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Chapter 511

“Upon seeing the changes on Liya’s expression, Belle said solemnly, ““Liya, since you’ve received your higher education, you should understand that Sophia has done her best for you. You have no blood relation with the Harvey family, while your mother was just Evan’s mistress and nothing more. Also, the fact that the Harvey family welcomed your mother to stay in Harvey Manor was purely out of kindness, as your mother has her own family to begin with. You know how much money your Dad tried to extort from Harvey Manor in the past, right? Do you really think Sophia kicking you and your mother out of the manor was really a big sin? Even if your mother once conceived Evan’s child, Sophia could just compensate her, but she did more than that. Do you still think that Harvey Manor and Sophia owe you and your mother?”””

Belle’s voice was a little cold as she warned Liya seriously.

“What’s most important for a woman is to know how to love herself and act with propriety. Only with dignified actions and good character can one win over everyone’s respect. In the past, you lived with your Mom in Harvey Manor for quite some time. Have you really never thought of why your mother wasn’t able to get everyone’s respect? Even then, she still hoped that she would be able to resolve Liya’s misunderstanding towards Harvey Manor and make her come back to her senses. She also hoped that Liya would take the proper path and abandon her goal of becoming the second wife. However, after Liya learnt of everything, she decided that she would never want any men other than Calvin.”

“In fact, she had to face Oscar’s torture and her father’s forced marriage proposals back home. She had no way out. Only Harvey Manor could bring her happiness.”

“Humans were all selfish, weren’t they?”

“She knew that her decision would hurt Belle, but at that moment, she had no choice but to brace herself and go on.”

“Belle, I understand what you meant, but I love Calvin. I have fallen in love with him ever since I was young. I only want to protect him and am willing to do anything for him. In front of Sophia, Liya sobbed and continued. ““Don’t worry, Belle. I won’t harm your interests. I’ll respect you and treat you as my real sister. Also, I’ll abide by any rules of Harvey Manor. This place has been my only home since I was young. If I can stay by Calvin’s side, then I can die without any regrets.”””

“As she said that, she burst into tears. She sobbed while wiping her tears with her hand.”

Belle tightened her grip on her clothes as she lifted her head to look at Sophia.

“Belle couldn’t see what Sophia was thinking about through her wrinkled face, as she might’ve completely forgotten about the past. Right then, her mind would only be sometimes clear and at times blurry. Perhaps she couldn’t remember anything anymore, or perhaps she might’ve completely forgotten who the crying woman in front of her was.”

“After Belle closed her eyes for a while, she held on to Sophia’s hand.”

“Liya, since you like Calvin, my husband, so much, then it’s fine. I’ll be willing to do anything as long as it benefits Calvin. Today, I promise you, in front of Grandma, that Calvin will marry you in a grand manner. I’ll also personally host the wedding for you and Calvin. I just hope that you can keep your promise that you’ll only love Calvin wholeheartedly from now on.”

“After a while, Belle opened her eyes and said firmly.”

“Is that true? Belle. Upon hearing that, Liya’s face revealed a pleasantly surprised expression, and she asked in disbelief.”

“Of course. How can I lie in front of Grandma? Belle replied firmly, ““But Liya, you have to swear in front of Grandma that you’ll love Calvin forever, always be loyal to him, and think of him and Harvey Manor with your entire heart. Also, swear that you won’t do any outrageous acts.”””

“Liya was stunned for a while. Upon understanding Belle’s intention, she was delighted, as she hurriedly knelt down and said loudly, ““Please don’t worry, Grandma, Belle. I’ll definitely love Calvin with all my heart in the future and am willing to do anything for him. I’ll also protect Harvey Manor, just like Belle.”””

“Belle felt the rope that was tying her heart getting tighter and tighter, to the point that she had difficulty breathing.”

“She steadied her breathing, but her heart was still in great pain.”

“Alright, Liya. Remember what you’ve said in front of Grandma and what I’ve told you today. Harvey Manor and Sophia don’t owe you anything. They are your benefactors. You should understand the fact that you’re able to get to this point in your life because of Harvey Manor. I hope you’ll repay the kindness you’ve received, and not have any selfish motives. Belle heaved a long sigh of relief after she spoke. She felt as if she had said something stuffy that had been plaguing her heart for a long time as she actually felt relaxed in an instant.”

“Don’t worry, Belle, I will. Liya nodded in a hurry. She then said as she blinked her bright eyes, ““Thank you, Belle, for your generosity.”””

“No, there’s one more thing. You pushed Jerry into the pool today, which, in my opinion, is unforgivable, but, on account of Grandma’s wishes, I’ll forgive you this one time. If something like this happens in the future again, I’ll definitely not let you off. Belle’s face became very stern as she rebuked her.”

“Liya was frightened. Nodding, she said, ““Don’t worry, Belle, I really didn’t mean to do that today. I’ll treat Jerry as my own son in the future. Please forgive me, Belle.”””

“As she said that, the rims of her eyes turned red.”

“It’s good as long as you remember it. Belle smiled coldly. ““I love Calvin. That’s why I’m willing to do anything that can benefit him. So, I’m doing it for my own sake I guess. Also, I hope that you can make up for my shortcomings towards Calvin in the future. Don’t worry. As long as you can behave properly and live on peacefully, I won’t make things difficult for you.”””

“Speaking of that, she turned her head and said, ““Liya, go out first. Wait for me outside.”””

Liya agreed and left.

A stream of tears rolled down from Belle's eyes.

"Grandma, I've already helped you fulfil your wish. Don't worry, I know what to do. After Liya left, Belle whispered in Sophia's ear."

"Sophia's eyes were fixed on her, with her hand holding onto her hand tightly as she moved her lips, but she could not utter a complete sentence."

"No, my child. Belle could faintly hear her saying those few words in a trembling voice. It seemed that she could also hear Sophia saying, ""Thank you."" All in all, she did not quite understand what Sophia was trying to convey."

"Nevertheless, since Grandma was willing to tell Belle her regrets, she would be willing to bear that responsibility and fulfill her regrets."

That was her duty as her granddaughter-in-law.

"Hudson wanted her to accept reality, and Calvin wanted her to do the same as well. Even Blake and Otis also thought so. What could she do? If she persisted, it would only make others think that she was narrow-minded."

It was only due to her love for Calvin that she would persist. It was also due to the sense of responsibility she felt towards the family that she chose to accept reality.

"She silently turned around, but her hand was grabbed by Sophia."

"She turned around to look at Sophia. Tears were welling up in her eyes. Her face that was full of wrinkles panted weakly, as she held onto her hand tightly."

"Grandma, I'll leave first, Belle said to her softly and gently pulled her hand away."

"She was worried that if she stayed any longer, she would cry out loud."

She turned around and walked out of Sophia's bedroom as her heart pulsed with pain.

Liya was waiting for her outside.

"Let's go, Belle said to her flatly and walked towards the outside."

Liya followed closely behind.

"The moment they arrived in Fragrance Garden, they met Calvin."

"Calvin had just walked out of the living room of Fragrance Garden. He was wearing a black silk top, a pair of casual shorts, and a pair of slippers. He was dressed up in a comfortable and casual manner."

"Nonetheless, his noble temperament wasn't diminished by his clothes. He was standing there quietly, and the aura that was emanating from his body was so elegant and delicate that people couldn't help looking at him."

The three of them were all stunned.

All of them stood still.

“All of Calvin’s gaze fell on Belle’s face. From beginning to end, he did not even glance at Liya, who was standing beside Belle.”

“The sunshine shone in through the layers of leaves and was cast on her hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes, dying her skin golden, bit by bit.”

“She stood in the shadow of the tree, and the Rhyss of sunshine elongated her shadow.”

Calvin looked at her with a complicated gaze.

Calvin. Liya couldn’t stand the silence. She broke the silence first by speaking shyly.

Calvin’s gaze remained fixed on Belle’s face without moving.

“Oh, Calvin, from today onwards, I’m going to let Liya move into Harvey Manor. What do you think? Belle avoided Calvin’s burning gaze. She took a step forward and asked with a seemingly unhurried smile.”

Move in? Calvin’s gaze which was on Belle deepened upon hearing that.

“Is this your decision, or did you hear of some rumors? He looked into her eyes and asked in an enigmatic tone.”

“It’s my decision, Belle replied with certainty as she lowered her head.”

Calvin’s gaze deepened even further when he looked into her eyes as if he wanted to see through her.

“By the way, since you’re here, I’ll leave Liya to you. You can arrange where she’s going to live as you like. I won’t have any opinions, she said in a low voice and turned around. ““I still have something to do. I have to leave first.”””

“As she spoke, she turned around and walked towards the electric vehicles outside.”

“However, her arm was pulled by Calvin.”

“Where are you going? After being absent-minded for a moment, he asked in a deep voice.”

“I still have some matters to attend to. Mom wants me to go home. She did receive a call from Bailey that day. Initially, she had planned to leave as soon as possible, but since she wanted to see Jerry, she met Liya at the swimming pool, which delayed her plans. She didn’t intend to hide it from Calvin.”

Was she going back to the Francist Community?

“Calvin lifted his brows and immediately responded, ““I’ll go with you.”””

“There’s no need for that. Belle rejected immediately without a second thought. She didn’t think that going back to her mother’s house with Calvin at that time would go down well with everyone. Since he was determined to marry Liya, she thought that the last person her mother would want to see right then was Calvin. So, why should she create trouble by letting Calvin go with her?”

A hint of pain flashed across the depths of Calvin’s eyes. He soon understood Belle’s thoughts and tightened his grip on her arm.

“Go and look for Lennox and ask him to arrange your accommodation. Calvin turned around and ordered Liya, who was standing beside him, in a cold manner. Then, he moved his arm, picked up Belle from her back and walked towards the electric vehicle.”

“Belle didn’t realize that she had been lifted by Calvin’s strong arms. She only came to her sense when she saw that the scenery around her had started to change. She immediately called out, ““Calvin, let me go.”””

“Don’t cause trouble. I’ll go with you. His low and magnetic voice rang in her ear charmingly, but he said it in a tone that indicated that he wouldn’t accept her refusal.”

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There’s really no need for that. Belle pushed him. How could Calvin carry her like that in broad daylight? Liya was still watching from the sidelines too.

Calvin held her tightly in his arms and carried her to the electric vehicle. He then placed her on his lap and lowered his head to kiss her red lips.

Belle’s face instantly turned red. It was still daytime right then. What was he doing!

“Liya stood rooted to the spot, as she watched Calvin affectionately leave with Belle in his arms. Her face turned pale, and she really didn’t know what to do, as tears welled up in her eyes. At that time, she understood that she would never be able to replace Belle in that family.”

“In the study on the third floor, Hudson stood by the window and saw what had happened downstairs.”

“The corner of the old man’s eyes had a lot more wrinkles within just a few days, and those were traces of his old age, as well as the effects of the urgent situation currently. He looked at the scene below with his eyes. Calvin loved Belle a lot. If what would happen next would only hurt him, he might still face it with a smile, but the one who was going to get hurt was one of his loved ones.”

That kept him awake for days and nights.

“Mr. Hudson, are you really going to leave everything over to Young Master and let him deal with it? Lomen asked worriedly, as he also saw Calvin’s and Belle’s love for each other.”

“Hudson’s eyes were filled with wisdom. He gazed at the electric vehicle, as it moved further and further away. A faint smile appeared in his eyes.”

It’s time to hand the matter over to him. He knows what to do. Hudson muttered to himself.

