

Eight Uncles 301

Chapter 301 Speeding on the Road

In the Crawford family, Bettany overheard that two days ago, it seemed that a thief came in over the wall, and the dogs barked in the servant building.

During breakfast, she nagged, "The servant said on July 15th, a thief came in over the wall and seemed to be carrying two sacks, but the servant didn't find anything missing, and he didn't see anyone else... Did any of you lose anything?"

Lilly and Josh were taken aback for a moment.

Two sacks?

Hugh frowned,

and:

check the surveillance? Are you sure he came in with two sacks or did he leave the mansion with two sacks?"

A thief came in by climbing over the wall? That's impossible.

Wealthy people lived in that area and the security was tight. Not to mention that the Crawford family also hired a security team to guard the mansion.

Besides, even if they were robbed, the thief could never bring everything out of the house...

Bettany's face was strange, "Don't you think that it was a coincidence that the surveillance system was down last night?"

Josh choked and coughed violently.

Blake placed a glass of water in front of Josh and said calmly, "I'll see if I can recover the footage later,"

Bettany nodded, "Please do so. I feel like it's pretty weird, and it would be best if nothing happened,"

Blake agreed.

Josh was dumbfounded.

How did his uncle not react when Bettany said it to him?

It was he who climbed over the wall that morning.

And the two sacks on his shoulders were him and Lilly.

Drake and Anthony were expressionless as if they knew everything.

Lilly put down her cutlery, and said obediently, "Grandma, I'm full!"

Josh followed her and said, "I'm full too!"

Bettany was startled, "But you've only eaten a little,"

Lilly replied, "I'm celebrating Quinnie's birthday with Uncle Jonas today!"

She did not want to be full because she wanted to have cake.

Bettany seemed to have remembered something and patted herself on the forehead, "I almost forgot about it. Uncle Jonas is on the set today, and I will send you there later."

Ghost Festival was over, everyone had gone back to work, including Bryson and the others.

Liam and Edward went to the construction site early, and Gilbert was incredibly busy.

Lilly nodded and ran upstairs, "Grandma, I'm going to change my clothes!"

Bettany was also full, she put down her cutlery and followed her. She reminded Blake, "Remember to check the surveillance!"

Blake nodded lazily as if saying, "Don't worry about it,"

It is impossible to investigate the matter, or else he might reveal the truth.

He must not let the old lady know that he took Lilly out that morning and came back to the Mansion by climbing over the walls.

The old lady would have strangled him.

When everyone left. Josh asked nervously, "Uncle Blake, you won't restore the footage, won't you?"

Blake replied, "Hmm, what do you think?"

Josh was quiet.

Blake stood up and rubbed Josh's head gently, "We're men, we should be calm when something happens,"

After finishing speaking, he flicked his green coat and walked out in a carefree manner.

After a while, he drove an SUV and vanished as he drove further.

Josh muttered, "I'm not a man, I'm a little boy,"

Hmph, little boys aren't bad.

Lilly changed into a little black dress and thought it was not appropriate for the occasion since she was celebrating Quinnie's birthday.

She changed into a red dress.

Lilly thought that it was not appropriate to wear red since Quinnie was the protagonist of her party.

She immediately changed into a blue tutu skirt, and she was satisfied.

Polly stood on the table, tilted his head and looked at Lilly with beady eyes, and sang sweetly, "Black, white, red, yellow, purple, green, blue, gray... There are so many styles to choose from..."

Lilly giggled, found a pair of white loafers and put them on, then picked up a comb to tie her hair. Her movements were clumsy, and her hair was still a mess after tying it for a long time. "Hmph!" She threw the comb angrily, and said with a bitter face, "Why is it so difficult to tie my hair?" She knew how to put on clothes, and shoes, brush her teeth, and wash her face.

She just did not know how to tie her hair.

She looked at Polly and thought about something, "How about cutting off my hair a little?"

The more Lilly thought about it, the more she thought it was a good idea. She thought that she would not need to tie her hair if her hair was short.

She immediately looked for the scissors in the small cabinet.

When she finally found the scissors, she was about to cut her hair off in front of the mirror.

Hannah opened the door and came in. She held a kite and said to Lilly excitedly, "Lilly, let's fly kites!"

Then, she saw Lilly was about to cut her hair.

She froze and asked. "What are you doing?"

Lilly explained, "It's too troublesome to tie my hair, so I wanna cut it short,"

Hannah became excited and threw the kite away.

She climbed onto the stool with a grunt, and said, "Right? Tying my hair is too troublesome. I wanna cut mine too! I wanna go bald!"

That way, *I don't need to wash*

my

hair anymore!

Lilly was speechless.

I don't think that's a good idea...

"You'll be a monk if you go bald." She said, and corrected, "A nun."

Hannah did not care if she was a nun, she was willing to be one as long as she did not need to wash her hair.

"Don't you think all small people are bald? Look at Megamind! He looks so good when he's bald! Please call me Megamind from now on!"

Hannah did not know she was going to regret her actions.

Lilly was stunned..

Polly shook its body, "Drip, drip, drip... We love you! Drip, drip, drip! You're smart..."

Hannah immediately asked, "Do you wanna go first? I wanna go first if you don't wanna cut yours,"

Lilly nodded, "Of course, I'm cutting my hair, I just don't wanna go bald,"

Lilly felt that having a bald head was not good-looking and would feel cold.

Lilly started cutting her bangs.

The scissors she was using were made for arts and crafts and were not sharp. That way, it could prevent them from cutting their hands.

Lilly struggled with it and only cut a small portion of it.

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Hannah shook her head, "No, you're not supposed to cut it like this!"

Hannah took the scissors and began to demonstrate, "This is how you're supposed to do it,"

She wanted to show off her skills in front of Lilly but the scissors were blunt, and struggled to cut her hair.

She felt ashamed and tried harder. Eventually, she managed to cut her hair.

"Look!"

She held her hair proudly.

At that moment, the two of them were so immersed in cutting their hair, they forgot what they were supposed to do.

They grew more excited the more they cut it.

When Bettany entered the room, she was dumbfounded.

"What are you doing?"

Lilly trembled in fright, and the scissors fell to the ground.

She put her hands behind her back and shook her head repeatedly, "We're not doing anything, Grandma,"

Bettany looked at their horrible hair and twitched.

Help...

She was about to have a heart attack.

Their hair looked like it had been gnawed by a dog.

Hannah was worse, as the middle part of her hair was bald.

Hannah did not know she was in trouble, and asked happily while looking in the mirror, "Grandma, do I look good?"

Chapter 302 Uncles Learn to Tie Hair

The old lady looked up to the sky at a 45-degree angle and

She counted Hannah's age, Hannah was five years old!

wept.

Children did not know about these things and they tend to cut their hair out of curiosity. Even Jean did it when she was 3 years old.

Hannah was already 5 years old!

She must be missing out on some brain cells.

At least Lilly was better than Hannah.

Maybe their hair *can* be *saved* if I brought them to a *salon*.

Bettany twitched her eyelids, "DO you think you are good girls after cutting your hair like this? Both of you... come out right now,"

Lilly and Hannah went out obediently down and stood in the corridor.

"Who started it?" Bettany asked.

Hannah stepped forward bravely, and stretched out her hand, "I did!"

Lilly hurriedly waved her hands, "No, I started it! I said that I wanted to cut my hair!"

Bettany did not know if she was supposed to laugh or get mad at them. Eventually, she brought out her phone and took some pictures.

In case of any unexpected situation, maintain composure and take a picture first. Then, share it in your story.

"Snap!"

The image of the two girls with bad haircuts standing guiltily next to the corridor would remain permanent in the photos.

Bettany sent the photo to the family group, and the group exploded with replies.

Anthony and Liam responded with a question mark, Bryson sent a gif of someone spitting out coffee, and Jonas was speechless while Edward jokingly asked, "When did his hairstyle become popular?". Gilbert also responded, "Give me back my cute girls!" while Blake replied, "Not bad, it shows their personality,"

Bettany put away her phone. Just as she was about to rub her forehead, she remembered that she had already put on makeup. She then waved her hand helplessly and said, "Let's go get your haircut,"

After an hour, a little boy and girl walked out of the salon.

