

Midnight 581

Chapter 581: I Don't Want To Sleep Alone

Savannah, seeing that he seemed to be leaving, grabbed him by the sleeve.

"Stay with me..." she whispered.

Dylan paused and softened his tone, "what you should do now is to have a good rest."

"I don't want to sleep alone... Stay with me." She looked like a wayward little girl when she was sick.

After a moment's hesitation, he took off his coat, climbed onto the bed, and put his arms around her.

He quietly accompanied her in the dark bedroom.

Savannah noticed his silence. She didn't know why, but she felt she was alienated today.

He seemed preoccupied...

Was he unhappy because Kevin sent her to the hospital today?

But if he cared, he would not have agreed to invite Kevin to their wedding.

Maybe he was just too busy with Devin's affair and the business and too tired to talk.

Or maybe because she was sick, and he wanted her to get more rest.

So long as he could accompany her quietly, she would be content and happy, and she was not afraid of any nightmare.

Savannah closed her eyes and pressed herself tightly in his warm arms.

He felt her attachment, and his body reacted to her immediately. Desire pooled in his belly.

She sensed his reaction, opened her eyes, and found his lips in the dark. She gave him a soft kiss. Not seeing him for days, she missed him so much, and she believed he did too. Even if he wanted to have her now, she wouldn't refuse.

Dylan deepened the kiss, responding to her. He pushed her against his body, but his hand didn't move on. He seemed to be suppressing his desire for her, preferring to endure the heat all over his body and the sweat on his forehead rather than go any further.

A little disappointed, Savannah raised her poor little face and stared at him with beautiful eyes.

"Dylan..." she called his name with her softest voice as her hand touched his back.

A hot flame licked up from his belly. He pinned her down, his hand shaking on her waist. Savannah was ready to welcome his assault when he suddenly raised himself.

"You've not altogether recovered yet," he said hoarsely.

Savannah felt a little embarrassed. So he didn't want sex because he was worried about her health condition?

"It's time to take medicine. I'll get you the pills and water." Dylan got out of bed and went to the door.

"Dylan," Savannah paused and said, "the medicine and water are on the bedside table. Didn't you bring them in just now?"

Dylan froze, glanced at the bedside, and then he turned back and picked up the glass.

"Oh, I have a mind like a sieve," he smiled to break the embarrassment, handing her the medicine.

Savannah didn't think much. After taking the pills, she lay down again.

Curling up in his arms, she fell asleep.

It was already noon when she got up the next day,

With his company, as expected, it was a night without nightmares.

She felt refreshed, and her illness was completely gone.

Garcia told her, Dylan got up early this morning and took Kaiden to the kindergarten before he went to work.

She thought he was having a hard time these days. So she decided to make some nourishing soup so he could drink it when he came back after work.

"Savannah has really grown up," Garcia laughed and joked, "you're a qualified housewife now."

But that day, the soup, cooked by Savannah for hours, became cold and then went bad, failing to get him.

After leaving Green Bay that morning, he did not return for another week.

Savannah called him, but either no one answered or the call transferred to Garwood.

And he was either at a meeting in the company or at a press conference to deal with media reports.

Seeing him so busy, Savannah did not dare to call him anymore.

A few days later, even Kaiden seemed to feel something was wrong. This evening, he came back from kindergarten and asked Savannah why daddy had not come to see them for a long time.

Savannah began to feel uneasy. She was about to call him again when the phone rang.

"Savannah." Old Sterling's voice came over the phone.

"Are you better, sir?" Savannah asked quickly.

After Devin died, old Sterling suffered high blood pressure and stayed in the hospital for several days before he went back home. Savannah took Kaiden to visit him the day before yesterday and was relieved to see that he was well.

Now he called her all of a sudden at night. Did something go wrong again?

"I'm much better. I'm calling to ask... You didn't have a quarrel with Dylan, did you?" Old Sterling's voice was uncertain.

"No, why?" Savannah was puzzled for a second as if she didn't understand what he was driving at.

Old Sterling hesitated and said haltingly, "Devin's funeral affairs have been done a few days before. I asked Dylan about your wedding, but he said...later. I thought there was some kind of problem between you again. So I called to ask."

Savannah did not reply at once.

Now that Devin's affairs were done, why not go on with the marriage arrangements?

Why hadn't he come for days?

"Oh..." After a long silence, she forced a smile. "We're fine. Perhaps he thinks it's not good to have the wedding after so much has happened."

Old Sterling nodded, "yes. Alas! Your marriage is really full of twists and turns. Something always happens before your wedding."

Savannah comforted old Sterling a few words and hung up the phone. She sat there quite still for a long time. She stared at the floor, blankly.

Garcia, seeing her uneasy expression, came over.

"Is that old Sterling? What did you say?"

Savannah told Garcia old Sterling's worries.

"The funeral's already been held?" Garcia gasped, "then why hasn't Mr. Sterling rearranged the wedding yet?"

"Perhaps he thought it improper to have a wedding so soon after the funeral," Savannah spoke for him.

Chapter 582: His Tone Was Cold As Ice

"Improper? What's the big deal? Mr. Yontz only his nephew, and I don't think they had ever been on good terms. How can Mr. Sterling put off your wedding because of his nephew's funeral? Savannah, anything happened between you? Even old Mr. Sterling feels strange for it!" Garcia was a little worried.

Kaiden seemed to sense something was wrong. He threw down his plate, jumped out of his chair, and ran over to Savannah.

"Mommy, I told Lisa and my friends that you and daddy are going to get married. I can't break my words!"

Looking at Kaiden's worried face, Savannah calmed down and squatted down.

"Don't worry, baby. Your daddy's temporarily delayed by some business. I'll ask him."

Savannah called Dylan again before coming out, but no one answered. Then she called Beverly Hills, Judy answered and said Dylan had not come home. He seemed to be in the company, having a video conference with an important foreign customer tonight.

It was a little after seven in the evening when Savannah arrived at the Sterling group.

She took the elevator to his floor. The secretary was not there, so she went directly to the CEO's office and knocked on the door.

After so many days, she was a little excited to see him.

Unexpectedly, a young woman's voice came from inside the office.

"Come in." And the voice was quite familiar.

Savannah's mind went blank.

How did it sound like... Fiona?

Did she hear it wrong? Why was Fiona here?

