

CEOs Baby 781

Chapter 781: Eden's Regret, A Tragic End

The fact that he could think of how to protect himself at the first moment when something happened, that calmness and strong thinking ability was beyond ordinary people.

One day, Monica would fall into Michael's hands.

Jeanne turned to Nox. "Let's head back."

"Are you giving up?" Nox asked.

"He should be dead," Jeanne said bluntly.

Moreover, she said it so calmly and peacefully. It was as if she was saying it was getting late and that it was time to home for dinner.

On the other hand, Jasmine, who had been sitting next to Jeanne, jerked.

Jeanne noticed it, so she turned her head and glanced at Jasmine.

Jasmine asked, "Is Eden dead?"

"Still can't bear to give up on him?" Jeanne's tone was neither warm nor cold.

"I've long given up on him. I just didn't think that he would die so quickly," Jasmine said bluntly.

Jeanne did not say much as she did not like Jasmine either. She only helped Jasmine today because they happened to share the same interests.

She did not need to be grateful for Jasmine's gesture of helping her.

With that, she asked Jasmine, "Where do you want to go now?"

She was going to send Jasmine away.

After getting what they both wanted, it was only normal for them to go their separate ways.

The greatest mercy she could give Jasmine was to never see each other again.

As for how Jasmine was going to survive after losing everything, that was for her to figure out.

"Send me to the police station," Jasmine said.

She wanted to see Jenifer.

Jeanne did not say anything and told Nox to drive to the police station.

On the way there, Jeanne's phone rang.

She lowered her head to take a look, and her eyes paused for a moment.

Having noticed Qiao Mo's strange behavior, Nox narrowed his eyes.

Jeanne pursed her lips.

At that moment, an unknown number was calling her, and it made her suspicious.

Hence, she calmed herself down and answered the call.

Eden's voice came from the other end of the phone. He said, "Jeanne, I heard you've mobilized all the Sanders' armed forces to arrest me."

"Where are you?" Jeanne tightened her grip on her phone.

Beside her, Jasmine reacted to it as well.

Nox's attention was also focused on Jeanne.

"Where am I? I'm about to leave Harken and get away with it. Before I leave, I just want to tell you, don't even think about catching me! Did you think that by ruining my reputation and having Jasmine's family expose me, my life would be over? This is not the last of him. I'm going overseas to lay low for now, but I'll come back one day. I'll come back to kill you one day!"

"Do you know you're about to die?!" Jeanne said fiercely.

She was angry at Eden's stupidity.

"I'm going to die? Ha!" Eden sneered. "I'm about to leave Harken's borders. Who would come to kill me?! You probably can't think of how I'll leave, right? Do you think I can't leave just because you've blocked all the roads and stopped all planes, trains, and cars? What a joke!"

"I'll remind you for the last time. You'd better return to South Hampton City right now, or you'll definitely die!" Jeanne enunciated each word clearly, not threatening him.

"Come back? What nonsense are you talking about? If I didn't anticipate that you would capture me today, you would've caught and killed me. Do you think I'd come back to wait for you to send me to prison?" Eden had a smug look on his face as he said, "I'm calling you to tell you that I'll be free soon. I'll leave Harken and be a free man! Don't even think about killing me or sending me to jail!"

"Eden, is Michael helping you to leave?" It was Eden's own problem that he was stupid and wanted to court his own death.

The only reason why she wanted to arrest him was to get evidence against Michael.

At that moment, she also turned on her phone's recording mode.

"What are you trying to get out of me?" Eden sneered.

Jeanne gritted her teeth.

She hoped Eden would be stupid instead of trying to be a smarty-pants.

"Michael wants to kill you," Jeanne said bluntly.

"Heh! Are you trying to scheme against me again?"

"I'm telling the truth." Jeanne tried to calm herself down. "Michael has gotten someone to take you away so that he can kill you to protect himself, yet you think that he's helping you. Think about it. Why is he helping you? Is it really because of your friendship? Let me ask you this. If something happened to Michael, would you risk breaking the law to help him?"

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Eden tightened his grip on his phone.

"You won't!" Jeanne said clearly, "And if you wouldn't do it for him, why would Michael do it? He's just afraid you'll rat him out. That's why he's sending you away. However, sending you away isn't the best way to protect him, but killing you is."

Eden's expression changed.

Then, he turned to look at Jake, who was beside him.

They were already on the ship to smuggle them out of the country.

Their goal had always been clear. From the moment Michael told him to leave, their route had been perfectly planned out.

Jake drove him directly to a port in South Hampton City. At that time, the armed forces in South Hampton City had not been mobilized yet, so their journey would be smooth.

When they arrived at the sea, they took a speedboat that had been prepared beforehand and headed all the way to South Hampton City's port. Only at that time were the armed forces mobilized, and the first thing they paid attention to was the traffic on the road instead of the sea. Hence, they could still make their move to escape.

In the afternoon, when the Sanders's armed forces began to pay attention to the sea, they had already boarded the ship to leave Harken. Now, that ship was about to leave Harken.

Once they left the borders, none of Harkens' armed forces could do anything to him, and he would be safe.

However, Eden's eyes narrowed.

