The Return 141

Chapter 141

The moment Joanna Haynes heard that, her rage hit the roof!

"Bruce Everett, what is your problem?"

"Heh, you're the one who called to ask me out, not the other way round!"

"With this attitude, I don't think there's even a need for us to meet!" With that, Bruce hung up on Joanna.

He was confident.

He was very confident that Joanna would call him again.

"Hello, hello..." Joanna said a few times in exasperation. However, all she could hear was a beep signaling that the line was busy.

Beep, beep, beep!

Bruce's phone vibrated again.

After Bruce had hung up, Joanna was so angry that her face turned purple. She immediately dialed his number again.

Seeing that Joanna had called him again, Bruce pursed his lips and smiled.

He knew that she would call again.

Beep, beep, beep!

His phone kept vibrating but he purposely

hose not to pick up her call.

He wanted to keep

her in

suspense

Soon after...

A familiar tone came

from the other end of the line. "Hello, the number you have dialed is temporarily unavailable..."

Joanna brushed away the stray hair on her forehead before sending a text to Bruce.

"Answer the phone right now, I have something to ask you!"

Bruce looked at the text from Joanna and a hint of mockery appeared on his handsome face.

He could tell that she was anxious!

As long as she was anxious, she would start panicking. When that happens, it would be too easy for him to deal with her.

Beep, beep, beep!

Joanna's third call came quickly!

After his phone vibrated for a while, Bruce slowly picked up the call just as the call was about to end.

"Hello! Speak!"

Joanna took a deep breath and tried hous

best to suppress her anger as she asked, "Bruce Everett, what exactly do you want?"

"What is that supposed to mean? What exactly do you want?"

"Where are you now? I need to see you!" Joanna's tone sounded cold.

Bruce chuckled and replied mockingly with

"Dolb

just because you need to

that I have

can

and the Skywinds Group? Don't you think that what you did

snorted before saying, "I told you, I'm not interested in

you want to talk

was so angry that pain shot through

Everett, can you

"Then what do you

voice was very heavy and he sounded

need to meet

me a reason why

to meet you, there is no other

answered, "Perhaps I can consider meeting you

suppressed her anger. "...

you want it? Hmm?" Bruce's tone carried a hint of

teasing was

```
anger as
girl! You even know that
going to meet me or not? If not, then forget
attitude of a person wanting to meet
might agree to meet you if you asked me
for a few seconds. She tried to make her voice as gentle as possible. "Mr. Everett,
okay?"
other end of the phone, Bruce's lips curled
of any emotion. "Come to my office at three
else?" Joanna asked as she didn't really want to go to
meet him in a public
vile bas ta rd that he is, he
meet me, you'll have
an hour for
Joanna heard that, she gritted her
bas ta
be there at three
he replied, "Alright, I'll be waiting
he hung
excited, and he could feel his blood burning with
month. His body missed her more than his
three
the Everett Group
quickly greeted her,
suppress her emotions as she replied, "I have an appointment with
front desk manager led Joanna to the elevator
swiped the elevator card to bring her straight to the floor where Bruce's
please come
before walking
```

Half a minute later!

at the floor

brought Joanna to the secretary's

he immediately smiled and greeted her, "Hello, Ms.

"Please follow me!"

led Joanna

Three minutes later.

at the

Joanna in and they took a turn past the fitness

in the office. You can go in yourself, Ms.

"Alright, thank you!"

Chapter 142

Joanna Haynes took a deep breath. It was as though her eyes were shooting flames as she pleaded, "Can you not suppress the Haynes Group covertly?"

"What are you saying? We're all businessmen here so there's no such thing as suppression!"

"Besides, you said it yourself. It's the client's freedom to choose who they want to work with!"

"Therefore, you should be questioning the Skywinds and Neorace Groups instead, not me!"

When Joanna heard this, she choked in anger. "Alright! Fine! You win! I'm done!"

After swirling the wine glass a few times, Bruce Everett gently took a sip of the red wine.

He smiled wickedly at Joanna!

He has been doing business since he was fifteen years old.

After so many years, he had long been honed into a cun ning businessman!

It was simply foolish of her to think that she could go against him. She really overestimated herself! He could suffocate her with just a pinch of his fingers!

"This red wine is not bad. Have a taste!" Bruce said as he passed the red wine in his hand to Joanna again.

Joanna was not in the mood for any wine. She took two deep breaths and voiced out angrily, "Bruce Everett, you can do whatever you want to me! But please don't involve any others!"

Bruce looked up and knew that she was referring to Jaydon Grimm. "Who else did I involve?"

As he spoke, Bruce placed the wine glass on the table before he subconsciously loosened his tie.

Joanna sneered as she remarked, "Someone reported Jay's film company for tax evasion. You sent someone to instigate it, right?"

