

Good bye 501

Chapter 501 Just like your mother

After Catherine frowned, she spoke again with an obviously unfriendly voice.

“King Ducasse called a media conference while you were unconscious and said you were the future queen.”

Martha gave a wry smile and explained.

“That’s because we joined forces at that time and designed to drag Gage down, so King Ducasse held a press conference.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Catherine’s voice sounded immediately, “But the people of Z Country don’t know about this.”

“Don’t worry about that. I’ll talk to King Ducasse and hold another press conference to explain it clearly to the people of Z Country,” Martha said earnestly while looking at Catherine sincerely, and knew that as it was normal for Catherine to consider Ducasse’s interests.

After hearing this, Catherine frowned even tighter, and blurted out the words.

“But you are the daughter of the Lucas family, so you should be the destined queen.”

To Martha, such words were like the shackles imposed on her mother, and her heart sank.

She looked at Catherine Queen Dowager with a cold look, and no longer cared whether she was in the royal palace, she directly refuted, “I am an independent person, and I have the right to choose my own marriage and life!”

Catherine’s face turned cold when she heard Martha’s words. When she spoke again, her voice was icy.

“You are just like your mother, you don’t know good from bad!”

Martha narrowed her pupils sharply; she stood up abruptly, her eyes fixed on Catherine.

Just when she was about to start questioning, King Ducasse’s voice suddenly came from the living room, breaking the deadlock-

“Mother? I heard you called for Martha?”

King Ducasse’s voice rang out through his footsteps walking into their reception room.

When he received the news from his subordinates that Martha was summoned by his mother alone, he came here in a hurry.

As soon as he walked into the living room, he could clearly feel that the atmosphere in the living room was very bad.

He frowned slightly, and just about to ask what happened, Catherine’s voice sounded first-

“Why, are you afraid that I will bully your future wife?”

King Ducasse pursed his thin lips when he heard this, and remained silent.

Regarding what his mother said last time, he already felt his mother different from what she used to be.

And when he came here now, he was naturally afraid that the two of them would quarrel.

At this time, Martha frowned slightly, and turned her head to look directly at King Ducasse, who had just walked in, with a firm gaze.

“King Ducasse, I won’t marry you because I already have someone I like.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Catherine angrily slammed the table and her cold voice filled the entire reception room.

“If you don’t marry him, the Lucas family will be doomed!”

When Martha heard this, her body froze, and she suddenly felt bad.

Whether to marry King Ducasse was a matter for her alone, and she was willing to bear all the responsibilities alone.

But now if the entire Lucas family was involved, then she couldn’t watch by and do nothing.

Now that things had come to this point, Catherine was forcing her to marry King Ducasse.

King Ducasse, who was standing at the door at this time, looked at the two people who were facing off against each other, his eyes were full of complex emotions.

He thought for a moment, then immediately turned to his mother, trying to persuade his mother first.

“Mother, Martha didn’t mean that, what she meant is that marrying me requires time for acceptance.”

Catherine snorted while looking at Martha with an unkind expression in her eyes.

Meanwhile after hearing what Queen Catherine said earlier, Martha dared not speak again.

In the end, she dared not to have the entire Lucas family at risk.

King Ducasse smiled at his mother.

“Mother, you should rest well first, and I’ll have a good talk with Martha.”

After he finished speaking, he took Martha’s hand and left Catherine’s room directly.

After the two of them left, Catherine angrily swept everything on the table to the floor.

The snack plates and teacups were smashed to the ground, but it didn’t calm Catherine down.

She looked viciously at the direction Martha left just now, her eyes were full of sullenness.

Martha didn’t marry King Ducasse because of that ex-husband.

If that ex-husband was gone, she would see if Martha would marry her son.

Catherine slyly grinned, her eyes full of calculating light...

Chapter 502 You are nice

On the other side, King Ducasse took Martha out of the royal palace and went directly to a secluded place.

Martha pursed her lips tightly, her long eyelashes trembling slightly. She knew that King Ducasse was right.

She still had to investigate the true culprit behind her mother's murder in the royal palace. Offending Catherine Queen Dowager now would not be a good thing for her.

But if it wasn't for Catherine mentioning her mother first and angering her, how could she have treated Catherine like that...

As soon as she thought of this, she frowned unconsciously.

After calming down now, Martha suddenly noticed something was wrong. When Catherine mentioned her mother just now, there was obviously something off about her attitude.

Did something happen between Martha's mother and Catherine before?

Seeing that Martha didn't speak, King Ducasse thought she had realized her mistake, and his tone softened.

"It's okay. You don't need to worry about anything else. I will take care of it."

Upon hearing this statement from him, Martha suddenly raised her head to look at King Ducasse uncertainly and asked him a question.

"Did you feel anything strange about Catherine Queen Dowager just now?"

"It's normal for my mother to be angry when she hears that," replied King Ducasse with resignation as he looked at Martha with complicated emotions.

His mother had always been gentle and kind-hearted but today's outburst must have been because of what Martha said.

Not long after he succeeded to the throne, he held a media conference to announce that Martha was his future wife, and now he had to clarify it.

His mother was probably worried about he would a bad impression on the people of Z Country, so she was so angry.

He unconsciously tightened his hand by his side, as an image flashed through his mind, causing him slight discomfort, but he didn't pay too much attention.

When Martha heard this, her eyes darkened, her thin lips were slightly pursed, and she didn't continue the topic.

