

## **Good bye 211**

### **Chapter 211 She Is Avoiding It**

Jimmy was afraid that Martha would abandon him. He had always been a sensible child.

He would rather go back to life without a father than lose his mother.

His mother did everything for him.

Martha shook her head helplessly. There was a rift between her and Stefan and even Jimmy couldn't fix it.

She wouldn't force herself to let go of the by-gones and start over with Stefan again...

So, she must make it clear to Jimmy that she wouldn't return to Stefan even if he accepted Stefan.

Later, when she asked Jimmy what he wanted for lunch, Jimmy shook his head, looking as if he had no appetite.

Martha felt distressed seeing so.

...

At noon, Martha thought about going back home to make some dessert for Jimmy.

Sweets always made people feel better. She hadn't made dessert for Jimmy for a long time. Hopefully, it would make him forget about the unhappy things.

On the drive back home, Martha was absent-minded.

Her mind was a mess and she couldn't calm down.

She thought of Jimmy's upset look, and the picture of Jimmy getting along with Stefan. In the end, she thought of what Stefan said.

If he died...

Some noise brought her back to reality.

She looked up and realized that it was the red light.

She stepped on the brakes. The wheels left a mark on the ground.

Martha leaned forward because the car stopped so suddenly.

Weren't it for the seat belt, she might have been injured.

She heard the horns of cars behind.

The drivers kept honking the horns.

One after another.

Martha paid no attention to them. Her eyelids kept twitching, which made her anxious.

What did Stefan mean by that...

Before she could think about it, the green light was on.

She turned left and drove into traffic.

A voice kept telling her to focus on driving and stop thinking.

It told her not to think about anything related to that man.

Arriving at the Doyle Manor, she parked the car and got out. From a distance, she saw Bianca waiting outside the door.

Martha told her that she would come back to make dessert for Jimmy on the phone.

They walked into the room talking and laughing. Martha temporarily shut the troubles out of her mind.

She changed into home clothes, washed her hands, and entered the kitchen with Bianca.

It'd been a long time since she made desserts by herself. She had almost forgotten how to do it.

Fortunately, Bianca was helping her.

They had a nice cooperation, like mother and daughter.

To Martha, she had considered Bianca her mother.

"How is Dad recently?"

Having been busy with Jimmy's affairs over these days, Martha didn't pay much attention to her father.

Bianca smiled and said that everything at home was fine.

Martha nodded with a smile and told Bianca that Jimmy got better.

But she didn't tell her family that Rhys could save Jimmy.

Although Rhys was the only hope at present, she didn't trust him entirely.

She hadn't agreed to his condition.

When Bianca heard that Jimmy was getting better, she almost cried.

Seeing Martha taking care of Jimmy alone, Bianca really felt sorry for her, afraid that Martha would fall ill due to fatigue.

In her opinion, a woman needed a family.

If Jimmy's illness couldn't be cured... that was the worst-case scenario.

Jimmy was Martha's only spiritual pillar. If Jimmy was gone, how could Martha live it down? She needed someone to share the burden and be there for her during a hard time.

"Martha, if Jimmy's illness is cured, what are your plans for the future?"

"I plan to take you and my father abroad," Martha answered while kneading dough.

Of course, before she started over abroad with her family, she had to get back the control over the Doyle Group.

“Go abroad?”

“Yeah.”

Martha nodded. She hadn't discussed this matter with her father. After all... it was still unrealistic.

But obviously, Bianca did not ask Martha her plans about this, but about her love relationship.

“Martha, I actually wanted to ask you, have you considered spending the rest of your life with someone else?”

Martha's hands stopped, and a trace of disappointment flashed across her eyes.

She continued making desserts. With her back to Bianca, she didn't look at Bianca again, and said in a deep voice, “I'm fine with staying single. I'm used to it, and I can raise Jimmy up myself.”

Before Bianca could say anything, Martha smiled again and said, “Bianca, I'm disillusioned about love.”

Her words were tinged with subtle bitterness but her tone was very firm.

Bianca sighed, knowing that Martha had been hurt too badly.

“You are still young. A lot of things may happen in the future. Even if you don't think for your sake, you should think for Jimmy's sake.”

Martha pursed her lips but said nothing.

She turned her back to Bianca so Bianca couldn't see her expression.

Seeing that Martha was silent, Bianca gently persuaded her, “Jimmy needs the love and company of a father. You should know this.”

Martha was silent.

Bianca could feel Martha's hesitation. Presumably, she also saw how Stefan gave love and care to Jimmy during this time.

“I can see that now Stefan is sincerely remorseful. We all see his attitude towards you and Jimmy... Martha, if you can't forget about him, why not give her another chance?”

Martha bit her lip, closed her eyes, and shook her head in refusal.

Bianca could see that she didn't want to face Stefan's regret.

She was avoiding it.

She was hesitant, which meant that her mind had wavered.

She didn't want to let go of the past. The hatred and pain went deep into her bones, making her cautious. She had to put on a cold amour for herself, and she didn't want to open her heart again.

Stefan, such a proud and cold person, had made concessions for her, waiting for her forgiveness, trying to make up for his mistakes.

Anyone would have been moved.

Seeing this, Bianca knew that Martha really couldn't let go.

It seemed that she should quit the idea of letting them, who had missed each other, get back together.

"If you don't want to look back, date someone new. There are always people who really like you. Maybe someone can make you happy. It's a good choice to start a new life."

Martha shook her head lightly, and said bitterly, "Bianca, I haven't fallen for anyone for years."

She had tried to forget the past and start a new relationship.

Even if she was ready to let go of all her past and hatred, she couldn't lie to herself. It seemed she couldn't fall in love with anyone again.

Rupert had been there for her for many years. Rhys had confessed his love to her while making use of her. Yet Martha couldn't accept either of them. She subconsciously resisted them.

