

Snatched 201

Chapter 201 Disappeared

The evening of the second day of the Christmas holiday, Cora still hadn't received a reply from Byron.

She stared at the empty chat box and couldn't help feeling disappointed.

"Is he really that busy? Too busy to even reply with a single word?"

Indeed, since leaving early on Christmas morning, Byron had disappeared without a trace. He hadn't

sent Cora any messages during his absence either.

And throughout this period, Cora had been waiting for him at home, except for her visits to the hospital

to see Flora.

But this kind of waiting continued until the fifth day of the Christmas holiday, with no sign of him

appearing or replying.

Her eager heart seemed to gradually lose its enthusiasm in this long wait.

So, on this evening, Cora sent another message to Byron.

[If you don't want to help me, just say so. There's no need to disappear.]

She could still send the message successfully, but as expected, it also sank into oblivion.

Cora couldn't help feeling annoyed and thought, "You won't reply to my messages? Fine, I won't bother you either. When you come back and want to make up with me, I will definitely ignore you!"

With such thoughts in mind, Cora returned to work at the hospital.

Starting from the sixth day of the holiday, the hospital was bustling again, and even the emergency room had more patients than usual.

While being swamped, Cora's concern for Byron seemed to diminish.

However, when she returned to her empty apartment, loneliness pounced on her like a lurking beast, tearing apart her self-proclaimed facade of toughness into pieces.

She missed him so much.

So much that it was even suffocating!

She even set aside her pride and took the initiative to call him.

Yet, the person on the other end of the line still didn't answer...

So, she couldn't help but wonder if Byron was away on another business trip like before. Was he too busy to care about her feelings?

Truly, this was the first time love had tortured her like this.

Even during her passionate romance with Eason, she had never experienced such burning and lung-scratching longing.

And so, in the end, she couldn't control herself. On the eighth day of the holiday, which happened to be her day off, she dressed seductively and went to the Hansen Group building.

"I'd like to see Mr. Hansen," she politely greeted the receptionist.

"Did you make an appointment?" The receptionist looked at her devilish figure outlined by the pink-blue knit dress and couldn't help showing a tinge of disdain.

"No, but please tell Mr. Hansen that my last name is Lane."

Cora didn't dare to consider herself too important. She just thought that since she and Byron had made so many loving memories in bed, he would agree to see her.

"I'm sorry, but we receive many people like you every day. If we report every one of them to the upper management, we won't be able to handle the workload."

Cora frowned at her words. She asked, "But I really need to meet Mr. Hansen. Can you please let him know?"

"Sorry. Please come back after you make an appointment." The receptionist's refusal made Cora even more helpless.

But she didn't want to make this trip in vain. So, she took out her phone and called Carter.

"Miss Lane?" Carter sounded somewhat surprised when he received Cora's call.

"Carter, I'm downstairs at the Hansen Building. Um... could you do me a favor and take me up to see

Mr. Hansen?"

Cora felt a little embarrassed and inappropriate for showing up like this.

But she couldn't stop missing Byron, so despite the awkwardness, she voiced her desire.

Carter hesitated for a moment before speaking, "I'll come right away."

Chapter 202 Longing

A few minutes later, Carter brought Cora to Byron's office.

Byron was busy working, and except for a brief glance when they entered, his eyes remained focused

on the computer screen, while his nimble fingers danced across the keyboard.

"Miss Lane, would you like coffee or tea?" Carter glanced at Byron and asked Cora.

"Tea, thank you, Carter," Cora replied.

Carter nodded and left the office sensibly, leaving the two of them with privacy to talk.

Cora stood not far away, observing the busy man.

The office was heated, and Byron wore a black shirt and pants that perfectly outlined his broad shoulders and narrow waist.

His concentrated look was also captivating, exuding an aura of a mature man that could make a woman's heart flutter.

After not seeing him for a few days, Cora hadn't expected to feel somewhat absent-minded in his presence.

Only when a male voice brought her back did she regain her senses. "What do you need?"

Once Cora snapped back to reality, she couldn't help but frown.

The man's tone was colder than before. Even his gaze lacked the usual gentleness.

But Cora attributed it to being too busy, unable to switch back from the attitude he had towards others.

