### Midnight 461

### Chapter 461: He's So Cruel

There was another helpless sigh before Joanne continued.

"The Morton family is a noble family in Chicago. It's a scandal for them that the young daughter of the master had been abducted and didn't return for so many years. They didn't want the outsiders to know that I've married an unknown man from an unknown family for the family's reputation. So, your grandfather decided to draw a veil over the matter and clean up my traces in LA completely. That's why they separated us."

She stopped here and couldn't hold back her tears any longer and wept again.

In order to protect his daughter, and more importantly, to protect the family's reputation, the master of the family, Joanne's father, separated his daughter from her husband and her own daughter...

Savannah gasped and squeezed the napkin in her hand. She never thought her mother had experienced so much.

"Your grandfather, in order to make me give up on your father and you, arranged a new marriage for me. Ethan Rowe's been widowed for many years, and he has two children. Your grandfather knew that I miss my own daughter a lot, so he thought I could project my yearning for you to them. Of course, I refused. But shortly after that, I heard that you and your father had been killed in a car accident. I was stunned and passed when my father showed me your death certificates. There were also some pictures of your father's body... His body was destroyed badly... I was crushed with grief and completely convinced that you were all dead in that car accident... Then I was badly ill and had been lying on the bed of suffering for a year," Joanne wiped away her tears with her sleeve. "But now I finally know the truth. In order to make me completely give up, my father lied to me that you also died... He's so cruel!"

"Even if you believed my father and I were both dead, why would you never come to LA to visit our graveyard? You were so sad to learn the news of our death and had a serious illness that year, okay, that could be excused. But later? At least, you can come to pay tribute to your husband and daughter. If you had only been there once, you would have known that your daughter was not dead. But you never come back." Savannah said calmly.

"Savannah, sorry... I didn't dare... I'm afraid I would break down in front of your burial place! After all these years, I still have a picture of your father's body in my mind, and I had nightmares almost every day. They even didn't have a photo of your body, and I wondered how tragic your death was in that car accident... I dared not to go back... I admit I'm really useless and cowardly... Sorry, Savannah... If you still don't forgive me, beat me to vent your anger, okay?" Joanne took Savannah's hand to slap her cheek as she said, her eyes swollen with weep.

"Enough!" Just then, Charlotte rushed in, pulling Joanne's hand off.

"Mom, don't do this!" She cried and then stared at Savannah. "Mom was so sad after learning the news of your death that she's always been in poor health. She almost died of a heart attack several times! My father didn't allow her to visit your grave, afraid that she would fall ill again. Later, my father took her abroad to recuperate, and she rarely comes back home! It's none of her business!"

Savannah looked at Charlotte coldly. Obviously, she had been watching them at the door, paying attention to their conversation.

Oh, wasn't Charlotte tired? Before, she committed suicide to stop Dylan from marrying her, and then she asked her friend to kill her in the car; now, she was again afraid that she would take her mother away.

But she was not interested in fighting with Charlotte for anything.

Without a word, Savannah picked her bag and stood up with a smile of sarcasm.

Joanne, seeing that she was about to leave, freed herself from the arms of her stepdaughter—almost knocked Charlotte down, and rushed forward to grab Savannah on her arm.

"Savannah, are you going to leave so soon? Move back to live with me, okay? Please, I beg you... let me take care of you..."

Charlotte's face turned darker when she saw Joanne trying to keep Savannah's desperate pertinacity. Unspeakable jealousy crowded on her mind. She had lived with Joanne for more than ten years, but Savannah's place in her mind was still more important... She completely ignored her stepdaughter when she saw her own daughter!

Savannah, however, took Joanne's hand down gently and said with her emotionless face, "sorry, Mrs. Rowe, I'm going to Italy soon and won't go back in the near future. That's all for today. You look pale. Please go back and have more rest."

Then she went straight out.

"Savannah, please don't go..." Joanne uttered a piercing scream and almost blacked out.

Savannah stopped suddenly and turned around.

"Savannah..." Joanne saw a glimmer of hope, thinking that she might change her mind.

"I just want to ask you," Savannah looked into her eyes and asked, "did you ever love daddy?"

Joanne froze a moment, tearing streaming down her pale face. She nodded her head firmly.

"I've always loved your father ... "

Savannah's nose twisted. She bit her lip, trying not to cry out. With this answer, her father, who had been waiting for his wife until he died, could finally rest in peace.

She turned again without hesitation and walked out of the hotel.

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Savannah didn't remember how she got home. She unlocked the door and went in, and without turning on the light, she fell on the bed, exhausted, and then began to weep.

Eventually, her mixed feelings could be held no longer.

In the gloom, she was crying straight and destructively.

Dad, did you hear that? Mom didn't mean to leave us. She was forcibly taken away by my grandfather... You could rest in peace now. She's always loved you.

She suffered a lot from the news of your death, and she had been in poor health for years. We should forgive her.

But I refused her when she asked me to go back to her and live with her...

She's now Mrs. Rowe. Who am I to live with her? This will only inconvenience her. And even if her husband accepts me, it's really embarrassing when I saw Charlotte... How can I live in the Rowe family? Wouldn't it be more awkward if Charlotte and Dylan were together?

# Chapter 462: She Had Too Much These Days Alone

Just then, someone sat down next to her and gently patted her back with a big warm hand.

Surprised, Savannah popped up to a sitting position and looked back hastily. Then she saw Kevin sitting next to her, looking at her worriedly.

He had arrived long before she came back, but he didn't disturb her when she rushed into her bedroom and cried.

He knew something must be wrong when she suggested a later return to Italy that day, and he had been watching in silence.

Today, he was worried when he learned that she hurried out, so he asked Dan to drive him to her house and waited for her.

Unexpectedly, she came back in tears.

"Kevin..."

"Tell me what happened when you want to tell me. I won't push you." Kevin looked at her and said.

Savannah could hardly hold back any longer. She told him everything, from the strange driver who wanted to kill her, the secret that Lionel's stepmother was her own mother, to the meeting with Joanne tonight. At last, she broke down in tears.

Kevin remained silent for quite a while to collect his mind. He also didn't expect Savannah would find her own mother just before they returned to Italy.

She had had too much these days alone.

Kevin patted on Savannah's back gently to appease her. After a while, she stopped sobbing, leaning on Kevin silently.

Just then, the phone rang. Savannah wiped away her tears and picked it up.

"Savannah?" Lionel's anxious voice came.

"What's the matter?" Savannah tried to be calm.

"Mom's been weeping away since she met you, and she went off into faint when she got home. Can you come to see her?"

"I'm not a doctor, and there's nothing I can do." Savannah's face slightly changed, but her voice was still indifferent.