Even though she didn't want to admit it, her heart had been broken by Stefan four years ago.

It no longer beat violently and she no longer wished for love...

### **Chapter 212 Someone Might Die**

Martha no longer opened her heart to anyone's love. Nor did she want to love anyone.

Love could only cause her pain.

She was fine with being alone.

In the end, Bianca compromised and sighed helplessly.

"I'm not saying this to persuade you to accept anyone. I just don't want you to give up at a young age."

Bianca told Martha to think about it, and left the kitchen.

Martha was left alone in the kitchen. The biscuits made for Jimmy had been put into the oven, and the milky aroma wafted faintly.

While waiting, she closed her eyes wearily. Stefan's and Rhys' figures emerged in her mind. They were arguing.

It didn't feel right.

She thought carefully about the scene outside the orphanage that day

Rhys hated the Harrison family and Stefan because of his mother.

And Stefan was very angry because Rhys was an illegitimate child and Rhys slandered his father.

Now in retrospect, Martha felt many things were wrong.

She understood why Rhys hated the Harrison family.

But why was Stefan so aggressive when he went to the orphanage that day?

She knew Rhys' identity based on clues from the orphanage, yet how did Stefan know it? Who told him?

Why was he angry? Just because he refused to accept his father, whom he had respected so much, had an illegitimate child. Or, was there something else?

When Stefan mentioned Rhys' mother, he seemed to be very disdainful and contemptuous, which enraged Rhys.

They fought out of anger.

Martha was puzzled. She murmured in her mind. Were there some misunderstandings?

...

In the afternoon, in the hospital.

Eden drove to the hospital. First, he wanted to see Stefan's son. After all, he hadn't met Jimmy formally after so long. Second, he was hesitant about whether to tell Martha what was going to happen tonight.

He didn't expect to meet Melissa, who also came to visit Jimmy, outside the ward.

They looked at each other with unfriendly eyes. The atmosphere was weird for a moment. Then they walked into the ward one after the other.

Jimmy was very close to Melissa, but he didn't know Eden. He greeted Eden but didn't talk to him after that.

When Martha came, she saw these three people looking at each other in the ward.

Eden turned his head when he heard the sound. He looked at Martha with gloominess.

But Martha didn't notice it. She was surprised that Eden and Melissa were both there.

"You guys came together?"

Her tone was a bit teasing and curious.

Melissa waved her hand and immediately said, "No way! We just happen to arrive at the same time."

Martha chuckled, not convinced.

Melissa frowned, helpless.

Eden ignored the question. He had something on his mind and looked worried.

Jimmy glanced at Eden secretly a few times, thinking that he looked too serious.

Martha noticed Eden's expression. She felt that he wanted to tell her something.

She asked Melissa to take care of Jimmy and then went out with Eden.

Martha asked directly, "Is there anything you want to tell me?"

Eden was startled, hesitating. Two voices kept arguing in his mind.

Reason told him that he should keep this secret for Stefan to keep Martha from risk.

But emotionally, he, as a bystander, saw the situation far more clearly than Stefan did

He thought Martha had the right to know the truth and the misunderstanding between them should be solved.

After a moment of hesitation, Eden chose to tell Martha the truth.

"Stefan has an appointment with Rhys tonight."

Martha was surprised. She remembered how Stefan and Rhys fought with each other the last time. Why would they meet again? Probably...

Thinking of Stefan's weird behavior, Martha had a bad premonition.

She subdued her emotions and remained calm on the surface.

"Yes?"

Her emotionless response made Eden upset.

He whispered again, "Someone might die."

Martha was stunned.

She thought of Stefan asking her earlier if she would forgive him if he died.

At this moment, she had an indescribable feeling.

After a few seconds of silence, she asked, "Did Stefan tell you about Rhys before?"

Eden frowned, wondering what Martha was asking this for.

He nodded and replied, "He did, but not a lot. Therefore, I know little about Rhys."

Eden said, thinking of something, "But when he mentioned Rhys, he was wrathful. In particular, he hated Rhys' mother to the core, saying she deserved to die."

Martha's eyelashes quivered slightly when she heard this.

Stefan hated Rhys' mother, so her guess was right.

It was just that Martha couldn't figure out where this intense hatred was from.

According to her understanding, in Rhys' recollection, his mother was a very gentle woman instead of a bad person.

Rhys had no reason to lie to her. His mother was also a victim in his memory.

Was there something she didn't know?

“Is Rhys’ mother such an awful person?”

Eden asked, “She destroyed Stefan’s family on purpose, so she deserved to die.”

‘On purpose?’

Martha shook her head in disagreement.

### **Chapter 213 Unexpected Thoughts**

Eden didn’t understand why Martha focused on this unimportant matter.

“What’s the point of saying this now? You should stop Stefan, shouldn’t you? Martha, are you so cruel?”

Eden said emotionally and punched the wall.

He was mad that Martha didn’t take Stefan’s life seriously.

Martha wasn’t angry.

She slowly explained, “The grudge between them is rooted in the disputes of their parents. Without figuring out what happened, I won’t change anything even if I get there tonight.”

“The most urgent task is to solve the issues between them.”

Eden suddenly got it.

“The issues between them? Maybe there is some misunderstanding?”

Martha nodded uncertainly, thinking of someone.

“I’m afraid that this thing is not as simple as it looks on the surface. There could be someone behind it.”

Her eyes suddenly became cold.

She thought it likely that Stefan had learned Rhys’ identity from Gianna, because Giana and Amanda happened to return home shortly before.

Only the elders of the Harrison family knew what happened many years ago.

Plus the fact that Giana provoked her with ill intentions in the hospital, Martha guessed that it was Giana behind it.

...

To confirm her guess, after leaving the hospital, Martha drove to the Harrison Villa, hoping to meet Giana and ask about the whole picture.

