## When She Unveils Identities Novel Chapter 118 - 126 -

## Chapter 118 – Damage to Each Other

Braden looked at Alice coldly and didn't answer.

Alice also felt that she had crossed the line and apologized hurriedly, "I'm sorry I didn't know what to do. I shouldn't have asked you this question. But I think that you might need me in the future, so... so can I add your contact number?"

This was probably the most courageous thing that the pure and conservative girl, Alice, had done in all these years.

Braden looked at the girl's cautious appearance, as if he had seen Shirley, and he relented.

"Give me the phone."

"Okay, okay!"

Alice quickly handed her phone over.

In front of the taxi, the two stood very close, looking very intimate.

At the same time, Shirley, Ewan, and the others came out and happened to see this scene.

Shirley felt bad. She wanted to leave as if she had seen nothing. However, Braden raised his head and met her eyes.

The man's eyes were as cold as ice as usual, and there was even a bit of arrogance inm. There was no embarrassment, which made Shirley inexplicably angry.

Angry and childish, she grabbed Ewan's arm and said, "Ewan, where are we going ext I think the sea view hotel we went to last time is good. Are we going again?"

Ewan was shocked.

Ewan did not dare to move.

Did Shirley really want to do this? When she said this, he really couldn't explain it to others clearly. There was no way that they were just friends in others' eyes.

Braden's handsome face obviously darkened.

He directly opened the door of the taxi. He said a hotel's name to the driver.

Then, he and Alice got into the car together, and the car sped past Shirley.

What would happen to these two people next was obvious.

Shirley stood in place and did not speak for a long time. Her gaze followed the taxi until it disappeared into the traffic.

Ewan knew that Shirley was sad and carefully said, "Shirley, I really know a good seaside hotel. Do you want me to take you to relax?"

"No need."

With a sad expression, Shirley removed her hand from Ewan's arm. She smiled bitterly and said, "I gave him the right to hurt me for the last time. When Ms. Honeycutt wins the lawsuit, I will leave. He can no longer hurt me"

It was late at night. Ewan and his sister wanted to send Shirley home, but Shirley was very stubborn. She said goodbye to them on the spot.

She didn't want to go home right now. She didn't want to talk or deal with anyone. She just wanted to find a quiet corner to stay alone.

She wanted to remove her strong disguise and show her true emotions freely...

Yes, she had to admit that she was very sad right now.

At the thought that Braden was holding the girl in his arms now on the big white bed in the hotel, she felt that it was difficult to breathe, and her heart felt like being cut by a knife

She also wanted to know why she and this man had been husband and wife for four years, and he had never loved her. Now, he fell for a girl who looked like her after they only melonce

She couldn't stand it!

Shirley walked aimlessly, and then somehow came to the shopping mall where Bracan ad come to visit with Emma that day.

It just so happened that "Spiritual Journey", which she had always wanted to watch, was still on.

Without any hesitation, Shirley bought the ticket for the nearest one and silently walked into the

dark movie theater.

Because it was midnight, there were very few people.

Shirley suddenly felt a sense of security that she had not felt for a long time.

What was more suitable than a movie theater where she could cry regardless of others' gazes?

"Spiritual Journey" was a story about a failed pianist, Joe, who died unexpectedly when his dream

was about to come true. When he met soul No. 22, who was tired of the world, they looked for the

meaning of life and redemption hand in hand.

The movie screen emitted a soft light. The film was very beautiful, and the story was very touching.

As Shirley watched, tears silently flowed down the corners of her eyes.

It was not because the story was so touching, or because Braden had hurt her

It was just that now she suddenly wanted to cry

The book said that pregnant women would become very emotional because of hormonal secretion.

Shirley felt that she should be experiencing this now

So, she didn't want to hold it in and started crying recklessly

With her hands gently resting on her belly, she silently said, "Little guys, hold on for a while longer Mom will take you away soon!"

After crying, Shirley felt much more comfortable, as if she was suddenly enlightened.

The movie had just ended, and the originally dark hall suddenly became bright. A few spectators stood up from their seats.

When Shirley saw Braden's tall and straight body stand up from two seats in front of her, she thought she had seen a ghost and was petrified!

Wasn't he in the hotel with his university girl? How did he end up coming here?

Afraid that the man would find her, Shirley quickly slowed down and turned sideways.

Unexpectedly, it was still too late.

At the corner, Braden turned his head and his cold gaze met Shirley's eyes.

For a moment, the air seemed to be frozen, and the two of them looked a little embarrassed as if they had been caught cheating.

"You..."

Braden tried to put on a cold and aloof look, cleared his throat, and asked Shirley, "Didn't you go to the sea with your young man? Why are you here?"

"Oh, that..."

Shirley thought quickly, and she said stiffly, "Who wants to go to the sea in the middle of the night? It's postponed."

Then, she asked Braden, "What about you? Didn't you go to sleep with your female college student? Why are you here?"

"It's too late. It's postponed."

Braden said coldly as he rubbed his nose with his long fingers.

Shirley wanted to refute him. This kind of thing is better when it's late, isn't it? What kind of lame

reason is this?

But she still held that back

After all, her reason didn't seem to be much better.

Thus, both of them knew that the other was lying through their teeth, but they tacitly did not expose each other.

The people in the hall left one after another. Braden and Shirley maintained a distance that was neither too far nor too close, walking at the end.

Although neither of them spoke, there seemed to be something that was dissolved, and the atmosphere was no longer as tense as before.

After leaving the theater, the two of them were about to part.

Braden raised his wrist and looked at his watch. He said coldly, "It's still early. Do you want to have a midnight snack?"

Shirley was shocked.

Didn't he just say it was too late? He had already given up on having fun with the female university student. It's still early now?

Shirley felt that this guy must have some conspiracy!

Table of Contents

Chapter 119 Braden's Worried About Her

Braden saw that Shirley didn't answer for a long time and felt embarrassed. His handsome face was stern and he said arrogantly, "It's fine if it's inconvenient. Anyway, I have other things to do."

"Let's go!"

Shirley blurted out as if it was a reflex.

Then, she felt that she was too unreserved. She awkwardly brushed her hair away from her ear. "Although I'm very busy, I can take some time to eat a midnight snack."

Obviously, she wanted to go, but she insisted on finding an excuse. Seeing this, Braden smiled.

She was so cute when she acted like that!

They walked out of the cinema and went to a famous food court nearby.

"What do you want to eat?"

Braden turned around and asked Shirley, who was following behind him.

"I don't care. Just need it to be light."

"Light?"

"I remember that you used to like strong flavors. When did you change it?" Brade frowned.

Shirley naturally wouldn't tell Braden that she had to eat light food because she only said lightly, "I can change my man. Isn't it normal to change my favorite fla

This was obviously referring to Braden.

mant. She

Braden didn't answer. He pointed at a restaurant that was elegantly decorated and said, "Drink some fungal soup. This is light enough and easy to digest."

