

Be Honest! 621

Chapter 621 A Good Change

The next day, Clem Shi woke up and was amazed to see his wife waking up with a vibrant smile on her lips.

"Good Morning, my love."

Clem Shi stared at his wife, wondering if he was still dreaming or not. It's been a long, very long time since he saw her so relaxed and happy.

Has she finally realized the silliness of her earlier ways?

Did she finally realize that all her anxiety was solely because she wasn't prepared for the stress that comes along with motherhood?

Not everyone is ready for the commitment a child brings. Some parents get burned out sooner than one expects. And this could lead to a long period of sleep deprivation. Clem Shi's eyes snapped open, feeling a thunderous drum beat wildly in his chest. Soon, he found himself rolling the sheets with her, having the most intense session of adult gymnastics he has had in a while. The God of Science knows that he loved his wife. He loved her with every fiber of her being. Her scent, her body, her smell... It's been a long time since he felt her warmth.

Fearing he'll be late for work, he hastily jumped out of bed, humming like a man who just conquered the world. After breakfast, he hastily kissed Liana and his son, waving at them while driving off to work.

But when he was a distance away from the door, he looked at his rear mirror, feeling that his wife's current expression was a little strange. Well, he's probably over thinking things, especially seeing her smile return in a split second. Going to work, he felt his whole day was a mess. He was accidentally spilling his tea... making mistakes on his work and even kicking his legs and hitting his hands against several objects.

Something wasn't right. He could feel it in his gut.

It was already dark, despite it being 5 PM. Driving home, all he could think of was that smile on his wife's face.

He more than anyone wanted her to change. He has wished and hoped for her to change. And to be honest, he should be happy for her sudden change this morning.

However, would he be a bad husband if he said her overnight change made him suspicious?

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After rushing upstairs with all his might, Clem Shi paused. The bedroom swung in an otherworldly matter, silvery light that seemed to pulse with each ragged breath he took.

She's here. A gush of relief suddenly engulfed his being. But after shooting his hand out, desperately seeking Liana's warmth, he found only the cold, mocking emptiness of rumpled sheets staring back at him.

Whoosh!

He pulled them off to see a fake wig and pillows underneath.

"Liana?" The name tore frighteningly from his throat.

At this moment, the world spun and swayed before his very eyes. "LIANA!!!"

... Silence was all he received. Oppressive, suffocating silence.

Clem Shi's mind reeled, a whirlpool of fear and confusion. 'Something was definitely wrong.' Terribly, horrifyingly wrong. The air itself felt charged, electric with an unseen menace that made his skin crawl and his breath catch.

Just then, a thought came to mind, making him lurch from the bedroom, bare feet slapping against the hardwood floor. Each step sent shockwaves of dread up his spine, but Clem Shi dared not stop. The hallway stretched before him, a yawning chasm of shadows and whispers.

"Liana?" he called again, his voice a trembling whisper. "Little Hai?"

The nursery door loomed ahead, a portal to either salvation or damnation. Clem Shi's hand shook as he reached for the knob, his palm slick with cold sweat. The door creaked open, the sound piercing the night like a scream.

Empty. The crib stood abandoned, blankets twisted and discarded like shed skin. Clem Shi's heart clenched, a vise of panic squeezing the air from his lungs. His eyes darted wildly around the room, seeking, pleading for any sign of his family.

Where are they? Where is his family?

The curtains billowed, like ghostly fingers beckoning him towards the open window facing the backyard. The night air rushed in, carrying with it the faint sound of... giggling?

Where they—

Clem Shi scrambled out the window, suddenly feeling a surge of adrenaline pump into his body. There was a thick vine, maze-like plant that crossed against this bedroom to the roof.

All Clem Shi could feel was the thundering of his heart, the icy grip of fear around his throat. He climbed, each rung bringing him closer to the haunting melody drifting from above.

But—As he reached the roof's edge, the giggling... it suddenly stopped. Liana?

The sudden silence was deafening, pressing against his eardrums like a physical force. What's going on? What's going on?

Clem Shi pulled himself up, his eyes scanning the rooftop frantically.

There, by the far edge – Liana.

Relief again flooded through him for a split second before horror crashed back in. What is she holding?

