

Chapter 663 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Nora looked at Lauren. "Therefore, there is no need for you to slander Aunt Iris here. It is only on Aunt Iris' account that I'm even here to treat that pot of Ghost Orchids."

With that, everyone looked at Iris.

Iris stood where she was, her back straight.

In spite of how she was nearly fifty years old, one couldn't see any signs of age on her at all. She was slim and graceful, as though she had always been that youthful celestial maiden from back then all this time.

Matthew was very ashamed of himself. He hung his head at once and said, "To think I've misunderstood you, Mdm. Iris. I am so despicable! All these years, you are the only one who has shown true love for orchids!"

The others also apologized.

Iris was a distant and unemotional person, and she didn't feel much for relationships in the first place. She usually didn't interact much with them, either, so she merely said dispassionately, "It's fine."

In any case, she wouldn't be taking it to heart at all.

At this point, Nora, who didn't care about what the others were saying, had taken out a bottle that she had prepared in advance and handed it to Matthew. She said, "This is the medicine that Aunt Iris brewed last night using my prescription. Rub the leaves gently with the solution and water it with 0.1 ounces a day. The flowers will recover in half a month."

A very grateful-looking Matthew took the solution from her with both hands.

At this time, someone looked at Nora and said, "Orchidance... Ms. Smith, there is a small problem with my orchid. Can you..."

Nora cut the other party off. "Sorry, but if you want a medical consultation with me, then you'll have to follow my rules."

The man was taken aback.

Nora said, "I only accept two patients a month. You can contact my assistant to get an appointment and queue up."

Everyone: "??"

Everyone knew that it was hard to book a medical consultation with Nora. The dates were already full for as long as five to six years in the future. Humans could still afford to wait, but how could flowers afford that?

When they were about to speak, Nora looked at Iris and said, "Alternatively, I visit Aunt Iris on the 15th of every month to check on her flowers for her. You can try then."

Everyone looked at Iris again as if they had found a savior.

Iris: "..."

Nora was completely pushing her out as a shield.

However, Iris also understood that Nora had blown her own cover in order to intimidate Lauren for her. Additionally, she was also probably making them visit her in order to alleviate her loneliness.

At this moment, Nora looked at Lauren, who was about to walk aside, and stopped her. "Mdm. Lauren, have you forgotten our bet?"

Lauren paused and turned around.

Nora pointed to Iris. "Please apologize for wrecking someone else's family back then!"

Lauren: "!!!"

She bit her lip hard and looked at Iris, her expression extremely awful. But in front of so many people, she had to take responsibility for her actions.

Thus, she took a deep breath and bowed to Iris. She said, "Iris, Herman and I couldn't help ourselves from falling in love back then and ended up betraying you. We are truly in love with each other, and we also know very well that we have let you down; that was why Herman had left the family without taking a single cent. If you feel that we still owe you something, then I solemnly apologize: I'm sorry!"

By putting a hidden message in her words and mentioning that Herman had left the family without taking any money from them, she wanted to tell everyone that she and Herman had already paid the price for their actions.

Still, no matter what, she had admitted to wrecking someone else's family!

As a result, she had thoroughly embarrassed herself in front of everyone.

She clenched her fists and took a deep breath. Then, she forced a small smile and said, "Alright, it's okay even if you resent me or dislike me, but since I've gathered everyone here, then why don't you guys enjoy and admire the orchids? I suddenly remembered that I have something to do, so I will leave first. You can direct all matters about the orchid exhibition today to the manager."

After saying that, Lauren turned and left.

Nora narrowed her eyes as she looked at her from the back.

Lauren's final move had been very graceful, and she also spoke elegantly. Her words really didn't seem like something a vicious side character pretending to be a pure and innocent woman would say.

For her to be able to snatch Herman away from the top beauty Iris back then, it seemed that she did indeed have a trick or two up her sleeve.

She lowered her eyes.

For some reason, she couldn't help but feel that Herman and Lauren's sudden return to America was a little fishy.

Nora strolled around the orchid exhibition with Iris. The people there were simply too enthusiastic towards the two of them. Unable to bear it, they found an excuse and slipped away.

On the way back to the villa after leaving the orchid exhibition, Iris looked at Nora again and again. However, she didn't say anything at all. After thinking about it, she refrained from making conversation.

Soon, the two returned to the suburban villa.

As soon as they entered the gates, Iris spotted Justin's black Maybach parked outside the door. She took a deep breath and entered the house.

Justin stood up. As he stood there and looked at her, Iris asked, “Did you know that Nora is Orchidance?”

Justin shook his head.

He didn’t know who Orchidance was-after all, he wasn’t knowledgeable about orchids.

However...

The corners of Justin’s lips curled into a smile and he said, “I believe in Nora’s capabilities, so I waited here to listen to your story.

Iris looked at Nora and then at Justin. Nora had only said that she would attend the orchid exhibition, she hadn’t revealed anything else to Justin at all. Even when they were on the way to the orchid exhibition, she had only said that she could save the Ghost Orchids. She hadn’t revealed that she was Orchidance.

Therefore, Iris had always been skeptical about whether Nora could cure the Ghost Orchids or not.

But Justin had trusted her very much.

Was that how it felt to be mutually trusting towards each other? When she thought about it carefully, she actually didn’t have a single person she could trust in her life, which was rather sad.

If she really had to think of one, then perhaps she had only trusted that one person...

Thinking of this, Iris cast her eyes down. She pointed to the greenhouse next to them and said, “Let’s talk inside.” Because she wanted to like orchids, she had ended up really becoming fond of them. When she was gardening and taking care of the flowers, she was able to truly abandon all distractions and concentrate on work. Therefore, Iris had really fallen in love very much with orchids over the years. Her heart calmed and became peaceful after she entered the greenhouse. She sat there quietly and picked up the teapot that Mrs. Landis had prepared at the side. Then, she poured three cups of tea and put them on either side of the coffee table.

Sunlight streamed brazenly into the glass conservatory, making the place look warm and toasty in the cold weather.

The white coffee table and seats added a bit of rustic elegance to the place, making one feel as if they could really become at peace with the world just by sitting in there.

Iris' gaze fell onto the orchids next to them, but she didn't speak, seemingly in a struggle over how to start. At this time, Justin asked, "Is it related to the kidnapping back then?"

Iris was taken aback. She looked at him. Justin said indifferently, "When I was five, a woman I didn't know suddenly showed up at home and told me to call her Mom, but I refused. After that, I was kidnapped."

Justin cast his eyes down. "Later, I met a man. He got into a tussle with the kidnapers, so I took the opportunity to escape and returned home according to the route I remembered. I've always thought that I managed to escape because I was smart and seized the right opportunity, but now that I think about it, why did that person so coincidentally enter a confrontation with the kidnapers at that time? You were the one who sent him, right?" Iris pursed her lips tightly before she finally nodded. "You can say that." Justin continued with his analysis. "After they kidnapped me, they wanted neither money nor manpower. It was clear that they wanted to kill the hostage. On top of that, they also wanted me to die a distance away from home. At that time, the Hunts were already one of the largest families in New York, yet even they couldn't find me. In that case, who did you seek help from?"

Iris bit her lip.

Justin stared at her, light flickering in his deep-set eyes. "Or should I say, who did you beg for help? That person you begged for help is the one who imprisoned you here in this small villa, and also forbade you from being with me, right?" Iris exclaimed, "How did you know that? Do you already know who he is?"

"I don't."

Justin said dispassionately, "Ever since I realized that you have reasons for doing what you did, all these years, I have been wondering what on earth those reasons are. At first, I thought that you had made some kind of agreement with Herman, but after he came back, I realized that that wasn't

the case at all. You have never feared him, so how could you possibly make such a ridiculous agreement with him? Besides, you have always been afraid of giving me trouble all these years, so you always rejected the Evanses every time they approached you for anything. Therefore, it is impossible for you to harbor thoughts of usurping the Hunts' assets. Grandma also doesn't seem to be on guard against you. After thinking about it, that is the only possibility left."

Iris' eyes reddened. Since Justin had started the topic, she picked up from there. She said, "My marriage to your father is a political marriage between wealthy families. The one he liked was actually Yvette Anderson. I know all of that, so I've never blamed him for cheating—because I have never loved him either. However, he went too far. I'd already given them my blessings and left the family, yet they neglected you and caused you to be kidnapped!

Everything related to the kidnapping has already been erased by now. I suspect that it's Lauren's handiwork and that she had colluded with that group of kidnapers, but I don't have any proof. That time, after I came back from my trip overseas and discovered that you were gone, I begged the Hunts and the Smiths for help. At that time, Nora's father was still the head of the Smiths. Mr. Smith helped me to search for your whereabouts, but unfortunately, there was no news of you at all. By then, it had already been more than twelve hours since your disappearance. If I still couldn't find you, there was a very high chance that they would kill you. So, I had no other choice. I could only approach him..."

Iris clenched her fists tightly at the mention.

Her eyes were full of hate towards Lauren.

Justin suddenly asked, "Who... is he?" Iris sighed and shook her head. "To be honest, I don't know either." Justin and Nora exchanged a look and both frowned.

However, neither of them raised any questions because the look in Iris' eyes had started to become distant, and she was already starting to go down memory lane. She said, "I met him in college. He was my first boyfriend."

Her simple few words stunned the two of them.

He was her first love? Then why didn't she know who he was? While they were thinking about it, Iris said, "When we were still studying, he was a poor boy named Philip Coleman." At this point, Iris looked at Justin. It was

inevitable that she would feel a little embarrassed mentioning her first love in front of her son and daughter-in-law.

She lowered her head. "I met him at a dance party. He fell in love with me at first sight. After that, he tried to woo me for a very long time. Among all the rich youngsters, he was very unremarkable, but for some reason, he was the only one who caught my eye. After we graduated, my family wanted me to get engaged with Herman for the political marriage."

Iris' voice was a little serious and burdened when she mentioned that. After a while, she finally heaved a huge sigh and said, "It's actually a very cheesy story. My family was driving me into a corner. Mom was seriously ill, but Dad refused to pay for her high medical expenses unless I agreed to the marriage. I had no other choice at that time, so I broke up with him."

At this point, Iris looked at Justin and gave him a wry smile. "He had been pretending to be a poor boy in school because he was worried that people would be attracted to his money, whereas I happened to be in need of it."

The two of them had let each other slip by perfectly.

Iris sighed. "Both he and I were relatively self-restrained people, so the breakup went smoothly. After that, your father and I got married. Everything was fine until one day, your father said that a foreign businessman had come to America and was holding a party. He wanted me to attend it with him..."

She hadn't expected to meet Philip again at the party. Philip was the foreign investor at the party.

Everyone was trying to please him because they had heard that he was from a foreign wealthy family. Even though the Hunts and the Smiths had already reached the pinnacle in America, there was another family in another country that loved doing business very much. They had been merchants for generations and had amassed a lot of wealth over the years.

People like them had always been low-key in their behavior. Even when he was out, he used a pseudonym. Philip Coleman was not his name; it was just the pseudonym he used in America.

She had never known his true identity.

At the party, Philip found an excuse to corner her.

Iris knew that Herman was someone who hated being embarrassed, so she said, "My husband doesn't know about my first love. Please don't tell him about it."

At that time, Iris' belly was already showing slightly.

She had given all her love to the baby in her womb.

At that time, the way Philip looked at her had changed. He let out a sarcastic laugh and said, "I have never been acquainted with Ms. Evans before. Nice to meet you." When he said that, Iris had felt like someone had suddenly gripped her heart tightly. What she'd thought was a peaceful breakup was still capable of piercing her heart two years later.

She put on a graceful smile and nodded at Philip.

But after she turned around, she was unable to maintain the smile on her face.

However, Philip would appear in her life again. Philip became good friends with Herman and visited them at home. Herman had pointed to Iris' belly and said to Philip, "Philip, he'll be your god-son in the future!" At that time, Philip had looked at Iris pointedly and remarked, "I'm so envious of you for having such a good wife, Herman." Herman asked, "Aren't you married yet, Philip?"

Philip shook his head and immediately said, "I have someone in my heart I can't forget, no other woman can capture my eye."

When he said this, the look in his eyes as he stared at Iris had been persistent and terrifying Herman, however, was still unaware of what was happening. He said, "Oh? Then why didn't you marry her?" Philip lowered his head. "I had concealed my identity at the time, so she thought I was poor and went to someone of higher social status instead."

Herman cursed the woman for being materialistic and shameless.

Iris flushed as red as a tomato as she listened to them from the side.

Philip, however, said, "It is instinctive to pursue a better life, so I don't hate her. In fact, if she is ever in trouble in the future, I would still be willing to help her."

Herman had immediately given him a thumbs-up. "You sure are magnanimous, Philip!"

Philip then said, "My family also has a lot of secret properties in America, it's just that most people don't know that. If you ever run into trouble in America, I can also be of assistance."

Herman hadn't thought much about it at the time and had thought that those words were directed at him. At once, he started chatting and laughing happily with Philip. However, Philip's attitude suddenly became cold and he left.

Since then, he had never stepped into America again. It was only later that Herman finally understood why Philip had fallen out with him back then.

After he left, Iris had let out a long sigh of relief.

She admitted that her decision had betrayed Philip back then, but Philip had also hidden his family background from her. Wasn't that also a form of deception towards her?

Their relationship had ended without any real reason. They were ultimately just not meant to be.

When Justin was five years old, Philip had called her.

He was still using the same phone number he had used when they were in college. Iris answered the call. At that time, she had already found out about Herman's cheating, so she was in a bad mood.

Philip had only asked her a question on the phone: "Do you regret what you did?" Did she regret what she had done? Occasionally, in the dead of night, Iris would think of Philip. If she had been a little more firm and resolute back then, and if she had lived as unrestrainedly and happily as Yvette had, then would her life have been better?

But every time the thought formed, she would look at Justin. Although she didn't love Herman, Justin was the greatest gift that God had given her. She loved her son more than anything in the world.

"Mom, buy me harder Lego sets next time. These are too easy."

Her son with a super high IQ made a request with a frown.

Iris immediately smiled and said into the phone, "I have no regrets."

She hung up the phone. Afterward, when Mrs. Hunt made her choose between tolerating Herman or doing something else, she had decided to be selfish for once. Perhaps her rebellious streak from college times had come too late, but she decided to file for divorce. She dragged her suitcase behind her and left the house.

After that, Herman had brought Lauren home. After she came back from her trip and learned that Justin had been kidnapped and was missing, she had felt like dying.

Even with the Hunts and the Smiths' power, they couldn't find Justin. At that time, she had panicked. Her five-year-old son, no matter how high his IQ, was still just a child.

If the other party was determined to kill the hostage, then he would probably have already become a corpse by then!

She didn't dare to wait any longer. In her panic, she inexplicably thought of what Philip had once said: "... My family also has a lot of secret properties in America, it's just that most people don't know that. If you ever run into trouble in America, I can also be of assistance."

She dialed Philip's phone number with trembling fingers. The man seemed very hesitant, only picking up the call after it rang for a very long time. The man smiled and said, "Do you need something? It's my wedding today. The groom can't be absent, you know." Iris didn't have the leisure to care about such things. Besides, so many years had already gone by, her feelings for him as her first love had already faded a long time ago. She immediately asked, "Can you save my son?!" Philip was startled. "What happened?"

Iris recounted the story. At last, she asked: "Aren't you very powerful in America? Can you find him?"

"Yes, I can." Philip was very confident. "But why should I help you?"

Why should he help her?

Iris had been stunned then. Indeed, why should he?

While she was in a daze, Philip said, "I'll give you two choices."

“What?”

“The first one: Fly over to my wedding now. I am still missing a bride.”

Iris thought that he must be out of his mind. She said, “My son is missing! Philip, I am not in the mood to joke around with you.”

“I’m not joking.” Philip chuckled and said, “Why should I help you for no reason?”

Iris bit her lip. At last, she took a deep breath and said, “I can’t agree to your request. I will never leave my son’s side ever again.”

Because she had gone overseas for a holiday, Justin had gone missing.

Her son needed his mother after all. She must not leave him

Moreover, her relationship with Philip was just puppy love during college. Compared with reality, she cared more about Justin. She started to cry. Her voice was choked with sobs as she said, “Philip, please, I’m begging

you.”

The other end of the call was silent for a long time. In the end, Philip sneered and said, “I can find him for you, but you have to promise me something.”

“Tell me what it is!”

Philip enunciated every word carefully and said, “You can watch over your son, but I forbid you from ever getting close to him for the rest of your life. You can only look at him from a distance.”

“Iris, this is your punishment for betraying me back then.”

“... Okay, I promise you that!”

Later, Iris and Herman got divorced, Herman was kicked out of the house, and Justin became the new leader of the clan with his grandfather grooming him ever since. As for Iris, she could only hide in the villa.

She could still remember the last few words that Philip had said to her. His voice was very cold and missing any trace of emotion. He said, “Since you have agreed to my condition, then you must keep your word. Otherwise, you

know what I'm capable of, I will spare no costs to kill your son. I can save your son's life, but I can also easily crush him like an ant."

Even now, Iris still didn't know who Philip really was.

Mysterious families like his kept their identities very well-hidden. She couldn't make any contact with them at all. All she knew was that if she stayed away from Justin all her life and maintained a distant attitude toward him, then she would be able to guarantee his safety.

Therefore, that was exactly what she had been doing all these years.

The story was over.

There was no bloodshed nor intense love and hate. It was so plain and bland. In fact, when Iris mentioned Philip, she no longer felt any love for him but only fear and thoughts of her agreement with him. Iris looked at Justin. "The world's top families can control the world economy and are very terrifying existences. I have distanced myself from you all this time because I'm afraid they would destroy you and the Hunts the moment they decide to take action. To be honest, my life here all these years by myself has been very comfortable. Aging and dying alone can also be considered a kind of happiness. "Justin, you wanted to know the truth and I've already said it, but I don't want you to pursue it any further. Back then, I was the one who had let him down. After that, I even asked him to find you for me. He gave you your life, so let's just leave it at that." Seemingly because she had come clean about everything that had happened back then, Iris breathed a sigh of relief. She lowered her head. "You don't have to become enemies with him for my sake. After all, I am already an old woman in my autumn years."

After she said that, she slowly closed her eyes and sighed deeply.

Nora looked at her. She was actually very shocked, though she pretended to be nonchalant on the surface.

When Iris was young, she must have been very gentle and a big pushover, right?

That was why she had given in to her family's arrangements back then.

But was her mistake really so big?

Didn't Philip hold any responsibility for why they weren't together? They had already been in a relationship for several years, so why didn't he tell her his identity and his background?

Also...

Weren't there a few too many powerful people in the world?!

The mysterious organization's forces already spanned throughout the world, and now there was another mysterious mega-corporation? All her life, she had only been concerned with sleeping every day and also felt that it would do as long as she made enough to survive. It was only now that she suddenly realized that she was actually... so poor! While Nora's imagination was running wild, Iris' cell phone suddenly rang again. It was still that same unfamiliar number.

If Nora wasn't wrong, then he was likely Philip.

Sure enough, at the sight of the phone number, Iris' pupils shrank slightly and fear arose in her again.

She wanted to pick up the phone and switch it off, but before she could touch it, a big well-defined hand took the phone.

Iris' head whipped up abruptly and she looked at Justin incredulously.

Justin looked at her firmly. His voice was calm and steady, and he seemed capable of protecting Iris from everything in the world. He said, "Let me."

Iris shook her head.

She was very scared.

Although the Hunts were powerful, they were really no match for globally powerful families that had hundreds—even a thousand-of years of history.

She swallowed. "Justin, forget it."

Justin could understand her fear and panic. His mother was worried that she would affect the Hunts because of her own affairs, but she didn't know that he had another identity that was powerful enough to make him fearless.

It was just that due to certain reasons, he couldn't reveal that identity of his.

He lowered his head and said, "Mom, don't be scared."

After saying that, he picked up the cell phone, got up, and answered the call. A deep and pleasant male voice traveled over through the phone: "Iris, you have broken our agreement."

Nora stood beside Iris.

She held Iris' shoulders and looked fixedly at Justin.

Justin said into the phone, "From now on, I will be the one to fulfill that agreement."

The original agreement was that Iris would age and die alone in the suburban villa as punishment. If she couldn't restrain herself and got close to her son, then Philip would take action against the Hunts and Justin.

When Justin said that he would fulfill the agreement, the man immediately understood what he meant.

Philip sneered, "Heh, that weak little boy from back then has grown up and become independent, hasn't he? In that case, I'll teach you how to behave."

As soon as he said that, Iris panicked. She rushed forward and shouted, "Philip, come right at me if you want! Don't do anything to the child, you..."

But before she could finish, Philip snapped, "Iris, that's enough!"

Iris was taken aback.

Philip smiled and said, "Aren't you just saying that because you're very sure that I won't do anything to you? Now that the kid has grown up, you can't blame me for being nasty anymore!"

He hung up right after saying that.

Iris: "..."

The disconnected tone from the phone resounded in the depths of her heart like the bangs of a drum, making her feel terribly flustered. She swallowed and looked up at Justin, feeling like she had become the sinner of the Hunts.

The most mysterious megacorp was about to take action against her son.

Iris grabbed Justin's arm. She wanted to say that she would go and apologize to the other party, but when the words reached the tip of her tongue, she couldn't bring herself to say them-because if she did, then it would be no different from her throwing her own pride onto the ground and trampling on it.

Iris took a deep breath.

Just as she was filled with worry and trepidation, she saw Justin walk around her and look at Nora. He asked, "Nora, are you scared?"

Nora raised her brows. The Hunts had offended the most mysterious megacorp in the world, which sounded pretty exciting. Also, if Justin really lost everything, then wouldn't Pete's status as the next head of the family become useless?

But...

She broke into a grin and raised her eyes slightly. "It's okay, if you go bankrupt, I'll support you..."

After saying that, she spotted Iris, so the rest of her words did a U-turn in her mouth and she added, "... guys."

Justin: "?"

He'd originally intended to tell her not to be scared, but he hadn't expected Nora to say something like that. Suddenly, it made him really feel like going bankrupt for fun.

It seemed like it wasn't that bad an idea to have a sugar mommy and be kept as a lover?

Ahem.

Iris looked at the two of them, suddenly finding herself speechless.

This must be love.

If she had trusted Philip back then, things would not have come to where they were. Now that she thought about it, so what even if she had to fight to the death with her family back then?

At most, she would have just started all over from scratch.

The woman, who was nearly fifty, was moved by the love between Nora and Justin. This inspired the greatest fighting spirit in her.

She said, "Okay, if we go bankrupt, then... we'll let Nora support us!"

Justin: "?"

The corners of his lips spasmed. Those who didn't know better would have thought that Iris was saying that she would support them after he went bankrupt!

He couldn't reveal his identity, but when he saw that the two women seemed so full of fighting spirit, he got out of his internal struggle. He smiled and said, "Don't worry, even though I would very much like to sponge off a woman, I'll refrain from trying that." He spoke solemnly. "With me around, the Hunts will not go bankrupt."

Her son's firm and confident words made Iris' flustered heart calm down.

To be honest, before she told the truth, she'd still been taking a chance.

She felt that since twenty years had gone by, perhaps Philip had already forgotten her a long time ago, or perhaps he no longer minded. But now that things had reached this point, it was useless to dwell any further on

it.

When she was young, for Justin's sake, she had suffered so many grievances and wasted twenty years of her youth in this villa.

Now that her son had grown up, it was time for him to support and protect her.

After Iris came to terms with it, she got out of her internal struggle. She suggested, "How about having a meal before you leave?"

"Nah, it's fine."

Justin rejected her. Iris nodded and said, "Well, I'm sure you have a lot of arrangements to make. In that case, go ahead!"

Justin exchanged a look with Nora when he heard this.

There were some things that Justin was too embarrassed to say, but Nora understood what he was thinking, so she said, "Well, he does have a lot to do, but the most important thing now is helping you to move out, Iris."

Iris was a little surprised.

She looked at Justin in disbelief, only to see him nodding at her.

Iris bit her lip. "S-surely there's no need for that? I've already become accustomed to living here."

"Really?" Nora was a little troubled. "But both of us will be very busy in the future. I was thinking of asking you to take care of the three children at home..."

At the mention of the children, Iris hesitated.

Nora sighed again. "Pete has been with Justin since he was a baby and has mild autism. Cherry also likes her grandmother's company very much. As for Xander, the situation is even tougher. That boy was raised by Trueman Yale, so he lacks companionship from his family and is very insecure. Sigh! I wonder if Xander will end up straying onto the wrong path in the future..." Convinced, Iris gritted her teeth at once and said, "I'll come with the two of you!"

Iris was someone whose actions spoke louder than words.

Now that they had agreed on it, she would no longer be afraid. She immediately called Mrs. Landis over to pack her things for her.

Justin held her shoulders, walked to the side, and said softly, "Mom, after you come back, you have to take over the home."

Iris wanted to refuse, but Justin said with a cold look in his eyes, "Grandma has issues with Nora. Now that Herman is back, she'll definitely waver again. She has become muddleheaded, I can't let her control the house anymore. Otherwise, when Nora marries me in the future, the family will definitely be a huge mess."

Justin sighed. "You don't understand Nora. The only thing she likes to do is sleep, and she hates troublesome things the most. If she finds out she'll have

to face so much trouble by marrying me, there's a high chance she won't marry me anymore."

Iris: "..."

Her son was being too exaggerated. Nora hadn't even uttered a single word of rebuttal despite the super huge trouble she had just caused. From that alone, one could see that Nora would never refuse to marry him just because of something as trivial as that.

However, her son was right in saying that she ought to take over the house. This way, when Nora marries into the family, there would be a lot less trouble handing over the family affairs.

Now that she could do something for them, Iris felt that her return was no longer entirely meaningless.

There were almost a hundred pots of orchids in the greenhouse. But with just a phone call from Justin, more than twenty bodyguards walked in one by one and started to move the flowers out.

Seeing them going in and out, Nora slipped over to Justin and remarked, "Pete said that you always bring more than twenty bodyguards with you when you go out. So, it really is true!"

Justin nodded. "Yeah, sometimes I bring more."

Ever since he was abducted at the age of five and subsequently rescued, Justin always traveled with this many people.

Nora glanced at him silently with a pitying look in her eyes.

Justin thought that she was feeling sorry for him because he had been kidnapped at a young age, but in the end, Nora unexpectedly said something that totally ruined the atmosphere, "Just how scared of dying are

you?!"

"???" :Justin

The night was so pleasant and the environment also so nice. There was a romantic mood in the air even till the woman had kept quiet, so how come it was ruined the moment she spoke?! The corners of his lips spasmed.

The group eventually separated.

Nora was going to the laboratory to continue her research into Xander's affairs. For her, no matter how important something was, and no matter how big the Hunts' fortune was, Xander's affairs must still be handled first.

Because it would be time for him to be injected with the V15 in another three days.

Nora had been struggling over whether or not to inject it into him.

Would he really die if he was not injected with it?

Was the gene serum really lethal, or was it more like a drug addiction where one must continuously consume it? She had to study it and find out properly before the deadline.

Besides, since Philip had said that he was going to take action against the Hunts, then it definitely was not going to be something he could accomplish with a few words.

He also needed to make preparations. It would take a few days for things to ferment. Therefore, her main task during these three days would still be to study the V15.

In the hospital.

When Nora arrived at the laboratory, Lily was analyzing the components of V15. Seeing Nora enter, Lily immediately said, "Boss, the serum's components are indeed not analyzable. It is too complex, I am afraid it will take a few years for us to study it thoroughly."

Nora was not surprised.

If the gene serum's formula was that easy to analyze, then Trueman and the others would not have pursued her mother so persistently.

Twenty-five years had already passed, yet Trueman and the others were still putting their hopes of finding clues on her. In that case, this must surely be a herculean task.

To be honest, Nora had already expected the results, but she still couldn't bring herself to terms with it.

She nodded. "I'll take over."

Lily stepped aside and Nora sat down. She held various instruments in her hands and separated the components of the serum, hoping to find clues from it.

Three days later. Nora's eyes were bloodshot and she had dark circles under her eyes.

After three consecutive days of work without any sleep, she had finally derived the V15 formula, but at the same time, her heart also sank.

It was really a gene-repairing drug and not some kind of narcotic drug.

In other words, Xander must be injected with the drug, otherwise, he would really die.

She took a deep breath.

A while later, she took out her cell phone and called Caleb, who was abroad.

As soon as the call connected, Caleb said, "Nora, I have been waiting for your call." Nora kept quiet for a while before she asked, "Is it necessary to inject him with the V15?" "Yes, it is." Caleb said, "If you don't, the reparation of the previously repaired genes won't be adequate, and his brain will explode which would surely kill him. I have already looked into it-Xander's modifications are in his brain genes. If the V15 is not injected at the stipulated time, he will die."

Nora sighed. "The V15's formula does not seem very complex."

"Yes, none of the formulas from V1 to V15 are complex. The most complex one is the V16. In addition, there are a few types of gene serums. Some improve IQ while some improve physical strength. The formulas for V1 to V15 are all different for each type of serum. The only thing they have in common is that they all need the very last V16!"

Upon hearing this, Nora's pupils shrank.

Caleb sighed. "I'm dying, so I don't need the V16 anymore. However, every genetically-modified person would need the V16 at the end. Therefore, you should know the importance of the V16 now, right?"

Nora nodded to express that she had understood.

No wonder her mother had said that she must not expose her abilities, lest she ended up being targeted.

It was possible that some of the most outstanding people in the world might just be genetically-modified humans. Additionally, there were so many people that needed the V16 as an antidote.

She suddenly felt even greater pressure.

Such a group of people looking for her, could she really obtain the V16 for Xander?

Also...

If what her mother had left behind was really the formula... If she really produced the V16, thereby removing the last restriction on successful genetic modifications, what would the world turn into?

Would someone deliberately train a group of genetically modified warriors and unify the world?

Or would human beings with genetically modified IQ genes develop at a high speed and deplete the earth's resources in a dozen years -or perhaps even just a few years?

She dared not imagine such consequences.

But with how things currently were, she didn't have the leisure to care about such things anymore either.

Nora said, "I see."

Caleb was silent for a while. Suddenly, he said, "I didn't expect Xander to also be your son. Don't worry, I will contact you in time if I find clues regarding the V16."

Nora had been trying hard to find clues from the things that her mother had left behind, but she still couldn't find any.

It would be for the best if Caleb could inform her if he found any clues.

Nora replied, "Thanks a lot."

Caleb kept quiet for a while before he finally said, "You're welcome." After hanging up the phone, Nora called Justin.

The phone only rang once before Justin answered. He asked, "How is it?"

Nora was silent for a moment. Finally, she said, "Let's inject him with it."

When Justin heard this, he knew at once that the serum was safe and could be injected as-is. But at the same time, the injection would only extend Xander's lifespan by three months.

If they still couldn't find the V16 within three months, Xander would still die. He said, "Okay." Before hanging up, Nora asked, "How is Xander?"

"He was fine the last few days, but he started having a headache when he woke up today. I've gotten the family doctor to inject him with an anesthetic, so he is now asleep." Justin explained Xander's condition, "I will inject the gene serum into him now."

"Okay, I'm on my way. Observe all of Xander's reactions after the injection."

"Okay."

Nora left and drove straight to the Hunts.

The car stopped right in front of the villa. When she went upstairs, she saw that Justin had not injected the serum into Xander yet. When he saw her, he explained, "Our medical equipment is constantly observing Xander's condition, so it won't cause any delays. I wanted you to see it with your own eyes."

Nora nodded.

There would probably be physical reactions after the injection. These were all important clues and experimental data, which might play a certain role in Nora's subsequent research and development of the V16.

This was despite Nora realizing after studying the v15 that she probably would not be able to develop the V16 in just three months with her own abilities.

Her only option now was to look for clues that her mother had left her.

Xander was lying quietly on the bed. She personally injected Xander with the V15. Little by little, the liquid was injected into his body. Xander, who had been under anesthesia, suddenly opened his eyes after the serum was injected.

His eyes were clean and clear as though he hadn't been affected at all.

He sat up in a daze. He looked at Nora and then at Justin. Then, he rubbed his head.

Justin asked nervously, "Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Xander shook his head, his big eyes filled with puzzlement. He replied, "I don't feel any discomfort. It's just that a Mathematical Olympiad problem that I was discussing with Pete yesterday has suddenly become very simple..."

This was the consequence of taking the IQ improvement gene serum.

It seemed that Xander's IQ would be the highest in the family in the future.

Nora observed all the numerical data of Xander's body. In the end, she concluded that everything about Xander's body was normal.

It was so normal that Nora even wondered if she had been fooled by Trueman.

Had she made the right decision in injecting Xander with the V15 or not?

Then, someone pushed the door open. Pete and Cherry followed behind Iris obediently, and the three came over together. When they saw Xander sitting there, all three of them released a huge pent-up breath.

The two little fellows and Iris' movements were exactly the same, which gave people a joyful feeling.

Nora and Justin looked at each other and smiled.

However, Nora's mood became increasingly

heavy.

The more one understood the gene serum, the more they would realize just how amazing it was.

It was too un-human-like.

She sighed silently.

At this moment, they suddenly heard a noise from downstairs.

Justin went downstairs and saw Herman standing there. When Herman saw him, he immediately yelled, “Justin, have you become muddleheaded? How can you let Iris move back here? Do you have any idea how big a disaster she will bring to the Hunts by moving back here?!”

Herman was furious. He pointed to Iris and said, “And you, too. Never mind that you have offended an influential person, but you still have the cheek to come back here now? Will you really only stop after you’ve implicated all the Hunts?! Leave the Hunt Manor at once! Otherwise, the Hunts will really be in huge trouble!”

Iris frowned.

With regard to that, she had no right to speak.

Justin stepped forward and asked, “Where’s the butler? Who let him in?”

The butler was wiping his sweat in silence beside him. No matter what, Herman was still Justin’s father. The bodyguards did not dare to take any real action against him when he forcibly broke in.

The butler didn’t speak. It was instead Herman who shouted angrily, “Do you know that Philip Coleman has already started to take action against the Hunts? I heard that he has been doing a large-scale acquisition of the Hunt Corporation’s shares, our share prices are rising madly right now. A lot of the shareholders have all decided to sell their shares. He has made up his mind to take over the Hunt Corporation!”

Justin calmly replied, “Yeah, I know.”

“You do? Are you sure you do?! With the shares becoming more and more expensive, we will have less and less cash flow to buy back the shares! At the

same time, we will also have fewer and fewer shares in our hands. I know you have also been dispatching people to secretly buy them, but how can the Hunts' cash flow compare to theirs? They have accumulated generations' worth of riches! No one knows how many trillions of dollars they have! Can you beat them? As far as I know, the Hunts only have a few hundred billion dollars worth of cash flow!"

Herman pointed at him. Then, he lowered his voice and said, "I have also heard another piece of important news—I heard that Philip is a member of the Imperial League. Do you know what the Imperial League is?"

"The dozen or so people in there are in control of global economic trends! The Hunts can't beat them at all! What you are doing is no different from risking the entire Hunt Corporation! Everyone already knows about this and they are all waiting to laugh at the Hunts?! Your uncle's family are also waiting for you to step down!"

After saying all that, Herman went on anxiously and angrily. "You are my son, so I will definitely have to take your side. Justin, your only option now is to drive Iris out or send her to Philip. Otherwise, you won't be able to appease his anger! Our family really can't afford to mess with them! The Imperial League! They are part of the Imperial League, you know!"

Justin frowned when he heard him say the things he shouldn't be saying, and the look in his eyes turned cold.

Herman, who didn't know that he had already hit Justin's sore spot, was still talking about how powerful Philip was.

As he spoke, Iris gradually lowered her head.

She knew that she had destroyed the family's peace and tranquility.

Just as she was suffering through her psychological ordeal, and while Herman stood on the moral high ground and criticized her...

Justin suddenly said, "So, that's why you were willing to give your wife to someone else? And even cooperate with him to act as if your son had been kidnapped?"

His simple few words made all the sounds in the room cease abruptly!

Iris' head also whipped up and she looked at them in disbelief.

Herman's mouth was still open. He was staring at him in shock because he had been exposed, and it seemed like he'd never expected Justin to say such a thing.

Iris went from being confused to being shocked. Her brows slowly drew together and she looked at Herman in disbelief. She swallowed and asked, "Justin, what do you mean?"

Herman immediately shouted, "Justin, don't you dare make false accusations!"

Justin lowered his eyes. "I didn't want to thoroughly embarrass you, but since you insist on getting into the line of fire, then let's just speak frankly here!"

He looked at Herman and said, "When Philip Coleman visited the house as a guest and talked about his ex-girlfriend, you already knew that the ex-girlfriend he was talking about was Mom, right?"

Herman didn't admit it, but he suddenly didn't dare to look at Iris. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Justin sneered, "In the following few years, the Hunts showed faint signs of being suppressed. During those few years, the Smiths also gradually gained the upper hand, and it looked like they would soon surpass us and become the number one family in New York, didn't it?"

Herman immediately said, "That's because Ian Smith is very impressive, whereas I don't have any talent for business!"

"Is that so?"

Justin cast his eyes down. "The Hunts do not have the custom of only letting the eldest son or people from the direct lineage inherit the title of the head of the family. Although you were a bit of a jerk back then, Grandpa had chosen you. He must have a reason for doing so, right? Uncle Raymond, as well as my other uncles, were eyeing your position, yet they couldn't take it from you. Why was that? Is it also because you don't have any talent for business?"

Herman choked.

Justin continued to speak with a contemptuous smile on his face. “Outsiders all say that the elderly Mr. Smith had placed all his energy and focus into the company during those few times because of the heartbreak he’d suffered, but he had been in a total daze at that time, so how could he possibly have had such great ambitions?”

Feeling that there was nothing to live for anymore, Ian had sought death at one point. He hadn’t even cared about his family property anymore and had given everything to his nephew.

In fact, one could even say that before Nora’s return, he hadn’t even considered adopting Joel as his son. Instead, he was just giving it away.

Even if Ian had turned his sorrow into motivation after Yvette’s departure, it was still impossible for him to really want to expand and develop the Smith Corporation. He would only casually work for the Smith Corporation out of sheer boredom.

But even when Ian was in a bad state of mind, the Hunts had gone from bad to worse. In addition, during that time, his grandfather had still been around and had been the person in charge of the Hunts. Herman hadn’t taken over the family yet!

Herman was not at all as incompetent as what outsiders made him out to be. Otherwise, how would it have been possible for him to take Lauren with him to another country, start from zero, and achieve what he had currently accomplished in just twenty years?

That’s right, Herman and Lauren already had a successful business abroad. The fact that Lauren had immediately organized such a large orchid exhibition when she’d only just returned to the country was enough proof of their current economic strength. Moreover, there was something that Justin had actually been unable to figure out all these years.

Even if Herman had done something wrong and cheated on his wife, would anyone really be like the old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, and drive their son out of the house but keep their grandson?

All of these were choices that the Hunts had been forced to make back then!

When the elderly Mr. Hunt and Herman felt like they had come to their wits’ end regarding the company, they immediately understood what had

happened. Thus, Herman had promptly and decisively cheated on Iris, in order to make her give up hope on him.

They'd originally thought that Philip would let them off once they sacrificed Iris, but they were wrong.

At that time, the only thing Iris had cared about was her son. When she went traveling, she'd actually run into Philip. However, she had no plans to rekindle her relationship with him.

This caused Philip to become even crueler, and he found someone to kidnap Justin!

One could say that the Hunts had abstained from taking action at that time, despite their ability to do so. The Hunts were so powerful in New York, how would they possibly be unable to find the child when he was first discovered missing?

It wasn't that they couldn't find him; rather, they hadn't searched for him at all!

By the time Iris returned and found that he was been abducted, too much time had already passed. By then, even if she sought help from the Smiths, the kidnappers would have already fled New York. Even the Smiths wouldn't be able to do anything about it!

Therefore, the Hunts had forced Iris to approach Philip.

They wanted to use Iris as a sacrificial offering

Unfortunately, Iris still didn't have any thoughts of reconciling with Philip. Instead, she reached a different agreement with him, which was to watch her son grow up in the Hunts without interfering with his life.

