

Spoiled 1141

Chapter 1141: Play the Long Game to Catch the Big Fish

"I guess so."

Charlotte hesitated for a moment before finally nodding affirmatively, "Yes, it was him."

"What did you say to him?" Given that Elijah Walker had rushed out of Charlotte's office, Coco naturally assumed Charlotte must've said something.

Charlotte shook her head, utterly bewildered, "I didn't say anything; he suddenly burst in and then ran out, although he did abruptly thank me."

However, judging by the way Elijah Walker had stormed into her office, Charlotte felt it was a pity not to pair him with a knife for a robbery.

"Should I tell Justin Battleson to run a comprehensive check on all staff? Perhaps the high-pressure work has gone on too long, and it's leaving people gasping for breath," Charlotte began to ponder.

"Surely not?"

Coco smacked her lips, "After all, their workload compared to yours, Sister Charlotte, is like a drop in the bucket. If you haven't been crushed by work, how could they possibly be? If that were the case, their mental strength would be far too weak."

Since Coco had previously gone to Justin Battleson's office to deliver some documents, she couldn't help but sigh that Justin Battleson and Charlotte Thompson were indeed a match made in heaven.

A match made of workaholics.

"But considering Elijah Walker actually thanked you, there must be a reason for it," Coco reasoned simply.

"You did tell him what I asked you to, right?" Charlotte also grasped the crux of the matter.

"Of course, I've already told him that you would take care of the matter with Florienna Ellis."

"What about the collaboration with Melissa Tanner and XTZ?"

Coco suddenly fell silent, then shifted her gaze towards Charlotte.

The case was clear to Charlotte now.

But Charlotte had one thing she couldn't figure out, "Sister Charlotte, since you've already chosen Elijah Walker to be the person in charge of the XTZ collaboration, why did you still ostensibly assign the same work to Teddy Carter?"

Indeed, Charlotte had handed over the cooperation with XTZ to Elijah Walker and Melissa Tanner's studio, not choosing any other designer from the group.

"I'm playing the long game," she casually replied, "Besides, if I don't offer some bait, how can people gradually lower their guard?"

Therefore, the ultimate goal was not only to involve Florienna Ellis and Teddy Carter but also to root out the mole buried within the Riley Group.

However, Charlotte didn't share any of this with Coco.

What Charlotte hadn't anticipated were the increasingly outrageous rumors within the company.

And from start to finish, they revolved around one person – Elijah Walker.

Aside from his bullying of the newcomers and deliberate scheming, a new rumor had surfaced.

It was that he seemed to have some relationship with Charlotte Thompson.

Because someone had witnessed him barging directly into Charlotte's office.

In the entire company, there was only one person bold enough to enter Charlotte's office like that, and that was Justin Battleson.

So naturally, such an incident would invite suspicion, and office gossip spread with alarming efficiency.

In just one afternoon, the rumors escalated dramatically.

Charlotte had been working in her office all day, so she hadn't caught wind of these rumors until she noticed the way people looked at her after work, their gazes tinged with curiosity and suspicion.

Confused, Charlotte still went to find Justin Battleson, touching base with Zara Ward on the way to confirm that Elijah Walker had arrived.

Chapter 1142: Rumors

Charlotte Thompson naturally trusted that Zara Ward would handle the work efficiently, so she entrusted the matter to her with confidence.

However, it also reminded Charlotte of the list that Teddy Carter handed to her this afternoon.

She didn't care who these eight people were, but she found a familiar name among them.

Yes, it was Florienna Ellis.

Sure enough, how could Mr. Carter not include Florienna Ellis on the list?

"What are you thinking about? You look so happy."

When Justin Battleson walked out of the office, he found Charlotte standing outside, her lips curved into a slight smile.

Charlotte looked up at Justin with a smile and then took his arm, "I was thinking about you."

Charlotte's sweet nothings were like sugar in Justin Battleson's heart, as he bent his lips into a smile and intertwined his fingers with hers.

The two of them chatted casually about some of the day's occurrences as they were about to leave the company when they heard voices from the document room.

"I can't believe Charlotte Thompson is that kind of person."

Upon hearing Charlotte's name, Justin's expression soured instantly.

Charlotte wasn't too bothered, as she was used to overhearing office gossip about herself, but the next words from those two employees displeased her.

