

Eight Uncles 391

Chapter 391 Uncle Anthony's Surprise

Edward and Liam woke up when Lilly was finishing her breakfast.

As the supervisor, Edward had to inspect the construction site last night.

On the other hand, Liam visited Zachary in the hospital last night. He returned home not long ago, and he went downstairs to take a shower.

Gilbert had an urgent case in the hospital's emergency department last night, which made him wake up late.

Out of eight siblings, five of them gathered together.

"Uncle Anthony, are you not heading to the office?" Lilly asked.

Anthony was sitting on the couch, attending to his matters. His legs were crossed, and his black suit exuded a cold air.

Anthony replied, "I have a business trip later, so I won't be going to the office in the morning."

Lilly tilted her head. Polly, which perched on top of Lilly's head, followed suit. The two adorable creatures looked at Anthony curiously.

Lilly asked, "Uncle Anthony, where are you going? Will you return home tonight?"

Anthony turned off the tablet. He lifted the approaching Lilly onto his lap. His cold voice carried a hint of warmth as he spoke, "Not so soon. It may take about two weeks."

Lilly was surprised, "That's quite a long time! What are you planning to do?"

Anthony chuckled, "That's a company secret."

Anthony would be negotiating a contract to purchase an island to establish an amusement park, and he wanted to keep it a secret from Lilly.

Anthony planned to give Lilly the island as a gift on her fifth birthday.

Lilly promptly covered her mouth, and she nodded earnestly, "I understand. I will stop asking!"

It's a secret. I have to treat it seriously.

Polly nodded along, "No more questions. We should not ask!"

Anthony found Lilly's and Polly's reactions amusing.

Bettany started nagging, "What time is it? Your sister hasn't gotten up. School starts in a couple of days. I'm worried about how she is going to manage."

"Lilly, can you go wake up your sister? D&R's product manager will be visiting us with some clothes. You and your sister should choose a few new outfits for the upcoming school year."

Lilly slipped out of Anthony's arms. She ran upstairs, saying, "Okay!"

Hannah slept soundly in her room. She was hugging a pillow, with one leg hanging off the edge of the bed, touching the floor. The other leg rested on top of a blanket.

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Polly blinked its eyes, and it imitated a famous voice line from the internet, "It's a look that can slay a dragon!"

Lilly nudged Hannah and said, "Hannah, how did you sleep like this? You almost fell onto the floor!"

Hannah groggily opened her eyes. The annoyance of waking up vanished the moment she saw Lilly.

Hannah complained, "I had to pee urgently... I was about to get up and go to the bathroom... I kept searching for a restroom in my dream... Then, I woke up.

After waking up, Hannah wanted to visit the bathroom. However, she quickly forgot about it after reaching one leg out of the bed.

In the end, Hannah fell asleep soundly.

Hannah sat up from the bed, and she blurted, "I need to go now. I can't hold it anymore!"

As Hannah spoke, she covered her buttocks when she shed to the bathroom.

Lilly was puzzled, "If she is about to pee, why is she holding her buttocks?"

Polly tilted its head, "Are you supposed to hold your mouth?"

Lilly simply did not know how to respond to that.

After waking Hannah, Lilly was about to look for Josh, but Blake shouted from downstairs, "Lilly"

Lilly's eyes lit up, "Daddy, I'm here!"

Lilly ran down the stairs. When she was two steps away from reaching downstairs, she leaped into the air, and Blake caught her perfectly.

Lilly laughed happily, and she asked, "Daddy, can you catch me if I jump straight down from the second floor next time?"

Blake responded, "Of course, I can catch you even if you jump down from the tenth floor."

Bettany cleared her throat.

Blake quickly shifted his tone, "However, that's dangerous. We cannot do that."

Lilly replied, "Alright."

Blake told Lilly he had captured the bald man, revealing what he had learned during the interrogation.

Blake had confirmed that the bald man stuck the paper figure on Bryson, He was also the culprit who placed the ghost bride in the haunted house. However his objective remained unclear.

Regarding why the ghost bride obeyed the bald man, Blake could inquire about it later.

Blake asked, "Where is your master?"

Lilly shook her head, "Master told me that he needed to be away for a long while, but he reassured me that I could call him in an urgent situation."

Blake was baffled, "How do you give him a call?"

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Lilly whispered into Blake's ears, "I can call Master by burning the talisman!"

Blake thought to himself. This phone call is cutting-edge. want to learn how to do that too!

After Hannah finished her breakfast, it was already 10.00 am. The guards at the entrance notified that the product manager from D&R had arrived. Bettany gave permission to let the product manager in.

Anthony glanced at the time, and he realized it was time to leave the house.

"Lilly, Uncle Anthony will be leaving first. Behave well when school starts, and listen to grandma."
Anthony

instructed.

Anthony's business trip would take around two weeks.

It would take two weeks before Anthony got to see Lilly again. Anthony felt a sense of reluctance in his heart for the first time.

Without batting an eye, Josh said, "Dad, it's time for you to leave! My brother and I have never seen you act like this."

Drake replied indifferently, "Mr. Anthony, remember to file for reimbursement."

Anthony was left speechless by their response.

That was why Anthony always preferred having a daughter!

Lilly reached out her hand, "Give me a hug, Uncle Anthony!"

Anthony bent down, and Lilly kissed his cheek. Then, Lilly instructed like a grown-up, "Be careful. Eat on time, and go to bed at 10.00 pm! Don't wander around with strangers!"

Lilly's actions amused everyone.

Anthony smiled, and he kissed Lilly's forehead, "Alright I got it."

Anthony grabbed his briefcase. He adjusted his tie before leaving through the door.

When the D&R's product manager entered the house with two large suitcases, she happened to encounter Anthony.

Anthony's face had a hint of affection, contrasting strongly with his cold and reserved demeanor.

A single glance at Anthony left the D&R's product manager in awe.

He is the CEO of the Crawford's Holdings, Anthony!

I can only catch a glimpse of Anthony on financial news sometimes, but I never thought he would be even more handsome in person than on TV...

The product manager was stunned....

Anthony glanced at the product manager coldly before walking past her.

Lilly's cute voice sounded behind Anthony, "Goodbye, Uncle Anthony!"