After the old Mr. Hunt heard about this, he realized and understood that since Philip loved Iris so deeply, he would never hurt her. Additionally, if he wanted Iris to protect the Hunts, then it would only be possible if Justin stayed in the family.

Thus, Mr. Hunt had pretended to drive away Herman, and also declared that he would take it that he never had a son like him. His purpose in driving him away was so that Herman could go overseas, start a new business, and open up a new world for the Hunts.

This was so that the Hunts could avoid a crushing defeat should something ever go wrong with Philip and he targets the Hunts in the future!

Herman might look like he had left the family without taking a cent, but when he went abroad back then, his father most certainly would have secretly given him a sum of money as start-up capital.

All of their schemes were closely linked with one another. The elderly Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, who seemingly had a deep sense of love and righteousness, were just doing all that for the sake of the Hunts.

Justin had only slowly pieced everything together after Iris told him the truth.

This was also the reason why he hadn't immediately sought revenge on Lauren for kidnapping him-because she wasn't the one who had instigated the kidnapping at all.

It was Philip!

Justin's words, like a sharp knife, cut open the Hunts' veil of pretense, exposing all of their ugly and nasty true colors.

Iris was shocked and astounded. She felt like the worldview she'd held all these years had come crashing down all around her. She thought that she had caused the Hunts huge trouble, but little did she think that the Hunts had been using her all this time?

Herman refused to admit it. "What are you talking about? I don't understand at all, you..."

"You don't understand? Is that so? In that case, shall I lay out all the evidence one by one?"

Justin's voice was low and deep, but there was a mocking smile on the corners of his lips.

Herman narrowed his eyes.

After some time, he finally dropped his pretenses. He calmly said, "Since you've already figured out everything, then take your mother with you and leave the Hunts at once

-because, I, the real head of the Hunts, am back."

Justin stared at him.

Herman lowered his head and looked at the family members who had hurried over after hearing about his return and the argument. He straightened his back. On his visage that was three parts similar to Justin's, his eyes were dark and deep.

He calmly said, "My father left all the shares in the family to me back then."

After saying this, he immediately took out a will.

Upon seeing the share transfer agreement, everyone was shocked.

When the elderly Mr. Hunt passed away, in his final words, he had only left instructions saying that Justin was to take charge of the company. Therefore, Justin had naturally inherited his shares.

With the will, though, Justin would be kicked out of the picture.

Everyone in the family fell silent. They all stared at the will and then at each other, all of them at a loss for words.

Roger said, "Uncle Herman, if a will exists, then Grandpa's shares should indeed be given to you. In that case, from today onwards, you will be the head of the Hunts!"

Some defenders of Justin said, "But is the will really valid? Who can prove it?"

Along with these words, someone supported a shaky Mrs. Hunt as she walked out. She said unhurriedly, "I can prove it."

Nora was standing upstairs and watching the intense discussion downstairs.

She clearly saw that Justin had trembled lightly when Mrs. Hunt walked out.

Nora sighed silently.

Justin might never have ever thought that his grandmother, who had raised him into an adult, would also be part of the group of people plotting against him.

How sad and lonely must that man surrounded by his so-called family members be right now?

Justin was a man who had always been scheming and inscrutable, so he didn't say anything

Iris, however, stared at the group of people. The woman, who now knew the truth, was suffering quite the mental breakdown at the moment—not for herself, but for her son!

Her entire body shook with anger, and she rushed up to Herman, stretched out her hand, and slapped him across the cheek.

Smack!

She had put all of her strength into the slap, causing Herman's head to turn to the side.

Nora saw that Herman could have avoided the slap, but he didn't. Instead, he chose to take it.

Iris screamed, "Herman Hunt, you are so despicable! Never mind that you plotted against me, but how can you plot against even your own son?!"

Herman's head was turned to the side. The handprint on his cheek quickly swelled up visibly, which went to show just how furious Iris was.

He looked at Iris calmly. "Iris, I don't mind if you blame me for this. It's all because I am too incapable. Twenty years ago, I didn't have the ability to keep you by my side; twenty years later, I still don't have the ability to keep you with me. When we got married, we had clearly vowed that we would never abandon each other for the rest of our lives, but unfortunately, you have offended someone you should not have."

When Herman said that, there was sorrow in his eyes as he gazed at Iris.

To be honest, hadn't he also loved Iris when he was young?

In fact, one could even say that he still did.

At that time, he and Ian had both courted Yvette. Later, after Yvette chose Ian, he had also been envious of the beautiful love between the two of them.

Afterward, he had met Iris.

When he saw how gentle Iris had been to the poor lad Philip, his heart had skipped a beat.

Thus, he had gotten the Hunts to approach the Evanses and propose marriage.

Everyone said that he had married Iris because he could not manage to take Yvette as his wife. The only person in New York who was comparable to Yvette at that time had been Iris.

But nobody knew that he had only courted Yvette back then just to fight with Ian. Towards Iris, however... he had truly fallen in love with her.

He hadn't expected Iris to agree to the proposal, either.

Before they got married, Iris had told him honestly that their marriage was a political one, that she had no feelings for him.

However, Herman had still insisted on getting married. At that time, he was already in love with her. He'd even vowed that he would treat her well for the rest of his life.

He just never expected Philip the pauper to suddenly transform into the head of one of the mysterious families of the world.

Back then, when the Hunts were suppressed by him, just how tormented had he been? His father had spent his entire life turning the Hunts into a big and powerful family, but before the company and family were even handed over to him, he had already implicated them...

Herman had indeed deliberately betrayed Iris, but at that time, he had also suffered great emotional torment.

Iris didn't understand the complicated look in Herman's eyes. She merely felt that the man in front of her was simply too shameless!

She stared at him. "If that was the case, then you should have made things clear to me from the start! Even if I have to leave with Justin, I would never drag the Hunts in this!"

How could Herman possibly bear to let them leave, though?

He clenched his jaw and narrowed his eyes. "You want to take Justin away? Justin is my, Herman Hunt's, son! He is a descendant of the Hunts! Are you planning to take him with you as you turn to Philip?! I won't allow it!"

Iris really couldn't understand him.

He was the one taking full advantage of her and her son, yet he was also the one saying that Justin was his son, so they mustn't leave.

She felt that Herman must be schizophrenic.

She smiled in resignation and asked, "Herman, what do you mean by that?"

Herman cast his eyes down and sighed. "What I mean by that? Couldn't you have just behaved yourself, accepted your fate, and stayed in that suburban villa for the rest of your life? This way, I would never have returned to the family, and would never have fought with our son for the position of the head of the family! But look at you... You had already stayed there for the first twenty years, why did you let everything go to waste in the end?!"

Iris stared at him, finally understanding what he meant.

It was because of Herman's selfish intentions that they hadn't let her go back then!

Since he had given up Iris, then he totally could have just let go and push her into Philip's arms. Given Philip's means, he would have been able to trick Iris into staying with him eventually. But Herman hadn't! Instead, he had used Justin to keep her captive, preferring to imprison her for twenty years in a suburban villa as though she was a canary in captivity, over giving her true freedom!

She clenched her fists tightly. "Herman, you are such a despicable lowlife!"

Herman lowered his eyes and took a step forward. "I don't care whether you call me despicable or shameless, but Iris, you and your son only have two choices now."

Iris stared at him. "Go on."

Justin also looked at Herman.

Herman sighed and said, “Justin, you are my son, why would I do anything to harm you? If your mother goes to Philip and asks him to stop, then I will take it that this will doesn’t exist. My business overseas is enough for me to support myself.”

Iris took a step back.

Even now, Herman still wanted to sacrifice her.

While she was contemplating in a daze, she heard Justin’s firm and sonorous voice.

“That’s impossible. Tell me the second option.”

“You—!” Herman was practically speechless towards Justin. He pointed at him, his finger in the air for a while.

The elderly Mrs. Hunt took a step forward and held Justin’s arm. “Justin, my good grandson, just agree to it! Iris had already moved to the suburbs when you were five, and she has never taken care of you ever since. Besides, who knows if her heart had already been with Philip long ago? They are each other’s first love, so can’t you just take it that you’re giving your mother your blessings? Once she is gone, the will would be considered non-existent. All these years, it was only under your leadership that the Hunts could come this far, everyone can see that. If your father ever dares to fight with you for the position of the head of the family after your mother leaves, I will be the first to raise my voice!”

Justin looked at Mrs. Hunt as she spoke.

It was not that she did not love him.

It was just that before loving him, the Hunts’ interests mattered more than anything else!

Justin then looked at Herman.

All these years, he had hardly ever called him, nor had he ever paid any attention to him. He had just been taking advantage of him all along

From beginning to end, Iris had been the only one who did things for his sake.

Chapter 664 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Sunlight streamed brazenly into the glass conservatory, making the place look warm and toasty in the cold weather.

The white coffee table and seats added a bit of rustic elegance to the place, making one feel as if they could really become at peace with the world just by sitting in there.

Iris' gaze fell onto the orchids next to them, but she didn't speak, seemingly in a struggle over how to start. At this time, Justin asked, "Is it related to the kidnapping back then?"

Iris was taken aback. She looked at him. Justin said indifferently, "When I was five, a woman I didn't know suddenly showed up at home and told me to call her Mom, but I refused. After that, I was kidnapped."

Justin cast his eyes down. "Later, I met a man. He got into a tussle with the kidnapers, so I took the opportunity to escape and returned home according to the route I remembered. I've always thought that I managed to escape because I was smart and seized the right opportunity, but now that I think about it, why did that person so coincidentally enter a confrontation with the kidnapers at that time? You were the one who sent him, right?" Iris pursed her lips tightly before she finally nodded. "You can say that." Justin continued with his analysis. "After they kidnapped me, they wanted neither money nor manpower. It was clear that they wanted to kill the hostage. On top of that, they also wanted me to die a distance away from home. At that time, the Hunts were already one of the largest families in New York, yet even they couldn't find me. In that case, who did you seek help from?"

Iris bit her lip.

Justin stared at her, light flickering in his deep-set eyes. "Or should I say, who did you beg for help? That person you begged for help is the one who imprisoned you here in this small villa, and also forbade you from being with me, right?" Iris exclaimed, "How did you know that? Do you already know who he is?"

"I don't."

Justin said dispassionately, "Ever since I realized that you have reasons for doing what you did, all these years, I have been wondering what on earth

those reasons are. At first, I thought that you had made some kind of agreement with Herman, but after he came back, I realized that that wasn't the case at all. You have never feared him, so how could you possibly make such a ridiculous agreement with him? Besides, you have always been afraid of giving me trouble all these years, so you always rejected the Evanses every time they approached you for anything. Therefore, it is impossible for you to harbor thoughts of usurping the Hunts' assets. Grandma also doesn't seem to be on guard against you. After thinking about it, that is the only possibility left."

Iris' eyes reddened. Since Justin had started the topic, she picked up from there. She said, "My marriage to your father is a political marriage between wealthy families. The one he liked was actually Yvette Anderson. I know all of that, so I've never blamed him for cheating—because I have never loved him either. However, he went too far. I'd already given them my blessings and left the family, yet they neglected you and caused you to be kidnapped! Everything related to the kidnapping has already been erased by now. I suspect that it's Lauren's handiwork and that she had colluded with that group of kidnappers, but I don't have any proof. That time, after I came back from my trip overseas and discovered that you were gone, I begged the Hunts and the Smiths for help. At that time, Nora's father was still the head of the Smiths. Mr. Smith helped me to search for your whereabouts, but unfortunately, there was no news of you at all. By then, it had already been more than twelve hours since your disappearance. If I still couldn't find you, there was a very high chance that they would kill you. So, I had no other choice. I could only approach him..."

Iris clenched her fists tightly at the mention.

Her eyes were full of hate towards Lauren.

Justin suddenly asked, "Who... is he?" Iris sighed and shook her head. "To be honest, I don't know either." Justin and Nora exchanged a look and both frowned.

However, neither of them raised any questions because the look in Iris' eyes had started to become distant, and she was already starting to go down memory lane. She said, "I met him in college. He was my first boyfriend."

Her simple few words stunned the two of them.

He was her first love? Then why didn't she know who he was? While they were thinking about it, Iris said, "When we were still studying, he was a poor

boy named Philip Coleman.” At this point, Iris looked at Justin. It was inevitable that she would feel a little embarrassed mentioning her first love in front of her son and daughter-in-law.

She lowered her head. “I met him at a dance party. He fell in love with me at first sight. After that, he tried to woo me for a very long time. Among all the rich youngsters, he was very unremarkable, but for some reason, he was the only one who caught my eye. After we graduated, my family wanted me to get engaged with Herman for the political marriage.”

Iris’ voice was a little serious and burdened when she mentioned that. After a while, she finally heaved a huge sigh and said, “It’s actually a very cheesy story. My family was driving me into a corner. Mom was seriously ill, but Dad refused to pay for her high medical expenses unless I agreed to the marriage. I had no other choice at that time, so I broke up with him.”

At this point, Iris looked at Justin and gave him a wry smile. “He had been pretending to be a poor boy in school because he was worried that people would be attracted to his money, whereas I happened to be in need of it.”

The two of them had let each other slip by perfectly.

Iris sighed. “Both he and I were relatively self-restrained people, so the breakup went smoothly. After that, your father and I got married. Everything was fine until one day, your father said that a foreign businessman had come to America and was holding a party. He wanted me to attend it with him...”

She hadn’t expected to meet Philip again at the party. Philip was the foreign investor at the party.

Everyone was trying to please him because they had heard that he was from a foreign wealthy family. Even though the Hunts and the Smiths had already reached the pinnacle in America, there was another family in another country that loved doing business very much. They had been merchants for generations and had amassed a lot of wealth over the years.

People like them had always been low-key in their behavior. Even when he was out, he used a pseudonym. Philip Coleman was not his name; it was just the pseudonym he used in America.

She had never known his true identity.

At the party, Philip found an excuse to corner her.

Iris knew that Herman was someone who hated being embarrassed, so she said, "My husband doesn't know about my first love. Please don't tell him about it."

At that time, Iris' belly was already showing slightly.

She had given all her love to the baby in her womb.

At that time, the way Philip looked at her had changed. He let out a sarcastic laugh and said, "I have never been acquainted with Ms. Evans before. Nice to meet you." When he said that, Iris had felt like someone had suddenly gripped her heart tightly. What she'd thought was a peaceful breakup was still capable of piercing her heart two years later.

She put on a graceful smile and nodded at Philip.

But after she turned around, she was unable to maintain the smile on her face.

However, Philip would appear in her life again. Philip became good friends with Herman and visited them at home. Herman had pointed to Iris' belly and said to Philip, "Philip, he'll be your god-son in the future!" At that time, Philip had looked at Iris pointedly and remarked, "I'm so envious of you for having such a good wife, Herman." Herman asked, "Aren't you married yet, Philip?"

Philip shook his head and immediately said, "I have someone in my heart I can't forget, no other woman can capture my eye."

When he said this, the look in his eyes as he stared at Iris had been persistent and terrifying. Herman, however, was still unaware of what was happening. He said, "Oh? Then why didn't you marry her?" Philip lowered his head. "I had concealed my identity at the time, so she thought I was poor and went to someone of higher social status instead."

Herman cursed the woman for being materialistic and shameless.

Iris flushed as red as a tomato as she listened to them from the side.

Philip, however, said, "It is instinctive to pursue a better life, so I don't hate her. In fact, if she is ever in trouble in the future, I would still be willing to help her."

Herman had immediately given him a thumbs-up. "You sure are magnanimous, Philip!"

Philip then said, "My family also has a lot of secret properties in America, it's just that most people don't know that. If you ever run into trouble in America, I can also be of assistance."

Herman hadn't thought much about it at the time and had thought that those words were directed at him. At once, he started chatting and laughing happily with Philip. However, Philip's attitude suddenly became cold and he left.

Since then, he had never stepped into America again. It was only later that Herman finally understood why Philip had fallen out with him back then.

After he left, Iris had let out a long sigh of relief.

She admitted that her decision had betrayed Philip back then, but Philip had also hidden his family background from her. Wasn't that also a form of deception towards her?

Their relationship had ended without any real reason. They were ultimately just not meant to be.

When Justin was five years old, Philip had called her.

He was still using the same phone number he had used when they were in college. Iris answered the call. At that time, she had already found out about Herman's cheating, so she was in a bad mood.

Philip had only asked her a question on the phone: "Do you regret what you did?" Did she regret what she had done? Occasionally, in the dead of night, Iris would think of Philip. If she had been a little more firm and resolute back then, and if she had lived as unrestrainedly and happily as Yvette had, then would her life have been better?

But every time the thought formed, she would look at Justin. Although she didn't love Herman, Justin was the greatest gift that God had given her. She loved her son more than anything in the world.

“Mom, buy me harder Lego sets next time. These are too easy.”

Her son with a super high IQ made a request with a frown.

Iris immediately smiled and said into the phone, “I have no regrets.”

She hung up the phone. Afterward, when Mrs. Hunt made her choose between tolerating Herman or doing something else, she had decided to be selfish for once. Perhaps her rebellious streak from college times had come too late, but she decided to file for divorce. She dragged her suitcase behind her and left the house.

After that, Herman had brought Lauren home. After she came back from her trip and learned that Justin had been kidnapped and was missing, she had felt like dying.

Even with the Hunts and the Smiths’ power, they couldn’t find Justin. At that time, she had panicked. Her five-year-old son, no matter how high his IQ, was still just a child.

If the other party was determined to kill the hostage, then he would probably have already become a corpse by then!

She didn’t dare to wait any longer. In her panic, she inexplicably thought of what Philip had once said: “... My family also has a lot of secret properties in America, it’s just that most people don’t know that. If you ever run into trouble in America, I can also be of assistance.”

She dialed Philip’s phone number with trembling fingers. The man seemed very hesitant, only picking up the call after it rang for a very long time. The man smiled and said, “Do you need something? It’s my wedding today. The groom can’t be absent, you know.” Iris didn’t have the leisure to care about such things. Besides, so many years had already gone by, her feelings for him as her first love had already faded a long time ago. She immediately asked, “Can you save my son?!” Philip was startled. “What happened?”

Iris recounted the story. At last, she asked: “Aren’t you very powerful in America? Can you find him?”

“Yes, I can.” Philip was very confident. “But why should I help you?”

Why should he help her?

Iris had been stunned then. Indeed, why should he?

While she was in a daze, Philip said, "I'll give you two choices."

"What?"

"The first one: Fly over to my wedding now. I am still missing a bride."

Iris thought that he must be out of his mind. She said, "My son is missing! Philip, I am not in the mood to joke around with you."

"I'm not joking." Philip chuckled and said, "Why should I help you for no reason?"

Iris bit her lip. At last, she took a deep breath and said, "I can't agree to your request. I will never leave my son's side ever again."

Because she had gone overseas for a holiday, Justin had gone missing.

Her son needed his mother after all. She must not leave him

Moreover, her relationship with Philip was just puppy love during college. Compared with reality, she cared more about Justin. She started to cry. Her voice was choked with sobs as she said, "Philip, please, I'm begging

you."

The other end of the call was silent for a long time. In the end, Philip sneered and said, "I can find him for you, but you have to promise me something."

"Tell me what it is!"

Philip enunciated every word carefully and said, "You can watch over your son, but I forbid you from ever getting close to him for the rest of your life. You can only look at him from a distance."

"Iris, this is your punishment for betraying me back then."

"... Okay, I promise you that!"

Later, Iris and Herman got divorced, Herman was kicked out of the house, and Justin became the new leader of the clan with his grandfather grooming him ever since. As for Iris, she could only hide in the villa.

She could still remember the last few words that Philip had said to her. His voice was very cold and missing any trace of emotion. He said, "Since you have agreed to my condition, then you must keep your word. Otherwise, you know what I'm capable of, I will spare no costs to kill your son. I can save your son's life, but I can also easily crush him like an ant."

Even now, Iris still didn't know who Philip really was.

Mysterious families like his kept their identities very well-hidden. She couldn't make any contact with them at all. All she knew was that if she stayed away from Justin all her life and maintained a distant attitude toward him, then she would be able to guarantee his safety.

Therefore, that was exactly what she had been doing all these years.

The story was over.

There was no bloodshed nor intense love and hate. It was so plain and bland. In fact, when Iris mentioned Philip, she no longer felt any love for him but only fear and thoughts of her agreement with him. Iris looked at Justin. "The world's top families can control the world economy and are very terrifying existences. I have distanced myself from you all this time because I'm afraid they would destroy you and the Hunts the moment they decide to take action. To be honest, my life here all these years by myself has been very comfortable. Aging and dying alone can also be considered a kind of happiness. "Justin, you wanted to know the truth and I've already said it, but I don't want you to pursue it any further. Back then, I was the one who had let him down. After that, I even asked him to find you for me. He gave you your life, so let's just leave it at that." Seemingly because she had come clean about everything that had happened back then, Iris breathed a sigh of relief. She lowered her head. "You don't have to become enemies with him for my sake. After all, I am already an old woman in my autumn years."

After she said that, she slowly closed her eyes and sighed deeply.

Nora looked at her. She was actually very shocked, though she pretended to be nonchalant on the surface.

When Iris was young, she must have been very gentle and a big pushover, right?

That was why she had given in to her family's arrangements back then.

But was her mistake really so big?

Didn't Philip hold any responsibility for why they weren't together? They had already been in a relationship for several years, so why didn't he tell her his identity and his background?

Also...

Weren't there a few too many powerful people in the world?!

The mysterious organization's forces already spanned throughout the world, and now there was another mysterious mega-corporation? All her life, she had only been concerned with sleeping every day and also felt that it would do as long as she made enough to survive. It was only now that she suddenly realized that she was actually... so poor! While Nora's imagination was running wild, Iris' cell phone suddenly rang again. It was still that same unfamiliar number.

If Nora wasn't wrong, then he was likely Philip.

Sure enough, at the sight of the phone number, Iris' pupils shrank slightly and fear arose in her again.

She wanted to pick up the phone and switch it off, but before she could touch it, a big well-defined hand took the phone.

Iris' head whipped up abruptly and she looked at Justin incredulously.

Justin looked at her firmly. His voice was calm and steady, and he seemed capable of protecting Iris from everything in the world. He said, "Let me."

Iris shook her head.

She was very scared.

Although the Hunts were powerful, they were really no match for globally powerful families that had hundreds—even a thousand-of years of history.

She swallowed. "Justin, forget it."

Justin could understand her fear and panic. His mother was worried that she would affect the Hunts because of her own affairs, but she didn't know that he had another identity that was powerful enough to make him fearless.

It was just that due to certain reasons, he couldn't reveal that identity of his.

He lowered his head and said, "Mom, don't be scared."

After saying that, he picked up the cell phone, got up, and answered the call. A deep and pleasant male voice traveled over through the phone: "Iris, you have broken our agreement."

Nora stood beside Iris.

She held Iris' shoulders and looked fixedly at Justin.

Justin said into the phone, "From now on, I will be the one to fulfill that agreement."

The original agreement was that Iris would age and die alone in the suburban villa as punishment. If she couldn't restrain herself and got close to her son, then Philip would take action against the Hunts and Justin.

When Justin said that he would fulfill the agreement, the man immediately understood what he meant.

Philip sneered, "Heh, that weak little boy from back then has grown up and become independent, hasn't he? In that case, I'll teach you how to behave."

As soon as he said that, Iris panicked. She rushed forward and shouted, "Philip, come right at me if you want! Don't do anything to the child, you..."

But before she could finish, Philip snapped, "Iris, that's enough!"

Iris was taken aback.

Philip smiled and said, "Aren't you just saying that because you're very sure that I won't do anything to you? Now that the kid has grown up, you can't blame me for being nasty anymore!"

He hung up right after saying that.

Iris: "..."

The disconnected tone from the phone resounded in the depths of her heart like the bangs of a drum, making her feel terribly flustered. She swallowed and looked up at Justin, feeling like she had become the sinner of the Hunts.

The most mysterious megacorp was about to take action against her son.

Iris grabbed Justin's arm. She wanted to say that she would go and apologize to the other party, but when the words reached the tip of her tongue, she couldn't bring herself to say them-because if she did, then it would be no different from her throwing her own pride onto the ground and trampling on it.

Iris took a deep breath.

Just as she was filled with worry and trepidation, she saw Justin walk around her and look at Nora. He asked, "Nora, are you scared?"

Nora raised her brows. The Hunts had offended the most mysterious megacorp in the world, which sounded pretty exciting. Also, if Justin really lost everything, then wouldn't Pete's status as the next head of the family become useless?

But...

She broke into a grin and raised her eyes slightly. "It's okay, if you go bankrupt, I'll support you..."

After saying that, she spotted Iris, so the rest of her words did a U-turn in her mouth and she added, "... guys."

Justin: "?"

He'd originally intended to tell her not to be scared, but he hadn't expected Nora to say something like that. Suddenly, it made him really feel like going bankrupt for fun.

It seemed like it wasn't that bad an idea to have a sugar mommy and be kept as a lover?

Ahem.

Iris looked at the two of them, suddenly finding herself speechless.

This must be love.

If she had trusted Philip back then, things would not have come to where they were. Now that she thought about it, so what even if she had to fight to the death with her family back then?

At most, she would have just started all over from scratch.

The woman, who was nearly fifty, was moved by the love between Nora and Justin. This inspired the greatest fighting spirit in her.

She said, "Okay, if we go bankrupt, then... we'll let Nora support us!"

Justin: "?"

The corners of his lips spasmed. Those who didn't know better would have thought that Iris was saying that she would support them after he went bankrupt!

He couldn't reveal his identity, but when he saw that the two women seemed so full of fighting spirit, he got out of his internal struggle. He smiled and said, "Don't worry, even though I would very much like to sponge off a woman, I'll refrain from trying that." He spoke solemnly. "With me around, the Hunts will not go bankrupt."

Her son's firm and confident words made Iris' flustered heart calm down.

To be honest, before she told the truth, she'd still been taking a chance.

She felt that since twenty years had gone by, perhaps Philip had already forgotten her a long time ago, or perhaps he no longer minded. But now that things had reached this point, it was useless to dwell any further on

it.

When she was young, for Justin's sake, she had suffered so many grievances and wasted twenty years of her youth in this villa.

Now that her son had grown up, it was time for him to support and protect her.

After Iris came to terms with it, she got out of her internal struggle. She suggested, "How about having a meal before you leave?"

"Nah, it's fine."

Justin rejected her. Iris nodded and said, "Well, I'm sure you have a lot of arrangements to make. In that case, go ahead!"

Justin exchanged a look with Nora when he heard this.

There were some things that Justin was too embarrassed to say, but Nora understood what he was thinking, so she said, "Well, he does have a lot to do, but the most important thing now is helping you to move out, Iris."

Iris was a little surprised.

She looked at Justin in disbelief, only to see him nodding at her.

Iris bit her lip. "S-surely there's no need for that? I've already become accustomed to living here."

"Really?" Nora was a little troubled. "But both of us will be very busy in the future. I was thinking of asking you to take care of the three children at home..."

At the mention of the children, Iris hesitated.

Nora sighed again. "Pete has been with Justin since he was a baby and has mild autism. Cherry also likes her grandmother's company very much. As for Xander, the situation is even tougher. That boy was raised by Trueman Yale, so he lacks companionship from his family and is very insecure. Sigh! I wonder if Xander will end up straying onto the wrong path in the future..." Convinced, Iris gritted her teeth at once and said, "I'll come with the two of you!"

Iris was someone whose actions spoke louder than words.

Now that they had agreed on it, she would no longer be afraid. She immediately called Mrs. Landis over to pack her things for her.

Justin held her shoulders, walked to the side, and said softly, "Mom, after you come back, you have to take over the home."

Iris wanted to refuse, but Justin said with a cold look in his eyes, "Grandma has issues with Nora. Now that Herman is back, she'll definitely waver again. She has become muddleheaded, I can't let her control the house anymore. Otherwise, when Nora marries me in the future, the family will definitely be a huge mess."

Justin sighed. "You don't understand Nora. The only thing she likes to do is sleep, and she hates troublesome things the most. If she finds out she'll have

to face so much trouble by marrying me, there's a high chance she won't marry me anymore."

Iris: "..."

Her son was being too exaggerated. Nora hadn't even uttered a single word of rebuttal despite the super huge trouble she had just caused. From that alone, one could see that Nora would never refuse to marry him just because of something as trivial as that.

However, her son was right in saying that she ought to take over the house. This way, when Nora marries into the family, there would be a lot less trouble handing over the family affairs.

Now that she could do something for them, Iris felt that her return was no longer entirely meaningless.

There were almost a hundred pots of orchids in the greenhouse. But with just a phone call from Justin, more than twenty bodyguards walked in one by one and started to move the flowers out.

Seeing them going in and out, Nora slipped over to Justin and remarked, "Pete said that you always bring more than twenty bodyguards with you when you go out. So, it really is true!"

Justin nodded. "Yeah, sometimes I bring more."

Ever since he was abducted at the age of five and subsequently rescued, Justin always traveled with this many people.

Nora glanced at him silently with a pitying look in her eyes.

Justin thought that she was feeling sorry for him because he had been kidnapped at a young age, but in the end, Nora unexpectedly said something that totally ruined the atmosphere, "Just how scared of dying are

you?!"

"???" :Justin

The night was so pleasant and the environment also so nice. There was a romantic mood in the air even till the woman had kept quiet, so how come it was ruined the moment she spoke?! The corners of his lips spasmed.

The group eventually separated.

Nora was going to the laboratory to continue her research into Xander's affairs. For her, no matter how important something was, and no matter how big the Hunts' fortune was, Xander's affairs must still be handled first.

Because it would be time for him to be injected with the V15 in another three days.

Nora had been struggling over whether or not to inject it into him.

Would he really die if he was not injected with it?

Was the gene serum really lethal, or was it more like a drug addiction where one must continuously consume it? She had to study it and find out properly before the deadline.

Besides, since Philip had said that he was going to take action against the Hunts, then it definitely was not going to be something he could accomplish with a few words.

He also needed to make preparations. It would take a few days for things to ferment. Therefore, her main task during these three days would still be to study the V15.

In the hospital.

When Nora arrived at the laboratory, Lily was analyzing the components of V15. Seeing Nora enter, Lily immediately said, "Boss, the serum's components are indeed not analyzable. It is too complex, I am afraid it will take a few years for us to study it thoroughly."

Nora was not surprised.

If the gene serum's formula was that easy to analyze, then Trueman and the others would not have pursued her mother so persistently.

Twenty-five years had already passed, yet Trueman and the others were still putting their hopes of finding clues on her. In that case, this must surely be a herculean task.

To be honest, Nora had already expected the results, but she still couldn't bring herself to terms with it.

She nodded. "I'll take over."

Lily stepped aside and Nora sat down. She held various instruments in her hands and separated the components of the serum, hoping to find clues from it.

Three days later. Nora's eyes were bloodshot and she had dark circles under her eyes.

After three consecutive days of work without any sleep, she had finally derived the V15 formula, but at the same time, her heart also sank.

It was really a gene-repairing drug and not some kind of narcotic drug.

In other words, Xander must be injected with the drug, otherwise, he would really die.

She took a deep breath.

A while later, she took out her cell phone and called Caleb, who was abroad.

As soon as the call connected, Caleb said, "Nora, I have been waiting for your call." Nora kept quiet for a while before she asked, "Is it necessary to inject him with the V15?" "Yes, it is." Caleb said, "If you don't, the reparation of the previously repaired genes won't be adequate, and his brain will explode which would surely kill him. I have already looked into it-Xander's modifications are in his brain genes. If the V15 is not injected at the stipulated time, he will die."

Nora sighed. "The V15's formula does not seem very complex."

"Yes, none of the formulas from V1 to V15 are complex. The most complex one is the V16. In addition, there are a few types of gene serums. Some improve IQ while some improve physical strength. The formulas for V1 to V15 are all different for each type of serum. The only thing they have in common is that they all need the very last V16!"

Upon hearing this, Nora's pupils shrank.

Caleb sighed. "I'm dying, so I don't need the V16 anymore. However, every genetically-modified person would need the V16 at the end. Therefore, you should know the importance of the V16 now, right?"

Nora nodded to express that she had understood.

No wonder her mother had said that she must not expose her abilities, lest she ended up being targeted.

It was possible that some of the most outstanding people in the world might just be genetically-modified humans. Additionally, there were so many people that needed the V16 as an antidote.

She suddenly felt even greater pressure.

Such a group of people looking for her, could she really obtain the V16 for Xander?

Also...

If what her mother had left behind was really the formula... If she really produced the V16, thereby removing the last restriction on successful genetic modifications, what would the world turn into?

Would someone deliberately train a group of genetically modified warriors and unify the world?

Or would human beings with genetically modified IQ genes develop at a high speed and deplete the earth's resources in a dozen years -or perhaps even just a few years?

She dared not imagine such consequences.

But with how things currently were, she didn't have the leisure to care about such things anymore either.

Nora said, "I see."

Caleb was silent for a while. Suddenly, he said, "I didn't expect Xander to also be your son. Don't worry, I will contact you in time if I find clues regarding the V16."

Nora had been trying hard to find clues from the things that her mother had left behind, but she still couldn't find any.

It would be for the best if Caleb could inform her if he found any clues.

Nora replied, "Thanks a lot."

Caleb kept quiet for a while before he finally said, "You're welcome." After hanging up the phone, Nora called Justin.

The phone only rang once before Justin answered. He asked, "How is it?"

Nora was silent for a moment. Finally, she said, "Let's inject him with it."

When Justin heard this, he knew at once that the serum was safe and could be injected as-is. But at the same time, the injection would only extend Xander's lifespan by three months.

If they still couldn't find the V16 within three months, Xander would still die. He said, "Okay." Before hanging up, Nora asked, "How is Xander?"

"He was fine the last few days, but he started having a headache when he woke up today. I've gotten the family doctor to inject him with an anesthetic, so he is now asleep." Justin explained Xander's condition, "I will inject the gene serum into him now."

"Okay, I'm on my way. Observe all of Xander's reactions after the injection."

"Okay."

Nora left and drove straight to the Hunts.

The car stopped right in front of the villa. When she went upstairs, she saw that Justin had not injected the serum into Xander yet. When he saw her, he explained, "Our medical equipment is constantly observing Xander's condition, so it won't cause any delays. I wanted you to see it with your own eyes."

Nora nodded.

There would probably be physical reactions after the injection. These were all important clues and experimental data, which might play a certain role in Nora's subsequent research and development of the V16.

This was despite Nora realizing after studying the v15 that she probably would not be able to develop the V16 in just three months with her own abilities.

Her only option now was to look for clues that her mother had left her.

Xander was lying quietly on the bed. She personally injected Xander with the V15. Little by little, the liquid was injected into his body. Xander, who had been under anesthesia, suddenly opened his eyes after the serum was injected.

His eyes were clean and clear as though he hadn't been affected at all.

He sat up in a daze. He looked at Nora and then at Justin. Then, he rubbed his head.

Justin asked nervously, "Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Xander shook his head, his big eyes filled with puzzlement. He replied, "I don't feel any discomfort. It's just that a Mathematical Olympiad problem that I was discussing with Pete yesterday has suddenly become very simple..."

This was the consequence of taking the IQ improvement gene serum.

It seemed that Xander's IQ would be the highest in the family in the future.

Nora observed all the numerical data of Xander's body. In the end, she concluded that everything about Xander's body was normal.

It was so normal that Nora even wondered if she had been fooled by Trueman.

Had she made the right decision in injecting Xander with the V15 or not?

Then, someone pushed the door open. Pete and Cherry followed behind Iris obediently, and the three came over together. When they saw Xander sitting there, all three of them released a huge pent-up breath.

The two little fellows and Iris' movements were exactly the same, which gave people a joyful feeling.

Nora and Justin looked at each other and smiled.

However, Nora's mood became increasingly

heavy.

The more one understood the gene serum, the more they would realize just how amazing it was.

It was too un-human-like.

She sighed silently.

At this moment, they suddenly heard a noise from downstairs.

Justin went downstairs and saw Herman standing there. When Herman saw him, he immediately yelled, “Justin, have you become muddleheaded? How can you let Iris move back here? Do you have any idea how big a disaster she will bring to the Hunts by moving back here?!”

Herman was furious. He pointed to Iris and said, “And you, too. Never mind that you have offended an influential person, but you still have the cheek to come back here now? Will you really only stop after you’ve implicated all the Hunts?! Leave the Hunt Manor at once! Otherwise, the Hunts will really be in huge trouble!”

Iris frowned.

With regard to that, she had no right to speak.

Justin stepped forward and asked, “Where’s the butler? Who let him in?”

The butler was wiping his sweat in silence beside him. No matter what, Herman was still Justin’s father. The bodyguards did not dare to take any real action against him when he forcibly broke in.

The butler didn’t speak. It was instead Herman who shouted angrily, “Do you know that Philip Coleman has already started to take action against the Hunts? I heard that he has been doing a large-scale acquisition of the Hunt Corporation’s shares, our share prices are rising madly right now. A lot of the shareholders have all decided to sell their shares. He has made up his mind to take over the Hunt Corporation!”

Justin calmly replied, “Yeah, I know.”

“You do? Are you sure you do?! With the shares becoming more and more expensive, we will have less and less cash flow to buy back the shares! At the

same time, we will also have fewer and fewer shares in our hands. I know you have also been dispatching people to secretly buy them, but how can the Hunts' cash flow compare to theirs? They have accumulated generations' worth of riches! No one knows how many trillions of dollars they have! Can you beat them? As far as I know, the Hunts only have a few hundred billion dollars worth of cash flow!"

Herman pointed at him. Then, he lowered his voice and said, "I have also heard another piece of important news—I heard that Philip is a member of the Imperial League. Do you know what the Imperial League is?"

"The dozen or so people in there are in control of global economic trends! The Hunts can't beat them at all! What you are doing is no different from risking the entire Hunt Corporation! Everyone already knows about this and they are all waiting to laugh at the Hunts?! Your uncle's family are also waiting for you to step down!"

After saying all that, Herman went on anxiously and angrily. "You are my son, so I will definitely have to take your side. Justin, your only option now is to drive Iris out or send her to Philip. Otherwise, you won't be able to appease his anger! Our family really can't afford to mess with them! The Imperial League! They are part of the Imperial League, you know!"

Justin frowned when he heard him say the things he shouldn't be saying, and the look in his eyes turned cold.

Herman, who didn't know that he had already hit Justin's sore spot, was still talking about how powerful Philip was.

As he spoke, Iris gradually lowered her head.

She knew that she had destroyed the family's peace and tranquility.

Just as she was suffering through her psychological ordeal, and while Herman stood on the moral high ground and criticized her...

Justin suddenly said, "So, that's why you were willing to give your wife to someone else? And even cooperate with him to act as if your son had been kidnapped?"

His simple few words made all the sounds in the room cease abruptly!

Iris' head also whipped up and she looked at them in disbelief.

Herman's mouth was still open. He was staring at him in shock because he had been exposed, and it seemed like he'd never expected Justin to say such a thing.

Iris went from being confused to being shocked. Her brows slowly drew together and she looked at Herman in disbelief. She swallowed and asked, "Justin, what do you mean?"

Herman immediately shouted, "Justin, don't you dare make false accusations!"

Justin lowered his eyes. "I didn't want to thoroughly embarrass you, but since you insist on getting into the line of fire, then let's just speak frankly here!"

He looked at Herman and said, "When Philip Coleman visited the house as a guest and talked about his ex-girlfriend, you already knew that the ex-girlfriend he was talking about was Mom, right?"

Herman didn't admit it, but he suddenly didn't dare to look at Iris. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Justin sneered, "In the following few years, the Hunts showed faint signs of being suppressed. During those few years, the Smiths also gradually gained the upper hand, and it looked like they would soon surpass us and become the number one family in New York, didn't it?"

Herman immediately said, "That's because Ian Smith is very impressive, whereas I don't have any talent for business!"

"Is that so?"

