

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

Chapter 370 My Mother Passed Away Long Ago

Film crew.

Having just finished filming a scene, Lenora was in the makeup room, engrossed in the script.

A staff member peeked through the door. Spotting Lenora, he entered. "Ms. Wilkin, there's someone looking for you outside." "Who is it?" Lenora looked up from the script.

In this situation, it was clear that the visitor must have some connection with the actress. Otherwise, the staff wouldn't have made a special announcement. If not, fans would be lining up to meet their idol. "She said she's your mom."

Unnerved for a few seconds, Lenora regained her composure and calmly told the staff member, "My mother left over twenty years ago. The person outside is definitely a fraud. Please ask them to leave." The staff member was taken aback for a moment. Did she mean "passed away" when she said "left"?

"All right. I'll have her leave right away."

The staff member arrived at the car parked outside the set's fencing, casting sidelong glances at Jasmine in the backseat. She appeared perfectly respectable. Who would have thought she was actually a fraud? She bluntly told Jasmine, "You should leave. Ms. Wilkin doesn't want to see you."

A frown creased Jasmine's elegant brows, a flicker of impatience flashing in her eyes. "Did you inform her of who I am?" she asked.

"Yes."

"What did she say?"

"Hey, you! I'm trying to save you some face here, but you just don't get it, do you? Do you know what Ms. Wilkin said? She said her mother passed away

twenty years ago. You're nothing but a liar! What are you still doing here? Get lost!" The staff member turned and walked away.

Jasmine was baffled.

No wonder Lenora hadn't sought her out all these years. Had she been under the impression that her mother was dead all this time?

"Mrs. Hoffman, what should we do now?" the driver in the front seat asked, a puzzled look in his eyes.

Jasmine said, "Hold on a moment."

She pulled out her phone and had someone look up Lenora's phone number.

Previously, the two had communicated, but she had used a police officer's phone, so Jasmine hadn't taken note of it at all.

A few minutes later, the number was sent to her phone, and she dialed it right away.

"Ms. Wilkin, you have a phone call." The assistant approached, holding the ringing phone.

Due to her recent hectic schedule, Lenora hired a personal driver to help her with her transportation needs.

She also brought on board two temporary assistants; one to manage her growing number of photography appointments and the other to handle her drama production tasks. Additionally, she had a dedicated assistant for the charity foundation. She wasn't actually too fond of being referred to in such a cordial manner, but her assistant seemed to enjoy doing that.

The assistant was a senior college student who worked part-time. She had successfully bypassed the entrance exam for graduate school and only had a few classes left in the previous term. She had no classes

term, and her graduation thesis was almost completed. She decided to work temporarily, only for a months. Yet, it was perfect timing for Lenora because she wouldn't have another role after finishing this film.

Lenora cast a glance and noticed an unfamiliar number from Jeahron. For some reason, her thoughts inexplicably drifted toward Jasmine.

She instructed her assistant, "When you answer the call, tell them I'm working and will talk after I finish filming. Handle all unknown calls this way in the future unless they mention it's urgent. If they leave a message, you can notify me." "All right. I understand," the assistant replied.

Lenora's gaze fell upon the script, but her thoughts had drifted far away.

After more than twenty years of no contact, Jasmine's sudden appearance couldn't possibly be due to a surge of mother-daughter affection. There must have been something she needed.

But what could it have been?

It wasn't until others in the makeup room made a sound that Lenora snapped back to reality. She chased away the doubts in her mind and continued reading the script.

The assistant stepped aside to answer the call. "Hello, this is Ms. Wilkin's assistant. May I know who's speaking?"

"I'm her mother. Let her take the phone call."

The assistant was momentarily taken aback.

Lenora's mother?

However, if it was really Lenora's mother, how could it possibly be an unknown number?

Clearly, Lenora did not recognize the number.

The assistant glanced back to see the stage manager had already come to call Lenora for a scene rehearsal. She then spoke into the microphone. "I'm sorry, but Ms. Wilkin is currently working. If there's anything urgent, you can tell me, and I'll relay the message. I won't be able to help you with your work before calling again."

I'm her mother, not some random person and her tone on the phone was firm as she reserved her point.

The assistant responded, "I'm sorry, but Ms. Wilkin is verently occupied with work it's tot weat, I'll have to hang up now. You can call back when the is off duty

After hanging up the phone, the assistant picked up the water cup and headed to the filming location

Lenora was engaged in a scene with another actor, while the assistant of the other actor was on standby around the set.

The two of them started chatting, and somehow, the conversation veered toward online scars. The assistant, recalling the incident from earlier, couldn't help but vent to the other assistant, "Indeed, the moms of online scams nowadays are limitless. I even encountered one presended to omeope eke's mother."

I've actually experienced something like this. Scammers would gather the voices and speech patterns of ked ones and then use AI to simulate them Sometimes, they couldn't even distinguish the difference"

It's terrifying the assistant exclaimed.

Just past three in the afternoon, Lenora finished filming and left the set, heading toward the car parked by the street.

Having an assistant indeed made things a lot easier. For instance, while Lenora was changing clothes in the drawing room, the assistant had already contacted the driver to bring the car near the set. This saved Lenora the trouble of walking to the parking lot. She was about to get into the backseat of the car when she suddenly heard a female voice calling from nearby, "Lenora!"

Lenora's figure abruptly halted.

She had only heard this voice once, yet it was incredibly familiar.

Unexpectedly, Jasmine demonstrated such determination. She was still waiting here.

It seemed like the matter was quite significant.

Lenóra turned her head calmly, looking at Jasmine with surprise. "It's you? What brings you here? I don't think I've done anything to offend you or your son this time, have I?"

Janine's face stiffened as she stepped forward in her stiletto heels, suppressing the dissatisfaction that had been brewing inside her for a long time. This has nothing to do with the last incident. I have something to tell you. Come with me."

She turned and started to walk away. After a few steps, she realized that Lenora was still standing where she left her. She hadn't followed her.

Lenora looked at her, her tone cool as she said, "You think I'll just go because you asked me to? Are we that close? If you have something to say, just spit it out. If not, I'll be on my way."

She was incredibly busy. There was an evening social event she had to attend where an individual was interested in joining the foundation with funding.

Although Lenora was reluctant to use the foundation as a means to make money, she knew she

couldn't outright reject everyone all at once. Instead, she decided to meet with them first before making any decisions. After all, there truly were people who genuinely wanted to donate. Jasmine clenched her fist, glancing at the passersby around her. "Are you sure you want to talk about it here?"

"Stop dawdling."

"Let me get straight to the point. Nora, I am your mother." Jasmine took a slow step forward, her gaze settling on Lenora's face, her eyes filled with indescribable emotions. "I've returned" Lenora found the situation rather amusing deep inside. She looked at her with a hint of sarcasm and sad "I don't have a mother. She passed away a long time ago."

## **Stay Away 371**

Chapter 371 Must Not Take Hattie Away

Jasmine was taken aback, immediately calling for the driver to bring the car around. Unfortunately, Lenora's car had already driven off into the distance.

She was seated in the back, gazing out at the street view through the window, a wave of restlessness surging within her.

Who would have thought that the Wilkin family actually deceived Lenora into believing she had passed away?

With this in mind, in order to achieve her goal, she had to convince Lenora that she was indeed her mother.

Upon further reflection, Jasmine felt that something was amiss.

If Lenora truly believed that her mother was dead, then when someone she'd had a conflict with suddenly claimed to be her mother, she should have been furious. She would have thought that person was out of their mind instead of calmly stating, "I don't have a mother; my mother died a long time ago."

It seemed as though Lenora had known all along what she was about to say.

Could it be that Lenora had known about her identity all along, which was why she remained so calm?

Reflecting on the gaze Lenora had just given her, Jasmine reckoned that must be the case.

When did Lenora find out?

Reflecting back, Jasmine remembered their last encounter at the hospital. Lenora's reaction didn't seem feigned - she most likely was unaware at the time.

Following her time in the hospital, Lenora found out in an unexpected turn of events that the woman was her mother. Reflecting on the happenings of that day in the hospital, she couldn't help but feel wronged. This led to her stubborn refusal to acknowledge her out of spite. A slight smile tugged at the corner of Jasmine's lips.

Lenora blamed her for the incident that occurred at the hospital last time, indicating that Lenora still cared about their mother-daughter relationship. If she took the initiative to get closer, Lenora's attitude would surely soften.

In the vehicle, Lenora leaned against the seat back, gazing motionlessly out of the window, lost in thought.

In truth, prior to their unexpected reunion at the hospital, she had gradually come to terms with her feelings toward her mother as she matured.

She once contemplated with an understanding mindset. Even though her mother had given birth to her, she had an unfortunate life and had every right to pursue her own happiness.

However, the situation after their reunion was not as she had imagined it to be.

Lenora reckoned Jasmine must be doing this with an ulterior motive, so Lenora didn't think that the latter would suddenly appear to acknowledge their kinship due to a sudden pang of conscience.

That evening, when she got home, Jasmine tried to call Lenora. No one picked up, so when she tried again, she realized that Lenora had blocked her number.

She used the driver's phone to send a message to Lenora: Nora, it's Mom. I'm sorry. I know you hold resentment toward me for leaving you all these years, for my indifference. But now, I realize I was wrong. I know you've suffered a lot. From now on, I won't leave you again. If you're willing, I can take you back to the Hoffman family. Ezekiel and Uncle Bertram will surely treat you like family.

