

Marriage Beyond Redemption by Lesley Harte

Chapter 251-260

Chapter 251 **Didn't** She Still Have a Daughter?

Peyton was taking care of herself at the Dryden's house. The weather had been beautiful these past few days. She was holding Dawn and sunbathing under the cherry blossom tree.

A gust of wind blew, and large petals of cherry blossoms fluttered down.

Several white cats ran around in the yard. The cats, contrasting with the cherry blossoms, appeared exceptionally beautiful.

Faced with such a peaceful scene, Peyton's heart could never calm down. Now she is missing in the outside world, with various curses flooding the internet.

Netizens scolded Helena for being ignorant and Colette for heartlessly selling her daughter for fame.

The Chase family spent a lot of money deleting trending searches, but after they were deleted, related trending searches quickly appeared again.

On the contrary, Peyton's personal information was extremely well protected and not a single bit was leaked.

Looking at all the criticism towards Helena on the internet, Peyton was not the least bit happy.

After all, in this game, both she and Helena were losers.

The only things Peyton cared about were the exposure of Kason to the public and the whereabouts of Phillip, who was missing.

She dared to conclude that Phillip had encountered some trouble, maybe he had already passed away.

"Peyton, what were you thinking?"

Kevin's voice came from behind. Peyton was lost in thought, and her eyelashes trembled involuntarily. "I'm thinking about my dad. That person figured out that I didn't die. Will he harm my dad?"

Kevin brought over freshly cut fruits and placed them in front of her. He crouched down, bending one knee, and fed a strawberry to Peyton's mouth.

Peyton did not notice that Kevin's posture was very low. However, Kevin did not care at all and had a face full of meaning to please Peyton.

"Peyton, if you are so worried, I can transfer Kason to a safe place for you."

Peyton's eyes lit up after listening. "Really? Would it be too much trouble for you?"

Kevin's mouth curled into a smile. His eyes were filled with a brilliant radiance.

"Peyton, it would be my honor to help you. What could be the trouble? However, it is clear that someone who dares to kidnap Kason is not an ordinary person. I cannot seek the help of ordinary people to rescue Kason either."

Peyton frowned. "I hired some people at the hospital, just in case."

"Peyton, leave this matter to me. I will take care of it."

Kevin smiled at her. "By the way, Peyton, there's one more thing I think you should know."

"Hmm?"

Kevin put the fruit plate aside. The fruits immediately attracted several cats. He casually shooed away two of them and handed his phone to Peyton. "Peyton, take a look for yourself."

Peyton's face immediately changed when he saw the content on his phone.

"Is the news true?"

Kevin nodded. "This is the news released by the Chase family, so it shouldn't be fake. Mr. Chase is currently searching everywhere for a suitable bone marrow match for her, Peyton..."

Speaking of this, Kevin glanced deeply at Peyton. “What were you thinking?”

Peyton

returned the phone to Kevin, with a calm gaze. “I have already repaid the life I owed her. I don’t owe her anything anymore. Doesn’t she still have a daughter? Let Helena go.”

“What if Helena’s bone marrow typing was different from hers, but matched yours even better?”

Peyton didn’t know what Kevin was thinking. But she raised the corners of her mouth and said, “I wouldn’t go.”

Peyton had been delusional for over a decade, and it was enough. Moreover, Peyton’s health was not good either.

Peyton gently soothed Dawn’s head. The furry little ears on Dawn’s head instantly folded up and turned into airplane ears. Dawn closed

her eyes contentedly and made a purring sound.

Peyton lowered her gaze. “I just wanted to take care of my father in my lifetime, until my last breath.”

Peyton also cleared his father’s name and revealed the truth.

Other people and things were not what she wanted to consider.

Kevin received her positive response and then slowly said, “Peyton, I remember you had been wanting to find Leo before, right? What if I could help you find this person?”

Chapter **252** Unable to Meet for a Lifetime

Peyton’s head jerked up. Her eyes stared straight at Kevin. “Really? Kevin, can you really find Leo?”

When she heard these words, she didn’t quite believe them. After all, Leo was someone who couldn’t even be found by Nolan.

But Kevin didn’t seem like someone who would lie, and his heart still felt like a small flame had been ignited.

“Yes. Earlier, I inquired through someone and found out that Leo has offended some people abroad and is currently hiding. He is not easily traceable by ordinary people. Fortunately, I have some connections.”

Peyton understood it all. No wonder Nolan said he couldn't find Leo. Nolan wasn't lying.

