

Spoiled 881

Chapter 881: You Are the Best

This was something that no one expected.

"What is Charlotte trying to do?"

"I thought it was something like a legal notice of warning, but she went straight to court."

"It's truly unprecedented, suing her own biological father. I think Charlotte will definitely win, considering the power of the Thompson Family, and how rundown the Allen family is now, how could they possibly compete with them?"

"I feel something is not right."

Just as the netizens were buzzing with discussion and observation, Charlotte released another statement.

The entire court trial would be live-streamed.

With this announcement, the entire Weibo platform exploded.

It crashed for hours before it could be restored.

However, the Allen family had already received this news earlier, and the first to panic was Mia Stewart.

"What is Charlotte trying to do?"

She had a reason to be panicked, she would never forget how Scarlett Watson had died.

"What should we do? What can we do?"

"Panic about what?"

Emily Allen looked at Mia Stewart impatiently, but a smirk was already forming at the corner of her mouth.

"Charlotte is just trying to scare us, making a last-ditch struggle, that's all."

Emily had always been confident that she had won this game.

If Charlotte knew what Emily was thinking, she would probably laugh out loud.

Where did she get such confidence from?

"That year Scarlett..." Mia hadn't finished her sentence when Emily interrupted her.

"What Scarlett, an old woman who died of her own illness, do you really think she can still be blamed on us? Besides, it's been so long, what can they possibly find out?"

Despite Emily's words, Mia was still terror-stricken.

"Daughter, I still think we shouldn't make this such a big issue."

"We need to blow this up; we need to let the whole world know, only then will Charlotte eventually give us more money," Emily said proudly.

"Where's dad?"

Upon hearing this question, Mia's expression turned displeased: "In the study."

The thought of what Ethan Allen might be doing in the study made Mia's teeth itch with frustration.

However, Emily had forgotten that when Ryan Richard had come before, Mia had mentioned this.

She went straight upstairs to the study, but the door was not completely closed, and just as Emily was about to push the door open, she heard murmurs coming from inside.

"Sophia, if I had never met Mia and had Emily, you would still be my wife, Charlotte would still be my daughter, and I would now be the son-in-law of the Thompson Family, you guys were truly the best . . ."

Through the crack of the door, Emily saw Ethan Allen sitting in the chair, continuously stroking a photograph in his hands.

Upon hearing these words, Emily's expression darkened instantly, and she pushed the door open.

"Who let you in, get out!"

Ethan looked displeased at Emily barging in, and recalling Sophia's better days, he could not feel any love for the Emily in front of him.

"What's the use of talking to a dead person's photo now? You still ended up with my mom, didn't you?" Emily couldn't help but retort sarcastically.

"Insolence!"

Ethan stood up abruptly.

Yet, Emily walked straight up to Ethan, snatched the photograph from his hands, threw it on the ground, and viciously stomped on it.

Just looking at the photo on the floor, seeing those two beautiful faces, Emily felt as though the wounds on her face were throbbing with pain.

Chapter 882 Taking the Initiative

"You damned thing, I should never have had you!"

These days, Ethan Allen and Emily Allen had been constantly quarreling, both nearly losing their sanity.

"Shouldn't have had me? Can't control yourself, so you put the blame on others? I think having a father like you is a real disgrace."

If Ethan Allen hadn't been so incompetent, she'd still be the lady of the Allen family, sailing smoothly through the entertainment industry, instead of ending up in this predicament.

Ethan Allen's eyes bulged with veins throbbing in white-hot anger as he trembled, pointing at Emily.

The daughter he once adored the most had turned into this.

Ethan Allen felt his heart pounding, a feeling of swelling rushing through his veins to his head.

"Right, when the time comes, all the money Charlotte Thompson pays up goes to me, since you're old anyway and won't last much longer."

Just at this moment, Emily was pouring fuel on the fire.

Ethan Allen felt his temples pulsate, unable to bear it any longer, he snatched up a decorative piece from the table and hurled it at Emily.

"I'll kill you, you curse!"

They were close, and Ethan's move was so sudden that Emily had no time to react before it struck her head.