Bruce raised his eyebrow and retorted coldly, "Hmph, do you think that I'm that bored?"

Was there a need to ask? Other than him, there was no one else!

"Also, you were the one who sabotaged the film that Jay was working on so that it couldn't be screened, right?"

Joanna knew Bruce's personality too well!

He could not stand anyone who offended him or went against him.

Anyone who does that would not be able to survive in Greyport.

He would use various vicious methods to take down and take revenge on his opponents or enemies.

"Hehe, what evidence do you have?"

When Joanna heard this, she retorted in contempt, "Evidence? What evidence do I still need?"

A normal person wouldn't dare to touch someone like Jaydon Grimm!

Other than Bruce Everett, there was no way it could be anyone else.

"Of course. Evidence is important in everything! You can't fabricate something out of thin air, can you?"

"I'm a good citizen who follows the law. I've never done anything illicit!"

As he spoke, his pupils constricted as he subconsciously approached her.

else, but his tower abdomen was burning and his heart was

she responded, "Bruce Everett, this is between the two of us so do not involve anyone else! I'd advise you to stop while you're

this, his heart ached slightly. He gritted his teeth and scorned, "Did you come

Joanna raised her head

anything you want to me, but don't take your anger out on Jay. He doesn't know anything at all. What you're doing is

I told you

is the price of your

not a dog or a cat, and you're definitely

no

suddenly stretched out his arm and wrapped it around

out in fear. When she realized what was happening, it

```
arms.
became heavy. "What am I
Bruce held onto her slender waist
"Ah-"
me, don't do
a pity it
a lion's den. It would
Bruce pressed her
over her from all
wine so his mouth had the faint taste
suffocating, and
on her blouse were being unbuttoned one by
let go of
surging anger and his entire body emitted an extremely dangerous
tremble like a frightened rabbit as she struggled in fear and
I beg you, don't
when Bruce feels angry, he always loses
to death. No matter how much she
it before. If you don't listen
me now, and I might
horror, "Bruce, we can always talk things out
taunted, "Hmph, didn't you come here today to
pretending
came to talk to you about the
you for so long. Don't you miss
Bruce said that, he had already
wasn't thinking about anything
this woman who had repeatedly challenged
```

see her break down and beg

go, you lun atic!" Joanna shouted in panic as she used all her strength to hit

too muscular. Her resistance only exacerbated his

me!" Her breathing

mountain and it felt

would happen if she met him

no choice and did not dare

resisted, the more

would 'torture' her like a

as she

anymore and had given in,

let go of her hand

an opening

immediately took out a stun baton from her

then aimed it at

Buzz, buzz!

Chapter 143

"Mr. Everett, are you alright?" Andy hurriedly helped Bruce to the sofa.

The veins on Bruce's temples stood out as his eyes revealed a hint of rage.

Joanna's taser had very high voltage. Ordinary people would fall into a semi-conscious state after being electrocuted.

Luckily, Bruce was fine. At least, he was still conscious.

"Mr. Everett, drink some water!" Andy quickly poured a glass of water and brought it to Bruce's lips worriedly.

Bruce took a few sips of water before his heart rate gradually slowed down. He lay on the sofa for more than ten minutes before the numbness in his body eased.

"Joanna Haynes, you b itch! Just you wait!

I swear I will make you beg me on your knees." Bruce gritted his teeth so hard that his eyes turned red.

Andy came out of the office with lingering fear.

Mark hurriedly walked up and asked, "What happened?"

Andy muttered softly, "I don't know.

After I went in just now, Mr. Everett fell to the ground. It looks like he was attacked by Miss Haynes."

"Huh? Really?" Mark widened his eyes in shock.

Now the Haynes Group was in such a difficult situation. Mark couldn't believe that Joanna actually dared to attack Bruce instead of trying to cozy up to

him.

"Then... was Mr. Everett very angry?"

Andy's face darkened. "Yes, Mr. Everett was really infuriated just now. I was scared to death."

"Miss Haynes is really bold. She actually messed with Mr. Everett. She's already in such a difficult situation. I can't believe that she's still so arrogant."

"I thought she came to deal with Mr. Everett with a honey trap."

"Stop talking. If Mr. Everett hears this, he'll get angry again."

Joanna had run out of the Everett Group.

Even though she had already walked out of the building, her heart was still pounding.

She had almost been raped by Bruce again.

Thinking about the scene just now, she could not help but feel a lingering fear.

She knew Brute well and was aware that he would definitely not let the matter rest.

She walked aimlessly on the street, her mind a mess.

Beep, beep.

Just then, Joanna's phone rang, which startled her.

She took out her phone and looked at it. Fortunately, it was not from Bruce, but Jaydon.

Joanna calmed herself down and answered the call. "Hello, Jay!"

