

Mr. Scott 141

Chapter 141

Xander agreed. He put away his phone and said seriously, "I'm looking forward to working with you."

Melanie smiled. "Same here."

Xander nodded and immediately changed the topic. "Did you get into some trouble here?"

Melanie blinked. "Why do you ask?"

"It's pretty obvious. You look even more haggard than you did in Prime City."

Melanie subconsciously touched her face.

Xander continued quietly, "If you don't mind, you can talk to me about it."

Melanie lowered her eyes, but she still did not say a word.

Xander stopped pressing the matter and glanced at the time. "Do you want to have dinner together?"

Reny and the others will be there too."

Melanie shook her head. "I have to go to the hospital for another IV tonight."

All of a sudden, Xander burst out laughing. "Most people act like they're on an all-expense-paid vacation when they go on business trips, but you make it seem like torture."

This was the first time Xander had joked with her like that. His handsome features softened when he

smiled like this, his usually distant eyes becoming even gentler. His gaze was heartbreakingly tender.

However, his smile only lasted for a moment before his expression returned to normal. He looked at Melanie and said frankly, "Before you reached out to me, Stephen asked me to take good care of you. If you go back to Jepton looking like this, he'll think I bullied you instead."

Melanie returned his smile. "Are you and Stephen close?"

"Didn't he tell you?" Xander raised his eyebrows, a little surprised. "He's my cousin."

Melanie had no idea. It took her a moment to process that fact.

Her phone vibrated on the table rang. It was her alarm, reminding her to get the IV drip.

She looked up at Xander. "I'll get back to you on that, okay? I have to go to the hospital now."

"Oh, right." She had just taken a few steps before she stopped and turned around. "I haven't touched the cake on the table. If you don't mind, you can have it."

"If not, that's fine too."

Xander massaged his temples. "Unfortunately, I don't like sweet things."

The hospital was not that crowded when Melanie arrived there. She went to get her prescription before getting her drip.

The same nurse from that morning attended to her with a smile. "You again?"

Melanie nodded. "Yes, I have to get another drip."

“Are you still alone?” the nurse asked. “Where’s your boss?”

Melanie said, “He’s busy.”

“And here I thought I finally saw a half-decent boss who would accompany his employee to the hospital.” The nurse left after setting up the IV for Melanie.

Bored, Melanie took out her phone and scrolled through it. Just then, Simon’s group was a flurry of activity.

She had forgotten about this group chat. When she clicked on it, she saw that Simon and the others were discussing a new racing car.

Melanie did not know much about cars, but lurking on their chat was a way to pass the time.

Suddenly, someone asked, [Where’s Eugene? I haven’t seen him in a while.]

Simon immediately replied, [He’s on a business trip.]

[Didn’t you go to Prime City too? You’re back, so why isn’t Eugene back yet?]

[Come on, Simon and Eugene are two completely different kettles of fish!]

Everyone in the chat group immediately shifted their focus. A few of them even tagged Eugene.

In the end, though, it was not Eugene who responded to their spamming. It was Viola.

She sent a photo of the back of her hand. Melanie could see that she was in the hospital. [I had an allergic reaction,] Viola said. [He’s keeping me company.]

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Melanie's eyelashes fluttered, and her hand trembled slightly on her phone. As a result, her fingers slipped and she ended up sending Simon a flower emoji.

The group chat suddenly fell silent. Melanie was also taken aback.

Simon sent her a single question mark. [?]

Melanie turned off her screen and closed her eyes to rest.

It would take her two hours to finish both bottles of the drip. When there was half a bottle left,

Melanie took the IV frame with her and went to the washroom.

Her needle was in her left hand, so she walked very slowly, pushing the frame with her right hand.

When she turned around the corner, a girl ran past her anxiously, holding some test results.

The girl bumped into Melanie, and the needle was yanked out of her hand. Blood instantly seeped into the dressing.

