

# **After the Divorce CEO Realizes He's the Stand-In Lover**

## **By Madison King Chapter 331**

### **Chapter 331 The stolen life**

Niki's face stiffened as she nestled in the man's arms. The man's words were like a huge stone, slamming into the water with a loud bang, accompanied by huge ripples.

She roughly cleared all the timelines in her mind.

Natalie had unintentionally saved Julian's life many years ago.

It was also on that day that he fell in love with the gorgeous Natalie at first sight.

But Natalie was like a flash in the pan. After saving Julian, she disappeared without a trace.

Julian had been searching for Natalie for many years and finally met Niki who had the same amulet with Natalie.

In addition, Niki and Natalie also had some similarities in appearance, so Julian mistook them for each other.

At this moment, Niki shook her head.

She didn't want to reminisce about various timelines anymore.

She didn't want to believe that Julian's love for her was stolen from Natalie.

She had thought that Natalie was a begging stray, surviving on the charity of the Graham family.

But in the end, she realized that she was the true stray dog.

She stole her whole glamorous life from Natalie.

'Am I a thief?' Niki doubted herself in her mind.

'No!'

She shook her head violently in her mind, 'No! I'm not a thief! I'm not a thief!'

She didn't believe it and defended herself weakly in her mind.

Niki's palms were filled with wet sweat, and a fine amount of weak sweat oozed from her forehead.

But Julian did not notice it.

"Niki, if it weren't for you back then, I wouldn't have lived to this day."

The man suddenly pulled Niki out of his arms and gently placed his arm on her shoulder, with a pair of narrow eyes staring straight into her eyes.

Sincere eyes and a serious tone.

"I am very grateful to you and also to God."

"Thank God for allowing me to meet you again."

Niki stared at the man in a daze.

At this moment, she could no longer hear what Julian was saying, only feeling the man's voice buzzing in her ears.

The news hit her too hard.

"Grateful to me?"

A bitter smile appeared on Niki's face.

If Natalie had left her name back then; If Julian could see Natalie's face clearly; If Niki hadn't found this fake amulet; If

Julian had met Natalie before meeting Niki....

Too many ifs.

If any of these possibilities occur, Julian would not fall in love with Niki.

To put it bluntly, Niki was just too lucky.

None of these countless possibilities that might have led to the recognition of Julian and Natalie had occurred.

If any one of the myriad possibilities had occurred, today's outcome would not have existed.

But as if God had deliberately given Niki the chance to become a thief, none of those possibilities happened.

This led to Niki transitioning from an unknown and struggling woman as a member of the offshoot of the Spears family to a highly respected and wealthy Graham family's "expectant daughter-in-law".

Julian seemed suddenly to have a lot to say and opened his heart.

But at this moment, Niki only felt dizzy and bloated and even had some difficulty breathing.

These pieces of information were too vast for her to accept.

The pain in her heart pierced her heart like a nail, causing bloody blood to gush out.

The more Julian said, the deeper the nail pierced and the faster the blood flowed.

The man in front of her transformed into a phantom, and Niki was dazed and stared, feeling her body's blood

pressure skyrocket.

In the end, Niki finally couldn't control her body. Her eyes closed and she fainted.

"Niki!"

Julian quickly caught Niki.

The amulet in Niki's hand fell from the palm of her hand. Julian instinctively wanted to catch it. However, due to Niki fainting in his arms, his hand could not be extended at all. He could only watch the amulet fall to the ground

Get Bra

helplessly.

He chose Niki between Niki and the amulet.

The amulet landed on the ground, making a crisp sound.

Julian felt a thump in his heart.

But he didn't have time to pay attention to the fallen amulet. He picked up the fainting woman and ran into the car.

Then he took out his phone, found the phone number of his personal doctor, and dialed over.

"Hurry up and send someone to New York Airport to wait. Niki has fainted. She needs a doctor."

The words were brief yet urgent.

After everything was arranged properly, Julian finally released his energy and looked up at the amulet on the ground.

But surprisingly, the amulet fell but did not shatter. Instead, it lay quietly on the ground, reflecting a dazzling light in the sunlight.

Julian's heart was first filled with joy.

After all, this amulet had a special meaning for him, and he did not want the amulet to break.

But then he frowned slightly again.

"Why didn't the amulet break when it fell from such a high height?" He thought.

'Is the material of the amulet so hard?'

Julian approached the glowing amulet, crouched down slowly, and clutched it in his hand.

Natalie hurried up and finally arrived at the living room of the Spears' house. Before entering the door, she heard the sound of dishes breaking-

There was still a faint sound of anger.

Natalie's heart tightened and she quickened her pace, running in at a trot just to stop the tragedy.

But before she could reach the door, she heard a voice coming from behind, "Natalie! Here!"

Natalie was taken aback and turned her head, searching everywhere for the source of the sound.

Tory walked out from behind a pillar.

Natalie was startled and said, "Uncle, why are you hiding here?"

"Why aren't you inside?"

Get Bonus:

Tory was completely disheveled and his face was listless, looking as if he had wilted.

He waved his hand and said, "It's terrible."

"Your grandpa is in there breaking things and telling people off. I can't bear it. I would be miserable if I stay in there. any longer."

"So I came out to get some fresh air and save my life."

Natalie was shocked.

She didn't think it would be so serious.

Why Grandpa got so angry just because she went back to Los Angeles without saying a word?

"Since you're here, hurry up and follow me in."

Tory didn't have time to say anything more. He grabbed Natalie and trotted into the living room.

Natalie was forced to follow Tory forward.

"Dad, look who's here!"

As soon as he entered the living room, Tory shouted.

Adam was in a rage, not even raising his eyes, and instinctively spoke impatiently, “I don’t care who comes. I just need

Natalie here!”

“If Natalie doesn’t come back, you don’t either.”

“It’s Natalie! She hasn’t left yet. She is here!”

Upon hearing this, Adam immediately raised his head.

As expected, his beloved granddaughter Natalie was standing in front of him.

Adam took a few steps forward as if he couldn’t believe it.

“Natalie?”

“It’s you!”

Adam’s hand held onto his granddaughter’s shoulder incredulously, with a slightly excited tone.

“Grandpa, it’s me.”

“I am Natalie, your granddaughter.”

Natalie looked at her grandfather seriously with a sincere tone.

“God, I thought you had gone to Los Angeles without saying a word.”

Natalie awkwardly scratched her head and said, “Grandpa, I just went out for a while. I haven’t been in New York for

so many years, and I want to familiarize myself with the customs of New York again.”

“Don’t worry, as I grow up now, I will never leave without saying a word,” Natalie promised Adam.

**Chapter 332 Giving these industries to the Graham family**

After Natalie finished speaking, she looked at Adam with some nervousness, as if she was still a bit afraid that

Grandpa didn't calm down.

After all, she didn't tell her grandfather when she went out this morning. It was her fault.

It also led to all people in the Spears family being scolded by Adam, especially her uncle Tory.

Thinking in this way, Natalie couldn't help but turn to look at Tory and cast a sympathetic gaze at him.

Compared to her, Tory was the one who suffered the most.

However, the situation was not as bad as Natalie had imagined. Adam smiled instead of getting angry and waved at

Natalie with a smile.

"Come here, good girl. Let me see you."

"Huh?"

Natalie blinked, as if not expecting her grandfather's anger to dissipate so quickly and became so kind in a second.

She stood still and didn't dare to move.

After all, there were a lot of shards of ceramic on the floor. Just looking at the wreckage on the ground, Natalie could imagine how suffocating the scene was at that time.

Upon seeing this, Tory quickly spoke up and signaled to Natalie to go over.

He smiled and said, "What's up? Is it because you haven't been home for a long time and have not been close to your

grandpa?"

"Are you still afraid of your grandfather getting angry?"

Natalie hesitated and nodded.

“Don’t worry. The moment your grandpa saw you, his anger completely dissipated.”

Tory took Natalie’s arm and gestured for her to move forward, with a soothing tone. “Hurry over and let your grandpa take a good look.”

Generally, Adam was sure to have a big smile whenever his granddaughter Natalie was around.

Tory had already known this norm.

Natalie walked forward and arrived in front of Adam.

