

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment Chapter 130: She' s My Son' s Mother, So You Don' t Have To Bother Yourself Taking Care of Her

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

The private room was in complete silence.

With a deep look in his eyes, Justin looked straight at Nora and asked, “What kind of difficulties?”

Nora couldn't figure out what the man was thinking, so she felt that she couldn't tell him everything at once. She had to take it slow. What if that domineering man took the two children away and refused to let her see them anymore after she told him the truth?

Nora had never been one to do things she wasn't confident about, especially when her children were involved. She lowered her gaze and said, “All mothers love their children. Maybe someone took the child from her when she had only just given birth? Or maybe she has been looking for the child all these years?”

Justin's jaw tightened. He asked, “Then can you tell me how she became pregnant with my child?”

How she became pregnant?

How would Nora possibly know?!

She shook her head. “Even you don't know how the child came about. Maybe she doesn't know, either?”

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Nora raised her head. Her almond-shaped eyes were very dark on her deathly pale countenance. However, her eyes glinted with a dark light as she said, “Of course, I'm not trying to make excuses for her. Since she has brought the baby into the world, it is her negligence as a mother that she failed to foresee what came next and failed to protect her child.”

She had spent every day in pain and regret during the past five years.

Back then, she had immediately contacted her aunt abroad when she discovered that she was pregnant. Her aunt had wanted to come back to the States to take her right away, but because Nora was in the midst of developing a drug, she had been reluctant to leave. Thus, the two of them had agreed that her aunt would only come back for her during her ninth month of pregnancy.

Cold-hearted people like the Smiths would never help her to raise her children.

She had envisioned many different scenarios, but she had never expected that she would give birth prematurely. Neither did she expect Henry to be so vicious! How exactly had he brought himself to bury his own grandchild with his own hands?

After that, she had blamed herself and regretted her actions countless times, but it was all useless and to no avail.

Justin looked at her. Even though she was expressionless, she gave off an air of pain. He wanted to ask what exactly had happened back then, but he suddenly couldn't bring himself to ask any more.

From the way she doted on Pete so excessively, it was obvious that she wasn't someone who would abandon her son.

Moreover, she was Anti. Money was pretty much within easy reach for her. There was no way she would be interested in a mere 1.5 million dollars! Therefore, the woman who had called him anonymously that time wasn't her at all!

Unfortunately, he had really dug up a baby at the location that the woman had given to him and seen that the baby was on the brink of death. After that, he had also had a DNA paternity test done and verified that the baby was indeed his child. He then tried to trace Pete's mother's phone number, but by then, she had already disappeared off the face of the earth. All traces of her had been erased.

At that time, he had thought that the woman must be afraid that he would seek revenge on her. Even though he had never stopped looking for her all these years, he didn't put much effort into it anymore, either.

After all, she was Pete's mother. Was he really supposed to kill her after he found her?

But now that he thought about it again, how would someone who had the ability to escape his tracking efforts and leave him clueless after calling him possibly lack those 1.5 million dollars?

Beep.

In the midst of his thoughts, his cell phone suddenly beeped. It was Lawrence sending him information on Caleb. Justin glanced at Nora—she was looking straight ahead blankly as if she was still stuck in her memories. He didn't bother her and opened the email instead.

The email contained all of Caleb's information.

Name: Caleb Gray

Age: 29

Height/Weight: 6'1", 154 lbs

Health: Frail and sickly

Justin frowned when he saw this.

No wonder he wasn't married yet despite being 29 years old. It was probably his 'frail and sickly' constitution that was holding him back.

He continued to read on. The further he read, the more grave his expression became.

Lawrence didn't dare to give him any subjective assumptions, so everything he sent was information that he had found during his investigation.

The Grays in California first made their fortune in Canada, but Caleb's father had returned to the States with his eldest brother 25 years ago and settled down in California.

Afterward, the Grays and Nora's mother, Yvette Anderson, were in frequent contact, so they decided to let their children marry each other.

As far as the Grays were concerned, as the second son, Caleb had never been involved with the Grays' domestic businesses and had grown up abroad the whole time as if he had been exiled.

He was very smart. He enrolled into college at the age of twelve, did his doctorate studies at fifteen, and became a pharmacist after that. However, he gave up being a pharmacist very quickly. One could say that he had left the industry to become a businessman.

His return to the States this time was because he had fallen out with the Grays in California. He planned to open a pharmaceutical factory in New York.

There didn't seem to be any problems with his life history, and he seemed very much like an unfavored second son of the family. The strange thing here, however, was that the Grays made overseas phone calls almost every other day.

Lawrence actually couldn't find out where they were calling.

However, ever since Caleb returned to the States, the Grays had stopped making overseas phone calls.

In addition, the Grays' very first business asset in California had also been a pharmaceutical factory. However, none of the other Grays had ever done anything related to medicine!

Something was definitely wrong here.

Nora had recovered while Justin was thinking. She glanced at Cherry again and asked with a smile, "Cherry... Pit, you'll be going to the Quinn School of Martial Arts tomorrow, right?"

She would be able to switch the children back once she was there.

After all, the little fellow had classes to attend!

Cherry's big cute eyes blinked and she nodded. "Uh-huh!"

But as soon as she said that, Justin said, "We're taking a day off tomorrow, so he won't be going over."

Cherry and Nora, "??"

Both of them looked at Justin, only to see him say without batting an eyelid, "I have to go to the main house tomorrow, so I'll be taking Pete there."

He hadn't spent enough time with his daughter yet. How could he let them switch back?

Once he sent Cherry to the Quinn School of Martial Arts, she wouldn't be coming back anymore!

Justin had already figured it out. He would take Cherry to the main house the next day and stay there for a few days. This way, Grandma and Mom would be able to spend some time with her. At the same time, he would also renovate the villa and set up a room for his daughter!

Nora's lip corners spasmed. "When will Pete be going to the Quinn School of Martial Arts, then?"

Justin glanced at her and said with a smile, "Next month, I suppose."

"..."

Nora gave Cherry a look that screamed "You're on your own". Then, she stood and said, "Okay. In that case, that's it for our chat today, Mr. Hunt!"

She walked to the door. As soon as she opened it, she saw Caleb standing nearby. His melancholic eyes looked over the moment the door opened. "Since the two of you are done with your talk, is it our turn now, Ms. Smith?"

Before Nora even said anything, Justin said, “You can just talk in this private room.”

It was just as well that Nora couldn't be bothered to go somewhere else, either. Besides, the private room had likely already been paid for, so she nodded and said, “Okay, that works.”

However, when Caleb entered the private room, he saw that Justin was still seated inside.

Caleb was taken aback for a moment. Then, he took a seat gracefully. His thin and moist lips looked rather bewitching on his overly pale face. He was good-looking and his eyes looked terribly innocent. He said, “Ms. Smith, about the marriage agreement...”

Before he could finish, however, he was interrupted by Justin's icy words.

“Mr. Gray, the marriage agreement has been voided. I won't be troubling you to take care of the mother of my child.”

Nora, “???”

Chapter 131: Mother And Daughter Meet Each Other

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Caleb was also stunned. He looked at Justin in disbelief and then at Nora before he asked hesitantly, “The mother of his child?”

Nora's expression turned solemn.

Had Justin discovered the truth?

While she was wondering about it, Justin glanced at her and said casually, “Ms. Smith and Pete get along very well. Pete also considers her his Mommy.”

Nora breathed a sigh of relief. So, that was what he meant... That guy could totally scare someone to death with his words.

Caleb also heaved an obvious sigh of relief. He lowered his gaze and said with a smile, “Mr. Hunt is certainly fond of cracking jokes. Those who didn’t know any better would’ve thought that Ms.. Smith’s child was yours...”

He was clearly trying to provoke Justin with his words.

Had Nora’s child not been Justin’s, he would definitely have pulled a long face. However, Justin instead said with a smile, “If I start a family with Ms. Smith, I will definitely treat her daughter like my own.”

Cherry, who was in his arms, pursed her lips in contempt when she heard what he said. Who was it that deleted her from his Facebook account?!

Caleb, who didn’t seem to expect that he would say that, was a little stunned. After a brief moment, he looked at Nora and asked, “What about you, Ms. Smith?”

Nora also wanted to reject Caleb. Now that she had a ready excuse, she might as well just use it.

Thus, she said, “Yes, I’ve been fond of Mr. Hunt for a long time now. Besides, my marriage agreement with the Grays has already been canceled a long time ago in California.”

There was a melancholic look in Caleb’s eyes. He heaved a heavy sigh and said, “Alright, then. I originally only took out the marriage agreement to help you out of that situation anyway... It’s better to make friends than enemies. Your mother was also good friends with the Grays back then, and I can’t just kick you while you’re down now, either.”

Then, he added, “But it is ultimately the Grays who did something wrong first. How about this? Let’s take it that I owe you a favor. I will definitely repay it if I have a chance to in the future.”

Nora had originally thought that Caleb had come all the way to New York with the marriage agreement because of her. Little did she expect that he would let go so easily.

She immediately felt guilty for harboring such petty thoughts about him just now. She hastily waved and said, “It’s not the Grays’ fault. I was the one who got pregnant before the marriage. It’s understandable that the Grays would want to break off the engagement.”

