

## **Spoiled 1161**

Chapter 1161: Expelled

Elijah Walker looked indifferently at George Robbins approaching, then picked up several scattered drafts from the ground.

"This person deliberately sabotaged the progress of the design team, I suspect he has ulterior motives, this matter should be thoroughly investigated."

The man glared at Elijah Walker, just about to say something, but George Robbins already scolded: "Enough, both of you come to my office now!"

He then glanced at the other employees who were still watching the drama, frightening them to immediately turn their heads back.

George Robbins then took the two directly away.

No sooner had they left, murmurs started floating from the office.

"Has Elijah Walker gone mad? To actually dare to hit someone."

"Alexander Taylor isn't any better, daring to intentionally find faults, and right under the surveillance camera."

"Hey, who do you think will be punished this time?"

"Probably both, one hit someone, the other deliberately dirtied the documents, neither can escape."

While the employees were discussing, George Robbins had already brought the two into his office.

He sat down in his chair, his face grave.

Alexander Taylor, however, quickly sidled up to George Robbins with a flattering face, saying:

"Mr. Robbins, you must give me justice, Elijah Walker hit me for no reason at all, it's too much, we are all designers, why should he be so arrogant?"

"Mr. Robbins, these drafts are very important, they need to be delivered to Miss Thompson later, but Alexander Taylor deliberately dirtied them all, if Miss Thompson blames us, I fear the entire design team cannot bear the responsibility," said Elijah Walker calmly.

Seeing this, Alexander Taylor immediately straightened up and countered, "That was an accidental slip of my hand, why did you place the coffee there? But you hitting someone is wrong."

However, to Alexander Taylor's surprise, Elijah Walker pushed up his glasses, somewhat puzzled:

"I didn't hit you."

Alexander Taylor's eyes widened: "Elijah Walker, what nonsense are you talking with your eyes open? Isn't this bruise on my face caused by you?"

Elijah Walker shook his head and looked towards George Robbins: "I didn't hit anyone; I just wanted to pick up those spoiled drafts. It's your fault for standing there."

Alexander Taylor was momentarily stunned by Elijah Walker's retort, and just as he was about to say something, George Robbins knocked on the table.

"Enough, both of you shut up."

He glanced at the documents on the table, a flicker of disdain in his eyes, then cleared his throat and declared: "Elijah Walker, you're fired."

Elijah Walker didn't expect George Robbins to say such words and his brows furrowed sharply.

Alexander Taylor was also somewhat nervous, but George Robbins did not continue, indicating he was safe, he sighed with relief and then sneered at Elijah Walker with schadenfreude in his eyes.

"Go settle your salary at the finance department right away, and don't ever come back."

George Robbins waved his hand, and as he turned his head, his gaze seemed to land somewhere, then he coughed, seeing Elijah Walker still standing there, his brows knitted.

"What are you still doing here? Didn't I tell you to go settle at finance? Get out!"

Alexander Taylor, not to be outdone, patted George Robbins' back at this moment: "Mr. Robbins, your decision is absolutely right, people like Elijah Walker should be fired immediately, they can't stay in the company any longer."

Chapter 1162: Making Trouble

"Elijah Walker, you better leave now. Mr. Robbins saying he's firing you at this time has already given you plenty of face."

"Why?"

However, Elijah Walker didn't care about what Alexander Taylor said, his hands at his sides clenched fiercely, his eyes full of resentment as he stared at George Robbins.

"Why, don't you know what you've done?" George Robbins couldn't be bothered with Elijah Walker.

But Elijah Walker wasn't ready to let it go, he fearlessly stared into George Robbins' eyes: "If I'm so unaware, then please, Mr. Robbins, tell me why."

"You!"

George Robbins slammed the table fiercely, obviously angered by Elijah Walker's words, "What's my status? Don't I have the right to fire you? You're just a minor designer in the company, where do you get the guts to talk to me this way!"

