

Surprised 1601

Chapter 1601 Born of the Same Root

The two brothers clasped hands, their gazes focused together, like two incompatible auras suddenly merged.

Rowan's eyes were light, and Taylor felt a little creepy being stared at by him, although he didn't do anything, yet he had a feeling that he was the criminal.

"Louis." Rowan's thin lips lightly opened, only introducing his own name.

Taylor's lips curved slightly, his eyes deep.

After about half a minute, under a low cough from the king, the two brothers finally let go of their clasped hands and came to their senses, looking at their father together.

"Louis, Taylor."

The king looked at the two in front of the bed. He said solemnly, "Born of the same root, I hope you two can support each other like brothers, regardless of personal gains and losses, because what you get is already much more than ordinary people, and contentment brings constant happiness."

Facing death, one would see through life completely. This was a father's greatest wish.

"Ok." Rowan nodded, answering sincerely.

Taylor also nodded, "Ok, I promise you, Father."

The king looked at them for a long time. He was extremely restrained in his life, having seen too much royal strife.

So there were never two women around him at the same time. He had loved Louis' mother before, and later loved Taylor's mother.

A very likely possibility was that Bertie found Elsa's shadow in Katharine. The side profiles of these two women were so alike.

Rowan also noticed it after returning to the royal family.

"Help me up." The king said softly.

The two brothers bent down together and reached out to help him up. Just then, a servant handed over a glass of warm water and pills.

Rowan reached for the glass and pills.

Sitting on the edge of the bed, the king said to his two sons, "You both have to attend tonight's

banquet. I also want to see that business genius. It is said that Ivan's business empire is so huge it is

unimaginable, with branches developed all over the world."

Rowan didn't speak, "You should take your medicine first."

The king took the glass of water and pills. Rowan watched him finish the medicine. He knew what medicine it was - at least able to maintain the king's strength for five hours, but too much of it would be bad for the body.

The royal doctor said he would take one when there were important banquets that required attendance.

"You can both leave now." The king handed the glass to a servant next to him. He waved at his sons.

Rowan looked at his father, then left with Taylor.

The king's palace was huge, with many floors. The bedroom was the innermost. To get out of this palace, one had to go through several halls.

Rowan took long strides but didn't walk fast. Taylor's pace was not fast either. He deliberately followed his brother.

"I heard you want to find an Arab doctor to treat Father's illness? Can that person be relied on?" Taylor asked, he was really worried, "The royal doctor's medical skills are the best in the entire Lu Layuoka."

"The best yet didn't cure Father?" Rowan asked as he walked.

"..." Taylor was stumped and didn't know how to respond.

"Even if not reliable, we still have to try." Rowan spoke again, turning to look at him as he walked, "I won't miss any hope, and I will definitely cure Father."

When Rowan said the last sentence, he gave Taylor a rather meaningful look.

This look really irritated Taylor. "What do you mean? Why are you looking at me like that? As if I don't want him to get better!"

Taylor didn't know about the king being poisoned. Rowan now listed everyone as a suspect. He retracted his gaze without saying much.

By this time, the two brothers had walked out of the palace.

Taylor didn't follow him either, but turned and walked towards the colonnade. He felt this brother was aloof! He spoke nicely in front of Father, born of the same root. Once he turned around, he warned him with his eyes. Hmph! What the hell!

Chapter 1602: Ivan's Unusual Status

Taylor cursed Rowan in his heart a thousand times-

On the surface, he didn't want to be a prince, deliberately disappearing for so many years, only to suddenly reappear when his father's life was in danger.

He might have had continuous contact with Eden, just to catch them off guard!

Louis's appearance definitely caused trouble for their mother.

That's how Taylor thought. He clashed with Rowan in aura, and their personalities were completely different.

In Rowan's mind, he had already considered and ruled out the possibility of Taylor's involvement in their father's poisoning, based on intuition.

But ruling out the suspicion of his son didn't mean he could rule out the suspicion of his mother.

It was very likely that Katharine was responsible for this, but she kept it from her own son, taking a great risk.

In Rowan's mind, he considered Katharine the prime suspect.

Lu Layuoka was a major diplomatic power, and currently, all kinds of institutions were particularly mature. Ivan's international influence was evident, and he had good relationships with many royal

families.

