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She said, having begun to lose her voice.

"I'm sorry Grandpa, I really didn't expect it to end up like this, it's all my fault for embarrassing you and offending the entire Lu family, I'm sorry."

Clara apologized repeatedly, though tonight, those three words had been said so many times that she was on the verge of throwing up.

But she knew that in front of Master Kwan, she had to lower her stance and put on a show.

At the very least, she couldn't let Master Kwan be completely disappointed in her and give her up.

Sure enough, Master Guan looked at her and said in a cold voice, "Do you know what your biggest mistake is tonight?"

Clara was stunned.

Looking at him blankly, he shook his head.

"Your biggest mistake was that you didn't kill the other guy with a single blow now that you've done it all, thus leaving them breathing room and a chance to turn around and deal with you again."

He sighed and said in a deep voice: "Today is fine, just a child, and the whole incident has nothing to do with family interests, but in the future, whenever you want to deal with a person, you must remember, to fight a snake to fight seven inches, either not to do it, when you do, must be deadly, can never give the enemy room to maneuver, otherwise, you are not only easy to give up, but also very likely to even get the original good! Even the situation can't be grasped, and it sets you on fire, understand?"

Clara was startled.

She couldn't believe it, as if she couldn't believe that these words would come out of Master Guan's mouth.

Master Kwan smiled coolly.

"There's no need to be surprised, since you've entered our Guan family and become a member of the Guan family, you'll understand these truths sooner or later.

Since time immemorial, no one in a high position has ever had completely clean hands and always needed some means to strengthen his family and position.

Don't look at the Lu family as if they are acting high and mighty on the surface, as if they have no quarrel with the world, but in reality, that pair of grandparents have done no less evil than your grandfather.

And all these years, if it wasn't for the fact that Biden Lu has been expanding his territory and encroaching on the power of several families outside the order, how would we have thought of using marriage as a way to stay safe?

Everything is forced, I'm old, which day in the future closed eyes, the family will have to rely on your two uncles to run, but they are wise and more than enough, but not at all in the outside, will only consistently consume itself in the internal struggle.

That's why I called you here and gave you shares, so that you can play a binder role in the middle, I know you can do it, you're smart, not even worse than your two uncles, as long as your heart is in the Guan family and you're dedicated to it, the rest, Grandpa won't even bother with you, understand?"

Clara's heart vibrated and nodded.

"I understand, Grandpa."

Kwan closed his eyes tiredly and waved his hand at her.

"Well, I'm tired, so get out and let the nurses in."

Only then did Clara respectfully answered yes and turned around and walked out.

On the other hand, Ann came home with Jenny, took a shower, and lay down on the bed so that Jenny could tell her a story.

Because the little one was in shock today, Jenny didn't trust her to sleep alone and planned to stay with her for the night.

As soon as she finished telling a story, the little gnome suddenly asked, "Mommy, did that Auntie Maya push Ani into the water today because Ani shouldn't have overheard her talking to Grandpa Kwan?"

Jenny was stunned.

She said softly, "Didn't you say that she and your Grandpa Kwan didn't talk about anything?"

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The gnome frowned.

"It's nothing that was said, but I always thought that the two of them had a strange, somewhat bad look about them."

Jenny was slightly startled.

A child's intuition is the most accurate.

Even though she might not understand those meanings in the other's language, she could feel right from the expression and the atmosphere, the good and evil of the other.

She just didn't understand something, Clara was clearly Guan Ji Ming who had found her.

By all rights, she should have been on the same side as Guan Ji Ming in the Guan family's camp.

And why would he be talking to Guan JiLi on the side?

She pondered for a moment and softly reassured, "Maybe, but that's okay, we didn't mean for Ann to eavesdrop, right?"

Ani nodded heavily.

"So whatever the reason, she shouldn't have done this to you, it's her fault, we don't have to think about it too much Ann."

Ann gave an oddly understanding "Oh".

Soon, the child was tired, so Jenny didn't continue to tell her stories, and only after lulling her to sleep did this turn off the lights and rest herself.

At this point, off the family.

As Clara was about to return to her room, she saw a faint dusting of white on the door handle of her room.

She gave a slight pause and looked around to make sure no one was around before heading to the other end of the hallway.

"Uncle, you wanted to see me?"

In the darkened room, Clara looked at the man standing in front of her and asked in a warm voice.

Guan Jili's face was incomparably ugly.

"How many times have I told you not to mess with the Luke's, and then you go and do something to that kid right after I'm done with you on the front foot, are you really tired of living?"

