

Sweet Wife 691

Chapter 691 Starting with Misunderstandings

At first, Chad hesitated. He wasn't sure if he should do this because of his driver.

His driver had worked for him for several years and had done an excellent job. Chad didn't want him to die in vain. He wanted justice for him.

But later, he realized that...

No matter how justified the result was, it meant nothing if the person was already dead.

Chad could only take good care of the driver's family and protect them from getting hurt again.

They wouldn't dare to hurt Gentry for now, but he would definitely get back at him sooner or later.

A trace of fierceness emerged in Chad's eyes.

That only lasted for a moment and soon disappeared.

He then looked as gentle as usual.

He looked aside at Kevin and said, "We've got nothing to do now. Let's play chess."

Kevin learned how to play chess from Chad, but now his chess skills had surpassed his father.

Their strategies for the game weren't quite the same. Kevin's strategy was more aggressive, while Chad usually would take more conservative moves.

Therefore, if the two were entirely focused, they would be an equal match.

Kevin didn't refuse his father's invitation because Chad seemed to be very energetic.

They took out the chessboard and chess from the cabinet, sat down, and started playing.

It took them almost half an hour to finish the game.

Kevin won.

Chad shook his head when he saw that there was no more chess for him on the board.

"I got to live with the fact that I'm aged now. There's no way I can beat you."

Kevin smiled and said, "You should be proud because I learned from the best."

Hearing this, Chad narrowed his eyes and smiled. He nodded and said, "They all say the young would finally surpass the old, but the young couldn't have risen without the old, right?"

Kevin nodded.

"Yeah, that's right."

As he spoke, he looked at the time and said, "It's almost time. Let's go."

Chad then stopped smiling and let Kevin push him into the living room.

Meanwhile, Gentry was still sitting there.

Half an hour later, he actually had an answer in his mind.

He felt this unacceptable.

Therefore, instead of agreeing to Chad's requests, he asked, "How do you know it was me? Is it because I love Kristina?"

Chad was surprised that Gentry still hadn't decided after half an hour.

He sighed and said he had already seen Gentry do that.

Gentry was stunned.

It was just a tiny mistake, but now he had to pay such a high price for it.

He laughed bitterly and said, "Yeah, I did this."

As he spoke, he suddenly raised his head and looked at Chad with ablaze eyes.

"Do you know why?"

Chad raised his eyebrows and shook his head. He seemed to be interested in the reason.

"Because you are hypocritical!"

Gentry's face suddenly turned fierce.

He looked at Chad and sneered, "You pretend to be gentle and polite, but in fact, you are the most selfish and indifferent man in your bones. You chose Christine over Kristina because Christine is the legitimate daughter of a wealthy family and that could help your career, right? "

"In that case, why did you flirt with Kristina? She fell for you and made a mistake that had ruined her entire life, which was all because of you!"

"Do you know how hard it has been for her these years? She has been crying with regret every day and night. She prayed every day in the church, hoping she could be forgiven. She has tried her best to make up for that mistake!"

"You're the cause of all of this. As long as you're dead, all the disputes would be gone."

"She would no longer live in guilt every day, and she doesn't have to watch how much you and Christine appear to love each other. She'll finally be happy."

"Chad, you think you're a gentleman, but you're no better than a duplicitous scumbag! You don't deserve Kristina's love!"

Chad and Kevin were stunned when hearing what Gentry said.

Gentry had wholly lost his usual elegance and calmness.

He was tied up and sitting there. His ragged clothes and fierce face made her look like a lunatic homeless.

Chad fell silent for quite a while and then sighed.

"I have no idea that was how you felt."

His voice was a little low, and he sound slightly upset.

Kevin frowned.

He didn't know much about what happened back then.

He only heard some rumors from some people.

Therefore, he was in no position to judge this time.

Chad was silent for a moment. Then he said, "I didn't know things would turn out like this; if I did... I would never have approached her, and I would keep my sympathy in the dark. So I would never have..."

Kevin sniffed something wrong with what Chad was saying. He felt his heart was losing beats.

"Dad, did you and Kristina really..."

Chad glared at him, "What are you thinking? I always treated her like an innocent girl back then. Although she was raised in a foster family and seemed to belong there, she was kinda distant and lonely. She was sensitive with high self-esteem. She tended to overthink things, so I sometimes tried to ease her anxiety."

"I've already met your mother by then, and I did pay more attention to Kristina because she was her sister."

"Christine was studying abroad at that time. She doesn't have any other siblings. I was a professor at the same school Kristina was in, so I think I should get along with her."

"I had felt what she had feelings for me, but it was too late. She never said it directly. I was too indecisive to brutally tell her, please don't have any feelings for me because I had no feelings for you, and I already have a girlfriend."

"She would feel humiliated in that way. That's why I didn't say anything at that time. I thought that there would always be a perfect way that wouldn't hurt anyone."

"You all know what happened afterward. When Christine came back to the country, we decided to get married. Only then had she found out that my girlfriend was your mom."

"She couldn't accept it, but I told her very straightforwardly that I only took her as my little sister, no other feelings."??????

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 692 It Is Over

"She wouldn't trust me, but I didn't care. I was busy preparing for the wedding, and my career had just taken off. I was working around the clock."

"Now I'm thinking maybe it was because I ignored her at that time. I always thought that she could figure it out by herself, and that became the apple of discord."

He then stopped talking about the discord because he didn't want to talk about it again before Gentry.

But even if he didn't say it, the other two people had known what that was.

Gentry looked sullen, while Kevin nodded thoughtfully.

"So, isn't it all a misunderstanding?"

Chad nodded. "Yes, but it was caused by my indecisiveness. It's all my fault."

He looked up at Gentry and continued, "I know that you've been with Kristina for 26 years. That is also why I'm letting you go today. I didn't clarify it to her back then, so I think I owe her much. I'm sparing you today to do her a favor."

Gentry's face was pale. After a while, he gritted his teeth and sneered.

"Oh don't flatter yourself!"

Chad didn't say anything.

He was tired, and it seemed that he wanted to end this as soon as possible...

He whispered to Kevin and then wheeled himself away.

"Gentry, It doesn't matter whose fault it was now. Let bygones be bygones. She doesn't have much time left and needs you to stay with her. So... this is the last thing I'm gonna do for her. Take care."

After that, he turned away and went out of the door.

The bodyguards helped him to get in the car.

After hearing what Chad said, Gentry had lost the power to resist.

Kevin walked up to him and squatted down. Then he said with a smile, "Gentry, what do you think? Shall we go running the transfer procedures of your properties now?"

Gentry looked up at him and didn't object. He pulled himself up and let the two bodyguards help him get out.

The procedures were not difficult for them to go through. They finished them quickly.

Kevin let him go as he promised. Gentry had a mixed feeling after hearing what Chad had said.

