Still Loving You Nonetheless By Snow de Eira Chapter 1261

Chapter 1261 "That's a separate matter." Meredith dragged him off the couch and said, "Besides, you wouldn't want me to be hated by your grandpa and your mother, yes?"

Josiah did not expect his grandfather to take Ivy's side because of Cooper.

He agreed that he should not make Meredith the enemy of the elders.

But there was nothing wrong with him having a little chat with Meredith in her room. It was not like he was going to spend a night with her.

Sitting Meredith down next to him, he asked, "You went to see Ivy, right? How did it go? Did you find out about anything? Aren't you going to tell me about it?"

Meredith frowned and replied rather disappointedly, "Miss Ivy is keeping her mouth tightly shut. She's not saying a word."

She had come up with such a good excuse to make Ivy spill her truth, but her plan failed miserably.

Josiah pointed at the tablet in Meredith's hands. "What about that? She did not waver at all?"

"Yeah. She was clearly looking for the child urgently. I even told her that I'll help her look for the child around the country, but she was not fazed at all." Meredith was confused and said, "She even told me that she was just doing a favor for someone. Do you believe her?"

Josiah pondered and replied, "No."

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"Right? Me neither," Meredith went on, "why would she look so miserable if she was just doing a favor for a friend? It's impossible!

"Oh, and I noticed that her cheeks were red and swollen. It was as if she was slapped," Meredith went on, "I think it was Mrs. Shelby's doing."

Josiah picked up her hand and sighed upon the scar on the back of Meredith's hand. "With Mrs. Shelby's temper, it's likely her doing."

"I suddenly feel sorry for Ivy," Meredith sighed and shook Josiah's arms, "Joe, you should help her. You'd be helping yourself if you do her a favor, no?"

Josiah gave a light tap on Meredith's head and said, "Edith, I know you're kind and you really want to help her. But how are we supposed to help her if she's not saying anything? Not wanting to let US find out about anything?"

"Plus, what we know about Ivy now is simply based on our assumptions. We don't know if our assumptions are correct."

Meredith agreed with Josiah and did not say anything further.

"But don't worry. I've made arrangements to look further into this matter. We'll know the truth soon."

"You are already looking into it?"

"Yes."

"Okay then. Let's give it a few days."

"Mm. Get some early rest."

"You too." Meredith pushed him toward the bedroom door and said, "It's the New Year's Eve tomorrow. You have family matters to attend to, isn't it? You should get some early rest too."

"But I can't sleep," Josiah turned around, pulled Meredith into his arms, buried his face in her neck, and took a deep breath, "I can't sleep without you."

"Oh cut it out. You're still well and alive even after all those years."

"It's not like insomnia can kill."

"Well, I don't see you looking weak and frail, or losing a ton of weight."

Meredith pushed him away and took out a bottle of

Sweet Reminiscence from the drawer. "You said this helped you to sleep better, right? Go spray this on your pillow."

"I don't want it."

"Why?"

"The smell will only make me miss you more," Josiah pushed her hand away and said, "or you can come over to my room, or..."

"Or you can get out of my room!" Catching Josiah off guard, Meredith pushed him out of her room and waved.

"Goodnight, Mister Josiah. See you tomorrow."

Just when she was about to close the door, Josiah grabbed her by her wrist.

"You…" Alarmed, Meredith glared at him and hissed, " What are you doing?"

"What do you think?" In a swift move, Josiah entered her room again and pushed her against the door...

Still Loving You Nonetheless By Snow de Eira Chapter 1262

Chapter 1262 "You…have a death wish, don't you?" Meredith suddenly held up her hand, showing her fingers to Josiah. "Do you see this?"

Josiah narrowed his eyes and finally noticed the needle held between her fingers.

"A needle?"

"Bingo. I haven't been using this for a long time, I might slip and make a mistake. Do you want to have a try?" Meredith flashed a smile at Josiah.

Glancing at the needle in her hand, he asked, curious, "What would happen then?"

"I remember you've tried it once, haven't you?"

"Yeah. And I think I passed out. But I had a good sleep."

"Well, let's hope you can sleep well this time. Who knows, if you're unlucky, you'll never be able to wake up, "Meredith smiled, "so would you like to try?"

Josiah wanted to snatch the needle away but Meredith managed to avoid him.

"Miss Meredith, why do you have such a thing on you?" Josiah asked gloomily, "Don't tell me you always keep it with you so that you could protect yourself from me." "If I've always had them with me, would I have to be bullied by you then?" Meredith asked.

Back then when Josiah forced himself onto her, she did not care about herself because all she wanted was to protect Nia. Hence, she did not need anything to protect herself.

And when Josiah stopped tormenting her after that, Meredith did not think it was necessary anymore.

She only brought the needle with her because things were hectic here in Delmas Town and she was meeting Ivy all alone.

Josiah sighed softly, held her wrist, and said, "Edith, put away the needle. I don't want you to get hurt."

"Well, aren't you going to leave?"

"Yes, I'll leave right now."

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Josiah gave a quick kiss on her forehead. "Goodnight."

On the day of New Years' Eve, the Shelby residence was even livelier and busier than usual.

