

Love Me Or Leave Me

#Chapter 251 - Read Love Me Or Leave Me Chapter 251 Chapter 251

They quickly took Jeremy inside to undergo numerous tests. When the results came back, they were anxious. Fortunately, the tests showed that Jeremy only had a cold, nothing more serious. Relieved by the test results, Stacey and Hayden breathed a sigh of relief. The director promptly arranged for Jeremy to receive an IV drip. As Jeremy lay on the hospital bed with the IV in his hand, he still found the strength to comfort Stacey, "Ms. Becky, I'm okay."

Stacey thought, 'How can he be so considerate?' Stacey felt her heart ache for Jeremy at the thought and nodded quickly. "Of course, you'll be fine, Jeremy. You're a blessing. Heaven will bless you," she comforted.

"Well, I don't need that. I only need your blessing, Ms. Becky," Jeremy said seriously. Hayden, who was standing next to them, watched the interaction. When he heard Jeremy's words, he could not help but look at Stacey.

Stacey was momentarily taken aback but chuckled and quickly agreed, "All right, I'll definitely give you my blessing."

When Jeremy heard that, he smiled. His face lit up with a hint of joy. "Ms. Becky, can I ask you something?" Jeremy asked the next second. Stacey looked at him indulgently and nodded, saying, "Of course you can, Jeremy. What do you want to ask me?"

Jeremy glanced at Hayden before turning to Becky and quietly asking, "Ms. Becky, will you marry my daddy and be my mommy?" Stacey was stunned when she heard that. Her mind went blank for a moment, and she instinctively looked at Hayden. Hayden looked at her with a hopeful expression without looking away. At that moment, Stacey's heart began to race. She looked at them both, unsure of how to respond. When Jeremy saw that Becky had not answered his question, he became concerned. "Ms. Becky, do you hate my daddy?" As Jeremy spoke, he tried to sit up, even though he was still on the IV and was not supposed to move.

Stacey quickly held him down, urging, "Don't move. Stay still."

Jeremy looked at her anxiously, his eyes reddening with worry as he asked, "Ms. Becky, don't you like my daddy?" Tears welled up in his eyes, and his voice trembled. He was on the verge of crying.

Stacey panicked and hurriedly reassured him, "I like him. I like your daddy. I swear I do. Don't worry, I won't lie to you." Jeremy's eyes instantly lit up at her statement. Across

from them, Hayden's eyes also lit up with happiness. They shared the same surprise and joy expression, looking at Stacey expectantly, leaving her speechless.

Jeremy was overjoyed when he asked, "Ms. Becky since you like my daddy, will you marry him? Then I can call you 'mommy', right?" Jeremy desperately wanted to call someone his "mommy." Stacey felt awkward being put on the spot and turned to Hayden for help.

After some time, Hayden raised his hand and gently ruffled Jeremy's hair. He chuckled before saying, "Don't push her. Give me some time to prepare a proper proposal first. When I'm ready, I'll propose to her. After that, she can decide whether to accept it or not." Jeremy blinked in confusion while Stacey was taken aback. She turned to Hayden, surprised that he would say such a thing. Hayden, however, looked utterly pleased, his smile wide because of what she had said earlier.

"I..." Stacey was speechless, feeling

that Hayden had taken her words too seriously. She wanted to explain, but she did not know where to start. Moreover, she was not sure how to explain. She had said she liked him earlier out of desperation to keep Jeremy from getting upset. But now, with Hayden's reaction, she did not know how to clarify the situation. She thought, 'I can't possibly tell Jeremy I'm just trying to appease him, can I? But on the other hand, if I don't like Hayden, what's the point of continuing this ambiguous relationship? Why don't we get together then?'

The sudden thought flashed through Stacey's mind, making her feel dazed as she wondered if it would work. She glanced at Hayden but quickly looked away. With just a glance, her ears burned. Meanwhile, Hayden noticed her reaction and felt a surge of hope. He realized his chances of a successful proposal were high. So, Hayden decided to prepare it thoroughly. Perhaps he could ask Eugene again for a custom engagement ring. Once the ring was ready, he would formally propose to Becky.

As they were lost in their respective thoughts, they patiently waited until the IV drip was empty before calling the doctor to remove it. "Do you still feel unwell?" Stacey asked, touching Jeremy's forehead with concern.

Jeremy looked at Becky with a smile on his pale face. He shook his head slightly and replied, "A little, but not as much as before."

"That's great," Stacey responded. She was happy to hear that. After that, Hayden fetched some medication and completed the necessary paperwork. Once everything was settled, they left the hospital together.

On the way home, Jeremy fell asleep again in Becky's arms. She held him carefully, not wanting to wake him. When they arrived at Carter Villa, Stacey gently carried him

inside. Hayden offered to carry Jeremy, but Stacey shook her head to decline. Although she did not fully

ove

understand why Jeremy was so fond of her, she could tell that her presence made him feel safe. As Stacey carried Jeremy inside, everyone in the house rushed over, including Lillian and Kevin. "Mommy, how's Jeremy?" they asked in unison.

When Debra saw that Jeremy was asleep, she quickly covered the two children's mouths to keep them from waking Jeremy. Stacey quickly carried Jeremy upstairs. Before she did, she turned to Hayden and asked, "Can Jeremy sleep with me tonight? Don't worry, I'll take good care of him." She was concerned Hayden might not be comfortable with the arrangement.

Surprised by her request, Hayden nodded and replied, "Okay." Relieved, Stacey carefully carried Jeremy into her room, laid him gently on the bed, and covered him with a blanket. Even though Jeremy was not her biological child, she realized that he had become as important to her as Lillian and Kevin over time. That adorable child was so attached to her and had unknowingly found a special place in her heart. When Stacey saw him sick, she was worried, anxious, and uneasy. Stacey leaned down and kissed Jeremy's forehead softly after he had calmed down. "Let him sleep for now. It's getting late. We should have dinner," Hayden suggested.

Stacey nodded and replied, "All right."

Chapter 252

They quietly slipped out of the room, ready to walk down the stairs together. As they reached the stairwell, Stacey hesitated but could not stop herself from reaching out and grabbing Hayden's hand. He was taken aback by her action and turned to her. With a questioning look, he asked, "What's wrong?"

Stacey's heart began to race. She wrestled with her emotions for what felt like an eternity before finally blurting out, "You... You and Queenie are really never going to get back together, are you?"

.

Hayden froze at her words, both surprised and confused. He wondered, 'Why is she asking such a question? Why is she still afraid I might reconcile with Queenie?' As a perceptive man, Hayden quickly connected the dots to his conversation with Jeremy earlier at the hospital. His eyes lit up with anticipation as he realized what Becky was about to say. "Rest assured. Queenie and I never had much of a relationship, and there's no chance of us getting back together. It's just not possible," Hayden said earnestly.

