

No Remarriage: You Don't Deserve Me (Lenora and Zachary) Stay Away

Stay Away 261

Chapter 261 Will You Break Up With Met

Chapter 261 Will You Break Up With Me

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With a heavy "thud," it sounded like the cell phone had hit the ground. All the voices became muffled and

distant.

Lenora furrowed her brow. "Connor, where are you?"

A soft rustling echoed through the line, but for a long moment, there was no response.

"Connor?"

Connor's voice sounded utterly distraught, panicked and incoherent, "L-Lenora, I-I don't know, I..."

His voice was weak and colorless, even trembling slightly, choked with emotion.

In the background, the faint sound of a woman's crying could be heard.

Lenora had a pretty good idea about what had happened to Connor.

She calmly stated, "Connor, you're a man. Don't panic when faced with problems, take a moment to calm down first. Now, after you've dressed, take a look at the sign next to the bedside phone. It has the room number on it. Tell me what it is." After a few seconds, Connor said, "0305"

"All right, I'm on my way. Just take a moment to calm down and think carefully about what happened."

The company's team-building event was held on the fourth floor, and the guest in room 0305 was not an employee.

Worth noting, the room assigned to Connor by the company was 0405. It was highly probable that Connor, in his drunken state, may have wandered into the wrong room. Lenora arrived at room 0305 and knocked on the door

After waiting for roughly two minutes, the door finally swung open from the inside.

Connor's clothes were disheveled, his face haggard. But upon seeing Lenora, his eyes lit up, as if he had spotted his savior.

Yet, as soon as a thought crossed his mind, the light in his eyes quickly faded.

"Lenora..." he said in a low, helpless voice.

Lenora patted his shoulder. "It's all right, let's talk inside"

She knew, Connor was worried that she would break up with him.

Yet, she hadn't received an answer from him about Richie, how could she possibly break up with him? Lenora stepped into the room, casually shutting the door behind her.

The room was relatively tidy, save for the area around the bed which was exceptionally messy, with clothes.

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strewn all over the floor.

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The woman was curled up in the corner of the bed, her head buried in her knees as she sobbed. The blanket was pulled up to her chest, revealing her bare shoulders and arms, which bore the traces of their recent joy.

"Miss, let's take a moment to calm down, the incident has already occurred, so we need to figure out a way to handle this. First off, do you need to call the police?"

Connor's expression subtly shifted, his fists tensing up in anxiety.

Last night, he had too much to drink, he genuinely didn't know anything....

The woman suddenly lifted her head from her knees, revealing a face drenched with tears. "Don't call the police.

Lenora was taken aback when she saw her. "Ms. Schmidt?"

Wiping away her tears, Madison choked out, "You should leave now. Connor has helped me in the past, consider last night as my way of repaying the favor. I won't call the police, so you can act as if nothing has happened. Go now." Lenora wanted to ask something else, her mouth opening and closing, but in the end, she didn't manage voice it out.

"All right, you should rest first, calm yourself down. If anything comes up, don't hesitate to contact me.

Lenora left her contact information and said to Connor, "Grab your stuff, let's head back first and then we'll talk.

"All right."

Right now, Connor's mind was in utter chaos, all he could do was to follow Lenora's lead.

He quickly adjusted his clothing, grabbed his coat, and followed after Lenora, urgently explaining. "Lenora, Lenora, you have to believe me... I didn't know. I truly didn't know... How could this have happened... I don't even remember how I got back last night... "Let's head back to our room first, then we can talk."

"Okay..."

Connor hesitated, his gaze cautiously falling on Lenora "Lenora, will you break up with me?"

Lenora's response was noncommittal. "Connor, nobody's perfect. I won't judge you solely based on one incident, but I will still maintain a certain level of reservation toward you."

"I understand..."

Upon reaching Connor's room, he fished out the room card from his pocket and entered.

The inside was completely empty.

The bed of Connor's roommate was impeccably made with the sheets smoothly laid out and the blanket

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neatly folded at the head of the bed. It looked as though it had been untouched for the entire night.

So, no one noticed that Connor didn't return home all night?

Lenora settled herself on the sofa, lifting her gaze to meet Connor's eyes.

His face was tense, hands nervously clutching the hem of his clothes, restlessness evident in his demeanor. "Lenora, you must believe me..." he pleaded.

"Calm down, sit down first," Lenora said. "Take your time to recall everything that happened last night."

Connor settled himself across from Lenora, his brows furrowed in concentration as he tried to recall the events of the previous night. "I overdid it with the drinking yesterday, I can't even remember how I got back... Everyone was toasting and I joined in, drinking a few cups. I didn't expect the alcohol to hit me so hard..."

"What was the last memory you recall?"

Connor closed his eyes, the more he thought, the more his head throbbed. "I can't quite remember, I think it was a colleague toasting me..."

Lenora asked, "Did you know in advance that Madison was at 0305?"

Connor shook his head urgently, much like a bobblehead, and said in a frantic tone, "I don't know! Lenora, I really don't know, you have to believe me. That day, she ran into some troublemakers, and I just stepped in to help. She passed out, and I took her to the hotel, that's all..."

Lenora lowered her gaze in deep thought.

Well, isn't that too much of a coincidence?

After having a bit too much to drink, Connor mistakenly ascended one floor less than he intended, inadvertently entering Madison's room.

"I'll go check the surveillance," Lenora said, "Ms. Schmidt has asked us to act as if nothing has happened. You should also be prepared, just in case she changes her mind."

"I know." Connor propped his elbow on his knee, hands helplessly buried in his hair. He looked at Lenora with a pitiful expression, much like an abandoned puppy. "Lenora, you won't leave me, will you?"

He hadn't forgotten that it was Zachary's infidelity that had led to the collapse of their marriage. Lenora was undoubtedly scarred by this incident.

After a few moments of silence, Lenora said, "Connor, I can't make any promises right now, Let's wait until after I've checked the surveillance footage and spoken with your colleagues."

Given her understanding of Connor, she knew he wouldn't have done such a thing while he was lucid.

If he happened to get drunk and unwittingly stumbled into Madison's room, and if Madison, also drunk and oblivious, had neglected to lock the door, the circumstances would have been incredibly stringent. There must be more to the story than meets the eye.

"All right..."

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Connor felt distressed, but he understood that Lenora's decision to not break up with him immediately was already a sign of her tolerance,

"Get yourself together. I'm going to check the surveillance." Lenora stood up.

"Do you want me to go with you?"

-No need."

Lenora rose to her feet and headed to the control room. She communicated with the staff, stating her need to access the surveillance footage from the second and third floors of the main building. The staff member apologized. "I'm sorry, the surveillance system in the main building was malfunctioning yesterday. It's currently under repair."

"Really?" Lenora exclaimed in surprise.

"Of course." The staff member showcased the computer.

"All right, thank you," Lenora said, rubbing her forehead as she left the surveillance room.

The surveillance system was malfunctioning and under repair, presenting yet another coincidence.

She increasingly felt that something was amiss.

Lenora made a phone call to Stanley.

The phone rang again and again, unanswered, until it finally disconnected on its own.

She dialed again, and only then the call went through.

Stanley seemed to have just woken up, his voice hoarse from sleep, his tone impatient. "What is it?"

"Stanley, did you betray me to Zachary?"

Stanley paused for a moment, cleared his throat, and his tone immediately softened. "Nora, I was helpless, you know how Zachary is..."

"Did you drink quite a bit last night?"

"They got all excited and insisted on toasting. I couldn't really refuse," Stanley explained, tugging at his collar. He accidentally brushed the wound on the back of his neck, scratched by a stray kitten. "How much did Connor drink last night? He told me he didn't have much, but I don't believe him." "Him? He didn't lie, he didn't drink much. Someone tried to get him drunk, but I stopped them."

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Lenora paused, "Really?"

How could Connor have entered the wrong room, especially when he hadn't drunk much?

"Right, if you don't believe me, ask anyone else."

"When did you guys finish and come back?"

"Uh. I can't really remember, I had too much to drink I'm not even sure how I got back."

"All right, try to drink less in the future, it's not good for your health.

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"Isn't it inevitable?" Stanley mused. "Actually, it's normal for men to drink at social gatherings. It's all part of maintaining relationships. There's no need for you to pick a fight with him over this."

"All right, I understand now. Thank you, Stanley, for looking out for him. Since you've spoken up for him. how could I possibly hold it against him? That's it, I won't bother you any further. Goodbye." "Bye"

After ending the call, Lenora stared at her phone screen, her thoughts in turmoil.

Connor claimed that he was drunk, oblivious to everything around him.

Stanley mentioned that Connor didn't drink much.

Of all things, the surveillance system had to break down

What a coincidence, indeed.

Regardless of what the truth might have been, she had no choice but to trust Connor; she still needed him.

However, taking Zachary's past experiences as a lesson, she had to give Connor the cold shoulder for some time. She couldn't forgive him immediately, as it would contradict her personality. Moreover, with such events unfolding, Connor might not have the inclination to help her inquire about

Gaston's matter.

The delay might be necessary.

After Lenora and Connor had left the room, Madison felt a wave of exhaustion wash over her. She lay helplessly on the bed, closing her eyes in discomfort.

Suddenly, the ring of a mobile phone echoed like a death knell.

Madison snapped out of her daze, rummaging through the clothes on the floor to find her phone. As she saw the incoming call displayed on the screen, a lump formed in her throat, and she couldn't help but feel a wave of anxiety wash over her. With trembling fingers, she pressed the answer button, striving to keep her voice steady. "Hello, Mr. Fuller?"