Caleb, however, shook his head and said, “You didn’t know how you became pregnant, either. It wasn’t right of the Grays to abandon you under those circumstances. You don’t have to say any more, Ms. Smith. If there’s anything you need my help with in the future, just let me know.”

“... Okay.”

Caleb smiled again and said, “I’ll head off first, then.”

Seeing him turn to leave, Nora called out to him, “Please wait a moment, Mr. Gray.”

Caleb looked back at her with his clear and gentle eyes.

The way he looked was as if she was a scumbag.

Nora coughed and said, “Can you rip up the marriage agreement?”

Caleb smiled and said, “I was originally intending to keep it, but since you’ve asked, I’ll just return it to you.”

He took out the marriage agreement again and handed it to Nora. “I went to California once when I came back to the States this time. My father had taken out the marriage agreement to burn it up, but I happened to see it, so I kept it instead.”

Nora examined the marriage agreement—it was identical to the one she had torn up. She balled up the marriage agreement and placed it in her pocket.

Justin narrowed his eyes when he saw what she did.

As expected, Anti really was a careful person. She knew that she mustn’t leave any traces of it behind, so she must be planning to destroy it completely at home instead.

Caleb smiled.

He had actually arrived at the same conclusion as Justin's and thought that she was intending to bring it home and destroy it there.

Cherry, who was in Justin's arms, was the only one who couldn't help but face-palm. Mommy was simply too lazy. She wasn't even willing to spend the energy to tear up the marriage agreement, let alone having to take a few steps to toss it into the trash?

If she was that free, she would definitely rather sleep for a few more seconds instead.

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Elsewhere.

At the kindergarten.

Pete went to school in a dress. The other children surrounded him as soon as he entered the classroom.

“Cherry, your live-stream yesterday was so exciting!”

“Boss, did you see the virtual gift I sent you? It's a whole % 150,000, you know! I took really long to save that amount of money!”

“Me too! Me too! I also sent you % 15,000!”

“And me! And me! I also sent you % 15,000!”

“...”

While everyone was talking, tiny little Mia whispered, “Cherry, I also sent you % 150,000!”

Pete found the others awfully noisy and annoying, but Mia spoke in a timid manner. Her voice was melodious and pleasant to the ear, so he was a little more patient toward her than toward the others.

He nodded at Mia. Then, he walked toward his seat expressionlessly and coolly, took out his Mathematical Olympiad worksheets, and started working on it.

Seth was about to come over and talk to Cherry, but as soon as he approached, he noticed that Pete was doing his Mathematical Olympiad assignments. He glanced at it silently and was shocked.

The problems that Cherry was solving were much more complex than his. On top of that, they were two grades higher!

He looked at Cherry with a complicated look on his face and silently moved away.

The teachers had also noticed Cherry's unusual behavior, but given how Mrs. Lowe had abused her the day before, it was normal that she would be down in the dumps today.

Thus, they sympathized with her very much and gave her extra meat during mealtime! They also removed all the vegetables that she didn't like.

Pete, who had never experienced such warmth from others, fell silent.

He looked at the kindergarten with his cool and distant eyes, feeling as if something had been set free in his heart.

A small hand grabbed his at this point. Right after that, Mia's timid voice reached him. "Are you a boy today, Cherry?"

Pete was taken aback. He asked, "How did you know that?"

Mia, who was a little embarrassed, replied, "It's because you're always very lively and never quiet when you're a girl. But when you're a boy, that's when I can get an opportunity to talk to you~"

Pete, "..."

While he was in a daze, Mia suddenly came near, leaned into his ear, and said, "Don't be scared, Cherry. Daddy told me that they're gonna change our dance

teacher. It seems like something has happened to the Lowes. Did you notice? Sinead the Doggy isn't even in school today.”

Pete, “?”

Was Cherry very scared of the dance teacher?

It was really ticklish how the girl was leaning into his ear to speak, though.

While the two were talking, Ms. Lynn came in with a woman. She said, “This is our new dance teacher~ Her name is Tanya Turner, and she's even more famous than Mrs. Lowe. She'll be teaching everyone how to dance in the future! Please clap for her, everyone!”

Pete applauded with the rest of the children.

Soon, it was time for dance lessons. When Tanya was teaching the children how to dance, she noticed a small and petite child who had a look of envy on her face outside the classroom.

For some reason, even though there were so many children in the kindergarten, Tanya found this child especially heartwarming at first sight.

She walked over to her and squatted down. Just as she was about to speak, Mia suddenly closed her eyes and fainted!

Chapter 132: Mommy, Don't Leave Me...

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

“Hey? Hey!”

The kindergarten fell into chaos. Tanya picked up Mia and ran straight to the school doctor's office. She called out to Mia as she ran, but the girl didn't react.

Tanya felt as if her heart had stopped beating.

For some reason, the little life in her arms made her feel like crying, but she didn't dare to think too much about it. When she reached the school doctor's office, upon examining Mia, the school doctor found out that she was having an allergic reaction, so they rushed her to the hospital immediately.

As Tanya was the first to find out that she had fainted, she had to follow them to the hospital so that she could explain the situation to the doctor. Thus, she went along with them.

They went to the A&E department. The doctor turned to Tanya with a frown after he examined Mia and reprimanded her. He said, "This child has a mango allergy.. As her mother, how can you be so negligent?"

Tanya was taken aback.

Her colleague, the school doctor, standing next to her wanted to explain, but the doctor was too busy. He snapped, "Why are you still prattling on here? Hurry and put her on an IV drip! Mango allergies are no joke!"

The school doctor panicked when he heard that it was a serious condition.

Mia was the very life of the head of the Smiths. Should anything happen to her in school, they would be in trouble!

After the doctor prescribed Mia some medicine, the nurse took them to the room next door and hooked the girl up on an IV drip. As the hospital was overloaded, there weren't any beds available. Tanya had no choice but to put her on her lap and hold her while they sat in the room.

It was relatively cold in New York at the moment. On top of that, little Mia was also very weak right now. The IV fluids entered her body through the needle in her hand, making her little hands icy-cold.

Tanya held her little hands and warmed her with her own.

Ms. Lynn, who had also come with them, paced back and forth with her eyes red. She kept blaming herself as she paced about.

“It’s all my fault for not keeping an eye on Mia. But there really aren’t any mangoes in our school. Where exactly did Mia get it from?”

The school doctor also had a very troubled look on his face while Ms. Lynn was talking to herself.

Tanya looked down at the girl.

She was also allergic to mangoes. She didn’t expect the two of them to be connected in such a way...

Urgent footsteps suddenly came toward them at this point. From the sound of it, there were two people walking over. The next moment, a man and a woman appeared at the door.

Tanya looked up. She hadn’t even seen anyone when Ms. Lynn said, “I’m really very sorry, Mr. Smith. It’s all because we didn’t take care of Mia well enough. She ate some mangoes...”

Mr. Smith?

Tanya was taken aback. Then, she heard a mellow and gentle voice that sounded a little cold at the moment.

“How is Mia?”

Tanya felt as if her heart had stopped beating. Her head whipped to the side, and a familiar figure that had appeared in her dreams countless times over the years entered her sight.

Joel didn’t seem to have changed at all during these last few years.

He merely looked a little more mature and steady than the young lad he had been back then. His attractive upturned eyes were fixed on Mia right after he entered the room. Seemingly because he finally saw that she was breathing evenly, he let out a sigh of relief.

A moment later, he finally noticed something and his gaze slowly shifted to Tanya.

Tanya held her breath when he looked at her. She felt as if all the air in her lungs had disappeared and her chest felt awfully tight.

She looked away at once, not daring to meet his eyes.

Joel, who had originally been walking over anxiously, finally stopped in his tracks at the door. His eyes widened in shock and a layer of frost suddenly formed over his usually mild countenance.

A cold and heavy atmosphere filled the room.

This continued until the doctor came over to take a look at Mia. He stood at the door and said, “Are you the child’s father? What’s wrong with you and your wife? Don’t you know that your daughter is allergic to mangoes? Besides, mangoes aren’t something that’s readily available, either. How can you be so careless?”

‘Child’...

Was the child that she was holding actually Joel’s?

Tanya felt as if her mind had gone totally blank.

She had lost her own child... In fact, she hadn’t even seen her child before.

Yet he already had a daughter...

While she was lost in thought, a sharp voice suddenly came from the door.

“Tanya?! Why are you here? And why are you carrying my daughter?”

Tanya looked at Hillary and the look on her face turned cold.

Her daughter...

So, this meant that the child in her arms was Joel and Hillary’s daughter!

She lowered her gaze. Just as she was about to speak...

Hillary rushed in and said, “What are you doing? Why did you tell the doctor that you’re her mother? I’m obviously her mother! Tell me, was it you who fed Mia mangoes?!”

After speaking, she raised her hand and sent it flying toward Tanya’s cheek!

Tanya was currently holding Mia. If she let go of her to block the attack, the needle in the girl’s hand would definitely come off. Yet if she didn’t, the slap would land on her cheek!

Even though she knew that Mia was Hillary’s daughter, Tanya’s first reaction wasn’t to let go of the child but to protect her and keep her safe.

Smack!

Tanya closed her eyes. However, the slap that she was expecting didn’t hit her.

Surprised, she opened her eyes. Joel was standing in front of her and holding Hillary by her wrist. His brows drew together and he said, “What are you doing?”

