

Love Me Or Leave Me

#Chapter 241 - Read Love Me Or Leave Me Chapter 241

Chapter 241

Not only did Stacey win the award, but Charlie did, too, and the organizer even invited Charlie to present the award to him with her. The ceremony's atmosphere was elevated by the host's brilliant cooperation with the lighting.

But after standing on stage, Stacey looked down and noticed a familiar figure in the crowd, which was J. She was surprised to find J there as well. She simply thought about it for a while, engaged with the host alongside Charlie, and finally delivered an acceptance speech to the audience. After going through all of the procedures, their part was finally completed. Stacey and Charlie descended from the stage with their awards.

Not only them, but Malcolm also won the award. When he got on stage, he specifically mentioned Charlie and Stacey. He thanked Charlie for giving him the opportunity to perform and Becky, the lucky star, for bringing him good luck. He stated that after meeting and cooperating with Becky, his life seemed to get luckier. He also sincerely hoped that she would become happier and better in the future and that she would share some of her good fortune with him.

Malcolm's speech made many people laugh, and even the host teased him. In the end, the host inquired about Malcolm's willingness to work with Becky in the future. Malcolm stared squarely at the host, then turned to face Becky before returning his gaze to the host. He responded, "Aren't you talking nonsense? Becky is my lucky star. If there is a chance to cooperate with her, I would say yes."

The host burst out laughing instantaneously. He even got off the stage and placed the microphone before Stacey, asking, "Becky, are you willing to cooperate with Malcolm?"

Without realizing it, Stacey instinctively glanced at Hayden sitting next to her before returning her gaze to the host. She smiled as she spoke to the microphone. "In the future, I may devote more time to my family company and family. I don't have much time to act. Therefore, cooperation may be contingent on chance."

The host deliberately made an exaggerated expression and quipped, "Are you going to inherit a hundred million worth of family property?" After that, everyone laughed, and many people looked at Stacey with envy. Hayden also grinned and looked expectantly at her.

Stacey chuckled and added, "Not that much. I'm going to return to my family business for training and assist my father with some of the job."

"I see. It's just a matter of earning 20 million dollars per day," the host interrupted. Stacey grinned, slightly twitched her mouth, and glanced helplessly at the host.

The whole audience also laughed, and everyone was amused by the host.

The host soon withdrew, and she returned to the stage to preside over the following show.

Everyone's attention quickly shifted to the following show, particularly several actors who were nervously hoping and expecting to win the award.

J, on the other hand, was the

contrary, unable to forget what had happened a while ago. Stacey had also received the Best Actress award and the Grand Prize award,, which she had been proud of.

Stacey even wore a customize net

high-end gown and went on the stage gorgeously to accept the awards. On the contrary, J hadn't received a good character for a long time because her public image had already been tarnished. Even if some lesser-known dramas were filmed and released, many anti-fans would criticize her.

J gritted her teeth and could only comfort herself that she was about to hook up with Ryan and would soon settle down. So, she would undoubtedly receive greater resources in the future. As long she worked hard, she would

undoubtedly win the award velhe

and silence Rebecca. However, her obsession was swiftly taken over by reality because Rebecca stated that she would return to manage her family's business in the future and would inherit the family industry chain.

From that moment on, J's head began to hum, and memories of the preceding days rushed across her thoughts. Rebecca was a poor child when they were kids. Rebecca would be unable to eat properly as long as J remained unhappy. As long as J refused, the housekeepers dared not add quilts for Rebecca, leaving her to shiver in a cold winter. J could still remember vividly how pathetic Rebecca was when she tried to abandon Rebecca, causing her to cry while chasing their car.

J pondered, 'Why did things turn out this way? Rebecca is just a pathetic wretch. She's just an unwelcome wretch!' She clutched her purse hard, but fortunately, she quickly regained her composure. She hurriedly loosened her grip and carefully checked whether the purse was damaged. She was different today since she lacked enough money to buy any purses, thus she treasured each purse dearly.

After ensuring that her purse wasn't damaged, J raised her head and returned her gaze to the stage. However, she would unconsciously turn her focus to Rebecca, who sat in the front row, or Stacey, as she was known now. She thought resentfully, 'What's so good about Rebecca instead of having a greater destiny than I do?' Soon, time passed unconsciously until the entertainment ceremony concluded.

J grew nervous immediately following the ceremony. Her glance moved around the directors at the scene. She needed to appear in a popular drama to make a comeback. She wasn't interested in the new directors. Instead, she attempted to locate famous directors, but after looking around, she soon identified those directors.

There were numerous directors, all well-known in the entertainment industry. Now, they were all talking to Stacey and Charlie. J's expression clouded. However, she instantly changed her facial expressions and walked over with a smile. She had to make it, even if it meant lowering her dignity and shamelessly approaching the directors to speak. Even if it was just for a role, she needed the opportunity to turn the tables. More importantly, she had to have the opportunity to turn the tables so that she could continue to get along with Joe. When she became popular and everyone admired her, he adored her. On the contrary, he would regard her as a replacement and could abandon her at any time. Her goal was to become Joe's wife. Thus, she needed to make herself more attractive, dazzling, and charming so that Joe would be more interested in her.

J approached Stacey and greeted her with a smile, saying, "Congratulations on winning two awards."

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Just a moment ago, everyone was smiling and talking happily, but upon hearing J's words, everyone fell silent. No one spoke, and the smiles on their faces disappeared. Stacey looked at J and was surprised. She thought she had already broken ties with her long ago and didn't expect J to come to her. Looking at the famous directors who were talking to them just now, she immediately understood J's ulterior motive.

"It's getting late and you must be hungry. How about we go get dinner together?" Hayden suggested with a smile, noticing that Stacey didn't want to talk to J.

Hearing Hayden's words, Stacey instantly smiled and agreed, "Yeah, sure."

Charlie was also happy. "I want to have dinner with you guys too!"

Not only them but also Jeremy, Lillian, and Kevin were very happy and looking forward to having dinner. While they were happy, the directors beside them became unhappy. They all gave J a sharp glare. J's face suddenly darkened when she saw this. She was not dumb and naturally knew that she had done something wrong.

She recalled the scene from just now and realized that she misunderstood those directors. They were trying to please Rebecca and Charlie. Because of her presence, Rebecca and Charlie had left immediately, which led to them resenting her. J immediately panicked. She hurriedly ran over, grabbed hold of Stacey, and asked, "Stacey, where are you having dinner? Why don't we all go together? I know a specialty restaurant nearby, and the food is really good."

As J spoke, she hurriedly turned to look at a group of famous directors behind her and asked them, "Isn't that right?"

The directors, who had felt discouraged moments ago, immediately perked up when they realized that there was still hope. They hurried over and said with bright smiles, "Yeah, Becky, Charlie, Mr. Hoggard, let's go together. It's on me today. I know a fantastic restaurant in Jacaster. It would be a shame not to go there."