Lenora speculated that given Jasmine's personality, she wouldn't give up easily.

She had already expected to receive this text message.

Following that, Jasmine sent another message: If you don't want to move to Jeahron, I can buy you a house or a car here in Jacaster or perhaps deposit some money in your account. I heard you recently won a major photography award. I have some connections. I can help you set up a photography studio to pursue your dreams. Also, you've been acting recently, haven't you? Your Uncle Bertram has an entertainment company. If you want to continue acting, they will definitely provide you with the best resources.

With a cold, mocking laugh, Lenora swiftly typed a few words: No need. I've made it through over twenty years without a mother. It's not important. I know there's no such thing as a free lunch in this world. I'm not naive enough to be swayed by your promises. You won't interfere with my life if you truly care for me.

Upon seeing that Lenora was unresponsive to her efforts, Jasmine furrowed her brows, typing another message: Trust me. All I want is to make it up to you. Are you free tomorrow? Can we meet?

However, after clicking send, a striking red exclamation mark appeared next to the message.

This number had also been blocked by Lenora.

A shadow flickered in the depths of Jasmine's eyes.

Since the gentle approach didn't work, the only option left was to play hardball.

The following day, while Lenora was on the film set, she received a call from Harrietta's kindergarten teacher.

The assistant handed over the ringing phone. She glanced at the screen before answering the call.

On the other end of the phone, the teacher said, "Ma'am, a lady has arrived at the school claiming to be Harrietta's grandmother. She wants to take Harrietta with her."

A jolt of panic surged through Lenora's heart. Without hesitation, she declared, "She cannot take Hattie away."

"We know that, but she's currently in the garden and refuses to leave, insisting on seeing you."

Lenora furrowed her brows, remaining silent for a few seconds before saying, "Hand her the phone." "Okay."

A soft rustling sound echoed through the air.

A familiar voice echoed through the receiver. "Nora, you've finally decided to answer my call."

Lenora let out a cold laugh. "Mdm. Lovestone, what exactly are you trying to do?"

"You're my daughter. I just want to make it up to you properly. When are you free so we can meet?"

Lenora knew there was no avoiding this confrontation. Otherwise, Jasmine would not let things rest.

She glanced at the notice on the table and said, "I finish my filming at eight tonight. Why don't you swing by then? But let me be clear. I'm only meeting you this once. Make sure you know exactly what you want to say." "All right," Jasmine responded, "Remove my number from your blacklist. I'll contact you when I arrive."

However, the schedule listed on the notice was merely an estimate based on a normal filming progression and was not entirely accurate.

It was common for actors to struggle to get into character, often resulting in delays.

For instance, on that particular evening, for some reason, the actor who was performing opposite Lenora messed up numerous times. It wasn't until nearly nine o'clock that



Lenora wrapped up the day's shooting. Not far from the film set, there was a restaurant that offered private dining rooms.

A number of cast members from various productions would head over to dine after finishing their filming.

Jasmine arrived at the place around eight, having already booked a room. She waited until nine, her patience wearing thin due to the prolonged wait.

If it weren't for her need from Lenora, she really would have liked to just walk away.

Lenora pushed the door open and entered. Her face was still adorned with stage makeup, yet her features couldn't hide a hint of fatigue.

Jasmine switched to a look of concern, standing up and pulling out a chair. "Nora, you must be exhausted. Please, have a seat."

Lenora unceremoniously took a seat, watching as Jasmine reached for the teapot to pour some water. She halted her. "No need for water. Just get straight to the point if you have something to say."

Jasmine paused momentarily but still filled the cup with water and placed it in front of Lenora. She sat down elegantly across from her. "What's the rush? I've ordered food. We can talk while we eat. At the very least, we should head home with a full stomach." As the last word was spoken, the waiter began to serve the dishes.

Jasmine looked at the pale-faced Lenora, took the initiative to warm up her plate with hot water, and said, "I wasn't sure what you like to eat, so I just ordered a few things at random. I heard that this place's venison platter is their signature dish. Do you want to give it a try?" As she spoke, she picked up a piece of venison with her fork and placed it on the plate in front of Lenora. Then, she served her a small bowl of broth. "Have some. It'll warm you up."

Lenora cast a glance at the porcelain bowl in front of her, remaining unfazed. "Stop wasting your time. If you have something to say, spit it out. If not, I'll be on my way." She made a move to stand up and leave.

"Hold on," Jasmine immediately stopped her, sighing. "Nora, since you've put it that way, I'll be straight with you. I hope you and your friend can write a settlement agreement to Howard."

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**Stay Away 372**

## Chapter 372 Repaid On His Behalf

Lenora knew well, that Jasmine had a purpose for her visit.

So, this is the reason.

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It only took Lenora a brief moment of thought to understand what was going on. A mix of disdain and incredulity filled her internally.

The Winfrey family must've heeded Zachary's words to seek an explanation from the Hoffman family. To protect Summer, the Hoffman family will have to find a way to get Howard out of the mess. And so, Jasmine's here. She's abandoned me for over twenty years, but now Looking at Lenora's mocking expression, Jasmine calmly scooped some vegetables and served them to her, her expression gentle. "Nora, I know you're very resistant to this matter, but I'm doing this all for your own good. Think about it, you and your friend are fine. Howar natured young man who means no harm. Wouldn't it be a pity to have him imprisoned? If you're willing to settle, both the Winfrey family and the Hoffman family will be extremely grateful. This could greatly benefit your life and career. Why go

O extremes and cause a lose-lose situation?"

She added after a slight pause, "Moreover, you must be aware of this by now, this matter involves Summer. You probably don't understand fully, Summer's parents passed away not long after they arrived in Jeahron, leaving only Summer behind. You two are cousins. Can y Lenora looked at Jasmine with a face full of mockery. "Are you done talking? If so, I'm leaving. Let me make it clear to you, I have no intention of forgiving Howard. You might as well give up on that idea."

Having said that, she stood up and left.

As she was about to walk out the door, Jasmine suddenly called out to her from behind, "Nora, don't you want to know about your real background?"

Lenora paused in her steps, her heart skipping a beat. An uneasy premonition stirred within her.

My background? Am I not the daughter of Fernando and Jasmine? What else could my background be?

Watching her retreating figure, Jasmine rose to her feet and slowly approached her. Suddenly, she dropped a bombshell, revealing, "I can't keep this from you any longer. The truth is, you are not Fernando's daughter at all." Lenora's body stiffened, her fists clenched abruptly. She turned to stare at Jasmine, her voice laced with sarcasm,

saying, "You can stop with your efforts now. Even if you tell me I'm the chairman's daughter, I still won't forgive Howard." With a faint smile, Jasmine looked at Lenora before her. "I'm not spouting nonsense, Lenora. What I'm saying is true."

She sighed. "Back then, I was out there, making a name for myself, but I upset some people. In haste, I married Fernando. He was indeed a good man, but he wasn't the one I loved. Later on, your biological father came looking for me..." "So you cheated?" Lenora gritted her teeth in anger, her voice harsh and quivering uncontrollably as she

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Jasmine didn't deny it. "Do you know who your biological father is? His name is Kenneth. He has a daughter named Susanna. If you don't believe me, you can ask Zachary. He should've known this all along."

Lenora felt as if she had been struck squarely on the head, a buzzing noise filled her ears, and her mind went completely blank.

After a tumult of emotions within her, she calmly stated, "Your words won't work on me. Even if what you're saying is true, I will never forgive Howard."

"I had thought that Kenneth was my savior, but unexpectedly, he was just a flirtatious man, never considering marrying me. Later, I headed north alone to make a living, and that's when I met Bertram. I wanted to bring you along, but with my status, it was difficult even to make him disagree with us being together, some even went as far as to harm me. Your aunt and uncle were casualties, trying to shield me from harm, that's why I can't abandon Summer. I hope you can

understand me, Nora."

Lenora didn't take Jasmine's words seriously. She knew that if the latter truly wanted to take her back to the Hoffman family, she could've done it now even if she couldn't back then. There was no need to wait for over twenty years, only to acknowledge her now because of She still vividly remembered the repulsive attitude Jasmine displayed at the hospital the last time.

Lenora turned to look at Jasmine. "Had you not sought me out, pressuring me to forgive Howard, perhaps I might've understood you."

Jasmine remained calm as ever. "Nora, whether you resent me or hate me, for the sake of Summer, I have to do this. In fact, I initially didn't intend to give birth to you, otherwise, Bertram and I wouldn't have had such a hard time. If you forgive Howard, consider it as repaying Lenora never expected that Jasmine would guilt-trip her with such unabashed righteousness.

"I made it clear to you, it's impossible. To give birth without providing care is worse than not giving birth at all. This isn't a favor; it's a grudge."

"Nora, you're quite emotional right now, and you may make the wrong decisions. You should go home and think things through." Jasmine paused slightly. "I heard that last time the Winfrey family came around, it was Zachary who helped you out. If the Hoffman family takes As April's weather gradually warmed, the nights remained strikingly cold, a chill that seemed to assault

one's senses.

After leaving the restaurant, Lenora adjusted the coat on her. She descended a flight of stairs, staring blankly ahead, utterly motionless.