"You know Mum's only thinking about you. Please, even if you still want to go to Italy, think of it as your last visit to her before you go abroad!" Lionel said, pleading.

Savannah bit her lip and hung up.

She was still angry at Lionel for hiding the truth from her for so long.

"You're not going to see your mother?" Kevin whispered. He had overheard her conversation with Lionel, and he could see the worry in her eyes.

"There are so many people in the Rowe family. They don't need me."

"But your mother needs you. Of all the people, you are the one she loves most." Kevin stared at her, "Savannah if you are really worried about your mother, go and see her. You still have the chance to be with your mother, but I have never had it."

The last words touched Savannah. Finally, she looked at Kevin and nodded.

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A mist lay over the house of the Rowe family in Royal Villa under the dim street lights.

Savannah got out of the car and looked back at Kevin.

"Come on, I'll wait for you here." Kevin gave her a smile and urged her on.

Savannah went to the familiar house and was soon led in by a maid.

"Savannah, you're finally here!" Lionel stepped out, surprised to see her.

"How's Mrs. Rowe?" Savannah asked in an impassive way.

"The family doctor just came and checked her, saying that she had a heart attack. She took some medicine and is now lying on her bed. She'll be much better if she knows you've come," said Lionel, heartily.

However, Savannah's expression didn't change at all.

Lionel let out a sigh. Though he knew that she was his sister, she didn't seem to take him as her brother. Well, she even called her biological mother, Mrs. Rowe now.

When they came to the head of the stairs, Charlotte just came down in her pajamas. She looked alarmed when she saw Savannah coming.

"What are you doing here? Don't you know mom fell ill again because of you?" She cried sharply.

"Shut up! She's our sister. She's visiting mom!" Lionel shouted.

Charlotte folded her arms in defiance, saying nothing more but not wanting to see Savannah go upstairs.

"Upstairs, second door on the left. Can you go by yourself?" Lionel turned and said to Savannah, pulling his sister aside and decided to give her a good lesson.

Savannah nodded, not even giving Charlotte another glance as she walked upstairs.

Along the corridor, she walked to the second door, staring at the door hesitatingly for a long time. Just then, she heard a murmur coming from the room.

"Dear, don't think about it. The past is the past. It should be a happy thing to find your own daughter." The man sounded like a middle-aged man, very gentle, probably Joanne's husband, Mr. Rowe. He was comforting his wife on the bed.

"I can't stop thinking about it," The woman's voice was soft and weak. It was her mother, Joanne. "Savannah didn't die in the car accident that year. If I had known that she's still alive, I would have taken her to my side to take care of her... I had parted from my daughter for more than ten years because my father told me that she and Padgett died together in a car accident! How can I stop thinking about it?" Joanne began to weep again.

Padgett was Savannah's father.

"My father-in-law did this to protect you and the reputation of the Morton family... It's not quite right, but it's for your own good. Don't blame him." Ethan's voice sounded helpless.

"I know, it's no use to blame my father now," Joanne paused as if she remembered something, "Ethan, didn't you know this?"

"My sweetheart, what are you thinking? You are not doubting that I asked your father to lie to you?" Ethan was surprised.

"Not only my father, you and your mother also wanted me to marry you, but I kept saying no. You must know that I wouldn't marry you willingly until my husband and daughter were dead..." Joanne hesitated.

"So, you think I fabricated the lie that your daughter was also dead and asked your father to lie to you? Joanne, who do you think I am? At least we've been married for so many years. You know me well, don't you? How have I treated you?" Ethan sounded sad.

Joanne seemed to realize that her words had gone too far and hurt her husband's feelings.

"I'm sorry, Ethan. " She lowered her voice and bit her lip, "I'm too upset now and couldn't think clearly..."

"It's all right, baby. I understand. You know I'm not that kind of person." Ethan said softly.

Outside the door, Savannah froze.

# Chapter 463: Finding The Cause Of Her Father's Death

What did the conversation between her mother and Mr. Rowe mean?

Joanne suspected that her father was not the only one who invented false news of her daughter's death; the Rowe family also played a role in the matter.

Although Joanne put aside her doubts and chose to trust Mr. Rowe, should she also trust him?

What if Mr. Rowe was a good actor?

It could be seen that he loved her mother very much and it was really nice to her. Otherwise, he would not give up the family business in Chicago and accompanied Joanne to live in a foreign country all these years for her to recuperate.

He loved her so much that he would like to do anything to get her.

If it was Mr. Rowe's idea to make up the false news of her death, was it possible that he had done any more outrageous things in order to let Joanne marry him?

Could her father's car accident also be related to the Rowe family?

The thought sent a shiver down Savannah's back, but she steadied her nerves as if nothing had happened. She knocked on the door and pushed open it.

"Savannah, you've come to see me!" Joanne couldn't believe it when she saw Savannah coming. Her face lit up.

Ethan nodded at Savannah with a smile and left the room first, giving them time alone to talk.

Joanne wanted to get out of the bed, but Savannah hurried over to stop her.

"You're not well yet, don't come down. I don't want your husband and stepchildren to say that my presence aggravates your illness." Savannah whispered as she put the blanket over Joanne, sitting on the chair beside the bed.

Savannah's tone was still cold, but Joanne was satisfied that she could come.

Not daring to mention her daughter's unhappiness, she brought up some interesting things about Savannah's childhood.

Savannah listened and replied absently. She didn't get up until it was late in the evening.

"It's time for you to sleep. I'm gonna go." Savannah said drily.

"Savannah... Are you still going to Italy? Will you stay with me?" Joanne asked, her eyes fixing at her with deep anxiety.

Savannah hesitated for a moment, and finally, she pushed open the door and ran away without promising her.

It was dark and cold outside the villa.

Savannah got into the car silently. Kevin felt that her mood was heavier than before as if she had something on her mind.

As the car sped down the road, the night wind blew in, and Savannah slowly calmed down.

"Dan, please stop here!" she said when they almost arrived at her apartment.

The car stopped at the side of the road. Dan glanced back at Savannah.

"What happened, Savannah?" Kevin asked in concern.

"I want to get out for a walk. Don't worry. It's within walking distance of my house. You should go home first," Savannah said calmly.

"It's not safe for you to hang out on the road at this late hour. Let me accompany you..." Kevin was a little worried.

"No, it's all right. Your broken leg is still healing, and you've overused it tonight because of me. You must go back to have a good rest. I'll call you when I return home. The security's very good here, I can't be abducted." Savannah gave Kevin a reassuring smile.

"Okay," Kevin nodded, "call me when you need me."

Savannah hopped out of the car, stood on the side of the road, and waved to Kevin. She watched the car speeding away and sighed deeply. Then she waved to stop a taxi.