Stacey was unhappy when she heard this, but they had no grudge against these directors. Especially since the L&K Group would develop in the entertainment industry in the future, Charlie also needed the connections. They couldn't offend these famous directors at will.

"Then let's all have dinner together," Hayden agreed directly.

Both Stacey and Charlie were unhappy about it, but there was no other option. They could only have dinner together. "Let's go." In just a second, Charlie adjusted his expression and smiled. Those who were familiar with him knew that his smile was fake, which showed that he was in a bad mood.

Jeremy was not happy either, but he remained silent. Lillian and Kevin were too young to understand what had happened. They just had dinner in mind, so they were very happy.

Stacey held back her temper and finished the dinner with the directors. It was not until Lillian and Kevin were sleepy and made a fuss that she had an excuse to leave. Hayden then carried Jeremy on his back. Although Jeremy was already three, he was still a child, and it was late. It was natural for him to get sleepy.

After returning to the hotel from the restaurant, Stacey asked Gwen and Marie to take a bath for Lillian and Kevin. Then she took a bath herself and went to bed. This was the first time Lillian and Kevin fell asleep without listening to Stacey's bedtime story because they were too sleepy.

Stacey was also tired, but she

couldn't sleep It had been a long time since she met J. Stacey felt J seemed to have changed, but maybe it was because she couldn't quite articulate her feelings toward her. In the past, Stacey tolerated J as much as she could because she was the daughter of her adoptive parents. She did it out of respect for them raising her.

However, now, everything had changed. Her identity had changed, and so did J's. J wasn't the biological daughter of her adoptive parents. This was something Stacey had never imagined of. However, after thinking about it carefully it made sense. At that time, her adoptive parents adopted her because they were infertile. If the tests they had done before she was adopted were true, it meant they really couldn't have children. It would be abnormal for them to give birth to J later. Stacey fell asleep after contemplating for a while.

On the other end, J was still awake and very anxious in the hotel. She tried her best to approach these famous directors and thought that they would be happy after she

arranged a dinner with hand

Charlie for them. However,

noticed that after Rebecca and Charlie left, the directors left one after another. No one paid attention

to her. "Ben!" J was anxious and hurriedly caught up with them to stop one of the directors.

Ben paused and then looked back at J. After all, it was because of J that they had the meal arrangement. Ben looked back at J with a less impatient expression.

J was nervous, but she knew this opportunity was rare. She hurriedly said, "Ben, I heard that you are planning a drama recently and are looking for a female lead."

"Ms. Mitchell, if I were you, I wouldn't waste time on meaningless things," Ben advised, looking at J.

J was stunned and looked at Ben in confusion. The other directors who hadn't gone far also looked back, but they only took a glance before leaving.

Ben looked at J and advised her, "Ms. Mitchell, you know the current policy prohibits disgraced artists from appearing on screen. Even if we want to hire you, we couldn't." As he spoke, he gazed toward J with pity in his eyes. "You'd better try something else instead of continuing to act."

"Something else?" J was confused. Ben looked deeply at J, then turned around and left. J was anxious to catch up with him, but she stopped, not knowing what to say. Until Ben

walked away, J stood in place and was still thinking about what Ben had just said. She pondered, 'Try something else? What else could I possibly do?'

J smiled bitterly. She had signed a five-year contract with her company. So, she could only stay in the entertainment industry until the contract ended. Moreover, she wanted to marry Joe and be his legitimate wife, so she naturally couldn't leave the entertainment industry. It was said that Joe only liked women in the entertainment industry.

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Stacey knew nothing about what had happened to J but could probably guess, based on the latter's current reputation, that she couldn't continue working in the entertainment industry. However, J's life had nothing to do with her. She just needed to live a good life now.

After the ceremony, Stacey didn't plan to return immediately. Instead, she and Hayden took the three children to Jacaster for fun. All the local delicacies in Jacaster were worth a try. They also took the children to visit the famous spots to experience the local culture more.

Lillian, Kevin, and Jeremy got along better. The latter also learned many new words, and some of his pronunciations were more accurate. As he pronounced words more correctly, he became less timid about speaking. His eyes brightened up a lot, and he looked confident and happy.

However, the happiness didn't last long, as something bad happened to the Carter family. Isabella had found out about Adrian's secret identity. When Stacey saw the message, her brain went blank instantly, and a buzzing sound rang in her ears. After regaining her senses, she quickly called and asked why.

Patrick was very helpless as he explained the whole matter to Stacey in a low voice. In short, Damian got sick and was finally sent to the hospital. However, ordinary patients had to wait hours before it was their turn after taking a number and queuing. Seeing Damian's forehead heating up and suffering more, Debra couldn't bear to watch him suffer.

Aside from Debra, Patrick also couldn't bear it, so they secretly went to Hivalis General Hospital and asked to meet the hospital director. The director treated Damian immediately after examining him and quickly administering intravenous therapy. After everything was taken care of, Debra and Patrick felt relieved.

However, not long after, they heard Isabella apply for leave and hurried over, knowing Damian was sick and taken to the hospital. Later, their identities were exposed. To be exact, their identities were not exposed on this day. Their daily lives slowly aroused her suspicion for a long time. To this day, she finally exposed them. After their identities

were blown, Patrick and Debra went frantic. They became anxious and panicked, so they quickly contacted Adrian.

However, Adrian was kicked out of Damian's ward while Isabella got mad.

'What should I do?' Debra exclaimed inwardly. The whole Carter family panicked. However, despite the panic, she had to get to business as soon as possible. With that, she called everyone to come home and asked them to visit Damian at the hospital. Then, they formally introduced themselves to Isabella and Damian to show their family's sincerity. If the rest of the family didn't visit them after their identities were exposed, they would look insincere and rude.

Aside from Stacey, Charlie, who was resting and taking a short vacation, also received the news. However, unlike others, he gloated over it when he discovered what had happened. He was the most talkative in the group chat and kept sending messages.

[Haha, I knew we would exposed one day. With your skills, you all still want to pretend to be ordinary?]

[Haha, that's hilarious. Now you know how difficult it is to act, right? You used to mock me for my bad acting skills. Serves you right!]

[Well, I can finally return to see Isabella and Damian. What gifts should I buy for them?]

[Hey, is there anyone here? Come and help me pick out the best gifts. It's my first time meeting them. I must make Damian like me and be friends with me later.]

He rambled on and on, almost flooding the group chat with many annoying messages.

In Hivalis, Debra looked at Charlie's messages so angrily that her eyelids throbbed. If it weren't for them living in different cities, she would have picked up the stick she used to teach her naughty children when they were young and slapped him hard. She was utterly frustrated.

However, whether Debra and Patrick were angry, Stacey and Charlie planned to return home. Hayden also followed them.

Jeremy was confused and curious. "Daddy, who are we going to meet?"

Hearing Jeremy speak smoothly, Hayden was in a good mood. He smiled and explained, "It's Becky's brother's wife and her son. Well, if you see them in the future, you should also address her politely and be friends with the boy."

