

Marriage Beyond Redemption by Lesley Harte

Chapter 201-210

Chapter 201 Peyton's Backer was Nolan

The incident of Peyton getting slapped quickly spread throughout the entire department. Everyone thought about how Nolan had assigned the project solely to Peyton. This kind of thing had never happened before.

Smart people have already noticed something is wrong. Everyone knows that Peyton was the person Lucian brought into the company.

But now it seems that her support behind her is not Lucian, but Nolan!

People in Group C realized this and were all terrified.

No wonder Peyton didn't take anyone seriously, and no wonder Nolan specifically asked Peyton to deliver the project proposal.

The company also issued a warning specifically because of the photo.

All of this was explained, and it turned out that Nolan was the supporter behind Peyton!

So what if Peyton was just Nolan's lover? Can't Helena also just slap her?

Everyone was filled with fear and anxiety. No one dared to compete with Peyton for the project, and everyone started to please her.

Iris put the milkshake that Peyton wanted on her desk with a pleasing smile on her face.

"Peytie, oh no, Ms. Schmitt. This is the milkshake I personally went to buy for you, with three sugars, at room temperature. I also got you a serving of afternoon tea."

40 Wouchers

Iris filled the table with exquisite pastries. Others looked at her with disdain.

Iris initially led the way in scolding Peyton, but now she has started to please Peyton.

Peyton looked up and glanced at Iris. Iris continued, "It was all my fault before, please forgive me. If you ever need any help in the future, feel free to ask me."

Peyton lazily said, "You're blocking my light."

Iris watched Peyton at the best spot in the office, where the sunlight was abundant. It was evident that Peyton didn't want to bother with her/

"Yes, I was right next to you. If you have any questions, you can come to me."

Iris cleverly returned to her position, but her gaze still frequently turned towards Peyton.

Peyton did not refuse the exquisite pastries on the table. In the past, she really enjoyed sweets.

Desserts could cure all the unhappiness in the world.

Back then, Peyton's only unhappiness was being 0.5 points away from a perfect score on the exam. Where did the boy she loved so much in her childhood go?

The girl's worries were also simple, often cured by an ice cream.

In the past two years, Peyton rarely had regular meals, let alone desserts.

She scooped a spoonful and ate it. It was supposed to be sweet, as

Peyton remembered, but she found it a bit too rich.

Peyton took only one bite and put down the spoon.

She threw everything to one side. Peyton knew that everyone around her wanted to get close to her, but she didn't have the time.

At that moment, Peyton finally understood that Nolan's actions were not only to test her abilities but also to show everyone that he was different from himself.

As for their relationship, Nolan didn't care about other people's opinions.

This is the backing that Nolan talked about.

Peyton wanted to laugh. If Peyton couldn't remember that Nolan didn't care about the things he had done to her in the past, perhaps she would still be slightly moved.

But those injuries were like knives carving wounds on her body, and they still haven't healed until now.

Peyton had long remembered that kind of pain, so how could she repeat the same mistake again?

Peyton continued her work. Fortunately, besides studying various musical instruments since childhood, Kason also found specialized finance teachers to teach her relevant knowledge.

Peyton and Nolan also learned a lot during their time together, so a project worth tens of millions was just right for her to practice.

President's Office.

Nolan rolled up the end of his tie, once again thinking of Peyton pulling him in for a kiss.

40 (Vouchers

Nolan's Adam's apple slid unconsciously. The body that hadn't been touched for two years once again aroused Nolan's desires.

"Haven't you found out the reason why she joined the Dalton Group yet?"

Lucian stood respectfully aside. "Mrs. Dalton didn't have any particular actions in the department, but she did give a gift to a few people in the secretary's office."

"Gift?"

Lucian handed Nolan a tie clip. "This is Quinton's."

Nolan glanced at the logo on the tie clip and realized it was a trendy brand, and the price was not cheap.

"She was quite generous."

“Mrs. Dalton probably initially thought she was coming to work in the secretary’s office, so she wanted to build good relationships with everyone, and it was also normal to give some gifts.”

Nolan looked at the small decoration protruding from the tie clip. “Unclip it.”

Lucian didn’t ask much and quickly opened the package.

A miniature tracker fell out of the small lid and scattered on the tabletop.

Chapter 202 Found **Some** Clues

When Lucian saw the mini tracker on the desktop, his face turned pale.

“How... could this happen? What does Mrs. Dalton want to do exactly?”

Nolan picked up the tracker and put it back in. “You give it back to Quinton. Don’t tell anyone about this.”

“Yes, Mr. Dalton.”

Nolan played with his tie clip. He had been doubting ever since Peyton proposed to be his personal assistant.

Peyton wished to be as far away from Nolan as possible, so how could she willingly stay by his side?

Except for what she had planned for Nolan.

Money?

Obviously not, because Peyton can easily donate 80 million dollars.

Then Peyton could only be for Kason.

Nolan thought about the way Peyton hesitated to speak that day. Did she find out something?

