

Surprised 961

Chapter 961 Zack's Guess

"Hello, Mr. Clarke," Tristan, Zack's special assistant, answered the call.

Playing with the crystal, Zack frowned slightly and asked in confusion, "Ivan Marsh has been looking for this crystal. He saw it a few days ago. Why didn't he make any move?"

"I'm also puzzled about it," Tristan answered thoughtfully, "Our men have been spying on him and will keep you updated."

"What on earth is in Ivan Marsh's mind?" asked Zack. "Why does he look for this half of crystal? Does he also believe the rumor?"

"What does the rumor have to do with the crystal, then?" Tristan said, "Upon his intelligence, he won't be so stupid to believe the crystal is the key to the treasure base."

Zack narrowed his gaze. "No matter what he's thinking about, we must be alert. More and more people are watching the Clarke family and the treasure."

"OK, Mr. Clarke."

Zack ended the call, standing next to the floor-to-ceiling window in the dark. As the president of the

Clarke Group, he was well respected.

After bidding on the glorious daytime and returning home, he was also bothered.

"Daddy, dinner... is ready. Eat?" his 12-year-old son suffering from mental retardation looked into the study timidly.

Zack put away the crystal and walked towards the boy. "Eason, did you learn reading today?" He bent over and lifted his son with a smile.

"Ehn. I... I did." Eason thought for a while in his arms. After they were about to go downstairs, he finally uttered, "I learned 'big'. B-I-G."

When Zack was about to praise Eason, he saw a strange woman in the living room with his wife and daughter.

"Zack," Joan said gently, "Jolly needs to take care of her daughter. I found a new maid from the agency."

"Good evening, Mr. Clarke. Please call me Leeny." The woman was in her fifties, wearing plain clothes.

She sounded not too humble nor too arrogant. "I've been working as a maid for 30 years. I'm good at cooking, laundry, and cleaning."

Zack put down his son, and his gaze fell on the new maid. He went downstairs.

According to his sensitivity through working in the business field, he didn't think Leeny was simply a maid.

"All right." He smiled at her and said in an easygoing tone, "Nice to meet you, Leeny. Thank you for your hard work in advance."

"Please don't mention it, Mr. Clarke. If I made any mistakes, please correct me on time. I would change."

After dinner, Zack saw Leeny cleaning, seemingly working hard.

He thought for a moment and said calmly, "Excuse me, Leeny."

"Yes, Mr. Clarke?" Leeny stopped cleaning and looked up at him.

"Can you please clean my study later? Don't move the books on the shelves. Sort out my desk and dust it."

He added purposely, "Please clean the piano in the corner carefully. Make sure it's clean. Don't break it."

"OK, Mr. Clarke."

Standing at the door, Georgia watched him go upstairs and heard his reminders to Leeny. She was annoyed.

'That woman has died many years. You still can't let go of her, can you?'

After going to the second floor, Zack entered the study and immediately put the crystal on the desk.

Then he checked the pinhole camera hidden in the lamp and strode out.

He suspected Leeny worked for Ivan and was sent to steal his crystal.

According to Ivan's smartness, Zack was sure he must have remembered his crystal.

He guessed Ivan had made a fake one in the past few days and planned to exchange it with the real one.

Chapter 962 Wrong Guess

Leeny went to the second floor shortly after. Holding a cleaning cloth, she entered the study.

The study door was widely open. The room had many vintage decorations. All kinds of classical books were placed on the bookshelves. Some valuable paintings were hung on a wall, but she understood none.

Meanwhile, Zack was sitting in an armchair on the balcony of the master bedroom.

He stared at his laptop, which clearly showed the on-time picture of his study. The pinhole camera didn't miss a corner.

After entering the study, Leeny sorted out the desk and put away several files.

Zack watched her stare at the crystal for a second before opening the drawer and putting it in.

Leeny behaved naturally without any abnormality. She even didn't stare at the crystal long.

Zack was puzzled, wondering if he had a wrong guess.

Gazing at the screen, he frowned. He had a dozen questions simmering on his lips.

After Leeny cleaned the study, she closed the door considerately before leaving.

"Does she work for Ivan Marsh?" Zack muttered, doubting his judgment.

He wondered if his guess was misplaced.