So she approached him, lightly touched his shoulder, and even leaned in to peck his cheek, saying,

"Why haven't you come to see me for such a long time?"

Her actions were full of coquettishness and flattering. Her words sounded like the complaints and

grievances of a woman in love.

For a moment, Byron's fingers froze on the keyboard, and a trace of daze flickered in his dark eyes.

"Is it because you're too busy? Or do you think that I'm too proud and unapproachable? I can change, you know."

During this time, she had indeed thought that if Byron continued to ignore her, she would also stop paying attention to him. And in the future, she would always keep a distance from him.

However, after Byron had disappeared for several days, Cora couldn't stop missing him day and night.

In the end, she had to give in.

Even if he didn't want to be with her, she was dying for even the slightest hint of his mercy.

So, even though these thoughts seemed like complaints and grievances, they also conveyed her helplessness and compromise.

Byron felt the soft and delicate arm resting on his shoulder, sensed the fragrance lingering from her body, and even replayed their passionate moments in bed from the past.

Especially after not being intimate with her for several days, but she still tempted him like this. He was

truly going crazy and could barely restrain himself, wanting to pin her down on the office desk...

However, just as he was about to lose control, Carter knocked and entered the room.

Seeing them in such an intimate pose, a hint of surprise flashed across Carter's poker face.

But soon, he reverted back to his indifferent expression. "Miss Lane, here's your tea!"

"Thank you." Cora hurriedly let go of Byron and went to take the tea.

After the familiar fragrance dissipated, Byron's growing irritability intensified.

"Anything else?" He raised his eyebrows, looking at Carter.

Carter knew Byron wanted him to leave them alone.

But before leaving, he added fuel to the fire, "Yes. When will you announce the engagement between you and Miss Yoris?"

Cora was about to take a sip of the hot tea to tame her desire when she suddenly heard Carter's question. Startled, her hand trembled, spilling the tea and scalding her hand...

Chapter 203 I'm Sorry

"Miss Lane, are you okay?"

Carter approached Cora with concern as if he had no other matters to attend to.

"I... I'm fine,"

Cora hastily put the teacup down, pretending to wipe the water droplets off the back of her hand. But

deep down, she was shocked and flustered.

After tidying up, she said, "The tea is great. Thank you, Carter. But I should be going now."

With that, she left without even looking back or saying goodbye to Byron.

She left in such a hurry that it didn't seem like she came specifically to see Byron but to ask Carter for a cup of tea.

Byron coldly watched Cora as she left until her figure completely disappeared from the door. Only then did his indifferent gaze turn towards Carter.

Carter remained calm as he met Byron's eyes, enduring the icy gaze that could almost turn into sharp blades.

After a moment, he still felt it was worth a try to salvage the situation. "I was just trying to help."

"Oh, so I should be thanking you?" Byron's eyes glinted with a chilling light. novelbin

"You're welcome," Carter replied earnestly.

As expected, he saw the veins on Byron's forehead bulge, an expression of uncontrollable anger.

"I should put you in jail for this."

"No, sir, you can't. I didn't violate the law or any regulations of the company." Carter tried hard to ignore

Byron's furious look.

"Oh, don't worry. If I truly want you to end up in jail, I'll do everything to make that happen!"

But in the end, Byron wasn't in the mood to continue arguing with Carter. He picked up the car keys

from the corner of the desk and hurriedly left the office.

The scene of Cora's hand being burned red kept replaying in his mind.

"There is a meeting in half an hour," Carter reminded from behind.

"Put it off."

In an eyeblink, Byron left the office as if his feet were on fire.

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Cora didn't know how she managed to leave the Hansen Group building.

The bright sunlight shone on her delicate face, but it couldn't dispel the gloom in her heart.

She wandered the streets like a lost soul.

From the Hansen Group to her place, it took her nearly three hours to arrive.

However, as she pushed open the door, she noticed that the man she hadn't seen in this house for so long was standing right in front of the floor-to-ceiling window.

When Cora entered, Byron was on the phone, speaking while smoking.

"No need. I've found her."

He glanced at her briefly, his deep eyes unable to reveal any emotions.

Then Byron hung up the phone and walked towards Cora.

Seeing his gloomy face, Cora didn't want to make herself seem so miserable, so she hurriedly calmed herself down.

