

Spoiled 951

Chapter 951 Appropriate Punishment

It seemed that by pouring out his heart to someone else after so many years, a trace of relief finally appeared on Oliver Battleson's face at the end.

But perhaps because he was speaking to a younger generation, the tail end of Oliver Battleson's words trembled, unavoidably leading him to bow his head.

Charlotte Thompson's nails dug into the palm of her hand, yet the pain on her skin could not make up for the desolation within her heart at this moment.

Back in the cemetery, what Oliver Battleson struggled to say was not an apology.

It was that the recipient of this apology was his son.

Charlotte's gaze flickered slightly, and the atmosphere between her and Oliver Battleson returned to the previous awkwardness.

Relaxing music still played in the café, yet neither of the two could feel the slightest bit of leisure in their hearts.

Charlotte's lips trembled slowly, and it was she who broke the quiet atmosphere at last.

"Mr. Battleson, what is the purpose of telling me all this?" she asked.

Charlotte placed her folded hands on the table, only then noticing that she was already covered with cold sweat.

However, Charlotte's somewhat indifferent reaction seemed to exceed Oliver Battleson's expectations.

He originally stared at the coffee in front of him, but now he lifted his head upon hearing Charlotte's words.

How could he not be aware that Charlotte was feigning ignorance?

Ever since he had ascertained the truth, he had yearned to explain everything to Justin, but in the end, he never found the words to speak out.

But, just like the encounter in the cemetery, Oliver Battleson did not want to see resentment and hatred in Justin's eyes when he looked at him.

Or even endless indifference.

Just like back then, as if he were looking at a stranger.

So, upon learning about the relationship between Justin and Charlotte, Oliver Battleson had pondered for a long time and finally resolved to seek out Charlotte.

He hoped to convey his apologies to Justin through Charlotte.

Oliver Battleson was always a prideful man.

Their gazes naturally met when Oliver Battleson lifted his head.

Charlotte's eyes were cold, like a still, undisturbed ancient well, showing no hint of emotion.

Ultimately, she raised the corners of her lips in a slight curve and began softly, "But, Mr. Battleson, what does any of this have to do with me?"

"What did you say?" Oliver Battleson's brow furrowed.

"Mr. Battleson, you must have taken a great resolution to seek me out today, and surely you must have thoroughly investigated my background beforehand," she said.

Charlotte curled her fingers, lightly tapping the coffee cup to produce a crisp sound.

"You must also know what kind of person my father, Ethan Allen, is."

Oliver Battleson's complexion darkened slightly.

"I will not forgive him," Charlotte declared slowly, clearly, and she noticed how Oliver Battleson's grip gradually tightened.

"Haven't you already sent that man... to prison?"

Oliver Battleson scrutinized Charlotte's face, appearing to search for a clue in her icy expression.

"Because he killed the most important person in my life," Charlotte inhaled deeply, straightening her back slightly.

Upon hearing this, Oliver Battleson's expression worsened significantly.

Yet, Charlotte let out a humorless laugh, "Perhaps you think I'm heartless. After all, that man is my biological father, and he has already received his due punishment."

Charlotte's eyelashes trembled lightly, and her eyes reddened in the blink of an eye.

"But the person I loved can never return."

Chapter 952 Visiting the Prison

Every time she thought of her mother, every time she thought of Aunt Watson, Charlotte felt as if there was a sharp knife constantly gouging at her heart.

Charlotte lightly bit her lip.

She was only four years old when she left her mother, and had it not been for Aunt Watson showing her mother's photos during those years she took care of her, Charlotte might have forgotten what her mother even looked like.

Pregnant for eight months and still working, only to receive such a "gift" from Ethan Allen.

Each time she thought of that, Charlotte felt such a tightness in her chest that she could hardly breathe.

No matter what happened, her mother always treated fate with gentleness, but what kind of reward did fate give her mother in the end?

Oliver Battleson's pupils shook violently, as if he were pondering over Charlotte's words.

Charlotte hung her head, her hair by her temples sliding down over her shoulders. She casually hooked a strand and tucked it behind her ear.

Looking at Oliver Battleson in front of her, Charlotte spoke indifferently, "Mr. Battleson, what's the point of telling me these things? The person who needs to hear this isn't me."

Then Charlotte didn't wait for Oliver Battleson to respond and stood up.