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A deep, commanding male voice resonated from the other end of the phone. "How's it going?"

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Madison carefully chose her words. "When Connor woke up in my room, Ms. Wilkin discovered it while she was on the phone with him. She personally came to take Connor away..."

"And then?"

The atmosphere suddenly became tense.

Madison was gripped by fear, guilt, and sorrow. Silently, tears streamed down her face as she whispered. "I'm sorry. Mr. Fuller. I didn't call the police to escalate the situation. I've messed everything up..." "Why?"

Madison closed her eyes, and memories from the previous night echoed in her mind. She had followed the plan, indulging in a bit of alcohol before retreating to her room alone.

Unexpectedly, she was suddenly pulled into a hallway by someone, forced against her will. She fought back with all her might, but she couldn't break free.

Moreover, it had been so dark at the time, she didn't even know who the person was..

Later on, the man attempted to get her back to the room, but she seized the opportunity and managed to

escape.

She was filled with fear, yet she didn't want to delay Zachary's plans, so she quickly retreated to her room.

Connor, in his drunken stupor, was completely unconscious. Left with no other choice, she could only undress and lay down beside him.

As soon as the alarm was raised, all secrets would be exposed.

Even if she could locate the villain who had wronged her, if the plan failed, she wouldn't be able to justify it to Zachary, Consequently, she wouldn't be able to get the money, and she wouldn't be able to save her father.

After spending a restless night in bed, she finally made up her mind. She decided not to call the police. choosing instead to let the mistake stand.

After all, she had originally planned to sleep with Connor, so switching to someone else didn't really make

a difference.

Upon hearing Zachary's inquiry, Madison stuttered as she relayed the truth to him, then waited silently for Zachary's judgment.

Upon hearing this, Zachary didn't say much. He simply responded, "If that's the case, then stick to your stance against Connor with unwavering resolve."

"So... Mr. Fuller, is there anything else you need me to do?"

"Wait first, let's see how it turns out."

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"Understood."

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Madison understood that that Zachary was referring to whether Lenora would break up with Connor.

If they were to break up, then her mission would be accomplished.

If not, she would have to continue interacting with Connor.

Lenora went to the restaurant and bought two breakfasts, then knocked on Connor's door.

Connor could hardly wait as he flung the door open, a mix of joy and fear in his heart. "Lenora, you're finally back."

Lenora walked in. "I figured you're not really in the mood to go to a restaurant, so I brought you some breakfast"

She set the breakfast on the table. "I've been to the surveillance room. Interestingly enough, the main building's security cameras happened to be out of order last night."

Connor hurriedly clarified, "Lenora, I really had no idea, I don't even have the capability to tamper with the surveillance..."

"I didn't mean it that way, don't overthink. I asked Stanley, he confirmed you were indeed drunk... Never mind, you should eat first. After your meal, take some time to calm down, I need some time to think things through as well." What did she need to think about?

Well, probably contemplating whether or not to continue her relationship with him.

Connor began to panic. "Lenora, I'm sorry, I'm really sorry. Please don't break up with me, I truly don't want us to part ways!"

He furiously slapped himself twice. "It's all my fault, all my fault Why did I have to drink so much! I deserve to die."

"Don't be like this." Lenora stopped him. "I didn't say I wanted to break up with you. It's just that, with what has happened, it's not only hard for you to accept, I also need some time to adjust."

"So... how long will you need to adjust... Connor cautiously asked.

"Give it three days. Let's meet again in three days to talk and in the meantime, let's cool down and think things through."

Connor bit his lip, resembling a forsaken hound, his ears drooping. "All right... I'll come to you in three days, he conceded.

"All right, I'll head back to my room then," Lenora said, carrying her breakfast as she left.

Upon returning to her room, Lenora began to eat her breakfast.

After breakfast, Zachary gave a call.

Lenora was somewhat vexed, initially not wanting to answer, yet she feared it might be Harrietta looking

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for her.

Once the call connected, as expected, Harrietta's voice indeed came through the receiver.

She wanted to invite Lenora to join her for some fun in the hill behind the vacation resort.

Lenora agreed and went over to Zachary's place to pick her up.

When they arrived, Zachary and Harrietta were still having breakfast.

When Lenora entered, Zachary studied her face intently, trying to glean something from her expression and gaze. However, he was left disappointed.

She was calm, seemingly unaffected by what had happened to Connor.

Harrietta waved at Lenora. "Aunt Lenora, have you had breakfast yet? Come join me."

"Go ahead and eat, Hattie. I've eaten already."

expression

Zachary was perfectly composed, feigning ignorance as he asked. "I saw you heading to the restaurant alone. Where's Connor? What's going on with him?"

He had too much to drink last night." Lenora said.

Her words seemed to carry a hint of defense for Connor, as if he was being unjustly accused.

Zachary's eyes grew darker.

She had long understood the reason behind the matter yet it seemed as if Lenora simply didn't care.

Was Lenora avoiding hurting Connor's pride in his presence, planning to handle things privately, or could she accept Connor's mistakes and not break up with him?

It must have been the former, right?

Any woman would find it unbearable if her boyfriend slept with another woman.

"Did he drink so much last night that he couldn't wake up? He couldn't even manage to join you for breakfast at the restaurant? It seems to me he doesn't care about you at all."

"There's no need for you to worry about what's between us." With these words, Lenora left the conversation, turning to gaze out at the balcony

Suddenly, her body stiffened, and she froze.

The service at the luxury suite in the resort was meticulous. Dirty clothes were left by the door in a laundry basket, where housekeeping would pick them up. After cleaning and drying, they would be returned, hence, the balcony was merely a place for relaxation. At that moment, Lenora noticed clothes hanging on the balcony.

Among them was the swimsuit she'd worn yesterday!

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The two simple pieces of fabric with straps attached were remarkably noticeable as they hung on the spacious balcony.

Lenora bristled in an instant, caught between embarrassment and a tinge of anger.
"Zachary! You..."

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"I what?" Zachary followed her gaze, a hint of amusement twinkling in his eyes, feigning ignorance as he

asked.

Lenora gritted her teeth, shooting him a fierce glare. She didn't want to argue with him about this before Harrietta, nor did she want him to witness her discomfort. Without another word, she stormed off to the balcony and took off her swimsuit. She quickly folded her swimsuit, ready to stuff it into her pocket, when Zachary's large hand suddenly seized her wrist, snatching the swimsuit from her grasp "What are you doing?" he demanded

"What are you accusing me of?" Lenora retorted, freeing her wrist and reaching out to snatch her

swimsuit.

With a swift stretch of his arm, Zachary reached up high, while Lenora attempted to reach a few times but to no avail, which left her fuming. Hands on her hips, she glared at him. "Give me my clothes!" "Why should I give you what's mine?" Zachary declared, full of righteous indignation.

ou mean.

Lenora looked at him in disbelief, finding it hard to believe he could be so shameless "What do you yours? That's mine..."

"You tossed it away, and I picked it up, so it'

mine now!

Lenora opened her mouth to speak, but her mind suddenly went blank. "But..."

"But what?" Zachary retorted, "Am I not correct?"

Lenora's face turned beet red, suddenly at a loss for words to counter.

Her face was flushed, her eyes moist with a mix of fury and frustration. Despite her anger, she had nowhere to vent, much like a puffed up pufferfish.

Zachary couldn't help but let a smile creep onto his face. He brought the swimsuit up to his nose and took a gentle sniff. "It smells wonderful!"

Lenora felt a chill run down her spine, her ears burning as if they were bleeding, and her lungs were about to burst with anger, "Zachary! Could you possibly be any more shameless?"

"I can" A glint of mischief flashed in Zachary's eyes, his lips curling up audaciously. He leaned in close to Lenora's ear, whispering something softly.

Lenora's face flushed in an instant, her eyes, like pools of water, glared at him in anger. She was so furious that her chest rose and fell rapidly, leaving her speechless. All she could muster was, "Y-You..."

He had just audaciously mentioned that he intended to use her swimsuit...

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With a smirk playing on his lips, Zachary gazed at the pulled-up, slightly annoyed face of Lenora. He carefully folded the two tiny garments with an air of seriousness, tucking them into his pocket. "Don't worry," he assured her. "I'll keep them safe." Lenora was furious,

Her complexion fluctuated between shades of pale and flushed. She shot Zachary a glare, scoffed coldly. then promptly turned and walked away.

Suddenly, she lunged back with a speed that was too swift for the eye to follow, reaching for Zachary's pocket.

However, Zachary was ready for her. Before she could reach into his pocket, he seized her wrist and effortlessly pulled her close.

Lenora stumbled, letting out a gasp as she fell into Zachary's arms.

From above. Zachary's teasing voice could be heard. "Nora, are you throwing yourself at me?"

Lenora's ears were burning hot, she quickly braced herself against his chest and extricated herself from his embrace. "Shut up, will you?"

Once upon a time, in her heart. Zachary had always been someone unattainable, calm, rational, and decisive. He exuded the charm of a mature man, exactly the type she was fond of

Somehow, recently she felt as though Zachary had transformed into a completely different person, acting all cheap and despicable.

Just like a young boy in primary school who couldn't keep his hands to himself.

She was so irritated with him that she almost wished she could slap him.

Lenora stepped out onto the balcony, casting her gaze around. The living room, once filled with the towering presence of Harrietta, was now empty. "Hattic?"

