

Saving Nora Full Story Book Free by Josh Williams

chapter 163

The police were taken aback when they heard him. They asked, "Who exactly was the one who called the police just now?"

Before Melissa could speak, Wendy started to cry. She said, "Now that you're here, sir, you have to help us! Henry and I are her parents, but she refuses to acknowledge us! The Andersons have robbed us of our daughter!"

The police frowned and looked at the Andersons again. They asked, "What's going on?"

Nora, however, didn't answer them in a timely manner.

She was staring at the policeman heading the team. Dressed in a police uniform, his posture was tall and straight like an upright spear.

Nora felt that he was no simple person.

Although the policemen behind him also conducted themselves very professionally, they felt a lot more laid-back compared to him. The difference was like that of soldiers who had gone through life and death on the battlefield, and soldiers who had been kept in privileged conditions.

The policeman heading the team had a tight jaw and looked exceptionally resolute and determined.

The people behind him followed his lead. Someone said, "Captain Ford, I think these are family affairs. A bit of persuasion should suffice..."

Before he could finish, however, the man addressed as Captain Ford broke into a frown, causing the other policeman to immediately shut up in fright.

At the sight of this, Henry immediately shouted, "Sir, are one's children obligated to provide for their elderly parents?!"

Ford pressed his lips together tightly. He spoke very little, but he nevertheless answered calmly, "Yes, they are."

Henry went on. "In that case, if the children do not carry out their obligation to provide for their elderly parents, am I allowed to make a police report?!"

Ford looked at Nora again. He lowered his gaze and answered, "Yes, you are."

Henry pointed at Nora and said, "She's my daughter, but she refuses to acknowledge us anymore. What should we do about this, sir? Shouldn't she be brought in and ordered to undergo counseling?!"

Ford's lips were pressed tightly together and his tough visage was full of uprightness. He didn't just listen to his one-sided claims and instead looked at Nora. "What do you have to say?"

Nora couldn't help but find the so-called 'Captain Ford' a little strange.

She lowered her gaze dispassionately and replied unhurriedly, "It is only right for children to provide for their parents!"

Henry breathed a sigh of relief when she said that.

From the look of it, she must have finally become scared when she saw the police, right?

Henry let out a contemptuous laugh inwardly.

Wendy also breathed a sigh of relief. This was New York, after all; they had no contacts here. To be honest, she was actually also afraid that the Andersons would use their power to bully them. Thus, she smiled and said, "It's for the best that you see it like that, Nora."

Roxanne also breathed a sigh of relief. She said, "In that case, why don't we have a seat and talk about how Ms. Smith, as their daughter, should provide for her parents? Let's make everything clear today, so that things can be done more conveniently after that."

Melissa and Simon didn't expect Nora to suddenly give in.

They exchanged a look. However, they felt that since this was Nora's choice, they should respect her decision. After all, when it came to things like family ties, those who weren't the actual people involved would never be able to really know for sure how they felt.

Henry was still Nora's father, after all. If she truly couldn't let go of their blood ties, then it couldn't be helped.

Everyone had different ways of thinking. Even though they didn't agree with Nora's decision, they couldn't make the decision on her behalf, either. After thinking through it, Melissa simply said, "If that's the case, then let's talk about it inside."

Since even Nora had given in, then they must also change their attitude accordingly.

Henry and Wendy exchanged a look. Then, they started to walk toward the door. When they reached the door, they couldn't help but look at Melissa and say, "If you'd known this was coming, then why bother being so aggressive and driving us away yesterday?"

The couple's eyes were full of triumph.

However, Nora blocked them at the door the next moment. The corners of her lips curled upward and she said, "The two of you can't go inside."

Henry and Wendy, "?"

Even Roxanne was dumbfounded. she asked, "What is the meaning of this, Ms. Smith? Didn't you just say that it's only right that children provide for their parents? Are you going back on your word so quickly?"

Nora cast her eyes down. She replied, "Children should indeed provide for their parents. However, why should I provide for someone who has no blood ties with me whatsoever?"

As soon as she said that, Henry's eyes abruptly widened in shock.

Wendy was also stunned. She, who obviously didn't know about this, looked at Henry incredulously. "What is Nora talking about, Henry?"

Henry swallowed. He said, "Y-you no-good daughter! How could you tell such a lie just so you can escape providing for us? You really are my daughter!"

Nora kept her gaze down. She didn't waste her breath on him any further. Instead, she opened the electronic DNA test report file on her cell phone and held it up in Henry's face!

Henry, "!!"

He stared at the report in shock. Suddenly, he thought back to the sharp pain he had felt on his scalp when he was leaving the Andersons the previous night... Could it be that...

How could it be, though?!

Why would she have doubts about it?! Yet if she hadn't, was there any normal person who would have a DNA test done?

He absolutely mustn't admit to it, though.

He hastily yelled, "The report is fake! It's definitely fake!"

Fake?

Nora's lips curled into a smile, and she ignored him. Instead, she looked at Roxanne and said, "Roxanne, you're a reporter, so you must be very knowledgeable and know a lot. You should know of this DNA testing lab, right?"

Z&S was the most well-known DNA testing lab abroad. Its qualifications were beyond doubt because it was Anti's property!

Roxanne looked at Henry immediately when she saw the lab's logo.

In the hospital.

Ian had been watching the live-stream closely the whole time.

When the girl said 'It is only right for children to provide for their parents!', he couldn't help but curl his lip with distaste.

In the end, she was just a daughter that Yvette had with someone else. Even though she looked like her, she wasn't her. She ultimately still had her father's cowardly nature in her and had actually compromised at a time like this.

Ian broke into a frown and decided to exit the live-stream.

However, it was at this moment that Nora said 'Why should I provide for someone who has no blood ties with me whatsoever?'. Thinking that this was Nora's way of dodging the topic, he even admired her cleverness.

After all, by saying that, the focus of the incident would change from a daughter refusing to provide for her elderly parents, to whether she really was their daughter or not.

Like Yvette, she was very sly and crafty.

Ian lowered his gaze. The thought had only just formed in his mind when Nora brandished a DNA test report!

The cameraman aimed the camera right at the cell phone, allowing everyone to see the screen clearly!

Nora Smith... indeed wasn't Henry's daughter!

Ian suddenly sat up straight. His eyes looked as if they were glowing in this instant as he stared hard at the live-stream on his cell phone!

If... If she wasn't Henry's daughter...

Then who did Yvette have her with?!

Could she be...

Ian suddenly flipped open the quilt covering him and made a move to get out of bed. However, the nurse outside the door rushed in and pressed his shoulders down. "What are you doing, Mr. Smith?"

Ian was so agitated that his eyes were turning red and moist.

He said, "Joel! Get Joel!"

The nurse immediately nodded. "Okay, we'll look for him right away. Can you lie back down first, please?"

