

Madam Winters 271

Chapter 271 She drove steadily and arrived before the Winters family villa very soon. Harold had finished his homework for a long time, and he had been waiting obediently in the living room.

Mr. Brown felt comforted. The young master was incredibly mischievous, and he never finished his daily homework on time. Today was the first time.

If Ms. Daugherty and Ms. Melody came to the Winters family villa for dinner every day, the young master's academic performance would definitely improve greatly. It would just be a matter of time before he caught up to Young Master George.

The moment the car stopped in front of the villa, Harold rushed out. "Aunt Adina, you're finally here. I've waited for you for a long time!"

"Mel, your dress is so beautiful today. You look like a princess who just stepped out of the TV!"

Harold wanted to hold Melody's hand, but she avoided him with a cold expression.

The boy felt hurt and pouted, but he quickly smiled again. "Mel, I asked Papa Brown to buy a lot of puzzles and building blocks home today. The difficulty level is the kind that you like. Let's go and play." Melody just stood still without responding to him. Adina walked over, squatted down, and said, "Harold, I have something to do tonight, so I can't prepare dinner for you. But I'll make it up to you later. Can you forgive me?"

"Aunt Adina, I'm a good boy. Why would I be angry with you? If you have something to do, please go ahead. I'll take good care of Mel." Harold stood up straight when he said that, and he looked like he was a little grown man. Alden looked up and said, "I'll look after Mel. Mom, don't worry. You can go to work!" Adina turned around and drove away after she stroked the children's hair.

After her car disappeared from the road, Alden turned around and looked at Mr. Brown. "Papa Brown, can you help me look after Mel for a while?"

Mr. Brown was already holding Mel in his arms. When he heard that, he grinned and nodded.

"Sure."

As soon as he spoke, Alden walked out of the Winters family villa.

Mr. Brown was shocked. He immediately went after Alden. "Young Master Alden, where are you going?"

Alden turned around and obediently said, "I left something at home, so I want to go back and get it."

"I'll ask the driver to send you home."

"No, thanks."

Alden pulled open the door of a cab that had stopped by the road, and the car instantly

disappeared from the front of the villa.

“Oh, gosh!” Mr. Brown became extremely anxious. “Lucas, why are you still standing here? Hurry! Drive and follow him. You need to bring Young Master Alden back. If he goes missing, how am I supposed to explain it to Ms. Daugherty?”

Harold grabbed Mr. Brown’s hand and muttered, “Alden’s very smart. He’s almost as smart as George. How can he get lost? Papa Brown, don’t bother about him. Quickly, bring Mel inside. I want to play puzzles with her.”

It was great that Alden was not around. In that case, Mel would not ignore him again.

Mr. Brown did not care if Alden was smart. It was too dangerous for a four-year-old kid to take a cab alone.

Lucas realized the importance of the matter, so he immediately drove out and followed Alden. Alden was sitting in the cab. He looked up indifferently and cast a glance at the car that was tailing him.

He pursed his lips without a word.

The driver stepped on the pedal, and the car moved speedily on the road. Soon, they arrived at their destination.

Alden used his phone and scanned the code for payment. He did it so skillfully that he did not seem like a four-year-old boy.

The driver looked completely shocked

“Thank you, Sir.” Alden jumped out of the car and looked up at the building in front of him. It was a private hospital. He took a peek behind him out of the corner of his eye. The bodyguard from the Winters family had also stopped driving. He got out of his car and quickly walked toward Alden.

Alden curled his lips and promptly moved forward.

Chapter 272 He was short, so he could move amongst the crowd. A while later, he disappeared from Lucas’ sight.

“Young Master Alden!”

Lucas was distressed.

Young Master Alden had disappeared from his sight. He had not been kidnapped, had he?

Lucas did not even have time to think about why Alden would come to the hospital.

He kept searching the crowd, but he still did not spot Alden after more than ten minutes. Just as he planned to ask for help in the hospital’s broadcasting room, he heard a voice behind him. “Uncle Lucas, are you looking for me?”

Lucas turned around. When he saw that Alden was uninjured and standing behind him, his tension finally eased. “Young Master Alden, where have you been? You scared me.”

“I went to buy some Band-Aids.” Alden raised the items in his hand. “My mom’s feet are worn out from wearing high heels. I went to buy her some Band-Aids.”