Lucian saw Nolan remain silent and felt somewhat confused, so he cautiously asked, “On Mrs. Dalton’s side...”

“Don’t take any action for now. I want to see what she is going to do.”

Nolan's fingers tapped lightly on the table. He remembered that Peyton

Chapter 202 Found Some Clues

140 Vouchers

had been here twice.

"Could you please have someone check my office for me later? If she can plant a tracker on someone else, she might as well do it to me."

"Okay, Mr. Dalton."

Nolan looked at the bottom of the table, and he remembered the pitiful face that had begged him for help.

Upon investigation, Nolan did not expect any unexpected gains.

His office unexpectedly hid several miniature cameras.

Lucian's face changed dramatically. "Mr. Dalton, this..."

"It wasn't Peyton who did it."

Peyton recently arrived at the office, and these several hidden miniature cameras were placed in discreet corners of the office.

Peyton couldn't do these.

Jayson had a bad temper. "Who on earth had the audacity to put this thing in Mr. Dalton's office?"

"You went to check the model."

"The standby time of this miniature camera can last up to one year. I discovered that two-thirds of its battery power has been used."

In other words, these cameras have been in existence for seven to eight months.

In the past seven to eight months, Nolan had been exposed to the eyes of others even earlier.

“Could it be Mr. Dalton’s business rival who did it? But all the bidding projects were normal this year. However, if it’s not for commercial interests, then what is the purpose of these cameras?”

“You went to check who had entered and left my office throughout the year.”

“I immediately went to check, and I was certain that I could trace the other party’s location.”

“It’s too late,” Nolan sneered coldly. “The other party was able to place a camera in my office, so they probably have already realized that they’ve been discovered, but...”

Nolan took out a lighter and lit a fire.

“Even if we couldn’t catch the mastermind, perhaps we could find some clues.”

The sky gradually darkened. Everyone in the office had already left, except for Peyton who was still working diligently.

Until Peyton felt a little hungry, she looked outside and realized that it was already so late.

Peyton stretched lazily in her seat. She had worked diligently all day and finally managed to come up with a decent planning proposal.

Peyton rubbed his stiff neck, saved the plan, and then turned off the lights before leaving.

During the day, the floors were bustling with people, but now only Peyton remained. The sound of her high heels echoed loudly in the hallway.

Peyton walked quickly towards the elevator. The lights on this floor had been turned off, with only a dim wall lamp in the distance.

*

A loud “click” sounded particularly clear in the darkness.

Peyton felt a little scared.

A cluster of light appeared not far away. Within the light, Peyton saw a man leaning against the wall, with one hand protecting the firelight.

The flickering flames reflected on the handsome face of the man as he gazed at Peyton's terrified expression. "You finally decided to leave?"

Chapter 203 | **Waited** for You **Here**

Peyton finally breathed a sigh of relief. She thought, "He really scared me!"

Why didn't he come home earlier to comfort Helena? What is he doing standing here?

"Mr. Dalton, what a coincidence."

Nolan glanced up and down at Peyton. Then, he said coldly, "I waited here specifically for you."

Peyton's intuition told her that something was off with Nolan. The

flickering light of the lighter reflected on Nolan's face, making him appear both like an angel and a devil.

"Wait for me?" Peyton swallowed a mouthful of saliva. Nolan's expression remained cold.

Nolan remained silent and walked ahead.

Peyton couldn't figure out what Nolan was thinking, but she still followed behind him. The elevator went straight up to the top floor.

The wind whistled on the rooftop. Despite the arrival of spring, the night breeze still carried a chill. Watching Nolan's figure, Peyton felt a bit cold.

Peyton couldn't help but shrink his neck and thought, "Would he want to kill me here?"

After all, Nolan's ferocity made him more like a bandit than a president.

Nolan to

The distant lights flickered behind Nolan like a galaxy, but his expression remained cold.

“Mr. Dalton, did you call me here for something?”

Nolan looked up and observed Nolan, thinking, “Look at her, even

when she has no ulterior motives towards me, she still carries a distant look in her eyes.”

How could she come to work for me voluntarily?

“Tell me, why did you come to the Dalton Group?” Nolan asked casually, leaning against the wall with two fingers of his right hand holding a cigarette.

Peyton didn’t know why Nolan suddenly asked this. Peyton thought, “Could he have sensed something?”

“Didn’t I already explain the reasons? I was tired of my current life. I wanted to fulfill my self-worth and embark on a new journey.”

Nolan approached Peyton step by step. Peyton couldn’t tell from Nolan’s expression what he was thinking. However, Peyton instinctively felt danger and subconsciously stepped back.-

Peyton stepped back against the wall. Nolan approached Peyton and lifted her chin, holding the cigarette between his index and middle fingers.

Smoke curled around Peyton’s face. Peyton watched as the lit cigarette approached her face. She could already feel the heat from the lit

cigarette.