Stacey felt her heart race even faster, her cheeks flushing with heat. "So... Can we..." Stacey stammered, but even though the words were on the tip of her tongue, they were hard to say. He felt a surge of nervousness, his eyes gleaming with hope as he gazed at her. Just then, he noticed Jeremy anxiously emerging from the room behind them.

for Becky, but after seeing Hayden's signal, he halted and stood still, staring ahead initially Jeremy had intended to look

Hurriedly, Hayden made a discreet hand signal that only Jeremy would understand. Initially, Jeremy had intended to look

In the meantime, Stacey,

who was in the hallway, was unaware that Jeremy was watching them from behind. She had no idea that he had woken up shortly after she had left and had rushed out to find her. After wrestling with her thoughts, she finally mustered the courage to ask, "Can we really be together?"

Hayden smiled at her question and replied, "Why can't we be together?" With that, he gently pulled Stacey closer and planted a soft kiss on her lips. "We're perfect for each other, don't you think?" Hayden whispered. Aware that Jeremy was watching them, he only gave her a peck. Stacey's ears burned, and her face turned red.

Meanwhile, Charlie noticed they had not come down for quite a while. Worried, he decided to go upstairs to check on them. What he had not expected was to see Hayden and Becky kissing. Charlie quickly covered his eyes with his hand. He muttered to himself, 'I didn't see anything.' Then, he turned to flee.

However, Stacey had already noticed Charlie. Her expression suddenly changed as she panicked. On the other hand, Hayden was momentarily stunned and instinctively turned his head. He caught a glimpse of Charlie's retreating figure as the latter dashed down the stairs. Hayden froze for a moment, then he laughed. He could not help it as he was in a good mood "You think this is funny?" Stacey scolded softly, her embarrassment turning to irritation. She had not been ready to let her family know she was willing to be with Hayden. It was unnerving to be caught off guard like that.

Hayden quickly held back his laughter and lowered his voice, saying, "All right, I won't laugh." He gently coaxed Becky while discreetly signaling Jeremy to return to his room, making sure Becky did not notice. Although Jeremy was only three years old, he was a smart little boy. Thanks to the TV shows and videos he had watched, he understood when Hayden and Becky were kissing, it meant they were a couple and would get married someday. Overjoyed, Jeremy obediently sneaked back to his room as Hayden instructed.

At first, Stacey wanted to go down the stairs, but suddenly, she hesitated because she could almost imagine the scene downstairs. She thought, 'Wait a minute! Charlie will tell

everyone what he saw, won't he? ' At that thought, Stacey rushed downstairs to stop Charlie from telling others. She was not ready for everyone to know. Confused, Hayden followed her down the stairs, smiling.

After everyone had left, Jeremy looked out of his room again. His face, though pale from sickness, now shone with joy. Despite his illness, he could not stop smiling. The more he thought about it, the happier he became. Eventually, he climbed back into bed, inhaling the scent of Becky on the blanket and giggling. He thought to himself, 'I'm going to have a mommy from now on. A mommy that I chose by myself! I like Ms. Becky! She's going to be a wonderful mommy, for sure! I don't want Queenie! I'm not an unwanted child, and I'm not unloved. I have a mommy. Ms. Becky will be my mommy. As for that

GEO

lady, Queenie... I don't care to know her.'

Carter Villa was filled with sweetness and happiness. Meanwhile, the Edwards Group was in chaos on the other side of the world in Maeloria. Theodore was on the verge of a breakdown when one of their major projects experienced serious problems. In his bold and risky efforts to bring the Edwards Group up to the level of the Carter family's company or even surpass it, Theodore had made bold investments, many of them in collaboration with the Smith Group. However, a few days ago, news arrived from Menterra that Jenny had been arrested for murder.

Theodore had been unaware of the information. He had been trying to track down Jenny to settle scores and recover the money she had swindled from the Edwards Group. However, before he could find her, news came from the Menterra that Jenny had been arrested for intentional homicide. The person she killed was her ex-husband's daughter from his previous marriage, which further shattered Theodore's impression of her. Before discovering her betrayal, Theodore had seen Jenny as a perfect woman, gentle and understanding, always on his side, offering comfort and care no matter what. Unlike Rebecca, who constantly argued with him and frustrated him. Every time he thought of Rebecca, his mood soured.

Therefore, when the truth about Jenny came out, Theodore was utterly shocked because he had such a positive impression of her. Not only was she guilty of financial fraud, but she had also committed murder. Theodore wondered how she could be so ruthless. At that moment, he suddenly thought of his two children with Rebecca. 'If Jenny feared that the two children I have with Rebecca might return to claim the Edwards family fortune, would she have harmed them as well?' The thought sent a chill down his spine.

Chapter 253

Whether or not Jenny was a villain was not something Theodore wanted to concern himself with right now. His biggest headache was the collaboration between the Edwards and Smith families. Jenny had originally arranged these projects, but now, with her in prison, the Smith family had changed their representative.

The new person in charge discovered that most of the benefits from the collaboration were not going to the Smith family. Instead, Jenny had secretly funneled them into a small company she and her mother, Dorothy, had started. When the new representative reported this to Edwin, he was initially shocked but then turned furious.

t ger

Edwin wanted to confront Dorothy, but he quickly realized he could in touch with her. The small company that had absorbed most of the benefits had been hastily sold by Dorothy at a very low price not long ago. Edwin was not stupid. He quickly realized something was fishy and was livid. However, finding Dorothy immediately was nearly impossible.

The first thing Edwin did was to halt all collaborations between the Smith family and the Edwards Group, even involving the courts to request a thorough investigation of the Edwards Group. Because of this, most of the Edwards Group's funds were frozen, making it impossible to continue major projects and even causing internal cash flow issues.

leading to a massive strike. The workers Just a few days ago, one of the Edwards Group's projects could not pay its worke called in journalists to demand their wages at the Edwards Group's headquarters. Theodore was so anxious that he used his personal savings to barely pay the workers and prevent a major incident. If the media had caught wind of it and reported it, the Edwards Group would be completely doomed. But even so, it was just a drop in the bucket. The

Edwards Group had many projects, and whether they were halted or continued, the Edwards Group could not bear the burden.

At Theodore's most difficult moment, his biological father, Michael, and Michael's illegitimate son, Gifford, suddenly returned, deliberately mocking him. Theodore was so angry he flipped a table, but no matter how much he lost his temper, it could not change the fact that the Edwards Group was about to collapse under pressure and go bankrupt.

—

Ian said the only way for the Edwards Group to get out of this mess was to seek help from Rebecca – no, Stacey. If the Carter family was willing to help, the Edwards family might be able to overcome their difficulties. But now, how could he have the nerve to go to the Carter family, to go to Rebecca?

In the club, Theodore drank himself into a stupor, feeling like his whole life was a joke. Even Taylor did not want to be friends with him anymore, and Ian's parents were urging Ian to stay away. Only Ian, out of friendship, dared to secretly remain friends with him.

After a week of this torment, the Edwards Group finally could not hold on any longer. More and more projects were going wrong, and he could not contain the situation. Many workers took their grievances to TV stations, bringing journalists to demand their wages from him.

The Edwards Group ended up on television, but not in the way Theodore had once imagined – being invited to speak because of success – but as a cautionary tale of failure, as the company that owed wages to migrant workers and became the example used by the media to advocate for their pay.

