harry's frown deepened even further.

Ted slouched back in his chair, removed his glasses, and irritably rubbed his temples.

"What is it?"

Before the man spoke, he cautiously glanced towards the door, worried Harry might be eavesdropping from the other side of the wall.

Ted calmly put his gold-rimmed glasses back on, his elongated eyes narrowing coldly. "It's fine. Speak."

The man spoke with a detached tone, “The Lewis Family’s private plane has crashed. Waylon Lewis’s parents haven’t been found yet, most likely perished. Things are very complicated now; Waylon will undoubtedly investigate. Master Williams, you need to plan your next move.”

Ted’s eyes narrowed sharply. Thinking about the situation, a wave of rage surged within him, fueling his desire to strangle Luna Williams to death.

Had it not been for Luna trying to slander Hope and luring her to the family, Hope and her family should have been the ones onboard that private plane heading back to Emperor Capital. Ted’s plan would’ve already succeeded.

Waylon Lewis wouldn’t have had any opportunity to investigate.

Curses!

Now Hope’s entire family was safe, yet Waylon’s parents had boarded the ill-fated plane. He knew Waylon would never let this matter rest and would pursue it relentlessly.

Furious, Ted slammed his fist on the desk, damned that all his plans were failing, and now there was even a risk of exposing himself.

After venting, Ted returned to calm deliberation.

“Then unsettle him first, disrupt his focus so he can’t concentrate on investigating this matter. Isn’t Hope still in City A? Use the plot to harm Jade Bell too. Don’t waste that opportunity,” Ted said, clenching his fists tightly.

“Understood. But it seems your plan has been discovered by Harry Williams. Should we...” The man’s eyes flashed with murderous intent as he made a throat-slitting gesture.

Ted’s gaze became razor-sharp, fixing on the man in front of him.

This person was a fugitive he had rescued years ago—a man who would unquestioningly obey him because of the life debt owed. However, this man was excessively ruthless, killing without hesitation or remorse. Ted’s voice shifted to a cold, menacing tone. “Blade River, listen to me carefully. He’s my brother. No matter who else you touch, don’t you dare lay a finger on him!”

Ted sternly warned him.

Blade River realized he had misspoken and immediately lowered his head. “Understood.”

“Leave now. Handle things cleanly. Don’t leave any evidence behind.”

"I understand."

...

Finally, the doors of the operating room opened, and the lead surgeon stepped out.

Hope anxiously stood up and strode forward. "Doctor, how's my grandmother?"

The doctor removed his mask, letting out a heavy sigh.

Seeing the expression on the doctor's face, Hope's breath tightened.

"The surgery was successful, but the patient was severely injured. Given her age, even if she wakes up, she may be at risk of developing dementia. This is something you, as her family, should mentally prepare for. The good news is that, for now, the patient is no longer in critical condition."

Hope's heart, which had been in turmoil, sank heavily.

Dementia!

Hope lowered her gaze.

Seeing Hope's worried face, Liam Cloud's usually carefree demeanor became serious. He raised his hand, hesitated, and finally patted her shoulder gently, offering awkward comfort. "At least she's alive. Think about treatment later."

Hope knew this was true and could only nod quietly.

Chapter 596: Chapter 596: Absolute Control

Jade Bell was sent to the hospital room, and apart from Luna Williams, no one else from the Williams Family came to visit.

Inside the hospital room, Hope Williams received a call from Harry Williams.

Harry's voice sounded a little hoarse, and he asked dispiritedly, "Cousin, how is Grandma?"

Hope glanced at Jade Bell, whose face was pale on the hospital bed, and sighed softly, "Her life has been saved, but what happens next will depend on the situation."

Harry breathed a sigh of relief, "Alright."

After a few seconds of pause, Hope walked to the window, looked out at the scenery, and asked softly, "Do you have something to say to me?"

From the first call, Hope had felt that he wanted to say something to her.

A moment of silence.

Hope wasn't in a rush now and waited for Harry to speak. After about thirty seconds, it seemed as though he had to muster a great deal of courage before he said, "Cousin, recently, take some more bodyguards with you when you go out, and be careful of my brother. Lately... he might be up to no good. Also... be cautious about Cousin Luna as well."

Listening to Harry's hesitant words, it was clear that he felt conflicted inside. Hope's delicate eyebrows arched slightly, "You're warning me—and aren't you afraid your brother's plans will fail because of this?"

Hope didn't even need to think to know how she ranked in Harry's heart compared to Ted Williams.

For Harry to come and warn her was indeed a bit unexpected.

Harry let out a long sigh and spoke in a low voice, "I hope that if his plans do fail, you'll spare him."

Hope replied after hearing him, "I can't promise you that. He, Luna Williams—they are willing to do anything for the inheritance, for the shares. Luna plays openly, while he plays dirty. He's even more ruthless than Luna. By telling me to watch out for him, it's clear he has plans to act against me. Judging by his plan, it's either him or me. So, I'm sorry—if he's caught in the act, I won't let him off."