However, he still remembered how abnormally Ivan behaved after seeing the crystal.

"Zack?"

Zack turned in the direction of the voice, seeing his wife enter. He snapped the laptop.

"Have some milk. It helps you to get to sleep fast."

Joan was always gentle, considerate, and patient.

With a gentle smile, she said, "I can tell you've been burned out recently. You've been working overtime for weeks."

"Thanks." Zack took over the glass of milk. "How's it going with Eason's study?" he talked about their son.

"He can remember over 100 vocabularies. When he played the cards, he didn't mix them." Joan sat opposite with a delightful smile. "The tutor said he had progressed fast."

"Good."

Zack saw the rain become heavier outside, hearing the sound of wind and raindrops. He had a son when he was old, but Eason suffered from mental retardation.

He was disappointed.

Joan gazed at him without blinking, plucked up her courage, and asked tentatively, "Zack, shall we...

Shall we have another son?"

Zack stared at her. His nice features showed he was a handsome man when he was young. His charm

remained on his face, giving him the attractiveness of a mature man.

Joan was much younger than him.

Seeing her words scare Zack, Joan hurriedly corrected her wording and chuckled, "I... I didn't mean

anything special. I just feel sorry for not giving you a healthy son."

However, Zack knew it was because she was worried no one could inherit their family.

"I'm still young, Joan," Zack said, "I fight for the career I love and will not stop until the day I die. I

cannot take away those material things and only enjoy the process. As for the ending..."

Listening to him, Joan wondered why he still hadn't changed his mind, disappointment flashing through

her eyes.

Zack's mind had never changed over the years.

"Rest assured." Zack sipped the hot milk. "No matter whether I'm alive or not, Georgia, Eason, and you

can live a worry-free life."

"I'm sorry, Zack," said Joan apologetically, "Sorry for the topic." She had heard those words three times

all her life.

Whenever she heard them, she felt disappointed and upset. Joan had stood by him and fully supported

him when he fought for his career. However, Zack only promised her a worry-free life.

The following morning, the rain stopped.

Zack had a meeting in the morning, so he got up early. When he entered the bathroom, he frowned.

"When was my toothbrush changed?"

Chapter 963 Paternity Test Result

Standing behind him, Joan saw him holding the toothbrush in confusion and chuckled, "Leeny changed

our toothbrushes last night. She said the new one won't hurt your gum and cleans your teeth

effectively."

'Leeny changed it?'

"Try it! It works perfectly. I used mine just now."

"OK." Zack kept calm.

Pinching his shoulder, Joan said, "I'll go downstairs to check breakfast."

"Ehn."

After she left, Zack brushed his teeth.

Then he immediately turned on the surveillance and checked the video record of the previous night.

Zack had a habit of installing surveillance cameras in the house. He didn't want to guard against anyone but to feel secure.

Therefore, all rooms except for the bathrooms were installed with pinhole cameras.

The Clarkes knew it and had been used to it.

However, Leeny hadn't known it yet.

On the screen, Zack saw her fetch two toothbrushes from the bathroom at 9:28 P. M. the previous night. Then she tossed Joan's into the trash bin and put his into a sample bag.

Zack kept calm while gazing at Leeny, realizing he needed to trace who she had contacted afterward.

"Dad, breakfast is ready." Georgia appeared at the study door, well-dressed.

Zack answered without raising his head, "Go ahead to have it. I need to look for some information for my meeting later."

"OK."

Georgia turned away and closed the door. When Zack was busy, no one in the family ever disturbed him.

The Marsh Group, downtown center.

It was the place where many youngsters dreamed of entering.

In the president's office, Ivan was reviewing files at his desk.

He wore a handmade black shirt. His short hair was combed carefully. Although young, he looked elegant and steady with a man's charm.

Suddenly, his door was knocked on. Ivan looked up.

"Excuse me, Mr. Marsh." Andrew entered, holding a file folder. "This is the paternity test result. Here you go."

"OK." Ivan nodded at him and took it over. "Thank you, Andrew. You can go back to work."

Andrew bowed at him respectfully and left.

Ivan stopped working and immediately opened the file folder to read the newly printed paternity test report.