“That was my father's surgery...”

“Peyton, your safety cannot be effectively guaranteed in the country. Since that person can put you in a life-threatening situation, they can also harm you again, and even Mr. Schmitt would be in danger if he stays with you. My suggestion is for you to go abroad with Mr. Schmitt. This way, you can avoid risks and also provide medical treatment for Mr. Schmitt.”

Peyton frowned. This was something she had never thought of before.

Rather than saying Peyton didn't have this idea, it is more accurate to say she didn't dare to think about it.

Nolan was like a mountain standing in her heart. He invisibly imprisoned her with multiple chains, making it difficult for her to move even an inch.

“Peyton, I have many friends who studied medicine abroad. They were all top experts in the field of medicine. It cannot be guaranteed that your stomach cancer will be cured, but your survival rate will definitely be higher than that of doctors in your home country.”

Kevin licked his lips and continued, “I can tell that you have moved on from your ex-husband. What is there left for you to cling onto here? You can completely start a new life abroad.”

Peyton was like a frog that had been stuck in a dry well for a long time. She murmured in disbelief, “Can I...?”

And Kevin was a little bird on the branch, constantly persuading her about how vast the world outside the well was.

“Of course! Who are you?”

Kevin placed both hands on her shoulders. "You were Peyton. You were a brilliant medical student. You once gave up your brilliance for that man. Don't you want to reclaim the life you abandoned?"

Peyton's pupils kept dilating and flickering. Kevin encouraged, "The Peyton I know is not a resentful woman abandoned by men. She is a strong person who remains determined even in the face of setbacks. Peyton, you are not afraid of death, so why would you be afraid of a fresh start?"

Peyton closed her eyes, and her thick, long eyelashes trembled incessantly. "You don't know, that person wouldn't let me leave Aelford City. If I failed, I would pay a huge price. This is a price I cannot afford."

She let go of Dawn and covered her face with both hands. "I am no longer the free-spirited Peyton who could sail anywhere she pleased. Kevin, what you see now is a battered and chained prisoner, struggling

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with every step.'

"Peyton, if you were a captive bird, then I would be the knife that cuts your chains. I will arrange everything for you and Kason. We will be overseas before anyone finds out."

Peyton looked conflicted. "I..."

"Even if they guessed that you were still alive, they wouldn't know where you went, let alone that you would go abroad. Peyton, let's leave by sea. Leo can't show up in Aelford City, but he can come to international waters. We can complete Mr. Schmitt's surgery on a deserted island, and you can also recuperate there after the surgery. Nolan will never find you in his lifetime."

Speaking of urgency, Kevin reached out and grabbed Peyton's wrist. "What do you have to be afraid of for someone you can never see again in your life? If Mr. Schmitt is your only weakness, then I'll keep him by your side. You don't have to be threatened by anyone anymore, and you don't have to fear being kidnapped. You can start over and live a new life."

Peyton's heart fluttered. Kevin's qualities were truly irresistible, to the point where she had no words to argue against them.

"Kevin, I could leave with you, but I still have one thing to do."

"What? Peyton, tell me."

"I didn't want my father to always bear an undeserved bad reputation."

A touch of hatred suddenly appeared in Peyton's eyes. "As long as I'm alive, I will catch that ghost!"

Chapter 253 I Wish You a Long and Prosperous **Life**

Peyton had no intention of telling anyone about this matter. But Kevin had been helping her all along, even making plans for her future, so Peyton decided to lay everything out

Kevin was somewhat surprised after hearing this. "So that person was the one who orchestrated all of this, making Mr. Dalton choose between you and Helena?"

"Yes. Kevin, the blueprint you described really captivated me, but the only thing I can't let go of is this matter. She harmed the Schmitt family. She put my life in danger and ruined my father's reputation. But in the end, I don't even know who she is. How can I willingly leave?"

Peyton's hands clenched tightly involuntarily. "She had planned for so long and finally made a big move, sacrificing so many people. It pains me deeply whenever I think about it. I don't know what I did wrong to offend someone like this."

Kevin said lightly, "Maybe it wasn't you who was wrong, but that mentally disturbed person?"

Peyton looked at him with confusion and asked, "Kevin, what did you just say?"

"It's nothing, what I mean is that you are so kind, how could you possibly do anything wrong. Even if there is a mistake, it's someone else's fault. There are naturally bad people in this world."

Peyton shook his head helplessly. "There's no one like you."

