

Marriage Beyond Redemption by Lesley Harte

Chapter 151-160

Chapter 151 Nicknames **Nolan Liked**

Rene stood in front of Peyton. "Peyton, don't look at them."

Xiao Jia cursed loudly, "I take back what I just said. He betrayed his wife, he's a scumbag. Peyton, don't look at this kind of scumbag, lest you dirty your eyes."

Peyton's heart ached for a moment. Even if Nolan kept her by his side, embracing her every night, he couldn't change the fact that he was going to marry Helena.

In order to consolidate her position, Helena flaunted her love with Nolan, frequently going out with him in public.

She didn't expect to meet Peyton at the art exhibition. In front of Peyton, she tightly grabbed Nolan's arm, wanting to show her victory in this way.

This method, although simple, was very effective.

Nolan watched as Peyton took the child to section B and took his arm from Helena's hand.

In the past, Nolan was quite polite to Helena. But now, he is not even willing to maintain the most basic decency.

Helena's face, adorned with delicate makeup, twisted slightly. She lowered her voice and said, "Are you going to see that bitch again? Nolan, don't forget, I am your fiancée!"

Nolan looked coldly at Helena's aggressive behavior. In the past, he had cared about their sibling relationship and the bond they had **formed** when they were young.

He **was** completely obedient to Helena and always

respect towards her.

After seeing Helena's true face, he felt disgusted even looking at her for a second time.

"You wanted me to act with you. I did as you asked," Nolan replied coldly, showing no hint of pity in his eyes.

"Now, everyone thought that we were a loving couple."

Helena watched Nolan's departing figure with a fierce expression, her heart filled with overwhelming hatred.

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Helena had a bad feeling. Nolan's hatred towards Peyton was decreasing and he was instead falling more and more in love with her.

She thought, "I finally got together with Nolan after so much effort. If things continue like this, I will lose him completely."

Fuming with anger, Helena walked to the side and dialed a strange number. "I have considered your previous proposal. I agree."

"Ms. Chase, you were a smart person," came a gender-neutral voice over the phone, with a hint of laughter.

"What did you want me to do?"

"Ms. Chase, you might have to endure some hardships and sufferings."

"As long as you can make Nolan change his mind, I don't mind suffering a bit." Helena's eyes were filled with hatred. "This time, I want that bitch to be defeated!"

"As you wish, Ms. Chase," the person on the phone emitted a chilling laugh

The light elongated Peyton's shadow, making her appear even more lonely and isolated.

Suddenly, she collided into someone's arms without any warning. Peyton looked up and met Nolan's deep gaze.

They were standing in the blind spot of the surveillance camera, and no one noticed them.

Peyton calmly stepped back and spoke in a flat tone, "Nolan, you shouldn't have come. If someone takes a picture of us together, you'll have to spend money on public relations again."

Although she was considering Nolan's feelings, her emotions were so flat that Nolan couldn't feel her concern for him.

He suddenly realized that he preferred the jealous Peyton from before over the calm Peyton now.

"Did you only care about this?" Nolan's voice carried a clear chill.

Peyton was puzzled. "The primary task of a good lover is to be obedient and not cause trouble for their employer."

Nolan's hand on her shoulder tightened. He sneered, "Mistress? You certainly have a good sense of self-awareness."

Peyton's heart was still stabbed with pain uncontrollably for a moment.

"What else? You're already engaged to Ms. Chase. In ancient times, what would be my status? Your concubine? I wouldn't even qualify as a mistress. Now, I have many titles, such as the third party, the mistress, the lover. Nolan, which one do you prefer?"

Chapter 152 His Words Were A Charity

Although Peyton looked so cute, her tone was full of ambiguous and strange feelings, which made Nolan feel uneasy.

He brought her back from the island, and with his temperament, he should have kept her captive by his side.

He restrained his thoughts and gave her freedom. He fulfilled all her requests, and even took special care of Eric and Rene.

Nolan thought that after doing so much, Peyton would be as happy as before, with a smile in her eyes.

However, now her eyes were like a clear lake. No matter what he did, it wouldn't cause even the slightest ripple in her.

His cold eyes reflected Peyton's innocent face. "Peyton, you better stop it."

Nolan's voice was filled with uncontrollable anger, "Even if I married her, your status wouldn't be affected in the slightest."

His words seemed like a kind of charity.

Peyton laughed, not hiding the contempt in her eyes. "Ms. Chase has already obtained the position of Mrs. Dalton. What position do I have that she can influence?"

Without waiting for Nolan's reply, Peyton reached out and straightened his collar, not wanting to argue about this topic any further.

After all, if she continued to make a fuss, she would not end well and would have to spend more time and effort to please him.

"Okay. Go with your fiancée. I know my current status won't make things difficult for you."

After she finished speaking, she took a step back and said, "Thank you for not holding a grudge against Eric and his friends."

Nolan opened his mouth and watched Peyton disappear from his sight.

