

Eight Uncles 1271

Chapter 1271 His Spirit Returned

Cloud looked at his family in front of him. His parents were concerned about him, and his brothers had a hint of mischief in their eyes.

It was like they were saying, "You're finally grown up now, and you've grown to be a fine. young man!"

Tears welled up in Cloud's eyes.

He stood in attention and saluted his parents.

He owed his parents too much. Fortunately for him, his brothers were at home to accompany them.

"Thank you, Dad, Mom," he choked.

He turned to his brothers and said, "Thank you, my elder brothers, for taking care of Mom and Dad."

Gilbert said, "Tsk, you missed me!"

Cloud put his saluting hand down and smiled. "No, I haven't missed you. It's just that you're the youngest, and we're used to taking care of you."

"Don't look down on me, heh," Gilbert said.

Hugh was moved. It was the first time he saw his son in uniform. Tears were threatening to spill from his eyes, but he didn't want to show his soft side in front of his children. He assumed a stern face and said, "Don't worry about us, Cloud. You've already devoted yourself to the country. You should take care of yourself."

"Yes, you don't have to worry about us. We're all fine. You should take care of yourself," Bettany said. "Didn't you say you're only coming home after Christmas? Why did suddenly come back? Anthony could've picked you up at the airport."

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hot towel and wiped his face. "It's

with his wife. I don't have the heart to disturb. them,

bad there. They wanted to bring us back after Christmas, but luckily

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handed the hot towel to Zachary. "Alright, I'm going to eat! I'm so

back here," Bettany said. She patted the stray snowflakes on Cloud's hair. "You must've been so cold outside. Why didn't you come in straight away? You're not a child

Cloud's hand. It was slightly warm

breathed a sigh of relief.
warmth was not going to last for very long,
back of Bettany's hand while his palm was still
held the towel in
was already as cold as the snow outside.
any reaction, he walked away with the
his lips together. He understood...
sacrificed himself. Only his
emotions and held Jean's hand tightly with trembling
should also know that
brought a bowl of chicken soup for Cloud. "Here, have a bowl of chicken
"Granny, you should
nodded and said, "That's right! That's no regular chicken. You don't get to eat something so exquisite
every day!"
the drumstick on his plate and gave
underworld is delicious, but the
"That's

Chapter 1272 Covering Each Other

Jean was stunned as she felt something off. On the one hand, I was afraid that Mom would discover the truth; on the other hand, I could not bear the thought of her finding the truth in a few days. She would definitely be upset...

Tears welled up in Jean's eyes, and she began to burst into tears. She wanted to say something but was interrupted when Anthony quietly interrupted her.

However, Anthony could not think of anything to say either, and that's when Lisa suddenly leaned in with a smile.

"Mom! Jean is upset about something! Here, try this vegetable!" Lisa said cheerfully.

Bettany was puzzled and said, "What's all this secrecy about?" I could not tell whether Jean was crying or laughing as she covered her eyes.

Then, Bettany reluctantly took a bite of the vegetable Lisa had offered. But the next moment, she choked on it, and tears streamed down her face.

"What in the world is this?" Bettany exclaimed while drinking water. "Why is this so spicy?"

Bettany felt unwell and somehow dizzying.

Edward laughed and said, "Wow, Lisa, you're fearless! Mom, she even dares to pull a prank on you!"

Jonas was utterly speechless. He said, "I wondered why Edward sneakily hid this dish earlier. Now it all makes sense."

Max said, "I was tearing up just like this a moment ago! It's too early to reveal the truth, I wanted to see Anthony's reaction after eating it all!"

Gilbert was astonished and said, "You're really brave, Lisa."

Cloud was stunned as well and said, "Lisa..."

felt guilty

for a while. Lisa is truly sympathetic. I could not believe how brave she was to

at

have no respect! Bettany is getting on

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it was Lisa's idea, not

turned to Lisa, who was nervously fidgeting with her fingers. Hugh's expression softened, and

"Look what you've done!"

speechless. Well, I am not surprised for

my fault. Lisa and I often play

said, "Dad, don't be angry. It

tears and said, "Alright, let's eat. I'm not as weak as you think." They had never gone too far to upset me before. Lisa must have been too excited and momentarily lost her mind.