Jeremy blinked and replied, "Sure!" In

fact, Jeremy still didn't know who they were, but he figured out one thing in his mind. 'That woman and boy must be Becky's family,' he thought. As he liked Becky, he thought Isabella and Damian should benice, just like Debra to-tillian and Kevin.

As the helicopter didn't leave, they went back using it. The flight was fast, and they enjoyed many scenic views. Debra and Patrick came out to welcome them when they arrived at Carter Villa. Lillian and Kevin were so happy to see Debra. While still on the helicopter, they kept mentioning Debra and Patrick, who looked upset but soon smiled again when they heard Lillian and Kevin calling out for them. After they helped the children out of the helicopter, they each jumped into their arms, feeling overjoyed.

"Becky, Hay, Jeremy. Are you tired after flying all day?" Debra hugged Lillian and asked them with a smile.

Hayden smiled and shook his head. "We're fine."

Jeremy hurriedly replied, "No!"

Stacey asked worriedly, "Mom, how are things going with Isabella? Is she still mad?"

Debra's and Patrick's smiles

disappeared when she mentioned that. Their faces were full of worry. "Let's go back first," Patrick said. Stacey also nodded, and they soon arrived home. When they arrived at the living room and sat down,

Joshua had prepared hot coffee for

them while they rested.

Then, Debra and Patrick talked about what had happened. In short, they didn't manage the minor details well and got suspected by Isabella.

"Isabella seems really angry. Becky, I'm worried. What if Adrian's marriage is ruined?" Debra asked worriedly. Patrick also sighed.

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"If you're worried you can't change the fact, why not try being sincere? Just do your best," Hayden comforted. Patrick and Debra nodded. They rested for most of the day. In the evening, Bryce also applied for leave and came home. When he got home, he comforted his parents and reprimanded Charlie for gloating.

However, Charlie was used to being shameless. In other words, he had long resented Adrian for not allowing him to visit Isabella and Damian back then. What went around

came around. After being forced to hide, he could finally visit Isabella and Damian freely, so he was excited.

The Carter family planned to visit Isabella and Damian tomorrow.

Meanwhile, in front of Isabella's house, Adrian stood at the door for a long time. His legs were numb, but she had no intention of opening the door. Isabella was cooking dinner in the kitchen. Looking sullen, she was apparently in a bad mood.

Damian played alone in the living room but was not as focused as usual. The door seemed to catch his attention more than the toy. After playing with the toy for a while, he turned his head and looked at the door again. After a while, someone knocked on the door again.

A series of knocks sounded. However, the house was silent, and there was no movement. No one opened the door for him. Adrian was quiet for a long time and finally sat at the door. Slightly lowering his head and staring at his chest, he didn't understand why his heart hurt so much and wondered, 'So this is love? Because I fell in love with Isabella, she is mad and doesn't want to talk to me. Maybe she doesn't want me anymore, so my heart is hurting like now.' The tall man bore the pain for a long time, but finally, he couldn't stand it anymore. He lowered his head and buried his face in his knees.

Isabella had been busy for a long time in the house and finished making dinner. She realized that she subconsciously cooked for three people only after the meal was ready. Staring at the food, Isabella's face fell again. Finally, she composed herself and took the food to the dining room. Then, she looked at Damian and smiled. "Damian, go wash your hands. It's time for dinner."

Hearing this, Damian looked at her and hurriedly nodded. "Sure!" He had been with Isabella since childhood, and he knew that her life was not easy, so he was very sensible. He ran to the bathroom, turned on the tap, quickly washed his hands, and returned to the dining room.

Isabella filled a plate of pasta for Damian and said, "Eat." He picked up the plate, hesitated momentarily, and couldn't help saying, "Mommy, Daddy is outside." Upon hearing that, she froze before uttering, "Ignore him."

Damian hesitated and still dwelled on it. After a long time, he got off the stool, ran to the kitchen, opened the cupboard, took out a plate, and ran out with a fork. Damian put the plate and fork for Adrian on the table and said, "Mommy, I'll go ask Daddy to have dinner."

After saying that, Damian ran to the door. He had long legs as he took after Adrian. He was already very tall at three years old, so he could easily grab the doorknob, hold it with his tiny hands, and open the door.

Adrian leaned against the door and suddenly felt the door behind him had opened. He was stunned for a moment, overjoyed, and quickly turned around to look inside the house.

However, the scene where Isabella opened the door for him as he had imagined didn't happen. Instead, Damian was standing at the door with his hand on it. Apparently, Damian opened the door for him.

Adrian was stunned. He looked at Damian and carefully raised his head to look inside the house. Isabella was sitting at the table, eating.

"Daddy, it's time for dinner." Damian looked at Adrian and simply spoke. Then, he turned around, ran back to the dining table, climbed onto his seat, held the plate, and began eating.

Adrian looked at Isabella before carefully walking in. Damian opened the door for him, but Isabella didn't stop him, so he wondered, 'I guess she allows me to come in.' After he entered, he closed the door softly.

When he got inside, Adrian approached the dining table and saw enough food for three people, including his empty plate and fork. He instantly lost control of his expressions and smiled like a fool.

The next moment, Adrian wasn't bashful anymore. He immediately picked up the fork and offered Isabella and Damian some food. He had been with Isabella for almost a year, and now he knew what they both liked to eat. "Eat more," he said with a smile.

However, Isabella blocked the food

he picked up with her fork. The smile on Adrian's face froze slightly. After a while, he retreated his fork hesitantly. didn't mean to lie to you." He remained silent for a long time before finally explaining

nervously, "Isabella, I didn't get

to

lie to you. I just... I know you and Carly don't like rich scions. I was worried it might scare you, so I hid my identity. But don't worry. Although I'm one, not all of them are bad people. The Carter family is very nice, and we would never do those things." He felt a little aggrieved when he said the last word.

Isabella looked up at him. Holding his small plate and spoon, Damian searched for some meat. Seeing this, she picked up a spoon and placed some meat on his plate.

Adrian didn't know what to say. After hesitating for a long time, he finally picked up the plate and started eating carefully. Isabella cooked the meal. Although it was just an ordinary dish, he found it delicious. 'Could this be my last time eating her food?' he thought and felt uneasy, so he slowed his pace.

Adrian explained, "I'm investigating

Carly's case and have found some evidence, but someone has destroyed them. It'll take some time to recover them. The people I asked managed to restore most of it. If nothing goes wrong, they will be restored later. Isabella, if you and Carly still want to overturn the case, I can help you. I-I've been looking for the evidence back then and decided to reveal my identity after helping you overturn the case."

Isabella froze because he mentioned Carly's incident back then. Her face darkened and even became pale with a hint of hatred toward wealthy scions. You can really do whatever you want when you're rich! I hate all those rich people!' she exclaimed inwardly. At the thought of it, her phone rang. It was Carly. She froze again and felt a little confused.

