

Snatched 241

Chapter 241 Caught On the Spot

After realizing the mistake, Cora turned to look at Byron immediately, only to see Byron looking at her amused. "So, can we do it, my friend?"

"Get out! You wish! It was just a figure of speech." After explaining angrily, Cora simply turned to look out of the car window, hiding her embarrassment.

But maybe it was her illusion. Byron seemed to like her inappropriate words. Although he didn't talk much afterward, the atmosphere in the car was not so awkward as before.

After the car stopped outside her apartment, Cora thanked Byron hurriedly and got out of the car. Just when she was about to leave, Byron suddenly said, "My friend, can't we do it?"

He looked up at her, showing his smooth and perfect jawline. As he spoke, his Adam's apple rolled up and down, which was extremely sexy.

Cora truly felt that, at this moment, Byron was more erotic than ever before. Maybe he was deliberately seducing her, and it worked. Cora's whole face flushed instantly.

But in the end, Cora rejected him firmly, "No!"

After saying this, she went back to the apartment without even turning her head.

After returning home, she was still depressed about Lucas's matter and couldn't care about anything else.

The next morning, before going to work, she opened the curtains and looked out of the window. But she vaguely saw the Koenigsegg Agera at the street corner far away.

"Did he stay downstairs all night?"

But when she looked again, the Koenigsegg Agera was no longer there, and she could only see the hustling figures of office workers.

She said to herself mockingly, "What were you thinking?"

Even if she and Byron had not broken up, Byron wouldn't protect her like this because he had never taken her seriously.

In the next few days, Cora and Lucas still maintained a lukewarm relationship.

It wasn't what Cora wanted, but she couldn't find a chance to talk it through with Lucas.

Every time she asked Lucas out, he was either busy or was called away soon after they met.

Before she knew it, the day for the Calligraphy Association event came.

Cora asked for a leave that day. After simple grooming, she changed into a white dress and headed out.

Before entering the venue of the Calligraphy Association event, Cora called Lucas.

"Cora? How come you have time to call me at this time?"

It was quite noisy on Lucas's end. In addition to his voice, Cora also heard many people chatting.

"Well, there are no patients in the emergency room now. So I just called to see what you are doing."

Cora also asked, "Are you outside? Why is it so noisy?"

Lucas explained, "No. I'm in the company cafeteria! There have been a few bugs today, and I haven't had time to eat until now."

His explanation sounded reasonable. There had been a few times before when he had late meals because of fixing bugs.

Before Cora could respond, Lucas said again, "I'm sorry, Cora. I haven't spent much quality time with you recently because I've been so busy. Don't worry. I will definitely make it up to you after this."

"Okay. Go eat now." After hanging up, Cora sighed softly. "Don't let me down..."

After that, Cora straightened her dress and stepped into the lobby of the hotel where the event was held.

But the moment she entered, she saw Lucas, who claimed to be eating in the company cafeteria just now. He was arm in arm with Chloe, who was in a coquettish red dress. They looked like a perfect couple...

Chapter 242 Long-planned?

Cora was good-looking and had a good figure. With some light makeup and a long white dress, she was extremely attractive.

Almost as soon as she entered the event site, people turned to look at her.

Seeing Cora, Chloe smiled politely. But her agile eyes were aggressive and gloating.

Seeing Chloe gloating as if she were a winner, Cora smiled back lightly.

At this time, Lucas turned back after greeting the person next to him, only to find Cora staring at him...

The moment their eye met, Cora saw the nervousness in Lucas's eyes through his glasses.

Immediately, he tried to push Chloe away and walk towards Cora.

But Chloe wouldn't let go, and the two walked towards Cora pushing and pulling.

"Cora, why are you here?"

But before Cora could respond, Chloe said, "I invited her."

Chloe wore heavy makeup and flaming red lipstick on purpose today. She even tied a red ribbon into a bow around the wound from the surgery on her hand. The princess-cut hairstyle was also neat and gorgeous. The exquisite look and the height of five feet ten made her look decent and graceful.

"Chloe, why do you involve irrelevant people in our grievances?" Lucas restrained his voice and tried to take Cora away by hand.

"Lucas, is this your company cafeteria? It's quite fancy." Cora shook off Lucas's hand.

Lucas was anxious and came up again, "Cora, I'm sorry. But I will explain it to you when we get home."

"What do you want to explain to her? The fact that you are dating her before our engagement is dissolved? And that you made her a homewrecker?"

Cora watched as Chloe rebuked Lucas harshly.

In fact, Cora had vaguely guessed Chloe's relationship with Lucas when she saw Chloe.