"Aunt Lenora, I'm here."

The voice of Harrietta could be heard emanating from the room.

Taking a deep breath, Lenora brought his fingers together and fanned her face.

Once the warmth on her face gradually faded, she pushed open the door to Harrietta's room. "Why did you suddenly go back to your room?"

Harrietta climbed out of bed, grinning cheekily as she said, "I wanted to give you two some space."

Lenora was at a loss for words,

"Come on, let's go play in the back hill." Lenora gave a helpless wave of her hand.

Harrietta immediately jogged over, emerging from the room while asking, "Is Uncle Zachary going?"

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"No."

Two voices rang out in unison.

Harrietta's eyes were wide open, her gaze flickering between Lenora and Zachary. She blinked twice before asking, "So, is Uncle Zachary going or not?"

Lenora gritted her teeth as she glared at Zachary, all the while declaring, "He's not going."

There was a distinct sense of rivalry between them, as if one's existence negated the other's.

Harrietta glanced toward Zachary, her head tilted slightly.

Zachary chuckled helplessly. "Hattie, I will not be joining you right now. Go and have fun with Aunt

"All right then."

Lenora spent the entire morning accompanying Harrietta. During lunch at the restaurant, Harrietta asked her. "Aunt Lenora, we have to return home this afternoon. Would you like to come back with us?" Lenora was taken aback.

Actually, she was intending to ask Sophia to come pick her up that afternoon.

Since she had already made arrangements to meet with Connor in three days, there was no need for her to return with the group.

However, she really didn't want to spend time with a certain primary school student.

Lenora cast a glance at Zachary

Zachary was also watching her, his eyes unfathomably deep, completely absorbed in observing the expressions on her face. Catching Lenora's gaze, Zachary withdrew his own, chuckling lightly. "Why are you looking at me?"

Lenora coolly said, "It would be great if you could just vanish on the spot,"

Zachary smiled. "I'm sorry, but I can't fulfill this request of yours."

With an expressionless face, Lenora let out a soft hum, sending a message to Sophia.

Sophna, however, stated that she was tied up with matters at the Tortell residence and couldn't get away.

With a sense of resignation, Lenora rubbed her forehead. It seemed she had no choice but to share a ride with the primary school student.

She asked Harrietta, "When are you guys leaving?"

"Before dinner, Harrietta replied.

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"All right, I'll join you guys.

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Zachary shifted his gaze away from her phone screen, casting her a tender look, a hint of amusement twinkling in his eyes.

She had no intention of returning with Connor.

It seemed the arrangements made last night had worked, she most likely had broken up with Connor,

The conversation at the table took a turn, Harrietta asked Zachary, "Uncle Zachary, will my grandma be coming for the New Year's holiday?"

Should be. After you get home, you can call and ask her," Zachary said, reaching out to serve Harrietta some food.

With a subtle shift of her eyes, Lenora sneakily glanced at Zachary's pocket.

Zachary was engrossed in a serious conversation with Harrietta. Meanwhile, Lenora, maintaining a poker face, took a bite of her meal. She put down her fork, picked up her drink with her left hand and took a sip. Meanwhile, her right hand stealthily slid down from the table and slowly found its way into Zachary's pocket

She lowered her gaze, stealing a quick glance, then reached in, carefully pinpointing the exact spot.

Suddenly, a large hand caught hers firmly.

Zachary's lips curled up into a smirk, casting her a meaningful glance.

Caught red-handed, Lenora felt embarrassed and, in frustration, she withdrew her hand.

However, Zachary held on even tighter, his large hand enveloping hers, gently kneading it.

"Let go," Lenora said softly.

"Nora, your hands are so soft," he remarked.

With a warm smile, Zachary gently lifted her hand to his lips. He tenderly kissed the back of her hand before letting it go.

The warm, soft touch sent chills down Lenora's spine, causing her to immediately wipe the back of her hand. She shot him a glance. "Where are my clothes?"

"What clothes?"

Lenora looked at him playing dumb, her frustration barely contained. "You know exactly what I'm talking about!"

Zachary chuckled. "Nora, are you being silly? How could I possibly be carrying those two pieces of clothing on me?"

As he spoke, he leaned in closer, whispering softly into Lenora's ear. "I've placed it under my pillow, from now on, every day immediately, Lenora reached out and covered his mouth.

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Zachary's eyes sparkled with amusement, a hint of cunning flickering beneath the surface.

Lenora shot him a glare, unwilling to entertain him further. She turned around to seek Harietta.

After spending half the afternoon soaking in the hot springs, Lenora and Harietta packed up their belongings and left.

On her way back, she passed by Daryl's warehouse, and without realizing it, Lenora stole a glance.

The encounter between Connor and Daryl was already part of her plan.

She needed a chance to bring up Daryl in front of Connor, to finally reveal Daryl's identity and past.

The warehouse was the perfect choice. Not only could it fulfill her objective, but it also served to expose Daryl's financial issues.

So, she sought out a few local troublemakers to orchestrate that incident.

Now, she knew that Gaston was in Yiefmery.

Even though she had considered learning about the relationship between Richie and Gaston through Connor, and possibly uncovering some clues, there might be people who were unwilling to step forward and identify them. Moreover, she had yet to obtain anything from Connor's end yet, and even if there were, the clues might have already been erased.

Hence, she had to prepare for all eventualities, figuring out a way to get Gaston back to his country and hand him over to the police.

Apprehending someone in a foreign land was no easy task, and it was crucial that Gaston remained

oblivious.

Lenora rubbed her forehead, and as she casually lifted her gaze, she caught sight of Zachary in the rearview mirror. Zachary was focused on the road ahead, driving with utmost concentration.

She shifted her gaze away from the rearview mirror, settling it on Zachary

From Lenora's perspective, the sharp angles of his jawline were clearly visible. The roots of his hair at the back of his neck had a hint of blue, appearing clean and neat. His broad shoulders filled out his suit perfectly. His large hand rested on the steering wheel, the creases outlining his strong and muscular upper

Every detail suited her taste perfectly.

If she could cast aside everything from the past and meet Zachary again, she might still fall for him

"Zachary?" In the quiet car, Lenora called out to him.

"Hmm?" Zachary glanced at Lenora through the rear-view mirror, their eyes meeting.

"I recall that Fuller Group has branches in Southeast Aploth, right?"

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There might have been some high-ranking individuals from Mysonna. Although Zachary was not the CEO of the corporation, his connections remained.

"Why are you suddenly asking this?" Zachary raised an eyebrow,

Lenora almost let it slip, but after a moment's thought, she didn't say anything. "It's nothing, just asking"

She wanted to ask Zachary for help, to have someone from Mysonna capture Gaston. It would be easier for locals to handle this. If she were to send someone from home, they might not be familiar with Yiefmery and could inadvertently alert the target or even violate local laws. After some thought, she still didn't voice it out.

She was afraid that Zachary would connect the dots and realize her ulterior motive for getting close to Connor, which in turn would embolden him to pursue her even more relentlessly.

In fact, she had collaborated with a client from Mysonna before, but they hadn't been in touch recently. She wasn't even sure if he was still in the country.

"Can you really come up with such a question if it's really nothing?" Zachary questioned, skeptical. He then ventured a guess. "Are you planning on going to Southeast Aploth? Or is there something else you want to do??"

After some thought, Lenora followed his line of thought "I've been considering a trip to Southeast Aploth for some cultural excursion after the New Year, but I'm worried it might be a bit chaotic over there... "I'll accompany you."

Harietta was leaning against the window, absorbed in the view outside. At that, she turned her head and raised her little hand. "I want to go too... I want to go to school..." she whimpered.

"Don't cry, Aunt Lenora isn't leaving."

"Hattie, kindergartens in our country don't start until half a month after the New Year's holiday,"

Harietta's eyes lit up as a thought crossed her mind, but then they dimmed again, her small face filled with conflict.

Lenora shot Zachary a glance, patting Harietta's shoulder, "Hattie, don't listen to your uncle. If you want to go back, then go back. If you want to travel with me, you can come back during your summer vacation, all right?" "Mhm." Harietta nodded emphatically, burying her head into Lenora's comforting embrace. "Aunt Lenora, you're so kind. I want to sleep with you again tonight."

Lenora wrapped her arms around her, gently patting her back.

The rear-view mirror reflected a face of warmth, gentleness, and affection, as if Harietta truly was her child.

Upon seeing it, a subtle smile couldn't help but curve on Zachary's lips.

By the time they returned to the downtown area of Jacaster, the sky had already darkened.

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Tue, Nov

Chapter 264 I Will Go With You

+10 Free Coins

Zachary pulled up in front of a certain restaurant, unbuckling his seatbelt. "Let's have dinner first, I'll drive you guys home afterward"

Lenora and Harietta stepped out of the car. Together, the three of them entered the restaurant and proceeded upstairs to a private dining room.

Before they ate, Lenora made a trip to the restroom.

As Lenora passed by the fire escape, she heard the sound of a conversation drifting toward her.

The woman's voice was sweet and pleading. "Director Ladley, please, not here... We're in a restaurant. You can have your way once we're at the hotel tonight.

A sleazy male voice echoed. "Tonight? I simply can't wait any longer..."

Their faint voices echoed, the woman said, "About that program..."

"Don't worry, I will definitely give it to you. Hurry, let me take care of you..." "Don't..

The sound of the woman's delicate panting echoed.

She had ran into the unspoken rules of the entertainment industry.