He quickly checked the test year and project ID and ignored the complex sample check numbers, gene names, and paternity index.

His gaze fell on the last line-- "The paternity index was as high as 99. 999%."

Ivan narrowed his eyes at it, thinking of Zack's face. Much to his surprise, Zack turned out to be

Jennifer's birth father.

He wondered if Jennifer knew it.

"Hey, Andrew is working here today, right?" Jennifer entered while holding a mug of coffee. She added,

"I met him downstairs just now."

Ivan pulled a drawer open and put the paternity test report in calmly. "Yes, he is," he answered while

closing the drawer.

Without looking different, he added, "You don't need to make coffee for me. Let the assistants do it. You

are also super busy every day." His voice was always gentle when he talked to her.

Jennifer put the cup of latte to him. "I want to participate in the fashion design project for the new

season, so I'm here to fawn over you. Please agree, Mr. Marsh."

Ivan held her hand, pulled her closer, and held her in his arms.

Jennifer sat on his lap, blinking her pretty eyes. "Mr. Marsh, you won't say no, will you?"

"I can give you the approval." Ivan pinched her cheek and tossed the hair behind her ear. "But I don't

hope you to work on so many things. I'll feel sorry, Jennie."

"If the work makes me happy, I'll feel joyful without suffering." Jennifer looked at him sincerely. "I hope you'll say yes."

Chapter 964 Investigation

Jennifer seldom requested something from him.

This was the first time she asked him for approval, so Ivan didn't want to let her down. After a thought,

he replied, "May I think it over?"

"Sure."

Jennifer held his charming face and pecked his forehead.

"By the way, I like your new toothbrush. Thank you." Jennifer beamed at him.

"You are welcome," Ivan answered gently, "We should have used the matching toothbrushes long ago."

They exchanged a smile, sweetness and harmony spread in the office.

Clarke Villa.

After breakfast, Zack asked in confusion, "Where is Leeny? I didn't see her this morning."

"Alas... That woman!" Joan was unhappy. "She said she suffered from a stomachache this morning,

which was her old sickness, and asked for leave. I guess she wouldn't return. She also didn't ask for the salary for last night. I have to look for a new maid again."

'Gone?'

Zack's heart skipped a beat. He believed Leeny was suspicious.

"Dad?" In a pink dress, Georgia peeked out the window and reminded him, "Tristan is picking you up."

Zack followed her gaze in silence. Under his family's gazes, he went to the second floor.

He entered the study, opened the drawer, and ensured the crystal remained there.

Therefore, Leeny only aimed to take his toothbrush.

In confusion, Zack entered the living room and decided to figure it out today.

Tristan greeted him in the yard, "Morning, Mr. Clarke." He pulled the rear door open for Zack.

"Morning, Tristan. How are you doing?"

"Pretty well, Mr. Clarke. Thanks."

Zack sat in the car. When the engine started, he pulled out his tablet and continued to watch the surveillance video.

Finally, he saw Leeny go out at 12:03 A. M.

Immediately, he checked the surveillance video in the yard. Zack saw a bicycle outside the yard.

Leeny passed the toothbrush to the man riding the bike.

The man immediately rode away without hesitation.

Zack had to admit they were too cautious.

The car engine and light would have attracted others' attention if the man had driven over.

"Who's that man?"

Zack was confused. "Does he work for Ivan Marsh?"

Frowning, he peeked out the window, eagerly wishing to know the answer.

He could tell Ivan had behaved too abnormally that day.

To figure out everything, Zack screen-captured the man on the bike and sent it to Tristan after arriving

at his office.

"Check the road surveillance and find this man. I want to know what he has done with the toothbrush,"

said Zack, "Also, who he met eventually. I want to know who he is."

"OK, Mr. Clarke."

Tristan had been working for Zack for many years, so Zack trusted him most.

Tristan was clinical, serious, and decent, with a clean background. Also, he was competent at work without any friends. Zack had become his focus.

Half an hour later, Tristan entered the office. "Excuse me, Mr. Clarke. I'm back."

Zack put down the file in his hand, sitting at the desk.

Zack's office was more like a study with vintage decorations. It had a large space, a typical style preferred by the old. After all, Zack was in his fifties.

"Found anything?" asked Zack.