One time, there had been an attempted assassination pinned on Maverick Williams. Another time, he introduced mercenaries to Luna, coaxing Luna into making a move against Hope. He had always hid in the shadows without leaving any traceable evidence. But as the saying goes, frequent trips to the river inevitably result in wet feet; if he kept targeting her, it was only a matter of time before Hope uncovered something on him.

"As for the fight over the inheritance, I've never wanted to compete for what belongs to the Williams Family. But for him and Luna, as long as I live, they won't feel at ease, so they're intent on killing me. That's fine. If they insist on dragging me into this game, then let's compete fairly."

Hope's tranquil gaze turned towards Jade Bell lying on the hospital bed. Perhaps from the moment she accepted that 15% of the shares, she had already been dragged into the Williams Family's war—there was no way to stay uninvolved.

Listening to Hope's resolute words, Harry understood that Hope couldn't be blamed.

She was someone who had been forced into a corner.

If blame were to be assigned, it would fall solely on his brother and Luna, whose paranoia, overthinking, and greed had driven them to repeatedly target Hope, pulling her unwillingly into the battleground.

If they ultimately lost, it was their own fault and couldn't be blamed on Hope.

"But, as for the matters between your brother and me, I won't involve you. And thank you for choosing to tell me this."

"I should. I don't want to see my brother go astray, nor do I wish to see you get hurt."

Hope sighed lightly, "He's already deeply lost in his ways. You can't persuade him."

Harry felt a deep sense of powerlessness because of this.

Hope hung up the phone, exhaled softly, and sat down by Jade Bell's hospital bed.

The mention of shares earlier had reminded Hope of something.

As she waited outside the emergency room for the results earlier, she had been thinking—how deep of a resentment must Luna Williams have to injure Jade Bell to such an extent?

And Luna hadn't even been worried that Jade might just die. If Jade Bell died without drafting a will, her estate and shares would legally be divided equally among the same-tier inheritors.

Jade Bell no longer had parents or children, which meant the same-level inheritors would be Hope and Luna.

This was something Luna undoubtedly understood.

Luna herself held 10% of the shares, while Hope had 15%.

If the 20% of Jade Bell's shares were split between the two equally...

Luna would end up with 20% shares overall!

Meanwhile, Hope would hold 25%!

This 5% difference would be enough to make Hope the largest shareholder of the group and the heir to the inheritance.

If Luna had any sense at all, she wouldn't allow Jade Bell to just die and have her estate split equally. That is, unless Jade no longer had any shares in her possession, and the reason for their argument, which ultimately led to Jade's fatal injury, was precisely because of the shares.

"Little Hope? Little Hope!"

Seeing her unresponsive, Liam Cloud simply walked up to her and snapped his fingers next to her ear.

Hope was startled and immediately snapped out of her thoughts, turning to Liam. "When did you come in?"

"While you were staring at this old lady, completely captivated." Liam set down the things he was carrying. "Eat something. If you starve to death, no one will take care of her."

Hope looked at Liam carrying a food box overflowing with items, bending awkwardly as he laid each dish out.

He had bought quite a lot—all of Hope's favorite dishes. After all, having lived together for nearly five years, he probably knew what Hope liked to eat better than what he himself liked.

"Hurry up and eat."

Liam called out to Hope, his tone firm.

Hope walked over, glanced at the table, her beautiful star-like eyes glimmering slightly. Just by looking at the dishes set out, she could tell he had put in effort.

Liam shoved a pair of chopsticks into Hope's hand, staring at her with a faintly teasing smile. "What are you looking at? Can looking fill you up? Hurry and eat."

Hope shifted her gaze to Liam's face, pursed her lips slightly, and said sincerely, "Thank you."

Liam clicked his tongue lightly, leaned back casually on the sofa, and said, "Does it touch your heart? Do you regret not choosing me back then?"

Listening to his teasing tone, Hope shook her head lightly, about to say something.

Liam cut her off, speaking as lazily as usual, "Alright, just joking with you. Since you told me before that you see me as family, just treat all the good I've done for you as a father's affection for his daughter."

Up until that point, it sounded half-believable. But afterward...

"Screw you."

Liam snickered, "Well, I can't very well be your mom, can I? Tsk. You run off with someone else and don't let me enjoy a single advantage! I was still hoping Waylon Lewis would call me 'Dad.'"

Waylon calling him 'Dad'...

"He'd tear you to pieces." Hope muttered, her tone slow as she ate.

Liam smirked, "What were you thinking about earlier, so much so that you were lost in thought?"

Hope swallowed the food in her mouth before replying, "I was thinking about the shares my grandmother holds. By the way, can you help me check the shares under Luna's name?"

"Consider it done." Liam immediately pulled out his phone and gave orders.