Ian lay back down.

He stared at the ceiling. There was only one thought in his mind at the moment:

Might she be his daughter?!

The comments in the live-stream had already gone nuts:

'Oh my god! I actually just saw a plot twist online! She isn't his biological daughter! My goodness!'

'No wonder she isn't close to her father! As it turned out, she isn't his biological daughter! It's no wonder, then!'

'That's too biased an opinion. The way I see it, the kindness one shows by raising a child outweighs that of giving birth to the child. Just because she isn't his biological child, does that mean she can just forget how painstakingly he had raised her?'

'I agree. If you can be a total ingrate just because you aren't your parents' biological child, then what kind of position do you put the families in who so kindly adopt children in the orphanage?'

'I am an adopted child myself. My biological parents abandoned me at birth, but my adoptive parents treated me very well. Our relationship now is no different from that of blood-related parents and children. Does it matter whether we are blood-related or not?'

...

At the Andersons.

Roxanne, who was astounded by the turn of events, was actually feeling a little embarrassed. She had come here solely to hype it up for her live-stream, as well as to persuade them to reconcile.

She hadn't expected such twists and turns at all.

She couldn't help but secretly blame and resent Henry for not telling her the truth. Besides, from the way he was reacting, he obviously knew about it. He just didn't want to admit to it, that was all.

She frowned and glanced at the comments in the live-stream. Then, the quick-witted reporter said, "There's no greater kindness than the love and care that one receives from their parents when they're growing up, Ms. Smith. A DNA test report doesn't explain anything. Since you grew up in the Smiths, then that makes them your parents. Do you really want to sever ties with your parents who had so painstakingly brought you up?"

The moment she said that, Wendy reacted very quickly. She took out a handkerchief from who-knows-where and held it over her eyes as she cried. She said, "I see. Did you distance yourself from us because of that? But think about it—when have we ever treated you badly during all these years?"

Henry's expression had also darkened.

Having a fact like this exposed put him in an embarrassing situation. However, now that things had come to this, it wasn't just a matter of whether it was embarrassing or not anymore.

He clenched his jaw and said, "Yes, you are indeed not my biological daughter, but on account of my relationship with your mother, I've treated you like my own all these years. I worked so hard to make money so that I could provide for you. Are you going to just negate our kindness in bringing you up just because you're not my biological daughter?"

Roxanne heaved a sigh and said, "They're your parents, Ms. Smith. It's all thanks to them that you've grown from a helpless baby to the beautiful young woman you are now. As far as I know, you were home until you were at least 19 years old. You..."

The trio joined forces to denounce her.

Nora cast her eyes down.

She didn't like exposing her affairs to others, and letting them know that she had never been loved since she was a child; or that she had always hidden herself in a pitch-dark room since she was a child; or that when she was still a child without any means of retaliation, she could only eat food that had gone bad and drink cold water.

She disliked even more letting others know how miserable her life had been when she was a child.

Someone as strong and powerful as she had never needed anyone's sympathy.

Besides, she wasn't eloquent enough to talk about those things.

However, it wasn't her style to allow those three people to twist and distort the truth, either.

Nora lowered her head, held up her cell phone, and tapped a few times on it with her long and slender fingers.

As a result, all the viewers in the live-stream could see was the sight of her completely ignoring the three people's words and playing with her cell phone with her head down, which made her look very rude.

The negative comments in the live-stream became even worse.

'That little missy is really pretty, but why doesn't she know how to conduct herself properly?'

'No matter what, your parents did raise you into an adult. You can't just do that!'

'Those are the Andersons. Looks like I really can't patronize Harmonia Pharmacy's medicines anymore. How can their medicines be any good when the people making them are so heartless?'

'I heard that her aunt—that is, Mrs. Anderson over there—isn't any decent human being, either.'

...

All sorts of verbal abuse bombarded the comments in the live-stream.

Melissa was livid. She said, "Why don't you ask yourselves whether or not you really treated Nora well?! If you had, why would you stop her from ever going to school?!"

Wendy let out a sigh. "That's because she has in poor health. We've spent a lot on her over the years because of her health! In fact, we used to have quite a lot of income, but because of her condition, we've depleted all our savings... I know you must think that we're doing this for money, and to tell the truth, we are indeed doing this for money; but that's because we've been driven into a corner and are at our wits' end!"

Wendy held her hand over her eyes and wept as she said, "Even though our elder daughter has spent all our savings, by right, since the money was for her medical fees, it shouldn't matter. Our younger daughter is now in graduate school and isn't working, the family is out of money. At this point, our elder daughter is found by her wealthy relatives. I heard that Nora's mother owns

some of the Andersons' company's shares, so she's very rich now... We're not asking for riches and honor; we're just hoping that she can take out some money—even just a few thousand dollars would do—to help the family out. I have my own selfish motives too! I really feel so terrible seeing my younger daughter live from hand to mouth! Nora, as an elder sister, can't you even spare your sister a bit of what you have when you're doing well? Your father and I are old, so we can do without it. We're willing to even live off scraps! But your younger sister is such an outstanding girl..."

Her acting could really make anyone listening to her weep in sadness.

Melissa had always been a very eloquent woman, but even she was astounded by Wendy's shamelessness.

Simon took an even more straightforward approach. To him, if spending a small amount of money could resolve the issue, then he would just do it and have them drop the issue altogether. He wouldn't hold it against them anymore, either. Thus, he asked, "How much are you planning to ask Nora for?"

His question made Wendy's eyes light up. She replied, "How about this? Not only is Nora rich now, but we also only sent her to the doctors last time because she was supposedly Henry's biological daughter. In that case, we'll have her return us all the money we spent on her medical treatment during all these years. If she doesn't want to be involved with us in the future, we won't come anymore, either. We're not asking for too much, right?"

The live-stream was filled with comments such as:

'Their request isn't too much at all!'

'Exactly. I don't find Ms. Smith a good person, either. In that case, they might as well have her pay them a lump sum and cut her off after that!'

'Since she wants to cut them off so much, they should properly settle all the accounts from the past. Why stick to just medical expenses? They should also include everything else like living expenses and so on!'

...

While such comments were being passed in the live-stream, Nora finally raised her icy-cold eyes and spoke. She said, "Sure. In that case, let's settle

the accounts properly. Let's take the meals I ate ever since I was a child as five dollars each. That makes fifteen dollars a day. In total, that's—"

Wendy smiled and interrupted her. She said, "Is there a need to go into such detail, Nora? All of this happened twenty years ago. Who would remember them that clearly? Why don't we do this instead? Let's just calculate the few big expenses instead. The first is your medical expenses. Next, during those few years you were abroad..."

Henry nodded and said, "Yes, that's right. We'll forget about the daily food expenses and so on. I'll just take it that I was feeding a dog. Let's just calculate the few big expenses instead..."

