Chapter 1271

Meredith stood from Josiah's lap and said, "It's getting late. Hurry back to your room and rest."

"Edith." Josiah pulled her small hands and said with a serious expression, "Don't worry. I'll save myself."

Meredith almost burst into laughter. It was just a throwaway remark, but Josiah took it so seriously.

"I got it. Go and get an early rest."

"Where's my goodnight kiss?"

Meredith lowered her head and kissed him on the forehead. "Good night."

The following morning, Meredith went to see the children. To her surprise, Ivy was not there. In the past, Ivy would check on the children the first thing after getting up, just like her.

Why was she not here today?

Meredith asked Nia if Ivy had been there, and Nia shook her, indicating she had not.

Out of curiosity, Meredith went to check if Ivy was in her room, she knocked on the door several times, but there was no response. Later, she opened the door cautiously and walked in.

Ivy, who never slept in, was actually still sleeping in bed?

Meredith called out, "Miss Landers, it's time to get up for breakfast."

There was no response.

Meredith raised her voice and called again, but Ivy still did not respond. Meredith approached Ivy and noticed that Ivy's face was flushed, looking like she had a fever. Meredith found that Ivy's temperature was really high when she reached out to touch her forehead.

Meredith anxiously patted Ivy's arm. "Miss Landers, you have a fever! Wake up!"

Ivy frowned in discomfort, but she did not wake up.

Meredith got up and went back to her bedroom to find feverreducing medicine. Later, she returned to Ivy's bedroom, holding the antipyretic in one hand and supporting her shoulders in the other.

"Miss Landers, get up and drink some medicine."

Ivy sighed in pain and murmured, "Give me back...my child..."

Meredith thought she had heard it wrong and asked suspiciously, "Miss Landers, what did you say? Are you looking for Cooper? Cooper just woke up, and he's washing up..."

"My child..."

lvy curled up into a ball uncomfortably and repeatedly muttered, " Give me back...my child..."

Meredith could see that Ivy was not just suffering from the fever but also because of the pain in her heart and...physically?

Ivy's silk nightgown was slightly untidy because of her curling up, somewhat exposing her delicate shoulders. Through the edge of the nightgown, Meredith could vaguely see the intricate scars on the back of her shoulder.

Out of curiosity, Meredith carefully lifted the shoulders of Ivy's nightgown, and she found more scars on Ivy's shoulders.

Although these scars had faded away, it could be seen that these happened in the past two months.

Why were there so many scars on her?

Meredith met Ivy every day in the past months, yet she never noticed Ivy showing signs of being hurt.

"Miss Landers, how did you get these scars?" Meredith asked curiously.

Ivy did not seem to hear her question, she still curled up tightly, trembling and calling out to her child.

Meredith understood that asking Ivy at a time like this would be useless.

In order to reduce Ivy's fever as soon as possible, Meredith lifted her from the bed with all her strength and fed her the feverreducing medicine.

Thankfully, Ivy drank it, and she soon fell asleep.

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Chapter 1272

Meredith watched lvy fall asleep before leaving her bedroom.

"Miss Meredith, breakfast is ready. Please go down to eat," the servant politely said to Meredith.

Meredith looked downstairs and asked, "Is Mrs. Shelby up?"

"Mrs. Shelby is already seated at the dining table."

Only Josiah and Mrs. Shelby were in the dining room. Meredith politely said to Mrs. Shelby, "Mrs. Shelby, Miss Landers has a high fever. Do we need to send her to the hospital for treatment?"

Unexpectedly, Mrs. Shelby was not surprised or concerned at all. Instead, she just said lightly, "She's an adult. She'll be fine after taking some fever-reducing medicine. There's no need to go to the hospital."

"But Miss Landers seems so sick that she can't even get out of bed."

"Is there anyone who's willing to get up when they're sick?" Mrs. Shelby retorted indifferently, "Ivy is not as weak as others, and she's a doctor herself. She can take care of herself."

Then, Mrs. Shelby changed the subject, stared at Meredith, and mocked, "Even if Ivy is in pain, it's because of you. So stop putting on an act."

"Mother, isn't that far-fetched?" Josiah grabbed Meredith's small hand and said to Mrs. Shelby, "Meredith didn't fight with you out of respect for me, so please stop pushing your luck"

"Josiah-"

"Mrs. Shelby can say anything she wants. I don't mind," Meredith interrupted and said to Josiah, "Joe, please get the family doctor to check on Ivy. I'm worried that something will happen to her."