"Isn't this Mr. Hansen? Why are you here today?"

She greeted him with a smile, but her heart was filled with sorrow.

It seemed that their relationship was finally coming to an end.

"Don't talk to me like that."

Byron stubbed out his cigarette butt. His voice was so hoarse that he didn't sound like himself.

"But you're going to be engaged to someone else, Mr. Hansen. I truly don't know how I should talk to

you."

Then, Cora continued, "I said that I won't take another woman's fiancé in."

Byron could only feel a lump in his throat. He could only look blankly into her mesmerizing eyes, which seemed to be filled with tears.

Cora was waiting during this suffocating silence, waiting for him to give her a reasonable explanation, waiting for a chance to bring them back to their past.

Even if the reason Byron gave her was the most absurd lie in this whole world, she would still trust him and love him until the very end, no matter what would be waiting for them in the future.

But in the end, Byron only said, "I'm sorry..."

Cora immediately understood that what Carter had said was true. Byron was getting engaged to a woman. He would cherish her, have kids with her, spend the rest of his life with her, and let everyone envy how affectionate they were. But, sadly, that woman was Jane.

As for Cora, she would no longer be in any part of his future.

Chapter 204 Unwilling

Cora and Byron locked eyes, and for a moment, the tears that had been welling up uncontrollably

threatened to fall.

But in the end, she closed her eyes. And when she looked back at him, it seemed as though she had cleaned up all her tears and mixed feelings inside.

Once again, she smiled charmingly at Byron.

Her smile gradually filled her dimples, which fascinated Byron with their sweetness.

"There's no need to apologize. We both knew what we were getting into, remember?"

In fact, he had made it clear from the beginning that he only wanted to sleep with her without any commitment.

However, Cora couldn't help but fall for him, which led them to this dilemma.

Seeing her expressions changing constantly, Byron felt panicked and didn't know what to say.

But before he could respond, she continued, "However, breaking up comes at a high cost. Have you really thought it through?"

Cora had to face the truth even if she didn't want to, and she understood that despite the despair, life had to go on.

Instead of being stubborn and giving up everything, she thought it would be better to ask for something when they parted ways. At least it would make her future days a little easier, free from being bullied, and could serve as a memory of their time together.

Byron hadn't expected Cora to bring up the break-up fee so quickly. While he did intend to give it to her, her direct request made him feel that her previous display of heartbreak and despair over his engagement may have been an act.

To put it bluntly, her fondness and even admiration for him were based solely on his financial capabilities.

This made him feel quite unfair, just like back then...

But he didn't refuse her request outright. He suppressed his sorrowful feelings and, with an expressionless look, asked, "How much do you want?"

"I want my brother to be released as soon as possible," Cora answered promptly. It seemed that she had already made up her mind beforehand.

"That can be arranged. He would be released within this month. I'll have someone check on him and expedite the process," Byron assured her.

"Good." Cora tightened and then loosened her grip on her skirt, finally saying, "You may leave now."

With those words, she turned and walked toward her room.

But soon, Byron suddenly grabbed her hand.

His unexpected move made Cora feel a surge of anticipation.

But she couldn't help but tease him with a sly smile, "Mr. Hansen, are you finding it hard to let me go?"

Byron didn't respond to her playful remark. Instead, he took out a tube of ointment from his pocket and squeezed some onto the back of her hand.

As the cold ointment landed on her hand, Cora suddenly realized that there were a few blisters on the back of her hand, probably from the burn in his office.

Perhaps she hadn't felt the pain much before because she had been overwhelmed with sadness.

Now, whether it was due to the soothing effect of the ointment or the fact that Byron personally applied it, making her feel cared for and cherished, she suddenly felt the pain intensify as if it multiplied countless times in an instant. It was so intense that it threatened to bring forth the tears she had struggled to hold back.

In haste, she pulled her hand back and forced a smile. "Take your clothes when you leave. Let's

pretend we never know each other when we meet again. Otherwise, with my horrible temper, I might do

something insane."

After leaving these harsh words, she went to the bedroom without looking back.

She appeared composed, but as she turned around, tears streamed down her face...

Chapter 205 Like Your Money

"Just keep an eye on Gabe's situation and try to get him out in the next couple of days."

