

Go After 1061

Chapter 1061

Raeleigh immediately asked, "Is it him?"

"Yes, it's him."

The host said as he squatted down to help the man up. The man screamed, "No, no, no..."

"It's me, it's me!" the host shouted. Only then did the man look at him slowly. His body was still trembling after he took in the sight, as if he was afraid of human contact.

"Let's bring him to the hospital." Raeleigh looked at the man. They could only do that.

The host agreed. However, before they left, he took off the man's clothes. It was a hot day and the cotton clothes he was wearing gave off a foul odor. The hospital would refuse treatment to such a person if they went just like that.

The host pulled the man out, stripping the smelly clothes off the man. Raeleigh got him a glass of water and managed to find a clean towel. She washed it with water and began cleaning the man.

Raeleigh kept looking at the intact half of the man's face, trying to figure out who he was.

The host was extremely generous towards the man. After the man had been cleaned up, the host gave him his own clothes to wear. The weather wasn't too bad that day. The host donned a larger pair of pants and together, the three left the house.

Raeleigh looked back at that house. There was a creeping sensation in the back of her mind, telling her that there was something off about it.

Raeleigh fixed her gaze on the man who had lost his mind and said nothing.

At the hospital, the doctor diagnosed the man with severe mental regression.

Raeleigh sat aside, with a helpless look on her face. It had not been easy to find a clue, yet things had turned out that way.

After sitting there for a while, Raeleigh stood up and said, "I'm a student, so I have to head back for class. Please get someone to take care of him here. I will be back. This is all the money I have on me. Use this to pay the bills for now."

Raeleigh took out upwards of two thousand dollars and gave it to the host. He glanced at the money and said, "It's fine. I can take this. I can't just sit back and watch."

The host gave Raeleigh her money back. Raeleigh took it and told him, "I'm leaving. Call me if you need my help. Here is my number."

Raeleigh gave the host her phone number. He then said, "I'm Wouter. Don't worry, I will take care of him. You can head back to your classes."

“Okay,” Raeleigh replied. She left the hospital, shooting a glance at the man who was lying on the bed beforehand. However hard she tried, she couldn’t recall who he was, but he was connected to the orphanage for sure.

After leaving the area where the orphanage once stood, Raeleigh took a cab back to school.

It was already three o’clock in the afternoon. Raeleigh gasped when she saw the time. As soon as she got off the cab, she found Santiago waiting at the gate. He leaned against the guardhouse with his eyes closed.

After Raeleigh paid the cab driver, she looked around, but she didn’t see Scarlett. Santiago was there alone.

Raeleigh walked over. Santiago opened his eyes and asked, “Where have you been?”

“I went to the burger joint,” Raeleigh confessed. She knew that Santiago was not easy to deceive.

“Tell me next time and I’ll take you there. If something happens to you, then how am I going to take responsibility for that?” Santiago turned around and walked into the campus, with Raeleigh following behind him. Santiago was obviously pissed off, but he didn’t show it. Raeleigh was at a loss for words at that.

On campus, Scarlett ran out. As soon as she saw Raeleigh, she asked in a whisper, “Where have you been? Mr Santiago was so angry that he flipped a desk.”

Raeleigh looked up at Santiago’s stony expression. She knew that he was mad, but she didn’t expect him to be that angry.

“I’m sorry,” Raeleigh blurted out all of a sudden. Santiago stopped and turned to face her. “You shouldn’t say that to me. You should say it to him.”

After saying that, Santiago walked away. Raeleigh was still standing there in a daze. Scarlett then said, “Mr. Santiago hasn’t had lunch yet. He’s been waiting for you at the gate. We were all afraid that something had happened to you, you know? Mr Santiago didn’t allow us to make any phone calls, for fear that you got into some accident somewhere.”

Scarlett talked a lot on the way to their destination. Raeleigh could not come up with any words to say. She went to look for Santiago, but ended up not seeing him even though she had been searching the whole afternoon.

When Hadrian came to pick Raeleigh up at night, Raeleigh looked around. Santiago was still nowhere to be found. Raeleigh asked, “Where is Santiago?”

“He returned Tristany. He requested that I come to fetch you and Scarlett.” Hadrian opened the door as he said that. He was driving his own car. Raeleigh swept another glance around before getting into the car.

Raeleigh’s gaze kept darting around as she got in. She had a hunch that Santiago hadn’t gone back. Maybe he was on the way back. However, she did not see him the whole route back to the villa.

After they reached the villa’s compound, Raeleigh got out of the car. She didn’t see Santiago’s car there.

Raeleigh went inside to inquire after Santiago. Serra told her that he had not come back to the villa.

“Hadrian, didn’t you tell me that Santiago had come back Tristany?” Raeleigh asked. Hadrian replied, “That is what he told me.”

“Where is he then?” Raeleigh asked. Hadrian just shook his head. “I don’t know.”

Raeleigh called Santiago immediately, but he did not answer the phone. Raeleigh asked Scarlette to call him, but he didn’t answer her call either.

“Raeleigh, don’t worry. It’ll be fine,” Scarlette comforted Raeleigh, holding her hand. Raeleigh simply shook her head and said, “I know that.”

But she was still very worried deep down in her heart.

Raeleigh went to Novalie first, and unpacked the items she had not cleared away the day before. Santiago had not returned even after dinner was served. Raeleigh’s calls were still not getting through. She skipped dinner and waited for him. However, he still was not back yet.

“Raeleigh, it’s normal for Mr Santiago to behave this way. Sometimes, he is a bit self-centered. Don’t be mad at him.” Scarlette said.

Raeleigh did not reply. She went upstairs and called Jepherson to tell him that she went to the orphanage during the day.

“So, Santiago went missing because of that?” Jepherson stood by the window. Behind him, Hudson was drinking tea. Hudson did not like going out in recent years. Even if he had some business to attend to, he was unwilling to show up. Many of his business transactions had been completed at home. That year, he had gone abroad for a period of time and just returned a few days ago. He had always been reluctant to go to Capital City. The Harvey family was thriving and was on par with their rivals, the Cole Family. However, they had once been allies of the Cole family. Hence, he was sad at the current relationship between the two families.

Hudson didn’t want to interfere with the younger generation’s decisions, but he still insisted on not going to Capital City.

Paige had gone there. Hudson was still a little vexed over that. If he could cut off Capital City, then he would have willingly done so, but it was not his decision to make anymore.

He was aging. Time flowed fast. All he could do was to remain as A City’s guardian in his twilight years.

The day before, when his grandson returned, Hudson had never thought that he had come especially to visit him.

While they were talking, Jepherson accepted a phone call from a woman. Hudson couldn’t help but to be curious. Who was she?

She didn’t sound like Deanna at all!

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“I know. It’s nothing. Grandpa and I are having tea. I’ll call you later. Santiago must be back soon.”

“Alright.”

With that being said, Raeleigh hung up the phone and went downstairs to wait for Santiago. That was because she was worried, but no one appeared.

Raeleigh didn't think that Santiago would come back so soon. As she had expected, half an hour later, Santiago drove back.

After Raeleigh moved away from the door, she watched as Santiago drove into the mansion and got out of the car. Raeleigh walked over and looked at Santiago. Without saying a word, he stepped back into the mansion. Raeleigh stopped with a helpless look on her face. He was so angry with her just for that kind of thing.

It was fortunate that he didn't like Deanna. If he did, then could Deanna handle his bad temper?

Raeleigh returned to the villa. Santiago was sitting on the couch with a poker face. There was no one else around. Serra was busy taking care of Novalie, so she seldom appeared downstairs. There were two servants in the villa. One was responsible for cleaning, and the other was responsible for cooking. There were two people outside, one was Lennox, and the other was a gardener.

Those were the only people at home. Hadrian usually wouldn't come out of his room, while Scarlett would flee as soon as something happened. That was the norm for Raeleigh.

After entering the house, Raeleigh questioned Santiago, “Have you had dinner yet?”

Santiago briefly replied, “I'm not hungry.”

“I'll cook for you.” Ever since Raeleigh got pregnant, Jepherson would always cook for her, but right then she needed to cook for Santiago.

When Raeleigh went into the kitchen, she instructed the servant. “I'll do it. You can leave.”

The servant didn't dare to object. She was one of Santiago's workers.

When the servant went out of the kitchen, Raeleigh started preparing the dishes. Raeleigh cooked some porridge and served it to Santiago in person.

“I didn't eat either. Let's eat together.” Raeleigh sat on the opposite side. She was not used to treating Santiago that way. However, looking at how arrogant he was, she was actually amused by his angry side.

After all, he was two years younger than her, so sometimes he could be childish.

