

Spoiled 861

Chapter 861: Actively Buying Hot Searches

The Allen family stirred up a storm, and that was beyond any doubt.

Charlotte thought that since Allen Family Members had the courage to go directly to the company, and even to the children's kindergarten to cause a commotion, they must have been fully prepared.

Initially, Charlotte thought some of the trending topics might contain previously secretly recorded videos, but to her surprise, this time the Allen family simply bribed some internet armies and marketers to continuously share Ethan Allen's several tweets.

And in those tweets, Ethan Allen was subtly expressing that his own daughter no longer recognized him as her father after finding out her true origins.

The daughter mentioned, if not Charlotte, then who?

Charlotte browsed through the likes and shares of the tweet, considering the current situation of the Allen family, pushing the topic to this extent was not easy.

And below the tweet, the netizens' opinions varied greatly.

"Who is Ethan Allen, and why don't I know this person?"

"This floor is for info: Ethan Allen was the CEO of the now-bankrupt Allen Corporation, the biological father of Emily Allen and Charlotte Thompson. Yes, that Charlotte is Miss Thompson."

"It seems that after Charlotte had the Thompson family, she stopped caring about the Allen family. It makes sense, given what the Thompson family's status is now, and what the Allen family's status is."

"I feel like Charlotte's action this time is quite ungrateful."

"Ungrateful +1"

Charlotte quickly scanned these comments, but what puzzled her now was that besides Ethan Allen's several tweets and paying to top the trending searches, the Allen family hadn't produced any other evidence to discredit her.

Even Emily Allen, who had a bit of a fan base, made no moves.

However, given the nature of Allen Family Members, especially Emily's character, Charlotte felt that there must be more to it.

As for Charlotte's indifferent attitude, Jordan Thompson on the other end of the phone was very surprised and couldn't help exclaiming.

"Sis, are you running a fever?"

Hearing this, Charlotte's lips curled into a smile, "Don't worry about this side, let the Allen family make a fuss first."

What Charlotte was least worried about now was the Allen family threatening her; she only feared that this time, their disruption would not be fierce or significant enough.

Only when the Allen family threw out all their trump cards, thinking they were about to win, would her strike be truly fatal.

Hearing the meaning in Charlotte's words, Jordan fell silent for a moment on the phone, then seemed to understand what Charlotte intended to do, and couldn't help but chuckle lightly.

"Sis, do you want me to spend some money to buy a few trending spots for you?"

Upon hearing this, Charlotte couldn't help jokingly saying, "Others are spending money to make me trend less, but you, on the other hand, are willing to do it proactively?"

"Just kidding, just kidding; if I really bought trending spots, our brothers would kill me."

Jordan chuckled, knowing well that Charlotte was the darling princess of the Thompson family, and he dared not make a false move.

Hearing Jordan mention the Thompson family, Charlotte then instructed, "By the way, tell our brothers and uncles that the Thompson family doesn't need to intervene in this matter. I can handle it myself."

There was a pause on the phone before Jordan spoke softly.

"Sis, now that you have the Thompson family, why go through such great lengths to deal with Ethan Allen and his people? It only dirties your hands."

"Some things are different," Charlotte said quietly.

"Alright, big sister, I'll let the family know, but I feel my words might not carry much weight. This matter really needs your touch."

Chapter 862: Wings Hardened

"Alright, I know."

Charlotte Thompson simply responded, and after a bit of idle chatter, Jordan Thompson hung up the call.

With Charlotte's prior alert, neither the Thompson nor Battleson families suppressed the trending topic online. However, due to Ethan Allen's ambiguous stance, the online fervor didn't last too long before other entertainment news took over.

Online comments on the matter were mixed. Charlotte wasn't interested and proceeded to continue with her work at hand.

Yet, just as the hot topic started to fall in rankings, Charlotte received a call from the Allen family. This time, unlike before, she chose to answer instead of hanging up right away.

Ethan Allen hadn't expected that, after having his calls ignored all morning, Charlotte finally picked up now, thinking that it must be due to the recent trending topic.

Indeed, Charlotte still cared about her reputation.