Hannah's hairstyle made her look like a boy.

Meanwhile, the other girl was Lilly. She could no longer tie her hair up into a bun so, the hairstylist styled her hair into a cute short bob.

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After washing up at home, Bettany took Lilly to the set.

Jonas saw Lilly from a distance and went over to look at her. He heaved a sigh of relief after finding her adorable niece was still there.

Lilly's short hair reached her ears and her bangs were pretty short, but she still looked adorable anyway. She looked cuter compared to when she had a bun on her head.

"What's the matter?" Jonas caressed her head, "Why did you cut your hair all of a sudden?"

"Lilly scratched her hair and said, "Lilly doesn't wanna tie her hair, it's too difficult,"

Jonas finally knew the reason.

Jonas laughed and said, "Uncle Jonas will tie it for you the next time, okay?"

Lilly nodded happily.

Jonas took a photo of Lilly and sent it to the family group.

He added in the caption, "Lilly said it was difficult to tie her hair, so she cut it herself,"

All of her uncles were speechless upon knowing the reason.

Once they got it, they were going to learn how to tie long hair.

Anthony who was in the company ordered, "Charlie, find me some tutorials on how to tie hair,"

Charlie was dumbfounded.

Anthony added, "For little girls,"

Charlie replied, "Oh, it must be for Little Miss Crawford,"

Edward was at the construction site and saw a young man with long hair who was slacking off. He said to him, "I'll tie your hair from now on!"

The young man was frightened and confused.

After five minutes, the man had some two crooked buns on his head. He cried, "Mr. Edward, can I go to work now?"

After Gilbert was done with his ward wounds, he tied two buns for the female patients in the ward before getting off work. Eventually, he became more proficient in it and nodded in satisfaction.

The ladies in the ward were smiling as they thought the service in the hospital had improved and they got their hair tied in the hospital.

They even felt that it was worth it since Gilbert was the one tying their hair.

Bettany was the only one who regretted it.

She was usually the one who helped Lilly tie her hair!

Please trust her...

She felt regret because she trusted Lilly too much when she said she wanted to do things on her own...

At the Woods family, Quinnie was sitting on the sofa surrounded by well-known ladies. Everyone was chatting away.

Quinnie's mother had just returned from her trip and sat between them. She chatted and laughed with them.

Quinnie was absent-minded, she looked at her phone from time to time, and then at the door.

Why isn't she here yet.....

She prepared a cake with less sugar and her homemade honey for Lilly and kept them in the fridge.

She also made chocolate pudding and cupcakes because she did not know which one Lilly liked more.

Quinnie's mother was puzzled.

What's wrong with Quinnie? She looks restless and is looking forward to someone...

Does she have a boyfriend?

How could Quinnie have a boyfriend behind her back? She had only been traveling for a couple of months.

Quinnie's mother regained her spirits and asked, "What are you looking at, Quinnie?"

Quinnie responded with a "Huh?" and continued, "It's nothing, Mom,"

The ladies next to Quinnie's mother joked, "Quinnie, aren't you 24 this year? Do you have a boyfriend? Are you waiting for him to come?"

Quinnie almost spat out her drink, "Ew, no way!"

Why would she want a boyfriend when she had Lilly?

She had never gotten a boyfriend, let alone getting married. All she thought about was how to skip getting married and give birth to an adorable baby like Lilly.

Quinnie thought of Lilly's buns and could not wait to see her.

Why were other people's sisters more adorable than her own?

Quinnie looked at her sister who stood in the corner. She asked, "Gracie, can you smile for once?"

Grace was attractive, but had a distant demeanor.

Grace paused for a while and said stubbornly, "I'm not Gracie!"

Quinnie pouted as her sister was not adorable, she wanted another one.

Quinnie's mother glanced at her, who was filled with curiosity, and deep down she knew that her eldest

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daughter must have a boyfriend! Even if she did not have one, there must be someone who adored her

...

At this time, Grace was sitting alone in a corner. She had a cold expression, she was different from other kids.

Grace was cool and had a hint of impatience. She fiddled with the spirit compass in her hand.

Suddenly, she stopped fiddling with it and squinted..

The person who stole my ghost is here?

Chapter 303 Ghost Hunting at Midnight, I Won't Sleep!

Upon hearing that Lilly was coming, Quinnie's eyes lit up, and she rushed out to welcome her.

When Quinnie's mother saw Quinnie this excitedly, she stood up calmly and followed her.

Lilly entered the Woods family's house and exclaimed, "It's so beautiful!"

She saw the house decorated with pink flowers, teddy bears, hearts, stars, and candies...

It was cute and dreamy!

Anthony seemed to remember something, and asked, "Lilly, did you receive the teddy bear bouquet I gave you that day?"

He had forgotten about it because of Jean.

Lilly nodded and said, "Yeah, I did, thank you, Uncle Jonas!"

Jonas felt comfortable after hearing that. He could not bear Lilly to like others' teddy bears more than his gift.

Quinnie walked out before they could enter the house.

Quinnie could not hide her joy and froze when she saw Lilly.

Did *Lilly* cut *her* hair?

That's... *so* adorable!

"Lilly!" Quinnie hugged her, "Wow, you got a new haircut! It's so pretty!"

“Thank you for coming to my birthday party. I prepared cupcakes, homemade honey, cupcakes, and chocolate pudding. Which one do you want to eat first?”

Lilly felt hungry and asked impatiently, “Can we eat them all together?”

Quinnie suddenly felt that her hard work was not in vain, and happily carried Lilly to the dining area.

Jonas looked at the gift he brought and noticed that he had not given Quinnie her birthday present yet.

He did not even have the chance to talk to her.

At this moment, he wondered if Quinnie wanted Jonas to come or if she just wanted to see Lilly.

He was about to find a place to sit down when Quinnie’s parents came over. Quinnie’s father greeted him as he was one of the eight brothers of the Crawford family.

Quinnie’s mother looked at Jonas, and the more she observed him, the more satisfied she became.

Jonas wore gold-rimmed glasses and he looked elegant. He looked amazing.

Quinnie did not know that her parents misunderstood her.

She brought Lilly to the dining area to eat.

Grace pretended to change her position and paid attention to Lilly from the moment she entered the house.

So this is the little *practitioner from the Crawford family. She doesn’t look professional, why did she steal my ghost the other day?*

Lilly took a bit of the cake and approached Quinnie. She whispered to her, “Quinnie, is that your sister? Why does she keep staring at me?”

Does she want to have cake too?

Are you done catching ghosts? Why are you eating cake? Hmph!

For some reason, Lilly had a feeling that Grace was picking on her. It was as if Grace wanted to bully her every time she saw her.

Lilly finally understood why Polly kept wanting to step on Tortoise whenever he saw him.

Quinnie replied, “She’s Gracie, my younger sister. Don’t mind her, she’s a little weird,”

Lilly tilted her head, “Why did you say she’s weird?”

Quinnie gossiped as her expression became strange, “My sister never cried. Not even when she was a baby. Every baby cries when they’re born but not her,”

Lilly’s eyes widened, “Wow! Then doesn’t she cry when she falls?”

Quinnie shook his head, “Nope,”

Lilly asked again, “Doesn’t she cry when someone hits her?”

Quinnie said, "She doesn't cry at all!"

"Her

hand was scalded by boiling water when she was a kid. You can see that she still has a scar on the back of her hand. But after all that, she still didn't cry!"

Lilly admired her immediately.

How did she do it?

Lilly knew not to cry when she fell. However, she could not withstand the pain and tears would force themselves out of her eyes.

However, after all that, Grace did not cry.

Lilly had a strange idea, she wanted to hit her.

Lilly was startled by her intrusive thoughts and shook her head like a rattle.

Quinnie saw Lilly thinking about something and then shook her head violently.

Quinnie thought it was interesting and asked her, "What are you thinking of, Lilly?"

Lilly shook her head profusely, "It's nothing, it's nothing."

She thought for a while, picked up a cupcake, and said, "Quinnie, does Gracie like cakes?"