"HC Police Station, please," she said to the driver.

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At the gate of the police station, Savannah got out of the car and stood there for a moment.

This was the police department responsible for her father's car accident.

Savannah calmed down and strode in, walking straight to the officer on duty.

'What can I do for you, miss?" The officer looked up from his computer and asked politely.

"Good evening, officer. I want to have a look at the file on a car accident ten years ago. The victim's name is Padgett Schultz. I'm her daughter." Savannah said calmly.

"A car accident ten years ago? Do you have any questions about that?" The officer stood up in surprise.

"Well... I was too young and could do nothing that year, but now I have some doubts about the accident that killed my father. Could you please show me the related files?"

Police officers almost laughed out. The young lady came in the middle of the night to investigate a car accident ten years ago?

"Miss, I'm sorry, but the files on solved cases will all be locked up and kept in the archives. The file on your father's case is also a confidential document, and it's impossible to take it out again as you required. For special cases, you need to submit written material and file petitions with the relevant administrative department. After the head approves, you can come here again." The officer explained to her.

"I just want to look at it, please, officer..." Savannah softened her voice. She had no time to go through all the procedures now.

"Sorry, miss, but it must be handled in accordance with specific regulations. Please go back." The officer was very intransigent.

Savannah had no choice but could only turn to leave helplessly. She walked out of the police station and stopped at the door. Was this to be the end? She hadn't found out the truth about her dad's car accident yet!

No. It could not be the end.

She must find out if dad's car accident had anything to do with the Rowe family.

But how could she find the truth if she couldn't even touch the file on the accident?

A figure flashed into her mind.

Dylan Sterling.

When she brought a charge of violation against him to the police last time, nothing seemed to damage him, and he even brought her away from the police station freely. Obviously, he had people in the police.

As long as he told the police to do her a favor, she could get the file immediately!

But... she had divorced him and had nothing to do with him now. She had said so many ruthless words to hurt him...

Was it really a good idea to ask him for help now?

But she really couldn't think of anyone else with the power to help her.

She must find out the truth about the accident!

It didn't matter even if she had to lose face in front of that man or be ridiculed by him!

Under the lamp of the police station, Savannah took out the mobile phone and found his number on the blacklist.

She took a breath and called him. After a long wait, the call was finally answered.

"Hello, Mr. Sterling?" Savannah spoke first.

However, a little surprised boy's voice, instead of that man's voice, was heard from the phone.

"Mommy!"

"Kaiden? How are you?" Savannah was surprised to hear his voice too.

"Daddy just got home, and he's taking a bath. I heard his cell phone ring, so I come over to have a look!"

# Chapter 464: It Could Not Be A Coincidence

"Oh? You know my name at such a young age." She praised him casually.

"I know a lot of words! The caller ID says 'disobedient wild cat', and I know it's you," said Kaiden triumphantly.

Savannah's face flushed red. That mad man!

"What does mommy want with daddy? He's still in the shower! Shall I take the phone to the bathroom for him?" Kaiden pointed the phone in the direction of the bathroom so she could hear the sound of the shower water.

The image of the naked man came into her mind.

"No," she said busily, blushing again.

"Okay, mommy, wait for a moment, daddy should be out soon."

"I..." Savannah lost her courage, "never mind, Kaiden, don't tell your dad that I've called. Please delete my call record."

Then she hung up like a thief.

Maybe she should find new ways to investigate the accident.

Savannah looked back at the grim police station and left.

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Dylan walked out of the bathroom, wiping his hair with the towel. He saw Kaiden holding his cell phone, frowning slightly.

"My phone is not your toy."

"Mommy just called." Kaiden soon forgot Savannah's warning.

Dylan paused, looking at Kaiden. His heart began to pulse faster.

The little woman called him?

"Mommy seems to have something to talk to you. She's in a hurry."

Dylan's heartbeat slowed down. Well, perhaps she just had something to ask for his help? He could think of no other reason for her to call him.

It must be an important thing, or she wouldn't call him in the middle of the night.

He called Judy in to take Kaiden away and picked up the phone. He found out her number but paused. Then, instead of calling the little woman, he called Garwood.

"Call Savannah and ask her what she wants."

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Savannah was on her way home when she received a call from Garwood.

"Miss Schultz, you just called Mr. Sterling. What can I do for you?" Garwood asked over the phone.

Savannah grinned bitterly. Kaiden told him. However, that man didn't call her himself. It seemed that, as expected, he had given up on her, determined not to have any direct contact with her. He was perhaps just polite to let Garwood call back.

Now that Garwood had called and asked, she didn't need to hide.

"Sorry to bother you in the middle of the night. I want to have a look at the file on my father's car accident that year before I fly to Italy. However, the police refused me, saying that I must go through a series of troublesome procedures first. It's a confidential document, and I don't think my application would be accepted at last. So, I would like to ask Mr. Sterling for help. If it's not convenient for him, just forget it." Savannah held the phone tightly.

"That's simple. Just a file. But... Miss Schultz, why do you suddenly want to retrieve the file on your father's car accident?"

"Oh, I was too young to ask anything about my father's death that year, and I knew nothing about the details. Now I want to see if he had any last words or things left." Savannah said the same thing to Garwood as she told the officer.

"I see," Garwood didn't ask anymore. "No problem. Which police station handled your father's case? I'll get in touch with them."

Savannah told him and thanked him before she hung up.

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The next morning, Savannah got up and received a call from HC Police Station. The officer said that the file on her father's accident had been taken out, and she could go to check it at any time.

She knew that man was powerful in LA, but she didn't expect him to be so efficient.

Recovering from her first stupefaction, she thanked the officer and hung up the phone, changed her clothes, and ran out of the house.

When she arrived at the police station, a policewoman led her to a room where a leather file bag was lying on a desk.

"Miss Schultz, you can take your time here. Let me know if you need anything." She said as she handed a cup of warm water to her, and her tone was very polite. Obviously, she had been informed and knew this girl was an important person.

"Thank you." Savannah learned Dylan's position in the police again.

After the policewoman left, she hurriedly sat down and took out the yellow file.

The file detailed the accident that her father had ten years ago, including the scene of the car accident, as well as the photos of her father's body. She choked back her tears and continued with the file.

She remembered clearly that the police decided her father's car accident was an accident due to her father's fatigue driving. The car hit the flower bed at the roadside, resulting in a car crash and her father's death.

She never thought there was anything wrong with it... until she heard her mother question Mr. Rowe yesterday.

If her father's car accident was not an accident, but a murder... There must be some clues in the file!

She studied the file carefully without missing a word, not even a note.

She didn't know how long it took.