"Who bought this vegetable? I've never seen it

felt guilty and said, "Grandpa, it's a local specialty I

silent. He nodded

was afraid that Lilly might be upset and quickly said,

bring the soul back as long as

can also treat minor illnesses

too strong.” I would have considered making it a regular dish if not of it and ate it with relish. He said, “It’s not

Chapter 1273 Tears with the Soul Retrieval Herb’s Sting

Bryson pursed his lips and said, “You’re so childish! But in that case, I’ll take a bite too. Is it really that spicy?”

Cloud laughed and said, “Count me in for sure!”

Everyone was laughing and joking around. Edward, Jonas, Max, and Gilbert remained. oblivious to the truth.

However, Anthony, Liam, and Bryson already sensed something was amiss.

They instinctively steered the conversation away from the truth without showing signs of a slip-up.

Bettany’s attention was successfully diverted. I could not help but think they still acted so childishly despite growing up.

“There isn’t enough vegetable for each of you! Should I stir-fry more for you? Mr. Pablo brought back quite a lot.” Bettany exclaimed. She seemed to be somewhat exasperated.

Lilly raised her hand and said, “It isn’t necessary!”

“Uncle Anthony, you guys don’t find the stir-fried version challenging enough, do you? How about a raw eating contest?”

The uncles fell silent. They were unsure if Lilly was teasing or genuinely suggesting it.

Jean was the first to agree, “Exactly! If we’re going to play, let’s go all out. Stir-fried isn’t exciting enough.”

Edward chimed in, “Agreed! I am not afraid of a little spice!”

Lilly promptly brought out a large bowl of Soul retrieval herb.

Bettany sighed. Thankfully, Soul retrieval herb was incredibly tender, with leaves as large as lettuce but much more delicate.

didn’t hesitate and urged, “Hurry

Soul retrieval herb ready, with Anthony taking

and Liam discreetly grabbed

aren’t you looking

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somewhat distracted and said, "I'll

"Ready, Set, Go!"

the intense spiciness of the Soul retrieval herb caused them to

his forehead with tears in his eyes to conceal his

spicy. His tears flowed freely, but he couldn't help but

been quiet all along, wiped his tears

as he exclaimed, "Wow, it's really

at all! I had

his head and

simultaneously crying and laughing. He said, "You

stunned to see what had happened. She mumbled, "Is it really that spicy?

burst into

on, let me

his eyes, Cloud said in a deep

matter.

and said cheerfully, "You just got back and are already fooling around with them. Be careful not to upset your stomach later. Hurry up and

He shoveled a large spoonful of food into his mouth." Actually, I could not really taste it or know what I was eating anymore. It just felt like

Chapter 1274 A Different Kind of Reunion

Bettany was happy, lounging on the couch with her legs crossed. She occasionally checked her phone to exchange New Year's greetings with her friends.

"Hurry, it's almost midnight!"

Everyone was staying up late to welcome the New Year. However, Hugh had already gone to sleep, as he felt that the young folks could handle it. I am too old for all the festivities.

Bettany tried to stay awake for a while but could not make it past 11 o'clock. With nothing pressing on her mind these days, she quickly drifted off to sleep.

"5, 4, 3-2-1!"

Everyone cheered as fireworks lit up

the sky.

Amid the excitement, gift bags were distributed.

"Come on, this one is for Lilly!"

"This one is for Josh, Hannah, Zachary, and Drake."

as he had already passed away. However, Anthony discreetly handed him one. Cloud was touched and patted his head gently and said, "Take

could hardly keep up. She

prosperous year ahead and strike it

Harem, thank you

May you get rich and

helplessly upon listening to Lilly's

living room and chatted into the

carried Lilly back

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Lilly had so

pillow and piled the rest to one

held her bunny and

for so long, and today..." She had found out that Cloud had sacrificed himself, yet she dealt with it so calmly. She is just a young

sadder she became. Tears welled up in her

said quietly, "It's okay to cry.

you here."

shook her head and replied, "I do not want to wake Lilly. If Lilly woke

Chapter 1275 Home

Ivan said, "Can we visit the Crawford family to celebrate the New Year after the holidays?"