Hope lowered her head and poked at the rice in front of her, thinking that if Luna indeed had taken Jade Bell's shares, then Luna's holdings would add up to 30%.

Liam's people were always efficient; it took less than ten minutes to get the results.

Not only did they provide details about Luna's holdings, but they also clearly recorded the share percentages of all major shareholders within the Williams Clan.

When Hope got the list, her starry eyes narrowed slightly. Sure enough, as she had expected, Luna Williams now held 30% of the shares.

But Luna would absolutely not dare reveal her holdings now. Otherwise, it would quickly raise suspicion.

If Hope hadn't investigated, she wouldn't have found out.

Hope believed that once this storm passed, Luna would eagerly convene a board meeting to announce this news at the table.

Hope's slim fingers tapped rhythmically on the table.

15%! Sweeping through the list, Hope noted that apart from her, Luna, and Ted Williams, the remaining shares were distributed among five other shareholders.

Liam glanced at Hope's sharp, thoughtful eyes fixed on the list and asked casually, "You're thinking about how to surpass Luna, aren't you?"

Hope shook her head, "No, I don't aim to surpass. I aim for absolute control."

Shareholders need more than 50% ownership to have absolute control.

Interest glittered in Liam's eyes, "Not bad, not bad. Little Hope, for someone who doesn't compete, you sure have ambition when the time comes. But based on the current market value of the Williams Clan, this is astronomical. Tsk tsk. If Waylon Lewis doesn't have some money, he might not be able to support your ambitions."

Chapter 597: Chapter 597: The Trade

Hope Williams mentally calculated for a moment, "Don't worry, I have enough money for this."

Hope raised her finger to point at a few names of the shareholders, smiling as she spoke to Liam Cloud, "I'll need to trouble you to investigate all their personal details."

Since I'm planning to purchase their shares, I need to understand them thoroughly to secure the deal more easily.

"Alright."

Over at Waylon Lewis's side.

The Lewis Clan Group office was enveloped in silence when Thomas Hughes came rushing in.

"Boss..."

"Speak."

"Latest news: The aviation bureau's confirmed data indicates there's nothing wrong with the plane; everything is normal. The issue lies with the captain."

Waylon Lewis's hand, holding a pen to sign documents, paused for a moment. After a brief silence, he asked, "Were the family members found?"

"We're still searching; it seems they've been taken hostage."

"Focus the investigation on Ted Williams."

The ones originally taking that plane back to Emperor Capital were his family of four, meaning the target clearly was them.

“Yes, Boss. Also... sir and madam... we’re still searching for them with all resources available.”

Waylon Lewis’s body stiffened slightly, the veins on his hand gripping the pen protruding unconsciously.

“Keep looking, deploy everyone to search.”

Thomas Hughes glanced at his Boss, struggling to hold back his emotions, and his own heart clenched painfully. After hesitating briefly, he spoke in a comforting tone, “Boss, as long as we haven’t found any bodies, there’s still hope. Sir and madam are blessed individuals; I believe they’ll overcome this danger.”

“Hmm.”

At that moment, the oppressive tense atmosphere was interrupted by the ringing of the phone. Waylon Lewis saw the caller ID, answered, and brought the phone to his ear. Hope Williams’s clear voice came through immediately, “Waylon Lewis, how are things on your end?”

Waylon adjusted his emotions, softening his tone as much as possible, “Handling it; I’ll get everything sorted. What about you?”

“Grandma is now out of danger—it’s at least a bit of good luck amidst the misfortune.” Hope shared her plan for a large-scale acquisition of shares.

Having heard it, Waylon responded without hesitation, “I support you. Don’t worry about spending money; spend as much as you need. I can hold up.”

Hope knew that regardless of her decision, Waylon would always unconditionally support her.

“Is Liam Cloud by your side?”

Hope paused, slightly surprised, “I’ve realized there’s no need for me to tell you; somehow you already know.”

“People in the business world aren’t so easy to deal with. Having him by your side puts me at ease. Take care of yourself.”

Even though Waylon was good at masking his emotions, Hope could still detect the faint weariness in his voice.

Hope pressed her lips together, “Alright, don’t worry, I’ll keep myself safe. You too—make sure to eat well and rest properly.”

“Hmm, I’ll listen to you.”

...

Liam Cloud’s investigation speed was always quick, and all the shareholder information was laid out before Hope.

Liam had conducted an in-depth investigation, even uncovering some of the shareholders’ sordid scandals. Hope’s gaze swept through the details one by one, her attention first landing on Chairman Cox, who owned ten percent of the shares.

“Let’s start with him.”

Liam lounged lazily on the sofa, then straightened slightly and took a glance. “Alright, I’ll have my people bring him here.”

Hope raised her hand quickly, “Wait! No, let’s visit him ourselves.”

The two didn’t delay further. Half an hour later:

Royal Court, a high-class entertainment venue, where the clientele were all wealthy and distinguished.

