

Mr. Scott 391

Chapter 391

After George took the money, he disappeared for a few days.

Melanie had been thinking about Eugene's offer recently, George and Dylan were in the same boat. She did not want to get involved with them ever again, so she had not gone to look for

them.

Besides, this might not be able to solve the problem once and for all.

It was even more impossible to take care of the loan sharks.

"Melanie, what's wrong? Why do you look like you have a lot on your mind these days?" Reny's voice brought Melanie back to her senses.

She looked at Reny. "It's nothing. I was just thinking about something."

"Is it about your grandfather? It should be fine, I asked one of my aunts, and she said that as long as his body doesn't reject the surgery for half a month, he'll probably be fine. He just has to get enough rest."

Melanie nodded but said nothing.

That day, she stayed in the north side until evening before returning to the villa,

At the end of the day, it was still not safe there. Xander and the others were all against Melanie returning to live there now.

The department took advantage of the situation. After Burning Star and Blue Inc reached an agreement, they still decided to sign a deal with Burning Star, so Xander and the others had been intensifying their efforts to revise the proposal.

As a newbie to this field, Melanie was put in charge of logistics.

She was going out shopping today, and Reny had come out with her. Reny followed Melanie with the shopping bags in her hand, saying tentatively, "Melanie, if you need anything, you can talk to the boss. He should be able to help you."

"Although he has cut ties with his family, he's quite capable. Otherwise, he couldn't have brought us to where we are today."

Melanie nodded and did not refuse her kind offer. "I know. If I ever need help, I'll tell him."

"Actually, the boss is a decent catch. He's good-looking, well-educated, well-off, and kind. Melanie, maybe—"

Before Reny could finish that thought, Melanie interrupted her. "Reny."

Reny paused.

Melanie asked, "The contract with LeapCo hasn't been signed yet. Will that affect our progress?"

She was obviously trying to change the subject.

Reny gave her a wry laugh and a helpless look. "Melanie, you've been asking me that question every time you try to change the subject these days."

“I’m just a little worried about it.”

Rainie shook her head. “You just don’t want us to match you with Xander.”

Melanie was silent. After a moment, she sighed softly. “I’m not in the mood to think about romance right now. Xander is a great guy, so don’t make these jokes at his expense.”

Was she rejecting any possibility of dating him? Reny felt sorry for Xander for a moment.

All of them had been friends with Xander for many years, so they could tell he was clearly interested in her. It was just that Melanie was clearly not in the mood for romance right now.

Things were complicated on his mother’s side too, so Xander probably did not want to implicate Melanie in his mess.

Rainy sighed inwardly. They were both such sticks in the mud.

When they returned to the villa, neither of them said anything. However, they bumped into someone unexpected.

Stella walked around the corner with a dignified middle-aged woman in tow. They came from the direction of the hot springs, and she frowned automatically when she saw Melanie.

Carla, on the other hand, was slightly surprised. She asked Stella, “Isn’t that Eugene’s girlfriend?”

Stella looked displeased. “What girlfriend?”

Carla sensed her attitude and smiled. “Sorry about that. I heard from Luna that Eugene has had quite a few partners in the past few years. Come on, don’t hover over him too much or he’ll start to resent you.”

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Stella groaned. "If Luna wasn't already engaged, I'd really like her to be my daughter-in-law. Those peasant girls can't possibly compare to her.

Melanie and Reny walked past as she said that, and Melanie heard that last sentence loud and clear.

Stella held her chin up high and gave Melanie a look of contempt. "Some people just don't know their place."

Melanie's expression did not change. After what George and Dylan said, Stella's words did not hurt her at all

She did not even pause.

However, Carla was looking at her thoughtfully. Melanie noticed her gaze and stopped to nod at her.

Carla was taken aback for a moment before she smiled back

After they took a few more steps away, Carla asked Stella, "What's wrong with her? Why does she look so haggard?"

Stella rolled her eyes. "How should I know? Maybe someone in her family died."

Carla shook her head and did not say anything. She had studied psychology in university. Although she had not touched the profession once she got married, she could still sense that something was wrong with Melanie when she saw her.

She looked at Stella, who was already annoyed, and shrugged. "Sorry, it's an occupational habit. I'm used to observing people."

When Melanie and Reny arrived at the villa, Xander and the others were still arguing fiercely about something. Melanie had just put their things in the kitchen when her phone rang.

It was Eugene.

