

No Chance 1901

[Chapter 1901 Departure](#)

In the end, Elisa, Gareth, and the village chief could not reach an agreement.

Anna wanted to explain, but the village chief took her away.

Elisa and Gareth returned home together.

Mrs. Kella had already prepared a table full of food for them. When she saw that they had returned, she greeted them cheerfully. "Come sit down! It's time to eat."

Mrs. Kella noticed the expressions on their faces and assumed they hadn't won, so she didn't bring up the matter on her own.

During the meal, all three were preoccupied with their own thoughts, preventing them from fully enjoying the food.

After finishing her meal, Mrs. Kella put down her cutlery to give them some heartfelt advice. "Actually, sometimes it's quite good to let things take their natural course. If you've tried your best, then no matter what, there will be no regrets."

The two understood that Mrs. Kella was trying to tell them that some things could not be forced.

However, how could one be content when they were just a hair's breadth away from success?

Elisa managed a smile. "It's okay, Mrs. Kella. We'll take things slow."

After urging Mrs. Kella to go to bed in her room, Elisa looked at Gareth under the moonlight. For some reason, she felt that something was quite strange about him this time.

There was always an unsettling and ominous feeling in her heart which made her frown constantly.

Elisa sat next to Gareth, gently tapping him because he seemed lost in thought.

"No worries. We'll just stick to what we initially discussed and steal it as planned. As soon as we get it, we must leave immediately. When the opportunity arises, we'll come back to apologize in person."

Gareth curved his lips into a smile, nodding slightly.

If Elisa had carefully observed Gareth's expression, she would have certainly noticed that something was off.

It was a pity that the moonlight was dim that day, and Gareth deliberately turned his head to prevent her from seeing him clearly.

After a while, Gareth pointed to the bottle of alcohol on the table. "Join me for a drink. I've been under a lot of stress lately."

Elisa nodded and lifted her cup, but she hesitated a bit before taking a sip.

"What's the matter?" Gareth asked, chuckling as he glanced at Elisa. "Are you afraid I've poisoned it?" He then poured himself a drink and finished it in a single gulp.

With a gentle smile, Elisa shook her head.

She was not afraid of being poisoned, but she was concerned that Gareth was going to take advantage of her falling unconscious to send her away.

But now that Gareth had taken a gulp, she was more at ease.

Under the moonlight, the two of them began to drink, one glass after the other.

Suddenly, Elisa felt her eyelids grow heavy. Her head spun, and her vision blurred as if the whole world had started to spin around her.

She inwardly cried out in alarm, turning her gaze toward Gareth.

The latter wore an apologetic expression. Elisa knew she had been tricked, and her worst fears had indeed come to pass.

She wanted to say something, but the drug took effect quickly. Elisa slumped onto the table, falling into a deep sleep.

Before losing consciousness, Elisa had just one thought in mind.

Gareth had deceived her.

As he watched Elisa drift into unconsciousness, Gareth suppressed his reluctance, greedily tracing her eyes with his own gaze, as if he wanted to etch her image into his heart.

"I'm sorry," Gareth said indifferently.

If it were not for such desperate circumstances, he would never have wanted to abandon Elisa, adrift in the vast ocean.

However, the only ones left there now were Sodo, who harbored ulterior motives, as well as the cunning and crafty village chief.

He simply couldn't bear to leave Elisa alone.

"Soran, when you come back for me, I will personally atone for my sins." Gareth's murmuring voice was carried away by the wind as his kisses gently landed on Elisa's eyelids.

When Elisa came to, it was already bright outside.

She instinctively thought that everything that happened yesterday was just a dream.

But upon waking up and looking around, Elisa realized it was not a dream.

Indeed, she was on a small boat, with an envelope beside her, as well as the Nomadic Odyssey.

[Chapter 1902 Salvation](#)

There were also two young girls and a burly man on the boat.

Elisa knew him as the best swimmer and the most skilled sailor in the village.

Elisa guessed that this was all arranged by Gareth.

If the village chief truly wished to keep an eye on her, he could have simply assigned just anyone to accompany her. There was no need to send the person with the best swimming skills, who also happened to be an expert navigator.

Those two little girls were his children.

