

## Midnight 361

### Chapter 361: The Baby Is Fine

"No," said Kevin, shaking his head.

Dan could guess what was going on in Kevin's mind.

Savannah was now threatened with miscarriage, which meant that Mr. Sterling did not take good care of her. It was said that Mr. Sterling had postponed the wedding for another woman. Kevin must be very angry now. Inform Mr. Sterling? No, Kevin would rather kill him if given a knife.

But the baby in Savannah's belly was Mr. Sterling's child anyway. How could they keep the operation from her husband?

What if something bad happened to Savannah and the baby?

"I suggest that we'd better tell Mr. Sterling. Otherwise, he might make trouble for you later." Dan said.

"I don't care. Am I afraid of him?" Kevin sneered.

Savannah did not want to see Dylan, so he respected her wish.

What was the point of asking that man to come? If he cared about Savannah, how could threatened miscarriage happen to Savannah?

Kevin stared at the door of the operation room, clenching his fists. He had made lots of concessions in the relationship involving the three people. All he wanted was that Savannah could be happy. But maybe he was wrong. He must make the decision for Savannah this time. He could not recede any more.

Since that man could not take care of Savannah, he would take his place.

Dan knew Kevin had made up his mind, sighed, and hesitated, "even if you don't inform Mr. Sterling, Savannah's not returned for so long, and he'll find her sooner or later..." Mr. Sterling was so powerful that it was really not hard for him to find a person in LA.

That was why Kevin asked Dan to come over. "Call Mr. Smith and tell him I'll take a new mother and a baby to Balfour Sanatorium. Ask them to get ready in advance."

Dan was surprised. Balfour Sanatorium? That military sanatorium? It was a special kind of hospital. However, due to its status as a private hospital, Balfour could only offer treatment to government officials. It lay in the resort zone of Southern LA, and its environment was very quiet. There were officers and warders patrolling the perimeter of the sanatorium, keeping unwanted visitors out.

Every country had its military sanatoriums for senior officials of the government. Balfour Sanatorium was one of these special places.

As the governor of California, Mr. Smith and his family had the right to enjoy its service, of course.

Kevin wanted to take Savannah to recuperate there. On the one hand, there were the best medical devices, a complete medical examination system, and outstanding doctors and nurses in Balfour

Sanatorium; on the other hand, it was much more difficult for Dylan Sterling to take Savannah away from that place.

Although Dylan was powerful, he could not guess that Savannah and his baby would be sent to Balfour Sanatorium, could he?

However, Dan didn't expect that Kevin, who had always hated Mr. Smith and his family, would ask for help from them for Savannah.

"What are you waiting for?" Kevin frowned.

Seeing the steely determination in Kevin's eyes, Dan took a deep breath, turned, and left to cope with the task.

After a while, the red light above the door of the operating room turned off. Kevin's heart flew to his mouth when the door opened. The surgeon walked out.

"Doctor, how's she?" Kevin rushed to him.

"Both mother and child are doing well. The baby's a boy. You can go to see them. The patient has not woken up from the anesthetic, and she's still very weak due to the bleeding. Just take a look at them, and don't take too long." The doctor took off his mask and breathed heavily.

Kevin took a sigh of relief and strode into the operating room. The indoor air was cold, mixing with a smell of disinfectant and blood. Savannah was lying quietly on the sick-bed, her eyes closed. He reached over, bent down, and held her hand, which was cold from the loss of blood.

"Savannah, it's okay. You and the baby are fine." Kevin whispered

Her hand gave a slight start, as if in response. Just then, Kevin's attention was called by the faint sound of the baby's crying. He turned and saw a nurse holding the newborn baby in her arms.

Although the baby was premature, he looked fine except for his small size. The baby was wrapped in a blanket, and the blood on his wrinkled little face was still wet.

Savannah's fingertips trembled as if she heard the baby's crying too. Kevin looked back at her knitted eyebrows, walked over to the nurse, and asked her about the baby's condition. Under the nurse's instruction, he carefully took the baby from the nurse's arms and cradled the baby in his arms. He took the baby to the bed and held the baby's small hand to touch Savannah's hand.

"The baby's fine and healthy. He's a boy. Although he's prematurely born, he's more than five pounds. Rest assured, Savannah."

Savannah's expression completely relaxed, as if she finally felt relieved and fell asleep.

Kevin handed the baby to the nurse and walked out of the operation room. There was still a faint bloody smell on his hand.

Savannah, I'll never let you feel wronged again. Kevin made a silent vow.

Dan came back quickly and walked to Kevin. "I've dialed the private number Mr. Smith had left for you. He said he'd send the secret guards here immediately and take you to Balfour Sanatorium tonight."

Robert Smith, the governor of California, was obviously surprised by joy when Dan said out Kevin's request over the phone. He never thought his son, who refused to admit his identity all the time, would take the initiative to contact him one day.

So, no matter what Kevin asked for, Robert would do his best to meet his requirements.

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#### Balfour Sanatorium

A third-of-a-mile-long white and brown building was set in the middle of the woods. This was a state hospital, like a castle. Red towers, white-arched wings, and the patrolling soldiers showed that this was a place of power.

On the second floor of the building, Kevin closed the door and walked out of the ward.

The sanatorium only offered treatment for senior officials, and of course, it had the best medical resources in the country.

After Savannah and the baby were sent to the sanatorium at midnight, they were immediately re-examined and given the best ward.

The baby was in good health. Although he was premature, he didn't have to be kept in the incubator. Four nurses were taking care of him in turn.

Savannah, however, was in a rather bad way. She should have woken up from the anesthetic this morning, but she was still sleeping.

According to the doctor, people's constitutions differed, so it was normal for some people to wake up late.

Kevin was still worried. He stayed at her bedside the whole time. It was noon before he finally followed the nurse's advice and walked out to have a rest.

He walked absent-mindedly towards the restroom. After several steps, he saw a middle-aged man standing in front of him in the corridor, as if he had been waiting for a long time.

The man was already in his fifties but well-preserved. His hair was carefully brushed. He wore a smart dark suit, and his black shoes were highly polished. From his appearance, he should be in a high place and had wealth and power in his hands.

#### Chapter 362: You Still Hate Me, Don't You?

The man was Robert.

Robert stood, looking at Kevin in gentle agitation. His son looked more and more like him.

Kevin, however, avoided Robert's eager eyes and said drily, "thank you, Mr. Smith, for your help this time."