It was then that Hillary realized that she had lost control of herself for a moment there.

Her eyes reddened and she immediately hung her head sadly. She said, “Joel, I was just too anxious just now... You should also know that Tanya was misunderstood about me in the past. When I saw that Mia had fallen ill, yet she was holding her... Mia was in kindergarten the whole time. How did Tanya even get near her...”

Joel let go of Hillary and she took a step back.

In an extremely cold voice and with an even colder attitude, Tanya said, “Hillary Jones, I was in the kindergarten because I am the dance teacher that they specially hired at short notice!”

“The dance teacher?” Hillary sneered, “Why did you just have to go to the Golden Sunshine Kindergarten when there are so many other kindergartens in

the country? Are you trying to get close to Mia on purpose? What are you trying to do to Joel's and my daughter?"

"Joel's and my daughter"...

The four words were just like a knife twisting in Tanya's heart.

Someone she had considered her sister in the past was now with the man she loved the most...

She took a deep breath and said, "Believe it or not, when I joined the kindergarten—and even just a moment ago—I was completely unaware that Mia is your daughter!"

"Is that so?"

Hillary found her claim dubious. However, Joel's expression darkened even further the moment she said that. She immediately took a step forward and let out a sigh. She said, "Sorry about that, Tanya. I was just too concerned about Mia... But now that we're here, you don't have to stay here anymore."

She went on and said, "Joel has already transferred Mia to a VIP ward in the hospital, so we won't be staying here anymore. Please return my daughter to me!"

She deliberately emphasized the words 'my daughter', causing Tanya's fingers to tighten a little.

She was right. This was her and Joel's daughter...

Tanya stood up carefully. Perhaps because she was reminded of her own child who had gone missing at birth, she actually developed an unwillingness to part with Mia.

As if she had sensed Tanya's pain, Hillary's lip corners curled upward. She reached out, took Mia into her arms, and said, "Thanks for taking care of our daughter, Tanya."

But as soon as she said that, Mia's little hands clutched Tanya's clothes tightly and she whispered, "Mommy, don't leave me..."

Chapter 133: They Resemble Each Other A Little

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Her soft whispers caused a jolt to go through Tanya.

For how many days and nights had those words appeared in her dreams...

Tanya's eyes widened and she looked down at Mia. Just as she was about to take a closer look at her face, Hillary stepped forward in a panic. She took Mia's hand and said, "Mommy's here, Mia. Here, let Mommy carry you..."

Tanya froze again, feeling as though her heart had been pricked by something.

What was she thinking? Mia's mother was Hillary. She didn't have anything to do with her.

Yet, because Mia had fainted, in her daze, she seemed to be convinced that Tanya was her mother. Her little hands clutched the corners of her clothes tightly and refused to let go, seemingly afraid that she would leave.

A piercing look appeared in Hillary's eyes at the sight.. She immediately broke into a frown and forcefully unfurled the girl's fingers straightaway. This made Tanya's heart ache, and she couldn't help but grab her wrist.

"Don't be so rough..."

Hillary paused and emphasized once more, "Tanya, she's my daughter. Please let go."

Tanya slowly loosened her grip...

The way Hillary kept repeating 'my daughter' over and over made her feel as if there were thorns stabbing into her heart.

Indeed, what right did she have to question the girl's mother? Despite her heart aching terribly for the little girl because the pain was causing her to frown even while she was comatose, she couldn't say a word.

At this point, Joel stepped forward and grabbed Hillary's hand forcefully. The usually mild-mannered man commanded sharply, "Let go!"

Hillary was taken aback.

Joel pushed her away and looked at Tanya. His lips moved a little. After a long moment of hesitation, he said, "Ms. Turner, Mia has become confused in her sleep. In order to avoid injuring her, can I trouble you to carry her to the VIP ward?"

'Ms. Turner'...

He had called her Ms. Turner.

Tanya felt like the man was using a voice and a face so familiar to her to say things that sounded so foreign to her... The acerbic and unbearable pain made the look on her face change again and again. At last, she smiled and said, "Sure."

After Tanya carried Mia upstairs and left the ward with Joel following nervously behind her, Hillary clenched her fists tightly. A vicious look shot out of her eyes.

Mia was her only hope of holding Joel down!

She would never allow anyone to take her away!

With that in mind, she hurriedly went after them.

In the VIP ward.

Mia continued to clutch Tanya's sleeve even after she placed her on the bed. Ms. Lynn and the school doctor softly reminded her, "Remember not to offend Mr. Smith, lest he holds the kindergarten accountable... It's going to be a little tough on you, but please try your best, Ms. Turner!"

Since the accident had happened in the kindergarten, it went without saying that the kindergarten had to be held accountable.

As a substitute teacher, Tanya was also accountable to the kindergarten.

Therefore, Tanya took a seat by the bed and said, “I’ll wait for Mia to calm down before I leave.”

Both Ms. Lynn and the school doctor breathed sighs of relief. After that, they made up an excuse and left. After all, the school needed them there.

After the two of them left, apart from Mia who was on the bed, only three people remained in the ward—Joel, Tanya, and Hillary.

Tanya stared at Mia in silence.

Her face was very small and her upturned eyes were closed. Her frail and delicate physique made those who saw her wish only to care for her. She resembled Joel very much, yet had an aura around her that was different from her father’s.

Tanya had once thought that Joel was so good-looking that were he a woman, he would definitely be a stunning beauty. She had wanted to have a daughter with him.

... He did have a daughter now, but she wasn’t the one who gave birth to her.

A lump formed in Tanya’s throat and she lowered her head.

Mia stayed in deep sleep for more than two hours.

Tanya pressed her hand against her stomach in discomfort.

She had been in the hospital since the morning and hadn’t had anything to eat yet... Originally, going hungry for a meal or two shouldn’t have been a big deal, but because she had been dancing since she was a child, in order to maintain her figure, she didn’t eat much at each meal. As a result, she was prone to suffering from gastritis and needed to eat on time.

Joel suddenly stood up and went out without saying anything.

Hillary suddenly said, "I misunderstood you, Tanya. I'm really sorry."

Tanya, who had always been a lively and feisty woman, stared out the window.

"It's okay."

Hillary breathed a sigh of relief. She said, "Mia is the daughter I had with Joel. She has always been in poor health ever since she was a baby, so Joel dotes on her very much. I don't even know if she can be discharged today. She loves sleeping together with her dad and me the most... Sigh!"

'Sleeping together'... So, they are already living together...

Well, that made sense. They've already had a child together, and five years had also passed in the blink of an eye. The two of them should be married by now, right?

She suddenly thought of how Joel barely moved whenever he was asleep, whereas her limbs were everywhere when she was asleep. Every time she woke up, she would see Joel looking at her with a look of resignation on his face. She remembered that one time when she had opened her eyes and seen Joel with a black eye. She had received a huge shock at that time. Later, she learned that it was because she had hit him in her sleep.

At that time, Tanya had said jokingly, "Let's buy a bed that's ten feet by ten feet in the future. This way, it'll be fine no matter how we roll about on the bed!"

However, Joel had hugged her tightly and said, "No, it's fine. I'll hold your arms and legs down instead, lest you accidentally hurt our future children..."

Tanya lowered her eyes and forcibly suppressed all the memories buried deep inside her.

The door opened at this point.

Joel walked in. In his hands were two roast beef sandwiches, Tanya's favorite.

Waves rippled through the depths of Tanya's heart when she noticed the sandwiches.

Were they for her?

But when Joel slowly walked toward the two women, Hillary suddenly reached out and took one. She said, "Thanks, Joel! We haven't had lunch yet, so I was indeed hungry!"

Joel was taken aback.

However, Hillary had already grabbed the sandwich and opened the packaging on the sofa next to him. Then, she looked at Tanya apologetically and said, "Sorry, Ms. Turner. Joel only bought two, so he didn't buy you any..."

Joel looked at Tanya subconsciously—the woman's head was lowered and she had a calm expression on her face. Her hand, that Mia wasn't holding, was pressed against her stomach, but she instead said, "I'm not hungry."

Joel cast his eyes down. Suddenly, he walked over to Hillary, took the sandwich from her, and said coldly, "I made a mistake. There are pickles in this, but you don't eat them. Since Mia doesn't need you here, you can go back home for now."

Hillary, "?"

She raised her head. She was about to say 'But I love pickles' when she made eye contact with Joel's dark eyes, which frightened her so badly that she swallowed the words back down.

Even though she was reluctant to, she didn't dare to disobey Joel. She stood up and said, "Okay. I'll come back tonight, then."

After she left, Joel handed Tanya a sandwich.

Tanya stared at the sandwich and said, "I don't eat pickles."

Although Joel had a mild expression on his face, the look in his eyes was cold. He placed the sandwich on the cabinet next to her and said, “You can toss it if you don’t want to eat it.”

Tanya, “...”

At this point, a doctor making the rounds entered the ward. He apologized and said, “My apologies, Mr. Smith. I heard that one of our doctors mistook someone else for the child’s mother... We didn’t mean it. It’s just that your daughter somewhat resembles Ms. Turner, so...”

Chapter 134: Her Son~

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Chapter 134: Her Son~

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

They resembled each other a little?

Both Joel and Tanya subconsciously looked at Mia. She had completely inherited her looks from Joel. Be it her face shape, her eyes, or her mouth, they looked exactly the same as Joel’s.