The anger in Elijah Walker's eyes started to fade, and his gaze suddenly became calm and indifferent, giving George Robbins a sense of guilt when he looked back at him.

"Mr. Robbins, then I'm curious, after I'm dismissed, who will replace me as the head of the design team?"

"That's none of your business! Get out of here now!"

"Then I want to see Mr. Battleson. I was directly hired by Mr. Battleson as a designer, and if he says I'm fired, I have no doubts."

Facing the frustrated George Robbins, Elijah Walker still stubbornly stood in the office.

George Robbins, staring at Elijah Walker, was at a loss for words, just as he was ready to call security to drag him out.

The office door was knocked.

"Come in."

Mr. Robbins adjusted his posture in his seat, only to see that the person who walked in was actually Coco, who worked beside Charlotte Thompson.

Coco glanced briefly around the office, then spoke very politely to George Robbins.

"Mr. Robbins, Miss Thompson wants to see Designer Walker."

"Miss Thompson?" As soon as he heard Charlotte Thompson's name, George Robbins' face changed color, but before he could speak, Alexander Taylor actually beat him to it.

"Oh, how unfortunate, Elijah Walker has just been fired, he's no longer an employee of the company, so Miss Thompson can't see him today."

Hearing this, George Robbins' hand clenched tightly on the table, wishing he could kick Alexander Taylor out.

But now all he could do was smile at Coco in front of him: "Indeed, Elijah Walker has been fired for violating company rules."

Now, Coco finally looked surprised, she hesitated for a moment but still said: "However, Designer Walker is still standing in the company, and he still wears his employee badge on his neck, indicating he's still a staff member here. I'm really sorry, Mr. Robbins, but there's an urgent matter from Miss Thompson, I must take Designer Walker with me now."

After saying this, Coco turned her head and saw Elijah Walker, signaling him to leave with her.

George Robbins took a deep breath, but in the end, the words he wanted to say were stifled.

As the deputy head of the company, George Robbins naturally held a high position, but in the entire Riley Group, aside from Justin Battleson, the only two people he couldn't control were Charlotte Thompson.

Charlotte Thompson held an independent position within the entire Riley Group, he didn't dare to speak ill of her.

Moreover, the person Charlotte Thompson wanted to take away, he wouldn't and didn't dare to stop.

Being overshadowed by such a woman was naturally not something George Robbins was willing to accept.

Yet, when he looked up and saw Alexander Taylor still standing in front of him with a smug smile, George Robbins was even more annoyed and scolded:

"Get the hell out of here."

Chapter 1163: Discussing

Alexander Taylor shuddered with fright, quickly nodding and bowing as he backed out of George Robbins' office.

The office finally returned to quiet.

At this time, the curtain to George Robbins' rest area was pulled aside, and Florienna Ellis walked out. She adjusted her somewhat loose clothes and cast a glance in George Robbins' direction.

"It seems you haven't gone through with firing Elijah Walker, have you?"

Seeing this, George Robbins quickly extended his hand to pull Florienna Ellis over, angrily saying: "If it weren't for Charlotte Thompson, Elijah Walker would already be out the door by now."

"I said it before; there must be something going on between those two. Otherwise, why would Charlotte Thompson protect Elijah Walker like that?"

"Ah, we can't speak carelessly about Charlotte Thompson now."

Florienna Ellis snorted and rolled her eyes at George Robbins, then broke free from his embrace.

"So what do you plan to do about Elijah Walker?"

George Robbins stood up with a grin and then sidled up to Florienna Ellis again.

"Don't worry, Charlotte Thompson can save Elijah Walker once, but she can't protect him every day, can she? I've said it before, he's just a junior designer. To fire him, is that not an easy thing to do?"

...

After leaving George Robbins' office with Elijah Walker, Coco finally spoke up, "Designer Walker, what happened? Why did the company suddenly decide to fire you?"

"It's not the company that wants to fire me, it's just Mr. Robbins who wishes to," Elijah Walker responded, his voice betraying a sense of immense relief.