Charlotte had intended to leave directly, but out of the corner of her eye she caught a glimpse of Oliver Battleson, who remained silent, and this made her darken her eyes.

"I never would have guessed that the head of the Battleson Family, known for his prowess in business, is actually such a person."

Charlotte was well aware that her words were extremely impolite.

But regarding the reason for Oliver Battleson's visit today, Charlotte felt nothing but irritation.

If it were not for Oliver Battleson's status, Charlotte might have pointed out directly that he was a man completely devoid of responsibility.

As Charlotte left the cafe, she couldn't resist looking back through the cafe's glass window and saw Oliver Battleson still seated in the corner.

Charlotte tightened her grip on the phone in her hand, then she dialed Henry Thompson's number.

"Big brother, I want you to look into something for me, it's about the Battleson Family, about what happened to Oliver Battleson's first wife, Mia White."

"Mia White?"

Upon hearing the name, Henry's voice carried a touch of surprise.

"Yes, she's Justin's biological mother. There was... something that happened back then," Charlotte caught herself, hesitating.

But Henry didn't push for more details, only agreeing to help Charlotte with her investigation.

After hanging up, Charlotte cast her eyes downward.

In truth, she shouldn't be meddling in this affair, but after all, this matter involved Justin.

She wanted to know the truth.

She wanted to help Justin truly step out of the shadows that had loomed over him for so many years.

In the end, Charlotte seemed to think of something and hailed a cab to rush to a certain place.

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Charlotte observed Ethan Allen being brought out and her hands, originally resting on her lap, suddenly clenched tight.

He had become so thin he was barely recognizable, his hair had turned almost entirely white, and his already unimpressive stature seemed to have collapsed even more.

As Ethan Allen emerged, he seemed frightened, but when he looked up and saw Charlotte, a glint of light burst forth from his otherwise murky eyes.

He hurriedly stepped forward, and even before he had seated himself steadily, he had already picked up the phone.

"Charlotte, you finally came to see me. Do you have any idea what kind of days I've had here? Please, I beg you, let me out."

Ethan Allen's voice was choked with emotion, his jaw pressed tight against the receiver, his wrists trembling.

Charlotte pursed her lips, looking at Ethan Allen before her, but found herself at a loss for words.

Perhaps because she had just seen Justin's father, Charlotte thought to visit Ethan Allen in prison.

But Charlotte had not expected that the first thing Ethan Allen would say upon seeing her was such a plea.

Chapter 953: I Am Your Father

Even if Ethan Allen were not to apologize, Charlotte Thompson still felt maybe there was a hint of remorse in his eyes when he looked at her.

But the Ethan Allen before her was filled with urgency.

It was as if in the next second, Charlotte Thompson would have someone release him from prison.

"Charlotte, why aren't you speaking? Please get me out of here quickly, I don't want to stay in this damn place for another second."

Seeing that Charlotte Thompson didn't speak, Ethan Allen became even more anxiously insistent.

"Ethan Allen, why do you think I would get you out?"

Charlotte Thompson took a deep breath, trying to calm her voice as much as possible.

She felt a sour swelling pain in her chest, as if something overwhelming was about to burst forth.

What was she still hoping for?

Seemingly understanding the look Charlotte Thompson gave, Ethan Allen immediately said, "Charlotte, I know I was wrong, I truly know it now, I hope you can forgive me, have them release me, please!"

Ethan Allen's emotions had become somewhat unstable during his speech, and he even vaguely appeared to be about to rise from his chair.

"Charlotte, I'm your biological father, how can you let your own father be imprisoned?"

"Ethan Allen, do you really not feel any regret for what you have done?" Charlotte Thompson clenched her teeth.

"Of course, I regret it! Of course, I do!"

Ethan Allen stretched his neck, the veins on it standing out.

He used to have a handsome face, but now it was twisted into an ugly grimace.

"I apologize to you, all of this was Mia Stewart's fault, she provoked me, had it not been for her, I wouldn't have wronged your mother, I still love Xia Qing, I still am..."

"Enough!"

Finally at her limit, Charlotte Thompson cut off Ethan Allen's words.

Ethan Allen seemed to be startled by Charlotte Thompson's voice; he swallowed hard and lifted his eyelids to glance at Charlotte Thompson with some unease before he slowly started to speak again.