"Charlotte, you must have seen the trending topic," Ethan's voice contained a hint of smugness.

"What do you want?" The corners of Charlotte's mouth curved slightly.

At the same time, Ethan, who was at the Allen residence, glanced at Mia Stewart, who came out from the kitchen after hearing voices, and gestured for her to be quiet. He then continued to speak slowly.

"Charlotte, you are my daughter, and I really don't want to take things too far."

"So, is that why you're spending money on trending topics now?" Charlotte retorted.

"I'm merely reminding you." If it weren't for Charlotte hanging up on him all morning, Ethan would not have resorted to such actions.

"Charlotte, do you know? The Allen family is in a really bad situation right now. I've raised you for so many years; it's not too much to ask for some payback, right?"

Charlotte had heard these emotionally manipulative words so many times they were practically causing calluses in her ears.

"Ethan Allen, don't forget, it's always been Aunt Watson who has taken care of me over the years, not your Allen family." Charlotte said nonchalantly.

Ethan was taken aback by being addressed so directly and felt displeased at Charlotte calling him by his full name. Anger surged within him.

However, his desire for profit had now blinded him to all else.

"Charlotte! No matter what, I am your biological father! The Allen family needs support, and you should contribute financially!"

"Ethan Allen, you're extorting me right now. I can completely take this to court," Charlotte said.

"You wouldn't dare!" Ethan barked back, although his voice had lost some of its force.

"Even if I decided to fund the Allen family now, enabling it to recover, Ethan Allen, do you think you can manage it well?"

The Allen family's company prospered because of my mother. Since her death, the company has been on a steady decline from its peak.

Back then, the Allen family's company appeared prosperous, but in reality, it had been hollowed out by parasites from both the Allen and Stewart families.

Charlotte hadn't demanded the company back from Ethan, which was already sparing his dignity. And now he expected her to help the Allen family rise again?

That was her mother's legacy; why should she hand it over to such people?

"Charlotte, don't think just because you have the backing of the Thompson family that you can act tough,"

Ethan's voice rose again from the other end of the line, but Charlotte didn't entertain it this time and promptly hung up.

At that moment, Ethan was seething with rage, clutching his phone tightly, his eyes filled with dark shadows.

"What happened? What did Charlotte say?" Mia Stewart couldn't hold back any longer and asked.

However, before Ethan could answer, the room door was pushed open.

Chapter 863: No Intention of Giving Money

The sound of the door smashing against the wall echoed dully, startling Ethan Allen and Mia Stewart in the living room.

Both cast their eyes towards the source of the noise and saw a person clad in a coat with a hood stumbling in, who, from the shape, appeared to be Emily Allen.

Mia Stewart couldn't help but frown, yet she still went to greet her.

"My daughter, you..."

Mia Stewart reached out to grab Emily Allen's wrist, but to her surprise, Emily strongly shook her off.

Not only was Emily wearing a hat, but she was also wearing sunglasses, completely shielding her face from view.

Without hesitation, she went straight up to Ethan Allen and demanded, "The money? Has Charlotte not given the money yet?"

Ethan Allen was already in a foul mood, and now not only was Charlotte defying him, but Emily was speaking to him in such a manner, too, causing him to slap the coffee table and rise to his feet.

"You've grown bold, too, daring to speak to me this way?"

But Emily didn't care about Ethan Allen's reaction at all, and even her tone carried a trace of impatience.

"I'm asking you, has Charlotte given the money? How much? Give it to me, now!"

"You ingrate!"

Ethan Allen had always been chauvinistic and believed no one should defy him.

When he first got involved with Mia Stewart, it was because she complied with everything he wanted, unlike Sophia Thompson at home, whose strong-willed attitude always challenged Ethan Allen's self-esteem.

Since the Allen family's downfall, Ethan had been living a degenerate life, but his character hadn't changed.

Especially now that he felt there was still hope for a comeback, Ethan's state of mind got even worse.

However, Emily was as if pressed by an urgent matter, with only money filling her thoughts and sight. Seeing that Ethan had no reaction, she turned to look at Mia Stewart.

