

Panicking 231

Chapter 231: Fourteen Years Ago, He Gave Up on Her!

Hearing this voice, Juliana felt inexplicably anxious and uneasy.

She tried hard to see clearly the location and the person speaking, but her range of vision was extremely narrow, and she couldn't see anything, only listen.

"Mr. Sinclair," it was Elias Langley's voice, "there's no choice left, I promise you, I won't give up on her."

Then came the man's helpless and painful voice, "One day, you'll regret choosing me at this moment!"

Although she couldn't see clearly, Juliana could sense the tension and tragic air silently spreading.

"Professor," a woman's voice resolutely said, "I will protect Miss even with my life."

Hearing this, the mist before Juliana's eyes cleared away.

She saw a woman protecting a little girl hurriedly getting into a car.

Then, the car sped away like an arrow off the string.

"Mr. Sinclair, go quickly."

Juliana turned around, but could only see the cars leaving in different directions.

What is this situation?

What happened?

Without time for her to think, a wave of intense pain tore through her consciousness...

At the ICU ward entrance,

Caleb Shaw, carrying a badge-wearing staff member, walked up to Elias Langley.

This was the second day of Juliana's coma.

The usually neat man had a shadow of a beard, and his crisp shirt was wrinkled after a whole night.

This was the first time Caleb had seen Elias Langley look so unkempt.

"Mr. Langley," considering his mood, Caleb spoke very softly, "this is Chairman Morton from the Red Cross."

Elias Langley looked confusedly at the other person.

Chairman Morton quickly stepped forward, his tone cautious.

"Mr. Langley, according to procedure, we could have notified you by phone, but considering the family's feelings, we decided to tell you in person. Juliana Jacobs had registered as an organ donation volunteer. If she were to pass away, her heart would be donated to Summer Shaw free of charge."

After stating his purpose, seeing Elias Langley's face darken, he hurriedly added, "Please don't be upset, this is just a routine notification. We all hope Miss Jacobs can recover soon."

While seeking a solution for Summer, Juliana had also prepared for the worst.

Saving Summer was her sole obsession in the remaining four years, and in all her consideration, only she herself was insignificant.

A sense of bitterness welled up in Elias Langley's heart, but he quickly suppressed it.

"Has the procedure been completed?" he asked coldly.

Chairman Morton quickly nodded.

"But she is still alive now, so after you both verify, please leave, no need to send off."

With Juliana's current condition, Caleb didn't have much to say, so he left with Chairman Morton.

"These people are so cold-blooded," Raine Kane said, dissatisfied.

Elias Langley said nothing, just about to turn back to the ICU room when Jared Langley arrived.

"Uncle, I heard Juliana is here, how is she?"

Elias Langley looked at him with cold eyes, "If it weren't for the Kingsford project being paused, you probably wouldn't remember her."

"What?" Jared was perplexed, "Uncle, what happened to the Kingsford project?"

It was clear he didn't know what had happened in his company.

Elias Langley's gaze shifted elsewhere, "In your heart, is your fiancée just decoration or a pawn?"

"No, Uncle," Jared said, feeling anguished at the mention, "I was thinking about the bigger picture. I didn't expect her to be hurt like this, I really..."

Before he could finish, the nurse monitoring in the ICU room ran to the door and said to Elias Langley, "The patient is awake."

"Let me tell you, the only reason you're still standing here is that when Juliana wakes up, I'll leave you to her to deal with, so keep your supposed wise opinions to yourself. Women are never a sacrifice for the bigger picture!"

Elias Langley left Jared, taking a few steps back to the bedside.

Juliana struggled out of a muddled consciousness.

The first thing she sensed wasn't light, but an explosive pain deep in her head, as if steel needles were stirring inside her skull.

This intense pain forced her to open her eyes.

Her vision was blurry, her chest heavy and making it hard to breathe.

But a man's face slowly took shape in the haze.

"Juliana..."

Elias Langley's voice was hoarse, carrying the cautiousness of regaining something lost, reaching out to touch her cheek.

But Juliana turned her head to avoid his hand.

Elias Langley's hand stiffened in mid-air.

Juliana looked at him, her vision becoming clearer, but her breathing grew more rapid.

years ago, he abandoned her!

Juliana's heart was deeply pierced with pain, her entire body trembling as the monitor emitted a harsh alarm.

The doctor, who arrived in a hurry, immediately instructed the nurse in a stern voice, "Prepare a sedative!"

He then turned to Juliana, tone serious and urgent, "Miss Jacobs, you must calm down! If your emotions continue to run this high, your heart will fail, and we'll have no choice but to administer a sedative!"

Juliana quickly clutched her chest, shaking her head.

She even forced out words with difficulty, "No... my heart... it's for Summer."

She closed her eyes, forcing back the last hint of tears.

The familial affection she had always longed for was nothing more than a negotiable chip in her parents' eyes.

Her kindness to others only brought betrayal and hurt time and again.

So why should she smile at the world?

Juliana took a deep breath, opening her eyes again, much calmer now.

She met Elias Langley's anxious gaze, not avoiding it, but instead slowly letting her eyes fall on his hand, suspended in mid-air, unable to touch her.

"Elias Langley, I thought I would never see you again."

She spoke, her voice weak but clear.

As if the previous evasion had just been a moment of forgetfulness.

The anxiety on Elias Langley's face dissipated, and he even visibly breathed a sigh of relief.

"For a moment, I thought you didn't remember me."

Juliana closed her eyes briefly, struggling to force a smile, "At first, I didn't."

Elias Langley held her hand, "I'm sorry, it's my fault."

Juliana looked at him, saying nothing.

The doctor stepped in, "Miss Jacobs is still very weak, give her some time to recover, and try to keep her from talking."

Elias Langley placed her hand on his face and smiled.

At this moment, Jared Langley leaned against the door, calling out "Juliana" towards the inside.

Juliana slowly turned her head to look at him.

Jared Langley intended to come in, but Raine Kane stopped him, so he could only lean against the door frame, peering inside.

Seeing Elias Langley placing Juliana's hand on his face with no reservations, the intimacy between them made Jared's heart fill with jealousy.

"I've been so worried about you." Jared said.

Juliana's expression grew colder bit by bit.

After calming herself, she mustered up the energy to say, "Young Master, you've saved me twice. When your mother humiliated me with that examination and I didn't call the police, that counts as once. This is now the second. We're even. I am not your fiancée, nor do I have any obligation to assist you in your treatment. Let this be the end."

After speaking, she closed her eyes wearily.

"No, you are my fiancée, you love me!"

Jared Langley shook as he tried to rush in.

Elias Langley's eyes flashed coldly, instructing Raine Kane, "Stop him!"

Raine Kane followed the order, delivering a swift punch to Jared Langley's face.

Jared had only just called out "Juliana" before collapsing, unconscious.

His fainting was due to arrhythmia, not from Raine Kane's punch.

The doctors and nurses hurriedly carried him to the emergency room.

Turning back to Juliana, Elias Langley's gaze softened once again.

"I'll go to the Langley Residence and get your things, you rest well."

He was about to release her hand, but Juliana held on to him.

"That fat man said... you wouldn't dare go against the people behind him, so why did you come?"

Elias Langley's lips curled faintly, and he gently caressed her cheek with his other hand, his eyes briefly flickering with an elusive complexity.

"Who stands behind him doesn't matter. What matters is, I cannot lose you."

He leaned down, placing a light kiss on her forehead, then stood up to leave.

As the door closed, the mist of dependence in Juliana's eyes vanished, leaving behind only a cold struggle.

His warmth, his resolve, she had tasted them all. Now, she even wished his deep affection was calculated, so she could sever all ties without hesitation, dragging him and those who hurt and abandoned her into hell.

Emerging from her sadness, Juliana picked up the phone and called Rosalind Linton.

The phone rang for a long time before someone answered.

"Can you still move now?" Juliana asked.

Rosalind Linton, gritting her teeth, sat up on the bed by herself, "I can, I had a miscarriage, but arranged for the hospital to preserve the embryo. Elias Langley arranged for expedited DNA testing. Now what should I do?"

Juliana's eyes gleamed with cold light, "Prepare, and throw the embryo in Victor Langley's face."

Chapter 232: Leona Sheridan, Your Retribution Has Come

The child was intentionally conceived by Rosalind Linton, but she never intended to keep it.

As for the cruel way it was aborted, that was just coincidental.

In this world, whoever uses everything to its fullest is the winner.

Juliana Jacobs had just been transferred to a regular ward for less than two hours when Leona Sheridan and her brother rushed to Hospital 547.

Jared Langley was stabilized after the rescue, but he was still in a coma.

An enraged Leona Sheridan burst into Juliana's hospital room, intending to slap her, but was stopped by Raine Kane.

Leona immediately started cursing, "Juliana, she's with my brother-in-law, right? It's a disgrace to spread the word that an uncle assigns a bodyguard to his niece-in-law, isn't it?"

Juliana had just taken her medicine, and her tongue was a bit bitter, she wasn't in a good mood.

With Leona causing a scene, Juliana had no patience for her.

"Hit her for me."

As soon as she spoke, Raine slapped Leona across the face.