Robert's eyes clouded slightly when Kevin called him Mr. Smith. Taking a deep breath, he said to himself, it doesn't matter. Since Kevin would like to ask him for help, it showed that he didn't resent him so much. He couldn't force Kevin to call him father right now.

"You look tired. The doctor said Miss Schultz is fine. It's normal to wake up late from the anesthesia. Don't worry. You should also have a good rest yourself. If you make yourself ill, who will take care of her?" Robert said persuasively.

Kevin didn't say anything. He nodded slightly and kept on walking to the room next to the ward. It was cleared up by the nurse after Savannah, and the baby was sent here last night.

In order to be able to take care of Savannah at any time, he chose to stay next to the ward, Savannah was in.

"Kevin!" Robert called and stopped his son. He had few opportunities to talk with his son, and he was unwilling to leave so soon.

Kevin stopped at the door and looked at Robert.

Robert glanced at Savannah's ward and said, "you really care about Miss Schultz."

He heard about the relationship between Kevin and that girl and knew who she was.

The girl, his son, cared for so much was Dylan Sterling's woman.

The baby she just gave birth to was Dylan Sterling's son.

The Sterling family was one of the richest families in LA, and it was also influential in politics. Dylan's mother was from the Cavendish family, and Dylan was not only a simple businessman. He was very respected in the political circles. The Smith family also had a close relationship with the Sterling family.

Earlier, Robert had invited Dylan to enter politics, but Dylan turned down politely because he had no interest in the bureaucratic jungle.

Not long ago, Robert also received an invitation to Dylan's wedding. Later, old Sterling called to say that the wedding had to be postponed for some reason. Robert didn't care about it first, but he did not expect that Dylan's bride was his son's childhood sweetheart, and his son even took her and her baby away secretly.

If it was known by Dylan, the consequence would be severe. No man could not tolerate his wife and kid being taken away by another man without any reason, let alone the man from the Sterling family. How could he not be furious?

But Robert couldn't refuse Kevin's request. This was the first time his son asked him for help. How could he say no? He owed his son too much...

After he arranged Savannah and the baby in the sanatorium, he ordered the guards to keep the matter under wraps. The doctors and the nurses could not have any leaks about Savannah's coming. What's more, he also asked his confidant to go to the hospital where Savannah gave birth. The medical records were deleted, and the medical staffs were not allowed to mention Savannah's operation to anyone.

It was easy for the governor to arrange this. At least in the short term, it should be hard for Dylan to find here.

Kevin was a little surprised. Even if Robert knew Savannah was Dylan's woman, he did not hesitate to help them. He was willing to offend Dylan for him...

Although Robert was the governor, the background of the Sterling family was strong enough to influence his position in politics. It was no good to offend Dylan.

Kevin's face relaxed a little. He softened his tone and said directly, "she's the most important person in my life."

"I know you met at the orphanage..." Robert felt mildly guilty when he mentioned the orphanage. "But Dylan's tough. Now Miss Schultz disappeared with the baby, and I'm sure he'll turn LA upside down to find her sooner or later. I can help you hide them for the time being, but I'm afraid..."

"I'll think another way. Anyway, sorry to cause you so much trouble these days."

"Never mind, I'm always on your side," Robert sighed. Since his son had determined, he did not say more. He had never been a father to his son, and now he just wanted to give him whatever he wanted. In this way, he could feel less guilty for him.

"Go to have a good rest," Robert said lovingly, "you haven't slept since last night. You must be exhausted. Go to bed now. I'll ask the guards to make you some soup, so you can drink it when you wake up."

"No, thanks. Mrs. Smith must be worried about you. I heard your cell phone vibrate several times. Don't bother to come again." Kevin glanced at the phone in Robert's pocket.

Robert gave a little laugh, looking at his son, and sighed, "Kevin, you still hate me, don't you? I know, I'm sorry for you. I didn't give you a normal life... sorry to let you live in the orphanage from childhood..."

Kevin's jaw clenched. He was just a bastard, born in a dark corner, like a rat. Resentment was gnawing all the time at his heart, but he had no right to complain at all.

"No, Mr. Smith, don't say sorry to me," after a pause, Kevin continued, his voice trembling slightly, "you should say sorry to my mother."

Robert's face turned red from shame.

The Smith family was a political family, in which several generations and multiple siblings were involved in politics. It was a big family, and of course, there were lots of servants working for the Smiths. Kevin's mother was the daughter of the butler of one of Robert's houses.

Mrs. Smith, Madison Jones, came from an official family. The two married because of the interests of the two families. Mrs. Smith was arrogant, and Robert was also young and overbearing. They had led a cat-and-dog life ever since they were married.

One day, the couple had another fierce quarrel. Robert was so angry that he rushed out of the house and lived in another villa, which was the house managed by Kevin's grandfather.

In a bad mood, Robert got drunk every day and eventually made a big mistake. He had sex with the butler's underage daughter under the influence of alcohol.

The girl was Kevin's mother. She was so young and so afraid that she didn't dare to tell anyone. But unfortunately, she got pregnant, and when her father found that, it was too late to have an abortion.

### Chapter 363: Savannah Went Missing

The butler was so angry to know what happened to his daughter. He was not in good health and got badly ill after that. Finally, he resigned and left the Smith family with his daughter. Shortly afterward, the butler became weaker and weaker as his daughter's belly grew bigger and bigger. Then he had a stroke and passed away.

The butler's daughter lived alone from then on.

Robert felt very guilty when he knew this. He arranged another house for the girl and visited her often, and he also prepared some servants to take care of her when she was about to give birth.

Maybe it was because the couple scarcely had any passion for each other or something, Mrs. Smith had not given him a kid at that time.

When Mrs. Smith found out what happened to her husband and the butler's daughter, how could she bear it? Especially when she heard that the girl was pregnant and her husband often visited her.

If the girl gave Robert a son, Mrs. Smith's position might be threatened.

Even if she did not love her husband, and they quarreled with each other every day, she could not tolerate her position being threatened.

So, Mrs. Smith sent someone to humiliate Kevin's mother many times. Finally, Kevin's mother sneaked out of the house Robert arranged for her. At that time, she was just 18 years old.

How could a pregnant girl of eighteen without even a job be able to take good care of herself? She just wanted to get away from the place where she got too much humiliation. She was so weak when she gave birth to Kevin that she died because of dystocia.

Before her last breath, she gave her poor son the name Kevin Wills. Wills was her family name.