She held her breath, pushed the door, and saw Fiona standing next to Dylan's desk.

Fiona was wearing a sharp charcoal suit jacket and white shirt. Her long ponytail was replaced by waves. The way she dressed and her make-up today made her more mature and attractive.

Dylan was sitting in a leather swivel chair by the French window.

The air was silent for a few seconds.

Savannah stayed for a while. She did not understand how Fiona was in Dylan's office.

"Fiona, why are you here?" Finally, Savannah broke the silence.

Fiona took a look at Dylan and didn't seem to know what to say.

"Fiona has been transferred to head office. Now she's my private secretary." Dylan said simply.

Savannah was struck.

Why was Fiona suddenly transferred to the head office as his secretary?

When did he get so intimate with Fiona?

Moreover, Fiona was her friend after all, but neither Fiona nor Dylan had even said a word to her until today.

Dylan remained impassive as he saw Savannah's complex expression.

"Fiona," he motioned her out.

Savannah stared at him wordlessly. Her heart wrenched, and she was pained by the sense of betrayal.

Fiona nodded, seemingly unable to look at Savannah, dropped her head, and left the office.

The office fell silent.

Savannah wanted him to explain to her why he would transfer Fiona here as his secretary and why he was so close to her.

"What would you like to see me about?" He asked coldly.

Savannah bit her lips, feeling empty and lost.

They hadn't seen each other for more than a week. When they met today, he didn't show any yearning. His manner was so cold and aloof as if she was only his common subordinate.

His attitude towards Fiona was even softer than that towards her.

"It's been a long time since you came to Green Bay last time. Kaiden wondered why he hadn't seen you for days." She said quietly.

"I'm busy." He gave her two simple words as an explanation.

Her heart sank, and then she summoned up courage. "Your father called today and asked me about the wedding..."

"Oh, good. I was actually about to let you know about the wedding." Dylan interrupted her.

She got a bad feeling.

"The wedding's canceled." His cold, sharp words pricked cut her to the quick!

"Wait, you mean, we're not getting married?" Her voice slightly trembled.

"No." His tone was cold as ice.

Something seemed to be wringing her heart.

"Why?" She managed a word.

"Your cousin killed Devin, my nephew, and it had made a noise. What's more, you had been my nephew's fiancée years ago. If I marry you, the family of a murderer, the media will make up a story against us, and the outside world will gossip about the matter and laugh at me. Shares of the Sterling group will also be influenced," deadpanned Dylan.

"Because the murderer is my cousin, for the sake of the reputation of your family, you won't marry me?" Savannah couldn't believe it.

"It's a big scandal for my family that my nephew was killed by the cousin of my wife. But as long as we don't get married, this kind of scandal won't happen. You know how important fame is to our family. I hope you can understand my difficulties." Dylan looked at her quietly, as if he were talking to a stranger.

Savannah got a lump in her throat, her eyes were blinded by tears, and gradually she began to lose sight of the person in front of her.

Was the man in front of her really, Dylan? Was he still the man she loved and wanted to marry?

Why was it possible for him to say such cruel things?

But he continued to stab her in the heart with the knife.

"Don't worry, you've been with me for so long, and you gave birth to my son. I won't mistreat you. Though you have no chance to be my wife, you have my words that you will have a comfortable and wealthy life. If you want, custody of Kaiden can be turned over to you..."

Before he got the last word out, Savannah gave him a good cuff!

Dylan didn't dodge. He wiped the blood on his lips with the back of his hand.

He was not annoyed, as if with this slap in the face, he could completely disassociate himself from the relationship with her.

"By the way," he quirked up his lips in a half-smile and continued, "I'm not going to stop you from being with Kevin. I know he's been waiting for you for a long time, and now he's back. It's the right time for you to get back together."

Chapter **583: I'm Not Going To Marry Her**

"Dylan, you're kidding me, aren't you?" Savannah asked feebly, her eyes reddened.

"I'm afraid not," Dylan replied nonchalantly.

Large tears gathered in her eyes and broke hot across her cheeks. She couldn't bear it anymore and ran out of the office.

Savannah didn't know how she got back to Green Bay. What happened this day made her muddle headed and heartbroken.

She did not take a taxi but walked home.

In a trance, she was almost hit by a car when she crossed the road, and she even fell and scraped the skin off her knees and hands.

In the doorway, she dried her eyes so that Kaiden and Garcia didn't have to worry about her.

"Mommy!" Kaiden rushed over as she got into the house.

"Where's daddy?" He looked behind Savannah, a little disappointed that his daddy had not come back with his mommy.

Garcia came over and noticed that Savannah was not looking well.

"Savannah, did you meet Mr. Sterling? What did he say?"

"He's...very busy lately..." Savannah refrained from bitterness.

Could anything be as important as their wedding?

"Take me to daddy! I want to talk to him myself!" Kaiden grabbed her hand but accidentally touched the broken skin.

Savannah pulled her hand away with a moan of pain.

"What's the matter?" Garcia gave a little exclamation as she saw clearly Savannah's injured hand and the dirt on her clothes.

"It's all right." Savannah didn't want to frighten Kaiden.

Garcia asked a nanny to take Kaiden to dinner and then pulled Savannah to the side and asked anxiously, "Savannah, what the hell happened?"

Savannah couldn't hold it anymore. The scalding water burst forth from her eyes. She threw herself into Garcia's arms and told her what Dylan said.

Garcia was speechless and shocked.

Because it was a scandal that Savannah's cousin killed Mr. Sterling's nephew, he decided not to get married to Savannah?

Could Mr. Sterling really be so cruel to Savannah for the sake of the reputation of the Sterling family?

"I never heard such nonsense!" Garcia was so angry that she rolled up her sleeves and retorted hotly. "If he thinks you could be easily bullied, he's mistaken! How could he abandon you for such a reason? I'll tell your mother, and we'll get even with him!" Garcia said resentfully and took out her cell phone.

"No, Garcia, don't tell mom..." Savannah reached out to stop her.

Joanne was now busy taking care of Ethan, and the Rowe family's great deal of trouble also needed her concern. Savannah didn't want to add to her troubles.

Besides, what then if mom and Garcia could back her up?

Could they run up to Dylan and ask him why he refused to marry her? And then force him to marry her? She didn't want to be humiliated like this.

Did it make sense if, under pressure, he changed his mind and married her?

