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Janet averted her gaze hesitantly, not knowing what to say.

Her first instinct was to doubt it. She scared that she'd only be disappointed if it turned out that they weren't really related.

But this was the closest she had ever gotten to find her real parents.

"O... Okay."

In the end, she had no reason to refuse. Ever since she had cut off all ties with the Lind family, she only had one person left in the world that she considered family—Hannah. She had been hoping she could find her biological parents.

Of course, the rich ladies had overheard their conversation.

Surprise, shock, and embarrassment were written all over their faces.

How could this be?

The plain charity party had unfolded so dramatically.

The rich ladies quickly looked away awkwardly, knowing full well that they had just been insulting Janet moments earlier.

No one dared to say even one more word.

They had all mocked Janet for being born into a low status, but now, it was revealed that she might be the daughter of the White family.

"Wonderful! I'll book an appointment at the hospital soon. Give me your number, Janet. I'll call you as soon as it's settled." Johanna's face lit up with undisguised joy and excitement. She couldn't even take her eyes off of Janet.

What a beautiful girl! She had liked Janet ever since she first saw her on TV. After chatting for a while, she started to feel sorry for the girl.

The way Janet talked about her foster parents was very cautious yet gloomy. It was clear that the Lind family didn't treat her well.

"I'll call my husband as soon as I get back. He'll definitely be thrilled!" Johanna added with a bright smile, clutching her purse tightly.

Janet couldn't help but reciprocate her excitement. She immediately looked around the hall, searching for Ethan.

Ethan had been talking shop with a businessman that had just arrived. As soon as he turned his head, he found that Janet was gone.

Luckily, Ethan was a tall man who stood a head above the crowd. It didn't take long for him to spot the petite figure at the other end of the hall.

Ethan strode over to her and pulled her into his arms in a warm embrace. Nibbling her earlobe playfully, he asked, "What're you up to, Miss? Want me to accompany you?"

As he spoke, he buried his face in her neck. As he breathed in her scent, he was a bit turned on, and his hand wandered to her lower back.

Janet instantly blushed. They were in a public place!

She gently pushed him away and said with a giggle, "Stop it! Anyway, there's something I wanted to tell you."

Seeing that Janet's eyes were slightly teary, Ethan's expression darkened. "Who bullied you?"

Janet shook her head and said seriously, "Ethan, I may have found my biological parents."

She then told him the whole story.

If it turned out to be true, then of course Ethan would be happy for her...

"It sounds a little too good to be true," he said after thinking about it for a while. "But if it was Mrs. White who brought it up, it could be true. She wouldn't prank you. The White family is just as powerful as the Larson family used to be, so she shouldn't have any ulterior motives. I suppose there's nothing we can do but wait for the results of the paternity test."

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The waiting game was always the hardest.

Ethan sat with Janet in one of the corridors of the hospital.

It was mid-January by then and still a bit cold. Johanna wore a dark green maxi dress with a white cashmere coat on top. Her eyes kept darting between Janet and the man next to her as they waited.

Brandon Larson.

She had seen his face in their wedding photos on the news, but she didn't like him very much.

Brandon was indeed a handsome man, but Johanna didn't think that was a good thing. Rich, good-looking men more often than not turned out to be playboys.

And Brandon was rich, handsome, and successful. He had to be a scheming person, right?

On the other hand, Janet was a kind and lovely girl. She could easily have been played by Brandon.

But now that she, Johanna, was here for Janet, she would never let Brandon bully Janet.

Ethan could sense the hostility in Johanna's eyes whenever she looked at him, but considering how she might be his mother-in-law, he could only politely nod to her.

Whenever their eyes met, it was hard to tell which one of them was the dominant one.

Soon, a man with glasses and in his mid-fifties arrived. He looked like a well-read gentleman.

“Jo, I’m sorry I’m late. Traffic was so heavy on the way here.” The man wiped the sweat on his forehead and apologized sincerely.

He wasn’t that handsome. In fact, he looked pretty plain. But his eyes were bright and had a certain look of wisdom to them.

Johanna’s eyes flitted to the man. Although she was scolding him, her eyes were gentle. “How could you be late for something as important as this? I’ll deal with you when we get home!”

“I’m really sorry, Jo. I swear to God that I left early! Can you not punish me today? You just punished me recently...” The man tugged at the corner of Johanna’s clothes like a little kid.