Jaydon's soft and husky voice came from the other end of the line. "Joann, what are you doing?"

not doing anything. What's

haven't seen each other for a few days. Let's

"Okay!"

I'll go to your company to pick you up in

paused. She subconsciously glanced at the surrounding high-rise buildings and felt dizzy for a

you."

the

```
"Yes, I'm outside now."
where are you? I'll pick you up right
"I'm... on the
plight to t
on't we go s
the restaurant?" suggested Jaydon.
go to the
last
there right now. How long
"Twenty minutes."
"Okay, see you later!"
I'll hang
"Okay."
anything else and
mind was a mess now, and she didn't want to go back
Jaydon and
Jaydon quickly took his car key
minx Carmel Basil had been listening next to
was going out with Joanna again, Carmel looked
are you going
his suit jacket
with her. She's now Greyport's most notorious prodigal daughter. Mr. Grimm, don't you think you
should stay
you trying to interfere with my
intimate with these female
was aware that this kind of feeling was different from love. He liked the
love.
did not differentiate so clearly. Most of the time, when
as love. Unknowingly, Carmel believed that Jaydon slept with her because he loved her. She thought
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real love.
Jaydon was nice to another woman, she was
that. I just want t
"Be good!"
"Mr. Grimm...."
put on
Jaydon arrived at
was already there. She had ordered a cup of coffee
sorry I'm
"Joan mile
nine. I just arrived."
smiled at him.
"Have
"I'm
od some
you
not hungry. I just
have a
"That's all for now."
really want to eat
too."
the menu and ordered
waiter responded and quickly went
opposite
could still find that her face
distracted.
her black-framed glasses. "Well, maybe it's
heard this, he subconsciously held her
smile at
```

Chapter 144

In the past month, Joanna had been most afraid of running into reporters.

Although she hid every day, she still came across reporters from time to time.

It made her look like a thief when she went out now.

"Sorry, no comment!" she said.

A media reporter quickly extended a microphone to Jaydon. "Mr. Grimm, may I ask when your movie will be released?

Besides, someone reported your media company for tax evasion. Is that true?"

Jaydon's face darkened. He looked straight at the cameras and said, "Our company has never evaded taxes. The tax bureau is welcome to investigate at any time."

"So when are you and Ms. Haynes getting married?" the reporter asked again.

"What do you think about the relationship between Ms. Haynes and Mr. Everett?"

"Have you always been protecting Ms. Haynes?"

The questions asked by the reporters were getting more and more harsh.

"Get out of the way! Don't ask me such boring questions!"

Jaydon was greatly infuriated. He protected Joanna and squeezed out of the crowd.

"Mr. Grimm, Ms. Haynes, please give us some responses!"

The two of them hurried into the parking lot, got into the car, and fled.

In the car,

Joanna could not help but tease, "Hah, now we are just like street rats." She was already used to being slandered by brain-dead people.

"Just ignore these delinquent reporters.

"Leave the public relations matters to me!" responded Jaydon.

"All right."

"Where do you want to go now?"

"Well, I feel suffocated in Greyport.

"I want to go to the beach now," replied Joanna.

"Alright! Let's go to the sea then," said Jaydon.

"Okay."

Jaydon did not say anything else. He turned the car around and drove toward the dock.

His yacht was parked at the dock. Usually, when he had nothing to do, he would drive his yacht out to the sea for a ride.

Soon, he piloted the yacht out to sea.

Joanna stood on the deck and breathed in the sea breeze. Her depression finally dissipated a lot.

Jaydon gently hugged her from behind, and they just looked like the male and female leads of the Titanic.

we're together, why don't you just be my girlfriend?" Jaydon said half

fooling around!" Joanna turned around and broke free from

with affection. "Joann, do you really not have

she could not help but feel nervous. "Jay, can you

don't know what to

uneasy expression, Jaydon quickly took a step back and

sorry. Don't

I'm really sorry.

expression, Jaydon stopped

joking with you. Look how nervous you are!" He

and Bruce was that Jaydon respected Joanna very much and cared about

as she resisted, Jaydon would

Jaydon. The more Joanna resisted, the more Bruce wanted to

know you're very good to me, but I...." Joanna's eyes were filled with panic. She wanted to say something but

didn't know

rejected a man like Jaydon,

well aware that she and Jaydon could never be

play boy. Even if he married her, it was impossible for him to be faithful

she completely lost her

men.

not want to be hurt by love a second time. She would rather

you take the initiative to accept me.

not say anything else, but just turned around and stared blankly

of Jayden and Joanna having a meal on a date Joanna. He blocked most of as if he were an extremely seduce her ex-husband, she threw herself in her old scheming woman teaches you how to h two-timing. She became a laughing stock after her affair a keyboard negative news about to turn she found that was even more as a contemporary scheming Porash in in a difficult factory had already been set up and the funds had already been invested. It focus on Mossbourne's market and try to distance herself a.m., the company's employees arrived at the Haynes Group one after Bruce also came aggressively. Everyone was shocked when they Haynes Group for a month. They wondered the conference executives had arrived, except "Where is Joanna?" and reported, "Miss Haynes didn't heard this. "Why is she absent Haynes has gone be back?" Bruce "Maybe in a week."

heard this, he frowned even

at Mossbourne this week.

anything else. He turned around and left without

for so long. Why

be here to

from Mr. Everett's expression, he must

trouble."