“However, the situation right now is extremely urgent. Seeing that the Young Master and the Young Madam are so loving, it might be too risky to have him marry Liya for real. Lomen’s worries weren’t unreasonable at all.”

“In order to save Evan’s life, the three of them had secretly decided on the date of their marriage, but they were still waiting for Calvin, as his plan was just a step away from completion.”

“Mr. Hudson, Young Master’s plan has already taken effect. Currently, Zoella is indeed starting to suspect Liya, but up till now, we’re not sure if she’ll deal with Liya. If Zoella still hadn’t pushed the crime

into Liya's mind by the day of the wedding, then the police would not be able to arrest her either. And if that happens, the wedding must still be held, and Liya is most likely going to become the Young Master's second wife. This is not a good thing for Harvey Manor. Lomen's explanation and deduction were very good."

"Hudson was very worried, but he was very certain at the same time."

"Thus, the matter of Calvin marrying Liya must be publicized widely, so that more people will believe it for the best, but we can't let Paige and Belle know the truth. Zoella is a very cautious person, and she can just tell the truth from people's expressions. She'll definitely pay attention to Belle's expression at all times. Hudson ordered in a deep voice."

"Just then, Calvin was calmly standing in the study as well."

"Our family is in danger. You should know what to do. Hudson knew that at that moment, Calvin was more upset than anyone else, but he still remained calm and reminded Calvin."

"If his act couldn't even convince others that it was realistic, then what more Zoella and Reid."

"They knew that they couldn't expect to use the marriage to deal with Zoella and Yadiel, but at the very least, they needed to get rid of Liya and rescue Evan. That was the most basic requirement, and they had to fulfil it, no matter what."

They couldn't afford not to fulfill it at all.

"The conflict between the war-torn countries was intensifying, and the terrorist organizations were desperate as well, as they had no more time to lose."

"They couldn't count on the local or international police to deal with those terrorists, as the government and the military couldn't even do anything about it, let alone them. The most important thing at the moment was to rely on their own wisdom."

"Dad, don't worry. I know what to do. I've always been doing it this way. Calvin leaned against the desk. His calm attitude was a sharp contrast from the tense atmosphere in the study."

"Dad, how can I bear to marry Liya to save your brother and hurt Belle? But please rest assured, I will still do as I was told, as this is my duty and responsibility as the head of the family. His expression was as cold as his voice."

"Alas. Hudson heaved a long sigh. ""Calvin, this is an unconventional gambit, but we still have to try it even though it may not work. Saving Evan is our utmost priority right now. So, we can only do this in the face of justice."""

Hudson's voice sounded a little mournful.

Calvin remained silent as he turned and walked out of the study.

"Hudson stared at his son's back with a heavy heart. When he looked down at the Fragrance Garden and saw that Calvin was leaving with Belle in his arms, tears welled up in his eyes."

“He knew that Calvin was doing that because of his guilt towards Belle, and he was trying to find a way to make up for it.”

“They had to take that step, no matter what, as they had no other alternatives left. Hudson apologized to Belle in his heart.”

“They didn’t want to hurt Belle. Calvin has been preparing for that day for a long time, and they hoped everything would be as they expected. If Calvin was really forced to marry Liya, Hudson hoped that Belle would forgive them.”

“In fact, when Lennox told him that Liya was going to move into Harvey Manor, Hudson knew that Belle certainly understood their intention to have made such an arrangement at such a time.”

“Perhaps, she didn’t know anything, but she should have sensed something, as she was smart.”

Making that decision at that time was extremely beneficial to them.

The Hummer stopped at the first floor of the Francist Community.

“Calvin held Belle’s shoulder with one arm and carefully escorted her. The smile on his face was soft and gentle, to the point that butter would not even melt in his mouth.”

“Belle wanted to get rid of him. After all, they were in the commune, and it was not appropriate for them to be so intimate with each other.”

What’s there to be afraid of? We’re husband and wife. Calvin understood what she was thinking and laughed softly in her ear.

“Who cares. Seeing that she couldn’t dissuade him, Belle had no choice but to allow Calvin to hug her as she said with a pout.”

They were very intimate.

“He’s going to take a second wife. So, why is he pretending to be intimate with her? There’s no point, right?”

That’s right. Men from prestigious families are all playboys.

So what if she married into a prestigious family and became his legal wife? What’s the point of that if he will be taken away by another woman in the end?

“In my opinion, it’s better for a woman to marry an ordinary man. At least, they’ll be loyal to each other for the rest of their lives.”

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“When they walked past in an affectionate manner, soft sounds of chatter came from their surroundings.”

“The light in Belle’s eyes dimmed, and the smile on her face became somewhat awkward.”

Calvin’s heart trembled. A fierce glint flashed across his eyes as he swept his gaze over the women who were gossiping.

Those women immediately felt his cold gaze and left in a hurry.

“Mom, why were you looking for me? As soon as Belle entered the living room, she took off her shoes and called out to Kate. Only in her mother’s home and in front of her mother, could she be so uninhibited and free.”

“When Calvin saw that her smile was bright and beautiful, with her eyes already curved into crescents, as if she had never experienced the difficulties of life, his heart pounded.”

It seemed that it was good for women to return to their parents’ home frequently!

“After all, Belle couldn’t act that way in Harvey Manor. There were too many rules in such a big and prestigious family. Calvin felt sorry to have persuaded Belle to move into Harvey Manor.”

“When Kate, who was in the study, heard Belle’s voice, the sadness on her face was swept away, and a loving smile appeared.”

“Belle, I’m in the study, she answered with a smile.”

Belle flew in like a gust of wind.

“Mom. She put her arms around Kate’s neck and said coyly, ““Mom, did you call me back because you missed me?”””

“If I hadn’t called to ask you to come home, you wouldn’t have thought of coming back, right? It’s hard to keep a grown girl at home, Kate scolded in anger. She held Belle’s little hand and caressed it, but when she saw Calvin walking in, her face immediately sank.”

“Mom, Calvin greeted Kate respectfully.”

“Kate snorted in response. Calvin knew that she was prejudiced against him. So, he wasn’t angry and just stayed by Belle’s side politely.”

“Belle, I asked you to come back today because I have something to tell you. After a while, Kate went straight to the point.”

“What’s the matter? Belle was alarmed in an instant. It was imperative for Calvin to marry Liya. Although she had not told Kate about it, Belle was afraid that she would launch a tirade on the spot.”

Calvin’s expression turned slightly gloomy as well.

“Belle, it’s like this. Kate reached out and picked up a delicate wooden box on the table. She then handed it to Belle and said, ““Open and take a look at it.”””

“Belle looked at the unfamiliar wooden box and accepted it with doubt. After opening it, she saw a jade fan lying inside.”

“Mom, what’s this? she asked curiously as she inspected the jade fan. ”

“This is a jade fan, she said in a solemn manner.”

“Mom, so the poem you kept on reciting aloud was the poem on this fan. Belle finally learnt where the poem Kate kept on reciting came from. It turned out to be from that small fan, and she blurted out almost immediately.”

“Kate’s eyes looked blank, and she didn’t explain anything.”

“Belle, there will be an auction in A City’s museum tomorrow. This jade fan is called the Twin Plum Fan. Originally, there’s a pair of them. There’s a red plum imprinted on this one, and the other has a white plum imprinted on it. Tomorrow, the Twin Plum Fan will be auctioned. I hope that you can buy me the other one. Kate’s eyes were distant and deep. She spoke at a moderate speed, and her expression was one Belle couldn’t see through.”

“Belle was stunned and confused at the same time. “”Mom, what’s the story behind this fan? It doesn’t look very eye-catching.”””

“Kate looked at her indifferently and said, “”Don’t worry. The Twin Plum Fan isn’t some rare treasure. No one will fight for it with you, and you’ll be able to buy them at a low price tomorrow. This is what I wanted to ask you to do. Will you be able to accomplish it?”””

“As she said that, Kate looked at her expectantly.”

“Belle immediately understood what Kate’s intention was when she heard her words. She then wrapped her arms around her neck and smiled lovingly. “”Mom, I can deal with such a small matter. If you like it, I’ll bid a few more things for you tomorrow. How’s that?”””

“No, I’m not a person who covets gold, silver, and jewelry. I don’t need anything else. This is the only thing I want, as I want to reunite this fan with its other half. I’ll be very grateful if you manage to bid the other half for me. Kate pouted and poked her head with her finger, pretending to be dissatisfied.”

“Belle smiled mischievously. “”Mom, is this matter the reason you wanted me to come back?”””

“Yes, that’s it. Kate nodded in agreement.”

It’s just a small matter. Don’t worry. I’ll get it for you tomorrow. Belle patted her chest and promised.

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“Hmph, it’s good as long as you remember it. If there’s nothing else, you can leave, Kate said indifferently and nodded as she swept her gaze over to Calvin, who was standing at the side.”

“Mom, you’re kicking me out so soon? Belle knew that she was driving Calvin away. She deliberately pouted and said, “”How can you chase your daughter away like this?”””

“Mother, you can rest assured. Leave this matter to me. I’ll have someone bid that jade fan tomorrow. The fact that Kate didn’t berate Calvin face-to-face for wanting to take a second wife relieved him. Although she was treating him indifferently, he didn’t plan to say anything, as he thought that he would explain it to her in the future. So, he immediately answered with a smile.”

Kate glanced at him with a bland expression.

“It’s not that I’m driving you away, but you’re putting your heart and soul into your in-laws that you simply don’t have the mood to stay here anymore. Kate looked at Belle reproachfully and said in a dissatisfied manner, ““You’re wholeheartedly contributing to that family. I just hope that someone won’t let your love and sincerity down.”””

“As she spoke, she deliberately glanced at the Calvin, who was next to Belle.”

Calvin immediately understood what she meant. A dark light flashed across his eyes as he stayed silent.

“Belle smiled awkwardly. At that moment, the door rang, followed by a clear masculine voice drifting in. ““Madam Bennett, I’m here.”””

“As soon as everyone heard that voice, their expressions changed.”

“Kate smiled while Belle’s face was filled with shock. As for Calvin, his expression turned grim.”

“Wheel me to the living room, Kate told Belle, who was beside her.”

“Belle came back to her senses and responded. She then looked at Calvin, who was next to her. His face was even darker than storm clouds.”

“Whoever told him to follow her there, he really was making trouble for himself!”

“However, Belle was also in a bad mood. She then wheeled Kate outside.”

“Belle, you’re back today. Aunt Kate had really missed you a lot, ya know? Sergio’s eyes lit up when he saw Belle and greeted her with a smile.”

“Belle chuckled. When she remembered that it was him who saved her that day, she couldn’t bear to treat him coldly. Her eyes fell on his arm, which was still wrapped with gauze. So, she asked in concern right then, ““Sergio, is your arm recovering?”””

“Frankly speaking, it had been so many days since the incident. She had forgotten all about it and hadn’t taken the initiative to call him to ask about his well-being, which made her feel sorry for him, as he was injured because of her.”

“Don’t worry, Belle. Such a mild injury is nothing to me. Sergio smiled and glanced at Calvin’s gloomy face.”

The meal is ready. You guys should eat before you leave. Bailey walked out of the kitchen with a smile.

“Alright, thank you. Sergio agreed to it at once.”

“Belle wanted to leave, but Sergio said to Calvin, ““Calvin, since we’ve met here, should we sit down and have a few drinks?”””