Leona received the first slap of her life, and her head buzzed instantly.

"How can you hit someone? The centuries-old virtues of respecting the elderly and loving the young, have you devoured them?"

Mason Sheridan hurriedly supported his sister, angrily rebuking Juliana.

Juliana's face was indifferent, "Respecting the elderly and loving the young is for good people, not for the bad ones."

Seeing this, Leona immediately slapped her own face a few times, messed up her hair, and then cried loudly in the ward.

By her calculations, Victor Langley should have arrived.

As she was thinking, the door to the ward was pushed open, and Victor Langley's figure appeared at the door.

Seeing Leona's condition, he frowned.

"Leona, what happened to you?"

It was apparent that Victor was not in a good mood either, and his eyes had dark circles.

Last night, he received news that all projects in Kingsford had been halted, and he'd been busy since then, making no progress.

It was imaginable how much pressure he was under now.

"Husband, the daughter-in-law your son found actually had the bodyguard of your second son hit me."

After Leona's complaint, Mason quickly added, "An uncle values his niece-in-law more than his nephew, isn't this incestuous?"

Victor's gaze turned displeased as he looked at Juliana lying on the hospital bed, "What exactly is your relationship with the second son? The Langley Family cannot tolerate any dirty deeds."

Juliana laughed at his words, "Cannot tolerate it? How many dirty deeds has your wife done, are you pretending to be blind? Or do you plan to let her restrain herself only when she's in prison for the sake of the Langley Family's reputation? Chairman Langley, your family's reputation has long been squandered by yourselves, why play the emperor's new clothes here?"

Victor's mouth twitched with anger.

"Don't shift the blame, we're talking about you now!" Mason said.

Juliana's smile grew colder, "Mason Sheridan, does your brother-in-law know that all the projects of the Langley Family in Kingsford were stopped because you tried to please the city's master?"

Mason's face slightly changed at her words.

Victor's gaze towards him also became sharp.

"And your good sister Leona Sheridan, knowing full well it would drag the whole Langley Family to ruin, still listened to your instigation and dragged her son into it. You Sheridan siblings are really something!"

Seeing that her fire might burn her too, Leona yelled, "Shut up!"

Juliana raised her eyebrow, "Apart from commanding your blindly loyal son, who else can you control?"

Then she looked at Victor, "Your son's body might be with the Langley Family, but his heart is with the Sheridans. Just change his name to Jared Sheridan."

Victor was already troubled about the matters in Kingsford, and Juliana's words instantly infuriated him as he turned to Leona, "Is what she said true?"

"Of course not," Leona quickly denied.

Just as she finished speaking, a recording of Leona's voice began playing from Juliana's phone.

"Number five, as long as Juliana is in the Langley Family, I won't have a peaceful day..."

"...Our brother-in-law has built the company so big, it won't even scratch the surface."

This was a conversation that took place in the room a day before Juliana's incident between Leona, Mason, and Jared.

After listening, Victor's anger was indescribable.

Juliana smiled slightly, "Chairman Langley, you really married a wife who brings honor to her family."

"Juliana, stop spreading discord, do you believe I will hand you over myself right now..."

"Enough!"

Before Mason could finish his passionate speech, Victor interrupted him sternly.

"Mason, regardless of whether Elias checked her out or not, if you send her to the Sinclairs, our enemies, and if she turns out to be with them, are you trying to sever ties between me and the Sinclairs completely? Do you not care even about Jared being without heirs?"

Mason's face slightly changed due to his words.

"All these years, your Sheridan Family has taken plenty from us. From today, all cooperative projects between the Sheridans and Langleys are suspended. I can bear the losses in Kingsford, and I'm prepared for the cost of severing ties with you."

After speaking, Victor walked out of the ward.

Losing the support of the Langley Family was equivalent to losing a money tree for the Sheridan Family.

"Brother-in-law, let me explain..."

Mason hurriedly chased after him.

Leona stared at Juliana with disdain.

"Pulling such a stunt, what good does it do? It won't hurt me in the slightest. It's just a pity you weren't killed this time; you won't be so lucky next time."

Juliana coldly chuckled, "Leona, your retribution has arrived."

Leona's facial muscles twitched as she was about to unleash a vicious curse when Rosalind Linton's voice echoed from the hallway outside the ward.

"Victor Langley, this is the paternity test report, this is your son, all yours!"

With Adrian Langley's support, Rosalind rushed from Mercy Hospital to 547 and flung the test report and a medical sealed bag at Victor's face.

Victor was stunned for a moment, first catching the sealed bag.

"What is this?"

Seeing a bloody mass inside the bag, he immediately threw it away, then picked up the report and started reading it.

Rosalind's face was still swollen, she sneered, "Leona's no good, and you're a scumbag, abandoning even your own son."

"This... He wasn't even formed yet, don't talk nonsense."

Victor frowned even more deeply as he looked at the conclusion on the report.

"He had a chance to come into this world! It was your wife. She knew I was pregnant and first lured Aidan to find Tim Paxton, then intentionally led me there, having Tim's people beat us mother and child to death. Victor Langley, congratulations, another son of yours has been harmed by your wife."

Victor looked at the medical sealed bag on the ground, his hand holding the report trembled slightly.

"You despicable wretch, to grab the Langley family's property, you make up lies to slander me! Today, I will tear your mouth apart to make you remember what happens when you touch my man!"

Leona stormed out of the ward, raising her hand to charge at Rosalind.

Chapter 233: It Means Divorce

Adrian Langley saw this and forced himself to stand in front of his mother.

He was covered in injuries, and every movement caused severe pain, yet he still gritted his teeth and held on.

Leona Sheridan's slap landed heavily on his back, causing him to cough up two mouthfuls of blood.

"Son, are you alright? Don't scare your mother..."

Rosalind Linton supported him.

Adrian Langley shook his head slowly, his voice weak but clear.

"Mom, a scumbag isn't worth your longing. We've said everything that needs to be said, let's go. I never really had a father. We can't provoke the Langley Family, but we can avoid them."

Victor Langley's heart jolted when he heard this and was about to speak to ease the tension, but Rosalind Linton replied softly, "Alright, we never wanted anything from the Langley Family anyway, let's leave now, the further away from these people the better."

The mother and son said no more, without glancing at anyone else, and supported each other as they walked step by step towards the elevator.

They were both injured, but their backs were straight; every step was difficult, yet they walked resolutely, like two scarred yet unyielding shadows.

Victor Langley was suddenly pricked by his conscience, and a wave of pain arose in his heart.

Leona Sheridan snorted lightly, "A slut pretending to be virtuous! A bastard who hasn't been properly brought up, coming here to recognize a father, why not recognize a ghost instead?"

"Mind your words!" Victor Langley said, suppressing his anger.

Leona Sheridan couldn't believe it, "You're yelling at me for them? Don't forget, my son is the Langley Family heir! If you're not good to me, in the future..."

"If he's not satisfied either, he can get out of the Langley Family with you!" Victor Langley interrupted her sharply.

Leona Sheridan was completely stunned, "You... what do you mean by that?"

Victor Langley looked at her, speaking word by word, "It means divorce. According to the prenuptial agreement, I won't take a penny from the Sheridan Family, and you can't take anything of mine."

Leona Sheridan panicked, "Husband, I was just having a tantrum, can't you forgive me?"

"Yes, brother-in-law, this mother and son are clearly trying to sow discord, don't be fooled." Mason Sheridan said.

"Everyone loves to sow discord, only the Sheridan Family are good people? If you weren't someone's lapdog, you'd have been in jail already!"

Mason Sheridan was instantly shut up by Victor Langley's words.

After scolding him, Victor Langley turned to look at Leona Sheridan.

"Haven't you done enough immoral things over the years? Now you're even corrupting our son, my tolerance for you has long been exhausted! I've been supporting you mother and son, a pair of ungrateful wretches, when I could have had a woman who could bear me children. Anyone who wants to be a fool can be, but I'm done with it! Expect to receive the divorce papers!"

With that, Victor Langley lifted his foot and went after Rosalind Linton and her son.

Leona Sheridan and her brother were left dumbfounded by this sudden turn of events.

Leona Sheridan was the first to snap back, turning and rushing back to Juliana Jacobs' ward.

"It's you! You did all this!" Her eyes were red with anger, "You wretch! Seducing my son, then my brother-in-law, and now trying to break up our marriage. The one who deserves to die the most is you, why haven't you gone and died yet?"

As she said this, she was about to lunge forward to hit her.

Raine Kane stepped forward, using her shoulder to push her back, causing Leona Sheridan to stumble and fall back into Mason Sheridan's arms.

Juliana's gaze was as cold and still as a frozen lake, without a ripple.

"Listen clearly, I won't be helping Jared Langley with his treatment anymore. If anyone dares to bare their fangs and test my limits again, don't blame me for cutting off their head."

Leona Sheridan was pinned in place by these words and then raised her voice, "You're threatening my son's life, are you still human?"

At these words, a freezing smile appeared on Juliana's lips.

"A threat?" Her icy gaze swept over the Sheridan siblings inch by inch, "If not for the past debt I owed Jared Langley, did you think, with what you've done to me, anyone here would still have the right to speak to me?"