The driver parked the car by the roadside. When he noticed that Lenora stood frozen there, he thought she hadn't spotted the car and so, he turned on the hazard lights.

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Seeing Lenora still not approaching, the driver rolled down the car window and called out, "Ms. Wilkin, why aren't you getting in the car?"

Regaining her senses, Lenora slowly made her way to the car. She opened the door and got in, her voice slightly hoarse, saying, "Head... to the riverside."

The driver paused, catching a glimpse of Lenora through the rear-view mirror. He noticed her reddened eyes and hesitated before speaking, "Ms. Wilkin, it's quite cold by the river... Is there something troubling you?"

Seeing Lenora remain silent, the driver refrained from saying anything further.

The dim yellow light from the roadside lamps intermittently cast a warm glow on Lenora's face through the car window, flickering between brightness and darkness.

Leaning against the back of her seat, she gazed out at the street scene through the car window. Her face wore an expression of utter defeat, and she felt as if a heavy stone weighed on her heart. She had absolutely no desire to speak. Reminiscences of the childhood gossip and whispers from the village kept flashing back in my memory. It turns out, what they said is true. I'm not my dad's child. I'm an illegitimate child scorned by everyone.

A bitter taste welled up in Lenora's throat, quickly followed by a sharp sting in her nose, causing her vision to blur with unshed tears.

The shrill blast of a car horn, the deafening sound of impact, a car with its entire front part crumpled in, and the fierce flames that followed...

The light reflected in Lenora's eyes, almost as if they were stained red by the fierce blaze.

She recalled the car accident, the one that had taken her father's life.

Dad loved me dearly. But it turns out, I'm not his daughter. If it wasn't for me, Dad wouldn't have died. I shouldn't have existed in this world.

Lenora bit her lower lip, desperately holding back the sorrow welling up inside her. She forced herself to look upward, but it was not enough to stop the tears from falling.

If Dad knew that I'm not his daughter, he'd surely be heartbroken.

Memories of the warm moments with her father began to resurface in her mind, one after another. The immense pain was overwhelming, and she gradually found it harder and harder to breathe. Why did it turn out like this?

She slowly slid down from her seat.

The driver glanced into the rear-view mirror and was instantly startled by the sight. "Ms. Wilkin, what's wrong?"

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## Stay Away 373

Chapter 373 The One And Only Lenora +5 Free Coins

Bewildered, Lenora regained consciousness. As she opened her eyes, she found herself staring at a pristine white ceiling, momentarily lost in a daze.

Recalling the events before she fell unconscious, tears welled up subconsciously and streamed down her face, disappearing into her hair. A profound sorrow gripped her heart, leaving her struggling for breath. How she wished it was all just a dream. A dream where Jasmine had never set foot in Jacaster, and she remained Fernando's daughter.

"Nora, don't cry." A large hand reached over, its slender fingers gently brushing away the tears from Lenora's eyes. "The doctor said you need to stay calm now, otherwise it won't be good for your health." Lenora's gaze slowly fell upon the person before her. She gulped, her voice choked with emotion. "Zachary."

Mmm-hmm, I'm right here."

Zachary gently held her from behind, helping her to sit up. He then slid a pillow behind her back for support.

Lenora embraced him, her head resting on his shoulder. As tears fell, she sobbed, "Zachary, I'm not my father's daughter. I'm a b\*stard..."

Zachary's breath hitched as he looked at Lenora's red and swollen eyes. It felt as if his heart was being ripped apart.

He held Lenora close, gently patting her shoulder to comfort her. "Nora, you're not a b\*stard. You are the one and only Lenora."

However, such words did nothing to soothe Lenora.

Zachary understood that this was different from his relationship with Ronald. He had never met Ronald since he was a child, so there was no emotional connection.

Upon learning that he was Ronald's son and that he was born from the affair between Tamara and Bertram, he wasn't particularly emotional about it. This was in line with his personality.

However, Lenora and Fernando's relationship was different.

After the passing of her grandparents, Fernando

was the only family Lenora had left. Her childhood experiences had caused her to rely deeply on her father. Fernando was a man of integrity, known for exposing the dark side of the business world, a fact that earned him great admiration from the public. Lenora had always. Additionally, considering Lenora's sensitive nature, when she was suddenly informed that she was not Fernando's child, but the daughter of a frivolous, uneducated playboy who had fathered her due to his reckless dalliances, it was impossible for her to accept the truth. Lenora was still crying, her sobs making it hard for her to catch her breath. "I feel so miserable... I shouldn't have been born into this world, then perhaps my father wouldn't have died.

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"Nora, don't say that." Zachary held her tightly. "Your father's death wasn't your fault. The perpetrator who caused his death hasn't

been brought to justice yet. You should gather your strength, for your father's sake, and seek revenge. Sometimes, blood relations aren't as significant as you might think. The man who raised you is your true father." "But... I'm really feeling awful inside..." Lenora said, choking back sobs.

Zachary gently patted her shoulder. "Don't be like this. Think about it, Fernando risked his life to save you because he wanted you to live well. Don't let these mundane matters bother you, or else you'll fall right into Jasmine's trap." Lenora spoke pessimistically. "He saved me because he thought I was his daughter. If he knew I wasn't, would he dislike me and regret saving me?"

This was a question no one could answer.

Zachary knew she was overthinking, his fingers gently smoothing the crease between her brows and wiping away the tear at the corner of her eye. He calmly reassured her, "I'm not your father, I can't know what his choice would be. But I believe, given your father's character. After a few seconds of silence, Lenora knew full well that Zachary had a point, yet she still felt a pang of heartache.

But... Mmm...

Zachary silenced her by pressing his lips against hers, swallowing the words she was about to speak. Their noses were touching, lips brushing against each other. Zachary looked into her reddened eyes and said, "Don't think about hypothetical situations now, alright? Just Lenora pursed her lips, giving him a pitiful look.

Zachary went on to change the topic. "You haven't had dinner, did you? I'll have someone prepare some oatmeal for you, alright?"

"I don't want any."

Even though her stomach was empty, she didn't have an appetite.

"If you don't want to, then don't." Zachary didn't insist. It's already the wee hours of the morning. Get some sleep. When you wake up, things will start to look up."

Lenora pursed her lips, took a brief trip to the restroom, and then settled back onto the hospital bed. She glanced at Zachary who was sitting by her bedside, a hint of reluctance in her eyes. "Are you leaving?" she asked.

"I'm not leaving. I'm staying with you."

Zachary removed his coat and turned off the light. He lay down next to Lenora, his arm draped gently over her. "Sleep," he whispered.

2/4 "Cover yourself with the blanket. It's cold at night," Lenora suggested, pulling back the blanket to share half

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Chapter 373 The One And Only Lenora

with him.

Taking advantage of the situation, Zachary slipped underneath it, embracing Lenora.

In the darkness, no one spoke again.

The hospital room fell silent, with only the sound of their breaths remaining.

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After an indeterminate amount of time had passed, Lenora rolled over and whispered, "Zachary, are you asleep?"

"No," Zachary said softly.

"I can't sleep."

"Still thinking about it?"

"Mmm-hmm." Lenora pursed her lips. "Have you known about this all along?"

Zachary remained silent, offering no response.

Lenora posed another question. "The two secrets Susanna holds over me, is this one of them?"

Initially, her sorrow was just from knowing she wasn't her father's biological daughter. But now, as she calmed down and thought about the identity of her real father, the revelation hit Lenora even harder. She was actually the daughter of Susanna's father, making her Susar sister.

"Yes."

Lenora took a deep breath.

No wonder Zachary has always kept it from me.

Initially, she felt that she had no vulnerabilities that Susanna could exploit. But now, she wasn't so sure.

If this is just one of them, what is the other one? Could anything be more shocking for me than this?

"When did you find out?"

"Do you remember running into Kenneth at the airport last November? His behavior was odd at the time because he had discovered your true identity. He managed to get a hold of your hair to conduct a DNA test. Later on, Helen found out about the test results." Lenora suddenly understood. "So, is that why she kidnapped me?"

"Yes, when Elijah led his team to the Carston residence to apprehend Helen, he unexpectedly came across the DNA test report and handed it to me."

"I see."

That had happened several months ago.

The thought of how Zachary had gone to great lengths to keep this matter hidden from her and even

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Chapter 373 The One And Only Lenora

enduring her misunderstandings warmed Lenora's heart.

Even though she eventually found out about it, there was no denying Zachary's intentions.

"Don't worry about Jasmine. I've got everything under control," Zachary said.

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After Lenora fell unconscious, the driver took her to the hospital and contacted Zachary, as he was one of Zachary's men.

In this brief period, Zachary had already understood the reasons behind the situation.

Summer grew up alongside Jasmine, who held a deep affection for her. Given that the injuries on Lenora's body were not severe, it was somewhat understandable when Jasmine tried to persuade Lenora to forgive Howard for Summer's sake. However, what was unforgivable was that when Lenora disagreed, Jasmine shockingly revealed Lenora's true identity.

he only cared about Summer and didn't even consider how Lenora would handle the truth.

Lenora bit her lower lip, her drooping eyes carrying a hint of desolation. Her mouth moved but no words

came out.

Zachary had already done so much for her. Hence, she didn't want him to do more.