“I didn’t say it wrong. My Peyton is the kindest girl in the world.

Nolan doesn’t appreciate you, it’s his loss.”

Kevin’s voice was clear. “Peyton, since you said that before jumping into the sea, Nolan will definitely continue to investigate. He will surely find out more than you. Don’t worry. The truth will be revealed. I just want to buy some time with him. While he is only focused on salvage, let’s plan to leave Aelford City early. Otherwise, when he comes to his senses, we won’t be able to leave.”

Peyton hesitated but gradually made up her mind. She stared at Kevin earnestly and said, “Kevin, can I trust you?”

Kevin held her hand. Kevin’s palm was not smooth. There were many calluses on Kevin’s hand, but his hand was clean and warm.

He stared directly into Peyton’s eyes without flinching. “In this world, even if everyone wants to hurt you, my desire to protect your heart has never wavered.”

“Why? We are not related at all. And now I have nothing to give you either.”

Kevin chuckled and winked at her. “What do I have to gain? I just want Peyton to live a long and prosperous life.”

A scene flashed through Peyton’s mind, something she had long forgotten.

Kevin’s parents divorced when he was very young. His father was completely absorbed in his business and had many women around him, neglecting to discipline Kevin.

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That Christmas Eve, every household was happy, and Peyton found Kevin all alone.

Peyton led him to the Schmitt’s house and together they made wishes under the Christmas tree, telling him to write down his own wish.

Kevin said he didn’t know what to write.

Peyton wrote down this sentence.

“May you live a long life and have a smooth journey throughout your entire life.”

The little boy’s face gradually merged with the face of the Christmas tree and Kevin in front of him.

Kevin’s pure gaze was the only solace Peyton found in the darkness.

She nodded. “Kevin, I understand. My father’s illness can no longer be delayed. I’m not in a hurry for revenge, because as long as I’m alive, there will be opportunities. Could you please arrange for us, I want to leave Aelford City.”

Kevin tightly held her hand. “Okay.”

Chapter 254 Leave **with** Me

Despite Kevin’s thorough preparation and Peyton’s early contact with those people, there was still an unexpected incident when transferring

Kason.

At the appointed time, Kevin had not returned.

Tonight, the night was thick as if soaked in ink. Not a single star could be seen in the sky.

The courtyard remained warm. Under the soft light, cherry blossoms danced. Peyton specially made a ball and hung it on a tree branch for blessings.

The wind blew the bells hanging on the ball, causing them to sway from side to side. The continuous ringing of the bells made Peyton nervous. Peyton sweated for Kevin.

“Ding ling ling...”

As the bell shook violently, the small red ball that was originally hanging steadily on the tree branch was blown off by the wind, emitting a very unsettling sound.

The red ball rolled round and round on the white pebble road. Before Peyton could reach out to grab it, the ball had already rolled to the feet of a person.

Kevin reached out and picked up the red ball, flashing a brilliant smile at Peyton under the tree lights. "Peyton, I'm back."

Peyton ran a few steps towards him. Her face was filled with anxiety. "Kevin, are you okay?"

Kevin shook his head. He played with the red ball in his hand with his long slender fingers. "How could I be in trouble with your sincere prayers? Although it took some effort, luckily I managed to take your father away. I just sent him to a safe place. That's why it took some time. I'm sorry for making you worry."

Upon hearing this, Peyton finally breathed a sigh of relief. "What kind of trouble did you encounter?"

"Besides our people, there were several groups of individuals. Those people even had the audacity to shoot innocent civilians. Nolan's people also arrived."

Peyton felt a chill down her spine. "It must be her. She wants to use my dad to force me out! Is anyone hurt?"

Kevin thought about the person who had fallen to the ground. The white walls were stained with blood. But the smile on his lips remained innocent. "It was chaotic at the time. I was only concerned about Mr. Schmitt. I didn't pay attention to those people. Fortunately, the people I hired this time were mercenaries. And the few people you left behind cleared a path for us. Otherwise, I'm afraid I would never see you again."

Seeing Kevin hunching his shoulders unnaturally, Peyton quickly stepped forward. "Are you injured?"

"No, don't worry."

"Kevin!" Peyton crossed her arms, already smelling the strong scent of blood.

When she turned around to Kevin, she discovered that a layer of blood red had stained his white coat.

"You were bleeding."

“It’s not a big deal. I got a minor injury. I have already bandaged it. It must be because I was in a hurry just now, so I didn’t do it properly.

I...”

