

## **Good bye 221**

### **Chapter 221 Loveless Marriage**

Staring down at the woman in his arms, Stefan felt sorry.

He held her tightly and didn't want to let go. He tucked a strand of her hair behind her ear.

At last, he took her to the ward, took off her shoes and coat for her carefully. After staying for a while and hearing the doctor say that she would be fine after some rest, he left.

It was morning now and quiet in the hospital.

Stefan guarded outside the ICU alone.

Although Jimmy was temporarily out of danger now, he needed to stay in the ICU for observation. If there was not any adverse reaction, it would mean he had pulled through.

Stefan stood by the window glass and fixed his eyes on Jimmy.

His little body lying in bed, and the screen of machine was lit, on which showed his vital signs.

He was so fragile with tubes all over him. His chest weaved up and down slightly and regularly, the mask covering most of his face. The respirator was working nonstop.

The patient's gown was on him, covering the tubes, but one could imagine how it was under the gown.

Jimmy was so emaciated that even the smallest sized gown looked loose on him.

Stefan didn't leave all night, nor did he get any sleep. The sky turned bright gradually.

He watched as sun shed into the hall, as if it was a ray of hope sent to Jimmy.

When Martha woke up, it was noon.

She woke up and saw Melissa, who looked anxious and worried.

Melissa got Rupert's call this morning. He told her about Jimmy's condition and that Martha was in a coma.

Without thinking much, Melissa put aside her work and rushed over.

Martha slept for hours.

"Martha, you're up! How do you feel?"

"I'm fine. How's Jimmy?"

It was the first thing that came to her mind as she woke up. She didn't even know how she fell asleep last night.

She vaguely remembered she fell into a man's warm arms and her dream was full of it.

Was it Rupert?

“Jimmy’s fine. He has awoken but just fell sleep again.”

Melissa told Martha to make her feel at ease.

“I want to go see him.”

Martha said and was about to get out of the bed. However, just as her feet touched the ground, she felt dizzy, couldn’t stand still, and fell back.

Melissa immediately helped her back in bed and said worriedly, “You’ve been exhausted. You didn’t sleep or eat well. You don’t want to fall ill before Jimmy gets well, do you?”

She then explained patiently, “Just have some food first. Jimmy is asleep. Stefan and Rupert are keeping an eye on him. He will be fine.”

Hearing this, Martha nodded. She was relieved but her face was still pale.

Melissa thought of the surgery and asked.

“Why did Rhys suddenly agree to save Jimmy? Walk me through it.”

Martha pursed her lips and didn’t intend to hide it from her. She told her the relationship between Stefan and Rhys before she told her what had happened yesterday.

Melissa found the whole story complicated and got lingering fear.

“I didn’t expect Rhys would be Stefan’s half brother. According to my understanding of his personality, I am surprised he would agree to donate his bone marrow in the end.”

Melissa said and suddenly became interested in him. But more accurately, she started to change her understanding of him.

She was thankful to whoever that could save Jimmy.

Martha said lightly, “I was surprised too. But I know he’s not a bad person in nature.”

When Stefan came, he was about to open the door when he heard Martha.

Hearing that she said Rhys wasn’t a bad person, he suddenly stopped and withdrew his hands that were about to push the door. He stood at the door.

He got complicated feelings.

Martha didn’t know Stefan was at the door.

Now that she had calmed down, she started to think about the past.

Although Rhys did want to use her to take revenge on Stefan and that he came to her with ulterior motives.

Undoubtedly, he did help her a lot.

Martha remembered every favor from him.

And now, he was doing the biggest favor by donating his bone marrow.

She really appreciated him.

So, she firmly believed that Rhys was not a bad person.

If not for this, she wouldn't have wanted to help solve the issues between Stefan and Rhys. She didn't want to see them keep going astray because of misunderstanding and hatred.

Seeing her serious expression, Melissa couldn't help teasing, "I think Rhys is a nice guy. Why don't you marry him?"

Stefan finally couldn't help walking in when he heard this.

His appearance interrupted the conversation, but he pretended not to have heard anything.

But both Martha and Melissa noticed his gloomy expression. Although he didn't look angry, he was unhappy.

They didn't know how much he had heard.

Melissa immediately shut her mouth.

Martha ignored him habitually. She looked down and answered Melissa's question.

"No, a loveless marriage is a torture and I don't want to go through it again."

Martha could feel that Stefan was upset and he was becoming depressed.

She said this also for him to hear.

She didn't like Rhys, nor did she want to get entangled with Stefan.

Stefan knew what she meant by "a loveless marriage".

As Bianca had said, he was now in regret and pain.

But...

So what? To Martha, what he was going through now was nothing compared to what she had gone through.

She said then, "I'm tired of it."

Her words made Stefan in despair.

Martha was indeed tired of it now. She had no intention or courage to fall in love with anyone again.

For the harm and despair he had imposed on her, she was paying him back.

She had been suffering back then like he was now.

Being trapped in a loveless marriage and unable to get out of it felt like a vicious curse and a torment.

She was unloved, pained, misunderstood, and hurt...

He was going through all of it now.

It was indeed retribution.

### **Chapter 222 Let the Scumbag Regret It for the Rest of His Life**

“You can have a good rest. I will make arrangements for the surgery.” Stefan said with hesitation. Although he expressed nothing on his face, he reflected his care towards Martha in his eyes.

He looked down at Martha in the hospital bed for a moment, trying to convey his emotions to her.