Blood streamed from Emily's head, and then her body slackened, collapsing to the floor.

The sight jolted Ethan, the bloodlust in his eyes receded.

With a clang, the decorative piece fell to the floor.

Ethan was shaking all over, somewhat in disbelief of what he had just done.

"Sophie?"

Ethan called out tentatively, but Emily on the ground showed no response.

At that moment, Ethan's legs gave out, and he dropped to the floor.

He couldn't have really killed his own daughter, could he?

Ethan's gaze drifted anxiously, and he frantically covered his mouth.

Then, he swiftly dragged Emily's body behind the desk to hide it.

He wiped the blood from the floor with paper from the desk, but before he could finish, Mia Stewart rushed in hastily.

"Ethan!"

Ethan was nearly scared out of his wits, his expression panic-stricken as he looked at Mia.

"The court summons has arrived."

However, Mia, already alert, didn't notice what Ethan was doing.

"The court?"

Ethan murmured dazedly, his eyes involuntarily drifting toward the desk, where he seemed to see a hand belonging to Emily protruding.

"Run, run!"

Ethan shouted, and then dragging Mia, he ran out of the study, only to be met by the court officers.

Due to the relationship between Charlotte Thompson and Justin Battleson, the trial proceeded very quickly.

Ethan Allen and Mia Stewart were taken to court, terrified every step of the way, each with their own thoughts.

Outside the courthouse, a crowd of media who had heard the news had gathered, and upon seeing Ethan and Mia, they raised their cameras to take pictures, the flashing lights blinding.

Justin Battleson and Charlotte Thompson also arrived at this time.

Upon seeing Charlotte, Ethan wanted to rush over, but fortunately, he was restrained by the people behind him.

"My daughter! Charlotte! I'm your father!" Ethan exclaimed loudly.

However, all he received was Charlotte's cold gaze.

Today was the day everything would be settled.

The trial officially began.

The Allen family had hired a lawyer long ago, thinking that if Ethan made a pitiable plea in front of the media, it might catch Charlotte's attention, and if that failed, they would sue her directly.

But before they could do that, Charlotte made the first move.

Chapter 883: Sympathy

The trial was livestreamed online, and almost everyone gathered at the same time to watch.

Comments and messages were being furiously refreshed above.

"What a historic moment this is."

"Look how ironic this scene is, the daughter dressed in glamorous clothes, but her elderly father looks utterly haggard."

"In my lifetime, I never thought I'd witness such a scene."

When the hearing began, Ethan Allen had initially wanted to plead, but Charlotte Thompson didn't give him the chance.

Charlotte directly accused the Allen family of multiple crimes including intentional murder and extortion, shocking not only Ethan Allen and Mia Stewart but also the viewers watching the livestream.

Everyone had thought it was just a family dispute, but it escalated to this level?

This wasn't just ripe news; this news had exploded!

"Damn! What's going on?"

"Huge plot twist!"

"Isn't this more thrilling than a TV drama?"

Charlotte's gaze turned icy as she looked toward a completely shocked Ethan Allen, while her attorney began to speak at that moment.

"Initially, Mia Stewart interfered in the marriage of the plaintiff's parents and, after giving birth to her daughter, conspired with the defendant to murder the plaintiff's biological mother and even removed her from the Allen family company and drove the plaintiff out of the home..."

As the lawyer spoke, he presented the evidence Charlotte had gathered over the years, showing how Mia Stewart and Ethan Allen had driven Charlotte's mother to death, how they had mistreated Aunt Watson during her serious illness, and even killed Aunt Watson, and how they had started to extort and blackmail Charlotte after she revealed her identity.

The evidence was irrefutable, making it impossible for anyone to counter.

No one had expected things to develop to such an extent.

Ethan Allen wanted to argue, but the evidence Charlotte had presented was indisputable.

Meanwhile, Mia Stewart was utterly terror-stricken when Charlotte produced evidence that she had bribed a nurse to visit Scarlett Watson's hospital room.

"No, I didn't kill anyone, I didn't kill anyone! Who would have thought she'd just die like that..."