His voice was cold and deep, but there was also a lot of fatigue in it. "Come to LeapCo now."

"What's the matter?" Perhaps because George had caused a scene at LeapCo that day, Melanie was now reluctant to go to LeapCo.

Eugene must have sensed her reluctance, but he did not give her any leeway. He only said, "It's about George."

Melanie tidied up the things and left the kitchen. Xander and the others had just finished their discussion. When he saw her, Xander asked, "Does your shoulder hurt? If it does, you should get some rest."

Melanie nodded, then picked up her bag. "I'm going out."

"Where to?" Xander was already on his feet, ready to join her.

Melanie's hands briefly tightened into fists. "I'm going to make a call. I have something to take care of."

Melanie had not told Xander and the others about George's visit to LeapCo that day.

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Subconsciously, she was reluctant to tell anyone else about it

She was already embarrassed enough, and she wanted to retain some semblance of self-respect.

Sure enough, when he heard that she was going to make a call, Xander did not say anything.

Melanie took a cab to Leaylo Ste wer stage to Eugene

There were a few folders on Eugene's desk. When he saw Melanie, his face was expressionless. He casually picked up a folder and threw it in Scout of Melanie "You can take a look at the information Theodore dig u2"

Melanie opened the file hesitantly see a moment, her own deepened.

The document contained all sorts of illegal arts that George had committed in recent years. Other than Borrowing money from kan sharks, the had also been involved in gambling, prostitution, fighting then, dank driving, a couple of tut and uns, and so on

Melanie finished reading and raised her gaze to bigene. "What do you want me to do?"

Eugene threw a thumb drive on the table. His voice was calm as he said, "We can also add Blackmail

"Melanie, you're related to him at all You won't have any objections if I sue him, right?" Eugene looked at her with dark entortions soling in his deep eyes.

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Melanie's eyelashes lifted slightly. "I have nothing to do with them anymore. Do whatever you

want."

Eugene sized her up with his deep eyes. There seemed to be some kind of emotion brewing in them. He took back the USB before nodding. "Okay."

Melanie nodded. "Anything else?"

She did not particularly like LeapCo or Eugene right now.

Eugene paused. Then, he raised his eyebrows and said coldly, "I told you before that if you want to stand at the top, you have to harden your heart to everyone."

His eyes were dark, suppressing emotions Melanie could not understand. "But you never took my advice to heart."

Melanie looked puzzled for a moment. She thought she heard Eugene sigh.

It sounded almost like a fleeting feeling of helplessness.

No, she must have misheard him. Melanie pursed her lips and walked out of the office.

Melanie returned to the villa for the second time that day. When she got back, Xander and the others were preparing a barbecue.

Reny greeted her with a bottle of Coke. "You're back just in time. I was going to call you and ask when you'd be back."

Melanie felt as if she were suffering from motion sickness. Her head was spinning. "You guys can go ahead without me," she said in a small voice.

With that, she went upstairs. Reny watched her go, hesitant.

A deep and charismatic voice came from beside her. "Let her rest."

Reny turned to look at Xander. When she saw that there was no expression on his face, she could not help but remind him softly, "Boss, I can tell that Melanie's been going through a rough time recently. Try to show her some concern when you have the time."

After saying that, she added, "Don't wait until she ends up with someone else. Then you'll really regret it."

Xander looked up at her, pondered for a moment, and stood up silently.

Melanie slept in a daze. She felt like she was in a dream.

Eugene's voice kept ringing in her ears. "I told you before that if you want to stand at the top, you have to harden your heart to everyone."

Melanie remembered Eugene's words very clearly. She could even remember when he had said

them.

At the time, his relationship with his family was beginning to improve, ever so slightly.

Eugene had to go home for Stella's birthday, and Melanie could not accompany him because she suddenly had to work overtime at the company. She could only pick him up after her work

was done.

The Scott family villa was far away. There were many trees in the area for beautifying purposes, but as a result, the entire road was very dark.

Eugene knew that Melanie could not see well at night and had never allowed her to drive to the family villa alone at that hour. However, he had drunk a lot that night and had no choice.

As long as she drove slower at night, though, there was nothing to be afraid of. However, that night, when Melanie picked up Eugene, she realized how drunk he was.

He reeked of alcohol, and his usually clear eyes were stormy. He looked a little scary.

Melanie could not see clearly to begin with, and Eugene reminded her to be careful. However, she was so worried about Eugene that she drove straight into the grass beside the road for

some reason.