She suddenly asked another question based on what came up in mind.

"Is there any grudge between my mom and Catherine Queen Dowager?"

When King Ducasse heard this question, he froze in place, looking at Martha with a hint of confusion in his eyes.

Suddenly, he realized that Martha was suspecting his mother and his face changed. He immediately retorted, “No, I haven’t heard of any conflict between them.”

“Besides,” he continued, “my mother is not that kind of person.” He stared intently at Martha while unconsciously tightening the hand that hung by his side.

In his memory, his mother had always been gentle and decent, never angry. She wouldn’t even harm an ant, so how could she have anything to do with the death of Martha’s mother?

Martha pursed her lips slightly when she heard this, and she clearly remembered the appearance of Catherine mentioning her mother just now in her mind.

“I have something else to attend to; I’ll be going now.”

As soon as she took two steps away from him though, King Ducasse grabbed her hand.

The next second he spoke hoarsely behind her back, “Am I really not as good as that man? Is he really better than me in every way?”

Martha turned slightly and opened up King Ducasse’s grip on her hand before gently saying, “No need to compare yourself with him; you are a nobleman with power, strategy and status – better than anyone else.”

“But... you are not the one I like,” she added.

Martha liked Stefan all along – it never changed from beginning till now. She smiled softly before saying, “In the future, you will meet someone you truly like.”

After saying this, Martha turned and left where she was.

She had to go to Sam now, and Eve, because she wanted to know what happened between her mother and Catherine.

King Ducasse remained where he was, watching Martha walk away into the distance with golden eyes filled with loneliness.

The person whom he truly loved had already appeared but unfortunately someone else had occupied her heart.

Chapter 503 Do you want to kill her?

After leaving the royal palace, Martha went to the hotel where Stefan was staying.

She had started to doubt Catherine, but she didn’t think King Ducasse was a good person to confide in.

“You’re here,” said Stefan as soon as he opened the door and saw his beloved woman. His eyes lit up at the sight of her.

He hadn’t expected Martha to come see him so early.

Martha looked at him with a serious expression and walked into the room. Stefan noticed that something was wrong with her and furrowed his brows in concern.

“What’s wrong? Did something happen?” he asked, his voice laced with worry.

Martha sat down on the sofa and slowly recounted what had happened earlier that day, “This morning, one of Catherine Queen Dowager’s guards came to the Lucas family looking for me. He said that Catherine Queen Dowager wanted to see me.”

“Did she trouble you?” asked Stefan anxiously as he took a step forward towards her. He looked at her with worried eyes.

If Martha were to say that she didn’t want to marry King Ducasse, Catherine would probably become furious. Had Martha been mistreated by the royal family?

As these thoughts ran through his mind, he asked again, “Are you hurt anywhere?”

Martha shook her head slightly before speaking out about what was troubling her, “She didn’t make things difficult for me, but I disagreed to marry into the royal family. She said that I, like my mother, didn’t know the good from the bad.”

Catherine’s eyes at that time were vicious and angry, completely different from what she usually saw, which only fueled more suspicion within Martha’s heart.

Stefan’s face darkened when he heard this, and a gloomy voice sounded in the room-

“According to what you said, Catherine Queen Dowager of Country Z must hold some grudge against your mother.”

“Yes, that’s what I suspect. I suspect that there must be some unknown grievance between her and my mother.”

Martha’s hand on her side tightened unconsciously, while feeling an inkling inside of herself – as long as she knew the grievances involved, the real culprit who killed her mother would also be found.

Sitting across from each other now, Stefan nodded along before delving deeper into analysis over their suspicions together in hushed tones.

“The Hopper family has finally become a member of the royal family. Shouldn’t they continue to have their own family members become the next queen to consolidate the Hopper family’s position?”

Stefan paused and then continued, “By choosing you as Z Country’s queen, isn’t Catherine Queen Dowager pushing the Lucas family back into power again? The Hopper family’s influence may not be as strong as it is now.”

Stefan sensed that Catherine had a hidden agenda for choosing Martha to marry King Ducasse and become Z Country’s queen. Martha agreed with Stefan’s rational analysis.

“You are right, and before that, I heard Sam say that the Hopper family and the Lucas family had been hostile towards each other for a hundred years, so I suspect that Catherine has her own reasons for letting me marry into the royal family.”

However, she didn't know what the reason was.

She furrowed her brows at this thought and remembered how hostile Catherine had been towards her mother earlier today.

"I could clearly feel her deep hostility towards my mother in her chamber today," Martha said.

It was because of this hostility that she couldn't help but wonder if Catherine was responsible for killing her mother. Her eyes darkened at this thought.

But if the murderer who killed her mother was really Catherine, what should she do?

Soon, Stefan's questioning voice sounded in the room, interrupting Martha's thoughts.

"Are you suspecting that Catherine Queen Dowager killed your mother?"

Martha raised her head sharply to look at the man sitting across from her, but shook her head after a while.

"I'm not sure if it was her, but I do suspect she had something to do with my mother's death."

She didn't know much about what was happening within royalty right now except for feeling how hostile Catherine had been towards them earlier today.

But that hostility could only prove that there was a deep grudge between Catherine and her mother, and there was no evidence that her mother was killed by Catherine.

At this moment, the doorbell in the room rang, interrupting their thoughts.

The two looked at each other, and they both saw doubts in each other's eyes.

Eden and Stefan's assistant have left Z Country, so who would knock on the door now?