Nia and Cooper had gone to pay respects to the elders.

Josiah wanted to bring Meredith together with him but Meredith rejected him with the excuse that she was not a part of the Shelby family.

Meredith had some free time on her hands hence she helped out in the kitchen for tonight's dinner.

At night, Cooper and Nia were playing with firecrackers in the garden.

Meredith who was looking at them from the second floor felt relieved and glad. "It's so nice to be a child. Sometimes, I hope I can go back to the old times."

"I want to go back…" Josiah paused and went on, "and play firecrackers with you."

Meredith glanced at him and replied, "Oh save it. You didn't even care about me back then. Why would you want to play with me?"

"It's not that I don't care about you, it's just that..."

"Because Joe only had eyes for me back then." Ivy walked over with a smile on her face. Putting down the tray on the coffee table, she said, "Joe and I used to play with firecrackers and watched the fireworks together every year."

Studying the smile on Ivy's face, all of a sudden, Meredith was not sure if Ivy was showing off or if she was just pretending.

"I still remember that Joe liked those fancy fireworks, the ones that spread across the night skies. Those were really pretty," Ivy went on.

"It was Liam who liked those, not me," Josiah quickly drew the line and added, "oh, and Liam was there with us too."

"Really? Why do I only remember that it was you who put up the fireworks?" Reminiscing the good old days, Ivy said, "You'd even say that you put those fireworks, especially for me. I remember being really touched by them."

Meredith took a glance at Ivy, then at Josiah with an 'oh- I-see' look on her face.

Josiah cleared his throat and quickly explained, "It wasn't me, it was Liam who said that. You remembered it wrongly."

"How could I possibly remember such a beautiful memory wrongly?" Ivy was still wearing a smile on her face and her pretty eyes were shining.

It was as if the memory was precious to her.

"I really didn't say that," Josiah held Meredith's hands and said, "Edith, don't believe her."

Meredith tugged at the corner of her lips and said, "Why would I care about what you said when you were younger when I don't even mind that you had another child with someone else without my knowledge."

Josiah was rendered speechless.

Deep down, Meredith was, of course, bothered by Cooper's presence. She was just saying that she did not care.

But Josiah swore that he had never said those words to lvy.

He was not sure if Ivy misremembered or if she was purposely provoking Meredith.

To avoid a bigger misunderstanding, Josiah helped Meredith get up from the chair. "You wanted to go back to the old times, right? Come on then, let's go put on some fireworks together."

While walking away with Josiah, Meredith turned around and asked Ivy, "Aren't you coming with US?"

"Oh, it's fine. Go ahead, the both of you." Ivy was still wearing a gentle and polite smile on her face.

Meredith already guessed that Ivy would not join. She was just asking out of politeness.

Josiah and Meredith showed up at the garden.

Cooper and Nia ran over to them and handed them some firecrackers.

Taking the firecrackers from the children, Meredith gave a light tap on their heads. "Thank you, darling.

Let's play together."

The firecrackers lit up the garden and the children's laughter filled the place. It was a beautiful and heartwarming scene.

Looking at Cooper's happy face, Meredith thought that even though the child had an extraordinary IQ level, and was sensitive and considerate, at the end of the day, Cooper was just still a child.

A child who enjoyed playing and loved playing with firecrackers.

"What are you thinking about? Come, let me light It for you." Josiah shook his hand in front of Meredith.

Coming back to her senses, Meredith passed the firecrackers to Josiah.

And she soon joined the kids fooling around.

Josiah, on the other hand, stood at a side and helped them light the crackers to make sure that they were safe.

Ivy who was looking from afar saw the heartwarming scene. A flicker of jealousy flashed across her eyes.

She was, after all, a woman too. A woman who hoped for a happily ever after life...

On the first day of New Year, the Shelby family had a lot of visitors.

Josiah's grandfather and mother spent their entire day welcoming visitors. When noon came, Josiah's grandfather decided to let Josiah take over as he was drained.

Josiah had never enjoyed socializing. Mrs. Shelby, who had just returned to the country, wanted to strengthen her position and status in the family, hence, she volunteered to take Josiah's place.

One of the ladies in the crowd asked, "Mrs. Shelby, you and Mister Shelby had separated years ago, right? When are you guys planning to get back together?"

With a loud thud, Mrs. Shelby put down her glass on the table, looked at the lady, and asked, "You're dying to know, aren't you?"

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am just simply curious. Because I don't think I heard the news about you and your husband getting back together."

Another lady quickly gave a light nudge on Mrs. Zeya's arm and it was then Mrs. Zeya stopped talking.

Looking at Mrs. Zeya, Mrs. Shelby scoffed, "Even though my husband and I are divorced, my son is still part of this family. Is there a problem that I've returned?"

Mrs. Zeya finally realized that she had misspoken. She shook her hands and quickly explained, "No, not at all. That's not what I meant, Mrs. Shelby. I was simply...

curious."

She then hurriedly got up onto her feet and said, "Mrs. Shelby, please enjoy the rest of your evening. I'll be taking my leave now."

Mrs. Zeya then left without even turning back.