She did not want him to be forced to marry her. She wanted his heart.

Garcia was able to guess Savannah's thoughts. She shut up, not knowing how to comfort her.

No woman could hear anything under such a circumstance.

Garcia sighed, patted Savannah on her back gently.

The Sterling group.

"Sir, you can't go in!"

The secretary barricaded the CEO's office door to keep the young man with an angry expression on his face out. But how could she stop him? The man pushed her aside, and walked straight in!

Dylan looked up. Kevin was standing in the doorway, anger blazing out of his eyes.

"I'll call a security guard to come right away--" The secretary said behind Kevin, in a hurried manner.

"No, get out." Dylan stopped the secretary.

After the secretary left, Kevin approached and bellowed in a low voice, "Why? Why did you cancel the wedding?"

"She cried to you so quickly? The first person she thinks of is always you when she has trouble. Well, it looks like you all carry a torch for each other." Dylan said with measured irony.

Kevin went up to him in a great rage, raising his fist to strike him on his face!

Dylan reacted quickly. He took his fist in one hand, pushing him away, and taunted,

"Shouldn't you be happy to know I'm not going to marry her? You finally have a chance to be with her again."

"You this asshole! Don't you know how much Savannah's looking forward to marrying you? Do you know how sad she was after you called off the wedding? She has been locked herself in her room for days without food! If not for that, Garcia wouldn't have been so worried and called me. What the hell changed you? You gave up marrying her just because the marriage would affect the reputation of your family? You're such a jerk!" snapped Kevin.

Dylan's expression changed a little, but he calmed down immediately.

"Oh? So, here's your chance. She needs comfort more than ever. You can give her care and love, get in her heart, and take my place..." Dylan looked at him with a sarcastic smile.

Kevin clenched his fists and teeth. He wanted to give Dylan another punch, but since this man was so unfeeling, it was no use killing him.

But that was strange. Dylan had always been possessive and jealous. He would never have pushed Savannah to another man's arms even if they were not in a relationship.

Now he was a completely different person.

His attitude towards Savannah had completely changed as if Savannah were a hot potato, and he was only too happy to give her to another man.

In a rage, Kevin grabbed a crystal ashtray from the desk and hit it on the opposite wall!

With a bang, the ashtray broke into pieces and fell to the floor.

"Mr. Sterling, are you all right?" A woman rushed in at the noise.

Kevin looked over and saw a young woman about the age of Savannah standing in the doorway, looking anxiously in.

She was not the secretary just now.

Kevin knitted his eyebrows, and suddenly he knew who the woman was.

"You are Fiona Blunt, Savannah's close colleague in Zagreb Film?"

Garcia told him that Dylan transferred Savannah's friend to the head office as a secretary. It seemed that he was quite close to this woman now.

And Dylan didn't mention any of this to Savannah.

Didn't that make Savannah even angrier?

Fiona trembled slightly by Kevin's piercing eyes and nodded.

"Fiona, could you go out for a while? I have something to talk about with Mr. Wills." Dylan said in a gentle voice.

Chapter **584: She Had To Do Everything Herself**

Fiona quickly turned around and left.

"What's your relationship with this woman?" Kevin looked at Dylan with eyes like cold knives.

"She's my new secretary," Dylan said simply.

"Oh. You have so many companies under the Sterling group, but with all the talented employees in those companies, you chose to promote Savannah's friend, a woman who has always admired you and liked you. Who believes that she's only your secretary? What do you mean by having Savannah see you so close to her friend? You are stabbing her in the heart, making her sink into despair!" Kevin's eyes flashed red.

"Whatever. I won't marry Savannah, and besides a son, I have nothing more to do with her. I don't care if she's with another man, and my affair is also none of her business." Dylan looked at him, impassive.

Kevin's clenched fists crunched.

After a long time, he took a look at Dylan and said, "Okay. I hope you remember what you said today. Since you don't want to have any more relations with Savannah, don't go to Savannah and never hurt her again."

"Take my word for it," Dylan said, shrugging his shoulders.

Kevin turned and marched off.

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"Mr. Wills," Garcia hurried forward as Kevin arrived at Green Bay. "Have you met Mr. Sterling? How's it going?"

Kevin was silent for a moment and asked, "Where's Savannah? Did she eat anything today?"

Garcia knew the answer.

Mr. Sterling was determined to call off the wedding.

Savannah urged her not to tell Joanne, but she couldn't watch Savannah suffer alone. So she called Kevin.

Unexpectedly, he failed to change Mr. Sterling's mind.

"No, she seemed to be in a trance all the time." Garcia sighed.

Kevin headed upstairs and knocked on the bedroom door.

There was no response.

He pushed the door in. Savannah, sitting on the bay window, gazed abstractedly through the muslin curtain, her hands crossed on her knees.

After days of not eating much, she lost a lot of weight. Her face was thin and worn.

"Savannah." He whispered as he walked to her, in a burst of anguish.

Savannah turned her head. A glimmer of a forced smile came to the dry lips when she saw Kevin.

"Kevin..."

"I'm here. Come down and dine with me, okay? I'm hungry." Kevin relaxed his tone.

"I can't eat... Will you let Garcia cook for you?" She whispered with difficulty.

She would die if she didn't eat!

Kevin couldn't restrain himself any longer. He yanked her to her feet and shouted in a low voice, "Savannah, is it worth it for a man who doesn't love you anymore? In that man's eyes, the reputation of his family is more important than you. He has an affair with your friend and even gave you to me. It's senseless to be so sad for him!"

She seemed to wake up from his words, and her blank eyes became filled with tears.

She pressed her hands to her eyes, trying to stop her tears from running down.

Kevin found her shaking violently. Her silent crying was even more painful. But he just patted her on the back and didn't stop her.

After crying long and bitterly, Savannah wiped her face and slowly straightened up.

"Kevin, let's go downstairs to dinner," she said in a hoarse whisper.

Kevin was right. There was no point in her breaking down for him. She should think no more of him.

She had Kaiden, mom, and she had Kevin and Garcia, who cared for her. With so many people to love, why should she waste her mind on a man who gave up on her?

She fought to hold back her tears of grief and went downstairs with Kevin.

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After that day, Savannah devoted herself to her work and became more silent.

Kaiden was privately warned by Garcia, knowing daddy canceled the wedding and mommy was very unhappy, so he dared not to mention it anymore.