The sudden burst of murderous determination in her eyes sent a shiver through the experienced Mason Sheridan.

A vague yet horrifying suspicion emerged in his mind: Could she be the missing Sinclair Family heiress?

But if she were a Sinclair, Elias Langley would have taken her back to Kingsford long ago, not left her in Kenton to be coveted by all sorts.

Although Mason Sheridan dismissed his suspicion, his momentum was cut in half, and he held back the almost raging Leona Sheridan.

"Sis, calm down, now's not the time to deal with this bitch. Brother-in-law is just angry and mentioned divorce, how can thirty years of relationship be severed so easily? The immediate priority is to stabilize the situation. As long as you bow your head and show some softness, once this matter passes, won't we easily get rid of this whore?"

Leona Sheridan calmed down at his words, the light of triumph reigniting in her eyes.

"You're right, with this whore's little tricks, does she really think she can fight me? We'll go back now, and tonight I'll find a way to bring Victor Langley obediently back to my bed. Juliana, once my son wakes up, I'll make sure he breaks you, crushes you, makes you kneel in regret for daring to go against me today!"

The two of them left the hospital triumphantly, forgetting to check in on the still-comatose Jared Langley in the intensive care unit.

"Is that even human speech?" Raine Kane said as she closed the ward door.

Juliana lay quietly on the hospital bed, her shoulders relaxing, and her eyes appeared to be covered with a layer of gray.

"She wasn't entirely wrong; I should have died long ago."

There is nothing more devastating than being abandoned by one's parents.

Although Raine Kane didn't know the reason, fearing she might be burdened psychologically, she quickly comforted her, "Leona Sheridan is a shameless shrew, don't take a single word she says to heart."

Juliana didn't respond; for a moment, she nearly drowned in the overwhelming weariness, but just then, her phone rang.

It was a call from Rosalind Linton.

An icy feeling instantly dispelled the gray mist in her eyes.

Weakness stops here.

Since she wasn't dead, others would be.

Her journey was just beginning.

She hung up the call and looked at Raine Kane.

Raine Kane immediately understood, "I'll go buy you dinner, call me if you need anything."

With that, she left the ward and closed the door behind her.

Juliana redialed the number, and the call was answered in an instant.

"Juliana, we've returned to Mercy Hospital, Victor Langley chased after us, but I ignored him." Rosalind Linton said.

Juliana remained calm, "Figure out how to get him to divorce Leona Sheridan, that's your job."

"Alright, somehow, even though it's unethical, it makes me happy. But... Adrian advised you to be careful of Mason Sheridan, he's still got designs on you."

Juliana's lips curled slightly, "What a coincidence, I'm interested in him too. Let's see who gets rid of whom first."

As soon as she finished speaking, the ward door opened, and Elias Langley walked in with a food container.

Juliana's heart skipped a beat, and she instinctively hung up the phone.

Did he hear?

How much did he hear?

If she were her old self, she would never have said such harsh things. Would he be suspicious?

Chapter 234: The Day I No Longer Need to Rely on You...

Elias Langley walked to the bedside, his expression unchanged from usual.

He placed the lunchbox on the bedside table and gently asked, "Just now you said... you want to send someone away?"

His gaze calmly landed on her face, so naturally it was impossible to find a trace of probing.

Juliana tilted her head and thought for a moment, "Without relying on you, how capable do you think I am to send away someone I don't like?"

Elias Langley chuckled softly at her words, his fingertips brushing through her hair.

"So, madam, don't hide anything from me if there's something going on."

Juliana curled her lips, "I want to be strong myself, wait until the day I don't need to rely on you..."

She stopped halfway through her sentence.

Elias Langley, who had been listening intently, saw her stop and reached out to embrace her, lifting her chin lightly with his fingertips.

"I'm curious, on the day you don't need me, what would you do?"

The light in Juliana's eyes twinkled with a touch of mischief.

"Probably like this, only it'll be me holding your chin."

Elias Langley laughed softly, placing a kiss on her lips.

"You can switch anytime you want; every time I hand over the initiative to you, you can't last ten minutes. Is it I that don't let you be strong?"

Juliana blushed at his ambiguous words, testing half-seriously, "What if one day I change, what would you do?"

Elias Langley's smile imperceptibly froze for a moment, then deepened at the corners of his eyes.

He tapped her nose lightly.

"Married is married, whether it's good or bad, it's my fate as Elias Langley."

Juliana raised an eyebrow, "If I turn into someone like Leona Sheridan, would you still like it?"

"Your soul wouldn't let you become her."

Elias Langley's tone was calm but certain, then it was tinged with a hint of indulgence.

"If you really were to become like her, I'd only have one word—pamper."

All of Juliana's probing words were blocked back by him.

That night, Elias Langley stayed to keep watch overnight.

Juliana had just moved to a regular ward and was very fatigued, falling asleep quickly.

In her dream, the world spun fiercely.

Metal grated with a screeching sound, and the scenery outside the car window spun wildly.

It was still that memory.

Her body was trapped in the back seat, and the scream of a woman rang inside the car.

The next second, the back of her head slammed into the window frame, pain and darkness engulfed her instantly.

Soon, the freezing river water poured in from all directions...

"Elias Langley, save me!"

Juliana cried out the same words as in her dream.

But unlike in her dream, here she grasped a solid muscle.

"Juliana..."

Elias Langley brushed aside her sweat-drenched hair,

Juliana was pulled back to reality from her dream, gasping as she looked at the man in front of her for a long time, only realizing that 14 years had passed, her eyes instantly turned red.

"Had a nightmare?"

Elias Langley held her in his arms, patting her gently.

Juliana caught her breath on his chest, not speaking.

Actually, she really wanted to ask him, since he was so good to her, why did he choose to give up on her back then?

Could it be that, to a man, protecting a 'valuable' person was always more important than protecting a 'loved' one?

Juliana's nose tingled.

At this moment, Elias Langley's voice came lightly from above, "Don't be afraid, with me here, I won't let go of you ever again."

Actually, he wasn't sure if she had recovered her memory, but in that sentence lay the guilt he hadn't expressed for years.

The defenses Juliana had built around her heart quietly loosened at that moment.

She closed her eyes, allowing herself to indulge in this warm embrace.

Perhaps the future might be confrontational, but the warmth in his embrace at this moment was real.

On the other side, at Mercy Hospital.

Rosalind Linton was still in her son's hospital room.

"Mom, you're also a patient. Please return to your room, I'm fine," Adrian Langley said.

Rosalind Linton put away the medicine to promote blood circulation and eliminate blood stasis.

"It's okay, Mom can be discharged tomorrow. Then I'll make you some bone broth. The doctor said your ribs need another month to heal before you can take a flight, so let's book the tickets for a month later."

"Where are you going?"

At some point, Victor Langley had already stood at the ward door.

Adrian Langley instinctively wanted to get up, but Rosalind Linton held him down.

"He's an irrelevant person, just take care of yourself first."

After Rosalind Linton said that, she pushed Victor Langley aside from the ward door and went back to her room.

Victor Langley didn't step forward to show concern for his son; instead, he immediately took off his coat to drape over Rosalind Linton.

"It's one thing to be mad, but don't take it out on your health. You just had a miscarriage, cherish your body."

Actually, Rosalind Linton's hospital room was just next door. He was only doing this to express concern.

Rosalind Linton, while walking into her room, threw the coat back at him.

"Go be with your wife, I don't need any hypocritical concern."

She said that and lay down on her hospital bed. At that moment, she noticed a thermos jar on the bedside table.

Victor Langley walked to the bedside and opened the jar to serve her some soup.

"This is pigeon soup I specially had the kitchen make for you."

The spoon was fed to her lips, but Rosalind Linton turned her head away.

"I'm afraid your wife might have poisoned it, so I dare not eat."

Victor Langley sighed and set the bowl down.

"Rosalind, please don't be angry. The Langley family's lineage is precious, and there can't be any mistakes with me. Besides, for the sake of our child's future, this test must be done."

"Hmph!"

Rosalind Linton wiped away her tears.

"The child is gone; he no longer has a future. In the past, you only pretended to like me, never trusted my character; now in your eyes, I'm still a woman for everyone. There's nothing left to say between us... Just go away, and never come back."

"Rosalind..."

Victor Langley's face showed pain. He sat by the bed, holding her hand.

"... When I found you initially, I truly wanted to spend my life with you, but who would have thought my father's company would go bankrupt? I had to marry Leona Sheridan to pay off the debts. I didn't abandon you."

Rosalind Linton withdrew her hand, her face full of anger.

"You were playing the role of someone else's husband and prospective father while hiding everything from me, even letting me get pregnant. When I was pregnant, you dared to say the child wasn't yours. Victor Langley, how can you be so shameless!"

"Back then, I only knew Langley men couldn't naturally conceive. I didn't realize that under highly compatible gene conditions, there could still be rare exceptions. And... you need to understand my situation at that time."

Victor Langley's tone carried a trace of helplessness.

