

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

Stay Away 351

Chapter 351 Why So Ruthless

Chapter 351 Why So Ruthless

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She remembered those days when she was bullied the most. In her dreams, her mother returned, cradling her and promising never to leave again. She had friends at school, and nobody bullied her anymore.

Awakening from her dream, she found herself in the chilling solitude of her bed, enveloped by the pitch-black night. She curled herself up, tears streaming down her face in a silent cry for help.

Dreams like these were most frequent during her primary school years. As she gradually aged, they became increasingly rare.

She couldn't recall the last time she had such a dream, but it had been at least a decade.

Once upon a time, Lenora would find herself wondering where "she" could be now. Did she remarry? Why was she so cruel, never bothering to visit? Had she already found another child to love, leaving her cast aside?

At times, she resented "her" for leaving her behind, while at other moments, she wondered if "her" actions were driven by her difficulties.

Later on, she stopped yearning for a mother and no longer held resentment toward "her." She simply acted as if such a person didn't exist in the world.

After her father's death, she stumbled and fumbled her way through the many years that followed.

In the vastness of the world, Lenora had never imagined that the two of them would meet again.

Fate's design took her by surprise.

It turned out "she" was the second wife of the patriarch of the Hoffman family.

When her father passed away, had "she" seen the news? Did she know she was adopted by the Fuller family?

That day, when "she" had her subordinates take her to the hospital, did she know that the girl she was dealing with was the very daughter "she" had abandoned years ago?

As Lenora recalled the words "she" had spoken at the hospital, a hint of mockery surfaced on her lips.

"She" surely knew about it.

Yet, "she" still forced her to apologize to Donovan, mistakenly believing that Harrietta was her daughter while continuing to use Harrietta as a threat against her.

In "her" eyes, she didn't even compare to Summer.

Lenora couldn't help but laugh.

This was the mother she had yearned for so much during her childhood.

Though she had long ceased to hope, she still found it both tragic and ludicrous that she used to yearn for her mother's warmth as a child.

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The cold wind brushed against her face, causing a tingling numbness on her skin

She felt as though something was lodged in her chest, unspeakable and impossible to vent

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Just after seven in the evening. Jeahron was alive and bustling. The streets were brightly lit on both sides. filled with a constant flow of people, resembling a city that never slept Unaware of the passing time, Lenora found himself by the shores of Xosa Beach

She halted her steps, leaning against the stone railing, her gaze fixed on the sea, unmoving

Suddenly, her WhatsApp notification sounded.

Lenora glanced at the message that came in. It was from Zachary's account, but the tone of the message clearly indicated it was Harrietta. It wrote: Aunt Lenora, do you have time for a video call now! Taken aback for a moment, Lenora responded: Yes, sure

A video call came through immediately. Lenora answered it and a little girl, looking as delicate as a porcelain doll, appeared on his phone screen. Her skin was fair and smooth, with a sheen like silk. Her pupils were vivid and bright. Her nose was small and delicate, and her full and rosy. There were

two flakes of pastry on the corners of her mouth as if she had just enjoyed a snack.

Upon seeing Harrietta, who was intelligent, adorable, well-behaved, and beautiful. Lenora's turbulent emotions instantly calmed down considerably. "Hi, Hattie."

Upon seeing the pitch-black backdrop behind Lenora as if she were outside, Harrietta curiously asked, "Aunt Lenora, aren't you attending the award ceremony tonight?"

-Something unexpected came up. I'm outside right now." Lenora said with a smile, lifting her phone to give a full spin and allowing Harrietta a glimpse of her surroundings. Harrietta furrowed her brows, expressing her concern. "Will you still have a trophy, Aunt Lenora?"

"Yes. I'll show you once I get back."

"Aunt Lenora, I also want to go-

Before Harrietta could finish speaking, a familiar male voice chimed in. "Hattie, it's time for your bath."

Harrietta looked up, pouting in dissatisfaction. "I'm talking to Aunt Lenora!"

"You can continue after your bath."

A large hand appeared on the screen, lightly touching Harrietta's head.

"Hattie, go and take a bath," Lenora suggested, "We can talk afterward."

"Aunt Lenora, wait for me," Harrietta said as she put down the phone and left.

Suddenly, the screen started to shake, and Zachary's handsome face appeared in the video, his deep features delivering a powerful impact.

He glanced at the street scene behind Lenora, then asked, "Has the award ceremony ended?"

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"I didn't participate"

""What's wrong?"

"Something unexpected happened. Someone else had to collect it on my behalf."

"What is it?" Zachary asked.

"It's not a big deal. Lenora evaded the question without giving a direct answer."

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Zachary gazed at her expression on the screen. "Your emotions are not conveying the same message to

me."

He could tell that she was somewhat upset.

Lenora hadn't expected Zachary to be so perceptive. Her eyes flickered, and she pressed her lips together. "Don't worry. I'll adjust quickly."

"No matter what happens, I want you to know that Hattie and I will always have your back." Zachary said, gazing earnestly at Lenora on the screen.

Though they clearly had no particular connection, the sight of his gaze inexplicably brought a significant calm to Lenora's heart. His voice held a certain enchanting quality that, in an instant, soothed the worries in her heart. However, it was impossible for Lenora to admit it in front of Zachary.

She said, "You don't need to do that as long as I have Hattie by my side."

Seeing her still in the mood to jest, Zachary let his guard down and chuckled. "So, would you say that your trip to Jeahron was in vain?"

Lenora paused for a moment, then chuckled. "I suppose so."

"Are you coming back tomorrow?"

Lenora shook her head. "I don't know yet. Anyway, I won't be returning tomorrow."

"Why?" Zachary looked up.

"Since I have some free time, I might as well stay here for a couple more days," Lenora responded.

Zachary moved his lips, as if he wanted to say something, but then he didn't

"I'm heading back to the hotel, Lenora said.

"No need to hang up."

"All right"

Lenora hailed a taxi to return to the hotel. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

After arriving at the hotel, Harrietta had also finished taking a bath. She was so tired that she could barely keep her eyes open. She greeted Lenora before heading off to sleep.

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After Lenora ended the video call, her emotions had completely settled down.

Upon initially receiving the news about Jasmine, she simply couldn't comprehend it for a moment.

After conversing with Zachary and Harrietta for a while, she quickly regained her composure and understood the situation.

She was already twenty-six, no longer in need of a mother's love.

Given that Jasmine had never treated her as a daughter, it was only fitting for her to regard the former as a stranger.

On Tuesday, Lenora went sightseeing alone. She took some pictures and incidentally bought quite a few souvenirs. Many of them were intended for Harrietta, while the rest were just casual purchases for others.

In the evening, Lenora, adhering to her meetup with Ezekiel, made her way to Harfush Club.

Lately, Summer had been feeling down. She decided to lift her spirits by arranging a get-together with a few of her close girlfriends at Harfush Club.

Upon exiting the elevator, Summer caught a glimpse of a figure in the distance, one that felt incredibly familiar. Upon closer inspection, she realized it was Lenora.

A hint of resentment flashed in Summer's eyes.

Lenora had shown up in Jahron, undoubtedly there to attend the award ceremony.

Summer reckoned the first prize was meant to be hers and that she should have been the one standing at the award ceremony's stage.

Had it not been for Lenora, how could she have lost the first prize, been scolded by Ezekiel, publicly apologized, and lost all her dignity?

She walked over and glanced at the room number on the door that Lenora had entered. She then descended the stairs to the reception desk and asked, "Who booked Room 708?"

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Chapter 352 How Could She Ever Be Worthy

Summer often came here. Hence, the staff recognized her, greeting her with a flattering smile.

Then, the waiter spoke frankly about the guests in the VIP room. "Mr. Winfrey had requested this a couple of days ago, and Mr. Hoffman is already here."

Summer's expression instantly changed. It's Ezekiel?

"Is there anyone else?"

"It seems like... Mr. Campbell, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Harland are also present."

The color drained from Summer's face instantly.

These were all wealthy young men who had good ties with Ezekiel. Some were intelligent and successful in their careers, while others lived a life of leisure relying on their family's wealth. However, each one of them came from a complex and significant background. Without an intermediary, it would have been impossible for Lenora to share a private room with them.

Ezekiel was the middleman.

Ezekiel actually took Lenora to meet his friends?

Why?

Could it be that he was fond of Lenora, determined to be with her?

How could Lenora, a divorced woman, ever be worthy of him?

Summer clenched her fists tightly. She felt a surge of frustration welling up in her chest with nowhere to

Vent.

Lenora lacks self-awareness. Why would she just show up whenever Ezekiel beckons?

Can't she have a good look of herself in the mirror?

Upon returning to the seventh floor, Summer made a beeline for Room 708.

She had to show Lenora who was boss,

Halfway through her walk, Summer suddenly came to a halt.

No, this won't work. If I openly target Lenora, Ezekiel will surely be upset.

With a flicker in her eyes, Summer reached for her phone. She opened a specific chat on WhatsApp and began to type: Howard, could you possibly come to Harjush Club .

He should be in the private room now, right?

Howard Winfrey quickly responded: I'll be there in ten minutes.

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Chapter 352 How Could She Ever Be Worthy

Howard asked next: What's wrong. Summer?

