

CEOs Baby 1291

Chapter 1291: Edward and Candice's First Date

“If you succeed, will you stay in Cardellini Pharmaceutical long-term?” Monica asked.

“Since I'm back in the country, I'm looking at the long-term.” Brandon looked at Monica. “I'm not someone who likes change very much. Back then, I only worked in a company overseas and rose from the bottom step by step. To me, since I've decided on something, I won't change my mind easily.”

“Alright.” Monica nodded.

The only thing she was worried about for a talent like him was his instability.

For a corporation, change was not something favored. The change in personnel was too frequent, especially for the leaders of important positions.

The interview was over. The candidate with the highest overall score was Brandon, who even Steve supported.

Steve had always valued young people and had always wanted to give them a chance. He always said that the current market was for youths, so he should not keep to his stubbornness to restrict young people to develop. In other words, young talents could have the ability to sit in a higher position.

Sometimes, Monica felt that Steve was indirectly praising her.

After all, ever since she revived Cardellini Pharmaceutical, she seemed to be able to feel Steve's inexplicable admiration for her.

Truth be told, she was not all that powerful.

Actually, she wasn't that powerful.

If not for Fourth Master Swan's ten billion dollars, she could not have made it too.

Monica returned to her office.

Tim made her a cup of black coffee.

The moment Monica picked it up and was about to drink, she paused. She was reminded again of what Finn said about wanting children.

She was thinking perhaps she should not drink coffee, so she silently put the cup down.

Honestly, she did not know how to feel about it.

She did not know what kind of relationship she had with Finn and how far they would go. She had no idea if the two of them were even considered a normal couple or even... husband and wife.

Was it right to even give birth to Finn's child when she herself was not sure about her feelings?!

However, her gut was telling her that Finn was not joking. That man had never made a joke.

Did that mean, for Finn, who was already thirty-four years old this year, could really have the urge to have children at this age?

On second thought, Edward, who was the same age as Finn or younger, already had two children. The older one would be able to start dating in a few years.

Monica could not help but smile faintly. The thought that George might be in love was inexplicably comical.

She wondered how interesting it would be if George really fell in love with a girl, or if a girl fell in love with him.

Alright, she had digressed.

In the end, Monica did not touch the cup of coffee.

She thought she ought to have a deep discussion with Finn about having a child.

After all, they were talking about a kid here.

Her relationship with Finn needed to change completely!

They could not stay like this, where they looked harmonious but were actually at odds with each other. No matter what, the child needed a loving family.

That was what Monica thought.

There was another knock on the door.

“Come in.”

The person who pushed the door open was Brandon, who had just applied for the job today.

Monica was a little surprised. He should have been notified of his successful application, so should he not be going through the induction process now?

He was required to report to the company tomorrow.

“Chairman.” Brandon walked towards her.

“What's the matter?” Monica asked calmly.

Having been in the business world for so many years, Monica was used to handling things calmly.

Brandon did not reply.

There was a sudden silence.

Monica frowned.

Was there something wrong with this person?!

They had just signed the employment contract. It could not be that he wanted to compensate with a huge sum of money to cancel it even before his first day of work right?

Monica was lost in her own thoughts.

Brandon suddenly laughed. There was a little dimple at the corner of his mouth.

This dimple made Monica's heart skip a beat.

She looked straight at Brandon and instantly seemed to remember who this person was.

“Yes, it's me. You called me Little Tail when you were young.” Brandon seemed to be able to tell that Monica had remembered him.

It was obvious. He could recognize her at first glance, but she had obviously forgotten about him.

“Didn't you go overseas?” Monica could not help but ask.

She had indeed remembered who this fellow was.

The Hayes family was actually one of the twelve families of the older generation in South Hampton. Of course, they still were now. It was just that at that time, because the Hayeses focused on foreign markets, and after the entire family moved, almost no one mentioned the Hayes family anymore. Most of the Hayes family's industrial chains should be overseas now.

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Of course, it was not because Monica was familiar with Brandon just because the Hayes family was one of the twelve families. In fact, not every family had a good relationship with each other. The relationship between her and Brandon was because the two families were neighbors back then and often played together when they were young.

Brandon looked like a girl when he was young, and he was introverted. He was also a few months younger than she was, so he always followed behind her and called her sister.

Then, he chased after her. When they were about seven or eight years old, Brandon left the country with his family.

When that just happened, she would often think about him. However, as time passed, she actually forgot about it. Even today, she almost could not recall who Brandon was.

As expected, time truly made one grow old!

"Do you still need me to explain?" Brandon asked with a smile when he saw that Monica seemed to have remembered.

"Speaking of which, your parents are back too? What about your business overseas? Don't you want it anymore? Are you going back here to grow your business again?! Besides, your family has a business. Why are you here instead of with them?" Monica muttered a bunch of questions.

Brandon could not help but smile again. He had always thought that Monica's current position would have changed a lot.

Before returning home, he had learned a lot about the Cardellini Pharmaceutical Group. Naturally, he knew that Monica had turned the tide by herself and shocked the entire business circle. Now, under Monica's leadership, the Group was like the sun in the sky. Therefore, he thought that Monica had become very different.

Human nature would not change indeed.

In his memory, Monica's bright smile had always brought a bright and lively appearance.