Hope lowered the car window to look outside. Chairman Cox’s profile revealed he indulged privately in gambling and hunting for pleasure. This club turned out to be his usual haunt. Liam’s team had already found that Chairman Cox was inside the Royal Court’s luxury private room, number 666.

Hope and Liam stepped out of the car together. Just as Hope was about to stride forward, Liam grabbed her wrist and pulled her behind him. “Stay behind me.”

Hope didn’t argue, letting him lead, as the two entered. The opulent main hall bustled with a variety of guests.

Men in tailored suits, women dressed provocatively with slender and elegant figures. Even the staff were youthful and attractive, all exceptionally good-looking.

Private Room 666—this was the one.

Hope glanced at the room number and was about to knock, but Liam had already pushed the door open to enter.

Inside, multicolored lights gleamed as music blared; the scene was one of revelry and indulgence. Below a massive crystal chandelier, a wide sofa was occupied by young men surrounded by sultry women, enjoying themselves wantonly—a thoroughly decadent sight.

This kind of venue wasn't Hope's usual environment; she frowned slightly, her gaze sweeping the dim room until she spotted Chairman Cox lounging amidst his companions on the side of the sofa.

Click. A crisp sound. The blaring music was silenced, replaced by bright overhead lighting that washed the room with clarity.

All movements in the room froze, as everyone turned their gaze towards the two visitors.

"Who the hell are you? Looking for trouble?" The one who stood up to confront them, full of irritation, was Eli Cox himself.

Liam stood with his hands in his pockets, his dark brows slightly raised.

Eli Cox rolled up his sleeves and charged at Liam. Hope stepped forward, blocking Liam, her lips slightly pressed into a polite smile. "Apologies, we didn't mean to interrupt. I'm Hope Williams, shareholder of the Williams Group, are you Chairman Cox?"

As Eli Cox's eyesight landed on Hope, under the bright lights, her delicate and striking features made his eyes shine instantly. Squinting lecherously, he grinned broadly. "Oh? A beautiful woman too. Yes, that's me. So, Beauty, you came looking for me?"

Eli Cox drew closer to Hope, the mixed stench of cigarettes, alcohol, and perfume making her wrinkle her brow.

"Beauty, if you're here for business, let's have a drink first. After drinking, we can talk." As he spoke, Eli poured a glass of wine, raising his hand to pull Hope closer.

The others in the room began cheering and jeering.

Hope was about to raise her hand to stop him when Liam's long arm stretched out, pulling her back behind him. The clean scent of his cologne shielded her from the oppressive smell in an instant.

With one swift move, Liam grabbed Eli Cox's hand tightly and twisted it hard, making him scream in pain.

Cold fury flared in Liam's eyes, as he glared down at the bent-over Eli with disdain.

"Try looking again, and I'll gouge out your eyes!"

"Ow, ow! Stop!"

“Liam!” Hope reached out to halt Liam’s hand, shaking her head to signal him not to act rashly.

They were here to negotiate, and it wouldn’t help to injure someone.

Liam glanced at Hope, then reluctantly released Eli.

Eli cradled his injured hand, now furious beyond containment. “Guards!”

Several bodyguards rushed into the room from outside. “These people are causing trouble! Get them out of here and finish him—cripple him! He wanted to gouge out my eyes earlier, so tonight I’ll have his gouged out and soaked in alcohol!”

Hope frowned.

The icy malice flashed through Liam’s eyes while his thin lips curled mockingly.

Hope let out a soft sigh, looking at Eli Cox. “Can’t we talk civilly?”

“Fine, we can talk—if you gouge out his eyes for me first!”

Chapter 598: Chapter 598: A Direct Declaration of War

Hope Williams smiled calmly, “Alright, I hope Chairman Cox won’t regret this.”

Eli Cox clenched his fist and shouted sternly, “Get them!”

In an instant, a gust of wind swiftly swept past Hope’s side.

From behind came the sounds of a brief scuffle, followed by the heavy thuds of bodies hitting the floor.

The people on the sofa stood up in shock, their movements causing several piercing screams from women to erupt.

Under the bright lights, silver hair shimmered brilliantly. He stood upright, brushing off the dust on his clothes with deliberate calm, his entire demeanor exuding an overwhelming aura of menace that could consume anyone in its path.

Hope’s cold gaze locked onto Eli, her lips curling into a subtle smile, “Chairman Cox, can we talk now?”

Eli stared at the people sprawled on the floor, utterly stunned and seemingly paralyzed by fear. “Talk... talk... yes, I’ll talk...”

Hope gestured with her hand, inviting him to take a seat.

Eli rolled up his sleeve and wiped the cold sweat off his face before sitting properly on the sofa.

Liam Cloud glanced at the remaining frozen occupants of the room and parted his lips slightly, "Not leaving?"

The shocked group scrambled to flee the private room.

Eli, drenched in cold sweat, cautiously looked at Hope, "Miss, what... what do you want to talk about?"