Meredith, who was on the second floor, witnessed what had happened and exclaimed, "Mrs. Shelby is something else, isn't she? Just one glare and she managed to make someone run away."

Josiah pulled into a smile. "You could too, you know?" "How could I?"

"When you become my wife. You'd be able to rule Delmas Town."

"But I don't want to do that."

Josiah lifted his head up to look at Meredith. "I don't think you'd be able to do that either."

"What do you mean?" Meredith raised one of her brows.

"Because our lovely Miss Meredith would never use her status and power on someone." Josiah bent over and ruffled Meredith's hair.

"Here's a small gift for you." Josiah handed her an envelope.

Staring at the envelope in his hands, Meredith laughed, "What is this? Are you giving me pocket money?"

"Why? Is it weird?"

"Yes, very." Meredith took the envelope.

"I'm giving pocket money to my grandparents, Cooper, and to Nia too. What's so weird?" Josiah asked.

"They are different, right? There's really no need for you to be giving me an allowance."

"Do you not want them? You can give it back to me then." Josiah pretended as if he was going to take back the envelope from Meredith.

Avoiding him, Meredith said, "Why would I not want free money? Of course, I'd want it."

She stuffed the envelope in her pocket and then asked, "Should I also give you some allowances too?"

"Up to you." Josiah cleared his throat loudly, grabbed the magazine on the desk, and started flipping through it.

Hearing his response, Meredith knew that she would have to return the favor too.

She went back to her room and put some money into an envelope before returning to Josiah. "Here you go."

"Aren't you going to add some good words too?"

"I hope you make more money in the coming new year."

"Haven't I made enough?"

"Who would complain that they are making too much money? If you really did think that you've earned enough, you wouldn't have expanded your business overseas."

"You got that wrong. I expanded my business overseas not because of money, it's so that we could keep up with the market, to reinforce and strengthen my influence in the market so that we don't get expelled from the industry."

"Whatever you say." Meredith did not wish to argue more with him. She started making tea instead.

Right then, someone called Josiah on his phone.

After a few words of exchange, he ended the call.

"Someone else is coming over?" Meredith overheard a little of their conversation.

"Liam and his parents are coming over for dinner together."

"Really?" Meredith immediately put down the things in her hand and stared surprisedly at Josiah.

Looking at Meredith's reaction, Josiah said, rather unhappily, "There you go again!"

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Meredith got all excited at the mention of Liam.

Clearing her throat, Meredith explained herself, "I told you right? That I wanted to observe Ivy's interaction with Liam."

Yesterday when Meredith purposely brought up the mention of Liam, she could sense that Ivy was rather uncomfortable. Hence, she was suspecting that something happened between Ivy and Liam.

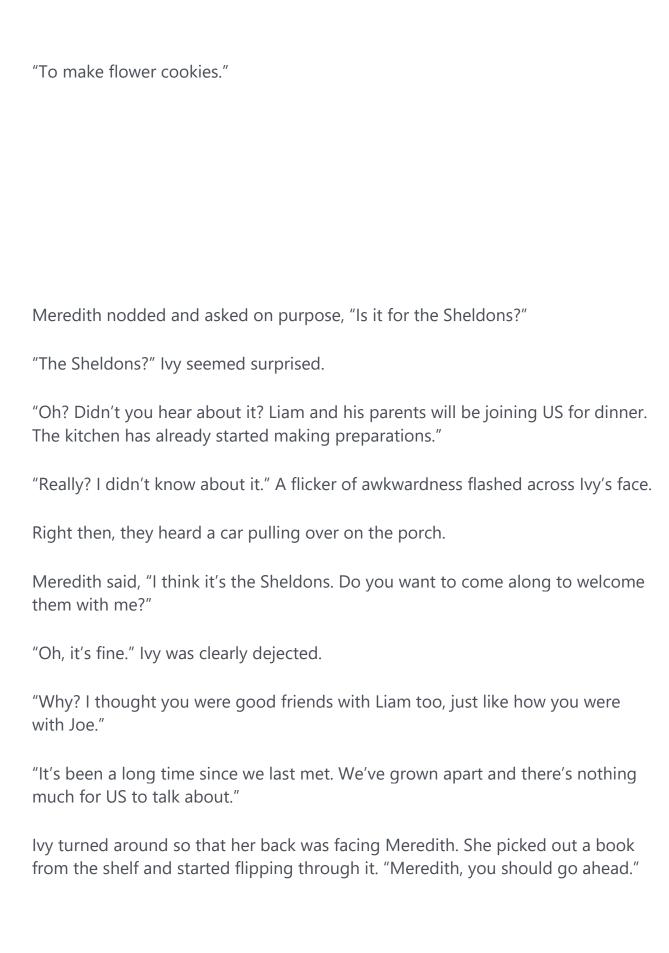
Shrugging his shoulders, Josiah said, "Fine, do whatever you like."

Meredith then went to check on Cooper and Nia in their rooms.

She did not see them around but instead, found Ivy flipping through children's books in front of the bookshelves.

At the sight of Meredith, she closed the book in her hands and said, "Nia went to the garden to pick some flowers."

"Oh, what for?"



"Alright then. I'll go."

When Meredith came downstairs, Liam and his parents were entering the house.