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Isabella hesitated for a moment and finally answered the phone. "Carly?" Isabella called out hesitantly.

"Isabella, are you still at home now?" Carly asked.

Isabella nodded. "Yes."

"What about Adrian?" Carly asked again.

Isabella didn't say anything.

After a long silence on the phone, Carly finally spoke again. "Isabella, I've checked it out. The Carter family doesn't seem to be the kind of people we thought they were. Do you know Becky and Charlie? There's a lot of news about them on the inte, especially about Becky. I think there should be no issue with the Carter family."

Isabella listened quietly to Carly's nagging. Eventually, she was in a trance and didn't know what Carly was saying. Isabella had also investigated the Carter family. After finding out Adrian was from that family, she researched and found a lot of information. She felt mixed emotions after learning about Adrian's younger sister, Becky.

But what really made her angry was that Adrian had lied to her on purpose. She had told him she hated lies! She was so furious that it would take at least three days to calm down.

And not only that, Isabella was also worried if someone like her could really be with someone of that status. If they were together, would the Carter family look down on her?

After talking on the phone for a long time, Carly finally stopped. Isabella understood that Carly thought Adrian was a good person and that she was just trying to reassure her.

"Carly, I know," Isabella said. "Don't worry about me. I'll handle it." After a few more words, she hung up.

After finishing the call, Isabella came out of her room and found that the dining table had already been cleared. Adrian was wearing an apron and washing dishes in the kitchen.

Looking at Adrian's back, Isabella couldn't help but think back to when Adrian first came into her and Damian's life. At that time, Adrian didn't know anything and couldn't do anything well. He worked hard to learn how to do housework and take responsibility for the family. Because she saw his efforts and changes with her own eyes, she gradually began to accept him.

But she didn't expect Adrian to have such a distinguished background.

Adrian washed the dishes and put them into the cab. When he turned around, he accidentally saw Isabella standing outside looking at him. He froze for a moment, then his eyes brightened with surprise.

Isabella immediately looked away and left.

After dinner, it was time to go out for a walk. Isabella called Damian and was ready to go out. Adrian took off his apron and followed them.

Isabella still ignored him, but Adrian felt that he still had hope. Since she hadn't asked him to leave, it meant there was still a chance between them, and they wouldn't completely part ways.

Isabella naturally noticed Adrian. She ignored him and went downstairs with Damian. However, Damian would turn around to look at Adrian every few steps.

Seeing Damian look back at him frequently, Adrian's heart softened. Damian was usually not very affectionate with him and was closer to Isabella. He hadn't expected Damian to show concern after the argument with Isabella. Remembering that it was Damian who had opened the door for him earlier, Adrian realized that Damian must have helped. With this in mind, Adrian smiled at Damian, who was walking ahead.

When Damian looked back at Adrian again, he was surprised to see him smiling happily. Feeling uneasy, Damian quickly averted his gaze and stopped looking back at Adrian.

'So cute,' Adrian thought to himself as he looked at Damian. Although Damian didn't speak much, after spending a year together, it was clear that he cared about him.

Thinking of this, Adrian went up and

took Isabella's hand in his. No

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matter how much she struggled, he held on tightly and didn't let go.. Looking down at her with a smile, he said, Isabella, let's take Damian to Celestial Park."

Isabella was angry and embarrassed when Adrian suddenly held her hand, and she was about to struggle. But when she heard him mention Celestial Park, she was taken aback and looked bewildered.

Damian also raised his head and looked at Adrian in confusion.

Adrian smiled and said, "Damian is young. It's good for him to go out and see the world." Isabella was a good mother. If it was for the sake of Damian, she wouldn't refuse.

In fact, Adrian was right. Isabella's

lips moved, but in the end, she didn't refuse. Damian wasn't just her son but also Adrian's. She had heard of Celestial Park. It was beautiful, but the tickets were very expensive. One of her friends had taken their child there during vacation. She had also thought about it, but in the end, she couldn't bring herself to spend the money. But for Adrian, that shouldn't be a problem.

"Okay?" Adrian continued asking.

Isabella's ears turned red inexplicably. Instead of answering Adrian, she looked down at Damian and asked, "Do you want to go?"

"Where is that place?" Damian was confused.

Adrian looked at Damian and said with a smile, "It's a very interesting place. There are many beautiful stars in it."

Although Damian was usually shy, he liked beautiful things just like other kids. Hearing Adrian's words, his eyes immediately lit up with excitement. "Let's go back first and drive there together." Holding Isabella's hand, Adrian looked at Damian and walked back. His car was still downstairs. He needed to get back to his car.

Isabella looked at Damian and didn't refuse. She followed Adrian.

The three of them went downstairs. Adrian thoughtfully opened the back door for Isabella and Damian. Then, he went to the driver's seat, started the car, and set off.

On the way to the park, Adrian's eyes were sparkling, and he couldn't suppress the smile on his face. He was very happy!

Forty minutes later, they finally arrived at their destination. Adrian parked the car and immediately took Isabella and Damian to buy tickets.

Damian was three years old, and

because Isabella had always lived

frugally, he had never been to such a

beautiful place. As soon as he entered the venue, Damian's eyes lit up. Isabella was also amazed, but she was more curious about Damian's reaction. Raising him, her biggest regret was not being able to provide a better living environment for him.

"Mommy, it's so beautiful here!" Damian said, looking around with excitement. His eyes had never been so bright.

Isabella knew and nodded. "Yes."

"Let's go in," Adrian said with a smile.

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As Damian stepped into the stadium, a noticeable transformation occurred. No longer the shy, reserved child he once was, he now radiated energy and enthusiasm. The artificial starry night sky captivated his attention, and for the first time in a year, a genuine, bright smile spread across his face. Isabella's heart ached at the sight of her son's delight. She couldn't help but feel a pang of guilt, believing she had failed to provide him with a better life.

As she watched Damian lose himself in the enchanting view, Adrian's focus was divided between the joyous child and the tearful mother. Noticing Isabella's tears, Adrian was seized with panic, his mind scrambling for the right words. "W-What's wrong?" he eventually asked.

Isabella swiftly wiped her tears away, her expression hardening into her usual composed demeanor. "I'm fine," she replied coolly. Adrian was left uncertain, struggling to find the right words. Isabella, however, shook off Adrian's hand and turned her attention back to the magnificent scene in the stadium. Adrian slowly clenched his own hand, recalling the fleeting warmth of her touch. He knew he couldn't rush things.

Isabella's calm and poised nature meant that winning her heart would require patience and a measured approach.

"Mom, that star is so beautiful!" Damian exclaimed, his excitement propelling him toward Isabella. He grabbed her hand, pulling her eagerly to share the sight. Meanwhile, Adrian, trailing behind, discreetly took out his phone to capture the moment. He snapped several photos, choosing the best ones to share in the family group chat. As the Carter family members were preparing for bed, their phones buzzed with the new message.

