

Good bye 271

Chapter 271 Having No Daddy Anymore

Martha nodded, staring at Stefan on the bed. No matter when he woke up, she would wait for him.

After acting for a while, Giana and Amanda left the hospital together.

Martha and Bianca followed the nurse to transfer Stefan to a VIP general ward. They didn't return to Doyle Manor until everything was settled.

On the way, Bianca checked on Martha's pale face, worried about her.

She wasn't sure what Martha's feelings for Stefan before. Now, she could confirm that Martha still loved him.

So, Bianca also understood how upset Martha was.

With a thought, she took Martha's hand and repeated, "He'll definitely wake up."

Martha nodded at her in response but didn't utter a word.

She also wished Stefan could wake up. Yet it was challenging for a vegetable to become conscious.

Half an hour later, they arrived at the Doyle Manor. Entering the living room, they saw Maxwell waiting for them on the couch.

He heard their voices, looked over, and asked worriedly, "How's he doing?"

Martha looked at him sadly and glanced around the living room. "Where's Jimmy?" she asked.

"In his room." Maxwell noticed her pale face, feeling sorry for her.

Martha nodded and whispered to him about the diagnosis. "The doctor said he'd become a vegetable. It's hard to predict when he'll wake up."

Maxwell, sitting on the sofa, was taken aback. He pursed his lips and said nothing.

Bianca patted her shoulder and said, "Martha, why don't you rest? Stop thinking too much. He'll be well."

"OK," Martha replied, walking towards the couch.

Bianca heaved a sigh and said in a tiring tone, "Let me check on Jimmy."

"Bianca, let's hide this matter from him for the time being," Martha reminded her, looking exhausted. She knew Bianca wanted to leave a private space for her and Maxwell. Yet Jimmy was too young. She was unwilling to upset him.

Bianca nodded in agreement and answered, "I know, Martha." Then she went towards Jimmy's room.

After she left, Maxwell and Martha were alone in the living room. After a moment of silence, Maxwell said, "Hollie was executed yesterday."

He learned what had happened in the past weeks and had no comment on what Hollie had done. He raised Hollie for 20 years, but she almost killed Martha.

Nodding, Martha looked at him. "Dad, are you upset?"

Maxwell shook his head and muttered, "She asked for it."

He was indeed upset. After all, he had taken Hollie as his younger daughter for 20 years.

Yet Hollie had committed crimes and should pay the price.

Leaning against the sofa, Martha rubbed her temples to ease her intense migraine. "Dad, you must be upset. However, she was a grownup and should reap the consequences for what she had done."

Maxwell nodded but didn't speak.

Martha glanced at him and hesitated for a while. Finally, she decided to tell him what had happened the previous day.

"Dad, I smelt something fishy after Hollie had escaped from the prison. When I wanted to ask Libby in the jail yesterday, she had been dead miserably."

"Her expression was weird. She was poisoned and looked like she had committed suicide. Yet my hunch told me she was killed."

Her words shocked Maxwell, who gaped at her in disbelief. "The jail is heavily guarded. Who could have entered it to kill her?"

Martha shook her head solemnly as she had no idea.

Suddenly, she recalled Hollie's, her hands clenching tightly.

"When Hollie was in the hospital, I went to see her. She told me she was only an accessory in Mom's death. Someone else wanted to kill her," she said in confusion, "Dad, I wonder who the heck wanted to kill Mom."

Maxwell frowned, lost in thought.

He had always thought Ariya had passed away in an accident.

However, Martha informed him Hollie had purposely murdered her.

Maxwell found it hard to believe that Hollie was young yet scheming and vicious back then.

Martha shocked him again by telling him Hollie was just an accessory. Maxwell couldn't help wondering who wanted to kill his wife and what secrets had been behind it.

He wondered for a while but failed to figure out any clue, shaking his head in confusion. "In my impression, your mother was always gentle and kind-hearted. She shouldn't have any foes."

"Who on earth has killed her, then?" Martha frowned, narrowing her eyes, which were full of confusion.

That manipulator had sent Libby to mislead and control Hollie when she was just a little girl.

Then he or she used Hollie to end Ariya's life and hurt Martha.

Martha believed there must be some reasons related to those things that had happened decades ago.

Probably it was before Maxwell had encountered Ariya, so Maxwell might not know it either.

...

In Jimmy's room, Bianca was sitting opposite him.

Looking up at her expectantly, Jimmy asked, "Granny Bianca, has my daddy woken up?"

Feeling sorry for him, Bianca rubbed his hair and kept silent. After a long time, she nodded slightly.

Jimmy finally met his father. If he knew what had happened to Stefan, he would be upset.

Jimmy exclaimed excitedly, "Really? Has Daddy woken up? Granny Bianca, can you take me to see him in the hospital?"

Sitting on the bed, Bianca bent over and held him in her arms. "I cannot take you to the hospital now, Jimmy. Your father has just woken up and is too fragile. He needs to rest more," she coaxed him gently.

Curling his lips, Jimmy asked in disappointment, "When can I see Daddy then?"

Bianca patted his back to soothe him patiently, "In a few weeks. When your father gets better, I'll take you to see him."

"But I miss Daddy so much. I want to see him now," Jimmy mumbled, wrapping his arms around her neck.

He had seen Stefan lying in ICU, afraid he would have no daddy anymore.

Chapter 272 Something She Didn't Know

Since Bianca told him Stefan had woken up, Jimmy couldn't wait to see him.

With a bitter smile, Bianca replied, "Jimmy, you are always a good boy. When your father is so fragile, you cannot worry him."

"Let's visit him a few weeks after he gets better. He can play games with you then."

Jimmy nodded in agreement, feeling relieved. He believed his father would be well and would have fun with him soon, as Bianca said. He confirmed he still had a daddy.

Curling up his lips into a smile, Jimmy had the unconcealed joy on his face.

After returning to her bedroom in the evening, Martha messaged Rhys after considering it for several hours.

[Stefan's status is too complicated. It's difficult to predict when he'll wake up and if he will wake up. The doctor asked us to be prepared for the worst-case scenario. He would probably become a vegetable.]

After sending the message, Martha stared at the phone screen in a daze. Her grip on the phone tightened subconsciously.

She believed Rhys must have been waiting for Stefan's news but didn't wish others to know it.

...

A few days later, the news that Stefan had become a vegetable raised a mighty uproar in the town and went viral. All the netizens discussed it. Meanwhile, the Harrison Group's stock price dropped abruptly.

[The president of the Harrison Group has become a vegetable. Will he has the chance to wake up?]

[Stefan is in a coma. What will happen to the Harrison Group?]

[The loving president of the Harrison Group risked his life to save his wife but got injured, becoming a vegetable.]

Martha browsed the news titles and easily figured out it was spread by Giana.