Meredith had met Liam's parents so she greeted them politely.

But Liam's parents looked conflicted. They looked at her, then looked at Josiah. It was obvious that the old folks were not sure how to greet Meredith.

The old folks heard the news that Josiah was going to marry Ivy next month but it was Meredith who had come out to welcome them instead.

They were confused as to who was Josiah's wife.

Liam noticed his parents' confusion and quickly stepped in to manage the situation. He gave a light tap on Meredith's hair and said, "It's been a long time, Edith. You grew prettier."

Meredith smiled. "You're still such a sweet-talker, aren't you?"

"I am just telling the truth."

"And because it's the truth, the more that you shouldn't say it without meaning it." Josiah pushed Liam's hand away from Meredith's hair. "Don't think that I won't dare to hit you in front of your parents."

"Josiah's right, son." Liam's mother quickly pulled Liam to her side and smiled. "You shouldn't eye on your friend's wife. You should keep some distance."

"Mom, I bet you didn't know that I almost got married to his wife," Liam teased Josiah purposely.

"You bastard, what are you talking about!" Liam's father, Fabian Sheldon shot a glare at Liam. "Hurry up and apologize!"

But Josiah did not mind. "It's okay, Uncle Fabian. Edith has absolutely no interest in him anyway."

"Um..." Fabian did not know what else to say aside from chuckling dryly.

"There now. Do you think you're the only one who's got a wife, Josiah? My son, Liam, has one too."

"Really? Liam is married?" Meredith sounded rather surprised.

"Not yet, but soon." Liam's mother pulled into a smile and waved to someone at the door. "Yanne dear, come on in."

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A young woman stepped foot inside the house and put her arms into Liam's.

The woman was young and really pretty. She looked gentle and soft-spoken. But most importantly, she and Liam looked perfect for each other.

Looking at Yanne, Meredith could not help but be reminded of lvy.

Liam already had a fiancée and even if there was something going on between Ivy and him, there was no chance for Ivy anymore.

"Nice to meet all of you. I'm Yanne Young," Yanne introduced herself.

"See, this is the surprise that I have in store for all of you." Liam's mother seemed to be really proud of her soon-to-be daughter-in-law. Pride was written all over her face as she went on, "Yanne studied abroad and had just returned to the country to help with her dad's business. She's getting ready to take over her family's business."

"Really? That's really amazing, Miss Yanne!" Meredith then said to Liam, "Congratulations, Liam! I'm happy that you got yourself such a wonderful girlfriend."

"Thank you." Liam smiled at Meredith.

"Uncle and Aunt, let me bring you to meet my grandparents," Josiah said.

"Why yes, yes. We should say hello to your grandparents," Liam's mother pulled Liam with her and said, "Let's go. Bring Yanne along too."

After greeting Josiah's grandparents, Liam's parents were asked to stay back to have tea with them.

Liam and Josiah went to have a chat about work in the study whereas Yanne suggested that Meredith have a walk with her in the garden.

Meredith accepted her request and led her to the garden.

Yanne was much younger than Meredith hence she was easily fascinated by almost everything. Yanne was exclaiming and gasping all the way.

"Wow, I've heard about how gorgeous the garden is at Shelby's residence. I didn't know that even the plants are gorgeous.

"Hmm, what flower is this? It looks rather strange.

"Oh, this looks pretty."

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"Oh, Miss Meredith, will you be getting back together with Mister Josiah?" Yanne turned around suddenly and asked Meredith.

"I heard from Liam that Josiah adores you a lot and he is waiting for you to agree to get back together with him," Yanne sounded jealous as she went on, "I do envy you and Josiah a lot. I wished that Liam and I were just like you and Mister Josiah."

"We aren't really thinking about that yet." Looking at Yanne, Meredith asked, "What about you? When did you and Liam get together? I've never really heard Liam talking about it."

"Oh, we got together half a year ago," Yanne smiled and went on, "my parents and Liam's parents are good friends and they have always wanted to pair the both of us together. As soon as I got back to the country last year, our parents arranged a date for US."

"Oh, what happened then? The both of you fell for each other at first sight?" Meredith asked.

"You could say so, hehe." Yanne chuckled shyly and added, "I mean, it was for me. But I'm not so sure about Liam."

"Well then are you planning to get married to Liam?"

"I think our parents want US to get married this year."

"And Liam agreed to it?"

"He did," Yanne nodded and said, "Liam even told his mom to decide on a good date to get married."

The both of them were caught up in their conversation that they did not realize Ivy was walking toward them with Cooper next to her.

At the sight of Ivy, Meredith was rather startled. "Miss Ivy? Weren't you upstairs?"

She then looked at Cooper. "What happened to Cooper? Where's Nia?"

"Nia is still chasing after butterflies and Cooper had a hole in his pants. I'm bringing him to go get changed." Ivy looked at Meredith and Yanne who were standing next to Meredith.

Meredith immediately introduced, "This is Miss Yanne, she is..."

Before Meredith could finish her sentence, Yanne chimed in, "I am Liam's fiancee."

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Chapter 1266

Liam's fiancee...

lvy had just heard the conversation between the two, but she froze in place.