When the girl saw that she had bumped into someone, she hurriedly ran back and apologized. "I'm so sorry! My sister has appendicitis. I have to bring this report to the doctor."

Melanie's face turned pale. She had no choice but to the nurse's station next door.

However, she stumbled upon Eugene and Viola taking their medicine in the hallway. Instinctively, she

took a step back.

“It’s getting late.” They were not that far away, and since the hospital was less crowded at night, Melanie could hear Viola’s voice clearly.

She was talking to Eugene. “Shall we go for supper after this?”

Eugene glanced at her. “You should take your medicine first.”

“But I just had a drip!” Viola seemed reluctant to take her medicine. She tugged at Eugene’s sleeve. “I can just take it tomorrow.”

Eugene did not say anything. Viola was about to continue when she caught sight of a figure around the corner.

She immediately hugged Eugene’s arm and whined, “Look, my hand is all red! It really hurts.”

She raised her voice slightly, as though to express her dissatisfaction.

The nurse nearby teased her, saying, “Just ask your boyfriend to buy you some candy.”

Viola liked the sound of that. She tugged at Eugene and wheedled. “See, even the nurse says it’s okay.”

Melanie stood around the corner and listened to Viola’s whining. She did not feel anything in her heart at all.

She just thought this would be a bad time for her to show herself.

“Is something wrong?” Suddenly, a voice called out to her from behind.

Melanie looked over her shoulder. It was the nurse who had attended to her.

Before she could say anything, the nurse saw her hand.

The bandage on her hand was soaked in blood after the needle was yanked out. Some of it had even spread outside.

The nurse led her to the nurses’ station. When the nurse saw Viola hugging Eugene’s arm, she paused.

That man had a rather unforgettable face. She had seen him once before earlier that morning, and she still remembered him clearly.

At that time, she had been envious.

Now, though, she suddenly realized why Melanie kept saying that he was just her boss.

She gave Melanie a look of sympathy.

Melanie seemed unperturbed. She held out her hand and let the nurse put the needle back in for her.

Once they removed the bandage, she saw just how bloodied her hand had become.

Melanie took a cotton bud and carefully pressed down on the pinprick to stem the bleeding.

“Melanie?” Viola could not help but acknowledge her first. She had been aware of Melanie’s presence here for a while now. “What happened to you? You’re a mess.”

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There was something off about Viola's tone when she said that,

After Melanie wiped the blood off her hands, she looked up at them. She glanced at the cotton bud taped onto Viola's hand and said evenly, "If you had an allergic reaction, you should get some rest."

Viola gave her a hollow laugh. "I was just showing you some concern, Melanie."

"Mm-hmm, thanks." Melanie nodded. "I'm doing just fine."

There was nothing else Viola could say to that. She could sense that Melanie was rejecting her, so she gritted her teeth and said, "But why are you here in the hospital alone? Shouldn't your mom be taking care of you?"

Viola pointed to the needle mark on her hand. "I have Eugene with me, but I still feel a bit uncomfortable here. It must be inconvenient for you to come here alone."

Melanie's eyelashes fluttered. "I have a friend with me."

Viola was a little surprised. "You have friends in Hearth City?"

"Yeah." Melanie nodded and said no more.

How absurd. She had resorted to lying about her nonexistent friends so that Viola would not pity her.

Melanie took a deep breath and turned to leave.

However, Viola stopped her with a bright smile on her face. "In that case, why don't you and your friend join us for a meal someday?"

She did not believe that Melanie had any friends here. She knew that it was just an excuse.

Viola looked down on her for lying like that.

She deliberately tugged at the corner of Eugene's shirt and looked up at him. "Eugene, what do you think?"

Eugene's sleeves were rolled up to his elbows, revealing his well-toned arms.

He was carrying a plastic bag that probably held Viola's pills.

Looking at Melanie with his dark eyes, he said casually, "Sure. that's a good idea."

Viola giggled. "Then can you set a time, Melanie?"

Melanie frowned deeply. She hated how forceful Viola was being.