Anthony turned around to wave his hand before getting into the car.

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The D&R's product manager finally snapped out of it, feeling frustrated for being taken aback just now.

Mr. Anthony walked past her closely, presenting an excellent opportunity for her!

However, she was so distracted that she forgot to stick the talisman on him.

She missed this opportunity, and she might not have another chance to meet Anthony up close like this...

The product manager regretted it deeply. However, she quickly recovered, and she said smilingly to Lilly, "Hi, are you Little Miss Crawford? I'm the product manager of D&R. My name is Maryn Kamily."

Lilly was confused.

Lilly glanced at Maryn Kamily and thought to herself. What a weird name!

Her name doesn't sound local at all.

Her name is Maryn, but why does Kamily sound odd?

Is she looking for my help?

Lilly thought carefully before asking, "Why are you called Kamily? It sounds weird."

Polly added, "Scary Kamily!"

Maryn's face froze.

This brat from the Crawford family is rude!

I heard she was brought back from the countryside. That seems to be true since she lacks the common knowledge of a common foreign name like Kamily.

The elegance of a young lady from a prestigious family is ingrained in her bones, but it's evident that Little Miss Crawford doesn't possess it...

Chapter 392 Delusional

Maryn concealed her inner monologue well. She responded with a smile, saying, "That's not true. Kamily is my given foreign name..."

Lilly soon understood the situation.

Is it like the fake foreign ghost I have encountered?

She hates her family name, so she adopts a foreign name.

Bettany walked over, and she said to Lilly, "Lilly, you shouldn't be doing that. It's quite rude."

It was not Lilly's fault since she was still a child. There were things that she didn't learn yet.

However, it was crucial to provide proper education in such situations.

Lilly nodded, and she replied, "I understand, Granny."

Bettany sized up Maryn before saying, "Welcome in!"

Before Maryn entered the house, she wore her socks and gloves to appear professional.

After entering through the door, Maryn noticed several tall men.

One of them appeared tan, exuding a steadfast demeanor.

One remained silent, but his handsome appearance couldn't be concealed.

Then, there was a slender gentleman with a sharp gaze. He gave off a sunny personality, and he seemed to be the youngest among them!

The tallest person captivated Maryn the most, exuding the same level of charisma as Anthony! He had a commanding presence that showcased his confidence!!

Maryn was excited. It felt like an accomplishment to her because she met five out of eight siblings from the Crawford family!

Even though Maryn missed the opportunity to get acquainted with the cold Anthony, the rest met her preferences!

However, these gentlemen were not people Maryn could trifle with. Those eyes had seemingly seen through her thoughts, making her lower her head.

Maryn imagined the person giving off a mysterious vibe should be either Cloud or Max.

Maryn swiftly regained her composure, and she spoke to Bettany, "Old Mrs. Crawford, I'm Maryn Kamily. My foreign name is Kamily. I deeply apologize for the impoliteness. It's difficult not to be distracted by this remarkable scene. Old Mrs. Crawford, you're truly blessed to have these distinguished gentlemen as your family!"

Maryn, being a little astute, was afraid that her momentary distraction might displease Bettany. She decided to address the issue.

Moreover, Maryn was aware that she was nobody without the talisman. She wouldn't even be qualified to speak to the guards, let alone the members of the Crawford family.

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Maryn knew she had to be careful because of that.

Old Mrs. Crawford frowned, "I don't like the foreign names."

Maryn quickly replied. "I'm sorry. Please call me Mar!"

Bettany did not want to comment too much on the topic. Since the goal was to have the children pick new outfits, she wanted to wrap up the matter swiftly. She had no desire to have Maryn in her house again.

"Follow me!" Bettany led Maryn to the back.

Maryn expressed her gratitude repeatedly, standing straight and displaying a high level of professionalism.

However, Maryn was conjuring schemes in her mind.

The tallest man was Maryn's cup of tea, meeting her preference!

However, Maryn thought he would be a challenging target.

Luckily, Maryn was satisfied with the other options. She would choose someone to apply the love spell before making further plans.

Maryn would pick the youngest person. Once she won him over, she would play hard to get before getting another talisman to cast the love spell.

When there was enough trust, planting the spell on the next person would become easier.

However, Maryn was in a dilemma, deciding whether to cast the love spell on Mr. Anthony or the tallest one among them.

Lilly followed along. She sensed that this woman had ulterior motives despite her professional demeanor.

"Ms. Mar, what is on your mind?"

Maryn snapped out of her fantasy, and she replied, "Nothing. I was thinking what size would fit you!"

Maryn recomposed herself, warning herself in her mind.

Stay calm!

Let's focus on what's on hand. Otherwise, I might get kicked out of the Crawford Mansion.

If Old Mrs. Crawford were displeased with her and kicked her out, Maryn wouldn't have any chance.

Mary took a deep breath after the self-talk. She instinctively pressed her pocket with her fingers because she felt uneasy.

The others might not notice it, but Lilly saw it because of her height.

Chapter 393 The Victorious Parrot

Polly perched on Lilly's head. It bobbed, talking to itself. "The evil has invaded our home with tricks up her sleeve. Rise up, everyone. Stand against the invader and defend our homeland!"

Maryn was left speechless.

ii 'hat nonsense is this silly bird spouting? It doesn't make any sense!

Then, Maryn praised smilingly, "This parrot is cute!"

Before Lilly could interject, Polly said immediately, "Rookie is also cute! Do you want to check it out?"

Maryn was surprised.

The parrot could converse with a human!

The parrot piqued Maryn's interest. She exclaimed, "Who is Rookie?"

Polly called out to Bellflower, which was ready to pounce at any time from the stairs, "Rookie, go for it!"

Bellflower had enough of Polly's attitude!

I'm not a rookie!

Bellflower leaped down the stairs. It meowed, using Maryn's face as a soft landing to pounce on Polly.

Maryn was startled. She ended up sitting on the ground screaming, "Ah!"

Lilly was troubled by the mischievous antics of the pets.

Lilly quickly grabbed Polly in her hand to protect it. Then, she scolded the cat, "Bellflower! Stop! You shouldn't be hurting people!"

"Polly! You shouldn't encourage the cat to do bad things!"