Peyton came back, but seemed to have become a different person.

No matter what Nolan did, he couldn't get the answer he wanted.

He told himself, "Peyton loves me so much. She's just temporarily upset."

Soon, she would become my little girl again, with only me in her eyes.

Peyton took Eric and Rene to many places. The two boys kept chattering and their mouths never closed.

She smiled as she touched their heads. "Study hard. In the future, there will be a place for you in this city."

“Peyton, we wouldn’t let you down,” Rene raised her little fist.

“Peyton, with such talent, why didn’t you become a painter?” he asked in confusion.

Peyton bit on her straw and said, “Drawing is just one of my hobbies. I prefer being a doctor. But because of one person, I gave up even my favorite thing. I became the way I am now and can no longer draw like I could when I was thirteen. So, don’t follow my example and take love too seriously.”

The sweet milk tea did not ease Peyton’s pain in her heart, and her stomach was also hurting.

Recently, she didn’t cough up blood much, but her stomachache problem couldn’t be cured for a while. She took some painkillers and went to play an escape room game with Eric and Rene.

Although she was only seven or eight years older than them, she took them as children and wanted them to taste all the food they had never eaten before and play all the games they had never played before.

Even though Eric and Rene didn’t like desserts, Peyton forced them to eat them by using the excuse that they had never tried them when they were young.

She shouted, “Other kids have it, and you must have it too.”

Before entering the secret room, Peyton patted his chest and said, “Don’t be afraid. I will protect you guys later.”

Three seconds after entering the secret room, Peyton quieted down in the terrifying dorm room, and someone jumped off the bed. Peyton screamed in fright, “Ah! Run!”

No matter who was behind her, she grabbed a hand and quickly fled.

She ran far away when she suddenly realized something. “In my haste, I only caught one person and ran away. Doesn’t that mean I left another person behind?”

“Damn it! Did I catch Eric or Rene?”

Peyton turned his head to confirm, but was met with a pale face with long hair hanging down.

“Ah!”

How did she run away with a staff member?

Before she could finish calling out, a hand covered her mouth and

dragged her **to** the nearby cabinet.

Chapter 153 The Important Chess Piece

The light inside the cabinet was dim, and Peyton was trembling with fear. If she had known it would be so scary, she would never have come, even if someone had forced her.

Peyton was trembling heavily when suddenly a low laughter came from the pitch-black cabinet.

Peyton felt that the laughter was somewhat familiar.

The person opened a prop lamp, and the eerie green light spilled onto his pale face. Just as Peyton was about to scream, she heard a familiar

voice. “It’s me.”

Peyton was taken aback. She swallowed nervously and cautiously called out his name, “Phillip?”

“Hmm.” Phillip was not one to smile or speak much. But at this moment, his voice carried a hint of amusement.

“I’m sorry for meeting you in this way. I didn’t know you were so timid.”

In fact, Phillip didn’t intend to scare Peyton. He dressed up like that just to avoid the bodyguards.

Little did he know that as soon as they met, Peyton grabbed him and ran without saying a word.

Peyton touched her chest. “I was almost scared to death just now.”

When Phillip and Peyton first met, even though he held a knife to her neck, she wasn't scared like this.

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Now she looked much livelier.

"Alright, to get back on track. I have some information on the person you asked me to investigate," Phillip stopped teasing Peyton and quickly told him what he had found.

"What did you find out?"

"Dwayne didn't just come back from abroad. He has occasionally traveled abroad for work in recent years."

Sure enough, Dwayne was not an ordinary person. The mastermind behind these scenes had planted some spies around Nolan and Peyton.

Initially, when Peyton was at her wit's end, that person made Dwayne approach Peyton. The information that the so-called detective Jackson found out was only what that person wanted her to know.

Peyton began to doubt the authenticity of the report in Nolan's hands. Kason lay in bed, never waking up, and the truth remained unknown.

That person knew the importance of Kason to Peyton. Since Kason was the most important chess piece, he would put Kason in the most important position.

"Could you find out who was behind Dwayne?"

Phillip frowned, his face covered in white dye. As Peyton looked closer, she noticed the sharp contours of his face and his extremely aggressive appearance.

If the dye was removed, he must have been a handsome man.

"The time was too short and I didn't find anything at the moment. However, within ten days to two weeks at most, I will give you an

answer.”

Actually, Phillip didn't need that much time. He deliberately delayed a bit just in case.

“Besides investigating Dr. Yoder and Dwayne, Phillip, I also need you to help me with something.”

Phillip didn't hesitate at all. “You tell me.”

“Find a good nursing home for my father. The place he is staying now is no longer safe, and he could be abandoned by the people behind the scenes at any time. I want to secretly send him away without anyone knowing, but there may be spies around me and Nolan. I can only trust you.”

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Peyton felt that she and Phillip were not related and it wasn't good to always trouble him.

She added, “Now, I only had 80 million dollars in savings. If I died, I couldn't take this money with me. I will leave it to you as a reward for helping me.”