The next second, the waiter's crisp voice sounded outside the door, "Hello, room service."

"Wait a minute."

Martha replied, turned around and walked out, and opened the door of the room that was originally closed.

Unexpectedly, the next moment, the door of the room was suddenly knocked open, and the person standing at the door stretched out his hand and raised an electric shock baton to directly attack Martha's abdomen.

The sudden electric shock on her belly made Martha's body tremble, and she almost fell to the ground.

Stefan who was standing behind saw this scene, and immediately reacted, quickly stepped forward and kicked the man in black who was walking forward.

One of the men in black was immediately kicked to the ground, and his companion rushed forward after seeing it.

Before Stefan got close to Martha, he was surrounded by two men in black.

The man in black went up with an uppercut, and Stefan quickly took two steps back and kicked him in the heart.

One of the men in black jumped up to avoid his attack, and the other man in black swung at Stefan in the head.

The two men in black fought with Stefan violently.

The man in black standing not far away saw that his companion couldn't beat Stefan, so he grabbed the fainted Martha, and put a sharp dagger on Martha's neck-

"Stop it, do you still want her to live!"

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Out of the corner of his eye, Stefan saw the man in black, put the dagger on Martha's neck, his pupils narrowed slightly, he froze, and another man in black punched him in the back.

He subconsciously took a step back, raised his foot and kicked the black-clad man directly.

The man in black thought Stefan didn't dare to resist anymore, and yet he was kicked out.

The black-clad man who were controlling Martha put his dagger closer to Martha's neck, and he yelled sharply.

"Do you want to watch her die?"

Stefan's thin lips were tightly pursed into a line, worried that Martha would be injured, and he didn't dare to make another move.

After he didn't dare to resist, two men in black immediately stepped forward and tied Stefan with a rope, leading him out of the hotel.

...

When Martha woke up again, she saw darkness.

After she slowly got used to the light in the room, she knew that she was tied up in a dark room.

But, who will kidnap her?

Just when she frowned slightly and her eyes were full of doubts, all the lights in the room suddenly turned on.

She glanced around, looking at this room that looked like a secret one, frowned tightly.

Where was this place?

Was she brought here by someone?

Just when she was wondering, the sound of footsteps coming from the secret room made Martha's heart tighten.

Someone was coming, who the hell was it to catch her in Z Country?

From Martha's point of view, no one in the Lucas family would target her anymore after Gage was brought down.

In the next second, Catherine walked into the secret room with her guards.

Martha looked at the comer in shock, her eyes filled with disbelief.

She didn't expect that the person who kidnaped her turned out to be Catherine.

When Catherine stood not far from Martha, a contemptuous sneer appeared on the corner of her mouth.

"Shocked?"

Martha's eyelids drooped, and complex emotions flickered in her black eyes. She just suspected that Catherine killed her mother, and the latter then kidnapped her. This meant that Catherine really had a grudge with her mother.

Could it be that the murderer who killed her mother was really Catherine?

Just when Martha was having doubts, Catherine's sneer sounded, filling the entire dark room-

"I tried to talk to you nicely, but you didn't appreciate it, so I had to resort to this."

She no longer pretended to be amiable, but looked at Martha standing in front of her with a cold face. For a moment, Catherine seemed to see Elsie.

If it weren't for Elsie, how could her husband and son die innocently?

The chief culprit of her miserable life was Elsie. She would make sure that Elsie's daughter paid for everything!

Seeing Catherine's sinister gaze, Martha frowned, and she was even more sure that Catherine hated her mother very much.

It was just that her mother was a kind woman, so how could she have a grudge against Catherine?

She hid the doubt in her eyes and asked indifferently, "What are you trying to do by kidnapping me?"

Catherine must have a reason to use such a despicable means to kidnap her.

But why was she, the eldest daughter of the Lucas family who had been living abroad for many years, deserved so much attention from Catherine?

Just when Martha was puzzled, Catherine sneered and stated her purpose-

"I want you to marry my son."

Hearing this, Martha was slightly taken aback, and then retorted excitedly, "Impossible! Just because of this, you, a dignified queen, would use such a means to kidnap me?"

Catherine's smirk grew wider involuntarily. "As long as I achieve my goal in the end, does it matter what means I use?"

Martha felt uneasy seeing how smugly satisfied Catherine looked. Her intuition told her that there was more going on.

Catherine laughed contemptuously again before asking once more, "I'll ask you again – do you want to marry my son or not?"

"No! I don't like King Ducasse, so no matter how you threaten me, I won't marry him!"

Martha looked firmly at the domineering queen standing in front of her, and suddenly had a bad premonition in her heart.

When Catherine standing in front of her heard this, she smiled mockingly, turned around and waved to the guard.

The guard lowered his head slightly, and the dim light in front of Martha suddenly turned on, and the brightness in the whole room increased.

Martha caught sight of Stefan tied to the stake right away.

His whole body was covered in blood, obviously he looked like he had been beaten.

She struggled, trying to break free from the rope, but helplessly, she couldn't break free at all.

She had never seen Stefan in such a mess, and this was the first time she had seen bloodstains all over his body.

Martha opened her mouth to speak, but found that no sound came out at all.

Her eyes were full of guilt, if it wasn't for her, Stefan wouldn't have been hurt so much.

All of this was caused by her.

The glass wall between them was soundproof, and they could only see each other but could not hear

each other's voices.

