

Marriage Beyond Redemption by Lesley Harte

Chapter 211-220

Chapter 211 The Surgery Was **Ready**

As Peyton entered Group C, he received a warm greeting from his colleagues.

Peyton found them quite amusing. If they knew they had no backing, would they still laugh so brightly?

Even Brynn didn't mind at all that she was working on the project alone. Instead, she patted her on the shoulder and said, "Peytie, keep up the good work!"

Iris quickly took Peyton to a quiet place and shared gossip with her,

"Ms. Schmitt, last night Spencer went on a date with a girl from their department again. He's such a playboy."

"What else?"

"I had a good relationship with that girl. She followed my instructions to test Spencer's impression of you. Spence said a lot, saying that you were beautiful and had a good figure, and that he would eventually ask you out on a date."

Iris skipped the impolite part and summarized, "Apart from coveting your beauty, Spencer has no connection with you and has not shown any signs of knowing you before."

Peyton frowned, "What's the matter with that photo?"

"My friend asked him on your behalf, and after looking at the photo, he said Dillon would be a good bed partner, and sooner or later, he would have a relationship with him. However, he was unsure how the news had leaked from him."

Peyton recalled the chat history between Brynn and Spencer, which only consisted of photos.

"Ms. Schmitt, based on my understanding of Mr. Daniel, his professional skills were indeed impressive. However, apart from his work, his mind was solely fo

cused on sex. He had no grudges or conflicts with you, so there was no need for him to behave this way.”

“But the photo was taken by him.”

“He was very lecherous, any beautiful woman could seduce him. Maybe it was some woman who sent the pictures from his phone.”

Peyton’s eyes lit up, “You’re right.”

The mastermind behind the scenes was highly secretive, and managed to divert her attention to Spencer while investigating the matter.

Well calculated.

Now she could find out the truth just by checking who had approached Spencer.

As Peyton thought about getting closer to the truth, her heart pounded.

At this moment, the hospital called. “Ms. Schmitt, your medical examination results are ready. The chemotherapy you received last time had a good effect, the cancer cells were clearly controlled and did not continue to grow, and the tumor has also shrunk.”

Peyton looked at the clear blue sky and felt a sudden surge of happiness. “Thank you for telling me this good news,” he said.

“From the data, you were ready for the surgery. However, we still need to provide you with the best plan after a consultation with the experts.”

“Okay. Thank you very much.”

34.99%

Peyton hung up the phone. It turns out that being alive is not a bad thing after all.

While she was thinking, a familiar figure appeared in Group C.

That was a well-dressed and elegantly made-up lady. The receptionist

let her in.

“Madam, may I ask whom you are looking for?”

“I looked for my daughter.”

“What was your daughter’s name?”

“Peyton.”

Colette’s gaze swept across the office, finally landing on Peyton.

Peyton did not think that Colette came to catch up with her.

After they parted ways at the hospital that day, Peyton blocked all of Colette’s contact information.

Iris said, “Wow, Ms. Schmitt, your mother is so young and beautiful! No wonder she could have a beautiful daughter like you...”

Before Iris finished her words of praise, Colette stomped towards Peyton in high heels, and without saying a word, slapped her in the face.

“You bitch! How could you come to the company to seduce men?”

Chapter **212** What Benefits Did You Gain from Doing This?

It wasn’t that Peyton couldn’t avoid it, but Colette was just too fast. Peyton also didn’t expect her to act in front of everyone.

This slap directly stunned Peyton.

Although in her impression, Colette was always cold and indifferent towards her.

However, ultimately she had been brought up with good manners since childhood, so how could she behave like a mad person and hit herself in public?

Peyton covered his face, which had been hit, and took a deep breath to suppress his anger.

“Mrs. Chase, I think you owe me an explanation.”

“Peyton, I shouldn’t have given birth to you in the first place, knowing that you would turn into such a shameless person today. You have truly disappointed me!”

All the good mood Peyton had in these two days was shattered by Colette’s slap.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Peyton lost all face.

“Let’s go out and talk.”

Colette opened her hand in disbelief. “What? Are you afraid that I will expose the things you’ve done? I can’t believe how your father has raised you all these years, teaching you to be so shameless! Everyone

has distanced themselves from you, yet you shamelessly followed me to the company.”

Peyton understood that Helena knew she couldn’t change Nolan’s decision, so she pushed Colette forward.

She lost face in front of everyone, leaving the company feeling ashamed and embarrassed.

Such a plan cannot be considered very strategic, but it is the most harmful.

Peyton’s gaze fell upon Colette’s face, looking somewhat hurt. “But you were my mother.”

Peyton couldn’t understand why Colette, who was her biological mother, always favored Helena.

Colette knew that it was Helena who had destroyed her family, but she did not blame Helena. Surprisingly, she fell for Helena’s instigation and came to the company to cause trouble.