But unfortunately, she didn’t even raise her head. Instead, Martha slightly lowered her head to look at the clean white quilt, just staring straightforwardly without saying anything. She just slightly nodded with reluctance.

Melissa saw what had happened. Stefan was hurt as his concern and pity for Martha received no response, and Martha showed her indifference and hardness.

Melissa felt tightness in her chest because of the tense atmosphere. She felt sorry for both of them. She witnessed what they had been through from beginning to end. But even so, she couldn’t feel exactly how they felt now.

It was not hard to see how distressed they could be. Melissa remained silent.

Stefan was upset. His eyes were dulled and his thin lips were pursed. Unable to receive a positive response from Martha or even a glance from her, he felt extremely frustrated.

Having said what he wanted, Stefan was going to leave with reluctance.

At this moment, a cold voice sounded from behind. “Stefan, even if you trade your life for Jimmy’s, I won’t be grateful for that, let alone forgive you.”

Martha said those words coolly and emotionlessly as if she were saying the cruelest words to a stranger.

Stefan’s eyes glinted, and his heart got hurt instantly. He tightly pursed his thin lips to cover the shock within himself and to look calm.

He didn’t expect Martha to be so heartless, though he did not mean to seek her gratitude and forgiveness by trading his life for Jimmy’s.

However, when Martha uttered those indifferent remarks, he was hurt and overwhelmed with a huge sense of loss. The deep powerlessness made him feel at a loss.

Martha ruined his hope with one sentence.

He just made a fool of himself.

Stefan stopped and looked at her.

Martha no longer evaded his eyes this time. She stared at him fearlessly.

“Don’t do anything that will hurt you. It’s meaningless,” Martha said word by word, staring at Stefan.

“You still care about me, right? Otherwise, you wouldn’t worry if I got killed.”

Martha still looked emotionless. She refuted him without hesitation.

“You are Jimmy’s father, and I don’t want my son to lose his father when he is a child. He just met you. He’s still so young. He can’t afford to lose you again.”

Stefan knew what she implied. She blamed him for not fulfilling a father’s responsibilities since he had been ignorant of Jimmy.

She also implied that he was merely Jimmy’s father and had nothing to do with her. There was only a vulnerable link between them—the child.

Someday, Jimmy would not need his father anymore, and then he would vanish from her life. That was all he meant to her now.

Martha didn’t care about Stefan at all. She worried about Stefan’s safety just for Jimmy’s sake.

Stefan smiled bitterly, and his joy just now was like a huge joke. He didn’t know why he was still waiting for something with a hint of fantasy and expectation when everything had already been settled.

He was the only one who was still stuck in the past. He didn’t know why he was still expecting.

Stefan left without saying anything.

Martha stared at the door for a long time, pondering something. But her eyes never shifted away from the direction in which Stefan had left.

His eyes were wandering. She seemed to think of something. It was difficult to guess what she was thinking through her profound eyes. She pursed her lips without the resolute gesture she had just made.

Melissa looked at Stefan’s back as he left. She sighed softly, not knowing who she felt sorry for.

“He didn’t feel regretful until now. It’s too late. If he had made it up earlier, it might not turn out like this now.”

Martha listened to her words and smiled faintly. Finally, she just shook her head and said nothing more.

Melissa couldn’t tell how Martha felt at that moment. She was worried and said, “Stefan does keep a low profile now, and he is kind to you and Jimmy.”

“But it cannot eliminate what he did to you before and the harm caused by him. You can’t forgive him or be soft-hearted.” Melissa’s eyes were filled with worry.

“I have written so many novels, and I understand what a man like Stefan is thinking the best. Men are all the same. They will forget their sufferings once they get forgiveness. You should let the scumbag regret it for the rest of his life! He should not be forgiven.”

Melissa’s first principle in writing novels was that bad men couldn’t be forgiven.

Her sympathy for Stefan was far less than her hatred for him. She didn’t want Martha to suffer again.

Martha could tell that Melissa was really worried about her. That was why Melissa tried to dissuade her from being soft-hearted or forgiving Stefan.

Certainly, she would not forget the pain she had suffered since it was so unforgettable.

Martha chuckled and said, "Don't say anything about lifelong love. No matter how deep it is, it will slowly fade away. Don't worry, Melissa. I won't reconcile with Stefan."

Martha once loved Stefan so madly that she didn't even care about how much suffering she was bearing.

But now, Martha already felt nothing for Stefan. Her heart was like a pool of stagnant water, and no one could cause the smallest ripple.

The glass lamps in the hotel presidential suite were resplendent and magnificent, reflecting two figures in the room.

Jane called Martha with worry.

"Jimmy will undergo surgery three days later. And the one with the right bone marrow has agreed to donate his. I will be with Jimmy at the hospital for the next few days. The company's business will be left to you first, Jane. Thank you for your help." Martha said in a low voice.

"Don't worry. I'll take care of it." Jane agreed and hung up. She was so excited and happy.

She almost burst into tears. The child finally could be saved. She felt deeply moved.

She just hoped the surgery went on smoothly, and Jimmy could be fine.

Jane hung up the phone. When she turned around, the bathroom door was just opened behind her. A man walked out of the bathroom. Only a white bath towel was loosely wrapped around his crotch. And drops of water flowed down from his hair.

Water flowed all the way through his straight nose and smooth jawline. He seemed to feel the water droplets sliding down, and his sexy Adam's apple was rolling, highlighting the unique charm of the man.

The contours of the abdominal muscles were also visible. And his six-pack stomach was like being carefully carved for viewing.