Liana stood precariously close to the roof's edge, her white nightgown whipping around her like angry spirits in the wind. And just as he suspected, in her arms, she cradled Little Hai, but her grip was all wrong – too tight, too rigid.

"Liana," Clem Shi breathed, his voice barely audible over the pounding of blood in his ears.

She turned, and Clem Shi's world tilted on its axis. This isn't his Liana. Clem Shi thought.

The woman before him wore his wife's face, but her eyes... God of Science, her eyes.... They were vast and empty, like black holes threatening to devour everything in their path. Including their son.

"He's not ours, Brother Shi," Liana's voice slithered across the rooftop, alien and cold. "This thing..." She paused in disgust. "It's not our Little Hai."

Why does she keep saying this? Pain sparked in Clem Shi's eyes.

Each word was a dagger, slicing through Clem Shi's heart. He took a shaky step forward, his hands raised in supplication. "Liana, please. Open your eyes and see. That there is our handsome boy. Do you remember how you pushed him out of your—"

"LIES!" Liana's scream shattered the atmosphere, causing Clem Shi to flinch. "All lies! "Do you recall our vows, Brother Shi? To love and to protect? To believe and to trust?" I, your wife and a mother, am telling you that this is not our boy!! It's a PUPPET! It told me so itself."

Puppet?

The word echoed in Clem Shi's mind, stirring something deep and primal within him. Clem Shi has always had a fear for puppets, despite not knowing why. He felt he and puppets had some past, but for the life of him, he couldn't recall why he was so frightened by them.

Puppet? The baby told her that himself? Can babies even talk?

Clearly, this was postpartum psychosis, it had to be. The alternative was too terrifying to contemplate.

"Liana, baby, you're not well," Clem Shi pleaded, inching closer. Every fiber of his being screamed at him to rush forward, to snatch Little Hai from her arms. But the wild, unpredictable look in Liana's eyes kept him at bay. One wrong move and... he couldn't bear to finish the thought.

Liana's laugh was a broken, jagged thing. "Not well? Oh, Brother Shi. I've never seen more clearly." Believe her!

She looked down at Little Hai, who had begun to fuss in her too-tight grip. In a place where Clem Shi couldn't see, the little monster stared at her with vicious eyes. Soon, it changed its eyes to a soft hue, warm and inviting that looked very similar to her son. However, Liana didn't buy it. After several months undergoing physical and psychological torture, don't think a simple googly eye move would ever stray her from her goal.

"Shh, little imposter. Your tricks won't work on me."

Clem Shi's gaze darted between Liana's face and Little Hai. The baby's distress was palpable, his tiny face scrunched in confusion and fear. .

"Liana, listen to me," Clem Shi's voice was low, urgent. He was truly at his wits end but dared not give up.

"Liana, my love, please look at me... That is our son. Our Little Hai. Remember the day he was born?"

Instantly, countless memories flooded through the couple's mind.

"Do you remember how we dressed him up for the first time and you giggled, saying he looked like a little fat man? How you cried when you first laid your eyes on him, and even swore to give him the best in life no matter what."

Tears trickled down Liana's cheeks the more she listened.

It was because of that promise and her love that she was going above and beyond to find her SON.

However, her darling husband would never believe her, and this made her cold.

It would be a lie to say that she wasn't emotional right now.

For a heartbeat, something flickered in Liana's eyes – A flash of warmth, of recognition. Did his words finally get to her?

Chapter 622 GONE

Did it work?

Has his words finally gotten to her?

Clem Shi's heart soared, hope blossoming in his chest... But then, like a candle snuffed out, it was gone. The emptiness returned, somehow even more terrifying than before.

"Yes, you're right," Liana spat the word like a curse. "I should do the best for my son, even if it means dying for him. So, Brother Shi, I won't be fooled!"

NO!

She took a step backward, and Clem Shi's world narrowed to a pinpoint. Her heels were at the very edge now, five stories of empty air yawning behind her. Little Hai's cries grew louder, more frantic, as if the baby sensed the danger.

"Brother Shi, I'll end this! I'll send this creature back to wherever it came from, so we can find our real son together."