Shirley nodded. "It should be delicious."

In this season, all kinds of fungi were harvested. The fungal soup was delicious and healthy.

They chose a table by the window and sat face to face.

For a moment, no one spoke, and the atmosphere was somewhat awkward.

"Um... Do you want to drink something, such as tea or something like that?"

Braden broke the silence gently, which was rare for him.

Shirley waved her hand and said politely, "No need. I have soup. I'm afraid I'll be full before my

soup comes."

"That's true."

Then, there was an awkward silence.

They were like a couple who had just confirmed their relationship Although they had feelings for

each other in their hearts, they were polite and shy on the surface

Shirley never expected that one day, she and Braden would be able to sit down and eat peacefully. Braden could even be like a boyfriend and be considerate of everything

Things that she didn't dare to hope for in marriage were easily realized after they got divorced. It

was a little ironic!

"Come on, here is the fresh fungal soup. It's made from eighteen kinds of wild fungi. It's delicious.

A bowl of it is enough to cure insomnia, prolong life, and so on. You have to drink a few more

bowls!"

The waiter carried a clay pot of fungal soup. Finally, the overly quiet atmosphere between Braden

and Shirley became lively.

The lid of the pot was lifted, and the hot air was fragrant.

The waiter served both Braden and Shirley a serving, "The two of you please enjoy it where it's hot."

You definitely won't be disappointed."

Then, he left.

Shirley eagerly took a sip and revealed a pleasantly surprised expression. "Ah, it's deor It's

really delicious!"

She gulped down a big bowl.

Braden took a light sip and felt that the taste was average.

However, he didn't say anything when he saw how much Shirley liked it.

As they enjoyed the food, they felt much more relaxed.

Braden asked Shirley, "What plans do you have for the future?"

Shirley swallowed a large mouthful of fungal soup and asked, "What plans?"

"It's impossible for you to really work in business. This area is complicated, and every step is dangerous. You can't win."

Braden had been in the business world for so many years, and he knew it was not something a

woman could deal with.

Although he and Shirley had divorced, he did not want women to live such an unstable life.

"How do you know whether I can win or not?"

Shirley looked up at Braden and smiled confidently and calmly. "Look at me now. I'm pretty good at it, aren't I? Korita Group was only established a few months ago, and I've

already established cooperation with a big client. I've also become the president of the Electronics Technology Association. Everything is going in the right direction. Forgive me for not seeing where the danger

is."

"You are naïve!"

Braden couldn't help but shake his head and say in a serious tone, "First of all, the Burman Group is a time bomb. Although Jack is generous to you now, you will know how ruthless he is when he hurts you!

"Furthermore, the market scale is limited. If you suddenly take such a large part, even if I don't care, there will be others who will care. If you are too aggressive, you will fail halfway. I advise you to leave as soon as possible, or you will have no chance to regret it!"

He said these things sincerely. He gained these lessons from his experience. He didn't want Shirley to live a hard life.

"If you lack money, you can tell me directly. You and I used to be a couple. I can take responsibility for the rest of your life."

Shirley sneered at Braden's words.

"Mr. Stewart, don't you think it's too late for you to be nice to me now? And you're rea arrogant. You just said that I couldn't do it and that I had to rely on you for the rest of my lif

Braden said coldly, "I didn't mean that."

"You don't mean that. Then what do you mean?"

"I just..."

Braden wanted to say something, but he stopped. His expression was so stern. "Don't you forget how your parents died? How did the Wilson family fall? Do you think you are better than your parents?

"Or do you think that you are better than me? Do you know that my brother died in front of me, but I could do nothing about it?"

When he said this, he slightly clenched his fists, and his eyes turned slightly red.

Charles was his eternal pain, constantly reminding him how weak and incompetent he was.

He really did not want Shirley to suffer from this.

Only then did Shirley understand that Braden was worried about her.

She had mixed feelings.

"Well, you don't have to worry about me..."

Shirley took a deep breath and said, "I'll be honest with you. I actually don't intend to get into the business world. It's too tiring. I don't have the energy. I just want to follow my plan and make my life easier in the future. When my plan succeeds, I will leave!"

"Leave?"

Braden stared at Shirley and asked, "Where are you going?"

"I have no comment on that. But not Seatle City anyway."

She originally wanted to leave secretly, but since he had already asked her, she felt that it was fine, to be honest.

Complicated emotions appeared in Braden's heart. After a moment of silence, he said coldly, "If leaving makes you feel happier, then you can leave."

Even though deep down, he did not want Shirley to leave.

But now, he could only let her go since he had no right to keep her.

This meal was especially harmonious. There was no hatred, no quarrel, and no sarcast

They put down their unhappiness aside. Like friends who had known each other for many yes, they chatted for a long time....

After finishing the pot of soup, Shirley felt dizzy and her vision became blurry.

After finishing their meal, they walked out of the soup shop and arrived at the parking le

"Shall I send you back?"

Braden asked Shirley.

"There's no need. I'll take a taxi back."

Shirley endured the dizziness and waved at Braden.

Just as the two were about to part ways, Shirley suddenly grabbed Braden's arm. "Quick, get in the car!"

Chapter 120 Successful Seduction

Braden lowered his head and looked at the little hands on his arms. He frowned and asked, "What's wrong?"

"There are people, so many people!"

Shirley looked around nervously and then pushed Braden into the back seat of the car. As she got in, she muttered, "So many, so many people. They're all chasing us. It's too scary. Let's get in the car and hide!"

"So many people?"

Braden looked around and frowned even more.

In the middle of the night, there were only two of them in the parking lot except for the cars. How could there be "so many" people here?

"Why are you so stubborn? They've caught up. Get in? Do you want to die?"

Shirley was so anxious that her face turned red. She couldn't care less and desperately dragged Braden into the car.

With no other choice, Braden could only listen to Shirley and crawl into the back seat of the car

Fortunately, the back seat of this expensive car was extremely spacious. It was a leather seat. It was very comfortable.

"We..."

Braden wanted to ask Shirley what they were going to do next.

"Shh!"

Shirley leaned over and covered his mouth with her palm. She looked out the window nervously and whispered in his ear, "Keep your voice down. They're patrolling outside the car. We can't let them find out."

"What?"

There were even more questions in Braden's mind.

He didn't see "many people" at all, and he couldn't see anyone patrolling.

So, he had plenty of reasons to suspect that Shirley was playing with him, or was she seducing him?

Because at this time, they looked really intimate.

Braden stretched out his long legs and sat in his seat. In order to cover his mouth, Shirley laid her

upper body on his chest. There were only their clothes between them.

Braden felt Shirley's smell. It was as faint as a gardenia. Her hot breath rushed to his neck, like a kitten's paw, scratching his heart bit by bit...

Damn it'l can't endure that

Braden cleared his throat

Braden's breath quickened and he moved his body since he felt a little uncomfortable.