Peyton grabbed Kevin’s hand and led him into the house. “Come with me!”

The moment Peyton entered the room, he did not notice the slight upward curve of Kevin’s mouth.

Peyton hurriedly brought the first aid kit and then tore open Kevin’s clothes.

She saw him casually tear open his shirt and bandage the wound. The wound was hideous, exposed right in front of her. Peyton couldn’t help but scold, “Such a long wound. How did you get it? And you say it’s nothing?”

Kevin

stuck out his tongue and looked helpless. “I’m sure it was because I was too focused on protecting your dad when we came out, so I got slashed. Look, am I not perfectly fine here? I don’t have any issues, do I?”

Salty tears splashed onto Kevin’s back. He slightly turned his body to look at her.

Peyton wiped her tears with her hand. However, she hesitated not a bit to bandage him. Muttering to herself, she said, “I’m sorry, Kevin. I didn’t mean to drag you into this. Now you’re hurt because of me.”

Peyton was filled with regret, afraid that Kevin had also provoked that crazy woman.

“Peyton, it was my own carelessness. What does it have to do with you? Stop crying, as long as Mr. Schmitt is fine. I am young and strong. The injury will heal quickly. I am fine.”

He turned around and reached out to touch Peyton’s tear-streaked

cheek. His eyes, however, held a different kind of seriousness. “Mr. Schmitt has been rescued. You can leave Aelford City with me without any worries, right?”

Chapter 255 Peyton, the Angel Who Saved Me

Peyton stopped crying and sniffled. With teary eyes, she met Kevin's clear gaze.

In his eyes, her face was clearly reflected. There was no trace of youthful innocence on his handsome face, but rather a rare maturity and seriousness.

Worried?

Kason had already taken care of his matter. As long as she was alive, she would eventually come back for revenge.

Peyton's mind flashed with Nolan's face. Peyton quickly shook that face out of his mind.

"No. I just wanted to see my dad before leaving. Is it possible?"

"Alright, I'll take care of it."

Peyton continued to tend to his wound, wrapping the bandage around Kevin's muscular back, one loop at a time.

Peyton was shocked to find that he had many wounds on his body. "Kevin, how did you get so many scars?"

Kevin chuckled, "Peyton, have I never told you about my family before? Do you want to hear?"

"Um."

Peyton brought a basin of hot water and gently wiped away the bloodstains from his body.

"My mother passed away early, but I have never said that she was driven to death by my father. My father had severe domestic violence issues."

Peyton jerked her hand that was twisting the hot pad. She turned her head to look at Kevin.

His face

lost its youthfulness under the dim yellow light of the wall lamp, appearing part

icularly mature, just like his physique. He was no longer the person she remembered.

Kevin

tilted his head slightly upwards, revealing a prominent Adam's apple. He chuckled softly, his voice sounding a bit hoarse.

"My father has always had a fondness for money and alcohol throughout his life. Whenever things didn't go well in his business, he would come home drunk and beat my mother. Most of the wounds on my body were inflicted by him. My mother endured all the suffering for my sake, until that snowy night when my father lost money in stocks and used a hot iron to burn me.

"Peyton, have you ever heard the sound of a scorching hot iron touching the skin, like a branding iron? It's like sizzling bacon on a charcoal fire."

"My mother wanted to block, but only managed to block half. Half stayed on her, while the other half fell on my back. That night, my mother resisted for the first time. In her resistance, she was pushed down the stairs and died from the fall."

Peyton's gaze fell on the prominent burn on his waist. She couldn't imagine the kind of pain it had been,

"When the police took me to make a statement, I followed their instructions and said that my mother had fallen down by herself."

Kevin suddenly turned to look at Peyton. "Am I a bad kid? I lied. I let that scumbag go."

Two tears rolled down from the corner of his eyes. "Because I don't want to lose both my mother and my father."

The towel fell into the water. Peyton stretched out his arms and hugged Kevin.

"Kevin..."

Kevin continued, "I went abroad a long time ago, just to avoid him. From childhood to adulthood, only you care

d if I had eaten and would take me home for the New Year. In my heart, you are the angel who saved me.”

Peyton thought about Kevin’s quiet and reserved nature when he was a child. Before he left, they exchanged contact information. In the beginning, during the years he was abroad, she frequently cared about him.

How did the contact break later on?

It was after she started dating Nolan. He didn’t like her getting too close to the opposite sex.

But she didn’t know that Kevin had once suffered such pain.