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Unexpectedly, Summer found that he hadn't arrived yet, but it didn't matter. She texted: Once you get here, come find me in the booth on the first floor. I have something to tell you. He replied: Okay.

A glint of amusement flashed in Summer's eyes as she pocketed her phone and made her way to the first

Floor

She had always known that Howard harbored feelings for her.

However, she couldn't respect him because he was nothing more than a carefree playboy, always indulging in eating, drinking, and entertainment. He had no interest in pursuing a proper profession or acquiring any real skills. However, she could keep him by her side.

Ten minutes later, Howard, clad in a leather jacket and tight pants, arrived at Harfush Club. He found Summer at the booth and took a seat directly across from her. With a smile, he asked, "Summer, what did you want to see me about?" Summer mentioned something trivial, expressing her concern for him. This greatly touched Howard, leaving a smile lingering on his lips.

Casually, Summer asked, "Oh, by the way, where were you when I sent you the message? You arrived so quickly."

"I was on my way here. Even if you hadn't messaged me, I would have still come."

"Oh? Have you arranged a date with a beauty?" Summer knowingly asked, feigning ignorance.

"No, it was Ezekiel who invited us. Don't believe me? Ask him yourself."

"I won't ask him. Given how busy Ezekiel has been recently, why would he suddenly invite all of you out?" "He mentioned bringing a student for us to meet, to look after in the future," Howard said with a smile.

They were a group of individuals with extensive connections throughout Jeahron. With just a slight nod of attention, they could keep the photographer's bookings coming in non-stop.

Summer looked shocked, thinking to herself that Ezekiel definitely had ulterior motives for his actions. "Surprised, aren't you? When I first found out, I was taken aback too. It doesn't seem like him."

Ezekiel was a photographer himself, with a wealth of resources at his disposal. If he took a shine to a student, he could directly provide them with these resources. He had never brought anyone into their circle. After all, photography was Ezekiel's personal passion, and none of his friends shared this interest.

"Indeed, do you know what this student's name is?"

Howard began to think seriously, "I forgot. I think it was the one who won first prize in this year's photography competition. What was it again... Nora something?"

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Chapter 352 How Could She Ever Be Worthy

"Lenora?"

"Yes, that's her."

Upon noticing Summer's peculiar demeanor, Howard was puzzled and asked, "What's wrong?"

"You don't know Lenora?" Summer raised an eyebrow

"Should I know her?" he questioned, a hint of uncertainty in his voice.

"She was originally the foster daughter of the Fuller family from Jacaster. Somehow, she ended up in the bed of the Fuller family's second young master, Zachary Fuller. When the elders of the Fuller family found out, it caused quite a stir. However, Zachary never really care girlfriend returned, he divorced her."

Summer sighed and continued, "A while back, I went to Jacaster with my aunt. She told me that Lenora has been relentlessly pursuing Ezekiel. When my cousin went on his cultural excursion, she insisted on tagging along. You know my uncle has his plans for Ezekiel's m attack."

"Are you serious?"

Howard might not have known about Lenora, but he was certainly familiar with Zachary

"Of course. Why would I lie to you?" Summer raised an eyebrow, "Zachary's ex-girlfriend was a celebrity. and Lenora has also made the news. You can look it up if you don't believe me." Hearing her say this, Howard was convinced.

He furrowed his brows. "Doesn't Ezekiel know? Why is he still keeping such close ties with her?"

"All I can say is that she's quite cunning. Zachary couldn't escape her grasp, and neither could Ezekiel. I'm just afraid that Ezekiel is genuinely falling for her..."

"Don't worry," Howard assured her, "I'll definitely show Ezekiel her true colors."

Even if it wasn't for the sake of Summer, he couldn't just stand by and watch his buddy fall into the trap of a gold-digger.

"Don't tell Ezekiel that I was the one who told you. I'm afraid he'll be upset with me if he finds out."

"Rest assured," Howard promised.

The two exchanged a few more words before Howard reluctantly bid farewell to Summer, heading toward the seventh floor.

Howard paused at the door, leaning in to catch any sounds from within. Then, he pushed the door open and entered.

Ezekiel had already introduced Lenora to his other friends.

Cillian Campbell, the lively and cheerful character, was always chattering away, ensuring there was never a dull moment in the private room.

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Chapter 352 How Could She Ever Be Worthy

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Upon seeing Howard enter, Cillian chuckled and said, "Howie has arrived. Come, let me introduce you to a stunning beauty..."

Howard glanced at Lenora, and before Cillian could speak, he said, "Hey, I know you. Aren't you Zachary's ex-wife?"

With a smile, Lenora asked, "It's me. And you are?"

Cillian and the others subtly signaled to Howard with their eyes.

They could all see that Ezekiel was interested in Lenora. Regardless of what he thought privately, he had to maintain appearances publicly. Wasn't bringing up Zachary here just adding to Ezekiel's frustration? Howard acted as if he hadn't seen anything, casually taking a seat on the couch across the room. "My name is Howard Winfrey, Ezekiel's friend. Zachary is quite a decent guy. Why did you two get a divorce?" he asked. Cillian noticed a slight change in Ezekiel's expression. He subtly kicked Howard's shoe, deftly changing the subject. "Hey, Howie, What have you been up to lately? You've been off the radar."

Howard acted as if he hadn't heard anything, his gaze fixed intently on Lenora, insisting on getting a response from her.

At first, Lenora thought his reaction was merely subconscious, but with his next words, she began to sense Howard's hostility toward her.

Given that he knew she was Zachary's ex-wife, it was impossible for him to be ignorant of the mess between Zachary and Susanna.

"Our personalities didn't match." Lenora provided a vague response.

"Aren't you the adopted daughter of the Fuller family? Haven't you known Zachary's personality for a long time? Why would you marry him if you two are incompatible?" Howard persistently asked. "Howie." Ezekiel suddenly spoke up. "Why are you so talkative tonight?"

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Chapter 353 A Strong Dose Is Necessary

He had only asked a few questions, and Ezekiel couldn't help but stand up for Lenora.

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Howard secretly thought to himself that Lenora's tactics were indeed sophisticated. If he allowed things to continue in this manner, Ezekiel might truly fall into her trap.

"Isn't it just curiosity?" Howard chuckled, wary of upsetting Ezekiel, so he didn't press further with his questions.

He decided to take things one step at a time.

"It's been a while since I had a good game. My hands are itching for some action. Fancy a few rounds?" Cillian gestured toward the card table.

Fearful of creating an awkward atmosphere in the private room, everyone nodded in agreement.

Cillian asked, "Ms. Wilkin, do you know how to play? Would you like to join us?"

They had invited her out of kindness, hoping to make her feel less restrained and more integrated. Lenora appreciated the thought and accepted their invitation. She stood up and walked over to the card table, sitting down before saying. "I've played a few times. I just hop "Ah, don't you know that beginners often have the best luck?" Cillian looked toward Ezekiel. "Ezekiel, are you-

Before he could finish his sentence, Howard took a seat across from Lenora. With a slight smile, he said. "I'm itching for a game myself. I'll join you for a few rounds."

The other two spots were respectively occupied by Ezekiel and Cillian, with everyone else sitting off to the side, observing.

Perhaps Cillian had hit the nail on the head. Lenora was indeed lucky, having won the first two rounds.

The third round was won by Cillian.

Howard wasn't having the best of luck. Despite

ountless attempts, he had only managed to win once-

Lenora and the other two handed him the betting chips

Howard placed the chips of Ezekiel and Cillian into his drawer, leaving only Lenora's. He pushed it back toward her, a playful smirk on his face as he looked at Lenora. "Ms. Wilkin, there's no need to hand over your chips. Let's treat this as a game of Truth Or Dare. If you I With a calm expression, Lenora slid the chips back across the table. "And what if I don't answer?"

A smirk tugged at Howard's lips as he glanced at Ezekiel, undeterred by his intimidating gaze. "Ms. Wilkin, I'm simply curious. There's no harm in your sharing."

She must have climbed onto Zachary's bed, afraid to let Ezekiel find out.

"I'm also curious why are you interested in my marital status, Mr. Winfrey. Do you always approach newly

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acquainted friends with such straightforwardness?"

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Cillian, who was standing next to him, opened Howard's drawer and tossed in the chips. "It's rare for us to get together. Let's just enjoy the game and stop talking nonsense," he said.

Howard was toying with the dice in his hand. "I've just heard a rumor, and I wanted to confirm it with Ms. Wilkin, who's involved in the matter." [SEAR*ch the find novel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Howard!" Ezekiel's spoke sternly, his voice laced with a note of caution.

Howard hesitated for a moment before finally asking. There's a rumor that the reason Ms. Wilkin married Zachary was because she ended up in his bed, and the elders of the Fuller family found out. As someone directly involved, how do you feel about these claims?" At that moment, Howard felt gazes coming at him from all directions.

Particularly, Ezekiel's gaze was as sharp as an arrow.

Sweat trickled down the tip of Howard's nose, a sense of hesitation momentarily surfacing within him. However, he quickly regained his composure.

He stood tall and straight, evoking the image of an unyielding soldier.

Things had reached this point, and if Ezekiel were to blame him, then so be it. He would rather bear Ezekiel's blame than allow Ezekiel to be tainted by the leeches in the future.

One day, Ezekiel would come to realize that all Howard had done was for his sake.