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Chapter 374 Let Us Get Back Together

Chapter 374 Let Us Get Back Together

The room was shrouded in darkness, making it impossible to discern Lenora's expression.

Faced with her silence, Zachary thought she was still upset about her own identity and saddened by Jasmine's actions.

Zachary enveloped her from behind, whispering, "Honey, do you know what Grandma told me when we were alone that day?"

Before Lenora could respond, he continued, "She told me that Ronald is not my father but my uncle.

U Ronald is his uncle, then his mother is... Tamarah

"And the reason I was registered under my uncle's name was that my mother got involved with a married man and I was born out of wedlock. Even if my parents were to change, I would still remain an illegitimate. Feeling a surge of guilt, Lenora quickly turned around and embraced him, her voice filled with remorse. "I'm sorry."

At that time, she asked him what his grandmother had told him. He gave a vague response, clearly not wanting her to know about his unfortunate background.

However, in order to comfort her now, he had willingly reopened his own wounds.

"I want to tell you that there's nothing one can't overcome. I couldn't choose to whom I was born to, but I can choose my future. It's the same for you. You can't change the past, so don't dwell on it. Look ahead, okay?"

Zachary added earnestly, "Parents and relatives are, after all, just passersby in our lives. You needn't take it too much to heart. It's natural for parents to love their children and for children to respect their parents. But if your parents are not kind, you shouldn't let familial ties. Somehow, Lenora's eyes reddened once again, and she softly responded with a hum.

Throughout this entire time, the agony and turmoil Zachary faced due to his identity was no less than hers.

"Zachary,"

"Hmm?"

"It's nothing. Go to sleep." Lenora said.

Just a moment ago, she almost told Zachary that she wanted to get back together.

However, just as the words reached the tip of her tongue, she held them back.

It had occurred to her that Tatara was her mother, and the phone conversation between her and Tamara recently still echoed in her mind.

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Chapter 374 Let Us Get Back Together

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The following morning, after Zachary saw Lenora off, he called Miles. "Book me a flight to Jeahron tomorrow," he said.

"Jeahron?" Miles checked Zachary's schedule and didn't see anything about Jeahron. .

"Exactly. Reschedule the itineraries for tomorrow and the day after," he said. "Alright."

It seems it's for a private matter.

Miles agreed, acknowledging that there was indeed a meeting scheduled for the day after tomorrow. However, it wasn't of significant importance. He could simply provide Zachary with the meeting minutes afterward. There was also a dinner arrangement with a CEO who ha term business partner of Fuller Group. That could also be postponed if necessary.

Once back home, Lenora deliberated on her situation, eventually deciding to relay the current situation to Sophia.

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Sophia felt a pang of sympathy for Lenora, even as she berated Jasmine and Summer. Then, she asked, "This all started because of Ezekiel, didn't it? Jasmine is Ezekiel's stepmother, and didn't he say he would take responsibility for this? Does he know about what happe "I'm not sure. Let me ask," Lenora said.

She sent Ezekiel a message on WhatsApp, Ezekiel, your stepmother, Mdm. Lovestone, came to see me yesterday, asking me to forgive Howard. Did you know about this?

Ezekiel was in the car, leaning against the backseat and slightly lost in thought as he looked at the message on the screen.

He replied: I'm sorry, Nora. I've been dealing with this issue for the past couple of days. I didn't expect Aunt Jasmine to seek you out. I'll contact her right away and ask her not to bother you anymore.

Lenora: Alright, I appreciate your help, Ezekiel. However, I hope you understand that Howie is my friend, and I will help him with whatever I can.

Ezekiel: I understand.

She understood Ezekiel's stance. He wouldn't ask the two victims to settle, but Howard was his friend still. He wouldn't just stand by and watch him go to jail.

Ezekiel glanced at the message from Lenora, exited WhatsApp, and slipped his phone into his pocket.

After responding, Lenora showed Sophia her phone screen.

Upon seeing it, Sophia casually scrolled through it. "Do you believe him?"

Lenora pursed her lips. "I do

Ever since they met, Ezekiel had been a great help to her in her photography. He even assisted her in capturing Gaston. After the mishap in the last photography competition, Ezekiel immediately promised to make it right, and he certainly did.

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## **Stay Away 375**

Chapter 375 My Previous Wife

Chapter 375 My Previous Wife

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Grayson had served the Hoffman family for a long time and had been by Bertram's side since the latter was a young man.

So, Grayson was aware of what happened between Bertram and Tamara in the past, as well as Zachary's

The situation back then among the three families was rather messy.

It wasn't uncommon for illegitimate children to be accepted into affluent families. In some households, the wife and the mistress even went shopping together.

However, amidst all this, there was a life at stake-Rebecca.

The White family held firm on this matter. Prioritizing Ezekiel's interests, they refused to acknowledge Tamara's child as part of the Hoffman family.

Once the child was accepted into the Hoffman family, it was inevitable that Tamara and Bertram would continue to be involved with each other under the guise of visiting the child. Back then, when Bertram's father was still alive, Rebecca was the daughter-in-

law he had chosen for his son. He did this not only to maintain the marriage alliance between the two families but also out of pity for his grandson who had lost his mother at a young age. Without hesitation, he agreed to this arrangement. As a result, he had even lashed B When the White family came to complain, Gerald was utterly humiliated. He repeatedly chastised himself for his failure to raise his daughter properly. He did not wish for Tamara to have any further involvement with Bertram, so he firmly decided to keep Zachary at home w After resolving the matter, the White and Hoffman families maintained contact due to Ezekiel's marriage alliance.

However, the Fuller family and the Hoffman family ceased all collaborations and no longer kept in touch. It wasn't until recent years that their subsidiary companies occasionally conducted business with each other, but it was never necessary for members of the two familie On this occasion, someone from the Fuller family had wanted to visit Bertram unexpectedly. The fact that this person was Zachary would inevitably lead to Bertram growing concerned.

Could it be that Zachary has already discovered his true identity, and that's why he has come forward?

Grayson sat in the corridor, gazing at the vibrant flower beds in the courtyard while being lost in deep thought.

A car pulled up, coming to a halt at the entrance of the Hoffman residence.

Upon recognizing the familiar license plate. Grayson immediately rose to greet its arrival S~earch the Find\_Novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Bertram stepped out of the car and quickly walked in, asking. "Has he arrived?"

Grayson shook his head. "Not yet, but he'll be here soon

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In a hurried pace, Bertram entered the house and queried. "Did he mention why he is coming to see me?"

Grayson paused for a moment. "No, the housekeeper who answered the phone forgot to ask."

"I'll go change. If he arrives, let him wait for me in the study.

"Alright."

Bertram swiftly ascended to the second floor, while Grayson waited in the living room.

A few minutes later, the sound of a car engine echoed from outside.

Immediately, Grayson straightened up, casually picked up a feather duster, and swept it twice over the table, pretending to be busy.

Guided by a housekeeper, a young man with a towering figure entered. He looked to be over one point eight meters tall, had broad-shoulders, and a v-shaped figure. Dressed in a well-tailored suit and handmade leather shoes, he moved with an easy grace, an air of indescribable refinement exuding from his entire being.

Grayson's gaze subtly fell upon Zachary's face. He couldn't help but marvel at how much the latter resembled his father and elder brother.

The housekeeper approached, "Mr. Grayson, Mr. Fuller has arrived."

After she finished speaking, she stepped aside and stood at attention.

Grayson turned around leisurely, putting down his feather duster as if he had just noticed Zachary, "Mr. Fuller, your reputation precedes you. Now that I see you in person, you certainly live up to it!"

Zachary maintained a calm expression. "You flatter me, Mr. Hoffman around?"

"Right this way," Mr. Grayson said with a smile. "Mr. Hoffman is currently resting. Please have a seat in the study, while I go and notify him."

Zachary didn't respond. Instead, he simply followed Grayson up to the second floor.

Grayson casually inquired, "To be honest, our families rarely interact, so what brings you here to today?"

"I have important matters to discuss with Mr. Hoffman

"May I ask, what is it regarding?"

Zachary glanced up at him.

Grayson's face momentarily stiffened just as they reached the entrance of the study. With a smile, he quickly changed the subject. "Please have a seat, Mr. Fuller"

Without sparing Grayson a glance, Zachary entered the study. Amidst Grayson's ushering, he took a seat on the visitor's couch

Immediately after, Grayson went out to look for Bertran, while the housekeeper came in, carrying a tray with coffee on it.

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Chapter 375 My Previous Wife

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Zachary gestured for her to place it on the table. He casually glanced around the layout of the study before withdrawing his gaze. Meanwhile, Grayson glanced at the bedroom door, and after receiving permission, he pushed it open. "Mr. Hoffman, he is here." Bertram had already changed into a well-pressed suit, adjusting his collar as he asked, "Did he say anything?"

Grayson's expression turned grim. "I tried probing earlier, but all he said was that he had something to discuss with you. When I asked what it was, he didn't elaborate."

Grayson's age was no secret. In his younger days, he had been by Bertram's side, weathering many storms. These experiences had shaped him into a seasoned veteran, unperturbed in any situation. However, just a moment ago, he felt a rare sense of nervousness when Zachary gave him a look.



As expected of Mr. Hoffman's son, he truly is an exceptional individual.

"Get back to your work. I'll be there shortly."