Martha had been anxiously looking at Stefan, worried about him.

But Stefan looked at her affectionately from the beginning to the end, and didn't blame her for all of this.

Stefan gave her a reassuring look, with a smile on his lips...

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Soon, Catherine broke the silence with a bold statement.

"You chose this man over my son?"

Martha turned her head and glared at Catherine, and scolded, "Let him go! Just come at me!"

"As soon as you marry my son, I'll let him go."

There was a sneer at the corner of Catherine's mouth, and she looked at Martha with sinister eyes.

When Martha heard this, she rejected her request without even thinking about it.

"Don't even think about it!"

When Catherine heard this, she smiled instead of anger. She folded her arms and looked mockingly at the angry Martha.

"What right do you have to challenge me?"

Martha and Stefan was powerless in Z Country, while she was the Queen Dowager, so it was easy to make each of them disappear.

Martha clearly read Catherine's mind.

They didn't have any power here to reveal Catherine's bad deeds.

Martha forced herself to calm down before asking coldly, "Aside from asking me to marry King Ducasse, what purpose do you have?"

"I only want you to marry King Ducasse."

Catherine looked at Martha with a sneer, as if watching a dying prey.

Then she took a step forward and turned to look at the soundproof wall.

"Look at your ex-husband, how pitiful he is tied to the pole. As long as you are willing to marry King Ducasse, how about I let him go back to his country?"

Martha pursed her red lips tightly and said nothing.

Martha remained silent while looking heartbrokenly across from Stefan who kept shaking his head despite being covered in wounds.

She knew that Stefan didn't want her to marry King Ducasse, but... things had been out of their control, was there any way out?

At this time, Stefan kept tightening his hands on his side.

Stefan felt every wound tearing apart painfully all over his body, but he knew he couldn't become a bargaining chip for Catherine's blackmail against Martha.

Stefan kept shaking his head at Martha, signaling her not to agree to Catherine's request.

As far as he was concerned, he didn't care about the pain on his body, as long as she was well.

Catherine's pupils narrowed slightly, and her eyes became more and more sinister looking at the two of them.

At the beginning, she and her husband loved each other so affectionately, but what happened to them!

Their good life was ruined by that bitch Elsie!

From today on, she would slowly impose what she had suffered on Elsie's daughter, Martha!

Thinking of this, Catherine looked at Martha with more gloomy eyes, and her voice became more sinister.

“Have you thought it through? As long as you promise to marry my son, then he won’t suffer here.” Martha clenched her teeth, her eyes fixed on the bruised man on the other side of the soundproof wall. His eyes were fixed on Martha all the time, and he kept shaking his head at her, motioning Martha not to compromise because of him.

After waiting for a while, Catherine still didn’t get Martha’s answer, a contemptuous smile appeared on the corner of her mouth, she turned around and waved at the guard.

When the guard on the other side of the soundproof wall saw it, he immediately picked up the cane that was put aside and continued to beat Stefan.

Stefan’s face turned pale after being beaten, but his lips were still tightly pressed.

Even if Martha couldn’t hear him, he didn’t want her to worry.

“As long as you agree to be the queen, I will let him go immediately.”

Catherine saw the distress in Martha’s eyes, and took the opportunity to say with a sinister smile.

Martha looked at Catherine coldly, and said indifferently, “I don’t believe you.”

Catherine Queen Dowager shrugged mockingly, and a disdainful voice sounded in the dark room-

“I don’t want to kill your ex-husband. All I have done is to have you be my daughter-in-law.”

When Martha heard this, she was more suspicious.

She looked at Catherine suspiciously, and asked, “Why do you insist on letting me be your daughter-in-law?”

Wouldn’t it be better for the queen to be the Hoppers?

Why did Catherine choose her?

Catherine’s eyes darkened, and then hatred welled up in her heart.

But now, she didn’t mean to tell Martha, but gave an official explanation indifferently.

“You and King Ducasse have announced your marriage in front of the media reporters. You have to get married even if you don’t want to.”

Martha frowned slightly, and the instinct told her that things were far from as simple as Catherine said. She still didn’t know the reason.

After a long while, Catherine didn’t hear Martha’s response, and smiled sullenly.

“Since you don’t want wealth and status, let’s make a deal with your ex-husband’s life.”

Martha stared at Catherine with anger and pain in her eyes.

“You’re so heartless!”

Catherine’s pupils narrowed slightly, and she sneered mockingly, “What is this compared to what your mother did to me? I’m already being merciful.”

Martha’s hand on her side tightened, and her heart rose.

Martha clenched the hand at her side tightly, feeling her heart racing along with it. What did her mother do to make Catherine Queen Dowager hate her so much?

When she regained her senses, she immediately started questioning Catherine about her mother.

“What did my mother do to you?”

Catherine’s face sank, and there was mad hatred in her eyes.

She felt a pain in her heart, and looked at Martha with dark eyes, but she never answered the other party’s question.

Martha didn’t hear the answer, and couldn’t help being anxious-

“Did you kill my mother?”

Catherine smiled even more indifferently, her eyes were full of gloom, and she didn't intend to speak at all.

In her opinion, even torturing Martha to death would not make up for the pain she suffered back then. Martha didn't hear an answer which made anxiety rise inside of herself again.

At this moment, she realized that the gentle-looking queen was far more terrifying than she had imagined.

Her eyelids drooped, and slowly she didn't ask her any more questions, because she knew she wouldn't get any answers.