But Rosalind Linton remained cold-faced and said, "Sorry, I couldn't understand back then, and I can't understand now. I won't be with a coward. Go back and fawn over your wife who can bring you pride."

Having said that, Rosalind Linton resolutely turned her head away, no longer looking at him.

Victor Langley's jaw tightened, and he spoke in a somber voice, "I can't defend my past actions, but this time, I will prove to you that the one I always wanted to marry is you!"

With that, he stopped lingering and turned to leave decisively.

Seeing he wouldn't return, Rosalind Linton patted her chest in relief.

Then she took the bowl of pigeon soup to the bathroom to dump it out.

Trash men only deserve to be clowns!

Three days later, Juliana was discharged.

Elias Langley personally brought her back to the apartment.

During her hospital stay, he had pushed aside all affairs to accompany her the whole time and even seriously learned from the nurse how to change her wound dressing.

Elias Langley fulfilled the tenderness and responsibility of a husband to the fullest.

His kindness made Juliana indulge, but the old wounds of being abandoned still burned within her memory.

Meanwhile, at the Langley Residence, Victor Langley hadn't returned for three days. Leona Sheridan couldn't sit still any longer and began venting her frustrations to Mason Sheridan.

"It's Juliana; it must be Juliana stirring trouble, keeping Victor from returning to reunite with me. Is she really the one you're looking for? Is she?"

Chapter 235: Stay and Help Me Take Care of Him

For the past three days, Leona Sheridan either caused a scene at the office or took her frustrations out on the servants at home.

She managed to mention "Juliana Jacobs" at least eight hundred times a day.

Mason Sheridan thought she might have lost her mind.

But the Sheridan Family depended on this marriage to be their cash cow.

He felt disdain in his heart, yet he had no choice but to come up with strategies for her.

"Whether she truly is, still needs to be confirmed. But, sister, I think the urgent task now is to win back your husband's heart."

"You think I don't want to? I can't even see him at home, and at work, he won't let me in. Discussing divorce, he only allows the lawyer to contact me, and I can't even meet him. How am I supposed to win his heart?"

Mason pondered, "You still have a son. Even though Jared is still in a coma now, if he knew you were being neglected, he would surely stand up and support you."

Leona was suddenly enlightened by his words.

...

Jared Langley lay in the hospital's intensive care unit. Although all tests were normal, there were no signs of waking up.

"No, this is absolutely not acceptable. The young master's current condition is not suitable for movement at all. Forcibly discharging him would be very dangerous!"

The attending doctor spoke urgently, trying to stop her.

"Dangerous? You've been treating him for days, and he hasn't woken up. Staying here for you quacks to treat him, isn't that dangerous too?"

Leona Sheridan's voice was harsh, her delicate makeup distorted from agitation.

"I'm his mother! Would I harm him? Moving him to Mercy Hospital will be more beneficial for my son's recovery. I'll take responsibility if anything happens!"

"But even transferring requires arranging an ambulance."

The doctor tried to make a final procedural objection.

"Who do you think you are! If you dare speak again, I'll make sure you never wear that white coat again!"

With that, Leona Sheridan used the authority of Mrs. Langley to forcefully arrange for Jared's transfer, disregarding all medical procedures.

But her destination wasn't Mercy Hospital; she moved Jared back to the Langley Residence.

She wasn't worried at all about her son having an accident; instead, she was smugly thinking: Now that my son is home, I don't believe Victor Langley won't obediently return!

At this moment, Victor Langley was with Rosalind Linton at Celestial Vista.

Upon receiving the call, he felt the world go dark. A massive surge of anger and fear nearly knocked him over.

Rosalind quickly supported him, advising, "Now's not the time to be angry, stay calm. She did this just to get you to come home. Stop venting on me and hurry back to check on him; the child is what matters."

Victor calmed down under her gentle voice, looked at her deeply, and said, "Come home with me."

Rosalind hesitated for a moment, but then grabbed her coat and went with him.

When Victor hurriedly brought Rosalind back to the Langley Residence, Jared had already been placed in a specially prepared room.

Leona wasn't totally brainless and had instructed people to move some equipment from the hospital.

But due to the rush, they hadn't yet arranged everything properly, leaving the whole room in disarray.

So she stood at the door like a slave driver monitoring them, urging everyone on.

Before Victor even got close, he heard her sharp and sarcastic voice, instantly feeling a surge of disgust.

"Leona Sheridan, you brought him back regardless of the risk to his life, has your brain rotted?"

Victor no longer considered her his wife and spoke without regard.

Leona spotted Rosalind following behind him and ignored his harsh words, pointing at Rosalind, "Oh, you dare to openly bring this vixen home, if you're not planning to live this life well, then neither of us will! Nathan..."

"Here." Nathan Chapman answered and quickly came upstairs from below.

"Break this woman's leg and throw her out for me," ordered Leona Sheridan.

"This place bears the Langley name, don't you dare!"

Victor shielded Rosalind behind him and stared sharply at Leona.

Nathan scratched his head, awkwardly speaking to Leona, "Madam, I have to listen to Chairman Langley."

Leona was incredulously wide-eyed, "You're from the Sheridan Family, how can you listen to him?"

Victor sneered and continued, "Letting you out was a mistake. Before the divorce procedures are complete, you'd better behave."

This statement shattered Leona Sheridan's reason entirely, and she started crying uncontrollably.

"Victor Langley, you're not human! When you couldn't have kids, I endured the pains of IVF to give birth to your son! And now, you treat me like this..."

At that moment, the heart monitor beside Jared's bed emitted a shrill alarm.

Leona's voice abruptly halted.

In a daze for a moment, she hurried to her son's bedside.

"Jared, what's wrong? Jared..."

She called out anxiously, but Jared's complexion suddenly turned blue and purple, showing signs of respiratory distress.

Victor panicked, "Doctor, where's the doctor?"

Leona was dumbfounded; she had only concerned herself with moving the equipment from the hospital but forgot to bring along a professional doctor or nurse for her son's care.

In this critical moment, a slim figure silently maneuvered to the other side of the bed.

Rosalind quickly assessed Jared's condition, her expression turning serious, "His airway is blocked by phlegm. It must be extracted immediately, or he'll suffocate."

Having said that, she swiftly scanned the room, noticing a medical kit in the corner.

She hurried over and opened it.

Inside, she took out a bottle of saline solution and an unopened soft catheter.

"We can't wait for the doctor; we need to suck out the phlegm now."

While speaking, she deftly unscrewed the saline bottle cap, pouring out some liquid, then connected one end of the catheter into the bottle opening to ensure a seal, carefully inserting the other end into Jared's trachea through the nasal passage.

"You can't extract phlegm, don't touch my son!"

Leona rushed to push her away.

But Victor stepped forward swiftly, grabbing Leona's arm, pulling her away, and slapping her hard.

"You're about to get our son killed, and you're still fussing! What else can you do besides ruining everything!"

Leona was slapped to the floor, stunned.

Rosalind wasn't affected in the least, sealing her lips around the bottle opening and forcefully suctioned.

A few seconds later, the thick phlegm reversed up the catheter, quickly drawing into the bottle.

Jared's throat emitted a slight "gurgling" sound, his chest steadily settling, with the heart monitor returning to normal.

Victor let out a breath of relief.

"Jared..."

Leona was about to throw herself onto her son's bed, crying out her grievances, but Victor coldly instructed Nathan, "Do not let her approach the young master. Take her to the storage room and lock her up."

Leona was in utter shock.

"No, I want to stay with my son."

Victor didn't even look at Leona as she was dragged away, and instead, he gratefully spoke to Rosalind, "Thank you, I never expected you to know this."

Rosalind slowly wiped her hands with a wet tissue, a perfectly placed hint of loss flickering in her eyes.

"I specifically got a nursing license to take good care of my dad, but he still left so quickly."

Victor, moved, held her hand, "Rosalind, you are so kindhearted. Jared can't be left alone here. You're the only one I trust. Can you stay and help me take care of him?"

"But..."

Rosalind lowered her eyelids, hiding the depth of delight in her eyes.

Is Juliana's plan about to succeed?

Could it be going this smoothly?

Chapter 236: I'm Certain—You Are the Sinclair Family's Long-Lost Daughter

Leona Sheridan, who hadn't gone far, screamed uncontrollably, "No, I won't allow that temptress to move into the Langley Family. I won't permit it!"

Nathan Chapman quickly pulled out a pain relief patch and slapped it over her mouth with a "smack," hastening his steps to drag her away.

"If I ask you to stay, you stay. Get familiar with the place quickly and take good care of Jared."

Victor Langley gave Rosalind Linton no chance to refute, turned, and walked away.

As he walked into the living room, he coincidentally met Mason Sheridan returning.

Mason Sheridan nonchalantly greeted him as if he knew nothing.

However, Victor Langley's face was stern, and he got straight to the point.

"My marriage with your sister is definitely over. As for the Sheridan Family... I can provide a bit more compensation, but from now on, we don't have to interact anymore."

Mason Sheridan's mouth twitched slightly; he forced a smile and said, "Brother-in-law, there's no need to make things so rigid, right? Those projects you have in Kingsford, they could be restarted as long as the funds are in place..."