It was a commotion that flustered Lilly.

Bettany quickly ordered the servants to bring the first aid kit to Maryn.

Blake was around to watch the scene. He leaned against the side with his arms folded. He spoke nonchalantly, "It depends on who is the victim to determine if the cat is at fault."

Maryn smiled awkwardly, and she broke into a cold sweat.

This man is dangerous. He has noticed my objective.

Bellflower happened to pass by Blake's legs. Blake looked over and complimented, "Well done. I will reward you with an additional codfish for dinner."

Bellflower showed no response.

Bettany had a headache with Blake's behavior. She tried to contain her annoyance, "Blake!"

Blake immediately stood upright. He raised his hand with a half-hearted smile, "My mistake. To make it up, how about I have someone pick out the clothes and personally deliver them to you?"

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Bettany felt a sense of resignation deep inside.

Crawford Holdings and D&R had some collaborations going on. The plan was to have Maryn present the clothes so that the children could choose their favorites. It wouldn't take more than ten minutes before Bettany could send her off.

However, the cat had inflicted an injury on Maryn's face. Bettany had to seek help to tend to her wound.

"Old Mrs. Crawford, I'm fine. I was merely startled." Maryn quickly got up.

Maryn concealed her surprise. Blake? He isn't a member of the Crawford family since his surname is MacNeil. What a pity....

My priority is to stop Blake from taking away my opportunity to present the clothes.

When Maryn was about to speak, Bryson walked over because of the noises.

Maryn's jaws dropped as she saw Bryson.

What is his birth order in the Crawford family?

He has a similar physique to Blake. Judging by his upright posture from regular training, he must be the pilot!

Then, Maryn decided to cast the love spell on the pilot before her. He exuded a gentle demeanor, making him the perfect target to approach.

Lilly held Bettany's hand, and she whispered, "Granny, let's not buy any clothes."

Bettany patted Lilly's hand..

Bettany noticed Maryn's behavior resembled Peachy's but she wasn't surprised by Maryn's reactions.

After all, most women were captivated by her son.

Bettany expected Maryn to be momentarily distracted. She could even tolerate Maryn trying to be clever, but she sensed something was wrong.

However, the feeling was instinctual, and she could not explain it.

Bettany apologized, "I sincerely apologize. Our cat can be quite mischievous. Since you're hurt, let's put the matter aside today. You may deliver the clothes next time. We don't want to trouble you in delivering us the clothes personally."

"You should get medical attention as soon as possible. Our Crawford family will cover the expenses."

“Put the clothes you have brought here. After we have picked what we want, we’ll arrange for someone to return the remaining clothes to your store.”

Maryn was surprised by the bad news.

Maryn would be losing her opportunity!

Before Maryn could make a move, she was invited out because of a cat. Sure enough, she didn’t want that to happen.

“I’m alright, Old Mrs. Crawford, Maryn pleaded, “You’re an important customer for D&R. If I return like
2/3

this, it will show the lack of professionalism on my side. D&R doesn’t allow that to happen...”

Lilly interjected, “Even if your company doesn’t allow it, are we required to cooperate with you? Are you more important than a customer?”

Maryn did not know what to say,

“No, I don’t mean it that way...”

Bettany had already called Jack over.,

Bettany beat around the bush to avoid embarrassing Maryn.

However, Maryn’s pleading attitude would not change Bettany’s decision.

Jack gestured invitingly, “Ms. Mar, please come this way, Margaret will treat your wound. Feel free to leave the suitcases there.”

Maryn could not do anything about the situation. She understood that persisting further would only upset. Bettany.

Maryn could not allow that to happen. Her objective was to marry into the Crawford family. Bettany would be her future mother-in-law.

Maryn would not want to leave a bad impression on her future mother-in-law.

Maryn apologized sincerely, “I’m sorry, it was unprofessional of me. Please forgive me! I’ll leave the clothes here. Feel free to reach out to me if you need anything.”

As Maryn spoke, she took out something from her pocket to wipe the wound on her face. Then, she struggled to carry the suitcases.

Then, Maryn seized the opportunity to close her distance to Bryson.

“Oops!” Maryn stumbled toward Bryson.

Polly screamed, “She fell! She finally fell to the ground! It’s a penalty! What a remarkable sliding tackle!”

Everyone, including Maryn, was surprised.

I hate this silly bird.

Maryn had envisioned many scenarios, like Bettany kicking her out because of her ulterior motive and even getting caught when she stuck the talisman on someone.

However, she had never expected herself to fail because of the silly bird.

Maryn simply couldn't accept it!

Chapter 394 Talisman Magnet

Maryn spent 500 thousand dollars on her plan, depleting all her wealth.

Failure was unacceptable, so Maryn figured she might as well give it a shot!

Maryn put on a terrible act as she fell clumsily onto Bryson. She pretended to grab for support, and she stuck the talisman on Bryson.

Polly was shocked, "Oh my goodness! A woman commits a despicable act under broad daylight! Is it due to inherent human nature being twisted? Has the moral standard of society declined? It's hard to believe! She must not be from around here!"

Everyone was left speechless.

Polly's words frightened Maryn. She did not confirm if the spell had activated. While she was in a panic, she felt the talisman in her hand disappear!

I must have succeeded!

Maryn breathed a sigh of relief. She was no longer afraid of what others would say to her.

Even the mere thought of this gentleman pursuing her made her heart skip a beat.

"I'm sorry!" Maryn raised her head, pretending to be apologetic as she looked at Bryson.

Lilly and Blake were speechless after witnessing the entire ordeal.

The father and daughter exchanged glances.

Even though Blake didn't observe any signs of the talisman being activated, he noticed it disappearing after it was applied to Bryson.

Maryn's action was akin to teaching the fish to swim before Lilly and Blake.

Why did Bryson allow someone to fall onto him like that?

Blake believed that he would not allow any woman to be near him.

Lilly wanted to remove the talisman immediately, but Blake held her back. He whispered, "Don't spook the animal while hunting."

Lilly was in doubt, but she withdrew her hand.

Bryson had no idea what was going on.

What's happening? I'm losing my strength with my surrounding world acting weird. Why does this woman look so much prettier all of a sudden?