Recalling how heartbroken she looked in the hospital that day, Martha felt it was too ironic.

When Martha and Bianca were on the scene, Giana wept sadly.

However, in a blink, she informed the reporters Stefan had become a vegetable and spread the news.

Martha could tell Giana did so to panic the shareholders in the Harrison Group.

Stefan became a vegetable, so Giana thought she was the only one who could take charge of the Harrison Group.

Thinking of that, Martha squinted, her eyes dark.

The vibration from her phone brought her back to the present.

Martha checked the caller ID and found Eden was calling.

Frowning, she swiped to answer. Eden immediately spoke anxiously, "Martha, have you seen the news?"

"Eh," Martha replied, waiting for him to continue.

"After learning Stefan had become a vegetable, the Harrison Group's shareholders had discussions and planned to find a new president and chairman of the board. The Harrison Group's business greatly impacts the economic lifeline of the whole city, so there must be a leader. I... I can't do anything now."

Martha was silent for a few seconds and asked icily, "Who was the first one making trouble?"

Eden heaved a sigh. "Do you know Stefan has an aunt named Giana Harrison?"

"Did she ask the shareholders to vote for a new CEO?" Furrowing her eyebrows, Martha looked at a spot in the room and her eyes were chilling.

"Right. Giana wants to hold a general meeting of the shareholders as the Harrison. She'll meet several major shareholders."

His words made Martha frown more deeply. She didn't expect Giana to completely expose her ambition at this moment, guessing Giana must have been waiting for this day for a long time.

After a thought, Martha asked, "Do you have any ideas to stop her?"

"I'm not one of the Harrisons, so I'm afraid I cannot help Stefan this time."

Before Stefan was injured, Ed used to attend some occasions on his behalf.

After everyone learned Stefan had become a vegetable, no one was afraid of Eden who didn't have the real power.

No doubt, Giana, as one of the Harrisons, would be always a better candidate than Eden.

Martha's hands clenched tightly. She looked annoyed. Of course, Eden's words made sense. He was only an outsider, so he couldn't win against Giana, a Harrison family member.

Yet Martha didn't want Giana to gain control of the Harrison Group when Stefan was still in a coma.

Martha asked, "Is there any other way?"

In fact, another two persons were also the Harrisons—Rhys and Jimmy.

However, neither could stand out at this moment.

Eden immediately replied in a solemn tone, "Of course. You are the only one who can help Stefan prevent the Harrison Group from falling into Giana's hands now."

"Me? How can I compete against her?" Martha frowned.

She never got along with Stefan. Especially after she returned to town, everyone knew they were divorcing soon.

Therefore, she didn't think she had the right to compete for the Harrison Group against Giana.

"I'm afraid it won't work. Everyone has known I wish to divorce him for a long time."

"Yes, Martha. You can. Although you always want to divorce Stefan, you haven't got the divorce decree. Therefore, your relationship is still legally protected."

"I'm only his wife. The Harrison Group..."

Eden knew what Martha was worried about. In fact, he called her to convince her to stand out.

The ray of hope was small, but Eden wanted to try.

Otherwise, Stefan's efforts in the past years would be in vain.

Martha's eyes darkened. She planned to divorce Stefan after returning to town. If she got involved in the Harrison Group's affairs, they would have more connections with each other.

Heaving a sigh, she closed her eyes. The scene where Stefan protected her in the amusement park appeared in her mind again.

Although she promised to give him a chance in front of his bed, it was only because she wanted to encourage him to survive.

She still hadn't been ready to forgive Stefan and reconcile with him.

Eden didn't receive her response, realizing she was hesitant and understanding why.

Considering for a few seconds, he chose to tell Martha things she didn't know. "Martha, there are things you might never know if I don't tell you."

Chapter 273 It Was too Late for Him

Frowning, Martha wondered what he referred to.

"Back then, if Hollie hadn't cut her wrist to commit suicide and push him, he wouldn't have treated you so cruelly."

Upon hearing the past again, Martha felt irritated, unwilling to recall those memories. Her face darkened.

Eden knew Stefan had done wrong, but he continued, "Before that happened, he had sent me abroad to look for other donors whose bone marrows could match Hollie's. I realized he wouldn't let you enter the operating room unless he must. However..."

Eden broke off and sighed. Though he knew it was too late to mention those details, he was determined to let Martha know Stefan wasn't utterly ruthless to her.

Martha listened to him quietly and her eyes were slightly moist.

She wondered whether Stefan would send her to the operating table if Hollie hadn't committed suicide to push him.

What if Eden had found a suitable bone marrow donor? Would Stefan have changed his mind?

"His guilt for you tortured him all through the years after we thought you had passed away. He didn't marry Hollie or legally cut off your relationship. After you returned to town, he knew about Jimmy and learned how much you two had suffered in the past few years. He regretted it very much."

"Martha, he's slow in love. When he finally understood it, it was too late for him. Yet he tried his best to make it up for you."

Eden believed Stefan would still risk his life to push Martha away and protect her if the accident happened again.

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After ending the call, Martha peered out the window in a daze. When Jane entered the room, she saw Martha was at a loss.

Martha was brought back to her senses. "Giana will hold a general meeting with the shareholders of the Harrison Group tomorrow. She'll probably take over the Harrison Group," she said in a low voice.

She seemed to talk to Jane as well as to herself.

Jane's eyes lit up. "If the Harrison Group's president is changed, we can take the chance to take back the Doyle Group's ownership."

Her remark made Martha frown and look back at her.

Martha pressed her lips together and had to admit Jane's words made sense. It was an excellent opportunity.

However, Stefan saved her life. Martha was unwilling to take advantage of his perilous state.

Jane didn't hear her response for a while, frowning her brows. "Ms. Doyle, don't you want to take the chance to gain back the Doyle Group?" she asked in confusion.

Martha shook her head and answered sternly, "Of course I want, but not at this moment."

The Doyle Group wasn't her first priority now.

The Harrison Group was critical for Stefan. Martha couldn't sit and watch Giana steal it without doing anything.

Giana had thought she was the only member of the Harrison family.

Martha believed only that man could change the situation.

Thinking of something, Martha pressed her red lips.

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At the president's office of the Williams Group.

Seeing the woman on the couch, Rhys curled up his lips into an evil smile.

"What brought you here?"

Martha frowned at his playful smile. Then she answered, "Giana will hold a shareholders' general meeting tomorrow. Do you know that?"

"Yep," Rhys drawled, straightening his collar.

Martha appeared to be calm. She picked up the coffee mug and sipped the espresso. "Do you know what she wants?" she asked.

Instead of answering her, Rhys stared at her meaningfully and questioned, "What's it up to me?"

Martha furrowed her brows, staring at him sternly.

"Don't you want to do something to stop her?"