Mia Stewart had lost her mind, babbling her words out carelessly.

At this time, Justin Battleson also added fuel to the fire; he had discovered that a factory Ethan Allen currently owned was not up to standards and had even caused the death of a worker due to an accident.

This incident had been suppressed by Ethan Allen at the time, but it was now being revealed.

Ethan Allen slumped into his chair, looking as if he had aged decades in an instant.

"It's all over... all over..."

The matter was settled.

The Allen family members, who had initially only wanted money, ended up losing everything.

Watching Ethan Allen and Mia Stewart being convicted, Charlotte felt not a bit of joy in her heart.

She had indeed avenged her mother and Aunt Watson.

But she regretted that it took so many years, allowing these villains to live freely for so long.

"Charlotte! Save me! I'm your biological father!"

Before being taken away, Ethan Allen still held out hope that Charlotte might save his life.

But Justin Battleson covered Charlotte's eyes with his hand, and she leaned into his embrace.

Finally, she exhaled a sigh of relief as if a great burden had been lifted.

Everything had finally settled down.

The livestream went viral online, and suddenly those who were slandering Charlotte switched sides.

As the past events came to light, so did the years of Charlotte's suffering, and the viewers online began to sympathize with her.

Chapter 884: Chad is Sick

The pain on her forehead finally forced Emily Allen to open her eyes; it took her a while to refocus. When she did, she realized she was leaning against her desk.

Having finally remembered what had happened before, Emily slowly got up. She looked around warily, but there was no sign of Ethan Allen.

"Mom? Mom?"

She staggered downstairs only to find the whole house eerily silent.

An uneasy feeling crept into Emily's heart as she searched every nook and cranny of the house, but she could not find Ethan Allen or Mia Stewart.

"What's going on..."

Emily muttered to herself and took out her cell phone.

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Gazing at the news on her computer, Zoe Anne exhaled. She had not expected the tumultuous events of the past few days to end this way.

However, to Zoe Anne, it all seemed to be the handiwork of the Thompson and Battleson Family backing Charlotte Thompson.

Regardless of whether Charlotte lost or the Allen family fell, either outcome was just fine with Zoe Anne.

Zoe Anne promptly made a phone call and got straight to the point as soon as the other end picked up, "How's the investigation I asked for coming along?"

"Miss, I've thoroughly investigated what you asked for, and I've even uncovered something else," the voice responded.

"What is it?"

Zoe Anne was initially disinterested, but her eyes lit up when she heard what was said on the other end of the line.

"Are you serious?"

"Miss, I'm certain beyond doubt; there's no mistake," the voice assured her.

"Good, very good. Expose the person behind Emily first, then send me the rest of the information," Zoe Anne quickly instructed.

After hanging up the phone, Zoe Anne's lips curved into a smile.

"Emily, you don't even look at yourself in the mirror to see what you really are, yet you dare flaunt yourself in front of me."

Zoe Anne had always remembered being replaced by Emily in a certain role, and now that Ethan Allen and Mia Stewart were locked up, it was naturally time for Zoe Anne to give Emily a hand.

Using the current online public opinion to her advantage, Zoe Anne exposed the benefactor behind Emily directly.

As the saying goes, when the wall falls, everyone pushes. With the Allen family gone, Emily, an actress already infamous, wouldn't garner any sympathy from the public, let alone from this wealthy benefactor.

Suddenly, this benefactor began to face ridicule online, and netizens even started digging into his background.

But what Zoe Anne didn't realize was that her actions actually saved Charlotte Thompson a lot of trouble.

Charlotte certainly hadn't planned to let Emily off; she had already identified the wealthy patron behind her.

Charlotte had intended to step in as a righteous crusader to expose this infamous patron, but before she could, someone else had taken over the task.

Watching the trending topics online, Charlotte couldn't help but 'like' the efforts of this unnamed hero.

If Zoe Anne knew, she might just burst with frustration.

Even though the Allen family issues were finally settled, Charlotte didn't relax. She remembered that Jack Thompson and Chad Thompson were still with the Ross Family.