“I remember you saying that only when you are treating and saving lives, and helping those in need, can you consider yourself to have

140 Vouchers

achieved your life’s purpose. When did your values change? Why did you choose to pursue a career in sales?”

Peyton answered methodically, "That is still my dream. But now, which hospital would hire me? I dropped out of school back then and didn't take many qualifications exams. Plus, I lack experience. Even if I were to get into a hospital, at most I would be a small nurse who delivers and changes medications for patients."

Nolan did not believe Peyton's answer, even though it was flawless. He stared deeply at Peyton.

"Peyton, I'll ask you one last time. What did you come here for?"

There was a moment when Peyton wanted to tell Nolan everything. But when she thought about Nolan's anger and excitement when he mentioned Paula, Peyton had to swallow all the words she wanted to say.

Peyton licked her dry lips. "Passing the time."

The cigarette was almost burnt out, but Nolan still had no intention of letting go.

"You should have known that I hated betrayal and lies the most."

Peyton swallowed a mouthful of saliva. Just before the cigarette butt was about to burn her face, Peyton closed her eyes tightly and shouted, "I didn't deceive you."

Nolan released his hand that was clamped on Peyton's chin. Peyton opened her eyes again, tears filling her eyes. She forcefully pushed Nolan aside. "You're crazy!"

Chapter 204 **Check** Again

To Peyton's surprise, Nolan did not get angry. Instead, he threw away the cigarette in his hand.

Peyton wanted to leave, and Nolan didn't stop him. Nolan only said, "Peyton, you had better not deceive me."

Nolan stared at Peyton's figure. Nolan had thought Peyton would come back, but Peyton didn't even turn his head.

A gust of wind blew out the last spark of the cigarette butt. Peyton's figure had already disappeared on the rooftop.

Nolan looked up at the sky above him. The sky was covered by layers of clouds. Nolan could only faintly see one or two stars.

Nolan wondered, "What is Peyton's purpose? What is she hiding?"

Nolan thought about Peyton's words that day. Nolan thought, "If Kason didn't kill Paula, then who would have killed her?"

"Mr. Dalton, Mrs. Dalton had left for a while now," Lucian stood in the shadows, resembling Nolan's shadow.

Nolan sighed heavily and said, "Lucian, I want to investigate what happened to Paula again."

"Is it for Mrs. Dalton?" Lucian didn't understand. The cause and effect of the matter were already very clear. Moreover, Nolan usually didn't allow anyone to mention this matter in front of him.

Reinvestigating this matter is like reopening Nolan's unhealed wound. The pain Nolan will feel in his heart may be several times greater than

40 Vouchers

before.

"At that time, the incident happened suddenly. It seemed like there was solid evidence, but the people involved hastily reached a conclusion due to my anger. For the next two years, I remained immersed in the sadness of losing Paula and blamed Peyton for her death. If..."

Nolan's arm trembled for a moment. "If it wasn't Kason who killed Paula, how am I going to face Peyton in the future?"

Many things cannot withstand careful scrutiny. Because this matter is particularly sensitive to Nolan, everyone will automatically avoid it.

"Mr. Dalton, there was evidence of that incident back then. Don't let your imagination run wild."

Nolan looked at Lucian. "In your eyes, what kind of person was Kason?"

"Setting aside that matter, the former Kason was gentle, amiable, and generous. He was a good father and a person with a great zest for life. If we hadn't discovered those things, I would have thought Kason was a good person."

"Yes. Without that incident, everything would not have changed."

Lucian noticed that Nolan's expression was off. "Mr. Dalton, are you suggesting..."

"How long did it take us from discovering the body to finding out the truth?"

"About a week."

Nolan lit another cigarette. "Think back carefully about this. Don't you think it went too smoothly? It's like someone deliberately threw out a line, and we followed that line to find all the answers."

Lucian shook his head and said, "But those victims have indeed

become mentally ill. The incidents of people jumping off buildings to commit suicide are not fake. Mr. Dalton, I understand your concern for Mrs. Dalton. But the truth is the truth."

Nolan looked up at Lucian. "What do you want to say?"

"I don't agree with you reopening the investigation into that matter. Mr. Dalton was the one who was hurt by it back then. These past two years, Mrs. Dalton has no idea what kind of life you've been living. If the old matter is brought up again, I'm afraid your condition will worsen."

Lucian continued, "Let's assume that Kason is not actually the criminal, but rather someone behind the scenes orchestrated all of this. So, how long did this mastermind take to plan this? Was it a man or a woman? What was their motive? If this mastermind's goal was to separate you and Mrs. Dalton, then they have achieved it. However, recently Mr. Dalton's life hasn't changed in any other way, and he hasn't made any new friends either."

Nolan rubbed his temples and exhaled a puff of smoke in frustration.

Lucian patted Nolan's shoulder. "You need to get a good night's sleep. You have been too tired all these years."

“Alright. That’s it for this matter. Let’s go back.” Nolan extinguished his cigarette and left the rooftop dejectedly.