When he returned to his and Kristina's residence, he stood in the yard for a while instead of going in.

He looked at the closed door felt a lack of courage to knock it open.

He still remembered what Kristina had once told him.

Those grievances she had put up with, those mistakes she had made, as well as her reluctance and grudge.

Gentry met her when she was twenty before she did that thing with Chad at the wedding.

He found her so beautiful and innocent, like a free little bird in the valley. His whole world was lit up.

He fell in love with her at first sight, but at that time, they didn't have many chances to see each other.

He didn't dare to tell her that he had feelings for her.

After all, Kristina was the daughter of the Nixon family. She was adopted, but everyone knew that the Nixons treated her like their biological daughter and never allowed anyone to mistreat her.

As for Gentry...

He was still young and didn't have a career, just like any other young man of that age.

He didn't come from a privileged family, no property to inherit, and he had no confidence to give her a lifetime promise.

Therefore, he could only bury those feelings in his heart and never let anyone know.

Then he accidentally learned about the drama at the wedding. He also learned that Christine's family tried to kill Kristina by forging a shipwreck.

Fortunately, she didn't sink with the boat as they expected.

For some reason, she survived.

The chance for her to survive was so slim that she had almost been half dead.

If Gentry hadn't rescued her in time and sent her to the hospital, she would've been drowned in the sea or died of coldness on that winter night.

After that, he learned what had happened from her.

He was heartbroken, angry, and a little glad.

He was heartbroken to hear what Kristina had gone through; he was angry with what her family and Chad had done to her; he was glad...

He was glad that she was no longer the daughter of that family. She was alone and helpless, and he was the only one she could trust and rely on.

Therefore, Gentry seized the opportunity and became the most important person to her. He took her abroad, supporting her and helping her with her life.

He had become indispensable, and Kristina seemed to have felt his love.

However, many years had passed, she had never agreed to be with him.

Gentry stood there, recalling every detail of the past two decades. He felt as sad as disappointed.

She lied to him!

All in all, Chad might be responsible for what happened back then, but it wasn't like how she had told Gentry at all.

Kristina said it was Chad who approached her and used her. He was playing the field.

Gentry was told that Christine forged that murderous shipwreck out of jealousy and fear of losing Chad to Kristina.

But in fact...

In fact, it was Kristina who wouldn't accept that the two were a couple. She stepped in their marriage.

She wouldn't believe that it wasn't her sister who wanted to kill her; it was her foster parents, who had loved her for so many years, who wanted to get rid of her because they were enraged by what she had done.

Members of Christine's family were out for blood.

They cherished you like jewels when they loved you, and when they didn't, they treated you like dirt on their sole.

They had no mercy. On the contrary, Christine, who Kristina thought was "vicious and ruthless," secretly saved her life behind their parents' back.

Kristina hadn't returned to the country over the years, probably just because of the promise she made to Christine.

Their parents died last year.

She came back now because she thought nobody would punish her for the past ever again.

Her calculation is accurate, ungrateful, and disappointing.

Gentry stood outside for a long while. He still failed to muster the courage to knock the door open.

In the end, he turned around and walked away slowly and firmly.

It started as a dream and ended like a nightmare for him.

Now he had to wake up.

Kristina had a dream at night.

She was a child again in that dream.

She was thin and small, lying on the narrow bed in the orphanage. The gentle and loving director came over to take her temperature. Then she said, "The fever has come down. Have a good rest."??????

Chapter 693 Knowing the Truth

She opened her big eyes and looked at the director in a daze.

Soon after, the director left. She brought out a few fruit flavor candies for her.

The director said with a warm and kind smile, "Good girl, if you don't cry when you get the injection later, I'll give you those candies."

She looked at her favorite candies and nodded.

The director then called the doctor over. The shot was painful, but she remembered the director's words and didn't cry.

She gripped the candies in her hands tightly, as if she were holding her whole world.

The doctor left after the shot. She had other things to do, so she left as well.

She took out a few candies and unwrapped them happily. However, as she was about to put them into her mouth...

Suddenly, a few children rushed over and rubbed her candies.

Kristina was in a dream; she couldn't hear what the person before her was talking about.

She could only see those children's innocent faces with the ugliest and most fierce expression in the world.

They pointed at her and kept scolding her, calling her a bastard. They called her a shameless b*tch.

No one could ever imagine that such vicious words came from many children.

In the end, they pushed her onto the bed and then peed on it. At last, they rubbed their candies and left.

She could only stand there and cry silently.

When the director came over and saw the urine on her bed, she thought little Kristina had wetted her bed again.

She looked at her with more disappointment in her eyes than last time.

Kristina felt that no one would love her for real.

The director's love for her had been undercut by misunderstandings and slanders.

Her foster parents' love for her was no more than a charity in their spare time.

In her opinion, even Gentry, who had been with her for 26 years, was pursuing her for nothing but his own persistence on his first love.

She thought he didn't love her; he just had an obsession.

Who had loved her on earth?

The answer could only be Christine.

Christine was always proud and cold, looking at everyone around with disdain. She was so brilliant and shining like a star.

Kristina faded next to her like any other person.

Their parents always bought Christine designer brand purses. Christine would choose those that matched Kristina best and put them in Kristina's bedroom.

Christine didn't tell anyone about it, not even Kristina.

When Kristina was bullied, Christine would stand up for her and beat the hell out of those people. Then, Christine would turn around and scold her for being such a coward saying that she was always disgracing this family.

After all that Kristina had done, Christine still held the last sympathy for her and saved her.

Christine did that without saying anything, and she refused to forgive Kristina.

However, she still hoped that Kristina could survive, although they would have nothing to do with each other.

Christine was the one who had never hurt a hair of Kristina.

Tears rolled down silently from the corners of Kristina's eyes in the darkness.

Only then did Kristina truly realize what a mistake she had made back then. Her losses were all due to herself.

However, the past is the past; what was done couldn't be undone.

The next day.

Christine was told that Kristina had flown away from Eqitin.

One of her subordinates told her this. At that time, she was standing in the garden, cutting a flowering tree under the guidance of a gardener.

She had been fascinated with gardening recently. She felt herself fitting the trimming work so well.

It cultivated her mentally and physically; she had learned more than just gardening from it.

It was intriguing.

For example, the flowering tree before her grew up lushly. It was beautiful, but it also looked a bit messy.

Now that she had trimmed it and cut off the unnecessary parts, what was left was purely beautiful.

That worked for trees, and so did it for humans.

Nobody was born without flaws.

People went through all kinds of ups and downs together, and they met with their unique rough edges.

They had to keep trimming and planing their rough edge in the future days when they got along with each other not to hurt the other one.

Finally, when they had planed each other's rough edges, there would only be warmth to feel when they hugged.

Thinking of that, Christine smiled.

She handed the scissors to the gardener and said, "I see."