Phillip gave her a meaningful look, with a hint of disdain in his eyes. “Our deal was for the island. Just keep your word,” he said.

Peyton nodded. “I had to ask you for one more favor.”

“Hmm?”

“Take me away from this. I want to go check on Caitlyn. That girl had a lot of secrets.”

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Chapter 154 Corpse Mutation

Peyton followed Phillip and sneaked out through the back door, she deliberately changed her outfit.

What amazed her was that Phillip's disguise technique was very impressive. He simply applied some things to her face and easily transformed her features.

After applying a layer of dark powder on her face, Peyton instantly aged more than ten years.

Phillip, like her, became a middle-aged man. Outsiders could not recognize his original appearance at all.

They went to Fellony Psychiatric Hospital again. Peyton pretended to be Caitlyn's distant relative and found the director, while Phillip did not show up and directly climbed over the iron-like mesh fence.

Peyton was dumbfounded. Even if the barbed wire was not electrified, it was covered with spikes. How did Phillip manage to do it?

They split into two groups. Peyton explained the purpose and the dean who received her showed a hint of regret on his face.

"Caitlyn was so pitiful. She had been brought in here for so long, but her parents never came to visit her even once. Her body remained unclaimed until now."

Peyton thought that Caitlyn's body had already been cremated, but she was surprised to find out that it was still being kept at the funeral home.

The young face of Caitlyn appeared in her mind. Some people are pitiful when they are alive, but it is even more tragic when they are dead.

"Dean, don't worry. I will bring her back and give her a proper burial. Her parents are abroad, so it would be troublesome for them to come back. I will take care of her affairs. Are her belongings still here?"

"Okay. I have collected all her old belongings. Come with me."

Peyton stopped by the same ward as last time. "Can I go in and take a look?"

"Go ahead. After Caitlyn died, the other patients were all sent away, and this room became empty."

Peyton pushed open the door, and the furnishings in the ward appeared even more desolate than before. Apart from the bed and the cabinet, there was nothing else in the room, and the walls were painted a dismal white.

The sunlight streamed in through the window, and dust danced in the air.

The cold and empty room mirrored Caitlyn's desolate life.

"Caitlyn was really pitiful. She excelled in school, and we were counting on her to bring honor to our family. Who would have known she would have such an ending."

The dean agreed and said, "Who says she isn't? She was such a beautiful little girl."

"Dean, has no one else visited her besides us?"

"Even her family has never visited, let alone anyone else. Oh, I remember seeing a boy around her age come over once before. However, his presence immediately triggered Caitlyn's emotions and she went crazy. After that, I never saw him come again."

Peyton's face immediately changed when he heard this. "A boy?"

"He was quite tall, **with** slightly dark skin, looking like a college student."

"Dean, can the visitor records be checked?"

"Sure. But why are you looking **at** this?" The dean scrutinized Peyton suspiciously.

Peyton sighed again. "At this point, I don't even care if you laugh at me, Dean. The reason why my unfortunate niece went insane is because she was deceived and forced to drop out of school after getting pregnant. I want to find out who exactly made her like this. Her parents didn't love her, but I always did since she was little. If it

weren't for me being abroad recently and unable to come back, I would have buried her long ago."

“Alright then. I will check it for you.”

The dean quickly found the name of the boy, Emanuel Crowe, from the visitor's log.

He handed Caitlyn's old belongings to Peyton. Peyton expressed his gratitude.

“It's just a small favor, no need to thank me. Caitlyn has had a complete life.”
The dean waved his hand.

Peyton continued to ask, “I heard that Caitlyn's attending physician was taking care of her while she was alive. I would like to thank that doctor in person.”

“No need. Dr. Yoder has already resigned.”

Peyton pretended to be surprised. “Really? That's a shame. I heard she was a very good doctor.”

“Dr. Yoder was indeed a good doctor, and she took care of Caitlyn quite well over the past two years. It seems that she resigned probably because she couldn't accept Caitlyn's sudden death. However, it was her choice, and we can only respect it.”

Peyton asked many, many questions again before saying goodbye to the dean and leaving directly for the funeral home to collect Caitlyn's body.

As soon as they heard that she was here to collect the body, the staff reminded, “She died by jumping off a building. Since her relatives did not pay for the funeral expenses, she was brought here and placed in the freezer without even the basic corpse beautification. Two months have passed, so you should be mentally prepared for decomposition.”

The staff led Peyton to the room where the bodies were stored and casually explained, “Most of these are unclaimed bodies. After a while, if no one claims them, we dispose of them ourselves. You're in luck, Caitlyn's body is still here.”

He stopped and pointed to the morgue behind him. “She is here. Do you want to say your final goodbyes? If not, I will have her cremated directly.”

Chapter 155 The Corpse Was Quite Gruesome.