His large palm rudely moved away from the small hand that Shirley had put on his lips. His deep

eyes looked at her warmly, and he said in a hoarse voice, "Shirley, what are you doing?"

"Hey, I told you not to make a sound!"

Shirley revealed a pure and innocent expression. She looked straight at Braden with her big watery eyes and said seriously, "Although I hate you, I don't want you to die... Those people outside are too

scary. They even have spears in their hands. We are no match for them. We have to keep quiet."

"Not finished yet?"

Braden raised his eyebrows slightly.

What was it now? Cosplay?

"Alright, then I'm in."

Braden held Shirley's waist and placed her body on his lap. Then, he held up her s face, which

was the size of his palm, and said coldly, "If your goal is to seduce me, then co seduction is very successful!"

ions. Your

In his eyes, there was a desire that could not be hidden. It was like a fire that wanted to burn the

woman in his arms.

"You and I were once a couple. We haven't done what a couple should do. It's really a pity. Why don't

we make up for it today!"

After Braden finished speaking, he closed his deep eyes and slowly kissed Shirley's lips...

He thought that Shirley would cooperate with him. After all, this was her goal.

Unexpectedly, Shirley screamed like a pig being slaughtered.

"Ah, they came in. They came in. They climbed on you!"

"Enough!"

Braden opened his eyes and looked at Shirley's terrified face. He said in a displeased voice, "Is it fun

to pretend to be crazy like this?"

"No, you really have a lot of petty people on you. They are climbing up your hair..."

Shirley pointed at Braden's head with a serious expression. Her beautiful little face twisted and her expression was ferocious. "And there are a lot of water plants growing on your hair. I'll help you pull them off!"

After that, she really pulled Braden's hair and muttered, "Don't be afraid. I'll help you pull them all. off. One, two, three "

"It's getting more and more ridiculous!"

Braden was speechless. His expression changed from anger to helplessness.

He leaned against the seat of the car, letting Shirley pull his hair. It was like he was indulging his ignorant daughter. He had no other choice.

Fine. He wanted to see how long she would pretend to be crazy like this.

The atmosphere in the car should be romantic, but Shirley held Braden's head and pulled his hair one by one with a serious expression.

Braden didn't say a word and let her do as she pleased.

This was strange and harmonious...

"Phew. It's finally over!"

Shirley let out a long breath and looked at Braden's head with a satisfied smile

Braden almost fell asleep. He sat up straight and said, "Done. What next?"

"Jelly!"

Shirley pointed at the man's lips again and said, "Pink jelly, I want to eat jelly!"

The next second, before Braden could react, Shirley's lips were already on his lips.

Braden didn't know what to say.

Braden shivered all over. It was as if his whole body was frozen. He spread out his hands and did not

dare to move at all.

"Oh... The jelly is so sweet and soft!"

Shirley said as she kissed Braden's lips, as if she was really tasting some peerless delicacy.

"Ahem!"

Braden's mind was blank, and he still didn't dare move.

She... This was the first time she had taken the initiative, and he was a little overwhelmed!

Her kiss was very warm, but her skills weren't so good.

It would make him feel that she really treated his lips as jelly, sucking and biting them.

Braden was a little unable to restrain himself from being teased by the woman. He reacted. His large palm held the back of the woman's head, and he said in a low voice, "Stupid woman, you are biting me, not kissing!"

He slowly closed his eyes again. His thin lips gently pressed against her lips, like a teacher passing

down his teachings. He said softly, "The real kiss should be like this..."

Shirley looked at the man with a face full of affection, and she calmed down a lot. They started

kissing affectionately.

As they kissed, Braden also felt a little dizzy, and his vision started to blur.

"What's going on? There are so many petty people!"

Braden let go of Shirley and leaned back. He carefully observed Shirley and then sad seriously, "Don't move. You have a lot of petty people on you. I will help you drive them away!"

"Yes, you finally found out. I didn't lie to you, right? There are really a lot of petty people on you

They helped each other drive the petty people on each other. Time ticked by Finally, they got tired and fell asleep while leaning against each other.

The next day.

Shirley woke up from the car in a daze. Her waist was tightly held by Braden's lo arms and her

messy clothes were scattered all over the car....

"Ah!"

Looking at herself who was only wearing underwear, Shirley shouted with a broken heart.

Chapter 121 Because of Your Saliva

Braden was woken up, frowning

He had taken off his shirt. His bronze colored skin and muscle lines were perfect. He was so impressive and exuded a charm of strength.

The overly ambiguous scene made him sober up. He straightened his body and stared at Shirley. "What happened?"

"You still have the nerve to ask? You jerk!"

Shirley quickly grabbed her coat and covered her naked body. She hit Braden hard. "You are such a jerk. Look at my belly! How could you do that to me? If anything bad happens, I will definitely drag you down with me!"

She actually didn't remember what happened last night.

However, wasn't it obvious what would happen if a man and a woman stayed in the same room and leaned against each other without any clothes?

"Wait!"

Braden grabbed Shirley's fists forcefully. Then, he said resolutely, "I promise that I didn't do anything that I shouldn't have done to you. I still have self–control."

He knew what happened to his body, and he knew very well whether he had done it or not.

Moreover, his memory was very clear. He remembered clearly what had happened last night.

Last night, Shirley was acting crazily. She grabbed him, pulled his hair, and even took his lips as jelly. It was simply unimaginable!

"Tell me what the hell you were doing last night? If you just want to seduce me, make it simple and direct. Don't play

so many tricks."

Braden held Shirley's wrist and pulled her into his arms. His deep eyes were extremely sharp.

"I seduced you?"

Shirley was so angry that she burst out laughing. "What nonsense are you talking about? I'm not blind. How could I seduce you?"

"You threw yourself into my arms and bit my lips. Tell me, isn't this seducing?"

"Impossible. Absolutely impossible!"

"I was not crazy. How could I do these things? I would rather bite a pig than bite you!" Shirley made a gesture of

denial.

"Alright!"

Braden nodded. "Since you don't want to admit it, then I'll show you evidence."

"If you have evidence, then take it out. Don't slander me!"

Shirley said emotionally.

Although she could not remember what had happened last night right now, she knew very well that she would never do such a shameless thing!

Braden pursed his thin lips and remained silent. He opened the car door and got into the driver's seat.

Shirley thought that Braden was going to drive away and quickly said, "You bastard. After slandering me, you want to trifle with me? Be careful, or I'll sue you for slander!"

Braden still didn't say anything. He used his long fingers to open the car's central control and pressed the control

button of the traffic recorder.

Then, the huge display screen began to broadcast everything that happened last night...

"Ah!"

Shirley blushed and covered her face with her hands. She said with shame, "Turn it off. Hurry up, and turn it off. I'm

so embarrassed!"

Unexpectedly, it was really her who took the initiative to "seduce" Braden. She even clasped him to her and bit him.

She went too far.