"I really can't tell, Charlotte Thompson seems to be such a flirt."

"But I really don't understand, with Charlotte and our Mr. Battleson together, why would she seek other men out? Where does Elijah Walker stand a chance against Mr. Battleson?"

"Who knows, maybe it's just a designer's unique taste," they whispered.

Hearing this gossip, Charlotte couldn't help but laugh and cry at the same time.

She keenly picked up on her own and Elijah Walker's names from the employees' conversation.

How did they link the two of them together?

But just as Charlotte was contemplating this, Justin had already approached them.

The two employees in the document room were scared out of their wits as Justin entered, dropping everything they had just organized to the ground.

"Mr... Mr. Battleson..." one of the employees stuttered, too frightened to speak properly.

The other simply bowed their head, feigning ignorance.

"Settle your accounts with accounting tomorrow; you're fired," Justin stated without giving them any chance to explain or buffer.

Two girls' faces turned instantly pale, "No, Mr. Battleson, what are you talking about?"

However, Justin didn't spare them a single sympathetic look, and he turned to his assistant, instructing him to remember these two people.

Yet one of them responded defiantly, "Why are you firing us? What did we do wrong?"

A cold glance from Justin silenced the challenging employee.

"My company doesn't need people who idle gossip."

The employees were visibly panicked.

But at that moment, Charlotte stepped forward, her voice cold.

"What were you just talking about?"

Indeed, it was common to discuss rumors within a company, but to defame someone so casually and without foundation indicated that their intentions were not so innocent.

The two employees looked at each other upon seeing Charlotte, realizing that she had heard their conversation.

"I want to know where you heard such news, what relationship you believe I have with Elijah Walker?"

After all, rumors always had a source.

Chapter 1143: I am the victim

"I, we... we just heard it from someone else."

Charlotte Thompson's eyes grew cold, making the two employees extremely uneasy.

In the company, they often saw Miss Thompson, but she was always smiling, giving off an approachable and friendly vibe, so this current demeanor was a first for them.

"So, who is this 'someone' you're talking about?"

Even though Miss Thompson's voice was soft, it sounded way scarier to the two employees than Justin Battleson's imposing manner from earlier.

One younger employee already had tears brimming in her eyes as she looked at Miss Thompson with a shiver and said,

"I really don't know anything; someone saw Elijah Walker go into your office. I know it's wrong, Miss Thompson."

Listening to such an explanation, Miss Thompson actually found it a bit funny.

Just entering her office and it got twisted into such a state by others.

But now, Charlotte was very curious as to who had started this ridiculous, laughable rumor.

In the end, the two employees were dismissed by Justin Battleson, and Miss Thompson didn't say much more.

After the two left the company and got into the car, Justin Battleson casually said,

"Don't worry, I will look into this matter thoroughly."

But he hadn't expected that such outrageous rumors would exist in his company.

Now, who didn't know his relationship with Charlotte Thompson?

"Investigating these matters might not be that simple. With so many employees now, these rumors have spread. I'm afraid many people know about them. Finding out where it all started won't be easy."

Charlotte's expression remained cool as she glanced at her phone, which displayed a chat message with Zara Ward.

"I think with this incident, the target might not necessarily be me."

Justin started the car, a probing look flitting across his eyes.

"Do you remember that designer we met last time, Elijah Walker?"

When Charlotte mentioned the name, Justin thought for a moment, "The person in charge of the new product launch?"

Their group's new product had received rave reviews, and the higher-ups were very pleased with this achievement, so all the staff involved in the project were rewarded.

"That's the one. Although this designer has been with the company for many years, due to internal competition, despite his outstanding abilities, he remained unknown. This time, the new product design was attributed to him, and it received praise, naturally attracting the attention of many."

"So you transferred the XTZ collaboration to someone else's shoulders?"

Justin remembered what Charlotte had mentioned to him previously and suddenly understood.

"Then this matter has something to do with Florienna Ellis?" Florienna said with a smile, casting her gaze on Justin's face.

Justin didn't overlook the meaningful look in Charlotte's eyes but felt a bit puzzled, "Florienna Ellis? Who's that?"

He had no recollection of that name.

The next second, he saw Charlotte cross her arms and raise an eyebrow at him.

"That's the beauty who entered your office to bring you documents."