“Grandpa,” She exclaimed timidly.

Adam took his granddaughter’s hand and said, “Natalie, now that you are back in New York, please stay here a little

longer.

“I’m old and don’t have much desire. I just want to watch our whole family stay together.”

“Your father is an unconventional person who holds various international conferences all day and hasn’t been back home for many years.”

“Throughout the year, in the vast house, only your Uncle Tory can accompany me.” Adam sighed and cast a disdainful

gaze at Tory.

“Tory could only bother me all day and make me annoyed. Hey, I’m pitiful.”

Adam covered his chest with a somewhat aggrieved expression. Although he was quite old, his words had a strange

meaning of coquetry.

Upon hearing this, Tory was naturally dissatisfied.

Tory raised his neck and retorted unconvinced, “Dad, you’re too biased!”



“I’m so outstanding! Though I’m busy all day long, I still take time to come here to accompany you. Why are you still

unhappy? If I did that to someone, they’d be so happy and satisfied!”

“How could you not be satisfied and then complain about me?”

Adam snorted coldly, “Satisfied?”

He waved his hand and said, “Go away. You’re just gonna piss me off.”

“You’ve been wandering around the house all day. It’s bothering me. I don’t even have the energy to make medicine.” Adam couldn’t help but lift his forehead as if he had a headache.

Tory snorted coldly.

“Okay, I won’t come here to see you in the future,” he said in an exaggerated tone, squinting his eyes and secretly

looking at Adam. “Don’t regret it then.”

“You would be all alone in here, and no one’s gonna hand you paper when you cry.”

Tory looked like he was making Adam angry, but he couldn’t help smiling as he said these words, with his lips turning

Even Adam looked helpless towards Tory, and could only touch his beard and laugh.

Natalie quietly watched as Tory and Adam bickered.

The two of them started laughing together all of a sudden. Influenced by the atmosphere, even Natalie began to smile, with a hint of laughter in her eyes.

Only when she returned to the Spears family did she truly feel the warmth of home.

Even if she didn’t do anything and just quietly watched her family talking and arguing together, she felt very happy

Get Bonus

from the bottom of her heart.

“Don’t worry, I will stay in New York for a longer time.”

“I am here to accompany you.”

As Natalie spoke, she raised her hand and gently pounded Adam’s shoulder and back in rhythm, making Adam feel

very comfortable.

With Natalie’s action, Adam’s face lost its seriousness and smiled kindly.

He sat in a chair, enjoying the comfortable feeling, but then remembered something all of a sudden.

He signaled Natalie to stop.

“Natalie, has the Graham family given you a hard time before you come back to New York?”

“If they have given you a hard time, just tell me. I will help you!”

Everyone in the Spears family felt very unwilling to Natalie’s marriage to Julian at that time.

But after all, things had already happened, and it had been so many years.

Even if he was unwilling, Adam could only force himself to accept it.

After all, Natalie was his granddaughter. No matter how irritating things she did, the Spears family had to accept it.

All they can do was take care of Natalie.

But if someone from the Graham family wanted to use their relationship with the Spears family to make a fuss, he couldn’t agree.

Natalie shook her head and said, “Don’t worry, I won’t be bullied by them. The Graham family was afraid of me.”

“That’s good.”

“Before you come back to New York, did the son of the Graham family...Oh, I forgot his name.” Adam frowned, unable to remember the man’s name at all.

“Julian.” Tory reminded beside him.

“Ah, yes, Julian, did he say when he wanted you back?”

Tory had mentioned to Adam before that Julian had a bad temper and was usually domineering in his work.

In addition, Tory also said a lot of other words to describe Julian. Adam shook his head and couldn’t remember clearly. Anyway, it was just a bunch of bad words.

Adam thought if Natalie wanted to return to New York, Julian would definitely stop her.

The Spears family could directly teach Julian a lesson and let him know how to be a good husband.

But Natalie loved Julian so much that even her mind was full of him. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have been so crazy and had to marry into the Graham family.

If the Spears family taught Julian a lesson, Natalie would get angry.

Adam doted on Natalie the most and didn’t want her to be angry with him.

He narrowed his eyes and tried to come up with a compromise solution.

“If it doesn’t work, our family has many industries in New York. Let Julian choose any one of them.”

The Spears family’s industries were spread throughout the country, with its presence in various places. Among them, the industries located in New York were the most elite.

Any one of these industries in New York was several times better than the Graham Group.

If the Graham family was lucky enough to get one of them, it would be a profitable business.

“After choosing it, let Julian move to New York so that it will be much more convenient for you to return here.”

Adam said these words in a casual tone, as lightly as if giving out a bottle of water.

While Natalie was stunned at once.

She glared and said, “Grandpa, are you serious?”

Giving the Spears family’s industries in New York to the Graham family?

Natalie thought Adam was joking.

### **Chapter 333 Must be divorced no matter what it cost**

“I’m serious.” said Mr. Spears, touching his beard while pondering and smiling.

“This is the decision I made after careful consideration.”

Natalie raised her eyebrows and couldn’t help but get speechless.

Such a ridiculous idea... was it the result of careful consideration?

This is the Spears family industry!

Even if it’s given to someone else, Natalie didn’t want to give it to Julian.

Not to mention Julian was still with Niki.

Wasn’t it equivalent to giving the Spears business directly to Niki when Niki married into the Graham family?

She’s not doing it!

Mr. Spears waved at Natalie, gesturing for his granddaughter to come over.

Natalie walked over reluctantly.

“Natalie, I’ve been thinking about it for a while, Previously, we were too stubborn and always wanted to choose a good husband for you. We didn’t want you to suffer at your husband’s family.”

Mr. Spears grabbed Natalie's hand with a gentle tone.

"But we were wrong, we shouldn't have made a decision for you without considering your feelings...."

Natalie opened her mouth, unsure what to say.

If Grandpa kept a state of opposition and anger, she might feel a bit better in her heart.

But now, Grandpa's attitude so too gentle that she even felt a bit overwhelmed.

The better Grandpa's attitude, the more upset Natalie felt.

In fact, it was because she was too stubborn back then and desperately wanted to marry into the Graham family, which led to all of this happening.

Grandpa and uncle were actually not at all wrong.

Mr. Spears looked into his granddaughter's eyes and said seriously.

"I just thought... Since you're deeply in love with Julian, and you don't want to leave the Graham family..."

"I just want you to come over often, and always be by my side..."

11

"So I decide to choose such a compromise solution."

As he said that, Natalie Immediately raised her eyebrows.

There was no need for such a compromise.

After experiencing so many things, Natalie would no longer easily hand over the property of the Spears family to the

Grahams.

As for Grandpa mentioning her deep love for Julian...

Natalie wanted to explain, but after thinking about it, she just let it go.

Making explanation was not only troublesome, but Grandpa would inevitably ask about Henry.

She didn't want to mention Henry to anyone.

She didn't want to uncover her bloody scars in front of everyone.

She didn't love Julian, as for this marriage... it could have continued...

No matter what it cost, she must get a divorce.

When she got divorced, she would directly move her laboratory to NYC and brought Ryan along with her.

There were many famous medical experts in New York, and Ryan's coming here to study pharmacy would be definitely much better than staying in a small city.

At that time, she could take care of both the laboratory and the Spears family, and spend more time with her grandfather.

"Natalie, what do you think?"

"What do you think of this suggestion?"

Mr. Spears smiled and touched his beard, he was quite proud, as if he was very satisfied with his proposal.

Natalie opened her mouth and tried to organize her language.

Before she could speak, a man rushed to answer for her.

"I think it's great!"

Tory shook his arm in recognition of this suggestion.

"So that I can always see Natalie...!"

Although he might also see the unpleasant guy Julian...

But when Tory thought of how often he could see such a lovely niece, he felt that seeing Julian was not so unacceptable to him.

“Go away.”

“I didn’t ask you, I’m asking Natalie.”

Mr. Spears waved Tory away, unwilling to listen to him.

“Natalie, what do you think?”

Natalie took half a step forward, with her hands hanging aside her legs. She vaguely wanted to say something, but she couldn’t come up with a reason, so she just rubbed her aching brow.

“I think... this won’t work.”