"Alright then."

Before stepping into the study, Bertram paused, gripped by a sense of apprehension in facing the past. Taking a deep breath to steady his emotions, he pushed the door open and stepped inside. "Mr. Hoffman."

Upon seeing Bertram enter, Zachary rose to his feet and extended his hand calmly.

"Mr. Fuller, have a seat."

Bertram shook hands with Zachary, while discreetly observing the latter's expression. He was silently trying to discern if Zachary had discovered his true identity.

Upon seeing Zachary's impassive expression, Bertram realized that his son, whom he had never interacted with before, was also a formidable character.

After all, no ordinary young man could have taken over as Chairman during the tumultuous time after Gerald passed away and immediately stabilized the company.

Bertram wore a warm smile on his face as he sat down across from Zachary, his tone familiar. "Just from the way you conduct yourself, I can see that your reputation as the most outstanding businessman in Jacaster is well- deserved. I've seen your interviews and have long wanted to meet you. I didn't expect you to approach me first. Come, have some coffee."

Zachary responded with a polite smile, "Thank you for the compliment, Mr. Hoffman."

"Ah, you make us sound like strangers. If you don't mind, just call me Uncle Bertram, and I'll call you Zack. How does that sound?" "That's not necessary."

The smile on Bertram's froze as he stared at Zachary. In that instant, he was at a loss for words.

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In the past, everyone in the same situation would have died for the opportunity to call him Uncle Bertram.

Even the scions of established families in Hestrya had to give him due respect, even if it was just superficial.

By saying that it wasn't necessary. Zachary had caused Bertram to be stumped.

Zachary gave a light smile. "The Fuller and Hoffman families don't interact much. If it weren't for the Hoffman family crossing my threshold this time, I wouldn't have come here personally."

In an instant, Bertram understood. Zachary wasn't there to make amends; he had come to settle scores.

He probably doesn't know his own identity yet.

"May I ask, Mr. Fuller, how has the Hoffman family crossed the line with you?" Bertram dropped his smile, his expression serious. "If the Hoffman family is at fault, I will surely have someone make it up to you. If not. I'm afraid you might have made a wasted trip, Mr. Fuller." "You're aware of the mess that Howard Winfrey has stirred up, aren't you, Mr. Hoffman?"

Bertram nodded slightly. "What about it? What does this matter have anything to do with the Fuller family?"

Zachary lightly tapped his index finger on the table. "One of the victims, Lenora Wilkin, is the adopted daughter of the Fuller family and my ex-wife."

## **Stay Away 376**

Chapter 376 You Knew About Her Status

Bertram's breath hitched.

He now realized why he had found Lenora's name so familiar when he heard it from Edwin.

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Although he paid attention to Zachary, he didn't do so in detail. Coupled with his busy schedule, his level of attention wasn't particularly high, and he wasn't aware of every piece of information.

He only knew that Zachary's personal affairs frequently made the headlines of the entertainment news last year. He had briefly watched an interview with Zachary, where he learned that Zachary had married the adopted daughter of the Fuller family, only to divorce later. H

name.

So, it's Lenor Wilkin

Looking into his eyes, Zachary spoke again. "Even though we're divorced, my grandfather's dying wish was for me to take good care of her. Just a few days ago, the Winfrey family came to her, threatening her by using her friend. I managed to fend them off. Who would h No wonder the Winfrey family returned from Jacaster empty-handed, shifting their focus to Summer. Apparently. they have hit a snag with Zachary

"I see." Bertram chuckled. "It's not a problem at all. I'll have my wife return immediately, so she won't be a bother to Ms. Wilkin anymore."

"I'm afraid it's not that simple."

Bertram was caught by surprise.

"Forgive my audacity in what I'm about to ask next, Mr. Hoffman. Are you aware that your esteemed wife had a daughter from a previous marriage in her hometown of Jacaster before she married you?" "I do."

However, Bertram was unaware of the identities of Jasmine's ex-husband and daughter.

Hearing Zachary mention it at that moment, a suspicion began to form in Bertram's heart, yet he still found it somewhat hard to believe.

The reason was that he knew that Lenora's adopted father was a highly esteemed journalist.

When he had encountered Jasmine, she had revealed that her ex-husband had been abusive. Even after their divorce, he continued to harass her. Out of desperation, she had no choice but to leave her hometown and seek refuge in the capital. However, it was challenging to connect an abusive man and a righteous reporter. The two of them seemed worlds apart.

"Lenora is the daughter she had with her ex-

husband." Zachary glanced at his wristwatch, each word measured and deliberate. "Originally, after being separated for over twenty years, she didn't care about the matter anymore. Surprisingly, after Lenora refused to settle, Mdm. Lovestone voluntarily revealed her

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Chapter 376 You Knew About Her Status

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identity and acknowledged Lenora, and even used the fact that she was Lenora's biological mother as a form of leverage.

To conceal Lenora's identity, Zachary avoided certain matters and exaggerated others.

"Lenora was in a predicament, knowing that Mdin. Lovestone had come to reconcile with her for the sake of Summer. Heartbroken, her old illness was triggered and she fainted. When I arrived, she had just been discharged from the hospital. Man, I dare to ask, should the This was despite the fact that Lenora had only spent one night in the hospital.

Upon hearing this. Bertram fell silent for a long while. I see," he finally said. "Rest assured, Mr.

Fuller, I will have someone investigate the matter. If it turns out to be as you've said, I will ensure that my wife and Summer apologize to Ms. Wilkin. She is, after all, my stepdaughter. Should she wish to return to the Hoffman family, our doors are always open to her." "Your words have put me at ease. They say you are a man of integrity and

honor. Meeting you today. I see that your reputation is well deserved," Zachary said as he stood up. "In that case, I won't bother you any longer. I'll be waiting for your updates in Jacaster, Mr. Hoffman."

Bertram also rose to his feet. "Won't you stay a bit longer, Mr. Fuller?"

"No. I have other pressing matters. I hope you understand, Mr. Hoffman." "Take care then."

Grayson personally escorted Zachary to the car, then returned to the study. Seeing Bertram's angry expression, he couldn't help but ask, "Mr. Hoffman, what brought Mr. Fuller here?"

It seems like he didn't come to acknowledge his father.

In a few words, Bertram explained the matter.

Grayson expressed his surprise. "What a coincidence! I really didn't see that coming... But for Mr. Fuller to be standing up for Ms. Wilkin to this extent, he must be considering reconciling with her, isn't he?"

Bertram had also noticed it. Although Zachary claimed that Lenora was just the adopted daughter of the Fuller family, he was constantly defending her, making his stance obvious.

It was precisely for that reason that Bertram was filled with anger.

The last time he confronted Ezekiel, Ezekiel admitted that he had feelings for Lenora.

Having stayed in Jacaster for such a long time and having encountered Zachary multiple times, how could he not know that Lenora was Zachary's ex-

wife? How could he be oblivious to the fact that Zachary wants to reconcile with Lenora? Yet, he still got close to her. How much is this due to his feelings for Lenora, and how much is it a deliberate attempt to get on Zachary's nerves? "Where is Ezekiel? Have him come see me."

"Understood."

Grayson was unaware that this matter was related to Ezekiel. He assumed that Bertram was seeking Ezekiel

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for a different reason.

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Upon receiving a call from Grayson, Ezekiel learned that Zachary had visited the Hoffman residence. Raising an eyebrow, he asked Grayson, "What was he doing at the Holliman residence?" Grayson didn't hold back and told him about the relationship between Jasmine and Lenora.

After hearing everything, Ezekiel paused for a moment.

He hadn't expected Jasmine and Lenora to be related that way.

When Ezekiel returned to the Hoffman residence, he knocked twice on the study door before entering.

A book was flung at him, and he hastily sidestepped to avoid it.

With a thud, the hefty book slammed against the door before falling to the ground.

Ezekiel glanced at the book on the floor, then lifted his gaze to Bertram, calmly saying. "What's gotten into you, Dad? So thrilled to see your other son that you've lost your senses?"

Bertram stared at him intently. "What's going on between you and Lenora?"

With a smirk playing on his lips, Ezekiel pulled out a chair and settled down across from Bertram. "What else could it be? I like her."

"You knew full well she was Zachary's ex-wife..."

"So what? She's divorced, isn't she?"

Bertram stared at Ezekiel, a snigger escaping his lips. "You know exactly what you've done. You were fully aware of the relationship between Lenora and Zachary, yet you didn't warn me. Instead, you purposely suggested that I should personally persuade Lenora. Was it n

Ezekiel pursed his lips.

He lied to Lenora, claiming he had no idea that Jasmine had gone to see her.

It was him who suggested that Bertram personally persuade Lenora and Sophia. Thus, he knew that Bertram had decided to send Jasmine instead.

However, back then, he was unaware of the relationship between Jasmine and Lenora. All he knew was that both Bertram and Jasmine were equally cunning. If Lenora disagreed, they would surely resort to more persuasive methods.

Given how important Lenora was to Zachary, he definitely wouldn't let things rest. Thus, Bertram was bound to be in conflict with the Fuller family.

When Bertram's words revealed his unfamiliarity with Lenora, an idea came to Ezekiel.

Unexpectedly, things had gone awry.

Zachary and Bertram had indeed become adversaries, but it was Lenora who had suffered significant emotional distress, one that was difficult to remedy.