"Daughter, please give me another chance, as long as you let me out, I promise to do anything you say."

Charlotte Thompson pursed her lips, no longer knowing in what tone to speak with Ethan Allen.

"Why would mother ever fall for someone like you..." Charlotte Thompson murmured.

But in truth, her voice was loud enough for Ethan Allen on the other end of the phone to hear it clearly.

"Charlotte..." Ethan Allen's voice was hoarse.

Charlotte Thompson stood up, not giving Ethan Allen another glance, and turned to leave.

Completely unprepared for Charlotte Thompson's actions, Ethan Allen also abruptly stood up, loudly calling out Charlotte Thompson's name.

"Charlotte! Charlotte! Come back! I'm your dad! I'm your dad!"

Because Ethan Allen's shouting was so loud, it disturbed the guards outside, and the wardens immediately came in, grabbing Ethan Allen to take him back.

Hearing Ethan Allen's diminishing voice behind her, Charlotte Thompson's tears finally began to fall.

But in the next second, Charlotte Thompson wiped away the tears from her face.

Such a person was simply not worth her tears.

Upon exiting the prison, Charlotte Thompson realized that she had muted her phone, which had several messages from Justin Battleson and a few missed calls.

Charlotte Thompson internally cursed, and as she was about to call back, Justin Battleson's phone rang again.

"Charlotte, where are you?" Upon Charlotte Thompson answering the phone, Justin Battleson immediately asked with concern.

"I had my phone on silent and didn't hear it, sorry for making you worry," Charlotte Thompson said with a hint of apology in her voice.

Chapter 954: I Will Always Be with You

On the other end of the phone, Justin Battleson's voice was silent for a moment, and just when Charlotte Thompson wondered if the line had disconnected, his voice faintly came through.

"What happened?"

Charlotte Thompson was startled, could it be that Justin Battleson knew she had met Oliver Battleson?

She had clearly told Coco that telling her company she was still discussing a collaboration at Melissa Tanner's studio would suffice.

"You cried."

Justin Battleson had detected the subtle emotions in Charlotte Thompson's voice the moment he answered the phone.

Touching her still-damp eyes, Charlotte Thompson had not expected Justin Battleson to notice such a thing.

But since Justin Battleson asked this way, Charlotte Thompson would not hide it, "I went to see Ethan Allen."

"Wait a moment, I'm coming to pick you up right now," a rustling sound came from Justin Battleson's side.

Charlotte Thompson opened her mouth, as she intended to refuse, but what reached her lips was a soft acknowledgment.

She looked up, her eyes squinting slightly from the glare of the sun.

It seemed to be such a sunny day when Mia Stewart brought her back from the countryside to the Allen family.

From then on, her life had undergone earth-shattering changes.

Charlotte Thompson always wondered, if the Thompson Family had not come to the warehouse to find her that day, what would have happened afterward...

She didn't know how long it had been when she got used to the glaring sun, an arm wrapped around her waist, and Charlotte Thompson naturally fell into a warm chest.

The familiar smell of cologne penetrated Charlotte Thompson's nose, she blinked and turned in Justin Battleson's embrace.

"I made you wait."

Justin Battleson's palm climbed onto Charlotte Thompson's cheek, his warm fingertips swept over her brows and eyes.

He didn't speak, but his eyes conveyed a hint of heartache.

"Let's go." Charlotte Thompson looked up and smiled at Justin Battleson, holding his hand.

Justin Battleson emitted a soft acknowledgment from his throat, then led Charlotte Thompson into the car.

The two did not speak much, but they already understood what was on each other's mind.

The car moved slowly and quietly, Charlotte Thompson leaned into Justin Battleson's arms, her eyes half-closed, seemingly asleep.

Justin Battleson lowered his gaze at Charlotte Thompson, also remaining silent.

After an unknown time, Charlotte Thompson raised her palm and looked at the scar on her index finger, whispering,

"Justin, do you know how I got this scar?"

Justin Battleson shifted his gaze toward it.

"I got it when I was young, at school, when someone bullied me and I accidentally got scratched."

Charlotte Thompson recalled that it was her first and only time yelling at Aunt Watson.

Because her classmates laughed at her saying she was a wild child with no parents.

