

Panicking 201

Chapter 201: Juliana Jacobs' Heart Suddenly Tightens, She Turns Back

But Juliana hesitated because of the doctor's words.

"Not even a pair of briefs?" she asked.

The doctor smiled helplessly, "The young master's condition... he can't even wear socks."

"I see."

Juliana seemed ready to compromise, making Jared happy.

Who would've thought, in the next second, she'd pull out her phone and looked at him knowingly, "Quick, give me Ben Hayes' number."

Jared frowned, "Why would you contact him?"

Juliana glanced at the doctor, leaned closer to him, and lowered her voice, her tone carrying a hint of understanding inquiry, "At a time like this, how could you not contact him? In your current memory, is he just an ordinary assistant?"

Jared, "?"

Juliana made things clear, "Don't you remember any of those... connections beyond work between you two?"

Jared seemed half-understanding, his expression changing, "All our communication is strictly work-related. How could it involve personal feelings?"

Juliana took a deep breath, as if making a huge decision to pierce this layer of window paper, "Isn't he your... you know, your closest person?"

Jared's face went dark instantly.

So, was it because of this that she'd kept things respectful between them?

The doctor chimed in timely, "Young master, actually, it's not that complicated. I can accompany you inside."

Jared went into the examination room with the doctor, his face still dark.

Juliana finally relaxed, ready to sit on the bench outside, when an unoccupied office's door suddenly opened and a hand reached out, pulling her inside.

Her heart skipped a beat. She was pressed against the door, about to resist, when a man's warm lips descended upon hers.

This scent, she'd encountered just hours before.

She slowly relaxed, letting him claim her with authority.

Elias Langley bit her lip when he saw her compliance, then released her.

Juliana moaned softly, giving him a light punch, "Have you turned into a dog?"

Elias Langley's fingers caressed her lips, his voice brimming with jealousy.

"Outside, not even a glance my way, but so mindful about my nephew's matters."

Juliana raised her head, retorting, "Didn't I learn this from President Langley? Focusing entirely on the Sinclair sisters, eagerly rushing to meet them, taking care of both the living and the dead."

In the dim room, Elias Langley chuckled softly, "So it's not just me feeling jealous then."

Before Juliana could rebut, he firmly pinched her chin, "From now on, don't talk about the living and the dead. My sweetheart must have a long and healthy life."

"Who is your sweetheart?"

Elias Langley was provoked by her question. He hugged her waist and opened the door, leading her outside.

"Where are we going? Jared is still inside getting checked."

"Don't worry about him."

And just like that, Elias Langley took her out of the hospital without any further explanation.

They arrived at a relatively new neighborhood, where Elias knocked on the door of a house.

Juliana felt puzzled, but a seventy-something elderly man opened the door.

Seeing Elias Langley, the man didn't exchange pleasantries, instead, he turned around, walking into the house, asking, "Is this the person you want me to diagnose?"

Elias Langley led Juliana inside without hesitation, nodding, "Take good care of her."

Upon hearing this, the man glanced back, examining Juliana from head to toe.

Then, he smiled and said, "Finally figured it out, ditching the monk life, huh?"

Elias Langley raised an eyebrow slightly, responding coolly, "You should get a few needles for your brain too. When did I ever say I wanted to be a monk?"

The elderly man immediately turned to Juliana, "Half a year ago, his physical exam report wasn't great, and the doctor told him to find a woman. He came to me, asking for acupuncture to rid himself of desires, and now he's denying it. Miss, be careful with this man; he often says one thing but means another."

Elias pulled Juliana into his embrace, raised his chin at the man, and said, "Different times bring different situations. Back then, it was avoiding trouble. Now... it's sweet acceptance."

His warm breath fell on her ear, causing Juliana's cheeks to flush. She quickly pushed him away.

"Can't you be a bit more decent?"

Elias Langley was silent.

Seeing this, the elderly man's smile deepened, "One thing curbs another, Elias, your retribution has come."

"Cut the chatter and check her already."

Elias Langley pulled out a chair for Juliana to sit.

This time, the pulse check took unusually long.

So long that the normally composed man lost his patience.

"How can you lose the thread while checking a pulse? Are you turning into a mouse?" he said irritably.

This time, the elderly man did not bicker but looked at Juliana instead.

"Have you had a miscarriage?"

Juliana nodded.

Elias Langley saw his serious expression and said impatiently, "What's the situation? Hurry up and tell us."

The elderly man glanced at him, then calmly said, "The body is so weakened because proper post-miscarriage care wasn't taken, and instead, she has repeatedly been subjected to severe cold."

Elias Langley heard this, furrowed his brows tightly, recalling pulling her out of the icy sea during their first encounter, his heart sinking suddenly.

He urged, "Get to the point, what's to be done?"

Juliana had never seen him this anxious and tense. She got up to hold his arm, trying to calm him down.

Gone was the playful demeanor on the old man's face from when they first entered.

"The foundation has been damaged, and now she's in a state where supplements can't be absorbed effectively. Ordinary medicine won't work. The only solution could be to break and rebuild; if she could get pregnant again and follow strict postpartum care after delivery, she might use this chance to restore her depleted foundation."

Before they could react, he shifted his tone, pouring even colder water.

"However, with her current weak physique, getting pregnant again is like climbing the sky. If left unattended... she might not get beyond thirty."

That's a deadlock, unsolvable.

Juliana was momentarily stunned.

In fact, she wasn't entirely unaware of her condition. Since waking up in the ICU, it has been one ordeal after another, luck seems to have exhausted her life's vitality. Hearing the diagnosis now rather brought a sense of calm like a boot finally dropping.

But Elias Langley's reaction was different.

"Are you serious?" he asked, suppressing the emotions stirring inside.

The elderly man seemed displeased, "When have I ever lied to you?"

After this statement, he realized something and changed his tone, "But my medical skills are just so-so, might not be completely accurate. Actually, your girlfriend looks quite healthy now."

Elias Langley finally laughed at his words, "You truly are a novice."

With that, he led Juliana away.

"To the company or home?"

Once in the car, he buckled her seatbelt.

Juliana could see that he was heavy-hearted, yet trying hard not to show it.

"To the company, going to the Langley Family would likely end in a battle of wits with your sister-in-law, and your brother and you wouldn't be able to work peacefully."

Elias Langley was amused by her words, petting her atop her head.

"Don't take the old guy's medical advice seriously, okay?"

Juliana laughed, "I'm not worried at all."

Elias Langley took a deep breath and started the car.

Before long, the car stopped steadily at Aetherflame Dynamics.

Juliana got out of the car, bid him farewell, and headed towards the company.

After walking a short distance, her heart suddenly tightened. She turned back urgently and swung the car door open.

Chapter 202: When the Time Comes... You'll Marry Me, Right?

Looking over, the car window beside the driver's seat was covered with spiderweb-like cracks, Jared Langley's knuckles were red, his head resting on the steering wheel.

This was bulletproof glass, just how much strength did he use!

"What are you doing, are you crazy?"

Juliana returned to the car, knelt on the seat, and held him.

All along, she thought Jared Langley's interest in her mostly came from physical attraction, never daring to hope she held any substantial place in his heart.

But upon learning she didn't have long to live, he had such a reaction...

Juliana's heart felt both sour and swollen, as if something fiercely filled and then tore it apart.

"Weren't you supposed to be my support? Now you're losing your cool, what does that mean?"

Jared Langley stroked her back, forcefully suppressing the surge of emotions.

"I'm sorry, I lost my composure."

Juliana buried her face in his neck, trying hard to make her tone light, "This window is expensive, isn't it? If the repair can't go through insurance, will you reimburse it?"

Her words pierced through his heavy mood just a little, "The car is my private property."

"Then why are you wasting it?"

"Hmm, it won't happen again."

His arms gradually tightened around her.

"Juliana, what do you want most, to find your family, or...?"

"I want Summer to wake up."

Family wasn't important to her anymore.

A pang hit Jared Langley's heart, and he deliberately hummed in a jealous tone, "Did you not think about me at all?"

Juliana heard this and chuckled.

Her fingertips unconsciously traced his nape.

"You have a three-year engagement. I'm twenty-six this year, aren't I not supposed to live past thirty? So we have a year to be together openly, and then...will you marry me?"

Jared Langley trembled all over.

"Why wait for the future, we can do it now."

He released her, letting her sit back in the seat.

Juliana became nervous, "Are you sure you can handle everything now?"

One sentence snapped Jared Langley back to reality.

Just as he was about to start the car, his hand paused.

Juliana took the opportunity to open the car door.

"So why do you hate marrying so much? Hurry and get the car fixed, I have to go to work."

With that, she got out of the car and jogged into the company.

...

At only four in the afternoon, Jared Langley came to her office to pick her up from work.

"I'm working overtime tonight," Juliana said.

"But we have important guests at home, you are my fiancée, you need to come back early."

Juliana paused, thinking it might be the Second Miss Sinclair from the Sinclair Family, so she bid farewell to Caleb Shaw and left with Jared Langley.