He made it very clear that he was angry.

His body language was so obvious that she could only smile bitterly.

Raeleigh sat on the opposite side of the table and ate the bowl of porridge. Santiago did not take a single bite. He sat there for a while before going upstairs soon after, unwilling to forgive her.

After Raeleigh finished the porridge, she raised her head to see that Santiago had already returned to his room.

Seeing his untouched bowl of porridge, Raeleigh finished her dinner and put the rice porridge on the kitchen counter. After thinking for a while, she got some flour and made two pieces of cake for Santiago. There were no vanilla beans at home. Raeleigh looked at the time. It was around eight o'clock, so she called out to Scarlett, "Scarlette, come here."

Scarlette rushed out of the room and asked, "Have you made up with him?"

Raeleigh shook her head. "No. Come with me. I need to buy something."

Raeleigh turned around and went downstairs. Scarlett hurried to Santiago's room. She knocked on the door and asked, "Mr. Santiago, Raeleigh is going out to buy something. Are you going with her?"

Scarlette didn't have the guts to leave the house without his permission, to avoid making him angry like how he was furious with Raeleigh right then.

There was no response, so Scarlett continued. "Mr. Santiago, in that case, I'll ask Hadrian to go with us."

Scarlette turned around and pointed at Raeleigh as she muttered under her breath, "You're doomed. Mr. Santiago does not want to talk to you."

Raeleigh ignored her comment after casting a glance at her. "Let's go. The grocery store will be closed soon."

Raeleigh turned around to head outside while Hadrian drove the car over in no time. As they walked, Scarlett asked Raeleigh, "What do you want? Can't you ask Hadrian to buy it?"

"He's a man. I reckon it's only appropriate for me to get it myself." Raeleigh wanted to get something else, so she went into the car.

Raeleigh got in the car and glanced upstairs. She had really offended Santiago that time.

Raeleigh and the others soon found some vanilla beans at the grocery store and bought some. Raeleigh bought some other stuff. Before going back, she did not forget to buy a pack of cigarettes for Santiago.

"Mr. Santiago has a bad temper. On the flip side, if Mr. Jepherson was to say something, then he'll immediately obey," Scarlett said.

"Is that true?" Raeleigh replied in disbelief. After buying almost everything on her shopping list, she went back with Scarlett and Hadrian. Everything ran smoothly all the way.

When they were back at the villa, Scarlett helped to carry some of the ingredients to the kitchen, followed by Raeleigh. Santiago's car was parked in the yard, indicating that he had not gone out.

"What are you going to do, Raeleigh?"

"Bake a cake." Raeleigh went into the kitchen, handed her clothes to Scarlett, washed her hands, and started baking the cake.

Scarlette had wanted Raeleigh to bake her a cake for a long time. That day, she finally got the chance. Of course, she would not let it go easily as she begged Raeleigh to make a princess cake for her.

“You can wait outside. I’ll call you when I’m done. If you keep wandering around here, then when will the cake be ready?”

“I’ll leave then.” Scarlett waited anxiously outside. Raeleigh was alone in the kitchen. It took her more than an hour to finish the two different flavoured cakes. One was a green cake while the other was a princess cake. After she finished the final decorations, Raeleigh brought the cake out to Scarlett.

Scarlett showed it off in the living room like a child.

She said while eating, “Raeleigh, if you don’t work as a car designer, then you should open a bakery.”

“I’ll think about it.” Raeleigh turned around and took the green cake out of the kitchen. She cut it, leaving two pieces for Novalie and herself. She also cut a piece for Hadrian. The rest was sent to Santiago.

Raeleigh knocked on the door several times. Santiago neither responded, nor did he come out to meet her. Raeleigh tried to turn the doorknob and found that it was not locked. Raeleigh pushed the door open and went in.

Inside the room, the lights were on. Santiago was lying on his bed in a pair of dark green shorts and a white vest. He was resting.

Raeleigh did not try to wake him up. She just looked at the green quilt and the green-coloured decorations. Everything in his room was green. It seemed like he really liked the color, as even his shorts were green.

Raeleigh set the cake on the table and left, closing the door behind her.

Closing the door, Santiago opened his eyes. After glancing at the door, he sat up from the bed and looked at the cake Raeleigh had sent over. He walked over and opened the box. After looking at it for a while, he ate one piece after another and finished them in no time. After he finished eating, he licked his teeth in satisfaction with the tip of his tongue. He then went to bed for a good sleep after he had brushed his teeth and cleaned up.

The next day, Raeleigh knocked on the door.

“It’s breakfast time.”

After Raeleigh finished her words, she went downstairs. It didn’t take long for Santiago to come downstairs. He glanced at Raeleigh and said, “Bake a new one tonight.”

Raeleigh cast a glance at him. “Alright.”

Scarlett sat on one side and shook her head. She was impressed by him!

After dinner, Raeleigh thought for a while before saying, “I’m going to the hospital. Come with me.”

After getting changed, Santiago glanced at Raeleigh and went outside. Raeleigh followed him out along with Scarlett. When they were outside, Santiago’s car pulled over. Raeleigh opened the back door and was ready to get in when he said, “Sit in the front.”

Raeleigh glanced at Scarlett. “What about Scarlett?”

“She’s not going.” Santiago drummed his fingers on the steering wheel. Scarlett was disappointed, so she let go of her hand on the door. Mr. Santiago was horrible!

Turning around, Scarlett left.

Raeleigh looked at her and felt amused. So bossy!

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Raeleigh soon arrived at the hospital. She got out of the car and told Santiago, “Your brother has been looking for your sister...”

“Don’t say things you’re not sure of,” Santiago pushed the door open and got out. He looked up at the ward. Raeleigh didn’t argue with him and added, “Even if it’s not your sister, he’s still looking for someone.”

Raeleigh said to Santiago, “I heard that this person knows something about the orphanage, so I went to have a look. I didn’t tell you because I didn’t want you to be worried.”

With that being said, Santiago stepped into the hospital. He didn’t want to know what had happened, so Raeleigh didn’t continue.

When they entered the hospital, they found the ward from the day before. Raeleigh stood at the door and looked inside. Wouter was standing in the ward, looking at some doctors dealing with the wound on a patient’s body.

After a few knocks on the door, Raeleigh walked in.

“You’re here.” Seeing Raeleigh coming in, Wouter started the conversation. Then, Raeleigh said, “My brother is worried about me, so he came with me.”

“I’m not your brother,” Santiago blurted out all of a sudden. Raeleigh paused for a moment before asking, “What’s the difference?”

Santiago didn’t answer, so Raeleigh didn’t continue.

“How is he?” Raeleigh looked at the man as she asked Wouter. He explained, “There are too many infection sites. We couldn’t contact any of his children because we don’t have their contact information. Plus, the operation has high risks. I’m not sure if I can sign the contract. I need to prove my relationship with him, but I can’t.”

As Wouter was in a dilemma, Raeleigh had to explain the whole thing to the attending doctor.

The doctor hesitated for a moment before saying, “Well, if you pay the medical fee, then we can give him treatment. After that, you can put up a missing person’s notice to look for his family.”

Raeleigh’s heart trembled slightly at the mention of the missing person’s notice. If the notice was sent out, then it might be found by those in the past, which would be troublesome.

Raeleigh was silent for a while before she said, “Let’s go to his house to find any contact information. Give him treatment. We will pay for it.”

The doctor nodded and said, "That will do, but you have to be mentally prepared. His condition is complicated. We're not sure how it might turn out."

"I see," Raeleigh said and looked at Wouter. "I'll find a way to pay for the hospitalization fees..."

"No, I have money. Plus, it's useless to keep it. Since we found him, I believe it's fate. I'll pay the fees. If I really can't afford it, then I'll tell you, and then you can give me money."

It never occurred to Raeleigh that Wouter would say that. It took her a while to say, "I actually am short of money now. You can pay for it first. I'll find a way to give it back to you."

"Alright." Wouter and Raeleigh soon reached an agreement. They didn't say anything and shifted their gazes to look at the man whose face was scrunched up in pain on the bed.

Raeleigh could not recall who that man was although he looked familiar.

After that, Raeleigh waited in the hospital. However, the man did not wake up even until nighttime.

Everyone was busy. Raeleigh needed to head back, while Wouter, on the other hand, had to return to his restaurant.

"I'll find someone to take care of him," Wouter stated, and Raeleigh felt that it was the appropriate thing to do. After that, they left the hospital together and went back separately.

On the way back, Raeleigh rubbed her temples, and something occurred to her as she leaned against the door of the car. It was something related to the fire incident.