Fortunately, Miss Haynes

Miss Haynes and Mr.

Chapter 145

Roxanne was aware that Bruce made a trip to the Haynes Group today.

Bruce paused for a few seconds. "I'll see how it goes tonight."

"Bruce, I'll feel scared if you don't come back!" said Roxanne.

"There are so many ser vants at home. What is there to be afraid of? If you're afraid, call your mother over to accompany you," Bruce remarked.

"Bruce, I want you to accompany me!" Roxanne spoke in a soft and pleading tone.

Bruce furrowed his brows deeply. "All right, then. I'll go home tonight!"

When Roxanne heard this, she was overjoyed. "Then I'll cook for you!"

"There's no need for that!" said Bruce.

"I want to do it. I'll go out to buy groceries later and cook. After that, I'll wait for you to be back," said Roxanne.

"Just let the ser vants do these things. You don't have to make yourself so tired!" said Bruce.

The more virtuous Roxanne behaved, the more uneasy Bruce felt!

"Bruce..." Roxanne wanted to say something else.

However, Bruce interrupted her. "I'm in a meeting right now. I'm very busy. I'll talk to you later.

"We can talk more after I get home tonight!"

"Oh, okay!" Roxanne's eyes flickered and then she ended the call.

Less than five minutes after Roxanne ended the call, Ingrid called.

Ever since Roxanne moved into the Everett mansion, Ingrid had been calling her three times a day.

Seeing that it was Ingrid's call, Roxanne quickly picked up.