Charlotte immediately called Adam Ross, planning to tell him she was coming to the Ross residence.

"Are the kids and Mr. Ross at home right now?" she asked while heading towards the garage.

However, Adam's voice hesitated, "They're not..."

Charlotte's stride didn't falter, but her tone grew somber, "Then where are the kids right now?"

If Mr. Ross had sent the children away on his own, Charlotte would certainly opt to stand against the Ross Family!

There was a pause on the phone before Adam spoke again.

"We're at the Central Hospital now, Chad is sick."

Chapter 885: Get out of the way!

"Adam Ross, what did you say!"

Charlotte Thompson's voice was full of anger, and it even startled Adam Ross.

He was about to explain when Charlotte had already hung up the phone.

The frown on Adam Ross's face deepened as he turned to look at Chad Thompson and Mr. Ross in the hospital room, feeling a piercing headache at his temples.

All the way there, Charlotte had been thinking about what Adam Ross had just said.

Chad is sick.

Jack and Chad hadn't been at the Ross Family for two days—how could they have gotten sick so soon?

What were all those people at the Ross Family doing!

Charlotte couldn't help but clench her teeth tightly.

Maybe it was because of the autumn, the rain had been falling quite frequently these days, plus the road leading to the central hospital was a very busy section, and it was jammed with traffic at this time.

Charlotte anxiously looked at the endless line of cars, slamming her palm hard against the steering wheel.

Right now, she wasn't worried about anything except for Chad's condition.

"Chad, wait for Mommy, Mommy will be there soon."

Then Charlotte did something crazy—she left her car on the roadside and ran to the central hospital.

Fortunately, Adam Ross had sent her the location of the hospital room, so Charlotte went straight up to the top floor.

There were many bodyguards from the Ross Family guarding the top floor, and Adam Ross was waiting for Charlotte at the door.

Adam Ross had never expected Charlotte to come all the way while drenched, and he froze for a moment, but Charlotte didn't give him any time to think.

"Where is Chad, how is he now?" Charlotte asked breathlessly, looking intently at Adam Ross.

It then dawned on Adam Ross, and he turned to point at a hospital room not far away, indeed guarded by two bodyguards outside.

Without saying another word, Charlotte walked straight towards it.

"Charlotte!"

Adam Ross called out to her, but he couldn't stop her stride.

Watching Charlotte's retreating figure, something in his heart felt as if it had been forcefully stricken.

The bodyguards at the door of the hospital room stopped Charlotte, but at that moment, Charlotte only wanted to see her child, and her icy gaze swept over the two bodyguards in front of her.

"Move aside."

The woman in front of them was drenched and looked disheveled, and yet the words she uttered sent a chill crawling up their feet.

As the two bodyguards hesitated, Mr. Ross came out from the hospital room.

He looked at Charlotte, a flicker of surprise crossing his eyes.

"I want to see Chad," Charlotte said directly.

"There's no need, Chad needs to rest now," Mr. Ross responded immediately.

"I told you to move, I want to see my son!" However, Charlotte addressed Mr. Ross directly.

In an instant, everyone's eyes were on Charlotte, with Adam Ross's pupils constricting even more.

When had Mr. Ross ever been rebuked like this?

"Charlotte, don't go too far," Mr. Ross said sternly, slapping the arm of his wheelchair.

"Too far?"

Drops of water were still dripping down Charlotte's cheeks, but her clear eyes were filled with a steely coldness.

"I let Jack and Chad come back to the Ross Family so that you could take care of them properly, but is this the answer you give me?"

A cold smile played upon Charlotte's lips.

"If this is your idea of care, then I will never let Jack and Chad come back to the Ross Family for the rest of my life. I, Charlotte Thompson, mean what I say!"

A mother can be fierce.

Every word spoken by Charlotte was powerful and resounded through the hospital corridor.

"Miss Thompson, you..." the man pushing Mr. Ross's wheelchair began.

But Charlotte was no longer willing to deal with anyone from the Ross Family.

"Move aside!"

Chapter 886, Adam Ross, do me a favor.