"Did you come to ask me to attend the Harrison Group's meeting tomorrow?" The smile on Rhys' lips became a sneer.

He mocked, "Do you want me to inform everyone I'm an illegitimate son of the Harrison family? Eh?"

Martha shook her head in denial as she didn't mean so.

If she were Rhys, she would also disagree with such a ridiculous suggestion.

"I didn't mean it. I just think... You have the right to know what's going on and to make a choice."

Rhys had a balance in his mind. His blood kinship and hatred were on either side. He knew which one weighed heavier at this moment.

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The Harrison Villa.

Amanda looked at her mother on the couch unhappily and asked, "Mom, what are you doing?"

Giana didn't get her and asked in confusion, "What do you mean?"

Pouting, Amanda sat beside her, picked up her phone, tapped to open a piece of news, and held her phone up before Giana.

"Haven't you exposed the news? Why did you do that?"

There were only four of them in the hospital the previous day. Amanda didn't think Martha and the other mid-aged woman had exposed Stefan's news. Her mother was the only possible one spreading the news to the reporters.

Amanda was upset about Stefan's status, while her mother exposed it to the public.

The Harrison Group's stock price dropped abruptly. Amanda was worried she couldn't marry Stefan any more.

Frowning, Giana glanced at her and snapped, "Are you a retard? He became a vegetable, and it only did us good. Since it benefits us, why can't I inform the reporters about it?"

Glaring at her, Amanda retorted angrily, "Stefan has become a vegetable. How am I supposed to be his wife? Do you want me to marry a vegetable?"

Giana pressed her forehead, feeling hopeless.

Seeing that, Amanda wondered if she had mistaken her mother.

After Giana brought her back from abroad, Giana insisted on letting her marry Stefan and lead a wealthy life. Amanda wondered if the plan had ended after Stefan had become a vegetable.

Giana took a deep breath to stop herself from shouting abuse.

Rubbing her temples, she replied unkindly, "I adopted you not for making you a rich man's wife."

Amanda stared at her in confusion, wondering what she meant.

She knew Giana was her foster mother. Ten years ago, Giana adopted her from an orphanage.

At that time, Giana had a biological daughter. That girl drowned in an accident, so Giana adopted Amanda.

When Amanda followed Giana home for the first time, she was shocked as she had never known such a beautiful house existed.

Later, Giana took her to attend different occasions organized by the upper class to get used to this social class.

After Giana divorced her husband, she brought Amanda back to the Harrison family.

Giana told her she had a wealthy nephew. If Amanda married him, they both would lead an affluent life. However, that man had become a vegetable.

Giana continued, her voice bringing Amanda back from her scattered thoughts, "I want you to marry Stefan because I want you to help me get the Harrison Group."

"Stefan has become a vegetable now. How am I supposed to help you achieve your goal?" asked Amanda.

Chapter 274 I Have the Final Say in the Harrison Family

Amanda was still confused. She couldn't understand why things had become like this.

Giana explained coldly, as she was running out of her patience, "Stefan can never wake up. It's wonderful. I'm the only member in the Harrison family."

Amanda frowned at her, wondering if she had forgotten Rhys.

After hesitating, she reminded Giana, "Mom, have you forgotten Rhys Williams is one of the Harrisons as well?"

Giana sneered, gazing gloomily in the distance. "How would I forget about him? He's just an illegitimate child who hasn't been announced to the public."

"Are you afraid he'll do something to ruin your plan?"

Amanda frowned more deeply, her eyes with unconcealed confusion.

Giana sneered and replied ironically, "I understand what's in Rhys' mind. Though willing to help Martha's bastard, he doesn't want to expose his relationship with the Harrison family."

Amanda considered for a while and understood her implications. But her hunch told her she had forgotten something else.

Suddenly, a boy's figure appeared in her mind. Amanda was taken aback and asked, "How about Martha's son?" The boy was also one of the Harrisons.

"He's only four years old. What can he do?" Giana chuckled, her eyes glittering in excitement.

Thinking that she would become the president and chairwoman of the Harrison Group, she was overjoyed.

However, Amanda reminded her, "Mom, although the boy is only four, he's one of the Harrisons. Will the Harrison Group's shareholders make any decisions because of this boy..."

Amanda broke off, but Giana understood what she implied.

Lifting an eyebrow, she replied sarcastically, "Martha never admits that boy's surname is Harrison, does she? What does he have to do with the Harrison Group then?"

“She only pretends to be so. How can you believe it?” Amanda’s voice was full of jealousy when she mentioned Martha.

She believed Martha only verbally denied it but looked forward to letting her son inherit the Harrison Group.

Giana looked into Amanda’s eyes icily and answered in a ruthless tone, “Then I’ll make that bastard’s life hell.”

She believed Heaven had offered her an opportunity by making Stefan a vegetable.

She would kill whoever dared to stop her, making them die miserably.

Martha was too young to win against her.

Giana had the confidence that the Harrison Group would belong to her eventually.

The thought sent her into pleasure, her eyes glimmering excitedly.

Thinking all the Harrison Group’s properties would become hers, Giana smiled triumphantly.

Amanda had never seen her mother like this before. She shuddered, pressing her lips in silence.

Then she also couldn’t help imagining her life after her mother took over the Harrison Group.

In that case, Giana would buy her whatever she wanted. She could do anything she wanted.

The more Amanda imagined, the more excited she became.

With a smile, she said, “Mom, I believe the Harrison Group will develop increasingly better after you take it over.”

“Certainly.” Giana nodded confidently. She never realized she had nothing to do with the current success of the Harrison Group.

After exchanging a few words with Giana, Amanda felt tired and returned to her room.

Leaning against the couch leisurely, Giana stopped a maid walking out of the kitchen. “You. Come here.”

The maid pointed at herself, looking at Giana in confusion.

Seeing that, Giana yelled arrogantly, “Who else could it be? Is there anyone else in the room?”

The maid looked around and found she was the only maid in the living room, so she walked towards Giana timidly.

After she stopped, Giana ordered crossly, “Go to gather all the servants and maids here. I’ll make an announcement.”

“Yes, ma’ma,” the maid answered and turned away.

Shortly after, the servants, maids, and the villa’s butler were lined up neatly in the living room.

Sitting on the couch, Giana asked, “Is everyone here?”

“Yes, Ms. Harrison,” the butler stood out and answered before turning to the line.

The villa was in Stefan’s name, so it had nothing to do with Giana. However, Stefan had become a vegetable, so all his properties would probably belong to Giana in the future.

None wanted to lose their jobs, so they had to obey Giana’s order.

Giana glanced at them leisurely. She stood up and said in a stern tone, “Stefan has become a vegetable. No one knows when he’ll wake up. From now on, I’ll have the final say in the Harrison family.”