“There’s no need to give the Spears family business to the Graham family...”

Mr. Spears’s hand touching his beard paused, and his proposal was rejected, which made him feel a bit at a loss for a

moment.

So Natalie didn’t want to go back to the Spears family to accompany him?

The old man suddenly felt a bit upset.

He sighed...

At a young age, staying with an old guy would definitely make Natalie boring.

Nowadays, young people like to stay with people of their own age... there’s no little girl staying at home with grandpa.

Alas... Mr. Spears silently lowered his head and said nothing more.

Natalie noticed her grandfather’s emotional changes and quickly tried to make up for him.

“Grandpa, don’t worry, I will definitely often come to visit you as long as I’m free.”

By then, she would have plenty of time when she moved to New York.

Mr. Spears believed that the reason why the girl said this was just because he was sad, so Natalie wanted to appease the old man.

He forced a cheerful smile and said, "Okay... come here more."

"I will be waiting for you."

Natalie listened to her grandfather's perfunctory words and naturally understood his thoughts.

Grandpa didn't believe her words.

He must have felt that she was completely focused on Julian and wouldn't have set aside time to come to the Spears family.

Natalie couldn't help but pursed her lips, wanting to explain more, but she didn't know what to say.

Finally, it could only end in silence.

Forget it... She would work harder and complete the divorce procedures with Julian as soon as possible. Then she would move to New York earlier and make her grandfather happy with her actions.

Natalie always values efficiency in her work

Since she got an idea, she would achieve it as soon as possible.

After she came out of the reception hall, she immediately took out her phone, found Julian's phone number, and dialed it directly.

She needed to talk with Julian about the divorce.

In other words, no matter what it cost, this marriage cannot continue.

After a moment, a beep came from the phone.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is busy, please try again later." The mechanical female voice showed that the man had no time to answer the phone at the moment.

Natalie frowned.



Was it because she was just too decisively at the door, which angered Julian.

So he blacklisted her number??

Niki laid on the hospital bed, and after a while, she slowly woke up.

The ceiling was snow-white, with a faint sound nearby.

Niki laid quietly in bed and relaxed for a long time, before her eyes became completely clear.

She reluctantly sat up.

At this moment, a doctor happened to pass by. He saw Niki half-leaning on the hospital bed, and immediately shouted excitedly towards the door.

“Miss Linch is awake!”

“Hurry up and call Mr. Graham, Miss Linch is awake!”

In a moment, Julian hurried in from outside.

“Niki, you’re finally awake. How are you feeling now?”

Julian spoke with concern.

Niki forced a cheerful smile and said, “I’m okay, not feeling any discomfort.”

Get Bonus

When she saw Julian now, she couldn’t help but think of the man’s tenderness.

She would go crazy with jealousy in her heart.

Why could Natalie have his love? Why?!

Why was it not she who first met Julian, but the bitch Natalie?

If Julian had met herself first, how could he have fallen in love with Natalie?

As long as she appeared in the man’s life earlier... things wouldn’t have been like this.

“You suddenly fainted, and you really scared me.” Julian took a deep breath. When he saw Niki wake up, he finally felt relieved.

“I don’t know how I fainted. I’m sorry to cause trouble for you, Julian.” The woman’s voice was weak and pitiful.

As she spoke, Niki lifted the blanket and wanted to get out of bed to apologize to Julian.

Julian quickly stopped her.

“Just lie down. Don’t move around. I’ll ask the doctor to check on you again.”

Niki took back her hand.

Julian turned to call for a doctor, while she laid quietly in bed.

Wait...

After lying down for a while, Niki suddenly realized something wrong.

She seemed to be missing something.

Where’s her talisman??!

Niki was immediately shocked and turned pale. She immediately lifted the blanket, poked her head in, and groped

around for her talisman.

But obviously, it’s not there.

**Title: After the Divorce, CEO Realizes He's the Stand-In Lover By**

### **Chapter 334 Doubt**

Niki kept frantically groping under the blanket, trying to find the talisman.

She searched from the left to the right of the blanket, from the front to the back, almost flipping through the entire

bed, but she couldn't find the talisman at all.

Where has it gone..... Where was it.....

Niki envisioned countless possibilities in her heart, which could be lost, picked up by others, or broken.....

But no matter what, it cannot be picked up by Julian.

This talisman was absolutely not allowed to fall into Julian's hands.

Once the man discovered that this talisman was take, she would be completely ruined

Although she hadn't carefully looked at what the real talisman looked like.

But Niki knew in her heart that one was true and the other was take, and there was definitely a difference between the

two.

If Julian discovered any clues, she would have nothing to do with any fame or wealth....

She would lose everything she has owned now and completely become the former poor collateral of the Spears family.

No one cared, being anxious all day, destitute.

Niki frantically searched under the blanket, but in the end, she was really anxious and threw the blanket down to the ground, frantically searching for every corner of the bed.

No.

She quickly walked to the nearby table, sofa, windowsill, floor, and even wardrobe, searching.

Still got nothing.

Niki was a bit overwhelmed.

She looked down at her clothes. The clothes had already been changed and were no longer the original one, which meant that someone has changed clothes for her. Would it be taken away by the person who changed clothes for her?

Before she could open the door to find the person who had changed her clothes, Julian had already pushed the door

and entered.

“Nik.... you...”

Julian looked at the messy ward and was momentarily stunned.

He thought there was a thiel here.

Seeing the stunned expression on the man’s face, Niki felt a bit embarrassed and hurriedly picked up the quilt from the

ground.

“Julian...”

She tried to squeeze out a bright smile on her face, trying to conceal her nervousness.

Unexpectedly, the man saw through her at a glance and asked expressionless.

“What are you looking for?”

“Ah... ah?” Niki was extremely flustered in her heart, but she was still pretending to be foolish on her face.

Julian repeated, pressing step by step, not giving Niki a chance to act silly. “I asked what you’re looking for.”

“Answer me.”

He’s not foolish.

The room was turned over in such a mess that Julian could tell at a glance what Niki had just done.

“I... I...”

Niki opened her eyes in a bit of panic as she nervously held onto her hand, feeling her forehead twitching.

“I was just looking for the talisman... it’s gone... I feel a bit nervous without it.”

“This?”

Julian had a talisman in his hand, which was clear. The character “Spears” on it was very eye-catching, reflecting a dazzling light in the sunlight.

Wasn’t it the talisman she lost.

“How come it’s in your hand...”

11

Niki was shocked and lost her calmness, and her voice trembled a bit.

The last thing she wanted to happen... happened.

“Since it’s here, Julian, give it back to me.”

Niki said, about to take the talisman from Julian’s hand.

“Wait a moment.”

The man turned his hand and the talisman was half clasped in his palm, making it impossible for the woman to get it.

“What’s the matter?” Niki pretended to be calm, but actually, her heart missed a beat.

What did Julian discover?

It’s over... It’s over, Niki couldn’t help but feel extremely flustered.

“Julian... is there anything wrong?”

Niki took back the hand that wanted to grab the talisman, but she dared not show an eager expression, afraid that Julian might see something strange.

The atmosphere got strange in an instant.

Julian held the talisman in his hand and stared at the woman without blinking, as if searching for something.

The man's deep eyes rested on Niki's face, as Niki felt as if flames were burning on her face. She felt so uncomfortable, but had to endure it.

She urgently wanted to know what the man was looking at.

But Julian didn't say a word and kept staring at her.

Moreover, Julian has already had a pair of cold and deep eyes. When he became serious, it was impossible for others to understand what he was thinking.

The more he stared at Niki, the more flustered Niki became.

This eerie atmosphere lasted for a long time, and Niki finally couldn't bear the man's gaze and was completely defeated.

She spoke with coquettish and fear.

"Julian, what's going on?"

"You just look at me without speaking, and I feel a bit uneasy."

"Can you stop looking at me like that?" Niki grabbed Julian's sleeve and looked pitiful.

"If you haven't done anything wrong, why should you feel afraid?" Julian said.

His eyes remained serious.

"I, I, I..." Niki attempted to organize her words.

"I was just..."

Niki couldn't come up with any explanation, so she just closed her eyes, pretending to be sick.

"Julian..... my head seems to be aching again..."