"Okay." Then, Josiah called, "Suzy."

"There's no need for that!" Mrs. Shelby's tone became harsher, and she said to Josiah, "The lvy I brought up wouldn't be defeated by a mere fever! otherwise, how's she going to establish herself in the Shelby family? How can she be the woman of the house?"

"Mother, you're overthinking. Ivy won't become the woman of the house," Josiah replied, "even if she becomes the mistress of the Shelby family, she'll still be allowed to see a doctor when she's sick.

Ш

"As I said, there's no need to let the doctor check on her," Mrs. Shelby repeated as if she had the final say.

Meredith looked at her cold-hearted expression and could not help saying, "Mrs. Shelby, are you refusing lvy to see a doctor because you're worried that others will find her scarred?

Mrs. Shelby was stunned, she was just about to eat when she heard Meredith's words, and she immediately looked at Meredith with a murderous gaze. "Meredith, what do you mean?"

Josiah also turned to Meredith, confused about what she had just said.

Meredith took a deep breath and said, "when I gave Miss Landers antipyretics, I found that her back was covered with scars. I had similar scars before and knew she was whipped at a glance."

Meredith glanced at Josiah next to him. "Is whipping a weak woman with a whip the traditional method of your Shelby family?"

"Meredith, watch your mouth!" Mrs. Shelby grabbed the plate in front of her and threw it at Meredith.

Fortunately, Josiah was nimble and quickly pulled Meredith into his arms.

The plate shattered in the corner with a bang, followed by Mrs.

Shelby's angry roar, "who the hell do you think you are? How dare you slander our Shelby family like this?"

Meredith was a little frightened by her, but she was not intimidated. Instead, she got out of Josiah's arms, looked at him, and asked, "Let's ask Mister Josiah—have I slandered your family? II

Josiah looked at her distressedly and shook his head. "No."

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Chapter 1273

After saying that, Josiah turned to Mrs. Shelby. "Mother, if you really treated lvy that way, then Meredith's words were not slander. II

After all, Josiah abused Meredith the same way before, which had become one of the things he regretted the most.

"Josiah—" Mrs. Shelby was furious. "Are you so enchanted by this woman that you forgot your last name?"

"Mother, violence can't solve problems. I don't want you to repeat the mistakes I've made in the past."

Josiah said to Penny at the door, "Penny, notify the family doctor to come and check on Miss Landers."

"Yes, Mister Josiah." Penny nodded and hurriedly left.

Meredith looked at the livid Mrs. Shelby, then glanced at Josiah. Soon after, she got up from the chair. "Mrs. Shelby, I'm going to see if Nia and Cooper have had their breakfast."

After saying that, Meredith left.

Josiah understood what Meredith meant. After she left, he stared at Mrs. Shelby and said, "Mother, can we talk?"

Mrs. Shelby sneered, "Meredith has bewitched you. what else can we talk about?"

"Let's talk about Ivy," Josiah answered, "Mother, you know that Ivy and I don't love each other, so why do you force her to marry me and use abusive methods to threaten her?"

Mrs. Shelby was a little flustered when it was revealed that she was abusing lvy, but after hearing Josiah's words, she gradually calmed down.

"I thought it would be something important. Well, I'm doing all these obviously for Cooper's illness."

Mrs. Shelby could still make up a reason as long as Cooper was around.

"I'll find a way to treat Cooper's illness. As for Ivy, please let her go," Josiah said sternly.

"No way. Cooper must have a complete family." Mrs. Shelby was still determined.

Josiah snorted. "Mother, do you think I'll obey you and let you ruin Ivy's and my life?"

"I'm not the only one who thinks you should marry Ivy. Even your Grandpa agrees."

"Don't worry about this, Mother. I'll handle Grandpa." Josiah got up from the chair and glared at Mrs. Shelby. "I'll repeat it for the last time—I won't marry Ivy, and you have no qualifications and status to force me. After all, you have long since divorced my father and are no longer part of the Shelby family."

After saying that, Josiah quickly left the dining room. However, he turned around after taking a few steps and said, "Mother, you brought lvy up yourself. Don't hurt her."

Looking at Josiah leaving proudly, Mrs. Shelby swept the dishes on the table to the ground angrily.

"Even if you're angry, you shouldn't lash your anger on my plates." An unhappy voice suddenly sounded at the door of the dining room.