At those words, Justin's grip on the steering wheel tightened.

Justin remembered the unpleasant events of that day, and his expression darkened.

Then, as Justin turned to look at Charlotte, he deliberately put on an innocent, pitiful face.

"Charlotte, I'm the victim here."

Chapter 1144: Oliver Hudson Goes Public

Seeing Justin Battleson's goofy antics, Charlotte Thompson couldn't help but burst into laughter.

"I'm aware of the victim, but Florienna Ellis's support isn't limited to the head of the design team."

Hearing Charlotte mention this, Justin's expression became slightly more serious.

Of course, he understood what Charlotte was implying.

Because he was also investigating the matter at work, he had some clues, but nothing was certain yet.

"Now Elijah Walker is facing a targeted campaign within the company, and I feel it won't be long before he's directly fired because of some incident."

Charlotte shared her thoughts straightforwardly.

"I really want to see who has the guts to do this," said Justin with a sneer.

The Riley Group was his own company, and carrying out such actions within it wouldn't be that simple.

"Right, there's another thing." After discussing the matter of Riley Group, she shifted the topic to the Ross Family.

"The investigation that I asked big brother to do has made progress. The woman who acted as a surrogate is now married and has a husband."

Charlotte also told Justin that she suspected the woman might have been coerced or subjected to domestic violence.

"The two individuals we saw at the banquet, Ray Ross and Oliver Ross, must have taken precautions by now, so their every move is in order. It's not appropriate for me to intervene directly, but I've asked Adam Ross to start investigating."

"Then we'll meet with Adam this week to discuss how to handle it."

Justin and Charlotte talked back and forth as they returned to Stardust Garden.

The online buzz about Mia Carter's case eventually came to an end with a police statement. Mia Carter was criminally detained for intentional assault.

This was combined with some media interviews with crew members from the drama set.

The stories directly confirmed the accusations of Mia Carter assaulting Annie Anne.

Such an outcome was, of course, not surprising to Charlotte.

What Charlotte didn't expect was that just as Mia Carter's issue had settled down, an interview released today stirred up a massive controversy online.

And the person interviewed was none other than Oliver Hudson.

Oliver had agreed to an interview about work-related matters. The content had nothing unusual, but towards the end, the host asked him a question.

It concerned Annie Anne.

"Mr. Hudson, there are rumors online that you have some kind of relationship with the actress Annie Anne. They say she entered the entertainment industry solely with your help. What is your response to this?"

The host actually didn't want to ask about such things, understanding that provoking a person like Oliver Hudson wasn't to be taken lightly.

But under strong insistence from her network bosses, the host had to bravely present the question in a slightly subtle manner.

Seeing the question, Oliver's expression remained very calm as he glanced across the studio cameras.

And this seemingly casual action made everyone present involuntarily hold their breath.

"I do have a relationship with Annie..."

Then Oliver's lips parted slightly, as he began to reveal the words that shocked everyone.

"She and I are, boyfriend and girlfriend."

The host's mouth fell open, and it took her some time to regain her voice and continue asking.

"Then why haven't you or Miss Anne disclosed this?"

"Annie found it troublesome and unnecessary, so we never publicized our relationship, but this time is different..."

Holding her phone, Charlotte didn't even finish listening to the rest of the interview; she even stood up directly from the sofa.

Did Oliver Hudson even know what he was doing?

Chapter 1145 Annie Agrees

The entire interview video had only been out for a few minutes when the relationship between Oliver Hudson and Annie Anne as boyfriend and girlfriend dominated the trending searches on social media.

Although Oliver Hudson had admitted it himself, many netizens perceived that Annie Anne was being kept by Oliver Hudson.

Charlotte Thompson no longer cared about what people online were saying; she barely hesitated before calling Oliver Hudson.

Oliver Hudson naturally picked up the phone.

"Oliver Hudson, what did you mean in that interview?"

He practically forced the exposure of his relationship with Annie Anne.

Charlotte didn't believe that Annie Anne was aware of this.

After all, Annie Anne had always kept her distance from Oliver Hudson, and she had never publicly announced any relationship with him before.

So, this is what it had come to now.

"Miss Thompson, I was merely announcing my relationship with Annie."

"Do you realize..." Charlotte began, but before she could finish her question, Oliver Hudson interrupted her.