On the way, she noticed Jared Langley's hand was trembling.

"What's with your hand?" she asked.

Jared Langley said helplessly, "It's from a check-up, the doctor said it's an individual adverse reaction, it'll be fine in a few days."

Juliana blinked.

This hand strangled her neck yesterday...

Upon entering the living room, she saw the usually shrewish Leona Sheridan lovingly holding a woman's hand.

"I just regret not having a daughter, I was so thrilled to see you, make yourself at home here, don't be a stranger."

Jared Langley chimed in at the right moment, "Mom, once you have a daughter-in-law, it's like having a daughter, right?"

That woman turned her head at the sound, her gaze lingering on Juliana for two seconds, and then said with a graceful smile, "Indeed, Eldest Young Master Langley is right. With such fortune, Mrs. Langley will surely enjoy daughter-like filial piety from her future daughter-in-law."

However, as her words finished, Leona Sheridan clutched her chest.

"Please don't say that, Isabelle must have told you, right? Just look at her..."

She casually pointed at Juliana, as if indicating an object.

"Not having parents to teach her is just terrible, her conduct is vulgar, not presentable, compared to you she's like dirt compared to clouds."

Florence Sinclair modestly lowered her gaze, "Mrs. Langley, you're too kind."

Then she looked Juliana over carefully, changing her tone, "However...she does bear some resemblance to my mother.

"Ah?" Leona Sheridan was shocked.

Though the Langley and Sinclair families had a close connection, Leona Sheridan hadn't met Mrs. Sinclair due to certain reasons.

Florence Sinclair was surprised, "Didn't Chairman Langley tell you? His first love..."

Suddenly, she realized some things were better left unsaid, and smiled vaguely, "But since Miss Jacobs is the Eldest Young Master Langley's fiancée, then my brother-in-law must have checked her out, she's not the one our family is looking for."

Upon hearing this, Leona Sheridan breathed a sigh of relief.

If Juliana was from the Sinclair family, the things she had done to her would not excuse the Langley Family from facing a bleak future.

"Look at her, lacking luck, she surely isn't the Sinclair family's precious pearl."

The two of them appraised Juliana without restraint, while her "fiancé" watched silently.

Luckily, the engagement was just an act, or Juliana would truly cry for having stepped into the fire pit a second time.

"Since there's nothing here for me, I'll excuse myself." Juliana turned to leave.

"Miss Jacobs," Florence Sinclair suddenly called to her with a smile, "about my younger sister, grandfather indeed thought she was in the wrong. Could we talk privately?"

Since entering, the Second Miss Sinclair hadn't formally greeted her, a clear sign of disregard. This sudden warm invitation surely had ulterior motives.

Juliana decided to avoid any deep conversation before Jared Langley returned, so she declined, "But I'm a bit tired."

Unexpectedly, Jared Langley spoke first before Florence Sinclair could respond, "Dinner will be ready soon, and you can rest after eating. In the meantime, just chat with the Second Miss Sinclair."

He put it this way and Juliana had no choice but to comply.

Fortunately, Florence Sinclair did not require them to go out; the two of them just strolled toward the Langley family's back garden.

"Since Miss Jacobs also has no parents, have you looked for them?" Florence Sinclair asked.

"Does it concern you if I've looked or not?" Juliana replied.

Florence Sinclair laughed, "I'm not Isabelle Sinclair, Miss Jacobs needn't have such hostility toward me."

Juliana looked away, "I always believe in 'a family that doesn't belong together shouldn't stay together.'

Florence Sinclair's mouth twitched, and she simply dropped the pretense, taking out her phone and showing her a photo.

"This is my sister, who disappeared when she was twelve. Isn't she beautiful?"

Juliana glanced at it; her first reaction wasn't amazement but rather noticing the slight resemblance between the photo and herself.

Florence Sinclair put away the phone and looked at the person in front of her with a meaningful smile, "My brother-in-law remains loyal to my sister, all these years, there hasn't been another woman by his side. I often advised him, why bear such hardship? Having a substitute bearing some resemblance by his side is also a comfort. What do you think...did he take that suggestion?"

Juliana could tell she was implying she was a substitute.

And if she reacted angrily or tried to argue, she would confirm the relationship between herself and Jared Langley, making a clever two-pronged attack.

Florence Sinclair was indeed much shrewder than her sister.

Juliana smiled coldly in her heart, but feigned surprise on the surface, "Isn't it inappropriate for the Second Miss Sinclair to inquire about Sinclair family matters from an outsider like me?"

Florence Sinclair didn't get the answer she wanted but still maintained a smile.

"Miss Jacobs is smart; there's no need for me to spell it out. Although my brother-in-law's engagement to my now-deceased sister was only for three years, grandfather will definitely have him marry another Sinclair woman in three years."

She gave Juliana a disdainful glance.

"Isabelle Sinclair is madly infatuated with him, doing whatever it takes. So I'd suggest you be sensible, taking what advantages the Eldest Young Master Langley gives you is enough, don't covet things that don't belong to you, or you may end up playing with fire and getting burned."

"Deceased sister?"

Juliana raised an eyebrow slightly.

"Are you so certain your sister, your adoptive parents' biological daughter, is already dead?"

Chapter 203: Hoping He Can Truly Marry a Sinclair Daughter

Florence Sinclair couldn't control her shudder and stared intently at Juliana without speaking.

Seeing her like this, Juliana's eyes held derision, and her voice was icy.

"Your adoptive parents' daughter is now missing and possibly dead, and you're so eager to call her a 'dead sister'? Your eagerness to see her never find peace in death certainly writes 'wicked and malicious' all over your face."

Because of her words, Florence dropped her gaze.

When she looked up again, a thin layer of moisture shimmered in her eyes.

"Even when my parents wanted to give up searching for my sister, it was always me who knelt to beg them not to lose hope; it was me who believed my sister was still alive... until recent years when there was just no news, and I couldn't stop them. Only then did they set up a memorial tablet, believing she was dead."

As she spoke to this point, she seemed to choke a little, causing a long pause.

"And now, because of a 'slip of the tongue,' you say I'm vicious. I know I'm just an adopted daughter, not someone who can enter the mainstream, but all these years I've worked hard to be a daughter my

parents would be proud of, striving for the best in everything, not daring to slack off even a bit. I'm not the kind of person you think I am."

Florence Sinclair held back, her eyes reddened, but didn't let the tears fall.

Juliana was puzzled by her sudden emotional outburst, when Elias Langley's voice came from behind.

"Have you finished talking?"

Juliana suddenly understood, turning to look at him meaningfully: "We probably finished a long time ago, but now... since you're here, I have to add some drama."

Florence pretended not to understand, took off her glasses to wipe her tears, and forced a smile at Elias Langley.

"Grandfather asked me to apologize for Isabelle's matter. Earlier... Miss Jacobs misunderstood me. I hope my brother-in-law can say a few good words for me. I'm not like Isabelle, not one to lose myself in love, I already have a boyfriend."

The implication being that it was as if Juliana warned her not to try to steal her man.

Juliana really admired her adaptability.

First, she was tearful, then she turned the tables, implying that Juliana was bullying her; then she quickly shifted gears, saying a few seemingly earnest but actually trap-laden words to Elias Langley, trying to coax the truth out. Her scheming was indeed remarkably sinister.

"Miss Sinclair's words make no sense," Juliana said coldly and indifferently. "You having a boyfriend has nothing to do with apologizing for Isabelle Sinclair. You're trying to force two unrelated things together—are you a noodle-pulling master from the street?"

Florence opened her mouth but was at a loss for words.

Elias Langley had a faint smile on his lips, "Okay, enough with your sharp words. Florence isn't eloquent enough to outtalk you."

Juliana raised an eyebrow: "If you can't outtalk someone, take the detour, I'm not here to indulge anyone."

Elias Langley turned to Florence, "Let's move on from Isabelle's issue. Avoid what's troublesome; let's go."

The two left together, and Juliana turned away, not looking at them.

"Brother-in-law, did I do something wrong to make Miss Jacobs unhappy?" Florence asked.

Elias pretended to think, then nodded.

"If you could clarify your words like a noodle master, maybe these misunderstandings wouldn't happen."

Florence lowered her head, seemingly reflecting.

Elias Langley smiled, "Just convey the necessary words, don't burden yourself."

Florence seemed to accept his encouragement and smiled brightly, "Maybe because she resembles my sister a bit, I subconsciously thought she'd have mom's gentle temperament too... I was being naive."

Elias Langley's smile deepened, "How many people have we found over the years who look similar? Was any of them real? Even you resemble the photos a bit, yet your personality is just as different from your mother's. You indeed were being naive."

Florence bit her lip, "Oh, you're saying my personality is not good either?"

Elias thought for a moment, "Women's personalities are either likable or not. Which do you think you are?"

Florence laughed at his words, "You're really good at comforting people."

Elias Langley chuckled.

The two headed towards the dining room where Jared Langley noticed that Juliana hadn't followed and asked, "Uncle, where's Juliana?"