"No, that won't do." Nora stood tall and straight, and a sharp glint flashed in her drowsy-looking eyes in this instant. Her lips curled upward into a smile and she said unhurriedly in a low voice, "I've always been one who distinguishes clearly between gratitude and grudges, so I mustn't leave out even a single cent. I have a detailed breakdown of your bank records here..."

His bank records?

Henry was stunned.

So was Wendy.

The next moment, Henry sneered, "Do you think you're a bank teller? How would you possibly have our bank records?"

Nora, however, ignored them and looked at Melissa instead. She said, "Aunt Melissa, the printer at home has already printed them out. Please get someone to retrieve them."

The printer?

She hadn't noticed Nora going to the computer and doing anything, though~

However, she kept quiet about it and went upstairs with the nanny instead. Within a minute, the two of them came back down with a stack of papers.

Nora took out a few sheets from the stack and passed them to Roxanne. She said, "These are the family's income details."

Roxanne was taken aback, but she still took the papers from Nora.

Printed on them were details of income that their bank accounts had received over the years.

Every month, Idealian Pharmaceuticals would transfer a sum of money into one of the bank accounts. They amounted to roughly five million dollars a year. This had gone on for 25 years without any interruption at all.

Most importantly, it was the only source of income for all bank cards under the Smiths!

Roxanne was stunned. "What does this mean?"

Nora's lips curled into a smile as she answered, "Idealian Pharmaceuticals is a company under my mother's name before she got married."

A furious Henry retorted, "It became our joint property after we got married!"

Roxanne was dumbfounded. She said, "In other words, your entire family's income comes from the company that your mother left behind? In that case, what positions do the two of you hold in the company, Mr. and Mrs. Smith?"

The whole family's income came from Nora's mother's company.

Therefore, Roxanne had subconsciously assumed that the two of them worked in the company.

But unexpectedly, Henry and Wendy's expressions changed as soon as she uttered the question, and both of them became rather embarrassed.

Nora's lips curled into a smile as she said, "Oh, them? ... They don't hold any positions in there because my mother has handed the company over to a professional manager to handle its affairs."

Roxanne, "?"

Nora looked at Henry and Wendy, and asked, "The two of you claim that you worked really hard to make money to provide for me, right? May I ask how much, if any, did the two of you make during all these years?"

Her words made Henry flush.

Wendy hemmed and hawed, unable to say anything.

Henry, however, became angry and said, “I told you, those dividends are our joint property after your mother and I got married, so that makes them mine!”

“Tsk.”

Nora smiled and said, “If I recall correctly, my mother left the company to me. Before I come of age, the company was to be managed by a manager, and the dividends entrusted to my guardian—in other words, you. The company is mine now, though.”

These were all agreed on beforehand. The manager had already shown her the prenuptial agreement a long time ago.

Even though Nora still looked half-asleep, her argument was reasonable and well-founded. She looked straight at Roxanne and said, “Therefore, their claim that they worked hard to make money is completely invalid!”

The viewers in the live-stream were also dumbfounded.

‘Damn. So, after all this time, it turns out that they have been living off Ms. Smith’s mother all these years?’

‘What is this? Did he marry into his ex-wife’s family instead of the other way round?’

‘So, after so many years of spending money meant to provide for Ms. Smith, Mr. Smith, a man who sponged off his ex-wife, has found his way over because he doesn’t have any more money to spend?’

‘What is it like to count money at home every day without going to work for more than twenty years? That’s an annual income of over five million dollars and a monthly income of \$40,000 to \$50,000! Oh my god! How do you even spend that much money?’

‘This plot twist is seriously making me lost for words!’

...

Back at the Andersons’, Henry clenched his jaw.

Wendy straightened her neck stiffly and said, “Even so, we did bring you up! The dividends were all spent on you! Money and whatnot aren’t what matters;

what matters the most when a child is growing up is companionship! It's the fact that we gave you a home!"

A home?

For Nora, that word was a ludicrous mockery in itself.

She scoffed and handed another thick stack of bills detailing the Smiths' expenditures to Roxanne. She said, "You can check the bills and see for yourselves just how much of the money was spent on me."

Henry swallowed.

Wendy couldn't help but smile hastily and say, "How can anyone possibly remember every single expense that took place over a period of more than twenty years, Nora? No matter what, we're still a family!"

Nora ignored her. She merely looked at Roxanne and asked, "Can you do accounting?"

Roxanne replied, "... Yes, I can."

For some inexplicable reason, she was now at a disadvantage.

She was obviously a reporter who came to mitigate a family dispute. Why had she suddenly become someone's assistant instead?

Before one even realized, that woman had already taken control of the situation.

The corners of her lips spasmed as she took out the bills and started going through them.

It would probably take a really long time if she were to really calculate the expenses like that. Thus, Nora kindly said, "Just now, they claimed that they spent all their savings on my medical expenses. Why don't you calculate how much they've spent on that?"

People were required to register with their actual names when they went to the doctors.

If they brought her to the doctors, there would definitely be records of it.

Roxanne nodded and started to look through the bills starting from 25 years ago. At the same time, she also got the cameraman to take out his cell phone and calculate the numbers.

After going through a few pages of the Smiths' expenditure records, she was stunned. It wasn't until it reached the point where Nora was five that she finally found a medical record from a hospital. She said, "... 30 dollars."

The cameraman, "?"

Nora cast her eyes down.

That one was because she was too hungry, so she had eaten expired food and ended up suffering from food poisoning.

Henry ultimately couldn't let her die. After all, if she were to die before she came of age, then the family's dividends would be cut off.

Yet, he couldn't bear to send her to a hospital, so he had sent her to a clinic for an IV drip instead, which had saved her life.

While looking through their expenses in the bills, Roxanne also saw expenses amounting to large sums of money. They were either for expensive handbags and jewelry—Ms. Smith was only a few years old at that time, so they couldn't have been bought for her—or for stocks or other kinds of investment, which, needless to say, had all ended in losses.

The family's food expenses were indistinguishable because they were all mixed together.

Another large expense was school fees for an international school, which required almost a hundred thousand dollars in tuition fees every year. However, everyone knew that Ms. Smith didn't attend school due to poor health, so it went without saying who the tuition fees were for!

The more she saw, the more shocked Roxanne became. At the same time, she also couldn't help but secretly call Henry a shameless man.

Nora cast her eyes down.

To be honest, there was no way of telling from the bills who the children's food and clothes were bought for, but she couldn't be bothered to explain, either.

The clothes were all Angela's. She was fat back then, so she had worn pajamas instead, and even so, the pajamas were things that Angela had rejected...

However, one could also say that the things that she had experienced in her childhood were a kind of training for her.