The nurse of the hospital was very kind. She only knew that this young mother was from California, so she sent Kevin to the orphanage in LA, hoping he could be closer to his family.

That was all that had happened to Kevin and his mother.

His mother was the other woman in the eyes of common people, but she never wanted to be a homewrecker. She was just a victim.

When Kevin did not know who his parents were, he had looked forward to finding them. He had also found hundreds of reasons for his parents to abandon him. It must be a helpless choice.

But he never thought the fact was so ugly. His resentment and discontent with his father were reasonable. So, even Robert found him, he refused to admit he was his father.

Until today --

For Savannah, he took the initiative to contact Robert and even asked him for help.

Savannah was the most important one in his life, and he could not lose her.

Even if he had vowed not to associate with his father for the rest of his life, he was willing to let go of it for Savannah.

Kevin closed the door silently.

Robert took a deep breath and left.

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Green Bay

An atmosphere of tension filled the house.

Dylan looked fatigued on the sofa in the living room. His unshaven face and the dark circles under his eyes showed that he had not had a good sleep for two days.

Cooper, sent here by old Sterling to follow the progress, stood silently by with Sophie and Garcia.

The whole Sterling family had been in a panic since Savannah disappeared two nights ago.

Old Sterling almost popped off with rage.

According to Garcia, Savannah took a taxi out. Dylan sent his subordinates to check the monitoring records along the road. He found that Savannah got off the taxi at the park not far away. However, the monitor system across the road was bad, and they couldn't see where Savannah went.

They searched the park and found no trace of Savannah. Then Dylan contacted Olivia, who said they didn't have an appointment.

Garcia felt so bad, weeping in shame and fear. She should have followed Savannah out. Savannah was pregnant now. What if something happened to her? Dylan didn't blame her, but she accused herself all the time and almost fainted.

"Excuse me." At this moment, there came a sweet girl's voice from the door, "Dylan, have you found Miss Schultz?"

Charlotte, accompanied by the nursing assistant, came and stood at the door. She was not well, and still looked weak.

Garcia wiped away her tears and bit her teeth. What was this bitch coming for? Savannah became so lost and depressed after meeting her, and then she insisted on going out alone in a bad mood. It must be that the woman said something to Savannah and made Savannah disappear!

Dylan had learned from Garcia that Charlotte had asked Savannah out that day. He called and asked Charlotte about their meeting, but he did not expect Charlotte would come in person.

"What are you doing here? You've not recovered yet. Ask the driver to take you home." He scowled at Charlotte.

Charlotte burst into tears. "Dylan, I came to see if you need any help. My brother's also very worried when he heard that Miss Schultz is missing. He wants to help."

"No, thanks," Dylan said impatiently. He had sought for two days but did not find the little woman, what could Lionel help as a newcomer?

Charlotte seemed to be very anxious. She wanted to say something but was choked by a fit of coughing. The nursing assistant hurriedly patted her on the back, "Miss Rowe, you can't get so excited. You're not well yet."

Charlotte looked longingly at Dylan, neither daring to enter the room nor willing to leave.

"Come in first." Dylan rubbed his eyebrows and softened his tone.

Charlotte breathed a sigh of relief. She walked into the living room with the help of the nursing assistant and sat down next to Dylan.

"Yes, I met Miss Schultz that morning. But believe me, I never said sharp words to her," she whispered, "I felt very sorry that your wedding was postponed because of me, so I went to apologize to her. I promised her that I would not bother you in the future. I swear, I really didn't say more!"

Charlotte got more and more excited and began to cough badly again. She covered her mouth, and when she calmed down, there was some blood in the palm of her hand. Hastily she closed her hand as if she didn't want Dylan to notice it.

Dylan swallowed his anger. No matter whether Savannah went missing because of Charlotte or not, the most important thing now was to find the little woman, not to blame anyone.

#### **Chapter 364: Find Kevin**

"No one blames you," Dylan said, a hint of impatience in his tone.

Charlotte sighed and then asked, "did Miss Schultz really disappear? No monitoring? Is there any response from the police?"

Just then, there was a knock at the door, and Garwood came in a great hurry. Dylan's gloomy eyes glistened.

"How's it going? Has Miss Schultz been found?" Cooper asked anxiously.

Garwood shook his head. "The police are looking into the case now. Don't worry, I'll urge the police and my people to step up."

Bad news again?

Dylan frowned once more as a trace of anger flashed across his face. The little woman had been missing for two days! 48 hours!



In an impotent rage, he kicked the coffee table in front of him all of a sudden. The table trembled, and the glasses and cups fell off, hitting the floor with a smash. Everyone around him gasped.

Charlotte turned pale. She had never seen Dylan be so angry.

Garwood knew that Mr. Sterling was in extreme anxiety at the moment. He seemed to have something else to say, but he looked around and did not open his mouth immediately.

Seeing his expression, Dylan held his temper and turned to look at the three behind him. "Cooper, please go back first. I'll call to tell you about the progress later. Sophie, Garcia, please send Miss Rowe out."

They nodded and agreed obediently. Charlotte wanted to spend more time with Dylan, but she could see that he was not in a mood to talk with her now. She stood up and gently comforted him, "don't worry, Dylan. God protects Miss Schultz. She'll be fine. Tell me if I can help."

Garcia sniffed. She believed that Savannah was missing all because of this bitch. She must have said something to hurt Savannah. Now she was afraid that Dylan would blame her, so she came to apologize in a poor manner. Maybe she eagerly looked forward to hearing the bad news about Savannah.

Thinking of this, Garcia took one step forward and interrupted Charlotte, "Miss Rowe, it's getting late. Please."

Charlotte could tell that Garcia hated her very much. She frowned, said good-bye to Dylan, and walked out with others.

When they left, Dylan looked at Garwood coldly. "Did you find any clues?"

"Garcia said that Miss Schultz had an appointment with her friend that noon. Miss Schultz has only a few friends, and I guess the one she went out to meet is..." Garwood paused and looked at Mr. Sterling, afraid he would be displeased.

"Kevin Wills." Dylan finished the sentence coldly.

"Yeah. I learned that Mr. Wills has just returned from Europe a few days earlier, and he hasn't shown in JK since the day Miss Schultz disappeared." Garwood hesitated for a moment and finally said what he had found. That was why he didn't say it in front of the outsiders. Savannah disappeared with another man. Mr. Sterling might lose face if it was known by others.