Old Sterling talked with Dylan when he knew about the cancellation of the wedding. But his son was always so dictatorial. No one else could control his mind.

At the same time, Young series was listed on the counters of major shopping malls, which set off a wave of fashion and was welcomed by young women. The response was better than expected. More surprising was that it attracted the attention of YSHEN, an overseas well-known fashion design company. Its boss appreciated the design style of Young series and sent people to LA, aiming to further cooperation.

K&G's employees were all uplifted to learn that YSHEN was interested in working with K&G.

Although K&G was a mature garment company in LA, its products had never stepped abroad.

Unexpectedly, as soon as the new boss took office, the newly launched series became an instant hit and was appreciated by YSHEN.

To be honest, when K&G changed hands and had a young female boss, most of the staff remained skeptical.

In private, they heard that K&G was a gift to the female boss from a big shot. It seemed that K&G was only a play for the new boss, and no one thought she would pay much thought to it.

Slowly, people found that though the new boss was a young woman, she was calm and hard-working, and talented in fashion design. They gradually changed their opinion of her and no longer dared to underrate her after K&G received a cooperative willingness from YSHEN.

Savannah didn't care what her subordinates thought of her.

There were so many things going on right now. The season was changing, and she must decide on the new style of Young series soon.

She also needed to spend great effort and energy to deal with the details of the cooperation with YSHEN.

She had to do everything herself.

Not until they separated did she know how difficult it was to run a company.

K&G was only a small-sized garment company. But when she took over it formally, she was too busy to think of anything else, so engaged that she could fall asleep as soon as she touched her bed every day.

As the big boss of the Sterling group, Dylan, however, seemed full of beans all the time.

Chapter **585: Return What He Gave**

In fact, she thought about returning K&G to Dylan after he called off the wedding.

After all, K&G was bought by him for her. Now that the marriage was off, she had no reason to keep the company. She doesn't want to hold anything that reminds her of him.

She called Garwood, but he said Mr. Sterling never asked back what he had given away. Since K&G was given to her, it was hers.

After several fruitless calls, Savannah did not insist.

Dylan was always generous to her with his money. He could pay double or three times the price to buy Green Bay back to her, and of course, he would not want K&G back now. She had given him a son, and as he said, he would at least ensure her a good and wealthy life.

Besides, too much had happened between them. It was impossible to figure out how much they owned each other, and they could never be even.

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By evening, Savannah was washed out from overwork. She left the computer and stretched herself.

Looking out of the window, she saw the black sky full of stars.

Another hard day.

But this kind of hard work made her very comfortable.

At the very least, she could immerse herself in the busywork and had no time to think about other things, especially the scars hidden deep in her heart.

But when she stopped, her thoughts returned to that man...

Something as sudden and painful as stings came to her heart now and then.

How long had it been since she saw that man last time?

She wouldn't remember, maybe more than a month...

These days, thanks to Kaiden and Garcia's accompany, she didn't have a very hard time. Kevin also stayed in LA and called to console her from time to time.

Just then, someone knocked at the office door.

"Come in," she roused herself.

"Miss Schultz, you're wanted now. Ms. Morton is waiting outside." Tina reported at the door.

Savannah didn't like to be called Boss, so Tina and others still called her "Miss Schultz".

"Please ask her to come in," Savannah said, raising her brows, surprised at her mother's sudden arrival.

Joanne and Ethan had divorced, so she was no longer Mrs. Rowe.

A moment later, Joanne came in. She looked at her daughter's thin face with concern and slightly sighed when she noticed the drawings and documents on her desk.

She wanted to go to Dylan when she learned about the sudden cancellation of their wedding days ago, but Savannah stopped her.

It was understandable.

After all, Dylan called off the wedding himself.

It would be a shame for Savannah if the man agreed to marry her under pressure from her family. And it was most probably useless.

Joanne knew that her daughter was busy at work, spending almost 20 hours a day in the office. It might be good for her to obsess overwork, or at least she could temporarily forget the pain.

She knew Savannah need time to recover, but she still felt pain for her when she saw her pale and wan face.

"Sit down, mom. Tina, get a cup of tea." Savannah led Joanne to the sofa.

"How's it going?" Joanne took her hand and felt it cold and bony.

"Not bad. The company is doing well. I thought it would go bankrupt in less than half a month under my management. Maybe it was luck. YSHEN, a famous overseas clothing design company, sent us an invitation for cooperation. If we can work with YSHEN, it's a chance for K&G to build an international reputation and go abroad."

Joanne smiled and nodded as she listened. Savannah tried to pick up her spirit, but she couldn't be good inside.

Disappointed love left her bitter and twisted.

"Oh, mom, what do you want to see me for?" Savannah asked.

"Are you free now? Go out with mum. Someone wants to see you." Joanne said softly with a hesitating look on her face.

"Who?" Savannah was surprised.

"You'll see."

Savannah asked no more and left the company with Joanne.

After about ten minutes, the car stopped at a five-star hotel.

A senior waiter in a black and white uniform came over and pulled open the door.

"Mr. Morton is waiting for you." He said respectfully.

Savannah paused. Mr. Morton? She guessed who she was going to see.

Joanne took her daughter's hand, heading into the hotel.

They walked into a quiet box. A tall old man was sitting by the French window.

The man looked the same age as old Sterling, but he looked hale and hearty and imposing. Behind him, there were two burly bodyguards.

Joanne was featured in this old man.

Savannah immediately knew that the old man waiting for them in the hotel was her grandfather, Raymond Morton, the chairman of the Morton group.

She was surprised that he would come to LA from Chicago, especially to meet her.

This old man, connected with her by blood, was her family, but he was also the one who separated her father and mother.

That year, he found his lost daughter and forced her to leave her husband and daughter. After that, her father died in a car accident made by Granny Rowe, without knowing the whereabouts of his beloved wife. Her grandfather broke up a happy family, and because of him, she lost her parents and grew up alone.

So now, Savannah had mixed feelings about the old man.

He was just a protective father to his daughter, and he was excusable. But she could not forgive him at once and was somewhat resentful.

"Savannah, that's your grandpa," Joanne said softly.

Raymond looked over and saw them. The young woman standing next to Joanne looked almost the same as Joanne. He stood up, trembling with excitement.

"You are Savannah, aren't you?" He came over on her.