Lenora didn't understand why Howard harbored such hostility toward her. She calmly said. "The fact that you're questioning me like this means you've already made up your mind. Even if I defended myself, you might not believe me. If you're so eager to hear it from the per Howard paused, wanting to say something more, when suddenly, there was a loud noise.

Ezekiel swept all the neatly stacked cards in front of him into the center of the table. The clattering noise was loud.

He lifted his gaze to Howard, who had momentarily frozen, and said coldly, "She's asking you a question! Do you want to hear it straight from Zachary's mouth?"

Howard snapped back to reality, immediately shaking his head. "No... No need for that."

He thought to himself that getting Lenora to admit it verbally was no longer an option. Lenora was too cunning, and Ezekiel would only assume that he was bullying her.

He had to come up with a good plan, a way to reveal the true colors of Lenora to Ezekiel.

"How can you just stop finding out without knowing the outcome? Aren't you curious?" Ezekiel's tone was

icy.

"I was just a bit curious," Howard said with an awkward smile.

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"Carry on. Carry on." Cillian tried to mediate.

"You guys carry on. I'm going to the restroom."

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Lenora glanced at everyone present, then calmly stood up. She left the room without further ado.

Her figure vanished behind the door, leaving the private room in a momentary silence. The atmosphere instantly became oppressive.

Ezekiel's face suddenly darkened, his eyes intensely fixed on Howard. In a deep voice, he said, "Howard, have you lost your mind?"

Howard's expression subtly shifted as he began to explain, "Ezekiel, I'm doing all this for your own good. Don't you see? Lenora is manipulative. She's been with Zachary, but she's too afraid to admit it, fearing I might tarnish her image in front of you."

regard Oswald Murray hesitated for a moment before saying, "Ezekiel, in fact, Howard has a point. If you Lenora as a student, there's nothing wrong with that. But if you have other intentions... Even if Lenora has been married once before, it doesn't really matter. She's jus "Indeed, Ezekiel. I hope you'll give it serious thought," said Robin Harland.

"Everything you've said... I can judge for myself. There's no need for your interference." Ezekiel's gaze swept over them. "If you don't accept her, you don't have to come next time. However, if I ever hear such words again, don't blame me for turning hostile." Ezekiel would never force his friends to accept Lenora, nor would he alienate his friends for the sake of Lenora.

If he found them displeasing to the eye, he could have simply avoided them. But since he chose to meet them, he needed to maintain a decent facade.

Upon hearing his words, Howard let out a sigh.

Ezekiel is truly brainwashed to an extreme degree.

No way. I had to take drastic measures. I need to reel Ezekiel back in.

Lenora emerged from the bathroom and stood by the window for a while.

"Why aren't you heading back?"

Suddenly, a familiar voice echoed by her ears.

When Lenora turned around, she saw Ezekiel standing behind her. She smiled and said, "The room was getting warmer. It's a bit stully inside, so I came out here for some fresh air."

"I'm really sorry," Ezekiel said, "I apologize on behalf of Howie. This guy's way of thinking is a bit different from most people, so don't take his words to heart."

"I know."

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Howard wasn't exactly a significant figure, hardly worli her getting upset over.

"Still up for more? If not, I can take you home."

Lenora paused for a moment. "Let's play a couple more round

She thought that leaving like this wouldn't be quite righ

nws

In the corner of the corridor behind them, a young man stood, watching as the of them walked away. chatting and laughing together. A shadow of gloom filled Zachary's eyes as he watched them After the award ceremony had ended, she remained in Jeahron. Was it because of Ezechiez

Ezekiel brought her to meet his friends, the ones he had known since childhood. When had the and Ezekiel become so close!

Zachary's eyes darkened, and his hands gradually tightened.

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Chapter 354 Is That Zachary

Chapter 354 Is That Zachary

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Upon returning to the private room. Lenora and Howard remained silent. The seat previously occupied by Howard was now taken by Oswald.

Under Cillian's facilitation, the four of them were chatting and laughing as they played cards.

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After a few rounds, Lenora's phone suddenly began to ring.

She glanced at her phone screen, and the incoming call displayed Zachary's name.

Lenora asked Robin to take a turn for her. Then, she got up and went to the corridor to answer a phone call.

"Hello?"

There was silence on the other end of the phone.

There was a pause of several seconds on the line. Lenora asked, "Zachary?"

"Mm." A low masculine voice echoed in Lenora's ears.

"What's the matter?" Lenora felt that Zachary was a bit odd that evening.

"I just had a bit of wine and wanted to hear your voice. Zachary began slowly.

Drinking again? Can your stomach handle it?"

"I know my limits..." He asked casually, "Are you at the hotel right now? Or are you out and about?"

Lenora hesitated for a moment. "I'm outside."

Zachary had just breathed a sigh of relief when Lenora spoke again. "We're having dinner at a restaurant and will be back at the hotel shortly."

He had a misunderstanding with Ezekiel. Knowing she was with Ezekiel, he was bound to lose his temper again.

Zachary was rendered speechless.

He couldn't help but sneer. Lenora is effortlessly spinning her smooth, deceptive tales.

"Really?" He seemed oblivious. "What did you have for dinner?"

Lenora paused for a moment. "Grilled fish."

"Where? I recall there's a pretty decent grilled fish place called 'Morsel Muse' over on Gishwick Road."

Lenora was baffled.

Thankfully, she had tasted grilled fish when she visited Jeahron in the past. She was aware of the grilled fish restaurant. "Flavor Fiesta."

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"I've heard of it but never had it. Take a picture of the menu for me, so I can try it next time I'm in Jeahron.

Lenora was taken aback.

Lenora found the situation a bit odd, but she didn't overthink it. In her mind, she was inwardly criticizing Zachary, Where on earth was she supposed to get a menu for him now? "Hold on. By the way, is there anything else you need? Lenora changed the topic, merely hoping that Zachary would forget about the menu in a while.

"No, I just wanted to hear your voice. You can put your phone aside, and we can chat while you eat."

Lenora was baffled.

"Just a few more bites, and then I'll head back." She contemplated before responding.

One lie eventually leads to another.

Lenora sighed inwardly.

Zachary said, "Even after you've gotten into the taxi, don't hang up. It's late, and I don't want you to encounter any danger alone." Lenora was truly at a loss for words.

After some thought, Lenora ended the call abruptly and turned off her mobile phone.

After she returned to the hotel, she would call Zachary explaining that her phone had run out of battery and had switched off.

She reckoned that was the perfect excuse.

Lenora slipped her phone into her pocket and returned to the private room.

Around the nearby corner, Zachary listened to the disconnected tone in the handset, staring at the darkened screen, a trace of a cold smirk appearing on his face.

Had he not seen it with his own eyes, he might have been truly deceived by Lenora's impressive acting skills.

True to form for someone handpicked by a director from the entertainment industry to act. She really puts on a good

show!

Lenora returned to the private room, where Robin was prepared to give up his seat for her. However, Lenora insisted he finish his current game.

After a few more rounds, Oswald received a phone call and had to excuse himself due to some business. Ezekiel suggested, "Let's call it a day." Following that, the gathering dispersed.

Ezekiel stood up and said to Lenora, "Don't bother hailing a cab. I'm heading in the same direction. I'll give you a ride home."

"All right. Thanks, Ezekiel. Following the host's lead, Lenora didn't refuse.

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Chapter 354 Is That Zachary

Just as Howard reached the door, he scoffed. That intimate, huh?

Lenora followed Ezekiel to the underground garage. They took their seats in the back, one on the left and one on the right, as the driver started the car and drove off.

Within a black sedan not too far away, Zachary spotted the figures of two people. His eyes were a dark abyss as he relayed the hotel address to the driver.

The car came to a halt at the hotel entrance. Lenora stepped out, steadying herself against the car door. She turned around and said, "Ezekiel, thank you. I'm heading up now. Have a safe right back." "Okay. What time is your flight tomorrow? I'll come to see you off."

"Would that be too much trouble for you?"

"No worries. I sent you here, so I'm definitely taking you back," Ezekiel said with a smile on his face, showing no airs.

Lenora responded frankly, "My flight is at one in the afternoon."

"I'll come pick you up around noon and will send you a message when I'm on my way."

"All right. Thanks, Ezekiel. See you tomorrow."

"See you."

you"

Lenora waved goodbye to Ezekiel and entered the hotel

The car remained at a distance, with Ezekiel watching Lenora's figure until it vanished from sight, only then did he instruct the driver to leave.

As Lenora stepped out of the elevator, she simultaneously fumbled for her room key in her bag.

As she rounded the corner, her steps faltered.

A familiar, upright figure stood at the entrance of her room.

Even without seeing his face, she knew it was Zachary.

A thunderous roar echoed in Lenora's mind.

How did he end up in Jeahron?

Given Zachary's status, it was a simple task for him to find out which hotel she was staying at.

Lenora swallowed hard.

About an hour and a half had passed since their phone conversation.

Back then, she had mentioned that she only had a few bites left, and then she would return home. Flavor Fiesta had several branches, yet it took less than half an hour to reach any of them from the hotel. Lenora was pondering if she should perhaps say that she headed to

Chapter 354 Is That Zachary

few things, pretending as if she had returned home early but had actually been cam shopping

With these thoughts in mind, Lenora subtly took a step back before Zachary could conice her

Suddenly, Zachary turned his head and saw her.