Jane dared not look down anymore. She looked away in haste. As she turned around, she felt her heart beat faster. Her breathing was rapid, and the temperature on her face was slowly rising.

This man's figure was like a carefully made handicraft by heaven, and each proportion was appropriate. It was not the first time Jane had seen it.

She was impressed with the sexy man.

Jane managed to calm down and took deep breaths to make her voice sound peaceful. She told the man about Jimmy's surgery.

The man had already sat on the sofa, and he faintly replied to her.

Jane finished her report. But what she had just seen still lingered in her mind, so she politely greeted him and prepared to leave.

Unexpectedly, the man who had been silent suddenly spoke up.

"Come here."

Jane was stunned for a while, feeling a bit embarrassed. When the man saw that Jane stayed put there, he looked at her with impatience and curiosity.

Jane was shocked by the look in his eyes. She turned back instantly and walked towards the man.

He heard the footsteps and threw the towel at hand to Jane. Without saying anything, he closed his eyes to take a rest.

Jane took the towel, looking at the man's dripping hair. She understood and walked over, standing behind him.

She carefully wiped the man's hair. Her movements were gentle and meticulous for fear of disturbing him. She massaged the man's head to promote blood circulation.

As Jane moved her hand, she looked toward the man in front of her. Looking down from above, she could see that the man's eyelashes were soft and thick, casting a small shadow on his delicate face.

The room was air-conditioned, and the man didn't put on his shirt. He was indolent and relaxed, which created an unspeakable temptation.

### **Chapter 223 Unwilling to Marry Me**

Jane wiped the man's hair gently. She gazed at him carefully. They were close to each other now. He put down his guard and let her take care of him

Jane felt extremely satisfied.

She was preoccupied with something when the man in her arms opened his eyes.

They were so close that he could smell Jane's fragrance. Her movements were gentle and soft. It seemed that he could feel the tenderness from her weak little hands.

The next second, he grasped the delicate arm beside his face. As soon as he pulled, Jane fell into his arms all of a sudden.

When she looked up, she saw his eyes.

Jane held her breath in fear and said nothing in his arms. She just blinked and looked at the man in front of her with a bewildered expression.

He lowered his head and kissed her...

The next day, Martha and Rhys stood face to face in the open space in the back garden of the hospital.

Early this morning, Rhys came to visit Martha and Jimmy in the ward. Jimmy was still asleep, and Martha led him downstairs to the back garden. She asked Melissa to look after Jimmy.

Before Martha left, Melissa winked at her with a curious expression on her face. Martha only found it absurd and dismissed the gossipy woman.

Martha said to break the ice, "Thank you very much, Rhys."

Martha said very sincerely and she was truly grateful to him.

Without him, Jimmy would not have been able to survive.

Regardless of previous conflicts or tricks, Rhys was willing to put aside these issues and promised to save Jimmy. Martha was grateful to him from the bottom of her heart.

“Don’t say that so early. You owe me a life. I have a bargaining chip now. Someday, I might ask you to pay for it with your life,” Rhys said jokingly. He looked at Martha triumphantly, trying to see how she reacted.

Martha nodded and agreed without hesitation. “Okay.”

Rhys’ smile faded away. He frowned unhappily. Martha’s resolute attitude made him feel very uncomfortable.

He asked, “Do you hate me so much that you would rather owe me your life than marry me?”

Martha looked at him and smiled helplessly.

He barely behaved like that. She shook her head and whispered, “I don’t hate you.”

“Then you are still in love with Stefan?” Rhys asked forcefully.

Martha shook her head again. And this time she became a bit colder. She said slowly, “It has nothing to do with him.”

Rhys could tell that Martha refused to answer the question, but he was also quite dissatisfied with that.

He pursed his lips and asked, “Why on earth is that?”

He pressed her to give a reason.

Martha took a breath and raised her head again, looking Rhys in his eyes.

She hesitated for a while and asked seriously, “Rhys, do you love me?”

Rhys was stunned as he didn’t expect her to ask him this question.

He frowned and remained silent.

Martha, who read his mind, felt it funny.

Regardless of his silence, Martha said, “You don’t love me at all. You just want to use me to retaliate against Stefan.”

Martha hit the nail on the head and spoke frankly about what Rhys was thinking.

It was not a secret. He had given her such a feeling early on, but he didn’t tell her why he hated Stefan.

“But have you ever thought that marriage is a lifetime matter for the couple?”

She smiled and said softly, “One day, your revenge will be over, and the conflicts between you and the Harrison family will be over. By then... what are we? How can two people who don’t love each other continue with their marriage? Because of revenge, you tend to sacrifice the happiness of the rest of your life and stay with a person who you don’t love for a lifetime. Isn’t it stupid?”

A loveless marriage was too painful.

Martha would rather stay single than make the same mistake again.

However, it was obvious that Rhys disagreed.

“Does it really matter? Love doesn’t make a difference.” He didn’t take it seriously, and his remark wasn’t surprising.

He was... a person who was not loved by other people, and naturally, he didn’t know how to love others.

“You think love is unimportant. It’s because... you haven’t met the person who touches your heart.”

Martha smiled and said, “When you meet that person, but then you discover that you have married me... you will definitely regret it.”

The wicked smile faded from Rhys’ face. He raised his eyebrows, and his intense eyes showed that he was uncertain about Martha’s words.

When Martha said these words to him solemnly, Rhys couldn’t help but ask himself if he had a crush on the woman in front of him.

He pursed his lips, and his eyes darkened.

Martha saw his reaction. She guessed whether he was thinking or trying to refute.