Hope walked over to the nearby sofa and sat down, her face adorned with an innocuous smile. "Chairman Cox, don't be so nervous. I really just want to discuss a deal with you."

Eli nodded repeatedly, "Go ahead... let's discuss. What deal?"

"I want to acquire 10% of the Williams Clan shares you hold in your hands."

Eli's trembling body froze momentarily. "What? You... you want to buy the Williams Clan shares I have?"

Hope nodded. "Exactly."

Eli wiped the sweat from his forehead, his eyes darting about but suddenly took on a more serious tone. "Why do you want to buy the Williams Clan shares?"

"That's my business. Chairman Cox, please don't ask too much." Hope said indifferently.

Eli stared at her and tugged lightly at the corners of his lips, "Even if I were willing to sell, where would you get the money, huh? Based on the Williams Clan's current market valuation, that's tens of billions."

Eli cautiously sized up Hope with squinted eyes, finding the proposition utterly absurd. Not to mention her being a woman—it would be farfetched for even a wealthy business owner to instantly fork out tens of billions to acquire shares.

"You... frankly, I doubt you could do it. Show me tens of billions if you can." Eli's voice carried a trace of newfound confidence. After all, when it came to discussing serious business matters, he displayed the air of an experienced businessman.

"Chairman Cox, are you afraid I won't be able to pay? So, if I can produce the funds, that means you agree to sell, correct?"

Eli poured himself a drink to steady his nerves, "Correct. If you can afford it, I'll sell to you."

Eli had already made up his mind that there was no way she could come up with that kind of money.

Just as his voice fell, his pocket vibrated. Eli pulled out his phone for a glance, then cast a quick look at Hope before saying, "Let me take this call first."

Hope raised a hand slightly, "Be my guest."

Eli walked over to the corner to answer the phone while Hope sat leisurely on the sofa, tapping lightly on her phone before placing it face-down on the table.

During his phone call, Eli frequently glanced over at Hope.

Hope noticed it with the corner of her eyes.

Soon, Eli finished the call and returned with a completely altered expression. He cleared his throat and said, "Miss Williams, I won't sell the shares anymore. Even if you have the funds, I won't sell them. You should go find someone else. I have plans today, so forgive me for not continuing the discussion."

After speaking, Eli hurriedly tried to leave, but Liam took a step and blocked his path directly. "Where are you going?"

Eli instinctively took two steps back, shrinking his neck as he looked between Liam and Hope, "Miss Williams, you can't force me to sell."

"It was Ted Williams who called you, wasn't it?" Hope's voice was calm and measured.

Eli stiffened. "No, it wasn't him."

Hope smirked. "But just now you called me Miss Williams. From start to finish, I haven't introduced myself to you, have I? So—what's the story? The call connected, and you suddenly knew my last name?"

Eli swallowed hard.

"And the only one who could make you change your mind with a single phone call is Ted Williams, right?"

Hope was certain that with Ted's cautious nature, it was impossible for him not to have people secretly monitoring her.

If he discovered she was meeting with shareholders, Hope wasn't surprised.

Of course, she didn't mind him knowing she was collecting shares.

This was essentially a declaration of war.

“You belong to Ted Williams. You have leverage under his control. Yes, that must be it.”

Hope pulled out a prepared file and handed it to Eli. “Chairman Cox, take a look.”

Eli’s forehead twitched nervously twice, his eyes brimming with defensive unease. Hope’s expression remained unassumingly friendly with a light smile.

Eli reached out and took the file Hope handed to him, sliding out the contents to take a look. His face instantly darkened. “How did you get hold of this?”

“If you don’t want anyone to know, don’t do things yourself. You’ve kept your sleazy dealings well hidden, but uncovering them wasn’t difficult. Now then, Chairman Cox, let’s renegotiate—10% of the shares for 2.5 billion. I’ll pretend none of this ever surfaced.”

Eli visibly hesitated at the mention of 2.5 billion, his eyes betraying a flicker of temptation.

Calculating based on the Williams Clan’s current valuation, 2.5 billion wasn’t a low offer. On top of that, the allure of an immediate 2.5 billion payout was undeniable.

Eli stared at Hope, “You’re really capable of producing 2.5 billion?”

Hope’s lips curled slightly. “If I couldn’t, I wouldn’t be here wasting time with you.”

Lowering his eyes, Eli thought to himself. From the moment he learned Hope’s name, he hadn’t doubted her ability to procure the funds.

A few days ago, he had attended Old Lady Williams’ birthday banquet. The news had spread in the circles that the Williams family had found a lost granddaughter named Hope Williams, who had married Waylon Lewis, the Emperor Capital’s most powerful family head.

Her husband was Waylon Lewis; this amount of money meant nothing to him.

Eli reconsidered Hope’s words but then remembered the leverage Ted Williams held against him, leaving him with a sense of despair.

“Miss, please spare me. Ted Williams won’t let me off the hook.”