“Any objections?”

Raising her chin, Giana looked down her nose at the servants and maids.

She owned the house now. If anyone dared to disobey her, she could directly fire the person.

All the servants and maids knew Giana wanted to establish her authority. Lowering their heads, they kept silent.

Since there was no objection, Giana smiled happily. “You’re always doing good jobs. However, I must emphasize it here. Whoever disobeys me will be kicked out of the Harrison Villa.”

“After all, our Harrison family has too many properties. We only hire people who make contributions. Otherwise, other families will mock us.”

The servants and maids exchanged glances and quickly lowered their heads silently, afraid of annoying Giana and being kicked out.

The butler had been taking care of Stefan for years. He secretly heaved a sigh, worried about Stefan’s status.

Giana announced Stefan had become a vegetable, but the butler wondered if Stefan could still wake up.

He had worked for the Harrison family for decades and didn’t want Giana to ruin the Harrison family.

However, he couldn’t do anything.

Chapter 275 The Harrison Group Is Precarious

The next day, in the conference room of the Harrison Group.

When Giana walked in, the shareholders had already gathered and were waiting for her.

With a smile lifting the corner of her mouth to perfection, she, elegantly, walked to the table and sat in the host’s seat.

“Sorry, I’m late.”

“Not at all. Just in time.”

One of the shareholders flattered Giana, who had not shown up for a long time.

And another one immediately added,

“Mea culpa. We’re too early. You’re the only member of the Harrison family. It behooves us to await you.”

Other shareholders in the generation of the old Mr. Harrison looked at each other but kept silent with their lips compressed.

They all knew the old Mr. Harrison had a daughter who was always outside.

Soon after she came back, Stefan just got into trouble, which made them suspicious about it.

Finally, an original shareholder broke the ice tactfully.

“Ms. Harrison, it’s been a long time. When did you get back? We old fellows do not catch wind of that.”

“I just returned to pay Stefan a visit. But I never expected that...”

Giana sighed with emotion with a sad look.

People present here had experienced the wax and wane of the business world. So, before she finished, they knew her meaning.

Soon, one of them continued, “The Harrison Group has gone through many difficulties. We will make it this time as long as we work in unison.”

Others nodded and echoed his view.

Giana frowned slightly with a glint of displeasure in her eyes. But in the next second, she looked normal again and said in a worried tone deliberately.

“Yes, you’re right. But considering public opinion has been whipped up, we should cope with internal troubles.”

The shareholders looked at her, looking sullen.

A long while later, a shareholder spoke, breaking the temporary silence.

“So, convening the meeting is for internal troubles?”

“Sure,” Giana’s firm voice said.

Then she pretended to be grieved and feigned wiping away her crocodile tears.

She looked up around at the shareholders and felt excited at the thought that she would soon own the Harrison Group.

But she still remained her sad look and said in a loud voice, “In fact, I also want to discuss with you the next step of the Harrison Group.”

“How about Mr. Harrison? Is there no possibility for him to wake up again?”

One of the shareholders asked, his voice showing his worries.

He watched Stefan grow up since his childhood who was as familiar to him as the back of his hand. And all the original shareholders were well aware of Stefan’s capability.

To avoid any interruptions, Giana had to say straight out the purpose of her visit immediately, "In truth, I'm here to tell you about this. The doctor said Stefan has become a vegetable and might never wake up again."

Timely, Giana showed a sad expression and then continued-

"It's been all over the media for days, and the stocks of the Harrison Group have been tumbling down. If no one can take charge as soon as possible, it will turn into great trouble..."

The shareholders exchanged uneasy glances and wore expressions of unutterable heaviness on their faces.

She was right. It was clear that since the news of Stefan's vegetative state had spread, the Harrison Group's future was uncertain, and without swift action, the company could be facing a financial crisis.

As Giana told them about this situation, they all suspected that she might have been the one who leaked the news about Stefan's condition.

However, given the circumstances, there was no one else in the family who could be the successor of the Harrison Group.

As the atmosphere grew tenser, Giana couldn't help but feel satisfied deep within herself.

She tilted the corner of her lips imperceptibly and put on a facade of toughness as she spoke, "The Harrison Group is precarious right now, and as the only member of the family, I think I should take responsibility for..."

"Hold on."

Suddenly, the door to the conference room burst open, interrupting her speech.

All the people turned their heads towards the door.

It was Eden who disappeared from the Harrison Group yesterday, standing at the entrance with a confident expression. And by his side stood a tall and slim figure; it was Martha.

The shareholders were all surprised and wondered why these two unexpected visitors had shown up. However, it was the turning point for Giana who wanted to take charge of the Harrison Group.

Giana's pupils constricted as she watched two of them enter the room. Her eyes betrayed a deep resentment.

Why did Martha come here?

Did she bring Rhys here?

At this moment, Giana's heart raced with anxiety, but she quickly regained her composure.

Rhys was the inheritor of the Williams Group now. There was no doubt that if he was acknowledged as the illegitimate son of the Harrison family, the Williams Group would be messed up.

She calmed down a little at the thought of it and pretended to be surprised looking towards the door.

“Martha, what brings you here?”

Chapter 276 Grass Widow

“Giana.”

Martha called Giana with a respectful tone and led Eden into the conference room.

She showed up here today to prevent the Harrison family from falling into the hands of Giana.

The shareholders present were taken aback by Martha’s sudden appearance.

No one had expected her, who had disappeared for a long time, to pop up at this critical moment.

Before Giana could react, Martha took the initiative to ask, “Giana, what is the purpose of the shareholder meeting today?”

As Giana finally came back to life, she narrowed her eyes slightly and then looked at Martha benignly while feeling vigilant within herself.

“Stefan has managed the Harrison Group for so long, and it pains me to see it in such a state. I don’t think I can sit by anymore.”

“I know you love Stefan, but as your niece-in-law, I don’t have the heart to see you work so hard for the company at your age.”

A smile lifted the corner of Martha’s lips; she looked at Giana standing in front of her calmly.

Although they had always been at odds, they had to maintain a seeming peace at this meeting.

If this fragile peace were to be shattered, the Harrison Group would fall into even greater chaos.

Upon hearing Martha talk about her age, Giana’s hands unconsciously clenched into fists by her side. She gritted her teeth but then sighed resignedly on purpose.

“This is life. Who could have predicted that Stefan, such a great man, would end up as a vegetable?”

“Now, the company’s stocks have been falling due to him. If I don’t stand out and become the backbone of the Harrison Group, I’m afraid that...”

Giana didn’t finish her words, but everyone in the conference room knew what she meant.

Indeed, if they didn’t elect a new CEO for Harrison Group soon, the company’s contracts with its partners would be terminated, which would lead to a lack of funds, and the company would be devoured by other competitors.