Elias Langley responded nonchalantly, "I'm responsible for inviting guests to eat; is she a guest?"

Florence watched his every move, smiling slightly.

"I'll go get her."

Jared said as he walked out.

Leona Sheridan sniffed disdainfully, "Needing an invitation just to eat—who does she think she is, a deity?"

Victor Langley and Elias Langley both glanced at her but said nothing.

Leona Sheridan warmly invited Florence, "Come sit by Auntie."

Juliana sat lost in thought on a cool chair, not even noticing Jared approaching.

"What are you thinking about?" he placed his hands on her shoulders.

"Thinking about Summer," Juliana said.

Jared consoled, "Things are what they are now. Being sad won't help. The Shaw Family is looking for a suitable heart, and they're also contacting the lab..."

His consolation was irrelevant, and Juliana couldn't help but interrupt, "The lab's head is the Second Miss Sinclair. How likely do you think it is that she would agree to make an artificial heart for Summer?"

Jared considered her question seriously, "Do you want the truth?"

Juliana nodded.

Jared sat beside her, "Although the Sinclairs are impartial in Isabelle Sinclair's affair and have shown great magnanimity, a grudge is still a grudge. This matter would be difficult to achieve."

This was exactly what Juliana feared.

She lowered her eyes, openly showing her disappointment.

"Ultimately, it's my fault; I failed her."

Jared put an arm around her shoulders, "I forgot to tell you something. That lab belongs jointly to Florence Sinclair and her boyfriend; it's not solely her decision to make. And it just so happens that her boyfriend is my good brother."

Juliana looked up at him.

Jared laughed lightly, "I didn't say it sooner because I was waiting for you to bring it up. Turns out, it took this long for you to open up to me."

Juliana stood up, "So you were holding out on me too. I knew there wasn't a good person around me."

"Juliana," Jared stood up and grabbed her hand, "it's you who always kept your distance."

Juliana spoke earnestly, "My reluctance to be close to you has to do with your memories, something I can't explain in this situation."

"So am I really that unattractive now, that you don't fancy me at all?" Jared asked.

Juliana withdrew her hand, "I have high standards."

Jared raised an eyebrow, "And I consider myself a high-quality man."

Juliana chuckled and looked at the seat's position, "If only there were a swing here."

Jared smiled softly, "Let's go, let's eat."

The two returned to the dining room laughing, but no one inside seemed pleased.

The most displeased was, of course, Leona Sheridan.

"The guest is here, but the host is nowhere to be found. It's truly unrefined."

Juliana said nothing, lowering her head, while Jared seated her beside him.

"Mom, can't we just talk for a while?"

"They're an engaged couple, practically family; you shouldn't interfere with young people's business."

Victor Langley's tone was calm, but he was warning Leona Sheridan not to make the same mistakes as with Isabelle Sinclair.

Though dissatisfied, Leona closed her mouth.

"Juliana, try this crab. It's from Briarclear Lake. I don't know how it tastes this year, but if it's good, we'll have it for Mid-Autumn Festival."

Jared peeled a crab for Juliana and placed it in her bowl.

Juliana didn't refuse and continued to eat silently.

Florence looked at Elias Langley, "Suddenly they seem so loving."

Elias Langley replied blandly, "Crab's cold by nature. You're prone to cold, don't eat it."

Florence smiled, "Brother-in-law, you care about me more than my boyfriend does."

Victor Langley interjected appropriately, "Elias grew up with the Sinclairs and shares deep bonds with them. Although he is now honoring his three-year marriage contract with the eldest Miss's memorial tablet, after it expires, I certainly hope he will genuinely marry a Sinclair daughter, unite the families, and not betray the bond between our families."

Juliana smiled slightly while eating the crab meat.

Chapter 204: Saw the Photo of Your 'Wife

Florence Sinclair's eyes moved lightly, and she said with a soft smile, "Actually, Grandpa has this idea too. Everyone can see it. Right now, who in the Sinclair Family likes my brother-in-law the most?"

Naturally, it's Isabelle Sinclair.

As soon as she finished speaking, the atmosphere at the table instantly became delicate.

Elias Langley chuckled, "The three-year agreement has just begun. It's too early to talk about remarriage now. Besides, no one can make decisions about my marriage for me. If my elder brother really insists on marrying into the Sinclair Family..."

He glanced lazily but sharply.

"...why not add another wife yourself, as long as the Sinclair Family doesn't mind, wouldn't double marriage be better?"

Victor Langley's face turned pale.

Before he could argue, Leona Sheridan sneered, "The women of the Sinclair Family aren't blind enough to fancy an old relic halfway to the grave. Add a wife? Not a chance in this lifetime."

Victor Langley frowned slightly, and he didn't look at his wife but quietly served her a dish.

"Madam is right; I am indeed older and lack energy. But precisely because of this, I hope the family can be more peaceful, to avoid letting guests see a disgraceful joke."

Leona Sheridan understood his hint and graciously refrained from causing further trouble.

After dinner, Victor Langley ordered tea service in the backyard to entertain Florence Sinclair.

Juliana Jacobs wanted to return to her room but was held back by Jared Langley.

"Don't you want to see the surprise I've prepared for you?"

Juliana looked puzzled and followed him to the backyard.

The lounge chairs where they had been sitting earlier had been replaced with a swing chair.

She couldn't help but be stunned, truly surprised.

"Your little wish, if it's doable, I'll make it happen immediately," Jared Langley said.

Juliana didn't know what to say.

Jared Langley held her hand and said tenderly, "Juliana, I know you've experienced a failed marriage and are unwilling to easily get close to anyone. Giving you this swing is just to tell you, it's okay to stand still; I will come to you step by step."

Florence Sinclair watched the scene from the side, turned slightly, and sighed softly to Elias Langley, loud enough for the few people nearby to faintly hear.

"Brother-in-law, look how devoted the Eldest Young Master Langley is to Miss Jacobs. Honestly, sometimes I really hope someone could be like this by your side, caring for you in every way..."

Elias Langley's face showed no expression, and his voice was very faint, "Are your feelings at the point of talking about marriage yet? If not, hurry up, I'm waiting to drink your celebratory wine."

Florence Sinclair laughed, "I still want to stay with Mom and Dad for a couple more years."

It was almost eleven when the "tea-tasting session" ended.

Jared Langley escorted Juliana Jacobs to her room door.

Seeing her looking tired, he smiled and asked, "Do you need someone to run a bath for you?"

Juliana looked up in surprise, a hint of imperceptible caution in her eyes.

Jared Langley suppressed his voice with a smile, "The doctor only said no strenuous exercise, didn't say anything about doing things that make your heart race."

"But... but I'm very tired, and... and you..."

Jared Langley laughed at her nervousness, "Alright, I won't pressure you, but in the future, also don't reject my closeness like this. Only then can we get back to how we were before, alright?"

"Let's talk when you know what we were like before."

After saying that, Juliana stepped back into the room and closed the door.

She even locked it.

She took a deep breath, calmed down, and then turned on the light.

Turning around, she saw Elias Langley sitting on the edge of the bed, startling her again.

She wanted to ask him if he wasn't worried that Florence might notice him coming at this hour?

But then she thought, it was him who came in through the window, if seen, he'd be labeled as a rogue.

So she pursed her lips and said nothing.

And Elias Langley also said nothing.

The room was so silent only the sound of breathing remained.

Juliana wanted to sleep and didn't want to waste time with him, planning to go straight past him to get her pajamas and then head to the bathroom.

But just as she was passing by him, Elias Langley suddenly reached out and pulled her to him.

Juliana lost her balance and fell onto his lap, being held firmly.

The man surprisingly and skillfully placed a small pill into her mouth.

Her mouth was instantly filled with a rich medicinal flavor, but it didn't taste bad.

"What is this?" Juliana asked after swallowing the pill.

"To regulate the body, one a day."

Juliana lowered her eyes, coldly said, "Thanks."

She tried to get up but was held down by Elias Langley, "I just spoke a few words with Florence Sinclair, and you're already unhappy. I haven't even asked you how comfortable that swing is, and you're already turning your face. You have quite a temper."

Because of his words, Juliana turned to him, "I clash with the Sinclair Family, so tell me, whose side are you on?"

Elias Langley laughed, pinching the tip of her nose.

"Florence Sinclair's scheming, ten Isabelle Sinclairs couldn't catch up. How I get along with her is up to me. How you want to deal with her is up to you, I won't interfere and trust you have your own measure."

With him saying that, Juliana understood.

But...

"Sounds good, so you'll send her away tomorrow, can you do that?" Juliana asked.

"Unless... she has important business that requires her to stay." She added.

Elias Langley raised his eyebrows but still replied with one word, "Alright."

Only now did the slight feeling of annoyance in Juliana's heart ease.

"She showed me a photo of your 'wife'."

Elias Langley was slightly startled.

"It's the tablet you keep," Juliana added.

Elias Langley realized, "That's an AI-generated adult image based on the resemblance of Mr. Sinclair and his wife when they were young. But even so, algorithms ultimately deviate from the natural appearance of a real person, so... it's not very accurate."