Savannah, without a word, avoided the old man's excited eyes and retreated behind Joanne.

Raymond looked lost, but he could understand his granddaughter's reaction.

Chapter 586: Her Grandfather's Regret

"I know you hate me," he sighed. "Well, when I found your mother, I brought her home and severed all her ties with you and your father. In order to keep her abduction from coming to light, I didn't allow her to return here and erased all her traces from your life. I even married her to the Rowe family... You deserve to hate me. I don't expect you to forgive me now. I just want you to give me a chance to make it up to you..."

"Oh?" Savannah moved her lips, almost amused. "How are you going to make it up to me? Is it possible to bring my father back so that dad, mom, and I could enjoy the happiness of family again?"

"Savannah..." Joanne tugged at her daughter's sleeve.

Raymond, however, was not annoyed at her rude remark. He sighed and said, "yes, I can't give you back a happy family. The only thing I can do now is to make your future better."

With that, he gave a single gesture to his behind.

A man in golden glasses and a black suit came forward from Raymond's back.

"Miss Schultz, I'm Stephens, Mr. Morton's lawyer. Here is his will," he said as he handed Savannah a document. "A few days ago, Mr. Morton added a few terms on the will. He transferred 35% shares of the Morton group to you. That is to say, you will be the top shareholder in the Morton group, and also the only legal heir of the group."

Savannah gasped.

She didn't expect that he would give her the whole Morton group as compensation.

Yes, her mother was Raymond's only daughter, and she was her mother's only child, but after all, there was no outward fellowship between Raymond and her. They even did not live together for a day, and it was their first meeting today... Was Raymond really going to hand over the entire Morton group to her?

"I can't accept it," Savannah said after her first shock.

"You're my granddaughter, and that you have a talent in fashion design. I am very relieved to give the Morton group to you." Raymond's tone was firm.

Savannah was about to refuse again when Joanne patted her on the back of the hand. She seemed to have known his father's decision and supported his idea.

Savannah looked at Raymond and said, "if you want me to forgive you with your company as a gift, please take it back. To me, you are still one of the people who separated my parents. You are my mother's father, and she had to forgive you, but I'm sorry, I can't yet."

"Savannah --" Joanne whispered.

Raymond didn't seem angry. Instead, a sigh of appreciation came to his eyes.

"You do deserve to be my granddaughter," Raymond laughed and said, "Well, you know, I'm happy to hear you say that, and I like your personality of that kind. I believe I can depend on your resolution and good conduct, and I believe you can give the Morton group a bright future. Rest assured, I transferred shares of the group to you, not to say you must forgive me. You can hate me, and I won't blame you. It was my fault."

Anticipation and encouragement in Raymond's eyes somewhat moved Savannah. He possessed a mild and benevolent countenance when he looked at her as if he was only a common old man.

Afraid that Savannah would be unhappy to see him, Raymond gave Stephens a glance and stood up.

"Savannah, nice to see you today. I've got to go." He smiled kindly at Savannah and said.

"Dad, why don't you have dinner with us --" Joanne hesitated.

"Oh, maybe next time." Raymond waved his hand, without looking back, and walked out of the restaurant with his people.

Savannah watched him leaving. His back expressed a feeling of disappointment, and his stride looked jerky.

His silver hair showed that his life had almost completed its span.

For a moment, Savannah's heart softened.

"Savannah," Joanne's voice came softly, "your grandpa was so happy when he heard that you are still alive. He wanted to see you after we met. But he has been getting older and worse over the years, and he was not in good condition at that time. That's why he didn't come to LA until today. He's been feeling guilty about you and your father for so many years. Yes, at first, he was very tough, locked me up at home, and stopped me from going back to you and your father, and even though you are stains on my life. But he was still very painful and regretful when he learned about your death... Especially for you.

After all, you're his granddaughter. He didn't dare to say anything for fear that I would be sad, but he secretly set up two tombs for you and your father in the Morton family's cemetery and prayed for you."

Savannah's heart beat violently.

She didn't expect her grandpa to regret it.

He suffered agonies of remorse.

"He was very angry to learn that your father's car accident was made by Granny Rowe. He knew it was a direct cause of our separation. Last month, he sent people to reinvestigate the car accident and found out the police officer who was responsible for that case. He took all those related to the accident to court to get justice for your father. Granny Rowe, still paralyzed in bed, escaped the calamity of imprisonment. But all the others have been severely punished by the law." Joanne said quietly.

Savannah clenched her hands. Her grandpa had done so much...

Joanne stared at her daughter with tears in her eyes.

"I hated your grandfather too, even more than you did. I hate him for taking me away from you, grounding me, and separating me from you. But as a father, he did that to protect me. He blamed himself for my abduction and didn't want me to recall the days after the abduction. As the head of a family, he needs to protect the reputation of the family. He had to be cruel... In fact, I didn't forgive him until I knew he'd been feeling guilty about you and your father."

Chapter 587: He Secretly Save Her From Frame Up

Savannah's eyes reddened.

From her point of view, she should hate her grandpa.

But from Raymond's point of view, what he did was understandable.

If her own daughter had been kidnapped and sold, wandering and suffering for so many years, after finding her back, she would also try to separate her from her previous life in order not to remind her of those terrible days and nights.

In her dream, her father told her that love was more important than hate.

She could not be truly happy if she lived in hatred.

Perhaps it was time to let go of all hatred and resentment...

After all, her father had said he didn't hate anyone anymore. She should also let it go.

A few days later, Joanne called Savannah. She said that Raymond had a lot of business associates in LA, so he wanted to hold a business party before he left. He invited Savannah to come together with Joanne.

Savannah hesitated.

"He's going back to Chicago soon. You have little chance to see him often." Joanne said softly.

Savannah nodded and agreed.

The party was set for next Saturday evening.

Savannah spent several days in K&G, intending to finish the new designs of Young series for the coming season by the end of next week.

This day, she had just arrived at the office in the morning and turned on the computer, when there came abrupt knocks on the door, and Tina walked in.

"Miss Schultz, we're in trouble!" she said quickly with a grave face.

"What's the matter?" Savannah stood up.

"Maple Style of Young series has just come into the market, but someone pointed out that it's very similar to the style of a small clothing factory, and the clothes of that factory came out more than half a month earlier than Maple Style. Now it's said that K&G copied the idea from that small factory!" Tina handed Savannah a picture of the outfit from that small factory.