Therefore, the welcome banquet organized by Lu Layuoka for him was of high standard.

The royal family had a dedicated castle for hosting banquets, and tonight they would also invite high-ranking figures from the political and business sectors, as well as important national leaders and nobles.

Everyone felt honored and excited to know that Ivan had come to the royal family.

Although he was married, many noble princesses still held him in high regard, dressing up carefully and attending the banquet, fantasizing about a chance encounter.

As evening approached, the official reception banquet officially began.

Several luxury cars were parked in a row on the lawn outside the castle, and the beautiful sunset cast a golden glow on everything in the world.

King Bertie, thanks to the special medicine he took, looked fairly well.

He was dressed in splendid attire and naturally attracted attention. Due to his health, many people hadn't seen the king for a long time.

The king learned about Ivan's relationship with Louis and anticipated Ivan's purpose for this trip. He

had to help his son and himself.

To show his gratitude to Ivan, the king decided to attend.

At the same time, the king was also deeply moved. He arrived early at the banquet venue to personally inspect the food and reception arrangements for tonight, communicating with the steward in charge of internal affairs, striving for perfection and not embarrassing the royal family.

It was evident that the king attached great importance to this evening banquet.

Queen Katharine also attended in splendid attire. She looked like a queen stepping out of a fairy tale, her dazzling crown shining, intimately linked arm in arm with the king, wearing an elegant smile. She always accompanied the king, as if she were the most favored one.

In fact, she was already happy, and today she acted this way intentionally to show off to Rowan.

And when Rowan saw this scene, he couldn't help but feel uneasy, and his thoughts turned to his mother once again.

More than twenty years ago, his mother and father were also a couple, and his mother would attend events dressed up, always by his father's side, making those around them envious.

Claire, as Ivan's sister, accompanied Ivan, and the five architects were also dressed in suits, each one exuding extraordinary temperament.

Undoubtedly, they were the focus of attention tonight. Was this a gathering of young talents?

Many princesses and noble ladies were treated to a visual feast.

Violin melodies were performed on the scene, and even the napkins were folded into elegant shapes, with every detail exuding elegance.

On the dining table, eight glasses were placed in front of each seat, filled with water, champagne, red wine, white wine, port wine...

Servants were stationed beside each seat, with the wine steward and waiters paying close attention, striving to serve every distinguished guest present.

The food for tonight's dinner was exceptionally rich, and the dishes were exquisite, as beautiful as works of art.

Each dish was so beautiful that it captivated everyone's gaze. The process of serving the dishes was managed and coordinated by a dedicated system. The scale of this event could be considered a royal banquet.

Chapter 1603: The Most Beautiful Claire

A special cushion was placed on King Bertie's seat. Although his health was not good, he not only decided to attend but also insisted on staying with Ivan until the end of the banquet.

Ivan held both of his hands, and together with Queen Katharine, they helped the king to his seat.

Rowan was attentive and replaced the butter in front of his father with olive oil. "This one is not as greasy," he explained in a soft voice.

The king nodded. "You can sit too; don't bother me tonight."

On the several meters long sandalwood table, the seats were arranged according to the guests' status, with place cards placed in front of each seat.

When Katharine helped the king to his seat, she deliberately glanced at Rowan. What was he doing?

Why did he change the butter? And why was the king smiling at him so happily?

Then she glanced at her son Taylor, who had already taken his seat, taking out his phone and happily playing games!

Katharine had a smile on her face, but she couldn't hide her anger and frustration inside!

Not focused on the occasion at all!

Ivan took his seat on the right side of the king, while Katharine sat on the left side of the king. It was evident how much Lu Layuoka valued Ivan.

The seating arrangement surprised Katharine as well.

The officials also thought to themselves, wasn't the king obviously favoring Queen Katharine? When she wanted a castle to be built, he invited the builders with a royal banquet standard.

This was too much favoritism, right?

People also speculated secretly that even if Prince Louis returned, the throne would probably go to Prince Taylor, right?

After all, laws could be changed, and so could succession rights. It all depended on the king's mood.

The king, Queen Katharine, and Prince Taylor appeared to be more like a family of three, which was the impression everyone had.

No one in the royal family knew much about Prince Louis's abilities. He always gave the impression of being mild-mannered, not one to speak or smile easily. His deep eyes always carried a touch of melancholy, giving the feeling that he wouldn't achieve great things.