Justin cast his eyes down. "The Hunts do not have the custom of only letting the eldest son or people from the direct lineage inherit the title of the head of the family. Although you were a bit of a jerk back then, Grandpa had chosen you. He must have a reason for doing so, right? Uncle Raymond, as well as my other uncles, were eyeing your position, yet they couldn't take it from you. Why was that? Is it also because you don't have any talent for business?"

Herman choked.

Justin continued to speak with a contemptuous smile on his face. “Outsiders all say that the elderly Mr. Smith had placed all his energy and focus into the company during those few times because of the heartbreak he’d suffered, but he had been in a total daze at that time, so how could he possibly have had such great ambitions?”

Feeling that there was nothing to live for anymore, Ian had sought death at one point. He hadn’t even cared about his family property anymore and had given everything to his nephew.

In fact, one could even say that before Nora’s return, he hadn’t even considered adopting Joel as his son. Instead, he was just giving it away.

Even if Ian had turned his sorrow into motivation after Yvette’s departure, it was still impossible for him to really want to expand and develop the Smith Corporation. He would only casually work for the Smith Corporation out of sheer boredom.

But even when Ian was in a bad state of mind, the Hunts had gone from bad to worse. In addition, during that time, his grandfather had still been around and had been the person in charge of the Hunts. Herman hadn’t taken over the family yet!

Herman was not at all as incompetent as what outsiders made him out to be. Otherwise, how would it have been possible for him to take Lauren with him to another country, start from zero, and achieve what he had currently accomplished in just twenty years?

That’s right, Herman and Lauren already had a successful business abroad. The fact that Lauren had immediately organized such a large orchid exhibition when she’d only just returned to the country was enough proof of their current economic strength. Moreover, there was something that Justin had actually been unable to figure out all these years.

Even if Herman had done something wrong and cheated on his wife, would anyone really be like the old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, and drive their son out of the house but keep their grandson?

All of these were choices that the Hunts had been forced to make back then!

When the elderly Mr. Hunt and Herman felt like they had come to their wits’ end regarding the company, they immediately understood what had

happened. Thus, Herman had promptly and decisively cheated on Iris, in order to make her give up hope on him.

They'd originally thought that Philip would let them off once they sacrificed Iris, but they were wrong.

At that time, the only thing Iris had cared about was her son. When she went traveling, she'd actually run into Philip. However, she had no plans to rekindle her relationship with him.

This caused Philip to become even crueler, and he found someone to kidnap Justin!

One could say that the Hunts had abstained from taking action at that time, despite their ability to do so. The Hunts were so powerful in New York, how would they possibly be unable to find the child when he was first discovered missing?

It wasn't that they couldn't find him; rather, they hadn't searched for him at all!

By the time Iris returned and found that he was been abducted, too much time had already passed. By then, even if she sought help from the Smiths, the kidnappers would have already fled New York. Even the Smiths wouldn't be able to do anything about it!

Therefore, the Hunts had forced Iris to approach Philip.

They wanted to use Iris as a sacrificial offering

Unfortunately, Iris still didn't have any thoughts of reconciling with Philip. Instead, she reached a different agreement with him, which was to watch her son grow up in the Hunts without interfering with his life.

After the old Mr. Hunt heard about this, he realized and understood that since Philip loved Iris so deeply, he would never hurt her. Additionally, if he wanted Iris to protect the Hunts, then it would only be possible if Justin stayed in the family.

Thus, Mr. Hunt had pretended to drive away Herman, and also declared that he would take it that he never had a son like him. His purpose in driving him away was so that Herman could go overseas, start a new business, and open up a new world for the Hunts.

This was so that the Hunts could avoid a crushing defeat should something ever go wrong with Philip and he targets the Hunts in the future!

Herman might look like he had left the family without taking a cent, but when he went abroad back then, his father most certainly would have secretly given him a sum of money as start-up capital.

All of their schemes were closely linked with one another. The elderly Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, who seemingly had a deep sense of love and righteousness, were just doing all that for the sake of the Hunts.

Justin had only slowly pieced everything together after Iris told him the truth.

This was also the reason why he hadn't immediately sought revenge on Lauren for kidnapping him-because she wasn't the one who had instigated the kidnapping at all.

It was Philip!

Justin's words, like a sharp knife, cut open the Hunts' veil of pretense, exposing all of their ugly and nasty true colors.

Iris was shocked and astounded. She felt like the worldview she'd held all these years had come crashing down all around her. She thought that she had caused the Hunts huge trouble, but little did she think that the Hunts had been using her all this time?

Herman refused to admit it. "What are you talking about? I don't understand at all, you..."

"You don't understand? Is that so? In that case, shall I lay out all the evidence one by one?"

Justin's voice was low and deep, but there was a mocking smile on the corners of his lips.

Herman narrowed his eyes.

After some time, he finally dropped his pretenses. He calmly said, "Since you've already figured out everything, then take your mother with you and leave the Hunts at once

-because, I, the real head of the Hunts, am back."

Justin stared at him.

Herman lowered his head and looked at the family members who had hurried over after hearing about his return and the argument. He straightened his back. On his visage that was three parts similar to Justin's, his eyes were dark and deep.

He calmly said, "My father left all the shares in the family to me back then."

After saying this, he immediately took out a will.

Upon seeing the share transfer agreement, everyone was shocked.

When the elderly Mr. Hunt passed away, in his final words, he had only left instructions saying that Justin was to take charge of the company. Therefore, Justin had naturally inherited his shares.

With the will, though, Justin would be kicked out of the picture.

Everyone in the family fell silent. They all stared at the will and then at each other, all of them at a loss for words.

Roger said, "Uncle Herman, if a will exists, then Grandpa's shares should indeed be given to you. In that case, from today onwards, you will be the head of the Hunts!"

Some defenders of Justin said, "But is the will really valid? Who can prove it?"

Along with these words, someone supported a shaky Mrs. Hunt as she walked out. She said unhurriedly, "I can prove it."

Nora was standing upstairs and watching the intense discussion downstairs.

She clearly saw that Justin had trembled lightly when Mrs. Hunt walked out.

Nora sighed silently.

Justin might never have ever thought that his grandmother, who had raised him into an adult, would also be part of the group of people plotting against him.

How sad and lonely must that man surrounded by his so-called family members be right now?

Justin was a man who had always been scheming and inscrutable, so he didn't say anything

Iris, however, stared at the group of people. The woman, who now knew the truth, was suffering quite the mental breakdown at the moment—not for herself, but for her son!

Her entire body shook with anger, and she rushed up to Herman, stretched out her hand, and slapped him across the cheek.

Smack!

She had put all of her strength into the slap, causing Herman's head to turn to the side.

Nora saw that Herman could have avoided the slap, but he didn't. Instead, he chose to take it.

Iris screamed, "Herman Hunt, you are so despicable! Never mind that you plotted against me, but how can you plot against even your own son?!"

Herman's head was turned to the side. The handprint on his cheek quickly swelled up visibly, which went to show just how furious Iris was.

He looked at Iris calmly. "Iris, I don't mind if you blame me for this. It's all because I am too incapable. Twenty years ago, I didn't have the ability to keep you by my side; twenty years later, I still don't have the ability to keep you with me. When we got married, we had clearly vowed that we would never abandon each other for the rest of our lives, but unfortunately, you have offended someone you should not have."

When Herman said that, there was sorrow in his eyes as he gazed at Iris.

To be honest, hadn't he also loved Iris when he was young?

In fact, one could even say that he still did.

At that time, he and Ian had both courted Yvette. Later, after Yvette chose Ian, he had also been envious of the beautiful love between the two of them.

Afterward, he had met Iris.

When he saw how gentle Iris had been to the poor lad Philip, his heart had skipped a beat.

Thus, he had gotten the Hunts to approach the Evanses and propose marriage.

Everyone said that he had married Iris because he could not manage to take Yvette as his wife. The only person in New York who was comparable to Yvette at that time had been Iris.

But nobody knew that he had only courted Yvette back then just to fight with Ian. Towards Iris, however... he had truly fallen in love with her.

He hadn't expected Iris to agree to the proposal, either.

Before they got married, Iris had told him honestly that their marriage was a political one, that she had no feelings for him.

However, Herman had still insisted on getting married. At that time, he was already in love with her. He'd even vowed that he would treat her well for the rest of his life.

He just never expected Philip the pauper to suddenly transform into the head of one of the mysterious families of the world.

Back then, when the Hunts were suppressed by him, just how tormented had he been? His father had spent his entire life turning the Hunts into a big and powerful family, but before the company and family were even handed over to him, he had already implicated them...

Herman had indeed deliberately betrayed Iris, but at that time, he had also suffered great emotional torment.

Iris didn't understand the complicated look in Herman's eyes. She merely felt that the man in front of her was simply too shameless!

She stared at him. "If that was the case, then you should have made things clear to me from the start! Even if I have to leave with Justin, I would never drag the Hunts in this!"

How could Herman possibly bear to let them leave, though?

He clenched his jaw and narrowed his eyes. "You want to take Justin away? Justin is my, Herman Hunt's, son! He is a descendant of the Hunts! Are you planning to take him with you as you turn to Philip?! I won't allow it!"

Iris really couldn't understand him.

He was the one taking full advantage of her and her son, yet he was also the one saying that Justin was his son, so they mustn't leave.

She felt that Herman must be schizophrenic.

She smiled in resignation and asked, "Herman, what do you mean by that?"

Herman cast his eyes down and sighed. "What I mean by that? Couldn't you have just behaved yourself, accepted your fate, and stayed in that suburban villa for the rest of your life? This way, I would never have returned to the family, and would never have fought with our son for the position of the head of the family! But look at you... You had already stayed there for the first twenty years, why did you let everything go to waste in the end?!"

Iris stared at him, finally understanding what he meant.

It was because of Herman's selfish intentions that they hadn't let her go back then!

Since he had given up Iris, then he totally could have just let go and push her into Philip's arms. Given Philip's means, he would have been able to trick Iris into staying with him eventually. But Herman hadn't! Instead, he had used Justin to keep her captive, preferring to imprison her for twenty years in a suburban villa as though she was a canary in captivity, over giving her true freedom!

She clenched her fists tightly. "Herman, you are such a despicable lowlife!"

Herman lowered his eyes and took a step forward. "I don't care whether you call me despicable or shameless, but Iris, you and your son only have two choices now."

Iris stared at him. "Go on."

Justin also looked at Herman.

Herman sighed and said, “Justin, you are my son, why would I do anything to harm you? If your mother goes to Philip and asks him to stop, then I will take it that this will doesn’t exist. My business overseas is enough for me to support myself.”

Iris took a step back.

Even now, Herman still wanted to sacrifice her.

While she was contemplating in a daze, she heard Justin’s firm and sonorous voice.

“That’s impossible. Tell me the second option.”

“You—!” Herman was practically speechless towards Justin. He pointed at him, his finger in the air for a while.

The elderly Mrs. Hunt took a step forward and held Justin’s arm. “Justin, my good grandson, just agree to it! Iris had already moved to the suburbs when you were five, and she has never taken care of you ever since. Besides, who knows if her heart had already been with Philip long ago? They are each other’s first love, so can’t you just take it that you’re giving your mother your blessings? Once she is gone, the will would be considered non-existent. All these years, it was only under your leadership that the Hunts could come this far, everyone can see that. If your father ever dares to fight with you for the position of the head of the family after your mother leaves, I will be the first to raise my voice!”

Justin looked at Mrs. Hunt as she spoke.

It was not that she did not love him.

It was just that before loving him, the Hunts’ interests mattered more than anything else!

Justin then looked at Herman.

All these years, he had hardly ever called him, nor had he ever paid any attention to him. He had just been taking advantage of him all along

From beginning to end, Iris had been the only one who did things for his sake.

Chapter 665 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

She hung up the phone. Afterward, when Mrs. Hunt made her choose between tolerating Herman or doing something else, she had decided to be selfish for once. Perhaps her rebellious streak from college times had come too late, but she decided to file for divorce. She dragged her suitcase behind her and left the house.

After that, Herman had brought Lauren home. After she came back from her trip and learned that Justin had been kidnapped and was missing, she had felt like dying.

Even with the Hunts and the Smiths' power, they couldn't find Justin. At that time, she had panicked. Her five-year-old son, no matter how high his IQ, was still just a child.

If the other party was determined to kill the hostage, then he would probably have already become a corpse by then!

She didn't dare to wait any longer. In her panic, she inexplicably thought of what Philip had once said: "... My family also has a lot of secret properties in America, it's just that most people don't know that. If you ever run into trouble in America, I can also be of assistance."

She dialed Philip's phone number with trembling fingers. The man seemed very hesitant, only picking up the call after it rang for a very long time. The man smiled and said, "Do you need something? It's my wedding today. The groom can't be absent, you know." Iris didn't have the leisure to care about such things. Besides, so many years had already gone by, her feelings for him as her first love had already faded a long time ago. She immediately asked, "Can you save my son?!" Philip was startled. "What happened?"

Iris recounted the story. At last, she asked: "Aren't you very powerful in America? Can you find him?"

"Yes, I can." Philip was very confident. "But why should I help you?"

Why should he help her?

Iris had been stunned then. Indeed, why should he?

While she was in a daze, Philip said, "I'll give you two choices."

“What?”

“The first one: Fly over to my wedding now. I am still missing a bride.”

Iris thought that he must be out of his mind. She said, “My son is missing! Philip, I am not in the mood to joke around with you.”

“I’m not joking.” Philip chuckled and said, “Why should I help you for no reason?”

Iris bit her lip. At last, she took a deep breath and said, “I can’t agree to your request. I will never leave my son’s side ever again.”

Because she had gone overseas for a holiday, Justin had gone missing.

Her son needed his mother after all. She must not leave him

Moreover, her relationship with Philip was just puppy love during college. Compared with reality, she cared more about Justin. She started to cry. Her voice was choked with sobs as she said, “Philip, please, I’m begging

you.”

The other end of the call was silent for a long time. In the end, Philip sneered and said, “I can find him for you, but you have to promise me something.”

“Tell me what it is!”

Philip enunciated every word carefully and said, “You can watch over your son, but I forbid you from ever getting close to him for the rest of your life. You can only look at him from a distance.”

“Iris, this is your punishment for betraying me back then.”

“... Okay, I promise you that!”

Later, Iris and Herman got divorced, Herman was kicked out of the house, and Justin became the new leader of the clan with his grandfather grooming him ever since. As for Iris, she could only hide in the villa.

She could still remember the last few words that Philip had said to her. His voice was very cold and missing any trace of emotion. He said, “Since you have agreed to my condition, then you must keep your word. Otherwise, you

know what I'm capable of, I will spare no costs to kill your son. I can save your son's life, but I can also easily crush him like an ant."

Even now, Iris still didn't know who Philip really was.

Mysterious families like his kept their identities very well-hidden. She couldn't make any contact with them at all. All she knew was that if she stayed away from Justin all her life and maintained a distant attitude toward him, then she would be able to guarantee his safety.

Therefore, that was exactly what she had been doing all these years.

The story was over.

There was no bloodshed nor intense love and hate. It was so plain and bland. In fact, when Iris mentioned Philip, she no longer felt any love for him but only fear and thoughts of her agreement with him. Iris looked at Justin. "The world's top families can control the world economy and are very terrifying existences. I have distanced myself from you all this time because I'm afraid they would destroy you and the Hunts the moment they decide to take action. To be honest, my life here all these years by myself has been very comfortable. Aging and dying alone can also be considered a kind of happiness. "Justin, you wanted to know the truth and I've already said it, but I don't want you to pursue it any further. Back then, I was the one who had let him down. After that, I even asked him to find you for me. He gave you your life, so let's just leave it at that." Seemingly because she had come clean about everything that had happened back then, Iris breathed a sigh of relief. She lowered her head. "You don't have to become enemies with him for my sake. After all, I am already an old woman in my autumn years."

After she said that, she slowly closed her eyes and sighed deeply.

Nora looked at her. She was actually very shocked, though she pretended to be nonchalant on the surface.

When Iris was young, she must have been very gentle and a big pushover, right?

That was why she had given in to her family's arrangements back then.

But was her mistake really so big?

Didn't Philip hold any responsibility for why they weren't together? They had already been in a relationship for several years, so why didn't he tell her his identity and his background?

Also...

Weren't there a few too many powerful people in the world?!

The mysterious organization's forces already spanned throughout the world, and now there was another mysterious mega-corporation? All her life, she had only been concerned with sleeping every day and also felt that it would do as long as she made enough to survive. It was only now that she suddenly realized that she was actually... so poor! While Nora's imagination was running wild, Iris' cell phone suddenly rang again. It was still that same unfamiliar number.

If Nora wasn't wrong, then he was likely Philip.

Sure enough, at the sight of the phone number, Iris' pupils shrank slightly and fear arose in her again.

She wanted to pick up the phone and switch it off, but before she could touch it, a big well-defined hand took the phone.

Iris' head whipped up abruptly and she looked at Justin incredulously.

Justin looked at her firmly. His voice was calm and steady, and he seemed capable of protecting Iris from everything in the world. He said, "Let me."

Iris shook her head.

She was very scared.

Although the Hunts were powerful, they were really no match for globally powerful families that had hundreds—even a thousand-of years of history.

She swallowed. "Justin, forget it."

Justin could understand her fear and panic. His mother was worried that she would affect the Hunts because of her own affairs, but she didn't know that he had another identity that was powerful enough to make him fearless.

It was just that due to certain reasons, he couldn't reveal that identity of his.

He lowered his head and said, "Mom, don't be scared."

After saying that, he picked up the cell phone, got up, and answered the call. A deep and pleasant male voice traveled over through the phone: "Iris, you have broken our agreement."

Nora stood beside Iris.

She held Iris' shoulders and looked fixedly at Justin.

Justin said into the phone, "From now on, I will be the one to fulfill that agreement."

The original agreement was that Iris would age and die alone in the suburban villa as punishment. If she couldn't restrain herself and got close to her son, then Philip would take action against the Hunts and Justin.

When Justin said that he would fulfill the agreement, the man immediately understood what he meant.

Philip sneered, "Heh, that weak little boy from back then has grown up and become independent, hasn't he? In that case, I'll teach you how to behave."

As soon as he said that, Iris panicked. She rushed forward and shouted, "Philip, come right at me if you want! Don't do anything to the child, you..."

But before she could finish, Philip snapped, "Iris, that's enough!"

Iris was taken aback.

Philip smiled and said, "Aren't you just saying that because you're very sure that I won't do anything to you? Now that the kid has grown up, you can't blame me for being nasty anymore!"

He hung up right after saying that.

Iris: "..."

The disconnected tone from the phone resounded in the depths of her heart like the bangs of a drum, making her feel terribly flustered. She swallowed and looked up at Justin, feeling like she had become the sinner of the Hunts.

The most mysterious megacorp was about to take action against her son.

Iris grabbed Justin's arm. She wanted to say that she would go and apologize to the other party, but when the words reached the tip of her tongue, she couldn't bring herself to say them-because if she did, then it would be no different from her throwing her own pride onto the ground and trampling on it.

Iris took a deep breath.

Just as she was filled with worry and trepidation, she saw Justin walk around her and look at Nora. He asked, "Nora, are you scared?"

Nora raised her brows. The Hunts had offended the most mysterious megacorp in the world, which sounded pretty exciting. Also, if Justin really lost everything, then wouldn't Pete's status as the next head of the family become useless?

But...

She broke into a grin and raised her eyes slightly. "It's okay, if you go bankrupt, I'll support you..."

After saying that, she spotted Iris, so the rest of her words did a U-turn in her mouth and she added, "... guys."

Justin: "?"

He'd originally intended to tell her not to be scared, but he hadn't expected Nora to say something like that. Suddenly, it made him really feel like going bankrupt for fun.

It seemed like it wasn't that bad an idea to have a sugar mommy and be kept as a lover?

Ahem.

Iris looked at the two of them, suddenly finding herself speechless.

This must be love.

If she had trusted Philip back then, things would not have come to where they were. Now that she thought about it, so what even if she had to fight to the death with her family back then?

At most, she would have just started all over from scratch.

The woman, who was nearly fifty, was moved by the love between Nora and Justin. This inspired the greatest fighting spirit in her.

She said, "Okay, if we go bankrupt, then... we'll let Nora support us!"

Justin: "?"

The corners of his lips spasmed. Those who didn't know better would have thought that Iris was saying that she would support them after he went bankrupt!

He couldn't reveal his identity, but when he saw that the two women seemed so full of fighting spirit, he got out of his internal struggle. He smiled and said, "Don't worry, even though I would very much like to sponge off a woman, I'll refrain from trying that." He spoke solemnly. "With me around, the Hunts will not go bankrupt."

Her son's firm and confident words made Iris' flustered heart calm down.

To be honest, before she told the truth, she'd still been taking a chance.

She felt that since twenty years had gone by, perhaps Philip had already forgotten her a long time ago, or perhaps he no longer minded. But now that things had reached this point, it was useless to dwell any further on

it.

When she was young, for Justin's sake, she had suffered so many grievances and wasted twenty years of her youth in this villa.

Now that her son had grown up, it was time for him to support and protect her.

After Iris came to terms with it, she got out of her internal struggle. She suggested, "How about having a meal before you leave?"

"Nah, it's fine."

Justin rejected her. Iris nodded and said, "Well, I'm sure you have a lot of arrangements to make. In that case, go ahead!"

Justin exchanged a look with Nora when he heard this.

There were some things that Justin was too embarrassed to say, but Nora understood what he was thinking, so she said, "Well, he does have a lot to do, but the most important thing now is helping you to move out, Iris."

Iris was a little surprised.

She looked at Justin in disbelief, only to see him nodding at her.

Iris bit her lip. "S-surely there's no need for that? I've already become accustomed to living here."

"Really?" Nora was a little troubled. "But both of us will be very busy in the future. I was thinking of asking you to take care of the three children at home..."

At the mention of the children, Iris hesitated.

Nora sighed again. "Pete has been with Justin since he was a baby and has mild autism. Cherry also likes her grandmother's company very much. As for Xander, the situation is even tougher. That boy was raised by Trueman Yale, so he lacks companionship from his family and is very insecure. Sigh! I wonder if Xander will end up straying onto the wrong path in the future..." Convinced, Iris gritted her teeth at once and said, "I'll come with the two of you!"

Iris was someone whose actions spoke louder than words.

Now that they had agreed on it, she would no longer be afraid. She immediately called Mrs. Landis over to pack her things for her.

Justin held her shoulders, walked to the side, and said softly, "Mom, after you come back, you have to take over the home."

Iris wanted to refuse, but Justin said with a cold look in his eyes, "Grandma has issues with Nora. Now that Herman is back, she'll definitely waver again. She has become muddleheaded, I can't let her control the house anymore. Otherwise, when Nora marries me in the future, the family will definitely be a huge mess."

Justin sighed. "You don't understand Nora. The only thing she likes to do is sleep, and she hates troublesome things the most. If she finds out she'll have

to face so much trouble by marrying me, there's a high chance she won't marry me anymore."

Iris: "..."

Her son was being too exaggerated. Nora hadn't even uttered a single word of rebuttal despite the super huge trouble she had just caused. From that alone, one could see that Nora would never refuse to marry him just because of something as trivial as that.

However, her son was right in saying that she ought to take over the house. This way, when Nora marries into the family, there would be a lot less trouble handing over the family affairs.

Now that she could do something for them, Iris felt that her return was no longer entirely meaningless.

There were almost a hundred pots of orchids in the greenhouse. But with just a phone call from Justin, more than twenty bodyguards walked in one by one and started to move the flowers out.

Seeing them going in and out, Nora slipped over to Justin and remarked, "Pete said that you always bring more than twenty bodyguards with you when you go out. So, it really is true!"

Justin nodded. "Yeah, sometimes I bring more."

Ever since he was abducted at the age of five and subsequently rescued, Justin always traveled with this many people.

Nora glanced at him silently with a pitying look in her eyes.

Justin thought that she was feeling sorry for him because he had been kidnapped at a young age, but in the end, Nora unexpectedly said something that totally ruined the atmosphere, "Just how scared of dying are

you?!"

"???" :Justin

The night was so pleasant and the environment also so nice. There was a romantic mood in the air even till the woman had kept quiet, so how come it was ruined the moment she spoke?! The corners of his lips spasmed.

The group eventually separated.

Nora was going to the laboratory to continue her research into Xander's affairs. For her, no matter how important something was, and no matter how big the Hunts' fortune was, Xander's affairs must still be handled first.

Because it would be time for him to be injected with the V15 in another three days.

Nora had been struggling over whether or not to inject it into him.

Would he really die if he was not injected with it?

Was the gene serum really lethal, or was it more like a drug addiction where one must continuously consume it? She had to study it and find out properly before the deadline.

Besides, since Philip had said that he was going to take action against the Hunts, then it definitely was not going to be something he could accomplish with a few words.

He also needed to make preparations. It would take a few days for things to ferment. Therefore, her main task during these three days would still be to study the V15.

In the hospital.

When Nora arrived at the laboratory, Lily was analyzing the components of V15. Seeing Nora enter, Lily immediately said, "Boss, the serum's components are indeed not analyzable. It is too complex, I am afraid it will take a few years for us to study it thoroughly."

Nora was not surprised.

If the gene serum's formula was that easy to analyze, then Trueman and the others would not have pursued her mother so persistently.

Twenty-five years had already passed, yet Trueman and the others were still putting their hopes of finding clues on her. In that case, this must surely be a herculean task.

To be honest, Nora had already expected the results, but she still couldn't bring herself to terms with it.

She nodded. "I'll take over."

Lily stepped aside and Nora sat down. She held various instruments in her hands and separated the components of the serum, hoping to find clues from it.

Three days later. Nora's eyes were bloodshot and she had dark circles under her eyes.

After three consecutive days of work without any sleep, she had finally derived the V15 formula, but at the same time, her heart also sank.

It was really a gene-repairing drug and not some kind of narcotic drug.

In other words, Xander must be injected with the drug, otherwise, he would really die.

She took a deep breath.

A while later, she took out her cell phone and called Caleb, who was abroad.

As soon as the call connected, Caleb said, "Nora, I have been waiting for your call." Nora kept quiet for a while before she asked, "Is it necessary to inject him with the V15?" "Yes, it is." Caleb said, "If you don't, the reparation of the previously repaired genes won't be adequate, and his brain will explode which would surely kill him. I have already looked into it-Xander's modifications are in his brain genes. If the V15 is not injected at the stipulated time, he will die."

Nora sighed. "The V15's formula does not seem very complex."

"Yes, none of the formulas from V1 to V15 are complex. The most complex one is the V16. In addition, there are a few types of gene serums. Some improve IQ while some improve physical strength. The formulas for V1 to V15 are all different for each type of serum. The only thing they have in common is that they all need the very last V16!"

Upon hearing this, Nora's pupils shrank.

Caleb sighed. "I'm dying, so I don't need the V16 anymore. However, every genetically-modified person would need the V16 at the end. Therefore, you should know the importance of the V16 now, right?"

Nora nodded to express that she had understood.

No wonder her mother had said that she must not expose her abilities, lest she ended up being targeted.

It was possible that some of the most outstanding people in the world might just be genetically-modified humans. Additionally, there were so many people that needed the V16 as an antidote.

She suddenly felt even greater pressure.

Such a group of people looking for her, could she really obtain the V16 for Xander?

Also...

If what her mother had left behind was really the formula... If she really produced the V16, thereby removing the last restriction on successful genetic modifications, what would the world turn into?

Would someone deliberately train a group of genetically modified warriors and unify the world?

Or would human beings with genetically modified IQ genes develop at a high speed and deplete the earth's resources in a dozen years -or perhaps even just a few years?

She dared not imagine such consequences.

But with how things currently were, she didn't have the leisure to care about such things anymore either.

Nora said, "I see."

Caleb was silent for a while. Suddenly, he said, "I didn't expect Xander to also be your son. Don't worry, I will contact you in time if I find clues regarding the V16."

Nora had been trying hard to find clues from the things that her mother had left behind, but she still couldn't find any.

It would be for the best if Caleb could inform her if he found any clues.

Nora replied, "Thanks a lot."

Caleb kept quiet for a while before he finally said, "You're welcome." After hanging up the phone, Nora called Justin.

The phone only rang once before Justin answered. He asked, "How is it?"

Nora was silent for a moment. Finally, she said, "Let's inject him with it."

When Justin heard this, he knew at once that the serum was safe and could be injected as-is. But at the same time, the injection would only extend Xander's lifespan by three months.

If they still couldn't find the V16 within three months, Xander would still die. He said, "Okay." Before hanging up, Nora asked, "How is Xander?"

"He was fine the last few days, but he started having a headache when he woke up today. I've gotten the family doctor to inject him with an anesthetic, so he is now asleep." Justin explained Xander's condition, "I will inject the gene serum into him now."

"Okay, I'm on my way. Observe all of Xander's reactions after the injection."

"Okay."

Nora left and drove straight to the Hunts.

The car stopped right in front of the villa. When she went upstairs, she saw that Justin had not injected the serum into Xander yet. When he saw her, he explained, "Our medical equipment is constantly observing Xander's condition, so it won't cause any delays. I wanted you to see it with your own eyes."

Nora nodded.

There would probably be physical reactions after the injection. These were all important clues and experimental data, which might play a certain role in Nora's subsequent research and development of the V16.

This was despite Nora realizing after studying the v15 that she probably would not be able to develop the V16 in just three months with her own abilities.

Her only option now was to look for clues that her mother had left her.

Xander was lying quietly on the bed. She personally injected Xander with the V15. Little by little, the liquid was injected into his body. Xander, who had been under anesthesia, suddenly opened his eyes after the serum was injected.

His eyes were clean and clear as though he hadn't been affected at all.

He sat up in a daze. He looked at Nora and then at Justin. Then, he rubbed his head.

Justin asked nervously, "Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Xander shook his head, his big eyes filled with puzzlement. He replied, "I don't feel any discomfort. It's just that a Mathematical Olympiad problem that I was discussing with Pete yesterday has suddenly become very simple..."

This was the consequence of taking the IQ improvement gene serum.

It seemed that Xander's IQ would be the highest in the family in the future.

Nora observed all the numerical data of Xander's body. In the end, she concluded that everything about Xander's body was normal.

It was so normal that Nora even wondered if she had been fooled by Trueman.

Had she made the right decision in injecting Xander with the V15 or not?

Then, someone pushed the door open. Pete and Cherry followed behind Iris obediently, and the three came over together. When they saw Xander sitting there, all three of them released a huge pent-up breath.

The two little fellows and Iris' movements were exactly the same, which gave people a joyful feeling.

Nora and Justin looked at each other and smiled.

However, Nora's mood became increasingly

heavy.

The more one understood the gene serum, the more they would realize just how amazing it was.

It was too un-human-like.

She sighed silently.

At this moment, they suddenly heard a noise from downstairs.

Justin went downstairs and saw Herman standing there. When Herman saw him, he immediately yelled, “Justin, have you become muddleheaded? How can you let Iris move back here? Do you have any idea how big a disaster she will bring to the Hunts by moving back here?!”

Herman was furious. He pointed to Iris and said, “And you, too. Never mind that you have offended an influential person, but you still have the cheek to come back here now? Will you really only stop after you’ve implicated all the Hunts?! Leave the Hunt Manor at once! Otherwise, the Hunts will really be in huge trouble!”

Iris frowned.

With regard to that, she had no right to speak.

Justin stepped forward and asked, “Where’s the butler? Who let him in?”

The butler was wiping his sweat in silence beside him. No matter what, Herman was still Justin’s father. The bodyguards did not dare to take any real action against him when he forcibly broke in.

The butler didn’t speak. It was instead Herman who shouted angrily, “Do you know that Philip Coleman has already started to take action against the Hunts? I heard that he has been doing a large-scale acquisition of the Hunt Corporation’s shares, our share prices are rising madly right now. A lot of the shareholders have all decided to sell their shares. He has made up his mind to take over the Hunt Corporation!”

Justin calmly replied, “Yeah, I know.”

“You do? Are you sure you do?! With the shares becoming more and more expensive, we will have less and less cash flow to buy back the shares! At the

same time, we will also have fewer and fewer shares in our hands. I know you have also been dispatching people to secretly buy them, but how can the Hunts' cash flow compare to theirs? They have accumulated generations' worth of riches! No one knows how many trillions of dollars they have! Can you beat them? As far as I know, the Hunts only have a few hundred billion dollars worth of cash flow!"

Herman pointed at him. Then, he lowered his voice and said, "I have also heard another piece of important news—I heard that Philip is a member of the Imperial League. Do you know what the Imperial League is?"

"The dozen or so people in there are in control of global economic trends! The Hunts can't beat them at all! What you are doing is no different from risking the entire Hunt Corporation! Everyone already knows about this and they are all waiting to laugh at the Hunts?! Your uncle's family are also waiting for you to step down!"

After saying all that, Herman went on anxiously and angrily. "You are my son, so I will definitely have to take your side. Justin, your only option now is to drive Iris out or send her to Philip. Otherwise, you won't be able to appease his anger! Our family really can't afford to mess with them! The Imperial League! They are part of the Imperial League, you know!"

Justin frowned when he heard him say the things he shouldn't be saying, and the look in his eyes turned cold.

Herman, who didn't know that he had already hit Justin's sore spot, was still talking about how powerful Philip was.

As he spoke, Iris gradually lowered her head.

She knew that she had destroyed the family's peace and tranquility.

Just as she was suffering through her psychological ordeal, and while Herman stood on the moral high ground and criticized her...

Justin suddenly said, "So, that's why you were willing to give your wife to someone else? And even cooperate with him to act as if your son had been kidnapped?"

His simple few words made all the sounds in the room cease abruptly!

Iris' head also whipped up and she looked at them in disbelief.

Herman's mouth was still open. He was staring at him in shock because he had been exposed, and it seemed like he'd never expected Justin to say such a thing.

Iris went from being confused to being shocked. Her brows slowly drew together and she looked at Herman in disbelief. She swallowed and asked, "Justin, what do you mean?"

Herman immediately shouted, "Justin, don't you dare make false accusations!"

Justin lowered his eyes. "I didn't want to thoroughly embarrass you, but since you insist on getting into the line of fire, then let's just speak frankly here!"

He looked at Herman and said, "When Philip Coleman visited the house as a guest and talked about his ex-girlfriend, you already knew that the ex-girlfriend he was talking about was Mom, right?"

Herman didn't admit it, but he suddenly didn't dare to look at Iris. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Justin sneered, "In the following few years, the Hunts showed faint signs of being suppressed. During those few years, the Smiths also gradually gained the upper hand, and it looked like they would soon surpass us and become the number one family in New York, didn't it?"

Herman immediately said, "That's because Ian Smith is very impressive, whereas I don't have any talent for business!"

"Is that so?"

Justin cast his eyes down. "The Hunts do not have the custom of only letting the eldest son or people from the direct lineage inherit the title of the head of the family. Although you were a bit of a jerk back then, Grandpa had chosen you. He must have a reason for doing so, right? Uncle Raymond, as well as my other uncles, were eyeing your position, yet they couldn't take it from you. Why was that? Is it also because you don't have any talent for business?"

Herman choked.

Justin continued to speak with a contemptuous smile on his face. “Outsiders all say that the elderly Mr. Smith had placed all his energy and focus into the company during those few times because of the heartbreak he’d suffered, but he had been in a total daze at that time, so how could he possibly have had such great ambitions?”

Feeling that there was nothing to live for anymore, Ian had sought death at one point. He hadn’t even cared about his family property anymore and had given everything to his nephew.

In fact, one could even say that before Nora’s return, he hadn’t even considered adopting Joel as his son. Instead, he was just giving it away.

Even if Ian had turned his sorrow into motivation after Yvette’s departure, it was still impossible for him to really want to expand and develop the Smith Corporation. He would only casually work for the Smith Corporation out of sheer boredom.

But even when Ian was in a bad state of mind, the Hunts had gone from bad to worse. In addition, during that time, his grandfather had still been around and had been the person in charge of the Hunts. Herman hadn’t taken over the family yet!

Herman was not at all as incompetent as what outsiders made him out to be. Otherwise, how would it have been possible for him to take Lauren with him to another country, start from zero, and achieve what he had currently accomplished in just twenty years?

That’s right, Herman and Lauren already had a successful business abroad. The fact that Lauren had immediately organized such a large orchid exhibition when she’d only just returned to the country was enough proof of their current economic strength. Moreover, there was something that Justin had actually been unable to figure out all these years.

Even if Herman had done something wrong and cheated on his wife, would anyone really be like the old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, and drive their son out of the house but keep their grandson?

All of these were choices that the Hunts had been forced to make back then!

When the elderly Mr. Hunt and Herman felt like they had come to their wits’ end regarding the company, they immediately understood what had

happened. Thus, Herman had promptly and decisively cheated on Iris, in order to make her give up hope on him.

They'd originally thought that Philip would let them off once they sacrificed Iris, but they were wrong.

At that time, the only thing Iris had cared about was her son. When she went traveling, she'd actually run into Philip. However, she had no plans to rekindle her relationship with him.

This caused Philip to become even crueler, and he found someone to kidnap Justin!

One could say that the Hunts had abstained from taking action at that time, despite their ability to do so. The Hunts were so powerful in New York, how would they possibly be unable to find the child when he was first discovered missing?

It wasn't that they couldn't find him; rather, they hadn't searched for him at all!

By the time Iris returned and found that he was been abducted, too much time had already passed. By then, even if she sought help from the Smiths, the kidnappers would have already fled New York. Even the Smiths wouldn't be able to do anything about it!

Therefore, the Hunts had forced Iris to approach Philip.

They wanted to use Iris as a sacrificial offering

Unfortunately, Iris still didn't have any thoughts of reconciling with Philip. Instead, she reached a different agreement with him, which was to watch her son grow up in the Hunts without interfering with his life.

After the old Mr. Hunt heard about this, he realized and understood that since Philip loved Iris so deeply, he would never hurt her. Additionally, if he wanted Iris to protect the Hunts, then it would only be possible if Justin stayed in the family.

Thus, Mr. Hunt had pretended to drive away Herman, and also declared that he would take it that he never had a son like him. His purpose in driving him away was so that Herman could go overseas, start a new business, and open up a new world for the Hunts.

This was so that the Hunts could avoid a crushing defeat should something ever go wrong with Philip and he targets the Hunts in the future!

Herman might look like he had left the family without taking a cent, but when he went abroad back then, his father most certainly would have secretly given him a sum of money as start-up capital.

All of their schemes were closely linked with one another. The elderly Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, who seemingly had a deep sense of love and righteousness, were just doing all that for the sake of the Hunts.

Justin had only slowly pieced everything together after Iris told him the truth.

This was also the reason why he hadn't immediately sought revenge on Lauren for kidnapping him-because she wasn't the one who had instigated the kidnapping at all.

It was Philip!

Justin's words, like a sharp knife, cut open the Hunts' veil of pretense, exposing all of their ugly and nasty true colors.

Iris was shocked and astounded. She felt like the worldview she'd held all these years had come crashing down all around her. She thought that she had caused the Hunts huge trouble, but little did she think that the Hunts had been using her all this time?

Herman refused to admit it. "What are you talking about? I don't understand at all, you..."

"You don't understand? Is that so? In that case, shall I lay out all the evidence one by one?"

Justin's voice was low and deep, but there was a mocking smile on the corners of his lips.

Herman narrowed his eyes.

After some time, he finally dropped his pretenses. He calmly said, "Since you've already figured out everything, then take your mother with you and leave the Hunts at once

-because, I, the real head of the Hunts, am back."

Justin stared at him.

Herman lowered his head and looked at the family members who had hurried over after hearing about his return and the argument. He straightened his back. On his visage that was three parts similar to Justin's, his eyes were dark and deep.

He calmly said, "My father left all the shares in the family to me back then."

After saying this, he immediately took out a will.

Upon seeing the share transfer agreement, everyone was shocked.

When the elderly Mr. Hunt passed away, in his final words, he had only left instructions saying that Justin was to take charge of the company. Therefore, Justin had naturally inherited his shares.

With the will, though, Justin would be kicked out of the picture.