"Who's this beautiful lady? How do I address you?" Yanne asked with a smile.

Meredith watched as Ivy froze in place, pulling Cooper's fingers visibly tighter and causing Cooper to frown in pain. She was more confident that Ivy's relationship with Liam was not as simple as it seemed!

Seeing Ivy did not answer, Yanne looked at her and then at Meredith in confusion.

"Miss Meredith, what's the matter?" Yanne asked, puzzled.

Meredith returned to her senses and hurriedly explained, "She's Ivy Landers, and she's..."

Meredith did not know how to explain Ivy's identity, so she just said, "Miss Young, you can just call her Miss Landers."

"Oh. It's nice to meet you, Miss Landers," Yanne greeted cheerfully.

Ivy also finally came to her own senses and smiled. "It's nice to meet you too, Miss Young."

"Enjoy your walk. I'll take Cooper to change his clothes." After saying that, Ivy led Cooper to the main building in a hurry.

Yanne looked at Ivy as she left and asked curiously, "Miss Landers is so cold. Does she usually treat you this way?"

Meredith also watched as Ivy left and answered, "No. Miss Landers is probably in a hurry to change the kid's clothes, so she's in such a hurry."

"Oh. Is that so..."

"Miss Young, let's continue our walk."

"Miss Meredith, just call me Yanne," Yanne said, "you're just a few years older than me, so I'll call you Meredith."

"Sure."

Meredith was indeed only three years older than Yanne, so it was fine to call each other by their first names.

The two strolled to the rose garden and saw Nia running after the butterflies.

It was so cold, yet butterflies were still flying. As Nia chased the butterflies, she asked, "Mommy, why isn't Cooper here yet? I can't catch the butterflies!"

"Cooper probably won't come," Meredith answered.

Meredith was sure Ivy would not return to the garden because Yanne was there.

"Why?"

"Because we're going to have our dinner soon."

"Oh."

Meredith looked at the butterflies flying among the flowers with great difficulty, and she said with sympathy, "Nia, stop chasing them. Butterflies like to live freely."

"But the butterflies are cold," Nia answered seriously, "I want to protect them because it's cold outside. Once it gets warmer, I'll set it free."

Meredith did not expect that Nia was chasing after the butterflies for so long because she wanted to protect them, and she could not help but feel a little relieved.

Even so, Meredith still said, "Nia, every creature has its own way of life. You can't protect it in your own way. Otherwise, it'll die."

Nia picked up the transparent jar containing a few tiny butterflies and looked at them. "But wouldn't they freeze to death if they fly around the garden on such a cold day?"

Meredith smiled gently. "I'm not sure if they'll freeze to their death from flying around in the garden, but I believe they'll be dead in two days if you keep them in a jar."

"I'll feed them flowers."

"But butterflies need more than just flowers, they also need suitable environments and food to grow."

"I..." Nia was in a dilemma.

Yanne approached Nia with a smile. Then, she held the jar in Nia's hand and said, "These butterflies are so beautiful. They'll make great specimens."

"Huh? Won't they be dead if they're turned into specimens?" Nia asked.

"Butterflies don't have a long lifespan, and they'll die sooner or later." Yanne rubbed Nia's head. "There are times when humans shouldn't be too emotional. Overly emotional will only cause US to be sensitive, and it's easy to be sad."

Nia stared at Yanne, not fully understanding what she meant.

Meredith did not know what to say, and it was also inappropriate to argue with her here.

Yanne realized that she was talking too much and hurriedly changed the topic. She said to Meredith, "Meredith, your baby girl Is not only beautiful but also very sensible and cute. I really want to have one."

Meredith smiled. "Yanne, you're still young. You'll surely have the chance in the future."

"I don't know if Liam likes daughters. What if he doesn't? II

"Hmm..." Meredith pondered for two seconds before answering, "Getting married and having children is a matter of course. I believe he'll like them too."

"Really? Was Mister Josiah the same back then?"

"Yes."

Even though Josiah hated Nia initially, he suddenly changed and began to dote on Nia upon knowing she was his biological daughter.

"By the way, I heard Ivy gave birth to Josiah's son. Was the child just now Josiah's?"

Meredith's face dropped, looking at Yanne in surprise. After all, Yanne was from a reputable family. Although she was naive and adorable, it could not be possible that she had such low emotional intelligence, right?

She should not act this way!

Yanne hurriedly explained, "I'm sorry, Meredith. I just feel sorry for you. I'm just wondering if this is just a misunderstanding. Maybe Ivy's son is not Josiah's?" "What do you mean?" Meredith was taken aback. "If Josiah's not the dad, who else would it be?"

Cooper looked so much alike to Josiah that Yanne would not have said such a thing unless she were blind.

Meredith suddenly understood what she was thinking. Just like her, Yanne had probably guessed that Liam's relationship with Ivy was not as simple as it seemed. Hence, she suspected whether Cooper had any relation to Liam.

Yanne's eyes were fine, but her heart was blinded by love.

Moreover, Yanne's true intention in asking Meredith out for a walk in the garden was to get information and show dominance in front of lvy.

Yanne was young, but she was quite skillful.