At this moment, Catherine's gloomy voice sounded in the dark room, interrupting Martha's thoughts-
"Martha, you only have three minutes to make a choice. Whether your ex-husband lives or dies is completely up to you!"

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When the woman heard this, she immediately looked up and looked across the soundproof wall. The guard had stopped beating Stefan, and next to Stefan appeared a wood plate covered with silver needles.

The silver needles on it were thin and long, which look very dazzling under the light.

After seeing Martha's slightly constricted eyes, Catherine unconsciously showed a smug smile.

"Well, tell me, do you want to marry my son?"

Martha's red lips were tightly pursed, and she still didn't want to say that she was going to marry King Ducasse and become a queen.

Catherine smiled mockingly, and waved her hand to the guard not far away.

Soon the mechanism on the wooden plate was activated by a guard, and the wooden plate began to approach Stefan slowly, and finally plunged into Stefan's body slowly.

Stefan felt the pain coming from his body, and he groaned unconsciously, but he still endured the pain in his body.

However, the tingling sensation from the body still made Stefan's face turn pale.

Martha, who was tied up opposite, saw this scene, and her heart ached.

She knew that it must be very painful, but Stefan didn't want to let himself succumb, so he kept enduring it.

But how could she bear to watch him suffer like this...

The pain in Martha's heart spread all over her body, making it hard for her to even breathe.

Catherine still didn't hear Martha's answer, stepped forward with a sneer, and whispered into Martha's ear-

"If these silver needles are completely pierced into his body, then his internal organs will be pierced. At that time, your ex-husband will undoubtedly die."

Martha's pupils shrank, looking at the silver needles that gradually stabbed into Stefan's body, she felt extremely heartbroken.

So many needles pierced into his body at the same time.

But he had been holding back, not allowing himself to cry out.

She couldn't even imagine the pain Stefan was bearing, afraid of breaking down.

Martha kept watching Stefan's every move closely with red eyes, and knew that all that Stefan endured was to prevent her from marrying someone else.

But... Catherine Queen Dowager will not let them go!

At this time, Stefan, who was tied to the opposite pillar, seemed to have sensed Martha's thoughts, and kept holding back, showing a helpless smile to Martha.

He smiled and shook his head at her, as if telling her silently not to give in or be blackmailed because of him.

Yet, for Martha, Stefan's life was the priority.

Finally, Martha finally nodded.

She had to agree to Catherine's request, and if she didn't agree, Stefan would definitely die here.

Martha knew that Catherine was not a good person, and Catherine might not keep her promise, but she really couldn't sit by and watch Stefan die like this.

After seeing Martha's nod, Catherine showed a satisfied smile and raised her hand slightly to the guard.

Soon, the guard over there received Catherine's order, reached out and pressed the pause button.

After the mechanism stopped, Stefan's eyes slowly lost focus, and he finally lost consciousness.

At this time, Catherine, after hearing the satisfactory answer, smiled brightly, and stepped forward kindly, wiping the tears from the corners of Martha's eyes-

"Why are you crying? You should be happy that you are about to become a queen."

Martha stared blankly in Stefan's direction, her eyes slowly losing focus, like a soulless doll.

She was still going to marry King Ducasse...

Seeing Martha like this, Catherine smiled even more complacently, stretched out her hand to slightly lift Martha's chin and gently reminded-

"Don't cry or your eyes would be swollen. The wedding ceremony between you and King Ducasse will be held in three days. The woman our king will marry should be the most beautiful woman in Z Country."

Martha turned away, looking at Catherine with a look of horror in her eyes.

This woman was really scary.

And after this incident, Martha was even more sure that her mother's death must have something to do with Catherine.

Yet not she had to obey Catherine to marry King Ducasse because she couldn't let Stefan die.

Catherine was targeting against her, and how could Stefan bear this for her?

Thinking of this, Martha only felt that tears well up in her eyes, closed them and tears immediately flowed down from the corners of her eyes.

After Catherine saw it, she felt very happy.

She curled her lips and smiled softly, her voice was soft and gentle, "Why are you crying? Don't be afraid. I will not let your ex-husband die before you marry my son."

She managed to know Martha's weakness, and she would not let that man die so easily.

She would inflict the pain that that bitch Elsie brought her on Elsie's daughter and made Elsie's daughter's life miserable!

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Hearing this, Martha knew that Catherine would threaten her with Stefan, so she would do her best to save Stefan and let him live.

Catherine seemed to read Martha mind, and said with a smile, "Don't worry, I will try my best to treat him, and I won't let him die here. After all, you will be obedient only if he is alive."

Martha pursed her lips tightly, and unconsciously tightened the hand at her side, and remained silent.

Seeing her like this, Catherine smiled even brighter-

“Three days later, as long as you marry King Ducasse obediently, you will regain your freedom, and your ex-husband will leave this dark room safely.”

“Remember, don’t play tricks on me.”

Martha looked at Catherine lightly, without any emotion in her eyes.

Catherine was the most powerful woman in Z Country. How could Martha outsmart her?

Catherine smiled in satisfaction, and waved for the two guards standing not far away to step forward.

“Take her to the west wing of my bedroom, and let her live there.”

“Yes.”

The two guards stepped forward, responded respectfully, went forward to untie the rope for Martha, and dragged Martha out of the underground dark room.

When Martha heard this, she knew that Catherine had locked her in her own bedroom in this means.