Everyone in the family fell silent. They all stared at the will and then at each other, all of them at a loss for words.

Roger said, "Uncle Herman, if a will exists, then Grandpa's shares should indeed be given to you. In that case, from today onwards, you will be the head of the Hunts!"

Some defenders of Justin said, "But is the will really valid? Who can prove it?"

Along with these words, someone supported a shaky Mrs. Hunt as she walked out. She said unhurriedly, "I can prove it."

Nora was standing upstairs and watching the intense discussion downstairs.

She clearly saw that Justin had trembled lightly when Mrs. Hunt walked out.

Nora sighed silently.

Justin might never have ever thought that his grandmother, who had raised him into an adult, would also be part of the group of people plotting against him.

How sad and lonely must that man surrounded by his so-called family members be right now?

Justin was a man who had always been scheming and inscrutable, so he didn't say anything

Iris, however, stared at the group of people. The woman, who now knew the truth, was suffering quite the mental breakdown at the moment—not for herself, but for her son!

Her entire body shook with anger, and she rushed up to Herman, stretched out her hand, and slapped him across the cheek.

Smack!

She had put all of her strength into the slap, causing Herman's head to turn to the side.

Nora saw that Herman could have avoided the slap, but he didn't. Instead, he chose to take it.

Iris screamed, "Herman Hunt, you are so despicable! Never mind that you plotted against me, but how can you plot against even your own son?!"

Herman's head was turned to the side. The handprint on his cheek quickly swelled up visibly, which went to show just how furious Iris was.

He looked at Iris calmly. "Iris, I don't mind if you blame me for this. It's all because I am too incapable. Twenty years ago, I didn't have the ability to keep you by my side; twenty years later, I still don't have the ability to keep you with me. When we got married, we had clearly vowed that we would never abandon each other for the rest of our lives, but unfortunately, you have offended someone you should not have."

When Herman said that, there was sorrow in his eyes as he gazed at Iris.

To be honest, hadn't he also loved Iris when he was young?

In fact, one could even say that he still did.

At that time, he and Ian had both courted Yvette. Later, after Yvette chose Ian, he had also been envious of the beautiful love between the two of them.

Afterward, he had met Iris.

When he saw how gentle Iris had been to the poor lad Philip, his heart had skipped a beat.

Thus, he had gotten the Hunts to approach the Evanses and propose marriage.

Everyone said that he had married Iris because he could not manage to take Yvette as his wife. The only person in New York who was comparable to Yvette at that time had been Iris.

But nobody knew that he had only courted Yvette back then just to fight with Ian. Towards Iris, however... he had truly fallen in love with her.

He hadn't expected Iris to agree to the proposal, either.

Before they got married, Iris had told him honestly that their marriage was a political one, that she had no feelings for him.

However, Herman had still insisted on getting married. At that time, he was already in love with her. He'd even vowed that he would treat her well for the rest of his life.

He just never expected Philip the pauper to suddenly transform into the head of one of the mysterious families of the world.

Back then, when the Hunts were suppressed by him, just how tormented had he been? His father had spent his entire life turning the Hunts into a big and powerful family, but before the company and family were even handed over to him, he had already implicated them...

Herman had indeed deliberately betrayed Iris, but at that time, he had also suffered great emotional torment.

Iris didn't understand the complicated look in Herman's eyes. She merely felt that the man in front of her was simply too shameless!

She stared at him. "If that was the case, then you should have made things clear to me from the start! Even if I have to leave with Justin, I would never drag the Hunts in this!"

How could Herman possibly bear to let them leave, though?

He clenched his jaw and narrowed his eyes. "You want to take Justin away? Justin is my, Herman Hunt's, son! He is a descendant of the Hunts! Are you planning to take him with you as you turn to Philip?! I won't allow it!"

Iris really couldn't understand him.

He was the one taking full advantage of her and her son, yet he was also the one saying that Justin was his son, so they mustn't leave.

She felt that Herman must be schizophrenic.

She smiled in resignation and asked, "Herman, what do you mean by that?"

Herman cast his eyes down and sighed. "What I mean by that? Couldn't you have just behaved yourself, accepted your fate, and stayed in that suburban villa for the rest of your life? This way, I would never have returned to the family, and would never have fought with our son for the position of the head of the family! But look at you... You had already stayed there for the first twenty years, why did you let everything go to waste in the end?!"

Iris stared at him, finally understanding what he meant.

It was because of Herman's selfish intentions that they hadn't let her go back then!

Since he had given up Iris, then he totally could have just let go and push her into Philip's arms. Given Philip's means, he would have been able to trick Iris into staying with him eventually. But Herman hadn't! Instead, he had used Justin to keep her captive, preferring to imprison her for twenty years in a suburban villa as though she was a canary in captivity, over giving her true freedom!

She clenched her fists tightly. "Herman, you are such a despicable lowlife!"

Herman lowered his eyes and took a step forward. "I don't care whether you call me despicable or shameless, but Iris, you and your son only have two choices now."

Iris stared at him. "Go on."

Justin also looked at Herman.

Herman sighed and said, "Justin, you are my son, why would I do anything to harm you? If your mother goes to Philip and asks him to stop, then I will take it that this will doesn't exist. My business overseas is enough for me to support myself."

Iris took a step back.

Even now, Herman still wanted to sacrifice her.

While she was contemplating in a daze, she heard Justin's firm and sonorous voice.

"That's impossible. Tell me the second option."

"You—!" Herman was practically speechless towards Justin. He pointed at him, his finger in the air for a while.

The elderly Mrs. Hunt took a step forward and held Justin's arm. "Justin, my good grandson, just agree to it! Iris had already moved to the suburbs when you were five, and she has never taken care of you ever since. Besides, who knows if her heart had already been with Philip long ago? They are each other's first love, so can't you just take it that you're giving your mother your blessings? Once she is gone, the will would be considered non-existent. All these years, it was only under your leadership that the Hunts could come this far, everyone can see that. If your father ever dares to fight with you for the position of the head of the family after your mother leaves, I will be the first to raise my voice!"

Justin looked at Mrs. Hunt as she spoke.

It was not that she did not love him.

It was just that before loving him, the Hunts' interests mattered more than anything else!

Justin then looked at Herman.

All these years, he had hardly ever called him, nor had he ever paid any attention to him. He had just been taking advantage of him all along

From beginning to end, Iris had been the only one who did things for his sake.

Chapter 666 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

He lowered his head and said, "Mom, don't be scared."

After saying that, he picked up the cell phone, got up, and answered the call. A deep and pleasant male voice traveled over through the phone: "Iris, you have broken our agreement."

Nora stood beside Iris.

She held Iris' shoulders and looked fixedly at Justin.

Justin said into the phone, "From now on, I will be the one to fulfill that agreement."

The original agreement was that Iris would age and die alone in the suburban villa as punishment. If she couldn't restrain herself and got close to her son, then Philip would take action against the Hunts and Justin.

When Justin said that he would fulfill the agreement, the man immediately understood what he meant.

Philip sneered, "Heh, that weak little boy from back then has grown up and become independent, hasn't he? In that case, I'll teach you how to behave."

As soon as he said that, Iris panicked. She rushed forward and shouted, "Philip, come right at me if you want! Don't do anything to the child, you..."

But before she could finish, Philip snapped, "Iris, that's enough!"

Iris was taken aback.

Philip smiled and said, "Aren't you just saying that because you're very sure that I won't do anything to you? Now that the kid has grown up, you can't blame me for being nasty anymore!"

He hung up right after saying that.

Iris: "..."

The disconnected tone from the phone resounded in the depths of her heart like the bangs of a drum, making her feel terribly flustered. She swallowed and looked up at Justin, feeling like she had become the sinner of the Hunts.

The most mysterious megacorp was about to take action against her son.

Iris grabbed Justin's arm. She wanted to say that she would go and apologize to the other party, but when the words reached the tip of her tongue, she couldn't bring herself to say them-because if she did, then it would be no different from her throwing her own pride onto the ground and trampling on it.

Iris took a deep breath.

Just as she was filled with worry and trepidation, she saw Justin walk around her and look at Nora. He asked, "Nora, are you scared?"

Nora raised her brows. The Hunts had offended the most mysterious megacorp in the world, which sounded pretty exciting. Also, if Justin really lost everything, then wouldn't Pete's status as the next head of the family become useless?

But...

She broke into a grin and raised her eyes slightly. "It's okay, if you go bankrupt, I'll support you..."

After saying that, she spotted Iris, so the rest of her words did a U-turn in her mouth and she added, "... guys."

Justin: "?"

He'd originally intended to tell her not to be scared, but he hadn't expected Nora to say something like that. Suddenly, it made him really feel like going bankrupt for fun.

It seemed like it wasn't that bad an idea to have a sugar mommy and be kept as a lover?

Ahem.

Iris looked at the two of them, suddenly finding herself speechless.

This must be love.

If she had trusted Philip back then, things would not have come to where they were. Now that she thought about it, so what even if she had to fight to the death with her family back then?

At most, she would have just started all over from scratch.

The woman, who was nearly fifty, was moved by the love between Nora and Justin. This inspired the greatest fighting spirit in her.

She said, "Okay, if we go bankrupt, then... we'll let Nora support us!"

Justin: "?"

The corners of his lips spasmed. Those who didn't know better would have thought that Iris was saying that she would support them after he went bankrupt!

He couldn't reveal his identity, but when he saw that the two women seemed so full of fighting spirit, he got out of his internal struggle. He smiled and said, "Don't worry, even though I would very much like to sponge off a woman, I'll refrain from trying that." He spoke solemnly. "With me around, the Hunts will not go bankrupt."

Her son's firm and confident words made Iris' flustered heart calm down.

To be honest, before she told the truth, she'd still been taking a chance.

She felt that since twenty years had gone by, perhaps Philip had already forgotten her a long time ago, or perhaps he no longer minded. But now that things had reached this point, it was useless to dwell any further on

it.

When she was young, for Justin's sake, she had suffered so many grievances and wasted twenty years of her youth in this villa.

Now that her son had grown up, it was time for him to support and protect her.

After Iris came to terms with it, she got out of her internal struggle. She suggested, "How about having a meal before you leave?"

"Nah, it's fine."

Justin rejected her. Iris nodded and said, "Well, I'm sure you have a lot of arrangements to make. In that case, go ahead!"

Justin exchanged a look with Nora when he heard this.

There were some things that Justin was too embarrassed to say, but Nora understood what he was thinking, so she said, "Well, he does have a lot to do, but the most important thing now is helping you to move out, Iris."

Iris was a little surprised.

She looked at Justin in disbelief, only to see him nodding at her.

Iris bit her lip. "S-surely there's no need for that? I've already become accustomed to living here."

"Really?" Nora was a little troubled. "But both of us will be very busy in the future. I was thinking of asking you to take care of the three children at home..."

At the mention of the children, Iris hesitated.

Nora sighed again. "Pete has been with Justin since he was a baby and has mild autism. Cherry also likes her grandmother's company very much. As for Xander, the situation is even tougher. That boy was raised by Trueman Yale, so he lacks companionship from his family and is very insecure. Sigh! I wonder if Xander will end up straying onto the wrong path in the future..." Convinced, Iris gritted her teeth at once and said, "I'll come with the two of you!"

Iris was someone whose actions spoke louder than words.

Now that they had agreed on it, she would no longer be afraid. She immediately called Mrs. Landis over to pack her things for her.

Justin held her shoulders, walked to the side, and said softly, "Mom, after you come back, you have to take over the home."

Iris wanted to refuse, but Justin said with a cold look in his eyes, "Grandma has issues with Nora. Now that Herman is back, she'll definitely waver again. She has become muddleheaded, I can't let her control the house anymore.

Otherwise, when Nora marries me in the future, the family will definitely be a huge mess.”

Justin sighed. “You don’t understand Nora. The only thing she likes to do is sleep, and she hates troublesome things the most. If she finds out she’ll have to face so much trouble by marrying me, there’s a high chance she won’t marry me anymore.”

Iris: “...”

Her son was being too exaggerated. Nora hadn’t even uttered a single word of rebuttal despite the super huge trouble she had just caused. From that alone, one could see that Nora would never refuse to marry him just because of something as trivial as that.

However, her son was right in saying that she ought to take over the house. This way, when Nora marries into the family, there would be a lot less trouble handing over the family affairs.

Now that she could do something for them, Iris felt that her return was no longer entirely meaningless.

There were almost a hundred pots of orchids in the greenhouse. But with just a phone call from Justin, more than twenty bodyguards walked in one by one and started to move the flowers out.

Seeing them going in and out, Nora slipped over to Justin and remarked, “Pete said that you always bring more than twenty bodyguards with you when you go out. So, it really is true!”

Justin nodded. “Yeah, sometimes I bring more.”

Ever since he was abducted at the age of five and subsequently rescued, Justin always traveled with this many people.

Nora glanced at him silently with a pitying look in her eyes.

Justin thought that she was feeling sorry for him because he had been kidnapped at a young age, but in the end, Nora unexpectedly said something that totally ruined the atmosphere, “Just how scared of dying are

you?!”

"???" :Justin

The night was so pleasant and the environment also so nice. There was a romantic mood in the air even till the woman had kept quiet, so how come it was ruined the moment she spoke?! The corners of his lips spasmed.

The group eventually separated.

Nora was going to the laboratory to continue her research into Xander's affairs. For her, no matter how important something was, and no matter how big the Hunts' fortune was, Xander's affairs must still be handled first.

Because it would be time for him to be injected with the V15 in another three days.

Nora had been struggling over whether or not to inject it into him.

Would he really die if he was not injected with

it?

Was the gene serum really lethal, or was it more like a drug addiction where one must continuously consume it? She had to study it and find out properly before the deadline.

Besides, since Philip had said that he was going to take action against the Hunts, then it definitely was not going to be something he could accomplish with a few words.

He also needed to make preparations. It would take a few days for things to ferment. Therefore, her main task during these three days would still be to study the V15.

In the hospital.

When Nora arrived at the laboratory, Lily was analyzing the components of V15. Seeing Nora enter, Lily immediately said, "Boss, the serum's components are indeed not analyzable. It is too complex, I am afraid it will take a few years for us to study it thoroughly."

Nora was not surprised.

If the gene serum's formula was that easy to analyze, then Trueman and the others would not have pursued her mother so persistently.

Twenty-five years had already passed, yet Trueman and the others were still putting their hopes of finding clues on her. In that case, this must surely be a herculean task.

To be honest, Nora had already expected the results, but she still couldn't bring herself to terms with it.

She nodded. "I'll take over."

Lily stepped aside and Nora sat down. She held various instruments in her hands and separated the components of the serum, hoping to find clues from it.

Three days later. Nora's eyes were bloodshot and she had dark circles under her eyes.

After three consecutive days of work without any sleep, she had finally derived the V15 formula, but at the same time, her heart also sank.

It was really a gene-repairing drug and not some kind of narcotic drug.

In other words, Xander must be injected with the drug, otherwise, he would really die.

She took a deep breath.

A while later, she took out her cell phone and called Caleb, who was abroad.

As soon as the call connected, Caleb said, "Nora, I have been waiting for your call." Nora kept quiet for a while before she asked, "Is it necessary to inject him with the V15?" "Yes, it is." Caleb said, "If you don't, the reparation of the previously repaired genes won't be adequate, and his brain will explode which would surely kill him. I have already looked into it-Xander's modifications are in his brain genes. If the V15 is not injected at the stipulated time, he will die."

Nora sighed. "The V15's formula does not seem very complex."

"Yes, none of the formulas from V1 to V15 are complex. The most complex one is the V16. In addition, there are a few types of gene serums. Some improve IQ while some improve physical strength. The formulas for V1 to V15

are all different for each type of serum. The only thing they have in common is that they all need the very last V16!”

Upon hearing this, Nora’s pupils shrank.

Caleb sighed. “I’m dying, so I don’t need the V16 anymore. However, every genetically-modified person would need the V16 at the end. Therefore, you should know the importance of the V16 now, right?”

Nora nodded to express that she had understood.

No wonder her mother had said that she must not expose her abilities, lest she ended up being targeted.

It was possible that some of the most outstanding people in the world might just be genetically-modified humans. Additionally, there were so many people that needed the V16 as an antidote.

She suddenly felt even greater pressure.

Such a group of people looking for her, could she really obtain the V16 for Xander?

Also...

If what her mother had left behind was really the formula... If she really produced the V16, thereby removing the last restriction on successful genetic modifications, what would the world turn into?

Would someone deliberately train a group of genetically modified warriors and unify the world?

Or would human beings with genetically modified IQ genes develop at a high speed and deplete the earth’s resources in a dozen years -or perhaps even just a few years?

She dared not imagine such consequences.

But with how things currently were, she didn’t have the leisure to care about such things anymore either.

Nora said, “I see.”

Caleb was silent for a while. Suddenly, he said, "I didn't expect Xander to also be your son. Don't worry, I will contact you in time if I find clues regarding the V16."

Nora had been trying hard to find clues from the things that her mother had left behind, but she still couldn't find any.

It would be for the best if Caleb could inform her if he found any clues.

Nora replied, "Thanks a lot."

Caleb kept quiet for a while before he finally said, "You're welcome." After hanging up the phone, Nora called Justin.

The phone only rang once before Justin answered. He asked, "How is it?"

Nora was silent for a moment. Finally, she said, "Let's inject him with it."

When Justin heard this, he knew at once that the serum was safe and could be injected as-is. But at the same time, the injection would only extend Xander's lifespan by three months.

If they still couldn't find the V16 within three months, Xander would still die. He said, "Okay." Before hanging up, Nora asked, "How is Xander?"

"He was fine the last few days, but he started having a headache when he woke up today. I've gotten the family doctor to inject him with an anesthetic, so he is now asleep." Justin explained Xander's condition, "I will inject the gene serum into him now."

"Okay, I'm on my way. Observe all of Xander's reactions after the injection."

"Okay."

Nora left and drove straight to the Hunts.

The car stopped right in front of the villa. When she went upstairs, she saw that Justin had not injected the serum into Xander yet. When he saw her, he explained, "Our medical equipment is constantly observing Xander's condition, so it won't cause any delays. I wanted you to see it with your own eyes."

Nora nodded.

There would probably be physical reactions after the injection. These were all important clues and experimental data, which might play a certain role in Nora's subsequent research and development of the V16.

This was despite Nora realizing after studying the v15 that she probably would not be able to develop the V16 in just three months with her own abilities.

Her only option now was to look for clues that her mother had left her.

Xander was lying quietly on the bed. She personally injected Xander with the V15. Little by little, the liquid was injected into his body. Xander, who had been under anesthesia, suddenly opened his eyes after the serum was injected.

His eyes were clean and clear as though he hadn't been affected at all.

He sat up in a daze. He looked at Nora and then at Justin. Then, he rubbed his head.

Justin asked nervously, "Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Xander shook his head, his big eyes filled with puzzlement. He replied, "I don't feel any discomfort. It's just that a Mathematical Olympiad problem that I was discussing with Pete yesterday has suddenly become very simple..."

This was the consequence of taking the IQ improvement gene serum.

It seemed that Xander's IQ would be the highest in the family in the future.

Nora observed all the numerical data of Xander's body. In the end, she concluded that everything about Xander's body was normal.

It was so normal that Nora even wondered if she had been fooled by Trueman.

Had she made the right decision in injecting Xander with the V15 or not?

Then, someone pushed the door open. Pete and Cherry followed behind Iris obediently, and the three came over together. When they saw Xander sitting there, all three of them released a huge pent-up breath.

The two little fellows and Iris' movements were exactly the same, which gave people a joyful feeling.

Nora and Justin looked at each other and smiled.

However, Nora's mood became increasingly heavy.

The more one understood the gene serum, the more they would realize just how amazing it was.

It was too un-human-like.

She sighed silently.

At this moment, they suddenly heard a noise from downstairs.

Justin went downstairs and saw Herman standing there. When Herman saw him, he immediately yelled, "Justin, have you become muddleheaded? How can you let Iris move back here? Do you have any idea how big a disaster she will bring to the Hunts by moving back here?!"

Herman was furious. He pointed to Iris and said, "And you, too. Never mind that you have offended an influential person, but you still have the cheek to come back here now? Will you really only stop after you've implicated all the Hunts?! Leave the Hunt Manor at once! Otherwise, the Hunts will really be in huge trouble!"

Iris frowned.

With regard to that, she had no right to speak.

Justin stepped forward and asked, "Where's the butler? Who let him in?"

The butler was wiping his sweat in silence beside him. No matter what, Herman was still Justin's father. The bodyguards did not dare to take any real action against him when he forcibly broke in.

The butler didn't speak. It was instead Herman who shouted angrily, "Do you know that Philip Coleman has already started to take action against the Hunts? I heard that he has been doing a large-scale acquisition of the Hunt Corporation's shares, our share prices are rising madly right now. A lot of the shareholders have all decided to sell their shares. He has made up his mind to take over the Hunt Corporation!"

Justin calmly replied, “Yeah, I know.”

“You do? Are you sure you do?! With the shares becoming more and more expensive, we will have less and less cash flow to buy back the shares! At the same time, we will also have fewer and fewer shares in our hands. I know you have also been dispatching people to secretly buy them, but how can the Hunts’ cash flow compare to theirs? They have accumulated generations’ worth of riches! No one knows how many trillions of dollars they have! Can you beat them? As far as I know, the Hunts only have a few hundred billion dollars worth of cash flow!”

Herman pointed at him. Then, he lowered his voice and said, “I have also heard another piece of important news—I heard that Philip is a member of the Imperial League. Do you know what the Imperial League is?”

“The dozen or so people in there are in control of global economic trends! The Hunts can’t beat them at all! What you are doing is no different from risking the entire Hunt Corporation! Everyone already knows about this and they are all waiting to laugh at the Hunts?! Your uncle’s family are also waiting for you to step down!”

After saying all that, Herman went on anxiously and angrily. “You are my son, so I will definitely have to take your side. Justin, your only option now is to drive Iris out or send her to Philip. Otherwise, you won’t be able to appease his anger! Our family really can’t afford to mess with them! The Imperial League! They are part of the Imperial League, you know!”

Justin frowned when he heard him say the things he shouldn’t be saying, and the look in his eyes turned cold.

Herman, who didn’t know that he had already hit Justin’s sore spot, was still talking about how powerful Philip was.

As he spoke, Iris gradually lowered her head.

She knew that she had destroyed the family’s peace and tranquility.

Just as she was suffering through her psychological ordeal, and while Herman stood on the moral high ground and criticized her...

Justin suddenly said, "So, that's why you were willing to give your wife to someone else? And even cooperate with him to act as if your son had been kidnapped?"

His simple few words made all the sounds in the room cease abruptly!

Iris' head also whipped up and she looked at them in disbelief.

Herman's mouth was still open. He was staring at him in shock because he had been exposed, and it seemed like he'd never expected Justin to say such a thing.

Iris went from being confused to being shocked. Her brows slowly drew together and she looked at Herman in disbelief. She swallowed and asked, "Justin, what do you mean?"

Herman immediately shouted, "Justin, don't you dare make false accusations!"

Justin lowered his eyes. "I didn't want to thoroughly embarrass you, but since you insist on getting into the line of fire, then let's just speak frankly here!"

He looked at Herman and said, "When Philip Coleman visited the house as a guest and talked about his ex-girlfriend, you already knew that the ex-girlfriend he was talking about was Mom, right?"

Herman didn't admit it, but he suddenly didn't dare to look at Iris. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Justin sneered, "In the following few years, the Hunts showed faint signs of being suppressed. During those few years, the Smiths also gradually gained the upper hand, and it looked like they would soon surpass us and become the number one family in New York, didn't it?"

Herman immediately said, "That's because Ian Smith is very impressive, whereas I don't have any talent for business!"

"Is that so?"

Justin cast his eyes down. "The Hunts do not have the custom of only letting the eldest son or people from the direct lineage inherit the title of the head of the family. Although you were a bit of a jerk back then, Grandpa had chosen

you. He must have a reason for doing so, right? Uncle Raymond, as well as my other uncles, were eyeing your position, yet they couldn't take it from you. Why was that? Is it also because you don't have any talent for business?"

Herman choked.

Justin continued to speak with a contemptuous smile on his face. "Outsiders all say that the elderly Mr. Smith had placed all his energy and focus into the company during those few times because of the heartbreak he'd suffered, but he had been in a total daze at that time, so how could he possibly have had such great ambitions?"

Feeling that there was nothing to live for anymore, Ian had sought death at one point. He hadn't even cared about his family property anymore and had given everything to his nephew.

In fact, one could even say that before Nora's return, he hadn't even considered adopting Joel as his son. Instead, he was just giving it away.

Even if Ian had turned his sorrow into motivation after Yvette's departure, it was still impossible for him to really want to expand and develop the Smith Corporation. He would only casually work for the Smith Corporation out of sheer boredom.

But even when Ian was in a bad state of mind, the Hunts had gone from bad to worse. In addition, during that time, his grandfather had still been around and had been the person in charge of the Hunts. Herman hadn't taken over the family yet!

Herman was not at all as incompetent as what outsiders made him out to be. Otherwise, how would it have been possible for him to take Lauren with him to another country, start from zero, and achieve what he had currently accomplished in just twenty years?

That's right, Herman and Lauren already had a successful business abroad. The fact that Lauren had immediately organized such a large orchid exhibition when she'd only just returned to the country was enough proof of their current economic strength. Moreover, there was something that Justin had actually been unable to figure out all these years.

Even if Herman had done something wrong and cheated on his wife, would anyone really be like the old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, and drive their son out of the house but keep their grandson?

All of these were choices that the Hunts had been forced to make back then!

When the elderly Mr. Hunt and Herman felt like they had come to their wits' end regarding the company, they immediately understood what had happened. Thus, Herman had promptly and decisively cheated on Iris, in order to make her give up hope on him.

They'd originally thought that Philip would let them off once they sacrificed Iris, but they were wrong.

At that time, the only thing Iris had cared about was her son. When she went traveling, she'd actually run into Philip. However, she had no plans to rekindle her relationship with him.

This caused Philip to become even crueler, and he found someone to kidnap Justin!

One could say that the Hunts had abstained from taking action at that time, despite their ability to do so. The Hunts were so powerful in New York, how would they possibly be unable to find the child when he was first discovered missing?

It wasn't that they couldn't find him; rather, they hadn't searched for him at all!

By the time Iris returned and found that he was been abducted, too much time had already passed. By then, even if she sought help from the Smiths, the kidnappers would have already fled New York. Even the Smiths wouldn't be able to do anything about it!

Therefore, the Hunts had forced Iris to approach Philip.

They wanted to use Iris as a sacrificial offering

Unfortunately, Iris still didn't have any thoughts of reconciling with Philip. Instead, she reached a different agreement with him, which was to watch her son grow up in the Hunts without interfering with his life.

After the old Mr. Hunt heard about this, he realized and understood that since Philip loved Iris so deeply, he would never hurt her. Additionally, if he wanted Iris to protect the Hunts, then it would only be possible if Justin stayed in the family.

Thus, Mr. Hunt had pretended to drive away Herman, and also declared that he would take it that he never had a son like him. His purpose in driving him away was so that Herman could go overseas, start a new business, and open up a new world for the Hunts.

This was so that the Hunts could avoid a crushing defeat should something ever go wrong with Philip and he targets the Hunts in the future!

Herman might look like he had left the family without taking a cent, but when he went abroad back then, his father most certainly would have secretly given him a sum of money as start-up capital.

All of their schemes were closely linked with one another. The elderly Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, who seemingly had a deep sense of love and righteousness, were just doing all that for the sake of the Hunts.

Justin had only slowly pieced everything together after Iris told him the truth.

This was also the reason why he hadn't immediately sought revenge on Lauren for kidnapping him-because she wasn't the one who had instigated the kidnapping at all.

It was Philip!

Justin's words, like a sharp knife, cut open the Hunts' veil of pretense, exposing all of their ugly and nasty true colors.

Iris was shocked and astounded. She felt like the worldview she'd held all these years had come crashing down all around her. She thought that she had caused the Hunts huge trouble, but little did she think that the Hunts had been using her all this time?

Herman refused to admit it. "What are you talking about? I don't understand at all, you..."

"You don't understand? Is that so? In that case, shall I lay out all the evidence one by one?"

Justin's voice was low and deep, but there was a mocking smile on the corners of his lips.

Herman narrowed his eyes.

After some time, he finally dropped his pretenses. He calmly said, "Since you've already figured out everything, then take your mother with you and leave the Hunts at once

-because, I, the real head of the Hunts, am back."

Justin stared at him.

Herman lowered his head and looked at the family members who had hurried over after hearing about his return and the argument. He straightened his back. On his visage that was three parts similar to Justin's, his eyes were dark and deep.

He calmly said, "My father left all the shares in the family to me back then."

After saying this, he immediately took out a will.

Upon seeing the share transfer agreement, everyone was shocked.

When the elderly Mr. Hunt passed away, in his final words, he had only left instructions saying that Justin was to take charge of the company. Therefore, Justin had naturally inherited his shares.

With the will, though, Justin would be kicked out of the picture.

Everyone in the family fell silent. They all stared at the will and then at each other, all of them at a loss for words.

Roger said, "Uncle Herman, if a will exists, then Grandpa's shares should indeed be given to you. In that case, from today onwards, you will be the head of the Hunts!"

Some defenders of Justin said, "But is the will really valid? Who can prove it?"

Along with these words, someone supported a shaky Mrs. Hunt as she walked out. She said unhurriedly, "I can prove it."

Nora was standing upstairs and watching the intense discussion downstairs.

She clearly saw that Justin had trembled lightly when Mrs. Hunt walked out.

Nora sighed silently.

Justin might never have ever thought that his grandmother, who had raised him into an adult, would also be part of the group of people plotting against him.

How sad and lonely must that man surrounded by his so-called family members be right now?

Justin was a man who had always been scheming and inscrutable, so he didn't say anything

Iris, however, stared at the group of people. The woman, who now knew the truth, was suffering quite the mental breakdown at the moment—not for herself, but for her son!

Her entire body shook with anger, and she rushed up to Herman, stretched out her hand, and slapped him across the cheek.

Smack!

She had put all of her strength into the slap, causing Herman's head to turn to the side.

Nora saw that Herman could have avoided the slap, but he didn't. Instead, he chose to take it.

Iris screamed, "Herman Hunt, you are so despicable! Never mind that you plotted against me, but how can you plot against even your own son?!"

Herman's head was turned to the side. The handprint on his cheek quickly swelled up visibly, which went to show just how furious Iris was.

He looked at Iris calmly. "Iris, I don't mind if you blame me for this. It's all because I am too incapable. Twenty years ago, I didn't have the ability to keep you by my side; twenty years later, I still don't have the ability to keep you with me. When we got married, we had clearly vowed that we would never abandon each other for the rest of our lives, but unfortunately, you have offended someone you should not have."

When Herman said that, there was sorrow in his eyes as he gazed at Iris.

To be honest, hadn't he also loved Iris when he was young?

In fact, one could even say that he still did.

At that time, he and Ian had both courted Yvette. Later, after Yvette chose Ian, he had also been envious of the beautiful love between the two of them.

Afterward, he had met Iris.

When he saw how gentle Iris had been to the poor lad Philip, his heart had skipped a beat.

Thus, he had gotten the Hunts to approach the Evanses and propose marriage.

Everyone said that he had married Iris because he could not manage to take Yvette as his wife. The only person in New York who was comparable to Yvette at that time had been Iris.

But nobody knew that he had only courted Yvette back then just to fight with Ian. Towards Iris, however... he had truly fallen in love with her.

He hadn't expected Iris to agree to the proposal, either.

Before they got married, Iris had told him honestly that their marriage was a political one, that she had no feelings for him.

However, Herman had still insisted on getting married. At that time, he was already in love with her. He'd even vowed that he would treat her well for the rest of his life.

He just never expected Philip the pauper to suddenly transform into the head of one of the mysterious families of the world.

Back then, when the Hunts were suppressed by him, just how tormented had he been? His father had spent his entire life turning the Hunts into a big and powerful family, but before the company and family were even handed over to him, he had already implicated them...

Herman had indeed deliberately betrayed Iris, but at that time, he had also suffered great emotional torment.

Iris didn't understand the complicated look in Herman's eyes. She merely felt that the man in front of her was simply too shameless!

She stared at him. "If that was the case, then you should have made things clear to me from the start! Even if I have to leave with Justin, I would never drag the Hunts in this!"

How could Herman possibly bear to let them leave, though?

He clenched his jaw and narrowed his eyes. "You want to take Justin away? Justin is my, Herman Hunt's, son! He is a descendant of the Hunts! Are you planning to take him with you as you turn to Philip?! I won't allow it!"

Iris really couldn't understand him.

He was the one taking full advantage of her and her son, yet he was also the one saying that Justin was his son, so they mustn't leave.

She felt that Herman must be schizophrenic.

She smiled in resignation and asked, "Herman, what do you mean by that?"

Herman cast his eyes down and sighed. "What I mean by that? Couldn't you have just behaved yourself, accepted your fate, and stayed in that suburban villa for the rest of your life? This way, I would never have returned to the family, and would never have fought with our son for the position of the head of the family! But look at you... You had already stayed there for the first twenty years, why did you let everything go to waste in the end?!"

Iris stared at him, finally understanding what he meant.

It was because of Herman's selfish intentions that they hadn't let her go back then!

Since he had given up Iris, then he totally could have just let go and push her into Philip's arms. Given Philip's means, he would have been able to trick Iris into staying with him eventually. But Herman hadn't! Instead, he had used Justin to keep her captive, preferring to imprison her for twenty years in a suburban villa as though she was a canary in captivity, over giving her true freedom!

She clenched her fists tightly. "Herman, you are such a despicable lowlife!"

Herman lowered his eyes and took a step forward. "I don't care whether you call me despicable or shameless, but Iris, you and your son only have two choices now."

Iris stared at him. "Go on."

Justin also looked at Herman.

Herman sighed and said, "Justin, you are my son, why would I do anything to harm you? If your mother goes to Philip and asks him to stop, then I will take it that this will doesn't exist. My business overseas is enough for me to support myself."

Iris took a step back.

Even now, Herman still wanted to sacrifice her.

While she was contemplating in a daze, she heard Justin's firm and sonorous voice.

"That's impossible. Tell me the second option."

"You—!" Herman was practically speechless towards Justin. He pointed at him, his finger in the air for a while.

The elderly Mrs. Hunt took a step forward and held Justin's arm. "Justin, my good grandson, just agree to it! Iris had already moved to the suburbs when you were five, and she has never taken care of you ever since. Besides, who knows if her heart had already been with Philip long ago? They are each other's first love, so can't you just take it that you're giving your mother your blessings? Once she is gone, the will would be considered non-existent. All these years, it was only under your leadership that the Hunts could come this far, everyone can see that. If your father ever dares to fight with you for the position of the head of the family after your mother leaves, I will be the first to raise my voice!"

Justin looked at Mrs. Hunt as she spoke.

It was not that she did not love him.

It was just that before loving him, the Hunts' interests mattered more than anything else!

Justin then looked at Herman.

All these years, he had hardly ever called him, nor had he ever paid any attention to him. He had just been taking advantage of him all along

From beginning to end, Iris had been the only one who did things for his sake.

Chapter 667 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Nora sighed again. "Pete has been with Justin since he was a baby and has mild autism. Cherry also likes her grandmother's company very much. As for Xander, the situation is even tougher. That boy was raised by Trueman Yale, so he lacks companionship from his family and is very insecure. Sigh! I wonder if Xander will end up straying onto the wrong path in the future..." Convinced, Iris gritted her teeth at once and said, "I'll come with the two of you!"

Iris was someone whose actions spoke louder than words.

Now that they had agreed on it, she would no longer be afraid. She immediately called Mrs. Landis over to pack her things for her.

Justin held her shoulders, walked to the side, and said softly, "Mom, after you come back, you have to take over the home."

Iris wanted to refuse, but Justin said with a cold look in his eyes, "Grandma has issues with Nora. Now that Herman is back, she'll definitely waver again. She has become muddleheaded, I can't let her control the house anymore. Otherwise, when Nora marries me in the future, the family will definitely be a huge mess."

Justin sighed. "You don't understand Nora. The only thing she likes to do is sleep, and she hates troublesome things the most. If she finds out she'll have to face so much trouble by marrying me, there's a high chance she won't marry me anymore."

Iris: "..."

Her son was being too exaggerated. Nora hadn't even uttered a single word of rebuttal despite the super huge trouble she had just caused. From that alone, one could see that Nora would never refuse to marry him just because of something as trivial as that.

However, her son was right in saying that she ought to take over the house. This way, when Nora marries into the family, there would be a lot less trouble handing over the family affairs.

Now that she could do something for them, Iris felt that her return was no longer entirely meaningless.

There were almost a hundred pots of orchids in the greenhouse. But with just a phone call from Justin, more than twenty bodyguards walked in one by one and started to move the flowers out.

Seeing them going in and out, Nora slipped over to Justin and remarked, "Pete said that you always bring more than twenty bodyguards with you when you go out. So, it really is true!"

Justin nodded. "Yeah, sometimes I bring more."

Ever since he was abducted at the age of five and subsequently rescued, Justin always traveled with this many people.

Nora glanced at him silently with a pitying look in her eyes.

Justin thought that she was feeling sorry for him because he had been kidnapped at a young age, but in the end, Nora unexpectedly said something that totally ruined the atmosphere, "Just how scared of dying are

you?!"

"???" :Justin

The night was so pleasant and the environment also so nice. There was a romantic mood in the air even till the woman had kept quiet, so how come it was ruined the moment she spoke?! The corners of his lips spasmed.

The group eventually separated.

Nora was going to the laboratory to continue her research into Xander's affairs. For her, no matter how important something was, and no matter how big the Hunts' fortune was, Xander's affairs must still be handled first.

Because it would be time for him to be injected with the V15 in another three days.

Nora had been struggling over whether or not to inject it into him.

Would he really die if he was not injected with it?

Was the gene serum really lethal, or was it more like a drug addiction where one must continuously consume it? She had to study it and find out properly before the deadline.

Besides, since Philip had said that he was going to take action against the Hunts, then it definitely was not going to be something he could accomplish with a few words.

He also needed to make preparations. It would take a few days for things to ferment. Therefore, her main task during these three days would still be to study the V15.

In the hospital.

When Nora arrived at the laboratory, Lily was analyzing the components of V15. Seeing Nora enter, Lily immediately said, "Boss, the serum's components are indeed not analyzable. It is too complex, I am afraid it will take a few years for us to study it thoroughly."

Nora was not surprised.

If the gene serum's formula was that easy to analyze, then Trueman and the others would not have pursued her mother so persistently.

Twenty-five years had already passed, yet Trueman and the others were still putting their hopes of finding clues on her. In that case, this must surely be a herculean task.

To be honest, Nora had already expected the results, but she still couldn't bring herself to terms with it.

She nodded. "I'll take over."

Lily stepped aside and Nora sat down. She held various instruments in her hands and separated the components of the serum, hoping to find clues from it.

Three days later. Nora's eyes were bloodshot and she had dark circles under her eyes.

After three consecutive days of work without any sleep, she had finally derived the V15 formula, but at the same time, her heart also sank.

It was really a gene-repairing drug and not some kind of narcotic drug.

In other words, Xander must be injected with the drug, otherwise, he would really die.

She took a deep breath.

A while later, she took out her cell phone and called Caleb, who was abroad.

As soon as the call connected, Caleb said, "Nora, I have been waiting for your call." Nora kept quiet for a while before she asked, "Is it necessary to inject him with the V15?" "Yes, it is." Caleb said, "If you don't, the reparation of the previously repaired genes won't be adequate, and his brain will explode which would surely kill him. I have already looked into it-Xander's modifications are in his brain genes. If the V15 is not injected at the stipulated time, he will die."

Nora sighed. "The V15's formula does not seem very complex."

"Yes, none of the formulas from V1 to V15 are complex. The most complex one is the V16. In addition, there are a few types of gene serums. Some improve IQ while some improve physical strength. The formulas for V1 to V15 are all different for each type of serum. The only thing they have in common is that they all need the very last V16!"