Raeleigh remembered that there were too many people at that time, and the fire came too suddenly. It was beyond everyone's expectations. Since there were too many of them, the orphanage was in a mess. There were screams and cries as people escaped.

If it weren't for that child named Arsel, Raeleigh wouldn't have survived. What a pity that he...

Raeleigh thought for a while and turned to Santiago. "Santiago..."

"What is it?"

"If you have a hundred geese, and one runs off, but there comes another one, would you find out?" Raeleigh figured that that was a silly question, but she thought, "If Arsel had been there at that time, then those people had deliberately set fire. However, they still didn't know that there was another child in the orphanage, so the number of children would be the same, and they didn't know that one had left."

Santiago gripped the steering wheel with one hand and placed the other on Raeleigh's forehead. "Are you sick?"

Raeleigh brushed Santiago's hand away. "Respect those who are older than you."

"Are you an elder?" Santiago found it amusing. Raeleigh looked at him and snapped. "I'm older than you."

"That's not necessarily true. Other than being born earlier than me, I can't tell if you're older than me."

“Fine, you’re older. Can you answer my question?”

“Of course, I know my own geese.” Santiago laughed. Raeleigh thought for a moment and said, “What if they’re all roasted?”

Santiago snorted. “Have you gone mad?”

Raeleigh turned her face away and asked, “How can you tell which is the one you lost if it’s roasted?”

Looking at Raeleigh’s absent-minded eyes, Santiago said, “Simple. If it’s the geese I had, then I’ll definitely leave a mark on them. Everyone puts a label on a goose’s body. There are even records of its past illnesses.”

Raeleigh looked at Santiago. “What if it’s a person?”

“Humans are simpler. If a person dies, then it’s easy to distinguish them by the teeth or the bones.”

“So, that’s how it is.”

Back then, even if people knew that there was one more child, they wouldn’t believe it. She was dead. However, there was an extra boy while a girl was missing. There was no way to explain it.

Raeleigh was in a daze for a long time before the car stopped. They were back home.

Raeleigh went upstairs and investigated the fire incident in the orphanage. It was reported that it was an accident, all of them were dead, and none of them survived.

Raeleigh looked at the reports and even found the newspaper that reported it. It stated that no one was left alive.

Raeleigh was surprised. She was supposed to find herself in the files. According to what Santiago had said, everyone had a record. If she died, then there must be one. Why didn’t it state that there was one person missing?

Raeleigh could not figure it out. She turned around, lay down on the bed, tossing and turning without sleeping for the whole night.

With doubts in her heart, Raeleigh asked Santiago to accompany her to the Public Security Department the next day. She wanted to get the archives of the fire accident in the orphanage.

With Santiago around, the other party was easy to talk to. He found the files and gave them to Raeleigh, asking her to read them carefully.

Raeleigh found a quiet place and carefully compared the names of the children back then. She still remembered many of them. However, Raeleigh found something special that neither Arsel’s nor her name was on the list...

As for the number of people, Raeleigh checked it over and over again. She found that not only Arsel’s and her records were missing but some other children’s records were nowhere to be found as well.

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Raeleigh closed the file and tried to recall who was missing.

Raeleigh remembered that in those days, except for the children, the rest of the people in the orphanage were women, including the dean, the director, the rest...

The guard?

That male guard?

Raeleigh recalled something all of a sudden and jolted up from her seat.

"I remember," Raeleigh exclaimed. Santiago stood up, took the files, and left the Public Security Department with her.

Right after they went out, Raeleigh grabbed Santiago's hand and asked, "Where are you going?"

"Aren't we going to the hospital?" Santiago looked at her with an amused smile. Raeleigh froze there for a while and didn't respond. "I'm not going to the hospital. I remember where I saw the man and know how to contact his family. You can come with me. We'll definitely find them."

After Raeleigh finished, she went outside. She couldn't let Santiago know about the orphanage, so she lured Santiago away.

After getting into the car, Raeleigh waited for Santiago. Santiago looked at her for a while and he then followed her. He started the car engine and went to the place where Raeleigh had told him about.

After getting out of the car, Raeleigh took Santiago into the house to have a look. When they entered, Raeleigh said, "I remember seeing a notebook. Why is it gone?"

The corner of Santiago's lips twitched. He sneered. "Why didn't you tell me that there was actually another person here?"

After saying that, Santiago stormed out impatiently. He had always been unwilling to come to such a messy and dirty place.

Raeleigh pretended to look for something in the room and did not come out of the house.

After returning to the car, Raeleigh got in and thought for a while, "I really saw it."

"I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't lie to me." After that, Santiago stopped the car by the roadside. He took a cigarette and lit it up. Leaning against the car door, he finished the cigarette before getting in the car. After a while, Santiago looked at Raeleigh and said, "No matter what's going on, I promise not to tell him, but you can't leave my sight."

Raeleigh remained silent for a while, as if a chain had shackled her heart.

"I mean no harm, but there are some things I don't want others to know. They are related to my past."

Raeleigh looked at Santiago. He looked back and said, "I didn't ask you about your past. I want you to promise me that you'll stay in my sight in case of an accident."

"I promise."

"Good."

Santiago started the car engine and went back with Raeleigh. She sat in the front passenger seat, occasionally stealing glances at Santiago. He was so handsome and charming.

It took Raeleigh an hour to calm down. It must have been the guard of the orphanage. As long as the guard was willing to cooperate, she could then find out who the child was that was transferred to the orphanage from another one.

Raeleigh held the file in her hands and frowned. Why were so many people missing? Why were they not written out in the file?

Along the way, Raeleigh was thinking about that issue. They then stopped at the entrance of the hospital. Raeleigh was lost in her thoughts for a moment before she turned to look at Santiago. "Weren't we going home?"

"I presume this is where you want to be right now. What's the point of going home?" Santiago pushed open the door and got out of the car. He stood outside and waited for her to get off. After a while, Raeleigh got out of the car and followed him into the hospital.

Outside the ward, Raeleigh peeked inside. There was a nurse in the ward. Wouter didn't come over because he had something to deal with.

Raeleigh stood outside for a while before she knocked on the door and went in. When the nurse saw Raeleigh, she stood up hurriedly and said to Raeleigh, "You're here."

"I came to have a look. Thank you for taking care of him."

"It's part of my job. He's in good condition. The doctor said that after taking the sedative, he has regained a bit of consciousness, but he's still suffering a lot. He just fell asleep."

"I'll stay for a while," Raeleigh said. The nurse agreed. "I have something on my hands. You can help me look after him for a while."

"Thank you," Raeleigh said. After that, the nurse went out and closed the door politely.

Raeleigh sat opposite the man as she looked at half of the man's face. After a while, she suddenly froze. Then, Raeleigh took a look at Santiago. Santiago sat down while Raeleigh told him, "I remember that it was him."

"Then, let's wait until he wakes up, so that we can ask him." Santiago crossed his legs and calmly waited with Raeleigh. However, the man didn't wake up even when they waited until late at night. Raeleigh looked at him in confusion. She raised her hand and tried sensing his pulse, only to find that the man was already dead!

Raeleigh withdrew her hand. She was stunned, as if she had been struck by lightning.

Santiago stood up and raised his hand to check his breathing. The man was no longer breathing.

Santiago walked out of the ward and looked outside. In the middle of the night, there were only a few patients walking in the hallway. None of the others was present.

Santiago immediately called someone to block the entrance of the hospital. Jepherson also received a call.

“Take good care of Raeleigh. I’ll be right over.” Jepherson put down the phone and got out of bed. After getting changed, he went to Hudson’s room. After a few knocks on the door, he called out, “Grandpa.”

Hudson had already fallen asleep. When he heard someone knocking on the door, he immediately woke up.

“What’s the matter?” Hudson had just laid down after watching TV with his grandson.

“I have to make a trip to Capital City. Grandpa, do you want to come with me to visit Grandma?” Jepherson asked in a dull voice. It was inappropriate to make loud noises in the middle of the night.

“I thought you just came back. Why are you going back again so soon?” Hudson was getting older day by day. He really wanted to be together with his wife, Paige, his children, and grandchildren, but right then, such a simple thing couldn’t be fulfilled.

“There’s an emergency, and I have to rush back in a hurry. Why don’t you come with me? You can accompany Grandma in the meantime,” Jepherson said from the outside. Hudson thought for a while before he said, “No. Just come back when you have the time. I won’t go to Capital City.”

Hudson never wanted to go to Capital City. No matter what, that was the Cole family’s territory. Although his children and grandchildren had settled down, there was still a tendency that they would be replaced. It was his descendants’ affairs. What was he going to do once he got there? Was he going to laugh at the Cole family?

“Then, I’m leaving. Please take care of yourself.”

“Go.”