The two girls gathered around Elisa when they saw that she had regained consciousness. Speaking in somewhat broken Clusian, they asked, "Are you awake? Are you okay?"

Both girls were fond of Elisa, simply because Elisa was very beautiful.

People were naturally drawn to beauty.

Elisa felt a bit uncomfortable and simply shook her head when faced with the girls' concern.

"I'm fine, I just need some time alone."

Although the two girls were somewhat disappointed, they did not insist. They nodded, giving Elisa some space to be alone, and left the room.

With trembling hands, Elisa took the envelope. Inside was Gareth's familiar handwriting, a sight she knew all too well.

The letter read: I'm truly sorry for deceiving you. By the time you read this letter, you'll surely be on the boat. I understand that you might be angry or upset right now, and I know you're capable enough of swimming back. But I don't want you to do that. Soran, I'll wait for you to come back and get me. I'll apologize to you in person, okay?

The name "Soran" was given to her by Mrs. Kella.

When Elisa saw it, her hands were trembling.

Indeed, she had considered swimming back recklessly to confront Gareth about why he had done this.

They had clearly agreed to stick together through thick and thin, so why did he abandon her?

Yet, after reading the letter, Elisa calmed down.

Regardless of whether or not she was the type to vent her emotions, Elisa always weighed the pros and cons to find the best solution. This was something she always did on principle.

Going back now was clearly not the best outcome.

Thinking of Gareth, Elisa murmured, "You must wait for me to come back and get you. You must."

Elisa thus made up her mind. It was clear that she required sustenance on board the boat.

Despite having received instructions from Gareth, Fabio was initially a bit worried that Elisa was going to slip away when he was not paying attention.

Yet, when Fabio saw her behaving like that, he gradually began to feel at ease.

Now, they were facing another critical situation.

The group had been adrift at sea for an unknown number of days now, but one thing was certain— their food and potable water supplies were almost depleted.

For several days in a row, they have only been eating one meal a day. It was no exaggeration to say that they were being very frugal with their supplies already.

However, the coastline stretched on endlessly.

Just as they were on the verge of starving to death on the boat, they encountered a large ship.

It was a Clusian merchant ship.

Elisa closed her eyes and let out a deep sigh.

We're saved!

After boarding the merchant ship, Elisa was pleasantly surprised to discover that it was one of her own fleet.

The grand flag of Benett Corporation fluttered in the wind.

Just like that, Elisa had officially established contact with the outside world.

She immediately got in touch with Bella.

At that time, Bella stood in the boardroom, confronting Paul with a relatively neutral tone.

“There are still three days until the shareholders' meeting, so are you calling for it early? Paul, your wolfish ambition is as clear as day. Are you really so eager to replace Ms. Benett?”

What was said was truly impertinent. The shareholders in attendance hung their heads low, wishing they could turn into ostriches and bury their heads in the sand.

Paul narrowed his eyes, casting a somewhat dissatisfied glance at Rochelle, seemingly asking why they had to retain such a troublemaker in the company.

Rochelle was also full of complaints.

Who would have thought? I had Bella start from the bottom just to humiliate her.

[Chapter 1903 Dreams Come True](#)

Who knew Bella would readily agree to the arrangement?

No matter how much Rochelle had tried to make things difficult for Bella lately, the latter endured it all and stayed on until now, even going so far as to barge into the conference room.

Of course, they could choose to throw Bella out, but that'd make it seem like they had ulterior motives and a guilty conscience.

As it turned out, that was indeed the case.

Paul cast an impatient look at Bella. “The shareholders meeting is meant to align with the shareholders' schedules. What difference does it make if it's three days early or three days late? Ms. Benett may be

gone, but we're still alive. Are we not allowed to keep the company going? Do you think she'd want Benett Corporation to crash and burn overnight?"

Upon seeing Paul's pompous demeanor, Bella bit her lip in frustration.

"All I know is that no matter what, Ms. Benett would never want the company to fall into the hands of a sc*mbag like you!"

Now, Paul was truly enraged.

To be more precise, he couldn't wait any longer.

If everything had gone as planned, he'd rightfully take the helm at the company after the shareholders meeting and assume total control.

Alas, there just had to be a fly in the ointment.

Paul had been feeling uneasy for the past few days, and even his dreams were about Elisa making a powerful comeback and driving him out.