Upon hearing this, Nora's pupils shrank.

Caleb sighed. "I'm dying, so I don't need the V16 anymore. However, every genetically-modified person would need the V16 at the end. Therefore, you should know the importance of the V16 now, right?"

Nora nodded to express that she had understood.

No wonder her mother had said that she must not expose her abilities, lest she ended up being targeted.

It was possible that some of the most outstanding people in the world might just be genetically-modified humans. Additionally, there were so many people that needed the V16 as an antidote.

She suddenly felt even greater pressure.

Such a group of people looking for her, could she really obtain the V16 for Xander?

Also...

If what her mother had left behind was really the formula... If she really produced the V16, thereby removing the last restriction on successful genetic modifications, what would the world turn into?

Would someone deliberately train a group of genetically modified warriors and unify the world?

Or would human beings with genetically modified IQ genes develop at a high speed and deplete the earth's resources in a dozen years -or perhaps even just a few years?

She dared not imagine such consequences.

But with how things currently were, she didn't have the leisure to care about such things anymore either.

Nora said, "I see."

Caleb was silent for a while. Suddenly, he said, "I didn't expect Xander to also be your son. Don't worry, I will contact you in time if I find clues regarding the V16."

Nora had been trying hard to find clues from the things that her mother had left behind, but she still couldn't find any.

It would be for the best if Caleb could inform her if he found any clues.

Nora replied, "Thanks a lot."

Caleb kept quiet for a while before he finally said, "You're welcome." After hanging up the phone, Nora called Justin.

The phone only rang once before Justin answered. He asked, "How is it?"

Nora was silent for a moment. Finally, she said, "Let's inject him with it."

When Justin heard this, he knew at once that the serum was safe and could be injected as-is. But at the same time, the injection would only extend Xander's lifespan by three months.

If they still couldn't find the V16 within three months, Xander would still die. He said, "Okay." Before hanging up, Nora asked, "How is Xander?"

"He was fine the last few days, but he started having a headache when he woke up today. I've gotten the family doctor to inject him with an anesthetic, so he is now asleep." Justin explained Xander's condition, "I will inject the gene serum into him now."

"Okay, I'm on my way. Observe all of Xander's reactions after the injection."

"Okay."

Nora left and drove straight to the Hunts.

The car stopped right in front of the villa. When she went upstairs, she saw that Justin had not injected the serum into Xander yet. When he saw her, he explained, "Our medical equipment is constantly observing Xander's condition, so it won't cause any delays. I wanted you to see it with your own eyes."

Nora nodded.

There would probably be physical reactions after the injection. These were all important clues and experimental data, which might play a certain role in Nora's subsequent research and development of the V16.

This was despite Nora realizing after studying the v15 that she probably would not be able to develop the V16 in just three months with her own abilities.

Her only option now was to look for clues that her mother had left her.

Xander was lying quietly on the bed. She personally injected Xander with the V15. Little by little, the liquid was injected into his body. Xander, who had been under anesthesia, suddenly opened his eyes after the serum was injected.

His eyes were clean and clear as though he hadn't been affected at all.

He sat up in a daze. He looked at Nora and then at Justin. Then, he rubbed his head.

Justin asked nervously, "Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Xander shook his head, his big eyes filled with puzzlement. He replied, "I don't feel any discomfort. It's just that a Mathematical Olympiad problem that I was discussing with Pete yesterday has suddenly become very simple..."

This was the consequence of taking the IQ improvement gene serum.

It seemed that Xander's IQ would be the highest in the family in the future.

Nora observed all the numerical data of Xander's body. In the end, she concluded that everything about Xander's body was normal.

It was so normal that Nora even wondered if she had been fooled by Trueman.

Had she made the right decision in injecting Xander with the V15 or not?

Then, someone pushed the door open. Pete and Cherry followed behind Iris obediently, and the three came over together. When they saw Xander sitting there, all three of them released a huge pent-up breath.

The two little fellows and Iris' movements were exactly the same, which gave people a joyful feeling.

Nora and Justin looked at each other and smiled.

However, Nora's mood became increasingly heavy.

The more one understood the gene serum, the more they would realize just how amazing it was.

It was too un-human-like.

She sighed silently.

At this moment, they suddenly heard a noise from downstairs.

Justin went downstairs and saw Herman standing there. When Herman saw him, he immediately yelled, “Justin, have you become muddleheaded? How can you let Iris move back here? Do you have any idea how big a disaster she will bring to the Hunts by moving back here?!”

Herman was furious. He pointed to Iris and said, “And you, too. Never mind that you have offended an influential person, but you still have the cheek to come back here now? Will you really only stop after you’ve implicated all the Hunts?! Leave the Hunt Manor at once! Otherwise, the Hunts will really be in huge trouble!”

Iris frowned.

With regard to that, she had no right to speak.

Justin stepped forward and asked, “Where’s the butler? Who let him in?”

The butler was wiping his sweat in silence beside him. No matter what, Herman was still Justin’s father. The bodyguards did not dare to take any real action against him when he forcibly broke in.

The butler didn’t speak. It was instead Herman who shouted angrily, “Do you know that Philip Coleman has already started to take action against the Hunts? I heard that he has been doing a large-scale acquisition of the Hunt Corporation’s shares, our share prices are rising madly right now. A lot of the shareholders have all decided to sell their shares. He has made up his mind to take over the Hunt Corporation!”

Justin calmly replied, “Yeah, I know.”

“You do? Are you sure you do?! With the shares becoming more and more expensive, we will have less and less cash flow to buy back the shares! At the same time, we will also have fewer and fewer shares in our hands. I know you have also been dispatching people to secretly buy them, but how can the Hunts’ cash flow compare to theirs? They have accumulated generations’ worth of riches! No one knows how many trillions of dollars they have! Can you beat them? As far as I know, the Hunts only have a few hundred billion dollars worth of cash flow!”

Herman pointed at him. Then, he lowered his voice and said, “I have also heard another piece of important news—I heard that Philip is a member of the Imperial League. Do you know what the Imperial League is?”

“The dozen or so people in there are in control of global economic trends! The Hunts can’t beat them at all! What you are doing is no different from risking the entire Hunt Corporation! Everyone already knows about this and they are all waiting to laugh at the Hunts?! Your uncle’s family are also waiting for you to step down!”

After saying all that, Herman went on anxiously and angrily. “You are my son, so I will definitely have to take your side. Justin, your only option now is to drive Iris out or send her to Philip. Otherwise, you won’t be able to appease his anger! Our family really can’t afford to mess with them! The Imperial League! They are part of the Imperial League, you know!”

Justin frowned when he heard him say the things he shouldn’t be saying, and the look in his eyes turned cold.

Herman, who didn’t know that he had already hit Justin’s sore spot, was still talking about how powerful Philip was.

As he spoke, Iris gradually lowered her head.

She knew that she had destroyed the family’s peace and tranquility.

Just as she was suffering through her psychological ordeal, and while Herman stood on the moral high ground and criticized her...

Justin suddenly said, “So, that’s why you were willing to give your wife to someone else? And even cooperate with him to act as if your son had been kidnapped?”

His simple few words made all the sounds in the room cease abruptly!

Iris’ head also whipped up and she looked at them in disbelief.

Herman’s mouth was still open. He was staring at him in shock because he had been exposed, and it seemed like he’d never expected Justin to say such a thing.

Iris went from being confused to being shocked. Her brows slowly drew together and she looked at Herman in disbelief. She swallowed and asked, “Justin, what do you mean?”

Herman immediately shouted, “Justin, don’t you dare make false accusations!”

Justin lowered his eyes. “I didn’t want to thoroughly embarrass you, but since you insist on getting into the line of fire, then let’s just speak frankly here!”

He looked at Herman and said, “When Philip Coleman visited the house as a guest and talked about his ex-girlfriend, you already knew that the ex-girlfriend he was talking about was Mom, right?”

Herman didn’t admit it, but he suddenly didn’t dare to look at Iris. “What nonsense are you talking about?”

Justin sneered, “In the following few years, the Hunts showed faint signs of being suppressed. During those few years, the Smiths also gradually gained the upper hand, and it looked like they would soon surpass us and become the number one family in New York, didn’t it?”

Herman immediately said, “That’s because Ian Smith is very impressive, whereas I don’t have any talent for business!”

“Is that so?”

Justin cast his eyes down. “The Hunts do not have the custom of only letting the eldest son or people from the direct lineage inherit the title of the head of the family. Although you were a bit of a jerk back then, Grandpa had chosen you. He must have a reason for doing so, right? Uncle Raymond, as well as my other uncles, were eyeing your position, yet they couldn’t take it from you. Why was that? Is it also because you don’t have any talent for business?”

Herman choked.

Justin continued to speak with a contemptuous smile on his face. “Outsiders all say that the elderly Mr. Smith had placed all his energy and focus into the company during those few times because of the heartbreak he’d suffered, but he had been in a total daze at that time, so how could he possibly have had such great ambitions?”

Feeling that there was nothing to live for anymore, Ian had sought death at one point. He hadn't even cared about his family property anymore and had given everything to his nephew.

In fact, one could even say that before Nora's return, he hadn't even considered adopting Joel as his son. Instead, he was just giving it away.

Even if Ian had turned his sorrow into motivation after Yvette's departure, it was still impossible for him to really want to expand and develop the Smith Corporation. He would only casually work for the Smith Corporation out of sheer boredom.

But even when Ian was in a bad state of mind, the Hunts had gone from bad to worse. In addition, during that time, his grandfather had still been around and had been the person in charge of the Hunts. Herman hadn't taken over the family yet!

Herman was not at all as incompetent as what outsiders made him out to be. Otherwise, how would it have been possible for him to take Lauren with him to another country, start from zero, and achieve what he had currently accomplished in just twenty years?

That's right, Herman and Lauren already had a successful business abroad. The fact that Lauren had immediately organized such a large orchid exhibition when she'd only just returned to the country was enough proof of their current economic strength. Moreover, there was something that Justin had actually been unable to figure out all these years.

Even if Herman had done something wrong and cheated on his wife, would anyone really be like the old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, and drive their son out of the house but keep their grandson?

All of these were choices that the Hunts had been forced to make back then!

When the elderly Mr. Hunt and Herman felt like they had come to their wits' end regarding the company, they immediately understood what had happened. Thus, Herman had promptly and decisively cheated on Iris, in order to make her give up hope on him.

They'd originally thought that Philip would let them off once they sacrificed Iris, but they were wrong.

At that time, the only thing Iris had cared about was her son. When she went traveling, she'd actually run into Philip. However, she had no plans to rekindle her relationship with him.

This caused Philip to become even crueler, and he found someone to kidnap Justin!

One could say that the Hunts had abstained from taking action at that time, despite their ability to do so. The Hunts were so powerful in New York, how would they possibly be unable to find the child when he was first discovered missing?

It wasn't that they couldn't find him; rather, they hadn't searched for him at all!

By the time Iris returned and found that he was been abducted, too much time had already passed. By then, even if she sought help from the Smiths, the kidnapers would have already fled New York. Even the Smiths wouldn't be able to do anything about it!

Therefore, the Hunts had forced Iris to approach Philip.

They wanted to use Iris as a sacrificial offering

Unfortunately, Iris still didn't have any thoughts of reconciling with Philip. Instead, she reached a different agreement with him, which was to watch her son grow up in the Hunts without interfering with his life.

After the old Mr. Hunt heard about this, he realized and understood that since Philip loved Iris so deeply, he would never hurt her. Additionally, if he wanted Iris to protect the Hunts, then it would only be possible if Justin stayed in the family.

Thus, Mr. Hunt had pretended to drive away Herman, and also declared that he would take it that he never had a son like him. His purpose in driving him away was so that Herman could go overseas, start a new business, and open up a new world for the Hunts.

This was so that the Hunts could avoid a crushing defeat should something ever go wrong with Philip and he targets the Hunts in the future!

Herman might look like he had left the family without taking a cent, but when he went abroad back then, his father most certainly would have secretly given him a sum of money as start-up capital.

All of their schemes were closely linked with one another. The elderly Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, who seemingly had a deep sense of love and righteousness, were just doing all that for the sake of the Hunts.

Justin had only slowly pieced everything together after Iris told him the truth.

This was also the reason why he hadn't immediately sought revenge on Lauren for kidnapping him-because she wasn't the one who had instigated the kidnapping at all.

It was Philip!

Justin's words, like a sharp knife, cut open the Hunts' veil of pretense, exposing all of their ugly and nasty true colors.

Iris was shocked and astounded. She felt like the worldview she'd held all these years had come crashing down all around her. She thought that she had caused the Hunts huge trouble, but little did she think that the Hunts had been using her all this time?

Herman refused to admit it. "What are you talking about? I don't understand at all, you..."

"You don't understand? Is that so? In that case, shall I lay out all the evidence one by one?"

Justin's voice was low and deep, but there was a mocking smile on the corners of his lips.

Herman narrowed his eyes.

After some time, he finally dropped his pretenses. He calmly said, "Since you've already figured out everything, then take your mother with you and leave the Hunts at once

-because, I, the real head of the Hunts, am back."

Justin stared at him.

Herman lowered his head and looked at the family members who had hurried over after hearing about his return and the argument. He straightened his back. On his visage that was three parts similar to Justin's, his eyes were dark and deep.

He calmly said, "My father left all the shares in the family to me back then."

After saying this, he immediately took out a will.

Upon seeing the share transfer agreement, everyone was shocked.

When the elderly Mr. Hunt passed away, in his final words, he had only left instructions saying that Justin was to take charge of the company. Therefore, Justin had naturally inherited his shares.

With the will, though, Justin would be kicked out of the picture.

Everyone in the family fell silent. They all stared at the will and then at each other, all of them at a loss for words.

Roger said, "Uncle Herman, if a will exists, then Grandpa's shares should indeed be given to you. In that case, from today onwards, you will be the head of the Hunts!"

Some defenders of Justin said, "But is the will really valid? Who can prove it?"

Along with these words, someone supported a shaky Mrs. Hunt as she walked out. She said unhurriedly, "I can prove it."

Nora was standing upstairs and watching the intense discussion downstairs.

She clearly saw that Justin had trembled lightly when Mrs. Hunt walked out.

Nora sighed silently.

Justin might never have ever thought that his grandmother, who had raised him into an adult, would also be part of the group of people plotting against him.

How sad and lonely must that man surrounded by his so-called family members be right now?

Justin was a man who had always been scheming and inscrutable, so he didn't say anything

Iris, however, stared at the group of people. The woman, who now knew the truth, was suffering quite the mental breakdown at the moment—not for herself, but for her son!

Her entire body shook with anger, and she rushed up to Herman, stretched out her hand, and slapped him across the cheek.

Smack!

She had put all of her strength into the slap, causing Herman's head to turn to the side.

Nora saw that Herman could have avoided the slap, but he didn't. Instead, he chose to take it.

Iris screamed, "Herman Hunt, you are so despicable! Never mind that you plotted against me, but how can you plot against even your own son?!"

Herman's head was turned to the side. The handprint on his cheek quickly swelled up visibly, which went to show just how furious Iris was.

He looked at Iris calmly. "Iris, I don't mind if you blame me for this. It's all because I am too incapable. Twenty years ago, I didn't have the ability to keep you by my side; twenty years later, I still don't have the ability to keep you with me. When we got married, we had clearly vowed that we would never abandon each other for the rest of our lives, but unfortunately, you have offended someone you should not have."

When Herman said that, there was sorrow in his eyes as he gazed at Iris.

To be honest, hadn't he also loved Iris when he was young?

In fact, one could even say that he still did.

At that time, he and Ian had both courted Yvette. Later, after Yvette chose Ian, he had also been envious of the beautiful love between the two of them.

Afterward, he had met Iris.

When he saw how gentle Iris had been to the poor lad Philip, his heart had skipped a beat.

Thus, he had gotten the Hunts to approach the Evanses and propose marriage.

Everyone said that he had married Iris because he could not manage to take Yvette as his wife. The only person in New York who was comparable to Yvette at that time had been Iris.

But nobody knew that he had only courted Yvette back then just to fight with Ian. Towards Iris, however... he had truly fallen in love with her.

He hadn't expected Iris to agree to the proposal, either.

Before they got married, Iris had told him honestly that their marriage was a political one, that she had no feelings for him.

However, Herman had still insisted on getting married. At that time, he was already in love with her. He'd even vowed that he would treat her well for the rest of his life.

He just never expected Philip the pauper to suddenly transform into the head of one of the mysterious families of the world.

Back then, when the Hunts were suppressed by him, just how tormented had he been? His father had spent his entire life turning the Hunts into a big and powerful family, but before the company and family were even handed over to him, he had already implicated them...

Herman had indeed deliberately betrayed Iris, but at that time, he had also suffered great emotional torment.

Iris didn't understand the complicated look in Herman's eyes. She merely felt that the man in front of her was simply too shameless!

She stared at him. "If that was the case, then you should have made things clear to me from the start! Even if I have to leave with Justin, I would never drag the Hunts in this!"

How could Herman possibly bear to let them leave, though?

He clenched his jaw and narrowed his eyes. "You want to take Justin away? Justin is my, Herman Hunt's, son! He is a descendant of the Hunts! Are you planning to take him with you as you turn to Philip?! I won't allow it!"

Iris really couldn't understand him.

He was the one taking full advantage of her and her son, yet he was also the one saying that Justin was his son, so they mustn't leave.

She felt that Herman must be schizophrenic.

She smiled in resignation and asked, "Herman, what do you mean by that?"

Herman cast his eyes down and sighed. "What I mean by that? Couldn't you have just behaved yourself, accepted your fate, and stayed in that suburban villa for the rest of your life? This way, I would never have returned to the family, and would never have fought with our son for the position of the head of the family! But look at you... You had already stayed there for the first twenty years, why did you let everything go to waste in the end?!"

Iris stared at him, finally understanding what he meant.

It was because of Herman's selfish intentions that they hadn't let her go back then!

Since he had given up Iris, then he totally could have just let go and push her into Philip's arms. Given Philip's means, he would have been able to trick Iris into staying with him eventually. But Herman hadn't! Instead, he had used Justin to keep her captive, preferring to imprison her for twenty years in a suburban villa as though she was a canary in captivity, over giving her true freedom!

She clenched her fists tightly. "Herman, you are such a despicable lowlife!"

Herman lowered his eyes and took a step forward. "I don't care whether you call me despicable or shameless, but Iris, you and your son only have two choices now."

Iris stared at him. "Go on."

Justin also looked at Herman.

Herman sighed and said, "Justin, you are my son, why would I do anything to harm you? If your mother goes to Philip and asks him to stop, then I will take it that this will doesn't exist. My business overseas is enough for me to support myself."

Iris took a step back.

Even now, Herman still wanted to sacrifice her.

While she was contemplating in a daze, she heard Justin's firm and sonorous voice.

"That's impossible. Tell me the second option."

"You—!" Herman was practically speechless towards Justin. He pointed at him, his finger in the air for a while.

The elderly Mrs. Hunt took a step forward and held Justin's arm. "Justin, my good grandson, just agree to it! Iris had already moved to the suburbs when you were five, and she has never taken care of you ever since. Besides, who knows if her heart had already been with Philip long ago? They are each other's first love, so can't you just take it that you're giving your mother your blessings? Once she is gone, the will would be considered non-existent. All these years, it was only under your leadership that the Hunts could come this far, everyone can see that. If your father ever dares to fight with you for the position of the head of the family after your mother leaves, I will be the first to raise my voice!"

Justin looked at Mrs. Hunt as she spoke.

It was not that she did not love him.

It was just that before loving him, the Hunts' interests mattered more than anything else!

Justin then looked at Herman.

All these years, he had hardly ever called him, nor had he ever paid any attention to him. He had just been taking advantage of him all along

From beginning to end, Iris had been the only one who did things for his sake.

Chapter 668 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Also...

If what her mother had left behind was really the formula... If she really produced the V16, thereby removing the last restriction on successful genetic modifications, what would the world turn into?

Would someone deliberately train a group of genetically modified warriors and unify the world?

Or would human beings with genetically modified IQ genes develop at a high speed and deplete the earth's resources in a dozen years -or perhaps even just a few years?

She dared not imagine such consequences.

But with how things currently were, she didn't have the leisure to care about such things anymore either.

Nora said, "I see."

Caleb was silent for a while. Suddenly, he said, "I didn't expect Xander to also be your son. Don't worry, I will contact you in time if I find clues regarding the V16."

Nora had been trying hard to find clues from the things that her mother had left behind, but she still couldn't find any.

It would be for the best if Caleb could inform her if he found any clues.

Nora replied, "Thanks a lot."

Caleb kept quiet for a while before he finally said, "You're welcome." After hanging up the phone, Nora called Justin.

The phone only rang once before Justin answered. He asked, "How is it?"

Nora was silent for a moment. Finally, she said, "Let's inject him with it."

When Justin heard this, he knew at once that the serum was safe and could be injected as-is. But at the same time, the injection would only extend Xander's lifespan by three months.

If they still couldn't find the V16 within three months, Xander would still die. He said, "Okay." Before hanging up, Nora asked, "How is Xander?"

"He was fine the last few days, but he started having a headache when he woke up today. I've gotten the family doctor to inject him with an anesthetic, so he is now asleep." Justin explained Xander's condition, "I will inject the gene serum into him now."

"Okay, I'm on my way. Observe all of Xander's reactions after the injection."

"Okay."

Nora left and drove straight to the Hunts.

The car stopped right in front of the villa. When she went upstairs, she saw that Justin had not injected the serum into Xander yet. When he saw her, he explained, "Our medical equipment is constantly observing Xander's condition, so it won't cause any delays. I wanted you to see it with your own eyes."

Nora nodded.

There would probably be physical reactions after the injection. These were all important clues and experimental data, which might play a certain role in Nora's subsequent research and development of the V16.

This was despite Nora realizing after studying the v15 that she probably would not be able to develop the V16 in just three months with her own abilities.

Her only option now was to look for clues that her mother had left her.

Xander was lying quietly on the bed. She personally injected Xander with the V15. Little by little, the liquid was injected into his body. Xander, who had been under anesthesia, suddenly opened his eyes after the serum was injected.

His eyes were clean and clear as though he hadn't been affected at all.

He sat up in a daze. He looked at Nora and then at Justin. Then, he rubbed his head.

Justin asked nervously, "Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Xander shook his head, his big eyes filled with puzzlement. He replied, "I don't feel any discomfort. It's just that a Mathematical Olympiad problem that I was discussing with Pete yesterday has suddenly become very simple..."

This was the consequence of taking the IQ improvement gene serum.

It seemed that Xander's IQ would be the highest in the family in the future.

Nora observed all the numerical data of Xander's body. In the end, she concluded that everything about Xander's body was normal.

It was so normal that Nora even wondered if she had been fooled by Trueman.

Had she made the right decision in injecting Xander with the V15 or not?

Then, someone pushed the door open. Pete and Cherry followed behind Iris obediently, and the three came over together. When they saw Xander sitting there, all three of them released a huge pent-up breath.

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Justin went downstairs and saw Herman standing there. When Herman saw him, he immediately yelled, “Justin, have you become muddleheaded? How can you let Iris move back here? Do you have any idea how big a disaster she will bring to the Hunts by moving back here?!”

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Justin calmly replied, “Yeah, I know.”

“You do? Are you sure you do?! With the shares becoming more and more expensive, we will have less and less cash flow to buy back the shares! At the same time, we will also have fewer and fewer shares in our hands. I know you have also been dispatching people to secretly buy them, but how can the Hunts’ cash flow compare to theirs? They have accumulated generations’ worth of riches! No one knows how many trillions of dollars they have! Can you beat them? As far as I know, the Hunts only have a few hundred billion dollars worth of cash flow!”

Herman pointed at him. Then, he lowered his voice and said, “I have also heard another piece of important news—I heard that Philip is a member of the Imperial League. Do you know what the Imperial League is?”

“The dozen or so people in there are in control of global economic trends! The Hunts can’t beat them at all! What you are doing is no different from risking the entire Hunt Corporation! Everyone already knows about this and they are all waiting to laugh at the Hunts?! Your uncle’s family are also waiting for you to step down!”

After saying all that, Herman went on anxiously and angrily. “You are my son, so I will definitely have to take your side. Justin, your only option now is to drive Iris out or send her to Philip. Otherwise, you won’t be able to appease his anger! Our family really can’t afford to mess with them! The Imperial League! They are part of the Imperial League, you know!”

Justin frowned when he heard him say the things he shouldn’t be saying, and the look in his eyes turned cold.

Herman, who didn’t know that he had already hit Justin’s sore spot, was still talking about how powerful Philip was.

As he spoke, Iris gradually lowered her head.

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Just as she was suffering through her psychological ordeal, and while Herman stood on the moral high ground and criticized her...

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She clearly saw that Justin had trembled lightly when Mrs. Hunt walked out.

Nora sighed silently.

Justin might never have ever thought that his grandmother, who had raised him into an adult, would also be part of the group of people plotting against him.

How sad and lonely must that man surrounded by his so-called family members be right now?

Justin was a man who had always been scheming and inscrutable, so he didn't say anything

Iris, however, stared at the group of people. The woman, who now knew the truth, was suffering quite the mental breakdown at the moment—not for herself, but for her son!

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He looked at Iris calmly. "Iris, I don't mind if you blame me for this. It's all because I am too incapable. Twenty years ago, I didn't have the ability to keep you by my side; twenty years later, I still don't have the ability to keep you with me. When we got married, we had clearly vowed that we would never abandon each other for the rest of our lives, but unfortunately, you have offended someone you should not have."

When Herman said that, there was sorrow in his eyes as he gazed at Iris.

To be honest, hadn't he also loved Iris when he was young?

In fact, one could even say that he still did.

At that time, he and Ian had both courted Yvette. Later, after Yvette chose Ian, he had also been envious of the beautiful love between the two of them.

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Thus, he had gotten the Hunts to approach the Evanses and propose marriage.

Everyone said that he had married Iris because he could not manage to take Yvette as his wife. The only person in New York who was comparable to Yvette at that time had been Iris.

But nobody knew that he had only courted Yvette back then just to fight with Ian. Towards Iris, however... he had truly fallen in love with her.

He hadn't expected Iris to agree to the proposal, either.

Before they got married, Iris had told him honestly that their marriage was a political one, that she had no feelings for him.

However, Herman had still insisted on getting married. At that time, he was already in love with her. He'd even vowed that he would treat her well for the rest of his life.

He just never expected Philip the pauper to suddenly transform into the head of one of the mysterious families of the world.

Back then, when the Hunts were suppressed by him, just how tormented had he been? His father had spent his entire life turning the Hunts into a big and powerful family, but before the company and family were even handed over to him, he had already implicated them...

Herman had indeed deliberately betrayed Iris, but at that time, he had also suffered great emotional torment.

Iris didn't understand the complicated look in Herman's eyes. She merely felt that the man in front of her was simply too shameless!

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How could Herman possibly bear to let them leave, though?

He clenched his jaw and narrowed his eyes. "You want to take Justin away? Justin is my, Herman Hunt's, son! He is a descendant of the Hunts! Are you planning to take him with you as you turn to Philip?! I won't allow it!"

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Even now, Herman still wanted to sacrifice her.

While she was contemplating in a daze, she heard Justin's firm and sonorous voice.

"That's impossible. Tell me the second option."

"You—!" Herman was practically speechless towards Justin. He pointed at him, his finger in the air for a while.

The elderly Mrs. Hunt took a step forward and held Justin's arm. "Justin, my good grandson, just agree to it! Iris had already moved to the suburbs when you were five, and she has never taken care of you ever since. Besides, who knows if her heart had already been with Philip long ago? They are each other's first love, so can't you just take it that you're giving your mother your blessings? Once she is gone, the will would be considered non-existent. All these years, it was only under your leadership that the Hunts could come this far, everyone can see that. If your father ever dares to fight with you for the position of the head of the family after your mother leaves, I will be the first to raise my voice!"

Justin looked at Mrs. Hunt as she spoke.

It was not that she did not love him.

It was just that before loving him, the Hunts' interests mattered more than anything else!

Justin then looked at Herman.

All these years, he had hardly ever called him, nor had he ever paid any attention to him. He had just been taking advantage of him all along

From beginning to end, Iris had been the only one who did things for his sake.

Chapter 669 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

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The elderly Mrs. Hunt took a step forward and held Justin's arm. "Justin, my good grandson, just agree to it! Iris had already moved to the suburbs when you were five, and she has never taken care of you ever since. Besides, who knows if her heart had already been with Philip long ago? They are each other's first love, so can't you just take it that you're giving your mother your blessings? Once she is gone, the will would be considered non-existent. All these years, it was only under your leadership that the Hunts could come this far, everyone can see that. If your father ever dares to fight with you for the position of the head of the family after your mother leaves, I will be the first to raise my voice!"

Justin looked at Mrs. Hunt as she spoke.

It was not that she did not love him.

It was just that before loving him, the Hunts' interests mattered more than anything else!

Justin then looked at Herman.

All these years, he had hardly ever called him, nor had he ever paid any attention to him. He had just been taking advantage of him all along

From beginning to end, Iris had been the only one who did things for his sake.

Chapter 670 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

Roger said, "Uncle Herman, if a will exists, then Grandpa's shares should indeed be given to you. In that case, from today onwards, you will be the head of the Hunts!"

Some defenders of Justin said, "But is the will really valid? Who can prove it?"

Along with these words, someone supported a shaky Mrs. Hunt as she walked out. She said unhurriedly, "I can prove it."

Nora was standing upstairs and watching the intense discussion downstairs.

She clearly saw that Justin had trembled lightly when Mrs. Hunt walked out.

Nora sighed silently.

Justin might never have ever thought that his grandmother, who had raised him into an adult, would also be part of the group of people plotting against him.

How sad and lonely must that man surrounded by his so-called family members be right now?

Justin was a man who had always been scheming and inscrutable, so he didn't say anything

Iris, however, stared at the group of people. The woman, who now knew the truth, was suffering quite the mental breakdown at the moment—not for herself, but for her son!

Her entire body shook with anger, and she rushed up to Herman, stretched out her hand, and slapped him across the cheek.

Smack!

She had put all of her strength into the slap, causing Herman's head to turn to the side.

Nora saw that Herman could have avoided the slap, but he didn't. Instead, he chose to take it.

Iris screamed, "Herman Hunt, you are so despicable! Never mind that you plotted against me, but how can you plot against even your own son?!"

Herman's head was turned to the side. The handprint on his cheek quickly swelled up visibly, which went to show just how furious Iris was.

He looked at Iris calmly. "Iris, I don't mind if you blame me for this. It's all because I am too incapable. Twenty years ago, I didn't have the ability to keep you by my side; twenty years later, I still don't have the ability to keep you with me. When we got married, we had clearly vowed that we would never abandon each other for the rest of our lives, but unfortunately, you have offended someone you should not have."

When Herman said that, there was sorrow in his eyes as he gazed at Iris.

To be honest, hadn't he also loved Iris when he was young?

In fact, one could even say that he still did.

At that time, he and Ian had both courted Yvette. Later, after Yvette chose Ian, he had also been envious of the beautiful love between the two of them.

Afterward, he had met Iris.

When he saw how gentle Iris had been to the poor lad Philip, his heart had skipped a beat.

Thus, he had gotten the Hunts to approach the Evanses and propose marriage.

Everyone said that he had married Iris because he could not manage to take Yvette as his wife. The only person in New York who was comparable to Yvette at that time had been Iris.

But nobody knew that he had only courted Yvette back then just to fight with Ian. Towards Iris, however... he had truly fallen in love with her.

He hadn't expected Iris to agree to the proposal, either.

Before they got married, Iris had told him honestly that their marriage was a political one, that she had no feelings for him.

However, Herman had still insisted on getting married. At that time, he was already in love with her. He'd even vowed that he would treat her well for the rest of his life.

He just never expected Philip the pauper to suddenly transform into the head of one of the mysterious families of the world.

Back then, when the Hunts were suppressed by him, just how tormented had he been? His father had spent his entire life turning the Hunts into a big and powerful family, but before the company and family were even handed over to him, he had already implicated them...

Herman had indeed deliberately betrayed Iris, but at that time, he had also suffered great emotional torment.

Iris didn't understand the complicated look in Herman's eyes. She merely felt that the man in front of her was simply too shameless!

She stared at him. "If that was the case, then you should have made things clear to me from the start! Even if I have to leave with Justin, I would never drag the Hunts in this!"

How could Herman possibly bear to let them leave, though?

He clenched his jaw and narrowed his eyes. "You want to take Justin away? Justin is my, Herman Hunt's, son! He is a descendant of the Hunts! Are you planning to take him with you as you turn to Philip?! I won't allow it!"

Iris really couldn't understand him.

He was the one taking full advantage of her and her son, yet he was also the one saying that Justin was his son, so they mustn't leave.

She felt that Herman must be schizophrenic.

She smiled in resignation and asked, "Herman, what do you mean by that?"

Herman cast his eyes down and sighed. “What I mean by that? Couldn’t you have just behaved yourself, accepted your fate, and stayed in that suburban villa for the rest of your life? This way, I would never have returned to the family, and would never have fought with our son for the position of the head of the family! But look at you... You had already stayed there for the first twenty years, why did you let everything go to waste in the end?!”

Iris stared at him, finally understanding what he meant.

It was because of Herman’s selfish intentions that they hadn’t let her go back then!

Since he had given up Iris, then he totally could have just let go and push her into Philip’s arms. Given Philip’s means, he would have been able to trick Iris into staying with him eventually. But Herman hadn’t! Instead, he had used Justin to keep her captive, preferring to imprison her for twenty years in a suburban villa as though she was a canary in captivity, over giving her true freedom!

She clenched her fists tightly. “Herman, you are such a despicable lowlife!”

Herman lowered his eyes and took a step forward. “I don’t care whether you call me despicable or shameless, but Iris, you and your son only have two choices now.”

Iris stared at him. “Go on.”

Justin also looked at Herman.

Herman sighed and said, “Justin, you are my son, why would I do anything to harm you? If your mother goes to Philip and asks him to stop, then I will take it that this will doesn’t exist. My business overseas is enough for me to support myself.”

Iris took a step back.

Even now, Herman still wanted to sacrifice her.

While she was contemplating in a daze, she heard Justin’s firm and sonorous voice.

“That’s impossible. Tell me the second option.”

“You—!” Herman was practically speechless towards Justin. He pointed at him, his finger in the air for a while.

The elderly Mrs. Hunt took a step forward and held Justin’s arm. “Justin, my good grandson, just agree to it! Iris had already moved to the suburbs when you were five, and she has never taken care of you ever since. Besides, who knows if her heart had already been with Philip long ago? They are each other’s first love, so can’t you just take it that you’re giving your mother your blessings? Once she is gone, the will would be considered non-existent. All these years, it was only under your leadership that the Hunts could come this far, everyone can see that. If your father ever dares to fight with you for the position of the head of the family after your mother leaves, I will be the first to raise my voice!”

Justin looked at Mrs. Hunt as she spoke.

It was not that she did not love him.

It was just that before loving him, the Hunts’ interests mattered more than anything else!

Justin then looked at Herman.

All these years, he had hardly ever called him, nor had he ever paid any attention to him. He had just been taking advantage of him all along

From beginning to end, Iris had been the only one who did things for his sake.

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Justin looked at Herman coldly. “Tell me the second option.”

Seeing him like this, Herman said angrily, “You are really so unrepentant! If you don’t agree to it, then even if it’s for the sake of the Hunts, I’ll have to come home and inherit the shares that your grandfather has left me! Justin, by then, I won’t be able to guarantee that I’ll be able to protect you and your mother! Also, the consequences of you going head-to-head with Philip will only be you overestimating your abilities.”

However, it was as if Justin hadn’t heard him.

He merely let out a contemptuous scoff.

Herman sighed. "Justin, I did care about you all these years-after all, you are my son. As long as you are willing to take a step back and send your mother to Philip, and if your mother thinks of a way, Philip won't drive the Hunts into a corner anymore. Don't worry, Dad definitely won't fight with you. I haven't been by your side all these years, sigh!"

There was finally a bit of real emotion in those words of his.

Herman was not a good person, but he was not a total villain who completely disregarded kinship either.

Justin, however, looked at him and said, "I'm glad you weren't with me when I grew up."

Herman was taken aback.

Justin said sarcastically, "After all, they all say that like father, like son. If you had been by my side, I might have also become a despicable lowlife scum like you who betrayed women in for survival."

His sarcasm made Herman's face flush!

He pointed at Justin angrily. "You! What right do you have to insult me like that?! Justin, since you refuse to listen, then don't blame your father for fighting with you! You must give me all the assets that your grandfather has left me! You also have to give me the position of the head of the family!"

Herman narrowed his eyes. "You are still too young and headstrong, so you are competitive over everything. In that case, I will take over as head of the family for a few years for you! You can inherit it again after I die! It's only right for a son to inherit his father's legacy. Don't worry, I won't leave you with nothing."

As soon as he said that, Justin said coldly, "Oh? I can give you all of Grandpa's assets, but do you think that you can become the head of the family just because you have those shares?"

Herman was taken aback. "What do you mean?"

Herman held the will in his hand. "This is a will left behind by your grandfather. This will is completely valid since he did not leave any other will when he passed away! Are you still planning to deny it?"

Justin sneered. "Of course I won't deny it. I'll give you what you want. Lawrence!"

"Yes."

Lawrence, who had appeared at the door, walked in with a share transfer agreement in his hand. He handed it to Herman. "Mr. Hunt, this is the share transfer agreement Boss prepared for you. Please sign it."

This turn of events exceeded everyone's expectations.

Everyone looked at Justin in confusion.

Lawrence explained, "Since Boss knows that you schemed against him back then, how could he not understand the reason why old sir had not left a will behind here? Boss won't take a single cent from him. He'll return it all to you. It can be considered as him repaying the Hunts for raising him!"

When Herman heard this, he felt a little ashamed.

He stared at Justin and advised again, "Justin, why are you doing this? You've worked hard for the Hunts for so many years. It no longer matters to our family how much money we have. Are you really going to watch the Hunts walk toward destruction?"

Mrs. Hunt could not bear for Justin to leave.

They did not come to force Justin to leave today. They only had one goal: to get Iris to calm Philip's anger.

Herman had feelings for Iris. No matter how reluctant he was, he still had to give her up.

Mrs. Hunt said, "Justin!"

Her old eyes were filled with tears. How could she not have feelings for a grandson she had raised with her own hands? Furthermore, no matter how outstanding her son was, her grandson was better!

Justin was more business-minded than Herman.

Making him the person in charge was the best thing for the Hunts.

Roger was shocked. “Justin, have you really thought it through?”

He had fought for the position of power his entire life, and he was going to hand it over just like that?

As the group of people was letting their thoughts run wild, Justin said, “Sign it.”

Herman could only lower his head and open the share transfer document in his hand. However, when he saw the contents, he was instantly stunned. “Justin, what do you mean by this?!”

He slammed the document on the ground. “Are you kidding me?!”

“What’s wrong?”

Mrs. Hunt was dumbfounded.

Herman pointed at the document and said, “The transfer of shares here is only 5%! Father left me 54% back then!”

Only with more than 50% of the shares could one have the right to speak.

Everyone understood this logic.

Therefore, the shares Justin had received from Old Master were 54%.

But now, he was only giving back 5%?

Justin glanced at Lawrence. When he did not speak, Lawrence began to explain endlessly, “Mr. Hunt, listen to me. We have calculated these shares very meticulously.”

Herman stared at him.

Lawrence said, “Boss took over Hunt Corporation ten years ago. Over the years, after the Hunts went public, they issued a portion of the shares to the public. The shareholders’ shares have been diluted quite a lot. Everyone in the family should know this.”

If the Hunts wanted to become powerful, they had to issue shares to finance it. Naturally, the shares in the hands of the family members would shrink.

In fact, although they called it issuing shares, and while a portion of the shares had indeed been bought by the stockholders, most of the shares had been bought by Justin himself!

That was why Justin's shares had not been diluted all these years and had remained at 51%.

