Serve NOTL 271

Chapter 271 Business Negotiations

Michael was annoyed by Christopher constant chatter. He stopped abruptly, turned around, and glared at him, "Shut up!"

Christopher appeared bewildered as he sensed his father's increasing irritability. Lowering his gaze, he spoke softly, "I'm sorry, Dad. I know I've been bothering you. But with Fanny's situation, I can't handle it alone. I need your help."

Listening to his son's plea, Michael also felt uneasy. Softening his tone, he replied, "Alright, I didn't I wouldn't help her. We just need to organize our thoughts, aim for a decisive victory, and not give this case any chance to turn around."

He could not bear to go through it all over again, having already invested too much energy in Fanny' case. Christopher felt a wave of relief after hearing his father's reassurance.

That night, they revisited the

Situation and analyzed it thoroughly. Michael seemed to grasp some of the crucial parts of the issue. He then interrupted Christopher by asking. "Did you mention that Linda leaked this?"

Christopher nodded solemnly, recalling how they initially dismissed Fanny's claims. Now, Linda's influence seemed undeniable.

"Who is she?" Michael inquired, "Does she hold a grudge against Fanny?"

Taken aback, Christopher only knew Linda is one of Fanny's classmates who had faced financial troubles. He hadn't not delved into the details, deeming them irrelevant.

Michael sighed as he was observing his son's ignorance. "Look into Linda. She might hold the key to this matter."

Initially agreeing, Christopher was stopped by his father later on as he decided to handle it himself. In a short period of time, Michael swiftly gathered information on Fanny,

uncovering the truth behind the situation. With Linda's address in hand, he took Christopher to confront her.

Bringing his son along was a lesson in handling such matters. Linda, startled by their visit, questioned their purpose. She was dumbfounded by the unfamiliar middle—aged man.

Politely. Christopher introduced his father as they proposed a business deal. However, Linda was skeptical of the plan and mentioned her lack of association with Fanny, anticipating trouble if discovered.

Just as Christopher was about to continue his persuasion, Michael disclosed their true

intention by saying. "We are currently discussing a divorce with Fanny; that's why we come to

find you."

Upon hearing that, Linda was intrigued and agreed to continue the conversation indoors.

While remaining seated, Michael wasted no time addressing the divorce proposal and the need to clear Fanny's name, knowing Linda's involvement in the situation.

Linda listened attentively to Michael's words, gently running her fingers through her hair. "Christopher and Fanny were once deeply in love. How did their relationship come to this. point of divorce?"

After all, Angela was initially engaged to Christopher, and the engagement was later taken away from her. It was such a profound love, yet it seemed to crumble so easily.

Christopher averted his gaze while Michael continued, "She has caused so much trouble to our family. How dare she show her face in the Sanders Family? But since she has a request, we have to consider it."

"So, what exactly do you want me to do?" Linda asked confidently, "If I report this, will you have me arrested?"

In contrast to the Sanders Family and the Kins Family, her Stuart family was in a desperate situation.

"We would like you to record a video admitting that your accusation against Fanny hiring a hitman was false," Michael stated his request slowly, "But rest assured, we will make it worth your while."

Upon hearing the initial part of the conversation, Linda's expression showed a hint of struggle. However, as she listened to the latter part, a faint smile appeared, though she remained composed. "I am curious to hear the terms that the Sanders Family is proposing, she remarked.

Michael had looked into Linda's background and knew she came from a respectable family but had fallen on hard times. Despite this, she still lived in a luxurious house, suggesting that she had some source of income.

As for the source, he was not concerned. He continued in asking Linda, "Since we seek your assistance, it is only fair that you take the lead. What are your terms?"

Linda smiled. "As a vulnerable woman like myself, I have nowhere else to turn. Naturally, I would like financial security, a home, or something to ensure my future."

Michael nodded in agreement. "Of course."

"On top

of that..." Linda tilted her head slightly, tucking a strand of hair behind her ear, "If I confess to spreading false information, I will undoubtedly face criticism. My mental and physical well-being will be greatly affected."

Christopher impatiently interrupted, "Just state your demands. We will consider what we can offer. But if your requests are excessive, we may be unable to comply

Michael remained silent, seemingly in accord with Christopher.

Linda twirled her hair and directly presented her demands, "My requests are not

unreasonable. A car for transportation, a home in Lake Cladra, and an additional one million. dollars in cash."

Christopher gasped and could not help but stand up after hearing her terms, "Are you

serious?"

The car was a minor issue, but even the most miniature house in the prime location of Lake Cladra cost five or six hundred thousand dollars, with an additional million in cash. This sum would elevate one to a wealthy status in a country where the average annual salary was only tens of thousands.

The Sanders Family could afford this, but providing a sum of one to one and a half million dollars at once would be quite burdensome. Linda could not help but smile while observing the shocked expression on Christopher's face, "Well, it all depends on how much Mr. Sanders. values his reputation."

It was at this moment that he realizes that, the thought of wanting to rid themselves of Fanny without paying a price was simply a wishful thinking.

Chapter 272 Don't Push Your Luck

Christopher was getting frustrated. After contemplating, he sat back down and suppressed his dissatisfaction. "Linda, this is too much. After all, even if the Sanders Family was wealthy, they were not naive.

Michael added. "Miss Saw, we came here genuinely, hoping to be treated the same. If you act like this, maybe we should end the discussion here."

When confronted by Michael, Linda didn't dare be too presumptuous. After all, Michael was a businessman, which meant he had a sense of authority. Moreover, she was simply setting a price. She wondered if they didn't know how to negotiate

Thinking about it. Linda sighed softly and said, "I just need some money to protect myself. Moreover, who knows if I might be accused of filing a false report when the video is posted? What if I end up in prison? I might not be able to remain in Riverdon anymore. Have you guys considered these?"

Although George provided her with a house, it was only a temporary lodging. The property deed and other documents were not in her possession. Furthermore, George was calculating toward her even though he had said he adored her. After all, despite being a successful businessman, he didn't pay for the house in full and had a mortgage, which was quite frustrating. As for the car, it was a second—hand vehicle. She had repeatedly mentioned getting a new car, but there needed to be follow—through. Thus, if the Sanders Family could offer her cash in addition to the house and car, she could simply leave without worrying about anything if she ever felt dissatisfied in the future.

Hearing her words, Michael pondered momentarily and said, "We can provide you with the house, the car, and the cash, but not the ones you specified. Altogether, it amounts to around. five hundred

thousand, either in cash or as you proposed."

Michael had cut too much of the proposal, and Linda was somewhat displeased. "Mr. Sander, this is far from what I had in mind."

