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Chapter 1221

Mrs. Shelby was already so pissed off that she was speechless. Meredith, on the other hand, whispered into Josiah's ear, "Hurry up and shut up. I don't need you to stick up for me."

Josiah, however, said in a serious tone, "You're wrong, Edith. I'm not sticking up for you. I'm sticking up for myself.

"My mother abandoned me when I was ten years old, but she is back again today. She's not back to make up for a mother's love that she had owed me and also not to enjoy our lives in the future with me. Instead, she is back to tear my life apart, force me to marry a woman that I don't love, and then drug me."

He gritted his teeth. "If I had slept with Ivy that night, then what kind of life would be waiting for me in the future? I would have to go according to her wish, marry Ivy, and then have another child...

"She is such a selfish mother, so why should I still care about her life?"

As she listened to Josiah, Meredith had to admit that he has indeed been quite aggrieved in this matter.

Because of Cooper's condition and because of Mrs. Shelby's blood pressure, which could raise easily, he could only endure everything. He could only endure everything with all his might.

However, he was, in fact, also a domineering and self-centered son of a rich family, and he had also been spoiled by old Madam Shelby and the people around him when he was growing up.

Mrs. Shelby was left at a loss for words by what Josiah had said.

Josiah immediately held Meredith's wrist, turned around, and then walked back to the study.

Meredith did not know what he wanted to do, so she struggled by twisting her wrist and said, "Josiah, what are you doing? Hurry up and let me go."

"I'm doing what I love to do and what I want to do." while Meredith was still confused, Josiah pinned her back down on the bed and kissed her very deeply.

The more they did not want him to be together with Meredith, the more he wanted it.

Even if Meredith had just reminded him to not interfere with whatever Mrs. Shelby was to do to her.

Meredith was speechless as she glared at him.

Did he actually still have the mood to do such a thing at such a time? He has gone crazy, has he not?

Josiah took off her clothes very easily, then he said angrily while invading her, "Everybody wants to bully me and force me, even you as well, even you also forced me together with them!"

Meredith was speechless, she used both her hands to resist him, but she slowly let her hands go while resisting him.

He was right. Even she was forcing him together with Mrs. Shelby and others.

She clearly knew that he did not want to marry lvy.

Just because she liked Cooper and felt sorry for him, she actually...

Looking at his gaze that was filled with despair, she said apologetically, "Josiah, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have forced you to marry Ivy."

"Meredith, you're finally saying sorry? Aren't worried about Cooper? Don't you want to be a kind person?" Josiah sneered while looking down at her from above. "I'm going to be married on the sixth of next month. Didn't you claim that you're going to be free?"

Meredith suddenly hugged his neck and initiated to kiss him on the lips.

She did not know how to comfort him with words, so she could only use her kiss instead.

Josiah, however, turned his handsome face to the side, and when he stared at her again, his eyes were filled with fury.

"Meredith, when are you going to start to stand on my side, fight alongside me, and face my mother and others together with me?"

Meredith looked up at him and said miserably, "Josiah, do I really disappoint you that much?"

"You've truly disappointed me very much," he said.

He was disappointed, but that did not stop him from continuing to tolerate her, spoil her, and let her do as she wished...

Tears started to well up in Meredith's eyes a little. "I'm sorry..."

"I don't need your apology. I just need you to fight alongside me." Josiah looked down at her. "Meredith, is this request too much?"

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Chapter 1222

Meredith lightly shook her head. "It's not too much.

"Josiah, from today onwards, I won't force you to do anything you don't want to do anymore. I also won't push you to another woman anymore."

"Are you sure?"

"I'm sure."

"I'll only believe you if you kiss me," Josiah said.

He dodged when she kissed him just now because he was angry.

At that moment, after he already heard what she said, he was filled with joy and anticipation.

Meredith hesitated a little, then she lifted her head to kiss him on his lips. "Is this enough?"

"You're not allowed to regret this." Josiah lowered his head and kissed her deeply.

Meredith was speechless.

The sounds of them passionately bonding together could vaguely be heard coming from the study. When Mrs. Shelby heard it, she was so pissed off that her face became even paler.

"Ma'am, are you alright?" asked the maid with concern.

Mrs. Shelby did not answer her question, she closed her eyes for a little while, turned around, and walked down the stairs.