After hearing this, Hope smirked slightly, stood up, and said, “I have a compromise. How about listening to it, Chairman Cox?”

Chapter 599: Chapter 599: Face-to-Face Confrontation

“Speak!”

“I can give you one billion first, as a reservation for the shares in your hand. You don’t need to transfer the shares to me for now. If you transfer them, you’ll be exposed to Ted Williams. The shares will remain under your name—I’m already compromising. How you convince him of your loyalty is up to you. How about it?”

Eli Cox: “You’re suggesting I deceive him?”

Hope Williams arched her delicate brow slightly. “Yes.”

“But one billion, you’re willing to hand it over to me just like that? Aren’t you afraid I’ll switch sides back to Ted Williams and tell him everything? Wouldn’t that leave you with nothing?”

Hope Williams picked up her phone and waved it lightly in front of Eli Cox, her cool voice calm:

“Apologies, I just recorded our conversation. Chairman Cox, you’ve interacted with Ted Williams; you should know he’s an exceptionally suspicious person. If this recording ends up in his hands, do you think he’ll still trust you?”

“By then, neither side will favor you, and if I expose what I’ve uncovered, I might lose one billion, but the consequences for Chairman Cox will be company bankruptcy and prison. You’re a smart man—you understand the stakes. I don’t need to teach you the choice.”

Eli Cox widened his eyes, in disbelief that after all his years navigating the business world, he had been outwitted so thoroughly by a woman.

He couldn’t find a single vulnerability to counter.

This woman was terrifyingly intelligent.

Eli Cox forced a smile, laughing twice. “Miss Williams, what a brilliant strategy!”

“You’re too kind. When surrounded by monsters and demons, one must learn a few tricks.”

“But he knows you approached me. How can you be sure he’ll still trust me?”

“The shares are still under your name—that’s the best proof. Once you walk out of this door today, he’ll investigate the shares under your name through the group. Since the shares remain with you, the leverage goes both ways—he controls you with a weak point, and you pressure him with the shares. Do you think he’ll dare to act against you?”

After hearing this, Eli Cox sighed, completely convinced.

“Miss Williams has mapped out everything for me. What reason do I have to refuse? Fortune and ruin are often decided in a moment. I, Eli Cox, am willing to take a gamble with Miss Williams. As for Ted Williams, I’ll handle him myself. In the future, if my voice carries weight at the board, I’ll certainly speak up for Miss Williams.”

Hope Williams curved her lips into a slight smile. “Pleasure working with you.”

“Pleasure working with you.”

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Leaving the Royale Court, Liam Cloud glanced at her and smirked. “Hope Williams, you’re learning to play dirty.”

Hope Williams blinked innocently, feigning ignorance. “What do you mean?”

Liam Cloud looked at her innocent, harmless expression. If he hadn’t just witnessed her completely cornering that old fox Eli Cox inside, he might’ve actually believed she was a harmless little rabbit.

Liam Cloud opened the car door, waiting for Hope to get in, then grinned. “Old fox, stop pretending. You thought of how to deal with him before you even walked in, didn’t you?”

Hope Williams curled her lips into a sly smile, finally letting her natural craftiness show. “It’s all thanks to the information you gathered. Otherwise, this wouldn’t have gone so smoothly. A thousand thanks.”

“‘Thanks’ in that formal tone?”

“What, is there an issue? You’re older than me. Calling you ‘Sir’ is a sign of respect. Don’t like it?” Hope blinked at him.

“Heh, whatever you say. Just get in the car already, my dear ancestor.”

Hope stooped to get in, and Liam closed the car door. He was about to head to the driver’s seat when his ringing phone stopped him. Answering the call, his expression darkened slightly.

“Got it,” he responded in a somber tone.

After getting into the car, Liam Cloud rarely looked as solemn as he did then. He turned to Hope Williams and asked, “I have two pieces of bad news. Which one do you want to hear first?”

Feigning drama, Hope clicked her tongue. “Let me boldly ask—what’s the first bad news?”

“Luna Williams just held a press conference with the Williams Clan, accusing you of attempting to murder Jade Bell.”

“And the second bad news?”

“You’re trending on social media—getting dragged hard.”

“If I debuted now, wouldn’t I skyrocket to fame instantly?” Hope laughed bitterly.

Liam Cloud chuckled. “At the rate you trend online, you don’t even need to debut to be famous.”

After sharing a light moment of banter, Hope turned serious. “When did this happen?”

“Half an hour ago.”

Heh, so Ted Williams and Luna Williams were growing desperate.

Hope opened her phone and was about to watch the live broadcast of Luna’s press conference when a large hand snatched the device from her.

“What are you doing?”

“Trying to gauge public opinion. Reading the comments.”

“At a time like this, why look at the comments? To invite misery?”

Hope tilted her head, frustration glinting in her eyes.