Suddenly, she stopped and fixed her gaze at a record, which had been obviously altered!

This part was the inspection report of the damaged car. All components of the car were normal, such as the steering wheel, the engine, and the brake, but when she looked at it carefully, she found the description for the brake had been apparently changed!

Did that mean there was something wrong with the brake of the car originally, but someone changed the result to normal?

That was the only reason! Why else?

If the brake was broken, it might not be an accident, but a murder!

A chill ran up her spine. She looked again at the name of the officer who had been in charge of the case, and then she hurried out of the room.

"Miss Schultz? Anything I can do for you?" The policewoman immediately came forward.

Savannah tried to calm herself down and asked casually, "may I speak to Officer Black, the one who was in charge of the accident?"

"Officer Black?" The policewoman glanced at the name on the file and understood. "Sorry, he left his job a long time ago."

"When did he leave?"

"Well, ten years ago, not long after your father's accident."

Officer Black had just resigned from his job after he ended the car accident?

It could not be a coincidence!

#### Chapter 465: No More Tears

There must be a catch in it.

"Do you know where did Officer Black went after he resigned?" Savannah leaned forward and asked.

"It was said that he went to Chicago." The policewoman had a good memory.

Officer Black went to Chicago?

Savannah's heart was beating fast. The color went off her face.

"Miss Schultz, what happened?" The policewoman noticed her pale face.

"Nothing... Is Officer Black from Chicago?" Savannah held her breath.

"Oh no, his son is working in Chicago, so he moved to live with his son."

"His son must be something? What does he do?" She held her breath.

The policewoman had been ordered to treat the young lady with courtesy, so she explained patiently.

"I'm not very clear, but it was said that he went to a big company under the MTN group in Chicago, and he was given the job. Later he bought a house and a car there. His position is getting higher. That's why his father left and enjoyed the rest of his life there." The policewoman admired her former colleague's good fortune

However, her words chilled Savannah's blood.

That was it.

The report of the car accident on the file had been redacted.

The officer left his job after this case and went to his son, who was given a job in the MTN group in Chicago and promoted all the way.

It all added up to the Rowe family relating to her father's death!

When the Rowe family learned that Officer Black was in charge of the case, they found him and asked him to change the case from murder into an accident; then Officer Black resigned, and they promised his son a bright career in return. And the horror car accident would be concealed forever!

Why did the Rowe family do this? The reason was obvious.

Because the Rowe family was the murderer that dominated her father's car accident, they did that to escape punishment for their crime!

She wasn't sure whether the one who planned everything was Ethan Rowe or not, but that person was definitely from the Rowe family!

That year, in order to let her mother, the lady from the Morton family, be willing to marry into the Rowe family, they sent people to LA and damaged the brake in her father's car, and then her father died in a car crash!

Her poor dad...

"Miss Schultz? Are you all right?" The policewoman asked in a hesitating worried tone. The young lady was trembling slightly in front of her as if she would faint at the next moment.

"Nothing... Thank you, officer. I have to go." Savannah said as calmly as she could be, crushing her nails into her palms and grinding her teeth to subdue her anger and sadness.

She knew her father's death was related to the Rowe family, but what could she do now?

Even though Officer Black's son was working for the MTN group and the file on the case had been tampered with, she had no evidence that it was done by the Rowe family.

No one would believe it. With the status and prestige of the Rowe family, they could easily get a strong team of lawyers to fight with her, and she didn't think she had a chance to succeed.

\* \* \*

The sky was bright when she went to the police station, but it turned gloomy when she arrived at the graveyard where her father was buried.

Lightning flashed, and thunder rumbled in the black clouds over the graveyard. The storm was coming.

Savannah kneeled down in front of her father's grave, watching his father's black and white photo. A tear, larger than an ocean pearl, fell from her vacant eyes.

"Dad, I'm sorry, I didn't know your death was a terribly atrocious crime..." She cried, her voice shaking with sadness.

The sky turned darker, and suddenly, rain poured down.

Savannah didn't move at all, still sitting in front of the grave. The cold rain beat down on her pale face, mixed with her tears.

Was god feeling wronged for dad, too?

"Dad, don't worry. Though I don't have hard evidence against the Rowe family, I will make them pay for your life!" Her eyes turned bloody-red with hate and vehemence in them.

The thunder continued to rumble.

She touched her father's picture on the stone, resolution in her eyes.

Finally, she wiped the tears away and got up.

No more tears.

Weakness wouldn't do help. The Rowe family should get its punishment.

She couldn't live a life without care before that.

Kevin tried to phone Savannah several times today, but nobody answered.

He asked Dan to drive him to her house. Then, supporting himself with a cane, he took the elevator up and knocked on her door.

No one answered the door for a long time. He was about to open it with the spare key when it suddenly opened. Savannah, wearing a loose bathrobe, was wiping her hair behind the door, and she seemed to just have taken a shower.

"Kevin, what are you doing here?" She asked in surprise and led him in.

"Where have you been today? Why not answer the phone?" Kevin sat on the sofa and sighed with relief when he saw she was safe.

"I visited my father's graveyard today. It rained suddenly, and I got wet when I came back. I was taking a bath just now." Savannah said, but her voice was not soft as usual.

"Oh, well, we're going back to Italy soon. I really need to pay a visit to your father's graveyard with you." Kevin smiled.

<sup>\* \* \*</sup> 

Savannah froze for a moment.

"Kevin, I'm sorry, but I want to discuss something with you." She put down the towel and looked at Kevin.

"Go ahead." Her words caught his heart in suspense.

"I can't go to Italy with you for the moment. I still have something to do..."

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

"I just met my mother again, and I want to spend more time with her. Wait till she's better." She said quietly.

"Is that really why you want to stay?" Kevin stared at her.

"Yeah. I've thought about it. Though I was a little angry with my mother at first, we're still mother and daughter. So, I decide to spend more time with her."

The sudden change in Savannah's attitude made Kevin quite upset. He didn't know why, but he felt there must be another reason.

"Kevin, don't worry, I'll take care of myself. You can just go first and wait for me in Italy, and I'll fly to Italy to live with you soon." Savannah's voice was still calm.

"But Savannah..."

"I feel a cold coming on, and I want to get some sleep." Savannah, however, didn't want to explain more.

Disappointed, Kevin had to get up, "okay, have a good rest."

When he left, and the door slowly closed in front of her, Savannah's eyes turned red.

Sorry, Kevin. Please forgive me. I promised to go back with you right away, but I stood you up.

#### Chapter 466: His Mother Was So Young

She hoped that Kevin could forgive her indifference to him.

This revenge was between her and the Rowe family. She didn't know what the consequences would be, and she didn't want him to be involved or have any trouble because of her.