Michael smiled and looked at her with a darkened gaze. "Miss Saw, we untlerstand that this matter would cause you some inconvenience, but everything must be assessed based on its value. You are currently unemployed. However, with your skills, how much do you think you could earn if you find a job? From my understanding, the average salary in Riverdon is only around two thousand, at most six thousand for those who are experienced. Do you think you can have what it takes to achieve it, Miss Saw?"

Linda's expression turned sour at his words. She knew her skills were not exceptional. When her family was wealthy, she didn't have to worry about anything. After her family went bankrupt, she attempted to get a job, but it often failed. Plus, she couldn't bear the thought of

working for someone else.

Michael observed Linda's expression and said, "Nevertheless, I believe in your skill. While it's not high, it's not particularly low either. I'll give you three thousand, so five hundred thousand would roughly equate to fifteen years of your salary"

Of course, Michael didn't take future inflation into account. He wouldn't mention it as long as Linda didn't bring it up.

As expected, Linda didn't think about it. When she heard his words, she was slightly tempted yet still somewhat reluctant.

Michael seemed to have a knack for reading people's minds. Without waiting for Linda to respond, he got straight to the point. "Five hundred thousand, plus a new car valued at less than fifty thousand. We will also arrange for a driver and instructor within three months to ensure you can drive without any issues,

Linda's expression brightened slightly but said, "I don't need a driver. I can drive. However, besides the five hundred thousand and a car, I also want the Sanders Family to agree to a certain request of mine."

Michael asked, "What request?"

Linda smiled. "I'll tell you when I know what I want. Consider it a favor owed to me by the Sanders Family. If I ever need something, you cannot refuse." As Linda talked, she recalled a TV drama where the female lead made the male lead agree to three requests to be fulfilled in the future.

Christopher's expression darkened. "Linda, don't push your luck."

Linda knew when to stop, so she smiled and said, "Don't worry, I won't overstep the boundaries. I just want to ask for a favor in case I encounter any difficulties in the future. Of course, I won't ask you to do anything illegal."

After some consideration, Michael agreed. After all, who knew would happen in the

future? Thus, he could decide whether or not to fulfill it based on the circumstances.

In the end, both parties happily reached an agreement.

Michael provided Linda with a partial deposit and promised to give her the rest after she posted the video online and once the situation with Fanny had ceased entirely.

Linda naturally agreed. She wasn't concerned about the Sanders Family breaking their promise. After all, if they did, she would create a scene and let their reputation be ruined. Moreover, five hundred thousand dollars was significant for most people, but it was nothing

to the Sanders Family. Thus, they wouldn't want to create any problems because of it.

The next day after the deposit was made. Linda posted an apology video.

"I had spread rumors toward Fanny out of jealousy. Since then, I have been restless and plagued by nightmares. I'm sorry. Fanny. I was wrong. I didn't expect things to turn out like this. Fanny is innocent. It was me who was in a trance.

The internet wasn't as advanced as now, so the spread wasn't extensive. However, due to Jonathan's connections, Angela received it promptly after Linda's confession. She scrolled through the comments under Linda's video, and eight out of ten criticized Linda.

The video was posted on a local forum in Riverdon, and many people knew about Fanny's situation. They apologized to Fanny and collectively condemned Linda since they felt they did wrong. During that time, the online environment was less toxic, and people were willing to acknowledge their mistakes, unlike many internet trolls in later years who would never admit their fault. Nonetheless, some people analyzed Linda's video and felt her apology lacked sincerity as if she was pretending. Then, they wondered why she would tarnish her own reputation and thought if she was being forced.

However, these comments were overshadowed by the majority of condemning remarks, and only a few people noticed them.

Looking at it, Angela smirked.

The Sanders Family still held some influence. I wonder how much money they spent to persuade Linda to apologize willingly to the person she despised. As expected, no one can maintain their rationality when faced with money.

The day after Linda posted the video, the second payment was deposited into her account, which brought her joy. She felt that the Sanders Family truly lived up to their reputation for honesty. Once she received the final payment, she planned to take a break from Riverdon and relax elsewhere. However, she couldn't resist reading the comments, some of which were quite harsh. Some even brought up her family's past, suggesting that their bankruptcy was deserved as karma.

Come on. If there is karma in this world, people like Fanny should be the ones facing it.

However, reflecting on how the Sanders Family assisted her during the divorce, her mood slightly improved.

Chapter 273 It's All Because of You

The situation in Riverdon was spiraling out of control. Someone had found her address and began splashing red paint on her doorstep.

Linda was seething with anger. Despite contacting the police, the situation remained

unresolved. At that moment, Linda felt she could not stay here any longer.

and

As she packed her belongings and was going to depart, her phone rang. She picked up saw that it was George on the line. She knew he was going to ask about the incident involving Fanny.

Taking a deep breath, Linda answered the call and said, "George..." Before she could say anything more, George went on a rampage. "Linda, is the video real? I have raised you so well, yet you scheme against my daughter behind my

back?"

It was understandable why George was upset. After all, Fanny was the daughter he had cherished since childhood despite not being his biological child. He could not bear to see anyone harm her. Moreover, Linda, the woman he had financially supported, was behind this.

It was a betrayal. This was what George found most difficult to accept.

Linda held the phone away and frowned. Although her expression was disdainful, she said. pitifully, "You don't even care what I have been through recently. Why did you start scolding me? Whom do you think I am doing all this for? I did it all for you..."

On the other hand, George was taken aback. "What did you say?"

Linda sniffled and said sadly, "I posted that video because you were worried about her. I merely wanted to help you ease the burden. However, you repay me by scolding me."

"For me?"

"Yes." Linda appeared submissive. "Aren't you concerned about this? I could not think of any other way to help you. It took me a long time to think of this idea. I believed that by helping Fanny, she would be safe, so you would no longer have to worry about this. I wanted to repay you too, even though I had been through hell for the past few days..." As she spoke, she started crying again.

Hearing her words, George felt his heart pain.

"Don't cry. It is my fault. I misunderstood you." George apologized hastily.

After crying momentarily, Linda muttered. "What should I do now? The situation appears more dire than I had imagined. I can't stay in Riverdon any longer

George thought momentarily before saying, "Why don't I come and meet you?"

"No," Linda said hastily. "There are too many people eyeing me. If they found out about our relationship, it would be over"

Hearing her words, George suggested, "Let's meet at the club then. Can you do that?"

"Of course, I can. I am willing to take any risk to see you

Upon hearing these words, George felt even more remorseful. He thought that he was a

onster to treat Linda like such. After all, Linda had followed him since she was young and even sacrificed herself to aid him, yet he scolded her outright.

At that moment, George felt like a complete jerk.

Meanwhile, Linda wore a smug smile after ending the call. She felt this would be a good opportunity to get George's money again. With the funds from the Sanders Family, she could escape without any concerns after creating chaos within the Kins Family.