In the evening, a woman sat in the living room, looking at the clock from time to time, with no trace of anxiety on her face.

She appeared to be as calm as usual on the outside.

Stefan and Rhys’ appointment was getting near. How could she not be worried?

Her nails dug into her palms. Her eyelids kept twitching. She felt that something was about to happen.

At the Harrison Villa.

Giana knew that Martha had come, but she asked the latter to wait in the living room.

She had yet to go downstairs to meet Martha.

She thought of Martha's attitude in the hospital before.

Giana was angry, especially when Stefan drove her back without mercy, which made her feel humiliated.

So, this time she deliberately made Martha wait.

Martha knew Giana's tricks. Yet she remained calm and patient.

Amanda was not as calm as her mother.

After learning that Martha had come, she decided to walk downstairs and show off.

"Wow, isn't this Miss Doyle? You dislike me and my mom, don't you? What brings you here?" A shrill female voice sounded.

She walked downstairs like a hostess, and even stroked the roses at the corner.

It seemed that she was very familiar with the villa as if it had been her own home.

Martha was somehow amused by her behavior.

It'd only been a few days since they returned to the country, and now she started to act like the hostess of the Harrison Villa.

Even she couldn't bear it, not to mention Stefan. Martha guessed that Stefan must have been annoyed during this time.

Thinking of Stefan, Martha chuckled and said, "Stefan and I haven't divorced yet. This is his house. Can't I come back?"

Although Martha didn't want to admit it, the identity as Stefan's wife indeed was helpful at this moment.

"You guys have just returned from abroad. I don't know if there are enough guestrooms at home. Should I book rooms for you guys in a five-star hotel?"

Martha unceremoniously satirized the two for coming uninvited, even trying to drive them away.

Of course, she has no right to drive anyone away, and neither did Amanda.

Amanda's face changed when she heard this.

She thought that Martha and Stefan had broken up, so Martha wouldn't come back again.

Hearing what Martha said just now, Amanda was furious.

Was Martha moving back to the Harrison Villa?



If that were the case, the chance for her to date Stefan would be even slimmer.

Amanda panicked. She wanted to stop Martha.

She immediately sneered, "Why are you acting like the hostess now? Everybody knows that you and my brother are about to divorce, and you have been messing around with other men. You are shameless!"

Amanda's words were mean. The way she addressed Stefan made Martha feel very uncomfortable. She somehow felt Amanda felt something for Stefan.

Seeing that Martha didn't speak, Amanda thought she touched a raw nerve, so she went on, "Stefan doesn't want you back. I will take good care of him. A few days ago he said I was good at making tea."

Amanda bragged about herself and spoke like a hostess to make Martha quit.

Martha knew it was a provocation.

"My cousin is very good to me and my mother, but you make him angry all the time," Amanda added calmly.

Martha sneered, and asked, "Why do you care so much about his personal life? Do you want to be his wife?"

She was mocking Amanda.

Yet...

Amanda seemed to be stunned.

Martha frowned, wondering whether she was right.

That was ridiculous.

They were cousins, but Amanda had a crush on Stefan.

Amanda didn't look good. Stefan was her cousin, so she felt embarrassed when Martha hit the nerd on the head.

Things wouldn't be so tricky if Stefan liked her too, but...

Right now, as Stefan's cousin, she couldn't express her desire to be Mrs. Harrison.

Martha observed Amanda's expression and understood.

Amanda and Giana were indeed not so simple.

Giana mainly focused on sowing discord between Stefan and Rhys, and even added fuel to the flames in front of her.

Amanda, on the other hand, wanted to seduce Stefan.

The two fell into an eerie silence.

At that time, the sound of high-heeled shoes came from the stairs, breaking the silence of the living room.

Giana finally came downstairs.

Seeing her daughter standing aside with a look of defeat, Giana was speechless.

'Amanda is defeated by Martha so easily. How is Amanda going to replace Martha?'

### **Chapter 214 Turning Them into Enemies**

Disappointed, Giana asked Amanda to go back to her room, determined to take Martha down a notch or two..

After Amanda left, Giana sat down gracefully.

Sitting next to Martha, she looked kind and friendly.

"I was not feeling well just now. You must have been waiting for a while. Why don't you stay here for dinner?" Giana smiled gently.

She invited Martha to stay for dinner like an ordinary elder.

Martha looked at her hypocritical kindness with a half-smile.

But Giana didn't feel embarrassed at all. She went on saying, "Maybe I haven't adjusted to the time difference, I..."

"Auntie." Martha interrupted Giana aloud. She had no time or desire to beat around the bush.

She just wanted to know the truth as soon as possible.

"I came here with some questions. Please tell me the truth."

Martha looked serious. Giana put away her smiling face, waiting for her questions.

"Auntie, I wonder if you know Stefan's father has an illegitimate child?"

Martha stared straight into Giana's eyes.

Martha's eyes were sharp as if she could gain insight into Giana's thoughts.

Giana was stunned. Something barely noticeable flashed across her eyes.

Martha noticed it, however. She was waiting for Giana to make up stories.

Giana nodded, pretending to be sad, and sighed helplessly, "Shame! It's all my brother's fault. If he didn't make the mistake back then, things won't be happening now..."

"But it's all about the last generation. You guys are innocent. My brother made a mistake. He hurt Stefan's mother."

When Giana talked about the past, she looked sad as if she really felt sorry for her brother.

Martha frowned, she didn't want to hear about those.

Giana avoided the point, which meant that she was guilty.

“Did you tell Stefan about this?”

Giana nodded without hesitation and said, “Yes, I told him.”

Her candid answer invited suspicion.

“Before Stefan’s father died, he hoped that that child could come back. That boy is a Harrison after all. As the elder of the Harrison family, I can’t bear to see him homeless.”