He gestured with his fingers to indicate money.

Obviously, he wasn't referring to funds for project investment.

Victor Langley let out a cold laugh, "Do you think I'd let you manipulate the company's interests again?"

Casually, the smile vanished from his face, "Blackstar Technologies will not be controlled by anyone."

With that, he walked out without looking back.

Mason Sheridan stood in place, grinding his teeth in secret.

The task was incomplete, and even the Sheridan Family lost the Langley Family, their cash cow; his heart was both angry and frustrated.

Unable to let both ends fall short, he had to find out whether Juliana Jacobs was indeed a Sinclair.

But going head-to-head, he certainly wasn't a match for Elias Langley...

Juliana Jacobs rested at home for two days, and the scar on her forehead had already scabbed over, so she returned to work at Aetherflame.

The company operations had returned to normal, and under Caleb Shaw's efficient management, the lab had also been restored; the research progress wasn't affected by the incident.

Elias Langley hadn't shown up for two days; she only sent him the usual greetings daily, never asking what he was up to, as always.

Near the end of the workday, the reception desk informed her there was a visitor.

Juliana Jacobs walked to the lobby and saw that the visitor was Mason Sheridan, causing her steps to momentarily halt.

Mason Sheridan appeared completely unperturbed, with a perfectly fitting smile on his face as he approached.

"Miss Jacobs, a pleasure to meet you."

Juliana Jacobs showed no friendly face to the sly fox, "You're not welcome here."

Mason Sheridan seemed to have anticipated her reaction, his smile unwavering, his tone even took on a hint of sincerity.

"There's an important matter I'd like to discuss with Miss Jacobs. I was afraid an invitation would be refused by you outright, so I took the liberty to come in person."

"There's nothing to discuss between us."

After saying that, Juliana Jacobs turned to return to her office.

Mason Sheridan called out loudly, "Don't you want to know why you are always plagued by trouble?"

Juliana Jacobs turned to look at him because of his words.

Mason Sheridan smiled, "I'm genuinely here to talk to Miss Jacobs this time. To show my sincerity, you can bring your bodyguard along, all I ask is a chance to explain in person."

His retreating yet advancing stance ignited Juliana Jacobs's curiosity about how shameless he could get.

Juliana Jacobs wore a faint smile, "Alright, have it your way then."

Mitchell Shepherd chose a Cantonese teahouse for the meeting.

The private room had a window.

Raine Kane checked once, confirming the environment was safe, before Juliana Jacobs stepped inside.

After that, Raine Kane went to check the environment outside the teahouse.

Mason Sheridan personally poured a cup of aged Pu'er tea for Juliana Jacobs.

"Miss Jacobs, let's not beat around the bush. Professor Sebastian Sinclair is a national treasure-level chip expert. Fourteen years ago, before anything happened to him, he was even the head of several key national labs. The Sinclair Family holds an unparalleled position in academia, and their connections in politics and business are extensive beyond measure."

He leaned forward slightly, lowering his voice, yet it carried a persuasive power.

"Behind Elias Langley's Helios Energy Association in cracking core technology, the Sinclair Family's support in chips and materials science is essential. How many dignitaries in Kingsford want to get connected to the Sinclair Family but can't. If you are the long-lost daughter of the Sinclair Family, you would become invaluable."

Juliana Jacobs laughed at his words.

"So, Mr. Sheridan is helping the Sinclair Family find their daughter?"

"If you see it that way, then that's correct. Think carefully, the root of your current troubles is your lack of identity and status, leaving you to passively endure pressure from all sides. But if you are part of the Sinclair Family..."

Mason Sheridan's lips curled into a meaningful smile.

"Then everything will be different. You will no longer be an individual that can be treated lightly; with the Sinclair Family behind you, you'll control tangible resources and connections, gaining dignity and a voice. Even Elias Langley would have to reassess your worth. And if we collaborate, the benefits we could generate will far exceed your imagination."

Juliana Jacobs's smile didn't reach her eyes, "Mr. Sheridan's offer is very tempting, but I am not a Sinclair."

"Don't be so quick to say that, why not take a DNA test to confirm?"

"But even if it turns out positive, what if I'm still not?" Juliana Jacobs insisted.

Mason Sheridan's smile faded, "It's hard for someone without value who knows too much to survive."

Juliana Jacobs remained silent, lowering her eyes, gently rubbing the warm teacup, seemingly weighing her options.

Just then, Mason Sheridan casually glanced out of the corridor window.

"Oh, isn't that Elias out there?"

Juliana Jacobs followed his gaze and saw the opposite private room door was open, with a server delivering a plate of snacks.

In that brief moment, she clearly saw Elias Langley sitting opposite a beautiful, capable young woman.

The woman appeared lively and cheerful, frequently breaking into smiles during conversation.

Elias Langley, normally reserved, looked surprisingly relaxed.

When the woman pushed her snack toward him, he didn't refuse.

Mason Sheridan aptly commented, "That lady is Irene Carter, the heiress of The Carter Family of Caelus, which controls the largest rare metal mines in The Zenthian Sea. Elias is indeed... putting his utmost efforts for the association's material supply."

Juliana Jacobs watched quietly.

Just as the server set the snacks down, Irene Carter stood to leave, blushing, but her steps faltered as she attempted to go.

Elias Langley quickly stood up, moving around the table to support her.

At that moment, Irene Carter collapsed into him.

With a composed expression, Elias Langley reached out to steady her unsteady steps.

Turning, he briefly instructed the server, and in that short moment, Irene Carter had already leaned into his arms.

Elias Langley had no choice but to half-carry her out of the private room.

Upon seeing this, Juliana Jacobs quickly turned her head down to avoid being seen by him.

But Mason Sheridan reassured her, "This is a one-way glass; he can't see us."

Watching the two "together" people leave the teahouse, Mason Sheridan then turned to Juliana Jacobs with a smile, his tone laced with worldly cynicism.

"In the minds of men like Elias Langley, profit is always the top priority. Emotions and loyalty are merely chips for negotiation."

He paused slightly, then suddenly leaned forward, changing his tone abruptly.

"But partners are different. I believe in a 'community of interests,' and during the contract period, my loyalty is the strongest bond."

He looked into Juliana Jacobs's eyes, offering a meticulously prepared bargaining chip.

"Miss Jacobs, I am confident you are indeed the Sinclair Family's long-lost daughter. Why don't we get a DNA test together? If the results align with my expectations, with the Sinclair Family's resources combined with my channels, it could be a perfect partnership, don't you think?"

Chapter 237: Four Words Shattered His Hard-Won Restraint

Juliana had a piece of sweet pastry but lost her appetite.

She slowly lifted her head, her face devoid of the anger or sadness Mason Sheridan expected, only cold calmness and a hint of mockery.

"Mr. Sheridan, is this you being driven into a corner, looking for a wall to jump over?"

Mason Sheridan's mouth twitched.

Juliana continued leisurely, "Firstly, if the Sinclair Family really had such abilities, finding their daughter would be a piece of cake, so why would they need two adopted daughters to fill the void? In truth, they are pretending. Secondly, this 'chance encounter' you meticulously arranged only proves your methods are despicable and that you're at your wit's end."

Mason Sheridan's real intentions were exposed by her, but he stubbornly said, "Juliana, I'm giving you face, don't be ungrateful."

Juliana stood up, looking down at Mason Sheridan, whose face had turned unpleasant, with a deep smile on her face.

"You're so eager to prove my identity because your sister lost her power in the Langley Family, and you're ineffective in serving your master, falling short on both sides. Now you're desperate, wagging your tail at me like a dog, trying to use me as a pawn to break the impasse?"

She straightened her sleeve, her tone contemptuous, "Not even a chance of cooperating with me—wagging your tail at me is out of your league!"

With that, she no longer looked at Mason Sheridan's ashen face and turned to leave with composure.

Raine Kane was waiting for her in the parking lot downstairs.

Seeing her come out, he immediately drove the car over.

Raine Kane wasn't sure if Juliana had seen Elias, so in the car, he strategically asked, "Should we tell Mr. Langley about what happened today?"

Juliana's response was calm, "I saw him; he left with that woman, didn't he?"

Raine Kane sighed silently for Elias Langley, "Actually, Mr. Langley has quite a few female business partners, but he always keeps it professional. Even in certain social settings, contact is unavoidable, but he knows his limits, which has always been his way."

Juliana detected Raine's defense of Elias Langley and chuckled lightly, "With such a good subordinate, he should treat you to a chicken drumstick."

Raine Kane laughed and immediately clarified, "Juliana, I'm on your side."

Juliana returned to her apartment, initially intending to go to her own place, but hesitated when her hand touched the doorknob.

She thought for a moment and went next door instead.

Upon opening the door, Elias Langley was standing by the window, taking off his jacket.

The fitted vest and shirt outlined his broad shoulders and slim waist sharply.

A flicker of joy crossed Juliana's heart, then quickly cooled.

"Have you eaten?" Elias Langley asked.

Seeing Juliana's lack of response, he casually dropped the jacket that carried another's scent onto the floor and walked directly toward her.

"Juliana..."

