

Chapter 996 Regret

The sadness and regret in Maia's voice caught Loraine off guard. She cautiously asked, "Why did you say that?"

Maia's eyes, clouded slightly with age, seemed to drift into the past for a moment. Then, chuckling at herself, she asked, "Then, why did you ask about the necklace?"

Loraine didn't hide it and said frankly, "This relic was left to me by my mother, and it's connected to her identity, so I'm trying to trace its origin."

Noticing the sadness in Loraine's eyes as she mentioned the word "relic," Maia gently patted her shoulder in a comforting gesture, squinting towards the light outside the window. After a moment, she began to share an old story.

"I came across the Tear of the Sea by chance when I was young. Back then, I was just starting out in this industry. I was just a nobody with no money. I had a boyfriend then, and we had set a date for our wedding. I told him we could set this gem in our wedding rings. He was thrilled and asked me to hand over the gem so he could have the best craftsman in the world make our wedding rings. But instead, he took the gem to an auction!"

With a sarcastic smile, Maia continued, "Interestingly, the cameraman for the auction had issues, and I was asked to fill in. So, I ended up watching my own gem being auctioned off."

Maia sighed again, "The buyer was actually quite nice. When I approached their representative privately and explained my situation, he said the gem was purchased as a gift for his beloved daughter. I couldn't claim something that another cherished, nor could I expect them to be kind due to my ex's

wrongdoing. So, I had to let it go."

As Loraine's heart raced with the unfolding story, she couldn't help but comfort Maia. Then, curious, Loraine asked, "Do you know who the buyer was?"

Maia shook her head, got up, and hobbled to a cabinet. After searching for a bit, she pulled out a tape and an old video recorder, both long discontinued in the market.

She held these old objects in such esteem that the video recorder still functioned. Soon after, the scene came to life.

Maia and Loraine watched the video together. After a moment, Maia squinted and pointed to a man on stage handling the auction item. "It's him. He was just a butler acting on behalf of the buyer. At that time, I couldn't get in touch with the actual buyer."

While talking, Maia fast-forwarded the video to another scene. This time, the butler successfully made a bid and then respectfully handed it over to a middle-aged man leaning on an emerald red wooden cane.

Unfortunately, the man's face was obscured by a blind spot in the camera's field, making it hard to see clearly. Loraine committed to memory the image of the butler and the distinctive cane.

As the video ended, Loraine had gathered significant information. She stood up, bowed deeply, and said solemnly, "Thank you for sharing this with me."

With a trace of sorrow from the memories, Maia responded lightly, "It's better to help you with this than to keep it to myself until the grave."

Lorraine sighed and said, "I can never fully repay your kindness, so tonight I'll do my best to cook something delicious for you!"



At this, Maia's face lit up with a smile. She touched the grey strands at her temples and was about to ask Loraine something when Vincent's voice suddenly intruded from the doorway, saying, "I've brought the groceries! Ms. Watts, your home is so far from the supermarket. Next time I will..."

Both women tactfully stopped their conversation. After scolding Vincent briefly, Maia said wearily, "I'm tired and going to rest. You two go ahead and prepare dinner. Call me when it's ready."

Vincent responded with a sullen nod, and Loraine nodded too, not dwelling on what Maia might have been about to say.

Once in the kitchen with Loraine, Vincent inquired about her conversation with his teacher. Their voices carried softly through the wooden house. Maia, walking slowly back to her room, paused on a sunlight patch of the floor. Squinting at the light streaming through the window, she smiled.

Fate is indeed mysterious. She had once watched as the Tear of the Sea was auctioned, and now here was Loraine, seeking it out.

As someone long involved in the art world, Maia gazed out the window, lost in her thoughts. After a while, she sighed with a smile and murmured to herself, "I never expected that after your daughter passed away, you'd better not know about this..."