Lenora paused momentarily on her second step out, smoothly transitioning into advancing formed Upon reaching her room's entrance, she nonchalantly asked, "What brings you to Jeabrot

Zachary's gaze dropped, landing on Lenora's figure, deep and distant, as he remained silent

Lenora felt increasingly self-conscious under his gaze. "What's wrong" the siked

"Nothing. I was here on a business trip and arrived this morning I've been bosity until now. That's why I only just got the chance to find you," Zachary explained

Just a while ago, his driver had driven fast, allowing him to reach the hotel before Lenora

"Why didn't you get some rest? Why are you here?"

Lenora pushed open the door. Zachary instinctively followed her in, gently closing the door behind him -I tried to call you but couldn't get through. I was worried something might have happened to you, so I had no choice but to wait here," he said. For a fleeting moment, Lenora felt a pang of guilt

Her phone had remained off till now. "Oh, my phone ran out of battery and shut down automatically."

Zachary's lips curled into a casual smile as he asked, seemingly offhandedly. "Didn't you say you'd be back after dinner? Why did you come back so late?"

Lenora paused for a moment, placing her bag on the coffee table. She tried her best to maintain her composure. "I just went for a stroll around the supermarket." "You didn't buy anything?" Zachary glanced at her empty hands.

"I forgot my phone ran out of battery," Lenora responded immediately and smoothly.

She was truly brilliant to have connected her lies together..

"I see. I thought something had happened to you. I called you several times. Don't do this again next time."

"All right."

Lenora gave a nonchalant nod, plugging in her phone to charge. "Now that you know I'm safe, you should go back and rest."

Zachary hesitated for a moment, pointing at the phone's lit-up screen. "It seems like your phone's on."

The moment the turned-off smartphone was plugged in, the screen lit up, indicating the remaining battery life and charging status. Lenora's heart skipped a beat,

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Chapter 354 Is That Zachary

Why are his eyes so sharp?

63%

Chapter 355 Speaking Effortlessly

Stay Away 355

Chapter 355 Speaking Effortlessly

Chapter 355 Speaking Effortlessly

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Swallowing nervously, Lenora uttered with utmost sincerity, "Ah, it seems like it really does have power. Then why did it automatically shut down? You don't think it's broken, do you?"

She lifted her head and gave Zachary a smile. "I thought it had automatically shut down."

Zachary looked at her with a calm expression, his smile not quite reaching his eyes.

Look at this effortless performance... She could easily snag the Best Actress award!

Lenora's heart skipped a beat, and she couldn't help but take a step back. "Why are you staring at me like that?" she asked.

Zachary stepped forward, a smile playing on his lips. "Nora, this is the first time I've realized how exceptional your acting skills are. No wonder Director Stone was so insistent on inviting you to act." Lenora's heart suddenly dropped.

She was dazed for a few seconds before twitching her lips, still clutching a sliver of hope. "What do you mean by that?" she asked.

"Don't you understand?" Zachary took another step closer, the curve of his smile growing but not reaching his eyes. "When I called you, you weren't dining alone in a restaurant. You were with Ezekiel. You lied to me and even pretended to switch off your phone. Just now, After she got out of the car, she had a conversation with Ezekiel that seemed filled with reluctance to part

ways.

Her lie had been exposed.

Upon his revelation, Lenora's face flushed and turned pale.

Her skin was naturally fair, and under the light, it appeared so delicate that it seemed as though it could be easily damaged by the slightest touch. Lenora lowered her gaze,

biting her lower lip. She peeked at Zachary before dropping her gaze again, whispering, "How... How did you find out?"

"I just had a social engagement at Harfush Club," he responded succinctly.

In other words, he had seen her at Harfush Club. Right from the start, he knew she was lying.

The mere thought of lying and deceiving him right under his nose gave Lenora goosebumps all over.

He didn't mention his arrival in Jeahron, nor did he reveal that he had already seen her. He was definitely playing a cat-and-mouse game.

"Since you knew I was lying, why didn't you expose me

Zachary looked at Lenora, whose expression was a mix of confusion and defiance, and laughed. "I wanted to see if you'd keep lying, and to my surprise, you actually did. Nora, you've given me quite the shock..."

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Chapter 355 Speaking Effortlessly

"... 63%

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Upon hearing the sarcasm in his voice, Lenora racked her brains, laughing nervously. She tried her best to make her explanation sound plausible. "I really didn't want to lie, but given your hostility... toward Ezekiel. I had no choice but to.... "So, you're blaming me. Is that it?"

"I didn't mean that," Lenora hastily clarified.

Zachary chuckled softly. "If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I would never have imagined, Nora, your acting skills are truly impeccable."

Although the words were ostensibly complimentary, there was an undeniable undertone of sarcasm in the way they were delivered.

Lenora tugged at the corner of her mouth. "You flatter me..."

"Can't handle a single compliment, can you?" Zachary sneered coldly.

"...

Before she could finish her sentence, Zachary suddenly turned around, his hands gripping her slender waist. He silenced her with a kiss.

This time, Zachary's kiss was exceptionally rough.

Lenora felt a prickling sensation on her lips and forcefully pushed Zachary away.

After a long while, he finally released her, his gaze fixated on her ripe, rosy lips. "Consider this a punishment for your lie this time. If you dare to repeat it...

"Don't worry. There's definitely none," Lenora assured him, panting heavily.

At this point, Lenora's resolve hardened. "I initially kept this from you to prevent any overthinking on your part. But if you're not willing, so be it. I've said what I needed to say. Ezekiel is my friend, and I won't distance myself from him because of you." She wouldn't let Zachary influence her social interactions and lifestyle anymore.

Hearing this, Zachary couldn't help but laugh, leaning over to cover her lips with his, passionately kissing

her.

Cheeky girl.. You even dare to mention Ezekiel!

Zachary didn't leave. [Search The Find_Novel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

He insisted on staying here, and before sleep, he helped Lenora relax once more.

Her beauty was captivating.

Feeling comfortably drowsy, Lenora had this thought just before drifting into dreamland.

Zachary gazed at Lenora's peacefully sleeping face, and a hint of tenderness flashed in his eyes.

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Chapter 355 Speaking Effortlessly

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+5 Free Coins

In the morning, Lenora sent a friessage to Ezekiel: Ezekiel. I've got some errands to run this morning I head straight to the airport once I'm done, so there's no need for you to come and see me off at noon. About half an hour had passed before Ezekiel responded: All right. Take care on your journey.

She replied: Okay. Thank you.

Gazing at the message on the screen, Ezekiel was absentmindedly caressing his phone.

Zachary has arrived in Jeahron and is staying at the same hotel as Lenora..

Is Lenora refusing me because she's with Zachary?

Are they back together?

A glint of hidden intent flashed in Ezekiel's eyes as he dialed a number.

In the morning, Lenora and Zachary casually strolled around the vicinity. Before noon, they headed to the airport to fly back to Jacaster.

It was past three when they arrived at Jacaster Airport. After the driver dropped Lenora back at the residential area, he took Zachary to his company.

Dragging her suitcase behind her, Lenora returned home and promptly plopped down on the couch.

Suddenly, her cellphone began to ring.

It was a call from the police station.

After Lenora picked up the call, her face turned pale, and her fingers gradually tightened.

Her father's case was handed over to the procurator's office.

The results of the police investigation revealed that Johanne was the mastermind. Driven by fear that Zachary might threaten his position, he had arranged for Zachary's girlfriend, Susanna, to be kidnapped. The plot was discovered by Fernando, who took drastic measures Next, it was time to see Johanne's verdict.

Lenora hadn't anticipated things to progress so swiftly. Generally, criminal cases would take at least half a year to process.

Even though she had previously leaned toward this outcome, the irrefutable evidence still left Lenora feeling somewhat distressed.

What was bothering her?

Perhaps

it was due to Johanne, that before this, he had always been a protective figure to her. When she first arrived at the Fuller residence, he had always been kind to her. During high school, whenever someone tried to harass or bully her, it was always Johanne who stepped in. Were they going to keep Allison in the dark forever that Johanne was facing a sentence? Could they really hide it from her for a lifetime? Allison was so smart, Wouldn't she notice the unusual behavior between Mallory and Ryan?

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Chapter 355 Speaking Effortlessly

+5 Free Cons

And then there was Zachary. Despite Johanne's guardedness and opposition toward him, Lenora knew that Zachary had always regarded Johanne as his elder brother. Had he really not thought of any ways to exonerate Johanne? Even if there wasn't any. Johanne was responsible for her father's death. Could she really interact with Zachary without any reservations?

Furthermore, regarding Susanna, once the investigation results of this case were released, it was confirmed that Susanna was indeed the victim in the kidnapping case. Her emotional trauma and mental illness could be traced back to this event. As such, in her case with G How frustrating...

Lenora was a complete mess inside, sitting listlessly on the couch in a daze.

Zachary als

received this news.

Without a moment's delay, he rushed to the police station, seeking clarification from the chief about the

situation.

Benedict let out a sigh, shaking his head in helpless resignation. Susanna might not have been entirely innocent. Some evidence did indeed hint at something amiss. The truth was yet to be uncovered, but the higher-

ups were pressuring him to wrap up the case quickly and hand it over to the procurator's office.