The person beside her groaned. Melanie was suddenly at a loss. She panicked and tried to reverse the car out of the shrubs.

However, before she could step on the accelerator, someone grabbed her hand and pulled her into an embrace that reeked of alcohol.

Before she could react, Eugene was on top of her.

With one arm around her waist and the other on the back of her head, he kissed her hard and fast, as if he wanted nothing more than to melt Melanie into his body.

The moment their lips collided, it was as if they were fighting a war. He attacked forcefully, and she defended helplessly.

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Enely, when she was almost out of breath, Eugene let her go.

However, steamy had a moment's reprieve before he held her in his arms and kissed her

Bugete went wild at night. He almost wanted to do it in the car until Melanie stopped him.

His display of passion. Melanie's eyes were red, and her lips were swollen. As he pressed tend his amis, she asked him quietly, "Eugene, what happened?"

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Melanie towered and looked up at him, but all she could see was Eugene's clenched jawline.

In the dark night, his voice was unspeakably cold. "Milly, I wasn't ruthless enough with myself. That's why I ended up walking down this path."

Flicking his eyes, his Adam's apple bobbing. "Milly, can you give me a little more time?"

At that time, Melanie did not understand what Eugene meant. Even so, she believed him.

Even later when he had more people by his side, she had held onto his words. She just had to give him a little more time.

When she woke up there was a thin sheen of sweat on Melanie's forehead. She propped herself in in the headboard and felt her heart palpitate.

She never knew why she had dreamed of that time. It was probably because Eugene had mentioned in again that afternoon that she had remembered that conversation.

France Velante felt suffocated whenever Eugene shouted the name "Milly" in her dream.

It had been a long time since someone had called her that. Rather, there had only been two. Tele wire has called her all her life.

Villy as Valatie's childhood nickname. When she was learning how to spell as a kid, she had compared that her name was way too long and had too many syllables. She asked her parents why they had not called her Milly instead. That would be so much easier to spell and say.

Roggen was still a good father back then. He hugged her and said, "Alright, then Daddy will call you Milly from now on. You're my only treasure, little Milly."

Later on, Howard and Dylan got divorced, and no one mentioned that little incident again.

One day, Mong, Bagene went with her to visit her grandfather, and Albert accidentally Bring up that childhood memory.

After that, fagre kept calling her Milly for a long time.

The memories were all jumbled and confusing Melanie sat on her bed for a long moment bases she heard a knock on the door

Rubbing her temples, she opened the door and saw Xander standing outside with a glass of

Has expression was the same as ever. "You're awake."

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Melanie's temple still hurt a little. "Is something the matter?"

"Oliver and the others picked some fruits from the orchard a few days ago. They're still quite fresh, so I squeezed some into juice for you." Xander saw that she did not look too good. Her forehead was covered in a cold sweat. He reached out and pushed her messy hair behind her

ear.

He pressed his lips together and asked slowly, "Did you have a nightmare?"

Melanie was taken aback for a moment before she realized what Xander was doing. She subconsciously moved back.

Her reaction was quite evident, and Melanie was embarrassed by it. She frowned and looked at Xander, who had retracted his hand calmly.

He chuckled. "Do you think I'm being presumptuous? I'm sorry."

Melanie took the juice from him. "Sorry," she said in a low voice. "I'm just not used to people suddenly touching me."

Xander wanted to say more, but Melanie's cell phone suddenly rang from inside her room. She nodded at Xander and turned back to her room to answer the call in relief.

Xander watched her go, lowered his gaze, and turned to leave.

However, before he could go too far, he heard the sound of something crashing to the floor. It came from inside the room.

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When Xander burst into the room, Melanie was standing there, her face deathly pale. She was frozen in place as though she was still answering the call, but her phone had fallen to the floor.

The phone screen was still lit, and a voice was coming from the speakers.

"Are you Albert Lancaster's family? Please come to Paramount Hospital as soon as possible to take over the deceased's remains--"

Xander jerked his head up to look at Melanie, but her face was numb and blank. She felt Xander's gaze and stared blankly at the phone on the floor. Then she slowly crouched down, picked up the phone, and asked in a trembling voice, "Did you call the wrong number? When I went to the hospital yesterday, Grandpa was still fine."

"Are Ms. Melanie Smith? This is the contact number you left at our hospital--"

Melanie had yet to react. She crouched on the ground with her phone in her hand, her eyes filled with confusion.