Just as she was about to refuse, Eugene smirked and said, "I would love to meet this friend of yours."

Melanie swallowed the words on the tip of her tongue. "He's busy."

"He can't even find the time for a meal?" Viola was unconvinced. She stared at Melanie's face, watching her carefully.

She wanted to see the desperation and humiliation in Melanie's eyes.

The more Viola looked at Melanie, the more she disliked her, especially after she stumbled upon Eugene and Melanie at the hospital this morning,

The jealousy in her heart began to fester and grow again from the ashes.

Melanie had no right!

Her mother was a stain on her name. She should be hiding in shame! What right did she have to act so high and mighty all the time?

Viola did not show her contempt on her face, though. Her expression was still obedient and cute,

When Melanie did not reply, Viola frowned and said hesitantly, "Is it because... you don't want to have a meal with me?"

Melanie remained silent.

She only came back to her senses when the nurse called her to take her medicine.

After she took the pills, Melanie looked up at Viola. "We can talk about that another time."

Viola could not say anything to that. However, there was a flash of satisfaction and triumph in her eyes as she watched Melanie's retreating back.

She was about to take Eugene's hand when he asked her calmly, "Are you satisfied now?"

There was no emotion in his voice. Viola froze for a moment and pursed her lips. "Did you take her to the hospital this morning because you still care about her?"

Eugene's expression did not change. He just glanced at her and said, "Didn't you want to go for supper?"

Chapter 144

It was late at night by the time when Melanie got back to the hotel.

She had not had dinner yet. Fortunately, the hotel allowed food deliveries, so she just called for something simple.

She had just finished eating when Xander called.

"It's late," she said. "Is something the matter?"

"Reny suddenly had appendicitis. She's in the hospital now," Xander said with a sigh. "Aren't you in the hospital too? Have you eaten yet?"

Reny was that honest and straightforward girl. Melanie remembered her.

She frowned. "I'm already back at the hotel. Is Reny's situation serious? Do you need my help?"

Xander paused. "You're already back at the hotel?"

"Yes, I came back after my drip."

"I do have something I need your help with," Xander said hesitantly. "It happened so suddenly. Reny was supposed to be in charge of some information planning, but she was just rolled into the operating theater."

Melanie understood what he was getting at. "If it's just gathering information and writing down the plans, I can help you if you don't mind."

"Are you sure you're alright?"

“My fever’s gone, so it should be fine.”

The exhibition this time was different from her previous projects. It was more official, with high standards required.

That was why Xander took this project very seriously. If not for the heavy stakes, he would not have bothered Melanie when she was clearly unwell.

Melanie was feeling much better after the drips. She slept soundly until the next morning.

She had arranged to meet Xander at the hotel lobby, and he was already waiting for her when she went down.

Xander handed Melanie a flask. “Stephen said you liked this.”

Melanie paused before taking it. It was warm peppermint tea with rock sugar.

She had ordered this when she was eating with Stephen and did not have much of an appetite.

Melanie thanked Xander before asking hesitantly, “Did you go out of your way to ask Stephen?”

Xander paused for a moment before realizing what she meant. He laughed. “I called him last night for

some other business. He asked me how you were, and I said that you had a fever, so he asked me to buy you this.”

Stephen had always been gentle and considerate. Melanie nodded and said, “I’ll thank him when I get back.”

Xander was not interested in gossip. Without another word, he brought Melanie directly to the client.

The other members of the studio were already waiting for them.

Oliver was looking at his phone until Xander approached him and asked, "How's Reny doing?",

Oliver finally looked up. "She said her wound hurts a little."

Xander nodded and led everyone inside.

Melanie followed beside him and asked in a low voice, "I just have to record the results of the meeting and check the material categorization, right?"

"Yes. Thanks for this, Melanie." Oliver was right next to her, and he encouraged her when he heard her question. "Today's meeting isn't anything special. It's just a chat between us and the client. There's no need to be too nervous."