Only her small and pert nose resembled Tanya’s. But when one thought about it carefully, her nose was also very similar to Hillary’s—after all, Tanya and Hillary were half-sisters who shared the same mother!

Joel and Tanya both raised their heads again and subconsciously glanced at each other’s faces. Tanya hurriedly looked away when their eyes met.

Joel turned to the doctor and asked, “When will Mia wake up?”

“She’ll wake up soon.” The doctor said, “She didn’t eat that much mango, so she can be discharged after she’s done with the IV drip.”

“Okay.”

.

After the doctor left, the room fell into total silence again.

After some time, Joel suddenly said, “The sandwich is turning cold.”

Tanya, “...”

So, Hillary could skip the pickles just because she didn’t like them, but if she were the one who didn’t like pickles, she had to either stay hungry or eat it anyway?

That man’s personality hadn’t changed one bit even after so many years had passed.

He was very protective of people and things he considered his own but was always cold and indifferent to outsiders.

In the past, she had been part of whom he considered his own.

But now, she was an outsider.

Tanya sighed. It was a pity to toss the sandwich anyway, and she was indeed hungry. Besides, the doctor had once encouraged her to eat more pickles because they were good for gut health, especially since she was prone to digestive problems.

Therefore, Tanya put up with the pungent taste of the pickles and ate the whole sandwich.

Joel was seated on the sofa. Although his eyes were on his laptop while he worked, out of the corner of his eye, he caught a glimpse of Tanya and saw that she hadn’t tossed the sandwich but ate it instead. For some reason, he was actually relieved to see that.

Joel stared at his laptop.

Time had never passed so quickly during all these years. With a computer, a cup of coffee, Mia, and... her, it felt just like that was how life should be.

At five o'clock in the afternoon, classes ended at the kindergarten.

The principal and the school doctor hurried over to the hospital and also brought... the five-year-old Pete along the way?

Tanya was astonished to see him. She asked, "Why are you here?"

Pete, who was pulling a long face, asked, "Were you supposed to pick me up from school this evening?"

Tanya suddenly smacked her forehead and exclaimed, "Ah, yes, you're right!"

Pete, "..."

No wonder he didn't see Mommy coming over even after he waited for a long time after school was out. As it turned out, it was because God-mom hadn't informed Mommy at all?

The school doctor said, "No one came to pick him up, so the boy said that he would come to the hospital and go home together with you instead."

Tanya smiled guiltily at Pete. She was about to speak when Joel suddenly asked, "Is this your son?"

Tanya glanced at him. When she thought of how that guy had forced her to eat the sandwich with the pickles today and excluded her from the group of people he considered his own, she felt rather glum and she rebutted, "What's it to do with you?"

Joel, "?"

His attractive fox-like eyes narrowed and he looked Pete up and down hostilely a few times. At last, he let out a snort and said no more.

At this point, Mia finally woke up. She had held on to Tanya's sleeve tightly with one hand the whole time. While she rubbed her sleepy eyes with the other, she called out hesitantly, "Daddy? Mom... Ms. Turner?"

Joel strode over to her. He looked at her and asked, “Do you feel unwell anywhere, Mia?”

Mia shook her head and replied softly, “No...”

Joel heaved a sigh of relief and stroked her cheek gently. His voice was sincere and tender as he said, “That’s good.”

On the other side, Tanya, whose sleeve had been finally released, took a step back. As she watched the interaction between father and daughter, a tinge of envy suddenly arose in her.

It was at this moment that someone suddenly held her hand.

She lowered her head to see Mia looking at her. She said, “Thank you, Ms. Turner...”

Tanya subconsciously smiled at her and replied, “No problem.”

“Ms. Turner, can you fill me in on what happened to Mia today?”

The principal of the kindergarten suddenly came over and spoke to Tanya.

Tanya nodded, followed the principal to one side, and reported to him what had happened earlier that day.

Joel turned his head and looked at her, his expression unreadable.

He didn’t notice Pete suddenly walking up to the hospital bed. He looked at Mia, pursed his lips, and said, “Your body is too weak. You need exercise.”

The tiny little Mia lying on the hospital bed felt just like a thin sheet of paper after she was covered with the quilt. She nodded and said, “Okay. You feel very different today, Cherry~”

Pete, who had a stern look on his face, asked, “How so?”

“Why aren’t you saying ‘yeah’ anymore?”

Pete, “??”

He fell silent for a moment. Then, he said, “I am... yeah.”

Mia blinked. She looked at him and asked, “What did you guys learn in school today?”

Pete replied, “We learned how to roller-skate, the ukulele, and dancing. If you fall behind, I can teach you tomorrow... yeah.”

Mia broke into a smile. “Okie!”

Next to them, Joel who had retracted his gaze: “??”

He looked at Pete again. He couldn’t shake off the feeling that the child was a little strange. He was clearly wearing the kindergarten dress, yet he didn’t feel like a girl.

... Especially when he was even Tanya’s child.

He cast his eyes down. His joy at meeting her again was totally gone. Boundless anger and a sense of powerlessness were the only things left in his heart.

She had remarried and even had a child with someone else.

Hah. It made it seem like he had only been flattering himself all this time during the past five years.

Tanya walked toward him and said, “Mr. Smith, the kindergarten will take care of the hospitalization fees and also provide some compensation. Is that okay with you?”

However, the expression of Joel, who had been pretty nice the whole afternoon, darkened and he replied, “That’s not necessary. But if this happens again, I won’t let the kindergarten off so easily!”

Then, he said, “We’re going home, Mia.”

“Okie-Dokie, Daddy.”

Tanya was still stunned to the spot when the two of them left the ward. Why did that guy suddenly lose his temper? He was too much!

On the way home, Joel suddenly said to Mia, “Stay away from that classmate of yours in the future.”

“Why? He’s Cheryl Smith! You know, Cherry! Daddy, you don’t like him?”

Joel nodded. “Yeah.”

Mia hesitated for a moment. Then, she asked hesitantly, “Is it because he’s better than you?”

Joel, “?”

He let out a cold laugh and scoffed, “Which part of him is better than Daddy?”

Mia replied softly, “He’s a girl, but he can also become a boy~ Daddy, can you become a girl?”

Joel, “!!”

After they got home and he settled Mia’s affairs, he finally looked at the time and went out.

As soon as he went out, the secretary said, “Mr. Smith, you’re late for the meeting with Mr. Hunt.”

Joel, however, was distracted. “Yeah.”

Thoughts of the little girl... no, boy, occupied his mind while he was in the car. He didn’t know who Tanya had married. She used to say that she wanted a daughter, but unexpectedly, she had given birth to a son instead.

The look in his eyes grew even colder. Soon, he arrived at the meeting room.

He neatened his clothes and adjusted his emotions before entering the meeting room. He said, “My apologies for being late, Mr. Hunt.”

Justin had a cool look on his face. He said expressionlessly, “It’s fine. I brought my son here, though. You don’t mind, right, Mr. Smith?”

Upon hearing that, Joel looked at the child in his arms...

Chapter 135: They’ re Getting Married?

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Cherry, whose arms were around her father’s neck, stared at Joel with her big round eyes.

Mm, that young mister there was really handsome, too! But why was the way he looked at her a little strange?

Joel was utterly stunned.

He didn’t expect to meet that child again when they had only just separated... Also, he was Justin’s son?

Joel had known for a long time that Justin had a son. He kept him very well-protected and seldom gave outsiders a chance to see him. If it weren’t because the two of them had a business deal to discuss today, he probably wouldn’t have seen what the Hunts’ crown prince looked like for a long time to come!

But... Tanya had actually married Justin?

Joel’s position as the head of the Smiths was well-deserved. Even though he was extremely shocked, he quickly kept his emotions in check and started talking with Justin about their upcoming partnership.

Half an hour later, the two men finished the work discussion.

Justin was in a hurry to go home so that his daughter could hold her live-stream, but when he saw that Joel had remained seated, he frowned and asked, “Is there anything else you need, Mr.. Smith?”

Joel glanced at him again.

Dressed in a black suit, the man in front of him was big and tall, lean but strong. His visage was a perfect blend of harsh coldness and temptation. Together with the beauty mark at the corner of his eye, he was like Adonis on Earth.

It didn't seem strange that Tanya would fall in love with him.

But he had never heard of Justin having any plans to get married...

Joel neatened his suit and suddenly stood up. He said, “Your son is very cute, Mr. Hunt.”

Justin cast a puzzled glance at him and politely replied, “Thank you.”

Joel casually asked, “Do you know who the child's mother is?”

Upon his question, a picture of that lazy woman seemed to appear in front of Justin. The corners of his lips curled upward a little and he replied, “Yeah.”

Joel continued and asked, “What are you intending to do about her, then?”

‘Do about her’?

His choice of words made Justin very uncomfortable.

How could anyone use a phrase like that to talk about a woman like Nora?

He lowered his gaze and suddenly said, “Maybe we'll get married.”

Married...

Joel's heart sank.

If she really married Justin...

The thought alone made his chest tighten uncomfortably. He balled up his fists and suddenly said, “Treat her well, Mr. Hunt.”

He turned and left after saying that.

Justin, “?”

Was there something wrong with Joel Smith today?

For whom was he putting on that devoted act?