Colette, unaware of whose instigating words she had just heard, had an expression of anger on her face. “I don’t have a shameless daughter like you.”

She grabbed Peyton’s hair and said, “Come with me, this is not where you belong!”

The people around wanted to help but couldn't. No one expected Peyton's mother to be so tough.

At this moment, nobody knew Colette's identity.

People from other departments heard the news and put down their work, leaning against the door to watch this dramatic scene of family destruction.

"You go with me now to resign to Mr. Dalton. Don't ever come out again to embarrass yourself."

"Let go!" Peyton forcefully pushed Colette away.

Colette didn't steady herself and fell to the ground.

She didn't lie on the ground and throw a tantrum, but her words were also unbearable to hear.

She stood up and accused Peyton in front of everyone of being shameless, putting in a lot of effort to destroy other people's families.

A few days ago, everyone was still spreading rumors about Peyton and Nolan dating. Now, Colette's appearance undoubtedly confirms these rumors.

In her sobbing, everyone's gaze towards Peyton was filled with contempt.

These days, the mistress is indeed rampant, and there are also many people who detest mistresses.

Everyone whispered, and offensive words kept coming one after another into Peyton's ears.

It was as if piercing snowflakes were coming at her from all directions.

These are not the most painful, the most painful is the stab her mother fiercely made.

Colette wanted to kill Peyton for Helena!

Rumors were a deadly weapon.

Peyton remained silent, in fact, whatever she said in this situation was wrong.

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Her defense was no match for Colette's one sentence.

She clenched her fist and asked Colette, "What benefits do you gain from doing this?"

Chapter **213** | Pestered Your Daughter

Peyton couldn't understand Colette's thinking. It was Colette who left Peyton and fled abroad back then.

After many years away, she has now returned. Shouldn't the most important thing for her to do be to make amends with her daughter?

Doing so not only ruined Peyton's reputation, but also had a negative impact on herself. Why did she do this in the first place?

Colette paused for a moment, then her gaze turned even more fierce. "Peyton, I had already taught you to be an upright person. Aren't you afraid of facing consequences for doing such things?"

Peyton's clenched fingers had oozed a hint of blood. "Why should I be afraid? The one who should be afraid is her..."

Before the words had even settled, a calm male voice spoke up, "Mrs. Chase, my CEO would like both of you to come upstairs and have a seat."

This matter had unexpectedly reached the president's office. Lucian stood respectfully on the side and escorted the two individuals away.

Peyton kept her head down, staring at Colette's figure. Colette remained much the same as she remembered.

She forced a bitter smile. If Peyton had known that her mother would be such a person, would she have held onto hope all these years?

After the door opened, Lucian respectfully welcomed Colette in, saying, "Madam, please have a seat."

Colette sat down as Lucian had just made a gesture to Peyton. Peyton interrupted voluntarily, saying, "No need, I'm fine standing."

Nolan put down the file in his hand and stood up. He moved quickly, and as he passed by Peyton, a cold breeze swept past.

He sat down across from Colette, not saying a word, with a chill spreading through his body.

Kason and Elbert both only showed a gentle side in front of Colette in the past, so she was still not quite accustomed to the pressure from the younger generation.

"Ms. Stuart, why didn't you give us a heads-up before coming to our company? I could have arranged for someone to pick you up."

Nolan sat in front of the tea table, boiling water, brewing tea, and washing cups with the skill of an elderly person in their twilight years.

Colette changed her previous flamboyant demeanor and placed her hands on her knees, appearing like a proper young lady.

"I had something to discuss with my daughter."

Nolan's voice was not loud, and his tone was quite steady. He held the teacup between his hands and flipped it over for cleaning, his movements flowing smoothly.

"Ms. Stuart, how you want to argue and make a fuss is your freedom, we as the younger generation have no right to interfere, but..."

He suddenly placed the teacup on the tea tray, making a sound. Nolan stared at Colette and said, "Is it not good for you to cause trouble in my company?"

The president's authority came crashing down. Colette swallowed her saliva, she didn't expect the younger generation to have such a strong presence.

"Nolan, I did all this for your own good. I know Peytie has been bothering you all along. Seeing you about to get engaged to Helena, I just wanted to help you."

Peyton was frustrated and was about to speak when Nolan interrupted her, saying, “Ms. Stuart, I think you have misunderstood something.”

Nolan placed the cup in front of her and said, “I was the one who bothered your daughter from beginning to end.”

This sentence felt like a slap in Colette’s face.

Colette didn’t come to her senses for half a day and stammered, “How is this possible? I heard that you had a bad relationship and that you were already divorced. You and Helena have a child, so I thought...”