In the end, Theodore filed for bankruptcy. His company was gone, and even his mansion was auctioned off by the court to pay the Edwards Group's debt to the workers. Not only that, but he also ended up 600 million dollars in debt.

'Can I ever pay back this much money in my lifetime?' Theodore wondered. He walked down the street with his suitcase, looking at the people passing by, feeling lost. He did not know what his future held. Absentmindedly, he found himself at the airport. But because he could not repay his debts, the court had blacklisted him, and he could not even buy a plane ticket. He stood at the airport for a long time, unable to hold back his emotions, and crouched in a corner with tears in his

eyes.

He regretted it all. He regretted being so arrogant back then, not trusting Rebecca even a little. If he had trusted her and investigated a bit, he would have easily seen through Jenny's clumsy schemes. But he did not believe her. Blinded by his self-

27 Sun, Aug 11

4

+ 56%

righteous hatred, he bullied and humiliated her, leading them to this point. Even after their divorce, he had not sincerely repented. Jenny's apparent kindness was so fake, but he believed it. Ultimately, he was too confident and too self-assured.

He thought he was so great, that being loved and cared for unconditionally was normal. He even spitefully thought Rebecca's unwillingness to remarry him was her loss. He dreamed of surpassing the Carter family quickly, making Rebecca regret the divorce and beg for reconciliation. Even though men rarely shed tears, at this moment, Theodore could not stop his tears from falling.

“Where do you want to go?” a voice suddenly asked beside him. Theodore was startled. He slowly turned and saw Wyatt. It had been a long time. Wyatt looked much older and more mature. “Where

do you want to go?” Wyatt asked again as Theodore spaced out.

Theodore snapped back to reality, laughing bitterly at himself. I can’t go anywhere.”

if

“I will take you,” Wyatt said. Theodore froze, staring at him. Wyatt’s lips moved as speak, but he said nothing. He had no right to speak. It was his betrayal of Theodore’s trust that had led to this.

After leaving the Edwards Group, Wyatt tried to stay away, not wanting to upset Theodore with his presence. But when he saw the news of the Edwards Group’s bankruptcy, he could not help himself and rushed over, abandoning his work.

He worried about not finding Theodore but spotted him in the airport lobby as soon as he arrived. Theodore’s tears made Wyatt feel terrible. They had once been best friends, trusting each other completely. It was because Theodore had trusted him so much that Theodore ended up in this situation. He owed Theodore. So from now on, he had to repay it. Otherwise, he would never find peace.

“I want to go to Hivalis,” Theodore finally said, his voice hoarse with a hint of desperate hope.

Wyatt looked at him and asked, “To find Rebecca?” Theodore paused, then shook his head. Wyatt was silent for a long time before speaking again. “I will take you there.”

Chapter 254

The news of the Edwards Group's bankruptcy made headlines, causing quite a stir. Stacey was initially surprised when she saw it, but after delving into more detailed reports and realizing it was all connected to Jenny, the shock diminished. Nevertheless, Stacey felt a bit melancholic. After all, the Edwards Group had once been an impressive company to her, and she found it hard to believe that under Theodore's management, it had gone bankrupt in less than two years. However, all Stacey could do was sigh. Every path in life was the result of one's choices - hers and Theodore's included. No one had the right to judge another's life.

After absorbing the news, Stacey turned it off and refocused on planning the company's annual holiday break. Time had flown by, and another year had passed, bringing Christmas closer. The entire country was gearing up for the

holiday season, and Carter's Jewel was no exception. All employees, except for those in frontline sales positions, were scheduled to take their usual holidays.

However, before the official holiday, certain arrangements at Carter's Jewel had to be made to ensure smooth operations during the break. In the days leading up to the holiday, Stacey's workload increased significantly, leaving her with little time for Hayden and Jeremy. Fortunately, they were understanding and did not get upset or cause trouble.

On the contrary, while she was working, Hayden would take the kids to the supermarket every day to buy groceries. Each evening, when Stacey returned home, she was greeted with meals lovingly prepared by Hayden. In just a few days, Hayden's culinary efforts raised Lillian and Kevin's expectations. Now, they insisted on having their meals beautifully plated and prepared to look exceptional.

The housekeeper at Carter Villa found herself unintentionally caught up in the friendly competition. Although she was not responsible for cooking during this period, she felt uneasy seeing how delicious and beautifully presented Hayden's dishes were. Eventually, after carefully asking for Hayden's permission, she began learning to cook and plate dishes from him.

Debbie and Patrick found the situation amusing and reassured the housekeeper that the Carter family would not fire her for not cooking as well as Hayden. But after a day of learning from him, the housekeeper felt inspired and happily embraced the challenge of improving her plating and cooking skills.

Hayden, with his great temper and patience, never grew impatient with the housekeeper's questions. Whenever she sought his guidance, he would kindly explain everything he knew. Within a few days, the housekeeper's skills had noticeably improved. Her dishes were now not only beautifully plated but also tasted significantly better.

After tasting the housekeeper's improved cooking, Debbie and Patrick could not help but joke with Hayden about how he had "upgraded" the housekeeper's skills, making meals for the Carter family even better. The whole family, including the housekeeper, found this amusing.

A few days later, Isabella visited with Damian. Knowing Damian was the young master of the Carter family, the housekeeper put extra effort into making cute and attractive dishes for him. Damian, who usually clung to Isabella in unfamiliar environments, was so mesmerized by the beautiful food

that he forgot all about his mother, staring wide-eyed at the table in sheer fascination.

Isabella was equally shocked. She

knew the Carter family was wealthy and high-class, but seeing it firsthand, she realized that even the food prepared by the housekeeper at Carter Villa looked like gourmet cuisine from a top restaurant. However, she soon discovered she had been mistaken. It was not just her who was surprised; even Adrian was astonished. After asking around, they learned the truth.

When Isabella discovered that the housekeeper at Carter Villa had been inspired by Hayden to make the food look this good, she could not help but laugh. The life of rich families seemed pretty interesting indeed.

Meanwhile, Theodore and Wyatt drove to Hivalis themselves. The journey by car was much longer compared to flying, and it took them several days to finally arrive. They ended up outside the residential area of Carter Villa.

However, they only stopped at the entrance and did not go in. First, they could not get in without permission. Second, they did not want to. Theodore did not know how he could face Rebecca now, or maybe he just did not have the nerve to see her again in this lifetime. Yet, he could not help wanting to catch a glimpse of her and their children.

Thinking of Lillian and Kevin brought

another stab of pain to Theodore's heart. As he stood there, the security guard seemed to recognize him. After watching him stand at the gate for a while, the guard finally approached, but it was not to invite him in; it was to make him leave. Theodore had never been treated like this before. In the past, he would have been furious, but now, all he could do was smile bitterly at his situation.

Wyatt, sensing the depth of Theodore's despair, silently took out 60 dollars and discreetly handed it to the guard. The guard quickly refused, but Wyatt insisted, assuring the guard they would not enter, only stand at the gate for a while, and asked that they not be disturbed. The guard, after repeatedly confirming they would not enter, reluctantly accepted the money and left them alone.