Jepherson paused and turned to look at Stuart sitting downstairs. He strode downstairs, bought a ticket, and went back to Raeleigh’s side.

It was normal that someone had died in the hospital. However, Raeleigh was present. Nobody knew who reported the man’s death to the police. Right then, Raeleigh was a suspect.

Santiago was also brought over, yet he was not responsible for that, so no one dared to offend him.

When Jepherson arrived at the police station, Raeleigh was locked up in the detention room. Santiago sat outside and was looking after her. As soon as Jepherson appeared, the police went to greet him.

“Mr. Jepherson, it’s not that we don’t want to help, but we received orders from the officials saying that they’ll be here soon. How...”

“Is it a member of the Cole family?” Jepherson’s face was tense. He had already guessed it before coming over when he received the news. The Cole family had been mobilized, and news had spread throughout the entire Capital City. Yousif was fired overnight. He didn’t know who the attending official was, but there was no doubt that he was from the Cole family. Jepherson hoped that it wasn’t Flynt. At that point, if it was Flynt, then things would get tough.

“I know about this. We’ll have to follow the normal procedure. My apologies to everyone.” Regardless of what Jepherson did, his way of doing things was similar to that of his father, Calvin. He was not afraid of spending money. He was like the God of Fortune, where money basically rained down from the sky wherever he went.

Moreover, he was willing to invest in people whom he admired. On the other hand, he would not spare a penny on people who were useless to him. Even if a knife was placed against his neck, he wouldn’t give the unworthy a single penny.

Politics was harsh and corrupted, but their family still had their ways.

Everyone understood that no one would reject the money. The Cole family was powerful in politics, but not to the extent of using money to control the entire Capital City. They could not afford that much money. The Harvey family was different. They had money, and it was not a big deal. Everything was possible when one had the money.

When one had no money and had to seek help from the Cole family, one would be ignored. But if one sought help from the Harvey family, as long as one was worthy of it, they would lend a helping hand.

They did not spend that money only for it to be wasted.

All the effort they put in was for an emergency like that. That was the logic behind it.

Rumor had it that Mr. Santiago of the Harvey family was the Devil of Destruction. No one should ever try to provoke him. They never knew that without the backing of the Harvey family, Mr. Santiago would never have come to that state.

Jepherson’s words were particularly courteous. Everyone knew that Raeleigh was Santiago’s girlfriend. They had to show her some respect. Never mind being innocent, even if she really killed someone, what else could they have done?

There, as long as one had someone powerful on one’s side, getting away with murder couldn’t get easier.

“Mr. Jepherson, you’re too polite. It’s our fault that we can’t prove Miss Anson’s innocence.”

Jepherson said with a smile, “You have your own difficulties. Please help me with the normal procedures. I’ll bail her out.”

“Alright, we’ll arrange it right away. Please wait for a moment, Mr. Jepherson.”

Since unauthorized personnel were forbidden from entering the police station, everyone was busy. Jepherson walked up to Santiago and looked at him. “Have you eaten yet?”

The sun was rising. It was already dawn in the blink of an eye.

Santiago looked at Raeleigh and yawned. “She has been quiet. I don’t know what’s on her mind.”

“Go and rest. I get it.” Jepherson sat down. Santiago leaned against one side and rested for a while.

The police station was busy. In no time, they handed over some documents of formalities to Jepherson after dealing with them. However, just as Jepherson was about to sign them, a few people came in from the door. The person in the lead was none other than Flynt.

"I'm sorry, Raeleigh can't be released on bail." Then, Flynt walked up to Jepherson, took away the documents, and handed them over to the person beside him.

Chapter 1065

Jepherson drummed his fingers on the table and did not say a word. He turned to look at the other side with a calm expression on his face. Stuart hastily asked, "May I know, who are you?"

Flynt looked at Stuart and said, "I'm the new municipal court administrator of Capital City."

Stuart frowned. The municipal court administrator was the highest level of administrative law. That meant that the imperial court of Capital City was under his control.

Stuart felt strange. How could the Cole family mobilize just as Raeleigh had an accident and control the imperial court?

If so, then did it mean that Raeleigh had something to do with the Cole family?

Jepherson looked at Flynt and did not react.

On the other hand, Santiago suddenly stood up and refuted. "What the bloody h*ll is the municipal court administrator?"

Jepherson cast a sideways glance. Without saying a word, his indifferent eyes were withdrawn and landed on Flynt.

Flynt walked towards Santiago and said, "It means a big deal."

"Oh!" Santiago uttered with amusement, "I'll give it a try and see if it's really a big deal."

"You're so rude," Flynt turned around and walked away. Santiago said, "I think you have misunderstood. I meant your rank."

Flynt laughed. "You're worthless. What's there to be arrogant about? Without your father, you might not even have the chance to speak to me. Some time ago, they said that you're dead. I thought you were really dead, but I didn't expect to see you alive. I'm glad for your parents."

"Why should you be glad for my parents? Even if I die, my eldest brother will still be here. What are you so pleased about? Could it be that you're my father's illegitimate son..."

"Shut up," Jepherson snapped before anyone could say a word. Santiago immediately kept his mouth shut. Following that, he heard Jepherson say, "How can you tarnish Dad's innocent name while he's away? Not everyone is worthy of it..."

Jepherson's voice fell on Flynt in the middle of his words. "Santiago's too young to be sensible. I apologize to you on his behalf."

Jepherson sat leisurely, as if he was in paradise. Flynt gritted his teeth. It was obvious that he was insulting him.

"I don't wish to meddle in the affairs of the Harvey family. However, please remember that this is Capital City, which is, by the way, not your territory. You'll be imprisoned after you murdered someone."

"I agree with you. However, I think that every debt has its debtor. A life is paid with another, and debts are paid with money. Raeleigh, a powerless lady, can't even kill an ant, but you're claiming that she killed a living person. This story is intriguing."

Jepherson smiled and said, "Santiago, I'll stay here today. You can have a rest. I'm leaving for a while tonight."

Santiago looked at him and said, "I'll take my leave then."

Santiago went outside right after. Flynt frowned and did not understand the purpose of them doing that.

"Give me the files." Flynt went inside. Jepherson drummed his fingers on the table lightly as he watched Stuart. "Prepare something to eat. Raeleigh's body won't be able to take it."

"I know." Stuart went to do it while Jepherson stayed in the police station.

The others stood surrounding them. As Jepherson was there, they didn't even have the nerves to sit down. Usually, they received a lot of benefits from him. Now that they couldn't do anything, they were naturally in the wrong.

Stuart quickly prepared some food and sent it over. Jepherson glanced at the supervisor. The supervisor immediately walked over and took the food away. However, when he reached the door, he was stopped.

Since Flynt's men did not allow Raeleigh to interact with anyone, it was also impossible for him to send food to her.

"We also have to do things, so you..."

"We're law enforcers. Please cooperate with us. Your identity shows that you have to enforce the law as well. How dare you go against the law."

The person on the opposite side spoke eloquently, but Jepherson did not turn around. After a while, the steward sent the food back. Jepherson glanced at Stuart, and he nodded. Stuart then called Mr. Santiago.

"Mr. Jepherson is somewhat anxious. Miss Anson hasn't eaten anything for the whole day." After that, Stuart hung up the phone. Santiago's car was already parked not far from the Cole family residence.

Stopping the car, Santiago got out of the car and sent a text message to Cynthia, who had been waiting for his text all day long. When she received his text, she couldn't wait to come out to see him.

"Are you heading out, Miss Cynthia?"

When Lennox saw that Cynthia was about to go out, he immediately went up and asked. At that moment, she was sitting in the car and holding her phone excitedly. She found an excuse. "I'd like to buy some sweets. I don't like the ones at home, so I'm heading out to buy some."

"Be careful on the way, Miss Cynthia. Don't let others set their eyes on you."

"Thank you for the reminder. I got it."

"Miss Cynthia, please."

The door was opened for her, and they drove out. Not long after, the car stopped. Cynthia got out of the car and told the driver, "Holsen, don't tell my family about this. Wait for me at the mall."

"Yes, Miss Cynthia."

The chauffeur was bribed and threatened by Cynthia. Naturally, he would not dare to disobey her orders.

After the driver left, Cynthia looked around and walked over to Santiago's car.

"Get in the car."

Santiago lifted his chin and motioned for her to get in the car. Cynthia sat at the back. Santiago pointed to the front and said, "Sit in the front."

Cynthia felt a little embarrassed, but she still obliged.

Following that, Santiago brought Cynthia to the place where they were sightseeing.

Not long after, Flynt received a call from a servant saying that Cynthia had gone out and was not with the driver. They didn't know where she was right then.