This was Peyton's first time coming to a place like this. The room was terribly cold, and the chill spread from her feet to her entire body. It felt as if there were countless pairs of eyes watching her from behind.

Peyton almost exhausted all of his energy to stay standing.

"Don't be afraid."

Phillip whispered. Peyton's hand was slightly sweaty as she said seriously, "We wanted to say goodbye to her."

The staff said, "Alright, not for too long, I'll wait for you outside."

After the staff left, a cold wind blew in from an unknown direction, scaring Peyton into the arms of Phillip.

Phillip wrapped his arms around Peyton's waist and let out a gentle sigh. "You really don't belong in a place like this. Wait for me outside. I'll be out soon."

Peyton said, "But....."

Phillip said seriously, "I have seen many dead people. No matter what kind of corpses, I am not afraid."

Peyton still refused to leave. Phillip said helplessly, "Then close your eyes, and I will describe it for you."

"Okay," Peyton finally agreed to Phillip's proposal.

Peyton stepped back behind Phillip, her gaze fixed on the dark patterns on his black jacket.

Phillip exerted force with his arm, his palm gripping the handle tightly, and swiftly opened the door.

The moment the corpse was pulled out, they immediately smelled a foul odor.

Peyton already had a slight stomachache, and after smelling the odor, her stomach hurt even more. She immediately covered her mouth and dry heaved.

Peyton wanted to look up at the corpse, but Phillip suddenly reached out and covered her eyes.

Phillip's warm palm covered all the bright light.

Phillip's voice rang in Peyton's ear, "Don't look, the body looks a bit scary."

The photos of Caitlyn's body that Peyton saw in the news were partially mosaic-ed. She saw large patches of red mosaic, and she knew. that a lot of blood had been shed.

But she didn't know there was also brain plasma.

So many days have passed, even if the body has been stored in the freezer all along, it has become extremely terrifying.

In the end, Phillip did not describe the condition of the body to her. He felt her long eyelashes brush against the palm of his hand, and it made him feel a little itchy.

He felt as if he was holding some kind of furry little animal in his hand.

Phillip felt like he was the only person who was still contemplating while facing a dead body.

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Peyton's voice came through, "Did you notice anything wrong?"

Phillip finally woke up. "Wait a moment."

Phillip turned Peyton's body in a different direction. "Close your eyes and wait for a few minutes," he said

Peyton heard a rustling sound coming from the quiet room and she grabbed her clothes tightly, asking, "What are you doing?"

Phillip said, "I was helping to undress the corpse."

Phillip's voice was calm, but Peyton was already trembling with fear, even though she knew that Phillip was doing this to confirm whether Caitlyn had ever had an abortion.

"Caitlyn had stretch marks on her belly. Generally, it is considered appropriate for a pregnant woman to have an abortion between one to three months of pregnancy. By the time she is four to five months pregnant, the fetus has already formed. If a pregnant woman develops stretch marks, they typically appear after six months of pregnancy. I need to confirm if Caitlyn has had an abortion."

Peyton felt very nervous and asked in a trembling voice, "How do you want to make sure?"

"Caitlyn had stretch marks on her abdomen but no scar from a cesarean section. I had to take off her pants to examine her cervix. However, it's quite dark here. Can you come and help me with the lighting?"

Peyton was startled. "Do you know how to check?"

-Peyton studied medicine, so she knew, but how did Phillip know?

"I have studied anatomy, so I understand a little bit. Close your eyes and hold up the flashlight."

Phillip saw Peyton hesitating and whispered, "We don't have time to **wait** for the forensic experts. We must find evidence while the body hasn't been processed yet. You need to act quickly."

Peyton nodded. "I knew, I..."

She turned around and glanced at the corpse, her stomach churning. "Ugh..."

Chapter 156 More Terrifying

Peyton had seen the bodies of deceased relatives before, but they were completely different from the gruesome corpse in front of them.

Even though Peyton had just barely caught a glimpse of Caitlyn's appearance, she was still so frightened that she kept retching.

Phillip patted Peyton's back to comfort her. "Are you okay?"

"Sorry," Peyton said.

“Most people have never seen a dead body, let alone something as terrifying. I can understand,” Phillip said.

“Why aren’t you afraid?” Peyton asked.

“I have seen a lot, so I am not afraid anymore,” said Phillip calmly, his gaze deep. “Besides, living people are scarier than dead ones in this world.”

Peyton didn’t know what Phillip had experienced. Even though he was only a few years older than her, he seemed to be full of mysteries.

If he had not gone through the hardships, he would never have had such a look in his eyes.

Peyton understood that she was never the only person suffering in this world. She overcame her inner fears and then turned on the flashlight.

“That helped you with the lighting. You should check it quickly.”

“Um,” Phillip instructed calmly. “Close your eyes. I will take care of the rest of the work.”

Peyton quickly closed his eyes, so as not to delay the progress.

Phillip grabbed Peyton’s wrist and his voice rang in Peyton’s ear, “Offended.”