The woman raised her hand to cover her forehead, her face gradually turning pale, and she fell straight on Julian, weak and boneless.

Julian subconsciously caught the woman.

“It really hurts...”

Nild was helped by Julian and slowly approached the hospital bed. Julian helped her lie on the bed.

“Don’t worry, the doctor will be here soon.”

The man covered the woman with a blanket. When he saw Niki’s eyebrows furrowed due to pain, his tone inevitably

softened.

Listening to the man’s deliberately lowered tone, Niki breathed a deep sigh of relief in her heart.

“Wait here, I’ll see if the doctor has come.”

“Okay.” Niki nodded obediently.

The woman smiled and watched the man leave again, until Julian completely disappeared, the smile on her face also completely disappeared.

What did Julian mean just now?

Has he found any clues yet?

Niki thought to herself, and the more she thought, the more she felt something was wrong... Something must have happened during her unconsciousness.

Otherwise, Julian wouldn’t suddenly become like this.

Thinking of this, Niki tightly grasped the quilt with both hands, and a great sense of urgency flashed in her eyes.

She’s very scared.

Because she knew she had stolen everything, which she cherished so much.

As for the fact that she found the talisman and used it for her own use...

She had no guilt at all.

Natalie is one of the Spears, with an unparalleled status. She didn't even need the status of Mrs. Graham.

But she's different.

She was just a collateral branch of the Spears family, and the identity of Mrs. Graham was very important to her.

In order to survive, Natalie had no right to blame her.

"Niki, the doctor is here."

A man with a mask on his face walked in.

Niki quickly laid down.

Get Bonus

"Doctor, check on her. She's not feeling well and suddenly fainted this morning." The man said.

"Okay." the doctor nodded.

"Miss, please stay still and relax."

Niki closed her eyes and lay down obediently.

After a while, the doctor finished the examination and put down the instrument.

"How is she?" Julian asked.

"Miss Linch is fine. She's very healthy."

As soon as this statement was made, Julian felt something wrong.

He looked at Niki with a hint of doubt in his gaze.



“Doctor... did you check carefully? I even fainted this morning...” Niki panicked and tried to explain.

You fainted in the morning because of extreme inner tension, excessive mood changes, and excessive secretion of adrenal hormones... That’s why you fainted.”

As soon as the doctor finished speaking, Julian’s face became even more gloomy.

“Extremely nervous?”

He looked at Niki with a rather unkind expression in his eyes.

“In the morning, when we were in front of Spears’s house, there wasn’t anything that could cause you to experience such a big tension, was it?”

**Title: After the Divorce, CEO Realizes He's the Stand-In Lover By**

### **Chapter 335 Cruel oath**

Niki’s face was a bit pale.

Julian fixed his eyes on the woman, waiting for her explanation.

He was playing with the talisman in his hand. The talisman was not big, and it became even more petite when held in the man’s big palm.

Looking from a distance, the material of the talisman was very good. The man’s fingertips meandered along the outline of the protruding “5” character, again and again, casual yet serious.

“Is this talisman from the Spears family?”

In fact, the moment he dropped the talisman on the ground that afternoon, he felt something was wrong.

The material of an ordinary talisman would always be fragile, let alone Nild’s talisman, which was made of jade.

It is well known that although jade feels hard, its nature is extremely brittle. The better the material is, the more fragile it is.

And Niki's piece... although it looked like jade, when it fell from such a high place, not only did it not break, not even

the outer skin was scratched at all.

The Spears family is a major family in New York, and the items they own are naturally of high quality.

If this amulet came from the Spears family, it must be made of high-quality jade, which was famous for its fragility.

Unless the Spears family has developed a higher level of jade, it was possible to make the jade so shatterproof.

Niki took a half step back and said, "Julian... what do you mean by that?"

She seemed to feel aggrieved by the man's questioning and didn't understand why the man suddenly asked herself

this way.

She didn't do anything wrong, why did Julian get so fiercely?

Julian raised his eyebrows.

"Just answer my question."

Niki, however, did not face his questions directly.

She took a deep breath and then spoke slowly, as if trying to fight for her grievances.

"Julian, you just questioned me, asking why I suddenly became so nervous yesterday."

"What I want to say about this is... emotions are something hard to be explained clearly. Suddenly, there is something, and then it disappears. How can I explain this, Julian?"

Niki looked up at Julian, her eyes were filled with grievances and reluctance.

"Julian, why do you keep asking me?"

“Your tone makes me feel so sad... I clearly didn’t do anything and even fainted, but you not only didn’t feel sorry for me at all, but also treated me so harshly...”

!

Before she could finish speaking, Julian interrupted her. “Don’t shift the topic, answer me.”

“Have you already hinted at the answer by not answering my words?”

Niki realized that she couldn’t avoid it and could only say, “This talisman was passed down to me by my mother...”

“I can swear by my life that this talisman definitely comes from the Spears family.”

As she spoke, Niki stood up straight and knelt down on the floor of the ward.

The speed of her movement was so fast that even Julian couldn’t see it clearly.

“You...” Julian frowned.

Niki ignored Julian. She raised her hand and curled two fingers and swore to God.

“If I tell a lie, I will die on the street tomorrow and never marry Julian.”

It seemed that this oath was not enough, Niki continued, “Well, this talisman was given to me by my mother. Everything starts and ends. If this talisman is not from the Spears family, then my mother will be punished together with me.”

“Just punish... the spirit of my mother in heaven will never rest in peace.”

Her sound was sonorous and powerful, making Julian speechless for a long time.

Julian’s expression was complex.

Listening to the woman’s powerful oath, he felt a wave in his heart.

After all, the resolute appearance of Niki was too convincing.

Moreover, Niki's mother has passed away, and no one would make such a cruel oath with her dead mother.

Believe it or not, if he continued to question her like this, it would make him not considerate.

Seeing Julian's expression somewhat softened, Niki knelt on the ground and took a few steps forward.

She blinked her eyes and looked up at the man, with a soft tone.

"Julian... did I do something wrong and make you unhappy?"

If you feel any discomfort in your heart, just punish me, and I have no complaints."

Get Bonus

"I just don't want to be treated like this without any reason, so I made a vow to prove myself..."

"If you have anything dissatisfied, you must tell me. I will definitely make changes."

Although Niki was kneeling, she knelt straight.

She looked soft and weak, but it felt like there was something tough in her bones. Her eyes were as clear as moonlight, and there was a sense of Innocence that has been wronged by others.

Julian looked at Niki with a cold expression, but his eyes deepened.

He stopped stubbornly asking her.

"You can rest here for a while, and don't follow me out."

The man dropped a sentence and turned around to walk out of the ward.

"Julian... Julian, wait..." "Niki saw Julian turn around to leave, quickly standing up from the ground.

She trotted to keep up with the man, reaching out to grab his clothes.

“Julian... can you give the talisman back to me...” Niki held onto the soft fabric, hesitating to speak.

The talisman was with Julian, and she was really uneasy.

“After all, this talisman is a relic given by my mother.”

Upon hearing this, Julian lowered her eyes, his heart twitched slightly, and he handed out the talisman in his hand.

Since this was a relic left by Niki’s mother, he really shouldn’t have held it in his hand.

“Thank you, Julian!”

A familiar touch came from her hand again, and Niki spoke excitedly, loudly thanking him.

She clenched the talisman as if she were holding onto her own destiny.

The man left in silence without speaking.

It wasn’t until Julian came outside of the ward that he stopped the attending doctor who was passing by, and he said, “Please help me take care of that woman in the ward. There’s no need not to let her out of the ward.”

“If it’s really necessary, make sure to report her whereabouts to me.”

“Okay, sir.” the doctor nodded.

After everything was done, Julian walked out of the hospital.

He sat in the car and remained silent for a long time.

When he finally picked up his phone, he realized that there was a missed call.

The name on it stood out – Natalie.

Get Bonus

The next morning, the sun was shining brightly, and there were occasional pleasant bird calls not far away.

Natalie slept until dawn, which was the most fulfilling sleep she has had in recent days. If it weren't for the nanny coming to call her, she might still be asleep.

"Miss, it's time to get up. Mr. Graham is already in the dining room, and everyone is waiting for you."