Quinnie was dumbfounded and said, "Huh?" She pondered for a moment before replying to her, "I don't think so..."

Quinnie was not too sure either.

Quinnie did not know what Grace liked as she was distant and did not like to talk. She did not even want to clamor for food most children liked.

Grace always ate what was in her place so she did not know if Grace liked cake.

Lilly jumped off the stool holding a cupcake. She said to Quinnie while running, "Quinnie, I'm gonna give Gracie a cupcake!"

Before Quinnie had time to react, Lilly ran past her.

Grace looked warily at Lilly who was approaching her.

Lilly offered Grace a cupcake and said, "Hi, Gracie,"

Grace remained silent.

Lilly continued, "Do you like cupcakes?"

Grace glanced at Lilly coldly and then at the cupcake.

Lilly added, "I guess you don't... It's okay, I'll eat them,"

She swallowed the cupcake in a mouthful,

Grace was speechless.

How childish!

Lilly sat next to her and asked curiously, "Do you catch ghosts too, Gracie?"

Grace frowned as she was unable to bear Lilly any longer, "My name is Grace, not Gracie! Do manners at all?"

Grace frowned, unable to bear it any longer: "My name is Grace, not Grace! Are you polite?"

Lilly was dumbfounded as Quinnie told her that her sister's name was Gracie.

Although she was puzzled, Lilly quickly corrected herself, "Okay, Grace... Not Gracie, you have

Grace glared at her coldly and asked, "You're the one who stole the foolish ghost from me that day?"

Lilly was taken aback, "Your foolish ghost? Why did you say I stole it? Why did you say it was yours?"

Malignant spirits don't have masters, and even if they do, they would be marked.

Grace gritted her teeth and emphasized, "I saw it first,"

Lilly understood why Gracie was mad at her. Turned out that was the case.

She counted with her fingers, shook her head, and said, "No, I saw it first,"

Grace was furious. "You're being unreasonable, I marked Miss Claire on July 14th,"

Lilly added, "I saw Miss Claire on July 14th as well!"

Grace was speechless, she did not expect Lilly to mess around with her and sneered, "I don't care if you stole my ghost, but you're unwilling to admit it,"

Lilly was puzzled, "I was the one who saw Miss Claire first. I saw her at 9 o'clock on July 14th and thought that there was a foolish ghost in her house, What about you?"

Grace was stunned and dumbfounded.

Turned out Lilly was the one who saw it first.

Grace was even more furious...

Grace wanted to vomit blood, but she was wrong, so she had nothing to say.

It turned out Lilly was not the one who stole her ghost, Grace was not diligent enough.

To put it carefully, it was Grace who hesitated and did not dare to make a move that night.

Thinking of it that way made her even more furious.

Lilly continued to ask as if nothing had happened, "So what time did you see her?"

Grace gritted her teeth, "You win, but you won't be so lucky next time,"

After a pause, she said awkwardly, "I'm sorry!"

Grace was more motivated to catch ghosts in the middle of the night, so she would not be sleeping!

Chapter 304 A Room Full of Dolls

Lilly was not as nervous as Grace and was relaxed. Upon seeing Grace admit that she was not the one who found the foolish ghost first and felt awkward, Lilly comforted her, "It's okay..."

Grace felt that she was trying to make her mad on purpose!

Before she could say anything, Lilly asked again. "Where do you keep your ghosts, Grace? Do you keep them in that room on the second floor?"

Grace frowned and thought that Lilly was annoying.

She stood up expressionlessly, not wanting to talk to Lilly at all.

Quinnie came over with mango ice cream, just in time to see what Lilly was pointing at, and said, "That's my room."

Lilly was stunned.

It's Quinnie's room? Then *why* are there so *many* ghosts in *it*?

Although the ghosts were not very powerful, they were not vengeful spirits at all... However, there were any of them.

They were spirits that were about to dissipate and their presence was so weak it was like they did not exist.

"Quinnie, can I go to your room?" Lilly was worried.

She glanced at Grace.

Why didn't Grace notice *there were so many ghosts in Quinnie's room*?

It seemed that Grace was not as powerful as she thought.

Grace regained consciousness.

There are ghosts in Quinnie's room? What a joke!

Her spirit compass was normal when she was at home, how could it be possible?

Quinnie looked happy and said, "Of course, I have so many things in my room! Come with me, I'll show you!"

She handed a cup of homemade honey to Lilly and poured herself a glass of it as well. She asked casually, "Gracie, do you want some? You can get it yourself, it's in the fridge,"

Grace was silent.

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That was why she did not like to talk to her sister. She told Quinnie countless times not to call her Gracie !

She turned around coldly and went upstairs.

Lilly said that there were many ghosts in her sister's room. However, she did not believe it.

Quinnie led Lilly to her room.

When they reached the second floor, Quinnie opened the door.

It was daytime, but the room was gloomy because the curtains were drawn.

Quinnie turned on the light, and after being able to see Quinnie's room clearly, Lilly froze.

Lilly saw many display cases in the room and the cases were filled with various dolls.

Quinnie's room was spacious. There were about seven or six display cases and each of them had seven or eight tiers. Each tier had one or two dolls.

Each doll has its own room, garden, and even pets.

Lilly was shocked and said, "Quinnie, are you collecting dolls..."

Quinnie spoke like a kid sharing their toys, "Do you collect dolls too? I'm a hardcore doll collector and every doll here is customized and made by me so, they're unique,"

Besides collecting dolls, Quinne also liked anime. She had two display cases with figurines in them.

Lilly could not detect any bad aura from the two display cases that had figurines in them. However, she felt that there was a ghost hidden in every doll....

Lilly felt sluggish and since Quinnie was a hardcore doll collector, she whispered to Grace, "Grace, can you see them?"

Grace frowned, her voice was cold, "Aren't they just dolls?"

It was usual for toys to get possessed by a ghost/

Most of them were harmless unless the ghost wanted to play tricks on purpose.

Some people find dolls scary, but some are crazy about them. It was a normal occurrence, so why was she making a fuss

about it?

Lilly pointed to the nearest display case, "Can't you see it? There's a ghost in that doll,"

Grace was about to say something when the pointer of the spirit compass she was holding started to drift.

Her heart skipped a beat and raised her head. Grace was soaked with cold sweat when she saw it.

A child was sitting on the display case in front of her. She looked about 2 years old and stared at Grace curiously.

The whole room was filled with ghost spirits aside from her.

Some of them were hidden on the dolls, some were sitting on the edge of the display case, some were floating on the ceiling, and some were spinning around...

Some ghosts were in the form of children, some of them were women and some were old people. The only thing they had in common was that they were all female.

Grace was struck by lightning.

Quinnie's room had ghosts?!

There were about seventeen or eighteen ghosts in the room.

Grace began to question her existence. She was alright if she could not detect one or two ghosts. However, she failed to detect seventeen or eighteen ghosts!

When did her skills get so terrible?

Quinnie was still normal and brought one of her dolls out, "Her name is Coco and she's nine years old. She's my favorite daughter."

Lilly asked. "Quinnie, what's raising a doll?"

Her little face was serious.

Was what Quinnie did consider raising a doll?

Pablo said that there were people in this world who raised ghosts for good luck, especially their neighbors....

But according to Dudroinia's tradition, doing so would damage their morals and decrease their lifespan.

Pablo once told her that there was a female celebrity raising a ghost so that she would be popular. However, she did not know she had to pay a price...

Lilly was not sure whether Quinnie was doing what Pablo once told her.

Upon seeing Lilly's serious face, Quinnie was amused.

"Oh, did you misunderstand something, Lillie? They're fake dolls and they're not real!"

"This is called collecting a doll, and there's a community for people who love collecting dolls called the doll lovers' community,"

"The doll lovers' community can also be referred to as the doll collectors' community. It's quite a niche community as fans who love anime would commission someone to customize their dolls. They would usually customize the doll's age, clothes, and looks. Eventually, it evolved to the doll lovers' community,"

"Oh. I see!"