Right now, Monica seemed to have overlapped with her childhood appearance.

Brandon answered Monica's questions one by one.

“Yes, my parents came back together. When they reached a certain age, they started to miss home, so they returned. The family business was left to my eldest brother. He has always been responsible for the family business, so my parents' return would not affect the development of our family business. As for the main reason I didn't go to work in my own company, was that I didn't want to be protected by my family. I had to grow up on my own. Besides, you can be completely at ease. I don't have the slightest intention of going back to work in my own company. My brother is managing the company very well now and doesn't need me. My parents won't force me to work there either. They're also afraid that with two brothers, there will be a day they turn against each other for their assets, so they're very supportive of me working in other companies.”

“Oh,” Monica replied. She finally understood what was going on, but was still lost for words. After all, he had not seen Brandon for many years, so they were still a little distant.

Moreover, she did not treat Brandon very well back then.

Although Brandon looked like a girl, he was still a boy. When she was young, she didn't like to play with boys. To be precise, she liked to play with Jeanne, so she often treated Brandon badly. She even scolded him to stop following her around. Sometimes, when she went to the Lawrence family's courtyard to play with Jeanne, Brandon would shamelessly follow her. Just thinking about it made her feel that Brandon was really a clingy person back then.

Finally, Brandon left. Although she was reluctant to part with him for a period of time after he left and felt that something was missing from her side, she gradually forgot about him.

If not for his sudden appearance, she might not have remembered having a childhood playmate.

“I’ll get out of your hair now.” Brandon seemed to be able to read Monica’s mind and said jokingly, “I was just here to reconnect with an old acquaintance so we could work better together in the future.”

“Are you trying to use nepotism?” Monica could not help but laugh.

She felt that Brandon had changed a lot after not seeing him for so many years.

He used to be very shy, but now, she felt that he had grown a little funny bone.

“Why not? But you won’t be disappointed either way with what I bring to the table.”

“I’ll wait and see.”

Brandon nodded slightly. He turned and walked out of Monica’s office.

Monica looked at his back and could not help but sigh at how quickly time passed.

She could still remember the scene of the two of them playing together when they were young.

She snapped out of reminiscing and prepared to get back to work.

She then happened to see a piece of trending news on her phone screen.

As the word “Chief” was involved, she could help but click on it.

Chapter 1293: Edward and Candice's First Date

The moment Monica saw the news, her lungs were about to explode.

Edward, this sc*mbag, was getting married again!

Why would he not just eat sh*t!

She knew that it was not simple for Edward and Candice to meet alone last night. She knew that Edward, that sc*mbag, could not resist beautiful women. When he saw any pretty women, he would turn into a sc*mbag. She even felt that Edward was not as noble as Nox in this aspect. At least Nox was not lying to her whereas Edward was not only hurting himself pathetically, but he was also praising himself for doing so.

D*mmit.

She really wanted to kill someone.

She really wanted to kill Edward.

What was with Jeanne's taste back then? Why was she with Edward?

None of the people surnamed Swan was good.

Both Eden and Edward were the same.

Monica was so angry that she smashed her phone on the desk. She could not keep her cool at all. She truly wanted to exhume Jeanne and make Jeanne see what kind of man Edward was!

Monica's eyes were red with anger.

She just suddenly felt that if Jeanne knew about this in the afterlife, how terrible would it be?!

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Meanwhile in South Hampton, in one of the highest offices, a man in a suit and leather shoes stood respectfully beside another man and reported, "Chief, the news is published."

Edward was handling official business and nodded. "Watch out for any negative news."

"It's been arranged."

"Mm," Edward replied and said casually, "Have you booked a table for tonight?"

"It's been booked and cleared. I've also confirmed with Ms. Nicholson the time for you to have dinner with her tonight. She'll be here on time."

"Okay," Edward replied calmly. His expression did not seem to be too emotionless.

However, the hand that was holding the fountain pen clearly trembled for a second at the moment of the next stroke, no matter how fleeting it was.

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In the Nicholsons' residence, Candice looked at the dress in the room in a daze.

She was really careful when she was about to go on a date with the Chief. He even specially sent her what she was going to wear.

She just looked at it before finally putting on the white dress.

Though it had to be admitted that the man's taste was not too bad. Such a simple dress would not look good at a glance but after putting it on, it exuded an air of elegance. What a classic piece, simple yet extraordinary.

She put on her makeup.

Dinner was at six in the evening and she could not afford to be late.

She was ready at five o'clock, finished dressing up, and walked out of the room, into the living hall.

Her mother, Claire Moore, and her sister, Chloe, were watching television. At this moment, people from the Moore family came to visit, including the wife of Claire's brother, Lillian Harper, and her daughter, Roxanne Moore.

The moment Candice appeared, the four of them looked at her one kind. She greeted all of them politely.

The few of them were not very enthusiastic about her, so they simply hummed.

It was true that Claire's feelings for her were lukewarm.

Previously, Candice had always thought that Wyatt doted on her so much that the rest of the family would treat her very well. However, when she really returned home, she realized that she seemed a little out of place.

Actually, it was understandable.

It was said that Wyatt had brought her to the army when she was young. She rarely interacted with her family, so she did not share a close relationship with the rest of the family. It was also said that Claire gave birth to Chloe because she was extremely displeased with Candice not being by her side. She gave birth to one child and put all her feelings into the second one. She distanced herself from Candice.