A heavy rage came over Dylan like a dark cloud. He clasped his hands so tightly that the bones would crack.

Did the little woman run away with Kevin?

No. Impossible.

She looked forward to the wedding. She had just asked him if they could continue the ceremony tomorrow in their last call.

Was the little woman faking her mood in order to let his guard down, and in fact, she was waiting for Kevin to return and take her away?

Ridiculous.

He did not believe that little woman could have such great acting and scheming.

Something must be wrong.

He took a few deep breaths, and gradually it subsided. Then he looked at Garwood, with a cold, steely determination in his eyes. "Find Kevin. What are you waiting for?"

"Yes, sir!" Garwood replied quickly and left in a hurry.

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Balfour Sanatorium, as a hospital providing service for only senior officials, had a big dining hall. The environment was commodious and clean, and the hall was well lighted by a dozen windows.

At the moment, Robert and Kevin were sitting by the window and having lunch.

Kevin didn't ask Robert to come, but Robert didn't want to let slip such an opportunity to foster good relations with his son. These days, he had been taking the time to come to see Kevin. Though he always got cold shoulders from his son, he was in a good mood as long as Kevin didn't drive him out.

He sometimes thought bitterly that he must be the humblest father in the world.

But Kevin was his only son.

His wife only had a daughter for him.

He wanted a legitimate male heir, someone to continue the family name. So, he must bring this son home. What's more, he owed Kevin and his mother a lot, and he deserved it.

He had been trying to find Kevin for years. Of course, he dared not tell his wife about his thoughts and had to conceal his plan from her. Anyway, since she had driven Kevin's mother away that year, she wouldn't want Kevin back now.

Robert's thought was very simple. He wanted to take care of Kevin first and then found a chance to persuade his wife.

Kevin ate his meal absently, and he seemed a bit preoccupied.

Savannah had been in a coma for three days. The effects of the anesthetic should have gone off, but she was not yet conscious.

The doctor here had given her a thorough examination but did not find out the cause. The dose was within the safe range, and the only explanation was her loss of blood.

Kevin's worries turned into anger, and he became increasingly annoyed at Dylan.

Savannah would not have been like this if it were not for that man!

Across the table, Robert could see the anxious expression on his son's face. He was about to say something to comfort him when his confidant hurried into the dining hall, bent down, and whispered something in his ear.

The fork in Robert's hand fell on the table, and his face changed.

Kevin raised a suspicious glance. Robert recovered and wiped his mouth with the napkin cloth as if nothing happened. Then he stood up and said calmly, "you eat first. I'll be right back."

With that, he hurried out with his confidant.

Out of the dining room, Robert made up rapidly to the front hall.

A middle-aged lady, the same age as Robert, was standing in the front hall with splendid jewels. She was very well preserved, and she looked very shrewd. Two guards stood behind her silently.

#### Chapter 365: Don't Be Afraid

Seeing Robert, the lady sneered just as if she had succeeded in catching him in adultery. She folded her arms and said sarcastically, "oh, you are here."

Robert didn't expect his wife to come. It seemed that she had known all about his looking for his son, and she even knew he had taken Kevin here.

"Madison? What are you coming for?" Robert frowned in embarrassment and motioned his confidant and the guards behind his wife to leave first.

When there were only two of them in the hall, Madison no longer attempted to conceal her smoldering anger.

"Why can't I come? Are you afraid that I'll disturb the reunion between you and your bastard son? Robert, I just knew that you'd been looking for the child of that bitch for all these years! And now, you met him privately and even took him to Balfour Sanatorium! Do you still regard me as your legal wife?" She shouted, purple with rage.

"Enough! Go back first, and we'll talk about it later." Robert grabbed his wife's arm and tried to pull her out.

Madison threw off his hand in anger. "No! Unless you get rid of that bastard! Promise me you'll never see that bastard again! "

Robert was furious when he heard the word bastard come from her again and again. He blurted out, "he's my son! Why should I get rid of him?"

"What do you mean?" She roared at him, and her delicate face contorted with rage. "You want to bring this bastard back to the Smith family? Where do I stand? Have you ever thought about the feeling of our daughter?"

"I'll arrange it." Robert declared.

Madison glared at him. "Robert, if it were not for my family's support, you would not have been elected governor of California four years ago. The new election will come soon. Do you still want to serve another term?"

Robert's face darkened as his wife threatened him.

"Send that bastard away and never meet him again! Otherwise, believe it or not, I'll immediately expose your adultery within the marriage to the press. Everyone will know about your affair with your servant's daughter, and you will be spat at and reviled by the people who have once supported you!" snapped Madison, in a sort of shriek.

How could a proud man stand being put down by his wife in public? Robert's face was flushed with anger under the fire of his wife, and finally, he bellowed, "whatever!"

"Robert! You'll see! My father won't spare you!" Madison shouted and stomped out of the hall.

Robert's confidant came over hurriedly when Madison left. "Sir, Mrs. Smith looks irritated. Would she really complain to Mr. Jones?"

Madison was from the Jones family, which was powerful in politics. If Robert had to go against them, his political career must be affected.

Robert also knew that he should not have made the relationship with his wife so difficult. In fact, he could comfort her with kind words. But he would lose face if he ran to coax her back at once.

"I don't care! I'll see if the Jones family can defeat me!" He snorted.

In the doorway outside the hall, Kevin overheard them quarreling. His lips curled with cold amusement.

Mrs. Smith didn't have to worry too much. He never thought of being the young master of the Smith family.

Had it not been for Savannah, he would never have come into contact with his biological father.

Just then, urgent footsteps behind him interrupted his thought. A young nurse seemed to be looking for someone. Her eyes brightened at the sight of Kevin.

"Mr. Wills, Miss Schultz woke up!"

"Really?" Kevin's heart jumped for joy. He put aside his gloomy mood, and hurriedly followed the nurse to Savannah's ward.

He pushed the door open and strode in.

Savannah, pale but clearly wide awake, was staring out the window.

Kevin walked to her bedside and said softly, "Savannah, it's great that you're awake. Do you feel alright? You still look pale."

The little woman on the bed woke up with a start. She turned around and stared at Kevin. "Brother Kevin? You're really, Kevin?"

Kevin froze. He wondered if she was not entirely clear headed after a long sleep. "Yeah, I'm your Kevin brother." He put his hand on her shoulder and tried to soothe her.

Then Kevin was even more surprised at Savannah's response.