Actually, Rhys had never fallen in love with anyone.

When Stefan came to visit Martha, he saw what happened in the garden from a distance.

At that moment, Martha was quite relaxed, and she smiled at Rhys.

He had never seen her behave in that way when she confronted him.

Stefan felt uneasy and envious, and he held his breath and tried to ignore it.

But he couldn’t make it.

During this period of time, Martha behaved aggressively or indifferently in his presence as if he was a stranger to her.

He hadn’t seen her smile for a long time.

### **Chapter 224 Take Back What Belongs to You**

Martha was indifferent towards him while smiling at Rhys.

The fact that Martha and Rhys got along well made Stefan jealous.

Apart from jealousy, he hated himself even more.

He believed that Rhys had no place in Martha’s heart.

Martha was not a fool. She knew Rhys tended to use her to retaliate against Stefan before, so she would not fall for Rhys.

At that time, Stefan was still confident, but now the situation seemed to be different.

He began to worry that Rhys might have impressed Martha because he suddenly agreed to save Jimmy without seeking repayment.

At the Harrison Villa, Giana was unhappy with what she heard on the phone, and her face darkened.

"I see. Let me know if there's any new message."

She hung up and gritted her teeth.

A nurse who had been bribed by Giana at the hospital just called to tell her that the child would undergo surgery in three days. The bone marrow donor was willing to donate bone marrow unconditionally, so the child would soon be saved.

After Giana hung up the phone, she couldn't calm down for a long time.

She had never expected Rhys to agree to donate his bone marrow so easily!

With so many years of hatred, Giana did not believe that Rhys would let go of the past grudge and reconcile with Stefan.

He agreed to save Stefan's son.

How could it be possible?

Amanda, who came downstairs, saw her mother sitting on the sofa and looking unhappy and worried.

She walked over and sat down. Then she asked, "Mom, what's the matter? What happened?"

Giana gritted her teeth and said viciously, "That child. I'm afraid he won't die this time."

After saying that, she spat and continued, "That brat is so lucky."

After hearing that, Amanda looked pale. She asked with concern, "What shall we do? If he survives, will Martha return to the Harrison family? What will happen to us?"

Amanda was unhappy with what Martha had said before. She was afraid that Martha would come back, and she would lose everything.

Now that child... She could not let that child survive. She could not let Martha have any excuse to return to Stefan!

Giana's eyes darkened. She couldn't let the surgery go on smoothly.

"It seems that I have to meet with Rhys in person at once."

"Rhys?"

Amanda was puzzled. But she didn't ask any further when her mother nodded and looked as if she had a good plan.

The day before the surgery, Martha got a phone call from Rhys. At that time, she was with her child in the ward.

Jimmy had transferred from the intensive care unit to the general ward. His situation had temporarily been stabilized.

The physical signs of each examination met the surgical standards. At present, he just needed to wait for tomorrow's surgery.

"Do you want to watch a drama?"

Martha was confused. She didn't understand what Rhys meant. He said, "At four o'clock in the afternoon, I'll send you the address. There's a good show to watch."

Then he hung up on the phone.

Although Martha was uncertain of that, she arrived as promised at four o'clock in the afternoon.

In the coffee shop, Giana had been waiting in her seat early, while Rhys arrived late.

He smiled as he saw Martha sitting in a corner not far away.

"Sorry, I'm late due to a meeting."

He apologized casually, indicating that he didn't mean to do it at all.

Leaning idly against his chair, he waved to the waiter who served a cup of coffee. And then he looked at Giana sitting in the opposite seat with contemplation.

"It's okay," said Giana with a good temper.

Rhys made no reply, raising his eyebrows and saying nothing more.

Giana said, "You don't know who I am yet, do you? I am..."

"I know who you are. So please cut to the chase."

Giana smiled awkwardly. She believed that Rhys was hostile to the entire Harrison family, so he treated her in the same way.

Right now, she had to win over Rhys.

"Although we have never met, I have always heard of you."

Rhys listened to her quietly without any response.

"I feel sorry for your mother. She suffered a lot outside, and later... As a woman, I can understand her suffering."

As Giana spoke, she burst into tears, looking very distressed, as if she was really feeling sorry for Rhys' mother.

Rhys saw her crying, which made him feel disgusted.

Her pretentious behavior made him sick.

“After my brother died, I really wanted to take you back to the Harrison family... Anyway, you are also a member of the family, so you couldn’t be left out of your home. As a senior member, I still want to compensate you.”

“But Stefan is so heartless. He disagreed with me. I’m not the master of the family. I just hate myself for my uselessness!”

Rhys listened to these words mixed with truth and falsehood.

However, it was undeniable that Giana did know what had happened to his mother in the past.

But her sympathy was false. She clearly did not show any compassion in her eyes but all calculation.

Rhys smiled coldly. He said emotionlessly, “In that case, I would like to thank you.”

He was not as angry as she had imagined. Giana felt something went wrong.

Normally, when Rhys heard her words, he should not have been so indifferent.

Without being discouraged, Giana continued, “In my opinion, you and Stefan are the same, both of you are children of the Harrison family. I hope that you both take good care of yourself... Now, the property of the family should be divided equally between you and Stefan.”

“I just don’t know whether Stefan agrees with that or not... You know, he has been treating you...” Giana didn’t finish her words, pretending to be helpless and insightful.

Certainly, Rhys knew what she meant.

She believed that Rhys should compete with Stefan to regain what belonged to him.

Rhys sneered, “Why? Don’t I have enough now? Why do you think I care about the property of the Harrison family?”