She did not return to her bedroom on the first floor to rest. Instead, she came to the basement at the annex.

The basement at the annex has always been deserted, and even the lights appeared to be especially dim and eerie.

When Ivy, who was crawling on the floor, heard the sound of footsteps, she immediately crawl on all fours toward Mrs. Shelby, then she begged her while tugging at her pants, "Mrs. Shelby, I really didn't do it on purpose. I'm begging you, please let me go out. I'll certainly work harder next time. I certainly would work hard!"

"Didn't do it on purpose?" Mrs. Shelby scanned at the stripes of blood stains on her white clothes and sneered. "Why didn't Meredith leave the mansion last night? why did you go into the study? Do you think you can fool me by saying that you've accidentally fallen asleep?"

"Mrs. Shelby, I truly fell asleep by accident." Ivy shook her head. "I also have no idea why Meredith didn't leave the mansion, she clearly said she would leave."

"Miss Landers, seven years ago, you've already done what you've done last night, haven't you?" Mrs. Shelby picked up the whip in the corner and whipped Ivy, who then screamed miserably in pain.

Immediately after, she was whipped a second time. Mrs. Shelby's tone became even colder, "B*tch, who do you think you are to fight with me? Go on and cry then. If you cry a little louder and you attracted Josiah to come over, you can just directly bury your little b*stard's body."

"No, Mrs. Shelby, no..." Ivy was in so much pain that she was shaking all over, but she could only grit her teeth and forced herself to endure it.

She did not want to get Josiah to come over. Even if she were to die in pain, she also could not let him come over.

At that moment, Mrs. Shelby vented all of the anger she got from Josiah on Ivy.

She kept whipping her again and again, and the more she whipped, the more aggressive she got.

Ivy's clothes, which were already covered in blood stains, to begin with, became even redder.

She gritted her teeth hard until Mrs. Shelby got tired and stopped. Only then did she lift her little face with difficulty and look at her. "Mrs. Shelby, I was wrong. Please...give me one more chance."

Mrs. Shelby threw the whip to the side and said mercilessly, "I'll let you live today. If the wedding on the sixth of next month isn't done as planned, I'll punish you again then."

Upon saying that, she turned around immediately and walked out of the basement.

When Mrs. Shelby returned to the main building, Josiah and Meredith appeared in front of her and were already fully dressed.

Meredith looked around the mansion, and the mansion was quiet. She could not hear the children and also could not see Ivy.

She had occupied Ivy's chance, so should Ivy not be looking for her to settle scores? why was she nowhere to be seen instead?

"Mrs. Shelby, may I know if Ivy had taken Nia and Cooper out to play?" Meredith asked while feeling a little worried.

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Chapter 1223

Thinking of those words that Ivy said yesterday, Meredith was still quite worried about Nia's safety.

It would all be finished if Ivy were to take it out on Nia in a fit of anger.

Mrs. Shelby coldly looked askance at her. "You and my son are all happy from sleeping together now. Do you still have the mind to be concerned about the children?"

Meredith got even more worried. "Where exactly is Nia?"

"Are you questioning me?"

Meredith was speechless. She could not offend Mrs. Shelby for the sake of Nia, so could only tug at Josiah's clothes secretly.

Josiah comforted her by saying, "Don't worry. Cooper and Nia are both Mother's grandson and granddaughter. If she could lay a finger on them, then she truly would be…"

He did not finish his sentence, but Mrs. Shelby was so angry that her expression changed.

Meredith, however, reminded him, "But Ivy is not home."

What she meant was very clear. Ivy was the most dangerous one.

Josiah seemed to agree with her thoughts as well, so he turned and said to Mrs. Shelby, "Mother, please tell me Ivy and the children's whereabouts."

Mrs. Shelby was very angry at her son's tone in which he spoke, but once she thought that Ivy was locked up in the basement by her, she could only grit her teeth and said, "Didn't you say so yourself just now? Cooper and Nia are my grandson and granddaughter, so would I let Ivy harm them?"

She was afraid that they would continue asking her questions, so she immediately added, "Lily and Quincy had taken Cooper and Nia to the flower market early in the morning."

"Really?" Meredith was not too convinced.

Josiah, on the other hand, already took out his phone and started dialing Lily's number.