Lucas wiped his face. “There are Band-Aids at home. Why did you travel so far?”

Alden looked down and did not speak again.

“Young Master Alden, let’s get into the car. We’re going back.”

Alden nodded obediently before he followed Lucas and entered the car.

He sat in the back passenger seat and turned to the side. He looked out the window at the scenery that moved past him while he recalled what the doctor had said.

“The result of the paternity test will be out in a week. Even if we rush it, you’ll still have to wait for at least three days.”

In other words, he needed to wait for three more days before he could discover if Duke was his and Melody’s father.

Duke usually came home from work at about 10.00 pm.

However, his car drove into the villa’s courtyard at about 6.00 pm today.

He pushed open the door and got out of the car. When he looked up, he immediately saw the little girl in pink in the living room.

The little girl was sitting on the climbing mat in her pink dress while playing puzzles. Harold was beside her. He was resting his chin on his hands while staring at her with bright eyes.

Mr. Brown was sitting next to them while holding an ice cream. He fed the little girl from time to time.

It was such a warm-looking scene!

Duke’s cold expression became gentler.

He walked in, hung his coat at the hallway’s entrance, and wore a pair of slippers before he walked toward the climbing mat. He squatted down and clapped. “Mel, come over here and let me hug you.”

The little girl turned around. Her glazed eyes instantly lit up like fireworks. They were so colorful and fantastical.

It was a pleasing scenario, but Duke suddenly felt gloomy for some reason. He suppressed the mysterious emotion and softly asked, “Mel, where’s your mom and brother? Why aren’t they around?”

Mr. Brown answered on Melody’s behalf, “Ms. Daugherty said she needs to handle some work, so she went to take care of it. Young Master Alden mentioned that he wanted to go home and get something. Lucas just called me and said that he’s bringing Young Master Alden back here.”

Duke nodded.

He felt slightly surprised that Melody could actually stay in the Winters family villa on her own.

Autistic children would usually refuse to stay alone in a strange environment.

In that case, Melody must have accepted the Winters family.

The sky slowly turned dark, and a car stopped in front of the Winters family villa. George opened the door and got out of the car.

Chapter 273 The sky turned dark, and the lights turned on.

George got out of the car and looked at the living room where the lights were switched on.

Whenever he came home in the past, only the servants would be walking around and cleaning up in the living room. If not, his dad would be sitting on the couch and reading some documents.

Right then, the atmosphere under the bright chandelier was warm and harmonious. His dad, who was noble and mighty, was actually sitting on the climbing mat with a few puzzle pieces in his hand.

The always mischievous Harold was leaning obediently against the climbing mat without making a fuss.

Mr. Brown, who was usually busy, was sitting at the side while holding an ice cream. His wrinkled face broke into a friendly and warm smile.

George walked in slowly.

The servant, who was standing at the door, immediately greeted him, "Young Master George."

Hearing someone talk, the people on the climbing mat all turned back at the same time.

Melody slowly raised her head and looked at George with a clear gaze.

She had seen this boy before outside Harold's ward. She still remembered him.

He looked a lot like her brother.

"Mel, this is my brother!" Harold quickly introduced George. "I told you before that my brother looks very similar to yours. Most importantly, my brother is as smart as your brother. No, I should say my brother is a hundred times smarter than your brother."

Harold sat up proudly. His brother was brilliant. He wondered if Alden would still dare to look down on him again!

George walked over, stood firmly in front of the climbing mat, and softly said, "Hi Melody, I'm George." His voice was normally cold and deep, but his voice was subconsciously filled with gentleness at that moment. It was as if he was talking to a fragile porcelain doll.

He raised his arm and made a gesture to hold her hand.

Harold was a little anxious.

He had heard from Aunt Adina that Melody did not like to communicate with outsiders. She did not like to speak and have physical contact with strangers. George had finally accepted

Melody. If she did not hold hands with George, would he get angry and hate Melody again? While Harold felt anxious, Melody extended her right hand.

She stretched her hand out like a kitten, extending and retracting her hands several times.

George slowly curled his cold lips and softly said, "If you don't like to hold hands, we can try it next time."
"

As soon as he spoke, the little girl quickly held hands with him.

Her palm was as soft as a kitten's palm. The coldness on George's face melted, and his voice became much softer. "Mel, I got you a present. Come, I'll show you."