Colton hesitated for a moment and sighed. Then, he said, "Maybe next time, Ivan. The Crawford family might not be in a convenient situation this year."

Ivan found it strange and asked, "Why?"

Colton's voice was heavy as he replied, "Cloud had sacrificed himself during a mission abroad."

Ivan was stunned. I could not believe it! It was so sudden and hard to accept!

"Did

many people sacrifice themselves?" Ivan could not help but ask.

Colton shook his head and said, "Just him."

Melody was shocked and quickly asked, "Why only him? I didn't mean that. I meant..." She did not know what to say, feeling overwhelmed.

Colton explained, "The mission was very dangerous, with various factions in conflict, and not everyone supported our country."

"However, Cloud was incredibly brave. He ensured the safe return of everyone and was the last one to withdraw."

"Everyone had witnessed him creating one miracle after another, and they firmly believed he would make it out safely."

"But no one could have expected that he would fall in the final round of attack."

As Melody listened, she felt her nose tingle and her eyes well up with tears.

Bettany accept this fact? When Jean passed away, Bettany collapsed and only recovered when Lilly returned.

check on her.

gentle elixir suitable for stabilizing the soul. I

family gathered at the

of the Crawford family had already taken

gone home.

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and Jack stayed

was in the living room, chatting and

for a while before stepping outside. Then she found Margaret tidying up

return home for the New Year, Margaret?" Lilly

about Margaret's family situation, but Lilly had

son got married and is spending

Our relationship had not been great since he was younger. He got a prestigious job after graduation and left me after knowing I was working as a servant. He cared a lot about his image. Moreover, I had never told him that I worked for the Crawford family. I do not

wife doesn't want to live with me, so they usually stay in

all alone, I'd rather stay here. It's much better." Why should I

up, I can't bear to leave!" She had long considered the Crawford family her

felt somehow unhappy and said, "Honestly, I'm getting paid to work for the Crawford family, right? Why should I go back and serve them? They thought I shouldn't touch expensive things, but they also thought she should do all the cleaning and cooking. It was just too much! I served my son when I was young. Why should I serve

said, "I'm happy to stay here, just like

who had rolled up her sleeves to help, and shooed her Margaret said, "Little Miss, go outside. I away.

want to return to the living room as soon as Bettany was chatting with Cloud. I did not think I had the skills to control my facial expressions just yet. I might just burst into tears when

in a nearby chair and asked, "What about

Chapter 1276 You Are My Best Friend

Lilly hastily threw on a mink coat and rushed outside.

Josh noticed her leaving and followed, asking, "Lils, where are you going?"

Lilly hurriedly replied, "Ivan's here. I'm going to greet him."

Josh fell silent.

After the New Year, Lilly turned nine years old. She had grown up and become quite gorgeous. She wore a red mink fur coat with a long cape and seemed graceful as she walked through the snow.

"Ivan?" Lilly asked.

When Lilly reached the doorstep, she found Ivan standing there in silence. The weather has been extremely cold these days, with temperatures dropping to minus four or five degrees.

However, Ivan was wearing a down jacket without an additional hat, just pulling the hood of the jacket over his head.

Snowflakes fell on his shoulders, and his breath created clusters of white mist as he turned around.

mink

“On such a cold day, why are you only wearing a down jacket?” Lilly asked in surprise. During the coldest times in Alford, a down jacket certainly wouldn’t provide as much warmth as my coat. He had also been standing outside for quite a while.

Ivan replied, “It’s fine; I’m not cold.”

Ivan handed Lilly a ring and said, “Here, this is a storage ring.”

Lilly might misunderstand, Ivan quickly explained, “I was actually looking for other storage bracelets or are you giving this to one.”