Even her own mother was distant from her. Naturally, the rest of the family held an even more jarring distance.

Fortunately... Although they were distant, they did not have any conflicts after coming back for a month. Candice was naturally not someone who liked to stir up trouble, so she did not mind too much.

She was also about to get married anyway.

“Have you arranged a time with the Chief?” As a mother, Claire would still ask simply.

“Six in the evening. I was afraid of being late, so I'm leaving early,” Candice replied.

The moment she answered, Chloe, who was sitting next to Claire, sneered.

Candice could tell that Chloe was unhappy with her.

It was not surprising. Chloe used to be the only treasure in this family. Now that Candice had suddenly woken up, coupled with the fact that the two sisters had never been close since they were young, Chloe would definitely be jealous. Especially when she saw Wyatt's meticulous neglect of her and Chloe, Chloe would be very unhappy.

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“Be careful on the road.” Claire did not say much. She only reminded Candice, “When you interact with the leader, mind your manners.”

“Okay,” Candice agreed and left.

After Candice left, Chloe did not hide the displeasure on her face. She held her mother's hand and complained, “Mom, Dad is too biased. He left all the good things to Candice. I haven't received any love from him since I was young. Didn't I accompany Candice for all these years when she was treating her illness overseas? Now that Candice is awake, he has placed all his attention on her. Am I adopted or what?”

“Alright, alright. Don't you still have Mom to dote on you?” Claire comforted her.

“But all the benefits in the family are taken by Candice.” Chloe was obviously unhappy. “It’s the same now that she’s married. She’s clearly slept for so many years and has been out of touch with society for so long. When she opened her eyes, she could still marry the Chief. Mom, her life is too good!”

“Do you think it’ll be fine if you marry the Chief?! Don’t you know that accompanying a ruler is like accompanying a tiger? Once you marry the Chief, your actions will always be monitored. You won’t even have any freedom. Do you really think it’s a good marriage?!”

“I don’t care. In any case, I think Candice took all the benefits. If she hadn’t suddenly woken up, I would have been the one to marry him instead! She was the one who stole my happiness!” Chloe argued.

Moreover, she had actually done everything to marry the Chief.

Back then, when she heard her father say that the Chief wanted to marry his daughter because he was afraid of his power, Chloe had always thought that she would be the one.

It never occurred to her that it would be Candice who had just woken up.

She actually had a good impression of the Chief.

Previously, she had seen him on television. Later on, the Chief personally visited their home to look for his father. She was lucky enough to see him in person. The moment she saw him, she was really attracted to him. It turned out that love, at first sight, was really so simple. For many days after, her mind was filled with him, and she could not forget him.

She had been waiting for her father to tell her that she was going to marry the Chief, but in the end, it turned out to be Candice.

God knew how difficult it was for her to accept this news.

God knew that she had the urge to kill Candice and let her steal her man.

“Chloe, calm down,” Claire called out to her. “Yes, the Chief’s indeed perfect. Not to mention you, if I were a few years younger, I would also be tempted. But you can’t look at the surface. Think carefully about the Chief’s ex-wives. Think about it carefully. How did he get to his current position?! Haven’t you heard some gossip that he stepped on women to get to his position? He doesn’t care about women at all. Now that he’s married your sister, it’s also because of your father. Do you really think they have any feelings for each other?! If I really let you marry the Chief, I won’t be happy.”

“I believe I can change him.” Chloe had heard a lot about the Chief, so even though he was handsome on television, she did not have any feelings for him. However, after seeing him with her own eyes and fulfilling all her fantasies about men, she could not stop herself.

No matter how cruel he was, she liked him.

“You’re just too young.” Claire was a little disappointed.

At this moment, Lillian could not help but interrupt, “Claire, it’s useless no matter what you say to Chloe now. She’s trapped now and can’t understand. When Candice marries the Chief, she’ll find out if it’s good or not.”

Claire nodded and said to her daughter, “Just wait and see.”

Chloe did not seem to believe it.

However, she was still very indignant.

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Candice arrived at Chez Jeanne in her private car.

It was said to be a very famous local restaurant in South Hampton.

She had always thought that a date with the Chief should be in a restaurant more upscale than this and did not expect this to be the chosen place. Not to mention that this place was not great, the price point was rather high still. It was also too homely, giving the impression that it did not match the status of the Chief.

She was led by the staff to the private room.

The private room was above the moat. The afterglow of the setting sun was reflected in the clear moat water.

She sat obediently in the private room and waited, with no idea how long she would have to wait. She dared not ask either. After all, if she did ask, that could show she was rushing him. The Chief is a busy man, day in and day out. She would not have the guts to make him leave important state affairs for her.

Her wait persisted from evening till night.

It was a beautiful sight when the neon lights in South Hampton were shining on the moat.

“Ms. Nicholson, the Chief said he'll be here in ten minutes.” The man who brought her here said respectfully.

“Alright.” Candice smiled, indifferently.

She had actually thought it through. Since she was going to marry the Chief, she would listen to his arrangements in the future.

Right then, the waiters finally began to serve a table full of dishes.

The door of the private room was opened again. Candice turned to look at the scene outside and knew that it was Edward.