“When Calvin saw Sergio at Kate’s house, he felt even more disgusted than having eaten a fly. He wanted to leave with Belle in no time, but when he heard Sergio’s words, he changed his mind at that moment. After all, that was his mother-in-law’s house.”

“He really couldn’t stand how shameless Sergio was. What did he treat that place as? Calvin himself was Kate’s son-in-law. So, how dare Sergio invite him as though that was his own home?”

“Alright, he answered faintly and pulled Belle’s hand as they sat down at the dinner table.”

“Come, Belle, try this. It’s your favourite. As soon as they sat down, Calvin picked up a shrimp with his fork, put it onto Belle’s plate, and said intimately.”

Thank you. Belle expressed her gratitude.

“The two of them were acting very intimately, as if no one was around them.”

“Kate sat on one side and looked at how the two were behaving, then at Sergio, sighing in her heart. Sergio was really infatuated with her daughter. The fact that he would come to visit her frequently was because he was obviously trying to win Belle over. Kate certainly understood that and had already persuaded him several times. Sergio was a man with a great background. So, Kate thought that he should let Belle go. What was more, her daughter already had a family, and she didn’t have any feelings for him at all.”

“She sighed in her heart. If Calvin was half as infatuated as Sergio was towards Belle, she didn’t have to worry about them and be so unhappy anymore.”

They then ate.

“Sergio suddenly picked up his glass of wine with a friendly smile plastered on his face and said to Calvin, ““Calvin, I heard that something good will be happening to you and that you’ll be really busy in the future. After all, you’re going to take a second wife. Since I was able to meet you today, I’ll propose a toast to you, to get some of your good luck!”””

“He seemed to be speaking in a very casual manner, or perhaps, one could say that he did not seem to care about anything. After saying that, he looked at Calvin with a smile on his face in a friendly manner.”

“Nevertheless, as soon as he said that, the atmosphere instantly became tense.”

“Kate’s face darkened first, followed by Bailey, whose face even darkened as well.”

“Calvin frowned and lowered his head and took a mouthful of food. When he lifted his head, he saw the mockery and smugness hidden in Sergio’s smile. At that moment, the smile on his face was rather fake as his muscles were all stiff.”

“Calvin gritted his teeth as he understood his intentions. ““I’m sorry, Mr. Xanthe. I still have to go out and play with Belle tonight. So, I don’t think I’ll be drinking today. We’ll definitely have the chance to drink again in the future.”””

“Upon hearing that, Sergio did not continue urging him. He thought of something all of a sudden and continued with a grave expression. ““By the way, I heard that Sophia’s condition is very serious. Therefore, I’ll be going to Harvey Manor to visit her tomorrow and deal with some official business along the way.”””

Sergio was going to Harvey Manor to visit Sophia and deal with some official business?

Those words caused Calvin’s and Belle’s expressions to change.

“Mr. Xanthe, there’s no need to trouble yourself. My grandmother’s illness is indeed serious, but she’s old and doesn’t want to see outsiders. Calvin’s expression was really unpleasant, and he rejected the offer immediately.”

Sergio narrowed his eyes and chuckled.

“At present, Calvin felt very uncomfortable as he didn’t want to argue with Sergio in front of Kate anymore. However, Sergio was obviously provoking him on purpose in front of Kate. If he continued to stay there, he would only bring contempt upon himself. Even if he were to refute, he was still at his mother-in-law’s house, which would show that he was uncouth.”

“Immediately, Calvin pulled Belle to her feet and smiled politely at Kate. “”Mom, enjoy your meal. Belle and I still have something to attend to.”””

“Kate also sensed the tension between the two of them. So, she didn’t try to let them stay.”

“I’ll see you off. Seeing that Calvin was about to leave, Sergio immediately stood up and offered enthusiastically. After that, he directly sent them to the door, regardless of whether they agreed or not. At the instance when they were outside, he whispered to Calvin with a sneer, “”Calvin, my superior has been urging me. So, I hope you can take action as soon as possible and don’t let me down. In addition, we have recently received a report claiming that this matter is related to Harvey Manor. So, starting from tomorrow, I’ll be following you 24/7 for the investigation’s sake, and I’ll be staying at Harvey Manor for the time being. I hope that you can be mentally prepared for that.”””

To think he would still demand to move into Harvey Manor!

“You... The veins at the corner of Calvin’s temples popped out because of Sergio’s words. He then gritted his teeth and stared at Sergio with his bloodshot eyes. After a while, he suddenly smiled and said, “”Very well. You’re welcome to stay in Harvey Manor anytime.”””

Thank you for your hospitality. Don’t worry. I won’t hold myself back. Sergio smiled shamelessly and answered in a straightforward manner.

“Calvin exhaled a breath of air and held Belle’s hand, as they walked towards the elevator.”

“Belle didn’t hear what they were saying clearly, but when she saw Calvin’s angry expression, she knew that it was definitely not a good thing, and it made her anxious. Nevertheless, she remained silent as she also felt very uncomfortable.”

The Hummer drove towards the direction of the street.

“Calvin, where are you going? Seeing that they weren’t heading towards Harvey Manor and that Calvin had a sullen look on his face as he drove, Belle was worried that Calvin might have forgotten how to get home from being angered by Sergio.”

“To find a place to eat. After a while, he answered in a stuffy tone.”

“Wasn’t it already dark right then? Not only was he unable to eat at Kate’s house, he even had to hold back his anger.”

Belle looked at him and found his behavior quite funny.

“In fact, she was also hungry, as she didn’t eat much just then.”

“Then, I want to eat street food. Belle knew that Calvin would definitely take her to a high-end restaurant, but she didn’t feel like eating those kinds of food. She only wanted to taste street food.”

“Calvin didn’t say anything. Then, he turned the steering wheel with his hand and the car headed towards Luminary Road’s famous street food market.”

“After the two of them got out of the car, Calvin held onto her hand.”

“A burst of cool breeze blew, which made them feel relaxed and happy.”

“They ordered a lot of snacks. Smelling the tempting aroma of the snacks, Belle’s appetite grew wonderfully.”

“She rolled up her sleeves, revealing her two tender and fair, dainty wrists, and picked up the snacks in front of her, eating them up.”

“Calvin took a look at her. “”You sure can eat, and you’re not paying attention to how you look at all.”””

“Haha. Belle laughed. “”Calvin, don’t be afraid. There won’t be any paparazzi here. You also know that I don’t act like this at home. So, can you please not restrict me?”””

“She puffed out her cheeks. Her hands were full of lamb kebabs, beef kebabs, and many more as she ate them up quickly.”

“Looking at her table manners, Calvin was amused, and all the anger given by Sergio had disappeared too. A sense of joy welled up in his heart. He had such a lovely wife. If not for the many things that happened between them, how wonderful their lives would be right then.”

“Alright, I’ll drink with you. Calvin dialed a number and ordered the driver of Harvey Manor to drive the Hummer back. Then, he ordered a lot of beer.”

“Calvin was very happy to accompany Belle to eat snacks he would normally not even look at, to the point that all the negative emotions in his heart were swept clean.”

Chapter 514

“Belle, do you like Sergio? Calvin asked with a hint of jealousy in his voice, after taking a few sips of beer.”

“Then, do you like Liya and Lexie? Belle asked with a smile.”

Calvin was taken aback. The two of them smiled at each other.

“Belle, are you really willing to let me marry Liya? Calvin lifted his drifting eyes and asked after taking another gulp of beer. He didn’t expect her to take the initiative and let Liya move into Harvey Manor.”

“Belle didn’t drink alcohol and was only drinking soft drinks. So, her mind was clear.”

“If I won’t let you marry her, will you choose not to marry her? She blinked her eyes and asked in return.”

Calvin looked at her in silence.

“At first, he thought that he could stop the marriage from happening, but seeing the current situation, he couldn’t do it anymore. He had to act according to the plan...”

He did not continue speaking.

“Belle, will you hate me because of this? After emptying a few more cans of beer, he asked in a silly manner.”

“Yes, I hate you right now, Belle answered directly, as she ate.”

“A bitter smile appeared on Calvin’s face. He stretched out a hand and grabbed hers. “”Belle, I won’t blame you for hating me, as I can’t give you the best, but I’ll definitely try my best to do so. Trust me.”””

“Belle suddenly laughed. “”Calvin, can all problems be solved by marrying Liya? If we can really resolve the Harvey Group’s crisis and fulfil everyone’s wishes by doing so, I’ll agree to it and accept it, only because I love you.”””

“As Calvin looked at her, something shiny sparkled in his eyes.”

“Her face was so beautiful under the looming streetlights to the point that it was suffocating, but the words she said made him even more suffocated.”

“Belle, I knew you would do this. You’re a good woman.”

“No, I’m not considered a good woman. I’m selfish as well. I only hope that I, myself, can be happy. That’s why I insist on trying to stop you from marrying Liya. But now, I’m willing to fulfil your wishes. She pursed her lips, smiling in a very generous and forgiving manner, “”Don’t worry, I’ll personally host Liya’s and your wedding.”””

“After that, she lowered her head and resumed eating.”

“Calvin stared at her in a daze, with stupefying eyes.”

She said that she would personally host that wedding for him.

“What did it mean for a woman to host her husband’s wedding in person? Unless she was a saint, there was another explanation. It could also be because she did not intend to love him anymore, or rather, she wanted to give up on him. Was that so?”

“Something bitter came out of the corners of his eyes, and he quickly wiped it off.”

“Belle, I’ll leave this key to you. This is the key to my office and perhaps, you’ll need to use it very soon. Belle, I love you, and it has always been this way from the start till the end. I’ll give you everything I have, including myself. Please take good care of them in the future and I do feel honored to be ‘cared’ by you, he said sincerely, as he held her hand tightly and moved closer to her.”

“Belle took a breath and looked at the man who was very close to her. He was biting his lips, and his eyes were as bright and hot as fire. He was also looking at her with his clear and frank eyes.”

She smelled the scent of his sweat and beer that had a hidden fragrance inside them. It made her feel enamoured to the point that she felt dizzy.

“If it was another man, she would find that scent horrifying. Since it was him, she thought that it was a pleasant smell that lulled her into contentment.”

“The moon was hanging in the sky, and the night was silent.”

Calvin picked her up and called a taxi.

“As soon as she got in the taxi, Belle felt very exhausted. Burying her head in Calvin’s embrace, she fell asleep in no time.”

“When she woke up again, she was still in Calvin’s arms.”

Chapter 515

“Calvin, have we reached home yet? Belle muttered in a daze.”

“Yeah, be a good girl. We’re home now, Calvin answered gently.”

“Belle stretched out her hands and wrapped them around his neck, digging her head into his embrace.”

She then fell asleep again.

“Calvin looked at the woman in his embrace, whose face was red. Her hair was draped all over Calvin’s arms, and her body was warm and soft. Her scent, mixed with the smell of sweat drifted into Calvin’s nostrils along with the night wind, and it smelled nice.”

“Calvin took a deep breath, in an attempt to breathe in her beauty. At that moment, he really wanted to swallow her whole and caress her, so that she would fuse with his body and never be separated from him.”

He tightened his arm around her with more strength as he carried her up.

He turned on the faucet and began to fill the bathtub with water.

“Then, he helped her take off her clothes.”

“Belle was sleeping very soundly. In recent days, she would always feel exhausted, but she really didn’t feel like waking up at all at that moment.”