Through the camera, Roxanne's changes in her facial expression and her embarrassment reached everyone who was watching the live-stream. Although she hadn't said a word, everyone was great at filling in the blanks, so they immediately understood something—

Henry and his family must have mistreated their elder daughter!

Wasn't this a classic example of a man marrying into his wife's family and sponging off her, and then hogging her assets after he successfully waited until she died?!

The general opinion of the comments in the live-stream changed, and they began to attack Henry.

Henry himself also realized something. He immediately removed all his pretenses, stared at Nora, and yelled furiously, "Do you know why I didn't treat you well? It's because your mother cheated me into a wedding scam! She got herself pregnant before marriage and lied to me!"

An agitated Henry looked extremely furious. He said, "I only realized that the child wasn't mine after we were married! You're just like your mother! Like what they say, a crooked stick will have a crooked shadow! You're both cheap women who got themselves pregnant before marriage!"

Nora's eyes abruptly widened.

She clenched her fists, losing control of her emotions for the first time during this incident.

She hadn't expected Henry to actually refute her using this.

Henry, however, seemed ready to risk everything as if he had nothing to lose anymore. The grown man's eyes had even reddened, and he looked as if he was finally revealing to the public a secret that he'd kept hidden deep down in his heart. He spoke as if he had been forced into it.

“Do you think I wanted to marry your mother? She was good-looking, beautiful, and gentle. When she was courting me back then, how was she even anything like a dignified daughter of a wealthy family? Although she owned a pharmaceutical company, I, too, had a great future ahead of me at that time. I graduated from a prestigious university and also had my own career at that time!”

“She liked me, while I also felt budding feelings for her. After that, we fell in love. I thought I was welcoming the most blissful married life in the world, but I didn’t expect all of this to change after we got married!”

“On the first day of our marriage, she told me that she was pregnant, but the child wasn’t mine! I was very sad and angry at that time and wanted a divorce, but she begged me not to and simply refused to agree to it.”

Henry heaved a heavy sigh. He stood with his hands behind his back, forming a sorrowful and dispirited sight.

In the hospital.

Ian, who was watching the live-stream, was so furious that he flung the cell phone away. “There’s no way Yvette would beg anyone! Lies! Utter lies! He’s lying through his teeth!”

Yvette was such a strong woman.

Back then, when she was leading the Andersons’ pharmaceutical company, she had once met with a problem in her academics. Someone told her that they would help her if she yielded and asked them for help, but she instead sneered at them and put in a month of hard work to overcome the problem instead.

She had worked so hard that she even coughed up blood in the end!

She was exactly someone like that. She’d rather grit her teeth, endure everything by herself, and work hard on her own than ask for help! What’s more, when it came to love, she had always been the one who had the upper hand.

Ian, however, picked the cell phone up again after he flung it away, and continued to watch.

The look in his eyes was very cold.

What kind of death should he give that man, so that it would defuse his anger?

Regardless of the reason for it, Yvette had ultimately provided for that piece of trash for so many years. She wasn't even around anymore, yet he was still insulting her! He must be sick of living!

Ian clenched his fists tightly. He hated his body for being so useless in this instant. For the first time, he regretted having formed thoughts of dying.

Had his physical condition permitted, he would definitely have charged over to the Andersons' to sew that man's mouth shut!

—

At the Andersons.

Henry was still airing his grievances. He said, "I really loved her. I couldn't bear to see her on her knees, so I decided to wait until she gave birth before we divorce. I won't ask for even a cent from her..."

"But humans are emotional creatures. We spent a year and a half together. She was gentle, caring, and thoughtful toward me. When she gave birth and the time for our divorce came, how could I possibly bear to part with her?"

"She knew that I would be softhearted, so she cried and told me that she was terminally ill and didn't have long to live. She wanted me to raise her daughter and even said that she had fallen out with her family, so I was her only kin left in the world.

"She was dying and was so thin as she lay on the bed. I ended up relenting again."

"I really both love and hate her..."

"She also personally chose a second wife, Wendy, for me. She told her to treat me well and wanted the two of us, husband and wife, to take care of her child together.

“Later, she left the world. I missed her so badly that I fell ill. After being seriously ill for a while, I left my job. After that, I ultimately still couldn’t recover from the pain of her departure.”

“I really hate her. I hate her for deceiving me and betraying me by sleeping with another man. We only got married after dating for a year, yet at the time of our wedding, she was instead pregnant with another man’s child...”

“But she’s already dead, so what can I do?”

Henry wiped away the non-existent tears in his eyes before he looked at Nora again. He said, “Nora, I know you hate me for not showing you enough care and concern, but if you were me, would you have been able to calmly embrace the illegitimate child that she had had with someone else?!”

Wendy cooperated with him very well. She said, “After spending so many years in low spirits, your father has long since become out of touch with the times. Before your mother died, she said that the company was her way of compensating him. That’s why we were unemployed.”

The company was her way of compensating him?

Nora lowered her gaze and let out an icy laugh.

Henry glared at Nora again. “And you, too. It’s because your mother was afraid that you would also pick up the wrong thing like her that she didn’t allow you to go to school. That was what she said before she died. Sure enough, you turned out to be as loose a woman like her. Once again, you got yourself pregnant before marriage, and thoroughly embarrassed the Smiths! Your mother had let me down, and so did you! It’s all your mother’s fault that I’m in this state today! You should take responsibility for the consequences that you and your mother caused!”

Nora narrowed her eyes.

Although she didn’t really have much of an impression of that mother of hers who only existed in legends, her gentle but firm voice had kept her company for countless days and nights when she was a child.

She wasn’t going to allow Henry to slander her mother like that.

She believed that just like herself, her mother definitely had her own reasons for getting pregnant before she was married!

She took a step forward and clenched her fists. Her voice was cold and crisp as she demanded angrily, “Take back your accusations against my mother, Henry Smith!”

Henry took a step back and hid behind the cameraman. He said mockingly, “Are you stopping people from bringing it up because you don’t have the guts to do it yourself? Besides, I wasn’t planning to bring this up, either. You were the one who produced the DNA test results and brought humiliation upon yourself! Your mother is a promiscuous woman who slept around with other men while she was in a relationship with me! She didn’t even know who the child’s father was. She was used goods just like you are!”

Nora suddenly took a step forward. No one saw how she managed to go around the cameraman, but she rushed up to Henry extremely quickly, grabbed him by the collar, and said, “I told you to shut up!”

The cameraman pointed the camera at them.

Henry yelled, “Look at her! Do you really dare to hit me when the police are still here?! Sir, help!”

The other policemen were about to go forward when he shouted. However, when they looked at their team leader ‘Captain Ford’ and saw that he wasn’t moving, the others stopped.