"Has Charlotte actually given any money at all? How much?"

Emily's attitude was terrible, her voice rough with a touch of hoarseness.

Mia Stewart was stunned, then said softly, "Charlotte... she doesn't seem to have plans to give any money..."

Upon hearing this, Emily's head, which she intended to lift, merely tipped slightly as she instead pulled her hood tighter.

"How can this be? Did you not call Charlotte as I asked you to? It's impossible Charlotte wouldn't give the money!"

Emily started to question aggressively.

Mia Stewart glanced at Ethan, hesitated for a moment, and then turned back to Emily, "I just feel that Charlotte doesn't seem to care about these things..."

After all, the Allen's family had been trending in the searches, and they called, but Charlotte from the Thompson family remained unmoved.

"Impossible! How could Charlotte not care about her own reputation!" Emily immediately objected.

After all, when they revealed Charlotte's true identity as Sophie Allen, the Thompson family quickly stepped forward to clarify Charlotte's identity, didn't they?

Clenching her teeth silently, Emily then rushed in front of Ethan Allen, attempting to grab his phone to call Charlotte.

"It must be because you didn't tell her what I asked you to! Make the call to Charlotte for the money right now!"

However, Emily's attitude directly infuriated Ethan Allen.

"Who gave you the right to order me around!" he thundered, and then shoved Emily away with an outstretched hand.

Emily stumbled due to Ethan's push and fell to the ground, her hood and sunglasses sliding off.

"Wearing a hat and glasses in the house, do you really think you're some kind of star? What are you trying to..."

Ethan Allen scolded Emily, pointing at her, but his words abruptly stopped the moment he saw Emily's face.

Chapter 864: The Best Opportunity

Emily Allen's face had a very ferocious scar, appearing as though the injury hadn't happened long ago. The wound had already been sutured, with the surrounding skin slightly reddened.

Her complexion was pale beyond compare, her lips completely devoid of color, and paired with that scar, she looked particularly horrifying.

And that scar almost extended across half of Emily Allen's face, utterly ruining her looks.

"Daughter, what happened to your face? How did it become like this?"

Mia Stewart couldn't help but shriek upon seeing Emily's appearance.

However, this cry snapped the stunned Emily back to reality, and she couldn't help but scream, reaching for her sunglasses that had fallen to the ground and putting them on, then topping it off with a hat.

"Daughter, what exactly happened to your face!"

Mia Stewart had only one daughter, Emily, and after the Allen family's downfall, she had placed all her hopes on her.

She knew that Emily had entered the entertainment industry to become a star, so she had always been thinking that one day Emily would become hugely popular.

Unaware that stars have always relied on their appearance to make a living, and now, with Emily's current state...

Her future in showbiz was completely over.

"Who did this! Tell me, who did this!" Mia Stewart stepped forward anxiously, clutching Emily's shoulders.

Ethan Allen also stood there dumbfounded, staring straight at Emily.

"My face is fine! There's nothing wrong with my face!"

Emily screamed hysterically, then looked up at Ethan Allen, "I need money! Call Charlotte Thompson right now and tell her to give us money!"

By the end, Emily's voice had broken.

She urgently needed money to restore her appearance. She still had to become famous in the entertainment circle; there were new dramas she hadn't filmed yet. She absolutely couldn't end up like this.

Plus, Emily felt that as a star, a public figure, she feared being recognized by anyone, so she dared not even go to a more significant hospital, opting for a small one in a remote location to have her wound simply stitched up.

Yesterday, when Emily saw her reflection in the mirror, she nearly went mad.

Ethan Allen sighed, "I've said it before, Charlotte Thompson hasn't given any money."

"If she hasn't given any money, then keep the heat up! Hire internet trolls!"

Emily said loudly, as long as they firmly grasped public opinion, they wouldn't fear a day when Charlotte wouldn't yield.

"The money for trending searches and hiring internet trolls is too much, the Allen family simply can't afford it now," Ethan said with displeasure on his face.

The only thing sustaining the Allen family now was that insignificant factory, besides, Ethan and Mia had been accustomed to spending lavishly back when they had money, so now the Allen family didn't have any savings.