Byron instructed when he returned to the Hansen mansion in the evening. Now, he seemed and

sounded as normal as usual.

But when Carter heard his instructions, he couldn't help but glance at him. "Is everything settled?"

Byron didn't answer, only saying, "Once Gabe is released, transfer 33 million dollars from my personal

account to him."

Gabe was quite capable, and that amount of money would be enough for him to make a fresh start.

In this way, Cora would also have a better future. At the very least, she wouldn't be looked down upon

wherever she went.

They had a peaceful breakup, which saved both of their dignity.

However, Carter seemed to have detected something. Suddenly, he sighed emotionlessly. "You liked her and protected her wholeheartedly, yet she was only interested in your money."

As expected, Byron's indifferent expression instantly turned sour.

His gaze, fixed on Carter, resembled that of a predator lurking in the shadows, ready to hunt its prey.

Carter felt as if he had accidentally found out the truth. He hurriedly said, "I'll go transfer the money."

With that, he fled as quickly as possible.novelbin

As for Byron, he started smoking again, as if the nicotine alone could temporarily soothe the restlessness within him, restraining the urge to turn back...

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After Byron left, Cora tried to comfort herself, saying, "It's not a big deal. You were living on your own before he came into your life."

Moreover, this was her second heartbreak. Having experienced one before, she should handle it better this time.

Then Cora began to organize the empty space in her wardrobe after Byron had taken away his clothes.

She filled it with various items, but even after filling every nook and cranny, she couldn't completely fill the emptiness in her heart.

The feeling of losing almost drove her mad.

She even ate a lot, hoping to fill that empty corner within herself.

But as she ate, the table was gradually stained by water.

When she touched her face, she realized that tears were already streaming down her cheeks.

Frustrated, she violently pushed away the food and broke down in hysterical sobs.

She didn't understand why breaking up with Byron, after only being together for a few months, felt more

difficult than parting ways with Eason after several years.

This heart-piercing feeling was really torturing.

So, Cora rummaged through the fridge until she found the beer she and Byron had bought at the supermarket a few days before Christmas. She drank until she was completely wasted.

In her drunken haze, she seemed to see Byron again.

"I've never liked someone so much, but it seems that this kind of affection means nothing to you.

"I did want to be with you, even wanted to have your baby. But you don't want me anymore.

"Since you're so heartless, then I won't like you anymore..."

Tears slowly trickled down her face.

...

Sally finally returned from her hometown, Kinton.

When she bumped into Cora in the office, she couldn't help but share the interesting stories that had happened during the Christmas holiday.

"I told my mom that I bought this bag for 3 dollars on Amazon, but she didn't believe me. I plan to buy one and send it back to her later, so we can both have matching bags."

Sally was typical of a Taurus girl, known for being frugal and spending every penny wisely.

After sharing many things, Sally noticed that Cora seemed a bit slow and had a bitter smile.

"Cora, what's wrong? Are you feeling down or..."

"I broke up," Cora interrupted.

After a night of hysterical crying, she woke up in the morning to find the city bustling as usual. She went

to the hospital as she always did, diligently helping patients despite feeling heartbroken.

This was perhaps what they called the process of becoming mature. She had to mute herself even while crying.

But when friends showed concern, it was hard for her not to mention it.

"You broke up? Did you bring it up or did Mr. Pope?"

Sally, unaware of Cora's involvement with Byron, still assumed it had something to do with Carter.

Cora rubbed her throbbing temple, feeling the effects of her hangover. "Let's just say I brought it up."

Byron was about to get engaged, but he didn't say anything and simply didn't come to see her.

And she didn't want to keep someone else's fiancé.

"Cora, it's okay. You won't meet a better man without getting rid of what you have."

This is what Cora liked most about Sally. When Cora felt miserable, Sally wouldn't dig deeper and force

her to expose her bleeding wounds.

"Tonight, I'll take you out to have some fun. It's just a man, right? There are countless choices out there!"

"I'm afraid that the one I like will once again become someone else's fiancé." Cora felt that her emotional wound might never be healed.

"Well, well. That sounds so tempting. I mean, think about it! Sleeping with a man who's going to marry another woman!" Sally smiled wickedly.

Cora couldn't help but laugh at Sally's words, feeling that her emotional wound had healed a bit. She agreed to go out with Sally at night.