Therefore, to avoid any complications caused by undue delay, he decided to bring forward the meeting.

He had already spoken to the other shareholders, and as for the old-timers who disagreed with him, he could always find a reason to dismiss them after the meeting.

That way, it wouldn't matter whether Elisa was dead or alive.

Even if the woman were to return from the dead, any retaliation on her part would undoubtedly be of no avail.

How, then, could Paul allow Bella to ruin his plans?

Meanwhile, Bella was starting to incite the masses by going down the line of shareholders.

"You! When the company you were in charge of got into trouble, Ms. Benett did everything she could to help you. It's because of her that you're where you are today. And you... Have you forgotten how you climbed the corporate ladder? You! Who do you think covered your mother's medical bills back then? Have you all forgotten?"

Indeed, the group of people singled out by Bella had all received Elisa's kindness and support at some point in their lives.

Even though their capabilities shouldn't be overlooked in their rise to the top, it was also undeniable that they wouldn't have gotten there without Elisa promoting them.

Needless to say, Bella was utterly disheartened by how heartless people could be and how easily they changed their loyalties.

Several guilt-ridden shareholders suddenly stood up and turned to Paul. "Let's postpone the meeting if we can't work this out. After all, it's just a matter of three days. That's not a long wait."

Paul's expression instantly turned as black as thunder.

After signaling to Rochelle with a glance to call for security, he spoke up with a deep voice.

“What's the matter, everyone? Are we treating the shareholders meeting like a game we can bring forward and postpone whenever we like?”

By then, Paul had torn his mask away and dropped all pretense.

After all, who cared about maintaining civility when his sole intention was to get his hands on the company?

With that, the security guards filed into the room one after another, ready to escort Bella away.

The latter put on a fierce struggle, but sadly, it was difficult fighting two men off by herself.

Just as she was about to be thrown out of the room, a booming voice suddenly rang out.

“Stop!”

Everyone turned toward the sound and couldn't hide their surprise when they saw Julia Smith.

Although Julia was no longer in the business sector, her reputation remained positive and strong.

There wasn't a single person who hadn't heard of her fame and deeds, so naturally, they all held a certain respect for her.

Paul, on the other hand, instinctively felt that something was amiss. It felt like he was watching events spiral out of control, yet he was powerless to do anything.

Then again, despite the frustration and reluctance, he knew he couldn't skip his social niceties.

With that, Paul stood up and looked at Julia with a smile.

“What brings you here today?”

[Chapter 1904 Betrayal](#)

Julia had always despised those who fawned over the rich and powerful, and that was only made worse when she learned about Paul's intention to take advantage of others' misfortunes. Within seconds, her expression turned grim as she gave Paul a side-eye.

“If I don't show up soon, my granddaughter-in-law's company and assets will fall into the hands of others, and my granddaughter will be tossed out like garbage!” she scoffed, words dripping with sarcasm.

It was only then that everyone came to know of Bella's true identity.

Huh? She's Gareth's sister?

Everyone turned around in shocked disbelief, only to see that Bella had moved to stand behind Julia.

Julia's appearance, without a doubt, had given her a boost of strength and confidence.

Paul, however, was visibly displeased.

Argh! I don't understand why it's so hard to seize power even when Elisa is gone.

After careful consideration, Paul spoke up. "Madam Smith, I'm addressing you as such out of respect. However, with regards to matters that aren't within your purview... I'd appreciate it if you could refrain from interfering."

Julia merely let out a cold sneer. After all, she had braved and fought through various storms in her lifetime, so why would she be scared off by a few words from Paul?

As she swept her gaze around the room, some people hung their heads low, not daring to make eye contact with her.

"Let me repeat myself. Bennett Corporation is my granddaughter-in-law's company, and I'm taking charge of it from today onward!"

Upon hearing those words, Paul gave a violent shudder. He felt helpless about the situation, but at the same time, he refused to accept his fate.

As much as he hated to admit it, he couldn't shake off the nagging feeling of dread.

The next second, Julia began to use both coercion and bribery.

Her face wore a kindly smile that never changed over the years, but in that instant, there was malice behind it.