Nolan thought, “Lucian was right. There was solid evidence at every stage of the initial investigation. How could the conclusion be wrong? There is no need to waste any more time on this matter.”

If Peyton wanted to check, then let her check.”

Chapter 205 Take **Care of Yourself**

After Peyton returned home, he glanced at the tracker’s screen again. Apart from the one that had already disappeared from the page after entering the landfill, the rest were similar to before and had not changed much.

Phillip’s phone remained switched off. Peyton sighed.

Peyton felt that she was getting closer to the truth. However, she always felt like there was a layer of fog in front of her, preventing her from seeing the truth behind the fog.

Fortunately, the project went smoothly. Peyton’s proposal was selected by the Zenith Group. Moreover, Peyton has already arranged a meeting time with the Zenith Group.

Peyton dressed up in formal attire. At that moment, she could feel a slight sweat forming in the palms of her hands.

Peyton pushed open the door, wearing a polite smile on his face. “Hello, I am Peyton from the Dalton Group.”

A young man with delicate features and dressed in a white suit sat on a chair. His lips curled slightly upwards. “Peyton, we meet again.”

Peyton paused for a moment. “Kevin.”

Peyton immediately realized. “You are Mr. Dryden from the Zenith Group?”

“Yeah, it’s about carrying on the family business,” Kevin shrugged helplessly. “Actually, I wanted to be a doctor.”

Before, Peyton's team had encountered people from the Zenith Group. Everyone felt that the people from the Zenith Group were very difficult to deal with. Both Group A and Group B had worked on this project, but neither of them successfully secured the project.

Only Group C could not afford the cost of failure. Therefore, Group C never gave up.

Upon seeing Kevin, Peyton asked, "Mr. Dryden, this time, did you agree to collaborate because of the planning proposal or... because of me?"

Kevin, being a gentleman, pulled out the seat for Peyton and called the waiter to bring the food. He had a constant smile on his face. "It's all here."

Kevin sat down across from Peyton and explained, "At first, I was very surprised by this plan. Later, I found out it was you. Considering that you saved my life back then, I had to approve your plan no matter what."

"Are you not afraid of cats anymore?" Peyton smiled.

"I was no longer afraid of cats. I got along well with Dawn."

The business negotiation this time was easier than Peyton had imagined. Peyton came out early to prepare to pay the bill, only to be told that someone else had already settled it.

Kevin smiled and looked at Peyton with a bag in his hand. "Peyton, you still owe me a meal. This meal doesn't count."

"Okay. Let's have a meal together another day."

Kevin handed the packed bag to Peyton. "Peyton, this is what you used to like to eat. I don't know if you still like it now."

These snacks were made by a famous pastry chef. Peyton noticed the name of Perdue Snacks at first glance.

"It's been so many years, and this pastry shop is still open," Peyton exclaimed. Peyton hadn't visited Perdue Snacks for almost two years.

“Well. On the way here today, I suddenly remembered this pastry shop. I didn’t expect it to still be there.”

Kevin placed his hand on Peyton’s back of the hand. He said, “Peyton, I know the Schmitt family has been through a lot. But no matter how much hardship you have experienced, you must keep your heart kind. Even if you can’t help others, you must take care of yourself.”

After saying these words, Kevin withdrew his hand. He looked at Peyton with gentle eyes and asked, “Can I go visit Kason?”

“Okay.”

Peyton raised the document he had just signed and said, “But I still need to go back to the office. Do you have time after work?”

“Peyton, as long as you needed me, I always made time.”

When Peyton brought the contract back, everyone in Group C was stunned.

They had been in contact with this project for a while, but the Zenith Group had always refused to cooperate. They didn’t expect that as soon as Peyton arrived, both sides reached a cooperation agreement directly.

Iris exclaimed, “Ms. Schmitt, you are really amazing. I was wondering how Mr. Dalton could just hand over the project to you. It turns out you are a capable person. Our team leader couldn’t secure this project for such a long time, but you managed to do it.”

Peyton never liked people like Iris who flattered and fawned. However,

Iris had some usefulness to Peyton. Therefore, Peyton did not show a disdainful attitude towards Iris.

During a break, Peyton asked Iris, “What do you think of Spencer?”

Chapter 206 **The Handsome on the Cruise Ship**

When Spencer was mentioned, Iris rolled her eyes directly. “He was just a womanizer.”

“Was he very lecherous?”

“Uh–huh. As long as she was a girl, Spencer would be interested.”

Peyton became even more puzzled. She thought, “Could someone like this be the mastermind behind it all?”

“Ms. Schmitt, did Spencer upset you?” Iris asked cautiously, examining Peyton’s expression.

“It’s nothing. I was just curious.”

Iris rolled her eyes and said, “Thanks to you this time, we have secured another collaboration project and successfully completed the sales task. Spencer will be coming over soon.”

As soon as Iris finished speaking, she pointed at a man in a suit and tie at the corner and said, “Look, Spencer is here.”