Rowan sat next to Ivan, but since exchanging greetings, they hadn't communicated, as if they had never met.

And on the other side of Rowan's seat, there was a sign that read "Claire."

The seat was empty; she hadn't arrived yet.

The dinner was about to begin, and everyone had already taken their seats, but some people hadn't arrived yet.

Rowan, sitting upright, couldn't help but let his mind wander. Where was she? She was unfamiliar with this palace.

But he wasn't too worried, after all, everyone thought she belonged to Ivan, and no one dared to touch her.

Until Claire emerged from a nearby door, Rowan raised his gaze and caught sight of her.

She was wearing a gentle evening gown, a soft blue color that clung to her like capturing a moment of blooming flowers. It was difficult to describe her beauty in words at that moment.

Taylor, sitting next to Queen Katharine, inadvertently looked up and happened to see the girl.

He, who was playing games, couldn't help but pause for a moment. For an instant, she had stunned

him with her beauty.

The beauty emanating from Claire tonight was different from any other princess in the royal family. This dress seemed tailor-made for her, and it only had such an effect when worn by her.

The enormous crystal chandelier in the dining room emitted a dazzling light. That light shone on her, on the hem of her dress, on her facial features, on her skin... as if casting a golden aura.

Claire walked around the table from the other end, heading towards her designated seat. She had a calm expression, a shy smile, attracting the gaze of many people.

"She's so beautiful. Is she Mrs. Marsh?"

"No, I heard she's Ivan's sister, the daughter of his aunt."

People whispered and exchanged comments in low voices.

The tailored waistline and sparkling embellishments made Claire's graceful figure captivating, with an interwoven and lingering sense of beauty. Her writer's temperament exuded from within, making her look even more impressive tonight. Her beauty was truly unique.

Chapter 1604: Katharine Misunderstands the Situation

Taylor's gaze remained on Claire, until he saw her take a seat next to Rowan's empty seat, and he felt

a pang in his chest. Why?

"Hey, Prince Taylor." At this moment, a general's daughter took her seat beside him and greeted him proactively.

Taylor turned his gaze at the sound of her voice. The girl had a smile on her face as she said to him,

"We meet again. Do you remember me?"

"I don't remember," Taylor replied, leaning forward and directing his gaze back to Claire. Today, she truly met his aesthetic standards.

Such beauty was so clear and ethereal.

Taylor couldn't help but recall the incident at the café when they collided. He wasn't in a good mood that day, so he didn't pay much attention to her.

Could it be fate?

Meeting before and meeting again today? He quite liked this type of situation.

The general's daughter was puzzled. Following Taylor's gaze, she couldn't understand what he was looking at. Was he looking at Prince Louis? Or the girl next to Prince Louis?

But from this angle, Prince Louis looked really handsome!

She saw him gazing ahead, his face so dignified and beautiful, his pale lips and the distant aura made people unable to resist getting closer, yet it felt like there was a great distance separating them...

Sitting in her seat, Claire also looked ahead.

She couldn't feel Rowan's gaze beside her, so she could only quiet her mind and carefully listen, breathe, and the quieter her heart became, the more she could smell the familiar scent emanating from him.

Faintly, her heart felt a pang of pain...

Claire lightly pursed her lips. She wanted to turn her head and look at him, even if just for a moment, but she didn't dare to. So many people were watching, and most of them were enemies, right?

She closed her eyes, torn by conflicting emotions, and her thoughts began to blur. She was trying hard to restrain herself and calm her inner turmoil.

Memories from the past surged like a tide, and suddenly her heart felt a bit sour.

But in the end, she didn't turn her head to look at him, not wanting to worry him or cause him trouble.

In fact, Rowan felt the same way. He didn't want to cause trouble for her either.

The time came, and everyone had taken their seats. The king announced the start of dinner... The dishes were exquisite, but Claire and Rowan ate as if the food was tasteless.

They were close, yet there was no interaction between them, and Katharine, the queen, didn't notice anything unusual.

For young people in love, this suppressed emotion was a particularly tormenting experience.

During the meal, the king treated Ivan very well. He occasionally looked at Ivan, chatted with him about business matters, and even raised his glass to him.

Queen Katharine was pleased, thinking that the king was doting on her.