George arranged his meeting with Linda at a private club two days later.

Before leaving the house, Linda disguised herself. She carried a bag, wore shabby attire, and hunched her back as she walked down the stairs and toward the neighborhood.

She proceeded slowly, noting the presence of numerous unfamiliar faces in her area recently. Initially, the security, in this area had been robust. However, due to her actions, many people in the area chose to turn a blind eye and allowed the arrival of certain individuals to punish this shameless woman. Thus, even if Linda voiced her complaints, it was futile. After all, the others would politely claim they would handle everything but eventually do nothing, leaving Linda powerless.

Fortunately, Linda's complete disguise went unnoticed by those people. However, she was stopped at the club entrance due to her appearance.

Linda had no choice but to contact George to pick her up.

Seeing Linda dressed like a thief, George couldn't help but feel guilty, thinking she had done all this because of him.

In a private room, Linda changed out of the clothes in front of George and took her usual clothing from her backpack. She understood she couldn't let her guard down around men. If she appeared in her old, unattractive look, she wouldn't be able to earn money in the future.

When Linda saw him, her eyes reddened. She threw herself into George's arms and told him about the hardships she had endured

The more George heard about it, the more heartbroken he felt. He said, "Why don't we leave Riverdon for a while? Let's lay low for a bit.

Although Linda agreed with the idea, she didn't immediately say it aloud. She looked at him with her big doe eyes and said. "If that's the case. I wouldn't be able to see you for a long time." However, deep down, she was thrilled at the thought of not being able to see George for a long time. Although the reason she was with George was to seek revenge against Fanny. it was still disgusting.

Pleased with Linda's act, George reassured her. "Don't worry. It will all be over soon"

"Where should I go then?" Linda blinked innocently. "I haven't really been out much. I'm scared to be alone in an unfamiliar place."

Thinking about it, George suggested, "Going abroad is the safest option."

The news of the incident spread in Riverdon, but it was unknown if it had been spread to other cities. If the whole country knew about this, George feared that Linda's life would still be a living hell if she didn't go abroad.

Linda nodded and said hesitantly, "Traveling abroad requires a lot of money, though. I have some savings, but I'm not sure if it's enough."

George chuckled. "Don't worry, I'll take care of it."

Linda was happy as she embraced George and kissed him on the lips.

As they were alone together, the atmosphere grew tense.

Unable to resist the teasing, George pushed Linda onto the sofa.

Suddenly, the door was kicked open with a loud bang.

Chapter 274 Caught in the Act

George was somewhat annoyed, as he thought the privacy and soundproofing were supposed to be good here. He wondered who was bold enough to enter without his and the waiter's permission.

Before George could say anything, he saw Scarlet standing at the door with two waiters trying to stop her.

Seeing the scene inside, the two waiters quickly backed off. However, the scene infuriated Scarlet, who was already filled with anger.

At that moment. Linda also turned her head around.

In that split second, their eyes met, and the atmosphere was awkward.

"You slut!" Scarlet shouted, spewing out all sorts of filthy words. "I'm going to kill you!" As she spoke, she rushed in. "Are you that thirsty for a man? Is this how your parents raised you to be? You can't walk straight when you see a man. I'll teach you myself since your parents didn't teach you."

Seeing Scarlet coming closer, George hurriedly got up from Linda and stopped Scarlet. "Get up and run." Then, he stopped Scarlet from grabbing Linda and said, "Let's talk about this later."

"Get out of the way!" Scarlet kept pounding on George. "You despicable thing. Why are you still protecting this trash? She has slept with so many people, yet you still treat her like a treasure. It's disgusting."

Without them looking, Linda smirked. She wondered if she should leave or continue to watch. After all, this was a good opportunity.

She pretended to be scared and slowly got up. Then, she stood on the side with reddened

Although George had his back to Linda, he knew she hadn't left. Thus, he urged, "Why are you still standing there? Hurry up and go. This crazy woman won't hold back. Don't let her hurt you." He still remembered the last time Scarlet beat up Linda. It was truly horrifying.

Scarlet's eyes were bloodshot as she said, "Do you think you can escape?" Then, she scolded George, who was holding her back. "You pig! This woman hurt our daughter, yet you still protect her. Where is your responsibility as a father?"

Scarlet was furious. She wanted to tear Linda apart but couldn't break free from George's

grasp since there was a massive difference in strength between men and women

Linda didn't rum Just as she was about to speak, she didn't expect Scarter in the George's arm directly George yelped in pain and let go of her

With no one holding her back, Scarlet rushed forward to hit Linda

Linda wouldn't just stand there, so she started running in circles in the room

The private room was small, with Scarlet and Linda running back and forth soon, carter's stamina couldn't keep up with Linda, especially with George intentionally blocking her. Thus, Scarlet couldn't

even lay her fingers on Linda. After some time, Searles strapped to catch her breath, and Linda was also tired. However, she seemed much better than Searler. Still, she looked at Scarlett warily.

George was puzzled as he looked at Linda. "Why didn't you run away just how He clearly saw that Linda had several chances to escape, but she didn't take them.

Linda looked at George affectionately and said, "I don't want you to face this lunatic alone. She's a shrew and won't care who you are. Since we love each other, we should face everything together. You want to protect me, and I can protect you too."

Hearing her words, George

felt a pang in his heart. Although he didn't think Linda could protect herself, he still loved to hear such words from her. From childhood to adulthood, even his parents had never promised to protect hirn. When he faced business difficulties, he dealt with them on his own to protect his family. Now, the girl he cherished said she wanted to protect him. How could one not be touched?

George gazed affectionately at Linda and said, "Linda, you are too good to be true. He wondered how he could have possessed such luck to have such a woman in his lif

Linda's expression remained unchanged, but she sneered inwardly. She uttered those disgusting words just to provoke Scarlet.

After all, if it was just a small matter, the Kins Family would settle it by paying some money like last time. Even though George did not favor Scarlet, she had given birth to several children, all of whom were

successful now. Thus, these minor issues would not tear the Kins Family apart. She needed to do something big.

As expected, Scarlet was furious when she saw George and Linda publicly displaying affection. Her expression darkened as she grabbed a bottle of wine from the table, smashed it, and then lunged

forward. "I'm going to kill you!"

Witnessing Scarlet's outburst, Linda was taken aback. Although this was the outcome she desired, it would be a loss if she lost her life to it.

"Uncle George, she's gone mad." In fear. Linda hid behind George.

Looking at the crazed look on Scarlet, George was angry. "Scarlet, that's enough!! Do you want to commit murder?"

scarlet's chest heaved heavily when she saw George blocking her way. "Get out of my way!