After that, she left everything behind and walked into the house.

Chad was reading in his study.

Christine pushed the door open and went in with a plate of fruits in her hand.

Chad raised his head and looked at her. He suddenly stopped upon the glance.

He keenly captured something different about her from how she was days ago.

He looked at the fruit on the table in front of him and asked with a smile, "Leave it to them. Why are you bringing me fruits yourself?"

Then he took a piece of fruit and put it in his mouth.

The sweet fragrance of fruit filled his mouth, and he narrowed his eyes in joy.

Christine raised an eyebrow and glanced at him.

"What's wrong? Is my service failing you?"

Chad quickly swallowed the fruit and shook his head repeatedly. "I definitely wouldn't dare. It's just that I don't want you to work so hard."

Christine paused for a moment.

Chad wasn't good at sweet talks. The elder people called people like him a "dull fool".

But it was also because of this that his sweet words sounded very sincere.

She didn't stop. With a trace of a smile in her eyes, she walked behind him and said, "You stay here all the time. The weather's fine today; let's go out for a walk."

She said and wheeled him out without his consent.

Chad was surprised at first, but he found there was nothing he could do.

This was how she was like. She hadn't changed a bit after so many years.

She spoke and did everything decisively. Chad was already used to that.

Chad was craving the fruit, so he said, "We can go out, but you have to let me bring the fruit! They were nicely sliced!"

Christine blushed and rolled her eyes at him.

"You big foodie."

She sounded mean, but in the end, she still brought the plate of fruit over and put it into his arms. Then, she wheeled him out.

On the lawn in the yard.

Chad was sitting in the wheelchair while Christine was sitting on a carved iron bench.????????

Chapter 694 Being Honest

The iron bench had a thick cushion so that it wouldn't feel uncomfortable.

The servants served breakfast and snacks next to Christine's fruit. It was a perfect brunch.

It was March now, the best season of the year to drink tea and bask in the warm sunshine of spring.

Christine picked up her teacup and took a sip. She narrowed her eyes and looked relaxed.

Chad, on the other hand, felt wronged.

He took a careful look at Christine and asked tentatively, "Honey, can I take a sip of the tea?"

Christine paused and glanced at him.

"Want some?"

Chad couldn't stop nodding.

Christine poured him a cup of warm water from the pot.

"Just have some water. Tea's no good for your recovery."

Chad was speechless.

He looked at the plain boiled water and said,

"Honey, it was my legs and ribs that had been hurt. My digestion system is perfectly fine. I can have some tea."

"Who said that?" Christine argued, "The caffeine in tea will cause the loss of calcium. You'll have to give up tea and coffee if you want to get better soon."

As she spoke, she ignored him and continued to drink her tea and eat her snacks.

Having been turned down by her, Chad knew that he wouldn't have any tea today.

He could only pick up the glass of boiled water and drink it.

The atmosphere in the room was too peaceful for him to care about what he was drinking.

The two of them sat there quietly, sunbathing.

A lot of things have happened recently. Now they could finally sit together; they felt their minds had been connected without saying anything.

After all, they had been married for over 20 years.

They were so in tune in many ways.

They could read each other's minds as their eyes met. They didn't have to say it, and they didn't want to say it.

However, Chad still mentioned to her about Gentry and the assassination after contemplation.

After all, he had shown mercy to Gentry for the sake of Christine's family.

Christine's the only member of her family that was still alive now; Chad thought she should know.

Christine wasn't surprised after hearing that.

After a moment of silence, she told him how many times Kristina had come to her in the past few days.

After a while, with mixed feelings, he sighed sentimentally, "After all, I'm the one to blame. No one would be hurt today if I had been more decisive back then. Christine, I'm sorry for what you have to put up with for all these years."

Christine's face froze.

Her eyes dimmed, and then she snorted coldly as if she didn't care.

"I don't need your apology."

She said with her eyes shimmering with tears of sentiment.

Chad couldn't help laughing out upon seeing that.

He suddenly grabbed her hand.

"Honey, I love you."

Christine froze and was lost in thought.

She didn't know how long it had been since the last time he said that.

Or this might be the first time she heard that from this quiet and repressed man.

He was more of a doer than a talker; he had done many things without telling anybody.

So at that time, she called him a blockhead.

He was such a nerd.

Christine had thought that she would no longer hear any sweet words from him in this life.

That was why she was so surprised to hear it just now.

She turned around in disbelief and looked at him.

Chad held her hand and sighed, "I always thought people could see whatever I did, no matter I tell them or not."

"I've overestimated people's control over their feelings and my abilities. Affections would be easily mistaken with other feelings as time went by."

"Christine, I'm sorry for not having said anything sweet to you for all these years. I'll make it up in the coming days."

"Now I understand that being a sweet talker is almost as important as a practical doer in a relationship. If I don't say it, it might lead to misunderstandings from other people, or even from you."

Christine was shocked.

At that moment, she felt as if her heart had been cut open, and he had seen the secret hidden deep in her heart.

She lifted the corner of her mouth in embarrassment and said, "Misunderstanding? I've never had that for you."

"You have."

Chad said firmly, "I'm not stupid. I can feel it. I just don't know how to start this conversation with you in the past. I've got a chance today, so I decided to tell you all at once."

Christine could yell how earnest and honest he was.

For a moment, she became rarely nervous.

She pursed her lips and thought, this is so absurd!

She's no longer a young lady, and the man had been by her side for more than 20 years.

She could even picture his face with her eyes closed. She thought she would never be nervous because of that.

That was what she was thinking in her mind, but her tense body sold her out.

Chad said slowly in a deep voice, "I know you thought I loved Kristina, even after you've figured it out that nothing had happened that night between us."

"But you still believe that I took her as your replacement and fell in love with her while you were abroad."

"So for all these years, I know that you still hold a grudge against me for that, but you wouldn't say it."

"That sometimes made me feel helpless because I don't know how to explain. No matter how hard I tried, it sounds like sophistries."

"I don't know if you would believe what I'm saying now, but I still want to say that I've never fallen in love with her."

"You were my only love back then; you've been my love for the past 20 years in our marriage; you're my love now and... God bless us, you'll stay with me and allow me to love you for the rest of my life."

"So don't let those misunderstandings wear out our love for each other, okay? You should have known me better after everything we've been through."

"You know it clearly that I don't lie to you. I know how hard it is to find someone you truly love."

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 695 Being Different

"Many people in love are separated, like Gentry. He had been with Kristina for 26 years, but she had never loved him."

"We're lucky because we love each other, and we guard each other. No matter how many twists and turns we've experienced, we haven't been separated."

"My cowardice has once alienated us."

"Now, I'm courageous enough and hoping we could get rid of the odds between us. I want a real bond. Christine, would you accept my apology?"

He said and looked at her affectionately, looking forward to her answer.