As he got close, Juliana suddenly reached out and pushed him onto the sofa.

Caught off guard, Elias Langley sat down following her force, a flash of surprise in his eyes, but he did not resist.

Juliana leaned down, one hand supporting the sofa back near his ear, the other rudely pulling his tie to make him slightly tilt his head to look at her.

"President Langley, you're quite pleased with yourself. Tell me, does the perfume smell on Miss Carter satisfy you more, or does the scent from me fit your wishes better?"

Though Juliana's face bore a smile, her gaze was sharp, her voice gentle and soft, yet every word was prickly.

Elias Langley gave her free rein, not an ounce of displeasure at being mocked, instead, her pretentious vexation brought a gleam of joy to his eyes.

He gently covered her hand gripping the tie with the back of his hand, his fingertips rubbing slowly, his voice low and raspy.

"The only scent I ever remember is that of my wife. Others don't interest me at all, but..."

He deliberately paused.

"Your jealousy is what moves me the most."

Juliana's heartbeat skipped a beat, but she showed no outward expression, tugging the tie tighter, abruptly changing the subject.

"Don't dodge the serious! Am I not aware of men's filthy habits?"

"Elias Langley, when you were eight, someone stuffed a child bride onto you, and you didn't refuse. The Sinclair girl went missing at only 12, yet you're still looking for her. Tell me, what deep emotions could you have for a child?"

Juliana's discontent surfaced in this pretending-to-be angry interrogation.

And she watched his eyes intently, not letting any ripple escape.

"You stayed faithful searching for her for over ten years, but then decided you want to marry me after only two months. How does that add up? Is it transferred affection, or is it just because I look similar to her, creating just enough stir in your heart that you found me interesting and wanted to toy with me?"

Elias Langley's gaze froze at her words, a flash of pain in his eyes before settling back into calmness.

"I have an unavoidable duty towards her, and no matter the feelings, finding her is my lifelong mission. I love you, spoil you, marry you, only because you are you, different in my eyes than anyone else, a real living you. Nothing to do with any past or promises."

Juliana's grip on the tie subconsciously eased.

The phrase "only because you are you" dispelled all the pretense of anger.

"I hope you're not lying to me."

Finishing her words, she released his tie to stand up.

But the man abruptly pressed her hand to his chest and another hand held her waist, forcing her to straddle his lap.

Only then did Juliana realize how abnormally high his body temperature was.

She was about to ask, "What's wrong?" but Elias Langley pushed ahead to show her a tube of ointment.

Instead of concern, Juliana's inquiry became, "What is this?"

"Every time I want us to be honest under the light, you worry about the scar and refuse. Even in the hospital, you wouldn't let me help you clean up. I had this ointment specially made for you, the ingredients are rare, and it took some effort to prepare. With regular use, the scar should fade to be nearly invisible."

Juliana's heart trembled.

Though she never explicitly expressed concern over the scar in front of him, he noticed silently and found a remedy for her.

The thorn he seemed to 'give up' remained. She didn't want him to see her moved and softly thanked him, taking the ointment and attempting to get off him.

Yet the arm around her waist tightened suddenly.

Elias Langley's restrained breathing became rapid, and in a hoarse voice, he declared, "Someone drugged the tea tonight. I took Irene Carter to the hospital and came right back."

Juliana frowned, "That must be Mason Sheridan's doing."

To create a rift between them, that man was relentless.

"I want to..." Elias Langley strove to suppress the waves surging inside him, "Unsure if you can handle it, maybe forget it."

He pinched her chin, the complicated light in his eyes faded, setting her on the other side of the sofa, and got up heading to the bathroom.

"Elias Langley!"

The man halted, turning suddenly.

Juliana reclined on the sofa, calm eyes hiding turbulent undercurrents.

"Finish first, then wash."

The four light words shattered the restraint he maintained.

...

Mason Sheridan returned to Langley Residence from the tea house, holding back fury.

As soon as he entered the living room, a housekeeper reported, "Mr. Sheridan, madam is attempting suicide!"

With his troubles unresolved, Mason Sheridan had no heart to care for Leona Sheridan at this moment.

He immediately responded harshly, "She's a cowardly one, would've died long ago if she wanted to, no need to wait until now. Stop bothering me!"

With that, he raised his foot to go upstairs.

The housekeeper was someone who received favors from Leona Sheridan, so hurriedly slipped over a Jade Token, whispering, "Madam said, she's left a will. Certain secrets she kept hidden for others will be made public after her death."

Chapter 238: First "Hunt

Mason Sheridan saw the Jade Token, and his face stiffened for a moment as he turned towards the utility room.

A small hole had been made in the door of the utility room to facilitate meal delivery.

Leona Sheridan had to eat, drink, and use the bathroom in this little room of less than three square meters every day.

When had she ever suffered like this, having always lived in comfort?

Mason Sheridan stood in front of the door, disdainful to bend over, and spoke condescendingly to the inside: "Sister, you are not as pretty as Rosalind Linton, nor can you give birth like her. I think you better sign the divorce agreement, and worst case, ask your husband for more child support."

Squatting behind the door, Leona Sheridan stared at his legs through the small hole. Her voice was hoarse but carried a fierce determination, determined to go down fighting.

"Mason Sheridan, I'm ruined, but don't think you'll get away with it! I will let all the Sheridans know about you secretly swapping and selling the treasures from the old ancestral hall. See if they'll kick you out of the family tree!"

Mitchell Shepherd's face turned ashen.

In truth, being kicked out of the family tree was not the worst of it; if the elders forced him to bring back what he sold, that would kill him.

Suppressing his anger with difficulty, he asked in a low voice, "What exactly do you want?"

"Let me out of here, help me win back Victor Langley, and kill that vixen for me!"

Mason Sheridan couldn't stand the foul smell emanating from the utility room, so he covered his nose and quickly thought of a "wonderful plan" for her.

"Jared still hasn't woken up—that's your only excuse. I heard there's a place called Serenity Temple in Kenton where the incense is known to be effective. I'll persuade your husband to pray there for Jared, which will allow you to get out first."

"As for what happens after..." Mason Sheridan paused, "let's plan it out slowly."

He agreed to help, and Leona was eager to take him up on it. "Alright, alright, go quickly."

Mason Sheridan replied with annoyance, "Back then, you took a Jade Token from me and promised to keep my secret. If you dare to go back on your word and expose me, I'll drag you down with me."

With that, he went off to find Victor Langley.

It was a tumultuous time for Blackstar Technologies, and Victor Langley returned home late.

Upon returning, the first thing he did was go to Jared's room.

Rosalind Linton was taking care of him, and Jared's condition was relatively stable.

Just as Victor was about to speak, Mitchell Shepherd walked in.

Rosalind Linton saw this and tactfully withdrew.

Ensuring she wasn't eavesdropping outside, Mitchell Shepherd then spoke to Victor Langley: "Brother-in-law, we've invited so many renowned doctors to examine Jared in his coma, yet there's no improvement. Why not believe in some spiritual beliefs? I heard the incense at Serenity Temple is quite effective—why don't we go and pray together?"

Initially, Victor Langley scoffed at superstitions, but the love of a parent is universal. Jared's prolonged coma, with all tests showing normal, challenged his disbelief in the supernatural.

"Alright, let's go the day after tomorrow."

Mitchell Shepherd was very pleased and pushed further: "Since it's for Jared's blessing, it would be more sincere if both spouses attend. When the time comes, why not bring my sister too?"

Victor Langley looked at his lifeless son on the hospital bed; although reluctant to let that woman out, he reluctantly agreed in the interest of his son: "Alright, but someone has to watch her carefully."

Mitchell Shepherd promptly assured: "I'll keep a close watch on her!"

He then took a step forward and lowered his voice: "Brother-in-law, if the person Jared longs for can go with us, it may show greater sincerity and might yield a better result."

Victor Langley noticed his implication to invite Juliana Jacobs and frowned: "That's not appropriate; their relationship was never real. Her presence won't make a difference."

Mitchell Shepherd quickly countered: "Miss Jacobs has contributed to Jared's condition. If she's there, Jared might sense this blessing in some mysterious way."

"Are you sure you don't have any ulterior motives?" Victor Langley questioned.

Mitchell Shepherd pounded his chest, "How could I exploit Jared to satiate my personal desires? Rest assured, I harbor no ill intentions."

Of course, this was a hypocritical excuse.

His true plan was to make his move at the temple, obtain Juliana Jacobs' biological sample, and go back to report to his master.

He was 80% sure that Juliana Jacobs was the missing Sinclair Family heiress.

Outside, Rosalind Linton heard this and quickly messaged Juliana Jacobs in the courtyard.

"Whatever the Langley Family asks you to do, don't agree—be careful of Mitchell Shepherd."

Juliana Jacobs had been disturbed by Elias Langley for two hours and hadn't yet slept.

Upon reading the message, just as she put down her phone, Victor Langley's call came through.

Elias Langley happened to emerge from the bathroom.

Juliana Jacobs answered the call, her voice flat and unremarkable, "It's late—what does Chairman Langley need?"

Victor Langley explained his intent over the phone and promised a large fee if Juliana Jacobs agreed to go.