Flynt was reading the documents. Hastily, he put down the documents in his hand and tried calling his sister. However, the phone was not connected. It was occupied at the moment...

Stuart's phone rang. He lowered his gaze and saw that it was indeed Santiago. Stuart took the phone and showed it to Jepherson. After that, Jepherson knocked on the table and said, "Send a meal to Raeleigh."

"Yes, Mr. Jepherson."

Stuart walked to the detention room. When he reached the door, he was stopped by a guard. He looked back at Jepherson before landing his gaze on the others.

Stuart didn't say anything. After waiting for a while, one of Flynt's men came out, looked at him, and ordered, "Let them in."

The guard at the door moved aside as Stuart stepped forward. The guard opened the door for him to deliver food to Raeleigh in person.

As Stuart entered the room, Raeleigh looked up at him. She was surprised, but it was within her expectations. If something happened to her, then Jepherson would definitely come over as soon as possible.

In fact, he really came.

“Miss Anson, have something to eat. Mr. Jepherson is worried.” After Stuart arranged the dishes one by one, Raeleigh felt a little guilty. “I’m sorry to have worried him.”

Raeleigh sat down and was about to dig in. Stuart handed her a pair of cutlery. “Well, it’s normal. If something happens to you, then Mr. Jepherson will certainly help you. Don’t worry, Miss Anson. You only have to protect yourself.”

Raeleigh nodded. She sat down and quietly ate the food. After she was finished, Stuart cleaned up and brought the plates out to Jepherson, and showed them to him. Jepherson knew exactly how much Raeleigh usually ate, so he could tell how she was doing.

“Let’s go.” Seeing that Jepherson had given the order, Stuart knew that Jepherson was satisfied. He heaved a sigh of relief and handed the food to the person in charge. He then waited for Jepherson’s orders.

“What time is it?” Around noon, Jepherson asked once again. Stuart replied, “It’s eleven o’clock.”

“Go and check on Raeleigh.” Stuart agreed and left immediately. After checking that she was fine, he came back and waited for a long time until it was dark. Out of the blue, Flynt ordered the police to let her go.

“Mr. Jepherson, they agreed to let her go,” Stuart hurriedly told Jepherson. Jepherson did not move, but instead, he glanced at the lawyer who had already arrived, as well as the psychologist.

The lawyer stepped forward and said, “Excuse me, we need to give her a psychiatric evaluation. We hope that the relevant party can cooperate with us.”

“Well...”

The involved party appeared to be in a difficult position. They knew that Jepherson was not someone who could be easily rid of. Moreover, Capital City was no longer ruled by the Cole family. If a member of the Harvey family was wronged, then they would not let it slide.

Jepherson seemed to be tired. He sat on the side and rubbed his temples when Stuart said, “Mr. Jepherson is tired. Hurry up.”

“Please wait a moment,” the person in charge immediately reported to Flynt. At that moment, Flynt was standing in the director’s office, holding his phone. There was a photo sent to him just then. The person in the photo was his second sister. She was sleeping on the bed, wearing inappropriate and s*xy pyjamas.

Flynt couldn’t get in touch with Cynthia. Furthermore, he couldn’t let Brooklyn and the rest of the Cole family know about that.

Flynt clearly knew the Cole family. There were too many heirs in the family. He was not the only one who could stand out in that generation. Once people found out about that, he would not gain any benefit.

Flynt tapped lightly on his phone. He knew that the Harvey family was behind this, especially Santiago.

He was waiting, waiting for his men to find his sister.

In the end, after a long wait, there was a knock on the door.

The two 'clank' sounds seemed to have been buckled on Flynt's heart. Flynt turned to look at him. The director opened the door, and a man came in. He said, "Jepherson is not willing to take her away like this. He wants to carry out a psychiatric evaluation."

"Let him do it." Flynt didn't turn around. At that time, his sister's safety was more important. He couldn't afford to lose her. He didn't want to see anything happen to her as a result of his negligence.

That was something he didn't consider carefully. He didn't expect the Harvey family to shift their focus to Cynthia.

"Yes."

The man didn't expect Flynt to be so easygoing. Surprised, he glanced at the director and went outside.

Jepherson was growing impatient from all the waiting. The lawyer then brought some people in to conduct the physical and psychological examination for Raeleigh. Raeleigh had been cooperative during the process. Stuart simply stood aside and watched. His behavior was a little bit abnormal, which affected Raeleigh's mood. That day's incident was a serious matter.

After the examination, the lawyer came out and told Jepherson that there was nothing wrong, but his suggestion was to be informed of what was going on. That was to say, the lawyer was not ready to leave.

Jepherson thought for a moment before saying, "How much longer do we have to wait? Another 48 hours?"

"Four hours," the lawyer answered, glancing at the time. Jepherson said, "Since there are four hours left, let's wait..."

"Mr. Cole..."

Someone knocked on the door and went in. Flynt closed his eyes and did not look at him. He said, "Go ahead."

"They're not leaving, and said that they'll wait for four hours."

"Cancel the complaint."

Flynt knew that Jepherson would not leave until he saw the final result. At the moment, Flynt could only compromise.

"Yes."

The man turned around and went to inform Jepherson. Only then did Jepherson say, "Let's go and see Raeleigh."

"Yes."

Stuart walked over hurriedly and waited for Raeleigh to exit the room. Raeleigh stood there and looked around. When she saw Jepherson, she felt as if the burden in her heart had been lifted.

At that time, Jepherson stood up, dusted off, and looked at Raeleigh. His dark eyes swept from Raeleigh's head to her feet to make sure that she was fine. Then, he ordered, "Stuart, take Miss Anson to the car first. Call Santiago and tell him that Raeleigh is fine."

"Yes."

Stuart was not in a hurry to call Santiago. He first took Raeleigh outside. A group of reporters were on standby. After walking out of the police station, Stuart said, "The Harvey family will continue to investigate this matter. If what is reported is found to be false, then the Harvey family will act according to the law. I hope that everyone will take note of this and not bring pressure to the involved party."

As Stuart spoke, Raeleigh was already in the car. The reporters all thought about that matter. In the end, they gave up the idea of reporting negative news regarding Raeleigh and changed the headlines to attacking the Cole family.

Jepherson didn't leave right after Raeleigh was out. Instead, he waited for Flynt to come out of the office. After Flynt exited the office, he saw Jepherson and walked up to him, saying, "I didn't expect you to be so cunning."

There were a lot of people around, and they could tell that Flynt was threatened. Otherwise, he wouldn't have let Raeleigh go.

Jepherson's expression was calm. "If you don't want others to know about something, then don't do it. If you hadn't gone too far, then I would've treated you nicely. Capital City belongs to everyone. Yes, the Cole family has put a lot of effort into making the city what it is today. If you want to be the governor, then be fair to everyone. Take care of the citizens, and that's the only way you will receive our utmost respect."

"As the saying goes, the currents can carry a boat, but it can also overturn it.

"Raeleigh had not done anything wrong. Someone used her as bait and tried to hurt her. I will not turn a blind eye to this."

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"Take care of yourself. Think of today as a lesson. The Harvey family neither wants to hurt anyone, nor do we want to replace anyone. Capital City is the territory of the royal family. No one in the royal family has ever announced who will take charge of this city, but..."

"Don't push it too far."

After that, Jepherson turned around and walked away, leaving the group of people dumbfounded. They all realized that that was not the Cole family's territory anymore.

The Cole family was only putting up a final struggle.

Jepherson walked out of the police station and paused for a moment. When he saw the swarm of reporters in front of him, he did not say anything but continued to walk forward. His gaze was calm and cold, causing people to stand further away from him.

The reporters stepped back, giving Jepherson a way out.

Stuart opened the door for Jepherson, who bent his body to get in the car seat. Inside the car, with the door closed, Jepherson took Raeleigh's hand and looked at her. He intertwined his fingers with hers and pulled her closer, kissing the back of Raeleigh's hand and holding it tight.

Raeleigh said, "I'm fine."

Seeing that Jepherson finally relaxed, Raeleigh was relieved.

Looking at the night sky out of the window, no one could see the inside of the car. Raeleigh leaned forward and kissed Jepherson's face. Jepherson turned to look at Raeleigh, and then he pulled her in with his other hand for another kiss.

Raeleigh's lips lingered, but Jepherson was already breathing heavily. "There won't be a next time."

Raeleigh nodded and kissed Jepherson in return. She couldn't help herself. His lips were pink and tender, like the lips of a baby. His gaze, as he looked at her, was deep, and his eyelashes curled up like two small black waves.

Jepherson held Raeleigh in her arms and patted her back. "Start driving."