Christine's feelings were complicated.

She felt as touched as sorrowful with mixed feelings.

Her eyes could not help but tear up. She didn't look at Chad because she had tears in her eyes.

Chad's heart ached to see her cry.

He immediately took out a tissue to wipe her tears.

"I'm sorry, honey. It's all my fault. I had no idea how much you have put up with through these years. I thought it would be gone with time..."

The more he spoke, the more he blamed himself.

He felt he had failed as a husband.

He always said he would love and care for her and never get her upset.

But in fact, he had failed to keep his promises.

Christine wiped her tears with a tissue as she cried.

Her years of grievance burst out after his earnest confession.

She couldn't stop crying after a long while.

Then she said in a low voice, "Okay, I'm good."

Chad looked at her with worried eyes.

Christine turned to look at him. As their eyes met, and she could quickly tell the man's sincerity and worry.

She felt as if her heart had been touched by something soft and warm.

She grinned a thin smile.

"So you were speaking the truth from your heart?"

Chad nodded heavily and then raised his right hand. "Absolutely. I swear."

Christine lowered her eyes and fell in silence for a while.

After a while, she said, "Okay, apology accepted. I forgive you."

Chad's eyes widened in disbelief.

His face never changed even when he made deals of millions or billions of dollars, but now he smiled so brightly.

He stepped to his wife and held her tightly.

With a thrilled and quivering voice, he said, "Thank you, honey."

Christine was shocked by his big steps. She supported her as soon as she came back to her senses.

She scolded, "What are you doing? Careful! Go back and sit down."

Chad's wounds had yet to heal. The doctor told him not to make any major movements or walk. Otherwise, the wounds would easily be twisted or ripped off again.

Therefore, Chad's family had been very cautious these days, even when he was at home.

It was Christine who helped him get changed every day, let alone let him make any big moves.

They didn't want him to rip off his wounds or have other accidents when he got dressed.

However, the man was so excited that he ignored his wounds and almost jumped over to her.

Christine was as happy as worried. She didn't want anything to happen to his wound again.

Chad let go of her and sat back in his wheelchair. He smiled and said, "I'm fine. You don't have to worry."

Christine glared at him, "Be careful. That wound was no joke. You could've killed yourself!"

Chad rubbed his nose and didn't dare to say anything.

Christine then called the servant over and ordered, "Get him back to the living room and call the doctor."

The servant answered and left.

Soon after Chad was back in his room, the doctor came over.

He removed the gauze and checked Chad's wound thoroughly. As big as Chad's steps were, his wound was fine.

Chad heaved a sigh of relief.

Then he smiled at Christine and said, "Look, I told you I'm okay. You are making a fuss."

Christine glared at him and said nothing more. Later, she asked someone to walk the doctor out.

They were no longer in the mood to get the sunbath after what had happened just now.

It was getting late, so Christine went to the kitchen to prepare lunch for the day.

She usually wouldn't cook, but she was in a good mood today, so she decided to roll up her sleeves.

Chad smiled as he watched her walk into the kitchen.

Kevin and Max felt something different with their parents today as soon as they arrived home in the evening.

Usually, when they came back, they would see their father sitting on the sofa in the living room reading newspapers and their mother doing her skincare routine upstairs.

Or their mother would be watching TV on the sofa in the living room, while their father would be reading newspapers in his study.

In short, they wouldn't fight, but they wouldn't be in the same room as today.

Today was different. They were staying in the same room, on one sofa, and watching TV together.

Max looked at the television. It was a soap opera for the teens.

Chad seemed to be immersed in it with Christine in his arms. The brothers looked at them in great shock and felt their whole world had been changed.

"Kevin, pinch me to see if this is a dream."

Kevin didn't hesitate and pinched him.

"Ouch!"

Max jumped up in pain.

"Easy! I was kidding!"

Kevin glanced at him calmly. "I thought you meant it."

Max was speechless.

They were both speechless.

Max waved his hand and said, "Forget it. we've got other things to do."

He secretly pointed to the two people on the sofa and whispered, "Look at them; they look different today, aren't they?"

Kevin's face remained calm. He said as he walked in, "What? I didn't see any difference."

He said and stepped into the living room.

Max yelled out in a hurry, "Hey, Kevin! Stop..."

It was too late. Christine and Chad had already heard their conversation.

She looked up and said, "You guys are back? Go wash your hands and get ready for dinner."

Kevin nodded and walked to the bathroom.

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 696 Traveling around the World

Max, on the other hand, contemplated for seconds. Then, he leaned in and said with a smile, “Mom, Dad, did you... win a lottery today?”

The two looked up and asked in confusion, “What are you talking about?”

“What lottery?”

Max smirked impishly. “Haha, if you didn’t win a lottery, why are you hugging each other so tightly? It’s as if you were afraid that you might lose each other! It’s weird.”

Chad and Christine were both stumped for words.

They quickly let go of each other. Chad cleared his throat. His expression was rather awkward.

He scowled at Max and said, “Nonsense. We were just watching TV.”

Max nodded pensively.

“Oh, you were watching TV. But that’s no reason to hold each other that tight.”

Christine’s temper towered. She grabbed a cushion and tossed it at Max.

“Why are you everywhere? Go wash your hand! Leave us alone!”

Max caught the cushion with one hand. Aware that he had ruffled his mother’s feathers, he didn’t dare to talk back. Smiling apologetically, he replied, “Okay. I’ll go right away.”

With that said, he ran off to the bathroom.

When he and Kevin returned to the dining room after washing their hands, Chad and Christine were seated side by side at the table.

Dinner had been served. There were more dishes on the table today. The food looked more palatable than usual, too.

Max had keenly observed that several dishes seemed to be cooked by his mother.

His eyes lit up at once.

“My instinct is right. Something is different today.”

“Otherwise, how could Mom, who rarely cooks, have prepared those dishes in person?”

Associating this with the intimate embrace the two had on the sofa, Max came up with a bold guess.

Kevin had also sensed something unusual.

But with Max here, he didn’t want to play the fool with him, so he didn’t admit it.

Even so, he had clearly noticed that Chad and Christine were both somehow different today.

But the difference was good. So he was not worried or eager to point it out.

Anyway, since they had summoned him and Max back, they would not hide it from them. They probably wanted them here just to tell them about this.

Sure enough, after the two sat down by the table, Chad told the servant to open a bottle of wine and pour a glass for each of them.

Christine also had some wine. Chad couldn't have alcohol yet, so he just poured some water into his glass.

"We called you back here tonight to have dinner because it's been quite a while since the four of us had spent some quality time together."

"I heard that Ally has gone abroad to further her study, so she isn't home today. Laura is shooting a new TV show, right?"

Max nodded at once and said, "Yes. She's not in Egitin. She's gone to Pratu."