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Seeing that Ezekiel remained silent, Bertram sighed. "It appears that seeking forgiveness is no longer an option. We should focus on building connections with the authorities. You should put more effort into that." "What's the big deal? Summer is in my hands; wouldn't it be over if I just hand her over?" said Ezekiel.

""You..."

## **Stay Away 377**

Chapter 377 Do Not Go Looking For Lenora

Chapter 377 Do Not Go Looking For Lenora

Jasmine received a call from Bertram, telling her to return to Jeahron.

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Confused, she asked, "The settlement agreement hasn't been secured yet. Why do I need to go back?"

Bertram asked, "Lenora is your daughter, isn't she?"

Jasmine fell silent instantly.

Bertram continued, "What did you tell her?"

Jasmine replied, "Nothing much. I just told her about her identity."

Bertram then assumed what Zachary had said was true. "Zachary just came to the Hoffman residence in person, saying that Lenora was so heartbroken she fainted, and he was there to seek justice for her. So, don't go looking for her again." "But, what about Summer..."

"I know you're close to Summer, but it was her fault to begin with. Lenora is still your child. Why must you make things difficult for her? Your ex-husband is dead, and the child is innocent. Even if you don't love her, don't hurt her feelings. Jasmine bit her lip and argued, "I-I had no choice. I can't just watch Summer be taken by the Winfrey family.

Lenora's father was Kenneth, which meant Jasmine had an affair during her marriage. Since Bertram didn't seem to know this, she naturally wouldn't bring it up.

"I'll have Ezekiel mediate and do his best, but if

it doesn't work, there's nothing we can do. She was the one at fault, after all," Bertram hinted. "Honestly, I think Lenora is a good kid. People who worked with her in the past had nothing but praise for her. I heard she even won first prize in a photography competition recer Jasmine was silent.

She knew that Bertram intended to give up on Summer

Compared to Lenora, Summer seemed completely lacking and brought trouble wherever she went.

If they were going to raise a girl without any blood relation to the Hoffman family, then why not raise Lenora?

Lenora was Jasmine's biological daughter. Adopting her was legitimate and could even mend relations with the Fuller family. It was a win-win.

A hint of darkness flashed in Jasmine's eyes as she probed, "But Lenora might not want to come back with me to the Hoffman family. You don't know, but when I told her who I was, she said her mother died long ago and that, at her age, she doesn't need a mother's love..."

"Given it's been over twenty years, that's understandable, but there's no lasting resentment between a

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Chapter 377 Do Not Go Looking For Lenora

mother and daughter. Treat her well, and she'll come around," Bertram assured.

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If Lenora could come to the Hoffman family, she'd become Ezekiel's stepsister. This would end Ezekiel's interest in her and bring Zachary closer to them, essentially shifting from son to son-in-law. Jasmine's lips moved, but she only said, "Okay, I'll do my best."

Ending the call, Jasmine closed her eyes, her fingers tightening around the phone as she stood still.

A few seconds later, she suddenly threw her phone against the wall, where it shattered into pieces with a loud crash.

She hadn't expected Zachary to go directly to the Hoffman residence.

Not only had Bertram given up on Summer, but he'd even started considering bringing Lenora to the Hoffman family. Impossible!.I won't allow that

Jasmine's face flushed red, her chest rising and falling sharply. She sat heavily on the couch, deep in thought.

Suddenly, she had an idea. She immediately picked up the phone, trying to piece it back together.

However, no matter how hard she tried, it wouldn't fit, so she threw it onto the floor in frustration. Retrieving only the SIM card, she called her driver to take her to buy a new phone.

After inserting her SIM card, Jasmine dialed Ezekiel's number.

"Ezekiel, is Summer with you right now?"

"What's up?" Ezekiel's tone was calm.

Jasmine said, "Your dad just called me, asking me to return to Jeahron and stop looking for Lenora. Do you know about my relationship with Lenora?"

"I've heard bits and pieces."

"Lenora is the child I had with my ex-husband.

Years ago, he abused me, and I went through a lot of trouble to divorce him. I fled far away to escape him, leaving her behind because I had no other choice I've felt guilty all these years. Your dad even mentioned that I should bring Lenora to the Hoffman family to make up Ezekiel smirked.

The key point of her story was in the last line-it was Bertram's idea to bring Lenora into the Hoffman family.

Ezekiel could see right through his father's intentions.

Does he think I give up if Lenora becomes my sibling? Impossible.

They were all smart people, and Jasmine wouldn't mention this without reason.

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Chapter 377 Do Not Go Looking For Lenora

Ezekiel asked with a chuckle, "Aunt Jasmine, so?"

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"In reality, your father doesn't know that after twenty years apart, there's no bond between me and Lenora. She'd be doing well just to not hate me. Summer, on the other hand, is someone I've watched grow up. She's clever and endearing, practically like my own daughter "So?"

"I've heard that you're interested in Lenora. I'm her mother, after all, so I do have some influence. If you promise not to hand Summer over to the Winfrey family, I can help you."

"How will you help?"

Jasmine's fingers tightened slightly as she looked around, lowering her

After hearing her plan, Ezekiel stayed silent on the other end.

Jasmine's heart raced as she waited patiently for Ezekiel's response.

She was taking a gamble.

After a while, Ezekiel's voice finally came through, "Okay, I agree."

Jasmine's lips curled into a smile..

She won the bet.

her voice.

"However, with everything that's happened recently, I doubt she'll consume food or water from outside sources. Jasmine voiced her concern.

On the other end, faint sounds suggested Ezekiel was speaking to an assistant.

Then Ezekiel's voice returned, "Someone gave me a newly developed item. They say that if you simply let its scent diffuse, it'll work. You can take the antidote in advance."

His minor partners in business often gifted him all kinds of stuff in their attempts to curry favor.

Ezekiel never expected one of these would come in handy.

He ran his fingers over the back of his phone, his gaze lowering as a glint of darkness crossed his eyes.

If Zachary ever found out, he'd be furious, no doubt.

As for Lenora, he'd be with her and make it up to her.

"Send it over," Jasmine instructed.

The next morning, Lenora received another call from Jasmine.

On the phone, Jasmine asked, "Lenora, have you thought about the settlement agreement?"

Lenora's fingers slowly tightened..

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Chapter 377 Do Not Go Looking For Lenora

It seemed Sophia's intuition was right.

Ezekiel knew about this and had allowed Jasmine to come to her.

However, Lenora hadn't expected much from him.

She also didn't want Zachary to be targeted by the Winfrey and Hoffman families, so after think she decided to settle things peacefully.

If acting impulsively would bring harim to the people around her, it wasn't worth it.

Lenora replied, "Yes, I've decided. Let's meet tonight."

"Okay, do you have a favorite restaurant? I'll reserve a room in advance.

Lenora named one casually.

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After wrapping up her scenes for the day, she called Miranda to let her know to tell Harrietta she'd be home late and then headed directly to the restaurant.

Lover,

Last night, when Harrietta came over, Lenora had learned that Zachary was out of town and hadn't yet returned. Harrietta wanted to spend this evening with her again. [Search The website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

It was a good thing he wasn't here.

If he w

were, he definitely wouldn't let her agree to the settlement.

When Lenora arrived at the restaurant, Jasmine was already waiting inside.

Seeing Lenora's figure, Jasmine greeted her with a gentle smile, like a loving mother. "Nora, you're here. Have a seat."

## **Stay Away 378**

Chapter 378 Endure A Bit Longer

+10 Free Coim

The restaurant was lavishly decorated, and the entire private room held a subtle fragrance.

Upon seeing Jasmine, Lenora couldn't help but think about her own origins, feeling a heaviness inside Expressionless, she set down her bag, pulled out a chair, and sat opposite Jasmine.

Jasmine pointed at the spread of dishes across the table. "Our last meeting was too brief. This time, I've ordered a few dishes. Let's eat while we talk."

"No need. Let's just get to the point," Lenora said, leaning back in her chair, not wanting to spend more time talking with Jasmine. "Sophia and I are willing to settle for a settlement regarding Howard, but you need to show some sincerity." Since settlement was on the table, she aimed to maximize the benefits.

Jasmine raised her eyebrows, clearly pleased by this unexpected turn. She smiled, "Now that's better, Nora. You know what they say: a wise man submits to circumstances. Don't worry, I won't let you suffer any loss."

For some reason, Lenora felt the room was getting warm.

She glanced up and noticed the heater was on. No wonder.

Loosening her collar, Lenora said, "Then explain how you won't let me suffer. In other words, how much is Summer worth to you?"

Jasmine smiled and took a bank card out of her handbag, placing it on the table and pushing it toward

Lenora.

The round table spun, and the card stopped in front of Lenora

She picked it up, gave it a look, then raised her eyes to Jasmine.

"There's five million on it, no password. There's an ATM right outside the restaurant if you want to check," Jasmine said.

With the Hoffman family's vast wealth, she doubted they'd trick her with an empty card after making a promise.

Lenora slipped the card into her bag, pulling out a notebook.

She opened to a page where she'd already written the settlement agreement, tore it out, and was about to hand it to Jasmine.

Suddenly, a figure barged in. Startled, she froze for a moment. In that instant, her settlement agreement was snatched away and torn into pieces, then casually thrown into the trash. Lenora was dumbstruck, staring at the intruder.