Sitting in front, Stuart and the driver didn't know what to do the moment they got in the car. Finally, Jepherson noticed their presence.

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"Is it possible that the Cole family intends to frame Raeleigh and provoke your relationship with the Harvey family?"

"Is it true that the Cole family wants to use this opportunity to suppress the Harvey family?"

"Cole family..."

Flynt gripped his phone tightly and forced a smile. "If there's anything you want to know, then you can contact my secretary. It's too late today. Please head back home."

Flynt walked down the steps and then got in the car. As the car door was closed, his face darkened, with his hand gripping the cell phone tightly.

“Jepherson, just you wait. I won’t let this slide!”

Chapter 1066

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Flynt walked down the steps and then got in the car. As the car door was closed, his face darkened, with his hand gripping the cell phone tightly.

"Jepherson, just you wait. I won't let this slide!"

Chapter 1067

At the Cole family residence.

In Brooklyn's room.

Followed by a crash, Brooklyn threw the teacup in his hand on the floor. His face was gloomy. Even though he was old and had left his descendants to their own devices, he still had a temper. Jepherson had gone too far that time.

Brooklyn had just seen the news on the TV that morning. He had never imagined that the Harvey family, who were never a threat in the past, would behave like that. If he had known about it earlier, then he wouldn't have criticized Calvin in public.

It was dead silent in Brooklyn's room. Elina's face was pale. It was her second daughter's fault. Her son had made it clear to her, but he wanted to hide the truth. Even if Brooklyn got mad, they couldn't say it. Otherwise, her son would be finished if Yousif found out.

Elina was a scheming woman. It was impossible for her not to know how important that matter was. She could only let her son bear that responsibility alone. She promised that she would teach her second daughter a lesson when she returned home.

Elina kept her head down. Flynt, who was standing opposite her, did not do anything. Brooklyn looked at Flynt. Even though the child had failed, his attitude was not that of an ordinary person. When Brooklyn threw the teacup, everyone else in the room shuddered. Only Flynt stood there, not once did he flinch. Was he not afraid, or had he already thought about his punishment?

Brooklyn narrowed his eyes slightly. Right then, although there were a lot of children in the Cole family, only a few of them were outstanding. Especially the boys, where not many of them were capable. Flynt could be considered the most outstanding one among them.

Brooklyn looked at the people around him and ordered, "Get out, all of you. Flynt, stay."

"Yes."

"Yes."

Everyone, including Yousif, backed out of the room. After they were gone, Brooklyn looked at Flynt. "Come here. They're all gone. What are you still standing there for?"

Flynt stepped forward to face Brooklyn. Brooklyn glanced at Lennox and said, "Bring a chair over for him."

Lennox was in a hurry to do what Brooklyn had ordered. He moved a chair for Flynt. Flynt sat down and looked at Brooklyn face to face.

"Old Master." It was normal for Flynt to address his great-grandfather that way, according to tradition. However, it was the first time someone in the family had addressed Brooklyn that way.

At first, Brooklyn wasn't used to it. He didn't respond to it immediately, but then he chuckled. "You're indeed bold. Looks like your mother taught you quite well."

Flynt said, "It was my negligence this time. Old Master, please punish me."

"Punishment is necessary. If there's no punishment, then you will not learn your lesson. However, we can put it aside for now. When you want to undergo this punishment in the future, I will give it to you."

Brooklyn said. Flynt looked at him and asked, "Old Master, there's something I don't understand. Why has our family been in charge of politics all these years and refuse to step into the business world?"

Brooklyn chuckled. "The Cole family has always been loyal to Capital City for many generations. It has never had an inordinate wish. On one hand, the Cole family had created great achievements pre-independence. No matter where these achievements are placed, they are more than enough for our family's living expenses. The government officials have also been good to our family. These years, they have been taking good care of our family, and we've also tried our best to help the country."

“The Cole family is loyal to the country and will not do anything that will damage the nation’s interest.”

“Although someone in the family had brought shame upon us, it does not mean that the Cole Family had given up the idea of being loyal.”

“It has always been hateful and worrying for collusion to happen between the government and businessmen. The Cole family should not get involved in this mess.”

“Firstly, we can’t lower our status. On the other hand, our family doesn’t need these things.”

Flynt replied with a question, “That is to say, the Cole family has always been in politics and does not interfere with anyone’s business?”

“You can say that, but there’s another explanation,” Brooklyn added, and Flynt’s face twitched. “Please continue.”

Brooklyn said, “The Cole family never dabbled in business due to our principles. However, in the eyes of outsiders, the Cole family wants to take control of Capital City’s political power.”

“Capital City is the center of the country. Everything should be handed over to Capital City. You can imagine how powerful the Cole family is in this respect. Because of this, a lot of people are worried. Firstly, too much power is in the hands of our family. They’re worried that we will try to control them. Secondly, some powerful families and tycoons in business have done shady things that can’t be exposed. It’s nothing when the Cole family turns a blind eye to it, but if we investigate it, then I’m afraid that no one in Capital City will be spared.”

“That is to say, some people are worried that the Cole family will do something out of the blue, so they will try their best to weaken our family’s power.” Flynt slowly understood.

Brooklyn said, “Although Jepherson does things the way he likes, the Harvey family seems to have no intention of correcting him. We can tell this from the fact that Calvin is not in the city.”

“Old Master, what do you mean?”

Flynt lifted his eyebrows and suspicion could be seen on his handsome face.

Brooklyn sat down while Lennox cleaned the floor, busy serving by his side. Brooklyn then said, “The ancestor of the Harvey family and I were comrades-in-arms who once fought together on the battlefield.”

“The Harvey family will never have the thought of replacing us. When it comes to the Harvey family’s plan to advance into politics, they only retaliated because they felt threatened.”

“This was all done by your useless father. If it weren’t for him, then there wouldn’t be so much trouble. Your father wanted to bully the weak and take advantage of his power, which eventually led to today.”

“The Harvey family’s car business has spread all over the world. Although we have control over Capital City, we can’t do whatever we want. Our main goal is to do our job well. Your father did not make any progress as he was unaware of these reasons. Before Jepherson took charge of the Harvey Group, your father proposed to increase the proportion of the material transformation and mulNorahtional tax collection in order to add some income to Capital City.”

“With this, he had offended the Harvey family.”

“What’s more, Rhys’s company was a multinational company. In this way, your father had offended many people.”

“Calvin is a smart person. He did not make any objections. Taxes are a headache for every enterprise. If the tax percentage is increased by even one percent, then it is very likely to influence the company’s fortune. Your father was arrogant and made things worse. Calvin waited for other people to object while he watched by the sidelines.”

“As the saying goes, if you win the hearts of the people, then you win the world over. Your father lost the people’s support. That’s why the Cole family’s power has been greatly reduced these few years and came to this point as it is today.”

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After Brooklyn finished, Flynt nodded and said, “It’s no wonder people in Capital City talk about how powerful and domineering the Cole family is, how we’re not as generous as the Harvey family. So this is why.”

“I reminded your father again and again. If he wants to achieve something, then he can’t play tricks on the commoners. Sooner or later, he’ll end up having a taste of his own medicine. However, he didn’t believe it and made a huge mistake, which incurred the wrath of the public. No one is no longer willing to help the Cole family. The hundred-year career foundation of the Cole family was crushed in an instant.”

Brooklyn looked worried, so Flynt said, “Don’t worry, Old Master. Since I know about these things, I understand how to win over people’s hearts.”

“I can be assured with your words. I hope you can do better than your father.” Brooklyn patted Flynt’s hand. They had been talking for the whole afternoon. After saying goodbye, Flynt walked out of the room and headed straight to Cynthia’s room. As soon as he entered the room, he heard Elina say, “I’ve raised you well, but you’re actually out there ruining the reputation of the family and becoming a traitor.”

Elina was mad. She held a ruler in her hand and was punishing her daughter, Cynthia.

Elina asked someone to guard the door and prevent anyone from coming in. Of course, Flynt was an exception. Flynt was Elina’s son, so she naturally trusted her son.

When the maid saw Flynt, she quickly said, “Mr. Flynt, please save Miss Cynthia.”

The servant was crying. Flynt glanced at her and walked towards Cynthia’s room. He pushed the door open as he walked in. Elina was about to strike Cynthia with her ruler. Cynthia’s heart trembled. Gritting her teeth, she remained silent.

“Mom.” Elina lifted the ruler and was about to hit Cynthia as she berated her, when Flynt walked over, and grabbed the ruler in Elina’s hand, calling her out. Elina threw the ruler aside and sat down on the other side.

Elina stared at her son and daughter. She slammed the table angrily.