Melody got off the climbing mat.

Duke

looked down and bent down to help the little girl put on her fluffy bunny slippers. George took the opportunity to hold the girl's hand. Then, he led her to the living room's balcony. "I bought you this piano. Your name's carved over here." George pointed at the edge of the piano. Melody's name had been engraved via hot stamping. It looked elegant, and it was dazzling.

She raised her hand and slowly pressed a few keys with the tips of her fingers.

Happiness was visible in her big watery eyes.

Melody sat down in front of the piano and played a nursery rhyme.

George's eyes were filled with surprise. "You play very well. That was melodious. You're no worse than those international masters."

He said that out of sincerity.

He was not exaggerating. When Harold heard that, he felt so wronged that he pouted. He just wanted to introduce George to Mel, but Mel did not pay him any more attention after she met George.

Chapter 274 He met Melody first and liked her more. Why would this happen?

The

boy's eyes became teary and red. Harold could no longer control himself. He rushed over and squeezed George out of the way. "Mel, let me take you over there to play with the puzzle." Harold grabbed Melody's hand. "We had so much fun when we were playing with the puzzle. We've just completed half of it. Should we go and complete the rest of it?"

Melody furrowed her beautiful eyebrows and swung Harold's hand away with great force.

Harold held her hand tightly and refused to let her go.

"Harold, don't you see that Mel's unhappy?" George frowned and said, "Let go of her." "I won't!"

Harold was stubborn. He stood up straight and grabbed the girl's wrist.

It was fine if Alden stole Melody from him. That boy was Melody's biological brother, after all.

But why could George steal Melody away too?

He liked Melody so much and had done so much for her. Why did she treat him like this?

Harold felt so wronged that he wanted to cry. He took a deep breath and forcefully held his tears back.

George's eyes became much colder.

He lowered his head and noticed that Melody's wrist had become red.

"Harold Winters, I'll say it one more time. Let go of her!"

George sounded much sterner.

Harold continued to straighten his back and refused to let go of her no matter what.

George walked over before he moved Harold's fingers away one by one.

Finally, Melody could move her wrist out of Harold's grip. The little girl then hid behind George like a scared bunny. When she looked at Harold, her eyes were filled with caution and hatred.

"Whaaa..."

Harold could no longer hold himself back. He just opened his mouth and sobbed.

Duke watched the situation and walked over before he said, "B **Before** you cry, you should take a look at Mel's hand."

Harold sobbed as he looked over. Melody's fair and tender wrist was red, and it looked terrifying.

"You say that you like Mel. Is this how you treat someone you like?" Duke said sternly. "Go back to your room and reflect on your actions for half an hour before you come downstairs

again." Harold stopped crying. "Mel, I'm sorry. I didn't do it on purpose." Melody hid behind George. She looked down and clenched her fists tightly. "I'll go and reflect on my actions. I have to reflect." Harold cried as he ran upstairs. Then, he closed his room door with a loud thud.

Duke massaged his forehead.

The day before yesterday, he noticed that Melody had kind of pushed Harold away, and he did not know why. Now, he finally understood it. Harold usually acted rashly. He must have hurt Melody and caused her to hold a grudge. George held Melody's hand, and they sat on the couch before he softly said, "Harold likes you very much, but he doesn't know how to express his feelings, so he accidentally hurt you. Don't be mad at him."

Melody looked down, and her long lashes trembled. "What did you do to my sister?"

As soon as Alden entered the living room, he realized that something was wrong with Melody.

Melody had always been expressionless. She rarely appeared happy or sad, and there were not many things that could affect her emotions.

However, her eyes were red at that moment. Her lashes were trembling immensely, and her eyes were teary.

Chapter 275 Alden instantly rushed over and shielded Melody!

He glared at George with his cold gaze.

He had come to the Winters family villa many times, and he finally met George today.

If he had known that George would come home today, he would not have abandoned Melody in the Winters family villa.

George looked up and looked at Alden quietly.

When their gazes met, there were sparks without smoke.

"Ms. Melody, please come with me. I'll get you some medication. How did your fair wrist become so red? This is heartbreaking." Mr. Brown walked over with a first aid kit, which eased the tension. Duke carried Melody and sat on the couch at the side. He personally applied the medication for her, and he did so gently. Alden slowly clenched his fists.