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"Hello, Mom!" she said.
"Hello, Roxy!" Ingrid said.
"Mom, is something the matter?" asked Roxanne.
Ingrid's concerned voice came from the other end of the phone. "Roxy, what are you doing?"
"Nothing at all!" replied Roxanne.
"Then why don't go over and accompany you?" asked Ingrid.
"All right," said Roxanne.
Bruce was slightly obsessed with cleanliness and did not like others coming to his private residence.
Roxanne had been living here for more than ten days, but Ingrid had not come once.
An hour later, Ingrid came over eagerly.
Ingrid's eyes lit up when she saw the luxurious mansion, and she could help but exclaim in admiration.
lives alone in such
too big. It's much better than
and Bruce get married, Mom
spoke, she looked around excitedly and started touching
help but frown. "Mom, don't touch these things. Bruce
touch them."
artifacts. The entire wall of cabinets was filled
valuable and worth a
the porcelain longingly. "What's wrong with that? You're going to marry him soon! I'm just taking a look!
It's not as if I'm going to take
at her in
I won't touch them, okay?"
sat down
other hand, looked unhappy and sat down
expression, Ingrid asked concernedly, "What's wrong? You
slightly.
```

you been? Is Bruce treating

softly, "Good...

He's either good to you

know how to put it. If I say he isn't good to me, that's not really true. After all, he buys all sorts of presents

say he's good to me, well..."

"But what?" asked Ingrid.

it hard to say what she wanted to say

to the Everett mansion, but all this time, Bruce and she had

Roxanne

Bruce showed concern and pampered her, Roxanne could tell from his gaze that he minded what had

guess what was going on. She patted her daughter's shoulder. "Don't overthink things. You've already moved into the Everett mansion

for you to move out

can to stay here! Even if

slightly, and she lay her head on Ingrid's arms like

for Roxanne. "Goodness, I haven't seen you in a while, but you slimmed down by a

is already in the past. Don't think too much about it.

the initiative to

I don't mention it, I can't pretend that nothing

Roxanne spoke, she could not help

could only say comfortingly, "Don't cry.

to lay the ghost

by enduring the grievances that

Meanwhile, at Porash.

came to visit the factory

of him with interest. "So this is the new

"Yes, the equipment has been imported. After the renovation is done

Jaydon smiled. "That's great!"

too careless while you

As long as the factory is built, it will be able to function normally soon! We need time to

a sound of acknowledgment before she said,

long as we can overcome this difficult period, everything else will

she pursed her lips and smiled.

almost noon. Let's go have lunch!"

"Sure!" said Joanna.

for so long today. Are you

smiled. "Not at

here.

said, "All

"Okay!" Joanna said.

about to get into the car when a car

the car

the

Chapter 146

"Oh! Mr. Everett..." Andy was cut off by Bruce.

"Don't you understand what I'm saying? I want Joanna to become bankrupt within a year, do you hear me?" asked Bruce.

Andy answered meekly, "Oh, okay! Yes, I heard you!"

"Call the Stark Group immediately and ask them to withdraw their cooperation with the Haynes Group. I want to cut off the Haynes Group's source of

supply, Bruce added angrily.

"All right. I'll make the call now!" Andy replied.

Very soon, Andy made the call to the Stark Group.

This time, Bruce was determined.

He was going to completely destroy Joanna's career!

After returning to Greyport, Bruce called for a meeting with his higher-level executives.

He busied himself until past nine at night.

After Roxanne called him three times, Bruce finally went home.

At the Sherane Bay Villa.

When Bruce entered, Roxanne was already waiting at the door.

"Bruce, you're back," she said.

"Yeah," Bruce replied in a mu ffled voice.

Roxanne had an ingratiating expression on her face as she said gently, "Bruce, are you tired? I've already run you a bath.

"Go and take a bath!"

Bruce replied coldly, "There's no need for that. I'll just shower before sleeping."

The smile on Roxanne's face vanished. "Then... why don't you eat first? I've already cooked! The dishes have been heated up both times."

"Okay," Bruce replied calmly.

Following that, Bruce went upstairs to change his clothes. He washed his hands before returning to the dining room to eat.

Meanwhile, inside the restaurant.

Roxanne had painstakingly made five dishes and a soup. She was even considerate enough to cover the dishes with plate covers to prevent them from getting cold.

"There's steamed fish and prawns today..." said Roxanne.

Bruce made a sound of acknowledgment and did not say anything else. He picked up his chopsticks and started eating.

When she saw Bruce eating in big mouthfuls, a smile appeared on Roxanne's face. "Does it taste okay?" she asked.

"Yup. It tastes okay!" Bruce replied calmly and ate a few more mouthfuls of rice.

"Bruce, are you unhappy?" Roxanne asked.

"No!" Bruce answered.

"But you look unhappy," said Roxanne.

Bruce frowned. "I'm not unhappy. I'm just too tired!"

"Then I'll give you a massage later..." Roxanne said.

today and want to

his chopsticks and stood up

only eaten so

tired today that I don't have much of an appetite! Don't cook anymore in the future. Just

that, he went straight

rooted to the ground with an awkward and disappointed

too perfunctory! Roxanne found

returned to

to take a shower and immediately lay in

was seething with anger. He was fuming, so naturally, he

appeared even more

help

an eye, one

woke up, he could not

go downstairs and take a breather in the

Roxanne was still in the living room and not

his watch. It

late. Why aren't you

she quickly turned around and

to her side and realized that the trash can was already filled with

red and swollen. It seemed like

crying?" Bruce's expression turned cold. He quickly sat down on the

sobbed and wiped away her

Is there something upsetting

Bruce was afraid that she would try to commit suicide again. Therefore,

anything you're unhappy about,

said that there was nothing, she had a plaintive

get someone to accompany you shopping tomorrow. You can buy

head and looked at Bruce with teary

for words. He did not know how to comfort

you since I was 15 years

in name only. In actual fact, you've never treated me as your

this, he forced a

rolled down her cheeks. "Do you despise me

Why would I

me, then why haven't

that you despise

she became. "At this point, I don't dare to ask for anything." She

pulled her into his arms. "I really don't

said, "Bruce, I know that you're

love me anymore, you don't have

forced himself to explain, "Roxy, I've always respected you. That's why I wanted to wait for

you."

era is it now? If you really love me, how can you not be willing to touch me?"

then

at him with red eyes and

while, Bruce

"All right," he said.

Bruce did not say anything else. He bent

not to drag it

carried Roxanne back

placed her on the bed and began to kiss her cheeks

wrapped

Chapter 147

However, Roxanne did not dare to take the initiative to contact Gavin anymore. It was not easy for her to settle this matter, so she was unwilling to get herself stuck in an unpleasant situation again.

"So what if we don't have a healthy married sex life? As long as we have money, everything will be fine!" she thought.

Roxanne tossed and turned until the latter half of the night. She was so tired that finally, she drifted off to sleep.

She missed Gavin so much that she even drearned of him.

The next day.

When Roxanne woke up, it was already past 11 in the afternoon.

Bruce had already gone to work.

Roxanne pondered for a while and could not resist giving Ingrid a call.

Since her mother was more experienced, Roxanne thought that she might have a solution for this.

Roxanne punched Ingrid's phone number on her phone and dialed it.

The call went through quickly.

"Hello, Roxy. What's the matter?" Ingrid asked.

"Mom..." Roxanne hesitated to say what she wanted to say.

Ingrid heard the hesitation in Roxanne's voice, and her heart sank. "What happened this time?"

"Mom, I want to ask you something," Roxanne said.

"Go ahead," Ingrid said.

Roxanne took a deep breath. She could not help but ask, "Well... What should I do if a man is unable to perform in bed?"

On the other end of the line, Ingrid's eyes widened in shock. "Can't perform in bed? Who are you referring to?"

Roxanne said in an annoyed tone, "Who else can it be..."

Ingrid was startled and asked in disbelief, "Are you talking about Bruce? Oh my goodness, how is this possible?"

Roxanne sighed. "Mom, it's true!"

Ingrid said, "It can't be. I thought you two have done the deed before, so how is it possible that he's unable to perform?"

Roxanne said angrily, "No! I was lying to you before!

"We tried to dont last night, but unfortunately... we kept failing."

When Ingrid heard this, she found it even more unbelievable. "No way! Bruce seems like a man with vigorous energy. How is it possible that he has that

kind of illness?"

"It's true! Why would I lie to you?" Roxanne said.

Ingrid paused for a few seconds. From Roxanne's tone, it did not sound like she was joking.

"Roxy, don't be anxious. You can make some medicinal cuisine for him. Buy more seahorses, deer antlers, the bark of rubber trees, and wolfberries. Make some soup for him to nourish his body. It will definitely work," Ingrid advised.

really work?"

Ingrid countered, "Why not?

I'll send it to you later. You can follow the steps and make it for Bruce. If it still doesn't work, you can only treat his illness with the use

"But such things are

reminded her daughter, "Don't say such things in front of Bruce.

can't do it in the future?" Roxanne asked

matter if he can or can't. Even if he really can't, what does it matter? He's so rich. He'll think of a way to solve it!"

Ingrid did not give her

will give you a prescription later. Just

I'll talk

"Oh, okay," Roxanne said.

hanging up!" Ingrid hung

was feeling distraught and could only hang up

Over at Ingrid's end.

being harassed by

burly middle-aged man, Wallace, teased, "It's just 4 million dollars. Your daughter is about to marry into the Everett family. This small amount of money is nothing to

easy. Even if my daughter marries into the Everett family, the money is

Where am I going to

slightly plump cousin, Oscar, also smiled and patted Ingrid's butt. "That's enough! Stop pretending. It's not like we don't know how much money you

a lifetime of wealth and glory. Not a bad

more than a decade! Don't tell me

that or you have to compensate us 2 million dollars each. If you do that, we promise

gritted her teeth and said angrily, "4 million dollars is not a small

gave you a few months to raise the money. I don't believe that till now, you

please! You're

I transfer 4 million dollars

butt and chuckled. "You will have

the money! For old times' sake, we've already given