Phillip led Peyton to the front of the corpse. In the cold room, Peyton felt that his hand was unusually hot.

Peyton heard the rustling sound again, which was probably Phillip taking off the corpse’s pants.

Fortunately, the body was wearing loose pants from the mental hospital. Phillip easily took off the pants from the body.

Although Peyton couldn’t see, her brain could still determine what Phillip was doing through sound.

Peyton held the flashlight high.

“I’m done,” Phillip reminded, “Don’t open your eyes. I’ll put the body back first.”

Peyton couldn’t wait and asked, “What did you find?”

“Caitlyn’s cervix was torn,” Phillip said.

“In general, women who have never given birth have a round-shaped cervix. So, Caitlyn must have indeed given birth to a child,” Peyton said.

“Yes,” Phillip agreed.

Phillip left the room with Peyton. He paid the funeral expenses for Caitlyn and instructed the staff to bury her properly.

“Caitlyn was delayed for so long, and she finally found peace. It’s all my fault. If it wasn’t for me, maybe she wouldn’t have died so early,”

Peyton said.

Phillip shook his head. “Not necessarily, I found out that she was constantly injected with banned drugs before her death, which caused her mental state to become chaotic. Even if you hadn’t shown up, she wouldn’t have lived much longer.”

“She said her child was taken away. Who did it? Could it be that her parents took them abroad?” Peyton expressed confusion.

“We cannot draw a conclusion at the moment. However, we have obtained a lot of clues today. I will complete the remaining work. I will take you back first. By the way.”

Phillip took out a cellphone from his pocket. “From now on, use this cellphone to contact me.”

Phillip knew that Nolan could easily access Peyton’s communication records. If Peyton continued to frequently contact Phillip, it was only a matter of time before Nolan discovered it.

“Thank you,” Peyton said.

“You helping the people on the island is the best reward for me,” Phillip said.

Peyton returned to the secret room and left with Eric and Rene.

Eric’s face turned pale, and he was clearly frightened.

Rene was usually very weak, but at this moment he had a calm expression on his face as he came out, supporting Eric. “Those are all fake. Do you really have to be so scared?”

Peyton found the scene amusing when he thought about it. “I didn’t know Eric was so timid.”

“Peyton, you **didn’t** see just now, Eric got scared and cried, it was so funny,” Rene said.

“Shut up!” Eric said.

Eric and Rene playfully teased each other. The cheerful atmosphere between them helped alleviate Peyton’s sadness caused by Caitlyn’s death.

A car was parked by the roadside. The car window was opened, revealing Nolan’s cold face. “Get in the car.”

Chapter 157 **You Were Indifferent**

Peyton was surprised. She didn’t expect Nolan to come and pick her

1. up.

Although Peyton had already handed over everything to Phillip, she still felt a bit nervous when she got on the car. She felt like Nolan would be able to see through her soon.

As soon as Peyton got on the car, Nolan asked a strange question.

“Did you have fun?”

“I’m fine. The escape room game was a bit scary, and Eric got scared and cried.”

Peyton spoke, her face still calm. Nolan slowly averted his gaze from her face.

Nolan thought that deliberately making Peyton play with Eric and Rene, Peyton would become as cheerful as before.

The fact proves that besides the relationship between Nolan and Peyton, there is also Peyton who is different.

Once upon a time, when Nolan and Peyton sat together, Peyton would hold Nolan's arm and talk a lot, her mouth hardly ever getting tired.

And now, Peyton sat up straight, her fingers gripping the armrest, her eyes gazing out of the window.

Nolan asked a question, and Peyton answered. When Nolan didn't speak, it felt like there was a Pacific Ocean between them.

The atmosphere in the car was so silent that it suffocated Nolan. He stopped talking.

Peyton could feel Nolan's gaze on her. She felt very nervous. Had Nolan already noticed that Peyton had quietly slipped away?

After all, Nolan had sternly warned Peyton just last night. He agreed to develop the small island while ensuring the living conditions of the residents on the island.

He had only one condition. He did not allow Peyton to see Phillip again.

Peyton agreed with Nolan, but today she met with Phillip instead. Peyton also didn't know what Nolan would think.

Nolan didn't speak, his gaze falling on Peyton felt like he was judging her.

The car kept driving back to the Dalton's mansion. Peyton felt relieved when she saw that Nolan didn't condemn her.

Nolan said expressionlessly, "I'm not coming back for dinner tonight."

"Okay, I got it," Peyton said as he pushed open the car door and was about to get out.

She suddenly felt pain in her wrist, and then she was immediately pulled back by Nolan. Her body fell into Nolan's embrace, with her palm pressed against his chest.

Peyton looked up at Nolan with confusion. She didn't understand what he was doing.

"What happened to you?"

With an angry expression, Nolan said word by word, "Peyton, I said, I was going to have dinner with the Chase family.

Peyton nodded. "I understand. Don't worry, I won't call to rush you."