Peyton looked in the direction indicated by Iris. Spencer was

approximately thirty–
five years old, with a medium build. There was a hint of cunning in his eyes.

Spencer and Peyton locked eyes. Spencer scanned Peyton from head to toe.

“Hey, you must be the new guy. You just completed a big project right after you arrived. That’s really impressive,” Spencer reached out to pat Peyton’s shoulder.

40 Vouchers

Spencer wanted to take advantage of Peyton, and his actions were very natural. However, before he could touch Peyton’s shoulder, Peyton calmly moved away. Peyton coldly but politely said, “Thank you, Mr. Daniel.”

Peyton met Spencer’s gaze, trying to see a hint of guilt in his eyes.

But there was no trace of evasion in Spencer’s gaze. On the contrary, the aggressiveness in Spencer’s eyes was evident.

“Peytie, your future is limitless!”

Spencer and Peyton exchanged a few words before leaving. Before leaving, Spencer even wanted to ask Peyton out for dinner after work.

As soon as Spencer left, Iris said to Peyton, "I told you, he's just a womanizer. Ms. Schmitt, you better stay away from him."

"Okay."

Peyton watched Spencer's back and felt suspicious. If Peyton hadn't seen the photo Spencer sent in Brynn's chat records, Peyton would have thought they were mistaken.

Spencer was very good at disguising himself.

"Iris, I needed you to help me with something."

As soon as Iris heard Peyton's words, she said, "Ms. Schmitt, please give your orders."

Peyton whispered a few words in Iris ear. Then, without hesitation, Iris replied, "Leave it to me. I promise to find out everything about Spencer before tomorrow morning."

"Remember, do not let a third person know about this matter."

Iris only treated Peyton and Spencer as having a personal grudge. Iris quickly reassured, "Ms. Schmitt, you can rest assured. I won't tell anyone about this."

Not long after Peyton took over the project, Nolan learned about this news.

Nolan leaned back in his chair, supporting his head with one hand. There was a hint of self-mockery in his expression. "I had hoped to give her a setback with this project. But I never expected her to finish it in just two days. Is it that others are useless, or is she just too capable?"

Lucian brewed a cup of coffee for Nolan. "Mrs. Dalton is certainly impressive. However, she was quite lucky this time. Mr. Dalton, you have met the newly appointed CEO of the Zenith Group."

“Who?”

“Do you remember the ‘Puppy’ on that cruise ship?”

Nolan had a very deep impression of this matter. Nolan remembered what that person almost did to Peyton that night. If it weren't for other things that happened later, Nolan wouldn't have let that person off the hook.

Nolan rubbed his temples. “I remember that person's last name was Dryden, right?”

“Kevin Dryden.”

“He was just a young man. What could he do?” Nolan said nonchalantly.

Half an hour later, Nolan saw Peyton getting into a Maserati. The person opening the car door for Peyton was none other than Kevin, dressed in a white suit.

Peyton and Kevin exchanged a smile. Nolan hadn't seen Peyton smile like that in a long time.

in his hand.

Nolan's face darkened. He clenched his fist, almost crushing the phone

Chapter 207 Don't Distance Yourself

At the hospital.

Kason still lay on the hospital bed, just like before, relying on nutrition fluids and various medical devices to stay alive every day.

Kason's body weakened at a visible speed, especially his limbs, gradually shrinking.

He was like a lifeless flower, barely surviving on the last bit of nutrients from the soil.

Peyton had not been to the hospital for a while, and every time he saw his father, he would feel even more uncomfortable.

Kason's cheeks had already started to sink, and Peyton's tears fell onto Kason's withered hand.

"Dad."

She wished so much that one day a miracle would happen and Kason would wake up to see her. All she needed was a glance or a word to be satisfied.

"Peyton, don't be sad."

Kevin gently patted Peyton's back. Peyton hung her head, not wanting to be seen in her current vulnerability.

Peyton covered her face and silently shed tears. When she looked up, she noticed that Kevin had picked up the stethoscope to listen to Kason's heartbeat.

"Kevin?"

Kevin put down the stethoscope and smiled at Peyton, "I also went to medical school. I just wanted to personally understand Kason's

condition."

"Thank you."

"You're welcome."

Kevin gave Kason a routine check-up. However, his expertise made Peyton suspect that he was more than just a medical school student.

"Peyton, can I take a look at Kason's latest medical examination report?"

"Of course, it was possible."

Peyton handed over all the medical examination reports to Kevin. Kevin began to read them carefully.

Time passed by minute by minute. After a while, Kevin finally looked up and glanced at Peyton. Unlike his usual gaze, Kevin's eyes were filled with complexity at that moment.

“Peyton, Kason’s illness is not incurable. If operated by Leo, there is a high chance of a successful surgery.”

Peyton sighed, “I know. But I couldn’t find him no matter how hard I tried.”