Mrs. Shelby's expression changed slightly, and she looked up to find Old Madam Shelby walking in with the help of Penny. She should have greeted her politely, but she could not speak.

"I think Joe is right. You divorced my son and left the Shelby family twenty years ago, so you're no longer Joe's mother."

Old Madam Shelby sat on the chair opposite Mrs. Shelby and looked at her. "what qualifications does an outsider have to interfere in Joe's marriage?"

Mrs. Shelby was even angrier, but she did not show it.

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Chapter 1274

"Aren't you a funny one, Old Madam Shelby? I gave birth to Josiah, so Γ11 always have a place in the Shelby family as long as he's still alive."

Then, she glanced at old Madam Shelby with disdain. "Anyway, Ĩ advise you not to fight against me. After all, your time is almost up, and it's impossible for you to win against me."

Back then, Mrs. Shelby was defeated by Old Madam Shelby, causing her to feel aggrieved for all these years, she had been waiting to return someday to take revenge on this family. In her opinion, if she could not beat old Madam Shelby twenty years ago, would she still be unable to win against her twenty years later?

Even if she just dragged old Madam Shelby, she could kill her easily.

"Since you're so confident, why do you want to hurt the innocent lvy?" Old Madam Shelby said, "Didn't you bring lvy up and teach her yourself and then force her to marry Josiah by cruel means, just to use her against me?

"It's just a pity that Ivy won't bow to you, and she'll never join forces with you." Old Madam Shelby shook her head.

"You think too highly of yourself," Mrs. Shelby said indifferently.

"Am I wrong? Then tell me—Why are you forcing Joe to marry lvy? II

Mrs. Shelby replied, "Because she's Cooper's mom, and she's more naive and purer than Meredith because she'll never betray me."

"You really think she won't betray you? Do you actually consider her as an animal without emotions?" old Madam Shelby shook her head. "Let me remind you that even a worm will turn. No matter how filial lvy is, she won't let you push her around."

"Ivy will never do that," Mrs. Shelby answered confidently.

Old Madam Shelby sighed when she saw how stubborn Mrs. Shelby was. "Fanny, even though you don't admit it, I know that you forced Ivy to marry Joe because you hated Joe's dad and me and wanted to take revenge on US. But there's really no need to harm a girl as good as Ivy."

After a pause, Old Madam Shelby added, "Tell me, what do you want? I'll agree to anything you ask for. Whether it's the position of the mistress of the Shelby family or Joe, they're all yours in the future, okay?"

Old Madam Shelby wanted to make peace, but Mrs. Shelby felt even more aggrieved.

Mrs. Shelby roared angrily, "old Madam Shelby, you're truly an actress! You were not only good at acting when you were young, but you're even better at it as you age! what do I want? If you asked me what I wanted back then and gave me what I wanted, would I have left Joe and gone abroad?

"Now that you've enjoyed enough, you're giving me alms? I don't need it!" Mrs. Shelby gritted her teeth. "The things that I wanted, I'll get them back with my own strength, and I'll make everyone in the Shelby family regret it!"

After Mrs. Shelby was done shouting, she got up from his chair. Then, she looked down at the stunned old Madam Shelby, screaming, "Didn't you ask me what I want? What I want most is that you die quickly. Just die already!"

"How hard is it for me to die? It depends on your capability." Old Madam Shelby said calmly after being taken aback, "Also, I don't think it was entirely my fault. Fanny, do you really think you did nothing wrong?"

"I never felt that I was wrong." Mrs. Shelby gritted her teeth. "It was your Shelby family who joined forces to force me away. It was you all!"

Old Madam Shelby was speechless.

After the doctor checked on Ivy, Meredith asked anxiously," Doctor, how's Miss Landers? Do we need to get her to the hospital? II

"Don't worry, Miss Meredith. Miss Landers' fever has subsided. She just has to take medicine and have a good rest. There shouldn't be any serious problem."

"But she looks seriously ill." Meredith glanced at Ivy, who was still asleep.

"A high fever will make anyone drowsy. She's fine," the doctor assured.

"Oh, okay. Thank you."

"You're welcome, Miss Meredith. This is my job." The doctor packed up his things and added, "If there's nothing else, I'll return to the South Court first."

The family doctor lived in the South Court.

"Alright."

After the doctor left, Meredith touched Ivy's forehead and said to Josiah, "Her fever has subsided, and she should wake up soon."