But she still had the last hope for Lucas because she had told Lucas before that she hated homewrecker the most, and she broke up with Byron because he was getting engaged.

She had been so clear with Lucas about her boundaries that she never thought Lucas would make such a stupid mistake.

But what Chloe said shattered Cora's last hope.

In a daze, Cora saw Byron and Jane.

Both of them were well-dressed, just like Lucas and Chloe, looking perfectly matched.

They were also looking in Cora's direction, making Cora feel so embarrassed that she wanted to hide somewhere.

"Our engagement was arranged by our parents, and you also agreed to end the engagement if we each find our true love." Lucas said. His words reminded Cora of how they began.

The same plan is to pretend to be a couple, and end the relationship after finding true love.

But they became a real couple after Lucas suddenly expressed his love to her.

Thinking back now, Cora suddenly realized that pretending to be a couple had never been the real plan. It was just a disguise of the love that couldn't be expressed.

In Cora's relationship with Lucas, he was the one to bring up the plan, as well as the one to express his

hidden love, while in the relationship of Lucas and Chloe, maybe it wasn't Chloe who brought up the plan, but she must have long been in love with Lucas.

Maybe Chloe tried every means to drag Cora here because she felt that her love for Lucas had been thrown down the drain.

At this moment, Chloe put on a charming smile and looked at Cora cunningly.

"I didn't say I won't end our engagement. But Mrs. Emily Quinn is the winner of the Orchid Calligraphy Award. If Cora wants to be her daughter-in-law, she must at least know something about calligraphy, right?"

Chapter 243 Indifference and Aspirations

"I never expected Dr. Lane's boyfriend to be the son of the calligrapher, Mrs. Emily Quinn. They seem to have a good relationship with the Hurst family from Kinton."

Jane seemed to be whispering in amazement, but her attention was on Byron.

The Hurst and Quinn families were among the four prominent families in Kinton, but their owners seldom appeared in the public eye.

They only made occasional appearances at art exhibitions or calligraphy events.

Of course, the Hansen and Yoris families had little interaction with them.

Byron's presence at this Calligraphy Association event was because his grandfather wanted a piece of

Mrs. Emily Quinn's calligraphy, which led him to bring Jane along.

Little did they expect that before the event even began, they would run into Cora being introduced as

someone else's mistress, bringing joy to Jane's heart.

However, Byron seemed unaffected. He observed the scene with a cold demeanor, making Jane

wonder if his interest in Cora had already faded.

On the other side, Chloe's provocative gaze made it difficult for anyone to overlook her intentions.

"I don't need you to worry about what kind of daughter-in-law my mother wants." As clever as Lucas

was, he immediately understood what Chloe was up to.

Chloe smiled and said, "But Mrs. Emily Quinn and I are like mother and daughter, and I'll help her as

much as I can!"

She smiled at Cora and continued, "I suppose Mrs. Emily Quinn took an interest in me, hoping I could

be their future daughter-in-law, all thanks to my decent calligraphy skills."

In other words, Chloe hinted to Cora that one must possess excellent calligraphy skills to become part

of the Quinn family.

Cora glanced at Chloe indifferently, leaving people uncertain whether she had taken Chloe's words to heart.

Chloe sized up Cora and couldn't help but admit that she was beautiful, a timeless classic, and possibly unmatched even in all of Kinton.

Such a woman would find it easy to marry into a prestigious family.

However, joining a prominent Kinton family was not as simple as marrying into a wealthy one.

This circle emphasized both talent and character.

In other words, one wouldn't be able to squeeze in without the necessary qualities if she came from a wealthy family.

Chloe, confident in her position as the vice president of the Calligraphy Association, was sure that she could outshine Cora in this aspect.

It was why she had insisted on holding the Calligraphy Association event in New York.

The time was almost up, and Chloe took the stage to deliver her speech.

During her speeches, she kept her gaze fixed on Cora and Lucas.

Cora did not immediately leave, and since learning about Chloe's relationship with Lucas, she had been quiet but burdened with heavy thoughts.

Lucas remained busy talking to Cora, likely explaining that his relationship with Chloe was merely one of mutual assistance.

Chloe was quite displeased with Lucas's almost submissive demeanor. However, she proceeded with her original plan.

After delivering her speech and receiving warm applause, Chloe announced, "At the beginning of previous calligraphy events, the president of the Calligraphy Association, Mrs. Emily Quinn, would showcase her excellent calligraphy. However, she couldn't be here today due to illness, so I, as the vice president, will humbly take her place."

As she spoke, the staff had already set up a table with pens and papers, ready for her to demonstrate her calligraphy skills.