If it hadn't been for Charlotte Thompson sending Coco in time, he dared not imagine what would have happened next.

But Elijah Walker couldn't understand; there wasn't any friction between him and George Robbins. Why would George Robbins want to fire him without hesitation?

"Did Miss Thompson suddenly call me in for something?" Elijah Walker turned back to the matter at hand.

Coco acknowledged with a sound, "It's about that task. Sister Charlotte will explain the specifics to you later."

Elijah Walker nodded without asking further and followed Coco to Charlotte Thompson's office.

When Elijah Walker entered, Charlotte Thompson detached her gaze from the computer screen and nodded her chin at him.

"Take a seat."

"Miss Thompson, did you suddenly call me over because there's a problem with the project?"

"There's no problem, your collaborative design with Zara Ward was excellent."

Charlotte Thompson shook her head, "But the reason I've asked you here is indeed to discuss a matter."

Elijah Walker straightened up, listening attentively to Charlotte Thompson's words.

"You can only visit Melissa Tanner's studio after work hours, and you often deal with designs until late, so I've been thinking of arranging a business trip for you. That way, you'll be able to spend this period of time over at Melissa Tanner's."

However Elijah Walker calculated, the time he had after work was not as much as during the day, and the continued effort was a considerable burden.

Hence, Charlotte Thompson made this decision after consulting with Justin Battleson.

She sought Elijah Walker's opinion at the earliest opportunity.

What Charlotte Thompson didn't expect was that upon hearing her proposal, Elijah Walker actually chuckled.

"Miss Thompson, I don't think there's any need to arrange a business trip."

"Why not?" Charlotte Thompson asked, puzzled.

Elijah Walker lowered his head, noticing that his cuff was inadvertently stained with a coffee mark. He let his arms dangle and slowly replied:

"Because just now, George Robbins already notified me that I've been fired from the company."

Chapter 1164: Birds of a Feather Flock Together

Charlotte Thompson looked at Elijah Walker in slight astonishment. Had she not known that Elijah Walker was a serious and reserved person, she might have thought he was joking with her.



Seeing the expression on Charlotte's face, Elijah Walker recounted what had just happened in detail.

Charlotte's brow furrowed tightly after hearing the story, and she quickly grasped the key point of the incident.

"Did George Robbins want to fire you without any reason?" Charlotte asked.

Elijah Walker nodded.

Charlotte's fingertips, resting on the table, trembled lightly, producing a faint sound.

It seems this George Robbins is the person they had been looking for all along.

"Good timing, starting from tomorrow you don't need to come to the office for work, you can go straight to Zara Ward," Charlotte said to Elijah in a soft voice, "Don't worry about the company side, we will not fire you, but we still have to pretend externally."

Elijah Walker listened seriously to Charlotte's arrangements.

Because he trusted her.

"However, I've also heard about the unpleasant rumors and gossip at the company that have been directed at you; it must have affected you quite a bit," Charlotte said apologetically, "The truth is, Florienna Ellis's case should be handled very soon, but there are other people behind Florienna Ellis. We want to lure this person out, so we have used your situation."

"That... Is George Robbins that person behind the scenes?" Elijah Walker guessed, after hearing Charlotte's words.

"It's eighty percent likely to be him, I'm really sorry, Elijah Walker."

Upon hearing Charlotte's apology, Elijah Walker immediately waved his hands in panic, shaking his head like a wave drum, almost throwing his glasses off his face with the force of his movements.

"Miss Thompson, how can you say such a thing? If it wasn't for your recognition, I wouldn't have been able to achieve as much. You even entrusted such an important partnership to me, and as a result, I have even caused you to be subjected to others' talk. I should be the one saying sorry."

Elijah Walker adjusted his glasses somewhat hastily.

He felt only gratitude towards Charlotte.