Because of this, their recent attempt to create a momentum online hadn't gained much traction, and the trending search had dropped on its own after a short while.

"Can't afford it?"

Emily looked around and then said, "Don't we still have that rundown factory? Sell that factory, and sell this house too! Put all the money into this!"

"Impossible!"

Ethan didn't even think before he outright refused.

"Dad! Why is it impossible? The Thompson family is so rich, as long as Charlotte is willing to give us money, we could buy not just this house, but even ten of them! That's why we must use every means to force Charlotte to give us the money!"

Emily's voice was emotional, yet incredibly shrill and piercing.

This time, Ethan didn't speak, as if he had been persuaded by Emily's words.

"Dad, don't hesitate, this is our best chance, we have to seize it!"

Chapter 865: Don't Move

Meanwhile, as the office neared closing time, Justin Battleson arrived at Charlotte Thompson's office, only to find her asleep in her chair.

Justin's brows furrowed slightly, and he lightened his footsteps, moving closer to Charlotte.

His gaze swept over and finally rested on the design drafts on her desk.

Justin knew that Charlotte had been busy with a collaboration recently, and just when she was already overwhelmed, the Allen family members had come to cause trouble, making these days somewhat exhausting for her.

Looking at Charlotte's peaceful sleeping face, a slight ache surfaced in his heart.

With great care, he reached out, held Charlotte in his arms, but unexpectedly, she moved slightly and then wrapped her arms around Justin's neck.

Not knowing what she dreamed about, her long eyelashes fluttered like butterfly wings, and finally, resting in Justin's embrace, she murmured.

"Mom... Aunt Watson... I avenged you..."

Justin knew, the deaths of Charlotte's mother and Aunt Watson had always been like thorns in Charlotte's heart.

Indeed, Justin was clear that the Allen family was behind all this.

He had also investigated the matter in secret initially, but eventually chose not to proceed.

Justin had thought countless times about making those Allen family members disappear from this world.

But the Allen family represented the real emotional lock for Charlotte, and only she could unlock it.

Justin felt immense heartache but also respected Charlotte's choices.

He bent down and placed a kiss on Charlotte's forehead.

"Charlotte, I have always been here..."

The person in his arms responded softly at that moment and slowly opened her eyes.

The freshly awakened Charlotte was somewhat groggy, her misty eyes fixated on Justin.

Justin couldn't help but chuckle lightly, then took Charlotte to a nearby couch for her to rest, letting her sit on his lap.

"Did I wake you up?"

Charlotte shook her head. She rubbed her somewhat sleepy eyes, her voice still carrying a hint of laziness as she spoke,

"How did I fall asleep?"

Charlotte's cheeks grew red, and resting against Justin's chest, she mumbled the words, very much like an obedient cat.

"You've been rather overworked lately."

Justin gently caressed Charlotte's cheek, "Just delegate the design collaboration to other people at the company, why push yourself this hard?"

"This is just my job."

Charlotte said softly, then raised her head and smiled at Justin, "Mr. Battleson, don't you think you should raise the salary of an employee as outstanding as I am?"

After giving Charlotte's lips a quick peck, Justin spoke softly, "What about a treatment similar to mine, as president?"

Charlotte felt a bit ticklish from Justin's actions and couldn't help but shrink her neck, her face wearing a smile.

"I don't want to be any president, being a design director is quite nice."

Charlotte was well aware that Justin's daily work was hundreds to thousands of times busier than hers.

"Alright, Miss Thompson, can we now leave the office and head home?" Justin inquired.

Charlotte nodded her head, ready to get off Justin's lap, but unexpectedly, he simply lifted her in a bridal carry.

Charlotte was startled, placing her hands on Justin's chest, "Quickly put me down, I can walk by myself."

"Don't move."

Justin lowered his head, closing the distance between them, "I want to hold you like this."

Chapter 866: If It's a Dream

"I'm still in the office, stop it."

Although Charlotte Thompson knew she couldn't resist Justin Battleson, this was still the office after all.