When Henry saw that no one was coming to rescue him, and the hatred in Nora’s bloodshot eyes, with both new and old grudges stacking on top of one another, fury overwhelmed his rationale and he shouted, “Nora, even if you collude with the police, and even if you hit me, it’ll never change the fact that your mother was unfaithful and cheated on me!”

Bam!

Nora punched him hard in the face.

In the live-stream, viewers were also attacking both mother and daughter in the comments for their immoral behavior. On top of that, she was even being violent.

Public opinion once again went in Henry's favor.

However, a man's voice suddenly reached them at this point.

"That was not what happened back then."

The gentle and mellow voice was mixed with some light panting as if the owner of the voice had run all the way here.

Everyone looked at the gates and saw Caleb Gray walking in. Dressed in a gray suit, he gave off a comfortable feeling that felt just like a spring breeze.

His chest rose up and down slightly as he panted. His deep, melancholic eyes shifted to Nora after he spoke. He nodded politely and gently at her and said, "I rushed over immediately when I saw the live-stream. I almost messed things up for you."

Nora, "?"

Wasn't he her ex-fiancé Anthony Gray's uncle?

He had approached her to fulfill the marriage agreement between the Grays and her the other time. What was he doing here?

While she was wondering about it, Caleb turned to Henry. The attitude he took with him was completely different from the one he adopted toward Nora. He even sounded a little disgusted as he said, "Do you really think that no one knows the truth about what happened back then, Mr. Smith?"

Henry, who had been punched, was holding his nose. Blood seeped from in between his fingers. When he heard what Caleb said, he frowned. "What truth are you talking about?"

Caleb replied, "The truth about your marriage to Ms. Anderson!"

Henry's eyes flickered. "What I said just now is the truth itself. What nonsense are you spouting? Are you guys planning to twist the truth? Also, who are you? How dare you come over to help that unfilial girl!"

Caleb sighed. "I'm from the Grays."

The Grays?

An astounded Henry looked at him. “What?”

Nora could clearly sense that there was something going on in here. She thought of the marriage agreement, and how the Smiths were just a small family, whereas the Grays were a large and famous wealthy family in California. She thought of how the Grays had never demanded to break off the engagement even when she became pregnant before marriage...

“What exactly happened back then, Mr. Gray?” asked Nora.

Caleb replied with a sigh, “I was only three years old back then, so I didn’t know the truth. It was my father who told me everything, but everything he said is completely different from what Mr. Smith said!”

Completely different...

Henry became terribly anxious. “You—”

He only managed to utter a word when Caleb looked at him, frightening him so badly that he suppressed the rest of what he had wanted to say. He was relatively unfamiliar with the wealthy families in New York, but the Grays were influential locals of California!

Besides, his daughter was currently engaged to the Grays!

He stepped forward and said, “We’re in-laws, Mr. Gray. You—”

Caleb lowered his gaze, causing his long eyelashes to cast silhouettes on his cheeks. He looked at Nora and slowly said, “It is true that your mother was pregnant before she was married, but this is something that everyone knew—because her belly was already showing when she got married.”

Her belly was already showing...

Then that meant that the wedding scam didn’t exist at all!

Nora narrowed her eyes. “And then?”

“Your father was just a clerk at that time. For some reason, your mother took an interest in him, so she had a frank and sincere talk with him.”

Henry was still disputing his claim. He said, “That didn’t happen at all!”

However, Caleb took out a very old voice recorder pen and pressed the play button. A conversation between the two started to play clearly from the recorder pen.

The voice that Nora found so familiar, yet also felt foreign at the same time, was speaking calmly without any emotion. She asked, “Do you have a girlfriend, Henry?”

Henry’s voice sounded a little younger than how it currently sounded. His voice shook in trepidation as he answered, “... N-no, I don’t.”

Yvette asked, “Are you willing to marry me, then?”

“What?”

Yvette let out a low chuckle and said, “This is a transaction. I’m pregnant and my child needs a father, whereas your mother is sick and you need money for her medical expenses.”

The sound of Henry swallowing hard was very obvious. He said, “Then... Then your assets...”

Yvette said, “I’m sick and in very serious condition. I can probably only live for a year after I give birth. After I die, the company will be left to my child. I’ve already found a dedicated manager for the company. As for you, you are to act as my child’s guardian. The dividends you’ll receive before she reaches adulthood will definitely be more than enough for you. I won’t hold you back from marrying and having children, either. I want you to take good care of my child. In return, as thanks, I can transfer the villa, where I’m currently living, to you.”

Henry seemed to be in disbelief. He asked, “W-why did you pick me?”

However, Yvette merely chuckled and said nothing.

Henry spoke again. He asked, “A-aren’t you afraid that I’ll mistreat your child?”

Yvette’s answer this time was very casual. She said, “It’s fine as long as you make sure that she stays alive. As for the rest, you can do whatever you want.”

“ ... ”

“Oh, by the way, if she accidentally dies, then the villa will be taken back and the company’s dividends cut off. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

“... Y-yes, I understand.”

“Okay. If you’re agreeable to it, then just sign this contract here. I’ll give you three days to consider—”

Henry’s voice was tinged with excitement as he interrupted her and said, “No, it’s fine! I agree!”

...

...

The whole place was quiet.

No one had ever thought that the plot twist would come so quickly, or that Henry would have to eat his words so quickly.

One by one, the people lambasting Nora in the comments changed their target.

‘What the f*ck! Isn’t this too sensational? This is a story of a man, who was sponging off a woman, coming over to make trouble because he can’t freeload anymore, right?’

‘That’s a villa, y’know! It must be worth at least five million dollars in California, right? Moreover, there are also five million dollars worth of dividends every year. Her only demand is that her child stays alive...’

‘The mother is a little cold toward her child, but she feels so cool for some reason!’

‘Oh my god! Aren’t they too shameless?! Not only are they living off her and literally living in her house, but they even mistreated her child. And now, they are even pestering her child to provide for them! There’s no justice in this world anymore!’

...

No one paid any attention to the comments in the live-stream.

Nora's eyes were downcast at the moment. As she listened to the conversation that her mother had left behind while she was still alive—and one from more than twenty years ago at that—she actually felt as if she had traveled through time and space.

As it turned out, being a mother was also hereditary.

She had inherited her irresponsibility from her mother.

It was fine as long as she was alive.

Although her words sounded cold, it was actually her mother's greatest wish for her, right?

Her mother had been sure that as long as she was alive, she would never be ordinary, and would become strong and confident. That was why she had left her a voice recording telling her to stay low-key...

While Nora was in a daze, Melissa had already recovered from her shock. She rebuked, "Henry, you're worse than an animal! How did you even have the cheek to bring people to our place and make a scene here?!"

Simon looked even more furious. He said, "The Andersons were originally planning to let you off, Henry Smith. But judging from how things are now, this feud between us is irreconcilable!"