“She didn’t open her drifting eyes until she felt a burning chest sticking against her, which made her feel hot all over. After she opened her eyes, what she saw was a room full of warm colours.”

There was a smoky scent of love filling up the air.

They were not at Harvey Manor.

Where were they?

That place felt extremely familiar.

“Oh, it was Grand Hyatt Apartments.”

Why did Calvin bring her to Grand Hyatt Apartments?

“Just as she was about to ask him, wet sticky lips pressed down on hers. It was just then that she saw Calvin was pressing her down and clinging tightly to her while gently kissing her.”

“Not only that, his hands were also gently and carefully caressing her body. That jerk knew every part of her body. In addition to his superb skill, soon, Belle felt weak all over, and she whimpered.”

“Hearing her joyful sound, a satisfied and charming smile appeared at the corner of Calvin’s mouth. He lifted his head. His face was filled with incomparable gentleness.”

“Belle, I want you, I only want you. He leaned over to her ear, gently licked her Tristanobe, and gasped softly, “”Baby, I love you.”””

“Belle’s eyes were drifting. Biting her lips as she looked at him, her mouth was still filled with the smell of beer from his mouth.”

“Calvin couldn’t wait any longer as he kissed her whole body gently and carefully, treating her like a precious piece of treasure. ”

“Belle’s mind became fuzzier. She was in a state where she could easily be tempted by him, and she was also immersed in the intoxicating realm in no time.”

“She submitted her body to him earnestly, but at the same time, her heart felt sour. It really was a complex feeling. It was indescribable.”

“Just as Calvin was halfway through caressing her body, she suddenly opened her eyes, wrapped her arms around his neck, and begged softly, “”Calvin, I beg you, don’t marry Liya. I only want you to stay with me and Jerry. Forgive my selfishness.”””

“Her long eyelashes fluttered, and tears rolled down from them, while she pursed her red lips tightly.”

“Calvin’s body trembled and pain flashed across his eyes. His pupils, which were brimming with love, slowly shrank. After a moment of silence, he lowered his head and kissed her face, enveloping her with his passion that was as hot as fire.”

“Belle, hold on a little longer. This time, I must make use of this opportunity to deal with those evils, so that the Harvey family can live in peace. He thought to himself.”

“Although his heart had already melted all over, he still did not say anything to her.”

“That was because he was afraid that he would fail. He was afraid that a slight mistake might occur, which would cause a devastating blow to them.”

“He hugged her tightly, letting her feel his love.”

“Being wrapped tightly in her gentleness, he became really greedy. When he heard her suppressed cries, he couldn’t stop himself at all. He really didn’t know how to comfort her. So, he could only merge with her body, to make himself feel more at ease and better.”

“Their intense and lingering love caused them to entangle with each other until they were satisfied, and then they fell asleep while hugging each other.”

“The darkness of the night slowly enveloped the horizon. The courtyard of Harvey Manor, which had been roasted by the sun for an entire day, was then a place where one could feel the cool breeze.”

“Liya was standing on the first floor of the Fragrance Garden, not knowing what to do.”

“In that house, no one, including the servants, would attempt to talk to her. Just then, Calvin didn’t treat her well either, as he only ordered her to find Lennox to arrange a place for her to stay in a cold manner.”

Asking her to look for Lennox meant that Calvin was sending her away like how he treated his servants.

“She wasn’t resigned to this, but there was nothing she could do.”

Who could she blame for her lowly status?

“She could only slowly make her way to Harvey Manor and look for Maud. Maud was a smart person. So, he knew her situation well. Right then, the entire affairs of Harvey Manor was handled by Belle, and she had the highest authority. So, who did that woman think she was? What was she doing there?”

She was just a woman without status. She was there to be the Young Master’s second wife.

“Whose interests would be harmed the most in that situation? The answer was obvious, and it was the head of the household, Belle.”

“Having spent most of his life in Harvey Manor, if Maud didn’t know how to make everything go his way and climb the social ladder, then he wouldn’t have been able to become Harvey Manor’s Lennox up until then.”

“After inspecting Liya for a long time, he deliberately asked politely, ““Miss, who are you?”””

He pretended that he didn’t know who Liya was.

“In fact, no one could blame him. Firstly, he did not receive any phone calls and instructions. Secondly, since Calvin was the one who was going to take a second wife, shouldn’t he be the one to arrange Liya’s accommodation? Or perhaps, an elder from the family should speak out. Not only did Maud not receive any orders, he was suddenly in charge of it. So, he could only pretend not to know anything. At that time, he did not dare to arrange for a good place for her to live. Unless he received instructions from above, he did not dare to make a decision, as he didn’t want to offend Belle.”

“Hearing Maud’s question, Liya couldn’t help but to feel embarrassed. She didn’t believe that a Lennox would really not know her. After all, she had already met Calvin’s parents.”

“However, she couldn’t lose her temper. She knew that Maud’s current attitude could only be because of her lowly status. So, she shouldn’t expect any good treatment.”

“A feeling of hatred surged in Liya’s heart. She thought that since everyone looked down upon her and only had Belle in their hearts, she would definitely show them her ways one day.”

“Maud, it was Mr. Harvey who told me to come to you to arrange my accommodation. If you don’t believe me, you can call him and ask about it, she said coldly and arrogantly. Since Maud looked down

upon her, somehow she had to save her own dignity. After all, she was to be married to the head of the family. Even if she was merely the second wife, her position would be higher than his.”

“So, that’s how it is. Maud nodded as if he had come to a realization, taking out a notebook and looking through it for a long time.”

“How about this? There’s a guest room in Crystal Cove Garden right now. You can stay there for now. After flipping through the notebook for a while, Maud lifted his head and spoke.”

“The guest room in Crystal Cove Garden? It was a temporary lodge for outsiders or guests to stay in when they visited Harvey Manor. Usually, slightly important guests would be placed in a guest room in the Ink Garden’s duplex villa, but Crystal Cove Garden was quite remote and to the west of the manor. It was right behind Fragrance Garden, and the surroundings were much inferior to that of the Fragrance Garden. Most importantly, it was just an ordinary guest room.”

“Why do I have to move into a guest room first? I’m going to marry Mr. Harvey soon. Even Belle agreed to let me stay in Harvey Manor. Shouldn’t you arrange a more suitable place for me? Liya was not the little girl who always used to be bullied anymore. Right then, she knew that she should bargain and raise her status in a timely manner.”

“I’m sorry, Miss. This is the rule of Harvey Manor. No matter who you’ll be in the future, you can only be considered a guest before you get married. Since you’re a guest, you’ll have to stay in the guest room. I’m also just following the rules. I hope you’ll abide by the rules. Harvey Manor has always been fair and equal to everyone. Maud said righteously, ““Unless the head of the household or the head of the family gives us the order, we can only act according to the rules.”””

“Maud’s tone was very serious, leaving no room for negotiation.”

“Liya thought about it and gritted her teeth. Alright, since there was no one who liked and cared about her right then, she could only settle with that.”

“Immediately, she went along with Maud’s arrangement.”

“The guest room in the Crystal Cove Garden was also clean and comfortable. Although it couldn’t be compared to the master bedroom, it was still much better than ordinary hotels.”

“As soon as Liya settled down in the guest room, it was already dark.”

“The night before, she was tortured by Oscar for the entire night and her whole body was in pain. Right then, there were scars all over her body. So, staying at that humble place was not necessarily a bad thing. At the very least, she could avoid other people. As she thought about that, she washed herself and was ready to go to bed.”

“Then, her phone rang like a siren in the silent night, twisting Liya’s heart.”

“The moment Liya heard her phone ringing, she was so nervous that she turned pale and trembled.”

Her phone was inside her bag. She only looked at it blankly and didn’t even dare to reach out to pick it up.

“Nevertheless, the phone kept ringing again and again, and there was no sign that it would stop at all.”

Liya's heart was thumping wildly.

Zoella's words sounded like the devil's voice in her ears.

"Her hands trembled, as she picked up the phone from her bag. It was an unfamiliar number. She looked at it for a long time and finally answered it."

"Little beauty, wait for me at the hotel at nine in the evening tonight. Come and have some fun with me. I'll let you enjoy it to your heart's content. Oscar's evil voice was extremely ear-piercing, as it directly penetrated Liya's mind."

Ah. She threw away the phone in a panic as if she was holding a hot potato. Her face was pale.

That demon!

"Thinking about what had happened the day before, she was in so much pain that she wanted to die. Could it be that she obediently had to deliver herself to be tortured by him that day as well? Plus, in the future, could it be that she had to answer all his calls and get tortured by him whenever he felt like it?"

"Alas, no, it was too horrifying!"

"Liya wrapped her head with her arms, and her entire body began to tremble."

Zoella's vicious words kept ringing in her ears.

"Zoella, that vicious woman. How dare she treated her like a toy and gifted her to that perverted Oscar to play with?"

"She gritted her teeth with uncontrollable rage in her eyes, as if she was an irritated lion."

Liya thought to herself that she would never let Zoella and Oscar go. She would definitely get her revenge.

She clenched her fingers and knitted her brows while her entire body shook uncontrollably.

"If she didn't meet him, Zoella would definitely post the recording from the night before on the internet. If that happened, she wouldn't have the dignity to marry Calvin anymore, and her reputation and innocence would be completely ruined."

"After a long while, she picked up her bag and left."

Chapter 516

"In the hotel suite, Oscar was leisurely sitting on the couch, waiting for Liya's arrival."

"Actually, he preferred women who were more feminine and gentle like Liya compared to Zoella. Although Zoella was beautiful as well, she was too strong-willed, which turned him off. Women who were soft and feminine like Liya were endearing."

Liya unwillingly pressed the doorbell.

"Beauty, you're here. Oscar smiled and bared his yellow teeth, with his eyes full of lustful desire. With one hand, he picked Liya up, as if he was picking up a chick and walked towards the room."

“Mr. Jones, I beg you. Please let me go. Liya’s entire body was trembling, and her face was pale as she begged in terror.”

“If I let you go, then who will play with me? Oscar would definitely not let her go. His face sank, and his gaze turned fierce and violent. Oscar would do nothing all day long. He would save his energy during the day, which caused his demands for women at night to become abnormally perverted.”

“At that time, he was like a hungry wolf facing a lamb that was going to be slaughtered. How could he give up on such delicious meat? He smiled sinisterly, took off his clothes in a hurry, and rushed towards her.”

“No, Mr. Jones, don’t... Liya screamed in panic, but she couldn’t stop Oscar’s brute force. Soon after, her hands were tied by Oscar.”

“Zoella, Oscar, I won’t let you guys go. You devils. Liya gritted her teeth. While she endured Oscar’s torment, her hatred for them grew more intensely like seeds that just sprouted.”

“When she woke up again, it was almost dawn. Oscar, who had tortured her with all his might, was sleeping like a dead pig at that time. Her hands were still tied up, and she was in a very miserable state right then.”

She clenched her teeth and struggled to get up. She then moved to the bathroom and scrape the rope until it broke.

“If she was not mistaken, when she was just ravaged by Oscar just then, she saw a bunch of keys on top of Oscar’s trousers on the bedside table. That key was the key to the confidential information shared between the Jones Group and Sky Sword Group. Back on that day, the moment she turned her head around, she saw Zoella locking up the incriminating evidence that had been used against Belle with that exact same key.”

“Obviously, only Oscar and Zoella could possess such a key. It was impossible for the others to have it.”

“She quietly walked over and took the key. Enduring the pain all over her body, she secretly walked out of the hotel.”