Juliana Jacobs chuckled, "Given such sincerity from Chairman Langley, I don't mind going. I hope Jared will wake up soon."

Victor Langley had readied a speech but was surprised by Juliana Jacob's quick agreement.

Just as he felt touched, Elias Langley abruptly spoke on the other end of the line.

"Did you dry your hair?"

Juliana Jacobs was momentarily flustered and quickly hung up the phone, looking at Elias Langley, torn between anger and amusement.

"You did it on purpose, didn't you?"

Elias Langley smiled slightly as he climbed into bed to cuddle her.

"Our situation should've been known to him long ago."

"Aren't you worried as his younger brother that he might not handle the shock?"

His son-in-law turned brother-in-law—Victor Langley's likely to be infuriated.

Juliana Jacobs leaned against his chest, listening to his steady heartbeats as sleep slowly overcame her.

"I have commitments and can't go the day after tomorrow. If anything arises, call me anytime." Elias Langley said.

"I wasn't planning to take you anyway," Juliana Jacobs chuckled with her eyes closed. "For my first 'hunt,' I won't enjoy it if you're there."

Elias Langley's eyes glinted darkly.

She certainly had changed, but he found it wonderful.

He was willing to see her clad in armor, for it could protect her well.

As for who might be hurt beyond that armor, he didn't care at all.

Meanwhile, Victor Langley stared at the disconnected phone, dumbfounded and lost.

They... had reached that point already?

The next day, Juliana Jacobs headed to Serenity Temple alone.

She was familiar with the route, having gone with Evan Grant before, and Raine Kane was responsible for her safety in secret.

Upon arrival, Victor Langley's group had just gotten off the car as well.

As they would stay overnight at the temple, Victor Langley worried Juliana might fear being alone at night, so he summoned Sylvia Sheridan.

Sylvia Sheridan was upset over Jared's situation and kept a distant attitude towards Juliana Jacobs.

Juliana Jacobs paid it no mind.

Leona Sheridan's air of arrogance had diminished; upon seeing Juliana, even that foul mouth surprisingly went silent.

Mitchell Shepherd had his own agenda and wasn't planning to provoke Juliana Jacobs at this moment.

"Today I've rented the temple—all in our own circle—all here for Jared's sake, hoping our devotion will move Buddha."

Victor Langley finished speaking and casually invited Juliana Jacobs into the sanctuary.

The abbot, Master Kasyapa, knew Juliana Jacobs and gave her a slight nod upon seeing her.

Master Kasyapa personally presided over the blessing ceremony.

Everyone stood solemnly while Juliana Jacobs positioned herself in the front, bowed her head, and calmed her mind.

She was sincere in wishing Jared would wake up soon.

As everyone followed the abbot in bowing, Mitchell Shepherd, standing to the rear side of Juliana, "accidentally" slipped, hurling himself forward.

In the chaos, his hand "coincidentally" swept across Juliana's back, then deliberately tugged firmly.

A few strands of hair with follicles fell into his palm.

Chapter 239: Elias Langley Bails Out Sylvia Sheridan

A slight tingling sensation came from her scalp.

Juliana Jacobs suddenly turned around and met Mason Sheridan's apologetic face.

"Sorry, I slipped and didn't stand firm, my apologies."

He repeatedly apologized while instinctively hiding the hand holding a strand of hair behind his back.

Juliana Jacobs rubbed the stinging back of her head, her eyes narrowing sharply, and suddenly reached out to grab a handful of his hair.

Mason Sheridan yelped in pain but didn't dare fight back with both hands.

Juliana Jacobs mercilessly pulled out a tuft of hair from his head as if uprooting weeds and then nonchalantly threw it into the trash can by the temple door.

"I am a person who distinguishes clearly between gratitude and grudges; if someone digs a foot on me, I will take a yard from them." She said coldly.

Mason Sheridan rubbed his reddened scalp, his eyelids twitching, yet he remained defiant, "I said it was an accident, why did you retaliate? It's too much!"

Master Kasyapa, who had been watching the situation unfold, gazed calmly over Mason Sheridan, his hands clasped together, his voice deep and rich.

"Benevolent one, in a pure land, every thought and action is the seed for future outcomes. Do not plant seeds of thorns in a field of blessings."

Victor Langley seemed to understand the abbot's words and was displeased with his brother-in-law for causing a scene that interrupted his son's blessing ceremony, saying, "Stay away from her!"

Mason Sheridan reluctantly retreated a few steps.

Although the ceremony continued after a brief interruption, the solemnity had already been fractured and could not be restored until it ended.

Before dinner, everyone returned to their rooms to rest.

Juliana Jacobs specifically went to visit the abbot, and when she came out of his room, she was holding a simple copper incense box.

As she walked, she examined it, and while passing by Mason Sheridan "without noticing," she muttered to herself, "I never expected to find such an old item hidden in the temple, this trip was worth it."

Mason Sheridan, who was always obsessed with antiques, was instantly intrigued by her words and immediately turned to extend his neck for a closer look.

Juliana Jacobs felt an unkind gaze from behind, suddenly turned back, looked at him with disdain, clutched the incense box tightly, and quickly returned to her room.

This bait made Mason Sheridan even more restless.

That night, after dinner, everyone returned to their rooms.

Sylvia Sheridan went to wash up, leaving Juliana Jacobs alone in the room. She placed two incense boxes on the table.

One was the Poisonous Incense given by Sylvia Sheridan, and the other was the copper incense box she had taken from the abbot's room.

Then there was a knock at the door, and the fish took the bait.

Juliana Jacobs opened the door and saw Mason Sheridan, her eyes immediately wary: "What's up?"

Mason Sheridan grinned, his gaze sweeping past her shoulder into the room.

"I didn't expect you to be interested in incense. Sylvia also loves making incense; you two can have a great chat tonight."

Juliana Jacobs raised an eyebrow, deliberately blocking his view with her body.

"I'm not interested in incense; it's just that the incense gifted by the abbot contains a two-hundred-year-old ambergris, which is quite valuable."

Mason Sheridan's eyes flashed with excitement.

He repressed his excitement and lowered his voice, "You don't know antiques; you'll ruin it in your hands. Why not give it to me?"

Juliana Jacobs crossed her arms in front of her chest and leaned against the doorpost: "I have Elias Langley, how could it ruin in my hands? Besides, I'd rather use it up tonight than let it go cheap to you."

Mason Sheridan was so choked by her words that his face turned pale, yet he dared not erupt in the serene corridor.

Seeing the two boxes of incense on the table, one of which was Sylvia Sheridan's.

If he couldn't take the copper box, taking this one might still be worthwhile.

He walked in unceremoniously, grabbed the box of Poisonous Incense from the table, cursed, and left without looking back.

A cold smile flashed in Juliana Jacobs' eyes.

As soon as Mason Sheridan's figure disappeared down the corridor, Sylvia Sheridan returned.

Seeing the incense box on the table, she asked curiously, "You've taken an interest in incense making too?"

Juliana Jacobs snorted coldly, putting away the incense box.

"This stuff shortens your life if you smell too much of it, wouldn't you know?"

Sylvia Sheridan was rendered speechless by her words.

That night, the two went to sleep in their separate rooms without speaking to each other.

At dawn the next day, a scream pierced the morning tranquility of the temple.

Leona Sheridan wanted to wake her brother for breakfast, but no matter how she knocked on the door, Mason Sheridan wouldn't wake up.

So she asked someone to open the door and found Mason Sheridan unconscious in his room, barely breathing.

The scream drew everyone over, including Juliana Jacobs and Sylvia Sheridan, who were about to head to the dining hall.

Victor Langley kept his composure, quickly asking his assistant to arrange a car to take Mason Sheridan to the hospital.

The temple authorities called the police.

In the chaos, Sylvia Sheridan noticed the silver incense box in Mason Sheridan's room, her heart skipping a beat.

Her specially made Calming Incense was packed in identical boxes, making it impossible to discern whether this one was hers or one acquired by Mason Sheridan elsewhere.

She instinctively clenched her fingers, cold sweat seeping into her palms.

"Sylvia, accompany him in the car!" Victor Langley ordered in a deep voice.

Sylvia Sheridan didn't have time to think twice; she responded and hurried to the parking lot.

After the crowd dispersed, and before the temple authorities arranged for someone to protect the scene, Juliana Jacobs quietly entered the room still lingering with the scent of poisonous incense.

She found a sealed bag containing a few strands of hair in the compartment of Mason Sheridan's travel bag.

She quickly took the sealed bag, but as soon as she stepped out of the room, she encountered Master Kasyapa standing in the corridor.

Juliana Jacobs didn't know when he had gotten there, but it felt like he had been waiting for her.

She pursed her lips and explained, "I was just here to retrieve my belongings."

Master Kasyapa clasped his hands together, "Benevolent one, fate arises and perishes on its own. Obsession too deep invites its own peril."

Juliana Jacobs stood in the cold morning wind, her face betraying no panic from being caught.

She slowly brushed back her hair, revealing a scar underneath.

"May I ask, Master, if surrounded by hungry wolves with no retreat, should one confront the inevitable slaughter or cut off the wolves' claws to protect oneself?"