"It has little to do with me; everything is due to your own efforts and talents. A dusty pearl will eventually shine. I merely gave you a helping hand."

As soon as Charlotte finished speaking, Elijah Walker quickly stood up and bowed solemnly to her.

"Thank you, Miss Charlotte."

A smile filled Charlotte's eyes.

She really liked employees who were diligent, earnest, and talented.

After making arrangements for Elijah Walker, Charlotte went to find Justin Battleson to tell him about George Robbins.

Justin Battleson had also investigated some matters regarding George Robbins.

"So it was him after all."

Justin handed the information he had in hand to Charlotte, "I didn't expect him to have been an employee of Oliver Battleson's company before."

"Your father?"

Charlotte glanced briefly at the information, then stood up and walked to the coffee machine, intending to brew herself a cup of coffee.

"Who would have thought he could have stayed in the company for so long, so deeply hidden."

"It seems we owe Florienna Ellis some gratitude; without her, George Robbins might not have been exposed so soon."

"Birds of a feather flock together. It's just that I didn't expect the problems to arise from the senior level of the company," Justin's eyes carried a hint of coldness.

Chapter 1165: Regret

In fact, Justin Battleson has been managing the company for many years without any problems, so he has not noticed some things.

And yet, due to some minor incident, it has now brought up all the underlying issues.

Crack!

Suddenly, the sound of a shattered cup came from Charlotte's side, and Justin's expression changed dramatically as he quickly walked over to her.

"What's wrong? Are you hurt?"

Justin immediately brought Charlotte over and examined her hands and body, asking with great concern.

However, Charlotte shook her head, and looked down at the broken pieces on the floor.

"It was my carelessness. I didn't hold the cup steadily and dropped it on the floor," Charlotte replied softly.

"But I don't know why, I've been feeling uneasy lately, as if something is about to happen."

Anxiety had been lingering in Charlotte's mind for days, sometimes causing her to be lost in thought, let alone now that she has broken a cup.

"You've been dealing with the XTZ collaboration recently; you must be overexerted and need a good rest," Justin said, stroking Charlotte's cheek with his hand, his voice full of concern.

"Perhaps," Charlotte murmured in reply.

At this moment, Charlotte's phone, placed to the side, began to ring with an unknown number.

Despite being puzzled, Charlotte picked up and switched on the speakerphone.

The very next second, a very hoarse voice came through the handset.

"Is... is this Miss Thompson..."

Charlotte and Justin exchanged glances.

Then, Charlotte carefully considered and felt that the voice indeed sounded familiar.

"It's Raina Richard..."

The voice from the handset continued, confirming the guess in Charlotte's mind.

The last time Charlotte met with Raina Richard, she had given her contact information to Raina.

Charlotte knew that since she had pointed out what Raina feared the most, it was inevitable that Raina would call her.

And now, she waited.

"This is Charlotte," Charlotte answered seriously.

Just as Charlotte thought Raina might be seeking her help, Raina's voice was full of trembling: "I'm sorry... I'm sorry..."

While speaking, Raina's emotions became more and more agitated, even to the point where Charlotte could hear her sobbing and having difficulty breathing.

"Raina, don't panic, take your time, I'm listening, you can tell me whatever you want," Charlotte comforted her patiently, though unclear why Raina was suddenly apologizing.

But Raina's next words struck Charlotte like a bolt from the blue.

"I didn't mean to tell Benjamin Carter about the children... but if I didn't tell him, he would have killed me. He wants money, he wants to get his hands on the children... I really had no choice..."

As she spoke, Raina was still gasping heavily, making her voice somewhat indistinct, but Charlotte, who was focused intently, still listened carefully.

"What did you say Benjamin Carter wants to do!" Charlotte knew who Benjamin Carter was, and her voice, normally calm, was now filled with urgency.

After a fit of gut-wrenching coughing, Raina's voice continued.

"I don't know why, but Benjamin Carter was released. I wanted to leave with him, but he gambled again and demanded money from me. I really have no money, he just kept beating me, and I had to tell him about the children..."