In front of Aunt Watson, Charlotte Thompson made a fuss, demanding to see her parents.

She was very young then, and hadn't been living with Aunt Watson in the countryside for long, only able to tremble in the unfamiliar surroundings.

Those long-accumulated tempers finally exploded at the moment the fuse was ignited.

Charlotte Thompson seemed to have forgotten what Aunt Watson had said to her then.

All she remembered were those blurred tears.

From that time on, Charlotte Thompson started to understand and no longer inquired about those matters.

Listening to Charlotte Thompson's words, Justin Battleson's heart furrowed and he pinched Charlotte Thompson's fingertip, his lips pressed against the shallow scar, kissing it devoutly.

"Charlotte, from now on, you have me, I will always be by your side..."

At that moment, Justin Battleson suddenly felt incredibly foolish, his heart full of affection that in the end could only offer Charlotte Thompson such a dry promise.

Justin Battleson couldn't help but grip his palm tighter.

Sensing Justin Battleson's unease, Charlotte Thompson looked up at him, her eyes smiling gently.

"Justin, I've realized that I might not be such a well-behaved child after all."

Chapter 955: Such Poor Taste

Justin Battleson lowered his gaze.

"Back then, Aunt Watson told me that before my mother died, she said I should never get involved with perfume and that I shouldn't be too aggressive in front of others."

At this point, Charlotte paused, a forced smile playing on her lips.

"Mom also said not to let men deceive me, but just like her, I still ended up encountering a jerk."

Charlotte tilted her face upward.

"How come both my mom and I have such bad taste in men?"

Hearing this, Justin's expression froze.

Charlotte turned in Justin's arms, then wrapped her hands around his neck.

"But luckily I met you, or else my love life would have truly been a failure."

Justin tightened his embrace.

He too had once done things that made Charlotte sad.

"Charlotte, I'm sorry..."

But before Justin could finish, Charlotte had already lifted her head and kissed his lips.

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Latter on, the two of them went to the kindergarten to pick up the children together.

The kids were all very surprised and excited to see Justin and Charlotte arrive at the same time, and they all rushed over when they saw them.

"Dad! Mommy!"

Hank was the first to run over to Charlotte, his face lighting up with joy.

Charlotte, seeing him out of breath, couldn't help but reach out to pinch his little cheek.

"Why are you running so urgently?"

Hank grinned at Charlotte, "Because I wanted to be by Mommy's side right away."

Then he sneakily turned to give Jack and Chad a high five, "Yay, I'm first."

"You cheated, you started running early," Chad said, huffing.

"This is my skill," Hank said, raising his eyebrows smugly.

It turned out that Hank, Jack, and Chad, the three little ones, had arranged a contest among themselves before school let out, to see who could run to their parents first when they came to pick them up.

Charlotte later learned from Grace that the prize for winning seemed to be the chocolate of the other two.

Watching the several little ones playfully wrestling, Charlotte felt a mix of laughter and tears.

The children got into the car one after another, happily sharing with Justin and Charlotte the funny events that happened at the kindergarten that day.

Charlotte, looking at the children before her, listening to their youthful voices, felt a warm sensation flooding her heart; the shadows that lingered in her chest had already been swept away.

"Dad and Mom will take you to the amusement park this weekend, what do you think?" Justin said.

Because they had promised the children the last time, Justin and Charlotte had arranged their work in advance and found a day to spare.

"Yay!" Grace clapped her hands and smiled.

"Long live Daddy and Mommy!" Hank cheered, raising his hands above his head.

Even the normally composed Cyrus had an excited smile on his face.

However, the usually lively Jack and Chad seemed a bit down at this moment.

Noticing the change in the two little ones, Charlotte asked with concern, "Jack, Chad, what's wrong? Do you two feel unwell somewhere?"

How come the two who were all right just now suddenly became unhappy?

"Mommy, we have to go back to the Ross family this weekend, does that mean we can't go to the amusement park with you?" Jack looked up, his eyes clearly showing his disappointment.

Seeing this, the rest of the children also turned their gaze towards Justin and Charlotte.

"Jack and Chad can't really go with us?" Grace asked, feeling upset.

"Who said that?" Charlotte reached out, playfully flicking Jack and Chad's little noses one by one, and gently laughed, "How could we not take you along."