"I also hope Cooper's not Josiah's flesh and blood, but Cooper looks similar to Josiah. Everyone can tell he's Josiah's at first glance."

"Do they look similar?" Yanne recalled their appearances and exclaimed in realization, "Meredith, now that you say it, I do see the similarity.

"What a pity. It would be great if this incident never existed. That way, your relationship with Mister Josiah will definitely have a great ending."

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Meredith said nothing but just smiled at her. Soon after, she called Nia and said, "Nia, let's go. It's time for dinner. II

"Okay, Mommy. Let me release the butterflies first."

Nia freed the butterflies in the jar. Not long after, the butterflies fluttered their wings and flew away.

Nia reluctantly waved to them. "Goodbye, tiny butterflies. Please live well."

Delicious western food was prepared for dinner. As there were so many people, Old Sir Shelby asked the housekeeper to set the table in the greenhouse.

The long dining table was set, and Old Madam Shelby urged everyone to take a seat.

Yanne walked over quickly, took Liam's arm, and said with a smile, "Liam, I just went to visit the mansion. It's truly as big and beautiful as Madam Sheldon said."

Madam Sheldon laughed, "Of course. Why would I lie to you?"

"I know you won't lie to me, but I didn't expect it to be so beautiful." Then, Yanne turned to the two elders of the Shelby family and praised, "No wonder Grandpa and Grandma Shelby are in great health and look youthful. This place is really suitable to enjoy life in retirement."

Hearing the praises, Old Madam Shelby was delighted. "Yanne is such a charmer. Haha..."

"You're right." Madam Sheldon was also in a great mood. "I've been much happier since Yanne came to our house. II

"It proves that Liam has good taste," Old Sir Shelby said, "come on, let's take a seat."

Madam Sheldon glanced around and asked, "Eh, where are the kids? Aren't they joining US?"

"Oh. Cooper is afraid of strangers and doesn't like eating with adults. So Nia is eating dinner with him inside," Old Madam Shelby answered.

After saying that, Old Madam Shelby asked Suzy, "Where's Ivy?"

"Ma'am, Miss Landers is attending the kids while they eat," Suzy replied.

"Ask her to come over and eat with our guests."

"Yes, Ma'am."

Suzy walked toward the house.

Not long after, Ivy appeared. When Liam was not around just now, she had just gone to the tea room to greet Fabian and Madam Sheldon. After saying hello to Fabian and Madam Sheldon again, Ivy turned to Liam but only met his gaze for two seconds before looking down.

"Mister Liam, it's been so long." Ivy sounded rather calm.

Liam looked at her with his arms folded in front of his chest and smiled. "Long time no see."

He had always liked to joke, but his tone was surprisingly cold, and his smile was unfriendly.

Yanne glanced at the two quickly, scooped the dessert with a small spoon, and fed Liam. "Liam, try this chocolate-flavored dessert. It's different from what we usually eat."

Liam opened his mouth to eat the dessert and nodded. "It's a little different."

"Isn't it slightly bitter?"

"Yes, but it's delicious."

"Right?" Yanne smiled and said to the two elders of the Shelby family, "Grandpa and Grandma Shelby, why don't you have some of the desserts?"

"Thank you, but it's fine. It's more suitable for youngsters like you," Old Madam Shelby replied with a smile.

Josiah gave Meredith a piece of the desserts. "Don't you like chocolate? Try it."

Meredith was so busy observing Ivy and Liam that she completely forgot about her favorite chocolate. Sadly, the two did not interact with each other after the greeting, and she could not figure out anything.

After the main meal was served. Old Sir Shelby told everyone to eat.

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Although many people were at the table, the atmosphere was not harmonious and even seemed awkward. Only Madam Sheldon and Old Madam Shelby tried hard to live up to the ambiance.

After the meal, even Madam Sheldon felt that socializing was tiring, so she left early.

In the bedroom, Meredith straddled Josiah's lap, cupped his handsome face in both hands, and threatened, "Are you going to make the call? I'll be angry if you don't."

Meredith's action prevented Josiah from moving away from the sofa, and he smiled at her. "You look so cute when you're angry, so I don't really mind."

"Jo-" Meredith was furious.

"Look, so cute. You look adorable and lovable." Josiah pinched her cheek, completely ignoring her rage.

Meredith was helpless, so she could only change her way and begged coquettishly, "Josiah, please...can you help me and call him back?"

"What's my reward?"

"What kind of reward do you want?" Meredith leaned over and kissed him on the cheek. "Is that okay?" Josiah kissed her back, and his expression turned serious. "Edith, do you think this is a good idea?"

"Why not?"

"Liam has a fiancee now, and it doesn't matter if he and Ivy had anything in the past. Doing this will not only put him in a tough spot, but it'll also make his fiancee unhappy. Do you understand?"

"I just want to see if Ivy likes him or you."

"So what if she likes him?"

"If she likes him, I don't think it'll worsen the situation. Instead, I can be more confident in being with you and help her eliminate the current predicament."

Meredith thought and added, "But you're right. I forgot about Liam's fiancee, Miss Young."

Miss Young would definitely be unhappy if she did so.