What Raina now regretted the most was this incident.

She knew all too well what kind of person Benjamin Carter was.

To get what he wants, he will stop at nothing.

Chapter 1166 Hostage

Charlotte's pupils constricted.

If Raina Richard really leaked the information about Jack Thompson and Chad Thompson, the two children would definitely be in danger.

"Where is he now?" Without any hesitation, she picked up her cellphone and rushed out of the office.

She must go to the kindergarten immediately to see her children.

"I don't know, after I told him about this, he ran out, Miss Thompson I'm really sorry, I had no other choice..."

But Charlotte had already hung up the phone; she had no time to listen to Raina Richard's confession or crying.

Charlotte's palms were already sweating, making it hard to hold her cellphone steadily.

Justin Battleson stayed by Charlotte's side, trying to comfort her, "It's okay, we're heading to the kindergarten now."

After they got in the car, it was only then that Charlotte managed to call the kindergarten.

The person who answered the call was the kindergarten teacher.

"Miss Thompson, may I ask you..."

"My children, where are they now? Protect them immediately, they might be in danger!" Charlotte directly interrupted the teacher.

The teacher was startled by Charlotte's sudden tone, but caught the urgency regarding the children in her words.

"Miss, the children are currently... what are you... ah..."

But the teacher's words were cut off again, and Charlotte heard various screams over the phone, followed by a commotion, and the phone seemed to have fallen to the ground, losing connection.

"Teacher! Teacher!"

Charlotte clutched her cellphone, shouting into the microphone, but there was no response from the other end.

In an instant, Charlotte's face lost all color; she tried to take a deep breath to calm herself, but her eyes still reddened.

Charlotte couldn't help but agonize over what was happening at the kindergarten.

"Go faster, let's hurry to the kindergarten!"

Charlotte furrowed her brow tightly, urging Justin Battleson, who was driving.

Simultaneously, she prayed in her heart that her children would be safe.

Justin Battleson, who had been listening to the phone as well, ignored traffic rules and floored the gas pedal.

Charlotte was continuously trying to contact the kindergarten throughout the drive, but to no avail.

She had never felt time pass so agonizingly; the palms of her hands were raw from her nails digging in, and her lips nearly bleeding from biting them.

Charlotte browsed her contacts and finally dialed Adam Ross's number.

However, Adam Ross didn't answer the call.

What Charlotte didn't know was that at this moment, Adam Ross was standing outside the kindergarten, witnessing a shocking scene.

"Put your phone down!"

Benjamin Carter, holding a kitchen knife and looking warily at Adam Ross in front of him, was holding Jack Thompson.

Benjamin Carter was still wearing a cleaner's uniform, likely having used it to infiltrate the kindergarten.

At the same time Charlotte was calling the kindergarten teacher, Benjamin Carter found Jack Thompson and took him hostage.



As per Mr. Ross's instructions, Adam Ross had planned to pick up Jack Thompson and Chad Thompson from the kindergarten early but had run into this situation instead.

The ringing of the cellphone further agitated Benjamin Carter.

"What? Did you not hear me tell you to put your phone down? Are you deaf?" Benjamin Carter yelled loudly, though he too was very nervous inside.

"Okay, I'll put it down now."

Adam Ross immediately raised his hands to calm Benjamin Carter and then threw his phone onto the ground.

Chapter 1167: Negotiations

At this moment, Adam Ross's gaze towards Benjamin Carter was filled with coldness.

He hadn't expected that a minor character he previously disregarded would now dare to threaten his child with a knife.

"Do you want money? I can give you as much as you want, just let the child go first."

Adam Ross tried to keep his tone as even as possible, also to gradually calm Benjamin Carter's emotions.

"You can give me any amount of money?" Benjamin Carter, having learned about the child's situation from Raina Richard's mouth, naturally took the child hostage for money.