"Annie agreed to this." Charlotte was caught off guard.

She stared out the window feeling bewildered, remembering what Annie Anne had said to her when they last met.

She wanted to get back together with Oliver Hudson.

Charlotte furrowed her brow.

Could Annie truly choose to, truly accept to return to the past?

According to what Oliver Hudson had said, Annie Anne knew about it, so there was nothing more Charlotte could say.

She held her breath, her voice tinged with helplessness.

"How is Annie's health recovery going?"

"The doctor said she is recovering very well and will be able to leave the hospital soon," Oliver answered truthfully.

"I'll take Annie to see her another day," Charlotte said after much deliberation.

"Thank you."

Both spoke with an unfamiliar, detached tone.

After hanging up, Charlotte felt as if something heavy was pressing on her chest.

She pursed her lips and looked down at her still-glowing phone.

The lock screen showed a photo of her and Annie Anne.

Seeing the radiant Annie on the screen, the corners of her eyes began to sting.

It seemed like it had been a long time since she last saw Annie smile so brightly.

Charlotte sniffed and then quickly opened her phone, posting a message on social media.

"@Designer Charlotte Thompson: Annie and I have been friends for many years. There's no need for groundless speculation online."

No one had looked into Annie Anne's background, while Oliver Hudson, a notably visible wealthy young master, naturally drew discussion about their relationship.

Charlotte's post was meant to protect Annie Anne.

Sure enough, after Charlotte's post, the malicious comments online decreased significantly, and some media even revealed that Charlotte had visited Annie in the hospital that day.

However, Charlotte quickly suppressed those news reports; she didn't want to disturb Annie, who was recuperating in the hospital.

After settling the online issues, Charlotte was about to head to her study when she turned and saw Olivia Thompson standing at the door looking at her.

She leaned against the door and blinked innocently when Charlotte looked back at her.

Charlotte simply walked over, lifted Olivia into her arms.

"Why is Annie here? Didn't you join your siblings for some fruit?"

"Is it about Mommy's matter?"

Chapter 1146: Are You Tired, Mommy?

Olivia's question caught Charlotte off guard.

However, she had no intention of hiding the truth from Olivia.

"Yes, some of the media paparazzi have found out where your Mommy Charlotte is hospitalized. But Annie, don't worry, Mommy won't let them disturb your Annie's Mommy," she said.

Charlotte gently stroked Olivia's head.

"Besides, your Annie's Mommy is recovering very well and will be discharged before long. How about we all go together to pick up your Annie's Mommy?"

"Okay."

A smile then lit up Olivia's face as she softly hugged Charlotte's neck in response.

"Mommy will take you to find your brothers and sisters," Charlotte, carrying Olivia downstairs, had a touch of concern in her eyes.

Now that Oliver Hudson and Annie Anne's relationship had been exposed, the fact that Olivia was their child probably wouldn't stay hidden for much longer.

Before that day came, she definitely intended to be fully prepared to protect Olivia.

But Charlotte couldn't help feeling a bit sad.

Jack and Chad and now Olivia were all aware of their true identities; would there come a day when they would leave her?

"Mommy Charlotte, what's wrong? Are you unhappy?" The perceptive Olivia noticed Charlotte's expression, reached out to touch her cheek, and asked with concern.

"Is it because Annie is too heavy? Did I tire you, Mommy? Annie can walk on her own."

"What are you talking about?"

Amused by Olivia's serious question, Charlotte kissed her on the cheek.

"Mommy actually thinks Annie, you're way too light and need to eat more."

How could she even think about those things?

No matter what, she would always consider Jack, Chad, and Olivia as her own children.

Charlotte also believed that they would surely never leave her.

"But Big Brother Chad said Annie's face is getting rounder," Olivia murmured in disagreement.

"Don't listen to Hank, what does he know? He's the one who's gotten so plump, like a little round ball," Charlotte retorted, prompting giggles from Olivia.

Just as they reached the staircase, they encountered Hank running up the stairs.

He had coincidentally heard what Charlotte said and immediately countered, hands on his hips.

"Mommy, that's not true, when have I ever been as round as a ball?"

Following behind Hank was Chad, who waved to Olivia as soon as he saw her.

The two of them had come upstairs looking for Olivia.