Chad then chuckled and said, "What a pity! I wanted to invite her and Ally over as well. Maybe next time then."

As he said this, he couldn't help but peer at Christine out of the corner of his eyes.

Seeing that she showed no trace of annoyance, he breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, he continued, "Other than having a reunion dinner, today, I and your mother also have an announcement to make."

Hearing this, Max and Kevin were dazed. They put down their forks at the same time.

"What's up?" asked Max.

Chad held Christine's hand and said beamingly, "Your mother and I have decided to go on a trip after I recover. We plan to travel around the world. Thus, from now on, you two will handle everything in the family and the company. You have to shoulder the responsibilities. When you don't know what to do, call me or your grandfather. The Nixon family is in your hands now."

Max and Kevin were both stupefied.

They never saw this coming.

Kevin put on an almost imperceptible frown. When Max came to his sense, he directly jumped to his feet and said in shock, "You're going on a trip? Why do you suddenly wanna travel around the world?"

Christine rolled her eyes at him.

"We've always wanted to go, but because of you two brats, we never got the chance."

Max had been called names by her many times, so he didn't mind this at all.

But Kevin had attached great importance to manners since he was a child. This was his first time being called a "brat". His face stiffened after he heard that.

Max laughed. "OK. Go ahead. I just felt this happened all of a sudden, so I freaked out a little."

Christine sneered.

“What? Are you saying that we informed you too late? So you think we should tell you several months in advance if we want to go travel?”

Max knew he could never beat his mother in arguing.

He threw in the towel, “How dare I? I’d never request you to do that. I’m already very glad that you told us about this now. Don’t worry. When you’re not here, Kevin and I will do a good job running both the house and the company. Nothing will go wrong. I promise.”

This time, Kevin didn’t pull the rug from under Max’s feet.

He also nodded in agreement.

Looking earnestly at his parents, he remarked, “Mom, Dad, you’ve been working hard for years. You should go and have some fun around the world. Don’t worry about us or the company.”

Smiling, Chad nodded and said, “Good. Now you said that, I know I have nothing to worry about.”

Christine was always a woman of action.

Now they had decided to go on a trip, she immediately started to make plans.

After all, they were going to travel around the globe. They needed to make a lot of preparations before they could set off.

Therefore, while Chad was staying home for his recovery, Christine made the arrangements for the trip. No time was wasted.

After all the details were planned out and all the preparations were made, Chad would have basically recovered.

Since the surgery went well, Chad had no complications.

After saying goodbye to their children and friends, they immediately boarded the plane and set off.

That day, Max and Kevin went to see them off at the airport.

Watching them leave, Max said to Kevin with emotion, “Kevin, when can we live such a free life like our parents? I so wanna go on a trip on the spur of the moment. How romantic!”

Kevin turned around and shot him a disdainful look.

“With you? Forget it. I don’t wanna go with you.”

Max was rendered speechless.

Seeing his older brother walk away, he snorted with contempt and punched the air.

A while later, he finally growled, “Who said I wanted to travel with you? I meant with my wife!”

That night, Max went home and told Laura about this.

Laura had just finished the shooting for her new show. Thus, she had three precious days off.

Hearing that they had boarded the plane as planned, she nodded in relief and said, "It does sound romantic. But they may face trouble on their way. Don't forget to call them from time to time and check if they are safe."

Chapter 697 The Most Wonderful Trammel

Max waved Laura's concern aside.

"Oh relax. See... Dad's with Mom. If there's something that even he can't handle, then my getting worried won't help anyway."

Laura considered this and thought he had a point.

Thus, she didn't insist.

At the same time, after finishing her work at the company, Natalia booked a flight ticket to Othua, preparing to go abroad.

Archie heard about it and asked why she was going to Othua.

To get his inquiry over with, Natalia told him she was there for work.

But in fact, it was because of the deal she made with Felix. Now the timing had arrived, she planned to go there and take action.

Archie didn't know any of that.

Natalia didn't want him to know anyway, for the relationship between the Bissel family and the McCarthy family was rather complicated.

She only made the deal with Felix in the name of herself, not as Mrs. McCarthy.

Yet, if Archie learned about this, it would be hard to convince others that this deal had nothing to do with the McCarthy family.

After all, she was Archie's wife. That was a well-known fact.

She truly couldn't tackle this issue in the name of Mrs. McCarthy. Instead, she made the deal as Seven.

Therefore, she didn't tell Archie about this.

Archie didn't ask more questions after Natalia said that. He just reminded her to stay safe and call him when she arrived.

He then let her go back to her business.

This time, Natalia would be away for about four days.

If everything went well as planned, she would be back on the fourth day's afternoon.

Thus, she packed lightly for this short trip.

Soon, she was done packing. She then went to Oliver's room to say goodbye to the little guy.

It was noon. Oliver was taking a nap.

The pinky two-year-old was sleeping soundly.

Natalia leaned over, gave him a peck on his pinky cheek, and said softly, "Mommy is going on a business trip. You should stay at home and do what Daddy and Nanny tell you. Be a good boy, okay?"

Perhaps due to the special mother-and-son connection, Oliver cocked his brow and smacked his little lips, as though he was responding to her words.

Seeing his reaction, Natalia smiled with gratification.

After kissing him goodbye, she went to Anne's room to check on her.

Anne was a big girl now. She was getting beautiful every day.

The seven-year-old was a very attractive girl. With big eyes and thick eyebrows, she looked quite adorable.

At this time, she was also napping.

But unlike the two-year-old Oliver, this seven-year-old girl only pretended to go to sleep after lunch as the adults told her to, yet she was not really asleep.

She had been rolling on her bed reading her favorite comics about some princess, unwilling to fall asleep.

She had pulled the quilt over her head when Natalia walked in.

The maid taking care of Anne smiled at Natalia in resignation after she saw her come in.

Natalia waved at her, motioning for her to go out.

Then, she sat on the edge of her bed.

In a tender voice, she asked, "Anne, are you asleep?"

There was no reply from under the quilt. The middle part of the puffy pinky quilt was bulging. It seemed that Anne had also covered her head with it.

Natalia didn't know what to do for a moment.

She jerked the corner of Anne's quilt, but Anne pulled it back with her weak strength, as though she didn't want to get out.

Natalia was amused. "Anne, don't sleep with the quilt over your head. You can't breathe like this."

The girl in the quilt still didn't respond.

Natalia knew Anne was not asleep. She was throwing a tantrum just because she had heard she was leaving again.

Natalia sighed with resignation.

"Anne, if you keep staying under the covers, I'll leave."

"You won't be able to see Mommy for days. Will you miss me?"

“Well, even if you don’t, Mommy will definitely miss you. What should I do then? Anne, you really not wanna see Mommy before I leave?”

Natalia patiently coaxed her in a sweet and gentle voice.