“Although my brother made a mistake, he was a nice father. So I couldn’t refuse his last wish. As his younger sister, I must fulfill it for his sake.”

Giana sounded sincere, but Martha immediately retorted.

“Then why didn’t you tell him in the past years but now?”

Giana was at a loss for words. She didn’t expect Martha to stick to this point.

Giana’s eyes darkened as she made up an excuse, “I have been abroad all these years, so this matter has been delayed, but I have always kept my brother’s last wish in mind.

“I told Stefan immediately after finding that boy. No matter what, he is Stefan’s younger brother. As an elder, I want to see members of the Harrison family united and happy.”

Giana said that she wanted the two brothers to accept each other and have a harmonious relationship.

But what she did was sow discord between these two brothers.

Martha was sure she said nothing nice about Rhys to Stefan.

Otherwise, Stefan wouldn’t be so hostile towards Rhys and his mother.

Martha didn’t believe a word Giana said.

Giana didn’t mention the illegitimate child after Stefan’s father died. Now she told Stefan about it as soon as she returned. She must have been waiting for the right time.

Both Stefan and Rhys were kids back then, but now Stefan was powerful.

Rhys was also getting strong. Neither of them would be intact from the battle.

Giana wanted to turn them into enemies at this right time.

She made the brothers hate each other, wanting to be the winner when they fought.

Martha understood that Giana was on guard.

Her answer was almost perfect. She couldn’t find anything wrong with it.

Presumably, her aggressiveness just now was too obvious.

If Giana was on guard, she wouldn’t be able to get the answer she wanted.

Giana was articulate and good at lying.

Martha imitated Giana, changing her tone and attitude.

“Auntie, I have no other intentions. As the daughter-in-law of the Harrison family, I just want to know more about the family... Stefan doesn’t tell me anything, I always feel like an outsider.”

Martha said with a sad look as if being bullied by the Harrison family.

Giana was dubious.

She thought Martha asked about the illegitimate child because she wanted to know more about Stefan and please Stefan.

Judging from this situation, Stefan and Martha had a lot of disputes.

It seemed that their relationship had been broken...

Giana thought that her daughter finally had an opportunity.

But Martha’s words sounded like she wanted to patch things up with Stefan and go back to the Harrison Villa...

Giana couldn’t help worrying about the situation of herself and her daughter. She told herself that she must prevent Martha from going back to the Harrison Villa.

Martha seemed confused and asked, “Auntie, how much have you found? Is the boy the president of the Williams Group?”

Giana nodded. Martha asked again, “Then how did he become the young master of the Williams family?”

Giana said that she didn’t know, but Rhys was definitely one of the Harrisons.

Martha pretended to be ignorant, “What about his birth mother? Is she in the Williams family too?”

“Of course not, she died many years ago.”

Martha noticed that Giana looked and sounded disdainful when she mentioned Rhys’ mother.

She did it on purpose

“Rhys’ mother must be beautiful, or why would Stefan’s father have an affair with her? Maybe it’s true love.” Martha spoke innocently.

Giana snorted lightly.

As expected, Giana told her how Rhys’ mother got pregnant with tricks.

“That woman is cunning. She plotted against my brother with despicable means. That’s how she was pregnant.”

Giana recounted what happened back then and blamed everything on Rhys’ mother.

Martha guessed that Giana probably told Stefan the same thing.

That was why Stefan hated Rhys and Rhys’ mother so much.

Martha fell into silence.

And just when Giana was about to continue her slander, Martha suddenly chuckled.

"I know Rhys. He told me a different story."

Giana's face immediately changed...

### **Chapter 215 Two Choices**

Giana knew that Martha and Rhys were involved with each other, but she didn't expect that Rhys would even tell Martha about his privacy.

"Rhys' mother, what kind of person is she?" Martha pretended to be confused. "There are two different versions of stories. So, there must be some misunderstandings, or someone is pulling the strings, don't you think so, auntie?"

Martha asked the question in a neutral manner, without a trace of provoking, but the unkindness in her tone was pretty obvious.

Giana was not a fool. She realized that she had just been tricked.

At this moment, afraid that she would fall into Martha's trap, Giana refused to make more remarks on this issue.

Seeing that Giana kept silent, Martha sighed, "No matter what, I just hope the family could get along well. After all, they are brothers. I just want them to get along."

Martha chuckled, "Auntie, that's so nice of you."

Giana could hear Martha's sarcasm. She curled her lips calmly.

Martha glanced at the time.

"I'll visit another day, auntie."

Giana didn't ask her to stay longer. She sent Martha away with fake smiles.

Before leaving, Martha looked back at Giana, and said, "I agree with one thing you said just now. No matter what, they are brothers."

Having said that, Martha left without looking back.

Giana frowned, feeling there was a message in Martha's last sentence but she couldn't tell. Nor did she know what Martha was going to do.

...

At nine o'clock in the evening, Stefan came to the pier alone with a black handmade document bag in his hand.

On the cruise ship, the deck was quiet. Only sea breeze blew in the quiet night.

Stefan walked up to the top deck of the cruise ship and met the person waiting for him.

Rhys came alone too.

This time, neither of them put on an act.

Rhys' tore away his disguise since there was no one else. They knew each other's identity, so a battle was inevitable.

The way they looked at each other was full of hostility.

Both of them wanted the other person to surrender.

No one spoke. They competed silently.

Finally, Stefan took out two things from the document bag.

One was a document of all the property under Stefan's name and the shares of the Harrison Group.

The other thing... was a black pistol.

Rhys looked at the thing and frowned slightly. It seemed that Stefan wanted to bet his life tonight.

"What? Do you want to kill me?" Rhys chuckled.

Of course, he didn't believe Stefan would kill him, even if the man wanted to so badly.

