

## **Eight Uncles 13**

### **Chapter 13 Overbearing Cousins**

The Crawford family's mansion had an area of 8,000 square feet, making it one of the most extensive manors in terms of size.

The Crawford family's eight sons each had their own careers, but they all lived together under one roof. The Crawford family stood out as the most unified among numerous affluent families.

The Crawford family used to be very happy, but the entire manor had fallen into a strange atmosphere since Jean's disappearance.

Anthony worked long hours and rarely came home.

The Crawford brothers were all preoccupied with their own affairs. Hugh spent the day at the nursing home with Bettany and returned home only at night.

Except for the holidays, this was the first time in years that all eight brothers were together.

Hugh intervened when several of Lilly's uncles wanted to take her out.

"Lilly just got out of the hospital. How could she possibly be going out? She needs to rest."

The uncles had no choice but to abandon that idea. They planned on taking Lilly to her room.

Hugh glared at them and said, "What are you all still doing here? Go get your mother and inform her that Lilly has returned..."

Bettany was devastated when her daughter went missing. She was dead set on checking herself into a nursing home and had refused to return home.

She had been bedridden for the past two years. She was in no mood to do anything and was becoming haggard with time...

Finally, Hugh took Lilly's hand in his and said, "Let's go, Lilly. Grandpa will walk you through your room."

The Crawford brothers were rendered speechless.

Hugh led Lilly upstairs to her room. "This is your room, Lilly. Do you like it?"

The room was decorated in pink and white—the colors of every little girl's fantasy.

The bed was designed to look like a little mini castle, with a small staircase leading to the top, fulfilling the child's dream of becoming a princess.

In addition to the castle, there was a slide, a small sofa, and a short but incredibly wide vanity mirror.

The dressing table had several rows of jewelry racks with various bows, hair ties, and flower clips... Everything a girl could possibly need was there.

Lilly had never seen a princess room like this before. She raised her head and asked earnestly, "Grandpa, is this really my room?"

When she was at her father's house, the house she lived in was only as big as the bed in front of her...

Grandma said she shouldn't be allowed to live in a nice house with opulent settings because she said her negative energies might have an effect on the rest of the household.

Hugh's mood improved slightly with each instance of Lilly calling him grandpa. "Of course," he chuckled.

This princess room was not the largest, but also not the worst.

"Do you like it?" Gilbert inquired from the sidelines.

Lilly nodded furiously and said, "Thank you, Grandpa and Uncle Gilbert."

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sighed inwardly as he looked at  
like a small animal that has just ventured into a strange place and is  
will she let down her guard and start behaving like the adorable  
you want to hang out with  
"Cousins?" Lilly wondered aloud.

cousin sister. They are the  
son, Anthony, and the second eldest son,  
had two sons, one in third  
at an  
along swimmingly because they were  
were a parrot and a stuffed rabbit. She desperately needed to be around kids her  
she didn't  
father and stepmother never let her play outside, and her grandparents  
school with their schoolbags on their backs through  
and asked, "Uncle Gilbert, can you  
give her cousins

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arrived in the blink of an  
pulled up outside Crawford Mansion, and an elegantly dressed woman wearing an Elizabethan hat led a  
and held two exquisite dolls in her arms. Her  
when you see your little cousin sister later, remember to give her the doll," the woman urged the little  
and said

and said, "Didn't we just talk about this? You get one doll, and your younger cousin sister gets one as well. Quit

heard that. "No, I don't want to! I

dashed into the mansion without looking back after

sister? She refused to give

the toys belonged

it, so she turned around and said to the little boy dawdling behind her, "Zachary,

Zachary would also pout and declare, "I don't want any

obnoxious younger sister who would steal his belongings, throw his toys at every opportunity, and cry when their parents tried to

was opposed to

He bolted after speaking.

her room and slammed the door shut with

and the

Hannah's tone

other end of the line, inquired, "Who

give a doll to my little sister, but

woman with beautiful hair on the other end of

after Lilly was abused

"Yes!" Hannah said, nodding.

she was holding. She couldn't bear

give it to her cousin's sister, she grew fond of both dolls. She suddenly decided that she didn't want

on the other end of the line stated, "Hannah, now that you have a new cousin sister, you are no longer the only little princess. Your grandfather, Uncle Anthony, and the other

was still a child, immediately retorted, "Grandma, you're