The call was answered very quickly. It was after Josiah heard that the children were together with Lily that he felt relieved. Also, he asked, "when are all of you coming back?"

"Sir, we're preparing to return now."

"Where's Nia?"

"She is in front watching somebody making candy figurines," Lily said, "Sir, hold on for a moment. I'll hand the phone to Nia immediately."

Very soon, he heard Nia's excited voice coming from the phone. "Daddy, there's an amazing grandpa here. The candy figurines that he made look just like Cooper and me."

Josiah laughed a little. "He made them according to how both of you looked like."

"Mm-hmm. It looks so nice that I can't bear to eat it."

"Is Cooper by your side?"

"Yes."

"Then be safe and come home earlier."

"Alright, see you, Daddy."

Josiah hung up the call and told Meredith, "Edith, you can ease your mind now, can't you?"

Even though Lily was there, Meredith was still more or less still a little worried as she did not see the children. Also, the main thing was that Ivy was not in the mansion.

Meredith was curious and asked, "Where has Miss Landers gone?

She was asking Josiah, but it was Mrs. Shelby who answered her, "How can you have the cheek to ask that? where do you think Ivy would go at such a moment? I'm warning you, Meredith, if something were to happen to her, I'll never forgive you."

The reason that she had given was very suitable and also very reasonable, so Josiah and Meredith almost believed her immediately.

Josiah was not worried that Ivy would take things too hard. He knitted his eyebrows and said, "It seems like you don't think that drugging others is a kind of wrongdoing, Mother.'

Josiah then raised his arm and wrapped it around Meredith. "However, I have to thank you. If you hadn't drugged me last night, it wouldn't be possible for Meredith and me to get close to each other, much less let Meredith promise to stand on my side and marry me again..."

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Chapter 1224

"What did you say?" Mrs. Shelby was slightly frozen, and then she raised her head and glanced at the two of them. "Both of you are getting married to each other again? Josiah, you had just promised me yesterday that you're going to marry lvy."

"Yes, I promised you yesterday, but I changed my mind again last night." Josiah lowered his head and took a look at Meredith, who was wrapped in his arm. "Didn't I say so just now? Thank you guys for letting Meredith and me get together again."

Mrs. Shelby was so pissed that her face was sour and she desperately wanted to rush to the basement again and beat Ivy up to a pulp.

However, she could not, so she could only grit her teeth and say, "I disagree!"

"I don't need you to agree."

Josiah stared at her. "Mother, if you still have any tricks to play, just give me your best shot."

"Josiah, even if you don't care whether lvy lives or dies, are you not going to care about Cooper anymore?"

"I will care about Cooper and I will also let him have treatment, so don't use him as an excuse anymore, Mother."

Josiah looked at Meredith and said, "Edith, let's bring Cooper and Nia home.

"Alright." Meredith could not wait to see the children anymore because she would only be at ease when she saw that Nia was alright.

It was after Meredith got into the car that she asked him, "Josiah, are you really not going to care about Ivy anymore?"

Josiah turned his body around to look at her, and then he gritted his teeth. "Meredith, did I not use enough strength earlier, so you didn't learn your lesson?"

Meredith was speechless. "...."

"Do you think I should be worried about a woman who drugged me and was preparing to sleep with me but failed?"

"No. Actually, I was just..." Meredith gave it a thought and found a slightly more suitable reason. "I was just a little curious where exactly Ivy went. She surprisingly didn't come looking

for me to settle scores. Don't you...feel that this is a little illogical?"

"Meredith, are you a masochist? Are you not used to it because you're not tortured by her?"

Meredith gave it a thought and it seemed to make sense as well!

After they drove on for a while, she said again, "I want to take Nia and leave your mansion."

"Alright. I'll leave with you," Josiah said immediately.

"How can that work?"

"Hmm? You've already made a promise this morning, but you want to go back on your words now?"

"No," Meredith said helplessly. "I'm bringing Nia away because I'm worried about her safety. After all, Miss Landers is not her mother. I'm worried that..."

"I understand." Josiah nodded.

"But Cooper's condition has just gotten better. If you and Nia were to leave him, I'm afraid that he would relapse, then all of our previous efforts would be in vain.

"However, I don't want to dump you and Nia at another place." Josiah leaned in and whispered in her ear, "Besides...are you not worried that Ivy would drug me again?"