Strictly speaking, Braden was the victim.

At the end of the video, Braden did the same things as Shirley. They acted as if they had been pulling the grass off.

They tried so hard that they took off each other's clothes and finally fell asleep when they were exhausted.

After a long while, Braden turned off the screen unhurriedly.

At that moment, Shirley curled up like an ostrich. She buried her face in the chair and refused to face Braden.

"This is so embarrassing. Kill me. I don't want to live anymore!"

She spoke like a child.

Braden couldn't help but smile when he saw how cute she was.

"So, how are you going to take responsibility for what you did to me?"

Braden asked seriously.

"I'm sorry. I was out of my mind last night. I have no idea why I would do those things..."

Shirley blushed and didn't dare to look Braden in the eye. She whispered, "If you don't mind, delete the video in the

driving recorder. Let's pretend that nothing happened. I'll pay you for the mental damage. What do you think?"

Braden said, "Do you think I lack money?"

"No!"

"So, I don't need money. You can think about it and do something else. Otherwise, I won't delete this video."

Braden calmly stated his attitude.

"What else can I give you except for money? Don't push your luck!"

Shirley sat up straight and said to Braden, "To tell you the truth, I have a video of you getting drunk. If you dare to

leak this video, I will also leak it out. I'll drag you down!"

Braden was probably threatened and didn't say anything else.

They tidied up and tried to forget everything that happened last night.

"But I'm really curious. What happened to me last night? Why did I do those things?"

Shirley scratched her hair, puzzled.

Braden raised an eyebrow and said, "There must be something wrong with the mushroom soup."

"The soup"

"Some mushrooms are poisonous. Eating excessive mushrooms may cause hallucinations. You drank so much soup last night. You probably had hallucinations. Grass, jelly They were all illusions."

"That's not right. Didn't you drink it too? Why were you

fine?"

"I only drank a little."

"Then why did you hallucinate later?"

"What do you think?"

Braden glanced coldly at Shirley. "Because of your saliva."

"Eh!"

Shirley blushed all of a sudden and covered her face again.

She was awkward!

Braden started the car, and the scenery on both sides of the window flew by

He looked at Shirley in the back seat through the rearview mirror and suddenly asked, "But just now, what did you mean by that?"

"What?"

"You asked me to look at your belly and blamed me...".

Braden paused for a moment, his eyes sharp. "What's wrong with your belly?"

"Oh, that..."

Shirley swallowed her saliva, her eyes wandering. She randomly found an excuse. "I have fat on my waist. How could you do that to me? Wasn't it bad?"

"I see."

Braden let out a sigh of relief.

He had thought that she was pregnant!

After all, the reporters had taken photos of her and Ewan going to the OB/GYN department to prepare for pregnancy.

"I think you did gain some weight. You should still lose weight."

"You!"

Shirley was so angry, but she could not refute him. She could only look out of the window and sulk

Seeing that the scenery outside the window was becoming more and more unfamiliar, she pressed her back against the back seat and asked him nervously, "Where... where are you taking me?"

Chapter 122 Whatever!

Braden pursed his lips and didn't say a word. He looked ahead and focused on driving

The car gradually drove from the city to the coastal highway. The road was surrounded by the blue sea. The view was

wide, and it was bright.

However, Shirley felt a chill down her spine and leaned against the back of the seat, not daring to move.

She wondered, why did he suddenly bring me to the beach? Does he hate me for biting him yesterday and want to kill

me and throw me into the sea?

"Braden, let's talk things out. Don't go too far!"

Shirley was like a playboy comforting an ignorant girl who had been defiled. She said, "Although I hurt you last night, I didn't do it on purpose. After all, you looked great and wore sexy clothes. You are so charming. I just made a mistake that all women would make. Please forgive me this time. I promise I won't do it again in the future. Even if you try

your best to seduce me. I won't bite you!"

Braden's handsome face was cold. He was originally expressionless, but now he was angry and laughed. He asked, "In your opinion, if I think you are great, I can bite you as I please. And I don't have to take responsibility, right?"

"Of course not!"

Shirley said confidently, "I didn't mean to do that to you. You must have planned it for a long time. From a legal point.

of view, your behavior is a crime, and I am innocent."

Braden was speechless.

Why hadn't he noticed before that she was so talkative? She was sugarcoating her misconduct.

They chatted all the way until they finally arrived at the most famous church in Seatle City.

This church was built in the middle of the sea. It had a blue roof and a white body, reflecting the sea. From afar, it

looked very beautiful and romantic.

The church was usually not open to the public, and the newcomers who could get married here were either rich or

powerful.

It was said that if men and women exchanged rings before sunset, the two would be blessed by the goddess of the sea

and would be a happy couple forever.

The luxury car stopped in the parking lot in front of the church. Braden and Shirley got out of the car.

"Today is Karen and Cherry's wedding. Didn't he invite you? So I drove you here."

Braden stood straight, his hands in his pockets as he strode forward with his long legs.

After taking a few steps, he realized that Shirley was not following him. Instead, she looked at the blue—white building in the middle of the sea with a deep expression.

"Why aren't you walking?"

Braden turned around and asked her coldly.

"You should go in first. We have already divorced. It won't be good if we go in together."

Shirley replied with a distant expression.

It was only now that she suddenly realized that there was a great distance between her and Braden. This distance was not something that could be crossed in just one night.

In the past, she naively imagined that she could marry her beloved one in the church in front of her She hoped that she could exchange rings in the sunset and receive the blessing of the sea goddess.

However, from beginning to end, as the bride, she had no right to make decisions for her wedding. The Stewart family arranged everything.

In the end, the wedding was held in a high end five—star hotel. It was luxurious enough. But it was too mediocre It was not the wedding she dreamed of.

People only thought that she was a young lady whose family had declined and an accessory to the Stewart family like a soulless puppet. No one paid attention to what she thought and what she wanted.

She no longer wanted to return to the old days when she was neglected, so she had to stay rational at all times and keep a distance from Braden!

"Not good?"

Braden raised his eyebrows slightly, a complicated expression on his handsome face. Then, he snorted in a high and mighty manner, "Whatever!"

The church was decorated in a very romantic manner. Pink roses covered both sides of the red carpet.

The Whelan family had a prominent status in Seatle City. Although the Whelan family was not one of the top eight families, the eight families had to show them some respect.

Therefore, there were many major guests, who were either rich or powerful. Even celebrities had to stand aside.

"Braden, oh, you finally came. I called you hundreds of times, but you didn't answer all the calls. Karen was so anxious

that he wanted to send out special forces!"

Keith was in a suit, and his hair was combed very formally. He waved at Braden from afar, his tone very excited.

Braden was expressionless as he said unhurriedly, "Isn't the wedding starting in the evening? Why are you in such a hurry?"

"Of course, we are in a hurry. We are the groomsmen. We have to welcome the bride and take photos. There are many things to do. We have to make preparations in advance!"