“Peyton, don’t worry. I will mobilize my contacts abroad to find him.”

Peyton wiped Kason’s body with a warm towel by the bedside and said, “I didn’t know if my dad could wait for that day to come.”

“He could definitely do it.”

Peyton turned her head and her gaze met Kevin’s. They both believed in it.

Coming out of the hospital, Kevin regained his youthful liveliness. “Peyton, take me to a good restaurant! I’m hungry!”

“No problem! What do you want to eat?”

Peyton was an only child and had always wished for a sibling since childhood. In her eyes, Kevin was like a younger brother.

“There was a market nearby, Peyton. Let’s go there to have some snacks.”

“Sure.”

This was a famous market, bustling in the evening. Peyton held a cup of juice in one hand and a bag of fries in the other, with a paper bag hanging from their wrist filled with various snacks.

In the crowd, Peyton smiled like an innocent child, without a trace of sadness or gloom.

She hadn’t gone shopping or eaten snacks like today for a long time.

“Peyton, I remember you used to love laughing when you were little. You looked beautiful when you smiled. The more you laughed, the younger you seemed. Remember to keep smiling in the future, and don’t pretend to be mature.”

Peyton shook his head helplessly, "I wasn't pretending to be mature, I was overwhelmed by life."

"Peyton, can you become the Peyton I once knew when Kason wakes up?"

A gust of wind blew, and Peyton and Kevin both felt a cool breeze.

Peyton curved his lips and said, "I wanted to, but I couldn't."

The wind blew off the blossoms from the tree. Like a movie scene, a flower fell onto Peyton's hair.

"Peyton, don't move."

Peyton froze. Kevin raised his hand and gently stroked her hair, removing the petals for her.

Kevin's height had already grown enough to envelop her with his shadow. It was only then that Peyton realized the timid little boy had turned into a young man.

The light shone on Kevin's face. He held the petals and softly said, "You see, everything in the world is getting closer to you, only you are distancing yourself."

Chapter 208 What else do you want **me to** do?

Kevin took Peyton to the apartment. He was a true gentleman with a youthful appearance.

Kevin opened the car door for Peyton, took out the newly bought scarf from the bag, and put it around Peyton's neck.

"You didn't have to do this. I wasn't cold."

"Don't worry, this is the scarf I bought recently. The weather is cold, don't get sick," he explained.

"Alright. Be careful on your way home. Thank you."

Kevin smiled and said, "Tonight I only had snacks, you owe me a big meal."

“I know, okay,” Peyton reached out and ruffled Kevin’s hair, “Why are you still so childish?”

When he was a child, every time Peyton promised to give him a gift, Kevin would always remember and ask her for it every now and then.

“We’ll see each other another day.”

“Okay.”

Watching the car drive away, Peyton turned around and entered the elevator.

Kevin was right, she shouldn’t have been pessimistic.

Peyton looked at the paper bag in her hand filled with various snacks and felt touched. She didn’t expect that after so many years, Kevin still

remembered her taste.

She and Kevin met each other in their childhood. Later, Kevin went abroad for school, and they would often chat on Facebook.

When did they start to become estranged?

It was probably a few years ago when she started dating Nolan. She spent all her time with Nolan, and her contact with Kevin gradually decreased.

Peyton’s impression of Kevin remained as that little boy who was worried about the safety of the cat climbing up the tree.

Thinking of that innocent little face, Peyton’s lips curved into a smile.

There is nothing wrong with the dark night. The darker the night, the brighter the moon and stars will be.

Maybe she should have gone to the hospital for a thorough examination of her stomach. She felt herself gradually gaining the belief to keep on living.

Opening the door, Peyton turned on the light.

When Peyton saw who the person in the apartment was, her smile froze on her face.

There was a man sitting on the sofa, with his knees slightly apart and his hands resting on the armrests, as if he were the owner of the house.

The ashtray, piled with many cigarette butts, indicated that he had been waiting for a long time.

“Mr. Dalton, how did you end up here?”

Nolan looked at her coldly and said in a cold tone, “Where did you go?”

His tone seemed as if he was questioning his wife about having an affair.

Peyton had long seen through his tricks. While Nolan was busy getting engaged to Helena, he also continued to harass her.

However, she still didn't dare to anger Nolan.

“I went to accompany my younger brother to visit father.”

my

Peyton took off her high heels, rubbed her sore ankles, set aside the paper bag in her hand, and put on warm fluffy slippers.

Afterwards, she walked into the bathroom and started removing her makeup, ignoring Nolan.

Peyton started washing his face.

Her face was beautiful and delicate, but it revealed a sickly paleness.

She looked into the mirror and met Nolan's gaze from behind her, “Do you have any more questions, Mr. Dalton?”

Nolan sneered, “Peyton, how did I never realize you were such a pragmatic person in the past? When you needed something from me, you called me Nolan, but when there was no benefit for you, you called me Mr. Dalton.”