Quinnie happily explained, "I've spent so much money to commission someone to draw Coco's facial features and hired a makeup artist to put on makeup for her. I even designed most of her clothes and accessories. Every single doll in here is unique and there would not be a duplicate,"

Even if there was a duplicate, it meant that someone copied her.

Quinnie showed Lilly a large drawing book and she realized that there were many figures drawn on it.

"This one is called a chibi doll and it's the most complicated doll I've ever designed. Her name is Melody and she's 18 years old. She has a vintage style..."

"I also made her clothes..."

Lilly finally understood after listening to Quinnie's explanation.

Quinnie's doll was like her rabbit.

, may I take her on a whole" Lily pondered at Eco

Quinnie handed the doll to Lilly

Lilly thought the doll's hands were warm and delicate, and there was an indescribable code when she touched it.

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The doll was made of clay Lilly turned the doll around and examined it.

Grace also picked up a doll and stared at it closely.

It should be made out of clay right? It couldn't be made of ashes.....

Chapter 305 You Have a Skill Issue

Quinnie explained, "There are many materials for making dolls, they're generally made of resin, plastic, ceramic clay, and many more. I won't talk about other niche ones. Different dolls are made of different proportions of materials. For example, the doll's texture might be different depending on the ratio of the material added when making it,"

"I commissioned an experienced doll maker and they make high-quality dolls. Coco is 9 years old now and her body hasn't turned yellow yet. However, she has become more tender and delicate with time..."

Quinnie looked at Coco fondly.

Lilly pursed his lips and looked at the doll she was holding.

"Quinnie, I think something's wrong with this doll,"

Quinnie said nervously, "What's wrong with it? It's impossible,"

She hurriedly grabbed the doll and said, "It was fine yesterday..."

She flipped Coco around, only to find a tiny crack at the root of Coco's bun.

The crack was incredibly tiny, it was a problem for Quinnie.

Quinnie felt distressed, "I see it now, I'll try contacting someone from the doll lovers' community to see if they can fix it,"

She told Lilly to wait for her and made a phone call.

Lilly looked at Grace, "Grace, do you see the problem?"

Grace put down the doll and said coldly, "There is no problem, the only problem is that the dolls attract a bad aura and caused many ghosts to lurk around,"

She began to look around Quinnie's room. Was the position of Quinnie's room the cause of it? Or did she leave something impure here? Could Quinnie bring something impure to her room after filming?

Grace did not realize that there was a ghost in this room before. Grace did not believe that her skill was that bad. She passed by the room several times but couldn't detect anything unusual. She assumed that the ghosts came into the room on the 14th of July...

However, if the ghosts came in on the 14th of July, how could she not notice it since she stayed at the Woods Villa for the past few days? Wouldn't it mean her skills were terrible?

Grace's face was cold, and her heart collapsed.

Lilly looked at Grace who was walking around with her spirit compass and shook her head, "You're still weak, Grace,"

Grace was speechless.

A trace of anger flashed across her face.

What do you mean weak?

Who said I'm weak?

There was one condition for dolls to attract a bad aura. That is, the material used to make these dolls could attract a bad aura such as ashes.

However, Lilly could tell if the dolls' materials were mixed with ashes or not!

Grace said coldly, "Do you think the dolls are made of ashes? I could've detected it right away if they were? You've guessed it wrong. I suggest you improve your skills. Do you watch too much TV? How could you say that the dolls are made of ashes?"

Grace usually did not talk that much, but when she saw Lilly, she felt very upset for some reason.

Lilly looked at her with sympathy, "No wonder you're working so hard, turns out you have no skill at all."

Grace was furious.

Unacceptable!

"Then what do you think?" She was a little bit angry.

Lilly would usually not make people angry and even if she did, she would find out why they were mad and stopped making things worse.

She could not help sticking out her tongue and making a face, "I told you the dolls are made of human ashes but you wouldn't believe me,"

Grace sneered, "You're weak,"

Grace believed in not judging a book by its cover but Lilly was not the case!

She was convinced that there were no ashes in the dolls and she had her way of confirming it. If she said there were no ashes, then there were no ashes.

She thought that Lilly was able to catch the foolish ghost because someone helped her.

When Lilly heard this, she immediately snapped back, "You're weak! You're weak! You have a skill issue!"

Grace was so mad she clenched her fists.

Lilly was testing her patience!

Lilly pointed at the doll, "The doll is made of ashes, look at it. Why won't you believe me? You have no skill!"

Grace flipped the table, "I said there aren't any ashes!"

Grace did not believe she could not sense the ashes in the doll!

Lilly exclaimed, "I said the dolls are made of ashes!"

Grace yelled, "No they're not!"

Lilly yelled back, "Yes they are!"

The two little girls were arguing like kids from elementary school.

Jonas saw them arguing when he came to the second floor.

"Uh, what are you guys doing?" He asked. "Why are you arguing?"

Lilly pouted, "I said she has no skill and she wouldn't admit it,"

The angrier Grace got, the colder she became, and she mocked, "Fine, fine, you're the best,"

Lilly replied, "Thank you!"

Grace was so angry, she shook her sleeves and left. After she left, she came back and grabbed a doll then left once more.

After Quinnie was done making a call, she saw Grace holding her doll and chased her out, "Why are you holding my doll?"

Grace did not look back.

The dolls meant so much to Quinnie so she chased after Grace.

Jonas looked at Lilly, "Okay kid, what's going on?"

Lilly left him for a few minutes and ended up arguing with another girl.

Lilly was an obedient kid and why was she being strange? She even made Quinnie's sister mad.

Lilly pointed to the display cases, "Look at the dolls, Uncle Jonas,"

Jonas casually asked, "What's wrong with the dolls?"

He glanced at it indifferently, and it seemed that there was nothing wrong with them.

Lilly continued, "These dolls are haunted, they're made of human ashes."

Jonas froze and kept quiet.

Jonas looked at the dolls in front of him and he felt like they were watching his every move.

Jonas smiled stiffly, "Are you joking, Lilly?"

Lilly shook her head and looked at him seriously, "No, I told Grace that the dolls are made of ashes and she didn't believe me, so we argued about it. She's also a practitioner but she couldn't even notice the ghosts in her house, so I told her that... She has a skill issue..."

Jonas was speechless.

Could Quinnie's younger sister see ghosts too?

He quickly thought of what Lilly said to Grace about her having a skill issue...

Jonas' mouth twitched, "Who taught you that?"

Lilly's eyes were pure and innocent, "It was Daddy!"

Jonas was speechless for a moment.

At that moment, he witnessed Lilly's return, and as he recalled her room filled with dolls, an inexplicable feeling of unease washed over him. Having worked alongside her for over six months, he could not help

but sense an eerie aura...

Chapter 306 Acting Cute, How Shameful!

Lilly looked at the ghosts all over the room, and whispered, "Uncle Jonas, can you help me distract Quinnie? I wanna get rid of all the ghosts,"

Jonas nodded without hesitation, "Okay,"

Quinnie snatched the doll from Grace, but Grace grabbed ahold of the doll's shoes and she could not get it

back.

She cursed and looked angry, and then saw Jonas looking at her with a strange expression.

“Uhh... What’s wrong, Mr. Jonas?” Quinnie smiled at him politely.

Jonas touched his nose, “It’s nothing,”

A trace of doubt flashed in Quinnie’s eyes, and she was about to walk around him.

But Jonas suddenly stretched out his hand and stopped her.

“Mr. Jonas?” Quinnie was taken aback.

Jonas said, “There was a scene you were supposed to film today but you’re on leave. The director said. t here were a few important scenes and I need to tell you about them,”

Quinnie was puzzled.

Today was her birthday.

How could someone talk to her about work when it was her birthday?

How ruthless...

In the room, Lilly was waving at the ghosts as she bounced around, “Hi, hello, the ghosts over there... Can you look over here?”

The dull-looking ghosts on the display case by the window looked at her.

Lilly said again, “Come on, the ghosts there... Can you look at me?”

The ghosts in the display cabinet at the end of the bed turned around dumbly.

Their expressions were dull and stiff, only their eyes moved flexibly.

Lilly, “Boom! Swish!”

All the ghosts were dumbfounded, “Boom... Swish?”