They stood at the gate for a long time, until the afternoon, or rather, the evening, when the Carter family's car returned and went inside. Standing at the gate, they could not see what was happening inside or even be sure whether Rebecca was in that car. Their stomachs growled, and Wyatt finally suggested, "Let's go."

Wyatt thought Theodore would not

leave, but to his surprise, he got up after Wyatt spoke. Wyatt hesitated, then took Theodore to get something to eat. But during the meal, Theodore suddenly broke down, crying uncontrollably like a child having an emotional meltdown. Wyatt felt awful and silently ordered several bottles of alcohol. That night, he stayed with Theodore, drinking for a long time. When

Theodore was drunk, Wyatt quietly returned the remaining bottles, paid the bill, and took Theodore to a hotel.

In the following days, Theodore went to the entrance of Carter Villa almost every day. He watched the Carter family's car leave in the morning and then left himself, returning in the afternoon to wait for the car to come back home. Wyatt, observing Theodore's repetitive actions, was deeply worried but did not know how to comfort him.

Then, one evening, while Theodore and Wyatt were shopping at a supermarket near Carter Villa, they unexpectedly saw Rebecca with another man. To be precise, they were not alone but with three children, shopping together. The most shocking part was that Lillian and Kevin called the man "Daddy."

Love Me Or Leave Me #Chapter 255 - Read Love Me Or Leave Me Chapter 255

Chapter 255

Theodore's face darkened immediately, and he instinctively wanted to move toward Rebecca. However, just as he started, Wyatt stopped him. Wyatt grabbed him and pointed to several bodyguards not far from Stacey. Seeing the bodyguards, Theodore regained his senses. He stopped and smiled bitterly.

After a long time, Stacey and the man left. The man, woman, and three children appeared to be a happy family, and Theodore felt a pang in his heart. "That man is Hayden Hoggard, the CEO of Hoggard Technologies," Wyatt explained briefly.

When Theodore heard that, he was stunned. His eyes were filled with confusion, and it took him a long time to process the information. Then, his eyes widened in disbelief.

Wyatt looked into Theodore's eyes and saw shock in his expression. He sighed and continued, "When Reb- Stacey's grandmother was alive, she was best friends with Hayden's grandmother. There was even talk of an engagement between Stacey and Hayden when they were very young."

"Later, tragedy struck. Stacey was taken away by traffickers when she was three years old, and neither the Carter family nor the Hoggard family were able to locate her for more than 20 years. After some events, Hayden got married but soon divorced. He is now raising a child on his own. It's the one who was with Stacey just now. The child really likes Stacey and has always wanted her to be his mother," Wyatt added.

Theodore's eyes reddened again, and his hand trembled uncontrollably. He had always assumed that after he divorced Rebecca, no one would want her. He had always believed that she would come to regret her decision. He thought that if he managed the Edwards Group well and surpassed the Carter family, Rebecca would regret it.

While Theodore was pondering, Wyatt's phone suddenly rang. Wyatt paused and then took out his phone. Wyatt's expression softened as he realized it was his son who had called. He gave Theodore a quick glance before answering the video call.

"Daddy!" As soon as the call connected, a little boy appeared on the screen, excitedly calling out to him.

Listening to the boy's voice, Wyatt felt warmth in his heart. He responded, "Yes, I'm here."

The little boy, however, wasn't happy. He pouted and said, "Daddy, you've been gone for so long. When are you coming back?"

When Wyatt heard that, he was silent for a moment. After a pause, he gently coaxed, "I have some things to deal with recently, so it may be a while before I can return. In the meantime, Alex, please stay with Ms. Young and be a good boy. Okay?"

"I don't want to!" Alex's expression changed instantly, and he anxiously pleaded, "Daddy, I want to be with you. Please come back soon. I really miss you."

Wyatt's expression softened after he heard that. He looked at Alex and said gently, "I miss you too, but I really have something important to do right now. I'm sorry. Can you forgive me?"

Hearing his father's words, Alex paused for a long time, his stubborn expression gradually fading. Eventually, he nodded his head.

Wyatt smiled and said gently, "Be good and listen to Ms. Young, okay? When I come back, I'll take you to your favorite KFC."

Alex's eyes lit up instantly at the mention of KFC. He eagerly asked, "Really?"

Wyatt nodded with a smile. "Yes."

"You better not lie to me!" Alex huffed.

Wyatt smiled and promised, "I'll never lie to you." After comforting Alex, Wyatt hung up the phone. However, he noticed Theodore was watching him after he finished the call. Wyatt remained silent for a moment before asking, "What's wrong?"

Theodore looked at him and was about to say something, but decided not to. After a long pause, he finally asked, "You have a child too? That little boy seems to be about the same age as Lily and Kev, right?"

Wyatt was silent again. After a while, he changed the subject and asked, "Is there anything else you want to buy?"

Theodore looked at him, then finally

shook his head with a bitter smile. Wyatt thought that he would still need to stay with Theodore for a while longer, but he didn't expect that after that night, Theodore was no longer fixated on Stacey, or rather, Rebecca. At the very least, Theodore no longer appeared to be intent on following Stacey or standing guard outside the Carter family's residence on a daily basis.

Wyatt wasn't sure if it was just his imagination, but he felt that Theodore seemed even more dejected. Theodore borrowed forty thousand dollars from him. It was once a small sum for Theodore, but it was now a substantial sum for both of them.

Wyatt hesitated for only a moment before agreeing because he felt he owed it to Theodore. After giving Theodore the money, Wyatt asked Theodore about his future plans. Theodore announced that he would start over.

Despite Theodore's casual tone, only those who had been through it could truly understand the upcoming challenges. Moreover, for Theodore, it was not as simple as just starting over. After all, before this, he directly inherited the Edwards family business.

Wyatt was not sure if Theodore could regain his success, but as a friend, he hoped so. What happened in the past could not be changed anymore, but the future could still be strived for. As for Alex's background, Wyatt didn't tell Theodore and didn't plan to. Alex was the most innocent person in the entire sequence of events, more so than Rebecca and her two children.

Wyatt could not change Theodore

and J's decisions, but since J had abandoned Alex, Wyatt decided to take care of him and make sure he grew up safely. If everything had a causal effect, Wyatt believed he owed Alex at least that much. Because he assisted J in deceiving Theodore, Theodore sought vengeance on Rebecca, while J harbored unrealistic expectations. One wrong step led to another, and Alex was born.

Nevertheless, Alex was just a child. His life should not be tainted by adult grievances and condemned to a life of misery. Stacey didn't know about Alex, but she did know that Theodore and Wyatt had been appearing around the neighborhood for the past few days.

Initially, she was worried that

Theodore might cause trouble, but

after a few days, they realized he was just watching from a distance without any intention of doing anything. Not only did she notice, but Hayden eventually noticed that Theodore was there too. However, Hayden didn't say anything. He simply arranged for a few more bodyguards to protect Stacey and the children.