“There were still stars in the sky, and Liya was welcomed by the cool morning breeze.”

“After breathing such fresh air, Liya’s mind became much clearer.”

“She could only get herself out of that situation by speeding up her actions. No matter what, she has to become the mistress of Harvey Manor as soon as possible, and climb to the peak of the social ladder. She couldn’t bear living such a horrible life any longer. If that kind of life continued on, her demise wouldn’t be far away.”

“Zoella and Oscar. When she thought of those two, her eyes were filled with anger.”

“Tristany in the morning, a cool breeze blew in through the window.”

Belle opened her eyes.

Dawn had arrived.

She got up with a start.

“That day, she had to go to the museum to bid for the jade fan for her mother. Her mother had never asked her for anything, but she specifically told her to come back in order to ask her for it. Therefore, she really shouldn’t be careless with it.”

A hand reached out from behind her and wrapped around her.

“The temperature of his palm was warm. So, it was very comfortable upon feeling the palm’s warmth with her skin.”

“Belle, you’re up so Tristany. Calvin’s voice was gentle and magnetic, which was particularly pleasant to listen to.”

Belle lowered her head.

“After getting enough sleep, Calvin’s eyes were deep and spirited. He was looking at her with a smile. It seemed that he was really satisfied the night before.”

“Why haven’t you left yet? Belle knew what Calvin was thinking, to have brought her to Grand Hyatt Apartments. However, he would usually go to work Tristany in the morning, but he was still on the bed with her right then, which puzzled her. So, she asked at once.”

The corners of Calvin’s lips curled up as he sat up. He hugged her and lowered his head to kiss her neck.

“Belle, didn’t Mom ask us to go to the museum to bid for the jade fan for her? he murmured in her ear.”

“Yes, but Mom only asked me to go, not you, Belle said lightly as she pushed his face away.”

Your business is my business. I’ll go with you. Calvin was a little resentful when he saw how clearly Belle was drawing the boundaries and corrected her immediately.

Go and handle your own work. It’s not a big deal. I can go alone. Belle began to get up and get dressed.

“As her soft and delicate body left Calvin, he felt a little empty. By the way, weren’t they husband and wife? They shared the same bed every day, but he felt that they were spending less time together. It was as if they were Romeo and Juliet, where they couldn’t even stay together without going through many difficulties.”

That made him feel uneasy.

“No, I’m not at ease. I want to go with you. Calvin also got up and began to wash himself. When he saw Belle’s busy figure, he comforted her. “”This place is close to the museum. Don’t be in such a hurry. We have plenty of time.”””

“Belle picked up the toothpaste and squeezed it on her toothbrush, casually asking, “”So, the reason you took me here yesterday was because you wanted to go to the museum with me today.”””

“Sort of. Calvin smiled and added with a serious expression on his face, “”This is our home.”””

Their home?

“After she heard that, Belle’s hand trembled.”

“The night before, Liya had already moved into Harvey Manor. Did he bring her there because he was afraid that she would be sad?”

“There were just the two of them there, which was how the life of a married couple should be, and it was also the home that belonged to only the two of them.”

“When she thought about it that way, her heart became slightly heavy.”

“The museum was located in the center of A City, close to the library.”

“As soon as they arrived at the location, there were all kinds of exquisite banners and images that were promoting the items to be auctioned that day.”

Belle took a pamphlet from one of the promoters and began to read through it carefully.

“Among a lot of exquisite images, she finally found the inexpensive jade fan. It was indeed not very striking, and there was barely any introduction for it.”

“Kate should have seen that jade fan from advertisements on TV. Belle didn’t understand why she really wanted that jade fan. Although there was already another one of it at home, Belle couldn’t see any potential of an increase in value, even if she were to complete the pair, but since her mother wanted it, it wasn’t difficult for her to obtain it. She estimated that there would not be many people competing with her for that jade fan. After all, there were a lot of other treasures in the auction.”

“She was very confident that she could bid that jade fan in no time, take it back to the Francist Community, and hand it over to Kate.”

The auction was about to begin.

Calvin held Belle’s hand and the two appeared at the venue in a loving manner.

The cameras of many media outlets were focused on them.

“Calvin led Belle around to observe the various treasures that were being prepared to be auctioned in the hall. Then, they stopped in front of the jade fan.”

“The jade fan was openly exhibited. They lowered their heads at the same time and saw that the jade fan was exactly the same as Kate’s, but the realistic white plum on the jade fan was white and clean, unlike the red plum on Kate’s. The white plum was as soft as the cloud and seemed to be able to complement the jade fan at home that had a red plum imprinted on it.”

Belle put her hand on the glass that was covering the jade fan and smiled faintly.

“A strong gaze suddenly shot towards the jade fan, or rather, towards them. She suddenly felt a sense of unease and lifted her head to look at the source of the gaze.”

“On the second floor, in front of a large and luxurious private room, two men in black suits were looking at the jade fan in front of her.”

“Belle saw them clearly. The two men were tall, expressionless, and their gaze was alert. The light in their eyes was also cold and emotionless.”

“Such people would usually be around an important individual, and one of the men was a foreigner as well.”

“For some reason, Belle’s heart skipped a beat.”

Could it be that some big shot was going to show up that day?

“Things being auctioned there were not things ordinary people could afford. Therefore, people who went there were either rich or of high status, and it was also reasonable for big shots to show up. Thinking of that, Belle wasn’t that nervous anymore.”

The phone rang at an inappropriate time.

Both of them looked for their phones at the same time.

“In the end, it was Calvin’s phone that was ringing.”

Calvin fished out his phone from his pocket and raised his eyes to take a look. His eyebrows instantly furrowed.

“At that time, Belle also curiously looked over at his cell phone.”

The name ‘Liya’ was flashing nonstop.

Belle’s heart sank and she inexplicably felt sad.

“Calvin looked displeased, but after thinking for a moment, he still picked up the phone.”

“Liya, what’s the matter? he asked briefly with a cold voice.”

“Calvin, I need to see you right now. Liya sounded as if she was in a hurry with traces of fear.”

What’s going on? Calvin’s eyebrows moved as he asked immediately.

“Calvin, someone’s following me. I’m scared. Please come quickly. Liya cried out in a somewhat panicked manner.”

“Calvin thought for a while. He then asked, ““Where are you?”””

He looked at Belle when he asked that. Belle’s face was somewhat pale.

He reached out his hand to caress her head.

“Alright, try to run to the White Cloud Hotel nearby. Someone will be there to protect you. I’ll be there right away. Calvin turned his head to the side. With that, he immediately ended the call.”

“Belle, I have something important to deal with. You need to get this jade fan no matter how much you need to spend on it. We can’t let Mom down. I’ll leave first. Call me if you need anything. Calvin stroked her head again and smiled at her.”

“Then, he let go of her and ran outside.”

Belle’s body was vaguely stiff. Her hands and feet were very cold.

He left as soon as he got Liya’s phone call. He didn’t even ask for her opinion and simply left her alone.

He said that he was going to accompany her to buy the jade fan. He was just paying lip service to her!
Her eyes turned a little moist.

“That man said that he loved her, but his actions and behavior only made Belle feel more confused.”

Chapter 517

The auction began on time.

“Belle’s thoughts were scattered. She was not interested in all the jewelry and gold. Hence, before the jade fan was auctioned, she was absent-minded and listless. The scene of Calvin hugging Liya flashed in front of her eyes. She imagined their intimacy and at the thought of Calvin kissing Liya like how he kissed her. She felt a wave of sadness in her heart. At the same time, she felt nauseous. So, she covered her mouth with her hand.”

“After some time, she heard the auctioneer shouting, ““Twin Plum Fan, a jade fan from the past. The quality of the jade is exquisite, and the workmanship is excellent...””

“When Belle heard the words ““Twin Plum Fan””, she immediately sprung up and lifted the sign in her hand.”

“A hundred thousand dollars, she said in a loud voice.”

“After a moment of silence, there was a sudden burst of laughter.”

“After hearing the laughter, Belle realized that she had set a bid before the auctioneer even finished explaining.”

“With that thought in mind, she stopped thinking of Calvin and Liya.”

“Just as she had expected, no one went after that jade fan. After she called out her bid, no one responded for a long time.”

A hundred thousand dollars once.

A hundred thousand dollars twice.

A hundred thousand dollars thrice.

“Just as the auctioneer was about to shout ‘Deal’, a high-pitched male voice boomed.”

A hundred and ten thousand dollars.

“A hundred and twenty thousand dollars. When Belle heard that voice, she immediately raised her bid without a second thought and looked towards the direction of the male voice at the same time.”

“With just one glance, her heart skipped a beat.”

“Surely enough, it was from one of the two men standing outside the exquisite private room upstairs.”

“If she was not mistaken, they were staring at her and the jade fan just then. It seemed that they had also taken a fancy to that jade fan and wanted to bid for it.”

“They were already starting to try to snatch the jade fan away from her right then, which made Belle feel very uncomfortable.”

“The man seemed to have expected that Belle would raise the bid. Looking at her from the upper floor, he immediately said as soon as Belle’s voice fell, ““A hundred and thirty thousand dollars.”””

“Belle’s face darkened, and she had a bad feeling all of a sudden.”

Her intuition told her that the man was deliberately trying to snatch that jade fan away from her.

“A hundred and forty thousand dollars, she said confidently and loudly immediately after.”

The man on the second floor frowned upon hearing that.

Two hundred thousand dollars. He paused for a second before offering a higher bid.

“At that, the whole room fell silent, and they all looked at the man.”

Belle was also stunned.

“She thought that she would be able to obtain the jade fan with ease, and her guess was proven right as no one dared to challenge her aside from the mysterious man standing in front of the private room on the second floor.”

Wasn’t it just money?

“Why would Belle care about such little money? She was not someone of a humble background right then as almost everyone in A City’s high society knew her name. Therefore, no one would really compete with her in terms of money, unless those people had too much money to spare.”

Not to mention that she was now the head of the household of Harvey Manor and had the authority to control all the money. Even all the jewelry Calvin had gifted her over the years could add up to an immeasurable amount of money.

She was determined to get that jade fan that day because that was what her mother wanted. She didn’t want to disappoint her.

“Three hundred thousand dollars. She immediately lifted the sign in her hand. Without waiting for the auctioneer to say another word, she raised the bid to a whole new level.”

Gasps followed by silence fell upon the room.

“According to the experts, one could obtain the jade fan with just tens of thousands of dollars. If it was worth more than that, none of them could see any value in it for the time being.”

“Nonetheless, Belle’s starting bid was already one hundred thousand dollars, which was obviously higher than the market price.”

“It should be said that no one would dare to compete with Belle for that jade fan, as their financial status was simply no match for hers to begin with, and that the jade fan wasn’t worth that much either.”

Three hundred thousand dollars once.

The auctioneer's voice rang out in the quiet hall.

"Belle wore a scornful smile on her face and glanced at the man on the upper floor. She saw that he had turned around and walked straight into the private room. However, within less than a second, he came out of it once again."

"Four hundred thousand dollars. When he came out, he bid for that jade fan at a higher price without any hesitation."

Wow! Everyone present was shocked again and they made gasping sounds.

"They weren't shocked by how much money the both of them had, but for the fact that they would waste and spend so much money lavishly in such a manner."

Bidding for an item that was only worth tens of thousands of dollars at a price of four hundred thousand dollars was indeed a waste of money.