Lenora quietly passed by the staircase, not paying it any mind.

When she emerged from the restroom, she lifted her gaze and saw a middle-aged man strolling out of the fire exit. He was casually adjusting his collar as he walked. Upon a

closer look, Lenora recognized the middle-aged man. It was Timothy, who had once harassed her!

It seemed that he was secretly involved with the female celebrity earlier!

However, Lenora hadn't expected that Timothy would wrap things up so quickly.

Less than five minutes had passed

As Lenora was passing by the fire exit, a woman emerged, adjusting her hairstyle as she walked.

Upon seeing Lenora, the woman's steps faltered.

Lenora caught a glimpse of her face, a flicker of surprise flashing in her eyes.

She had never imagined that Susana would end up in such a predicament.

Without Zachary's support, she wanted to continue in the entertainment industry, but she couldn't escape the dark quagmire and vortex.

If she hadn't driven Gerald to his demise back then, given Zachary's nature, he would have guaranteed her a life of prosperity and wealth.

All that was happening now was a consequence of her own actions.

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Chapter 264 I Will Go With You

The moment she saw her, Lenora was instantly reminded of the late Gerald, and a wave of sorrow and anger welled up from within.

If it hadn't been for Susanna, perhaps Gerald wouldn't have passed away so soon. She hadn't even gotten the chance to see him one last time.

Wait a minute-hadn't Zachary mentioned that Susanna was at Triune Hospital?

Why was she here?

Their eyes met.

If one were to ask who Susanna least desired to encounter at be Lenora.

Yet, against all odds, they had met.

that moment, the answer would undoubtedly

In that moment, Susanna's mind went blank for an instant. A whirlwind of emotions—discomfort, humiliation, indignation, and more—all merged into one, ultimately crystallizing into a potent resentment that was deeply seared into her heart. In an instant, their gazes intertwined, sparks flying everywhere.

However, once Zachary discovered Lenora's true colors, she was bound to face dire consequences!

A glint of ruthlessness flashed in Susanna's eyes. Lifting her chin, she walked past Lenora with her head held high.

Lenora called out to her in a cold tone, questioning. "Susanna!"

"Grandpa never wronged you. Why did you have to say those words that upset him, making his illness worse and ultimately leading to his death?"

Upon hearing those words, Susanna paused, surprise flickering in her eyes. She let out an amused laugh. "1 ● can't possibly take the blame for Old Mr. Fuller's death. It was simply his age and declining health that caught up with him!"

She had expected Lenora to confront her about the photo, but to her surprise, Lenora remained silent. Could it be that Zachary hadn't revealed everything to Lenora?

Lenora pursed her lips, a glint of ruthlessness flashing in her eyes. Without warning, she slapped Susanna across the face, her gaze icy. "This slap," she said, "is on Behalf of Old Mr. Fuller. You should spend the rest of your life repenting in a mental institution!" Susanna tilted her head, covering her cheek with her hand, her hair falling messily around her ears.

She lifted her head and met Lenora's gaze with cold determination. Suddenly, she let out a mocking laugh, a hint of challenge in her tone. "Regret?" she scoffed. "Since you brought up the mental hospital, do you really think Zachary would let me out, knowing I was the one who drove the old man to his death?"

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Chapter 265 How Do You Expect Me To Trust You

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Chapter 265 How Do You Expect Me To Trust You.

Seeing Lenora silent, Susanna smiled triumphantly. 62%

Even if Lenora confronted Zachary, and Zachary revealed Lenora's photos and identity, she could only bring shame upon herself. She would never be able to hold her head high in front of Zachary. Susanna continued, "Can't you see it yet? Zack is in love with me! If it wasn't for your relentless pursuit of Zack, trying to tear us apart, how would the old man have died? You're nothing but a jinx!" Shut your mouth!"

Lenora's face turned pale, her eyes red-rimmed, "You think I'd fall for your tricks? No matter what's between Zachary and me, it's no excuse for you to provoke Grandpa. Don't even dream about slinging mud at me!" Just like with Lola, she wouldn't be fooled.

She was not a jinx!

She wasn't!

"I simply can't hold my tongue!" Susanna scoffed coldly. "You jinx! It's because of you that the old man died! You're nothing but a promiscuous slt. Even if you keep clinging onto Zachary, he will never like you! She let out a cold huff, striding away swiftly.

Watching Susanna's figure, Lenora stood still and let out a cold, mocking laugh.

When Lenora returned to the private room, her plate was already filled with some of her favorite dishes.

Zachary withdrew his fork and looked up. "You're back?"

"Mm." Lenora took a seat, her gaze lowered. "Zachary"

"Hmmm?" Zachary noticed her unusual mood and asked, "What's wrong?"

"I ran into Susanna earlier, she was with Timothy."

"She brought it upon herself."

"But, I recall you mentioning that you had Susanna confined to Triune Hospital. Why is she out?" Lenora looked up, her gaze devoid of any emotion as she stared at Zachary

She knew Gerald's health was deteriorating

She had been prepared for a long time, knowing that the day would come when her grandfather would leave.

What she hoped for was that her grandfather would die a natural death. She had hoped for it to be a situation filled with helplessness, with no room for change, steeped in sadness but not regret. 1/5

Chapter 265 How Do You Expect Me To Trust You

Gerald shouldn't have been infuriated to death by Susanna without a clear reason!

He had lived a legendary life, yet in the end, he was literally infuriated motives. No matter what, Lenora just couldn't accept it

+15 Free Cons

to death by a woman with ulterior

Zachary was momentarily flustered and retorted, "What did she tell you?"

Could it be that Susanna had already told her about her identity and the matter with the photo?

"I'm asking you a question!" Lenora suddenly raised her voice, her gaze piercing into Zachary. "That was your grandfather! Are you so enamored with Susanna that you could easily let the murderer who killed him go?" "Nora, I've told you before, I don't fancy Susanna..."

"You're still lying to me!" Lenora coldly stared at him.

He was fond of Susanna, but Susanna was responsible for his grandfather's death. He couldn't overcome this obstacle, which prevented him from being with her. Yet, he still couldn't bear to see Susanna face any form of punishment.

If he knew that Susanna was manipulated, he might have felt sorry for her and gone to support her again.

She really hadn't expected, even after being divorced for so long, Zachary was still deceiving her.

The words he spoke in the hospital room that day, she had almost believed them.

Luckily, she didn't let her heart soften, otherwise she would have been the biggest fool in the world. "I'm not."

"Then tell me, why did you let her go?"

Zachary looked at her, his lips twitching slightly before he lowered his gaze, remaining silent.

He couldn't reveal her identity.

He wouldn't let her know about the child she had given birth to.

With a cool and mocking laugh, Lenora said, "Go on, speak up!"

"How am I supposed to believe you?"

"Uncle Zachary, Aunt Lenora, could you please stop arguing... Harietta said weakly with her fork in hand.

Coming back to her senses, Lenora took a deep breath, regaining her composure. She gave Harietta a slight smile. "All right, let's stop arguing

When she came face to face with Susanna, she lost her composure. She even found herself arguing with Zachary in front of Harietta. It was a serious misstep.

Zachary didn't say anything else.

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Chapter 265 How Do You Expect Me To Trust You

However, the atmosphere at the dinner table had clearly become tense.

After finishing their meal, the trio left the restaurant together.

Susanna had drunk so much that she felt nauseous, her stomach bloated to the point of wanting to throw up. Finally, she managed to slip out of the private room. As soon as she turned around, she saw the retreating figures of three people. Zachary and Lenora walked on either side, leading the ever energetic Harietta between them. It looked just like they were family. .

She faintly heard Zachary say to Lenora, "I'll take you and Hattie back home."

Susanna's expression froze. her gaze fixated on them, unwavering until the trio turned the corner and vanished from sight. Why was Zachary still with Lenora?

Hadn't he already discovered the true nature of Lenora?

Could it be that he was so enamored with Lenora, so much so that he could tolerate her reckless behavior regarding childbirth?

So, had he deliberately shown indifference toward Lenora last time just to make her lower her guard and hand over all the photos she had?

Zachary! You really know your game!

Susanna clenched her fists tightly, her nails digging deep into her flesh.

What did she ever do to deserve this? What?

Why was it that she was blacklisted, forced to curry favor with sleazy, greasy old men just to get a chance to appear on a variety show? Yet Lenora did nothing and still won Zachary's heart. Even her mess-ups were forgiven by Zachary. She simply couldn't accept it!

On the way back, Lenora didn't pay much attention to Zachary

Once they arrived at the base of the loft, Lenora and Haricita stepped out of the car. With an impassive look, Lenora glanced at Zachary, saying, "We're here now. You can go."

Zachary grasped Lenora's hand, his eyes filled with pain. "Nora," he said, "whether you believe me or not, I need to tell you, I didn't lie to you, I have my reasons... "What reasons?" Lenora looked up.

Zachary pursed his lips, averting his gaze. "I can't talk about it now."

"I'm giving you one chance, tell me, and I'll certainly believe you."

Seeing Zachary remain silent, Lenora patiently said, "Zachary, I'm giving you a chance. If you don't speak up, then I'll assume you agree with what I've said."

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Chapter 265 How Do You Expect Me To Trust You

She had just mentioned that he fancied Susanna, and that he was still deceiving her.

+10 Free Cons

If he kept quiet, she would take that he agreed with her statement might never reconcile with him again,

A touch of obscurity flashed in Zachary's eyes, his fists clenched tightly as he closed his eyes.