Chapter 206 Meet Again

After work, Sally took Cora to a bar. They were joined by Sally's boyfriend, Hayden Gollust, and his friend, Lucas Quinn.

Lucas was quite tall and had a gentle look, making him seem like a business elite.

"This is my bosom friend, Cora. Hayden, you've met her before, and this is Lucas," Sally introduced them.

"Nice to meet you both. I'm Cora." Cora wore a light beige knitted dress. Although it wasn't of a very sexy style, it still outlined her perfect figure, catching everyone's attention.

Even Lucas, who rarely engaged in conversations with women, greeted her politely, "Hello, I'm Lucas."

Sally and Hayden exchanged a smile.

Sally leaned towards Cora and whispered, "Looks like Lucas is interested in you. Why not give it a try?"

He's also from Kinton, but he doesn't want to rely on his family, so he came to New York. Although he

has quite a lot of admirers, he's not a playboy. I've never seen him being interested in any other

woman."

"Nah, Sally, I'm not ready for a new relationship right now," Cora knew that even long-lasting feelings

might not lead to anything substantial. Still, she couldn't accept the idea of finding a new partner the

day after a breakup.

"But, Cora, the best way to forget about the last one is to start a new relationship,"

Sally said, causing Cora to unconsciously think back to when she started dating Byron after breaking

up with Eason.

Perhaps the thought of Byron made her feel restless, so she didn't refuse to interact with Lucas.

Lucas wasn't much of a talker and didn't focus too much on Cora's figure, so they got along quite well.

So when Sally and Hayden went to the dance floor, leaving the two of them alone at the bar, it wasn't

as awkward as expected.

"Are you always busy at the hospital? Hayden told me that he has to make appointments with Sally in

advance. Otherwise, she's either working overtime or on her way to do so," Lucas asked.

"Yeah, we're currently rotating through the emergency room for our internship, so we're quite busy.

Especially during major accidents, there's no time to spare," Cora replied.

They continued chatting casually, not delving too deep into any particular topic.

Cora planned to tell Sally when she returned from dancing that she wanted to leave early.

Even though she refused to admit it, she wasn't ready for anyone new in such a short period of time.

However, to her surprise, Sally messaged her, saying: [Hayden and I are leaving now. Lucas will take you home later.]

At that very moment, a murderous intent instantly filled Cora's mind.

But since she didn't know where Sally had gone, she had to tame her anger for now. She smiled and

bid farewell to Lucas, saying, "I have work in the morning, so I should head back."

"I'll send you home." Lucas quickly settled the bill and followed her outside.

Initially, Cora wanted to refuse Lucas's offer to take her home.

But as fate would have it, as they exited the bar one after another, they bumped into Byron.

He stood by the greenery near the bar entrance, smoking a cigarette.

The lighting in that corner was quite dim, and with his all-black attire, he seemed to have bent into the night.

But this man seemed to radiate a faint glow, visible even in the darkest of nights.

The smoke scattered around him, unable to conceal the clear displeasure in his dark eyes.

However, since they had already broken up, Cora naturally didn't presume that his annoyance was directed towards her.

"Wait for me, I'll go get the car," Lucas said, either afraid that she would wait too long or eager to complete his task of taking her home so he could return and enjoy himself. With those words, he quickly ran toward the parking lot.

It was at this moment that Byron extinguished his cigarette and began walking towards Cora.

Chapter 207 Self Respect

Cora had already told Byron before that after they broke up, they should pretend that they didn't know each other.

So when he approached her, she calmly walked past him, intending to avoid any interaction.

However, Byron seemed to be deliberately annoying her, blocking her path directly.

"New boyfriend?"

His voice was colder than the wind scraping against her face.

Only then did Cora look up at him.

Then, she saw mockery and indifference written all over his face.

After Cora came back to her senses, she realized that Byron had misunderstood her relationship with Lucas.

It didn't matter if others misunderstood her, but Byron just couldn't.

Before getting together with Byron, she had never devoted herself to any other man.

If it weren't for his impending engagement, she would have wanted to continue to be with him without asking for a commitment.

Yet, he misunderstood her intentions, which made Cora feel insulted.

"Yes, he's not bad-looking, and his figure is on par with yours, Mr. Hansen," Cora responded sarcastically.