Henry and Wendy were just like hunted rats being persecuted by everyone now.

The two of them supported each other.

Henry, who knew that he was finished, yelled furiously, "What are all of you so triumphant for, Nora? Someone like you who has inherited your mother's cold-heartedness doesn't understand what kinship is at all! Even if you become rich and powerful, you'll still be all alone unlike us! We're at least still a family of three!"

A family of three?

The corners of Nora's lips suddenly curled upward. She took a step forward and said, "Henry, after calling you my father for nineteen years, why don't I give you a parting gift too?"

A gift?

Henry narrowed his eyes. "What kind of gift is it?"

Could Nora have been stung by her conscience, so she was planning to give him some money? She had ultimately grown up with them, right? When she was still a child, she even used to look at him eagerly, hoping that he would hug her.

Henry's eyes were shining as if they were full of greed.

Nora, who didn't know what he had imagined on his own, handed him the other DNA test report that she had printed with the bank statements. She said, "I hope the gift is to your liking."

It was a document...

Could it be a company ownership transfer agreement? Had that daughter of his finally been stung by her conscience, and decided to transfer ownership of the tiny Idealian Pharmaceuticals in California to him?

With that in mind, Henry flipped open the document.

Wendy, who was standing next to Henry, also breathed a sigh of relief. They didn't have any savings, so they fully depended on the dividends to survive. After all these years, they had also become accustomed to spending extravagantly and couldn't get out of the habit right away. The lack of income during the last couple of months had suffocated them badly.

She said with a smile, "Nora, even though we aren't related by blood, it's still true that we've kept each other company for more than twenty years. On account of how you've called Henry your father all these years, thank you very much for your help this time~"

After speaking, she turned back to Henry and asked, "What's that, Henry?"

Henry was already frozen in place. He raised his head in disbelief and looked at Wendy.

When an excited Wendy asked him that question, at last, he couldn't hold himself back anymore. He suddenly reached out and grabbed her throat. He looked savage as he demanded, "Tell me, whose daughter is Angela?!"

Upon being suddenly questioned like that, Wendy was stunned. Then, as though she had just realized something, she hastily grabbed Henry's arms and said, "Let go of me first, Henry. Let go... Angela is your daughter, of course. Don't be fooled by that woman!"

Henry loosened his grip a little when he heard what she said.

Wendy pushed Henry away and took several steps back. Then, she looked at Nora menacingly and dropped all of her usual pretenses. "What did you say to Henry, Nora?"

Nora lowered her gaze and replied, "Nothing much. I just had an extra DNA test done, that's all. Of course, if the two of you doubt its authenticity, feel free to get another lab to redo it."

Then, her lips curled into a smile and she added, "Oh, I forgot that you guys are broke. I can pay for it at no cost to you."

She spoke casually and naturally, but also with certainty.

The test was done by Lily herself, so there was no way there would be any mistakes!

Henry looked at Wendy again. "Tell me, is Angela my daughter or not?! Wendy, you'd best not lie to me!"

Wendy swallowed hard. Now that things had come to this point, she knew that Henry would never believe her anymore. Besides, the result would still be the same anyway, even if they had the DNA test redone.

She ran a couple of steps toward the police and hid behind them. Then, she poked her head out and said, "That's right, Angela isn't your daughter! But this is all because you forced me into it!"

Henry was taken aback.

A sobbing Wendy said, "You abandoned me for money and prestige back then! After you married that little bitch, you said you would marry me once she died! But what happened after she died? What did you do? You started to fool around with a young and pretty woman! And never once brought up the topic of marrying me!"

A fierce look came over Wendy's eyes as she said, "You said that woman, Yvette Anderson, refused to let you touch her, so you were with me during the marriage, but what happened in the end? After using me to vent your sexual desires, you decided to deny responsibility? What makes you think you can do that, Henry? Did those few years of my youth all go to waste?"

Wendy started to cry as she spoke. She said, "I had no other choice. Since you refused to marry me, I couldn't just waste my youth like that. Besides, I just couldn't seem to ever get pregnant when I was with you, so I simply decided to go to another man instead... It was only after I became pregnant and drove you into a corner with the baby that you finally gave in!"

Henry flew into a rage and rushed forward to hit her. He shouted, "You bitch! How dare you lie to me and trick me into bringing up someone else's daughter for more than twenty years!"

Wendy clutched one of the policemen's arm and cried out, "Sir, someone's trying to kill me! You have to help me!"

Ford didn't move. However, the rest of the policemen held Henry back and said, "Talk it out if you have a problem with each other. Assaulting someone is against the law!"

Henry's chest heaved up and down in fury. "You! It's because of Angela that I didn't ask for any more children! I didn't think that you'd actually kept me from having any daughter of my own for the rest of my life!"

Wendy sneered, "I'm the cause of it? Given that body of yours, how can you possibly have any children? We've been together for so many years, but I've never been pregnant with your child. In contrast, I merely spent the night with another man once and I immediately became pregnant. Why don't you say it's because you're impotent instead?"

Impotent...

Henry, who had been accused of being impotent in front of a nationwide broadcast, had thoroughly embarrassed himself inside out!

He roared furiously, "Shut the hell up!"

Wendy, however, wasn't afraid. In fact, she even said arrogantly, "You're too old to ever have any children in the future, so I'd advise you to calm down."

This way, I can still get Angela to continue providing for you as her father. If you continue to verbally abuse me, both my daughter and I won't acknowledge you as father and husband anymore!"

They would stop acknowledging him as father and husband...

Henry felt a sharp pain in his heart.

There weren't any fathers who didn't love their children in this world.

He had honestly really given all of his love to Angela, but in the end, the moment he thought of how she wasn't his daughter, he couldn't help but feel conflicted and agonized...

Wendy stepped forward and grabbed his arm. She said, "You'd better stop making a scene, Henry. Otherwise, everyone is going to see you as a joke! Just take it that this has never happened. Our family of three can still live like how we did in the past!"

Wendy's eyes flickered when she said that.

The villa in California was still under Henry's name!

Henry looked at her. A moment later, he closed his mouth.

The elderly were the most afraid of having no one to rely on in old age. He had given all his love to Angela. In that sense, Angela wouldn't treat him that badly in the future, either.

Even if she wasn't his biological daughter, he could only live with it now!

Henry felt tightness in his chest as if something was stuck there. Suddenly, he tasted something sweet in his throat, and he coughed up a mouthful of blood and fainted.

Wendy hurriedly called an ambulance and sent him to the hospital.

The fiasco finally ended.

Roxanne and the cameraman tried to slip away during the chaos but were caught by Ford. He said, "For trespassing into private property without the owner's consent, damaging someone else's reputation through means of a

live-stream, and infringing someone else's portrait rights, you are hereby arrested for multiple offenses. Please come with us to the police station!"