Melanie was not nervous, per se. She had signed plenty of business deals in her time, and she knew a lot about the financial industry.

Even so, she nodded. "Thanks, Oliver."

Xander looked back at them. His face was expressionless, and he was also wearing a formal suit.

Still, his face was just too beautiful. He looked more like a model than a boss.

Melanie's mind wandered despite herself. Did Xander ever get judged for his looks when he went out for business?

Chapter 145

He soon proved Melanie wrong.

Xander was very capable. He took the lead when discussing terms with the client, and his insights were often spot-on.

The client, Mr. Lewis, was the entertainment director. He seemed quite impressed. "Bravo, Mr. Solomon. You're quite the promising young rookie."

Xander's expression was unmoved. He pushed some of the documents on the table toward Melanie and quietly told her, "Just record everything accordingly. Don't mess the information up."

Melanie looked at the documents. They included information on the heavy hitters of the financial world and their previous projects.

She had even met one of them before when she followed Eugene to a meeting.

She paused and asked Xander, "If I remember correctly, your project is split into a few different phases, right? Are you going to put all these bigwigs in the same phase?"

Xander gave her a second look.

Melanie smiled. "Have you forgotten what my main job is?"

The bigwigs in the files were some of the more well-known ones.

Melanie had worked in the financial industry for a long time, so she knew them very well.

It did not take her very long to sort everything out and place the arranged documents in front of

Xander.

Xander was explaining his design concept to Mr. Lewis at the time. When he saw the neatly-

organized documents, there was a flash of surprise in his eyes. After that, he was even calmer when he talked to Mr. Lewis about the plan.

Mr. Lewis looked at the clear timeline, even more impressed now. "I see your sincerity and

dedication, Mr. Solomon. I was right to choose you."

Xander nodded elegantly. "I'm glad to see you're satisfied."

The meeting progressed quite quickly, ending at around eleven o'clock.

Mr. Lewis wanted to treat them to lunch, but Xander refused, saying, "We still have to go back to the studio and discuss the plan in detail."

After leaving the meeting place, Oliver raised his hand. "Boss, Reny is alone in the hospital. I want to

visit her."

The other employees wanted to follow suit.

Melanie asked Xander, "Can I go see her too?"

"Fine, we'll all go."

The hospital was the same one Melanie had been yesterday. Reny had just come out of surgery and was lying on the hospital bed, looking pale.

When she saw Melanie, her eyes lit up. “Melanie, you’re in Hearth City too?”

“Yes. How are you?” Melanie asked.

Although Reny was a little pale, she seemed spirited enough.

Having too many people crowding around her would still disturb her rest, though, so they just exchanged a few words and then left Oliver to look after her.

It was around lunchtime now. One of the staffers invited everyone to go out for lunch, even suggesting a few restaurants nearby.

Melanie had just recovered, so she could not eat anything too oil but spicy. At the same time, she did not want to dampen their spirits. “Xander, I’ll head back to the hotel to rest now. You guys can go have lunch without me.”

Xander frowned and stopped the excited staffer. “Remember to go back to the hotel after you’re done eating. We need to make the necessary adjustments.”

The staffer was surprised until Xander explained, “She can’t eat anything too spicy.”

He only meant to say that Melanie could not eat spicy food because she was not feeling well. At the same time, he did not want to reveal too much without her permission, so he made the reasons vague.

Unexpectedly, his staff members began to cheer and tease him excitedly.

“Melanie?” Suddenly, Viola’s voice came from behind them.

Melanie stiffened and looked over her shoulder. Sure enough, it was Viola.

She was alone, though. Eugene must be elsewhere.

The moment Viola saw Xander, she was clearly stunned. “Melanie, is this your friend?”

Melanie had not expected to meet Viola here. She felt a little uncomfortable. “Why are you at the hospital again?”

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Melanie had not expected to meet Viola here. She felt a little uncomfortable. “Why are you at the hospital again?”