Zachary didn't put Benedict in a tough spot; he simply indirectly inquired about the identity of the person applying pressure from above.

Benedict didn't explicitly state it, yet he gave a hint.

Upon leaving the police station, Zachary dialed Lenora's number.

The phone rang for several seconds, but no one answered.

Zachary instructed the driver to head straight to Lenora's house. Unexpectedly, just as the driver started the car, a message from Lenora came through.

She wrote: Don't come over. Let me have some space.

Zachary was baffled.

He let out a long sigh, instructing the driver to change course and head back to the office.

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Chapter 356 No Divorce

Chapter 356 No Divorce

When Lenora was engulfed in confusion, she received an international call from Tamara

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She couldn't help but recall the words she had heard in Benedict's office, which cast a shadow over her heart, leaving her feeling downcast.

"Hello, Mdm. Fuller... Is there something you need?" Lenora asked nonchalantly.

Tamara chuckled lightly, her voice laced with a hint of arrogance. "So now you've stopped calling me Aunt Tamara?"

"Just speak your mind," Lenora said calmly.

In the past, she had shown Tamara a modicum of superficial respect, but now she was unwilling to even maintain that. If it weren't for the fact that she was Allison's daughter, Lenora wouldn't have even wanted to answer her calls. Tamara snorted coldly. "Let me be frank, then. Keep your distance from Zack in the future! Don't you think I'm unaware that you're intentionally leading Zack on? Just like your sly fox of a mother, all you know is how to seduce men!" Lenora's breath hitched, gritting her teeth. "What are you implying?"

Tamara had known Jasmine for a long time. From the very beginning, she was aware that she was Jasmine's daughter. Could this be the reason she harbored a dislike for her?

"What am I implying? Jasmine is Ezekiel's stepmother. You know that, right? How did a divorcee with no connections manage to snag Bertram? Wasn't it all due to her seductive charm and her exceptional skills in the bedroom?" A vein throbbed on Lenora's forehead.

The fact that Jasmine could become Ezekiel's stepmother was indeed food for thought.

When Tamara spoke about Jasmine in such a manner, Lenora wasn't bothered. But when she compared Lenora and Jasmine as equals, Lenora couldn't tolerate it.

She said sarcastically, "Even if I were incredibly skillful it would still require the cooperation of a man. Moreover, judging from your tone toward Jasmine, it sounds like you loathe her deeply. Could it be that you had feelings for Bertram but couldn't win against her?" "Shut your mouth, you lowly b"stard. You have no manners at all! How dare you speak to me like that?" Tamara suddenly shouted in rage.

"What's the matter? You're not upset because I hit the nail on the head, are you?" Lenora said with a smile.

Upon hearing Lenora's words, Tamara strangely found calmness, stating sternly, "Lenora, Johanne is responsible for your father's death. If you have an ounce of self-

respect, leave Zack immediately! You and your dad only had each other, and Zack's deep affection for Johanne is well-known. He's currently trying to clear Johanne's name. Don't you harbor even a shred of resentment?"

Without uttering a word, Lenora simply hung up the phone.

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+5 Free Cons

She casually placed her phone on the table, leaning against the back of the couch, and raised her hand to pinch the bridge of her nose.

Lenora was lost in thought for quite some time, suddenly recalling an idea she had when she first got divorced. Once her father's affairs were settled, she would leave this place, be it to immigrate or to settle in another city. The investigation into her father's case was now complete, with only the trial phase left. It was beyond Lenora's control.

Leave this place?

Lenora pursed her lips,

Initially, her thoughts were influenced by Zachary's persistence. Now, she didn't mind the feeling of being with Zachary, but she had no intentions of remarrying him.

Tamara was somewhat right in what she said. Johanne was responsible for her father's death, making it almost impossible for her and Zachary to have a relationship without any grudges.

Therefore, once she finished shooting this film, she could consider trying to live in a different city a different country. That might allow her to live a more relaxed and free life.

or even

During the bail period, Susanna's daily life was constantly under surveillance.

Her career had already crumbled. Thus, she seldom left her home recently, only venturing for an occasional stroll. Her demeanor was one of calm indifference, a picture of peaceful tranquility that belied her status as a criminal suspect under investigation. It was hard for anyone to guess her predicament from her appearance.

When Susanna went out, she usually wore a hat and a mask, a habit her neighbors had gotten used to.. They greeted her, "Taking your walk all the way over here today? You sure have walked quite a distance."

"I'm just aimlessly wandering about. Nothing much, Susanna said with a smile. Search the (f)indNOVEL.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Take your time. I'll make a move first."

Okay.

Susanna watched as her neighbor walked off into the distance. She stood still for a moment, then slowly strolled toward the shopping mall across the street.

In the children's area, numerous kids were creating quite a ruckus.

Susanna looked around, her gaze landing on a little boy in the rickshaw.

Susanna's gaze fell onto the boy, unwavering, as she slowly made her way toward him.

The boy warily observed Susanna, standing up from the rickety vehicle.

Susanna halted in front of the boy, lowering herself so that only her eyes were visible. "Ryan?" she questioned.

Ryan studied her for a moment, then cautiously asked, "Do you know me?"

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Chapter 256 No Divorce

Without a response, Susanna asked, "to your daddy to ju

moto ji

Upon hearing these words, Kymis expression changed "Don't spout nonsense"

"You know very well whether I'm eating sense of her. Your daddy is a murderer

buting, nonsense ofry

Ryan's face was as pale as a sheet, his eyes rimmed with red. His mouth twitched slightly as he argued

"Do you want to save your father?"

"How can I save him

"It's quite straightforward. You just need to confide in your great-grandmother. Let her plead your daddy's case to your Aunt Lenora. Considering the respect Aunt Lenora has for your great-grandmother, she will surely forgive your daddy. This way, your daddy won't have to go to jail"

After a few moments of silence, Ryan voiced his confusion. "But But Mommy told me not to tell Great-grandma

"That's because your mommy wants to seize the opportunity to divorce your dad, not wanting him to get out. Think about it. Your daddy has always been so good to you. Do you really hope for your daddy to spend his entire life in prison or even face execution? Ryan's face scrunched up, his tiny brain already stretched to its limit

He didn't want his parents to divorce, nor did he want his father to be imprisoned. Above all, he couldn't bear the thought of his father being executed.

"Actually, your daddy didn't cheat. It's just that your mommy doesn't know. Once he has the chance to explain everything to her personally, your parents won't have to divorce."

Ryan's eyes lit up. "Really?"

If he simply told his great-grandmother what was going on, then his dad wouldn't have to go to jail, and his parents wouldn't have to get a divorce.

"Of course, it's true," Susanna said with a smile, tantalizingly. "But don't tell your mommy just yet. Without proof, she won't believe that your daddy hasn't cheated. She'll definitely stop you from telling your great-grandma."

Upon hearing, Ryan found himself in a haze, understanding yet not quite comprehending.

However, he understood one thing. He should keep it from his mother for now.

"You must save your daddy. You're a brave young man. You can do it. I believe in you," Susanna said with a

When Mallory returned carrying a small cake, Ryan was sitting in the rocking car, lost in thought.

After some thought, Ryan tilted his head back and said, "Mommy, I miss Great-grandma, Let's go her"

Mallory looked at her well-behaved and adorable son, nodding slightly. "All right." and visit

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Ryan swiftly got out of the rickety car. "Mommy, let me help you with the cake

"Thank you, Sweetheart." A warmth spread through Mallory's heart as he saw a reflection of Johanne in Ryan.

That day, he returned home covered in bruises and revealed e

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Stay Away 357

Chapter 357 He Deserves It

Chapter 357 He Deserves It

During the filming today, Lenora seemed somewhat absent-minded. +10 Free Coins

Before heading to work, she received news. Zachary had managed to delay the case's progress to the court through his influence in the procurator's office. There was a possibility that the case would be sent back to the police for further investigation due to insufficient evid suppress the case, he was determined to secure the lightest possible sentence for Johanne.

If it were merely a matter of hiring a lawyer, Lenora wouldn't have batted an eye. After all, it was Johanne's rightful prerogative. However, Johanne crossed a line when he reached out to the procurator's office, intending to delay the progression of the case. Zachary trusted Johanne's words, believing that Susanna was the mastermind behind her father's murder. He aimed to buy time in order to gather evidence that would be favorable to Johanne.

When Lenora heard the news, Tamara's words instantly flashed across her mind.

Zack's deep affection for Johanne is well-known. He's currently trying to clear Johanne's name.

So, if the case is sent back for reinvestigation, does it mean that the outcome will definitely be the truth?

Lenora's mind was in utter chaos.

She was unsure of whom she should trust!

Once the scene wrapped up, a crew member approached with a phone in hand. "Ms. Wilkin," they said, "you have several missed calls earlier."

"All right. I got it. Thank you."

Lenora took the phone and glanced at it. They were calls from Zachary.

She walked to a secluded area, then returned his calls.

The moment the call connected, Zachary's voice emanated from the receiver.
"Grandma has been informed."

A jolt went through Lenora's heart, causing his heartbeat to skip a beat for a moment.

For a few seconds, her mind went blank. She could hear the pounding of her heart in her chest as she asked, "What was her reaction?"