"Liana, no!" The words tore from Clem Shi's throat, raw and desperate. "Give... Give him... Please, give him to me. I know you're sick, Liana... Whatever's happening, whatever you're feeling, we can face it together. But I'm begging you... please, don't hurt our boy!"

She keeps forcing him to choose between her and his son every single day.

Tears streamed down Clem Shi's face, hot and bitter. His legs trembled, every muscle coiled to spring forward. But he remained frozen, terrified that any sudden movement would send Liana over the edge.

Heh.

Liana looked down at Little Hai, her face a mask of conflicting emotions. Doubt, fear, love, and revulsion warred across her features. "He's not..." she began, but her voice faltered.

How could Brother Shi not see that this was not their son? She felt pain for her son when seeing his father act this way.

'Here's my chance!'

Clem Shi seized on her hesitation, taking another careful step forward. He was close enough now to see the tears glistening in Liana's eyes, to smell the familiar scent of her shampoo. So close, yet she still felt so terrifyingly far.

"Look at him. He is Liana. I want you to take a hard good look at him," Clem Shi's voice was a caress, gentle yet insistent. "He has your nose, remember?" Clem Shi attempted a weak smile, though his heart kept threatening to burst out from his chest.

Liana's gaze remained fixed on Little Hai, her brow furrowed in concentration. 'Almost there...'

Clem Shi held his breath, the moment stretching into eternity. The city around them faded away, leaving only this rooftop, this family balanced on a knife's edge between salvation and tragedy.

Slowly, aching slowly, Liana's expression began to change. The emptiness in her eyes gave way to confusion, then dawning horror. She looked up at Clem Shi, and Clem Shi in turn saw his wife – truly saw her – for the first time since this nightmare began.

"Brother Shi?" she whispered, her voice small and broken. "Why don't you believe-"

Clem Shi's knees buckled, and he had to fight to remain standing. "It's okay, I believe you now." he soothed, his voice thick with emotion. "You've done all this to make me believe. Dammit woman,

do you know we're on the roof now? Believe me, everything's going to be fine. Can you come towards me? Slowly?"

Liana nodded, looking dazed and terrified. And for some reason, she chose to believe in her husband. Her Clem Shi didn't know the first thing about lying.

So if he said he believed, then he definitely believed.

Oh my Mother of Pearls! It was only now that she truly looked at her surroundings well. She felt she was quite courageous to come on the edge of the roof. The fall would definitely leave some bones cracked.

Taking a deep breath, she took a tentative step forward, then another. Clem Shi's arms ached to grab her, to pull her and Little Hai to safety, but he forced himself to remain still. One wrong move could shatter this fragile moment.

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What a night.

As Liana reached him, Clem Shi gently wrapped one arm around her waist, guiding her away from the edge. With his other hand, he cradled Little Hai's head, sandwiching their son between them in a protective embrace.

"I've got you," he murmured, pressing a kiss to Liana's forehead. "I've got both of you. You're safe now."

For a moment, they stood there, a 'family' reunited. Clem Shi could feel Liana trembling against him, and could hear Little Hai's soft whimpers. He closed his eyes, offering a silent thanks to whatever willpower deep within him that had brought them back from the brink.

But as he opened his eyes, ready to guide his family back to the safety of their home, he felt Liana stiffen in his arms.

"No," she whispered, her voice suddenly hard again. "No, this isn't right."

What again, woman?

Before Clem Shi could react, Liana shoved him away with surprising strength. He stumbled backward, his arms pinwheeling as he fought to keep his balance. By the time he regained his footing, Liana was already halfway across the roof, Little Hai clutched tightly to her chest.

What sort of trials and tribulations was this?

"Liana, stop!" Clem Shi cried out, his voice raw with renewed fear and desperation.

"Please, just stop, Liana"

But Liana didn't stop. She ran to the far side of the roof. With one arm holding Little Hai, she began to climb down the vines on her own. But where? Where was she going?

Clem Shi sprinted after her, his bare feet slapping against the rough surface of the roof. Each step was agony, but he barely felt it. All he could focus on was Liana, climbing lower and lower with their son dangling precariously in her grasp.

Soon, he reached the bottom and chased after her with the spirit of a lion. But because he was barefoot, Liana was faster than him, running on stones, twigs, bushes and whatnot.