When she finished speaking, Chloe picked up a pen and wrote on the paper. "Without embracing simplicity, one cannot grasp one's aspirations. Without seeking tranquility, one cannot achieve

greatness."

Chapter 244 His Move

Everyone focused on Chloe during her calligraphy demonstration, and the invited media captured close-up shots.

Even amidst the bustling crowd, many were amazed by her calligraphy. "No wonder she became the vice president of the Calligraphy Association. Ms. Hurst's running script is truly marvelous."

"Her strength is apparent without being ostentatious, and her posture is expressive without exaggeration. Her pen strokes flow like running water and clouds..."

Of course, some well-informed attendees at the event to support Chloe added, "Ms. Hurst's calligraphy will probably rival Mrs. Emily Quinn's with time. No wonder Mrs. Emily Quinn is so satisfied with her future daughter-in-law."

"So, Ms. Hurst is Mrs. Emily Quinn's future daughter-in-law? In that case, their mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship will surely be good. Mrs. Emily Quinn is so fond of studying calligraphy. I bet the two will be busy practicing calligraphy together often."

Amidst the praises, Chloe handed the pen to a nearby staff member with a smile and looked at Cora.

"Without embracing simplicity, one cannot grasp one's aspirations. Without seeking tranquility, one cannot achieve greatness." This quote served as a reminder to those caught up in a fast-paced and impetuous lifestyle today. It urged them not to overlook the importance of simplicity and not to be swayed by immediate gains and fame, for only by doing so could they find clear direction and pursue their lofty goals. It emphasized the significance of maintaining a calm and focused mind in seeking knowledge and personal growth, as that was the key to attaining accomplishments in life.

However, in reality, Chloe used these words to convey a message to Cora. She wanted to emphasize that Cora's impatience for quick success and her overly ambitious pursuit would not lead her anywhere.

Chloe insinuated that Cora would never gain acceptance within their prestigious circles and high-society families.

While others might not be aware of the complex relationship between Chloe, Lucas, and Cora, anyone familiar with their love triangle could easily discern Chloe's mocking intentions toward Cora.

Jane watched the scene with delight, her heart filled with satisfaction.

She even admired Chloe, thinking, "No wonder she comes from one of the four great families in Kinton.

Her methods of humiliating people are even more sophisticated than others."

However, Jane didn't express this in front of Byron, even though he appeared to be coldly observing from the sidelines. Who knew if he would react like he did on previous occasions, suddenly crossing a line and leaving her utterly hurt?

"Well, I've shown off enough. Does anyone else have the interest to come up and write together, to exchange ideas?"

Chloe confidently spoke again after her calligraphy display.

At first glance, it seemed like an invitation for others to come and practice calligraphy together.

However, Chloe's gaze was fixed on Cora, almost provocative.

Seeing Cora unmoved, Chloe initiated the invitation from the stage. "Dr. Lane, why not give it a try?

Don't worry about how well you write. Consider it an exchange of ideas."

"Chloe Hurst!" Lucas could see through her intent, knowing that she was trying to force Cora to come to the stage and become the laughingstock of the crowd.

"Mr. Quinn, don't be upset. I am inviting Dr. Lane to write a few characters for exchange. You know,

Mrs. Emily Quinn enjoys practicing calligraphy, and such gatherings will be common when joining the

Quinn family in the future. If we are so sensitive about this now, how will we handle it later?"

Chloe seemed to be advising Lucas, but in reality, she was indirectly exposing Cora's intrusion into their relationship and forcing her into her trap.

Her reasoning was sound, making it difficult for Lucas to argue.

Lucas' father passed away early, and his mother was deeply devoted to calligraphy.

Under Emily's influence, the Quinn family regularly engaged in calligraphy discussions, having one session almost every week. Indeed, quite a few people served as executives in the Calligraphy Association.

If Cora truly wanted to be with Lucas, she would undoubtedly have to participate in these activities in the future.

Lucas had considered waiting until he broke off his engagement with Chloe to focus on practicing calligraphy with Cora, but he didn't expect Chloe to surprise him with this move.

Lucas was genuinely worried that Cora might lose control and make a mess of things, making it even more difficult for them to be together and subjecting her to ridicule within the Kinton elite circle.

However, Lucas was unsure how to stop Chloe, especially in public.

Just then, Byron, whom Lucas secretly regarded as his rival since he began dating Cora, suddenly

sneered, "Does the Calligraphy Association have no members left? When organizing an event,

shouldn't you invite your members to demonstrate their calligraphy rather than forcing non-members to

do it?"