She hadn't even reported the matter of building the castle park to the ailing king, thinking that he would blame her. Unexpectedly, not only did he not blame her, but he also attended the welcome banquet despite his illness.

The stone that had been weighing on Katharine's heart finally fell, and Ivan, receiving the high-standard reception from the royal family, naturally brought them closer.

After dinner was the dance party.

The king had come over after taking his medicine and had been sitting comfortably in a chair the whole time, feeling almost as if he were lying down. So he didn't return to the palace early.

He wanted to find an opportunity to say something to Ivan alone.

The king participated throughout the event, without a hint of majesty, appearing more like a benevolent father, often with a smile on his face.

Everyone felt that his condition was improving, and the officials were all delighted.

The magnificent banquet hall was quite spacious, with a ceiling several stories high. As the music played, many princes and princesses couldn't help but start dancing.

Lu Layuoka was a romantic country.

Chapter 1605: May I Invite You to Dance?

The handsome princes gradually found their dance partners, and everyone enjoyed the most elegant and relaxed royal welcome dance.

Many royal officials took the opportunity to approach Ivan and toast to him, as most of them were involved in business as well.

In Lu Layuoka, members of the royal family were allowed to engage in business, and most of them had

their own careers.

Ivan was highly regarded by the king and was a legend in the business world, so it was natural to build a relationship with him.

Strauss's music had always been highly regarded by the upper-class nobility, and almost all the young people in the palace knew how to dance.

Rowan, wearing a white shirt, stood in front of an arched window. He held a glass of wine, one hand in his pocket, exuding elegance and composure. Tonight was an opportunity for him.

Through observation, he could judge who genuinely cared for his father and who was merely paying lip service.

After all, all the important members of the royal family were present.

When they entered the dining hall, Rowan quietly memorized all the place cards on the table, and now he could match the names with their titles and appearances.

In the magnificent banquet hall, Claire stood five meters away from Rowan. She tried to glance in his direction casually, and it was the first time today that she looked at him directly.

Her gaze lingered on him for a mere three seconds before quickly retracting.

Even though there was only a small distance between them, it felt like there was an insurmountable barrier. This desolation was truly heart-wrenching.

She wanted to help him.

Claire raised her head and finished her drink in her glass.

Not far away, Prince Taylor, who had been watching her, witnessed her finishing her drink. He approached her with a tall glass in his hand, his deep and eager gaze fixed on her, admiring her beauty once again.

Truly pleasing to the eye.

Claire was about to put down her empty glass when Taylor blocked her path, almost causing her to bump into him. She instinctively took two steps back, into Taylor's line of sight, and she was slightly startled.

This person... they had already met three times.

She composed herself and looked at him calmly, pretending not to know his identity.

In fact, she had looked at all the place cards during dinner and intentionally waited until almost

everyone had taken their seats before entering, so she knew his identity.

"Hello, I'm Taylor," Taylor's lips curved up, and his smiling gaze met hers. "Miss Russell, may I invite you to dance?"

Not far away, Rowan unintentionally glanced in their direction and happened to witness the scene of Taylor standing before Claire with a smile.

"I'm sorry, Prince, I don't know how to dance," Claire politely replied.

"That's alright; I can teach you," Taylor quickly responded, displaying an unprecedented patience when it came to dealing with matters. "Dancing is actually quite simple."

Claire shook her head. "In other words, I'm not interested in dancing."

"Then what is Miss Russell interested in?" Taylor seemed determined not to let her go, even if it was just to have a chat. This feeling was also quite pleasant.

He smiled at her, appreciating her up close, awaiting her answer.

Claire subconsciously glanced in Rowan's direction again and happened to catch him looking at her.

Their eyes met, and his face remained so calm.

Their gazes converged for a few seconds before Claire quickly looked away.

She couldn't guess what Rowan was thinking at the moment, but she could sense the weightiness of his emotions.

Not because of her, but because of his family matters.

So, can she start looking for the culprit from Prince Taylor?

Suddenly, Claire had an inspiration. She raised her gaze and looked at the man in front of her with a smile, asking, "Prince, would you be interested in finding out?"

Chapter 1606: Pleasure to Meet You

"Of course." Taylor was naturally delighted to receive her response. "I'm eager to hear it. I'm all ears."