"Go to the dressing room and change your clothes first. Your clothes are too casual. It's not serious enough," Keith said, pulling Braden to go backstage.

They came to the dressing room. Karen had his back facing the door, staring at the sea outside the window. He was dressed in a white suit. He was handsome, tall, and gentle, just like Prince Charming in a fairy tale. He was elegant and distinguished.

However, his eyebrows were slightly furrowed, as if he had something on his mind. There was no joy or excitement that a groom should have felt.

Karen, Braden is here. You must be relieved!"

Keith shouted at Karen's back.

Karen immediately turned around. He looked pleasantly surprised, and he said with a deep look in his eyes, "Braden, you came here. I thought you wouldn't come today"

Braden said lightly. "Why not?"

"After all, the relationship between you, Cherry, and me is a little complicated. This wedding may not be pleasant for you. Even if you didn't come today, Cherry and I would not blame you..."

"I don't feel bad."

Braden was calm and said, "I'm over her. To me, she is just a friend whom I have a good relationship with. Now you are getting married. I sincerely wish you happiness."

"That's good!"

Karen took a deep breath.

All these years, he and Braden had been in a state of disconnection.

As a result, both he and Cherry were too guilty to attend Braden's wedding.

Because from their point of view, Braden had given up on himself because he and Cherry had hurt him. So he married a woman he didn't love.

All these years, he and Cherry had suffered great pressure and felt guilty...

"I can see that your feelings for Ms. Wilson are very different. Although you've divorced, I have a hunch that you will still be together after going around for a while..."

Karen said. He looked outside and asked curiously, "Ms. Wilson didn't come with you? I personally sent her an invitation last night."

"That's her business. We're not a couple."

Braden said coldly.

Since Shirley was avoiding him, he decided to keep his distance from her!

Karen and Keith looked at each other, realizing that Braden must have been refused by Shirley.

"Alright, alright. Don't think too much about it. Let's get changed first. We'll pick up the bride when we're done!"

Keith wanted to make sure that the wedding would go well.

Although he was always sloppy, he was very concerned about Cherry. He had been secretly in love with Cherry for

many years.

In this sense, he was the biggest victim of this wedding!

After changing clothes and dressing up, they went to the hotel to pick up Cherry.

Coincidentally, they bumped into Shirley, who was walking towards the church.

Seeing that she was alone, Karen warmly invited Shirley, "Ms. Wilson, since you're bored anyway, why don't you come with us to pick up Cherry?"

Chapter 123 Delicious Lips

Because she hadn't eaten breakfast, Shirley was starving and had been lingering in the dessert area

on the lawn for a long time

At this moment, she was wolfing down a piece of mousse cake, like a guest that was trying to get his

money's worth. She had cream around the corners of her mouth and looked very innocent and cute

Caught off guard, Shirley raised her head sharply and met Braden's condescending gaze.

She felt ashamed of herself for devouring cakes without absolutely no manners. She immediately fixed her hair and acted elegant and well–mannered. "They insisted on giving all this to me. I

actually don't want to eat so much cake..."

Karen was amused by Shirley. He smiled and said, "In that case, the staff is doing their job... Don't

these cakes are all made by professional dessert chefs. They are very particular about the recipe. The cakes won't make you gain weight!"

worry,

With his hands in his pockets, Braden looked at Shirley with a cold expression and said

indifferently, "So that's why your waist gets so much bigger."

Fuck!

Shirley was so angry that she wanted to shove the cake in Braden's face.

If he didn't know how to talk nicely, he could just shut up. He was so fucking mean.

Of course, she wasn't to be messed with. At least she wasn't now.

"Indeed. Mr. Stewart's waist isn't big, but you are too muscular. Your muscles must be fake. You must have taken a lot of hormone shots, right?"

Shirley retorted.

"You know well if they are fake."

Braden was expressionless as he fought back, "After all, you've touched them many times."

Shirley didn't know how to respond.

Her face flushed red, and she felt a little embarrassed.

She had indeed stroked his muscles many times. They felt so nice that she couldn't forget. They were definitely real!

"Wait a minute!"

Keith was very perceptive. He looked at Braden, then at Shirley. There must be something going on between the two. And he asked, "How do you know what each other's waist is like? What did you two

do last night.."

"No!"

The two said at the same time.

Their simultaneous denials only backfired.

Karen smiled in satisfaction.

It seemed that the two had a great time last night. Braden finally made a move!

The guilt in his heart was immediately a bit less.

"Alright, let's not talk about it anymore. Let's go!"

Karen said to the crowd.

Keith hurriedly echoed, "Right. Today is about Karen and Cherry. You two can save your soap opera for later. If we waste more time here, the lucky hour will be gone!"

Karen looked at the crowd and pointed at the luxurious car in front of them. He decided for everyone. "The four of us will use one car. Keith, you'll be the driver."

"There are drivers. Why do you want me to drive? I..."

Keith was reluctant. But after receiving Karen's secret message, he stopped abruptly and nodded. "No problem. I'm a very good driver. You can just enjoy the ride...

Therefore, Karen and Keith sat in the front seats while Shirley and Braden could only sit in the back

row.

With a piece of cake in her hand, Shirley said a little awkwardly, "I might as well stay. We hardly

know each other."

That was only part of the reason. Another part was the dessert. Karen had gotten really good dessert chefs. There were so many delicious desserts waiting for her to eat.

Instead of staying with them awkwardly, she'd rather sit by the sea and enjoy the food!

"It doesn't matter. You don't know us, but you know Braden. And that is enough."

Karen still invited her warmly.

After all, it was Karen's big day today. Shirley didn't want to be a killjoy, so she could only say, "Alright then!"

At the same time, she looked at the dessert table, felt reluctant to part with them, and swallowed

hard.

Goodbye, delicious desserts. I'll come back later for you!

Braden saw this scene and smiled.

"Wait a second."

Braden said to Keith, who was about to start the car.

"Braden, what's wrong with you? Don't tell me you hardly know your ex–wife."

"I'm a little hungry. I want to get something to eat."

After he said it coldly, he opened the car door and strode toward the lawn with his long legs.

After a while, Braden came back with a tray full of all kinds of desserts.

There were milkshakes, puffs, mousse cake, strawberry pudding, and so on.

Karen and Keith looked at each other, so shocked that their eyes popped out of their faces.

Keith teased with a half–smile, "Braden, I thought you hated sweets. When did you change? Why did you take so many desserts?"

Braden glanced at Keith coldly and ordered, "Focus on driving."

Then, he still looked cold and aloof as he said to Shirley, who was sitting next to him, "If you want to eat, just help yourself."

Shirley had long been drooling over the various kinds of desserts on the tray. She nodded hard and said, "Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Then I'll have some."

She picked up a puff and took a bite with satisfaction. It had a crispy and soft crust and sour and sweet cream inside. It was so delicious!