The pupils of Savannah's eyes constricted.

The style of the dress on the picture was almost exactly the same as the Maple Style of K&G's fall collections!

Maple Style was the main autumn style of Young series. It was trendy and fashionable, making young women look smart and striking, and it was earth tone colored, which encouraged warmth. The maple leaf patterns on the clothes were hand-drawn by Savannah personally, so it was also called Maple Style.

But now, the maple leaf on the clothes from the small clothing factory was exactly the same as the pattern hand-painted by Savannah!

And their products came into the market half a month earlier than K&G's Maple Style!

How did that happen?

"Miss Schultz, a reporter called the company and asked us about K&G's copying designs..." An assistant reported nervously as she came running in.

Savannah knew it was not the time to panic.

"Tell them not to believe what they heard. Let them give us time to check into it, and I will explain to the public later," she said calmly.

The assistant nodded and went out.

"Miss Schultz, it seems that someone stole the design draft of Maple Style and sold it to that factory." Tina frowned.

That should be the truth, but Savannah had no idea who the thief was, and she couldn't explain it to the public without proof. No one would believe her words, and they would think she accused others of the theft to sneak away herself.

Only Tina and two assistants were allowed to enter her office, and she believed the thief was not one of them. If it was not her staff who stole the designs, that could only be the workers in their cooperative manufacturer. Someone stole the design drafts after they were sent to the manufacturer for apparel sample production.

But many people had a chance to get the designs, so it was very hard to find out who was the thief!

If they couldn't find out who stole the design, they couldn't prove that K&G didn't copy!

Just thinking about it was depressing.

This was the first time she had ever had a problem since she took over K&G, and it was such a tough problem.

Savannah asked Tina to appease K&G's employees and then told her to investigate the theft. After that, she called YSHEN personally to explain that there was a misunderstanding.

The charge of plagiarism was fatal frustration for companies in the design industry.

If she couldn't solve the problem immediately, there would be a clear crisis in K&G's brand image, and people would have doubts about K&G's commercial integrity.

Her employees would also lose faith in her and come to mistrust her.

It meant that all her work would have been wasted.

It was so distasteful!

Shortly before noon, the phone rang.

Joanne, worried about Savannah after learning the news about K&G, called to inquire what had occurred.

Savannah told her mother that the Maple Style design had been stolen and sold and asked her not to worry about her.

"I can deal with it," she said.

"Savannah, your grandpa heard about it this morning. He said he could arrange a lawyer for you. The Morton group has a good legal team. They are good at dealing with this kind of case."

"No, mom," Savannah took a breath and said, "I'm now the head of K&G. I must deal with it myself."

"But..." Joanne was still worried.

"Mom, I'll call you when I need your help," Savannah said bye and hung up.

After refusing her grandfather's help, Savannah called Tina in.

"How's it going?"

"According to your instructions, I checked into the people who had access to the design draft, from K&G's staff to the workers of the manufacturer... But too many people were involved, and it's impossible to find out who let the design draft out. Even if we know someone had stolen it, we don't have any proof." Tina looked very bad.

Savannah's heart sank. The situation was as expected.

Tina continued, "a lot of reporters gathered at the door of our company, asking you to give the public and that clothing factory a lucid explanation of the plagiarism. If we keep silent, I'm afraid it will get worse and worse outside."

Savannah squinted at the clock on the wall and stood up.

"Tina, take the reporters to the conference room, I will hold a clarification meeting at 2 p.m."

Chapter 588: The Truth Behind The Scandal

K&G was now at the center of a whirlwind of attention.

Anyway, it was necessary for her, the legal representative, to come out and say something.

She also knew that the reporters would have many suspicions and accusations against her after she told them K&G was set up...

But she had to bite the bullet.

Two hours later, in K&G's conference room.

Savannah stood at the conference table, looking around at the reporters from various media sources, her palms sweaty, her face impassive.

"I'm sorry about what happened. All I can say to you is that K&G's designs are all original and never copied from others. I'm also interested to know why Maple Style is similar to the design of another factory, and I'm investigating the entire matter," she said calmly.

"Miss Schultz, as the head of K&G, is that how you're going to explain copying other factory's designs?" The reporter's questions came in a bullying manner.

"K&G's Young series is very popular and attracted a famous overseas company YSHEN to cooperate with you. Now it's said that the Maple Style of Young series was copied from an unknown factory. Oh, there are even all sorts of rumors in the air that other designs of Young series may also be copied or bought because you wanted to make a performance after taking over K&G. Is that true?" Another reporter asked with a sharp tone.

"Don't blacken Miss Schultz's name and the reputation of K&G! You don't have any evidence!" Tina stopped them hurriedly.

"Can you prove that you didn't plagiarize?" The reporter snorted.

"Miss Schultz said that Maple Style is original, but the other factory's clothes reached the stores half a month earlier than yours! If it's not plagiarism, what's it?"

The reporters posed their questions sharply and didn't mean to let Savannah get away with it easily.

Tina was about to ask the security guards to take Savannah away when footsteps and some newcomers at the door of the conference room caught their attention.

A man in suits and wearing glasses came in with a drooping middle-aged worker.

Savannah looked over and froze for a moment. The man in the suit was Raymond's lawyer, Stephens, who she had met that evening.

Stephens went up to Savannah, looking around at the reporters, and said, "Hello, I'm Stephens, the lawyer from the Morton group. As for K&G's plagiarism, I will make a statement on behalf of Miss Schultz. Just as Miss Schultz said, Maple Style of K&G is an original design. Its design draft was stolen when it was sent to a clothing manufacturer for making samples and sold to another small factory. That's the cause of all misunderstanding." With that, he waved his hand at the worker coming with him.

The middle-aged man in overalls, looking crestfallen, stepped forward, bowing to Savannah and the reporters.

"I'm a worker of the clothing manufacturer who cooperated with K&G... A month ago, not soon after K&G sent me the design draft of Young series, a young woman came to me and said that the design of Young series is very popular, and there was a chance to make a lot of money. I was persuaded to secretly take out the design draft of Maple Style and sold it to another small clothing factory... I'm sorry, Miss Schultz, I was blinded by money. Please forgive me. Don't sue me, I'm sorry..." He apologized as he bowed again.

Savannah was shocked that the worker would plead guilty for the theft himself. She breathed a sigh of relief and then was confused.