Bryson noticed Maryn's apologetic expression, giving him the urge to comfort her immediately.

However, Bryson had a strong will. He retreated a few steps back, standing behind Lilly.

The situation was fishy, Bryson took safety precautions, and it wasn't because he was timid.

Maryn was disappointed. She thought Bryson would diffuse the situation for her.

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However, Maryn thought it was alright because the love spell would take some time to activate. If Bryson wanted to look for Maryn, he had ways to find her contact details.

Maryn only needed to wait patiently after leaving this place!

With this thought in mind, Maryn smiled faintly as she apologized to Bettany. "I'm truly sorry for the trouble... I will deal with the injury myself. Once again, please accept my sincere apologies..."

Afterward, Maryn took the initiative to leave.

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It was the first time Jack had encountered such an incident. He was baffled about what was happening with Maryn, but he still sent her out.

Bettany was also puzzled, "This is weird. Is it a misunderstanding?"

The fall Maryn took seemed deliberate, but her subsequent reaction suggested otherwise.

Maryn didn't take the opportunity to grab Bryson's attention or make any excuses to stay.

It felt like Maryn was satisfied with the interaction, and she decided to leave.

Bettany was baffled, and she stared at Bryson.

Bryson did not know how to react.

Something was wrong with Bryson.

Bryson had to urge Maryn from leaving.

Then, Blake quickly detained Bryson, "Let's go, Bryson

Lilly held Bryson's pants, "Let's go, Uncle Bryson!"

Bryson was astonished, "What are you doing?"

Blake smiled. He whispered in an eerie tone, "Bryson, you've been cursed by a talisman."

Bryson shut his mouth immediately.

Bryson stopped resisting, and he went upstairs with Blake and Lilly obediently.

Josh quickly followed the group.

Liam, Edward, and Gilbert looked puzzled as they watched the scene unfold.

“I’m leaving. It’s time for work!” Edward glanced at the time. He mumbled to himself as he left.

Edward wanted to see his niece in new outfits, but it didn’t happen in the end!

Liam grabbed the lunchbox Margaret had prepared. He had left to visit Zachary in the hospital.

Hannah went downstairs happily. She was excited, “It’s time for new clothes! Lilly, have you chosen your new outfit?”

“Hey, where is my sister?”

2/5

“Where is the lady delivering the clothes?”

“Where are the rest of the people?”

Hannah was puzzled, “Granny, where is everyone?”

Hannah went to the bathroom after finishing her meal. However, everyone had left after she arrived downstairs.

The scene moved to Lilly’s bedroom upstairs.

Bryson stood in front of Lilly. On the other hand, Lilly and Blake stared at Bryson as if there was a formidable enemy ahead of them.

Bryson asked, “What do we need to do?”

Blake threw a sharp gaze as he asked, “Lilly, what do we need to do next?”

Lilly stared at Bryson sternly, “I don’t know.”

Josh interjected, “Then, why are you staring at Uncle Bryson?”

Lilly replied, “I don’t know. Since Daddy is staring at Uncle Bryson, I should follow.”

After a brief pause, Lilly continued, “There’s an animal on Uncle Bryson!”

Daddy told Lilly not to get rid of the talisman on Uncle Bryson because it would spook the target before the hunt.

However, Lilly had no idea about it!

Lilly was not a professional hunter either.

Josh was astonished.

Blake was also stunned.

A cold shiver ran down Bryson’s spine, and he felt much more nervous.

So, am I cursed by an animal talisman?

Why am I a talisman magnet?

“Can you take the talisman off?” Bryson asked nervous

Josh looked at Blake, and Blake looked at Lilly.

Lilly quickly shook her hand, “Daddy, I don’t know how to catch an animal!”

Blake immediately reacted as he twitched his mouth, Daddy is saying not to spook the animal while hunting. There’s no actual animal there.”

Josh and Bryson were left speechless.

3/5

apter 394 Talisman Magnet

They became nervous for nothing.

Blake chuckled and sighed, “Let’s start by removing the talisman at Uncle Bryson’s back.”

Blake instinctively sensed it when Maryn stuck the talisman on Bryson’s back.

The talisman gave off a familiar feeling!

+25 Bonus

Then, Blake instinctively thought of the bald man, but he wasn’t sure if Maryn had any connection with the bald man.

That was why Blake stopped Lilly from acting immediately in case of spooking the enemies.

Lilly finally understood the expression, and there was no actual animal.

However, Lilly was glad to learn a new expression!

Bryson calmed down a little. He said, “Lilly, what’s the spell that has affected me?”

Bryson was troubled because spells frequently afflicted him.

Lilly explained, “This is a parasitic love talisman. It causes the affected person to fall in love. Normally, it’s used by ghosts, but somehow Ms. Mar uses it.”

“This talisman will drain Ms. Mar’s vitality. The talisman will also leech on Ms. Mar like a ghost.”

“Once the talisman sticks on Uncle Bryson, Uncle Bryson will fail in love with Ms. Mar.”

Bryson finally understood why he had been having weird thoughts. The talisman was the culprit!

Josh exclaimed, “That’s evil! The person creating the talisman must be a bad guy. You’re done for, Uncle Bryson.”

Bryson simply did not know how to respond to Josh.

Lilly comforted, “Don’t worry, Uncle Bryson. I’m here!”

Lilly walked forward, and she grabbed Bryson’s back.

Lilly seemed to have grabbed onto something, and she yanked it!

Lilly struggled a bit. Josh and Blake did not see what Lilly was pulling, but they could tell Lilly was having a hard time.

Josh asked nervously, "Lilly, do you need help?"

Lilly grabbed onto a cluster of air, and she yanked it backward. Her little figure tilted backward when she explained, "It's fine, Josh. You can't help me either!"

Blake said deeply, "Lilly, do you need any tools?"

The talisman is formidable. It's impossible to yank it out with bare hands...

While Blake thought so, Lilly had already yanked the talisman attached to Bryson's back!

Lilly plopped down on the floor and exclaimed, "Ouch! My buttocks!"

Lilly held the talisman in her hand. It was the talisman Maryn stuck onto Bryson's back.

Blake choked on his words, and he wisely swallowed them instead.