She rose quickly from her seat, looking very self-conscious.

The moment Edward walked in, he saw Candice standing there respectfully.

He gulped.

He walked straight to her side and naturally took her hand.

Candice was stunned. She did not expect Edward to be so... unrestrained.

She had a feeling that they might not have had any intimate contact before they got married.

She felt that he was actually a little cold.

Naturally, she did not dare to refuse. So just like that, Edward pulled her to sit down.

"Sorry to keep you waiting," Edward said, feeling a little guilty.

"It's nothing. I have nothing to do anyway." Candice smiled.

"Let's eat," Edward called.

"Okay."

Edward let go of her hand.

There seemed to be reluctance, but it also seemed to be just her imagination.

Candice had a feeling that Edward had a special feeling for her.

Could they have had a history between them?!

She had no idea. Candice did not want to think too much about it.

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Even now, he seemed to be more indifferent to everything.

It was the feeling of someone who had experienced life and death and had seen through the mortal world.

The two of them ate dinner in silence. No one spoke.

"Is it to your liking?" Edward took the initiative to change the topic.

"I like the local cuisine very much," Candice replied.

"That's good," Edward said, really gently.

He picked up a piece of steak and placed it on Candice's plate.

Candice was stunned and quickly said, "Thank you."

Then, she ate the steak and it tasted really good.

Meanwhile, she could feel Edward's gaze on her as she chewed.

She felt a little uncomfortable.

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Suddenly, Edward suddenly reached out and approached her lips.

She winced.

“Don't move. There's sauce at the corner of your mouth,” Edward said.

Candice did not move at all, but still felt a little nervous for some reason.

She nervously watched Edward approach.

And then...

His lips moved closer...

Chapter 1295: Candice and Monica's Day Out

Candice watched as Edward's lips approached hers.

Countless thoughts seemed to appear in her mind.

Reject, reject not, avoid, avoid not, how to reject, how to avoid...

Hence, her thoughts were all on Edward's lips.

It stopped abruptly.

She looked at Edward's face up close.

She saw that his eyes were closed and his eyelashes were very long.

Candice also closed her eyes at that moment, because there was no way to refuse.

The moment Edward approached her, she had already reminded herself to get used to it; that she was used to his intimacy and the intimacy between them when there were people around.

There was indeed Edward's personal bodyguard in the private room.

Everyone looked at them solemnly, as they shared a deep kiss.

Candice was not sure if it was because the Chief was a busy man or something else, that dating the Chief did not require any process. He was direct and went straight to the point. There were not so many steps to go through one by one.

She endured Edward's kiss for a long time.

Then, his lips parted from hers.

The moment he left and opened his eyes, Candice felt that she seemed to have seen Edward's deep affection.

It was that kind of strong, very strong affection, or perhaps it was just an illusion.

After all, in the next second, the man was back to his slightly cold aura.

It was the kind of attitude that would make people feel oppressed even if it was gentle.

She gulped, after kissing each other.

That was rather awkward.

They had already reached this stage only on their second meeting without any feelings for each other. She found this rather difficult to accept, but she had no choice but to just accept it.

“Have some more.” Edward picked up another piece of steak and placed it on Candice's plate.

Candice looked at the steak and felt that it had a pretty explosive taste.

She picked up her fork and started eating fervently.

“Have you gotten to learn about me?” Edward suddenly asked.

Candice glanced at him and nodded. “I've read about you on the news.”

“I'm usually very busy.”

“I understand,” Candice replied.

“I'll try to ask you out sometime,” he said.

“Alright.” Candice nodded.

“If I do something wrong, you can remind me,” Edward said. “Sometimes, I can't control myself.”

No one would come to say such crowning words after they have done exactly that.

Candice did not reply.

“Eat more,” Edward reminded again gently.

Candice had eaten a lot today. The reason was that she was too embarrassed to say anything, so she could only keep eating.

She felt that Edward did not seem to have touched her fork and knife much.

Was the food not to his liking?! Were these dishes not prepared according to his taste?

She could not figure it out and would not ask more now.

At least to her, she was still unfamiliar with Edward. There was a distance and even a slight disparity in status. Such a relationship would make her a little reserved.

When they were done with dinner, Candice thought that he would have just left.

After all, Edward had just said that he was very busy and did not have the time to accompany her.

And yet, when they left the restaurant, they went straight to the moat and sat on a black-capped boat. The clear moat under the black-capped boat reflected the resplendent lights of South Hampton. The May breeze caressed their faces, giving them a soothing feeling.

The two of them sat quietly at the bow of the ship, with three of Edward's bodyguards with them. One rowed while the other two sat in the stern.

There were also countless black-suited bodyguards in the black boat behind them, following them at a distance.

"I heard from Minister Nicholson that you haven't lived in South Hampton much," Edward asked.

"Yes, I heard that I grew up in the army," Candice replied.

When the two of them interacted, it felt like they were accommodating each other.

“Heard?”

“Didn't my father tell you? I don't have any memories of what happened before I turned twenty-eight. The only memory I have is the one year of recovery after I woke up,” Candice said bluntly.

“I told you, I forgot,” Edward replied.

Candice did not say much, even though she did not believe that Edward would forget such important information.