Charlotte Thompson didn't care about anyone stopping her as she walked straight into the patient's room.

"You!"

Mr. Ross was so infuriated by Charlotte's attitude that his chest heaved violently.

Seeing this, Adam Ross quickly stepped forward to comfort him, "Mr. Ross, please don't be angry."

"How can I not be angry when a young member of the Thompson Family dares to speak to me like this!" Mr. Ross coughed angrily.

However, Adam couldn't help but sigh, "Mr. Ross, you should know why Charlotte acts this way toward you."

While he spoke, Adam's gaze shifted through the glass window into the patient's room.

"She truly cares a lot about Jack and Chad."

Inside the room, Jack Thompson was sitting beside the bed, crying. He turned his head upon hearing the sound and saw Charlotte arriving.

He seemed somewhat stunned, looking carefully several times before he was sure that the person in front of him was indeed Charlotte.

"Mommy!"

Jack ran straight to Charlotte, not minding her wet and cold body, and hugged her.

"Mommy, you finally came. Jack missed you so much."

"Mommy missed you too."

Charlotte's nose tingled with sourness, and she noticed her body was soaked. She quickly moved to put some distance between herself and Jack.

"Don't hug Mommy just yet; Mommy is too wet. Don't make yourself sick. What's wrong with Chad?"

Charlotte looked up at Chad on the hospital bed, feeling pained yet again.

"Chad has been unhappy ever since returning to the Ross Family... and he has been sleeping poorly at night..." Jack said between sobs, his voice breaking intermittently.

"Then Chad got sick and ran a fever... Mommy, we really miss you..."

"It's okay, it's okay. Mommy is here. From now on, Mommy will never let anyone take you away."

Charlotte clenched her palm tightly, warming her hand before daring to wipe Jack's tears away.

She looked at Chad on the hospital bed. These two children had been by her side for so many years, never having suffered such a serious illness before.

Charlotte now wished she could transfer their pain to herself, willing to suffer a thousand times more rather than let her little children endure this torment.

"You are all wet with rainwater, don't get sick. Dry yourself off."

Just then, Adam walked in and handed Charlotte a towel.

However, Charlotte's expression when looking at Adam was not too good.

Adam, adept at reading facial expressions, noticed the scrutiny in Charlotte's eyes. He draped the towel over Charlotte's shoulders, apologizing with a face full of guilt.

"I'm sorry, I didn't expect Grandpa to take things this far."

He only found out about the day's events when he returned home from the company.

Adam always believed he, as the father of the children, cared about them completely.

But now, seeing Charlotte like this, he suddenly felt utterly ridiculous.

How could he claim he was Jack and Chad's father, looking like this?

"Chad's high fever has gone down. The doctor said a few days of rest should suffice," Adam spoke up.

Charlotte acknowledged him with a nod, but her gaze stayed fixed on the hospital bed.

Seeing this, Adam turned to leave, but Charlotte stopped him.

"Adam, do me a favor."

Assuming it was something about Jack and Chad, Adam listened attentively.

However, the next moment he heard Charlotte say quietly,

"I left my car at the previous intersection. Could you drive it back for me? My license already has points deducted."

Adam: "What?"

Chapter 887: Always With You

Adam Ross drove Charlotte Thompson's car back and also sent a set of clean clothes for her.

During this period, Charlotte had been staying by Chad Thompson's sickbed, not leaving for a moment.

Charlotte was already frail, and her entire body had been soaked in the rain; coupled with her constant worry, her complexion now looked very haggard.

This made Adam Ross somewhat concerned about Charlotte's health.

"Charlotte, you should go rest for a while."

Listening to this, Charlotte shook her head, "I want to be here when Chad wakes up."

"But you can't just ignore your own health, can you?" Adam Ross tried to persuade her dissatisfiedly.

"I'm fine."

"Do you really want to see Chad get better and then your illness worsens?"

Hearing this, Charlotte's eyebrows furrowed involuntarily.

"And if Uncle knows about it, he would probably feel heartbroken, you don't want to make him worry, right?"

Adam Ross now had to reluctantly bring Justin Battleson into the conversation.