"What am I doing here? Where are we? The hospital? Why does my tummy ache so much? And the wound... Have I just had an operation? What happened? And... I haven't seen you since I left the orphanage. Why are you... with me?" Her voice thrilled.

Her words took Kevin's breath away. What did she mean?

Didn't she remember that she had had a c-section?

It seemed that she didn't even remember they had met in the orphanage again. There was a big hole in her head.

What happened? What's going on? The terrible fear seized upon Kevin. But he had to restrain his emotions when Savannah looked more frightened than him. He gently touched her hair and asked, "Savannah, we're in the hospital now, don't you remember why you came in?"

Savannah looked down, half frightened and half shy as if Kevin was a stranger to her. "I... I woke up and found myself lying here... What happened to me? I... I can't really remember. I have a headache..."

A strange fear was beginning to throb in Savannah's heart. She put her head in her hands and groaned slightly in pain.

What's wrong with her? Why was her mind a complete blank? She seemed to have forgotten many things.

"Savannah, I'm here. I'm your Kevin brother. Don't be afraid." Kevin whispered as he took Savannah's hand away from her head, holding her hand in his.

He was still in a trance.

Savannah had lost some memory, including Dylan and the new baby.

"Kevin... What happened to me?" Savannah murmured with a start of terror.

"It's okay, Savannah." Kevin forced a smile, "you'll be fine. Have a rest, and I'll call the doctor to see you."

### Chapter 366: Memory Loss

Savannah was like a kitty lost in the forest, isolated, helpless, and frightened. Kevin, in front of her, was the only hope. His words of comfort quieted her for a while. Finally, she nodded and lay down.

Kevin tucked her up in bed and rang the bell.

A moment later, the doctor came in. Kevin stood up and described how Savannah felt. Surprised by what Kevin said, the doctor hurriedly asked the nurse to take Savannah to the examination room for more examination.

It was not until early evening that Savannah was sent back to the ward. She ate some porridge and felt sleepy again. But she was afraid that Kevin, the only one she was familiar with, would disappear. Lying on the bed, she forced her eyes open and stared at Kevin. She dared not sleep.

Kevin's heart ached for her. He sat at the edge of the bed and held her cold hand. "Rest assured. I'll be here with you."

Fully relieved, Savannah closed her eyes and fell asleep in peace, her hand still in Kevin's. Kevin did not leave immediately, nor did he take away his hand.

The color of the sky deepened as the sun went down. After a while, the door opened, and a nurse came in quietly. She came to Kevin and whispered something in his ear. Kevin nodded and put Savannah's hand in the bed gingerly.

Looking at Kevin's perfect face, the nurse felt her heart beat violently. She envied the young woman who could enjoy the care of such a handsome gentleman. So young – and attractive, very attractive. He was tall, dressed in a white shirt, and looked smart, and his intense, bright blue eyes regarded the young woman affectionately all the time.

What's more, he must be a man of position since he could take someone here for treatment. It seemed that he had a special relationship with the governor.

Now the mysterious man cared for the young patient with all his tenderness. How lucky the young woman was!

Kevin knocked on the door and entered the doctor's office.

"Mr. Wills, please sit down." The doctor nodded politely to Kevin.

Although Mr. Smith didn't say who this young man was, the doctor could guess they must have a close relationship.

"Doctor, what's the result? Why doesn't she remember a lot of things?" Kevin got right to the point.

"I've performed a physical exam, including a neurologic exam on Miss Schultz," said the doctor, looking grave. "The bleeding before her delivery must have affected the cranial nerves in the memory area, which obliterated some of her memory. It's not common. I've scanned her brain, and I guess, besides the loss of blood, there's another possibility."

"What's it?" Kevin held his breath.

"I suspect that Miss Schultz had experienced memory loss before. There's a blood clot in the area of her brain for memory. It has no great influence on her normal life, but she hasn't recovered from her last loss of memory yet. The memory neuron is still an injury. So, it's easier for her to have memory loss again. I just tested her and found that she's no idea of her last memory loss at all. I mean, it might have been quite severe last time."

Kevin changed color. Savannah had experienced memory loss before? When did that happen?

After a long pause, Kevin asked, "do you know when and what's the cause of her last memory loss?"

The doctor looked at the brain CT scan and said, "from my experience, Miss Schultz might have suffered severe meningitis, and it caused considerable memory loss. I believe it happened at least seven years ago."

Kevin corrugated his brows in thought. Seven years ago? Savannah was only twelve or thirteen years old at that time. Her father was still alive, and she had not yet been sent to the orphanage...

According to the doctor's diagnosis, it was likely that Savannah had suffered from severe meningitis when she was young and lost some of her memories. She had not completely recovered from that illness, which was a cause of her memory loss this time.

Kevin didn't want to believe it, but it was the fact.

"Doctor, will she be all right in this condition? Is she able to get her memory back?" Kevin asked, his voice strained.

The doctor took a deep breath and looked puzzled. "In many cases, the lost memory may be reversible with treatment. But it depends. It's been years since Miss Schultz lost her memory the first time, and it's going to be hard this time. Of course, medical science is progressing rapidly in our country. I believe she'll recover one day."

That was to say, Savannah lost all memories of recent events, her entanglement with Dylan, her marriage, and the baby... Everything became the memories that might never be recalled deep in her mind.

Of course, she also forgot the pain of being abandoned by her husband just before their wedding.

Kevin's eyes lit up at this thought.

Nobody would be happy to lose some memories, but it might be lucky to forget something painful for Savannah.

Her memory loss could be the beginning of a new life. She was finally able to leave Dylan and start a new life!

There was a long silence before Kevin made a decision.

"I need your help, doctor."

"Go ahead, please."

"Please don't tell Miss Schultz that she's had a child. Try to falsify another medical record. Anyway, don't let her suspect she's ever given birth." He believed that it was not difficult for the doctor here. As long as Savannah did not delve into the matter, the truth might be kept from her.

The doctor seemed to understand his meaning. He thought for a while and nodded.

"I see."

\* \* \*

The next morning

Early morning rays of sunlight were crossing the window of the ward and falling on the bed.

When Kevin pushed the door open, Savannah, in a hospital gown, just sat gazing vacantly out of the window.

## Chapter 367: Give Her A New Life

Savannah looked much better, though a little baffled, frustrated, and uncertain.

"Savannah," he gave her a warm smile.