Lawrence continued, "The 54% from ten years ago is less than 5% now. Boss thought that since you gave him life, he would give you a little extra."

Herman: "!!"

Herman was furious. "A hundred million from ten years ago is not the same value as a hundred million today!"

"Okay."

Lawrence said, "Boss has already exchanged it for your current value and even considered the dollar depreciation. Otherwise, you don't even have 1% of the shares."

Herman: "..."

He did not expect this outcome. He looked at Justin and said angrily, "Are you trying to take the Hunts for yourself?"

Justin said calmly, "I'm just taking back what belongs to me."

He had led the Hunts to where they were today. In ten years, the Hunts' assets had increased by a few hundred times. Although the shares of the family members had shrunk, whose money had not increased by more than a hundred times?

When he, Justin, thought of Herman and Grandpa Hunt's intentions, he instantly realized something and asked Lawrence to calculate all the money he had earned over the years.

Since he had chosen to make this public today, how could he not be prepared?

He did not care about the Hunts' money, but...

The company he casually ran could not be taken away just like that.

Herman took a deep breath.

He did not expect Justin to have such meticulous records. He could not find any mistakes in his work.

He had originally thought that Justin was not prepared, but now...

He could only get back five percent of the shares.

However, 5% was also a significant share.

Seeing his hesitation, Lawrence said, "Mr. Hunt, are you going to sign this or not? If you don't sign it, then you're giving it to my boss. That's good too. Otherwise, my boss would only have 40% of the shares left. Sigh!"

When Herman heard this, he signed it without hesitation.

After signing it, he looked up again. "Justin, don't think you'll win just because of this. You only have 46% of the shares now. You can't say anything."

With that, he raised the 5% shares in his hand and said, "As a 5% shareholder of the company, I'll cooperate with others and request to choose the chairman again. Roger! How many shares do you have?"

When Roger from the side family heard this, he said, "7%."

"How much is it? I'll buy it!"

Herman had also earned a lot of money from his overseas businesses over the past few years. He could be said to be wealthy now. He said directly, "Also, for the Hunts' shares, anyone who wants to sell them at a high price can come and look for me!"

Roger looked at Justin and then at Herman. He immediately chose the team without hesitation. "Herman, what are you saying? Damn, we have 7% of the shares. You don't have to buy it, either. I'll give you the right to speak without it!"

Wasn't it good to watch the father and son fight amongst themselves?

"Okay, let's go have a chat. Who else has more shares? My old friends from back then should still be in the company..."

Herman and the people from the side family left Justin's villa.

Mrs. Hunt stood there, her figure trembling. She looked at Justin and shouted, "Justin, I have 10% of the shares. Don't, don't blame me... If you make a decision, you can come and look for me! If I give you that 10%, you'll still be the head of the Hunts!"

With that, she left.

After everyone left, Nora said goodbye to Justin and prepared to go home to sleep.

After all, she had not rested well for a few days.

As for Justin's matters, she would talk about them when she woke up.

Iris also went upstairs to accompany the three children. After everyone left, Lawrence came in front of Justin. "Boss, you could have just given him 1% of the shares, why did you give him 5%? Now, you have less than 50%. You don't have absolute control anymore."

Justin glanced at him and said calmly, "If we don't give him some hope, will those demons show their faces?"

Lawrence: "?"

Lawrence coughed.

It turned out that Boss was planning to clean up the Hunts!

He said, "Then let's..."

Justin no longer had the lonely feeling of being betrayed. He was like the king of the world again, as if everything was under his control.

He said slowly, "Doesn't Sean have 4% of the shares? Let him spread the news that he plans to sell them and see how many people are interested in these shares!"

"Yes, sir!"

Sean's shares were his shares.

Therefore, Justin had always been holding onto 50%!

Lawrence asked, "Then about Philip..."

As soon as he said this, Justin's phone rang. He opened it and realized that it was Imperial League's chat page. Someone asked: "Who has shares of the Hunt Corporation? I'm willing to buy them at a high price."

Justin sneered when he saw this.

The person who had asked this in the group was Bear.

There were 12 people in the Imperial League. Other than King, all of them were represented by animal names. No one in the group knew each other, including King. No one was allowed to probe the others' privacy, so even King did not know who the other 11 were.

But now, Justin was certain.

Bear was Philip.

He sat on the sofa with his long legs crossed. His well-defined fingers tapped the arm of the sofa beside him. His long eyes were narrowed slightly as a dark light flashed across them.

When he saw his expression, Lawrence could not help but light a candle for Philip's funeral in his heart.

This meant that Boss was going to set up traps again!

He wondered how badly Philip would be tricked.

As he was thinking, Justin suddenly smirked and sent a message in the group: "I do."

As King, it was normal for him to own the shares of the largest company in each country.

No one in the group was suspicious.

Bear's attitude immediately became respectful. "I'll talk to you in private, sir."

Justin sat there leisurely, his expression unchanged.

At this moment, Lawrence asked, “Boss, why are you still selling your shares to him? Aren’t you afraid that you’ll lose control of the Hunts if you sell them to him?”

Lawrence knew his boss.

Justin had 51% of the shares under his name and was quite domineering in controlling the direction of the company.

However, there was still 4% under Sean’s name. In addition, Justin’s Imperial League persona also controlled 5% of the Hunts’ shares.

Boss had the shares firmly in his hands. After giving Herman 5%, it seemed like there were only 46% left. However, in reality, he still had the final say in the Hunts.

When Justin heard this, he glanced at Lawrence and smiled. “If he offers a high price for this 5% of shares, I could consider selling them.”

The Hunts was only a cover for Justin to hide his identity. Compared to the financial group he really controlled, the Hunts’ assets were simply a drop in the ocean.

Lawrence: “...”

He understood! Boss was asking for a sky-high price. As he was thinking, Sure enough, Bear sent a private message: “Could you name a price? I want those shares.”

Justin was about to extort him when another message suddenly appeared in the group.

Cat: “Can you sell them to me? I’m willing to pay a high price.”

Justin: “?”

Lawrence, who was watching secretly, was stunned. “Who is this? Isn’t Philip the one called Bear? Or is he Cat?”

Justin was also confused, but he quickly said, “No.”

He was the one who had personally invited Cat to the Imperial League. It was considered new blood in Imperial League because he did not want Imperial League to forever be controlled by those old fogeys.

Times were changing. Five years ago, he had realized that Cat had emptied a certain stock without anyone noticing. Then, she had earned 75 million dollars. The stocks had stabilized. This person was very talented in business, but she was also very restrained.

She had only earned 75 million dollars before she became invisible. After that, she was no longer greedy.

Justin had admired her very much at that time, so he personally invited her to the Imperial League.

In Imperial League, Cat rarely spoke. Justin had been observing all these years to see if there were any big dealings. After all, the information in Imperial League allowed one to win without even trying.

However, he realized that there were none at all.

This made Justin admire Cat even more. He felt that this person could resist the temptation of money.

How could he have expected that Nora did try to earn more money only because she wanted to sleep and was not free at all? Furthermore, she had always felt that 75 million dollars were enough!

Justin knew that Philip was not Cat, but he did not understand why she would suddenly come out and make trouble.

As he was thinking, someone else jumped out.

Eagle: "I want to ask about the price too. We can give it to the highest bidder."

Lawrence was confused and could not help but look at Justin. He was silent for a long time before saying, "Boss, how many people have you offended?"

Justin: "..."

He also wanted to know what was wrong with Eagle!

Bear: "No matter how much they are willing to pay, I can increase the price by 20%."

Justin stared at the Imperial League group. For the first time, he felt that things were a little out of control.

At the Smiths.

Joel stared at his phone for a moment before looking at Ian and reporting, "There's indeed someone in the group buying the shares. Dad, you're so perceptive. But is Philip really that difficult to deal with? Raising the price by 20% is simply too much."

Ian lowered his eyes and said, "Philip is definitely in the Imperial League. More than 30 years ago, I tried my best to join this group. When I entered the group, Bear was already there. The group is filled with torch flames passed down from generation to generation. When I entered the group, there were only eight people. Over the years, more people joined until there were 12 in total. Everyone in the group is a tycoon. Don't underestimate them."

Joel nodded to show that he had learned something

Ian had passed on Eagle's account to him. Everyone said that he was not Ian's child. The outside world was saying that Ian did not treat Joel as someone in power. He had only given a portion of his shares, and his shares were only handed to him to manage.

However, Joel knew in his heart that Ian had really treated him as his heir.

It was because the person in charge of the Smiths did not want to inherit those shares, but this account!

Over the years, he had been in charge of the Smiths and finally understood how important this account was.

Joel nodded respectfully.

Ian asked again, "How much liquid capital is on my account?"

Joel sighed. "It's only in tens of millions, but I still have it on my tab. Besides, I can continue to cash out a portion of it. I'll sell some shares if need be. Let's think of a way and help Justin get past this hurdle!"

After saying that, he was silent for a moment and asked, "Dad, is it possible that Justin is also in the group?"

Ian waved his hand. "There's an unwritten rule in the group. Only one person from each country can enter. There are two people from New York, but Cat is of English descent and can be considered British."

Joel sighed. "In the future, if there are any important clues or intelligence, you have to tell Justin. Otherwise, he won't be Philip's match."

"Yeah."

Ian took a deep breath. "Take care of him more in the future so that Nora can have a higher status at home!"

Joel agreed. Elsewhere, in the bedroom.

Nora lay on the bed and stared at the message in the group.

She had originally wanted to compete with him. Although she only had 75 million dollars, what if she could buy 0.01% of the shares?

In the end, she was too tired. She fainted in the blink of an eye and did not open her eyes again.

When she woke up again, three days had passed.

She stretched lazily. When she went downstairs, she happened to see Simon and Melissa downstairs talking to Ian. There was even Justin sitting beside her.

Simon: "...I have some cash here too. Although it's not much, it's still a token of my sincerity. However, when we buy the Hunts' shares, we have to write Nora's name. Justin, don't think too much about it. After all, you're not married yet. Of course, I don't mean for you to be controlled by Nora."

Justin said humbly, "Uncle, it's not necessary for the time being."

However, Melissa called out his name. "Although it's said that husband and wife should have the same heart without thoughts of profiting, and we're not trying to sow discord, a woman indeed can't rely on a man. With these shares, even if you have a change of heart in the future, you would have to consider it carefully."

Justin: "..."

Change of heart?

How was that possible? What he was worried about now was that Nora would have a change of heart!

He waved his hand and said, "Melissa, I can't have a change of heart."

He was high and mighty and would make anyone lower his head no matter who saw him. Only Ian and Joel could sit on equal footing with him, but right now, he was just a junior!

Justin sighed silently. He was just here to see if Nora was awake. Why did he coincidentally bump into Simon and Melissa?

As he was thinking, Ian smiled confidently. "Even without the Hunts' shares, Nora won't be bullied in the Hunts. Don't worry, the Smiths have confidence!"

This behavior stunned them.

Simon thought about it and suddenly realized something. He originally did not plan to mention it, but he looked at Justin and whispered, "Could it be that the Smiths really knows that big shot like in the legends?"

Melissa was stunned. "What big shot?"

Simon smiled. "We're all jokingly talking about a legend. It's said that the richest man in the world keeps a very low profile. Outside, everyone calls him King."

Melissa was stunned. "Is there really such a person?"

Simon shook his head. "I don't know about that. I'll have to ask Ian."

However, Ian revealed a deep smile and did not speak.

Simon immediately understood and looked at Justin. "You're really lucky, kid. If that's the case, even if you're really chased out by the Hunts, you can rely on the business opportunity your father-in-law got from King to start over! Don't be afraid!"

Justin: "???"

Nora, who was upstairs: ???

Nora had never felt very anxious about earning money.

She was Cat, she was in the Imperial League group. A casual investment based on some information would earn her a lot. Why should she be persistent?

But now, she realized that someone from the Smiths was also in the Imperial League chat?

Who was it?

The corners of her mouth immediately twitched. Could Eagle actually be Joel?

From their previous conversation, she had once determined that Eagle was an American, and among them, the first person who could enter Imperial League was Justin.

Last time, she wanted to ask Justin if he knew King, but when she probed him, he said was not Eagle.

It turned out that Justin was not in the group?

However

King was the creator of that group. It was said that before technology became so advanced, they already had special contacts.

Imperial League had been established for hundreds of years.

Nora went downstairs.

When the people downstairs heard the commotion, they all looked up. When they saw Nora, Justin suddenly stood up and said, "You're awake?"

"Yes."

Nora had just replied when Justin looked at the kitchen and said, "Wait a minute. I'll see if they've cooked anything."

After sleeping for three days without eating, she should definitely eat something soft to digest when she woke up.

Justin entered the Smiths' kitchen and acted like he was familiar with it. Simon and Melissa looked at each other.

Melissa nodded in satisfaction.

When Ian saw this scene, his eyes were also filled with satisfaction.

Simon even whispered, "When he heard that Ian knew King, Justin's attitude became even more respectful." Ian had a proud look on his face as he looked at Nora. "Did you see that? This is the power of our family! This kid probably won't dare to bully you again!"

ter

Nora: ""

For some reason, she felt that the reason Justin was suddenly so enthusiastic was that he felt a little guilty.

But what was he feeling guilty about?

At the thought of this, Ian sighed. "We can only buy them from Hunt Corporation's insiders in the country. King didn't sell his shares to me. He sold them to Philip!"

Nora suddenly recalled that she was trying to buy the shares in the group three days ago!

When she woke up, her bidding had turned cold?

She immediately sat on the sofa and casually took out her phone. She opened it and looked at the Imperial League chat group. She realized that for the first time, there were fifty-plus messages.

These fifty-plus messages were sent by Bear and Eagle.

The two of them continued to raise the price, wanting to buy five percent of Hunt Corporation's shares from King.

From the normal 1.5 billion dollars at the beginning, they had increased the bid to 15 billion!

Nora: "!"

The Hunts were worth tens of billions, but this was only five percent of the shares. In the end, they sold it to Bear for 45 billion!

This was simply ten times the market price!

The corners of Nora's mouth twitched. She felt that this group of people was crazy. She also felt that she was lucky to have fallen asleep. Otherwise, she would have felt even poorer.

Why was she only worth 75 million dollars

As she was sighing, Ian said, "The price of tens of billions is ridiculous. However, I had a grudge against Philip back then. Unfortunately, King sold it to Philip."

Simon said directly, "Why did King sell it to him but not to you?"

Ian sighed silently. "Actually, King knows very well how much money every company has. There are only a few such people in New York. How can they compare to Philip? King must think that we're too poor. Sigh!"

Justin, who was walking out with the porridge, instantly fell silent when he heard this."

He really did not!

Although he looked down on the Hunts' assets, he did not dare to look down on his father-in-law!

He instantly felt even more guilty. He was afraid that his father-in-law would have something against him if he knew that he was King. He hurriedly carried the porridge to Nora and handed it to her.

Nora took it. After taking two sips, she suddenly asked, "Dad, who is that King?"

Although she had only joined Imperial League five years ago, she had actually been very curious about King for a long time.

The people in the group were especially in awe of him. Furthermore, Old Maddy had said last time that only with King's support and trust would she have the power to fight the mysterious organization.

But now, she did not even know who King was and what was going on with Imperial League!

Hearing her question, Ian said, "King's identity is very mysterious. It's said that this identity can be traced back to hundreds of years ago. I've only heard about the news here. His consortium is low-key and huge. Some even say that one-tenth of the global wealth belongs to his consortium.

However, their financial group is anonymous. No one knows which companies they have their hands in. For example, everyone should know about the Hunts' shares, but no one knew that five percent belonged to King.

As for King himself, no one has seen his true face. I heard that he lives in a castle. There are thousands of beautiful women in the palace, and he has thousands of sons to choose his next heir from."

Justin: "?"

Why didn't he know that he had thousands of sons?!

The corners of his mouth twitched. He was about to explain when Ian smiled. "Of course, this is all nonsense. It's all speculation about King. After all, he has so much money. I think his life has already reached its peak."

Ian thought about it for a moment before saying, "According to my guess, although their consortiums earn money, they're also limited. Otherwise, they wouldn't have to be so low-key. Besides, King's legacy is very strange. Their legacy every generation is very peaceful. You can't feel the change in King in the group at all. I once suspected that King had never changed. He's an old monster who has lived for a hundred years. After all, technology and medicine are so advanced now. It shouldn't be difficult to live a long life, right?"

Justin: ""

Nora was even more curious by Ian's words. "Don't you have a guess as to who King is? Aren't there only a few richest men in the world?"

Ian shook his head, indicating that he did not know. Even those people did not seem like King

The corners of Justin's mouth twitched as he listened to them guess who he was in front of him.

But when he thought of the reason he became King, he lowered his eyes and sighed.

After the few people were done discussing, Justin and Nora went upstairs and finally had time to themselves.

Justin was about to tease her, but he was grabbed by Nora. She asked, "Do you know who King is?"

Justin was slightly stunned when he heard this and subconsciously said, "I don't know." "Okay."

Justin retorted, "Is something the matter?"

"Not really. I just wanted to find out since Dad sounded so mysterious."

Nora did not doubt it. After all, when Ian and the others mentioned King downstairs, she realized that Eagle was Joel, not Justin. This meant that Justin might not be in the group at all.

He was quite pitiful. So, she shouldn't mention this topic to agitate him?

Thinking of this, Nora changed the topic. "Are you really okay? If you need help, just tell me directly."

"No, it's fine."

Justin thought that she was going to ask him for help. But even if she wanted to look for King for help, he could not reveal his identity.

It would be very dangerous if this identity was revealed.

Perhaps instead of helping Nora, he might end up hurting her.

This was also why he had lived in New York for so many years as Justin Hunt alone. After all, no one would associate the person in control of the number one family in New York with King.

The number one power in New York had always lived in public. No matter where he went, his exact whereabouts could be found.

At the thought of this, Justin lowered his eyes and said, "From the legends I've heard of King, I learned that if you want his help with something, he is a very easygoing person. You can get Joel to convey your thoughts."

Nora glanced at him.

She thought that she could deliver the message herself without needing to ask Joel, but she decided not to continue this conversation. She changed the topic again. "How has Xander been these past few days?"

After analyzing Xander's gene serum without any sleep for three days and injecting him with the drug, Nora fell asleep for three days after realizing that all his vital signs were normal.

When she woke up, she was most concerned about Xander's health.

"He's fine."

Justin thought about it and replied cautiously.

Nora immediately sensed the meaning. "That means something has happened?"

Justin sighed and rubbed his forehead. "I only tested his intelligence and realized that it's gotten higher. His intelligence is even higher than Pete and Cherry's."

Pete was an extremely smart child. Otherwise, he would not have learned the Math Olympiad questions at the age of five. Those questions were very difficult even for university students.

Cherry was also a representative of high intelligence. She could not calm down. Nora could only let her play games to divert her attention and make her hyperactivity better over the years.

Contrary to these two, Xander had always lived beside Trueman. Nora did not know him very well.

His intelligence surpassed Pete and Cherry's?

Nora was silent for a moment before finally sighing deeply. "Genetic medicine is indeed a good thing." Justin also nodded. "This temptation is really too difficult for humans to resist. Who doesn't want to strengthen their bodies?"

Who doesn't want to have outstanding intelligence? We will definitely face many temptations in the future."

At this point, he suddenly asked, "Nora, if you successfully find the V16, will you take it?"

Nora curved her lips and smiled. "I'm already one of the smartest people in the world. Why bother? Besides, humans should respect evolution. The current level of human technology and research are not enough to support a sudden arrival of highly intelligent humans."

Hearing her words, Justin smiled. "What if that gene serum really succeeds and can extend one's life?"

Nora was fine.

She had been a Buddhist her entire life. It was enough for her to have enough money to survive and have her relatives by her side. Furthermore, even if she passed away, she would only be sleeping endlessly.

She was not scared of it.

She waved her hand casually. "Not interested. I'll change my clothes. Let's go see Xander."

"Okay."

The two of them stood opposite each other. Nora looked at him for a long time before pointing at the door. "Aren't you going out?"

Justin smiled. "Our children are already five years old. We're a couple. Do you still care about this?"

Nora: ""

This man was getting more and more shameless.

She turned around and seemed to be walking to the cloakroom. When Justin strode forward, planning to follow her, she suddenly turned around and kicked him in the chest.

Justin subconsciously stepped back and reached out to block, but he was kicked two steps back by Nora and he went straight out the door.

The next moment, “Smash!”

The door was closed. Nora’s cold and low voice came from inside. “Be good. Wait outside.”

“ Tsk.”

Justin looked at his hand and could not help but laugh softly. Nora was actually shy.

A minute later, Nora changed into a black windbreaker and went out.

She seemed to prefer black. This coat was especially wide on her. Coupled with her slender figure, she looked especially stylish.

As Justin watched, his eyes darkened.

The two of them went downstairs and greeted Ian before leaving.

On the way to the Hunts to see Xander, Nora switched on her phone. She secretly turned to her side and opened the Imperial League chat group. She had originally planned to see what kind of investment opportunities there were, but as soon as she entered, she saw Bear mocking Eagle?

Bear: “If you don’t have money, don’t come making trouble next time @Eagle.”

Philip came back to his senses. He knew that he had been tricked into making a bid of 45 billion dollars, but he did not dare vent his anger on King. So he aimed it at Joel?

According to her brother’s character, he would definitely ignore him.

However, when Nora went out, she had seen that Ian had logged in to his account, so the eagle in the group was now Ian. If it was Ian, then

Sure enough, there was an argument in the group.

Eagle: “Why? Are you getting angry out of humiliation? If you don’t want to buy that 5% of the shares, you can transfer it to me. Heh, you regret buying it? You can’t afford to lose, but you don’t dare to argue with King. You only know how to talk big here?”

Nora: ""

Ian's words were really provocative, but it was satisfying!

Bear: "Heh, King sold his shares to me because he knew you didn't have the money. You don't have to sow discord here. I'll never have any objections to King. King should know that you can't afford them, so he sold his shares to me."

Eagle: "Hehe, 45 billion for 5% of the shares. Only a fool would buy it. What are you so proud of?"

Bear grabbed the opportunity immediately: "What do you mean only fools would buy it? Are you saying that King tricked me? You're the one who's being disrespectful to King!"

Nora: "!"

It was all over.

Ian was counter-attacked!

In the end, King had sold his shares to Philip and not to Eagle. This showed his attitude. Besides, King had just received Philip's 45 billion dollars. He was definitely biased toward Philip.

Philip had just made a few casual remarks. Would King have something against Ian?

King had a high status in Imperial League and his words were final. How was Ian going to talk in the group in the future?

Nora frowned.

Ian clearly sensed this too and said in the group: "I have no objections to Mr. King. You're the one who started the argument today."

Bear: "You called me stupid for making the deal yesterday. Aren't you saying that King tricked me? @King, say something fair."

Let King speak?

If King spoke up, he would definitely side with Bear!

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Was there a need to think about that? Who would admit that they had scammed others when doing business?

Nora pursed her lips and thought about how to say something in the group to draw this matter to an end. However, Philip began to be aggressive.

Bear: "Purchasing 5% of the Hunts' shares for 45 billion dollars is indeed a few times higher than the market value. But Mr. King definitely has no intention of extorting me. Isn't it all because you're bidding against me here? This is a fair transaction. The highest bidder gets it. How can you judge Mr. King like this?"

Nora: "!!"

Eagle: "I have no doubts about Mr. King's impartiality. You don't have to sow discord here."

Bear: "Who's sowing the discord here? Who brought this up in the group first? Mr. King, what do you think?"

At this moment, someone came out to agree. Rabbit: "I swear that the highest bidder got it yesterday. There's no unfairness. Mr. King is absolutely fair in handling things."

Wolf: "Mr. King is absolutely fair."

A row of people below echoed.

Finally, Bear sent another message: "Did you see that? Eagle, you should apologize to Mr. King and to me!"

The matter became heated. While Nora was anxious, the car arrived at the Hunts.

Nora was still thinking about what to do. At this moment, King, who had been silent all along, suddenly reacted.

It was obvious that King had taken advantage of the two families fighting to raise the price in the deal three days ago. The final beneficiary was King.

No matter how he looked at it, he could not admit that he had been unfair and had lied to Bear. Therefore, Philip was certain that King had targeted Ian in the group.

The others could not say that the deal was unfair.

Ian instantly became the target.

If King were to appear now, he would definitely be on Philip's side.

Nora was thinking about how to help Ian resolve the situation and make the atmosphere less awkward when she saw

King: "Would a normal person spend 45 billion dollars on the Hunts' shares that are only worth a few billions?"

The others echoed King and instantly sent a message to the group.

Rabbit: "King is right."

Wolf: "King is right."

Nora was also typing a message. "Eagle also isn't saying that King is unfair. It's clearly Bear who is stirring trouble in the group' She was typing and wanted to say a few words for Ian when she suddenly realized the meaning of King's message. She was stunned and confused.

Why was this King acting a bit different than his usual self?!

He had clearly made a killing three days ago and taken advantage of Bear, but now he was still coming out to mock him? This was completely against his principle of peace!

He was simply making enemies.

Nora was taken aback.

In the distant Smith Villa, Ian was stunned. He was prepared to express that this was not what he meant. At most, he would apologize to King and Bear.

After all, everyone in the group was a big shot. Furthermore, in the past, even if King did not smooth things over, he did warn them to be careful with their words.

But—why had King suddenly become so straight?

When he said this, Ian was really stunned.

Philip, who was overseas, was even more stunned.

After spending 45 billion dollars, he had actually been very unhappy. However, he did not dare to lose his temper at King, so he could only vent all his anger on Eagle.

After all, Eagle was an American. Eagle might be Justin himself.

During the period when Eagle joined the Imperial League, the Hunts were the number one family in New York.

That's why he suddenly launched an attack on him in the group. The goal was to make everyone in the group reject him.

Moreover his account was one of the first six to join the Imperial League when it was established!

Although he did not dare to be called the richest man in the world, since no one knew how much money King had, Philip was indeed invincible overseas.

Even King had given him some face in the past. In the group, if King was first, Philip would be second.

Therefore, no one had expected King to suddenly attack Philip.

What did that mean?

Philip was furious. "King, did you send the wrong message? Or was your account hacked? What do you mean?"

Nora was also thinking about what King meant when she saw him throw another sentence into the group. "It means that your IQ is very low."

The group instantly fell silent.

After all, if the first and second big shots fought, who would dare to interrupt?

Even Ian was confused for a moment.

King sent another message: "I'm selling my shares to you not because Eagle is poor, but because he's smarter than you and not easy to cheat."

In the Smiths' villa, when Ian saw this sentence, he could not help but sit up straight. There was a look of satisfaction on his face from being recognized.

He smiled and sent a message in the group.

Eagle: "Mr. King, you think too highly of me." King: "You're worth it, sir."

Everyone: "??!"

Why did the word "sir" suddenly become so meaningful?

The people in the group instantly fell silent.

In the past, Eagle did not receive much respect in the group. After all, he was considered a newcomer in the group.

But now, King spoke so highly of Eagle. Could it be that King had instructed Eagle to raise the price yesterday and his goal was to cheat Bear?

This

Bear was furious. "King, what do you mean?"

King: "What's the point of bullying a small family in New York? What are the principles of the Imperial League? You openly tried to break them, don't blame me for being merciless!"

The principles of the Imperial League

Nora thought about it. Imperial League's group page clearly said that they were not to bully the weak.

But!

First of all, was Justin weak?

Secondly! Over the years, Imperial League had wanted to expand its influence, so how could it not have bullied others?

Everyone was in control of the global economy, so they were all fine. Why did King suddenly mention this principle?

Everyone was confused.

However, Philip was indeed Philip.

Offending King would not end well for him.

The reason King had dominant status in the group was that he was the leader.

He was the one who was leading everyone forward step by step. Philip had to give him face. Therefore, when he saw that King had given a reasonable explanation, Philip did not dare to probe further. He lowered his head in the group. "I forgot to explain. I have a personal grudge with the Hunts."

King: "Since it's a personal grudge, then these 45 billion dollars are worth it."

Bear: "You're right."

Through the screen, Nora could feel Philip's anger. However, his forbearance made Nora alert again.

At Philip's level, it was easy for him to toy with people.

Just like how he could imprison Iris for 20 years with one thought!

However, it was precisely such a person who was used to being arrogant, but he was being so adaptable. He was indeed one of the rulers of the few mysterious families in the world!

Seeing that there were no more messages in the group, Nora finally put down her phone.

When she looked up again, she heard Cherry call out "Mommy" in a childish voice. Cherry was usually a bootlicker and had a sweet mouth, but she always felt that her words were not sincere.

However, the one who was the most clingy to Nora was Cherry.

After not seeing her for three days, the little fellow did not even play games anymore. She hugged Nora's thigh and did not let go. "Mommy, I miss you so much, I didn't eat or drink well these past few days!" Pete, who ran over with

her, reminded her, "That's called not wanting to eat or drink. Besides, I don't think you ate any less."

Cherry immediately looked at him and explained boldly, "That's why I didn't say I didn't eat, I said I didn't eat well!"

Pete: ""

Nora touched Pete's head and then looked at Xander, who was sitting on the sofa and looking over eagerly.

The little guy was very proud. He was clearly looking over, but he still pretended not to care. It was funny.

Nora walked over and rubbed his head. "Does Xander miss Mommy?"

"Tsk!" Xander rolled his eyes. "You're too mushy. I'm not that childish!"

Although he said that, he did not pull his head away from her.

Pete immediately rolled his eyes. "Then who is it that asks almost every day why Mommy sleeps for so long?"

Xander: "?"

His face turned red instantly and he snorted. "I was afraid she would die!"

"You're not allowed to curse Mommy!" Cherry looked fierce.

Pete frowned as well. "Don't say such nonsense. How could Mommy die? You're talking nonsense!"

Xander pursed his lips. "I was just saying. It's not like she'd really"

He still did not say the word 'die'.

The three children huddled together and argued. It made Pete talk more. Cherry's ADHD had recovered even without gaming, and it also made Xander not hate this family so much.

Nora checked Xander's body again. When she saw that he was fine, she finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Justin still had some work matters to settle, so he went to the study. Nora was downstairs playing with the three children.

She looked at Xander and suddenly asked, "Xander, do you want to change your name?"

Xander was stunned and looked at her. "What name should I change? There's no need to change it. It's meaningless."

Nora hesitated and said, "But you're Justin and my child. You can choose whether you want your surname to be Smith or Hunt."

Xander immediately pursed his lips. "I don't want my surname to be Smith. I don't want my surname to be Hunt either!"

Hearing this, Nora was stunned. "Why?"

Xander's eyes instantly flickered. "Sigh, why are you so annoying?! I've been called Xander Yale for five years. Why do I have to change my name? I'm not changing!" With that, he jumped up in anger and ran upstairs.

Nora frowned.

Why was Xander so sensitive and against changing his name?

Was he hiding something?

Or was he still

Nora sighed silently. Trueman had raised him for five years. If he still had feelings for Trueman, it was really a headache. After all, she could not forcefully change Xander's thoughts and feelings.

As she was thinking, Pete said, "Mommy, don't be angry. I know why he doesn't want to change his name."

Upon hearing what Pete said, Nora asked, "Why?"

Pete sneaked a glance upstairs again, then he glanced at Cherry, who was hugging Nora's thigh, and coughed.

Before Nora could say anything, Cherry said in her young and tender voice, "I'm not leaving, Pete! I also wanna listen!"

Left with no other choice, Pete could only sigh silently. He glanced at the upper floor again before he finally said, "When Xander woke up, he overheard some people's conversation."

When Xander regained consciousness, his IQ had once again increased, and he also became more sensitive.

The young child had never had his parents by his side since he was born. Although he had just returned to the family, he could nevertheless sense the family's servants' dislike of him.

After all, he had really been very naughty previously.

He pretended to be nonchalant on the surface but had been improving his behavior in private. He went to the lower floor to play with Cherry's childish dolls with her, and also accompanied Pete and worked on Mathematical Olympiad problems together. In truth, he had also been working hard to integrate himself into the family.

But the day before, he had simply been too bored. On top of that, the little guy liked to be secretive and sneaky in everything he did, so he had sneaked into the shared toilet used by the servants at home and eavesdropped on their conversations.

This was because he had found out, after a search on the Internet, that the toilet was where one could listen to the juiciest gossip.

The little guy had squatted in the cubicle and listened to the men chatting outside.

"Did you notice that Xander's temper has improved recently?"

"That's probably because Pete and Cherry are so well-behaved that he has also become better-behaved due to their influence. He grew up elsewhere, so he has an unruly temper, but he has reined himself in now!"

"You'd better not say such things so carelessly. Mr. Hunt hates us talking about them in private!"

"I know, aren't I just telling you?"

“Well, no matter what the reason, you can say that Xander has been reformed, I suppose. But in that case, why hasn’t Mr. Hunt changed his name? Or legally registered him as part of the family yet?”

“Tsk, here, I’ll explain that to you. This is just my speculation, but you see how Cherry’s last name is Smith, right? In the future, she will probably inherit the assets that the Smiths leave for her mother. As for Pete, his last name is Hunt, and he has long been unofficially appointed as the future heir of the Hunts. If Xander changes his name, then should he take Smith or Hunt as his last name?”

“Are you saying that Mr. Hunt doesn’t plan to give him any shares?”

“Speaking of shares Do you know? The Hunts always have the final say in the Hunt Corporation because they have more than 50% of the shares firmly in their control. Although Herman and Justin have separated now, this must not happen to the next generation. Therefore, he will only give the shares to one person, so that he can guarantee that person’s absolute rights and control of the Hunt Corporation. Will he give them to Xander? Or to Pete? Who knows? The purpose of Xander’s sudden return is precisely to fight for company shares with Pete!”

“Tsk, no wonder he suddenly came back when he has already been away for so many years. That’s true, the Smith Corporation’s shares are also a large sum of money. Even if Mr. Hunt doesn’t give him any shares, Ms. Smith definitely will. He’s in for a windfall this time!”

“Exactly But little bastards like him can only fake good behavior, he definitely won’t be able to change his personality deep down inside. No matter what he does, he won’t be able to compare to Pete’s gentlemanly demeanor”

The two left the toilet as they chatted, leaving Xander dumbfounded and speechless inside. He walked out in a daze. As soon as he stepped out, he saw Pete, who was also standing outside. He must have heard what they said just now.

Xander flushed at once. In particular, as he looked at Pete, he suddenly shouted, “Don’t worry, I’m not interested in the Hunts’ assets! I also don’t have any interest in fighting for them with you! I will make all my money by myself in the future!”

After saying that, he pushed Pete away and ran to the villa.

“Later, even though he didn’t quarrel with me, he didn’t spend much time solving Mathematical Olympiad problems with me anymore. He has been playing games with Cherry the whole day today!”

Pete hung his head and spoke in disappointment.

He must have also wanted very much for Xander to play with him.

Cherry raised her head, her big dark eyes blinking as she said, “Really? Why didn’t I notice anything?”

Cherry was cute and was a sweet-talker, but she was also very insensitive. It would be a wonder if she could sense the little boy’s secretive thoughts!

All she could do was just fight others in a battle of wits. In truth, she really was rather insensitive.

However, it was also through the contrast between her and Pete that Nora had discovered something-children who grew up with their mothers would indeed have a stronger sense of happiness.

Look at Pete. He might openly say that Xander was sensitive, but wasn’t he also just as sensitive? Otherwise, how would a five-year-old possibly contemplate so many problems?!

When Nora thought of this, as well as of the two servants’ conversation, she felt a burst of anger. She lowered her head and looked down at Pete at once. “Can you recognize the two servants who were talking behind your backs?”

“Mommy, I have already looked into it!”

One could always rest assured with Pete’s way of handling things. Despite his young age, he was already capable of taking every aspect into consideration. He said, “The two of them are in charge of cleaning the garden in the backyard. One of them is Greg Lewis, the other one is Lionel Scott. They have been working for the Hunts for three years.”

Nora: “”

The corners of her lips spasmed and she couldn’t help but ask, “Since you have already found out everything, then you must also have ways of dealing with them, so why haven’t you taken any action?”

Pete's authority at home was not to be violated.

Moreover, although the boy was mildly autistic, he was not stupid. On the contrary, he was very clever.

Pete replied, "Xander must be competing with me right now. Since everyone says that I am better than him, if I step forward to defend him, he will definitely feel even more uncomfortable. Besides, isn't it the parents' responsibility to protect their children?"

Pete looked at her eagerly, "Also, I think that Xander would prefer you to protect him instead."

Nora: ""

The corners of her lips spasmed. Faced with Pete like that, she suddenly said, "Pete, be honest with me. Back then, when two of your private tutors bullied you, you hadn't resisted them. Is it because you had never thought of putting up any resistance?"

Pete lowered his head when he heard this.

He initially didn't want to explain, but he suddenly felt like opening up in this instant. He nodded and answered, "Yes. At that time, I thought that I had brought harm to my grandmother, so I didn't feel like fighting back anymore."

Nora heaved a quiet sigh.

The boy was simply too sensitive.

She took Pete's hand and walked straight out. "Come on, let's go to the garden and look for the two of them!"

As for Cherry, her eyes swiveled a little and she let go of Nora's leg. Then, she ran upstairs.

Mommy was about to unleash her prowess. How could she possibly not get Xander to watch a show as entertaining as that?

How exciting! How thrilling!

In the garden in the backyard.

Two male servants were chatting as they swept the floor.

“I saw Pete yesterday. The look in his eyes when he looked at me was just so
Why does it make me feel a little uneasy?”

“What are you thinking? Pete never gets angry, it’s fine.”

The other man whispered, “Say, do you think Pete overheard what we said
that day? After all, he was standing right outside when we stepped out”

“Heh, so what even if he heard us? We are here as cleaners by Roger Hunt’s
recommendation. Can a kid like him even fire us? Besides, even if we are
fired, we will still get a large sum of money!”

“No, Roger Hunt put us here so that we can snoop around for news, but who
would have thought that Mr. Hunt’s supervision would be so strict? We have
been here for three years, but we haven’t found any useful news at all, sigh!
If we are fired, he may not necessarily protect us.”

“Don’t worry needlessly. It’ll only embarrass him if he doesn’t protect us. Even
if it’s just to prevent himself from being embarrassed, he will still protect us.
Besides, everything we said was favorable towards Pete. I don’t think he will
spread any nonsense!”

The two, who did not notice the people walking towards them from behind,
continued speculating in low voices. “Furthermore, Mr. Hunt can barely protect
himself now. Now that his father has returned to fight for the company’s
ownership with him, he can’t be bothered to deal with us. It’s the safest for us
right now!”

“You’re right, heh heh. I wonder who will win, Mr. Hunt or his father? At the
bottom of it all, it’s all just because of Mrs. Hunt.”

“Have you seen Mrs. Hunt? She doesn’t look like a fifty-year-old at all. You
can easily say that she’s thirty; and even if you say she’s twenty, there will
probably still be people who would believe it! How can someone be so
beautiful?!”

“Women are trouble. It’s precisely because she is so pretty that things went
wrong! On top of that, she doesn’t even look old at all. What else is she, if not
a vixen?”

“Shut up!”

Nora was originally planning to listen and see what else the two of them would talk about, but in the end, they changed the subject and started talking about Iris instead.

This was intolerable.

Her fierce bark gave the two men a shock. They turned back in unison to see Nora come up to them while holding Pete’s hand.

Nora’s pretty face was tense, and there was faint anger and a pressurizing aura in her eyes. Added to this her tall and slender figure, which allowed her to stand at about the same height as the two men, her aura became increasingly strong.

They were so scared that they hurriedly lowered their heads. “Ms. Smith,” they said.

Nora narrowed her eyes and stared at them. “Badmouthing your employers behind their backs Is that what your contracts asked of you?”

The Hunts’ servants were mostly old-timers whom the Hunts were already accustomed to having around. Some of the old-timers’ family members would also work there. Although there was no such thing as indentured servitude these days, their employers would never abuse them. In fact, they treated them very well, so most of the servants in the family were very loyal.