```
out his phone and showed Ingrid the photo album. "I've always kept these videos and
and said
you have to
the
her teeth and said,
me?" Wallace shook his head. He
said, "I'm
is enough for me
agree to help me kill someone. As long as you don't spend extravagantly
to kill?" the two
is also your
"Our enemy?" they asked."
"That's right!" Ingrid said.
The men looked
t at each other.
replied, "Iv want you guys to get rid
"As long
that b itch dies, I'll definitely give you
of Joanna?" Both men were stunned
about it. We're talking about 2 million dollars for each of you! This amount of money is
rid of
leave Greyport and live in another place. Wouldn't you
snorted. "What you're doing
to
hiring a contract killer."
my condition. I don't care what method you use so long as
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Needless to say, Bruce must be behind this too.

"If he wants me to die, there are too many despicable methods that he can use," thought Joanna.

"How much stock do we have now?" she asked Luna.

"We only have enough for this quarter. We don't have any supply for the next quarter, so we have to find a new supplier!" Luna answered.

"Okay, I understand!" said Joanna.

After saying that, she ended the call.

Jaydon asked concernedly, "Joann, what happened?"

Joanna sighed. "The Stark Group cut off the Haynes Group's supply!"

"So what do you intend to do?" asked Jaydon.

"Now, we can only try to find a new source of goods as soon as possible!" Joanna said,

Joanna paused for a few seconds and sighed. "If it really doesn't work out, I'll call the president of CI Technologies again to see if there's still a chance of us cooperating."

Jaydon frowned when he heard that. "Actually, CI Technologies isn't a good business partner. David isn't a good person."

Jaydon had heard that David had gotten a beating from Bruce before, so Jaydon could roughly guess what was the reason for Joanna's sudden

predicament.

Joanna said, "I'll just give it a try first! If it really doesn't work, I'll handle the research and development by myself!

"However, if I do this, the cost is too high. If I don't succeed, I might really go bankrupt!"

Jaydon smiled and patted her shoulder gently. "It's okay. Even if you go bankrupt, you still have me!

"Although I can't help you much, at the very least, I can help you to raise funds."

Although Jaydon could not provide her with connections in business, the Grimm family was still one of the top tycoons in Venturas.