Peyton remembered that in the past, she had severe mental illness due to excessive anxiety. Whenever Nolan didn't come back by six o'clock in the evening, she would constantly call him.

As a result, Nolan felt bored and turned off his phone.

Peyton would repeatedly heat up dinner, anxiously pacing back and forth in her room, like an ant.

She would daydream.

Peyton found that kind of behavior annoying to remember, let alone Nolan.

Back then, she was the rightful Mrs. Dalton, and she had the authority to urge Nolan to come home. Now, she has realized her identity, so she will no longer bother Nolan.

In the past, she felt that even the air was murky, making it impossible for her to breathe.

Now, when

Peyton didn't care so much about Nolan anymore, she only felt like she had regained her freedom.

However, Nolan was not accustomed to this kind of life. In the past, there was a period of time when Peyton was too anxious, and she didn't even allow Nolan to have normal social interactions.

As soon as she heard that Nolan was going out to attend a banquet, she would anxiously look at him with a worried expression on her face. She would hold his hand and beg him to spend more time with her.

Now, Peyton's face was calm, as if she didn't care at all,

Nolan couldn't help but grip Peyton's wrist tightly. Peyton winced in pain.

"My hand hurts! I didn't stop you, what were you doing?" Peyton said unhappily.

Nolan said in a low voice, "If I stayed somewhere else overnight, would you also not care?"

Chapter 158 I Won'T Bother You Anymore.

Without thinking, Peyton answered. "Are you not coming back tonight?"

Nolan could see a hint of excitement in her serious expression. He threatened her, and yet she seemed surprisingly happy?

Peyton was indeed quite happy. After all, for the past few nights, she had been sharing a bed with Nolan, and Nolan had always been trying to have a physical relationship with her.

No matter what Nolan was thinking. Peyton just wanted to be as far away from him as possible now.

Nolan pinched Peyton's chin, his thumb caressing her lips. "You really wished I didn't come back, huh?"

Peyton felt that her past actions had annoyed him, so she said seriously, "Of course, because now you are Helena's fiancé. You and Helena are about to get engaged, and I don't want to cause any arguments between you two. If rumors about you and me were to spread, it would also affect the stock price of the Dalton Group."

After Peyton finished speaking, she patted Nolan's hand. She assured him, "Don't worry, I will never cling to you like I did in the past. I promise, you will have a pleasant evening."

Peyton thought that after she had made such a serious commitment, Nolan would surely think she was responsible, and then he would let her go.

Peyton thought her attempts to please Nolan would make him happy. However, Nolan's expression grew angrier and he squeezed Peyton's

chin even harder.

Wasn't she pleasing enough? Peyton furrowed her brow, pondering.

Nolan couldn't sense any reluctance or sadness from Peyton. He withdrew his hand and coldly whispered in Peyton's ear, "As you wish! Tonight, I will sleep at the Chase family's."

"Okay, then I'll go back and have dinner first," Peyton said.

Nolan couldn't see any sadness on Peyton's face as she immediately opened the car door and quickly got out.

Peyton walked away without looking back, she didn't feel any sadness at all.

Nolan wondered, had Peyton completely stopped loving him in less than three months since their divorce?

Javson saw Nolan's indifferent face in the rearview mirror. Jason asked cautiously, "Mr. Dalton, are we leaving now?"

Nolan took a deep breath. "What did she do today? Who did she meet?"

"There was nothing special. She went to an art exhibition to see paintings, then went shopping, and finally spent the whole afternoon playing at some popular amusement facilities for young people. She didn't meet anyone," Jayson said.

Nolan frowned. "Stared at her."

Nolan could confirm that Peyton didn't have any special incidents with Phillip on the island, otherwise Nolan would really suspect that Peyton had developed feelings for someone else.

Nolan no longer hated Peyton, and in fact, as time went on, he grew to like Peyton more and more.

Peyton's attitude was the opposite. She no longer relied on Nolan. In fact, there was no longer any light in Peyton's eyes when she looked at Nolan.

Nolan looked down at his phone. Back when he had a good

relationship with Peyton, she would constantly send him messages or call him. During that time, even if he was busy, he would always find time to reply to her.

Even though Nolan and Peyton's relationship deteriorated later on, he deliberately distanced himself from Peyton. However, Peyton still sent him dozens of messages every day. Unlike now, she doesn't make a single phone call or send a single text message all day.

When Nolan realized that he was no longer the most important person in Peyton's heart, his heart felt like it was being tightly squeezed.

He wouldn't know that Peyton has become cautious now, always afraid of angering him.

Peyton only hoped that she could stay away from him as far as possible, so as not to annoy him again.

Does she still have the qualification to interfere in his life, considering her current identity?

Moreover, in the past two years, Peyton's heart seemed to have been stabbed countless times by Nolan and Helena. No matter how deep Peyton's love for Nolan was, she had long given up.

Peyton—
returned to the room without looking back, she didn't even have dinner.