Chapter 395 Believe In Science

Josh quickly helped Lilly up from the floor. He thought about rubbing her bottom to comfort her, but he realized it was inappropriate. Then, he withdrew his hand.

Despite that, Josh comforted caringly. "Are you alright? Does it still hurt? Lilly, I'm sorry that been through so much..."

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you

have

Blake thought to himself. I don't see any hardship.

It's a piece of cake for Lilly.

Hey, isn't my daughter a great person!?

Josh squatted at the side, staring at the talisman in Lilly's hand, "It turns out to be a parasitic love talisman!"

How could it still be effective when it was drawn on paper?

Josh simply found it fascinating. He realized he had an endless amount of things to explore. Someday, he would find a scientific way to explain all these phenomena!

Bryson had a lingering fear when he asked, "What do we do now? Do you need Uncle Bryson to get you a cup?"

Bryson recalled the paper figure incident last night when Lilly needed a cup.

Lilly shook her head, "No, we only need to burn it!"

Bryson immediately replied, "I'll go get the lighter."

To everyone's surprise, Lilly raised her hand, and she threw a fireball that burned the parasitic love talisman to a crisp.

The talisman had seemingly come to life. It let out a piercing shriek before falling into complete silence.

Uncle Bryson was shocked, "No way. I need to believe I science..."

Josh was pleasantly surprised.

Blake was in awe, wanting to learn how to do it too!

After reducing the love talisman to ashes, Bryson finally relaxed. Blake also breathed a sigh of relief.

Josh commented, "This talisman feels familiar. Do you remember the bald man? I feel like they are connected."

Bryson frowned, "Is she an accomplice?"

Bryson was afflicted by a talisman in the haunted house and the accomplice stuck another talisman again

at his home.

Josh touched his chin with his thoughts wandering, "Could Maryn be the bald man's disciple? She knows her master is caught, so she wanted to turn Uncle Bryson into a hostage, threatening us to release her master."

Blake remained expressionless as he replied, "It's a good deduction, but let's not jump to conclusions."

1/2

Josh retorted, "Am I wrong? I think what I said makes sense"

Blake responded, "Firstly, Maryn has made an appointment to visit our house before you visit the amusement park. There's no way she has predicted the future?"

"Secondly, we're only certain that the parasitic love talisman gives off a familiar feeling to the bald man, but Maryn doesn't give away the same energy"

"Thirdly, Maryn's craft in talisman is poor. We know that she doesn't specialize in it"

Josh could not refute Blake's statement since he also agreed with it.

Josh asked, "What can we find out in the end?"

Blake added, "The bald man doesn't know Maryn, but the person giving Maryn the parasitic love talisman must be acquainted with the bald man"

Josh's mind became clear.

Josh was in awe of Blake's clever interpretation.

Bryson also nodded along.

Lilly did not understand what had happened, so she nodded along!

Lilly kept nodding like chickens pecking at grains on the ground.

Blake was amused. Then, he gave a simple explanation. Our goal is to find out who is the person creating the talisman."

Blake could achieve that by investigating Maryn's recent whereabouts.

Blake glanced at the time before saying, "Give Daddy an hour. Daddy will give you the answer in an hour!"

Mr. Tortoise poked its head out from under the table, with its mouth full of its favorite shrimp meat.

Lilly copied Blake's tone, and she said, "Give me a minute! Lilly will give Daddy a... rough answer in a minute."

Lilly raised her head in embarrassment, "I'm a novice, so I can't get the name through divination."

That was the reason Lilly emphasized it was a rough answer.

Everyone was left speechless.

Lilly grabbed the tortoise, and she spun the tortoise upside down.

It had been quite a while since the tortoise had been spun around. Over the past few days, it had relished the freedom from that bothersome parrot incessantly pecking at it. Because of that, it took the tortoise a moment to adapt to its current state.

The prawn meat flew out of its mouth.

Mr. Tortoise was saddened by it.

Chapter 396 A Dynamic Duo

Lilly observed her tortoise before saying, "Daddy, the person returned from the southeast recently. He is wealthy with a tall and thin appearance... He is probably the same age as Uncle Jack."

Josh cheered supportively, "You're awesome. How did you figure that out?"

Bryson simply found the phenomenon beyond science and unbelievable.

However, this might not be the accurate answer. Lilly has mentioned that it's a rough answer obtained through divination...

On the contrary, Blake believed in Lilly without reservation, "Got it. A wealthy businessman who recently returned from Ashbourne. He is around 40 years old with a tall and thin physique."

Blake took out his phone, and he tapped on the display

Josh was confused. How do you know he has returned from Ashbourne recently?

Lilly continued, "His house is located in the northwest direction. It's a large mansion. The house number has an 8 in it."

Blake elaborated, "Yule Villa Community. The house number is 8..."

Josh was stunned.

How did you find out it's in Yule Villa Community?

Lilly said, "His surname starts with J."

Blake provided a more conclusive answer, "A surname that starts with J... I found it. The name is Chris Jensen."

Blake turned his phone around. A tall and slim man about 40 years old was on the phone's display, and he gave off a mysterious air.

Lilly's eyes lit up in admiration as usual, "Daddy is amazing! High five!"

Blake smiled. He gently pinched Lilly's soft cheek, "Lilly is amazing too."

Lilly shook her head, "Daddy is better!"

The dynamic duo complimented each other.

Josh stared at his watch.

It took them three minutes to figure that out.

How did they identify the person so fast?

Josh's jaw dropped in astonishment.

The tortoise that had fulfilled its duty was looking for its shrimp meat.

Bryson picked up the missing shrimp meat, and he fed it to the tortoise.

1/3

1

"How did you do that?" Josh asked, trying to process what had happened.

Blake put his phone away before saying. "Take a guess.

Josh replied, "You should guess whether I would make a guess."

Blake was planning the operation to capture the target and he answered nonchalantly. "Do you think I would make the guess?"

Josh simply refused to reply to Blake,

Blake looked at Lilly as he spoke, "Lilly, stay home. Daly is going to confront that person."

Blake instinctively thought Chris would be a troublesome opponent because of Chris's cunning look.

Blake added, "Daddy will get a man to protect you."