But given the events of today, Adam felt his good days were over.

Indeed, upon mentioning Justin Battleson, Charlotte's expression appeared to waver; just as she slowly stood up, Chad on the bed let out a light groan, seemingly showing signs of waking up.

This made Charlotte shift her attention back to Chad's face.

Adam Ross also edged closer to the sickbed with some nervousness.

Indeed, the next second Chad's eyelashes fluttered, and then he slowly opened his eyes.

"Chad, you're finally awake, do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?" Charlotte asked anxiously.

However, Chad blinked and turned his gaze toward Jack Thompson standing beside him.

"Brother... I think I'm hallucinating; I saw mom..."

The continuous high fever had made Chad's voice somewhat hoarse.

Charlotte, feeling very distressed, gently touched his somewhat pale face and said softly, "Chad, it's not a hallucination. Mom is right in front of you, Mom has come to take you and Jack home."

"Mom..."

Chad's pupils trembled slightly.

He raised his hand that was on the IV, trying to touch Charlotte, but Charlotte had already quickly grasped his fingertips.

"Yes, Mom's here, Mom's always been here with you."

"It's wonderful to see Mom as soon as I wake up. Mom, please don't leave Chad anymore, okay? Chad doesn't like being sick; it's too uncomfortable..."

"Okay, Mom promises you, Mom will always be by Chad's side. Chad must get better soon, Cyrus, Hank, Grace, and Annie are all waiting for you to go home."

Charlotte checked Chad's forehead temperature, and realizing that his fever had finally subsided, she tucked him in once more.

On Adam's side, he had a doctor come in to check on Chad, who insisted on having Charlotte with him.

Outside the sickroom, Mr. Ross's gaze had been fixed on Charlotte, and he observed every move she made while caring for Chad.

To be honest, Mr. Ross was somewhat surprised to see Charlotte soaked and rushing to the hospital.

At the same time, he was also somewhat angry about Charlotte's attitude toward him.

But he could see that Charlotte truly cared for Jack and Chad.

However, out of selfishness, Mr. Ross still did not want to return Jack and Chad to Charlotte, as the children were the bloodline of the Ross family, and it would not be fitting to raise them elsewhere.

Mr. Ross could not help but sigh.

Listening to this, Adam spoke, "Mr. Ross, Jack and Chad are still young, why do you insist on bringing them back to the Ross family at such an early age? You should also be aware of what kind of characters the children have. Wouldn't it be better for them to return to the Ross family when they're a bit older?"

Chapter 888 Everything Goes Without Saying

Adam Ross spoke words Mr. Ross was all too aware of.

But for the sake of the Ross Family, he had to make some unavoidable choices.

Seeing that Mr. Ross did not speak, Adam continued, "Mr. Ross, just let the two children return to Charlotte Thompson's side. Growing up in such an environment, they are sure to have no problems."

Actually, Adam was somewhat relieved that he was initially unaware of the existence of the two children, Jack Thompson and Chad Thompson, allowing them to have a happy and blissful childhood beside Charlotte.

If the two children had been born into the Ross Family...

Adam interrupted his thoughts.

There are no 'what ifs' in this world.

"Understood," said Mr. Ross slowly and then signaled to the man behind him to push him into the ward.

Watching Mr. Ross's retreating figure, Adam couldn't help but shake his head.

He also knew that Mr. Ross held the two children in high esteem and was very fond of them, but Mr. Ross's character was such that his strictness toward the children seemed impossible to change.

He turned to the bodyguard behind him and ordered in a low voice, "Stop investigating the matter I previously asked about."

"Yes, Young Master," the bodyguard nodded.

Adam Ross had been searching for the birth mother of the two children, but now it seemed that no long-missing mother could compare to the present Charlotte Thompson.

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"How's the situation?" Mr. Ross asked as he entered the ward, just after the doctor had finished examining.

"The young master is out of danger now, only needing rest for half a day more. He can be discharged and fully recover by tomorrow," the doctor said earnestly.

Charlotte Thompson stood up. She glanced at Mr. Ross but met his gaze head-on.