George barked "Drop the weapon. You knew about me and Linda long ago. Can't you just ignore it? You've been part of the Kins for over twenty years. Have I ever mistreated you?

Can't you

be content with being my wife? Linda doesn't seek fame or status and even saves Fanny's life. Yet, you still have the audacity to hurt her How bold of you!"

Scarlet stared at George in disbelief, as if she didn't recognize him. She couldn't believe he could utter such twisted words.

Scarlet did not want to engage in a conversation with him, so she attempted to bypass him and confront Linda directly. However, George halted her.

This is unreasonable" George was so furious that he slapped Scarlet across the face, thinking it was time to snap her back to reality.

The slap was forceful, catching Scarlet off guard and causing her to fall to the side. Then, her head struck the coffee table. In that split second, she immediately lost consciousness as blood flowed from her head Chapter 275 Become Vegetative

Upon seeing the scene in front of him, George was instantly dumbfounded, and his hands unconsciously trembling.

This was clearly not the sight he hoped to see.

Meanwhile, Linda, shielded behind him, couldn't help but curl her lips in a faintly mocking smile.

However, since she was standing behind George, she went unnoticed.

She pretended to appear scared, reaching out to gently hold George's arm. "What should we do, George? Now we-"

Her soft, sobbing voice brought George back to reality.

He gritted his teeth, seeming to resolve something, then turned to grip her arms firmly, speaking with seriousness.

"Linda, listen to me. No matter what, you must not intervene in this. I will take her to the hospital first, and you wait here for me. I will come back later to pick you up and take you abroad!"

After speaking, he quickly called for an ambulance.

Linda appeared genuinely frightened, her eyes reddened as she looked at George.

"Are... are you going to leave and never come back? Will you abandon me? I didn't expect this to happen today, I'm truly sorry..." At times like this, to make a man reluctant to leave, all one needed to do was evoke a sense of Clearly, Linda knew this very well. As expected, she was pulled tightly into George's embrace the next moment. "Linda, rest assured, I will never abandon you. I just worry that staying here might put you in danger. Wait for me to come back, no matter what, wait for me!" The ambulance had arrived, and George arranged for her to be placed in the next compartment. Then, he followed the paramedics into the ambulance. Watching the ambulance gradually disappear along the road, Linda crossed her arms and a faint smirk played on her lips. Meanwhile, inside the ambulance, George gazed at the unconscious Scarlet with a complex expression. Although just now, George had felt irritated while facing her. But no matter what, she had been with him for so many years. If something were to happen.... Seemingly struck by a thought, George took out his phone and messaged his children at home. He informed them of the location of the hospital. But he only briefly mentioned that Scarlet had accidentally fallen, without going into too much detail.

He simply couldn't muster the courage to call and explain the situation himself.
After all, he was feeling guilty.
The children, who had been busy with work, all dropped what they were doing and headed to the hospital upon receiving the message.
After Scarlet was taken to the emergency room of the hospital, George didn't linger. He wanted to take advantage of this gap to go to the airport to send Linda away.
Not long after, the door of the compartment opened, and Linda saw George rushing in, panting heavily.
It was obvious that he had rushed over in a hurry.
"George, why do your face look so pale? Are you okay?" Linda stood up and pretended to look worried as she approached George.
"Let's go, the plane ticket is already booked. I'll take you to the airport now. If you don't leave today, you might not be able to leave later. Linda, I have no choice but to protect you in this way for now. Please don't blame me!"
George said as he handed a card to Lind
"Here is the money I prepared for you on my way back. Although I'm not very rich, it should be enough to keep you comfortable for a short time. Linda, once the storm settles here, I'll
cone to see you
Without wasting any time, he took Linda to the hospital.

tulle, James, who had received the news, arrived at the hospital first, only to find that his father was not in front of the emergency room petrzled expression in his eyes, just as he was about to make a phone call, he heard Zacharias voice behind him. James, how is the situation?" "I don't know yet..." James was interrupted and let out a sigh, his eyes filled with worry. Ar that moment, the door of the emergency room was opened from inside. James mashed over and asked the doctor. "How is she? Is the patient okay?" After giving James a meaningful look, the doctor proceeded towards the office. The ergency treatment has ended. Let's discuss matters in the office. There are some things I need to darity with you." This sentence made James and Zacharias' expressions turn grim. Because it implied that the outcome might not be favorable. Nooming George absence. Zacharias attempted to call him, but received no answer after several tries. The patient has been transferred to the ICU. She hit her head, so the situation is quite serious. Fortunately, she was brought in promptly, so there's no immediate danger to her

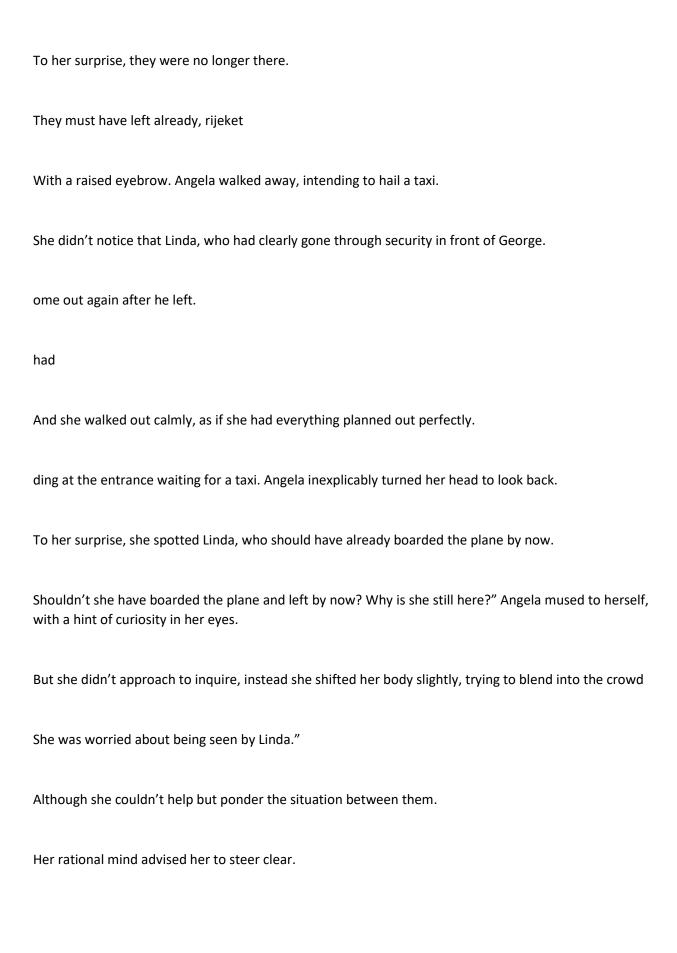
Inside the office, the doctor, looking at the chart in his hand, spoke with seriousness.