Chapter 147

Eugene’s tone was a drawl, his gaze fixed on Melanie.

Melanie’s hand paused. “What do you want?”

Eugene’s eyelids drooped. He casually picked up the teacup in front of him and played with it. “Since you have the time to join your friend for a meal, does it mean your work here is almost done?”

Melanie frowned slightly. Just as she was about to say something, Xander spoke up from next to her.

“You’re pretty strict on your employees, Mr. Scott. You won’t even let them eat a meal in peace. As expected of LeapCo.”

His tone was indifferent. It sounded like a casual conversation, but he was implicitly calling Eugene a busybody.

Melanie was a little surprised. She had always thought that Xander had a good temper, and this was her first time hearing him give a veiled insult like that.

Eugene's gaze turned to Xander. "You're not that much better."

His tone was dripping with sarcasm, implying that Xander was being nosy.

The atmosphere at the table became a little stiff for a moment. Fortunately, the waiter could read the room and said softly, "Excuse me, we have a few specialties here at our hotel. You might want to try them."

Melanie had no intention of ordering now. She simply returned the menu and left it to the waiter to make the arrangements.

After the waiter left with the menu, Viola suddenly called out to Melanie.

Melanie looked up to see Viola with her hands on her cheeks, looking at her with an expression of overwhelming curiosity. "Melanie, did you and your friend meet in Hearth City?"

She phrased it like a question, but her eyes shone with certainty.

Melanie retorted expressionlessly, "Is there a problem with that?"

"Of course not!" Viola was even more certain now, and that lightened her mood, "That only proves

you're really good at socializing, unlike me. I'm a wallflower who won't go out unless I'm with Eugene.

That second part sounded self-deprecating, but she was actually implicitly calling Melanie a harlot.

How else could she have met a new male friend after just a few days in Hearth City?

Melanie picked up the glass of lemonade on the table and calmly took a sip. "How are your social skills still so poor after all the time you spent with the secretary's office? I'm glad you're at least aware of your shortcomings."

Viola had not expected Melanie to turn the tables on her like that. She was instantly annoyed.

She frowned at Melanie, glancing at Xander beside her. After a while, she clenched her hands into fists and said softly, "You're right. I'll try harder."

Viola had completely ruined Melanie's good mood today, so her tone was understandably harsh.

"Words are cheap. You have to put in the effort," she said. "The secretary's office has plenty of beautiful and capable interns, after all."

Melanie made sure to emphasize the "beautiful and capable" part. Viola's face instantly turned purple.

Melanie paused for a moment before continuing, "If I remember correctly, you're still not a full-time employee, right?"

"That is none of your concern," Eugene said suddenly, his tone mocking. His eyes were flat when he looked at Melanie. "Mind your own business."

Melanie pursed her lips and fell silent.

Viola stopped asking for trouble as well after Melanie rebuked her just now.

Only Xander looked calm. He even poured some more water for Melanie and reminded her, "Your fever just subsided. You should drink more water"

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Melanie looked at him. "Thanks."

The food was served soon enough, but the local flavors were a bit too heavy for Melanie's tastes. She drank some water and then took her bag to go to the washroom,

Before she could leave, though, her phone rang. It was her grandfather calling.

Her breathing quickened. The last time her grandfather called, it was because of her mother.

She took her bag and left the room, answering the call as she headed toward the washroom.

Her grandfather sounded anxious over the phone. "Mel, go check on Peachie. Apparently she fainted at home this afternoon, and now she's at the hospital."

Melanie frowned. "Why did she faint all of a sudden? She was perfectly fine when I saw her yesterday."

"Your mother just called me to borrow more money. I don't have the details, and your mother can't make the decisions. She was too afraid to call you, too. Go and check on them!"

The old man was worried. Dylan was his only daughter, after all. Even though she had not been home for years, he was still concerned about her.