Martha cast a respectful glance at Giana and lowered her head before speaking in a confident and composed tone, “Giana, please rest assured that I will take full responsibility for this matter and help the Harrison Group pass this crisis.”

Deliberately, Giana looked at Martha in shock, “But I heard that you and Stefan are getting a divorce, aren’t you?”

Martha furrowed her brows slightly and looked at Giana with her lips compressed, waiting for her to continue.

Soon, Giana spoke, "I know you and Stefan are having problems in your marriage, and you always want a divorce. Now that Stefan is in such a condition, your leaving has no ground for blame. After all, I can't force you to stay married and become a grass widow."

Eden, who stood by Martha's side, clenched his fists tightly and almost rushed forward to argue with Giana.

However, it occurred to him that Martha had told him to endure, and thus he managed to restrain himself.

As the shareholders in the conference room heard about the divorce, they could not help but start whispering among themselves.

If Martha was about to divorce Stefan, then she wouldn't have the right to stand here.

Naturally, Martha heard their gossip. She frowned slightly and then spoke in a plaintive voice,

"Giana, I admit I used to want to divorce Stefan. But now he has become a vegetable, I can't leave him alone."

"No worries. No matter how difficult it is, I will work it out." Giana seized the time and declared her importance to the Harrison Group.

Martha looked into Giana's eyes inscrutably, thinking that this woman was full of cunning and deceit.

Her mind was racing, and she quickly retorted Giana's words, "I appreciate your concern about the Harrison Group. But I will wait for Stefan until he wakes up. After all, he is crucial for the company."

As Martha spoke, she glanced at her watch.

It had been almost half an hour, but Rhys was still nowhere in sight.

However, as she thought it over, she couldn't help smiling with a wry smile.

If Rhys was here now and admitted he was a member of the Harrison family in front of so many people, it would be a disaster for the Williams Group.

Giana stood in front of Martha and easily perceived her growing anxiety.

It was no use feeling anxious, and she could not count on Rhys' help since he needed to take charge of the Williams Group.

Giana raised her eyebrows at Martha complacently, thinking that Rhys would never give her a hand.

If Rhys didn't stand up for her, Martha had no way to prevent Giana though she wanted to. A woman who was about to divorce Stefan was not worthy of standing here.

Giana's eyes were full of amusement, but she still acted like being tough and consoling Martha.

"Martha, I understand your hopes, but the doctor says that Stefan may never recover consciousness. How can I believe he will come back to me?"

“He will. I promise. And the Harrison family will be fine. You don’t have to be concerned about it, Giana.”

Martha’s eyes grew darker, and her voice grew firmer.

Now that Rhys had no intention of coming, Martha saw no point in continuing the conversation with Giana.

Giana maintained her composure and continued to stare at her, pulling a wry face, “Do you mean the company is still not in a desperate situation?”

Before Martha said something, she continued, “It’s the worst situation. The president of the Harrison Group becomes a vegetable while there is no one else who can take charge of it, thus I have to help save the company.”

Martha compressed her lips and kept silent.

Compared to Giana, who was one of the members of the Harrison family, Martha was only a wife who wanted to divorce Stefan in the eyes of the shareholders.

Giana noticed Martha’s silence and looked even more complacent, but she just went on her speech in a pretentiously resigned tone, “Honey, please understand that I have no choice. I...”

Then Giana even paused due to sobbing and then said, “I can’t let the company get beset with the crisis without doing anything, can I?”

The shareholders nodded. They agreed with Giana on this point.

Martha looked at Giana impassively and kept silent, her hands clenched tightly at her side.

She would not allow Giana to take control of the Harrison Group, and yet Giana almost persuaded all of the shareholders.

Even Eden, standing by her, pulled her sleeves and indicated her with his eyes.

Although Giana harbored some ulterior motive for taking charge of the Harrison Group, now, there must be someone born in the Harrison family to be the backbone.

Martha knew that Eden wanted her to give in, but she couldn’t reconcile herself to giving Stefan’s years of effort to Giana on a silver platter!

She repeatedly clenched her fists and loosened them. Then she took a deep breath and smiled, “Giana, I have to tell you that you’re not the only person with Harrison’s blood.”

People in the room felt confused and looked at each other.

Even Giana was staring at her in shock. Did she still want to take advantage of Rhys, who had not shown up yet?

She acted like she was astonished and asked with an undoubted voice, “Who else except me?”

Martha nodded seriously and replied calmly, “Do you remember that Stefan has a son?”

Chapter 277 Sorry, I'm Late

Martha's words made the silent conference room burst into an uproar.

The shareholders were whispering about Stefan and his son.

They had never heard that Stefan got a boy, let alone expected that it would be exposed today. And Giana's stunned look showed that it should be the truth.

Martha could listen to their sounds of shock, which were not lowish.

Before Jimmy was born, she was unwilling to allow Jimmy to use Harrison as his surname as Stefan treated her cruelly.

But now, Jimmy was her last shot in the locker.

Stefan saved her life, so she couldn't let Giana take the company away from him.

Eden also felt a bit shocked at her words, but he soon accepted them.

In his opinion, Jimmy's being the president was much better than Giana's.

After discussion, the shareholders couldn't refrain from not asking Giana, "Giana, is that true?"

Giana nodded slowly.

Although she was surprised that Martha finally revealed the existence of her bastard, it was still within her expectations.

She covered up her shock and said with a wry smile, "Yes. I know that child who just came out of the hospital. He's less than five years old."

The shareholders felt disappointed at it.

Stefan lost his parents when he was a child and became the teenage president of and the backbone of the Harrison Group.

If his son was also a teenager, he could prop up the company. Like father, like son.

However, he was only a 5-year-old boy. How could he shoulder such a responsibility?

The atmosphere became a bit frozen. After a while, Giana's questioning voice reverberated in the room, which broke the silence.

"Martha, are you thinking about making your 5-year-old son the president of the Harrison family?"

Martha didn't know how to respond, her eyes becoming darker, but Eden beside her spoke for her with a gentle voice.

"Why not? The 5-year-old boy is the scion of the Harrison family, but Mrs. Harrison can be his acting president and help him deal with the business."

Giana frowned and cursed Eden in her mind.

But before long, she came up with a response and said with a smile, "Is it kind of inappropriate for Martha to be the acting president?"

Eden got a moment's stunned silence. At this time, Martha said in a mild tone, "Giana, could you please tell me the reasons?"

Giana looked at Martha in front of her worriedly as if she was really concerned about her.

"You have been a wealthy lady all along. I'm afraid that you will scramble to deal with so many issues in the company."

"In truth, you fret needlessly. You've never come back and since you lived a rich life abroad."

Martha subconsciously gave Giana a bigger smile.