Seeing this, Charlotte let Olivia down.

"Big Brother Chad, I think Mommy is right," Chad said, taking a look at Hank and then nodding in agreement.

"That's not fat! That's strong! That's how I can protect all of you," Hank declared, lifting his chin with pride.

"Big Brother Chad, let's go ask King Samuel what he thinks about you," Chad said, smiling as he took Olivia by the hand and shot her a look.

Olivia obediently nodded along with Chad.

Seeing this, Hank ruffled Olivia's hair, "Annie, how come you're picking up their bad habits?"

In return, Olivia blinked her eyes innocently.

"Big Brother Chad, the eyes of the masses are sharp," Chad chuckled, then quickly pulled Olivia away before Hank could get angry.

"Annie, we saved some of your favorite oranges for you, they're extra sweet."

"It was me who specially saved them for Annie," Hank retorted, following behind them, then he turned and took Charlotte's hand in his.

Chapter 1147: Meeting Raina Richard

"Mummy, let's go, we've also left a lot of fruit for you," Hank Thompson urged Charlotte Thompson.

Seeing the children playing and joking just now had filled Charlotte's heart with happiness.

Later on, when Charlotte reflected on the happiest times of her life, it would be the days she spent with her children.

But at this moment, Charlotte was unaware that following this peaceful and happy time, she would soon be facing a storm.

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Because of what happened at the Ross Family's dinner party previously, Jack Thompson and Chad Thompson weren't returning to the Ross Family on weekends for the time being.

Although Mr. Ross was somewhat reluctant, after all, it was for the safety of the children.

However, on the weekends, Adam Ross still visited Jack and Chad under Mr. Ross's name.

"How is the investigation you were asked to conduct going?"

While the children played in the playroom, Justin Battleson, Charlotte, and Adam Ross discussed the matter in the study.

"Don't even mention it, I've been investigating these past few days, but in the end, nothing turned up. But since the man is that woman's husband, a living person can't just vanish into thin air."

Adam spoke with a tone of helplessness. In fact, he was very clear about some things in his heart.

With the methods of the Ross Family, making a person disappear was not a difficult task.

"No, he's definitely still alive, and he must have something on him that could threaten Raina Richard, he's just been hidden somewhere."

Charlotte said softly, then shared some of the information she had gathered with Adam.

"Based on what you've said, I did indeed conduct a physical and mental examination on that woman, and found nothing unusual."

Hearing Adam's words, Charlotte nodded. It seemed that Raina Richard's previous hysterical state was just a stress response from being provoked.

"Since we can't find any other clues, why not refocus our attention back on Raina Richard?"

Justin Battleson spoke lightly, sharing his thoughts, "Release the woman."

"Release her? What if she comes to cause trouble at the Ross Family again?" Adam immediately objected.

Charlotte's eyes flickered with a thousand gleams.

"So before we let her go, we still need to give some instructions."

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Adam actually didn't want to get close to the apartment where Raina Richard lived.

After all, he really didn't know how to deal with a woman who would burst into tears at the sight of him.

Fortunately, this time Justin and Charlotte were with him.

Compared to the last visit after the Ross Family's dinner party, Raina Richard's emotions seemed much more stable now, though that was partly because most of the furniture in the house had been removed and she couldn't find anything to smash or push around.

When Charlotte, Justin, and Adam entered the room together, Raina Richard was sitting by the window, looking downstairs.

As soon as she heard the door open, she swiftly turned around. The worried expression on her face was quickly hidden away.

Her reaction was quick, but Charlotte still keenly caught it.

Upon seeing Charlotte, Raina Richard's complexion turned awful.

"Why have you come again?" Raina Richard asked, as the last person she wanted to see right now was Charlotte.

Then she looked at Justin and Adam who were following Charlotte and scrunched up her nose, speaking sarcastically:

"No wonder you tell everyone that Jack and Chad are children of you and this man, but now it seems, you also have something to do with Adam Ross."

Chapter 1148: Bigamy

However, Charlotte did not care about such sarcastic remarks.

She stepped forward naturally and sat on the sofa, looking up at Raina Richard.

"You don't need to waste your breath with these useless words. Are you trying to provoke me, and then have me teach you a lesson?"

Charlotte's voice was calm, as if she was merely exchanging pleasantries with a friend upon meeting Raina.