“To me, this city is unfamiliar. It's not just the city. Many people around me are strangers to me. After I woke up, I started rehabilitation treatment in a foreign hospital. Every day, other than my father, I interact with medical personnel. Sometimes, I almost forgot what the world outside the hospital was like. Until a month ago, I returned to South Hampton. When I came back, I didn't know what I should do.” Candice shared about herself.

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Candice felt that since Edward asked, she had to explain it to him and that she was not qualified to let him waste time to understand her.

“Is there anything you want to do?” Edward asked her.

Candice shook her head. “I don't know if it's because I've slept for too long, or if it's because I've experienced life and death but when I woke up, I felt like I wasn't interested in anything. I couldn't find anyone to do what I wanted to do. It's hard to reignite any interest in my heart.”

“Here?” Edward's slender and clean finger pointed at her heart.

Candice pursed her lips and nodded.

“It's okay, I'll warm it up for you,” Edward said seriously and firmly.

Candice smiled. "I'm not telling you so much because I want you to do something for me. I just want to tell you that in my current state, I'm afraid that sometimes I'll do something wrong and offend you."

"My name is Ed," he suddenly said while slowly retracting his finger.

The moment he did so, he seemed to have glanced at her chest.

"Huh?" Candice was surprised.

"Edward Swan, from the Swan family."

"Oh." Candice came back to her senses.

So he was introducing his own name.

"Call me Ed," he repeated, now with a tone a little domineering.

Candice took a deep breath and said with a smile, "Ed."

The moment she called out, she seemed to have seen the light in Edward's eyes. It was the light reflected because of the dampness in his eyes, which surprised her.

Amidst the shock, she heard Edward call her in an extremely low and gentle voice, "Candice."

The two of them were moving fast, they had started addressing each other casually.

After sitting on the boat for a long time, they finally reached the shore.

It was already eleven at night.

Edward sent Candice back. They arrived at the Nicholsons' residence.

Candice got out of the car and prepared to leave.

"Candice." Edward suddenly called out.

"Yes?"

"I'll introduce you to a friend tomorrow," Edward said bluntly.

"Okay," she agreed immediately.

He was thinking that Edward wanted to introduce her to his friend.

If she was being honest, she thought that Edward did not have many friends.

He was so busy, how could he have the time to make friends?

She then gave it another thought. Nox and Finn were his friends in the past so they should still be his friends now.

She just did not expect such a thing to happen when she was dating Edward.

It was as if she had just fallen in love and needed to meet his parents and friends to obtain their approval.

"Let me send you off," Edward suddenly said.

The moment he uttered that, A bodyguard had already opened the car door for him.

Candice really wanted to reject him. They were already home. What else was there to send?

In that second, Edward walked over and pulled her hand into his palm.

Candice's eyes flickered.

Sometimes, she really felt that Edward was very skilled at doing such intimate things.

Thinking about it, it was only natural.

After all, Edward had already been married twice. A man who had been married twice was naturally at ease when it came to matters between a man and a woman.

The two of them walked into the residence hand in hand.

Although it was already eleven o'clock, the living hall was still brightly lit.

Wyatt was still waiting for Candice to return. Claire and Chloe were also accompanying him in the hall.

At this moment, when they heard footsteps, everyone hurriedly looked up and saw Edward holding Candice's hand.

That one glance changed Chloe's expression. She looked at the two of them behaving intimately and saw the Chief who was beside Candice bearing a gentle expression.

It was affection.

Her mother even said that the Chief was cold-blooded and that he did not care about women at all?!

He was clearly being really nice to Candice!

No way. The Chief was hers. The position of his wife should be hers too.

If Candice had not suddenly woken up, the honor and wealth to be his wife would have been hers!

“Chief.” The moment Wyatt saw Edward, he hurriedly went forward and was extremely respectful.

Claire had attended many important events with Wyatt over the years. Naturally, she was polite and well-mannered to welcome them together.

On the other hand, Chloe slowly walked over with some grievances.

“I’m only sending Candice back. Don’t have to stand on ceremony.”

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“Sure, sure” Although Wyatt said that, he did not show any signs of relaxing.

Chapter 1297: Candice and Monica's Day Out

“It’s getting late. I’ll head home first.”

“I’ll send you off,” Wyatt quickly said.

“No need. You guys rest early too,” Edward declined.

He let go of Candice's hand.

That was it. There was a feeling of reluctance.

Reluctantly, he let go.

He nodded at Wyatt and Claire before turning to leave.

The group of people behind Edward also left.

After his departure, the atmosphere at home seemed to be slightly better.

Indeed, when facing a man of Edward's status, even if he did not do anything, everyone else would feel intimidated standing close.

"Candice, come and sit," Wyatt called out to his daughter.

Candice sat down obediently while Claire and Chloe took their seats too.

Chloe looked at Candice with hostility but the latter pretended not to notice. She just felt that she would not be staying in this house for long and did not want to cause trouble.

"Did your date with the Chief go well?" Wyatt asked.

"Yes," Candice replied.

"That's good to hear. You guys are getting married on the 18th of next month. Nurture your relationship. I don't want you to suffer."

"I've already said that I don't feel wronged." Candice smiled. "A capable and handsome man like him doesn't make me feel wronged at all."

"That's right," Chloe suddenly interrupted. "Some people are just lucky. They have everything when they're born and everything when they wake up. I don't even know why my life is so different when we're both born from the same parents! Candice, do you think God is biased, or..."