Peyton gently dried her face with a towel and turned around, saying, “Mr. Dalton, I simply accompanied my brother to the hospital and did not break our agreement. Why do you need to interrogate me?”

“Little brother? Don’t forget what he wanted to do to you that night on the cruise.”

“At that time, he was drugged by your fiancée. Instead of blaming him, why don’t you ask your fiancée?”

Peyton originally had no intention of getting angry, but she couldn’t contain her anger when the past was mentioned.

Nolan approached her and extended his arm to encircle her in front of the washbasin. He had a gloomy expression on his face as he coldly said, “Peyton, what exactly are you unhappy about? Although the Schmitt family went bankrupt because of me, I have provided them with restructuring funds. I do hate your father, but I am not the reason he is lying in the hospital!”

“I knew.”

“You were concerned about the sea island, so I invested a large sum of money to help improve the lives of the islanders. I also returned the Schmitt’s house to you. As for the people you care about, I hold no grudges and extend a helping hand. When you mentioned wanting to join the company, I immediately arranged for your employment.”

Nolan twisted her shoulder to face him, “If you don’t want it, I won’t touch you. I’ve said it before, I can give you everything except the title of Mrs. Dalton. What else do you want me to do?”

Chapter 209 Everything in the world was more beautiful

than you

Peyton sarcastically laughed.

She broke Nolan’s fingers one by one. “Mr. Dalton, I have never asked anything of you. Even the so-called title of Mrs. Dalton, since I was able to give it up, I will no longer covet it.”

Nolan’s expression was complicated. Peyton smiled gently and spoke in a calm voice, “I used to think you were the most important person in the world to me. But when I gave all my time, energy, and emotions to you, I realized I missed out on too many precious people and things. When I no longer saw you as t

he center of my world, I found my life immediately became enriched. I felt the wind of spring, the rain of summer, the falling leaves of autumn, and the snow of winter. I realized that everything in the world is more beautiful than you.”

She gently raised her hand and her slender fingers lightly caressed the face in front of her, a face she had once loved.

“Nolan, I don’t deny that I still have feelings for you. Perhaps for a long time, I won’t be able to erase you from my heart, you will still affect my emotions and tug at my nerves, but I simply don’t have the energy to think about you anymore.”

Peyton pointed her fingertips to her lips and said, “Nolan, after all these years of loving and hating each other, don’t you feel tired? I am tired, I don’t want to waste any more time on you and Helena, nor do I want to be unhappy because of insignificant people. From now on, let’s live our own lives, okay?”

Nolan gazed at Peyton’s face. Even though he was so familiar with her, now he felt as if she was a stranger he had never seen before.

Nolan gritted his teeth and said, “Peyton, do you really want to draw a line between us like this?”

Peyton calmly met his gaze, in that moment she was not afraid, nor was she pretending.

“Yes, I wouldn’t have actively sought you out if it wasn’t to find Leo. Despite my dislike for Helena, I also don’t want to become a second version of her. I won’t engage in any relationships with married individuals. Divorce is not just a piece of paper, but a choice made by two adults. What you need to do now is respect your own choice.”

Nolan slowly took his hand off her shoulder, “I hope you don’t regret today’s decision.”

Peyton thought that he would be scared and unsure.

But when she actually faced Nolan, she found herself much calmer than she had imagined.

“I used to be afraid of the dark, afraid of you leaving, afraid of you not loving me anymore. I would close my eyes, cover my ears, and stop in my tracks, afraid to move forward. But now I realize that the reason I felt scared was because I couldn’t face reality. When I accepted reality and stopped caring, I realized that you were actually the one I was most afraid of losing. But I have already lost you, so what else is there to be afraid of?”

Nolan opened his mouth, he wanted to explain, but he didn’t know how to do it .

He could only weakly lower his hand and look at Peyton with a complex expression in his eyes.

“Have you really thought it through?”

.

Peyton forced a faint smile and said, “Nolan, I have tried. I have always believed in this phrase: when you are about to give up on your dreams, tell yourself to hold on for one more day, one more week, one more month, one more year, and then you will be surprised by the outcome of refusing to give up.”

She raised her hand and made a gesture representing the number two, “Because of this sentence, I persisted for two years, hoping for a miracle to happen.”

“You wouldn’t know how it feels for me to be alone at home, watching the sun set, the moon rise, reheating the food over and over again, waiting for someone who will never come back.”

“You would never know the taste of bankruptcy, father’s car accident, losing a loved one, losing a child, losing everything. During that time, I was busy at the hospital, needing your company the most, but you were with Helena at that time.”

Tears glistened in Peyton’s eyes, but they still maintained a smile. “I have shed my tears, let my heart break, and been abandoned by family and friends. I struggled in the swamp for a full two years, yet still did not find a satisfactory ending. But I can’t help it. If you don’t need me, why should I have deep feelings for you?”

She grabbed Nolan's arm and said word by word, "I can feel that you don't hate me anymore. Since you didn't want to hurt me, Nolan, please spare me for the sake of our past relationship."