"I've told you, I know nothing. All I want is to take my child away."

Raina was unwilling to say anything more to Charlotte and instead, shifted her gaze to Adam Ross.

Seeing Raina suddenly looking at him, Adam's expression turned inexplicable, almost instinctively leaning closer to Justin Battleson, causing Justin to frown with displeasure.

"Adam Ross, how could you be so heartless? Jack Thompson and Chad Thompson are your biological sons. How could you hand them over to another woman instead of their biological mother!"

Just as Adam was about to say something, he saw Charlotte on the sofa raising her hand, stopping him from speaking.

Charlotte straightened her clothes and then nonchalantly looked up at Raina.

"You can have your children back if you want, but now the Ross Family will not let their bloodline be lost. Therefore, if you agree to take the two children, you must..."

Charlotte paused for a moment, then slowly turned her gaze to Adam, slowly saying, "you must marry their biological father, which is Adam Ross."

Adam's pupils shrank, and he frantically gestured to Justin Battleson.

How is this different from the script we agreed on?

Your wife is setting me up!

"Marriage..." Raina shuddered.

"Yes, marriage. You must marry Adam Ross and become the young madam of the Ross Family."

However, before Raina could react to Charlotte's words, Charlotte had already stood up and approached her.

"Unfortunately, you cannot, because bigamy is a crime. You are already married, so how could you marry Adam Ross again?"

Charlotte's words struck Raina like a hammer, leaving her dumbfounded, with her eyes returning a shifty look at Charlotte.

"What nonsense are you talking about? I don't understand what you're saying."

"Raina Richard, I know what you've been through."

Charlotte sighed and then lifted her eyes, looking sincerely at her.

Seeing such a gaze, Raina's pupils trembled violently.

She knows what I've been through?

"If you're willing to tell me, willing to share everything you know, I will help you," Charlotte said softly.

Every second that ticked by in silence was torture for Raina right now.

At last, Raina couldn't take it any longer and begrudgingly said, "I don't know what you're talking about. You guys can't trick me with these lies."

Raina's voice trembled, then she chose to close her mouth, afraid of saying anything more.

No, no one could help her.

Those people had said the same thing, but in reality, they were all deceiving her.

"If this is what you want to endure, then I can't do anything about it."

Charlotte sighed deeply and suddenly turned around.

The faint sound of her shoes hitting the ground with each step moved away, each step hammering into Raina's heart.

"Release her," Adam said to his bodyguard behind him after catching Charlotte's eye.

"Release me?"

Raina hadn't recovered from the shock given by Charlotte's words when she heard Adam say this.

Chapter 1149: Be Obedient to Me

"The head of our family has said that this situation is ultimately our Ross Family's fault, and keeping you here is not a good solution,"

Adam Ross said expressionlessly, "As for the matter of the child, the Ross Family will discuss it further and give you a final response."

Despite hearing Adam's explanation, Raina Richard still wore a puzzled and uncomprehending expression.

"If you don't trust us, you can continue to stay here under their watch."

Adam couldn't bother to say more and turned around, but in reality, he was truly afraid that Raina Richard would start crying again in front of him.

Then, the three of them turned and left, leaving only Raina Richard and the open door in front of her.

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In the car, Adam kept his gaze fixed on the apartment entrance, craning his neck to see as much as possible.

"Is this method really effective? Are you sure she will seek out the person behind this?"

"When I mentioned marriage, Raina's expression turned very strange, clearly struck to the core. She asked about her husband herself; she must believe and will likely confirm some things," Charlotte Thompson said calmly.

She understood clearly.

Raina Richard was nothing more than a pitiful woman being used by others, and she likely had been tormented to the point of losing her own opinions.

So now that they had let Raina out, her only choice was to seek out or contact the person directing her to confirm her suspicions.

Just as Charlotte had anticipated, they didn't wait long by the apartment before they saw Raina Richard hurrying out alone.

She was on her phone as if trying to contact someone, but seemed unsuccessful and eventually had to hail a taxi and left swiftly.

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In the taxi, Raina Richard continuously redialed a number, uneasily fidgeting. Her hands were constantly wiping away cold sweat, but her mind kept recalling Charlotte's words.

After an indeterminate amount of time, the call finally connected, and an irritated voice came through.