After Martha was taken out of the dark room, Catherine slowly walked to the other side of the dark room with a smirk on her face.

Stefan was tied to the pillar with a pale complexion, his eyes were closed tightly, and his breathing became uneven.

Catherine’s eyes turned cold, and she turned to look at the guard standing aside with a sly smile, “Let him wake up.”

“Yes.”

The guard responded respectfully, turned and left the dark room.

The guard who left quickly returned to the dark room with a bucket of water, and immediately raised his hand and splashed the whole bucket of water on Stefan’s body.

The cold water splashed on Stefan’s body, making the man feel like falling into an ice cave, and his tired eyes slowly opened.

After Stefan shivered all over, he looked at the woman in front of him with gloomy eyes.

He did not see Martha who was tied across from him; hence he guessed he might have left.

He knew that Martha should have agreed to Catherine’s request, otherwise Martha would not have left here.

Catherine stood on the steps in front of her, looking at the man in a state of embarrassment in front of her, with a sneer on the corner of her mouth.

Her sneer sounded in the dark room, making it look extraordinarily gloomy.

“You don’t know it yet, just now Martha has agreed to marry King Ducasse, and the wedding is three days away.”

“What did you say?”

Stefan looked up in shock at Catherine standing before him.

He didn’t expect that Martha agreed to marry King Ducasse.

Before he could react, Catherine spoke again-

“I told you so. No woman can resist the temptation of money and status? Look, in the end, she chose to be the queen!”

She looked at Stefan in front of her with a sneer, intending to sow discords between Martha and Stefan.

But after Stefan heard this, he immediately retorted sharply, “Impossible, you forced her.”

Catherine must have forced Martha to agree in threatening ways.

If he hadn’t been tortured at that time, how could Martha have agreed to marry King Ducasse?

At this moment, Stefan could clearly feel the sharp pain in his heart, which hurt so much that he felt it

hard to breathe.

He struggled vigorously, but with wounds all over his body, his body hurt even more when struggling. His hand moved violently to break free from restraints when he bore the pain.

Helplessly, he was tied by iron chains, with injuries all over, he had no strength to break free at all.

In the end, Stefan lowered his head weakly, his thin lips were tightly pursed into a line, and his eyes were full of despair.

He still couldn't protect her.

Seeing this scene, Catherine smiled even more contemptuously.

"For such a woman, is it worth it?"

Stefan looked at Catherine in front of him with gloomy eyes, his eyes were as cold as ice, and Catherine's body froze.

Soon Catherine came back to her senses, and took a step forward mockingly.

"Do you think she really likes you that much? She actually likes my son, or why would she choose to marry my son?"

Stefan tightened his hand at his side, and retorted coldly, "Impossible!"

She wasn't that sort of person, and if it wasn't for him, she wouldn't have chosen to marry King Ducasse.

At this moment, Stefan began to have some regrets in his heart, and he became Martha's burden by staying.

After hearing the man's rebuttal, Catherine smiled even brighter.

Her eyes and her voice was full of sarcasm, "My son is the king of Z Country, marrying him will allow her to enjoy wealth and status."

"But what about you? You don't have anything, how could she fall in love with you?"

After Catherine said this, she took a step forward with a sneer, and then continued-

"Actually, Martha just pretended to be affectionate with you at the beginning and played with you. Who knew that you were so stupid that you were played by a woman."

Hearing this, Stefan sneered and retorted-

"If Martha is such a woman, then your son is such an idiot, being played by a woman."

Catherine's face darkened when she heard this, her red lips were tightly pursed and she didn't speak.

She looked at the man in front of her with gloomy eyes, wishing she could strangle him to death immediately!

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Stefan noticed her anger, his eyes narrowed slightly and glinted.

"You want Martha to be your daughter-in-law so much, you have your own purpose, right?"

Catherine's face darkened, and after a moment of silence, she retorted with a sneer, "What purpose do I have? It's just her desire."

"Once one has desires, they will want more. After all, no one can resist wealth and status."

Stefan sneered, and retorted lightly, "You are wrong, not everyone is like you. She is not that kind of person, otherwise I wouldn't like her."

After he finished speaking, his face darkened, as he exuded a powerful vibe. His icy voice said again to spoke out Catherine's thoughts.

"What you are saying now is just an excuse for your evilness. You want to achieve your goal, yet you aren't unwilling to become a sinner, so you push the blame onto Martha. "

"In this way, you can still be innocent. Yet you know it very clearly how evil, dark, and vicious you are!" Stefan's words rubbed salt in Catherine's wounds, and she stared at him fiercely.

"Shut up!"

The fierce look in Catherine's eyes didn't frighten Stefan, but instead raised the tone of his voice again.

"Do someone like you deserve to be the queen of a country?"

"Enough!"

Catherine roared, raised her hand and slapped Stefan directly!

The crisp slap sound was extraordinarily loud in the dark room, but Catherine still felt angry.

She turned and walked over to the next table, picked up the whip on the table herself and began to beat Stefan-

"You brought it upon yourself! Who allows you to talk nonsense! Who allows you to slander me!"

She yelled at Stefan furiously, and the anger could not be eased for a long time.

At this time, the guards standing aside saw it, and lowered their heads in fear.

They knew well that Catherine was now being hit by her mental illness.

This seemingly gentle and benevolent queen had always been emotionally unstable and she needed to take medicine immediately every time she became like this.