Shirley originally wanted to eat like a lady, but the food was so delicious that she couldn't care less. about her image and started to devour. Soon, her mouth was covered with cream.

The three handsome men in the car looked at each other and were all stunned.

Keith was especially shocked. It was an eye-opener.

Because in his memory, Shirley was a dignified and elegant lady who didn't even show her teeth. when she smiled. That kind of Shirley was beautiful but rather boring.

But after she divorced Braden, she kept shocking him with her actions and words!

"I didn't expect you to be a foodie. It seems that other than games, we have one more thing in

common."

Keith couldn't help but say.

Instantly, his hostility toward Shirley was a bit less.

That was because he, who was also a foodie, knew very well that foodies were all simple and innocent people and couldn't be bad.

Braden said disdainfully, "You're making a big deal out of it. All the young people like

food!"

games and

Keith didn't realize that Braden was jealous. He said seriously, "Not necessarily. For example, you don't like games, and you aren't a foodie either. So what you're trying to say is you are neither young nor old?"

Braden took a puff with a cold face and handed it to Karen, who was sitting in the passenger seat. He said, "Stuff it into his mouth. He talks too much."

Shirley was focused on eating the desserts and looked like she was staying out of it. And she said excitedly, "Above everything else, the puff is really delicious. I must take some back for May!"

She was a foodie, to begin with, and now she was pregnant, so her appetite was even better.

Every time she ate dessert, she could feel the two little guys in her cheering.

Just then, Braden suddenly said, "It can't be more delicious than my lips."

For a moment, an awkward silence fell in the car

Chapter 124 She Is the Wild One

Shirley was so embarrassed that she dropped the puff on her hand, and her face and her neck went

reddish

She thought, what's wrong with Braden? What the heck is he talking about?

Braden seemed calm and even serious. He looked at Shirley solemnly. "After all, you said so when you bit my lips last night."

Keith coughed a few times and reminded Braden, "Braden, it's still broad daylight. It's a bit early to talk about such things, don't you think?"

Karen smiled and echoed, "Maybe Braden and Ms. Wilson shared a wild night."

Braden spread his hands and said casually, "She was the wild one. I was the victim."

"Braden!"

Shirley felt utterly embarrassed. She wished she could get under the car and never come out.

She wanted to refute him badly, but she couldn't.

After all, Braden had solid proof. Once he played the video from the driving recorder publicly, she

would be doomed.

She thought, forget it. I'll suffer for now. I don't bother arguing with Braden.

After making up her mind, Shirley closed her eyes, leaned against the window, and wanted to fall

asleep.

Perhaps last night was too exhausting. Anyway, Shirley did fall asleep.

In a daze, she vaguely felt that her body was moved gently by a pair of big hands, and then her head.

rested on some man's broad shoulders, which were warm and made her feel secure.

Braden lowered his head and looked affectionately at the woman who was sleeping soundly while

leaning against his shoulders. There was a gentleness in his eyes that even he did not notice.

There was still some cream left on the corner of Shirley's mouth, making her look like a child. Unlike when she was awake, now she wasn't aggressive. Instead, she looked so innocent and cute, melting his heart.

Braden felt that his heart softened uncontrollably. He took out the pocket square that was in his suit pocket and gently wiped the cream on the corner of her mouth. His action was so gentle as if she were his daughter.

"Tsk, tsk, tsk!"

Keith looked gossipy. Glancing at the rearview mirror, he said, "Braden, I was still skeptical back then. Now I'm convinced that you have indeed fallen for her."

Braden realized that he seemed to be a bit too "considerate" to Shirley. He immediately put away the pocket square and said coldly, "Don't talk nonsense. I am just a clean freak."

"You are a clean freak?"

Keith continued, teasing, "There is something on the corner of my mouth as well. Why don't you wipe my mouth?"

Braden didn't know how to retort. He took another puff and handed it to Karen. "Stuff it in his

mouth!"

Karen smiled gently. He inadvertently looked at Braden and Shirley, who were leaning against each other, with envy in his eyes.

"Braden, I can tell that Ms. Wilson means something very special to you. There's no shame in it,

and you don't have to deny it.

"On the contrary, I envy you a lot... How lucky it is to have someone you care about in this vast

world."

It was normal to hear those words from others, but not from a groom.

Braden frowned and asked in a low voice, "What's wrong?"

Karen shook his head. "Nothing. I'm just a bit emotional. Both men and women get to be happy as

long as they can marry their loved ones. Yet it's not easy to have such a happy ending. So, one should always cherish it when they meet the love of their lives..."

Keith said disapprovingly as he drove, "Karen, come on. Cherry and you are the perfect example of a happy couple. Why do you envy others for what you own?"

Karen smiled bitterly and didn't answer.

Soon, the motorcade picking the bride up arrived at the hotel where the bride was staying.

Although the Whelan family was powerful, they had always kept a low profile, so the wedding was not particularly grand.

The wedding was no different from that of an ordinary family.

The first part, according to the plan, was to make a few breakthroughs to win the bride.

Cherry was from a family full of scholars. Her parents were professors at famous universities, so the breakthroughs were related to cultures.

Those from the groom's side needed to make eighteen breakthroughs before they were allowed to

go to the room where the bride was and pick up the bride.

These eighteen breakthroughs contained all kinds of content, such as physical force, mathematics, literature, history, philosophy, and so on.

The first puzzle had to do with literature, which required someone from the groom's side to recite a

famous poem.

The poem was a heartfelt celebration of love, thousands of lines long.

There were more than a dozen men from the groom's side, and all of them were tall, handsome rich young men from prestigious families. Moreover, their academic qualifications were nothing but

outstanding, and almost all of them had overseas study backgrounds.

Yet right now, they all looked at each other, their minds blank.

None of them was able to recite the poem.

"No one is up for it. Right?"

Those from the bride's side were gloating. They said, "You may pass by paying money. So thousand

dollars is the minimum."

"No problem! We'll transfer the money right away!"

Keith took out his phone and said eagerly, "Why don't you say so earlier? If it could be solved with money, why waste our time?"

"Wait a second."

Shirley stood out and said, "I can recite the poem."

Then she started.

She recited each word in a clear voice.

Everyone looked at her in disbelief.

Keith whispered, "I thought she was just joking. And it turns out that she wasn't! I am starting to

admire her."

Braden was not surprised. He said calmly and a bit proudly, "Well, that's not surprising. I told you

earlier that she was a straight-A student."

After more than ten minutes, Shirley finally finished reciting the poem, and the crowd applauded her warmly.

"Impressive!"

Those from the bride's side praised, "We've long heard that those from the Whelan family are

talented. You are not ordinary people who know nothing but fighting for power and money. Ma'am, you are something."

Shirley humbly waved her hand. "It's nothing. I just happen to like reading poems..."

She thought, this is nothing. I can recite a lot more poems that are longer than this one.

The groom, along with his companions, successfully made the first breakthrough.