-Lilly grinned and muttered something in a low voice, a golden light lit up in the room after a while.

All the ghosts in the room stood up and walked slowly toward the golden light.

The ghosts disappeared along with the golden light.

Lilly caressed the jar of souls and said softly, “You can’t eat ghosts today because they’re not evil spirits. Some of them were just lost and didn’t know how to react. They can’t even remember who they are...”

Among them, it remained uncertain who was the individual encountered by others yet remained. invisible, and who was the presence burdened by the loss of a loved one, unable to move on.

There’s something wrong with *Quinnie’s dolls* that *attracted the souls who were about to perish*. So, they seek nourishment *from* the dolls.

Lilly thought about it and felt that this scene was inexplicably familiar, but she knew that she had never seen any dolls before...

She pouted and pinched the jar of souls. "What's so strange about the dolls? Can you tell me about it, Mr. Jar?"

The jar of souls remained silent.

Although it had a mouth, it could not speak.

Lilly sighed, "You have to work hard, Mr. Jar. Unlike you, Polly knows how to speak now,"

The jar of souls was quiet.

Jonas struggled with his words. Not only did he talk about today's play, he even talked about the parts he did not act well in.

Just when he was about to lose his hold, he was about to ask Quinnie about her opinion in the next scene.

Lilly finally came out!

Jonas was relieved.

Quinnie also heaved a sigh of relief.

Darling, help me! I don't know why but Your uncle has been talking to me about work for 10 minutes!

Lilly blinked, "Quinnie, you are back!"

Quinnie hurried over and said, "I don't know what's gotten into Gracie either, she snatched Coco's shoe ... I'm speechless,"

Lilly asked, "Quinnie, where do you get your dolls made?"

Quinnie answered, "The name of the community is called Spring Friends... What's the matter?"

Lilly shook her head, "It's nothing, Quinnie, don't get your dolls from that community anymore! Their dolls aren't good,"

Quinnie was puzzled.

It's just a *crack*, it's not that big of a deal...

Although she could not shake off her suspicions completely, the shop's ranking in her heart had undeniably dropped.

Quinnie changed the topic, "Lilly, why don't you eat with your uncle first, I'll take care of the doll,"

Lilly nodded and gently reminded Quinnie, "Quinnie, don't forget to draw the curtains. The dolls might feel uneasy if they don't see light,"

Quinnie was taken aback, nodded, and watched Jonas pick Lilly up and go downstairs.

She returned to the room in confusion, not knowing why the room felt a little stuffy.

The community said that it was next not to let the dolls be exposed to sunlight, or they would be prone to turn yellow and crack

She made sure to keep the curtains closed, and due to her frequent filming commitments, she often resided in a nearby apartment dormitory provided by the company. As a result, the dolls remained locked in the room for extended periods.

Maybe Lilly's right...

Quinnie opened the curtains.

She was not sure if it was just her imagination, but she had a peculiar feeling that the shadows cast behind the dolls appeared slightly distorted. However, upon closer inspection, everything seemed perfectly normal.

"How strange..."

Quinnie put Coco away, took some photos of her, and sent them to the Spring Friends community.

She added, "The crack is right here... My sister took one of Coco's shoes, so please make a new pair of shoes for her..."

The other person provided her with feedback, "Miss Clay, we recognize your status in the community. The Clover Comics Club will be hosting a nationwide doll exhibition in late July, and we would like to invite you as our first spokesperson. You can even bring along your two favorite dolls with you!"

Quinnie was excited upon hearing that it was a doll exhibition.

After inquiring about the specific dates and confirming her availability, she agreed without hesitation.

Downstairs, Jonas brought a small plate of fruit to Lilly, and asked, "Did you collect all of them?"

Lilly shook her head and corrected, "I'm not collecting them!"

She explained: "These ghosts are not vengeful spirits, they're all lonely ghosts who are about to dissipate..."

"They didn't reincarnate due to various reasons such as accidental death, and as a result, they will wander forever in this world... However, as time passes, they will fade into the air and gradually dissipate,"

"It's like the young girl you saw earlier, she fell ill and passed away. Refusing to be separated from her parents, she chose not to reincarnate. However, as the years went by, she gradually forgot the appearance of her parents..."

"She died in hospital, couldn't find her way home, and was drawn here,"

Jonas's fingers were stiff.

Sweetie, you don't need to talk about it in detail...

"Do you want grapes? Uncle Jonas will get it for you," Jonas said without changing his expression.

Lilly tilted her head to look at him, "Are you scared, Uncle Jonas? I won't continue if you're afraid,"

Jonas replied, "It's nothing, I just thought you were... thirsty,"

With a look of understanding, Lilly gently patted Jonas on the shoulder.

Jonas was speechless.

After an uneasy birthday party, Jonas quickly stood up and seized the opportunity to say goodbye to Quinnie's parents and bring Lilly back home.

Quinnie suddenly said, "Huh? Are you leaving this early?"

She was very reluctant and held Lilly's hand tightly.

Quinnie's mother looked at her and thought that Quinnie was being too obvious.

Can you be less obvious?

She understood she was trying to befriend the child so that she could be closer to Jonas.

Quinnie's mother smiled gently, "Lilly seems to like Quinnie very much, Mr. Jonas, you should bring Lilly here more often,"

She caressed Lilly's face as she spoke.

She thought that Lilly was adorable.

If only her younger daughter was half as adorable as Lilly...

As Grace came down the stairs, she witnessed her parents and sister gathered around Lilly, seemingly infatuated by her presence.

She snorted coldly and turned away.

How dare you act cutely? How Shameful!

Chapter 307 Lilly's Plea

Lilly was eating watermelon when she noticed everyone saying goodbye. She then raised her head, "Huh?"

Why are we going back now?

She did not want to go home...

Lilly missed the opportunity to hear Grace, or rather, she missed the chance to discuss the doll with her.

Jonas. "Alright then, goodbye,"

Sporting a faint smile, he donned a black suit adorned with exquisite, shimmering diamonds, an ensemble that exuded a subdued yet opulent aura. Despite his courteous appearance, there was still a hint of roguishness about him.

It did not look like he was afraid of that place and wanted to leave at all...

Lilly thought about it for a moment, "Whatever,"

Jonas was her uncle after all.

If Jonas wanted to go home, Lilly would take him home.

She would talk about the doll with Gracie... No, Grace the next time!

“Goodbye, Mr. and Mrs. Woods!” Lilly waved, “Goodbye, Quinnie!”

At that moment, Grace was staring at Lilly silently by the railing.

Lilly rolled smiled and waved at her, “Goodbye, Gracie!”

Grace was speechless.

I told her my name isn't Gracie!

Despite her parents and sisters referring to her as Gracie, Lilly's usage of that name only intensifies her disdain for it.

Lilly looked for Josh the moment she reached home.

“Spring Friends Community?” Josh was stunned, “What's wrong with them?”

Lilly whispered in his ear, “They make dolls using human ashes,”

Josh was taken aback.

Instead of leaping to his feet, a shiver ran down his spine, causing goosebumps to cover his body. He could even sense the hairs on the top of his head bristle with an unsettling sensation.

“Spring... Friends right?”

Josh powered up the computer, mustering the strength to steady his trembling fingers, and proceeded to type the name into the search box.

On the internet, Josh came across a brief introduction to the doll community. What struck him as odd was that numerous doll clubs provided detailed self-introductions and showcased a wide array of completed doll images.

Apart from their address, phone number, and a handful of pictures featuring classic dolls, there was nothing else of substance available.

As Josh revisited the forum, he looked at it carefully and said, “This doll community has chosen a niche path... It's pretty popular, and their dolls are highly realistic and they have lots of positive reviews from the customer... However, each doll comes with a hefty price,”

He pointed to one of the photos, “This doll is very popular on the Internet. It is very famous in the doll lovers' community. It's made by Spring Friends too. The doll's name is Coco. The price of the doll is one million dollars...not including costumes and accessories,”

Josh delved deeper into his research on the doll, meticulously factoring in the costs of accessories and other additional items. To his astonishment, the total price amounted to over five million dollars.