Jimmy needed Rhys' bone marrow. No matter how much Stefan hated Rhys, he wouldn't risk his son's life.

The Harrisons were born cold-hearted. If Stefan was half as heartless as his father, he wouldn't lose to Rhys for a woman.

Thinking of the Harrison family, Rhys smiled even more sarcastically.

Stefan's lips parted slightly. He snorted, "Do you deserve to be killed by me? You are just an illegitimate child. Your blood is dirty."

This undoubtedly gave Rhys a blow. The smile on his face disappeared, replaced by sullenness.

Not wanting to waste time, Stefan cut to the chase, "Make your choice."

Rhys raised an eyebrow. Choice?

Stefan stared at the things on the table, and his eyes darkened, "Save my son. In exchange for your bone marrow, I will give you all the property under my name. Including my stake in the Harrison Group."

If Rhys got equity in the Harrison Group, he would officially become part of the Harrison family.

This seemed to be Stefan's biggest concession.

The shares of the Harrison Group were not only a symbol of wealth but also a symbol of identity and status.

This bargaining chip was really too big. It could be seen that Jimmy must be very important in Stefan's mind.

Rhys snorted, and said disdainfully, "I might think about it if I were as poor as I used to be."

Now, his mother was dead. And the hard days were gone.

"Besides, I am also the Harrison. I have the right to inherit all of this. At least half of what you own now should belong to me."

"I have the right to take back what belongs to me. Who are you to exchange it with me?"

Rhys' reaction was within Stefan's expectations.

But...

Stefan sneered, "You? The Harrison? No one will admit your identity."

How dare he call himself the Harrison when his mother did such a shameless thing?

No one would admit... Rage rose up in Rhys' eyes.

He recalled the life spent with his mother and her death.

His so-called father never showed up.

Later on, Rhys suffered so much, it was all his father's fault.

If he could choose, Rhys would rather have the blood of a beggar than that of a Harrison.

Rhys hated Frank, as well as his son.

His hatred for the Harrison family didn't happen overnight. He had decided from an early age that the purpose of his life was revenge.

Stefan didn't want to waste more time with Rhys.

Since Rhys refused the first option, then...

"The second option, kill me."

Stefan would use his life in exchange for Jimmy's life. That should be a fair deal for Rhys.

### **Chapter 216 Not Allowed to Die**

Rhys was quiet for a moment and was then stunned.

He didn't expect that Stefan would trade his life for Jimmy's.

He calmed down and recovered from the hatred.

He regained his usually cynical look and cast a glance at Stefan.

Rhys turned to look at the gun on the table.

Stefan could really sacrifice his life for his son?

Thinking of this, Rhys arched his eyebrow and sneered, "I had thought a heartless man like you would never care about anyone. I am impressed today."

Stefan pursed his lips but his expression didn't change.

Ignoring Rhys' sarcasms, he said in a determined tone, "Cut the crap. Just make a choice."

"I don't give a shit about your wealth," Rhys said slowly.

"Clap!"

Stefan had loaded the gun, turned the trigger to Rhys' side and targeted it at his own head.

"It seems you have made a decision. Do it then."

Stefan didn't hesitate. He felt strangely calm at the last moment of his life.

It was as if his life and death didn't matter to him anymore.

However, deep inside, he couldn't help but wonder.

Would she remember him after he redeemed himself with his life? He wished she could at least hate him to remember him.

Rhys squinted and fixed his eyes on Stefan.

He pulled down Stefan's hand that held the gun.

"I haven't finished. I don't give a damn about your life, either."

Stefan looked at Rhys, who was smiling, with his deep-set eyes.

"I used to really want you dead, but now I found death too easy on you. I want you to feel worse than death."

Rhys stared at Stefan with a weird look, as if appreciating his prey. He was thinking how to make Stefan in misery.

Stefan was a bit angry.

"You think you can do that?"

Rhys laughed out loud, "Of course. I am doing it now. To you, the most painful thing is to watch what you care about the most being taken away."

Rhys' words did touch a raw nerve. Now Stefan cared about Martha the most.

Stefan could trade his own life for Jimmy's, but he couldn't let Rhys hurt Martha.

He was furious.

He grabbed Rhys' collar and shouted at him, "Are you a coward? It's between us! Don't get her involved!"

Stefan was outraged and snapped. His eyes were bloodshot and his knuckles turned pale as he grabbed his collar with all his strength.

Rhys started to feel suffocated. It was really uncomfortable but he somehow laughed in anger.



The angrier Stefan was, it meant the more he cared about Martha.

Martha was his weak spot. He was sure to win.

Rhys laughed, "I learned it from your father. He always managed to get innocent women involved, didn't he?"

Of course, Stefan didn't care what he was implying, but wondered if Rhys was implying his shameless mother was an innocent woman.

Then, Giana's words the other day came to his mind.

'Rhys is just a bastard.'

Stefan was outraged. He knocked Rhys down to the ground and said the words that would hurt him the most deeply.

"No matter who you are now, you will always be a low born bastard! No matter how you change your family name, it won't change your despicable nature!"

Rhys was obviously agitated. Hearing those words, He immediately got up from the ground.

He took the loaded gun on the table and pressed it against Stefan's forehead.

His eyes were bloodshot.

"Stefan, do you think I won't kill you?"

Meanwhile, after walking out of the Harrison family, Martha immediately drove to the pier.

She kept speeding on the way. She felt stuffy in her chest and had a bad feeling.

Opening the car window, the cold wind blew and she tried to recover composure.

When she arrived at the suburb near the pier, there was no one here at this moment.

She was getting uneasy.

Even though she didn't want to admit it, at this moment...

She was worried about Stefan.

She was worried he might do something on impulse.

When she arrived at the dock, it was quiet around.

The cold night wind blew.

The strange quietness made her nervous. She didn't see anyone here.