Though their relationship had been established, Charlotte still felt embarrassed being so intimately carried out by Justin Battleson.

But Justin was unfazed and carried Charlotte straight out.

Outside, Coco was just packing up her things to leave when she turned and witnessed the scene.

Coco was greatly shocked and angrily smashed her own bowl.

Sister Charlotte would secretly feed the dog food with Mr. Battleson on normal days, but now, how could they blatantly slaughter the dogs?

Noticing Coco's stare, Charlotte felt even more embarrassed, but Justin didn't show any intention of putting her down. Charlotte could only bury her head in Justin's chest, clutching at his lapel.

A few employees who hadn't left the company yet saw this scene and hid in corners, whispering to each other.

"Help! Our Mr. Battleson and Miss Thompson are being too sweet."

"A talented man and a beautiful woman, they are just so perfect together."

"Did you see today's trending topics? Did Miss Thompson really do that?"

However, Charlotte didn't hear the latter part of the conversation.

It wasn't until Justin had driven her back to the car that Charlotte seemed to breathe a sigh of relief, although the blush on her face hadn't completely faded away.

While she was buckling her seatbelt, she glared at Justin and chided, "Don't do that again."

Justin paused his hand on the steering wheel, then spoke softly, "Sorry."

Although they had now made their relationship public, Justin sensed that Charlotte was still somewhat reluctant to reveal their closeness to others.

Justin well understood that if Charlotte's identity hadn't been exposed before, she might not have chosen to make their reunion public.

Although Justin had felt disappointed about this, he realized, after all, it was Charlotte's choice, yet it might also represent a knot in her heart.

Justin knew Charlotte's delicate and affectionate nature well; she was a person who valued relationships deeply, yet they had once had a failed marriage.

However, Charlotte noticed the subtle shift in Justin's mood and quickly held his wrist, softly saying, "No, I'm not... "

She wasn't rejecting Justin. She loved him deeply and wouldn't oppose intimate gestures with him.

"It's just... in front of your company employees... it's a bit embarrassing..." Charlotte's lip quivered slightly.

Justin took Charlotte's fingertip, bringing it to his lips for a gentle kiss, "It's all because Charlotte is too adorable."

Normally, she used the word adorable to describe her children, and now, being called that by Justin, Charlotte felt even more embarrassed, a nervous look in her eyes as she pushed him slightly.

"Alright, no more playing, let's go home."

"As you wish." Justin curved the corners of his lips and started the car.

Gentle, soothing music played from the speakers, the man narrating his own story in a steady, husky voice.

Charlotte looked out the car window at the sky gradually stained orange by the sunset, her gaze also becoming tender.

She had never dared to look up at such a scene before.

Now, she possessed everything she once dreamed of.

Charlotte kept thinking, if this were really just a dream, would she have the courage to wake up?

Chapter 867: Annie Misses You

Just at that moment, Charlotte Thompson's phone vibrated in her pocket. She thought it was another nuisance call from the Allen family, but when she took it out, to her surprise, it was a call from Annie Anne.

Charlotte then remembered that Annie Anne had been discharged from the hospital a few days ago. Because she had been too busy with her own matters, she hadn't gone to pick Annie Anne up from the hospital but had video-called her instead.

She had planned to visit Annie Anne when she found some free time, but then she got distracted by other things and forgot.

Charlotte immediately answered the call, and Annie Anne's voice came through from the other end, "Charlotte, are you busy? I hope I'm not disturbing you?"

Annie Anne's voice sounded much cheerier, a vast improvement from the weak voice Charlotte had heard before, revealing that Annie Anne's health had fully recovered.

"Not at all, I just got off work."

Charlotte replied and then turned to Justin Battleson, mouthing to him that it was a call from Annie Anne.

"By the way, I saw the trending topic online today; is that Ethan Allen the same person you mentioned to me before?"

As soon as Annie Anne went online that day, she had seen the hot search about Charlotte and remembered their shared time in Ashton, where they confided a lot in each other. She was somewhat familiar with each other's affairs.

Thus, Annie Anne had never had much affection for Ethan Allen, even though he was Charlotte's biological father.