After waiting for two minutes without him saying a word, Lenora lost her patience. She took Harietta's hand. "Hartie, let's go.

As Harietta walked away, she kept looking back at Zachary,

Zachary slowly opened his eyes, watching her retreating figure. His gaze was so profound and distant, filled with a thousand words left unsaid. Yet, all these unspoken words silently disappeared into the darkness, forming an invisible shield, protecting her from the storm. He slowly raised his hand and gestured toward Harietta

Harietta then turned around and headed home with Lenora

Inside the elevator, Lenora stared at the ascending numbers on the small screen, her gaze unfocused and

distant.

She truly couldn't comprehend what Zachary's dilemma was.

He would rather admit that he harbored feelings for Susanna by keeping quiet than to voice out his reasons.

Could it be that he had no reason at all, and was simply fond of Susanna?

She didn't want to think about it any further.

"Aunt Lenora, we're here," Harietta reminded in her youthful, childlike voice.

Snapping back to reality, Lenora led Harietta out of the elevator.

Upon returning home, Lenora reached out to a Mysona client she had previously collaborated with. She didn't mention anything about her father, only stating that there was a fugitive currently in Yiefmery.

The client was currently in their home country and couldn't provide much assistance. However, they had recommended someone to Lenora. They said this person was a figure in the Mysonna underworld, known as Jayden.

Immediately, Lenora reached out to the man named Jayden.

Upon learning of Lenora's intentions, Jayden immediately demanded a hundred thousand. Once the matter was settled, he insisted on an additional two hundred thousand as a deposit.

Lenora bargained with him, resulting in a down payment of fifty thousand.

In this way, even if Jayden took the money and did nothing, she would only lose fifty thousand.

After all, she had never met Jayden. The contract for such an illegal act would be invalid, and the risk of being deceived was high. Yet, she had no choice but to proceed.

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Chapter 265 How Do You Expect Me To Trust You

She could only strive to minimize the damage.

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Chapter 266 An Old Friend

Chapter 266 An Old Friend

+10 Free Coins

Only two days were left before the New Year. Lenora's photography class was scheduled to start on the eve of New Year's Eve, and the second class was to be held on the seventh day of the first month.

That evening at seven, Lenora was promptly seated in front of her computer screen. She launched the learning software and entered the live classroom. The live stream room already had visuals, showing the assistant adjusting the equipment.

Lenora checked the class WhatsApp group, noticing that many students were actively participating in the group chat. They were simultaneously watching the live stream and engaging in conversation. One of the students said. "It's about to start. I'm a bit thrilled! Oh my, I'm really fortunate, I only saw the course information on the sixth day and when I registered, it was the last spot!"

Other students chimed in, "Wow, you're really lucky. I've been waiting for a while now. As soon as the class information was released, I immediately signed up."

Lenora was momentarily puzzled.

When she had signed up, it was already past the tenth, and according to what she had heard, it was supposed to have already been fully booked.

Perhaps someone had dropped the class, freeing up a spot.

"Hey, can you guys hear me?"

At that moment, a crisp and magnetic male voice resonated throughout the live broadcast room.

Classmate: Absolutely!

Classmate flmighty Zeke!

A series of comments appeared on the public screen below.

"You can hear me, right? Great, the teaching assistant will check the roll call. Once everyone is here, we'll officially start the class."

A minute later, the teaching assistant posted a message on the public screen.
"Everyone's here. Search the Find_Novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality."

"All right then, let's begin our class. You should all have access to our course outline. In our first lesson, we'll start with the different categories and styles of photography, and take some time to appreciate some excellent works..."

Lenora listened very attentively, all the while diligently taking notes.

Zeke's voice was warm and smooth, his thoughts clear and logical. The content of his class was captivating, drawing people in with its compelling nature.

Unbeknownst to them, the two-hour class flew by.

"All right, classmates, we'll wrap up today's lesson here. The teaching assistant will be sharing the

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Chapter 266 An Old Friend

homework in the group chat shortly. Please make sure to complete it on time."

Lenora ended the live stream and, with notebook in hand, returned to her bedroom.

Harietta was lying in bed, engrossed in playing a game

*10 Free Cons

Lenora pulled back the covers and climbed into bed, settling comfortably amidst the blankets as she flipped through her notebook. She revisited every piece of knowledge, recalling each point one by one

She picked up her phone and downloaded the homework package sent by the teaching assistant, giving it a quick glance.

The assignment packet contained ten images. The students were tasked to analyze the photographic techniques used in these images, based on the knowledge imparted by Zeke in today's lecture. Furthermore, they were required to apply these techniques and submit five of their own photographs.

Just then, a WhatsApp notification sounded.

Lenora noticed it was a new friend request.

A jolt of surprise struck her when she noticed the applicant's WhatsApp username was Zeke.

Lenora quickly checked the group leader's account in the chat group, only to confirm that the person who'd added her was indeed Zeke.

Why did he add he?

Lenora was puzzled, but she still accepted the friend request and responded, "Hello, Mr. Easton."

Like a well-behaved, obedient student.

The top of the screen flickered, indicating that the other party was typing. Zeke responded, "Nora, we haven't seen each other for a few years, but surely we're not that estranged?"

Lenora was taken aback, her face a mask of bewilderment.

What did he mean by that?

Did he know her?

Did she know him?

Lenora typed out a few words on her phone screen, paused for a moment, then hit send: I'm sorry, I don't quite understand what you mean, do you know me?

Zeke sent a string of ellipses, seemingly at a loss for words: When you first arrived in Fairlake, didn't you not want to stay in the school dormitory? Wasn't it me who helped you find that apartment? Have you forgotten! Lenora looked at his response in surprise,

Is that so

However, she couldn't recall any memories from her time abroad.

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+10 Free Coins

Lenora replied: I'm sorry, I had a car accident before I returned to my country, my memory of that time is a bit foggy

Zeke: Really? No wonder you not only didn't reach out to me after you returned home, but you also deleted me. Delete him?

Lenora slightly furrowed her brows

After waking up from the car accident, she clearly remembered that she had no memory, and she didn't dare to casually delete friends.

Could it be that she had misremembered?

Lenora didn't fuss about this. She responded with an emoji: Perhaps I deleted it because I didn't recognize the name. My apologies, were we classmates when I was abroad?

Zeke said: No. I lived in Fairlake for a few years, I was the president of the Clusian Association then. We met in the

local Clusian community chat

Lenora: So that's how it was, thank you for your help back then.

Zekt: You've already thanked me back then.

Following that, Zeke sent over a voice message..

As Lenora clicked into it, a pleasant voice emanated from the speakers, particularly noticeable in the solitude of the study. "After you deleted me. I thought you despised me. I didn't dare disturb your life when I returned to the country. To my surprise, you enrolled in my photography class. Perhaps, this is what they call destiny."

Lenora asked curiously: It's all thanks to your guidance in the competition group. By the way, was the course already full when I signed up? Did you make the decision to add me?

Zeke responded with a voice message. "Yes, are you interested in learning photography? I can teach you"

Lenora asked, puzzled: Aren't I currently attending your class?

Zeke: Actually, based on my teaching experience, the efficiency of online classes is far from matching that of in-person classes. You're in Jacaster now, aren't you? Lenora: Yes.

Zeke: I happen to be in Jacaster as well. If you're up for it, we could arrange a time to do some cultural excursion. I can guide you step by step when we're there. Upon hearing this news, Lenora was quite intrigued.

Lenora: Really? That's fantastic! How could I possibly refuse But, may I bring a friend along?

To be honest, Zeke was nothing more than a stranger to her now,

She couldn't help but be wary of him, so she thought of involving Fiona.

Zeke responded swiftly: Of course.

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Lenora: All right, let me know when you're free after the New Year.

Zeke: Don't call me Mr. Easton. Ezekiel You used to call me Ezekiel

"Aunt Lenora, can I come with you for the cultural excursion, is that all right?"

Suddenly, Harietta's voice echoed.

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10 Free Coins

The young girl was perceptive; noticing Lenora constantly engrossed in her phone chats, she grew more

cautious.

Startled, Lenora instinctively turned off the screen. When she glanced up, she saw Harietta with a mischievous grin, her round eyes gleaming with cunning,

"It depends. If you're still here by then, I'll bring you along."

Lenora once again lit up her phone screen, exchanging a few casual pleasantries with Ezekiel.

"Yay, yay, yay!" Harietta laughed joyfully.

New Year's Eve was the third day as agreed between Lenora and Connor. The time was set for the

afternoon.

Sophia had already returned to the Tortell residence, leaving only Lenora and Harietta in the spacious flat.

Early that day, Lenora and Harietta were busy hanging up couplets for the festival at their apartment. After having breakfast, they returned to the Fuller residence

Before even stepping into the living room, the sound of the Allison's voice could be heard from within. "What's the rush? Do you really think Nora would harm Hattie?"

Immediately, another woman's voice responded, "Being with her will only lead Hattie astray! Hattie hasn't called me in days, isn't she the one instigating this? I'm going to bring Hattie back right now!" It was Tamara.

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Chapter 267 Father And Daughter By Blood

Chapter 267 Father And Daughter By Blood

Lenora and Harita walked into the living room, worriedly bugging Tread

Tamara's expression was stern. As her gaze veep on errors, she made stemge to hide her displeasure. Lenora greeted calmly. "Aure Tamara, Grandma .