"Ms. Wilson, thanks. You impress me again."

Karen thanked Shirley, and there was a look of amazement in his eyes that was almost imperceptible.

Shirley joked, "No need to thank me. You may just transfer 80 thousand dollars to me."

"No problem."

Karen agreed at once. He took out his phone and said, "Tell me your bank account number."

Shirley didn't refuse. In the next second, 80 thousand dollars were transferred to her account.

She instantly felt that today's wedding was so worth it!

The remaining seventeen breakthroughs were similar to the first one, and most of the puzzles were solved by Shirley.

She was busy receiving transferred money, and she was overjoyed.

Finally, it was the last breakthrough, where they had to make the bride open the door.

No matter what they said, the door was still closed. Nothing changed, even though the groom Karen stepped out.

Shirley shrugged, indicating that there was nothing she could do.

Then Keith gave Braden a gentle push and said, "Braden, why don't you ... give it a go?"

Chapter 125 I Won't Let You Lose Today

Everyone looked at Braden in disbelief.

Almost everyone present knew about the entanglement shared by Braden, Karen, and Cherry.

Many of them were very surprised that Braden would attend the wedding in the first place. And now

they were even more shocked to see him here. They could only exclaim that Braden was tough

enough to deal with any situation.

Braden pursed his thin lips.

He didn't speak or move at all. It seemed that he didn't want to do it.

For a moment, the scene froze and was very awkward.

The time was running out, and Keith was a bit anxious. He sighed and said, "Braden, we understand

that it's a bit too much to ask you to do this...

"But our hands are tied. Cherry said earlier that she felt guilty about you and wanted your blessing. I guess she is now keeping the door shut because she wants to know your attitude. Can you do us a

favor?"

Karen frowned and said, "Keith, don't put Braden in a quandary. Anyone else but him can do this."

"But.."

Keith wanted to say something, and Braden beat him to it indifferently.

"There's no quandary at all. If you really want me to do it, then I will."

Braden frowned slightly. Under everyone's gaze, he gently knocked on the door and said, "Cherry, just open the door. I've already moved on, and I give my blessing to you and Karen sincerely."

There was finally some movement in the originally silent room.

Cherry said in a soft and slightly guilty voice, "Braden, Karen and I owe you a lot. I have been waiting to hear this from you for too long. Thank you. Thank you so much…"

Then the door opened slightly.

Seeing that, the men from the groom's side rushed in at once.

At the same time, those from the bride's side tried to resist.

The scene was both chaotic and festive.

Braden stood at the edge of the crowd with his tall and straight body, silently looking at all the joy

without taking part in it with obvious sadness between his brows.

Shirley also stood at the very edge of the crowd for safety reasons.

She peeked at Braden, feeling distressed when seeing how melancholy he was.

She clicked her tongue silently and thought, how pitiful!

His first girlfriend cheated on him with his best friend, and now that they are getting married, they

are asking him, the one who got hurt the most, to comfort them. I feel sorry for Braden.

I'm sure Braden is very sad right now. Maybe... he never gets over Cherry.

It must break his heart to see the love of his life marrying his friend.

Karen finally saw Cherry, his bride. Everyone urged, "Kiss! Kiss!"

Shirley glanced at Braden secretly again, only to see him frowning deeper.

She figured that such a scene was simply torture for him.

Shirley silently walked to Braden, and then, for some reason, she held Braden's hand on a whim.

His tall body trembled slightly. He turned to look at her, his expression full of confusion.

Shirley blinked at Braden and lowered her voice, saying, "No need to thank me. I won't let you lose

today. I'll return the favor to you. After all, you grabbed my desserts back then."

Braden was at a loss.

He frowned even more.

He thought, what does she mean?

Noticing his confusion, Shirley tiptoed to whisper in his ear, "I know you still love Cherry, and it upsets you a lot when watching her marry another man. You frown so deeply. I can't believe that they want your blessing. They went too far..."

Only then did Braden realize something, and he pulled a wry face.

He thought, where do you get the idea that I'm upset?

I may look a bit upset earlier, but it was not because of Cherry at all.

I was just regretful that I married you so hastily, and even the ceremony was so perfunctory. We had no memorable process.

I was even planning for our wedding if one day you and I got back together.

Of course, Braden wouldn't tell her the truth. He even started to tease her.

Braden pulled a long face. "You are right. I'm so sad. My heart hurts, and I'm so angry. Why are they

Le

bullying me like this? What should I do?"

Shirley felt distressed even more. She stroked his head like she was coaxing a child and said, "Don't

be sad. Cheer up. If you ask me, I'd say that the best counterattack is to live a happier life than them

and have a relationship that is better than theirs."

"But I don't..."

Braden showed a sad expression. "I'm always so unlucky when it comes to relationships. Everyone

knows that you and I are divorced, and you are entangled with Ewan. I humiliate myself so much.

I'm just a joke today."

"Don't worry. I told you that I would not let you lose today. After all, you are my exhusband. If you

don't look good, I will be embarrassed as well..."

As they were whispering, Cherry was watching them intently.

Although Cherry was smiling and interacting with Karen and playing various games, and they

looked like a sweet couple, she was bitter.

Cherry thought, didn't they say Braden and Shirley were divorced and they hated each other? Why are they still so intimate? They are even holding hands at such a moment. I'm so frustrated.

"Braden, don't just stand there. Karen and I want your blessing the most for our wedding."

Cherry said to Braden, who was at the edge of the crowd, "It's time to take photos. I hope the three

of us can have a photo together."

People's expressions were a bit meaningful.

They thought, Cherry is indeed something. She can easily make the scene very awkward.

Sure enough, she has been spoiled. She manages such a juggling act with both her exboyfriend and her soon—to—be husband smoothly.

Braden raised his eyebrows and said without much emotion, "Sure."

Meanwhile, Shirley raised her hand and said, "Can I be a part of it as well? After all, Braden and I are close. How could such a picture representing happiness be without me?"

Cherry tightened her fingers, smiled politely, and said with a hint of sharpness, "Ms. Wilson, you have already divorced Braden. It might not be very appropriate for you to take a photo together,

don't you think?"

"So what if we are divorced? We are just getting along in a different way. Now we love each other more than when we were married. Wherever he is, I must be present as well!"

After saying that, Shirley silently raised her chin at Braden.

What she was saying to him was, "See? I'm a great help and a great buddy, aren't I?"

Cherry pulled an obviously long face. "Braden is special to us, and we have known him long before you, so I hope the three of us can take a photo for me to remember..."

Braden said coldly, "No need."

Cherry's eyes turned red in an instant as she stared into Braden's eyes. "Braden, you still hate Karen and me. That's why you deliberately said these words against your will. You didn't let go at

all, right?"

Her words made the already awkward scene even more awkward.

Keith was so anxious that he leaned closer to Cherry and persuaded her in a low voice, "Cherry,

there are so many people present. Don't be like this!"