So, she had to stay away from him for the moment.

If she succeeded in getting her revenge and the Rowe family got what they deserved, she would explain everything to him and go with him.

\* \* \*

**Royal Villa** 

Joanne hung up the phone, sitting on the couch in disbelief.

"Baby, what's the matter? Why don't you rest in your room? You aren't quite well yet. Who are you talking to?" Ethan came downstairs.

"Ethan, it's Savannah!" Joanne woke up and said excitedly, "do you know what she said? She won't leave. She'd like to stay with me!"

"Really? That's great. Will she move in?" Ethan had never seen his wife so happy, and he was also happy for her.

Joanne's smile froze, and she sighed. "I asked her to move and live with me, but she said... After all, she isn't from the Rowe family, so it's inconvenient for her to live here. But she will come to visit me often. That's fine. As long as she's willing to stay, I'm quite satisfied. Ethan, I want to stay in LA and not go back to Chicago for the time being. Is that okay with you?"

"Sure." Ethan nodded. He never let his wife down.

"I should empty a room for Savannah!" Joanne stood up with a bright smile, "though she won't live here, she may come often. Sometimes she has to take a break."

Joanne worked herself excited, and she took her maid upstairs to clean up a room for Savannah.

"Dear, just order the maid if Savannah's room needs anything. Don't work too hard yourself." Ethan looked helplessly at his wife's back.

Meanwhile, Charlotte, at the corner of the stairs, overheard her parents' conversation. She watched Joanne walking upstairs with a glow of joy that made her ten years younger.

Savannah had decided to stay...

A call from her could bring Joanne, who had been lying on the bed for days, to life, and make her parents stay in LA, and now everyone in the Rowe family was busy for her.

Why? Savannah had nothing to do with the Rowe family!

Charlotte could almost foresee how Savannah would be welcomed and well-treated by Joanne every time she came. Her father always took her stepmother as the most important one, so his father would also think highly of Savannah. By then, Savannah's status in the Rowe family might be even higher than her!

Why? After stepping in between Dylan and her, now she wanted to take her stepmother away again?

Savannah, why don't you leave and never show up in front of me?

\* \* \*

Royal Saint Laurent international kindergarten

There were lots of cars and people in front of the gate of the kindergarten in the evening after school hours, parents, drivers, and nannies coming in and out busily.

Beautiful girls and boys said goodbye to their teachers before they were taken away by their families.

"Mommy!" Kaiden, who was waiting for Louis behind the gate as usual, suddenly opened his eyes wide and cried in pleasant surprise.

A familiar slim figure was looking around at the gate, and she walked towards him at his voice.

Kaiden rushed to the gate immediately.

"Good boy," Savannah picked Kaiden up.

"Why are you here, mommy?" Kaiden asked in excitement.

"To pick you up and take you to dinner." Savannah gave him a kiss on his forehead and smiled.

"Really?

"Of course."

Kaiden cheered and forgot Louis completely. He jumped to the ground, grabbed her hand, and waved at the teacher.

"Let's go, mommy." He walked with jaunty steps out. It was the first time that his mommy picked him up from kindergarten.

"Excuse me!" The teacher, after a pause, walked forward hastily to stop Savannah, "I'm sorry, you can't take Kaiden away."

Savannah looked back, a little embarrassed.

"According to Kaiden's legal guardian, he can only be picked up by designated people from the Sterling family, and I don't think you're included..."

"This is my mom!" Kaiden immediately said.

The teacher stayed for a moment. She had never seen Kaiden's mother since he studied here. His mother was so young? Just like a college student... and she looked familiar.

Oh, yeah. She came here together with Kaiden's father on the last activity day.

Before the teacher could say more, Kaiden waved his fat hand to her impatiently and pulled Savannah out of the gate by the hand.

Savannah stopped a taxi on the side of the road and led Kaiden in.

"Mommy, where are we going? Are you taking me home?"

"You want to go home?" Savannah asked deliberately.

"No!" He wanted to play outside.

"I'd like to take you to dinner first, and then we can go to the amusement park. Okay?" Savannah smiled.

"Wonderful!" Kaiden responded joyfully. "Mommy, aren't you going abroad? Why do you have time to take me to play?"

"I'm not leaving," Savannah said quietly.

"Really? Why?" Kaiden's eyes immediately lit up.

"Because I have some important things to do, and I can't leave until it's done." She smiled lightly.

Kaiden was a little confused, but he didn't ask any more questions. So long as mommy stayed!

They got out of the car at a KFC.

"Kaiden, I'm sorry. My salary has almost been used up. I can only treat you to this before I find a new job and earn more money," said Savannah apologetically.

"Wow, I like KFC! Daddy never allows me to eat this," Kaiden didn't mind. Instead, he was very happy.

"That's good," Savannah sighed with relief and led Kaiden in.

After dinner, she took him to the biggest amusement park nearby.

The playground at night was full of noise, laughter, and neon lights.

While Kaiden was laughing and waving to Savannah on the merry-go-round, Savannah stood not far away, watching Kaiden silently. The smile gradually faded on her face, and her expression turned a little guilty.

Kaiden had been wondering why she suddenly picked him up from kindergarten and took him to the amusement park tonight.

What could she say? Because she wanted to get back to Dylan by her son?

When she came back from the graveyard that day, she thought it over for several days and nights.

She was too powerless to revenge on the Rowe family, and she could only rely on that man.

Only by that, Dylan's power could she succeed.

# Chapter 467: Dad Is Going To Lose His Temper

She had divorced him and promised never to see him again, and he also seemed to have given up on her. Although he helped her with the file last time, he did not contact her directly. He did not even make a phone call to her in person. He didn't want to get involved in her life anymore. Maybe he would turn his back to her if she went to see him. If she wanted to approach him again, she had to use her own son.

Getting off the merry-go-round, Kaiden hopped up to Savannah. Savannah wiped away the sweat from his forehead and then held his hand. She turned and was ready to go to the next project, only to see a tall and cool figure standing in front of her. His handsome face was, however, not as bright as the colorful light in the park. He was staring at her, like an owl in the dark night.

Several bodyguards were standing behind him not far away.

Dylan came.

Her heart was beating violently. It should be what she had expected, but she was very nervous to see him.

"Daddy." Kaiden gasped, not expecting his father to be here so soon.

"Louis went to pick you up at the kindergarten, only to learn that you had run away with someone and not even called him. Kaiden, you are getting bolder and bolder." Dylan looked at his son, coldly.

Kaiden hid behind Savannah. Dad is going to lose his temper. It's terrible!