Behind their home a little further away, was a forest with a well. In the olden days. As he pulled himself onto the platform, gasping for breath, he saw Liana standing at the far edge. Little Hai was no longer in her arms.

"Liana," Clem Shi said, his voice a ragged whisper. "Where's Little Hai?"

"Brother Shi, did you lie to be back then on the roof?"

Liana turned to face him, and Clem Shi felt the last shreds of hope wither and die. Her eyes were completely black again, reflecting the starlight like twin pools of oil. But now her face was split in a rictus grin, a parody of joy that chilled Clem Shi to his very soul.

"Brother Shi, how many times must I tell you," she questioned, her voice distorted and inhuman. "He-is-NOT our son."

With those words, Liana stepped backward off into the woods. What was she trying to do? The direction she ran off to was towards the old mine cliff.

"Liana!" Clem Shi lunged forward, a scream tearing from his throat. Following her, he witnessed exactly what he feared. And without wasting a second, he threw himself to the edge, looking down, expecting to see Liana's broken.

Instead, he saw... nothing. No sign of Liana, no sign of Little Hai. Just the empty woods, bathed in cold, indifferent moonlight.

What should he do now?

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Clem Shi sank to his knees, a keening wail building in his chest. "This can't be happening. It has to be a nightmare... I'll definitely wake up any moment now, and find Liana and Little Hai safe in their beds."

Yes! And in the morning, he will wake up, and they would also laugh about this over breakfast, just another strange dream to be forgotten in the light of day.

Clem Shi desperately wished it was a dream.

But as the cool night air raised goosebumps on his skin and the distant sounds of the city reached his ears – so normal, so oblivious to the horror that had just unfolded – Clem Shi knew this was no dream. His wife was gone. His son was gone. And he was alone in the woods with no idea what had just happened or what to do next.

As he sat there, numb with shock and grief, Clem Shi noticed something glinting on the platform.

What was that?

He reached out with a trembling hand and picked it up.

It was the bracelet he had given Liana, the one with their names on it. This bracelet brought in immense joy in the past. But now it felt different – heavier, somehow, and thrumming with a strange energy that made his fingers tingle.

Clem Shi clutched the bracelet tightly, feeling it pulse against his palm like a tiny, metallic heartbeat. And as he stared out at the skyline, the town he thought he knew so well, suddenly seemed vast and unknowable, full of shadows and secrets he had never imagined.

Whatever had happened here tonight, Clem Shi knew one thing with bone-deep certainty: he would not rest until he found them and brought them home... even if it meant bringing the entire police squadron over to look for his wife and son!

The night wind whispered around him, carrying the faint echo of Liana's otherworldly laugh. Clem Shi stood, the silver bracelet now coiled around his fist like a lifeline.

Clem Shi didn't know how he got home, but when he did, he heard the faint sound of a baby-crying in the kitchen.

"Liana?" Tears fell in a blink of an eye as he reunited with his Little Hai. However, after searching and searching for his ill wife, he couldn't find a single being in sight.

Gone— His wife, Liana, was gone. And in a place where he couldn't see, Little Hai's eyes now glowed with a vicious light.

'Human, don't let me catch you, or... heh-heh-heh'

Chapter 623 Do You Believe?

A camera panned over the imposing facade of an asylum, its barred windows and towering walls casting long shadows in the early morning light. The reporter, a young woman with sharp eyes and a steady voice, stood in front of the gates, microphone in hand.

"Good morning, I'm Harah Fallins reporting live from Mayta's Asylum," she began, her voice cutting through the ambient noise of the bustling street. "In a shocking turn of events, local resident Liana xxx has been arrested and committed to this facility following a dramatic incident at her home."

The screen shifted to footage of Liana being led away by police, her face a mask of anguish as she screamed, "That's not my baby!" Her cries echoed hauntingly even through the television speakers, leaving viewers with an unsettling chill.

This was a pretty small town. Many people who knew her placed their hands on their mouths, gasping in disbelief.

How did this happen? How did it get this bad?

"Neighbors reported hearing disturbing sounds from the Shi residence several nights ago," Sarah continued. "Authorities finally found and captured Liana in Glockville city, several miles from here. And after capturing her, all she could say in a state of hysteria was that her newborn child had been replaced by an imposter."