Chapter 1275

"Okay, I'll leave then." Josiah felt that it was inappropriate to stay here.

"Alright." Meredith thought for a while, then added, "By the way, Miss Landers kept calling out to her child when she just woke up. Why don't you bring Cooper over and accompany her?"

"Sure."

Not long after, Josiah led Cooper over.

Cooper did not know his Mommy was sick, and a look of worry appeared on his pretty little face when he saw her lying on the bed.

Meredith immediately comforted, "Cooper, don't worry. Mommy just has a cold."

Cooper walked over and put his small palm over Ivy's forehead.

"It's alright, Cooper. Mommy's fever has subsided."

Cooper pulled away his little hand and stepped back, looking at Ivy on the bed from a distance.

Meredith saw fear in his eyes, and he was clearly afraid of his Mommy. Although she discovered it early on, she still asked out of confusion, "Cooper, are you afraid of Mommy? Mommy actually loves you very much, but..."

But what?

Why did Ivy resent Cooper so much?

Meredith had never figured this out before, but she seemed to understand it now—If it were not for Cooper's existence, Mrs. Shelby would have no reason or excuse to force lvy to marry Josiah. Then, lvy would not have to do things against her will.

Thinking of this, Meredith's sympathy for Ivy deepened.

While she was in a daze, someone touched her arm. She returned to her senses and found that Cooper was touching her. Looking at his expressions, Meredith knew that he had something to tell her.

Meredith immediately encouraged, "What are you trying to say, Cooper? I'm listening."

Cooper struggled for a long time before suddenly saying, "She's not..."

Meredith was confused and asked, "What are you talking about, Cooper? She's not...?"

After struggling for a while again, Cooper replied, "Mommy..."

Meredith combined the words he had said before, and she finally understood, she froze, then raised her hand and touched Cooper's head with a smile.

"Cooper, Mommy sometimes doesn't treat you very well, but as I said, she didn't do it on purpose. Her love for you is also real.

Besides, just think about it...if Mommy doesn't love you, why's she working hard to raise you? So you can't say such things in the future, okay? otherwise, Mommy will be disappointed and sad."

Cooper looked at Mommy sleeping soundly, lowered his head, and said nothing.

Meredith rubbed his head again. "Mommy was screaming to see you, Cooper."

Seeing that he was in disbelief, Meredith guickly assured, "Really.

I'll never lie to you."

Cooper clearly believed her.

After listening to her words, he finally took two steps forward and gently took lvy's palm.

Chapter 1276

Not long after, Ivy woke up. Cooper, who was standing in front of the bed, immediately stiffened and stared at his Mommy. It was obvious that he was slightly nervous.

Ivy opened her eyes weakly, but she did not appear relieved when she saw Cooper standing by her bedside. Instead, her expression changed gradually. Then, she immediately pushed Cooper away.

"Go away! I don't want to see you!"

Cooper almost fell from the push, but thankfully, Meredith grabbed him in time.

Cooper's pretty little face fell, clearly disappointed with Ivy's behavior.

Ivy was still waving her hands frantically, trying to push Cooper further. "Leave! Go away now!"

Cooper was terrified. He froze in place, not knowing what to do.

Meredith pulled Cooper behind her and comforted Ivy, "Miss Landers, calm down. Cooper is here because he's worried about you. Look, you scared him."

lvy was stunned. She looked at the terrified Cooper behind Meredith, and she felt guilty. Then, she reached out to Cooper.

"I'm sorry, Cooper...! didn't mean it. I didn't sleep well..."

Meredith glanced at the remorseful Ivy and glanced at Cooper behind her.

She had seen this scene before.

Ivy's resistance to Cooper and Cooper's fear of Ivy was deeply rooted.

"Cooper, Mommy said she didn't mean it. Don't take it to heart," Meredith said gently as she pulled Cooper from behind her.

Even though Cooper was afraid of his Mommy acting this way, it was not the first time he had experienced such a situation. Hence, he nodded weakly, showing that he did not mind.

Soon, Meredith said to Ivy, "Miss Landers, you had a high fever just now, and you kept shouting that you wanted to see Cooper, so I called him over."

Ivy was stunned, and a noticeable trace of panic flashed across her face.

"What did you say? I..." Ivy stopped asking but just nodded, "oh, okay. Thank you, Meredith."

"Miss Landers, are you feeling better now?" Meredith asked with concern.