"By the time I found out, she had already calmed down

"How did she find out?"

Zachary sighed. "It was Ryan.

Lenora remained silent.

Her worst fears had indeed come to pass.

Chapter 357 He Deserves It

"Do you have time right now?"

"I'm going to change my clothes. I'll be right there"

"I'll come and pick you up."

Lenora hurried to the changing room to change her clothes,

She was in a state of utter turmoil, an unknown fear rising within her. Her fingers trembled digirly, not took her three attempts to unfasten the button.

While dressing, Lenora accidentally got the zipper stuck. Her face turned beet red from the urgency, s trickling down from the tip of her nose. It took a great deal of effort to finally free the subbor zipper

After Lenora settled into the backseat of the car, Zachary noticed that she hadn't removed her makeup Her foundation was unevenly spread on her nose, her complexion was pale, and there was a bit of unex in her eyes. Zachary retrieved a packet of wet wipes from the storage box and handed it to Lenora, reassuring her, "Don't worry, Grandma won't blame you."

Lenora pulled out a wet wipe and wiped her face, her heart pounding wildly, yet she remained silent.

She was unsure of what Allison might think.

She was very scared.

She feared seeing the cold, disdainful look in Allison's eyes just as much as she dreaded seeing her eyes filled with hopeful pleading.

She also wanted to ask Zachary about the case, but after some thought, she held her words back

How frustrating...

Lenora raised her hand, massaging her brows, feeling an overwhelming desire to escape.

Zachary held Lenora's hand in his, his thumb gently caressing the back of her hand.

Startled, Lenora abruptly withdrew her hand.

Zachary's hand stiffened. He turned to glance at her, a hint of helplessness flashing in his eyes.

The car came to a halt in front of the Fuller residence

Lenora paused for a moment, took a deep breath, and stepped out of the car after opening the door.

She walked into the living room, and as she looked up, her gaze met with Mallory's.

Mallory sat on the couch, her hands folded into fists and resting on her lap. As the sound of a car engine echoed from outside, she tensed up, striving to maintain a calm facade while she awaited Lenora's arrival. Ryan sat next to her, his head hung low, appearing quite despondent.

After he had spoken to his great-grandmother, his mother gave him a stern lecture, telling him he

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Chapter 357 He Deserves It

shouldn't have told his great-grandmother.

However, all he wanted was to save his father.

Their eyes met, and Lenora pursed her lips. "Mallory."

Mallory lowered her eyes, gently nodded, and said, "You're here..."

"Is Grandma upstairs?" Zachary entered and asked.

Mallory nodded slightly.

Lenora and Zachary exchanged a glance, then ascended the stairs one after another.

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Inside the bedroom, Allison was seated on the bed, leaning against the headboard. Her face was ashen, and she was staring blankly out the window.

The sound of footsteps drew closer.

Her gaze gradually shifted toward the door.

The closer they got to the room, the slower Lenora's steps became.

Standing at the doorway of the room, she wished time could stand still forever, so she wouldn't have to face what was coming next.

However, this was an impossible feat.

Lenora took a deep breath, raising her hand to press down on the door handle.

The door of the room cracked open, gradually widening.

Meeting Allison's gaze, Lenora's eyes instantly turned red for some reason. "Grandma!"

She quickly rushed to the bedside, clutching Allison's hand with trembling fingers. "Grandma..."

"Dear child..." Allison lovingly reached back to hold Lenora's hand. "I don't blame you." The moment Allison saw the worry in Lenora's eyes, she knew what was troubling her. Lenora appears calm on the surface, but in reality, she's most sensitive at heart.

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A misty haze clouded Lenora's vision as tears threatened to spill from her eyes. "Grandma," she choked out, "you have no idea how scared I was..."

All her worries and fears vanished in an instant.

Grandma is the most sensible person in the world.

Allison gently patted Lenora's hand. "Don't be afraid," she reassured her. "You've done nothing wrong. After ten long years, your unwavering determination to avenge your father is a commendable trait. I won't hold it against you."

If it were anyone else, they might not have been willing to invite unknown troubles for someone who had

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Chapter 357 He Deserves It

been dead for ten years, potentially risking their high-level, stable, and comfortable life.

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Allison let out a sigh, glancing at Zachary beside her. "If blame is to be placed, it should fall on your grandfather and me. It's our failure in educating Johanne that led him to such actions, suppressing his brother and treating lives with such disregard." Lenora quickly interjected, "Grandma, it has nothing to do with you all. Please don't say that."

"Ryan was the one who told me about this. I'm not sure who he heard it from, but he wanted me to plead with you to save his father. Mallory scolded him immediately after she found out."

Lenora understood what Allison meant. "I know. Ryan is young and misses his father deeply. Mallory is understanding and empathetic. This is truly Johanne's good fortune."

Allison scoffed. "He had such good fortune, yet he didn't know how to cherish it. He deserves it."

She let out another sigh. "Nora, please step outside for a moment. I need to speak with Zack. Remember, I don't blame you. Be at ease."

"All right." Lenora nodded gently, making room for the grandmother and grandson.

After all, her stance wasn't quite the same as theirs.

Lenora stepped out, closing the door behind her.

Only two people were left in the room.

Zachary sat down by the bed. "Grandma."

"What's your take on this matter concerning Johanne?"

"Indeed, Johanne is guilty. The victim was Nora's dad, and there was nothing I could do to help him. My only option is to find a way to get Susanna to turn herself in." This way, Johanne might be given a lighter sentence.

"You've done very well," Allison said, a flicker of admiration in her eyes as she looked at Zachary. "The thing your grandpa and I regret the least is keeping you with us. However, we regret not revealing your true identity to you and Johanne, which led to such a catastrophe. Zachary paused, his expression serious as he looked at Allison. "My identity?"

He had once covertly investigated his mother's identity but found nothing. Allison gently nodded. "I should have told you earlier.

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Stay Away 358

Chapter 358 Life Interferes

Chapter 358 Life Interferes

"You are not Ronald's illegitimate child; he is not your father but your uncle," Allison said.

Zachary's breath hitched for a moment.

This news hit Zachary like a bolt from the blue, leaving his mind utterly stunned,

I'm not Ronald's illegitimate child?

Ronald isn't my father?

He's my uncle?

The identity of my mom... is quite obvious, then.

Zachary couldn't believe it, yet he had no choice but to accept it.

The mother he had longed for since his childhood turned out to be Tamara.

The traces that were once unclear finally had answers.

No wonder Tamara was so kind to him since he was a child.

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No wonder Tamara didn't favor Johanne, her nephew. Instead, he had a soft spot for Zachary, the so-called "illegitimate" nephew.

No wonder Tamara was always meddling in his personal affairs. In reality, she was just interfering with his marriage under the guise of being his mother.

Allison gazed at Zachary's stunned expression, continuing her story. "Tamara met your father early on, but he was forced to marry another woman due to familial pressures. Despite being misled by your father, Tamara had no intention of ending things. Your grandpa and I w Tamara became pregnant one after another. When his wife discovered Tamara's existence, she threw herself off a building after giving birth, resulting in her death. The wife's family confronted your grandpa and me, hurling accusations at us. It was only then that Tamara finally compromised. She registered her baby under your uncle's name and left this place."

In this situation, Bertram was also at fault.

When the members of the Hoffman family attempted to take Zachary away, Gerald intervened, preventing them. The maternal relatives of Bertram's wife also did not want their grandson to have another half- brother competing with him. Thus, under the balance maintained by these three parties, Zachary was able to stay with the Fuller family.

"Actually, your Aunt Madeline knew you weren't Ronald's child. She even visited Tamara at the hospital when she was pregnant. Their arguments weren't because of you. I know how much you've been wronged." After hearing this, Zachary remained silent for a long time.

Somehow, a bitter taste welled up in his throat.

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Chapter 358 Life Interferes

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He wasn't the illegitimate child of Ronald, nor was he indirectly responsible for the death of Johanne's

parents.

After carrying the heavy burden and suppressing his emotions for so many years, he finally let it all go.

He didn't need to hang his head in front of Johanne.

However, life had a way of interfering one's life.

He had now become the illegitimate child of someone else.

His mother was indirectly responsible for the death of another child's mother.

If that child were to discover the truth, he would surely harbor a deep resentment toward him.

A flash of realization sparked in Zachary's mind, and Ezekiel's familiar face surfaced in his thoughts.

He lifted his gaze to meet Allison's. "My father is..."

"It's Bertram from the Hoffman family in Jeahron." Allison sighed.

"Indeed."

Zachary let out a self-deprecating laugh.

That child was none other than Ezekiel.

Ezekiel had learned about the past events, which explained why he had repeatedly targeted him.

"Zack, I know you're a good kid. What happened back then has nothing to do with you. There's no need for you to blame yourself or feel guilty. Do you understand?" Allison, fearing he might be taking things too hard, held onto Zachary's hand and patted it gently. "Grandma, rest assured. I understand." Zachary lifted the corners of his mouth slightly, offering a faint smile.

He wasn't that foolish.

Back then, the grievances of the adults had nothing to do with him. He wasn't raised in the Hoffman family, nor did he vie for power and profit with Ezekiel

He had no need to blame himself for Ezekiel.