"..." Meredith was speechless. To be honest, it would not be true to say that she was not worried.

"Then what should we do?"

"If you're worried about Cooper, then you can only continue staying in my mansion." Josiah looked at her while feeling a little sorry. "Edith, I'm sorry that it'll be tough on you and you'll be aggrieved."

Meredith shook her head.

As long as Cooper's condition could get better, she would not feel that it was tough and she was aggrieved.

The only thing that she was concerned about was Nia's safety.

"No matter what, I'll respect your decision," said Josiah.

The car stopped at the entrance of the flower market. Meredith saw from a distance that Nia and Cooper were holding a candy figurine each and were chasing and playing with each other.

It was so rare that Cooper, who had always been aloof and quiet, was looking so happy.

Meredith's determination started to waver again.

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Chapter 1225

She truly could not imagine what Cooper would be like if she were to take Nia away.

She breathed in softly and said, "Cooper seemed to be very reliant on Nia."

Josiah and Meredith looked at the children, who were chasing each other, and he said, "I'll respect your decision."

Meredith took a glance at him and then she opened the door to get out of the car.

When Nia saw her, she immediately ran toward her while cheering, "Mommy, look, candy figurine. Doesn't it look very much like me?"

Meredith took over the candy figurine to have a look and then nodded with a smile. "It is quite like you."

"Mommy, look, Cooper has one too," Nia said while pointing at Cooper.

Before Nia said anything, Cooper already raised the candy figurine in his hand to show Meredith. He had never shown such affection when he was with Ivy.

Meredith could not help but feel a little touched, she took the candy figurine from his hand and nodded while saying, "Looks very good. Looks very much like Cooper."

"Mister Josiah and Miss Meredith, Cooper and Nia also picked out many flowers," said Lily.

"Really? Then we don't have to buy flowers anymore."

"There's no need anymore. We already have plenty," said Lily.

"Alright. Let's go home then."

Meredith returned the respective candy figurines to the children and then walked toward the car while holding Cooper in one hand and Nia in the other.

"Mommy." Nia suddenly in her tracks, lifted her head to look at Meredith, and said, "Are we going to return to our home?"

They had agreed last night that they would return to their home that day, so once Nia saw her Mommy, she thought that she was there to bring her home.

Meredith saw that Nia was reluctant, and she still has not figured out how to respond to her.

Cooper, however, grabbed Nia's wrist with one hand and Meredith's clothes with the other. He looked at both of them, and very soon, tears welled up in his eyes.

Seeing that Cooper was about to cry, Meredith immediately comforted him and said, "Don't cry, Cooper. Nia is not leaving."

A questioning expression appeared in Cooper's eyes as if he was asking her if that was true.

Meredith looked toward Josiah.

Josiah still held the attitude of supporting all of her decisions and said, "Edith, I'll support you however you want to do it."

In fact, Meredith did not particularly care whether he was supportive of her decision or not. It was just that she was slightly uncertain of what to do at that moment.

However, while she was facing Cooper's teary eyes, she could only raise her hand to rub his little head for a while. "Let's go. Let's first go home."

Only then did Cooper feel relieved and went into the car happily together with Nia.

After they returned to Josiah's mansion, Meredith had nothing to do, so she helped Lily put up all the flowers were bought.

Nia and Cooper also helped them at the side. Nia carried a bouquet of sunflowers and said to Meredith, "Mommy, this is for Papa Charlie. Let's go visit him together tomorrow, alright?"

Meredith looked at the sunflowers that were blooming extremely brightly and felt a little touched, so she patted her little head and said, "Sure. Let's go visit Papa Charlie together tomorrow."

"I'll first put these flowers in a vase." Nia went to the backyard excitedly.

When Meredith carried the flowers and walked toward the annex, an urgent voice suddenly could be heard coming from behind her. "Miss Meredith, you can't go there!"

Meredith turned her head back with suspicions and looked at the person walking toward her. "Suzy, what's the matter with the annex? Why can't I go there?"

Suzy was Mrs. Shelby's personal maid and she was also brought back from abroad by Mrs. Shelby.

Suzy eased up her sense of urgency a little and said, "oh, it's like that. Mrs. Shelby said that the annex would be remodeled in the new year, so there's no need to put any flowers there for New Year's Day."