Obviously, Beal White, a business whiz in Barnes, was a hen-pecked husband.

The second Janet saw him, she instantly recognized his eyes—because they looked exactly like hers.

While Beal was trying to butter Johanna up, he noticed Janet’s intent gaze.

At a glance, he felt that Janet had the exact same temperament as Johanna’s. And he had also noticed Janet’s eyes.

He rubbed his hands excitedly and walked up to the girl. “You must be Janet, am I right? Nice to finally meet you.”

“Nice to meet you too, Mr. White.” For some reason, Janet suddenly grew nervous. Ethan had just managed to calm her down, but now, she couldn’t help but want to cry again.

“You look a lot like Jo when she was young. How old are you? You should’ve graduated from college by now, right? Where did you study? Do you have a job now? Do you want to work in Barnes?” Beal was so excited that he kept firing questions at her, one after another.

Seeing the way Brandon’s arm was tightly wrapped around Janet’s shoulder, there was a flicker of annoyance in Beal’s eyes. “Mr. Larson, do you mind giving us some space?”

Beal had no clue what Janet saw in her husband.

Ethan was a little stunned, but he obliged and walked away to give the two a chance to talk.

Seeing that Janet looked a bit flustered hearing all these questions, Johanna patted Beal’s shoulder. “Give our daughter some time to think before you ask more questions!”

Beal scratched the back of his head and smiled sheepishly. “Okay, okay. We can talk later. Let’s do the paternity test first.”

Ethan and Johanna had decided prior to do the paternity test at Frank’s hospital.

And to err on the side of caution, Johanna had also sent another blood sample to their own hospital in Barnes.

After the paternity test was done, the Whites asked Frank nervously, “When will the results come out?”

Frank took off his mask and said calmly, "Today."

"Oh, my God! That's great!" Johanna exclaimed, holding Beal's hand excitedly. "I don't want to go home and come back later for this. Let's just wait here."

Of course, the obedient Beal agreed.

"We should wait as well." Ethan knew that his wife was feeling extremely anxious now. She wasn't a talkative person to begin with, and she usually fell completely silent in important situations like this.

"Okay," Janet said softly, her hands trembling slightly.

It wasn't until late afternoon when Frank approached them with the report.

"The results are ready. Please follow me to my office."

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"The result of paternity test has proven that Janet is indeed your biological daughter." In fact, when Frank first saw the match rate between the two was as high as 99.8%, he couldn't help but be in awe of Ethan's wife.

The White family was considered one of the most influential families in the country. They had the most contacts, the most resources, and the most enterprises.

Although the Lester family in Seacisco was by no means weak, it was not as influential as the White family. They had become so strong thanks to years and years of accumulated businesses and connections. Few families were as influential as this one.

As Frank continued to discuss the results of the paternity test, Ethan noticed that the Whites had been looking at Janet for quite a while with tears in their eyes.

Beal stood up first and stumbled over to Janet, throwing his arms around her clumsily.

The middle-aged man disregarded any semblance of dignity and burst into tears.

Afraid that she might frighten Janet off if she broke down as well, Johanna simply stood aside and simply patted Janet on the back, covering her mouth with a handkerchief as she sobbed.

Janet, on the other hand, was stunned. Finally, the sounds of her parents' sobs brought her back to reality, and she too couldn't help but burst into tears.

They had finally found each other after so many years.

They had only met their daughter once before, right after she was born. Naturally, Beal had a lot to say to his daughter, with whom he had lost contact ever since.

"How have you been all these years, my dear child? I'm so sorry. Your mother and I weren't able to find you until now. This is all our fault." Beal took off his glasses and wiped them with the hem of his shirt. When he put them back on, his eyes were still tearful and red. "I heard that the Lind family adopted you."

He had investigated the Lind family before he came here. Although the Linds were not that big a family, they were well-off.

At the mention of that particular family name, Johanna's nostrils flared in anger. "There is not a single good Lind," she snorted.

After all, judging from the way Janet spoke of her adoptive family, she didn't have a good time with the Lind family.

"Bernie and Fiona adopted me and it was also true that we had some issues, but that doesn't matter anymore. I've cut ties with them." Janet wiped the tears on her face.