She could imagine the dead body she saw during the day as soon as she closed her eyes.

Peyton only wished that Phillip could uncover the truth as soon as possible.

Peyton went to sleep after taking a shower. She had no idea that Nolan kept glancing at his phone.

He said he would stay at the Chase family. He didn't believe Peyton would really be indifferent.

Nolan had waited for so long, thinking that Peyton would have called.

Chapter 159 Receiving **The** Marriage Certificate

After drinking, Elbert smashed the glass in his hand onto the table, causing a loud "bang" sound.

The person Elbert fought with on the battlefield exuded a strong coldness. Elbert, who was always serious, said coldly, "If you want to eat, then eat. If not, then leave!"

Colette quickly grabbed his arm, with a smile on her face, trying to mediate, "What are you talking about? Nolan has come all this way, don't get angry. He's not a new recruit you brought."

After saying that, Colette smiled at Nolan and said, "Nolan, don't blame him. Elbert is used to being in the military. Even after so many years of retirement, he still thinks he's in the army."

Helena also quickly said, "Dad, Nolan is usually busy and may have some business matters to attend to. Please understand."

Elbert used to admire Nolan in the past. However, ever since he found out that Peyton was Nolan's ex-wife, Elbert felt a bit awkward in his heart.

After all, being in the same circle, Nolan knew exactly how many personnel Elbert mobilized in order to find Peyton and Chris.

All the men in the Chase family had a bad temper. Elbert said, "Your children with Helena are already so grown up, and you still haven't gotten engaged. It's one thing to delay the engagement, but you still haven't married Helena till now. Today, you tell me if you want to marry my daughter or not."

“Dad, don’t be so harsh. We are all family, let’s talk things out.”

“Yes, yes, calm down, don’t scare the child.”

Colette and Helena were in agreement on this matter.

Silent all along, Jimmy forcefully slammed the chopsticks onto the table and exclaimed, “Shut up, all of you!”

When Jimmy spoke, Colette got scared and dared not look at him.

“I have no objection if you get married. Which man hasn’t had a few relationships when he was young? Since you have already divorced, you should draw a line with the past. What is happening now?”

Despite his old age, Jimmy had a strong voice as he asked, “Tell me, what did you consider the girl from the Chase family?”

Everyone in the room was looking at Nolan. Nolan calmly put away his phone, and his gaze finally lingered on the screen for a moment.

He still did not receive Peyton’s message.

Nolan sat upright in front of the two owners of the Chase family, exuding an undiminished air of confidence.

“Since I promised to marry Helena, I will follow through with my words. You should know about Peyton’s current situation.”

Nolan’s voice showed no trace of emotion, making it difficult to tell whether he was hiding any feelings.

“The Schmitt family went bankrupt, and she alone managed to save Chris. She is my ex-wife and also Chris’s savior. Shouldn’t I help her?”

Jimmy snorted, “There are many ways to take care of someone, I heard she has been living with you these days. The Chase family is not an ordinary family. I don’t care how you used to play around, but now, you must give Helena an explanation.”

Elbert also added, “Anyway, you were going to get engaged. From today onwards, you will be living together with Helena.”

Nolan wanted to say something, Elbert and Jimmy looked at him simultaneously.

Jimmy arrogantly said, "You young people value the sense of

ceremony. March 14th is a good day, let's get married to Helena on this day and obtain the marriage certificate."

Chapter 160 **No Need To Pretend**

Jimmy and Elbert didn't give Nolan any room for refusal at all.

Moreover, at this point, his marriage to Helena had already become an unchangeable fact.

Helena knew that during this period, Nolan's feelings towards Peyton were very delicate. She tightly clutched her clothes, afraid that Nolan would take back his words.

Nolan picked up his glass and calmly replied, "Okay."

Helena let go of her worries and a smile reappeared on her face. "Grandpa, Dad, I had always said that Nolan wouldn't disappoint me.

Jimmy glanced at him deeply, "He had better be like this."

Elbert

also reminded, "After all, Peyton is Colette's biological daughter and considered half of the Chase family. Even if you don't take care of her, the Chase family will take good care of her. I will take care of her, and starting tomorrow, I don't want to see any connection between you and her."

Nolan clenched his fingers around the glass of wine, but in the end, he didn't say anything.

Originally, he was just being stubborn and telling Peyton that he wouldn't go back. Unexpectedly, he really couldn't go back.

He was trapped in the Chase family's mansion and was forced to share a room with Helena.

The night grew darker, Helena took a shower and deliberately changed

into a seductive silk nightgown. She slowly approached the man sitting by the sofa.

Nolan had his back turned to her. Even when sitting down, his spine remained straight.

Nolan had one hand resting on the armrest, while the other hand tightly gripped his phone. He frowned.

Helena clearly felt that his attitude towards her had changed, so she spoke very cautiously.

“Nolan, were you waiting for an important phone call?”

Nolan didn't even look up, “Hmm.”

