

## Whispered Goodbye Chapter 05

I pressed my hands against my ears, feeling very dizzy.

Yet the memories still enveloped me like a net closing in from all sides, wrapping me up tightly.

I couldn't break free or escape.

This scene made Leo Sterling and me infamous at school.

He was originally the top student, admired by everyone.

But because of my mom, his embarrassing family situation was exposed.

Family vacation packages

I felt guilty and wanted to apologize to Leo.

But every time I encountered him, his icy glare always stopped me from approaching.

He hated me.

You could even say he despised me.

Classmates who knew about the incident also avoided me.

After all, no one wanted to risk being cursed out by my mom just for talking to me.

From then on, I was alone.

I had no close friends.

No loving parents either.

I only had myself.

This pattern wasn't broken until my mom got pregnant.

They said it was a boy.

When she found out, Mom was overjoyed.

She focused all her attention on the pregnancy and stopped minding me.

And Dad had always acted like I didn't exist.

I briefly gained freedom.

Or perhaps too much freedom.

When I realized my living expenses hadn't arrived as scheduled.

I called home.

The response I got—was a disconnected number.

I rushed home on the weekend break, only to find they had moved.

No one knew where they had gone.

I became an abandoned orphan.

I barely managed to scrape by for two months with the money I'd saved up.

When I could no longer hold on, I prepared to go to the police.

But on the way, I came across a limping, lost Grandma.

She was neatly dressed and spoke clearly.

She just couldn't remember where her home was.

I took her with me to the police precinct, two lost souls finding each other.

It turned out Grandma had mild dementia.

The police told me they'd contacted her family.

As for my parents, there was no news.

I sat dejectedly with Grandma, waiting for her family to come.

Unexpectedly, Leo Sterling arrived.

The young man showed none of the gloominess he had when facing me.

His clear face was full of tenderness when he saw Grandma.

Grandma immediately recognized her grandson.

She smiled kindly, holding my hand as she introduced me to Leo Sterling.

“Star, I’m so grateful this girl has been keeping me company.”

I nervously curled my fingers.

I only saw his gaze flicker, the harsh hostility in his eyes gradually melting away.

“Thank you.”

I let out a breath, replying with an incongruous, “I’m sorry.”

Leo Sterling paused for a moment, then smiled.

“It’s not your fault.”