Ivan a light purple ring on her index finger, which had been specially made for her by Blake. She had similar rings from childhood to adulthood. However, she started wearing them again when she was reincarnated.

and glanced toward the main Crawford mansion.

stood here for quite some time just now and figured out a

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glass

elixir inside the ring for old Mrs. Crawford.”

move. He had come specifically to deliver an elixir for Granny. He must be worried about her.

ring and said,

gesture meant more

what to say. I wanted to tell her not to be too sad, but I am

for a while and said, “If you need anything, just

and nodded. Suddenly, she remembered something and hurriedly said, “Ivan, come inside quickly; it’s

in. I won’t be coming to visit for the New Year in a few days.” Daddy had mentioned that celebrating the New Year might not be

Ivan said, and

even sadder whenever I think about

door while watching Ivan depart. For some reason, I suddenly felt like I was always on my own, all alone. It was a bit lonely, a bit bewildering, and a bit sorrowful.

turned back.

felt something was amiss. I could feel Lilly staring at me directly from the back. The snowflakes seemed to

around and

Unexpectedly, I felt better after Ivan turned around and

Ivan," Lilly sincerely said. "You're

Chapter 1277 Quinnie Is Pregnant.

Bettany asked, "Who is it?"

Lilly said truthfully, "It's Ivan. He..."

She could not say that Ivan had come to deliver the elixirs, so she said in a panic, "He was passing by and came to greet me."

Bettany complained, "He's already at the door. Why don't you ask him to come in and sit for a while?"

Lilly smiled naughtily. "He was in a hurry, so he only greeted and left."

Bettany felt strange. Why did Ivan come over if he was in a hurry? There was something wrong with that kid.

Bettany was suspicious but did not ask any more questions.

Everyone spent most of the time eating, sleeping, or walking around during the New Year.

King of Styx liked days like this the most. It was perfect for him! He enjoyed it!

Some people came to visit the Crawford Mansion. The Crawford Mansion was lively and busy, and the fourth day of the New Year passed quickly.

Quinnie came over to greet the Crawford family, and her eyes lit up when she saw Lilly. "Wow, Lilly! You've grown up!"

She missed Lilly so much. When she first met Lilly, Lilly was still a cute little sweetie!

Quinnie hugged Lilly.

Lilly was also surprised. "Quinnie... Aunt Quinnie! Are you pregnant?"

Quinnie's belly was already slightly bigger. She smiled shyly. "Yes, it's already been four months..."

said happily, "Wow, Matt! Another baby is coming soon!"

Matthan responded, "Eh!"

help but laugh.

greeted them all politely, "Grandpa Osmond, Grandma Eloise! Happy New Year! I wish

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stuffing gift bags for Lilly. "Lilly, Happy New Year! Wish

bag. Collecting money was

the most!

Lilly looked

She also took out a gift bag

emphasized, "It's not that I want to give it to you. My

grinned. "I understand! You use Grandpa Osmond and Grandma Eloise as an

brows twitched, and she snorted.

and Eloise were her parents, but Lilly called them Grandpa and Grandma,

was born late. There was nothing she could

Woods. family before, but the Woods family felt there were many people

and Grace. If the Crawford family had gone there, there would have been more than ten or
turn!"

Bettany and shouted openly, "Mom! Happy New

Bettany smiled happily.

daughters-in-law, not including Winona, the daughter-in-law they first

did not want to remarry. Bryson, the captain, did not want to be tied down by marriage.

woman, he only

spent the whole day in his laboratory to develop patents, which promoted the advancement of
technology. He also had no

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Not to mention Cloud, he had been on the front line before, but it was great that he was bac this year.
Bettany thought she could urge him to find a girlfriend.

She did not insist on whether her sons wanted to marry. The main thing was to enjoy the jo of urging
them,

Gilbert was the youngest and had always said he was not in a hurry. After all, his elder brothers were not
married yet.

Bettany was worried before. Her sons were getting older and were still unmarried.

Later, she thought about it. Getting married or not was a way of life.

If her sons could not have a happier life, it would be better not to marry.

The two families together made the mansion even more lively. The living room of The Crawford family seems crowded.

Eloise smiled and said, "Quinnie will be a mother but still stay home to celebrate the New Year. She keeps clinging to me!"

Bettany smiled and waved. "It doesn't matter!"