Tristan nodded. Without opening any file, he reported, "This man is named Andrew. He used to work for Mr. Ivan Marsh's mother. Recently, Finnley Russell has been busy since Clarence Saunders was arrested, so Andrew became Mr. Marsh's special assistant."

"Sure enough, he has something to do with Ivan Marsh." Zack's guess was correct. "How about the toothbrush? Did he use it for a test?"

"He sent it to the paternity test center," Tristan replied, "However, I failed to find which sample he compared to. The test profile has been deleted, and the staff member has resigned. All other

employees kept it secret. Probably Mr. Marsh has paid them hush money."

Zack thought it was Ivan's style as Ivan was always cautious.

Chapter 965 New Name

Rubbing his chin, Zack was lost in thought.

Tristan also didn't understand why Ivan had used Zack's DNA to do a paternity test. The Clarke Group

had no grudges against the Marsh Group. Therefore, he was confused.

"Mr. Clarke," Tristan reminded him, "No matter what, you need to be careful."

Zack returned to his senses. "Ehn." Ivan made a move, so he was alert by instinct naturally.

After Tristan was gone, Zack stopped working.

He recalled the information received earlier. Ivan had been looking for the other half of the crystal.

That was why he let Ivan see his half.

Recalling how Ivan reacted after seeing the crystal and sent Leeny into his house to fetch his

toothbrush, Zack was surprised Ivan had sent his DNA to the paternity test.

A scene hidden in his memory was awakened.

It was 22 years ago.

"Michelle, I'm giving this half of crystal for your birthday. You are my precious baby."

In the afternoon, under the sunlight, Zack held a girl with plaits in his arms, pecking her cheeks dotingly.

"Why do you only give me a half, Dad?" Michelle played with the crystal curiously. "Did you break it?"

"Nope." Zack explained to her patiently, "This crystal contained two halves. When they combine together, they become one. Dad keeps the other half."

"Thank you for the gift, Dad. I love it."

"I love you, baby..."

Recalling the harmonious scene decades ago, Zack almost shed tears. He sucked in his breath, sipped some coffee, and adjusted his mood.

He had a strong hunch, thinking Ivan must have seen the other half of crystal and met his daughter, who had been missing for many years.

Immediately, Zack closed his file. Excitedly, he picked up his suit jacket, stood up, and strode out of the president's office.

"Where are you going, Mr. Clarke?" Tristan walked out of an elevator while holding a pile of folders.

"The meeting will begin soon."

"I'm going to the Marsh Group. Please postpone the meeting. I'll inform you of the time." As he spoke,

he strode towards his exclusive elevator.

Tristan was worried. "I'll go with you."

"No, thanks." Zack reminded him, "The investigation is only between you and me. You can't tell Joan,

either. Understand?"

"Ehn. I see."

Tristan watched him enter the elevator, and the elevator doors slid close. Then he walked towards the

president's office.

He wondered if Zack had a mistress who had given birth to his child.

However, Tristan didn't think it was possible. Zack focused on his career, was clinical and self-

restrained, and had never fooled around with women.

Tristan had a bad hunch, though. His intuition told him something big would happen. After all, Ivan was

a bigwig in Arkpool City.

Meanwhile.

The Marsh Group.

In the president's office, Alfie and Diana arrived.

"What's this, Daddy?"

The kids took over two pieces of light-green paper from Ivan.

"Your birth certificates," Ivan answered. "Check if your full names are correct."

"Alfie Marsh." Alfie darted at the paper in his hand and checked on Diana's. "How about yours?"

"Diana Marsh." Diana blinked at him with a bright smile. "I like my name."

The two joyfully repeated their full names.

The private jet was waiting for them. Their suitcases had been packed. Alfie and Diana would study

abroad and wouldn't return until they graduated from college.

Their profiles and accommodations had been prepared, and servants, maids, and the housekeeper had

been arranged. Marry and Pippa would go with them and take care of them.

Chapter 966 I Want to See Mr. Marsh

Aubree, dressed up, entered the office as well. She hardly came to the Marsh Group.

"Grandma, look at our full names!" Alfie trotted to her excitedly, taking her hand. "I'm Alfie Marsh. Do you like it?"

"What a wonderful name!" Aubree smiled at him lovingly.