"How do you know it's not accurate?" Juliana was being obstinate.

Elias Langley looked at her deeply, "I just know."

His fingertips gently rubbed her chin, his voice low yet clear, "Speaking of which, when are we getting our marriage certificate?"

Juliana turned her face away, "You are now the 'son-in-law' of the Sinclair Family, and yet you still think about marrying me, do you want to commit bigamy?"

Upon hearing this, Elias Langley let out a low laugh, his gaze full of clarity and composure.

"That's merely symbolic of an old agreement. When did the law stipulate that sticking to a title prevents pursuing a tangible future?"

What he said made so much sense that Juliana still remained silent.

"Sleeping and not wanting to take responsibility?" Elias Langley furrowed his brows.

"No, let me think about it." She said.

Elias Langley pinched her waist, "Don't be a heartbreaker!"

Juliana was ticklish and tried to dodge.

But Elias Langley wouldn't let her evade, his fingertips lightly pinched her waist, his tone decidedly sour, "Is the swing fun? Are the crabs delicious? Do you hope someone will run a bath for you?"

Juliana couldn't take the tickling and begged for mercy.

Amid the commotion, there suddenly came a gentle knock at the door from Florence Sinclair outside, "Miss Jacobs, are you asleep?"

Chapter 205: Not Married Yet, So Where's the Husband?

The two of them froze in action immediately.

"Miss Jacobs?"

Florence Sinclair knocked on the door again from outside.

Juliana snapped back to reality and pinched Adrian Langley on the chest, "Saying over and over that she hopes you marry Isabelle Sinclair, I don't believe she's not plotting for herself. You, with your tea-drinking nature, are really a bother!"

Adrian Langley, "..."

"Hurry up and hide already."

After speaking, Juliana got off him, dimmed the indoor lights, grabbed a towel, and walked to the door.

When she opened the door, she held the towel in her hand, but she was quite surprised.

Because Jared Langley was also there.

"So late, what do you want?"

She looked like she was about to take a shower.

Jared Langley stood on tiptoe to peek inside, "Juliana, she said she heard a man speaking in your room, so... she asked me to come and check."

"Do you believe everything she says?"

Florence Sinclair didn't answer, but Jared Langley was quite anxious.

Especially seeing her standing at the door blocking the way, he was even more inclined to believe Florence's words.

"Move aside!"

Jared Langley pushed her away.

Juliana bumped into the door and didn't fall down.

But Jared couldn't care less, he walked into the room, turned on all the lights, but didn't see a fourth person in the room.

So, he rushed to the bathroom.

Juliana's heart tightened for a moment, because Adrian Langley had just hidden in the bathroom.

However, there was no one inside.

Her heart hanging in suspense finally relaxed.

Jared wasn't willing to give up, he even checked the bathroom windowsill, and only came back when he didn't find footprints.

Juliana pushed open the wardrobe door, "Check here too, and under the bed, the dressing room..."

She paused, then laughed, "Look, I forgot, this is your house, you can check wherever you like, take Miss Sinclair with you to check, I'll wait outside for the result."

With that, she turned to walk outside.

"Juliana!" Jared grabbed her.

"Don't touch me!"

Juliana shook off his hand.

This shout left Jared stunned.

Florence quickly smoothed things over, "Miss Jacobs, don't be angry, I just went to find my brother-in-law, but no one answered at his room, so I brought the young master to help me look for him, and who knew, when we passed by your room, we heard a man's voice, so we..."

"Is this it?"

Juliana played something on her phone.

A short drama was playing.

So the man's voice was coming from the phone?

"Juliana..."

Jared wanted to explain, but Juliana interrupted him, "I don't want to hear anything you say now. Florence whispered something to you, and you rushed over as her pawn? Jared, as a 'fiancé,' if one day the Sinclairs asked for my bleeding heart to save a life, you might not blink an eye before cutting open my chest to give it to them."

Jared's face turned several shades of green and white.

Florence immediately explained for him, "Miss Jacobs, don't..."

Juliana interrupted her with a smile, "Second Miss Sinclair, you're the 'kindest' person I've ever met. Clearly, you wanted to find someone in my room, yet you act harmless, pretending 'it's for my own good.' Considering others so much, it must be tiring for you."

Florence was choked by her words.

"Juliana, I'll explain to you tomorrow, get some sleep tonight."

Jared knew that her anger at the moment wasn't something that could be soothed with ordinary persuasion, and further entanglement might push the relationship to a more strained state.

He urged Florence to leave the room with him.

The two just reached the door when they saw Adrian Langley and Quinn Shepherd coming up the stairs while discussing something.

Both of them were dumbfounded.

At this moment, Juliana slammed the door with a "bang," and they both simultaneously got a shock.

Florence turned back and met Adrian Langley's cold stare, her heart plunged, and a chill quickly spread through her body.

"Tomorrow morning, Quinn will take you to the airport, get some rest."

After Adrian Langley finished speaking, he didn't look at them again and continued into his room with Quinn Shepherd.

Florence struggled to maintain her carefully constructed façade of composure, yet defeat and resentment intertwined in her eyes like a web.

No matter who Juliana really is, she absolutely cannot be the true daughter of the Sinclair Family!

...

In the middle of the night, Juliana woke up from the heat.

She rolled over and realized she was clinging to a man's furnace-like chest.

"Why did you still come? Aren't you afraid your sister will look for you?" she mumbled.

Adrian Langley, eyes closed, replied, "Leave here, whatever you want to check, I'll help you."

Juliana nudged his chin, "The things hidden here are all not wanting you to know, what can you find out?"

Adrian Langley remained silent.

Juliana yawned and fell asleep again in his arms.

The next morning, Adrian Langley was, as usual, nowhere to be seen.

Juliana got up late, planning to grab something to eat from the kitchen before heading to the office.

As she passed the dining room, Jared intended to say a few words to her, but she chose to ignore him.

Meanwhile, Leona Sheridan was praising Florence Sinclair for being sensible and capable, and upon seeing Juliana like that, she immediately remarked, "Florence, it's thanks to your parents for raising you well, for being considerate as a guest to accompany me for breakfast. Some people don't respect me or their fiancé, acting so arrogant, truly lacking any upbringing!"

Juliana heard all of it but couldn't be bothered to respond.

She went straight to grab a piece of bread from the kitchen, intending to leave, but Leona chased after her persistently.

"Your husband is waiting for you to have breakfast, and you're just going to leave?"

Juliana paused and turned around.

She didn't look at Jared but directly responded to Leona's words, "I'm not married yet, where did I get a husband? Mrs. Langley, has your mind gone off?"

Leona was at a loss for words.

With some business to attend with Aetherflame, Juliana didn't waste time arguing and hurriedly left.

Leona sighed with a furrowed brow.

Florence sincerely comforted her, "Miss Jacobs is a career-oriented woman with precious time, being busy is normal, it's just... seeing someone this busy is rare."

Sure enough, Leona perked up her ears to look at her.

Florence smiled softly, "Oh, I'm letting my thoughts run wild. Miss Jacobs has a career and connections, a mark of success, we can't just speculate if she's using business as an excuse to meet some shady people, right?"

At this point, Quinn Shepherd appeared at the dining room entrance.

"Miss Sinclair, sir instructed me to take you to the airport, have you finished eating?"

Florence's eyes darkened, but she smiled and got up, "Yes, I'm done, please wait for me a moment, I'll go get my luggage."

After Florence left, Leona fell into deep thought.

...

Two hours later, while Juliana was out handling some matters, her phone rang.

It was Caleb Shaw calling.

He sounded anxious over the call, "The lab suddenly said they were going to examine my sister today, so I rushed to the hospital..."

Juliana tightened her grip on the phone slightly.

It seemed pushing Florence to leave was a smart move.

But then, Caleb mentioned a problem he was facing.

"... but now Leona is bringing people to the company, saying they won't leave until they see you."

Juliana furrowed her brows.

Thinking for a moment, she felt another opportunity had presented itself.

She quickly sent a message to Adrian Langley.

Chapter 206: She Belongs to Me

Blackstar Technologies Chairman's Office.

Adrian Langley handed the organized work log to Victor Langley for review.

Victor had a big fight with Leona Sheridan about their eldest son this morning, and his anger was still simmering, making him look at this illegitimate son with even more disdain.

He casually flipped through a couple of pages before suddenly grabbing the thick stack of documents and harshly throwing them at Adrian!

The pages scattered to the floor with a rustling sound.

"I asked you to record the key projects from each day so your brother can smoothly take over the company once he recovers! And what is this garbage you've written? Just useless scribbles? Are you trying to hide something?"

Adrian bowed his head, "Father, I did not."

"Coward, you dare not admit what you've done!"

Victor stood up, rounded the desk, and walked to him, his finger nearly pointing at Adrian's forehead.

"Don't think that just because I let you lead 'Project Helios,' you can get cocky! Everything you have is granted by me. I give, and you can take; I don't give, and you don't even deserve to stand here! Do you understand?"