He could have done the paternity test at any time. He should not have abandoned Melody. That caused her to be injured. "Don't come near my sister again," Alden said coldly and firmly. George frowned indifferently. "You and Melody are different individuals. You have no right to stop me from being friends with her." "You're not qualified to be my sister's friend." Alden lowered his voice. "You're Dew Daugherty's son. You approached my sister because you want to exact revenge for Dew, right? I'm telling you that I won't let you succeed!" George frowned. "What does this have to do with me being Dew's son?" Alden's heart instantly sank.

He was just testing him, and he did not expect George to directly admit it. In other words, what Melody said was true. Harold and George were Dew's sons. Five years ago, Dew had pushed his mom into the abyss.

Five years later, Dew's son wanted to harm Melody?

Harold was not frightening.

But George... was unpredictably profound. Alden walked toward Melody. He held her tender hand while he said in a cold yet calm voice, "Mel, let's go home."

Duke was applying the medication, and his hand froze. "I'll send you home after dinner."

"We're leaving now. We don't need you to send us home."

Alden's voice was filled with unquestionable resoluteness.

Duke felt his head ache, and he massaged his forehead.

He could still control the situation when it was only Harold and Melody.

The situation spiraled out of control after George came home. But after he sent Harold away, the situation was back under his control.

Now that Alden had returned, the situation instantly changed.

He could teach Harold and George a lesson, but he was not in any position to teach Alden a lesson because Alden was not his son.

Besides, Melody had been injured in the Winters family villa. No wonder there were only two children in a normal family. Forget four children, if there was even one more, the family would be a mess... After he applied the medication for Melody, he softly asked, "Mel, do you want to go home?"

Chapter 276 The little girl jumped down from the couch and held Alden's hand. Although she did not speak, her demeanor made it obvious.

Alden held her hand and walked outside while he said, "You should stay away from the Winters brothers."

Melody pursed her lips and said in an extremely soft voice, "George..."

Alden trembled.

When Melody spoke for the first time, she had called Duke "Dad." When she spoke for the second time, she had also called Duke "Dad."

It was her third time speaking, but she was uttering George's name.

It had only been Melody and George's first real meeting. Just one meeting was enough for George to enter her world?

He took a deep breath and said in a lower voice, "George and Harold are biological siblings, so Dew is also George's mother."

As soon as he said that, he saw Melody instantly lose all her energy like a deflated balloon.

She was like a blooming orchid in the valley that instantly wilted and lost its scent.

At that moment, Alden regretted it.

Someone else had finally entered her world, but he had burst her bubble and exposed the truth.

Melody had already pushed Harold away.

Now, she had also pushed George out of her closed world because of what Alden had said.

"Get into the car. I'll send you back."

Duke put on his coat and walked out. He pulled open the car door for the back seat. Then, he bent down and carried Melody into the car.

He could sense that her emotions were in a worse state than they were earlier.

He cast a glance at Alden.

Alden looked away and lowered his head to enter the car. Duke drove, and as he held the steering wheel, he spoke in a casual fashion. "Does Mel have any friends in preschool?"

Alden snapped out of his daze, pursed his lips, and said, "Yes, our classmates in preschool enjoy playing with Mel." "You've filtered the classmates who can approach Mel, haven't you?" Duke said indifferently. "Mel's social circle is actually your social circle. Am I right?"

Alden looked up. "Uncle Duke, what are you trying to say?"

"You strictly filter everyone who approaches Mel, and you chase away anyone who could possibly hurt her. You think you're protecting her, but you might, in fact, be making her close

her heart more." Duke continued to drive as he said, "When people are born, they feel happy, angry, and sad. They laugh, cry, and feel joy as well as sadness. But autistic children have a lower perception of these emotions in comparison to normal people. There's a door that separates them from our colorful world.

"You've blocked all the people who might hurt her. That means you've blocked half of her emotional senses." Duke paused for a while before he resumed. "You think you're doing this for Mel's sake, but you're also injuring her on another level."

Alden was shocked.

At 6.30 pm, Adina parked her car in front of the Daugherty family's mansion. Before she entered, she could smell the strong aroma of food. It made her recall the nights when she would come home from school many years ago.

Ruby had done a very good job on the surface. The family would always be warm, harmonious, and full of laughter.

She had been too naive at that time. She did not notice the conspiracies behind their laughter.