"I'll go check right away. Don't worry." Melanie's expression was much more serious now. After his accident, her grandfather's health had been in rapid decline. The doctors said he could not afford to get overly emotional.

That was also why Melanie insisted on checking him into Jepton's sanatorium.

She hurried back to the room, but she did not go inside. Instead, she stood at the door and said, "I'm sorry, I have something urgent to attend to. I have to leave now."

Eugene raised his brows. "You're not even going to come up with a new excuse this time?"

Melanie frowned, then turned to Xander instead. "I'll buy you dinner next time."

Xander grabbed his jacket and stood up, asking quietly, "Do you need my help?"

"We can help too, Melanie!" Viola stood up and looked at her earnestly before turning to Eugene. "Right, Eugene?"

Eugene's dark eyes were extremely cold. "If you say so."

Melanie did not want to waste time with them here. She was also worried about her grandfather, so she turned and left without saying anything.

When the group arrived at the hospital, they easily found Peachie's ward.

Dylan was weeping by the hospital bed. Peachie's face was deathly pale and her eyes tightly closed. There were a few tubes inserted into her tiny body.

Melanie stopped in her tracks and said softly, "How is she?"

When Dylan heard Melanie's voice, she suddenly fell to her knees.

“Oh, Mel! Please save Peachie!” Dylan’s voice was bordering on hysterical. “I’m sorry, I know I failed you. I’ll beg on my knees! Please save her! I’m begging you!”

She fell at Melanie’s feet, hugging them desperately.

Viola was shocked. She shrieked and jumped into Eugene’s arms, looking at Melanie in horror. “Y- Your mother’s scary, Melanie...”

Melanie grabbed Dylan’s arm crossly. “Get up!”

Dylan refused. She held Melanie’s hand tightly and wept until her face was covered in tears. “Mel, I’m begging you! I’ll do anything.”

Melanie closed her eyes. When she spoke again, her tone was tinged with anger. “Fine, I’ll do it. Just stand up, for god’s sake!”

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Dylan looked at her tearily. “Really?”

Melanie tried to pull her up, but Dylan was too strong. Melanie could not drag her up at all.

Dylan quickly stood up on her own. She wiped her face and anxiously grabbed Melanie’s hand. “Mel, I’m sorry, but I raised Peachy with my own hands. I just can’t...”

Melanie’s mind was calm. As she listened to Dylan’s rambling, she realized that she barely felt

anything for her mother anymore. “Just tell me what the hell is going on.”

Dylan began to wipe her tears again. “The doctor said that Peachy needs a new course of medicine to survive from now on, but the medicine costs tens of thousands of dollars every month. How can I possibly afford it?”

Melanie's heart sank, and she pushed Dylan away. "I'll ask the doctor."

"He'll say the same thing if you ask him. Oh, heavens, why us?!"

Melanie picked up her pace as Dylan wailed behind her.

Xander gave chase as she left the ward in a hurry. "Wait, Melanie."

Melanie was getting a little upset right now, so she turned to Xander and said tiredly, "Sorry you had to see that."

Xander's expression was the same as usual. "I have a friend from the hematology department. I can introduce him to you."

Melanie paused for a moment, and Xander quickly took out his phone. After a while, he said, "I just sent you his contact."

Melanie took a deep breath and whispered, "Thank you."

"Stephen told me to take care of you." Xander paused and added, "And you helped me."

He was talking about the files she had organized that morning. Melanie was still pale, and she could not even force a smile. "You guys could have done that without me."

As they spoke, they arrived at the doctor's office.

Xander accompanied her inside. The attending doctor's diagnosis was clear. Peachie was born with this illness, and that expensive medicine was her best shot.

Melanie nodded.

The doctor continued, "She's still young, so you have to make sure she gets the nutrients she needs too. She's clearly malnourished."

When Melanie and Xander returned to the ward, only Viola and Dylan were left.

Dylan rose to her feet quickly. "The doctor said I was telling the truth, right?"

Melanie looked at Peachie lying on the bed. The doctor's words echoed in her ears.