While the police were arresting them, Nora was thanking Caleb. She took the recorder pen and said, "It seems like my mother trusted your family very much."

Caleb smiled gently when he heard what she said. His melancholic eyes were deep and bottomless as he said, "I thought you would ask me who your biological father is."

Nora looked up at him and asked, "You know who he is?"

Caleb smiled and shook his head. "I don't."

Nora uttered an 'oh'. She wasn't particularly bothered.

A puzzled Caleb asked, "Don't you want to know?"

Nora replied detachedly, "It doesn't matter to me."

It really didn't matter to her.

Having grown up in a family like that ever since she was a child, kinship wasn't something indispensable for her.

To her, the greatest value her mother had was that she had given birth to her, and also left her with so much material she could study and learn from.

Her father...

That word had been associated with Henry since she was a child. Even though he wasn't her father anymore, she didn't feel much affection for the word.

Nora put the recorder pen away safely into her pocket. Then, she looked at Caleb and said, "Thank you."

"You're welcome." Caleb sighed and said, "Back then, your mother asked us to take care of you. You can say that all this was because the Grays were negligent."

Caleb also had a look of approval and appreciation on his countenance when he talked about Yvette.

While they were talking, Ford suddenly walked over. His expression was as stern as ever as if he never smiled or laughed. He interrupted their conversation and said, "Ms. Smith, Mr. Gray. We need the two of you to give your statements for investigative purposes."

Statements?

Nora was taken aback.

Caleb also couldn't help but ask, "It's just trespassing on private property. Why do we have to give statements for it?"

Ford looked firm and determined, and his facial features were chiseled and defined. He spoke politely but with a commandeering air as if he was someone who had held a high position for a long time. He said, "Please go through the motions with us."

Nora felt that he wasn't someone to be messed with.

She nodded.

Caleb didn't refuse, either. Thus, the two of them were asked to go down to the police station together. They were also assigned to different rooms.

Nora sat casually in the dark room. Her big boss-like demeanor made the few policemen stare at one another.

Most people would shiver in fear in the police station, but why was that woman looking as if she was at a tourist attraction?

Also, was it really necessary to bring them back to take their statements for something as trivial as trespassing into private property? They didn't dare to voice that out loud, though, and could only sneak glances at Ford.

That man's identity wasn't simple. The whole police station had to obey his orders!

Nora looked around curiously.

"What are you looking at, Ms. Smith?" asked Ford.

“At your dark little room here. It really does shut out all the light. I can probably sleep really well here.”

“ ... ”

Although Nora slept a lot, the quality of her sleep had always been rather poor. Therefore, Cherry never dared to disturb her when she was sleeping.

There wasn't any light in the interrogation room at all, which surprisingly made it a great place for sleeping.

Ford kept quiet for a while before he asked, “Do you know anything about your mother, Ms. Smith?”

Nora's eyebrows raised slightly at the question.

She suddenly asked, “Are you a special ops officer?”

Ford was taken aback, but he didn't speak.

Nora's fingers tapped lightly against the chair. She said, “All the other policemen act in accordance to your will, so you're likely very highly ranked. However, it's not quite appropriate for such a high-ranking officer to handle disputes over trespassing of private property. So, you came to my home because of this?”

Ford's jaw tightened. A short while later, he stood up.

He subconsciously straightened his back when he got up. His posture was tall and straight, and his entire self seemed as sharp as a razor. It was as though there was nothing that could stand in his way.

His voice was deep and steady. He said, “My name is Morris Ford.”

“... Hello, Captain Ford.”

Morris said, “We're investigating a case from more than twenty years ago. The case is related to your mother, so I'd like to know more about her through you. Please cooperate with us, Ms. Smith.”

Nora's eyes flickered a little.

It was just like what she had thought!

Her mother had suddenly left the Andersons back then. She broke up with Ian Smith, went to California all by herself, and never contacted her family ever since. There must be a reason for all that!

She asked, "Can I ask what kind of case it is?"

Morris shook his head. "I'm sorry, but this is a Class S case, you're not authorized to know anything about it."

"..."

Nora kept quiet for a while. At last, she said, "I don't know anything at all."

Her mother had left her a lot of things, but there was nothing among them that challenged the boundaries of the law except for the Imperial League...

Morris scrutinized her, seemingly trying to judge whether what she had just said was true or false.

The man had an extremely sharp gaze. No one could lie while he was staring straight at them. However, the young woman in front of him was calm, and her almond-shaped eyes were so clear that one could see right to the bottom of them. It instead made one unable to read her thoughts.

For the first time, Morris couldn't see through the truth of something and someone.

After thinking for a while, he said, "In that case, please sign the statement, Ms. Smith. You can leave after that."

After saying that, he went next door.

Caleb was in the room next door.

After signing the statement, Nora walked out of the police station. After waiting outside for a while, Caleb finally came out. There was some hesitancy on his countenance as he said, "That man is so strange. He keeps asking about Aunt Yvette, but I was unfortunately only three or four years old at that time. How would I know anything about her..."

Nora's eyes flickered a little when she heard what he said.

At this point, Caleb's cell phone suddenly rang. He smiled at Nora and picked up the call. At once, his expression darkened and a chilly glint flashed in his dark eyes. He said, "I'll come over right away."

After hanging up, he looked at Nora and said, "I have something on, so I'll leave first, Ms. Smith."

Nora nodded.

At the same time.

In the hospital.

Joel Smith hurried over when he heard from the nurse. He was panting rather hard. When he entered the ward, he saw that his uncle, who was usually in low spirits and looked half-dead all the time, was actually seated there looking somewhat anxious at the moment.

Joel asked, "What's the matter, Uncle Ian?"

After a long silence, Ian finally said, "Joel, she must be my daughter."

Joel was taken aback. "Who?"

Ian's hand was trembling somewhat as he answered, "Nora Smith."

He had watched the entire live-stream.

Therefore, he knew that Yvette's company in California back then was named Idealian Pharmaceuticals.

Ideals... Dreams... And Ian...

Ian...

Was it because Yvette had also missed him that she also dreamed of him?!

An agitated Ian grabbed Joel's hand and said, "Go and investigate her! Investigate all of Nora's past. If possible, have a DNA test done for us!"

Joel held his hand and said, "Calm down, Uncle Ian. I'll have her investigated right away."

Ian nodded.

Then, Joel suddenly said, "I can investigate her background, Uncle Ian, but you must promise me that you'll live on properly. It's only if you're alive that you'll get to know the answers to your questions."

The light came back into Ian's originally muted eyes when he heard him.

—

At the Woods.

Miranda and Rachel had watched the entire live-stream and seen the plot twist at the end.

Miranda smacked the table angrily. "Henry Smith is so useless!"