As the groom, Karen was very calm. There was a meaningful smile on his handsome and refined face. He said, "Why don't we all take a photo together? It will be more memorable."

Hearing Karen's words, Cherry realized that she had lost control. She clenched her fingers silently and did not dare to say anything more.

The photographer guided everyone to pose, reminding Karen and Cherry, "The bride and groom should be more intimate with each other. Get closer! It will be better if you can make it look like are kissing. That will be more meaningful!"

Unfortunately, Karen and Cherry seemed to have a grudge against each other, and their performance was unsatisfying.

Suddenly, Braden cupped Shirley's face and said, "Is it like this..."

Then he kissed her deeply.

Chapter 126 Who Says You're a Cat's Paw?

Everyone was shocked.

Braden's action stunned all the people present.

In everyone's mind, Braden was aloof and low–key, and he would never do something as dramatic as kissing and showing affection in public.

"What?"

Shirley widened her eyes, her mind completely blank.

She instinctively wanted to push Braden away, but then she recalled that she had promised him that she would not let him lose today.

If she resisted now, he would look like a joke.

Thus, she could only bite the bullet and accept his kiss.

aden's kiss was very earnest and affectionate. He kissed her lips intently and made her heart in

turmoil.

Shirley felt as if she had been put into an oven. Her cheeks were red, and she began to respond to him unconsciously....

"Yes! That's perfect. You two look so sweet and affectionate. All the couples here should learn from

you."

The photographer was excited and pressed the shutter frantically, greedily capturing such a precious scene.

Everyone was watching Braden and Shirley, fascinated by them, and it looked like they were enjoying a free, sweet drama that made them immersed.

Even an experienced man like Keith couldn't help but applaud. He sighed, "Braden is so good at this. What kind of woman can say no to his charm? It seems that he is so talented at attracting women. I envy him."

Karen was watching the whole time as well. He smiled with a complicated look and said with a little envy, "So, this is what it looks like when two people are in love. I guess Braden suddenly realizes

something..."

Only Cherry had obvious sadness on her beautiful face.

Even though she clenched her fingers and used all her strength to control herself, she still failed and shouted, "That's enough!

Her voice was so abrupt that everyone's attention was attracted.

The corners of Cherry's mouth trembled, and she revealed an ugly smile. She said in a joking tone, "Today is my wedding with Karen. I don't think it's proper for someone to steal the thunder. Karen

and I are so envious."

Braden then let go of Shirley, and it seemed that he still wanted to kiss her more. He had a

half smile and said, "You are right. We should do such a kind of thing when we are alone... Now that

we've stolen the thunder, we might as well leave and wait for you at the wedding."

After he finished speaking, he pulled Shirley, whose face was flushed red, and left the room under

everyone's gaze.

The two walked out of the hotel lobby. The green grass before them, the tall coconut groves, and the

blue sea not far away, everything made them delighted.

Braden took a deep breath. The fresh sea breeze that entered his nostrils went straight to his lungs,

giving him an unprecedented feeling of relaxation.

"It's still early for the wedding ceremony. Shall we go to the beach?"

He asked the woman beside him in a soft voice.

As if she had just woken up from a dream, Shirley quickly shook off Braden's hand and teased, "How about that, my dear ex–husband? I was a great cat's paw, wasn't I? I made you look good; don't you think?"

Braden's handsome face turned a little cold, and obviously, he sounded unhappy. He said, "Who

says you're a cat's paw?"

"Weren't I?"

Even though Shirley was utterly shy, she still pretended to be indifferent and said carefreely, "You kissed me just to piss the love of your life off, didn't you? Well, from an objective perspective, you

get 9.5 out of 10 from the kiss. The remaining point is deducted since I don't want you to be too

proud."

Braden snorted, "What a smartass. You know everything."

"I sure do!"

Shirley raised her chin and said complacently, "I can tell that you are not over the love of your life,

and vice versa. But I'm guessing that she isn't willing to give up on Karen either. She is the capable

one here. She plays with both you and Karen well. I must salute her."

"Is that so?"

Braden had a complicated expression on his face. He curled his thin lips and asked, "Then what should I do? Snatch the bride for my sake?"

Shirley's expression froze slightly, and her heart was filled with mixed feelings.

She thought, judging from his words, my guess is true. He still loves Cherry.

I feel sorry for him and myself as well.

It seems that my four years of marriage with Braden is a complete mistake. He would never love me even without Amelie standing in our way.

Cherry is the love of his life, and she means the world to him. Who am I anyway?

"If you really can't let go, then tell Ms. Tierney everything. Anything is possible before the wedding..."

Shirley resisted the sadness deep down. She thought she hid her real emotions well and comforted him while pretending, "Also, if you do love her, don't try to piss her off in childish ways. You know what? When you and I were kissing, I observed. Ms. Tierney seemed so upset. It looked like you were the winner, but you weren't."

Braden nodded and said seriously, "You have a point, and I have learned a lot."

Then he said, "Well, the sea is so beautiful. Now is the ebb time, and the beach is vast. There are a lot of beautiful shape shells out there. Why don't you go pick some up with me?"

"Me?"

"Only you know that I have not let her go, so I can only ask you to help me. I want to surprise her."

Braden's tone was high and mighty, and it didn't sound like he was asking for a favor at all.

Shirley was so furious. She thought, thanks a lot! Do I owe you anything? Why should I help you

gather shells?

Yet she still agreed.

"I can help you, but it won't be for free. I'll charge you 1,600 dollars per minute, and if it takes up to an hour, you may have a 20% discount. I'll bill you by the hour, and you have to pay me and transfer the money to me on time. Do you agree?"

Braden didn't know whether to laugh or be angry after hearing her words.

He thought, since when did you become a money–grubber? Money is pretty much all you talk about. How badly do you need money?

Fortunately, I have more money than I can spend.

If I can buy your obedience with money, I'll be more than glad to do so.

"Deal."

Braden said without hesitation.

The two reached an agreement and walked towards the sea opposite the hotel at once.

They were facing the bluest and purest part of the bay, and the water was as crystal clear as glass.

Facing the sea and blowing the sea breeze, there was nothing to worry about.

"Ah! Sea, how are you doing?"

Shirley opened her arms and shouted.

She liked the sea, to begin with. Enjoying the sea while making money put her in an even better mood.

Although the sun was bright, it was cool and cozy with the sea breeze blowing, and it was not hot at all.

Shirley stepped on the waves along the beach. Feeling a little guilty about earning money in such a way, she turned back to look at Braden and grinned. "Don't worry, Boss. It is said that there is a kin of shell in this sea called 'Ocean Heart', and whoever obtains one gets to stay happy forever. I'll get one for you and Ms. Tierney even if it means I'll have to dig through this beach today. I'm sure you'll win her back with 'Ocean Heart'."

Braden raised an eyebrow. "Then you must find one for me. I want to start over with her."

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