Then, Charlotte bowed to Mr. Ross and said slowly, "I apologize, Mr. Ross. I was too worried about Chad's condition, which is why I disrespected you."

Mr. Ross, unsure how to begin, took the opportunity Charlotte had given him to gracefully back down.

He coughed, his expression returning to its usual seriousness.

"Seeing as you are concerned for Chad, I will not hold this against you."

"Thank you, Mr. Ross," Charlotte replied, curving her lips slightly at Mr. Ross.

"Once Chad is discharged, you can take the two children home," said Mr. Ross, coughing again before adding, "but they should still return to the Ross Family on the weekends."

"Okay."

Charlotte nodded and then turned around to wave at Jack.

Understanding the cue, Jack approached Mr. Ross obediently and said softly, "I'm sorry, Grandpa. Chad and I know our mistake."

The mistake referred to their previous insistence on calling Mr. Ross the bad guy.

After all, no matter what, Mr. Ross indeed was their real grandfather.

Mr. Ross took a deep breath and finally patted Jack's arm.

All was understood without words.

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Ryan Richard followed the address on his phone to the restaurant's private room, straightened his clothes, then pushed open the door and entered.

Inside the room, apart from a young woman, there were several bodyguards in black, a sight quite familiar to Ryan, who used to be known as the young master.

He did not bother with formalities and sat down directly in front of the table.

"Seeing is believing, Miss Anne; you're much more beautiful in person," Ryan said with a smile as soon as he sat down.

Indeed, the young lady sitting across from him was Zoe Anne, the Anne family's daughter.

She set down the cup in her hand and glanced at Ryan, suppressing the mockery in her eyes.

Chapter 889: You Dare Touch Me?

"Mr. Richard."

Zoe Anne nodded politely toward Ryan Richard, but inside she couldn't help wanting to gouge out the eyes he was recklessly scanning over her.

If he weren't somewhat useful, she would never meet such a disgusting person.

"May I ask what Miss Anne wanted by inviting me here?" Ryan had indeed been puzzled when he received Zoe's invitation.

After all, there had not been much interaction between them, except for the past cooperation between the Richard Corporation and the Anne Group.

"I heard that Mr. Richard's ex-girlfriend used to be Charlotte Thompson?" Zoe directly asked.

Pausing his action of picking up food, Ryan looked up at Zoe, "Miss Anne seems to be very well-informed. But why would Miss Anne ask about this?"

"Since that's the case, Charlotte must know a lot about her past, and I'm just curious why Mr. Richard would have been with the former Ms. Thompson?"

After all, back then Charlotte was just an insignificant young lady of the Allen family, whereas the Richard Corporation was considered a premier family.

For someone like Ryan Richard, a playboy, to actually fancy Charlotte was somewhat inconceivable.

However, Zoe had no idea that her words made Ryan think differently.

Zoe had taken the initiative to meet him and asked about his previous relationship with Charlotte.

Could it be that Zoe liked him?

Just as Charlotte had said, a man like Ryan Richard was not only scum but also gullible, especially after affirming his own thoughts, he even more felt irresistible.

"Is Miss Anne very interested?" Ryan rotated his eyeballs.

"Of course." Zoe curved her lips.

Maybe she really could extract some leverage against Charlotte from the fool before her.

Hearing this, Ryan propped up his cheeks, adopting what he thought was a handsome expression as he looked at Zoe and even raised his eyebrow at her.

However, this expression sent a chill through Zoe, though she continued to maintain a smile on her face without showing any reaction.

"Then what exactly does Miss Anne wish to know about me?"

Zoe was so disgusted by Ryan that she didn't want to look at his face anymore and naturally hadn't heard clearly what he had just said.

"Everything."

Upon hearing this, Ryan immediately perked up; he stood up and walked over to Zoe.

"I didn't expect Miss Anne to be so eager," Ryan said with a sleazy smile, then placed his hand on the back of Zoe's hand,

"But to understand everything about me, we need to take it slow."

Zoe was startled by Ryan's action and quickly withdrew her hand, hesitating not at all to slap Ryan's face.