"Ladies and gentlemen, do you prefer to hold the shareholders meeting as scheduled or bring it forward?" she asked, smiling like a harmless, friendly old lady from next door.

However, it was clear that she wasn't giving anyone much choice.

Instead, she was telling them to pick a side, and anyone who dared go up against her would have to think twice before ever working with her company again.

Although Gareth had disappeared, there was no internal strife in his company.

Not only had Julia forcibly suppressed it, but she also went to the extent of overhauling the shareholders.

Therefore, everyone needed to consider carefully before taking a stand with Paul.

For a moment, the air in the conference room was thick with tension, and nobody dared to breathe.

Julia, however, was at ease and unaffected in the slightest.

After much hesitation, the first person stood up and looked apologetically at Paul. "I'm sorry, Mr. Grayson. Let's proceed with the shareholders meeting as previously scheduled. I have some matters to attend to, so I'll take my leave first."

Once the first person had broken the silence, the others followed one after another.

"Sorry, Mr. Grayson. I have to leave now. My wife is about to give birth."

"Sorry, Mr. Grayson. I need to pick up my child from school."

"Sorry, Mr. Grayson. My mother is in the hospital. I need to go see her."

Interestingly enough, the shareholders who were originally free were suddenly busy.

It had only been half an hour since Julia entered the conference room, and now, it was almost empty.

The only ones who remained were Paul, his face filled with indignance as he wished he could bite Julia to death, and Rochelle, seething with jealousy.

Julia gazed around the empty conference room and picked up her bag with satisfaction. Before leaving, she turned to Paul, who looked utterly miserable and defeated. "Mr. Grayson, the wages of sin is death. It's better to stop coveting other people's things and keep your feet on the ground. After all, what doesn't belong to you will never be yours."

Paul clenched his jaws tightly, so angry that he could almost crush his teeth.

"Do you think you've won?" he spat out as he glared at Julia. "Let's see what other excuses you have when Elisa doesn't return after three days!"

Julia's steps faltered ever so slightly, but soon, she recovered and strutted off.

[Chapter 1905 Fulfilling Her Promise](#)

Bella also left the meeting room but could not bring herself to feel happy.

After all, even though Paul was annoying, he did make a valid point.

Julia did not own any shares in Benett Corporation. At present, she was only managing to hold her own due to everyone's fear and favor toward her.

But after three days, if Elisa had not returned, there would be nothing she could do.

While she was brooding, a call from an unknown number came through on her mobile phone.

After the call connected, Bella nearly burst into tears.

"Bella, it's me. Are you all right?"

It was Elisa's voice!

Bella immediately handed the phone to Julia. The latter took a surprised step back upon hearing Elisa's voice.

Even the formerly illustrious woman had tears welling up in her eyes at that moment.

Having already grown old, her greatest wish was for the well-being of her children and grandchildren.

The news that Gareth and Elisa had fallen into the sea stuck her like a bolt from the blue. She felt as if the sky was about to collapse.

Still, she had to pull herself together and not let others see through her sadness and pain.

Fortunately, Elisa is still alive. Thank heavens.

Bella and Julia quickly got into the car to prevent the news of Elisa's survival from leaking out. Only after the vehicle had left Benett Corporation did Julia begin to speak.

“Sweetie, are... Are you okay? Where's that rascal Gareth?”

Julia's voice choked up as she spoke, while Bella had already been crying so hard that she could not speak.

Elisa, who was stranded in a foreign land, could not help but become emotional when she heard her family member's worried voice.

She explained the whole story from beginning to end, especially mentioning that she was currently on her way to pick up Gareth.

After learning that both of them were unharmed, Julia finally breathed a sigh of relief.

When a person reached old age, all they aspired to and wished for was to see the younger generation thrive; nothing more.

Bella briefly mentioned the events earlier that day, to which Elisa responded with a sneer.

“In three days? I'll definitely bring a huge surprise for Paul.”

With an unsuspecting heart, Bella immediately asked Elisa where she was and if they could meet.

Julia spoke up before Elisa could respond. “No. Paul saw our aggressive approach today, so he might suspect we have a backup plan. He's probably sent someone to follow us.”

Elisa's voice rang out. “Grandma and I share the same thoughts. We won't meet for now. I'm just calling to let you know I'm safe. In three days, Gareth and I will surely give Paul a big surprise at Benett Corporation.”