Osmond felt relieved. Bettany was tolerant and did not think there was any taboo in having Quinnie celebrate the New Year at her parents' house after getting married. Quinnie and Jonas received their marriage certificate. According to ordinary people, Quinnie must celebrate the New Year at her husband's house this year.

However, Quinnie was reluctant to leave home, so Bettany asked Jonas to spend the New Year with her at the Woods family.

On New Year's Eve, Jonas spent the morning with the Woods family. Both families were in the city. It was a short way to drive back and forth.

In the afternoon, Quinnie wanted to come back with Jonas, but Jonas worried she would catch a cold while pregnant, so he did not let her come over. That was why Quinnie was absent in the Crawford family on New Year's Eve.

Adults and children had different topics, so Lilly pulled Grace away.

"Grace, when will you officially return? Madame Maya can't wait to retire!" Lilly asked.

Grace reluctantly said, "There's still one last tear left..."

Chapter 1278 What Was Supposed to Come Has Come

Lilly was curious. "There are so many tears in this world. Isn't it easy to collect them? Grace, you've regressed!"

When the destined rivals met, Lilly could not help but tease Grace again.

Grace rolled her eyes at Lilly angrily. "The last tear is a tear of love!"

Lilly responded, "It's so easy to find! There are so many people crying for love in the world!"

Grace said nothing more. Lilly won't understand it! I need to collect my tears of love!

Grace was almost pissed off. She felt that she would never be able to achieve her goal in her lifetime.

What love could she have that she would weep for a man? It was possible in her previous lives but was impossible in this life!

She had sealed her heart and would not fall in love with a man. She even wanted to laugh when she read those love stories.

Lilly looked sad. "It's over. You're going to become an old granny!"

Grace instantly slapped Lilly's head unceremoniously.

Lilly held her head and yelled, "Ah! You cheated! How could you do a sneak attack!"

How dare she hit the King of Hell's head!

Josh was very protective. He was fine to see Grace arguing with Lilly, not fighting.

He ran over to protect Lilly and half-jokingly said, "Don't bully my sister, or don't blame me for beating you!" D

Josh pumped his fist. Unexpectedly, Grace gave him a condescending look and said contemptuously, "You can't defeat me!"

was pissed off!

"Forget it!

me! I'm going to

Beat me

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Woods family washed away a lot of hidden sadness. It was lively for a few days. In the blink

had to return to work. Anthony had to go to the company. Edward, Liam, Gilbert, and Bryson must return to

you going

"I haven't taken any leave. all year round. I still have 15 days of annual leave.

about you?

Unexpectedly, Liam, who was efficient in

"I'm leaving. Forget it. It'll be weird

and occasionally hesitated to speak but quickly.

felt depressed and walked out silently. Edward could only catch up with him. "Hey, you're cursed. But when he thought about it, sometimes it was

Jonas and asked,

said, "I'm not in

not him. He had been acting for many years. There would be two days and gradually felt desperate, and he silently adjusted and past,

a while, but thinking of what they the house gradually became quiet, Bettany felt something was to say?" Bettany wondered. it!"

Judging by the time, the military department would notify family members to pick up

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He could not stop trembling, and his eyes turned red.

Bettany's heart tightened. "What's going on? Did something happen? Don't worry. Your brothers will help you..."

Cloud suddenly knelt upright and was full of guilt. "Sorry, Mom! I...

Bettany's heart skipped a beat, and she felt the bad premonition again. Her heart beat rapidly.

"Cloud, you..."

Before she finished speaking, she heard hurried footsteps outside. "Mr. Crawford, Mrs. Crawford, someone from the military department is here..."

Standing on the stairs, Lilly suddenly felt cold. What was supposed to come had come. Could Bettany be able to accept the truth?

Lilly panicked and ran downstairs. She threw herself into Bettany's arms and hugged Bettany. tightly.

Bettany only felt her heart sinking deeper.

Her eyes were already red, and she forced a smile. "Is there someone from the military department? They're here to appoint Cloud, right? Margaret, hurry up to prepare tea. You all don't stand here! Tidy up! The leader is coming!"

Jonas turned his face away and felt his throat clogged.

Anthony and Liam returned at some point and stood at the door silently.

Bryson quickly looked up to prevent his tears from falling and to avoid being laughed at by his brothers.