Chapter 956 Andrew Anne

"I've already spoken with your Ross Dad, and you'll go back with him to the Ross Family. When it's time to go to the amusement park, we'll pick you up," Justin Battleson had already worked out all of the details.

"Really?" Jack Thompson's face lit up with joy.

"How can you still not believe Mommy?" Charlotte Thompson said with a light laugh.

"Mommy is the best!"

Jack Thompson threw himself into Charlotte Thompson's arms, while Chad Thompson also held onto her hand from the side.

"You two are such silly geese. You are Mommy's treasures, how could I not take you?" Charlotte Thompson said gently smiling.

"Scared me to death, I thought we wouldn't be able to go together," Hank Thompson said from the side, relieved, even patting his chest.

"So, now I can wear a pretty dress and go to the amusement park with Dad and Mom?" Grace Thompson's eyes shone.

After saying that, she turned her head to hold Olivia Thompson's hand, excitedly shaking it, "Annie, Annie, we can choose our dresses for each other when the time comes."

"Okay," Olivia Thompson replied sweetly.

"I want to ride the pirate ship!" Hank Thompson said excitedly, discussing with the other little boys.

Turning his head to see Cyrus Thompson sitting there calmly, Hank Thompson approached him, "Big bro, do you dare to ride the pirate ship?"

Cyrus Thompson glanced at Hank Thompson but didn't say anything. However, to Hank Thompson, this was like he had caught him on something, and he began to laugh exaggeratedly.

"No way, Big bro, you're not scared, are you?"

In the eyes of the children, Cyrus Thompson was always a very stable and mature figure, and also quite authoritative.

However, sometimes, being second in line, Hank Thompson always adhered to the principle of, "Without Cyrus Thompson, I'm the boss," and would occasionally challenge Cyrus Thompson.

But the outcome, as one might guess, was predictable.

"Who knows who was scared on their first visit to the amusement park, even on the merry-go-round?"

Cyrus Thompson said with an emotionless tone, delivering a devastating blow.

In an instant, Hank Thompson's expression became strange, and he immediately retorted, "I wasn't scared, I just didn't like spinning around, that's all!"

"I can testify, second bro, you were about to cry when you got off," Grace Thompson added fuel to the fire.

"I, I was just..." Hank Thompson stammered, unable to come up with a response after thinking for a long time.

"Were you moved by the music played on the merry-go-round?" Cyrus Thompson said with a trace of tease.

Seeing an opportunity to retreat, Hank Thompson immediately nodded, "Exactly, the music was just... too heartwarming."

Grace Thompson puffed her cheeks, trying hard to suppress her laughter.

"There's nothing that I, Hank Thompson, am afraid of," Hank Thompson shook his head confidently.

However at that moment, Cyrus Thompson stabbed again, "Our age and height wouldn't even allow us on the pirate ship right now, the merry-go-round is more suitable for you."

Hank Thompson suddenly lost his energy as if he had been hit by a frost.

Charlotte Thompson was watching from the side and couldn't help but chuckle.

Such a group of treasures.

Soon the car returned to Stardust Garden, and Jasmine Clarkson had dinner waiting for the children as usual.

After washing their hands obediently in line, the children sat together for dinner.

Maybe because they were going to the amusement park soon, all the children were very happy, which also lifted Jasmine Clarkson's mood.

After dinner, Charlotte Thompson was about to talk to Justin Battleson briefly about working with Melissa Tanner's studio when she received a call.

It was from an unfamiliar number.

Though puzzled, Charlotte Thompson still answered it.

A hoarse voice came immediately from the other end of the line.

"Charlotte, I'm Zoe Anne's father, Andrew Anne."

Chapter 957: I Hope You Can Be Merciful

This call completely took Charlotte by surprise, and she was stunned for a moment.

Why would the Anne family suddenly call her?

However, although Charlotte was puzzled, she still politely responded, "Hello, Mr. Anne."

The voice on the other end of the phone was silent for a moment before it came through faintly, "Miss Charlotte, my daughter has been unruly and caused you a lot of trouble. On her behalf, I apologize to you."

"Mr. Anne, Miss Anne has already apologized to me, and there are no hard feelings between us anymore."

"Then I hope Miss Thompson can let go and give our Anne family a way out," Andrew Anne's voice was filled with helplessness.