"I've heard about the Allen family's situation; he's probably looking for you now to extort you."

Annie Anne couldn't help feeling enraged every time she thought of Ethan Allen's sarcastic words on Weibo.

"You don't have to worry; I'll handle this matter," Charlotte assured her, knowing that Annie Anne was concerned about her.

"Right, how are you feeling now?"

"You've asked me several times the day I was discharged; I've completely recovered, don't worry," Annie Anne answered with a laugh.

Hearing this, Charlotte quickly said, "How about I bring Annie over to see you tonight?"

More than two months had passed since Annie Anne had been hospitalized.

Thinking carefully, it had been about half a month since the last time Charlotte had taken Olivia Thompson to see Annie Anne. Charlotte knew that Annie Anne must be missing her daughter terribly.

Annie Anne, who had been leaning on the couch, sat up excitedly upon hearing Charlotte's words, and her fingertips gripping the magazine involuntarily tensed.

Annie Anne certainly wanted her daughter to stay with her.

But at the same time, she felt timid, hesitant to see her daughter because she feared that seeing her would make her want to keep her by her side forever.

Yet, how could she, in her current state, take care of her daughter?

Still, she couldn't contain her excitement, "Really?"

"Of course, Annie misses you too," Charlotte responded, laughing softly.

Emily Allen lightly pressed her fingertips against her forehead, hesitating for a moment before her slightly trembling voice slowly began to speak.

"Okay, I'll wait for you."

As Charlotte heard Emily's response, her heart felt like it had been suddenly squeezed tight.

Now that Annie Anne had been discharged, should Olivia not also return to her side?

The thought brought a tinge of reluctance to Charlotte's heart, but in truth, she was happy for Annie Anne.

She had gone through so much hardship; having her daughter by her side was certainly a good thing.

However, there were some things Charlotte didn't ask Annie Anne about and instead, after hanging up the phone, turned to see Justin Battleson.

"Have you been in contact with Oliver Hudson recently?"

Chapter 868 Mommy Misses You Too

"Oliver Hudson?"

Justin Battleson murmured, thinking of the man who was now completely different from his past self.

"He takes care of Annie Anne every day, but he is clear not to completely disrupt her life."

However, that was between Oliver Hudson and Annie Anne, and although Justin Battleson had always kept in touch with Oliver Hudson, he did not intentionally probe into these matters.

Charlotte Thompson nodded in response, but she still harbored some unresolved resentment towards Oliver Hudson in her heart.

When the two returned home, the children had already come out to greet them. After finishing dinner together, Charlotte Thompson told Olivia Thompson that she would take her to see Annie Anne.

"To see mommy?"

Olivia Thompson blinked, seemingly not quite processing the news.

Charlotte Thompson nodded and reached out to embrace Olivia Thompson in her arms, "Your mommy has been discharged from the hospital now, let's go see her."

A radiant smile spread across Olivia Thompson's little face, and then she nodded vigorously.

Actually, Olivia Thompson had always been worried about Annie Anne's health, but thankfully, Charlotte Thompson had been keeping her informed all along.

Olivia Thompson really wanted to see Annie Anne but had not found the right opportunity to talk to Charlotte Thompson about it.

All the children knew what it meant for Charlotte Thompson to take Olivia Thompson to see Annie Anne, so they were all very well behaved and did not express a desire to come along.

"We didn't go to pick up godmother from the hospital when she was discharged; we must visit her another day," Grace Thompson spoke up.

"Annie, make sure you say hello to godmother for me," Cyrus Thompson waved to Olivia Thompson.

Initially clinging to Charlotte Thompson's neck, Olivia Thompson looked up at Charlotte Thompson with some confusion after hearing what her siblings said,

"Mommy, aren't brother and sisters coming along?"

But before Charlotte Thompson could explain, Hank Thompson had already said, "Today, let both godmother and mommy accompany Annie. We will visit godmother another time."

Olivia Thompson nodded at Hank Thompson.

"Alright, Annie, let's go."