Lilly replied obediently, "Alright, be careful, Daddy."

However, Lilly was worried. She ran to her table, and she opened her drawer. Then, she returned with two

talismans.

"Daddy, take these with you!" Lilly insisted as she shoved the talismans into Blake's hands.

Blake was boosted in confidence!

"Daddy will be leaving!" Blake walked away proudly. He was confident because of his daughter's support.

The scene moved to a villa in Yule Bay.

A tall and slim middle-aged man enjoyed the service of a masseur leisurely. The person was Chris, who had inflicted Grace with a spell last night.

Chris opened his eyes. He frowned, "Someone has burned my talisman."

Chris sneered in displeasure. He didn't like having someone more skilled than him.

Chris grunted, "Oh well, probably a nobody!"

The opponent most likely gives everything he has.

Chris was confident that dispelling the parasitic love talisman wouldn't be easy.

However, Chris reassured himself it would be fine, thinking the opponent would not know who made the

talisman.

Moreover, Chris didn't think it would not make any difference even if the opponent found him.

Chris had been in his line of work for many years, so he felt confident with his capability. He could not imagine anyone could challenge him.

Chris glanced at the time. He motioned for one of his disciples. "Give Grace a call."

Chris estimated the time, and he realized that his talistan should activate soon.

2/3

Chris was interested in recruiting a talented child like Grace as his disciple. However, if Grace disobeyed him, he would put her to death.

On the other hand, Grace was lying at home, feeling feverish all over her body.

She tried many ways to remove the talisman on her chest, and she even resorted to cutting the spot with a knife. However, her effort was futile.

Was Grace going to die like this?

Then, Grace's phone rang. A familiar voice sounded, "Hi, little brat. Have

Grace gritted her teeth, "You're despicable!"

you made up your mind?"

The person on the other end of the phone call sneered. He said indifferently, "Winner takes all.

Throughout history, many emperors have been familiar with devious methods. I have little patience. If you've made your decision, I'll give you a chance to become my disciple."

Grace was sweating profusely on his forehead because of the pain. Despite that, she replied coldly, "I have

decided."

Chris displayed a contemptuous smile. He threw a casual remark, "If you have bowed to me earlier, you don't have to suffer."

However, Grace retorted, "I won't acknowledge you as Master even if I die!"

Chris furrowed his brows. He grunted coldly, "Ungrateful fool!"

When Chris was about to end the call, Grace hung up first. Chris was infuriated, and his eyes turned cold.

"How long can you act tough?"

Chris was a petty person. He took out a talisman, and he chanted on it. Then, he pinned it on the wall.

Chris was determined to make Grace suffer a painful death after she hung up on him!

"You there! Get a camera and film Grace's miserable death!" Chris summoned a disciple.

The disciple promptly followed Chris's command.

On the other side, Grace spewed a mouthful of blood shortly after ending the phone call. She felt a sharp pain in her heart as if someone had hammered a nail into it. The excruciating pain turned her vision dark, leading her to faint...

Chapter 397 Soul Puppet

Grace fainted at home without anyone noticing Time was nicking, inching closer to the 12-hour mark...

Chris had already instructed his disciples to search for race before his return. With the help of his divination, he gathered detailed information about Grace

Chris grunted, "She is merely a brat

Chris became increasingly irritated at the thought of young girl daring to defy him.

Chris stood up, and he went to wash his hand. Then, he took out his spirit compass made with unique materials. He wanted to seek an answer if Grace could survive the torture through divination.

Anyone who defied him deserved to die.

Even if Grace survived, it would be a matter of time before she submitted to Chris. He loved nothing more than seeing those stubborn individuals begging for his mercy.

Chris arranged the spirit compass properly. Then, the compass made a faint cracking sound, revealing an inexplicable crack.

Chris's face changed drastically in shock.

Then, Chris promptly checked his future through divination, and he exclaimed. "This is bad!"

Chris couldn't care less about whether Grace would survive.

Chris realized a disaster was approaching him. If he failed to escape it, he would die!

After gaining this knowledge, Chris sprinted to the parking garage. He hastily drove away to escape.

After leaving the neighborhood, Chris promptly switched to a different car. Then, he transitioned to the subway, and he hurried to the airport at top speed. Once there, he boarded the next available flight and left the country without delay.

Chris fled like a scurrying rat, escaping swiftly.

Blake acted swiftly, from locating Chris to surrounding his villa. Upon learning that he had fled, Blake immediately began investigating his whereabouts. However, Blake was one step behind.

Blake's gaze remained cold as he stared at the airplane in the sky.

Blake wished to have a cannon because of his strong urge to shoot down the airplane, assuming no other passengers were on it.

Find out where this flight is headed," Blake said with a stern expression.

Layton didn't know what happened. He assumed that a big shot was on the plane.

"The flight is heading to Avianville."

Blake instructed, "Gather the team over there. Once the person gets off the plane, capture him immediately."

Blake made a promise to Lilly to capture Chris, but he failed.

1/3

Blake had long forgotten when was the last time he failed.

This outcome signaled to Blake that Chris might be a challenging opponent.

Chris was in a panic even though he had already boarded the plane.

Chris's disciples worshipped him like a god. Many people from different walks of life would address him as Master Chris.

However, Chris was a timid person, which was why he lived with great caution.

"I should be fine after boarding the plane."

Chris didn't know who he had offended, but the opponent was beyond his level.

However, Chris believed the opponent's influence wouldn't extend beyond Dudroinia.

Chris thought there was no way the opponent could reach him when he was overseas!

As Chris calmed down, he thought about his frantic escape earlier and felt incredibly embarrassed. The more he thought about it, the more his face turned sour

Chris disliked the threat of having someone mightier than him!

This incident sparked Chris's determination to rise above everyone else.

While being immersed in his thoughts, Chris decided to perform another divination.

The result was that Chris had not escaped from the upcoming disaster, which surprised him.

Dammit... How could my opponent hunt me down even outside Dudroinia?

Chris furrowed his brow. He deliberately spilled his drink on his clothes, and he bought a new outfit from one of the passengers.

Chris was also afraid of being caught after getting off the plane. He triggered the paper figure hidden under his tongue.