"Suzy, we've bought too many flowers, and there's no place to put them. Putting a few pots in there isn't going to affect the remodeling either." Meredith carried the flower pot and continued walking toward the annex.

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Chapter 1226

"Miss Meredith!" Suzy rushed over to block her path. Her expression was a little sullen and she deliberately said unhappily, "Miss Meredith, are you deliberately going against Mrs. Shelby because you've gained the favor of Mister Josiah?"

"What?" Meredith looked at her with confusion.

She truly was a little confused, she was just going to put a few pots of flowers in the annex, so how did it become that she was deliberately going against Mrs. Shelby?

Suzy let out a dry cough and said while pretending to be kind, "Well, Miss Meredith, just don't ask too many questions. In any case, just listen to me. I'm telling you this for your own good and for the sake of not letting you offend Mrs. Shelby.

"After all, her temper is not good. She could not tolerate others disrespecting her even a little. Miss Meredith, can you understand my kind intentions?"

She said it so sincerely, so of course, Meredith believed her.

"Alright then. Thank you for your kind intentions, Suzy," she thanked Suzy and then carried the flower pots back to the main building.

At night.

Meredith looked at the dishes on the dining table and asked, "Lily, has Mrs. Shelby had dinner?"

"She said she is a little unwell, so she is dining in her room," said Lily.

Cooper and Nia had just finished the food that Meredith made and went to play.

Ivy was not around, so only Josiah and Meredith were left at the dining table.

After he heard Lily say that Mrs. Shelby was unwell, Josiah calmly asked, "what's the matter with her? Did she let Miss Landers check up on her?

"Sir, Miss Landers hasn't returned yet."

Josiah's fork stopped mid-air for a moment, and then he asked again, "Do you know where she went?"

"I don't know."

Josiah nodded and did not ask any further.

Meredith, on the other hand, felt that it was a little strange, she gave it a thought and said, "Don't you think Miss Landers' disappearance is slightly odd?"

"ls it?"

"If she really ran away from home because she's upset with the matter last night, she certainly would have deliberately called you or let Mrs. Shelby asks you to go look for her. However, she didn't do so. Mrs. Shelby also didn't ask you to go look for her."

"Maybe she's waiting for me to regret my decision and run out anxiously to look for her."

Josiah put a piece of fish on her plate and said with a smile, "This trick is called playing hard to get. I've played it before."

"What did you say? You've played it before?"

"Yes. It was that time I deliberately ignored you back then and did not take you with me to attend the party."

"Hmph..." Meredith sneered and teased him, "You're quite good at playing tricks."

"But it seemed like there wasn't any effect," said Josiah.

It was not even as effective as being drugged by someone else last night!

"So you feel that Ivy is also playing hard to get?" Meredith glanced at him. "But Ivy doesn't look like a fool no matter what."

"What do you mean? Do you mean I'm not worthy of her to engage in such a play?"

"No. Look at yourself, which part of you deserved for her to play hard to get? Shall we say, would it be effective on you if she did so?

П

Josiah thought about it and felt that it made sense.

However, he did not think too much about it. He put a piece of meatball on her plate and said, "Just eat your dinner. Don't care about her matters."

Meredith nodded and did not think much about it anymore.

She originally thought that Ivy would return after being 'angry' for about a couple of days.

What she never expected was that Ivy was nowhere to be seen for three consecutive days.

She was slightly confused by Ivy's actions, but without her around, Meredith felt much more at ease.

At least she did not have to worry if Nia would be in any danger.

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Chapter 1227

It took Meredith a great deal of effort to push Josiah back to the study to sleep last night, so Meredith slept through the night quietly. When she woke up the next day, she realized that the sun was particularly bright.

She drew the curtains and was thinking if she should take Cooper and Nia out to play for a little since the weather was so nice.

She stood by the window for a while, and when she turned around, she accidentally saw a person who was in a hurry.

She took a closer look and saw that it was Suzy.

It was originally nothing strange to see Suzy on the first floor. What was strange was that Suzy was carrying a bag of things, and she was walking toward the annex in a panic.

That was strange, what was Suzy doing going to the annex so early in the morning? Also, she looked like she was afraid to be found out by others.

Very quickly, Suzy's figure vanished at the turning corner.

While she was feeling suspicious, a knock on the door could be heard coming from behind her. Immediately after, Lily's voice could be heard. "Miss Meredith, have you gotten out of bed?