Jasmine recovered quickly and scolded, "Zachary, what are you doing?"

Although Ezekiel had promised to release Summer once the matter was resolved, having a written settlement agreement offered extra security,

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+10 Free Coins

Zachary sneered. "I should be asking you. Mdm. Lovestone, what are you doing here? Didn't Mr. Hoffman tell you not to come around Nora anymore?"

Jasmine's lips pressed into a thin line.

Lenora sensed something wasn't right.

Allowing Zachary to pull her out of the private room, she made sure to grab her bag as they left.

Jasmine attempted to stop them but failed, muttering a curse under her breath.

She hadn't expected Zachary to arrive so promptly.

Picking up the incense, she glanced at its bold packaging, which had the words "Demure to Demoness" on it. She realized it was likely about to work in Zachary's favor. Zachary strode ahead, forcing Lenora to quicken her steps to keep up, nearly jogging.

She tugged on his hand. "Could you slow down?" Zachary shot her a cold look but slowed his pace. She smiled awkwardly. "When did you get back?" Just got off the plane," he replied in a low tone. "How did you know I was here?"

He gave a mocking laugh and cast her a sidelong glance. "If I hadn't, would you have gone through with the settlement behind my back?"

Lenora scratched her nose, mumbling, "I just didn't want the Winfrey family and the Hoffmans to team up against you."

"Too late."

"What?"

"We'll talk in the car."

They had exited the restaurant, and a black car was parked in the nearby lot.

Zachary opened the back door, then looked at Lenora

She hesitated, pointing to her own car parked a little further down. "I have a driver..."

The look in his eyes silenced her. She quickly climbed into his car, sending a text to her own driver.

Zachary shut the door and got in on the other side.

"What did you mean by 'too late?'" Lenora asked. "Are they already targeting you?"

"This time, I went to Jeahron specifically to visit the Hoffman family. Mr. Hoffman has agreed to stop bothering you and Sophia"

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Chapter 378 Endure A Bit Longer

Lenora's mouth twitched. Zachary certainly worked fast "So...

+10 Free Coins

"So Jasmine already received Mr. Hoffman's instructions, but she's still acting on her own accord. If you'd gone through with that, all my efforts would have been wasted." Zachary cast a sharp glance her way.

Feeling slightly guilty, Lenora looked away. Still, she tried to stand her ground. "You could have told me. I'd known. I definitely wouldn't have..."

"If I had told you, would you have accepted my help?"

Lenora fell silent.

She let out a sigh.

Maybe there was no need to keep separating herself from him.

She was already so indebted to him that repaying it seemed almost impossible. Owing him a little more hardly mattered now.

It was like someone who, when owing only a few thousand, tries hard to repay, but when it grows to millions, just shrugs and thinks, "Whatever."

Zachary looked at Lenora, noting the faint blush on her face and the beads of sweat forming on her forehead. He turned to the driver, "Turn down the heat

"It's already on the lowest setting. Should I turn it off?" the driver asked.

As the weather grew warmer, there was no longer a need for the heater to fend off the cold.

"Turn it off."

Lenora sighed. "How did you convince Mr. Hoffman? Did he just agree like that?"

"Yes. You're overthinking it. Families like the Hoffmans won't easily risk creating new enemies."

Zachary's gaze dropped as he recalled Bertram and Grayson's reaction upon meeting him. It was clear they knew his identity, likely assuming he was there to acknowledge some family connection. When Zachary had visited Bertram, he had no such intentions. Had it been another family, he would have taken the same approach: laying out the consequences.

But Bertram's prompt agreement was probably due to their shared bloodline, sparing him the need for prolonged negotiations.

"Well, that's good then. Thanks, Zachary,"

Lenora raised her eyes, noticing him watching her intently. She blinked, "What are you staring at?"

"You haven't called me Zach in a long time."

Lenora fell silent.

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Chapter 378 Endure A Bit Longer

+10 Free Cons

Somehow, calling him "Zach" felt natural in the past, but now, saying it out loud felt awkward, even a little embarrassing.

She averted her gaze, changing the topic while unbuttoning her coat. "I feel a bit warm. Can I roll down the window?" Zachary nodded.



Lenora rolled down her window a bit.

The cold air blew in, giving her a bit of relief. She looked at the nighttime scenery outside, but somehow, the cool breeze didn't help. Instead, she felt even hotter.

The cold air blew in, giving her a bit of relief. She looked at the nighttime scenery outside, but somehow, the cool breeze didn't help. Instead, she felt dazed. "Nora? Are you feeling hot? Zachary noticed something off about her.

She unfastened another button, wiped the sweat from her forehead, and pressed her legs together, her voice trembling. "Zachary, I think... I think I've been drugged..."

Zachary noticed the misty look in her eyes, a hint of red at the corners, carrying a touch of enticing charm. Zachary immediately cursed under his breath and told the driver, "Step on it."

It had to be Jasmine's doing, but it wasn't the time to talk about it.

He reached over, pulling Lenora close. "Don't worry, I'm here."

Breathing in his familiar scent, Lenora felt her heart pound, her hands creeping around his lean waist. squeezing slightly.

Zachary's Adam's apple bobbed, and he gripped her wandering hands, his voice hoarse. "Hang in there."

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## **Stay Away 379**

### Chapter 379 | Feel Hot

Lenora's breathing grew heavier. She no longer had the strength to question why this was happening. She clung to the man in front of her like he was a model, rubbing herself against him instinctively. Zachary's breathing hitched as he held Lenora's writhing body tightly,

When the car pulled into the underground garage, he impatiently carried her out of the car and into the elevator, heading straight to his place on the nineteenth floor.

In the living room. Miranda was tidying up while Harrietta was using the restroom.

Hearing the door open, Miranda looked up and saw Zachary striding in with Lenora in his arms, heading directly to the master bedroom.

She caught a glimpse of Lenora, sweating profusely, her face flushed as though she had a fever. Quickly putting down her broom, she said, "Mr. Fuller, does Mrs. Fuller have a fever? I'll fetch some fever medicine." Zachary hesitated but then changed his mind. "Bring it to the bedroom and also a pot of warm water."

"Understood."

Miranda hurried off to gather the items.

Zachary laid Lenora on the bed. Just as he was about to stand, Lenora hooked her arms around his neck, clinging to him tightly. Her heavy breaths hit his ear as soft, alluring hums, making his pulse race. muter coat.

"Nora, hold on, Zachary said as he pried her arms off and knelt down, helping her remove her outer "Zachary, I feel so hot..."

Lenora's remaining composure was fading, so she didn't really cooperate with him.

Miranda entered with the water pot and medicine. Zachary slightly turned to shield Lenora from view, instructing. "Leave it on the table. I'll give it to her myself, and please close the door." "Very well, Mr. Fuller. Call me if you need anything else."

Miranda had previously seen Zachary care for Lenora when she had a fever, so she didn't think much of it. She placed the items on the side table and closed the door behind her.

Zachary didn't even glance at the fever medicine; he continued undressing Lenora while she clung to his chest, her hands fanning the flames of desire.

-Zachary felt somewhat helpless.

Outside, a small voice chimed in. "Ms. Miranda, I think I heard Uncle Zachary's voice! Is he back?"

"Yes... Miranda began, unsure if she should mention that Lenora was also there.

She worried that if Harriena knew Lenora wasn't feeling well, she might want to play with her and risk catching whatever she had.

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Chapter 379 I Feel Hot

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+10 Free Coins

In that moment of hesitation, Harrietta had already trotted over to the master bedroom door. "Uncle Zachary! Did you bring me a present?"

Stopping at the doorway, she grabbed the handle, pushed it down, and opened the door.

Harrietta froze when she saw him at the entrance. "Uncle Zachary, why are you standing at the door?"

Zachary took the opportunity to step out, closing the door behind him as he picked up Harrietta and sat on the sofa. "Hattie, I'm sorry. I forgot my suitcase at the airport. It'll come tomorrow. I just got off the plane and am a bit tired. Let's play together tomorrow, okay?" Harrietta pouted, slipping off his lap. "Okay, but Uncle Zachary, pinky promise swear and play with me tomorrow. No breaking your promise."

"Sure, let's pinky swear."

The two locked pinkies, sealing the promise.

"Good, go play on your own now," Zachary said, ruffling her hair. He stood up. "I'm going to my room to

rest.

"Okay." Harrietta nodded and went off to the corner, contentedly assembling her blocks.

Zachary returned to the bedroom, locking the door behind him.

He took a few steps in, then abruptly halted.

The bed was empty, with no sign of Lenora.

Hearing a sound from the bathroom, Zachary quickly stepped over and pushed open the door.

There, Lenora lay partially submerged in the bathtub, drenched under the showerhead's spray, clothes clinging to her.

Zachary's temples throbbed as he rushed forward, scooping Lenora out and stripping her of her soaked clothing.

"No, let me go... I want water..."

Lenora struggled, but as soon as her hands touched his cool skin, she leaned into him.

The drug's effects had fully kicked in.

Her body was aflame, her flushed skin radiating warmth.

Mindlessly, she clung to Zachary, her mouth slightly open as she gasped, her hands slipping under his

collar.

The coolness was comforting

Eyes half-closed, Lenora instinctively leaned forward and kissed him.