Nolan did not answer, he just brushed away her hand.

That day, he gently closed the door.

That statement really came true: a person truly leaves with the least sound of the closing door.

Peyton slowly slid down to the ground along the wall of the bathroom.

She covered her eyes, and tears slowly streamed through her fingers.

She personally gave up her true love, and the pain was no less than pouring a bucket of cold water to extinguish the burning hot charcoal fire.

The hardworking person would definitely succeed, and the people in love would definitely be together. When she was young, she firmly believed in these two lies and threw herself into his arms.

The fairy tale was not deceiving. The prince and princess lived happily together.

But no fairy tale tells of the princess's life after marriage. There are too many regrets and helplessness in this world.

Even though Nolan still had feelings for her, she couldn't accept the presence of another woman in their relationship.

So she let go, completely let go.

She wanted to become her former self.

Peyton dialed a phone number and a voice that hadn't been heard for a long time came from the other end of the line, "How have you been lately?"

"I'm fine, senior," Peyton smiled.

Chapter 210 Treat Yourself Well

Alwyn and Peyton talked about recent events. Peyton had always felt guilty towards Alwyn because she had banished him based on a single comment from Nolan.

Alwyn's voice remained as gentle as ever. He is currently studying abroad and has fully adapted to the new environment.

He recently also found a girlfriend with a very good personality. In a few years, he will be able to return to his home country to take over the position of the dean, so this further education is not a bad thing.

He arranged a stomach examination for Peyton tomorrow.

"Peyton, you were able to come out and willing to embrace life again, I was truly happy for you."

"Alwyn, I will live on well. Whether it's a day or a month, I will embrace tomorrow with hope,"

A sweet and delicate female voice came from the other end of the phone, "Alwyn, I messed up again just now."

Peyton ended the call with a smile, "Let's go, someone needs your help"

In the evening, she rarely relaxed and took a bath.

She poured herself half a glass of red wine, stood by the terrace, listened to the sea breeze, and raised her glass.

She shouted towards the sea, "Peyton, you must live well!"

The next morning, Peyton took a day off and changed into a simple white dress. She went to visit their alma mater with Kadence.

Just a few years passed, the surroundings of the school have changed a lot, with the addition of some shops and buildings.

The morning breeze tousled the students' hair and the newly sprouted green

leaves. Birds flew across the blue sky above their heads.

The donut shop on the street just opened for business, and the air was filled with the scent of freshly baked bread.

The sunlight shone on Peyton's beautiful face. The natural beauty gave her the courage to love this cruel world once again.

Kadence kept talking incessantly about past anecdotes in her ear, occasionally mentioning Ruben, and a hint of disappointment could still be detected in Kadence's tone.

Peyton patted Kadence's shoulder, "Kadence."

Kadence quickly put on a smile and said, "Don't worry, I wasn't as fragile as you thought. During this period, I was busy adapting to the new company, getting along with new colleagues, and improving myself."

"I originally thought I would be very sad, but in reality, the sadness had long been overwhelmed by the trivial matters of life. There were some things that I thought I would never forget, but gradually, I started to forget them."

Kadence took Peyton's hand and said, "Peytie, I believed that you could be just like me. Give yourself some time. You deserve the best in the world."

"I believed what you said."

Peyton walked to the flower shop and bought two bouquets of flowers. She kept one bouquet for herself and handed the other bouquet to Kadence. The two vibrant bouquets collided in the air.

"To our beautiful life."

Under Alwyn's arrangement, Peyton went to the hospital for a follow-up examination. Afterwards, she returned home and placed the flowers in a vase.

She smiled at the beautiful bouquet of flowers.

From now on, she was going to treat herself well.

The medical examination results needed to wait for twenty-eight hours to be obtained. That night, Peyton slept soundly, with no dark sea engulfing her in her dreams.

She saw a child walking towards her in a field of flowers, and the child placed a flower crown on her head.

“Mom, please be happy.”

Peyton held the child. She looked up and gazed into Chris’s eyes.

The dream came to an abrupt end. Peyton saw the sunlight outside the window and smiled helplessly. How did she dream about that child again?

Peyton pulled open all the curtains and reached out to touch the light streaming in through the window.

When a person has a warm heart, the sunlight they feel is also warm.

After dressing appropriately, she went to the company. It was her first day.

In the lobby of the company, she saw Nolan surrounded by a crowd, forming a stark contrast with her being alone.

She bowed to him like the other staff members, “Mr. Dalton.”

Nolan nodded and then averted his gaze, passing by her expressionlessly.

He acted as if they had never met.

Peyton walked towards the crowded elevator, while Nolan headed towards the exclusive elevator.

The relationship between her and Nolan should have been like parallel lines that can never intersect.

Peyton only realized at that moment that the cruelest words in this world were not “I’m sorry” or “I hate you”, but “we can never go back to the old times again.”

Peyton pressed the close button, separating Nolan forever.