Breakfast is ready."

Meredith responded, "I'll be right three."

She thought of the way Suzy looked just now, so she suddenly walked over, opened the door, and asked, "Lily, why did Suzy go to the annex?"

"What?" Lily did not understand for a moment.

Meredith said in a softer voice, "oh, I saw Suzy carrying a bag just now and went to the annex very sneakily. I don't know what Suzy went to do."

If she had just seen Suzy sneaking into the annex, Meredith may not have been that curious. The main thing was that when she went to the annex to put the flowers two days ago, she was stopped by Suzy.

She remembered that Suzy's reaction at that time was quite strange. It was as if she was quite afraid of Meredith entering the annex.

Could it be that there were some secrets in there?

Meredith suddenly thought of a person—lvy!

Ever since that night she drugged Josiah, Ivy had not made an appearance for a few days. Could it be...

Lily glanced in the direction of the annex and spoke softer like her, "Miss Meredith, do you need me to go and take a look?"

"Is it not too good like that?" Meredith said that, but she was actually still hoping that Lily could go and see what was going on.

"It's fine. I'll go and take a look then."

Upon saying that, Lily turned around and went down the stairs.

Meredith pondered a little, and then she walked to Cooper's bedroom.

Ever since they moved to Josiah's mansion, Nia had been fussing every night that she wanted to sleep together with her brother, so the children were in a room together.

What she did not expect was that Josiah would also be present and he was extremely focused on playing chess with Cooper.

Meredith went in to have a look and saw that the great Mister Josiah was not just losing by a little.

"Mommy, look, Cooper is so amazing," Nia told Meredith while pointing at the chessboard with a bright smile.

Meredith nodded and sat next to her. "He is indeed very amazing."

Josiah let out a dry cough with slight awkwardness and said, "We're not done yet. How do you know that Cooper is more amazing?"

"Isn't it obvious?" Meredith said directly.

Nia also nodded at the said and added, "Yes, Daddy. Cooper is a genius, to begin with. It's not embarrassing to lose to him."

Josiah said, "You've said it like I wasn't a genius when I was a child. II

"Mm-hmm. Daddy is also wonderful," Nia immediately praised him.

Meredith raised her hand and rubbed her little head for a moment. "Are you a fence-sitter? You agree with both sides so quickly."

Nia chuckled, rested her chin in both her hands and cheered for her Daddy.

In the end, of course, it was Mister Josiah who lost. Also, he was sincerely convinced of the outcome.

While putting the chest pieces away, he asked in confusion, "Cooper, I recall that your mommy is only average at playing chess. Why are you so good?"

Also, his skill of casually cracking his security system could not have been taught by Ivy. Where exactly did he learn that from?

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Could it be that he was born a prodigy and an all-rounder at that?

Josiah looked at his aloof son in front of him and he got more and more curious.

Of course, it was not that he had not been curious before after he saw Cooper cracking his security system in the past, and it was not that he had never investigated him.

He found out that Cooper had always been learning under a young professor when he was abroad.

However, no matter how good the teacher was, it was impossible to produce such an almighty child, right?

"Daddy, it doesn't matter if you've lost. You don't have to be sad." Nia suddenly shook Josiah's arm and said, "Didn't I say it just now? In my heart, you're very great."

Josiah regained his senses and smiled while patting her little head. "Thankyou. You're always able to take care of everyone."

"Let's go. Let's head downstairs for breakfast." Josiah held Nia and Cooper's hands.

Suzy put the food on the table and said to Ivy, who was weak and lying on the floor, "Miss Landers, come over to have your breakfast."

When Ivy heard that voice, she opened her eyes weakly.

Suzy saw that she could not move at all, so she had no choice but to take the food to her while saying irritably, "Miss Landers, I'm not trying to criticize you, but why are you always so disobedient?

You're the future lady of the house for the Shelby family who was trained by Mrs. Shelby wholeheartedly. However, you kept hurting her over and over again. Anybody would get angry."

"Suzy…" Ivy reached out her palm and grabbed her sleeve. "Suzy…I want to see Mrs. Shelby. I'm begging you to help me, please."

"Why do you want to see her?" Suzy said irritably, "At this point, is there still any use for you to see her?"

"Suzy, I'm begging you...help me," Ivy said with a catch in her throat and tears in her eyes.