"Morning, Kevin," a half-smile came to Savannah's pale face.

"How're you feeling?" Kevin sat down and asked.

In her paleness, Savannah grabbed Kevin's sleeve. "Kevin, the doctor said that I'm in the hospital for an operation on severe acute suppurative appendicitis. How did I get this disease? Why am I here with you? Why don't I remember a lot of things? What the hell had happened to me..."

Her voice trembled slightly at the confusion of the unknown.

"Don't worry, Savannah. I'll tell you." Kevin looked at her and slowly told her what he made up last night.

Savannah listened quietly, afraid of making a mistake.

Kevin said that she broke away from her uncle's home when she knew Devin and Valerie had an affair. No one knew where she went, and her uncle and aunt didn't try their best to look for her.

When Kevin learned that she was missing, he went around looking for her everywhere and finally found her in a hospital. According to the nurse in that hospital, she fell in a faint on the road and was sent to the hospital by a kind man.

She couldn't remember the days she wandered far from her uncle's house, so Kevin had no idea where she had gone or what she had met. But to be sure, she must have a difficult time before she was taken down and sent to the hospital.

Then Kevin brought her here.

"Is it true?" She murmured in disbelief.

"Don't you believe me?" Kevin looked at her.

Savannah almost immediately nodded her head. "I believe you."

If she couldn't trust Kevin, who else in the world could she trust? Kevin would not lie to her. There was no reason for him to lie to her.

She didn't feel sad at all when she heard that Devin had hooked up with Valerie. Perhaps she did not love Devin at all. She had always been despised by Devin and his mother. She was with Devin only because of the engagement.

"How's Devin now? And my cousin?" Savannah asked tentatively.

"A lot of things happened after you ran away from your uncle's house. Your cousin married Devin, but she didn't live a happy life. They divorced each other for some reason. Valerie was sent to prison, and Devin went abroad. I don't know what happened. The Sterling family suppressed the news." Kevin said everything about the Sterling family. Of course, he never mentioned the name of that man.



Savannah held her breath as she listened, her heart pumping. When Kevin finished, she slowly let go of her clenched fist. So many things had happened.

But was she really a wanderer these days?

Her mind was a complete blank when she tried to recall what she did after she left her uncle's house. However, she had some strange feelings when Kevin mentioned the Sterling family. Her heart was pounding, and she felt as if she had been involved in those things related to the Sterling family. Some images and feelings about a shadowy figure came to her mind now and then. But when she tried hard to think, she only felt pain in her head.

Maybe she had memory disorder after the serious disease?

She tried to compose herself and asked, "Kevin, will I be cured? Can I remember the things I forgot?"

"Sure. The doctor said that as long as you take good care of yourself, you'll gradually recover." Kevin whispered.

Savannah's face softened. She was rejuvenated by new hope.

After talking with Kevin for a while, she began to feel tired.

"Take a break. I'll see you later." Kevin said and stood up.

Savannah nodded obediently and lay back on the bed.

Kevin walked out and closed the door quietly. Then he turned and saw Robert stand not far away in the corridor. He came to see him again.

The father and the son walked slowly down the corridor, side by side, and stopped until they were far from the ward.

"Are you trying to break Miss Schultz from Dylan?" Robert asked. He had known about Savannah's memory loss and Kevin's conversation with the doctor.

Last night, Kevin asked the nurse to arrange Savannah's newborn baby to another ward far away from Savannah. What's more, the doctor had given Savannah some medicine to prevent all kinds of reactions during the lactation period, in case that Savannah would guess something.

From what Kevin had arranged, Robert knew that his son had made up his mind to give Savannah a new life.

"If I had known that she was not happy with Dylan, I would have taken her away earlier," Kevin said drily. Then he looked at Robert, "Mr. Smith, could you do me a favor?"

"What's it?" Robert raised his eyebrows.

"Please help Savannah, and I go abroad. Wherever we go, as far from the town as possible."

Without help from the Smith family, he might not be able to take Savannah away from LA. She had been missing for several days, and even if Dylan hadn't found her in Balfour Sanatorium, he would have the airports and train stations guarded. He would leave no chance for them to leave the town.

He had always kept his distance from the Smith family and refused to admit his identity as Robert's son, which was a shame to him. He didn't want to ask for help from the Smith family even when Devin sent him to prison last time. But now, for Savannah, he turned to Robert for help again and again.

He did not regret it. As long as Savannah could be happy, he would rather ignore his dignity.

"You want to take Miss Schultz abroad?" Robert's face changed.

"Yes. She has no parents, and her last relatives hurt her so many times. She'll only feel sad if she remained in LA, and sooner or later, she would meet those she hates. It's only possible for her to really forget the past and have a new life when she stays far away from here."

#### Chapter **368: Go Abroad With Her**

"And you? You want to live abroad with her, too?" Robert hoped his son would come back soon after he sent Savannah abroad.

But it was unlikely that Kevin would leave Savannah alone. "I'll go abroad with her. I've missed her once, and I won't miss her again. I can't let her suffer again," What he regretted most in his life was that he quit quietly when Dylan appeared. He thought that man would love Savannah more than the love he could have given her.

This time, he would not miss the opportunity again.

"But you... Are you really going to leave with her? What about your company? You give up, JK? What a pity!" asked Robert hastily. He didn't care where Savannah went, but he couldn't see his son go so far from him.

Kevin looked at the crow's feet around Rover's eyes, and he also found some streaks of white in his hair. The man still looked strong, but he was no longer young. Now he was just a father who was not willing to separate from his son.

"I'll leave JK to Dan, who set up the company with me. He's experienced. Under his management, I believe JK will have a healthy development. Besides, it will be good for you if I leave. There's a new election soon, and your wife will no longer quarrel with you. Rest assured, my mother and I have never interfered in your life, and I don't want to fail your re-election this time."

He could never forgive Robert. However, it was Robert who gave him life, so he didn't want to harm him.

Robert was stunned. He didn't expect that Kevin had known about Madison's visit to Balfour Sanatorium. Suddenly he felt very guilty and abashed.

It was true. Kevin and his poor mother had never complicated his life. But because of him, Kevin's mother had a very short journey of life, as a flower withered too soon.

He caused the tragedy of the mother and the son.

He could never make up for them, and he might not be able to persuade his son back.

Let it be. Why not let his son do what he really wanted to do?