She still wasn't used to the idea of her biological parents.

Johanna hugged Janet tightly and said, "It's okay, my child. If you don't want to talk about it, then don't."

Johanna stroked Janet's hair gently. Her heart ached at the sight of her daughter crying.

With a small smile, she said, "Okay. Anyway, the past is in the past. I have a good life now. I'm married to a wonderful man."

She looked at Ethan affectionately and added, "My husband treats me very well."

Only then did Beal and Johanna turn to look at Ethan seriously.

They knew that Ethan was the president of the Larson Group, but they just didn't really care. Even the CEO of such a successful corporation was a nobody in their eyes.

"We can see that he is... nice to you." Johanna smiled, but the smile didn't reach her eyes. Truth be told, she had been thinking about Brandon, and he was a thorn in her side.

They finally managed to find their daughter after all these years, but she was married. That was absolutely unacceptable!

No matter how excellent this man was, Johanna still felt like he was taking her daughter away from her all over again. And for that, she didn't like Ethan one bit.

Beal probably harbored the same thought for he had been cold to Ethan ever since they met.

Ethan knew what was on their minds, but he knew it wasn't the right time to bring it up, so he just smiled helplessly.

Frank, who was standing in front of them, found the scene interesting. Now that Ethan had such difficult in-laws, he was bound to have a hard time in the future.

Gradually, Janet calmed down. But many things plagued her mind. The most pressing question was: how could she have been replaced back then?

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This was the last thing that Johanna wanted to talk about.

She had been depressed for years, knowing that her daughter had been replaced. She even considered taking her own life, but Beal had stopped her.

The White family had a lot of connections in Barnes. They had asked anyone and everyone they could to look for their missing daughter, but there was no sign of her.

Gradually, Johanna came to believe that she would never reunite with her daughter. Beal, on the other hand, didn't lose hope and suggested they search in other cities. After all, Barnes was a metropolis and lots of people came and went every year, so it was possible that their daughter wasn't in Barnes anymore.

Now, they finally found her—their long lost daughter.

Johanna looked at Beal hesitantly. Beal didn't say anything and gave her a reassuring look.

Holding Janet's hands, Johanna bit her lower lip nervously. She took deep breaths, but she was so emotional that she couldn't squeeze a single word out.

Finally, Beal looked at Janet and sighed heavily. "When you were born, there was an earthquake of unprecedented magnitude in Barnes. The whole city was in chaos. The hospital collapsed, and all the expecting mothers and infants were trapped inside. Your mother, who was staying in a VIP ward at the time, was moved with the other mothers during the evacuation. The situation was a complete mess at the time and she had no idea that you were replaced. Later, when we did find out, we investigated the matter and found that a couple took advantage of the chaotic situation to replace you with their daughter and took you away."

Tears rolling down her cheeks, Johanna lowered her head guiltily and covered her mouth with the handkerchief in her hand. In between sobs, she said, "It's all my fault. I wasn't able to protect you. If I did, you wouldn't have been replaced. You were born without birthmarks. I didn't get to see you clearly because I was too weak and therefore didn't memorize what you looked like."

Beal hurried to comfort his wife. "Don't blame yourself. All babies look alike when they were just born. It's difficult to tell them apart."

Janet patted Johanna's hand, too. "You've found me now and that's what matters. Truth be told, I never wanted to look for my biological parents before. I always thought that they had deliberately abandoned me."

Now that she knew that Johanna and Beal never meant to lose her, she didn't feel unwanted anymore.

Johanna threw her arms around Janet and wept tears of joy. Janet had grown up to be such a gentle and considerate young lady. "I'm so glad we found you, my child. My life would've been meaningless otherwise."

Janet could keenly sense that her mother really cared about her. Thinking of the baby who had taken her place, she asked, "How is the girl now?"

"Her name is Lila. She lives in Barnes with us now. Your mother and I didn't know that she wasn't ours at first, so we raised her as our own." Beal sighed.

After all, the baby girl had looked a lot like baby Janet. Beal and Johanna had no idea that the girl they raised wasn't theirs.

It wasn't until Lila had a blood test that they realized that something was wrong. Beal's blood type was A, and Johanna's was O, while Lila's was B—there was no possible way she was their biological daughter.