“Ms. Stuart, sometimes what we see with our own eyes may not necessarily be true, let alone hearsay. Originally, I shouldn’t interfere in your family affairs, but I also want to remind you that Peyton is your biological daughter. Why would you rather believe your stepdaughter and not listen to a word from your own daughter?”

Chapter 214 She Lives Long While I Deserve an **Early** Death?

Nolan’s words struck a chord with Peyton. He understood the expectations Peyton had for her mother.

The person who was constantly on his mind treated himself like this as soon as he returned to the country. He knew how sad Peyton was.

But Colette didn’t understand.

She didn’t like Kason, and as a result, she didn’t like his daughter either.

Even though Helena did not consider her worthy of respect, especially on the days when Elbert was not around, Helena secretly tripped her up numerous times.

The nature of humans is contradictory. They often show their gentle side to outsiders, while their irritable and bad temper is fully displayed towards their loved ones.

She had been trying her best to please Helena for many years, and it had become a habit for her.

Just like habitually ignoring Peyton, not caring, not paying attention to her feelings, and even casually abandoning her.

Nolan's words did not make her reflect. She stubbornly held onto her argument, "All I know is that now you are engaged to Helena, and you and Peyton are in the past. Peyton, I beg you, leave Nolan, don't go and ruin Helena's family, okay?"

Peyton's heart was riddled with wounds. The survival hope she had finally ignited was slowly crushed by Colette.

"Mrs. Chase, is it that everything I did was wrong?"

"If you truly knew about propriety and integrity, you should have stayed far away from Nolan instead of staying in his company and letting Helena become a laughingstock."

Looking at Colette's extremely cold face, Peyton thought of how every time in his childhood, he would work hard to achieve the best results and hand over a satisfactory answer sheet to her, she would have the same expression.

She remained indifferent.

"I got it. You go wash your hands and have a meal, and in the afternoon, you have a piano lesson at home by yourself. I'll go to the beauty salon for a while."

Peyton never received the praise she had anticipated, and she couldn't understand where she had gone wrong.

Clearly, all the students in the class said that every parent liked children with good grades.

Why doesn't mom know how to praise herself?

That must have been because I wasn't good enough. I need to work harder in order to succeed.

Peyton was already intelligent, and she did not waste her talent. She worked harder than everyone else.

She received praise from everyone, except Colette.

Until this moment, she only realized that when that person doesn't like you, even breathing is wrong.

140 Vouchers

She did not like her own existence, even considering herself as a stain for betraying her first love.

Even if he held the stars from the sky in front of her with his own hands, she still scorned it, considering it dirty.

When Peyton was a child, she could still comfort herself by saying that her mother must have had her reasons and that her mother loved her.

The cost of growing up was making her see clearly who Colette really was, she truly didn't love herself at all.

Even though Helena had no blood relation with Colette, she was doted on by her simply because she was the daughter of her beloved.

Peyton looked up, holding back her tears.

At that moment, her stomach started hurting again.

Seeing her with her neck stiff and not saying a word, Colette softened her tone and said, "Peytie, don't blame me for being biased. Helena has always had poor health since she was young, and she finally married the person she loves. We are a family. Just consider it as giving me face and let go of this relationship that no longer belongs to you. Let's make everyone happy, okay?"

Peyton sneered, "You said she was not in good health?"

"Yeah. Helena had insomnia, and she often couldn't sleep well. You know how important sleep is, and how bad it is for the body when you can't sleep well."

-Peyton took a step back and chuckled, "How bad can her sleep be?"

Will it kill her?"

“What nonsense are you talking about? Helena will definitely live to be a hundred! Do you think Helena is as healthy as you? We are a family.

Why do you have to have a problem with her and not be a little more accommodating?”

Peyton angrily grabbed Colette by the collar. “She lives to a hundred, and I’m the one who dies young? It’s my first time being human, why should I let her have her way?”

Colette was so angry that she trembled, and she raised her hand and slapped Peyton’s face. “How dare you? Is this how you speak to your mother?”

A hand grabbed Colette’s wrist, preventing the slap from landing.

Chapter **215** You Were Fired

Peyton looked up and found Nolan standing in front of him. He grabbed Colette’s hand.

Before, he still cared about the respect for elders, but now his eyes were filled with an undisguised sense of cold intimidation. “Ms. Stuart, are you being too excessive?”

Colette was spoiled and pampered, her wrist was being painfully squeezed by Nolan. She winced in pain and furrowed her brow, “Nolan, I am helping you. What are you doing?”

“Help me?” Nolan sneered and didn’t let go of his hand, instead secretly increasing the force.

“I didn’t like it when others interfered in my affairs. Do you understand?”

Colette’s tears swirled in her eyes as she nodded repeatedly. “I understand. You let go of me.”

“Ms. Stuart, take a good look at the person in front of you, she is daughter!” Nolan said, waving his hand.