Giana was stunned, and then she said pitifully, “You are so kind... I just think that it belongs to you.”

“Even if you don’t do that for yourself, you should do it for your mother. She has suffered so much. Don’t you think it’s appropriate to get the compensation? Go ahead, you should take back everything that belongs to you.”

### **Chapter 225 The Operation Will Take Place as Scheduled**

Giana coaxed Rhys with nice words, insisting that Rhys should compete with Stefan to seize power in the Harrison family.

Rhys just chuckled and shook his head. “I’m not interested.”

Giana didn’t understand how Rhys could remain so indifferent after listening to her remarks.

Then she unconsciously raised her voice and said, “Don’t you hate Stefan? But for him, you and your mother would not have led such a life.”

Rhys raised his eyebrows and lightly replied, “Yes, I do hate him.”

Now, Giana was even more confused—

“Since you hate him, why do you want to save his child?”

Upon hearing that, Rhys laughed and sarcastically said, “You are also one of the Harrisons. Don’t you want me to save your grandnephew?”

Giana’s face slightly changed, realizing that her words and actions were reckless. She was afraid of being spotted by Rhys. She quickly looked away and explained calmly, “I didn’t mean that, I...”

“I just didn’t expect you to let go of your hatred. You can reconcile with your enemy and save his child... You are so kind and generous. I think you have a golden heart!”

Rhys sneered. He stood up and said, “I’m not generous. I’m just not stupid.”

Giana frowned. She didn’t understand what he meant.

Seeing that Rhys was about to leave, she quickly stood up to stop him. However, he slowly walked towards the next seat.

Giana didn’t know why he did that until a woman turned around. She saw her face clearly. It was actually Martha!

Giana froze, wondering how long Martha had been there and how much she had heard.

It would be a great trouble if she told Stefan about what happened here today.

Martha looked at Giana with no surprise. She stared at her hypocritical face and said, “Giana, you are really good at talking and fueling conflicts.”

Rhys sat down in the opposite seat, watching the two women confront each other silently.

After all, it was something about the Harrison family. He just needed to watch the drama.

He took the coffee on the table, taking a sip leisurely.

But in fact, he was not as calm as it seemed.

This time, Giana’s words made him understand something.

Before that, Martha made every effort to prevent him from confronting Stefan, saying that it was all misunderstanding, which seemed to be true.

There was indeed something that he did not know.

At least, now he could understand that Stefan’s hatred towards him and his mother... all came from Giana’s misleading.

Stefan didn’t even know what had happened back then, but he was deceived by Giana.

But he had to admit that his mother did become a filthy mistress at that time.

Despite Frank Harrison’s love for her, she had destroyed someone else’s marriage, which could not be denied.

In those days, they were wrong while remaining true to their feelings.

Giana looked at Martha and Rhys on the opposite side. Only then did she realize that she was fooled by them!

Giana was shocked and flustered, but she still forced a smile on her face with her mouth trembling slightly.

Martha looked at Giana with a smile on her face, but her overall aura was extremely powerful.

“Why not say those words to Stefan? Your double-faced behavior really makes me confused.”

Martha stepped forward with an eerily sullen face, and she questioned Giana word for word without yielding.

Giana said, “You misunderstand.”

“The issue of the Harrison family has nothing to do with me. But I will not stand by if you try to prevent Rhys from donating bone marrow.”

“How could I stop it? I didn’t mean to...”

“So what were you doing just now? Didn’t you provoke a conflict between Rhys and the Harrison family just to ask him not to donate bone marrow to the Harrison family’s child?”

Martha said that, and her voice became colder, “You want to kill my son, Giana!”

The last sentence was harsh. She seemed to declare that whoever makes her son unable to survive, she will make that one endure suffering worse than death.

Martha, who had always been calm, was extremely angry at the moment. If she hadn’t explained it clearly to Rhys before, and Giana now played tricks behind the scene, then... she couldn’t imagine what would happen.

If Rhys was irritated and refused to donate bone marrow to Jimmy, then...

How vicious Giana was!

When it came to any harm to Jimmy, Martha would act like a crazy beast with vigilance.

“Why are you doing this?”

Facing the pressure from Martha, Giana flatly denied, “Listen to me, Martha. I didn’t mean anything else... I just want to talk to my brother’s son about the past. I just thought that Rhys is also a member of the Harrison family. I really miss him, so I want to pay him a visit.”

Giana insisted that she was just talking to Rhys about the past. She firmly denied that she had just said those words with evil motives.

Rhys, who had been sitting opposite silently, sneered coldly, “Oh, my brother’s son? Since you recognize me, why didn’t you explain everything to Stefan but deliberately misled him instead?”

Giana bit her lip, realizing that Rhys was on side of Martha. She didn’t know how it could happen!

“What are you talking about? I really don’t know! As the only senior member of the Harrison family, I just hope the family members can be okay. How can you be so suspicious of me?”

Giana knew she was unable to justify herself. She didn’t know what else to say. She could only play dumb by insisting that she was out of kindness.

After that, she made an excuse that she was preoccupied with something. Before Martha and Rhys said a word, she ran away.

Martha frowned without chasing after her. She turned to Rhys who looked indifferent.

Rhys looked at her, finding that she was anxious. He chuckled and said, “Don’t worry. I won’t run away. The surgery will take place tomorrow as scheduled.”

Upon hearing his promise, Martha was relieved.

“Now, you know that the relationship between Stefan and you is not like what you think.”

Her eyes glinted when she looked at Rhys.