Chapter 245 Moonlit Gully

Byron's voice was neither loud nor low, yet it carried an undeniable aura of authority, capturing

everyone's attention in the room.

Byron's gaze shifted from Cora to Chloe.

It seemed Byron had already guessed that Cora was here to catch someone in the act.

Byron thought of how Cora had fiercely defended the two-timing scoundrel in the past, belittling him

and making him feel worthless. Byron had indeed inclined to turn a blind eye.

However, Chloe's relentless provocations and Lucas' passivity made Byron reconsider his stance.

He couldn't bear to see Cora isolated and mistreated anymore.

Byron decided to intervene. He couldn't help but feel that Cora deserved better treatment. As he spoke

up in her defense, Jane couldn't help but notice that his emotions towards Cora seemed far from resolved.

Jane even began to suspect that if Cora and Lucas broke up today, Byron would attempt to rekindle his relationship with her the next day.

The thought shattered Jane's good feelings and left her feeling restless...

Chloe was surprised when she realized that apart from Lucas, someone was willing to stand up for Cora.

What caught Chloe off guard was the extraordinary aura and demeanor of the man. It was rare for someone with such remarkable qualities within the prestigious Kinton community.

Despite acknowledging this person's excellence, Chloe was determined not to let Byron disrupt her plans.

"We have many talented individuals in our Calligraphy Association, but it's only because Dr. Lane and Mrs. Emily Quinn's son are close that I wanted to test her," Chloe continued to pursue her objective.

"Is it to test her for someone else's sake, or is it just a means to achieve your personal goals? I believe anyone with a clear vision can see through it."

Byron went straight to the point, risking offending the powerful Hurst family in Kinton without showing any regard for Chloe's feelings.

However, Chloe was not the one to back down easily and quickly found a counterattack. "Mr. Hansen, are you so protective of Dr. Lane because you have some hidden feelings for her?"

Byron's eyes simmered with anger, and there was a hint of an impending outburst.

Jane sensed that Byron was on the verge of losing his temper, and his seemingly calm demeanor now had a touch of ferocity.

At this moment, Jane was genuinely concerned that Byron might go to extreme lengths and publicly reveal their relationship to retaliate against Cora.

Lucas was also feeling a bit panicked. He was grateful that his arch-nemesis, Byron, had stepped in to help Cora at this critical moment.

However, Lucas knew that if Byron exposed his relationship with Cora, it would only make their delicate situation even more precarious.

To everyone's surprise, Cora seemed even less willing to let Byron reveal their past.

So after a long silence, Cora suddenly spoke up, saying, "If Ms. Hurst wishes to see me make a fool of myself, then so be it!"

"Cora, don't fall into her trap." Lucas quickly realized and tried to stop Cora.

Byron had finally managed to turn the situation around, and he didn't want Cora to embarrass herself on stage.

However, Cora faced Lucas with determination and said, "You still don't understand me. I never shy away from challenges. I won't just avoid them."

Her eyes were bright and full of determination, no longer the shy gaze she had shared with Lucas before.

Lucas felt uneasy witnessing the calmness in Cora's eyes as they drifted away from him and settled on Byron.

In a previous encounter, Byron had well-meaningly informed Cora about Lucas's infidelity, but her response was far from appreciative as she confronted Byron about it. Nevertheless, despite the tense circumstances, Byron found it within himself to lend a helping hand to Cora.

Cora was full of gratitude, yet she remained composed and restrained.

But Cora also knew that the more Byron supported her, the more she had to protect him from the exposure of their unsavory past. Revealing their previous connection could jeopardize Byron's relationship with Jane and his position in the Hansen family.

Cora smiled at Byron. She broke free from Lucas's grip and confidently went up on stage.

A frown creased Byron's forehead into a tight knot as he watched Cora walking to the stage.

Observing the subtle exchange of glances between the two, Jane narrowed her eyes slightly.

"Please prepare pen and paper for Dr. Lane," Chloe requested as she saw Cora take the stage, feeling her plan was already halfway successful.

However, Cora surprised everyone when she spoke up. She demanded, "Prepare two sets, please."

Chloe couldn't help but frown. "Is Dr. Lane planning to showcase ambidextrous calligraphy?"

"What's wrong with that?" Cora met Chloe's gaze with determination.

"Ambidextrous calligraphy, a skill that many calligraphers aspire to master, writing with both hands simultaneously. Even our Calligraphy Association's president, Mrs. Emily Quinn, has practiced for over ten years but has yet to demonstrate it to the public."

Chloe was on the verge of directly asking Cora how she gained the audacity as an outsider to showcase such a skill among experienced calligraphers in the Calligraphy Association.