Julia noticed that Elisa addressed Gareth in a friendlier tone, which delighted her.

She also understood that after spending time together, at the very least, the two of them were no longer at odds or without any ties as they were before.

Building connections is always beneficial.

After a bit of casual chatter, Elisa ended the call. She was out at sea about to enter a no man's land, which was a place without any signal.

She intended to keep her promise of picking up Gareth.

On the ship, Fabio and his two daughters finally realized just how wealthy Elisa was.

The large ship rocked with the waves, taking three days before it returned.

When Elisa spotted the small island, a feeling of coming home welled up within her.

It was not because she felt a strong sense of belonging there but rather because of someone she cared about.

From a distance, Elisa saw a person sitting on the rocks.

Who could it be if not Gareth?

“Cameron!”

Elisa called out the name that Mrs. Kella had given to him.

Gareth also stood up and looked toward the big ship.

Everything was so wonderful.

It was only then that the villagers on the island came to realize the extraordinary identities of Elisa and Gareth.

[Chapter 1906 Return To The Small Island](#)

Gareth returned her smile and said, “Indeed, I'm a b*stard. I shouldn't have left you alone. It must have been hard for you. Thank you for coming to pick me up.”

The two embraced, sharing words that only they could understand.

It was not until the village chief came out that they finally separated.

Cough! Cough!

A familiar cough echoed through the air. Everyone turned toward the sound, and unsurprisingly, it was the village chief.

When the village chief heard that Elisa had returned, he found it somewhat unbelievable and hurried over to assess the situation.

Upon seeing Elisa, he was happy and worried at the same time.

The reason was simple. The village chief had already made arrangements to offer a Nomadic Odyssey in exchange for a husband for his daughter.

Doing so might be seen as dishonorable and selfish, but he had dedicated half of his life to his responsibilities and simply couldn't bear to part with his only daughter.

The village chief thought that Elisa would never return.

Hence, he kept asking Gareth to marry into his family during this period.

However, the latter firmly rejected the idea every time the village chief brought it up.

Left with no other choice, the village chief and Gareth agreed that if Elisa did not return within half a month, Gareth would marry Anna.

Gareth merely curled the corner of his lips into a smile and gazed into the distance as if he could see Elisa beyond the bounds of space.

“She will come back. She definitely will,” he uttered.

The village chief never expected Elisa to return, let alone so swiftly.

The moment Elisa saw the village chief, she returned the Nomadic Odyssey to its rightful owner.

At the same time, she gave the village chief a new type of compass, which was even more accurate than the Nomadic Odyssey.

The village chief, holding the compass, was at a loss for words.

The villagers on the island were very friendly, wanting to plan a farewell party for Elisa and Gareth.

If all went as planned, the two visitors from afar would be leaving soon.

Everyone went from initial rejection to reluctance for them to leave.

Elisa did not refuse their kindness. After all, there was nothing wrong with saying a proper goodbye to people you had known for a while.

And so, preparations for the farewell party began in full swing.

During this time, Elisa and Gareth stayed in the courtyard, with Elisa sharing with Mrs. Kella everything she had seen and experienced recently.

It had been thrilling as they had even encountered sharks and pirates along the way.

Nevertheless, they managed to get through the dangers safely.

When he heard Elisa recount her experiences, Gareth furrowed his brows, clearly displaying his distress.

Despite sharing Gareth's distress, Mrs. Kella was also glad to be fortunate enough to meet such lovely youngsters.

Mrs. Kella patted Elisa and Gareth's hands before rummaging around to find two jade rings. She insisted on slipping them onto their fingers.

Elisa kept backing away. "Mrs. Kella, how can we possibly accept something that's yours?"

[Chapter 1907 Farewell Party](#)

"We've already caused you enough trouble during this period. How could we possibly accept your gifts? It should be us showing our respect to you." Elisa waved her hand, firmly refusing to accept the rings.

However, Mrs. Kella said, "What are you talking about? Surely you don't still consider me an outsider."

At that point, Mrs. Kella frowned, looking at Elisa with clear disapproval.

Elisa shook her head. "Of course not."

After she finished her sentence, Mrs. Kella laughed. "In that case, accept these rings."