“I need to understand the tide of public perception. Right now, I’m not just Hope Williams. I’m also part of the Lewis Family—for better or worse, I’m Waylon Lewis’s wife. If my reputation suffers, it could affect him as well. Waylon seems to be dealing with some troubles recently. I can’t make things worse for him.”

Liam Cloud stared at her serious expression and handed back the phone.

Hope unlocked her phone and watched as Luna Williams, on camera, shed tear after tear, spewing accusation after accusation against her.

With her award-worthy performance and the planned support of online trolls, the crowd erupted with boos and protests.

Yet Hope calmly remarked, “Luna currently has thirty percent of the shares. She’s waiting for the scandal surrounding Jade Bell to cool off before calling a board meeting as the largest shareholder, paving her way to becoming the successor. And now, instead of keeping a low profile, she’s stirring up this mess for everyone to see? Not likely.”

Liam raised a brow. “You’re saying she’s being pressured?”

“Exactly. Ted doesn’t even know that Jade Bell’s twenty percent of shares have already fallen into Luna’s hands. And Ted’s clearly panicked. He must realize there’s no concrete evidence to take me down. This whole stunt is just to stoke public pressure and disrupt our rhythm.”

After pausing for a few minutes, she murmured, “Take me to the Williams Clan.”

“You’ve thought of a plan?”

“No.”

“Planning to confront them head-on?”

Her eyes glittered, and she nodded. “Exactly. If I don’t retaliate, they’ll really think I’m a coward hiding in my shell.”

Liam grinned—wickedly, devilishly. His narrow eyes sparkled with interest as he started the car, driving straight for the Williams Clan Building.

Sitting in the passenger seat, Hope pulled out her phone and promptly contacted her lawyer.

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“Auntie, Auntie, Auntie! Something huge just happened!” Sophie Zhou ran to Emily Parker, clutching her phone, peeling off her face mask in haste as if in an emergency.

Emily, already stressed out, turned even more annoyed at Sophie’s loud disruptions.

“Sophie, how many times have I told you? These past few days, I’ve been in a bad mood. Stop making noise. What could possibly be more important than your uncle divorcing me?”

“Something huge—truly huge! The Williams Family is in trouble!”

“Pfft, what trouble could that family possibly have? There’s hardly anyone left—what, did one of them die?”

“Luna just held a press conference accusing Hope of trying to murder Jade Bell. And Old Lady Williams is still in the hospital, unconscious.”

Emily Parker’s eyes widened. “Are you serious?”

“Completely! Look, Luna invited practically every media outlet. Now the whole thing’s blown up, and Hope is trending—scorned left, right, and center!” Sophie’s face could barely contain her glee.

Emily grabbed Sophie’s phone, her attention locked onto the headlines.

“Oh my God,” Emily exclaimed gleefully. “This is karma! Divine retribution! Hahaha, finally!”

“Exactly! Feels like the universe finally got one right, doesn’t it? And on top of that, it totally brightened your day, Auntie!”

Emily stood abruptly.

“Where are you going, Auntie?”

“Are you serious? I hate the Williams Family with a passion. And now that they’re in trouble, how can I not go and join the circus? Hurry, I can’t wait another second!”

Meanwhile, chaos erupted at the base of the Williams Clan Building as waves of reporters swarmed the area, cameras in hand, vying to get front-row footage of Luna Williams.

Luna, standing atop a hastily erected stage, had eyes swollen red from crying. Her tears streamed down steadily, falling in heavy drops.

Chapter 600: Chapter 600 Disregarding Family Ties

Luna Williams stood on the hastily erected platform, her eyes red and swollen as tears streamed down unchecked.

That tearful, pitiful appearance could evoke sympathy from anyone.

Hope Williams sat in the car, choosing not to step out immediately.

Luna was surrounded by a crowd of reporters, who seemed like paragons of justice, fervently chasing the truth, their microphones jostling to reach her.

“Second Miss Williams, is this matter true? Do you have any conclusive evidence to prove that Miss Williams is attempting to harm Old Lady Williams?”

Luna sniffled and answered, “I already said it—my evidence is that I witnessed it myself. And it’s not just me, plenty of servants at home saw it too. At the time, the room had only her and my grandmother, and my grandmother was lying on the floor, bleeding profusely.”

“Then may I ask, Second Miss Williams, what would Miss Williams’ motive be? Do you know why she would commit such an act?”

Luna wiped her tears and shook her head, “I don’t know. Perhaps they quarreled, but at that time, it was only the two of them in the room. No one knows why this happened.”

Another reporter spoke up, “Second Miss Williams, rumors have circulated that you and Miss Williams were not on good terms because when you were suffering from leukemia, Miss Williams refused to donate marrow to save you. Is that true?”

Facing this question, Luna paused, a flicker of shock flashing through her eyes. Very few people knew about this matter, and it had never been disclosed to the public. How did this reporter know?

Luna bit her lip and glanced up toward the second floor, where a pair of eyes were fixed on her.