Natalie opened her eyes and was startled by the sound. She quickly sat up from the bed in a panic.

Damn it, yesterday she promised to have breakfast with grandpa, but she got up late today...

Natalie felt distressed and casually put on a shirt and a simple beige blouse, so she hurried to the dining room.

But as she hurried into the dining room with her skirt in hand, she realized something was not quite right.

Why was there someone else sitting in the dining room?

Natalie was stunned.

The atmosphere temporarily became weird.

**Title: After the Divorce, CEO Realizes He's the Stand-In Lover By**

Chapter 336 Apologies

In the vast dining room, there was a table.

The table was made of thick basswood wood without any paint. The wood grain on the desktop was clear, and while getting closer, a faint woody fragrance could be smelled.

Natalie looked up.

Mr. Graham sat in the middle, with a serious expression on his face.

He looked completely different from the usual kind man.

Looking to the left side of Mr. Graham, there was also an old man sitting there, dressed in a blue shirt, which exuded

both a sense of vicissitudes and a hint of self-reliance.

Natalie gave him a serious look, trying to search for the person's name from her memory.

But there was no such person in her mind.

She didn't know this person.

Behind the old man, there were two bodyguards, both of whom were strong and sturdy men, standing straight, clearly

well trained.

There were very few people in the city who could bring bodyguards into the Spears family.

Although the Spears family's style was relatively leisurely, it did not mean that the Spears family was also leisurely in

personnel management.

The Spears family was heavily guarded, and few people could enter their house with the bodyguards in such a dignified

manner.

This meant that the identity of this elderly person was extraordinary.

Natalie was thinking to herself, but when she looked up, she realized that due to her sudden appearance, all the people's eyes in the room were focused on her.

Natalie suddenly felt a little uneasy when they looked at her like this.

In such a serious atmosphere, she pursed her lips and looked down at the shirt and blouse she had grabbed and put on in a hurry...

It's a bit awkward to wear such an outfit on such an occasion.

Especially these people looked so serious, staring straight at her without moving....

Natalie felt that her toes were twisted....

“I...” she struggled to regain her voice in this awkward atmosphere.

In this awkward atmosphere, Mr. Spears took the lead in speaking, breaking the silence and saying, “Natalie, you’re up. Come and sit down quickly.”

The old man sat in the middle and waved to the girl.

Natalie took a step forward, but suddenly stopped again.

“Um... I don’t know why I got up so late and couldn’t come to you on time. I’m really sorry, grandpa.” the girl said in a

small voice.

“I am very sorry for taking up everyone’s meal time.”

Natalie lowered her head, waiting to be scolded.

After waiting for a moment, the expected blame did not appear, but instead there was a straightforward voice.

“Is this your granddaughter?” Said the unfamiliar man.

“At first glance today, not only is she stunning in appearance, but she also has a cute personality. She is such a lady!”

Natalie’s mouth twitched.

Did he just call her a lady?

She looked down at her baggy dress and couldn’t help feeling awkward. It’s hard for the man to say such words.

He could even call her a lady like this... wouldn’t he feel awkward?

Although Natalie thought so in her heart, she maintained a polite smile on her face and slightly bent down to greet to



the man.

The woman's posture was exquisite, and this bow was performed lightly and skillfully.

Even Natalie could hear the flattery in that person's words. Upon hearing this, Mr. Spears smiled and stroked his beard, as if he liked to hear it.

"Natalie is perfect, but her temperament is too soft and kind..."

"Come here... come and sit down."

Mr. Spears waved again, gesturing for Natalie to come over.

"How could I blame you for getting up late? If you can't sleep in at your own home, where could you sleep well, right?"

"Come here."

Mr. Spears smiled brightly and didn't mind at all, obviously spoiling her.

Natalie just got a place to sit down.

She picked up a glass of milk in front of her. Before she had had a few mouthfuls, Tory hurried in from outside.

Natalie raised her eyebrows, why did Uncle Tory also get up so late today?

"Do you still remember? What time is it now?"

Mr. Spears looked up at his son with an unkind tone.

By comparing, it was enough to show how much Mr. Spears doted on Natalie.

But Tory ignored Mr. Spears's words and instead spoke to the old man next to him, "Mr. Turner, you are finally willing

to come."

"I thought you were going to keep hiding."

This was very blunt and completely inappropriate to say to a guest.

Natalie was stunned, even put down the glass, and she was a bit surprised.

Her uncle usually had a low-key and easygoing personality, and he's always polite to others. This kind of scolding

behavior towards guests should not appear on him..

"What are you doing?"

Mr. Spears put down his glass and angrily scolded him.

Mr. Turner is a guest of ours. The guest is coming for breakfast. What are you doing here?"

"You are the representative of the Spears family. Do I teach you to become this?"

Tory still ignored Mr. Spears and looked at the person, "Since you're here, let's talk about it."

"I wonder if Miss Turner has come?"

As soon as Tory said, Natalie was stunned, Lara Turner?

So the old man in front of her... was the master of the Turner family?

"Tory, what are you doing?" Mr. Spears saw his son ignoring him, but became more and more excessive. He patted the table and signaled Tory to stop this impolite behavior.

"Mr. Turner, still not talking?" Tory stared straight at the man.

The atmosphere instantly became tense.

As the atmosphere became increasingly intense and Mr. Spears was about to burst into anger, Mr. Turner finally stood

"Mr. Spears, don't scold him."

"This matter is indeed caused by our Turner family, and we should indeed apologize."

As soon as he said that, Natalie immediately knew what was going on in her heart.

Get Bonus

Uncle Tory went straight to Mr. Turner because she was locked up in the dressing room by Lara...

He... was completely defending her.

Natalie was deeply moved and didn't know what to say for a moment.

The Turner family was also considered a prestigious family in New York, and it was not an exaggeration to say that

they were even on par with the Spears family.

It must have taken a lot of effort for uncle Tory to make Mr. Turner personally come to the Spears' to apologize.

Natalie was a bit moved in her heart.

Mr. Turner stood up and cleared his throat. He even lifted a glass of wine and gestured in the direction of Natalie.

"Miss Spears, I should apologize to you for what Lara did."

"She's just a child, and she was blinded by others. Only then did she do such foolish things in a moment of confusion. It is really not proper. It is my negligence in her education."

"I just want to apologize for Lara here today. Sorry, Miss Spears."

The old man has a sincere attitude, and he apologized sincerely.

### **Chapter 337 No one can bully her**

Natalie put down the spoon in her hand and looked at the apologetic Alexander.

Alexander continued to speak, repeating himself, offering apologies on behalf of his granddaughter.

Sitting in her seat, Natalie listened silently.

After a long speech, Alexander finished his drink in one go, as a gesture of sincerity. "I'll finish this drink, consider it an apology on behalf of Lara," he said.

With a "clink," he placed the empty glass upside down on the table, creating a crisp sound that lingered.

Natalie raised an eyebrow.

Out of politeness, the moment Alexander finished speaking, she intended to stand up, pick up a glass, and pour some

water as a reciprocation.

It would be a response to Alexander's apology.

However, before she could even rise, she heard a calm voice.

"Natalie, stay seated. There's no need to get up."

Natalie paused and turned to look at Tory.

Tory directly signaled her with his eyes, indicating that she should accept the apology and not worry about standing

This whole situation was the fault of the Turner family.

Whether or not Natalie accepted this apology still required careful consideration....

There was no need for her to personally respond.

"Alexander, our Spears family has already acknowledged your apology."

"But since this matter was caused by Lara, the daughter of the Turner family, Tory feels that it would be better for Lara to personally apologize."

Tory spoke without moving his eyes, his slender fingers tightly grasping the teacup.

The teacup contained light green tea, emitting a faint fragrance. The man traced his rough pottery cup and spoke softly.

His demeanor carried an inexplicable sense of authority.

Natalie had never seen her uncle like this before, not even in the past.

She had always thought of him as an easygoing and agreeable person, but she never expected him to have such side.

Alexander fell silent upon hearing these words.

“Natalie, what do you think?” Tory turned to ask Natalie.

Any discerning person could see that Tory was not satisfied with the Turner family’s actions.