Chloe suddenly paused, before saying, "Parents are biased."

"Chloe." Claire gave her daughter a look, which meant to tell her not to spout nonsense.

Chloe could not care less. She said sarcastically, "I'm just complaining. Do I have to force myself to keep it in? If that's the case, I won't say anything in the future."

"Chloe, stop talking." Claire tugged at her daughter.

Chloe was in an extremely bad mood. Ever since Candice woke up, her status in the family had plummeted. She could not take this lying down at all.

Now, she could only say a few words and not say more?!

Chloe stood up from the sofa. "Since everyone doesn't want to listen to me, I'll go back to my room."

"You little brat!" Claire was a little disappointed.

Chloe ignored Claire and left.

The hall was filled with an awkward air.

Claire held Candice's hand. "Candice, don't hold it against your sister. She didn't mean it."

"Okay." Candice smiled.

Was it really though? She knew it best.

"It's getting late. Wyatt darling, you should let Candice go back to her room to rest as soon as possible. She must be tired from her date with the Chief today," Claire tried to smooth things over.

Wyatt nodded. "If there's anything, you must tell me. Don't carry everything yourself."

"Okay." Candice nodded.

The family went back to their respective rooms.

Back in her room, Candice took a shower and lay on the bed. Just like that, even after staying in the room for a month, it was still an extremely unfamiliar room.

She was wondering why she felt any sense of familiarity at all. No matter how short she had lived in her own home, she should be able to feel something.

However, she just felt... strange.

...

On the same night under the same sky, Monica was lying on the bed and playing with her phone.

Was Finn working overtime again tonight?!

He had not returned yet.

She looked at her phone in a daze.

If she was being honest, she even wondered if she had masochistic tendencies sometimes. She clearly did not want to see the news of Edward and Candice, but today, she kept harping on this news. From time to time, she would open it to browse the web if anyone had scolded Edward for being a sc*mbag. Every time she checked it, she would return disappointed.

On second thought, now that Edward was the Chief of Harken, who would dare to criticize him?

As long as it was not a matter of principles, then it was fine.

She was so angry that she decided to put down her phone. She was not planning to wait for Finn anymore. She had wanted to talk to him about the child tonight.

Sometimes, she felt that she and Finn lacked a tacit understanding.

Once something happened, he definitely could not see the other person's point of view.

She was lying down and preparing to sleep when her phone suddenly rang.

Chapter 1298: Candice and Monica's Day Out

She frowned and looked at the caller ID. When she saw the words "Sc*mbag Swan", she was shocked.

She was the one who changed the name of the Sc*mbag Swan today.

She was furious, so this was the only place she could vent her anger.

But now, she suddenly got a call from him.

No matter how she looked at it, she felt that there was something fishy going on.

However, since she was such a lackey, she still had to answer the call.

"Chief." She was clearly trying to curry favor with him.

D*mmit.

As expected, she had really become the person she hated the most when she was young.

“Make time tomorrow. I have something to ask you,” the person on the other end said bluntly.

“Are you looking for me or Finn?”

“You.”

“Only me?”

“Yeah.”

“Oh, okay.” Monica agreed and asked, “What time?”

“Nine o'clock in the morning.”

This meant she was not going to work.

“Okay.”

“I'll get someone to pick you up at nine,” Edward said.

“Okay.”

“It's late. Good night.”

Good night my *ss.

“Good night.” Monica smiled.

Edward hung up before Monica put down her phone.

D*mmit.

Right then, the bedroom door was suddenly pushed open.

Finn was back. He seemed to be a little tired, but it also seemed to be an illusion.

In fact, most of the time, Monica could not understand Finn's emotions. She could not even read his expression.

“Are you still awake?” Finn asked.

“Yes, I just received a call from Edward,” Monica said bluntly.

“Fourth Master is looking for you?” Finn seemed a little surprised as well. “What's the matter?”

“He asked me to make time to see him tomorrow. He didn't say more.”

Neither did Finn when he answered, “Okay.”

Sometimes, Monica had no idea what kind of relationship she had with Finn.

Friends with benefits?

She watched as Finn walked into the bathroom.

Monica also lay on the bed and tried to sleep.

A while later, Finn came out of the bathroom. He threw back the covers and got into bed.

The two of them slept together every night. There was basically not much talking, except... some regular workouts.

Although she knew that it was already a little late, she still could not fall asleep.

She was not sure if it was Finn's words in the morning that had been bothering her until now, or if it was because Edward had called her in the middle of the night, but she suddenly felt that she was not sleepy at all.

She asked in the dark, "Finn, are you asleep?"

If he was still awake, she wanted to talk to him about the baby.

However, just as she finished speaking, she felt Finn's body getting closer to her.

After having known each other for a long time, she knew exactly what the other person wanted with just a small gesture.

Monica tensed up.

Fine.

They could satisfy each other's physical needs first before talking about the child.

So, she gave in to Finn. Habits could sometimes be scary.

There was nothing much to feel about it. It was just very ordinary sex, which seemed to have become a necessity in life.

“Give me a minute,” Finn suddenly said in the dark while the two of them were on top of each other.

Monica frowned.

Finn returned to her side after a while.