“Don’t be afraid, Kevin. It’s all in the past.”

The hand hanging in the air slowly grabbed her waist. He made a soft sound of approval. However, the hand holding her waist kept

tightening and loosening.

“Well, it’s all in the past.”

Chapter 256 **Do** you have someone you **need** to bid **farewell** to?

The night fell. However, Peyton had no sleepiness at all.

She leaned against the window and watched the cherry blossoms. Dawn lazily stretched under the tree, extending her paws to scratch under the tree.

Peyton had agreed to leave with Kevin. For some reason, her heart always felt anxious and uneasy.

She was well aware that the suggestions and choices proposed by Kevin were the best for her.

The longer it dragged on, the more dangerous her father’s health became. If Kevin could find Leo, he could also have others treat her stomach cancer. Her departure was a good thing.

However, after Peyton made this decision, there was a heavy feeling in his heart, as if it was shrouded in a layer of lingering mist that couldn’t dissipate.

She always felt that something was not right.

There suddenly came a piercing scream from Kevin's room.

"Don't hit me!"

Peyton busily pushed open the door. Kevin's room was messy, and he was hiding in the corner, trembling like a pitiful stray dog.

"Kevin, don't be afraid. It's me."

Peyton cautiously approached him. He suddenly embraced her like a big dog.

"Peyton, I dreamt about the night when our mother died again. He was holding an iron and laughing like a devil."

Peyton reached out and avoided his wound, gently patting his shoulder. "Don't be afraid. It was just a dream."

Peyton felt the unfamiliar embrace with a strange warmth. Then Peyton reached out and touched his forehead.

"You had a fever. Lie down quickly."

This should have been a high fever caused by an infected wound. Peyton was busy trying to lower his temperature.

Kevin slept restlessly from beginning to end, constantly clutching her hand and calling out her name.

She looked at him pitifully. It turned out that unfortunate people in this world are all alike. And she had never been the most miserable one.

Peyton patiently stayed by his side and took care of him for two days and two nights. He only recovered from the fever then.

The morning sunlight streamed in through the cracks. Peyton's eyelashes trembled.

Looking at the empty bed, she hurriedly pushed the door open.

In the yard, Kevin stood under the cherry blossom tree, wearing a clean white shirt, and smiled at her.

His face still had a sickly paleness, without a trace of color.

When the sunlight fell on him, casting a backdrop of cherry blossoms behind him, Kevin's exquisite face looked as if it came from a painting.

Peyton breathed a sigh of relief. "Kevin, you really scared me. I thought something had happened to you."

"Peyton, I am feeling much better. I came out for some fresh air. Didn't you want to go see Mr. Schmitt? I can take you there."

"

Peyton still wasn't quite reassured. "Don't pretend to be strong. Your body hasn't fully recovered yet."

"It's okay. I had a sense of propriety."

Kevin suddenly took her hand and said seriously, "Peyton, you are my only family now. Please never leave me in the future, okay?"

Peyton's heart skipped a beat. A hint of paranoia flickered in his dark pupils.

She licked her lips. "Okay."

Kevin laughed. His laughter was exceptionally pure.

He dressed her up and took her out. Since she faked her death, she had been confined to this yard.

Seeing the long-lost scenery, Peyton's mood became extremely complicated.

She was soon going to leave this land that she both loved and hated.

All these complex emotions disappeared when she saw Kason.

Kason was placed in a villa on the outskirts, closely guarded by over a dozen people.

His face became old and withered. Peyton's heart felt like it was being fiercely pulled.

“Dad.”

Kason breathed steadily, as if he had fallen asleep.

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Kevin patted her shoulder. “Peyton, I had someone perform a thorough examination on Mr. Schmitt. Besides being unconscious, he is fine. As long as Leo is willing to treat him, I can guarantee he will recover.”

“As for Leo, I have also made arrangements. He will arrive early at the designated island to perform the surgery on behalf of Mr. Schmitt. If you have no objections, Mr. Schmitt will have to leave Aelford City today.”

Peyton was surprised. “Today?”

“Yes, he took the lead. Three days later, we left.”

Kevin looked at her gently. “Peyton, after this departure, perhaps we won’t come back for a long time. Do you have anyone you need to say goodbye to?”

Chapter 257 Parting for a Reunion

Peyton thought for a moment. “I want to see my best friend. No need to say goodbye. Just a quick glance from afar.”

Kadence has been completely occupied with work recently. She worked overtime every day. Presumably, she had already seen that news. During this period, she must have gone crazy looking for Peyton.