"Hello? Are you Ms. Melanie-?"

The voice on the phone called her name again, and Melanie slowly came back to her senses. Xander reached out to help her up, but she swayed on her feet and stood up. Then she walked out of the room as though in a dream.

Melanie's mind went blank. The voice on the phone kept playing on repeat in her head.

Albert Lancaster? The deceased? His... remains?

...Were they talking about Grandpa?

He was fine yesterday. What were they talking about? What remains?

Melanie went downstairs in a trance. She could not even hear the noises around her until someone grabbed her wrist.

Xander shouted, his voice deep, "Melanie!"

Melanie blinked and muttered, "What's the matter? I have to go to the hospital now. My

grandfather is waiting for me. Can we talk when I come back? I'm sorry, but I can't right now...

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She was already incoherent.

Xander's brow furrowed. He grabbed Melanie's wrist. "You're not wearing any shoes!"

Not only was she barefoot, but Melanie was also still wearing her lounge clothes. She followed Xander's gaze to her feet and nodded woodenly.

Xander's expression was serious. "I'll take you to the hospital."

When Melanie arrived at the hospital, she did not know how she got in. She almost tripped several times along the way. It was all thanks to Xander that she did not fall on her face.

Her grandfather's ward was upstairs. He was still there when she went up, but to Melanie's surprise, George and Dylan were there too.

Melanie seemed to suddenly understand something. She looked at George, who was crouching on the ground, and kicked him viciously. "Was it you? What did you do, you scumbag?!" George was feeling a little guilty at first, but now he stood up and shouted, "Hey, my father-in-law is dead. What's wrong with me coming to the funeral?!"

"You're not needed here. Get out, get out!" Melanie closed her eyes. She did not dare to look at the old man lying on the hospital bed now. She could only vent the fear in her heart by channeling it into anger.

"He can't leave, Miss Smith. He's the one who unplugged the patient's ventilator. He can't leave!" The caregiver's voice cried out suddenly, and Melanie froze.

George reacted like a cat whose tail was stomped on. He roared, "You didn't see me do it! I only came in to visit my father-in-law!"

George's loud protests made him look even more guilty. The terrifying thought was magnified in Melanie's mind. She did not know where she got the strength from, but she grabbed George by the collar and dragged him out of the ward.

Dylan was there too. Melanie's eyes were filled with a strong killing intent. She stared at Dylan, her voice dark and terrifying. "Get lost! You too!"

"Hmph!" George suddenly gave Melanie a fierce glare. He had just been forcefully dragged out by Melanie and felt embarrassed, so he decided not to stop acting nice.

In any case, Dylan was still her biological mother. He did not believe that Melanie would really abandon her like that!

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George thought for a moment and held his head up high. "Stop pretending, bitch. That old man is already so old. He's practically half-dead already. Why are you still wasting money on him?"

"You wouldn't give me a single cent, but you pretended to be such a devoted granddaughter to him. That old fart was probably overjoyed when he saw me. He couldn't wait to die!"

"You think you're being filial? You're forcing him to suffer. He's already so old. You're just dragging on his suffering needlessly. See, I did him a favor-

Before George could finish that sentence, he was slapped across the face loudly.

However, it was not Melanie who hit him. It was Dylan,

Dylan was shaking from head to toe after she slapped him. Her eyes were red and swollen, and tears were still streaming down her face.

She jabbed a finger at George. "Shut up! That's my father! How could you say such a thing?!"

"So what if he's your father? He isn't my father. I'm not going to spend my money on that decrepit bag of bones...!"

"Are you even human?!" Dylan rarely ever raised her voice like that. Perhaps her father's death had finally sent her off the edge, so she did not stop attacking George even after the man fought back.

It was chaotic outside.

Melanie was looking at the commotion, but her hands trembled uncontrollably,

Her back was facing the ward door. She still did not dare to go inside.

It could not be real. No way.

As long as she did not open the door, Grandpa would be fine.

Before she left yesterday, her grandfather had told her that he craved the taste of Mrs. Zawn's cooking.

She had even shown him what the new house looked like.

Melanie's hand gripped the door handle tightly, but she did not have the courage to push the door open. It was as if there was an abyss behind the door. If she opened it, she would be completely devoured.

However, the hospital did not have time to waste on her.

When the nurse came to inform her that they had to remove the bed, Melanie's face was as

white as a sheet.