"Now, I'm the CEO of the Doyle Group. Although my company is inferior to the Harrison Group, I'm a businesswoman after all."

Giana frowned and glared, but she had to keep her consciousness because of other shareholders present.

Hearing Martha's words, the shareholders began to whisper their agreement.

Giana gripped the arms of her chair while pretending to be puzzled and asked, "But you're going to divorce my nephew. How can I ask you to work for our enterprise? Besides, you're not a member of the Harrison family by blood. How can you persuade the media?"

After saying this, she seemed to be in charge again. She raised her eyebrows at Martha and then looked around at the shareholders.

"I think I'm the best person to be the acting president. If Stefan finally woke up, I'd quit immediately. It's the best result. But if Stefan will never wake up as the doctor said, I'll continue to foster his son to be the successor."

"So, what do you think?"

They then began discussing in whispers.

After a long while, the most senior shareholder among them said, "We agree with Giana. Given the current crisis, it's a wiser choice."

Martha looked at Eden with a grim face.

What else could they do as the shareholders agreed with Giana?

Eden saw Martha's request for help in her eyes. However, he also failed to refute Giana at this point.

Meanwhile, Giana's eyes were filled with smugness as she observed the eye contact between them.

She smiled at Martha and asked briskly, "Do you have any other suggestions, my dear niece-in-law?"

Martha frowned, feeling unsure of what to do next.

Just then, the door of the conference room was opened again; a person that no one in the room had expected to see walked in.

Everyone looked towards the door as they heard the sound of the door.

It was Rhys, holding a file folder and smiling at the doorway.

“Sorry, I’m late.”

Giana looked at him in shock. She didn’t expect Rhys to appear at that moment.

Martha was also taken back too. Her eyes glimmered with hope when she recognized the familiar figure.

Deep down, she did hope Rhys could help her and prevent Giana from taking charge of the Harrison Group.

At the same time, she didn’t want him to make any sacrifices that would cause chaos within the Williams Group.

Everyone in the conference room, except for Martha and Eden, was amazed to see Rhys coming here. Two of the younger shareholders even failed to control themselves and cried out.

“Rhys Williams!”

“Why is he here?”

Once other shareholders realized who he was, they began to whisper among themselves.

Sitting at the head of the table, Giana was initially stunned but soon prepared herself for the possibility that Rhys might reveal his real identity of being a member of the Harrison family.

If he did so, telling everyone that he was also the son of her elder brother and a rightful heir to the company, she would simply deny his claim and insisted that he was slandering.

As she thought of this, Giana felt composed, but she continued to glare at Rhys with a fierce look.

What she didn’t realize was that Rhys didn’t come here to reveal his identity.

Rhys saw everyone’s being shocked, his long, narrow, and dark eyes growing darker.

He knew he could not show his identity as a member of the Harrison family.

At present, he was the only person who took charge of the Williams Group. If he admitted he was the illegitimate son of Frank Harrison in public, it would get the Williams family into great trouble.

With a light smile, Rhys looked charmingly at Martha, who was hoping for his coming.

“Don’t be so surprised. I’m just here to deliver something to Martha.”

Everyone felt more confused about his intention.

Martha stared at him with bewilderment and had no idea what he was going to do.

Rhys then handed the file folder to an original shareholder who was closest to him.

“Stefan left it to me. Have a look and make a decision later.”

The shareholder took it and opened it. There were four words on the first page: Equity Interest Transfer Agreement.

Martha and Giana didn't know why Rhys got this agreement and why he took it out at this time.

Eden, standing next to Martha, saw the document and soon realized that it was the one that Stefan previously asked him to draft and gave to Rhys.

At that time, Stefan had intended to use half of the company's equity in exchange for Rhys' bone marrow for Jimmy's marrow transplant surgery.

After the shareholders finished reading the document, they looked at each other at a loss for words. None of them expected Stefan to give Rhys an equity transfer agreement.

When they came back to life, they saw Rhys elegantly taking back the agreement and handing it to Martha.

“Mr. Harrison told me to give it to you.”

The shareholders turned to look at Martha in surprise.

Martha took the agreement and opened it.

“This is an equity transfer agreement for half of the shares of the Harrison Group.”

Stefan had signed in the lower left corner of the agreement while the space for the beneficiary's signature was still blank..

Chapter 278 Not Righteous

Martha frowned and pondered for a while. She figured out that Stefan was about to give it to Rhys, but she didn't know why there was no signature from the beneficiary.

Rhys saw that Martha didn't say anything but stared at the document and couldn't help giving her a hint with his eyes. He wanted her to sign her name on it quickly.

However, Martha looked at her with her eyes full of confusion.

Rhys was speechless. From his perspective, Martha was always smart, and he never expected that she would be heavy-headed like this one day.

Finally, Eden beside her understood Rhys' meaning and moved forward, pointing at the equity transfer agreement.

“Ladies and gentlemen, this is the agreement that Mr. Harrison gave Martha before.”

Martha was startled at his words, but she soon made clear their intentions.

They wanted her to sign her name on the agreement in front of the shareholders and she became the beneficiary so that she could own the shares of the Harrison Group and acted as acting president of well reason.

Then Giana would stand no chance of vie with her for this position.

Giana in the host's seat knew the significance of the agreement.

Her face turned sullen, and she began to lose her temper and shout, "It's impossible. Stefan will not give you the shares of the Harrison Group!"

Then she rose to her feet and grabbed the document to read it through.

However, she found the signature did belong to Stefan.

Martha impassively looked at Giana, who was ill-mannered now and asked in a deliberately interrogative tone, "Giana, Stefan didn't believe in me and hurt me before, thus he gave it to me as compensation. Is it illogical?"

The shareholders in the conference room were all aware of Hollie's affair, and it was natural for them to think of her upon hearing Martha's question.

They felt that the compensation was reasonable if it was because of Hollie.

However, Giana failed to reconcile herself to the fact that her nephew would give shares to a woman who was about to divorce him.

Before her nominal aunt responded, Martha quickly picked up a pen and signed the agreement on the table.

After seeing her name on the agreement, Giana shook her head in shock and screeched on a higher pitch, "Ridiculous! It's not true!"

"Giana, the agreement has legal effect. It's not up to you to decide."

And an old shareholder said while another one next to him hurriedly echoed.

"It must be true. The company is on the cusp of the controversy, and the most important thing is to stabilize the company's development now."

Their points of view were supported by other shareholders.

Giana lost her words but could only glare at Martha, while Martha seemed to ignore her anger but looked at the shareholders calmly.

"Currently, we need to pool our effort and get through the hardship of the company. I believe the Harrison Group will resuscitate as long as we work together."

As she finished her speech, all of the shareholders nodded at her and gave their approval.