“It's getting late, you go and freshen up first, I...”

She blushed and said, “I was waiting for you.”

In the dim night, an owl flew from the tree, making a “hoo hoo” sound.

The Dalton's mansion had a long history of construction, with a superb surrounding environment. Occasionally, there were also some wild animals, which was normal.

Peyton had a hard time falling asleep and didn't reach a deep sleep. She immediately opened her eyes upon hearing the sound of birds.

Normally at this time, Nolan had already come back, and Olivia hadn't stayed over recently. In the spacious villa, she was the only one.

The room was pitch black, only the warm yellow light was shining in the yard.

She opened her eyes and saw a huge owl. It was perched on the tall tree outside the French window, its eyes emitting a faint glow.

The image of Caitlyn's body resurfaced in Peyton's mind. Just the thought of it made Peyton feel like Caitlyn was everywhere in the

room.

She would even simulate in her mind the scene of Caitlyn jumping off the building, just like the feeling she had experienced before.

The sound of the wind whistled in her ears, and soon her body fell heavily to the ground, with brain matter and blood flowing all over.

“Ah!”

Peyton broke out in a cold sweat. At that moment, she regretted. She shouldn't have let Nolan not come home.

She reached for the phone on the bedside table, her fingers already pressing the dial button, but Peyton quickly realized what she was doing. What was she thinking?

She opened the projector and searched for a TV series, got out of bed and found something to eat, and stayed in the master bedroom waiting and waiting.

Nolan should come back, Olivia said he never stayed out overnight before.

As long as she waited a little longer, he would come back.

Peyton could watch TV dramas until midnight, and his eyes would become extremely sore. The big owl outside did not leave; it stared at

the screen.

It was already 4 o'clock in the morning, and she knew Nolan wouldn't come back.

Peyton thought she didn't care anymore, but at this moment, she realized that she still couldn't completely remove this man from her world.

She couldn't give up so many years of love in just a few months.

She hugged her knees and rested her head on her knees. She thought of the image of Nolan and Helena in bed at the moment, her heart ached like a knife cutting through.

Peyton stayed up all night until dawn, waiting for the owl to leave.

Peyton looked at the cold and lifeless bed beside him and chuckled self-deprecatingly.

The phone on the bedside table rang, and she quickly answered it. Colette's voice came from the other end. Colette requested Peyton to come over, saying that she had made breakfast that Peyton liked. Additionally, Elbert also wanted to see her.

Peyton hung up the phone coldly and uncontrollably got out of bed.

She had not eaten breakfast made by her mother for many years.

In Peyton's memory, Colette was very capable and cooked delicious food. Although Colette rarely cooked, every time she did, it would surprise Peyton.

By the time Peyton realized it, she had already arrived at the White's house.

The servant politely welcomed Peyton in, and Colette, as always, was elegant and gracious.

Peyton could tell that Elbert treated her well, as most of the time when they met, Colette had a smile on her face.

Colette would not laugh during the days by Kason's side.

Love and indifference were both written on her face. At that time, Colette was distant towards Kason and Peyton, even cooking only when she was in a good mood.

Peyton could sense the tense atmosphere between her parents from a young age, so she tried her best to be well-behaved.

Even though she really liked eating the food her mother made and hoped that Colette would attend every parent meeting, she never mentioned it.

She thought that if she could improve her grades a little more and be a little more obedient, her parents would be a little better and they would accompany her to the amusement park on her birthday.

In the end, what Peyton waited for was still a farewell.

Colette saw her standing at the door and quickly came over to hold her hand. "Peytie, come here quickly. Are you hungry? Come and have breakfast."

Elbert, rarely not so serious, also smiled and said, "Try breakfast, it was specially prepared for you by your mother. Peyton, I was also very surprised about your father's situation. If you don't mind in the future, you can consider me as your half father. The Chase family is also your family."

Peyton could tell that Elbert was not lying, but Peyton was not moved.

Even if it took a lifetime, Peyton couldn't forget the past.

Peyton was eagerly pulled to the edge of the dining table, and Colette placed a bowl of noodles in front of her. "Go ahead and eat. I remember you used to love this when you were little."

Peyton didn't move. She never liked spicy food since she was a child, and this kind of noodles was not her favorite breakfast either.

Colette pleasingly brought out several dishes.

Peyton smiled and put down the chopsticks, "You don't have to pretend to love me."

"Don't you like to eat?" Colette muttered, "I shouldn't be mistaken."

Elbert clenched his fist and coughed softly, "These are all Helena's favorite foods."

Elbert's words pierced Peyton's heart like a knife.

Colette was really kind to Helena.

Colette remembered everything her stepdaughter liked, but she couldn't remember what her daughter liked to eat.

Even just remembering a dish that Peyton liked to eat could make Colette a little happier.

Peyton got up and was about to leave, but when he turned around, he noticed that the door to the master bedroom downstairs was open.

Nolan and Helena walked out of the room.