Beside her, Xander squeezed her arm. "Go say goodbye."

The last remaining thread in Melanie's heart snapped. Teardrops rolled from her eyes, and she immediately raised her hand to wipe them away.

Yes, she had to say goodbye to her grandfather.

She could not cry.

Grandpa didn't like to see her cry.

Melanie wiped her face haphazardly and slowly opened the door.

She tried her best to look light-hearted, but when she saw the old man lying on the bed, the corners of her lips that had curled up immediately fell.

It took a lot of strength for Melanie to press her lips tightly together. Even so, the tears in her eyes would not stop streaming down her face.

She reached out and carefully held her grandfather's hand. There was still some warmth left on it.

Melanie could not take it anymore. She put her grandfather's hand on her head, just as her grandfather had patted her head when she was a child.

Her voice was heavy with tears and sorrow. "Grandpa, are you abandoning me too now?"

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"Mr. Scott--"

Lee pushed open the office door and came in. He had his phone in his hand and looked at Eugene behind his desk. "It's a call from Paramount Hospital about the public health awareness drive last month. They're asking if we want to continue with another run."

Eugene had been looking at a contract. He took the phone Lee handed him.

LeapCo has put a lot of effort into public welfare lately to improve its image.

As soon as he took the phone, he heard a commotion. Then, a voice said, "I'm sorry, Mr. Scott. I have something to deal with here, so it might be a little noisy."

Eugene harrumphed nonchalantly, but the director on the other end sighed. "There are many conflicts between doctors and patients nowadays, but this is the first time I've seen a conflict between family members. We even had to call the police."

The director paused for a moment. "Speaking of which, the patient involved was the one your uncle had operated on. The old man was recovering quite well, but then he suddenly passed away..."

Before he could finish that sentence, Eugene interrupted coldly. "What did you just say?"

"I said, the patient involved was the one your uncle had operated on. Do you remember? He was the old man who needed brain surgery--"

"What was the next part?"

Even after he hung up, Eugene's expression was frighteningly cold.

There was an indescribable aura brewing in his dark eyes.

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At the same time, at Paramount Hospital, the hospital's security guards had broken fight between George and Dylan, forcibly dragging the two of them to the office.

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The voices outside gradually quieted down. Melanie lay on the side of her grandfather's bed. She stared blankly at the old man. His eyes were closed as if he were fast asleep.

She held her grandfather's hand and kept rubbing it. The warmth of her grandfather's skin was fading, and the last bit of residual heat was gradually dissipating. No matter how Melanie rubbed his hand, it was still cold.

He was lifeless.

When someone knocked on the door again, Melanie still did not react. The nurse tried to come in several times, but Xander stopped her outside.

Melanie did not turn around, but she kneaded her grandfather's palm even faster as if she was in a hurry.

However, no matter how anxious she was, no matter how much she rubbed his skin, he did not become any warmer at all.

Melanie grew even more frantic. She repeated the motions mechanically, over and over. When the light in the ward dimmed, the door was forcefully pushed open.

The light in the corridor instantly illuminated the dim ward, and study footsteps don'ty approached her.

Melanie, who had been kneeling on the floor, stiffened. The glare of the light made her turns instinctively.

Eugene was dressed in a black formal suit. Melanie's vision was blurry, so she could not see his expression. She could only make out a vague outline.

Melanie looked in his direction in a daze. Her eyes were unfocused, and the rims of her eyes were red. Her face was filled with despair.

After a while, she let go of her grandfather's hand and let it fall. She called his name in a low voice.

"Eugene."

Eugene nodded and Melanie stopped. "Grandpa's hands are so cold. He's not feeling well these days, and his joints hurt when he's cold"

“Do you think he’s hurting now?”

Her tone was bordering on normal, but her voice was choked. She had to stop for a few times before she could finish her sentence. She sounded puzzled as well, as if she was just asking a simple question.

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However, she did not need an answer.

She was just wondering out loud.

She was just worried.

Eugene’s Adam’s apple bobbed, but he said nothing.

He looked at Melanie, who was lost in her grief, and curled his fingers into fists. He turned around to leave the ward,

However, before he left the room, he stopped in his tracks and looked back at Melanie. He reminded her in a low voice, “Dr. Wells has checked the surveillance video, You can see it for yourself.”

Melanie did not react to his words. She remained motionless on her knees.

Eugene looked at the old man lying on the bed. He bowed slightly with a serious expression before turning to leave.