"You can just tell me what you want to say. I'll help you pass the message to her."

"I…" Ivy looked at her and tears streamed down her cheeks. "I want to ask Mrs. Shelby to give me another chance. I will certainly do my best."

Suzy sneered. "Even I'm sick of such words of yours, let alone Mrs. Shelby."

"This time...is real."

Suzy pretended to be giving it a thought while in a difficult position, and then she nodded. "Alright. I'll tell Mrs. Shelby."

In fact, it was not a solution to keep locking her there. She has to be released sooner or later. Suzy also was willing to help Mrs.

Shelby to find a way out.

Before Suzy left, she told her, "I advise you to hurry up and eat the food. If you starved yourself to death, then nobody is truly going to care about that little b*stard of yours anymore."

Hearing her saying that, Ivy's expression changed a little, and then she immediately picked up the food and shoved them down her throat.

When Suzy saw her wolfing down the food, she shook her head, and then she turned around and walked toward the door.

When Suzy came to the first floor from the basement and walked out of the main door, she saw Lily standing outside and looking around curiously. Suzy could not help but panic.

She hurriedly readjusted her expression and walked toward Lily while asking, "Why are you here, Lily?"

"Oh. I saw that Nia's dog seemed to have run in just now, so I'm looking for it now."

Nia's white dog was the one that Josiah had bought for Meredith back then. It was white, chubby, and disliked exercising, so it would never run toward the annex.

Suzy could tell that it was a lie as soon as she heard it.

She became even more alert, but she was still smiling. "Is that so? But I've never seen a dog. If a dog had come in, King would have barked too."

"King?" Lily was surprised.

"It's the big dog that Mrs. Shelby is keeping," said Suzy.

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Chapter 1229

"It was just brought back the day before yesterday and it has been kept in the annex." Suzy took one step to the side and motioned Lily to look inside with a tilt of her head. "Look, is it very mighty?"

Lily looked inside the annex and saw that there was truly a big dog chained up in there. The big dog was panting heavily while looking outside and it gave Lily such a fright that she involuntarily took a step back.

"This dog is a little frightening," Lily said while laughing, "did you come to the annex to feed it?"

"That's right." Suzy nodded. "Such a big dog can't be kept in the main building as it would frighten the children, so it can only be kept in the annex."

"Oh, I see."

Lily nodded and then said, "Alright then. 1'11 go look elsewhere."

"Alright. Do you need me to help you?"

"No need. No need."

Lily waved and left quickly. Suzy secretly grinned behind her.

After Lily returned to the main building, she happened to see Meredith and Josiah taking the children down the stairs.

Meredith followed Lily into the kitchen and asked softly, "How was it, Lily? Did you see anything strange?"

Lily shook her head and said softly, "Mrs. Shelby is keeping a very big brown dog in the annex. Suzy went over to feed the dog."

"A big brown dog?" Meredith was slightly surprised.

Could it be that Suzy was holding dog food? Then, why did she act so mysteriously?

"Yes. That dog looks a little scary. Suzy said she was afraid that it would frighten the children, so she did not dare to keep it in the main building."

Lily saw that Meredith's expression was very serious, so she asked in confusion, "Miss Meredith, you seem to care why Suzy went to the annex, don't you?"

Meredith regained her senses and shook her head. "No, I was just a little curious. It's nothing. Thank you, Lily."

She indeed was very concerned about it.

That was because she was more and more curious about Ivy's whereabouts.

Mrs. Shelby was the head of the house, so she could do whatever she wanted. If she wanted to raise a big dog, why did she need to do it so secretly?

Besides, Josiah would not mind about these kinds of small matters either.

The more Lily told her about it, the more Meredith felt curious. It seemed like she had to go to the annex personally to see what was going on.

"Edith, come on over for breakfast," Josiah called out to her from the dining room.

"Alright," Meredith walked toward the dining room.

While having her breakfast, she kept thinking about how she

should tell Josiah about this matter.

What should she do if it was just a misunderstanding?

At the same time, Suzy had already returned to Mrs. Shelby's bedroom and she said to her with great anxiety, "Ma'am, something's happened. They seemed to be starting to suspect that Miss Landers is locked up in the annex by you."

"Who?" Mrs. Shelby was having breakfast and her spoon stopped in mid-air a little.