Rachel also curled her lip in distaste and said, "We spent all that money and got them Roxanne in vain... Fortunately, though, we've already paid her to keep quiet, so she won't sell us out."

However, as soon as she said that, the door was suddenly pushed open.

Farrell entered the room, looking livid.

Miranda hastily exchanged a look with Rachel when she saw him, and both of them shut up. Miranda got up and took a step forward with a smile. "Why are you back so early today?" She asked.

She subconsciously wanted to take Farrell's bag from him, but when she held it, she found that Farrell hadn't let go.

Surprised, a puzzled Miranda called out, "Farrell?"

As soon as she said that, Farrell suddenly reached out. A loud smack rang out as he gave her a tight slap across the cheek, causing Miranda to see stars as her head turned to the side.

She was absolutely stunned.

The Woods had always been a scholarly family who preferred to talk things out rather than resorting to violence. Farrell was also a gentleman among

gentlemen. During all these years, he had never even raised his voice against her before, let alone hit her!

After a stunned moment, Miranda finally reacted. She shouted shrewishly, “What are you doing, Farrell? How dare you hit me! Are you looking down on me because my family is down and out right now? I just knew it would be like this! The Woods are kicking me while I’m down! That’s it, I’m leaving! I’m going back to my parents’ place!”

Farrell gazed at his wife in front of him with a sharp glint in his eyes. The somewhat disappointed man let out a contemptuous laugh and said, “You’re right, I’m not blessed enough to have a daughter of the Sonnets with me. I’ll have someone pack your things and send you home right away!”

A dumbfounded Miranda was in shock.

Rachel hastily rushed over and shouted, “Dad, what are you doing? If you’re sending Mom away, then you can send both my younger brother and me away, too!”

Farrell glared at her. He suddenly raised his hand at her, frightening Rachel into squeezing her eyes shut in a hurry.

However, when the smack rang out, Rachel didn’t feel any pain on her cheek. She opened her eyes in shock and saw that Farrell’s cheek was red—he had slapped himself instead...

Farrell stared at Rachel with great grief and said, “Spare the rod, spoil the child! It’s my fault for thinking that you should be raised by your mother because you’re a girl! That’s why you became mad with jealousy, narrow-minded, and petty at such a young age!”

Rachel, who found his scoldings ridiculous, said, “Did my aunt say something to you again, Dad? How can she do that? She forgave us and called you on the surface, and then immediately complained to you the next moment? She’s too much!”

Miranda also nodded. “Yes, it must be her!”

Farrell stared at the mother-daughter pair in front of him and shut his eyes in pain.

He had still thought that it was impossible that they would ever do something like that when he received the call from Mr. Hunt earlier that day. His wife and his younger sister didn't get along, but there were just verbal disagreements. His wife was always trying to get the upper hand over his younger sister.

He didn't believe that his wife would do something like that. Had it been someone else who had called him, he would definitely have trusted his wife without any hesitation.

However, the person who had called him was Justin Hunt.

Mr. Hunt would never make trouble for a woman without any reason!

Moreover, he had also outright given him the evidence of them bribing Roxanne, as well as of them paying to have the live-stream trend on social media!

No matter how incredulous Farrell was, he had no choice but to believe it after that.

He waved somewhat tiredly and said, "I'll give you two options."

Miranda was stunned.

Farrell lowered his head and said, "The first one—someone will monitor all your actions in the future, but I will continue to give you the title of Mrs. Wood. The second—we divorce."

Miranda was stunned.

"No, I don't agree to that. Dad, are you planning to put Mom under house arrest? You—"

However, before Rachel could finish, Farrell looked back at her and said, "And you, too. I'll give you three options. The first one—you can stay at home, but you're not allowed to contact your mother anymore. Also, you have to attend college properly! The second—go abroad, but you are not allowed to return during the next three years. Neither are you allowed to have any contact with your mother during this time! The third—leave with your mother."

Rachel was dumbfounded.

So was Miranda.

Henry and Wendy returned to the hotel where they were temporarily staying, after they left the Andersons' villa.

Henry looked livid. When he saw Angela waiting for them after they reached the hotel, his expression instantly darkened even further.

Angela had watched the live-stream from start to finish, so she naturally also knew the truth.

She rushed up to Henry with her eyes red and said, "Dad, I know Mom has let you down, but in my heart, you're still my father!"

Henry, who was being hugged by his daughter, thought of how he had carried her and played with her when she was a child, and the bit of displeasure he had, disappeared along with the wind.

Ah, well.

No matter what, he had brought her up, after all. He still had feelings for her.

Henry took a deep breath and entered the bathroom to take a bath.

He was all tuckered out after kicking up such a fuss at the Andersons today.

When the sound of running water started to ring out, Angela sat beside Wendy restlessly, lowered her voice, and asked, "Mom, so I'm not Dad's daughter? What do we do now?"

Angela curled her lip in distaste. "I've never liked him ever since I was a kid. He doesn't work and isn't motivated at all. All he knows is to fool around at home every day. I couldn't even answer when my classmates asked me what my dad did for a living. It was so embarrassing! No wonder I don't look like him at all. As it turns out, it's because I'm not his daughter! Mom, I really don't understand. Since the truth is out, and he doesn't have any money left anyway, does that mean we can abandon him? Let's just leave by ourselves!"

Wendy whispered, "Shh, keep it down. Don't let him hear you. We have to keep him happy for now. At the very least, he still has that villa in California under his name. It's worth more than five million dollars! We can fall out with him after he gives you the villa instead!"

The villa...

Angela thought of the five million dollars and heaved a sigh. "Alright," she said.

While the two of them were whispering to each other, Henry had already finished his bath and exited the bathroom in a bathrobe. After he came out, he saw that there were a few missed calls on his cell phone.

They were all from friends showing him concern after watching the live-stream. He called them back, one by one.

He spat angrily, "Nora has no conscience whatsoever! She's not like our filial Angela at all! Even if she isn't my biological daughter, how is she any different from one?"

"Hah, Nora is very strange. She has always wanted to be close to me ever since she was a child, but I've never wanted to pay her any attention at all. Now, Angela is different though. We have emotional ties with each other..."

A stubborn Henry replied several calls in a row. Angela poured him a glass of water and asked, "Does your throat hurt, Dad?"

Henry took the glass of water from her. He couldn't help but sigh—no matter what, at least this daughter of his treated him sincerely. Although he didn't get any money from Nora, at least he still had kinship.

At least they would still stay as a family of three, as long as he didn't hold it against Wendy and forgave her...

Ding-dong! The doorbell suddenly rang.

Henry got up and went to open the door. A few lawyers were outside the door. They said, "Mr. Smith, as you've displayed abusive behavior while raising Ms. Smith, according to the signed agreement between you and Ms. Anderson, we shall now take back ownership of the villa you're living in!"