Savannah quickly stood forward a step, taking a deep breath.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Sterling, it's my fault. I miss Kaiden very much, so I went to pick him up and took him out to play. I forgot to call you in advance."

Dylan's gaze moved to her small face. He didn't say anything to blame her, as if he didn't notice what she had said. He ignored her and went directly to Kaiden.

"Go back with me." He tried to catch a grip on his hand, but Kaiden shunned and clutched Savannah's leg.

"No," he hadn't had enough fun yet, "I only played on a merry-go-round. We're going to try other amusement items!"

"Your mom's leaving soon, she has no time to play with you. Go back with me!" Dylan snapped, reaching for his hand.

"Mommy won't leave!" Kaiden winced into Savannah's arms.

Dylan paused, looking at her.

Savannah hung her head and murmured, "Now that we're here, please let Kaiden have more fun with me tonight. You said that I could visit Kaiden at any time."

Dylan said nothing more.

Savannah took Kaiden's hand and was about to go to a nearby game when Kaiden grabbed Dylan's hand and said, "Daddy, play with mommy and me!"

"Kaiden!" Savannah pinched his hand gently.

Dylan thought for a few seconds before taking Kaiden's hand.

Kaiden gave a shout of joy.

This evening, Kaiden had a really nice time with Dylan and Savannah in the amusement park. It was late at night before they left. At the gate, Kaiden, exhausted, was carried into the car by Louis and immediately fell asleep.

"Mr. Sterling, are you sending Miss Schultz home?" Garwood asked.

Dylan looked back and saw Savannah standing under the streetlamp. He was silent for a moment before he said to Savannah, "Garwood will drive you back." He got into the car which Kaiden was in.

Garwood was nonplussed for a moment, and then he reacted and walked to Savannah.

"Miss Schultz, it's late. Please get in the car, and I'll send you home."

Savannah bit her lip as she watched Dylan's car riding away.

It seemed that the man was still angry with her.

Although she had spent the night with Kaiden and him, he had said nothing to her.

There was an invisible wall between them. Maybe she really hurt him too much before. And now she got the dose of her own medicine.

But if he kept being so cold to her, how could she avenge herself on the Rowe family by his power?

\* \* \*

The next morning, Beverly Hills

Under the early morning sun, Dylan, in a white shirt, was reading the morning news on a chair by the French window.

"Sir," Garwood came to him.

"Got it?" Dylan looked up from the newspaper.

"Well. The reason Miss Schultz changed her schedule and stayed is that she found her own mother."

"Oh?" She found her mother, who disappeared more than ten years ago? "Who is she?"

"Ethan Rowe's second wife, Joanne Rowe. She's from the GTN group in Chicago," Garwood said.

Mrs. Rowe? The stepmother of Lionel and Charlotte? Dylan suddenly understood why Lionel had been so nice to Savannah. He probably knew early that the little woman was his stepmother's own daughter, his nominal sister.

"Mrs. Rowe is one of the most famous beauties in Chicago. Well, Miss Schultz does look kind of like her." Garwood met Joanne twice when he accompanied Mr. Sterling to business dinners. "Miss Schultz's father died early, and she had a bad relationship with her uncle and aunt. Now she finally found her own mother and wanted to spend more time with her, which is totally understandable."

Garwood stole a look at Mr. Sterling, who looked not very happy.

Well, though Miss Schultz would not go to Italy for the time being, she didn't stay for him.

\* \* \*

Kevin, leaning on his cane, stood at the flower bed in a park not far away from his apartment, silent for a long time. His expression was a little complicated.

Dan was standing next to him and just told him that Savannah met Dylan yesterday and took Kaiden to the amusement park together.

They met again.

"Kevin, would you like to meet Savannah and ask her? After all, now that you're in a relationship, you're her boyfriend, and you have the right," said Dan inquiringly.

Kevin regained his composure and shook his head. "No. I believe Savannah."

However, he could also hear the uncertainty in his tone.

"Do you really believe her? She suddenly changed her mind to stay in LA and let you go back to Italy first. Do you think... it's really for her mother?" Dan looked at him.

Dan was right. He had been wondering what the hell made her decide to stay, and he was more confused now. Was it because of Dylan?

"Thank you, Dan."

"Let me help you up." Dan looked at him, a little worried about his good friend and boss.

"No, go ahead, I can go back myself."

Dan didn't insist. He sighed and left for his car.

Kevin was about to go home when a familiar female voice called behind him, "Mr. Wills."

He turned and saw Charlotte.

"What are you doing here?" Kevin frowned.

# Chapter 468: Your Plan Works Well

Charlotte stood in front of him, her face pale.

"Why didn't Savannah go to Italy with you?" She sounded quite annoyed.

"You should know why," Kevin looked at her with a chilling smile, "Savannah has found her mother, and she wants to spend more time with her mother. Is that why you came to me today?"

"Do something and take her away, or she'll get a chance to meet Dylan again! Aren't you afraid they might rekindle their relationship? Only when you go to Italy with her will your relationship become more stable!" Charlotte looked at him anxiously.

Kevin, however, knew what she was worried about. Charlotte was afraid that the relationship between Savannah and her stepmother would become better and better, and she would have a lower status in the Rowe family.

"I'm sorry, Miss Rowe. This is Savannah's decision, and I cannot interfere. How can I stop a daughter who wants to be with her mother?" Kevin sneered and turned to leave.

"I know you can! Savannah trusts you, and if you can do something, you'll get her to go back to Italy with you soon!" Charlotte stopped him hurriedly.

"Miss Rowe, you overestimate me," Kevin replied impatiently.

"Didn't you arrange your car accident very well? I know you damaged your brake and deliberately planted the blame on Dylan so that Savannah felt sorry for you and promised to be your girlfriend, and she was willing to go back to Italy with you as soon as possible... You did a good job last time. Only one

more step and Savannah will go with you! Can't you think of another way?" Charlotte followed in his footsteps. She didn't realize that Kevin's face was even darker.

"Shut up!" Kevin snapped.

Charlotte realized that she had hit on the right thing.

"You've been so cruel to yourself," she said, "to make Savannah hate Dylan and win her love, you risked your own life. Good! I should learn from you. Your plan works well, and you amaze me by that, "

"That's enough! I don't want to mention that again, and I don't want to see you again. Go!" Kevin let out a low snarl.

Charlotte hammered every word into his heart, leaving him ashamed.

In order to take Savannah away as soon as possible, he did the most shameful thing for the first time in his life.

Charlotte, biting her teeth, grunted and left.

Kevin stood there for a long time to react to the upset in his mind. When he turned around, he froze in his stance.

Savannah, standing meters away by a sycamore tree, was gazing upon him, round-eyed.