Adrian kept his head bowed, his voice unwavering, "I understand."

But his compliance only further fueled Victor's rage.

He then grabbed the purple clay teacup from the desk and flung it at Adrian's feet.

"Compared to your brother, you fall short by miles! Weak and useless, like a block of wood. I cannot fathom how a naturally born child could be less capable than one from a test tube!"

Victor breathed heavily, casting a disgusted glance at him.

"Get out! Reorganize the log today in detail and send it to your brother! If you dare muddle through again, you can get out of the company for good!"

Adrian's hand clenched by his side, his knuckles white, but his voice remained respectful and submissive.

"Yes, Father. I'll reorganize it immediately."

He crouched down, silently picking up the scattered papers one by one, organizing them, and then bowed as he exited the office.

The moment the door closed, all compliance in his eyes froze into an unfathomable coldness.

At that moment, his phone chimed—it was a message from Juliana Jacobs...

Juliana hurried back to the company and saw the lobby full of people.

Leona Sheridan led a group of assistants and secretaries, clearly there to block the entrance.

Upon seeing Juliana, Leona lifted her chin and questioned, "Weren't you supposed to be at work in the company? You've been missing all morning, where did you run off to?"

Juliana's expression was calm, "Treat yourself like some ancient artifact? Since when do I need to report my whereabouts to you?"

Leona gritted her teeth, "Working is your excuse; I bet you're using it to sneak out and fool around with men."

Juliana slightly furrowed her brows, "Can Mrs. Langley think of such a thing because you do it yourself?"

Leona intended to react but restrained her anger.

She came prepared today; there was no need to argue here.

She spoke coldly, "Let's go, to the hospital."

"Why go to the hospital?" Juliana asked.

"Your private life is indiscreet, sneaking out for private meetings during work hours, so I need to have you checked for any diseases. I must ensure my son's health."

"Old traditionalist!"

Juliana shot her a glance and turned to leave, but two strong assistants brought by Leona grabbed her arms on either side.

Her pupils shrank.

Leona sneered, "You don't have a choice."

Juliana was forcibly taken to the car.

While struggling, she took out her phone, just sent her location to Adrian, but was then snatched away by Leona.

"What, hoping my son will come to rescue you?"

She tossed Juliana's phone into her purse and scoffed.

"I'm doing this for his good; he'll definitely support me. Don't expect him to come and stop me."

Juliana did not respond, turning her gaze to the window.

The east wind was blowing; she had become the straw boat receiving arrows, so she had to handle what came next carefully.

Upon arriving at the hospital, they didn't go to the outpatient building.

Juliana continued to be carried by both sides, through the staff passage to a connected annex of the main hospital complex.

The corridor was deserted, devoid of signage, illuminated only by harsh white lights, accentuating the uncomfortable examination bed at the center of the room.

Only one doctor was present, a male without even a nurse.

"Put her on the bed."

The male doctor's voice was ice cold.

The two assistants forced Juliana onto the examination bed; she resisted fiercely.

Leona signaled with her eyes, and two more secretaries came to restrain her legs.

At that moment, bang!

The clinic door was violently thrown open, and Adrian Langley charged in.

He immediately saw Juliana being restrained by humiliation tactics, and without thinking, rushed forward.

"Someone's causing trouble! Why are you just standing there!"

Leona's voice was sharp; her entourage quickly pressed Adrian down as he tried to get close to Juliana.

"Auntie, with your status, to insult a woman in such a manner, word would ruin Langley Family's reputation, even Father would blame you. Please reconsider."

Though meant as advice, it pierced Leona's most sensitive spot.

She was enraged.

"Pah!" She spat at Adrian, "I don't need you, a bastard unworthy of the spotlight, teaching me! Trying to play hero? I'll make it happen."

She turned to her group of assistants and secretaries, commanding, "Beat him, beat him hard. If he gets killed, I'll take responsibility."

With her words, Adrian was immediately faced with a barrage of punches and kicks.

Leona also lost her patience entirely, facing the four assistants and secretaries holding down Juliana, she said, "Hurry up and remove her pants, let the doctor conduct the examination!"

Horrifying fear seized Juliana; she struggled even harder.

But a hefty assistant tore open one of her pant legs with a "rip," cold air instantly pricking her skin!

Simultaneously, boom!!

The exam room door, along with the door frame, was kicked down with a thunderous crash from outside.

Amidst flying wood chips, Raine Kane flew in.

With a few swift moves, the four holding Juliana were flung out.

Not satisfied, she found the man who tore Juliana's pants.

With a snap, she broke his hand.

"I left for a moment, and you behave like this, truly oblivious to your limits."

"Who's this mad dog?" Leona scornfully asked.

"She's my person."

Elias Langley walked in from outside.

Leona was instantly dumbfounded.

Juliana quickly sat up, clutching the torn pant leg.

But in doing so, her disheveled top was ignored.

Raine hurried over, took off her jacket to tie it around Juliana's waist, then helped tidy her top.

"So it's my younger brother." Leona feigned calm, taking on the airs of a responsible elder sister, "I am disciplining my future daughter-in-law. This is a private matter of your brother's household, not something a younger sibling like you should interfere with."

Chapter 207: He Won't Be the "Homewrecker" Anymore

Elias Langley's eyes swept across the mess in the room, pausing slightly at Juliana's torn trousers and the bloodstains on Adrian Langley, finally landing on Leona Sheridan's face, showing no emotion.

"Personal matter?" he said with undisguised sarcasm, "It's the first time I've seen the conduct of a High Gate Mistress, comparable to a madam in a shady den."

Perhaps never having been spoken to this way by Elias Langley, Leona Sheridan was instantly trembling with rage.

"Second brother, to protect her, you can even say such things to me. What, are you really harboring some shameful intentions, wanting to steal your nephew's fiancée?"

Who is stealing whose woman?

Elias Langley instantly frowned, not yet speaking before Juliana had recovered.

Without a word, she jumped off the examination bed and walked straight to Leona Sheridan, raising her hand!

"Slap! Slap! Slap!"

The crisp sound of slaps rang out in quick succession, fast and fierce.

Leona Sheridan staggered back a few steps, her cheeks instantly red and swollen, and she fell to the ground in disarray.

The usually attendant secretaries and assistants did not dare to step forward to stop her.

"I am your elder, and you dare treat me like this!"

Leona Sheridan immediately started crying.

At this moment, Victor Langley and Jared Langley arrived together.

Seeing her son, Leona Sheridan cried even more miserably.

"Son, this is the fiancée you've carefully chosen, utterly uneducated, disrespectful to her elders, and she hit me."

Jared Langley's eyebrows instantly furrowed, speaking harshly to Juliana, "Quickly apologize to my mother."

Juliana looked at him coldly, without speaking.

Jared Langley was taken aback by her unfeeling look.

Victor Langley looked around at the chaotic scene and frowned at Leona Sheridan, "What did you do this time?"

Leona Sheridan forcibly suppressed her tears, sobbing as she defended, "What's wrong with me asking the doctor to check her out? Langley Family members must be clean! But your wonderful illegitimate son... your wonderful second brother... all jumped out to stop me and let that little whore hit me!"

Jared Langley finally noticed the doctor holding the speculum, standing aside, and instantly felt unable to face Juliana.

Victor Langley's face turned ashen, and he angrily rebuked Leona Sheridan, "You're truly a madwoman."

Seeing her husband rebuke her this way, Leona Sheridan's pent-up bitterness completely exploded.

"Victor Langley! Stop pretending here! The reason you're protecting this girl so much is because of her face, isn't it? The filthy thoughts hidden in your heart, do you think I don't know?"

Yesterday, Florence Sinclair "inadvertently" let it slip, and she purposely asked her son afterwards.

But Jared Langley didn't know what "white moonlight" his father supposedly favored.

But at this moment, Victor Langley's actions in defending Juliana corresponded perfectly with Florence Sinclair's words, and Leona Sheridan could no longer control herself, questioning him.

"You're truly unreasonable," Victor Langley was also angry, "Someone take Madam back, and without my orders, she's not allowed to take a step out of her room! As for this crowd..."

He glanced at the usual crowd that followed Leona Sheridan in and out.

"...All dismissed! If they hit someone, let them go to jail, if compensation is needed, let it be paid."

Sounds of disappointment instantly erupted at the scene.

"Victor Langley, you don't have the final say in Langley Family," Leona Sheridan said.

"And is it you who has the final say?" Victor Langley retorted.

"Dad," Jared Langley stood in front of his mother, "It's just a misunderstanding, there's no need to handle Mother so severely, right? I'll handle this matter properly."

Juliana picked up, coldly questioning him, "According to you, today if the speculum didn't enter my body, it's a misunderstanding; only if it went in, it would be harm, right?"

Victor Langley looked at this son who sided entirely with his mother, ignoring his humiliated fiancée, and then at the illegitimate son lying half-dead on the ground for protecting Juliana, his eyes filled with disappointment.

"Juliana..."