So they secretly conducted a paternity test and found out that indeed, Lila wasn't related to them by blood. They launched an in-depth investigation into the matter. That was when they found out that their baby had been replaced amidst the chaotic aftermath of the earthquake.

"People can be really evil. Even the clothes and wristbands on the two babies were switched, so it obviously was not just a simple mistake. I knew what my baby was wearing and that was why we took that girl with us." Johanna sneered angrily. Just thinking about the evildoers who had stolen her daughter made her want to tear them to pieces.

It was because of them that she wasn't able to see her own child in more than twenty years.

Lila, on the other hand, had been treated as Johanna's and Beal's biological daughter for years. They loved her deeply and by the time they realized the mistake, it was too late for them to leave her. Thus, they continued to treat Lila as their own while secretly looking for their real daughter.

A few years ago, they had managed to track down Lila's biological parents, but the evil couple had abandoned Janet as a baby and had no idea where she was.

With her lips pursed, Janet asked warily, "Has Lila met her biological parents?"

"Lila is still with us. She has no idea that she's not our biological daughter..." Johanna sighed heavily.

These problems were not easy to solve.

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Janet could tell that her parents loved Lila very much.

Speaking about her, Beal and Johanna exchanged embarrassed glances.

"We hate Lila's real parents. They took you from us so that their daughter could be raised by a rich family. If it weren't for the kind soul who took you in, you might've died in the streets. You were separated from us for over twenty years because of this evil couple... If none of that happened, you would've been raised as the daughter of the White family. You wouldn't have had to suffer so much with the Lind family." As she spoke, Johanna looked at Janet with guilt and pity.

Fortunately, her dear daughter had grown up to be a wonderful young woman. Otherwise, she would've destroyed the couple who kidnapped Janet.

After some slight hesitation, Johanna continued, "Your father and I have been thinking. It's true that Lila had inadvertently stolen your life, but she's innocent. She was still a baby at the time. It wasn't her fault her parents swapped her out with you. Besides, we love Lila, and we would never be so cruel as to kick Lila out now that we've found you. But we want to listen to what you have to say on the matter."

Obviously, Johanna was partial to Janet.

Maybe it was because Janet was her real daughter, or perhaps it was because she had grown incredibly fond of the young woman.

Whenever they met, Johanna found herself wanting to give Janet the whole world.

After mulling it over for a while, Janet realized that she didn't want much. She just wanted to be with Beal and Johanna, her biological parents.

"You raised her. I understand that it's difficult for you to let her go. Let's just say... I have a sister. Besides, I already feel lucky that you found me. I never would've thought of asking for anything more,"

Janet concluded with a gracious smile.

Indeed, she didn't want much.

She just wanted her loved ones to be safe and sound and for those close to her to be happy and healthy. Now that she was reunited with her parents, she felt more than content.

In fact, in her eyes, her life was already perfect.

But Janet's words only made Johanna feel guiltier.

What on earth had her daughter gone through to become so sensible?

At home, Lila was always spoiled. Whenever she was met with any displeasure, she would complain.

"Is that really what you want?" Johanna pressed her worriedly.

Janet nodded firmly.

"I've never met Lila, and she didn't do anything to hurt me. I don't hate her. I wouldn't mind if Lila remains a White. We can be sisters. I'm already more than happy to have found you. I doubt Lila's presence will be an obstacle to our relationship. Mom, Dad, you'll always be my parents."

Hearing this, Ethan's expression darkened.

Janet was the victim here. She didn't have to be so generous.

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"Janet, you're too considerate," Beal said with a sigh.

He and Johanna were happy to see that Janet had grown up to be such a sensible young woman.

After all, they didn't want to abandon Lila. She might've been a little arrogant and domineering, but she was still their daughter, albeit not biologically.

But Johanna was partial to Janet. She looked at her husband firmly and said, "We need to tell Lila the truth when we get back: that she's not our biological daughter, and that Janet is. Then, we can make an announcement to the public. We have to bring Janet back as the daughter of the Whites."

Johanna held her daughter's hands and looked at her face intently. Janet looked so much like her when she was younger. "If I don't do this, it will be too unfair to you. You've suffered enough."

Beal supported Johanna's decision, but he was a bit hesitant. "Lila's a spoiled child. She has never experienced any setbacks in her life. If we tell her the truth now, I'm afraid it will be a big blow to her."