Zachary froze, his blood rushing through his veins. He carried Lenora back to the bed, tension visible in every line of his body.

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Chapter 379 I Feel Hot

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+10 Free Cons

Zachary was like a wild wolf that had been starved for months. He hadn't had a satisfying meal in a long time. Now, a delicious feast was right in front of him, exuding a strong aroma. It made his throat bob with anticipation, his eyes gleaming with a ravenous light. He wished he could pounce directly and devour Lenora whole.

He was holding back, restraining himself, yet there was a hint of madness in him.

"Mm."

She moaned softly, eyes shut tight as her brows knitted.

Losing her senses, she moaned, "Take it slow..."

Zachary immediately covered her lips and did as told. Like this?"

She squinted, her gaze hazy and her eyes tinged with a rosy hue. Her consciousness was muddled, she puckered her lips and her delicate eyebrows furrowed. "Faster," she said. Zachary fell silent.

Her demeanor was killing him.

Eyes darkening, he leaned forward, silencing her with a kiss.

He swallowed her gasps.

After an indeterminate length of time, the struggle on the large bed finally came to an end. The outcome was clear, and all parties ceased their efforts.

Zachary looked at Lenora's sleeping face and then down at himself.

Her symptoms had subsided, but he hadn't yet resolved anything

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Their relationship was on a precipice.

A step forward, and she'd relent and stay by his side.

A step back, and she'd disappear from his world entirely.

In desperation, he could act freely, but with hope in sight, Zachary couldn't take the gamble.

He couldn't take advantage of her.

Sighing, he gently lifted her from the bed, wrapped her in a clean blanket, and carried her to the couch to SEARCH the find novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Test.

Looking around at the room, he noticed the sheets and bedding were damp and marked, the mattress even showing signs of their encounter. Those needed to be discarded. Miranda and Harrietta had already gone to bed.

Zachary carefully carried Lenora to the bathroom for a quick wash and then took her to the guest bedroom, settling her in for the night.

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Chapter 380 Uncle Zachary Is A Womanizer

**Stay Away 380**

In the morning, when Zachary woke up, Lenora was still sound asleep.

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Miranda was tidying up Harrietta's toys. Seeing Zachary emerge from the guest room, she assumed he'd been up late taking care of Lenora, and after her fever broke, he had gone to the guest room for a bit of sleep. Zachary instructed Miranda, "Have someone come today to discard the sheets, bedding, and the mattress in my room,"

Miranda looked puzzled, but before she could ask anything, Zachary quickly covered, saying, "I spilled some drinks, and it soaked through."

"Understood, Mr. Fuller," Miranda replied, deciding that she'd let someone clean the sheets, bedding, and mattress, then take them home for herself.

Those were made from high-quality materials and weren't cheap. Throwing them away is such a waste.

Zachary was wealthy, so sometimes he discarded perfectly good items. Miranda often took them home as if she were gathering treasure.

"And also, don't wake her for breakfast. Let her sleep in a bit."

"Okay." Miranda nodded. She knew that for colds and fevers, getting more sleep was best. Even if Zachary hadn't reminded her, she wouldn't have woken Lenora up.

It was the weekend, so Harrietta didn't have school. By the time she got up, Miranda was preparing breakfast in the kitchen.

Harrietta went to the bathroom by herself. She washed up, applied some lotion, and then walked over to Zachary, asking, "Uncle Zachary, has your suitcase arrived yet?" Zachary's lips twitched.

Actually, his suitcase had been in the car trunk the whole time. After he carried Lenora out of the car, the driver forgot to bring it upstairs.

"It's downstairs now. I'll go get it."

"Awesome."

Zachary grabbed the keys and headed out, taking the elevator dithe underground garage.

Just after Harrietta finished applying her lotion, the doorbell rang.

She slid off the couch, ran to the door, and pressed a few buttons on the panel, which showed the visitor on the screen.

It was one of Zachary's secretaries.

Harrietta had been to the office before, and the secretaries in the executive office always treated her kindly. Recognizing this one, she opened the door, saying, "Mister, are you here to see my uncle?"

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Chapter 380 Uncle Zachary Is A Womanizer

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The secretsmiled. "Yes, Old Mr. Fuller asked me to bring over a set of women's clothes. Is your uncle

here?"

Women's clothes?

Harrietta said. "Uncle Zachary went out. Would you like to come in and have a glass of water?"

"No, it's fine." The secretary placed a shopping bag with the clothes on the sofa. "I'll leave the clothes here. When your uncle comes back, remember to tell him, okay?"

"Sure,

After the secretary left, Harrietta went over to the sofa and stared at the shopping bag. Her big eyes sparkled with curiosity.

Why did Uncle Zachary ask his secretary to bring over women's clothes? There are no other women in the house. Could it be a gift for me? Maybe Uncle Zachary went downstairs just as the secretary came up, and they missed each other? Unable to resist, Harrietta took out the clothes. They were clearly not her size.

Could they be for Aunt Lenora? Uncle Zachary and I are going to visit her later.

Putting the clothes back in the bag, Harrietta suddenly had the urge to call Lenora on video.

She wondered if Zachary had taken his phone when he went downstairs.

Harrietta was about to go to the master bedroom when Miranda came out of the kitchen with a small bowl. She immediately remembered Zachary's instructions. Worried that Harrietta might disturb Lenora's rest, she asked, "Hattie, what are you up to?" Harrietta turned her head. "I'm looking for Uncle Zachary's phone."

"Why don't you check the guest room? He slept there last night."

Harrietta's little face showed a hint of confusion, but she didn't ask any further. She turned and headed for the guest room.

The guest room was smaller than the master bedroom and the bed was in full view as soon as she opened the door.

Pushing the door ajar, Harrietta froze at the sight of a woman lying on the bed. Long, black hair spilled over the pillow, and a pale shoulder peeked out from under the blanket, her face partially covered. Harrietta was stunned.

How could there be a woman in the guest room?

For a brief moment, Harrietta's little mind was overwhelmed with countless thoughts, almost too many to handle.

She remembered that last night, when she tried to enter the master bedroom, Zachary had subtly blocked her, saying he was tired and didn't want to play with her....

Clearly, he didn't want her to know there was a woman in there.

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Chapter 380 Uncle Zachary Is A Womanizer

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That woman definitely isn't Aunt Lenora; otherwise, Uncle Zachary wouldn't have reacted that way, and Aunt Lenora would've come out to play with her. Ms. Miranda said that Uncle Zachary slept in the guest room last night, but now there is a woman in the guest room. Harrietta was young, but she knew that only married couples could sleep together.

So, did Uncle Zachary have a change of heart?



Harrietta couldn't believe it. She closed the door, turning to check the master bedroom. Perhaps Ms. Miranda had misunderstood: maybe Uncle Zachary had slept in the master bedroom last night. .

As soon as the master bedroom door swung open, the sight was a complete mess. Men's and women's clothes were strewn all over the floor.

Harrietta felt utterly disappointed and slumped down on the sofa.

The women's clothes that the secretary had brought over were definitely for that woman in the room! / don't like the woman. I like Aunt Lenora! "What's wrong, Hattie?" Miranda came out from the kitchen, carrying a plate of fritters.

Harrietta pouted, her eyes red with tears.

Seeing this, Miranda quickly came over to comfort her "Hattic, why are you crying? Tell me, are you hurt somewhere?"

Harrietta stayed silent, tears rolling down her cheeks.

Miranda grew even more anxious.

The sound of the door opening broke the moment. Zachary walked in, pulling a suitcase behind him. "Hattie..."

"Mr. Fuller, come quick! Hattie's been crying non-stop and she won't say what's wrong."

Zachary immediately dropped the suitcase, striding over to take Harrietta into his arms. Wiping away her tears, he asked gently, "Hattie, what happened? Where does it hurt? Tell me."

Harrietta struggled to get out of his arms, saying, "Don't hold me. I don't like you!"

Zachary was baffled. He'd only stepped out to get a suitcase, and now she hated him?

"Hattic, I brought you a gift. Don't you want it?" Zachary easily held her in his embrace.

"I don't want it. You can give it to whoever you like!" The little girl, full of spirit, wriggled and struggled in his arms. "Let me go. I want to find Aunt Lenora

Uncle Zachary is just a womanizer. I remember Aunt Lenora divorced him because he was unfaithful! Men are all jerks.

"Your aunt is sleeping."

"None of your business! I want Aunt Lenora, not you!" Harrietta thought he meant Lenora was still asleep. downstairs.

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Chapter 380 Uncle Zachary Is A Womanize

"Okay, I'll take you to see Aunt Lenora. Put you trust disturb her Zachary picked her up

Harrietta was taken aback. "Y-You're really taking m

He has the nerve to see Aunt Lenora? That means Aunt Lenora den ginger

"Why wouldn't I? After you see your aunt, we'll talk about why you're upset Zachary duckled amused by her puffed-up cheeks.

Harrietta huffed. I'll tell Aunt Lenora secretly and let her handle him!

Zachary carried Harrietta to the guest room.

Harrietta gasped, "You're taking me to the guest room For what

"Shh... Zachary put his finger to her lips, signaling her to be quiet as he stepped in  
"Look, your aut sleeping

Harrietta looked over at the bed. Half-hidden by the blanket was a familiar face-none other than Lenora

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