In the master bedroom, Patrick and Debra quickly reached for their phones, curious about the late-night notification. In another room, Stacey was midway through a bedtime story for Lillian and Kevin when her phone chimed. She paused, momentarily startled, before checking the messages. Bryce and Charlie, in their separate rooms, also reached for their phones, curious about the new messages.

Within minutes, every member of the Carter family had viewed the photos. Relief washed over Patrick and Debra, their worry dissolving into smiles. Stacey's lips curved into a genuine smile, sharing in Adrian's happiness. Bryce mirrored this sentiment, while Charlie, initially disgruntled, muttered to himself, 'How can Isabella forgive Adrian so easily? That's lame. She should've used this chance to punish him properly for his deceitful behavior so he'd learn his lesson forever.' Despite his initial grumbling, even Charlie couldn't resist feeling happy for Adrian.

That night, the photos in the group chat were revisited repeatedly, bringing joy to the entire family. Their concerns eased, they awoke early the next morning, gathered their gifts, and drove to Isabella's house.

Isabella's home, usually unassuming, was now the center of attention as a procession of luxury cars arrived. The neighbors, curious about the commotion, gathered around the cars, but the Carter family remained focused on their mission. They cheerfully carried their gifts upstairs, knocking carefully on Isabella's door once they reached it.

Upon opening the door, Isabella was met with the sight of a large group of people standing outside, each radiating an air of elegance and affluence. An inexplicable wave of fear and tension washed over her.

When Adrian appeared and saw the group of his family members, the corner of his mouth twitched slightly. Despite his initial surprise, he took the initiative to introduce each person to Isabella. "These are my parents, Bryce and Charlie, my younger brothers, Becky, my younger sister, Lillian, Kevin, and this is..." Adrian hesitated as he reached Hayden and Jeremy, unsure how to introduce them.

Sensing his hesitation, Hayden stepped in with a cheerful grin. "Hi, Isabella, I'm Hayden Hoggard. I'm currently trying to date Becky. If I succeed, I could be your future brother-in-law."

Jeremy, not to be outdone, chimed in enthusiastically, "I'm Jeremy. I want Ms. Becky to be my mom!"

Isabella, feeling nervous and slightly confused by Hayden and Jeremy's words, pondered their implications. 'He's trying to date Becky? And he already has this cute little child?' she thought. Quickly regaining her composure, she greeted them, "Hello, everyone. Please, come in and have a seat."

The group entered the house with warm smiles, handing over their prepared gifts to Isabella and Damian. The sight of these seemingly expensive presents made Isabella hesitate, feeling anxious about accepting them. However, Adrian stepped in to help collect the gifts, carefully placing them in Isabella's bedroom.

Despite his assistance, Isabella

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couldn't shake her nervousness about their unexpected visit. As she prepared hot coffee for everyone, her hands trembled slightly, nearly spilling the liquid. Once the coffee was ready, she worried about the simplicity of her coffee set. Isn't it too cheap? Will they even drink it?" she wondered anxiously.

Noticing her distress, Adrian, who was standing off to the side, took over the task of serving the coffee, doing so with a calm and courteous demeanor. Watching him manage the situation so effortlessly, Isabella felt her tension gradually ease. The guests accepted the coffee and drank it without any signs of disdain or rejection, which further relaxed Isabella.

This visit marked the first time Lillian and Kevin met Damian in person. They had seen his photos on the phone and had eagerly anticipated meeting him. Now, at Isabella's home, their excitement was palpable as they followed Damian around the house.

Damian, typically shy and introverted, felt overwhelmed by the enthusiastic attention he was receiving from the bunch of unfamiliar faces. He hesitated, then ran to hide behind Isabella for comfort. Observing this interaction, Isabella couldn't help but scrutinize Becky's children.

She had previously researched the

Carter family's background and

knew that Becky had endured a difficult life, including raising Lillian and Kevin with her ex-husband. Becky had been adopted by the Mitchell family at a young age and had suffered through an abusive environment. Sometimes, Isabella thought Becky's life had been even more challenging than her own and even Carly's. Reflecting on this, Isabella instinctively observed Lillian and Kevin more closely. To her surprise, they appeared

well-adjusted and typical for their age. The two children were happy, confident, and curious, with no signs of introversion or fear. 'Is this even possible? After such hardships, can things really start over again?'

Isabella mused.

At that moment, Lillian and Kevin, undeterred by Damian's shyness, ran to Isabella's side, calling out to him with curiosity and warmth. "Nice to meet you, Damian," Lillian exclaimed.

To this, Kevin added cheerfully, "Hi, Damian. I'm Kev, and from now on, we're going to be a family!"

Chapter 247

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Startled by Lillian and Kevin's presence, Damian again retreated behind Isabella, concealing himself so completely that his eyes remained hidden. When Adrian turned and noticed Damian's stealthy retreat, he couldn't help but chuckle at the amusing

scene.

Nonetheless, Damian's current state was vastly improved compared to a year ago. Back then, the sudden arrival of so many strangers would have sent him into hiding in his room without a second thought.

The family had spent an entire day at Isabella's house, and as noon approached, it was time to prepare lunch. Isabella discreetly pulled Adrian aside, asking him to entertain the guests so she could head out to pick up groceries.

Instead, Adrian announced to everyone to entertain themselves and join Isabella for the grocery run. Isabella was left speechless. Yet, as she observed the joyful Carter family, she began to realize they might not be as she had imagined.

"Let's get moving," Adrian urged, pulling Isabella along without giving her a chance to hesitate.

as they stepped outside.

Adrian grinned and said, "Relax. They'll be glad we're out together. Besides, they'd probably give me a tough time for making you do everything."

"Isn't it rude to leave them like this?" Isabella voiced her

Isabella couldn't help but be amused by his words, though the moment was fleeting. She swiftly composed herself, her expression returning to its usual calm. "Enough with the flattery," Isabella responded coolly.

Seeing that she was no longer upset, Adrian nodded and replied, "Okay." Isabella was at a loss for words.

Together, they descended the stairs and made their way to the bustling market. Though Adrian had never been to such a place before being with Isabella helped him quickly get accustomed to it. Still, there was one thing.

Upon entering the market, Isabella paused and said, "Hey... Doesn't your family usually seem prefer more high-end cuisine? Won't this place a bit too ordinary?"

Adrian shook his head, reassuring her, "Don't worry. They won't mind at all."

"If we prepare the food ourselves, they might really appreciate it," Adrian remarked. He had never cooked before, and neither his parents nor siblings had ever tasted his

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cooking. He added, "Let's prepare the meal together when we return."

Isabella felt out of her element handling a crowded living room. Adrian picked up on her unease and proposed they retreat to the kitchen, where she could avoid the crowd and feel more at ease.

In any case, Isabella shouldn't have to manage everything by herself. Adrian saw that he could lend a hand and knew working together would undoubtedly make things go much smoother.