Chapter 256

That night, Stacey and Hayden brought the children with them to the supermarket, and they unexpectedly encountered Theodore again. She thought Theodore would come over to bother them, but thankfully, he did not. After that night, they didn't see Theodore again. He had left. Perhaps he had finally moved on and wouldn't bother her and the children anymore. Stacey felt an inexplicable sense of relief.

Time passed quickly, and soon it was time for Christmas. Everyone was preparing to go back to their hometowns. However, unlike most people, who simply packed their belongings and went back, Stacey and Hayden had to stop in Strico before returning to their hometowns. Hayden and Jeremy had many belongings there that needed to be sorted out.

When Charlie saw Stacey kissing Hayden in the past, he quickly informed everyone in the family. Even though Stacey hurriedly chased after him, she couldn't stop him in time. As a result, everyone in the family was aware of her relationship with Hayden.

Knowing that Hayden and Jeremy needed to return to Strico first to pack things up, Debra agreed without hesitation, fully supporting Hayden. She strongly advised Stacey to accompany Hayden and Jeremy to Strico.

'Hay has been staying with us for quite a while. It's only polite for Stacey to visit his parents. Otherwise, it would be impolite. More importantly, now that they're in a relationship, it would be beneficial for them to spend time together and strengthen their bond. While family is important, nothing can compare to a couple's affection,' Debra thought.

Patrick wholeheartedly agreed with Debra. Stacey noticed a look in her father's eyes that suggested she was a third wheel if she stayed at home. Feeling somewhat speechless, she quickly packed up. She then left with Hayden, accompanied by Lillian and Kevin.

As Christmas approached, Gwen and Marie returned home for the holidays. It meant they could not follow the family around and look after the children like they used to. Fortunately, Lillian and Kevin had matured enough that they no longer required constant care. Otherwise, Stacey would have struggled to care for the three children alone now that she was also responsible for Jeremy.

However, Stacey quickly noticed that, while Jeremy clung to her, Lillian and Kevin did not appear to be attached to her at all. On the contrary, they seemed particularly fond of Hayden. Stacey secretly observed Hayden with the children and noticed that he seemed genuinely happy, not forced. He was very considerate and patient with them.

Stacey turned her gaze toward Jeremy as she reflected on this. When Jeremy noticed she was looking at him, he smiled right back. Stacey was instantly comforted by Jeremy's sweet expression and bent down to gently kiss his forehead. 'He's way too adorable!' she exclaimed inwardly.

They returned to Strico in good spirits, but to their surprise, shortly after they arrived, Queenie showed up as well. She brought a lawyer with her, claiming to be Jeremy's mother and asserting her right to visit her child. She threatened to sue the Hoggard family and expose the situation to the media if they didn't allow her to meet with Jeremy. When Joshua reported it to Hayden, Hayden's face darkened instantly.

Jeremy, too, was very upset, angrily saying, "I don't want to see her. Just ignore her."

Joshua looked helplessly at Hayden. With a gloomy expression, Hayden turned to Stacey and said, "Stay here and watch the children. I'll go out and see what's going on."

Stacey immediately stood up and said, "Let's go together."

Hayden was dumbfounded, but Stacey didn't explain further. Hayden was momentarily puzzled, but then he understood and chuckled. "Okay. We'll go together," he agreed with a smile. He did not have to handle the situation alone. He and Becky were in a relationship, so she had the right to be involved.

He realized it would be wrong to meet his ex-wife behind Stacey's back. With that in mind, he said to Jeremy, "Jeremy, you stay here and play with Lily and Kev. Becky and I will be back soon."

"I want to go too. I have to make it clear to her that I do not want her to be my mommy. I want Becky to be my mommy. That woman is no longer my mommy!" Jeremy insisted in a solemn voice.

When Stacey heard that, she felt nervous. Hayden hesitated for a moment before agreeing with a smile, "Okay."

"What about Lily and Kev?" Stacey asked, concerned.

"Let's bring them along," Hayden suggested with a smile. Although it might not be ideal to argue with Queenie in front of the children, it would be better to address the issue head-on rather than let it linger unresolved.

He knew they would be safe inside Hoggard Villa, but given Becky's previous trauma from being kidnapped, leaving the children alone might cause her anxiety. Because of that, it was best to bring them along. While Stacey thought it might not be best to involve the children, she agreed for safety's sake, and they all went out together. With two adults and three children, they looked very much like a family of five.

The moment Queenie saw them, she was stunned and then filled with hatred. She felt she had tried everything, including apologizing in all sorts of ways, just to save her marriage. 'Why did Becky have to take advantage of the situation and seduce my husband?' she mused.

Queenie, feeling concerned, was

forced to employ an underhanded strategy to persuade the Hoggard family to let her in. She knew that reconciling with Hayden was

maintain some ties with th

impossible, but she wanted to

Hoggard family. As long as she could maintain contact with the Hoggard family, the Leavey family would benefit greatly from them.

Of course, in order to maintain a positive relationship with the Hoggard family, she had to

negotiate with Hayden and achieve satisfactory outcome. After she betrayed Hayden two years ago, a lot of those in their social circle became wary of her family, which hurt her family's business. The Leavey family lost out on a lot of major projects because many prestigious families refused to work with them as soon as they learned of their involvement.

Hayden finally walked over and stood in front of her. At that moment, Queenie realized that Hayden was incredibly handsome. It was at that moment that she realized that he was much more handsome than her ex-boyfriend.

Chapter 257

"I hate you! I don't want you to be my mommy, and I don't want to see you again!" Jeremy shouted angrily the moment he saw Queenie.

Queenie was stunned when she heard Jeremy's words, and her expression darkened as she realized what he had said. Instinctively, she glanced at Stacey, blaming her for influencing Jeremy.

"Queenie, Jeremy doesn't like you," Hayden stated bluntly, looking at Queenie. As he spoke, he glanced at Jeremy before averting his gaze to Queenie again. "If you insist on pursuing this and taking it to the media, the Hoggard family will have no choice but to reveal the truth about your actions over the years to the public. If you think those threats can intimidate the Hoggard family, go ahead and try."

"By the way, just so you know, Becky and I are in a relationship now. Jeremy wants Becky to be his mother, so it's best if you let go of any unnecessary fantasies. Otherwise, you'll only end up embarrassing yourself, and no one will help you," Hayden added curtly.

Queenie's face went pale. She stared at Hayden in shock. 'How could he be so blunt and direct with me? Most importantly, is it true that Hayden is going out with Becky? Even Jeremy had been won over by Becky!' she exclaimed to herself.

can

Thinking of that, Queenie turned to Jeremy and pleaded anxiously, "Jeremy, she can't be your mother. A stepmother never be better than your biological mother. I'm your biological mother, and I'll be good to you from now on." Her voice trembled as she spoke.

Hayden frowned in annoyance and snapped, "Enough, Queenie!

Jeremy, who was upset, said angrily, "I know you're lying! You have never treated me nicely! You never wanted me. You just

want to use me!"