For a moment, Robert seemed to be several decades older, and his pride and dignity as governor suddenly disappeared. Finally, he picked up his courage and said, "okay. I'll help you. And I'll do everything I can to keep you and Miss Schultz from being found."

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Savannah strained her eyes in the darkness. She was naked on a large bed, and she could feel a man's weight on her. She couldn't see his face. His lips ran down her neck and throat, kissing, sucking... trailing down to her breasts...She struggled hard but couldn't move at all. The man paused, rose and leaned down; his breath hot in her ear.

"You'll never get out of my hands."

"Ah!" Abruptly, Savannah woke up, gasping for breath, covered in sweat.

She was still in the ward. Beyond the long windows, moonlight sifted through the branches of the tall tree.

Looking at the clock, she saw that it was only three o'clock in the morning.

It was just a nightmare.

But why the dream felt so real... as if she knew the man in her dream. She flushed crimson, and her heart was beating violently. She could still remember the touch and kiss from the man in her dream.

At that moment, the door of the ward opened with a bang. Kevin, probably heard her scream in the next room, strode in and lit the lamp, a worried look on her face. "Savannah, what's the matter?"

"A nightmare." Savannah wiped the sweat off her head.

Kevin colored slightly. He poured a glass of warm water and gave it to her. "You always had bad dreams when in the orphanage. What did you dream about?"

Savannah opened her mouth but held back. How could she tell Kevin that she dreamed about a strange man doing that to her?

"Nothing. Just a man..." She mumbled.

"A man? Who's he?" Kevin asked his voice tense.

"I don't know. It's too dim to see." She didn't dare to say more.

"Oh. No impression at all? Do you know him?" Kevin asked tentatively.

"No impression. I don't think I know him." Savannah shook her head in certainty.

"Your memory hasn't completely come back, and it's a bit of a mess. All right." Kevin paused and comforted her.

Savannah nodded and gradually calmed down.

Kevin took the empty glass from her hand and put it back, but he didn't leave.

"Is there anything else?" Savannah sensed that he had something to say.

"Savannah, would you like to go abroad with me?" Kevin asked quietly.

Go abroad? Savannah wondered, "why do you say that?"

"It's better for you to recuperate abroad. A new environment can give you a new mood. Maybe you can regain your memory earlier." Then Kevin added, "of course, if you don't want to, forget it."

Savannah was silent for several seconds. Finally, she glanced up at Kevin. "I'll go wherever you go."

Kevin's face lit up, and his lips broke into a smile. "You said, yes?"

She nodded gravely. Her uncle and aunt had never contacted her since she ran away from their house, and she had no other relatives in LA. She had no reason to stay here.

"Good. I'll go and arrange it at once." Kevin smiled.

"So soon?"

A curious feeling of disappointment came over her heart. She didn't know why. Although she was willing to go abroad with Kevin, she had a strange feeling as if she still had something or some people to care about here.

What was she missing?

"Maybe in two days. Everything's been arranged, and we can go straight there." Kevin said. They must leave before Dylan found here.

Savannah had known where they were from the nurses. She also heard that Kevin took her here under the help of the governor, Mr. Smith. She could not help asking timidly, "Kevin, did Mr. Smith help everything?"

"Yes." Kevin nodded.

#### Chapter 369: Why Are You So Nice To Me?

"How can such a political bigwig help you? What's your relationship with him?" Savannah held her breath.

"Didn't I mention this to you yesterday? After I left the orphanage, I set up a game company and had some influence in the industry. JK, as an emerging enterprise, has been fully assisted by the government. Mr. Smith's always been very supportive of the domestic game industry, so I have been dealing with him, and he would like to do me a favor." Kevin didn't plan to tell Savannah his real relationship with Robert. On the one hand, he had never thought about being the young master of the Smith family; on the other hand, Savannah might feel self-reproach if she knew he turned to the Smith family all because of her.

Savannah always believed Kevin's words. She nodded and did not ask more. Then she seemed to feel confused, looking at him with her dewy eyes, and asked, "why are you so nice to me?"

Kevin sighed. Why? What else could the reason be?

He wanted to express his feelings immediately, but in a moment, he repressed his emotions.

This was not a good time to say that.

She was now at her most vulnerable moment, weak and had amnesia. He felt that he was taking advantage of her if he asked her to be with him now.

He didn't want that. He wanted her sincere promise to be his girlfriend and even his wife.

Kevin, with a rueful smile, reached up and touched her hair. "Actually, I've always regretted that day when I went to your uncle's house to look for you."

"You went to my uncle's house to see me?" Savannah gazed at Kevin.

"Yes. After you were adopted by your uncle, I went to see you one day. You were not at home, and your aunt told me that you had a fiancé, Devin Yontz, a rich young man." Kevin's thin lips bent into half a smile. "I thought you would live well and be taken good care of, so I didn't bother you anymore."

Savannah never thought that Kevin had come to see her after they parted in the orphanage. Her aunt never said anything about his visit to her... At that time, Kevin was still a poor boy in the orphanage. According to Norah's temperament, she was definitely contemptuous of him.

"When I knew what happened to you these years, I told myself that if I had another chance, I would never leave you alone. I only want to make you happy," Kevin said as he looked intently at her. "For once, let me take care of you and accompany you to a new place and start a new life."

Savannah's heart warmed at his words. Her nose suddenly stung. She didn't hesitate any longer and nodded.

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Late at night, Green Bay.

On the sofa, Dylan sat quietly but not peacefully.

They almost rooted around the whole town but couldn't find the little woman. The only certainty was that she and Kevin were still in LA because there was no exit record.

Since they were still here, he would search every corner to find her!

He still hoped that the little woman would come back on her own, so he lived in her house in Green Bay these days. It was really getting late, but he was not sleepy. With the cell phone in his hand, he was waiting for Garwood to call and report the progress of the search.

After looking for her for several days, Dylan looked much thinner, with eyes sunk in his sockets. Tired and sleepy, he closed his eyes and sat back, but his body was stiff. He didn't fall asleep.

Sophie went over and said carefully, "Mr. Sterling, why don't you go up and get some sleep? I'll call you when Garwood gets back. If you fall ill, how can you continue looking for Savannah?"

Maybe persuaded by Sophie's last word, Dylan opened his eyes and finally stood up. The moment he rose, he swayed, nearly fell but managed to recover himself. Then he went upstairs to the bedroom.

Sophie looked at his back and sighed.

Upstairs, Dylan passed Savannah's room, paused, and finally pushed the door open and stepped in.