He wanted Lara to personally come and apologize to Natalie, rather than Alexander lowering his own dignity to apologize.

Their Natalie needed a sincere apology.

Upon hearing Tory passing the decision onto her, Natalie gently pursed her lips.

Honestly, deep down, she couldn’t help but admit that Alexander, a person of high moral standing, was willing to set aside his face and even visit their Spears family to apologize for his granddaughter...

As Lara’s elder, he had indeed done quite well.

But as the person who should apologize, his actions were a form of indulgence.

The fault clearly lay with Lara, yet during the apology, she wasn’t even present....

It was enough to see Lara’s attitude toward this matter.

Natalie sat quietly without expressing her opinion.

She had understood her uncle's thoughts long ago, as clear as a mirror. Even if she said she could accept this apology, her uncle would insist that Lara personally apologizes.

Her attitude was actually not important.

Her uncle would stand in front, arranging everything for her.

He would give Lara a lesson and teach this carefree little princess a lesson so she would never dare to provoke him again.

Tory looked at Natalie and sighed in his heart.

The Natalie of their families had always been low-key, never standing out in the capital, despite her astonishing beauty and talent, and her numerous remarkable achievements.

Those privileged young ladies and rich girls in the capital didn't even know that the Spears family had such a talented and virtuous girl.

That's why Lara dared to bully Natalie.

Tory wanted to make a big deal out of this to serve as a warning to all the young ladies in the capital.

Natalie was the pearl of their Spears family, and no one should dare to bully her. If anyone dared, the Spears family wouldn't let them off easily.

Seeing Tory's unfriendly attitude at the moment, Alexander's hand caressed the teacup, and his face showed a hint of

anger.

After all, he was the elder of the Turner family, and now he had compromised his dignity by personally apologizing to

a junior.

If it weren't for the Spears family's care and the use of some sophisticated equipment, the Turner family wouldn't be able to compare to the Spears family in the field of medicine.

If the Turner family wanted to further develop in the medical field, they had to maintain a good relationship with the Spears family.

In order to maintain their cooperative relationship, he had personally come to the Spears family.

But he didn't expect Tory to act so rudely and make some inexplicable demands.

He thought they could be easily bullied.

Alexander's face turned unpleasant, and his tone was much harsher than before. "We only have Lara as a girl in our family, so we spoil her a bit."

"Although she may speak and act recklessly and often lacks a sense of propriety, her heart is absolutely good."

"There seems to be some misunderstandings in this matter, and we don't want to strain our relationship. Please refrain from causing further complications."

The meaning of his words was clear. What he had done now was already the bare minimum, and it was impossible for the Turner family to back down any further.

The Turner family was not someone to be manipulated.

The atmosphere became tense again, and the clash between their auras hung in the air, as if sharp blades.

Alexander had been watching for a while but still couldn't figure out what had happened.

"Tory, explain clearly what happened and why the Turner family needs to apologize to Natalie."

The atmosphere between the two was tense, and it was evident that something unusual had occurred.

Tory had no intention of concealing the matter and spoke candidly.

“During the communication meeting in Chicago, when Natalie failed to appear, we mobilized the armed forces of the Spears family to search the entire venue for her. Surely, you remember, don’t you?”

Of course, Adam remembered.

He had been extremely worried when Natalie didn’t show up during that time, thinking she had been targeted by evildoers.

But what did that have to do with the Turner family?

Hadn’t the Turner family skipped the communication meeting in Chicago altogether?

Get Bonus

Tory continued his narration, “It was only later that I discovered someone intentionally locked Natalie in the dressing room.”

“On such a cold day, Natalie stood in the room wearing nothing but a thin gown, unaware of how long she had been trapped there...”

“By the time she was found, she had developed a high fever.”

“The fever persisted and even showed signs of infection. If we had been slightly later, she could have been paralyzed or even lost her life.”

“And the person who locked Natalie in the dressing room is none other than Lara, the so-called ‘good child’ in the eyes of the Turner family.”

Tory looked at the displeased expression on Alexander’s face, hinting at something.

“Is this true?”

After hearing these words, Adam slammed the table and widened his eyes.



“Turner, can you confirm this?”

If Lara had indeed done this, the Spears family would never let the matter go so easily.

After all, she was his own granddaughter.

Such a precious granddaughter couldn't be mistreated so casually.

Adam was usually amiable, but when it came to his granddaughter, he could instantly change his demeanor.

This was something Tory shared in common with him.

Title: **After the Divorce, CEO Realizes He's the Stand-In Lover By**

### **Chapter 338 Repaying a favor**

Alexander had a stern face as he sat to the left of Adam, neither admitting nor denying.

From his appearance, Natalie knew that he was genuinely angry.

It didn't surprise her to see him with an irritated expression.

After all, he was the head of the Turner family and usually held a high position. The people below naturally treated him with deference, flattery, and obedience.

It would have been surprising if he could maintain a smiling face in the face of such impoliteness from someone like

Tory, a younger generation.

Such individuals were usually like smiling tigers.

Appearing friendly and pleasant on the Spears family's face while secretly plotting countless schemes behind your

back.

If Alexander was such a person, the situation would become much more complicated.

“Turner, I’m asking you, does the Turner family acknowledge this incident?”

Adam didn’t eat or drink anymore, sitting upright with his gaze fixed on the man.

Alexander pondered for a moment, his expression both impatient and serious.

“The Turner family... does not acknowledge it.”

Alexander sat down confidently after a sleeve flick, his attitude shifting from friendly to firm.

“There must be a misunderstanding... Although our family’s Lara is often willful, his intentions are good. The authenticity of this matter still needs to be confirmed.”

“When the evidence is presented, I will personally bring Lara to the Spears family to apologize.”

He had initially set aside his dignity to improve relations with the Graham family. But with Tory’s impoliteness, the need for this cooperation seemed less pressing.

As soon as Alexander made these remarks, the sound of utensils being forcefully thrown onto the table could be heard.

“Alexander, what are you saying?!”

“Ask yourself how you spoke before and suddenly refuse to acknowledge it now?”

“Doesn’t your conscience hurt?”

Tory’s eyebrows knitted in anger, expressing his righteous indignation.

One second he was raising his cup to apologize for his granddaughter, and the next second he was lying with his eyes

Get Bors

wide open, refusing to take responsibility?

Did he really think the Spears family members present were all blind?

Tory regretted not recording Alexander's words earlier, which would have given him a chance to expose the contradiction.

Alexander looked at the furious Tory and chuckled softly.

"You're exaggerating, my young friend."

"It's just a little playfulness between girls. How does that conscience?"

"Girls often have misunderstandings even they themselves are unaware of. As a half-dead old fellow, how could I take responsibility for Lara in this matter?"

The man spoke casually, as if it were a trivial matter.

Tory was infuriated once again by his words.

"Just a little playfulness? This 'little playfulness' caused our family to worry sick and nearly cost us a life?!"

"It wasn't Lara who had a high fever. Of course, it's easy for you to speak without any personal pain!"

Tory stood up, his furious gaze fixed on Alexander.

"If Julian hadn't found Natalie in the changing room on time, she would've surely died."

"If Natalie had lost her life, the entire Turner family would have no peace!"

"The Turner family should be grateful that Julian saved a life for you."

Upon hearing Julian's name, Natalie's gaze deepened.

It was Julian who found her in the changing room and carried her out.

He saved her life.

Natalie's emotions were complicated, unsure of what to say.

She was someone who disliked owing favors to others, and she always found a way to repay kindness shown to her.

If Julian told her that he saved her, she would definitely find a way to repay the debt.

Natalie was certain that Julian understood her character very well.

After all, when she was staying at the Graham family, as long as Oliver and Linda treated her a little better, she would find ways to cook a delicious meal or buy them some gifts.

Regardless, she would do her best to reciprocate their kindness.

She didn't want to owe anyone any favors, nor did she enjoy it.

Whenever she attended banquets with Julian, some ladies would give her peculiar trinkets, limited edition jewelry, or

clothes.

Even though she didn't have anything to return as a gift, she would write down each present and make sure to

reciprocate them one by one.

Every time this happened, Julian would impatiently tell her, "There's no need to return each gift. These gifts are just

like the cost of a casual dinner for those ladies."