Turning suddenly, Isabella looked at Adrian. "Is something wrong?" he inquired.

Shaking her head, Isabella replied, "Nothing."

Adrian, seemingly understanding her unspoken thoughts, smiled and said, "I'm being honest. I've never cooked before, and my family hasn't tasted my homemade dishes. If they get to try them, they'll be thrilled. Plus, they like you a lot, too, so knowing you prepared the food will make them even happier."

Isabella's heart raced slightly. Rather, she felt a touch of unreality washing over her. She pondered, 'Would a distinguished family like the Carter family, with their aura of affluence and high status, look down on this plain, almost rustic life?'

Adrian trailed behind Isabella, carrying a hefty bag of groceries as they left the market. On their way back, he turned to her and couldn't resist asking, "With Christmas just around the corner, would you and Damian consider spending the holiday with my family this year?"

Isabella merely responded with silence, prompting Adrian to playfully feign distress. "You know, I'm 35 years old now," he said. "Everyone's been hounding me about getting married. Lately, they're even starting rumors about me being... Asexual."

Isabella couldn't help but burst into laughter at Adrian's plight. Once she managed to regain her composure, she said with a serious tone, "I've told you before. I don't appreciate smooth talk."

Adrian quickly reassured her, "I promise I'm telling the truth. If I'm not-" He was interrupted by Isabella's warning glare

Recalling his previous fabrications, Adrian insisted, "I truly haven't lied. If I did, you have every right to call me a mutt!" Isabella found his sincere demeanor quite entertaining.

As they approached the bottom floor, Adrian broached the subject, "What if we set a wedding date for sometime after Christmas?"

Isabella was stunned into silence. Adrian, his gaze fixed intently on driving, avoided looking at her, his heart thudding with anxiety over her possible refusal.

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Throughout the drive home, Isabella didn't utter a word. Though Adrian was slightly disheartened, he clung to the fact that she hadn't dismissed his proposal entirely. It gave him a glimmer of hope, and he resolved to keep trying.

After swiftly reaching the lower floor and heading upstairs together, Isabella suddenly had a realization. She had left with Adrian earlier, leaving Damian alone with the guests. She thought, 'Doesn't that mean Damian is stuck handling all the guests on his own?'

Although Adrian's family were technically Damian's relatives, he was entirely unfamiliar with them. Isabella's memory of Damian cowering behind her made her anxious. With a burst of urgency, she sped up the stairs.

Upon reaching home, Isabella noticed the door was ajar and peered inside. From where she stood, she could see Damian happily immersed in a Lego game with a few children, who were Becky's little one and the child named Jeremy.

To Isabella's surprise, Damian was not cowering in fear but rather engaged in play with the other kids. This was quite unexpected, given his typically introverted demeanor. Even in kindergarten, he had always been reluctant to interact with other children.

She and Adrian had already consulted a doctor about Damian's behavior, and this year they had poured in great amounts of effort to spend more time with him in hopes of improving his social interactions. To their surprise, they hadn't expected to see him so willingly interacting with the Carter family's children.

"What's the matter?" Adrian asked, noticing Isabella's sudden halt at the door. Following her gaze, he peered inside and was equally astonished to see Damian playing alongside Jeremy, Lillian, and Kevin.

"Adrian and Isabella are back!" Stacey exclaimed from the couch, her enthusiasm palpable as she sprang to her feet.

Damian, who had been absorbed in his play, perked up at the sound. As he spotted his parents, his face lit up with joy. He tossed aside his toy and dashed toward his mother with a beaming smile.

Chapter 248

Damian rushed over to his mother and stood in front of her, a bright smile spreading across his face.

In the living room, everyone had gathered. Charlie looked at Isabella and immediately began to complain, "Isabella, Damian is really attached to you all. As soon as you left, he started crying, and we didn't know what to do. Fortunately, I figured out he was upset because he was worried about you. So, I opened the door of the house and told him you and Adrian would be back soon and to keep an eye on the door. As soon as I said that, he stopped crying. See, I'm pretty good at this babysitting thing, aren't I?"

Isabella listened to Charlie's endless rambling, feeling a bit dizzy. She thought, 'Here's this famous celebrity I've only ever seen on TV before, right in front of me, proudly bragging about such a minor achievement with the child. It's kind of funny.'

"Yeah." Isabella held back her laughter and nodded.

Charlie, thrilled by her response, glanced at Adrian and then earnestly continued his plea to Isabella, "So, Isabella, since I'm so smart, can you teach Damian to call me Uncle Charlie? I'd love it if he called me first, okay?" As he spoke, his bright smile revealed a row of white teeth, looking extremely hopeful.

"Dream on!" Bryce rushed over in a hurry and interrupted anxiously. "Isabella, don't listen to Charlie's nonsense. If Damian is going to call anyone uncle, he should call me Uncle Bryce first, and then Uncle Charlie!"

Charlie was angry and retorted, "Bah, go away. You don't even know how to coax the child. Why should Damian call you first?"

Charlie and Bryce quickly began bickering, and the argument soon intensified. Isabella was bewildered, unsure of whom to side with!

Adrian watched them with a blank look, then turned to Isabella and said, "Just ignore them. They can be pretty obnoxious sometimes." Isabella was at a loss for words. Adrian then suggested, "Let's go make dinner together."

Isabella quickly nodded and said, "Okay."

Not only did they head to the kitchen, but Stacey also hurried over to help. Seeing Stacey join, Hayden followed as well.

Isabella's kitchen wasn't very big, and with several people in it, it felt a bit cramped. However, none of them wanted to leave.

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"Adrian, Isabella, let me help with dinner," Stacey offered with a smile as she entered the

kitchen.

Isabella, recalling Becky's difficult past, quickly refused, "N—No need, Becky. You should rest outside. Adrian and I will cook, and we'll call everyone when it's ready."

"Let's all do it together. It'll be easier that way, Hayden suggested. His voice, calm and dignified, made it hard to refuse. In the end, they decided the four of them would cook together.

Hayden glanced at the ingredients and asked Isabella what dishes she wanted to make. After getting her input, he divided the ingredients, taking half for himself and Stacey to prepare, while Adrian and Isabella worked on the other half.

Hayden's actions were so natural that Isabella was stunned. His skilled movements as he cleaned the ingredients made it seem unreal to her.

She thought, 'Wow, can someone from such a wealthy family really cook this well? After Becky's divorce, her new suitor seems awesome. She might be really happy with him.' While lost in thought, Isabella subconsciously looked at Adrian but quickly looked away when their eyes met, feeling her ears flush.

Adrian might not have known how to cook before, but over the past year at her house, he had basically learned all kinds of household chores.

As Isabella pondered, her thoughts became increasingly confused. 'Can a wealthy man really be like this? Would he learn to cook just for someone he cares about?' The idea made them seem like genuinely good people.