It wasn't clear whether Byron grasped the underlying meaning, but he coldly reminded her, "A girl should have self-respect."

"I don't have self-respect, and I'm sure you knew that long ago," Cora smirked provocatively.

She was referring to their first time sleeping together, which also happened after leaving the bar.

That was what Byron cared about most, not wanting anyone to witness her vulnerable and endearing side in that situation.

Some emotions almost broke free from their restraints, and Byron was tempted to pull her back into his embrace.

However, before he could act, Cora sidestepped him.

"Mr. Hansen, please have some self-restraint. There's no need to meddle with someone like me, who lacks self-respect, after we've broken up. Otherwise, your fiancée might misunderstand," Cora said, leaving those words behind as she walked away.

Lucas had already driven his car out of the parking lot by then.

Cora initially didn't want to ride in Lucas's car, but either in defiance of Byron or in her haste to avoid

him, she still chose to go with Lucas.

Byron watched her sitting in another man's car, and he couldn't help feeling restless. He lit another cigarette, trying to calm his inner turmoil...

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"Mr. Quinn, can you drop me off at the subway station?"

Cora looked at Byron standing still through the rearview mirror, speaking to Lucas without much emotion.

"Sure."

Lucas sensed her wariness towards him and didn't engage in any more chatting.

As they approached the subway station, Lucas asked, "Dr. Lane, do you mind if we exchange numbers?"

Without waiting for Cora's response, he continued, "Sally mentioned that you excel in cardiac surgery and are planning to specialize in that field. My father recently had a stent implanted..."

Cora immediately understood.

When a family member underwent a cardiac procedure, his family often felt anxious and had many

questions. Thus, many patients' families would consult her about related issues.

So, even before Lucas finished speaking, Cora took out her phone and added his number to her contact list.

"Feel free to ask me any questions, Mr. Quinn. I'll share what I know. However, I might be busy at work sometimes and may not reply promptly."

"Thank you, Dr. Lane."

They soon arrived at the subway station, and after bidding each other farewell, Cora got out of the car and joined the rush of people entering the station.

Little did she know that Lucas didn't leave immediately. He waited until her figure disappeared into the crowd before picking up his phone and looking at the newly added number. A slight smirk appeared on his lips.

In fact, he didn't have a father.

Chapter 208 Gabe Returned

After Cora took the last subway and arrived at the apartment building downstairs, it was almost 10 pm.

A sports car zoomed past, its roaring engine capturing Cora's attention.

Just as she saw the car, she felt like her heart was breaking free from all constraints and about to leap out of her throat.

Because that sports car looked like...

"Mr. Hansen?"

Yes, it seemed like Byron's car.

So, was he jealous?

Was it because she had been too close with another man, and he came specially to see if she brought that man home?

But just as Cora tried to focus and confirm if it was indeed his car, the vehicle had already disappeared around the street corner, leaving only a bustling crowd behind.

It felt as if everything that had just happened was nothing but a dream.

Cora smirked bitterly, realizing that whether it was real or a dream, in the end, they would still part ways.

There was no point in lingering and getting hurt even more...

The next morning, Cora received a call from the prison and quickly took leave to wait in front of the prison gate.

At exactly 9 am, a tall and lean figure walked out.

"Gabe!"

Hearing Cora's call, he turned around and smiled brightly, "Cora!"

The siblings embraced tightly, celebrating this hard-earned reunion.

After the embrace, Cora took Gabe to the apartment to shower and change into clean clothes before taking him to a nearby restaurant for food.

Before the meals arrived, Cora couldn't help but tear up. "Brother, I'm sorry. You went through so much suffering because of me."

Gabe had lost a lot of weight, and he seemed like he had aged a lot, especially his once-bright eyes, now dulled as if covered with a layer of dust.

Gabe quickly indulged in soothingly rubbing Cora's head. "What are you saying, silly girl? It was most difficult for you during the time I wasn't around."

He knew better than anyone the dire circumstances their family had faced after the Lane family's

downfall.

While he could still maintain respect through force in prison, it would be much harder for Cora without the protection of the Lane family.

He couldn't fathom how much mistreatment she must have endured without their backing, especially with her outstanding figure and appearance.