There were some old-timers who received even better treatment, such as Fanny, who served the elderly Mrs. Hunt. She had served Mrs. Hunt her whole life, so the two were as close as sisters.

However, the servants also knew that they should protect themselves, so all of them were hired on a contractual employment system.

When the two servants were hired to clean the garden in the backyard three years ago, they had also signed employment contracts. Thus, their job scope and job requirements would definitely be stated in detail in the contracts.

The two servants looked at each other in fright. One of them said boldly, “Ms. Smith, you must have misheard. We didn’t badmouth our employers.”

The other man also recovered from his shock and stammered, “Y-yes, he’s right. We didn’t talk about our employers behind their backs. We were talking about another family, you must have misheard!”

Nora: “?”

They were really just so Were they pretending that nothing had happened when they had already been caught red-handed?

She lowered her eyes. She couldn’t be bothered to say anything else to the two, so she immediately said, “You should know very well whether or not you’ve talked about your employers behind their backs just now. As for Pete and I, we were standing right here. Heh, are you going to take the initiative to resign? Or do you want me to get someone to fire you?”

Nora was very aggressive. “If it’s the latter, then I’m afraid the two of you will end up being blacklisted. You don’t need me to explain the consequences of that, right?”

Should they be blacklisted, no one would employ them when they went job-hunting in the future.

Besides

Pete raised his head. In his big eyes, which looked just like Cherry’s, was not the latter’s cheeky cuteness but instead a scheming look. In his young and tender voice, he said, “Mommy, why are you letting them off? If we tell Daddy, the two of them will be in for it!”

What Nora said had already intimidated the two servants just now, so when they heard what Pete said, the two immediately fell onto the ground in fright.

One of them said, “Sir Pete, we realize our mistake now, sob!”

Nora stroked Pete’s hair. “Forget it, everyone makes mistakes. Let’s forgive them wherever possible!”

Upon hearing what she said, the two servants looked at each other, both swallowing hard. One of them said, “T-thank you, Ms. Smith. W-we will leave by ourselves”

Nora nodded and pointed at the door. “Get out.”

The two nodded. Then, they turned around and walked out.

When they disappeared from the garden, Xander's voice traveled over. "Hmph, are you letting them off so easily? You are such a weakling and a pushover!"

Nora cast her eyes down and heaved a silent sigh.

She squatted down and looked at Xander. "You are still young, so you don't understand how important jobs are to people. Now that the two of them have lost their jobs, they will find even feeding themselves a problem. This is already a very severe punishment."

Xander had grown up with Trueman. Nora didn't want him to become too narrow-minded. She wanted him to learn to be kind to others.

Xander sneered, "Even so, that won't do! Their punishment is too light!"

Cherry blinked. She didn't understand the ins and outs of what had happened, but even so, she immediately retorted, "Don't talk nonsense, Mommy must have her reasons for doing what she did! Mommy will definitely punish them for you!"

Pete explained, "Xander, don't worry. Do you think they will have it easy after they resign? Mommy has already said that jobs are very important to them. Do you think that people who can never find a job again in the future will be able to enjoy life?"

To be honest, punishment for talking ill of others behind their backs shouldn't have been so severe.

However, since they were Roger's pawns, how would Nora possibly be that kind?

Moreover!

Pete explained further, "Mommy can't openly do anything to them because this is a society governed by laws! They are just people that our family had hired, they are not our slaves! Besides We don't actually have the right to fire them!"

His last sentence stunned both Cherry and Xander. Both of them asked in unison, "Why?"

"Because"

Before he could finish, footsteps came from the garden's entrance again and Roger walked in with the two servants.

Roger had a smile on his face as usual. As soon as he entered, he said cheerfully, "Oh my, who is this? Isn't this Justin's fiancée? What's wrong? How did these two bastards make you so angry that you lost your temper so badly?"

The rest of Pete's words were cut off by him. He looked at Cherry and Xander, held their hands, and whispered, "That mean Uncle Roger will tell you the reason!"

Both Cherry and Xander looked at Roger in confusion.

Roger's eyes were narrowed, but he had a very gentle and amiable expression on his face. He said, "Nora, you haven't even married into the family, yet you are already throwing your weight around in the Hunts' residence? Isn't that quite inappropriate? Besides, what exactly have these two people done wrong? They kept crying and crying, so I couldn't understand what they were saying. They are, after all, people whom I recruited into the family, so you have to give me a reason for dismissing them no matter what, right? The Hunts are reasonable people, we mustn't bully them just because they are weak and powerless!"

At the sight of him, Nora cast her eyes down slightly. She said dispassionately, "They badmouthed their employers behind their backs. Isn't this reason enough?"

Roger immediately replied, "What? They actually had the audacity to badmouth their employers behind their backs? The reason is enough, of course. It is clearly written in the employee contract that they are not allowed to talk about their employers behind their backs, let alone divulge news and information about them to outsiders!"

After saying this, he looked straight at the two servants. "How can you make such a mistake when you know full well that you're not supposed to do that? If the two of you have really badmouthed your employers behind their backs,

then you will certainly have to be fired. In addition, you will also have to return the wages paid to you during the past three years as compensation!”

The moment Lionel and Greg heard this and noticed the look Roger was giving them, they got the hint. They shouted, “Mr. Roger, we are innocent!”

Roger snorted coldly. “You’re innocent? What’s the use of you crying foul here? Since my sister-in-law has said that the two of you did badmouth your employers, then she definitely has evidence to back it up! Otherwise, she would never make any baseless accusations.”

He then looked at Nora with a smile and said, “Nora, where’s the evidence? If you can produce the evidence, then I will deal with these two people right away!”

Pete sighed silently and explained to Cherry and Xander, “You saw that, right? America has labor protection laws. Even if you want to fire an employee for misconduct, you have to produce evidence of their misconduct first.”

Xander was perplexed. After all, he had grown up in a basement and didn’t know much about human relations. He asked, “But didn’t you and Mommy hear them?”

Cherry, however, had understood by then. She stamped her foot and said angrily, “Tsk, Xander, why are you so stupid? We did hear them, but they can also counter us by saying that we are lying! We have to produce factual evidence as proof! No wonder Mommy only threatened those two into resigning just now. As it turns out, it’s because Mommy doesn’t have any actual evidence!”

By this point, Xander had also understood. A look of deep thought appeared on his countenance. “So that’s how it is!”

On the other side, Roger was still looking at Nora. Seeing that she was keeping quiet with her eyes narrowed, he smiled and said, “Nora, where’s the evidence? Show us the evidence! Surely you do have evidence, right?”

Lionel and Greg changed their tunes at once. “Mr. Roger, we really didn’t speak ill of others behind their backs! Ms. Smith is just slandering us because she doesn’t like us! You mustn’t fire us. If you really do so, then we will sue you and go for judicial arbitration! The labor law will protect us!”

Upon hearing what they said, Roger looked at Nora smugly.

Seeing this, Xander whispered, “Are we going to drop the whole thing just like that?”

Xander might not understand anything else, but he did understand one thing, and that was

– Nora wanted to take action against those two people, and if she failed, it would be very embarrassing for her!

Cherry, however, blinked and said with a smile, “No way! Does Mommy look like such a weakling to you?”

Xander: “??!”

Nora hadn’t even married into the family, yet she was already punishing the Hunts’ servants who had bullied her son.

To be honest, if news of the incident spread, it really wouldn’t sound very nice,

On top of that, the worst thing was that she didn’t even succeed in doing so, which would only serve to make it look even more like she was not respected at the Hunts’ residence. This was exactly Roger’s objective.

He had fought Justin for the position of the head of the family for a lifetime, yet he’d never been able to obtain the position all this time.

Now that he finally had the opportunity to make trouble for him, Roger was really giving it his all.

He looked at Nora triumphantly and said, “Nora... you may be Justin’s fiancée, but it’s not right of you to do that! Without any evidence, how can you fire the servants so carelessly? We are no longer in ancient times. The servants are also humans, we are all equal here. We have signed contracts between us. If you must fire them, sure. You’ll just have to pay them additional wages as compensation. Shall I ask the Finance Department to give them the extra wages and then dismiss them?”

Dismissing them with extra wages would be tantamount to admitting that the two servants hadn’t made any mistakes, but were dismissed purely because Nora didn’t like them.

Should news of it spread, wouldn't it still end up as Nora abusing her authority?

Those sure were some nice plans that Roger had made.

Nora still looked as calm and dispassionate as ever. Seeing Roger's stance, she looked straight at the two servants. With a contemptuous smile on her lips, she asked, "Are the two of you really not going to take the initiative to resign?"

Lionel and Greg hurriedly shook their heads.

"We really didn't do anything wrong, how can we resign?"

"Yeah. You can just say so if you don't like us, Ms. Smith. You can fire us, but surely you can't be so bossy as to force us to resign, right?"

The more they spoke, the more aggrieved the two of them became, which attracted people nearby to gather around them. A group of servants hired by the Hunts had gathered at the back door to the garden and were watching the excitement.

Roger glanced behind him. His men among the crowd immediately started to fan the flames. He said, "Ms. Smith, you haven't married into the family, right? What right do you have to deal with the Hunts' servants?"

"Yes, besides, servants are also humans. What makes you think you can be so overbearing?" "There's equality in the society now, you can't look down on us! We are just working for the Hunts, there's no other relationship between us. Your actions are really disappointing!"

"Yeah! Ms. Smith, you are too much!"

Nora raised her eyebrows and looked at them without speaking.

The dispute quickly reached the few masters of the Hunts.

Soon, Iris came over. When she entered, she immediately reprimanded the servants gathered there. "What are all of you doing gathered around here? Go and do what you should be doing!"

When the rest of the servants heard her, they subconsciously wanted to leave. However, Roger said, "You can't put it that way, Aunt Iris. Aren't they all

servants? They just want to see whether our family will treat them fairly! The Hunts' hundred years of good reputation mustn't be ruined by Nora today!"

Roger's men also spoke up at once. "Yes, we are going to stay right here. Greg, Lionel, don't be afraid! Sometimes, we just have to stand up strong and safeguard our interests!"

"We and the Hunts are just employer and employees, we don't have a master-servant relationship here! Make no mistake about it,

guys!"

"Exactly, we are not slaves! Slavery has long been overthrown! It's the era of peace and democracy now..."

The rest of the servants were manipulated into thinking that Nora had bullied the servants and was looking down on them.

As a result, people from the other villas also started to echo them.

The bigger the commotion became, the more people started to gather...

Iris frowned and reprimanded them at once. "It's working hours right now, what are all of you staying here for? Go back to your respective workstations at once!"

Although Iris had only moved back into the Hunts' manor for a few days, with the help of Justin, she had already taken over the Hunts' housekeeping rights shortly after she moved back in.

Besides, the woman was simply too beautiful, so much so that she had a unique aura around her.

It made one unable to hate her or dislike her.

Everyone did like listening to their beautiful employer, so they decided to leave. But when they were about to leave, another voice traveled over: "Iris, now that's not right of you to say that. Who would still be in the mood to work when something like this has happened? Haven't they already all gathered here? Since that is the case, then, in my opinion, why not just handle this incident in an open and fair manner?!" Along with the voice, Lauren walked over gracefully.

Her hip twisted from side to side as she walked over. When she came forward in front of the crowd, she looked at Nora with a smile and asked Iris, “Are you going to protect your daughter-in-law? Or are you going to protect your employees?”

With a single sentence, she put Nora and all of the Hunts’ servants on opposing sides.

As expected, she sure was impressive.

Nora raised her eyebrows and looked at Lauren.

On the way to the manor, Justin had already told her that ever since Herman came into possession of the Hunt Corporation’s shares, he and Lauren had moved back into the Hunts’ manor.

In addition, Herman wanted Iris to give up her housekeeping rights to Lauren.

Mrs. Hunt was already very old. While she took the medicine that Nora made, she also turned a blind eye to all these things.

But because of Herman and the fuss he’d kicked up, Lauren’s speaking rights at home had suddenly increased.

There were now faint signs that she could contend with Iris.

And sure enough... As soon as she heard that something had gone wrong with Nora, she had hurried over immediately.

At the sight of her, Iris frowned in disgust. “What do the affairs in Justin’s villa have to do with you?!”

Lauren sighed at once. “Now that’s not right of you to say that, Iris. No matter what, I am still Herman’s lawful wife, whereas Ms. Smith and Justin are not married yet! Besides, we are all part of the Hunts here, of course I’d have to be concerned about the Hunts’ reputation! News of Herman and Justin fighting for shares has already become the talk of the city—that’s not a bad thing, though, because the Hunt Corporation’s shares have skyrocketed as a result—but at a time like this, we mustn’t allow any negative news from within the family to become exposed. Things like bullying and oppressing servants and nannies must not happen. Besides, the servants and nannies are here to

help us and take care of us, everyone is a friend. We mustn't have arrogant and unreasonable employers who carelessly bully the servants..."

Her words had completely put herself on the moral high ground.

All the servants around them, no matter who it was, clapped when they heard her.

Iris was very calm. She said, "Don't you dare sow discord here. When have I ever said that the servants are treated as lower-class humans? Neither do I have any intentions to suppress them. Lauren, don't bother diverting the conflict with your words. The incident today is purely between Nora and those two people, it has nothing to do with anyone else! Besides, judging from what you said, are you saying that as long as they are part of the weak and powerless, they will always be right? Even Herman had to be punished and driven out of the Hunts when he made a mistake back then, let alone them. Everyone is a human here. Why can't they be punished when they have made a mistake?"

Iris had never been a coward or someone who allowed others to bully her. She was articulate and eloquent from the start, and she easily refuted Lauren with just a few words.

Lauren curled her lips disdainfully and sneered, "Iris, you keep saying that they have made mistakes, but what mistakes did they make? Surely the Hunts can't drive them out of the house just because Ms. Smith casually made some false accusations about them without any proof, right? In that case, if I find someone an eyesore in the future, does that mean I can also casually accuse them of stealing money without any evidence and then drive them out? Is the labor contract nothing but an ornament?"

Iris scoffed, "Of course it isn't, neither do I dare treat it as one. However, families have family rules of their own. Let's go by the book today!"

"Go by the book? The way I see it, aren't the rules and regulations here completely dictated by the two of you? Iris, if you can't produce any evidence today, then I think you'd better not manage the household affairs anymore. You're making too big a mess here!"

Lauren stepped forward and said very arrogantly, "I, however, don't mind giving myself a little work and taking care of the family!"

As she spoke, the corners of Nora's lips curled into a smile. "With the way you twist the truth and how you condone the servants speculating about their employers, why should you manage the family?"

Lauren scoffed, "You insist that they were speculating about their employers, but what did they say? Do you have any evidence? The most hateful thing here is you spreading rumors when you don't have any evidence! Iris, in my opinion, a daughter-in-law like Nora is simply too unreasonable. You'd better carefully reconsider the marriage with the Smiths, and not let Justin take such an unreasonable wife who has the audacity to run amok at home when she doesn't even have any evidence!"

Just as Iris was about to speak, Nora said contemptuously, "Who says I don't have any evidence?"

Her emotionless one-liner took Lauren aback for a moment.

But right after, she recovered. How could Nora possibly have any evidence?

If she had any, then she would have already produced it as soon as Roger came over. She was probably just being stubborn by saying something like that now!

Besides, the two of them had only chatted casually with each other a little. Outsiders hadn't heard them, so how would she have any evidence?!

Lauren snorted. "What kind of evidence can you possibly have?"

Nora raised her brows. Suddenly, she took out her phone and played a video—it was a conversation between Lionel and Greg!

Also!

It didn't just include their conversation from just now, but also what Pete had overheard them saying in the toilet that day!

When they were coming over, Pete had been worried that they would deny the allegations, so he had passed the recording to Nora.

After they arrived, Nora had deliberately stood behind the two and listened to their conversation for a very long time before she finally stepped forward, just so she could obtain the evidence.

How would Pete and Nora possibly not have a plan B?

As for why she hadn't said anything just now...

Nora had been waiting for Lauren to come over and confront Iris. By producing the evidence at this moment, she was giving Lauren a slap in the face!

The recording finished playing. Nora had specially removed the part where the two of them called Iris a vixen—after all, the fact that they had badmouthed about their little masters was already enough.

There was no need to publicly poke fun at the elders.

There was now solid evidence of Greg and Lionel talking about their employers behind their backs. In addition, they had even said such nasty things about them. Their outcome was now a foregone conclusion!

Lauren's expression immediately changed after the recording finished playing.

She broke into a frown. Then, she immediately changed her tune. "Ms. Smith, if you had evidence of what they did, then why didn't you produce it earlier? By doing so, aren't you causing misunderstandings among us?"

Nora did not need to reply to her—because Iris had already done that for her. Iris said, "Tsk, if she had produced it earlier, then how would we have seen that side of you just now? Lauren, you covet the Hunts' housekeeping rights, yet you can't even distinguish right from wrong. How can the Hunts' housekeeping rights be given to you?! You'd better just keep Herman happy instead!"

Lauren: "!!"

Her face alternated between being as pale as a sheet and as red as a tomato. In particular, Iris lecturing her from a higher position felt especially unbearable for her.

She was a mistress-turned-lawful-wife, so her status in the family was low from the start. And now, she had been thoroughly embarrassed by someone else.

She clenched her fists angrily.

On the other side, Roger immediately said, "Tsk, look at you, Nora. If you had produced the evidence earlier, I would've dealt with these two people right away. Alright, since there is now evidence, rest assured that I will drive them out of the house. In addition, no one out there will dare to hire them ever again!"

After saying this, Roger kicked the two men's butts and said, "Get lost!"

He took the two men with him and slipped off with his tail between his legs.

It was only when he left the garden that he came to a stop. After getting someone to take Greg and Lionel away, he looked at the upper floor.

Where Justin's study was, despite curtains blocking the view, he could see a tall and lean figure standing there.

A sharp look flashed in Roger's eyes.

The person next to him asked, "Mr. Roger, what are you looking at?"

Roger sneered, "I'm looking at that man and wondering why he's so lucky to find such a smart wife!"

In the garden.

After Roger left, the rest of the servants, who had realized what happened, dispersed and returned to their respective posts to work.

For a while, only the masters of the house were left in the garden.

A triumphant Cherry was singing praises of Nora to Xander. "Did you see that? Mommy is the most powerful person on earth! No one can escape her clutches once she decides to fight!"

A silent Nora looked at her daughter. She was about to make a dry remark about how Cherry was probably the only one who would talk about her like that when she noticed Xander looking at her with his eyes all bright and shiny.

Last time, Mommy had defeated those two bodyguards who could kill even Butterscotch, and now, she'd taken revenge for him...

Xander could only sigh and marvel inwardly: Mommy was simply too amazing!

Despite his thoughts, though, he didn't dare to express them. When Nora looked over, he immediately reined in his look of worship and adopted a cool expression again. He grinned and scoffed, "What's the big deal?"

"Yes, that's right."

Nora's lip corners curled into a smile and she said, "Keep calm and carry on."

Xander: "?"

He looked at Cherry blankly. "What does that mean? Is it an idiom?"

Cherry, however, was very familiar with Internet lingo and memes. The little fellow shook her head and replied, "No, what Mommy means is, these are all small matters to her, so just act normal and don't be too impressed!"

Xander: "..."

Pete: "..."

As expected, only women understood other women!

While the four of them were talking to one another in low voices, Iris and Lauren had reached the point of dishing out tough talk.

Lauren stared at Iris. After her expression changed a few times, she finally sneered and said, "Ha, you can't deal with me by yourself, so you got yourself a helper?"

Iris was unfazed. "Well, at least I have someone I can ask for help. What about you? What, did the old madam not help you?"

Lauren: "!"

Bringing up that topic was no different from stabbing a knife straight into her heart.

Mrs. Hunt valued status and family background the most. One must know that Iris was a model young lady of a wealthy family, whereas Lauren was just an ordinary person. Therefore, Mrs. Hunt had already disliked her intensely back then.

This time, even though Mrs. Hunt had taken Herman's side on the surface, in private, she actually leaned more towards Justin.

At least, with regard to housekeeping rights, Mrs. Hunt hadn't made any trouble this time.

Of course, this also showed that Nora and Justin's efforts some time ago hadn't been in vain. The old lady did indeed understand some things now and had become more reasonable.

Lauren balled up her fingers in anger. A while later, though, she loosened them. She said straight to Iris, "Yes, I may not be valued, but no matter how unvalued I am, at the very least, I won't impede Herman. But I can't say the same for you, can I? You're a vixen with bothersome debts everywhere. You're the one who brought the Hunts to a point where father and son have turned against each other!

"Iris, if I were you, I would be ashamed to even stay in the Hunt Manor. How come you have the cheek to do so?"

Chapter 672 - The Plan of Saving Nora Novel Free

The company he casually ran could not be taken away just like that.

Herman took a deep breath.

He did not expect Justin to have such meticulous records. He could not find any mistakes in his work.

He had originally thought that Justin was not prepared, but now...

He could only get back five percent of the shares.

However, 5% was also a significant share.

Seeing his hesitation, Lawrence said, "Mr. Hunt, are you going to sign this or not? If you don't sign it, then you're giving it to my boss. That's good too. Otherwise, my boss would only have 40% of the shares left. Sigh!"

When Herman heard this, he signed it without hesitation.

After signing it, he looked up again. “Justin, don’t think you’ll win just because of this. You only have 46% of the shares now. You can’t say anything.”

With that, he raised the 5% shares in his hand and said, “As a 5% shareholder of the company, I’ll cooperate with others and request to choose the chairman again. Roger! How many shares do you have?”

When Roger from the side family heard this, he said, “7%.”

“How much is it? I’ll buy it!”

Herman had also earned a lot of money from his overseas businesses over the past few years. He could be said to be wealthy now. He said directly, “Also, for the Hunts’ shares, anyone who wants to sell them at a high price can come and look for me!”

Roger looked at Justin and then at Herman. He immediately chose the team without hesitation. “Herman, what are you saying? Damn, we have 7% of the shares. You don’t have to buy it, either. I’ll give you the right to speak without it!”

Wasn’t it good to watch the father and son fight amongst themselves?

“Okay, let’s go have a chat. Who else has more shares? My old friends from back then should still be in the company...”

Herman and the people from the side family left Justin’s villa.

Mrs. Hunt stood there, her figure trembling. She looked at Justin and shouted, “Justin, I have 10% of the shares. Don’t, don’t blame me... If you make a decision, you can come and look for me! If I give you that 10%, you’ll still be the head of the Hunts!”

With that, she left.

After everyone left, Nora said goodbye to Justin and prepared to go home to sleep.

After all, she had not rested well for a few days.

As for Justin’s matters, she would talk about them when she woke up.

Iris also went upstairs to accompany the three children. After everyone left, Lawrence came in front of Justin. "Boss, you could have just given him 1% of the shares, why did you give him 5%? Now, you have less than 50%. You don't have absolute control anymore."

Justin glanced at him and said calmly, "If we don't give him some hope, will those demons show their faces?"

Lawrence: "?"

Lawrence coughed.

It turned out that Boss was planning to clean up the Hunts!

He said, "Then let's..."

Justin no longer had the lonely feeling of being betrayed. He was like the king of the world again, as if everything was under his control.

He said slowly, "Doesn't Sean have 4% of the shares? Let him spread the news that he plans to sell them and see how many people are interested in these shares!"

"Yes, sir!"

Sean's shares were his shares.

Therefore, Justin had always been holding onto 50%!

Lawrence asked, "Then about Philip..."

As soon as he said this, Justin's phone rang. He opened it and realized that it was Imperial League's chat page. Someone asked: "Who has shares of the Hunt Corporation? I'm willing to buy them at a high price."

Justin sneered when he saw this.

The person who had asked this in the group was Bear.

There were 12 people in the Imperial League. Other than King, all of them were represented by animal names. No one in the group knew each other, including King. No one was allowed to probe the others' privacy, so even King did not know who the other 11 were.

But now, Justin was certain.

Bear was Philip.

He sat on the sofa with his long legs crossed. His well-defined fingers tapped the arm of the sofa beside him. His long eyes were narrowed slightly as a dark light flashed across them.

When he saw his expression, Lawrence could not help but light a candle for Philip's funeral in his heart.

This meant that Boss was going to set up traps again!

He wondered how badly Philip would be tricked.

As he was thinking, Justin suddenly smirked and sent a message in the group: "I do."

As King, it was normal for him to own the shares of the largest company in each country.

No one in the group was suspicious.

Bear's attitude immediately became respectful. "I'll talk to you in private, sir."

Justin sat there leisurely, his expression unchanged.

At this moment, Lawrence asked, "Boss, why are you still selling your shares to him? Aren't you afraid that you'll lose control of the Hunts if you sell them to him?"

Lawrence knew his boss.

Justin had 51% of the shares under his name and was quite domineering in controlling the direction of the company.

However, there was still 4% under Sean's name. In addition, Justin's Imperial League persona also controlled 5% of the Hunts' shares.

Boss had the shares firmly in his hands. After giving Herman 5%, it seemed like there were only 46% left. However, in reality, he still had the final say in the Hunts.

When Justin heard this, he glanced at Lawrence and smiled. "If he offers a high price for this 5% of shares, I could consider selling them."

The Hunts was only a cover for Justin to hide his identity. Compared to the financial group he really controlled, the Hunts' assets were simply a drop in the ocean.

Lawrence: "..."

He understood! Boss was asking for a sky-high price. As he was thinking, Sure enough, Bear sent a private message: "Could you name a price? I want those shares."

Justin was about to extort him when another message suddenly appeared in the group.

Cat: "Can you sell them to me? I'm willing to pay a high price."

Justin: "?"

Lawrence, who was watching secretly, was stunned. "Who is this? Isn't Philip the one called Bear? Or is he Cat?"

Justin was also confused, but he quickly said, "No."

He was the one who had personally invited Cat to the Imperial League. It was considered new blood in Imperial League because he did not want Imperial League to forever be controlled by those old fogeys.

Times were changing. Five years ago, he had realized that Cat had emptied a certain stock without anyone noticing. Then, she had earned 75 million dollars. The stocks had stabilized. This person was very talented in business, but she was also very restrained.

She had only earned 75 million dollars before she became invisible. After that, she was no longer greedy.

Justin had admired her very much at that time, so he personally invited her to the Imperial League.

In Imperial League, Cat rarely spoke. Justin had been observing all these years to see if there were any big dealings. After all, the information in Imperial League allowed one to win without even trying.

However, he realized that there were none at all.

This made Justin admire Cat even more. He felt that this person could resist the temptation of money.

How could he have expected that Nora did try to earn more money only because she wanted to sleep and was not free at all? Furthermore, she had always felt that 75 million dollars were enough!

Justin knew that Philip was not Cat, but he did not understand why she would suddenly come out and make trouble.

As he was thinking, someone else jumped out.

Eagle: "I want to ask about the price too. We can give it to the highest bidder."

Lawrence was confused and could not help but look at Justin. He was silent for a long time before saying, "Boss, how many people have you offended?"

Justin: "..."

He also wanted to know what was wrong with Eagle!

Bear: "No matter how much they are willing to pay, I can increase the price by 20%."

Justin stared at the Imperial League group. For the first time, he felt that things were a little out of control.

At the Smiths.

Joel stared at his phone for a moment before looking at Ian and reporting, "There's indeed someone in the group buying the shares. Dad, you're so perceptive. But is Philip really that difficult to deal with? Raising the price by 20% is simply too much."

Ian lowered his eyes and said, "Philip is definitely in the Imperial League. More than 30 years ago, I tried my best to join this group. When I entered the group, Bear was already there. The group is filled with torch flames passed down from generation to generation. When I entered the group, there were only eight people. Over the years, more people joined until there were 12 in total. Everyone in the group is a tycoon. Don't underestimate them."

Joel nodded to show that he had learned something

Ian had passed on Eagle's account to him. Everyone said that he was not Ian's child. The outside world was saying that Ian did not treat Joel as someone in power. He had only given a portion of his shares, and his shares were only handed to him to manage.

However, Joel knew in his heart that Ian had really treated him as his heir.

It was because the person in charge of the Smiths did not want to inherit those shares, but this account!

Over the years, he had been in charge of the Smiths and finally understood how important this account was.

Joel nodded respectfully.

Ian asked again, "How much liquid capital is on my account?"

Joel sighed. "It's only in tens of millions, but I still have it on my tab. Besides, I can continue to cash out a portion of it. I'll sell some shares if need be. Let's think of a way and help Justin get past this hurdle!"

After saying that, he was silent for a moment and asked, "Dad, is it possible that Justin is also in the group?"

Ian waved his hand. "There's an unwritten rule in the group. Only one person from each country can enter. There are two people from New York, but Cat is of English descent and can be considered British."

Joel sighed. "In the future, if there are any important clues or intelligence, you have to tell Justin. Otherwise, he won't be Philip's match."

"Yeah."

Ian took a deep breath. "Take care of him more in the future so that Nora can have a higher status at home!"

Joel agreed. Elsewhere, in the bedroom.

Nora lay on the bed and stared at the message in the group.

She had originally wanted to compete with him. Although she only had 75 million dollars, what if she could buy 0.01% of the shares?

In the end, she was too tired. She fainted in the blink of an eye and did not open her eyes again.

When she woke up again, three days had passed.

She stretched lazily. When she went downstairs, she happened to see Simon and Melissa downstairs talking to Ian. There was even Justin sitting beside her.

Simon: "...I have some cash here too. Although it's not much, it's still a token of my sincerity. However, when we buy the Hunts' shares, we have to write Nora's name. Justin, don't think too much about it. After all, you're not married yet. Of course, I don't mean for you to be controlled by Nora."

Justin said humbly, "Uncle, it's not necessary for the time being."

However, Melissa called out his name. "Although it's said that husband and wife should have the same heart without thoughts of profiting, and we're not trying to sow discord, a woman indeed can't rely on a man. With these shares, even if you have a change of heart in the future, you would have to consider it carefully."

Justin: "..."

Change of heart?

How was that possible? What he was worried about now was that Nora would have a change of heart!

He waved his hand and said, "Melissa, I can't have a change of heart."

He was high and mighty and would make anyone lower his head no matter who saw him. Only Ian and Joel could sit on equal footing with him, but right now, he was just a junior!

Justin sighed silently. He was just here to see if Nora was awake. Why did he coincidentally bump into Simon and Melissa?

As he was thinking, Ian smiled confidently. "Even without the Hunts' shares, Nora won't be bullied in the Hunts. Don't worry, the Smiths have confidence!"

This behavior stunned them.

Simon thought about it and suddenly realized something. He originally did not plan to mention it, but he looked at Justin and whispered, "Could it be that the Smiths really knows that big shot like in the legends?"

Melissa was stunned. "What big shot?"

Simon smiled. "We're all jokingly talking about a legend. It's said that the richest man in the world keeps a very low profile. Outside, everyone calls him King."

Melissa was stunned. "Is there really such a person?"

Simon shook his head. "I don't know about that. I'll have to ask Ian."

However, Ian revealed a deep smile and did not speak.

Simon immediately understood and looked at Justin. "You're really lucky, kid. If that's the case, even if you're really chased out by the Hunts, you can rely on the business opportunity your father-in-law got from King to start over! Don't be afraid!"

Justin: "???"

Nora, who was upstairs: ???

Nora had never felt very anxious about earning money.

She was Cat, she was in the Imperial League group. A casual investment based on some information would earn her a lot. Why should she be persistent?

But now, she realized that someone from the Smiths was also in the Imperial League chat?

Who was it?

The corners of her mouth immediately twitched. Could Eagle actually be Joel?

From their previous conversation, she had once determined that Eagle was an American, and among them, the first person who could enter Imperial League was Justin.

Last time, she wanted to ask Justin if he knew King, but when she probed him, he said was not Eagle.

It turned out that Justin was not in the group?

However

King was the creator of that group. It was said that before technology became so advanced, they already had special contacts.

Imperial League had been established for hundreds of years.

Nora went downstairs.

When the people downstairs heard the commotion, they all looked up. When they saw Nora, Justin suddenly stood up and said, "You're awake?"

"Yes."

Nora had just replied when Justin looked at the kitchen and said, "Wait a minute. I'll see if they've cooked anything."

After sleeping for three days without eating, she should definitely eat something soft to digest when she woke up.

Justin entered the Smiths' kitchen and acted like he was familiar with it. Simon and Melissa looked at each other.

Melissa nodded in satisfaction.

When Ian saw this scene, his eyes were also filled with satisfaction.

Simon even whispered, "When he heard that Ian knew King, Justin's attitude became even more respectful." Ian had a proud look on his face as he looked at Nora. "Did you see that? This is the power of our family! This kid probably won't dare to bully you again!"

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Nora: ""

For some reason, she felt that the reason Justin was suddenly so enthusiastic was that he felt a little guilty.

But what was he feeling guilty about?

At the thought of this, Ian sighed. "We can only buy them from Hunt Corporation's insiders in the country. King didn't sell his shares to me. He sold them to Philip!"

Nora suddenly recalled that she was trying to buy the shares in the group three days ago!

When she woke up, her bidding had turned cold?

She immediately sat on the sofa and casually took out her phone. She opened it and looked at the Imperial League chat group. She realized that for the first time, there were fifty-plus messages.

These fifty-plus messages were sent by Bear and Eagle.

The two of them continued to raise the price, wanting to buy five percent of Hunt Corporation's shares from King.

From the normal 1.5 billion dollars at the beginning, they had increased the bid to 15 billion!

Nora: "!"

The Hunts were worth tens of billions, but this was only five percent of the shares. In the end, they sold it to Bear for 45 billion!

This was simply ten times the market price!

The corners of Nora's mouth twitched. She felt that this group of people was crazy. She also felt that she was lucky to have fallen asleep. Otherwise, she would have felt even poorer.

Why was she only worth 75 million dollars

As she was sighing, Ian said, "The price of tens of billions is ridiculous. However, I had a grudge against Philip back then. Unfortunately, King sold it to Philip."

Simon said directly, "Why did King sell it to him but not to you?"

Ian sighed silently. “Actually, King knows very well how much money every company has. There are only a few such people in New York. How can they compare to Philip? King must think that we’re too poor. Sigh!”

Justin, who was walking out with the porridge, instantly fell silent when he heard this.””

He really did not!

Although he looked down on the Hunts’ assets, he did not dare to look down on his father-in-law!

He instantly felt even more guilty. He was afraid that his father-in-law would have something against him if he knew that he was King. He hurriedly carried the porridge to Nora and handed it to her.

Nora took it. After taking two sips, she suddenly asked, “Dad, who is that King?”

Although she had only joined Imperial League five years ago, she had actually been very curious about King for a long time.

The people in the group were especially in awe of him. Furthermore, Old Maddy had said last time that only with King’s support and trust would she have the power to fight the mysterious organization.

But now, she did not even know who King was and what was going on with Imperial League!

Hearing her question, Ian said, “King’s identity is very mysterious. It’s said that this identity can be traced back to hundreds of years ago. I’ve only heard about the news here. His consortium is low-key and huge. Some even say that one-tenth of the global wealth belongs to his consortium.

However, their financial group is anonymous. No one knows which companies they have their hands in. For example, everyone should know about the Hunts’ shares, but no one knew that five percent belonged to King.

As for King himself, no one has seen his true face. I heard that he lives in a castle. There are thousands of beautiful women in the palace, and he has thousands of sons to choose his next heir from.”

Justin: “?”

Why didn't he know that he had thousands of sons?!

The corners of his mouth twitched. He was about to explain when Ian smiled. “Of course, this is all nonsense. It's all speculation about King. After all, he has so much money. I think his life has already reached its peak.”

Ian thought about it for a moment before saying, “According to my guess, although their consortiums earn money, they're also limited. Otherwise, they wouldn't have to be so low-key. Besides, King's legacy is very strange. Their legacy every generation is very peaceful. You can't feel the change in King in the group at all. I once suspected that King had never changed. He's an old monster who has lived for a hundred years. After all, technology and medicine are so advanced now. It shouldn't be difficult to live a long life, right?”

Justin: “”

Nora was even more curious by Ian's words. “Don't you have a guess as to who King is? Aren't there only a few richest men in the world?”

Ian shook his head, indicating that he did not know. Even those people did not seem like King

The corners of Justin's mouth twitched as he listened to them guess who he was in front of him.

But when he thought of the reason he became King, he lowered his eyes and sighed.

After the few people were done discussing, Justin and Nora went upstairs and finally had time to themselves.

Justin was about to tease her, but he was grabbed by Nora. She asked, “Do you know who King is?”

Justin was slightly stunned when he heard this and subconsciously said, “I don't know.” “Okay.”

Justin retorted, “Is something the matter?”

“Not really. I just wanted to find out since Dad sounded so mysterious.”

Nora did not doubt it. After all, when Ian and the others mentioned King downstairs, she realized that Eagle was Joel, not Justin. This meant that Justin might not be in the group at all.

He was quite pitiful. So, she shouldn't mention this topic to agitate him?

Thinking of this, Nora changed the topic. "Are you really okay? If you need help, just tell me directly."

"No, it's fine."

Justin thought that she was going to ask him for help. But even if she wanted to look for King for help, he could not reveal his identity.

It would be very dangerous if this identity was revealed.

Perhaps instead of helping Nora, he might end up hurting her.

This was also why he had lived in New York for so many years as Justin Hunt alone. After all, no one would associate the person in control of the number one family in New York with King.

The number one power in New York had always lived in public. No matter where he went, his exact whereabouts could be found.

At the thought of this, Justin lowered his eyes and said, "From the legends I've heard of King, I learned that if you want his help with something, he is a very easygoing person. You can get Joel to convey your thoughts."

Nora glanced at him.

She thought that she could deliver the message herself without needing to ask Joel, but she decided not to continue this conversation. She changed the topic again. "How has Xander been these past few days?"

After analyzing Xander's gene serum without any sleep for three days and injecting him with the drug, Nora fell asleep for three days after realizing that all his vital signs were normal.

When she woke up, she was most concerned about Xander's health.

"He's fine."

Justin thought about it and replied cautiously.

Nora immediately sensed the meaning. “That means something has happened?”

Justin sighed and rubbed his forehead. “I only tested his intelligence and realized that it’s gotten higher. His intelligence is even higher than Pete and Cherry’s.”

Pete was an extremely smart child. Otherwise, he would not have learned the Math Olympiad questions at the age of five. Those questions were very difficult even for university students.

Cherry was also a representative of high intelligence. She could not calm down. Nora could only let her play games to divert her attention and make her hyperactivity better over the years.

Contrary to these two, Xander had always lived beside Trueman. Nora did not know him very well.

His intelligence surpassed Pete and Cherry’s?

Nora was silent for a moment before finally sighing deeply. “Genetic medicine is indeed a good thing.” Justin also nodded. “This temptation is really too difficult for humans to resist. Who doesn’t want to strengthen their bodies? Who doesn’t want to have outstanding intelligence? We will definitely face many temptations in the future.”

At this point, he suddenly asked, “Nora, if you successfully find the V16, will you take it?”

Nora curved her lips and smiled. “I’m already one of the smartest people in the world. Why bother? Besides, humans should respect evolution. The current level of human technology and research are not enough to support a sudden arrival of highly intelligent humans.”

Hearing her words, Justin smiled. “What if that gene serum really succeeds and can extend one’s life?”

Nora was fine.

She had been a Buddhist her entire life. It was enough for her to have enough money to survive and have her relatives by her side. Furthermore, even if she passed away, she would only be sleeping endlessly.

She was not scared of it.

She waved her hand casually. "Not interested. I'll change my clothes. Let's go see Xander."

"Okay."

The two of them stood opposite each other. Nora looked at him for a long time before pointing at the door. "Aren't you going out?"

Justin smiled. "Our children are already five years old. We're a couple. Do you still care about this?"

Nora: ""

This man was getting more and more shameless.

She turned around and seemed to be walking to the cloakroom. When Justin strode forward, planning to follow her, she suddenly turned around and kicked him in the chest.

Justin subconsciously stepped back and reached out to block, but he was kicked two steps back by Nora and he went straight out the door.

The next moment, "Smash!"

The door was closed. Nora's cold and low voice came from inside. "Be good. Wait outside."

" Tsk."