There were two tears on Colette’s face.

your

She looked at Peyton with a fiercer expression, adding the pain Nolan brought to her onto Peyton.

“It’s all because of you! If only you could be as easy-going as Helena, then I could feel at ease.”

Peyton covered his stomach, too angry to say anything.

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Ser 215 You Were Fired

40 Vouchers

“You were gone for over a decade, and I wanted to ask you, did you ever care about me?”

Colette not only felt no guilt, but instead became even angrier. “You are still my daughter, and I worry about you day and night. How could you say such heartless and ungrateful words? I really don’t know how Kason has taught you...”

She hadn’t finished her words this time when Peyton grabbed the freshly ironed cup from the table.

She wished the cup would come crashing down right now. But as soon as she saw Colette’s face, her actions hesitated.

“I warned you, do not mention my father again. You don’t deserve to utter his name!”

Colette was so scared by her sudden action that she couldn’t say a word.

“Did you... still want to hit me?”

“If you mention my dad again, this cup will smash on your head next time. I mean it.”

Colette clutched her chest, her face pale. She pointed at Peyton’s face and said, “You, you rebel.”

Nolan knew that she had a heart disease, so he pulled Peyton to a nearby seat and they sat down.

“Ms. Stuart, have a sip of coffee to calm down. I will give you an explanation about this matter.”

Seeing Colette’s lips change color, Peyton resisted the urge to speak again.

She wanted to see how Nolan would calm down this matter.

Colette took a sip of coffee and calmed down for a moment. “Nolan, listen to my advice. A man should be faithful. Since you have already chosen Helena, don’t waver anymore. It’s a kind of harm to both

women.”

She

paused and continued, “Auntie knows that you are a good man who values emotions and loyalty. If you can’t let go of Peytie and feel indebted to her, you can find other ways to make it up to her. But you cannot hurt Helena in the process. You need to understand that Peytie is already in the past, and only Helena is the woman who is meant to spend the rest of her life with you.”

Nolan suppressed

his annoyance and sighed, then interrupted Colette’s words.

“Ms. Stuart, I understand that if you feel Peyton’s presence here is uncomfortable, starting from tomorrow, Peyton doesn’t need to come to work anymore.”

Peyton turned his head to look at him, “What did you say?”

Nolan said seriously, “You were fired.”

Chapter 216 I Am Quite Happy When **He** Died

Colette’s expression softened a lot when she heard these words. “I knew it must be Peytie bothering you. Peytie, you heard it too, now go pack your things and come home with me.”

Colette reached out and

grabbed Peyton’s hand. “I was just a little excited, don’t take what I said to heart. I’m doing this for

your own good too. Since we’re divorced, we shouldn’t stay connected. It’s not good for anyone...”

Peyton pushed away her hand. "You're right. When you get divorced, you should completely cut off all ties. Even if your ex is on their deathbed, there's no need to go and take a look."

Colette was taken aback because she had indeed not made any effort to visit Kason after returning to her home country.

"Are you blaming me for this? When I came back then, your father was in the ICU, and the hospital didn't allow visitors."

Her explanation made Peyton find it even more ridiculous. "Ms. Stuart, I really wonder if you have a conscience at all. When the Stuart family was on the verge of bankruptcy, it was my father who stepped in to save them. If you didn't want to marry him, he would have waited for you. And when you did marry him, it was unwillingly, and you even felt ashamed of this marriage. But what did my father do wrong to you? As soon as you truly fell in love, you left him completely. And my father has still not remarried. In this world, you can blame anyone, except my father. You don't deserve him."

Peyton's words made Colette blush. Peyton almost called her a wolf in sheep's clothing.

After finishing speaking, Peyton looked back at Nolan. "I didn't do anything wrong, why are you firing me?"

Nolan looked at her coldly and said, "You have caused quite a lot of trouble in just a few days since you joined the company, which has affected the company's image. The Dalton Group doesn't need employees like you. I will have the HR department compensate you three times your salary as stated in the contract. You can settle it outside."

Peyton was seething with anger. She never expected such a thing to happen just when she was about to uncover the truth.

She had just told Nolan that they had nothing to do with each other anymore. At this moment, she couldn't even utter a single soft word.

Nolan gazed at her stoic face and said meaningfully, "Isn't this what you wanted?"

Peyton clenched his fist tightly, but eventually he loosened it.

“Yes, I understood.”

Colette achieved her goal. Her face instantly softened.

“Peytie, if you ever need money, just let me know. The Chase family has a lot of properties, so whatever you like, Elbert can arrange it for you.”

“I couldn’t keep up.” Peyton nodded slightly to Nolan, then left without looking back.

Back in Group C, everyone looked at her with scrutiny, curiosity, and even a hint of schadenfreude.