"Gabe, I'm fine." Cora smiled. But soon, her smile faded a bit.

Well, it couldn't really be said that she wasn't doing well, especially with her recent experience with Byron.

He may have been scum, but at least he made it clear from the start, never promising a future. And their breakup was dignified, as arranged, with Gabe being rescued as promised.

"Cora, I know you've been through a tough time since you and Eason broke up. But now that I'm out, even if I have to risk my life, I won't let anyone hurt you again."

In truth, Cora hadn't intended to cry before, but for some reason, Gabe's heartfelt words made her want to cry, and tears flowed uncontrollably.

"Alright, everything will pass."

Gabe comforted her for a while before Cora gradually calmed down.

After finishing their meal, Cora took Gabe to visit Flora.

"Gabe, it's good that you're safe. Even if I die right now, I won't be guilty when I see your father again,"

Flora said excitedly upon seeing Gabe.

"Mom, you have to take care of yourself too. Get well soon and leave the hospital, and then our whole family can reunite."

Although Flora wasn't Gabe's biological mother, they got along well, and Gabe had long started calling her mom.

After going through this turmoil together, they considered each other family.

However, several times, Flora wanted to mention Cora's new boyfriend, Byron, in front of Gabe, but

Cora always interrupted her.

"Mom, Gabe just got out today. Let's let him rest early and talk with him later."

She and Byron had already separated, so she felt that there was no need for Gabe to know about it.

Flora assumed that Cora was concerned for her brother, saying, "Alright, Gabe, you should go home

and rest. Tomorrow, I'll have a nurse buy a chicken and make some soup for you. Look how much weight you've lost recently..."

Flora continued to nag, and finally, she allowed Cora to take Gabe home.

However, just as Cora tried to avoid mentioning Byron whom Flora had repeatedly brought up, Gabe suddenly mentioned him.

On their way back from the hospital, Gabe asked Cora, "Cora, what's your relationship with Mr. Hansen?"

Chapter 209 I Broke Up

"He's Eason's uncle, and we've met a few times."

Cora replied, looking up and seemingly composed.

But only she knew that her calm look masked the surging feelings in her heart.

Even if she tried her best to forget the happy moments she had shared with Byron, just a casual mention of his name made all those memories resurface and let her suffer even more.

"Is that so?" Gabe frowned slightly, his inquiring gaze searching for clues on Cora's face.

However, Cora gritted her teeth, concealing her bitterness and helplessness. She spoke calmly, "Well,

yes, it's like that. Why do you ask?"

"Nothing, I heard from my lawyer that he provided the bail for me, which allowed me to get out smoothly. I thought there might be some kind of connection between you and him."

Gabe also knew the relationship between Byron and Eason, so he was so worried when he learned that it was Byron who had bailed him out and even gave him a lot of money.

But Gabe was obviously relieved to hear that Cora calmly denied everything between her and Byron.

"Maybe he helped you because he once collaborated with Dad." Cora could only use their late father as an excuse.

In this way, Gabe wouldn't go to find out whether what she had said was true.

As for Byron, Cora knew he probably didn't want anyone to know about their relationship, so he wouldn't meet with Gabe.

"Maybe."

When they reached the subway entrance, Gabe said, Cora, I'll temporarily stay at Lorenzo's place. But my phone will be on 24/7, so feel free to call me if you need anything."

Lorenzo Yates was their late father's right-hand man and former chief lawyer of the Lane Group.

Cora and Gabe used to visit Lorenzo's house frequently, so he basically watched them grow up.

When Gabe was implicated, Lorenzo had been working hard to get him out.

So, Gabe staying at Lorenzo's wasn't surprising.

However, Cora still wanted to persuade him to come back with her. "Gabe, I bought an air mattress. If

you don't want to sleep on my bed, you can sleep on the air mattress."

She knew Gabe wouldn't let her sleep on the sofa, so she had prepared everything before he was released.

But Gabe still refused, saying, "That place is too small. Besides, Cora, you're a grown woman now, and it would be inconvenient for both of us to live together."

Seeing Cora's dejected expression, he comforted her, "But I promise you, once I've settled down, I'll find a bigger place as soon as possible and bring you over."

Gabe's reasoning made sense. Although they were siblings, they were still a man and a woman.