He had to admit that everything was going so smoothly that he found it unbelievable.

It was as if the route had been planned out a long time ago, and it was not something that had been decided in the spur of the moment.

A last-minute plan would not be so perfect.

They even planned the ship that arrived in Harken to the minute.

One had to know that ships were different from cars, trucks, and planes. There was no schedule for ships, and it would only come once in a while.

There was no way it was such a coincidence.

At that thought, Eden started to feel apprehensive.

He could not help but look at Jake.

Michael said that Jake would go overseas with him to ensure his safety, but at that moment, he suddenly felt that this person...

His wariness naturally made Jake suspicious, so Jake approached him.

Eden's heart skipped a beat, but he forced himself to calm down. "Stay away from me."

Jake looked at Eden coldly with a stiff face.

Then, Eden took his phone and was about to walk to the side.

He had just lifted his foot when Jake suddenly grabbed his arm and shackled him.

As Eden was about to speak, Jake raised his hand and smacked the phone away from Eden's hand. The phone fell straight into the sea.

Eden was clearly a little frightened at that moment.

He looked at Jake, and the fear he had been suppressing began to overcome him.

If not for Jeanne's reminder, he would not have even thought about why Michael had sent him away.

Hence, he pretended to be calm and said, "What are you doing? Now that you've dropped your phone in the sea, how are we going to contact Michael and my family in the future? We're penniless now. Do you want us to starve to death overseas?"

“You don't have to contact Mr. Ross or your family. You won't starve to death.” Jake's cold voice sounded exceptionally terrifying under the dark sky.

The two of them were on the deck of the ship.

Jake had just taken out his phone to report to Michael that they were about to leave Harken.

Eden had left his phone in his office when he left.

There was a GPS tracker on his cell phone, and he knew that his location would be exposed if his cell phone was monitored. That was why he did not bring it with him.

Moreover, he really did trust Michael too much. He believed that Michael was sincerely helping him.

He thought that since Jake was accompanying him overseas, Jake would definitely have a way to contact others until just a moment ago.

After Jake called Michael, Eden could not help but use Jake's phone to call Jeanne to show off.

He had heard Michael telling Jake on the other end of the phone that the Sanders had mobilized all their forces to arrest him today. He wanted to provoke Jeanne and let her know that he was now at large and that she could not arrest him. Even if he was in a sorry state now, he had escaped that calamity!

Jake did not refuse and passed him the phone.

Eden thought that he could call Jeanne to show off that she had failed to catch him despite all her efforts.

However, unexpectedly, he made a fool of himself again.

The first thing that came to Jeanne's mind was that Michael wanted to silence him, and he would not know it until he died.

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Yet, he was smug about it.

His entire body was filled with fear as he looked at Jake, who was approaching him and looked like he was about to murder someone!

“What are you trying to do?!” Eden was on high alert as he kept retreating.

“Mr. Ross said we can start after you're done with the call,” Jake said bluntly.

Eden was stunned.

That meant Michael had deliberately arranged for him to make that call.

“The purpose is to get the Sanders to withdraw their armed forces. After all, if they investigate it, they might trace it back to Mr. Ross. Once they know that you've escaped and might even die in the next second, the Sanders won't waste their resources to look for you anymore, and Mr. Ross won't have to constantly guard against the Sanders's power anymore.” Jake made it clear to Eden.

Eden stared at Jake.

By then, he was lost for words.

He glanced at the turbulent waves on the sea and could not believe that he would die in Michael's hands.

He did not expect Michael to be so cruel as to kill him to protect himself.

He could not die like that.

No. He did not want to die.

With that, he looked at Jake and quickly said, "Don't kill me. I'll give you whatever you want! There are only the two of us now anyway, and Michael won't know if you killed me or not. Once you send me overseas and I've contacted my family, I'll give you whatever you want."

Jake sneered.

He was Michael's loyal man, so how could a few words make him betray Michael?

He walked over and grabbed Eden's neck with his thick hands.

Eden was so scared that his entire body started trembling, and he felt a chill down his spine.

Then, Eden begged for mercy. "Don't kill me. I'll give you anything you want. Please don't kill me. Please don't kill me."

Nevertheless, Jake was unmoved, and the killing intent on his face was obvious.

"Don't kill me. Please don't kill me," Eden could feel the pain in his neck.

At that moment, breathing became so difficult that he could not even speak.

Truth be told, he did not expect that his life would end like that.

He was always the center of attention.

From the moment he was born, everyone would treat him with respect and shower him with compliments. On top of that, he had always lived under the spotlight.

For all his life, he could have lived such a wonderful life...

'No,' Eden said to himself.

His life could not end like that. He could not lose such a perfect life.

He had yet to inherit the Swans' assets. He had yet to enjoy the feeling of being on top. He had yet to make Jeanne submit to him.

At the last moment, Jeanne's figure appeared in his mind.

Suddenly, he recalled the first time he met Jeanne. That time, she was kneeling on the ground, her face covered in tears.

He seemed to remember that it was his Fourth Uncle who had told him to take care of the girl kneeling on the ground.

The memories came flooding into his mind...

He also recalled that his Fourth Uncle only treated him differently from the others after he started to be friends with Jeanne.