Although on the surface Zoe Anne withdrew from her circles because of her own issues, the Anne family was well aware of how she had schemed against Charlotte behind the scenes. To protect themselves, the Anne family decided to send Zoe out of the country.

Charlotte didn't take this matter to heart, but the other members of the Thompson family, after investigating what exactly Zoe had done, had no intention of letting the Anne family off the hook.

They naturally took action as a small lesson for the Anne family.

Within less than a day, the Anne Group's shares plummeted.

However, Charlotte was unaware of these events, and Andrew Anne's words hit her like a bucket of cold fog.

"Mr. Anne, you..." Charlotte was somewhat at a loss for words.

"Miss Charlotte, the shares of our Anne Group have already plummeted. If this continues, the Anne family will go bankrupt. Miss Charlotte, I hope you can show mercy."

Andrew Anne had been busy with this matter for several days without rest, and now his family was truly at the end of their rope, so he had no choice but to shamelessly ask Charlotte for help.

Hearing Andrew Anne's words, Charlotte was surprised and quickly turned on her computer to check the stock market, indeed finding the Anne Group's stocks starting to plummet at a terrifying rate.

Charlotte of course knew she hadn't done anything, but it wasn't difficult to guess that her brothers must be acting on her behalf.

But still...

Charlotte felt that something wasn't quite right.

While Charlotte was lost in thought, Andrew Anne's voice continued, "Miss Charlotte, I wouldn't call you if we weren't really struggling to survive, but Zoe did indeed go too far, and it's also my fault for not disciplining my daughter properly."

After speaking, Andrew Anne deeply sighed.

In fact, Andrew Anne himself knew that it was his Anne family who had done wrong, and the Thompson family's reprimand was only to be expected.

But he couldn't just watch his family go bankrupt.

After hearing this, Charlotte immediately agreed, after all, her issue with Zoe had been resolved long ago.

It seemed that upon receiving Charlotte's response, Andrew Anne on the other end seemed to let out a sigh of relief, but his voice was choked with emotion by the end.

After hanging up the phone with Andrew Anne, Charlotte also found some recent information and situations regarding the Anne Group online.

In less than three days' time, the Anne family's external assets had drastically depleted to the point of exhaustion.

Charlotte read the information on the internet, her brows furrowing slightly.

Such events had happened before, so Charlotte was well aware of her brothers' methods, but this was the first time they had suppressed a company so harshly.

Now that Charlotte had already agreed to help Andrew Anne's side, she immediately contacted Henry Thompson, but this time the call was answered by Charlotte's second brother, Joshua Thompson.

"Joshua?"

Charlotte looked at the phone number, certain she had called her eldest brother Henry.

"Charlotte, why do you always sneak around contacting Henry, that guy, and never call us?"

Chapter 958 He Was Recently Dumped by His Girlfriend

Joshua Thompson's voice carried a hint of irritation.

"Sorry, second brother, I just had something I wanted to ask eldest brother," Charlotte Thompson quickly reassured him.

However, Joshua was only joking with Charlotte and naturally wouldn't actually be angry with her.

"Eldest brother is a bit tied up with something. What happened? You can tell me too," Joshua inquired.

In front of her own brother, Charlotte, of course, did not hide anything and responded, "Second brother, has our Thompson Family been putting pressure on the Anne family?"

Upon hearing this, Joshua responded affirmatively, his voice turning serious, "After what the Anne family's eldest daughter did, of course, we had to teach them a lesson. I just didn't bother telling you about such a trivial matter."

Charlotte, listening, took a glass and poured some water to moisten her somewhat dry throat, "The Anne family is nearly bankrupt now; there's no need to press them further, and besides, my issues with Zoe Anne have already been resolved."

"Hmm? Eldest brother simply applied some pressure and didn't do anything else. How could the Anne family suddenly be on the verge of bankruptcy? With the foundation they have, that shouldn't be the case," Joshua expressed a hint of doubt in his tone.

The younger members of this generation of the Thompson family had also been in the business world for many years, naturally acting with a sense of proportion.

"But from what I've seen of the Anne family's situation in the past few days, someone is still oppressing them," Charlotte observed while looking at the data on her computer, her voice carrying a bit of confusion.

"I just looked it up. How could the Anne family suddenly end up like this?"