He pursed his thin lips without saying anything. He looked away and remained silent.

Martha did not ask any more questions, as she knew that it was not a problem that could be solved instantly.

Rhys sneered and said, “So what? Stefan and I are not on the same page anyway.”

Upon hearing that, Martha frowned. And she was about to speak when she was interrupted by him.

“Don’t try to improve our relationship. I won’t listen to anything you say.”

He was so stubborn, just like Stefan.

They were brothers after all.

Martha felt angry and absurd. She sneered and said disdainfully, “Who wants to get involved in your affairs? It has nothing to do with me whether you are alive or dead.”

Having finished her words, Martha got up and left the coffee shop.

Rhys sat in his seat, staring at the cold coffee in front of him. His deep eyes gradually darkened.

### **Chapter 226 “OK, Daddy.”**

Martha hurried back to hospital after she left the cafe. By then, Jimmy was up and had finished the last health examination before the surgery.

She tucked him in and put him to sleep tenderly. Neither of them had mentioned the surgery of the next day, instead, they just tacitly eased the tension before it.

Martha thought he was asleep, but Jimmy suddenly opened his sleepy eyes and asked seriously, “Mommy, will he come tomorrow?”

It stung her when she heard Jimmy asking so cautiously.

Martha looked into his eyes, which were filled with expectation, and knew who he meant.

Maybe Stefan would come, because he did love Jimmy.

But Martha seemed to have a lump in the throat when she looked at Jimmy, and could say nothing else but simply murmured, "Hmm."

The next morning, the preoperative preparation went really well.

Rhys had been taken into the operating room first.

Jimmy was still in the ward with Martha and Rupert. Anyway, it was about life and death. Jimmy was just a kid and he was scared no matter how smart and brave he was.

"Jimmy, sweetheart. Have some sleep and it'll be done. Mommy will take you to the kindergarten after the surgery." encouraged Martha softly.

"Come on, little buddy. You can do it. Be strong. Be brave! When you wake up, you'll become a superman and then you can protect your mommy." Rupert gave him a pep talk.

Jimmy pumped himself up quietly but he was still in cold sweat.

He looked around every now and then but didn't see that familiar figure.

On the way to the operating room, he finally saw Stefan waiting at the door of the operating room and his eyes brightened up immediately.

Stefan stared at Jimmy, who was lying in bed, and got worried, while Jimmy simply looked him in the eyes.

Stefan didn't come forward to talk to him because Martha was there, but the way he looked at Jimmy had showed his love and care.

When he went past Stefan, Jimmy asked in a low voice, "Can I see you again?"

Stefan was stunned and stopped them immediately.

At that moment, he was over the moon. It had encouraged him when Jimmy took the initiative to talk him and gave him the guts to stop them.

The nurse was confused and stopped. She looked back and saw the tall and handsome man bend down slowly, hug Jimmy gently and whisper in his ear. Jimmy had said something in response.

Martha and Rupert saw it and did nothing to interrupt them, because they both knew Jimmy had been waiting for Stefan.

"Will you be here waiting for me?" asked Jimmy. It seemed he was expecting it.

"Sure." Stefan nodded and said with a smile. He kissed Jimmy on the forehead and whispered in his ear, "I'll be right here waiting for you. I won't go anywhere. You'll see me when you wake up."

Jimmy pursed his lips and whispered in a very low voice, "OK, Daddy."

After that, Jimmy was moved into the operating room.

Stefan was glued to the spot in a daze, and stared at the door.

Only God knows how long he had been waiting for Jimmy to call him “daddy”.

However, he got complicated feelings when he finally heard it.

### **Chapter 227 The Surgery Was A Success**

Gradually, Stefan came back to reality. The rims of his eyes started to turn red, and he pursed his thin lips hard. He thought of it over and over and couldn’t help but smile. All at once, the gloominess and ruthlessness in his eyes were gone.

The surgery was on. Martha and Rupert leaned against the wall, staring at the operating room without a blink.

Stefan saw Rupert follow Martha closely and talk to her from time to time, and Martha nodded in response.

He noticed Martha’s face turning pale and her lips getting dry. The surgery had just begun. He was afraid that she was too weak to wait for the result of the surgery.

Stefan checked the time and left without saying a word.

Martha heard the noise and looked up, only to see him leaving in silence.

She stared at his back for a few seconds and then took her eyes off him. She concentrated on the operating room again.

“Jimmy will be fine. Don’t worry,” comforted Rupert gently.

Martha had fixed her eyes anxiously on the operating room since Jimmy went inside. She was so tense up that she would freak out sooner or later.

“Yeah. He’ll be fine,” murmured Martha, not knowing she was responding to Rupert or just comforting herself.

It broke Rupert’s heart when he saw Martha’s dark circles.

“Catch some sleep in the ward. I’ll wait here and let you know when the surgery is finished.”

It was true that Martha hadn’t slept well recently. She lost sleep the whole night and couldn’t stop thinking of the surgical risks whenever she closed her eyes. It was killing her.

“I’m OK...”

She refused to leave. At that time, Stefan returned.

Before they realized it, Stefan simply grabbed Martha’s hand, made her sit down on a bench nearby and gave her a glass of hot milk. Martha could smell the delicious milk.

Martha frowned, said nothing, and heard Stefan’s heavy voice, “I’ve talked to the doctor. The surgery takes at least half a day. You’re too weak, and you should take a nap in the ward.”

His voice sounded extremely soft and tender, but Martha couldn’t feel it any more.

She shook her head and said, "No. I'm OK."