He suddenly thought of how Nora had kept staring at Joel during the medical conference the other time. Had the two of them formed some kind of connection without him knowing?

His brows drew together and he suddenly looked down at Cherry. In a deep and solemn voice, he asked, “Cherry... Pit, does your Mommy know him?”

Cherry shook her head. “No, she doesn’t. I’ve never heard Mommy mention him before, yeah!”

The little fellow completely didn’t realize that she had been sounded out.

Justin smiled and left with peace of mind. They’d already had dinner, so when they returned home, Cherry dived straight into her bedroom for her live-stream.

—

At the Andersons.

Tanya went upstairs to the guest room unhappily and closed the door after she returned home with Pete.

Pete entered the bedroom and unsurprisingly saw Mommy lying on the bed again. However, what was unusual was that she wasn’t sleeping but handling something on her cell phone instead.

When she noticed him, she even asked, “Why are you back so late?”

Pete briefly explained Mia's hospitalization situation. Then, he said, "Mommy, I think you should go and take a look at God-mom."

Nora raised her eyebrows and let out a lazy 'Oh'. After stretching, she sighed and said as she walked out, "People mustn't let themselves sink into such depravity. I can't lie down like this anymore. I'll go out for a walk and switch to another room..."

Thinking that Mommy had finally made up her mind to stop being so lazy, Pete was about to praise her when he heard what she said next: "... and lie down there instead."

"..."

Aren't you still lying down even if you switch to another room to lie down there?!

Pete's lip corners spasmed and he decided to go and do his homework instead.

When Nora entered Tanya's room, Tanya was crying in silence.

Seemingly because she heard the door opening, Tanya wiped her tears away and sat up. She asked nonchalantly, "Why are you here?"

"Are you okay?" asked Nora.

"No."

Nora asked seriously, "Then what do you want to do?"

"If we're friends, then go out with me for a drink! We'll drink till we drop tonight!"

Nora fell silent for a moment at the drinking suggestion. Her eyebrows raised slightly and she suddenly asked, "What did you say before that?"

"No."

"The one before that."

“Why are you here?”

Nora stood up. “I came to check on you. Okay, I’m leaving.”

Tanya, “!!!”

It was only after Nora left that she realized that her moodiness had dissipated by half before she even knew it. That woman was so lazy and unprofessional even when she was trying to comfort someone!

While thinking about it, her cell phone suddenly rang.

She looked down—the caller ID showed ‘Mom’.

She waited for a while before she picked up. A woman’s voice reached her through the phone. “Tanya, why are you pestering Joel from the moment you returned? The two of you have already broken up! You’re not allowed to disturb my daughter in the future, you hear me?!”

‘My daughter’...

Heh.

Tanya let out an icy laugh. She suddenly retorted, “Why should I listen to you?”

“Because I’m your mother!”

“Really?” Tanya mocked, “Isn’t your daughter Hillary?”

“... What do you mean by that, Tanya?!”

Tanya stared straight ahead of her as she said, “It means—if you don’t think of me as your daughter, then don’t tell me what I can or cannot do!”

She hung up on her straightaway.

The next day, Tanya got up early in the morning and went to the kindergarten with Pete. On the way there, she asked, “When are your parents switching you guys back?”

Pete replied, “I don’t know.”

Tanya glanced at him. He quietly added, “... Yeah.”

Tanya, “...”

She found it hilarious. After she reached the kindergarten and parked the car, just as she was about to enter with Pete, someone suddenly called out to her.

“Ms. Turner.”

Tanya turned and saw Hillary walking toward her.

She came up to Tanya with a smile. Then, she suddenly took out a wad of cash from her bag and offered it to her.

Tanya’s eyes widened in shock. “What is the meaning of this?”

A smiling Hillary replied, “This is to thank you for discovering Mia the moment she fainted and staying with her in the hospital for the whole afternoon. I’ve asked around—top-class nurses are paid % 150 per day. However, you’re different because you’re a teacher from the kindergarten, after all. There’s % 3,000 here. You can think of it as a reward from the Smiths. It’s quite a lot, right?”

A reward from the Smiths...

What did they take her for?

A humiliated Tanya clenched her fists. However, she suddenly reached out and took the money from her.

Hillary scoffed inwardly. It sure felt good to humiliate others with money...

But just as she thought so, the corners of Tanya’s lips suddenly curled upward!

Chapter 136: Justin Steps Forward

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Whoosh!

Tanya took the money and threw it at her face!

The impact caused Hillary's head to turn to the side. She turned back to Tanya furiously, but Tanya instead grabbed her collar. The look in her eyes was very cold, and she carried some of the fierce and ruthless aura that was present only on Nora.

Tanya sneered, "That may have been very effective on me five years ago, Hillary, but I've already grown up after the last five years. Why are you still stuck at where you were?"

She released Hillary and pushed her away. After putting some distance between the two of them, Tanya stared hard at her and said, "You'd best keep this firmly in mind—don't mess with me. I'm not that nice."

After saying that, she took Pete's hand again and led him forward.

Hillary stood where she was with money bills scattered all over the ground. All the parents around her looked over.. The look of disgust in their eyes made her especially embarrassed.

They were all from wealthy families. It was indeed too low-class to solve problems with money!

Hillary lowered her head and picked up the bills. Then, she hurriedly got into the car and left.

Her cheeks were still burning somewhat even after she got into the backseat of the car.

Tanya was already hard to deal with five years ago. She was feisty and wasn't someone to be messed with. Little did she expect that she would become even harder to deal with five years later!

Was she just going to allow her to see Mia every day in the kindergarten though?

Absolutely not!

After a moment's thought, Hillary suddenly cast her eyes down.

—

In the kindergarten, Tanya went to the dance studio after she sent Pete to the classroom.

She originally only had plans to do filming for a TV program when she came back to the States. However, the kindergarten had contacted her and said that Whitney Lowe was unable to continue teaching dancing there, so they invited her to be a dance teacher in the school.

Tanya had thought at the time that she would be able to spend more time with Cherry if she took it, so she agreed to it.

However, she would only be working there for a month because she didn't want to stay in the States.

Her child had gone missing abroad, so she wanted to go back to continue looking for her child.

She had never expected that she would run into Joel here...

She heaved a sigh.

At this point, a few teachers came over and said, "Ms. Turner, you're done for."

Tanya was taken aback. "What?"

“The woman you offended just now is Mrs. Smith! We saw her going to the principal just now. The kindergarten is probably going to fire you!”

“Why don’t you go and apologize, Ms. Turner? The kindergarten can’t afford to offend the Smiths and the Hunts the most here. I heard that the Smiths are even shareholders of the kindergarten!”

“The Smiths are the reason why no one dares to bully Mia Smith despite how timid she is... It’ll be really terrible if this gets blown up, Ms. Turner. I heard that Mrs. Smith is a pretty nice person. Maybe everything will be fine if you give in...”

The teachers explained what had happened to her, but Tanya instead lowered her gaze.

Hillary really hadn’t learned any better.

Was lodging a complaint the only thing she knew how to do after being hit?

She had already allowed that woman to give her a warning the day before, but here she was again.

She said dispassionately, “It’s fine. I wasn’t planning on staying long in the States anyway.”

Back then, because of the Lowes, she had been forced to leave the country. After spending so many years abroad, she had now become a dance teacher that even foreign royal families would hire. Her connections weren’t that simple anymore!

Sure enough, just as she was thinking about it, someone came over and said, “Ms. Turner, the principal is asking for you in his office.”

Tanya nodded and calmly headed to the principal’s office.

Along the way, Tanya noticed several teachers casting sympathetic glances at her, but she ignored them all. Soon, she arrived at the principal’s office.

The principal personally opened the door for her and poured her a cup of coffee. He said, “Ms. Turner, it’s the kindergarten’s honor to have you as our dance teacher for a month, but this is simply just...”

He sighed and said, “Mrs. Smith suddenly approached me just now. She said that she had thanked you out of kindness, but not only did you not appreciate her gesture, but you even injured her on her face, so she’s demanding an explanation from us. I used the excuse that you’re not yet an official teacher in the school to placate her for now...”

Tanya frowned. “Are the Joneses that powerful?”

The principal was also very troubled. He replied, “It’s not the Joneses; I’m not afraid of Mrs. Smith on her own at all. I also want to protect you if I can, Tanya. After all, you’ve done us a big favor by accepting our invitation after something happened to our dance teacher. However, the ones behind Mrs. Smith are the Smiths and Joel Smith himself. He has always been known as a wolf in sheep’s clothing in New York. Even though he seems mild-mannered, he’s actually very hard to deal with...”

The principal then said, “Tanya, I can keep you here despite the pressure, but life won’t be easy for you in the future either if you offend Mr. Smith. If that’s the case, why don’t you resign instead?”

Resign?

Tanya bit her lip. “Was it Mr. Smith’s idea to have me resign?”

“Yes, it is,” replied the principal with a nod.

Mrs. Smith had said that her husband didn’t want to see Tanya in the kindergarten, let alone have her come into contact with his daughter...

Tanya clenched her fists.

So, he actually hated her that much? They couldn’t even stay as friends after breaking up?

Her chest felt awfully tight. Compared to having to resign, this discovery saddened her even more.

She let out a cold laugh and stood up. “Fine, I quit.”

After saying that, she went out and strode toward the school gates.