A woman encouraged the worker to steal her design?

Who would the woman be?

"So K&G's design was really stolen..." The reporters were staring at the worker and muttering.

Stephens smiled and continued, "you must be interested in the woman who instructed the worker to steal K&G's design."

"Have you found out who it is?"

"K&G's rival?"

Stephens nodded. "Through the words of the worker and our investigation, the woman is Katrina Kaif."

Savannah was surprised to hear Katrina's name.

After Katrina was kicked out of Zagreb by Dylan, her reputation in the design industry was on the line.

She must be even jealous to learn that Savannah became K&G's boss, and her works attracted an overseas company. Unexpectedly, she would have done such a degrading thing.

"What? Katrina Kaif? She comes from a celebrated family of designers. How could she do this?" A reporter said in amazement.

"Haven't you heard of it?" Another reporter curled her mouth.

"The winner of the designer competition this year should have been Miss Schultz. She quit for some reason before the award presentation, so Miss Kaif took her place and became the first."

"I see! It looks like Miss Kaif and Miss Schultz had a feud."

"Miss Kaif went too far this time."

The reporters whispered.

"The fact that Miss Kaif instigated the worker to steal K&G's design is not just a hoax, but a criminal case," Stephens said, diplomatically. "Later, I'm going to prosecute both of them on Miss Schultz's behalf. Miss Schultz and K&G are also victims in this case."

The reporters looked at each other. Since they had known the truth of the matter, they could call it a day.

"Okay! We will make it clear for K&G."

"Yeah, we won't make Miss Schultz's name stink."

The reporters didn't expect K&G could solve the crisis so quickly. It seemed that Miss Schultz had strong backing. Was that the Morton group?

Tina led those reporters out of the conference room.

Stephens asked two security guards to take the work out and was about to leave with them when Savannah shouted to stop him.

"Mr. Stephens, wait a minute, please."

Stephens stopped and nodded at her.

"Please thank Mr. Morton for me." Savannah looked at Stephens.

"I think Mr. Morton would more like to hear Miss Schultz call him grandpa." Stephens smiled.

Savannah threw him a faint smile and changed the subject. "By the way, how did you find the person who stole my design so quickly?"

"I feel this is weird too." Stephens mused.

"Oh?" Savannah wondered.

"Well. Actually, after Mr. Morton heard that your company had been accused of plagiarism this morning, he sent me to find out the truth, but I had little progress. Unexpectedly, the one who stole

your design voluntarily surrendered himself to the police. Then we quickly found that the worker had been instigated by Kaif. After that, we took the worker here to help you out."

Savannah gasped, "how did the worker who stole the design turn himself in for nothing?"

Chapter 589: She Was In Luck

"We can't figure it out. But I guess he didn't expect it to get a lot of exposure in the media. He was scared. After all, he might be put in jail if we found him and charged him with larceny. So he turned himself in for leniency," Stephens said what he thought.

Savannah nodded. If so, she was in luck!

If this worker did not confess his crime to the police himself, it would be very difficult for her to find him, more impossible to find the culprit, Katrina.

The lawyer finished Raymond's assignment and left.

Before nightfall, online posts about Katrina incited a worker to steal K&G's design were pouring in.

K&G had finally cleared its name. Savannah sighed with relief.

It was the first crisis she met after taking over K&G. Luckily, she got through the trouble almost without danger.

Just then, her phone rang.

"Savannah, I just come back from a business trip with Dan today. I heard that K&G has trouble. Need my help?" Kevin's anxiety oozed through the phone. It sounded like he had just stepped off the plane.

"Don't worry, Kevin. It's been settled," Savannah replied, with a feeling of warmth in her heart.

"Really?"

"Well. My grandfather's lawyer came to help me out." She had mentioned Raymond to Kevin when they chatted online.

"That's good. Let me know if you have any trouble again," Kevin said with relief.

"I know you're also very busy lately. Don't worry about me. Go home and rest," Savannah urged.

"Are you still in the office?"

"Yeah."

"Give me a moment, I'll be right there." Then he hung up before Savannah could answer him.

Less than half an hour later, Kevin called again.

"I'm downstairs at your office. Come downstairs."

Savannah went downstairs and walked out of the office building. Kevin was standing not far away with a bag in his hand. His face was worn out from the journey, but his eyes lightened when he saw her, and the tiredness on his face had quite gone.

"Your favorite egg tarts and seafood spaghetti." He handed the bag to her.

His thoughtful concern so touched her that her nose twitched. After being constantly anxious all day, she did not even bother to eat.

Kevin always cared about her the most.

Egg tarts and seafood spaghetti were what she liked since childhood.

When they lived in the orphanage, the food was not so good. Kevin always bought those she liked with the money he earned from paintings.

After all these years, when she had difficulties, it was still Kevin who cared for her most. He sent food to her as soon as he got off the plane from a business trip for fear that she would starve herself.

But where was Dylan, the man she wanted to spend the rest of her life with?

Did he know that she and K&G had been falsely accused of plagiarism this morning? Did he ever think of helping her?

Her sight dimmed slightly.

What was she still thinking about?

He had called off their wedding, and they had no relationship. They had not seen each other for a long time. He even never came to see Kaiden, as if he was avoiding her.

Kevin noticed the mixed emotions in her eyes. He led her to sit down on the edge of a long flower-bed.

"Miss Schultz, the legal representative and chief designer of K&G do you mind if we sit on the curb like this?" said Kevin half-playfully.

"Why should I mind if you, the founder of JK, don't mind?" Savannah braced herself and smiled.

"If you don't mind, just eat here. They don't taste good when they're cold." Kevin took out the food box for her.

Savannah's stomach pitched as she sniffed a pleasant smell. She gorged herself on the seafood spaghetti and egg tart and finished all of them quickly.

After eating to the full, she rose and stretched herself.

"You look just like when you were in Italy," Kevin said and smiled with relief.

"Well, I still occasionally think of my life in a small town. I felt like it's a haven of peace, not as crowded as LA, but clean and simple, uncomplicated and free," Savannah said softly.

"Would you like to go back to the Italian town with me?" Kevin's voice came quietly to her like a feather.

Savannah paused, looking into Kevin's deep, clear eyes.

He was still the boy who had always protected her in the orphanage. He had been waiting for her all these years.

