

Jordan proudly waved the phone in his hand. "Steven is the future father-in-law of Edric. I had been worrying that I don't have leverage against Steven. Who would know that he would deliver himself to me? I recorded everything he said to you before. Now I'm waiting to see him yielding to me."

"Jordan, how can you be so despicable?" Irene was so angry that she wanted to slap him in the face. Anyone who thought Jordan was just a playboy certainly underestimated his ability to take advantage of people.

"You're protecting him?" Jordan was a little annoyed, "He is old enough to be your dad. And he is married. What's so good about him?"

"We're not the kind of relationship you've imagined us to have."

"It's not that kind of relationship? Then what is it?" Jordan asked. "It's a long story. I'll tell you in the future."

"No! I'll report him tomorrow if you don't tell me now." Jordan was not vague about his intention. His heart was burning with fury when he saw how Irene was defending Steven. "As the saying goes, the animosity for snatching a man's wife is absolutely irreconcilable. I will ruin

Steven if he dares to covet my woman!" "Who stole your wife? Jordan, what nonsense are you talking about?"

"Irene, I have to make it clear to you no matter what you think. I have my heart set on you. No one can hanker after a woman I already claimed. No one!"

Jordan was not a sensible person. It didn't work to talk to him in a sensible way. Irene stamped her feet in anger. "He... he is my father."

"What did you say?" Jordan thought there was something wrong with his ears. "But you have different surnames?" "I have my mom's surname!"

"How is it possible?" Astonished, Jordan stared at Irene for a while. "You... Are you an illegitimate daughter?" "I'm not!" Irene interrupted him.

"If you're not an illegitimate daughter, why does no one know your relationship with Mr. Cook?" Jordan asked. "That has nothing to do with you. So don't ask

anymore." Irene had no patience to

explain it to him.

Jordan suddenly thought of something. "Irene, no wonder you know so many inside stories about the bidding. Did Steven tell you that?"

"Yes," Irene nodded and said, "Jordan, I have already helped you win the bid. You have to keep the relationship between Steven and me a secret for me. No one else can know."

"No way!" Jordan

answered firmly with a

wicked smile on his face.

"Why not?"

"You have to promise me one thing if you want me to keep it a secret." Jordan was pushing for more.

Irene was in a tricky situation. Jordan didn't play by the rules. She fell into his trap and was in trouble now. Frustrated, she asked, "What's the condition? Jordan, don't be insatiable. I'm warning you."

"Irene, it's very simple to ask me to

keep it a secret. I won't say anything if

you promise to be my girlfriend." "Is

there something wrong with your

brain?"

"No, I'm completely fine," Jordan grinned and said, "My mouth is very loose, and I can't say when I will leak the news. But things will be different if you're my girlfriend. I'm very protective of my own people and would never reveal my woman's secret."

"Do you want me to be your girlfriend because Steven is the Secretary?"

"Of course not," Jordan denied, "I like your look. You know that I can't resist beautiful women."

His honest words made Irene's headache even more. This playboy's obsession with beautiful women was beyond the imagination of common people. However, he would definitely stay away if he knew Irene was a divorced single mother. Thus, Irene said, "Jordan, I am a divorced woman. Don't you mind that?"

"You had a divorce?" Jordan was shocked

now. With a look of disbelief, he sized Irene up

and down. "Why did you divorce?" "This is not

a matter of discussion. I'm only telling you that

I had a divorce. Can you accept it?"

"No!" Jordan was dejected like a deflated balloon.

Irene breathed a sigh of relief. She knew this would happen. For the sake of Jordan's pride and the status of the Reed Family, why would he want a divorced woman?

However, Jordan surprisingly raised another question at once. "Irene, did you make it up to turn me down? I don't believe that you had a divorce before unless you can prove to me that you have been married."

"Not only am I divorced, but I also have a child. Do you remember Eden, the little boy by

Nathan's side? He is my child."

Jordan widened his eyes. Of course, he had seen Eden before. At that time, he was confounded why Nathan had such a child with him. He asked Nathan, but he only told him the kid belonged to a friend. He never expected this friend to be Irene.

"Irene, I want to know

why you divorced

your husband?" "He

had an affair!" Irene

replied.

"That man is blind!" Jordan sighed. Why would her ex-husband have an affair when he had such a fine woman at home? He really didn't know how lucky he was!

"It's all in the past. Jordan. I ask you to keep it a secret for me. Not just about Steven, but also about my divorce and my child. You can't tell anyone about it."

Jordan answered in a disgruntled voice.

Today was supposed to be a day of victory.

But why couldn't he feel the joy? He would rather have Irene than the bid!

What kind of man was willing to divorce her?

Jordan took another look at Irene before he left. She looked so thin and feeble under the dim light of the street lamps. For some unknown reasons, he had an urge to hold her in his arms.

Deborah and Lily waited until 9 pm when

Steven came back. As usual, Deborah

immediately prepared slippers and tea for him.

Lily was not as patient as her mother. "Dad,

what's the matter with the bidding?"

"What do you mean?" Steven was about to drink tea, but he put down the cup in his hand when he heard Lily talking.