"So the patient should be alright now, right? She just needs to rest properly, isn't that so, doctor? James asked with a furrowed brow, filled with worry. The reason the's in the ICU is because there's a risk of her becoming vegetative. The head injury caused internal bleeding, which could affect her brain nerves. If the bleeding doesn't dissipate it'll be difficult for the patient to wake up later." The doctor sighed softly. "But this situation is still uncertain for now. We'll have to see how her recovery progresses. You can go into the ICU now to see the patient. Sometimes talking to them can stimulate the brain nerves and help them wake up faster James nodded gratefully. Thank you, doctor. As they were leaving, they saw Joseph rushing in James, what's the latest update?" "It's likely she might become vegetative. We'll have to see how her recovery progresses, James replied with a furrowed brow. They all entered the ward. Seeing Scarlet lying on the bed with her head wrapped in thick bandages, they couldn't help but feel heartache. But a question lingered in their minds. "Why did mom suddenly fall and get hurt so badly?" James murmured to himself.

Meanwhile, their father, who had disappeared, had already arrived at the airport with Linda.

Before parting, he embraced her tightly, saying, "Linda, be careful when you're abroad. Since I won't be by your side, you'll have to rely on yourself for many things. Wait for me, I'll come find you!" Linda nodded deeply and tightly gripped the card in her hand. Chapter 276 What a Coincidence The unique scent of the woman gradually invaded George's nostrils. He pondered over when he would have the chance to see her again after parting ways The reluctance in his heart intensified. Suddenly, he released Linda and instead cupped her cheek. Linda watched as George leaned in for a kiss with closed eyes, her eyes filled with deep disgust. Despite her own agenda, she had no choice but to endure. With determination, Linda furrowed her brow and endured George's kiss. A tormenting farewell kiss, but to outsiders, it seemed affectionate... Angela was momentarily taken aback when she stumbled upon this scene. "Why are they here?" Sensing something amiss, she instinctively halted in her tracks. However, Jessica didn't notice Angela's anomaly. "Angela, take care of yourself! I'll be back





After careful consideration, Angela hailed a taxi.
She opened the door and was about to leave.
Meanwhile, as Linda exited the airport, a familiar figure caught her eye in the periphery.
Upon closer inspection, she was surprised to see Angela unexpectedly.
Although she didn't know what Angela was doing here, but
Seemingly remembering something, a smile slowly appeared on Linda's face, and she walked directly toward Angela.
Before she could reach her, Angela boarded a taxi.
"Are you in such a hurry to leave?" Linda frowned and quickened her pace,
Just as Angela was about to drive off, the door suddenly opened.
The driver looked at the woman who appeared out of nowhere in confusion, and Angela was also surprised.
Looking up, she gazed at Linda, who had suddenly appeared in front of her, with a puzzled expression.
"What a coincidence. Mind giving me a ride?" Linda smiled lightly, then entered the vehicle and casually shut the door.
Chapter 277 George's Secret
I mind. So could you get out of the car now?" Angela spoke calmly, with a hint of displeasure in her expression.

She had already decided not to get involved in this matter anymore.

Therefore, Linda was undoubtedly a trouble for her now.

Linda seemed to have anticipated Angela' reaction, shrugged slightly, and then explained. "Just now, when 1 met George, Scarlet saw us together. When she tried to hit me, she accidentally hit the comer of the table herself. George took her to the hospital, and now he's sending me to the airport to make me leave."

With her lips pressed together, Angela frowned thoughtfully after hearing her words, her eyes filled with astonishment.

She had already guessed some of it just now, but she never expected the truth of the matter to be like this.

Her gaze fell deeply on the woman in front of her. Although she didn't speak, it was obvious that she didn't entirely believe Linda's words.

"But I don't believe George. He's in such a hurry to send me away. If I really leave and something happens to Scarlet, he can push everything onto me. And if I'm not in the country by then, there will be no evidence to prove otherwise! I can't afford the crime of fleeing and evading responsibility."

"Your affairs with him have nothing to do with me. I don't want to get involved. Please get our of the car."

Angela composed herself and firmly declined Linda.

Linda, clenching her fists subconsciously, showed no signs of giving up.

As if struck by a sudden idea, she smiled lightly and said, "If you assist me, I can disclose George's secret to you. Having spent considerable time with him, I possess a wealth of information! What I reveal will surely not disappoint you!"

Angela crossed her arms and her gaze slowly fell back on Linda. Involvement in this matter would be akin to descending into a bottomless pit. The potential consequences were unpredictable. She saw no reason to risk so much for a so-called secret. "No need. I'm not interested in the secrets you mentioned. If there's nothing else, you can get out of the car now." Angela said, her tome calm but slightly displeased. "But please, there's really no one else who can help me now. Please take pity on me. I promise the secret 1 tell you won't disappoint you! Can you trust me just this once?" Linda's tone turned pleading. Angela frowned and instructed the driver. "Just drop us off at the nearby commercial street." The driver agreed and swiftly brought them to the nearest commercial street from the airport. As Angela got out of the car, Linda followed suit. Seeing Linda still talking incessantly behind her, she couldn't help but feel helpless. Glancing at the cafe in front of her, Angela finally stopped. "Alright, I've already said I'm not interested in your secrets. But seeing you like this, I know you won't leave easily without hearing me out. Fine, come in and let's talk." Linda's face brightened, viewing Angela' concession as a step to her victory. Seated in a corner of the coffee shop, Angela gazed at Linda before speaking.

"I have limited time, so if you have something to say, say it quickly. Explain to me why this incident occurred. Linda, feeling overwhelmed, took a sip of her coffee before speaking. "I really didn't expect the accident to happen. When George was protecting me, he accidentally pushed Scarlet, causing her to lose her balance and hit her head on the corner of the table. There was blood everywhere. He called an ambulance and then told me I couldn't. stay there, or I would be in trouble. So, he asked me to hide in the adjacent private room while he took Scarlet to the hospital." "Not long after, he returned and informed me that he had purchased a ticket and escorted me directly to the airport for my departure. And you know the rest! Angela nodded and inquired further, "Why did you seek me out? What assistance do you require?" "Now..." Linda hesitated for a moment before tentatively speaking, afraid that Angela might refuse her request. "Actually, given my current situation, I can't easily show up in front of everyone, let alone Jet George know I haven't left. So I thought Ed ask you if you could arrange a place for me to stay? At least let me get through this period of time!" "No, what you jus said only confirms to me that you're trouble. I don't need to risk helping cou. We have no tiex, Angela said, getting up to leave However, Linda firmly grasped her arm. "I've told you everything I know. Please help met Oh, and about the secret! F'll tell you his secret as well. Consider it an exchange? Trust me just this once

Secret

Angela was actually somewhat intrigued.
Seeing Angela hesitate. Linda leaned in and lowered her voice as if about to speak.
But at that moment, Angela's phone rang.
Angela retrieved her phone and noticed it was George calling.
Signaling for Linda to keep quiet, she answered the call. "What's wrong?"
Actually, Angela already had a clear idea of why George was calling her at this time.
But she had to pretend to ask.
"Your mom is in the hospital, come over quickly," came George's voice, hoarse and burdened, seemingly troubled By something.
His words indirectly validated Linda's recent statements as truthful.
Despite her initial inclination to decline.
She truly did not wish to become further entangled with that side.
Yet, Linda suddenly clasped her hands together, imploring her to visit the hospital.
Although she instinctively wanted to refuse, she agreed in the end.
After all, only by going to the hospital herself could she know the situation.