Yet no one dared to stop her and they could only quietly watch her whipping Stefan like crazy.

At this time, Stefan felt the pain from the whip, and only felt that the original burning wound became more stinging now.

While gritting his teeth to endure the pain in his body, he began to mock the crazy woman in front of him.

"Though you look like a powerful and well respected queen, you're a coward who dares not admit what you've done."

"Shut up! Just shut up!"

Catherine retorted angrily, and then whipped Stefan harder.

While beating Stefan, she yelled angrily, "You are being played by Martha yourself, and you have the nerve to reproach me!"

"You're angry, because I've spoke out your true thoughts."

Stefan retorted with a sneer, looking at Catherine's angry face, only feeling it ironic.

He had been through so much with Martha, of course, he knew very well what sort of woman Martha was.

Now, she had to marry King Ducasse because she was coerced by Catherine.

Without what happened today, he believed that Martha would never have married King Ducasse!

He looked at Catherine with firm eyes, but a mocking smile appeared on the corner of his mouth.

Catherine's pupils shrank slightly, she reached out and dropped the whip in her hand, and took a step forward to grab the man's collar.

"What do you mean!"

"If it weren't for that bitch, Elsie, how could I be what I am now!"

With that said, she raised her hand and slapped Stefan directly.

She was what she was now because of Elsie.

Had it not been for Elsie, her husband and son would not have died and she would not have married into the royal family.

Stefan's pupils shrank slightly when he heard this, and immediately asked in a cold voice-

"What did Elsie do!"

But Catherine was so angry that she couldn't listen to Stefan's words, she just whipped Stefan like crazy and scolded-

"You all deserve to die, you all deserve to die! You shouldn't live in this world!"

When Catherine was beating Stefan, her nails accidentally hooked Stefan's torn clothes, and when she stretched out her hand, Stefan's shirt was torn apart.

Catherine glared at Stefan and just wanted to continue yelling, but she froze in place for a second.

She saw there was a birthmark on Stefan's chest.

Although the birthmark was soaked in blood, she could vaguely see the shape of the birthmark.

That birthmark was exactly the same as the birthmark on her dead son, how could it...

How could it appear on him!

Catherine looked at the man in front of her in shock, and dazedly reached out to wipe the blood stains on Stefan's birthmark, wanting to see more clearly.

Stefan felt Catherine's change, he frowned unconsciously, and his eyes were full of puzzlement.

He didn't understand why she suddenly calmed down, or why she kept staring at him.

At this time, Catherine, after wiping off the blood, could see clearly the shape of the birthmark on Stefan's chest.

In an instant, her memories overlapped, and the two almost identical birthmarks made Catherine's heart beat faster...

An unbelievable idea appeared in her mind, and in an instant, her whole body was trembling!

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Catherine gently stroked the birthmark on Stefan's body with trembling hands, eyes full of disbelief.

This birthmark really looked like her son's birthmark!

She bit her lower lip unconsciously, and her eyes darkened again when she looked at Stefan.

He felt the slight trembling of her fingertips, and his eyes turned cold.

Stefan resisted the stinging pain from his body, and angrily reprimanded in a low voice-

"Go away!"

Catherine raised her eyes slightly, only feeling a dull pain in her heart, and tears soon blurred her vision. She looked at the bruised man in front of her with complicated emotions, her lips quivered slightly, not knowing what to say.

Stefan slightly frowned, and he couldn't understand what Catherine meant.

She obviously hit him like crazy just now, but now...

He saw her cry.

At this time, Stefan looked at Catherine with disgust, and there was a low air pressure around him.

Catherine trembled all over, and after regaining her senses, she quickly asked, "How did you get this birthmark on your body?"

Stefan frowned even tighter, his thin lips were pursed into a line, and he didn't answer.

Catherine waited for a while, but still didn't hear the answer, her brows knitted, and an urgent voice sounded in the dark room-

"Answer me, how did you get this birthmark!"

"It's none of your business."

Stefan responded angrily, and turned away.

Catherine took a step forward and held onto his wrist tightly.

“Tell me how you got that birthmark!”

The grip on his wrist made Stefan feel uncomfortable; his gaze darkened again while he lowered his eyes weakly

The wound on his body was bleeding all the time, making Stefan clearly feel that the strength in his body was slowly disappearing.

He closed his eyes lightly, and sneered weakly, “You said it yourself it is just a birthmark – how else could I have gotten it other than being born with it?”

Catherine froze for a moment, looking at Stefan with complicated emotions.

After a while, her lips parted slightly, her eyes were full of hope-

“Where were you born? Who were your parents?”

Stefan glanced at Catherine who suddenly had an eager face, his eyes were indifferent, and he didn’t have the slightest intention to respond.

In his opinion, Catherine was a lunatic.

The whipped wounds on his body were tingling faintly, coupled with the fact that he had just been splashed with cold water, Stefan’s body shivered unconsciously.

After suffering for a long time, he gradually felt that his senses had been numb.

He twitched the corners of his mouth, his face was pale and bloodless.

Catherine looked at him now, her eyes became helpless.

She took a step back in fear, looking at Stefan who was covered in injuries all over his body, and her whole body was wet, her eyes were full of complex emotions.

Was he her son?

The hand placed by her side unconsciously tightened, she shook her head slightly and took a step back, her mouth was still trembling slightly, “Impossible, impossible... he died a long time ago.”

Such a small child was thrown into the sea, how could he still be alive?