For a moment, she didn't know where to find Stefan.

Just then, the sound of a gunshot came.

It was terrifying and Martha felt her mind going blank.

She was in shock for a moment and couldn't move.

After a few seconds of silence, she came to herself and tried to hold back the fear. She ran over to where the sound came from...

"Stefan, you're not allowed to die!"

### **Chapter 217 She Cared About Him**

Martha soon found the cruise but she stopped at the entrance.

She held the railings tightly until her knuckles turned pale.

She finally admitted she was worried.

Was she here too late?

She didn't dare to board it, for fear she might see something she didn't want to see.

She didn't want to see either of them died.

She needed Rhys' help to save her son and he couldn't die.

But Stefan...

A voice inside told her that he deserved it and she didn't need to be guilty at all, but...

She couldn't do it.

She herself didn't even realize her worries for Stefan.

Martha stopped thinking, forced herself to calm down and then boarded the cruise ship.

As soon as she got into the interior, she saw-

Rhys was pointing a gun at Stefan's head while Stefan was standing opposite him.

The two didn't move but were in a confrontation.

Hearing the footsteps, they didn't move.

When Martha saw this, her heart skipped a beat.

She walked to Stefan and looked at him up and down.

"Stefan, are you alright?"

The gunshot just now...

She still got lingering fear.

Martha's worried expression and the nervousness in her voice attracted the attention of both Rhys and Stefan.

They didn't expect her to be here.

Stefan didn't even need to guess. It must be Eden who told her.

He was surprised by her worries and concern for him just now.

He got mixed feelings but mostly thrilled.

Martha didn't know what he was thinking but carefully checked if he was wounded.

Seeing that he didn't answer, she asked again, "Are you okay? Answer me!"

Martha didn't see any wound in him, but the looks on their faces...

They looked scary

Stefan looked down into her eyes, which were filled with worries.

Eyes won't lie. She was really worried about him.

He arched his eyebrows and chuckled.

His chuckle irritated Martha.

"I was asking you! Why are you laughing?"

Was it hilarious?

She didn't think so.

She felt it foolish that they were risking their lives here.

Stefan stopped smiling and looked serious, "See? You care about me."

After these words, he couldn't help smiling again.

There was complacency in his smile.

It was a huge surprise to know that she cared about him.

All he could think about now was her worried look.

He couldn't get it out of his mind.

It was one of the few moments when he felt relieved and delighted.

At least...

She cared about him.

She asked about him first instead of Rhys after she got here.

She even ignored Rhys here.

This brought him so much pleasure. It was worth to die for it today.

Martha double checked that he was safe and then turned to look at the gun in Rhys' hand.

She looked at the target the gun was pointing at.

Although it seemed it was targeted at Stefan.

After careful observation, she found that...

It was slightly tilted. It had just past Stefan's head and shot the chair behind him.

The chair was shot and the cotton inside was out. She could vaguely see the bullet inside.

It turned out...

The gunshot was on the chair.

Martha was finally relieved.

Fortunately, she got here in time.

She breathed a sigh of relief and glanced at the agreement on the table.

Just a few glances, she knew what was in it and knew why Stefan was here.

He wanted to trade all he had for Jimmy's life

She didn't know how to describe her feelings, which were mixed and complicated.

He did this to make it up to them.

Though he knew it wouldn't work.

When Martha looked back, Stefan was looking at Rhys.

He looked at him with a provocative smile, declaring his victory.

It seemed he was saying, "No matter what you do or what trick you use, she won't be yours."

Rhys' eyes turned cold.

He put the gun down and suddenly felt it meaningless. He sneered, "This is boring. I don't have time for this."

Hearing this, Martha's face changed and she was nervous again.

Did he mean he wouldn't save Jimmy?

Stefan noticed her panic and felt sorry when he saw her face turning pale.

He knew what she wanted the most.

He walked up to Rhys and stopped in front of him.

"If you really want to take revenge, just kill me and it will be over."

Rhys didn't say a word but sneered at the two indifferently.

Stefan was angry and was about to snap when Martha said behind them, "In fact, you don't want anyone dead, do you?"

Martha didn't care about Rhys' reply and continued, "You're not a bad person. You just want an identity to be recognized by everyone."

When Rhys heard this, some unfathomable emotions flashed across Rhys' eyes.

Stefan pursed his lips. That was what Rhys wanted?

No! He wouldn't allow it!

"No way. He will never get one."

Rhys had regained his usual indifferent expression, "I have told you, I don't care."

Martha had learned the feud between the two and knew what they were struggling with.

But she would have to think about a way to solve it.

"There's misunderstanding between the two of you. The story of the last generation is not as you think it is. There's more to it."

### **Chapter 218 What He Wants**

Martha stared into Stefan's eyes and said word by word.

She went all the way to the Harrison Villa to meet Giana just to figure out something.

However, Stefan avoided eye contact with her.

It wasn't that he didn't trust her, but he believed it was a sure thing and there couldn't be more to it!

He didn't look at Martha and said in disdain, "What misunderstanding? They are just despicable human beings."

"Despicable? You are not any better." Rhys sneered and refuted.

Stefan squinted his eyes and said sharply, "You were just a mistake my dad was forced to make. You're his moral stain. If your mother didn't frame my dad, you wouldn't have come to this world. Your existence was a mistake."

Hearing this, Rhys frowned. Forced? Frame?

Impossible!

"If my mother were as despicable as you said and I were a mistake, your dad could have sent us away with money, but he didn't. Why did he often come to see me and my mother all those years?"

He was just a hypocrite!

When Stefan heard this, he was stunned.

How could it be! How could his father do this? It was equal to betraying his wife, wasn't it?

"Your mom took the money and left and my dad had never seen her again! You are lying!"

Rhys frowned. Was this what Stefan heard?

Martha guessed that Giana told him so.