"Lily is worried, isn't she? You know, Edric has been preparing for this for a long time, and Margaret has been calling Lily to ask for an explanation. Lily doesn't know how to answer it," Deborah said.

Steven sneered and said, "Why did Margaret ask you for an explanation? The decision was made by the Municipal Party Committee. What would you know the reason?"

Steven somehow felt irritated when he heard Margaret's name. His harsh words made Lily speechless. Deborah jumped in to explain, "She must think that you would know more with your position..."

"The bidding is carried out in a fair and just manner. Officials will provide her answers if she brings her questions to the City Construction Bureau and the Municipal Party Committee. Why would she ask you?"

Steven was not a fool. He knew exactly what Margaret was up to. She didn't take a fancy to Lily because she liked her. It was because of Steven. Everyone knew that Mr. Cook's

daughter was Edric's girlfriend. But Edric had never brought up his future with Lily in the past three years. The engagement would never happen if Steven didn't talk about it with Margaret in person.

Steven was annoyed whenever he thought of this. He would never agree to this marriage if Lily had not been pregnant with Edric's child and wasn't obsessed with him.

The Myers Family had already ruined one of his daughters. Did he still want to push the other daughter into the fire pit? Most importantly, Edric was ungrateful and insatiable. He had won the majority of the public construction work in San Fetillo. Did he want to control the entire San Fetillo in his hands? Why couldn't he let others have a slice too?

"Steven, don't be angry! I'm just clumsy with words." Deborah simpered and massaged Steven's shoulders to calm him down. "Did something bad happen today?"

"No!" Steven softened his tone and looked at Lily. "Margaret is not a good person. She was so vicious to Irene and may not be sincere to you now. As for Edric, he is not some good man either. I don't think marriage is good for you if they are dissatisfied with you because of the bidding. It's hard to find a frog with three legs, but there are plenty of men with two legs. Why do you have to be fixated on him?"

"Edric didn't say anything. Lily was worried, so she wanted to ask you about the situation."

"Don't try to fool me," Steven sneered, "I know that love is not something you can control. I just want to remind Lily that if Edric agrees to get engaged to you only because of the construction bidding, have you ever thought that would he still be good to you if I were gone? I won't stay in my position forever. What if I retire someday? Can you guarantee that your marriage won't end like Irene's?"

Lily lowered her head without saying a word. Deborah continued to smooth things over, "Don't worry, Edric treats Lily very well. Back then, it was because Irene couldn't give birth. But Lily is not barren like her. As long as she has a child..."

Steven sighed and darted a look at Lily. The marriage between Irene and Edric indeed ended because of the lack of a child.

Things would be different if Irene could have children. He glanced at Deborah. It was the same for him and Deborah. He wouldn't have married Deborah and wronged Irene if not for Lily.

"I hope that Edric will do the same thing!"

Lily sat alone in the room and cried silently after being scolded by Steven. Deborah opened the door to send her a midnight snack. Aggrieved, Lily said, "Mom! Why is dad so biased? He only cares about Irene. Why won't he think about me? How can I face Edric and Aunt Margaret?"

"You're so useless!" Deborah glared at her,

"You can't stand such a little grievance? Do you remember anything I taught you?" "I just

feel sad. How can dad do this?"

"Lily, those who achieve great things don't care about trifles. If you can't even put up with such a little grievance, I don't think you should marry into the Myers Family at all," Deborah used even stronger language.

"Mom, even you are saying this to me now?"

"Is the Myers Family an ordinary family? Is Margaret an ordinary woman? Did you see how she tortured Irene back in the days? Who is harsher? Margaret or your dad?"

"I..." Lily was at a loss for words. Comparing with Margaret, Steven was not in the same league.

"Lily, I've already thought this through. Let's use your dad's words as an excuse. Just say that the Municipal Party Committee gave the Reed Family the project this time because it is an investment from patriotic expatriates. The city wants to attract more funds from overseas."

"Will they believe it?"

"They have to. Let me tell you, you are the daughter of the Secretary. Margaret doesn't dare to do anything to you, understand?" Lily nodded. In her heart, she knew that Margaret liked her not because of her beauty and personality but because of Steven.

However, Lily was still stressed about Irene.

"Mom, Irene is the one I'm worried about now. She obviously played some tricks behind our back this time... "

"Yes, who else can it be? I've really underestimated this little b\*tch!" Deborah was also full of resentment.

"The thing that worries me the most is not the bidding, but her reconciliation with dad. Edric will definitely cancel the engagement if he knows about her identity."

"Let's take it one step at a time. I'll deal with the bidding problem first when I meet Margaret tomorrow," Deborah was also troubled by it. "I'm afraid that Margaret is not easy to deceive. But we have to try!"

Deborah was right. Margaret didn't believe in Deborah's explanation. Nevertheless, she didn't dare to say anything nasty. Since Steven was still in power, she had to weigh her options carefully.

It was impossible to reverse the result of the bidding now. Margaret was still counting on Steven to provide them more opportunities in the future. With that in mind, she maintained friendly and didn't make things difficult for Deborah.

After meeting with Deborah, Margaret asked her son out to eat together. To her surprise, she saw Irene in the restaurant, dining not far away from her.