A while later, the quilt finally moved. Shortly after, a small head poked out.

Anne’s big, sparkling eyes were fixed on Natalia. Her cute lips were pursed with discontent.

“Really? You’ll miss me after you leave?”

Natalia couldn’t suppress her laughter any longer. She abruptly giggled.

She drew Anne out of the quilt and scooped her into her bosom.

“My silly Anne, you’re Mommy’s precious little girl. Of course, I will miss you.”

Anne gazed at her with a wronged look on her face.

“But it’s been a long time since the last time we hung out. My birthday is only days away. But you’re leaving...”

As she said that, tears welled up in her eyes.

Natalia was heartbroken.

She hurriedly hugged her and dabbed tears off her face.

At the same time, she comforted her, “Anne, I’m sorry. I’ve been busy. I don’t have time to be with you. But don’t worry. Your birthday is next weekend, isn’t it? I promise you I’ll get back before next weekend to celebrate your birthday with you, okay?”

Anne compressed her lips, not saying anything.

Natalia thought for a moment. Then, she explained patiently, “Here's the thing. Mommy has an appointment with a friend. We’ve agreed to meet abroad in two days. This appointment was made a long time ago. You don’t want Mommy to be a person who breaks her promise, right?”

Anne looked up at her and asked, “Is it very important?”

Natalia nodded vehemently.

“Yes, it’s very important. These people once saved my life. If it weren’t for them, I wouldn’t be the same person today.”

Anne blinked as if she had comprehended something.

She then nodded.

“Okay. You should go, but you gotta be back before my birthday.”

Seeing that Anne had approved, Natalia finally smiled. “Sure. Let’s pinkie swear on this. I’ll definitely get back and we’ll celebrate your birthday together.”

Anne’s frown finally dissolved. She smiled and pinkie swore with Natalia.

“Mommy, we’ve pinkie sworn on this. You can’t eat your words.”

After cheering her daughter up, Natalia went out of the room.

Nancy had already parked the car outside the gate, waiting for her.

Nancy had long become Natalia’s loyal employee. She was no longer just a bodyguard Archie put there to keep an eye on her.

In other words, Nancy only took Natalia’s orders. She no longer reported to Archie on Natalia’s every movement.

This was why Natalia would bring her on this trip to Othua.

Natalia was not as audacious and willful as before.

After all, she was the mother of two children now. She had her own family. Even if she didn’t care about her own safety, she wouldn’t want her family to worry.

Now that she had loved ones, she had gained the loveliest weak spots.

It was true that her family was sometimes her trammel. She couldn’t do many things because she had to think for her family.

Yet, admittedly, this was indeed the most wonderful trammel in the world.????????

Chapter 698 Believe in Yourself

Natalia already told Archie before he left home this morning that she would set off today.

With Nancy being with her, Archie was not worried about her safety.

Besides, according to Natalia, she was only going abroad for work.

She would be back in three or four days. This was a short trip, so he had nothing to worry about.

Therefore, he didn’t see her off in person. He just asked the driver to send them to the airport and told Natalia that he would go there to pick them up when they got back.

Natalia was tormented by a tinge of guilt, because she somehow felt that she had betrayed Archie’s trust.

But if she told him the truth, it would only make things difficult for him.

Thinking of this, she took a deep breath and forcibly fought back the surge of gloom.

After arriving at the airport, she led Nancy straight to the boarding gate.

The flight to Othua would take seven hours.

They both took a nap during the flight. It was already nighttime when the plane landed in Lanceham.

Natalia had contacted someone to pick them up. It was a young, sturdy, gold-haired man who spoke fluent English.

He greeted her, "Hi, Seven, it's been so long."

Natalia smiled and hugged him. She then introduced Nancy to him, "This is a friend of mine."

The man extended a hand to Nancy and said, "Hello, I'm Sam."

Nancy nodded with a smile and replied, "Hi, I'm Nancy."

After exchanging greetings, Sam led them to the parking lot.

"I heard that you're here for the Flying Competition. It's been years since I watched you race. Now, I can finally see your stunning skills."

Natalia grinned. She had told Nancy about her being a racing driver before.

Nancy was completely loyal to her now. She had even told her many things that even Archie didn't know.

Of course, Nancy would not tell those things to Archie.

With a chuckle, she said, "Yes. I haven't raced for years. My skills are getting a little rusty. I can't really tell how this would turn out."

Sam perceptively gave her a pep talk. "Seven, believe in yourself. You were a superstar who won the championship three years in a row. Give yourself more credit. You can do it!"

Imbued by his enthusiasm, Natalia also began to laugh.

"I hope so."

They got into the car, chatting and laughing.

Sam and Natalia went way back. He was not a racing driver, but he had a great interest in racing. He was kind of Natalia's fan.

Since Sam was in the tourism business, Natalia let him handle her accommodation, transportation, and the like during her stay in Othua.

She had considered staying in one of Archie's properties or hotels in Othua, but she might come into contact with the Bissel family during this period.

In addition, she wanted to investigate something in secret.

To do that, she would inevitably associate with those people. Her movements would be exposed then.

Nancy could keep her secrets for the time being, but those people couldn't.

Thus, she preferred not to stay in Archie's real estate. At least, she couldn't let Archie find out the real purpose of this trip before the competition was over.

Sam was talkative. After all, he used to be a tour guide. During the ride, he had a good chat with them.

He was fluent in six languages and knew a lot of traditions and customs in different countries.

So he could easily start a nice conversation with anyone.

Plus, he was a smart guy who knew not to overstep the boundary. He could effortlessly sense that what topics others might be interested in and what they might want to avoid.

He was a person who could get along with all kinds of people. For this reason, his business had been thriving.

He was just a sightseeing guide when Natalia left Othua six years ago, but today, he was the boss of a travel agency with many chain stores.

While driving, Sam told Natalia about how Othua had changed during the past six years.

But Natalia didn't tell him that two years ago, she and Archie came here and stayed for a long time.

Half an hour later, their car pulled up in the parking lot in front of a hotel.

Sam picked the hotel for her. As she had requested, it was quiet, comfortable, and not in downtown, and it gave her some peace and privacy.

After getting out of the car, Sam handed the key cards to Natalia and Nancy. He said with a smile, "Hope you enjoy yourselves here. If you need anything, feel free to call."

Natalia said sincerely, "Thank you so much."

"You're welcome."

After sending them to the hotel, Sam soon bid goodbye to them and left.

Holding the key cards, Natalia and Nancy went to check-in. Then, a staff member took them to their rooms.

It was undeniable that Sam was a reliable friend.

The hotel and the rooms he booked for them were exactly what Natalia wanted.

The hotel was five-star. It was certainly a nice place to stay. More importantly, the environment here was very ideal.

As Natalia wanted, it was serene and tasteful. Since this was a private resort hotel, the guests' privacy was highly guaranteed.