Faced with Guan JiLi's anger, Clara shrank slightly, clearly afraid.

But she had the audacity to explain, "I didn't mean to kill her, just because, she saw us talking together and I was worried about what she heard..."

"What did you say?"

Guan Jili was stunned.

Clara pursed her lips, "It was just now, when you asked me to meet you in the back garden, she secretly heard everything we said."

Guan JiLi instantly changed his face.

He was silent for a moment, his eyes becoming birds of prey.

"Are you sure she heard it all?"

Clara also gently knitted her brows.

"I guess so, I didn't find out about her until after you left, but she was running too fast to catch her, so I just used the butterfly toy to draw her out afterwards to silence her, I didn't think it would end up like that."

Guan Jili stopped talking for a moment.

He was trying to remember what he had said to King Maya tonight.

After going over the memories, it was a small relief to make sure there wasn't any particularly obvious evidence.

"Just, she's a child, she can't suspect anything, even if she told Biden Lu and the others, it's just suspicion at most, we are already nephews, it's normal to stand together and talk for a while, but you, don't be so shocked, the slightest stirring of the wind and then kill someone, do you still think this is a small place like Visterdem? If something happens, our entire Guan family will be buried with you, do you understand?"

Clara slightly bowed her head and softly said, "I understand."

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Guan Jili looked at her again, his gaze slightly revealing a hint of disgust, and said in a deep voice, "Do you know that just because of today's matter, the Gu family has already gone back on their word, and the marriage that was originally nailed down has just fizzled out."

Clara shuddered fiercely.

Unbelievably, he looked up at the other man, his face changing slightly, "Why?"

Guan Jili sneered.

"Hmmm, why else would it be? They don't want to marry a trouble back, and with the way you acted tonight, who in the entire upper class circle of Kyoto wants to marry you?"

Clara: "....."

She bit her lip, an unspeakable sense of humiliation rising from her heart and making her clench her fists.

Guan Jili sighed.

"Alright, let's talk about the marriage later, it's getting late, go back and remember to be careful, don't make them suspicious."

Clara nodded her head, before turning around and walking out.

Unexpectedly, before they reached the door, they were called by Guan Jili again.

"Wait a minute."

She froze and turned over to see Guan Jili frowning and handing over a brown paper bag.

"She gave it to you, keep it to yourself."

Clara was startled, her face swishing pale, and it took several seconds before she reached for it with trembling fingertips.

Seeing only a few well-made pastries in the paper bag, her eyes quickly reddened, and she looked up at Guan Jili and asked in a trembling voice, "How is she?"

Guan Ji Li looked cold, "Very well."

After a pause, he looked at her again, a pale beige blue glow in his eyes, "As long as you stay out of trouble and behave yourself, she'll always be this good, so you know what you have to do, right?"

Clara nodded incessantly.

That's when Guan Jili waved his hand, "Get out."

Meanwhile, in the other room.

After taking a shower, she lay down on the bed and tossed and turned, but it was hard to fall asleep.

As soon as I closed my eyes, my mind was filled with the image of the night in the room, the one where I saw Jenny change his clothes.

The red butterfly birthmark on that back was so lifelike that it looked like it had come to life.

She drew open a drawer on the nightstand and took a book out of it.

It was a famous book in English, with a somewhat yellowed photograph tucked into the middle page of the famous book.

Guan Shepherd took the picture out and looked at it carefully by the light.

Only the photo was a little old, a little cracked around the edges, and the picture was of a baby, a few months old, sitting with its back to the ground, holding a floral bead in its hand, playing and smiling happily back as it played.

The baby also had a red butterfly birthmark on its back.

Guan Xuefei reached out and gently stroked the butterfly, remembering what her foster mother had said to her long ago.

"Fifi, this is your sister, she was unlucky in life, she was abducted by a trafficker when she was a few months old, that's why we adopted you. But don't worry, you're all mama's good daughters, and whether you're blood related or not, mama loves you all the same, so if you're lucky enough to find your sister in the future, make sure you and her take care of each other and help each other out, okay?"

Those words have been a long time coming.

So long ago that, as if from another country, even the sound became indistinct.

But Michelle Kwan still remembers.

I remember the look of regret in my mother's eyes as she left, the gentle smile she had when she looked at herself.

Michelle Kwan was undoubtedly lucky.

You can be an orphan.

Out of so many children in the hospital, she was chosen by Guan Jiwan to be her child.

All these years, Guan Jiwan had, as she said, treated her as if she were already out.

Even though she was several years old when she was adopted and had the most basic memory and thinking skills of a normal child.