No matter how well-trained Blake's men were in Avianville, they wouldn't expect to encounter such a unique target. Chris eluded Blake's men again.

Three hours later, Blake received an update through a phone call. His men had yet to locate the target. After verifying the passengers' data, they discovered that Chris had already left..

Blake felt frustrated that he had failed!

Avianville was located in a foreign country. Blake's men faced some delays in accessing the airport's surveillance system. Chris could have taken a few more flights. By that time, they would completely lose track of him.

Layton reassured, "Mr. MacNeil, he might escape for now, but he can't hide forever. We will capture him

in the end."

Blake remained silent for a while, but he eventually said. "It's time to head back."

2/3

Blake was frustrated because he was an idol to Lilly... His perfect image was about to shatter this time.

Lilly must be disappointed.

Blake was deeply worried.

After having lunch, Lilly saw a figure appear in her room. Master has returned!

Lilly was overjoyed. She eagerly rushed to her master. Master, I miss you!"

After a long period of work, Pablo was tired. However, the exhaustion faded away after Lilly ran up to him.

"Do you miss me?" Pablo chuckled. "Are you sure you're not asking something from me?"

Pablo was teasing Lilly, but he didn't expect her to lower her head in embarrassment as she spoke, "Yeah... I need your help, Master."

Pablo was speechless.

Can't you prolong the blissful moment a bit longer?

Pablo chuckled in defeat. He asked, "What's the matter

Lilly told Pablo about what had happened recently. Then, Lilly showed the paper figure sealed in a cup on

the table.

Pablo picked up the paper figure, wrapping it between his fingers. He squinted his eyes in a serious expression.

"Soul puppet!" Pablo commented, "This individual knows what he is doing!"

It was Lilly's second time to hear this comment.

Lilly was curious why did Pablo make that remark.

Lilly asked, "What's a soul puppet?"

Pablo explained, "Paper figures are usually used to honor the deceased. They are intended for the dead."

"Conversely, a soul puppet utilizes the deceased's spirit as an offering to a paper figure. This ritual enables various functionalities in the paper figure."

"The soul puppet can serve its master in various tasks, such as possession, stealing luck, plundering other's life, and even robbing a physical body."

Lilly was puzzled, "How do you rob a physical body?"

Pablo explained, "For instance, after the soul puppet is attached to Uncle Bryson, he will become another person someday in the future."

Chapter 398 Soul Possession

Lilly could not make sense of Pablo's explanation.

Why would Uncle Bryson become another person once the soul puppet is attached to him without anyone noticing?

Lilly was confident she would notice it if Uncle Bryson became another person.

It wouldn't happen without anyone noticing. Lilly was confident that she would realize it.

Seeing her perplexed, Pablo explained, "Let me put it this way. Some people, who were perfectly fine before, suddenly undergo a drastic change in behavior as if they have become completely different people. We often say a spirit has possessed them."

Lilly nodded amusingly again.

She understood what it meant.

Pablo continued, "Those afflicted with a soul puppet will have their soul swapped. It isn't a ghost but a living person possessing them."

Lilly exclaimed in surprise.

Lilly always thought only a ghost could possess a human. She had never imagined a living person to possess a person. It was a discovery for her!

Lilly said, "Master is amazing. You know a lot of things!"

Pablo chuckled as he gently pinched Lilly's cheek, "Stop buttering me up."

Lilly replied incoherently with her cheeks pinched, "Master isn't a butter... Master is amazing, so you're better!"

Pablo was at a loss for words because of Lilly's amusing remarks.

Pablo interjected, "Back to the point. Master has visited the underworld. No one has reported a suspect."

"The ghosts are monitored with proper regulation. The suspect hasn't gone to the Palace of the Ruler of Hell."

Lilly asked attentively, "Is the suspect a living human?"

Pablo nodded, "The suspect must be a human, but this is strange. How can he survive to the palace?"

Pablo had no clues earlier. However, the two cases coincided after Lilly brought up the matter of the soul puppet.

"The culprit interrupts those approaching death but survives in the end. If the victim writes the culprit's name, the culprit can substitute the victim's soul and return to the victim's body. Then, the culprit can continue living in the victim's body."

Lilly opened her eyes widely, "The soul puppet is sinister!"

Pablo nodded, "That's right. A living person uses a soul puppet to possess another living person. The suspect wants to rob someone's physical body."

1/2

In other words, the culprit worked vigorously to figure out how to possess another human in the living world!

Lilly was puzzled, "Why? He is a living person. Why does he want to live as another person?"

The original body would be considered dead!

The culprit abandoned his original body. Wouldn't he feel pity for it?

Pablo added, "It's a common idea. For example, there's an internet meme saying the person is too embarrassed that he wants to live on another planet."

"It's the same idea. Some people may have done something or experienced a significant change that prevents them from continuing to live with their original identity, so they might consider living as a new person."

A new idea surfaced in Lilly's mind, "He can opt for plastic surgery!"

Lilly knew what plastic surgery was. She had watched a TV drama with Granny lately. After a character went missing a few episodes, the character would be revealed to have opted for plastic surgery. The voice line typically said, "I have returned to take back what belongs to me."

Pablo choked a little. How many TV dramas has Lilly watched? I don't even see her watching them.

Pablo replied, "Plastic surgery may not resolve all the issues. Here's another example. Suppose the person is terminally ill, but he wants to keep on living. In that situation, he would need someone else's body..."

Lilly quickly understood, "It's like a ghost finding a scapegoat!"

However, the person wasn't dead, and he started finding someone else to replace him for death.

Pablo nodded, "You're right."

Lilly grasped what happened. If that's the case, is Chris someone like that?

Lilly conveyed her doubts to Pablo.

Pablo went through a book, looking for the page with the name Chris.

The book recorded the life and death of all people in the world. Chris was the culprit if there was an anomaly in his fate.

"I have found him." Pablo pointed at a page, but he seemed surprised.

"He isn't the person I'm looking for."

What went wrong? Was there another person? Was their logic flawed?

Chapter 399 Grace In Danger

“Perhaps he swapped his life with someone else?” said Lilly.

“Impossible.” Pablo shook his head. “If that’s the case, it will be written here.”

Right then. Blake returned, but without his usual air of confidence.