Johanna sneered icily. "Do we have to make Janet suffer because of her inability to cope? We're not abandoning Lila. She is still our daughter and we will still treat her the same way. Anyway, somebody's going to be unhappy either way. And I'd rather it be Lila than Janet. We owe Janet too much. It's her turn to be spoiled."

In Johanna's youth, she had become famous in Barnes for being a decisive and sharp-tongued female entrepreneur. She was still that same fierce woman even after decades.

"If Lila finds out she's not our real daughter, do you think she'll look for her biological parents?" Beal asked warily.

Johanna looked at Beal as though she was looking at an idiot. "We've spoiled Lila for years. Do you really think she'll go looking for her real parents?"

Beal fell silent and didn't say anything more.

Janet couldn't help but look at her mother with awe. She was quick-witted and sharp-tongued, and she spoke with a certain authority.

Ethan also found that Johanna was much smarter than he had imagined and that she was very sensible.

Janet, on the other hand, was naive and innocent. With a mother like Johanna looking after Janet, at least she wouldn't be easily cheated in the future.

Later, Beal and Johanna temporarily took residence in Ethan's villa.

The two of them then discussed and made arrangements to take Janet back to Barnes, intending to publicly announce that she was their biological daughter.

They were engaged in a heated discussion and didn't even think to ask Ethan for his opinion. Rather, they just ignored his presence.

Janet looked at Ethan questioningly. "You haven't talked much today."

Before, Ethan had made it clear that he wouldn't let her leave him.

Ethan sighed helplessly. He smoothed Janet's hair and said gently, "What can I do? You've finally found your biological parents. I would never want to get in the way of that."

In fact, he had already made up his mind. He would let Janet go back to Barnes with her parents. The Larson Group could expand to Barnes so that Ethan could relocate there in the future.

Anyway, Janet was his wife now. She would never leave him.

Janet's face lit up and she smiled at Ethan sweetly. She pinched his cheek and said, "Then I'll go to Barnes. Visit me often, okay?"

Ethan couldn't help but chuckle. He kissed the corner of her lips when Beal and Johanna were looking away and held her in his arms. "I will, my dear wife."

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That night, Janet went back to Barnes with her parents.

Barnes was known as the capital of ancient culture. Unlike Seacisco which was a developed, urbanized city, Barnes carried with it a long history of cultural heritage.

The White family's mansion sat quaintly in the middle of a classical-style garden. The mansion was huge, and the stone sculptures flanking the grand door gave a glimpse at just how rich and powerful the Whites were.

"Your grandfather lived in this house. I wanted us to move out before, but your father didn't agree. He's too sentimental." Johanna noticed that Janet kept looking around the mansion with wide eyes, so she thought that Janet didn't like it. "If you want to live in an apartment or a villa, we can move out."

Janet waved her hand quickly. "No, it's okay. I've never lived in a place like this before. I've only ever seen it on TV. Now that I'm actually standing in it, I just wanted to take a closer look at its details."

Johanna looked around the mansion alongside Janet and her expression softened. With a loving smile, she said gently, "It will all be yours in the future. You'll have plenty of time to look around."

"Mom, what on earth are you saying?" A sweet voice interrupted the conversation between Janet and Johanna.

Janet turned in the direction of the voice.

A woman in a pink floral dress and a pale grey sweater was standing in the yard.

The woman's eyes and brows were somewhat similar to that of Janet's. They both looked smart and charming, but there was a hint of arrogance in the woman's eyes.

Johanna frowned immediately when she saw the girl. "Lila! You have to put on a coat whenever you leave the house! It's January now—the coldest time of the year!"

Lila pouted and threw herself into Johanna's arms, acting very much like a spoiled child. "Mom, I just wanted to see you sooner. The servant told me you were finally back, so I came as fast as I could. What have you and Dad been up to these days? I didn't see you at the office."

She peeked at Janet and asked curiously, "Who's that? You never bring strangers home."

Johanna placed her hands on Lila's shoulders and pushed her away firmly. With a hardened expression, she said, "Let's talk inside. Dad and I have to tell you something important."

Lila frowned. She obviously picked up on Johanna's indifference to her. Something was definitely off.

She took a sidelong glance at Janet before nodding and following her mother inside the house.