"Grandma!" Harietta scampered up to Tamara, her farming ale. Yourine

Tamara bent down, planting a kiss on Harietta's cheek, "Grandma's here to pick you up, are you happy?"

Harietta paused, letting out an "ah," and brought her index fingers together "To we have to go back right now?" she asked.

She didn't want to go back just yet.

Tamara didn't see a hint of joy on Harietta's face, and her expression instantly darkened. "What you don't want to go back with Grandma Harietta's face paled. She spoke in a low venge. "1-It's like that I just want to stay here for a few more

not day'

Tamara returned home on the eve of the New Year, naturally intending to stay in her homeland for a few days to celebrate the holidia

Seeing Harietta's reaction, she was so frustrated that she couldn't help but give Lenora a harsh look. She grabbed Harietta's hand and started walking out. "Let's go! We're leaving right now?"

Harietta shuddered, attempting to back away with her bottom stuck out, but she was no match for Tamara

"Aunt Lenora!

Lenora stood in front of Tamara "What are you doing Hattie is not refusing to return..."

"How dare you speak, even after the divorce you're still clinging to Zack You think I'm not aware? It's because you can't have children that he's considering keeping Hattie! If you truly respect the kindness of the Fuller family, then stay away from Zack!" Listening to Tamara's twisting the truth, Lenora felt a surge of anger rising within her. She took a deep breath to suppress it, just as he was about to speak, Allison stepped forward, grabbing Tamara's arm. "Tamara What nonsense are you spouting? Tamara yanked her hand away from Allison, pointing accusingly at Lenora. "Did I say something wrong?" she challenged, "Why did Zack have stomach bleeding recently Wasn't it because of her! Even after the divorce, she still won't leave Zack alone. Zack is too kind- hearted to see through your manipulations!"

"It's the New Year, can't you just stay out of trouble?" Allon scolded.

Boohoo!

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Chapter 267 Father And Daughter By Blood

Harietta was so startled that she started crying loudly.

Without missing a beat, Lenora quickly embraced her.

+10 Free Coins

Suddenly, a pair of hands reached out from behind, swiftly scooping Harietta into an embrace before she could.

As she turned around, Lenora found herself face to face with Zachary

He held Harietta in his arms with one hand, while gently wiping away the teardrops on her face with the other. He softly cooed, "Hattie, don't cry. Your uncle is here. If you don't want to leave, you don't have to. No one can force you." Harietta buried her small face into Zachary's shoulder, sobbing quietly.

Zachary gently patted her back, his gaze shifting toward Tamara. His expression was nonchalant as he said, "Aunt Tamara, since you're back, you should properly spend the New Year here. If not, maybe you should return. I believe Lofbury suits you better." Tamara looked at Zachary in disbelief. "Zack, are you really driving me away? I'm your aunt, and you're doing this for this woman..."

The woman you're talking about, she's the one I love! respect you as my elder, but if you can't even keep up appearances for the next few days, then I'm afraid I can't tolerate you!" Zachary's expression was grave, his demeanor exceptionally serious. Lenora glanced at him, her face expressionless.

He had let the culprit who caused Gerald's death go free, claiming he had his reasons, yet refused to disclose what those reasons were.

The person he held dear in his heart should have been Susanna, he had already admitted to that.

"Fine, fine, fine!" Tamara sneered in frustration, "You're so taken with her now, you don't even recognize your own aunt!"

With a cold huff, she strode upstairs. As she passed by Lenora, she shot him a stern look. "For Zack's sake, I won't hold anything against you. But from now on, don't even think about getting close to Hattie!"

After she finished speaking, she hurriedly ascended the stairs.

Once her figure had vanished at the stairwell, Allison consoled Lenora, "Nora, don't heed your aunt's reckless words. I've spoiled her, and she tends to make a fuss when things don't go her way. It's been like this for so many years." Sigh. "Grandma, I understand."

The elderly couple had shown kindness to Lenora, so she was willing to tolerate a few harmless insults from Tamara. After all, she only had to see her once or twice a year.

"Does this mean I really can't play with Aunt Lenora anymore?" Harietta muttered softly, wrapping her small arms around Zachary's neck. Her big, red eyes stared at Lenora with a look of reluctance.

"Of course not," Zachary immediately responded, "If you want to hang out with Aunt Lenora, no one can

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Chapter 267 Father And Daughter By Blood

stop you."

-What if grandma gets angry?"

"Grandma was just upset for a moment, besides, you have me.

"Mmm." Harietta leaned her head on Zachary's shoulder, displaying a deep sense of trust.

With their similar features, they looked even more like a true father and daughter.

Allison gazed at the scene before her, and recalling Tamara's demeanor, her expression shifted. An unbelievable thought surfaced in her mind.

Could it be, was Hattie truly Zachary's biological daughter?

Tamara had been living alone for many years, so how did she suddenly get the idea to adopt a child?

This child bore such a striking resemblance to Zachary

Moreover, Harietta was perfectly healthy, so why had her parents abandoned her?

How could it be possible for Tamara, a bachelor, to adopt a healthy child?

But Allison knew well, Zachary was not the type to mess around outside. If he was the father of the child, then who was the mother?

Could it be that she was overthinking things?

The old lady's mind was a whirlwind of thoughts, akin to a tangled mess, but she didn't let it show.

At noont, everyone managed to have lunch peacefully. Lenora spent some time with Allison before excusing herself, claiming she had matters to attend to

She drove to the cafe where she had arranged to meet Connor. Connor was already waiting at a corner

spot.

His eyes kept darting toward the door, anxiety gnawing at him. His palms were clammy with sweat, gripped by the fear that Lenora would deliver a harsh verdict, "Lenora, you've arrived."

Lenora took a seat in front of him.

Watching Lenora calmly ordering coffee from the waiter, Connor couldn't help but clench his fists.

As soon as the waiter left, he couldn't wait to prove his worth. "Lenora, I've asked my dad about Mr. Wagner's situation," he said.

To be honest, his mind was a chaotic mess that day, his heart filled with a sense of desolation.

Lenora was young, beautiful, and wealthy. In this day and age, being divorced was hardly a big deal and, in fact, it did him a huge favor.

And what about him? He had nothing and only caused Lenora constant worry.

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Chapter 267 Father And Daughter By Blood

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+10 Free Coins

After everything that had happened, Connor couldn't understand why Lenora hadn't broken up with him.

Upon returning home, his first order of business was to inquire his father about the things Lenora had assigned him. In his quest for answers, he spun a web of lies, hoping to obtain useful information for Lenora. At least that way, he could prove that he was of some use. Lenora was surprised. She had assumed that he wouldn't have the inclination to ask in these past few days.

"Do tell."

"My dad told me that the money Mr. Wagner borrowed was indeed from Gaston. Gaston was my dad's childhood friend. When my dad was young, his family ran into trouble, and his grandparents were sent to reform. He was sent to live with relatives, who sold him to the family of my current grandparents. Later, my dad ran into Gaston while he was working in the city... To be honest, I didn't even know my dad had been sold off like that. He's older now, and he doesn't seem to mind.

Lenora lowered her gaze, a subtle glimmer flashing in her eyes. She nodded. "I get it now."

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Chapter 268 I Just Want To Be With Your

15 Free Coing

No wonder the police couldn't locate Richie. The layer of complexity were too deep. He had been trafficked a long time ago, so long ago that even Connor had no idea.

The waiter had brought over the coffee. Lenora gently stirred it, contemplating how to initiate a conversation with Connor.

She had already received two crucial pieces of information from Connor. One was the whereabouts of Gaston, and the other was the relationship between Gaston and Richie.

Asking any more questions might not be feasible, if she ask too many, Richie might become suspicious

The next step was to hand it over to the police.

So, in other words, Connor was of no use to her anymore.

Connor noticed Lenora's silence, his heart was filled with unease. Anxiously, he asked, "Lenora, have you made up your mind? Are you going to break up with me? Lenora lowered her gaze, preparing her choice of words.

Perhaps, using the situation with Madison as a pretext, it would be best to break up with Connor directly.

She wouldn't reveal the fact that she had intentionally gotten close to Connor, and she could naturally distance herself from Connor.

However, her actions were indeed heartless and selfish,

She was destined to let Connor down.

However, it was better to get the pain over with, rather than prolong the agony. She should clarify things with him at that moment.

Connor nervously watched Lenora. Seeing her silence, he had already condemned himself inwardly, yet a

limmer of hope still lingered in his eyes.

Just as Lenora was about to speak, suddenly, a shadow fell over them, a figure stood by the table.

She looked up, instantly meeting Zachary's dark and brooding gaze.

His expression was muted, his eyelashes cast downward as he gazed at her from a higher position, his gaze too intense to be ignored.

He was dressed in a crisp suit and shirt, his tie meticulously knotted, adorned with an exquisite tie clip Over at all, he wore a simple black overcoat, which accentuated his well-proportioned figure. He exuded an aura of someone in a position of power. Taken aback, Lenora glanced at Connor across from him, then stood up to look at Zachary. "Why are you here?"

Before Zachary could speak, Connor stood up and nodded. "Mr. Fuller."

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He let out a sigh of relief, no longer having the energy to concern himself with Zachary's ex-husband's identity. He was just grateful that he had arrived in tim

He understood what Lenora was about to say.

However, he really didn't want to break up, so he used this as an excuse to become a deserter.

"Lenora, it seems like Mr. Fuller needs to discuss something with you. You two chat, I'll take my leave for now, we can talk more later."

Connor didn't wait for a response and immediately left the café.