She anxiously said, "I told you there is some misunderstanding between you."

Martha said to Stefan, word for word, "Have you thought that maybe the person who told you this had ulterior motives? Maybe she didn't tell you all the truth."

Stefan wanted to refute Martha but didn't know how.

He did believe in the story Giana told him. In a rage, he didn't question any of it.

Now that he thought about it...

Giana's words were flawed.

He would've noticed it if he wasn't driven mad by anger.

As for Giana's purpose...

Stefan could tell Giana did have ulterior motives, but he thought that she just wanted to sow discord between Rhys and him.

After that, Martha looked at Rhys. After a few seconds to hesitation, she said in a deep voice, "But your mom did play some tricks to get pregnant with you."

Giana's words might be flawed, but some of them might be true.

However, the reason of their contradiction indeed lay in how Rhys was conceived back then.

Even if it might be true that his mother played some dirty tricks, Martha was in no place to judge a dead elder.

Moreover, it was cruel to tell Rhys that his mother was a scheming woman.

But Martha really didn't want them to be used by others or immerse themselves in hatred. She wanted to help them solve the issues between them.

Rhys looked down and a lot of memories came to him, all of which were about Frank arguing with his mother.

He couldn't figure out some words then, but now that he thought about them, those words indeed sent a lot of messages.

In some of their quarrels, there were words like "drugged", "plotted". Every time these words were mentioned, Frank would get angry and abuse Rhys' mother with harsh words.

However, Rhys never wanted to think about what they meant and put all the blame on Frank for failing them.

Martha's words struck him and those memories he had been trying to ignore came up. He was forced to face them now.

Maybe what Martha had said was the truth but he didn't think his mother did anything wrong.

There was a long and terrible silence.

After the silence, Rhys sneered, "So, you want to make peace between us so that I can save your son without any condition? You don't really think I would be that kind, do you?"

Martha looked seriously into his eyes and shook her head.

"That's another matter. I didn't intend to make use of this. I just want you to know the truth."

"There's one thing you have to admit. You're brothers and you can't change that. Who will benefit from your fighting?"

Martha's words made them lost in thought.

She looked down and then at Rhys, asking, "I do want you to save my son, but is marrying me really what you want?"

Was it really what he wanted?

Rhys looked away and didn't answer, still in silence.

Martha suddenly smiled.

She smiled resignedly.

"It's up to you whether to save my son or not, I can't force you. But I can do anything for exchange of that."

Then she looked over at Stefan, gritting her teeth, "Excluding exchanging one life for another. That's the stupidest means."

Then the room fell into silence and the two men were thinking.

They could hear the wind blow clearly.

Just then, the phone rang and broke the silence.

Martha answered it. It was from the hospital.

There came the nurse's voice.

"Ms. Doyle! Your son has just fallen into a coma and is now in emergency rescue! Things are bad. You need to be here!"

All of a sudden, Martha felt the world spinning and she was about to be out of breath.

She felt her legs weak and almost stumbled.

### **Chapter 219 Surgery in Three Days**

Stefan immediately helped her. Seeing her face pale, he asked what went wrong.

"Jimmy... Jimmy's in emergency rescue..."

Her voice was quivering. Stefan knew she must be worried sick now.

Without thinking, he carried her out of the cruise ship.

Rhys frowned, followed them and saw that they got into a car and sped towards the hospital.

Without thinking, he got into his car and followed them.

When they arrived, Martha and Stefan ran to the emergency room.

The red light was on, indicating that the operation was ongoing.

Rupert waited at the door, leaning against the wall and looking distressed.

Seeing this, Martha ran over and asked anxiously, "How is he now?"

Rupert looked down, shook his head and said, "Not good. I'm afraid that..."

His words made Martha lose her breath for a moment.

Her hands were supporting the wall and her nails dug into the concrete and she slowly squatted down, feeling powerless.

"Jimmy... Every chemo could only barely keep him alive. He has gone through a lot to this day..."

However, it didn't change his miserable end.

Martha sat down in the ground, her eyes empty with despair.

Eventually this day came.

She curled up with her head between her knees. She bit her lower lip and restrained her emotions.

But She failed. She was a mother facing the pain of losing her son...

Stefan and Rupert exchanged glances. Both worried that she might not be able to take this blow.

She was obviously really vulnerable now and could bear nothing more.

Stefan frowned, feeling sorry for her.

At the same time, He was in remorse and worries for Jimmy. He felt helpless and desperate.

Not far away, Rhys stood there and saw it all.

He wanted Stefan to suffer and his goal had been achieved.

Stefan was in despair now and suffered worse than death.

But why didn't he feel happy at all?

In fact, he felt shrouded by a sense of loss.

He couldn't tell why he felt this way. He didn't feel happy at all...

Instead, he felt disgusted with himself.

Rhys wanted to get rid of this feeling but couldn't.



A voice inside asked-

“Will you be happy seeing Stefan’s son die and Stefan in despair? Is it what you want?”

His inner voice answered that he wouldn’t.

But he didn’t know why.

He didn’t think of himself as a sympathetic person. Nor would he give up getting his revenge because his heart softened.

But he did feel a sense of dismay and realized something...

Rhys looked at Martha who was curled up on the ground.

She was curled up on the cold hard floor and looked as if abandoned by the whole world.

She seemed to be in the hell of pain.

Since she got the news on the cruise ship, her face had been ghastly pale.

She was on the verge of breaking down. She seemed to be dying and the slightest faith kept her together.

Since he met her, Martha had been this tough woman who never yielded.

She was always like this no matter what happened. She didn’t cry and kept everything to herself.

No one had seen her fragile and vulnerable side. Even when her world was collapsing, she always told herself to bear it.

But this time...

Everyone knew what Jimmy meant to her.

Could she live it down if Jimmy died?