"What?! Impossible! Is this a prank? Mom, Dad, you can stop teasing me now."

Upon hearing the whole story, Lila immediately sprang out of her seat indignantly.

She couldn't accept the cruel truth. In the span of mere minutes, she had become a child who was brought home by mistake instead of the esteemed daughter of the Whites she was a moment earlier.

Johanna picked up the cup of tea on the table and took a sip.

She was afraid that Lila would blame herself if she told her that her parents had switched the babies out on purpose, so she just said that it was all a big mistake.

"Tell me you're joking!" Lila's eyes suddenly brimmed with tears.

Her carefree life was about to come to an end.

Beal and Johanna felt bad when they saw that Lila was about to cry.

Pretending to be relaxed, Beal walked up to Lila and patted her shoulder comfortingly. "Lila, we only told you this because we think you deserve to know the truth. We won't interfere with your choice. If you want to remain our daughter, you can stay as our adopted daughter. Janet was lost to us for too long. We have to take her back into our family."

Lila gritted her teeth, looked at Beal angrily, and spat, "If you really cared about me, you wouldn't have told me the truth."

Without waiting for a response, she stumbled and turned around to storm off. Suddenly, her eyes met Janet's.

This woman had stolen her parents.

After giving Janet a hard look, Lila ran to her room.

The minute she was gone, Beal and Johanna sighed.

They knew that the truth would hurt Lila, but they had no choice.

Janet was a little worried about her new sister. "We should go to her. What if she goes to extremes?"

"Don't worry. Lila just needs time to accept the truth. Just leave her alone for now." Johanna waved her hand dismissively. She knew Lila well.

Their priority now was to announce to the public that Janet was their long-lost biological daughter.

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"I've asked a maid to prepare your room. You can use this one for the time being." Johanna personally escorted Janet to her designated room.

The decoration was quaint and a little old-fashioned, but there were many plush dolls in it, which gave the room a strange and funny vibe.

Looking at all the plushies, Johanna smiled awkwardly, "I didn't know what you'd like, so I ended up buying all these dolls..."

In Johanna's mind, Janet was the baby she had lost all those years ago. They were practically strangers to each other now.

Janet looked at the dolls and chuckled softly. "I've never had so many toys before. Thank you, Mrs. White."

For now, she couldn't bring herself to call Johanna "Mom" yet.

Seeing that Janet didn't seem to have a problem with the room, Johanna breathed a sigh of relief and smiled happily. "I won't force you. Just take your time. Well, you just stay here and make yourself comfortable. Your father and I have discussed, and we have decided to hold a big party for the announcement as soon as possible."

"There's no rush..." Janet said falteringly, trying to stop Johanna.

She wasn't used to her new status as the daughter of the White family, but Johanna and Beal couldn't wait to tell the world.

Noticing the embarrassment on Janet's face, Johanna reached for her hand and said sincerely, "You are our daughter. You'll have to get used to it one day. Your father and I were talking and... We were hoping to have your surname changed. Since the Lind family has nothing to do with you now, you don't have to keep their surname anymore."

Janet nodded. She didn't care about the Lind family name anyway now that she married to Ethan.

All of Barnes's upper class was in an uproar the next morning.

The White family had just announced that their daughter, who had been missing for over twenty years, was finally found. Johanna revealed Janet's identity to the public and changed the latter's surname to White.

The White family invited all the celebrities and influential people in Barnes to their dinner party.

That night, they all gathered in the White Cloud Club.

The security of this banquet was strict, and Johanna specially ordered that no stray entertainment reporter was allowed inside.

Those kinds of reporters tended to cover nonsense. She didn't want her daughter to be scrutinized on the Internet, so she took all the necessary precautions to avoid it.

It was the first time Janet had attended such a grand party. And she was under the spotlight. Johanna introduced her to many esteemed guests.

Throughout the entire night, Janet heard countless names.

"Is it tiring?" Seeing the exhausted look on Janet's face, Beal gave her a slice of cake, feeling sorry for her.

Over the past few days, Johanna had taken up all of Janet's time. Beal felt a little sad that he hadn't had a good talk with his daughter yet.

Janet subtly rubbed her aching ankles. She was wearing a pair of 3-inch heels tonight.

She forced a smile and said, "I am fine. Mr. White, your wife is awesome. She's still so energetic even after chatting with all these rich people."