"They give them to you because they want to build a good relationship with the Graham family..."

"If you accept these gifts, the benefits and value they will receive from the Graham family in the future will far

outweigh these presents."

However, Natalie never listened. Regardless of others' intentions, she stubbornly believed that these favors should be

returned.

Julian was well aware of her character.

He was certain that if he told her about saving her, she would definitely feel obligated to return the favor.

But Julian didn't tell her.

He didn't seek credit for himself or even want her to know that he had saved her.

What did he mean? Did he not want her to repay this favor?

"This matter is far from a trivial quarrel between girls. Regardless of what your Turner family says, my family will settle this debt."

Tory's attitude was firm.

"Today, Lara must personally come and apologize."

"And she must promise to treat Natalie respectfully from now on, to the whole city of New York."

Alexander didn't show much expression upon hearing the first sentence, but he couldn't hold back after hearing the

second one.

He snorted.

Lara had to make a public promise?

Then wouldn't everyone in New York know what Lara had done?

In that case, Lara's reputation in New York would be ruined. Who would marry into their families then?

Moreover, there were so many wealthy young ladies in New York, and they weren't to be trifled with. Just one word from any of them could drown Lara.

He would never allow his granddaughter to fall into such a situation.

Get Bonus

“Originally, our Turner family took a step back in this matter, coming to your Spears family in a peaceful manner, hoping to resolve the issue and turn it into a friendly gesture.”

“But your Spears family insists on blowing it out of proportion, not only disregarding my face but also pushing the boundaries...”

“If Your Spears family acts unrighteously first, then I have no choice but to reciprocate in the same manner.”

Alexander completely didn't believe that the Turner family was at fault in this matter, and he blamed Tory for the whole situation.

“Pushing the boundaries, huh?” Finally spoke Adam, his tone full of vigor, emanating an overwhelming sense of

oppression.

He chuckled, “What audacity.”

“Let me ask you this: if your granddaughter was locked in a changing room, forced to go through a terrifying experience, would you be able to stay calm? Would you still think it's just pushing the boundaries?!”

“Lara must be summoned today!”

Adam waved his hand repeatedly, his words carrying a resolute tone.

“Otherwise, there will be no further discussion about cooperation between the Spears family and the Turner family.”

With that statement, the Spears family made it clear that they had issued an ultimatum, leaving no room for the Turner family to disagree.

Natalie sat in her seat, attempting to interject a few times, but her uncle and grandfather stopped her each time....

With her uncle and grandfather present, she didn't need to speak at all. They would stand in front, shielding her from any harm, and resolve everything, leaving her to be a carefree princess.

At that moment, Natalie felt an warmth enveloping her.

It was the feeling of being cherished by her family.

### **Chapter 339 You'll pay the price eventually**

Get Bonus

Alexander sneered, his lips curling slightly as he flicked his sleeve. "Do you really think the Turner family can't survive without the Spears family?"

"What a joke!"

"If you don't want to cooperate, so is it. The Turner family doesn't lack potential partners like the Spears family."

It wasn't worth tarnishing Lara's reputation throughout New York for the sake of one collaboration.

His granddaughter's future was more important than anything else.

"Do you have any idea how many people in New York are eager to collaborate with the Turner family?!"

Alexander had a personality that wouldn't yield to pressure. When faced with threats, it only fueled his anger.

Listening to Alexander's reckless attitude, Tory sneered.

"Fine then."

"Since you put it that way, the Spears family will go along with you."

He extended his hand and began counting on his fingers, his voice loud and clear.

"If we're not cooperating, does that mean the Turner family should return all the equipment they owe the Spears family?"

Just as Tory said this, something seemed to strike him, a thought that felt absurd.

"However, before settling the equipment issue, may I be so bold as to ask if the Turner family has a habit of silently taking away other people's belongings?"

There was a touch of sarcasm in his voice.

“On the day Natalie had a high fever, we hurriedly carried her into the ambulance.”

“But when we searched the Spears family’s emergency vehicle, we couldn’t find any medical equipment, which drove me crazy.”

“In such an urgent situation, everything would have been ruined without the equipment. Finally, I asked, and it turned out the Turner family had sneakily taken it away!”

“If it weren’t for Julian’s skillful driving, rushing to the hospital in the ambulance, Natalie would have probably suffered at the hands of the Turner family again!”

After uttering these words, Tory felt a flicker of absurdity in his own thoughts.

It seems that Julian isn’t entirely useless after all, especially in critical moments... He surprisingly proved to be somewhat helpful to Natalie.

Marriage between Natalie and him doesn’t appear to be so hard to accept, does it?

No, no, no...

That thought only lasted for a second before Tory quickly shook his head, dismissing this absurd idea.

Julian was not worthy of Natalie.

Just because Julian helped a little in a crucial moment doesn’t mean his mind should be clouded by it.

Stay rational!

Get Bortes

“You’re talking nonsense! The Turner family has always conducted themselves properly and never engaged in petty activities,” Alexander’s voice brought Tory back.

His tone was serious, conveying a sense of anger at being falsely accused.



Tory laughed again, "Whether it's nonsense or not, it's not for you to decide. Just go back and check if your Turner family has multiple sets of equipment, and you'll see if I'm talking nonsense."

"Do you really have no idea what schemes those younger generations of the Turner family are up to,

Alexander?"

Without waiting for Alexander's response, Tory continued on his own, "Well, no wonder they can't manage their granddaughter properly. How can they possibly manage the younger generations of the Turner family?"

"Alexander must be busy all the time, otherwise, he wouldn't fail to discipline the Turner family.'

Tory shook his head with a tinge of regret in his tone.

"However, on the other hand, even if you're busy, you should make time discipline the younger generations. Otherwise, when the news spreads, the mighty the Turner family would have to rely on taking things from others just to get by. The whole city would mock the Turner family."

"Do you agree with what I'm saying?"

Tory smiled and threw the conversation back to Alexander.

This speech left Alexander livid, unable to utter a word for a long time.

His hand clenched the plate, as if he wanted to throw it directly at Tory's face.

Even Natalie had never seen her uncle so eloquent before.

She didn't know how to respond to this degree of provocation. It was enough to make someone lose their temper.

As expected, old-timers are still sharp. She used to think her uncle couldn't be so sly and cunning.

Before Alexander could recover from his anger, Tory continued speaking.

"Let's talk about the medical equipment from the Spears family."

## Get Bonus

“Let me think about how much... the ultra-precision light-wave detector, proton accelerator, spiral CT...”

Tory spoke while holding his forehead, as if he had a headache from thinking.

“Oh, there are too many to count. I’ll have the steward prepare a list to be sent to the Turner family. They can return the items according to the data on the list.”

The man’s tone was light and carefree as he casually instructed the steward to write the inventory list.

But when these casually spoken words reach the Turner family, it’s a different story altogether...

Returning all the medical equipment? That would take the Turner family quite some time to manage.

The Turner family did borrow a considerable amount of medical equipment from the Spears family... After all, Spears family is second to none when it comes to equipment reserves, and no one dares to claim the top spot.

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In the whole city, only the Spears family possesses these valuable and, moreover, some of the equipment has been modified by them, far surpassing the quality of the medical equipment available on the market.

The Turner family heavily relies on these instruments for medical purposes...

Due to this, the face of Alexander turned even more unpleasant upon hearing those words.

The furrow between his brows deepened, and his face grew extremely gloomy, as if he were about to have a heart

attack.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Adam sat upright, wearing a solemn expression, not uttering a word, evidently silently approving of Tory’s actions.

He looked at Alexander without expression, but when his gaze shifted to Natalie, he suddenly softened, as if changing faces at the speed of light.

The swift change in demeanor was astonishing to witness.

“So, Alexander, how about returning all of the Spears family’s medical equipment?” He asked.

Although Alexander’s heart bled, he still endured the discomfort and coldly snorted, “Fine, return them then!”

After all, he had his reputation to uphold and couldn’t compromise so easily.

The equipment may be lost, but they can be bought again.

However, once his granddaughter’s reputation is tarnished, it can never be restored... Alexander consoled himself silently.

Upon hearing this, Tory appeared visibly surprised.