Now that Adam Ross had brought up the matter, Benjamin Carter was naturally interested.

"Yes, any amount of money you want, just name it, as long as you put the knife down and return the child to me."

Adam Ross raised his hands, and though his icy words, they carried an authoritative tone that dared not be disobeyed.

He had never been threatened by anyone in his life.

"Do you think I'm an idiot? To just trust you like this, once I return the child to you, you will definitely have people capture me," said Benjamin Carter quite smugly.

"No, I won't joke with the life of a child," replied Adam Ross with a cold lift of his brows.

But just as he finished speaking, the phone on the ground started ringing again.

This caused Benjamin Carter to shudder, the knife that was previously at Jack Thompson's throat wavered and pressed down, immediately drawing a line of blood.

After all, Jack Thompson was just a small child, having been taken hostage, he was only pretending to be calm, but now that he had been cut by the knife, he could no longer hold back as tears gushed from his eyes.

The other children, who had narrowly escaped, were being protected behind them, but seeing Jack Thompson being held hostage, each of them started to cry bitterly.

Adam Ross's pupils shrank, then he stepped forward and crushed the phone underfoot.

"Calm down, keep the knife away from my child."

Adam Ross's priority now was to buy time, waiting for the police to arrive would make dealing with Benjamin Carter much easier.

Thus, he naturally used words to try to soothe his state of mind.

Adam Ross could tell that Benjamin Carter's actions were impulsive; he had definitely never done something like this before, which was why his hands were trembling.

"I am Adam Ross, the Ross Family's young master, the sole heir. I can give you as much money as you want."

Benjamin Carter's eyes shifted around, but the children's crying was making him irritated, coupled with the tension in his heart, leaving him momentarily at a loss for words.

Eventually, he could only close his eyes and shout, "Shut up! All of you, shut up!"

Cyrus Thompson extended his hand to protect Grace Thompson in his arms, patting her back to comfort her.

Grace Thompson clutched Cyrus Thompson's sleeve tightly, her voice as tiny as that of a newborn kitten.

"Big brother, Jack will be alright, won't he?"

"Yes, Grace, don't worry, Jack will definitely be safe. Uncle Adam and the police will surely bring this man to justice," Cyrus Thompson comforted Grace Thompson continuously.

The surroundings gradually quieted down, allowing Benjamin Carter to rethink.

After a while, he spoke up, "I want five million..."

But in reality, Benjamin Carter was still hesitant when he said it, as five hundred thousand was the highest number he could think of.

Although Adam Ross was a wealthy man, to pay five million for a child might not be worth it.

However, Benjamin Carter saw Adam Ross nod without hesitation.

"Fine, five million, I will have someone bring it immediately."

Chapter 1168: Rushing Over

"I want cash, and have it delivered to a designated location," Benjamin Carter reiterated his demands.

No matter what he said, Adam Ross nodded in agreement.

"Also, get me a car to safely get me out of here," Benjamin Carter thought carefully about those kidnapping scenes he had seen before, and figured that was about all the criminals usually asked for.

"I can agree to your demands, but my phone is broken now, and I need to use another phone to make a call, is that okay?" Adam Ross said calmly.

However, as soon as he finished speaking, Justin Battleson and Charlotte Thompson also hurried over.

When Charlotte Thompson saw Benjamin Carter holding Jack Thompson hostage, she was so scared she almost fainted.

The sudden appearance of Justin Battleson and Charlotte Thompson naturally caught Benjamin Carter's attention again.

"Let go of my child!"

Charlotte Thompson's voice trembled, but she didn't rashly step forward, standing in place, looking at Benjamin Carter, she said.

"I know you want money, but you don't need to threaten my child, I can be your hostage, the child is innocent, let the child go."

"He has already agreed to prepare the money for me, I warn you, don't come any closer, otherwise I will not be polite!"

But Benjamin Carter was unmoved by Charlotte Thompson's words, and since she arrived later, he was naturally on guard.