He raised his head and drank the wine in his glass, then took the empty glass from her hand and placed it on the tray carried by a passing waiter, saying, "Hello, two glasses of red wine, please. Thank you."

"Alright, Your Highness. I'll bring them to you right away." The waiter bowed to him and quickly left.

"You're a prince?" Claire asked intentionally.

Taylor nodded with a smile, hoping that this status would score him some points.

In a moment, the waiter brought the wine over. Taylor took two glasses from the tray and gentlemanly

handed one to Claire.

"Thank you." She received it with both hands.

"Miss Russell, what do you do for a living?" Taylor asked, his appreciative gaze fixed on her. "Can you reveal that?"

Claire originally wanted to say that she was a freelancer and a writer.

But then she thought again and answered like this:

"I'm still a student. I'm currently interning at my brother's company, and in my free time, I write novels and publish them online." As she spoke, she glanced at Ivan, who was accompanying the king not far away.

Taylor was quite satisfied with this answer because his mother had said the same thing.

Earlier, he had been probing, but now he had completely let his guard down against her.

But when he heard the words "writing novels," Taylor became interested. "Is Miss Russell's dream to become a writer?"

Claire answered him with a smile.

And that smile directly infected Taylor.

He felt that this girl was like a ray of sunshine, her smile radiating light, her eyes also filled with light.

In today's restless society, there were not many girls with light in their eyes.

The girls who approached him, those who didn't know his identity, were usually attracted by his generosity.

As for those who knew him in the royal family, most of them were only interested in his prince status, which was extremely boring.

"When can I have the opportunity to read Miss Russell's novels?" Taylor lightly clinked his glass with hers, then took a sip of wine.

Claire also took a sip.

"What hobbies do you have, Prince?" Claire wanted to make friends with him. Maybe this network could be useful in the future.

After all, Taylor had been in the royal family longer than Rowan.

"Horseback riding, skiing, and soccer. My idol when I was young was David Beckham." Taylor was more than willing to share with her. "I also enjoy swimming and sailing. I prefer sports."

Claire listened with a smile on her face and nodded, also proactively clinking her glass with his.

"Pleasure to meet you."

"Likewise." Taylor's smile deepened at the corner of his lips.

As Claire inadvertently turned her gaze, she realized that Rowan had disappeared. She couldn't help

but feel a bit anxious. Where did he go?

Meanwhile, Prince Taylor was still chatting with her, opening up new topics and showing a strong

interest in her.

Outside the banquet hall.

Rowan stood by the fountain, feeling a chill as the cold wind blew, dispelling the slight intoxication in his

body.

Listening to the sound of water, he looked up at the bright moon in the sky, and couldn't help but think

of his late mother.

If it weren't for the accident more than twenty years ago, if his sister hadn't been lost, if his mother

hadn't passed away in despair, would the destiny of their family of four have been rewritten?

Not far away, Winnie, the general's daughter, who had dressed up carefully, happened to see him. Her gaze lingered on Rowan for a long time.

She was deeply attracted by his side profile and thought, "This is a melancholic prince, right?"

Chapter 1607: All Forces Begin to Gather

The nighttime fountain was beautiful, with the water jets occasionally changing colors.

Under the white rose vines, Rowan's features seemed to twinkle like stars. He looked up at the moon,

his thoughts drifting far away. His handsome figure was truly captivating.

Not just Winnie, but all the daughters of noble officials couldn't help but be deeply attracted by Rowan's temperament if they met him tonight.

Winnie suppressed her pounding heart and took steps toward him, getting closer. But just as she was about to reach him, he turned around and walked towards the banquet hall.

Rowan didn't even spare her a glance with his peripheral vision.

Winnie stopped, feeling a bit disappointed as she watched his back. Did he... not see her just now?

What was he thinking? How could such a handsome man not notice such a beauty?

Inside the banquet hall, the dance party was still ongoing, with bright and dazzling lights.

The precious and vibrant flowers adorned the entire hall, and the air was filled with the scent of wine and flowers, creating a unique and pleasant atmosphere.

Elegant and melodious music played, and the stunning and dazzling gowns were truly breathtaking.

The graceful dance moves were a rare sight to behold.

The sparkling crystal chandeliers emitted a brilliance akin to stars...

Sitting in his chair, the king said to Katharine beside him, "I want to have a slice of grapefruit. Can you get it for me?"