"Grandma, I'm Diana Marsh." Diana smiled, her features delicate.

"Hello, Mom," Ivan and Jennifer greeted Aubree.

"Alfie. Diana." Aubree held the kids' hands. "Say bye to your parents. We need to set off."

Jennifer hugged Aubree and said, "Mom, thank you for taking care of them."

"You are welcome, Jennie. I will look after them well. Also, you guys should work hard. We can afford other children. Ivan is still young."

Aubree patted Jennifer's shoulder and added joyfully, "I look forward to your good news."

Jennifer smiled at her without replying. Ivan stood up with a gentle smile. "Mom, don't push us. Let nature take its flow."

"Why?" Aubree looked at Jennifer. "Don't you want to give birth?"

"Nah..." Jennifer smiled awkwardly. "Of course I do."

"So you want to have more children." Aubree wanted to figure out what was going on. She asked, "Ivan doesn't want more children?"

"Yes. Yes, I do." Ivan hurriedly propped his arm on Jennifer's shoulders and chuckled, "I look forward to more children."

"Daddy, Mommy, you'll have two years. We look forward to our younger brothers and sisters."

"I want to be an older sister." Diana's eyes lit up. "I must take good care of my younger brothers and sisters. I'll share my toys with them and teach them to read."

"OK. OK. Be obedient to Grandma after going abroad. Don't be naughty. Study hard. If you need anything, call Daddy and Mommy."

"OK, Mom. We will be obedient."

Therefore, after ending the topic, they bid each other farewell and hugged.

Ivan and Jennifer walked downstairs and watched them sit in the private jet.

"Come back on vacations. We'll also visit you guys when we have time," said Ivan. "I hope you can adapt to the new life there."

"We'll call you after arriving, Daddy. Take good care. Rest more. Don't be a workaholic."

"OK."

Ivan and Jennifer kissed the children. Although they would see the children soon, they felt reluctant to see them off.

After hugging Aubree again, Ivan and Jennifer waved goodbye and left the cabin.

The private jet taxied, set off, and flew farther.

"I hope they can achieve success in their study." Jennifer smiled while looking into the sky in the distance.

Ivan propped his arm on her shoulder. "The kids are too smart, so they must attend special training.

From now on, they are the future heirs of our company."

The children's lessons were customized to fit their character. They wouldn't go to ordinary schools, and their teachers were also extraordinary.

Ivan had been planning for this for the past six months.

Back in the lobby of the Marsh Group, Ivan said, "I need to attend a meeting. Later."

Jennifer took the elevator to the design department.

Shortly after, a black Volvo was pulled up to the entrance of the Marsh Group. Zack got off the driver's seat.

He strode steadily into the lobby.

"Good day, mister. What can I do for you?" the receptionist asked politely. From Zack's temperament, she could tell he wasn't ordinary.

Zack answered gently, "I want to meet Mr. Ivan Marsh."

Chapter 967 The Encounter

"Do you have an appointment," asked the receptionist.

Zack shook his head. "Unfortunately, no."

"Here is the thing, mister. Mr. Marsh is at a meeting." The receptionist checked Ivan's schedule. "After the meeting, he has an important project negotiation. In the afternoon, he had two video conferences."

Then she looked up and added, "Anyway, his schedule is full today. If you want to see him, you can

make an appointment, and it'll be next Monday at the earliest."

Zack knew Ivan was super busy but didn't expect his hands to be THAT full.

"Mister, would you like to make an appointment?"

The receptionist smiled at him. "If so, I can register you and submit it for approval. I'll inform you on the phone after it's done."

When Zack was lost in thought, an elevator's doors slid open.

Jennifer walked out in her high heels. Shortly after, she saw a familiar figure in the lobby.

Jennifer stopped mid-step, looking over.

'It's him... Why is he here?'

Seeing Zack talking to the receptionist, Jennifer strode towards them.

"Good day, Ms. Brooks," the receptionist greeted her respectfully.

Zack followed her gaze and saw Jennifer.

She looked pretty and innocent. Her hair and eyes were ink-black, and she emanated a unique temperament.

"Good day, Mr. Clarke."

Jennifer smiled at the mid-aged man. "Are you here to see someone?"