"Don't..."

Charlotte Thompson's voice was so low she didn't dare to raise it, she clenched her teeth and tightly gripped her clothes, crumpling them up.

"We can talk this through nicely, you don't have to do something so extreme..."

"What good is it for you to say these things to me? The deed has been done, don't waste words, get that five million and a car ready for me."

Benjamin Carter knew he couldn't delay any longer, by now the police had already surrounded the place, glancing at the flickering police lights not far away, he felt dizzy.

Cold sweat slid down his cheeks, though it reached his eyes, Benjamin Carter dared not move a bit.

In fact, by now, Benjamin Carter already felt somewhat regretful.

What are the chances he could get the money and escape now?

He licked his dry lips, body slightly crouched, using Jack Thompson as a shield in front of him.

Benjamin Carter was well aware that there must be snipers around aiming at him, he had to protect himself.

At this point, he had no other choice.

"Okay, we will fulfill all your demands."

Justin Battleson held Charlotte Thompson's hand, speaking to Benjamin Carter, and had already taken out his phone, dialing his assistant.

The surroundings were very quiet, when Justin Battleson put the call on speakerphone, Benjamin Carter could hear everything clearly.

"Prepare five million and a car immediately."

As he spoke, Justin Battleson looked up, signaling Benjamin Carter to add anything.

"Just send someone to deliver it here."

Hiding behind Jack Thompson, Benjamin Carter moved slightly but then quickly retreated back, shouting loudly.

"Prepare it immediately as he requested," Justin Battleson quickly ordered and then hung up the phone.

"You want money, we can give you that, maybe we can even have a simple talk."

"I have nothing to talk to you about."

"I can give you another five million, and ensure your safety," Charlotte Thompson offered her conditions openly.

Sure enough, Benjamin Carter's eyes brightened upon hearing this sentence.

Chapter 1169: Hostages

"But Benjamin Carter remained on guard: "Why should I believe you?"

"You release the child, and I'll be your hostage."

Charlotte Thompson took a deep breath, trying to keep her tone as calm as possible.

"How much can you really shield, hiding behind my child? Yet, you must be quite aware of how many guns are aimed at you right now?"

While she spoke, Charlotte slowly closed the distance between her and Benjamin Carter.

"I can be your hostage, that's much better than a child. Besides, I am just a defenseless woman."

"Don't move!" Knowing Charlotte was inching closer, Benjamin Carter immediately stopped her.

"If you're truly helpless, why would you offer to exchange hostages?"

"That's my child, I must protect him." Charlotte answered without hesitation.

"The child is innocent, let him go."

Although Charlotte continued to maintain her composure, her voice clearly choked up.

She kept her eyes on Jack Thompson, who Benjamin Carter was holding.

Meeting Jack's tear-filled gaze, Charlotte felt as if her heart was being crushed.

At the moment, the knife in Benjamin Carter's hand wasn't at Jack's neck, but rather fiercely stabbed into her heart.

However, upon hearing Charlotte's words, Benjamin also hesitated a bit.

Indeed, the child he held was too small to completely shield him.

If it were Charlotte, his chances of successfully hiding would indeed be higher.

But Benjamin couldn't help but suspect, what if they suddenly tricked and outwitted him?

Seeing hesitation on Benjamin's face, Charlotte seized the opportunity and immediately spoke, "Swap me for the hostage, you just want money, and it will be prepared for you immediately. I promise to give you an additional five million, I won't go back on my word."

But at that moment, Charlotte caught sight of a figure stealthily approaching Benjamin from behind, causing her pupils to involuntarily constrict.

Charlotte couldn't believe her eyes.

Why was Raina Richard here?

Charlotte's sudden panic made Benjamin regain some of his vigilance.

Not just Charlotte, but everyone Benjamin looked at had a strange expression.

They were all watching him or behind him.

At this moment, Benjamin couldn't help but overthink, yet he dared not turn his head back, fearing this was a trick by the people in front of him.