Beal looked at the energetic Johanna in the distance and smiled. "Let me tell you a secret. Your mother actually hates those rich ladies and often speaks ill of them. The only reason why she still talks to them is to keep up with the latest gossip."

Janet couldn't help but chuckle. Beal held a finger to his lips and winked at her. "Don't tell her I told you her little secret, or else she'll kick me out of the bedroom tonight."

Janet nodded and promised him solemnly.

She suddenly envied Lila. Growing up in such a loving family, she probably had a very happy childhood and youth.

Beal had only chatted with Janet for a few minutes before he was surrounded again by many guests.

Janet didn't want to disturb their talk, so she retreated to the yard. She took this opportunity to call Ethan.

"Guess who's calling?" Janet said sweetly.

"Let me guess. It's my wife, isn't it? It's been a whole day since you last talked to me. I thought you were too busy having a good time in Barnes and forgot all about me," Ethan said in a pouty voice.

He sounded almost resentful.

Janet chuckled helplessly. "Ethan, you're so childish."

She explained, "I've been so busy at the banquet. People have been taking my photo all day long. I really didn't have the time, honey."

Being called "honey" instantly dispelled the gloom in Ethan's heart. He sighed and secretly scolded himself for being so soft.

"Okay. I forgive you. When are you coming back? I miss you."

Janet blushed slightly, feeling warm in her heart. "I left yesterday. It's only been a day, Ethan."

Before Ethan could say anything, Janet heard her name being called.

"Janet? What're you doing here? The party's far from over." Johanna noticed that Janet wasn't in the hall so she went out to look for her.

Janet quickly said goodbye to Ethan and then hung up the phone. Johanna dragged her back to the party.

Because both Johanna and Beal felt guilty for the lost time, they wanted to make it up to Janet in one go. They spent every waking minute with Janet, buying her all kinds of things.

Johanna in particular was very excited. She would take Janet out to go shopping, and always end up buying all the things she laid her eyes on. Their shopping spree was all very exhausting for Janet.

Janet's parents were so immersed in the excitement of getting their real daughter back that they completely forgot about Lila, who had locked herself in her room sulkily.

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Lila leaned against the door, trying to listen in.

Hearing the raucous laughter downstairs, she grew even angrier. She threw herself on the bed and tears fell out of her eyes again.

In the past two days, there had already been a lot of news about Janet.

Some news outlets even compared her with Janet.

There was gossip saying that she was not as beautiful as Janet. Some even accused her of stealing Janet's life.

"Why me?" More tears streamed down Lila's face. She threw her phone onto the ground, her eyes wide open and furious. She wanted nothing else but to grab hold of Janet's neck and strangle her.

A few days ago, she was still the only daughter of the rich and powerful White family in Barnes, but now she suddenly had turned into some sort of imposter.

Lila couldn't wrap her mind around it. She was extremely unwilling to accept it. She even began to believe that what Johanna and Beal did was extremely unfair to her.

They announced to the world that Janet was their biological daughter. Obviously, this was a huge insult to her.

Lila's phone then rang.

It happened to be a call from one of her best friends.

"What's going on? Who's that Janet girl? Why did you suddenly become your family's adopted daughter?"

Lila had a splitting headache and shouted angrily at the phone, "Stop yammering about Janet! Just hearing her name makes me very angry!"

"So the matter's true. Where are you right now? Are you at the White's house, or your biological parents' home?" It seemed like her best friend only cared about Lila's status.

Lila almost became crazy. She learned straight from Johanna that her biological parents were just ordinary people. She had been treated well by the White couple for so many years. It was impossible for her to go back to her real parents and live a hard life!

"Don't worry about it. My dad and mom said that I'm very much still their daughter." Lila smiled awkwardly and lied through her teeth.

She knew clearly that even if she stayed in the White family shamelessly, she would only be an adopted daughter. She was no longer the legitimate daughter of the White family and staying due to that would be very embarrassing indeed.

According to the sounds downstairs these days, she figured out that Beal and Johanna treated Janet very well.

Her best friend tried telling her words of comfort over the phone. "That's really great. Your parents must be tolerant of you."

Are they?

If they were really tolerant, they wouldn't have taken Janet back and let Janet take away everything that was truly hers.