Before Zack answered, the receptionist hurriedly replied, "Ms. Brooks, this gentleman is looking for Mr.

Marsh, but he hasn't had an appointment."

"It's alright." Jennifer darted at her and said gently, "Let me handle it. You can go back to work."

"OK, Ms. Brooks."

"Mr. Clarke, you want to see Mr. Marsh. May I know if it's something critical?" Jennifer stared at Zack.

"Would you mind me passing on a message to him?"

Zack didn't answer, looking hesitant.

Jennifer added, "I'm his wife, the vice president of the Marsh Group. My name is Jennifer Brooks."

Zack was surprised. "How did you know my family name was Clarke?"

Jennifer was slightly taken aback, her brain working fast. "We met before, Mr. Clarke. Besides, the

Clarke Group is famous in Arkpool City. Your photo is shown on your company's official website."

Her explanation made sense.

Looking into her eyes, Zack was in a trance for a while.

Her image overlapped the little girl's in his memory, especially her eyes becoming increasingly familiar.

"If you only wish to talk to Mr. Marsh, you can wait for a moment." Jennifer raised her wristwatch and

checked the time. "His meeting will end in half an hour. Can you please follow me to the lounge?"

Zack found her eyes were intense, as if they could drown him.

"Mr. Clarke?" Jennifer called him gently and found he was absentminded.

Zack immediately returned to his senses.

"No... Please don't bother." He suddenly rambled in his statement. Hurriedly, he added, "Nothing critical, in fact. I just dropped by. Mr. Marsh is busy. I won't disturb him then."

With those words, he turned away without waiting for Jennifer's response.

Jennifer wanted to call to him but bit back the words that sprung to her lips. Although she smiled at his receding figure, bitterness surged in her chest.

She was close to him just now, so she saw the gray hair on his temples.

She also saw his face was wrinkled, which showed the traces of the time.

Although he walked upright and spiritedly, he was indeed old.

"Excuse me, Ms. Brooks." The receptionist studied her for a long time and asked, "Do you know the gentleman just now?"

Chapter 968 Informing Ivan

The receptionist's voice brought Jennifer back to the present. Jennifer reminded her, "He's Mr. Zack

Clarke, the president of the Clarke Group. In the future, you must receive him kindly whenever he comes. If he wants to see Mr. Marsh, call me. I'll arrange it."

"Got it, Ms. Brooks."

Jennifer turned away but couldn't calm down for a long time.

She had never expected to stand before him and calmly talk to him one day.

In the Volvo that had become a receding form, Zack sat in the driver's seat and tightened his grip on the steering wheel. The scene where he talked with Jennifer earlier appeared in his mind repeatedly.

An indescribable feeling surged in his chest. He felt like he was dreaming.

Jennifer's eyes looked almost exactly the same as his missing daughter's.

In his life, he had never seen a third person's eyes like theirs.

His memory flashed through his mind again.

"Michelle, when your mother was pregnant, she ate many grapes. That's why your eyes are so beautiful. They are black, big, and as shiny as black gems."

Zack used to praise his daughter that way while poking her nose tip and looking into her eyes dotingly.

However, Zack refused to believe Ivan's wife to be his missing daughter. It was too ridiculous.

Keeping rational, Zack believed it was because he had missed his daughter so much that he had an illusion.

If it was, why had Ivan done those things?

Ivan looked for the crystal and stole the toothbrush for the paternity test. Zack believed there must be a reason, wondering if Ivan had found something.

Zack suddenly saw the red light and several cars. He returned to his senses and stepped on the brake.

"Creak!"

The braking sound was thunderous.

His car almost hit the front vehicle.

The Marsh Group.

Jennifer returned to the vice president's office.

Seeing Ivan bypassing her door, she realized his meeting had ended.

After hesitating, Jennifer closed the file and walked to his office.

Upon hearing the footsteps, Ivan looked up gently. "You've already missed me, huh?"

Jennifer beamed at him. "I have something to tell you."

"Go ahead." He was all his ears.

"Mr. Clarke from the Clarke Group has been here earlier."

Ivan's heart tightened. Looking into her eyes, he continued to listen to her. "I don't know why he wanted to see you. He said he just dropped by, but I could tell he had something to talk to you about."