He could take out his liquid funds at any time.

The next day.

This was Joanna's fourth day in Porash.

In the four days that she was not in Greyport, the Haynes Group's internal structure changed drastically.

Early in the morning, Joanna's phone started vibrating.

Joanna answered the call. "Hello, Luna!"

Luna's anxious voice came from the other end of the phone. "Miss Haynes, hurry up and return to Greyport!"

"What happened?" Joanna asked.

"Mr. Roger and Mr. Paul are throwing a tantrum. They want to fire the few research and development personnel you brought over from Melta!" Luna reported.

Joanna was shocked to hear that. "What's the reason for that?"

When Joanna joined the Haynes Group, she brought a group of staff with her. A few of them were research and development engineers who she had spent a lot of effort to poach over.

Luna reported, "Mr. Roger and Mr. Paul said that their salaries are too high for the company to support!

these personnel has been here for four to five months and

hearing that, Joanna said, "All

Inform the board

Haynes," said

up when the director

the funds for

is about to ship the equipment.

"Got it," Joanna said.

headache. She felt like she was besieged on all

next day, Joanna rushed back

eight in the

rushed to

Paul, and the rest

that you want to fire some research and development

who are just here to make up the numbers must be fired,"

clenched in pain. She looked at the two of them with a dark expression. "I brought them back

fire them..."

to say! The company pays them

"They're just lazing about

bluntly, "You're behaving so foolishly. If this

"He's right. Such a high salary is enough to hire three to four

```
stay
any
"They can't leave. The benefits that research and development personnel
to a paypaleen in
said disdainfully, "What
people your cronies? Did
can there be? What benefits can they
Weliberately use t
"They're
year, or even ten
money to subsidize
It takes time to develop a project! It might
train him for eight to ten years before he can create benefits for
what I meant!" Joanna
do you
opposed Joanna because Bruce had instructed them to do
needed to do one thing. Their goal was to get Joanna removed from the board of
could not be bothered to
in the Haynes Group, I'll let them work in the
"Will that do?"
have no objections. After all, your factory in Porash has nothing to do with us! You can pay
right then, today's meeting is over!" Joanna
Group has cut off the Haynes Group's supply. How
won't have any goods to sell next quarter. Where can we
а
you think of?" the two men
anger. "Then let's all think of a solution together. Both of
expect me to take sole responsibility
but you're the executive director of the company, and the leader of the company. On top of that,
```

angry that she was speechless. She did

that the company brought them, but they were not willing to stick with the

and thin!

Haynes Group was doing well, everyone was willing to do anything for her and all of

now, as soon as the company encountered an obstacle, they did nothing except for blaming

did not want to work with such people

liquidity on hand now, so she could

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"I already warned you. This is the result of your disobedience. It's only the beginning. There's more to come." Straightening his tie, Bruce gave her a cun ning smile.

Joanna felt a sudden throb in her heart as it pounded faster.

"Bruce, when will you let me go?"

"Well, it depends on how you behave. You have to fight for it yourself. If your behavior is good, I may let you go."

Joanna stared at Bruce coldly. "What kind of behavior do you want from me?"

Bruce smirked and taunted her, "You know very well what I want. Do I have to spell it out?"

Joanna's gaze turned cold. She was rendered speechless, consumed by an overwhelming rage.

After staring at each other coldly for a few seconds, Joanna suddenly said, "Well, you just want to sleep with me. Go ahead then."

As Joanna spoke, she took off her jacket.

She gave a look of submission, her eyes filled with hatred and resentment.

Bruce felt an overwhelming sense of exasperation when he looked into her eyes.

He thought, "Does she think I'm some sort of animal who will take advantage of her helpless plight?"

All he wanted was for her to leave Jaydon.

Bruce did not just want her body. He wanted her heart too.

"Joanna, why are you degrading yourself?

"Are you going to sell your body just to get what you want?

"Will you remove your clothes and sleep with a man just because he can give you what you want?"

Hearing his sarcastic words, Joanna's temper sparked, and her face turned ashen. "Bruce, you're such a strange man. What exactly do you want?"

Bruce pinched her chin and said gruffly, "What do I want? Don't you know?"

"Please stay away from me. Can we talk properly? Don't touch me." Joanna took a step back in disgust.

Her reaction made Bruce seethe with anger.

Did she resent his presence so much?

Bruce forcibly grabbed her shirt and brought her close to him. His gaze was reminiscent of a wolf fixated on its target. It was intense and unwavering.

All he wanted was for her to love him. It was that simple.