Although the people in the doll lovers' community liked dolls very much, there were not that many people who could spend that much money to make a doll.

Lilly looked at the photo and gasped, "This is Quinnie's doll!"

Josh reacted, "Uhh..."

The dolls were of good quality. However, the people who made them had bad intentions.

He asked Lilly, "Would you like to visit their store?"

Lilly nodded, "Yes."

Josh to check the time and route, "It's in the central office building of Pearl District, we can have a look. tomorrow,"

Lilly asked, "Can we sneak over the wall?"

Josh's mouth twitched.

That won't work...

Although his uncle was awesome and could carry both of them on his shoulders while climbing the wall, he would be busy during the day, just like the other uncles.

If they asked their Grandma to go with them, she would watch their every move and it would be difficult for them to act.

"Let's go find

go find my brother!"

Even though they were both children, their grandma seemed to view his brother differently. In her eyes, his brother was perhaps perceived more like an adult.

Drake was in the room.

Upon hearing their plans to go shopping at Pearl District the following day, he did not even bother to raise his eyelids as he curtly replied, "No."

He did not like shopping and crowded places.

Lilly begged, "Would you please take us there, Drake? I'll bring you to a less crowded place!"

She also knew that Drake did not like crowded places.

She would take him to a place filled with ghosts and guarantee that there would not be too many people there.

Josh thought, "How considerate,"

Drake nonchalantly turned a page of the book, he was calm and uttered, "Go ask Grandma,"

He thought that Bettany was so free, she would make Hugh film her dancing every day.

Eventually, she got popular she gained 10000 fans.

They should look for Bettany instead of him. He was busy and found reading more interesting than doing anything else.

Feeling

disappointed, Josh understood his brother well enough to know that if he had already said no, he would not change his mind and go along with the plan.

Just as he was thinking of another way, he wondered if their father was free.

Lilly rubbed up against Drake and grabbed the corner of his shirt while begging him, "Please, Drake,"

Josh was speechless upon seeing that scene.

He continued reading and ignored them completely.

Eventually, he agreed, "Just this once,"

Drake added, "Don't bring Hannah,"

Josh and Lilly nodded like chickens pecking at rice, "Okay!"

The two walked out of the room happily and Lilly was so happy, she waved her hands, "Yeah!"

Josh also exclaimed, "Oh yeah!"

Drake was speechless.

Look at how his brother was acting now.

Josh was different from before.

He also had a weak will.

Drake's eyes briefly flickered with disdain as he flipped to another page of the book. He remained steadfastly absorbed in his reading, showing no signs of wavering.

The next day during breakfast, Josh chose his words carefully and asked, "Grandma! Lilly and I are going shopping at Pearl District today and Drake will be taking us there!"

Bettany was about to refuse them but when she heard that Drake was coming along, she looked at Drake

suspiciously, "Really?"

Josh nodded coldly, "Yes,"

Bettany nodded.

She thought that everything would be fine as long as Drake was with them.

He was calm, rational, and responsible.

Despite being inclined towards liberal arts, Drake possessed quick reflexes and was capable of fighting

Hannah raised her hand, "I wanna go too!"

Her hair was furry and she looked like a handsome young boy at first glance.

Bettany, Josh. Josh, and Lilly refused at the same time, "No!"

How could Hannah go with them? Her hair looks like an explosion and she was as hard to control as a hurricane!

Josh and Lilly remembered that Drake said not to bring Hannah along and she looked at Hannah apologetically.

Josh thought the same thing as Bettany as he felt that he could not get Hannah under control.

Hannah was angry, "Why not? Why can Lilly and Josh go while I can't?"

Bettany interrupted her, "Have you finished your homework?"

Hannah was speechless.

Why?

She was merely a kindergarten child.

Why did she need to do homework?

It's simply unimaginable and... no, it's horrifying... No, it's just indescribable!

Hannah pouted helplessly.

They were about to leave after breakfast when Zachary said leisurely, "I'm going too,"

Everyone was silent.

Hugh did not bother to raise his head. He spoke as he read the newspaper, "You can't go. Your Grandma wants you to throw flower petals at the side while she's filming her dance today,"

Zachary was speechless.

Eventually, Drake brought Josh and Lilly out.

The Crawford family trusted Drake. So, as long as he was with Josh and Lilly, they were relieved to let them outside.

Drake brought Josh and Lilly with him. Initially, he considered taking a taxi, but the thought of potential traffic congestion near Pearl District made him change his mind. Instead, he opted to take them on the subway.

Lilly experienced her first subway ride, and she was filled with excitement throughout the journey. At one point, she even ran ahead for a while, exclaiming with a "wow," before returning to hold the hands of her two brothers.

Drake was silent.

Maybe it isn't so bad to bring Lilly out after all...

Chapter 308 Strange Dollhouse

The Pearl District's central business district, known as the old downtown, boasts narrower roadways and comparatively shorter buildings compared to the newer parts of the city.

Among the 20 or 30-story buildings in the area, the Opelucid Building stands as a prominent landmark, soaring 47 stories high.

There were many companies in the Opelucid Building, such as hotels, catering, clothing, jewelry, and shoes, and various companies rented office buildings and offices...

Spring Friends was located on the 38th floor of the Opelucid Building. However, it was not eye-catching as there were hundreds of companies with thousands of facades.

Josh reached the given address and stood in front of the unpretentious shop. He could not believe that this seemingly ordinary place was the renowned doll store producing five-million-dollar dolls.

Lilly pointed to a tiny sign on the door and read, "Spring Friends Doll House,"

Drake twitched his mouth. "How many words are there?"

Huh? *Oh*, I know this one!

Lilly counted the number of words on the sign and replied, "Two!!!"

Drake continued, "How many words did you say just now?"

Lilly counted as the words on the sign, "One, two, Three, Four... Four words!"

Drake let out a cold snort and remarked, "Exactly, you can at least count correctly. The sign has two words, but you said four words. Does that make sense?"

Lilly shook her head innocently. "Sorry Drake, I was wrong,"

Drake choked.

He then continued, "It says Spring Friends,"

Lilly nodded and stared at the words, trying hard to remember them.

At this time, a girl came out from inside. She was wearing an apron, bent over slightly, and smiled, "Hello kids, what brings you here...."

Josh said, "We are here to buy dolls,"

The young lady was taken aback, and looked around strangely, "Where are your parents?"

Josh and Lilly looked at Drake together.

Drake and Lilly looked at Drake together.

Drake had a cold face and said, "I am,"

The young lady was dumbfounded.

Uhh... Are you sure about that?

1/4

He's surprisingly tall for his age, but when I look at him, he seems no older than eight... maybe nine. At most, he could be eleven or twelve years old.

Drake asked coldly, "Is there a problem?"

At that moment, he resembled Anthony a little.

The young lady shook her head subconsciously, "No, nothing's wrong... Please, come in..."

Lilly looked at Drake in amazement and whispered, "Wow, Drake! You're my idol!"

Drake immediately felt pleased when he heard Lilly's praise.

Drake snorted. "It's useless if you're trying to flatter me,"

After finishing speaking, he put his hands in his pockets and went in.

Whether flattery holds any significance or not, it could be told by his twitching lips.

The young lady retrieved a notebook and posed her routine question. "Who's interested in customizing dolls? Have you already commissioned an artist to design them, or...?"

Josh took out a piece of paper, "Yes, it's this one,"

Money had the power to work wonders. Before his arrival, he arranged for someone to complete an overnight commission for an anime character design.

His description was based on Lilly, so when the young lady saw it, she subconsciously glanced at her.

"How cute," she said.

Josh asked, "Then, let's talk about the details!"

The lady glanced at Lilly, who was curiously exploring the store and was convinced that it should be fine for a child to look around the store. She kindly instructed, "Little girl, you can watch, but please don't touch them,"

Drake crossed his arms, his eyes displaying a hint of impatience. He asserted, "Don't worry, if she happens to break anything, I'll pay double the amount!"

His sister just wanted to take a look at the dolls.

Let's not make a big deal out of it. What's the harm even if she picks it up?