"At that point, Belle completely understood. The man on the upper floor deliberately wanted to snatch the jade fan from her, and he would not give up until he achieved his goal."

"Her mother's disappointed gaze flashed across her mind, and she couldn't help feeling slightly anxious."

"She was the wife of the president of the Harvey Group. So, how could she not afford to bid for a mere jade fan? Not to mention her mother's disappointment, it would also cause Calvin to look bad."

"At that moment, she made up her mind. Although she knew that the item was not worth that much, she still lifted the sign in her hand."

Five hundred thousand dollars.

"As soon as she finished her words, the man immediately spoke again. He looked like he wanted to prevent her from getting that jade fan at all costs."

Six hundred thousand dollars.

Belle understood the situation and lifted the sign again in no time.

Seven hundred thousand dollars.

Eight hundred thousand dollars.

"The man seemed to have seen through her determination. As soon as the words left her lips, he immediately raised the bid in an imposing manner."

It seemed that the jade fan wasn't going to be as easy to obtain as she initially thought. Belle made up her mind.

One million dollars.

"She spoke loudly. If the other party still wanted to raise the bid, she would directly raise it by another million until they didn't dare to bid again."

“After pausing for a few seconds, the man still opened his mouth.”

One million and five hundred thousand dollars.

“Hmph. Belle snorted and directly shouted, ““Three million dollars.”””

“At that point, the price was already countless times higher than the jade fan’s initial worth. Both parties were just wasting money. Except for both of them, no one else would be stupid enough to compete with them. They were all only watching the show with great interest, as it was a really exciting situation.”

The man on the upper floor was obviously in a dilemma as he looked at Belle with his deep and stern eyes.

“At that moment, the door opened, a middle-aged woman with glasses came out of the room and whispered to the man.”

Four million dollars. The man spoke again.

Five million dollars. Belle looked at them coldly and spoke without hesitation.

“A jade fan that was worth no more than sixty thousand dollars had a bidding price of five million dollars right then. It shocked everyone present. They were all nervous and excited at the same time, as if they were watching a tense and thrilling gamble.”

“The man on the upper floor apparently sensed Belle’s determination to continue fighting and realized that there was no point continuing on like that. So, he fell silent immediately.”

“At the same time, the woman with the glasses glanced at Belle and summoned a waiter over. After asking some questions, she turned around, walked back into the private room, and never came out again. It was obvious that she had given up.”

Five million dollars once.

Five million dollars twice.

Five million dollars thrice.

.....

The auctioneer deliberately paused for several seconds before swinging down the hammer. “Deal.”

“It was not until that word came out of the auctioneer’s mouth did Belle breathe a sigh of relief, and she could finally relax her mind.”

“After that, everything would be no big deal.”

Belle didn’t have the intention to continue participating in the auction.

“She took the jade fan, walked out of the venue, and headed for the exit at the side.”

“At that time, her heart was already on the side of her mother, Kate.”

She then called Kate to tell her the good news.

“As soon as she ended the call and reached the exit, someone unexpectedly approached her.”

“It’s nice to meet you, Mrs. Harvey. My Ma’am wants to invite you over. A masculine voice came from behind her. The voice was very familiar, and Belle immediately recognized it, as it belonged to the man who had competed with her just then.”

She turned her head towards the direction of the voice.

“What she saw was a handsome, youthful face.”

“Although they were far away from each other in the hall, Belle could still recognize that he was the man who was competing for the jade fan with her at the auction in a glance.”

“Her heart pounded, and she couldn’t help but to grasp the jade fan in her hand tightly, looking at him vigilantly.”

“The man had lost all the vigour he had at the auction. At that moment, he was polite towards her, and his attitude was respectful.”

“After he finished his words in a polite manner, he bowed deeply and stood aside quietly with an inviting gesture.”

“Belle hesitated for a moment before blurting out, “”Who’s your Madam?””””

“If she wasn’t mistaken, she didn’t know such a Madam.”

“In A City, she rarely went out to socialize with women from prestigious families. So, she basically didn’t know anyone. She shouldn’t have any friends or enemies.”

“Mrs. Harvey, my Ma’am wants to invite you over for a chat. We don’t mean any harm. You’ll understand when you get there. The man did not answer her directly. As if he was worried that she would not meet her, he explained in a respectable manner and maintained his composure.”

“Belle stood there and hesitated. That man must be that lady’s attendant. It seemed that she was also eager to get that jade fan. Since Belle won the bid, would the lady be unrelenting and invite her over, so that she could snatch the fan away from her? At the thought of that, she didn’t move at all, and she even wanted to leave.”

“Mrs. Harvey, my Ma’am only wants to invite you over for a chat and she doesn’t have any bad intentions. You’re the one who won the auction for that item. Even if one wasn’t able to win that fan, one couldn’t do much either in broad daylight. The man had long seen through Belle’s worries and tried to persuade her. He repeated his invitation in a sincere manner. “”My Ma’am has told me to invite you over for a chat with much sincerity. She’s of nobility and will not do anything improper. Furthermore, many wanted to meet her but weren’t able to do so.””””

“Hearing what he said, Belle felt a little embarrassed.”

“Belle thought that she was looking down upon the lady. If she really was a person of high status, she wouldn’t do such things. Moreover, everyone saw that she was the one who won the auction for the jade fan that day.”

She thought for a while and agreed to it and followed him to the private room on the second floor.

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“There were many undercover guards along the way, and they were all trying their best to pretend to be passers-by.”

“Belle was secretly stunned. Who in the world was that person? How could she have such an imposing air? According to the man, that person was a woman.”

“She walked carefully. For a moment, she regretted her decision.”

What if...

Belle felt very uneasy.

Two foreign men were guarding the entrance of the private room with their faces devoid of emotions. They were fully armed.

“After seeing that, Belle only felt like fleeing from that place.”

That scene was slightly terrifying and it just so happened that Calvin was away to to be with Liya.

“She didn’t want to chat with that noble lady, and she had no intention of flattering the other party to climb up the social ladder either. So what if she had a very noble identity? She didn’t envy such fame.”

“In fact, Belle really had nothing to talk about with her. What could she talk about with all those people in high places? They couldn’t talk about the jade fan either, as she knew nothing about it other than her mother wanting it.”

“The auction was still in full swing. So, the security downstairs would definitely be tight. With that in mind, Belle thought if she left right then, the other party would not dare to offend her. After all, she was still under the public eye.”

“Otherwise, if she shouted out loud at that moment, then she could also get away.”

“As those thoughts flashed across her mind, she heard an amiable voice coming from the inside. “”Is Mrs. Harvey here? Please invite her in.”””

“The voice was kind and gentle. Belle felt that it was very familiar, but she couldn’t recall whose voice that was.”

“For a time, her nervousness and anxiety faded away. She even had an affectionate feeling, which gradually calmed her heart down.”

“Ma’am, she’s already here at the door. I’ll invite her in, a woman said respectfully.”

“Hurry up, invite her in. Hearing that Belle was already there, the person with the amiable voice became somewhat excited.”

“After a while, the door opened slowly.”

A middle-aged woman wearing glasses came out with a smile plastered across her face.

“Greetings, Mrs. Harvey.”

“Hello there. Belle didn’t know how to react at the moment. So, she just smiled and answered mechanically.”

“Our Ma’am has a good impression of you, and she often talks about you. Please enter. After looking at her, the middle-aged woman was vaguely surprised. Her eyes were fixed on her face for a few seconds before she spoke politely.”

“Oh, alright, Belle answered blankly with a smile. Then, as if she was bewitched, she couldn’t help following her in.”

“Although the room was exquisite and luxuriously decorated, it was not old-fashioned. The wallpaper had plum blossoms on it, and it made people feel refreshed.”

“A noble lady was sitting on a burgundy velvet chair. From a distance, she looked as if she was in her fifties, dressed in a gRhys evening gown. Draped over her shoulders was a black overcoat. When Belle got a little closer, she saw everything clearly. That dress was a combination of both Eastern and Western elements, and it was custom-made by the world-renowned designer, Brooklynes Kemmerer.”

“However, she soon became even more surprised. That old woman seemed familiar. Her facial features were neat, and her skin was flawless, making her look elegant and beautiful. She soon had a weird feeling.”

“She had seen her before, but where?”

“Surely enough, the old woman waved to her and said with a smile, ““Mrs. Harvey, I didn’t expect to meet you here again. It really is fate.”””

“Belle was dumbstruck. She cried out in a low voice, ““You’re Madam Lilian.”””

“Seeing that Belle had recognized her, a warm and satisfied smile appeared on Madam Lilian’s impeccable face. ““Mrs. Harvey, it’s an honour for you to remember me.”””

“By that time, Belle was completely relaxed. After they went their separate ways at the banquet during their previous meeting, she thought that she wouldn’t be able to meet Madam Lilian again. So, she had already forgotten about her.”

“She was certain that she wouldn’t look for her on her own, as she had a noble status, and was from another country. The chances of Belle herself taking the initiative to look for her would be even lower. Hence, she thought it was not possible for the two of them to meet each other again.”

That was why Belle had completely forgotten about Madam Lilian.

“That was obviously not the case, as they were able to meet each other again coincidentally.”

“What was more, both of them were after the jade fan.”

“It seems that Mrs. Harvey had long forgotten about an old woman like myself. Looking at Belle’s face, which gradually changed from astonishment to disbelief, then to awkwardness, she could see through

the changes in Belle's mind with her wise eyes, and she couldn't help but to feel disappointed. ""Mrs. Harvey, I have never forgotten you.""

"The fact that Madam Lilian admitted that she still remembered Belle made Belle feel even more embarrassed. Although Madam Lilian looked slightly disappointed, she was still kind and amiable."

A strong sense of familiarity instantly engulfed Belle.

"After coming back to her senses, she immediately smiled, blinked her bright eyes, and said in a very friendly manner, ""It's not that, Madam Lilian. I do remember you. The amiable feeling you made me feel was something that was unforgettable.""

"Belle spoke up in time. It was true that even though she had forgotten Madam Lilian, the amiable feeling she gave off was still something that couldn't be hidden. That feeling has always been engraved in Belle's mind ever since they met, and she would never be able to forget it."

"Therefore, when she entered the room, that familiar feeling instantly made her call out Madam Lilian's name."

Is that true? Madam Lilian's eyes lit up. She then waved to Belle and motioned for her to come closer.

"Yes, Belle replied and approached her obediently."

Madam Lilian held onto Belle's hand and pulled her to sit down on the couch in front of her.

"Belle dropped all her prior alertness. Even when Madam Lilian held onto her hand and touched the jade fan in her hand, she didn't think there would be a need to stay vigilant at all, as Madam Lilian would never plot something against her."

"After glancing at the jade fan in her hand, Madam Lilian shifted her gaze away and asked with a smile, ""Mrs. Harvey, how's life?""

How was life? Madam Lilian's question made Belle's heart surge with sorrow.

She was Mrs. Harvey right then. Her husband's family was wealthy and powerful. How could her life not be good?

"I'm fine, she answered in a low voice and maintained the smile on her face."

"Madam Lilian stared at her face and reminded her with concern. ""That's good, but your face is slightly pale. Belle, as a woman, you shouldn't ignore your health just because you're young. Health is the most important thing. I think you should pay more attention to your health and take care of it all the time.""

She urged her in a caring manner.

"Alright, thank you for your concern, Madam Lilian. Belle nodded with a smile as she felt a warmth in her heart."