Jared Langley wanted to explain, but Juliana made a shush gesture, telling him to shut up.

She walked up to Leona Sheridan, took her handbag, and retrieved her own phone.

"Let's have the police judge whether this recording can send her to jail, shall we?"

Jared Langley and Leona Sheridan both widened their eyes.

Especially Leona Sheridan, who suddenly became agitated,

"You're scheming against me again, and you want to call the police and have me arrested? You really are a vixen born without a mother, I..."

Seeing her losing control, Jared Langley hurriedly restrained her.

Victor Langley, considering the big picture, said, "Get your mother back to Langley Residence now!"

Jared Langley quickly called for help to take Leona Sheridan away.

Victor Langley then turned to Juliana, "What do you want, let's discuss it."

Juliana wasn't agitated, nor did she cry loudly, but her gaze fixed on Victor Langley's face, cold and sharp, yet anyone could see that behind her calm exterior, she was broken.

"Chairman Langley..."

Her hand still clutched the torn trouser leg tightly.

"...Your biggest failure in life wasn't marrying Leona Sheridan for your career, but not being able to manage your own spouse."

Victor Langley's face drastically changed, but he was speechless for a moment.

Juliana no longer looked at him or anyone else, though in disarray, she straightened her back and walked out alone.

That silhouette was especially solitary and straight in the empty corridor.

Just as her figure disappeared at the door, Adrian Langley, who had been holding on, suddenly fainted to the ground.

"Adrian!"

Only then did Victor Langley notice the son he had ignored, injured and in bad shape, urgently calling out, "Doctor! Quickly get the doctor!"

...

Juliana walked out of the side building, and a Hongqi car slowly stopped in front of her.

She was about to turn and walk elsewhere when Elias Langley embraced her from behind, opened the car door, and led her into the car.

The car started slowly, leaving the hospital.

Juliana instinctively curled up in the corner of the seat, her gaze shifting to the trees speeding past outside the window, her voice devoid of any emotion.

"Don't mind me, I'll be fine alone after a while."

However, Elias Langley's arm insistently drew her closer, positioning her cheek against his chest.

Juliana uncomfortably tried to break free from his embrace, but his hand gently stroked her back.

"Sure, you can adjust yourself, but with me, you'll recover faster."

Juliana trembled slightly in his embrace, then remained still.

"Juliana, I'm not Evan Grant. Let me share your grievances, let me dispel your sadness. In any case... no matter how the past was, I won't be absent from your future life. Get used to having me, okay?"

The hardness Juliana had been maintaining for so long began to soften and collapse under his steady heartbeat and warm body temperature.

She subconsciously wanted to make one last bit of resistance, but a cherished yet restrained kiss landed on her forehead just at this time.

"See, relying on me isn't that difficult, right?" he whispered.

In an instant, all the high walls Juliana had built seemed to collapse silently with that kiss.

She said nothing, simply burying her face deeper into his chest, a silent surrender.

Elias Langley's lips curled slightly upward, and he instructed the driver, "To Global Port."

After a moment, having calmed down somewhat, Juliana noticed that the driver was Raine Kane.

She looked up at Elias Langley, "What are we going there for?"

The man gently brushed the corner of her eyes with his fingertips, "To quickly change your mood, we have to change into new clothes."

Juliana thought his words made some sense, but little did she know it was a carefully woven "trap" by the man...

Global Port was filled with luxury brands, yet Elias Langley didn't take her to the most expensive store directly.

Instead, he followed her preferences, patiently accompanying her to choose.

In the end, Juliana chose a moderately priced outfit, but once worn, it was very comfortable.

And she took another set, packaging it.

Elias Langley swiftly paid.

Juliana indeed felt a bit better, smiling slightly, "Thank you, President Langley, for the expense."

The man raised an eyebrow slightly, "Is it only a verbal thank you?"

Juliana took the hint and stood on her toes to kiss him.

But Elias Langley turned his head to avoid it.

Juliana looked puzzled, and he held her hand, leading her back to the car.

"Dressed beautifully, just right to register the marriage."

Juliana was stunned,

He turned to look at her, a hint of evident anger flashing in his eyes.

"To prevent anyone from gossiping again, falsely accusing me of 'stealing' my nephew's fiancée."

What Elias Langley wanted was always legitimate.

Being the "mistress," he no longer desired.

Chapter 208: Make a Good Impression on the Lady

When they arrived at the civil affairs bureau, it was just noon, and the doors were tightly closed.

Juliana was momentarily delighted, then remembered he was Elias Langley!

The second marriage certificate in her life was quickly in hand, and Juliana still felt quite dazed.

How long had it been since the divorce? The grass on the grave... oh no, the cover of the previous divorce certificate hadn't even gathered dust yet, and she had dug herself into another hole.

Elias Langley hugged his legally certified wife, his smile as contented as a cat basking in the sun.

Sitting in the car, Juliana uncertainly asked, "Don't you need to sign a prenuptial agreement or something?"

Elias Langley shifted his gaze from outside the window to her face, filled with "this is illogical," and said lightly, "Signing that thing is a waste of paper."

Juliana was taken aback by his reasoning, "What if we divorce in the future and I take away all your assets, what will you do?"

Elias's smile faded, and he said, "If it really comes to that, my only request is that you take me with you."

Juliana, "..."

She realized that Elias Langley also had a strong side to him.

But unlike others' coercion, his strength lay in his ability to first create a sufficiently broad dimension and cleverly make her always feel comfortable and at ease within this space.

This strength, due to the dimension being so broad that it was difficult to detect, became a sort of thoughtfulness instead.

Juliana handed him her marriage certificate, "What I'm going to do next is crucial, so hide everything that needs hiding."

Elias understood the meaning behind her words and handed her a card.

Juliana was about to refuse when the man said, "Hidden marriage is fine, but don't think about drawing a line with me financially. This is a salary card, keep it for me."

Juliana was once again at a loss for words.

Raine Kane, who was driving, couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Elias clicked his tongue, and Raine immediately stopped laughing.

"Why can't you learn from Quinn Shepherd?" Elias said.

Raine, with an earnest attitude and a slick tone, responded, "Secretary Shepherd is too advanced; I can't manage his level."

Elias slowly threw out a sentence, "Quinn's greatest strength is that he's tight-lipped with everyone."

Raine understood, made a gesture of zipping her lips, and continued driving.

Upon arriving at Aetherflame Dynamics, Juliana was about to get out of the car, but Elias still held onto her.

"What time do you get off work?" he asked.

Juliana thought for a moment, "Around seven or eight, I guess."

"Alright, I'll pick you up then."

Juliana raised an eyebrow, "Heading back to the Langley Family together?"

Elias smiled, "On my first wedding night, are you planning to sleep in a separate room from me?"

Juliana pursed her lips, neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

Raine opened the car door for her.

Juliana got out, saying to her, "The outfit in the trunk is for you."

Raine was surprised.

Juliana said, "Thank you for your jacket."

In her most embarrassing moment, it had preserved a bit of her dignity.

Raine immediately acted sheepishly, "On your big day, I didn't have time to prepare a gift, and you went to the trouble; I feel so bad!"

Juliana laughed at her words, "It was your boss who footed the bill, so just accept it."

Raine instantly straightened up, "Thank you, boss lady."

Juliana, because of her words, glanced back at the car, blushed slightly, and left.

Elias's eyes curved, suppressing the subtle amusement in them as he said, "Always thought you had decent skills; didn't expect your tongue to be even sharper."

Raine was even more amused.

Back in the driver's seat, Raine adjusted her mood, and seriously said, "That doctor insists that Mrs. Langley instructed him to conduct examinations for Miss Jacobs... no, for the madam, but he won't say whether the samples were really sent for analysis or given to someone else."

Elias's face showed no emotion, "It seems he has something over someone, and must protect whoever truly needs the samples."

Raine was puzzled, "Who is so capable, controlling the analysis results of the samples we submit again and again? If it wasn't for Dorian Lowell's incident slipping up, we'd still be in the dark. Such methods... are extraordinary."

Elias's eyes darkened briefly at her words, "This means someone not only doesn't want us to find her but also wants to find her first themselves."

Raine understood that "her" referred to the real gem of the Sinclair Family.

The whole matter likely started because of that professor from the Sinclair Family.

"Do we need to use some means?" Raine asked.

Elias thought for two seconds, "No need; he's just an unknowing tool. Have the hospital revoke his medical license, fire him, and kick him out of Kenton."

Raine nodded, "Then this line of investigation ends here."

Elias confidently said, "They didn't achieve their goal; they'll reach out again, wait for the next time."

"Keep it confidential," Elias reminded.

Raine stood tall, "Understood."

This matter was so confidential that even Secretary Shepherd was completely excluded from knowing, showing its high level of secrecy.

...

As Juliana walked into her office, Caleb Shaw led a young man up to her.

"This is Leo Wyatt, a new hire at the company."

Juliana gave him a quick glance, saying nothing.

Seeing this, Caleb quickly added, "He's a graduate of Stark Institute of Technology, with an excellent resume, suitable for your lab."