His Fourth Uncle would intentionally or unintentionally teach him many of the business world's strategies, and his Fourth Uncle always gave him many opportunities to gain experience in the business world. His Fourth Uncle really treated and nurtured him as the heir, and that was how he became the poster child!

Ha!

It turned out that from the very beginning, his Fourth Uncle wanted to give Eden everything because his Fourth Uncle loved Jeanne and he wanted to give her everything.

Edward gave it to Eden to give to Jeanne!

Eden suddenly laughed out loud.

He did not know if only before one's death would one see the truth in many things or if only before one's death would one regret everything.

Anyway, he regretted it. He regretted that his life had been wasted on himself.

He had such a good life, yet he ruined it for himself! He was the one who killed himself!

...

Jake only threw Eden into the sea after confirming that the latter was no longer breathing.

He was from the Special Forces, but after he retired, he had been working for the Rosses. At first, he was a follower of Michael's father, and after Michael's father died, he naturally became loyal to Michael.

He watched as Eden's body was washed away by the sea, with no emotion on his cold face.

To him, killing people was as easy as eating.

However, just as he turned around to leave, his eyes narrowed.

Before he could even react, a gun with a silencer was aimed at his head and shot him to death.

Jake did not even have time to think or resist before he was also thrown into the sea.

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In fact, it was a no-brainer. Jake's death was just Michael trying to silence him.

He killed Eden because he was afraid that Eden would testify against him. On the other hand, he killed Jake because Jake's actions had been exposed, so Jake was no longer of any use to him.

Only death awaited those who were a threat or useless to him.

In the darkness, a man said respectfully, "Mr. Ross."

"Yes."

"It's settled."

"Alright."

With that, Michael hung up.

After hanging up, he took out the SIM card from his phone and destroyed it.

Just like how he had destroyed that SIM card, Eden and Jake's corpses were nowhere to be found.

...

Under the night sky of South Hampton City, Jeanne looked at her phone, and only endless silence greeted her.

In the end, even until the moment of Eden's death, she did not get any useful information from him.

It made her wonder if Eden had any regrets when he died. Did he regret everything he had done in his life or regret that he was the author of his own demise?

She believed he probably did regret it, but unfortunately, he was dead. There was no use in regretting.

God was still fair. Those who were good would be rewarded, and those who were evil would be punished.

Eden only had himself to blame for his fate and did not deserve any sympathy.

Hence, Jeanne's sadness only lasted for a few minutes as it was not worth it to be sad for a person like that.

She just felt a little sad.

She almost had it in her hands, but it slipped away.

With that, she quietly adjusted her emotions and looked up at the police station in front of her.

Nox had already driven them there.

However, Jasmine did not get out of the car.

"You're here," Jeanne reminded her.

Jasmine held back and looked at Jeanne. "Is Eden really dead?"

"He's dead." Jeanne was very certain.

Suddenly, Jasmine laughed coldly and said, "He's finally dead."

Jeanne had no idea what Jasmine was up to. However, she knew very well that she had no time to waste on Jasmine.

She said, "If you want to celebrate, get out of the car and celebrate by yourself. I'm very busy."

Jasmine looked at Jeanne and asked, "Aren't you unhappy? He treated you so badly back then. Aren't you happy that he ended up like this?"

"It's an expected result, so I'm not surprised, and there's nothing to be happy about."

"It turns out that you're much stronger than I thought. I once wanted to kill you, but I overestimated myself," Jasmine said faintly.

Jeanne did not react to that comment.

She had been busy the whole day, tormented by Eden's matter, so she was tired.

She said, "Get out of the car!"

Jasmine glanced at Jeanne again. When she opened the car door, she suddenly asked, "Have you ever liked Eden?"

Jeanne frowned.

"You like him because he got close to you and made you feel loved when your mother died, right?" Jasmine asked Jeanne.

However, Jeanne no longer wanted to dwell on the past because she did not think it was worth it.

"I don't think you've really liked Eden." Jasmine said, "Otherwise, you wouldn't have kept your distance from Eden or prevented Eden from even touching you."

Jeanne pursed her lips.

She could not deny that she really did not like Eden getting close to her.

She could play with him and was very happy to do many things with him, but she just did not like Eden getting close to her.

She had always thought that it was because she believed that they would only have sex after marriage.

Yet, when she was 18 years old, she slept with Edward. Although it was for revenge, she still got close to another man.

Now, she no longer knew if she had liked Eden back then.

Did she really like Eden?

That was because her feelings were no longer with Eden, and she had completely forgotten what it felt like to be with Eden.

She turned to look at Jasmine. "What happened in the past is no longer important to me."

"Eden liked you," Jasmine said.

Jeanne narrowed her eyes.

"Eden had liked you from the beginning. He just couldn't let go of his ego to please you," Jasmine said calmly.

She did not expect she would be so calm after admitting that Eden had always liked Jeanne.

In the past, she would not let herself think about it. She had been deceiving herself and making herself believe that Eden loved her.

It was probably because she was really hurt that she felt so relieved.

Jasmine said, "No matter what, thank you for saving me from Eden. So long, Jeanne."

'So long.'

That was probably the best ending for Jasmine, and letting go was all for the best.