Ivan nodded as he could read her mind.

"OK. I'll make an appointment with him when I'm free." Ivan curled his lips into a smile. "Anything else?"

Pressing her lips together, she shook her head. "Nah."

Ivan reached out to her. Jennifer got closer and reminded him, "You have a project negotiation, don't you? You should get going."

Taking her hands, Ivan chuckled, "Can you go with me?"

"Doesn't Andrew go with you?"

Staring at her, he said coquettishly, "I only want you to go with me."

"No, I can't. I must go to the design department. Have an appointment with Mason."

Ivan was disappointed, letting go of her hand reluctantly. "All right. You don't need to go with me in the

daytime, but you must make it up for me at night."

Jennifer chuckled in amusement.

After she left, Ivan pulled the drawer open and picked up the paternity test report. Then he glanced at the result at the last line again.

He was sure Jennifer was Zack's daughter, wondering how many children Zack had.

Ivan was still shocked. He had been thinking about what to do with this matter for days.

He wasn't God, so he couldn't deal with this matter selfishly. He must consider Jennifer's feelings.

Therefore, whenever thinking about this paternity test report, he felt stressed.

Chapter 969 Ivan Hesitated

After almost hitting the front cars twice, Zack finally arrived at his company safe and sound.

"Good day, Mr. Clarke."

All his employees greeted him politely.

However, Zack seemed to be absentminded, striding into the elevator quickly.

After entering his office and sitting in his chair, he still felt uneasy.

Although he failed to see Iva in the Marsh Group, he met Jennifer. After that, he became absent-

minded.

When Tristan entered his office with files, he saw Zack in a daze.

"Excuse me, Mr. Clarke." Tristan put the files on the desk with both hands. "Have you met Mr. Marsh?"

Zack stared up at him intensely.

"What happened?" Tristan asked with concern.

Zack heaved a sigh. "Nothing. Is this the quarterly report form?" He withdrew his gaze and picked up the files.

"Yes, it is. The sales increased 10% compared to last quarter." After a pause, Tristan continued, "I'll go back to my work if there's nothing else."

"OK." Zack didn't raise his head.

After darting at him intensely, Tristan turned away worriedly in confusion.

He couldn't help wondering what Ivan aimed to do and what was in Zack's mind.

After Zack returned from the Marsh Group, Tristan could tell he was abnormal.

However, he couldn't ask Zack nosily, and Zack might not want to tell him.

4 P. M.

The Marsh Group.

The Lamborghini, with a limited edition, was pulled up to the entrance. Andrew and Ivan returned from the project negotiation and signed the agreement. They entered the lobby and took the elevator to go upstairs.

"Please send Zack Clarke's phone number to me," Ivan said to Andrew, "Please don't tell Jennifer."

"OK, Mr. Marsh." Andrew nodded.

Ten minutes later, Andrew sent him a phone number.

In the president's office, Ivan stood in front of the window with his hands behind his back, lost in thought.

Staring at the number, he copied and pasted it on the dialing panel.

However, before pressing the button to call, Ivan hesitated.

He wondered if Zack had found he had sent Zack's toothbrush for a paternity test.

If not, Zack had no reason to show up in the Marsh Group's lobby.

If Zack had been there for this reason, Ivan wondered if he should tell him the truth.

Before meeting Zack, Ivan decided to tell Jennifer about things he had done. Jennifer couldn't be the last one to know the matter.

It was the fundamental respect and love in their marriage.

Hence, Ivan saved Zack's cell phone number instead of dialing it immediately.

In the office next door, Jennifer changed the water for the lilies in the vase with a solemn look.

Zack was her birth father, but she could only call him Mr. Clarke.

When she addressed him like that, she felt a lump in her throat and almost suffocated. However, she had to smile at him politely.

Jennifer had always known who her birth father was.

In the past, she lacked the competence to meet him and tell him about it as she was too ordinary without any power back then.

However, she had no intention of telling him about it now as he led a happy life. Jennifer often saw Zack's family photos online.

Besides, Zack entirely concentrated on his work, and the Clarke Group developed well. It had become

one of the top five enterprises in Arkpool City.

Jennifer was unwilling to break the peace or make public opinion against the Clarke Group. Anyway,

she had a husband and a new family.