He had no idea when she came. But the complexity and shock on her face proved that she had heard all that he had just said to Charlotte.

"Savannah!" Kevin was so surprised that he forgot his broken leg and stumbled forward.

Savannah, however, took two steps back as if she saw the devil.

She looked at him in a way she had never had before as if he was a stranger she had met on the first day.

"Savannah..." An awful pain mounted in Kevin's chest.

"Was Charlotte telling the truth?" Savannah asked stupidly, and the pain was clearly written on her face.

Kevin gritted his teeth and nodded slowly.

"Why..." Savannah's eyes turned slightly red, "Why would you do that? How did you become like this?"

Unexpectedly, what Dylan said that night was true. Kevin made an accident himself.

Even though she knew Kevin did it for her, she still couldn't accept it. Kevin, who was always gentle and kind, would do such a thing.

Kevin didn't know how to explain. In fact, there was nothing to explain because he did it, and she accused Dylan wrongly.

He deliberately called Dylan to JK and asked him to meet at his car; then he broke the brake himself and made a car accident in front of Savannah after that. Later, Savannah believed that Dylan wanted to kill

him, so she cut off the relationship with Dylan completely. She even agreed to be his girlfriend and pushed that man to divorce her.

"You said you would never lie to me." Savannah bit her lip and turned away.

"Sorry, Savannah..." Kevin felt bitter anguish as if he had lost something precious. Regardless of his leg, he shook off his cane and rushed to hold Savannah's hand.

But she quickly pulled her hand away from him!

"Sorry, I think we should reconsider our relationship." Savannah stiffened herself, keeping her eyes down.

"What do you mean? You... don't want to be with me?" Kevin froze.

"You cheated me with your own life... I wonder what else you could do... Sorry, Kevin, I don't want to see you now." Savannah's voice grew cold. With that, she turned away resolutely.

Kevin stood absently for a while. He felt he'd been stabbed in the heart!

His leg hurt suddenly, and he fell to the ground.

"Are you okay, Sir? Can I help you?" A passer-by asked kindly, but the handsome man kneeling on the ground gave no reply.

Kevin was breathing hard, and with his last strength, he waved his hand and shook to the neighbor.

In the distance, Savannah let out a low cry when she looked out of the taxi window and saw Kevin fall.

There was a moment that she almost rushed out of the car to help him up, but finally, she restrained!

I'm sorry. Kevin.

She was shocked and angry when she overheard the conversation and learned that the accident was made on his own.

In order to take her back to Italy, he even risked his life to trap Dylan. For the first time, she found that she had never really known him. Loneliness filled her heart, and tears slip down from her eyes.

She knew Kevin did that all because he loved her. But... Maybe this was a good chance.

She could use it as an excuse to keep a distance from Kevin for a while. In this way, she could deal with the Rowe family without additional worries.

#### Chapter 469: The Little Woman Admitted Her Identity

That was why she pretended to be angry and stroke Kevin with cold and sharp words.

That was good for her and Kevin.

"Kevin, I'm sorry..." Savannah grabbed her coat and lowered her eyes. Wiping off her tears, "Savannah, you'll have a long journey, you can do it," whispered herself and hailed a taxi.

"Shall we go, miss?" asked the taxi driver.

"Go ahead." Savannah bit her lip and looked away.

\* \* \*

The Sterling Group

The cool rays of the autumn sun, filtered by the pale blue curtains, slanted into the large office. The man in front of the desk was working on the document. Suddenly, there came a noise from outside.

"Miss Schultz, you don't have an appointment. You can't go in... Well, please wait outside for a while. I'll inform my boss first."

The word "Miss Schultz" clearly came to Dylan's ears. He wrinkled his brows slightly.

The door was knocked, and the secretary poked her head through the door apologetically.

"Excuse me, Mr. Sterling. Miss Schultz wants to see you. Shall I ask the guard to send her away?"

The secretary came to the company last year, and she was not clear about the relationship between the young lady and her boss. She was frightened to be blamed when she failed to stop the lady last time, but she also understood that Miss Schultz must have a special relationship with Mr. Sterling, so she dared not be too rude to her.

"What's she doing here?" Dylan looked up from his document.

"She didn't say it."

After a long pause, Dylan finally said, "let her in."

A moment later, Savannah walked into the office and looked at the man behind the desk, a little nervous.

"You don't come here to slap me again, do you? Miss Schultz?" Dylan sneered.

"I came to apologize today." Savannah bit her lip.

Dylan raised his eyebrows.

"I just learned the truth about Kevin's car accident. It's none of your business... Kevin set a trap to...make me give up on you. Sorry," Savannah said in a low voice.

Dylan was silent for a long time before he smiled ironically, "so, I was slapped in the face for nothing?"

"I'm really sorry. I didn't expect Kevin to do something like this." Savannah hung her head even lower.

"You came here today to say sorry?" Dylan, however, didn't believe she came in person for the apology only.

The man could always read her mind. Savannah looked at him.

"One more thing..."

"Go ahead." He knew she wouldn't come to him if she hadn't something to ask of him.

"I want to go back to work in Zagreb Film." She clenched her hands nervously, knowing she might be ridiculed by him.

"Why? Don't you want to go back to Italy with your boyfriend?" Dylan asked ironically.

"I won't leave for some time. And... we had a quarrel. I asked him to go to Italy first," she murmured.

"You gave me too much information today." His eyes darkened.

"Anyway, I want to stay in LA. In this case, I must have a job to support myself. I want to go back to the company." Savannah summoned up her courage and said.

"Why? Just because Kevin cheated you with the car accident?" Dylan picked up a cigar and lit it up gracefully.

"Besides this... I've found my mother. I want to stay in LA and spend more time with her." Savannah lowered her face and did not look at him, afraid that he could read her mind.

"Mrs. Rowe?"

She was not surprised that he knew it. With his power, there was nothing she could conceal from him. Well, since he knew Mrs. Rowe was her mother, it meant that he still paid a little attention to her. That was good, she had a better chance to return to him. At least he didn't completely lose interest in her.

"Yes." She nodded.

He took a puff on his cigarette and moved his shoulders a bit. The smoke lingered between his lips, making the expression on his pretty face unclear.

"Why do you think you can go back after quitting your job?" He asked and smiled distantly.

The vindictive and narrow-minded man!

He still held a grudge. He did a lot to keep her when she asked to quit again and again, but she always insisted on leaving. After Kevin's accident, she even came to question him in such a rude way. He had every reason to complain.

"Why..." Savannah plucked up her courage, looking into his eyes, "because I'm your ex-wife and Kaiden's mother."

He was surprised to hear that. For the first time, the little woman admitted her identity as his ex-wife. Before, she refused to accept any help from him for fear of having anything to do with him.