She saw what Finn brought with him and she stopped for a moment.

...

So... was it just a casual remark of him wanting a child this morning?

The night was getting darker and colder.

...

The next day, Monica's biological alarm clock woke her up early in the morning.

In the past, her daily routine was the other way round; she could not wake up in the morning no matter how hard she slept. Now, he woke up at first light. Sometimes, even if she was very sleepy, she had to get up because there was a lot of work to do.

She left the bed, washed up, and changed her clothes.

She was going to meet that Sc*mbag Swan today. What should she wear?

In any case, it did not really matter so she decided on what to wear easily.

She walked out dressed very casually with a bun on her head.

In the blink of an eye, she felt like she had returned to her twenties.

She walked out of the room.

...

He saw that Finn was making breakfast again.

Now that he saw her come out with that outfit, his gaze seemed to pause on her.

It had probably been a long time since he last saw her in this outfit.

For a long time, she had been wearing a suit and dress, seldom so casual.

“Don't you need to go to work?” Finn asked.

“Edward said that he wants to see me today. I don't know how long he's going to see me for, so I'll wear whatever I want first. If it's done early, I'll come back and change,” Monica explained.

Chapter 1299: Candice and Monica's Day Out

Finn nodded. He then placed the breakfast in front of her. The two of them sat opposite each other and ate quietly.

“Monica,” Finn suddenly said.

“Yeah.”

“I will take the contraceptive measures from now on,” Finn said bluntly.

Monica's gulped. She was already aware of it last night.

She said, “Okay.”

In any case, it did not matter who did it.

Since... Finn did not really want it.

“There's an academic exchange at the hospital. I'm going on a business trip for a week,” Finn said.

“When are you leaving?”

“Today.”

“Oh, okay.” Monica nodded.

“If you're scared, you can stay with your parents for a few days.”

“I'm not a child.” Monica could not help but laugh.

At her age, she was no longer afraid of the dark.

“The way you look today reminds me of the first time I saw you,” Finn said. “You look very youthful and energetic.”

“Looks like all these years of maintenance weren't in vain. I didn't spend so much money for nothing.” Hearing the praise, she was rather happy.

Moreover, it was unprecedented to hear it from Finn.

Finn smiled as well.

Yesterday, he had actually thought about it for a long time. He wondered why Monica did not want a child, and if he should have one.

Later on, he decided to respect Monica's choice.

After all, she was different from before. She used to be a little girl who did not know the hardships of the world. She could be carefree and do whatever she wanted. However, she had a lot of responsibilities now. She was at the peak of her career, so it was natural that she did not want a child.

There were so many late marriages and late pregnancy nowadays. He thought that in a few years, it would still be fine.

Looking at Monica's youthful and energetic appearance today, he was once again determined.

They finished their breakfast. As Finn was going on a business trip today, he was not required to go to the hospital to work, so he did not have to go out so early.

As Monica was waiting for Edward to pick her up, she was not in a hurry to leave either.

The two of them sat on the sofa and used their phones to deal with their own matters.

It seemed to be a way for them to get along. They did not need to talk much. The two of them just needed to stay by each other's side. They needed not stick together all the time too.

Everyone was busy with their own things. It was fine as long as they came home.

The phone finally rang.

Monica answered and instantly greeted respectfully, "Chief."

"Get downstairs. I'll wait for you downstairs."

"Okay."

After Monica put down her phone, her expression changed instantly.

Finn looked at Monica's small actions and smiled. Monica was actually still the same old Monica; a person's nature would not change.

"I'm leaving," Monica put down her phone and said to Finn.

"Mm," Finn replied.

Monica walked out of the house.

There were no emotions on her face even though they would be apart, nor any reluctance that Finn would be away for a week.

She walked into the elevator. At this moment, all she could think about was why that Sc*mbag Swan was looking for her.

When it came to work stuff, did he not usually ask Nox to do it?

She could not figure it out and refused to speculate anymore.

She braced herself and walked to the entrance. She saw a few black cars parked at the entrance with an imposing aura.

She walked over and a bodyguard in a black suit opened the car door for her.

She got in.

The moment she sat in, she saw the Sc*mbag Swan. Although he was a sc*mbag, he was still handsome! He was so handsome that it was as if the world had collapsed.

She settled in her seat and the car departed.

Monica did not know where Edward was taking her, so she just sat there obediently.

Until Edward started the conversation, “Candice—you should know her.”

Monica was speechless. Once she got into the car and told her about Candice, was he not afraid that she would be so angry that she would scratch his impeccably handsome face?!

“She's not familiar with South Hampton. Help me bring her around today,” Edward said bluntly.

Was this guy out of his mind?

He wanted someone else to bring his woman out to play. She thought about it again; Edward was so busy that he probably did not have time to accompany her.

Even so, he should not have asked her to do it.

...

She could sell her skills but not her body.

F*ck.

“This is for your expenses.” Edward handed a card to Monica.

Monica simply accepted it, because when with this man, she could not resist at all.

Chapter 1300: Candice and Monica's Day Out

Monica was so nervous that her heart was about to explode.

The car soon arrived at the Nicholsons' residence.

A woman stood at the door. She seemed to have been waiting for them for a while.

Sometimes, Monica felt that Candice was quite pitiful. To be precise, as long as a woman was in a relationship with Edward, she would be quite pitiful. She could only accommodate him at all times.