Seeing her packing up her things, Iris, for once, refrained from mocking her.

40 Vouchers

“Ms. Schmitt, are you leaving?”

“Um.”

Peyton quickly packed up her things in a few minutes. Iris escorted her to the door.

“Ms. Schmitt, why don’t you have a good talk with Mr. Dalton? You have been performing so well in your job, how can he just fire you like that?”

Peyton knew Iris’s plan. She realized that all her previous efforts would be in vain as the colleague she had finally befriended was about to leave.

However, Iris still had a role, and Peyton treated her with kindness.

“It’s okay, I will come back.”

At least, the shares she currently holds in the Dalton Group make her one of the major shareholders. The next time she comes back, she might even be at the shareholders’ meeting.

Peyton revealed this news to Iris, reassuring her to do the task.

“Now my mother comes to my door and causes a scene, Mr. Dalton had to avoid suspicion. You know.”

Iris immediately understood. “Yes, yes, yes, Mr. Dalton is about to get engaged and is afraid of gossip. Ms. Schmitt, you just have to endure it for now. Mr. Dalton spoils you so much, good things are coming.”

Peyton hesitated, “What I am concerned about is Spencer’s side...”

“Ms. Schmitt, don’t worry. Leave this matter to me, I will definitely investigate it thoroughly for you. Let’s see which little bitch is causing trouble behind your back.”

and said, “I had high hopes for you.”

Unlike the previous teasing, Iris seemed to have seen herself reaching the pinnacle of life through Peyton’s opportunity.

“It was on me.”

Peyton blinked at her and the two of them shared a knowing smile.

She then walked towards the elevator with a cardboard box in her arms, when a graceful and elegant woman approached her, who happened to be the leader of Group B.

She crossed her arms and had a look of disdain on her face.

“I had already said that opportunities gained by selling one’s body wouldn’t last long.”

The ugliness of human nature lies in those people whom you have never had any interaction with, yet they harbor the greatest malice towards you based on mere words and phrases.

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Just like Miya. It was because Peyton got something that Miya couldn’t get, she repeatedly tried to harm Peyton.

Peyton was furious and stood up straight, retorting, “You have no manners. Your speech lacks any decency.”

“What did you say?” Miya furrowed her brows, and her gaze suddenly became sharp.

Peyton coldly met her gaze. “You’re such a jerk. Do I know you? Are you asking for trouble with your insolent words?”

Miya, after all, was a team leader, and she had never been spoken to like this by a newcomer before. Her face immediately changed.

50.92%

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Peyton ignored her and bumped into the elevator directly.

She walked out of the building, and suddenly it started pouring rain on a cloudless day.

Peyton turned around and glanced at the towering building, knowing that he had been watching her from the floor-to-ceiling window on the top floor.

She couldn’t see a trace of his shadow at this height.

Just like a chasm between them, they were incompatible from the beginning.

Peyton tugged at the corner of his mouth. The reason why love is beautiful is because it hands over all the troubles and problems to marriage.

Marriage was a mess of trivial and chaotic matters.

She came alone and left clean.

These days, Peyton’s life quieted down. Every day, she would spend a long time with Kason.

And her treatment plan was also determined, which included two rounds of chemotherapy and 28 sessions of radiation therapy after the surgery.

Dr. Cai pushed his glasses up his nose and patiently explained, “Ms. Schmitt, your condition is not too good, but your body has a high tolerance for medication. One round of chemotherapy has already - shown such good results. I believe that after your surgery, with some

consolidation, we can definitely improve your five-year survival rate.”

For cancer patients, five years is a milestone. As long as there is no recurrence or metastasis within the five years after treatment, there is

no need to worry excessively afterwards.

“When was the surgery scheduled?”

“This Friday. Originally, the resources for cancer treatment in our hospital were quite tight, but your attending physician had instructed us to take good care of you, and your condition couldn’t be delayed any longer. Therefore, the surgery time was moved up.”

“On Friday...”

Peyton murmured to himself, “Today is the day Nolan and Helena got engaged.”

“Ms. Schmitt, is there something troubling you?”

“No.”

“No problem. Here are some things to note. You should pay attention to them in the next few days.”

The doctor handed her a few notes, as if he had thought of something, and then asked, “I heard your father is also in the main hospital. We need a family member to sign the risk consent form before the surgery. Ms. Schmitt, who will be signing on your behalf?”

Colette’s face flashed in her mind. She suppressed the bitterness in her heart and said, “I don’t have any family, can friends be enough?”

“It’s best to have close relatives or loved ones. Weren’t you married? Where is your husband?”

“I got divorced.”

“So, your ex-husband...”

Peyton coldly interrupted, “My ex–husband died.”

The doctor awkwardly touched his nose and said, “Sorry, I mentioned your sad story.”