In the worst-case scenario of accidental breakage, he would simply have to use his savings to cover the COST.

Drake froze at the thought of it.

This was not right, if Lilly damaged the items, why would he need to pay for the damages with his savings?

He should ask Anthony to pay for it!

Realizing his inexplicable thoughts, Drake's face grew darker and became more ruthless.

The young lady glanced at the children's well-dressed attire and assumed they came from a wealthy family. She believed they would be able to compensate for any damages if they occurred.

She had no choice but to nod, she explained the process of making the dolls to Josh.

Lilly

enjoyed ample time and freedom to explore the shop, but as she moved around, her brows gradually furrowed tighter.

There were two ordinary glass doors at the entrance of the shop.

However, the interior space was surprisingly spacious, akin to a rented half-floor apartment. They proceeded from one room to another as they explored the premises.

Most of the rooms were filled with display cases with a variety of dolls.

The dolls in this place had a slightly eerie vibe compared to the ones at Quinnie's house. While the dolls in the outer rooms appeared normal, the ones inside had a different aura altogether.

From the seventh or eighth room onwards, the dolls showcased in the display cabinets exhibited a pale complexion with two round red blushes on their cheeks and a touch of vermilion on their lips.

The dolls' hairstyles were not reminiscent of the traditional or contemporary Dudroinian styles but rather resembled the fashion of the neighboring country.

Apart from the pale-

faced dolls resembling singers and such, there were also warrior dolls wielding machetes and Priests dressed in their uniforms, although they were not an exact match.

Although the garments of the peculiar priests varied slightly, they all shared a common feature—a pale chrysanthemum embroidered on their clothing.

"It doesn't look like something from the underworld," Lilly whispered to herself.

Passing through the floor, it seemed to be a studio for making dolls.

At another

corner of the shop, there was a glass door with several sacks piled up near it. Inside, a few staff members were diligently engaged in their tasks, appearing busy.

Drake, who was outside, watched Lilly go further inside until she disappeared.

He frowned and stood up, "I'll check up on her,"

Josh quickly nodded, "Okay!"

Initially, Josh wanted to go inside, but someone had to occupy the lady.

He could have asked his brother to do so, but he knew his brother would likely end the conversation in just a few words. Plus, Josh had a bad feeling about the inside and he did not dare to go in.

Drake disappeared too.

The young lady hesitated for a moment, but Josh asked, "How much is the deposit?"

The young lady responded, "Huh? Oh, based on what you mentioned earlier, the deposit would be at least 100000 dollars,"

Josh took out his card and paid the amount.

Upon witnessing Josh's keen interest in custom-made dolls, the young lady concluded that he was a serious doll enthusiast and potentially a big spender. She then reviewed the details with him.

Lilly lay on the glass door staring at the workers mixing materials.

At this moment, a tall figure appeared behind her quickly.

In the dimness, the person's eyes revealed a glimmer of darkness as he stealthily approached and seized Lilly's arm.

Chapter 309 Locked Inside

The man grabbed Lilly's arm, his eyes were strangely bright in the dim backlight. His voice was hoarse, cold, and gloomy.

"Hello little girl, what are you looking at? Do you wanna go in?"

He held an empty sack and was about to put it on Lilly's head.

However, before he could react, he flew out!

With a loud bang, the man slammed into the wall, causing the nearby display cases to shake violently. The impact was so strong that a doll even toppled to the side.

Drake heard this movement as soon as he came in, and subconsciously rushed over to stand in front of Lilly.

Lilly turned around and blinked innocently.

She looked at Drake and thought, "When did Drake come?"

She looked at the person who flew out, "How did he fly out?"

-Drake's expression was cold, and he asked coldly, "Who are you?!"

The man in the gray overalls struggled to get up, coughing violently as he clutched his knees. A flicker of horror crossed his eyes when he lifted his gaze.

For a moment, he could not tell whether he was beaten by this little boy, or he was hit by a ghost.

“Who are you?” He asked back.

As Drake stared at him coldly, the man had no choice but to speak up first, “I’m a staff member here...”

His voice was hoarse, resembling the grating sound of a saw, which evoked an indescribable sense of discomfort in those who heard it.

The man looked at Lilly and said again, “I saw her at the door, so I asked her if she wanted to go in,”

Hearing this answer, Drake frowned and became more vigilant.

How could a normal worker ask a child if she wanted to enter the workplace?

He should be telling her to leave immediately.

Drake felt it was indescribably weird.

Lilly nodded and said, “Yeah I wanna have a look inside!”

Just as Drake was about to decline and leave, he noticed Lilly sticking by his side once again, shaking his hand in a coaxing manner, “Drake, Lilly wants to go in and have a look. Will you accompany me?”

After speaking, she immediately raised her hands, “Don’t worry Drake, I’ll protect you!”

Drake was speechless.

Who’s protecting who now?

But he finally said, “Just this once...”

Lilly happily held his hand, “Oh yeah!!”

Reluctantly, Drake was persuaded by Lilly to follow along, and the worker swiped their card to unlock the glass door, allowing the two to enter the production room.

Upon entering the room, Drake immediately felt an indescribable sense of discomfort. The interior was predominantly adorned in black, with several partially completed dolls affixed to one side, creating a gloomy and eerie ambiance.

The staff members were engrossed in making the “clay” appeared lifeless, while nearby, a workbench dedicated to doll-making caught their attention. A ball-jointed doll artist was hunched over, fully focused on delicately carving the face of a doll.

Scattered across the workbench in front of her were numerous doll fragments—single joints, hands, and skulls—each incredibly realistic. If these parts were not reduced in size by more than twice their original dimensions, they would create an unsettling illusion of being in dismemberment.

Upon a quick count, he realized that apart from himself and Lilly, there were only three other individuals present in the entire workshop.

However, a strong sense of danger washed over him at that moment.

Drake said in a low voice, "Lilly, let's go back,"

"Lilly?"

He turned his head abruptly and realized that Lilly had disappeared.

Drake immediately turned around, only to find that Lilly was squatting not far away in front of a staff member mixing the clay.

She asked curiously, "Is this clay, sir?"

The staff member did not speak.

Contrary to his initial impression, the man before him wore an inexplicable smile and clarified, "No, this is... resin powder."

He spoke intermittently and strangely, dragging a sack while speaking.

He opened the sack, scooping a spoonful of white powder with a large spoon. He weighed it on the nearby scale, then proceeded to open a wooden box on the next table. With a small spoon, he carefully added a measured amount of powder into the mixture, creating a well-proportioned mixture.

He weighed other things very casually, but he was very cautious when he measured the content of the wooden box.

Lilly stared at the sack and wooden box.

She suddenly asked, "These are human ashes, aren't they?"

The man's actions came to a halt, while the clay mixer remained oblivious, engrossed in their task.

Meanwhile, the doll maker in the distance moved their hands in a twisted manner, accidentally slicing their finger with a sharp knife as blood oozed out.

She extended her finger toward the doll's mouth, and the doll quickly absorbed the blood, staining its lips a vivid shade of red.

The man let out a startled exclamation and looked at Lilly, "What are you talking about little girl? Although people spread rumors about our products, we would never do such horrible things,"

Lilly tilted her head and smiled, "Oh,,so that's the case, I'm sorry,"

It was apparent that her words were merely an innocent remark from a child, and had no ill content.

Drake immediately picked up Lilly and said, "We're going back,"

The man set aside his work and said, "We don't often have visitors in the workshop. Are you here to customize dolls? Let me demonstrate the quality of our materials,"

Drake refused, "There's no need,"

Lilly hugged Drake's neck and whispered, "Drake, let's take another look,"

Drake frowned.

He tapped on something below his watch in case of an emergency.

Hidden under his watch was an alarm button. If he failed to press it again within five minutes, the alarm would automatically sound, notifying the police of his location.

The man said, "Come on, I'll show you since you're here already,"

He forcefully guided them toward the artist, introducing. "This is Zelda, our skilled craftsman who specializes in creating ball-jointed dolls. She also came back from abroad,"

Lilly waved her hand, "Hello, Miss Zelda! Are you the one who made Coco?"

Drake was speechless.