Watching Connor's retreating figure, Lenora was left utterly speechless.

She moved her lips slightly, her gaze shifting back to Zachary. "What are you here for?"

With an impassive expression, Zachary took a seat at Connor's spot. He crossed his legs and leaned back into the chair, resting his elbows on the armrests. His fingers interlocked in front of him as he looked up at her. "Did you arrange to meet Connor here?" Lenora also took a seat, sipping her coffee. "Yes."

The atmosphere suddenly became tense.

Zachary then asked, "You two haven't broken up yet?"

In surprise, Lenora looked up at him.

Suddenly, an idea struck her. She tightened her grip on the spoon, squinting at Zachary. "We were doing so well in our relationship, why would we break up?"

Zachary's eyes were intense as he arched his eyebrows, "Playing innocent? Do you think I'm unaware of what happened at the hot spring resort?"

Lenora casually said, "What's the big deal? It was just an accident after a few drinks. If Ms. Schmidt wasn't bothered by it, why should I be?"

Upon hearing this, Zachary stared at her intently, a flicker of disbelief flashing in his eyes.

He gritted his teeth. "What did you say? An accident? What do you have to fuss about?"

"Right, he was drunk, and unconscious-

Zachary cut her off, his eyebrows furrowed into a deep frown as he stared at her intently. "Whether he was aware of it or not, he cheated! Moreover, he's known Madison for a long time, how can you be so sure he didn't deceive you on purpose?" "What does this have to do with you?"

Lenora began to develop a headache.

Zachary had already been pressuring her to break up with Connor.

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She really had no idea how Zachary would pester her after they broke up.

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Zachary stared at Lenora for a few seconds, and then suddenly burst into laughter. "So, you like him that much? You can even accept his infidelity, but not me? Whatever he can give you, I can too. Even what he can't, I can!"

Contrary to what one might think, it was precisely because she didn't fancy Connor that she felt it didn't matter, allowing her to act rationally.

Because her love for Zachary was so profound, she was easily hurt by him and found herself unable to let

Lenora said, "Emotional infidelity is still infidelity. Don't forget, you just admitted the day before yesterday, the one you like is Susanna."

Zachary gazed at her, his eyes filled with pain, his expression unreadable and obscured..

After a long while, he murmured, "Nora, I had no other choice, you know well that I like you..."

"I don't"

Lepora said calmly, "So, you're accusing me of double standards, right? All right. I can break up with him. I never had to reconcile, and do the same with you. What do you think? That seems fair, doesn't it?"

Listening to her icy words, a chilling coldness pierced Zachary's heart. He raised a hand to pinch the bridge of his nose, lowering his head in exhaustion. "Do you truly feel this way?"

"Yes, what do you think?"

Zachary fell silent for a few seconds. Suddenly, a hint of a smile tugged at the corner of his mouth, his eyes flashing with an eerie yet unwavering light. "Let me make this clear," he said, "There's no way out! You won't be able to get rid of me in this lifetime!"
"Zachary, you..."

Suddenly, Zachary stood up, grasping her wrist as he led her outside.

"What are you doing? Let go!"

Lenora struggled, but Zachary's grip only tightened.

Upon reaching the parking lot of the cafe, he swiftly opened the passenger door, ushered Lenora inside, and fastened her seatbelt for her.

With a soft thud, the door closed behind him. He then walked around to the driver's side, pulled open the car door, and settled himself in.

Lenora unbuckled her seatbelt and immediately tried to open the car door, but it was too late. The central locking system had been activated, and no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't get the door open.

Leaning against the back of the chair in a cool manner, Lenora asked, "Zachary, what exactly are you trying to do?!" "Break up with him!"

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"No."

Zachary took a letter out of the glove compartment and tossed it into Lenora's hand.

Lenora opened it and was taken aback to find an intimate photograph of Connor and Madison.

"I urge you to think this through," he warned, "If you don't break up, such photos will only continue to multiply!" [SEARCH THE find novel.NET website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

A memory of the broken surveillance system from that day suddenly flashed in Lenora's mind, leading her to a startling realization. She stared at Zachary in disbelief. "Did you orchestrate the events of that day? "Indeed."

"Why did you do it?" Lenora questioned.

In his quest to tear her apart from Connor, he had shockingly entangled an innocent girl into the

situation!

No wonder she found the situation so coincidental, it turns out it was all orchestrated by Zachary Madison must have been drugged or intoxicated that day!

"You're insane!"

With a nonchalant smile, Zachary spoke in a tone that was calm yet tinged with a hint of madness. "You're right, I've lost my mind! All I want is to be with you. I will never let go in this lifetime. Either you reconcile with me, or you stay single forever!" Lenora glared at him, her eyes filled with pain, anger, disbelief, and a myriad of complex emotions...

Her original plan had been to use Connor to deter Zachary. Yet, unexpectedly, it only made Zachary more

relentless.

If she refused to breakup, there was a chance he might do something even more outrageous.

She truly didn't know what to do with Zachary

"All right, I can break up with Connor, but I hope that you won't involve anyone else in whatever happens. between us next. Respect my wishes, okay?"

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Stay Away 269

Chapter 269 The Breakup

Chapter 269 The Breakup

"Call him and end things now, Zachary said, his face devoid of any

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xion as he looked at her.

After a few moments of silence, Lenora moved her fingers subtly, a look of hesitation etched on her face.

She acknowledged that she had acted unethically concerning Connor's love affair. She had intended to break up with him face-to-face, treating the situation with the gravity it deserved, and in a way that could help soothe his emotions. Breaking up over the phone, especially in front of Zachary, wasn't part of her plan.

Upon noticing Lenora's silence, Zachary glanced at her, his tone carrying an undeniable sense of pressure as he said. "You don't want to do it? Then let me do it for you

He pulled out his phone from the pocket of his overcoat, intending to dial Connor's number.

Obtaining Connor's phone number was a breeze for him.

Lenora immediately gripped his wrist. She stared at him in displeasure, pursing her lips. "Zachary, don't go too far!"

Zachary looked up with firm determination in his eyes. "Too far? I've always been like this. Didn't you know that all along?"

Lenora was absolutely livid.

He's utterly despicable and shameless!

The two locked gazes and an indescribable tension seemed to hang in the air between them.

A few seconds later, Lenora finally took a step back. She lowered her gaze, leaned against the seat, and pulled out her phone to call Connor.

"Put it on speaker," Zachary reminded.

"Busybody."

Lenora rolled her eyes and switched to speakerphone.

The call connected, and Connor's voice came through from the other end of the line.

"Lenora?"

The inside of the car was eerily quiet. His tentative voice echoed through the silence.

Lenora hesitated for a moment and responded, "Connor."

Connor seemed to detect the shift in Lenora's emotions. His voice was filled with panic.

"Lenora, are you... are you breaking up with me?"

"I'm sorry, Connor. I think we should break up."

"Lenora-"

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Chapter 269 The Breakup

"As you know, my last marriage ended in divorce because of my ex-husband's ambiguous relationship with his ex-girlfriend. This matter had a profound impact on me. I thought about it for a long time and realized that I still couldn't come to terms with it." The ex-husband, who was indirectly referenced, glanced at her before lowering his gaze.

Zachary had already realized that he had made a grave mistake. The damage was done, and all he wanted now was to win her back and make amends,

Connor choked out. "Lenora, I'm sorry, I'm truly sorry

"Connor, don't blame yourself. I know it's not your fault. You shouldn't carry this guilt."

As she spoke, Lenora shot Zachary a fierce glare.

You despicable capitalist!

You're immoral and only care about yourself.

If it weren't for you, Connor wouldn't have been so hard on himself.

Lenora was genuinely afraid that Connor was blaming himself too much, burdened by immense pressure, and unable to overcome this hurdle.

She couldn't bring herself to reveal the truth to him.

Several days had passed since that day, and Zachary had already taken care of everything

Given Connor's youthful temperament, he was not one to take things lying down. However, without evidence, he risked inviting Zachary's retaliation. Ultimately, he would be the one at a disadvantage.

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It was all because of her that Connor was ruined. She deceived a man who had eyes and heart filled only with her, and yet now she had the audacity to accuse him.

Lenora was disgusted by herself.

Zachary touched his nose, looking away.

Connor wasn't being overly persistent or annoying. He was just filled with immense self-reproach.

After comforting him for a considerable amount of time, Lenora ended the call.

She turned off her phone, put it away, and looked coldly at Zachary. "Are you happy now?" "Yeah"

Zachary started the car.

"Tye done as you asked. I hope you can keep your promise and respect my opinion."

Zachary focused on the road ahead, driving attentively

Respect her opinion?

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That depends on what the opinion is.

The two returned to the Fuller residence.

Johanne's and Nathan's family had all arrived.

As per tradition, the entire family would gather for a meal together on New Year's Eve.

However, unlike previous times, this year's reunion dinner was missing one person. Lenora felt a little sad as she thought about it.

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In the living room, Allison was engaged in conversation with Mallory and Griselda. Meanwhile, Johanne was seated on a couch on the other side, discussing something with Stanley who was next to him Harrietta and Ryan were at the table in the dining hall, engaging in childlike banter.

After exchanging greetings with them, Lenora took a seat next to Mallory. "Mallory" Mallory nodded with a smile.

Her smile seemed rather forced as if she had to strain to produce it.

She appeared to be somewhat under the weather, with faint shadows under her eyes.

Lenora asked with concern. "Mallory, are you sick?"