Mouse clicking sounds also came from Joshua's side,

"Eldest brother had already stopped interfering, and neither our third brother nor I have done anything. It seems like... this might be the Anne family's own doing now."

Hearing this explanation, Charlotte's expression became subtly complex.

Although she was not familiar with the intricacies of business, having spent a long time by Justin Battleson's side, she had heard of some trends.

The Anne family was originally a powerful, prestigious family in their industry and had few significant competitors.

For the Anne family to be suppressed to this current state, the situation likely was not so simple.

"I just asked eldest brother, and he indeed had already backed off," Joshua continued, "But why have you suddenly taken an interest in this matter?"

Charlotte then relayed, in detail, the call she had received from Andrew Anne to Joshua.

After listening, Joshua became even more certain that there were other forces at play.

"I'm not very familiar with the matters in Druarus, but I've heard of Mr. Andrew Anne. With his capabilities, he should be able to investigate this matter without difficulty."

Charlotte pursed her lips and did not respond.

"You don't need to worry about this. Leave it to elder brother. I will contact the Anne family to find out what's going on,"

Joshua comforted Charlotte, "But this also serves as a lesson for the Anne family, for daring to mess with our family's little princess."

"Thanks, second brother," Charlotte spoke.

"Remember to call your second brother if anything comes up in the future; don't always go to Henry Thompson."

After addressing the matter at hand, Joshua naturally started engaging in a traditional rivalry display of the Thompson family members—vying for Charlotte's affection in front of her.

"I suspect he's been dumped by his girlfriend recently because he's been sour-faced every day."

"Eh? Since when did eldest brother have a girlfriend?" Charlotte suddenly caught onto the main point.

However, the next second, noise came through the phone, followed by Henry Thompson's soothing voice.

"Charlotte, don't listen to Joshua making up stories."

"Cough, cough! Remember to call your second brother, Charlotte!"

Chapter 959 Miss Grace Fainted!

After bantering with Henry Thompson and Joshua Thompson for a few minutes, Charlotte Thompson hung up the phone with a smile, yet there was no sense of relaxation in her heart.

Instead, she was suppressing a hard-to-conceal panic.

Charlotte Thompson took a sip of water from her cup, but the next second, her wrist seemed to lose strength and she dropped the glass cup onto the floor.

Charlotte Thompson dodged the flying shards and looked at the water stain on the floor, involuntarily pursing her lips.

"What happened?"

Just then, Justin Battleson pushed the door open and came in, only to find Charlotte Thompson standing still. Seeing the broken glass on the floor, Justin immediately went over, concerned, to check on Charlotte Thompson.

"It's nothing, don't worry, I just didn't hold the cup steady..."

The lingering sense of panic in her heart began to fade and Charlotte Thompson smiled at Justin Battleson.

However, just as Charlotte Thompson's words fell, a series of noisy sounds suddenly came from outside the room.

"Mommy! Mommy!"

Olivia Thompson ran in crying and hugged Charlotte Thompson's legs.

"What's wrong, baby?" Charlotte Thompson picked up Olivia Thompson, only to see her little face filled with terror.

And the butler of Stardust Garden followed behind Olivia Thompson, with large beads of sweat on his forehead: "Madam, it's not good, Miss Grace has fainted!"

Hearing this, Charlotte Thompson felt a buzzing in her ears and, almost without time to think, rushed out the door.

The children's crying downstairs became even clearer, and Charlotte Thompson immediately saw Grace Thompson lying in Jasmine Clarkson's arms with her eyes tightly closed.

Charlotte Thompson's steps felt unsteady, and she nearly missed the last step, stumbling towards Grace Thompson.

"Grace!"

Charlotte Thompson saw Grace Thompson's pale face and the blood under her nose, and her tears instantly flowed, "How could this happen! Quickly, to the hospital!"

As she spoke, Charlotte Thompson took Grace Thompson from Jasmine Clarkson's arms, and without even changing her shoes, hurriedly ran toward the garage.

Justin Battleson followed Charlotte Thompson the whole time, seeing the children crying together in the living room and wanting to follow to the hospital; he hurriedly instructed Jasmine Clarkson to comfort them while he himself turned to catch up with Charlotte Thompson's steps.

"Grace!"

Olivia Thompson was crying so hard she couldn't catch her breath, her delicate little face covered in tears.