"I'm glad you understand." Allison sighed in relief. "This matter has been weighing on my heart for many years. You and Johanne have long since grown up and become mature. I should have told you both sooner."

Johanne had always regarded Zachary as an illegitimate child. Deep down, he felt a sense of superiority, believing that he was the rightful heir to Fuller Group. He resented Zachary's existence, blaming him, indirectly for the death of his parents. Although Gerald had suppressed much of his resentment, it still lurked in the dark corners of his heart, making him susceptible to manipulation.

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Chapter 358 Life Interferes

"Grandma, I'm sure you did what you thought was best for us back then."

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In the eyes of the elderly pair, if the brothers were living in harmony, there was no need for any additional measures. Who could have foreseen such an event happening?

"As for Tamara, your mother... She's had a hard time living abroad all these years. Don't hold it against her."

Zachary's gaze was intense. He still remembered what Tamara had done before she left. "As long as she no longer interferes with my personal affairs and stops trying to prevent me from being with Nora, I will regard her as my mother," he declared. "All right." Allison nodded. "That's all. You may leave now. I'm tired and would like to be alone for a while."

"All right, Grandma. You should rest well."

Zachary rose and left the room.

As soon as he stepped outside, he saw Lenora standing by the window on the second floor. Her clothes were fluttering, making her look ethereal, as if she was about to ascend into the heavens, leaving the mortal world behind.

Upon hearing the sound of the door opening, Lenora turned her head. Before she could utter a word, Zachary strode forward, sweeping her into his arms in one swift motion.

He buried his head in the crook of her neck, his eyes closing as he took a deep breath.

Lenora was taken aback, pushing him slightly. "Zachary, what's wrong with you?"

His reaction was off. What had his grandmother told him?

Receiving no response, Lenora called out again, "Zachary?"

A few seconds later, Zachary released her and spoke up. "It's nothing."

Nobody would wish to reveal an identity as such in front of the person they cherished.

Lenora cast him a doubtful glance. "What did Grandma tell you about Johanne?"

"She blamed herself for not educating Johanne properly. Reflecting on the past, she couldn't help but feel a touch of melancholy."

Lenora gave him a glance, then turned around to descend the stairs.

As it was nearing the end of the kindergarten day, Zachary instructed his driver to pick up Harrietta from the kindergarten. Together, they went to a restaurant for dinner. While Zachary was halfway through his meal, his cell phone began to ring.

He pulled out his phone from the inner pocket of his suit, the screen displaying the name Tamara.

"I'm going to take a call."

Zachary rose to his feet and exited the private room.

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Chapter 358 Life Interferes

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He gazed at the familiar name, and only in the final moment did his thumb press the answer button.

"Hello? Zack?"

A familiar female voice came through the receiver.

After a few seconds of silence, the woman's voice echoed again. "Even if you don't speak, I know you're listening. You are aware of your identity now, aren't you?"

Zachary responded with a soft "Mm-hmm" and asked, "Is there something you need?"

Unexpectedly, Zachary's attitude remained so aloof after he found out about her identity. Tamara felt a pang of displeasure in her heart. Patiently, she said, "Zack, I want to come back and see you. As mother and son, we should spend some quality time together..."

"No."

Zachary was resolute in his refusal, not showing a hint of hesitation. "Stay abroad, and I will still consider you my mother. Otherwise, don't blame me for being cold and heartless."

When he was young, he used to imagine the warmth of his mother.

However, for Zachary, who was already thirty years old, his mother's presence was something he could take or leave.

If Tamara had behaved herself, considering the affection they once shared, he would treat her like his own mother.

If she intended to act high and mighty in front of Lenora, he would have no choice but to be ruthless.

Tamara was shocked, angry, and confused. "Zack, I am your mother! How could you treat me this way? Is it because of that sly Lenora? Don't be foolish anymore! Think about it. Johanne was responsible for her father's death. The vengeance for her father's murder is som

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Zachary paused. "I don't understand why you harbor such strong animosity toward Lenora. Could it possibly stem from Bertram's second wife, Jasmine?" Zachary had known for quite some time that Ezekiel's stepmother was also Lenora's mother.

Since they were already two individuals who shared no bond, he felt there was no need to inform Lenora

Unexpectedly, Lenora had actually met Ezekiel during her university years.

On the day of the video call in Jeahron, Lenora seemed to be in a bad mood. He speculated that she must have discovered Jasmine's identity.

Just like her, he, too, was a person abandoned by his own father or mother.

Hearing Zachary interrogate her with such a cold indifference, Tamara felt her head buzzing with irritation. "Yes! If it weren't for that wretched Jasmine seducing Bertram, I would be his wife by now. You would be the young master of the Hoffman family, and everything in the When it was time to part, Bertram quietly went to the airport to see her off. He personally told her that he would find a way to bring her and their child back.

She had waited abroad for what seemed like an eternity, only to eventually discover that Bertram had remarried. His new wife was Jasmine, a bargirl with no notable background who had apparently climbed the social ladder through her intimate relations. How could Tamara willingly admit defeat to such a woman?

Hence, she had done her research on Jasmine early on. She knew that Jasmine had been married back in her hometown and even had a daughter.

She delivered the news to the Hoffman family. Somehow, Jasmine had managed to bewitch Bertram to the extent that, surprisingly, he didn't pursue a divorce with her.

Later on, it was unexpected that Jasmine's ex-husband passed away, and due to a series of unforeseen circumstances, their daughter ended up being adopted by the Fuller family.

At first, Tamara merely treated Lenora coldly. Considering Jasmine's cold-heartedness, living a life of privilege yet never returning to see her daughter, Tamara once felt pity for Lenora.

It wasn't until after that night that Gerald asked Zachary to marry Lenora.

Tamara couldn't accept that.

How could the daughter of that despicable Jasmine possibly be a match for her son?

She had finally seen Lenora's true colors. Just like Jasmine, Lenora was a seductress. On the surface, she appeared to be an innocent damsel, but beneath that facade, she was a temptress luring men in.

"Shut up!" Zachary's tone was harsh. "You're still in denial! Bertram's nature is just like that. A man who cheats within marriage and a man who isn't loyal. Even if Jasmine didn't exist, do you think he would have

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married you? Do you think I want to be the young master of the Hoffman family?

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How can you speak of him like that when you're unaware of the circumstances? That's your father we're talking about! His marriage to Rebecca White was nothing more than a marriage of convenience. From the beginning, Rebecca knew about the mutual affection between you and her. Do you explain the existence of Ezekiel, that contemptible b*stard?" Tamara was visibly agitated, her voice seething with

resentment.

If it hadn't been for Rebecca, how could she and Bertram have parted ways?

Zachary paused.

He wasn't aware of the past events, nor did he know whether what Tamara had said was true or false.

However, Bertram was definitely not an innocent man.

"I won't argue with you about this, but I have to tell you this. Lenora is not Jasmine. She is the woman I love. I've said all there is to say, and I hope you'll understand what needs to be done next." After he finished speaking, Zachary immediately hung up the phone.

Without a hint of emotion, he took a deep breath, slipped his phone into his pocket, and strode back into the private room.

Back in the private room, Lenora diligently removed fish bones for Harrietta, her head lowered in concentration.

She was engrossed in doing that. The lines of her profile were smooth and graceful. Sunlight streamed through the window, casting a glow on her skin, making her appear fairylike. Zachary's restless heart had considerably calmed down.

Lenora carefully placed the deboned fish onto Harrietta's plate. As she looked up, she found Zachary's gaze fixed on her, his eyes deep and intense.

She casually picked up a piece of meat and asked, "Why are you looking at me?"

"Nothing." Zachary averted his gaze.

His gaze was intense, words on the tip of his tongue. "Nora, you..."

He paused halfway through his sentence, pursed his lips, then rephrased, "Johanne's case has been handed over to the prosecutor's office. What are your thoughts?"

Lenora paused, lowering her gaze as she said, "I don't have any particular thoughts. I'm just waiting for the verdict

Could you... perhaps give me some time...

"What's up?" Lenora raised an eyebrow.

"Don't distance yourself from me because of what happened with Johanne."

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He hoped she could grant him some time. He was determined to prove that what Johanne had said was true that it was Susanna who was the mastermind behind her father's death. Lenora lowered her gaze.

Am I supposed to give him time to overturn Johanne's case?

Does he really believe that everything Johanne said was the truth?

What reason would Gaston and the police have to frame Johanne?

Especially Gaston... He found himself in a precarious situation, facing a potentially lengthy prison term. The best course of action would be to cooperate with the police and tell the truth in hopes of a lighter sentence. But if he were to lie in front of the police and get caught, Could she still trust Zachary?

Seeing her remain silent, Zachary simply assumed she had agreed.

A few days later, Zachary, in his spare time from work, heard from Miles that Lenora seemed to be selling her car recently.

She owned two luxury cars, both of which could fetch a pretty handsome price.

Was Lenora short of money? .

Zachary was momentarily puzzled, instructing Miles to keep a close watch.

Several days had passed when Zachary while reading the newspaper, came across an article. Lenora had donated two hundred million to establish Faith Charity, extending a helping hand to the children left behind in the mountain regions.

At that moment, Zachary's hand suddenly tightened, crumpling the newspaper into a wad of waste paper in an instant.

Where did Lenora get all that money

from?