Why could she not understand that?

shirt.

smile. "Do you really

don't know. Just tell

few seconds and said,

that, her eyes filled with a profound

looked at him with contempt

me to love

Mr. Everett, stop

I look like

woman soon? You want me to love

marriage shouldn't stop you from loving

"Are you asking me to

my mistress

a snort of

used to love

she got in return was humiliation and torture. She no longer dared to love him. She vowed never to love

the pain he

could she

you

If you want me to love you again, stay

man

```
"Ha!" Joanna laughed contemptuously.
domineeringly grasped her chin. "Joanna, did you hear
know that I will always get what
coldly, "Mr. Everett, please stop your
adults. Stop playing such childish
games? Do you think love is childish?" Anger rose in
eyes. "Ha! Do you think there's love between
"Why not?"
you want. I don't want to argue with
always
to offend him,
with anger.
by asking what do I
you stop your nonsense?" Joanna lost her patience
my woman. This is your
"What if I refuse?"
regret it if you refuse to do what I
you have to
"Yes!"
you doing this
was caught offguard
this to her?
not bear to see her with another man.
Bruce's hand away and looked at him with a smirk. "Mr.
he could not utter
must be in
his arrogance and pride, he would
the one who had
to go back
```

him to take her back. He would then pretend to accept her

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Bruce seethed with anger when he heard that. He chased after her and forcefully pulled her back.

"Joanna!"

"What now? Do you want to hit me? Go ahead, hit me!

"Anyway, this isn't the first time you've hit me!"

When Bruce heard this, his eyes were filled with anger.

In the past, he had indeed hit her.

It had been a misunderstanding. He was a gentleman and never liked to hit women.

"Joanna, you'll be the death of me."

"Bruce, that's enough. I don't want to have anything to do with you anymore. You can do whatever you wish."

After saying that, Joanna did not want to face him anymore. She turned around and left.

Bruce was a little dejected. Just then, Andy called him again.

"Mr. Everett, Mrs. Everett's condition is getting worse again. You have to come back immediately."

"What's wrong with Grandma?"

"The doctor said it's heart failure."

"All right, I'll go back now."

After hanging up the phone, Bruce returned to the Everett mansion without further delay.

Soon, he arrived at the Everett mansion.

"Where's Grandma?"

"The doctor just gave her another injection. Her condition has stabilized."

"I'll go in and take a look."

Bruce then walked into Margaret's room.

Margaret was lying on the bed with an oxygen mask on her face. She looked weak and frail.

"Grandma, I'm back."

When Margaret heard Bruce's voice, she waved her hand lightly, gesturing

them to

remove her oxygen mask,

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Bruce quickly instructed the nurse to take off Margaret's
mask.
"Grandma, are you feeling better?"
"Bruce." Margaret eyes were in a daze.
Bruce held her withered and thin hand. "Grandma, I'm here."
"Where's Roxy?"
"She's at the Sherane Bay Villa. Do you want to see her?"
"It's all right. It's too far away, I don't want you to rush back and forth.
"I'm afraid I don't have much time left."
"Grandma, you'll be fine. You'll live a long life."
"Bruce, hurry up and get married while I'm still alive.
"Grandma wants to see you start a family before I leave this world."
Bruce frowned when he heard that.
feelings for Roxanne. He did not want to
He could not
decided. I will
good news. Anyway, you've been together for so
not aware of what had happened to
rather
for the Sherane Bay
Bruce returned home, exhausted.
many dishes for him, such as seafood stew, grilled salmon,
all
in the evening, he saw Roxanne in a maid's outfit, complete with a head scarf and
made her look
"Bruce, you're home."
looked at her attire
not enjoy cosplay at
at him. "Dinner is ready. Bruce, quick.
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tell you to leave the
like to cook for you. The ser vants don't
don't want
nothing to do at home. If I don't cook,
Do whatever you
his hands and sat at
a bowl of
a sip of the stew. He could taste the herbs
a seafood stew." Roxanne had added a lot of
3.61%
Bruce frowned even harder.
There were fresh oysters, grilled salmon, lamb chop, and roasted
were all very rich
a bad mood. If he ate so much rich food, he
"Bruce, eat more."
"Okay."
stew. I spent six
"All right."
Bruce did not visit Joanna. Neither did he
food, one could imagine how heat was trapped in his
took a shower and
bed, Roxanne pushed the door open
"Bruce."
frowned. "Why did
don't want
He did not turn her away
the two of them were about to get
he did not resist, Roxanne snuggled in his bed like a
```

lifted the blanket and lay

we try

sneered. "Do you think I can't do

didn't mean that."

say anything else. He turned around and pressed

kissed her lips

pretenses and

was indeed feeling very irritable

He needed a woman.

"Bruce." Roxanne was delirious.

the critical moment, Bruce

He became completely disinterested.

Roxanne looked at Bruce with disappointment

in Bruce

had poured ice on his head, completely

really tired

then quickly got off the

wrong with

was no longer interested in

was just not interested

feeling awkward. She

he has

down her spine at that thought. Unintentionally, she found herself comparing