"No, that's not true," Queenie quickly denied, her expression changing drastically. Desperately, she turned to Becky and accused, "Becky, did you teach Jeremy to say all these things? Did you badmouth me in front of him, telling him I'm just using him? That's why he likes you and not me, right?"

Tears welled up in Queenie's eyes as she stepped closer to Stacey. When Hayden saw that, he frowned and stepped forward to pull Queenie away. Jeremy also ran to stand protectively in front of Becky immediately, spreading his arms wide and shouting, "Bad woman, I won't let you hurt Becky!"

Stacey was momentarily startled by Queenie's sudden accusation, but after seeing Hayden and Jeremy protecting her, she regained her composure. Realizing that she and Hayden were now in a relationship and likely heading toward marriage, she took a

deep breath and gathered her courage. "Queenie, do you even realize what you have done wrong? Have you ever thought about why Hayden and Jeremy don't like you?" Stacey asked.

Queenie's face turned pale as she heard Stacey's words. "I—I was too immature back then. I made some mistakes, but I've realized them now. I promise, I'll be a better person. I won't do those things again. Stacey, I'm Hayden's ex-wife and Jeremy's biological mother. If we reconcile, our family will finally be whole again. If you have any dignity, stop being a homewrecker and stop seducing my husband!"

sound. Stacey was Just as Queenie finished her sentence, Stacey slapped her hard across the face, causing a loud smack. Furious and retorted, "Queenie, you and Hayden divorced three years ago. My relationship with him is legitimate. How dare you call me a homewrecker?"

Queenie, stunned and enraged, raised her hand, about to hit Stacey. Hayden quickly intervened, grabbing her arm and pushing her away. "Enough, Queenie. I'm done talking to you. I'll have someone speak with your grandfather later. We've tolerated you out of respect for your status as Jeremy's biological mother, but if you continue to behave so shamelessly, don't blame the Hoggard family for showing no mercy," Hayden said coldly, staring at Queenie.

Mon,

When Jeremy heard that, he immediately looked up at his father and said, "Daddy, there's no need for you to consider my feelings. After all, I don't like her!" He then turned to Queenie and yelled, "I don't like her at all! I hate her so much!"

Queenie panicked. She looked at Jeremy and said anxiously, "Jeremy, don't listen to Becky's nonsense. I love you, and I'll treat you well from now on. I would never bring harm to you."

Jeremy looked at Queenie with a sullen face and said displeasingly, "Don't speak ill of Becky anymore. She has never said anything bad about you!"

The moment Queenie heard those words, she was stunned and incredulous. "No way! Jeremy, if she had not purposefully spoken ill of me in front of you, how could you dislike me and prefer her? Jeremy, I'm your biological mother!"

"You're lying! You don't like me at all! Don't think you can fool me simply because I'm a child. Every time you visit Daddy, you don't even look at me. You are not here for me. The only reason you're here is to exploit Daddy and the Hoggard family. You don't care for me! I don't like you and don't wish to see you again. Stop using me as an excuse to enter Hoggard Villa!" Jeremy retorted.

As Jeremy continued to speak, his words grew more emotional and intense. Stacey, who had initially been focused on Queenie, gradually realized that Jeremy had said a lot that day as she listened to his complaints one after the other. She also observed that Jeremy was expressing himself clearly and articulately.

Not only did Stacey notice that, but so did Hayden. They both looked at Jeremy. Indeed, Jeremy still cared about his mother. There was no child in the world who wouldn't care about their biological mother. It was just that Jeremy was too smart and sensitive. He could sense who genuinely cared about him and who didn't.

Thinking of that, Hayden pulled Jeremy behind him and said to Queenie, "I've said everything that needs to be said. This is your last chance to leave on your own. Stop causing problems for us. Otherwise, the Hoggard family will not hesitate to expose your past actions to the public." The Hoggard family was never afraid to make it public. With that, Hayden picked up Jeremy and turned to Stacey. "Let's go inside, Becky. We don't need to deal with her anymore."

Out of desperation, Queenie tried to reach out and stop Hayden, but before she could touch him, the Hoggard family's bodyguards intervened, blocking her path. She attempted to follow them into the house, but the bodyguards held her back.

Hayden returned to the house with Jeremy in his arms. Next, he turned around and said to Stacey, "Don't worry. I will ask someone to handle this right away."

G

Chapter 258

Stacey opened her mouth, intending to say something, but ultimately said nothing. She glanced at Jeremy, who was being held by Hayden. Jeremy's eyes were red, and even though he was holding back his tears, they were visible. "Let me hold Jeremy," Stacey suggested to Hayden.

When Jeremy heard her words, he immediately reached out his arms, wanting a hug from her. Seeing Jeremy's eagerness, Hayden hesitated for a moment before passing Jeremy to Stacey and saying, "He's quite heavy." A three-year-old was not light at all, and carrying and comforting them for a long time could be exhausting even for an adult.

"Not at all," Stacey replied, shaking her head slightly as she took Jeremy in her arms. She then walked over to the couch in the living room and sat down.

Hayden watched them for a moment before saying, "Please help me comfort him. I need to take care of some things upstairs."

Hearing that, Stacey nodded quickly and said, "Okay."

Meanwhile, Lillian and Kevin had gathered around their mother, curiously looking at Jeremy. "Jeremy, what's wrong?" Kevin asked with concern.

Lillian, also worried, chimed in, "Are you not feeling well, Jeremy?"

Stacey looked at Jeremy. Thinking that the child was in a bad mood, she lowered her gaze to look at Lillian and Kevin and said in a low voice, "Lily and Kev, Jeremy is not in a good mood today. Please don't disturb him."

Not knowing how to comfort Jeremy, Stacey could only hold him quietly, trying to provide silent reassurance. After all, she was in an awkward position to talk about Queenie. Fortunately, Jeremy began to calm down after a while. Nevertheless, he still clung to her, reluctant to lift his head. In the end, Stacey's arms went numb.

After finishing his work, Hayden came downstairs and found that Stacey was still holding Jeremy. With a frown, he walked toward them. Seeing that Jeremy had calmed down and was not crying anymore, Hayden looked at Stacey and said, "I'll hold him in your stead."

When Jeremy heard that, he immediately shook his head and snuggled closer into Stacey's embrace. Hayden, looking at his son, said succinctly, "Becky has been holding you for such a long time. Her arms must be numb." The moment Jeremy heard that, he froze in place.

Stacey, amused, gently chided Hayden, "Please don't say that. You're scaring Jeremy." After saying that, she then looked down at Jeremy and asked softly, "I'm fine. Jeremy, are you still feeling upset?" Jeremy raised his head, looked at Becky carefully, and then reluctantly withdrew from her embrace. Stacey was still worried. She looked at Jeremy and said, "Jeremy--"

"I'm fine," Jeremy said in a low voice. He then looked up at her with determination and asked, "Becky, you're going to marry Daddy and be my mommy, right?"

Stacey was momentarily speechless. Hayden raised his eyebrows and couldn't help but look at Stacey expectantly, secretly observing her reaction. However, before Stacey could even respond to Jeremy's question, Hayden interjected with a smile, "Of course! But I need to propose to her first."