Natalia and Nancy looked around in both of their rooms. After confirming that everything was satisfying, they finally put down their luggage.

As they slept through the seven-hour-long flight, they had not had a meal yet.

Thus, after leaving their luggage in their room, the two first went out for food.

It was eight in the evening in Ambario.

But in Lanceham, Othua, it was six in the morning.

There was indeed jet lag. But Natalia was used to the time difference, for she traveled a lot for work in recent years.

As for Nancy, it was no problem at all. She was never bothered by this.

It was too early. No stores serving breakfast had opened yet. Thus, the two went to the restaurant in the hotel to grab a bite.

After the meal, they went to rest in their rooms to take a rest.

They slept for hours. At three in the afternoon, Natalia woke up. She planned to first go out for a walk with Nancy.

She found Lanceham basically the same as it was when she last came here two years ago.

Nancy, who knew how she lived in Lanceham back then, said with a smile, "If you don't mind, I would love to visit the place you stayed in before. Maybe we'll bump into some of your old acquaintances."

Natalia chortled and said, "That place is long gone."

When Archie was injured and hospitalized last time, she already brought him there.

It had been deserted for a long time. That day, she even found an abandoned car and raced a lap in it.

That was only a couple of years ago. But now she thought of it, it seemed to be in the remote past.

The two wandered on the streets for quite a while. When the night fell, they found a nice restaurant to dine in.

After dinner, she received a call from Sam.

Sam's voice sounded jubilant.

"Hi, Seven, I've done what you asked me to do. I'll text you the address in a moment. You can go there this evening."

Natalia gave a tiny smile and asked, "How much should I pay?"

"Oh come on, we're friends. Do we still need to talk about money? The venue belongs to a friend of mine. He gave me a friend discount on the car. I've made the payment for you in advance. Just pay me back together with all the other expenses later."

Chapter 699 The Makings of Success

Natalia smiled and said, "Thanks a million."

"It's nothing. I'll go now. Don't forget to check your text message."

"Okay. Thanks."

Not long after she hung up, a text message entered her phone as expected.

Natalia clicked it open and carefully read the address. She realized that it was a field she visited a long time ago during her stay in Othua.

She deliberated for a moment and then sent the address to Nancy as well before putting away her phone.

“Take down this address. We’ll be there in the next couple of days.”

Nancy took out her phone and checked the message. Then, she asked, “Is this the training field?”

Natalia nodded.

She had not raced for years after all. No matter how great a speed racer was before, if she had not touched a racing car for so long, she would find it hard to regain her edge again.

Natalia only gave herself two days to familiarize herself with car racing again. That was already very impressive.

Nancy silently memorized the address. About half a minute later, she put her phone back into her pocket and said, “Sure. I’ve got it.”

Natalia nodded. Then, they paid the bill and headed out.

When they walked out of the restaurant, Nancy asked, “Where are we heading now? Back to the hotel?”

Natalia consulted her watch and found that it was only eight in the evening.

She contemplated for moments and shook her head. “No, we’re not going back yet. It’s still early. How about we go to see the training field?”

Nancy had long wanted to see her drive a racing car. Thus, when Natalia made this suggestion, her eyes sparkled and she nodded feverishly as she said, “Great!”

Therefore, the two hailed a cab and went to the training field.

Natalia had been to this training field that Sam told her to go several times before.

But at that time, she spent most of her days in the training field of the Dragon Club.

Thus, she hardly ever visited the training fields on the outside.

For Natalia, this chance to revisit a favorite haunt was a precious experience.

The training field was not far away from the restaurant that they just dined in. It only took them a 20-minute ride to get there.

They saw a row of eye-catching buildings ahead in the distance.

On the rooftop of the greyish buildings erected two large English letters—M.G.

Natalia knew M. G was the name of this place.

She had heard that M.G. also had its own racing team, which had ranked top several times. But it was different from other racing teams. Unlike the Dragon Club, whose members all had different pursuits, its members were racing just because they were interested in it.

This kind of training field was ideal for Natalia.

After all, given her status, her presence would invite unnecessary misunderstandings and trouble if she went to any of the training fields owned by famous clubs.

But M.G was a neutral place, so she could practice without being distracted.

As Sam had informed the staff there of their arrival, when they entered the field, someone immediately came over to greet them.

“Hello. Are you Mrs. Dawson and Miss Mayes?”

Natalia nodded.

Seven years had passed. Her temperament and appearance had both changed a little.

Plus, the people working here were not the same group seven years ago. Thus, it was normal that the staff member didn’t recognize her.

“Nice to meet you. I heard that you’ve rented this place for car racing practice for two days, right?”

Natalia said, “Yes. Can we go in and take a look?”

“Of course. Follow me.”

Then, the staff member led them to the back.

The front area was a row of greyish buildings, while the back area was empty, which was used for car racing.

On the left side parked a line of assorted racing cars. Natalia recognized several of them, which were champions’ cars that had shone in many competitions.

Natalia picked a model that she liked and handed her stuff to Nancy. She told Nancy to sit on the side, then grabbed the car key and climbed into the car.

“Natalia, come on!”

Nancy whooped for her from the side.

Nancy looked at her with a smile and winked.

Then, she started the engine. The car soon dashed out like an arrow.

Natalia’s biggest advantage in racing was that she was really fast.

She drove fast when the car was on a straight road as well as taking a turn. The car raced swiftly and steadily. She was indeed an excellent driver!

Felix once said that Natalia was highly gifted in racing.

Though she didn’t start to learn racing until she was 18, she could drive better and steadier than many who started since they were 13.

Admittedly, Natalia was a genius in racing.

On the Z-shaped track, Natalia’s car swerved smoothly and gracefully like a falling leaf.

Every time the car turned, drifted, or raced straightly forward, it manifested her unique dexterousness.

Nancy, who was sitting in the audience stand, watched her race with rounded eyes!

This was the first time she saw Natalia speed driving!

She found that Natalia was fricking cool!

Natalia looked like a gentle orchid when she was working in her office. But now, in a car flying on the racing track, she was undoubtedly a hot wild rose!

She was fast, passionate, and spirited.

Nancy felt that her blood boiled as Natalia's car made every movement.

Sitting in the audience stand, Nancy watched the race with excitement. She was dying to scream. But the place was very quiet because not many people were around. So she was too embarrassed to shout.

"Aaaaah! She's so cool!"

"How can she be so awesome! She is the best!"

"I'm mesmerized!"

When Nancy was overwhelmed by exultation, Natalia felt a little depressed in the car.

As she expected, her skills had become rusty because she hadn't practiced for too long.

She almost made mistakes when making several moves. Fortunately, this was just a practice. But if this occurred in a top competition for professionals, she would become a laughingstock.

Natalia didn't mind losing. But if everyone laughed at her... emm, that would be humiliating.