She knew how difficult it was for Kevin to ask her that question after all she'd been through.

But because of Kevin's unchanging love for her, she couldn't just say yes.

She didn't want to break his heart again.

"Could you let me think about it for a few days?" Savannah whispered.

Kevin nodded.

After so many years of waiting for her, what was the hurry now?

* * *

The dinner party held by Raymond would take place in the five-star hotel tonight.

In the evening, Savannah spruced up and went downstairs.

Kaiden had heard that his great-grandfather had come to LA.

After having a mommy and a grandmother, now he had a great-grandfather. He felt amazing.

Today, he was going to visit his great-grandfather with his mommy. Dressed up by Garcia, Kaiden took Savannah by the hand and got in the car excitedly.

Joanne and the housekeeper who came with Raymond to LA were already waiting at the door when Savannah and Kaiden arrived.

Raymond was resting in the hotel lounge before the party began. He was delighted to see Savannah again and overjoyed to see the cute little boy next to her.

Joanne was his only daughter. He never thought that he would have not only a granddaughter but also a great-grandson at his age. His lonely life became suddenly lively.

Kaiden stared at this old man curiously. He looked older than his grandpa, and his hair was silvery white. According to his grandmother and Aunt Garcia, it was said that his great-grandfather had done something wrong before, which made his mommy unhappy. But when this old man smiled amiably at him, he looked like a simple kind old man.

Chapter 590: Invited Dylan To The Party

"Hi, great-grandpa, I'm Kaiden. How nice to meet you!" Kaiden greeted Raymond like a grown man.

Amused by the little boy's polite manner, Raymond bent down and picked him up.

"How old are you?"

"I'm four!" Kaiden answered Raymond's questions with his cute tone.

Joanne smiled with relief. Kaiden was a guy that everyone loved when they saw him.

Savannah's willingness to come today indicated that she had begun to accept Raymond and was no longer hostile.

With Kaiden working in, there would surely be an improvement in the relationship between Savannah and Raymond.

Savannah was glad that Kaiden liked Raymond, so she didn't have to be so embarrassed in front of the old man.

"Thank you for sending Stephens to help me the other day," she whispered as Raymond was playing with his great-grandson.

It was worth saying thank you personally to him.

Raymond was surprised that his granddaughter would speak to him in such a gentle voice.

"It was nothing. The pleasure was all mine," he replied with emotion.

After friendly chats with his granddaughter and great-grandson, Raymond put down the sweet boy and said lovingly, "Savannah, you can take Kaiden to the children's playroom over there."

The Morton family was an influential big family in Chicago, and they also had many local connections in LA. Most of the guests brought their children and grandchildren here, and some of them were the same age as Kaiden. Raymond told the hotel to arrange a room full of toys and amusement facilities for those kids to play so that they would not feel bored.

Kaiden beamed with joy when he heard this. He liked to have fun with other kids of his age.

Savannah led Kaiden away from the lounge.

Raymond's eyes remained fixed on the back of Savannah and Kaiden as they left as if he didn't want to separate from them. When the door was closed, Raymond returned and looked at his daughter.

"Kaiden's father is George Sterling's son, Dylan, right?"

Raymond had heard a little about his granddaughter's relationships before he came to LA.

He was told that his granddaughter had been involved in love affairs with the young master of the Sterling family for years and even married him and had a son with him. But they parted and got divorced for some reason.

Not long ago, they made it up and intended to remarry, but suddenly their wedding was called off.

Joanne sighed and nodded.

"How dare he?" said Raymond indignantly. "Did he bully Savannah for her having no family? Anyway, I have to back up Savannah this time! I'll talk to George personally!"

"Savannah told me when Dylan called off the wedding, his father tried to talk with him, but it didn't work," Joanne said helplessly. "I wanted to talk to Dylan, but Savannah stopped me. She's too proud to ask for our help."

Raymond didn't understand what young men and women think. He only wanted his granddaughter to be happy.

"Hope to see them make up tonight." He squinted his eyes.

"You invited Dylan to the party?" Joanne was surprised.

"The Sterling family is one of the most powerful families in LA. How could I not invite them? Besides, even for the sake of Savannah and Kaiden, I have to get this grandson-in-law back." Raymond said with a serious expression.

Joanne suddenly realized why her dad held this party tonight.

Mostly for Savannah and Dylan.

But could they really make up?

Savannah led Kaiden to the playroom. There were climbing towers, monkey bars, and Lego bricks. Several boys and girls and their sound of revelry filled the room.

Kaiden ran in happily.

There were two guards in the playroom to keep the children safe. Savannah asked Kaiden to call her when he wanted to leave and went out first.

Savannah wandered into the banquet hall. When passing a waiter with a tray of wines, she raised her hand to get a glass of champagne, but another big hand came to the glass at the same time and touched her accidentally.

The familiar heart-stopping feeling took away her breath.

Looking up, she saw Dylan standing on the other side of the waiter, ready to take the glass.

He was wearing a sharp black suit, tall and attractive. His facial features, perfectly carved, stood out against the colorful spotlights.

She didn't remember how long they had not seen each other.

It seemed so long ago.

She had not expected him to be invited to grandpa's party.

Though the Sterling family was a powerful and famous family in LA, the Sterling group didn't have much cooperation with the Morton group. Was it because grandpa knew about her relationship with him and wanted to help her get back together with him?

"Miss Schultz, you first." He said gently as Savannah's mind was still blank. So gentle and polite, yet so full of distance, as if he and she were only acquaintances.

The waiter immediately turned the tray and handed Savannah a glass of champagne.

Savannah watched as Dylan turned to leave, her hand shaking on the glass, her heart tingling.

She thought he would treat her better after not seeing her for so long.

"Wait a minute," she bit her lip.

Dylan stopped and looked back at her, but it was all politeness.

"Kaiden is here too. He's in the playroom. Won't you go and see him?" Savannah held back her tears.

In fact, what she wanted to say was, you really didn't want me and decided to break up with me?

But she couldn't.

She could only take Kaiden as a pretext to talk with him.

She just wanted to have more look at him.

"No. I'm sure you'll take better care of him than me. I'll ask Garwood to take him out when I want to see him." He looked nonchalant, and with that, he turned to leave without hesitation.

His impassive manner pained her. She let go of her hand, the glass broke on the floor. Clenching her teeth, she quickly caught up with him and gripped him by the arm.