Jeanne watched as the car door closed.

The Lawrences' drama today would definitely go down in history.

Joshua was suspected of sexually assaulting the second princess of the Sanders. Not only would he be charged with attempted rape, but he would also be charged with assaulting an important figure in the country. Hence, he would be sentenced to life imprisonment or at least ten years in jail. His life was over.

As for Jenifer, she was suspected of instigating others to commit crimes, rape, cover-up, and so on. Hence, she would be sentenced to at least five years in jail. When she was released after five years, everything would have changed, and she would not be able to cause any trouble. Coupled with Joshua's imprisonment and Jasmine's betrayal, Jenifer's spirit was completely defeated, and she would never be able to get back on her feet again.

The Lawrences' cruelty would end here!

Nox drove away from the police station and sent Jeanne back to the Swan family's manor.

He had been observing Jeanne from the start to the end and realized that she was frighteningly cold.

He could not believe that she could be so indifferent toward Eden's death and Jasmine's tragedy.

He even wondered if she would react the same should anything happen to Edward...

Suddenly, Nox narrowed his eyes, and Jeanne, who was sitting in the back seat, had also noticed something amiss.

"Get down!" Nox shouted.

At the same time, countless gunshots sounded from their car, and a car came straight at them.

Without thinking twice, Nox turned the steering wheel sharply and hit the guardrails at maximum speed.

At that moment, the streets of South Hampton City were filled with loud and terrifying sounds that echoed in the air!

Chapter 785: Monica and Michael's Conflict Breaks Out

The streets of South Hampton City echoed with a burst of ear-piercing noises.

The two people in the car were temporarily unconscious because of the sudden impact.

While they were in a daze, someone smashed the car window, which shattered into pieces on the ground.

Nox tried his best to open his eyes.

His face was covered in blood.

As soon as he moved his body, the airbag burst and trapped him in the driver's seat, rendering him immobile.

However, he stretched his hand out. With the last of his consciousness, she reached out to pull the person behind her.

Just as his hand touched the other party's arm, he heard a click.

Nox felt like his wrist was broken, and it hurt so bad that it was numb.

At that moment, there was no strength left in his wrist, and he could only watch as Jeanne was dragged away from the car window.

The car window was covered in debris, and Jeanne, who was covered in blood, bled even more.

Nox's eyes were red.

He tried to call out to Jeanne, but he could not. All he could do was watch Jeanne getting taken away right in front of his eyes.

As for himself, he fainted in the car.

The moment he fainted, he was thinking about how he was going to answer to Edward.

Should he... apologize to Edward with his life?

...

When Nox opened his eyes, everything before him was unfamiliar.

He looked at his surroundings.

In his mind, he was also trying to figure out why he was there and what had happened to him.

"You're awake." A familiar male voice sounded in his ear.

Nox turned his head and looked at Finn.

Finn said, "Car accident, concussion, no injuries to internal organs, and all your limbs are fine."

"Where's Jeanne?" Nox asked.

"I don't know," Finn replied.

Nox's expression was extremely ugly.

"When we arrived, you were the only one who fainted in the car, and Jeanne was no longer there. Fourth Master has gone to look for her, so you can rest easy and recuperate," Finn explained briefly.

"Do you know who took Jeanne away?" Nox asked.

"I don't know," Finn said bluntly.

"Is there any news from Edward?"

"I didn't ask."

Nox struggled to get up.

Finn pressed him down on the bed and said, "You should rest first. Fourth Master will inform us if he has any news. If you call him now, you'll only be causing him more trouble."

"I can't f*cking believe something happened to Jeanne while she was by my side!" Nox suddenly lost his temper.

Finn understood him.

Since young, Nox was taught to protect Edward and follow Edward's orders. Even his own life belonged to Edward.

Yet now, Edward had handed Jeanne over to Nox, but something happened to her while she was by his side.

Regarding Jeanne... They all knew she was not who they thought she was, but they did not know whether she was a friend or foe.

Moreover, they were not sure whether her accident was a good or bad thing for them.

Since Edward had handed Jeanne over to Nox, Nox had a mission to protect Jeanne with his life.

However, Nox did not manage to protect her. Instead, he watched Jeanne getting taken away from him.

Nox was on the brink of breaking down.

Finn looked at him and said, "I'll send a message to Fourth Master to ask about Jeanne."

Nox said nothing.

A while after Finn sent the message, Edward called, and Finn answered, "Fourth Master."

"How is Nox?"

"He's been unconscious for a day, but he's awake and in a good state of mind now. I think it's just a minor concussion. He'll be fine after a few days of rest."

"Alright," he said.

"How are things on your end?"

"Tell Nox to get some good rest. I will inform you if I need anything."

After that, Edward hung up.

Finn put down his phone. "Fourth Master said he will inform us if he needs us. He wants you to recuperate in peace.

"How the hell can I recuperate in peace?" Nox was irritated.

From a young age, he had heard the phrase, "If there is any danger, you must rush in front of Edward."

Even if he had to die, he would die in front of Edward.

Yet now, Edward was looking for Jeanne alone, while he was sleeping in the hospital.

"Nox." Finn said, "You once said that the three of us are like brothers."