Once the ingredients were prepped, Adrian and Isabella took over the cooking while Hayden and Stacey stepped back, respecting the fact that they were in someone else's home and didn't want to take over.

While Adrian and Isabella cooked, Debra, Patrick, Bryce, Charlie, Lillian, Kevin, and Jeremy all quietly came in multiple times to watch. The children didn't understand much, but the adults were increasingly surprised, their gazes at Adrian growing more and more impressed.

Isabella found herself becoming anxious without even realizing it. But as she noticed everyone watching Adrian cook, she became more convinced of his earlier claim that he had never cooked before. 'So... did he learn to cook just for me?' she wondered.

When the dishes were finally ready, they filled the entire table, and everyone could barely fit around it.

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After dinner, Adrian naturally began to clean up the dishes, and Stacey stood up to help as well. Isabella wanted to lend a hand, but Stacey stopped her, telling her to go rest for a while.

Once the dishes were done, Lillian, Kevin, Jeremy, and Damian were ready for bed. Isabella quickly guided them to their rooms and tucked them in.

The children had a place to sleep, but the adults were less fortunate due to the limited space in Isabella's small home.

Fortunately, no one seemed to mind much. On the contrary, Adrian's parents, Debra and Patrick, were very earnest in apologizing on behalf of their son for his previous actions toward her. Even Bryce apologized for his earlier deception. In the end, only Charlie remained dissatisfied, grumbling that they deserved it and suggesting that Isabella take the opportunity to properly punish Adrian for being a deceiver who deserved retribution.

Isabella listened to everyone's words, and finally, Charlie's open accusations made the underlying issue clear. Adrian had previously hidden his identity, preventing Charlie and Becky from meeting them, which had caused Charlie a lot of resentment. He was taking the chance to get back at Adrian.

"Isabella, really, I wanted to come and see you and Damian so badly before, but Adrian wouldn't allow it. He was afraid of revealing his identity. Don't you think he deserves a good scolding?" Charlie continued to complain to Isabella.

Isabella glanced at Adrian, who immediately adopted a stern expression, glaring at Charlie, and scolded, "Charlie, are you looking for trouble?"

Charlie wasn't intimidated in the slightest. He looked at Isabella and huffed, "Do you think I'm afraid of you? Just so you know, if you ever try to bully me in the future, I'll be sure to complain to Isabella."

"You!" Adrian exclaimed in disbelief and gritted his teeth. "How old are you? Don't you see how childish you're acting?"

"Childish?" Charlie snorted disdainfully. "What does that even mean? Is it edible?"

Chapter 249

Isabella had never seen Charlie like this, nor Adrian so embarrassed. She couldn't help but smile.

Adrian wanted to teach Charlie a lesson, but when he saw Isabella smiling from the corner of his eye, he was stunned, and his anger dissipated. He looked at Isabella's smile and thought she was so beautiful.

Isabella was also stunned when she saw Adrian looking at her. Then, she quickly controlled her expression and stopped laughing.

Others also looked at them. Seeing the smile on Isabella's face, they knew that Adrian should have calmed down.

Since there was no problem, Debra immediately came over happily. She took Isabella's hand and kindly invited her to visit the Carter family. If Isabella wanted, Debra even hoped that Isabella could bring Damian to move in with everyone. It happened that Lillian and Kevin also lived at home, and the children could have a playmate.

If she really wanted to be with Adrian, Isabella felt that she had to make a visit to his real home.

However, Isabella didn't want to go along with Debra's suggestion.

Although she knew that the Carter family must live in a nice place, she had gotten used to her small family. Her ordinary life wasn't particularly bad, either.

After moving there, Isabella felt uncomfortable living with Adrian's parents and other people.

However, Debra said that there were many children, and they could keep each other company. She was stunned again, and she couldn't help thinking of the scene she just saw when she came back.

Damian, who was usually introverted and autistic, actually had a good time with Lillian and Kevin.

There were also many children in the kindergarten. She and Adrian had tried to take him to parks and places with a lot of children before, hoping that she could play with other kids, but their attempts had been unsuccessful thus far.

Isabella couldn't help but wonder if it was because Damian was actually related to Lillian and Kevin.

Because they were a family, Damian felt close to Lillian and Kevin, so he would play with them.

Debra saw the change in Isabella's expression. Having seen her fair share of things, she naturally understood Isabella's concerns. She took Isabella's hand and said seriously, "Isabella, don't worry. Although I hope you can take Damian to live with us, Adrian has other mansions. Adrian owns his private properties, and they will also be your private properties in the future. You can go back any time you wish. As for our family, Patrick and I also like you and Damian so much that we want you to live with us. Don't worry, if we live together, his father and I will not be nosy people. We're not controlling people. Our family absolutely respects the personal space and freedom of thought of each individual member! You can also stay with us for a few days and then go back to your own house. It's just that... Patrick and I have a wish. I hope you and Adrian can take Damian to us for a while from time to time when you guys are more free. Let's get together more, so that we can feel like a family. In the future, our beautiful family will be more united."

When Debra said these words, she was a little careful, afraid that the wrong word would make Isabella feel uncomfortable.

However, those words came from her heart. If possible, she really hoped that Isabella and Damian could come to live with them.

"Mom, Isabella and I can live in our own mansion. As for Damian..." Adrian grabbed Isabella's hand and looked at Damian. Finally, he said, "Isabella and I will often take Damian back to live with you guys so that Damian can spend time with Lillian and Kevin. Everything will gradually get better." Hearing this, Isabella breathed a sigh of relief. To be honest, she felt uncomfortable about moving in with Adrian's parents and younger sister. Hearing this, Debra paused for a moment, but quickly reacted and nodded with some disappointment. "That works too."

Looking at Debra's disappointed look, Isabella felt bad. Although they hadn't been together for long, she thought the Carter family was really quite decent. At least, Adrian's parents really liked Damian.

Seeing his wife's disappointment,

Patrick also took her hand and said,

"Don't worry so much. The children have grown up. They will live separately sooner or later. How can they stay with us all the time?"

Debra thought so, but she was a little sad. She sighed. "Yeah, I know."

Looking at them, Isabella didn't know what to say.

Everyone stayed at Isabella's house for a whole day. At three or four o'clock in the afternoon, they stood up and left reluctantly.

Debra and Patrick were especially reluctant to part with Damian. Debra even deliberately coaxed Damian for a while, trying to let the little guy call her grandma. Unfortunately, they did not hear him say anything after coaxing for a long time.

On the way back, Stacey looked at Hayden several times and asked worriedly, "There was no lunch break just now. Are you tired?"

Hearing her concerned tone, Hayden shook his head and replied, "I'm fine."

"When you get home, go back to your room and have a rest," Stacey said.

Hayden chuckled and said, "Okay."

Looking at his smile, Stacey was a little lost in thought.

Jeremy listened to Becky and Hayden's conversation. He was a little curious, so he looked at them.

Hayden noticed Jeremy's gaze and calmly stretched out his big hand to avert his gaze.