"Who is it? This is non-stop." There was noise on the other end, even the sound of loud music.

Clutching her phone tightly, Raina curled up in a ball on the back seat, her strange behavior drawing the taxi driver's attention.

"It's me," Raina said in a low voice.

The music gradually quieted down, followed by a man's voice yelling in frustration, "Why are you calling me? Didn't we agree not to contact each other before the task is done?"

"But the Ross Family already knows about my background," Raina's lips trembled in utter confusion.

"But I had already taken care of your background. How could anyone find out?" The man murmured and then, as if realizing something, began cursing furiously over the phone:

"Why are you still contacting me? Are you trying to let others know about me? Let me tell you, your man is still in my hands; if you want him to live, you better obediently follow orders!"

Grasping the key point in the man's words, Raina immediately asked anxiously, "Is Benjamin Carter really with you, undiscovered by others?"

"What, you want to see him? Then hurry up and complete the task so he can be safe, got it?"

"But now that they have let me out, I don't know what to do..."

Chapter 1150: It Really Was Them!

"Idiot, they actually released you, so hurry up and spread the word about this, what are you waiting for..."

But before the man could finish his words, an ear-piercing sound emanated from the other end of the phone, and the call was abruptly disconnected.

At this moment, Raina Richard's expression turned to one of utter panic.

"Hello? Hello?" Raina shook her cell phone repeatedly, trying to redial, but no one was answering on the other end.

With a swish, Raina's face turned pale.

Could it really be as Charlotte Thompson had said, that they had already cleared everything up?

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"Are you fucking blind?"

Oliver Ross looked at his shirt, now stained with alcohol, and cursed at the man in front of him.

"I'm so sorry, truly, I didn't notice," the man kept apologizing to Oliver Ross, then tried to dry his shirt with his own sleeve, but this only irritated Oliver Ross even more, and with a kick, he sent the man away.

"Get lost, don't touch me with your dirty hands," Oliver Ross spat.

He patted his shirt and then his gaze fell upon the broken phone.

Frowning, he picked up the phone, pressed it a couple of times, only to realize the screen had gone black, and out of irritation, he tossed it aside.

"This is just bad luck."

What Oliver Ross didn't know, though, was that the man he had kicked a moment ago, who had seemed so scared in front of him, now had a stern look upon turning around.

He tapped the Bluetooth earpiece in his ear and spoke, "Young Master, Oliver Ross just answered a call."

Adam Ross, who was contacted, responded with a signal to Charlotte Thompson indicating everything was under control.

"As I thought, it's related to Oliver Ross, causing this kind of trouble to frame me," Adam Ross sneered and stood up.

"I'll go back now and tell Mr. Ross all about it, please take care of Jack and Chad."

Charlotte Thompson nodded, watching as Adam Ross left.

Now it was time for the final arrangements, to lure the snake out of its hole.

But Charlotte Thompson couldn't help but sigh.

"Still worried about something?" Justin Battleson asked softly.

"No, I just feel a bit sorry for Raina Richard," Charlotte Thompson leaned into Justin Battleson's embrace.

"She's just an ordinary woman who did nothing wrong but ended up in an unfortunate marriage, and then was forced by someone."

Perhaps she was supposed to be a happy mother too, but instead, she was coerced into the surrogacy business.

"I hope Mr. Ross will let her go in the end, I think, she certainly didn't mean to do such a thing."

Charlotte Thompson was a mother herself, she surely understood a mother's feelings.

"Mr. Ross is not that heartless; once he investigates and understands the whole situation, he will certainly make his own decision," Justin Battleson wrapped his arm around Charlotte gently, comforting her.

Meanwhile, Adam Ross hurried back to the Ross Family home and conveyed some of the investigation's findings to Mr. Ross.

How could Mr. Ross not be infuriated?

"Bastard! It was indeed their doing!" Mr. Ross's walking stick struck the ground hard, and a sudden surge of anger made him cough uncontrollably.

Seeing this, Adam Ross quickly stepped forward to pat Mr. Ross's back, helping him to catch his breath.

"Didn't we have our suspicions from the beginning? It's just that initially, there was no evidence."

Mr. Ross snorted coldly, seemingly about to command something but then turned to look at Adam Ross instead.

"What do you plan to do about this?"