Zachary didn't need to think hard to realize that the two hundred million was the wealth he had given her during their divorce, along with the property left to her by Gerald.

So, was this her purpose for selling the car?

She donated everything that he and Gerald had left for her?

If this happened any other time, Zachary wouldn't mind Lenora's charitable acts. However, it just had to be after Johanne's case was transferred to the prosecutor's office...

Tamara's inexplicably surfaced in his mind. How could she possibly not hold a grudge for her father's murder? You're the only one still living in a fantasy, believing she could ever be with you!

So, was she trying to sever ties with the Fuller family, trying to distance herself from him as well? Zachary's fingers abruptly tightened into a fist, his knuckles creaking under the strain. His jaw was

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clenched, and his eyes radiated a deep-seated fury,

Lenora had been extremely busy lately.

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Beyond her acting gigs, she was also receiving more photography invitations. Some insiders recognized her talent, while others, who were just along for the ride, valued the buzz she naturally attracted. Additionally, she was involved in managing her assets and setting up a Ever since news spread from the foundation, many people wanted to get involved, hoping to get a piece of the action.

In short, she was incredibly busy.

The social engagements didn't wrap up until eleven in the evening.

Exhausted, Lenora stepped out of the elevator. She paused abruptly, a smile breaking across her face. "What brings you here?"

Zachary stood tall and imposing, unable to help but let out a cold chuckle. "Of course, I'm here to see you, Ms. Wilkin. What's this? Are you too busy running your empire to meet with your ex-husband, Ms. Wilkin?"

Lenora gave a faint laugh. "I've been quite busy lately, so if there's nothing else—"

"Were you busy setting up your foundation?" Zachary interrupted her, asking each word deliberately. "Yes." Lenora nodded calmly, seemingly oblivious to the simmering anger in his eyes.

Zachary advanced a step, his voice heavy with inquiry. So, are you intending to sever ties with me, with the Fuller family?"

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Lenora paused for a moment. "No, whenever I have time, I'll still visit Grandma at the Fuller residence."

"Why did you suddenly decide to establish that shoddy charity foundation?"

Confronted by Zachary's interrogation, Lenora remained unperturbed. "I simply thought that the money served no real purpose in my hands; it would be better to donate it to those in need."

Back in her childhood, she was considered a throwaway child. Not too long ago, she learned about Jasmine's identity, which instantly triggered certain memories from her past, vivid as if they were happening right before her eyes. Coincidentally, she was looking to dispose of the assets she held. Therefore, it was only logical that she went on to establish a foundation.

No matter what, Zachary simply refused to believe her explanation.

He looked at Lenora with a cold gaze. "Once you've donated all your assets, will you leave here?"

Lenora was at a loss for words.

She truly thought so.

At that time, she still had some scenes left to shoot. During this period, she was working on selecting an appropriate vice president and other management personnel for the foundation, aiming to get it up and running. Once her role in the play was over, she was free to leave, to go anywhere she desired.

Once upon a time, she could have given up everything for Zachary.

Now, she could also let go of Zachary for the sake of her future life.

Observing Lenora's guilty demeanor, as if she'd been struck to her core, Zachary ran his tongue over his molars. A surge of uncontrollable anger welled up within him, half erupting like a volcano. A thick fog of rage shrouded his entire heart, casting it into darkness.

His eyes were shrouded in darkness as he gazed downward. "Why the sudden decision to leave? Is it because of Johanne's case? What if he wasn't the mastermind behind your father's death? Would you still blame me, then?"

Without a shred of doubt, Lenora knew that if she dared to say "no," Zachary would have the audacity to fabricate evidence to exonerate Johanne.

As Lenora met Zachary's gaze, which was as deep as a serene pool, a shiver ran down her spine. She held her breath. "I never intended to leave."

During the period right after her divorce, when she was traveling abroad, she had personally experienced Zachary's stubbornness.

She repeatedly drove him away, yet he persistently followed her.

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If he was unwilling, no matter where she went, he would always find her.

So, if she wanted to leave, she absolutely needed a meticulous plan.

Before all this, she needed to secure Zachary's trust.

"Really?" Zachary raised an eyebrow at her, his gaze sharp, as if he could peer into her very soul.

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Lenora calmly nodded. "If I wanted to leave, I could have easily sold off my assets quietly and disappeared into thin air instead of setting up some foundation with much fanfare, waiting for you to catch me."

In truth, the foundation was established because she was unwilling to hold onto that sum of money.

It was hard to pinpoint why, but it seemed like this sum of money was somehow connected to her father's death.

Zachary seriously pondered Lenora's words, giving her a look that was neither smiling nor naive. He spoke with profound meaning. "That's good, then. Nora, if there ever comes a day when you want to leave me..." ""What then?"

"You better drop that thought early on. I won't let you leave," Zachary said, his gaze unfathomable.

He couldn't bear to part from her.

If he let her go, who would grant him the same mercy?

If Lenora were to vanish from his life, he was uncertain what he would become.

Lenora was taken aback.

"Nora, why have you suddenly decided to set up this foundation?" Zachary asked, raising an eyebrow.

Lenora averted her gaze, a faint redness appearing in the corners of her eyes. "Not long after I arrived in Jeahron, the thought struck me. Running into an old acquaintance reminded me of the time when I was a throwaway child during my younger years..." Zachary knew that the "old acquaintance" she mentioned was

Jasmine. Dispelling his doubts, he quickly comforted her, "Nora, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have brought up your painful past. The hardest days are behind you. No matter what you want to do in the future, I'll support you. As for the old acquaintance, they're not necessary in your dwell on it."

To Lenora, Jasmine was much like Tamara was to him. She could be there or not. It didn't make much of a difference.

"I understand. I'm just feeling a bit sentimental." Lenora lowered her eyes, turning the tables. "But why would you think that me starting a foundation means I'm leaving because of Johanne's situation? If you're so sure he's not the mastermind, you should be confident in find "No. It's just that I was terrified of you leaving."

"But a few days ago, you asked me to trust you, to give you time, and I agreed," Lenora said, pinching her thigh harshly, wiping the corner of her eyes. "You don't care about my feelings at all. You only care about

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yourself."

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Zachary panicked. "Nora, I'm sorry. Please don't cry. I do care about your feelings. It's just that I..."

He spread his arms, embracing Lenora. "I simply cannot live without you... I promise you I will never doubt you again in the future."

"I won't believe your words." Lenora glared at him. "You've said before that you wouldn't bother me anymore, but not once did you keep your promise."

Lenora realized a long time ago that some of Zachary's words were just hot air; they were to be heard, not taken seriously.

With a sheepish grin, Zachary lowered his head, planting a gentle kiss on Lenora's face. "For my wife," he said, "nothing is too much."

"You really have no shame," Lenora said, frowning her brows.

Zachary gazed at Lenora's disgusted little expression, finding it more endearing the more he looked. He planted a kiss on her face, whispering in a low voice, "How about coming upstairs with me tonight?" Lenora glared at him. "Off you go. I've been tired all day. I'm going home to rest."

She pushed Zachary away and moved forward to open the door.

Zachary was just about to catch up with his strides.

With a thud, the door was shut.

Zachary paused in his tracks, staring at the door before him. He touched his nose and called out, "Nora, take a good rest. I'm heading upstairs now."

Within the room, Lenora met Sophia's gaze and guiltily averted her eyes, changing the subject. "Soph, you're still awake?"

Sophia was comfortably seated on the couch. Earlier, she had intended to take out the trash, but hearing a noise outside the door halted her in her tracks. Glancing at the electronic screen, she saw two people embracing each other. This sight made her retreat back to her room. Sophia looked at Lenora, her face bearing the expression of someone who had done something wrong. "I'll go to sleep soon. By the way, how's your charity foundation coming along? Do you have some free time in the next couple of days?"

"What's the matter?" Lenora asked. Seeing that Sophia seemed unaware of what had just happened outside, she discreetly let out a sigh of relief.

"My dad is pressuring me to go on another arranged date," Sophia said, running her hands through her hair in frustration. "He threatened to kick me out of the house if I refused."

"When was the date set?"

"The day after tomorrow evening, at Sunset Bar."

Lenora frowned. "Why is it set up at a place like that?"

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Chapter 360 Hopeless Case

Who goes to a bar for their first arranged date?

Sophia also said, "Do you find it strange? I do, too. I can tell right away he's no good"

Lenora glanced at her phone. "Sure, I'm free the day after tomorrow evening, I'll accompany you."

"All right. We'll return as soon as we meet. I'm lucky to have you, che I wouldn't know who to turn to

"Has Zephyr been bothering you lately?" Lenora asked

"Don't bring him up." Sophia became even more annoyed. "He has a girlfriend now?"

This jerk, even though he had a girlfriend, still had the nerve to bother her as if the random encounters weren't annoying enough.

Lenora was taken aback for a moment, her disdain for Zephyr growing within her. "I'm going to freshen up now," she said.

"Okay."

Just as Lenora was about to step into the room, Sophia abruptly stopped her and teasingly asked, "Oh, by the way, Nora, did I just hear a man's voice from outside?" Lenora paused in her tracks, calmly stating, "You must have misheard."

"Really?"

"Of course."

Sophia tugged at the corners of her mouth, finding it amusing to watch Lenora lying with such a straight

.