Nox suppressed his emotions.

"We were born to protect Edward, but that doesn't mean that we can't have feelings for each other," Finn repeated what Nox had once said.

Even though men rarely got emotional, he had to say that Nox's words at that time warmed his heart.

He said, "I'm sure Fourth Master doesn't want to see any of us dead because of him."

Chapter 786: Monica and Michael's Conflict Breaks Out

Nox knew that Edward would not blame him.

However, he felt bad that he had failed to fulfill his duty.

"No one expected you and Jeanne to get in an accident last night. No one, including Fourth Master, expected that someone would make such a bold move on you when the Sanders had mobilized so many armed forces. So, you really can't be blamed for this, and Fourth Master won't blame you either."

"I just can't accept it. If anything happens to Jeanne while she's by my side..." Nox clenched her fists.

"I understand you. If it were me, I would feel the same way. However, now that things have come to this, all we can do is help Fourth Master find Jeanne."

"But Edward doesn't need our help."

"Then, he must have other plans."

Nox looked at Finn.

Since he was young, he was not as good as Edward and Finn in terms of strategy.

Rather than saying it was because they were slightly older than him, so they had to consider a lot of things, it would be better to say that he was not born with brains like them.

Then, he heard Finn say, "We all know that Jeanne's identity is not simple."

Nox nodded.

“We've confirmed her identity as the young lady of the Hills.”

“Yeah.”

“So, if something happens to the Hills' young lady, do you think the Hills will sit back and do nothing?”

“Do you mean Edward will inform Kingsley and work with him?”

Finn nodded.

Nox was deep in thought.

“Since Fourth Master doesn't need us now, he must have his own plans. When has Fourth Master ever made a mistake?”

Nox was convinced by Finn's words.

He had always been the most impulsive one. No matter in what situation, he would always lack calmness.

However, every time that happened, either Edward or Finn would find a way to calm him down.

“Believe in Fourth Master. You should take care of yourself now. For you, recuperating is the greatest help you could give to Fourth Master. After all...” Finn's eyes narrowed. “The real war has yet to begin. We can't let anything happen to either of us now.”

Nox nodded.

He knew that the real battle had yet to begin, and it might be coming soon.

Hence, the most important thing for him now was to take good care of himself and then face death calmly.

Nox calmed himself down.

Then, he looked at Finn and asked, "Who do you think took Jeanne away?"

Finn shook his head and said, "I don't dare to guess."

Nox raised a brow.

Finn said, "Jeanne might be related to anyone but no one at the same time. It's possible to take a guess, but I don't dare to make any wild guesses, in case I'm wrong."

Nox nodded.

It was true.

Was Jeanne good or evil? Who exactly was Jeanne involved with? Whose side was Jeanne on? What was Jeanne thinking? Who was Edward to Jeanne?

None of them knew.

Perhaps even Edward did not know. Yet, he still placed an unknown bomb by his side without any hesitation.

Nox sighed and said bluntly, "I'm afraid something will happen to Jeanne this time."

Finn nodded.

"I'm more afraid that..." Nox's eyes were deep. "Edward will die in Jeanne's hands."

Finn did not answer because none of them was sure when it came to Jeanne.

...

Finn stayed with Nox in the hospital for most of the day.

Although the scene of the accident was gruesome, because the car was custom-made, even if it was a major accident, the injury Nox sustained was not serious.

As long as he took a CT scan of his brain and confirmed that there was no internal bleeding, he could be discharged from the hospital.

After Finn helped Nox with the discharge procedures, he and Finn left the hospital.

"Isn't that Monica?" Nox looked at the woman who was walking toward them.

Finn also saw her, but he pretended that he did not.

Monica did not notice them at first, but at that moment, she saw them.

Her footsteps even halted for a few seconds.

On the other hand, Nox limped over. "What are you doing in the hospital? Are you sick?"

Monica glanced at Finn, who was not looking at her.

Hence, she looked back at Nox. "I'm here to take out the nail in my leg."

"Is it out now?" Nox looked at her ankle.

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"Yes." Monica nodded.

"Good for you." Nox was clearly mocking her.

Monica knew what he was referring to, but she did not reply. She had realized that nothing good ever came out of Nox's mouth.

Hence, she decided to leave.

"I forgot that Finn almost died for you—"

"Nox," Finn called out to him.

Nox rolled his eyes.

"Let's go." Finn's tone was a little cold.

Nox glanced at Monica. "I really feel sorry for Finn."

After he finished speaking, he left with Finn.

Monica stared at their backs, bit her lip, and forced back the tears in her eyes.

Everyone felt that she had let Finn down. However, no one knew how deeply hurt she was or how much pain she was in after she left Finn.

She walked out of the hospital and went to the entrance to hail a cab, only to see Finn driving away from her, like every other time.

She waited for a while and got into the taxi.

After telling the driver the address, she picked up the phone and dialed a number. "Michael."

"Monica, it's rare for you to take the initiative to call me." His tone was still gentle.

"You haven't come back to me about what you promised me the day before yesterday," Monica said bluntly.

Monica got so happy watching Jenifer's news the entire day yesterday that she temporarily put aside her relationship with Michael.