Juliana looked at him, "Have you done a background check?"

Caleb turned his back to Leo and said in a low voice, "He's the son of Stark Institute's Vice President, all the academic credentials are real, is a background check necessary?"

Juliana pursed her lips, "I think it's necessary."

"The company's process can't be too rigid; his identity itself is the best guarantee."

"But you know, at this stage of research, the lab's data is extremely important."

Caleb paused for two seconds, smiling slightly as he responded, "But to keep progress on both sides, you're short on staff. This is the fastest way I could think to bring technical personnel into the lab."

Juliana looked at his persistent manner and eventually compromised.

"Let him start as an intern; if he qualifies, he stays. If not, you'll have to make other arrangements."

Caleb happily instructed the secretary to take Leo to complete the hiring paperwork.

"How did Summer Shaw's examination go?" Juliana asked.

Caleb's smile faded, "Still waiting for results."

Juliana understood, "Waiting" could mean there was much work to be done concerning the issue with the heart.

Just then, her phone rang.

It was a call from Jared Langley.

Caleb tactfully left her office.

However, she didn't take the call.

The phone rang once, and then stopped.

Juliana called Adrian Langley.

"Are you alright?" she asked.

Adrian, with swollen eyes and bruises all over, sounded particularly relaxed, "The doctor says I need to be under observation for two days, but I'm tough, it's nothing."

Juliana knew he was trying to comfort her, "Remember to have your mom send you some snacks tonight; whether you can become an eyesore to Leona Sheridan depends on tonight."

Adrian laughed, "Got it."

Afterward, Juliana went to the lab and didn't come out until half-past eight.

On her phone, besides a call from Jared Langley, no one else had contacted her.

Juliana was the last to leave the company; just as she reached the roadside, Elias Langley pulled the car over.

Juliana was pleasantly surprised.

Sitting in the car, she asked, "How long have you been waiting? Why didn't you call me?"

She thought he was busy and wouldn't come.

Elias started the car, "Even if I called, I would still have to wait for you to finish working. I might as well wait here to leave a good impression on my wife."

He, at that moment, resembled a well-behaved, big dog.

"Good boy," Juliana patted his head and laughed.

Before long, the car stopped at the apartment building.

Elias held her hand and led her to his apartment.

The table already had several dishes set, covered with lids.

Juliana was surprised again.

"Did you make all of these?"

Elias walked into the kitchen, put on an apron, and said, "One dish needs to be cooked right before eating to taste good, just wait a moment, it'll be ready soon."

Juliana leaned against the door and said with a smile, "I take back what I said, if you lose your job, don't open a massage shop, open a restaurant then, so I can eat well every meal."

Elias, busy cooking, didn't stop his actions, and said flatly, "This treatment is exclusive for my wife; others shouldn't even think about it."

Juliana laughed at his words.

Just then, her phone buzzed with a message.

It was from Jared Langley: "I'm downstairs at your apartment, where are you? Let's meet."

Juliana's smile instantly disappeared, and her eyes became calm.

At that moment, there was a soft "pop" sound beside her.

Elias turned off the stove, took off his apron, and said calmly, "Go meet him."

Chapter 209: Your Business Is My Top Priority

The kitchen was filled with a nerve-wracking calm.

Juliana Jacobs walked over to him and looked at the dish in the pot.

"Is it ready to eat?"

As she spoke, she reached towards the pot.

"Hot!"

Elias Langley nudged her hand away with his elbow.

Juliana sucked on her index finger and leaned against his arm, smiling, "Has anyone ever told you that President Langley looks quite cute when he pouts?"

"Don't make me kiss you."

Elias Langley picked up the spatula again, his movements regaining their former ease and fluidity.

Jared Langley stood beneath the apartment building, silently gazing at the dark window.

Ben Hayes said, "I asked security. They didn't see Miss Jacobs' car come or go; she probably hasn't returned."

He hesitated for a moment, then advised, "Today's matter... Madam was indeed thoughtless. That kind of inspection is a tremendous humiliation for a woman. Miss Jacobs must be feeling terrible right now. Should you... wait for a few days until she calms down before talking to her?"

Jared Langley's brow furrowed slightly, his tone tinged with obstinacy, "Wasn't the inspection unsuccessful? There's no real humiliation to speak of. In the end, she was also at fault. If she had followed my mother's arrangements and reported everything, such misunderstandings wouldn't have occurred."

Ben Hayes opened his mouth but eventually gave up advising him, "What about Adrian Langley? After being beaten by Madam this time, he won't let it go easily. He'll probably make a big deal out of it to gain leverage with Chairman Langley."

Jared Langley opened the car door, his voice cold and firm, "He's just a bastard, truly thinking of himself as someone significant. Isn't my second uncle the best example? As long as I, the legitimate eldest son, remain steady, these 'backups' will never make it to the stage. At least my second uncle had the guts to

make something of himself. Him? Without the capability, he can only obediently be a useful dog for the Langley Family."

The car drove away from the apartment.

Jared Langley glanced irritably at the rearview mirror.

Hiding was useless for her.

Tomorrow, he would make sure everyone around her knew whose person she truly was!

At this moment, in the hospital.

Visiting hours were over.

The corridor was tranquil and serene.

Rosalind Linton was staying overnight, so she remained.

"Mom specially made this for you, have another bite."

She held a sticky meat dumpling up to Adrian Langley's mouth.

Adrian Langley touched his belly and laughed, "Mom, don't raise me like a pig, I'll get fat."

Rosalind Linton put down the bowl and picked up a napkin to wipe his mouth, "How are you getting fat? In the years you spent at the Langley Family, you not only lost weight but also got beaten..."

As she spoke, she lowered her head with a heavy heart.

The moonlight in the corridor silently cast the eavesdropper's shadow onto the porch.

Adrian Langley hurriedly pulled out a napkin to wipe his mother's tears.

"Mom, I'm fine."

Rosalind Linton was somewhat agitated, "Back then, because your grandfather got sick and we had no money for treatment, I agreed to let you seek him out. You pretended to have amnesia to protect me, but with his suspicious nature, he would never trust you, let alone have any father-son bond. Now that your grandfather has passed, we are unburdened. Why not go abroad together and live a stable life, rather than endure this anger here."

Adrian Langley was silent for two seconds, then nodded, "Actually... if it weren't for big brother's accident, I've already told father that I want to leave the company, to leave the Langley Family. It's just that now that big brother is hurt, it would be hard for father to have nobody by his side, so I can't leave now."

"You're such a fool." Rosalind Linton's eyes brimmed with tears, "He lets that woman beat you and treats you as free labor, yet you still think about him."

Adrian Langley smiled, "Isn't he my father? It's you who taught me to love him as I love you."

Rosalind Linton remained silent.

Adrian Langley continued to gently say, "I know mom is kind-hearted, and you're just speaking in anger now. Once big brother recovers, I'll tell dad that I want nothing, just to live the life I want. Anyway, he already knows about my existence, so I have no regrets."

Hearing this, Rosalind Linton's expression finally eased.

"Good child, you are sensible, and that comforts me. Helping dad is okay, but make sure not to provoke your aunt again, and most importantly, protect yourself and avoid getting hurt."

Adrian Langley solemnly nodded.

The shadow at the door disappeared, and Adrian Langley immediately lowered his voice, "Go check if he's left, will you?"

Rosalind Linton cautiously stood up, covered her face with a napkin, and walked to the door.

There was nobody in the corridor; she nodded to Adrian Langley.

Adrian Langley quickly took out his phone and called Juliana Jacobs.

Juliana was lounging on the living room sofa, her head resting on Elias Langley's lap, waiting for him to finish handling urgent documents before they went to bed.

Seeing "Adrian Langley" appear on her phone screen, she answered without hesitation.

Adrian Langley couldn't hide his excitement, "You were right, he really came. My mom and I repeated everything you wrote to him, word for word. But he didn't come in, just left."

Yet Juliana's reaction was calm, "He's such a cautious person; he wouldn't show up in front of your mom on impulse. Next, Victor Langley will surely want to investigate your and your mother's background. I'll fabricate a past for you without my presence, but you both need to be cautious too."

Adrian Langley nodded, "Understood! I've long been fed up with Leona Sheridan, and as for that unfaithful man, he's not worth any sympathy. Let's see where we can go from here."

Juliana hung up the phone, and before she could set it down, the man beside her wrapped a long arm around her, pulling her into his embrace, his warm breath brushing against her earlobe.

"Little fox, doing mischief behind my back again."

Juliana naturally turned her face sideways, her nose almost touching his chin, eyes sparkling with mischief.

"When did I do that? I just have a favor to ask."

She said this as she turned in his embrace, facing him, wrapping her arms around his waist, looking up at him.

Elias Langley gazed down at the coquettish woman in his arms, his face remained expressionless, but he allowed her to hug him without pushing her away.

Juliana seized the moment to rest her chin on his firm chest, speaking softly, "I need a story about the Linton Family without my presence, and one that can withstand your brother's scrutiny. Can President Langley manage that?"