Charlotte Thompson ran her fingers through Olivia Thompson's soft hair and turned to instruct the children to be good at home before taking Olivia Thompson to Annie Anne's house.

Along the way, although Olivia Thompson tried to act composed, her gaze was filled with excitement and joy, which Charlotte Thompson saw and softened her heart.

Soon, Charlotte Thompson arrived with Olivia Thompson at Annie Anne's residence, a standalone apartment where Annie Anne was already waiting for them at the doorway.

Upon seeing Annie Anne, Olivia Thompson could no longer contain herself and ran towards her.

"Mommy." Olivia Thompson sweetly called out.

Annie Anne opened her arms to embrace Olivia Thompson and gently rubbed her cheek against Olivia Thompson's soft hair.

"Annie." Annie Anne murmured softly and then, looking up at Charlotte Thompson approaching, her eyes filled with sincere gratitude.

"Mommy, Annie missed you so much..." Olivia Thompson whispered into Annie Anne's ear.

Annie Anne's body trembled slightly as she held back her embrace, "Mommy missed you too."

Then, holding Olivia Thompson close and unwilling to let go, she turned to open the door behind her, smiling at Charlotte Thompson, "Come in."

After entering the room, Charlotte Thompson glanced around and felt that the decoration of Annie Anne's room was a bit odd.

The decor was all in Annie Anne's favorite style, looking simple and warm, but many pieces of furniture had rounded edges. At first glance, it gave off a sense of discomfort.

It was as if all the sharp edges in life had been rounded off.

Or rather, it avoided all the sharp objects.

Chapter 869: Did You Choose to Compromise?

It seemed that Annie noticed Charlotte Thompson's gaze and set Olivia Thompson down, smiling at her.

"I was worried that the children might accidentally bump and get hurt while playing, so that's why the decor is like this."

Upon hearing this, Charlotte Thompson suddenly understood, but somehow, she still felt something was off.

However, thinking it was just the decor, Charlotte Thompson brushed off the concern and refocused her attention on Annie.

Seeing that her complexion had fully recovered, Charlotte Thompson finally felt relieved.

"It feels like I haven't seen Annie for a long time; Annie seems to have grown taller," Annie said, rubbing Olivia Thompson's head and smiling with pursed lips.

"But Annie is still shorter than her brothers and sisters," Olivia Thompson said with a slight grievance.

Hearing this, Charlotte Thompson couldn't help but feel a pang of heartache again.

Olivia Thompson was born much later than Cyrus Thompson and the others; additionally, Annie's health had been very poor at that time. When Olivia Thompson was born, she was almost as small as a kitten, and even her cries were very weak.

Fortunately, under Charlotte Thompson's care over the years, Olivia Thompson's health was very good, although she might indeed have been influenced by Annie; Olivia Thompson was somewhat chilly and often had cold hands and feet during winter.

"It's okay, Annie is still young; she will grow taller in the future," Annie said with a smile.

Seeing the warmth between mother and daughter, Charlotte Thompson felt more comfort in her heart.

"Annie, why don't you let Annie stay with you for a few days?"

Annie's health had mostly recovered now, so taking care of Olivia Thompson wouldn't be a problem.

Moreover, letting someone live alone in a house would definitely be lonely, and having Olivia Thompson for company would also be nice.

However, what Charlotte Thompson hadn't expected was that Emily Allen shook her head: "Still, let Annie stay at your place."

Charlotte Thompson was just about to ask why when Emily Allen lowered her head and said to Olivia Thompson, "Daughter, mommy bought you a lot of new clothes, all still packaged in the room. Why don't you try them on and let mommy see if they're nice?"

"Okay."

Olivia Thompson agreed, smiling brightly, and then entered the room under Emily Allen's direction.

Only Charlotte Thompson and Annie were left in the living room, and it felt as if they were back to their old times in Ashton.

Neither spoke, but the atmosphere was not the least bit awkward; it was actually the best it could be.

"Charlotte."

After a while, Annie spoke, breaking the silence in the living room.

Charlotte Thompson looked up at her.

"What would you think if... Oliver Hudson and I were to reconcile?" Annie's lips moved as she spoke.