Now, for a job, she was even willing to mention their marriage.

Was it for work or something else?

He put out the cigar and stood up, bypassed the desk, and slowly stopped in front of her. He was so close to her that she could clearly smell the smoke and feel the familiar hot breath from him.

"Do you really need this job?" He leaned over to her ear.

She knew he must have some doubts about her. But she couldn't turn back now.

"Yes," she repressed the trembling of her breath.

She needed the job to get closer to him, to regain his love, to make use of his power, to get revenge on the Rowe family for her father...

The charming, sweet fragrance from the little woman almost softened his heart. But he quickly stiffened himself, gazing at her with his quiet eyes.

"I'm sorry, Miss Schultz, it's your choice to resign. Zagreb Film isn't a garden, and you can't just come and go as you please. Besides, it shouldn't be too difficult for you to find a job as a designer elsewhere." He said drily.

She asked to leave, and now she wanted to come back?

Didn't she remember how she slapped him in the face for Kevin? He could still feel the dull pain on his cheek. He tried his best to hold her, but she chose to run away.

Did he give her too much tolerance to let her be so presumptuous?

If so, this time, it would be a lesson, and he would let her know that his patience was limited.

### Chapter 470: Take Her Out

Savannah didn't expect that he refused her. Disappointed and rather upset, she looked at him without a word. Perhaps, he was more upset than her when she treated him so indifferently before.

"Nothing else? Please leave. I still have a lot of business to do." Dylan ignored her and went back to his desk.

Then he picked up and dialed the intercom. "Take Miss Schultz out."

"No, Mr. Sterling, please let me go back, I don't want to go to another company, I just want to go back to Zagreb Film..." Savannah came to her senses and rushed to his desk.

At this time, the secretary came in and stopped in front of Savannah, "Miss Schultz, please."

Savannah did not move, still looking at Dylan. She tried her best to ignore humiliation to seek Dylan's help.

"Miss Schultz, if you don't go yourself, I'll have to call the security." The secretary frowned, and half pulled Savannah out.

"One more thing," as they reached the door, Dylan ordered the secretary coldly, "notify the security, don't let her in again."

"Yes!" the secretary immediately replied.

Savannah looked back, but he didn't even give her a last glance. She knew Dylan had changed, and it had something to do with her bad treatment towards him.

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**Royal Villa** 

A silver-grey limousine stopped in front of the house, and a servant helped a tall and old lady out.

The old lady, in her sixties, looked well-preserved and elegant in a black cotton blouse and printed scarf.

On the steps, Ethan and Joanne, who had been waiting for a long time, walked forward to greet her.

"Mom, there you are!"

The old lady was Ethan's mother, Lionel, and Charlotte's grandmother, who just flew to LA from Chicago today.

"Mom, why didn't you tell us a few days in advance? I would have flown to pick you up if I had known you're coming." Ethan said helplessly as he handed his mother into the house.

"My son and my grandchildren are all here. I'm alone in Chicago and feel really bored. So I came to accompany you. Why am I unwelcome?" Granny Rowe said with a smile.

"Of course not," Ethan laughed. "Charlotte will be happy to see her grandma here." His mother loved Charlotte the most.

Joanne smiled lightly. She knew that her mother-in-law had rarely gone outside in recent years. This time, she came not just because she missed them, but that she heard about Savannah.

"Mom, you must be tired after the flight, you should have a rest first," Joanne said softly.

Accompanied by her son and daughter-in-law, Granny Rowe entered the living room and sat down on the couch.

"Where are Lionel and Charlotte?" She asked, looking around.

"Lionel's busy at the company and hasn't been back. Charlotte..." Ethan glanced hesitantly upstairs. "Charlotte isn't feeling well, and she's in her room now."

"I'll see my dear Charlotte." Granny Rowe stood up slowly and went upstairs, accompanied by a maid. She knocked on the door of Charlotte's room before she walked in.

"Charlotte, my baby, are you ill?"

Charlotte was playing on her iPad on the bed. She jumped out of bed when she saw Granny Rowe coming.

"Gramma!" She threw herself into her grandma's arms.

"My darling, what's the matter? Why do you look unhappy?" Granny Rowe immediately knew that Charlotte wasn't physically ill but mentally ill.

"Can I be glad to have another sister unexpectedly?" Charlotte pouted, and her tone was even more aggrieved.

"My dear, she's the daughter your stepmother had with her ex-husband. She has nothing to do with the Rowe family." Granny Rowe smiled and patted her granddaughter on the back.

"But mom likes her too much," Charlotte said unhappily, "Mom's solely preoccupied with her own daughter and could hardly care about me anymore. She arranged a room for Savannah in our house, and she bought a lot of beautiful clothes and asked the servant to send them to her. Even dad paid more attention to Savannah because of mom. My brother? Oh, it was he who arranged the meeting between mom and Savannah. In his mind, he owed that girl too much, and she's more important than his real sister! Now everyone in the family is partial to her!"

Charlotte felt worse as she spoke. She buried herself in her grandmother's arms and began to cry.

"Don't be silly. Anyway, you're the only daughter of your father. I love you best!" Granny Rowe hugged her granddaughter as she comforted her.

"Besides my family, Savannah also wants to take Dylan away from me..." Charlotte sobbed.

"You mean..." Granny Rowe was surprised.

"She's Dylan's ex-wife..." Charlotte murmured.

"You said the woman who had given Dylan a baby and then disappeared... is Savannah?" Granny Rowe knew about her granddaughter's crush on Dylan, and she had heard about that woman.

Charlotte nodded with tears in her eyes.

Granny Rowe took a breath. The world was so small that the two girls were romantically involved with the same man.

"Dylan couldn't go steady with me because of Savannah. Three years later, when he almost forgot her, she suddenly reappeared, as his wife, the mother of Kaiden... How can I compete with her? Now my parents and brother all dote on her, but she still wants to take away the man I love... Grandma, I can't be reconciled..." Charlotte burst into tears.

Granny Rowe patted her granddaughter on the shoulder and said with a determined tone, "she's just a bastard. She can't take anything from you. Don't worry, grandma's here. I'll help you."

\* \* \*

The Sterling Group

Garwood hung up the phone and knocked on the door of the CEO's office.

"Sir, old Mrs. Rowe called and invited you to have dinner at the Royal Villa this weekend."

"Old Mrs. Rowe?" Dylan gave a slight frown.

"Yes." Garwood paused and whispered, "Old Mrs. Rowe hasn't been out of town for many years. This time she came to LA because she heard that Mrs. Rowe had found her daughter."

He wanted to know the reason why the Old Mrs. Rowe invited him.