Outside the door, Dr. Wells was already waiting for him. When he saw him come out, he asked, “Can we go in now?”

Melanie was a little faster to come out than they had expected. She still did not look too good, but she still followed Dr. Wells and calmly handled the remaining procedures.

When the paperwork was done, Melanie looked up at Xander. "Where are those two?"

She was talking about George and Dylan.

Xander said, "The police just got here. They're in the office now."

Melanie nodded and headed for the office.

Her face was pale and her figure was thin. From behind, she looked like she was about to fall at any moment.

Xander did not have time to think. He followed her.

However, someone was one step ahead of him. Eugene walked straight toward Melanie expressionlessly.

Xander frowned, but he could not say anything given the current situation. He stared at Eugene's back for a while and followed closely behind.

Before they reached the office, they could hear George shouting inside and Dylan's sorrowful

wails.

Melanie did not stop walking. She went straight into the office and looked at the police officer sitting at the desk. Her tone was calm, but her voice was terribly hoarse, "I'm going to charge George Chapman with premeditated murder."

George jumped up when he heard that. "Bullshit! I was just here to see my father-in-law. Fuck you and your murder charge!"

Melanie ignored him. She turned back to Dylan and said succinctly, "Was he the one who

murdered Grandpa, or were you an accomplice too?"

Dylan was stunned. The injuries on her face were horrible to look at. She stared at Melanie for a long time without saying anything.

Melanie did not give her time to recover. She said, "Officer, I want to charge them both. The hospital has surveillance footage, and the caregiver is our witness."

As soon as she said that, George realized that Melanie was serious.

He immediately interrupted her. "Officer, don't listen to her nonsense! I was really just here to see my father-in-law. S—She just wants to mess with me on purpose. That's why she said that!

"I thought it was boring for him to stay alone in the ward, so I wanted to take him out for a breather!" George said without thinking. "I didn't know that I couldn't pull that thing out. I could still hear him talking at first, so I thought it would be fine for a while—"

George was still explaining nonsensically, but he was basically confessing to his crime.

He looked at Dylan, who was simply weeping beside him. He gave her a vicious kick. "Say something, bitch! Your daughter's gonna charge me for murder, and all you can do is cry!"

The office was in chaos. Melanie turned away in silence, but she almost ran into someone when she looked back.

Melanie paused and looked up. There was no expression on her face, but her eyes were like an abandoned wasteland. There was no light in them at all. They were empty and dead.

She just looked at Eugene blankly.

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Eugene did not look happy. He stared at Melanie, a slight frown on his face.

Melanie's expression did not change. Her heart and mind were both empty. She was like the walking dead.

Even when she told the police that she wanted to have George charged with murder, she had done it mechanically and matter-of-factly. She was unwilling to use any extra time or energy.

Eugene would not budge, and Melanie would not open her mouth.

She just looked at him silently.

Eventually, Xander stepped up and said, "Mr. Scott, please move aside. You're blocking the way."

Eugene's dark eyes looked at him for only a moment before turning back to Melanie.

It was Melanie who sighed first.

She looked down at her toes and said in a soft voice, "I've been busy with work all these years and have never been able to accompany him properly. Can you let me be alone with him for a while? For the last time."

Eugene's frown deepened. Melanie looked at Xander. "Could you watch over things here for me?"

Xander took off his jacket and draped it over Melanie's shoulders. He said gently, "Call me anytime if you need anything."

Melanie nodded and walked away.

She wanted to spend more time with her grandfather.

The old man often said that when a person's soul left their body after death, they would linger in confusion like a newborn baby.

Melanie thought she should go and stay with him, just in case he could not find her and got anxious again.

As soon as she was gone, the gentleness on Xander's face faded. He looked at Eugene. "Mr. Scott, if you have something to do, go ahead. I'll take care of Mel."

Eugene sneered coldly. "You have a lot of time on your hands, do you? If Xavier Solomon knew, he would be happy to find something for you to do."

Xander's eyes narrowed slightly, and his usual lazy aura turned hard. "Mr. Scott, instead of butting into my private affairs, why don't you settle your family matters first?"

Xander was about to leave when Eugene called out to him in a cold voice.

As someone who had been in the business world for many years, he had the pressure of a tycoon could not be ignored. Eugene reminded Xander in an emotionless tone, "The Solomons have a lot of problems to be untangled."