Cora's apartment was indeed quite small, and it would be inconvenient for them to live together.

So, in the end, Cora compromised.

After seeing Gabe off at the subway station, Cora returned to Flora's ward.

Flora was knitting that scarf again, already halfway done.

"Why are you back?" Flora asked, glancing at Cora and then focusing on the scarf, her brows furrowing.

Cora wasn't sure if Flora was worried that she would ask for that scarf or if she was curious why Cora hadn't gone home with Gabe.

Cora believed it was the latter since she saw the scarf as a gift from Flora to repair their mother-daughter relationship.

"Gabe wanted to stay at Lorenzo's house and had already informed him," Cora said, sitting beside Flora. She planned to buy some things for Gabe and send them to him this weekend.

"Then what else are you up to?" Flora's question felt off to Cora, making her feel like Flora didn't want her to be there.

But Cora assumed it was due to Flora caring about the reason for the sudden visit to her ward because, after all, Flora was her mother.

She sniffed and tried to calm down as she replied, "Mom, I broke up..."

Chapter 210 Get Married Now

"Why did you break up with Byron?"

Flora put down her needlework, sounding concerned.

Cora looked at Flora's reaction and thought that her mother still cared about her.

Look at how she immediately dropped her needlework as soon as she heard about the breakup!

But since Cora felt she was loved, she could hardly maintain her calmness, and even her voice carried

a hint of hoarseness. "He didn't want to get married, so we broke up."

Such an excuse was inspired by Flora's previous question about her marriage.

As expected, Flora seemed to agree, saying, "That's right. Without a commitment, no matter how good-

looking he is, you just can't date him any longer.

"A woman only has a few good years, and you can't waste them on someone like him."

At first, Flora's words warmed Cora's heart.

But as she kept talking, Flora suddenly said, "I will find another man for you these days. I'll try my best

to let you get married by the end of this year."

Cora couldn't help but frown. "Mom, I'm still young. There's really no need to rush into marriage."

She admitted that she couldn't let go of Byron just yet.

It wouldn't be fair to rush into a new relationship without letting her heart completely heal.

"But I'm eager to let you get married now." Flora thought about Jane's previous insistence on getting

Cora married as soon as possible, and the urgency made her irritable.

She worried that if she couldn't handle even this small matter well, Jane would disdain her.

Without waiting for Cora's agreement, Flora took out her phone and started searching for the contact

information of several other patients who had asked about her daughter's situation and expressed

interest in introducing her to someone. Ignoring Cora's protests, she called all of them.

Cora felt frustrated. Flora had never been this anxious about her marriage before, so why did she

suddenly change?

But to avoid upsetting Flora, she suppressed all her doubts and questions.

Over the next few weeks, Cora remained busy.

She worked in the emergency room until eight or nine in the evening every day. On her days off, she

would visit Gabe, bringing him food and clothes. With Lorenzo's assistance, Gabe began managing the

remaining Lane Group assets.

Occasionally, Cora received messages from Lucas asking about post-operative precautions after his father's heart stent placement, and she also answered him patiently.

Her life began to regain its rhythm. She no longer had to carve out time each week to learn wood carving or report to Byron if she had occasional overtime, afraid that he would be waiting at home for too long.

During the day, she rarely thought of him, but on nights when silence filled the air, her yearning would overflow uncontrollably.

Occasionally, she would subconsciously betray her intentions and quietly gather information related to him.

Such as the Hansen Group obtaining development rights for a certain area under Byron's guidance, or

Byron being selected as one of the top ten outstanding young people.

But amidst all these collected pieces of information, there was still no definitive news about his engagement with Jane.

But it didn't matter anymore. Cora believed that after some days, she would grow accustomed to not having him by her side and eventually let go of him completely.

The only thing that bothered her was the blind dates arranged by Flora, one per week.

No matter how much she emphasized that she wasn't ready for marriage, Flora would still insist on her going to meet her dates according to her schedule.

Cora worried that outright refusal would upset her mother, so every Saturday night, she reluctantly went

to various places to meet her dates.

This week, Flora set her up with an IT guy at the Seasons Restaurant.

Little did Cora expect that this man would be none other than Lucas.

"Why is it you?" Cora couldn't hide her surprise.

"Dr. Lane?" Lucas seemed equally astonished.