"Listening to what you said, I kind of want to make him come back again." Josiah coughed dryly, "After all, it's not easy to make Miss Meredith stand by my side assuredly is not easy."

"I didn't expect Mister Josiah to be so selfish." Meredith was annoyed and looked askance at him.

Josiah's phone rang.

He took it out and saw that it was Liam's number.

Meredith quickly eavesdropped and vaguely heard him say that he had left his phone in Josiah's study.

Josiah glanced at Meredith and asked calmly, "Do you need me to find someone to deliver it to you?"

"No need. I'm not far away."

Meredith glanced at her watch. It had been twenty minutes since he was gone, so how could he not have gone far?

Josiah threw the phone on the coffee table and said, "It seems that we don't need to think of a way because he's coming back by himself."

Twenty minutes later, Liam was once again back at the Shelby manor.

The two elders had already returned to rest. Josiah originally planned to go down to greet Liam, but he was pulled back by Meredith.

"Wait. Help me blow dry my hair."

"You're done washing your hair? That's fast." Josiah took the hairdryer out of the cabinet and started drying her hair.

Liam walked into the main building but did not see Josiah, so he walked toward the study on the second floor.

As soon as he walked to the second floor, he met lvy.

The two were instantly stunned.

Ivy hurriedly nodded at him. "Mister Liam, what brings you back?"

"I'm back to get my phone." Liam's gaze was fixed on her.

Then, he paused and taunted her, "I heard that Miss Landers is going to marry Joe on the sixth of next month. Is that true?"

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Ivy tightened her grip on the cup, trying hard to remain calm. "That's right."

"Congratulations. You finally got your wish."

"Thank you. Mister Liam, hurry and look for your phone. I'm going downstairs."

After saying that, Ivy walked over from his side, ready to go downstairs. However, Liam suddenly grabbed her wrist.

Ivy's wrist trembled, and she turned to look at him. "Is there anything else. Mister Liam?"

"Miss Landers, do you like Joe so much that you don't even have any self-respect?" Liam turned around and looked at her coldly. "Back then, you knew that the person he married was Meredith, yet you still drugged him. Now, you know he loves Meredith, yet you still insist on marrying him?"

The contempt in his tone made Ivy's heart heavy and uncomfortable. However, she did not show this uneasiness at all. Instead, she kept calm and said, "Marrying Joe has been my dream since I was a child. No matter how difficult it is, I won't give up.

"As for self-respect..." She laughed and shook her head. "Compared to lifelong happiness, is pride important?"

Liam was speechless and in disbelief.

"Miss Landers, are you still the Ivy Landers we know?"

The Ivy he thought he knew would not say such things.

Ivy chuckled. "Whether I'm the Ivy you remember... Didn't you see through the truth on Josiah's wedding day?"

Liam was at a loss for words from her reply.

Ivy was right. When she secretly drugged Josiah back then, her image in Liam's heart was instantly ruined. However, Liam still felt utterly disappointed when he saw her return with the child to force Josiah to marry her.

Ivy looked at Liam, who was still handsome as always. Then, as calmly as possible, she said, "I heard that you and Miss Young are planning to get married.

Congratulations. Miss Young looks like a good girl."

Liam was slightly irritated by her calmness and secretly gritted his teeth. "Thank you, and congratulations to you too. You finally gave birth to Joe's child as you wished and became his fiancee."

"Thank you." Ivy pointed downstairs and added, "Mister Liam, I'll get going."

After saying that, Ivy walked downstairs.

Liam stood there in a daze. When he looked up, he found Josiah standing in front of him. He was shocked, but he quickly returned to his usual carefree appearance.

"What are you doing? It's late at night, so why aren't you spending time with Miss Meredith in your room? You may not be able to do so anymore after the sixth."

Josiah raised his brow at him. "Didn't you drop your phone in my study? Why aren't you getting it?"

Liam followed Josiah into the study. Sure enough, his phone was on the study table.

Josiah looked at the phone and teased, "You left this phone with me on purpose, right?"

"Why do you say that?"

Liam picked up the phone and checked if anyone had contacted him.

Josiah did not force Liam to admit it. Instead, he walked to the front of the cabinet, poured each of them a glass of wine, and handed one of them to Liam. "Edith said I'm dense. Jt seems to be true."

"What do you mean?" Liam took the wine and clinked his glass.

"I thought about it for a long time and just couldn't understand...when did Ivy fall in love with me, and why didn't I feel it at all? It turns out..."

Josiah shook his head and smiled. "It turns out that she likes you...and it seems that you like her too."

Before, Josiah was still skeptical about the mutual feelings between the two of them. Until today, until just now, he was finally sure that Meredith's guess was correct. Sure enough, women were much more sensitive in these kinds of matters.

Liam did not intend to hide it and took a sip of the wine. "If I said that I had liked her since young, you wouldn't be surprised, right?"

"No. Ivy was indeed a great girl back then."

"Well, that's it. I'm a normal man, and I have normal preferences and standards."

"Are you saying I'm abnormal?"

"Did you not like her back then?" Liam looked at him and shook his head. "I don't believe it."

"If I really liked her, why should I hide it?"