The broadcast returned to Sarah, who maintained her professional demeanor despite the gravity of the story. "Mrs. Liana's husband, Clem, has declined to comment at this time. He remains at home caring for their child while his wife undergoes psychiatric evaluation."

"..."

The news said it all.

The world concluded that this young woman was crazy. Who tried to kill their newborn over and over again, if not a crazy person?

People who knew Liana well, just couldn't believe she would do such a thing.

They knew she has been having troubles since her birthing. But they never knew it was this bad.

Poor Clem Shi... Many people who knew Clem Shi, felt bad for him. He must be in deep agony, knowing that his wife was trying to kill his child. AHHHHHHH~

The echo of Liana's screams reverberated through the cold, sterile corridors of the asylum. But no one could hear her cries.

The walls seemed to absorb her cries, amplifying the desperation in her voice. "I shouldn't be here! I should be looking for my son! That's not my baby!" she shrieked, her voice cracking with a mix of terror and defiance. Her eyes, wide and frantic, darted around the room as if searching for an escape from this nightmare.

Dr. Collins, a seasoned psychiatrist with graying hair and a weary expression, stood at a distance, observing her with a mixture of pity and professional detachment. He had seen many cases of postpartum psychosis, but there was something different about this one. Something unsettling. According to the reports, she should be very healthy. Taking a deep breath, he soon stepped into her enclosed space.

"Please, Mrs. Liana," he said gently, attempting to calm her. "Your husband is taking care of the child. Everything will be alright."

Alright?

Huh.

Liana only laughed—a hollow, chilling sound that sent shivers down his spine. "You don't understand doctor," she said, her voice dropping to a whisper as if sharing a dark secret. "No one does..."

"Doc, I've said it once, and I'll keep saying it again. That thing is NOT-MY-CHILD."

The world had never seen such a bizarre case like this. However, time seemed to have flown by in a flash. Already, 14 days have gone by since Liana's capture.

Clem Shi sat in their dimly lit living room, cradling the infant in his arms. The baby looked up at him with large, unblinking eyes that seemed far too knowing for its age. Suddenly Clem Shi felt a strange unease settle over him as he rocked the child gently.

He had been hopeful when they brought their newborn home—a perfect little family. But now, with his wife locked away and his own health inexplicably deteriorating, hope felt like a distant memory.

(Cough, cough)

Clem Shi coughed into his handkerchief, noticing the alarming amount of blood staining the fabric. What was going on with him?

His strength was waning, and he could feel it slipping away with each passing day. Yet every time he thought of leaving the child alone, an inexplicable fear gripped him—a fear that something terrible would happen if he turned his back.

Wahhhh~

The baby cooed softly, its small hands reaching up to touch Clem Shi's face. But there was something so... so unnatural about its gaze.

Terrible!

A chill ran down his spine at the touch—icy and unnatural. He tried to shake off the feeling, telling himself it was just exhaustion playing tricks on his mind.

But the house itself seemed to change in the presence of the child. Shadows stretched longer than they should have; whispers echoed in empty rooms. 'My f***king mind must be messing with me again.' Clem Shi concluded, while redying himself for bed.

Everynight, he has felt his strength weakening. And in the morning, he would wake up, feeling his bones so fragile and painful.

This night was no different.

Clem Shi tried to wake up, but still found it impossible, just like his other attempts in the past.

Clem Shi didn't know if it was luck or what, but this night, he finally succeeded in prying his eyes open. Of course, he didn't just open them wide like a doll, but first keep them closed, and only slightly opened them to take several peeks of his surroundings.

What?

Clem Shi's breathing instantly became shallow, when seeing the horrifying scene before him.

There in the crib, his son was standing and staring at him with glowing green eyes. But this wasn't all. His lips stretched unnaturally, from ear to ear in a way no human's can.

Clem Shi had no tears but wanted to cry.

The air around him felt heavy with an unspoken dread that seeped into every corner of his life.

Liana... He regretted it. This was definitely not his SON!

Chapter 624 Answers

The next day, Clem Shi woke up feeling drained as usual. However, he still swallowed hard and pretended as though he didn't see what he saw last night.