Jeremy's eyes lit up with excitement as he looked at his father. Hayden, glancing at Stacey, then back at Jeremy, continued, "I've already called to have an engagement ring made. Once it's ready, I'll propose to Becky, and she will become your mornmy."

Stacey found Hayden's reply amusing. Nonetheless, Hayden's words saved her from any awkwardness, as his statement was not far off the mark.

"What are you all talking about?" Lillian, who was nearby, inquired, her pretty eyes sparkling with curiosity.

Kevin also appeared puzzled, stating earnestly, "I don't understand what they are talking about at all."

100

Stacey couldn't help but laugh, amused by the two children. Hayden and Jeremy also couldn't help but chuckle at the same

time.

Then, as Jeremy began to explain the meaning of marriage to Lillian and Kevin, he took a serious tone. He told them that once Hayden married Becky, they would all be a real family, with Becky becoming his mother and his father becoming Lillian and Kevin's father.

Despite Jeremy's earnest explanation, Lillian and Kevin still didn't quite understand. They wondered why Hayden would only be considered their true father after the marriage. After all, they had been

calling him "Daddy" for quite some time. Besides that, they also couldn't understand why Jeremy referred to Stacey as Becky.

"Jeremy, you can call her 'Mommy' now!" Lillian suggested in a solemn tone as she looked at Jeremy.

Kevin nodded in agreement, adding, "Yes, you can call her 'Mommy' now!"

The two children's innocent voices amused and bemused Stacey and Hayden. The kids were too young to grasp the complexities, but their earnestness was touching. Even though Jeremy already understood everything, he couldn't help but be moved by Lillian and Kevin's suggestions. Jeremy's heartbeat quickened, and he could not help but look at Becky with anticipation.

When Stacey noticed that, she was momentarily stunned. 'Is he going to? Is it okay for him now?' she pondered. Subconsciously, she glanced at Hayden.

Hayden also looked at her with a smile. "I think it's okay now."

Hearing that, Stacey felt resigned, but she realized there was no harm in it. After all, Lillian and Kevin had been calling Hayden "Daddy" for quite some time. "Okay. Feel free to call me Mommy if you want to," Stacey said, smiling at Jeremy.

"Mommy!" Jeremy exclaimed joyfully, calling out loudly.

Stacey was taken back for a moment before she nodded and smiled. "That's my boy!"

"Mommy!" Jeremy called her again, his eyes shining brightly as he looked at her.

The moment Stacey noticed that Jeremy's eyes seemed to shine and heard him refer to her as "Mommy" repeatedly, her heart softened. She reached out to hug Jeremy and said, "Yes, I'm here

for you." While saying that, she didn't dare to look at Hayden. Her ears turned red because she knew that Hayden was watching as everything unfolded,

Lillian, following Jeremy's lead, also started calling out, "Mommy!" For her, it was just a game, and she found Jeremy exclaiming "Mommy" funny.

Kevin also thought it was funny and joined in, yelling, "Mommy!"

"Mommy!" Lillian called again.

"Mommy!" Jeremy, eager not to be outdone, quickly echoed it, not wanting to say it any less than Lillian

Stacey, overwhelmed but touched, kept responding to their calls. The three children were overjoyed that day. Meanwhile, Stacey nearly lost her voice as she continued to respond to their call.

Chapter 259

Stacey, Hayden, Jeremy, Lillian, and Kevin rested at Hoggard Villa for a day, then packed up the next day and flew back to Alagua City on the Hoggard family's helicopter.

To Stacey's surprise, the pilot of the helicopter was Hayden. She thought, 'Hayden can actually fly a helicopter!'

Lillian and Kevin were also stunned and even wanted to check out the cab. Stacey hurriedly grabbed the two to stop them from making trouble. She could not let such young kids mess around in there.

However, even though Stacey did not allow Lillian and Kevin to go over, Hayden spoiled them too much. He carried them in and showed them around. Stacey was worried and could only follow them in.

Fortunately, when the helicopter took off, Hayden did not continue to indulge Lillian and Kevin unconditionally and arranged for them to sit together in the safety seats in the back.

But even so, Lillian and Kevin were happy because the interior of the Hoggard family's helicopter was decorated with a fairy tale ocean theme in dark blue, which was very beautiful.

Hayden said the helicopter was decorated like this for a reason. Because Jeremy was weaker than other children and cried more often when he was young, the family tried every means to make him happy, including decorating everything in the house to his liking.

In the past, there was only one child safety seat on this helicopter. But now, three child safety seats were installed in it. These two seats were tailored for Lillian and Kevin, respectively, according to their preferences. One was in the shape of a forest deer, and the other a big tree. Jeremy's seat had also been refurbished into the shape of a beautiful humpback whale.

The helicopter took off soon, and they returned to their hometown together.

It used to be quiet in the helicopter most of the time when they traveled back and forth in it, but today was different. Lillian and Kevin were older now and could speak more fluently. In addition, Jeremy was now in good health and could speak. Therefore, the three children kept talking on the helicopter and asking questions when they saw some scenery on the way.

Listening to their questions, Stacey could only answer them all the way. Before she knew it, she had talked for a long time, and her throat was dry. At around five o'clock in the afternoon, they finally arrived in Alagua City. The helicopter landed at the Hoggard family's airport.

Jason and Sharon knew that Hayden would come back with Becky, and they were so happy that they could not stop smiling. They could not stay at home and insisted on waiting at the airport early in the morning.

When the helicopter finally arrived, Jason and Sharon stood up happily. If it were not for the fact that they could not get too close to the helicopter, they would have wanted to go over immediately. After Hayden got off the helicopter and took Jeremy, Lillian, Kevin, and Becky down one after another, they were even more delighted.

Sharon's eyes had not been so bright for a long time. She was very, very happy. Although she had been thinking about making Becky their granddaughter-in-law for many years, she did not dare to expect too much in reality, especially since many things had happened to Becky and Hayden, and they both had been through a hard time. But now, all this had become a reality. Becky and Hayden were really together. Her heart beat fast, and she was so happy.

"Great-grandma! Great-grandpa!" When Jeremy saw Jason and Sharon, he immediately ran over and hugged them joyfully.

Sharon and Jason were even

happier when they heard Jeremy calling them. The previous surgery had gone smoothly, and Hayden had kept them updated by phone. They had called Jeremy many times, and after Jeremy could speak, they had also chatted with him through video calls and heard him call them "Great-grandpa" and S

"Great-grandma." But in real life, this was the first time they heard him talking and calling them face to face. They were very excited.

"Jeremy, you are speaking more and more fluently now," Sharon praised cheerfully.

Hearing this, Jeremy nodded and said, "Yes, Great-grandma. I will be even better in the future."

Jason also smiled and nodded

repeatedly, looking happy. The matter of Hayden and Jeremy had always been a knot in his heart. Back then, when he was sick and hospitalized, and his days were

numbered, he had been cere

thinking about Hayden's marriage. Only after seeing Hayden get married could he leave this world peacefully. It was because of his wish that Hayden had married that bad woman. Over the years, he had always felt bad whenever he thought about Hayden.