Just a moment ago, she was discussing with Grace Thompson what clothes to wear to the amusement park. Grace had gotten off the sofa to go back to the room with Olivia to pick out clothes.

The next second, blood flowed from Grace Thompson's nose, and she collapsed, her whole body limp.

Right in front of Olivia Thompson.

In an instant, Olivia Thompson turned deathly pale with fright, and the other children, along with Jasmine Clarkson, noticed the commotion.

Afterwards, Olivia Thompson ran upstairs to find Jasmine Clarkson.

Olivia Thompson was clutching Jasmine Clarkson's hand tightly, her voice already hoarse: "What's happened to her! I need to see! I want to see Grace!"

"I want to go too!"

"Me too!"

The rest of the children also began to speak, each with tear-blurred eyes, truly breaking Jasmine Clarkson's heart.

She wished she could go to the hospital immediately with Justin and Charlotte Thompson, but what was more important now was to comfort these children.

Jasmine Clarkson knew they were worried, but such small children have limited emotional resilience, and it was uncertain what might happen at the hospital.

So Jasmine Clarkson decided to wait until the children's emotions had stabilized a bit before taking them to the hospital, but the children didn't see it that way.

Chapter 960: What on Earth Happened?

"Great-grandmother, let's go to the hospital! Let's go see Grace! What on earth happened to her?"

Although Hank tried hard to hold back his tears, big drops kept rolling down from his eyes.

"Great-grandmother, we need to be by Grace's side, please take us with you."

Jack was born speaking, and he even patted the back of a weeping Chad who couldn't speak.

Cyrus's eyes were red, washed clean by tears, and his prevailing emotion was worry as he approached Jasmine Clarkson, grabbing her hand.

"Great-grandmother, no matter what happens, we need to be by Grace's side."

Jasmine Clarkson touched Cyrus's head and said, "Butler, prepare the car quickly!"

The butler responded immediately, and Jasmine Clarkson took the children to the hospital.

Meanwhile, Charlotte held Grace in her arms, struggling to keep back the tears in her eyes while holding her slightly cold cheek close.

How could things have turned out like this? Why did Grace suddenly faint?

Remembering the nosebleed Grace had before, Charlotte felt full of regret.

She should have taken Grace to the hospital right then.

And then she had put off the children's check-ups because of work.

It was all her fault, all of this was her fault.

Justin Battleson was equally frantic, running several red lights in his urgency.

He also asked Michael Richard to contact the hospital directly, and by the time the two arrived, the hospital had already prepared everything, immediately taking Grace into the emergency room.

Charlotte wanted to follow, but in the end, she was stopped outside.

"It's all my fault, it's all because of me... I should have taken Grace for a check-up earlier..."

In the hallway, Charlotte's forehead rested on Justin's shoulder as she clutched desperately at his shirtfront, crying in a broken-hearted collapse.

"It's okay, Grace will definitely be okay," Justin reassured Charlotte, tightening his embrace, his voice hoarse.

As he stared at the emergency room light, his eyes were filled with worry.

Grace's sudden collapse had taken everyone by surprise, and whatever the final issue was, it certainly dealt a huge blow to Charlotte.

Every second in the hallway felt excruciating to Charlotte, even her fingertips trembled uncontrollably.

She kept telling herself that Grace would definitely be okay.

"Mommy! Mommy!"

It wasn't long before the other children rushed over, and upon seeing them, Charlotte's recently restrained tears burst forth again.

"Mommy!"

Olivia ran frantically toward Charlotte but lost her footing and tumbled over.

Charlotte's heart clenched painfully, each breath as if thin needles were piercing and scraping against her internal organs.

Charlotte hurried forward, embracing Olivia tightly in her arms.

"Mommy..."

Olivia cried, just repeating those two words.

She hated hospitals, the smell of disinfectant in the corridors.

It was in a hospital that she first met her birth mother, and now Grace was also in a hospital.

Olivia buried her face in Charlotte's embrace.

She didn't want to look or listen.

Charlotte clenched her teeth, holding back tears in front of her children.

She couldn't break down in tears in front of them.

Cyrus came to Charlotte's side and, imitating what she had done before, wiped away the tears from the corner of her eyes with his little hand.

"Mommy, don't cry, Grace won't be in trouble. We're all here."