But she was still unashamedly kind to her, telling her all the truth and never shying away from their adoptive relationship.

She's the one who showed her that blood doesn't mean everything in this world.

Even people who are not related to each other in any way by blood can be the closest family members.

Guan Xuefei closed her eyes, remembering the death of her adoptive mother, only to feel a dull ache in her heart.

When I closed my eyes again, my whole body had become awake again.

She looked at the photo and whispered, "Don't worry, Mom. If it really is her, then I'll admit it, and I'll do what you've told me to do, so she won't be out in the open forever."

She looked down, burying the photo in her chest, and it took her a long moment to put it down.

Put the photos back away, turn off the lights, and go to sleep.

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The next day.

Clara suddenly received an invitation from Guan Xuefei, saying that a new hot spring resort had recently been built in Kyoto and asked her to go to the hot spring with him.

Although Clara was surprised, but one, there was nothing wrong, and two, after last night's storm, the people of the Guan family more or less, all had some opinions about her.

This was the time when she needed to bring in others, so since Guan Xuefei had thrown out invitations of her own accord, it was impossible for her to refuse.

So that afternoon, after lunch, they drove to Hot Springs Mountain Resort together.

The hot springs cottage is built on the outskirts of the city and has a nice setting with several types of medicinal pools, just right for this season's soak.

After they got changed, they went down to the hot tub together.

To be honest, because of their awkward identities, Clara and Guan Xuefei, didn't really know each other well.

After all, one is the adopted daughter and the other is the adopted "real granddaughter", directly or indirectly, there is some competition.

Therefore, even if they usually met, they would only say hello and would not even say more than a few words to each other.

Today, suddenly out of the hot spring together, at this time two people sitting in the pool, actually a little wordless, do not know what to talk about.

But Clara was a good guesser, she knew that Guan Xuefei usually didn't pay much attention to herself, and today she suddenly asked her out to the hot springs, there must be something going on.

So, I found a random topic to talk to her about, and tried to use the opportunity to get a conversation going.

However, Clara was smart, so how could Xuefei Guan be stupid?

Leaving aside the fact that she hadn't asked her out today for anything in particular, she just wanted to prove something, so she wasn't afraid of being set up.

Even if Clara wanted to trap, she couldn't be trapped out, based on her level of thoughtfulness.

So, the two of you came and went, and the hot spring went down for a long time without saying a word of truth.

Perhaps both of them were gradually finding this boring, and Clara looked at the time and suggested that they first go ashore to rest and have something to eat.

Michelle Kwan agreed.

Because they all came out in a towel and couldn't see their bodies, when they went ashore, Seki Sufi purposely took a slow step.

I saw that Clara was walking down the steps to the shore, her s*xy bikini outlining her symmetrical and slender body, while the snowy white back was empty of anything.

She was startled and frowned.

"Maya, I heard earlier that you have a birthmark on your back, right? Why didn't you just see that?"

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Clara was stunned and turned back.

Guan Xuefei even laughed to hide her deliberateness.

Clara raised her eyebrows, and a flash of realization flashed under her eyes before she explained, "Did you say that butterfly birthmark on the back of your back? It was there when I was a kid, and then for some reason it slowly went away when I grew up."

She answered with a carefree attitude, with no sense of nervousness or guilty conscience, as if she were talking about something perfectly normal.

Guan Xuefei pursed her lips.

"So, the birthmark can disappear, so amazing?"

Clara smiled, "No, but it's not unheard of, after all, it's all just a piece of pigment in the body, which is common in medicine."

Only then did Guan Xuefei nodded.

"So that's it."

They talked, ate, didn't soak up any more food, and casually sat for a while before hitting the road.

Kwan frowned when he heard that the two of them had gone out together this afternoon, thinking nothing good.

He's a man, but he knows basically everything about how these girls feel.

Ever since Clara had returned, Guan Xuefei had been very cold to her.

After making such a scandalous scene last night, it was reasonable to say that Guan Xuefei should even more likely ignore her today and even mock her a bit.

But not only did she not, she asked someone out as soon as she was done with lunch?

Master Guan smelled that something was wrong, so he quietly called Guan Xuefei over as soon as she and Clara returned home.

"Grandpa, you wanted to see me?"

Guan Xuefei walked into the room and asked respectfully.

At that moment, Master Guan was sitting in a rocking chair, eyes slightly closed.

Hearing the sound, he opened his eyes and motioned for her to close the door.

Only then did Michelle Kwan return and close the door, then head over to him.

"Grandpa, is there something you want?"