After all, she was in a really good mood yesterday because Jenifer's true colors were finally exposed.

At the thought about how Jenifer had tortured Jeannie for so many years, and now that the truth was finally made public, she felt extremely satisfied.

What was even more satisfying was that Eden, that hypocrite and sinister man, had also been exposed. She would like to see how he could continue to pretend to be a good person from now on!

Yesterday was one of the best days she had ever had.

After reading the comments condemning Jenifer and Eden yesterday, the resentment that she had accumulated for years was finally released. It was simply satisfying, and she was a hundred times more excited than the person involved, Jeanne.

She did not understand how Jeanne could be so calm. If it were her, she would have invited her friends out to celebrate by now.

However, Jeanne was not happy about it at all.

When she called Jeanne yesterday, the latter only said a few words calmly, and today, she did not even answer her phone!

F*ck. Did Jeanne think she was too noisy?

Monica reckoned that Jeanne probably still had a lot of things to do.

After all, with Jenifer and Joshua's downfall, everything in the Lawrences would fall on Jeanne's shoulders, and Jeanne probably had a lot of follow-ups to deal with. Hence, she chose not to disturb Jeanne. Furthermore, she was also in a mess right now, so she decided to celebrate with Jeanne after she resolved her own problems.

With that thought in mind, she thought she would call Michael and lay all her cards on the table after she went to the hospital and got the nails in her ankle removed.

She had thought it through. This time, no matter what Michael said to her, she would definitely break up with him.

To her, she had done her best to help Michael.

Michael's future development was his to deal with, and she would no longer feel like she owed him anything.

She held the phone, but Michael did not answer for a long time.

"Michael?" Monica called out to him with a frown.

"Monica, let's talk tonight."

Before Monica could open her mouth, Michael promised, "I have something to deal with now, so let's talk after work tonight. Don't worry. I'll respect your decision in the end."

Monica wanted to say something, but in the end, she agreed, "Alright."

She, too, knew Michael was very busy.

Moreover, some things might come across as clearer if they talked in person.

"I'll call you tonight."

"Sure."

Monica thought that after tonight, she was going to start over.

Even if she could not be with Finn anymore, she would at least show him that she was really just helping Michael, and now that she was done helping him, she managed to retreat unscathed.

However, as soon as Michael put down his phone, his face darkened.

Was Monica so impatient to leave him? They had agreed on three months, and it had only been more than a month!

His expression was cold.

Things did not seem to be going well for him recently. Every time he planned something, it would end in failure.

He gritted his teeth and looked at the ringing phone.

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He took a deep breath and picked up the call. "Leader."

"How's Cardellini Pharmaceuticals coming along?" the other party asked immediately.

"It'll be done in a few days"

"Alright." Warren replied, "Do you know about Eden?"

"I know." Michael did not hide anything.

"I heard you have a good relationship with him?"

"We're classmates, so we're great friends. He's also the eldest young master of the Swans. I think he's useful, so I've been keeping in touch with him," Michael said.

"He escaped right under our noses," Warren said bluntly.

"I heard about it." Michael said, "I tried to contact Eden, but I couldn't."

"Michael." Warren's tone was stern.

"Yes," Michael replied respectfully.

"You'd better not let me find out anything." Warren made himself clear.

Michael's grip on the phone tightened.

It turned out that the Sanders had started to suspect him.

In fact, he had also expected this.

He had a good relationship with Eden, so it was understandable for the Sanders to suspect him when something happened to Eden.

However, they had no evidence, so they would not do anything to him.

That was also the reason why he wanted Eden dead. If Eden were alive, he would definitely be implicated.

He said, "Leader, I'm loyal to you, and I'll die for you."

Michael expressed his stance seriously and sincerely.

He knew very well that the Sanders had no evidence because if they did, they would have killed him long ago.

At that moment, Warren was just testing or threatening him.

"I can make you my right-hand man, but I can also make you lose everything. Michael, you're a smart man. "

"Yes, leader."

"I'll give you at most a week to deal with Cardellini Pharmaceuticals. I don't want any more mistakes," Warren said before hanging up the phone.

Michael looked at his phone, and his expression was grim.

Although the Sanders was not making a move on him now, they were threatening him.

If he could not meet the Sanders' requirements, he would soon be kicked out of the political scene.

His face turned cold.

'Monica, it's not that I don't love you. However, in the face of my career, love is nothing.'

...

At 8 p.m., just as Monica was about to call Michael, she received a call from Michael.

"I'm sorry. I was working overtime," Michael apologized.

Monica's anger subsided.

She knew that Michael had a lot of things to do and that he was busy, yet he still had to deal with her matters.

She should be more understanding of him.

She said, "It's fine. It's not too late now."

"Are you home? I'll be right over."

"Um..." Monica hesitated for a moment. "You haven't had dinner yet, right? Let's meet at a restaurant."

Michael was driving, his face clearly ugly.

Was Monica guarding against him? She was so guarded that she did not even want to him in her house.

However, he said, "Alright, I'll come and pick you up."

“No need. Send me the address, and I'll just take a taxi.”

“Alright.” Michael nodded.

After that, Monica hung up the phone and took a deep breath.