In the audience, some members of the Calligraphy Association were already discussing it.

"Can this woman perform ambidextrous calligraphy? It's impossible! I've never seen anyone do it exceptionally well."

"I think she's just showing off!"

Despite Chloe's attempt to dissuade Cora with advice, Cora remained firm. "Her choices are her business, not mine."

"Very well then, please have our staff prepare two sets of pen and paper," Chloe said, feeling that Cora was bluffing. Since Cora insisted, Chloe wouldn't stop her.

Soon enough, the staff brought the requested items to Cora.

As everyone's gaze focused on her hands, Cora held a pen in each hand and began to write simultaneously.

She wrote in cursive with her left hand. "I cast my gaze toward the moon,"

And wrote in cursive with her right hand. "Yet the moon shines on the gutter."

To everyone's surprise, Cora's pen strokes were solid and bold, completely unrestrained...

Almost everyone who witnessed this scene was amazed, including Chloe, who was astonished.

Chapter 246 Limited Perspectives?

"Marvelous! Marvelous! It's the first time I've seen someone simultaneously write with both hands and in two different calligraphy styles, with such excellence!"

"Is she a member of our Calligraphy Association? How come we haven't seen her before?"

"I think she should exchange some ideas with Mrs. Emily Quinn. Even after years of practice, Mrs.

Emily Quinn hasn't reached this level yet. I believe this young lady could offer valuable insights."

"I dare to say her dual-handed writing is even better than the vice president, Ms. Hurst. The strength and vigor in her handwriting are unmatched by the vice president, Ms. Hurst."

As the senior members of the Calligraphy Association discussed enthusiastically, Chloe still wore a puzzled expression.

"How could this be..."

She was finding it difficult to accept this reality.

"Did you practice this beforehand?" Chloe questioned Cora.

Chloe's original intention was to embarrass Cora during the event, making Emily believe that marrying her into the Quinn family would tarnish their reputation.

However, Cora's display of talent completely backfired on Chloe, leaving her feeling humiliated.

"Ms. Hurst, don't confine yourself to your limited perspectives. Just because you or someone you know cannot accomplish something doesn't mean others are incapable," Cora replied coldly.

The skill of writing with both hands was developed by Cora when Flora enrolled her in several calligraphy classes in the past. However, this came at the expense of her medical studies, as she had to complete calligraphy assignments quickly to make time for studying medical studies. Nevertheless, it was through this process that she honed her impressive ability.

However, Cora didn't expect this skill to come in handy today.

Chloe was accustomed to flattery and couldn't stand Cora's sarcasm, so she immediately retaliated.

"Do you think that with just good calligraphy, you can break through the barriers and marry into the Quinn family? Let me tell you, stop daydreaming! Although Mrs. Emily Quinn is obsessed with calligraphy, she also comes from an esteemed background. Social status and family background are

deeply rooted in her mind."

To Chloe's surprise, Cora responded, "It seems Ms. Hurst still hasn't grasped the meaning behind my previous words."

Chloe quickly looked back at the calligraphy, and her expression changed.

Chloe initially believed Cora's verse. "I cast my gaze toward the moon, yet the moon shines on the gutter." was directed at her, thinking she was overly self-absorbed in her relationship with Lucas.

However, upon careful reflection, Chloe realized Cora referred to the person she cared for, Lucas, who didn't reciprocate her feelings and treated her without respect...

"I must admit, I was deceived and unwittingly became entangled in your relationship, which I deeply regret. Instead of solely holding me accountable, consider addressing the man responsible for our uncomfortable predicament. I tried my best to accommodate and find a resolution, seeking to uphold our dignity. Yet, I won't allow myself to be a pushover. Once pushed to my limit, I will stand up for myself."

Cora explained to Chloe the reasons behind her involvement as a third party and her earlier act of retaliation.

She believed that women should not be at odds with each other, and she didn't hold any animosity towards Chloe because they were both victims of the situation.

Her resentment was solely directed toward the man who had led her into such a dire situation.

After swiftly resolving the situation, Cora left the scene without even sparing a glance at Lucas.

Only at that moment did Chloe realize the magnitude of the rivalry and the potential value of befriending Cora.

In comparison, Lucas, who had once been like a shining moon in her heart, now seemed insignificant.

Chloe didn't try to stop Lucas as he chased after Cora.

After the drama, Chloe resumed hosting the event as usual.

Jane noticed that Byron's attention remained fixed on the outside of the venue as if his soul had been captivated by Cora.

Jane hurriedly spoke to divert his attention, "Byron, Mrs. Emily Quinn's work is on display over there.