She did not admit to anything, only stated her predicament.

Master Kasyapa's eyes showed a trace of compassion.

"The Vajra is fierce to subdue the four demons; the Bodhisattva is compassionate to save the six realms. Whether one wishes to be either is up to one's own fate."

Juliana Jacobs understood that he would let her go.

She bowed slightly to him and walked away.

But Master Kasyapa spoke again, "Benevolent one, do not let the abyss of yesterday hinder the crossing of today's boat. Letting go is wisdom, not compromise."

Juliana Jacobs' heartstrings slightly trembled. After a moment of silence, she turned and put her hands together in a prayer gesture.

"Whatever lies ahead depends on my heart; thank you, Master."

She continued to leave, her figure appearing resolute and cold in the morning light.

After returning to the city, Juliana Jacobs went to Aetherflame Dynamics and quickly immersed herself in work.

Elias Langley had been busy lately as well, and the two hadn't been able to meet—an unspoken understanding that streamlined their communication to a non-negotiable nightly video call.

After two or three days, one morning, Raine Kane entered her office.

"Juliana, good news, Jared Langley woke up this morning, and his memory has returned to normal."

Juliana Jacobs looked up at her, waiting for the rest of the story.

Raine Kane continued, "Mason Sheridan's situation isn't good; the poison caused asphyxiation and brain edema. The doctor said he might become a vegetable. Also, the police who went to Serenity Temple took Sylvia Sheridan away this morning."

Juliana Jacobs absentmindedly wiped her fingers, as if brushing away some inconsequential dust.

"So the bad news is," Raine Kane's voice grew solemn, "Mr. Langley has arranged for Sylvia Sheridan's bail."

Chapter 240: The Peak I Aim For Is Far Higher Than This

"If he steps in, Sylvia Sheridan will most likely be fine. But for now, he is only arranging bail and hasn't interfered in anything else," Raine Kane said.

Juliana Jacobs twirled her fingers, remaining silent for a moment.

Although she hadn't considered doing anything to Sylvia Sheridan, Elias Langley's actions revealed another truth to her.

When a man loves you, even his rebellion is tinged with consideration, but if he stops loving, these contrary actions become daggers stabbing at your heart.

After sending Raine Kane off, Juliana Jacobs went to Caleb Shaw's office.

"I've made up my mind. Let's do it," she said.

Caleb Shaw paused in his task of handling documents.

"But do you realize what this means?"

He turned the computer screen toward her, showing her the company structure diagram.

"This research achievement could elevate you and the company to the pinnacle of the world, but it will also place you in danger. We can use offshore shell companies to encapsulate the technology into 'black box' modules and collaborate with various parties anonymously. Once its strategic value is proven, the state machinery will naturally become our shield. This is the most prudent path."

Juliana Jacobs looked at the complex company network diagram on the screen, silent.

Caleb Shaw continued, "I hope you consider this seriously. Once you stand unprotected and alone in front of the stage, you'll turn from hunter to the target of global intelligence agencies, with open attacks and covert schemes never ending."

Juliana Jacobs, upon hearing his words, suddenly relaxed the frown that had been heavy between her brows.

She even smiled.

"Living to today is also a kind of luck. The future you worry about is not much different from my current situation. But when my name merges with this world-changing technology, my life gains enough weight, giving me an additional layer of protection. Moreover..."

She paused, "Don't you want to save your sister anymore?"

Caleb Shaw seemed pierced by this deepest vulnerability, frozen in place, with all remaining persuasion shattering in his throat.

He opened his mouth to say something, but complex emotions made it difficult for him to speak.

Juliana Jacobs gave him a faint smile, "Summer became like this because of me. It's my responsibility to fight for a way out for her, and I have other purposes for doing this, so you don't need to feel any indebtedness towards me. The publication has to be quick and impactful, I'll leave that to you."

With that, she left Caleb Shaw's office.

In the evening, she went to Celestial Vista.

Rosalind Linton prepared a table full of dishes and even called Adrian Langley back.

Juliana Jacobs stood by the window, looking down at the community below.

Rosalind Linton brought out the last dish from the kitchen and reassured, "It's okay. Jared Langley is awake, and Victor Langley's attention is all on him. He definitely won't think of us tonight."

Juliana Jacobs drew the curtains, her expression calm, "But you can't always be the dispensable shadows around him."

Adrian Langley paused as he was placing down the chopsticks, lifting his gaze to regain his composure.

"It won't always be like this. The projects I'm handling will soon yield results. Even if Jared returns, there will certainly be a place for me in the company."

Juliana Jacobs sat down at the dining table, her tone indifferent, "Elias Langley owes me a favor. I negotiated for you to get the contact position for Project Helios and the Helios Association to give you the leverage to establish yourself. But how far you go ultimately depends on you."

A dark gleam flashed in Adrian Langley's eyes, "I understand. I've already enrolled in an MBA course to prepare for taking over Blackstar Technologies fully."

As his voice fell, the room grew quiet.

Juliana Jacobs' lips curled into a slight, almost imperceptible smile.

Rosalind Linton timely ushered them, "Since everyone understands, let's eat first."

Saying that, she picked up a piece of steamed beef for Juliana Jacobs, seamlessly shifting the topic.

"Mason Sheridan's condition is quite serious, and the subsequent treatment will be a huge expense. The Sheridan Family claims the incident happened in Kenton and refuses to pay. Leona Sheridan is too proud to let her family know she couldn't make it with the Langley Family and agreed to divorce, in exchange for Victor Langley's monetary aid for her brother, plus a considerable alimony."

Juliana Jacobs heard this with an unchanging expression, only replying flatly, "There's a cooling-off period for divorce now. Once her objective is achieved, she could change her mind anytime. You need to push Victor Langley towards a court divorce; that way it's faster, and even if she regrets it later, it won't matter."

Remembering her own divorce from Evan Grant, Juliana Jacobs added, "Once the divorce proceedings are initiated, no matter what happens, he must not withdraw them."

It was because she fell for Evan Grant's ruse then that it took so long to finalize.

A knowing smile flitted in Rosalind Linton's eyes, "I'm aware of what Leona Sheridan did to you. Leave it to me, even if she divorces Victor Langley, I'll make sure she wishes she hadn't."

After a moment of silence, Juliana Jacobs spoke, "I need to take a trip to Kingsford soon and might stay for a while. I'll leave things here to you two."

Rosalind Linton asked in surprise, "Things are going well here in Kenton, why go to such a place of trouble?"

Juliana Jacobs gave a light smile, "I won't have peace here until the scores over there are settled thoroughly. This trip is necessary."

Adrian Langley put down his chopsticks, his expression serious, "Everything here is under control. If you need help, contact me anytime."

Juliana Jacobs nodded without saying more.

Everyone quietly ate for a while.

Just then, Juliana Jacobs' phone rang.

It was Jared Langley calling, wanting to meet her.

Juliana Jacobs didn't refuse. The next afternoon, after arranging company matters, she went to the hospital.

Jared Langley was able to get out of bed and move around, looking much better.

For this solitary meeting, he had dismissed all outsiders.

Hearing Juliana Jacobs enter the hospital room, Jared Langley turned slowly from the window, his gaze deeply fixed on her.

"If I didn't call you, would you never look at me again?"

Juliana Jacobs met his gaze, her face unperturbed,

She calmly said, "Kenton might be big, but eventually, we'll run into each other elsewhere."

Jared Langley let out a low hum in response to her detached demeanor, "Actually, if you want, your status as my fiancée can continue."

Juliana Jacobs' lips curved into a cold arc, "Are you sure you've recovered properly, young master?"

Jared Langley's eyes darkened, "I admit, regardless of right or wrong, I was overly biased towards my mother. I was wrong. But then I was ill, which justifies my actions. Now I remember everything, and those things will never happen again."

Juliana Jacobs confirmed an undeniable fact—that Jared Langley was slightly better than Evan Grant.

Evan Grant is "never wrong", but at least Jared admits his mistakes.

Yet whether it's Evan Grant No.1 or Evan Grant No.2, she couldn't bring herself to like them, didn't even want ordinary contact.

Juliana Jacobs raised an eyebrow, "Since you remember everything, then you should know I owe you nothing."

Jared Langley's lips pressed into a straight line, his tone growing deeper.

"The reason you're in such a mess today, speaking frankly, is because you have no background. What I'm offering you is a chance to rid yourself of 'humility'. Being a daughter-in-law of the Langley Family is the kind of asset many dream of. You're choosing not to take the high road but to maintain your ridiculous pride in the ditch. Is that wise or foolish?"

Juliana Jacobs didn't get angry; instead, an almost imperceptible mockery flashed in her eyes, her gaze sharp and clear.

"I do need background and status. But the Langley Family you speak of is not a peak worth climbing in my eyes. The summit I want to reach is far higher than this. I'll walk my path."

Before her words had fully landed, Jared Langley abruptly turned and advanced towards her.

Sensing danger, Juliana Jacobs hurriedly stepped back.

Jared Langley, radiating intense pressure, cornered her against the wall, one hand heavily braced beside her ear on the wall.