"Oh, I remember it now." Liam nodded. "You only had eyes for Yena back then."

"Don't you know how I felt about Yena?" Josiah thought it was somewhat funny. "I remember you reminded me repeatedly that I only have gratitude for Yena, not love."

"You treated gratitude as love, and that was why you didn't spare a glance at another woman," Liam said, "if you hadn't married Meredith, I believe you would've married Yena."

"No." Josiah shook his head firmly. "I never thought of marrying Yena."

Liam shrugged, declining to comment.

"Forget it. Let's talk about you. What's going on between you and Ivy?" Josiah changed the topic.

"Nothing." Liam laughed self-deprecatingly, "It's all my wishful thinking because she never liked me."

"But judging from her reaction, it doesn't seem like she has no feelings for you."

"Josiah, she worked so hard just to marry you and even gave birth to your son. Why are you still questioning it?"

After saying that, Liam hurriedly added, "Of course, I'm not advising you to marry her. After all, you and Meredith are basically soul mates at this point."

Liam noted everything that happened between Josiah and Meredith.

"I get it." Then, Josiah asked, "Then what's your plan?"

"What plan?" Liam asked him back.

"You should understand that I won't marry lvy."

Liam was slightly shocked, but he soon understood-It would be surprising if Josiah would give in to Mrs. Shelby and give up on the woman he loved.

"But now that you have a fiancee, you won't have any plans for Ivy, right?" Josiah asked.

"It's great that you understand."

"Are you and Miss Young for real?" Josiah was a little curious. After all, Liam had always been flirtatious and never really liked any woman. Yet, he suddenly announced that he was getting married.

This was indeed suspicious!

"Yanne is a great girl," Liam answered.

Since Liam said that, Josiah had nothing to say. He took the initiative to clink Liam's glass. "I really didn't expect that you, a heartbreaker, would also settle down one day. I don't know whether to be happy or worried, so I won't be giving you my blessing." "Just take care of yourself." Liam smiled and clinked his glass.

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After Liam left, Meredith came to Josiah. Josiah pulled her and sat her on his lap, feeling a little melancholy. "I finally understand that once you miss some people or things, you'll miss them forever."

"Thankfully, you're still by my side." Josiah lowered his head, resting his handsome face on her shoulder, and took a deep breath.

It seemed that only by deeply feeling her breath could he truly feel her presence.

Meredith raised his gorgeous face with her hands and looked at him. "How did it go? I guessed it correctly, right?"

Josiah nodded.

Liam has admitted It, and Ivy's reaction seemed to affirm Meredith's guess. The only thing Josiah could not understand was why Ivy still drugged him and got pregnant with his child when she obviously had feelings for Liam.

Meredith also could not understand why. Finally, after giving it a long thought, Meredith asked, "Could it be that Mrs. Shelby forced her to marry you from the beginning?"

"Definitely," Josiah said, "the question is why is she threatened by Mrs. Shelby? As far as I know, Ivy is not that weak."

"Probably because they're living in the same house, so she has to give in to her." Meredith sighed.

After all, Mrs. Shelby brought lvy up, and she was grateful for that.

After thinking about it, Josiah could only come up with this reason too.

"So what should we do now?" Meredith held up his handsome face. "Aren't you amazing, Josiah? Hurry up and think of a way."

Josiah laughed and kissed her palm. "I'm amazing, but not in everything. Liam has a fiancee, and Ivy has given birth to Cooper. So what can I do?"

"You have a point." Meredith sighed.

So what if they knew that the two had feelings for each other? Apart from a sigh of relief because of the lack of a rival in love, there was no other use. However, it seemed that Josiah was in a good mood.

"What's the matter? You seemed happy?" Meredith glanced at him and asked.

"I can't say I'm happy, but I really don't feel as depressed anymore," Josiah answered helplessly, "At least I know that Ivy doesn't like me, so I don't have to be burdened anymore."

"So, do I need to congratulate you?"

"Maybe a gift?"

"All you do is try to cheat a kiss from me." Meredith shot him a glance.

"But it's not that easy to deceive you." Josiah lowered his head to look for her lips, but Meredith stopped him.

"Stop messing around. I still have something to say."

"What is it?"

She deliberately looked at him and teased, "There's less than a week left until your grand wedding day. What do you plan to do?"

Josiah sat up straight, raised his brows, and asked, "Aren't you planning to help me escape the marriage?"

"I don't dare to do so."

"Why not?"

"I'm afraid Mrs. Shelby might break my legs."

"So you're just going to watch as your man marries another woman?"

"If my man can't even save himself, then he should just be with another woman."

Meredith raised Josiah's handsome face again. "Mister Josiah, are you satisfied with my answer?"

"Not really," Josiah said, "If it were me-if you dared to marry another man, I would first throw that man into the river and then kidnap you back, completely destroying any intentions of marriage."

Meredith stared at him. She had to admit that Josiah could really do such a thing.

How could someone as domineering as him allow her to marry another man?

Meredith was able to stay with Charlie back then because Charlie was Josiah's cousin, so Josiah did not act ruthlessly.

At the thought of Charlie, Meredith did not have the mood to joke around anymore.