Which one should we take back to Old Mr. Hansen?"

Unexpectedly, Byron replied, "Take that one."

Jane followed his extended finger and saw that Byron was pointing at the calligraphy piece Cora had just written with such spirit...

Chapter 247 She Broke Up

Lucas had chased after Cora out of the hotel that day and explained what had happened between him and Chloe, pleading with her not to end their relationship so abruptly and give him a chance to make things right.

However, Cora responded with a firm statement. "You know how much I hate being caught up in emotional dramas, yet you keep putting me in such a position. I don't think we're compatible anymore. Let's break up."

"Please just give me one more chance. I promise I won't repeat the same mistakes," Lucas implored.

Cora replied candidly, "I already gave you a chance. I asked you multiple times if something was wrong. If you had come clean back then, I might have responded differently. Yet, you kept reassuring me that everything was fine, keeping me waiting in the dark for your decision."

"I'm sorry, Cora. I'll change! I really will..."

Lucas spent a long time pleading with Cora, but she didn't budge, and he had to step back, saying, "I'll

deal with the situation with Chloe first and then come back to you. Let's take some time to calm down."

But once Cora had time to reflect, she made up her mind to never repeat the same mistake.

The next day, Cora approached Flora and told her the truth. "Mom, I broke up with Lucas."

"Why did you break up again?" Flora frowned. It would be a hassle trying to explain things to Jane.

"He turned out to have a fiancée. She even came looking for him."

Cora was feeling quite upset. After all, she had invested in the relationship and had honestly thought of spending her life with Lucas.

"How could this be? This guy is unreliable. Let me find someone else for you."

Flora muttered under her breath and then began searching for other options on her phone.

"Mom, I'm not in the mood for a relationship right now. Can't you just give me a break?"

Initially, Flora had wanted to chide her daughter for being fragile in the face of pressure.

She was taken aback when Cora suddenly asked, "Where's the scarf you were knitting? When can you give it to me?"

Cora believed that having the scarf made by her mother would bring her some comfort amidst her heartbreak.

However, Flora seemed somewhat flustered. "I messed it up and threw it away. If you like it so much,

I'll make you another one after gathering some more materials."

"It's fine even if you messed up. Where did you discard it? I can perhaps still find it."

"The cleaners took it away two days ago, so it's going to be a lost cause."

Worried that Cora might delve further into the topic, Flora opted for a compromise. "Alright, I'll give you

a few days. Why don't you go out and relax with Sally? You will feel better in no time."

However, Cora wasn't in the mood to go out with Sally, for she felt like she had been running into Lucas everywhere she went.

Lucas claimed to have resolved things with Chloe and wanted to start over with Cora.

Yet, Cora had made up her mind. To avoid him altogether, she spent her hard-earned holidays hiding in her apartment binge-watching dramas.

Just as she began watching one, the doorbell suddenly rang.

Cora checked the surveillance camera and saw Lucas standing outside with a gift he brought, so she chose not to open the door.

The doorbell rang again after a few minutes.

She assumed it was Lucas, so she stormed over and yanked the door open without checking the camera.

After all, she wasn't a stranger to Lucas doing that, bothering her every few minutes.

She disliked the feeling of being pestered and wanted to open the door and throw everything in Lucas' face.

To her surprise, it was Byron standing at the door!

Chapter 248 Uncertainty

"Why are you here?"

Byron's lanky frame blocked out most of the light in the corridor, and his side profile made Cora's heart race. She furrowed her brows at the sight of him.

"Why can't I be here?" Byron looked at her, his figure towering over her. He even bent down slightly so that his handsome face was closer to hers.

Because he deliberately approached her, Cora could clearly smell the scent of aftershave combined with the aroma of tobacco that was exclusive to him.

That was the scent that she missed the most during the early days of their separation.

At that moment, the scent still could easily disrupt the rhythm of her heartbeat.

Afraid of being seen through, she quickly looked away.

Byron studied her profile but didn't move any closer. Instead, he took a step forward, intending to walk past her and enter her apartment.

Cora sensed his intention and quickly blocked his advance.

"What exactly are you up to by coming here?"

She was afraid that if he came into her life again, the wall that she had constructed with great difficulty would collapse instantly.

However, all Byron did was bring the things in his hands to her eye level, a look of indifference on his face. "I remember someone said that it would be a bummer not to have some crayfish when they're feeling down."

Cora was taken aback for a moment. She immediately recalled the times when she was scolded by Byron for chowing down on the crayfish takeaway she ordered.