What are you talking about...

Zelda was slightly surprised, she put down the carving knife, and smiled gently, "Are you one of Miss Quinnie's friends? Why did you come by yourself, where are your parents?"

Lilly hugged Drake and said, "Here he is!"

Drake glanced at Lilly and said, "We're ordering a custom doll, so we're having a look,"

Zelda nodded, "Oh, go ahead, I accidentally cut my finger just now and I need to deal with it,"

Lilly nodded and waved at her.

After Zelda left, Lilly broke free from Drake and picked up a ball joint on the table.

On the green cutting board, two eyeballs were being crafted, along with an unfinished doll face awaiting the attachment of the eyes. The detached head rested nearby, waiting for its completion.

Drake's frown deepened as he looked through the workbench, taking note of not only the ongoing doll-making process but also the presence of three or two miniature idols. Among them, one stood out with its closed eyes and long black hair cascading down, neatly styled bangs adorning its forehead.

Among the miniature idols on the workbench, one had wide-open eyes, yet its pupils had not been painted yet, giving it a strangely vacant and empty expression.

Drake raised his head and realized something was wrong.

The large studio suddenly became empty, with only him and Lilly remaining, as the three people who were previously present seemed to have disappeared.

The glass door was also locked.

Drake was stunned.

Chapter 310 Exposing the Shop

Drake's heart tightened, he stood up and whispered, "Lilly!"

Lilly raised her head and comforted him, "Don't worry Drake, everything's fine!"

Drake was helpless.

It seemed that the dangerous situation was planned intentionally, and Lilly, being a young child, was unaware of the imminent danger they were in.

Drake forcibly pulled her away, "Let's go, why did you and Josh want to come here in the first place?"

He was sure that the place was not normal at all.

Lilly said, "It's a place where there are a few people here! Don't you hate crowds?"

Drake was speechless.

"Let's go," He dragged Lilly out with a cold expression.

Lilly hurriedly took out something from her bag. "Not yet, Drake. I'm not done with my job yet,"

She took out a handful of talismans, ran to the box, and struggled to open it.

I can't open it...

"Drake..." She had no choice but to look at Drake with wide eyes.

Drake's heart raced as he cautiously opened the wooden box, only to quickly retreat in shock as he discovered its unsettling contents.

As Drake took a step forward, he suddenly felt something slippery beneath his feet. Looking down, he was startled to find himself stepping on mysterious black hair.

Drake's heart skipped a beat.

Lilly tossed a talisman into the wooden box, causing a sudden burst of green flame.

A sudden scream pierced the air and quickly faded away.

Drake's eyes widened in shock as he stared at the blazing wooden box.

When... did she light it on fire?

Did someone scream just now?

He wondered if he was hallucinating.

When the flames extinguished, Drake lifted Lilly and hurriedly made his way out of the room

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However, Lilly was holding a small shovel and waved her hand, "Drake, can you wait for me a bit, please? It's just gonna take a while!"

Drake held Lilly tightly in his arms, observing her determined expression as she stirred the contents of the wooden box with a small shovel.

While stirring, she muttered, "Let's kill the bad guys! Let's do it!"

Drake was silent.

After he saw Lilly stop, he grabbed the small shovel, tossed it aside, and hurriedly headed toward the glass door.

Sure enough, the door was locked.

"We can't get out,"

Drake immediately raised his watch and was ready to make a call, but found that there was no signal.

Eventually, he decided to call 911 because it was possible to call them without a signal.

When the phone was connected, Drake said calmly, "Hi...we've been locked in the Spring Friends. Dollhouse on the 38th floor of the Opelucid Building in Pearl District..."

Before he finished speaking, he saw Lilly grabbing the iron lock and pulling it hard.

The iron lock thicker than her arm was torn open immediately.

The lock on the glass door clicked and opened.

Drake froze immediately.

"Let's go, hurry!" Lilly pulled Drake.

Drake opened his mouth, but could not utter a word and stared at Lilly dumbfounded.

Was the door opened?

Lilly tipped her toes and spoke, "Hello, Mr. Police, would you hurry up? There are human bones here..."

Drake hastily hung up the phone.

You can't simply make false accusations in front of a police officer; it may lead to legal consequences.

Drake hurriedly led Lilly outside, but a thought struck him—what if the bad guys were after him? He wondered if Drake was still outside.

As they hurried past the unsettling display of dolls, Drake paid no attention and continued pulling Lilly along. She struggled to keep up, panting, and said, "Drake, slow down! I can't keep up!"

Drake's instinct kicked in, and he slowed down, his eyes widening as he noticed a doll floating behind Lilly. A chilling realization washed over him as he realized that countless people were lurking in the shadows, silently watching their every move.

The next second, the doll smiled weirdly and rushed toward him!

Drake punched it hard without hesitation!

In a split second, the doll emitted a piercing scream, but Drake swiftly reacted and punched it, sending it flying through the air. The shrill sound echoed in the air, sending shivers down their spines.

Lilly held the talisman and was stunned.

Master said that some people have incredible positive energy combined with sheer anger. He said that when these people encounter a ghost, they have the ability to stare it down with such intensity, that it scares the ghost away.

In other words, not only people are *afraid of ghosts*, but *ghosts are also afraid of people*.

The female ghost in front of her was sent flying by Drake's powerful punch fueled by anger and positive energy.

Drake is so powerful!

Wow! Incredible!

Lilly's eyes were full of admiration, she held a talisman and cheered, "You're so strong, Drake!"

Drake could not help but feel a surge of anger, finding it almost laughable that Lilly even praised him.

You have short legs!

You'll be caught by them if you walk so slowly!

At that moment, Drake did not think that that was the ghosts doing, but rather suspected that the three staff members were trying to frighten him using the dolls intentionally.

"Let's go!" He simply picked up Lilly and walked out quickly.

As they continued to pass through several rooms, the dolls on the showcases gradually returned to a more normal appearance. He could even hear Josh talking to the lady.

Josh bargained with the lady, "I gave a deposit of 100,000 dollars, so I want it to be custom-made, but 1 million dollars is too expensive. Can you give me a discount? How about 200,000 dollars?"

The young lady was speechless.

How is this discount? Do you want us to go out of business?

Just as the lady was about to speak, he saw Drake carrying Lilly with a cold expression. He quickly grabbed Josh by the collar and rushed to the exit whether he liked it or not.

"Take it or leave it," He said coldly.

Josh disappeared.

The three children appeared and disappeared suddenly, leaving the young lady chasing after them in vain. However, she realized they disappeared.

The young lady was speechless.

She felt numb, how could he bargain like that?

Wait, their deposit...

"Hey, come back!" The young lady hurriedly said, "We can still talk about it!"

It was a pity that no one responded....

In the elevator, Drake grabbed his collar and stuck his tongue out, "Drake... phew..."

Drake let him go, and Josh immediately slumped on the ground.

"What's the matter, did you see ghosts?" He asked quickly.

Lilly shook her head, "There are no ghosts!"

This was the weirdest part.

There were ashes and hair, but no ghosts.

Drake let out a sigh, got up, and pondered "Were we mistaken?"

Lilly shook her head but said nothing.

As the three of them left, they noticed several police officers rushing upstairs with a sense of urgency.

Josh asked blankly. "What's wrong?"

Drake's expression turned grim as he realized he had filed a false police report. He knew he would have to explain the situation, which was quite bothersome.

However, he was unaware that the police surrounded the store, surprising the young lady in charge and causing her to panic.

In a rush, Zelda and the man could only grab the wooden box and two half-finished dolls, leaving behind everything else in the workshop.

The two quickly exited through the back door, wearing grim expressions on their faces.

"When did that kid call the police?" The man's voice was harsh, carrying a cruel undertone.

"Isn't the door locked? How did they open it!" The man questioned himself, wondering if he had properly locked the door.

Zelda whispered, "Let's go quickly. Thank goodness, there aren't any cameras inside. Otherwise, it would be too late to destroy the evidence,"

Reluctantly, they had no choice but to abandon everything and disappear without leaving a trace.

The police walked into the shop cautiously and felt something amiss the further they went in...