Martha smiled a light smile and said coolly, "In addition, the doctor just said Stefan may not wake up again. But I think he will be bound to come back to life."

Several of the old shareholders had watched Stefan grow up since he was a child, and when they heard Martha say so, they all nodded in agreement.

Naturally, they certainly hoped Stefan would wake up again.

After a while, Eden led the shareholders to vote for Martha and Giana as candidates for the acting CEO of the Harrison Group. In the end, Martha won the election without any suspense.

Meanwhile, Giana was only given the position of assistant.

She glared at Martha discontentedly, but Martha completely ignored her gaze and instructed Eden on what they should do next.

Martha looked at the shareholders present with a serious expression and said succinctly, "The reason why the stocks of the Harrison Group are plummeting now is that people do not know we have elected a new president for the company."

"So for today's meeting, Eden, I need you to have the public relations department prepare well and try to unravel the negative opinions of the Harrison Group."

Eden nodded and replied seriously, "I'll arrange it right away."

After speaking a few more words, Martha got up and left the conference room.

Not long after she left the Harrison Group, she was stopped by Giana in a deserted place.

Giana walked angrily to the driver's door and questioned Martha in a rage, "Did you counterfeit that equity transfer agreement?"

Upon seeing her true ugliness of human nature, Martha felt stunned at first and then answered her impassively,

"You're joking. How could I forge it?"

"Then why did Rhys hand it to you? Are you involved in some unspeakable dealings with that bastard?"

Giana's voice was filled with anger and her words were sharp.

Martha's expression turned cold at her words.

"The agreement was given to him by Stefan. It's none of my business."

"You..."

Giana glared at Martha, feeling enraged but unable to say something to refute.

Martha also stared at her indifferently. After a moment, she said in a callous voice, "Giana, if you're done with me, please move. You're in my way."

"Martha! How unscrupulous you are! You colluded with Rhys to make me lose my power thoroughly."

Giana pointed at Martha, wishing to tear her apart with thousands of cuts.

Martha's expression turned serious and she sneered at the woman in front of her, questioning rhetorically, "Is it more righteous to have your daughter use philter on Stefan? Do you think it is a great trick?"

Their relationship should have deteriorated even further, but Stefan remained a shred of sanity which stopped him from forcing himself on her.

Thus, she didn't think Giana had good reasons to make allegations since she could come up with such a scheme.

Giana froze and immediately understood what Martha was referring to was the incident of Amanda trying to drug Stefan.

Feeling guilty, Giana lost the confidence to question Martha anymore.

With a mocking glance at Giana, Martha drove her car away.

...

With the help of the public relations department, the shareholders' meeting of the Harrison Group soon overshadowed the previous trending topic of Stefan becoming a vegetable.

And the current trending topic was the appointment of Martha as the acting CEO of the Harrison Group.

The CEO of the Doyle Group became the acting CEO of the Harrison Group after being voted by the shareholders.

Latest news: The CEO of the Doyle Group just became the acting CEO of the Harrison Group. Was there any hidden agenda behind it?

According to reliable information, Martha, the acting CEO of the Harrison Group, had become the richest woman in this city.

The husband of the acting CEO of the Harrison Group would never wake up. Was it true that she would be a grass widow?

Chapter 279 Remaining Unconscious

The news reports varied. Some commented with sharp words while others showed sympathy for Martha.

Despite the contrasting viewpoints, the stock price of the Harrison Group became marginally higher after the shareholders' meeting.

And it seemed that these different opinions have no bearing on Martha.

Since she entrusted the matter to Eden, she had not paid any further attention to the news and public opinions.

In the house of the Doyle family.

No sooner had Martha got home than she saw her father sitting on the sofa, lost in thought.

It had been three or four hours since the news broke. Her father must have already known the related news about the Harrison Group.

After hesitating for a moment, she finally walked over to sit beside her father, asking a bit nervously,

"Dad, do you think I was wrong?"

Maxwell shook his head and smiled, "You're my girl. I know you will not leave the Harrison Group alone relentlessly."

He knew his daughter best and understood that she was always grateful and repaid kindness.

Stefan saved her life, and thus it was natural for her to take responsibility for his company.

Martha felt more relieved and touched by his father's response and support.

"Dad, thank you."

Maxwell gave Martha an affectionate smile while his heart ached for her.

"You're now in charge of the Doyle Group and the Harrison Group. It's a heavy workload."

"No worries. I will give the company back to Stefan as soon as he wakes up."

Martha replied with a smile, though she looked a bit tired.

Just then, Jimmy came down from upstairs.

When the little boy saw his mommy, his eyes brightened and he exclaimed in delight, "Mommy, you're back!"

Martha smiled and nodded at him. Noticing his eager expression, she couldn't help reminding him.

"Slow down and watch your step."

Soon enough, Jimmy ran over to his mother and jumped into her arms.

He sniffed the pleasant scent of Martha and looked up at her with a grin.

"Mommy, Granny Bianca said I would start kindergarten in two days, and I want mommy and daddy to come with me. Shall we?"

Sadness flickered in Martha's eyes due to Jimmy's request and she dropped her gaze with her lips compressed.

The little guy always hoped his father would be fine. However, Stefan had been a vegetable now, and Martha didn't know how to broach the subject with her son.

Maxwell knew Stefan's condition and understood Martha was in a dilemma.

He smiled and waved to Jimmy, saying in a gentle voice, "Jimmy, come here. Hug me."

Jimmy tilted his head looking at Maxwell and then ran to him.

Maxwell held Jimmy in his arms and stroked his head affectionately, "Good boy, your daddy needs to rest for a while."

The little guy curled his lips and asked in an unpleasant tone, "But how long?"

Maxwell's eyes flashed with a hint of unease. He didn't know how to answer his question, so he just compressed his lips.

When Martha got better from the sadness, she smiled and said, "It won't be long."

She believed if Stefan knew their son was waiting for him to wake up, he would not keep slumbering.

...

The next day, Martha went to the hospital with Melissa.

On the way, Melissa, who was sitting in the passenger seat, felt unusually excited and said, "I saw the news yesterday and I didn't expect that Stefan just give everything to you. He's doing so well now."

"If I had such a husband, I would love him, soul and heart."

Hearing her words, Martha turned her head towards Melissa and told her the truth resignedly.

"It's not what you think. All of this is just a stratagem made by Rhys and Eden."

"What?"

Melissa tipped her head to look at Martha and asked in an unbelievable tone, "But why?"

Martha nodded slightly and had to make an explanation, "To prevent Giana from taking charge of the Harrison Group."

Melissa got a moment of enlightenment.

"I know a man can't change so much who even gives up his shareholdings to others."

Martha couldn't help but laugh since what Melissa meant was the other way around.

The next moment, Melissa began to shout as she suddenly thought of something,

"Anyway, now you legally own half of the shareholdings of Harrison Group, don't you?"