Indeed, having led a pampered life, Byron felt that crayfish were unhygienic and tried to dissuade her

from eating them.

Nonetheless, Cora retorted with various excuses at that time, claiming that having them would lift her mood, that they were the highlight of her boring days, or that they were a feast for her to celebrate certain occasions.

Never had she expected him to actually come to her door with crayfish to comfort her, who had just had a breakup.

No matter how Cora thought about it, it felt a bit unbelievable.

She wasn't sure if Byron was suddenly showing courtesy just so he could sleep with her again.

Regardless of her worries, she figured she shouldn't call him out when he was being nice to her, so she could only politely refuse. "I'm not sad."

"If you're not sad, then consider this a celebration of your return to being single."

As if not understanding her refusal, he shoved her aside and entered the room after saying that.

Right away, Byron seemed to have made himself at home. After putting down the crayfish, he went to the kitchen to take out the cutlery and retrieved some bottled beer from the refrigerator. Cora was

spacing out a little, thinking that they were back to those days when they spent every day of their life together.

Meanwhile, Byron opened the lid of the container that had the crayfish, uncapped two bottles of beer, and handed one of them to Cora. "It's spicy, the kind you love the most. Are you sure you won't try it?"

Cora figured that she had nothing against crayfish and it would be a waste not to enjoy them.

So, she gave in, taking the beer that Byron handed her and sitting down opposite him.

As in the old days, Byron didn't like crayfish, nor did he like beer. Throughout Cora's feast, he didn't touch any of the crayfish and only drank a few sips of beer.

On the contrary, Cora ate with relish.

But halfway through the meal, she didn't forget to give him a reminder. "You can go back after I finish eating. I don't allow those who aren't single to spend the night here."

Byron tapped on the table with his long fingers. "I'm single!"

"How is that possible when you're engaged?" Cora glanced at him mockingly.

"From where did you hear news of my engagement? My engagement would've made the headlines if that were the case."

Cora was stunned. She really read about it on the news, but all the signs pointed to him getting engaged to Jane soon.

Seeing that Cora was deep in thought, Byron got up, walked to the cabinet under the stairs, and took out a pink box inside.

When Cora regained her senses, she saw him counting the condoms in the box, and the corner of her mouth twitched.

Chapter 249 Possible Reunion

Cora quickly stepped forward and snatched the box from Byron's hand, hiding it behind her back.

"What are you doing?" Her face was red, either from the alcohol or because of embarrassment.

Regardless of which, she was irresistibly attractive, like a ripe fruit to wildlife.

"There are still seven hundred and sixty-seven of them left, not a single one missing," Byron replied calmly, but a flame of passion danced in his eyes.

Cora felt his gaze bore a hole in her already heated cheeks, so she quickly turned away from him.

However, Byron didn't let her off that easily and continued uttering words that made her heart race.

"You and Lucas haven't had sex."

They had bought these contraceptives before the new year. At that time, Cora said they might not use them for a very long time, and he had counted.

When they broke up, there were still seven hundred and sixty-seven left, and not a single one was missing upon his return.

"What does that have to do with you?" Cora felt exasperated and even retorted stubbornly, "Had it not crossed your mind that Lucas might have come prepared?"

Unexpectedly, Byron said, "If you had done something with him, you wouldn't have reacted like how you did just now."

Cora didn't know what to say.

It seemed like he was messing with her.

"So, are you planning to reconcile with me?" She looked at him, almost annoyed.

"Yeah." Byron didn't hide his intentions and even pulled her into his arms.

Cora had been loitering around him while in her pajamas, and he had been wanting to do that ever since laying eyes on her.

They had been separated for such a long time, and nothing had been able to relieve the longing he felt.

He really wanted to get straight to the point.

But considering her feelings, he continued to restrain himself.

However, even though he had always respected her feelings, Cora quickly broke free from his

embrace. "Sorry, but I never dwell on the past."

She admitted that she was moved when he put his grievances aside and helped her near the movie

theater and at the event held at the Calligraphy Association.

Still, he would eventually marry someone else, and she didn't want to go through the same pain.

"Is it because I'm going to get engaged to her?" Byron narrowed his eyes, his gaze piercing. "Why not

give it a try? Perhaps I won't get engaged to her because of you."

"The costs of this trial and error process are too high."

In that kind of relationship, Byron could withdraw at any time, while she would be left foolishly waiting in

place, which was difficult for her to endure.

Besides, Cora had already experienced that kind of despair once. Even if Byron hinted at a chance of

success, she didn't want to try again. He might very well be making empty promises.

After being rejected, Byron briefly considered saying something.

At that moment, the doorbell rang again.