Peyton had an expressionless face, without a hint of sorrow on it. “It’s nothing, I’m quite happy that he died.

Chapter 217 They got married

Peyton’s surgery was scheduled for this Friday.

Watching the drizzle slanting across the sky, Peyton opened her umbrella and dialed Kadence’s phone number.

Kadence’s voice sounded weak and tired as she started complaining as soon as the call connected, “Ugh, I’m so annoyed! I’ve pulled two all- nighters for work. My life is consumed by work.”

Peyton covered her mouth and giggled, “I remember you telling me a few days ago how handsome your boss was.”

“No matter how handsome he was, he wasn’t my boyfriend. If I had known earlier, I wouldn’t have changed jobs. There was nothing wrong with the previous company.”

After Kadence broke up, Ruben went to her former company to win her back. Kadence got angry and quit her job.

She didn’t want to live a life where she had to constantly please others. So, she declined Nolan’s invitation and switched to a highly reputable real estate company in the industry.

However, the workload at the new company was too intense...

“By the way, Kadence, were you free on Friday?”

“No, the boss asked me to go on a business trip with him. What’s wrong?”

Peyton knew that Kadence was naturally ambitious. While she appeared to be scolding her boss, she was actually aspiring to make a

name for herself.

Now is the time for her career to rise, and she naturally needs to work hard.

Peyton swallowed the words she wanted to say, "It's nothing. I wanted to ask you out for a meal, maybe next time."

"Alright, there's plenty of time ahead. Peytie, wait for me to bring back some local specialties for you."

Kadence hung up the phone after a few words and was called to revise the plan again.

Peyton smiled and said goodbye.

Looking at the misty world in the rain, she reached out and let the raindrops fall into her palm.

The cool mist made her feel alive.

Peyton looked like a homeless child, squatting under a tree and watching the bustling street.

In such a vast world, she couldn't find a single person who could sign for her.

The raindrops slid down along the umbrella and splashed into the small puddle in front of her.

On the huge screen across the street, the venue where Nolan and Helena got engaged was being played synchronously.

Thousands of acres of cherry fields, cherry blossoms bloomed.

He was dressed in a suit and tie, welcoming his bride.

She lay on the operating table, unaware of life or death.

Peyton glanced at the phone contact list, and his gaze briefly lingered on the note for "Mom".

Her mind was filled with Colette's face.

“My Helena will definitely live to be a hundred years old. Do you think Helena is as healthy as you?”

“Helena had always had poor health since she was young. She finally managed to marry the person she liked. Can you please end this relationship that no longer belongs to you, and make everyone happy?”

There were still unhealed marks in the open palm.

Her nose suddenly felt a bit sour. Her father lay on the sickbed, and her mother didn't have her in her heart. The man who once said he would protect her for a lifetime is about to have another woman.

She was the only one alone.

She looked up at the impenetrable curtain of rain overhead, wishing she were dead.

The slap from Colette shattered the survival hope she had painstakingly built up.

It takes decades for a seed to grow into a big tree, but it only takes a moment to destroy the big tree.

A single word from the abuser could easily shatter all the efforts made by someone struggling to rise from the mud.

Peyton realized his pessimistic thoughts and shook his head repeatedly.

40 Vouchers

She had to stay alive. She hadn't been able to bring the mastermind behind the scenes to justice yet, she couldn't die, absolutely couldn't die.

She wiped her tears carelessly.

From the corner of her eyes, she seemed to see a person getting off the car by the roadside.

A person wearing leather shoes walked step by step through the muddy cobblestone road, approaching her.

Peyton looked up with hope, only to meet a pair of eyes filled with concern.

“Ms. Schmitt, did you get lost?”

A disappointment flashed in Peyton’s eyes, “It’s you.”

Kevin seemed to not see the disappointment in her eyes and reached out towards her. “Just happened to run into you. Peyton, are you lost or did you twist your foot?”

Peyton refused his assistance and got up on her own. She smiled

helplessly and said, “I was lost in thought just now and unconsciously walked here.”

“My house is nearby. Peyton, if you don’t mind, you can go and see Dawn. She has always missed you.”

She couldn’t refuse this reason.

The warm interior of the car contrasted sharply with the outside. Kevin handed over a cup of unopened milk tea.

“I was originally planning to drink it at home, but it’s just right to warm you up.”

Peyton looked down and saw ginger tea.

“Thank you.”

“Sister, there’s no need to be polite with me,” he smiled and turned the steering wheel with one hand.

Peyton felt a bit strange. She suddenly had a feeling that the cup of ginger tea was actually bought for her, and their encounter was not a coincidence.

Kevin’s face was open and honest, with no trace of any hidden agenda.

She dispelled her unrealistic fantasies from her mind.

“Peyton, why were you looking at me like that?”