“What’s the matter, Daddy?” asked Lilly, concerned.

Blake knelt before his daughter. “I failed to catch Chris

“It’s okay. Daddy. I’m sure you can catch him next time! Lilly then patted her father. This small gesture was enough to cheer Blake up.

“So were you saying just now?” asked Blake.

Lilly then recited the conversation she had with Pablo to Blake. As Blake listened to their hypothesis, a name appeared in Blake’s mind. Maryn Kamily. He then found himself a sheet of paper and jotted down three names. Baldy, Chris, and Maryn. He then added a circle that contained a question mark next to them.

“This circle represents the mysterious figure,” explained Blake. “Chris gave Baldy the ghost bride. That alone tells us that there is some sort of power dynamic between them. Like that of a leader and his subordinate. As for Maryn, Chris must have given her the parasitic love talisman. Based on my observation so far, she hasn’t done anything out of the ordinary so I don’t think she knows what the talisman does.”

“I see.” Lilly nodded. Her brain was like a sponge, absorbing everything very quickly.

“Therefore, I conclude that Chris did not swap his life with someone else. Instead, someone paid Chris to swap that someone’s life with somebody else. Your master once said that powerful individuals had the ability to visit the Underworld. I believe Chris must have intercepted Zachary’s soul when Zachary’s surgery was underway.”

Pablo couldn’t help but nod. Everything made sense when Blake put it that way.

“Isn’t it too much of a coincidence then? Chris was there when Zac was heading to the Palace of the Ruler of Hell?” asked Lilly.

“It could be that Chris would visit the Underworld every day at a specific time. Zachary was just one of the souls he intercepted that day.”

“I see. So someone paid Chris to find a suitable vessel for him. That’s why Chris has been studying this matter.” Lilly made a simple summary.

“That’s my girl! So smart!” complimented Blake proudly.

As the group laughed, Lilly’s mobile watch buzzed.

“Quinnic is calling?” Lilly was confused. Quinnie should be busy shooting a TV series with Jonas. Why would she call?

“Lilly, are you free? I think Gracie is sick. She is not responsive!” Quinnie’s anxious voice appeared.

“Where are your parents?” Lilly immediately got ready to leave.

1/2

“They are traveling. I’m busy with the shooting so I left Gracie in my apartment. Usually, it’s fine. My apartment has security cameras so I often check on her. Today, she’s lying on one spot unusually long. She won’t pick up her phone and I got worried. I called the building guards but they didn’t have the key. The locksmith I contacted cannot come right away. L.....”

Quinnie knew there were better people to call for help. But somehow, she felt that calling Lilly was the right thing to do. After learning the situation, Blake and Lilly bolted out, hopped into the car, and drove away. When they arrived at the destination, the locksmith Quinnie summoned was tinkering with the lock.

“Let me handle this, mister.” Blake spoke to the locksmith.

The locksmith was wondering why a random stranger was interrupting his work. But he got his answer shortly after. Blake raised his leg and kicked the door wide open.

Once the passage was clear, Lilly ran inside. The first thing she saw made her gasp out loud.

Chapter 400 Wailing Grace

Pablo immediately leafed through the book in his hands. Indeed, it said that Grace had departed. He couldn’t believe it. The reincarnation of Madame Maya died. Just like that?

In her soul form, Grace looked at her dead body. Her past memories, all six years of it, flooded her mind. And not only that, some foreign memories assaulted her too. It was overwhelming. So suffocating that she felt pain and despair. She yelled but nothing came out of her mouth. She couldn’t take it anymore!

Suddenly, Lilly appeared out of nowhere. She pulled Grace’s hair.

“Come back, Gracie!” Lilly mustered all her strength to anchor Grace’s soul, which floated like a balloon. Bit by bit, Lilly shoved Grace’s soul back into the dead body. As if she was stuffing a turkey.

“It won’t work, Lilly. That’s her fate. You can’t just...” said Pablo.

But Lilly wasn’t paying attention to Pablo. She slapped Grace’s face. “Wake up, Gracie. If you wake up now, I’ll give you some of the spirits I caught.”

Gracie felt like her world was trembling violently. “Stop... Stop! Who said I need your help?” Gracie suddenly spoke.

“What the...?” Pablo looked at his booklet again. Grace’s thread of fate was severed moments ago. But now, one line, barely visible, joined the broken ends together.

“Are you all right, Gracie?” Lilly patted Grace’s back.

Many emotions washed over her. When she looked at Lilly, her eyes turned teary. “I’m Grace...”

“Yes, yes. You’re Grace. I won’t call you Gracie.”

After the fear and despair she felt, the well-lit room and the presence of Lilly provided the reassurance a six-year-old girl like Grace needed. She broke down in tears. Still, trying to act tough, Grace protested, “I didn’t need you to come to my rescue.”

“Yes, yes. Wait, don’t cry, Grace.”

But that only made Grace sob even louder. Never had anyone consoled her like Lilly did here.

“You... You made me look so weak. Like I need people to save me.” Grace still refused to let go of her pride.

“No, no. You’re very strong.”

“You even slapped me.”

“I’m sorry.”

“I won’t forgive you. Look how swollen my cheeks are

“Okay. I won’t slap your face next time. I’ll slap your... butt?”

“You even want to spank me. WAAAH!” wailed Grace.

Blake knelt down and raised the most concerning subject. “Grace, what happened to your chest?”

That was when everyone saw the gnarly wound on Grace’s chest. Grace also finally registered the pain.

1/2

Now, she was sobbing not because she felt relieved, but because she felt pain.

“Don’t move.” Lilly leaned in and looked at the wound.

“This is a lethal talisman. Someone put it on her, commented Pablo with a frown. The scent on the talisman was very familiar too. It resembled the scent on the soul puppet.

“Gracie, did you meet Chris, a lanky middle-aged man inquired Lilly.

“I saw him last night. He said he would kill me if I refused to study under him.”

Lilly and Blake exchanged looks. Chris was even willing to harm a six-year-old kid!

“It’s okay.” Lilly pinned Grace to the ground. “I’ll tear the talisman off your chest.”

Noticing what Lilly was about to do, Grace fought back out of instinct. “No! Don’t come near me!”