"Go and open the door." Byron didn't dwell on it any further. After changing the topic, he returned to his

original seat, seemingly wanting to linger there.

Cora temporarily ignored him and went to open the door.

Outside the door, Lucas was still holding his gift, and he looked extremely happy when he saw Cora

open the door.

"Cora, these are some fruits that you would like. Remember to eat a bit every day to ensure your

vitamin C intake and boost your immune system."

"I don't need these. Take them back, and don't bring them again in the future. I've made it clear that I

won't reconcile with you."

Cora disliked the feeling of being entangled with her ex and pushed the fruits away.

"It's okay if you don't want to reconcile. Just consider it as a little something from a friend," Lucas said

with a smile, refusing to give up.

He planned to make Cora accept him again, even if he had to take the long way around.

Just as Cora was about to reject him again, Byron found himself unable to sit out of things. Without warning, he walked to the door and looped his arm around Cora's shoulder. "She had made it clear that she won't reconcile. Take the fruits back."

With his impassive tone and assertiveness, he played the role of her boyfriend perfectly.

Chapter 250 Incomparable

"Are you back with him again?"

Lucas' eyes were bloodshot, his anger flaring as he watched Byron pull Cora into his arms.

Without waiting for Cora to answer, he raised his voice again. "Is that why you won't forgive me?"

Cora had originally wanted to wrench herself free and explain the situation so as to clear up any misunderstandings.

However, seeing Lucas' reaction, she decided to change her approach. "At least my time with him was not as embarrassing as my time spent with you!"

Lucas felt that she was indirectly admitting that she had returned to Byron's side. "Haven't you always

insisted that you weren't the third party? What's the point of repeating the same mistakes with him?"

Byron was feeling quite pleased because Cora didn't deny their relationship in front of Lucas.

However, his good mood dissipated upon hearing Lucas' words, and he had a sudden urge to punch

Lucas in the face.

At that moment, Cora spoke, "It's better to repeat the same mistakes with him than to be with you. At

least he won't let other women humiliate me!"

Cora thought that Byron had done perfectly in that regard.

"I didn't mean to ignore the scene. I just..."

Lucas was in a panic, knowing that Cora was referring to his lackluster performance when Chloe forced

her to write onstage, whereas Byron had reprimanded Chloe despite Jane's presence.

He had reflected on it afterward, but even if he had the chance to do it all over again, he wouldn't be

able to reprimand Chloe as fiercely as Byron did, because the Quinn family and the Hurst family were

deeply entwined and shared many of the same interests. Moreover, his mother was the president of the

Calligraphy Association. Any insult to Chloe, the vice president, would be an indirect insult to his

mother.

Cora pointed out the obvious when she noticed that Lucas was flustered and struggling with his words.

"You just couldn't afford to humiliate Chloe, which would risk breaking the relationship between your families. Moreover, you couldn't tarnish the reputation of the Calligraphy Association that your mother runs."

Lucas couldn't argue because Cora had hit the nail on the head.

"That's why I feel that you're not as good as him." Cora wore a smile.

Lucas had to admit that Cora was right because he prioritized family interests and his mother's reputation over his relationship with Cora, making it clear that he couldn't give her what she deserved.

He even wanted to ask Byron why he didn't stay with her when he could put Cora above all other concerns.

But in the end, he couldn't bring himself to ask the question, the sight of Byron's hand on Cora's shoulder agonizing to him.

He turned and left in his dejection.

It was the first time Byron had heard Cora speak about his merits in front of his rival, which was quite a

novel experience.

He even considered staying to discuss his other strengths with Cora, only to come face to face with her angry stare the moment he turned around.

"Enjoy your food. I'll be taking my leave."

He had a feeling that what Cora was about to tell him might be even more cutting than what she said to Lucas, so he decided it would be optimal to flee the scene.

Since Byron hurried away, Cora assumed he had taken her words to heart and would avoid any further interaction with her.

To her surprise, Byron showed up too when Cora visited Flora during her lunch break the next day.

At that time, Flora was telling Cora about the next candidate she found for her.

"This time, the man is absolutely single, and he works in a state-owned enterprise!" Flora sounded convinced as if Cora would be missing out if she didn't meet with the man.

"Mom, I really don't feel like doing this right now. Can you please stop arranging for me to meet with other men?"

"Why aren't you in the mood? I gave you a few days off. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to

continue with these dates."

As Flora tried to persuade Cora, a familiar male voice interrupted them. "Mrs. Flora Lane, you don't need to arrange these for her."

As both women turned their heads, they saw Byron standing at the door of the ward with some fruits...