Catherine’s heart sank, but her eyes were fixed on the birthmark on Stefan’s chest.

That birthmark was exactly the same as the birthmark on her own son’s chest...

The hidden guard standing aside saw Catherine’s appearance, and immediately took a step forward, reaching out to support Catherine Queen Dowager’s trembling arm.

“Your Grace, how are you?”

Catherine held the guard’s arm tightly, staring at the birthmark on Stefan’s chest with deep eyes, as if she wanted to engrave that birthmark in her mind.

At this moment, her heart began to ache a little.

She stretched out her hand and pressed hard on the position of her heart, and her breathing was heavy.

Working for Catherine for years, the guards naturally knew very well her illness.

Since Catherine married the royal family, she would have a seizure from time to time, and need to take medicine to monitor her illness.

In royal palace, no one else except them knew this.

As Catherine was being helped out of the dark room by the guards, she suddenly thought of something and furrowed her brows.

She paused and looked at one of the nearby guards who had been keeping watch. Her red lips parted as she spoke in a hoarse voice.

“For now, do not harm him anymore.”

“Yes,” replied the guard with a respectful bow and a deep voice.

The guard thought that Catherine gave the order to because of her agreement with Lady Martha.

But what Catherine said next left the guards stunned.

“Also, find a doctor to treat his wounds.”

After Catherine finished speaking, she left the dark room.

The guard who was left alone in the dark room stood there in a daze, looking at the direction in which Catherine Queen Dowager left with some doubts.

He didn't know what Catherine Queen Dowager was thinking and why she gave such an order.

However, as part of his duty to obey orders without question or hesitation whenever possible – he did as he was told anyway – immediately dispatching someone to go find one of the best doctors...

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On the other side, after returning to the bedroom, Catherine sat on a chair, panting slightly.

Seeing the guard's eyes, the maid immediately turned around and walked out to a place, taking out Catherine's medicine.

After the maid took out the medicine, Catherine immediately took it.

After taking the medicine, Catherine regained peace of mind, and her sanity gradually returned.

She waved her hand, signaling for the maid and the guards to retreat.

The maid and the guards bowed knowingly, and said in unison, “We take our leave.”

After the two of them left, Catherine began to think about the birthmark on Stefan.

The birthmark was black, like a little eagle.

Her eyes darkened, she got up and stumbled towards the bed, and took out the photo she had been hiding all along.

The photo was of her dead child, on all fours, with a black birthmark on its chest, just like Stefan's.

The exact same location, plus the exact same birthmark, in Catherine's view, this was not a coincidence.

Maybe, Stefan was her surviving child...

Catherine could clearly feel that her heartbeat was constantly accelerating, and she raised her voice.

“Somebody!”

Soon a guard walked into Catherine's bedroom and knelt on the ground respectfully.

“What can I do for you?” he asked respectfully.

Catherine's voice sounded immediately, “Go and invite my mother here, I have something to ask her.”

“Yes.”

The guard responded respectfully, turned and left Catherine's bedroom.

...

At this time, King Ducasse had just finished handling affairs of Z Country, he put down the pen in his hand, and looked wearily at the documents that had just been dealt with.

He reached out to take the tea that the guard had made earlier, took a light breath, and the figure of Martha appeared in his mind unconsciously.

Her appearance seemed to be imprinted in his brain, making him unable to forget.

King Ducasse closed his eyes slightly, thinking of Martha's rejection of him-

“The person I like is not you, and I will not marry you, so I hope you can hold a media conference to clarify the relationship between the two of us.”

In fact, when King Ducasse heard this, he knew that Martha really didn't like him.

Yet somehow, he didn't give up.

King Ducasse frowned, and he raised his hand to gently rub his tired eyes.

In fact, he didn't know what kind of feelings he had for Martha.

From the beginning, he just thought Martha was very interesting.

Later, he discovered Martha's resistance to him. At that time, his desire to conquer was aroused. He swore he must get her.

And later, when he found out about her past, he was angry that this woman still had such a past.

But while he was angry, he still wanted to conquer her.

Now that the woman rejected him again because of Stefan, not only was he not as annoyed as he imagined, but he was thinking why Martha would rather choose Stefan than him.

Thinking of this, King Ducasse frowned even tighter.

Could it be that he really fell in love with Martha?

As soon as he thought of this, he opened his eyes with a wry smile and shook his head slightly.

It was a pity that in Z Country, everyone except for her wanted to be his wife.

After all, marrying him meant that she would get supreme power and his love, but she was still unwilling.

King Ducasse frowned, with sadness in his eyes.

At this moment, there was a sudden call from the guard outside the door-

"Your Grace! Catherine Queen Dowager has sent me here to inform you that the wedding will be held in three days."

King Ducasse came back to his senses and looked at the guard kneeling not far away in astonishment.

"Wedding?" King Ducasse's confused voice filled the entire hall.

The guard immediately explained, "Yes, the future queen is already living in the West Palace, waiting for her wedding with you in three days."

West Palace was a place where only female family members of the royal family could live.

King Ducasse didn't expect that everyone had lived in it, but he still didn't know who that person was.

King Ducasse tightened his hand at his side, and there was a hint of shock in his golden eyes.

"Who is the future queen?"

The guard lowered his head again, and replied respectfully and loudly, "The eldest daughter of the Lucas family, Martha."

King Ducasse froze when he heard this, and looked at the guard in front of him, his eyes were full of disbelief...