Bettany kept a smile and joked, "What are you doing? The military department isn't here to catch traitors! Cloud isn't..."

Cloud suddenly cried out in pain. "Mom!"

Chapter 1279 Refuse to Accept the Fact

Cloud burst into tears. Looking at his mother's unwillingness to accept the fact, he felt he owed his parents so much.

Hugh sat aside in a daze and could not say anything.

Bettany said, "Hey, what are you doing? Go and tidy up quickly! Cloud, why are you kneeling? Get up to meet your leader! Bryson, Jonas, stand up. Anthony, Liam, didn't you go to work? Why are you back again?"

Bettany stood up and asked people to prepare tea while hugging Lilly. "What's the matter, Lilly? What are you doing with your uncles today?"

Lilly could not help but cry. "Granny..."

Bettany's fingers trembled slightly. She wanted to say something else and forced a smile, but she could not.

Blake stood behind Bettany at some point and pressed on her shoulders. The golden light flowed quietly to support Bettany.

Bettany turned around and saw someone from the military department coming in while holding a black box. Inside was a set of bloody clothes.

They did not see Cloud, and Bettany only heard those few words.

"Comrade Cloud Crawford has been martyred...."

surrounding sounds were noisy, including the teacup held by Margaret falling to the

turned dully to look at Cloud, who was still

suddenly laughed. "You all are joking, right? You're playing a prank on me, aren't you? Don't make

their sadness. Some even pressed their mouths hard for fear of crying

smile and said they were

here?

vain, and she forced a smile.

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could not help but cry. Bettany was devastated

of bullets and the pain of injuries, but they

"Mrs. Crawford!"

and comrades are here. Why don't you go to greet them? I'll make some dishes. Let's have a good

a ghost, he felt distressed to

“Sorry, Mom, I was wrong! I

tears fell silently. She murmured,

He even celebrated the New Year with her two days ago. He was still fine, smiled at her, and talked with her for a few days.

already had the ominous omen on New Year’s Eve but forcibly suppressed it. When the Woods family came over, Cloud said he had something to do and did not show up

still

Chapter 1280 I Lost Cloud

Jean floated aside and cried uncontrollably but did not dare to make a sound. “Mom, you have Lilly. I’m here. We’re all here. We’ll always be here...”

Bettany suddenly came to her senses. She heard Lilly crying. Lilly was scared.

She hugged Lilly tightly and finally could not help but cry.

Bettany bent deeply and cried loudly. “Lilly, I don’t have Cloud anymore! Cloud can no longer come back to me alive! I lost Cloud...” D

Cloud was like the morning glow beside the clouds. It once appeared so brilliantly, full of vitality and hope, but soon disappeared from the world. She would never see that morning glow again.

She named him Cloud because she wanted him to be like the morning glow.

When he was a child, he signed up for school. The teacher pronounced his name wrong. Bettany would correct the teacher and say it was Cloud instead of Claud.

Later, as he grew older, she no longer corrected his name with others. She laughed it off when others pronounced him Claud, and she made it clear that it did not matter whether they pronounced him Claud or Cloud.

However, she would not get another chance to correct his name again.

She regretted why she did not correct it a few more times.

“Cloud won’t come back anymore...” Bettany cried uncontrollably.

back their cries. They were afraid

afraid that she would not be able to control her emotions. What if she

throat seemed stuck. He

tightly in Lilly’s hand. He suppressed his tears and said,

“Eat candy, okay... Cloud wants to

he died? When he was a child, he was most afraid of pain. She would

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vaccination.

candy in a panic.

out all the elixirs

said, "Okay, candy

the people in the military department could not bear it anymore and temporarily retreated outside

gave Cloud the elixir and said,

to eat

noded repeatedly, grabbed the elixir, and put it into her

her attention was not on it now. She did not notice why the candy

"Pay more attention on the road. Get there early. Don't worry about me too much. I'll be fine. After you settle everything, remember to come to my

went to reincarnation again. But after reincarnation, how could she still be his mother? How could she make her son difficult and ask him to

help but cry

sadly, "Mom, I won't leave. I'll