She had always felt that she was too standoffish to Michael, and her rejection of him was obvious.

Although she and Michael could be considered friends, she did not know when she had started to keep a distance from him.

However, she told herself not to overthink it.

She reckoned that once her involvement with Michael was over, they should be able to become normal friends again, and she would not have any prejudice against Michael.

With that thought in mind, she quickly went out the door.

She followed the address Michael had sent her and went straight to the restaurant Michael mentioned.

When she arrived, Michael was already waiting for her at the door.

In fact, every time Monica faced Michael, she had no confidence.

She did not know why, but it was probably because he was too good to her. He was so good to her that she could not say what she wanted to say most of the time.

She gritted her teeth, silently cheering herself on.

With that, the two of them walked into the restaurant's private room.

Behind them, Reese stared at them.

She had gone for a facial and done some shopping with her two sisters today, and now, they were having a meal together at the restaurant.

The moment she entered and saw her son and Monica, her expression changed.

Michael had not had a meal with her in such a long time.

Every time she told him to come back or ask him out for dinner, he would say that he was busy. Yet now, he was having dinner with Monica.

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In the end, Reese felt a little upset.

Although she knew that her family was using Monica, she also knew that Michael really liked Monica.

The more she thought about it, the more uncomfortable she felt.

That was when a noblewoman beside her said, "Isn't that your son, Michael? Was he so busy that he's only just having dinner now?"

Reese came back to her senses.

She smiled. "Yeah, he's the only one supporting the family, so he's pretty busy every day. Considering that, he got off work relatively early today. Usually, he'd only get off work at 10 or 11 p.m. Sometimes, he might even pull an all-nighter."

"I really envy you for having such a good son," another noblewoman complimented her.

Then, the three of them walked into a private room.

The noblewoman continued, "Reese, was that Monica beside Michael just now?"

"Yup," Reese nodded with a dignified smile.

No one could tell what she was feeling inside.

"She's quite pretty and has a good figure, but I heard..." The noblewoman hesitated.

Reese glanced at them calmly

The noblewoman paused for a moment and said, "Monica likes to go to nightclubs. I have a niece who is also into that. No matter how the family disciplines her, it's useless, and she even quarrels with her family. Hence, her parents gave up and left her to her own devices. A few days ago, my family had a gathering, and my niece was there. We all wanted to persuade her not to go to places like that, but do you know what she said?"

Reese's expression changed.

She knew that the noblewoman had nothing good to say.

"She said it's very normal for young people to go to nightclubs these days. She even said that the wife of the quality supervision department's director would go with them." The noblewoman glanced at Reese. "I'm talking about Monica. She even said that Monica is bolder than her, dancing with men on the dance floor..."

The noblewoman could not continue on.

No matter how hard Reese tried to disguise herself, her expression was unsightly.

The other noblewoman was also fanning the flames. "Reese, we think Michael is a good child. He's so capable and promising that I have no doubt he'll be more successful than his father in the future. He can be with any young lady from a prestigious family, yet he insists on being with Monica. Monica's family business is not bad, but because she's the only daughter in the family, she's too spoiled and has no family upbringing. If she marries into your family, she'll ruin the reputation that the Rosses have built up for so many years."

"That's right. Try to dissuade your son before he marries Monica."

Reese was naturally displeased to hear that.

In fact, she was also unhappy with Monica, but her son had made it very clear to her that he was with Monica because the head of the Sanders forced him to. As such, they could not refuse.

She said coldly to the two ladies, "This is between the young people. They should solve it themselves."

"We were just afraid that Michael, such a promising person, would fall into Monica's hands—"

"My son likes Monica, so Monica must have her own merits. You don't need to worry about their matters." Reese's tone was unpleasant.

The two ladies knew how to read the room, so they quickly changed the topic.

Meanwhile, in Michael and Monica's private room, the waiter had just served the dishes.

Michael picked up a piece of steak and gave it to Monica. "I know you like steak. Try it."

Monica took a look at it but did not touch her utensils.

She said, "Michael, I've eaten. You can eat have it."

Michael smiled and said, "Alright."

If she took a closer look, she would realize that almost all the dishes that Michael ordered were her favorites.

However, she pretended not to know anything.

She accompanied Michael and watched him eat with perfect manners.

Monica felt that their interactions were still a little awkward. Hence, she took out her phone and played with it.

The news of Jenifer and Eden was still trending in the headlines.

Monica tapped to open the comments and was so amused by them that she could not help but laugh.

“What's so funny?” Michael asked.

Monica replied, “I saw someone bashing Eden.”

Michael did not reply.

Monica raised her head. Only then did she realize that Michael and Eden were friends.

She said, “Sorry, it's just—”

“It's fine.” Michael smiled gently. I didn't expect Eden to be this kind of person. If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have become best friends with him.”

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“You and Eden aren't the same,” Monica commented.

Michael's smile widened. "But I heard Eden ran away."

"Is that so?" Monica did not know that, so she was a little surprised. "I thought they arrested him."

"Insider information. However, he can run, but he can't hide. One day, he will be brought to justice."

"He won't live a good life even if he runs away. Eden is used to being the young master. He won't be able to last long out there." Monica, on the other hand, did not care much about Eden.