"Have some tea. A staff member served tea at that time. Madam Lilian said gently, ""How's your mother doing? Is Mr. Calvin alright?""

“Belle placed the jade fan on her thighs, reached out to take the tea, and took a sip. When she heard Madam Lilian mentioning her mother and Calvin, her hands couldn’t help but to tremble, and her face turned gloomy.”

“Madam Lilian observed her carefully and said with a faint smile, ““I once heard you talk about your mother. At that time, your face was full of pride as you spoke of her. I really envy your mother, who has such a wonderful daughter like you.”””

“Then, Madam Lilian must’ve also heard her talking about her husband, Calvin, before. At the banquet, she proudly and happily said that they were living a good life. They loved each other a lot, and they had been through a lot before they got together. At that time, she was certain that she would be the happiest woman in the world, but right then, where was her husband?”

“He had promised to accompany her to the auction to bid for that jade fan, but he left her alone after receiving a call from Liya.”

“What if something bad happened to her that day, or if she wasn’t able to buy the jade fan?”

“Belle felt very unpleasant, but she couldn’t express her bitterness. So, she could only lower her head to hide the sadness in her eyes and maintain the same old smile on her face.”

“My mother is doing good, and she’ll always be the greatest mother in my eyes. When she was talking about her mother, Belle was still smiling happily and proudly.”

“There was a soft light in Madam Lilian’s eyes. Mrs. Harvey still spoke of her mother with the same happiness as before, but she did not talk about her husband as she did the last time. There was a hint of loneliness in her smile.”

“She knew a bit about A City’s tycoon, Calvin, and the Harvey Group from the newspaper. It seemed that the young couple was facing many difficulties in life, and there was some friction between the two of them because of it.”

It seemed as if that was the normal way of thinking for the young these days.

“Only through the difficulties and challenges of life could one truly mature. Young people right then were too impetuous. They didn’t really understand the true meaning of life, which was why it was a common problem faced by many who are young.”

“She nodded slightly and cast a glance at the jade fan on Belle’s thighs, asking carefully, ““Mrs. Harvey, can you let me take a look at this jade fan you’ve bought?”””

Her smile was sincere and honest.

“Belle was slightly stunned at first, but she immediately put down the teacup and handed the jade fan to her with both hands.”

“Madam Lilian, here you go.”

“Madam Lilian, I’m truly sorry. I didn’t know that you were the one who was bidding for this jade fan with me. If I had known this... Up to that point, Belle spoke embarrassingly.”

“Nevertheless, she didn’t continue because her mother wanted that fan. If she had known that it was Madam Lilian, what would she do? Would she give up on the bid?”

“For her mother’s sake, she would not give up and would still bid to the end.”

“With her trembling hands, Madam Lilian took the jade fan from Belle and opened it slowly. Her eyes were instantly covered with a grey mist. As the jade fan was presented in front of her eyes, her thoughts drifted far away and her face was a mixture of loss and fear.”

“Belle didn’t know why Madam Lilian wanted that jade fan so much. So, she just lowered her head and thought that if her mother didn’t want it, she would give it to Madam Lilian, as it was obvious that Madam Lilian was very interested in it.”

“Madam Lilian didn’t speak for a long time. When Belle lifted her head, she saw tears at the corner of Madam Lilian’s eyes and could not help but to be shocked.”

“Child, tell me. Why are you so persistent in trying to buy this jade fan? Madam Lilian finally stopped reminiscing about the past and asked Belle in a gentle voice, with her face full of anticipation.”

“Madam Lilian had secretly returned to A City. That day, she went to the museum with the intention of getting that jade fan at all costs. She believed that she would be able to accomplish it with ease. After all, it was not a rare treasure and there would not be many who would try to compete with her.”

“However, she didn’t expect a woman to keep bidding for that jade fan in the auction hall downstairs. It was obvious that she was really determined in obtaining it, and it made her very curious and interested in her.”

“Madam Lilian immediately sent her secretary out to check on the one who bought the fan. It turned out to be Mrs. Harvey, who had left her a deep and favorable impression, and it caused Madam Lilian to be even more interested in her. In order to put a stop to the vicious bidding war, she backed off.”

“Since she became even more curious about Belle’s actions, she invited her to have a chat.”

“Madam Lilian was alright with not having that jade fan, and she could even give it to her, but she was very puzzled with her behavior, which made her even more eager to figure out Belle’s purpose in obtaining that jade fan.”

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“Madam Lilian, I’m so sorry. I didn’t know that you were interested in this jade fan. I really was rude to you today. Belle’s face turned red with embarrassment. Then, she lifted her head and said with great regret, ““Madam Lilian, if my mother hadn’t insisted on obtaining this fan, I would have given it to you, but she wants this jade fan very badly. Yesterday, she specifically told me to come to the auction to bid for it. You know that my mother has always treated me well. That’s why I don’t want to let her down and disappoint her. Therefore, I could only apologize to you with regards to this jade fan.”””

“Oh, I see. Madam Lilian nodded as if she had understood something, and her eyes turned even more profound. She put the jade fan back into the box, stroked it, and handed it back to Belle, asking with concern, ““May I ask why your mother wants this jade fan?”””

“This... Belle shook her head and smiled helplessly. ““Madam Lilian, to be honest, I don’t know why Mom wants this fan either. She only said that she wanted to keep it as a memory. I also feel that it is very odd.”””

“Upon saying that, the light in Madam Lilian’s eyes dimmed. After a while, she explained with a smile, ““My child, the reason I’m interested in this jade fan is that I am the one who wrote the poem on the fan and it is a reflection of my life in the past in A City. I also just wanted to keep it as a souvenir. After all, I’m already old and since I’m in a foreign country, I will always think of the past and feel sad.”””

“As she spoke, she let out a sigh.”

Belle finally understood why Madam Lilian wanted that jade fan.

“Madam Lilian, if that’s the case, why don’t I inform my mother when I get home? If my mother doesn’t want it anymore, I’ll personally give it to you. What do you think? Belle’s heart ached when she heard about Madam Lilian’s wish. Since she was the one who wrote the poem on the fan, it was evident that the jade fan was hers in the first place. Belle thought that it would be unreasonable for her to snatch the jade fan away from her like that.”

“No, child, if your mother likes my stuff, I’ll be more than willing to give it to her as a gift. How about this? I’ll pay for your bid today. By the way, what’s your mother’s name? I’ll send the five million dollars to her account. Just take it as me giving the jade fan to your mother as a present, alright? After all, it is both a blessing and a rare acquaintance for me to have someone who likes my stuff so much, of all the people in the world. Madam Lilian refused Belle’s suggestion at once and offered to give her the jade fan in a generous manner.”

“When Belle heard that, she knew that things wouldn’t work out. It was impossible for her mother to accept other people’s gifts so casually, let alone Madam Lilian, who had such a noble status. She immediately shook her head and said, ““Madam Lilian, I’m really sorry. My mother won’t accept other people’s gifts. So, I dare not make a decision. If my mother finds out, she’ll definitely berate me for it. I’m so sorry.”””

“Speaking of that, Belle’s face turned red. She felt very embarrassed to have to snatch Madam Lilian’s precious item away from her for Kate’s sake, and she looked at her with glistening eyes.”

“After being dumbfounded for a moment, Madam Lilian immediately understood what Belle meant and smiled desolately.”

“Look, I’m too sentimental, she said with a self-deprecating smile.”

Belle felt helpless. She could only smile along with her and say nothing.

“Child, may I know your mother’s name? Madam Lilian’s eyes flashed with a clear and soft light, as she asked in a friendly and hopeful manner.”

“Seeing the expectant look on Madam Lilian’s face, Belle smiled softly as she replied, ““My mother’s name is Kate Bennett. She’s just an ordinary woman. I’m sorry to have made a fool.”””

“Kate Bennett! Madam Lilian murmured that name and shook her head with confusion in her eyes. If she remembered correctly, her daughter was only a year old when she left. She named her daughter

Emily Cole, which was too different from the name Kate Bennett. She sighed, and the light in her eyes turned bleak.”

“Even so, I still want to treat your mother to a meal. Will she agree to it? After a moment of disappointment, Madam Lilian offered a friendly request.”

A meal? Belle shook her head instantly after being stunned for a moment.

“I’m sorry, my mother can’t walk. It’s inconvenient for her to move around as she sits in a wheelchair. Although she has settled with prosthetic legs, it is still not convenient for her to go out. Belle was downcast. Her eyes turned red, and she lowered her head.”

“That was something Madam Lilian had never expected. After a moment of astonishment, she immediately took Belle’s hand and apologized. “”I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have mentioned it. I’ll go and visit your mother the next time I’m free.”””

“It’s nothing. Belle shook her head. Upon mentioning Kate, she remembered that she was still waiting for her at home and wanted to leave.”

“Mrs. Harvey, since we were able to meet here, why don’t we have lunch together? Madam Lilian seemed to have read her mind and invited her at the right time. “”When I was young, I enjoyed eating street food in A City. Since I finally returned to A City, are you willing to join me for street food?”””

“Upon mentioning street food, the old lady in her seventies actually laughed like a child. Her expression was like that of a child’s as well.”

“Belle also liked street food a lot. She couldn’t help cheering like a child. “”Alright, Madam Lilian. I’m more than willing to accompany you. There is a lot of famous street food in A City.”””

“Alright then, let’s go. Upon receiving Belle’s response, Madam Lilian’s spirits soared as well. Like a child, she held onto Belle’s hand and said excitedly.”

“Madam, I’m sorry. Street food is not very hygienic. You really can’t eat them. Did you forget that you’re still on medication? You’d better go to a hotel. The secretary was shocked when she heard that Madam Lilian was going to have street food with Belle. With Madam Lilian’s status, her servants wouldn’t be at ease, even if she were to eat in the high-end restaurants in A city, not to mention that it would be inconvenient for her to show up by the street. Therefore, how could they allow her to eat street food? She immediately stopped her in a tactful way.”

“With that, Madam Lillian’s face darkened.”

What’s wrong? Are you guys going to stop me from eating food?

“The secretary was very anxious to hear that, and she couldn’t care less about Madam Lilian’s scolding. So, she persuaded her carefully. “”Ma’am, A city is a sensitive place, and you came here in secret. So, it’s really inappropriate to go out. If someone with ulterior motives knows about it, I’m afraid that it will cause a lot of trouble. Your blood sugar level is also very high right now. You really can’t eat those street snacks.”””

“The secretary did her best to persuade her. Even though she knew that Madam Lilian might be unhappy, she still had to fulfill her duty.”

“Belle gradually came back to her senses as well. She knew that the secretary’s words were reasonable. So, she hastily eased the atmosphere. “”Madam Lilian, you should listen to your secretary. The food on the street is indeed not very hygienic, and they’re not suitable for your image either. If we have the chance next time, I’ll have someone cook them for you, alright?”””

“Madam Lilian was still pissed off at first, but when she heard Belle’s words, she immediately broke into a smile.”

“Alright. You better remember what you’ve said. You must treat me to a meal. No matter what, I must have dinner with Mrs. Harvey this time I’m here. No one can stop me from doing so.”

“Alright, Belle answered straightforwardly. She was really willing to stay with the kind and friendly Madam Lilian. The intimacy she gave off made Belle feel reluctant to leave her. “”I’ll decide on a venue when I have time in the next two days and treat you to a meal. By then, I’ll definitely order some famous local snacks and hire a chef to cook them for you.”””