In fact, Raina Richard was really behind him.



After Raina had gotten through to Charlotte over the phone about Benjamin, she had immediately headed towards the kindergarten.

She was the one who told Benjamin how to disguise as a janitor to get into the kindergarten.

So she certainly knew everything Benjamin was doing.

She arrived even before Adam Ross. While entering the kindergarten, Raina had always intended to lead the children away, but she encountered Benjamin taking Jack hostage.

The rest of the people had been driven out of the kindergarten by Benjamin.

Yet, she quietly hid in a crevice.

Watching Benjamin's frantic behavior and hearing the children's cries, Raina's conscience was plagued with immense guilt.

She tightly covered her mouth to make no sound, yet tears were already drenching her cheeks.

She wanted to stop Benjamin.

But in reality, Raina was still scared.

Chapter 1170 Sorry

"However, what Raina Richard didn't expect was that Charlotte Thompson would propose without hesitation that she and the children be used as a trade.

Previously, the two men from the Ross Family had been telling her that Charlotte only used the children and had no love for them.

Now, Raina Richard realized that a person who truly doesn't love the children wouldn't step forward without hesitation in such a dangerous moment.

Raina Richard could also hear the urgency in Charlotte's voice when she made the call.

It was because of Charlotte that Raina Richard mustered the courage.

So, Raina Richard took the chance while Charlotte was negotiating with Benjamin Carter and quietly moved out, slowly nearing Benjamin Carter.

Although Charlotte did not know why Raina Richard suddenly appeared there, her expression obviously made Andrew Carter cautious again. Charlotte took a deep breath, trying to ignore Raina Richard behind Benjamin Carter.

'I'll exchange myself and the children for their safety, I'll be the hostage, and I'll prepare the money and the car. I do what I say, and I'll make sure you won't be harmed, trust me.'

Although repeating these words, Charlotte knew only these words could make Benjamin Carter lower his guard.

Both Charlotte and Raina Richard were slowly closing in.

One in front, one behind.

Charlotte even kicked off her high heels, fearing she would make a sound and alert Benjamin Carter.

Even if the glass shards pierced her skin, Charlotte remained expressionless.

Sure enough, the knife in Benjamin Carter's hand moved further away from Jack Thompson's neck.

Though he lowered his guard, he didn't step out from behind Jack.

At that moment, Raina Richard suddenly grabbed Benjamin Carter's hand that held the knife, and forcefully pushed Jack Thompson out of his arms.

Benjamin Carter, completely surprised by the attack from behind, tensed up in shock and struggled instinctively.

As a result, the knife slashed out.

But it didn't hurt Jack Thompson, instead, it directly slashed Raina Richard's throat.

At that moment, Benjamin Carter finally saw Raina Richard's face.

But just as he opened his mouth, a bullet pierced right through his temple.

Blood blossomed like a strikingly beautiful flower, staining everything around it, almost tinting the blue sky with its crimson.

Charlotte, without any hesitation, rushed to Jack and held him tightly in her arms.

When she looked up, she saw Benjamin Carter and Raina Richard lying together.

Raina Richard's gaze turned towards her.

The will to live made her instinctively cover the wound on her neck, but the blood kept flowing through her fingers.

Their gazes met in midair.

Charlotte clearly saw how Raina Richard's lips quickly turned pale and trembled slightly.

She uttered her last three words.

'I'm sorry.'

People behind started to crowd over, and the previously tense atmosphere suddenly became noisy.

Charlotte pressed Chad Thompson's head against her, preventing him from lifting his head to see the bloody scene.

Raina Richard's clothes were torn, just like the first time Charlotte saw her, her arm raised, showing the wounds it bore.

It seemed there were even more injuries than the last time they met.

Charlotte watched as Raina Richard looked up at the sky, her gaze landing on a bird flying by.

The light in her eyes gradually dimmed.

But her lips curled into a gentle smile."