He never expected the Turner family would actually be willing to return the equipment. It was truly a painful sacrifice.

But the Spears only lasted a moment, as he quickly adjusted his state of mind.

Get Bonus

He held the Turner family’s weak spot in his hands, and he wasn’t afraid of their non-compliance.

This matter was originally Lara’s fault, and it was only right for her to apologize. He wanted to see how long Alexander would dote on his granddaughter.

“Good! Alexander, you truly are a straightforward person.”

Tory chuckled. “Since the equipment is returned, let’s discuss other matters, shall we?”

“As far as I know, the Spears family sent quite a few doctors to the Turner family, didn’t they?”

He continued. "I wonder where these doctors are now? They should also be returned to the Spears family, right?"

As soon as these words were uttered, Alexander's face immediately became uncontrollable.

Returning the equipment was one thing, but now they had to return the doctors the Spears family had sent...

That would be really difficult to manage.

Most of these doctors were already working for the Turner family, and the Turner family had invested a considerable amount of time and resources in them.

Unlike the medical equipment, these doctors were not something that could be returned so easily, as if they were simply borrowed and returned at will.

"Why aren't you speaking, Alexander? Weren't you so straightforward just now?"

Tory poked at Alexander's sore spot.

The expression on Alexander's face at this moment can no longer be described as pale, it's even somewhat contorted.

His resolute heart... under Tory's coercion, is gradually wavering.

In comparison to the enormous cost, it seems that Lara's matter was indeed mishandled.

Otherwise, if he was to call Lara right now and apologize to Natalie face-to-face, this matter could be considered

resolved.

Title: **After the Divorce, CEO Realizes He's the Stand-In Lover By**

### **Chapter 340 Compromise**

Alexander stood frozen halfway, neither speaking nor moving, emanating an air of conflict.

“Alexander, why are you silent again?”

“Is the Turner family unwilling to return those doctors to the Spears family?”

Tory seemed to have lost patience, crossing his arms behind him as he spoke, pacing back and forth.

“I’m well aware of how many doctors the Spears family sent over,”

He continued. “When the time comes, the Turner family should kindly return them to the Spears family, not one more, not one less.”

Alexander hesitated, attempting to find reasons to keep the doctors. “These doctors have been with the Turner family for a long time, some have even started families within the Turner family. It would be difficult for them if they suddenly had to go to the Spears family.”

“Oh, really?” Tory raised an eyebrow.

Alexander thought Tory’s expression indicated a chance to keep the doctors, so he quickly spoke up.

“Yes, the Turner family has even provided the doctors with houses and cars. These doctors have practically settled

within the Turner family... It would be inhumane to make them leave so suddenly.”

Alexander expressed his position with a reproachful tone.

However, Tory was not bound by this so-called moral constraint, and he suddenly laughed.

“Inhumane?”

“Don’t worry, everything that the Turner family has provided for these doctors, the Spears family will provide in full.

We won’t let them suffer the slightest grievance.”

“You can rest assured and send them over; you don’t need to trouble yourself with these matters.”

With these words, Tory completely blocked Alexander's arguments.

His words were stuck halfway, not knowing what to say.

"It might take some time to send the doctors along with some medical equipment... If the Turner family is too busy to handle it, we can personally come and pick them up."

Tory raised his eyebrows, appearing very considerate.

"Oh, I just remembered it, Alexander, didn't you initially make it clear that you didn't want to cooperate with the Spears family?"

"Should we just end the cooperation between the Spears family and the Turner family in New York altogether?"

Get Bonus

"Well, the Turner family doesn't lack the Spears family as a partner, right?"

Tory's tone was serious, showing absolutely no hint of joking.

Ending the cooperation wouldn't affect the Spears family at all because, in New York, the Spears family was the family, and no other family could rival them in the medical field.

Refusing to collaborate with the Turner family doesn't mean the Spears family won't have the Smith family, the Trump family, the Brown family, or any other family eagerly seeking to collaborate with them.

But the Turner family is different.

Losing the opportunity to partner with the Spears family, an extremely high-quality collaborator, will impact their

future development plans for the next few years. They might even have to completely rethink their blueprint.

The cost of this loss is enormous.

Tory's firm stance stems from his clear understanding of the pros and cons involved.

He has seized upon the vulnerability of Alexander's patriarch and launched precise attacks that force him to make a

painful choice between the family's development and his granddaughter.

From the beginning until now, Alexander's patriarch has maintained a stern expression, exuding an aura of gloom.

Tension fills the air.

Just at this critical moment, a mobile phone ringtone breaks the silence.

Natalie is startled by the sound and instinctively searches for its source.

Who would be so thoughtless as to have their phone ringing so loudly at such a crucial time? It's utterly tactless.

Her gaze sweeps across everyone present, attempting to identify the source of that jarring ringtone.

Yet, after scanning the room, she sees no trace of the phone.

Perplexed, Natalie is nudged by a servant next to her.

"Miss, it's your phone."

The servant holds out a phone that is buzzing loudly, and lo and behold, it's her own phone,

Suddenly, all eyes are on Natalie, She feels embarrassed and wishes she could find a hole to hide in.

After searching all around, could it really be her own phone?

Natalie awkwardly forces a smile and quickly retrieves her phone from the servant.

The ringtone itself isn't particularly loud, but in this rigid and awkward atmosphere, it amplifies infinitely.

Perhaps due to a system update, Natalie has never heard this ringtone before, so she didn't immediately recognize it

as her own phone.

“Natalie, who’s calling you?”

Adam’s patriarch, seated nearby, asks with a caring tone.

“Oh... Let me check...”

Get Bonus

Natalie takes the phone and lowers her head to glance at the caller ID.

The words shine brightly Julian.

“If it’s urgent, you can go outside to take the call,” Adam’s patriarch’s voice is gentle and understanding.

But the moment Natalie sees that name, she blurts out without hesitation, “Not urgent, not urgent. It’s not urgent at all. I’ll call back later.”

Natalie raises an eyebrow. Without giving it much thought, she presses the end-call button.

While hanging up, she can’t help but complain. “Julian really knows how to pick his timing...”

On the other end of the call, Julian sits on a sofa, furrowing his brows as he looks at the disconnected phone.

It was Natalie who called first, but Niki fainted suddenly at that time, so he missed the call.

Now that he has some free time, he wants to call back and ask her what she wanted to say.

But unexpectedly... Natalie actually hung up the phone?

Julian’s face turned ugly.

She called first, he called back, and she hung up? Playing games with him, huh?

Julian threw his phone on the couch, instantly feeling irritated.



On the Spears family's side, when Adam saw Natalie hanging up the phone directly, he didn't pay attention to his granddaughter's phone screen, thinking it was an unimportant call.

"It's fine, as long as it's not urgent. The ringtone sounded urgent, so I thought it was something important." Said Adam.

Natalie waved her hand repeatedly, "It's not important at all."

Especially in this occasion, the call became even less important.

"Have you made your decision?" Tory's gaze shifted back from Natalie to Alexander.

Alexander's legs seemed nailed to the ground, and his face seemed frozen. He remained silent, his melancholy almost dripping with water,

Get Bonus

Seeing that Alexander didn't answer, Tory wasn't in a hurry.

He assumed a leisurely posture, sat down, savored a few sips of porridge, and then stood up to pick a few side dishes for Natalie, serving Adam a bowl of silver ear fungus soup.

"The porridge tastes good. It seems the newly hired chef in the kitchen is quite skilled."

Tory leisurely commented.

The more relaxed he appeared, the uglier Alexander's expression became.

In the end, Alexander flicked his sleeve and was about to leave with a stern face.

"Hey, hey, hey..."

"Grandpa, where are you going? Why are you leaving without saying a word?" Tory stood up and signaled the bodyguard at the door to stop him.

"You still haven't made it clear whether you'll return it or not... and you're leaving just like that. Isn't that a bit rude?"

Alexander, pressured by Tory, had no choice left.

“I’ll go home and fetch Lara. I’ll personally bring her to apologize to Natalie.”

“Now, the Spears family should be satisfied, right?”

The man compromised and said this with a distinctly uncomfortable expression on his face.

Living to this age, he had never compromised like this before...