"Of course, I'll go get it right away." Katharine had a smile on her face and had been accompanying Ivan by the king's side, having a pleasant conversation. At this moment, she had completely relaxed her guard.

But as soon as Katharine left, the king held onto Ivan's hand.

Ivan, who was also sitting in a chair, turned his gaze, and the king whispered to him, "Please help Louis find the culprit who poisoned me. I'm worried that after I die, that person will target him."

The king knew about his relationship with Rowan? Ivan was slightly stunned, and he immediately understood that the king was even guarding against Katharine.

Could it be that he regarded her as the prime suspect?

"Alright." Ivan nodded, giving him an affirming gaze. "You can rest assured. I am friends with him."

"I only drink water, eat proper meals, and take medicine every day." The king told him, "If the poison entered through the mouth, it can only be one of these three."

"Understood." Ivan nodded again, encouraging him. "Please hold on, trust him, and please trust me too. We will definitely find the cure for this poison."

Ivan thought, if Rowan couldn't handle it, they still had a wife at home, right?

Ivan had confidence in Jennifer. She had even healed his mother's burns when all the doctors were at a loss.

"There's one more thing I hope you..." Ivan had only said half of his words when he saw Katharine quickly approaching with half a grapefruit in her hand.

She looked in their direction, clearly in a good mood tonight, as a smile remained on her face.

"Come, come, have a slice of grapefruit. It smells really good. It was just delivered tonight, freshly picked." The queen patiently served the king, bringing the grapefruit to his lips.

At this moment, Rowan walked over to them, and Claire and Taylor also walked over while chatting.

Katharine's gaze fell on them.

"Father." Rowan approached the king, his lips slightly curved, his expression gentle. "I have found an Arabian doctor for you. It is said that he is highly skilled."

The king understood his intention because they had discussed it beforehand. He smiled and said,

"Good, you've worked hard. I will cooperate actively with the treatment."

However, the trusted confidants by the king's side knew that his internal organs were beginning to fail.

His current condition was sustained only by a special medicine provided by the royal physician.

Katharine thought it was unnecessary, as who could be more skilled than the royal physician?

"But there's currently one problem. We need to find someone who can speak Arabic to accompany you at all times," Rowan continued. "And this doctor's pronunciation is not very accurate."

The king thought for a moment and understood his meaning. "You arrange it?"

Before Katharine could speak, Ivan spoke in a gentle voice, "My sister can speak Arabic. She majored in it in college and can understand various dialects."

Chapter 1608: A Smooth Evening

The king looked at Ivan, then at Rowan, and finally at Claire. He seemed to understand something.

Without waiting for any interruptions, the king directly nodded and agreed, "Good, then we'll trouble Claire."

Claire stood calmly in front of them, recalling what Rowan had told her. He had said he wanted to arrange her by his father's side to help him find out who the culprit was.

Claire was willing to take this risk for him.

In fact, Rowan was also reluctantly sacrificing for her safety. To ensure her well-being, he had to pretend not to know her at all.

At this moment, Queen Katharine smiled and said, "How can we rely on Claire? She doesn't make a living as a translator. Translation is hard work, and she's still a student. She's interning at Ivan's company and can't afford to neglect her studies."

Katharine had good intentions and didn't think too deeply.

Claire was about to speak, but Ivan preempted her. "I just want her to have some experience. Please give her this opportunity, Your Highness."

Ivan's gentle gaze fell on the middle-aged woman as he said, "After all, our collaborative project will

take some time, and I will be coming here frequently. After the project is completed, I will take her back to Arkpool City, and we can hire a translator here. What do you think?"

Ivan actually wanted her to stay?

This took Queen Katharine by surprise!

Of course, she was more than willing. If Claire stayed here, it would mean that Ivan would visit more often, bringing them closer. It would be beneficial for her to gain favor with him.

With Ivan by her side, who was she afraid of, even if Louis became the king in the future?

Hmph, even if Louis became the king one day, Katharine could let Ivan monopolize the economy of Lu

Layuoka and sideline the country's head of state.

"Since you put it that way, then it will definitely work." Katharine explained with a smile. "I just worry that

it might not be convenient for you here. After all, the young lady hasn't agreed yet, right? We shouldn't force her with the royal family's power."