Thinking about this, Lila felt that it was extremely unfair to her. She resented that God was unfair toward her. At first, He gave her the identity of the daughter of a rich family that everyone envied, but suddenly took it all back.

She hung up the phone with a downcast expression on her face and cried for several days in her room. She cried at night deliberately. The noise of the party downstairs in the daytime was so loud that even if she cried aloud, nobody would be able to hear her.

However, though she had been crying for a few days straight, no one came to see her except the servants who came to deliver her something to eat every day.

Lila had a feeling that if she did nothing but cry, she would be forgotten by Beal and Johanna pretty soon. She finally calmed herself down and began to think about her next plan of action.

Lila would never go back to live a hard life with her biological parents. That was why she decided to stay with the White family. After all, she had a close relationship with Beal and Johanna for over 20 years, which Janet didn't have.

Furthermore, she had been well educated since she was a child, so she must be much better at her demeanor than Janet. She could still win Beal and Johanna's love back. It would only be a matter of time before they saw the light.

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After mulling everything over in her head, Lila finally left her room.

This was the first time she had taken the initiative to go out of her room in the last few days.

She headed down the stairs and could make out her parents watching a TV drama in the living room with Janet.

Lila could see that Johanna was moved to tears by the scene in the TV drama. She was wiping her face as she held Janet. "It's obvious that the heroine in this drama is so pitiful."

Janet comforted her with a warm smile on her face. "This is just a TV show. It's all fake. This kind of thing never happens in real life."

Beal peeled the oranges for them as he said, "Your mother happens to be a very sentimental woman. Whenever she sees a baby being taken away from their parents in a drama, she'll go on to cry hysterically."

Johanna placed a piece of orange into her mouth and glared daggers at Beal. "Stop blowing my cover in front of our daughter."

The family was sharing a moment of intimacy right then.

Lila felt that she was intruding on their moment. She endured the bitterness in her heart and went over calmly to them. Her eyes were red and swollen and her face was wet with tears.

"Mom, Dad, what TV drama are you watching? Your discussion of it is so intense."

Hearing the sound of her voice, Beal and Johanna turned their heads around. Seeing the pitiful look on Lila's face, they began to pity her.

Johanna quickly pulled out two pieces of tissue from the table, got up, and made her way over to comfort Lila. "If you're unhappy, just tell us. Don't keep it in your heart. No matter what happens in the end, we're still family."

At the start of all this, Johanna wanted to take the initiative to comfort Lila. But after thinking it over for a while, she thought it would be better to let Lila digest the matter by herself. Lila was no longer a child anymore. She should be able to deal with it by herself.

Lila nodded while tears streamed down her face at the same time. She embraced Johanna tightly and said, "Mom, I don't want to leave you. Even though I now know I have my biological parents, I haven't seen them for over twenty years. We don't know each other and I don't want them back. I've always regarded you as my biological parents. I'm crying because I really don't want to leave you."

Beal got up and walked over to her. He patted Lila on the back and tried to comfort her. "Your mother and I never want you to leave us either. If you want to stay, then just continue to live with us. You're still our daughter no matter what."

He believed in his heart that Lila's biological parents were not good people. If she really went back to them, she wouldn't be able to live a good life in that kind of family.

Lila peered up at them happily. She sniffled and turned to look at Janet with tears all over her face. "Then we'll be sisters from now on, Janet."

Janet smiled and said, "Yes."

"That's really great." Johanna was happy to hear that now they were going to be one big happy family. She held Janet's hand and said affectionately to her, "Lila was born a little earlier than you were. That means she'll be your elder sister from now on."

After pausing for a few seconds, Janet opened her mouth to say, "All right."

Lila smiled and promised Johanna, "Okay, Mom, I'll go on to take good care of Janet in the future."

At first, Janet thought that this was going to be a happy ending for them, but out of the corner of her eye, she found that the way Lila looked at her didn't seem to be as friendly as what she showed on the surface.

However, Janet didn't say anything in front of Johanna. The last thing she wanted to do was make her sad.

Beal pushed his round-frame glasses back on his nose and had a gentle smile on his face. He placed his arm around Johanna's shoulder and said, "Well, it looks like our family is finally reunited."

Johanna turned to look at him, with tears glistening in her eyes. Finally, their family was complete now.