Very calmly, he ate breakfast, and dropped his 'son' at his grandmother's place.

For now, he didn't dare to act out of character.

But after leaving home, he stepped on the gas like a maniac, making his way to the one person who might be able to give him answers.

Platter, platter, platter~

The rains lashed against the windows as he entered the building, his footsteps echoing ominously in the empty halls.

When he reached his wife's room, she was sitting by the window, staring out at the rain-soaked landscape beyond. Her laughter was soft but unsettling when she saw him enter.

When seeing Clem Shi's appearance, Liana knew he finally believed. Now, he must have regretted it, right?

If he had trusted her more, they would have long eradicated that evil thing and go looking for their son!

"You look terrible," she remarked casually, her eyes glinting with a strange amusement.

Clem Shi sank into a chair opposite her, feeling weaker than ever. "Liana..." he spoke bitterly, regret evident in his tone. "I'm sorry."

She turned to face him fully now, her expression shifting from amusement to something darker—something triumphant, yet pitiful. "I told you," she said slowly, savoring each word like a secret finally revealed. "It's not our baby."

He shook his head in disbelief. "What are you talking about?"

"Come on, Clem Shi, at this point, can't you be honest with yourself? No, you aren't going crazy." She leaned forward, her voice dropping to a conspiratorial whisper that seemed to echo off the walls. "That child is.. I don't know what it is. An alien?," she said with chilling certainty. "Brother Shi, I don't know, but it has long told me that when the time's right, it will feed on us both."

"Feed?"

Clem Shi's heart drummed chaotically.

"Hold on, has it already began—"

Liana paused, a waterfall of tears now flowing on both sides of her face.

It said it would only start feeding on them after feeding on their baby. So if it has already begun on Clem Shi, then doesn't that mean their baby is gone?

Its all his fault! It was all his bloody fault!

What were their vows? To love and to protect, To believe and to trust even against all odds. Anyone who knows Liana, knows how important trust and belief are to her. She, Liana, doesn't lie. This is something those around her know very well. That's why she also fell in love with Clem Shi. He also

did not tell lies. If he said the sky was green, it was green. But several nights ago, he did the unthinkable. He lied to her, and she believed it!

It's because of that momentarily lie that she wasn't able to kill that evil thing before it got to her son.

They say there's a thin line between love and hate.

Liana raised her head, staring at Clem Shi with glassy eyes that bore no soul to them. "Divorce..."

Clem Shi recoiled at Liana's words, shock, guilt, regret, and pain very evident on his tearful face. "Liana, what do you-"

"I said I want a Divorce!"

Life, they say, was sometimes scarier than fiction.

Have you ever seen a psychotic patient asking for a divorce? Especially after she was the one who attempted to kill someone?

Where is that seen?

"Mr. Shi, don't worry, your wife is in good hands."

"Yes, Mr. Shi. I'm happy that you took the liberty of going along with her weird cooked up imagination to make her feel happy. However, we must keep indulging these fantasies, or it will be very detrimental to her in the long run."

"As for her mentioning wanting a divorce, I don't think she really understands what she's saying.

"Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah~"

The doctor spoke excessively about this and that, but Clem Shi tuned everything off.

He stumbled out of the asylum, his mind a whirlpool of confusion and dread. Liana's words echoed in his ears, a haunting refrain: <Evil child.... Feeding off you.... Little Hai might be dead... Divorce> That was the summary of all that went down.

Indeed, Clem Shi felt it was his fault.

What sort of father doesn't recognize their own son? Liana had long recognized that the baby wasn't hers months ago even before it started showing her signs. However, look at the time that he is realizing that the child isn't his. His wife is now locked up, and the evil thing is now living with him, feeding and draining him off day by day.

Looking at the sky, Clem Shi found that he didn't know where to go or what to do from here. Lost, would be the accurate word to describe his current state.

The rain had stopped, leaving the streets slick and glistening under the streetlights. He wandered aimlessly, his thoughts a tangled mess of fear and disbelief.

This wasn't the town he and Liana lived in, but a neighboring city just an hour and a half away. The asylum was here.

Looking at his car, Clem Shi wasn't in the mood to drive. He feared that if he did, he might get into an accident, especially with Liana's frightful words still ringing in his ears.