"Listen to me. The surgical risks aren't severe. What matters is the 24-hour observation period after the surgery. Jimmy will really need you then. You'll be too weak to keep him company if you don't take care of yourself."

Martha wasn't pigheaded, and thought Stefan had made a point. She knew clearly that she had been exhausted.

Later, she went back to the ward with the help of a nurse and took some IV fluids.

Rupert watched her leave and looked at Stefan coldly. After that, they both kept silent.

They had been waiting at the door for four hours until the indicator light went out. Stefan got nervous and saw the surgeon coming out of the operating room.

"Doctor, how was it going?" Rupert stepped forward and asked.

"The surgery was a success. Jimmy will be fine if nothing is wrong with the observation period."

Hearing that, Stefan sighed with relief and put on a light smile.

"Thank you, doc." said Stefan.

He thought all his feelings were beyond words. At that moment, he just wanted to stay with Jimmy and protect him for a lifetime.

Jimmy was transferred to the ICU and began his 24-hour observation.

The doctor said the surgery was very successful and told Stefan to chill out.

Rupert told Martha the good news as soon as she woke up.

She cried with joy and called her father instantly when she remembered her father and Bianca were still waiting for the good news.

"Father. Bianca. The surgery was a success. Jimmy will be fine after the observation period."

"Oh, good! Thank God! Christ Jesus, thanks for being with Jimmy!" said Bianca with excitement.

They had been on pins and needles and waiting by the phone since this morning. Finally, they heard the good news, which meant a lot to them.

Martha hung up the phone, went to the ICU and watched Jimmy through the window. Jimmy was still asleep.

Rupert stayed and waited for Jimmy to wake up, but he realized Stefan was gone. Oddly, Stefan was here one minute ago. Where had he gone?

Stefan had confirmed that Jimmy's health condition was stable and seen Martha had come back and wait at the door.

He felt relieved and left for Rhys' ward. Rhys was still unconscious.

## Chapter 228 "I Might Fall in Love with You."

Through the window, Stefan looked at the man lying in bed. Rhys' face was deadly pale after the surgery and he was still deep in sleep.

Stefan pursed his lips lightly, deep in thought. He held the doorknob and loosened it again and again. In the end, he didn't go in the ward.

Martha came over and happened to see it. Stefan was standing at the door like a statue.

She came close and asked softly, "Why not go in to check on him?"

Stefan frowned lightly, hesitated for a while and finally shook his head.

Martha thought men were the most difficult to understand when they were being childish.

"Actually, you've cleared out the misunderstandings. Why not get along with each other?"

It couldn't be more obvious. Now that Stefan and Rhys had got rid of the misunderstandings between them, and learned the truth, they should get on well, since they were brothers by blood.

Stefan pondered it. Get along with each other? Was that even possible between Rhys and him?

"I owe him a debt of gratitude, for he saved Jimmy's life. But I can't accept him or admit he's one of my family," said Stefan in a low voice.

Martha had seen that coming.

Stefan was too proud to admit and accept Rhys.

However, Rhys had done so much for one purpose only, which was to be accepted by Stefan.

Maybe they both needed time to reconcile and take it.

Martha didn't think she could do more to help, and she didn't have anything to their relationship. "Suit yourself. I only know he's saved my boy."

Stefan stared at her for seconds and turned around to leave.

She watched him leaving and couldn't tell how exactly she was feeling deep down.

She went in the ward and looked at Rhys in bed. She couldn't feel more thankful to him when he came to her and agreed to take the surgery. He was like a savior to her!

A moment later, Rhys woke up slowly. Maybe the anaesthetic was still working. It took him some time to realize where he was.

Then he saw Martha looking at him with concern.

"Hey. How are you doing?"

"Are you concerned about me?" Rhys smiled and said jokingly, but his voice sounded a little weak.

Martha glimpsed at him and said, "Gee. You still have the energy to flirt with me. You must be fine, then."

Rhys looked around the ward and saw no one else.

Somehow, he felt kinda lost and sad.

He didn't tell anyone about the surgery, not even Mrs. Williams, but probably, she would know it sooner or later.

So far, no one else except Martha would come visit him.

Martha poured a glass of hot water and handed it to Rhys, who had sat up on the bed.

He could feel the warmth of the water through the glass.

Unconsciously, he smiled, looked at Martha and teased, "You care so much about me, Martha. I'm afraid I might fall in love with you."

Actually, Martha had been used to his flirtation or sweet words. But she was touched when she accidentally saw the passion and earnestness in his eyes.

For one second or two, she couldn't tell if he meant it or just joked.

### **Chapter 229 Not the Cat's Paw Any More**

Rhys looked playful and Martha wasn't sure if he meant it or not. All at once, things got weird.

"Have a good rest. I'm going back to Jimmy," Martha stood up and said.

Saying it, she left Rhys' ward.

She knitted her eyebrows, looked gloomy and was lost in thought.

Rhys had always wanted to use her to get back at Stefan. It was hardly possible that he would fall in love with her.

However, the moment he decided to save Jimmy, she felt there was no set-up or revenge. All she could feel was that he didn't want her to be in despair and in pain.

In the ward, Rhys watched Martha leaving and stopped smiling. Even his eyes looked less bright.

He closed his eyes and couldn't stop thinking of her face.

He saw Martha waiting by his bed the moment he woke up and opened his eyes.

At that very moment, Rhys did have a crush on her.

It had been long since he had the feeling of being concerned about.

He hadn't felt like that since his mother passed away.