"Okay, I'll come over now," she replied before hanging up.
"How is it? Is Scarlet alright?" Linda recognized George' call and gazed at Angela with
concern.
After all, if she had truly passed away, it would be a significant matter!
"Proceed to a nearby hotel and reserve a room to await my update. I will head to the hospital to assess the situation, and 1 will inform you later." After making the necessary arrangements, Angela left the cafe immediately.
Chapter 278 Gone
As Linda watched Angela hurriedly leave, her face revealed a faint, mysterious smile. Following their agreement, she got up and left the cafe for the hotel.
When Angela arrived at the hospital, the equipment that had already been delivered to Scarlet's ward suddenly started to malfimction.
The doctors noticed something was wrong and quickly rushed the patient back to the operating room for emergency treatment.
It was clear that the situation was very serious.
Observing the crowd outside the operating room, Angela scanned the area from a corner and did not see George anywhere.
Frowning in confusion, she took out her phone, intending to make a call to inquire about the
situation.

After all, when she received the call earlier, she thought everyone was there. With the chaos happening outside the operating room, how can he be absent? Fanny, who had been surrounded by people and was crying with red eyes, suddenly shifted her gaze to Angela, clenching her fists in anger as if a sudden surge of fury had overtaken her. She strode over to Angela, pointing a finger at her. "Angela, what are you doing here? Get out! You have no right to be here. Get out!" Angela remained calm as she watched Fanny lose control of her emotions. She glanced lightly at the woman in front of her, pursed her lips, and said with a hint of disdain, "The person lying in the operating room right now is my biological mother. Do you think I am less qualified to stand here than you, Fanny? If someone is undeserving, who should really leave?" Fanny felt speechless, never expecting her to say such words. With red eyes, Fanny covered her mouth, tears streaming down her face. Then, she began to murmur to the people in the emergency room, "Mom, it's all my fault. I haven't been able to make you feel at ease at this time. It's all because of my unfilial behavior. one Angela refuses to leave and I have no right to stay here It seems that the bue who suse leave is me, after all!"

With that, she turned to leave

Angela looked at Fanny-who was still potting on an art with a disdaindut look in her eyes
It was the same old tricks. Nothing new.
But there was no point in staying Since George was not around, it was better to just das
With this in mind, Angela finally spoke to Fanny contemptuously There's no need to go an act. It disgusts me."
With that, she turned and walked away.
She completely ignored the people behind her and the looks that they were giving ber No matter how perfect you try to be, there will always be someone who is not satisfied It's not worth st After leaving the hospital, Angela felt a sense of relaxation as she basked in the sunlight
And at that moment, her phone rang.
She took a look and saw it was a call from Jonathan, A smile unconsciously appeared on her face as she answered the phone.
"Jonathan, what's up?"
"What are you doing?" Jonathan asked.
"I'm outside. Aren't you busy today?" Angela always felt relaxed when chatting with Jonathan
"I'm free. Send me your location after work. I'll come pick you up.
Angela thought that today would be a good opportunity to talk to Jonathan about what happened with Linda.

Without hesitation, she agreed with a smile and found a place to wait for him to pick her up

Once in the car, Angela placed the coffee she had bought in front of him, saying. I saw it while waiting for you, so I bought your favorite flavor. Care to try?"

Although Angela still had a smile on her face, Jonathan could tell that it was forced

the genit reaches out and route it her head, patiently asking "What's wrongs

Bashed in Angela's over

Johan really can't hide am thing from you Actually, after left the house today, I ran

hearing the name Jonathan couldn't help but frown.

he didn't have much contact with this woman, he instinctively felt resistant.

and was posest to leave the country today, but she came back to tell me that my mom fusion about her and my dad My mom accidentally bumped into the coffee table and ended sys in the hospital She's worried that if she leaves the country, my dad will blame her at anything happens to my mom. So now Linda refuses to leave and wants me to help"

At that Angela sighed helplessly.

Tdshut want to agree at first, but Linda told me she knew a secret about my dad and offered to exchange it with me. I couldn't shake her off, so I had to let her wait for me in the hotel while I went to the hospital to check the situation.

Angela bietly explained what happened today, and Jonathan nodded after listening.
So you're going to meet Linda now, right?"
"Yes, but I have a bad feeling about her. She's too cunning. I"
It's okay. I'll go with you. Where are you supposed to meet her? I'll drive there now."
Jonathan sensed Angela's hesitation and tried to reassure her.
Having Jonathan by her side made Angela feel much more at ease.
Angela nodded with a smile, and the two of them drove to the hotel near the commercial
street.
There was only one hotel on this side of the commercial street, so it was easy to find. However, after asking at the front desk, Angela found out that there was no one named Linda Saw staying there.
She frowned in confusion as she called Linda on her phone.
However, no one answered.
"No one's picking up?" Jonathan stood by Angela, looking calm as if he had already guessed what was going on.
Angela nodded. "The hotel just told me there's no one named Linda staying here, and now the phone isn't being answered. Could something have happened?"



She didn't bother with pleasantries with Jonathan, genuinely annoyed at what Linda had done. If Jonathan could find out, they could prevent it in advance. Jonathan caressed her head. "There's no need to be polite with me." Angela pursed her lips. She didn't say thank you again, and a sweet smile hung on her lips without her realizing it. The two returned home together. At Springgate Estates, May had already prepared dinner. Although Angela had given May a half-month vacation, May couldn't sit still and came back early to help, but still tried to give the young couple plenty of space. Seeing the two return, May quickly brought the food to the table. While Angela went to the kitchen to help May, the latter mysteriously said to her, "Mrs. Lawson, you must make Mr. Lawson have more soup today..." "Is it healthy? I'll make Jonathan drink more, then." Angela was puzzled, but seeing that May had prepared a hearty soup, she nodded in agreement. Jonathan also listened to advice well, and in the end, they drank a lot of the soup. After dinner and washing up, Angela checked Jonathan's physical condition. Jonathan sat leaning against the bed, letting Angela examine him, his eyes soft and indulgent.