"Watch it here, buddy... are you blind or something?"

"Hey! Hey! Who crosses the street on a red light? Do you have a death wish or something?"

"Sorry, sorry." Clem Shi could only apologize.

As he walked, he found himself in an unfamiliar part of the city. Here, the air was thick with the scent of incense, and the dim glow of neon signs flickered overhead. Just as he was about to turn back, a voice called out to him from the shadows.

"Dead man walking, you seek answers... So why don't you come in for a bit?"

Stepping closer to the booth, he saw a stunning young woman chuckling with a hint of mystery behind her gaze. The booth said 'The Fruit Store', and even had some juicy fruits displayed. However, he felt there might be more to it than what meets the eye.

"Young man, why don't I tell you your fortune for free?"

Chapter 625 Foreign Help

It was already evening. The skies were now covered with a blanket of blackness, no moonlight visible. Looking at his phone, Clem Shi's hands still trembled vigorously. With each passing moment, he found himself embarrassing the silence.

His breathing sawed in and out in knee-deep silence that stole his breath away.

Clem Shi lowered his head and ran his hands through his hair excessively.

It has been 6 more days since that fateful encounter in the alley. Today, Clem Shi kept staring at his phone constantly, finding he was never able to put it down. 'Can they really do it?'

He looked like a mad man when murmuring to himself with unfocused eyes. 'I just hope the help she said will come tonight.' It wouldn't be a scam, right?

Clem Shi suddenly felt panicked. According to the strange woman, his matter would require the help of someone she called the Grandmaster. He will come with others, exactly for today's matter. Sometimes, Clem Shi would slap himself in the face, staring at the mirror to hypnotize himself to wake up from the nightmare he was currently living. Although Liana was still adamant about divorcing him, he still discreetly told her about his plans for revenge. Today, she suddenly changed her mind, agreeing not to divorce him. Those people said that tonight is the night he was destined to die. Perhaps it was because of his current haggard bone-like appearance and the fact that he was dying tonight, that made Liana change her mind. Liana also planned herself, for not being strong enough or convincing enough. Rather than telling, she should have tried her best to 'show' him just how evil that baby truly was. This way, he would have long believed in him and worked together to save their child. But now, it was too late. Their boy was gone. However, they must still work hard to free what those people called his soul. Only in this way can their boy rest in peace and reincarnate into a happy home. Reincarnation? Soul freeing? Why didn't Clem Shi understand any of these things? To be honest, they all believe that when you die, you just die. Science says your body turns to decay, and that's the end of it. There's nothing more, nothing less. No afterlife or anything of that sort. Do you ask a mosquito about its afterlife? Do you think a Rose plant has an afterlife?

What about a Jaguar? A whale? A toad? For them, they all saw themselves just like the other living beings in this world. Everything was in the hands of Mother Nature. They live on her land, die and eventually return to the dust.

That's it. So what's this about Souls and afterlives?

Clem Shi still didn't get it. Feeling the ball on his throat roll up, he suddenly found himself very dehydrated and sweaty. In the span of a few days, he turned skeletal, thanks to his dear 'son'.

Once you open your eyes to the strangeness of that boy you start realizing that everything he did was bizarre. The strange noises running through the walls, the shadows that didn't reflect anything, the green eyes, the child's systematic and thoughtful cries. When you sit to analyze it all, there was indeed something very fishy about his son.

"Mr. Shi, how are you doing?" How are you holding up? The company guard stared at the frightfully bony Mr. Shi, and felt a pang of pain in his heart. 'Alas, women are just terrible creatures. How can a woman make a man go so thin because of her wickedness?' Hmph! The guard sneered, 'They keep saying they want a good man, but after getting him, what do they do? They turn him into bones!' The guard inwardly cursed all women while pushing the button to open the company gates. Everyone had already left except for Mr. Shi and the cleaning staff.

"Have a good day, Mr. Shi! See you in a month!"