"It's my privilege to serve the king. I agree," Claire sweetly said, looking openly at Katharine without a trace of fear.

Taylor was naturally delighted. The goddess was going to stay!

His gaze lingered on Claire for a long time with a smile, hoping that she would stay by his side.

"I really like Lu Layuoka." Claire thought of a detail and said to the queen, "So I came a few days early to play. It's a very romantic country."

To avoid being suspected again.

So she had come early, and Katharine didn't have any doubts about her due to her son's words.

Katharine thought for a moment and realized that if Claire could gain the king's favor during her translation work and then be pursued by Taylor, it would not only lead to a marriage alliance with Ivan, but also add another force in the king's favor. They could directly isolate Louis.

Rowan and Claire never made eye contact throughout the whole process, as if they were complete strangers and had no interest in each other.

He did it to protect her.

That's how the matter of finding an Arabian doctor to treat the king's illness was decided. And as for finding a doctor, naturally, Rowan was the one responsible.

At this moment, Ivan unexpectedly spoke up, "I know an Arabian doctor. I just don't know if Prince Louis has found a suitable candidate yet?"

He thought to himself that Rowan had only recently entered the royal family, so his network wasn't very well-established yet. Moreover, this Arabian doctor was crucial in helping find the culprit.

Rowan looked at Ivan, then at his father.

At this moment, Katharine, as if in a rush, smiled and said, "That would be even better! I appreciate your efforts, Ivan."

She certainly didn't want Prince Louis's influence to grow, and she didn't even know what kind of doctor he would find. Who knew if he even knew any doctors?

And for the matter that even the royal physician couldn't solve, Katharine held no hope. Although she also hoped for the king's condition to improve.

Ivan nodded, agreeing to the arrangement, and said that he would make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible.

A stone in Rowan's heart finally fell into place. Everything was going smoothly.

Chapter 1609: Taylor's Heart Completely Cooled

Rowan didn't object or make any demands throughout the whole process, as if Katharine had gained the upper hand. Katharine's proud gaze occasionally glanced at him.

But Rowan didn't care at all; he remained calm and composed.

As the dinner was coming to an end, Katharine and Eden accompanied the king back to the palace after bidding farewell to Ivan. Claire followed Ivan, with his team of builders trailing behind. Despite being watched by so many people, they had no contact with Rowan, as if everyone was a good actor.

Taylor walked beside Claire, still chatting with her. "Claire, I didn't expect you to know Arabic. That's impressive," he said, sounding surprised and admiring.

"I have a preference for less common languages, but I only have a basic understanding of some languages," the girl politely replied.

Everyone walked towards the palace where Ivan was staying. The scenery along the way under the moonlight was beautiful, and the grandeur and majesty of the palace were truly breathtaking.

"Claire, how old are you?" Taylor found a new topic to discuss, and he was in a cheerful mood today.

Claire politely answered, "24."

"Are you used to the royal cuisine? Do you prefer light flavors or...?" Taylor intended to arrange

breakfast for her according to her taste, considering that she would be staying here for a while.

Claire could sense his excessive enthusiasm and smiled as she glanced at him, seeing the fervor in his eyes.

As a man, Ivan immediately understood Taylor's intentions.

So, Ivan spoke gently, "Claire, isn't your boyfriend's birthday next Wednesday?"

Claire looked at Ivan and listened to him say, "If you take on this translation job, you won't be able to go back and celebrate with him."

Claire was clever and instantly understood his meaning. This was deliberately revealed to Taylor, letting him know that he had no chance.

"Yes," Claire smiled and said with a hint of regret, "I really miss him. It's the first time I'll be away from him for such a long time."

Taylor's mood turned gloomy...

Claire's melodious voice still lingered in his ears as she said, "But I also feel honored to stay by the king's side as a translator. I can learn a lot here."

"Indeed," Ivan praised her, "You can distinguish between career and love."

Taylor felt frustrated. He looked at Claire and asked, "Do you have a boyfriend?" There was a hint of disappointment in his tone.

"Yes," Claire also looked at him and smiled, "We've been together since college, and we were high school classmates. We are each other's first love, and we plan to get married after graduation."

Their relationship seemed particularly stable, and now Taylor's heart was completely cooled!

He had finally encountered a girl he had feelings for, but she already had someone!