The room was as clean and tidy. Her sweet scent seemed to be left in the air. If she came back, he would let everything go and spare Kevin.

If only she could come back safely.

He walked around the room, and his eyes fell on the half-opened drawer of the desk. He walked over and was about to close it when he saw a familiar satin-covered box.

He pulled the drawer and took out the small box, frowning. Then he opened it and found the diamond ring lie quietly in the box. He turned suddenly to the drawer again. Under the box, there were two pieces of paper.

He took them out. One was apparently their marriage license, and another white paper was a printed divorce agreement.

Her name was signed at the signature!

He had been too busy looking for her these days to enter her room, nor to find those things she had left here.

It appeared that she had been ready to leave him. She left the ring and the marriage license to him, and she even prepared the divorce agreement.

He felt rather foolish. After she disappeared, he looked for her like a madman. But she left a divorce agreement and left with Kevin quietly.

He grasped the paper so savagely that he almost tore it apart.

He didn't know how to describe her behavior. Was it a premeditated action or out of anger?

If she ran away because she was angry that he went to Chicago before the wedding, he would explain it to her.

In his last call with her that day, he heard something was wrong in her tone and was ready to come back and tell her his thoughts.

He went to see Charlotte was to meet his last obligation to her; he stayed and personally took care of Charlotte because he didn't want her suicide to become a scandal, which might negatively impact the two families.

But she did not give him a chance to explain.

### Chapter 370: She Run Away With Another Man

She didn't ask but left a divorce agreement and ran away with another man!

Maybe she never trusted him, and she subconsciously wanted to leave her. Whenever she was troubled, she would turn to Kevin, and she trusted Kevin most. How could she do to him when they already got married? Though the formal wedding ceremony has been postponed, Savannah is still his wife.

She always said she didn't have anything to do with Kevin. How could he believe her words now?

What an ungrateful little cat!

Jealousy and anger made him mad. He booted the chair beside the bed and kicked it onto the wall. With a crash, the chair fell apart on the floor.

Just then, Sophie went upstairs and heard a noise in Savannah's room. She knocked on the door nervously, "Mr. Sterling, Garwood's back. He has the trace of Savannah."

Dylan fought to control his face, opened the door, and ran downstairs.

An involuntary shudder passed over Garwood when he saw Mr. Sterling coming down with a chill, grim look on his face.

"Where's she?"

"Probably in the Balfour Sanatorium." Garwood lowered his head and said.

Balfour Sanatorium? It was a health resort for state officials.

Dylan narrowed his eyes and immediately understood. Robert Smith was one of the people who could enjoy the service there. Kevin should have asked Robert, his biological father, to take Savannah to the place.

Balfour Sanatorium stood on a hill at the edge of the town, isolated and ungoverned. Ordinary people hardly knew anything about this place. What's more, it was heavily guarded - the guards changed every four hours every day, and it was only accessible to senior officials.

Last year, when old Sterling was sick, his old friend in the government invited him to recuperate in Balfour Sanatorium. Dylan had been there twice, so he knew that place well.

He never thought that Kevin hid the little woman in such a place at the back of beyond. No wonder he didn't find them after searching every part of the town.

Dylan's lips curled in a sardonic smile. Without saying anything, he took his coat and strode to the door.

Seeing that Dylan was going there in person, Garwood hesitated, "Mr. Sterling, it might not be good to go in this way? Balfour's guarded, not open to everyone, and we're not sure if Miss Schultz is there. We'd do well to call Mr. Smith and discuss the matter with him first..."

Discuss with him? He could not possibly wait till then. Dylan didn't stop but marched out of the house, with a stolid face.

Garwood sighed and followed him out.

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At the edge of the town, the buildings of Balfour Sanatorium loomed through the hills. A black sports car, followed by some SUVs, sped along the twisty mountain road. The silence of the night was broken by the sound of the car engine. A group of birds started up out of the lower branches.

After a while, the leading car screeched to a standstill in front of the carved gate, and a man jumped out. He strode straight to the gate, ignoring the no trespassing sign.

The noise alarmed the guards armed with submachine guns.

"Stop! Who are you?" They hurried forward and barricaded the gate.

As the man approached, his face became visible under the dim gate light.

The two guards frowned. The man in front of them looked familiar. When they took a closer look, they both gasped.

The visitor was the young master from the Sterling family – Dylan Sterling.

Although Mr. Sterling was not a member of the political circle, he had a high position and was highly respected. Before they reacted, Dylan walked over and said coldly, "open the gate."

"Mr. Sterling, you know very well where this place is. You cannot enter it without permission."

"I don't care where it is. Open the gate." The man's tone echoed in the quiet valley, clipped and cool. Then he moved closer to the gate in an imposing manner.

The two guards summoned their courage and were about to head off him when Garwood arrived with some bodyguards. They got off the cars quickly and rushed to Dylan, surrounding him and protecting him from the guards.

Just then, the carved gate slowly opened.

A middle-aged man, followed closely by his bodyguard, walked out.

"You two step away." Robert rumbled his order to the two guards.

Seeing the governor, the two guards bowed to him and went back to their posts.

Dylan looked at Robert with a sneering smile. Since Robert was here in the middle of the night, he was sure that Savannah was here too.

How funny! The governor helped his illegitimate son hide other's wife!

For now, finding the little woman was the priority. He would deal with those irrelevant people later!

Robert could sense the murderous look in Dylan. As the governor, he was a man of affairs, but he had to say he never saw a young man so aggressive as Dylan. Maybe it was because the young man had the pride of aristocratic blood of the Cavendish family, he seemed not afraid of anything or anybody.

This man was like a beast in business, and he was not easy to deal with now.

It took courage to battle with Dylan. Robert began to admire Kevin. His feelings for Savannah were so deep that he insisted on taking her away even if he had to go against such a dangerous man.

As Dylan ignored him and went straight in, Robert took a deep breath and laughed, "Mr. Sterling, are you coming for Savannah? Oh, I'm afraid you're a little late."

Dylan stopped and stared at Robert with his tired but sharp eyes. "What do you mean?"

"Savannah's left with Kevin. They're not at home now."



Garwood gasped behind Dylan. Miss Schultz ran away with Kevin? What did that mean? Did they elope?

Dylan's face darkened. He clenched his fists, and his knuckles cracked. Suddenly he walked up and grabbed Robert's lapels.

"Nonsense!" snapped Dylan, grinding his teeth.