Peyton didn’t have the courage to say goodbye to her, and she was also afraid that Kadence’s surroundings had long been filled with spies.

She had come this far with great difficulty. Peyton didn’t want anyone to disrupt her plans.

“Okay, I helped you.”

Kevin always complied with her requests.

At noon that day, Peyton met Kadence.

She wore the work uniform that she had previously complained about with Peyton, looking like a drained doll. She walked into the coffee shop with no energy.

After ordering the meal, Kadence slumped on the table. Occasionally, her phone vibrated. She quickly took out her phone and opened it. Subsequently, a disappointed expression appeared on her face.

Lost and soulless, she didn't even have a trace of soul when it came to eating. Kadence kept stuffing food into her mouth, as if it only mattered to fill her stomach and what she ate didn't matter at all.

She didn't even feel a bit when she ate her least favorite celery.

Kadence took a few bites and then put down her fork, picking up her phone. Peyton walked around behind Kadence and saw on the phone screen a photo of her and Kadence from their student days.

Those photos were regarded by her as a dark history. They also said they would play these photos on a loop at their wedding venue.

Unfortunately, in the end, Peyton did not have a wedding and was not able to marry the person she loved in high school and become a full-time housewife as she had dreamed of.

Tears fell one by one onto the screen

Peyton heard her voice, hoarse and tearful. "Peyton..."

Peyton's tears couldn't stop flowing.

Kadence rubbed her eyes haphazardly, paid the bill, and left absentmindedly with her bag.

She used to be very perceptive. If it was in the past, how could she not have noticed Peyton's presence?

But she was completely absorbed in the news of Peyton's disappearance.

She had been getting through these days like this.

At first, she neither ate nor drank. Gradually, she accepted reality, resembling a walking dead.

Their relationship was clearly just friendship. But their friendship was more precious than family.

Peyton looked up. The weather outside had already changed. She bought an umbrella from the store and chased after it.

Kadence walked alone in the pouring rain, wearing high heels, and was bumped into by the hurried crowd.

Once upon a time, Kadence smiled and said she would definitely trip the person who deceived her. Kadence slumped on the ground. Her eyes stared blankly ahead with no focus.

There were traces of water flowing down the face. It was difficult to distinguish whether it was tears or rainwater.

Maybe only in this way could she cry her heart out.

“Peyton, my Peyton. Didn’t we agree to walk together till the end? Why did you leave me?”

Kadence slapped herself in the face. “It’s all my fault. I shouldn’t have gone on a business trip. I should have been with you, Peyton. How scared you must have been back then!”

The rain was sheltered by the umbrella above their head. Kadence seemed to sense something and suddenly looked up towards the approaching person.

“Peyton...”

The person holding the umbrella was an elderly woman with white hair. She kindly helped Kadence up and said, “Miss, the ground is cold. Get up quickly. You’re still so young. There’s nothing in life that can’t be overcome. Don’t cry.”

“Madam, I lost my best friend. I can’t find her,” Kadence stubbornly spoke, resembling a child who had lost their toy.

The old lady placed the umbrella in her palm and said with great emphasis, “There is no feast that never ends. It’s not a bad thing to

leave. Today's parting is for a better reunion in the future."

Kadence seemed to be awakened. In that moment, as she looked up, she seemed to see a tearful Peyton in the crowd.

Chapter 258 Follow the Vine to Find **the** Melon

"Peytie."

She rubbed her eyes. These days, she had experienced such illusions many times. By the time she came back to her senses, Peyton's figure had already disappeared.

Indeed, it was just an illusion after all.

Kadence shook her head helplessly and walked into the crowd, holding an umbrella. Suddenly, a piece of paper fell from the umbrella frame and was caught by Kadence.

Familiar handwriting caught her eye.

"Take care."

Just two simple words. Peyton even wrote them hastily, so the handwriting was messy.

Kadence, however, covered her face with an umbrella. Her tears still hung on her cheeks. The corners of her mouth crazily curved upwards.

Peyton told Kadence that she was still alive in this way.

Kadence was not foolish. She knew that Peyton must not be able to contact her conveniently, so Peyton used this method to let her know that she was still alive.

After knowing that she was fine, Kadence also relaxed. She tightly held the paper as if it were a precious treasure, afraid of losing it again.

As long as Peyton was alive, she could be at ease.

When her umbrella was lifted again, there was a touch of sadness on Kadence's face.

The play had already started. She had to continue acting.