"Did your legs ache today?"

Today, Jonathan had been at the company for a long time, and after work, he had run around outside a lot for her. She was a little worried that Jonathan's legs couldn't handle it.
Angela lightly pinched Jonathan's legs and looked up to ask him.
Her eyes were dark and moist, looking like a little deer.
Tmn fine" Jonathan couldn't help but reach out and touch Angela's head, his voice husky.
He ran her silky hair between his fingers, and it made him somewhat restless.
Angela didn't feel strange being touched on the head, but instead, she got up in confusion and leaned closer. "Jonathan, is your throat sore?"
She was worried that Jonathan had caught a cold.
Jonathan was taken aback. Angela was too close, so much so that he could smell the fragrance. of her shower gel.
Her skin was fair and looked particularly enticing.
"Let's go to sleep. Jonathan hugged Angela's waist, pulled her closer, and reached out to turn off the Nights.
A faint blush appeared on Angela's porcelain face as she allowed Jonathan to hold her without moving.

As the light dimmed, the room became pitch black.

Nestled in Jonathan's arms, Angela felt his undeniable presence. It caused her ears to burn and her chest to pound.
Now, she understood the meaning of May's gaze before, and her face flushed even more
In the dark of night, when Jonathan kissed her, Angela did not resist.
And after that, she even hugged Jonathan tighter.
Outside the emergency room at the hospital, Fanny was sobbing softly, her almost swollen from crying.
James stood beside her, growing more anxious as they waited.
eyes
Zacharias was already in poor health, and waiting outside for a long time made him even more listless.
Joseph paced anxiously and then made a phone call to George.
From the moment they rushed to the hospital for Scarlet's second surgery, George had not
shown up.
"Still no answer?
When Jonathan asked, Joseph shook his head and walked toward the corner.
When they reached the comer of the corridor, Joseph stated grimly. "The people from the hospital said that Dad brought her in, and then he left."

It was only after learning this that he tried to contact George.
"Mom's injury today is not that straightforward. It must be related to that woman named Linda by Dad's side."
James knew more about George being seduced by Linda than Joseph did.
But he didn't see anything wrong with it. Even if his dad had wronged his mom, the man hadn't mistreated the children.
"So, what do we do now? We can't reach Dad either."
Joseph had been worrying about Zacharias' treatment recently, and he never expected such a big scandal to happen at home.
"We can only wait. James was also exhausted, and when he looked at the bright red letters of the operating room, he didn't feel like saying anything more.
Finally, the door of the operating room opened, and they hurried over.
The doctor's prognosis was still not ideal, but at least there was no immediate danger to life.
But waking up Scarlet was not going to be easy.
Soon, Scarlet was transferred to the intensive care unit.
As they entered, they saw a pale–looking Scarlet lying on the bed. It was hard for them to see
her like that.

Fanny was the first to rush to the bedside and burst into tears.

"Mom, what's wrong with you? Please wake up.

Fanny cried with genuine emotion. After all, Scarlet was the person in the Kins Family who loved her the most.

If Scarlet really couldn't wake up, she was afraid that her days ahead would be even more difficult.

The more Fanny thought about it, the more terrified she felt, wishing she could wake up Scarlet right now.

"Fanny, go back and rest. I'll keep watch here."

Seeing Fanny's fragile and pitiful appearance. Joseph couldn't bear to see her continue to be sad, so he urged her to leave.

"I won't. I want to stay with Mom and wait for her to wake up." Fanny wiped away her tears. She choked up before mumbling. "If Mom wakes up and sees me, she will definitely be happy."

After speaking, Fanny moved a chair to the bedside, and politely and obediently said to the others, "Jonathan, Joseph, and Zacharias, you all can go back and rest. I'll stay here with Mom.

When James saw how sensible Fanny was, his heart softened, and he went forward to comfor her by ruffling her hair.

"It's good that we're here. You're weak, so go home and rest."

Joseph also persuaded, "You can come back to see Mom tomorrow. She wouldn't want you to tire yourself out like this if she were awake."

As for Zacharias, he pursed his lips and remained silent. He just looked at Fanny with
concern.
He had always loved Fanny, and of course, he couldn't bear to see her
cry.
But now, seeing Fanny's eyes red from crying, he couldn't help but think of those strange and chaotic dreams. In those dreams, Angela was much more pitiful than Fanny, but they turned a blind eye to her.
Therefore, many words of concern for Fanny hovered on his lips, but he couldn't bring himself to say them.
Fanny felt uncomfortable under Zacharias gaze, and in the end, she left, choking back tears.
She left reluctantly, saying, "I come back to see Mom tomorrow" James wanted to see her off, but she shook her head and refused his offer
"James, you don't need to see me off. I'll go back."
She was now living in a house that Scarlet had rented for her. Although the conditions were not bad, they were not great either.
But tonight, she didn't want to go back to that rundown house.
As soon as she left the hospital. Fanny made a phone call.
The person on the other end answered quickly and immediately expressed concern.

"Fanny, what's wrong? What happened? Why are you calling me so late?" Christopher spoke in a low voice, but his concern was genuine. Although he had officially cut ties with Fanny, how could he just let go? Fanny cried. "Chris, my mom had an accident. I'm so scared. Can you come and see me?" "Where are you?" Christopher, upon hearing Fanny's distressed state, immediately wanted to go to her. Chapter 280 He's Not as Professional as You After Fanny left, Joseph noticed that Zacharias was not feeling well, so he instructed James to take Zacharias back to rest. "James, please take Zacharias back first. I will stay here." As a doctor, Joseph knew that when Scarlet had an accident, there was no time to locate a care worker. If he oversaw the situation for the time being, everyone else would be at ease. James looked concernedly at Scarlet lying on the sickbed before leaving with Zacharias. Late at night, as Joseph was drifting off to sleep, George finally arrived. "Dad." Joseph saw George and felt a sense of unfamiliarity. "Why is Mom in the hospital?" Noticing Joseph's accusatory tone, George avoided the subject and asked impatiently, "How is

your mom?"