Adina suppressed her memories before she walked into the Daugherty family's mansion.

The servant immediately came forward and led her into the dining room.

"Addy, I thought you weren't coming back." Ruby flashed her a motherly smile. "I purposely prepared your favorite food. It's the same steak with barbecue sauce I used to prepare five years ago. Whenever I made this dish in the past, you would eat a lot of it..." Adina curled her lips slightly. "It's been five years. My taste changed a long time ago." Not only had her taste changed, but she had also changed. She was no longer that naive and foolish Adina.

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Adina casually contradicted Ruby, and the woman's expression changed several times before she flashed her a smile again. "Addy, why did you come back alone? Where are your kids?" she asked.

Mdm. Daugherty walked out with a walking stick and looked at Adina's back with her haggard eyes. She felt a little disappointed as she said, "You didn't come back with the kids?"

As she grew older, she began to enjoy the liveliness of being surrounded by children. She had even prepared some presents for the children.

Adina smiled faintly and helped Mdm. Daugherty to sit down. She tucked her hair behind her ear before she nonchalantly said, "My kids are afraid of strangers. I'll bring them back next time. Grandma, are you feeling better now?" Mdm. Daugherty coughed and said, "It's the same old problem. I'm just holding on." Adina glanced around and did not see Dew.

She looked down and leisurely asked, "Where's Dew? Why don't I see her around?"

"Dew has been practicing the piano recently. An expert has recognized her talent, so she's joined a world tour overseas," Ruby said proudly. "Dew is very skilled in playing the piano. Her teacher says that after this world tour, Dew will become the top young pianist in the country, and her future will be bright." Adina curled her lips into a sneer.

The Daugherty family had sent her and Dew to piano lessons in the past. They had learned from the same teacher and attended the same classes. Nobody knew Dew's level better than her.

But it was useless to talk about that.

She then sat down at the dining table. "Since everyone's here, let's start eating." She had to return to the Winters family villa and pick her children up after dinner.

"Don't you have anything to explain to us?" Aaron appeared imposing as he pulled out a chair and sat down. His eyes were filled with anger.

Adina's expression was indifferent. "Dad, what do you want to hear from me? Why don't you tell me?"

Aaron brought the subject up. "Didn't the twins you gave birth to five years ago die? What really happened to the kids?"

"What happened? Don't you know from asking Dew?" Adina leaned back in her chair. "Only Dew knows what happened to my kids."

Ruby's eyes turned cold. She wore a hypocritical smile and said, "Addy, you sound so ungrateful. Dew asked about you only because she was concerned about you. If Dew didn't care about you, none of us would know that you still have two kids. I heard from Dew that the kids

actually belong to Mr. Osborne, the chairman of Osborne Corporation in Central City." Adina suddenly looked up, and her eyes were filled with hostility. No wonder Tyson would suddenly approach her! It turned out that Dew had told him about the children! She sneered. "They're my kids. They have nothing to do with anyone else!" "How could you give birth to two kids on your own?" Ruby chuckled. "Mr. Osborne has already contacted the Daugherty family. He wants the kids to go back to the Osborne family. Since we're all here today, we should discuss it."

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("There's nothing to discuss." Adina's expression turned hostile, and her voice was indifferent.

"Addy, if the kids are really members of the Osborne family, we really need to discuss this." Mdm. Daugherty sighed and said, "You gave birth to the kids alone, and you've worked so hard to raise them. You can't just raise the kids for the Osborne family for nothing, right?"

“I said the kids are mine, and they’re not related to anyone else. I’m not raising the kids for anyone!” Adina’s voice was harsh, and she was also slightly impatient as she faced Mdm. Daugherty.

“Addy, Mr. Osborne says that he’ll find a way to divorce his current wife, and he’ll bring you and the kids back to the family in Central City. Then, you’ll be the wife of the chairman of Osborne Corporation. How impressive will that be?! Is there anything bad about that?” Ruby acted like a caring mother as she advised Adina. “The Osborne family is great. They have power in Central City, and Mr. Osborne likes you very much. When you marry him, not only will you be loved by your husband, but you’ll also be accompanied by two kids. Who else in Central City will dare to look down on you?” Aaron scoffed and said, “After you join the Osborne family, you can also develop Daugherty Corporation’s market in Central City. This stone kills several birds. You better listen to us.”

Adina chuckled out of anger.