Blinding sunlight shone upon her, making her eyes hurt. She raised her head and blocked the light with her hand. Dust floated in the air under the dappled light, and she could see the specks floating about.

She was just like one of those specks of dust. Her life was always being controlled by others.

She clenched her fists tightly.

She wanted to go to Joel and sort things out, yet she also felt that it would be her defeat if she were to really do so...

At the gates, Hillary got out of the car and slowly walked up to her. She said, “You are indeed hard to deal with, Tanya, but I’m no longer who I used to be, either. I’m Mrs. Smith now. I’m sure you’re aware of how powerful Joel is, right?”

Tanya ignored her.

Hillary said, “Somewhere other than the States would be more suitable for you. Leave, and never come back again!”

Your daughter and your boyfriend back then... I will take them all!

In the classroom.

“Ms. Turner has been fired!”

Brandon the loudmouth spread the news. Pete frowned when he heard it. He asked, “Why was she fired?”

Brandon replied, “Probably because she offended my aunt! That would mean that she’s offended my uncle~ Uncle Joel is very protective of his own! Apart from the Hunts, no one in New York dares to offend him!”

‘Apart from the Hunts’...

Pete’s eyes lit up when he heard that.

This meant that he could ask the tyrant for help, right?

He’d just had a great idea!

He immediately took out his cell phone and drafted a text message to Cherry.

Ten minutes later...

On the top floor of the Smith Corporation’s office tower, Joel received a call from Justin. The moment he picked up, Justin confronted him and said, “Mr. Smith, surely it isn’t quite appropriate for you to do that to a weak and powerless woman?”

Joel, “?”

He frowned. “What do you mean, Mr. Hunt?”

“Don’t you think that forcing Ms. Tanya Turner to resign is a little too much?”

Joel narrowed his eyes. A cold look shot forth from them as he asked, “What?”

Chapter 137: Father And Daughter Claiming Credit

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Justin, however, didn’t give him a chance to speak. He said coldly, “I’ll be speaking with the kindergarten. Ms. Turner will be under the Hunts’ protection from now on.”

He hung up right after saying that.

Justin looked at Cherry tenderly and said, “There, I’ve made the call. Don’t worry, Pete.”

Just now, Cherry had suddenly run over and said that someone was bullying her godmother, so she wanted him to talk to the Smiths. He had been rather stunned when she said that.

However, he had very quickly reacted and knew that this was a great opportunity for him.

After all, one must never offend their woman’s best friend..

Thus, he had made the call. To him, it was nothing but just a matter of lifting his finger.

Cherry nodded and chirped, “Okie-Dokie!”

However, Justin was still staring at her.

Cherry blinked and asked, “What’s the matter, Daddy?”

Was little Cherry not cute today?

Just as she was wondering, Justin said, “You should give your Mommy a call and report this to her.”

How could he stay quiet about it after doing a good deed?

Cherry tilted her head and asked, “Why?”

Without batting even an eyelid, Justin replied, “Because your Mommy won’t need to worry anymore if you do that, right?”

After thinking for a while, Cherry agreed and said, “Okie-Dokie!”

Justin sat there and watched his adorable little baby take out her cell phone. Her little fingers swiped across the screen slickly and turned it on. Then, she dialed Nora’s number.

The young woman's lazy voice rang out from the other end of the call the moment it connected.

“What's the matter, Cherry?”

Cherry found herself missing Mommy a bit when she heard the familiar voice. Longing appeared in her big eyes as she said, “Mommy, the kindergarten fired God-mom!”

“What happened?”

The woman's voice instantly turned sharp. Then, Cherry heard rustling sounds from the other end of the call—she was likely... getting out of bed?

However, Cherry went on and said, “But you don't have to worry, Mommy~ I've already settled it for you~”

Justin, “???”

Cherry said triumphantly, “I coaxed Daddy to call the Smiths after I heard the news, so God-mom should be fine soon~ Aren't I super awesome, Mommy?!”

The woman on the other end relaxed and likely laid back down on the bed. She said, “Uh-huh, Cherry's the best. I'll get God-mom to thank you when she comes back. Mwah~”

Then, she yawned again and said, “Mm, I'm going to bed.”

And then, she hung up.

Justin, “?????”

He was obviously the one who resolved the issue, so why was all the credit Cherry's in the end?!

His expression darkened right away.

However, Cherry turned to him right after that. She broke into a grin and said, “There, I've made the call, Daddy! Isn't Cherry... Pit super awesome?!”

Although he was gnashing his teeth, Justin nevertheless forced a small smile and replied, "... Yes, you are."

Satisfied, Cherry ran off to play in the study.

Justin heaved a silent sigh as he gazed at that tiny little figure.

Were she Pete, his big hand would already have made intimate contact with his little butt. But if it was Cherry... Never mind. Girls were delicate creatures. She was his daughter after all. The only thing he could do was pamper her, he supposed!

Now that he couldn't count on his daughter anymore, Justin could only do something about it himself.

He picked up his cell phone and called Nora.

The other party picked up very quickly. The voice on the other end sounded very annoyed as she asked, "What is it now?"

Justin paused slightly and asked, "Aren't you going to treat me to dinner after I helped you out today, Ms. Smith?"

"... Oh, I see."

Justin, "?"

"Text me where and when," said Nora.

Justin breathed a sigh of relief. He picked a restaurant and sent the address to her.

Then, he stood up and got ready to set off. When he passed the study, he saw Cherry playing in there. Were she Pete, he would never take him along and have him be the third wheel.

But if it was Cherry... He'd better take her along, he supposed. Otherwise, what if she started crying at home?

Justin smiled and beckoned to her. “Let’s go out for dinner, Pete.”

“Okie-Dokie!”

—

At the Smith Corporation.

In the office, Joel clenched his fists tightly after Justin hung up. The look in his eyes, as he stared ahead of him, was volatile and unreadable.

Even his expression, which was always amicable, had become a little sharp. An unusual gleam appeared in his deep eyes. He pressed the button that summoned his personal assistant. Thirty seconds later, his assistant knocked on the door and entered. “Is there something you need me for, Mr. Smith?”

Joel’s voice was awfully cold as he ordered, “Find out what happened at the Golden Sunshine Kindergarten!”

The assistant was stunned for a moment.

Joel was well-known for being a wolf in sheep’s clothing. He had always been mild-mannered and treated everyone amicably. During all these years as his personal assistant, Joel had been relatively forgiving toward him even when he made the occasional mistake.

This was the first time he had ever seen such a cold and ruthless look on Joel’s face.

The assistant hastily nodded and replied respectfully, “Yes, sir.”

After the assistant left, Joel thought for a while and nevertheless got up and walked out of his office. When the assistant noticed him, he said in surprise, “Mr. Smith?”

Joel instructed, “Cancel all my meetings today. Call me when you find out what happened.”

“Yes, sir.”

Joel took the CEO-exclusive lift down to the underground car park and drove out by himself.

To be honest, he didn't know where he wanted to go, but he simply felt so irritable. He drove around aimlessly in New York. Before he knew it, he had arrived at the university where he used to study at.

He stopped the car. He was about to walk in when he spotted a familiar figure right away.

The young woman, who seemed a little sad, was sitting on a bench under the tree. Her thin and frail figure gradually blended with the one from a few years ago.

All the noise around him seemed to disappear and time quietly rewound to a few years ago...

Back in high school, they had made a promise to each other that they would attend the New York University together. However, when they were seniors, she suddenly began to pursue dancing before the entrance exams. She wanted to go professional, so she gave up on enrolling at the New York University and instead made plans to go abroad. He was very sad when she told him, but he didn't want to hold her back, so he had agreed.

The two of them seldom spoke to each other after that. After the college entrance exams, the two of them didn't contact each other for a whole summer.

When school finally started, all Joel could feel was dejection as he walked down the path with his luggage without her. It seemed like the world only became bright and colorful when she was around.

But as he walked, he suddenly heard someone calling his name.

He looked up and saw her standing at the New York University's reception counter for freshmen with a suitcase. With a big smile on her face, she had called out, "Joel Smith! I'm staying here all for your sake! Don't you dare bully me in the future, you hear me?"

Even after so many years, he could still clearly remember that she had worn a pale blue dress that day. Her calves were fair and her figure tall and slender.

When she smiled, it was as if everything around her had lit up.

In the midst of Joel's thoughts, the sound of a cell phone ringing suddenly interrupted his thoughts.

Had his assistant already found out what happened at the kindergarten?

Chapter 138: Assistance Has Come~

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Joel was using Happiness, a song by one of his and Tanya's favorite singers back then, as his cell phone ringtone.

However, when he was about to take out his phone, he instead saw Tanya taking out her own cell phone and picking up a call.

It was then that he realized that Tanya was also using Happiness as her ringtone.

If so, then did that mean that she, like him, also couldn't forget the other party even after so many years?

But as soon as he started indulging in his wishful thinking, in front, Tanya's eyes lit up and she said excitedly, "Darling! So it was you who helped me out!

"Of course, I'll reward you. Shall I give you a kiss? Or perhaps, I'll give myself to you and sleep with you for a few nights?"

"Oh, don't be shy! Here, I'll give you a big kiss! Mwah~!"

"... Dinner? No problem, of course! Text me the location!"

Tanya hung up after that. Then, she immediately got up, turned around, and walked away excitedly.