Peyton got back on the car again. Kevin's fingertips brushed away the tears at the corner of her eyes. "Peyton, don't cry. Your friend is working hard to improve herself. She will be happy."

Peyton looked at Kadence, who had already walked into the crowd, with a slight smile on his lips.

"Well, I believed."

Kadence may not have been the smartest or most talented, but she was definitely the hardest working.

Without the constraints of men, Kadence's future was bright.

Just then, her phone received a message from Iris.

A few days ago, she contacted Iris to inquire about the result. At that time, Iris told her that they were about to find out.

The information clearly stated that Miya was the person who used the phone without permission at the company at that time.

Miya.

Peyton immediately pictured a sharp face in her mind. Miya was indeed the B team leader who often mocked her.

Originally, Peyton thought she was just like everyone else, jealous of herself suddenly getting the project. If she was also the person who planted the spy, then she could understand why Miya had hostility towards her.

She thought, "Wait."

Peyton suddenly had a flash of a data sheet in her mind. She thought of that tall and skinny boy, Emanuel Crowe.

Emanuel and Miya had some similarities. They also shared the same surname, Crowe. Could there be any connection between them?

"Peyton, why did you suddenly have such a big reaction?"

Peyton looked worried and said, “Kevin, can you help me check on two people?”

“Of course, you can. Go ahead.”

That night, Kevin brought the news. Just as Peyton had imagined, Miya and Emanuel were indeed siblings!

And their grandmother is still in their hometown in the countryside. If Caitlyn’s children were alive, would they be in this place?

Peyton glanced at the address. It was exactly the countryside that Phillip had said he was going to before leaving.

After giving instructions to Peyton, Phillip disappeared. Did he encounter some trouble in the countryside, or did Peyton’s identity bring danger?

Peyton was unaware of all of this.

But she knew that as long as she found that child, it would prove that Caitlyn had become crazy because of Emanuel, not because of Kason.

But why did she happen to discover this problem at this particular time?

Peyton was as anxious as an ant on a hot stove.

“Peyton, just now I received a message. Mr. Schmitt has boarded the ship.”

Kevin looked at Peyton. “Peyton, what’s wrong? Why are you so uneasy?”

Just at that moment, Peyton’s phone vibrated again. It was another message from Iris.

Peyton quickly glanced. Miya voluntarily resigned. She was going to leave Aelford City.

Chapter 259 Hush Money

A hand blocked Peyton’s phone screen.

“Peyton, I guess you were really anxious at the moment, wanting to find Miya and ask her about it.”

Kevin saw through Peyton's thoughts at a glance. Peyton nodded.

"Yes, Kevin. All the misfortunes I've had in the past two years were brought about by Paula's death. I know that me and him are never going to reconcile. But I've been trying hard to find evidence. I just want to slam the evidence in Nolan's face and tell him that my dad is not that kind of person. He was wrong."

Peyton couldn't help but tug on Kevin's sleeve. "Finally, I managed to find a glimmer of hope. I..."

"Peyton, have you ever considered that this might be another trap luring you out?"

Kevin's dark pupils were filled with seriousness. "Under your

guidance, Nolan has started to investigate his sister's death again. The network that person had painstakingly built has long been dismantled. She is now reclaiming her pieces. Why did Miya leave so publicly and abruptly?"

Peyton continued, "She was waiting for me to show up."

"Yes."

"You narrowly escaped death, disrupting her plans, and your only vulnerability, Mr. Schmitt, was also relocated by me in advance. She had no way to catch you anymore. So she did this."

Peyton's face darkened. "Yes, she was cunning."

Thinking about how Dwayne wanted to trick her on their engagement day, Peyton bit her lip and pondered a plan.

Suddenly, her eyes lit up. "I thought of something."

Kevin turned to look at her. "What's wrong?"

"Since Nolan is investigating this matter, I will add fuel to the fire. Please pass this message to Nolan for me. Whether it is true or false, let Nolan decide."

Kevin nodded. "Alright. Peyton, I suddenly feel a bit uneasy. It seems like we need to leave early."

Peyton hesitated for a moment and then replied, "Okay, I'll listen to you."

The only person she can trust now is Kevin.

Peyton took out the little bear phone watch from under the pillow. "You should have someone return this watch to Mrs. Chase. I can't

handle her love."

"Um."

Kevin touched her head. "Rest well. I'll go make some arrangements."

"Okay."

The Dalton family's study.