"Yeah." Michael nodded.

The two of them continued to talk about Eden, and they eventually warmed up to each other.

After dinner, Michael got the staff to clear the table and serve the dessert.

Monica also put down her phone.

Finally, they were getting to the main topic.

Monica silently cheered herself on and said, "Michael, do you want me to post on my Facebook account tomorrow that we have broken up peacefully, or do you want to post it? Or should the two of us do a post together?"

Michael, who was eating the dessert, wiped the corner of his mouth and said, "Monica, can you give me a little more time?"

"Why?"

"I've told you the reason." Michael looked at her. I don't want to make things difficult for you. I wouldn't do this if I had a choice."

"But I think now is the best time for us to break up." Monica was very determined.

Michael stayed silent.

"While the news about Jenifer and Eden is everywhere, the public attention won't be on us if we keep a low profile and break up. By the time they remember us, it'll be so long ago. Once it's over, it won't have any news value, and it'll be less widely spread. Then, we won't be affected as much."

"Not necessarily." Michael denied it. "Once we break up, it's very likely that the attention will shift from Jenifer and Eden to us, and news of them will be suppressed."

"It won't." Monica did not agree with Michael's point of view. "I'm a gossip enthusiast, and I know very well what people want to see the most now. What they want to see now is an exposé, something that gives them a sense of justice and makes them feel good. I've been in such a good mood these past two days. That's why they won't shift their attention to other news at the moment. Also, when the media sees how popular this news is, they'll definitely seize the opportunity to keep the news trending for a few more days. They won't take the risk to change a hot topic immediately. If we break up now, they'll suppress our news with your connection to them, and things will calm down very quickly."

Just as Michael was about to speak, Monica interrupted him. "I'm not spouting nonsense. I have evidence."

Michael frowned.

Monica took out her phone and searched for a piece of news from yesterday. It was the news of her and Michael being intimate.

The headline of the news was, "Breaking the rumor: Michael and Monica are in love as usual."

A cold glint flashed in Michael's eyes.

That was the news he had forgotten about yesterday.

“Do you see this? With Jenifer and Eden's news still in the headlines, this news has less than 10000 views and less than 100 comments. This means our news can't attract the public's attention now. They're all immersed in the pleasure of the exposé and didn't notice us.” Monica told Michael seriously, “We're actually not as important as we thought. The news about us blew up before because it happened to be during the exposure period of your election. That was why it caused a sensation in all of Harken and became a hot topic. Now that we've kept a low profile for so long, there's nothing breaking newsworthy about that. It's just a peaceful breakup, and it won't cause too much of a stir.”

Michael did not expect that the news he designed would become a reason for Monica to convince him to break up.

Monica could not read Michael's mood either, so she continued, “Do you think it's easy to become one of the hot topics? If it's that easy, why would so many top celebrities spend their money and work themselves to death to get themselves trending?”

Michael chose to remain silent.

Monica thought that Michael's silence meant that he had acquiesced.

She heaved a sigh of relief and said with a smile, “In that case, I'll write on Facebook tomorrow that we've broken up peacefully. I've already written a draft of the post. Take a look. If there are no problems, we can post it tomorrow morning— no, tonight. At midnight, when everyone is asleep, I'll post it, and no one will read it.

As she spoke, Monica showed Michael her draft of the breakup post.

Michael glanced at it.

There were only five words — “We'll go our separate ways.”

Monica said, "People these days are smart, and they should be able to guess what it is with just these few words. If we write too much, people will make a big thing out of it. When they ask about it in the comments section, we'll act as if we didn't see it, and after a long time, they'll be met with a rebuff. By then, we'll no longer be together, and everyone will figure out that we have really broken up."

Michael looked at Monica, who was looking a little excited.

She had really thought of everything to convince him of breaking up now.

He almost could not think of a rebuttal at that moment.

In fact, he did not expect that Monica would really do all her homework. After all, Monica had never gone out of her way to research something.

His throat moved slightly before he said, "Monica, I don't want to break up."

The smile on Monica's face suddenly stiffened as she looked at Michael in disbelief, thinking that she had misheard.

Michael had never made things difficult for her. Yet, at that moment, he said he did not want to break up.

"I like you." Michael looked at Monica seriously.

The affection in his eyes was not a lie.

However, Monica was not touched at all. On the contrary, she was a little disgusted.

Did they not agree on that? Once he was on the right track, they would break up. Did he not say that he respected her choice?

Monica looked at him in a daze, still a little stunned.

“Monica, let's start over.” Michael said, “I made you that promise before because I thought you could start over with Finn. But now that you can't be together with him anymore, why don't you consider us? We were once in love, and we can make up as we did before.”

“I don't like you.” Monica made herself clear.

She did not want to waste any more time.

“You'll like me,” Michael said coldly.

“I won't.” Monica immediately stood up from her chair. She felt that perhaps she should not have discussed it with Michael. She should have just posted the breakup on Facebook.

“Monica...” Michael reached out to stop her.

However, Monica avoided him.

She walked straight to the door of the private room.

Suddenly, the door opened.

“Slap!” A tight slap landed on Monica's face, followed by Reese's sharp voice. “Monica, how shameless are you?!”