Elias Langley closed his eyes momentarily, "Pitting us brothers against each other comes at a high cost. What will you give me in return?"

Juliana lightly bit his Adam's apple, "Come on, hubby~"

"I'll see how you perform."

Elias Langley's ears turned red, and he lifted her horizontally, striding towards the bedroom.

...

Early the next morning, the two of them rose early.

As the morning light streamed through the window gauze, Elias Langley placed a warm glass of milk next to Juliana Jacobs.

In a hurry, he made a simple yet exquisite breakfast.

Juliana ate slowly, occasionally feeding him a bite.

In his thirty-four years of life, Elias Langley felt his heart filled for the first time with such mundane daily life, secure and warm.

A while later, the car stopped steadily outside Aetherflame Dynamics, and Juliana unbuckled her seatbelt, only to be gently held back.

A brief kiss landed on the corner of her lips.

"Call me if anything comes up, okay?"

Juliana smiled, "Aren't you afraid I'll bother you?"

Elias Langley's fingertips lightly brushed over her hair, undeniable sincerity in his eyes, "Your matters are my top priority."

Warmth filled Juliana's heart, leaving her with a subtle smile even as she sat in her office for a while.

Just then, a small commotion arose outside the door.

The receptionist's voice trying to stop someone approached from afar, "President Langley, you can't go in without prior notice..."

But in the next second, the door to Juliana's office swung open.

She exchanged a glance with Jared Langley, who carried a hint of cold gloom, turning his head to instruct the people behind him, "This is the place, go in."

Chapter 210: When Has Elias Ever Noticed a Woman's Subtle Emotions?

The words fell.

A few people wearing flower shop uniforms started bringing in bunches of flowers into the office.

Soon, the reception sofa was also filled.

Not only that, but there were also exclamations from colleagues outside.

Upon closer listening, it turned out that each of them had received an expensive souvenir - a gold bracelet - from the eldest son of the Langley Family.

Juliana sat in her chair, watching the people still bringing in flowers, furrowing her brows, "Why force them in if they can't fit?"

Jared Langley laughed at her words and gestured to the flower shop staff, "I didn't realize her office was so small. Leave the rest. You guys handle it yourselves."

Upon hearing this, these people took the flowers and exited Juliana's office.

"You've disrupted my work and the entire company's work," said Juliana.

Jared walked through the flowers, stood in front of her, and leaned on her desk with one hand.

"Do you want everyone in the company to know our relationship is not good?"

Juliana pressed her tongue against the back of her jaw and looked at the computer screen, "Okay, now they know. You can leave."

"Juliana..."

Jared unplugged her computer's power, and Juliana finally turned her eyes to him, her brows slightly furrowed, her gaze... strangely "calm."

"... I promise you that what happened yesterday will not happen again. Stop sulking."

His tone carried a self-assured calmness and certainty, as if he were declaring an established fact rather than apologizing.

Juliana swept the room full of flowers, the strong fragrance making her somewhat uncomfortable.

"Your mother is so overbearing. She must have a harsher card to play, right?"

Jared's eyes darkened for a moment, "What's happening now is just child's play compared to what she can really do. Listen to me, don't provoke her, heed her words, and get along well."

Juliana, realizing she couldn't get anything out of him, lowered her gaze and said blandly, "I get your intention. Let's leave it at that."

It was meant to end the conversation, but Jared felt the atmosphere had somewhat softened.

He shifted the topic to the main point, "By the way, you shouldn't have recorded yesterday. Give me the recording, and I'll help you dispose of it."

Juliana's gaze at him turned a bit subtle again.

"So all this grand gesture, this is your real purpose?"

Jared softened his tone, trying to show his patience and understanding.

"I understand you've been wronged. But my mother's intention was ultimately to maintain the reputation of the entire Langley Family, albeit the method was a bit too aggressive."

He observed Juliana's expression, continuing in a guiding tone: "You are about to become a member of the Langley Family. Your perspective on matters needs to gradually change. For a family to be stable, having a big-picture view is essential. If you can try to understand my mother's way of thinking, learn to think from the overall interest of the Langley Family, the friction between you two naturally won't exist."

Juliana spun her pen, looking at the man who assumed the role of her fiancé, a faint smile emerging on her face.

"Even if I have some connection with your Langley Family, the fiery conflict between your mother and me won't change. I can't accept what you call the 'big picture,' just like when Evan tried to make me prioritize it and tolerate his stepsister. Why don't you consider now whether it's appropriate for us to continue this relationship?"

"What do you mean?"

Jared suddenly seemed a bit unstable on his feet.

Juliana felt extremely vexed and, at this moment, did not want to consider his wavering stance.

"Actually, ever since you woke up in the hospital, no matter how you define our relationship, you should have felt that I have no affection for you..."

"Stop talking."

Jared's face turned pale, his head felt like it was splitting, and his breathing became rapid.

Juliana watched his reaction intently, trying to judge whether this sudden pain was real or fake.

"I won't let you... use this as an excuse to leave me... never..."

Before he finished speaking, one hand suddenly clutched his chest, his body uncontrollably tilting, directly falling to the ground.

Juliana's heart tightened, and she immediately stood up to support him.

At this moment, Caleb Shaw rushed in from outside, caught Jared's almost rigid body, and quickly laid him flat on the ground.

After checking his breath, Caleb immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"There's an AED in my car, go get it!"

Upon hearing this, Juliana quickly ran outside.

Finally, Jared's heartbeat and breathing returned to normal, but he remained unconscious, and the ambulance arrived.

So she followed the ambulance and took Jared to the hospital.

Adrian Langley heard Jared was hospitalized for emergency treatment and hurried over with a face full of bruises to accompany Juliana while waiting for Jared's examination to be completed.

The examination results came quickly, and the doctor diagnosed it as an arrhythmia caused by an acute stress response, accompanied by a brief loss of consciousness, suggesting a 24-hour hospital observation.

When the Langleys arrived, the doctor was reprimanding Juliana.

"You should be aware of his condition. The last thing he should experience is the stimulus of a 'breakup.' If you decide to participate in the treatment, you must maintain absolute patience; if you can't, it's better to keep your distance from the start. Repeated stimulation is the most dangerous for him."

As soon as the doctor finished speaking, Leona Sheridan rushed up.

"I knew you had no good intentions towards my son. You want to end our Langley Family!"

Saying this, her raised palm came down.

At that moment, two figures moved simultaneously.

Elias Langley, who had already reached them, swiftly wrapped his arm around Juliana's waist, quickly pulling her out of harm's way.

Almost at the same time, Adrian Langley also positioned himself in front of Juliana.

With a crisp "smack."

This slap, filled with anger, landed heavily on Adrian Langley's raised elbow.

Perhaps because it struck a bruised area, Adrian Langley let out a light hiss but remained standing.

Leona Sheridan, on the other hand, was rendered numb and tingling in her hand and wrist from the rebound force, and her entire face twisted with a mix of shock and anger.

She stood in a daze for several seconds before running to her husband, crying and complaining, "I told you she was a vixen, but you refused to believe it! Now do you see? Even your younger brother and that

illegitimate child of yours are all protecting her! If they ever do something scandalous, spreading all over the city, what will happen to our Langley Family's reputation then?"

Juliana slowly retreated from Elias Langley's embrace, bowing her head and saying, "Thank you."

At this moment, her mind was in turmoil.

She hadn't expected both men to act simultaneously in her defense.

A bit flattered, yet it made her heart tremble with fear.

Because she didn't want to arouse Victor Langley's suspicion at this time.

And at this moment, Adrian Langley spoke with a serious expression, "Aunt, you've misunderstood."

He glanced into the hospital room where Jared had yet to regain consciousness.

He continued, "Uncle and I stopped you because our brother can't endure any more stress. If that slap had landed on Miss Jacobs' face, once our brother woke up and found out, it would only deepen the rift between you two. We don't want to see you create an irreparable chasm between you and him out of a momentary impulse."

"Who do you think you are? Our mother-son relationship is none of your concern."

As Leona Sheridan finished speaking, there came Jared's voice from the hospital room, "Mom, don't make things hard for Juliana, our misunderstanding has been cleared."

The group hurried into the hospital room.

Juliana, thinking of Leona Sheridan's fierceness, deliberately slowed her steps, widening the distance between them.

At this moment, Elias Langley, as if aware of her thoughts, imperceptibly stepped forward, perfectly blocking the line of sight between Juliana and the glaring Leona Sheridan.

Instantly cutting off a hostile gaze, creating a brief safe space for Juliana.

This action was so smooth, showing such tacit understanding that it was almost unnoticed.

Yet this entire scene pierced sharply into the eyes of Florence Sinclair, who accompanied Leona Sheridan and had been silently observing.

Who was Elias Langley?

When did he ever pay attention to a woman's subtle emotions?

And when did he ever "considerately" step in to defuse a situation for someone?

An extremely clear notion surfaced in her mind: there was definitely something going on between these two!