“Hearing Belle’s sweet words, happiness surged in Madam Lilian’s heart and she cracked into joy.”

“When the secretary saw that Madam Lilian no longer wanted to eat on the streets, she did not stop them from having dinner together anymore.”

They decided on that happily.

“Next up, Belle would have to spend some time arranging her dinner date with Madam Lilian.”

“After the two reached a mutual understanding, they looked at each other and laughed.”

“Then, the two sat down and chatted for a while. After that, Belle stood up and left.”

She went downstairs and headed straight to the Francist Community.

“After Calvin left the auction, he immediately used his phone and informed Luca to go to the White Cloud Hotel to pick Liya up.”

He himself also headed to White Cloud Hotel right away.

“With panic on her face, Liya jumped out of a car and ran towards the hotel nearby.”

“A van rushed over from the side swiftly. The door opened, two men in black jumped out and ambushed Liya.”

Liya was about to be dragged into the car by the men in black.

A flying knife flew over from the side.

“Ouch. One of the men’s arm was pierced by the knife, and he let out a scream.”

“When the other man saw what happened, he was shocked. However, he still did not intend to let Liya go as he grabbed Liya and pulled her towards the car.”

Save me! Liya’s face lost all of its color as she shouted in terror.

Let her go. A strong gust of wind blew from behind. A man leapt across the fence like the wind and kicked towards the man in black with a flying kick.

"It was daytime, and that place was crowded. Such a scene immediately attracted the attention of many passers-by."

"Seeing that things had gotten to that point, the men in black knew that they couldn't do anything anymore. So, they had no choice but to give up on Liya and escape in the van."

Luca helped the frightened Liya up and supported her towards the White Cloud Hotel.

"When Calvin finally arrived, Liya was sobbing in a suite, looking very weak."

"Luca told Calvin everything about what had just happened. Fortunately, Calvin had expected such a thing to happen and sent Luca over in time."

"Calvin, someone wants to kill me. When Liya saw Calvin's tall figure walking in, she immediately pounced on him with her trembling body, as if she had seen her savior."

"She looked really terrified, and she seemed to have lost a lot of weight in just a few days."

"Calvin's brows knitted together, as he held her up without batting an eyelid. He did so because he wouldn't allow her to jump into his embrace."

Sit down and tell me everything. Calvin tried to be as calm as possible.

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"Calvin, you promised me if I obtained the evidence Zoella used to frame Belle, you'll marry me. You can't go back on your word, alright? After Liya sat down on the sofa, she lifted her head and spoke with tears in her eyes."

The light in Calvin's eyes flickered.

"So, do you mean that you've obtained it? he asked in a deep voice."

"Calvin, will you fulfil your promise? Liya didn't answer him as she pressed on."

"Looking at her, Calvin forced a smile and nodded after quite some time."

"Of course, I won't go back on my word."

"Well, I finally obtained the evidence Zoella used to frame Belle, and I can hand it over to you right now. Then, when are you going to marry me, Calvin?"

"The expression on Liya's face showed that she was staking everything on that, and she was also determined."

"Calvin's eyes flashed as he asked without batting an eyelid, ""Liya, did you really obtain the evidence?"""

"Yes. Liya looked up and nodded. ""Calvin, you should know that no one will chase after me and try to kill me if I hadn't obtained the evidence."""

“That was true. Otherwise, he, Calvin, wouldn’t have left Belle alone and rushed there.”

“But, Calvin, I’ll only give it to you when you marry me, so that you won’t go back on your word. Excitement flashed across Liya’s face, and her expression revealed persistence. She appeared to be determined, as she would never give up until she reached her goal.”

“Calvin laughed all of a sudden. ““Liya, do you think you’ll be safe if you don’t hand it over to me? You’ve seen it just then. Someone’s already trying to hunt you down once you’ve got it. Do you really think Zoella will let you off so easily?”””

“Liya’s face instantly turned pale. ““That’s why I’m asking when you’re gonna marry me, Calvin. You promised you’ll marry me once I get the evidence.”””

Calvin looked at her with his lips curled up. “Do you really want to marry me as my second wife? Let me warn you that it’s not as fun as you think.”

“I’m not doing it for fun. I’m taking it very seriously. Calvin, I’m willing to do it. Liya’s eyes were red, and her body was tense.”

“Other than doing so, she seemed not to have a better way out, and that was indeed a shortcut as well.”

“Calvin’s gaze grew even more stern and darker. Stretching out his hand, he said, ““Give me the evidence first. We’ll hold the wedding in a week’s time.”””

“A week’s time, really? Liya said as her eyes shone brightly.”

“Yes. Calvin’s handsome face, paired with a dark blue perfectly-ironed suit, had a cold and stern expression. His entire body was emitting a mature and unstoppable aura of an emperor as he asked, ““You don’t trust me?”””

“No, I trust you, I trust you. Since you’re the president of such a big organization, you definitely won’t lie to me. When Liya met his cold eyes, she felt a slight chill, which scared her. She then nodded in a hurry, opened her leather bag, and took out a box from it, handing it over to Calvin with both hands.”

“Calvin’s cold gaze was fixed on the wooden box that was given to him. His eyes narrowed as he slowly took the evidence. It was as if he didn’t ask for it, but Liya forced it on him in an attempt to flatter him.”

Liya’s heart was pounding.

Calvin weighed the wooden box in his hand. His face was indifferent while his heart was filled with another kind of pain and heaviness.

“His men had been following Zoella for so long, but they still couldn’t get the evidence. Liya ended up obtaining it. With that, Belle’s accusations could finally be clear, but because of that, the consequences...”

“As long as I can prove Belle’s innocence, I will keep my promise, he said flatly. Then, he turned and left.”

“Calvin. Seeing that Calvin was leaving with the evidence she had given him, Liya felt a sense of panic and began to beg from behind. ““Calvin, can you stay with me? I’m scared.”””

“Calvin turned his head around. ““If you don’t have anything else, you should go back to Harvey Manor. There won’t be any danger there.”””

“After finishing that sentence, he strode off.”

His departure brought about a gust of cold wind that blew towards Liya. She shuddered and lowered her head. Tears welled up in her eyes as the pain from the wounds caused by Oscar’s torture were now stinging more and more sharply.

“After a while, she collected herself and headed towards Harvey Manor.”

“Mom, I got the jade fan for you. As soon as Belle entered the house, she put on a bright smile.”

“Kate was sitting on the couch reading the newspaper. Hearing Belle’s voice, she took off her glasses and looked at her with a smile on her face.”

“Mom. She put her arms around Kate’s neck, acting like a spoiled child. ““Are you happy that I didn’t let you down? I’m a good daughter, right? You should praise me then.”””

Belle wrapped her arms around Kate’s neck and said coyly while shaking her head. Only by Kate’s side could she feel the sense of bliss she felt when she was in her teens.

Kate smiled lovingly and caressed Belle’s head with her hand. “You really are my good daughter.”

“For now, Kate would only feel contented and happy when Belle was acting like a spoiled child with her. Her daughter was now her one and only relative.”

“Mom, I have something to tell you. Belle sat down beside Kate, held her hand, and said wittily, ““Do you know who wrote the poem you always read aloud on the jade fan?”””

Who is it? Kate’s eyebrows twitched.

“Madam Lilian. Belle said proudly, ““Let me tell you. The poem on the jade fan was written by Madam Lilian herself.”””

Who is Madam Lilian? Kate asked with an indifferent smile.

“Madam Lilian is a great woman. She’s the most powerful woman in the world right now. When Belle thought of the friendly and harmonious relationship between Madam Lilian and herself, she laughed out unconsciously with an expression full of admiration.”

“Kate’s eyes clouded over with thoughts, and she couldn’t help asking, ““Are you referring to the internationally acclaimed Madam Lilian?”””

“Yes, Mom, that’s correct. It seems that my Mom also likes politics and pays a lot of attention to the news. Belle teased and grinned.”

“A look of surprise appeared on Kate’s face, but she shook her head immediately after.”

It’s no wonder someone would try to bid for the jade fan away from you. It turns out that Madam Lilian’s poem is written on it. She gave a faint smile with an indifferent expression.

“Mom, I really didn’t expect the poem you often read out was written by Madam Lilian. Belle laughed happily as she couldn’t believe it as well.”

“Kate held the newspaper in her hand, but she seemed lost in her thoughts.”

“That jade fan was what her mother left her. It was just that she missed her mother when she was young. So, she naturally memorized the poem on the fan. At that time, she didn’t know what it meant. Right then, it seemed that the poem was written by Madam Lilian herself. She became puzzled as to how her mother got the fan at that time. However, the fact that Madam Lilian personally wrote the poem was nothing unusual, right? As there were many prominent individuals who often wrote such poems.”

“Mom, Madam Lilian is a very friendly person. She is also very interested in this fan and even said that she wanted to invite you over for a meal with her. It seems that she is also very interested in you, as she kept saying that you’re a blissful mother. When Belle thought of Madam Lilian’s interest in that fan, she was confused. So, she immediately told Kate how she felt about Madam Lilian.”

“Really? Kate smiled disapprovingly. ““You child, how could you be so happy with just a few words of praise? Who doesn’t know how to say such polite words?”””

Kate shook her head with a smile.

“Belle also felt that it was really odd. In fact, their relationship was quite incredible as she should not have any further contact with Madam Lilian. After all, the disparity between their statuses was too great and there was also no reason for Madam Lilian to interact with her. However, since she had such a coincidental encounter with her, she was very happy.”

“Therefore, she decided to return home and discuss it with Calvin. She wanted to treat Madam Lilian to an exceptional meal, as Madam Lilian had agreed to it almost immediately.”

“As soon as Belle left the Francist Community, she went straight back to Harvey Manor.”

What’s wrong? Did you fail? Zoella stood in the office with a newspaper in her hand. Her eyes were red.

“Miss Yates, we’ve been fooled by Calvin. He has already settled Liya down and used her admiration towards him to obtain the evidence used to frame Belle, by saying that he will marry her if she did so. With that, our plan is ruined. Octavia hurriedly rushed over with anger all over her face. ““Calvin had already long expected this. He even sent his men to follow Liya today. When we were about to succeed, his men appeared and saved her. The evidence is probably in Calvin’s hands right now.”””

“Zoella’s face was terrifyingly gloomy, as she clenched her fists tightly.”

“She didn’t expect Liya to steal the evidence of her framing Belle. Right then, without his weak spot, Calvin would be able to act freely, and she wouldn’t be able to carry out her plan.”

“The worse thing was that she wouldn’t be able to free herself from Oscar anymore. As long as she thought of Oscar, her eyes would burn with rage.”

“Liya, how dare you bet Rhys me? You’re so hateful. Since you want to climb the social ladder by becoming Calvin’s second wife in order to get rid of me, I definitely won’t let you succeed. Besides, do

you think you're worthy of becoming Calvin's second wife? Does Calvin deserve a woman like you? She gritted her teeth with anger."

"That's right, Miss Yates. Liya is a really despicable and shameless woman. She isn't grateful for your kindness at all and betRhyesed you once she got hold of other benefits. Is such a woman worthy of Calvin? Octavia, who was at the side, was furious, as their plan had been messed up by Liya right then."

Zoella suddenly thought of something. The smile on her face turned sinister.

"That recording of Oscar toying with Liya. With that, at least she wouldn't be threatened by Oscar. As long as they went on like that, Liya would definitely break down from being toyed with by Oscar."

"At the thought of that, her anger dissipated."