Looking at Mr. Shi's disappearing vehicle, the guard frowned, confusion very evident in his eyes. Ever since the incident, the company has been trying to get Mr. Shi to take a paid time off for as long as he needed, even if it's for 3 or 6 months. With how massive the case was, the company was also in the spotlight. So if they don't offer such a generous paid time off, it would look like they were heartless. They could already see the headlines now. <Father with psychotic wife, takes care of his baby with the last of his savings>

Why? Because Job didn't give him time to recover or take care of his child. No matter what, the company must show its support for Clem Shi. Even the CEO and big bosses gave Clem Shi a fat boys. One would think that Clem Shi would agree to stop working, but he has been refusing and delaying his time off. It was almost as though something was pursuing him at home, making him dread returning. Well, maybe his home reminded him too much of his wife. That it makes him depressed every time he stares at his home. The guard also heard that the child is typically with his mother in law during his working time. They had been begging him for a while to just stop work, go

home and rest. Not just for his sake, but for the sake of the company's reputation. However, Mr. Shi often postponed his paid time off.

That was until yesterday, when he suddenly had a change of heart, saying that today would be his last day at work. Instantly, the managers, leaders, superiors and even big company bosses were so happy that they almost jumped out of their chairs in glee. Good! Good! Good!

Finally, this guy is going to leave! Finally, no more fear of reporters will camp out of their building, bothering them day in and day out. Finally, there won't be rumors saying that the company was bullying Clem Shi by refusing him to take time off. Know that no matter how many times they explained it, some people still thought it was their doing. There were all sorts of conspiracy theories out there, with some theories even speculating that Clem Shi's son might be the child of theirs along with Liana. Many said Liana might have wanted to kill the boy to ensure her infertility didn't get uncovered. Well, it's good that Clem Shi finally decided to leave after today. The company originally thought of giving Clem Shi 3 months off. But after all the troubles they've received facing this matter, they decided to extend it until 6 months later. For half a year, he will be paid to rest at home... Travel... relax... cry... take care of his son... whatever it was to stay clear of the company until then. Shaking his head wryly, the guard felt pity for Clem Shi and all men in the world. 'Hey, I thought my ex-wife's betrayal was heart wrenching. But this one... this one takes the cake.' Tch.

Women—

They were just evil beings men found destructive, but couldn't live without. ...

Vrmmm~

Clem Shi felt his heart beating in his ears the slower he drove. The home that was once a symbol of love and happiness, now looked like an abandoned, cold and eerie place.

He was very distracted, but still knew he had to drive slower than he typically did. Soon, he arrived at his home, with an expression that looked worse than death.

Clem Shi sat in his vehicle, staring at the lights that were on in the living room. There was another vehicle parked beside him in his driveway. Already, he knew who it was. "Son-in-law, is that you? Come in, quickly... we—" The Dray Couple stepped out the door with 'little Hai' in their arms. No matter how many times they saw Clem Shi, his appearance was truly ghastly for them to accept. Only those who knew what he looked like before, would understand just how terrifying and unbelievable his changes were. Instantly, their eyes turned moist. He must have loved their daughter too much for his appearance to change so much. They already took him to the hospital where the

doctor said he was suffering from depression. The kind that might kill if he wasn't careful. Do you know that some people die right after their partners die? They can't see the world worth living, without their loved ones with them. The doctor said the shock and betrayal their daughter gave him was too deep. And yet, their son-in-law was still madly in love with their daughter. Sigh... They felt ashamed of what their daughter had done to the poor man and their granddaughter. They gave crooked smiles in an attempt to hide their pain. "Son-in-law, quickly leave your car and come in to eat." They just didn't want him spending so much time in his vehicle, thinking of who knows what. Wasn't that how depression grows? "Son-in-law, how did it go?" Clem Shi paused, carefully locking the door behind him. Then, he nodded. "Starting today, I will no longer head to the office for work."

"That's great!" Both parents released heavy sighs of relief. They were truly happy for their son-in-law, wishing to take care of him after what their daughter did to him.

Clem Shi felt panicked, knowing they were adamant about staying over tonight.

"Mom, dad, believe me, you don't have to—"

"Nonsense! We are staying, and that is that!"

Clem Shi felt his words ball up in his throat.

What should he do? Tonight, if he doesn't get them out, they too might end up being in danger!

Waaaaaa~

The baby began crying, allowing his in-laws to hug him comfortably. However, in a place where they couldn't see, it stared at Clem Shi with a smile that went to the back of its ears.

Human, today, you DIE