Was tonight’s dinner a trap to force her into marrying Tyson?

She pushed her chair away, stood up, and firmly said, “If the Daugherty family wants to get involved in Central City’s circle, you can send Dew over. I believe that Tyson Osborne won’t turn her down. Anyway, he just wants a lover whom he can keep outside. He can find anyone.”

As soon as she said that, Ruby’s expression changed.

However, Adina was not interested in watching the change in their expressions. She turned around and left in her high heels. “Such a rebellious daughter!”

Aaron instantly slammed the table, and his face was full of anger. “Sigh, Addy is really letting us down.” Ruby sighed and looked at Mdm. Daugherty. “Mom, when you’re free, please advise Addy. This is a great thing. Why is this girl turning it away? Does she really want to live the rest of her life on her own with the kids?”

“Alright, stop talking!” Mdm. Daugherty frowned and said, “I just didn’t want Addy to raise the kids alone and tire herself, so I asked her to come home. What nonsense did you two just say? Tyson Osborne has a wife and a child. No matter what, it would be impossible for Addy to marry into the Osborne family. Don’t you ever poke your noses in this matter again!”

Mdm. Daugherty got up and returned to her room with the help of her walking stick. Ruby felt wronged as she said, “Dear, I was just suggesting it for Addy’s sake. Why don’t they appreciate my sincerity?”

Aaron tapped on the table and pondered for a while before he said, “Osborne Corporation is developing like clockwork. This time, they’ve come to invest in Sea City, and countless big companies are seeking a connection with them. Daugherty Corporation can’t miss this opportunity.”

“But look at Addy’s temper. It’d be good enough if she doesn’t offend them. Would she still let the Daugherty family have a chance to befriend Tyson?” Ruby said coldly. “Unless, we bring the kids to Tyson. Maybe then, he’ll collaborate with us.”

Aaron nodded. “I’m thinking of the same thing too. But that girl protects her kids too well. We might not have the opportunity to see the kids alone.” Ruby’s gaze was dark and profound. She repeatedly thought about what she should do about

this.

As soon as she went back to her room, her phone vibrated. She cast a glance at the incoming call, and her astute demeanor instantly disappeared. She grinned and said, "Dew, you should be very busy. Where did you find the time to call me?" "Mom, didn't you call Adina back for dinner tonight? How did it go?" "Sigh, that little b*stard didn't even listen to your grandma. Besides, she refused to bring the kids back to the Daugherty family home. We couldn't find a chance." Ruby sighed and said, "Let's see how Tyson's preparation is."

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"Adina has hired Brenden Watson, the most famous attorney in the country. Tyson doesn't have a chance of winning," Dew said firmly. "Tyson cares about his reputation very much. Perhaps this lawsuit won't even be filed..."

Ruby leaned back in her royal chair and sneered. "In that case, why don't we add some fuel to the fire and force him to file the lawsuit?"

"Mom, like mother like daughter. We're thinking of the same thing. I previously asked someone to take a few photos. I'll send them to you right now." Dew smiled and said, "You can work on it. You better do things neatly. I'm overseas at the moment, so no matter how big the thing gets, George won't suspect me. Mom, I'm counting on you." "Don't worry, Dew." Ruby tapped on her phone. As she scrolled through the photos, she broke into a victory smile. Right then, it was daytime on the other side of the world, and Dew was at a banquet. After she hung up, she took a glass of wine from a waiter and walked toward the banquet hall. "Ms. Daugherty, you're stunning today."

"Ms. Daugherty, you're still so young, yet you're accomplished. You'll become a new star in the country's piano world."

The junior pianists in her circle raised their wine glasses, walked over, and greeted Dew.

Dew acted elegantly as she smiled and said, "I'm just a newcomer. How can I compare to talented pianists like you?" "Ms. Daugherty, you were able to become Ms. Alice's student. That means you're outstanding. How enviable is that?!" "Ms. Daugherty, I live in Sea City too. After we go back, we can keep in touch. I'd like to seek your advice on the piano."

Dew naturally nodded and agreed. She then added these people on WhatsApp.

After she finished socializing, Alice walked over. "Dew, come with me. I'll bring you over there to meet Mr. Albert."

When the people around them heard that, they were extremely surprised. Mr. Albert was a legend in the piano world. A few decades ago, when Mr. Albert was just twelve years old, he had become the Prince of Piano, shocking Europe.