Ivy nodded. "I'm feeling much better now. Thank you." Then, she waved at Cooper. "Cooper, come over."

Cooper hesitated before stepping toward her.

Ivy rubbed his head and smiled gently. "Did I scare you just now? I'm sorry. I was sick and dizzy. Actually, I like you very much, and I'm very fortunate to have you."

Cooper looked at Ivy and nodded.

"I'm fine now. why don't you go and play with Nia?" Ivy once again rubbed Cooper's head. "Be good."

Cooper stood where he was, obviously uneasy about his Mommy. Meredith chimed in. "Cooper, don't worry about it. I'll look after your Mommy."

Cooper finally nodded and left the bedroom.

Chapter 1277

Meredith turned her attention to Miss Landers again and asked with concern, "Miss Landers, weren't you still fine last night? why did you suddenly have such a high fever?"

lvy took a deep breath and replied calmly, "Meredith, we don't have to put on an act anymore. Let's go back to our own business."

Anyone would think the same if their rival in love suddenly became concerned about them.

Meredith understood that, but instead of leaving, she asked, "Miss Landers, were you also pretending to be nice when you helped me with my burn?"

Ivy looked at Meredith. Soon, she nodded. "That's right. I did that to move you and let you willingly give Joe to me. otherwise, why would I help you with the medication?"

"Then you should just think I'm doing the same as you—I'm doing this to move you so that you'll give Joe to me." Meredith smiled at Ivy and picked up the medicine tablet on the table. "Miss Landers, take some medicine first."

Ivy glanced at the medicine and turned to Meredith. "Miss Meredith, you can leave now. I'll eat it myself."

"I promised the doctor I would make sure you eat medicine."

Seeing that she insisted, Ivy sat up from the bed, took the medicine and water glass in Meredith's hand, and ate it.

"Miss Landers..."

"Meredith," Ivy did not wait until Meredith finished her sentence and interrupted, "stop trying to fish out any story from me— there's nothing. I'm not going to change my mind about giving you Joe either."

"Miss Landers, I know you don't love Joe, and you're forced by Mrs. Shelby," Meredith said, "Joe and I had discussed it. If you have any difficulties, we can find a solution together. We'll also find a way to cure Cooper's illness. You and Joe don't need to sacrifice your lifelong happiness."

"None of you can help me."

"What do you mean?"

"Meredith, I know you understand the pain of losing a child."

"Yes...our children are a part of US. But isn't Cooper getting better..." Meredith calmed down and added, "You won't lose Cooper's..."

lvy suddenly covered her ears.

"Miss Landers, why are you so stubborn?" Meredith asked speculatively. "Apart from Cooper, do you have any other difficulties? Does it have something to do with the...girl with septicemia you were looking for?"

Ivy shook her head, "stop! I don't want to listen to anything! Nothing will change!"

Even though Meredith felt terrible when she saw Ivy agitated, she still forcefully removed Ivy's hands from her ears. "Miss Landers, even if you don't care about others, you should think about yourself. A lifetime is very long, so you shouldn't hurt yourself like this."

'I'm willing! Γτ fine with this!" Ivy suddenly glared at Meredith. " Meredith, did you hear me? I'm willing!"

Meredith glanced at Ivy's back. "Are you really doing this willingly? Even if you're tortured to the point of being scarred all over your body, even if you're forced to give up the person you like

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"That's enough!" Ivy slapped Meredith. "Meredith, are you done yet?

"Meredith, if you like Joe, find a way to marry him! Don't start with me, and don't waste your time trying to persuade me to let go. I won't change my mind."

Meredith covered her painful cheek and looked at Ivy. "Miss Landers, you can't snatch Joe away, so don't confuse yourself on the main issues. Think about it for yourself."

After saying that, Meredith left the room.

When Josiah saw Meredith was back, he asked casually, "Ivy woke up?"

"She's awake and alright." Meredith nodded, falling back on the sofa in frustration.

Josiah was working on a tablet and glanced at her sideways. "Did you argue with her?"

Chapter 1278

"It's not exactly an argument...! just want to know if there's a reason why she's being oppressed and abused by Mrs. Shelby."

"She wouldn't say it."

"How did you know?" Meredith looked at him. "Josiah, if it were you, you wouldn't say it too, right?"

"That depends on the reason," Josiah scrolled the screen and replied, "some secrets can't be shared, and Ivy's secret is probably that. So don't force her anymore."