After she left, Joel walked out from behind the big pillar at the school gates.. He stared at the direction in which she had driven away, his upturned eyes flickering dimly.

‘Darling’... ‘Give myself to you’... ‘A big kiss’...

The phrases made him feel uncomfortable all over. It was as if there was a time bomb ticking away in his body, ready to explode.

He didn’t even know what he was doing, but without even a second thought, the man, who had always been calm and self-disciplined, suddenly got into his car and followed behind her.

He was going to see... just where she was going!

—

Tanya drove the jeep leisurely to Club Prism.

After parking, she looked up and gazed at the familiar place.

This was a club that the wealthy and prestigious often visited to have some fun, and had been around for many years.

When she was still a child, she was the baggage that her mother had brought with her when she married into a wealthy family. What Hillary loved doing the most was bringing her here to have some fun—

Because she couldn’t go in.

She wasn’t of high social status and didn’t own a VIP card. Thus, all she could do was stand at the door anxiously and wait for Hillary to remember that she was there.

Later, she stopped coming.

While she was staring at the place, inside Club Prism, Hillary was also coincidentally there for dinner. She had already parked her car and was about to enter the main hall.

When she turned her head and noticed Tanya, she bit her lip at once.

To think Tanya had actually followed her here! Was she haunting her or what?

She narrowed her eyes and beckoned the lobby manager over. Then, she pointed at Tanya outside and said, “Don’t let that woman in!”

The lobby manager glanced at Hillary and retorted, “Ms. Jones, I have no right to refuse her entry if she’s a legit customer.”

Seeing that her words weren’t working on the lobby manager, a look of displeasure came over her countenance and she said, “You may not care about my identity as Ms. Jones, but what about my identity as Mrs. Smith?”

The lobby manager was taken aback.

Hillary cast her eyes down and said, “Although Joel and I aren’t married yet, I’ve already moved into the Smiths’ residence. You should know that, right?”

The lobby manager frowned.

A smirking Hillary said, “Or perhaps you aren’t afraid of Mrs. Smith, either. In that case, what about Joel?”

The lobby manager was stunned.

Hillary pointed to the area outside and said, “That woman is a dance teacher at the kindergarten who injured Joel’s and my daughter. She followed me here because she wants to apologize. I don’t want to see her, and neither do I think Joel would want to, either. Understand?”

The lobby manager frowned.

Although Club Prism wasn’t afraid of anyone, they nevertheless still had to show Joel some respect. Thus, he nodded and said, “Alright, Ms. Jones.”

Resentment welled up in Hillary when she heard the words ‘Ms. Jones’.

This was all Mia's fault. Had she been a boy instead, she would've been married to Joel a long time ago! Speaking of which, it was all because Tanya's womb was so useless to actually give birth to a little wench instead!

She took a deep breath and entered a private room.

At the entrance.

Tanya was about to enter when someone stopped her.

“Excuse me, miss. Do you have an appointment?”

Club Prism's customers were all either rich or prestigious. The diners here were either guests who owned their VIP cards like Hillary, or people with high social status like Justin or Joel. Even though they hadn't applied for VIP cards, they were tacitly recognized as gold card VIPs. There was also one last type of customer—guests of the above-mentioned.

Tanya replied, “Yes, the room number is—”

But before she could finish, the lobby manager's voice reached her.

“I'm sorry, miss, but I can't let you in.”

Tanya, “?”

The polite lobby manager said apologetically, “Ms. Jones said just now that Mr. Smith has refused to let you in.”

Ms. Jones and Mr. Smith...

Tanya felt an ache in her heart at the mention of the names.

She narrowed her eyes and said, “I'm not here for them. I have an appointment with someone else here.”

The lobby manager sighed and said, “By right, we shouldn't be denying you entry, miss, but Ms. Jones said that Mr. Smith has instructed that you're not

allowed to be anywhere that she is. If I let you in, I'll end up offending Mr. Smith..."

The lobby manager wasn't a social climber, but for the sake of his own livelihood, he could only say, "How about this? Is it alright if I get someone to bring a chair here for you and let you wait outside?"

Tanya narrowed her eyes as her chest tightened.

She could give Nora a call and ask her to come out and pick her up, of course, but if this was really an order from Joel, then wouldn't that mean Nora would end up offending him because of her?

Although she had resolved the issue at the kindergarten for her, Tanya was unwilling to keep giving others trouble.

She clenched her fists, utterly humiliated.

Many years ago, she hadn't been able to enter the club. Later, it was Joel who had taken her inside.

Many years later, she still couldn't enter the club, but she didn't have Joel with her anymore.

Sorrow filled her heart, but she could only lower her head and smile wryly as she said, "No, it's fine. I'll leave."

She would have to leave the treat for another day instead.

When she turned to leave, she happened to see another car stopping at the entrance. Joel opened the door at the driver's seat and got out.

Tanya paused in her tracks.

Then, she immediately broke into a wry smile. No wonder they didn't let her in...

She lowered her head and looked straight in front of her as if she didn't see Joel. She walked straight past him to the side and said to the parking valet, "Please get my car, thanks."

"Yes, ma'am."

Although Joel didn't look at Tanya, he watched her out of the corner of his eye the whole time.

At the sight of her leaving, he was instead relieved.

However, since he was already here, he decided to enter the lobby. Just as he was wondering why she hadn't met her darling for dinner, the lobby manager came forward and said, "You're really here, Mr. Smith! As per your instructions, we've prevented that lady from coming in. Rest assured that we definitely won't allow her to bother you."

Chapter 139: Hillary Digs Her Own Grave

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Joel stopped in his tracks and suddenly looked at the lobby manager. He repeated, "What do you mean you won't allow her to bother me?"

The lobby manager was very shrewd. At the sight of Joel's reaction, something immediately clicked and he replied, "Yes, that's right. Mrs. Smith told us just now not to allow the lady at the entrance to come in. She said that this was your instruction."

He lowered his head. What he said next sounded as if he was claiming credit, but in truth, he was actually lodging a complaint. He said, "We don't have a rule like that at Club Prism, but Mrs. Smith said that this was an instruction from you, so we had to do as requested, of course."

Instructions from him...

Joel's amicable expression faded and he said dispassionately, "She's not Mrs. Smith yet.."

The lobby manager put on a show of looking scared and said, “Apologies, Mr. Smith. I’ve always addressed her as Ms. Jones, but she demanded that we change the term of address today...”

Joel didn’t look angry. However, when he turned and saw Tanya, his eyes darkened a little.

Just as the lobby manager was about to say something, Joel looked away from Tanya and said detachedly, “We’ll leave it at that, then.”

For some reason, he didn’t feel like letting her come in and go for her dinner appointment.

The lobby manager was dumbfounded.

For over ten years, he had always been skilled at reading people’s body language and had never made any mistakes before. Had he guessed wrongly this time? Hillary was clearly acting like a donkey in a lion’s skin just now, yet Mr. Smith was actually giving her actions tacit approval now?

He withdrew his gaze and became a lot more respectful. “Alright, Mr. Smith.”

At the entrance.

Tanya waited idly for the parking valet to bring her car over.

Suddenly, a few people came toward her. “Hey, is that who I think it is? Isn’t she Tanya?”

Tanya turned and saw a few people who used to hang out with Hillary walking toward her.

They were her high school classmates. Hillary and the Joneses were considered a moderately wealthy family, so all of them had curried favor with her back then. Why were they here though?

Were Hillary and Joel... here for dinner with them?

Tanya clenched her jaw.

Joel had despised them when he and Tanya were dating back then. Hillary had brought them over to greet Joel, but he couldn't even be bothered to pay them any attention at that time.

Yet he was actually willing to dine with them for Hillary's sake now?

Heh.

People did change, after all. Right?

While she was inwardly mocking Joel, her ex-classmates started to taunt her.

“Tanya? Are you thinking of going in for dinner? Why don't you ask Hillary, then?”

“That's right. What are you standing around here for? Didn't they say that you were the champion in an international dance competition? Why aren't you able to even enter a small club like this?”

“Man, what's the big deal about being a world champion? Did you win any prize money? Have you spent it all??”

Tanya's eyes narrowed at their mockery of her.

She sneered, “Tsk, I've finally witnessed today what it means to ride on someone's coattails!”

Her choice of words was too artful, so it took a while for them to understand what she was saying. They became angry right away, and a man from among them even stepped forward and pushed her while demanding, “Is that how you should be talking, Tanya?!”

“Exactly. Do you really think you're that great just because the wealthy are being polite and inviting you to teach them dancing after you won a championship? At the bottom of it all, you're still just a dance teacher! Oh, look at the situation you're in now. Why don't you give one of your students' parents a call and ask them to bring you in?”

“She probably can’t get them to! At least we can still enter because of Hillary, but what about you?”

“...”

Tanya was highly sought after among the wealthy. Given her current status, it wasn’t hard for her to enter the club if she wanted to—in fact, she could even easily get a VIP card. However, the problem was that Joel had forbidden her from going in.

In the whole of New York, the Hunts were the only ones who didn’t fear offending Joel.

However, she didn’t want to trouble the Hunts.

Tanya lowered her gaze. At this point, the parking valet brought her car over. She walked around the group of people to the car, but just as she was about to get in, they stopped her again.