This feeling was truly terrible.

Ivan said, "Leave the wedding planning to me, and I'll give you both a most special wedding."

"Thank you, Ivan!" Claire also firmly remembered her identity here. She couldn't address Ivan too familiarly and expose her true intentions.

Soon, they arrived at a fork in the road.

Ivan stopped and bid farewell to Taylor, as he was a prince and said goodnight to him.

Taylor also stopped, "Goodnight. Let the servants know if you need anything." His mood was a bit complicated.

"Okay."

Then everyone turned and walked towards their respective residences.

In the night, Rowan returned to his palace and told his servants that he wanted to rest. He closed the door behind him.

Holding a tray and a pair of scissors, he approached pots of medicinal plants and started trimming their stems and leaves...

Chapter 1610: The Awkward Imperial Physician

Before long, each of the five plates was filled with different stems and leaves... Rowan arranged them on the table one by one.

Sometimes his brows furrowed, and other times he relaxed.

There were no research equipment here like in his laboratory, so developing and extracting the antidote was particularly difficult.

It was like trying to make a meal without rice.

But Rowan couldn't stop; he had to search for his thoughts... There was no guarantee of success, even after trying ten different combinations of herbs, but he had to take that first step.

Time was running out for his father, and he couldn't afford to waste any more time.

But Rowan felt reassured because it seemed that he didn't need to say much. Ivan would find a solution for him. Rowan felt a deep understanding between him and Ivan.

They trusted each other unconditionally.

After about two hours, as the clock was about to strike, it was getting late... A wave of tiredness washed over Rowan. He tidied up the plants he had just worked on and walked to the window. The heavy curtains automatically opened, revealing the glass window.

Rowan looked in the direction of the nearby palace, where Claire was staying. What was she doing?

Was she asleep?

Recalling her beautiful appearance tonight, Rowan couldn't help but think of her...

The night grew deeper.

In a well-decorated palace, in a 300-square-meter bedroom connected to a dressing room, the door was locked. Claire sat on a hammock, hugging her laptop.

She had already taken a shower and was wearing a silk nightgown, with her long hair flowing down.

Her hands occasionally tapped on the keyboard, and sometimes she fell into a daze. She let out sighs from time to time.

She couldn't concentrate on writing tonight.

But she couldn't sleep either. Her mind was filled with thoughts of Rowan, and she eventually closed her laptop.

Although they were so close, even a simple greeting seemed like a luxury! This feeling was truly torturous.

She took out "Basic Arabic Grammar" from her bag and repeatedly tried to read the difficult pronunciations. She also used a dictionary app on her phone to learn some specialized medical terms...

While immersed in her studies, she temporarily hid thoughts of Rowan in her heart.

Now, nothing was more important than finding the culprit behind the king's poisoning. She couldn't afford to make any mistakes here, as she had finally managed to stay by the king's side.

For him, this freelancer had become so diligent for the first time.

The next morning.

Under Ivan's arrangement, an Arab doctor successfully entered the royal palace. He was escorted by

Katharine's special plane, and Eden and Arthur welcomed him at the king's palace.

The level of attention he received indicated everyone's growing confidence in the king's recovery,

except for the embarrassed imperial physician.

At the same time, doubts arose within the royal family about the imperial physician. Was his medical

expertise really not as good as rumored?

The imperial physician felt extremely awkward and wished he could find a hole to hide in. As a result,

he became dissatisfied with Prince Louis.

Although this Arab doctor couldn't cure the king, he was like a last resort. But Prince Louis's actions

were undoubtedly a slap in the face to the imperial physician.

Ivan, Claire, Katharine, Taylor, Arthur, Eden, Rowan... everyone gathered in the king's palace.

The Arab doctor appeared calm and professional.

The imperial physician's face turned green, and he could only force a smile as he handed over the

king's medical records from the past few years and the medication information to the Arab doctor.

After receiving the documents, Rowan took them and casually flipped through them, quickly skimming the contents.

"Prince Louis," the imperial physician kindly reminded, "It's better to let this new doctor handle these things. You might not be able to understand them."

Rowan remained silent and continued reading.

At that moment, Claire noticed everyone's gaze on him and worried that he might reveal something.

Unexpectedly, Rowan spoke up, "Although I can't understand the content, I can see your attitude towards my father's condition."