Elisa was about to decline, but Gareth stepped in to mediate. "Since it's a gift from Mrs. Kella, you should accept it. After all, didn't you also bring something for her? It's like a fair exchange between you two."

Upon hearing that, Mrs. Kella burst into hearty laughter. Although the words were somewhat nonchalant, they brought a sense of comfort to both of them.

Upon hearing that, Elisa graciously accepted the rings.

And so, Mrs. Kella slipped a pair of jade rings onto the index fingers of the two individuals.

The jade rings, originally buried and dimmed by time, seemed to regain their vitality as soon as they were worn.

The more Elisa looked at it, the more she liked it. Under the sunlight, the jade ring dazzled and caught the eye.

Mrs. Kella was looking at the jade ring and laughing, but her laughter soon turned into sobs.

“Those jade rings were a token of love that Sodo's grandpa gave me when he was young. They had been stored at the bottom of my chest for all these years. I didn't want to leave them to Sodo out of concern he might sell them, nor did I want the jade rings to never see the light of day and be buried with me. So today, I gave the rings to both of you, hoping that the jade rings can witness your happiness in my stead.”

Mrs. Kella spoke at length, her eyes lingering on the two of them, reluctant to part.

Everyone knew in their hearts that after that meeting, it was uncertain when the next one would be.

A subtle air of sadness spread, leaving one at a loss for words.

Elisa looked at Mrs. Kella, promising that when she had time, she would come to relax and visit her with Gareth.

Mrs. Kella held back her tears, showing no insistence, only managing to nod vigorously.

Even someone as composed as Mrs. Kella would retreat when faced with familial affection.

The room had become unbearable to stay in. Every time Mrs. Kella saw the two of them, she couldn't help but think of the future, and tears would uncontrollably stream down her face.

After soothing Mrs. Kella, Elisa and Gareth decided to get some fresh air in the courtyard, quietly awaiting the arrival of the farewell party in the evening.

At that moment, Anna came looking for them.

Her face was flushed, and she lowered her head, much like the first time she met Gareth.

But that time, it wasn't Gareth who made her blush. Instead, it was Elisa.

Anna glanced at Elisa cautiously and said, “Your farewell party is about to start. Actually, all the girls on the island like you very much. They think you are kind, intelligent, and brave. They believe you are the perfect match for Gareth.” After saying that, Anna's face turned even redder, as red as a monkey's bottom. “And I-I think so too.”

With that, Anna, blushing, made her exit. As she scampered off, she took a moment to remind the two to attend the farewell party.

With a smile, Elisa agreed.

Perhaps due to the simplicity of the local customs, or perhaps because they remained unaffected by the outside world, the people there had pure thoughts and treated others kindly.

As long as they saw others' good side, they would let go of their previous prejudices.

The village chief was like that, and so was Anna.

The farewell party began promptly in the evening.

Fine wine and delicious meat were on offer, and in addition, beautiful women and handsome men danced around the bonfire.

Elisa couldn't help but steal a few more glances at those men's robust muscles and perfect physique.

Suddenly, everything before her eyes turned black as a large hand reached out to block her entire field of view.

[Chapter 1908 The World Outside](#)

"It's okay." Elisa constantly wore a smile, making her appear very approachable.

"I'm sorry, Gareth. I shouldn't have mocked you." The man who spoke was one of Sodo's followers who jeered at Gareth during the warriors' tournament.

Gareth, of course, didn't mind. The man raised his glass. With a gulp of wine, their grievances became water under the bridge.

That was also Gareth's exact intention. He also gulped glasses of alcohol in response.

The vibe was wonderful, yet there was a subtle hint of melancholy lingering in the air.

After three rounds of drinks, Elisa and Gareth exchanged glances. Elisa rose to her feet, found the village chief, and shared with him all the thoughts she had been harboring. "Village chief, I wonder if there's a chance for us to collaborate with you and the island villagers. Through mutual exchange, we can bring benefits to each other. You can rest assured. To maintain the purity of the village, we won't overdevelop, nor will we disturb the normal life of the villagers."

Elisa and Gareth hoped that the island could send young adults out every year to learn advanced technologies from the outside world or to further their studies. Only then could they return and contribute to the better development of the island.