Peyton took a sip of warm ginger tea and sighed. "I'm just feeling a bit nostalgic, the kids from back then grew up so fast."

There was no longer the innocence and baby fat of childhood on his face. The tight jawline was smooth, but there was not a trace of stubble.

As he turned the steering wheel, the watch on his wrist shimmered with a captivating glow.

It was very strange.

He had both the innocence of a youth and the maturity of an adult, and these two distinct styles surprisingly blended harmoniously in him.

He parked the car by the roadside, with a smirk on his face. "Peyton, wait for me."

Kevin rushed into the heavy rain as he spoke. Ten minutes later, he came back, carrying bags and parcels in his hands.

Not only were there some fresh fruits, but there was also a set of women's clothing.

Kevin stuffed the paper bag into Peyton's arms and explained with a smile, "Peyton, I just saw that your skirt was wet. I guessed you bought it, so if the size is not right, you can just wear it for now."

"By the way, this is freshly cut fruit. You can have some first."

Peyton looked at his drenched body, feeling a bit stunned. Kevin's face stiffened as he said, "Peyton, do you not like it?"

She shook her head, holding onto the paper bag. "No, it's just been a long time since someone has been this kind to me."

Kevin paused for a moment and then smiled, saying, "It's okay, I'm back now, and I will always treat you well in the future."

The car stopped, and Peyton then realized that the place he lived was not far from the Schmitt's house.

Standing on the long street, I could faintly see the plum blossom peeking out of the wall in the yard of the Schmitt's house.

Pushing open the door, the style of the small courtyard was more Japanese.

Simple white gravel paved the road, and the water in the bamboo fountain flowed gently. There were several magnificent cherry blossom trees in the yard, with pink petals scattered all over the ground.

Before she could even appreciate it, she heard a familiar cat meow.

“Meow—”

A white shadow darted directly into her arms.

The white cat had a small notch on its ear, which was bitten by a mouse when it was young. Peyton touched Dawn’s furry head, feeling a mix of sadness and joy in his heart.

“Sorry, I lost you.”

“Meow.”

Dawn rubbed her cheek forcefully.

Peyton saw many images of Dawn and her together flash before her eyes. Dawn was a cat in her teens, who had been with her for almost

two-thirds of her life.

They used to be very close, but it took a long time for them to meet again because she got married.

Kevin took a step forward and held the umbrella over Peyton’s head. “Peyton, let’s go inside and take shelter from the rain. Dawn won’t leave, and you have plenty of time to spend with her.”

Many times?

Peyton chuckled self-deprecatingly.

Surgery cannot cure the disease, and clinical evidence has shown that many people experience faster cancer cell metastasis and spread after

surgery.

She didn't know which would come first, death or tomorrow.

For her, every day was doomsday.

She smiled gently. "Alright, then I'll disturb you."

Chapter 219 Everyone Makes Mistakes

Peyton felt that human hearts were very simple. Despite being hurt by Nolan and Colette, she was healed just because Kevin cooked a

delicious meal.

The more lacking in love a person is, the easier they are to be warmed by a little bit of kindness from others.

Kevin noticed her sadness and asked, "Peyton, is there something that is making you unhappy?"

"I needed to undergo a surgery, but there was no one to sign for me. Am I a failure?"

Peyton casually uttered these words, while a glimmer of pain flowed in Kevin's eyes.

"Peyton, everyone has a different definition of failure. In my opinion, you are the most outstanding sister and have never failed. An unfortunate marriage is simply a mistake made in life."

"Life is so long that no one has the ability to predict and not make mistakes."

Peyton furrowed his brow and asked, "Do you know about me?"

"Last time on the boat, I knew it was you in Mr. Dalton's arms. That day at the hospital, actually, I overheard snippets of your argument in the crowd. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to eavesdrop."

Peyton smiled bitterly, no wonder he had been gone for so long to buy food.

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"It's okay, that was the truth."

Kevin pushed the finished dessert in front of her. "Peyton, if you don't mind, I can sign for you. What surgery are you going to have?"

Peyton whispered, "Stomach removal surgery."

Kevin said in surprise, "Peyton, you couldn't possibly be..."

"It's just as you thought.!"

"How could it be? You are so young, how could you have such a terminal illness?"

Looking at his panicked face, Peyton raised her hand and rubbed his head. "Kevin, I'm fine. I'm prepared, and the situation isn't as bad as you think. I've undergone chemotherapy once before, and it worked well."

Kevin's face was like a blank sheet of paper, clearly displaying his emotions of joy, anger, sorrow, and happiness.

Kevin's fair face was filled with worry, with a hint of redness at the corners of his eyes. Choking back his voice, he said, "Peyton is the best person in the world, and I'm sure he will be safe."

Actually, she was quite pessimistic, but the words she spoke out turned out to be comforting.

"Well, I thought the same way too."