"I don't know if it's Mister Josiah or Miss Meredith. Lily had gone to the annex to check it out just now. It was fortunate that I came out sooner. Otherwise, I would be caught redhanded by her," Suzy said while still feeling anxious, "it was also very fortunate that you are very smart to put a dog in there in advance as a cover-up.

Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to find a reason to brush her off."

"Useless. I only asked you to do such a small thing but you're still so careless about it!" Mrs. Shelby glared at her angrily.

Suzy hung her head sheepishly, and then she immediately comforted her, "But, Ma'am, don't worry. Lily should have believed what I told her."

"Once a person starts to be suspicious, the suspicion wouldn't be eliminated so easily." Mrs. Shelby shot a glance at her angrily. "None of you are clever. What's the use for keeping all of you?"

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Suzy asked with concern, "Ma'am, what should we do then?"

Mrs. Shelby glared at her again, and then quietly closed her eyes.

Meredith secretly observed the annex for a day, but other than Suzy bringing the bones leftover from what Cooper and Nia had eaten to the annex, she did not notice anything out of the ordinary.

Also, Suzy went over very openly that time.

Could it be that she was really overthinking it?

At night, after the children were asleep, Josiah grabbed the chance and sneaked into Meredith's bedroom, and he used the excuse that the bed in the study was too small so it was not comfortable for him to sleep on it.

The bed was 150 meters in width, and he was sleeping on it alone, so how could that be small? The excuse that he used was truly too terrible.

"Haven't you always been sleeping there in the past?" Meredith shot a glance at him.

"I had no choice in the past. There was no place for me to sleep. However, now—"

"There's no place for you to sleep either now." Meredith cut him off. She felt that she was a little overbearing, so she raised her hand to touch his handsome face. "We're right under Mrs. Shelby's nose, so we'd better not be too self-centered."

"Is it too self-centered for a married couple to sleep together in one room?"

"Mrs. Shelby doesn't agree for US to be together, after all. Also, Ivy is still not back yet. she should be quite worried."

Josiah pondered for a moment and could only compromise. " Alright. I'll continue sleeping in the study then."

"Good boy," said Meredith, and then she stayed silent for a few seconds before asking him, "but are you really not curious at all where Ivy went?"

"I'm not curious."

"Why?"

"Why don't you tell me why I should be curious then?"

"Because she hasn't come home for four days."

Josiah thought about it and said, "There are two kinds of possibilities. She is either angry and is playing hard to get with me or she is feeling guilty after she drugged me, so she doesn't dare to see me anymore."

"Then is she not worried that if the two of us spend more time together at home, our feelings for each other would be rekindled?" Meredith thought about it very seriously and shook her head. "No, I still don't think these explanations make sense."

Seeing that she was very serious, Josiah could not help but also become serious. "Edith, what do you want to say?"

Meredith looked at him and said, "I suspect that Ivy has met with some accident."

"What?"

"I have always felt that Ivy is a little odd. It was as if she was being threatened and forced." Meredith kept recalling the suspicions she had over the past few days and said, "Previously, when she applied medicine for me, I saw that she had five scars on her wrist that were formed after slitting her own wrist when she tried to kill herself, she admitted that they were scars left behind from her past suicide attempts. The reason she gave was that she couldn't marry you and couldn't let Cooper's condition get better, so she broke down and attempted suicide several times.

"However, she clearly doesn't love Cooper that much." Meredith thought about it again with her eyebrows furrowed and said, "Oh, yes. I had already packed my luggage that night and was already planning to return to the Leightons' mansion. Ivy suddenly walked in to provoke me, and she even deliberately asked if I would be worried that she would do something to Nia. It was because I was frightened by her that I decided to wait until sunrise and take Nia away."

Josiah was slightly surprised. "Do you mean to say that Ivy deliberately kept you in my mansion?"

"Now that I think about it, there is such a possibility."

"But why would she do that?"

Meredith shook her head. That was the part that she could not figure out the most.

Ivy was hell-bent on marrying Josiah. Even the date of their wedding was decided. During the night she decided to drug Josiah, she should have been thinking of all the ways to drive Meredith away like what Mrs. Shelby did.

"Do you mean that...not only was Ivy being coerced, but something might have even happened to her?"

Meredith nodded. "Don't you think so?"