But now, Becky had been found, and Hayden and Becky were together. Besides, Jeremy's problem of not being able to speak had also been solved.

It seemed that all of the Hoggard family's trouble would be over soon, and things would get better in the future.

"Let's go home first," Hayden said with a smile.

"Okay." Jason nodded.

Sharon also quickly echoed, "Yes, let's go home. Becky, when are you and Hay going to get married?" She turned to look at Stacey and asked expectantly.

Stacey was dumbfounded.

Hayden hurried over and explained, "Grandma, I haven't proposed yet. We will set the wedding date after I formally propose to Becky."

Hearing this, Sharon nodded and continued asking, "When will you propose? How about tonight-"

Jason quickly chimed in, "It's too rushed tonight. How about tomorrow? I'll ask someone to arrange it. Tomorrow is a good day."

Helpless, Hayden hurriedly said,

"Grandpa, Grandma, the ring for the proposal is not ready yet. Please wait for a few more days." Speaking of this, he felt distressed. He had actually wanted to give Becky a surprise, but now, everyone knew that he was going to propose, so there was no more surprise.

Stacey also felt a little embarrassed when she heard what Jason and Sharon said, but at the same time, she was very happy because she could feel that they really liked her and welcomed her to be their granddaughter-in-law.

Thinking of this, Stacey could not help but recall the days when she had been in the Edwards family many years ago. At that time, although Theodore's grandparents had been nice to her, she could feel that their kindness was distant and that they liked her only because she was Theodore's wife.

However, it was completely different with Jason and Sharon. They liked her not because she would become Hayden's wife. They genuinely liked her and thus were happy to know that she would marry Hayden and become their granddaughter-in-law.

Chapter 260

Jason and Sharon liked Stacey very much, as well as Lillian and Kevin. They insisted that Stacey, Lillian, and Kevin stay at their house for a few days. Stacey could not resist their enthusiasm and could only agree in the end.

As for the Carter family, Patrick and Debra did not mind at all when they knew that Stacey would be staying in Hoggard Manor for a few days with Lillian and Kevin. They were even happy about it and told Stacey not to worry. They said that she should relax and stay there for a few days since the Hoggard family welcomed her and that if it was not convenient for her to look after Lillian and Kevin, she could send them back earlier or ask the Carter family to pick them up.

After hearing what Patrick and Debra said, Stacey was speechless. But she could also understand their feelings because Hayden was indeed a good

man.

In the next few days, Stacey settled down in Hoggard Manor. Jeremy had plenty of territories here. He used to forbid others to enter his territories in the past, but now, he happily showed Becky around and told her why he regarded these spots as his secret bases.

Lillian and Kevin were also attracted by the story of Jeremy's secret bases. They liked to cling to Jeremy and ask him about it.

While their life here was getting happier, Queenie's situation was not good on the other side.

After being warned by Hayden that day, Queenie still did not want to give up. She was reluctant to leave the gate of Hoggard Villa until a few hours later when Hudson suddenly called and anxiously asked her to go home.

When Queenie returned home, Hudson told her to stop pestering the Hoggard family. She was shocked and could not believe it, but Hudson quickly explained the reason to her.

Hayden's assistant had just contacted Hudson and given him a final warning, asking him to keep an eye on Queenie and stop her from harassing the Hoggard family. Otherwise, the Hoggard family would use their connections to ban the Leavey family.

The Leavey family was also a prominent family in Strico with extensive businesses, but their businesses were incomparable to those of the Hoggard family. The Leavey family would likely be finished if the Hoggard family really used their connections to suppress them.

Queenie's mind suddenly went blank after she heard Hudson's words. She was confused and lost, and she could not accept it. She still wanted to go to Hoggard Villa again and even intended to go to Alagua City. Christmas was coming soon. She knew that the Hoggard family had a tradition of returning to their hometown in Alagua City for Christmas, and she had been there with Jeremy before.

But this time, Queenie was stopped by Gavin before she could leave the house. She was no longer allowed to go to find Hayden, nor did she need to anymore. Everyone knew that the Hoggard family had completely abandoned her. Her pestering would not work. Instead, it would completely offend the Hoggard family. The Leavey family could not afford to offend the Hoggard family now. That was why Hayden had only asked his assistant to pass a message to Hudson, and she was forbidden to pester him again.

n

At this moment, Queenie suddenly thought of what Hayden had said to her several times. He had not made things difficult for her and had tried not to make her look bad before because she was Jeremy's mother, and her bad reputation might affect Jeremy in the future. However, she was foolish and ungrateful. She pretended not to understand his warning and kept pestering him until he was pissed off.

As Queenie was thinking about it, she suddenly burst into tears. She returned to her room alone and cried loudly. After a while, Florine came in and comforted her gingerly.

Queenie felt that her heart and head hurt. She did not know what was wrong with her and why she could not do anything right. 'Am I really a loser as Edith said?' she wondered. "Mom, am I useless? I can't do anything right," she asked and sobbed.

Florine quickly comforted Queenie, "No, it's not your fault. Queenie, what happened in the past is all over. Before... it was my fault. I didn't expect the Hoggard family to be so heartless. It has nothing to do with you."

Queenie laughed at herself. "Mom, I am useless. I used to be wicked before. That's why they hate me so much."

Florine sighed. Then, she took a tissue and carefully wiped Queenie's tears. "It is normal to make some mistakes when you are young. It is okay as long as you can correct your mistakes. Queenie, you are still young, and we can find another man for you even if you can't remarry Hayden. With our family's connections, it will not be difficult to find you a good man."

"But nobody can be better than Hayden," Queenie said. Hayden's family background, status, character, and ability were all the best. At least in Zentscape, they would not be able to find anyone better.

Florine fell silent when she heard this. After a long time, she sighed. "Let bygones be bygones. Maybe... you and he are really not meant for each other."

Queenie was silent for a long time before she spoke seriously. "Mom, I hate Stacey!"

Florine was at a loss for words. She

kept quiet for a while and finally advised with mixed feelings, "Queenie, although the Carter family is not a big deal, Stacey's

nove

grandmother and Hayden's grandmother are good friends, and Hayden is now in love with Stacey. Let's not mess with them unnecessarily." She took Queenie's hand and continued cautiously and seriously, "Queenie, be good. Take advantage of this incident to give in to your grandpa and then ask him to let you work in the company. He adores you much. You can definitely inherit the Leavey family's business if you work hard and perform well in the company."

"But if I don't remarry Hayden, my uncle and his family will definitely not agree to let me join the company," said Queenie worriedly.

Florine's eyes flashed with cruelty for a moment, but she quickly calmed down. She held Queenie's hand and uttered solemnly in a low voice, "Don't worry about them. Your grandpa is in charge of the company now. There will be no problem as long as he lets

you join the company. Queenie, your grandpa is getting older. If he has Alzheimer's disease in a few years, his words will be useless. Be sensible. You should hurry and get into the company while he still has a say and can control your uncle's family, then find a way to get the inheritance right of the Leavey family."