"Peyton..."

"It's okay, everything will be okay," Peyton muttered, unsure if she was trying to convince Kevin or reassure herself.

In the following days, she followed the doctor's advice and almost cut off all contact with the outside world.

Even Spencer's matter, she temporarily ceased investigating, not wanting these unrelated matters to affect her mood.

The only thing that she couldn't stop worrying about was Phillip. Since the day he left, Phillip's phone has been turned off. Up until now, there has been no news, and Phillip's fate remains unknown.

The weather has been nice recently, and the seagulls were freely flying over the sea. The cherry blossoms in the neighborhood downstairs. have also fully bloomed.

Occasionally, she would go downstairs for a stroll, as if she had walked through a cherry blossom rain, stunningly beautiful.

She would unknowingly imagine Nolan and Helena's engagement scene in the past, surely extravagant and beautiful to the extreme.

Since that day, Nolan never came to see her again, and the two of them finally went back to their own paths,

Even if she deliberately avoided and didn't care about their news, she could still hear some rumors about them from passersby.

Everyone thought that Nolan was a good man.

Whenever the girls excitedly discussed how good he was to Helena, Peyton always nonchalantly walked by.

It seemed like they had never known each other.

Peyton spread out her palm, allowing cherry blossoms to fall onto her hand. She wondered if the cherry blossoms on the island had already bloomed.

Sensing a gaze behind her, Peyton turned around cautiously, only to meet a pair of profound eyes. She hadn't had time to conceal the deep emotions in her eyes.

Chapter 220 You **Broke** Your Promise

Nolan silently watched Peyton, and these past few days she didn't make any particular moves.

Peyton spent a long time in the hospital a few days ago. Kason's health was deteriorating day by day, so it was only natural for Peyton to want to take care of him.

These days, she didn't go anywhere except downstairs. Even Kadence didn't come over.

She was wearing a beige lace dress, with a gentle breeze brushing against her face. Cherry blossoms were dancing around her, making her look exceptionally beautiful.

Nolan thought, "She became so gentle after leaving herself."

Peyton glanced at him from a distance, nodded slightly as a greeting, and then left without looking back.

Nolan felt upset. He had already made a decision and had even made a promise to her, but he kept breaking his own rules for Peyton time and time again.

Seeing that she was about to leave, he took a few steps forward and grabbed her wrist.

Peyton glanced at him and warned, "Mr. Dalton."

Nolan was still dressed in a suit and tie, but his tie was slightly crooked, and his once meticulously groomed hair hung down in a strand

This is not like him.

Tomorrow is the engagement day, theoretically he should have a beaming face, how could he give off a sense of desolation?

Nolan swallowed his saliva. "I was just feeling a bit uneasy."

He knew he shouldn't have come to find Peyton, but this uneasy feeling had been lingering for several days.

"Oh," Peyton blinked and looked at him with indifference.

The sky gradually darkened, and the streetlights quietly lit up.

His tall figure was enveloped by the light of the street lamp, and his face no longer had the calm and composed expression it used to have.

"Did you have anything to hide from me?"

Nolan didn't know why he had such a feeling, the last time he felt so uneasy was two years ago on the eve of Peyton falling into the sea.

He always felt that something would happen.

Peyton looked up into his eyes and said in a calm voice, "No. Mr. Dalton, can you let go of me, please?"

There seemed to be a layer of mist on her face, which made it difficult for him to see her true thoughts.

"After all, I was afraid of being misunderstood by your fiancée."

"If..."

Nolan paused and then said, "You can tell me if you have any needs."

"I need a man, can you provide one?" Peyton joked, watching as Nolan's expression gradually turned cold.

"Look, since you can't do it, don't make empty promises. Mr. Dalton, you probably wouldn't know, the bigger the hope, the greater the disappointment."

She reached out and pried his fingers one by one from her wrist, "Just like you once said that I was the only woman in your life, but in the end, you still broke your promise."

"I..."

After Nolan's last finger was pulled apart by her, Peyton turned around and faded away from him. "Nolan, don't come looking for me anymore. Whether I'm alive or dead, it has nothing to do with you anymore."

After saying that, Peyton ran towards the distance.

The cherry blossoms seemed to have rained down, gradually engulfing her body.

Nolan wanted to pursue her, but he suddenly realized that he didn't even have the qualification to chase after her.

What could he say even if he was caught up?

Or rather, what else could he change?

He covered his chest where his heart was pounding erratically, wondering why he still felt so uneasy

Peyton rushed into the elevator, pressed the floor button, and gasped heavily.

Why did Nolan still come to this point today?

“Ding...”

The elevator door opened, and she walked out slowly, only to see a person standing at the entrance.

Peyton took a quick glance and turned around, heading back to the elevator.

“Peytie, don’t go.”