It seemed Stefan noticed Rhys’ gaze. He looked over at the latter.

This might be the most peaceful eye contact between them, without any confrontation or anger.

There was only melancholy in Stefan’s eyes.

It stung Rhys. Where was Stefan’s pride and dignity?

He looked so vulnerable now.

For a woman and a child.

Stefan was in great pain now.

He had never felt this way in his life before. The boy in the emergency room whose life was hanging on a thread and Martha, who was in silent sorrow next to him, made him feel heartbroken.

Rhys didn’t even have to do anything. He was already suffering worse than death.

His beloved ones were in suffering and yet there was nothing he could do

This feeling of helplessness hurt so much!

This must be his retribution.

Stefan thought and hated himself for what he had done before.

He didn't want to blame anyone else. He couldn't even bring himself to hate Rhys.

He hated himself only.

If this was retribution for his past wrongdoings, he had it coming.

Stefan crouched down and hugged Martha. He was so afraid she would disappear from his life like Jimmy might.

Rupert looked at the two and then at the door of the emergency room, also in despair.

No matter how he felt about Martha, he saw Jimmy as family. Yet there was nothing he, as a doctor, could do.

Rhys looked at the three with different expressions but in same despair.

His eyes dimmed and he looked at Martha again.

He wanted Stefan to suffer instead of torturing Martha.

Rhys walked towards the emergency room.

Martha sensed that someone's shadow lay over her.

She saw a pair of leather shoes and the man stopped in front of her.

She raised her eyes and saw Rhys.

She didn't know Rhys was here.

She was stunned, staring at him.

Then she heard his deep voice.

"If he could pull through this time, we can have the surgery in three days."

### **Chapter 220 Thankful for Him**

When Martha heard his words, her eyes turned red as tears welled up in them.

Finally...

There was finally hope.

But she didn't know if Jimmy could pull through tonight.

Martha looked at the door of the emergency room. 'Jimmy, you have to pull through. Someone's here to help...'

Rhys turned to look at Stefan and regained his indifference. The mixed feelings in his eyes just now had disappeared.

Rhys said without any emotion, "I have no interest in your money and properties of the Harrison family. As for your life..."

If he wanted it, he would've had someone assassinate Stefan long ago. He didn't need to wait until now.

Rhys made a deliberate pause.

Stefan remained calm with a frown, waiting for Rhys' following words.

No matter what Rhys' condition would be, he would agree to it without any hesitation.

He didn't know and didn't want to know why Rhys agreed to save Jimmy.

What mattered was that there was hope for Jimmy and he could do anything to get it.

Except for letting Martha marry Rhys.

Rhys smiled and said in a hoarse voice, "If I killed you, she would hate me for the rest of her life. It's not worth it."

Trading Stefan's life for Martha's hatred wasn't worth it.

When Stefan heard this, there were complicated emotions in his eyes.

He glanced at the woman next to him and his eyes dimmed.

Would she hate Rhys if Rhys killed him?

She shouldn't.

She hated him to the guts and must wish he were dead.

But he'd rather have her hate him. It was better than her feeling nothing at all for him.

Thinking of this, Stefan smiled bitterly and felt worse inside.

He asked in a hoarse voice, "So you want nothing?"

Rhys chuckled and his eyes were cold, "No. I want you to remember that you owe me a life."

"I want you to remember that the man you hate the most now is the one you should be the most grateful to."

'The man I hate the most is the one I am most grateful to.'

Stefan frowned.

He had mixed feelings. The man he hated was going to become his son's savior.

"It doesn't feel good, does it?"

Seeing Stefan's face darken, Rhys laughed out.

“This is more interesting than watching you die.”

However, to Martha, the conversation between the two was...

Just an excuse.

Rhys said he wanted to take revenge, but he didn't want Stefan dead at all.

There was gentleness and relief in her eyes as she watched the two men in confrontation.

None of them knew that the relationship between them was starting to change.

Something was different. Rhys didn't want to kill Stefan probably because...

Stefan was his only family by blood in this world now.

For a man who had lacked love from his parents, nothing was more desirable to him than family's love.

He hated the Harrison family, but at the same time, he wanted to be admitted into the family

It revealed his crave for family affection.

However, Rhys would never admit it. He would make up an excuse to cover his true desire. For example, he tried every means to humiliate Stefan.

Looking at Rhys, Stefan's eyes were deep.

Rhys cleared his throat and looked at the emergency room. He turned around and left without saying anything more.

He had promised to save the boy. But it wasn't up to him whether the boy could survive tonight.

Stefan knitted his brows.

Rupert stood opposite him and had guessed what happened after hearing their conversation.

If Jimmy could pull through, everything was going to change.

He had always been a tough little guy. Rupert believed he could make it.

Half an hour later...

The operation light turned off and everyone was nervous, staring at the door.

The doctor walked out and Stefan and Martha immediately approached him.

Martha tried to keep up her spirits, fearing she might hear bad news. She clenched her fists and was having butterflies in her stomach.

Stefan was the same. He asked in a low voice, “Doctor, how is Jimmy?”

The doctor took off the mask and panted with sweat all over. Then he smiled, “He survived another life danger.”

Martha closed her eyes.

The tears She had been holding back fell down her cheeks.

Jimmy lay in bed and was wheeled out by the nurses.

Martha stared at the little boy without blinking and followed behind.

She walked all the way to the ward and watched as the nurses wheeled Jimmy in. She staggered and couldn't stand firm anymore. She was about to fall backwards.

Rupert was right behind her but he was one step late to hold her.

Stefan held her in his arms. She was so weak and thin.

He could tell she hadn't had much sleep for a long time from her pale face. And now she passed out.

Stefan felt extremely sorry and grabbed her hand.

Nothing was important but her and Jimmy's safety and health. He was willing to do anything to keep them healthy.