She asked her mother, "Why is Peachie malnourished?"

Dylan hastily dodged the question. "How can Peachie be malnourished? I've been keeping her well-fed."

"The doctor must have told you." Melanie considered throwing caution to the winds, but she quickly decided against it. Her voice was much colder now. "Isn't Peachie your beloved daughter? Or was that just an act?"

"I just..." Dylan tried to explain, but she just could not find the words. Her expression was bitter.

Melanie looked at her, suddenly struck by how different Dylan was from the capable and caring mother in her memories.

Dylan was shrewd, calculating, and selfish.

Was she really still the mother Melanie remembered?

Melanie's eyes turned completely cold. Dylan felt guilty, but she was also worried that Melanie would abandon Peachie in a fit of anger.

In the end, Dylan decided to come clean. "I didn't give the money to anyone else. I just saved some.

"I-I thought you would..."

Dylan did not finish her sentence, but Melanie already understood.

Dylan was afraid that Melanie would stop giving her money someday, so she had been saving some of the allowance for a rainy day.

Chapter 150

Melanie could not believe it.

At the same time, she was completely numb now. Even her own voice sounded distant to her ears. Dylan, I don't have the money to treat her."

Dylan immediately jumped to her feet in shock. "What do you mean by that? You just promised to save her! You can't just abandon her!"

Dylan grabbed Melanie's arm tightly and said in a panic, "I've asked around. You have that contract with your boss, right? If you ask your boss to fire you, h-he'll have to pay you the compensation!"

Melanie's gaze instantly turned cold. She wrenched Dylan's hand away. "Who told you that?"

The terms of her contract with LeapCo were secrets that only insiders would know.

Melanie automatically looked at Viola.

Viola looked embarrassed. "Your mother asked me about your work just now, and I accidentally spilled the beans..."

Dylan's wails filled Melanie's ears. Behind her lay Peachie, still unconscious.

It was all too much. Melanie had a terrible headache, so she briskly walked out of the ward.

She needed to take a breather now. All these things were pressing down on her heart until it pounded.

Just then, she heard a quiet snicker from her. Melanie turned to see Eugene standing there, expressionless.

The top two buttons of his shirt were unbuttoned, making him look dangerously unkempt. His tone was mocking. "You never change."

Melanie said coldly, "I don't want to argue with you now."

"It's a pity that Stephen is in Jepton," Eugene said casually, his phone in his hand. "Otherwise, you could have asked him for help again."

Melanie was already in a foul mood, and Eugene's sarcasm tipped her off the edge.

She could not help but snap back, "Even if I asked him for help, it has nothing to do with you, right?"

"Melanie Smith." Eugene's expression did not change. He was already much taller than Melanie, and now he was closing in, forcing her to look up at him.

He narrowed his eyes and said coldly, "You're really something. You have Stephen in Jepton and Xander in Hearth City. I suppose I underestimated you."

"I wonder, do they know you're playing with them both at once?"

Eugene's words were harsh, and Melanie was already furious. She instinctively raised her hand to slap him.

Eugene reacted quickly and grabbed Melanie's wrist. His gaze turned cold. "Are you going to hit me?"

However, Melanie lowered her head. Her entire body was trembling, and there were tears in her voice. "Eugene, could you stop saying such things?!"

Eugene frowned for a moment before letting go of her hand. Even so, his tone was still less than friendly. "Why are you crying? Didn't you want to save everyone all by yourself?"

Melanie dug her fingers into her palm and gritted her teeth. "Yes. I deserve this, don't I? I overestimated myself. I thought I could do this, but I can't."

Melanie wanted to slap herself right now.

She thought that as long as she was nice to Dylan for long enough, Dylan would finally remember that she was also her daughter. Her mother would remember that she had raised Melanie too.

She always thought that no mother in the world would be so heartless.

She could at least get a little of her mother's love, right?

Just a little... That was all she ever wanted.