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"So you helped him run to help me too?" Lucia asked coldly at this time.

Nobody would believe that Spencer made Jacob suffer a more miserable punishment!

"Lucia, I've already explained this to you!" Spencer was annoyed that Lucia was helping Arthur attack him, and his tone became much harsher, "I will never make him feel better!"

"He should be punished by the law for what he did wrong. We have our own laws. Who do you think you are? You are the punisher?!" Lucia despised Spencer to the extreme.

Spencer was immediately speechless. Of course he didn't dare to reveal that Jacob was kept for the convenience of containing her in the future.

"Ms. Wilson, Spencer is a wicked and vicious man. You keep saying it's for Lucia's sake. Why do you want him to marry Lucia?! Do you think Lucia will be happy with this kind of person for the rest of her life?!" Arthur questioned Esmae.

"Better than you, at least." Esmae said coldly, and was unmoved.

Arthur was so angry that he couldn't say a word. For the first time, he knew what it was like to negotiate with someone who was extremely stubborn. Esmae couldn't make any difference, even if she knew Spencer's personality. But in order to prevent him and Lucia from being together, she really can do anything.

"Esmae, I won't be engaged with Spencer. If you have to force me, I'd rather die! I don't want to be with anyone, not even Arthur, so are you satisfied?!" Lucia saw Esmae being stubborn, and her emotions gradually collapsed, so she said something angry.

"Lucia!" Esmae's heart softened, but her eyes and tone were still cold. She shouted, "You are a rational adult. What's the point of saying such a prank? If you are dead, what about your son?!"

Lucia glared at Spencer, who was embarrassed and angry, and said firmly, "I would rather choose this outcome if I have to marry him!"

Esmae's face turned pale when she heard Lucia say this, while Spencer clenched his fists desperately. He was afraid of losing his temper in front of Esmae. Arthur held Lucia's trembling hand in distress.

"Ms. Wilson, don't you know how much Lucia looks up to you? How much she respects you? If she can say something like that, she's already cornered. Why can't you take a step back? My parents have a grudge against you, but I have no grudges with you. Even if Lucia is with me, what can you do?"

Arthur frowned and said to Esmae. Was she really hard-hearted?

"I heard my mother talk about you. She said you're cheerful, straightforward, and optimistic, but she never said you're so stubborn, ruthless. Why are you embarrassing me and Lucia now, why?"

Arthur's first sentence might really move Esmae a little, but his second sentence made Esmae's expression instantly grim.

"I'm stubborn. I'm ruthless!" Esmae snapped. She had always been well-kept and rarely had wrinkles on her face, but now she looked so ruthless that the wrinkles were all visible, showing how angry she was,

"Who caused me to be like this?! Arthur, since you've heard your mother talk about me, you should know what happened to me because of them. And what happened to my parents! You tell me now you and I have no grudges? As long as you are Edwin's son, you are my enemy!"

Expressing her anger at Arthur, Esmae turned to Lucia again, and this time there was no trace of tenderness in her eyes,

"Lucia, are you threatening me with your own life now? Do you remember how I went back to the country to pick you up six years ago? You were walking down the road in a daze, soaked in the rain. I was anxious and sent people to look for you everywhere, and finally brought you back. I asked if you would like to come with me, and you said yes, so I brought you back."

When Esmae said these words, her face looked cold, but her eyes were red. When she saw she was drenched and shivering, her heart ached like there was a needle. And she continued,

"For so many years, I have loved you as my own child, even more than my own child. Even if I say your life was saved by me, it is not an exaggeration! Are you threatening me with your life?! Okay, if that's the case, then I'll assume I never rescued you, didn't recognize you. Leave with Arthur. You don't have to marry Spencer, and you don't have to have any pay-back or concern for me. You and I are renounced!"

Lucia was shocked when she heard this. Her face was pale, and this was her biggest weakness.

"But," Esmae said with red eyes, "Teddy, you can't take him away. He's the baby I raise. I will never let him grow up with Arthur and become my enemy in the future. If you want to see him, you can come back yourself, and I will save you a room. But after this, I will not say a word to you again."

Arthur's heart hurt as if a knife was stabbing him, because he saw Lucia shed tears after Esmae said this. Her expression didn't change at all, but her face was as pale as transparent, and her pupils were full of helplessness, like an abandoned child. Her tears fell down and the pain was unaware.

Arthur loved Lucia so much. No matter how much he wanted her to shout "I only love Arthur" at this time, he will not force her to make a choice. Kindness and love were not emotions on the same level. Nobody could compare them.

Looking at the vigorous love history through the ages, which couple can live happily without any guilt? Without the blessings of their families? Not at all... Even if Lucia really tried to leave with him today, Arthur knew she would regret it, because this fragile woman was too kind.

"Lucia, let's go first. We'll talk about these things in the future." Arthur felt sorry for Lucia, but he didn't compromise with Esmae. He just wanted to give Lucia a space and time to ease her emotions.

Lucia, like a puppet, still looked at Esmae with tears in her eyes. Like a fragile child, she was unable to figure out why Esmae didn't want her, why she was abandoned? The five-year past with Esmae was like a slideshow in Lucia's mind and played on a loop. She was reluctant, and she didn't understand.

Esmae really can be said to be Lucia's second mother.