He thought it over. Instead of saying he had a crush on her, he would rather say Martha was no longer a cat's paw to him earlier than he knew.

Jane got out of the hotel and got a call from Martha.

"Jimmy's surgery was a success. He's in the observation period now. He'll be fine."

Jane sighed with relief to hear the good news. She stood outside the hotel and laughed out, "Oh, that's great! I'm leaving for the hospital now."

Jane hung up the phone and texted her master. She looked back at the hotel and felt like crying. He must be very happy if he knew Martha and Jimmy had made it through.

Regarding herself... Jane seemed to have thought of something and looked down.

To him, she was nothing but a cat's paw. She nearly crossed the line that night.

At last, he pushed her away and told her to know her position. He was right that she must know her position and stop dreaming.

A couple of hours later, Jimmy still showed no signs of waking up.

Martha had slept for only two hours the last night and she was too sleepy to hold on. Then she kept rubbing her eyes to stay awake.

She glimpsed at Stefan and found he also looked tired and worried.

Solomon and Eden had dropped by during Jimmy's observation period, and surely they came for company issues.

Stefan had reminded them of what to do on the phone, but he still had to sign some of the documents personally.

"Go back to have some sleep. I'm here. You don't have to do this," said Martha.

Those words "you don't have to do this" bothered him. It sounded like Jimmy was only her son and it was her own business, which had nothing to do with him.

"I can't leave like that. And I've promised Jimmy that he can see me when he wakes up."

Martha was lost for words and didn't bother to argue with a stubborn guy like him.

She decided to ignore Stefan. Then she saw Rupert coming again in another shirt.

"Why not have some sleep?" said Martha.

Rupert had been waiting since the surgery began. It took Martha great effort to convince him to go home and catch some sleep, but he was back here soon enough.

Rupert smiled, glanced at Stefan out of the corner of his eyes and said, "I just can't sleep with Jimmy on mind."

Martha was moved and smiled at him.

Both Stefan and Rupert wanted to stay for Jimmy but Martha's attitudes towards them were totally different.

Stefan narrowed his eyes and glared at Rupert coldly.

**Chapter 230 It Broke His Heart**

Half an hour later, Jimmy started to wake up. He blinked his eyes and regained consciousness.

The doctor checked on him and announced he was out of danger and could be transferred to the ward for observation and recovery.

The nurses moved him from ICU to the general ward. Meanwhile, Rupert went to talk to the attending doctor.

Stefan and Martha were left in the ward. They waited on either side of the bed.

Jimmy struggled and opened his eyes slowly. He looked sleepy maybe because the anaesthetic hadn't worn off.

"How are you doing, sweetheart?" asked Martha softly.

Stefan simply looked down at Jimmy.

Jimmy blinked his eyes and felt good to see his parents when he woke up, but...

"I'm OK, Mommy. The surgery is done, right?" asked Jimmy confusedly.

"Yeah, it is. You're so brave! The surgery was very successful. You know what, you can live like any other kids from now on!" Martha choked with sobs.

Stefan looked up at her and saw her eyes red with tears.

"Bravo! Mommy! I can go to the kindergarten, right?" said Jimmy weakly but happily. His pale face looked much better out of excitement.

"Yes. I'll stay with you no matter what you want to do," said Martha. She held Jimmy in her arms, stroked his hair and felt soft-hearted.

"Really? Anything? Um... I wanna go to the amusement park. I wanna eat something that I have never tried before. I wanna go to the beach..." Jimmy began with his imagination.

Stefan watched them, smiled but said nothing.

He felt bad to hear Jimmy's simple wishes. These were the common things that every child could do in their childhood, but to Jimmy... it was only the beginning.

These were gonna be new experiences in his life. He was too sick to do any of them before.

Stefan looked down, and thought he owed Jimmy a lot. He'd missed his fatherhood in the past four years and Jimmy had missed lots of fun. He swore he would make it up to him.

"I'll take you to wherever you want to go." Suddenly, Stefan said and tried to touch his face.

But Jimmy cowered back and avoided it.

Stefan's hand froze in the air.

He was stunned, and couldn't understand why Jimmy suddenly rejected to be close with him.

He had called him "daddy" before the surgery. Why did he change so abruptly?

Stefan was confused and looked at Jimmy curiously. But Jimmy avoided making eye contact with him, curled himself into Martha's arms and refused to look at him again.

It had stung him. He put down his hand and looked very disappointed.

He couldn't figure out the reason why Jimmy had changed so fast. But Jimmy's indifference did break his heart.

"I... I gotta go."

"Have a good rest," said Stefan, though he didn't know if he would get the response.

As expected, he got no reply. Stefan was down and turned around to leave.

Martha saw everything. She knew how much Jimmy counted on Stefan and how much he wished to bond with Stefan before the surgery. It was clear that they were getting closer day by day. They couldn't fake it.

But Jimmy had just refused Stefan's touch, which had also confused Martha.

She saw Stefan leave with disappointment and sighed helplessly.

The ward was silent for a few moments after Stefan left.

Martha looked at Jimmy in her arms and saw him staring into the direction where Stefan had left. He tried to hide it and looked away with guilt.

"OK. Sweetheart. What's wrong?" asked Martha. Obviously, Jimmy had something on mind. She thought she had better ask and figure it out.

"I..." Jimmy hesitated and apologized, "Sorry, mommy..."

Sorry?

"For what?" asked Martha confusedly.

"Because..." Jimmy pouted and said, "I called him 'daddy' before the surgery. I was so afraid that I would die and wouldn't have the chance to do so... I called him 'daddy'."