Upon hearing this, Johanne cast a glance at Mallory.

Slightly taken aback, Mallory flashed another small smile at Lenora. "No."

She glanced at Zachary, who had entered behind Lenora, and leaned slightly toward her. In a low voice. she asked, "Have you made up with Zack?"

"No." Lenora looked up at Zachary

He sat down next to Stanley, his long legs crossed in an elegant manner.

The three brothers sat side by side. At first glance, Johanne seemed to bear a resemblance to Stanley. Strangely enough, it was Zachary who appeared to be the odd one out, even though he and Johanne were brothers from the same household. Allison and Griselda also looked up.

Somehow, Griselda started complaining about Stanley He's already twenty-seven and he still doesn't have a girlfriend."

Leaning against the back of the couch, Stanley let out a helpless chuckle and rubbed the back of his neck.

The scars left from the hot spring resort still remained

Mom, don't worry. It won't be long now."

Griselda's face lit up with surprise and delight. "Really? Quick, tell me who it is!"

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"You'll find out when the time comes," Stanley said, keeping her in suspense.

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After a while of chatting, Lenora found the conversation dull. She informed Allison before heading upstairs.

Not long after she settled in the room, a knock resonated from outside.

She rose to her feet and opened the door, only to find Harrietta standing outside.

Harrietta glanced over her shoulders, acting as if she were a thief. She darted into the room and hurriedly shut the door behind her.

With a chuckle, Lenora asked, "What's gotten into you?"

"I'm afraid Grandma will see me," Harrietta said seriously.

Upon hearing this, Lenora could no longer find it in herself to laugh. She bent down to embrace her and said, "It's okay. There's nothing to be afraid of. Even if your grandma sees you, it's not a problem. You can play with whoever you want." Harrietta looked at Lenora with her big eyes. "But I'm afraid Grandma will be mad at me and won't want me anymore."

Seeing her expression, Lenora felt an unbearable heartache. "If she doesn't want you, you still have me and Uncle Zachary. Your uncle mentioned that if you decide to stay in the country, he will register you as her daughter." Search The (f)indNOVEL.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"He will register me as her daughter?" Harrietta asked, tilting her head.

"Yes, you will officially be our daughter. So, don't be afraid. We're all your family."

Harrietta's eyes lit up. She lunged toward Lenora, almost knocking her over in the process.

The two of them collapsed onto the bed together, their heads touching.

Harrietta spoke in a childish tone about her playtime with her new friend, Ryan.

"Ryan told me he's been really unhappy. His parents have been fighting and haven't spoken to each other for days. His mom even mentioned divorcing his dad.

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Stay Away 270

Chapter 270 They Really Are Brothers

Upon hearing that, Lenora was taken aback for a moment.

When it was time to prepare dinner, she descended the stairs to lend a hand.

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Griselda and Mallory were both bustling about in the kitchen, preparing and chopping vegetables. Zachary was also there, deveining shrimp and chopping ribs,

Only Allison and two children were in the living room

Lenora glanced at Mallory, then at Johanne who was busy marinating chicken legs. The couple seemed to be having issues, with no signs of communication or interaction at all. Mallory wouldn't even glance at Johanne. Johanne had tried several times to catch Mallory's attention. only to withdraw his gaze each time.

The reunion dinner was incredibly lavish, with a whole table filled to the brim.

When it was time for dinner, the family gradually gathered and sat around the table.

Mallory deliberately chose her seat and gestured toward the spot next to Lenora "Add two children's chairs here, so Ryan and Hattie can sit together."

Lenora knew she didn't want to sit with Johanne, so she simply nodded in agreement.

When Tamara descended the stairs. Harrietta was already comfortably seated next to Lenora, engaged in conversation with Ryan.

A hint of displeasure was evident on her face. As she took a seat next to Allison, she called out to Harrietta, "Hattie, come over here."

Harrietta looked up and pouted, "Grandma, I want to sit with Aunt Lenora."

Before Lenora could speak, Mallory interjected, "Aunt Tamara, let Hattie sit here with Ryan."

She used the child as an excuse to speak on behalf of Lenora.

Tamara wanted to say something more, but Allison tugged at her wrist. "Cut it out. We're having a reunion dinner."

Tamara gave Lenora a cold glance, then remained silent.

During dinner, Johanne took the initiative to serve Mallory some dishes. However, Mallory didn't spare him a glance, nor did she touch any of the food he had served her. After having their reunion dinner, they gathered in the living room and played poker. [SEARCH THE Find_Novel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Meanwhile, Lenora and Harrietta played dice at the dining table.

Ryan joined Harrietta, and they soon scampered off to the courtyard to play.

Only Lenora and Mallory were left at the table.

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Lenora glanced at the poker table and asked, "Mallory, did you fight with Johanne?"

Mallory gave her a surprised look.

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Lenora smiled and said, "You two were so obvious. From afternoon till now, the words you exchanged can be counted on one hand" Mallory flashed a bitter smile and shook her head.

Seeing that she was unwilling to talk, Lenora didn't press her further.

After a few seconds, Mallory suddenly asked, "Nora, how did you feel when you first found out that Zack was seeing other women?" Lenora was taken aback for a moment. Did Johanne cheat on her?

She reflected on her state of mind during that time. It was only six months ago, yet it felt as though it belonged to another lifetime.

"How did I feel... I was probably devastated... The day before he returned from his business trip, I had just found out that I was pregnant. I was looking forward to sharing the good news with him, but who would have expected..." Lenora's voice trailed off as she stared blankly into the distance.

She withdrew her gaze, a faint smile of relief appearing on her face. "But all that's in the past now, so figuring out what you truly want is what matters most. From what I can tell, it seems like Johanne doesn't want a divorce, right?"

Back then, she was burdened by love, secretly hoping that Zachary would change his mind. This led to her wasting so much time and, ironically, incurring even more pain.

She knew now it was better to get the pain over with, rather than prolong the agony.

Had she been able to cut the ties swiftly and divorced Zachary at an early stage, perhaps she wouldn't have lost her child, and maybe Gerald's sudden departure could have been avoided.

Mallory gave a bitter smile. "What I truly want..."

She was hurt, and she couldn't just act as if nothing had happened and continue her life with Johanne

Once the divorce was finalized, Ryan was certain to stay with the Fuller family, while she would have to leave her child behind.

"I really don't know what I want... Last month, I heard a woman's voice from his phone. He didn't explain anything and acted evasive when he was on the call... He never used to hide from me when he was talking to women. Whether it was his female secretary or female friends, I knew about them all. That's when I started to pay attention. Until one day, I smelled another woman's perfume on him. There were strands of hair that weren't mine, and there were scratches on his hands and neck, obviously left by a woman's

nails, After I confronted him, he claimed that he and that woman were innocent... I asked him who the woman. was, but he wouldn't say... Does he think I'm a fool?"

Mallory still had feelings for Johanne.

However, she just couldn't get past that hurdle in her heart.

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Chapter 270 They Really Are Brothers.

Lenora couldn't make the choice for her. She could only feel a touch of melancholy

10 Free Coins

When she first arrived at the Fuller residence, Mallory and Johanne had been deeply in love. By the time she started her freshman year, they had a grand and romantic wedding ceremony, in which she bore witness to everything.

Later on, Mallory became pregnant. However, she was unable to carry the child to term. After a long period of recuperation, she finally had Ryan.

Lenora had once admired Mallory, envying the loving relationship she shared with her spouse and the harmony and happiness that pervaded their family.

Now, cracks had begun to appear in the once harmonious family.

They really are brothers.

Lenora cast a glance at Zachary, who was at the poker table.

To her surprise, Zachary looked over at the same time, and their eyes met.

Immediately, Lenora averted her gaze.

A glint of amusement flashed in Zachary's eyes, and he continued to play cards.

"I'll go check on Ryan and Hattie outside." Mallory said, standing up to leave after looking behind Lenora.

"I'll go too."

Lenora took a sip of water and rose to her feet.

Suddenly, there was a loud thud.

"Ouch!"

Lenora's entire face scrunched up. She clutched the back of her head as she turned to look at Zachary behind her. "When did you get here? You didn't make a sound when you walked!" Zachary held his chin, a hint of grievance in his eyes. "How was I supposed to know you'd suddenly stand up?"

Lenora rolled her eyes, rubbed her head, and turned to walk away.

Zachary turned his head to look at her back, then quickened his pace to follow her.

There was an event happening in the residential area. Harrietta and Ryan were no longer in the courtyard. and Mallory was also absent.

Before Lenora could even reach the main entrance, Zachary had already caught up with her, grabbing her

wrist. "Nora."

"What's the matter?"

"I'm sorry," Zachary said in a low voice.

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He had heard what she had said just moments ago.

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The day before his return from a business trip, she had discovered she was pregnant. Filled with joy, she eagerly awaited his return, ready to share the wonderful news with him.

She waited for him at the airport for several hours, but he never showed up.

She sat on the couch, waiting until the depths of the night took over and sleep claimed her.

The light in the living room was left on for him.

Back then, he simply didn't understand what it all meant, until a certain day he was greeted by darkness. when he returned home.

Lenora arched an eyebrow at him. "What is it again now?"

Why did he suddenly apologize?

The warm, amber light in the courtyard spilled onto Zachary's face. His prominent nose acted like a horizon line, half blocking the source of light, while the other half of his face was lost in the shadows. His eyes were as dark as night. He gazed at Lenora for a long while before he gently shook his head. "Nothing. Happy New Year."