1

Nolan once again swept the pile of documents in front of him onto the floor. He placed both hands on the table, his expression turning ice-cold.

"Why haven't you found Peytie yet?"

"Mr. Dalton, calm down. That area of the sea has been completely drained, even the water. If Mrs. Dalton had really died, she would have been discovered long ago. She is probably hiding somewhere."

Nolan certainly knew that Peyton was hiding. But he would never harm her. Can't she trust him either?

Since Peyton didn't die, why didn't she come to find him?

Nolan thought about what he had found during this period. All the evidence pointed to one thing.

It is obvious that someone was deliberately framing Kason.

The pile of information in front of him was obtained through further investigation. However, they discovered many problems.

According to the previous information, Kason had abnormal relationships with many of the girls he sponsored.

Those girls who were said to have abnormal relationships with Kason either had personal issues or had problems at home.

They either liked gambling or had loose morals in their personal lives.

Lucian pushed the door open and handed over a form.

“The families of those women who previously claimed to have a connection with Mr. Schmitt received a sum of money for no apparent reason. The amount ranged from 50,000 dollars to 150,000 dollars.”

Lucian glanced at Nolan’s expression. “And they all received the money within that year or two. I reckon this money is hush money.”

Chapter 260 It Was Me Who Destroyed **Her**

Lucian

continued, “Those girls did indeed have good grades at first. After receiving support from Mr. Schmitt, they all came to the big city to attend university. Some of them even stayed true to their original intentions and continued to pursue further education.”

“Moreover, the majority of girls are deceived by this flashy world. They believe that a woman’s ultimate belonging is to a man. Some abandon their studies and start mingling with middle-aged men who are already married. Some associate themselves with the wealthy second generation. And there are even those who directly hop on the cars that come to pick up female college students every Friday.”

In better cases, they got married and became full-time housewives after graduation. In worse cases, they have been living a chaotic life in this city until now. Mr. Schmitt felt deeply saddened and wanted to advise them to take the right path several times. Instead, they were bribed to falsely accuse Mr. Schmitt of misconduct towards them.

“I had some women captured to scare them. They started telling the truth. Indeed, some people had already selected a few individuals, gave them money, and instructed them to spread false rumors intentionally to harm Mr. Schmitt.”

“As for those individuals with psychological issues, either they were admitted to mental hospitals or they have already committed suicide. Their family members also cannot find any trace of them. I have never heard from any of Mr. Schmitt’s students that he treated them poorly. He is a good person. There were also attempts to bribe them back then.”

“Mr. Dalton, I dare not make any conclusions about other matters.

However, at least regarding the reputation of Mr. Schmitt, I believe we have been deceived by someone.”

Lucian made a final summary. Nolan clenched his fingers tightly around the documents. The flat paper was pulled and creased, leaving noticeable wrinkles. His knuckles turned white from the force.

His mind was filled with images of his indifference towards Peyton over the past two years and his deliberate use of Helena to hurt Peyton.

“From the very beginning, you were a pawn in my hands.”

“Peyton, this is what your family owed me!”

“Peyton, why is it not you who died but my sister!”

“Peyton, I wanted you to live a life worse than death!”

Every word he had said felt like a slap in the face.

Nolan had a splitting headache, as if a hand was tearing his head apart. The excruciating pain engulfed his entire body.

Gradually, his gaze on the paper began to wander. Lucian was still saying something, but he couldn’t take in a single word. All he could see was Lucian’s mouth opening and closing.

With a thud, Nolan’s body tilted and crashed heavily onto the ground.

“Mr. Dalton!”

Lucian hurriedly approached and helped him up. Despite starting to eat these past two days, Nolan was still too weak.

Nolan held his head and muttered, “It was me who destroyed her.”

Lucian didn't know how to console, so he continued, "Mr. Dalton, the information we have found so far only proves that Mr. Schmitt's personal life is not chaotic. Don't forget that Ms. Dalton was indeed carrying Kason's unborn child. And before Ms. Dalton passed away, the last person she had contact with was Kason."

Nolan muttered as if he had caught the last straw of salvation, "Yes, that's right. It's Kason. It must be Kason who did it. I am not wrong. I didn't misunderstand him..."

Jayson burst in at that moment. "Mr. Dalton, someone just placed this box at the doorstep. I opened it and took a look. It should provide us with some assistance."

He then noticed Nolan looking lost and distraught, and quickly walked over, setting down the box. Concerned, he asked, "Mr. Dalton, what happened to you?"