She didn't want to lose, nor did she want to be humiliated.

Therefore, in the only two days she got, she needed to work extra harder.

With that in mind, that day, she didn't stop practicing until it was almost midnight.

She had practiced for a good four hours. When she climbed out of the car, her clothes were soaked in sweat.

Nancy was thrilled at first. But as the practice went on, she began to feel sorry for Natalia.

She was an experienced racer who had won so many competitions. But when she started with this again after years, she still had to put in so much effort.

God knew how hard she worked when she just entered the game at 18 before she climbed to the top.

Most people only saw the glory and success the genius gained. Yet, they never knew how they sweated and toiled behind the scene.

No genius could make it solely with the gift God bestowed. Success could only be achieved through hard work.

One's talent was only a ticket to the championship other than the ability to win the laurel.

Every person who was lucky enough to get to the top was the combination of one percent talent and ninety-nine percent of perspiration.????????????????

Chapter 700 Making a Deal with Him

At the thought of this, Nancy felt even sorrier for Natalia.

Seeing Natalia climb out of the car, she hurriedly came up to her.

She handed her a towel and a bottle of water that she had prepared for her, then asked with concern, "Natalia, how are you? You must be exhausted."

Natalia looked at her and shook her head with a smile on her face. "I'm fine."

She was drained physically, but the sense of achievement she got had eased this kind of weariness.

At first, the practice did not go very smoothly.

But after four hours of practice, she felt much better. Though she was not back in her peak form yet, she had at least made great progress tonight.

She believed that she could definitely be at her best again as long as she continued to work hard in the next two days.

With that in mind, Natalia asked, "What time is it now?"

Nancy checked the time and said, "Just past midnight."

Natalia nodded and said, "It's late. Let's go."

"Okay."

The two packed their things, returned the car to that receptionist, and were ready to leave.

But the receptionist who led them in before was dumbstruck by Natalia's performance.

He gawked at the woman in front of her in disbelief. His mouth was left wide open. One could even put an egg in it.

"What, what is your name? Have I watched you speed drive before?"

Natalia smiled. On second thought, she decided not to tell him her old name in the club.

Smiling gracefully, she said, "My name is Natalia Dawson."

Seven was her name in the Dragon Club. But unless it was in a racing competition, she preferred to introduce herself with her real name.

Because of her frank personality, many people adored her.

The receptionist pondered for a moment.

He didn't think this name had appeared in any of those big competitions.

Thus, he reckoned that Natalia was just a new brilliant talent in the business and didn't pose more questions.

He gave her a thumbs-up and complimented, "Your driving skill is amazing. You can absolutely get a trophy if you enter a contest."

Natalia smiled and said, "Thank you. You're flattering me."

After that, the two departed.

It was already almost 1 in the morning when they arrived at the hotel.

The long practice had consumed a lot of Natalia's energy. She was hungry.

Nancy ordered some light takeout for both of them.

After eating, Natalia took a shower. It was 2 a.m. when she lay down in bed.

She was worn out. Due to the jet lag and the heavy practice, every bit of her energy had been sapped.

However, lying in bed at this moment, she found sleep had eluded her.

She picked up her phone and saw the text message Archie sent to her at half-past eight in the evening. He asked her if he had had dinner and what she was doing.

As she was driving at that time, she couldn't reply in detail, so she just told him she already had dinner and was hanging out with Nancy.

Perhaps afraid of disturbing her, Archie just reminded her to stay safe and sent no more messages.

She closed the text message and began to check the album on her phone.

These years, she, Archie, and their two children had taken a lot of pictures together.

Their photos filled her album.

Just by looking at the sweet family in the pictures, Natalia felt warm and happy.

Her lips quietly curved into a smile.

Right at this time, a text message popped up and interrupted her reverie.

It was from Felix.

Natalia's face fell at once. She clicked the message open and saw that it was the contestant information of the Flying Competition.

In a competition, learning about your rivals was also of great importance.

If she knew others racing styles and habits, she might be able to use the information to her advantage and defeat them.

As the saying goes, knowing the enemy and yourself, you can fight a hundred battles and win them all. That was exactly what Natalia was going to do.

She looked through the list and saw two veteran contestants she knew from the past.

When she was at the peak of her racing career, the two were subdued by her and never had a chance to fight back.

It was not until she quit the game and returned to her country that they began to shine and won competitions for years on end.

The others were new. She only saw them on TV but hadn't met them in the flesh.

Nevertheless, she had a rough understanding of their racing styles.

She did some calculations in mind and felt that it was not too hard for her to win this time. After musing for a moment, she found Felix's number and made a call.

It was already morning in Ambario.

Felix was having breakfast at home.

He was not a morning person. But he would get up at the latest by 10. At this time, he was sitting at the dining table, enjoying the breakfast his assistant just bought for him.

When his phone rang as Natalia called, he arched a brow in surprise.

Next, a tiny smile climbed onto his lips, and he pressed "Accept".

"Seven, you're calling me at the stroke of midnight. Is it that you miss me so much that you can't fall asleep?"

Hearing Felix's preposterous joke, Natalia couldn't help but roll her eyes.

Unwilling to bicker with him, she cut to the chase. "Hey, I have something to ask you."

Felix leisurely took a drink of milk before saying, "What is it?"

"Nine years ago, when you rescued me from the ocean, you mentioned those who attempted to kill me had a flame-shaped tattoo on the back of their necks. Is it true?"

Felix's hand holding the glass quivered.

A wicked look fled across his eyes. He then chortled and said, "Why are you asking about this now?"

"Felix, I want to track down those people. I wanna know who tried to kill me and what on earth happened in those months that have slipped my mind? I'm doing a favor for you. Can you help me in return and tell me everything you know?"

Felix didn't say a word for a while.

His slender fingers gently rubbed the edge of the glass. His eyes were fixed on it, a dark look flickering on his face.

"Seven, that was all in the past. Your life is so good now. Why bother to go after the so-called truth? Does it really matter?"

Natalia compressed her lips.

She knew Felix was rather tight-lipped.

Though he seemed causal, sloppy, and unrestrained, in truth, he was very calculating. No one could figure out what he was thinking.

It would be impossible to make him cough up a secret without any leverage.

Thinking of this, Natalia lowered her eyelashes and abruptly inquired, "Why do you want me to win this year's Flying Competition?"

Felix chuckled and said, "Seven, are you looking for some leverage to make a deal with me?"

Natalia froze.

Felix was, after all, her mentor. In front of him, she couldn't even hide her thoughts.

She sighed with resignation and admitted, "Yeah. I want to make a deal with you, but I don't have any leverage. I can only exchange the championship of this competition for the information you know. I don't know how important this competition is to you. All I know is that the 20 percent dividend you've offered me is not really a big deal to me. As you know, I'm quite rich now."