"You dare touch me?"

When Zoe slapped him, Ryan was left somewhat stunned, but then thinking of Zoe, he soon felt justified again.

"It seems you don't want to be with me either."

Zoe was thunderstruck by this statement and failed to respond at first.

What did this fool just say?

But Ryan felt that his remark had effectively silenced Zoe, and he spoke again coldly,

"Since that's the case, there's nothing more to discuss, Miss Anne. Impetuous girls are not my type, after all. If you truly like me and want to be with me, you need to temper that temper."

Finally understanding, Zoe erupted in fury and shouted to several bodyguards, "Grab him!"

Ryan was startled, "Zoe, what are you doing? This will make me even less likely to be with you..."

"Beat him hard!"

Chapter 890: Hit Hard

Zoe Anne felt like she was about to vomit out the few bites of the disgusting meal she had just eaten.

She watched Ryan Richard howling under the bodyguard's hands, yet she still didn't seem satisfied, "Hit him harder for me!"

Ryan cursed Zoe Anne in his heart, but he couldn't help begging for mercy out loud.

However, Zoe Anne just calmly ate her fruit on the side until Ryan was beaten so badly he couldn't beg for mercy and could only hum a few times, then Zoe Anne finally told them to stop.

Looking at Ryan on the ground, swollen and bruised, Zoe Anne found him much more bearable to look at than his previously greasy face.

"You aren't..." Ryan tried to speak to Zoe Anne, his words slurred.

Zoe Anne stepped forward and cruelly stomped on Ryan's hand, the very one he had used to touch her just before.

"Ryan Richard, what I want is Charlotte Thompson's weakness, do you understand?"

It was only then that Ryan realized what was really happening, and he was stunned.

But Zoe Anne, somewhat impatient, kicked him again, "Are you deaf or what?"

The kick made Ryan's shoulder hurt, and although he didn't know how Zoe Anne found out he had something on Charlotte, he actually didn't want to hand it all over.

But looking at the current situation, if he didn't hand it over, Zoe Anne probably wouldn't let him off easily.

With this thought, Ryan nodded hastily, "I'll give it to you, I'll give you everything I have..."

"Very good."

Zoe Anne sat back down in her chair and then pointed to the two bodyguards beside her, "Follow him and go get it right now."

With her own bodyguards following Ryan, there was no chance he could run away.

Resigned, Ryan got up, but his heart was filled with apprehension.

Ryan was, of course, aware of the Allen family members' imprisonment, initially he had mocked it as the fate of the Allen family members, the consequence of not cooperating with him.

What he hadn't expected, though, was that now even the leverage he had over Charlotte was being taken from him.

Ryan then led the Anne family's two bodyguards back to his residence, initially thinking of tricking them to get away halfway through the journey.

But the two men kept such a close watch on him that his petty tricks were worthless in their eyes, and he almost got beaten again for trying.

In the end, Ryan could only obediently return to his current place of residence.

What he didn't expect was to find an unexpected person at the door.

"Ryan! Ryan, you're finally back!"

Upon seeing Ryan, Emily Allen rushed over as if she saw her savior.

With the Allen family gone, her own face disfigured, and her previous sugar daddy reported, she was completely ruined.

Only in the end did Emily Allen think of Ryan.

Upon seeing Emily wearing a mask, Ryan immediately remembered her disfigured face, and coupled with her current utterly disheveled state, he felt so disgusted that he recoiled.

"Ryan, don't you recognize me? It's me, Emily Allen." Thinking her disguise was why Ryan didn't recognize her, Emily hurriedly spoke up.

"What are you doing here?" Ryan asked with impatience.

"Ryan, you're all I have now. I know I was wrong; can we start over?" Emily kept pleading, tugging at the hem of Ryan's clothes.

Ryan's steps were hindered by Emily, and the two bodyguards following him were already showing their displeasure.

"Hurry up!"

Startled by the bodyguard's scolding, Ryan shuddered.

He looked at the clingy Emily in front of him, and finally, unable to bear it any longer, he kicked her away.

"Get lost, who are you to me, I have nothing to do with you."