Xander was unmoved. He raised his eyebrows slightly and retorted mockingly, "Even so, you don't have to worry about me, Mr. Scott."

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As soon as he finished speaking, he walked into the office to keep an eye on George.

Only Eugene stood rooted to the ground. His dark eyes seemed to be brewing up a storm, and no one dared to approach him.

A moment later, he raised his gaze and looked ahead – in the direction in which Melanie had just left.

His phone rang. It was Cedric, his father.

The coldness in Eugene's eyes slowly turned to Arctic ice. Then, he turned around and picked up the call.

Cedric's voice was as harsh and heavy as ever. "Come home. We need to talk."

Eugene's voice was cold. "What is it?"

"There's someone you should see."

Melanie stayed in the hospital until night time. The news of her grandfather's death quickly reached everyone.

Stephen, Reny, Yana, and Tina all rushed to her side.

Melanie stopped talking after a short while. She was not in good spirits.

Stephen sighed softly. "Mel, the dead can't come back. Your grandfather wouldn't want to see you like this,"

Melanie nodded. "I know."

Her expression was very calm. Other than her red eyes, no one would think that she had been crying.

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Stephen did not know what else to say when he saw her like this. All he could do was head out to buy her dinner.

The others did not stay for long before Xander sent them away.

When her surroundings had quietened down, Melanie sniffed and muttered to herself, "I'm not crying in front of outsiders."

Her grandfather had taught her not to cry in front of outsiders since she was young. He wanted her to be strong no matter what happened.

Xander and Stephen returned with a bowl of porridge. Melanie barely managed two bites before she lost her appetite.

Xander had wanted to stay with her earlier, but Melanie had refused. She shook her head. "I want to be alone with Grandpa. We haven't talked in a long time."

At night, the hospital corridor was already quiet, and she was the only one here.

Melanie bent her legs into the chair. She wrapped her arms around them and rested her head on her knees.

Her mind was blank. She could not think.

The night was cold, and the sky was empty.

The Scott family's villa was in the suburbs, so it looked even more quiet and peaceful at night.

There was a formal smile on Cedric's face, but it faded for a moment when he saw Eugene stepping into the house.

He greeted in a low voice, "This is Ms. Turner. I believe you met her in Prime City before."

Peyton had an exquisitely sculpted smile on her face. She nodded demurely. "Yes, we met. He and Evie are quite close."

Cedric looked at Eugene. "Really? Why haven't I heard you mention it before? Ms. Turner only has one daughter. You have to be nice to little Evie, you hear me?"

Eugene's brow furrowed as his gaze fell on Evelyn Shue.

Evelyn was dressed in a suit. Her red lips curled up as she greeted Eugene with a smile. "Long time no see."

Eugene looked away and turned back to Cedric. "Why on earth did you call me back here?"

"Do I need a reason to summon you?" His son's attitude immediately made Cedric's tone become much harsher, and his sharp eyes were filled with a sense of warning.

He said in a deep voice, "You don't have much to do these few days, so spend more time with Evie. She's new to Jepton."

Eugene said directly, "I'm very busy at LeapCo. I don't have time."

Cedric glared at him as if about to speak, but Peyton cut in instead. "The kids can take care of themselves now. Besides, Evie isn't a child anymore. She doesn't need a babysitter."

She said it casually, but she put the glass in her hand on the marble table with a soft clink. Cedric's face darkened. Just as he was about to speak, Eugene went straight upstairs.

Stella had not been home much lately, She was probably hanging out with Carla.

He went straight back to his room. He rarely stayed here, so there was not much in his room.

In the meantime, Melanie's eyes paused, and her gaze suddenly stopped somewhere on the desk.

Melanie spent the night alone in the hospital. When Xander and the others came over the next morning, she was as white as a sheet.

Reny reached out and touched her hand. She gasped when she realized how cold Melanie's hand was.

However, Melanie did not realize that her lips were pale and her eyes were bloodshot.

Xander frowned and placed his hand on Melanie's forehead. It was hot to the touch.

Melanie did not really want to be touched. She dodged backward, but her head was heavy and she felt unwell. She could not help but stagger back two steps. Fortunately, someone held her before she fell.

Xander and the others came with news about Dylan and George.

Faced with the footage from the surveillance cameras and the nurse's accusations, George admitted in exasperation that he was the one who had unplugged her grandfather's ventilator. Meanwhile, Dylan had been watching him from the sidelines and did not try to stop him-