Over the last sixty years, Mr. Albert had only grown more famous and become a legend whom everyone admired.

Everyone who learned the piano knew his name. His name was stated in the basic piano textbooks, and a few of his songs were also included in the textbooks. He was a living fossil in the piano world, and it was extremely hard to get a chance to listen to him play the piano live.

Unexpectedly, Mr. Albert had shown up at this event. Meanwhile, Dew, the new star of the piano world, was lucky enough to meet Mr. Albert. Everyone looked at her with envy. Dew straightened her posture.

Ms. Alice was already an admirable person in their circle, but Mr. Albert was a greater character than Alice.

If Dew befriended Mr. Albert and received some guidance from him, her status would definitely increase greatly once she returned home.

She had traveled overseas to join the tour because she wanted to elevate her status.

She needed to talk to Mr. Albert! "Mr. Albert passed by the hall just now. He was having a cup of tea backstage, so I guess he's watched your live performance." Alice gently smiled and said, "If Mr. Albert compliments you, your trip would be totally worth it." Dew suppressed her happiness and said, "Thank you for recommending me, Alice. I'll continue to perform well."

Alice nodded. The two of them then walked backstage.

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Alice was also reputable in the piano world. She was lucky to be part of an ensemble with Albert in the past, so she could talk to Mr. Albert.

As they approached the resting room, a bodyguard blocked their way. "Mr. Albert is busy. Please leave."

Too many people wanted to meet Mr. Albert. The bodyguard's expression was cold, and he spoke like a robot.

Dew smiled and said, "This is Ms. Alice. She's an old friend of Mr. Albert. Can you please go inside and let him know she's here?" "Mr. Albert told us that he won't be seeing anyone." The bodyguard blocked the door to his room like a wall. Alice looked very disappointed. "Mr. Albert must be doing something important. We'll come again next time."

Just as they were about to turn around and leave, the door to Mr. Albert's resting room opened.

An old man with gray hair held his phone and stepped out. As he walked, he said, "Let me show you the international auditorium. Many people won't be able to perform on this stage in their lifetime. As long as you master this, girl, I'll bring you to the piano's birthplace and bring you out to perform."

While Mr. Albert spoke, he walked toward the auditorium, and a few bodyguards followed him.

Dew looked up, just in time to see Mr. Albert raise his phone. He was on a video call, and she could see a little girl's face on his screen.

Dew instantly found the girl familiar after she took a hurried glance.

Why did the girl in the video look so familiar?

“So the rumors are true...” Alice muttered. “I’ve heard that Mr. Albert has gotten a new student, and she’s a little girl. It’s true. That girl is going to have a bright future since she’s Mr. Albert’s student.”

Dew was stunned. “Didn’t Mr. Albert stop accepting students a few years ago?” “He did say that, but I guess that he must have found a brilliant kid who’s extremely talented in playing the piano. Hence, he made the exception and took her in.” Alice fell into contemplative silence before she said, “If I have the chance, I’ll ask about the kid’s background. If I can get to know her, maybe I’ll also have a chance to forge a closer friendship with Mr. Albert.”

Dew nodded and did not say anything else. If the girl was someone whom Alice had to put in effort to know, Dew would not stand a chance.

It would already be great if she could achieve half of Alice’s achievements in her life.

The little girl sat in front of the piano and played. A phone was placed on the music desk, where the music sheet was supposed to be, and a wrinkled face was visible on the screen.

“Mel, your piano playing is very melodious. The only flaw is your expression. It’s too stiff.” Mr. Albert guided her remotely. “You’ll need to perform on stage in the future, so that expression is not going to cut it. Come, smile with me. Sigh, don’t ignore me. Curve your lips and show me your eight white teeth. Yes, that’s it!”

The little girl did as Mr. Albert instructed, which was rare. She smiled obediently.

But the smile was forced, so it looked very nondescript. “Forget it. You better not smile. It’s fine to maintain your cold expression.”

Mr. Albert was fed up.

Duke was sitting on the couch nearby. He closed his eyes and listened to the sounds of the piano.

The more he listened to it, the calmer his heart was. It was as if his soul was being cleansed.

Half an hour later, Mr. Albert’s class finally ended. Melody jumped down from the chair and walked up to Duke. He then held her in his arms.