Meredith gave it a thought and felt Josiah had a point. She kept asking what difficulties lvy had and wanted to resolve the problem between them as soon as possible, but she never considered her feelings. In fact, she even triggered lvy to that extent. Meredith could not help but want to apologize to lvy.

"Actually...I'm not just doing this for the three of US," Meredith tried to comfort herself.

Josiah nodded. "I know. You want to help her."

"Yes."

"But in the wrong way."

"Then what should I do?"

"You should at least understand what her difficulties are first, but you can't find out by asking her directly." Josiah shot her a comforting gaze. "Just take it slow."

Meredith nodded. After pondering for a while, she suddenly asked, "By the way, when are we going back to Jehovah City?"

"What's the matter? Do you want to go back?"

"Not exactly. The sixth is approaching, and you and lvy..."

"Don't worry. I'll leave Delmas Town before the sixth." Josiah understood her thoughts, leaned over, and said to her with a smile, "I won't let Grandpa pressure me."

Meredith only replied, "Oh."

Judging from Josiah's attitude and temperament, he would not give in to Mrs. Shelby so easily. Hence, there was no need for her to worry at all. However, Meredith always felt a little uneasy as she believed Mrs. Shelby was not someone easy to deal with.

Especially when she saw Mrs. Shelby's confidence.

After staying in Delmas Town for a few more days, Josiah decided to return to Jehovah city. As soon as Nia and Cooper heard that they were returning to Jehovah City, they began to feel reluctant. After all, the Shelby mansion was huge and fun.

In the mansion, the children could play as much as they wanted.

Old Madam Shelby had her arms around the two little kids and would not let go, no matter what Josiah said.

Josiah patiently reassured, "Grandma, if you really miss Cooper and Nia so much, you can come to Jehovah city to visit them."

"I'm not going!" Old Madam Shelby snorted.

After all, Mrs. Shelby had returned, and Ivy was there too. There was simply no place for old Madam Shelby in Jehovah city.

Josiah understood her concern and added, "If you go to Jehovah City, you can still live in the old mansion. I'll bring the children over to accompany you."

"The old mansion has been unoccupied for too long. I don't want to go there."

"But Grandma..."

"Shut up! I don't want to hear your voice!"

Josiah was speechless.

Nia moved away from Old Madam Shelby's arms with a smile and said, "Great Grandma, Cooper and I will often come back to see you because we really like it here."

Knowing that Cooper did not like to be in close contact with others, Nia rescued him from old Madam Shelby's embrace too.

Chapter 1279

Nia patted the back of old Madam Shelby's hand with her little hand. "Great Grandma, take care of yourself. We'll get going."

"Nia is the sweetest girl, and I like you the most." Old Madam Shelby kissed her on the forehead affectionately.

After kissing Nia, Old Madam Shelby went to kiss Cooper. "Of course, I also adore Cooper."

Cooper leaned calmly to the side, avoiding old Madam Shelby's kiss. Fortunately, everyone was used to Cooper's aloofness, and Old Madam Shelby did not take it to heart. Instead, she just patted Cooper's head.

"If it weren't for you two having to go to school, I wouldn't let you leave."

"Mm! Goodbye, Great Grandma!" Nia replied cheerfully.

Old Madam Shelby finally let go of the little ones and turned to Josiah.

Josiah instinctively wanted to avoid her, but Old Madam Shelby ordered, "stop!"

Josiah turned around and coughed. "Grandma, is there anything else?"

Old Madam Shelby's expression was completely different than before, and she stared at Josiah angrily, saying, "Josiah, if you can't handle your own mess, don't come back to see me."

"Yes, Grandma. If I don't sort out my own matters, I'll take my own life by self-disembowelment, okay?" Josiah replied nicely.

"You'd better be a man of your word." Old Madam Shelby glared at him. Then, she walked over and pulled Meredith's hand. Once again, Old Madam Shelby became reluctant as she said to Meredith, "Edith, just let me know if Josiah dares to bully you again. I'll take care of him for you."

Meredith chuckled, "Grandma, don't worry. I can handle him myself."

"That's good to hear."

"Grandma, you and Grandpa must take good care of yourself. We'll come back and visit you when we have time."

"Okay. Remember to come back often."

After saying goodbye to old Madam Shelby, Meredith got into the car with Josiah.

Josiah leaned into her ear and asked, "Miss Meredith, are you that strong now? Can you really handle me?"