“Oh hey, that’s a pretty impressive car you’re driving! Only the rich can afford to drive a jeep like this!”

“Is this car a present from one of your students’ parents?”

“I heard that there are some dance teachers who use the excuse of giving dance lessons to fool around with the masters of the households instead... Hahaha!”

“...”

Their comments were becoming increasingly ridiculous, causing the look on Tanya’s face to turn even colder. She couldn’t tolerate it anymore. She was about to step forward and teach the foul-mouthed guy a lesson when a tall and slender figure suddenly rushed over.

He moved extremely quickly and grabbed the guy by his collar. Before anyone could even react, he socked him right in the face!

As a loud bam rang out, the guy stumbled a few steps backward and spat out a couple of teeth.

His head whipped up as he shouted, “Who the hell...”

However, when he saw Joel and the frosty look on his face, his words came to an abrupt stop!

The people around them were also dumbfounded. They hastily took a step back and stammered, “M-Mr. Smith...”

Joel’s frigid gaze swept across the few of them. At last, he ordered coldly, “Get lost!”

Frightened out of their wits, the few of them immediately fled.

After all of them left, the people around them started to point at them as they speculated among themselves. Someone could be heard faintly commenting, “That woman’s making a scene just because she can’t enter the club... How terrible!”

Joel abruptly turned to Tanya. He grabbed her wrist and walked straight to the lobby entrance.

Then, to the lobby manager who was standing there respectfully, he said, “Remember what she looks like. From now on, no one is allowed to stop her any time she comes here!”

The manager nodded. “Yes, Mr. Smith!”

Tanya’s expression changed a little when she heard what Joel said after being dragged into the club by him.

Was that man sick in the head?

He was the one who didn’t let her in just now, yet he was acting like a hero saving a damsel in distress now?

Seemingly sensing her emotions, Joel left the club without looking back after leaving those instructions.

—

At the Smiths.

Hillary, upon hearing the news from her cronies, didn't have the leisure of having dinner anymore. She hurriedly went home.

As soon as she entered, she said, "I'm sorry, Joel... I didn't know that my friends would do that... I went to the kindergarten this morning to thank Tanya, but not only did she not appreciate my gesture, but she even hit me..."

Hillary held her cheek that was still red and lowered her head. She said pitifully, "When my friends heard what happened, they asked me out to Club Prism, so I headed over. I really didn't expect that they would try to seek revenge for me... and even use your name to stop Tanya from entering..."

She lifted her head with her eyes reddened and said, "It's fortunate that you were there. Otherwise, Tanya would have suffered injustice this time. I'm sorry, Joel..."

She had only just said that when Joel raised his head calmly, scoffed, and pointed to the things on the table.

Hillary was taken aback. However, her expression immediately changed when she picked up the things on the table.

It was actually evidence against her that Joel had found after conducting an investigation!

Chapter 140: Leaving No Means Untried

Translator: Atlas Studios **Editor:** Atlas Studios

Hillary held the few pages of evidence.

The first page was about her conflict with Tanya in the kindergarten. The photo clearly showed that she had provoked Tanya first. The humiliated Tanya had then counterattacked.

The second page was photos of her speaking with the lobby manager in Club Prism's lobby. Her facial expression in the photo was exceptionally smug.

Hillary balled up her fists. She wanted to say something, but before she could, Joel said unhurriedly, "There are surveillance cameras in both the kindergarten and the club. If you continue to deny it, I can ask for the video footage for you. Ms. Jones, allow me to remind you that surveillance camera footage comes with audio nowadays."

Hillary's retort instantly got stuck in her throat..

She stared at Joel in shock. A moment later, she finally hung her head dejectedly and said, "It's my fault this time, Joel... I only did that because I panicked when I saw that Tanya was back. I was afraid that she would take you away from me... Joel, she told me that she's back this time so that she can take revenge on me and take everything from me."

Hillary, whose head was lowered, started to cry. She said, "As you know, Tanya has been fighting with me over everything ever since we were kids. I had no other choice. I just wanted her to leave. I just wanted to protect everything that's mine!"

She looked at Joel again and said, "There's Mia, too. Of all the kindergartens around, why did she go to that one? It's definitely because she knows that Mia is our daughter, so she especially went there for her. Joel, she must be planning to start her revenge with Mia. I don't know how she did it, but she's already bribed Mia. It's only been a day, but Mia's already asking for her..."

She stared at Joel and went on. "There's no way someone like Tanya would be content. Back then, for the sake of dancing, she abandoned you. Even though she won the championship, her life abroad all these years must not have been that great either, right? That's why she wanted to come back. She must be thinking of pestering you..."

‘For the sake of dancing, she abandoned you...’

The words stabbed brutally into Joel’s heart like a knife.

He lowered his eyes and let out a cold chuckle.

Perhaps that woman would give up glory and wealth for the sake of dancing, but there was no way he would ever believe that she would pester him for the sake of glory and wealth...

No matter how people might change, the pride embedded in one’s bones would never change.

Besides... She had gone to that kindergarten for her son. Now that she had Justin Hunt, there was no need for her to pester him anymore.

The icy smile at Joel’s lips became tinged with a bit of bitterness—he’d rather she pester him instead.

“Joel, I really am repentant. I won’t do anything anymore, no matter how Tanya provokes me again in the future. Don’t worry. Even though she betrayed you back then, the two of you are ultimately still friends, so...”

Before Hillary could continue sowing discord, Joel said detachedly, “What did I say back then, when you came to me with your child?”

What he had said?

Hillary bit her lip. Back then, she had wormed her way into the Smiths by relying on her daughter. However, Joel had refused to marry her no matter what, and only gave her the title of his fiancée.

She was the one who moved into the Smiths with the excuse that her daughter needed her mother. She cared for and fussed over Mia greatly ever since, thereby stopping Joel from driving her away.

However, on the night that she moved in, an icy-cold Joel had said, “If you stay content with your lot and behave, I don’t mind turning a blind eye to

most of your actions. However, you're not allowed to publicize that you're Mrs. Smith. I won't let you off if I ever find out."

Why would Hillary even care about that at that time? She had agreed to his terms right away.

In the years that followed, she waited on Mia carefully, in hopes that once enough time passed, Joel would officially register their marriage in order to give the girl a mother.

This way, even if they didn't hold a wedding ceremony, she would still become the veritable Mrs. Smith!

However, apart from when she was picking up and dropping off Mia, she actually didn't have any chance to meet Joel at all after she moved in. It was no exaggeration to say that they were strangers with the closest relationship with each other.

At this point of Hillary's inner thoughts, Joel said, "Since you've broken the rules... Get lost."

Get lost?

Hillary's head whipped up and she stared at him incredulously.

Even when he was telling her to get lost, Joel's upturned eyes still felt mild-mannered, despite him being expressionless.

Astonished, she asked, "What did you say?"

Joel stood up and said mercilessly, "You violated our agreement."

She had violated their agreement...

Hillary started to tremble all over.

To be honest, this wasn't the first time she had violated it during all these years.

The Joneses had already tacitly recognized them as husband and wife when she moved into the Smiths. It was also thanks to this that the Joneses' businesses started to do better and better.

Hillary was even on tenterhooks when the Joneses first used the Smiths' name in their business dealings. However, she had later discovered that Joel didn't care at all even when he did find out.

After that, she had let down her vigilance.

Yet he was bringing up their agreement now?

Hillary reached out and clutched Joel's sleeves. She said, "Joel, I was wrong. I've really seen the error of my ways..."

Joel pulled his sleeve out of her grip. There was no trace of emotion at all in those eyes on his expressionless countenance. He asked coldly, "Are you going to leave by yourself, or should I get someone to throw you out?"

Hillary's legs went limp and she almost fell onto the floor.

Five years!

She had lived here for a whole five years!

How cruel and unfeeling must a person be, in order for them to hold not even the slightest bit of feelings for her?

She regained sobriety at once.

Counting on Joel's sympathy or feelings for her would get her nowhere.

That little bastard was the only thing she could count on now!

Hillary's eyes reddened. She gazed at Joel earnestly and said, "I was wrong, Joel. I'll leave, but can you let me see Mia before I go?"

Joel stared hard at her.

“Okay. But when you see her... Surely you don’t need me to tell you what you can say in front of her and what you can’t, right?”

Hillary’s gaze flickered. She lowered her head and replied, “No, I’m aware.”

Only then did Joel instruct the nanny, “Bring Mia over.”

Mia was resting at home today and hadn’t gone to school after suffering an allergic reaction the day before.

She was currently playing by herself in her bedroom. When the nanny brought her over, she asked timidly, “Mommy, Daddy... What’s the matter?”

Hillary immediately put on an affectionate and devoted act. She hugged Mia and said, “Mia, Mommy will be away for a while. You must behave at home, okay?”

She had already thought about it. Joel had a thousand and one ways he could drive her away if she kicked up a fuss in front of her daughter.

Her only option at the moment was to make Mia reluctant to leave her, and make her cry her eyes out in her arms... That was the only way Joel would let her stay.

She was confident that she had treated Mia well enough all these years. Besides, she was her mother; Mia definitely wouldn’t bear to leave her side.

She stared at Mia and asked, “Will you miss Mommy, Mia?”

However, an anticipative Hillary never expected that Mia would instead nod and reply timidly, “Go ahead, Mommy. I’ll be a good girl.”