The man stood silently, dressed sharply in a suit, his angular gaze beneath golden-rimmed glasses warning her.

It was that bastard Ted Williams!

Suddenly, Luna was no longer surprised. Clearly, some of these reporters were deliberately planted by him—their pointed and confrontational questions were obvious.

And, of course, they were aimed at Hope!

Luna’s hands clenched instinctively by her sides. That bastard had cornered her, forcing her to attend this press conference and had even practically invited every media outlet.

She was still hiding Jade Bell’s twenty percent shares. How could she dare to reveal them?

Now that this matter had gone public, if she ever attempted to produce those twenty percent shares, she’d face countless suspicions.

Dammit!

When Luna zoned out and failed to answer, the female reporter pressed on, her questions relentless and airtight.

“Second Miss Williams, can you address our questions? Is Miss Williams truly as ruthless and heartless as rumors suggest, indifferent to familial ties?”

After weighing her thoughts, Luna could only nod. Under the circumstances, how could she admit that Hope was pregnant, that she and her grandfather repeatedly schemed to harm Hope’s child, angering her to the point of indifference?

Luna excelled at playing the victim. She bit her lower lip and nodded, though she remained silent, her gesture serving as unspoken confirmation.

The tears streaming endlessly down her face conveyed her grievances louder than words.

Her response incited an uproar among the crowd.

“Letting her own sister die from a life-threatening illness instead of saving her? Too vicious! A heartless person like that committing harm to her own grandmother wouldn’t be surprising!”

“This really happened?! Why would Miss Williams refuse to save her own sister? Did she just leave the Second Miss to die? There’s no cruelty like this!”

At this moment, the same female reporter seized the opportunity, continuing relentlessly, “I also heard that Miss Williams didn’t want to return to the Williams Family at all and has long sought to sever ties with them—is this true?”

The microphone was once again pushed toward Luna’s face.

Luna gazed at the female reporter—the questions were sharp and loaded with accusations, a clear attempt to smear Hope.

The reporter, noticing Luna’s hesitation, subtly gestured toward her multiple times.

Luna glanced once more at Ted, whose threatening gaze bore down on her, and bowed her head before nodding to the camera.

“Yes, she doesn’t care to come back to the family. Our family has always felt guilty and tried our best to make amends, but my sister consistently rejects our efforts. Perhaps she thinks little of us now, especially since she’s become the Lewis Family’s Young Madam.”

As soon as she finished speaking, another wave of heated discussions erupted.

“Disgusting. She climbs high and then abandons her own family. What’s so great about her being so arrogant?”

“Abandon her sister in dire need, disregard her family—why bother bringing her back? It’s just asking for trouble.”

“Stop trying to make amends. She’s already looking down on everyone. Let her stay with the Lewis Family. Let’s see if they’ll even respect her without the title of Miss Williams.”

“Exactly—well said! People like her, let’s see who’ll think highly of her!”

As the scorn toward Hope intensified, Luna’s initial guilt gave way to a surge of satisfaction.

Emily Parker and Sophie Zhou shared in the delight, their faces lit up with triumphant smiles.

“Auntie, the drama in the Williams Family truly is riveting.”

“Isn’t it? Endless internal strife. It’s hilarious!”

Suddenly, an entirely different voice rang out, “What nonsense are you all spouting?”

The crowd turned toward the source of the voice and saw Harry Williams.

Harry looked like he’d just woken up and rushed over; his golden hair was slightly unkempt, and he had casually thrown on a coat, anger evident in every step.

Yet despite his disheveled appearance, his strikingly handsome features caused several fangirls in the crowd to scream in delight.

Upon seeing Harry walking toward her, Luna’s heart jolted.

Ted hadn’t expected Harry to show up either. He signaled Blade River with a look, and Blade immediately rushed forward with his men.

After some thought, Ted decided to head down as well.

“Why are you here?” Luna asked, startled, looking at Harry.

“Why are you still here slandering Cousin Hope?” Harry demanded loudly.

The smell of alcohol clung to him, and he’d clearly been drinking. Coupled with his vehement accusations, this version of Harry was starkly different from his usual demeanor, scaring Luna into a cold sweat.

The audience, too, overheard Harry’s accusations against Luna and began murmuring in confusion.

“Slander? What does he mean? Could Second Miss Williams have been lying about everything she just said?” Reporters wouldn’t miss the chance to probe further.

“That’s not true,” Luna retorted loudly.

Ted strode onto the stage with his men, initially reluctant to intervene but fearing Harry might lose control and ruin his plans.

Two bodyguards immediately stepped forward to restrain Harry.

“You’ve had too much to drink. Go rest,” Ted said in a low, tense voice filled with anger.

With a brief glance at Ted, Harry responded, “Fuck you.”

Ted froze in shock for a moment before his brows furrowed in frustration. Gesturing to the bodyguards, he ordered, “Second Young Master is drunk. Take him away to rest.”