Meredith raised her head at him. "Josiah, your biggest mistake was to bring me back to life, stopping me from fearing you and needing you."

Josiah pondered. "Is that a mistake?"

"It's definitely so for you." Meredith smiled. "If you ever bully me, I can turn around and leave gracefully even if you don't take your own life by self-disembowelment."

Josiah looked at her confident expression and felt a little sad, but more than that, he was happy.

He was happy for her.

Josiah had always wanted Meredith to be the beautiful and confident Meredith she was before, and it seemed she had become just that.

"Okay." He clenched her little hand and nodded. "I won't let you have this chance."

Back in Jehovah City, the first thing Meredith did was go to the company to deal with the piling work during the New Year.

Josiah was the same, and he was even busier than her.

In the evening, Meredith received a call from Josiah. As she was still busy at work, she asked with the phone between her head and shoulder, "What's the matter?"

"Nothing. I just want to ask if my busy wife has time for supper together."

"I'm sorry, I don't," Meredith replied, "find someone else to accompany you."

"Who else can I find besides you?" Josiah was a little aggrieved.

"Find Liam. Isn't he in Jehovah City?"

"He has a fiancee now, so why would he have time for me?"

"Then why don't you just go home and close the door, then think about how you're going to get through tomorrow? It's the sixth," Meredith teased deliberately.

"Meredith, you're doing this on purpose."

"You're right. I'm doing this on purpose."

Josiah was suddenly in a good mood. "If it bothers you so much, you can bring me and escape the marriage…you can bring me anywhere you want to."

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Chapter 1280

"No way. I'm not free." The phone on Meredith's desk rang, and she said immediately, "Anyway, I have to take a call. Goodbye."

"Hey..."

Before Josiah could finish speaking, Meredith had already hung up the call.

In the mansion.

Mrs. Shelby's call to Josiah finally got through, and she straightened her posture and said in a serious tone, "Josiah, why are you not answering my calls?"

Josiah did not take her annoyance to heart and just replied indifferently, "Mother, you only called me to say the same nonsense. I'm tired of listening and explaining."

"Josiah—"

"Mother, it's the sixth tomorrow. Do you plan to kidnap me and bring me to the city hall or knock me out and drag me there?"

Mrs. Shelby gritted her teeth. "Don't worry. I can make you go on your own."

"Really? How do you plan to do that?"

"You'll naturally find out when the time comes," Mrs. Shelby snorted, "Josiah, you forced me to do this."

Josiah heard her cold tone and felt a little uneasy. After all, Mrs. Shelby always meant what she said. He thought about it and called Meredith again.

Meredith was about to get off work when she answered the call, "Mister Josiah, I told you I'm not having supper with you. I'm controlling my food intake."

"Edith, what time do you get off work? I'll pick you up."

"It's fine. I can drive home by myself."

"It's not safe for you to drive home by yourself. It's better for me to pick you up."

"I'm already in the car park. You should hurry home and check if Nia and Cooper are asleep," Meredith said, "see you later."

Meredith hung up and continued walking in the direction of her car. Just as she was about to open the car door, she suddenly saw figures flickering, and two men in black attires and caps rushed toward her.

Before Meredith figured out what was going on, they had dragged her into a van with her mouth covered. Immediately afterward, the van drove in a hurry, rushing toward the exit.

Everything happened so fast that Meredith did not have the chance to call for help. It was not until they left the car park that the two men released her mouth and hands.

"What are you doing? Let me go!" Meredith stared at the two strangers in front of her in shock, she did not know them at all.

The man roared at her coldly, "Shut up, or I'll beat you up!"

"Who are you? where are you taking me?" Meredith asked anxiously.

The men ignored her, and the car continued to drive through the traffic.

The first thing Meredith thought of was kidnapping. After all, it was not the first time she had been forcibly kidnapped. However, she could not figure out who would be so cruel to do this!

Was it Ivy?

She was not that kind of person.

Mrs. Shelby? Possible!

Josiah and Ivy were to get married tomorrow, and Mrs. Shelby must have kidnapped her to ensure everything went smoothly.

Meredith calmed down slightly at the thought of Mrs. Shelby. If Mrs. Shelby were just doing this for Josiah and Ivy to marry successfully, Meredith would not be killed. After all, murder was a crime, and she was not that stupid.

Meredith sat quietly for a moment and took her phone out of her bag when they were not looking. However, they caught her just as she was about to call Josiah.