More importantly, the island had an abundance of jade and jadeite, like the jade rings on their fingers. The locals treated those materials as mere stones, but selling them off could actually significantly improve the villagers' living conditions.

After he listened to Elisa's proposal, the village chief fell into deep thought.

In truth, Elisa wasn't very optimistic, particularly given the village chief's somewhat xenophobic tendencies.

She knew she had to take her time with the matter and couldn't rush into things.

Elisa said, "Don't worry, our merchant ships will be around here. Whenever you've made up your mind, feel free to contact any merchant ship bearing the name of Benett Corporation."

Failing to persuade the village chief in one fell swoop was quite regrettable, but she had anticipated that outcome.

If it weren't for the lack of time, Elisa was quite confident that she could persuade the village chief.

"Don't worry. We have plenty of time." Gareth, seeing through Elisa's disappointment, offered words of comfort.

The farewell party continued until the early hours of the morning.

So, after rounds of drinking, there were soon hardly any sober people left.

It was at that moment that Elisa stood up, dusted herself off, and extended her hand toward Gareth. "We should get going."

Grasping her hand, Gareth pulled himself up.

The two of them headed toward the merchant ship together.

That was also a decision they had made together.

Leaving in broad daylight meant having to face the villagers. Neither of them wanted to part with the villagers, so slipping away quietly was the best way to do it.

"I don't know when I'll have the chance to return once I leave," Elisa murmured. She seemed to be talking to herself, yet also as if speaking to Gareth.

Gareth subtly shifted his posture. "There will always be time. As long as you want, I'll accompany you to come back here."

[Chapter 1909 Reclaiming Everything](#)

Elisa feigned nonchalance, shrugging slightly. "It doesn't matter anymore. I'm going back to reclaim everything that's mine! These little mice have had their fun. It's about time to put an end to all of this."

Elisa's gaze hardened as she looked in a certain direction.

The ship then set sail.

Unbeknownst to them, under the moonlight, Mrs. Kella stood on that rock, watching the two depart.

"Is that Mrs. Kella? That figure resembles hers."

"It can't be. Mrs. Kella has already gone to bed."

In the blink of an eye, three days had passed. Over those three days, Paul's right eyelid kept twitching, giving him a constant feeling that something bad was about to happen.

However, he didn't know what was going to happen.

That intense pressure was nearly driving him mad.

Fortunately, the day of the official shareholders meeting had arrived.

In no time, he would officially become the person in charge of Benett Corporation. Even if Elisa were to come back from the dead, he would have nothing to fear.

With those thoughts in mind, Paul strutted confidently into the meeting room.

Rochelle had been waiting for a long time. She was in charge of persuading the shareholders, and at that moment, she was looking at Paul with a triumphant expression.

With just one glance, Paul understood that the majority of those present had already switched sides. All is ready except the most crucial thing.

"All right. Let's get started, then."

Paul flashed a graceful smile, curling the corner of his lips with high aspiration.

Rochelle stood up and announced the agenda for the meeting, "The first agenda is about the revoking of Elisa Benett's directorship and appointing Paul Grayson as the chairman."

Paul closed his eyes, a look of enjoyment on his face. The sound of Rochelle's voice sounded like heavenly music to him.

Or rather, it wasn't Rochelle's voice that was pleasant but what she was saying.

Soon, it wouldn't be long before he could rightfully claim that coveted position and earn the respect of everyone!

With a smile, Rochelle said, "Please raise your hands to vote."

Some of the directors began to discuss among themselves. Gradually, a few of them raised their hands. Those were all prearranged by Rochelle and Paul.

The other directors were indecisive, still hesitating, but their stances were not very firm either.

Paul watched, his heart filled with joy.

It was at that moment that a discordant voice echoed through. "Wait!"

Paul furrowed his brows, quickly turning around to look.

When he saw Bella, he let out a sigh of relief. As long as it's not her, it's fine...

What followed was a surge of rage.

Bella had interrupted his plans time and again, but today, he was determined to succeed!

"Who let this b*tch in? Security, get her out of here now!" Paul barked at Rochelle with a menacing tone.

Only then did Rochelle return to her senses and call the security guard.

In a neither supercilious nor obsequious demeanor, Bella walked into the conference room.