Master Guan gazed at her and said in a deep voice, "Where did you take Clara to just now?"

Guan Xuefei was startled and pursed her lips.

She bowed her head slightly and whispered, "Didn't go anywhere, just went to that new hot spring mountain resort to soak in the hot spring for a while."

Master Guan looked at her suspiciously, "Really?"

Guan Xuefei laughed to herself.

"Grandpa, if you don't believe me, just ask Maya to come in and ask, or are you still worried that I'm going to bully her or something?"

Kwan quirked an eyebrow.

It took a moment before she said, "You don't have to provoke me with such words, she's back now, but you two hold the same weight in my heart, and I've raised you since you were a child, and I've never treated you like an adopted granddaughter."

Guan Xuefei stood there in silence, not speaking.

Master Guan paused for a few seconds and suddenly asked, "Did you know that the Gu family rejected Clara's marriage to their family last night?"

Michelle Kwan nodded, "Yes."

"What do you think about this matter?"

Guan Xuefei was stunned.

She looked at the old man, a little confused.

"I...I don't have any ideas."

What could she think about Clara and Gu's youngest child, a person who couldn't see eye to eye with eight sticks?

But the old man listened to her answer, clearly not too pleased.

He frowned and gave her a look that hinted at some anger.

"Then in your opinion, what do you think of Gu Yixuan as a person?"

Guan Xue Fei was startled and dazed for a few seconds, suddenly understanding something, her eyes flashing with incredulity.

"Grandpa, what do you mean you're asking me that?"

Master Guan snorted, "What else could it mean? Clara that girl is incapable of keeping such a good man, there is always someone in our Guan family who can.

Xue Fei, you are carefully cultivated and watched by me since you were young, you are different from her, you are a true lady's daughter, if you were the one to marry over, the Gu family would not have an opinion, you can also help the Guan family in the future, what do you think?"

Guan Xuefei shook fiercely.

Why didn't I expect that the old man would make such a request with her.

Her face quickly sank, and she looked incredulously at Master Guan and said in a deep voice, "Grandfather, are you seeing that Clara can't marry into the Gu family, so you're hitting on me? The man she didn't want and forced it on me?"

The old man's sword brows sank and he said angrily, "Nonsense! What do you mean she doesn't want the man? Although Gu Yixuan is only the youngest son of the Gu family, he has always been a good person, and his abilities are worthy of recognition, but most importantly, his parents are talented.

Besides, the family was only interested in trying to set them up before and not really being together, so how did it become the man she didn't want?"

Without even thinking about it, Guan Xue Fei just snapped back in anger, "I don't agree!"

Master Guan's face didn't look too good.

"Why?"

"Grandfather, I'm your granddaughter, not a tool you use as an exchange of benefits, and I know that you've always wanted to marry the Gu family in order to preserve the eternal wealth and glory of the Guan family.

But I think these should be traded on our own merits, not on the marriages of our children and grandchildren! If we don't have that ability, even if we take the trouble to

climb into the Gu family, in the future we'll just be whispering and looking at other people's faces to eat, so what's the difference between that and begging?"

Master Guan's face instantly sank and he said in an angry voice, "What are you talking nonsense? What about our Guan family is not as good as their Gu family, what begging? How do you think you got your current brocade? Do you think that those things of power and profit can really be obtained by personal power alone?"

Kyoto is a deep-water pond, and the network of relationships and interests in it is not as complicated as you can imagine, we are married to the Gu family, this is called strong teamwork, plan ahead, otherwise, in the future, I close my eyes, with your two uncles, what can do? You think you'll still be the Guan family's high and mighty daughter by then?"

Michelle Kwan shook her head.

"It's better to marry someone you don't like, even if you're not a thousand-year-old girl."

"Nonsense! You're young now, think what love is, freedom trumps everything, when you're old you'll know those are nothing, only people who have nothing will believe this, true freedom is something you need to stand at the top of your rights to get, do you understand?"

Guan Sheffield felt ridiculous.

She had always known that her grandfather was an extremely passionate man about power.

It wasn't as if he hadn't beaten himself up before, trying to work his way out of her marriage.

But then it was all given up, she thought, and he would never mention it again.

I didn't expect that today he would actually propose that she marry Gu Yixuan!

Guan Xuefei laughed to herself.

"I don't understand what Grandpa said, and I don't care for those rights at the top. As for the glory of the family, Grandfather, you can do whatever you want me to do, but please don't use my marriage to accomplish for you the glory that belongs to you, I can't do it, and I can't promise it!"