Justin looked at his hand and could not help but laugh softly. Nora was actually shy.

A minute later, Nora changed into a black windbreaker and went out.

She seemed to prefer black. This coat was especially wide on her. Coupled with her slender figure, she looked especially stylish.

As Justin watched, his eyes darkened.

The two of them went downstairs and greeted Ian before leaving.

On the way to the Hunts to see Xander, Nora switched on her phone. She secretly turned to her side and opened the Imperial League chat group. She had originally planned to see what kind of investment opportunities there were, but as soon as she entered, she saw Bear mocking Eagle?

Bear: "If you don't have money, don't come making trouble next time @Eagle."

Philip came back to his senses. He knew that he had been tricked into making a bid of 45 billion dollars, but he did not dare vent his anger on King. So he aimed it at Joel?

According to her brother's character, he would definitely ignore him.

However, when Nora went out, she had seen that Ian had logged in to his account, so the eagle in the group was now Ian. If it was Ian, then

Sure enough, there was an argument in the group.

Eagle: "Why? Are you getting angry out of humiliation? If you don't want to buy that 5% of the shares, you can transfer it to me. Heh, you regret buying it? You can't afford to lose, but you don't dare to argue with King. You only know how to talk big here?"

Nora: ""

Ian's words were really provocative, but it was satisfying!

Bear: "Heh, King sold his shares to me because he knew you didn't have the money. You don't have to sow discord here. I'll never have any objections to King. King should know that you can't afford them, so he sold his shares to me."

Eagle: "Hehe, 45 billion for 5% of the shares. Only a fool would buy it. What are you so proud of?"

Bear grabbed the opportunity immediately: "What do you mean only fools would buy it? Are you saying that King tricked me? You're the one who's being disrespectful to King!"

Nora: “!”

It was all over.

Ian was counter-attacked!

In the end, King had sold his shares to Philip and not to Eagle. This showed his attitude. Besides, King had just received Philip’s 45 billion dollars. He was definitely biased toward Philip.

Philip had just made a few casual remarks. Would King have something against Ian?

King had a high status in Imperial League and his words were final. How was Ian going to talk in the group in the future?

Nora frowned.

Ian clearly sensed this too and said in the group: “I have no objections to Mr. King. You’re the one who started the argument today.”

Bear: “You called me stupid for making the deal yesterday. Aren’t you saying that King tricked me? @King, say something fair.”

Let King speak?

If King spoke up, he would definitely side with Bear!

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Was there a need to think about that? Who would admit that they had scammed others when doing business?

Nora pursed her lips and thought about how to say something in the group to draw this matter to an end. However, Philip began to be aggressive.

Bear: “Purchasing 5% of the Hunts’ shares for 45 billion dollars is indeed a few times higher than the market value. But Mr. King definitely has no intention of extorting me. Isn’t it all because you’re bidding against me here? This is a fair transaction. The highest bidder gets it. How can you judge Mr. King like this?”

Nora: “!!”

Eagle: "I have no doubts about Mr. King's impartiality. You don't have to sow discord here."

Bear: "Who's sowing the discord here? Who brought this up in the group first? Mr. King, what do you think?"

At this moment, someone came out to agree. Rabbit: "I swear that the highest bidder got it yesterday. There's no unfairness. Mr. King is absolutely fair in handling things."

Wolf: "Mr. King is absolutely fair."

A row of people below echoed.

Finally, Bear sent another message: "Did you see that? Eagle, you should apologize to Mr. King and to me!"

The matter became heated. While Nora was anxious, the car arrived at the Hunts.

Nora was still thinking about what to do. At this moment, King, who had been silent all along, suddenly reacted.

It was obvious that King had taken advantage of the two families fighting to raise the price in the deal three days ago. The final beneficiary was King.

No matter how he looked at it, he could not admit that he had been unfair and had lied to Bear. Therefore, Philip was certain that King had targeted Ian in the group.

The others could not say that the deal was unfair.

Ian instantly became the target.

If King were to appear now, he would definitely be on Philip's side.

Nora was thinking about how to help Ian resolve the situation and make the atmosphere less awkward when she saw

King: "Would a normal person spend 45 billion dollars on the Hunts' shares that are only worth a few billions?"

The others echoed King and instantly sent a message to the group.

Rabbit: “King is right.”

Wolf: “King is right.”

Nora was also typing a message. “Eagle also isn’t saying that King is unfair. It’s clearly Bear who is stirring trouble in the group’ She was typing and wanted to say a few words for Ian when she suddenly realized the meaning of King’s message. She was stunned and confused.

Why was this King acting a bit different than his usual self?!

He had clearly made a killing three days ago and taken advantage of Bear, but now he was still coming out to mock him? This was completely against his principle of peace!

He was simply making enemies.

Nora was taken aback.

In the distant Smith Villa, Ian was stunned. He was prepared to express that this was not what he meant. At most, he would apologize to King and Bear.

After all, everyone in the group was a big shot. Furthermore, in the past, even if King did not smooth things over, he did warn them to be careful with their words.

But—why had King suddenly become so straight?

When he said this, Ian was really stunned.

Philip, who was overseas, was even more stunned.

After spending 45 billion dollars, he had actually been very unhappy. However, he did not dare to lose his temper at King, so he could only vent all his anger on Eagle.

After all, Eagle was an American. Eagle might be Justin himself.

During the period when Eagle joined the Imperial League, the Hunts were the number one family in New York.

That’s why he suddenly launched an attack on him in the group. The goal was to make everyone in the group reject him.

Moreover his account was one of the first six to join the Imperial League when it was established!

Although he did not dare to be called the richest man in the world, since no one knew how much money King had, Philip was indeed invincible overseas.

Even King had given him some face in the past. In the group, if King was first, Philip would be second.

Therefore, no one had expected King to suddenly attack Philip.

What did that mean?

Philip was furious. "King, did you send the wrong message? Or was your account hacked? What do you mean?"

Nora was also thinking about what King meant when she saw him throw another sentence into the group. "It means that your IQ is very low."

The group instantly fell silent.

After all, if the first and second big shots fought, who would dare to interrupt?

Even Ian was confused for a moment.

King sent another message: "I'm selling my shares to you not because Eagle is poor, but because he's smarter than you and not easy to cheat."

In the Smiths' villa, when Ian saw this sentence, he could not help but sit up straight. There was a look of satisfaction on his face from being recognized.

He smiled and sent a message in the group.

Eagle: "Mr. King, you think too highly of me." King: "You're worth it, sir."

Everyone: "??!"

Why did the word "sir" suddenly become so meaningful?

The people in the group instantly fell silent.

In the past, Eagle did not receive much respect in the group. After all, he was considered a newcomer in the group.

But now, King spoke so highly of Eagle. Could it be that King had instructed Eagle to raise the price yesterday and his goal was to cheat Bear?

This

Bear was furious. “King, what do you mean?”

King: “What’s the point of bullying a small family in New York? What are the principles of the Imperial League? You openly tried to break them, don’t blame me for being merciless!”

The principles of the Imperial League

Nora thought about it. Imperial League’s group page clearly said that they were not to bully the weak.

But!

First of all, was Justin weak?

Secondly! Over the years, Imperial League had wanted to expand its influence, so how could it not have bullied others?

Everyone was in control of the global economy, so they were all fine. Why did King suddenly mention this principle?

Everyone was confused.

However, Philip was indeed Philip.

Offending King would not end well for him.

The reason King had dominant status in the group was that he was the leader.

He was the one who was leading everyone forward step by step. Philip had to give him face. Therefore, when he saw that King had given a reasonable explanation, Philip did not dare to probe further. He lowered his head in the group. “I forgot to explain. I have a personal grudge with the Hunts.”

King: “Since it’s a personal grudge, then these 45 billion dollars are worth it.”

Bear: “You’re right.”

Through the screen, Nora could feel Philip's anger. However, his forbearance made Nora alert again.

At Philip's level, it was easy for him to toy with people.

Just like how he could imprison Iris for 20 years with one thought!

However, it was precisely such a person who was used to being arrogant, but he was being so adaptable. He was indeed one of the rulers of the few mysterious families in the world!

Seeing that there were no more messages in the group, Nora finally put down her phone.

When she looked up again, she heard Cherry call out "Mommy" in a childish voice. Cherry was usually a bootlicker and had a sweet mouth, but she always felt that her words were not sincere.

However, the one who was the most clingy to Nora was Cherry.

After not seeing her for three days, the little fellow did not even play games anymore. She hugged Nora's thigh and did not let go. "Mommy, I miss you so much, I didn't eat or drink well these past few days!" Pete, who ran over with her, reminded her, "That's called not wanting to eat or drink. Besides, I don't think you ate any less."

Cherry immediately looked at him and explained boldly, "That's why I didn't say I didn't eat, I said I didn't eat well!"

Pete: ""

Nora touched Pete's head and then looked at Xander, who was sitting on the sofa and looking over eagerly.

The little guy was very proud. He was clearly looking over, but he still pretended not to care. It was funny.

Nora walked over and rubbed his head. "Does Xander miss Mommy?"

"Tsk!" Xander rolled his eyes. "You're too mushy. I'm not that childish!"

Although he said that, he did not pull his head away from her.

Pete immediately rolled his eyes. "Then who is it that asks almost every day why Mommy sleeps for so long?"

Xander: "?"

His face turned red instantly and he snorted. "I was afraid she would die!"

"You're not allowed to curse Mommy!" Cherry looked fierce.

Pete frowned as well. "Don't say such nonsense. How could Mommy die? You're talking nonsense!"

Xander pursed his lips. "I was just saying. It's not like she'd really"

He still did not say the word 'die'.

The three children huddled together and argued. It made Pete talk more. Cherry's ADHD had recovered even without gaming, and it also made Xander not hate this family so much.

Nora checked Xander's body again. When she saw that he was fine, she finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Justin still had some work matters to settle, so he went to the study. Nora was downstairs playing with the three children.

She looked at Xander and suddenly asked, "Xander, do you want to change your name?"

Xander was stunned and looked at her. "What name should I change? There's no need to change it. It's meaningless."

Nora hesitated and said, "But you're Justin and my child. You can choose whether you want your surname to be Smith or Hunt."

Xander immediately pursed his lips. "I don't want my surname to be Smith. I don't want my surname to be Hunt either!"

Hearing this, Nora was stunned. "Why?"

Xander's eyes instantly flickered. "Sigh, why are you so annoying?! I've been called Xander Yale for five years. Why do I have to change my name? I'm not changing!" With that, he jumped up in anger and ran upstairs.

Nora frowned.

Why was Xander so sensitive and against changing his name?

Was he hiding something?

Or was he still

Nora sighed silently. Trueman had raised him for five years. If he still had feelings for Trueman, it was really a headache. After all, she could not forcefully change Xander's thoughts and feelings.

As she was thinking, Pete said, "Mommy, don't be angry. I know why he doesn't want to change his name."

Upon hearing what Pete said, Nora asked, "Why?"

Pete sneaked a glance upstairs again, then he glanced at Cherry, who was hugging Nora's thigh, and coughed.

Before Nora could say anything, Cherry said in her young and tender voice, "I'm not leaving, Pete! I also wanna listen!"

Left with no other choice, Pete could only sigh silently. He glanced at the upper floor again before he finally said, "When Xander woke up, he overheard some people's conversation."

When Xander regained consciousness, his IQ had once again increased, and he also became more sensitive.

The young child had never had his parents by his side since he was born. Although he had just returned to the family, he could nevertheless sense the family's servants' dislike of him.

After all, he had really been very naughty previously.

He pretended to be nonchalant on the surface but had been improving his behavior in private. He went to the lower floor to play with Cherry's childish dolls with her, and also accompanied Pete and worked on Mathematical Olympiad problems together. In truth, he had also been working hard to integrate himself into the family.

But the day before, he had simply been too bored. On top of that, the little guy liked to be secretive and sneaky in everything he did, so he had sneaked into the shared toilet used by the servants at home and eavesdropped on their conversations.

This was because he had found out, after a search on the Internet, that the toilet was where one could listen to the juiciest gossip.

The little guy had squatted in the cubicle and listened to the men chatting outside.

“Did you notice that Xander’s temper has improved recently?”

“That’s probably because Pete and Cherry are so well-behaved that he has also become better-behaved due to their influence. He grew up elsewhere, so he has an unruly temper, but he has reined himself in now!”

“You’d better not say such things so carelessly. Mr. Hunt hates us talking about them in private!”

“I know, aren’t I just telling you?”

“Well, no matter what the reason, you can say that Xander has been reformed, I suppose. But in that case, why hasn’t Mr. Hunt changed his name? Or legally registered him as part of the family yet?”

“Tsk, here, I’ll explain that to you. This is just my speculation, but you see how Cherry’s last name is Smith, right? In the future, she will probably inherit the assets that the Smiths leave for her mother. As for Pete, his last name is Hunt, and he has long been unofficially appointed as the future heir of the Hunts. If Xander changes his name, then should he take Smith or Hunt as his last name?”

“Are you saying that Mr. Hunt doesn’t plan to give him any shares?”

“Speaking of shares Do you know? The Hunts always have the final say in the Hunt Corporation because they have more than 50% of the shares firmly in their control. Although Herman and Justin have separated now, this must not happen to the next generation. Therefore, he will only give the shares to one person, so that he can guarantee that person’s absolute rights and control of the Hunt Corporation. Will he give them to Xander? Or to Pete? Who knows?”

The purpose of Xander's sudden return is precisely to fight for company shares with Pete!"

"Tsk, no wonder he suddenly came back when he has already been away for so many years. That's true, the Smith Corporation's shares are also a large sum of money. Even if Mr. Hunt doesn't give him any shares, Ms. Smith definitely will. He's in for a windfall this time!"

"Exactly But little bastards like him can only fake good behavior, he definitely won't be able to change his personality deep down inside. No matter what he does, he won't be able to compare to Pete's gentlemanly demeanor"

The two left the toilet as they chatted, leaving Xander dumbfounded and speechless inside. He walked out in a daze. As soon as he stepped out, he saw Pete, who was also standing outside. He must have heard what they said just now.

Xander flushed at once. In particular, as he looked at Pete, he suddenly shouted, "Don't worry, I'm not interested in the Hunts' assets! I also don't have any interest in fighting for them with you! I will make all my money by myself in the future!"

After saying that, he pushed Pete away and ran to the villa.

"Later, even though he didn't quarrel with me, he didn't spend much time solving Mathematical Olympiad problems with me anymore. He has been playing games with Cherry the whole day today!"

Pete hung his head and spoke in disappointment.

He must have also wanted very much for Xander to play with him.

Cherry raised her head, her big dark eyes blinking as she said, "Really? Why didn't I notice anything?"

Cherry was cute and was a sweet-talker, but she was also very insensitive. It would be a wonder if she could sense the little boy's secretive thoughts!

All she could do was just fight others in a battle of wits. In truth, she really was rather insensitive.

However, it was also through the contrast between her and Pete that Nora had discovered something-children who grew up with their mothers would indeed have a stronger sense of happiness.

Look at Pete. He might openly say that Xander was sensitive, but wasn't he also just as sensitive? Otherwise, how would a five-year-old possibly contemplate so many problems?!

When Nora thought of this, as well as of the two servants' conversation, she felt a burst of anger. She lowered her head and looked down at Pete at once. "Can you recognize the two servants who were talking behind your backs?"

"Mommy, I have already looked into it!"

One could always rest assured with Pete's way of handling things. Despite his young age, he was already capable of taking every aspect into consideration. He said, "The two of them are in charge of cleaning the garden in the backyard. One of them is Greg Lewis, the other one is Lionel Scott. They have been working for the Hunts for three years."

Nora: ""

The corners of her lips spasmed and she couldn't help but ask, "Since you have already found out everything, then you must also have ways of dealing with them, so why haven't you taken any action?"

Pete's authority at home was not to be violated.

Moreover, although the boy was mildly autistic, he was not stupid. On the contrary, he was very clever.

Pete replied, "Xander must be competing with me right now. Since everyone says that I am better than him, if I step forward to defend him, he will definitely feel even more uncomfortable. Besides, isn't it the parents' responsibility to protect their children?"

Pete looked at her eagerly, "Also, I think that Xander would prefer you to protect him instead."

Nora: ""

The corners of her lips spasmed. Faced with Pete like that, she suddenly said, "Pete, be honest with me. Back then, when two of your private tutors bullied you, you hadn't resisted them. Is it because you had never thought of putting up any resistance?"

Pete lowered his head when he heard this.

He initially didn't want to explain, but he suddenly felt like opening up in this instant. He nodded and answered, "Yes. At that time, I thought that I had brought harm to my grandmother, so I didn't feel like fighting back anymore."

Nora heaved a quiet sigh.

The boy was simply too sensitive.

She took Pete's hand and walked straight out. "Come on, let's go to the garden and look for the two of them!"

As for Cherry, her eyes swiveled a little and she let go of Nora's leg. Then, she ran upstairs.

Mommy was about to unleash her prowess. How could she possibly not get Xander to watch a show as entertaining as that?

How exciting! How thrilling!

In the garden in the backyard.

Two male servants were chatting as they swept the floor.

"I saw Pete yesterday. The look in his eyes when he looked at me was just so Why does it make me feel a little uneasy?"

"What are you thinking? Pete never gets angry, it's fine."

The other man whispered, "Say, do you think Pete overheard what we said that day? After all, he was standing right outside when we stepped out"

"Heh, so what even if he heard us? We are here as cleaners by Roger Hunt's recommendation. Can a kid like him even fire us? Besides, even if we are fired, we will still get a large sum of money!"

“No, Roger Hunt put us here so that we can snoop around for news, but who would have thought that Mr. Hunt’s supervision would be so strict? We have been here for three years, but we haven’t found any useful news at all, sigh! If we are fired, he may not necessarily protect us.”

“Don’t worry needlessly. It’ll only embarrass him if he doesn’t protect us. Even if it’s just to prevent himself from being embarrassed, he will still protect us. Besides, everything we said was favorable towards Pete. I don’t think he will spread any nonsense!”

The two, who did not notice the people walking towards them from behind, continued speculating in low voices. “Furthermore, Mr. Hunt can barely protect himself now. Now that his father has returned to fight for the company’s ownership with him, he can’t be bothered to deal with us. It’s the safest for us right now!”

“You’re right, heh heh. I wonder who will win, Mr. Hunt or his father? At the bottom of it all, it’s all just because of Mrs. Hunt.”

“Have you seen Mrs. Hunt? She doesn’t look like a fifty-year-old at all. You can easily say that she’s thirty; and even if you say she’s twenty, there will probably still be people who would believe it! How can someone be so beautiful?!”

“Women are trouble. It’s precisely because she is so pretty that things went wrong! On top of that, she doesn’t even look old at all. What else is she, if not a vixen?”

“Shut up!”

Nora was originally planning to listen and see what else the two of them would talk about, but in the end, they changed the subject and started talking about Iris instead.

This was intolerable.

Her fierce bark gave the two men a shock. They turned back in unison to see Nora come up to them while holding Pete’s hand.

Nora’s pretty face was tense, and there was faint anger and a pressurizing aura in her eyes. Added to this her tall and slender figure, which allowed her

to stand at about the same height as the two men, her aura became increasingly strong.

They were so scared that they hurriedly lowered their heads. "Ms. Smith," they said.

Nora narrowed her eyes and stared at them. "Badmouthing your employers behind their backs Is that what your contracts asked of you?"

The Hunts' servants were mostly old-timers whom the Hunts were already accustomed to having around. Some of the old-timers' family members would also work there. Although there was no such thing as indentured servitude these days, their employers would never abuse them. In fact, they treated them very well, so most of the servants in the family were very loyal.

There were some old-timers who received even better treatment, such as Fanny, who served the elderly Mrs. Hunt. She had served Mrs. Hunt her whole life, so the two were as close as sisters.

However, the servants also knew that they should protect themselves, so all of them were hired on a contractual employment system.

When the two servants were hired to clean the garden in the backyard three years ago, they had also signed employment contracts. Thus, their job scope and job requirements would definitely be stated in detail in the contracts.

The two servants looked at each other in fright. One of them said boldly, "Ms. Smith, you must have misheard. We didn't badmouth our employers."

The other man also recovered from his shock and stammered, "Y-yes, he's right. We didn't talk about our employers behind their backs. We were talking about another family, you must have misheard!"

Nora: "?"

They were really just so Were they pretending that nothing had happened when they had already been caught red-handed?

She lowered her eyes. She couldn't be bothered to say anything else to the two, so she immediately said, "You should know very well whether or not you've talked about your employers behind their backs just now. As for Pete

and I, we were standing right here. Heh, are you going to take the initiative to resign? Or do you want me to get someone to fire you?"

Nora was very aggressive. "If it's the latter, then I'm afraid the two of you will end up being blacklisted. You don't need me to explain the consequences of that, right?"

Should they be blacklisted, no one would employ them when they went job-hunting in the future.

Besides

Pete raised his head. In his big eyes, which looked just like Cherry's, was not the latter's cheeky cuteness but instead a scheming look. In his young and tender voice, he said, "Mommy, why are you letting them off? If we tell Daddy, the two of them will be in for it!"

What Nora said had already intimidated the two servants just now, so when they heard what Pete said, the two immediately fell onto the ground in fright.

One of them said, "Sir Pete, we realize our mistake now, sob!"

Nora stroked Pete's hair. "Forget it, everyone makes mistakes. Let's forgive them wherever possible!"

Upon hearing what she said, the two servants looked at each other, both swallowing hard. One of them said, "T-thank you, Ms. Smith. W-we will leave by ourselves"

Nora nodded and pointed at the door. "Get out."

The two nodded. Then, they turned around and walked out.

When they disappeared from the garden, Xander's voice traveled over. "Hmph, are you letting them off so easily? You are such a weakling and a pushover!"

Nora cast her eyes down and heaved a silent sigh.

She squatted down and looked at Xander. "You are still young, so you don't understand how important jobs are to people. Now that the two of them have lost their jobs, they will find even feeding themselves a problem. This is already a very severe punishment."

Xander had grown up with Trueman. Nora didn't want him to become too narrow-minded. She wanted him to learn to be kind to others.

Xander sneered, "Even so, that won't do! Their punishment is too light!"

Cherry blinked. She didn't understand the ins and outs of what had happened, but even so, she immediately retorted, "Don't talk nonsense, Mommy must have her reasons for doing what she did! Mommy will definitely punish them for you!"

Pete explained, "Xander, don't worry. Do you think they will have it easy after they resign? Mommy has already said that jobs are very important to them. Do you think that people who can never find a job again in the future will be able to enjoy life?"

To be honest, punishment for talking ill of others behind their backs shouldn't have been so severe.

However, since they were Roger's pawns, how would Nora possibly be that kind?

Moreover!

Pete explained further, "Mommy can't openly do anything to them because this is a society governed by laws! They are just people that our family had hired, they are not our slaves! Besides We don't actually have the right to fire them!"

His last sentence stunned both Cherry and Xander. Both of them asked in unison, "Why?"

"Because"

Before he could finish, footsteps came from the garden's entrance again and Roger walked in with the two servants.

Roger had a smile on his face as usual. As soon as he entered, he said cheerfully, "Oh my, who is this? Isn't this Justin's fiancée? What's wrong? How did these two bastards make you so angry that you lost your temper so badly?"

The rest of Pete's words were cut off by him. He looked at Cherry and Xander, held their hands, and whispered, "That mean Uncle Roger will tell you the reason!"

Both Cherry and Xander looked at Roger in confusion.

Roger's eyes were narrowed, but he had a very gentle and amiable expression on his face. He said, "Nora, you haven't even married into the family, yet you are already throwing your weight around in the Hunts' residence? Isn't that quite inappropriate? Besides, what exactly have these two people done wrong? They kept crying and crying, so I couldn't understand what they were saying. They are, after all, people whom I recruited into the family, so you have to give me a reason for dismissing them no matter what, right? The Hunts are reasonable people, we mustn't bully them just because they are weak and powerless!"

At the sight of him, Nora cast her eyes down slightly. She said dispassionately, "They badmouthed their employers behind their backs. Isn't this reason enough?"

Roger immediately replied, "What? They actually had the audacity to badmouth their employers behind their backs? The reason is enough, of course. It is clearly written in the employee contract that they are not allowed to talk about their employers behind their backs, let alone divulge news and information about them to outsiders!"

After saying this, he looked straight at the two servants. "How can you make such a mistake when you know full well that you're not supposed to do that? If the two of you have really badmouthed your employers behind their backs, then you will certainly have to be fired. In addition, you will also have to return the wages paid to you during the past three years as compensation!"

The moment Lionel and Greg heard this and noticed the look Roger was giving them, they got the hint. They shouted, "Mr. Roger, we are innocent!"

Roger snorted coldly. "You're innocent? What's the use of you crying foul here? Since my sister-in-law has said that the two of you did badmouth your employers, then she definitely has evidence to back it up! Otherwise, she would never make any baseless accusations."

He then looked at Nora with a smile and said, “Nora, where’s the evidence? If you can produce the evidence, then I will deal with these two people right away!”

Pete sighed silently and explained to Cherry and Xander, “You saw that, right? America has labor protection laws. Even if you want to fire an employee for misconduct, you have to produce evidence of their misconduct first.”

Xander was perplexed. After all, he had grown up in a basement and didn’t know much about human relations. He asked, “But didn’t you and Mommy hear them?”

Cherry, however, had understood by then. She stamped her foot and said angrily, “Tsk, Xander, why are you so stupid? We did hear them, but they can also counter us by saying that we are lying! We have to produce factual evidence as proof! No wonder Mommy only threatened those two into resigning just now. As it turns out, it’s because Mommy doesn’t have any actual evidence!”

By this point, Xander had also understood. A look of deep thought appeared on his countenance. “So that’s how it is!”

On the other side, Roger was still looking at Nora. Seeing that she was keeping quiet with her eyes narrowed, he smiled and said, “Nora, where’s the evidence? Show us the evidence! Surely you do have evidence, right?”

Lionel and Greg changed their tunes at once. “Mr. Roger, we really didn’t speak ill of others behind their backs! Ms. Smith is just slandering us because she doesn’t like us! You mustn’t fire us. If you really do so, then we will sue you and go for judicial arbitration! The labor law will protect us!”

Upon hearing what they said, Roger looked at Nora smugly.

Seeing this, Xander whispered, “Are we going to drop the whole thing just like that?”

Xander might not understand anything else, but he did understand one thing, and that was

– Nora wanted to take action against those two people, and if she failed, it would be very embarrassing for her!

Cherry, however, blinked and said with a smile, “No way! Does Mommy look like such a weakling to you?”

Xander: “??!”

Nora hadn't even married into the family, yet she was already punishing the Hunts' servants who had bullied her son.

To be honest, if news of the incident spread, it really wouldn't sound very nice,

On top of that, the worst thing was that she didn't even succeed in doing so, which would only serve to make it look even more like she was not respected at the Hunts' residence. This was exactly Roger's objective.

He had fought Justin for the position of the head of the family for a lifetime, yet he'd never been able to obtain the position all this time.

Now that he finally had the opportunity to make trouble for him, Roger was really giving it his all.

He looked at Nora triumphantly and said, “Nora... you may be Justin's fiancée, but it's not right of you to do that! Without any evidence, how can you fire the servants so carelessly? We are no longer in ancient times. The servants are also humans, we are all equal here. We have signed contracts between us. If you must fire them, sure. You'll just have to pay them additional wages as compensation. Shall I ask the Finance Department to give them the extra wages and then dismiss them?”

Dismissing them with extra wages would be tantamount to admitting that the two servants hadn't made any mistakes, but were dismissed purely because Nora didn't like them.

Should news of it spread, wouldn't it still end up as Nora abusing her authority?

Those sure were some nice plans that Roger had made.

Nora still looked as calm and dispassionate as ever. Seeing Roger's stance, she looked straight at the two servants. With a contemptuous smile on her lips, she asked, “Are the two of you really not going to take the initiative to resign?”

Lionel and Greg hurriedly shook their heads.

“We really didn’t do anything wrong, how can we resign?”

“Yeah. You can just say so if you don’t like us, Ms. Smith. You can fire us, but surely you can’t be so bossy as to force us to resign, right?”

The more they spoke, the more aggrieved the two of them became, which attracted people nearby to gather around them. A group of servants hired by the Hunts had gathered at the back door to the garden and were watching the excitement.

Roger glanced behind him. His men among the crowd immediately started to fan the flames. He said, “Ms. Smith, you haven’t married into the family, right? What right do you have to deal with the Hunts’ servants?”

“Yes, besides, servants are also humans. What makes you think you can be so overbearing?” “There’s equality in the society now, you can’t look down on us! We are just working for the Hunts, there’s no other relationship between us. Your actions are really disappointing!”

“Yeah! Ms. Smith, you are too much!”

Nora raised her eyebrows and looked at them without speaking.

The dispute quickly reached the few masters of the Hunts.

Soon, Iris came over. When she entered, she immediately reprimanded the servants gathered there. “What are all of you doing gathered around here? Go and do what you should be doing!”

When the rest of the servants heard her, they subconsciously wanted to leave. However, Roger said, “You can’t put it that way, Aunt Iris. Aren’t they all servants? They just want to see whether our family will treat them fairly! The Hunts’ hundred years of good reputation mustn’t be ruined by Nora today!”

Roger’s men also spoke up at once. “Yes, we are going to stay right here. Greg, Lionel, don’t be afraid! Sometimes, we just have to stand up strong and safeguard our interests!”

“We and the Hunts are just employer and employees, we don’t have a master-servant relationship here! Make no mistake about it,

guys!”

“Exactly, we are not slaves! Slavery has long been overthrown! It’s the era of peace and democracy now...”

The rest of the servants were manipulated into thinking that Nora had bullied the servants and was looking down on them.

As a result, people from the other villas also started to echo them.

The bigger the commotion became, the more people started to gather...

Iris frowned and reprimanded them at once. “It’s working hours right now, what are all of you staying here for? Go back to your respective workstations at once!”

Although Iris had only moved back into the Hunts’ manor for a few days, with the help of Justin, she had already taken over the Hunts’ housekeeping rights shortly after she moved back in.

Besides, the woman was simply too beautiful, so much so that she had a unique aura around her.

It made one unable to hate her or dislike her.

Everyone did like listening to their beautiful employer, so they decided to leave. But when they were about to leave, another voice traveled over: “Iris, now that’s not right of you to say that. Who would still be in the mood to work when something like this has happened? Haven’t they already all gathered here? Since that is the case, then, in my opinion, why not just handle this incident in an open and fair manner?!” Along with the voice, Lauren walked over gracefully.

Her hip twisted from side to side as she walked over. When she came forward in front of the crowd, she looked at Nora with a smile and asked Iris, “Are you going to protect your daughter-in-law? Or are you going to protect your employees?”

With a single sentence, she put Nora and all of the Hunts’ servants on opposing sides.

As expected, she sure was impressive.

Nora raised her eyebrows and looked at Lauren.

On the way to the manor, Justin had already told her that ever since Herman came into possession of the Hunt Corporation's shares, he and Lauren had moved back into the Hunts' manor.

In addition, Herman wanted Iris to give up her housekeeping rights to Lauren.

Mrs. Hunt was already very old. While she took the medicine that Nora made, she also turned a blind eye to all these things.

But because of Herman and the fuss he'd kicked up, Lauren's speaking rights at home had suddenly increased.

There were now faint signs that she could contend with Iris.

And sure enough... As soon as she heard that something had gone wrong with Nora, she had hurried over immediately.

At the sight of her, Iris frowned in disgust. "What do the affairs in Justin's villa have to do with you?!"

Lauren sighed at once. "Now that's not right of you to say that, Iris. No matter what, I am still Herman's lawful wife, whereas Ms. Smith and Justin are not married yet! Besides, we are all part of the Hunts here, of course I'd have to be concerned about the Hunts' reputation! News of Herman and Justin fighting for shares has already become the talk of the city—that's not a bad thing, though, because the Hunt Corporation's shares have skyrocketed as a result—but at a time like this, we mustn't allow any negative news from within the family to become exposed. Things like bullying and oppressing servants and nannies must not happen. Besides, the servants and nannies are here to help us and take care of us, everyone is a friend. We mustn't have arrogant and unreasonable employers who carelessly bully the servants..."

Her words had completely put herself on the moral high ground.

All the servants around them, no matter who it was, clapped when they heard her.

Iris was very calm. She said, "Don't you dare sow discord here. When have I ever said that the servants are treated as lower-class humans? Neither do I have any intentions to suppress them. Lauren, don't bother diverting the

conflict with your words. The incident today is purely between Nora and those two people, it has nothing to do with anyone else! Besides, judging from what you said, are you saying that as long as they are part of the weak and powerless, they will always be right? Even Herman had to be punished and driven out of the Hunts when he made a mistake back then, let alone them. Everyone is a human here. Why can't they be punished when they have made a mistake?"

Iris had never been a coward or someone who allowed others to bully her. She was articulate and eloquent from the start, and she easily refuted Lauren with just a few words.

Lauren curled her lips disdainfully and sneered, "Iris, you keep saying that they have made mistakes, but what mistakes did they make? Surely the Hunts can't drive them out of the house just because Ms. Smith casually made some false accusations about them without any proof, right? In that case, if I find someone an eyesore in the future, does that mean I can also casually accuse them of stealing money without any evidence and then drive them out? Is the labor contract nothing but an ornament?"

Iris scoffed, "Of course it isn't, neither do I dare treat it as one. However, families have family rules of their own. Let's go by the book today!"

"Go by the book? The way I see it, aren't the rules and regulations here completely dictated by the two of you? Iris, if you can't produce any evidence today, then I think you'd better not manage the household affairs anymore. You're making too big a mess here!"

Lauren stepped forward and said very arrogantly, "I, however, don't mind giving myself a little work and taking care of the family!"

As she spoke, the corners of Nora's lips curled into a smile. "With the way you twist the truth and how you condone the servants speculating about their employers, why should you manage the family?"

Lauren scoffed, "You insist that they were speculating about their employers, but what did they say? Do you have any evidence? The most hateful thing here is you spreading rumors when you don't have any evidence! Iris, in my opinion, a daughter-in-law like Nora is simply too unreasonable. You'd better carefully reconsider the marriage with the Smiths, and not let Justin take such an unreasonable wife who has the audacity to run amok at home when she doesn't even have any evidence!"

Just as Iris was about to speak, Nora said contemptuously, “Who says I don’t have any evidence?”

Her emotionless one-liner took Lauren aback for a moment.

But right after, she recovered. How could Nora possibly have any evidence?

If she had any, then she would have already produced it as soon as Roger came over. She was probably just being stubborn by saying something like that now!

Besides, the two of them had only chatted casually with each other a little. Outsiders hadn’t heard them, so how would she have any evidence?!

Lauren snorted. “What kind of evidence can you possibly have?”

Nora raised her brows. Suddenly, she took out her phone and played a video—it was a conversation between Lionel and Greg!

Also!

It didn’t just include their conversation from just now, but also what Pete had overheard them saying in the toilet that day!

When they were coming over, Pete had been worried that they would deny the allegations, so he had passed the recording to Nora.

After they arrived, Nora had deliberately stood behind the two and listened to their conversation for a very long time before she finally stepped forward, just so she could obtain the evidence.

How would Pete and Nora possibly not have a plan B?

As for why she hadn’t said anything just now...

Nora had been waiting for Lauren to come over and confront Iris. By producing the evidence at this moment, she was giving Lauren a slap in the face!

The recording finished playing. Nora had specially removed the part where the two of them called Iris a vixen—after all, the fact that they had badmouthed about their little masters was already enough.

There was no need to publicly poke fun at the elders.

There was now solid evidence of Greg and Lionel talking about their employers behind their backs. In addition, they had even said such nasty things about them. Their outcome was now a foregone conclusion!

Lauren's expression immediately changed after the recording finished playing.

She broke into a frown. Then, she immediately changed her tune. "Ms. Smith, if you had evidence of what they did, then why didn't you produce it earlier? By doing so, aren't you causing misunderstandings among us?"

Nora did not need to reply to her—because Iris had already done that for her. Iris said, "Tsk, if she had produced it earlier, then how would we have seen that side of you just now? Lauren, you covet the Hunts' housekeeping rights, yet you can't even distinguish right from wrong. How can the Hunts' housekeeping rights be given to you?! You'd better just keep Herman happy instead!"

Lauren: "!!"

Her face alternated between being as pale as a sheet and as red as a tomato. In particular, Iris lecturing her from a higher position felt especially unbearable for her.

She was a mistress-turned-lawful-wife, so her status in the family was low from the start. And now, she had been thoroughly embarrassed by someone else.

She clenched her fists angrily.

On the other side, Roger immediately said, "Tsk, look at you, Nora. If you had produced the evidence earlier, I would've dealt with these two people right away. Alright, since there is now evidence, rest assured that I will drive them out of the house. In addition, no one out there will dare to hire them ever again!"

After saying this, Roger kicked the two men's butts and said, "Get lost!"

He took the two men with him and slipped off with his tail between his legs.

It was only when he left the garden that he came to a stop. After getting someone to take Greg and Lionel away, he looked at the upper floor.

Where Justin's study was, despite curtains blocking the view, he could see a tall and lean figure standing there.

A sharp look flashed in Roger's eyes.

The person next to him asked, "Mr. Roger, what are you looking at?"

Roger sneered, "I'm looking at that man and wondering why he's so lucky to find such a smart wife!"

In the garden.

After Roger left, the rest of the servants, who had realized what happened, dispersed and returned to their respective posts to work.

For a while, only the masters of the house were left in the garden.

A triumphant Cherry was singing praises of Nora to Xander. "Did you see that? Mommy is the most powerful person on earth! No one can escape her clutches once she decides to fight!"

A silent Nora looked at her daughter. She was about to make a dry remark about how Cherry was probably the only one who would talk about her like that when she noticed Xander looking at her with his eyes all bright and shiny.

Last time, Mommy had defeated those two bodyguards who could kill even Butterscotch, and now, she'd taken revenge for him...

Xander could only sigh and marvel inwardly: Mommy was simply too amazing!

Despite his thoughts, though, he didn't dare to express them. When Nora looked over, he immediately reined in his look of worship and adopted a cool expression again. He grinned and scoffed, "What's the big deal?"

"Yes, that's right."

Nora's lip corners curled into a smile and she said, "Keep calm and carry on."

Xander: "?"

He looked at Cherry blankly. “What does that mean? Is it an idiom?”

Cherry, however, was very familiar with Internet lingo and memes. The little fellow shook her head and replied, “No, what Mommy means is, these are all small matters to her, so just act normal and don’t be too impressed!”

Xander: “...”

Pete: “...”

As expected, only women understood other women!

While the four of them were talking to one another in low voices, Iris and Lauren had reached the point of dishing out tough talk.

Lauren stared at Iris. After her expression changed a few times, she finally sneered and said, “Ha, you can’t deal with me by yourself, so you got yourself a helper?”

Iris was unfazed. “Well, at least I have someone I can ask for help. What about you? What, did the old madam not help you?”

Lauren: “!”

Bringing up that topic was no different from stabbing a knife straight into her heart.

Mrs. Hunt valued status and family background the most. One must know that Iris was a model young lady of a wealthy family, whereas Lauren was just an ordinary person. Therefore, Mrs. Hunt had already disliked her intensely back then.

This time, even though Mrs. Hunt had taken Herman’s side on the surface, in private, she actually leaned more towards Justin.

At least, with regard to housekeeping rights, Mrs. Hunt hadn’t made any trouble this time.

Of course, this also showed that Nora and Justin’s efforts some time ago hadn’t been in vain. The old lady did indeed understand some things now and had become more reasonable.

Lauren balled up her fingers in anger. A while later, though, she loosened them. She said straight to Iris, "Yes, I may not be valued, but no matter how unvalued I am, at the very least, I won't impede Herman. But I can't say the same for you, can I? You're a vixen with bothersome debts everywhere. You're the one who brought the Hunts to a point where father and son have turned against each other!

"Iris, if I were you, I would be ashamed to even stay in the Hunt Manor. How come you have the cheek to do so?"