Charlotte Thompson had not expected Annie to say this; she opened her mouth, a myriad of thoughts flooding her mind, but she still didn't know what would be best to say.

Such a reaction from Charlotte Thompson was not unexpected to Annie, who slightly curved her lips and gently stirred the juice in her cup with a straw.

She then shifted her gaze to the window, a motion that did not allow Charlotte Thompson to see her entire facial expression.

"After all, he is Annie's biological father."

Charlotte Thompson had thought it was Oliver Hudson's remorse and care that had led to Annie's forgiveness, but she had not anticipated this response from Annie.

"Did you choose to accommodate him for the sake of the child?"

Charlotte Thompson knew Annie's past well and knew that Annie's greatest desire was for familial affection, and wasn't it the same for herself?

That was the reason she and Annie had hit it off from the start.

Yet despite longing for a complete family.

But ironically, initially neither she nor Annie had provided their children with a complete family.

Chapter 870: Let's Pinky Promise

A child's growth requires the company of their parents.

However, later on, Charlotte already had the Thompson family, and Annie was truly left with nothing.

Charlotte felt the deepest sorrow for Annie's plight, so when she first learned that Annie had lost her memory, Charlotte felt somewhat relieved.

Forgetting the past and embracing a new life was the best option for Annie.

But fate never spared this girl, and after a series of events, she encountered Oliver Hudson again.

The scene was almost exactly the same as before.

Charlotte knew Annie wanted to give Olivia a complete family, but such completeness was built on her own pain.

Charlotte felt pain for Annie.

What had this girl done wrong to deserve such punishment?

Facing Charlotte's questioning, Annie chose to remain silent.

She lightly pursed her lips and finally reached out to embrace Charlotte.

Charlotte simply hugged Annie lightly, comforting her.

The silent air flowed between them, and after a moment, Annie patted Charlotte on the shoulder and chuckled.

"As long as you're taking care of Annie, I'm relieved. Even if something happens to me in the future, I won't have to worry about whether Annie's life will be..."

But Annie's words were not yet finished when Charlotte frowned slightly in displeasure, interrupting her.

"What are you talking about?"

"Just kidding, you really are getting less humorous these days," Annie said with a restrained smile.

However, just then, a crying sound came from nearby.

Charlotte and Annie both turned their heads and saw Olivia standing at the door of the room, her eyes brimming with tears.

She was sobbing, with tears dropping down, and she was wearing the new dress Annie had bought for her.

This made both Charlotte and Annie's hearts ache, and they both stood up and walked over to Olivia's side.

"Annie, what's wrong? Why are you crying?" Annie asked anxiously.

Olivia threw herself into Annie's arms, crying out, "Annie doesn't want Mommy to be in trouble, Annie wants to be with Mommy."

Hearing Olivia's words, Annie realized her daughter must have heard what she had just said.

She gently patted Olivia's back, quickly comforting her, "Annie, don't cry, don't be scared. Mommy was just joking, Mommy won't be in trouble."

"Even joking is not okay, Annie doesn't like such jokes," Olivia said, becoming even more aggrieved, her speech slightly muffled.

"Mommy knows it was wrong, sorry Annie, Mommy won't say such things again."

Annie held Olivia's small face, looking at her seriously and with heartfelt pain.

But this time Olivia said nothing, only huddling in Annie's arms and sobbing.

Annie couldn't help but cast a pleading look toward Charlotte; her daughter's crying really broke her heart.

"Consider it a lesson, see if you dare to speak carelessly in the future."

Earlier, upon hearing Annie's words, Charlotte had felt quite uneasy.

Ever since Annie had been hospitalized, Charlotte knew her mental state was not good, so she could not find any humor in the joke Annie had made.

"Mommy really knows it was wrong, Annie stop crying."

At that moment, Annie's heart was filled with guilt, continuously comforting Olivia until her emotions gradually stabilized.

"Then Mommy, let's pinky promise," Olivia said, extending her little pinky finger toward Annie.

"Okay, let's pinky promise," Annie immediately hooked Olivia's finger.