“Close the door. Don’t let anyone hear us,” Flynt put down the ruler in his hand and ordered. He walked to Cynthia and helped her up from the ground. Cynthia lowered her head and didn’t want to say anything.

Flynt sighed softly and said, “Cynthia, do you know that Santiago lied to you? He came to find you so that he could take advantage of you.”

Cynthia slowly raised her head with her delicate face filled with surprise.

Flynt helped her onto her bed and sat down beside her. He then looked at his mother and said, “Mom, you can’t blame her for this. Her chauffeur made a mistake as well. Cynthia is naive. She had stayed indoors since she was a child and doesn’t know much about the outside world. Other women would likely fall for Santiago’s trap, much less Cynthia.”

Elina snorted coldly. “I’m embarrassed because of her.”

Cynthia lowered her head and said nothing.

Flynt glanced at his sister and said worriedly, “Cynthia, you’ve been tricked.”

“He said that he really wanted to get to know me.”

“And you believe him?” Elina was so angry that she jumped up from her seat. She was about to step forward when her eldest daughter, Yanora, entered the room. She hurried over to stop Elina when she saw that she was furious.

“Mom, are you going to kill Cynthia?” Yanora pulled Elina away and brought her to her seat. Elina pointed at Cynthia and screamed, “She’ll be the death of me. You all have been abroad for so many years. How much effort have I put in you all? Yet, you... do this to me? How am I going to continue living? Now, your grandfather and the others are ruined. Do you want me to go down with them?”

“The Harvey family is your grandfather’s enemy. What exactly were you thinking?”

Elina was so enraged that her whole body started trembling. Yanora glanced at Flynt, and then at Cynthia. “Cynthia, tell Mom you won’t do that. You were just bewitched by Santiago.”

Cynthia thought for a while and said, “Mom, I was wrong.”

After all, Cynthia was still her daughter. Although Elina was angry, she wouldn’t possibly kill her. She was still mad, so she just stared at her daughter silently.

“You can leave,” Flynt said at that time and waved his hand.

The servants left, and the door was closed. There were only four of them left in the room. Flynt looked at Cynthia and said, “Cynthia, why are you so foolish?”

Flynt sat down in anger. Two drops of tears rolled down Cynthia’s cheeks. “I didn’t know.”

After saying that, she began to cry. Flynt and Elina looked at each other. They knew each other well. They just wanted her to learn her lesson. They didn’t actually want to hurt her feelings.

Flynt stood up and walked over to sit beside Cynthia. He pulled her into his warm embrace and patted her shoulder lightly. "Cynthia, you have to know that Santiago isn't who he puts himself out as. People say that he's a playboy. He's only seventeen years old. He's already behaving this way when he's only seventeen. It's hard to imagine what he'll be like in the future."

Elina was exasperated that her daughter failed to live up to her expectations. She looked at her eldest daughter, Yanora.

"Well, I'm tired. Yanora, come with me. Cynthia, you are grounded. From tomorrow onwards, you cannot leave the house for a month."

With that being said, Elina left Cynthia's room with her eldest daughter.

Flynt looked at his sister in his arms and let go of her. "Great, now you can't go anywhere anymore?"

Cynthia looked at him and said, "Flynt, I've been protecting you since you were young. Now that you're a grown-up, you don't need my protection anymore. I don't want to get you into trouble this time."

"Cynthia, what are you talking about? How can I leave you alone in this?" Flynt said, his face full of amusement.

Cynthia thought for a moment. "Have you ever thought about what my future will be like?"

When Flynt heard that, he thought for a moment. "Cynthia, I will help you find the perfect guy."

Cynthia found it amusing. She lowered her head and said, "It's no use. My marriage will be used to help you lay the foundation of power. Mom said that there's nothing better than an alliance for marriage to gain power for biological siblings. Yanora's and my marriage will be the cornerstone of your power."

"Cynthia, I won't let you do that." Although Flynt couldn't guarantee that, he honestly didn't want his sisters to sacrifice their love lives for him.

Cynthia shook her head. "You don't get to decide. Although you're improving now, you won't be as free as Santiago. He didn't lie to me. I knew everything. Even if I did something wrong, at the very least, he told me the truth and asked for my opinion. What about you guys? You guys never asked me whether I'm willing or not. I can marry someone for your sake, but you won't let me leave this place, even if it's just meeting with a friend."

"Even if Santiago is a playboy, he will, at least, tell me everything, but you guys will never do that."

"Flynt, you're a grown-up now. You don't need me anymore."

"Promise me, no matter who I marry, tell me first. This is my only request."

"Cynthia, I..."

"Don't. You can leave. I won't go out in the future to avoid causing trouble."

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Flynt had no choice but to leave. However, when he reached the door, Cynthia suddenly said, "You've never experienced a smile that comes from true love, so you'll never understand what sincerity is."

Flynt turned around to look at his sister, who had already lay down on the bed. Then, he left her room. He stood at the door, pondering about his sister's words.

He slowly walked towards the door.

It was windy that day. There were some trees in Cynthia's yard with triangular things hanging on them like lotus bulbs. Many of them formed into a large flower cluster. The flower cluster was not very beautiful, but every autumn, the flowers would scatter and turn into small leaves, falling from the sky.

Flynt loved those flowers when he was a child, which were sometimes like leaves, and at times flowers.

Cynthia had once said that flowers were not flowers, and leaves were not leaves. That kind of thing was very intriguing.

At that time, Flynt was about five years old, while his second sister was almost ten. She always held his hand, and together, they stood under the tree in the courtyard.

He didn't know what they were doing standing there. His sister said that whenever their father came, their mother would be overjoyed, and everyone in the courtyard would be happy as well. Moreover, the food that day would be delicious.

Later when he grew up, he found that the courtyard was getting more desolate. He only saw his father once every year during the holidays. Every time he came, he acted cold to their mother. Flynt never forgot how harsh and cold his words were. He could see the disgust in his father's eyes while the warmth he should have for his mother was long gone.

Her father had had two mistresses in three years. Up to then, there were seven of them. They were all strategic marriages. Excluding the woman named Meica, who had no powerful background, the rest were just for business reasons.

Over the years, Flynt had indeed never felt any love in the family. His mother would never consider their feelings. At most, she would arrange a grand wedding for them. His mother would find a suitable wife for him especially, someone who would benefit his future career.

But mistresses...

Although Flynt had never thought about it, it didn't necessarily mean that he wouldn't have them.

After walking out of the yard, Lennox saw Flynt and approached him to ask if there was anything wrong, the reason for not driving, and if he should ask the driver to fetch him, and so on.

Flynt waved his hand and strolled out of the Cole family's mansion courtyard. He didn't know where to go, but he knew deep down that he couldn't stay there.

Cynthia had hit him right in the guts.

...

After returning home, Raeleigh followed Jepherson to have a rest. At first, Jepherson intended to take Raeleigh to the hospital for a check-up, but she rejected that offer, so they didn't go there in the end.

However, when she returned home, she saw doctors waiting at home. She guessed that it was Jepherson who called him there.

"I'm fine." Raeleigh was worried that Novalie would find out, so she didn't want the doctor to come, but she didn't manage to stop him.

Although she said that she was fine, she still followed the doctor's instructions and lay on the couch for a simple examination. After the examination, the doctor told Jepherson, who was sitting by her side and holding Raeleigh's hand, "Everything seems normal. Mr. Jepherson, you can rest assured."

"I'm sorry to trouble you. Serra, would you please see the two doctors off?" Jepherson stood up. Regardless of whether Raeleigh was willing or not, he bent down and carried her upstairs. Raeleigh yelled at him to put her down, but he pretended not to hear her. Scarlett witnessed them on one side and felt jealous. It would be amazing if Hadrian would do the same thing!

It was a pity that Hadrian was not sensitive when it came to relationships. He didn't respond to her for a whole day. What was she supposed to do?

Raeleigh was placed gently on the bed. After covering her with the quilt, Jepherson sat down on one side of the bed.

"I'm fine." Raeleigh saw that Jepherson was still worried, so she emphasized this.

"Rest now. I have to wait for Santiago to return." Jepherson lowered his head to kiss Raeleigh. Raeleigh held his hand tightly and said, "I have something to tell you."

"What is it?"

Raeleigh thought for a moment before saying, "It's about that man. I found out that he's the guard of the orphanage. Previously, we brought back a list from another orphanage. Wasn't there an orphan who went to the orphanage during the fire incident? I want to find out if there are any survivors. After all, there may be one or two of them, but we don't know."

If there really are survivors and we didn't look for them, then we can't find your sister even if we search everywhere."

Raeleigh hoped that there weren't any survivors. Otherwise, he would never find her.