Scarlet had been causing trouble continuously, and George was becoming increasingly frustrated. Even though Scarlet was now in the hospital, his worry outweighed any guilt he may have felt.
Despite any guilt he may have harbored, George maintained a strong facade.
Joseph gazed at his father intently before stating, "The doctor mentioned that Mom might
in a vegetative state."
end
up
"A vegetative state?" George was visibly taken aback.
When he had taken Scarlet to the hospital, she was unconscious. The news of her potential vegetative state upon his return was unexpected.
Observing George's genuine surprise, Joseph felt a sense of relief.
He ruled out George as a suspect.
However, he seized the opportunity to inquire. "What happened? Who harmed Mom?" "Could you get me a glass of water? I'm thirsty" George stammered, avoiding eye contact.
He had been on edge all afternoon, dropping off Linda and rushing back to the scene. George feared that a visit to Scarlet would lead to an emotional breakdown, so he found a place to rest and briefly slept.
Upon waking to missed calls on his phone from his sons, George mentally prepared himself before

heading to the hospital.

Joseph got a glass of water for George. "Can we talk now?" he inquired.. George took a sip of water, glanced at Scarlet, who was in bed, and then questioned. "Is she really not going to wake up?" Had he known that Scarlet would end up in a vegetative state, George would not have allowed Linda to leave. "It's uncertain." Frustrated by George's evasiveness, Joseph stated, "Dad, if you are unwilling to talk, I will have to contact James." The success of the Kins Family company now rested on James. While George may not have cared for Joseph, losing James was not an option. If James decided to resign, George would face significant trouble. "Alright, alright. Let's not trouble James, eh? George soothed Joseph and proceeded to fabricate a story. "What? Are you suggesting that Mom injured herself?" Joseph couldn't help but chuckle at the absurd explanation. With a substantial wound on Scarlet's head, George was clearly lying, and to make matters worse, he was deceiving Scarlet, who was already in a vegetative state!

As he began to walk away, Joseph spoke up from behind him. "Dad, please stop hiding the truth. James has discovered where Mom had the accident, and your mistress was present! What happened? Are you truly not going to tell us?"

"What's with your attitude? Do you doubt your father's words?" A displeased George rose to leave.

George paused at his son's words.

Early the following morning, at Springgate Estates, Angela woke up feeling weak all over, surrounded by a soft sensation.

Recalling the events of the previous night, she blushed and felt her heart race.

"Are you awake?" A pleasant voice whispered in her ear, causing Angela to startle like a rabbit. She opened her eyes wide and turned to see Jonathan, who was still by her side.

J-Jonathan..." Angela blushed and inquired, "Why haven't you gone to the office?"

"I'm off today, so I thought I'd spend some quality time with you."

A speechless Angela didn't refuse. Instead, she immediately suggested, "Since you're off today, it's a good opportunity to get a full body check—up."

Despite the recent rest, Angela was still concerned about Jonathan, especially given his recent busy schedule.

Jonathan indulgently agreed with her. "Whatever you say."

After getting ready, the two made their way to the hospital.

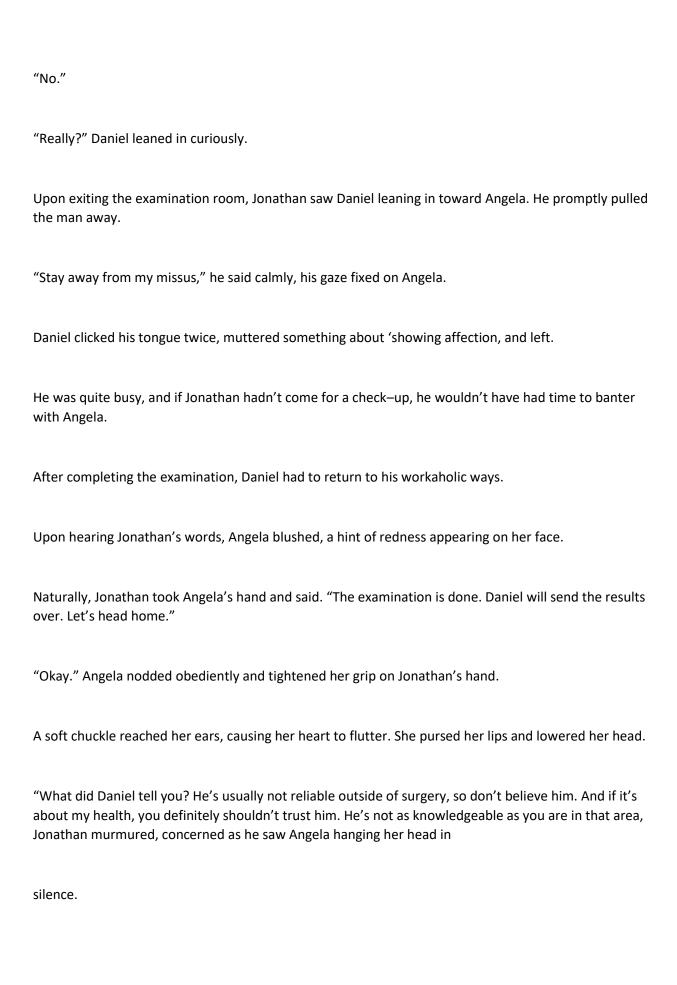
The check—up arrangements had already been made, and Jonathan went straight in for the examination upon arrival.

While Jonathan was being examined, Daniel saw Angela and asked, "Angie, has Jonathan. gotten into trouble again?"

Shaking her head, Angela replied, "No, I was worried that he might be too tired and did not fully recover, so I wanted him to get checked."
She was deeply concerned about Jonathan's well–being.
Daniel tsked, clicking his tongue and playfully looking at her.
Feeling uneasy under his gaze, Angela was about to leave.
However, Daniel suddenly mentioned, "I heard things are getting heated over at the Kins Family. Have you gone to see what's happening?"
"What's going on now?" Angela inquired
Summoned to the hospital by George the day before, Angela had left without seeing him and had an unpleasant encounter with Fanny.
Apart from checking on Zacharias' condition weekly, Angela wanted to steer clear of the Kins Family affairs.
"George came to the hospital late last night to see Scarlet, and it seems he had a disagreement with Joseph," Daniel mentioned casually. "Later, George was so furious that his
voice echoed throughout the hospital. In the end, the people in the neighboring roo couldn't bear it anymore and went to intervene. Oh, by the way, Angie, the Kins Family ward does not even have a care worker. I wonder what they're planning.
Angela guessed the reason behind it, and she felt a sense of pity.

"A penny for your thoughts, Angie?" Daniel was aware of Angela's lack of affection for the Kins Family,

and he spoke openly.



Realizing Jonathan's misunderstanding, Angela quickly shook her head and explained. "He didn't say anything wrong. He just... He just talked to me about the Kins Family."

Jonathan patiently waited for her to continue.

"He just informed me about the Kins Family's situation." Angela said slowly. "Scarlet... She's now in a vegetative state."

When Angela had visited the hospital the day before, Scarlet had been rushed back into the operating room for emergency treatment, but unfortunately, the outcome was still not favorable.