The board of directors looked at her, puzzled.

A faint smile played at the corners of Bella's mouth, appearing as if she had everything under control.

This smile sent Paul into an uncontrollable panic.

At that point, he couldn't imagine what cards Bella still had up her sleeve that could stop him. Unless... No, it can't be!

Paul's eyes were bloodshot. He lost his composure for the first time and bellowed at Bella, "Get out! This is not a place for you. This is a shareholders meeting! Even if Julia were to come today, I wouldn't be courteous to her!"

Paul's eyes were wide with fury. The torment he had been enduring in the past days was driving him to the brink of madness.

Julia would occasionally give Paul the false impression that Elisa seemed to have returned.

However, after a thorough investigation, he couldn't find anything and figured that it was just a false alarm.

Paul was on the verge of becoming schizophrenic.

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That had led to the usually composed Paul losing his cool and lashing out at Bella.

Even Paul's hand, pointing at Bella, was shaking.

The security guard arrived just in time and immediately attempted to escort Bella away.

Paul also turned around, his gaze falling on the board of directors.

A forced smile tugged at the corner of his mouth. "Don't mind her. Let's carry on. The election of a new chairman—"

"Mr. Grayson, why didn't you wait for me to convene a board meeting?"

Before Paul could finish his words, he was interrupted by a crisp female voice.

Paul couldn't be more familiar with that voice.

Paul's pupils dilated the moment he heard it. He was even trembling in disbelief. He wanted to turn around to confirm what was happening, but he felt as if he was nailed to the spot, unable to move.

In contrast, Rochelle seemed to be doing much better. At the very least, she could still move around normally.

She turned around stiffly, and, in no time, she turned to a state similar to Paul's.

Rochelle was so frightened that she plopped down onto the chair.

Everything happened so quickly that the smug smile at the corner of her mouth didn't even have time to fully fade before it was replaced by an expression of shock and fear.

Her pupils slightly contracted, her lips slightly parted, yet a trace of a smile still lingered at the corners of her mouth, giving her an eerie appearance, looking as if she was seeing a ghost.

Clack! Clack! Clack!

The sound of high heels hitting the floor echoed from behind. The group of directors stood up, their expressions complex as they turned to look at the newcomer.

It was at that moment that Paul cautiously turned around.

Then, he saw the person he least wanted to see. It was Elisa!

"Aren't you supposed to be dead?" Paul asked, his eyes wide with disbelief.

He couldn't comprehend why she could come back to life and stand before him at such a critical moment.

He couldn't understand and was unwilling to accept the turn of events!

Paul couldn't help but take a step back, unlike Rochelle, who simply slumped down in her seat.

However, he could barely stand upright, needing to prop one hand on the table for support.

Elisa laughed carefreely and brightly.

"Mr. Grayson, who told you I was dead? A black and white photo of me is even hanging outside." Elisa paused, then said with a fake smile, "You really went out of your way, didn't you?"

It wasn't that he was being kind. Paul was clearly just eager to tell everyone that she, Elisa, was already dead, so it was time for a change of leader.

Furthermore, that gesture could also highlight his kindness.

He had put a lot of effort into scheming, but it was all in vain, as Elisa had returned safe and sound.

Paul managed to maintain his composure, his eyes scanning the room. He cleared his throat before saying, "The police said that since they haven't found a body for so long, the chances of survival were slim. But fortunately, you're blessed with luck and have returned safely, Ms. Benett." He was practically speaking through gritted teeth toward the end of his sentence.

Elisa knew he was furious right now, so much so that he wished he could strangle her on the spot. So what?

It seemed as if Elisa had no intention of prying into the matter. She simply sidestepped Paul, plopped herself down in the main seat, and smiled brightly at all the shareholders.

Even though it was a bright sunny day, everyone felt cold, as if they were trapped in an ice cellar.

Elisa was smiling, yet her smile was laced with a hint of frost, sending chills down everyone's spine.

For some reason, after Elisa survived her ordeal and returned, she seemed to have become even more terrifying than before.

She was terrifying in the past, but she was scary in a flamboyant and undisguised manner.

But now, the spine-chilling aura she emanated was covert.

Reservedness was always more terrifying than ostentation.