The car pulled up and Edward got out of the car. Monica followed suit.

Candice was a little surprised when she saw Monica. She had received notice early today that she was going to see Edward in the morning. She was surprised that she needed to see his friend so early—but now, she saw Monica.

Could it be that Edward and Monica had a good relationship?!

“Yesterday, you mentioned you weren't familiar with South Hampton, so I got Monica to bring you around today,” Edward said bluntly.

So that was the reason. It was just a casual remark from her though.

“Monica will bring you around the city today,” Edward continued.

“Isn't it too troublesome? I heard that Ms. Cardellini is actually a busy woman.”

Monica quickly shook her head. “No, no, I'm not. It's my honor to be able to share the Chief's burden. I'll let go of anything. It's fine.”

She seemed very enthusiastic, but her words were laced with sarcasm. It was obvious that she was unwillingly doing this.

Everyone could hear what she said but no one saw through it.

Edward could still say shamelessly while keeping his usual expression, “Monica, I'll leave Candice to you.”

“Okay.”

“I have something to do, so I'll leave first.”

“Take care.”

Edward returned to the car and left in a grandiose manner along with his entourage.

Monica cursed under her breath as she watched the car disappear.

She turned around and smiled at Candice. “Ms. Nicholson, where do you want to go?”

“Actually, I don't really want to go anywhere.” Candice said, “How about I get out of your hair? You don't have to accompany me. I can go around by myself. When the Chief asks, I'll just say that you're with me.”

“No, no. You'd better not lie to him. He has eagle eyes. Maybe he'll be watching you everywhere.” Monica refused. “I'll stroll around South Hampton with you today.”

Candice wanted to say something else.

Monica said directly, "Let me take you shopping first."

"Huh?" Candice was surprised.

"Don't women like spending the most?" Monica asked seriously.

There was an evil thought in her heart. She wanted to bankrupt that Sc*mbag Swan's family fortune.

"Oh, okay." Candice nodded.

Might as well, even though she was not interested in anything but just going along with Monica.

Monica brought Candice to the most luxurious mall in the city.

Because she was too busy with work, she had not been shopping for a long time. When she saw the sparkling jewelry and beautiful clothes, she could not help but feel a little excited.

She took Candice to a high-end jewelry store and asked the shop assistant to take the most luxurious necklace inside. She asked Candice, "Do you like it?"

Candice shook her head.

"Don't have to be frugal for the Chief. He has plenty of money."

"I really don't like it."

"What about these?"

“There's nothing I particularly like.”

“What about this one, this one, that one over there?”

Candice felt that if she did not satisfy Monica's shopping needs, she would not be able to leave.

For some reason, this was clearly a little forceful on her but she did not hate it at all.

Instead, she felt an inexplicable sense of closeness to Monica.

“This one.” Candice pointed at one randomly.

“Alright, I'll take this one. I'll swipe my card.” Monica was afraid that Candice would go back on her word, so she quickly asked the shop assistant to settle the bill.

Then, the two of them went to the clothing section upstairs.

A dazzling array of clothes could be seen everywhere.

Candice felt that Monica was not here to buy clothes but to stock up a whole inventory of hers.

She did not pay more than a glance at the clothes but simply took one of each design of different colors.

Candice had a feeling that Monica was deliberately taking revenge on Edward.

At the thought of this, she could not help but giggle. For some reason, she felt that Monica's mood was very likable.

After a round of sweeping and just as Monica was about to bring Candice to buy a bag, Candice suddenly stopped in her tracks. “Monica.”

She blurted out to Monica by her first name. It felt really natural too when she said it.

“What's the matter?” Monica noticed how Candice addressed her.

She did not like this woman initially because at the thought of this woman snatching Jeanne's man, she was instinctively repulsed.

...

However, after some interaction with her, she did not seem to be able to hate Candice.

She was also irritated by this fact. With so much internal struggle, retail therapy was her outlet. And it was a very satisfying one too.

“I want to take a look at the children's clothes over there,” Candice said.

“Children's clothes?”

“Doesn't the Chief have two children?” Candice asked.

Monica pursed her lips. She looked at Candice and walked into a children's clothing store nearby. She followed slowly.

Candice was choosing the clothes carefully. It was completely different from how she just looked like a tycoon just now. Candice's serious attitude suddenly touched Monica for some reason.

It was just that... George had not had a mother for so many years. Would he want one now?

“Does this look good?” Candice chose a boy's jacket.

With just one glance, Monica felt that it was a perfect fit for George.

She nodded. "It looks pretty good."

...

"This one then. Wrap up the underwear, pants, and shoes," Candice said to the shop assistant.

"Alright," the assistant said respectfully.

"Let's go see the girls again." Candice walked to the girls' section.

Little girl's clothes were especially cute.

Candice was dazzled by the pink and chubby outfits, beautiful hair clips, shoes, handbags, and so on.

"Are you willing to be a stepmother?" Monica suddenly asked.

It was when she saw Candice choosing the clothes that she inexplicably felt that she had a natural maternal aura.

Did they not say that she grew up in the army?!

Should she not be valiant?!

"When you know you have no choice, you can only accept it." Candice smiled.

She was not displeased by Monica's unpleasant tone.