Back in Carter Villa, not only Stacey but also Debra and Patrick asked Hayden to go back to his room for a rest.

They were all accustomed to taking a nap. Since they hadn't taken a nap that afternoon, they were tired.

Hayden thought for a while and agreed.

When Hayden went back to his room, Jeremy followed him.

In the guest room, Hayden looked back at Jeremy.

Jeremy looked up at Hayden and asked anxiously, "Daddy, how long will it take for Ms. Becky to fall in love with you?"

Hearing this, Hayden was stunned. He stared at the child and reached out to close the door. Finally, he squatted down with his eyes on Jeremy.

"Why did you say this all of a sudden?" Hayden asked with concern.

Jeremy was silent for a long time before he said, "I don't want to call her Ms. Becky anymore. I... I want to call her Mommy." Jeremy looked at his father with tears in his eyes and said, "When I introduce myself to others in the future, I want to tell everyone that Ms. Becky is my mommy!"

Chapter 250

Hayden was silent for a moment, then stretched out his hands to pick up the child.

Hayden carried Jeremy to bed, squatted down, and took off his shoes.

"It shouldn't be too long." Hayden finally said.

Jeremy looked at his father, slightly confused.

Hayden thought for a while and said, "I think Becky likes me."

Hearing this, Jeremy's eyes lit up immediately. "Really?"

Hayden nodded with a smile. "Yes, and this is thanks to you," Hayden looked at Jeremy and said sincerely.

Jeremy's pupils dilated.

Hayden smiled and took off his coat. Then, he lay on the bed and said, "Don't worry. I will try my best. If nothing goes wrong, I plan to propose to Becky next year. If she agrees, we can prepare for the wedding soon. After we get married, you can officially call her Mommy."

"It's a promise!" Jeremy said in a hurried tone.

Hayden chuckled. "It's a promise, all right."

Jeremy's grievance and sadness were swept away, and his heart was brimming with happiness.

Hayden lay down and pulled Jeremy to lie down, saying, "Take a nap."

When Jeremy was at Isabella's house, he didn't sleep well. Hayden could tell that, but the child was also obedient and did not make any noise until

now.

"Daddy, when are you going to propose to Ms. Becky?" Jeremy turned his head and asked expectantly.

Hayden's mind went blank for a moment, and then he thought about it seriously. After a while, he shook his head and said, "I haven't made up my mind yet, but if everything goes smoothly, I will propose next year."

"Okay!" Jeremy nodded eagerly.

Hayden smiled, looked at Jeremy, and said, "So you have to practice speaking and learn more words. In case when I officially get married to Becky, you won't be able to call her Mommy if you're still stuttering."

"No way!" Jeremy hurriedly retorted.

"We'll see," Hayden deliberately said.

"Humph, I'm sure I can do it. I'm able to call her Mommy now!" Jeremy said angrily.

Hayden thought as he listened to Jeremy talk, 'Although he speaks rather freely now, there's still something off about his... pronunciation.' "There are seven or eight words in your sentence that are not pronounced correctly." Hayden smiled and pointed out Jeremy's mistakes. Jeremy's words suddenly stopped. He glared at his father angrily, and his face turned beet red.

Hayden looked at Jeremy and couldn't help but chuckle.

Jeremy stared at his father. After a while, he was so angry that he got up. He pinched his father's mouth, and said fiercely, "Don't laugh!" Jeremy didn't have much strength, but Hayden played along and acted as if Jeremy had pinched him hard. He looked at Jeremy with a hint of a smile in his eyes.

Jeremy looked at his father and snorted. "I will definitely learn it."

Hayden controlled his expression and stopped laughing.

He moved, motioning for Jeremy to let him go.

Jeremy hesitated for a while before letting go of him.

"Go to sleep. I'll teach you how to speak properly when you wake up." Hayden chuckled.

Jeremy went silent.

Hayden took out a storybook from the bedside table, looked at Jeremy, and said, "Let me read you a story. Listen carefully and remember my pronunciation. It's up to you on how much you're able to learn."

Jeremy was rendered speechless.

Although he was speechless, Jeremy thought what Hayden said made sense.

Hayden then began to read storybooks.

Jeremy listened carefully.

He wanted to remember the pronunciation of these words, but halfway through the story, he fell asleep.

Hayden was relieved to see Jeremy asleep, then carefully put down the storybook and finally lay down beside him.

It didn't take long for Hayden to fall asleep. After all, people who were used to taking a nap in the afternoon would be tired if they stayed up late. When he woke up, it was already dark outside.

Hayden reached out, and he managed to feel Jeremy's little hand, he was relieved.

Hayden turned to look at the child, and finally got up carefully, out of bed, and dressed. However, when he was putting on clothes, Jeremy also woke up in a daze.

Hayden put on his clothes and turned around to find that Jeremy had got up.

"Are you awake?" Hayden asked, but he went over and helped Jeremy get his clothes.

Jeremy felt a little uncomfortable. His cheeks were red, and he felt like he was burning. "Daddy, I have a headache."

Hearing this, Hayden's face changed. He raised his hand and touched Jeremy's forehead. It was indeed burning.

Jeremy had a fever.

Hayden instantly became nervous. He quickly wrapped Jeremy in his clothes and then walked downstairs with his son in his arms.

Hayden left in a hurry. Downstairs, Stacey happened to get up not long ago. Seeing that Hayden was holding Jeremy nervously, she asked anxiously, "What's wrong?"

"Jeremy is sick. I'll take him to the hospital," Hayden said nervously.

Hearing this, Stacey was also anxious. She hurriedly put down the things in her hands and said, "I'll go with you."

Charlie was also in the living room. Seeing this, he was very worried and kept up with both of them.

Stacey followed Hayden two steps

out. Thinking of something, she turned around and said to Charlie,

"Charlie, Lillian and Kevin are still sleeping in their room. Please keep an eye on them for me."

Charlie was stunned for a moment, and then he quickly nodded. "Okay."

Stacey followed Hayden out and hurriedly called the driver of the Carter family to drive to the hospital.

When Stacey and Hayden were on their way, Charlie immediately called the hospital through the Carter family's connections.

In the hospital, the director received a call from Charlie and quickly promised to go downstairs immediately. As soon as Jeremy arrived, he would be treated immediately.

When Stacey and Hayden brought the child to the hospital, they found that the director of the hospital had been waiting at the door. Seeing their car coming, the director came immediately.

Hayden didn't know the director, but he could tell from his white coat that he was a doctor.

The director gave the child a simple examination and checked his pulse. After a while, he was relieved and explained, "It's just a common cold, not a big problem."

Stacey and Hayden were relieved when they heard this.

Hayden said, "Jeremy had surgery to repair his vocal cords a month ago. Does that have anything to do with it?"

What worried him most was that the operation a month ago would go wrong and affect his health.

The director was also stunned when he heard this, and then said seriously, "I'll have to check on it with an instrument."