Jepherson stared at Raeleigh. "You went to that person just because of this?" Jepherson asked. Raeleigh hesitated for a moment. She had her own motivations in that matter, but she started it because she wanted to help Jepherson find his sister. Therefore, Raeleigh hesitated for a moment and nodded.

"I'll follow up on this. Don't investigate it anymore. I don't want you to get hurt. Do you understand?" Jepherson was still scared. Raeleigh was pregnant then. If something really happened to her, then it would be too late for regrets.

Raeleigh nodded. "I get it."

"Don't just say it. I know what you're thinking. I've been looking for her for so many years. Although I'm looking forward to finding her, I'm not in a hurry. It's more like a trip. Let fate bring us together."

When Jepherson was talking, Raeleigh said with a smile, "I suddenly realize that you have a lot of unique opinions on life. Sometimes, you speak like a philosopher."

"Is that so? It could be that I suddenly grew up because I now have a child, and I've already learnt to be a father. Have a good rest. I will come to your room again when Santiago is back."

"I see." Raeleigh closed her eyes and fell asleep after a while.

Jepherson had been holding Raeleigh's hand and staring at her face until Santiago came back.

Outside, someone knocked on Raeleigh's door twice. Jepherson looked over and said, "Alright."

After answering, Jepherson stood up and tucked Raeleigh in. Before turning around to leave, he did not forget to give Raeleigh a kiss.

After the door was closed, Raeleigh opened her eyes. She was awakened by the sound of Santiago knocking on the door after she had just fallen asleep.

Raeleigh then closed her eyes, and turned over on the bed to sleep.

As Jepherson came out of Raeleigh's room, Santiago headed to his room. Jepherson followed him all the way to his room. After entering the room, Santiago took off his clothes and went to take a shower. Jepherson waited outside and picked up all the clothes that were thrown onto the ground, putting them in the laundry basket at the door. He took out all the things in his pockets and put them on the bedside table. Once everything was done, Santiago came out from the bathroom.

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After wrapping himself in a bath towel, Santiago walked to the bed while drying his hair. Then, he turned around and sat down.

Jepherson leaned against the cabinet beside him. After drying his hair, Santiago looked at Jepherson and asked, "How is she?"

"She's alright," Jepherson answered. Sweeping his gaze at Santiago, he asked, "Did you send her back?"

"Yes, I did."

"Try to be more careful in the future. Flynt has a close relationship with his second sister. He won't let us go so easily."

"Why do I care?" Santiago remained unperturbed.

"They won't hurt you, but it's better to be careful. Dad dotes on you. If you get hurt, then he'll never forgive me."

Jepherson stood up and went outside. With a cold snort, Santiago removed his bath towel, ran his fingers through his hair, and went to bed.

After closing the door, Jepherson told Serra, who was downstairs, "Cook some noodles for Santiago and ask him if he wants them."

“Yes.” Serra hurried into the kitchen to make noodles. Jepherson took off his clothes as he walked into Raeleigh’s room. He entered the room and took a shower before going to bed.

Raeleigh felt cold and curled up into a ball in bed. However, she still turned around and snuggled in Jepherson’s arms.

It was said that the relationship between husband and wife would not last long, and they wouldn’t have a strong bond like that of children and their parents, which could last for a lifetime.

The maximum amount of time a couple would last was around ten years, while the least would only last for one or two months. But according to experts, under normal circumstances, when a man was healthy, a couple’s relationship could last for four years.

Raeleigh didn’t know how many percent of their love could be sustained, but in that limited period of time, she must appreciate and enjoy it to the fullest.

Jepherson lowered his gaze at Raeleigh, who seemed lovely. She looked like she needed his protection.

After kissing Raeleigh on her head, Jepherson turned off the lights.

Raeleigh muttered under her breath, “Is he back?”

“He’s back.”

Raeleigh said nothing more, and only then did they have a rest.

Jepherson woke up Tristany the next morning. He got off the bed and put on some clothes.

He stretched his body a little bit as he went down the stairs. After having breakfast, Jepherson asked Raeleigh to come downstairs. He was planning to take her out for a walk afterwards.

“I’ll pass. There will be rumours if people see us together.” Raeleigh didn’t want anyone to see them together. She wouldn’t be able to explain to Paige if people found out.

“What’s wrong with people seeing us?” Jepherson was displeased, and his face darkened.

“Didn’t we agree not to interfere in my life? Why are you putting on such an unpleasant face?” Raeleigh wasn’t like Deanna. She wouldn’t give in to such tactics.

Jepherson was stunned for a while before explaining, “I don’t want you to be stuck here. It’s good for your health to go for a walk.”

“I reckon going to the company is a better choice. Even if someone sees us, they won’t say anything.” Raeleigh wanted to use her identity as a designer to conceal her relationship with Jepherson. In that way, she would have an opportunity to explain herself even if they were caught.

“Fine. We’ll do as you say.” Jepherson readily agreed. Raeleigh then followed him to the company.

When they arrived at the company, Jepherson brought Raeleigh to meet up with Lamarre as a gesture of respect.

After meeting up with Lamarre, he called Raeleigh into his office and told Jepherson not to disturb them until it was lunchtime.

Raeleigh was amused. Jepherson seemed to have been set up by someone. He wore a gloomy look, but there was nothing he could have done.

"I'll pick you up at noon." After saying that, Jepherson left. Raeleigh watched him leave before she went to find Lamarre. Lamarre stood at the door of his office, waiting for Raeleigh, as if he was afraid that Raeleigh would run away.

After entering the room, Raeleigh bowed politely to Lamarre and greeted him. "Hello, Mr. Lee."

"You're quite sensible. Let's get started. Come here, and we'll talk about your idea of the Duke."

Lamarre took Raeleigh's drawings and laid them out on the table. Raeleigh walked towards him, looked at the drawings, and said, "Nothing special. I just thought of the outline of this design and gave it a try, and then I got it."

Raeleigh didn't know how to explain her ideas. Raeleigh's talent for designing cars was not something that she had since she was a child. It was something that had suddenly sprouted out of nowhere. If she said it out loud, then she was afraid that no one would believe her.

"How is this possible?" Lamarre did not believe Raeleigh and rolled his eyes at her. "Are you afraid that I'll steal your ideas?"

"No, you've misunderstood me. An idea popped up in my mind, so I tried it. That's it. All the things I designed need to be carefully produced, just like Lanox, which was created with your advice."

Raeleigh immediately explained. Lamarre thought for a moment and said, "Don't be nervous. I'm not criticizing you. Sit down. Since I'm your teacher, I'll teach you everything I know. One day, I'll ask Jepherson to prepare an apprentice ceremony for you."

"An apprentice ceremony?" Raeleigh's eyes widened. Was there such a thing then?

"Well, I want to hire some reporters and professionals. I want the whole world to know that I, Lamarre Lee, have accepted an apprentice."

Lamarre said with great confidence. Raeleigh didn't dare to interrupt him.

However, after thinking for a while, Raeleigh asked, "Do you have other students?"

Lamarre lifted his eyebrows. "No, why?"

"Nothing." Raeleigh was nervous. She didn't know if she had misheard him. She clearly heard Lamarre say that she was his apprentice. The previous apprentice...

Raeleigh blushed slightly once she knew Lamarre had meant that he was not going to accept apprentices anymore. It didn't mean that he had other apprentices other than her. How could she be so dumb?

Raeleigh forced a smile. Lamarre glanced at Raeleigh and said, "What made you want to learn car designing?"

"I wanted to learn car design after high school. When I was a child, I drew paintings, and my art teacher always said that I have the potential to be a designer. Later, I decided that I wanted to be a car designer when I was in high school," Raeleigh explained. Lamarre asked, "Why?"

“When I was ten years old, I saw a child getting out of a car. It was beautiful, and at that moment, I knew that I wanted to design cars like that.”

“What happened after that? Which family does the kid belong to? Has he ever seen the car you designed?”

Raeleigh was stunned for a moment before she shook her head. “I’ve never met him after that. I only remember what he looked like. He was from a wealthy family. I don’t remember anything else. The car was black. That’s all I can recall. Perhaps, since I was young, I thought the car was beautiful, and I wanted to sit in it.”

Raeleigh told the truth. After hearing that, Lamarre nodded with satisfaction. “You’re honest.”

Raeleigh froze for a moment. “Mr. Lee, how do you know if I’m not lying?”

“I can see it in your eyes. I’m an expert at knowing one’s character. You don’t look like you come from an ordinary family. Who are your parents?” Lamarre had never looked at her resume. Even if he got it, he wouldn’t take a second look. He didn’t believe people based on what they had said they were and would interact with them to get to know them more.