Jennifer would be delighted if the Clarke Group developed steadily and Zack was safe and well.

Afternoon.

Finnley and Mya picked up Shirley and helped her check out of the hospital.

After Rowan's therapies a few times, Shirley's bone fractures recovered quickly.

She could move around without any help.

Saunders' Villa was the only thing left from Clarence for his wife and daughter.

They were not as joyful as before when they entered the door. Instead, they were immersed in sorrow.

Finnley and Mya sat on the sofa with Shirley. Paula also sat aside. They watched the live broadcast of

Clarence's trial.

The case was too severe, so usually, the family was not to attend the hearing.

Ivan deliberately applied for the live broadcast for the Saunders family only. It was completely

confidential to the public.

Chapter 970 New Life

Seeing Clarence handcuffed, Shirley and Mya held their breaths. Tears sprung into their eyes.

They hadn't seen Clarence for half a month. Mya could tell her father had lost much weight, and more gray hair was on his head.

Mya and Shirley felt sorry for him but couldn't do anything.

Finnley checked on her and propped his arm on her shoulder. He felt sorry for her, silently consoling her.

The trial was dignified and solemn.

When the prosecutor listed all the evidence and Clarence was sentenced to life imprisonment, none in the house was surprised, as they had expected it to happen.

They finally exhaled in relief. After all, Clarence was still alive.

"If Dad's performance in jail is excellent, will he have an abatement from penalty?" Mya asked as she cared about this question the most. She didn't know much about the laws.

Finnley answered affirmatively, "Yes, he will. If Dad can contribute in jail, he will have more chances to leave jail. Our laws are generous."

"Those victims were killed by Leslie Eastwood, but my father only knew about it. I don't think he was involved in them." Mya stared at him and asked, "You've read all the documents. My father isn't that kind of man, right?"

Finnley pinched her shoulders tightly. "Mya, only Dad knows the truth of all those matters. Those are not important."

Disappointment flashed through her eyes. She admired her father the most, but her father's image collapsed.

Finnley said to them all, "The most important now is to cheer up. We must be mentally strong. Life goes on."

Paula peered out the window and said worriedly, "There are still some reporters who haven't given up yet."

"It's alright." Shirley had thought it over. "We don't have to hide like turtles. If they ask questions, just answer them aboveboard."

"OK. I'll go back to work tomorrow," said Mya determinedly. "I'll bravely confront everything and won't

be a coward."

Finnley was delighted. "Great." Rubbing her hair, he said, "I'll be with you all the time. Let time resolve the problems. Although netizens can remember news for a long time, Twitter trends also update fast."

Also, Finnley and Mya hoped Paula could take good care of Shirley.

Shirley also replied that she would adjust her mood and wait for Clarence to go home, even if it would take one or two decades.

She wouldn't be negative or commit suicide.

Therefore, the Saunders family decided to start a new life.

Dusk, the sun finally sank into the horizon. Neon lights lit the city brightly.

Emerald Bay.

The night breeze was cool.

The beautiful house was lit brightly. The Lamborghini, with a limited edition, was parked in the yard.

This was the first night after Alfie and Diana had gone abroad.

Dinner was ready. The light from the chandelier in the dining room shone brightly.

The dining table was full of dishes, but the house was not as lively as before.

Ivan could read Jennifer's mind, so he suggested actively, "Let's see the kids after finishing the jobs in hands, shall we?"

Jennifer looked up at him, still thinking about Zack. "Sure."

Then the dining room was silent for a moment again.

In fact, Jennifer wanted to ask Ivan if he had met Zack after Zack failed to meet him the last time.

Also, she was curious, wondering why Zack wanted to meet Ivan.

'Does he have trouble in his company? Only Ivan can help him?'

The thought sent Jennifer into worry.

After dinner, Ivan held Jennifer's hand and took her to the balcony on the second floor. They sat in the cane chairs.

The night breeze was cool, brushing their faces and making them refreshed.

The dimmed, yellowish light fell on them.

Jennifer asked in confusion, "Do you want to tell me something?"

Ivan leaned forward and put her crystal on the table. "Honey, have you considered looking for your

maiden family members?" he asked bluntly.