"Yes."

Martha responded calmly, but she didn't understand why her friend was getting so excited.

Soon, Melissa answered.

"Does it mean you can seize this chance to let the Doyle Group go independent?"

"Theoretically, yes. But I won't."

Martha was frank with Melissa that she wanted the Doyle Group to become independent in another way.

That was, the independence of her company must be aboveboard.

Melissa looked at the woman next to her and asked in confusion, "So why don't you make it come true while Stefan is still in a coma?"

"I want to be righteous instead of being a vulture."

Martha spoke her mind while she also knew that Melissa was concerned about her business and situation.

Half an hour later, the car stopped in the hospital's underground parking lot.

Hardly had they arrived at Stefan's ward when Eden just walked out.

Martha gave Eden an expectant glance which seemed to ask him if Stefan had woken up.

Eden shook his head and replied in a deep voice, "Nothing changes. He remains unconscious. There is no hint that he will be awake."

The hope in Martha's eyes dimmed, and she suddenly looked overwhelmingly disappointed.

Melissa, who stood next to her, noticed her sadness, glared at Eden, and blamed Eden for not tactfully sharing the bad news.

Chapter 280 You Are Having a Fever

Time passed quickly. A week slipped away in the blink of an eye. What happened to the Harrison Group also slowly faded out of the public's vision.

Although the crisis had gradually calmed down, Stefan was still in a coma.

By the end of the week, Jimmy had gone to kindergarten.

The little boy had been upset, for his daddy didn't escort him to the kindergarten.

As time passed by, Martha felt that it is not the right way to keep it from Jimmy. After all, a lie would be exposed sooner or later.

She wanted to tell him the truth, but she just never found the right time to do it.

Since she was the acting president of the Harrison group, she had been busy and always worked late into the night this week.

After she was appointed, Eden had been on hand to assist her in dealing with affairs.

Otherwise, with her just taking over the group, and Stefan's falling into a coma, she really couldn't make up her mind on a lot of major business.

Martha was also clear that the reason why she could hold this position and beat Giana this time was because of the share transfer agreement.

At this moment, the slightest mistake she made would be caught by Giana. She would definitely make a big fuss over it and even hold a general meeting of shareholders to impeach her.

In that case, all her and Eden's efforts would be in vain.

One day when Martha was still working late in the Harrison Group, her mobile phone suddenly rang harshly.

Looking at Louis' name on the phone, she was slightly stunned and picked up the call, confused.

The minute she picked up the phone, Louis' deep voice reached her

"Dear Miss Doyle, this is Louis. Do you have time now?"

"Yes, but I wonder what Mr. Caesar wants to see me about."

Martha rubbed her temples, exhausted, and asked the question, puzzled.

Louis on the other side of the phone curled his thin lips into a slight smile.

"I took the liberty of calling today to ask my muse if she would like to have dinner with me tonight and talk about that collaboration we mentioned earlier."

Martha, who was sitting in the office, brightened when she heard the news. It was until then that she remembered they still had construction cooperation about Headow Complex.

There had been so much going on that she had been so busy with the Harrison Group's business that she had forgotten all about Louis.

The next second, Louis' gentle voice interrupted Martha's thoughts.

"Miss Doyle, are you still there?"

Martha's hand that was holding the phone tightened. She answered immediately.

"I happen to be free this evening, and I wonder where Mr. Caesar wants to go for dinner?"

"No. 18 East Street, I will wait for you there."

Louis said this and hung up the phone.

Martha raised her hand to check the time and stood up to go to the appointment.

But the minute she stood up, her body shook and there was a dizzying sensation in her mind. Her hand that was on the table unconsciously clenched the desk.

After a long time, she felt much better. She slowly went out, took her coat, and put it on.

Half an hour later, by the time Martha entered the restaurant, Louis had already taken a seat and was waiting for her.

When Martha walked in, she sensed the unusual atmosphere inside the restaurant.

Knowing that it was a lover's restaurant and seeing that Louis was sitting in a single booth, she sensed something weird.

She could not help picturing in her mind the first time she met Louis.

At that time, Louis publicly gave her the last lot in the auction and expressed his love for her.

And now, he asked her to have dinner here. She was afraid that Louis still had other intentions.

On her way to Louis' booth, Martha thought for a long time and finally came up with a solution.

Smiling, she paused beside the booth and said softly, "Mr. Caesar, it seems this is not the appropriate environment for business. Why don't we have dinner somewhere more elegant? My treat."

"I like it here."

Louis smiled at Martha. When he saw Martha's slight frown, he asked.

"Don't you like it here, or do you have other scruples?"

Martha frowned even more.

Then she shook her head slightly and sat down opposite Louis.

As soon as she sat down, Louis' gentle sympathetic voice followed.

"I saw what happened to you on the news. There are always some people on the Internet full of malicious speculation about others. Don't take it to heart."

"I'm fine."

Martha smiled and answered politely.

Louis nodded. His thin lips parted again. "Everything will be all right."

He did not want to comment too much on Stefan's vegetative state, nor did he want to interfere with Martha's thoughts.

Martha, who was sitting opposite him, nodded gently and turned her eyes down to the menu.

Soon, the two of them ordered food.

At dinner, Louis looked at Martha and said, "About the greening of Hadow Complex, we want to build a large scale of green belt in front of the community. What do you think?"

Martha put down her fork, thought carefully, and gave her opinion.

"Personally, I think it's a good idea. If there is an isolation of green belt, and owners can rest with a quieter environment."

"Exactly. I just don't know if there should be an amusement park in the neighborhood."

As he was cutting the steak, Louis asked what he was struggling with.

Martha nodded slightly. When she thought of Jimmy, the corners of her mouth curved up into a slight smile.

"I think you should consider this proposal, after all, many families living in the community must have children."

Next, the two people discussed in detail about other construction issues in the community.

By the time they had finished talking, dinner was finished.

When Martha finished her meal and turned to pick up her bag and stood up, she felt dark and dizzy again.

She jerked, her hands not grasping anything to hold her. The next minute, she was falling to the ground.

Just then, Louis strode forward and grabbed Martha's arm to keep her from falling to the ground.

Martha eased for a while until the dizziness slowly disappeared and her consciousness came back.

The man standing beside her held her up and touched her forehead with concern.

The minute his big hand met her forehead, Martha stepped back to avoid the touch.

Louis had a slight frown on his face. He said with a serious tone.

"You are having a fever."

Martha took a couple of steps back, holding Louis at arm's length, and then answered with a sense of indifference, "It's okay. I guess I didn't rest well."

The man turned serious. He looked at her worriedly.

Martha saw his worry but didn't feel anything. Instead, she felt something was wrong.

She had always felt that Louis cared too much about her...